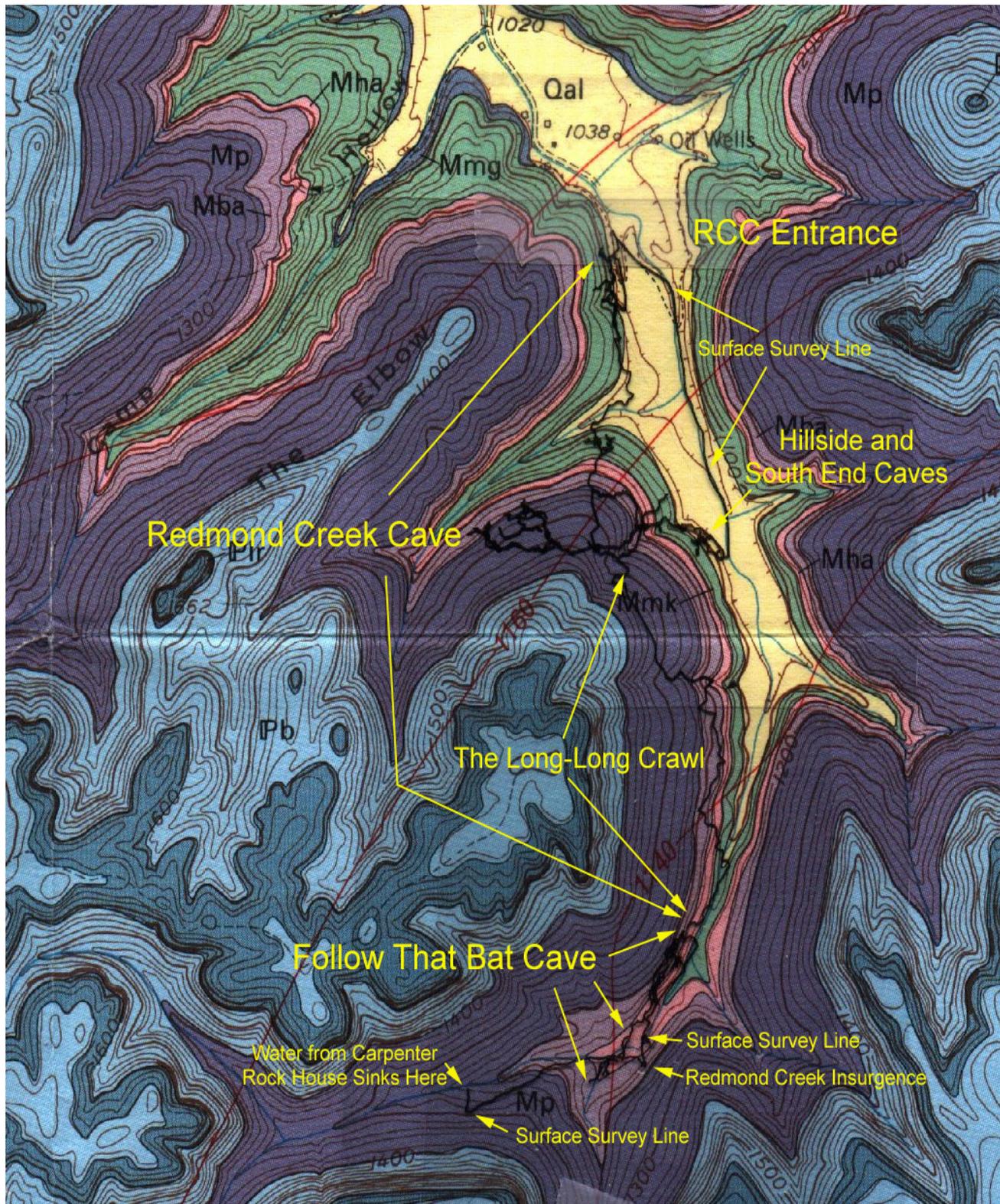


C. O. G. Squeaks



December 2008

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of most months at the Presbyterian Church on the Square in Worthington, Ohio. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place or better subscribe to the COG list server at cog@ontosystems.com by sending an email to cog@ontosystems.com with the subject "subscribe". The meeting site will be announced there and on the Grotto WEB site.

