



COGSQUEAKS

March 2002



C.O.G. Chairman Joe Gibson in the Second Room of Peter Cave

Photo by Cat Whitney

INFORMATION PAGE

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the national Speleological Society meets at 8:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the second Friday of most months. The church is on the northwest corner of the square in Worthington. Parking is available behind the church. Enter the parking lot from the first side street off State Route 161. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place. The December meeting is not held at the church.

<i>Grotto Officers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NSS #</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Chairman	Joe Gibson	37353	614-855-7948
Vice Chair	Dale Andreatta	46408	614-890-3269
Secretary	Cat Whitney	46331	614-851-6933
Treasurer	Karen Walden	15678	740-965-2942

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COG WEB page: www.tuningoracle.com/cog/

Webmaster – Kevin Toepke: ktoepke@tuningoracle.com

List servers

Cog@ontosystems.com – Central Ohio Grotto

KCS@ontosystems.com – Kentucky Speleological Survey Please join by sending e-mail with the subject **subscribe**.

Grotto Membership Dues \$15 per individual or \$20 per family.

The C.O.G. Squeaks

The C.O.G. Squeaks is the official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto. Articles on cave exploration and study, cave trips reports, cave fiction, cave poetry, cave-related cartoons, cave-related art or photographs are encouraged. Please note that I have a 35mm film scanner and a flat bed scanner. I can handle negatives up to 4 X 5 inches. So, please send me your photos, negatives, or slides for inclusion in the Squeaks. Send material to Bill Walden via mail, e-mail, disk, fax, or even dictation.

NSS organizations may reprint material from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit unless stated otherwise. Send E-mail to Bill Walden if you want a Word file of the Squeaks to reprint.

The C.O.G. Squeaks is mailed to dues paying members and to grottos with which the COG exchanges newsletters. The C.O.G. Squeaks is also available by E-mail as an Adobe Acrobat file (PDF). Please notify Bill Walden or Andy Franklin if you want the PDF version (It's in full color).

C.O.G. Cabin The Grotto has a small shelter cabin on the property of Greg and Angela Erisman in Pulaski County, Kentucky for the use of C.O.G. members and friends. The cabin has five bunks and a picnic table. Outside of the cabin and a very short distance from the cabin is a practice-climbing tower for rope climbing. There is plenty of room for tents on the property.

COG KARST CALENDAR

March 8, 2002 **COG Meeting.** There is an executive committee meeting at 7 p.m. before the general meeting. This is an open meeting. The main topic is the 50th anniversary of the Central Ohio Grotto.

Meeting program is Sketching to Scale by Bill Walden.

March 10-17 Jason's (Gulley)"on my spring break I am going caving all week" cave-a-thon in Pulaski County.

He will need willing bodies to act as Sherpas for diving equipment. I will be joining in during the evenings and on the 15-17th. We hope to get considerable mapping done on the I-66 work and perhaps a connection or two?

March 16, 2002 COG Caving weekend. Peter Cave Survey and help Lee Florea. See "Jason's" above.

March 23, 2002 **BOG Meeting hosted by DUG DUG 10th anniversary Bash**

Visit <http://www.dugcaves.com/bog/index.html>

March 23, 2002 Lost River Field Trip. See page 6.

April 3-5, 2002 Geological Society of America combined Southeastern and North Central section Annual Meeting, Lexington, KY

April 12, 2002 COG Meeting

April 13 & 14 KSS Meeting and work party.

April 13 & 14 Visit working limestone quarry courtesy of Jan Campbell and Paul Unger. Camping at Paul and Jan's. Please see page 6.

April 20, 2002 COG Caving weekend

May 4-5, 2002 **Mammoth Restoration weekend.**

Visit <http://www.restorationcamp.org/> for Additional information or ask Cat Whitney.

May 10, 2002 COG Meeting

May 18, 2002 COG Caving weekend

May 24, 25, 26 & 27. **31st Annual Kentucky Speleofest.**

Hosted by The Louisville Grotto during Memorial Day Weekend. KSS will have a booth at this years Speleofest. Come and help. Visit the WEB site.

<http://www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto/speleofest/>

June 1, 2002 Lost Rive Field Trip. See page 6.

June 24-28, 2002 **NSS Convention**, Camden, Maine

July 19-21, 2002 **Karst O Rama** at GSP Contact Wayne Barton at barton@fuse.net or (513) 961-5183.

Aug 4 – 10, 2002 **Mammoth Restoration Field Camp.** Visit the WEB site (see May 4) or ask Cat Whitney.

Sept 28, 2002 **OVR Redmond Clean up**

October 5, 2002 Lost River Field Trip. See page 6.

August 4-8, 2003 **NSS Convention**, Poterville, Cal.

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Attending an NCRC Weekend Class

by Cat Whitney

For two years I have wanted to attend an NCRC Basic Cave Rescue Orientation class. Each time the class has been offered, I have had scheduling conflicts and have been unable to attend. In December of 2001, I made the decision that I would attend the next session offered close to home, *no matter what*. As the information became available about the date, time and location, I made my reservations and sent in my registration form for the class.

I arrived at Carter on Friday night and went to sleep early so that I would be well rested for the following day. On Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. a large group of students gathered in the Grayson Room to embark on an experience that would change each of us. The class began with an introduction by Anmar Mirza that outlined course, and it's instructors, and gave a brief overview of the NCRC, as well as caving and cave rescue.

The first lecture covered the basics of Cave Rescue Operations and Management. The command structure for a cave rescue was reviewed and explanations of each of the key section functions were covered. A Logistics Section Resource Location Chart was provided to students, which prompted a short discussion on caver creativity in acquiring necessary resources for a rescue situation. Equipment Planning and Packaging, Cave First Aid, Basic Medical Equipment and rescue documentation were also covered.

