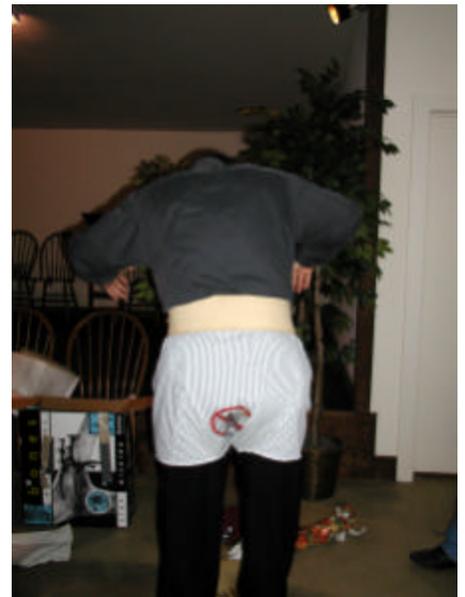




# C.O.G. SQUEAKS

February 2003



Photos by Cat Whitney from the COG's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

## THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Worthington Presbyterian Church the fourth Tuesday 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.

**Grotto Mailing Address:** C/O Bill Walden, 1672 South Galena Road, Galena, OH 43021 740-965-2942

Email: [wwalden@columbus.rr.com](mailto:wwalden@columbus.rr.com)

**COG WEB page:** [www.tuningoracle.com/cog](http://www.tuningoracle.com/cog)

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

<u>Grotto Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Chairman	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Vice Chair	Darrell Adkins	740-392-6382
Secretary	Dale Andreatta	614-890-3269
Treasurer	Karen Walden	740-965-2942
Exec. Committee	Don Conover	937-372-7581
Exec. Committee	Bill Walden	740-965-2942
Exec. Committee	Lacie Braley	614-895-1732

Squeaks Editor- Bill Walden - [wwalden@columbus.rr.com](mailto:wwalden@columbus.rr.com)

Webmaster - Kevin Toepke - [ktoepke@tuningoracle.com](mailto:ktoepke@tuningoracle.com)

Boone Karst Rep - Cat Whitney - [CatAnnable@hotmail.com](mailto:CatAnnable@hotmail.com)

Youth Committee Chair-Roland Snow - [snowpeople@ameritech.net](mailto:snowpeople@ameritech.net)

List Server - [cog@ontosystems.com](mailto:cog@ontosystems.com)

### The C.O.G. Squeaks

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

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) or Word Document. Please notify Bill Walden or Andy Franklin if you would like a file of the Squeaks to reprint. The Squeaks is available as a PDF at:

[www.tuningoracle.com/cog](http://www.tuningoracle.com/cog):

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**The new COG Meeting night will be the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.**

## KARST CALENDAR

Feb. 25, 2003	COG Meeting
Mar. 25, 2003	COG Meeting
April 5, 2003	Lost River Field Trip refer to pages 4 & 5
April 22, 2003	COG Meeting
May 23-26, 2003	<b>Speleofest</b> at Camp Carlson in Fort Knox, KY. Visit <a href="http://www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto">www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto</a> for more information
May 31, 2003	Lost River Field Trip refer to pages 4 & 5
August 4-8, 2003	<b>NSS Convention</b> , Porterville, Cal.
Sept. 27, 2003	Lost River Field Trip refer to pages 4 & 5

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Squeaks

If you missed the COG's 50<sup>th</sup> party – you missed a good party. The Special December COG Squeaks was giving to cavers attending the party and was not mailed. If you missed the party, copies of this special Squeaks may be purchased at the COG meeting for \$5.00.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Patches

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patches are available at the meeting for \$5.00 or they may be ordered from Karen Walden.

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# JUGORNOT TRIP REPORT

By Kevin Toepke

It must have been the carbon monoxide. That's as good an excuse as any for forgetting the survey tape.

Philipp Haeuselmann, Dale Andreatta, and I were near McMonigle's Proof getting ready to survey from the dome (or chimney as Philipp called it) back to the top of the second mud slope. As I'm rummaging around my pack I realized that I had forgotten the survey tape back at the car. It was the carbon monoxide I tell ya!

Saturday morning Jason Gulley and the rest of us woke up in Squalid to the smell of smoke. And I had a headache. When Jason opened the burner on the stove, flame shot out. I opened the other burner to confirm my suspicion that the chimney was clogged with soot. Sure enough, flame shot out of the 2nd burner. Diagnosis validated. Chimney clogged. We quickly shut the stove off and opened doors.

