



COG SQUEAKS

GROTTO INFORMATION

The Central Ohio Grotto of the National Speleological Society meets the second Friday of each month at the Worthington Presbyterian Church. The Church is on the north west corner of the square in Worthington, Ohio (intersection of High Street and SR 161). The meetings are in the Woodrow Room at 8:00 PM. Please contact a grotto officer or committee person for information and caving trips.

The official grotto address is:

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

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN Darrell Adkins 614-392-6382
VICECHAIR Pat Kelly 614-885-1270
SECRETARY Alice Woznack 614-392-6382
TREASURER Karen Walden 614-965-2942

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Above Plus

PAST CHAIR. Jon Gardner 614-262-8587
MEMBER Kathy Franklin 614-766-6381
MEMBER Chuck Daehnke 614-666-1199

The COG Squeaks is the official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto. Subscription is \$10.00 per year per address. The Central Ohio Grotto publishes the COG Squeaks ten times per year. The club welcomes articles on cave exploration and study, cave trip reports, cave fiction, cave poetry, cave related cartoons, or cave related art. Please send to Bill Walden. Free disks and mailers are available from Bill at the meetings. Contact Bill for information on modem or fax transmission.

NSS organizations may reprint information from the COG Squeaks. Please give credit to the author and the COG Squeaks.

KARST CALENDAR

May 14, 1993 Regular meeting Friday the 14th at 8:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Worthington, Ohio.

May 21 - 23 42nd annual S.E.R.A. Cave Carnival. Willow Grove Campground, Dale Hollow Lake, Tennessee. Contact Helen Galloway, 3500 Sutherland Ave. M208, Knoxville, TN 37919, 615-588-3617 for information.

May 28 - 31 Speleofest, Smith Grove, KY. Seven Springs Campground near Mammoth Cave, KY. Contact Alex Hicks 502-499-0768.

June 11, 1993 June Meeting

June 12, 1993 **COG AUCTION.** The COG auction will be hosted by Bill and Karen Walden at their home in Galena, Ohio.

2:00 -- Arrive
3:00 -- Auction
6:00 -- Diner, Bring a dish to share and

beverages for yourself.

June 18 - 20 40th Annual Indiana Cave Capers, Delaney Creek Park, Salem, Indiana. Deadline for pre-registration is May 31st. For questions call Dave Haun at 317-464-9090 OF or 317-781-1996 HO. Registration form available at May meeting.

June 19 - 27 Eastern Region 1993 Cave Rescue Training Program, OTR site, Dailey, WV. Call Chuck Hempel 304-338-6920 or John Appleby 2315-541-4994 for information. Registration form available at May meeting.

July 16 - 18 **KARST-O-RAMA** hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Grotto at Great Salt Petre Cave Preserve. Contact Bill Thoman 513-251-7357 for information.

August 2 - 6 NSS Convention, Pendleton, Oregon. Contact Bill Devereaux 503-363-3831 for information. Plan to attend!

Minutes

by Pat Kelly

April Meeting 1993

Committee Reports

Treasurer's	Balance \$249.21	Karen Walden
Vertical	Practice dates TBD	Jon Gardner
Youth	Trips: May 14, 15 & 16 April 16, 17 & 18	Pat Kelly
Toy	April 22 & 23 Ham Convention Old Business	Don Conover

Cave rescue session sponsored by GCG May 8 at Great Salt Petre Cave.

NCRC August 21 and 22 at Sloans Valley.

Auction June 12 at the Waldens.

New Business

Lechuguilla Cave -- there is a House bill coming up. Write your Congressman to keep the oil companies from drilling.

Karst-O-Rama -- July 16, 17, and 18. (See Karst Calendar.)

Proposed Cave Trips

Paul Unger wants to go to Blue Springs Cave Memorial Day Weekend. Also, message about Hawaii.

Pat Kelly proposes a grotto fun weekend June 18, 19, and 20. Take new members caving have a good time.

Pat further proposes that the grotto have such a trip the third weekend of each month.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15. Don Conover then gave a presentation of caving in South America.

At 10:00 we left the church for Pizza.

Editors Message

Please accept my apology for not getting the April COG Squeaks out. This issue is the combined April and May issue.

Please submit your trip reports to me.

The June issue will be the last regular issue until the September Squeaks.

