

BACAN, CALUMNS, AH MY' - SIGNAL LIGHT PIT, TN

VAL. #36 155. #8 AVG 2021 #85

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*** The photo on the cover shows a self-portrait of Nikki Fox titled 'Bacon, Columns, OH MY' in TN's Signal Light Pit! This portrait was taken with multiple flashes on remote triggers. It received an Honorable Mention at the 2021 NSS Convention!

**** Don't forget, the <u>JONES QUARRY BOOKLET</u> 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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AUG 3 --- National Watermelon Day

AUG 6 --- Root Beer Float Day

AUG 6 --- International Beer Day

AUG 6-8 --- IN Cave Capers

AUG 11 --- National Son & Daughter Day

AUG 11 --- TSG meeting - 7pm

AUG 12 --- National Middle Child Day

AUG 12 --- FRG Meeting - 7pm - Thunwa Restaurant

AUG 13 --- Left Handers Day

AUG 13-15 --- Karst-O-Rama, KY

AUG 14 --- TSG Annual Summer Picnic -Hawthorn House, Summit Pt, WV -Noon

AUG 16 --- Elvis Died

AUG 16 --- Franklin Co Grotto meeting – 6pm – Southampton Park

AUG 19 --- National Potato Chip Day

AUG 20 --- National Lemonade Day

AUG 21 --- Senior Citizen Day

AUG 21-22 --- PSC Jamboree

AUG 28 --- Annual Baker Quarry Trip – see Brent Jefferson – Caving/Kayaking

SEP 2-6 --- OTR

SEP 4 --- Doo Dah Parade – 10am

SEP 4 --- WVASS meeting – 630pm

SEP 6 --- LABOR DAY

SEP 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm

SEP 9 --- Teddy Bear Day

SEP 9 --- FRG Meeting – 7pm – Thunwa Restaurant

SEP 11 --- Remembrance Day – 9/11

SEP 12 --- Chocolate Milkshake Day

SEP 12 --- Grand Parents Day

SEP 13 --- National Peanut Day

SEP 18 --- Cheeseburger Day

SEP 20 --- Wife Appreciation Day

SEP 21 --- Miniature Golf Day

SEP 22 --- National Ice Cream Cone Day

SEP 22 --- AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

SEP 25 --- National Comic Book Day

SEP 25 --- National Daughter Day

SEP 28 --- National Son Day

SEP 28 --- National Super Hero Day

OCT 1-3 --- NCRC OCR – Martinsburg, WV

OCT 7-10 --- Fall TAG Cave-In - TAG

OCT 10 --- Black Coffee Cavern conservation Project – 10am – see Tom Griffin

OCT 11 --- Columbus Day

OCT 13 --- TSG Meeting - 7pm

OCT 16 --- Bridge Day

OCT 15-17 --- Fall MAR/VAR – Grand Caverns

OCT 28 --- Chocolate Day

OCT 29-NOV 1 --- SERA Summer Cave Carnival -Walling, TN

OCT 30 --- Devil's Night

OCT 31 --- All Hallow Eve – Halloween

OCT 31 --- National Knock Knock Joke Day

NOV 1 --- All Saints Day - Day of the Dead

NOV 2 – Election Day

NOV 5 --- Hot Sauce Day

NOV 7 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

NOV 10 --- Marine Corp Birthday

NOV 10 --- Vivian Monger Birthday (Owner of Jones Quarry)

NOV 10 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Nominations for Grotto Officers

NOV 11 --- Veterans Day

NOV 13 --- Sadie Hawkins Day

NOV 13 --- WVCC Banquet - 7pm

NOV 21 --- World Hello Day

NOV 25 --- Thanksgiving Day

NOV 26 --- Day After Thanksgiving

DEC 4 ---- National Cookie Day

DEC 7 --- Pearl Harbor Day

DEC 8 --- National Brownie Day

DEC 8 --- TSG meeting – 7pm – Grotto Elections

DEC 11 --- TSG Grotto Christmas Party - 6pm

DEC 21 --- Winter Solstice

DEC 22 --- Short Person Day

DEC 23 --- FESTIVUS DAY

DEC 24 --- Christmas Eve

DEC 24 --- National Chocolate Day

DEC 25 --- Christmas Day

DEC 26 --- National Candy Cane Day

DEC 30 --- National Bacon Day

DEC 31 --- Annual BAT BALL - NSS Hdqtrs

DEC 31 --- New Years Eve



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 JULY ----- <u>\$45.00</u>

TOTAL TO DATE: ----- \$7584.82

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

Keep It Coming!

