

C O G



January 2004



The cave entrances are submerged. Only the proto-entrance is visible.

Short Creek in Flood January 2, 2004

Below is the opposite side of the road from the caves.



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

COG WEB page: www.tuningoracle.com/cog

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

Grotto Officers	Name	<u>Telephone</u>	
Chairman	Lacie Braley	614-895-1732	
Vice Chair	Dale Andreatta		
Secretary	Bruce Warthman		
Treasurer	Karen Walden	740-965-2942	
Exec. Committee	Darrell Adkins	740-392-6382	
Exec. Committee	Bill Walden	740-965-2942	
Exec. Committee	Cat Whitney		
Squeaks Editor- Bill Walden - www.nr.com Webmaster - Kevin Toepke - ktoepke@tuningoracle.com Boone Karst Rep - Cat Whitney - Bond_girl@hotmail.com Youth Committee Chair-Roland Snow - snowpeople@ameritech.net List Server - cog@ontosystems.com			

<u>The C.O.G. Squeaks</u>

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:

http://www.tuningoracle.com/cog:

NSS organizations have permission to reprint material from the C.O.G. Squeaks so long as the author and Squeaks are given credit, unless otherwise stated.

The COG Meeting night is the 4th Tuesday of the month at $7:00\,\mathrm{pm}$.

KARST CALENDAR

Jan 23-25, 2004	Crawlathon at Carter Caves State Resort Park.	
	http://www.crawlathon.com/ for information.	
Jan. 25, 2004	KSS meeting at Crawlathon	
Jan. 27. 2004	COG Meeting. 7 p.m.	
Feb. 8, 2004	DUG Meeting. COG members are welcome t	
	attend DUG's February grotto meeting on Cave	
	Diving & Science. Please read the article on	
	page 3 about Jill Yager. Please plan to attend.	
	If you are reading the PDF version the links are	
	active. http://www.dugcaves.com/ meeting map	
	at: http://www.dugcaves.com/meetingmap.htm	
Feb. 24, 2004	COG Meeting	
Feb 28, 2004	Ohio Valley Region Meeting (Tentative). Check	
	with John Cole for details. koshka@iglou.com	
Mar . 23, 2004	COG Meeting	
May 28-31, 2004	Speleofest at Camp Carlson, Fort Knox-Meade	
	County, Kentucky. Check the Louisville Grotto	
	Website for details:	
	www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto/	
Apr 27, 2004	COG Meeting	
July 12-16, 2004	NSS Convention in Marquette, Michigan. For	
	registration go to www.nss2004.com.	
Aug 20-22, 2004	Wormfest in Indiana. Watch for details or check	

Contents	Page
February Dayton Underground Grotto Meeting	2
Program by Jill Yager "Cave Diving for Scientific Treasure"	
2003/2004 San Salvador Trip by Kevin Toepke	2
Year End Caving & Party – Year Beginning Caving By Cat Whitney and Bill Walden	6
Photos	10
John Winter's Cave Map	11

the DUG Website: http://www.dugcaves.com/

The Dayton Underground Grotto Presents Jill Yager

Presenting On

"Cave Diving for Scientific Treasure"

Sunday, February 8, 2004 at 7pm

8571 North Dixie Drive, Dayton, Ohio - Map



Dr. Jill Yager, NSS 19089LF earned her PhD in Ecological Sciences from Old Dominion University. She conducts research in submerged caves where she studies water chemistry and the animals that live there. She has been a certified cave diver for over 25 years and has explored submerged caves in the Bahamas, Mexico, the Turks and Caicos,

Cuba, Bermuda, and Florida. While cave diving in the Bahamas in 1979, Yager discovered an exciting crustacean totally new to science. This crustacean was not just a new species, but a new class of crustacean which she named the Remipedia. Yager continues her study of submerged cave environments and her search for new species of remipedes. Her research has been featured in several television documentaries, including Smithsonian World, 3-2-1 Contact, the New Explorers, and National Geographic's Sea Stories. Jill was named Cave Scientist of the Year in 2000 by the Karst Waters Institute and an inaugural inductee into the Women Divers Hall of Fame. She is currently a professor in the Environmental and Biological Sciences Department at Antioch College in Yellow Springs.