COG AUCTION

June 12, 1993
by Karen Walden

Schedule:

Plan to arrive at 2:00
Auction at 3:00
Diner at 6:00

Where: Bill & Karen Waldens' home in Galena, Ohio

Come prepared for some fun along with fund raising. Bring your family, bring a friend, bring your cash, checkbook and contributions. Depending on the crowd and weather we can .. play euchre .. climb a rope ... toss a frisbee ... paddle up and down the creek .. view videos ...

Although items are supposedly cave

related we are very broad minded. In the past items for the auction have included army surplus packs, nature posters, fortune cookies, cave clothing and equipment and memorabilia. Use your imagination, bring that white elephant or cook some gingerbread cavers or paint a tee shirt! Our last auction brought in over \$250!

We will plan for a pot luck supper. Bring your own beverage and something to share. Bill and I will set up the grill and provide paper plates etc. You might want to bring a blanket or folding chair. But most of all come ready for some fun. Other grottoes and interested parties are welcome. Scheduled times are approximate and are subject to the whims of those attending.

TRIP REPORTS

BEGINNERS CAVE TRIP

by Greg Karoly

On Sunday April 18, 1993 there was a one day beginners caving trip to Carter Caves State Resort Park in Kentucky. Of the eight people who went, four were first time cavers and two were second time cavers. The plan was to do some of the easier caves located within the park boundaries. We started through the lower level of Laurel Cave. We had been told in advance that on Saturday the water was three feet deep at one point. When we reached the water about 200 feet into the cave, the water was about 1½ feet deep for only about 20 feet. Everything was going fine until one

of the beginners started into the water and that is where he called it quits. He and his dad left the cave to return home. The rest of us went on through Laurel Cave. Everyone especially liked the rimstone dams in Rimstone Cave. We crawled through the belly crawl connecting Rimstone Cave and Horn Hollow Cave. We came out of Horn Hollow Cave and crawled through H₂O Cave. There was a very nice waterfall at the end of H₂O Cave. Several pictures were taken. We ended our trip by entering the upper level of Laurel Cave where there are a wide variety of formations. We headed home, stopping for dinner along the way. We got back about 10:00 PM. All had a good time, even the two who left early since they enjoyed the other activities at the park.

TRIP APRIL 16, 17, & 18

by Pat Kelly

Will and Joan Rae led Cheryl Best's Girl Scout troop and two Worthington Alternative School students and I on a trip to WVAC's. We enjoyed a trip into Greenville Great Salt Petre and Bone Cave. Thanks to Will and Joan for a wonderful trip.

CAVING IN THE BLIZZARD OF '93.

by Pat Kelly and Bill Walden

Personnel: Cavers -- Pat and Jenny Kelly, Bill and Katie Walden, & Jon Gardner. Non-cavers -- Upper Arlington Scout Troop and Becky Vulcan.

Remember the blizzard of '93? We do!

We arrived at the Cumberland Motel Friday night. About 4 inches of snow had fallen in Burnside, Kentucky, and it was snowing very hard. By morning 10 to 12 inches of snow was on the ground.

The Kelly's, Walden's and Jon Gardner went to King's for breakfast. The waitress commented that she hadn't expected so many people for breakfast because of the storm. The Scouts prepared their breakfast at the motel.

We returned to the motel to get ready for the cave trip. It was still snowing hard.

Because we didn't feel like changing at the cave, we donned full cave gear at the motel. We met with the Scout leaders and told them to advise the boys to prepare for a winter hike. Also, we suggested that they put their camping gear in the vans just in case we couldn't return. Some did. But, apparently not all got the word, "be prepared".

U.S. route 27 had been plowed, but had about 6 inches of fresh snow over the pavement. We maintained a pace of 25 miles per hour. Noting that the side roads had not been plowed, and that people were having difficulty on the side roads, we opted to go to Sloans rather than Goldson's Cave as originally planned.

We arrived at garbage Pit, parked the car and the vans in the field and behind the green house. It would have taken four wheel drive vehicles to drive up the hill and along the old rail bed. Bill walked up the hill to the Crocketts to get permission and talk briefly with Cathy and Tom. They informed us that another Scout troop had camped the night in the barn.

By now there was 12 to 14 inches of snow on the ground and it was still snowing hard. The weather forecast called for another 12 to 18 inches of snow.

