

HAPPY SPRING

COG SQUEAKS April 1986

EVENTS

COG FOREST

The Forest... will be held...
County...
to the...
to my knowledge the COG has never attended the...
since I've been a COG member.

COG SQUEAKS
April 1986

MEETING NOTICES:

April:

The April meeting will be hosted by Carol and Clovis Dawson Friday, April 11, 1986 at 8:00 PM. Please plan to attend. Their address is: 2690 Summit Street, Columbus, Ohio 43202. Phone number: 614-261-6153. MAP R 9

Things to discuss at this meeting include the upcoming NSS Convention, The Speleofest, and The Daniel Boone National Forest project.

May:

The May ninth meeting will be hosted by Bill and Karen Walden. Their address is: 223 Fallis Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Phone Number: 614-268-5865.

Robert Strosnider, Staff Resorce Officer of the Daniel Boone National Forest, will be present, with an audio-visual presentation, and to discuss our relationship with the US Forest Service. This should be a very informative meeting and cement our cooperative arrangement.

Members from other grottos may want to attend and are invited. Please call ahead as the meeting site may have to be changed if attendance becomes to large for their house to handle.

Again, ALL NSS MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. If you are not a regular COG member, please let us know if you plan to attend. If neccessary, we will find a larger meeting site. Thanks, Bill.

For Information

COG Squeaks	Bill Walden, 223 Fallis Road, Columbus, OH 43214 Telephone # 614-268-5865
Chairman	Jim Blankenship 2777 Shelly Drive, Columbus, OH 43207 Telephone # 614-497-0402
Secretary	Nancy Mahoney 24 Estates Lane, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 Telephone # 614-866-6767
Treasurer	Karen Walden 223 Fallis Road, Columbus, OH 43214 Telephone # 614-268-5865

Contact any of the above individuals for information on COG activities, for membership, or for trip information.

EVENTS

The Louisville Grotto of the NSS Presents:

SPELEOFEST '86

The Louisville Grotto will present Kentucky Speleofest '86 in Metcalfe County, Kentucky on Memorial Day Weekend, May 23 - 26, 1986. Please refer to the enclosed information sheet for additional details.

To my knowledge the COG has never attended the Speleofest as a group since I've been a COG member.

I suggest that COG go this year as a Grotto.
Why?

1. The Louisville Grotto supported our Karst Encounters in October.
2. We need to meet and get to know the people who cave in the same area as we do.
3. Caver get-togethers are fun.
4. Location is one of Kentucky's best caving areas.
5. Meet your favorite caver supply vendor.

Bill Walden

NSS Convention

The NSS Convention will be held the last week in June. Several COG members are planning to attend. These include: Jim Blankenship, Len Gibler, Paul Unger, Bill Walden, and Katie Walden. If you are planning to go, please let us know so we can arrange for rides.

MINUTES MARCH MEETING

The March 14 meeting of the COG was held at Jake Elberfeld's office in Marysville.

Jim Blankenship called the meeting to order. There were no minutes available for the February meeting which was held at Chuck Daehnke's home.

Karen Walden reported a balance of \$148.39 in the treasury. There are still unpaid dues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Squeaks -- Bill Walden said there was no Squeaks because no one submitted any articles. Bill went over the kinds of articles he can use.

Vertical -- Andy Franklin said the only activity he has planned is some climbing on April 19.

There was no new business.

Old Business -- Paul Unger updated the grotto on his latest meeting with Bob Strosnider of the US Forest Service. They have signed the M.O.U. (Memorandum of understanding) and will have a copy of it at a later date. The planning phase is next.

Trip Reports -- Bill and Paul told about some extremely large sinkholes they had seen recently. One was an extremely large one in Rockcastle County, Ky.

Paul and Chuck told about their recent trip to a deep pit.

Upcoming Trips -- Jake is taking a group of Boy Scouts to Carter Caves State Park over Palm Sunday week end. They may camp inside one of the caves.

Bill reminded everyone of the upcoming NSS convention at the end of June in Tularosa, NM. For those unfamiliar with the area, he had some slides

which he showed after the meeting.

The April meeting will be hosted by Clovis and Carol Dawson on April 11.

The May meeting will be at Bill and Karen Walden's. Bob Strosnider will be attending and some other grottoes may be invited.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by Nancy Mahony, Secretary.

Trip Reports

SOMEWHERE IN PENDLETON HOLLOW

March 29, 1986

by Andy Franklin/Mike Gray

It really was too nice of a spring day to spend indoors. I guess that's what everyone else thought. I mean, after the raving reviews we had gotten about this gem, I expected a whole herd piling into the large, majestic entrance. Instead, there was a herd of sun-worshippers bebopping about the countryside in a variety of vehicles.