MERSITE & CANING LINES

Tri-State Grotto <u>www.tristategrotto.org/</u>
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 <u>www.otr.org/</u>
MAR www.caves.org/region/mar/
WVCC www.wvcc.net/
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/



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Bowen, John DiCarlo, Julie Garvin, Davis Haines, Buddy Hihn, Carol Jackson, David Knox, Shannon Miranda, Lauren Myers, JJ Pate, Carol Tiderman, Jordan Walthers,

Happy Birthday!



TSG Meeting, July 14, 2021

(attendance:20/6 virtual)

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Elysia's gave her Treasurer's Report and Doc read the last meetings minutes. Cave bucks:45. MAKC received a donation from TSG.

New Cavers at the Meeting: Sir Adam, Jean, Laurie and Kimberly.

Committee reports:

- <u>-</u>Tent poles remain in the same status as before covid need 3 more poles to complete project.
- -Heritage Day was cancelled for a second year according to Keith.
 - Beginning September to the end of October is set for the American Mysteries show to do another presentation at the Adams Stephens House, which they did a few years ago.
 - -Helmets and lights are in great condition. Doc retrieved his personal helmets and lights on the last TSG Wednesday night caving trip to Dam #4 Cave.

Old Business:

-Tri State Grotto has a library. You have to come to a meeting or visit Bob's residence. Checked out

items must be returned by the next meeting. Page copies and computer files are also available.

New Business:

- -A trip is planned to visit Jones Quarry Cave as a Wednesday night caving event. A suggestion was made to rake the parking area in order to remove nails and other sharp hazards.
- -Terry reported that Sliding Rock Cave is one of the deeper caves in Pennsylvania. There was a discussion about Tanglefoot Cave and other tight caves in the area.
- -John made a statement about last year's meetings online and remarked on today's high attendance.
- -No picnic planned so far this year.
- -Franklin grotto is having their picnic this Saturday, July 17.
 - -VAR/MAR was discussed. Location pending. -OTR September 2 thru 6. The theme is
 - Hatfields and the McCoys.
 - -An enquiry was made to restart climbing class. Unfortunately, the schools are presently closed. An outdoor climbing practice was discussed. A tentative plan was made to climb around Shepherdstown. New members were advised to join.

Caving:

- Elysia did a trip with Cheryl, Angela, Rao, Ashley and Vivian to Trout Rock and visited Hamilton Cave.
- Last Wednesday nights caving trip was to Dam Number #4 Cave, which turned out to be a great success. It was a noisy trip with around twenty children attending. The cave was extremely dry with no stream.
- There was a trip to Donaldson's Cave on a pervious Saturday.
- There was a question if Big Column Cave was still accessible. The cave was last visited in April and should be checked for continued availability.
- Conservation work was mentioned concerning Moler's, Crystal Grottos, Endless and Indian Knife Cave.
- Donald visited Bakers Caverns in Pennsylvania and discovered a fault line in the cave. A cleanout of electrical wires and such is planned for the middle of October.

- Baker's Mine will be open August 28 for visiting Carol's Crack Cave and also kayaking.
- Ashby plans to probe the hill around the Adams Stevens House in hopes of finding the entrance to its cave.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted Donald 'Doc' Phillips NSS # 32922 Secretary Tri-State Grotto of the NSS

Cyclops

For most of us the extreme southwest corner of Virginia is not an area we visit frequently. Its general remoteness is an impediment to casual caving trips. There's also the daunting experience of traveling practically the entire 323 miles of I-81 through the longest axis of the state, meaning for the duration you're most likely going to encounter hundreds of eighteen wheelers flying downhill and creeping uphill, with the resultant traffic snarls occurring about every ten miles, and that's on a good day when there are no ACCIDENTS. The interstate is notorious for these, and backups are often of a duration lasting anywhere from a half hour to several hours. After you've braved the drive, there's also the added inconvenience of having most of the best caves an hour or more off the interstate.

