

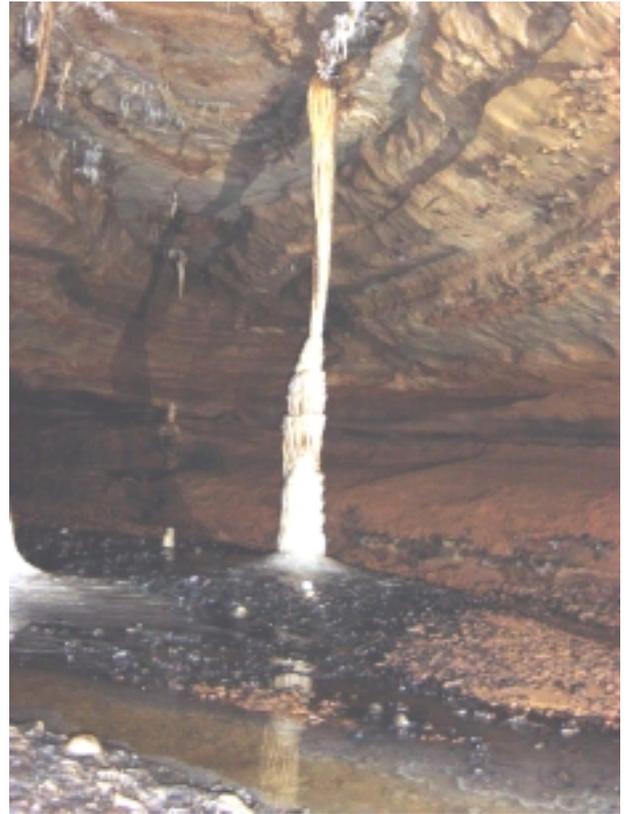
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June
2003



F Passage – Diego Sinz holding the Strobe



Column in F Passage



Double Nodule in F Passage



The Mushroom Garden



Calcite Crystals on the Edge of a Pond in F Passage



Lunch Time - Meredith Kelly and Bill Walden

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the fourth Tuesday 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.

Grotto Mailing Address: C/O Bill Walden, 1672 South Galena Road, Galena, OH 43021 740-965-2942

Email: wwalden@columbus.rr.com

COG WEB page: www.tuningoracle.com/cog

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

Grotto Officers Name Telephone

Chairman	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Vice Chair	Darrell Adkins	740-392-6382
Secretary	Dale Andreatta	614-890-3269
Treasurer	Karen Walden	740-965-2942
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The C.O.G. Squeaks

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

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) or Word Document. Please notify Bill Walden or Andy Franklin if you would like a file of the Squeaks to reprint. The Squeaks is available as a PDF at:

www.tuningoracle.com/cog:

NSS organizations have permission to reprint material from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit, unless otherwise stated.

**The COG Meeting night is the 4th
Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.**

KARST CALENDAR

June 24 COG Meeting
July 18-20 GCG Karst-O-Rama at Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve. Visit the WEB site for more info.
www.gcgcavers.com/kor/kor_home.html
August 4-8, 2003 **NSS Convention**, Porterville, Cal.
August 22-24 Wormfest Bandy Creek Campground, Big South Fork, Tennessee.
Sept 20 OVR Clean up project. See page 5.
Sept. 27, 2003 Lost River Field Trip refer to pages 4 & 5
February 2003

50th Anniversary Special Squeaks

If you missed the COG's 50th party – you missed a good party. The Special December COG Squeaks was giving to cavers attending the party and was not mailed. If you missed the party, copies of this special Squeaks may be purchased at the COG meeting for \$5.00.

50th Anniversary Patches

50th Anniversary patches are available at the meeting for \$5.00 or they may be ordered from Karen Walden.

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There will be more on the OVR Conservation Project in coming issues of the Squeaks. Check the OVR website at http://ovr.tuningoracle.com/ for more information.	

One Day Survey in One Day Cave (aka La Cueva de Ixobel)

By Lacie Braley

There had been a lot of e-mail discussion over who would bring what survey gear to Guatemala. We knew there would most likely be just one cave survey trip during our adventure. I simply brought my survey book, hoping for a chance to use it. It's like an American Express card. I don't leave home without it.

