



Central Ohio Grotto Squeaks

December 2024



Cover photo by Mark Swelstad – Cave in Wayne County, KY

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO (COG)

The Central Ohio Grotto (COG) of the National Speleological Society meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Thursday 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:

\$20 per individual or \$25 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:

Andy Schofield
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:

Aaron Deal
Aaron.Deal@gmail.com

Member-At-Large:

Joe Chaput
jchaput@gjpepsi.com

Member-At-Large:

Mark Swelstad
mswelstad@gmail.com



Upcoming COG Events – Note: Details of our events can be found on [our Facebook page](#). You do not have to be a member to be in our Facebook group.

December 14	COG Christmas/Holiday Party	Pat Gibson's – all are welcome; see Facebook events for more info, or see below.
January 23-26	Winter Adventure Weekend	Carter Caves: See Suz Gagnon for more info
January 23	COG Regular Meeting	Worthington Presbyterian Church

Contact Info for Questions regarding trips or meetings: exec@centralohiogrotto.com

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In place of a meeting this month, we have our annual Christmas party. This year, it's being hosted by Pat and Sherrie Gibson. **4211 Caswell Rd NW, Johnstown, OH 43031. Start time is 6pm.**

Bring \$10/person to cover the cost of catering.

Bring a dessert to share.

Bring your bathing suit - the hot tub will be open.

As always, we will organize a white elephant gift exchange. More details on that to come



Odds and Ends:

Dues

Individual Dues \$20
 Family Dues \$25

Dues may be paid during the Grotto monthly meeting, mail, or Venmo and should be paid by the end of March. Note that you will not receive the gate code or GSP until you have paid.

Payment info TBD due to changeover in the Treasurer position.

Elections:

COG held its election for the executive committee. All positions were filled without contest:

- Chair – Andy Schofield
- Vice-Chair – Wendy Orlandi
- Secretary – Bethany Widmayer
- Treasurer – Aaron Deal
- Members at Large (3)
 - Former Chair – vacant
 - Tera Williamson
 - Ryan Braga

Thank you to our outgoing committee members, and welcome to our incoming!

Grotto History:

50 years ago, in the December 1974 Squeaks, there was a trip report about a major connection being made in the Cave Creek system. This system, which is in the general vicinity of Sloan's, was explored and surveyed by COG in the early 70's. This connection made the cave one of the longest in the state.

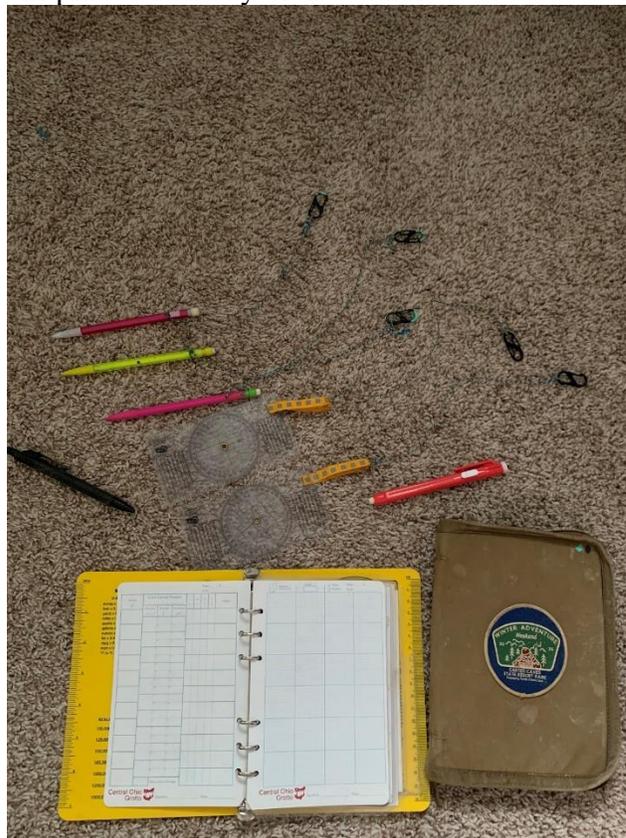
There was also a trip report about Cricket Cave, which COG members also surveyed. The report contained a map as well.

Lastly, there was a trip report, also with maps, about some caves over in the Pine Mountain region of the cave. COG was busy!

What Gear Do I Need to Sketch?

Ryan Braga
 NSS 72371

All photos courtesy of the author.



If you are interested in learning how to sketch at an upcoming grotto survey trip, I figured it would be worthwhile to show the gear I carry for a survey trip when I am the sketcher. If you have any questions about the gear or where to find it, don't hesitate to reach out and ask.