We didn't hang around for too much longer. It was getting late in the morning anyway. Jason headed off to Eastway for breakfast before diving and the rest of us headed off to Jugornot with the goal of surveying north in the Pumpkin Hollow section.

I used to think the curse was on Lee. Now, I know better. Whenever Lee and I go surveying in Jugornot together we never, I mean never, accomplish our goal. We usually get sidetracked on some large virgin passage. Since Lee wasn't with us on this trip, the curse must be on me. We didn't accomplish our goal.

It appears that the trip was doomed. On top of everything else, Philipp was expecting a delivery of carbide from Lee and Amber to be at Squalid. It wasn't. So I gave him my carbide as I had working electric backup. My primary electric didn't work so I was reduced to using my secondary electric backup. I had forgotten 2 of the flashlights I usually carry in my pack so I had to grab one out of my car.

The first trip to the waterfall, John Cassidy couldn't fit. This time it was Dale. When we got to the waterfall and the bypass Philipp quickly squirted through the bypass. I took my time, but I made it for the second time. Dale, as is typical, tried his own method of negotiating the squeeze. And failed. So he tried the waterfall squeeze. And failed.

As we didn't want to leave Dale behind, we decided to bag our plans and try to find Mega-Junction and survey in that section of the cave. As we were climbing back up to the main passage, I decided to head down the passage I thought that Lee had said quickly dead-ended at the top of the waterfall. I guess I made a wrong turn and found virgin passage.

Philipp suggested that grotto looked remarkably similar to the one at the top of the first mud slope so we continued pushing without surveying. After the first near-belly crawl, I spotted a centipede (hundred-footer in Philipp-speak). Thus was born the name of the passage. The Hundred-Footer Grotto. And the initial crawl is now the Hundred-Footer Crawl.

After negotiating about the tenth hole in the mud floor it became apparent that the passage was no longer virgin. Someone had been there before! Philipp hooted and "ran" ahead (how do you run on your hands and knees?). It wasn't too much further before he stopped right at the rig point for the first rope.

As we were so close, we decided to proceed to the top of the second mud slope and see what was in the other direction. That's where we found the chimney. Getting there involves a couple slippery mud slopes and an 8-inch pinch. But it's a nice chimney, probably 40 feet across and 60 feet tall. With no obvious way out but the way we came in. Did I mention that you slide down a 45-degree mud slope as you are negotiating the pinch? That's on the way in. You have to negotiate the same 8inch pinch while climbing on the way out. Let's just say it took a while for me to climb out.

After regrouping we decided to bag the trip as it would very difficult to survey without a tape. Various methods were, however, proposed. We could use the centipede as a measure, a pack strap, the rope we pulled out. Or even Dale. We could say the passage was 8.32 DA's (Dale Andreatta's). Nah! The trip was over.

On the way back to Squalid I remembered that Paul's Discount had carbide last time I was there. So off we went. Philipp wound up purchasing the last of the carbide at about twice usual the price. That at least gave him carbide.

When we got back to Squalid, we proceeded to carefully take the chimney apart in order to clean it. It turned out that the first elbow was almost completely clogged with soot. It was much warmer in Squalid Saturday night than it was Friday night.

On Sunday, Dale helped Jason pull his tanks from the cave and do some surface survey work. Philipp and I headed to the cave to do some surveying. It took us an hour to get from the entrance to the bottom of the Bottle Slide. We got ten stations from there into the chimney. That was it. Ten stations for a weekend. Plus we found a nice bypass to the bypass that also eliminated one of the mud slopes.

As we were gearing up Sunday morning, one of the locals stopped by on his 4-wheeler and said hello. He mentioned that he found a new cave by a trail that is off to the right of the cemetery road. The trail was supposedly only negotiable by 4-wheeler or foot. It was still relatively early when Philipp and I exited the cave so we decided to see if we could find this cave.

We never found the 4-wheeler trail off the cemetery road. But we did walk around a bit. Lee confirmed later Sunday night that the 2 caves we did see were surveyed or at least pushed.

The Hundred Footer Passage cuts a significant amount of time it takes to get the Proof and opens that section of cave to persons of larger stature.

Who wants to go March 1st and survey some nearly virgin passage?

