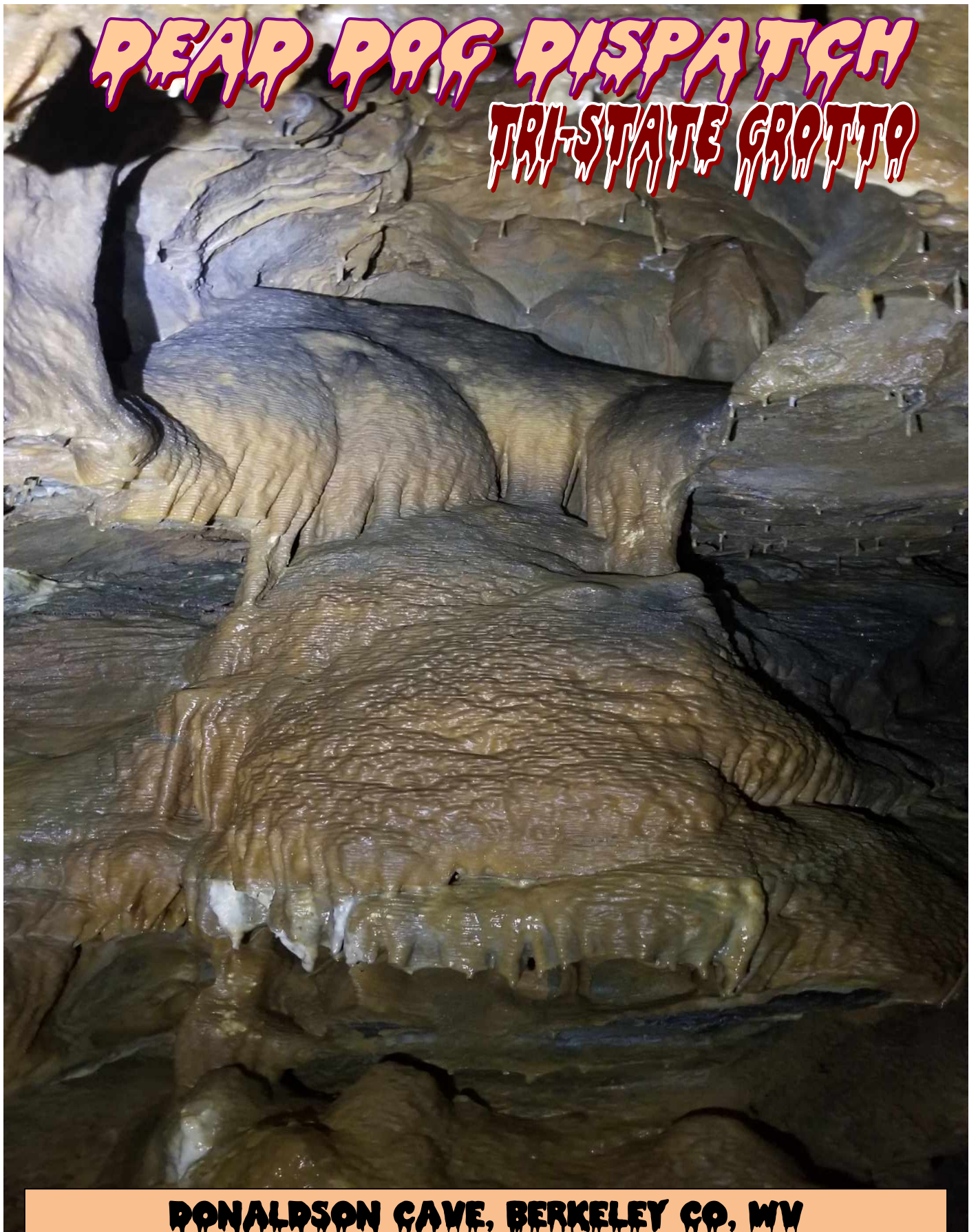


DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



DONALDSON CAVE, BERKELEY CO, WV

VOL. #35

ISS. #1

JAN

2020

#1

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SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP- \$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP ----- \$2.00/FAMILY
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** The photo on this month's cover was taken by
Tom Griffin in Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV.
Who says there are no formations in Donaldson?

