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*October
November
2004*

Reflections
by Hilary Lambert

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at **the Westerville Library** the fourth Tuesday of most months. The Library is on State route 3, east side; just south of downtown Westerville. Parking is available behind the library. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place. The December meeting is not held at the library.

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COG WEB page: www.tuningoracle.com/cog

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

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Vice Chair	Dale Andreatta	614-890-3269
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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:

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

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**New Meeting Location, Westerville
Library fourth Tuesdays at 7 P.M.**

KARST CALENDAR

- Nov 23, 2004** November COG Meeting at the Westerville Public Library, 7 PM. Election of officers
- Nov 25-28 Thanksgiving in Kentucky. Look for the annual Thanksgiving for cavers hosted by Tom Crockett. Oh yes, there will be caving activities too!
- Dec 4, 2004** **DUG Christmas party.**
- Dec 11, 2004** **COG Christmas party at PJ's in Sunbury, Ohio starting at 6 PM. Start planning your devious gifts now. Don't need to spend much -- humor is the focus! Mark your calendars now.**
- Dec 31, 2004 New Years Eve Under Ground at GSP
- July 4-8, 2005 - **NSS Convention** - Huntsville, Alabama. See the Convention website at www.nss2005.com for online registration and information or contact Jim Hall jimehall2@cs.com (256-772-9829) or Charles Lundquist lundquc@email.uah.edu (256-824-2684) for any questions!.

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Cover Photo — This 'clouds and reflections above a blue hole' photo was taken from the deck perched over the main pool at Blue Springs Campground, a few miles west of the groovy town of High Springs in northern Florida (a half hour from Gainesville). Oliver and I were there early last spring to look at the U of Florida, but much preferred the karst. – Hilary Lambert

COG Christmas Party is December 11th starting at 6 P.M. at PJ's Restaurant in Sunbury, Ohio (740-965-2000).

Directions: From Columbus take I-71 north past the Polaris Exit to the Sunbury Exit. Turn right on to US Rt 36. PJ's is on the outskirts of Sunbury just past a yellow caution light and just before a small shopping plaza. There is plenty of parking. We have the party room.

From Westerville take St Rt 3 north into Sunbury and turn left on to Rt 36. PJ's is just past a small shopping plaza on the left and before the yellow flashing light.

Schedule: Approximate at best!

6:00 Social period and hors d'oeuvre

6:30 Buffet dinner

7:30 Gift Exchange

For information call Bill or Karen Walden at 740-965-2942 (Local Columbus call).

Cost \$12 per person -- includes hors d'oeuvre, dinner, beer, and soft drinks. Please let Bill or Karen know if you have any special food requirements at least two days prior to the party.

Wisdom

By Lou Simpson — October 25, 2004

Next Monday I'll be sixty

They say wisdom comes with age. Here are some things I have learned.

