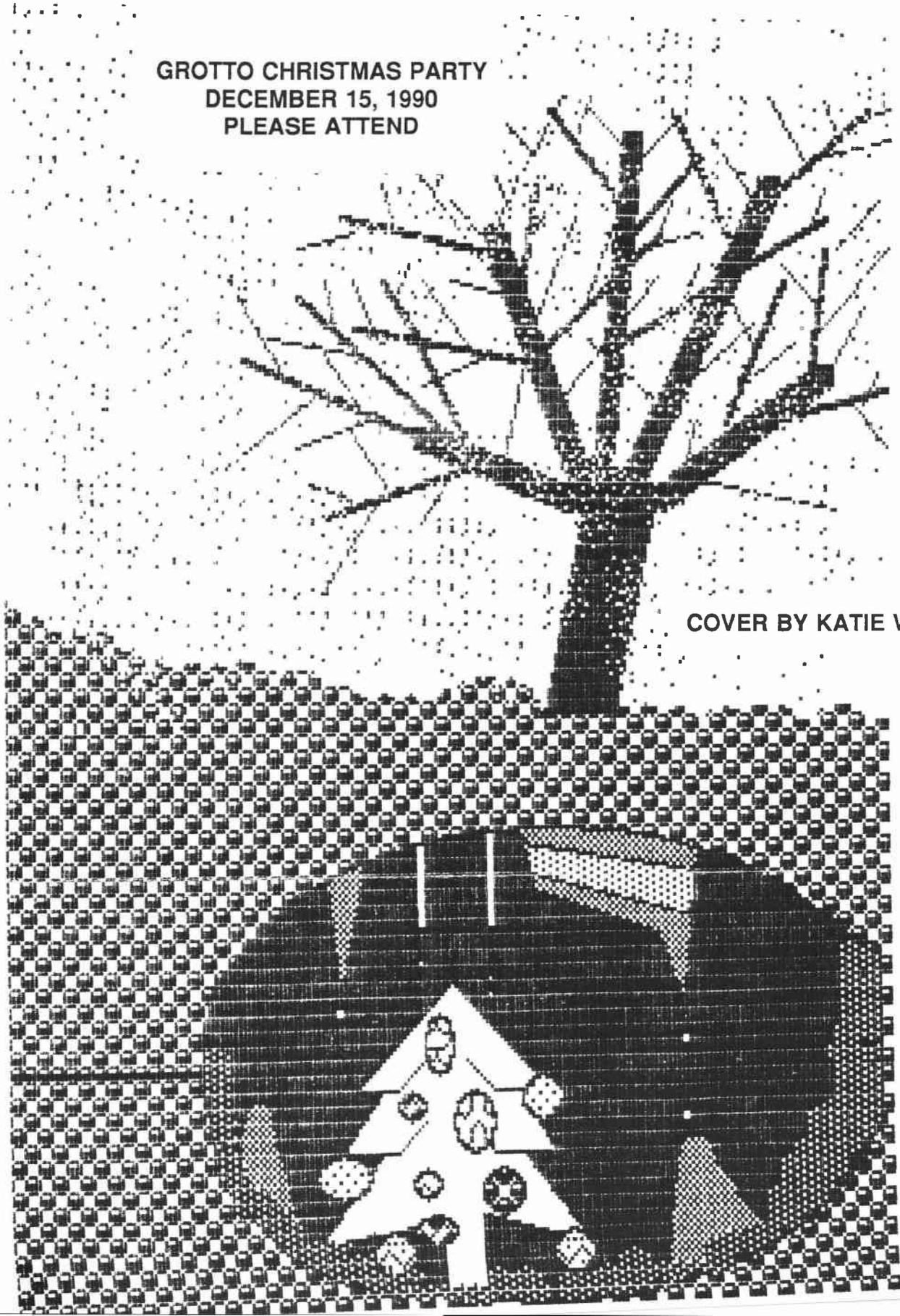


Central Ohio Grotto SQUEAKS - December 1990

GROTTO CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 15, 1990
PLEASE ATTEND

COVER BY KATIE WALDEN



THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO SQUEAKS DECEMBER 1990

GROTTO INFORMATION

The Central Ohio Grotto meets the second Friday of each month. Meeting time is at 8:00 pm. Please call a grotto officer or committee person for information and caving trips.