If you happen to be a typical caver from the tristate region your familiarity with caves of southwest Virginia has probably been limited to local VARs, which during pre-Covid times were fortunately being held with some regularity. Even most of the featured caving trips at these events are focused around the more popular caves such as New River, Starnes, Tawneys, Perkins, James, Hancock, Gilleys, or the Gap, plus a few others. For the vertical enthusiast the same scenario applies, with Pig Hole, Clover Hollow, and Newberry-Bane offered as the usual fair.

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And yet, Virginia from Giles County (Blacksburg area) southwestward to the far corner of Lee County at the Cumberland Gap is arguably the most caveendowed portion of the state. With the exception of Burnsville Cove in northern Bath County, southwestern Virginia can also lay claim to having some of the longest and most challenging caves in the state.

Recognizing the largely untapped potential of the region, a small core of dedicated Virginia cavers, through hard work and unwavering determination, have been rewarded with many significant discoveries over the past several decades. In Giles County there is Sugar Run and Doe Mountain. Sugar Run has been closed for quite some time and regrettably (it has a couple of hundred footers) I never had the opportunity to go there. It was once the largest cave in the state and is around 700 feet deep. Doe Mountain is a challenging cave over 600 feet deep with a few hundred-foot pits and over two miles of passages. One of the four deep pits is the Megadome which, at 223 feet high, reigned as the biggest pit in Virginia for a period of one week following its topping by Virginia Tech cavers Steve Wells and Steve Lepera in 2000, until Champagne Pit was discovered in Tazewell County's Corkscrew Cave. At 332 feet deep Champagne is the deepest "from the top" drop in the Virginias (Hellhole in Germany Valley has several bigger pits but they are all dome climbs scaled from the bottom up). And of course, there is the Omega System in Wise County which around the turn of the millennium unseated Ellisons from its three decades-plus position as the deepest cave in the eastern United States. The Omega System also boasts over 20 miles of passages and a number of deep pits.

While I have been fortunate enough to have visited these caves, (except for Sugar Run) I am not part of the group. They tend to keep most of their projects "close to the vest", and with good reason. The caves are difficult to explore, and access is often tenuous, with potential closures just a single accident or incident away. Keeping exploration and mapping confined to just a small cadre of tough, skilled, technically savvy, cavers lessen the chance for mishaps and keeps landowners from being bombarded by requests from people they do not know. In fact, I do not doubt that there are other

qualifying caves in this part of the state that I know nothing about.

About a decade ago I first heard of a cave called Cyclops. It seemed to fit the mold of new discoveries in southwestern Virginia, i e, remote, difficult, and pretty much unknown to the general caving population, but quite large and impressive. However, as there were no hundred-foot pits in the cave, I placed it on the back burner list of caves I'd like to visit someday. At the time there didn't appear to be any owner access issues. As most of us already know, during the Spring 2018 VAR the inevitable happened, a rescue at Cyclops. The rescuees were not really cavers, but that was little consolation as the wrong kind of attention was now focused on the cave, and the threat of landowner closure now loomed. Procurement of the cave was pitched to the Southeast Cave Conservancy (SCCI) and they complied. You'll recall that at one of our last pre-Covid grotto meetings I offered to match any cavebucks contributions ear-marked to help SCCI with the purchase. Tri-state offered to donate \$500 from the treasury and I matched this, so our total grotto donation amounted to \$1000. I had a somewhat ulterior motive behind this. By now I'd heard some intriguing things about Cyclops, and despite the lack of any real deep pits, it was moving up on my priority list.

