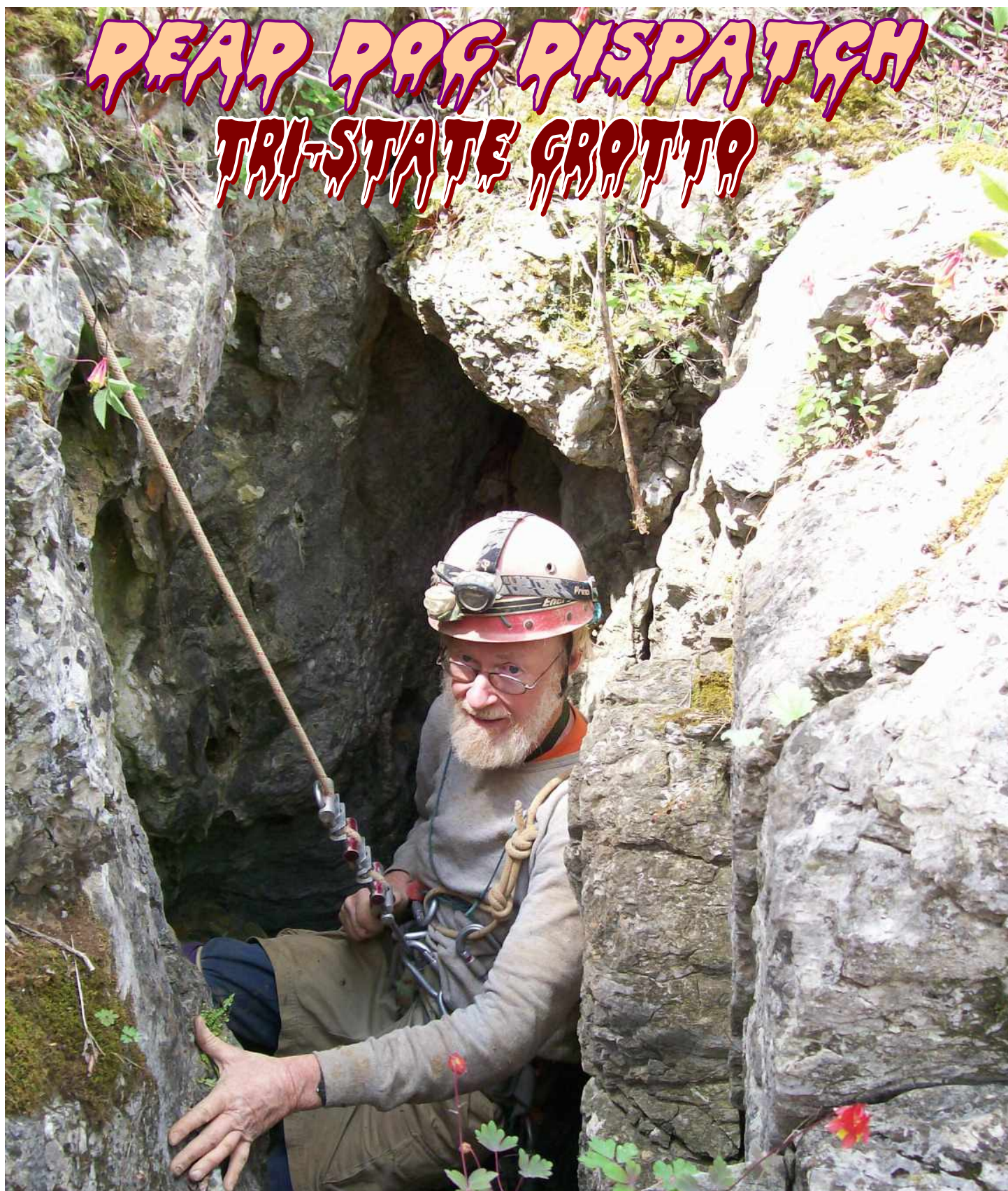


DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



DEVILS CHIMNEY, BERKELEY CO, WV

VOL. #35

ISS. #7

JUL

2020

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** The picture on this month's cover shows Marion Smith in Devils Chimney, Berkeley Co, WV. The photo was taken by Bob Bennett.

