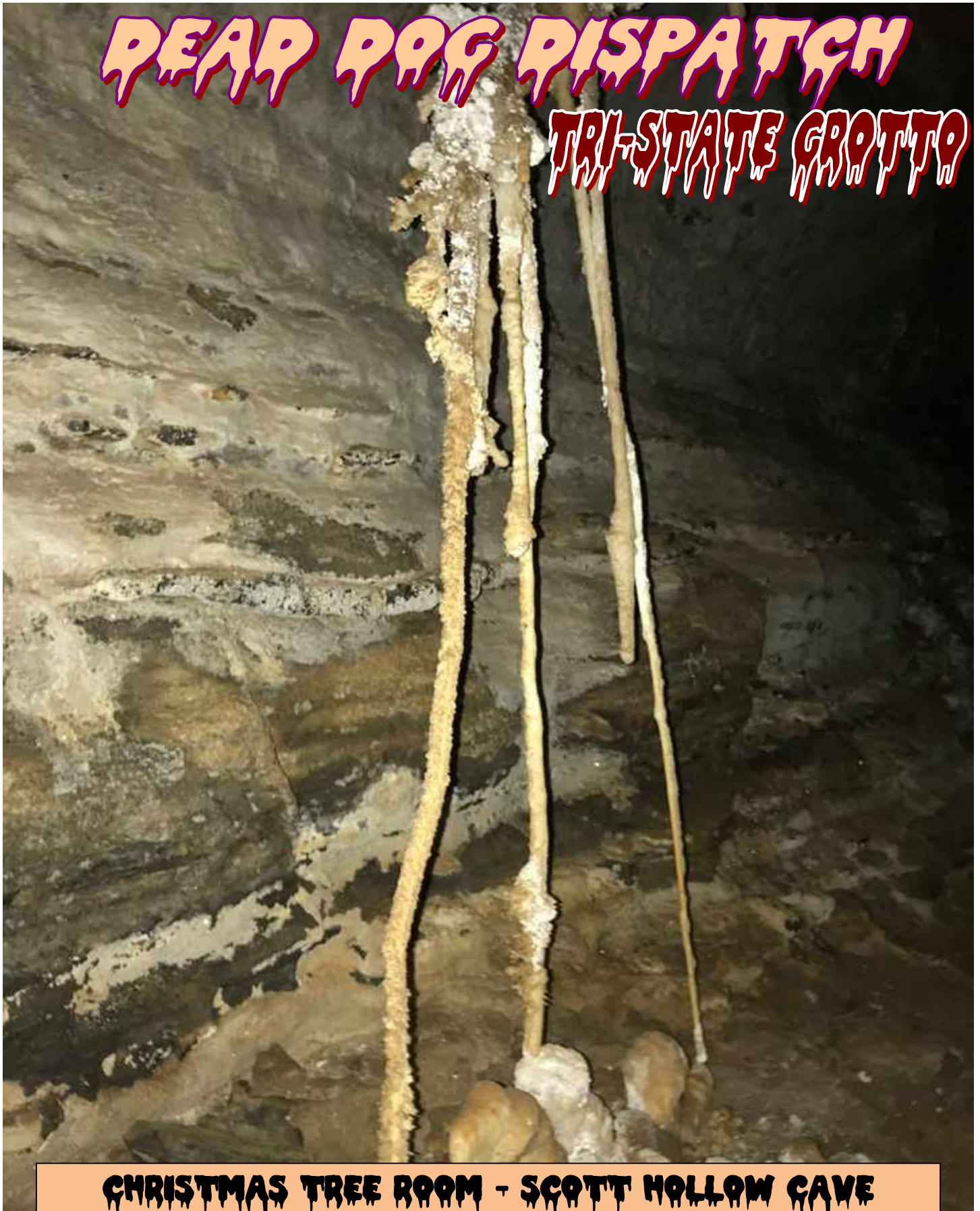


# DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



**CHRISTMAS TREE ROOM - SCOTT HOLLOW CAVE**

**VOL. #35**

**ISS. #2**

**FEB**

**2020**

**#13**

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**DEAD DOG DISPATCH**

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\*\* The photo on this month's cover was taken in the Christmas Tree Room by Billy Gibberson in Scott Hollow Cave, Monroe Co, WV.