The entrance is located high on the remains of the hilltop, with the lure of a spring almost 300 vertical feet below. The opening is a 35' diameter hole, with a steep 40' mud/dirt slope dropping into the breakdown. We quickly downclimbed into the pile of boulders where we met the first drop, an exposed boulder problem of about 15 feet. We climbed down without rigging it, preferring to save our supplies for the later pits.

We continued down to a pit, which we crossed in order to look at a companion drop. We decided to drop the second pit due to its climbability. This enabled us to rig the pit as a top-rope, with both ends of the rope at the bottom so that we had a belay to climb out on. We set a Tri-Cam and an H-Beam as anchors.

Unfortunately, our 70' rope did not reach the bottom of the 42' deep drop. There was, however, a passage in the middle of the pit which we rapped in to, where we rigged our second rope for the remainder, using two Tetons. During his decent, Mike knocked a large rock down which landed on the rope, causing us to shorten it slightly the next day.

The cave continues down in canyon after canyon. There is evidence of at least three breakthroughs, with the ceiling often 70 - 100' up. At one point Mike found himself back in the sandstone. This cave is a climbers delight, particularly if one was the size of a rabbit, so that you could follow the leads. There are several waterfalls, one of which disappears in a torrent through a 3" keyhole.

Since our goal was to find the way down, we continued. We went through the only real crawlway, and popped into another canyon. Again, there was evidence of three layers. The bottom was impassible, but the middle was nice. The climb to the middle was a tricky 8' overhang that was a real trick on the way out.

The far end of this canyon had massive airflow that stayed high. If you dropped to the floor the movement disappeared. If you traversed

longways above the floor there is a promising crawlway to poke. This crawlway opens into a parallel canyon. Mike was unable to check all the leads due to our time constraints. We estimate that we had achieved between 180 and 200' of depth at that point.

The return trip was uneventful, except for the climbs. The big pit is a classic 5.5+, with the top pitch slightly unnerving due to the exposure. We do recommend the the first climb from the breakdown either be protected or simply use a cable ladder. A handline is also suggested for the slope of the entrance.

SLOANS WEEKEND

The following report is from John Mellor, a new COG member. This report was part of a letter he sent to me following his trip to Sloans. - Bill Walden

The following weekend after I spoke to you, a friend and I made a visit to Sloans valley. We pulled in early Saturday morning to find five vehicles parked near the barn. The cars belonged to members of the Miami and Ohio University Alpine clubs. To orient members of their club to Sloans Valley cave, they posted a "Freeze Out" sign by the turnoff from the highway.

My friend and I spent Saturday exploring the lake rooms and the bedroom/big room area. We spent a few hours trying to get to Scowling Tom's entrance from Garbage Pit, but no luck. The route appeared to tight towards the end of Bare Bev's Belly Crawl. Another group attempted to connect going the other direction but they had no luck either.

Sunday morning around 9:00 AM Tom Crocket and his wife quickly drove up to the barn in his VW. He asked us if we erected a Freezeout sign by the road and deposited empty whiskey bottles nearby. We informed him that we had not when he noticed the other group standing by the Screaming Willy entrance. In order to get their attention, he pulled out a 30 caliber revolver and proceeded to point it towards the sky pulling the trigger. After a few tries he located the remaining round in the magazine. (Good attention getter!) The group admitted to the sign and liquor bottles. Tom Crocket insisted that they leave immediately and never come back. We learned from Tom that a goat had been roasted in or nearby the Minton Hollow entrance and he thought the groups from Athens and Oxford may have been responsible.

We spent Sunday exploring the Screaming Willy entrance and white Grotto (nice). Our main goal was to locate the siphon leading towards GCS and the Garbage Pit. We did not locate it. We heard that the lake level was about 680 on that weekend. Judging from the level of the lake on the surface, it was much higher than our last visit before Thanksgiving. Tom is a nice guy but does not want the area to be trashed.

John Mellor.

B NSS Innerface Carter County Caving

A
by Jake Elberfeld

Saturday March 22, Five adults, Bill Walden, Steve Zahn, Steve Omeroid and Jake Elberfeld went caving with 10 youths -- Katie Walden and nine boy scouts of troop 101 Marysville.

We met at the Caveland Lodge in Carter cave State Park, after remembering the "lodge" is not the "old" lodge now.

The first cave visited was Counterfieters which consists of two dry walking passages making an L shape. Also a few canyon mazes were encountered. This cave connects through a pit to Cow Cave, so mentioned for the cows formerly frequented it's cool entrance during the summer months. [Both caves are at the base of limestone walls which are nearly at the top of a steep open meadowed hill across a stream from Lewis' general store (Mr Lewis is the owner.)

