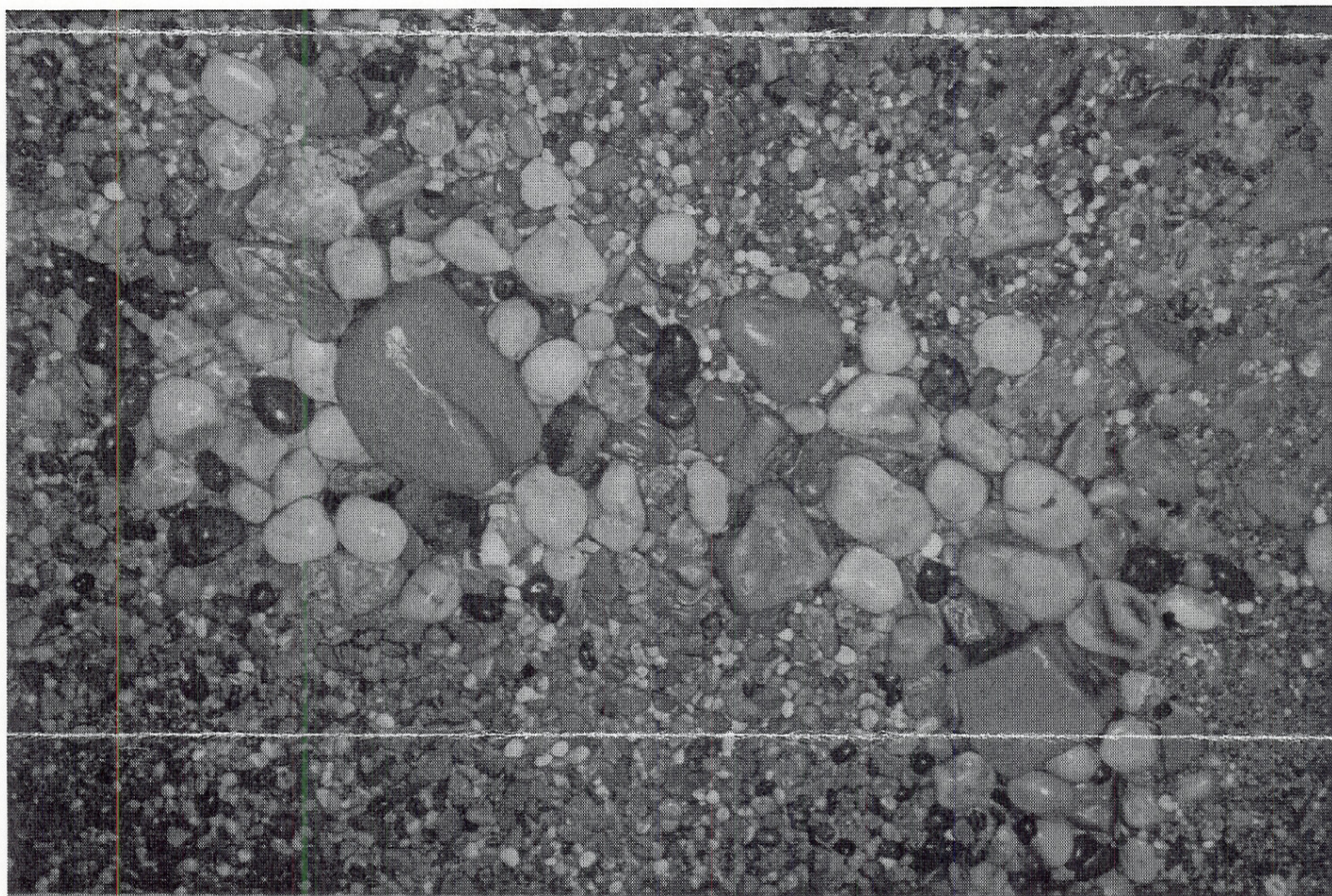




COGSQUEAKS

December 2001



Quartz Stones in Redmond Creek Cave

Photo by Kevin Toepke

INFORMATION PAGE

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the national Speleological Society meets at 8:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the second Friday of most months. The church is on the northwest corner of the square in Worthington. Parking is available behind the church. Enter the parking lot from the first side street off State Route 161. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place. The December meeting is not held at the church.

