

DEAR DAG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



MARSHALLS CAVE, HIGHLAND CO, VA

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** The picture on this month's cover was drawn by
Doc Phillips using a rapidograph pen. It shows a
lower passage in Marchalls Cave, Highland Co,
VA.

**** 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!**



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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CAVING EVENTS

2020

MAY 1 --- May Day
MAY 1,2,3 --- VAR/MAR – Grand Caverns, VA
(Cancelled)
MAY 2 --- Brothers & Sisters Day
MAY 4 --- MAY THE 4th BE WITH YOU
MAY 5 --- SINKHOLE de MAYO
MAY 5 --- Children Day
MAY 9 --- National Train Day
MAY 9 --- Adam Stephen Day (Cancelled)
MAY 10 -- MOTHERS DAY
MAY 13 --- TSG meeting – 7pm (On-Line)
MAY 16 --- Armed Forces Day
MAY 16 --- Cricket Maze Cave Open House
MAY 25 --- National Wine Day
MAY 25 --- MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 28 --- National Hamburger Day
JUN 6-7 --- Bubble Weekend (?)
JUN 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
JUN 14 --- Flag Day
JUN 19 --- Juneteenth
JUN 20 --- WV Day
JUN 20 --- SUMMER SOLSTICE
JUN 21 --- FATHERS DAY
JUN 23 --- Lucky Penny Day
JUN 25 --- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 30 --- Discount Deadline for NSS Convention
(Cancelled)
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
(Cancelled)
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 APR ----- \$00.00

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

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

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/>
NSS Convention 2021 ----- <http://nss2021.caves.org/>

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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Carl Amundson, Eric Berge, Emily Bowen,
Steven Bowen, JC Fisher, Doyle Garvin, Chase
Griffin, Lucas Hanson, Hargobind Khasla, Elysia
Mathias, Greg McCoy, Pat Minnick, Trevor Ward

Happy Birthday!



TSG Meeting, April 8, 2020

John called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting was held online on FreeConferenceCall.Com due to social distancing because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. There were 15 attendees online.

Elysia wasn't on yet so John read her treasurer's report.
It was moved and seconded to accept the financial report, and it was passed.

Bob read the minutes.
It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes, and it was passed.

Old Business

John read down the list of cancelled events due to the Coronavirus. Fall Var, OTR, and NSS Convention have not made a decision yet. It was decided to hold off on reserving a site for the Grotto picnic.

New Business

Jerry said he got an offer in the mail for \$15 patches. John, Bob, Tom, Jerry and Elysia all have a supply of patches. It was decided that there was no need at this time for more patches.
The NSS has asked people to stay out of caves, but above ground is ok.

Cave Trips

Elysia was in Where The Hell Is It Cave and came across a dead opossum.

Bob went by a sink hole on the edge of Rt. 340 in Jefferson County that he had been to a few months ago that had cave crickets at the time. No cave crickets this time.

Todd Roberts' grotto is doing a restoration project in a cave in New Mexico where vandals had broken up all the formations. They collected them and are piecing them back together with a good adhesive they found that works well.

Jerry went caving with Mike Stewart at Endless Caverns.

John said save your cave bucks until the next in-person meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM, but many stayed on and talked for a while.

Respectfully Submitted
Lynn DiCarlo

The following thought provokers are really nothing specific but a few lines of remembrance. These were supplied by Jeff Hajenga. If anyone has caved with Jeff or perhaps attended an OTR, you may have heard some of these thought provoking one liners!

86 percent . . .
Flying Canopies
Kentucky urine smelling caves . . .
Indiana State Forest "Little help here"
My four Mexican Friends
BOWDEN !!! That's up near ELKINS !!!
T - Spoon
Motorized Toilet
Potty Mouth Polly Parrot
Ghetto Topper
Duct tape
Cave Suits
Ramen
Cave Shrew
Band Aids
Mason's "Cat"
NV flat tires
Lost Gauze
Chocolate Pudding Slide
Disco Ball
Bruises
Volcano Car
Bloody Knuckles
Doobie
Through trip
Shoe goo
Art's Harem
Where's Duke's?
Margarita to go box
FREE CANDY!
Amateur herpetologist

I'm sure that most of you at one time or the other have used one liners very similar to these!