Covid put a crimp in caving plans for most of us, and I was no exception. I hadn't been caving in Germany Valley during the entire duration of the pandemic, so when Chris Coates contacted me a short while back just to see what I'd been up to lately, I offered him a short list of things I was interested in for Virginia and West Virginia, and Cyclops had now moved to the top. I knew that he and Nikki had done some survey work there several years earlier, so when Chris offered that he probably knew the cave well enough for a decent trip, I took advantage of the opportunity, and he obtained the necessary permit from SCCI. On Saturday, July 24th, I picked up Chris at his house near Harrisonburg shortly after daybreak. He needed to do yard work on Sunday, so this would be a same-day down and back trip. Before the day was over, I would log over 800 miles with a ten-hour caving trip sandwiched in the middle. At Abingdon, VA, just a few miles north of the Tennessee line, we exited the

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interstate and headed northwest to Russell County. The cave is in one of the most remote locations of any SCCI acquisition. A number of winding county roads and one long gravel lane eventually found us at the designated parking area which is marked with SCCI signs but missing the usual kiosk with information about the cave.

The entrance is in a shallow sink on a densely wooded hillside, and not very far from the parking area. It starts as a climbdown, which we rigged. Chris also brought a rope for the first real pit, which is just around the corner from the entrance climbdown. He had been told that the rest of the cave was permanently rigged. This included five additional short pits, as well as several handlines and traverses, one of which was a flat-out tyrolean. The entrance series of pits is the most difficult part of the cave, but it covers a distance of only about 300 feet. Some of the drops are narrow and contorted, and once past the first pit things get pretty sloppy. None of the pits are very deep, but what they lack in depth they make up for in awkwardness. This is where the folks who were the subject of the 2018 rescue got into trouble. Chris wasn't sure of the figures for the five rigged drops so I took

The master trunk is, as advertised, very impressive. Traversing alternates between flat floor strolling near ceiling level and clamoring over breakdown filled depressions at lower levels. These breakdown "rooms" could best be described as large interruptions to the ceiling-level passage. They range from about 30 to over 100 feet across and tend to

a hundred-foot tape in just for the sake of accuracy. We got measurements of, in order from the entrance, 19, 24, 46, 22, and 19 feet. The 46-foot drop also has one re-belay and two redirects. In addition, there are a few climbdowns, with the total depth reaching around 200 feet by the time you drop into the

range from about 30 to over 100 feet across and tend to be from 20 to 40 feet deep. Most of the time it's possible to scramble down one end and trudge up the other, and some have handlines rigged. In a few places forward progress is made by traversing along ledges near ceiling level. One of the larger slumps offers no climbing route down or up, nor are there any convenient ledges to traverse. A tyrolean has



Shield & Pure White Stalagmites (Photo by Chris Coates)

main cave.

been placed here. We traversed several thousand feet of the trunk. It's pretty much all walking or breakdown scrambling and ranges from large to immense. We only had to do one body length crawl at one of the breakdown impasses in order to bypass a non-climbable spot.



More Pretties in Cyclops (Photo by Chris C)

The cave is also drop-dead gorgeous. When I plugged it into my rating system in the category for speleothems it received a score of 60/65 possible points. This put it in a tie for tenth place with Scott Hollow. The only caves in my portfolio which score higher are Hellhole, Kimble, and Memorial Day in

Germany Valley, Lechuguilla, Cave of the Madonna, Virgin, Pink Panther, and Cottonwood which are all in New Mexico, and Paxtons in Virginia. This puts Cyclops in pretty elite company.

Many of the ceiling level sections are profusely decorated with forests of columns, broomsticks, and symmetrically terraced stalagmites. The ceilings are also festooned with thousands of stalactites, straws, and draperies. In many areas the straws and stalactites support blankets of dense helectites. The 300 feet of nastiness near the entrance seems to have served as an effective deterrent to would-be-vandals, for the myriad speleothems are in near pristine condition. Multi-hued flowstones line the walls of many of the breakdown areas as well.

Near the end of our trek down the borehole we intercepted the lower-level stream passage which we accessed via a twelve-foot rappel. This was also well decorated. It is supposed to be extensive, but our section of the stream soon dropped down to three feet and we would have had to get quite wet in order to continue, not to mention actually doing a hands and knees crawl. This was a strictly tourist trip, and after all the fine walking passages we'd enjoyed, a muddy

> soaking just did not have very much appeal.