**** 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!



CAVING EVENTS

2020

JAN 1 ---- New Year's Day

JAN 1 ---- National Hangover Day

JAN 4 ---- Donaldson Cave Resurvey

JAN 8 --- Elvis's Birthday

JAN 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

JAN 9 --- Law Enforcement Day

JAN 9 ---- FRG Meeting – 7pm - Thunwa Thai
Cuisine at the Quality Inn in Ft Royal

JAN 13 --- National Rubber Ducky Day

JAN 14 --- National Dress Up Day

JAN 16 --- CFA (DNR) meeting – 9am

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 --- Valentine's 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 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 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

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 20 --- Husband Appreciation Day

APR 22 --- Earth Day

APR 24 --- Arbor Day

MAY 1,2,3 --- VAR/MAR – Grand Caverns, VA



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 DEC ----- **\$21.00**

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$7413.73**

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

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

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/

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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/>



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Chris Coates, Jasmine Dixon, Adriana Duncan,
 Judy Fisher, Sonny Floyd, Bob Gray, Stacy
 Hajenga, Keith Hammersla, Ashley Hitchcock,
 Clint Hogbin, Fritz Kysar, Dave 'From the Cave'
 Lucas, Corey Majtyka, Tim McDougle, Allen
 Monger, Johnny Robinson, Earl Suitor,
 Fiord`Aliza Vis, Trish Walthers

Happy Birthday!



TSG Meeting December 11, 2019

John started the meeting at 7:08 pm.
 Elysia gave the Treasurer's Report.
Old Business: No Pole report.

Thumb drive – Jerry would like to have it back.

New Business: No one can access the TSG website. Apparently, Art Jr took the whole

website down & cleaned it up from a virus that was in an adjoining website. Some of the links still do not work.

Who's Been Caving: Adam wants a trip to Dead Dog Cave. Elysia will lead the trip.
 Adam rescued a cell phone in Indian River Cave.
 Bob talked about Lost River Caves.
 John talked about Dam #4 Cave.
 Don Arrowood visited and looked for several small hard to find caves in PA.
 John talked about the NSS Caving Accidents in this month's NSS News.

Wed Night Caving will be at JQ on Dec 28th, the last Sat of Dec because everyone is busy during the Christmas season.

Bob commented on the Handshake Passage in JQ.
 Jerry commented that he & some cavers from Johns Hopkins actually shook hands through it.
 The passage is in the bottom of the Strike East Passage near the 6 Week Room.

Elysia reported that a small cave near Nelson Cave contained lots of black widow spiders.
 Alexanders Cavern & Kookan Cave were also talked about.

There will be a resurvey of Donaldson Cave headed by Wyatt Hall. Adam will be leading a trip to Donaldson this coming Sat, Dec 14th.
 Because of the busy holiday season, the December vertical session at James Rumsey will be postponed. It will resume in January of 2020.

Elections: There were no more nominations therefore through acclamation, the current officers will maintain their positions for the upcoming year 2020:

Doc – Secretary
 Elysia – Treasurer
 Bob – V-Chair
 John – Chair

Cave Bucks: \$21.00

Odds & ends of information were discussed until everyone prepared to leave such as Santa showing up at various places, C&O headquarters at ushwa

Basin, need to finish I-81 bridge, traffic round-a-bouts, gas prices, & cigarette prices.
John ended the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jerry Bowen (NSS 51562). Jerry was subbing for Doc Phillips who was recovering from surgery.

TRIP REPORTS

Jan. 3-5, Camp trip in Hellhole via Shoveleater entrance, Nikki Fox, Shawn Hogbin, Terry McClanathan, Coleman McHose, Aaron Moses, Emily Neely, Ed Villarreal

A couple of years ago Nikki, Carl Amundson, Chris Coates, Jeff Benford, and Curt Waldron found a couple of massive pits while surveying up in the Tardis area near the Diggers Hall cave camp. The pits are entered at a mid-level well over a hundred feet from the floor and extend upwards much further. In preparation for my upcoming review of Hundred-Foot Pits of West Virginia for the West Virginia Caver, I wanted to get an accurate taping of each.

This area is accessed by a J-rappel into the main 183' Tardis Dome about 40 feet from the floor. When Aaron, Shawn, and I were there last winter the Tardis had a waterfall, and not relishing a 140' climb in drenching conditions we bailed. This time the Tardis was dry, but it's still a long climb following the rather gaping J-rappel out to the center of the pit.

Above the Tardis Nikki completed a 63' aid climb to discover the two really big pits. From the entry ledge Shawn and I taped the nearer of the two at 158' (it goes much higher), and the pit beyond was taped by Coleman and I at 134' (which also goes much higher), while Shawn did the profile for Nikki. Coleman, Emily, and Ed checked leads and did some survey around the bottom of the pit. While we were doing this Aaron started bolting up higher in the nearer dome with Nikki belaying.