<i>Grotto Officers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NSS #</i>	<i>Telephone</i>
Chairman	Darrell Adkins	29048	740-392-6382
Vice Chair	Kevin Toepke	46032	614-539-5457
Secretary	Katie Walden	25894	740-965-2942
Treasurer	Karen Walden	15678	740-965-2942

Executive Committee Members:

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Steve Aspery	38931	614-841-1846
Lacie Braley	44099	614-895-1732
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WEB pages: www.tuningoracle.com/cog/ Webmaster – Kevin Toepke

<http://www.netmarkweb.com/cog/> Webmaster – Doug Burke.

List servers

Cog@ontosystems.com – Central Ohio Grotto

KCS@ontosystems.com – Kentucky Speleological Survey Please join by sending e-mail with the subject **subscribe**.

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

The C.O.G. Squeaks

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

NSS organizations may reprint material from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit unless stated otherwise. Send E-mail to Bill Walden if you want a Word file of the Squeaks to reprint.

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). Please notify Bill Walden or Andy Franklin if you want the PDF version (It's in full color).

C.O.G. Cabin The Grotto has a small shelter cabin on the property of Greg and Angela Erisman in Pulaski County, Kentucky for the use of C.O.G. members and friends. The cabin has five bunks and a picnic table. Outside of the cabin and a very short distance from the cabin is a practice-climbing tower for rope climbing. There is plenty of room for tents on the property.

COG KARST CALENDAR

Dec 8, 2001	COG Christmas Party, 6:00 p.m.
June 24-28, 2002	NSS Convention, Camden, Maine
August 4-8, 2003	NSS Convention, Poterville, Cal.

COG Christmas Party

Allan South is hosting the 2001 COG Christmas party at his home starting at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, December 8, 2001. Allan's address is: 83 South Brinker., Columbus, Ohio 43204, Telephone: 614-276-0447

Bring a dish to share and a gift for the gift exchange

Allan is on the west side of Columbus off Broad. One may take the Haugue or Wilson exit from I-70 and travel to Broad. If on Hague turn right or West on Broad watch for a RAX. After Rax turn left on Alconquin, then left on Olive, left on Brinker - we are 83 S Brinker - we have a stone front. If one takes the Wilson exit turn east on Broad, right on Alconquin (right before the RAX) and then again left on Olive and left on Brinker.

New Officers

Chair: Joe Gibson

Vice chair: Dale Andreatta

Secretary: Cat Whitney

Treasurer: Karen Walden

Exec. Committee: Don Conover, Bill Walden

New E-mail address for the Squeaks Editor:

wwalden@columbus.rr.com

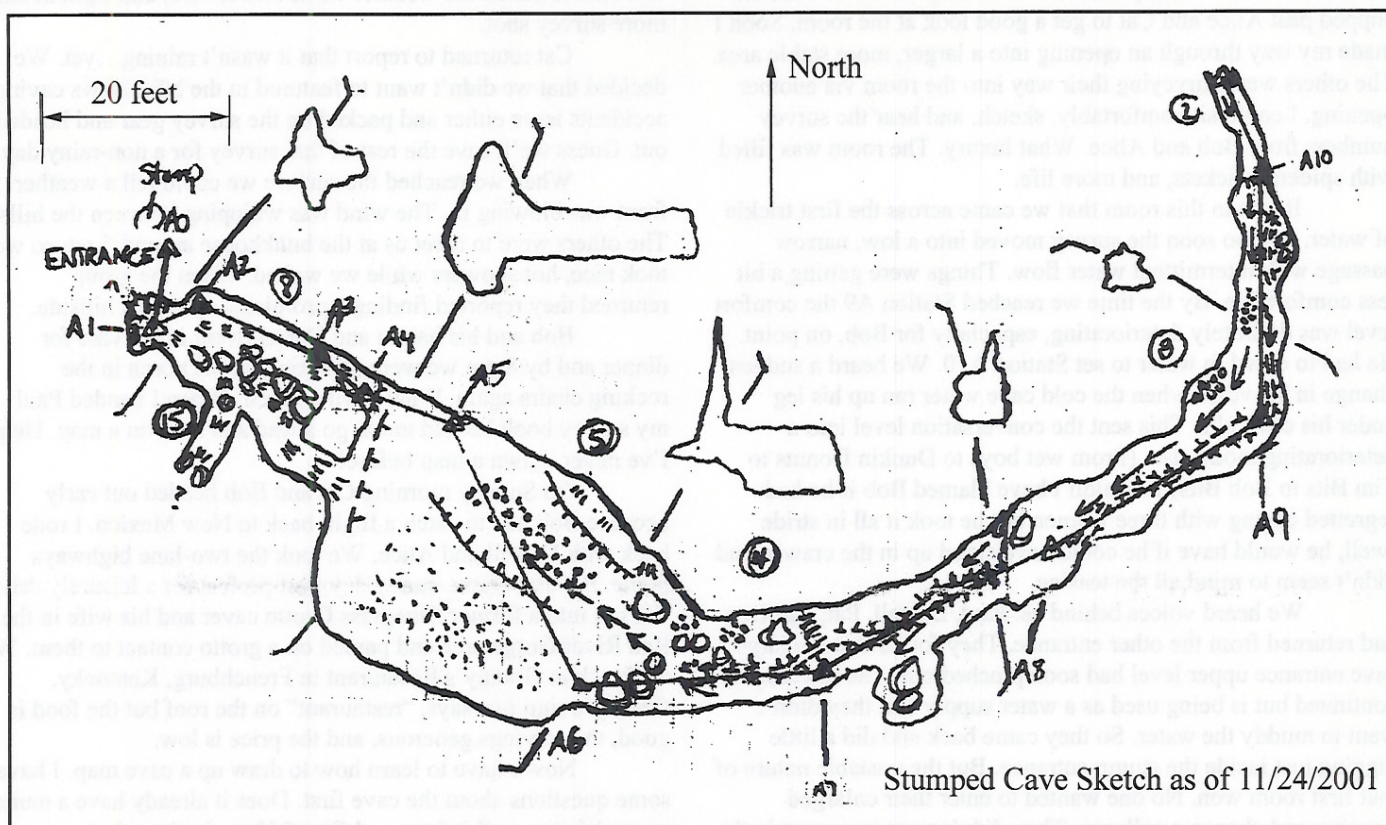
Please change your address book.

Check out the COG WEB page set up by Kevin Toepke at

www.tuningoracle.com/cog/ You will find back issues of the Squeaks available there as Acrobat files.

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Stumped Cave Sketch Submitted by Lacie Braley

How to Stump a Caver

By Lacie Braley NSS 44099

Question: What's short, round, fifty feet from the vehicles, and takes eight cavers forty-five minutes to find?

Answer: A big tree.....stump.

I guess the directions to the cave had been fairly simple. The trouble was, no one "heard" the same directions. All I heard was that we needed to find a big tree and the entrance would be nearby. We were surrounded by big trees.

In the end, Alice Woznak and Bob Rodgers (visiting Cat Whitney from Las Cruces, New Mexico) were the first to spot the cave entrance...by the big tree...stump.

We had Doc Erisman sound the truck horn to gather the scattered cavers back to the vehicles.

When we all had congregated it was time to split into two survey teams; one to survey the cave by the tree stump, and one to head for a larger entrance down the road. Paul Unger, Pat and Doc (Tony) Erisman, and Darrell Adkins left for the other cave entrance. Alice, Bob, Cat, and I prepared to start the survey into what we were calling Stumped Cave (pending discovery of an existing name for it).

The eight of us had traveled to a church camp property in Lee County, Kentucky, the previous day. Our purpose was to

survey a couple of the caves on the property and eventually to produce a map or two for the landowners.

Friday had been a relaxing day. Darrell, Alice, Cat, Bob, and I had met Paul, Pat, Doc, and Ron Erisman at the camp and we had taken a look at another cave on the property. We had spent the evening in the comfort of a large bunkhouse that included a porch and cozy rocking chairs. The conversation that evening was scintillating. One example: Caver One, "It's raining." Caver Two, "Outside?" Cat recorded those brilliant comments in her journal.

