

# C.O.G. Squeaks

February 2012



## 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: [joe@sbglobal.net](mailto:joe@sbglobal.net)

### Grotto Membership Dues:

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

Grotto Officer	Name	Telephone
Chairman	Jamie Thompson	614-402-3235
Vice Chair	Mark Swelstad	614-202-0349
Treasurer	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Secretary	Julie Siders	614-264-6069

## 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.

Mark Swelstad  
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c/o COG

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## Caver Calendar

March 17<sup>th</sup> – Grotto cave trip. Location TBD – probably Sloan's.

March 31/April 1 – NCRC cave rescue orientation. See enclosed article for details.

June 25-29 – NSS Convention - <http://nss2012.com/>

July 20-22 – Karst-O-Rama - <http://karstorama.com/>

## From the Editor:

We've had 2 really great cave trips so far in 2012. I got a chance to cave with some people I haven't caved with often or ever and got to see some truly amazing cave. With the convention close by in West Virginia, KOR being more caver friendly this year, and most of all, COG celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this is going to continue to be a very good year for caving. We have some new people that have joined us recently. I hope we can continue to provide value to them and all of our members by continuing with trips, events and learning opportunities. Cave Softly

Mark Swelstad

## Grotto History

Pat Gibson has been very hard at work scanning in previous editions of the Squeaks. Check these out to get a sense of the history of your grotto.

Check out historical editions of the Grotto's Squeaks newsletters. They can be found at

<http://www.centralohiogrotto.com/newsletter.html>

## Check out our Facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/centralohiogrotto/>

Cover photo – Sloan's Valley  
Photo by Jamie Thompson



### From the Chair

To start off, I just wanted to say thank you for welcoming me into this great community. Also, thanks for electing me as chair of such a vital part of the caving community. COG has been around since the very early days of exploring.

So far this year we have started off this year off to a great year of caving. Trips to Sloan's Valley get better every time we go inside. Also Blue Springs – this was a very special trip for me. To go caving with all my close family of friends from COG and some of the regional legends of caving....the people we always see on certain maps and surveys.

2 months of 2012 are gone; 10 to go – so what do you say, past and present cavers.....let's go explore!

Cave Softly  
Jamie Thompson  
COG Chair



Dave Denny – photo by Jamie Thompson

### Sloan's – MLKjr Weekend – Pat Gibson

I don't know what I like better. Caving or introducing others to caving. We had a great time in KY over Martin Luther King Jr Day weekend. Eight adventurous souls headed down to Burnside on Friday. We did a nice 3-4 hour loop in then back out of Garbage Pit. I'll leave the details for the other articles that should appear.

On Saturday, fourteen of us spent between 6-7 hours in cave and many on the trip got to experience Echo Junction, the Hogback, the Big Room, Fountain of Youth, and poked around the Big Room Extension. On the way back out, we investigated the route to the Great Rock Sink entrance and found that it was passable. Good intel for the next day's trip. We had several first time cavers that weekend and I believe that everyone was rather worn out after a couple intense days.

Sunday was dedicated to leading Scout trips. Three adults and two older scouts made the trip from Garbage Pit to Great Rock Sink in about 1 ½ hours. I absolutely love seeing that entrance. Care was taken not to exit as permission was not secured with the landowner. On the way back, the maps were handed to the scouts and with compass in hand, we eventually found the exit.



Mary Mayerchak – photo by Jamie Thompson

**Sloan's Cave trip-Jan. 13-14 – Joe Gibson**

Friday:

I drove down to KY on Friday by myself around 8am.

I had precious cargo in my van, the ladder for Garbage Pit.

Just my luck, all winter we have had no snow to speak of, then the day I drive to KY, SNOW!

It was an uneventful trip.

I made it to Burnside at Ginnie's about a half an hour behind the set of the group.

There were 8 cavers on this trip- Pat Gibson, Jamie Thompson, Dave Denny, Molly Semones, Brian Devine, Rodney,

myself and I can't remember the name of Molly and Brian's friend, I apologize.

We arrived at Crocketts property, got suited up and put the ladder down the pit.