The larger Cow Cave has all joint controlled passages with three more entrances. Maps are available. (Mapped recently by the Columbus AYH cavers and earlier by the COG.) The Cow entrance leads to an eighteen foot climb and hands and knees crawl leading to the higher level. This crawl goes twenty feet makes a ninety degree turn and opens to more high dry cave which leads to a back entrance.

The crawls and climb are not a good way to bring in packs and sleeping gear so we exited and entered the Middle entrance and then the North entrance with camping gear. *The idea for the scouts was to have a caving camp in and not a camping cave in!* The North entrance goes down stairs to make a right angle turn to end in high blind bedrooms. But these rooms were already occupied by sleeping bats so we camped short of the rock wall and protective sign left by the AYH requesting no human visitation till after April 15th.

The scouts soon joined in a candlelight dinner followed off and on by exploration through the night while "sleeping" in the cave.

The Waldens' sought the solitude of the campground. Next morning both groups toured Laurel Cave which is a stream cave through clean rock.

All had a safe, consevation oriented, good time and returned safely to Ohio Sunday evening. Thanks to the Waldens, Steve and Steve, both NSS Cave divers, for showing the scouts a good safe time.

DANIEL BOONE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

by Paul Unger

On March 6 and 7 the writer was invited to participate in a Management Review of the Forest Plan for Daniel Boone National Forest. Those attending were the Forest Officers and the Senior Staff Officers from the Eastern Region. Discussions centered primarily around spelean resources, the effects the public and Forest activities impart on those resources, and the Plan as it provides for the consideration and administration of spelean resources as an integral part of managing the forest overal.

The Cave Creek initiative is regarded as the catalyst which brought spelean resources to a level of awareness, specifically including them in the planning process. Forest Service personnel, like 95% of the population, has regarded karst features as land forms, not associated specifically with caves and their hydrological and biological cycles.

This attitude has been changed by caver initiatives at the Forest Officer level and above, and is being brought to the attention of the Forester level and below.

Staff Officers were impressed by the degree of public (caver) concern and input as a result of the RARE II review. They indicated that each letter was analyzed as to demographic facts and data supplied. Form letters are regarded as 1 entity, but a singular voice. Non-factual or erroneous information in letters tends to nullify support. A letter has far greater impact when it supports a position, but has little impact if that same letter tries to support this position by supplying additional factual data which may be false. Be forewarned, the Forest Service does check factual data to the extent of determining the probability of correctness.

The Forest Service is very receptive to the concept of an underground wilderness and is inquisitive if any areas of the forest would qualify for consideration. If a major cave was found to exist under Forest Service land, and it exhibited unique wilderness qualities, that cave and the drainage surface above it could be designated a "special interest study area", to document impacts of man and nature on such a cave. This would be an easy first step towards a long range goal of underground wilderness designation. They were concerned about the publicity this designation would generate, and the resultant problems of increased traffic. A problem we have yet to confront.

The Forest Service sincerity and their probing questions were refreshing and most welcome. Everyone thanked us for our efforts in assisting them in the Planning process and requested our continued support in implementing this plan.

As a side note to the Planning Review meeting, the Forest Service and the Boone Karst Foundation co-signed a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). This MOU provides a direct vehicle by which cavers can contribute toward the planning process where spelean resources are concerned. Many cavers have directly and indirectly contributed toward this effort. While positive support was needed and supplied by many, detractors to this effort provided constructive ideas and considerations which we did not initially think of, most of which were real and addressed in the final MOU. To all those who provided assistance and input, you are commended in making this cooperative effort a reality.

We are now entering the planning stage as to how we can best assist the Forest Service in implementing spelean resource conservation. It is apparent that training of all forester and technicians is foremost and critical to the protection of spelean features. Our knowledge of sensitive areas and endangered species is needed. Cave rescue training of Forest Service personnel is considered. On and On!

In short, anyone wishing to participate in this unique conservation effort will have ample opportunity. From the explorer-surveyor to the ridge-walker, the researcher to the trainer, we all can contribute.

WATER RESOURCES AND THE IMPACT OF TIMBER HARVESTING

by
Paul Unger

Continued harvesting of timber resources is a fact of life if we value above ground living in warm, comfortable houses. That harvesting can and will have its price: reduction of scenic beauty, loss of recreational and habitat desirability, and increased erosion with its resultant impact on water resources. The latter is the focus of this article.

There is no doubt that logging increases runoff, erosion, stream turbidity, and sedimentation. The main sources of the effect are yarding, skidding, road construction, and use of logging roads. While the type of cutting has a relative unimportant influence upon these factors, the means of removing timber from the harvest site remains the dominate influence affecting negative environmental impacts.

The magnitude of this effect is further directly proportional to the length and steepness of the lands harvested, and the type of soils present. Uncontrolled logging has been shown to increase runoff turbidity up to 3000 times a normal forest cover, while clearcutting under prescribed conditions showed only a slight insignificant increase.