**** 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!



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CAVING EVENTS

2020

JUL 4 --- INDEPENDENCE DAY

JUL 7 --- World Chocolate Day

JUL 8 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

JUL 11 --- TSG Picnic

JUL 11-12 --- WVACS Classic

JUL 15 --- TAX DAY (Deferred)

JUL 18 --- National Hot Dog Day

JUL 25 --- National Carousel Day

JUL 26 --- Parents Day

JUL 27-31 --- NSS Convention – Elkins, WV Virtual!!!

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 - Cancelled

SEP 7 --- LABOR DAY

SEP 9 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

SEP 11 --- Remembrance Day (9/11)

SEP 13 --- Grand Parents Day

SEP 16 --- Elvis Died

SEP 20 --- Wife Appreciation Day

SEP 21 --- Senior Citizen Day

SEP 22 --- AUTUMN EQUINOX

SEP 25 --- National Comic Book Day

SEP 25 --- National Daughter Day

SEP 28 --- National Son Day

OCT 12 --- Columbus Day

OCT 14 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

OCT 17 --- Bridge Day

OCT 30 --- Devil's Night

OCT 31 --- Halloween

NOV 1 --- Day of the Dead

NOV 1 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

NOV 3 --- Election Day

NOV 11 --- Veterans Day

NOV 11 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm

NOV 26 --- THANKSGIVING DAY

NOV 27 --- Day After Thanksgiving

DEC 9 --- TSG Meeting 7pm

DEC 12 --- Annual TSG Christmas Celebration –
6pm

DEC 24 --- Christmas Eve

DEC 25 --- CHRISTMAS DAY

DEC 31 --- New Year's Eve

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 JUN ----- **\$00.00**

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

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving! (No Cave Bucks for June. We held meeting On-Line).

**The last 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/>
NSS Convention 2021 ----- <http://nss2021.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/

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Animated Knots by Grog-www.animatedknots.com/
Crystal Grottoes Caverns
www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com
Silers Cave -----
<https://www.karst.org/index.php/category/preserves/silers-cave-preserve/>



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Lynn DiCarlo, Bob Edmonds, Zack Floyd, Billy Gibberson, Jason Hajenga, Gretchen "Red" Schock, Nuch Songsasen, Terri Ward

Happy Birthday!



TSG Meeting, May 13, 2020

John called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting was held online again because of the Coronavirus.

Elysia read the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Bob read the minutes and they were approved.

Announcements

The NSS convention has been cancelled.

Old Business

Someone asked about what happened to the computer that we bought for WV DNR. A discussion took place, and it is still being used for bats.

Because of the cancelled NSS Convention in Elkins, Elkins will now host the 2023 Convention.

OTR will make a decision on July 1 about whether to have the event.

New Business

NSS is short of income for rentals of the conference center due to the Coronavirus.

It was inquired about Cyclops Cave. We did not have any new information. The donations are supposed to be in by May 1.

Jeff asked where we were on getting non-profit status for Tri State Grotto. It was put on the back burner, but we are still interested in pursuing it.

Tom talked about 2 holes on the C & O Canal that he and some others entered. They saw a frog, salamanders and a snake. Elysia told the story of someone getting stuck for 5 minutes.

It was decided to meet back up the following Wednesday just to stay in touch.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM, and several people stayed online after to visit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn DiCarlo

(Substitution for Secretary Donald "Doc" Phillips)

TSG Meeting, June 10, 2020

John called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting was held online again because of the Coronavirus.

Elysia read the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Bob read the minutes and they were approved.

Old Business

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Elysia set up Facebook Pay for the Grotto, and also got a grotto debit card, which is required in order to receive payments.

The sale of Cyclops Cave went through. They are still raising funds to cover it and need \$46,000 more.

OTR will make a decision on July 1 about whether to have the event. There is a big discussion on Facebook about it, and there is a poll on the OTR website.

New Business

Tom explained the letter from the NSS president, Geary Schindel, that was in the "President's Message Column" at the end of the June 2020 NSS News stating that the preserves are closed. There is conflicting information out there about whether the preserves are closed. It has since been confirmed that they are not closed.

