

Dale is really hard up for a Cave Clean Up!

**C
O
G

S
Q
U
E
A
K
S**

***December
2007***

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of most months at the Presbyterian Church on the Square in Worthington, Ohio. Please contact a grotto officer to confirm meeting time and place or better subscribe to the COG list server at cog@ontosystems.com by sending an email to cog@ontosystems.com with the subject "subscribe". The meeting site will be announced there and on the Grotto WEB site.

Grotto Mailing Address: C/O Joe Gibson, 6883 Cedarbrook Pl., New Albany, OH 43054-9738 614-855-7948
Email: joegibson6591@sbcglobal.net

COG WEB page: www.tuningoracle.com/cog

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

Grotto Officers Name Telephone

Chairman	Dale Andreatta	614-890-3269
Vice Chair	Bruce Warthman	614-459-8345
Treasurer	Joe Gibson	614-855-7948
Secretary	Saundra Sklar	614-989-9463
Exec. Committee	Lacie Braley	614-895-1732
Exec. Committee	Bill Walden	606-340-9569

Squeaks Editor- Bill Walden – wdwalden@windstream.net
Webmaster - Kevin Toepke - ktoepke@tuningoracle.com

List Server – 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:

<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.

Karst Calendar

COG Christmas Party December 8 6 P.M.

The annual Christmas party will be at PJ's in Sunbury, Ohio. We hope you have your gift ideas ready to amuse your fellow cavers. There will be a caption contest too. The object of both is humor. Cost is \$12.00 per caver which includes a dinner buffet and beverages. All COG members, cavers, and friends are invited.

Caving In Kentucky December 29 thru January 1

New Years Eve Party December 31 7 P.M.

Hosted by Bill and Karen Walden at their home near Monticello, KY. 606-340-9569. Diner, Program, and story telling. Midnight hike to lake?

NSS Convention August 11 – 15, 2008

NSS Convention in Lake City, Florida. Please see the convention website: <http://nss2008.com> for information.

Contents:

Cover Photo

The cover photo shows Dale Andreatta caving in a tree. He participated in a riverside cleanup project, and the hollow tree had been used as a trash receptacle. On about the third try he managed to climb up through the opening in the tree, which was much like many holes found in caves and required climbing and squirming skills much like a cave. The tree had about a 3-foot diameter hollow space inside, and he passed out nearly a trash bag full of trash.

Trip Reports	Page 3
Trip to Triple-S	Page 3
Two Trips to River Cave	Page 3
Major discovery at Redmond Creek	Page 3

Important Notice	Page 4
Map of River Cave	Page 5

COG Christmas Party December 8, 2007, 6 PM at PJs restaurant in Sunbury, Ohio.

Please plan to attend. The party starts with a buffet dinner – all you can eat. The meal includes coffee, soft drinks, and beer or whatever you may wish to order. The waitress promises to keep the pitchers full throughout the evening.

All attendees are invited to participate in the gift exchange. The original idea of the gift exchange is humor. Gifts are typically accompanied with humorous instructions telling the recipient how to use his gift on his next caving trip. Let your imaginations run wild on this. Of course straight gifts are always welcome too. There will be a caption contest too. Bring a photo to share for this.

Trip Reports

September 29 Trip to Triple-S

By Dale Andreatta

On Sept. 29, 2007 Eric Weaver, Janeen Sharpshair, Cynda (the landowner of Grayson Gunnar Cave) and I went into Triple-S Cave for a day of surveying. Since the weather had been very dry we, well, the trip leader actually, decided to go to a low passage that is normally very wet. He promised a 2000-foot hard crawl, which enticed me since I'd not done any hard trips in quite a while. I got all the challenge I wanted.

Triple-S is a big spectacular cave, one of my two favorite caves. This day we weren't in the most spectacular part, but there were other benefits. The crawl was not as bad as expected as it had a mix of soft sand, some walking, duck walking, and some hard crawling. Eric and I climbed up into a little high passage and he showed me the most spectacular helictites I've ever seen, some rather like deer antlers, and at least one helictite growing in every possible direction, down, up, sideways, and around and around.