San Salvador 2003 - 2004

By Kevin Toepke

I flew out of Cleveland Hopkins on Dec 26 and arrived in Ft Lauderdale late on the 26^{th} . Again, the Mississippi State group stayed at the Airport Inn. Walking to my room at just past midnight I find Lee, Amber, PJ and a couple others still awake. We wound up chewing the fat until well past 1:30am – leaving enough time to catch a few hours of sleep before our 5am wake up time.

Hurry up and wait was the mantra for the morning. Hurry up to get to the lobby - and wait. Hurry up to the airport - and wait. Hurry up to the plane, through customs, to the dorms, to unpack and to the conference room for the pre-lunch orientation.

After lunch, most people jumped onto a truck and headed over to French Harbor for snorkeling. Lee, Beth and I headed to North Point with the goal of crossing over to Cut Cay. However, with the tide up, we decided the current looked too strong and the water too deep to make the crossing. Lee suggested that we head back to the Bahamian Field Station (BFS) and hike one of the trails behind the station.

Before we went, we stopped by PJs room to see if he wanted to join us. We found PJ crashed out on his bed. This convinced Beth that she wanted to take a nap. With Beth gone and PJ crashed, Lee decided to play Pinball on PJ's laptop. With nothing

happening at BFS, I headed to my room to catch up on my journal as well as catch a few Zs.

Today, December 28, 7 of us (myself, Lee, PJ, Chris Moore, Beth, Victoria and Lars) headed to Hog Cay (pronounced Key) in the big Ford Van – with the exhaust problem. Most of us had Carbon-Monoxide headaches by the time we stopped at the airport.

Five of us (excluding Chris, Victoria and Lars) headed out to scout the interior. Victoria headed to Cockburn (pronounced Co-Burn) town to map the fossil reef. Chris and Lars went off on their own in an attempt to get to Barn Cay. PJ, Lee and I headed off to survey John Winters cave. A survey had been completed last year, but the surveyors were so unhappy with the results they were unwilling to turn in the data.

We left the field station at about 8:45am and planned on being in the truck with the wheels rolling at 4pm so we all could get a shower before dinner.

The first stop was Cockburn town to drop Victoria off. Then we turned around and headed back to the airport where we first got permission to walk down the side of the runway before heading off.

It's about a 1/2-hour walk from where we parked to the jumping off point for Hog Cay and John Winters Cave. As we split off, Beth left her helmet with the instructions being that the first group back would take the helmet.

It took another 1/2 hour to find John Winters Cave again. We took our time surveying – Lee even did a running profile of the cave! (Map on last page.)

Unlike most island caves, John Winters Cave is not mostly horizontal. The entrance is a one meter pit with a hole in the side. Upon entering, you notice a sharp dip to the cave — it follows the foreset beds in the cave. And, since they dip at 30 degrees, so does the cave floor.



Lee Florea taking survey notes in John Winter's Cave

Following a small channel in the floor, and on the right side of the cave, you soon encounter a pit that drops into a small room with a drain at the bottom.

If you continue past the floor channel and the first hole in the floor, you come to another hole in the floor. The really interesting part ther is the two (connected) leads off to the left.

The upper leads looks like a paleo-infeeder that was interrupted by intersection with the main passage. The lower lead looks like a dome with a drain – that drains down the hole in the floor.

Continuing on beyond the 2nd hole in the floor you quickly encounter what appears to be a solid rock wall. Closer inspection reveals 2 small holes that appear to connect to something larger. Lee and PJ dug open the larger of these 2 holes but found basically nothing.

If you make the somewhat tricky climb down the 2^{ode} hole you get to another small room with one lead — another hole in the floor. To get to this hole, you have to make a short horizontal crawl in a formation area and then drop down into a fairly large (for the island) room — about 15 feet tall by 12 foot wide and 15 foot long.

The floor of this room is covered by guano and tree roots.

Some of the morphology of the rock is apparent — herringbone cross bedding and rhisomorphs. The cave morphology is not apparent and PJ and Lee spent a considerable amount of time discussing the merits of various hypothesis.

By the time they were done, it was time to head back to the van. And with Lee's side trip to check out a feature he saw from the air, we made it back to the truck at 4pm to find Chris, Beth and Lars napping. Apparently they had hit an impenetrable wall of vegetation and had turned back early.

After a quick shower, dinner and the nightly lecture, it was time to head to Club Short Stop for our first night of comradery!

