

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**ICE FORMATIONS IN ALPENA CAVE**

**VOL. #34**

**ISS. #3**

**MAR**

**2019**

**#27**

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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS  
or can be SENT TO:

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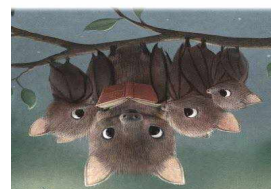
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**\*\* The photo on this month's cover shows beautiful ice formations in Alpena Cave, Randolph Co, WV. Photo taken by Elysia Mathias.**

**\*\*\*\* Don't forget, the JONES QUARRY BOOKLET is ALMOST GONE! There are 10 left! If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the BOOKLET, contact **BOB BENNETT 304-821-4621(H)** or **304-671-0344(C)** E-MAIL at [gimpycaver@comcast.net](mailto:gimpycaver@comcast.net)**  
**The copy will cost \$6.00 each plus the cost of shipping!**

**\*\*\*\*\*10 LEFT!\*\*\*\*\***

**WE NEED EVERYONE TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AN OPEN POSITION. WE STILL HAVE 4 POSITIONS OPEN! PLEASE GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**



# **CAVING EVENTS**

**2019**

MAR 2 ---- DAY of PRAYER  
MAR 2 --- Dig – Bob & Tom  
MAR 5 ---- FAT TUESDAY (MARDI GRAS)  
MAR 9 ---- Trout Rocks Bat Count  
**MAR 10 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
STARTS**  
**MAR 13 -- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
MAR 14 --- PI DAY  
MAR 14 --- Dr Latterell (Molers) – Birthday  
MAR 16 --- Adam Stephen dig – 9:30 am – Check  
pit for erosion & dig in new spot.  
**MAR 17 --- ST PATRICK'S DAY**  
MAR 20 -- Vertical session – James Rumsey – 6pm  
MAR 21 --- INCREDIBLE KID DAY  
MAR 22 --- WORLD WATER DAY  
MAR 24 -- Endless Cavern trip – Replace  
lightbulbs, repair wiring, & play on  
ropes – see Tom  
MAR 25 --- MD DAY  
**APR 1 --- ALL FOOL'S DAY**  
APR 2 --- PB&J DAY  
APR 6-7 --- Spring Restoration – Grand Caverns  
APR 7 ---- NATIONAL BEER DAY  
**APR 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**APR 13 --- Jones Quarry Cleanup – 10am**  
**APR 14 --- Poor Farm Cave, Pocahontas Co –**  
**Gate repair & cave trip – see Tom**  
APR 15 --- TAX DAY  
**APR 17 --- BAT APPRECIATION DAY**  
**APR 19 --- GOOD FRIDAY**  
**APR 21 --- EASTER**  
APR 22 --- EARTH DAY  
**APR 25-28 --- Fall VAR, Wythville, VA**  
APR 26 --- ARBOR DAY  
MAY 1 --- MAY DAY  
MAY 2-5 --- SERA  
MAY 5 --- SINKHOLE DE MAYO  
MAY 5 --- Children's Day  
**MAY 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
**MAY 11---- Heritage Day (Adam Stephen Day) –**  
**9am**  
**MAY 12 --- MOTHERS DAY**  
MAY 18 --- ARMED FORCES DAY  
MAY 23 --- Lucky Penny Day

MAY 24-26 --- 49<sup>th</sup> Speleofest – Lone Star  
Preserve, KY

**MAY 27 --- MEMORIAL DAY**  
JUN 7-9 --- BUBBLE CAVE WEEKEND  
**JUN 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**  
JUN 14 --- FLAG DAY  
**JUN 16 ---- FATHERS DAY**  
JUN 17-21 --- NSS Convention – Cookville, TN  
JUN 20 --- WV Day  
JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE  
**JUL 4 ---- INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**JUL 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**  
**JUL 13 --- TSG Picnic – 12 Noon**  
JUL 18 ---- HOT DOG DAY  
JUL 19-21 --- Karst-O-Rama – KY  
JUL 25 --- National Carousel Day  
JUL 28 ---- PARENT'S DAY  
AUG 12 --- National Middle Child Day  
AUG 13 --- Left Handers Day  
AUG 13 ---- LEFT HANDERS DAY  
**AUG 14 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm**  
AUG 16 ---- Elvis Died  
**AUG 29 – SEP 2 --- OTR**  
**AUG 31 ---- Doo Dah Parade – 10am**  
**SEP 2 ---- LABOR DAY**