Grotto Mailing Address: C/O Joe Gibson, 6883 Cedarbrook Pl., New Albany, OH 43054-9738 614-855-7948
Email: joegibson6591@sbcglobal.net

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

Grotto Officers Name Telephone

Chairman	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Vice Chair	Pat Gibson	740-467-0717
Treasurer	Lacie Braley	Need
Secretary	Bruce Warthman	614-459-8345
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Officers for 2009:

Chairman-Joe Gibson
Vice Chair-Pat Gibson
Treasurer-Joe Gibson
Secretary-Bruce Warthman
Exec comm.-Dale Andreatta
2 exec. comm. positions are open.

The C.O.G. Squeaks

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, if you would like a file of the Squeaks to reprint. The Squeaks is available as a PDF at:

Website 1 <http://www.tuningoracle.com/cog>:

Website 2 <http://www.centralohiogrotto.com>

List Server cog@ontosystems.com

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Karst Calendar

Dec 13, 2008 Central Ohio Grotto Christmas party at PJ's in Sunbury, Ohio 7:00 PM. Route 36 3 miles east of I-71, south side.

July 19 – 26, 2009 The 2009 NSS Convention and the 15th International Congress of Speleology in Kerrville, Texas. Visit the website: www.ics2009.us.

July 26 – 30, 2010 NSS Convention in Essex Junction, Vermont.

From the Chair:

Well, another year almost gone!
I hope everyone is enjoying the holidays.
Please plan to attend the Christmas party!

Things are pretty lean for the grotto these days. Our membership has dwindled in the past couple of years. At the last few meetings we discussed ways to attract more people. I will be leading more beginner trips for new people. We also need to have some grotto fun caving trips. Anybody interested in leading a trip? We could also get more involved with youth/scout groups in caving.

There is a sinkhole clean up project in Ohio in the fall of 2009. As soon as OVR decides on a location we can start planning. We will need a lot of help.

We are also working on a new way to have our monthly meetings so more people can have input, details on that coming.

I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope to see you underground this coming year!

Joe Gibson
COG Chairman

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Front Cover: Geologic map of a section of Redmond Creek with an overlay of Redmond Creek Cave and Follow that Bat Cave. Note how close the two Caves are. Will a connection be found?

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The Wrap up of Redmond Creek Cave Survey – or Is It?

By Bill Walden

Background: Redmond Creek Cave (RCC) is located in southern Wayne County, KY in a huge sinkhole or polje - a large depression with a nearly flat floor covered with stream deposited sediment. Water drains from multiple caves in the Bangor limestone into the sinkhole. That water flows briefly on the surface as a waterfall, cascade, or short stream before entering caves in the Kidder limestone. Redmond Creek Cave is the longest known cave in the sinkhole.

Roger Sperka, Lou Simpson, Jeff Vansant, and Victor Canfield began a survey of Redmond Creek Cave in the 1970's. They surveyed only the main passage from the entrance to the beginning of the West Canyon. The survey technique used was somewhat different than we use today.

Both compass and clinometer were read at eye level and above or below the actual station. The distance from one's eye to the actual station was recorded. This could range from about 6 feet to a few tenths of a foot. For the "from" station this was recorded as "from height or height from," and for the point station this was recorded as "to height or height to." This was rarely measured at the survey station. Surveyors were measured for their eye to floor distance while standing, kneeling, and laying down. (For example my standing measure from eye to floor was recorded as 5.8 feet for the Sloans Valley survey.) These measurements were recorded for each surveyor then used for "height to" and "height from" data in the survey. Both front and back sights were done in this manner with surveyors sighting instrument to instrument. Had plumb bobs been used and actual measurement of "height from" and "height to" been taken, the survey probably would have been more accurate.