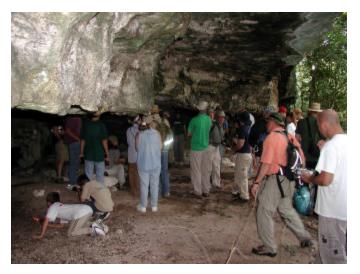
December 29, 2003

Today is the Karst Field Trip. Our usual first stop is Ink Well, a blue hole that used to have a fresh water lens on top of the (marine salinity) salt water. However, Mylroie decides to deviate from the norm and make 2 "new" stops. The first of which is Deep Well – a fresh water well next to the road that used to be a local water source before the locals started going to the Garace Research Station for their water. The second stop is a blue hole that he hadn't seen in many years. Again, this blue hold had no fresh water lens – except in the rainy season.



Near Entrance to Inkwell Cave

After the blue hole, we went to Dripping Cave and Alter Cave. Dripping Cave is a breached flank margin cave that is now little more than an overhang. The most interesting part of Dropping Cave is the abandoned well there. This well had be re-dug to a depth of several meters without finding any water, but it has obviously been used in the past.



The Group at Dripping Rock

Alter Cave is also a breached flank margin cave, but it is mostly intact. I helped one of Mylroie's students install some evaporation meters while Mylrioe gave his speil. As it took significantly longer to get the instrumentation installed and configured that it took John to do his thing, we had to high tail it back to the trucks.

After eating lunch (literally) on the road we headed to Sandy Point Caves.



Tonya in the "Airplane Hole"

As Mylroie was giving hist tours of Owl Hole and Triple Shaft, Lee, Amber, PJ and I went looking for a pit that met their criteria (wide & no trees) for a pit with a good soil profile. Lee remembered finding a good subject pit a couple years earlier. About 1/2 hour later, he found it. We marked the location and headed back to the trucks to wait for the rest of the group.

The final geological drop for the day was Airplane Hole/Chinese Fire Drill Cave. Airplane Hole is a small (less than 8 inches tall) hole that small people can crawl through. The goal is to turn around and climb back up the drop without touching bottom. Lee and several others made it. Chinese Fire Drill Cave is right there. It is much easier to navigate. The goal here is to run from the bottom of the cave across about 50 feet of beach and climb onto the rocks before a wave gets you wet. Many people made this challenge – some several times.

As always, the final stop of the day was snorkeling. Today we stopped at Fernandez Bay. As always, the snorkeling was awesome – perfectly clear water with many varied fish and corals too look at.

December 30, 2003 – Hog Cay

Another day and another trip to Hog Cay. Today the cast was Lee, PJ, Beth, Kristen & myself. Our goal was to find Boneyard Pit and to start a soil profile. As could be expected, things didn't go according to plan. We found Boneyard Pit, but the digging was quickly abandoned because of the level of difficulty. Way too many roots and rocks in the way.

So, while PJ and I worked on getting rock samples from the walls, Kristen and Lee blazed a trail from the pit back to the main trail. Beth stood guard at the top.

Tonight's lecture is another Carew lecture on the reef corals and invertebrates. I've already seen it and think I'll skip it in favor of some quiet time alone with just my pencil and notebook for company.

After the lecture we are meeting to determine everyone's plans for the rest of the trip. I'll probably spend most of my time on Hog Cay with a day or two cutting the South Victoria Hill Trail for a diversion.

December 31, 2003

What a way to spend New Year's Eve — on Hog Cay. Today there was a large group of us going to do various projects: installing evaporation sensors in Majors Cave; dig a soil profile in John Winters Cave; make another attempt on Barn Cay; and a surface survey between CK-1 and John Winters Cave. I was teamed up with NoNo and Ioana (the 2 Romanians) and was charged with the surface survey — including sketching in the other pits on the trail.

We actually finished the survey and tied into John Winters Cave at noon – just in time for lunch. After eating lunch in the cave (no mosquitoes) we climbed down to help with the soil profile dig.

NoNo and Ioana got hot just past 1pm so we headed out. Lee and I gave the Romanians a quick tour of the area before asking what pit they wanted to drop and map. They deferred to me. So, knowing they wanted to drop a pit, I picked a nearby pit that looked interesting to me.

NoNo and Ioana measured the external pit dimensions while I sketched.