## **\*\*\*\*\* CAVE BUCKS \*\*\*\*\***

CAVE BUCKS is a voluntary donation for cave purchases. The money is collected at each monthly meeting and sent to the Conservancy of choice. The money **SHOULD NEVER** be kept past the week it is collected.

Month of FEBRUARY ----- **\$31.01**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$7141.12**

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

**The money was sent to MAKC.**  
**Keep It Coming!**

**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

**V.#34**

**I.#1**

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## WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/)  
VAR ----- [www.varegion.org/](http://www.varegion.org/)  
NSS ----- [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)  
NSS Convention 2017 ----- <http://nss2017.caves.org/>  
OTR ----- [www.otr.org/](http://www.otr.org/)  
MAR ----- [www.caves.org/region/mar/](http://www.caves.org/region/mar/)  
WVCC ----- [www.wvcc.net/](http://www.wvcc.net/)  
Bob's Web Site ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/)  
Jerry's Cave Web Site -----  
----- <http://www.caves.org/member/jerry/>  
Bob Gulden ----- [www.caverbob.com/home.htm/](http://www.caverbob.com/home.htm/)  
Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----  
[www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/](http://www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/)  
Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----  
[www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/](http://www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/)  
Animated Knots by Grog-[www.animatedknots.com/](http://www.animatedknots.com/)  
WV Caver ----- <http://wvcaver.speleo.us>  
WNS -----  
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>  
Containment Procedures -----  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenosemessage.html/>  
Crystal Grottoes Caverns  
[www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)

## GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

### MONTH OF MARCH

Mason Griffin, Bob Gulden, Craig Sanbower, Eliza Marie Vis

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## REPORTS

DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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## TSG Meeting (13 people in attendance) 2/13/19

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.  
Elysia gave the Treasurer's Report.  
Doc reported the minutes of last month's meeting January 9, 2019.

**Old Business:** There is no activity concerning the tent poles due to cold and freezing weather. Doc purchased a Hyper Tough LED light and demonstrated the unit at the meeting. There was a Q and A session about the light. It will be added to the club's other helmets and lights. Presented were more updates to the TSG library. The Christmas party has been finalized for December 7 with a deposit. Bob, Tom Gary, Adam and Doc walked a property in the Whittings Neck area discovering at least five promising sink holes and a possibly for new caves. Discussions and negotiations will be held at the property with neighbors for the future of cave digs. Also, the need to dispose of different types of trash and refuse was thrashed out. The area offers an exciting club project for the summer.

April 27 and May 11 are the only days closed to continue the Adam Stevens house excavation. Any other Saturday is open for further activity. At present, the dig has to be examined to see if the wet weather and absence of activity has made any new changes. The dig date is March 16 at 9:30 am.

Heritage Day, including Adam Stephen events, is May 11.

**New Business:** Elysia mentioned a request was made to employ Pay Pal for membership fees and other income payments which were considered not only impractical but expensive for TSG's needs.

The formation of a new chair position was brought up at the meeting entitled 'Land Owner Relations Chair'. Some of the new position's duties would include keeping in touch with cave landowners and sending out letters and Christmas

cards as needed. The Conservation Chair and the PR Chair would be combined to create this new position. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning landowner relations, protection and data collection such as who to contact to go caving on private property. The concept was tabled until the next meeting in March.

The next climbing class will be held at James Rumsey Technical Institute on Wednesday, February 20.

Wednesday night caving on February 27 will be held at Jones Quarry Cave and the meeting time will be 6:00 pm at the Spring Mill McDonalds. The topic of things to bring on a first cave trip was talked about - helmets, three sources of light, gloves, knee and elbow pads, and good shoes were some of the things mentioned.

Members at the meeting were reminded to keep in touch with the TSG list serve in case there would be any new weekend trips going out in the near future.

