

DEAD DOG DISPATCH TRI-STATE GROTTO



MARSHALLS CAVE, HIGHLAND CO, VA

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2021

#135

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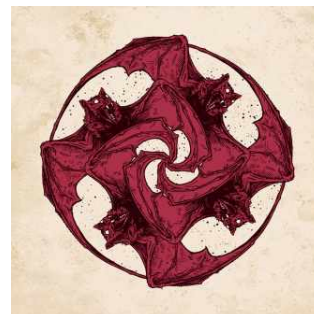
*** The photo on the cover is an old B&W photo
that shows Doc in Marshalls Cave, Highland Co,
VA.

**** 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

2021

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 – Live & Virtual
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 – Live & virtual
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
JAN 1 --- NEW YEARS DAY
JAN 1 --- National Hangover Day
JAN 1 --- Polar Bear Plunge Day
JAN 8 --- Elvis Birthday
JAN 9 --- Law Enforcement Day
JAN 12 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm – Live & Virtual
JAN 13 --- Rubber Ducky Day
JAN 14 --- National Dress Up Day
JAN 16 --- Nothing Day
JAN 17 --- Martin Luther King Day
JAN 19 --- Popcorn Day
JAN 22 --- Hot Sauce Day
JAN 22 --- Allen Monger (Owner of Jones Quarry)

Birthday

JAN 24 --- Peanut Butter Day
JAN 24 --- TSG BIRTHDAY
JAN 25 --- National Pancake Day
JAN 26 --- National Spouses Day
JAN 27 --- Chocolate Cake Day
JAN 28 --- Fun at Work Day
JAN 28 --- National Kazoo Day
FEB 1 --- Bubble Gum Day
FEB 2 --- Groundhog Day
FEB 5 --- Work Naked Day
FEB 6 --- Super Bowl
FEB 9 --- National Pizza Day
FEB 9 --- TSG Meeting – 7pm – Live & Virtual
FEB 14 --- Valentines Day
FEB 21 --- Presidents Day
FEB 28 --- National Tooth Fairy 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 OCTOBER ----- **\$52.00**
TOTAL TO DATE: ----- **\$7716.83**

GREAT JOB EVERYONE! Let's continue the giving!

Keep It Coming!

WEBSITE & CAVING LINKS

Tri-State Grotto ----- www.tristategrotto.org/
VAR ----- <http://var.caves.org/index.php>
NSS ----- www.caves.org/
NSS Convention 2020 ----- <https://nss2020.caves.org/>

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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Bowen, Pat Cronin, Nikki Fox, Nevin Gibberson, Tom Griffin, Kevin Haney, Art Hanson Jr, Christal Hanson, Shawn Hogbin, Bill Jackson, Terry McClanathan, Vivian Monger, Angela Rao, John Scrivener

Happy Birthday!



TSG Meeting, October 13, 2021

(attendance:13+11 virtual)

John called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Elysia's gave a Treasurer's Report and Doc read the previous meetings minutes. Cave bucks: \$52

New Business:

-The next Wednesday night caving expedition is to be held October 20 at 6:00 pm at Crystal Grottoes Caverns in Boonsboro, Maryland. Family members are welcome.

-McClure cave is in the process of being purchased by MAKC using TSG's Bat Bucks donations.

Old Business:

-Adam, Ashby and company attended an NCRC class, which was held in the Martinsburg area.

Ashby and Adam were group leaders and advisers during the event.

-The Adams Stevens House tunnel tours on Heritage Day needs volunteers on May 14, 2022.

-Greenville Saltpeter Cave in Monroe County, West Virginia, was recently purchased by The Conservation Fund and the WVDNR.

-A meeting was held with the directors of the Izaak Walton Park, Berkeley County Chapter, to gain access to their cave for a mapping project. The agreement is in the process of being reviewed.

-Arrival of the TSG cave brochure was announced and displayed. Copies are available.

