

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



SARAH FURNACE CAVE, CLARION CO, PA

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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

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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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Payment of DUES can be made at MONTHLY MEETINGS
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

** Tom Griffin took the photo on this month's cover. It is one of the many small passages with formations in Sarah Furnace Cave in Clarion Co, PA.

**** 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!



Bat parents

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CAVING EVENTS

2021

APR 1 --- All Fools Day
APR 2 --- GOOD FRIDAY
APR 2 --- PB & J Day
APR 3 --- World Party Day
APR 3 --- Sarah Furnace Survey
APR 4 --- EASTER
APR 5 --- Geologists Day
APR 6 --- New Beers Day
APR 7 --- National Beer Day
APR 10 --- National Siblings Day
APR 11 --- Molers Cave – 11am – see Tom
APR 12 --- National Grilled Cheese Day
APR 14 --- TSG meeting – 7pm - Virtual
APR 15 --- TAX DAY
APR 17 --- Bat Appreciation Day
APR 20 --- Husband Day
APR 22 --- Earth Day
APR 22 --- Jelly Bean Day
APR 24 --- Skyline Caverns Karst Trail work –
FRG – 9am
APR 30 --- Arbor Day
MAY 1 --- May Day
MAY 1 --- Batman Day
MAY 2 --- Brothers & Sisters Day
MAY 4 --- MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU!
MAY 5 --- Childrens Day
MAY 5 --- SINKHOLE de MAYO
MAY 8 --- National Train Day
MAY 8 --- Adam Stephen Day – 9am
MAY 9 --- Mothers Day
MAY 12 --- TSG meeting – 7pm Virtual
MAY 13 --- FRG Meeting – 7pm Virtual
MAY 15 --- Armed Forces Day
MAY 15 --- Peace Officers Day
MAY 22 --- Baker Quarry – see Brent Jefferson
MAY 23 --- Lucky Penny Day
MAY 25 --- National Wine Day
MAY 28 --- National Hamburger Day
MAY 29-31 --- Speleofest, KY
MAY 31 --- MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 9 --- TSG Meeting – 7PM
JUN 11-13 --- Bubble Weekend
JUN 14 --- Flag Day
JUN 19 --- Juneteenth Day

JUN 20 --- Summer Solstice
JUN 20 --- Fathers Day
JUN 20 --- WV Day
JUN 23 --- Lucky Penny Day
JUN 28-JUL 2 --- NSS Convention – Weed, CA
Virtual
JUN 29 --- International Mud Day
JUL 4 --- Independence Day
JUL 7 --- World Chocolate Day
JUL 14 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm
JUL 16 --- World Snake Day
JUL 17 --- TSG Picnic
JUL 18 --- Hot Dog Day
JUL 18 --- Ice Cream Day
JUL 24 --- National Cousin Day
JUL 25 --- National Carousel Day
JUL 26 --- Parents Day
JUL 28 --- Milk Chocolate 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 MAY ----- \$00.00

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$7529.81

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.net/
VAR ----- <http://var.caves.org/index.php>
NSS ----- www.caves.org/

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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/
 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/>



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Ward Billmyer, Pete Bracken, Jeff Hajenga,
 Conner Haney, Kevin Hughes, Jeff Jahn, Lauren
 McCoy, Doc Phillips, Ann Shepherd, Mike Ward

Happy Birthday!



TSG Meeting, February 13, 2021

John called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. The meeting was held online.

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

Bob read the minutes, and they were approved.

Old Business

Ashby is still working on the new website.

Jeff reported that emails were sent out including WVASS, and Tri-State Grotto asking for suggestions of where to put the cave protection signs. They can either be replacements or new, in high-use areas.

New Business

John reported that Crystal Grottoes has a new owner. Jerry Downs' daughter Cassie will run the cave with Debbie Floyd's help. Tri-State will remove clay in the Tri-State Grotto passage at a future project.

Terry McClanathan's interview by Cory Hackley is in the January *NSS News*. Corey interviewed Terry in cave camp in Kimble Pit at midnight.

Tom reported that they surveyed 1700 feet in Sarah Furnace Cave on the 18th. The survey is 3.6 miles so far, and is the cave third longest cave in PA. Harlansburg Cave at 4.8 miles is the longest, and Laurel Caverns at 4.1 miles is the second longest.

Trips

Don reported that there are active trips going on in Franklin, Fulton, and Huntingdon Counties in PA.

Tom said there is a Sarah Furnace Cave trip planned for Monday, Feb. 15.

The light bulb change at Endless is expected to be the last weekend in March, as they open April 1.

NSS is presenting virtual cave rescues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 8 PM.

Tonight is the first one. You have to register to view them, and they will send you a link.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn DiCarlo

Substitution for Secretary Donald 'Doc' Phillips

TSG Meeting, March 10, 2021

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John called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. The meeting was held online.

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

Bob read the minutes, and they were approved.