We staggered our exits from camp with trips ranging from just under 30 hours to about 40 hours. Mine was 36 hours.

Terry McClanathan NSS12103

WHO'S BEEN CAVING?

Nov 2nd, Butler Cave-Sinking Creek System, Bath Co, VA

Nikki Fox did a survey trip with Nick Socky, Kelly McCarthy, Casey Tucker and Katarina Ficco. The girls did the MDB (My Dick's Bigger) with 439 feet and 27 stations. The boys did MDS (My Dick's Smaller) in the maze of the Christmas Passage. 10.5 hours underground.

Nov 5th, Yates Entrance of Ludington Cave, Greenbrier County, W.Va.

Nikki Fox did a trip to bolt climb up the New Drop to the Polar Passage that access the traditional entrance with Nick and Dave Socky. 10.5 hours underground.

Nov 6th, Burnholt Cave, Greenbrier County, W.Va

Nikki Fox did a survey trip with Nick Socky and Cooper Pierson. Did the CWC (Celebrate Wednesday Caving) survey with 304.6 feet and 16 stations. 6.5 hours underground.

Nov 9th, Yates Entrance of Ludington Cave, Greenbrier County, W.Va

Nikki Fox did a WVACS Project Weekend trip with Dave Smallwood, Rob Wardell, Eric Pelkey and Hope Brooks. Recon and route-finding trip. Nikki rappelled down the Old Drop as Rob provided to be meat anchor. More passage explored below. 9 hours underground.

Nov 22nd-24th, Hellhole, Pendleton County, W.Va

Nikki Fox did a Windy Heart trip with Aaron Moses, Casey Tucker and Trevor Stuart. Aaron bolt-traversed across Organ Well and we surveyed the tiny passage that ended in a dirt dig with air.

More Cow Bell (MCB) Survey, 2 stations and 27.9 feet. 43 hours underground.

Dec 6th-8th, Maxwellton Sink Cave, Greenbrier County, W.Va

Nikki Fox did a survey trip with Carl Amundson. Continuation of the Cloud Canyon. We had the SYM (Shut Your Mouth) survey with 11 stations and 132.4 feet. 43 hours underground.

Dec.9th, Vacation Cave, Huntingdon Co., Pa.

Gordy Ley, Bill Geller, Don Arrowood, Terry McClanathan - A long-closed cave on property which has recently come up for sale. Turns out the realtor was a one-time caver who contacted Gordy, Don, and Bill to say that at least temporary access to the cave was possible. We surveyed about 350 feet. Gordy's working on the map.

Dec 14th, Windy Mouth, Greenbrier County, WV

Nikki Fox did a trip with Dave Smallwood and Rob Wardell. We checked leads in the DD & DE area. No survey. 5.5 hours underground.

Dec. 21st, Longs Quarry, Foulton Co., Pa.

A large group of Pa cavers (and I) including Gordy Ley, Bill Geller and grandson Caleb, Don Arrowood, Mike Shank, Johanna Taylor Miller, Shawn Long, Ryan Boyce, Jack Jahn, Terry McClanathan, and a few others went to Longs Quarry Cave near Needmore, Pa. It's one of the larger area caves with about 1300' of passages. For many it was their first visit. I hadn't been there in over 40 years.

Dec 28th, Windy Mouth, Greenbrier County, WV

Nikki Fox did a trip with Joe Calderone and Silas Springer. We had the CCB Survey, 150 feet. 10 hours underground.

Dec 29th, Maxwellton Sink Cave, Greenbrier County, W.Va

Nikki Fox did a trip with Nick Socky and Jake Cramer. Went into Classic Canyon for continuation of the main canyon heading upstream. Aaron Caved Today (ACT) Survey with 496.4 feet in 18 stations. 9.5 hours underground.

Jan. 3-5, Camp trip in Hellhole via Shoveleater entrance, Pendleton Co, WV

Nikki Fox, Shawn Hogbin, Terry McClanathan, Coleman McHose, Aaron Moses, Emily Neely, Ed Villarreal – A couple of years ago Nikki, Carl Amundson, Chris Coates, Jeff Benford, and Curt Waldron found a couple of massive pits while surveying up in the Tardis area near the Diggers Hall cave camp. The pits are entered at a mid-level well over a hundred feet from the floor and extend upwards much further. In preparation for my upcoming review of Hundred-Foot Pits of West Virginia for the West Virginia Caver. We staggered our exits from camp with trips ranging from just under 30 hours to about 40 hours. Mine was 36 hours.