While it had been a very pleasant trip, with just enough ropework on the various traverses to make it technically interesting, all the breakdown scrambling was taking its toll on my 71-year-old body. There was also a sixhour night-time drive back up I-81 awaiting.

After having toured not quite a mile of this fine cave we Terry In One of the Many Formation-Lined began our exit. Climbing the five muddy drops of the entrance series was every bit the flail-a-thon I

Corridors In Cyclops (Photo by Chris C)

anticipated. It had only been a ten-hour cave trip, but I was tired when we finally exited as dusk was descending. The drive was a bit of a haul, but all in all a great trip. Many thanks to Chris for his unfailing guidance. I doubt if Cyclops will ever approach the popularity of other SCCI caves such as Tumbling Rock, Run to The Mill, or Neversink, and maybe that's a good thing, but it seems to me that it was money well spent.



Wonder What Happened Here? Split Drapery/Column Possibly from 1812 New Madrid Earthquake, the Most Powerful to Ever Hit the Lower 48 States. (Photo by Chris C)

Terry McClanathan NSS 12103

The Pump and The Light Switch

By John DiCarlo NSS 25744

Boonsboro, Md.-At noon on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, I met Jerry Bowen and Parker Webb at Crystal Grottoes Caverns. Our goal was to get the pump working in the Tri-State Grotto Passage and to fix a non-working 3-way light circuit.

Debbie Floyd had the back door unlocked and told us to go in and out that way. So with a Hi Ho, Hi Ho, we entered the doorway in the cliffside and traveled downward deep into the earth. Several turns of the passageway had us standing in front of the pump that was in the pit in the Tri-State Grotto Passage.



Pump at the Bottom of the Steps

Jerry checked the outlets, no power. We turned on what was said to be the breaker, no power to the outlet. Jerry checked the wires going into the switches above the pump, no power. We went back to the panel box at the start of the Tri-State Grotto Passage. Jerry opened it up, no power.



Jerry working on the Switch

Parker and I went back to the cave house, and with Debbie's help, we check the boxes going down the steps. Everything looked right there. Moving outside we checked the main breaker box. Nothing was labeled, but there was a 220-circuit turned off. After talking about it, we thought this was the circuit we were looking for. We turned it on and went back down to the pump.

The pump was running! Yea!! We turned it off so we could check things out. The circuit had been off at the panel box in the Tri-State Grotto Passage. We had turned it on and now left it that way. Two other circuits we turned off. One went to a heater and the other to a pump that was deleted.

We went back to the main breaker and turned it off, then turned the switch back on at the pump. Now all it takes is to hit the breaker at the main breaker box and the pump will turn on. We also marked the main box and put some blue painters-tape on the breaker and wrote on it. One goal accomplished!



Parker & Jerry (All Photos by John DiCarlo)

Next, we checked out the 3-way switch. It turns out the switch was bad. Jerry had an extra 3-way switch with him and replaced the switch. It worked!! Second goal accomplished!!

We set our tools aside and I took Jerry and Parker on the "Visitor's Trip" through the cave.

Still Changing Lightbulbs at Crystal Grottoes Caverns

By John DiCarlo, NSS 25744

Boonsboro, MD.-On April 16, 2021, I met up with Adam Haines at Crystal Grottoes Caverns. It was 1:00 PM and our goal was to finish up with three burned out lights that we left the last time we were there. But the tour guides told us of several more: one up high just before the Fingers, one in the High Spot (oh, and it was way up high too!), and also one in the back half of the Blanket Room.

We started off in Crystal Palace. Adam got the wire down, but we would still need the ladder to work on it. As we headed out to get it, we ran into the back of a tour. We held back and looked for the burned-out lights that the guide told us about. We saw one and thought we saw another on a nearby ledge. The tour turned into The Lake Room, and we passed ahead to the Blanket Room. Looking around we found the burned-out light and a wire disappearing at some nice Ribbons. We would have to check that out when we got the ladder.