Although both of the Romanians have considerable vertical experience, they were unfamiliar with the American variations on the familiar Frog system so it took everyone a while too get into the gear and taught how to use the descenders.

NoNo was the first one down the pit. He picked the survey station and measured the dimensions. Ioana was next and I last. They explored (not much to explore) and I sketched. There wasn't enough at the bottom of the pit to survey.

We got to the top of the pit to find everyone else waiting for us to complete our work. We got to the truck right at the designated meeting time.

Tonight: destination Club Short Stop. Mission: kill brain cells and dance the night away.

Mission Accomplished.

New Year's Day, 2004

I wake to my alarm at 7am feeling just a little tired and not very hung over. As I was doing well and there were uninvited guests in my room, I decided to join a group that was heading to the Columbus Monuments to survey the locations and sizes of the invasive pines in relation to the native species. So, for most of the morning, I helped measure 15 square meter plots and to catalog various plant species.

As the morning wore on, I started feeling worse and worse – not hangover worse, but sick worse. At lunch, I managed to eat about 2 bites before I had to excuse myself from the table. I was almost able to keep my lunch down.

The rest of New Year's day was spent in bed, except for a short break for dinner.

January 2, 2004

This morning I felt well enough to jump on the trip to Sandy Point Pits to help with the soil profile work.

Just as we got to the target pit, I was asked to help the Czecks who wanted to take rock samples from various locations in Owls Hole.

From what I could understand they were taking the rock samples to determine the isotopes present in the rocks at various elevations. The problem was the Jan was deathly afraid of heights and her husband didn't speak a lick of English. It took me about 2 seconds to determine that the best course of action was to convince Jan to climb down into Owls Hole.

It took a bit of coaxing, but I was able to get her to the bottom of the pit - with very little assistance other than instructions. She

kept saying that her friends back home would never believe that she made it to the bottom.

They wrapped up their work just in time for another lunch on the road. After lunch, the Czechs went to Blow Hole and I again joined the crew at the bottom of the pit to help on the soil profile. The only actual work I did was to help back fill the pit at the end of the day.

January 3, 2004

Today I feel well enough to join the Hog Cay group again. The plan is for me to lead Cara and her differential GPS around while the Romanians bounce pits and another crew finishes the pit work in John Winters Cave.

For the first time, we avoided the Hog Cay Death March up and down the shoulder of the runway. We took the truck up a different road that parallels the runway. The drop off point was directly across the runway from the point we usually hang a right and drop down to the water on the Hog Cay trail. Oh, and the road was on the wrong side of the runway. So we had to cross the runway of an international airport with machetes in hand! Luckily we were over a small rise in the runway and were (mostly) hidden from the terminal. On the plus side, this new route cuts 1/2 hour off the walk – giving us an additional hour each day for fieldwork.

As it turns out, Lee is doing most of the leading while I do the measuring and Amber does the recording. Cara, of course, does her thing with the coolest toy on the island. We GPS marked the location of several dozen pits while the Romanians bounced a couple pits and the pit crew finished the dig, did the soil profile, set the instruments and backfilled the hole in John Winters Cave.

January 4, 2004

Today is going to be the hardest day of the trip. Kristin and I are leading another assault on the South Victoria Hill trail. If I recall correctly, we stopped last year at a nearly impenetrable wall of brush.



South Victoria Hill Trail

It took us nearly 1.5 of hours clearing and flagging to get to the end of last years trail. And I was right. The ended in very thick brush. I had also thought that we had couple iust hundred of meters left to cut before we hit the water. I was mistaken - we had about 400 meters before the water.

After 5 hours of cutting we made it about 1/2 way. The really sad part is that it took us 15 minutes to walk back to the day's starting point on the newly cut trail. But, with the trail we cut a flagged there should be no trouble finding, and hopefully finishing, the trail next year.

January 5, 2004

Today, the last full day on the island, is a mandatory relaxation day. There are no hard trips to the interior planned, or allowed. One group will be circumnavigating the island with a tour of the freshwater wetlands, led by Cara. I think others are planning on snorkeling somewhere. Kristin and Sledge are checking out some banana holes near the start of the South Victoria Hill trail. Me, I'm taking the morning off — catching up on sleep in preparation for the final night's bash at Club Short Stop!

