

C. O. G. Squeaks

January 2009



C. O. G. Secretary Bruce Warthman at Great Rock Sink New Years Day 2009

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

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

Grotto Mailing Address: C/O Joe Gibson, 6883 Cedarbrook Pl., New Albany, OH 43054-9738 614-855-7948
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Grotto Membership Dues:
\$15 per individual or \$20 per family.

Grotto Officers Name Telephone

Chairman	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
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Treasurer	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
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Exec. Committee	Dale Andreatta	614-890-3269
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Officers for 2009:

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

The C.O.G. Squeaks

The C.O.G. Squeaks is mailed to dues paying members and to grottoes with which the COG exchanges newsletters. The C.O.G. Squeaks is also available by E-mail as an Adobe Acrobat file (PDF) or Word Document. The Squeaks is produced using Open Office. Please notify Bill Walden, if you would like a file of the Squeaks to reprint. The Squeaks is available as a PDF at:

Website 1 <http://www.tuningoracle.com/cog>:
Website 2 <http://www.centralohiogrotto.com>
List Server cog@ontosystems.com

Please send trip reports, caving articles, cave fiction, cave poetry, and cave photos to Bill Walden for publication.

Bill Walden
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Karst Calendar

Jan 23-25 2009 Crawlathon. Go to their WEB site for information:
<http://www.crawlathon.com/>

Jan 25 KSS meeting 10 AM at Crawlathon

Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24 Central Ohio Grotto Meeting 7:00 pm. at the Presbyterian Church on the Square in Worthington

Mar 21 & 22 Carter Caves Restoration Camp. Go to:
<http://home.zoomnet.net/~jonlewis/ccrg/index.html>
for information.

May 22 – 24 Speleofest. Go to the Louisville Grotto home page for information: <http://louisville.caves.org/Speleofest.html>.

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

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

From the Chair

I hope everybody had a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you to everybody that came to the Christmas party. We had 20 people that came (some from 2-5 hours away!). There was beer, pizza, salad and fried stuff. It was good to see old friends and make some new ones.

Welcome to new COG members Dan Zubal and Kathryn Burgess that also came to the party.

This fall COG is helping OVR on the sinkhole cleanup in Ohio.

We will need a lot of help. As soon as I get information, I will pass it on.

Believe it or not I am planning on doing some caving trips this year! I will be helping Pat Gibson with a scout trip Jan. 17th & 18th. Hope to see you underground soon.

Joe Gibson (COG chair, treasurer, librarian and keeper of the caving gear)

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Cover – Photo of Bruce Warthman at Great Rock Sink by Preston Forsythe.	

* These articles are also in the January 2009 KSS Newsletter.

Great Rock Sink Entrances of Sloan Valley Cave

By Preston Forsythe

With Wolf Creek Dam being repaired for several years and the lake being lowered for the first time in a long time, Great Rock Sink is accessible. Dr. George Crothers, the Kentucky State Anthropologist is interested in investigating the area. At the request of Dr. Crothers, Bill Walden organized a surface and cave survey to replace the original survey map which was at approximately 500 ft. to the inch. It was my first time there.



Bill Walden Sketching in Great Rock Sink - Photo by Preston Forsythe

The sink is impressive — of state park quality. The owner has done a good job of maintaining and protecting the site. Bill said there have been several caver clean-ups there over the years. Bill Walden, Katie and Aron Schmid, Kevin Toepke, Dale Andreatta, Bruce Baldbat Warthman, Brenda Mitchell, and Preston Forsythe made three 5-hour survey trips over the first three days of the New Year. It was a great time. As I said the sink is impressive and the main feature of the multi-entrance cave is the fine main entrance and the cave passage averaging over 75 feet wide. We stopped the survey near The Hat Drop Hole and an overlook into huge passage. The Hat Hole is where the early commercial guides used to play a trick on clients by knocking their hat down a hole in the floor and then later recovering it for a laugh. The cave was known as Cumberland Crystal Cave in those days in the 20's and 30's.

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Tourists visiting Cumberland Crystal Caves - Photo courtesy of Tom Land

On our first day of survey ice formations were present outside as well as over 200 ft. into the cave. Some were 2.5 feet long. By the way the cave is a cold sink. The large passage and two-entrances created a wind chill that all noticed. Bill measured 34° F. in the cave. The sketchers bare hands were cold but the resurvey was fun and worth it. Bill quickly produced a stick map using the cave survey software Compass in red and green of the results.



The Great Rock Sink - Photo by Preston Forsythe

Notes from the editor: The next planned survey trip to GRS is January 17, 2009 – weather and lake level permitting. I expect this project to continue into early spring. Contact me, Bill Walden, for information if you want to help. I intend to survey only the Great Rock Sink section of the Sloans Valley Cave.