- ❖ Never take your billfold into a cave.
- ❖ A cave that floods will flood again. Especially if the entrance is named something like Splash or the cave name starts with F.
- ❖ A cave in the Mammoth Cave area can flood, too. Fisher Ridge starts with F.
- ❖ Most caves and all storm sewers flood at least occasionally.
- ❖ If the word SEWER occurs on the round metal cave gate, it's probably not just a storm sewer.
- ❖ It's hard to lift a manhole cover from below.
- ❖ A pull-down through trip through a cave is probably not a good idea if nobody in your party has seen the lower entrance. Or if the lower entrance sometimes floods.
- ❖ Don't count on finding the way through from one entrance to another.
- ❖ Lost and Found Corner in Sloan's Valley is a tricky place to find the way out—hence the name.
- ❖ Passages with bad-sounding names are often bad places—unless the cartographer gave them bad names to discourage visitors. Would a cartographer give a bad place a good name to encourage people to go to a bad place? What kind of mean person would do that?
- ❖ Don't hammer on a rock in a cave with your face close to the hammer.
- ❖ A small rock you hammer on in a cave might be holding up the ceiling over you.
- ❖ Don't change carbide over a pit. Don't take apart your electric light there either.
- ❖ It's no use trying to keep caving clothes and regular clothes separate.
- ❖ Pretty much everything I like to do for fun involves dirt.
- ❖ Plastic containers of pudding don't hold up well in your cave pack.
- ❖ Take something besides tuna for food in your cave pack.
- ❖ If the trip leader mapped the cave and is constantly consulting the cave map for directions, you might be caving in Groaning Cave, Colorado.
- ❖ Telling non-cavers about caving will generally be a bad experience.
- ❖ Don't put an open carton of milk on the floor in your tent.
- ❖ You CAN get stuck. It is generally more productive to back out than to try to get on through.
- ❖ A four-wheel drive vehicle won't necessarily save you time getting to a cave.
- ❖ Don't buy an International Scout.
- ❖ Don't try to drive through a puddle deeper than your Buick.
- ❖ Once you submerge your car in a muddy puddle for six hours, it will always smell like mud.
- ❖ Don't buy a Buick.
- ❖ When you cross a stream in your truck, and you go fast, a tidal wave will wash over the hood when you reach the other shore.
- ❖ The truck engine won't necessarily crack right away after being flooded.
- ❖ If you really need a way to ride to a cave or have your equipment brought to the cave, get somebody else to bring their ATV.
- ❖ Don't drink the leftover homemade orange wine in the field house refrigerator, especially since it's turned to a jello.
- ❖ A field house will distract you from going caving. But that's not necessarily bad.
- ❖ Don't drink out of an open beer or pop can you find in the field house if you don't know its history—especially if there are smokers present.
- ❖ A cave map is not very useful in a cave unless you know where you are. A cave map is especially unhelpful in a cave if it's a map of a different cave than the one you are in.
- ❖ Don't put carbide and M&Ms in similar containers in your cave pack.
- ❖ Don't put a carbide dump back in an airtight container, like an ammo box.
- ❖ Don't pet a dog you don't know.
- ❖ Don't change a drill bit with the drill plugged in, especially if the chuck is attached to the cord.
- ❖ Back up your car slowly.
- ❖ People in Cincinnati will sometimes turn left in front of you as soon as the light changes. I call this the preemptive left turn.
- ❖ Never eat something that falls on your plate.
- ❖ Don't give somebody the finger from your car.
- ❖ If you give somebody the finger and they chase you in their car, you can't hide from them if there's fresh snow just falling.
- ❖ Beer and ice cream—a beer float—isn't very good.
- ❖ If your cholesterol is already high, the Atkins diet is not recommended.
- ❖ Chest pain doesn't necessarily hurt.
- ❖ If you set the alarm clock for 2 AM so you can set the clock back an hour on the last Sunday in October, you'll be doing that all night.
- ❖ Pets will barf, pee, and poop on your carpets.
- ❖ Always wear slippers when walking around in your house in the dark.
- ❖ Never set an open container of liquid next to your computer keyboard.
- ❖ Installing three-way light switches is hard.
- ❖ Turn off the electric before working on a wall socket.