\*\*\*\* 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!**



# CAMMIN EVENTS

**2020**

- FEB 1 --- Bubble Gum Day
- FEB 2 --- Ground Hog Day
- FEB 8 --- Jones Quarry Cave – Larry Powell & scouts – 10am
  
- FEB 9 --- National Pizza Day
- FEB 11 --- Fat Tuesday
- FEB 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**
- FEB 14 --- Valentine’s Day
- FEB 15 --- Jones Quarry Cave – Contact Jerry Bowen – Meet at Sheetz at 2pm**
- FEB 16 --- Jones Quarry Cave – Jeff Jahn – Trip Full – 10am
- FEB 17 --- Presidents Day
- FEB 19 --- Vertical practice – James Rumsey – 6pm
- FEB 22-23 --- Possible cleanup of 'The Sinkhole' pit in Pendleton Co. The pit is on US Fish & Wildlife property – A permit is needed to go in & work on cleaning up the pit – We are still waiting on the permit - Contact Tom or Bob
- FEB 23 --- If the cleanup does not happen, there will be a Ridgewalk – Shannondale area, Jefferson Co – Contact Bob if you are interested
- FEB 28 --- National Tooth Fairy Day
- MAR 1 --- Peanut Lovers Day
- MAR 8 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS**
- MAR 11 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**
- MAR 12 --- FEG meeting – Thunwa Restaurant – Fr Royal – 7pm
- MAR 13-15 --- NCRC East Reg #1 & #2, Blacksburg, VA
- MAR 14 --- Dr Latterell’s Birthday – Owner of Molers Cave
- MAR 14 --- Pi Day
- MAR 14 --- National Potato Chip Day
- MAR 14 --- Donaldson Cave – Larry Powell – Scouts
- 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
- MAR 28 --- Endless Cave – Lightbulb replacement – 10am – see Tom**
- APR 1 --- All Fool’s Day
- APR 2 --- PB&J Day
- APR 6 --- New Beers Day
- APR 7 --- National Beer Day
- APR 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm**
- APR 10 --- GOOD FRIDAY
- APR 10 --- National Sibling Day
- APR 12 --- EASTER**
- APR 15 --- Tax Day**
- APR 17 --- Bat Appreciation Day
- APR 18-19 --- Grand Caverns Spring Clean
- APR 20 --- Husband Appreciation Day
- APR 22 --- Earth Day
- APR 24 --- Arbor Day
- MAY 1,2,3 --- VAR/MAR – Grand Caverns, VA**
- MAY 2 --- Brothers & Sisters Day
- MAY 5 --- SINKHOLE de MAYO
- MAY 5 --- Children Day
- MAY 9 --- National Train Day
- MAY 10 -- MOTHERS DAY**
- MAY 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm
- MAY 16 --- Armed Forces Day
- MAY 25 --- National Wine Day
- MAY 25 --- MEMORIAL 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 JAN ----- **\$14.02**

**TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$7427.75**

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

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

## WEBSITE & GIVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- [www.tristategrotto.net/](http://www.tristategrotto.net/)  
VAR ----- <http://var.caves.org/index.php>  
NSS ----- [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)  
NSS Convention 2020 ----- <https://nss2020.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/)  
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/)  
WNS -----  
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/WNS%20Info.htm/>  
Crystal Grottoes Caverns  
[www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com](http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com)  
Silers Cave -----  
<https://www.karst.org/index.php/category/preserves/silers-cave-preserve/>

## GROTTO BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Don Arrowood, Ereka Bennett, Paulette Bennett,  
Barry Duncan, Adam Haines, Malakai Hanson,  
Allen Monger, Tyler Ward

**Happy Birthday!**

## REPORTS

**TSG Meeting January 8, 2020**  
(attendance:8)

John called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Elysia gave a Treasurer's Report.

Old Business: The TSG library went out on list serve.

Bob brought a tent pole for Doc to use as a size reference.

The new flash drive was returned to Jerry. The first drive was never recovered.

The subject of inventory was discussed with the conclusion that TSG inventory will be periodically published.

New Business: Fox Skull Cave was closed to a TSG member by a posted guard who claimed that there was new construction in the area. The troop that wanted to visit the cave had to leave and find another cave to visit. Many other stories of Fox Skull Cave came up revealing that this last incident was not the only one when trying to visit Fox Skull Cave.

The 2020 Christmas party was suggested to be held on the second week of December. The date being December 12, 2020 at the Bedington Ruritan Club, the same place as last year. The lock on Dead Dog Cave needs to be replaced. Logistics was discussed.

The Spring MAR-VAR 2020 will be hosted by Seven Valleys and Charlottesville Grottoes at Grand Caverns in Grottoes, VA, May 1-3, 2020. Climbing class continues Wednesday, January 15, at The James Rumsey Technical Institute, 3274 Hedgesville Rd, Martinsburg, WV 25403. Actual "in the field vertical work" was discussed possibly at Rock Enon.