We continued out of the cave to get the ladder. As we came back in, we commented that it was warmer in the cave than outside. We met the tour that we had passed and ducked into The Tri-State Grotto Passage so they could pass us.

Making it back to the Blanket Room, we put the ladder up. I climbed up, grabbed the light bulb, and gave it a twist. It didn't move. I was wearing a glove, so I wasn't worried about cutting my hand if the bulb broke. I tried it again. It still wouldn't budge. I gave it a third try. It moved! I unscrewed it and took it out. Taking a new bulb, I spread grease on the threads and on the bottom post. I screwed it back in and Adam turned on the lights. Nothing! I screwed it back out and saw corrosion on the contact in the bottom of the fixture. Adam turned the lights back off. I took my screwdriver and scraped at that bottom contact until it looked good. I put the new bulb back in and had Adam hit the light switch. It came on! Victory!!

We crossed the room to look at the disappearing wire. It looked like it was disappearing up between two ribbons. Moving the ladder over, I went up to check it out. It wasn't two ribbons. There was one ribbon with a piece of old round rain gutter holding two burned out light bulbs. A wire held it to an opening in a formation. I was able to unhook it and lay it down on the metal ladder. A tour was coming down the passageway, and I didn't want to be fooling with the wiring when they turned the lights on. I climbed down and waited for the tour to come into the Blanket Room. When they came in, Adam and I stood aside as the guide gave her talk. She came to the point where she turned out the lights for Total Darkness (TD). It had been a while since I had been in TD so that was neat. (On most wild cave trips TD is not done.) The lights came back on, and the tour continued on their way.

I went back up the ladder and replaced the bulbs. Adam turned the lights on, and they worked!! We gathered our supplies and ladder and headed toward the High Spot. When we got there, we had to stand the ladder up to make the turn. We saw a tour coming and stepped into the corner. They passed us and we set the ladder up in the Father Time Passage about 10 feet before the Fingers. Adam went up, and with a little trouble, unscrewed the bulb. I put grease on the new bulb and passed it up. Adam found a second burned-out bulb on the next ledge. He reached over and unscrewed this one, and I handed him another greased bulb. (I guess you could call it Greased Lighting). This was one of the bulbs the tour guides had told us about. I turned the lights back on, and both of the bulbs came on. Success!

We moved over to the Underside of Jerry's Garden, and I climbed the ladder to replace a burned-out bulb that we had spotted. It came out easy enough. I put in a new greased bulb. We threw the switch, and it came on.

We packed it up and headed to Crystal Palace. This was a light we knew was going to be a problem. We had tried a bulb the last time we were there, and it did not work. This time I climbed the ladder and scraped corrosion off the fixture. I put in a greased bulb and Adam turned on the lights. Nothing.

Adam turned the lights back off, and I started to unscrew the wires. With the corrosion on them, I had a hard time seeing the slots in the screws. Adam and I swapped places (younger eyes). He was able to unscrew all the wires. He came down and we went through our carry bag looking for parts for a new outlet.

One of the guides, Bella, came down and told us she wanted to show us a bulb that was burned out at the High Spot. We told her we might have already replaced it. She said it was a different one, and that when she stands in the High Spot with a tour, she can see it and it bugs her. We looked where she was pointing and saw the light. I told her we would replace it.

We went back to the light we had been working on, so that we could finish with it before another tour came down. We needed something and had to return to the surface for more parts. Eventually, we had everything we needed and started back in. With the new fixture, we used wire nuts, not screws. I climbed back up the ladder and put it all together. Placing it back on the ledge I aimed the spotlight toward the ceiling. When Adam turned on the switch it lit up the whole wall.



Adam Up High on a Ladder

We packed up and carried everything back to the High Spot. Adam went up the ladder and had to climb the wall to get higher so that he could reach the burned-out light. He was able to get the bulb out after trying several times. He scraped corrosion

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from the outlet and put in a greased bulb. I turned the lights on, and it worked!!

We were doing good today. We came to replace three bulbs and ended up replacing eight. Again, it made a difference in the cave. It was really lit up now.