After our morning break we dove right into the unique challenges of effective Communication at a cave rescue. Typical methods for in cave, out of cave and with public communications were discussed. Effective and methodical cave search techniques were explained in cooperation with the Initial Response teams responsibilities. A short lecture followed regarding the sensitive nature of Media Interaction at a cave rescue and then we were released for lunch.

At 12:30 classroom instruction resumed with lectures on Medical Considerations, Psychological Considerations, Hypothermia (it's prevention and management) and Difficult Evacuations and Water Problems. At 2:00 p.m. we were dismissed and instructed to suit up in full caving gear as if we were actually going caving. We reconvened in the parking lot at the side of the lodge to find several pieces of equipment, blankets and sleeping bags piled on the concrete pad. An instructor named Julia began demonstrating the proper packaging techniques for a sked, a litter and a ferno. Once our victims were properly secured we began a training exercise that allowed us hands on experience with different methods of carrying a patient out of a cave. We reviewed and over-the-legs technique, a full body sliding technique, the turtle, and a standard litter carry.

Upon the completion of the demonstrations, the instructors broke us up into four groups. Each group would have a couple of instructors and one volunteer victim. We were told to move our victim up and down the hillside as if we were in an actual cave

situation. Flagging tape markers indicated the ceiling and wall limitations of "the cave" and alerted us to "cave formations". An IC (Incident Commander) was assigned to lead each team of 16-20 rescuers. Our team leader was a caver by the name of John Ring. The obstacle course took us down the hillside, around a few trees in a tight turn, then under a ledge and back up over the opposite side of the ledge, up the hillside and then down again to rest at an outcropping where we switched litter victims with another team.

Our "Bat" Don Kemper had continually provided tips and guidance on the way into "the cave". One of the points that he emphasized was that we should try to remember our path and note how we negotiated obstacles or tight turns on the way in to the cave as this would be useful on our way back out. With this knowledge in our minds, we found "the cave" much easier to negotiate on the way back through, even though our new victim was considerably larger and heavier than our last. Once we had our victim outside "the cave" and up to safety all the teams were debriefed and released for dinner.

Once fed, the group returned to the Grayson room for a quick briefing of tomorrow's main event - the Mock Cave Rescue. The evening Field Practice Hands On Session that followed the briefing from 7:30 - 9:30 was an optional activity. I decided it would be a good idea to attend this optional training. Small groups of students wandered from station to station learning the different techniques of securing patients and working with the communications equipment. Only a small group of students took advantage of this evening session, which allowed for a lot of one on one with the instructors. I found this practice class to be invaluable. It provided me with an opportunity to participate in each function and to ask questions as they arose. Our last victim Lori Steele, was a great sport. She had reported having a possible fracture in her femur, so we splinted her, wrapped her in blankets, secured her in the sked and began our transportation test. We lifted her, tilted her vertically to the floor, returned her to a lift position and then promptly flipped her over so that she was now facing the floor from a 3-foot horizontal position. She giggled the entire time. Once the practice class was dismissed, the instructors headed back to their cabin for a debriefing and planning session.

Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. we all gathered once again in the Grayson Room. Our instructions from the night before had been to dress as if we were going caving and bring your cave pack. We would be given more information upon arrival. As we walked through the doors, Don Kemper assigned us each a team number, 1-4. At 8:40 a.m. Team One was dispatched first as the IRT (Initial Response Team) after a short briefing of the information currently available on the situation. What we knew: Two, possibly three individuals had gone caving in a local cave the day before and had not returned home. Their uncle had placed the call to the local sheriff's department to report them missing. The team was loaded into a van and taken to the scene -

Jarvie's Roark a.k.a. Burchett's Cave. John Ring had been assigned the position of IC for the scene.

Around 9:10 a.m. Team Three was dispatched with a little more information and a short needs list. After the team had procured the needed items, they too boarded the van and headed for the scene. Team's Two and Four then began a skill assessment to determine how we could best support the crew currently on sight. A list of medically trained personnel was assembled as well as a caving skills inventory. The runner arrived back to the waiting area around 9:30 with an additional list of needed supplies and a little more information. They had found two of the three confirmed individuals. They had been unsuccessful in locating the third individual; a teenage girl named Amanda. Team Two departed to assist in the search and rescue while Team Four remained behind and continued to discuss ways that we could be of further assistance. Around 10:30 a.m. Team Four was requested as a back up resource team. We were instructed to bring with us: Food, Water, Batteries, 2-Way Radios, and blankets. We were ready and loaded into the transport van in less than four minutes.

Once on the scene, we checked in with the IC and relinquished the requested items. We were told to rest and wait for further instructions. It was an absolutely lovely day to do so. The sun was shining brightly, there was a slight breeze and the temperature hovered around an unbelievable 60 degrees. Around 11:05 a runner from inside the cave informed us that the third person had been found. She was reported to have multiple injuries and be suffering from hypothermia. A few minutes later, our "landowner" played by Don Kemper showed up angry and suspicious, wanting to know what all these people were doing on his land. The IC was fetched and he explained to the landowner what we were doing there and why.