On Saturday morning at the much sought cave entrance, I was given sketch duty. Bob took point. Alice was on instruments and Cat was keeping notes. There's something very freeing about having a sketcher *and* a notetaker.

The entrance room in the cave is quite unstable. The walls are loosely layered blocks of crumbling limestone and I was in constant fear of knocking the right (or wrong) block loose and bringing the ceiling and walls down on us all.

As always, it took me a little while to really get my sketch started. I carefully climbed down into the first room and slipped past Alice and Cat to get a good look at the room. Soon I made my way through an opening into a larger, more stable area. The others were surveying their way into the room via another opening. I could sit comfortably, sketch, and hear the survey numbers from Bob and Alice. What luxury. The room was filled with spiders, crickets, and more life.

It was in this room that we came across the first trickle of water. All too soon the survey moved into a low, narrow passage with intermittent water flow. Things were getting a bit less comfortable. By the time we reached Station A9 the comfort level was definitely deteriorating, especially for Bob, on point. He had to crawl in water to set Station A10. We heard a sudden change in his voice when the cold cave water ran up his leg under his coveralls. This sent the conversation level into a deteriorating mode also. (From wet boys to Dunkin Donuts to Tim Bits to Bob Bits) I wouldn't have blamed Bob if he had regretted caving with three women but he took it all in stride (well, he would have if he could have stood up in the crawl), and didn't seem to mind all the teasing.

We heard voices behind us. Paul, Darrell, Pat, and Doc had returned from the other entrance. They found that the large cave entrance upper level had soon pinched out. The lower level continued but is being used as a water supply and they didn't want to muddy the water. So they came back and did a little digging just inside the stump entrance. But the unstable nature of that first room won. No one wanted to enter their enlarged opening and chance a collapse. They didn't want to appear in the next NSS News caving accidents issue. So once again they routed and went ridge walking.

It was after a quick snack break that Alice and I realized the airflow in the cave had changed. We hadn't noticed much of a breeze before but now the air was pulsing through the cave passage. Every couple of minutes we would notice a burst of air. Since we were in a narrow crawl in a cave that takes water and

rain was forecast, we got a little nervous. Cat went back to the entrance to check the weather while Alice, Bob, and I got in one more survey shot.

Cat returned to report that it wasn't raining...yet. We decided that we didn't want to be featured in the NSS News caving accidents issue either and packed up the survey gear and headed out. Guess we'll save the rest of that survey for a non-rainy day.

When we reached the surface we could tell a weather front was blowing in. The wind was whipping between the hills. The others were to meet us at the bunkhouse around 5 pm so we took nice, hot showers while we waited. When the group returned they reported finding a promising spot on a hillside.

Bob and his harem and Darrell went into Irvine for dinner and by 8 pm we were all sitting on the porch in the rocking chairs again. What a wild bunch! When I handed Paul my survey book he told me to go ahead and start on a map. Help! I've never drawn a map before!

On Sunday morning Cat and Bob headed out early because Bob had to catch a flight back to New Mexico. I rode back with Darrell and Alice. We took the two-lane highways home. It was a warm, sunny day, just perfect for a leisurely drive. We ran into a former Bluegrass Grotto caver and his wife in the Red River Gorge area and passed on a grotto contact to them. We ate lunch at Granny's Restaurant in Frenchburg, Kentucky. Granny's sign just says, "restaurant" on the roof but the food is good, the servings generous, and the price is low.

Now I have to learn how to draw up a cave map. I have some questions about the cave first. Does it already have a name or am I free to call it Stumped Cave? How far does that water crawl go? Does it connect to the large cave entrance the other group surveyed as is thought by the local people? I can at least provide the church camp with a preliminary sketch in the meantime.

I'll close with a word of advice for the reader. Always listen carefully to directions to a cave, maybe even consider writing them down. And remember, sometimes a big tree turns out to be a short stump.

Frustration

By Kevin Toepke

Dag-nabbit! I couldn't believe it. I'd navigated over the Junction Room several times before without panicking. But that was over a year ago. Now I couldn't deal with the exposure. Oh heck! Now Al and I will have to do something else.