- ❖ You can never have too many books.
- ❖ Half Price Books won't give you much money for your books.
- ❖ A slate roof is costly to maintain.
- ❖ Having large trees on your property is also costly, especially when they fall on your slate roof.
- ❖ Don't let the hardware store dude tie paneling on the top of your car.
- ❖ Don't bother to try to salvage the paneling from the interstate.
- ❖ When you and your spouse rent a car and there are two keys but they are fastened together and can't be easily separated, buy a wire cutter.
- ❖ Before backing up your rental car at the beach, check to see if somebody has parked right behind you.
- ❖ Ditch the wire cutter before you go through airport security after turning in the rental car at the airport.
- ❖ When you rent a motorboat and get stuck in shallow water, don't rev the engine to try to get unstuck.
- ❖ If the boat motor fills with sand and won't start, have your daughter in her bikini get out of the boat and tow it toward deeper water until help arrives.
- ❖ Learn how to reverse the engine on the motorboat to avoid hard docking.
- ❖ Don't use your credit card at a flea market.
- ❖ Don't stay at a motel where you are the only party without a motorcycle.
- ❖ Don't bribe your grandson with candy or quarters to kiss an older relative until they are old enough to keep a secret.
- ❖ A loan to a relative is usually a gift.
- ❖ An empty apartment is preferable to a rented one with a nonpaying tenant.
- ❖ Don't try to pull yourself up by hanging on a loose hanging wall sink with a loose mirror setting on it.
- ❖ You can't win an argument with your spouse. If she ain't happy, you ain't happy.
- ❖ If the contents of a crock pot tastes pretty good, don't try to improve it.
- ❖ If you use an old carpet for a pattern for a new one, don't cut out a notch in the new carpet where there was a notch in the old carpet because a dog tore a hole in it and you had patched it.
- ❖ If you get mugged, it might be helpful if you scream—if the gun turns out to be a BB pistol. Otherwise, maybe not.
- ❖ Don't fart in an elevator.
- ❖ If you fart and it sounds wet, it probably is.
- ❖ Take a change of socks and a change of underwear with you at all times.
- ❖ Men don't ask for directions because the person you ask will either be a male or a female. A female won't know the answer and will say so, so it's no use asking her. A male won't know the answer either, but he'll tell you anyway.
- ❖ Don't put the toothpaste on your toothbrush in the dark or without looking at the toothpaste tube. Brylcreme tastes bad. So does Preparation-H. Triple antibiotic isn't too bad. SPF15 Sunblock I haven't tried [yet].
- ❖ Some kinds of dental floss tend to get stuck in your teeth, but I haven't figured out which kinds.
- ❖ Put the cap back on a pen before putting it in your pocket.
- ❖ Shirts with stains on the pocket make good caving shirts.
- ❖ Chiggers will bite you where your clothing is tight. They like to push against tight clothing with their hind legs, I guess.
- ❖ Whatever you do, don't apply Chigger-Rid to your scrotum.
- ❖ Catching yourself in a zipper hurts—both when you zip it and again when you unzip it.
- ❖ It's probably a good idea to wear your underpants when you wear a wetsuit.

Some Remember things a little bit differently!

- ✓ Karen Walden remembers that it was butterscotch ripple ice cream in the beer. She says that Lou exclaimed the beer float to be pretty good.
- ✓ Bill Walden recalls there was another, yellow colored liquid along with the milk.
- ✓ Bill Walden had two International Scouts and had very little trouble with them.

I know What You Did Last Summer (or Summer International Exploration) by Kevin Toepke

As many of you know, I quit my job in April to take the summer off before starting graduate school at Mississippi State in the fall. What many of you don't know is what I did last summer.

My first trip was to the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), a U.S. Protectorate. Basically the U.S. has control over the foreign policy of CNMI and they control the internal affairs and use U.S.

services such as the postal service and welfare, but they don't pay U.S. taxes.

The Marianas are a typical island arc formed when one oceanic plate subducts beneath another ocean plate forming a line of volcanoes with an adjacent ocean trench. (Remember the Marianas Trench is the deepest trench on the planet.) As the islands were forming, corals formed a ring around the island. And as uplift continued, the resulting limestones were

lifted above sea level. The summit of Rota is still exposed igneous rocks. Most of the surface is covered by limestones of varying thickness.

The Marianas have a complex history of colonialism. I don't remember it all, but the Germans bought them from another European power in order to satisfy their colonial ambitions. The Germans only ever had a few people on the islands, so, in order to control the population and convert them to Christianity, the population was forcibly relocated to Guam. Despite their best efforts, several small groups were able to return to their home islands. While the Germans were there, every time a supply ship landed (about every year or so) a wave of disease swept the islands.

