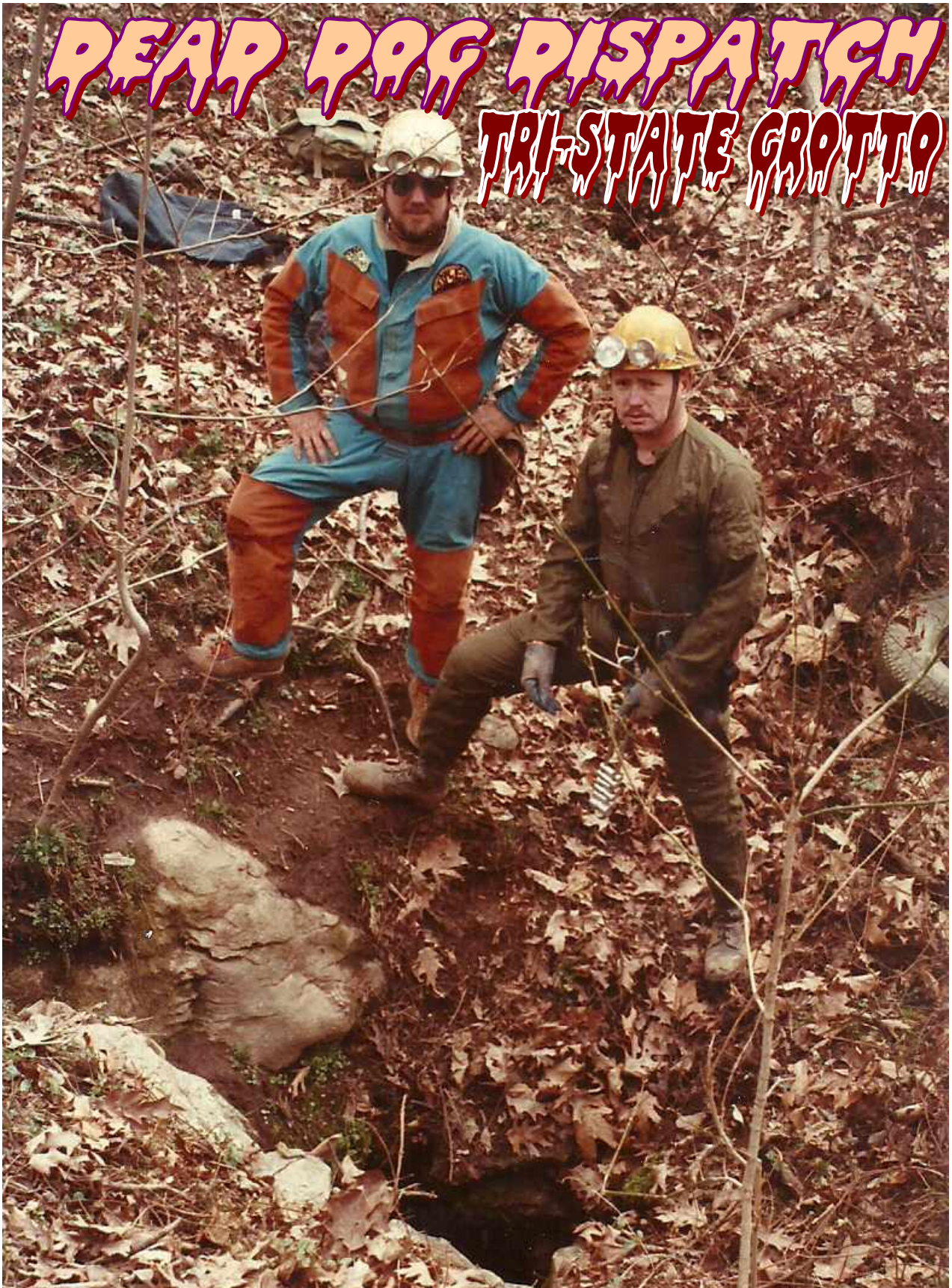


DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE CROTTO



BOB & CHUCK READY TO RAPPEL SANTAS CHIMNEY

VOL. #34

ISS. #11

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2019

#121

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** The photo on this month's cover was taken by
'Crazy' Ted Wachter. It shows Bob Bennett &
Chuck Stanley ready to rappel Santas Chimney in
Jefferson Co. It was taken about 35 years ago before
the pit had a name. It was about 40' deep.