The morning of Friday November 16 saw me picking up Al South and Bill Walden for a trip to Kentucky. The goals for the weekend were to install a new counter top and put up a 4th wall on the field house and survey some cave! Friday we got the counter top installed and the wall up.

After we had completed the work Jim Blodgett and Bruce Worthman showed up. They were planning on helping on the planned surveys on Saturday.

Once at Redmond we split into 2 groups with Bill taking Jim and Bruce with a planned survey up the West Canyons and Al and I were planning in surveying the upper-level passage above the junction room. After a failed attempt at a climb-up at the Junction Room, we backtracked and entered the west canyon passage from another direction.

At the climb-down, Bill, Bruce and Jim headed west towards the breakdown and Al and I headed East towards the Junction Room. We got 1 survey shot in -- I was unable to deal with the exposure at the climb over the junction room.

After I couldn't pass over the Junction Room, we tried to follow Bill out the West Canyon passage, but couldn't find the trail so we decided to do a tourist trip out the East Canyons, as I'd never

been to that side of the cave. We left Bill a note at the split just in case Bill exited before we did.

We climbed up and down and up and down and then up and down again before finding the domes with the quartz pebbles and the formation areas. Beautiful white formations. Unusual for this part of Kentucky.

There is a drain on the floor on the Northeast part of the loop – near the passage that leads to the largest room in the cave. Katie, Bill and I have in the past commented on how water the water echoes as it falls down a waterfall. It sounds like the waterfall is just inside the drain. I know that Katie had poked her nose into the passage but I don't remember her going far.

The drain was dry so I crawled in. Kneepads are highly recommended as you are crawling over scallops. The passage

continues for about 40 feet. The waterfall, which appears to take all of the water, is about 30 feet into the crawl. The hole in the floor is too small – even for the Erismans! The biggest part of the hold is about 7" by 12", roughly in the shape of a football. I could easily see about 20 feet down. There is a **big** echo and air from this hole. If only it was a bit bigger....

Al and I exited the cave before Bill & co. So, to waste time, we hiked up to Lower Owl Cave – its a little harder to find in the dark than during the day. On our way back to the cars we ran into Bill coming to look for us – he had apparently exited about 15 minutes after we left the cars.

I'm going back to Redmond over New Years weekend and I **WILL** make the climb over the Junction room. We also plan on surveying in Lower Owl Cave. Of course, all of our plans are weather permitting.

Just Needs To Be Done!

By Bill Walden

On the map or Redmond Creek there is an optimistic note at the end of the main passage that says "goes 1.5 miles, just needs to be done!"

Friday, November 23 Lee Florea and I planned to attack that passage and survey it as far as practical. The plan was for Lee and Jason Gulley to don their wetsuits before entering the water, traverse the water, change into dry clothes and travel and far as they thought reasonable and start surveying back. Bill Walden and Dale Andreatta were to resurvey the water filled portion and Katie Walden and Jason Clancey were to traverse the water, mark a permanent station and start surveying toward Lee and Jason Gulley.

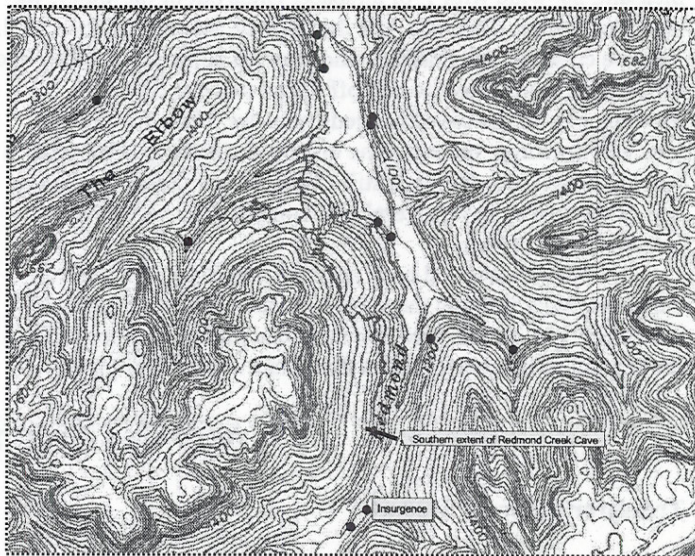
We all entered the cave about 11 in the morning and traveled to the point where the passage was filled wall to wall with water. We got into our wetsuits. Jason and Lee started first through the water. Next Jason and Katie followed. Dale and I began our survey through the water. I left my pack behind. It was my intent to survey through the water to the station that Katie was to mark. Since I was using the water as a reference, there was no need to take inclinometer reading and I didn't sketch.