The following report was published in a previous "DDD" almost a year ago and was again published in the Spring 2020 edition of "The Region Record". I have republished it because there was an addendum to the end of the story. Hope you enjoy reading it again!

Carpenters Pit, Hardy County, W. Va.
by
Terry McClanathan (NSS 12103)

Sometime way back in the mid 1970's I came across a reference in William E. Davies *Caverns of West Virginia* to a Carpenters Pit in Hardy County. The description said it was "110 feet deep". At this fairly early stage in my caving career I was methodically checking out any pits which Davies reported as being in the hundred-foot range. Some turned out to be pretty nice pits such as Cabble (p. 80, Davies) and Curry (p. 12 of supplement, Davies). Both of these were slightly in excess of 100 feet deep. I was skeptical regarding Carpenters due to its location in Hardy, a county not known for deep pits. Nevertheless, I resolved to visit it.

The topo location put me in an area of small shallow sinks, but I found no openings. Could the entrance have collapsed and be in one of these sinks? Such was my conclusion at the time. About ten years later I came across an article in a *Speleodigest* containing a map and a description of the pit by Tri-State grotto members Bob Bennett, J. C. and Judy Fisher, and Chuck Stanley. The map indicated the entrance drop to be 77' and the cave 90' deep. That at least verified my suspicion that Carpenters wasn't actually a hundred-foot pit, so I kinda put this information on the back burner and basically forgot about it for the next thirty years.

When I joined the Tri-State Grotto one of the first things I did was to query Bob and J. C. about Carpenters Pit. They told me that a local (friend or relative of J. C.'s I think) had taken them to the pit in the early 80's. They had a harrowing encounter with a careening log but otherwise survived and mapped the pit. Shortly after this Bob attempted to relocate the pit primarily for my benefit but without

success. Towards the end of our search I did happen upon an area with quite a few interesting looking sinks, but it was getting late in the day, so I didn't have time to check them thoroughly.

Fast forward a couple more years and Bob was taking me to some small caves in the vicinity of Carpenters. We had a few extra daylight hours late in the afternoon so I thought it would be a good opportunity to have a better look around those sinks. However, in the interim Corridor H had been built, and what was once a county road accessing the area was now a cutoff private lane that was gated. Bob stayed at the gate just in case someone showed up and wanted to know what we were doing there, while I hiked down the drive to have a look at the sinks. A good portion of the valley you walk back was now a long tunnel under Corridor H. I checked all the sinks but still had nothing to show for the effort.

After three unsuccessful attempts I was getting a bit discouraged. George Dasher was working on finishing up the Hardy County survey, and I thought he might have more up to date information, so I had a conversation with him regarding Carpenters at the WVACS fieldhouse one evening about six months ago. He gave me the name of a once local (to Hardy County) caver by the name of Marvin Hardy. I contacted Marvin and he gave me coordinates that did not match the lat/long in Davies. As I had already checked Davies location to no avail, the new coordinates were somewhat encouraging. Also, we are now in the age of GPS (well some of us are anyhow) so I recruited Shawn Hogbin (who's very competent at using GPS as opposed to I who am not) and we went over for search #4. At Bob's suggestion we parked along Corridor H (not really an interstate so roadside parking not an issue) which negated the need to hike down the gated road and walk through the long tunnel, thus eliminating a lot of the walk. Unfortunately, the "new" coordinates took us to the same place we had searched with Bob several years earlier. Failed effort # 4. As compensation to Shawn who had driven down from Morgantown at my behest, we visited Beethoven's Symphony and had a nice, but quick tour of this interesting Hardy County cave.