COG officers and committee chairmen are:

Darrell Adkins	Chairman	419-253-2320
Chuck Daehnke	V.C. new #	614-431-8184
Don Conover	Secretary	513-372-7581
Karen Walden	Treasurer	614-965-2942
Bill Walden	Squeaks Ed.	614-965-2942
Paul Unger	Boone Karst	513-839-4258
Don Conover	Ex. Comm.	513-372-7581
Kathy Welling	Ex. Comm.	614-766-6381
Jay Kessel	Ex. Comm.	513-631-6345
Denise Damon	Membership	614-262-2930
Richard Hand	Library	614-885-5823
Mike Gray	Vertical	513-276-2436

The official grotto address is:

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

The official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto is the COG Squeaks. Subscription is \$10 per year. The COG Squeaks is published 10 times each year. Articles may be reprinted by other NSS member organizations provided that the author and COG Squeaks are given credit. Please contact Bill Walden regarding the COG Squeaks. Articles, poetry, fiction, and information related to cave exploration and study are welcome. Articles submitted on disk are most welcome. I can read IBM PC-DOS, OS-9 DOS and probably other formats including UNIX and CPM (Not Apple or other serial formats). Please identify format. Articles may also be transmitted via modem or fax. Please check with Bill Walden for instructions. Articles submitted the old fashioned way, on paper, are also welcome.

Please do send Bill Walden your trip reports for inclusion in the Squeaks. Also, if you are planning trips which additional cavers are welcome, please let Bill Know so that the trip can be announced in the Squeaks.

For membership information please contact Denise Damon or Bill Walden.

DECEMBER MEETING AND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 1990

The 1990 COG Christmas party will be hosted by Bill and Karen Walden at their home in Galena, Ohio. The schedule is as follows:

5:30	Social time (Games)
6:30	Dinner
8:00	Meeting
8:15	Gift Exchange

10:00 What-ever

(The schedule has been adjusted slightly over that which was published in the November Squeaks.)

The main event of the COG Christmas party is the gift exchange. The object is for each caver (or potential caver) to bring a gift, the recipient of which is to use on his next cave trip. At least this is the spirit of the gift exchange. The real object is fun!!! Most of the gifts are home made. Some examples are:

Pocket Handhold from Real Caver Brand Accessories
Wallet Size map of Sloans from Real Caver Brand Accessories.

Cave Cricket sculptor done in bronze.

Stuffed Bat toy.

Emergency lights are ever popular:

Candle in flashlight (One candle power flashlight).

Carbide in film can

Matches in water tight case.

Carbide lamp made from brass plumbing fixtures -- works but heavy.

Generator lamp.

Big room light -- car battery and driving lamp.

Suggested gifts -- Anyone ever thought of: a carbide fired electric generator light complete with signaling whistle for cave exploring? graffiti cleaning machine? instant bolt setting kit? Just let your imagination run wild.

There are all kinds of things one can make that can be funny and appreciated. To help just try and think of something you could use for your next caving trip. Next think of modifying it to be funny.

(By the way just in case your mind is not capable of going into warp drive, straight gifts are acceptable.)

NEW OFFICERS

by Bill Walden

The Central Ohio Grotto will be electing new officers soon. Selection of officers is important to the well being and continuance of the grotto. We should be careful to select an individual for chairman who can conduct a meeting and select committee chairmen to assist in running the grotto. The officer corps should consist of a good cross section of the membership. If qualified new members are available, be sure to consider them for an office or committee.

SUCCESSFUL GROTTA MEETINGS

by Bill Walden

Borrowed & modified handout from the Lions Clubs of Ohio.

Making grotto meetings more interesting is one of the major ingredients of a successful grotto. Interesting means more than just the business portion of the meeting. The following are some suggestions we might want to consider to improve grotto meetings.