It was Monday morning, our second full day in Guatemala, and our first real physical challenge of the trip. We had spent Saturday flying from Cincinnati to Guatemala City and Sunday traveling on our home away from home – THE BUS. We had arrived at the Finca Ixobel on Sunday evening just in time for dinner.

We were up and headed for breakfast by 7am. (Can you believe it?) The mealtime ordering routine at the Finca Ixobel was to make your food choice on the English menu, translate it into Spanish from the Spanish menu, and write it down on a notebook by the kitchen. I decided to have panqueques for breakfast because it was much simpler to write than huevos con queso y jamon y.... There was an English muffin somewhere in that menu item, too.

The previous evening, Finca employee Pedro had described the journey to the cave that lay ahead of us. He said it would be a walk followed by a hike. He wasn't kidding. It took nearly two hours to reach One Day Cave, and only the first half of that time was on flat land. The uphill climbs never seemed to stop. My only consolation was that there would be more downhill than uphill on the way back to the Finca. Really...

We weren't the only group heading to the cave that day. A guided cave tour is one of the activities offered to guests at the Finca. Close behind us on the hike were several other Finca Ixobel guests, armed with bikinis and flashlights.

Our group had gotten permission to stay in the cave longer than usual and start a survey. We planned to split into two groups, one to survey and one to swim through a sump and explore another part of the cave. The sump team would be only the second group to go beyond the sump. Rob Coomer planned to capture parts of the trip with his photo equipment. Those who chose not to swim the sump would find themselves starring in Rob's photos.

The flashlight tour group caught up with us at the cave entrance and headed quickly underground. Nineteen of our gang of twenty-one travelers had made the hike so it took a few minutes to figure out just who was going where.

We also had to prepare our flotation devices for the trip. There had been a lot of discussion and planning regarding

flotation gear. Some of us had even made a practice run float out of Wells Cave to try out flotation options. Several people had purchased PFD's (personal flotation devices) over the Internet. Some people had inner tubes. I had a dry bag inside my cave pack and my neoprene vest. Recent survey trips in Grayson Gunnar Cave have given me lots of practice swimming in cave gear.

The sump team, led by Harry (from the Finca) swam on into the cave, leaving the rest of us to begin the survey. Howard Kalnitz was keeping book, with me drawing the cross-sections. Pam Duncan was reading instruments. Ric Finch was on point with the survey tape and his wife, Janie, was with him. Connie Flamm and Mike Shawcross helped Pam by lighting the point for backsights and holding the tape. Pam learned the fine art of reading a compass while floating. Connie backed her up, literally, on that shot.

Our guide from the Finca probably thought we were crazy. The guides carried flashlights and candles and would periodically place a candle on a ledge to light the way.

The water was wonderfully warm. I'm used to colder, Kentucky in-cave swims. It was strange but nice to cave in just polypros and shorts. Right away we had to make our first swim of the trip. It wasn't long but it was enough to convince Connie to exit the cave. She just wasn't comfortable with the gear and was smart enough not to get in over her head (in more ways than one).

It took a couple of stations to get the routine down and get moving well. We were measuring both the survey shot distance and the passage width. It was kind of funny watching the tapes crisscross in the water. We had to be careful not to trip anyone. I think a couple people did get "taped" in the head. Oops.

The passage was very grand. The ceiling was often seventy or eighty feet above us. Throughout the trip we would find the caves of Guatemala to be mostly quite huge. Entrances and formations were often big enough to make a person feel like a Lilliputian.

Soon we saw a lone light approaching from within the cave. It was Jef Levin from the sump team. Several cavers had opted not to swim the sump and were helping Rob with his photos. Jef decided to join the survey and helped me get the passage widths for a while.

When we reached a small waterfall we met the returning flashlight & bikini tour. This cave had a lot of sharp-edged rocks

and the bikini-clad girls showed it. Not that that stopped all the guys from looking. After all, how often in Kentucky caves do they get to see girls in bikinis?

We started meeting up with the rest of the sump and photo group. Pam turned over the compass and clino to Jef and he read the instruments for a while. Christine Gerace began helping with the passage width measurements.

