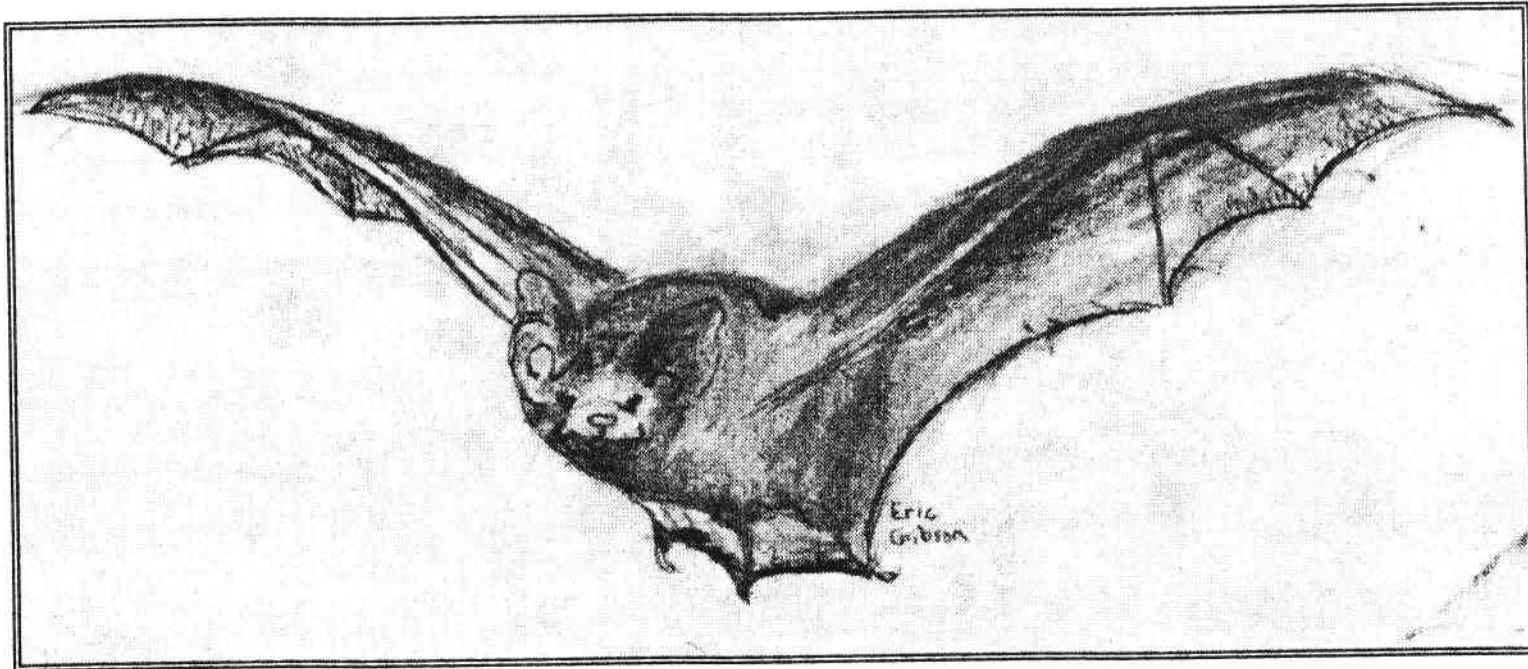




# ***COG SQUEAKS***



**COG SQUEAKS**

**MARCH 1995**

**BAT BY ERIC GIBSON**

## GROTTO INFORMATION

The Central Ohio Grotto of the National Speleological Society meets the second Friday of each month at the Worthington Presbyterian Church. The Church is on the north west corner of the square in Worthington, Ohio (intersection of High Street and SR 161). Meetings are in the Woodrow Room at 8:00 p.m. Please contact a grotto officer or committee person for information and caving trips.

### OFFICERS (NSS)

CHAIRMAN	Pat Kelly (38938)	614-885-1270
VICE CHAIR	Joe Gibson (37353)	614-855-7948
SECRETARY	Bobbie Lou Bates (38093)	614-236-2878
TREASURER	Karen Walden (15678)	614-965-2942

kwalden@freenet.columbus.oh.us

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBER	Darrell Adkins (29048)	614-392-6382
MEMBER	Kathy Franklin (15856)	614-766-6381
MEMBER	Don Conover (20386)	513-372-7581

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

YOUTH	Pat Kelly (38938)	614-885-1270
-------	-------------------	--------------

(Pat is responsible for Boy Scout activities with the COG.)

BOONE KARST	Dick Maxey (28034)	614-888-2285
-------------	--------------------	--------------

### SQUEAKS

Bill Walden (11573) -- editor  
Andy Franklin, Kathy Franklin and Karen Walden -- Staff

The official grotto address is:

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

E-mail address -- dz716@cleveland.freenet.edu  
Internet list server -- cog@ontos.usa.com

The COG Squeaks is the official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto. Subscription is \$10.00 per year per address. The Central Ohio Grotto publishes the COG Squeaks ten times per year. The club welcomes articles on cave exploration and study, cave trip reports, cave fiction, cave poetry, cave related cartoons, or cave related art. Please send to Bill Walden via mail, disk, e-mail, or fax. Free disks and mailers are available from Bill at the meetings. Contact Bill for information on modem or fax transmission.

NSS organizations may reprint information from the COG Squeaks. Please give credit to the author and the COG Squeaks.

## KARST CALENDAR

March 10	Grotto meeting 8:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Worthington, Ohio.
March 17	Grotto caving trip.
March 17-19	Spring NSS BOG Meeting, Cincinnati Museum of Natural History, Cincinnati.

April 14

April 21  
April 22-23

May 12

May 17  
May 26-29

June 9

June 16  
July 14  
July 17-21

OH. Contact Bill Thoman 513-251-7357.  
Grotto meeting 8:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Kelly.

Grotto caving trip.  
NCRC Basic Orientation Course, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond Kentucky. Contact ECU Division of Special Programs, 606-622-1444, or Dennis Roberson, 606-272-3776.

Grotto Meeting 8:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Worthington, Ohio  
Grotto caving trip.  
Speleofest '95, Camp Carlson, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Contact Glenn Driskill, 334 Martin Road, Rineyville, KY 40162 502-862-4054.

Grotto meeting 8:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Worthington, Ohio.