It was cold, in the 20's, so I went down into the cave to warm up.

We made our way down Garbage pit hill and were headed to Scowling Tom's entrance.

I remember seeing some parts of this cave last year.

After a lot of crawling my left knee was pretty sore.

I must like to abuse my knees, I crawl around for a living setting tile and my hobby is crawling around underground. But I digress...

We came past the register room near Scowling Tom's entrance and headed towards Bare Bevs.

Five people made it through the Keyhole. Then it was my turn. I made three attempts to get through.

I heard Rodney behind be saying "there's no f\*\*\*\*\*g way I'm going thru that".

Pat suggested that I go out with Rodney and Jamie.

I was sooo disappointed that I missed Bare Bevs and all the crawling after it.

We were out of the cave in about 15 minutes and made the cold hike back to our trucks.

The rest of the group made it out about a half an hour after we changed and sitting in our warm vehicles.

Saturday:

After breakfast at the hotel we got to Crockett's around 9am.

Mark Swelstad, Mark Mayerchak and 4 people from Dave Denny's OSU group joined us.

Today we were going from Garbage Pit to Great Rock Sink.

I've seen parts of this cave before, First lake room, Echo Junction, the Hogback, the Big Room and the Fountain of Youth.

That was the first time I've seen the Fountain of Youth.

We went on to the Big Room extension, it's a huge breakdown room with a lot of places to poke around in.

We stayed in this area a while checking out leads. I made it to the top of the breakdown pile and found a place to relax. 4 or 5 people went into the U.S.

Army Corps of engineers passage.

Everybody made it back to the same room and we ate lunch.

Patrick Gibson was true to COG tradition and used his gift he got at the Christmas party, a sterno stove and beef stroganoff.

Pat got us going after a too long of sitting.

Pat wasn't sure about the passage to Great Rock Sink, so he and about 6 others went down a stream passage towards a strong head wind.

After the long lunch stop, half of us were sitting in the passage waiting for about a half hour for them to come back, it was cold!

We made our way back to Garbage Pit hill. It's much easier going down that hill than going up!

Got out of the cave in just under 7 hours.

After we changed I took Mark S., Mark M., Pat, Rodney and Jamie to see COG's old field house.

After chatting with Pat Erisman a while we walked up the hill to see the field house.

It's still in pretty good shape, except that squirrels have gotten into the insulation.

Jamie screamed like a little girl when a squirrel bounded through when we were in there.

The outhouse is falling apart. They both served their purpose.



Went back to the hotel, got cleaned up and went to get dinner.  
After dinner, lots of beer and Knob Creek for pain killer.

Sunday:

On the way home, Mark Swelstad took me, Jamie and Mark Mayerchak by Dykes bridge cave and to the entrance to Wells cave.

Also stopped at Short Creek to show Mark M. the entrance.

Jamie, aka Yuri, rode back with me. Kind of nice to have somebody to talk to on the drive back.

Great trip. It was the longest I've been in a cave for a while.



Brian and Matt – photo by Mark Swelstad



Yuri – photo by Joe Gibson



## Vertical Training – January 5<sup>th</sup>

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Jamie, Mark M and Mark S met at Pat's house for some vertical training. Pat has cut a hole in his garage ceiling and has rigged it so that we can do some climbing. We were there maybe a couple of hours and I think everyone learned a lot. One of the things I learned in particular is that my sit harness no longer fits- I gave it to Jamie. Mark Mayerchak and Jamie both demonstrated Etruscan-like bravery and skill learning their rope work.



Pat on rope – photo by Mark S.



Mark Mayerchak on rope – photo by Mark S.

**Sloan's Valley – January 2012 – Jamie Thompson**

We left town early on Friday morning – Pat Gibson, Rodney and myself. Lots of snow was falling making travel a little difficult. We arrived at Ginny's at Burnside and had lunch. Joe arrived as did Dave Denny. We finished and went into the area of Sloan's Valley through the Garbage Pit with the help of a very large, very heavy little grant ladder.