The 2020 NSS Convention will be held at the Old Timers Reunion site in Daily, West Virginia. A local high school may be employed for extended convention events.

Trips: A large group of cavers including Elysia, Gary, and Tom visited Norman Cave and reported seeing the waterfall from both sides.

Adam, Mike and Doc went to Donaldson's Cave which was full of water. Someone apparently refreshed the historical markings in the main room.

Cave Bucks: \$31.01 was collected

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted  
Donald 'Doc' Phillips  
Secretary  
Tri-State Grotto of the NSS



## Norman Cave Trip Report: The Non-White Hispanic Way (CENSORED)

By Nina Rao

Date: February 9, 2019

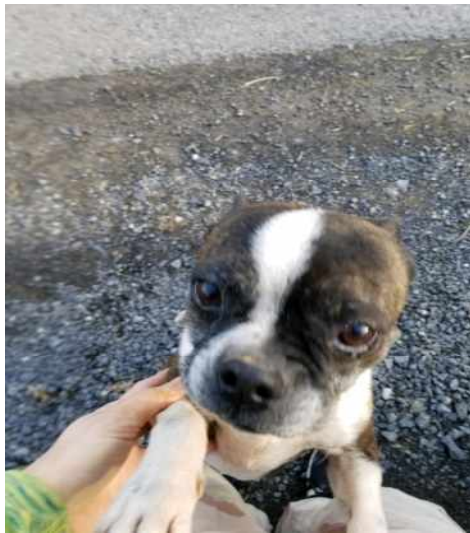
Fellow Troglodytes: Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, Jeff Hajenga, Dave-from-the-Cave Lucas, Elysia Mathias, Gary Mathias, Michael Patschak



(From L to R) Michael, Elysia, Bob, Jeff, Nina, Gary, & Tom (Photo by Dave 'From the Cave' Lucas)

"Norman Cave is Culverson Creek's evil cousin." Knowing absolutely nothing about Norman Cave except that piece of wisdom my friend Mel hastily imparted on me the day before the trip, I drove down the 300 miles at Saturday's morning crack-of-dawn with some reluctance. The 5-hour journey to wild West Virginia was not bore in ennui. My erudite neophyte troglodyte suburbanite, Michael, traveled with me and chose to entertain me with an array of alarming facts regarding the landscape of today's political intrigue.

Fast forward through the hours of conversations on blackmailing billionaires, Joe Rogan podcasts and serious forays into competitive eating, we met our Tri State Grotto comrades-- at odds with whether to buy a plasma TV at Walmart. Once that was settled, we headed to the Norman Cave parking spot where we were "viciously accosted" by French bulldogs. Everyone seemed to enjoy this surprise encounter--as a staunch cat person, I'd have to disagree! We hiked up the frosted path, following along the rock face until it revealed a modest, talus cave opening to dive under. It was inviting, as it billowed with a "warm" welcoming.



Vicious French bulldog playing with Elysia  
(Photo by Elysia Mathias)

The cave followed up on its ardent greeting with an expansive room of breakdown litter. Jeff asked Bob how much of this cave was going to be underground. Bob replied with confidence, "about 73%." We kept to the left, descending past the endless piles of breakdown, stalactites and columns adorning the right wall, and the black-stained "pointillism" patterns on the ceiling. We pondered whether it was caused by a bat hibernaculum in the (g)olden days of pre-WNS.



Elysia by the Waterfall (Photo by Elysia)

Continuing down, we spotted a hidden crevice sandwiched between two rocks and slipped through it feet-first into the first stream passage. Lo and behold, the heroes of the story were now standing atop a waterfall. If you walk straight and watch your step, you can peer down the rushing cascade and appreciate the 20-ft drop in all its glory (but don't scream to insinuate that you're falling and scare the trip leader--that's deeply frowned upon). We scaled up the left wall and scrambled down until we reached the bottom of the waterfall. Cameras came out and we did not have to feign happiness for the pictures, since the water level was only to our calves. Unbeknownst to us, that was a temporary situation. Bob decided to head back to the entrance and chill with the lone, hibernating bat.