This afternoon I'll be taking a boat trip out to the out islands. The first stop is Green Cay to see the endangered San Salvador iguanas. They only live on the out islands of San Salvador. The second stop is Catto Cay to see the rookery. Boobies and Frigates use the island as, well, a rookery. We hiked around the island looking at all of the birds and other wild life on the island. The afternoon was topped off by a boat-snorkel on a little dove reef

near the islands. The most interesting sight was the group of 5 reef squid swimming in formation! What a blast!

This was my third trip to the island and each time is better than the last! I just *have* to come back again!



San Salvador Iguana

Year End Caving & Party — Year Beginning Caving

By Cat Whitney And Bill Walden

Cavers: Aron Schmid, Katie Walden, Bill Walden, Bruce Warthman, Cat Whitney, and Dale Andreatta

By Bill

Katie and Aron Drove down to Squalid Manor Tuesday afternoon, December 30, 2003. I drove down after work. As I approached Squalid I could see a light on. But, as I turned on to Short Creek Cemetery Drive the old house appeared dark. Puzzled I turned into the driveway. From the back Squalid was dark and unlit. I entered. The kitchen was dark and all was quiet. "Did I imagine seeing a light on from the road?" I opened the door to the living room. It was dark except for crack of light coming from under the bedroom door. Katie and Aron were wrapped in their sleeping bags reading, an electric heater was on, but it had only warmed the bedroom a little.

I greeted Katie and Aron then turned my attention to starting the kerosene stove. The fuel tank was nearly empty so I filled it with the kerosene, which I brought with me. The old house warmed ever so slowly. I don't think it got much above 50° .

In the morning I lit my little propane heater in the kitchen then prepared pancakes and bacon for breakfast. We planned to check the entrances Bruce Warthman and I had found a few weeks earlier at Redmond Sink.

Even though there wasn't any water flowing in Redmond Creek I parked the VW and we walked back past the Redmond Cave entrance and on to the first entrance. This entrance is about 50 feet wide and perhaps 8 inches high. Aron was able to open up the entrance a little on the right side and enter. Katie followed. I worked at making the opening a bit bigger.

Just inside was a rock that would stop me. Aron and Katie dropped to a lower level, then dropped yet another level through a waterfall. Katie reported that the ceiling inside very closely resembles the ceiling in Calyx Avenue. So, it is probably about the same level. Anyhow the passage continued much to tight for even Aron to follow.

Next I decided to free-climb one of the pits that Bruce had discovered. I tied on to my static line and wrapped the rope once around a stout tree. Aron belayed me. A body length in I either slipped or my hand and footholds gave way. Fortunately I was caught by the belay line and was unharmed. Then a rock collided with my head. Ouch! Even with the hard hat, I think that I suffered a very mild concussion. Once down a little further I could see that the pit belled out. I would not be able to climb back up. We will have to bring a cable ladder back to this pit.

The adjacent pit looked even more difficult to climb. From near the bottom I could see that the two pits connect.

Next we hiked across the sinkhole to the opposite wall. We could hear the water crashing into that pit. Katie climbed down – an easy climb but there is no way to avoid the crashing waterfall. We decided this is a warm weather entrance. We weren't prepared to get totally soaked.

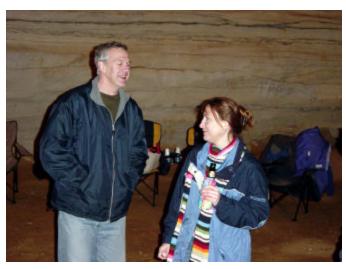
We started back to the car. On the way Aron checked Redmond Creek Cave to see if we could get in. There was a pool just past the hard right turn beyond Sand Hill. I guessed we would be able to enter the next day.

I decided to walk past East Side Cave en route to the car. Water was gushing out. Water from East Side Cave slowly sank through the bottom of Redmond Creek and gradually disappeared.

We drove back to Squalid to get cleaned up for the evening's festivities in Great Saltpetre Cave.

By Cat

Wednesday, December 31, 2003 – After a brief session of relaxing yoga, Dale and I begin our trip to Kentucky for the GSP New Year's Eve celebration. We stopped at Subway for dinner, where, in the parking lot, we found a sneaker that was even smaller than my own. We arrived at GSP (Great Saltpetre Cave) sometime between 8-9 p.m. The celebration was fun, around 40-50 people attended. Afterwards, we headed back to Squalid for sleep before our big day of caving.