Not Everything Goes to Plan

Once Dale and I surveyed through the water, Katie informed me that she was too cold to continue so she and Jason left the cave. That left Dale and I to survey south till we met Lee and Jason Gulley. We surveyed and surveyed. My compass jammed and I couldn't turn the dial – it was useless. That left Dale with the only working compass but it wasn't a sighting compass. We had been getting excellent agreement. Dale was lining my sketch compass up with the tape and getting readings that matched mine or agreed within one degree. We decided to continue relying on the sketch compass only. However that compass started jamming too! Dale managed to make it turn so we continued. Finally we could hear Jason and Lee in the distance. Our final

station was 39. We averaged about 65 feet per shot. Together our two teams surveyed 3527.7 feet all of it between 1.0 and 2.5 feet high. This effectively doubled the north-south length of Redmond Creek Cave.

Jason Gulley explored approximately 1000 feet past the point where he and Lee started to survey – so the cave continues toward the insurgence.



Overlay of Redmond Creek Cave on Topographical map by Lee Florea

The map above shows the cave on the topographical map. As one can see, we are about 1000 feet from the point where Redmond Creek disappears into the ground.

The new map of Redmond Creek cave is on the rear cover of the Squeaks.

To be Done

1. The survey of the main passage needs to be completed. As shown on the map there is at least 1200 feet yet to be done plus whatever new passage is discovered.
2. Lower Owl Cave needs to be surveyed. It may connect into Redmond Creek Cave.
3. High-level stuff in the West Canyon needs to be surveyed and explored. With luck perhaps we can find a way around the terminal breakdown at the end of the West Canyon.
4. There is a high canyon going northwest from the Junction Room that needs to be surveyed. See Kevin's report.

Next Trip

New Years weekend. I plan to work in Redmond Creek Cave December 29th and 30th. I may do a photography trip into Redmond Creek Cave Monday, December 31st. Monday evening December 31st is the New Years Eve Party at Great Salt Petre Cave.

I plan to stay at the COG field house Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and then move to the Great Salt Petre Cave Preserve for the in cave party Monday evening. Please plan to help with the cave survey and party in Great Salt Petre Cave on New Years Eve.

Lee Florea's Report On Redmond Creek Cave

By Lee Florea

I am sore, and that is a good thing. In fact, I haven't been this sore in a while. I almost forgot what it feels like. You know what? I need to feel this way more often.

Why am I sore? Well, you see, I did some crawling this weekend. A lot of crawling — 2 miles of crawling. In Redmond Creek Cave. Jason Gulley, Bill, Dale and I pushed the south water passage hoping to find the end of the cave. Like most good caves, that did not happen.

We entered the cave around 11 on Friday morning and quickly made it through the sand crawls and main trunk to the beginning of the bathtub. Jason and I donned our wetsuits and swam/crawled the 900 feet to the end of the water — pretty pleasant, 20' wide with 1' of airspace. Once out of the water, we switched back to coveralls, left the dry bag, and started the crawl. And we crawled, and crawled, and crawled some more. When we thought we would have to call off the advance and start surveying back, the cave changed character. No walking mind you, still crawling, but we came upon forks in the passage and in feeding domes. And there is still LOTS of air. The domes at the end of the survey have several leads on many levels and need considerable checking.

So we surveyed back until we met Bill and Dale who were surveying through the water and onward toward us. In all we mapped 19 stations and Bill and Dale placed 39 station. With roughly 60' average per station that totals around 3400 feet —

with every last bit less than 2.5 feet tall! The return trip was exhausting and putting the wetsuits back on was VERY unpleasant. By the time we reached the entrance, Jason and I were ravenous and attempted to consume everything that Karen Walden handed us back at Bill's trailer.