Elisabeth's Furnace cliffs was mentioned.

Please Note: January is the 34<sup>th</sup> birthday of Tri-State Grotto. Refreshments and birthday cake

were enjoyed after the meeting which was adjourned at 8:22 PM

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



### Trip report: Scoop City Re-revisited

John Powell and I had originally planned on going into main entrance of Scott hollow, but the bottom of the culvert was a raging torrent, so we went into the new entrance of scoop city. We went in the walking height culvert pipe and was in some tight down tube. I haven't been in anything this small in a while. We headed on down til we got in some long hands and knees crawls. It had been 15 years since I was here, and back then this entrance was not even dug open.

After what seemed an eternity, we came to a decent size area and not far was the Mite Room. The Mite Room has a lone mite about 3 ft tall in a 30ft diameter room. Then there was more crawling! I hadn't done this much crawling in a while since I'm spoiled to the main and larger parts of the cave.

We then we came to a down climb and ducked under some passage by a waterfall. Here we then we hit nice walking passage again and came to Motel 8. This room just big enough for a couple of people "what a hell of a place to camp!" You could tell this was a makeshift camp unlike the other ones in the cave. It's called Motel 8 because of a twist of passages that form an 8.

We then worked down a long way til we hit Main Street. This is the largest and nicest part of scoop city. Here there were some amazing helictites from the floor to the ceiling. The streams we

encountered were all clear and normal height, unlike the massive flooding above us.

We then worked our way upstream. It amazes me how Scoop City is like the standard caves in WV, unlike the massive trunks Scott hollow is famous for. We then went up as far as time constraints allowed. It was awesome being back down there. But be advised this is some serious caving with lots of crawling and climbing. If you've never been there, go with someone that has because navigating is very confusing. Pushing my pack ahead me while crawling was a bitch but my near 50 crazy ass made it out alive. I will be back!

Billy Gibberson

### McAlisterville Cave, Juniata County, Pennsylvania

On January 11<sup>th</sup> Mike Shank (York Grotto), Johanna Neller (Franklin County Grotto), and Terry McClanathan (Tri-State) paid a visit to McAlisterville Cave, located about an hour northwest of Harrisburg, Pa.

We'd been talking about a trip there for over a year. Mike Shank set the trip up for us and was our guide for the day. The cave was rumored to have a possible hundred-foot dome which I wanted to check out, plus Mike said it was not a typical Pennsylvania cave. McAlisterville has over 3,000 feet of mapped passages and is the largest in Juniata County. Mike informed us that its size was unusual for the area, and that it was one of the few caves even recorded for Juniata County.

Noon found the three of us just inside the gated entrance working our way down a steep pebbly slope. Mike told us the gravel was present because the roads department had unsuccessfully attempted to fill in the cave some decades in the past. The reason they were thwarted soon became obvious, as the ceiling vaulted high overhead and the passage widened. The slope continued downward steeply but the passage dimensions would have done many

West Virginia caves proud. This was definitely not your typical Pennsylvania cave. Near the bottom of the slope the cave splits into three major branches. The left branch was more the typical tourist route, easy walking passage for a few hundred feet with a few scrambles near the end. The center passage led to some sporting down climbs which terminated at a pit. The pit had a natural rig but an awkward breakover at the lip. Mike set a bolt above the lip as a redirect which eliminated most of the problem. The pit was dog legged and I taped it at 39 feet deep.

The right-hand passage was the most extensive and the most challenging. For about a hundred feet it was a traverse over a canyon. This was neither especially easy nor difficult, but care had to be taken for the walls were slippery with adequate but not abundant foot holds, and the canyon was deep enough that a slip could have resulted in serious injury. Near the end of the canyon traverse a twenty-foot downclimb lead to the base of the dome room.

I distoed the high point of the dome at 85', not quite the advertised hundred feet but still impressive, with a diameter of thirty-five feet across the bottom. With the exception of Big Ridge, it was the largest dome I've seen in a Pennsylvania cave.

Beyond the dome room the cave took on a more sporting nature. Multiple climbs and traverses were interspersed with a few tight crawls and even the awkward squeeze or two. Mike told us this part of the cave was seldom visited due to its arduous nature and that most trips usually ended just past the dome area. The cave rewards those who persevere through the more challenging parts with several nicely decorated rooms which we all admired. As a bonus, not only were the formation areas quite pretty, they were also pretty much free of vandalism.

All in all, McAlisterville is a really fine cave. It's fun to explore. The three of us had a seven-hour trip, and except for a little bit of downtime while Mike set the bolt for the 39' pit, we were moving continuously. It was dark when we exited, and I was just tired enough to know I'd been caving. I'd say

McAlisterville Cave would easily fall within the top five best Pennsylvania caves.