Early in the century, the Japanese purchased the islands from the Germans and basically enslaved the populace to grow food, mine the local minerals and to build fortifications.

During WWII, the Americans invaded Guam, but never Rota. Rota wasn't invaded because it was too small to build a large airfield. But, standing orders were for returning missions to drop all remaining ordinances on Rota in order to suppress any resistance. You can still see some of the Japanese fortifications on the island.

I went to Rota to help a fellow MS State grad student with his thesis research. The research is being conducted to figure out how much water is available and how to use more of the available water resources. Guam is a major Japanese tourist destination, and they want to expand the tourism. But, in order to do so, they need to find additional water resources as they are already using about 80% of the known water resources to supply the population and tourism industry with water. CNMI is touting Rota and other islands as a tourist destination for the Chinese. While the other islands are not seriously stressing their water resources, a major influx of tourism will change that situation.

I spent about 2 weeks on Rota mapping the contact between the limestones and the igneous rocks. Before our expedition, there were no known fissure caves and no known pit caves. We split our time between mapping known features, hiking through the interior looking for and mapping new karst features and mapping known karst and historical features.

You need to map the man-made tunnels in order to show they are not natural features. One series of tunnels in what was the island headquarters for the Japanese appears to have intersected several flank-margin caves. For their fortifications the Japanese generally further expanded these caves.

One of our first days on the island, we found a whole series of fissure caves. The fissure caves are formed when chunks of limestone break away from the surrounding rock thus providing an easier pathway for the water. As we all know, it is the slightly acidic water that dissolves the limestones thus forming cave passages. Several of these fissure caves were fairly extensive, but in general most were fairly short, but had a very high local concentration.

One of the most interesting set of karst features we found were the caves that formed under car to house sized boulders of limestone. Yes, the voids formed after the limestone blocks had fallen and settled in their current orientation. We determined this by noting that all of the voids were nearly parallel to the current orientation and all of the formations were in the correct orientation. The first time we saw such a boulder we thought that it was a remnant of a larger cave, but with more data, we changed our view of how and when the voids formed.

After returning to the States for a couple of weeks, it was off to the Bahamas for about 2 weeks. We spent a week on Eleuthera and another week on Abaco. On Eleuthera, we spent about half of our time mapping in and around 2 known caves. The other half of the time was spent on or near the coast looking for new karst features. The two largest caves on Eleuthera are Ten Bay Cave and Hatchet Bay Cave. Both are flank-margin caves not your typical conduit caves as you find in Kentucky.

We spent 2 days in Ten Bay Cave. The first day was a tourist trip where we took the people who were funding the expedition through the cave. Dr Mylroie sent myself and another caver into a lot of little holes that he hadn't previously surveyed. The next time in the cave, we tied all of those little holes into the main survey and measured ceiling heights at various locations. We didn't make any major discoveries.

Hatchet Bay Cave is a different story. Again, the first trip into the cave was a tourist trip. The next trip into the cave we were planning on doing the same sort of mop-up surveying that we had done earlier in Ten Bay Cave. However, the mop-up surveying led to a major "discovery". Almost all of what we surveyed had been previously explored (and partly surveyed) by at least one other group. Generally, it wasn't the most pleasant cave passage. Ceiling heights were generally less than a foot and the whole of the floor was covered by guano, sometimes we sank in almost a foot as we were crawling through it.

One of the last holes I was sent into turned into a fairly significant discovery. But I had to literally plow through guano to get to it I would crawl forward about a body length, back up a little and move the guano I had plowed off to the side so I could proceed. After about 30 feet of this, we hit walking passage! As we were running late on time, we didn't survey all of the walking passage. Data reduction that evening showed that this walking passage was at the same orientation relative to the ridge as the main part of the cave.

This was Dr. Mylroie's first trip to Abaco. Most of our time was spent being led around the island by a local who knew the major caves on the island. She was looking at the caves from a bat perspective rather than the hydrologic and oil exploration reasons that we were there for. Nearly every cave we went into had a thriving maternity colony, so we generally didn't spend much time in the caves. Return trips are "planned" to continue the survey and exploration work we started.