-On Sunday, October 10, a cleanup and 'un-wiring' of Black Coffey Caverns was held in the Greencastle, Pennsylvania area. The occasion was well catered by the owners of the caverns and the cleanup finished sooner than expected. A report of bad air was reported.

-There was also a rescue at Laurel Caverns in Pennsylvania on October 10, 2021.

Caving:

-Nelson Cave, Stillhouse Cave and the Sinks of Gandy were visited by Elysia, Angela and Gary on September 19.

-Adam, Ashby, Tom, Gretchen and Elysia visited Carnegie Cave in Pennsylvania.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm, The TSG auction proceeded.

Respectfully submitted

Donald 'Doc' Phillips

NSS # 32922

Secretary, Tri-State Grotto of the NSS



A Blast From the Past

By Donald 'Doc' Phillips

While inventorying my caving files, I came to the conclusion that I was in possession of an immense collection of underground adventures and information. These early files were generated when I first started caving over thirty years ago. I hope you enjoy these reports I call 'Cave Log/Manifest'.

CAVE LOG/MANIFEST

September 6, 1998

AQUA CAVE, Williamson, Virginia

Crew: Lori, Robin and myself. Robin and I drove, Lori rode with me.

After setting up camp at the Bullpasture River Bridge camping area, we went to Aqua Cave and found that the entrance was crowded with a lot of non-cavers. We went back to camp and geared up in wet suits and headed back to the cave where even more people arrived. They remarked on our appearance and the cost of our gear whereupon we slipped through the sump. After studying the map earlier, I had a good idea on where to go.

Once we passed the sump, or duck under as some call it, which is only a couple of feet, we stood on a small underground beach. I did not have my boots or scuba socks on, so I had to proceed with caution on my tender naked and cold feet. Surprisingly, there were many other people in the cave that, for their lack of helmets and other essential gear, were obviously not cavers. I explored ahead leaving Lori and Robin to guard our gear stored in waterproofed bags close to the entrance. I went ahead by two chambers and upon returning walked myself into a corner. I almost panicked. I turned off my light and looked around in the total darkness until I caught a weak glimmer of my troops lights and heard their dim voices that were almost drowned out by the moving water. I only took one light with me because I did not expect to go very far, leaving all my other gear at the beach. I will not do that again.

Once I returned, we explored farther and turned back at French Lake, which is an underground lake fed by the caves only stream.

On our way out, we encountered a dripping wet family with one flashlight. A brave acting teenage boy was in the lead,

mom was next and three teenage girls were following likes ducks crossing the street. Dad brought up the rear. What a great setup for a horror movie. In soaked street cloths, one by one, each family member must have given themselves a cold baptism while passing through the sump to get into the cave. It was good that the day was warm. We were very hungry after being in the cave for so long and looked forward to campfire chow. We were all jazzed and excited after caving.

I was proud and happy that I finally made it into Aqua Cave. I know that there is more cave than we saw, but this trip was a fine initiation to sump caving. Carol's Crack is calling. Later at camp we sang songs and told ghost stories until we were too tired to stay up.

Super trip!!!

September 7, 1998

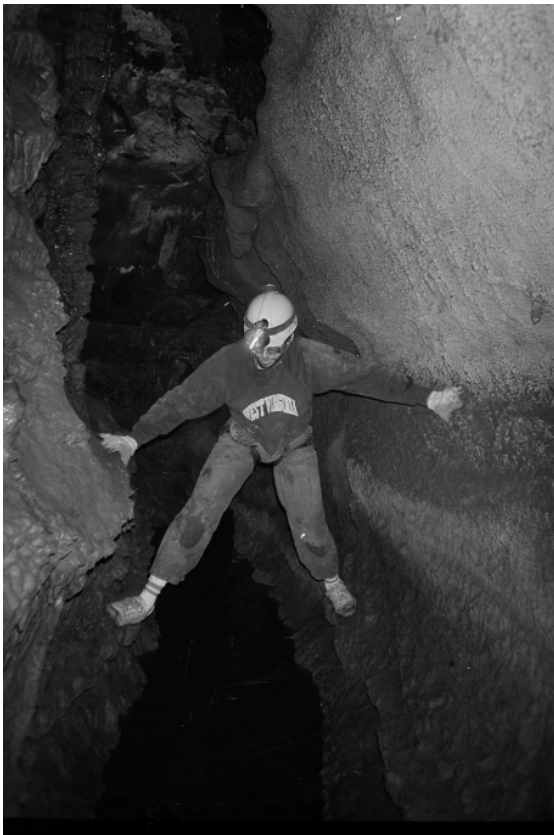
MARSHALL CAVE

Crew: Lori Krug, Robin Cohen and myself.

After exploring the upper lever of the cave, we went all the way to the back of the caves lower level. Lori had a bad time on the rappel. I surprisingly discovered a spiral passage that connects the upper and lower level that only needed a hand line. This easy passage is right next to the rappel and was easy to miss.

Going back to the far end of the lower level was incredible and outstanding. The formations were epic, and the climbs and passageways were challenging. We were exhausted but fulfilled when we got out of the cave. Robin was pleased with doing a climbing cave and Lori was just plain tired-but happy.





While breaking down camp, we talked to a local that informed us that Marshal Cave loops around inside the mountain and comes out in somewhere around Williamsville, a small town a mile or so from the caves entrance. That may have explained the dead cat at the end of the cave I saw in back of the cave a couple of years ago. He suggested that I talk to someone named Mike who works at the post office and likes to cave in the area to attain more information about local caves.

We camped another night and headed home the next day. We ended our fellowship of the Bullpasture River at Pargo's restaurant in Harrisonburg. As we dined it stormed outside and we were grateful that the weather held out for our weekend of caving escapades. The ride home was rainy, but uneventful. I was listening to Pere Ubu as Lori snoozed next to me. The perfect passenger. Super weekend.

End Note: Much has changed since then. The Aqua campground is now closed to camping because the portable toilets were removed making the area unsuitable for camping. Both caves mentioned in the story are privately owned and are on the closed cave

list. The swimming hole is close. The swinging bridge at the site still remains.

I wrote this article almost a year ago but was asked by the cavers involved not to set it to print for a while because they were planning on writing a feature article about their exploits for the 2021 TAG Fall Cave-in guidebook, so I guess it's safe to submit it now.

Georgia Pitting

By Terry McClanathan

With COVID-19 wreaking havoc over the past year and a half my trips down south have been seriously curtailed. The last time I had the opportunity to go caving in TAG was at the 2019 TAG Fall-Cave-in over a year ago. This was the longest TAG "drought" I've had in over thirty years. I'm sure we've all experienced how hard it is to plan trips when virus surges are unpredictable and travel restrictions can be imposed at any time. Even when arrangements have been made, carrying through can still be problematic.

In September 2020, Marion informed me that there had been a high dome climbed in Georgia's Johnsons Crook Cave. The climbers were doing a combination photo/de-rig trip for what would have been the TAG Fall Cave-in (canceled of course) over Columbus Day weekend in early October. Marion and I were invited on the trip to get an official taping of the dome before it was de-rigged. However, a week before the trip Marion had been inadvertently exposed to co-vid at an outdoor barbecue hosted by some caver friends. Fortunately, he later tested negative, but as a precaution chose to self-quarantine for two weeks. He told me the cavers were going to do the photographic trip as scheduled but were willing to leave the dome rigged for a while longer, so I bailed in order that Marion and I could go there together.

A trip was re-scheduled for the weekend of November 14th. I called Marion a week before this, and he related that now he had just come down with shingles. Needless to say, Marion was not having a very good autumn 2020. I had shingles in my mid-fifties and knew they were not only very painful but

also tended to be of long duration. The dome climbers were concerned about leaving the pit rigged during the normally wet TAG winter season. Things start typically getting much wetter around Thanksgiving and can remain so until late May or early June. There was the two-fold danger of having the ropes shredded by a thrashing waterfall, or the unpleasant, and potentially dangerous, scenario of attempting a de-rigging pull-down during high water. Understandably, with winter high water conditions rapidly approaching, they were reluctant to re-schedule a third time. With Marion's blessing, but without Marion, I decided to go on with the November 14th trip and get a taping of the pit.

The high dome is in Johnsons Crook Cave, Dade County, Georgia. It is one of two twin domes dubbed simply Topless I and II. They coalesce in the bottom portion and are connected by a couple of windows higher up, so I probably wouldn't consider them as two distinct domes. Topless II is the higher and was therefore chosen as the target dome to climb. This is not to be confused with THE Topless Dome in Tumbling Rock Cave, Alabama, which is 396 feet high and has been climbed, though not currently rigged, on two separate occasions in decades past. The Topless II climb was initiated by TAG caver Brad Long nearly fifteen years ago and finally completed by Atlanta caver Jon Zetterberg just this past summer. Jon was assisted on the climb by Damien, Tim White, and about ten others who helped with toting gear to the site. Jon related the following to me on the history of the endeavor.

'Brad had progressed up about 80 feet when the land changed hands and caves on the property were closed. The individual(s) who purchased this extensive property had envisioned a massive resort development with amenities including event pavilions, lakes, swimming pools, and tennis courts. These were to provide on-site recreation for the future owners of high-end mountain-side mansions. Apparently, this person actually knew very little about the land purchased; namely that except for a limited acreage of "bottom land", most of the property was steep, rugged, limestone hillside. Not to be discouraged, mountainside lots were sold reminiscent of the "buy a piece of a Florida swamp" notoriety of nearly a century past. While not a swamp, the rock outcrops dominating the steep slopes were of course unsuitable as building lots.

The ensuing sales evolved into a Ponzi scheme coinciding with the dubious banking practices which culminated in the housing debacle of 2007-08. The end game resulted in the "developer(s)" conviction for fraud in the bilking of millions of dollars from would-be investors and future homeowners. The perpetrators went to prison and the land was sold for "pennies on the dollar" to another party. A few years ago, the new owner came to the realization that the most economically viable option for the property was probably as a massive tax write-off. Now who would possibly be interested in thousands of acres of rugged limestone terrain with no developmental potential?"

Jon did not say if the individual had any prior affiliation with the caving community, but as it turned out the Southeastern Cave Conservancy (SCCI) was the ideal recipient for such a donation. The SCCI has designated this the Charles B. Henson Preserve. There are two significant caves on the property, these being Johnsons Crook and Lost Canyon, as well as numerous smaller caves and pits. Access is through the usual SCCI permit system. At around 3,000 acres, this is by far the most extensive of all SCCI acquisitions. It is located in Dade County, Georgia. Dade is a small, sparsely populated county in the far northwestern corner of the state. It is part of the southern Cumberland Plateau dominated by Lookout Mountain (south of Chattanooga, TN) and Pigeon Mountain (home of the famous Ellisons Cave/Fantastic Pit). Dade and its southern neighbor, Walker County, are home to most of the major Georgia pit caves such as Ellison's and Cemetery.

I met Jon (Zetterberg) and Damien Lebrun-Grandie (from Knoxville) on the morning of November 14th at the parking area for Johnsons Crook Cave after a ten-hour Friday night drive down the interstates. I'd actually been to this cave several years ago with Marion, Sharon Jones, and the late Lee White. Soon after the SCCI acquired the preserve Lee had climbed a different hundred-foot dome in another part of the cave and wanted to derig it. I climbed to the top, with the last 40 feet in a drenching waterfall. Marion climbed up to the 80-foot rebelay bolt before the wet stuff. Lee had previously measured the dome at 123 feet. He derigged the dome after Marion and I had climbed it. The Johnson Crook Waterfall Dome is presently

not rigged. During this trip Marion had taken me over to the higher dome (Topless). Looking up from the bottom, there was a whole lot of impressive blackness looming overhead. He informed me that he was aware that Brad (Long) had started the climb many years ago, but he did not know (at that time) if there were any future plans to complete it.

Johnsons Crook Cave has a bit over a mile of intertwined passages interspersed with some high domes and a small stream. The entrance is an inconspicuous 20-foot pit on the steep side of a huge amphitheater. Traversing the cave en route to the domes involves considerable breakdown scrambling interrupted by a few short crawls, a couple of tight spots, and several freeclimbs, both up and down. Because of the up and down nature of the route there is essentially no change in overall depth. The bottom of the Topless II Dome is at about the same elevation as the cave entrance. In fact, most of the vertical extent of the cave is contained within the pit itself. The dome is smooth-walled, circular, and about twenty feet in diameter for most of its considerable height..... very pretty.

There were two ropes going up. One followed the climbing route and was interrupted by a couple of hanging rebelay. Damien said one of these was pretty awkward. A second rope hung free from rebelay bolts about 30 feet short of the top. At this point Jon said both ropes converged, and it was an easy transfer from one rope to another to complete the climb to the top. Jon also told me they had distoed the dome at 199 feet. I figured my 200-foot tape should be adequate for the job at hand so up the standing line I went, tape in tow. The rope transfer near the top was indeed one of the easiest hanging rebelay I've ever negotiated. I'd been unreeling the tape at thirty-foot intervals as I climbed and there wasn't much left on the spool when I reached the top. I got a reading of 196 feet for the drop, with only a few feet remaining to the ceiling, verifying Jon's 199-foot figure for the height of the entire dome. Once past the rebelay at the 170-foot level it was a nice long smooth ride back to the bottom. Damien next climbed the rebelay ropes, derigging as he went, and then rappelling back down the main standing line. Finally, Jon climbed the standing line and set up for the pull-down. Rope coils faster than the eye can

follow when falling from a height of nearly 200 feet with the rising crescendo of the whooshing coil providing a few seconds of excitement. This would make for one of the longest continuous pull-downs ever done in TAG. To the best of my knowledge the longest continuous pull-down in TAG was accomplished in the mid-nineties in Jackson County, Alabama's Tony Sinks Cave. Alan Cressler's crew had pushed a virgin blowing low crawl in Frenchman Pit Cave to the edge of a deep pit which they determined connected to a lower cave (Tony Sinks) with a 40-foot entrance pit. I was on the second trip a week later and Doug Strait and I taped the pit (Dental Floss Well) at 224 feet deep. It was also nearly one hundred feet in diameter. I climbed back up and set up for the pull-down, which we did, before trekking our way to the pre-rigged 40-foot entrance pit to Tony Sinks Cave to complete an exciting through-trip.

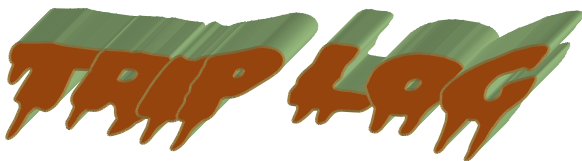
With taping and de-rigging tasks completed we exited the cave, having spent only about four hours underground. It was only mid-afternoon so a brief discussion of what else to do on the hillside ensued. I'd been to two small pits nearby, as had Jon, but Damien said he hadn't, so we visited these first. Youmans Pit and Pool Pit were 42 and 45 feet deep respectively. I hadn't been to them since back in 1993 and couldn't even recall what the entrances looked like. In the interim since my '93 trip two other pits had been opened along the trail to Lost Canyon Cave, which is the same trail we were on except Lost Canyon is further back the cove, so we went to these next. Lenora Well appeared to have opened of its own accord due to a sink collapse. It was 48 feet deep. The second, One Arm Pit., was dug open by Doug Strait, who lives nearby, and some others just a few years back. A tight climbdown of about twelve feet lead to a 45-foot pit. Though shallow by TAG standards, both Lenora's Well and One Arm Pit were okay once past the awkward entrances.

Damien had to return to his home in Knoxville that evening. Jon and I made plans for some additional pitting on Sunday. We got off to an early start and were on our way to Lot 41 Cave by 9AM. This cave was near the valley floor, so we simply hiked the half mile trail straight from our camping area. An entrance climbdown totaling about 20 feet in two stages dropped us into a room with a narrow

canyon leading upwards. The canyon popped out into a stair-step drop of 27 and 23 feet.

After returning to our vehicles (at the camping area) we drove back up the mountain to a point just below our parking area from the day before (at Johnsons Crook). Jon took me to three small pits in close proximity to each other. A short scramble down a dense saw-briar infested jagged escarpment led us to Richards Pit, a 50-footer with a very nice flowstone cascade lining the last 20 feet of the shaft. Dean Pit was located just above the road from our parking spot and was a nice open air 53-footer. Our last stop was Rock Shelter Pit, which as the name implies was inside a large natural rock shelter, only a short distance below the road and within a hundred feet of our vehicles. Jon said it was a frequently visited 44-foot pit as evidenced by the polished nature of the lip. All three pits were pretty mundane by TAG standards, though if they were in Maryland or the panhandle of West Virginia, they' be considered classics.

Jon had taken me to four new-to-me pits that morning, plus two new ones the day before, so I was satisfied. It was only early afternoon. I hadn't seen Marion and Sharon in a long time, so I decided to make a detour on the way home and pay them a short visit. Marion was taking pain medication for his shingles and seemed in good spirits. I spent the remainder of the afternoon chatting with the two of them and then had an easy night-time drive back to Maryland. My thanks to Jon Zetterberg for graciously postponing their de-rig until I had a chance to tape one of TAG's newest hundred footers. Hopefully it won't be another year-plus before I get back down to TAG to see old friends, do some nice pits, and maybe even collect a hundred-footer or two.



Oct. 28th; Corey Hackley, Terry McClanathan

New Years Day Cave, Bedford Co., Pa

Another of Corey's cave projects in the Beans Cove area of southern Bedford County, not far above the Md. line. This was actually a cave found in the

1980's but later sealed shut with collapse debris, which is how it remained for decades. Recently Corey and members of the Western Md. grotto have succeeded in re-opening it. Then just a few weeks ago Corey and another broke through into a steep down-trending passage that soon developed into a couple of pits. I was on my way to a weekend of caving in West Virginia, but needed to pick up my disto from Corey, so he invited me on a tourist trip to New Years to check out the new pits.

It was past 9AM Thursday night when we finally entered. The cave is a series of downclimbs which connect small rooms. In typical Corey fashion, there were couple of tight contortions but at least I fit (barely). Just after the last awkward spot the first pit was encountered. We taped it at 19 feet. This was followed shortly by a second pit of 29 feet. Corey had some leads to check later so both pits were pre-rigged, and we left them that way. New Years hasn't been surveyed yet, but Corey estimates it to be about 130 feet deep and around 250 feet long. All in all, it was a fun little Pennsylvania multi-drop cave. We exited a little before midnight.

Oct. 29th; Terry McClanathan, Mike Shank, Ryan Mauer, Hope (Ryan's girlfriend)

Cold Fingers Pit, Pocahontas Co., W. Va.

The purpose of the trip was to see if the cave was dry enough for Ryan to get some photos of the new pit found by Shawn Hogbin last January, and first explored by Shawn, me, Corey, and Keely Owen over Labor Day weekend. It was calling for heavy rain that Thursday night and into Friday, but in fact it only rained in the Swago Creek area about half an inch, and the cave was dry. Ryan got some great pictures of the new 64-foot pit, which Shawn named Seasonally Hallowed Well. He (Ryan) hasn't sent them to me yet, so I don't have any for the newsletter at this time. The four of us did have a lot of fun in this interesting little cave.

Oct. 29th, evening: Mike Shank, Terry McClanathan

Elevator Shaft, Shale Bank Pit, Greenbrier Co., W. Va.

We still had some daylight after Cold Fingers so I took Mike to a couple of basically roadside pits. Both are located along Shale Bank Road which is just down from Savannah Lane off U.S. 219 a few miles north of Lewisburg. Elevator Shaft is owned by Alex Lewis who also owns Savannah Lane Cave. He stopped by while we were gearing up and we had a nice chat. Elevator Shaft is one of the prettiest open-air pits in the state, though it's not very deep at only 68 feet. It's a very friendly pit with an easy lip, no loose rocks, completely shear, and would make a great practice pit for folks to gain vertical experience.

Shale Bank Pit is on the opposite side of the road from Elevator Shaft and about 100 yards further along. Just before the road starts an up-hill turn there is a drain on the right (north) side. The pit is only about 100 feet from the road and a little bit to the right of the drain, but the body-sized entrance is not visible until you're about ten feet away. It's really not a bad little pit, being essentially free and 48 feet deep.

Oct. 30th: Mike Shank, Terry McClanathan

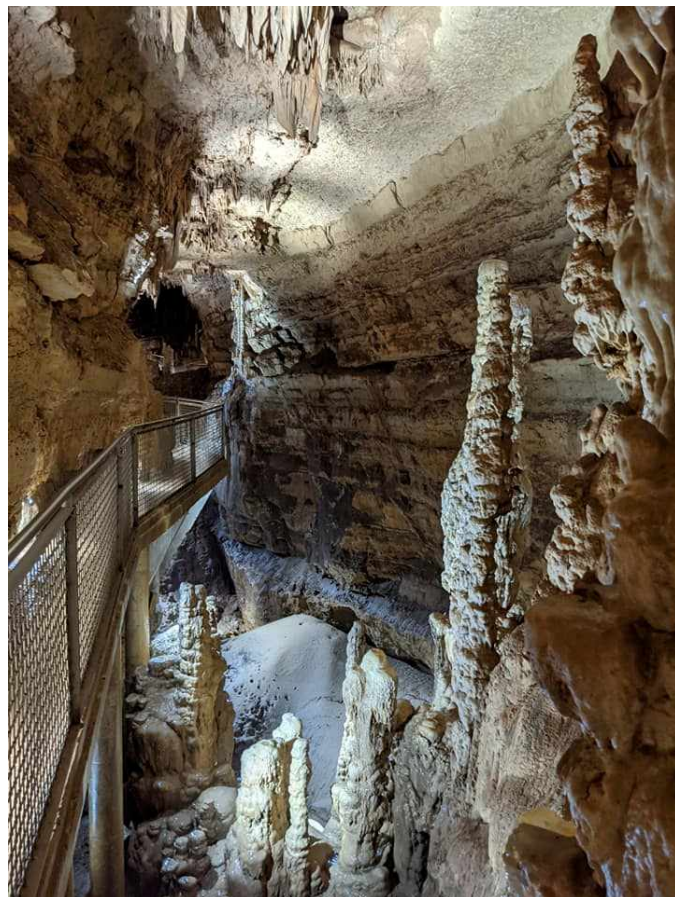
Cable Pit, Greenbrier Co.

This is one of my favorite West Virginia pits. It's a 107- foot drop, which is free once past the lip. It has very nicely fluted smooth walls and in my opinion is the nicest open-air dome pit in the state. However, the owner, Sam Warren, does not encourage visitation. If interested it's best to go with someone he knows. I'm always happy to take people there. A release form is required.

October 30th - **Sarah Furnace Cave**, Clarion Co, PA– Red and I (Tom) with 15 other cavers making up 5 teams to survey. 717 feet of passage was surveyed with 626 feet being new.

There were several new surveyors, so they were divided up with the 5 teams. Leaving us with 31,600 feet or 5.985 miles, 80 feet short of 6 miles. Sarah Furnace is now #150 in the USA. Temperature of the cave was 51 degrees, about 3 degrees more than the outside temperature.

Care & Karst Symposium, San Marcos, TX – Nov 1 thru 6 – Bob Denton and many other geologists



Photos of Natural Bridge Caverns



CAVIN CALENDAR

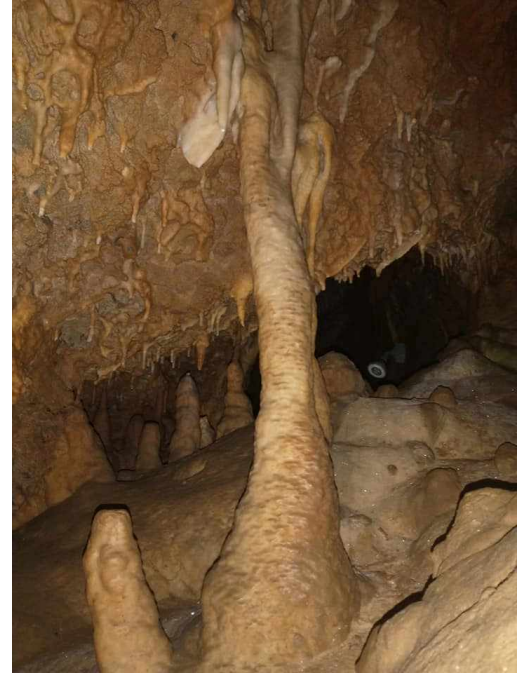
NOVEMBER 7TH - DECEMBER 18TH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 7 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS	Nov 8	Nov 9	Nov 10 Meeting 7pm - Nominations for Officers -Live & Virtual Marine Corp Birthday Vivian Monger-JQ Birthday	Nov 11 Veterans Day	Nov 12	Nov 13 WWASS meeting Cancelled Sadie Hawkins Day WWCC Banquet Cancelled
Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18	Nov 19	Nov 20
Nov 21 Hello World Day	Nov 22	Nov 23	Nov 24	Nov 25 THANKS GIVING DAY	Nov 26 Day After Thanksgiving	Nov 27
Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4 National Cookie Day
Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Day	Dec 8 Meeting 7pm - Live & Virtual - Elections National Brownie Day	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11  Annual TSG Christmas Celebration - 6pm
Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16	Dec 17	Dec 18



DEAD DOG DISPATCH
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(Upper left) Fall TAG Cave-In (by Ashley Hitchcock) (Upper Right) Tumbling Rock Cave (by Ashley Hitchcock) (Middle Left) Sarah Furnace Cave (by Red Schock) (Middle Right) Crystal Grottoes (by Adam Haines) (Lower Left) TSG Auction (by Elysia Mathias) (Lower Right) Crystal Grottoes (by Elysia Mathias)

The Annual Grotto Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 11th, 2021

Time: 6PM until (?) whenever!

The party will be held at the
Bedington Ruritan.

Bring a cover dish (with food of course) and your families and celebrate the joyous season with your fellow cavers & friends! The Grotto will furnish a ham, plates, eating utensils, napkins, sodas, ice, & veggies.

There will be pictures & slides of caving trips and events to show. If anyone has any pictures &/or slides bring them along to show.

There will be a squeeze box for those who want to show off how small of a hole they can get through. For those who would like to help decorate, please arrive about 2 hours early to help out since Paulette is incapacitated!

CYALL at the party. Paulette says that you better be here!

BYOB!