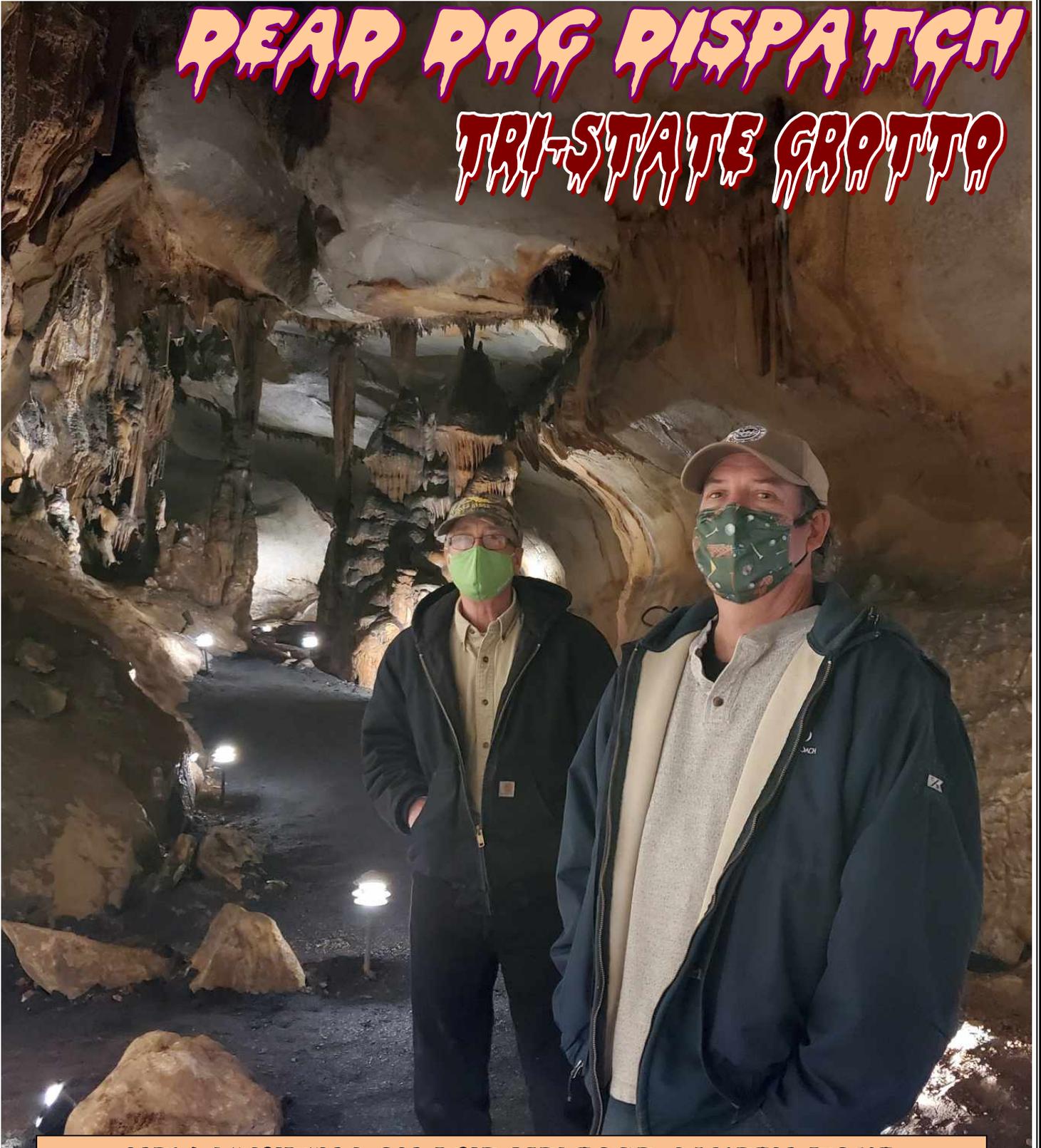


DEAR DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



NEW LIGHTING ON THE MELROSE CAVERN TOUR

VOL. #36

ISS. #1

JAN

2021

#1

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2020

#2

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP-\$12.00 (Non-Voting)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP -----\$2.00/FAMILY
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** The photo on this month's cover was furnished by Jerry Bowen. It shows the new lighting along the path on the Melrose Cavern tour.