Redmond Creek — Tough Sinkhole to Explore and Survey

By Bill Walden

The owner of Redmond Creek, Mr. Kay Koger, is never very pleased that I refer to his farm as a sinkhole. But it is! It is the largest single sinkhole in Kentucky. I tell Kay he should be proud to own the biggest sinkhole.

Anyhow, last summer when several of us attended Kay's 60th birthday party at his farm (in the largest sinkhole), Kay asked if I would lead him and his youngest daughter Misty through Redmond Creek Cave and to the West Canyon in late October. Of course, I would be glad to.

The trip was to be the weekend of October 23rd. I recruited Bruce Warthman and Harry Goepel to assist. We three cavers would stay at Paul Unger's house in Jennings Hollow, which is just a few minutes north of Redmond Creek. As Misty was arriving Very late Friday night, Kay Koger and I decided to meet at 3 in the afternoon for a trip into Redmond Creek Cave.

Harry, Bruce, and I decided to tackle Stash Cave in Redmond Creek Saturday morning. Stash Cave is an overflow entrance for Redmond Creek at the north wall of the Redmond Sink. The weather forecast called for the possibility of severe thunderstorms. "Am I sane?" I thought! I had ventured into Stash cave early in the year with Pat Erisman and Paul Unger. Following the wind through a low water crawl we came to a small room. The wind came through a pile of organic debris. Pat and I pulled logs and rocks from a place from which I thought the wind was coming. We didn't get very far before we hit breakdown. Not having any tools that day we quit. Pat observed that he thought the wind was coming through an opening near the top of the cramped room. I decided to return later with tools.



Stash Cave Entrance. Photo By Cat Whitney

Saturday, October 23rd Bruce, Harry, and I were up by seven in the morning and by 9 we were off to Stash Cave armed with a spud bar, chisel, and hammer. The cave entrance had flooded since my last visit so we had to clear logs from the opening.

The sky looked threatening but in we went. The dig site is just a couple hundred feet into the cave and below the sinkhole floor. Should a heavy rain occur, we would see the water start to rise and make a hasty exit.

Once into the small room, Harry and I went to work. We started where Pat Erisman and I originally started removing debris. It had refilled with logs and debris so that had to be pulled out first. Then we started pulling rocks out. We were working near the bottom of the room. We progressed about 12 feet and Harry was able to crawl through. His way was blocked by breakdown. At first it looked hopeless. He turned his head and looked up into open space. He could not get through.

Next we tried opening up the high route Pat had suggested months earlier. We didn't get very far. There was a wide opening but it was only 3 inches high. Even the skinniest of cavers could not possibly get through.

Next we stared on a mid-level. The first rock blocking the way was half my size. It took the spud bar to get it to move. After working on it a few minutes I finally pried it from its position and rolled it into the clearing we had made below. That was the easy part.

The next two rocks blocking our way support the rocks above. We dared not move them. Rather we decided to break the parts blocking our way. The first rock tapers from about 6 inches thick to perhaps 12 inches thick. Harry hammered. I hammered. Harry hammered. I suggested to Bruce that he go check the weather outside then I started hammering. This process continued with Harry and me alternating.

Altogether we worked from about 10 in the morning to 2:30 in the afternoon and made 3 feet of progress with another 5 feet to go. The wind kept reversing and that wind kept us psyched. At 2:30 we had to leave to meet Kay and his daughter at the cabin.

We left Stash Cave and drove on up to the cabin. No one was there so we decided to examine the remains of Kay's fishpond. The bottom of the pond is cratered with holes and it sort of resembles a moonscape. Water flows from a fountain on the hillside and snakes its way around the pond and into one of the craters. The opening is far too small for a caver. Last winter, when there was still water and fish in the pond, I entered a crater that had formed at the edge of the pond. I was able to climb down and under the pond but couldn't get very far. I had hoped to return and further check it out, but Kay filled that opening.