Greg and Pat Erisman first took me to Redmond Creek Cave in October 1997 as a warm up trip for doing Procrastination Pit. On this first trip I found two major passages that were virgin – no trace of previous human passage. I decided the cave worth exploring further and surveying.

Surveying began in November 1997. For several years I was able to promise cavers virgin cave on every survey trip. All these surveys were built upon the original survey by Sperka, Simpson, Vansant, and Canfield (SSV).

A 2001 resurvey of the entrance area of Redmond Creek Cave showed discrepancies from the original SSV survey.

The Main Passage must be Resurveyed

By 2007 it was getting more difficult to promise virgin passage on each survey. One COG member complained about going to the Arches Area multiple times to squeeze out a bit more cave.

I decided it was time to wrap up the survey of Redmond creek Cave. But first the main passage must be resurveyed. Why?

- The original SSV survey accuracy is in doubt and all other surveys are based on that survey.

- Tie in survey stations for several branch surveys did not exist because the SSV survey stations had been lost as a result of multiple floods over the years.
- I want a very accurate baseline survey for the final map.

Wrapping up the survey included:

- The resurvey of the main passage
- Tying in branch surveys
- Continuing the survey of the main passage via the long-long crawl.

When Dale Andreatta volunteered to help survey the long-long crawl, I decided to try to talk Lee Florea into helping. Lee knew where the final station was in that crawl. I was reluctant to attempt the crawl. After traversing nearly one mile of cave passage one must put on a wetsuit, traverse 997 feet of water passage with water up to one's neck at times, remove wetsuit and change into dry clothes, traverse 2600 feet of 1.5 to 3-foot high crawlway, survey, then return. At age 66 and with tender knees, I was not confident of doing that. I recruited my son-in-law Aron Schmid to join Lee and Dale. My attempt to recruit a fourth surveyor failed. Lee had hoped to field two survey teams at the end of the long-long crawl. Please see Dale's report on the trip on page 4.

The day after Thanksgiving was to be the final wrap up trip. Cavers organized into three teams:

1. The long-long crawl team – Leader Lee Florea, Dale Andreatta, and Aron Schmid.
2. Tie in team – Leader Katie Schmid, Amber Yuellig, and Eric Groschaus.
3. Main passage team – Leader and trip coordinator Bill Walden, Bob Yuellig, and Cody Munday.

Friday morning team #1 entered Redmond Creek Cave and went on to do their arduous survey at the end of the long-long crawl.

The remaining two teams wandered upstream in the main passage with Bill indicating to team #2 what side passages needed to be tied into the main passage survey.

At the last tie in station Katie's team began the process of tying in side passages to the resurvey and Bill's team continued the resurvey of the main passage to the beginning of the West Canyon.

Teams #2 and #3 completed their tasks and were out of the cave at a reasonable hour and in time for a late dinner of Thanksgiving Day leftovers at the Walden house.

Team #1 did not return to the Walden house until a little after 1 AM Saturday. They were exhausted! I fixed Dale and Aron some dinner of left over turkey, stuffing, cheesy potatoes, gravy, fruit-nut bread, and cranapple sauce. Lee grabbed a small bite to eat and left with Amber for his mother's house in Pulaski County.

Results

Primarily Suunto instruments were used for the resurvey of the main passage with surveyors striving to obtain 0.5-degree precision and agreement. A Bosch range finder was used for distance (nearest 1/100th) and cross section measurements (nearest 1/10th). The Bosch was checked against a new (never cave used, never stretched hard) Keson engineering tape measure before and after surveying trips. Compass readings were always taken with the compass fulcrum directly over or directly below the actual station and the clinometer fulcrum always centered beside the station. (Ideal was for instrument to be in contact with the station.) Positions were occasionally swapped to ensure reduction of systematic errors that might be introduced by instrument error. All range finder distance measurements were taken at least twice. Progress was slow!

There were a number of sources of error in the 1970's SSV survey. It was believed at the time and mathematically shown that over the survey these errors would largely cancel out. The resurvey of the Redmond Creek Cave main passage shows this not necessarily the case because the two surveys deviate from each other considerably.