We left our happy place of playing around the waterfall and followed the stream-- awaiting more excitement. The stream passage was enjoyed at first by us human upright walkers, as we breezed past the speckled limestone shelves. Then us upright walkers became less amused when we had to gradually devolve to dawdling on all fours. The ceiling lowered and the water level elevated. There was a brief recess in our evolution when two perforations punctured the ceiling and relieved the strain on our necks. Upon further inspection, the holes were actually home to a gallery of face sculptures.



Michael's face on display in the face sculpture gallery (Photo by Elysia)

As the water level reached up to our hips, we all desperately tried to perform acrobatic maneuvers to avoid walking in the stream. Eventually, we all relinquished to the stream's inevitable victory; as we succumbed to our icy fate, we deluded ourselves into



believing Bob was ordering pizza for us at that moment. We regularly checked on Gary, our proclaimed "senior citizen of the trip", given his precarious and geriatric age of about 45. We reached a protruding rock surface, chiseled with Swiss cheese holes, which served as a higher and drier floor for the passage. With this, we "canyoned" over the running stream, babbling 2 feet below us.

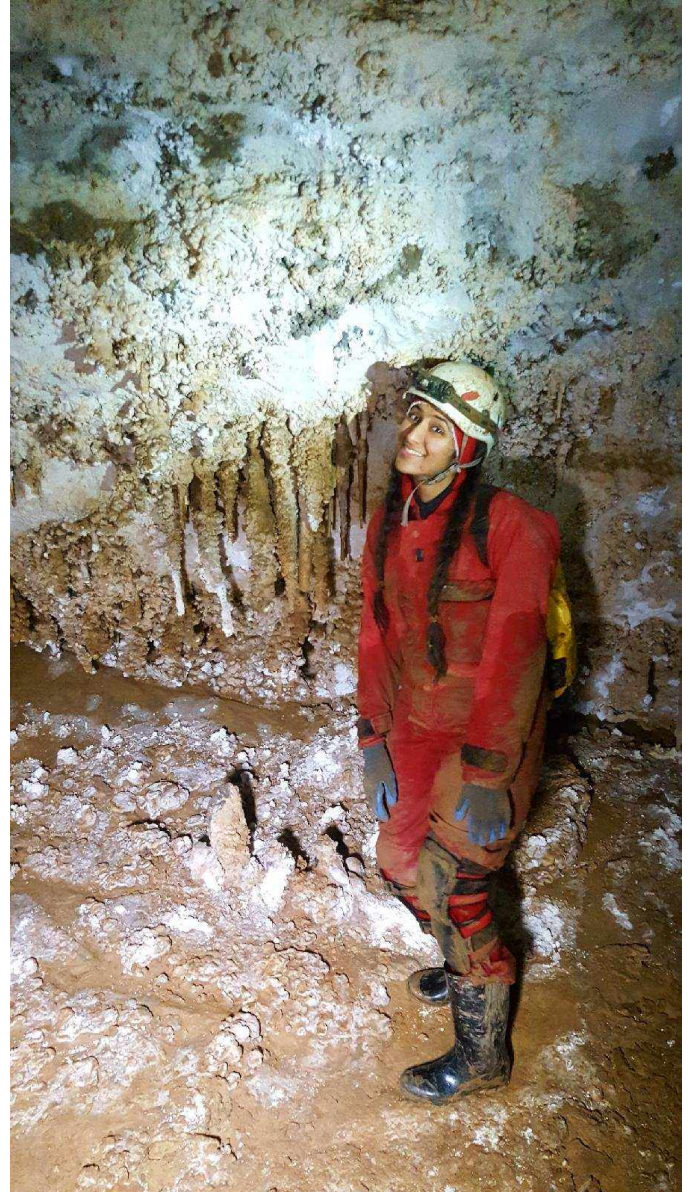
The cave opened up into a room of flowstone walls, where the rock surfaces were abound with rimstone pools. Some of the cave locals of the crawfish variety were spending their Saturday afternoon incubating in these bijou hot-tubs. As we walked through the passage, Gary kept checking each pool to see if "anyone was home." Alas, the quaint change in scenery was over, as we were back to plunging into the water, hip-high. After some time of walking, crawling, and salamander-scouting, we tried looking for the Lunch Room high and low. I declared the next room we found the "unofficial lunch room" so I can eat my millennial snack bars. Tom discussed his antipathy for macaroni and cheese with Elysia and Gary, who also concurred. After asking everyone to keep their comments about their desire to urinate to themselves, I was tormented with sounds of water dripping out of bottles, and exhaustive descriptions of the rushing waterfall we saw earlier. Dave changed the subject and talked about his newly discovered White-Hispanic heritage.