I told Marvin that we found nothing in that area, and he was surprised, insisting that the location he'd given me should have been good. He also refuted my suggestion that perhaps the pit had collapsed or been filled in, which after being thwarted four times was my thinking. He said he'd been there in the 80's (must have been THE decade for visiting Carpenters Pit) and had made a detailed sketch map of the topography, however, this was not presently in his possession. He thought he'd sent it with some old papers to his daughter's home for storage and said he would try to find it for me. He was as good as his word and within a week had sent me his records. I sent the new (and hopefully improved) coordinates to Shawn and he reported that they were quarter mile away from any of the other places we'd already checked. Once again, encouraging, so effort # 5 was quickly planned for a week-night evening at the end of last April.

Gordy Ley of Franklin County Grotto joined us for this, the final attempt come #%&? or high water, that I was planning to invest in this so far non-productive endeavor. For the record I have never spent so much time trying to find any pit, and with no positive results. At the parking area we ran into some morel hunters, the oldest of whom said he had seen the hole we were looking for many years ago, but it was far away, small, and hard to find. Marvin's most recent coordinates soon took us past the small hollow we had looked in on all four previous trips. Okay, so far, so good. Using his GPS Shawn lead us to a second hollow. After a few hundred yards more Shawn halted where point said here, but there was nothing there. Not to be too discouraged, we spread out to do a little ridge walking. Well, I suppose Shawn and Gordy did, as for me I soon blundered into a nice patch of morels and my search mode deviated.

Near dark, truthfully, I'd given up but was delighted to have a hat full of mushrooms, Shawn bo-ed us over to a point barely one hundred feet from where the GPS had first taken us. We'd all went the wrong way. Shawn had actually found the elusive Carpenters Pit. It was indeed a small hole in a very small sink and easy to miss. We wasted little time rigging and dropping it. There were no obstructions and the pit was a good match to the

Tri-state map from the '80's. It was somewhat nicer than I expected, with very little mud. I had a hundred-foot rope tied to another rope just above the edge of the sink, and there was no more than five feet extra on bottom. This included a ten-foot offset below the main 77' pit. Finally, success!