At 11:22 a.m. our team leader split us into four sub-teams. The first sub-team would immediately go into the cave and act as a "fresh" team to assist those rescuers who had been in the cave all morning. The second team was split into perimeter sentinels and runners to acquire lunch. Team 3 would remain on Standby and Team 4 (my team) would prepare the lunch once it arrived and then take it in to the teams at the staging area inside the cave. Once that was done - we would serve as a fresh staging team and would be the primary litter moving team. At 12:14 Team 3 was moved into the cave. At 12:25 lunch arrived and our team immediately began preparing portable versions of lunch for the staging crews. We signed into the cave at 12:40 and began the short seven minutes journey into the cave. Our in cave contact was volunteer Coy Ainsley. He led us to the first Comm area and we fed that crew. As we moved further into the cave, we distributed lunch supplies as we came across volunteers. Once at the staging area we settled in and began the wait. Call outs were coming to us about every 5-10 minutes about the status of the patient and the current location of the litter. At one point we thought we were 5 minutes from beginning transport, but were informed that it would be another 10-15 as they were repackaging the victim for easier transport through the upper canyon levels of the cave. Around 1:10 we caught sight of the victim and the transport crew that moved the litter closer. As the

victim got closer we noticed that she had become a he. No matter, the transport would still be handled the same.

I placed half of my team at the hand down point and the other half in the stream passage just beneath that station. It worked beautifully. The fresh team three that had gone in before us was staged ahead of us in the stream passage and moved the litter along beautifully. We stopped a couple of times because we hadn't planned properly for our teams to leapfrog around the choke points. It only took a couple of minutes each time to rectify the situation. Once we got the victim into the larger stream passage, the transport moved quickly. The victim reached the entrance to the cave at 2:15. The Mock Rescue was successful and had taken less time than anticipated. After a short debrief by Anmar, our teams began the climb up the hill and back to the parking area where Bruce Bannerman had set up a kitchen and had lunch waiting for all of us.



At 3:30 we gathered one more time as a group for the weekend debrief. Anmar gave his summary of the rescue and afforded all of the instructors the opportunity to provide feedback on how each of them thought the day had gone. The comments that were offered were helpful and specific. Certain individuals who had held key positions within the central team were recognized. John

Ring, in particular, had done an excellent job as IC and was offered an 8.5 overall rating for his efforts. The instructors passed out our class cards as we all said our good-byes.

I came away from this weekend with a number of awareness': First, I have a greater appreciation for all of the energy and planning that goes into a cave rescue. Secondly, I am more in tune with the importance and emphasis that needs to be placed on team coordination and support. Lastly and most personally I have a heightened level of respect for those individuals who lead or participate in actual cave rescues on a regular basis. The jovial attitudes of the instructors and the sense of camaraderie that we

felt with one another as the weekend went on did not mask the fact that this is one tough job, especially since most rescues are managed and manned by volunteers.

I want to take a moment to thank all of the instructors who made this weekend class a possibility: Bruce Bannerman, Randy Bugh, Jim Johnson, Don Kemper, Jim Lewis, Anmar Mirza, Amanda Mortimer, Dave "Lurch" Randall, Dave Short and Julia Smith. These people gave up their weekend free time (caving time) and paid their own way so that they could provide the opportunity for all of us to take this class on Cave Rescue. I believe their dedication, expertise and willingness to perform this function on a completely volunteer basis deserves recognition and appreciation from all of us who attended the weekend session. Thanks!

DAYTON UNDER GROUND GROTTO TENTH ANNIVERSARY

March 23, 2002

From Colin Gatland

Anyone and everyone that has had a hand in making the Dayton Underground Grotto what it is today...

Andy Niekamp has taken on the daunting task of making this 10th anniversary bash happen. This has been no easy task I can assure you. A small group of DUGsters has been working hard on this for many months now. With everything that has gone into this celebration, please don't miss being there.

DUG has gone from being nearly broke to having a healthy coffer because of our membership. We as a grotto spend money every year on the IKC, SCCI, GSP, various rescue squads and landowners, to name but a few. We have always put those things first, this is a once in 10 year chance to give some back to our members. This party is a way for all of us to pat ourselves on the back for having such a damn fine grotto...and we deserve it!

I have been in this grotto since the start, I have seen many come and go. I have seen many grow with DUG, the changes are amazing. We have a hell of a bond here...

When Andy says that after March 16th it's over, he means it. We are having a catered dinner, not just food from Arbys. This is a catered meal and the catering company has to have a week minimum for the order to be taken care of. Cavers procrastinate, I know because I do too. If you want to show up you have to get your reservation in ASAP. If you just show up, you are out of luck, sorry. That is out of our control. It's all on the web site...

\$10.00 isn't bad when you realize that the grotto is picking up the remaining \$15-\$20.00 that it is costing per person. Again, we are trying to be top shelf here. Although my primary thing is getting through the BOG meeting with Mike Hood, I still sit in on the BASH meetings.

If nothing else, come for the slide show I'm putting together. I honestly don't know how many more "traditional" multi image shows I will be doing in the future. This might just be it, as digital presentations are becoming the norm. Still substandard to slides, but a hell of a lot cheaper. Or come for the dancing or Tama's unique decorations, or Traci's great DJ show or the special DUG Anniversary gifts that are being given out to everyone...hey there is a lot of stuff planned!

I have seen the list of people coming and although it is riddled with a lot of good people, there are many whose names are not on the list yet. If someone can drive from upstate New York to be here, then local members need a good excuse if they don't come.

Bottom line is that it has taken the help of a lot of folks to make DUG what it is today. Grottos from Cincinnati, Springfield, Lexington and Columbus have all had a hand in helping us grow. We just want to say thanks and give something back to our membership and friends of DUG.

Don't blow the opportunity to help us celebrate. Get registered and let us have the chance to say thanks for a great 10 years!

Thanks Cavers! Colin

The Doors Open at 5pm, The Catered Dinner is served at 7pm Party & Dance Afterwards, Party ends at ???

Dress: Caver Casual - Come as you are!

Open to all cavers!

Polish Club Banquet Hall

1470 Valley Street

Dayton, Ohio

Cost \$15 / person non- DUG, \$10.00 / person DUG member.

CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO - MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 08, 2002

By Cat Whitney with additional information provided by Kevin Toepke

Treasurer's Report

Interest	\$ 0.56
Expenses	\$ 61.04
Squeaks postage	\$ 41.04
Squeaks Xerox cost	\$ 20.00
Balance	\$753.13

- \$100.00 check has been sent to the church
- Separate project fund was set up and started with \$20.00

Old Business

- Update on Boone Karst Conservation Task Force I-66 Update
- Upcoming 50th Birthday Party of the Grotto in 2004
 - Need to elect Chair for the event - recommended Lacie Braley
 - Executive Meeting should be held next month at 7:00 p.m. prior to regular meeting
 - 50th Anniversary Edition of the Squeaks - need ideas and submissions
- Bill gave an overview about Peter Cave, it's location and unique geology
- Membership list has been updated and distributed. Any changes see Bill.
- Annual paperwork submitted to NSS.

New Business

- COG Field House Upgrades by Joe Gibson - We now have an outhouse door and new toilet seat
- Joe talked to a contractor regarding a sink for the COG Field House
- Roland has a sink that he would be willing to donate.
- Kevin Toepke brought up an idea to create a flyer to post at the local outdoor stores to advertise our grotto meetings - to encourage new membership. Steve Aspery volunteered to create a flyer to hang around town regarding the grotto and meetings.
- KSS Update by Daryll Adkins - they now have 26 members

The Squeaks

- February Issue is out and available on the Web at www.tuningoracle.com/cog
- Bill brought framed December-February covers for the photographers
- Bill brought a framed copy of February for the cover girl Alice Woznak

Toy Committee Report

- Don Conover brought a Heat Seeker
- Kevin Toepke reported that Galyans has restocked the Black Diamond lights

Trip Reports

- Bruce Warthman and Lou Simpson and others made a trip to Black House Mountain
- Joe Gibson said his first Crawl-a-thon was fun.
- Cat led trips at Crawl-a-thon for CCSRP
- Lee Florea and Bill Walden did a Short Creek push
- Bill and Joe surveyed 24 stations in Peter Cave.

Youth Committee

There are no updates at this time.

Future Trips and Events

- Price Valley and a Peter Cave Photo & Survey Trip on COG Weekend in February.
- NCRRC Orientation to Cave Rescue February 23 and 24 at CCSRP.
- Mammoth Cave Restoration Weekend March 9 and 10.
- DUG 10th Anniversary Bash - March 23 and NSS BOG Meeting
- NSS Convention - Camden, ME June 24-28, 2002
- Don't forget OVR - September 28th - Redmond Creek is the Project

Next Grotto Meeting will be Friday, March 8, 2002 at 8:00 p.m.
Executive Committee for 50th Anniversary will meet at 7:00 p.m.

WEB SITES TO VISIT

By Bill Walden

C.O.G. WEB page: www.tuningoracle.com/cog/

KSS: www.ksscaves.org/

NSS: www.caves.org

Cleveland Grotto: <http://www.clevelandgrotto.org/>

Dayton Underground Grotto: www.dugcaves.com/

ESSO Grotto: www.essogrotto.com/

Greater Cincinnati Grotto: www.caves.org/grotto/gcg/

WUSS: www4.wittenberg.edu/student_organizations/wuss/

Blue Grass Grotto: <http://webpub.com/jhagee/bgg.html>

Pine Mountain Grotto: www.caves.org/grotto/pmg/

Ohio Valley Region: www.webpub.com/jhagee/ovr.html

Cavers Digest: www.ditell.com/~cavers/

Bob and Bob: <http://www.4bobandbob.com/>

Kentucky geo info: <http://Kymartian.state.ky.us/>

Roger Brucker: www.rogerbrucker.com

Cave Research Foundation: www.cave-research.org/

Bat Conservation International: www.batcon.org

DUG's Bash: <http://www.dugcaves.com/bash/>

Speleobooks: <http://www.speleobooks.com/>

IMO: www.caves.org/imo

LOST RIVER FIELD TRIPS FOR 2002.

Saturday March 23rd, June 1st, and October 5th

Tours of Indiana's Lost River Karst System are being offered by the Lost River Conservation Association (LRCA). These tours are free, open to the public, and will be done in your own car. All tours are a "GO-especially if it rains". Tours will involve moderate hiking at some stops, which are optional. We recommend sturdy footwear, long sleeve shirts, long pants (even in hot weather), camera, sunscreen, bug repellent, binoculars, etc.. Reservations are not necessary.

These field trips will feature an orientation to the "Classic Portion" of "Indiana's Lost River Karst System". The tours will depart at 8AM from the southeast corner of the town square in Orleans, Indiana (Junction of SR 37 & SR 337). An orientation presentation begins at 7: 40AM. The tour will end at approx. 4PM at the Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve. The stops-in-route will include numerous roadside interpretive sites and opportunities to visit some significant features (i.e. the First Sink, the Terminus Zone, a major swallow hole, and the Elrod Gulf). The route will provide views overlooking the valley of Lost River in the Mitchell (sinkhole) Plain and of the Chester Escarpment.

We believe that "Indiana's Lost River Karst System" must be viewed in the context of the total river system to be fully appreciated. We also include samplings of the area's historic heritage to broaden your horizons. The goal is to promote the idea that the entire drainage basin of Indiana's Lost River is so unique and so rich in overall heritage resources that it is worthy of being designated a "Wild and Scenic River" and "World Heritage Site."

