

# Central Ohio Grotto Squeaks

## July 2023



## 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 Facebook page.

**Check out our Facebook group:**

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/centralohiogrotto/>

**Check out our website:**

<http://www.centralohiogrotto.com/>

**Grotto Mailing Address:**

C/O Pat Gibson, 4211 Caswell Rd  
Johnstown, OH 43031 614-496-5345  
Email: kd8ion@gmail.com

**Grotto Membership Dues:**

\$15 per individual or \$20 per family.

**The C.O.G. Squeaks**

The C.O.G. Squeaks is emailed to dues paying members and to grottoes with which the COG exchanges newsletters. Please send trip reports, caving articles, cave fiction, cave poetry, and cave photos to Mark Swelstad for publication: mswelstad@gmail.com

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.

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## Upcoming COG Events:

See the Facebook events page for more information about these events or email a board member.

Note: All COG Monthly meetings (except December) are at the Worthington Presbyterian Church.

July 25	COG Monthly Meeting
August 4-6	<a href="#">Cave Capers</a> – Indiana
August 22	COG Monthly Meeting
Labor Day wknd	OTR
September 26	COG Monthly Meeting
October 24	COG Monthly Meeting
November 28	COG Monthly Meeting
December TBD	COG Christmas Party

### CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO 5-YEAR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**75 MEMBERS ON OUR  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2027**

**Why**  
More members mean a larger pool of volunteers, leaders, and trip planners.  
Younger members mean that we can continue our grotto into the future.

#### How can you help?


If every current member brings in just 1 new member over the next 5 years, we will be close to meeting our goal.

Recommendations from active members is the best way to build a solid group of cavers. But showing up to a meeting or two isn't enough! We are looking for people committed to maintaining ACTIVE membership within the grotto.

#### Additional recruitment ideas (we NEED volunteers to make these happen!)

- Lead **trips** intentionally geared toward recruitment
- **Sponsor local events** or participate as vendors in events that get exposure
- Put together a **guest information packet**
- Teach **classes** at REI
- Hold **joint meetings** with related groups in the community
- Work with students who need **volunteer opportunities**
- Ask me about caving **stickers**

## COG Shopping List



COG is in the process of adding wetsuits to our equipment library. We are planning a wet trip in the Spring and would like everyone to prepare for it ahead of time.

### Buying Tips:

- Buy second hand. They can be found for as little as 5 bucks.
- Buy big. You will need room to flex your cave moves.
- Buy thick, 3-5 mm will be warmer if you tend to run cold.
- Buy ANYTHING. Farmer John's, shorties, it's all good!
- Buy extra. I'd like to build a library, so donate an extra if you find a good deal!

## From the Editor – Mark Swelstad

This month is the Ryan Braga issue of the Squeaks! Thanks to Ryan for his contributions. Hopefully as summer winds down people will have a chance to catch up on those trip reports. 😊

Enjoy this short issue and as always, please send me material to [mswelstad@gmail.com](mailto:mswelstad@gmail.com). Thanks!