# FANTASTIC TRIP REPORT

## [THE NEWS FROM GRAYSON-GUNNER SATURDAY, 15-02-2003]

By Rolle (Roger) Cross

The rain started Friday morning (14-02-2003) at 6:00 AM, falling lightly all day until midnight. Then falling heavily until 3:00 AM.(CST), thereafter returning to a light drizzly. On Saturday, 10:15 AM, Pat Erisman, Shawn Roark, Kay Conaster, Niko (my daughter) and I meet at the high GGC parking area. Rain was only a light drizzle. We loaded our gear into two SUV's and drove to the lower parking area. Approximately 2 inches of rain had fallen during the night. Water was rushing from many new springs all around the head of the valley and white water stripped the valley walls and filled the valley with a thundering roar.

The spring on the East wall near the parking area was almost uncrossable, some of us held our arms together to cross the raging stream. After fording several more swollen streams we reached the cave entrance. Water was rushing higher than any of us had ever seen before, but in comparison to the other springs, I thought GGC seemed almost calm. Carrying full packs of food, we debated about the safety to enter with such high water. I had looked at the radar images of the coming storm for two days and felt sure we could expect a lull in the rainfall. I had studied the flood pattern of the cave last November and the near by streams; but this storm was to be more than three times the water in only three days. We looked for high water marks and noted that water from the night before had caused about 4 to 5 inches above the current level and had abated to about 12 inches deep at the entrance ... leaving us about 15 inches of air space. After some silence, we all agreed and the trip began.

The upstream trip was very exciting, water rushed as never before, Pat said we should take the G21 crossover to B23 (also known as the second changing area), as none of us wanted to attempt climbing the waterfall just before reaching the G35 to B42 climb out. The thought of swimming to the narrow flowstone waterfall and climbing up through a foot of rushing water brought instant agreement. The currents were strong on the rimstone dams, but all were easily passable except for a few. On these we helped each other over the dams and then passed up our drybags. In the deep sections, we floated on our drybags and pulled along with the other arm ... now this was caving with style. We reached G21 in good time and climbed to the changing area. I changed just above the water and in a careless moment knocked one of my boots off the perch. After a moment's horror, I quickly climbed barefoot down the layered ledges and jumped into the water. After a few quick strokes I grabbed my boot and started to turn around before going over a flowstone dam. While making the turn, I kicked a hidden rock with my right foot. The cold water had taken much of the coordination and feeling from my legs and I dreaded to see what damage I had done. After climbing back to the changing spot I saw that I had a shallow one-inch cut on my right foot, I studied the wound and realized I had been lucky to have only a slight reminder of the need to be more careful.

After a few minutes walking, we arrived at B30 and started, to the left, M survey. We set 11 stations to reach a point above G Survey. Pat climbed down into the narrow canyon and spotted G30. We couldn't reach the station without swimming. From M11, I hung a long orange stringer of flagging tape into the roaring stream (I also hung a yellow flagging tape into G survey from a overlook that was 25 feet from M10). While making the back sights at M11, I could see the water had become more turbid. The time was 2:30 PM. After returning to B30, we ate and headed out. At B23 junction we took a quick side trip to look at the breakdown beyond C21 (known as "Virgin Beyond"). Shawn and Pat crawled about 200 feet, beyond where Kay, Niko and I stopped to wait for some word from the front. We rested to let the sweat dry and I joked about how Shawn galloped through C survey like the humanoids in "Time Machine". Shawn concluded that a dig would be needed to proceed to any further, as the large passageway was filled with massive breakdown. We returned to the B23 crossover to G21 to begin the downstream trek.