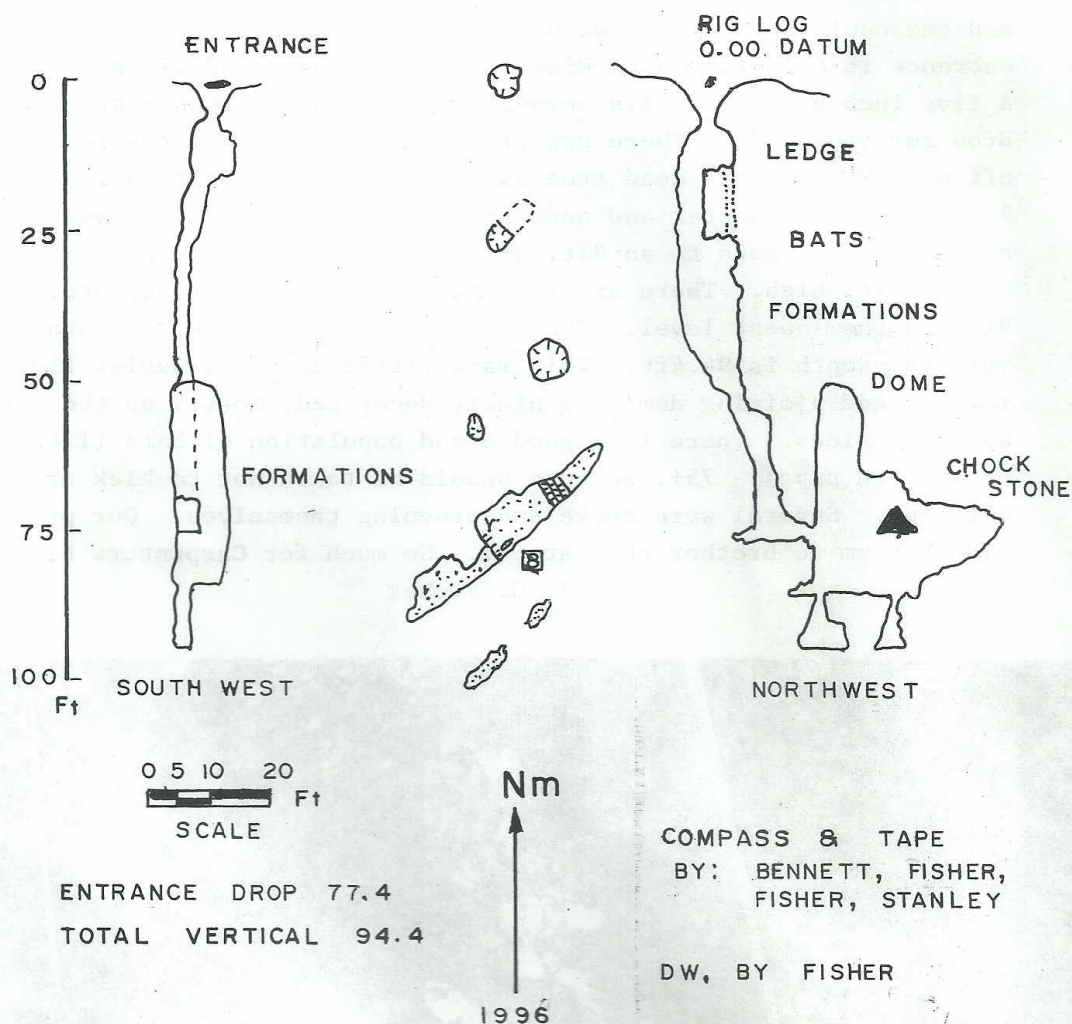
tracked down the owner (again with Marvin's help) and she informed me that the land was going up for sale and the signs had been posted by her son. It doesn't seem very likely that permission to visit Carpenters Pit will be granted in the future.

As it turned out Bob (on the second attempt) had taken us to the right location, but in the wrong hollow. It was easy to see why, because the second hollow was a carbon copy of the first. I have made numerous similar mistakes myself (just ask Marion), and with far less than the excuse of a thirty-year time lapse. Thanks to everyone who played a part in this escapade, especially Marvin Hardy whom I've never actually met face to face, but whose records were impeccable. That Marvin was able to estimate the location from a topo map (decades before GPS) to within a hundred feet accuracy is really pretty amazing.

*****An unfortunate addendum: A few months after our successful visit some brand new "No Trespassing" signs were posted at our entry point off Corridor H. I

CARPENTERS PIT

HARDY Co., WV
39°07'36"N 79°02'04"W



Trip Reports by Tom Griffin

April 9th

Bob and Tom went to IWL to change the lock. We were able to change the lock in about 10 minutes of reaching the cave. We dropped a cable ladder down. I went down since I had never been in the cave. I only went as far that I did not have to crawl. Caving is not suggested for the reason of a possible callout which could take some time with social distancing.



IWL (BB)

April 25th

Gary, Elysia, Red and Tom walked down the tow path of the C&O Canal towards Dam 4. The purpose was to check an area high on a ridge. On the way down we found 2 small holes in the side of the cliffs near the bottom. GPS and pictures were taken. One I was able to get inside for about 15 feet before pinching out at the bottom. The second was a very low crawl for about 10 feet then you could stand in a bent over position, which ended at about 15 to 20 feet. Elysia and Red made it into this cave. Since Red had never been into Dam 4 Cave, we spent the rest of our time hitting a few passages in Dam 4. We found 2 ropes inside and lots of salamanders on the way.