Jan 4th, Donaldson Cave, Berkeley Co, WV

Wyatt Hall, Monica ____, David Smallwood, 2 from UMD, Tom Griffin, Red Schock, Bob Bennett, Elysia & Gary Mathias – Resurvey of the cave headed by Wyatt. Wyatt & David sketched while most of the rest took turns using the Disto X's. About 4.5 hours underground.

Time For Inventory

Tri-State Grotto needs to know if you have any gear, equipment or anything that the grotto has bought for the needs of the membership. Please send all reports and enquiries concerning TSG materials to thosearemagicbeans@gmail.com and let me know if you want your name listed with your email address. Here's an example:

Doc Phillips, thosearemagicbeans@gmail.com
-24 caving helmets, all in working order
-two plastic trunks
-one bag

I will also add the climbing gear I have for Wednesday night climbing to the list in the very near future.

Books, banners, tents (related materials), rope, tools, paperwork etcetera. Keep in mind this not a collection - it's an inventory. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Donald 'Doc' Phillips
Secretary TSG
NSS 32922

Here are a few years to keep in your memory:

1986 – The year that Tri-State Grotto became an official NSS Grotto!

1995 – The year Tri-State Grotto started digging on the Adam Stephen pits!

1997 – The year that Tri-State Grotto (JC Fisher) started Cave Bucks!

If anyone can think of an official date for TSG that should be remembered let me know! Bob

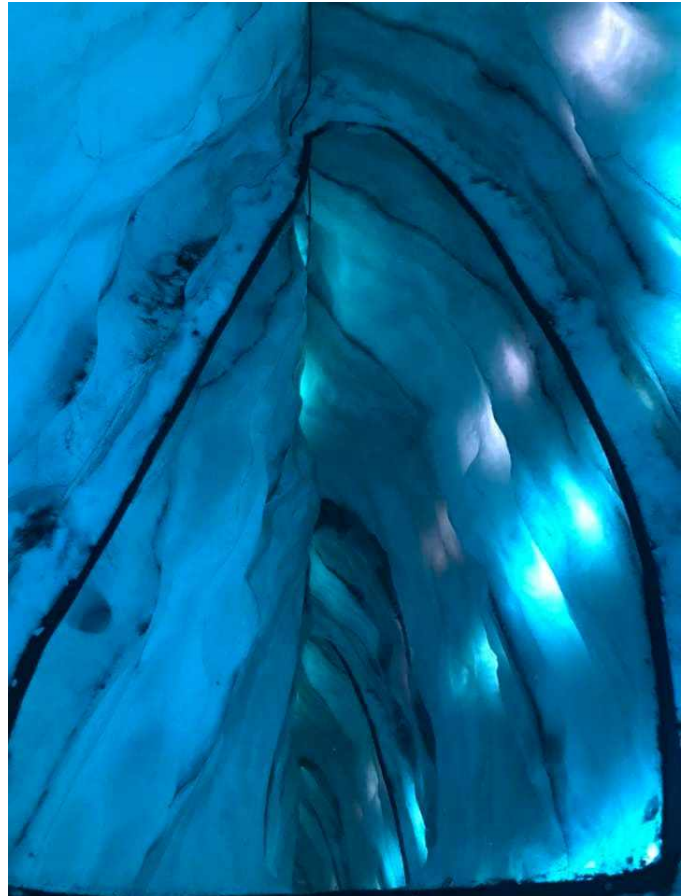


Haynes Cave (Ashley Hitchcock)

TSG PHOTOS



Whitings Neck Survey (by Tom Griffin)



Iceland Ice Cave near Reykjavik, Iceland (furnished by Todd Zimmerman)



Lawson's Horseshoe Cave (Doc Phillips)



Survey station in Donaldson (BB)



Historical (?) graffiti in Donaldson (BB)



Maxwelton Sink (by Ashley Hitchcock)



Big brown bat in Indian River Cave (by Ashby Haines)



Piercys Mill reflection (by Ashley Hitchcock)



Donaldson Cave (by Shawn Harris)



Long tailed salamanders in Dam #4 Cave (by Ashby Haines)