Grotto caving trip.  
Grotto meeting.  
NSS Convention, Blacksburg, Virginia. Ask for registration form at grotto meeting.

## THIS ISSUE

The March issue spotlights the COG one quarter century ago. What COGer's were up? What was in the Squeaks? Who were the officers? Please check out TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE COG by Bill Walden page 4.

See page 10 for a letter from Pat Kelly, COG Chairman.

## COMING TRIPS

by Darrell Adkins

I thought I would let people know what my plans are for the next grotto cave trip. (March 18 & 19)

I will be working in the Farmer Cave System (big surprise) in the Overlook-Highline area. Since I will have a co-worker of mine with me this will be a relatively easy trip, i.e. no major climbs. I will be double checking some leads in this area and taking notes about them in a effort to compile a lead list. I may also do some sketches and compass shots to fill in some information for our surveys.

The Highline section of the cave is one of the driest parts. The passage alternates between walking and nice hands & knees crawlways with a few belly crawls. The floor tends to be sand or fine gravel.

I think this trip could be a nice easy introduction to surveying for people who would like to try it. The biggest hazard on this trip is that you might get bored. I am sure that there will be other trips into Farmer cave if this sounds to tame for you.

If you have any interest in surveying in Farmer Cave on the 18th please contact me so I can try to make plans as to what to have people do.

If you are planning a trip into Farmer (Steve?) or else where (Bill?) please post it. If you would like to go to a different cave in the area but need more people, or maybe a guide, post it.

The last couple of months we have had a good turnout of people to do surveying in the Farmer System. This is encouraging after a couple of years of slow progress. What I would like to also see is more trips, sport and survey, to others caves at various skill levels.

Enough of my ramblings, goodbye and good caving!

#### ANDY FRANKLIN WRITES

If I am able to go down that weekend - which looks likely but I still need a smile from the money gods - I need to do some surface surveying around Doom. It will be much easier to do before the undergrowth bursts forth.

I have several entrances and other small holes that I wish to tie together.

In addition, since it appears that there has been more substantial rain down there the inside dig in FDoom should be more flushed open. Back in January Sam and I were able to hear running water somewhere beneath us. The entrance also need some additional rock removal. This will require slings and a come-along, however.

And there is the technically challenging survey of the entrance to Doom II.

#### TRIP REPORT

##### Bill and Cheryl's Big Adventure by Cheryl Best

On February 18, Bill Walden and I made a flying trip to Pulaski County, Kentucky to explore Punkin Cave. We left Columbus at 7 a.m. and arrived at Rufus Hyden's home outside Burnside around 1 p.m. After admiring Rufus' new large screen TV and state-of-the-art satellite dish, we hiked to the cave. Bill quickly found Lou Simpson's new entrance at roughly the same time he discovered he had left his battery at the car. He rigged up his spare and disappeared down the hole. I eased down after him with much less grace and much more anxiety as what I thought were solid handholds kept crumbling beneath my fingers. Twenty feet below the cave entrance, we found ourselves on a shelf with a small grotto and a tight, low passage to our right (to the old entrance?) and a 25 foot "hole" really a steep incline in front of us. We climbed down the graveled slope to a large open passage. The floor was flat and dry. Running along the 30 foot high ceiling was a crack decorated with stalactites. Turning left, our only option, we wandered along the wide corridor, crossing an occasional stream, climbing now and then, stopping sometimes to admire drapery or other formations.

Except for a deep grotto hung with hundreds of soda straws and crawling with cave crickets, I saw no other side

tunnels in this passage until we came to some large slabs of breakdown. After checking two leads to the right one of which may have possibilities we turned again to the left and climbed down into another cavern much like the first. Traversing its length, we crawled up some breakdown then slipped through a slot into a narrow dome room 30 to 40 feet high. Water poured down a rockpile to the left forming a stream several feet wide. Squeezing through a second ground level hole, we found ourselves on a long shelf overlooking another large passage. This new cavern had more and better decorations than the others. One stalagmite came up to my chin; another was translucent as a candle. We also saw a curious soda straw-like formation that stair-stepped from the rockface three times then turned straight up at the end.

Except for a short lead to the left where Bill found what appeared to be clawmarks on the wall, this last passage terminated at a hill of rock and earth with a few formations at the top. We took a breather there then retraced our steps, pausing only to look more closely at formations we had spotted on the way in. Although we took about two hours to explore the cave, we needed only 45 minutes for the return trip. (After almost four years of intermittent caving, I am proud to say that I could have found my way out even if Bill hadn't been along!) When we reached the vent, Bill exited first. I waited on the shelf below, fighting a panic attack. The first step was a "doozy" and I am shorter on one end than Bill. The passage was muddy; my boots aren't lugged, and I was afraid I would slip and fall on down the "big" hole. After three false starts and some encouragement from Bill, I literally launched myself up the first step. Halfway up the vent, wedged tenuously between a rock and a hard place (!), I really started to lose it. I finally forced myself to move and made it up the last ten feet of passage as frightened and relieved as I have ever been in my life (except during rappelling school!). After hiking back to Rufus' house and cleaning up a bit, Bill and I gorged on the buffet at the Lakeview Restaurant in Burnside, then headed north. He dropped me at my doorstep about 1:15 a.m. Ten hours of driving. Three hours of caving!

(Cheryl's description of her climb out of Punkin doesn't mention that she climbed out faster and easier than I did. -- ed)

The following is re-printed from MET Grotto News, February 1995.  
Permission to print in Grotto Publications.....  
Tom Barton, Met Grotto Editor

#### Some notes on gear... by Jane Prendergast

Gear...yes! Gear is important. I am a cheapskate. I confess. I used to believe that only weenies spent money on gear, and that the only function of gear was to provide opportunities for gear- fondling (i.e., starching your vertical gear or embroidering bats on your coveralls) between cave trips. Since I only wanted to do cave trips between cave trips, and my coveralls have mud on them from my third beginner trip (I did my first one in a ski suit from the thrift shop...ask Harry), I thought I could get along without

incurring unnecessary expense.