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- 1) Start meetings on time. Don't wait for latecomers.
- 2) Have an agenda that moves from item to item in a minimal amount of time.
- 3) Reports from the grotto officers and committee chairpersons should be brief, to the point, and meaningful. Provide time for questions and answers.
- 4) Make sure that the secretary is taking minutes properly, reading the letters he has received, and is working closely with the grotto chairman and the grotto newsletter editor. If the secretary is absent from a meeting appoint a substitute.
- 5) The treasurer should give a complete financial report at each meeting.
- 6) Grotto officers should maintain an atmosphere of good caver fellowship, including new members as well as old members. Visitors should be greeted and welcomed.
- 7) A quarterly message from the chairman as to the status of the grotto should be given. Credit should be given to members who have worked to further grotto objectives.
- 8) The individual conducting the meeting should speak loudly and clearly so that all can understand.
- 9) Have dinner or picnic meetings occasionally.
- 10) Give praise to fellow grotto members when they deserve it. Help build good caver fellowship don't knock it down. The words "thank you" mean a lot.
- 11) Try to plan activities and projects well in advance.
- 12) Send projects, activities, and planned caving trips to the newsletter editor so that he can publish them far enough in advance so that members can make plans.
- 13) During a meeting members should address the chairman not each other.
- 14) If there is a dispute, both sides should be given a fair chance to present their side.
- 15) If an issue is complex or apt to be lengthy, delegate that issue to the executive committee or appropriate committee. That committee can then present the issue and possible solutions to the grotto in a later meeting.
- 16) End on time.
- 17) Try to have a program to follow the meeting which will be of interest to cavers. The program need not always be directly related to caving.

REPORTED NOVEMBER TRIPS

Paul Unger and Bill Walden

Nov. 2 Met with Boone National Forest people. Toured Cave Creek area and visited Eureka Cave.

Nov. 3 Photographic trip to Overlook and Highline Caves. Photos shown at the November meeting.

Nov. 4 Met with Bob Strosnider of the Daniel Boone National Forest to discuss Coordinator for Boone Karst Foundation to work as a volunteer for the Forest Service.

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Nov 10 BOG meeting in Indianapolis, IN. Attendees were Andy and Kathy Franklin and Don Conover. Nice party afterward in Tom Rea's mansion.

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Thanksgiving Week End:

Entire Erisman clan was at Paul Unger's cabin along with Dave Seslar, Don Conover, Alice Woznack, Darrell Adkins, Andy and Kathy Franklin, and Barry Welling for the week end.

There was a lot of surveying done on the Sweetwater System. Most of the surveying was done in the section called Doc's Cave (1700' on the 23rd alone).

Pumpkin Hollow now has a new proto entrance discovered by Andy Franklin after he did much digging.

Tom and Cathy Crockett served a fine dinner Saturday evening. Unfortunately not many COG cavers showed this year.

The Sloan's field house, barn and yard were basically packed with cavers and scouts.

COG PATCHES

The Grotto has very nice patches available for purchase. The patch is three inches in diameter with a formation room in the outline of the state of Ohio centered and the grotto name, CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO NSS, circling the formation room. Colors are red background, yellow letters, black cave with pure white formations. Nice!

The patches are available at grotto meetings or by ordering them from the grotto treasurer, Karen Walden. Patches are \$3.75 each or \$3.50 each for two or more. Please send your order to the grotto address:

Central Ohio Grotto
C/O Karen Walden
1672 South Galena Road
Galena, Ohio 43021.

Thank you for your support.

COG Minutes - 9 Nov 90

by Don Conover

The meeting was held at the Botany and Zoology Building on the Ohio State Campus. Everyone was just a little late, therefore the meeting started a little late.

In the Squeaks we need to list the state in which our caves are located. It was interesting reading in the NSS News where the mile of virgin cave in Pulaski County Ohio (no such county) connected Punkin Cave (in Cave Creek) with Highline on the other side of the lake (I assume by passing under Lake Cumberland).

The Boone Karst committee reported that the USFS has established a task force charged with finding all of the caves and evaluating their significance. They are asking for someone to work 5 days a week for a six month period with administrative ability. They are asking for volunteers and will

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reimburse for miles and meals. Volunteers have to work with the coordinator. This is because the Berea and Stanton districts have been bombarded with volunteers not coordinating with the proper coordinators. On caves being surveyed with endangered species, we would survey in until we find the endangered species. The Forest Service wants to put a plaque into each cave entrance and asked how long it takes to drill a hole. When they were told 30 minutes, they started thinking about buying a hammer drill. The Forest Service is starting to consider purchasing land to protect caves.

The Toy committee passed around the brochure procured regarding the DeLorme product of 7.5 minute topos for computers. A phone number was on the brochure along with a list of compatible products. The system requirements were a 80386 machine. The article said something about each topo filling a 1.2M floppy. The Toy Committee will further investigate this.

