

# C.O.G. Squeaks

Spring 2011



## 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](mailto:cog@ontosystems.com) by sending an email to [cog @ ontosystems.com](mailto: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  
Email: [joeigibson6591 @ sbcglobal.net](mailto:joeigibson6591@sbcglobal.net)

### Grotto Membership Dues:

**\$15 per individual or \$20 per family.**

### Grotto Officers Name Telephone

Chairman	Pat Gibson	740-467-0717
Vice Chair	Bruce Warthman	614-459-8345
Treasurer	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Secretary	Mark Swelstad	614-202-0349
Exec. Committee	Richard Hand	

## 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 Mark Swelstad, if you would like a file of the Squeaks to reprint. The Squeaks is available as a PDF at: Website <http://www.centralohiogrotto.com>  
List Server [cog@ontosystems.com](mailto:cog@ontosystems.com)

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

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## Karst Calendar

May 2011 – Joe Gibson church group at GSP – cave trip leaders may be needed.

June 16-19, 2011- Karst-O-Rama  
Hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Grotto at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve in Mt Vernon, KY. Website:  
<http://karstorama.com>

July 18-22, 2011 – NSS Convention in Glenwood Springs, Colorado

July – TBD – grotto cave trip?

## From the Editor:

In the past couple of months cavers have received more bad news about White-nose Syndrome – it's been found in Indiana and most recently in Kentucky. It's more important than ever that we follow strict decontamination protocols. Go to <http://caves.org/WNS/index.htm> to learn more. Be educated!

But hey – we can still go caving!

Mark Swelstad

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Cover photo by Jamie Thompson. Cave Crickets in Sinks of the Roundstone Cave

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### Message from the armChair:

Greetings from Ohio! Adapting from the words of Bob Dylan, Spring is a-springing. There has been news of WNS in KY and OH. There has been severe weather in many parts of the area but more on that later.

I am encouraged each month by our monthly meeting attendance, programs, and fellowship. Consider this your personal invitation to our monthly meeting. Come see what we have to offer. I think you'll be surprised.

On a different note, here is an update to a project I began recently and one you may have seen on the website. While reading through some of the past newsletters, I thought to myself, Self, why don't you digitize these so all can enjoy and experience our voluminous history. So I started. What I found is just amazing. Our grotto has such a rich history. It seems to me that our members and past members were involved in nearly every major cave discovery in the KY area during the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This may seem like a stretch but from what I have been reading, it can't be far from it. Let's keep that history going and make some of our own.

On a different note, let me ask you a question. And be honest with yourself. OK, raise your hand if you have a weather radio. Good, I'm glad to see some hands up. Now, keep your hand up if it is on and programmed for your area. What I hoped to see is everyone reading this with their hands raised. My other hobby is weather. I am a trained weather spotter for the National Weather Service. I have a weather radio and it is programmed and turned on. ALL THE TIME. I don't intend to preach, but at 2am in the middle of a dream with bunnies and kitty cats are you going to hear tornado sirens? Can you hear those sirens with the windows shut? I can guarantee you that you will be woken rather rudely from your happy place at 2am by the siren on the radio. But it may give you that valuable few

minutes to get to your place of safety. How much is your life or the lives of your family worth? \$50? \$100? Most standard weather radios cost less than \$50. And they make perfect Christmas presents. Please consider buying one for yourself or a loved one.

Back to Caving, there is still much of 2011 left to make it to a monthly meeting, a cave trip or other activities in the planning stage. We look forward to seeing you soon. And invite someone else to come with you. All are welcome.

See you soon!  
Patrick Gibson



Pat Gibson and Jamie Thompson – doing rope work at the February 2011 COG meeting.



**Sinks of the Roundstone, by Mark Swelstad March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

I had intended to drive down to GSP on Friday night with my son Jon and meet up with Jamie but the Ohio State basketball game was on late that night and I didn't want to miss it. Jamie went on ahead that night and spent a cold night down there with the coyotes; ask him about it – it's a great story.

So Jon and I finally got our act together and headed down Saturday morning – we met Jamie at the camp around 1 pm and after setting up the tent and getting unpacked, we left for Sinks. There were some scout cavers there from somewhere in Central Ohio – they had someone watching their cars. We met up with the actual cavers at the bottom of the hill as they were exiting the cave. Some of the boys were playing in the water near the entrance – it made us cold watching them as it was NOT really a warm day at all. I'm sure their hike back up to the cars wasn't pleasant.