Normal erosion from fully stocked forests is characteristically less than 0.15 tons per acre and principally originates mainly from geologic cutting of channels and banks.

(Above from USFS Forestry Studies)

Two summers ago the Forest Service contracted to have a 40 acre tract of land harvested near the Old Goldson house in Cave Creek, the drainage of which entirely entered Cave Creek caves. Harvesting on private lands nearby, the usual rape and pillage variety, had given the Forest Service a bad reputation, though unfounded, and our comments regarding such to them sparked an invitation to review the clear cut and its effect on stream quality.

Jack Steelman, Somerset District Ranger, and Frank Findley, Forester, toured the area in question the day after Thanksgiving, 1985. The reasons for a clear cutting operation are a new innovative technique of timber stand improvement, a subject to be dealt with later. But what I observed was unexpected.

From a distance, there is nothing left standing except old crags (for wildlife), uncut intermitant stream corridors, and erosion prone steep slopes. Closer examination shows that this downed mass has really retarded runoff and promoted moisture retention on the normally dry slopes. Two years growth from intollerant variety exceded a phonminal 6 feet throughout, with a canopy and resultant competition expected in a few short years.

The stream draining this entire area exhibited absolutely no adverse impact what-so-ever. Infact, the 75 feet of buffer zone showed reduced runoff characteristics, with much leaf matter left in place. The insurgence was unaffected and actually more open than I remembered it. (Probably ar a result of the 1983 flood).

This review really changed my impression of the clear cutting regeneration technique as it relates to spelean resource conservation. When done properly, this technique has no observable effect on stream quality (by the second year) and may retard stream flow during flood. It may further add some minute organic matter vital to cave life.

During the ensuing period from Thanksgiving, reviews of other clear cutting harvest zones has confirmed this initial favorable impression. For those people from Missouri, you are invited to view this site to confirm this observation for yourself.

NEW COLUMN

by Andy Franklin

The following is what I intend to be a monthly column. I hope to get several months ahead, as I can knock them out in about an hour IF I'm in the mood. Of course, this edition was started 2/09!

OFF THE WALL

OFF THE WALL is intended to be a monthly (sort of (mostly depending on the editor's ambitions and printing schedule)) column from your wonderful (handsome, talented, etc.) Vertical Committee. Our intent is to write about vertical techniques and styles in a manner that is both informative and entertaining.

We will operate under the parameters of 'acceptable risk'. We believe that the use of so-called "alpine technique" is proper for caving. This style of climbing is marked by the use of light, simple equipment with an emphasis on ease and freedom of movement. This, of course, is modified by the understanding that technique is determined by the setting, such as very long rappels dictating equipment that has a greater heat-dissipating capacity. However, we want to find ways to move through caves with a minimum of time and energy and a maximum of safety. Obviously there are distinct tradeoffs; but there are tradeoffs between going caving and sitting in an armchair.

The primary key to safe, effective vertical work is the same as the route to Carnegie Hall - practice, practice, practice. Confidence is vital, both for your comfort and safety and that of your party. Confidence only comes with experience. And experience only comes by doing, by trying, by exploring your limits in a safe setting in order that you KNOW what you can do.

We will give you our reviews of equipment and techniques. These review and discussions will be based on our experience and testing, along with conversations with other experts in the field. We welcome your experiences and comments. We also welcome you to give us a call (Andy Franklin 513/767-9405) to go climbing, so that you can learn and gain confidence in yourself (and us!).

Upcoming editions will discuss harnesses (those lovely things that keep us safe and chaste), uppity-up and downdity-down devices (always a source of lively discussions), bolts and chocks, free climbing and direct aid. Each technique effects cave conservation, both as the cave environment and the caver's energy.

For example, Michael found a new harness on the market that is both comfortable, affordable, AND one size fits all, even adjusting from Greg to Don in seconds. He also found a new belay/rappell device that weighs just 3 ounces!
Watch this space!!!

CLIMBING SCHOOL

There will be a climbing school in Yellow Springs on Saturday, June 7. This will be following the Miami Valley Grotto meeting Friday night. The session will primarily cover rock techniques, although fixed ropes will be available, both free-hanging and not. Everbody is welcome to both the school and the MVG meeting, hosted by Andy Franklin.

I stole this goodie from THE GREEN RIVER REVIEW 3/86 issue.

The Lothardians

The Lothardi sect flourished in Russia. Their belief was that while above ground, men should lead moral lives--but once they were at least twenty-seven inches below ground, everything changed. Hence, all their meetings were held in subterranean caves and were riotous orgies.

from THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC #2

Sounds like Paul's Party Cave to me.