The next item of discussion was meeting sites. We have made arrangements for the Unitarian Church for the next year with the exception of December March and June. The church is unavailable these months. Other suggested meeting locations included checking with parks and recreation for use of a shelter in one of the parks. This would be a good summer meeting site. The parking lots on the campus are not checked on Friday nights, therefore that will save the cost of parking for meetings on the OSU campus. The next meeting will be held at Bill Walden's house for the traditional Christmas Party. This will be Saturday night, the 15th of December, at 6 p.m. (5:30 p.m. - ed) There will be a short meeting followed by the party. This includes the annual gift exchange where the gifts are caving related, complete with instructions on how what the gift is and how to use the gift, with an emphasis on humor. The March and June meetings will tentatively be held in the Botany and Zoology Building on the OSU campus.

Tomorrow is the roundtable discussion on surveying. This will be at the Walden Residence.

Mike Gray was supposed meet the Scouts on Monday, but Megan Elizabeth Gray arrived Sunday noon. The earliest the Scouts can go caving is February. It was interesting to find that the Scout Fieldbook has a section on caving, possibly written by Stringfellow and Hissong. One of the possible places for them to camp is Burnside Island. They are closed in the winter, but may open for groups. There would be no services like showers, but Scouts are hardy.

Under new business, there is the need for a nominating committee to fill the slate of officers. The three members are Paul Unger, Janice Tucker and Chuck Daehnke. The committee was asked to remember the new members for grotto offices. The committee needs to report at the December meeting. One of the comments made was that even though the membership chair is unable to make the meetings, she does make calls. The Board of Governors meeting is in Indianapolis tomorrow. The student chapter has appointed an interim chair (Tarah Ridle) until the chapter gets going.

Future trips include Dick Maxey and Carl Tucker next weekend going to Camp's Gulf (Van Buren county, TN) and Lost Creek (White county, TN). The preparation meeting is Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. in room 231 of the B & Z building. Thanksgiving weekend will have many trips to various projects in southern Kentucky. The name for the

Sugar Tree Hollow is the Sweetwater Project. Help working on the system is welcome, but trips like Boy Scout trips are discouraged. Sloan's is a much safer cave for beginners since the breakdown is shaken down and the rough spots are smoothed out. If anyone needs a ride, contact Darrell Adkins. There is someone who needs to wait until Friday morning to leave Columbus. There is tentatively planned a trip to Wilkson Hollow Horror Hole for the first weekend in December, despite the prediction of earthquakes.

The Sloan's slide show is being redone by duplicating the original slides with better pictures of the maps. Bill (Walden) is going to try white on black first and experiment from there. Another program to create would be to take pictures of various parts of the cave as they are today and compare that to what the cave looked like when it was first discovered. This program would show what happens when a cave is 'advertised.' People have already started taking pictures of the Sweetwater System.

The first program was slides from the Sweetwater Project. The second program was of El Malpais Caves of Northern New Mexico by John Cochran.

There was a report of a trip from Minton Hollow to Garbage Pit and another from Scowling Tom's to Garbage Pit via Bare Bev's Bellycrawl. The group consisted of Cheryl Early, George Keeney, Mike Kreider and six students.

Call of Assistance

by Mike Gray

BSA troop 121 from West Jefferson, Ohio has asked that we lead them on a cave trip. After talking with scoutmaster, Mike O'Riley, we have set the trip to take advantage of the scouts having a three day Presidents' day weekend (February 16, 17, & 18). The troop Plans to leave Friday night (February 15) and return Monday (February 18). I will be going to several meetings prior to the trip to educate them on caving.

As always when taking BSA troops caving, extra lighting equipment and helmets need to be located. There are about 15 boys in the troop. The number that will be going is not known at this time. Please contact me (Mike Gray -- ed) if you can loan equipment and/or help lead a trip. You can reach me during the day at (614)261-7883 or in the evenings at (513)237-8300 (a machine is present at home in case nobody is home).

SCHEDULED TRIPS

December 27 through December 30 Bill Walden, Paul Unger and Jan Campbell are planning a trip to Pulaski County Kentucky. Planned activities include a photographic trip through the Sweetwater System and retaking of some of the slide for the Sloans Valley Slide Show.