**** 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

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!**



CAVE EVENTS

2019

NOV 1 --- Day of the Dead
NOV 3 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOV 5 --- Reservation Deadline for WVCC Banquet
NOV 9 --- WVCC Banquet, Lewisburg, WV – 7pm
NOV 10 --- Vivian Monger's Birthday (Owner of Jones Quarry)
NOV 11 --- Veterans Day
NOV 13 --- TSG meeting – Nominations – 7pm
NOV 14 --- FRG meeting – 7pm – Thunwa Thai Cuisine at the Quality Inn in Ft Royal
NOV 16 --- Sadie Hawkins Day
NOV 20 --- Vertical Session, James Rumsey – 7pm
NOV 21 --- World Hello Day
NOV 28 --- Thanksgiving Day
NOV 29 --- Black Friday!
DEC 4 --- National Cookie Day
DEC 7 --- TSG Christmas Party – 6pm - Bedington Ruritan Club
DEC 11 --- TSG Meeting – Elections – 7pm
DEC 22 --- Winter Solstice
DEC 22 --- National Short Person Day
DEC 24 --- National Chocolate Day
DEC 24 --- Christmas Eve
DEC 25 --- Christmas Day
DEC 31 --- New Year's Eve
DEC 31 --- Bat Ball, Huntsville, AL – 6pm

2020

JAN 1 --- New Year's Day
JAN 1 --- National Hangover Day
JAN 8 --- Elvis's Birthday
JAN 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
JAN 9 --- Law Enforcement Day
JAN 13 --- National Rubber Ducky Day
JAN 14 --- National Dress Up Day
JAN 20 --- Martin Luther King Jr Day
JAN 22 --- Ted Monger Birthday – Owner of Jones Quarry
JAN 24 --- TSG BIRTHDAY
JAN 24 --- Peanut Butter Day
FEB 1 --- Bubble Gum Day
FEB 2 --- Ground Hog Day

FEB 9 --- National Pizza Day
FEB 11 --- Fat Tuesday
FEB 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
FEB 14 --- Valentines Day
FEB 17 --- Presidents Day
FEB 28 --- National Tooth Fairy Day
MAR 1 --- Peanut Lovers Day
MAR 8 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS
MAR 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAR 14 --- Dr Latterell's Birthday – Owner of Molers Cave
MAR 14 --- Pi Day
MAR 14 --- National Potato Chip Day
MAR 17 --- St Patricks Day
MAR 20 --- SPRING EQUINOX
MAR 21 --- Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
MAR 22 --- World Water Day
MAR 22 --- National Goof Off Day
MAR 25 --- MD 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 OCT ----- **\$24.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$7364.72**

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

The money was sent to MAKC.
Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

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Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
 VAR ----- <http://var.caves.org/index.php>
 NSS ----- www.caves.org/
 NSS Convention 2020 ----- <https://nss2020.caves.org/>
 OTR ----- www.otr.org/
 MAR ----- www.caves.org/region/mar/
 WVCC ----- www.wvcc.net/
 Bob's Web Site ----- www.tristategrotto.net/Bob/
 Rock Climbing Knots Friction -----
www.chockstone.org/TechTips/prusik.htm#Bachman/
 Tri-State Grotto MySpace -----
www.myspace.com/tristategrotto/
 Animated Knots by Grog-www.animatedknots.com/
 WNS -----
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>
 Crystal Grottoes Caverns
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com
 Silers Cave -----
<https://www.karst.org/index.php/category/preserves/silers-cave-preserve/>



Mary Bowen, Pat Cronin, Nikki Fox, James Fredo Dixon Jr, Nevin Gibberson, Tom Griffin, Kevin Haney, Arthur Hanson Jr, Christal Hanson, Shawn Hogbin, Holley Hook, Bill Jackson, Terry McClanathan, John Scrivener

Happy birthday!



TSG Meeting
 (13 people in attendance)
 October 9, 2019

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
 Elysia gave the Treasurer's Report.

Doc reported the minutes of last months meeting Sept 11, 2019.

Committee Reports: Doc requested a tent pole from Bob in order to measure and cut new poles. All helmets and climbing gear is in working condition and being held by Tom and Adam. Jeff still has the thumb drive. A mention was made to take and inventory of all grotto gear and other miscellaneous items.