Terry McClanathan



**Scott Hollow Cave, Monroe Co, WV – January – Billy Gibberson & Mike Dore – Checking leads**

**Jan 8th – Donaldson's resurvey #1** - Water was down. Still able to survey to the bottom. Some on the trip. Bob, Tom, Red, Wyatt Hall, Monica Renee, Dave Smallwood plus others?

**Whitings Neck Cave, Berkeley Co, WV – 1/11/20 – Adam & Ashby – Fun trip**

**McAlisterville Cave, Juniata Co, PA – Mike Shank, Johanna Neller, & Terry McClanathan – Finally after a year the trip happened. 7 ½ hr trip with a 39' pit.**

**Phone Eater, Berkeley Co, WV – 1/12/20 – Gary & Elysia, Tom & Red – Small caves along the Potomac**

**Jan 13<sup>th</sup>** – Gary, Elysia, Tom and Red went walking on the C&O Canal to locate some caves. After about 2.26 miles one way we located 3 caves we could enter. The longest about 50 feet, neat little caves. There was a small item lost in the cave plus the hike was so much fun we did it again the next day. We took digging tools this time.

**Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Climbing at James Rumsey.** We had a good turn out with hopes to continue until about April when we will try to move the climbing efforts outside. We had co-members from Front Royal Grotto. Bob, Paulette, Elysia, Jeff Hajenga, Jeff Jahn, Gregg McCoy, Tom, John, Adam and Doc

**Jan 21, Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV –** I was asked to give a trip to some of the members of the CrossFit where we workout. Tom, Shannon, Amy and Suzanne. We were able to see all the cave except the room in the circle trip. All had a good time may have sparked an interest in new cavers.

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**Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV** – Bob – While Tom was taking his daughter & 2 others from his Crossfit group, I was using my 'new' battery powered reciprocating saw to cut an un-needed piece of metal from the gate. The metal had a hole in it & visitors of the cave kept putting the lock in it when they would leave the cave. With the lock in that position, the gate can still be opened. This will solve a big problem!

**Hobo Hole, Hagerstown, MD – 1/24/20** – Gary & Elysia – remains of a tunnel system

**Grand Caverns, Rockingham Co, VA – 1/26/20** – Shawn, Chloe, & Ben Harris & Bob Denton – Beautiful shields

**Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – Donaldson's resurvey #2** – The water was up the hallway leading to the breakdown room. The water was about 3 from the ceiling. We were up to our waist in water. The survey continued from the bottom of the main room to the back of the breakdown room where we saw signatures I had never seen water past the keyhole probably because I was never able to pass through the narrow passage when the water was up. We started the survey into the keyhole, stopped due to standing water in that back room. Bob, Tom, Wyatt, Monica, David Smallwood and members of the Terrapin Climbing Club.

**Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – Ridge Walk** – Bob was notified by some Greenbrier cavers about a family in The Shannondale area to ridge walk and report back to the owners what we may have found. One of the owners came with us that day. 3 shelters and a spring coming out of the ground was all that was found. The area was primarily quartzite, Sandstone and Shale. Members were Bob, Tom and Jeff Jahn.

**Rechecking sinkholes – 2/4/20** – Bob – Decided to check a couple of sinkholes after the recent rains. One of the sinkholes is a 19' pit (Rt 9 Pit) surveyed by Terry McClanathan. It was filled in by the WVDOH. It has sunk about 5' to 6' deep again.

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** – Another ridgewalk down by the river in the Harpers Ferry, Shannondale area again in a Dolomite area we found some shelters with small caves. Lots of climbing then we walked through some fields just to check out the area. Plans are being made to go

back, all are welcome. Members were Bob, Tom, Elysia, Gary, Adam and Ashby.

**Whitings Neck Cave, Berkeley Co, WV – 2/9/20** – Earl & Cheryl Suitor, Adam, Bob, Paulette, & Mike Nally & a host of local fire & rescue professionals! A group went in the 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance & one member of the group got stuck in a slot. Cheryl, Earl & Adam were in the cave helping in one way or the other. Bob, Paulette, & Mike were on scene. Great job!

**Scott Hollow Cave, Monroe Co, WV – February** – Billy Gibberson & John Powell – Scoop City revisited – Went in here because the main entrance series was a raging torrent of water.

## PHOTO GALLERY



An old photo that Jerry Bowen ran across showing an Endless Cavern advertisement. The barn is still there but the advertisement is gone.