After this brief detour we went to the start of the survey. While it had lower water than normal, after a couple shots we would have had to get quite wet and we didn't have wet suits. We opted to survey the helictite passage, which we did in about 10 shots, working as an efficient survey team. That was about all our bodies could take before getting too cold, and that was about all the Suunto instruments could take without getting too muddy to use. We headed out through the long crawl and exited the cave after about 8 ½ hours. A fine dinner and sleep back at Cynda and Gary's house ended the day, after we enjoyed watching Ohio State win and Florida get beat in football.

Two Trips to River Cave

By Dale Andreatta

Part One-The first Saturday in November brought a 7-person trip to River Cave, a cave that is fairly well known from long ago but is being resurveyed. We split into two teams, my team including Bill Walden, me, and a new caver from Ohio State, Donna Lee.

River Cave is one of many Wayne County caves with lots of big borehole passage, and I'd heard that it was a very spectacular cave. An easy mile of nearly all walking and we came to what we thought was the start of the survey. No final survey point could be found, until Bill backtracked waaaaaaaaay back the way we'd come and finally found the last survey point. We then put in about 24 stations and 800 feet of very easy survey. Donna did a good job of keeping book and seemed to enjoy her first caving trip. Ironically, the last point of our survey, CA35, was very close to where we originally thought the survey would begin. We left a final survey point that had everything but a neon sign marking it. And if we'd had electricity we'd have probably left a neon sign. Exiting the cave we ran into Randy Paylor, who'd come in to look for us, as the other group stopped about 3 hours before us.

Part Two-Fast forward about 3 weeks to the Friday after Thanksgiving, transform Donna into Katie and Aron Schmid, and there we were again at CA35, ready to continue. We had a choice of surveying north or south, both in dry big high passage, so we started north. A few shots put us in the middle of one of the most densely packed rooms of formations I've ever seen. There were soda straws galore, 'mites, 'tites', tall slender columns, and a few helictites. Since I was doing book I had time to marvel over the helictites, how they somehow can grow upwards. How does that happen!

Again it was pretty easy survey, about 1100 feet in 23 stations or so. Aron checked out a very tight virgin side passage that went a while then pinched out. The passage north got rather dangerous in a high canyon, so we marked the last station in that direction and returned to the start. The last few stations were to the south of the start point, where the high dry passage seemed to link up again with a lower passage. The survey continues.....

See Page 5 for a map of River Cave

Major Discovery at Redmond Creek

By Bill Walden

February of 2006 I made a solo recon of sections of Redmond Creek Sinkhole that I had never investigated. I made two significant discoveries. One of those discoveries was Head of Redmond Cave, which is the southern most known cave inside the sinkhole. Like Stream Cave it is in the Bangor limestone and has a sizable stream flowing from the entrance. The stream joins Redmond Creek to flow into the insurgence of Redmond Creek Cave.

The second major discovery is a small sinkhole on the west wall of the sinkhole. At the bottom of the sinkhole I could hear running water. My imagination said "Redmond Creek."

April of 2006 I returned with Dale Andreatta and a new caver. We started the survey of Head of Redmond Cave and then turned our attention to the little sinkhole with hopes of digging through into Redmond Creek Cave. After a little effort that task began to seem hopeless without having heavy equipment. As I stood up and looked toward Dale, I spotted a bat circling the rim of the sinkhole. The bat just seemed to disappear. I spotted a second bat circling and I hollered to Dale, "Follow that bat." Dale just looked at me with a confused expression. The bat disappeared. A third bat appeared circling the sinkhole. This time I pointed and said, "Dale follow that bat,

see where it goes.” He did. The bat had flown into a very low yet wide passage near the rim of the sinkhole.

With a little digging Dale was quickly able to crawl through. With more digging I was able to follow. The passage led to a room in the Bangor limestone, which had a massive waterfall. I quickly ducked through the waterfall and was instantly and completely drenched. I could see that the water was disappearing through the floor but there was too much water to see what was below. We departed.