You may also choose to do the tour in 2 half-day increments. We return to the town square in Orleans for our lunch stop between Noon and 1 PM. For information on the Lost River offerings or to arrange for other tours please contact-the LRCA c/o Bob Armstrong, Chairman, 3101 Washington Blvd., Indianapolis., **IN 46205**. You may also leave a telephone message for Bob Armstrong or Dee Slater@ (317) 253-6951. To be placed on the mailing list for event notices, send a written request to the above address.

The LRCA is a designated Conservation Task Force of the National Speleological Society.

LOST RIVER CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Robert R. Armstrong, Chairman
3101 N. Washington Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46205-3932

To Friends of Lost River,

Interest in our special river is increasing. The expenses for providing information and mailing continue to rise. The river is not yet in a permanently protected state and is not likely to be so for some time to come. We are vigorously continuing our educational and awareness efforts.

We could use some financial help this year toward the cost of launching next year's effort. If possible, please send your contributions to the L.R.C.A., in care of me, at the above address. Thanks again to all those who have helped out in the past. Thanks in advance to those who can help out this year.

COG QUARRY VISIT

The COG will be Hosted by Duff's Quarry Saturday morning, April 13 at 10 AM. This is a Silurian quarry noted for its fossils and gem quality iron pyrite. Bring your hard hats as this is an active operation. Also, hammers for collecting purposes. A tour of the cementing operations can be arranged if there is interest, but the focus will be on pit operations.

The plan will be for those who want to drive to Jackson Center after the COG meeting on the 12th where there will be pizza furnished at

Jan's and Paul's residence. Bring your own thirst quencher. In addition, a movie on the development of Kirchner Caverns will be shown. This is a cavers' movie, so real that you can feel the cave. Plenty of floor space for sleeping. Next morning breakfast will be secured at the local Hobo's restaurant before going to the quarry. A map to Jackson Center and the quarry will be supplied in the next Squeaks.

CAVE AND KARST EXPLORATION IN THE BAHAMAS

(or what I did on my winter vacation)

By Lee Florea

Part II: Sandy Point

After the first two days on the island of San Salvador, Bahamas, our group of intrepid cavers had connected a newly discovered cave, CK1, to the second largest cave on the island, Majors. This connection, 200 feet of some of the most difficult caving with several constrictions and contortions, created the deepest dry cave in the Bahamas at 58 feet. Further work occurred on Hog Cay during the rest of the trip; however, I will jump to other activities on the south side of the island that were the root cause of my travels.

We had arrived on Thursday, December 27th. On the 29th, Mylroie led his annual island karst trip. This trip rings the island showing multiple examples of “flank margin” caves. Flank margin caves are not formed by the same processes as those familiar to most in the central US. They are mixing chambers, not conduits; as such they form without an entrance. They are only enterable when erosion processes cause the land surface to intersect the cave void. These caves form when fresh water saturated with respect to limestone mixes with saltwater saturated with respect to limestone. The mixing produces a new solution with additional dissolution capability. The mixing occurs at the halocline, the boundary between freshwater and saltwater. This mixing is most pronounced at the margin of the flank of eolianite (old, vegetated carbonate sand dune) ridges.

The effect of erosion on the present day morphology of flank margin caves is well pronounced at Sandy Point on the southwest tip of the island. Here, a Pleistocene (125,000 year old) eolianite ridge has been partially eroded by changing sea levels. As one walks along the ridge face, they can see the progression from a sea cliff where the flank margin caves have been virtually removed in the south, to a fully intact ridge in the north. Only an irregular notch remains to the south at Dripping Rock Cave (nothing but an overhang); and in the north, Altar Cave has only been slightly breached, leaving a large almost intact chamber. It was this cave that drew me to the island for my studies, and the National Speleological Society provided \$1000 in research grant money to make the study a reality.

The basis of the study was to investigate the sedimentation record in Altar Cave. During the study, I would be digging three trenches spaced in the cave to look at the sediment profile and to take samples for C¹⁴ analysis. To aid in the study, I would conduct an accurate re-survey of the cave. This visit on the 29th was a reconnaissance mission, and Erik Mylroie and I ran to the cave and started some test pits and flag off sites for further study.

Soon thereafter we were back on the truck and on our way to the Sandy Point Pits Complex. The Field Station trucks are an experience in of themselves. They are old GMC Diesel full size flat beds with railings and benches welded on the bed to ride on.

The salt air, rough roads, and lack of proper tools had taken their toll. They rattle, grind, and bump along the unkempt highways barely under Mylroie's control as we clutch for dear life to the rails holding our hats on in the wind. For as everyone learns the first time on the truck, to have something fall off is to have truck duty upon return to the station at the end of the day.

The region around Sandy Point is a perfect example of “Island Optimism”. In the early 70's, a development firm came up with a master plan to turn the entire island into a resort called Columbus Landing. A lack of knowledge of hydrology and climatology was to become their downfall. Oceanic islands are another example of the saying “water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink”. Human life depends upon fresh water for survival, and islands like San Salvador puts this to the test. San Sal has a negative water budget meaning that more water evaporates from the surface than falls as rain. For this reason, almost all of the interior lakes are hypersaline (saltier than seawater). Fresh water can only be found in a few locations on the surface such as some bogs on the Hard Bargain Trail in the interior, and a few blue holes like Inkwell. Most freshwater is in the ground under eolianite ridges where it pools as a lens since freshwater floats on saltwater. This supply is limited and of insufficient supply to support a large resort population. The Columbus Landing project fell through and all that is left today are a network of roads on the south end of the island, a few worn signs, and a half dozen houses.

Groups from the Field Station use this network of roads and none better than Mylroie. In fact, at one point during the trip he used a cutoff known to him to jump in front of the UNCW group without their knowing. Forgive me for my ramblings, I will return to the story at hand.