**** 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

CAVE BUCKS

2021

- JAN 1 ---- NEW YEARS DAY
- JAN 1 ---- National Hangover Day
- JAN 8 --- Elvis Birthday
- JAN 9 --- Law Enforcement Day
- JAN 13 --- Rubber Ducky Day
- JAN 13 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**
- JAN 14 --- National Dress Up Day
- JAN 18 --- MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
- JAN 22 --- Ted Monger Jr Birthday (Owner of Jones Quarry)**
- JAN 24 --- Peanut Butter Day
- JAN 24 ---- TRI-STATE GROTTO BIRTHDAY**
- FEB 1 ---- Bubble Gum Day
- FEB 2 ---- Ground Hog Day
- FEB 7 ---- Super Bowl Day
- FEB 9 ---- National Pizza Day
- FEB 10 ---- TSG Meeting – 7pm**
- FEB 14 ---- Valentines Day**
- FEB 15 ---- PRESIDENTS DAY**
- FEB 16 ---- Fat Tuesday
- FEB 28 ---- National Tooth Fairy Day
- MAR 1 --- Peanut Lovers Day
- MAR 10 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm**
- MAR 14 --- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS**
- MAR 14 --- National Potato Chip Day
- MAR 14 --- PII Day
- MAR 14 --- Dr Latterell – Birthday – (Molers)
- MAR 17 --- St Patrick’s Day
- MAR 19 --- SORING EQUINOX
- MAR 21 --- Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
- MAR 22 --- National Goof Off Day
- MAR 22 --- World Water Day
- MAR 25 --- MD Day
- APR 1 ---- All Fools Day
- APR 2 --- GOOD FRIDAY
- APR 2 --- PB & J Day
- APR 4 --- EASTER
- APR 5 --- Geologists Day
- APR 6 --- New Beers Day
- APR 7 --- National Beer Day
- APR 10 --- National Siblings Day

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

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

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let’s continue the giving!

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & GIVING 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/
- 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/>

CAVING BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Chris Coates, Judy Fisher, Sonny Floyd, Bob Gray, Stacey Hajenga, Keith Hammersla, Clint Hogbin, Fritz Kysar, Davis Wayne Lucas, Tim McDougle, T. Allen Monger, Earl Suitor, Fiord'aliza Vis, Trish Walthers

Happy Birthday!

REPORTS

TSG Meeting, December 9, 2020

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.

Tom read the minutes, and they were approved.

Old Business

There was no news on the repair of the kiosk at Donaldson Cave.

Tom reported that the owner of Shirley's Cave is interested in having work done in the cave. Gary has a contact number for him.

New Business

Tom reported that the bricks for the NSS headquarters are in. There are 701 bricks. They will be installed soon.

Spring VAR 2021 will be at Grand Caverns.

Jeff reported that DVR of WV will not be doing any winter bat counts this year. They will be getting more WV Cave Protection Act signs. They will

determine the sites for the signs, and will be looking for help putting them up.

Trips

Gary went by Big Column Cave and it doesn't look like anyone has been in it for a while.

Tom went to Sarah's Furnace Cave in PA again. November 19 they will be surveying there. They will be set up for COVID safety and taking groups of 3. Last time they were there, they hit 3.4 miles.

Don went to Huntingdon County PA looking for caves. He ran into a landowner at a cabin who has sinks on her property, and she gave him permission to dig. Every time he digs, it gets filled in by the next door landowner who claims he owns the same property.

Bob and Tom went to a dig in WV that Bob Edmonds had. The sink hole was 75-100 ft. deep and 100 ft. across. There was a dig there 2 years ago, and in the meantime all the surrounding trees had collapsed down into the sink hole. They pulled out all the trees, roots and dirt. There was a stream that entered the sink hole that disappeared into the floor of the hole before it got to the dig site.