New Business: Directions to the Friars Hole Cave Preserve was finally granted to pre-registrants. TSG's camp at VAR was walking distance from one of the larger cave openings. In the Snedegar entrance Saturday night a presentation was held with a DJ party later on featuring a wide variety of music. Dinner was in the field near the entrance of the event. The weather was perfect with only a short cloud burst that didn't last very long around noon on Saturday. Some tents had to be rescued and recovered and dried out. The Monster Cave trip went well with the percipients getting back in time for a late dinner. The next VAR event has been rumored to be held at Grand Caverns in the end of April.

Old Business: The gate to Donaldsons Cave was once again left open even though the combination has been changed. There will be no consideration for keys to be used. Visitors will have to provide the following: name, address, party, telephone number and e-mail address.

Silers Cave now has a visitation list which is held by the Mid-Atlantic Karst. Two trips are permitted a month. Hopefully TSG can be granted a Wednesday Night caving trip there soon. There was a mention that Dam #4 Cave is legally closed.

Wednesday night, October the 16th, there will be a James Rumsey Climbing Class starting at 6:00 pm. Please pay attention to the new driving pattern around the school.

Wednesday night caving will be held at Donaldsons Cave this month. Participants are going to meet at the BP gas station near I-81 and Rt. 901 at 6:00 pm.

Hard copy of the Dead Dog Dispatch Newsletter was discussed. If printed, the copy would have to

be in black and white to keep the price viable. Information on cost should be provided at the next TSG meeting.

Adam Haines donated \$120 to TSG - gratuities from a caving trip he hosted during the weekend. Brent Jefferson checked the lock at Baker Quarry for vandalism and found everything intact. There were twenty-two participants kayaking in the mine a week before Labor Day, August 24. Plans for a third annual kayak trip is underway with attention to safe caving practices excluding shorts and sandals. Participants should have some caving background for a safer experience.

Carols Crack was once again mentioned but this time a garden hose, employed for breathing while navigating the sump in said cave, was added.

Terry reported a possible cave dig in the Parsons area which is in the same neighborhood of Red Run Cave, Moors Cave, and Confluence Cave.

Cave Bucks: \$24!!!

The meeting took a break before proceeding to the Annual TSG Auction where lanterns, cave packs, helmets, lights and books were some of the items featured auctioned off.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted
Donald 'Doc' Phillips / 32922
Secretary
Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Obituary for Clinton Terry Lee Powers

Clinton Terry Lee Powers, 70, of Inwood passed away on Thursday, October 24, 2019.

Born September 7, 1949 in Denver, CO.

He flew for United Airlines for 35 years and after retirement continued to fly.

He is survived by his wife, Paola Araujo Almeida; two daughters, Bronwyn Powers and Daniela Powers; one son, Jameson Powers; and three grandchildren, Kyzeah, Brayden, and Kyzen.

His love and devotion for flying and his

presence will be sorely missed by friends and family.

Services and interment are private.

To send flowers to the family of Clinton Terry Lee Powers, please visit our [Heartfelt Sympathies Store](http://www.heartfelt-sympathies.com).



<https://www.brownfuneralhomeswv.com>

Captain Powers was my friend and mentor, always striving for perfection and a positive solution. He was one of the most upbeat-nicest people I've ever known. His light will shine on forever!



Tim Jordan

TRIP REPORTS

Memorial Day Cave, Pendleton County

Nov. 8-9, 1029

Tommy Cleckner (Penn State), Terry McClanathan, Rick Royer (Baltimore)

This is another of the large Germany Valley caves with over 28 miles of passages making it the 6th longest in W. Va. It was my 34th trip there, though it's been nearly a year and a half since my last visit. The cave is difficult and trips to camp and beyond are hard on my 70-year-old body. So why do I keep going back? The answer is simple...PITS. There are currently 21 in the cave which have been explored that are over a hundred feet deep or high. Four of these exceed 200' and one is over 300'.

