



DEAR DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO

WINDY MOUTH CAVE, GREENBRIER CO, WV

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2020

#39

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TRI-STATE GROTTTO OFFICERS

CHAIR - John DiCarlo - 301-432-2323
j.dicarlo@myactv.net

V-CHAIR - Bob Bennett - 304-671-0344
gimpycaver@comcast.net

TREASURER- Elysia Mathias – 443-695-5350
emathiasmba@gmail.com

SECRETARY – Donald ‘Doc’ Phillip
703-583-0390
thosearemagicbeans@gmail.com

Member At Large - Tom Griffin - 240-676-3184
A1TopCatDesign@gmail.com

Conservation Chair -

Equipment Chair - Doc Phillips - 703-583-0390
thosearemagicbeans@gmail.com

Membership Chair - Bob Bennett -304-671-0344
Newsletter Editor --- Bob Bennett ----304-671-0344
Funding - Paulette Bennett -304-671-8317

P R Chair -----

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V.#35

I.#4

APR

2020

#40

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ---- \$200.00 (Must be NSS)
SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP ---- \$50/YEAR
(SUSTAINING-\$50/yr until \$200 total is met)
(FULL FAMILY-must be NSS)(Voting rights if over 16)
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or can be SENT TO:

ELYSIA MATHIAS, TREASURER
TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
133 DEVONSHIRE RD.
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740
443-695-5350
E-MAIL: emathiasmba@gmail.com

For MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION contact:

BOB BENNETT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
TRI-STATE GROTTTO of the NSS
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR.
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0211
304-821-4621
E-MAIL: gimpycaver@comcast.net

** The photo on this month's cover was taken in
Windy Mouth Cave, Greenbrier Co, WV. It was
taken by Brian Sakofsky using David Smallwood's
camera.

**** 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

2020

APR 1 --- All Fool's Day
APR 2 --- PB&J Day
APR 5 --- Geologists Day
APR 6 --- New Beers Day
APR 7 --- National Beer Day
APR 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Virtual On-Line
APR 10 --- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 10 --- National Sibling Day
APR 12 --- EASTER
APR 15 --- Tax Day (Extended to July 15)
APR 17 --- Bat Appreciation Day
APR 18-19 --- Grand Caverns Spring Clean
(Cancelled)
APR 20 --- Husband Appreciation Day
APR 22 --- Earth Day
APR 24 --- Arbor Day
MAY 1,2,3 --- VAR/MAR – Grand Caverns, VA
(Cancelled)
MAY 2 --- Brothers & Sisters Day
MAY 5 --- SINKHOLE de MAYO
MAY 5 --- Children Day
MAY 9 --- National Train Day
MAY 9 --- Adam Stephen Day
MAY 10 -- MOTHERS DAY
MAY 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
MAY 16 --- Armed Forces Day
MAY 16 --- Cricket Maze Cave Open House
MAY 25 --- National Wine Day
MAY 25 --- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
JUN 14 --- Flag Day
JUN 19 --- Juneteenth
JUN 20 --- WV Day
JUN 21 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUN 21 --- FATHERS DAY
JUN 23 --- Lucky Penny Day
JUN 30 --- Discount Deadline for NSS Convention
JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY
JUL 7 --- World Chocolate Day
JUL 8 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
JUL 11 --- TSG Picnic
JUL 11-12 --- WVACS Classic
JUL 18 --- National Hot Dog Day
JUL 25 --- National Carousel Day

JUL 26 --- Parents Day
JUL 27-31 --- NSS Convention – Elkins, WV
AUG 2 --- International Beer Day
AUG 11 --- National Son & Daughter Day
AUG 12 --- National Middle Child Day
AUG 12 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
AUG 13 --- Left Handers Day
AUG 16 --- Elvis Died!
AUG 21 --- National Senior Citizens Day
SEP 3-7 --- OTR
SEP 5 --- Doo Dah Parade
SEP 5 --- Polyester Power Hour
SEP 7 --- LABOR DAY
SEP 9 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
SEP 11 --- Remembrance Day (9/11)
SEP 13 --- Grand Parents Day
SEP 20 --- Wife Appreciation Day
SEP 22 --- AUTUMN EQUINOX
SEP 25 --- National Comic Book Day
SEP 25 --- National Daughter Day
SEP 28 --- National Son 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 MAR ----- **\$34.01**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$7505.80