Well Lit High Spot (All Photos by John DiCarlo)

It was getting late. The Caverns were closing for the day, so we wrapped it up. In the whole cave there was one light that wasn't lit. We had tried to replace it the last time we were there, but it didn't work. We now had the parts, but we knew it was going to take a while to get there and replace everything. We had to leave that for another time.

We carried the ladder and our supplies out of the cave. Going back down, we locked and barred the back door. Going up into the Cave House, we talked to Debbie about an open pit with a water pump in it that was at the bottom of the Entrance Room stairs. This was a safety concern because

visitors walk within inches of it. After walking down to look at it with Debbie, we pulled the pump out of the hole and placed it beside the hole. There was a lid for the hole, so we placed it back on so it would now be safe for the visitors to walk by.

We went back up and Debbie thanked us for the work we had done. We had done good.

"Possession - A First Time Caving Song" By Doc Phillips

I was cleaning out my music archives in hopes of gaining more hard drive space and found this song I wrote about caving. It was recorded 'off the board' at a local venue about ten years ago. I reviewed the lyric sheet and realized that it has been some time since the DDD had a submitted poem. Here goes:

"POSSESSION"

When Jonny was a boy Having growing pains He went into this cave On a full moon time of life

He did not get the creeps Looking all around But being by himself Jonny didn't hang too long

As the cave breaths singing

Come play with me

Come play with me Jonny

Come play with me

There was the smell of the earth

Come play with me Jonny Yeah!

Knowing that he may never leave Jonny ambled to the light I'll be back someday he said On a full moon time of life

Water drops and soiled knees As the cave breaths singing Come play with me

PEAR PAG PISPATCH

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Come play with me Jonny Come play with me Come play with me Jonny Yeah!

You can listen to this song on You Tube with this search:

<u>cats for dinner performs a song about caving LIVE</u>! I added some pictures of caves in the video that may be recognizable.

Hope you enjoy it.

Large Sinkhole Forms Next to Highway 15 Near Leeaburg, VA



This sinkhole appeared in the shrubbery just off of Rt 15 near Leesburg, VA. What appears to be utility conduits that hang suspended over the hole. They apparently were once buried until the ground gave way exposing them. The sinkhole probably came as no surprise to local officials. Loudon Co is one of the known counties with a sinkhole risk, according to a map from the state's Div of Geology & Mineral Resources.

Donaldson Cave-Tom Griffin

Patch, Katie, Gwen, Brahm, Teirnan/ 2 months old. Sara, Keith and Jenny / 1 year old. They were Red and I (10). Teirnan and Jenny, there first cave. We went back to the breakdown room and looked at the keyhole. Only about 4 feet of water in the back.





Notice the 2-month-old baby. (Photos by Tom Griffin)



FALL MAR VAR 2021 Registration Form

October 15-17, 2021

Grand Caverns, Grottoes, VA

Name:				NSS#		
Street Address				Grotto:		
City/State/Zip						
Phone:			Email:			
Emergency Contact	Name:			Phone:		
Other Members of	our household atte	nding with yo	ou (one form p	per household	1)	
Name		E	mail Address			
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
		Now for t	he Details			
	Weekend Registration (#)	Vegetarian Meal (#)	Advanced Registration Price*		Total	
Adults (15+)			\$33			
Children (5-14)			\$25			
Children (under 5)			FREE		FREE	
PCC Breakfast Donation			\$5			
T-Shirts XS			\$15			
S			\$15			
M			\$15			
L			\$15			
XL			\$15			
XXL			\$17.50			
3XL			\$18.50			
4XL			\$19.50			
TOTAL						

Registration includes (MAR/VAR) membership and guidebook Please make checks payable to Charlottesville Grotto and mail to: Edward Smith, PO Box 343, Earlysville, VA 22936. or for online payments use paypal.me/BlakeJordan61 and use 'friends and family' so no extra costs are added.

^{*}To qualify for the Advance Registration price, registrations must be post marked by October 1, 2021. We cannot guarantee dinner or a t-shirt for those who do not make the Advance Registration deadline. On-site registration is \$38 per adult and \$30 per child (5-14 years old).