I plan to do some solo rechecking of some stations where the new survey diverges considerable from the SSV survey. I'm at least 95% certain the new survey is correct, but just to be 100% sure, I'll check for survey error, data entry error, and recording error.

A quick overlay of the new plot of RCC and Follow That Bat Cave (FTBC)

The long-long crawl team found more passage to survey. Lee Florea and I will check the area around FTBC for possible entrances, and we will enter FTBC and check carefully for connections to RCC.

Meanwhile, Back at the Long Long Crawl.....

By Dale Andreatta

I've always held that being raised in a Catholic family has me bred to have tough knees, and that theory was put to the test. On Nov. 28, 2008, while the others were doing more modest objectives in Redmond Creek, Lee Florea, Aron Schmid, and I became the second team to make it to the end of the Long Long Crawl. It is 3500 feet with one place to stand up. The first 1000 feet are watery wet suit passage, the remainder is largely sandy and easy, but with plenty of cobbles and gravel as well.

In 2001 Lee and Jason Gulley made it to a T-junction at the end of the crawl and explored around a bit before surveying back from the T-junction toward the main passage. They met Bill Walden and me surveying out from the start of the crawl. On the 2008 trip we would continue the survey from the T-junction.

We snooped around to the right of the T-junction and found some moving air, but all leads seemed to be too high to get to safely. So we surveyed to the left of the junction and put in 1000 feet of easy survey. There were a few side passages and some air movement but we never found the hoped-for connection to Follow That Bat Cave, which we knew to be close. As often happens, there was strong airflow for a while, but then it tapered off and we couldn't find where

the air ultimately went. After checking out a few last leads we started the long long trip home.

The trip out seemed to take several times longer than the trip in. Lee did OK, but I've never been even close to that tired on a trip. Changing back into our cold wet wetsuits at the start of the watery section brought squeals of "delight". Making it through the water and back to the main passage brought us easier travel, though the return trip through the water left me quite cold. We exited the cave just before midnight after a 12 1/2 hour trip. Normally, my body doesn't hurt much on the day after a trip, but now, 3 days later as I write this, my knees and elbows still hurt. Next time I'm wearin' kneepads!

Other Active Projects

- 1) The survey of Blowing Cave in Wayne County, KY is well under way with 3.3 miles now surveyed and 2 to 3 miles of known passage yet to survey. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Randy Paylor and Bill Walden discovered virgin passage in this cave. It stands a good chance of being the longest cave in Wayne County. Randy Paylor is the project leader. You may contact either Randy or Bill Walden for survey trips.
- 2) A resurvey of the Great Rock Sink entrance of the Sloans Valley Cave will begin after the holiday season. Bill Walden may be the primary contact. This is in the planning stage. The project leader is Dr. George Crothers Kentucky State Archaeologist and director of the Kentucky Archeology Museum.
- 3) A newly discovered pit near Beaver Creek in Wayne County shows much promise. Contact Harry Goepel for information.

The Central Ohio Grotto Christmas Party

7:00 PM Saturday, December 13, 2008

The annual COG Christmas party is 7:00 PM Saturday, December 13, 2008 at PJ's in Sunbury, Ohio. Please plan to attend.

Cost is \$12.00 per person. This includes dinner and beverages (including draft beer). Bottled beer or wine may be ordered at additional cost.

Don your creative thinking caps for the gift exchange. The object is humor! Keep the cost low. The original idea of the gift exchange was humor and the recipient was supposed to use the gift on his next caving trip. Some of the past greats included such absurd gifts as a homemade Pabstrite carbide lamp, giant carbide lamp reflectors, and ass pads. If your creative genius is not working, straight gifts are welcome. He who brings a gift will receive one.

Directions from Columbus area:

Take I-71 north to the Sunbury exit at route 36. Turn right on to rt. 36 and go about 3 miles. PJ's is on the right. We have the party room.

Come and join the fun! Please let Joe Gibson know if you are coming so he can plan. Write him at: joegibson6591@sbcglobal.net or call him at 614-855-7948.