The trip went well – we focused mostly on the main borehole – Jamie hadn't been there before and I was slightly worried about the rain that was threatening. We poked around a bit near the overflow area – the water was pretty high. We opted to take the belly crawl route instead of the bypass canyon – Jamie took some pictures. The water at the bottom of that hill was also high – it was only about 5 feet below the level of the main passage – usually I can go down in there and walk up and down that stream passage but not this time.

We exited the railroad exit and there were some college kids that had rigged a zipline and were just goofing off and having fun. We chatted with them for awhile and then headed down the tracks. I pointed out Rollercoaster Cave to Jamie and Jon – they both are eager to get in there some time.

We headed back to GSP and made it back just in time for the rain. It really opened up on us. We rigged a very rudimentary shelter that allowed us to grill some hamburgers – delicious. The rain soon stopped or at least slowed and Jon built a fire despite the wet wood. Persistence pays off I guess. The three of us (and my dog) hung out at the fire – occasionally looking for the coyotes – I never saw any.

It was a COLD night – woke up with snow on the side of the tent. We packed up and then took a walk around the valley just to check out the pole barn, the sauna and so on. Everything looked normal but a bit deserted. It's funny to think about how busy that place will be all summer.

It was a nice trip – I apologize for the very short notice in announcing the trip to the grotto. March got away from me and the time was there before I realized it.



Photo by Jamie Thompson – Mark and Jon Swelstad in Sinks of the Roundstone Cave.

## Climbing at OSU – Pat Gibson

Way back in March, I met up with Dave Denny of the OSU Outdoor Recreation Center and practiced some climbing. He taught me some new techniques and brushed up on old ones. It was good to get back on rope. I quickly realized that the winter was not good to me. I was tired and sore for several days after. However, I am energized to put my new knowledge to practice. For the May monthly meeting, we'll be practicing knots and other climbing material. In June, we may try to do something rope related. I view this as a good skill to have in your back pocket. Some of us will never prefer or desire to be on rope, but you never know when you may need to remember how to tie a Prusik or use a piece of equipment. As discussed last month, we'll shoot for September to visit Hocking Hills State Park and do some climbing, rappelling and maybe if people are interested, some camping. Anyone is welcome to join us. Bring a friend and introduce them to our group.



Jamie Thompson by Jamie Thompson

## COG Caver Q & A

This is not an original idea but I think it's a good one – each Squeaks we will feature a different member of the grotto. This time I interviewed our Treasurer, Joe Gibson. – Ed.

1) Tell me a bit about yourself. What do you do, tell me about your family, where you live, etc.

*I have been married to Lisa for 35 years now. We have 2 sons, Matt and Eric. I have been in the ceramic tile trade for 29 years, the last 12 I have had my own tile company. We have lived in New Albany for almost 26 years, long before Wexner started building here.*

2) How long have you been caving? How did you start? When did you join COG?

*I started caving about 19 years ago. I started with the OSU Creative Activities Program. The trips I did with them, (3), we went to Carter County KY. The caves we went to were small and mostly crawling. I wanted more so I joined COG in 1992. That got me the chance to go bigger and better caves, and I didn't have to pay to cave. A lot of the caving I did was to lead my scout troop and other troops on trips. I have done some surveying and conservation projects through the years.*

3) What are some of the places you have been caving?

*Most of my caving has been in KY, Sloans, Cave Creek, Rockcastle County area, Wayne County and other areas. About 17 years ago our grotto did a trip to Blue Spring Cave in Tenn. That was an awesome trip! That was before they dug the walk-in entrance. I*

would love to go there again. I also have been to Carlsbad Caverns, but on the tourist trip though.

4) What advice would you give to new cavers that may just be starting out?

*The advice I would give to new cavers is to get the proper gear and learn how to cave safely. The National Cave Rescue Commission offers weekend seminars on cave rescue.*

*It teaches you the basics on how a rescue is organized and run. They also offer advanced week long courses with vertical rescue. The main thing I took from it was a greater respect of caving safely. Some of the caves I have been to would be extremely difficult to mount a rescue in. Blue Spring Cave in Tennessee was a good example. That is why they dug the new entrance because it would be impossible to get a Stokes litter out of the old entrance. So..cave safely, and remember, Cavers rescue spelunkers. LET'S GO CAVING!*



Photo by Jamie Thompson – Main Entrance to Sinks of the Roundstone Cave



Mark Swelstad – near Sinks – photo by Jamie Thompson



Cave Cricket – Sinks of the Roundstone Cave – Photo by Jamie Thompson



Jon Swelstad – Sinks of the Roundstone Cave – Photo by Jamie Thompson