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

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

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V.#35

I.#4

APR

2020

#41

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

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/>

GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Mason Griffin, Kevin Mulligan, David Craig
Sanbower,

Happy Birthday!

REPORTS

TSG Meeting, March 11, 2020
(Attendance:16)

John called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Elysia gave a Treasurer's Report.
Minutes were read by Doc.

Old Business: Info on MAR/VAR is available and will be held at Grand Caverns May 1-3. For more information check

<http://var.caves.org/index.php/events/spring-var>.
April the 15th is the deadline to pre-register.
Guides are needed to lead trips during the event.
Trips to Madison and Fountain Cave are also planned.

Bob added new books to the TSG library.
The 2020 NSS Convention will be held in Daily, West Virginia at the Old Timers Reunion site the week of July 27th thru the 31st. There was mention of a new sauna.

The Dead Dog Cave lock was revitalized with an application of WD-40. Again, finding the cave took time but it is now accessible.

March 28 is the date set for the light bulb change at Endless Caverns and there will be off trail trips. There is no new news concerning Cyclops Cave.

New Business: Donaldson's Cave is full of water. There is also a re-survey taking place. Fantasy Cave in the Shady Gap area is now reopened.

In Huntingdon County (Fern Cave) there is a need for surveyors. Fern Cave has nine levels and multiple streams and there is one tourist trip a year. The property also features camping. For more information contact TSG member Donald Arrowood.

The brick purchased by TSG to be installed at the flagpole of the NSS center has not been completed.

Lifespan of a TRA membership was discussed. James Rumsey Climbing will be held on March 18 and there was a mention of outdoor climbing during the summer.

Surveyors are also needed for Elizabeth's Furnace Cave.

Wednesday night caving will be held at Whiting's Neck Cave,

and a local dig will also be checked.

Meeting was adorned at 8:02pm

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

Endless Caverns

By Eric Berge

I have always heard about trips to Endless Caverns over the years, but I never really checked into going on one of the trips. Well in February 2020 I heard about a light bulb changing trip that was going to happen on the 24th of March, but that date just did not work for me. I had too many things going on and I thought I would ask Jerry Bowen if he could get a trip together for me and a few members of RASS. Now I have known Jerry for over twenty years. Think the first time I met him was when I was leading a trip to Marshalls Cave during a VAR and as we were going to the lower level to where the stream is my pack exploded. Back then I was using a carbide lamp and I had just changed carbide the spent carbide leaked gas in the pack which acted like a balloon and it did explode. Poor pack never was the same after that. Anyway Jerry said he would check to see about a trip in the first part of March. Several days later he e-mailed me and said if the 14th of March was good date? The trip was set.

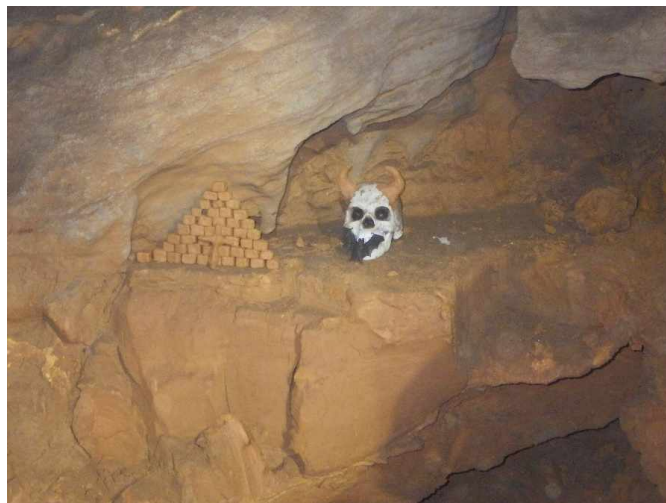


I asked Jerry how difficult Endless Caverns wild section was and he said it has some exposure, and a 45-degree angle climb. But it was a pretty nice cave with a lot of formations.

