

Central Ohio Grotto Squeaks

June 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.

COG Executive Committee:
Email: exec@centralohiogrotto.com

Chair:

Aaron Deal
chair@centralohiogrotto.com

Vice Chair:

Wendy Orlandi
vice-chair@centralohiogrotto.com

Treasurer:

Suzanne Gagnon
treasurer@centralohiogrotto.com

Secretary:

Bethany Widmayer
secretary@centralohiogrotto.com

Former Chair:

Kim Deal
Kim.Deal@gmail.com

Member-At-Large:

Andy Schofield
scho73@gmail.com

Member-At-Large:

Jennifer Hawkey
jcgalletta@gmail.com



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.

June 26-30	NSS Convention
July 14-16	Karst-O-Rama – GSP
July 25	COG Monthly Meeting
August 4-6	Cave Capers – Indiana
August 22	COG Monthly Meeting
Labor Day wknd	OTR
September 26	COG Monthly Meeting

CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO 5-YEAR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

75 MEMBERS ON OUR 75TH 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

Short issue this month but some good stuff indeed!

The grotto had **major** participation in Open House back in May and many of us are looking forward to Karst-o-Rama. I am hopeful that many will write trip reports and share all of the fun caving adventures they will have!

Enjoy this short issue and as always, please send me material to mswelstad@gmail.com. Thanks!

About the Cover – Dropping a virgin pit in WV - Jason Glancy

We had to hike 2.5 miles up over a mountain every day for 3 days straight to open this cave. We turned around in big walking passages because we didn't have survey gear.

6/10/23 Ruddle airflow control gate installation – Jason Glancy

Team: Jason Glancy, Bethany Glancy, Rick Lambert, Susan Posey, Zach Williams, Connor Wickline, Brian Staib, Mitch Gruver, Tom Barton, and Rick Orbin

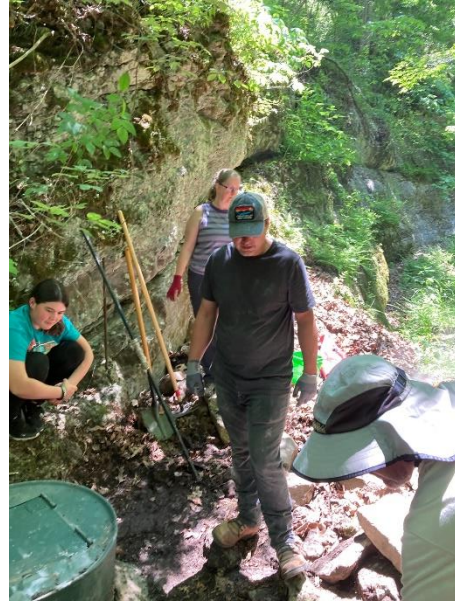
Earlier a decision was made to Install an airflow control gate on Ruddle Cave mainly to limit organic debris from washing in duration heavy rains.

We met at the gateway for a nice breakfast before heading to the Fieldhouse to load tools and materials into the 4x4 trucks. Because of my experience on our multiple dig trips to Ruddle, I knew we needed several young strong helpers.

The weather was wonderful, and our crew made hauling 60 lb bags of cement mix, the gate and tools through the woods look simple.

Rick Lambert coordinated the operation, and the new gate was installed with ease! With our work finished early we headed to Seneca Caverns for lunch. Later on we restarted the Apex dig! Others visited Ruddle and after moving rocks for while we decided to drop Thompson Pit.

Photos courtesy Jason Glancy (I think).





Cave spotlight – Across the Road Cave – Ryan Braga

Background: After a weekend of Sinks trips and an Across the Road trip, I was ready to get gas and be on my way back to Columbus. The idea of having a cave spotlight in the monthly newsletter came to me as I was waiting in that long line to get gas at Buc-ee's for my first time and was bored out of my mind as we slowly crept forward at the sacred gas station stop.