We were getting near the sump area and I was getting pretty tired and hungry. I really wanted the sandwich I had stashed in my pack that morning. It was a pretty squashed but still dry, thanks to my dry bag. I grabbed the chance to munch a bit of it on the last couple shots. We wrapped up our survey after 31 shots and around 600 meters.

The sump swimmers reported that there was a lot of cave beyond the sump. The passage had beautiful, tall rimstone and travertine dams. It was getting late and it was time to head out of the cave. We had to leave the survey of beyond the sump for another trip.

Once we all emerged into the daylight, we packed away the flotation toys and started the loong hike back to the Finca. It really was more downhill on the way back. But it was still very loong. Our guide, Gallo, showed us a few interesting plants along the way. Other than that, the monotony was broken only by Pete Miller playing with some cows and Harry flying overhead in his ultra light. We arrived back at the Finca with just enough time for a quick cleanup before the 7pm dinner buffet.

At dinner Christine kept trying to round up a group to return to the cave the next day and finish the survey. Strangely enough, she couldn't convince anyone to make that loong hike again. Now, if we could have taken THE BUS to the cave, I think she would have been more successful. But, as Pete pointed out, it ain't like Kentucky, where you can park right in front of the cave! Nope, it sure wasn't, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Grayson-Gunner Cave Photography

By Bill Walden

Paul Unger talked me into a photo trip into the newly discovered Grayson-Gunner Cave New Years Weekend. So I dutifully packed my trusty 35-year-old Konica cave camera into the equally as old 100-caliber ammo can. To make a long story short I found myself essentially alone in the B survey passage to take photos. Unfortunately the cave was very foggy and any attempt at taking photos would result in white photos. I tried a couple, but the fog just reflected the strobe light back as a blinding white mass. Ok, how about a survey. I found a loop and talked to cavers into helping. They got bored after 2 shots and decided to leave the cave. So, I toured the passage solo.

Later I returned with Katie Walden and her boyfriend to survey the G passage. It was a successful survey. A third trip with Kevin Toepke continued the G survey as the GA survey and we tied the survey into F23.

Paul's plot of the cave showed the F passage (a high dry passage) below the G passage – the stream. Serious problem.

I talked Paul into a resurvey of G from the entrance to the third climb out to B passage. Debbie Moore and Rick Wilson – two very good surveyors, originally did that survey. Because Debbie's sketch was excellent and to save time, Paul and I skipped sketching. All went well except our survey diverged from Rick and Debbie's starting at G20. Wish that we had done a sketch!

I was disappointed that I had not seen any good photos of Grayson-Gunner Cave and I began to think about a photo trip. Would the fog be gone? Pat Erisman seemed to think so. Paul Unger seemed to think so. So, I determined to try again.

This time I decided to try Karen and my digital camera. I had yet to do any serious cave photography with that camera. I did some practice shooting at night using an auxiliary strobe. I discovered that only my best strobe would do.

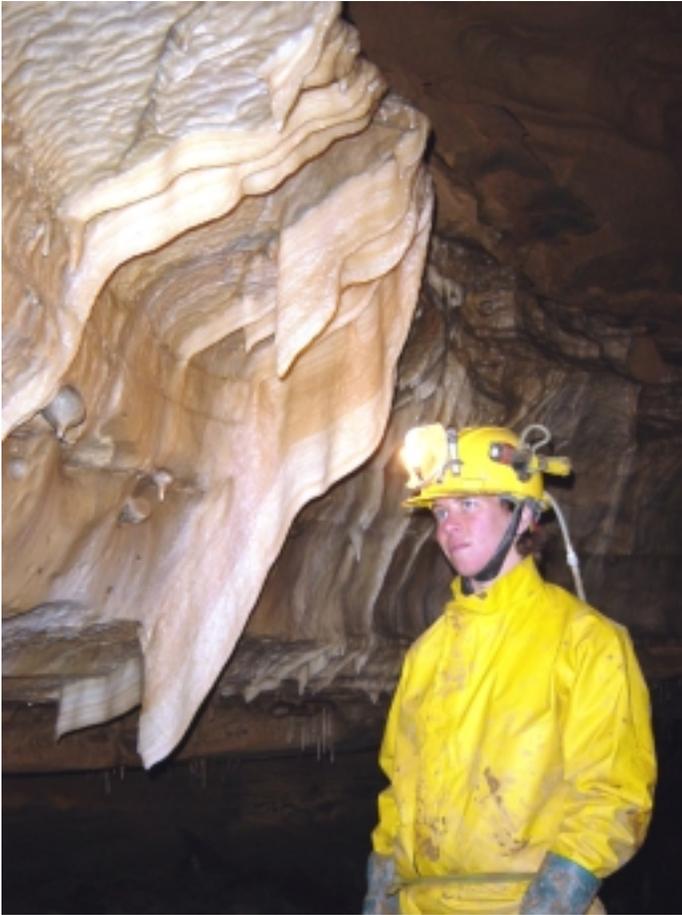
I packed the camera in an Otter watertight case and packed that inside my trusty 35-year-old 100-caliber ammo can along with the strobe, spare batteries and a heat pack to keep the lens from fogging.