For the rest of the day we spent time looking at caves on Sandy Point. The Sandy Point Pit Complex is an area stripped of soil during the planned development. This has exposed the dramatic epikarstic surface, and shows how complex and integrated the karst features are below the soil mantle. Rain basins (or kaminitza) collect water and funnel it through solution channels (rillenkarren) into small tubes less than a meter below the surface. These tubes collect and plunge up to 30 feet into pits such as at Owl's Hole or Triple Shaft.

A short drive and hike found us on the beach near Sandy Point. Since the sand was down, we experienced Chinese Fire Drill Cave (or Airplane Hole) the way it was intended. A small sink contains a ten-foot long tube that is 2 feet wide and 8 inches tall. The other end is a sea cliff suspended about 5 feet above the beach. After squeezing through, one poses as an airplane, rotates, and grabs the top of the cliff to pull out of the hole and back to

the top. It is a great time, especially for those who are not blessed with 8-inch crawls every time they go underground. I set a new personal record, 7 seconds.

The Mississippi State group is well renown for its “work hard, play hard” philosophy. We are up and ready to go by 8 in the morning and we work hard till 4:30. Then we are out at the bar just about every night. Other groups have different approaches, but none put in the combination of work and play hours that we do. So Saturday night was like most others: a lecture on reef-fish by Jim Carew, the hike to the Short Stop, a 40 of rum, dancing, and the hike home (Which is always at least 30% longer due to the zig-zag effect. Luckily the haulback keeps one confined between the ditchlines). What happened when I returned to the Field Station that night will require some background development, so bear with me.

As I said before, I had been on this trip before with Mylroie in 1999-2000. During this trip I had met Karoline Jarr whom many of you have heard me mention before. She was with the Emporia group out of Kansas. We hit it off real well and were together for a year. We still talk, and just before the trip she told me that another of her friends that went with her last time, Paula Pilcher, would be there. Quite honestly, I had forgotten what Paula looked like; and though I kept my eye out for her, I had not picked her out yet. So that Saturday night, I swallowed my pride (and a lot of rum) and walked with Adam Price up to a couple of girls that I knew were from Emporia.

“Is one of you Paula?” I asked.

“I am.” Said the one with long curly brown hair and blue eyes. “You must be Karoline’s Lee.” She smiled.

My breath sucked in sharply. So I was not the only one informed. We talked and Adam started talking to the other girl, Kristen. The conversation was going great and soon the four of us were wandering on the dock and beach below the Field Station. We walked and talked for the next two hours.

Many of you are laughing and saying that you know where this is going. I will stop you and just say “No”. Though, as you can imagine, this sets the stage for some very interesting developments later in the trip. We mutually decided that it was time for bed, since we were the only four up at this point. I lay in my bed that night smiling and reminiscing of times gone by and thinking about just how small the world can be.

Sunday was designated as a “break day” by Mylroie (an unusual event). I was up 7AM and feeling good after breakfast. I was not the only one. PJ, Don, Stephanie, and Tony Crump were there and together we made our morning plans. While the others were resting or doing laundry, we would hike to Crescent Top Cave to take samples and remove temperature data loggers Tony had installed some months before. This would also be my first chance to use my new machete, rock hammer, and other field equipment that had finally arrived on the plane Friday afternoon. By the time we were ready, Adam, Trent, and Clayton had joined us.

The eight of us set off through the interior on the trail system behind the field station. On the way we passed by several caves I visited on my previous trip: Reckly Hill Water Cave, Garden Cave and Garden Annex, and Pipe Cave. We soon made it to Crescent Top, took the rock samples and data loggers, and were back at the station by 10:30 in time for the group meeting.

That afternoon, the group went to Lighthouse Cave, the largest (and most complex) on the island. Lighthouse is a flank margin cave underneath the ridge that contains the lighthouse near the Short Stop in the United Estates settlement. It is a 3-dimensional maze of tubes and rooms. The lowermost section in the back part of the cave is inundated with salt water and responds to the tides. Thus, depending upon when the trip is taken, one may have to hold their breath and duck under sumps into the next air pocket. While the rest of the group was taking the Mylroie led tour, PJ, Don, Steph, and myself went into the water loop to snorkel and take samples of the wall rock below the tide line. We also installed a stand of temperature data loggers in one of the bell holes of the water loop.

Sunday night in was a break from the party. Called a “health night”, its intention was to build up reserves for the planned New Years celebration the next night. After a long, but informative talk on reef life by Dr. Carew, several of us spent the evening in the Field Station snack bar and Lab 7 (the lab set aside for the Mississippi State group). We played cards, dominoes, and when that was not enough we argued about cave formation theories on the island.

On Monday the 31st, I was ready to start my project in earnest. We were Altar Cave by 8:30 AM armed with our digging and survey tools. I had quite a crew with Terri, Steve Charavino, Adam, Cara Gentry, Monica Roth, Jonathan Antia, and Rex. I took Cara, Jonathan, and Rex as my survey team and we started the survey. I put Steve, Adam and Monica setting up a stand with temperature data loggers. Terri began taking photographs and notes. We surveyed 26 stations around the perimeter of the single room cave thus defining its boundaries. We started our trench digging also that day, but I will describe this and my sampling in the next installment. I will skip to the more important stuff, parties!

New Year’s Eve is a special night for anyone who has ever spent it at the Short Stop on San Salvador. The stories that I have from my previous trip will last a lifetime, and I am sure that many of you have heard my tales over drinks at conventions and other caving events. If not, just ask me to do my Jason Gulley New Years impression some time over drinks. This time was no different. By 10PM the music on the dance floor was pulsing, and the rum was flowing through my veins. I was feeling on top of the world. At midnight we watched the ball fall at Times Square and kissed those around us (or anyone willing for that matter) for good luck. The next hour was a blur of drinking, dancing, and laughing.