Saturday, November 23, 2007 Dale Andreatta wanted to return to the little sinkhole. This time the crew consisted of Dale, Bill Walden, Bruce Warthman, and Aron Schmid.

Arriving at the sinkhole Bruce scrambled to bottom, looked around, and exclaimed, “There’s no place to go!” Dale and I laughed and started into the crawlway. No waterfall!!!

I climbed down in the entrance room. I could clearly see that the upper part of the room is in the Bangor limestone and that the room breaks through the Hartselle Formation into the Kidder limestone. Root masses hanging from the ceiling and dangling down and across the Hartselle layers of shale and sandstone give a surreal appearance to the room.

At the base of the room is an opening large enough for a caver to climb through and down. I was chicken to climb down. So were Dale and Bruce. Aron didn’t hesitate – much! He carefully threaded his way down the roughly 20 feet. He found a short walking passage and a 20 by 40 foot room. After about a 20-minute recon of the cave he returned. We departed. I determined to return soon with a safety line.

Saturday, December 1, 2007 Buddy Gibson and I returned to the cave with a safety line, figure eights, and safety ascenders. We rigged the short pit and descended. We quickly found the 20 by 40 foot room and began poking around. I don’t think that we found the walking passage that Aron described but we both found a way through the breakdown and into a breakdown passage. This passage teed into a large canyon.

We turned right (south) down the canyon. After walking a few hundred feet we came to a breakdown pile with tree roots. We decided the cave worth surveying so we broke out the survey gear and began surveying back (north). After eight shots we turned out survey down a parallel passage essentially

backtracking (going south again). This passage starts as a stoop walk then lowers to hands and knees crawl. We passed a window into the canyon we had surveyed and then the passage began to open up. Shortly we were walking. At this point I decided to check ahead. I could hear running water echoing ahead. The passage teed into a large stream canyon. I literally started running or jogging ahead. The floor is smooth limestone and there is no breakdown. Traveling quickly is easy. After jogging for 15 minutes I came to place where the passage divided into a proliferation of passageways. Buddy caught up with me. We poked around for a few minutes then started back to resume the survey.

We surveyed into the stream canyon putting a station up high and marking it with flagging tape. Hopefully it is above maximum flood level.

We returned to the point where we had started our survey and surveyed out of the cave. It took us close to an hour to find our way back through the maze of breakdown to the entrance room where our safety line was rigged. I left flagging tape at most survey stations through the most confusing part of the breakdown so we can more quickly find our way through next trip.

In all we surveyed just over 1200 feet of virgin cave passage and probably toured a total of 3000 feet of virgin cave passage. Most of this is large and easy walking passage. Frankly I was shocked. I expected to find a maze of crawlways in this area.

Once home I plugged the survey data into Compass and then plotted it out Sunday. I did an overlay on the geologic map and was surprised to see that the cave goes further south than expected.

Sorry for not giving locations but I would just as soon not be scooped on my own project. Of course I welcome assistance in surveying. Please contact me. I anticipate trips December 15th and 29th.

Bill Walden
606-340-9569
wdwalden @ windstream.net.