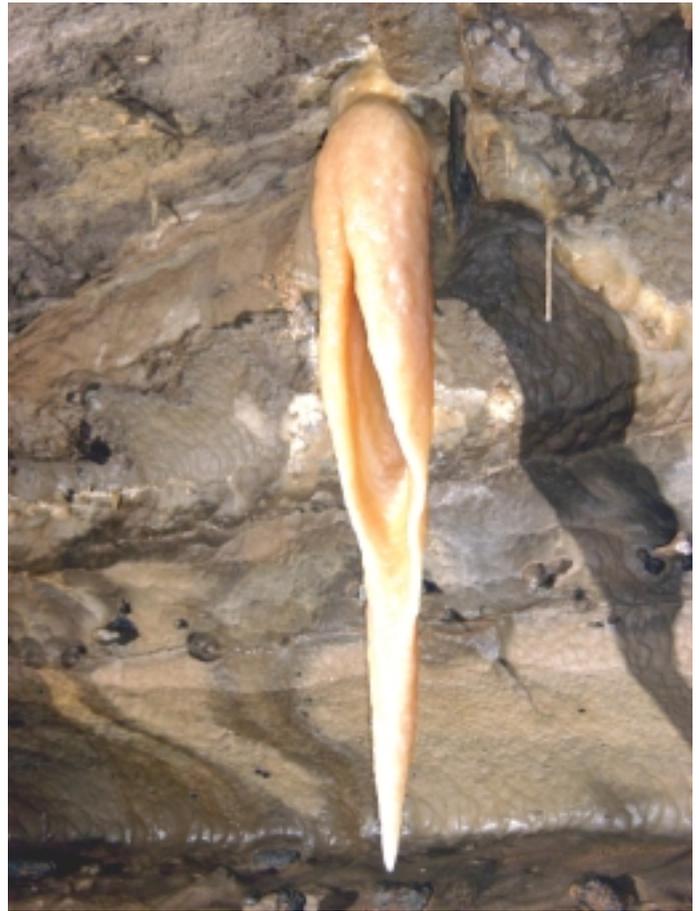
Nodule that was broken in the distant past and is now partially coated with calcite.

I received an email from a Meredith Kelly indicating that she and her boyfriend Diego Sinz were Swiss cavers and were interested in learning about local cavers. I invited them to Grayson-Gunner Cave. Meredith and Diego helped with my photo trip.