My first economy was a home-sewn vertical system. You can read about the results of that one in American Caving Accidents. Nobody told me that the polyester thread left over from the silk blouse I made to go with my grey suit wouldn't quite work in a Ropewalker system. Oh, well, live and learn. Now I buy beautifully hand-sewn footloops at Emily's. A few things I did learn:

1. If there is a long tab (and there should be) left over after you pull the buckle tight on the footloop, stick it to the body of the loop with a little Velcro. This way, it won't catch on anything and work its way out of the buckle.
2. I've experimented with tying the foot Gibbs to the footloop with a piece of 6 mm line so that the Gibbs is free to rotate. This just about doubled my speed, and has eliminated foot cramps from turning my foot to the side. It may not work for everyone, but it's worth a try.
3. An extra carabiner on the waist of the seat harness can be hooked into the top of the rack to keep it out of the way when not in use. I'm not used to having annoying things hanging down in front.
4. One more carabiner can be hooked onto the chest harness, so that you can thread the rope end through while ascending and pull down rather than up to self-start (tip from Joe Levinson).

My second economy was an SMC stainless steel rack with hollow brake bars. I didn't test it out before I used it and found that it hadn't been tuned (the U of the rack was more like a V, and so when loaded, all the bars crammed up against the top and I went NOWHERE). Bubba Smith in Huntsville diagnosed the problem and straightened the bars for me, and added a half-inch spacer. The second problem with this rack was that because the bars weren't round, they tended to get hung up on rocks if you didn't or couldn't lean over backwards to get away from the lip. This led to a rather tense moment in Valhalla.

Faced with ten drops in just one Mexican cave (saves driving time between pits), I knew I had to replace this turkey, and so I bit the bullet and bought a Titanium rack from Ed Sira of NNJG. Where was this device all my life?!!!! These are some of the things that are right with it:

1. It weighs about the same as my old Figure 8.
2. It cannot be suicide-rigged.
3. It provides a brake. This last is very important for me. I discovered that at around 500', I can no longer pull up on the rope to stop myself from descending too rapidly, because the rope is too heavy. At those depths, a bottom belay, even if available, is no use because the rope stretches too much. But all I need to do is swing the brake bar out slightly, and I am stopped.
4. There is available a bar that enables one to tie off without any danger of jamming the rope loop under the first bar of the rack (a real pain). This feature makes switches from rope to rope easy and safe. I didn't buy it,

because I was just about out of bread from shopping for Yuppie toys in Campmor (not one of which was useful), but I was to wish I had. Nothing went wrong, but each time I tied off, I wondered if it would. Anything that lessens anxiety is a desirable improvement!

Coveralls???? My dear, a set of Wunderwear costs over a hundred dollars! The last time I paid that for clothing, I was married in it, and look what happened! No, thank you! Polypros? I could have two sets of Christian Dior undies for what they set you back. Of course, it was hard to understand why I was shivering in my bra and panties under the cotton t-shirt under the Automotive Trades polyester worksuit while everyone else looked warm and dry...I just thought I was caving with the master race. Finally figured it out in Wyoming where they made me buy a nylon suit for Great X (and then I didn't do it). We did do Tres Charros which starts with a snow-melt waterfall at 9000' elevation. Wyoming also convinced me that it was time to retire the shorty wetsuit I bought at the thrift shop (different one from where I got the ski suit) for \$3.00 and purchase one with legs.

Lights don't work for me. It must be my aura. I have discovered the only way to destroy a maglite besides dropping it down a crack. You merely have to cross-thread the cap for the battery compartment. Megas? The batteries get loose in the battery compartment and the light goes out (but only during exposed climbs). Petzl laser generators? Don't ask. My nitelite shorted out the first time I charged it and nearly burned the house down. Tom Moss converted the head so it clips on a lantern battery in a pack on my belt. So far this has worked for 16 hours, but I am deeply suspicious because I know the wires to the head aren't great. I might as well accept it and take lessons from Bob Cohen on caving in the dark.

What's left? Food. My first cave snack was a sandwich, wrapped in aluminum foil. Or rather, it had been a sandwich when I put it in my pack. Its flattened corpse was half-dissolved in muddy water when I unpacked it. Neil Lieberman uses bagels, and they seem to work fine. CRF people take in cans and stoves, but that seems elaborate for any trip under 24 hours. I used to carry Power Bars, which work beautifully and don't take up any room or leave much waste to pack out, but my teeth got tired. I have become an Ultra Slim-Fast caver. I mix enough scoops of USF to make up a quart, and moosh it together with an envelope of powdered skim milk. Then I divide this into four ziplock bags and tape these shut, enclosing all four in a larger ziplock, together with a couple of extra small bags. At chowtime, I mix one envelope in a bag together with one cup of the water I'm carrying anyway. I drink it directly from the bag and wipe the resulting moustache on the sleeve of my coveralls. The USF has most electrolytes and vitamins and can sustain strength over a 20 hour trip, which is the longest I've tested it. Again, chaqu'un a son goo.

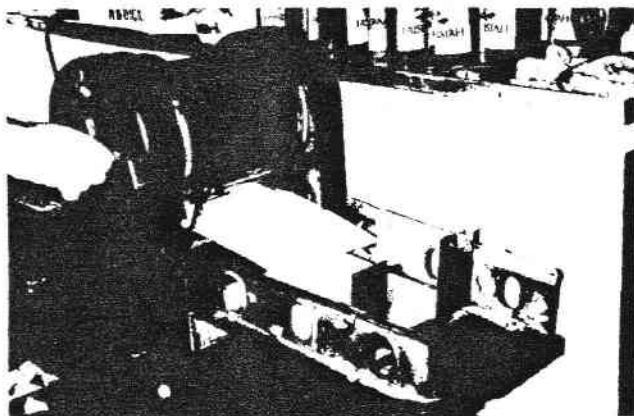
Needless to say, I now have some excess gear to sell. Anyone want to buy a used ski suit, vintage 1970? Just a few rips, but cheap, guys, real cheap.

## TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO IN THE COG

1970 was an active time for the COG. The 1970 officers of the COG were:

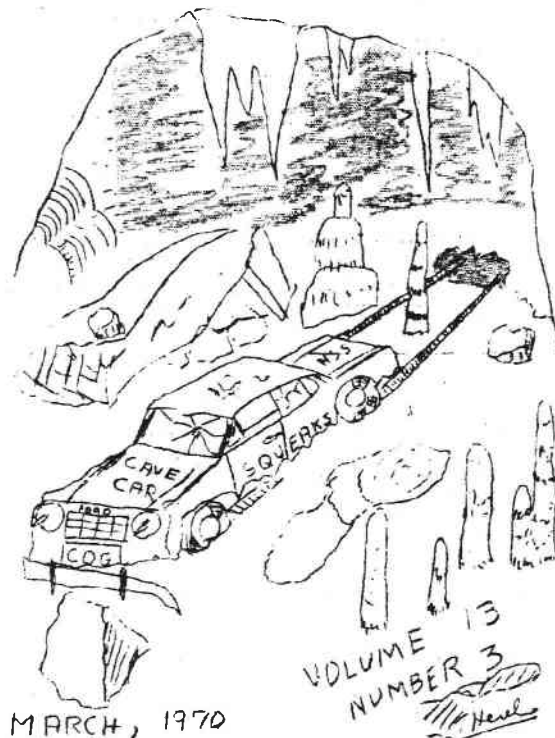
Chairman:	Ed Herel
Sec'y - Treas:	Carolyn Herel
Executive Committee:	Jake Elberfeld
	Fred Dickey
	Bill Walden
Squeaks Editor:	Lou Simpson
Squeaks Staff:	Bill Walden
	Ed Herel
	Karen Walden
	Hartley Mays
Trip Coordinator:	Lou Simpson
Grotto Address:	C/O Jim Dyer
	2605 Medary Ave.
	Columbus, Ohio 43202

Publishing the Squeaks in 1970 was a grotto event referred to as the "Squeaks Party." We would all gather at Lou Simpson's apartment in Circleville and "do the Squeaks." We would write the articles and someone would type the articles on mimeograph masters. Drawings, too, were done directly on the mimeograph masters using a stylus. While all this was going on, Bill Walden and others would prepare pizza and other eats. The pizzas were judged not so much by the flavor but rather by how much sweat flowed from Ed Herel's balding head! Copious quantities of beer were consumed (note photo below). No one quit till the Squeaks was printed, stapled, and stuffed ready to mail. Most of us would crash for the night at Lou's apartment then take off Sunday for a hike or cave trip.



COG SQUEAKS PRESS

From my point of view, Lou Simpson was the undisputed leader. Lou drove his "fording Ford" everywhere! Over mountains and through streams grinding over the rocks as we travelled cross country to visit another cave. The misadventures of this "fording Ford" prompted the March 1970 cover for the Squeaks.



MARCH 1970 SQUEAKS COVER  
LOU SIMPSON'S FORDING FORD

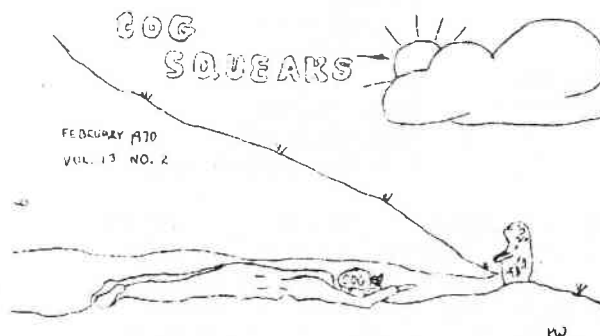
### What were members of the COG doing?

- \* Al Henning and Ron Riopelle surveyed Olentangy Coon Caverns.
- \* Lou Simpson was writing cave fiction.
- \* Lou Simpson ruined the "fording Ford" on a trip to Wind Cave in Wayne County, Ky.
- \* Jim Dyer died March 24, 1970. Jim operated Crystal cave in the early 1950's by day and explored the depths by night. During this period of his life he introduced many people to caving. From this stemmed the 1954 NSS expedition of Floyd Collins' Crystal Cave, the founding of the Central Ohio Grotto of the NSS, and later the Cave Research Foundation of which he was a founding director. Until his death Jim "Pops" Dyer presented the photo solon at the NSS Conventions and hosted the COG Christmas parties. "Pops" lived for caving.
- \* Bill Walden, Lou Simpson and a student of Bill's, Steve Williams, visited Tarkiln Cave.

- \* Lou Simpson and Dave Beiter surveyed from Garbage Pit hill to Grand Central Station in Sloans.
- \* Bill and Karen Walden, Lou Simpson, Dave Beiter, Ken Smith and other were exploring Wind Cave, Wayne County.
- \* COGer's were camping in the snow on Burnside Island.
- \* COGer's were holding rope climbing sessions at Conkles Hollow. (Yes it was legal then.)
- \* Caving with a pig was in! See August 1970 Squeaks cover. (A pig is made from two Clorox bottles with their bottoms cut off and then shoved together. This makes a cheap and durable cave pack.)
- \* Trips into the Sloans System on Saturday followed by a Sunday trip to Wayne County caves were in.

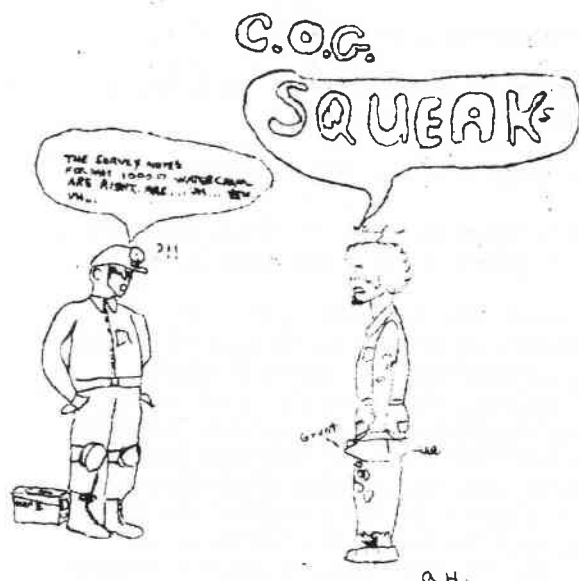
#### Cave Systems being worked Included:

- \* Sloans
- \* Cave Creek
- \* Blowing Cave, Wayne County, Ky
- \* Wind Cave Wayne County, Ky.
- \* Surveyed Freeland's Cave, Ohio ~ 1300 feet.
- \* Burfield Hollow Cave, Wayne County, Ky
- \* Neely's Creek Cave.
- \* Windy Cave near Cumberland, Ky. (Pine Mountain) by Ed and Carolyn Herel.



February 1970 COG Squeaks  
Cover by Karen Walden.