Around 1AM a very attractive and brightly smiling Paula sat down next to me. “So when are you going to dance with me?” She asked.

“Right now”. Came my obvious reply, and I took her hand.

And how we lit up the dance floor! By 2AM the party was waning, and Paula and I took our leave. The walk to the Field Station was scattered with several pleasant stops on the beach for stargazing and memories of the previous trip. We finally arrived at 3AM to a desolate station, but we knew better than to think that no one was up. There were most certainly groups and couples still on the beach and scattered in the labs and meeting rooms. We found a vacant room in the dorm to continue talking (and, yes it was just talking! OK...maybe 90%). I don't remember much after that.

When the New Year truly began on the morning of Jan 1, 2002 I am not certain. It slowly dissolved from dreams into reality over the course of an hour. I was not certain where I was, but I knew that I was quite comfortable. I also quickly discerned that it was day and not night by the way I had to squint. I also discovered that I was not alone. At my side was a deeply sleeping female. Now that was not all that upsetting, although a little unnerving. I sat up in the bed rubbing the sleep from my eyes. Paula, who I discovered it was upon arising, stirred behind me. Recollection came flooding back.

“Good morning” She said.

“Happy New Year” I replied. “Well now, that was an interesting night.”

“Sure was,” She chuckled. “Let's go get some breakfast before it is put away.”

Smiles were aplenty when we made our disheveled appearance in the cafeteria. Both of us got more than our share of “sure nothing happened”'s, and from the looks of us I cannot say as where I blame them.

The rest of the morning I cleaned up my notes, plotted and sketched a draft of CK1, and prepared for the SCUBA trip that I had sweet-talked my way into. I honestly thought it would be much easier to get underwater while on the island since we were surrounded by it. I had all the gear except for weights and tanks. I won't bore you with details, but I finally borrowed gear for Clayton and Monica from a couple UNCW students, got authorization from the Field Station to rent tanks and weights, and talked Joan Mylroie into driving us to Fernandez Bay. After lunch, we were on our way.

I had only been scuba certified for a month and did my check out dived in a quarry in December with 40-degree water temperatures, so I was really looking forward to getting into some tropical waters. Mother Nature however has her own mind and thought it appropriate to play with us. The weather was windy and cool. When we entered the water, the chop made it difficult to swim to the reefs. Once underwater, the diversity of life was incredible. Literally thousands of brightly colored fish flashed about us on the coral and amongst the sponges. Grouper, nurse sharks, and stingrays hid under ledges and watched our

progress. In all, the three of us spent about 45 minutes underwater before the current and water temperatures got to us.

Tuesday night was another health night and was spent at the UNCW bonfire at the government dock near the Field Station. It was my low night, and I felt more like thought than conversation. So I kept myself amused by watching the UNCW students try to keep the fire alive. By 10PM I gave up and found my bed.

Terri, Erik, Adam, Steve, Jonathan, Mylroie, and I were at Altar Cave again by 9AM Wednesday morning, working hard in the dirt. We continued and completed the trenches for the study and prepared for sample gathering to occur on Friday. After a long, dirty day, we were happy to return to the Field Station wash the sand and guano steeped in our clothes and skin. We had to look our best, because tonight would be a special night.

Every Wednesday night the Riding Rock Inn puts on a Rake and Scrape. They send out their buses to the Field Station in shifts from 8PM to about 2AM. These busses are necessary since the Riding Rock is about 5 miles away on the outskirts of Cockburn (pronounced “co-burn”) Town. This is the largest settlement on this island of 1200 people. The inn is the only resort currently on the island. Club Med is closed due to the slow state of the tourist industry and because of water resource concerns. This could be a story in itself, so I will not tell it here. Divers frequent the inn since they operate a boat that takes daily trips to the wall for some of the most breathtaking diving found in the world. Here the island platform ends and the deep sea begins. The water depth plunges from about 20 feet to over 6,000 feet at never less than a 70-degree slope. The inn has a full bar, where everyone that visits signs his or her name on the wall; and a deck where the music is played at high volume and dancing goes on to the wee hours of the morning.

I ordered my rumrunner, and walked out onto the deck overlooking the great Atlantic Ocean. Waves crashed upon the reef just off the coast. Lightning flickered in cumulonimbus clouds over Nassau over 150 miles away. Orion blazed overhead, brandishing his sword and shield. I sucked in a deep breath of salt air and smiled as the music began. I was having the time of my life.

In my next and final installment, I will conclude the Rake and Scrape night and its outcomes. I will also talk about canoeing the interior, and the details of my study in Altar Cave. Finally, I will delve into Island Funk, good-byes, and the last night blow out.

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KARST – NOT THE BEST PLACE TO BUILD

February 25, 2002

Bowling Green, Kentucky

February 25, 2002 at approximately 5:15 p.m. a major portion of Dishman Lane collapsed into State Trooper Cave. The collapse blocks access to a church and according to the city engineer Mike Gardner, the city lost about 300,000 gallons of water into the cave.