It was easily visible that the water was 4 to 6 inches higher. We changed into our wetsuits and just before entering the water I thought it would be good to tie our caving packs to the drybags to take advantage of the "GGC laundry" and to give us a tether to lower our drybags over the flowstone dams. Shawn quickly took the lead, riding her drybag in near porpoise fashion. Niko followed, in like style, closely behind. I followed a mid ways back toward Kay and Pat took up the rear position. After a short time, my pack straps caught a rock and my drybag went under the water and the current made it almost impossible to free it. Kay's pack caught also and Pat helped her free it. When we stopped to tie a loose boot lace, I told everyone that my waterbag and cave pack tether idea was, to say the least ... stupid. We unhooked our packs, put them tightly on our backs, and continued down stream. The water was so high, that with a little wiggling, we could float over many of the flowstone dams, returning to our feet only to cross the occasionally wide and shallow dam edge. All of us silently thought about the low entrance section and wondered if it could be sumped. I thought about how warm the air seemed and although fresh how gentle the wind was ... I thought about warmer temperatures out side, the water rushing in ...and always back to the narrowing air space near the entrance. At 4:30 PM Shawn reached the low section, she shouted back to us that she could see daylight ... a clam relief passed over us. Shawn has kept her silence, but later she reviled that she had taken the strong lead to be able to pass back the word that the exit was open ... or to give her a few minutes lead time to advance her already brewing alternate plan for our extended stay over. The 35 feet between stations G2 and G3 had 7 inches of free air, just enough to float through with our helmets turned sideways with one ear submerged. Once out into the open air we all laughed about how exciting the exit trek had been and that it was nice to carry back all of our spare cave food to await the next trip. Walking away from the drip line, we noticed that there were another dozen springs erupting from the high walls. Later we discovered that it had rained heavily for 3 hours, from noon to 3:00 PM, and it was the resulting insurgence that had

provided us the thrilling ride back into the our world of night and day.

Since we were already wet, we walked in the floodwaters to the parking area, holding arms to cross the swollen streams. Once at the SUV's we quickly changed to dry clothes, enjoying the warmth, I quietly thought how nice it was not to be enduring the previous trip's polar bear conditions of snow and ice. Kay, Niko and I headed home to a warm fire and hot coffee while Pat and Shawn took off to Monticello for the traditional, after GGC, Chimichanga dinner at El Cazador.

### **Sunday, 02-16-2003:**

Saturday night was a major flood. The weather front that had been faithfully heading east suddenly stopped and began a northward traverse. The stalled the rain line was directly over the GGC area. It rained hard all night and well into the morning, Almost 3 inches during the night. Near noontime, the rain slacked to a drizzle and Niko and I jump into the SUV and headed out to see what was happening. The rivers and creeks were out of their banks and roads were submerged. Springs burst from hillsides and canyon walls and stripped the steep slopes with white water. Vapor was streaming from high caves and pits like an industrial zone. The stream below the GGC's high parking area was well out of banks. White water could be seen streaming down the slopes all along the GGC area. I held my breath as I came into the GGRZ's southern watershed. The valley was flooded! I was so surprised I slowed to a stop and was shaken by a blowing horn. Some one had been following me and I'd not noticed. Judging from an old hay rake, I had seen on previous trips, the water was four feet deep and covered three or more acres. I had previously logged, with a GPS, several rock and debris filled sinks in the area that were now submerged. There was no visible water surface motion where I remembered the insurgences ... were they plugged? We drove down to the waters edges and saw that a stream, four feet wide and 2 feet deep, coming from the extreme south valley. It was rapidly flowing into the turbid lake. The water filled the valley floor to a rock filled sink on its northern shore. After a few minutes trying to imagine what was happening underground, we returned to the pavement and drove north. As we passed the linear projection of H survey into the valley, I noted the valley was well drained. The sink that was swallowing the turbid lake to the south wasn't far away. About half way between the arc of F and H survey a large

stream was flowing down the ridge's flank. It flowed both under and over the pavement and into the valley below until it disappeared behind the trees of a fence line. I couldn't see the insurgence, but there was no visible flooding in the valley floor.

Something was taking all of the water without strain. I make a mental note for future investigation. We drive on, near F survey's entry into the valley floor, I noted, no flooding is visible, water cascades down the flanks of the ridge and quickly disappears. The area's dolines are dry or floored with tiny pools ... obviously the area is well drained. Near the end of F survey's surface position, I see across a soybean field, two large streams flowed down the ridge's flank and joining near the valley floor. No overflow water is visible ... one of the sinks, of the three I had logged previously, was taking the water as it arrived. If linearly projected, B survey intersects these sinks.

Further north, the water from the Northwest valley flows on the surface. Numerous stream cross under the road and plunge into Beaver Creek. Springs gush from the creeks high banks. The creek is 10 to 20 feet out of it's banks on either side ... huge sequential standing waves are formed in steep sections. I make notes to return for investigation of many floodwater springs along the banks and steep slopes of the valley's northern ravine.

### **Postscript:**

Paul Unger wrote:

I sure wish I were down there this weekend. Storm events are most useful for finding caves. Actually, that is how we found GGC. I would suggest it would be most productive to walk around and look for water entering or exiting. I view a 3-inch rain as a gift for finding entrances.