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn DiCarlo

Setting in as substitute for Doc Phillips

Scissor jack dig Scott Hollow

For the last two years I've been working on a dig deep in the cave , there was a restriction in the dig that needed something bigger to break thru it , so Mystik Miller and Chris Collin and I took turns carrying a scissor jack over a mile back in the cave , Mystik was the only one small enough to fit , she used the jack to break the restriction , but the passage that was there silted up to the ceiling , I'm glad to not be thinking of this lead anymore , hard trips but lots of fun

Billy Gibberson



These 4 photos were furnished by Billy Gibberson

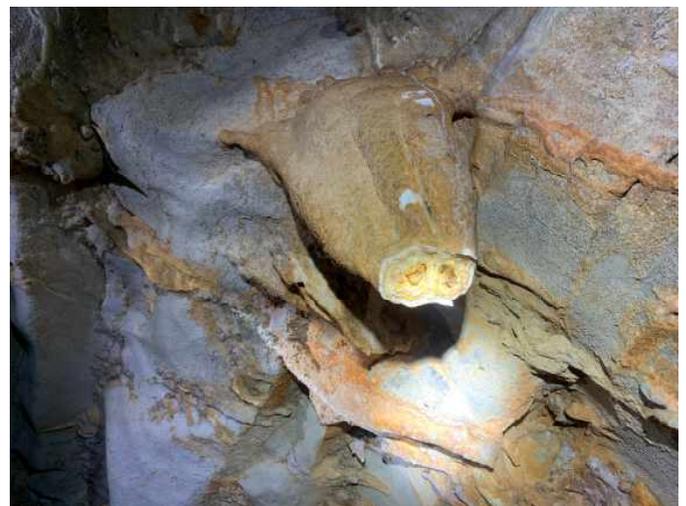


Chris Colin, Mystik Miller & Billy



Endless & Melrose Caverns

On December 29, (a Tuesday), I drove by myself down to New Market, Virginia with the sole purpose of visiting Melrose Caverns. Picking up Dave Lucas and meeting Mike Stewart at the Endless Caverns gift shop. We had lunch. We all found a reason to go into Endless as they were robbed. It seems like Saturday night or Sunday, the two perpetrators got into the cave and broke some formations. Pictured is one such formation.



From the cave, they entered the gift shop and stole two glass cases of valuable Endless Caverns memorabilia, and another display of valuable minerals. The perps

were wanted for something else, and the police were looking into that. When they looked into 'that' they discovered they had Endless Caverns stuff too. The perps were already apprehended when I showed up on Tuesday. The three of us walked through the upper part of Endless and found evidence of the perps being there. Anyway

.....

On to Melrose Caverns. After walking through Endless, the three of us piled into the Endless Caverns vehicle and drove the ten minutes to Melrose. The driveway entrance is on the West side of route 11 and there used to be a gas station there. The gas station looks like a small house and is very rocky looking. A turn to the right is necessary, and Melrose Caverns in about a quarter of a mile further.

It is very historical, with Civil War history. Colonel Brown was the one who developed Endless Caverns. If you remember, Melrose was signed over to Colonel Brown for a 99-year lease.



Brown built a very similar gift shop area and ran the cave for a number of years. He also ran Cyclopean Towers, and Sapphire Pool in Mt. Solon, VA. A banner that I have shows all four destinations.

Finally, Melrose was closed. The VAR did a clean-up there pulling all the lights and lead coated wiring from the cave. The entrance house became a venue for weddings, and they have outdoor seating for events. The new owners have relit the cave. Most of the lighting was along the floor. While they were jack hammering

the floor, they broke into a lower level (not shown on the tour). You can visit the cave too. They have a website that shows their terms.

We took a lot of pictures, and there were a few surprises too.