The person who was going to guide us through the cave was the Mike Stewart. I set out to get a group together

and only three members from RASS were able to go. So I opened it up to other people. So the group going was Mike Stewart (the guide and manager of Endless Caverns), Jerry Bowen (the trip leader, Tri-State), Richie Ellison (RASS President), Mat Gerard (RASS member), Tom Griffin (Tri-State), Red Shock (Independent), Miller Berge (Independent), Christopher Berge (Independent), Earle Berge (Independent), Rosemary Mallonee (Independent), Mareshver Singh (Independent), and Eric Berge (RASS and Tri-State). The Group was set, and we were meeting at the parking lot of the caverns at 10am. We all converged on the parking lot and the cave milling began. You ask what is cave milling? That's where everyone shows up, we walk around and talk to each other for a while since most of us have not seen each other for several years.

Gear was passed out, everybody got suited up and as we were suiting up I noticed that Tom was bringing a seat



harness and quick action safety. I asked him about it, and he said that the 45 degree climb if you let go only thing that will stop you is the bottom and he always liked having one. Well everybody was suited up and we all entered the main entrance to Endless Caverns and had to sign some waivers and a group photo was taken. That way we know we would have everybody when we left.

Mike lead the way and I started asking him about Endless and he said the caverns itself is seven miles long and we had to go through the commercial part to get the entrance to the wild section. If you have never been to Endless Caverns, it is well worth the trip just to see the commercial section. It has a lot of beautiful

formations, and Mike pointed out the different drops that went to the different levels and down to the stream bed and he mentioned the cave this year was very dry. He said the formations are usually damp and the formations are dripping. But this year everything was dry. Mike took us about a half of mile and stopped. He said there it is, pointing to a small crawl.

We all started into the cave by way of the crawl and had to stop and take some photos of different people pushing their way through the opening when Singh went through I had to keep encouraging him to keep going, he is a rather large young man, he made it after a few grunts and groans. I should tell you this was his first cave trip and I was not sure how he would do. It was also Miller Berge's first cave trip, but he is like a string bean, tall and thin. Rosemary had been caving before, but I found out later this was her first off-the-path cave trip. She and her mother spent a lot of time in one cave repairing different formations, but her mother always kept her close.

Mike told me that the squeeze is the worst part and he always takes people through just to make sure he has real cavers with him and if anyone decided to back out that was the place to do it. That was a nice test. We did a lot of crawling and stooping, and we finally got to the 45 degree climb down. Jerry went down and I think I went second so I could get a few photographs of people. A few people were leery of the drop, but I yelled up to them that there is nothing wrong with coming down on your butt. Once you commit yourself over the edge you had to finish up.