Is anyone interested in surveying another section of Sloans? With modern computer technology it would be great to produce detailed maps of the cave. A word of caution – such maps cannot be allowed to get into general circulation for obvious reasons.

Bill Walden

Survey Projects:

Cave	County	Project Leader	Status
Ice Cave	Wayne	Bill Walden	Completed
Wind Cave	Wayne	Eric Weaver	Completed
Redmond Creek	Wayne	Bill Walden	Nearing Completion
Bowman Pit	Wayne	Lee Florea	Just Started
Triple-S	Wayne	Eric Weaver	In progress
Blowing	Wayne	Randy Paylor	In progress
Dale Hollow	Cumberland	Erin Lynch	In progress
Great Rock Sink	Pulaski	Bill Walden	Just started

These are the surveys of which I am aware. There are likely many more. - Bill Walden

Roger Sperka

Roger Sperka was involved in many of the projects that the Central Ohio Grotto was involved in in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Some of these projects included: The Sloans Valley Survey, Triple-S (Sperka is one of the S's in Triple-S), Cave Creek Survey, and Redmond Creek. Please do write Roger about your Wayne County cave experiences. You may write him at 1831 Murchison, Apt. 111, El Paso, TX 79902 or email him at rjsperka@yahoo.com. While he can read OK, he has a difficult time writing or expressing himself as a result of his stroke. - Bill Walden

By Preston Forsythe

Two years ago I attended my first KSS meeting. I was interested in the safe keeping of KY's hard-earned caving data, including my own caving material, which is still stored in my basement. After becoming convinced that the intentions of the KSS were what I had hoped they would be I started asking questions about some of the holders of KY cave data and their current whereabouts. As Roger Sperka had published the first inventory of KY Mapped Caves around 1972, we needed to catch up with Roger. Jim Currens said he thought he could locate Roger with Jeff Vansant's help. To make a long story short Roger was still in the NSS and had lived in El Paso, TX, for the past 27 years. Jim called Roger. The sad news was Roger had suffered a stroke 3 years ago and now lives in an assisted living home in El Paso. But Roger was still kicking and in fairly good health. Jim told Roger about the new KSS. Soon Roger agreed to hand over his KY caving data to the KSS if someone would come get it. This is where Shari and I stepped in and decided this was as good a reason as we needed for a trip.

We found out from Roger's power of attorney, Terri Donawell, that Roger someday would leave everything to the NSS. In view of that and Roger's hard work and long hours of KY caving between the mid '60s and the mid '70, Roger jumped at the opportunity to permanently house his KY caving files with the KSS in a room of the KY Geological Survey Building on the University of Kentucky campus at Lexington. Shari and I and Steve Petruniak drove our cargo van to El Paso. We met Roger and immediately we were happy and thrilled to have this opportunity to meet him. Soon we were having dinner at a fine Mexican Restaurant in town. The next day we

were all at the storage room, which contained the majority of Roger's stuff. Terri had worked very hard to box and seal all of Roger's things. Terri pointed out the boxes that contained Roger's KY caving data. It was a treasure chest of survey notes, cave maps, topos and important pamphlets and reports as well as many papers Roger had authored on cave beetles in KY especially in Wayne County.

Roger was born in NE Wisconsin near Crivitz. He received his undergraduate degree at a school in Wisconsin, and then he received his MS in Geology and Hydrology at Purdue University in Indiana. It was at Purdue that Roger started caving. He participated in the survey of King and Queen Blair Caves as well as Sullivan. Roger does have some Indiana cave data, but we did not ask for that, only KY. After Purdue Roger came to KY and he studied under Dr. Tom Barr. Roger became an expert on the caves of Wayne County.



Shari Forsythe, Roger Sperka, Steve Petruniak, and Preston Forsythe in 2003

In summary we carried back 4 boxes and 6 map tubes of cave information. The inventory list consisted of 13 typed pages. Roger had to be one of the main KY cavers during the time he was at UK.

The KSS is sincerely indebted to Roger Sperka for all of the tremendous work he did on KY caves and we especially are thankful for his generosity in donating his work to the new survey.

The 2008 COG Christmas Party

The Central Ohio Grotto Christmas party was held at PJ's Restaurant in Sunbury, Ohio. There was plenty to eat and drink, the gifts were great. Perhaps the best gift was one made by Bruce Warthman and received by Brenda Mitchell. One had to open a series of polyhedrons each enclosed in another. The polyhedrons were well constructed. It seemed a shame to break into the packaging to get to the gift. Brenda did reconstruct the polyhedrons to their original splendor.