Your friend,

Jerry



Photos in this report furnished by Jerry Bowen





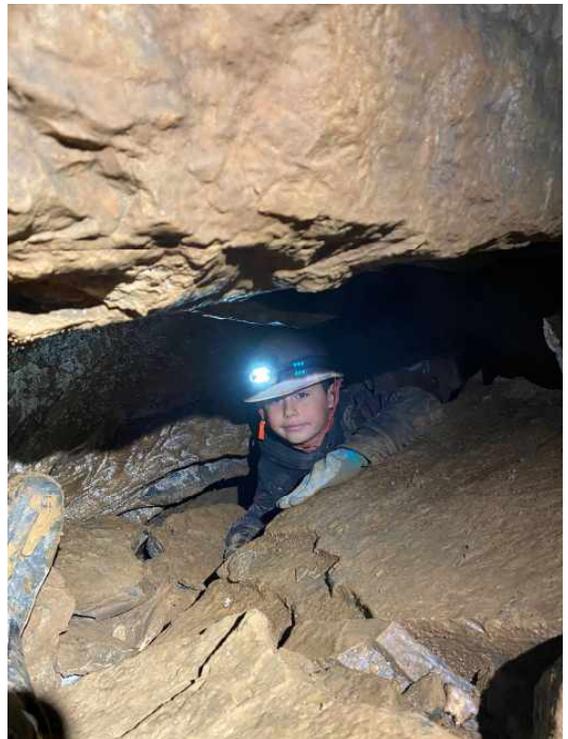
(by Ashley Hitchcock)



Water in Donaldson (by TomG)



Norman Cave (by Ashley H)



Joey in Donaldson (TomG)



New 100' Cave in Hampshire Co (by Beau Ouimette)



Rohobeth Church Cave (by Ashley Hitchcock)



Conodoguinet Cave (by Adam Haines)



Dead Dog Cave (Kevin Hughes)



Here is something our Mussel survey crew developed to pass the time as they travelled the state between surveys. Plug the terms into the squares and see who gets BINGO first by watching for clues as you travel. I added to it and made another sheet of possible categories to plug into the squares. You might want to split it into two parts. It keeps people engaged and can be funny at times. I am sure it could be adjusted to be more regional (panhandle edition, Keystone edition, Beach edition, DC edition etc), or make one for specifically cave/ caver related sightings.

Jeff Hajenga

- 1-Terrestrial watercraft – Trailerless watercraft resting gently on ground. Field subspecies is common, forest subspecies is rarer
- 2-Smokin' Mobile – Person on Mobile device / wandering and smoking
- 3-Concrete Jesus / Mary
- 4-Hot Rod Beater - Obvious POS car that someone thinks is a hot rod.
- 5-Roadside Memorial Arboreal Grocery – Plastic grocery bag stuck in treetop Trash Campfire – Campfire made of trash
- 6-Natural Skylight - Missing roof creating skylight
- 7-Toilet Pottery / decoration– Flowers planted in toilet or toilet as landscape feature
- 8-Firewood Compost – Firewood that has been piled (at home, or in truck) for so long that it has started to turn into compost
- 9-Satellite Shed – Shed made with Lage satellite dish for roof
- 10-Mee Maw in a Mu Mu – for comfort and fashion
- 11-Pee Paw Boxers – same for Pee Paw, comfort and fashion
- 12-Weathered Beauty – Former “Beauty Queen” that has not aged well, but is still trying to compete
- 13-Big Bear Encounter – Person on ATV that is wider than the ATV
- 14-Perfect 10 - Body form of two people in a group, one who resembles a number 1 and the other who resembles a 0
- 15-Rascal Pack - At least two people in a group on mobility scooters
- 16-Breath of Fresh Air – Person on Oxygen, enjoying a fresh smoke
- 17-Merry Christmas – Person who definitely looks like a Ho Ho Ho
- 18-Fabi Oh No – Guy that thinks he is Fabio, but definitely is not
- 19-Rural Goth (aka Country Angst) – Goth /punk apparel, attitude, or dress, in a very rural setting
- 20-Straight Pipe (Mobile, or Domestic) – Distinct (intentional) lack of exhaust or septic system
- 21-Disembodied engine
- 22-Sharpshooter deer crossing – Deer crossing sign with lethal bullet hole placement
- 23-School Bus Dwelling / Storage
- 24-Cubism Shed – Shed of at least three sections with no common roofline level or pitch
- 25-Lazy Boy² - a Lazy Boy in a Lazy Boy
- 26-Southern tricolor - Person with three or more hair colors
- 27-Automotive furniture - Car / truck seats or car parts used as seating in yard / porch
- 28-Side By Cluster – Group of three or more UTVs loitering along road