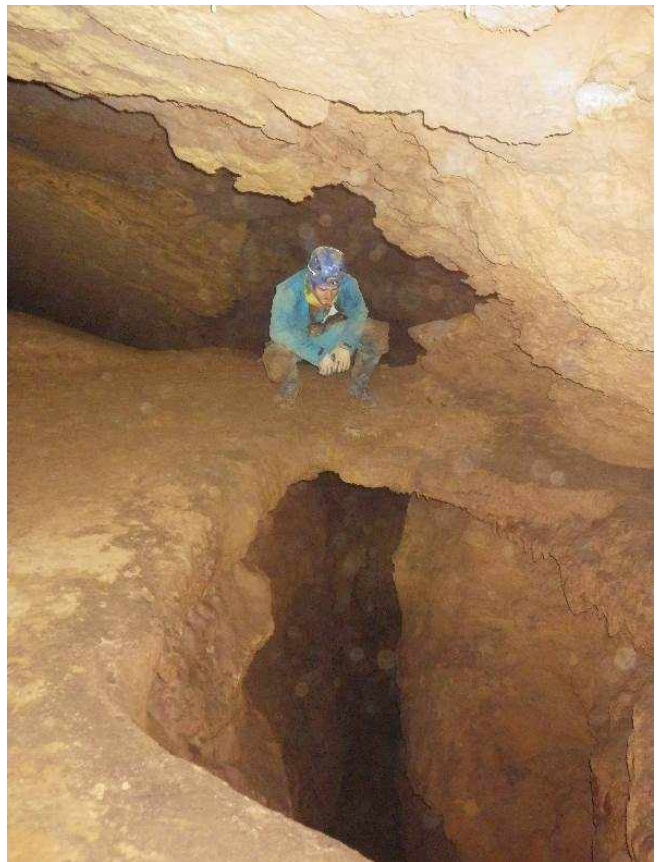
We made to one section where Mike had a small pyramid made from mud squares he had made. Each mud square was for each trip he had made to the wild section. Course we have the other weird caver stuff that cavers like to make while here are in cave. So from the number of blocks Mike has been in the section over 40 times. What it must be like to have a cave you can explore whenever you want to. We stopped here for a few minutes.

As we went along, we went by a large room that was called the Blackburn Room. Mike said there was another way back to the climb up and that we would be going back that way. The next stop was a good size

room which turned out to be the turn-around point after we rested for a few minutes. Mike explained that the cave is still being mapped and explored and just a



few feet from where we were is a break down room which has a lot of promises for new passageways. After about a 15-minute rest we started heading out and we split up into two groups at this point. Mike took a group down into the Blackburn Room where there was a small hole you went through which opened up in a very low



crawl. To get into the Blackburn room you slip on your butt against the far-right wall trying to control your descent. There were no ropes or hand line in this area. I stayed with the group that went back around the Blackburn Room. We went around several pits and did several climb downs and we all met at the junction to start our climb out. Jerry went up the 45-degree climb, and I followed him up. The climb up is a lot different from going down for the simple reason sitting on your butt doesn't work going up. You had to be standing or on your knees. I did both till I got to a place where there was solid footing. I noticed that Singh and Rosemary got into the harness that Tom had brought with the safeties. They came right up the climb and in no time, they were over the top. I can tell you one thing though the climb will boost your self-confidence because you are very much exposed, but once at the top you have to watch out for the pits so you don't fall in them. There were a lot of bridges you had to use to get across the pits. Once everybody made it to the top of the drop, we made it to a room that has a lot of different formations. To get here you had to go sideways down a short drop that was actually the top of some flow stone. I took the opportunity to take a lot of photos. It turns out there are three ways out of the wild section. One way is the way we came in, another way was the section we were at which involved getting on your knees and scooting around on the top of flow stone while holding on to the different hand holds. Oh, by the way if you let go you end up dropping 35 to 40 feet. I kind of looked at that and said what is the third way. That involved a really nice crawl and at the end of the crawl you are back in the commercial section of the cave called fairy land. Well me and several other decide to do the crawl which involved having to climb back up the flow stone drop. There were just a few foot holds, and you had to wedge yourself in and up. We all made it, and there was the crawl all lit up with light bulbs. In the commercial section they light this passage up and it looks like a fairy land, but not with us come out of it. It was a nice long crawl and thank goodness we had knee pads. Mike lead us back out and on the way out we stopped at the dance hall section of the cave and he put on the light show and explained that in the twenties and thirties they would have dances and the location was somewhat of speak easy during probation. We made it

back to the two large door that lead into the cave where another group photo was taken. We all had a great time exploring the wild section of Endless Caverns. This is a wonderful cave and I want to thank Mike Stewart for leading a wonderful trip. I really want to thank Jerry Bowen for setting up the trip for us.