NOTICE! Rope Climbing and social get-together with Cave-O-Grotto planned for August 8-9. See inside.



Aug. 1970 - Vol. 13 No. 8

57

AUGUST 1970 SQUEAKS COVER  
KEN SMITH AND DAVE BEITER  
BEITER CARRYING THE PIG.



June 1970<sup>41</sup> COG Squeaks  
Cover by Jack Sigafos.



COG meetings were hosted by various grotto members including:

Jake Elberfeld, Ed and Carolyn Herel, Jim and June Dryers, Tom and Jan Cleaver, Keith and Bev Murgatroyd, Ken Smith, Bill and Karen Walden.

## THE PIG

*Caving with a Pig  
by Lou Simpson*

*I just returned from six days of caving with Dave Beiter. My gas mask bags having developed holes the size of Beiter's patches, I decided to construct a pack called a pig which consists of two Clorox plastic bottles with their bottoms cut off, one fitted inside the other. See "new Discoveries in Spelunk Junk," Squeaks 12:8. Clorox bottles come in various sizes. Mine was the 69¢ variety. So I suppose you can make small piglets, regular pigs, or even great big hogs.*

*Capacity: I was able to easily carry the following items --*

*1 large baby bottle of carbide.  
1 small baby bottle of carbide.  
1 large baby bottle containing:  
    spoon, candle, matches, pliers, tip cleaner,  
    wire, pencils, pencil sharpener, can opener,  
    spare tip, spare gasket, spare felt, spare flint,  
    jackknife, penlight, spare battery.  
1 small baby bottle of gorp or pepperoni.  
double plastic garbage bags  
small reflector carbide lamp.  
1 can of goosh.  
I defy anyone to carry this amount of stuff in a gas  
mask bag of the normal size.*

*Durability: After six straight days of eight to ten hour survey trips, my pig developed a crack along the fold of the inside bottle and there was some deterioration of the ends from pushing the ends together when closing.*

*Convenience: Unless you have a strap on the pig that permits comfortable carrying, you will probably prefer to carry the pig in your hand instead. Thus there is a tendency to forget it or to throw it down a hole.*

*As an added convenience, my pig is equipped with a snap ring for hooking it to a survey tape, belay rope, etc.*

And thus, the pig became the standard cave pack for the COG for next few years. One could find COGer's searching road side dumps for discarded Clorox bottles.

## Surveying Equipment

Until we met Dave Beiter the COG used the Brunton

Surveying compass with level and a steel tape. Dave Beiter introduced the COG to the Silva Ranger compass, the Abney level, and TV antenna wire marked in half foot increments. Dave demonstrated that one could read the Silva Ranger in one tenth the time required to read the Brunton and with accuracy that approached the Brunton, and that the Silva was much better suited to the cave. Why one can even wash the Silva in a cave stream. TV tape is cheap and in a pinch, can be used to belay. The Abney level is more accurate than the Brunton level.

The COG still uses the Silva compass today. The TV tape has been replaced by the easier to use and also inexpensive fiber tape.

## Places to Stay

Twenty five years ago the COG did not yet have a field house in Pulaski County. We stayed at Burnside Island State Park in the winter, at the Waitsboro Campground or in Beiter's backyard along with the chickens and bugs.

## Eating

Most of the time we prepared our own meals at the campsite. Occasionally we visited the Lakeview. Lou was particularly fond of the Saturday night family style "all you can eat" meal. (I think it was \$1.79) For some reason we didn't visit Kings often except for ice cream -- they still had 5¢ cones.

## How were we able to spend so much time caving?

Lou Simpson, Bill and Karen Walden, and Ken Smith were school teachers. Many people such as Rick Day were students at Ohio State. Teaching or being a student allowed for many holidays and long summers. Many of us were not yet home owners and had not yet become parents. We caved. We hiked. We partied. We enjoyed life!

## Transportation

The weekend after Bill Walden purchased his 1968 International Scout, five cavers in addition to Bill piled into the vehicle with caving, camping, and cooking gear. Lou put the cook set on the transmission hump and used it as a seat. He sat facing the three in the back seat. A bridge game was soon under way. Once it got dark, Lou fished out his carbide lamp, lit it, and the game resumed.

So it was with many of the trips. The driver paying attention to the road, four or five others having fun.

## The Cave Photographers

Bill Walden started taking cave pictures on his second Sloans Valley trip.

Bill had classes at OSU with Rick Day. Neither knew

that the other was a caver. Once discovered, Rick began caving with the COG and began taking his marvelous photos. Rick wrote a series of articles for the Squeaks on cave photography.

Ken Smith took caving and cave photography seriously and had several prints and slides entered in the NSS Photos Saloon.

Ed Herel began running the NSS Photo Saloon after Jim Dyer died. Ed too was one of the COG cave photographers.

The late Jim Dyer not only ran the NSS Photo Solon but also took many cave photos.

### The Limerick

There once  
Who oft in a  
That's a be  
But Oh, my  
Not even a  
by

ed Dave

cravel!"

There once  
Who perche  
Twas funny  
Til the bat  
And that wa

bat  
ard hat;

!!

### The COG Squeaks Cartoons

The Squeaks was filled with cartoons. Most of these cartoons were drawn by COG members but some like this were borrowed from other newsletters.

The cartoonists included:

Ken Smith, Ed Herel, Karen  
Walden, Jack Sigafos, Al  
Henning,

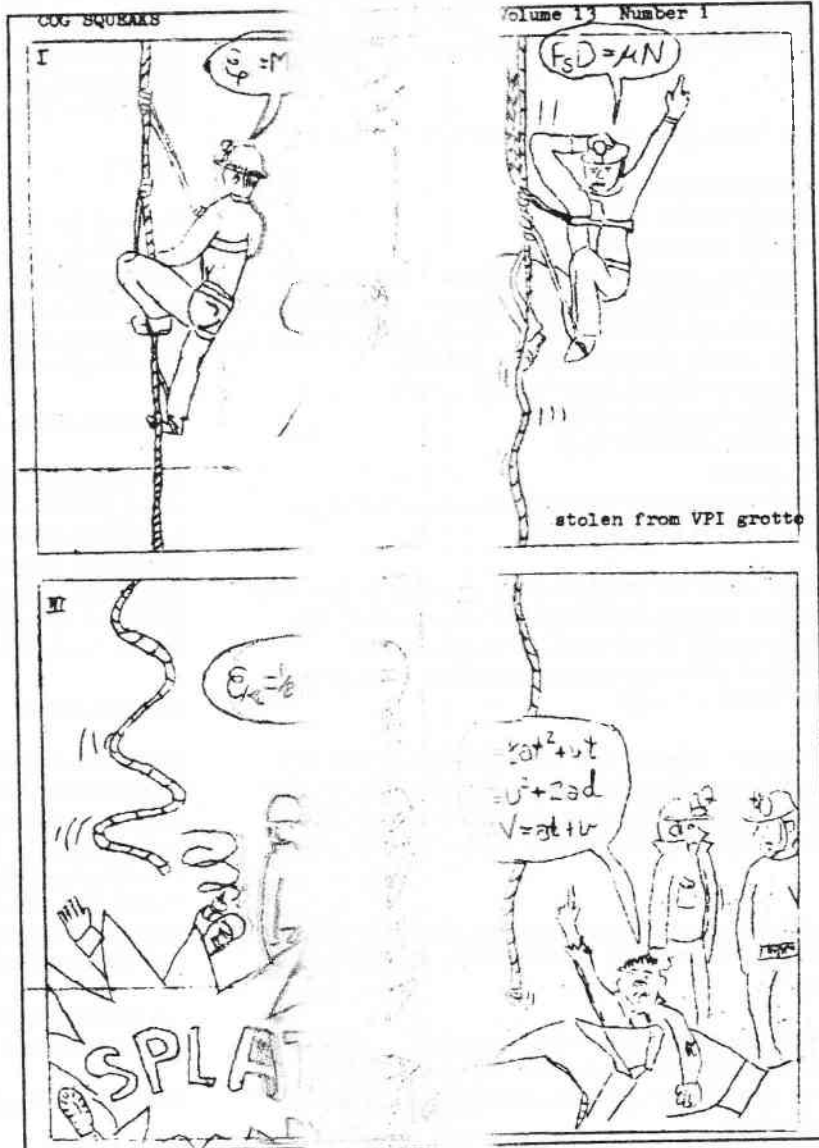
### The Cave Articles

Rick Day wrote a cave photography series that ran in the Squeaks from January 1970 to May 1970 and then a series on cave lighting for photography starting December 1970.

Caving articles were by: Al Henning, Bill Walden, John Bridge, Dave Beiter, Lou Simpson, Ed Herel, Ken Smith, Rick Day, Verne Blalack, and Jack Sigafos.

**Question:** What kind of bat hangs by one leg???

**Answer:** An Acro Bat. (Dec. 1970)





## THE COG 1995

Only a few COG members from 1970 are still in the grotto, fewer still remain active cavers. Those who remain are:

Member	Active Caver yes/no 1995	Active Member yes/no (COG)
Bill Walden	yes	yes
Karen Walden	no	yes
Lou Simpson	yes	no*
Burnell Ehman	no	no†

\* Lou is a dues paying member of the COG but a primary member of another grotto.

† Burnell is a dues paying member of the COG but is unable to attend meetings.

### The Caves in 1995

Most of the caves the COG explored and surveyed in 1970 were known caves. The Sloans Valley System had been surveyed twice before. The Cave Creek system had been known for over a century.

However in 1995 the situation is different. Many of the caves being explored and surveyed were not known in 1970.

Punkin in 1970 was known only to be a small cave perhaps 150 long. Greg Erisman and Paul Unger discovered over a mile of virgin cave.

Highline Cave was dug into by Greg Erisman.

Franklin's Doom was dug into by Andy Franklin and others.

These new caves present exciting surveying and exploration opportunities. For any true caver the most exciting experience is to break into virgin passage. Ask George Hagen how he felt when he and Alice Wozniak discovered a new section in the Farmer's Cave System.

While leading the NSS Frankfort, Kentucky Convention Geology Field Trip Paul Unger remarked that Pulaski County, Kentucky has approximately 2000 known caves and 2000 more to be discovered. Its true!

Keep caving.

### The 1995 Members

The 1995 membership is diverse in their interests and background. Some are true explorers, some surveyors, some enjoy interaction with others -- the youth leaders and Scout trips. All enjoy the underground.

Today's writers include: Lou Simpson, Bill Walden, Steve Aspery, Andy and Kathy Franklin, Stephen Clark, Darrell Adkins, Jan Campbell, Dale Harmon, Cheryl Best, Katie Walden, and Dick Maxey.

We are fortunate to have an artist for the COG Squeaks covers -- Eric Gibson. Eric's drawing of a bat is this month's cover.

### For New Members

The grotto schedules caving trips for the week end following the grotto meeting. If you want to go caving, please try to attend the meetings. Trips are announced at the meetings. Check the Squeaks. Trips are listed in the newsletter.

The best individuals to contact for cave trips include:

Darrell Adkins	614-392-6382 (Mt. Vernon)
Steve Aspery	614-841-1841 (Columbus)
Andy Franklin	614-766-6381 (Columbus)
Pat Kelly	614-885-1270 (Columbus)
Dick Maxey	614-888-2285 (Columbus)
Lou Simpson	513-559-9153 (Cincinnati)
Bill Walden	614-965-2942 (Columbus)

Or any COG officer or committee chair person listed under grotto information.

### Let's Cave!

#### New for the 1990's -- Cave E-mail

Imagine being able to correspond with cavers in England or Austria or Australia, or carry on a keyboard conversation with an Italian caver free of charge, or browse through cave documents and print that of interest to you. It is now easy because of the Internet. Join a freenet such as the Columbus Freenet, or Cleveland Freenet or Dayton Freenet free of charge. All one needs is a computer with a modem and a telephone line. Most Squeaks articles are now transmitted via E-mail.

### CAVE E-MAIL

Submitted by Andy Franklin

The following is a list of cave-related e-mail distribution lists. All of this information has been 'borrowed' from various sources across the Internet. If you notice errors or have any additions please send them to: glennja@wkuvx1.wku.edu.