We waited for the Scouts to finish getting ready. Then we hiked up the hill to the rail road bed and on to the Minton entrance. At the entrance we

met another Scout troop leaving the cave. It was the troop the Crocketts said had spent the night in the barn. Ed Herel, an old COG member, was leading this Scout troop. Bill hadn't seen Ed in years, so, they had to visit a while. Ed mistook Katie for Bill's wife Karen. Bill quickly corrected Ed!

After allowing everyone to become dark adapted, we walked back toward the Duckunder. There we removed our winter coats.

We visited the still room and examined the remains of someone's efforts at distillation. Then we went under the Duckunder and to the first water. We did not want the boys to get wet because of the storm outside. One of the Scouts said "I don't mind getting wet!" We said "you will when you get outside and have to hike the mile back to the van." That apparently convinced him and others to stay dry. We toured the first loop of Middle Cave, stopping to examine the slot and the breakdown, and to admire the fossils.

Next we hiked back toward the entrance and over to the passage that leads to Left Cave of Minton. Bill thought Left Cave would be a good place for the Scouts. It was. We broke the troop into two groups. An "advanced exploring group" and an "easy touring group." Jon led the advanced group and Bill led the touring group. Actually both groups toured the same passages. The "easy touring group" probably saw more of Left Cave but the "advanced exploring group" probably pushed more dead ends. Both groups had fun. Some less physical Scouts were very tired. All were ready to leave. First Pat made sure the troop policed the cave and carried all trash we could find out of the cave.

We returned to our coats. Bill and Pat tried to delay the Scouts near the Duckunder so they would have a chance the dry and adjust to the

colder air before exiting the cave. Outside the wind had strengthened and it whistled through the bare trees. The foot prints we had made as we arrived were now buried. We had to blaze a new trail. Some of the more tired Scouts were certain that the trip back to the vans was over two miles! Fortunately, we didn't get the 12 to 18 inches of additional snow that the weather bureau had forecast.

Now the real fun began! We had to get the vans and Bill's car up the hill from Garbage Pit to U.S. route 27. One doesn't normally give this a thought. But, under the 14 inches of powder was icy slush. There were plenty of pushers but we quickly learned that the lighter Scouts were no match for the over weight adults! First up to the highway was Bill's Nissan Sentra, the next attempt was a Chrysler mini van. The mini van might best be described as a "No Go!" We pushed and we pushed. Several runs at the hill were attempted. The owner could not get the mini van up the road to the paved portion of old route 27. Jon said he was an expert at driving in the snow. He tried but only managed to get the van sideways. Two locals came by in a 4 X 4 pickup. The younger of the two was confident he could get the mini van up the hill. NO GO! He managed to turn it around twice. Finally, we tried to pull it up the hill with the 4 X 4. NO GO! Next we tried pulling with the 4 X 4 and pushing both vehicles. We made it. None of the other vans (all standard rear wheel drive) had any significant difficulties getting up the hill to the pavement.

Back at the Cumberland Motel, we began thinking of where to eat. According to the news broadcasts, all restaurants were closed. Jon Gardner said, "Think of a restaurant in which the owners live." An oriental restaurant of course! A quick check of the phone book revealed one Chinese restaurant in Somerset. Jon

called and learned that it was open. Thirty hungry people enjoyed an oriental feast. The food was very good. The owner did a wonderful job handling the unexpected crowd.

The next morning Jon, Pat and Jennie headed north up US route 27. Bill, Katie and Becky followed shortly. The driving on route 27 was good. The highway was completely snow covered but in good condition. The Waldens stopped just outside of Georgetown for breakfast at Shoney's. I-75 south of Lexington was closed but open to the north. Driving on I-75 was a pleasure. No traffic until we got to the junction of I-71. We made it home in 6 hours. That included the time spent at Shoney's.

The Scouts and their leaders left the motel later and headed across Kentucky route 461 to I-75. They got on I-75 and drove up to Berea where they stopped for breakfast. After they finished breakfast, a State Patrolman came into the restaurant and told the crowd that I-75 was now open.

Everyone got home safely. None of us were worried. But we learned after returning that wives and family back at home had been very worried. The media had grossly exaggerated the storm. To us it was just a snow storm.