The new American Samoa National Park Quarter



Betty Crocker area in Scott Hollow (by Billy Gibberson)



Better Crocker area (by Billy G)



Hercules in Scott Hollow – (by Billy G)



Christmas Tree Room, Scott Hollow (Billy G)





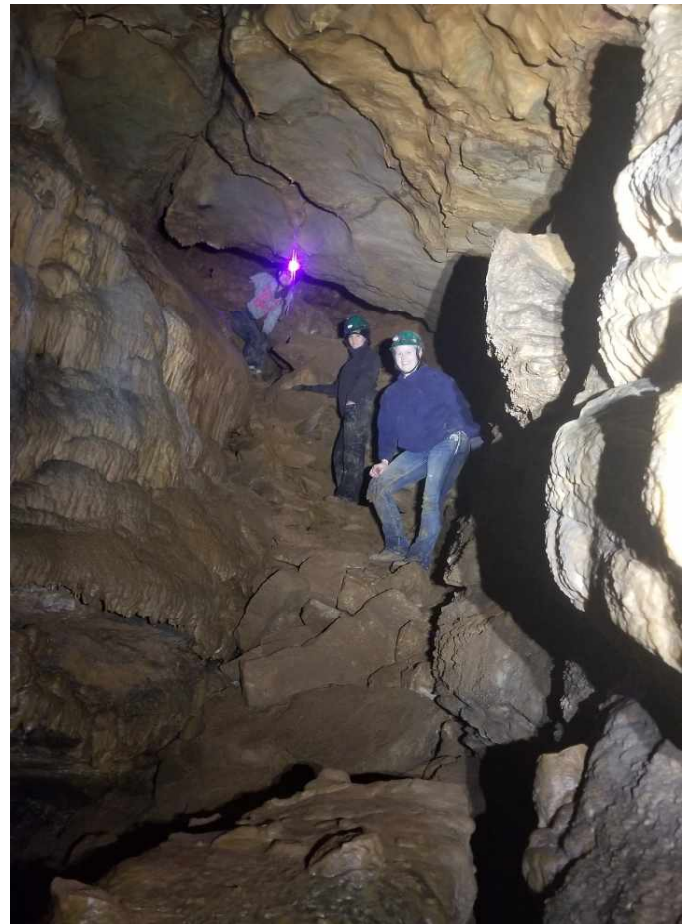
Survey shot in Donaldson with the laser point (BB)



Shooting the back shot at the same station (BB)



Shows the clean cut on the Donaldson gate (BB)



Near the Rabbit Hole in Donaldson (Tom G)



Water in Donaldson (BB)



Newly found signatures in Donaldson (BB)



Vertical practice (by Doc)



Formation Room in Whitings Neck (Ashby Haines)



More signatures in Donaldson (BB)



# CAVIN CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 9TH - MARCH 21ST



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Feb 9</b>  National Pizza Day	<b>Feb 10</b>	<b>Feb 11</b> FAT TUESDAY	<b>Feb 12</b>  Meeting 7pm	<b>Feb 13</b> Dead Dog Cave - work on lock 12 noon	<b>Feb 14</b>  VALENTINES DAY	<b>Feb 15</b> Jones Quarry Jerry Bowen 2pm
<b>Feb 16</b> Jones Quarry Jeff Jahn & FRG 10am	<b>Feb 17</b> PRESIDENTS DAY	<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>Feb 19</b>  Vertical Practice James Rumsey 6pm	<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>Feb 22</b> Pendleton Co Pit cleanup (Tentative!)
<b>Feb 23</b> Pendleton Co Pit cleanup (Tentative!)	<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>Feb 27</b>	<b>Feb 28</b> National Tooth Fairy Day	<b>Feb 29</b>
<b>Mar 1</b> Peanut Lover Day	<b>Mar 2</b>	<b>Mar 3</b>	<b>Mar 4</b>	<b>Mar 5</b>	<b>Mar 6</b>	<b>Mar 7</b>
<b>Mar 8</b> DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS	<b>Mar 9</b>	<b>Mar 10</b>	<b>Mar 11</b>  Meeting 7pm	<b>Mar 12</b> FRG meeting Thurwa Restaurant 6pm	<b>Mar 13</b>	<b>Mar 14</b> Dr Latterell Birthday National Potato Chip Day Donaldson Cave Larry Powell Scouts 10am Pi Day
<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Mar 16</b>	<b>Mar 17</b>  St Patrick's Day	<b>Mar 18</b>	<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>Mar 20</b>  EQUINOX	<b>Mar 21</b> Absolutely Incredible Kid Day

# DEAD DOG DISPATCH



One of the small caves in Jefferson Co (by Ashby Haines)



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