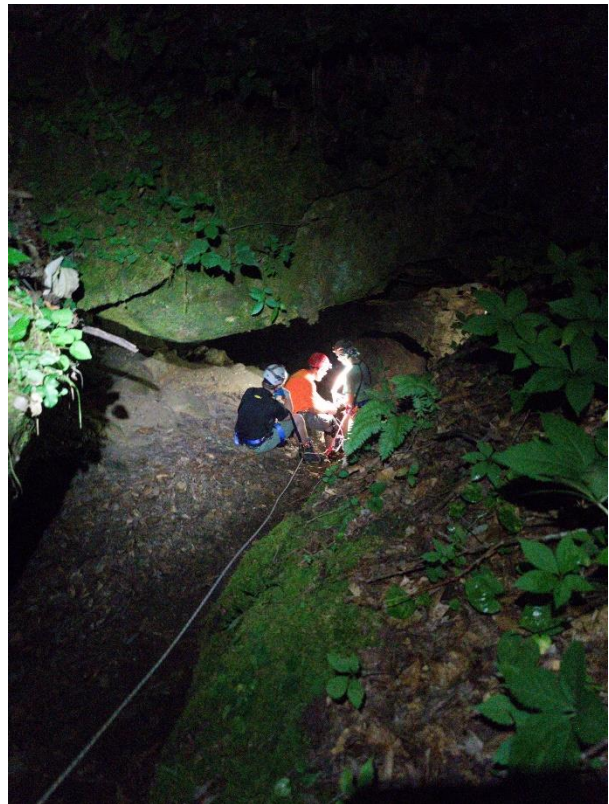
## Sinks Pit Trip Report – Ryan Braga

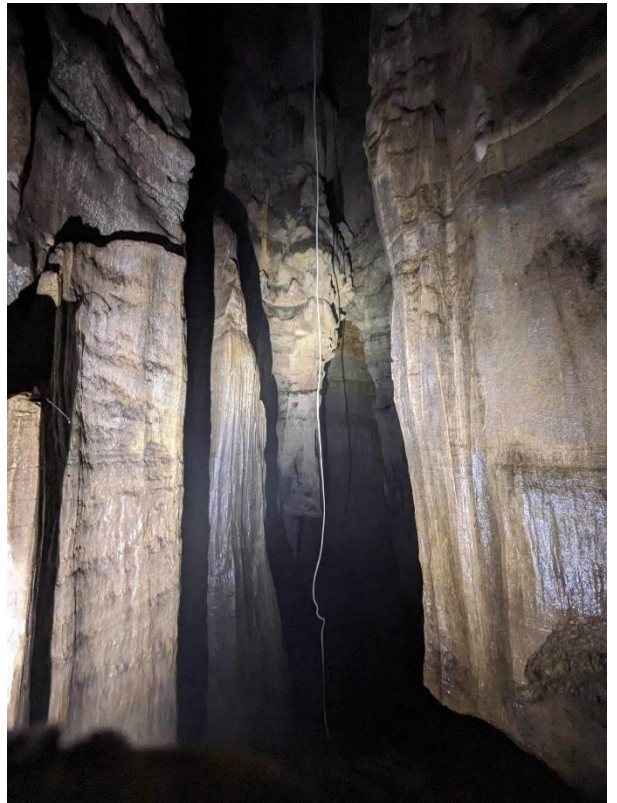
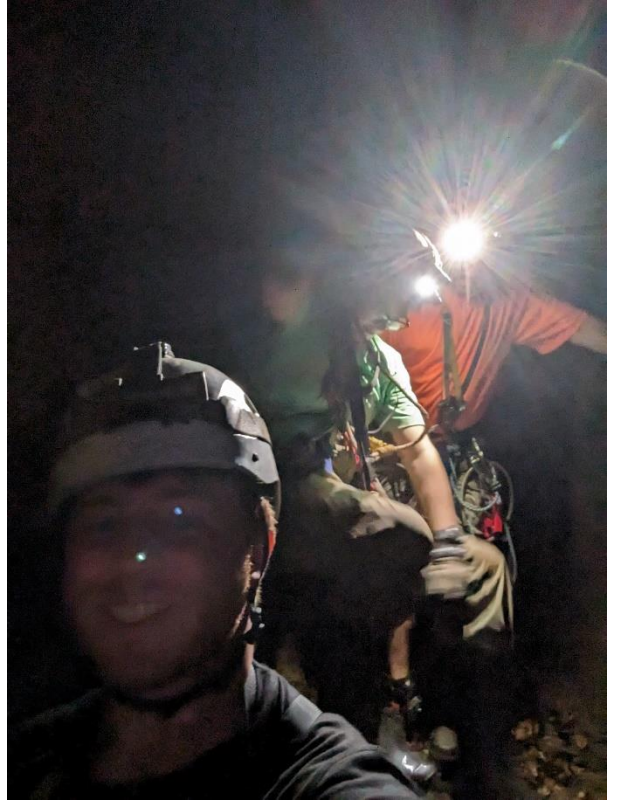
Late Saturday night after a day of caving at KOR I, Ryan Braga bugged Jason Glancy until he finally agreed to take me up to Sinks Pit so I can use my new vertical gear and get some more time underground. After finally getting him to cave to the idea of doing a vertical trip that night, I went to find A'dra Peterson who was on a vertical trip high as she did two vertical trips in the prior 24 hours so she decided, why not one more? After we got dressed and our gear together we planned to embark on a late night trip to have some fun. Wearing just a measly pair of shorts and tshirt, I figured this would be the perfect combo to hopefully not faint from the heat and humidity of Kentucky in July. Nick Wayne who is a first time caver decided he wanted to tag along and watch us even though he was not yet (keyword "yet") vertical. So around 9pm after the sunset, Jason, Nick, A'dra and I loaded up in the car and headed over to Sinks Pit. While finding the pit took a little bit of time in the pitch dark, we found the pit and started to rig it to bounce the pit. After we got the pit rigged and checked our gear, A'dra fearlessly went first and dropped the pit followed by myself and then Jason. While this was going on, Nick was taking pictures for us and fighting off the approaching coyotes. Once we all reached the bottom, we looked around for a few minutes and then we followed the same order climbing out of the 70 foot pit. After we all climbed out, A'dra de-rigged and then I coiled the rope while forgetting a square knot and having to relearn how to tie one all while we get eaten up by mosquitos. By the time we have everything packed up, it's nearly 12am which led to some of us having the munchies which Jason promised to cure with some hotdogs and brats once we got