The total in Redmond Creek Cave is over 4 miles now. Come January, we will have to get back into Jugornot so that we can regain the lead. This should be possible since Redmond tends to sump shut after winter begins. That is unless another entrance is found.

The southern end of the cave is somewhat underneath the main valley again just south of the side valley that contains the Owl Caves. Bill is really interested in having Lower Owl Cave surveyed now.

The rest of the weekend was low key. The energy that Jason and I started the weekend with was wiped. So we conveniently used the weather excuse as the reason not to survey either Price Valley or the Cricket/Coral connection. Lucky for us, the weather predictions held true, by the end of the day tornado watches were in effect, and lightning began to flicker.

If anyone wishes to join me for surveying in Jugornot this Sunday let me know. Joel Despain and Shane Fryar will be in town from CA. I am surveying with them on Saturday, and I am trying to get them to return the favor the next day.

Hope everyone had a great turkey day!

Minutes from the November Meeting

Treasurer's report: \$738.61

Squeaks report: Thanks for the articles.

Toy committee: Dale brought lights for survey stations.

Katie Walden brought a pyritized ammonite fossil

Al South volunteered to host the grotto Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 8. It will be a potluck dinner starting at 6:30.

Elections:

Secretary: Cat volunteered

Vice chair: Dale nominated

Chair: Joe nominated

Treasurer: Karen Walden

Exec. comm.: Don Conover, Bill Walden

The slate of officers was accepted — unanimous.

BW comments on surveying -- notes are very important.

When a Caver Can't Cave

By Cat Whitney

When a caver can't cave, what do they do? Projects to keep them busy.

I sit in my living room sorting out the piles of hundreds of photographs
of everything from animals to flowers, from headstones to sunsets,
and of course caves and cavers.

As I put the photos into the album sleeves, I stop to look at each one and think back.
Where was it taken? What was I doing? Who was I with?
The memories rush in and I begin to reminisce.

There's a photo of the barn behind Squalid Manor that captures the abandoned, silent grayness
of a long since forgotten building on a cold Kentucky morning.
I stood in the rain for almost 15 minutes to get that one picture.

My photos of the Buck Creek Entrance to Wells Cave that have frozen in time
that mystical feeling you get when you emerge from the water
and watch as the fog from the water's surface makes the scene surreal and haunting.
In that moment you forget how cold and wet you are.

AND There's an alien in my bed. Actually, he was in my sleeping bag.
Placed there by an accomplice who didn't want me to sleep alone.
The photo of the alien and his real bed partner is too dark to make out.
However, we know who it was.

There's this great photo of Lee Florea in Wells Cave.
He is straddling the formation of Donkey D.
Posed with his eyes dosed, like a porn star waiting for the words "Action".
There are group shots of Convention.
Obscene and bizarre photos from OTR,
Groups of tired and dirty, hardworking cavers from the Mammoth Cave Cleanup.

Dozens of pictures of formations from Jugornot, Redmond, Wells, Stream and others.
Stalagmites, gypsum roses, snow crystals, waterfalls, giant stream passages, fault lines, etc.
Creatures of every shape and size: Salamanders and crayfish, bats and spiders.
The Indiana Bat series I took in Cascade Cave during last years Crawl-a-thon.
The icy images of the frozen curtains that hung from Natural Bridge.
The nature trail steps covered in freshly fallen snow.

Since my fall last year in Redmond I have not done much caving.
It's been mostly walk through easy trips.
No challenge, no pain, and no real adventure.
The doctors want to operate. I just want to cave.

Sifting through these pictures makes me happy and sad.
But most of all it stirs the yearning inside my soul that deeply desires the underground,
the peace and quiet, the pristine nature of virgin cave passage,
and the fossils of creatures long since departed.
I want to experience again these wonders.
I want to feel that exhilaration and exhaustion
that hits you just as you leave the cave after a long day of exploring and surveying.

When a caver can't cave, there are pictures and stories.
It is all that I have.
Until this caver can cave again.

Quick Map by Bill Welden
Using Compass Software
and Adobe Photoshop
November 28, 2001

Ceiling height
in this section is:
1 to 2.5 feet.

No Response
0.00%

Side lead may go
to Lower Owl Cave???

Redmond Creek Cave as of November 23, 2001