I don't do trips very regularly in Memorial Day anymore, though I've logged over 800 hours in survey trips over the past 15 years, but I do follow the trip reports put out by GVKs (Germany Valley Karst Survey). The cave is closed with a locked gate, but work trips are scheduled for every 2nd weekend of the month. Two months ago, a report mentioned that a new possible hundred-footer had been found. I had prior commitments at the time so

I inquired of Rick Royer, who is sort of the project coordinator for the cave (he's logged over 200 survey trips since the caves discovery (about twenty years ago) if they would be willing to leave the pit rigged for a while until I could get the chance to tape it. He said that would be fine, so that was my purpose for going. I went in Friday night to camp with the plan of taping the pit early and then exiting on Saturday afternoon. The pit taped at 101' making it the 21st hundred foot+ pit in the cave. Only Hellhole-Shoveleater have more deep pits than Memorial Day. I've been to all the hundred footers except for one (a tight one only ever dropped by Stephan Biggers and Rick) that was not left rigged. There are several unclimbed domes that have been distoed to over a hundred feet, so guess I might have to go back in, hopefully before I get too much older. My trip this time was only 20 hours, which is quite short by Memorial Day standards.

Memorial Day Cave

On November 9th; Nathan Roser, Irina Eftimie, Nick Socky & Dan Tucker went into Memorial Day Cave around 9AM. We saw Terry McClanathan heading out as we were going through Columbia Canyon. Took us until afternoon to get to camp & set out for our lead in the complex above the Titanic Room. In a side passage off the Pulpit Room, a rock blocked a crawl with black space visible ahead. We made short work of the rock by hammering a bull pin into it & pulling the rock out of the mud.

My method for getting the pin out was to drop the rock down a pit & hope the impact would shatter it. It worked, but we had to send Nick down to retrieve it when the rock tumbled down a hole in the floor of the Pulpit Room & into a pit below.





Rock with bull pin (All photos by Irina Tabarana)

With the rock gone Irina kept digging & was able to squeeze into the room. It was only about 15ft in diameter & tall enough to stand, with a crystal pool & some mud hoodoos. Sadly, it didn't go. I wasn't able to fit through so Nick came up & began surveying out with Irina. Once we had shots out of the room, I took up front Disto to complete the tie into a known station in the Pulpit Room.



Crystal Pool



Hoo Doos

Getting back to camp we wanted to avoid a 100ft climb, a bit of crawling, and a very annoying muddy rappel into the Titanic Room, so we took the "shortcut" through the breakdown at the bottom of the Pulpit Room.



Stuck!



One of the breakdown squeezes was probably too tight for me or Dan so we ended up spending quite some time removing a large rock. Rock removal time exceeded travel time the way we came, but the squeeze is gone & it's now a real shortcut. We came back to camp to find Rick Royer & Tommy Cleckner asleep.

Sunday morning, we left camp & exited around 2PM.

Nathan Roser



10/23/19 -- Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV --
Wednesday Night Caving – John, Tom, Adam,
Elysia, Doc, Shawn Harris, & Bob
Bob ridgewalked while the rest went caving

10/10/19 --- Sinkhole, Mineral Co, WV ----
Charlie Winfree, Don Carns Jr, Frank & Judy
O'hara, Jerry Bowen, & Bob Bennett
Set up a last-minute dig looking for a 30' pit!

10/12/19 --- Penguin Cave, Mineral Co, WV ---
Charlie Winfree, Frank O'Hara, Tom Griffin, ____
____, Gary Mathias, & Bob Bennett
Continued the dig on the Mineral Co Sinkhole –
Found a small blow-up penguin hence the name
Penguin Cave

10/16/19 --- Vertical Practice, James Rumsey ----
Tom, ____, Doc, John, Adam, Neo, Shannon &
Jonathan Miranda, Bob, & Paulette

10/19/19 --- Comptons Cave, Warren Co, VA ----

--- No Name Cave, Warren Co, VA ---

Jeff Jahn, Greg & Lauren McCoy, Pete Bracken,
Janet Tinkham, Tom Griffin, Bob Bennett, Kurt &
Ryan

Dig on cave that was filled about 30-40 years ago –
Also visited small unnamed cave in owner's back
yard

10/23/19 -- Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV --

Wednesday Night Caving – John, Tom, Adam,
Elysia, Doc, Shawn Harris, & Bob

Bob ridgewalked while the rest went caving

10/26/19 --- Kimble Pit, Pendleton Co, WV -----

Gordy ley & Terry McClanathan

This is one of the large Germany Valley caves
being around 9 mi in length with survey still going
on – Bounced (yo-yoed) the 169' entrance pit

10/26/19 --- Klines Gap Cave, Grant Co, WV ----

Gordy & Terry

We had some time left so we stopped by here on the
way home – Terry had never been to the cave
before – Shawn Hogbin had tried to take me there
about a year ago but the stream was too high for us
to cross. After this summer/fall drought Gordy and I
had no trouble rock hopping over to the cliffside
entrance. We toured about 1500' of the cave, with
much of it walking. There was just enough
scrambling and climbing to make the trip fun.
Needs a couple of handlines to see the entire cave.