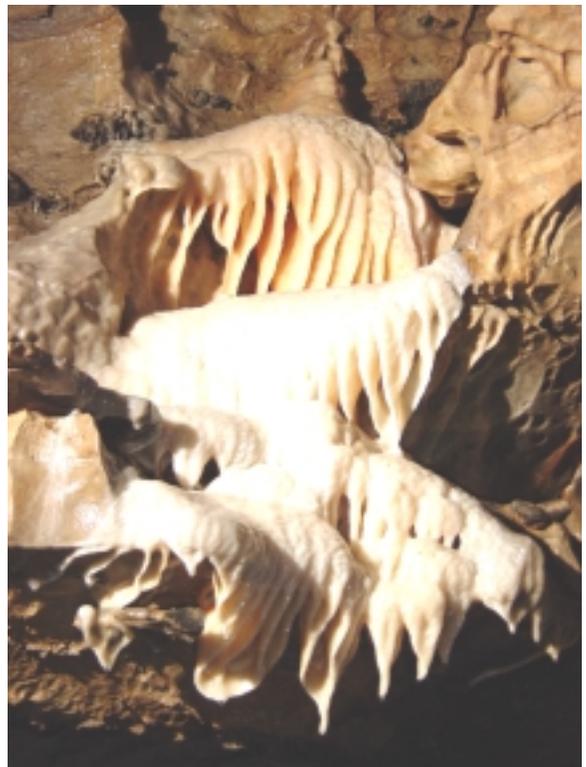
All of the photos were shot in the F passage. All used two strobes. Please see the front cover.



Meredith Kelly



Stalactite above and Flowstone below in F Passage



F Passage

Her name Meredith Kelly and the northern Ohio accent made me ask, "Where are you originally from?" "Cleveland area." Meredith replied. "Where?" I shot back. "Shaker Heights." She replied.

I told Meredith that I had graduated from Shaker Heights High School. She had too so had her mother. Did we know each other? I had to check my yearbook. A couple evenings of searching and I finally found it inside an old suitcase. Meredith's mother was not in my class but was a sophomore when I was a senior. Did I know her? Possibly! I was a lab assistant for the biology classes. Perhaps I helped her dissect a pig or perhaps helped check her blood type. I don't remember her.

Small world.

Dale's Minimal Meeting Minutes May 27, 2003 By Dale Andreatta.

Meeting minutes from May 27, 2003

9 people attended

Treasurer's Report \$946.26

Squeaks went out

The KSS work weekend is next weekend (Didn't happen)

Toy committee: A Tikka-like light was shown

Survey report: Surveying was done in Grayson-Gunnar Cave

Trip reports: Caves were caved by cavers in Missouri, Kentucky, and Guatemala

Old business-none

New business: An OVR meeting was held. This year's cleanup is September 20, at a cave in Indiana.

The book The Life and Death of Floyd Collins was donated to the grotto library by Dale Andreatta, who reported that the book was good, but had a sad ending.

Upcoming Trips: Karst-O-Rama, Sloans Valley, and a Boy Scout trip.

Presentation: Joe Gibson gave a presentation of caving with scouts.

2003 Ohio Valley Region Conservation Project A Cleanup of Carcass Crypt Pit Cave, Lawrence County, Indiana *Co hosted by the Eastern Indiana Grotto*

CCP has a staggering amount of trash nestled snugly in some of Indiana's finest mud. Three trips are planned to excavate and stage the trash for removal at a later date. CCP has a 71-foot entrance drop. **All participants on these 3 prep trips must have appropriate vertical (SRT) skills and possess their own climbing equipment.** A signed liability waiver (available on site) will be required. Tools needed include shovels, pry bars, and a pickaxe. Sturdy clothing and leather work gloves are recommended. 5 to 10 volunteers are needed on each of these prep trips. The dates are on the following Saturdays; June 28, July 26 and August 23.

Each trip will depart from the McDonalds restaurant at the intersection of SR37 and SR60 on the southwest side of Mitchell, Indiana at 10AM local time. To find Mitchell on a road map, look about 30 miles south of Bloomington on SR37 and 20 miles northwest of Salem on SR60. If you plan to attend one or more of these trips please contact Brian Leavell in advance (see contact info below).

One or two additional trips (not yet scheduled) will be needed to install and test the haul system prior to the final project date on September 20/21. Activities on this last weekend will include removal of trash from the pit and its transportation by hand to a nearby dumpster, some removal of brush and small trees and construction of a fence with a hinged gate around the entrance sink. **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!** Primitive camping will be allowed on site Saturday night and food-n-stuff is only a couple miles away in Mitchell. More detailed information will be made available at a later date.

Please come help us repay a fine pit cave for the indignities it has suffered in the past and to reward the landowners for their friendliness toward cavers and their diligence in seeing no further damage has been done to CCP during their stewardship of the cave.

Respectfully;

BRIAN LEAVELL, Project coordinator

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