Don Arrowood spoke about several caves. Baker Caverns in PA is being sold and is under contract. It is contingent on the sale of the buyer's house. Todd Hancock, owner of Fantasy Cave in Huntington County PA, is selling his house and plans to use the proceeds to pay off the cave. He will then be opening it up for cavers. Don also met another cave owner who is open to cavers, but first wants the cave to be gated.

Mary Hicks and some other cavers are going to try to find caves in Loudon County VA. They will be asking for permission to ridge walk. Then they plan to do the same in Clarke County VA.

Save your Cave Bucks for the next in-person meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM, and several people stayed online after to visit.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn DiCarlo
(Substitution for Secretary Donald 'Doc' Phillips)



Return to Maxwellton!

By Billy Gibberson

It had been at least 15 years since I had been to Maxwellton. The last time Jeff Hajenga and I were invited to the official opening. Back then you had to rappel down the culvert, now there was a ladder, woohoo! John Powell, Keith Greenlough and I made plans to check out the Kings Hall and follow the stream as time permitted. It's been awhile since I had done any rope work, probably since the last time I was here. We came to the first drop which I would guess was 25 ft. It dropped down into a nice passage. The passage was nice going to the second drop, "the deepest one on this route". I'm not going to lie, it felt unnerving trusting a rope again!

We took off to the next one, some of this passage is a blur, next drop was a severely undercut drop of about 15 ft maybe. At the bottom we had arrived in Kings Hall and the main-stream. "Awesome passage"! I was overwhelmed at the size of the trunk. We came to a waterfall and the trunk went into Mystic River size. We worked our way around the left side at the top of the void and came face to face with the waterfall. John was like a little kid pointing out every crevice that water was coming out. We went around a corner and my jaw dropped. We sat there in awe of how massive the trunk was.

Unfortunately, it was turn-around time. We made plans to definitely come back. If you've never been here by all means check it out. It was fun to do rope work again. I don't know if this cave has surpassed Friars Hole yet, but it has to be very close.

Mystik with Mystik!

By Billy Gibberson

In all of my years of caving have I ever, caved with someone named Mystik. I invited her and whoever wanted to go. Mystik and Nora were the only ones who showed, not that I didn't mind 😊. Our original plan was to go work on a dig, but since Nora had never been here, we had to go to Mystic River. That's a must of mine that all newbies see Mystic on their maiden voyage. We went down to the first sump and took a break at the 1st sump bypass. Mystik knows everybody it seems. As we talked I really began to see how much caving has given me. All the people I've met over the years really made an impact on my life!

We decided to check out Johns Flowstone on the way. Floods of memories started coming. I could see myself in those blue coveralls that I started out in. I remembered hanging out after a trip and tailgate talking. I remembered when I used carbide. WOW! I'll be 50 soon! I've been coming here to Scott hollow for 25 of them. We stayed at Johns Flowstone for a little bit then headed to the Root Canal. Nora loved the helictite display that goes for over 100 ft. At this point I knew we wouldn't have time to dig, but it was an amazing trip; one that let me know how far I've come.

June Trip Reports by Tom Griffin

June 6th

Beau, Red and Tom went to Yellow Springs WV for a dig.

This was a dig Beau had permission to do. It's a very private area with a key access. During one of Beaus metal detecting projects they came across a sinkhole that the owner had said he had been in

many moons ago. Bob Bennett was on the dig a week before when we made entry into the cave. We spent several hours trying to dig open a very narrow passage.

All the passages we came across ended with formation shutting down the path. On this trip Red found what looked like a diggable path. We spent about an hour and a half digging on this passage. It was very dry crumbly dirt, so it was pretty easy to dig. Red was first through then Beau. I still needed the passage opened more to make it through. Opening this passage created about another 50 feet of passage. We still have another adventure in another direction to work on plus the survey. No survey means it never happened.

June 20

Wyatt Hall contacted Bob about going to Izaak Walton League to survey the small cave there. Red and I met Wyatt Hall, Aishu Raveesh and Robert Wilson from Terrapin Trail club near Maryland University. We met them at the Cross Roads store then headed to IWL Cave.