Breathing Cave (Photo by Elysia Mathias)



Breathing Cave (Photo by Ashley Hitchcock)





Butler Cave (Photo by Ashley H)



Jones Quarry – Using magnet to find nails from burned skids in parking area. (Photo by John DiCarlo)

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GAMM GALENPAR AUGUST ATH - SEPTEMBER 18TH



	45 SO TOGA			ורין זון נוה און דיהין ויה או			
-	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Aug 8 Indiana Cave Capers - Marengo, IN	Aug 9	Aug 10	Aug 11 Meeting 7pm Son & Daughter Day	Aug 12 Middle Child Day FRG Meeting - 7pm	Aug 13 Left Handers Day Karst-O-Rama - Great Saltpeter Preserve, KY	Aug 14 TSG Summer Picnic - Hawthom House - 12 Noon Karst-O-Rama - Great Saltpeter Preserve, KY
	Aug 15 Karst-O-Rama - Great Saltpeter Preserve, KY	Aug 16 Elvis Died FCG meeting - 6pm	Aug 17	Aug 18	Aug 19 Potato Chip Day	Aug 20 Lemonade Day	Aug 21 Senior Citizen Day
	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28 Annual Baker Quarry Trip - see Brent Jefferson - Caving - Kayaking
	Aug 29	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sep 1	Sep 2	Sep 3	Doo Dah Parade - 10am WVASS Me eting - 630pm
	Sep 5	Sep 6 LABOR DAY	Sep 7	Sep 8 TRI-STATE GROTTO Meeting 7pm	Sep 9 FRG Meeting -7pm Teddy Bear Day	Sep 10	Sep 11 Remembrance Day - 9/11
	Sep 12 Chocolate Milkshake Day Grand Parents Day	Sep 13 National Peanut Day	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18 Cheeseburger Day

PEAP POG PISPATCH

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ANNUAL GROTTO PICNIC SATURDAY, AUGUST 14th, 2021 12:00 PM UNTIL 6:00 PM

At the Hawthorn House In Summit Pt, WV

Come on over and join in on the fun!
The Grotto will furnish ice, sodas,
condiments, eating utensils, & a grill!
Bring your favorite lawn games such as lawn
darts, volleyball, frisbee, croquet, badminton,

Bring lawn chairs, a covered dish (with food), and your favorite meat to fix on the grill!

etc!?

Bring your vertical gear to practice. There are several really nice trees to rig from. Doc will bring the Grotto vertical gear. That way you can try the gear out to see what works best for you. Tom Griffin & Chris Coates are bringing rope!

BYOB

The directions to Picnic from different areas are as follows:

Coming from the South:

Get off of I-81 at Clear Brook, VA exit

Turn left onto Rt 11 south

After 20' turn left onto St Rt 672

Go 3.3 mi

Turn right & stay on RT 672

Go 2 mi

Turn left onto St Line Rd/Summit Pt Rd

Go 3 mi

Turn left onto Hawthorn Ave

Go 0.6 m

Go thru gate to the Hawthorn House

Coming from the North:

Get off of I-81 at the Inwood, WV exit

Turn left onto St Rt 51 east

Go thru 3 round-a-bouts

Stay on Rt 51 east

Go about 4.3 mi

Turn right onto Middleway Pike

Go thru Middleway on Leetown Rd/Queen St

Go 4.6 mi

Turn right onto Summit Pt Rd

Go 0.1 mi

Turn right onto Hawthorn Ave

Go 0.6 mi

Go thru gate to the Hawthorn House

Coming from Charles Town:

Whether from Rt 340, or Rt 9

Go south on Washington St

Go thru town and continue south until you come to the Y at Summit Pt Rd

Turn left into Summit Pt Rd

Go 7.2 mi

Turn left onto Hawthorn Ave

Go 0.6 mi

Go thru gate to the Hawthorn House

The Address is:

609 Hawthorn Ave

Summit Pt, WV 25446

The GPS is:

39.257795 -77.962489

PEAP PAG PISPATCH



McClungs Cave (Photo by Carl Amundson)



DEAD DOG DISPATCH

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