Dale and Cat



Cat expressing her feelings toward the photographer!

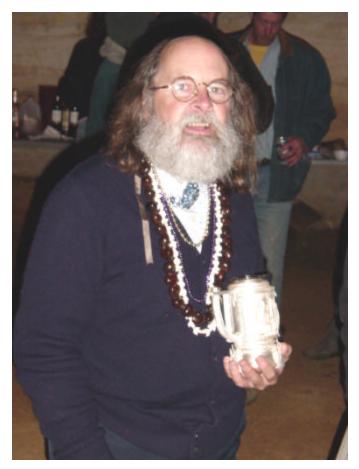
By Bill

The highlight of the New Years Eve party in GSP was Bill Carr's 32-foot long burrito. Yum! Dinner was a potluck buffet and some of the food was wonderful! There was plenty of food. It was fun seeing cavers that I had not seen in years. I left the party sometime around 1:00 a.m and drove back to Squalid.





The 32-foot burrito - Top preparing, bottom folding



Bruce at GSP with his silver beer chalice. It is one of Bruce's works of art. You must see this!

By Cat

Thursday, January 01, 2004 – Waking was slow at Squalid, with the exception of Bill, who was up early and began breakfast preparations. He made his famous pancakes. Over coffee, we talked about what we were going to do that day, factoring in the possibility of rain showers and decided to take advantage of the no snow situation and ridge walk in Redmond Creek. Before we left Squalid, Dale and I walked up to the cemetery to check out the ice crystals that he mentioned seeing the night before.



Ice Crystals at Short Creek Cemetery -- Photo by Cat

Upon arrival in the valley we split into two teams: Katie and Aron went to the east side of the valley to check out possibilities. They found a cave couplet [at the interface among the Kidder limestone, Hartselle formation and the Bangor limestone just as Bill said that they should] that had a waterfall. They walked more of the ridgeline but said they didn't find much else of any interest. It was a nice day for a walk on the hillside.

Bill, Dale, Bruce, and I took the other side of the valley above the original Redmond Creek Cave entrance and conducted a four level sweep of the hillside. Bill found a 30-foot pit that didn't go and few other entrances that didn't seem to do much. Bruce, who kept us in song all day, found lots of brambles. Dale said he didn't find anything. I found three entrances, one with some promise — gently blowing air. We marked everything with purple flagging tape so that we could return another day with the appropriate tools to open the entrances more. One opening requires a winch, while the other two only require some digging and small rock removal. It's my hope to get back there in March.

All in all, we spent about 5 hours walking the hillsides and found about a half dozen entrances. Not too shabby for an afternoon stroll. The quote for the day came courtesy of Bill Walden and Bruce Warthman. As we were getting dressed for the walk, Bruce pulled his hair back into a ponytail and then turned to Bill to ask if his part was straight. After a brief consideration, Bill replied, "Well, it's rather oval." (Laughter all around.)

We went to the Chinese Restaurant for dinner, then back to Squalid where we talked, played cards and such for the remainder of the evening. I believe Bill and Bruce were the big winners at cards, with Katie and Aron only a couple of games behind. I busied myself with filling out the Squalid log, while Dale amused himself with a book. We all sacked out early, as it had been a good moderately active day.

By Bill

Thursday night the sky opened up, the thunder gods argued all night, and Squalid Manor shook. When we got up in the morning it was still raining hard, so we decided to abort and head home after breakfast.

By Cat

Friday, January 02, 2004 – Aron awoke early and left before most of us were up. Katie said he had to return home for work. Dale and I had prearranged to return to Ohio to attend to our other matters, so we packed up early and said our goodbyes. Katie, Bill, and Bruce had hoped to stay on but the rainfall during the night destroyed any hopes of caving for the day, so they also began to pack up.