We tried looking for the side passage that led to the Great White Way. After some sinuous turns, we entered into a series of passages that were unlike the rest of the cave. The coloration of the passage was of whites and browns, and the walls were abundant with splotches of popcorn. Jeff and Dave, who were the only ones that had been to Norman before, assured us this was not "The Great White Way" that we were looking for. Dave suggested this misleading passage was perhaps more aptly named "The Non-White Hispanic Way".

Nina

Four hours had passed, and we decided to head back to the Norman entrance to socialize with Bob (and hopefully eat pizza). We tried looking for the Lunch Room on the way back. Whether we actually found it or not was a topic of conversation for the remainder of the trip.

We found Bob relaxing in his pick-up truck, which was bereft of hot pizza. A fun time was had by all at our post-caving dinner at Carlito's Mexican restaurant.



Nina in the "Non-White Hispanic Way (Photo by Dave Lucas)



Stalactites galore (Photo by Elysia)





Doc playing in the water below Hideaway (BB)



Elysia showing off in extreme cold temps! (Photo by Gary Mathias)



Elysia & Gary peeking thru ice formations at Alpena! (Photo furnished by Elysia Mathias)



Great photo of Ice formations in Alpena Cave (Photo by Elysia)





# CAVIN CALENDAR

## MARCH 10TH - APRIL 20TH

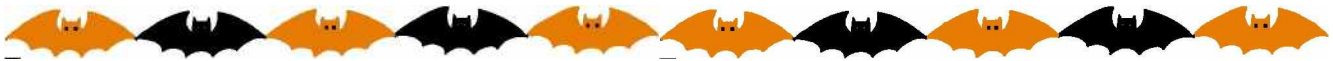


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Mar 10</b> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	<b>Mar 11</b>	<b>Mar 12</b>	<b>Mar 13</b>  Meeting 7pm	<b>Mar 14</b> Dr Latterell (Molers Cave) Birthday PI DAY	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Mar 16</b> Adam Stephen Dig 9:30 am
<b>Mar 17</b>  ST PATRICK'S DAY	<b>Mar 18</b>	<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>Mar 20</b> Vertical session at James Rumsey 6:30 pm	<b>Mar 21</b> INCREDIBLE KID DAY	<b>Mar 22</b> WORLD WATER DAY	<b>Mar 23</b>
<b>Mar 24</b> Endless Caverns Replace Lightbulbs & play on Ropes 9am	<b>Mar 25</b>	<b>Mar 26</b>	<b>Mar 27</b>	<b>Mar 28</b>	<b>Mar 29</b>	<b>Mar 30</b>
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Apr 1</b>  ALL FOOL'S DAY	<b>Apr 2</b> P B & J DAY	<b>Apr 3</b>	<b>Apr 4</b>	<b>Apr 5</b>	<b>Apr 6</b> Spring Restoration Grand Caverns
<b>Apr 7</b> Spring Restoration Grand Caverns NATIONAL BEER DAY	<b>Apr 8</b>	<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>Apr 10</b>  Meeting 7pm	<b>Apr 11</b>	<b>Apr 12</b>	<b>Apr 13</b> Jones Quarry Cleanup 10am
<b>Apr 14</b> Gate Repair Poor Farm Cave Pocahontas Co - see Tom	<b>Apr 15</b> TAX DAY	<b>Apr 16</b>	<b>Apr 17</b>  BAT APPRECIATION DAY	<b>Apr 18</b>	<b>Apr 19</b> GOOD FRIDAY	<b>Apr 20</b>

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



New Cave in Jefferson Co? (Photo Furnished by Bob Denton)



## DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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