WVDNR Mussel Crew 2018 presents...WV BACKWOODS BINGO

B	I	N	G	O
Abandoned Toys	Ambitious Woodwork	Backyard Junkyard	Exotic Pets	Confederate Flag
Front Porch Sitter	Hitchhiker	Who Likes Short Jorts?	Unattended Minor	Trouse
Functional Outhouse	Unusual Art	 FREE SPACE!	"Special" Church Signs	Backwoods Biker Bar
Road Work	Wayward Cows	Homemade Political Display	Silly Mailbox	Pipeline
Out of Season Holiday Decor	Barn Business	Road to Nowhere	Weird Wildlife	Community Cooking (ham n oysters, ox roast, etc.)



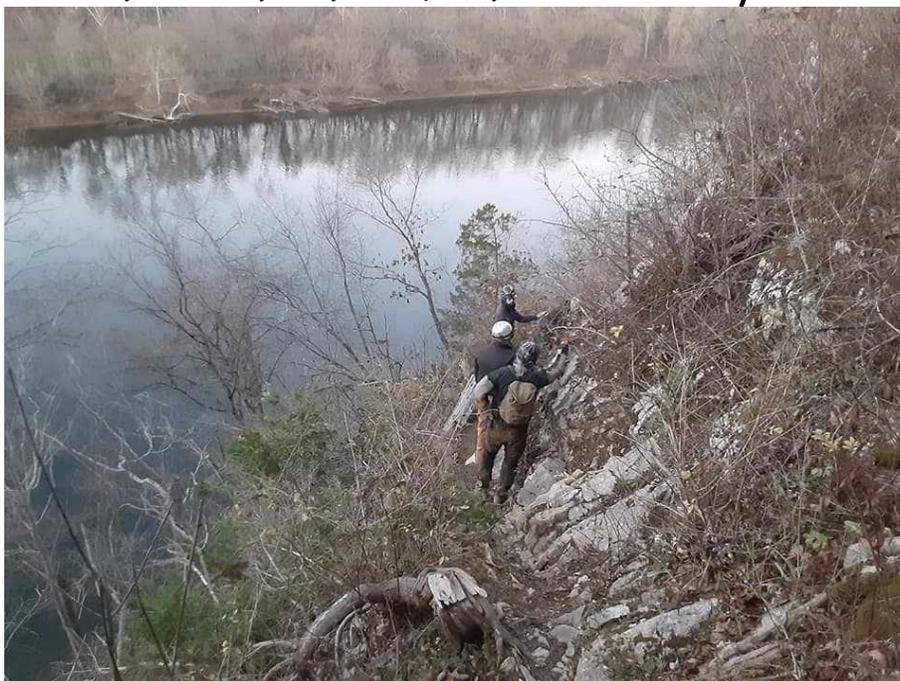
CAVIN CALENDAR

JANUARY 10TH - FEBREARY 20TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13  Meeting 7pm Virtual Rubber Ducky Day	Jan 14  National Dress Up Day	Jan 15	Jan 16
Jan 17	Jan 18 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21	Jan 22 TED MONGER BIRTHDAY (Owner of Jones Quarry)	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 BUBBLE GUM DAY	Feb 2 	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6
Feb 7 SUPER BOWL SUNDAY	Feb 8	Feb 9  NATIONAL PIZZADAY	Feb 10  Meeting 7pm Virtual	Feb 11	Feb 12	Feb 13
Feb 14  VALENTINES DAY	Feb 15 PRESIDENTS DAY	Feb 16 FAT TUESDAY	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19	Feb 20

DEAD DOG DISPATCH



The open trail to Indian River Cave (by Adam Haines)



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