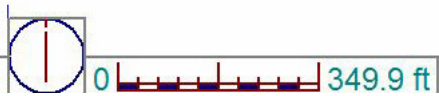
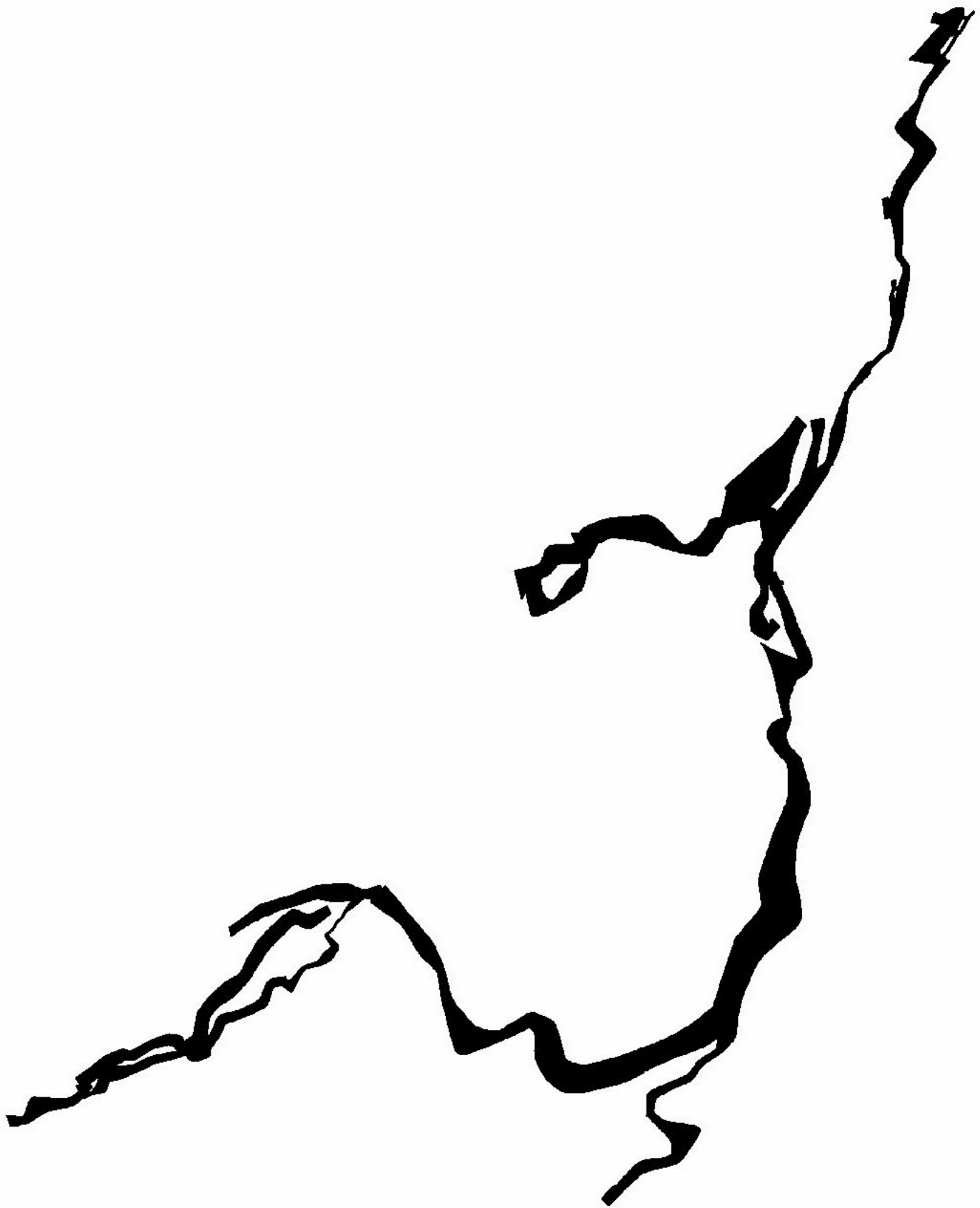
For those of you who don’t know, I retired at the end of February 2007 and move to Wayne County, KY
We welcome cavers at our house.

Important Notice

Please check your address label for the **DUES DUE**. This does not appear to have been updated or people have not been notified of past due dues. If the date is not correct please notify Joe Gibson, Grotto Treasurer, and Bill Walden, Squeaks Editor. If you owe dues please send your dues to Joe Gibson.

Joe Gibson
6883 Cedarbrook Place
New Albany, OH 43054
joegibson6591@sbcglobal.net
614-855-7948

Bill Walden wdwalden@windstream.net
606-340-9569



River Cave as of December 3, 2007. North is up. Entrance upper right.