At his birthday party Kay told us that he was driving past Big Sandy Spring to his farm and noted muddy water gushed from the normally clear spring. He knew what it was – his pond! So at least we know for sure that Kay's pond connects with Big Sandy Spring! So should Stash Cave.

We waited at the cabin until 4 o'clock. No one came. We decided to drive to Kay's house, which is out on KY 90 west of Monticello. We passed them in route and went on to the house with Kay behind us.

Misty was late arriving from California and had just arrived. We decided to meet at 8 a.m. Sunday morning at the farm for the cave trip. We had a nice trip to the beginning of the West Canyon. The party consisted of Kay Koger, his youngest daughter Misty, his oldest granddaughter Madison, Misty's boyfriend Alex, and us three cavers.



Madison followed by Harry avoiding the deep pool of water.



Misty and Madison

At the low point in the passage there is a pool one must wade. Madison was last to wade through. She let out a howl as she waded into the cold water.



From left to right - Alex, Misty, Madison, Kay in the room between the crawls.



From left to right - Alex, Misty, Harry, Bruce, Madison, and Kay in front of the secondary entrance.

We exited through the secondary entrance into bright sunlight.

Hopefully we can do a second trip with the Koger family during the Holiday season.

Enticing Tidbits

Redmond Creek remains as segments of cave. I have not yet found the main water route through the cave; have not connected segments of cave within the sinkhole, yet I have tantalizing possibilities. These include:

- Stash Cave with the room described above. This cave has not yet been surveyed. Obviously Stash Cave is a secondary water route through the system. We just need to burst through.
- Peter Cave is a paleo insurgence located 110 feet above Stash Cave. It has been surveyed. In a low area off the third room is the blowhole -- so named because the wind

literally howls through an opening in the ceiling. One can hear the wind a hundred feet away on some days. Greg and Pat Erisman and I tried to get through by winching rocks from the opening. The winch failed but I succeeded in busting rocks with a hammer and clearing the opening enough for Pat to climb through. Progress was stopped by even more breakdown. A wide low, northbound passage just off the third room had a little air movement through it. Pat started a dig and others of us have worked on it. Katie Walden and Dale Andreatta finally dug through to a rock beyond which appears to be open passage. They couldn't move the rock.



Moonscape look of the fishpond – Photo by Bill Walden

- Cave Couplets – There are multiple cave couplets above and then below the contact with the Hartselle Formation. None of the lower caves have been connected to other caves.



Peter Cave, Second Room – Photo by Bill Walden



Lower Owl Cave - One of the many cave couplets

Photo by Kevin Toepke

My next planned Trips are November 20th, Thanksgiving weekend, and New Years Weekend. There is a lot to do at Redmond Creek!

Oh yes – there is at least 2000 feet of virgin passage at the south end of Redmond Creek cave to be surveyed. Any takers?

Want to step where no man has set foot before?

Come help.

- In Redmond Creek Cave Katie continued a survey off the main route started by Kevin and Eric Toepke and came to a pit with a waterfall. The pit is approximately 30 feet deep. This puts the bottom 78 feet below the entrance of a cave that floods and from which water flows from the entrance. Fear has kept us from dropping the pit. We figure that a drought is required to drop it. This could lead to the main water passage of the cave.
- Kevin Toepke and Bill Walden connected Southend and Hillside caves several years ago. The survey shows these two caves very close to the eastern part of Redmond Creek Cave. The wind in Southend-Hillside Cave is strong, which indicates a likely connection. No one has returned to look since Kevin and Bill surveyed Hillside Cave and the connection to Southend Cave.
- Eastside Cave has only been partially surveyed. Kevin and Bill quit surveying when Bill's headlamp failed. No one has been back since.
- The Pond – obviously water action from inside the cave weakened the floor of the pond and allowed water to do the natural thing – flow down. The bottom of the pond resembles a cratered moonscape.