Across the Road Cave:

Across the Road has about 1000ft of passage and will keep you dry assuming you stay on the main level (there are some crawls up top that have pooled water) while still giving you some crawling even though the cave has a lot of walking passage. Across the Road is a fun sporty cave that makes you feel like you're lost for a short period of time before realizing that you just made a loop back to the start. While the cave isn't too massive, there are multiple off shoots that mostly lead you back to a central point. The cave

contains 4 entrances, maybe 5 depending on who you ask, however the utilized entrance is the upper entrance. The skylight entrance will need to be rigged if you wanted to do some vertical and get in that way. While Across the Road isn't too technical of a cave, to gain access to the cave from the upper entrance, there is one small squeeze which won't cause most too much struggle but is to be noted for a larger fellow. Jack Hissong, who was part of the original mapping team from GCG, added that people above 220 pounds may have a harder time here (*can confirm! – Editor*). A typical trip would be to enter through the upper entrance, check out the cave rat hill and look above into the natural light and then make your way back down the slippery mud slope towards the maze and head to the gorgeous formation room.



Photo courtesy of Ava Kuperman

After doing this I would head towards the two north entrances and go out one and in through the other. This would be an ample trip for scouts as the cave on the base and lower level has little to no exposure. If you're looking for more fun, you can get onto the upper levels and while dealing with a little exposure at times, have a blast traveling above. Across the Road is like a choose-your-own-adventure book.



Photo courtesy of Ava Kuperman

There are many fun off-shoots of crawling that can keep you busy for hours, or you can do a quick entrance to entrance trip with mostly walking passage. You can head up to the upper levels and travel through tubes and have zero idea where you're at and do heart-rate-increasing exposure moves or play in the lower-level area in/near the maze. Across the Road has something for everyone and should be a cave that is on your list to do if you haven't been there already. See the map in this issue of the newsletter.

-Ryan Braga - NSS 72371

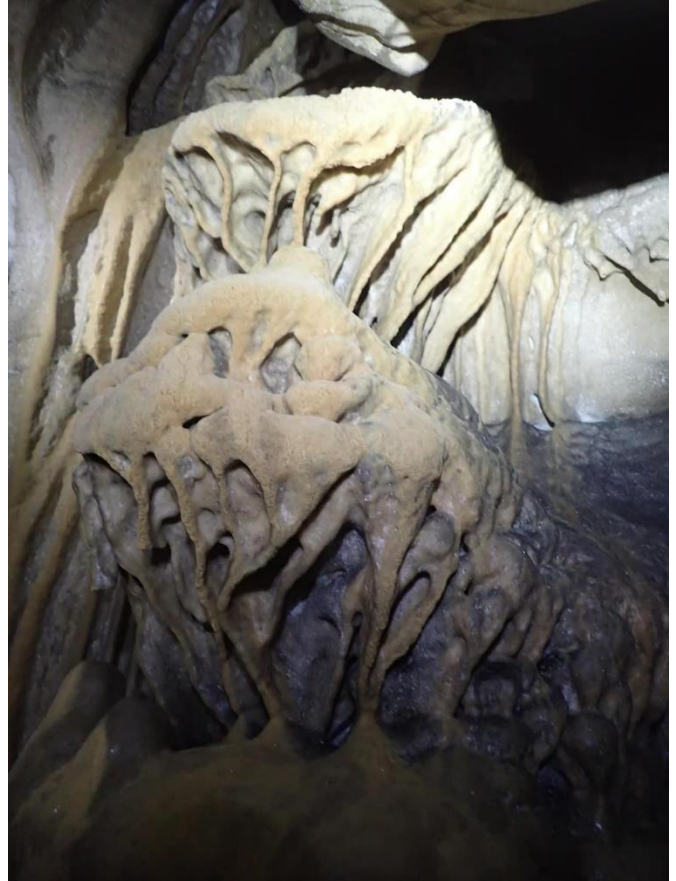


Photo courtesy of Ava Kuperman



Across the Road Cave
Rockcastle County, Ky.
Jack Hissong et al