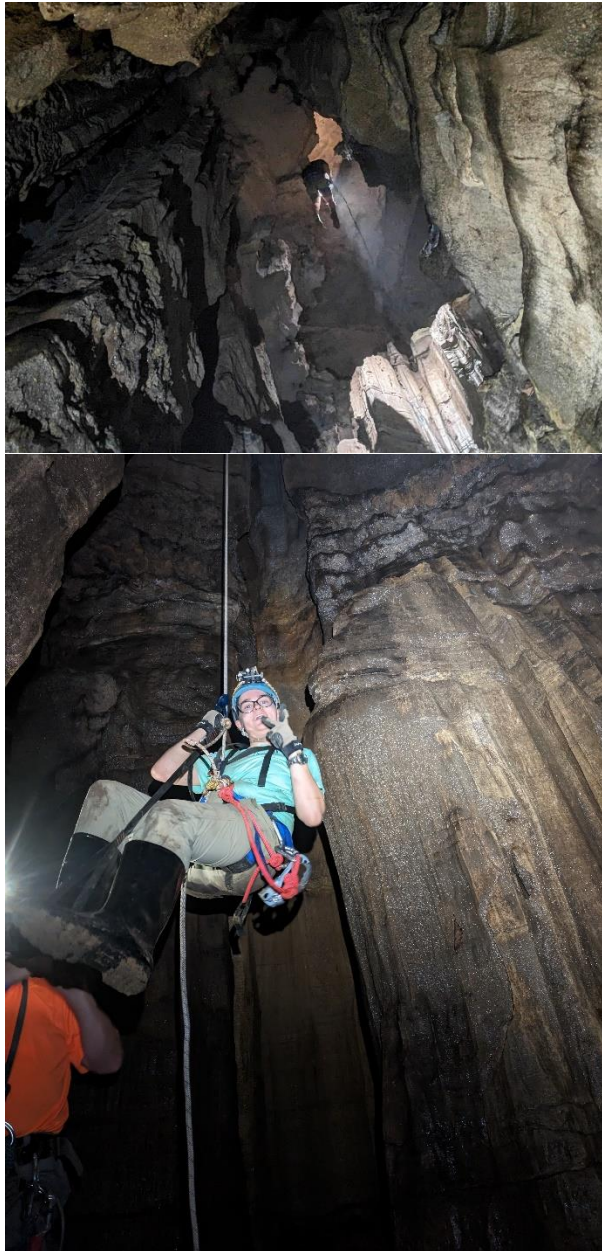
back. Overall, we all had a blast sneaking away to bounce a pit late at night which was fully possible thanks to Jason for taking us, A'dra for driving and Nick for taking pictures and making sure those fierce coyotes didn't mess with us.

-Ryan Braga  
NSS 72371

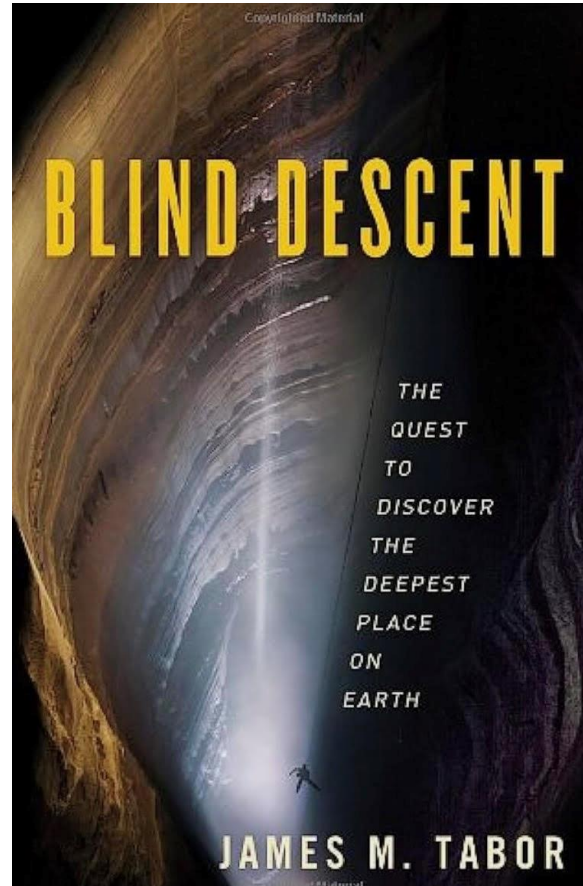
All photos are a mixture from Nick Wayne, Ryan Braga and A'dra Peterson.