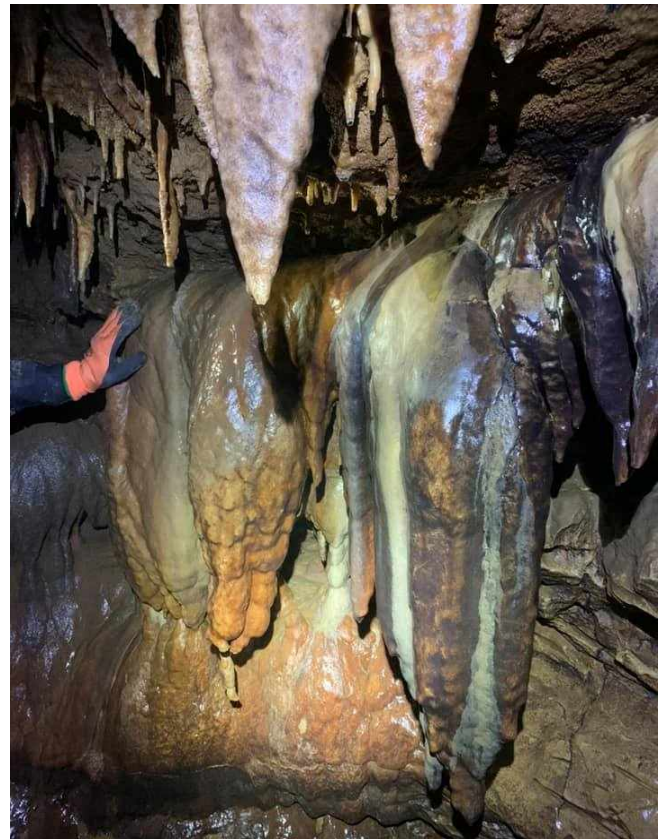
Luray Caverns reflection (Shawn Harris)



Paxtons Cave (by Jeff Jahn)



Dog tooth spar in Paxtons Cave (Ashley Hitchcock)



Savannah Cave (by Ashley Hitchcock)



Yellowish-green hue in the crystal formations in Paxtons Cave (Ashley Hitchcock)



Blue Bottle Cave (by Beau Ouimette)



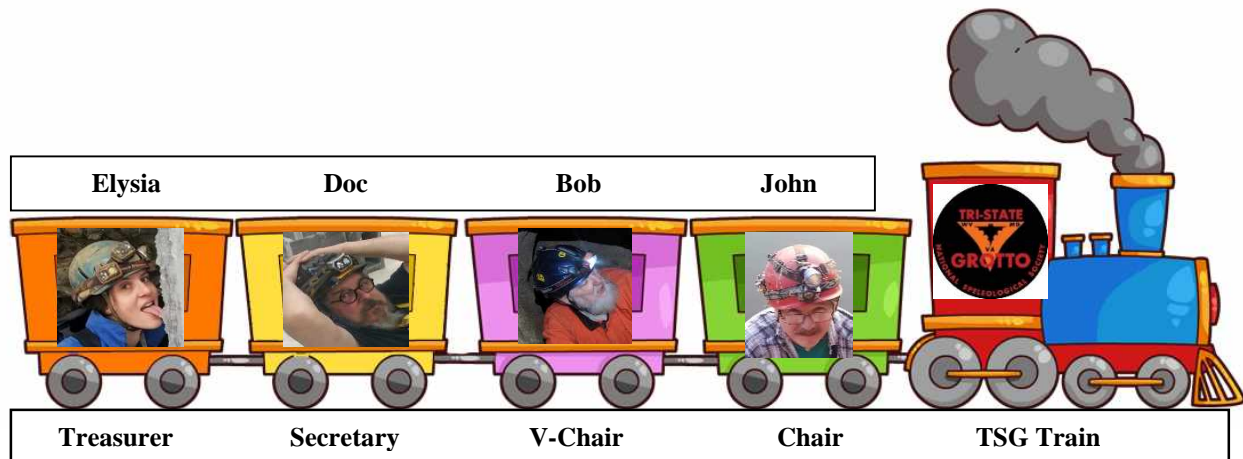
CAVING CALENDAR

JANUARY 5TH - FEBRUARY 15TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8  Meeting 7pm ELVIS' BIRTHDAY	Jan 9 LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY FRG MEETING 7PM @ Thunwa Rest	Jan 10	Jan 11
Jan 12	Jan 13 NATIONAL RUBBER DUCKY DAY	Jan 14  NATIONAL DRESS UP DAY	Jan 15	Jan 16 CFA Meeting 9am @ James Rumsey	Jan 17	Jan 18
Jan 19	Jan 20 MLK, Jr DAY	Jan 21	Jan 22 Ted Monger Birthday (Owner of JQ)	Jan 23	Jan 24 Peanut Butter Day  TSG BIRTHDAY	Jan 25
Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1 Bubblegum Day
Feb 2 Ground Hog Day	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8
Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11 FAT TUESDAY	Feb 12  Meeting 7pm	Feb 13	Feb 14  VALENTINES DAY	Feb 15

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



The TSG Train was running again and as always is on time!

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