As we came down the hill, approaching Short Creek, we saw that the roadway was flooded over with about an inch and half of rainwater. Once we got out of the truck to have a better look, we were amazed at the amount of water. The culvert pipe under the road was blowing water. It could not keep up with the amount of flow coming off the "Boiling Pots" side of the road. The Short Creek main entrance was completely underwater. You couldn't even see the large rock that sits outside of the entrance. (See pictures). After taking some photos of this spectacle, we noticed that the water level had

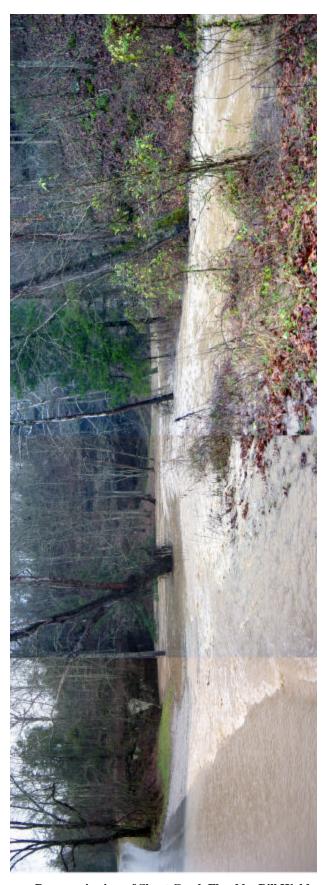
increased in just he 15 minutes we were there so, we decided to go and warn Bill about the rising water level. They informed us they would be behind us shortly. Bill called me later, once he was home, and said that they had not had any problems and everyone arrived home safe.



Short Creek Entrance -- Totally submerged! Photo by Cat By Bill

Cat and Dale packed up and left Squalid after breakfast. They were back shortly to report the road was under water and that we had better hurry as the water was rising. She was afraid my VW wouldn't be able to get through. So we hustled! Just as we got everything packed up, Jim Humbolt and Bob Warner showed up at Squalid. The water over the road didn't seem to bother them. They were just sorry they didn't bring a camera. After exchanging pleasantries we departed. The water at Short Creek was up to the hubs -- so it was about 8 to 10 inches deep flowing across the road -- higher than Cat reported. The entrances to Short Creek Cave were totally submerged. I had never seen that. The water was making quite a roar. I took some photos. As we headed out on KY 80 Katie noted some cars floating in a pond and a partly submerged house trailer. This isn't supposed to happen in January is it?





Panoramic view of Short Creek Flood by Bill Walden above. Left Dale looking at water coming out of a culvert at Short Creek – Photo by Cat Whitney

More Photos!



Unidentified flying object at the GSP New Years Eve Party Photo by Hilary Hopper



Gypsum Flower in Redmond Creek Cave
Photo by Cat Whitney



Old Kodger Gift from the COG Christmas Party



San Salvador Iguana – Photo by Kevin Toepke



Water Tower on San Salvador -- Photo by Kevin Toepke

John Winter's Cave

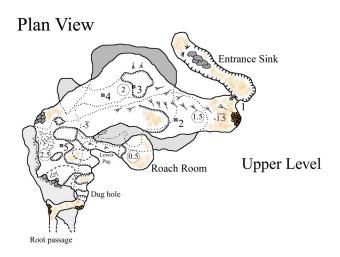
Hog Cay, San Salvador Bahamas

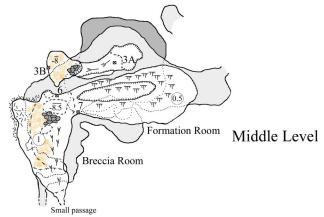
12/28/2003 survey by: Lee Florea, Paul J. Moore, and Kevin Toepke

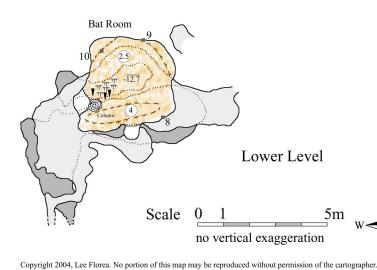
Cartography by: Lee Florea, January 2004

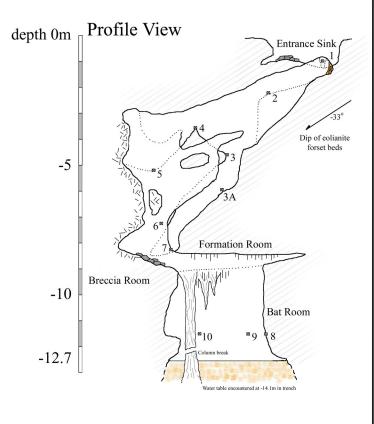
Cave length: 30m Cave depth: 12.7m











Key to Features