We traveled to Grand Central Station – along the way we went through the Music Room and eventually got to the area of Bare Bevs. After having a small break, we decided to go through the key hole into the crawl.....well....some of us went through. Rodney, Joe and I couldn't get through so we went back and out a different way.

The next day was the long trip. The group doubled in size and we went the same way down but this time made our way towards Great Rock Sink. This trip took a little longer due to the larger group but we pressed on. We made it up to the Fountain of Youth, and on a little further. We took what seemed like an hour long lunch break which gave us time to do a little side exploring and gave Pat Gibson enough time to make his delicious Beef Stroganoff.

We ended up going back and tried to locate the way to Great Rock Sink – after an hour of exploring and people getting cold and tired, we decided to turn around and head out. After lots of breakdown and a crawlway with 'bad air' (thanks Jamie), we eventually made our way out.

After cleaning up, a few of us left for Columbus while a few of us made a side trip to the old field house. It's in bad shape but is still standing. After returning to the hotel and a quick shower, we went to dinner.....and a very good one.

Another good trip in the books.



**Before**



**After**

Photos by Jamie Thompson



## Portrait of a Caver



Serious Caver



Bashful Caver



Happy Caver



Orange Caver



## **An Orientation to Cave Rescue**

### **About the seminar:**

This is an introduction to cave rescue. Topics covered include Incident Command System and how it applies to cave rescues, medical management, hypothermia, patient packaging, extreme situations, the cave environment, communications, media interaction, search, and more. There will be both classroom and hands on instruction, and the students will run a mock incident.

### **Prerequisites:**

There are no prerequisites for this class. This is designed for anyone who has an interest in cave rescue management and operations. Both recreational cavers and emergency response personnel will benefit from this class.

Those under 18 will need to call the seminar coordinator to make prior arrangements to attend if not accompanied by a parent or guardian

### **Seminar Cost:**

The seminar cost is \$35. All seminar instructors are volunteers to help keep costs low.

### **Where:**

**The Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve  
Mt. Vernon KY.**



THE CENTRAL REGION  
of the  
NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION  
of the  
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc  
presents

**An Orientation to Cave Rescue**  
with  
**Great saltpetre Cave Preserve**  
**March 31, April 1st**  
**The Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve**  
**Mt. Vernon KY.**

NCRC Central Region The Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve  
Mt. Vernon KY.

Weekend Seminar Registration (please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (eve): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Problems/special needs \_\_\_\_\_  
(if under 18, please contact course coordinator before registering)

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Equipment Requirements:

All class equipment will be provided except for personal equipment. Students are required to have the following available for inspection at check in:

UIAA or CE approved climbing helmet with a three or four point suspension system, nonelastic chinstrap.

Three sources of light, at least two must be electric, one helmet mounted and one more capable of being helmet mounted. All should be sufficient to allow you to exit the cave. Carbide will NOT be allowed when working near patients or in close quarters with groups of people, or with ropes, but is acceptable for use in other conditions.

Rugged clothing. Sturdy, lugged sole boots. Gloves with leather palms.

Water bottle, at least one quart. A small, heavy-duty pack for carrying personal gear underground.

Additional Recommended Equipment:

20' 1" Tubular webbing

Plastic garbage bags

**All cave gear and clothing must be clean per the White Nose Syndrome NSS guidelines prior to entering the cave environment.**

Saturday: 7:30 Check in – 5:30. Optional evening session at 7:30-10pm

Sunday: 8am-4pm

Directions: 15 Miles South of Berea KY. I-75 exit 59, go east on route 25 to rr 1004. This is just before the Shell station, 100 yards from the interstate! Turn left on to 1004 and stay on 1004 for 4 miles until it crosses the RR tracks and dead ends across the bridge. Turn right, you are still on 1004. Continue 5miles on 1004 to the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve

Local Information:

Matt Keller

513-312-0740

mdkeller@yahoo.com

Course Information:

Mike Huseman

513 451-4401

central@ncrc.info

Send Registrations C/O

Mike Huseman, NCRC-CR Coordinator

477 Morrvue Drive

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Make Checks payable to:

NCRC-CR Seminar