By Elysia Mathias

May 1st

Shannon Miranda and Tom hit the same 3 caves that we hit on April 25th. Shannon was able to enter the small crawl cave until a salamander decided to fall on her. Another nice warm day after the heavy rains. The water was only a few feet from the canal at this point.

May 2nd

Dry Quarry Cave

Gary, Elysia, Bob, Red and Tom went for the purpose of making entry and mapping the small cave. The mapping didn't happen. I didn't bring my stuff. Bob had his and I didn't think to ask. We still needed to remove a piece of rock so I could enter. Elysia had entered before, Red entered this day also. The cave is close to straight down for about 15 feet. We used a cable ladder to assist getting out. There was about 5 more feet at the bottom. There were some pendants in the way for easy access, so we left them alone. 2 small water snakes that looked like rattlers without the rattles were at the entrance. Gary removed one. The other slid down to the 15-foot mark. He was a little upset that we were there. Elysia started digging on a slit about 20 feet below where we were at, the more she dug the bigger the opening got by debris falling into about a 6-foot deep hole of water. The reason Gary calls it Dry Quarry, he used to fish in the area, the quarry was always full of water about 70 feet deep. It is completely dry now with a trout stream about 40 feet from the top edge of the quarry.



Dry Quarry Pit (Tom Griffin)



Conodoguinet Cave (Tom Griffin)

May 5th

Conodoguinet Cave – Pa

Red and I went to the cave also known as Cave Hill Cave. Information easily found on the internet including a map. The cave is susceptible to flooding. Most of the cave is walking, some walking with your hands on the ground unless you are Bob then you can walk through, lol. The cave has a few hundred feet of main passage with a couple of turns. The cave was used back in the 1700's for the ladies to have tea. A dam was put in around 1859 causing the river to rise within a few feet of the cave causing water and mud to fill the cave. There are active signs of digs in the cave with standing water. Some areas the water is close to a foot deep with deep mud.



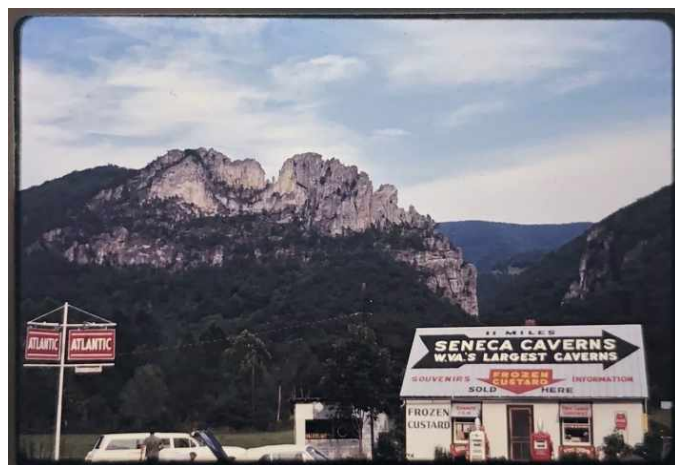
High Meadow (Gary Mathias)



High Meadow (Elysia Mathias)



Morgan Co Shelter (Johnny Robinson)



Jerry Bowen found this on Ebay



Cricket Cave (Adam Haines)



Red coming out of Dry Quarry Pit (BB)



CAVIN CALENDAR

MAY 10TH - JUNE 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 10 MOTHERS DAY	May 11	May 12	May 13  Meeting 7pm On-Line	May 14	May 15	May 16 Armed Forces Day Cricket Maze Cave Open House
May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23  Lucky Penny Day
May 24	May 25 National Wine Day  MEMORIAL DAY	May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30
May 31	Jun 1	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4	Jun 5	Jun 6
Jun 7	Jun 8	Jun 9	Jun 10  Meeting 7pm	Jun 11	Jun 12	Jun 13
Jun 14  FLAG DAY	Jun 15	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jun 19 JUNETEENTH	Jun 20  SOLSTICE WV DAY

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



Donaldson Cave (by Adam Haines)



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