**Blind Descent by James M. Tabor –  
book review by Ryan Braga**



When planning a drive out to Germany Valley in West Virginia to do some project caving, I decided music would not suffice for the 5 and a half hour one way trip so I got on Audible and purchased James Tabors book, *Blind Descent*. The book follows a few different stories of cavers trying to find the deepest cave in the world. Starting with Bill Stone, we learn of his endeavors with Cheve, a vast cave system in southern Mexico. We learn all about the super cave and the deaths and hardships that have taken place along with some history before the expedition of the technology created by Bill Stone himself. Following Bill Stones expeditions in Cheve and other caves searching for the deepest, we learn about the story of

Alexander Klimchouk, a Ukrainian caver and his expedition in Krubera, a cave in the republic of Georgia. This book shows us both the highs and the lows of cave expeditions from finding virgin passage to having falling outs with your team. We get to see the true dangers of mega cave exploration and how there can be little to nothing in gains. I quickly learned that project caving in a muddy cave is nothing compared to being in these mega caves for weeks project caving. One cool takeaway I had was when getting to Germany Valley and seeing a map of cave systems and how many days underground each person spent, I saw Bill Stones name. It was a cool feeling to learn about someone and then hours later see his name listed and be able to know the name. I would recommend this book to any caver as you get a vast lesson in caving history and will keep you entertained the whole way through.

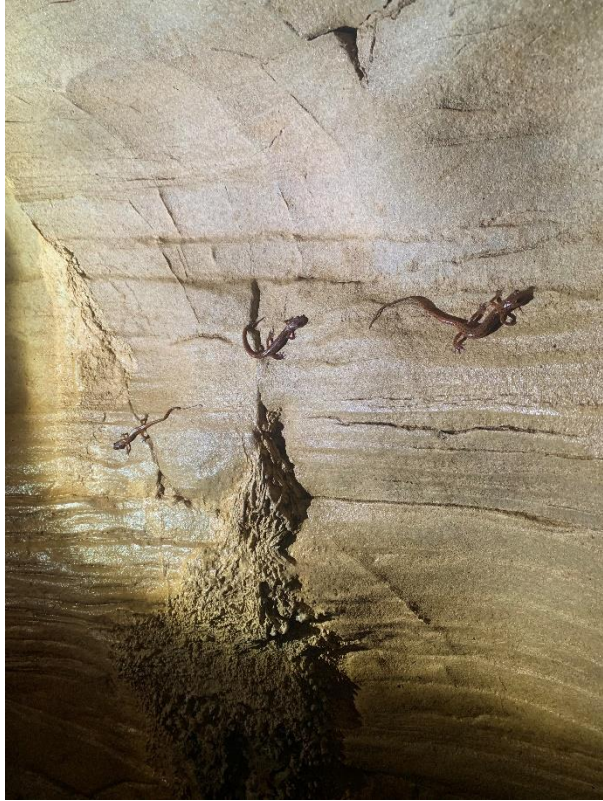
### **Cave Spotlight: Lloyd Mullins – Ryan Braga**

While you might be thinking, who cares about Lloyd Mullins? It's a small cave on GSP property that doesn't have much going on with it. While Lloyd Mullins may lack in size, it makes it up with personality. Lloyd Mullins has the largest cave life I have ever seen in a cave. First you enter a crawl and come across some gorgeous spotted tail salamanders which are larger than what you'd usually see. After entering deeper you will find humongous cave crickets and with that, large spiders. Lloyd Mullins is essentially an in and back trip with a few hundred feet of passage and is regarded to as an easy cave. After navigating the initial crawl, there's some ankle deep water you can navigate. I haven't made it through

without getting my shoes wet but it could probably be done. After the water you will come to a slot canyon you can squeeze your way through or go high and stem. After this, you'll eventually come to the biggest opening the cave has to offer where a fascinating formation sits on top of the water.

While there is a little hole to the left of this formation you can get into, Jennie Hawkey said it was not very fun when of the two of us, she was the bravest to check it out. When turning behind you, you'll see some more passage that leads into a dig. Rumor has it this could connect to CCIC! While doubtful, wouldn't that be amazing. While in the main room, there is potential passage above where a hand line has been set but there's been no word on what's up there. Overall, Lloyd Mullins is a cave you can do in 30 minutes and see some neat stuff like gorgeous salamanders or a small dome filled with cave crickets.

Lloyd Mullins would be a cave that you take brand new people into and let them explore since it's a straight shot cave. Ask Joe Chaput about his first time in Lloyd Mullins! Below you can find a map for the cave.



Our new high quality logos courtesy of Nina Soluski – thanks, Nina!!



Entrance

**Lloyd Mullins Cave**  
Rockcastle, County, Ky.

Surveyed by Greater Cincinnati Grotto of The  
NSS  
Survey Date 9/16/95. Survey Length 393.6 Feet.  
Suunto Compass and Clinometer. Map Grade 4D.  
Catrography by Bill Thoman. Copyright 9/16/95.

Survey Members.

Greg Matullonis Barb Raymond Bill Thoman



Scale In Feet