Old Business

Ashby finished the new website. He sent a link to it in an email to the board. He is waiting on a domain. Need to get either a new domain, or permission from owner of old domain to transfer ownership. Bob will talk to Art Jr., the owner.

Jeff reported that DNR is still waiting for input for places to put the cave protection signs.

John came across a good write-up about Harlansburg Cave on the NSS site when he Googled "longest cave in PA."

Tom said that Sarah Furnace will surpass Harlansburg in about a year.

Bob Gulden reported Friars Hole hit 48 miles. He said his website www.caverbob.com has a list of longest caves. He also said if you want more info on caves in Howard and Baltimore Counties, contact Jim McConkey.

Trips

Tom went to Sarah Furnace the previous Saturday for 5 hours of surveying. They have closed 1,000 loops. The survey is up to 3.83 miles. They added another 1,000 ft.

It was reported that the Whittings Neck survey is finished. It is 1,695 ft.

Ashby and Adam went to Big Column and Chapmans Caves. At Big Column they saw bats and took note that there was no tree in the opening. They cleaned out the opening to Chapmans. Ashby went to Camels Den Cave at Patapsco State Park, the only known cave in Howard County. It is a small cave about 15 feet long.

Ashby also reported that he used Lidar to see sink holes and cave openings, which is available in Maryland now.

New Business

The time changes this weekend.

There will be no light bulb changing at Endless, but everyone is welcome to come caving. Call to set it up. Tom will find out from Mike some dates for possible trips.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn DiCarlo

Substitution for Donald 'Doc' Phillips

We would like to thank Lynn DiCarlo for substituting for Doc Phillips during the pandemic! This was something that she did not have to do but graciously has done a great job for the past year!

Thank you Lynn!



Cleaning up the Tri-State Grotto Passage

By John DiCarlo NSS 25744

Boonsboro, MD - About a month ago, Debbie Floyd told me that clay had slumped down in the Tri-State Grotto Passage, at Crystal Grottoes Caverns. I told her Tri-State Grotto would clean it out.

A week later I went by Crystal Grottoes to see what it would take to clean it out, as in how much clay/mud was there. It didn't look that bad of a project to me. I thought several drywall buckets full should do it.

Two weeks later, I talked to Debbie and she gave the go ahead to clean it out. This was Thursday night and she said she would prefer it being done on a Friday.

Well, being they can't run tours down the Tri-State Grotto Passage I didn't want it to wait another week. I texted Adam Haines, who is off on Fridays, and we agreed to meet up at 1 pm.

We gathered our equipment and met Debbie at the back door of the cave. With a, Hi ho, we headed down the passage. Arriving at the steps, at the top of the Tri-State Grotto Passage, we set up shop.

Here was the largest pile of clay/mud. We started scooping it into our buckets. It was very tacky. Also, the concrete floor had grooves in it to channel water and for footing. That made it harder to scoop things up. Trying to get the clay out between the grooves was almost impossible. The only thing that worked was to take your boot and slide it up in the grooves. Then it stuck to the tip on your boot. It was wet enough that if you stomped your foot down it would come off. After a while we had a pile of mud and the grooves were looking pretty good.

After finishing that area, we worked our way down the Tri-State Grotto Passage until we came to the pit. This was to collect water, during flood conditions, to be pumped out.

When this was dug out, the clay was put in an existing pile in a side passage. We took out six, half-filled, drywall buckets.

Down at the pit we saw that the pump was buried in the clay. Clay had slumped down here too. Adam climbed in and reset the pump on a large tray which got it out of the clay and back in service if needed. Tri-State will come back and dig the clay out another time.



Crystal Grottoes Quarry (by John DiCarlo)



The cleaned TSG Passage (by John DiCarlo)

Electrical Work in Crystal Grottoes

This week, I did some electrical work with John and Parker in Crystal Grottoes Cavern. We figured out a sump pump in the TSG Passage (got it working), and then we changed a three-way switch.

Afterwards, we took a tour, which John led. Took a lot of pictures. I noticed a lot of fans plugged in and working in the cave. After talking to John, I discovered they were corona virus requirements.

We all talked to Debbie and met Cassie (the new owner).

Your friend

Jerry

Scurion 700 light review

I was originally going to by a sten with two extra batteries , but with them going out of business I decided to pay \$50 more and get the scruion , I've only got to use it twice , but each time I was very impressed , one trip was 8 hours and I still had about 3 hrs of bright light , on an early morning trip I turned it on at 7:30 left it on the drive home , and at 5 that evening it was still going , I cut it off I'm not sure how long it will really last with good enough light to cave on , it's expensive but if you really like caving and do it quite often it's an investment , I got an extra battery and a projector upgrade , which will show how much battery life you have when the light is off and it will display the green leds , on a wall arm etc etc of how much battery life you have , you have to get real close but I thought that was a very cool upgrade , the 700 also has more battery life than the 900-1200

With two upgrades \$550 but that was just going to be \$50 more than two stens , the highest on a sten is 350 turbo mine is 350 but mine will burn on that setting 5 hrs as opposed to the two hour limit in the sten.