PHOTO GALLERY



Adams Pit (Photo taken by Gary Mathias)

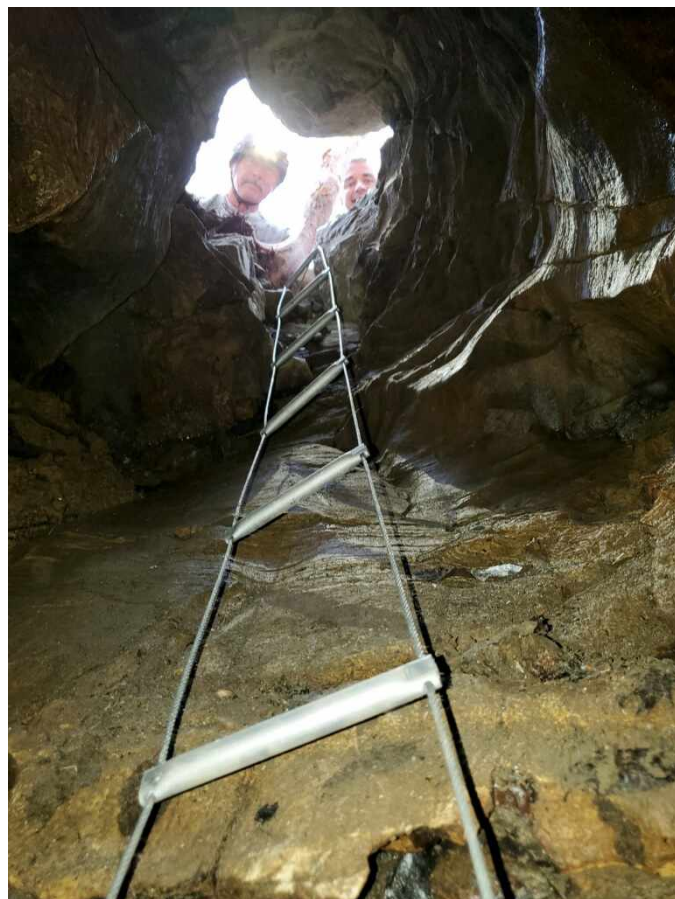




Top & side entrances to Adams Pit (by Tom Griffin)



New cave in Jefferson Co (by BB)



Dry Quarry Cave (by Elysia Mathias)



What is left of the sinkhole on Rt 340. A previous pic showed 20-30 cave crickets (by BB)



CAVIN CALENDAR

APRIL 5TH - MAY 16TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 5 Geologists Day	Apr 6 New Beers Day	Apr 7 National Beer Day	Apr 8  Meeting 7pm	Apr 9	Apr 10 National Sibling Day GOOD FRIDAY	Apr 11
Apr 12  EASTER	Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 15 TAX DAY - Ext to Jul 15	Apr 16	Apr 17  BAT APPRECIATION DAY	Apr 18 Grand Caverns Spring Clean Cancelled
Apr 19	Apr 20 Husband Appreciation Day	Apr 21	Apr 22  HAPPY EARTH DAY	Apr 23	Apr 24 Arbor Day	Apr 25
Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	May 1 VAR/MAR - Grand Caverns - Cancelled	May 2 VAR/MAR - Grand Caverns - Cancelled
May 3 VAR/MAR - Grand Caverns - Cancelled Brothers & Sisters Day	May 4	May 5 Sinkhole de Mayo Childrens Day	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9 National Train Day Adam Stephen Day
May 10 MOTHERS DAY	May 11	May 12	May 13  Meeting 7pm	May 14	May 15	May 16 Armed Forces Day Cricket Maze Cave Open House

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Donaldson Cave (by Shawn Harris)



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TRI-STATE GROTO OF THE NSS
BOB BENNETT, BOB BENNETT, EDITOR
464 HUCKLEBERRY DR
GERRARDSTOWN, WV 25420-0344
304-671-0344
gimpycaver@comcast.net



TO:

