

Someone ought to
fill in this here
hole right now!



COG
SQUEAKS
July 1987

Yip - Yip - Yeow!!



**CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO
SQUEAKS
JULY 1987**

Meeting Notice

July 10, 1987 -- The July meeting will be hosted by Bill and Karen Walden at their home. Meeting time is 8:00 PM. There will be food and beverages served following the meeting. Please plan to attend.

Please refer to the map for directions.

Bill and Karen Walden
1672 South Galena Road
Galena, Ohio 43021

Grotto Information

The Central Ohio Grotto meets the second Friday of each month or the Saturday following the second Friday at 8:00 PM. Meeting notices are published in the Squeaks, the Grotto newsletter. Please call any officer for meeting information or caving trips.

COG officers are:

Clovis Dawson	Chairman	614-262-2073
Nancy Mahoney	Secretary	614-866-6767
Karen Walden	Treasurer	614-965-2942
Bill Walden	Squeaks Editor	614-965-2942
Paul Unger	Boone Karst	513-839-4258

The official grotto address is:

Central Ohio Grotto
C/O Bill Walden
1672 South Galena Road
Galena, Ohio 43021
614-965-2942

Book Review

by Richard Hand

Manual of Caving Techniques
By The Cave Research Group
Edited by Cecil Cullingford
Published in 1969 by Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd.
Broadway House
68 - 74 Carter Lane
London.
SBN 7100 665- 6

A good, general 400 page text on caving technique, this classic work contains information valuable to everyone from the would-be-caver to the experienced veteran. A listing of the contents shows the range of the material covered:

- I Introduction
- II Route Finding in known caves

III	Personal Equipment and Clothing
IV	Ropes, knots, and splices
V	Ladders
VI	Use of ladders and ropes
VII	Moving in a cave
VIII	Scrambling and rock climbing
IX	Water in caves
X	Underground Bivouacs
XI	Miscellaneous mechanical aids
XII	Communications underground
XIII	Digging for caves
XIV	Exploring new caves and old mines
XV	Cave diving
XVI	Medical aspects
XVII	Leadership and party management
XVIII	Teaching caving
XIX	Cave Rescue
XX	The planning and management of expeditions
XXI	Conservation and access
	Notes on the contributors
	General Glossary
	Index

Comments:

Chapter V on cave ladders covers 50 pages of detailed information on how to construct flexible, semi-rigid, or rigid ladders. The following chapter instructs on their useage. Abseiling (repelling) and prussicking are covered in detail. Unfortunately, the book predates widespread cave use of mechanical aids although jumar ascending technique is covered.

The cave rescue chapter is divided into human and animal rescue. Following the cave rescue suit, this how-to-do-it chapter provides technique for transporting the victim through all kinds of cave environment.

Notwithstanding the great lengths which are taken to bring the technical aspects of the art into the realm of the everyday caver, this book reflects a considerable amount of thought and planning in its presentation of what should be common sense and knowledge in the experienced caver but usually is not.

Trip reports

The following untitled report is from Richard Hand

It is not difficult to cave inconspicuously giving no indication to the locals what your true intensions are. With flashlights concealed on our belts, covered by our jackets, and penlights in our shirt pockets; Connie and I passed as just another pair of hikers out enjoying the good weather. With this demeanor, our plan was to make a ten minute underground excursion. I wanted to show Connie a bright red-orange formation. Down the twenty foot climb, we straddled the stream. All went as planned; we observed the iron-rich flowstone and had returned to the bottom of the ascent. Abruptly, out of the black stygian stillness echoed the bellowing howls and moans of some infernal beast.

"Cerberus?" I inquired, but Connie, so motivated, was nearly out of the hole. We emerged cautiously scanning the meadow for some clue to this phenomena. Not thirty yards to the north stood a young man in his twenties bent over looking down toward the ground. We approached to within ten yards unnoticed so we called, "Hello."

He jumped around with a start. "Where did you come from?"

Mendaciously I answered, "Just followed you." At that moment a loud yipping emanated from out of the ground.

"My dog fell in this here hole."

We agreed to help rescue his dog provided he would be the first one down and calm his pet. Once it was ascertained that the golden retriever had sustained no immediately disabling injuries, I suggested that I lead them out a walking exit rather than try to carry the dog up the ten foot pit.

I just happened to have a flashlight in my pocket and it proved an uneventful walk to the resurgence, though he kept mumbling something about "Someone ought to fill up them there holes."

He was glad to be back out in the sunshine with his dog and I made a hasty exit before embarrassing questions might be asked.

Rafting on the New River

by Bill Walden

No this does not have anything to do with caving but rather falls into the category of general interest.

Karen and I were invited to join with one of our sales representatives and his family for a rafting trip on the New River. The trip was to start 15 miles above the New River Bridge which takes route 19 over the longest single span arch in the world. The New River is considered the second oldest river in the world, second to the Nile, and is one of the few rivers which flows from south to north. It is known as one of the finest white water rivers in the country.

It was great to see the 65 MPH speed limit in West Virginia and all but about 2 miles of the turnpike completed. Seems forever that the WVTP has been under construction. I recall losing two Sears Roebuck batteries in the old Toyota Landcruiser to that rough toll road.

We arrived at Pipestem State Park before sunset, checked in, and took the tram to our room at the Mountain Stream Lodge on the Bluestone River. Dinner at the remote lodge was not so good but expensive. After eating we found our sales rep and his family. Karen and I were welcomed as honorary members of the family. After a few rounds of ping pong and sampling some fine squeezings from Point Pleasant, we retired.

At 6:00 AM we were set to go and headed north on the West Virginia Turnpike toward Beckley. A quick breakfast at McDonald's readied us for the trip down the river.

By eight we were at Class Six. Class Six is one of the better companies running rafts on the New River. Their headquarters offers a commanding

view overlooking the New River gorge. After signing the release forms we boarded the bus for the launch point.

The raft trip started with a water fight. Five gallon bailing buckets proved their worth in thoroughly soaking everyone in the five boats. Now ready for the first rapids. Mild but I nearly got thrown out! The water fight continued.

The morning trip was placid. Very relaxing floating down or swimming down the river. The water fights continued. I find that Kamakazie attacks from the water to be far more effective than the five gallon buckets. I swim up to another boat and with my hand cupped unleash a quick, long stroke thus drenching all nine occupants. What good does a five gallon bucket do to someone already immersed in water? NONE!

Lunch. And what a lunch. Class Six puts on a first class spread for the mid day meal. After lunch back into the boats for the more exciting part of the adventure. Rapid after rapids some classed as class five rapids.

Between rapids we would catch fleeting views of long abandoned mining towns which once flourished along the New River. These towns once reachable only by the railroad or the river were owned by the coal companies which issued their own currency to the miners. Coal was once the number one income producing industry for West Virginia. Now we were contributing to the new number one income producing industry and having fun doing it.

More rapids and coal trains pulling cars so full that the coal falls from them. Thunder storms threaten but do not materialize for our rafts. We're wet anyhow. The water fights are not so energetic now.

The New River Bridge finally comes into view with a smaller bridge, the old Route 19 bridge, beneath. We pass the older and much smaller bridge. The big arch is in the distance yet. Perspective has played a trick on our eyes. Slowly we pass under the new bridge. Trucks appear as if toys slowly being pulled across the big span. Another rapid and we see the take out dock ahead.

Deflate the boat, load the oars and coolers into the truck, and then load the limp raft on top of the truck.

At long last we enjoy a cold beer at the bus. The bus trip up and out of the gorge rivals the best of the rapids below. The corners are blind so the driver toots his mighty diesel sounding horn before heading into them. Halfway up the rain starts. We're wet anyhow.

Back at the Class Six headquarters we are treated to more beer. Karen and I bought a couple pictures of us going through the rapids earlier in the day and a book about the coal mining era in the New River area. We took a last look at the gorge. Then boarded our cars for the trip back to Pipestem State Park.

The trip was fun. I recommend it. Good clean fun.

Update

Mike Gra. is recovering from his automobile accident in which he broke

5 ribs and severely damaged his right foot. The broken ribs hurt and he has a steel pin in his foot. Walking with crutches is a real pain.

Mike is staying at his parents home while he heals. His address is:

Mike Gra
1031 Runnymede Road
Dayton, Ohio 45409
513-298-2011

Hope to see you at this month's meeting Mike.

Cave Memo

This week end (July 10, 11, & 12) is the 34th annual Cave Capers. Although it interferes with the grotto meeting, I heartley recommend going. Cave Capers will offer a taste of some of the best of Indiana Caving. Roy Davis of Cumberland Caverns fame will be the guest speaker this year.

Cave Capers is at the Springs Valley Recreation Area located in the Hoosier National Forest. Springs Valley is southwest of Paoli, Indiana. From just south of French Lick (at the intersection of routes 56 and 145) follow Moores Ridge Road southeast.

Cost? Cheap! \$11 including the banquet.