Karl Niles, a caver from Bowling Green, reports:

“I have been caving in State Trooper Cave, Bowling Green, KY for many years now. When the city built a two-lane road over a large portion of the cave system I thought there would be problems. You see the average depth from surface to the cave is less than 50' in many places. Sure enough today at 5:15 PM a 300' long by 200' wide by 50' deep sinkhole collapse took place taking two vehicles with it and a major portion of Dishman Lane. Can you imagine getting off work and driving home when all the sudden you get sucked up by the earth ending up 25' to 30' feet down in the ground. Fortunately, no one was hurt but the vehicles were totaled. I am sure there will be a lot of finger

pointing over this one as the city knew in advance the caves location before any road construction started. It was just a matter of time before this was going to happen. A brand new \$2.5 million church still under construction lies just across the street from the collapse and it too is in jeopardy since the cave runs under it as well. The weather forecast tonight is calling for heavy rains and this cave floods quick. It may be a couple of days afterwards before I can take any pictures of the collapse from the inside and outside. I will try to share them with you on tag-net A.S.A.P.”

From reports in the Bowling Green Daily News it appears that city authorities recognize the problems of building on karst and are working with cavers who are donating their services to the city.

I suspect that we haven't heard the last of this.

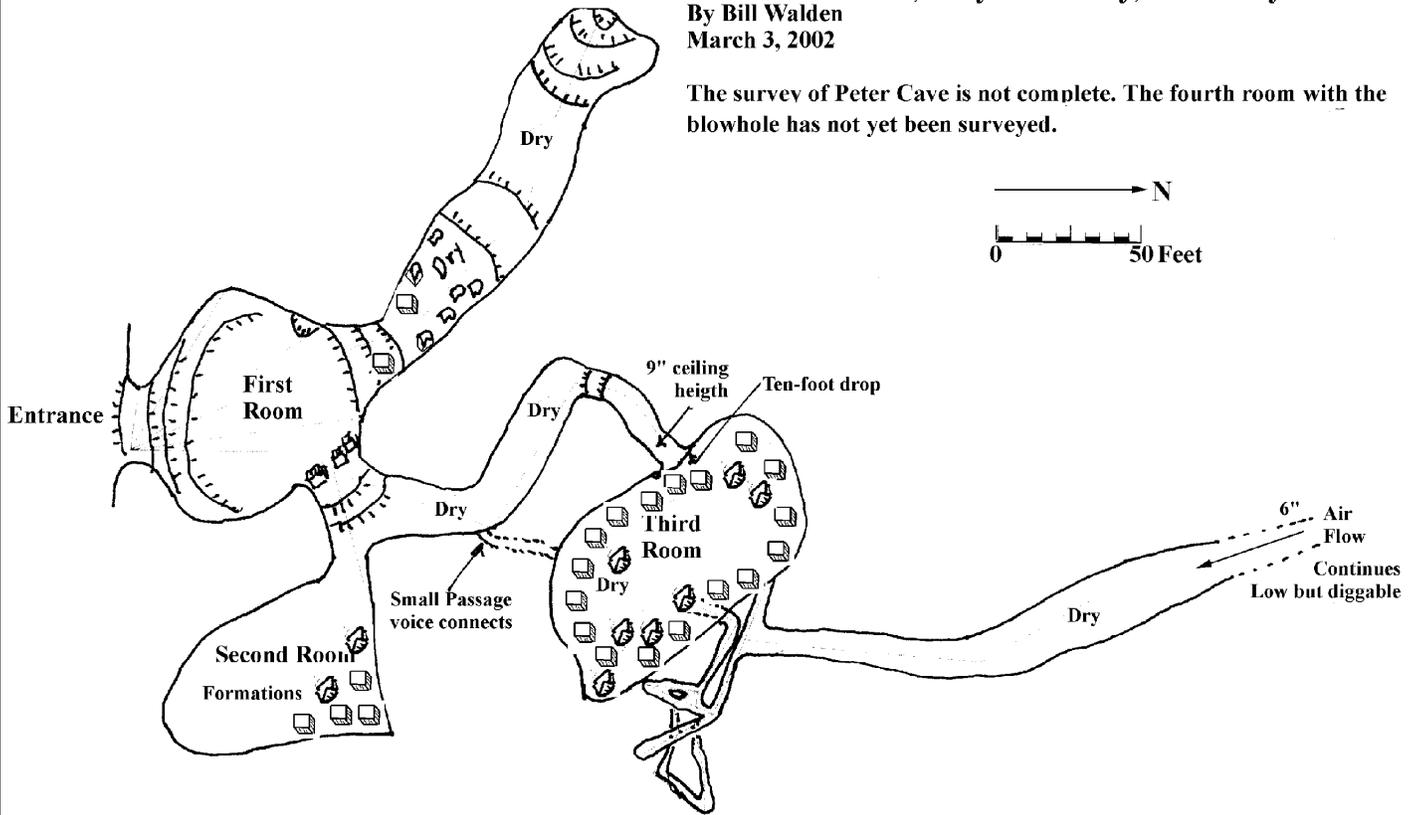
Material for this article was gleaned from the Bowling Green Daily News and from Karl Niles.



Photo submitted by Lee Florea. Photographer unknown.

Rough Sketch of Peter Cave
Redmond Creek, Wayne County, Kentucky
 By Bill Walden
 March 3, 2002

The survey of Peter Cave is not complete. The fourth room with the blowhole has not yet been surveyed.



Peter Cave
 By Bill Walden

A rough sketch of Peter Cave is shown above. Peter Cave is the Paleo-insurgence or paleo-swallow hole for Redmond Creek. The cave should continue north and on to Sand Spring. We just have to find the way and do it! The entrance is about 70 feet above the Redmond Sinkhole floor. The last time this entrance took water was about 1956! Imagine the lake that formed to the south!

I plan to return to Peter Cave March 16th to complete the survey and try digging through the passage to the north shown as "Continues Low but Diggable." Everyone is welcome to help.

Come help survey, dig, or push the blowhole. See y'all March 16th.

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Cover: Photo by Cat Whitney while on survey trip in Peter Cave, Redmond Creek, Wayne County, Kentucky.