10/28/19 --- Fall Drive thru WV -----

Bob & Paulette

While taking pictures of colored leaves Bob took
GPS's of 3 small caves

11/2/19 --- George Eye Cave, Pendleton Co, WV ---

--- Dennis Mitchell Cave, Pendleton Co, WV -----

Nathan Roser, Amanda Willis & Mary Hick – One
of my favorite small caves

11/7/19 --- Micro Practice -----

Tom & Bob

11/9/19 --- Blowing Cave, Bath Co, VA -----

Eric Berge & others – Found more coral formations

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11/9/19 --- Memorial Day Cave, Pendleton Co, WV
Tommy Gleckner (PennSt), Terry McClanathan,
Rick Royer (Baltimore)

This is another of the large Germany Valley caves with over 28 miles of passages making it the 6th longest in W. Va. It was my 34th trip there – 21 100' pits in the cave that is why I keep going back

11/9/19 --- Memorial Day Cave, Pendleton Co, WV
Nathan Roser, Irina Eftimie, Nick Socky & Dan Tucker

Saw Terry McClanathan heading out – Did some surveying, diggin & removing rocks

11/9/19 --- WVCC Banquet, Lewisburg, WV ----
Jeff Hajenga, Tom Griffin, ____ ____, Greg & Lauren McCoy, Bob & Paulette Bennett, John Fox, & about 100 others

Dr Dan Doctor gave an excellent talk about the age of the caves in the Appalachians

11/9/19 --- Lost World Caverns, Greenbrier Co, WV -----
Kevin Hughes & MaryEllen Gluck

11/10/19 --- James Madison Saltpeter Cave, Augusta Co, VA -----

Scott Davis, Bob Bennett, Tom Griffin, ____ __
Unique vertical bedding in the cave – Lots of manganese throughout the cave – 100' deep pools of water with lots of calcite rafts



(All 3 photos by Nathan Roser)



(Photo by Amanda Willis)



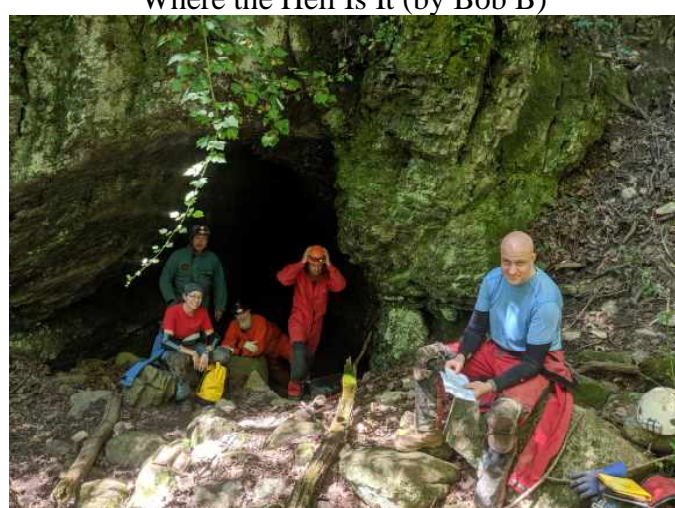
George Eye Cave



Tom at Heritage Day (By BobB)



Where the Hell Is It (by Bob B)



Most of the Dyers Survey Team (Photo by David Smallwood)

3 previous photos are from Blowing Cave, VA
(Photos by Eric Berge)



CAVIN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 10TH - DECEMBER 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 10 Vivian Monger (Jones Quarry owner) Birthday	Nov 11  VETERANS DAY	Nov 12	Nov 13  Meeting 7pm	Nov 14 FRG Meeting 7pm	Nov 15	Nov 16 Sadie Hawkins Day
Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20 Vertical Session at James Rumsey 6pm	Nov 21 World Hello Day	Nov 22	Nov 23
Nov 24	Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28  THANKS - GIVING DAY	Nov 29 BLACK FRIDAY!	Nov 30 Jones Quarry Cave 11am - see Adam Haines
Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4 National Cookie Day	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7  TSG CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION 6PM
Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11  Meeting 7pm Elections	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21

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Coral formation in Blowing Cave in VA (Photo by Eric Berge)



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