**Cavedata** The international cave & karst database mailing list (cavedata) is operated by Rauleigh Webb in Western Australia on behalf of the UIS Informatics Commission. This automatic mailing list is for discussions, announcements, news, etc, about cave and karst databases, cave documentation, inventorying

techniques, and so on, from around the world. As it is a specialized mailing list there is no restriction on how heavy, deep or technical you want to get. However, no detailed cave locations, please. To subscribe, send a message to: Majordomo@osi.curtin.edu.au with the following in the body of the message: subscribe cavedata your@e.mail.address

**Cavers Digest** This is a general mailing list for cavers worldwide. Any speleo-topic is fair game. People interested in joining the list should E-mail a request along with an introduction, which includes: Name, NSS # (if a NSS member), caving background, caving area, group affiliations, and specific caving interests. Send requests to: cavers-request@speleology.cs.yale.edu

**Central Ohio Grotto E-mail** Central Ohio Grotto (Columbus OH) e-mail list. Includes ASCII copies of the SQUEAKS. We would also like to build a repository of electronic newsletters available for downloading. Topics include all grotto activities and generalities. All are welcome. To subscribe: send a message to cog@ontos.usa.com with the SUBJECT of SUBSCRIBE

**Ky-Cavenet** The "Ky-Cavenet" e-mail distribution list is administered by the Central Kentucky Cave Survey at Western Kentucky University. The list's purpose is to foster communication among individuals interested in the cave resources of central Kentucky and to generally further the goals of the CKCS. The group is moderated to protect cave entrance information. Send requests to ky-cavenet-request@wkuvx1.wku.edu

**MoCaves** The Missouri Caving Discussion List. To subscribe send mail to: listserv@umslvma.umsi.edu -In the body of the message place: sub mocaves your first name your last name

**OVR-CAVE** OVR is a e-mail group for cavers in the Ohio River Valley area. Inquiries can be sent to Jon Hagee (MCLHAGEE@UKCC.BITNET).

**OZCAVERS** Australian Caving Discussion List. Send inquiries to: Majordomo@osi.curtin.edu.au with the following message in the body of the message: subscribe ozcavers your@e.mail.address

**TAG-NET** This is a mailing list for cavers who live in the TAG area of the United States. Topics include any speleo-topic related to TAG. Membership is RESTRICTED to only those who live in the area, so if you do not qualify, don't ask! TAG cavers who wish to join this list should compose a request containing the same information as for the CAVERS FORUM. Send the request to tag-net-request@netcom.com.

**Texas A&M Cavers** This is an informal cave discussion group at Texas A&M University. Talk is generally organizational in nature. Send request to MKARLE@RPTS.TAMU.EDU.

## TRIP REPORTS -- PART II

### The Pit of No Return

By Lou Simpson

"Why do you have to go caving in the middle of the week?" Sheryl asked.

"That's when the moon will be full," I replied. "You know how hard it was to find the way to and from the entrance to Stykes." We didn't want to admit the real reason--that the strange canyon leading to Uncle Seymour's rope might be impossible to find any other time. Those stories of the cave being haunted were just local folklore, right? It's easy to become confused in the maze of passages, so the fact that we couldn't find the canyon in the daytime probably meant we were just disoriented.

So it was that some of us managed to return to Stykes Cave on the evening of Wednesday February 15, 1995. Harry Goepel, Jim Odom and I managed to get away for this midweek overnight. Also, Cherie Shroyer drove down with Kara Newfield. They were going on to a computer convention in Atlanta after the cave trip. Kara had not been caving before. We met at the Shell station in London and bought cave food.

We arrived at the parking spot near dusk. It was cold, but clear. As we descended the steep ravine, we could see long shadows cast by the unnaturally large rising full moon. Our footsteps crackled on the icy leaves and echoed from the sandstone cliffs. We found the modest entrance in the low limestone cliff, not far below the sandstone contact. This cave has good depth potential. We suited up, prepared to drop the pit we hoped we could find this time. We'd rig our own rope, not wanting to trust the very old one we'd seen in the cave last month. Kara and Cherie weren't going to do the pit, but just wanted to see this mysterious cave after reading my unbelievable trip report from January.

"Well, according to the map, we should be in the right place. Where's the Disappearing Canyon?" Harry asked.

"Right behind you, Harry," Jim replied.

"That's funny," I didn't see it a minute ago," Cherie commented. "Don't take your eyes off of it," she teased.

Indeed, the canyon was there. While Jim and Kara went on ahead to rig the pit, Cherie, Harry, and I did a quick survey of Disappearing Canyon. Six stations later, we reached the rig point. Jim and Kara were talking animatedly, apparently becoming friendly. There was a familiar aroma in the air.

"It's pretty deep!" Jim exclaimed. "I rigged into the rope to try and see the bottom, but I'm not sure I did."

"Man, I'm not going down there," said Kara. "You've got more balls than I do." She shot Jim a knowing glance.

Jim rappelled down first. It took a long time. Finally, we heard his faint "Off rope!" Harry descended next. I wasn't sure I wanted to try it. My equipment is pretty primitive and I need to upgrade it. Soon Harry was down too. I told Harry when he got a little ways down that I'd remain on top while they checked out the bottom. We'd measure the depth of the pit by marking where the rope reached. After a while we couldn't hear Jim and Harry below, so we looked around for other leads.

There appeared to be a passage beyond the pit. I started crawling along a narrow ledge and thought I heard something ahead, like a high pitched giggle. No, the women were still sitting at the rig point, discussing computers. Cherie had even brought along her laptop and was doing some writing. I dug out a little sand and widened the ledge to make it safer. Soon I was across and into the passage. Sadly, it wasn't virgin. However, the tracks looked unusual. In fact, I began to realize that I was encountering small bare footprints like I had seen in Jaguar Cave, Tennessee! These were quite small, however, possibly made by children. Again I thought I heard a voice ahead. I remembered the sounds I heard on the January trip. Visions of "Little People" came to mind. Cherie had been singing a haunting melody about "The Little Land". Would we find Uncle Seymour frozen in time like some modern-day Rip Van Winkle?.

I took some photographs of the footprints, then ventured carefully on through the crawlway. It branched and branched again, like the joint-controlled maze we'd already come through. With much more to explore, I returned to the others, excitedly telling them about the footprints. We could see the rope tightening like somebody was climbing it. We could hear Jim grunting as he made the long ascent. Finally reaching the top, he lay panting, a big grin on his face. I yelled "Off Rope" for him after he disconnected from the rope. While Harry quickly climbed out on his fancy rig, Jim began to tell of further pits, canyons, and a great river passage. "It really goes, man!" We're gonna need more ropes and possibly even a boat! It's the River Styx, man! Awesome stream down there!"