I had only hit the so-called big passage once before. Red and the others had never been in the cave. We took a quick tour of the cave, some very pretty formations along with some interesting passage. The board at the IWL has changed over the years. Bob and I will be working on future access and possible management of the cave.

June 27th

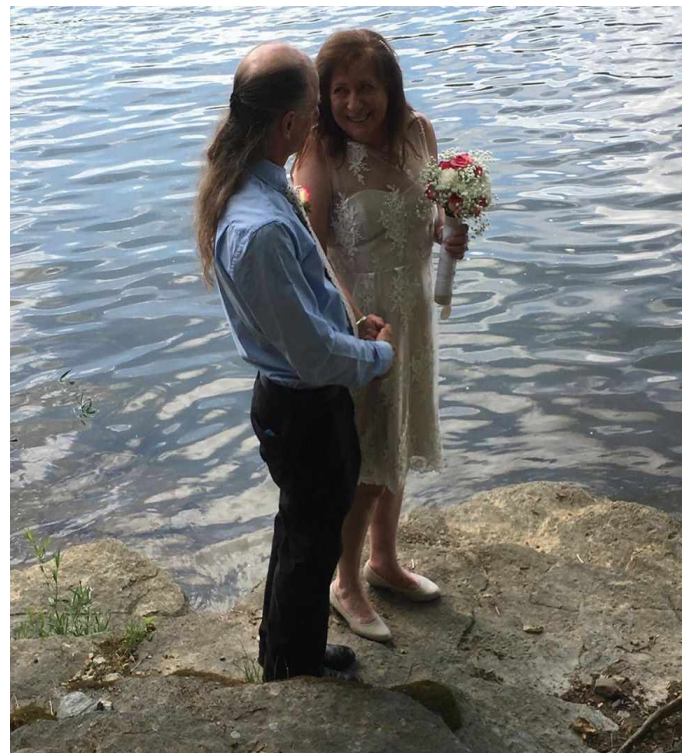
Sarah Furnace Survey

MAKC purchased Sarah Furnace Cave in Clarion county Pa. There has been an ongoing survey in the last year. At the time before this survey it was listed as the 7th longest cave in Pa. After the 27th and 28th survey there was 994 feet of new passage added beating out Kookan Cave and Salisbury Mine-Cave to make it the 4th longest in Pa. July 18-19 they are expecting to break the 2-mile mark.

This does not even touch the size of this cave. They expect several years of surveying even with multiple teams working 2 to 3 times a month. Red and I plan on going back July 18 & 19th. They do have Covid restrictions enforced for each team.

New Couple

Guess what?? We have a newly married couple in the Grotto!! Everyone congratulate Kevin C. Hughes and MaryEllen Mariani Hughes. They were joined in Holy Matrimony on June 20, 2020! Of course it just happened to be Summer Solstice also! Congratulations Kevin & MaryEllen!!!





Dellingers Cave (by Adam Haines)



Izaak Walton Cave (by Tom G)



Chris Coates climbing in Stephens Gap Cave (by Ashley Hitchcock)



McMiner Cave (BB)





CAVIN CALENDAR

JULY 5TH - AUGUST 15TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 5	Jul 6	Jul 7 World Chocolate Day	Jul 8  Meeting 7pm Virtual	Jul 9	Jul 10	Jul 11 Annual TSG Picnic Cancelled
Jul 12	Jul 13	Jul 14	Jul 15 TAX DAY (Deferred)	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 18 National Hot Dog Day
Jul 19	Jul 20	Jul 21	Jul 22	Jul 23	Jul 24	Jul 25 National Carousel Day
Jul 26 Parents Day	Jul 27 NSS Virtual Convention	Jul 28 NSS Virtual Convention	Jul 29 NSS Virtual Convention	Jul 30 NSS Virtual Convention	Jul 31 NSS Virtual Convention	Aug 1
Aug 2 International Beer Day	Aug 3	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8
Aug 9	Aug 10	Aug 11 National Son & Daughter Day	Aug 12  Meeting 7pm National Middle Child Day	Aug 13 Left Handers Day	Aug 14	Aug 15

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Stephens Gap cave (by Ashley Hitchcock)



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