Billy Gibberson



(Photos by Billy Gibberson)

NSS GEO2 Long & Deep Cave Lists Bob Gulden NSS#13188FL

How it started for me. Back in 1976 we had found and were surveying what would become the Friars Hole Cave System. We were

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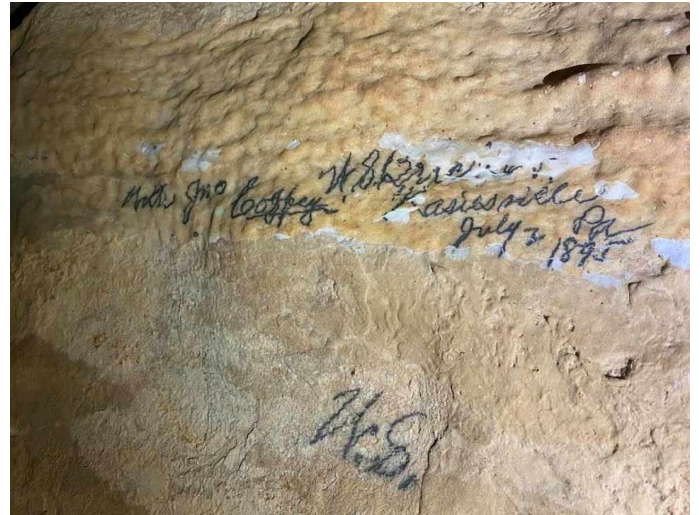
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growing by the miles and I wanted to know where we stood in the world.

So, I found the book Great Caves of the world, and the List was started. At the time Wil White was the list keeper and Chairman of GEO2. I talked to him and he told me to run with it. When I started the list, it was kept on Punch cards when I worked at NASA's Godard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. Had a program that would take combine two cards and print out the 132 charters on the Printer on the SDS 930 computer which was used to control the OAO spacecraft. Years later we upgraded the computers when for the HEAO spacecraft, so I put the list on mag.tape. At the time I was just doing the USA caves over 1 mile and World over 3KM. Then in 1982, I got an Apple II+ home computer and a dot matrix printer. So, I type the whole list onto a 5 ½ inch floppy disk. Then in 1983, I got a new job with DOD, so I typed onto a Cray computer. Now I could print out many copies of the lists. In 1989 I move to different offices and had my own IBM computer and had a Database program that I again retyped the data into. Now I could sort and the list in different ways. Then in the mid 90's, we moved to a different building with new stuff and software. I was able to transfer the DB to an Excel spreadsheet where I could now sort the list many ways for a lot of lists and started making other lists, like Sea caves, Deep Pits of the world, largest Rooms, and so on. I was doing the lists at work and printing them out to a large printer/copier. I have had a backup copy of the Excel data on my home computer, now a computer running Microsoft. So, after 30 years with DOD, I retired and moved down to Roanoke Co, VA with my son and his wife in 2013. I at first was getting updates by caving magazines and from letters. The once almost everyone when over to e-mail. Later I was also getting updates from the WEB and Facebook. My caving days are over but I still, have my lists to keep me busy. Had fun seeing how my survey projects placed in the USA and World, Friars Hole, Bowden, Cricket Maze, Silers, Great Onyx at Mammoth

Cave NP, and Gap (was Cudjos) at Cumberland National Park with lots of help from Dave Socky & Bob Alderson.

The lists I do are: USA & World Long & Deep, Deepest Pit USA & World, Biggest Rooms, Lava Tubes, Gypsum, Salt, Piping, Underwater and a few more. All at www.caverbob.com



Baker Cavern previous owner signature. Now called Black Coffee Caverns (by Tom Griffin)



Black Coffee Caverns (by Elysia Mathias)



CAVIN CALENDAR

APRIL 4TH - MAY 15TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 4  EASTER	Apr 5 Geologists Day	Apr 6	Apr 7 National Beer Day	Apr 8	Apr 9	Apr 10 National Siblings Day
Apr 11 Molers Cave 11am - see Tom	Apr 12 National Grilled Cheese Day	Apr 13	Apr 14  Meeting 7pm Virtual	Apr 15 Tax Day	Apr 16	Apr 17  Bat Appreciation Day
Apr 18	Apr 19	Apr 20 Husband Day	Apr 21	Apr 22  Earth day	Apr 23	Apr 24 Skyline Caverns Karst Train work day - FRG - 9am
Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30 Arbor Day	May 1 May Day Bat Man Day
May 2 Brothers & Sisters Day	May 3	May 4 May the 4th be With You	May 5 Childrens Day SINKHOLE de MAYO	May 6	May 7	May 8 National Train Day Adam Stephen Day 9am
May 9 MOTHERS DAY	May 10	May 11	May 12  Meeting 7pm Virtual	May 13 FRG Meeting 7pm Virtual	May 14	May 15 Armed Forces Day Peace Officers Day

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Crystal Grottoes (by Jerry Bowen)



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