Harry confirmed Jim's findings. "You gotta see it, Lou!. We've got a lot to do."

I told them about the footprints. "Yeah, we saw some tracks too. Might have been bare feet."

It was getting toward midnight and I thought it would be prudent not to remain in Disappearing Canyon too long after that. "Wouldn't want to be in here when the moon sets," I thought.

We derigged the pit and measured the drop at 168 feet, pretty deep for Pulaski County, Kentucky. As we

came out of Disappearing Canyon, it seemed to me that it was narrower than when we mapped it. "Probably just seems tighter now that we're going faster," I thought.

The sky was getting cloudy as we climbed the ravine to the cars. When we got there, Cherie said "Oh shit! I think I left the power adapter for my computer in the cave! Dammit! I'm going back after it."

"What did you do, find an outlet in the cave?" I teased.

"No, it was just in the pack," Cherie explained, not seeing the humor.

"I'll come with you," Kara offered.

"OK, I could use some company."

"Do you think you will get lost? Do you want me to come too?" I asked.

"No, it seemed pretty straightforward. Let's get started."

The two headed back down into the ravine. We got going and headed for the Sloan's Valley fieldhouse.

That was Thursday morning. Now it's Tuesday, the 21st. I thought Cherie said she would be back today. Maybe it was tomorrow. I hope they got out of the cave OK.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Cavers,

The Executive committee met Sunday, February 26, 1995 and delegated duties to all officers as well as going over grotto business. We decided that donations of books and money be requested at the next meeting for expanding the grotto library. Books desired are: On Rope, NCRC Cave Rescue, and Basic Caving. Also, we will ask members to loan books to the grotto library. All these books would be available to grotto members.

The Executive Committee also stated that the grotto needs to conduct more beginner cave trips and fun trips for new members. So, please go caving and invite someone.

We spent that afternoon and evening at the Waldens' working on the grotto library. The grotto library consists of exchange newsletters from many different grottoes, NSS bulletins, NSS News, NSS administrative notes, and a few books.

The program for the March meeting will be on the use and care of carbide lamps.

Pat Kelly

## TRIP REPORTS PART III

### Trip Report - February Grotto Weekend - Feb. 17-18 by Steve Aspery

Darrell Adkins, Steve Aspery, Bobbie Lou Bates, Doug Burke, Greg Erisman, Mike Erisman, Pat Erisman, Ron Erisman, Joe Gibson, Jim Currens

From the start, this weekend was to be one of luxury. Doug, Darrell, and I left Columbus about 2:00 Friday afternoon. The weather was great, the drive quick and pleasant, and we arrived in Somerset while it was still light. We checked into the motel, yes I said MOTEL, and headed to the Lakeview for all you can eat catfish. Joe rolled in after dinner, and Bobbie a little later. We spent a few comfortable hours reviewing maps and making plans. We refused to admit that the new section would be flooded but we knew it was close and that the lake had been rising quickly. Tomorrow would tell.

With an early night we were up and at breakfast early Saturday. The Erisman's were concerned that they might be late for our 9:00 meet time due to some vehicle problems but when we got back to the motel at 8:30 they were sitting in the parking lot. I don't believe that it is physically possible for an Erisman to be late for anything caving related. Their enthusiasm is always a welcome thing on Saturday morning.

We decided to divide into three groups to work different projects and possibly meet later. Greg, Mike, and Ron went to push an entrance that is within 200 feet of H survey at the end of the new section. Pat, Doug, and I would try to get to the new section or find the lake, whichever came first. If the passage were open, we would backtrack to make voice contact with the third group. The third group was Darrell, Joe, Bobbie, and Jim. They would clean up leads from the entrance to where we were unless we made voice contact.

Doug, Pat and I made great time working to the new section but several times had to decide whether we should push through pooled water. After about an hour we reached lake level, sooner than any of us had expected, not even making it to the split rock. We pushed a couple promising leads but always hit lake water and decided to head back to a dig we had played with in January. After two hours of tough, tight digging we opened about 15 feet of passage and found ourselves in a small dome room maybe 20 feet across with our passage ten feet off the floor. There were bats in there, and a small drain out the bottom, but when I tried to clear the rocks out the water dripping from above was too much to handle.

We worked back to find Darrell's group and found that they had already worked down to our level in the canyon. Our goal was to qualify some of the question marks on the current map. We wanted to sketch and identify them as going, needs digging, or hopeless so

that we could plan future work. They had accomplished much more than we had. We decided to work toward the Rope Room and Doc's and again we separated to work different areas. We pushed ahead toward Doc's while the other group pushed the rope room area.

After several hours we decided we had enough. We had been wet all day, digging too much, and were ready to go. On the way out we found a note from the others indicating that they had made the same decision an hour earlier. The trip out was its usual hard work, but with a small group it went faster than usual and for the first time we came out of the entrance in daylight, having spent about 9 hours in the cave. We popped out to find Jim pulling Joe's truck up the hill which is becoming fairly bad with the wet weather. We eventually got all of the vehicles and cavers on the road and headed toward the motel and the showers.

Saturday night, clean and hardly looking like cavers, we enjoyed all you can eat barbecue at Sonny's. We got our money's worth enjoying the good food and company. We learned later that Greg, Mike, and Ron didn't make it in the other entrance, it is a little tight. They instead dug on a possible entrance back the road a bit, making some good progress with blowing air.

Sunday morning everybody else headed back while Darrell, Greg, Mike, Ron and I went to work on the dig. After some powerful chemical persuasion and a lot of rock moving and digging, we eventually got a fair hole opened up. It still needs work but Greg looked in a bit and it may go.

Our time had run out and it was time to head home. Once again we left many unfinished projects, I guess we'll just have to go again.

## MARCH MEETING

Pat Kelly is planning a program on carbide lamps for the March meeting. Please bring your carbide lamp and accessory items to the grotto meeting.

The March meeting will be at the Presbyterian Church on the square in Worthington, Ohio. There is plenty of parking behind the church. Please enter the church from the parking lot.

Hope to see you all at the meeting.

## COG LIBRARY

About seventeen COG members showed up Sunday, February 26, 1995 to help organize several years worth of exchange newsletters. They made remarkable progress. Most of the newsletters have been sorted and bound. Bill needs to install shelving in his basement now. Dinner followed the work session.