Bill Walden wrote:

As scary as it seems to be surveying and exploring a cave the only entrance of which is a low river crawl, Katie and I noted while surveying the water passage that the water lever does not appear to get much higher than 6 to 8 inches above the level observed the day we were surveying. We also noted the absence of any organic material, which leads us to believe the cave lacks a direct water input. So, the danger of being flooded in would appear small.

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## **LOST RIVER FIELD TRIPS FOR 2003.**

Mark your calendars for the following Saturdays: April 5th, May 31st, and September 27th,

Tours of Indiana's Lost River Karst System are being offered by the Lost River Conservation Association (LRCA). These tours are free, open to the public, and will be done in your own car. All tours are a "GO-especially if it rains". Tours will involve

moderate hiking at some stops, which are optional. We recommend sturdy footwear, long sleeve shirts, long pants (even

in hot weather), camera, sunscreen, bug repellent, binoculars, etc.. Reservations are not necessary.

These field trips will feature an orientation to the "Classic Portion" of "Indiana's Lost River Karst System". The tours will depart at 8AM from the southeast corner of the town square in Orleans, Indiana (Junction of SR 37 & SR 337). An orientation presentation begins at 7:40AM. The tour will end at approx. 4:30PM at the Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve. The stops-in-route will include numerous road side interpretive sites and opportunities to visit some significant features (i.e. the First

Sink, the Terminus Zone, a major swallow hole, and the Elrod Gulf). The route will provide views overlooking the valley of Lost River in the Mitchell (sinkhole) Plain and of the Springville Escarpment.

We believe that "Indiana's Lost River Karst System" must be viewed in the context of the total river system to be fully appreciated. We also include samplings of the area's historic heritage to broaden your horizons. The goal is to promote the idea that the entire drainage basin of Indiana's Lost River is so unique and so rich in overall heritage resources that it is worthy of being designated a "Wild and Scenic River" and "World Heritage Site".

You may also choose to do the tour in 2 half-day increments. We return to Herle's Diner in Orleans for our lunch stop between Noon and 1 PM, and present a special demonstration on karst groundwater flow. For more information on the Lost River offerings or to arrange for other tours please contact the LRCA c/o Bob Armstrong, Chairman, 3101 N. Washington Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46205-3932. You may also leave a telephone message for Bob Armstrong or Dee Slater@ (317) 253-6951. To be placed on the mailing list for event notices, send a written request to the above address.

Indiana's Lost River is known worldwide for it's unique conglomerate of Karst features. It has been studied from the early

1800's to present time and has many more secrets yet to be discovered. This system includes three designated National Natural Landmarks, one of which is also a dedicated Nature Preserve. Due to the compactness and multitude of features and landforms, this area offers visitors a unique and comprehensive view of how nature handles it's water in Karst areas. We will explore not only the ribbon of water, but also the landforms developing as a result of ground water processes that dominate over surface erosion.

The subtle valley of Lost River will be shown beginning near it's surface origins, near the towns of Smedley and Livonia in Washington County, through it's disappearance zone and it's dry-bed on the Mitchell Plain in Orange County, to it's reappearance at the Orangeville Rise Nature Preserve near the base of the Springville Escarpment. Major features to be visited include the Terminus Zone, a major swallow hole, and the extraordinary Elrod Gulf. Emphasis will be on landform development and hydrology. We will explore innovative multiple use issues that enhance environmental knowledge and promote good land use. Lessons in geology, geography, and local history are included.

We'll also have a lot of fun doing our exploration and meeting new and old friends again. So please, join us for a great day outdoors!

Dee Slater, Secretary, LRCA -Revised 2002.

*The Lost River Conservation Association is a designated Conservation Task Force of the National Speleological Society.  
Save this notice for reference should you go.*

### **Directions to Orleans, Indiana from Columbus:**

Take I-70 west to the east outskirts of Indianapolis. Exit on to I-465 southbound. Follow I-465 to Indiana Route 37 (Bloomington exit). Follow IN 37 south past Bloomington and past Bedford. Continue south on 37 to Orleans. In Orleans turn left on IN 337. Almost immediately is the town square. Meet for the tour on the Southeast corner of the square. Orientation begins at 7:40 a.m. and the tour departs at 8 a.m.

### **More Photos from the COG 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**