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U.S. inches x feet x 0. yards x 1. quarts x gallons x ounces x 0.4 lbs x 0. mpg x 0. mph x 1. °F to °C

SCALE
1:30,000
1:25,000
1:50,000
1:63,360
1:100,000
1:250,000
1:500,000

Central Ohio Grotto
Sketcher: _____ Date: _____

Page 1 of _____

Survey Information

Cave: _____ Area in Cave: _____
Date: _____ Location of Cave: _____

Personnel **Surveys**

Sketch / Book: _____ Survey Stations: _____ Tie-in: _____
Fore Sight: _____
Point / Back Sight: _____
Other (Inventory, Photography, Rigging): _____

Trip Information **Notes**

Time In: _____ Time Out: _____

Instruments

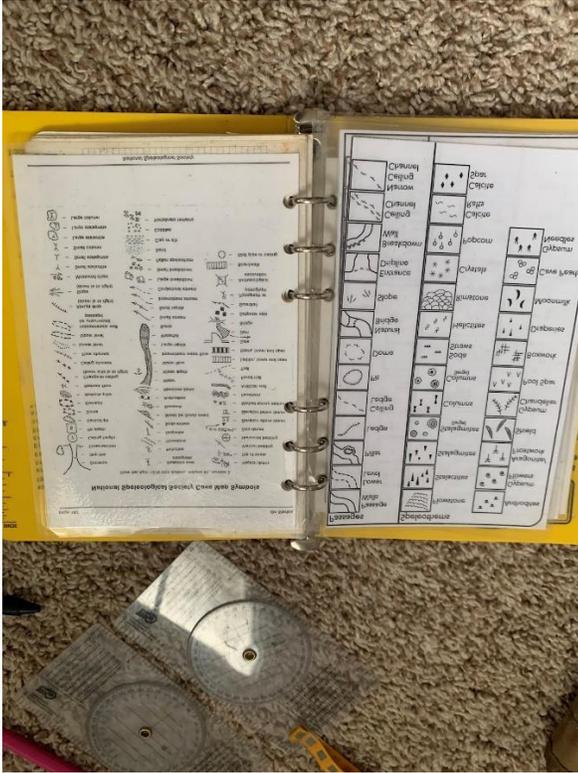
Tape / Dist: _____

Fore Sight Instruments: _____ Survey Distance: _____ # Survey Shots: _____
Back Sight Instruments: _____
New _____ Resurvey _____ Total _____

Magnetic North Arrow Scale: 1" = 100' Plan Profile Page _____ of _____
Cave: _____

Central Ohio Grotto
Sketcher: _____ Date: _____

First off, we need the actual paper that you are going to write on. This paper is called rite in the rain and can be found from any caving store like Onrope1, Inner Mountain etcetera. We use rite in the rain paper as it holds up much better in the cave versus a regular style of paper. The important sheet to get will be the data sheets. This is the paper that on the front has a large grid that will serve as where you will be sketching the cave and, on the back, has the boxes that allow for data to be captured when you are getting measurements from the survey like distance, azimuth (compass direction), Inclination (up or down angle) and so on. There are also title pages that you can purchase as well to add detail and keep your pages in order. While I rarely use title pages unless it is for a bigger project, I am not the most organized so I may not be the shining example. I personally will fill in the necessary data on one of the data sheets however this can look a bit more messy. The decision is yours.



Something I also keep is a laminated symbols guide. This is super helpful when first starting out so you can recall the symbols! There are multiple different styles so I included 2 in this photo. Consider these your cheat sheets as there is a bunch of symbols to remember

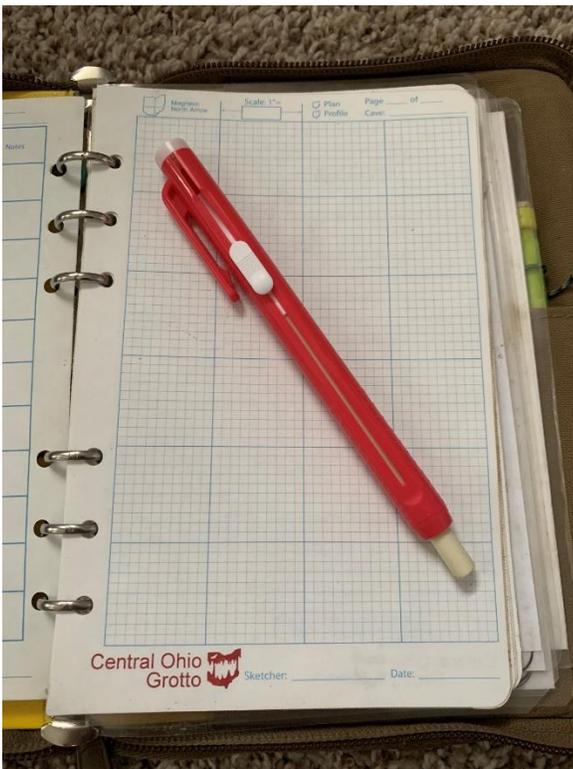


Now that we have the paper, we need something to store it in. For this, we use the rite in the rain 6 ring binder. While pretty straightforward, this is what will hold all of our pages so they are not loose. To go along with the binder, you can purchase the binder cover/sleeve that allows you to zip the binder closed keeping dirt and other undesirables out of the survey pages; however, the biggest draw for me is the interior pockets. While this binder cover isn't mandatory, I find it to be very useful for keeping my survey pages slightly cleaner and for providing me with the pockets to store writing tools.

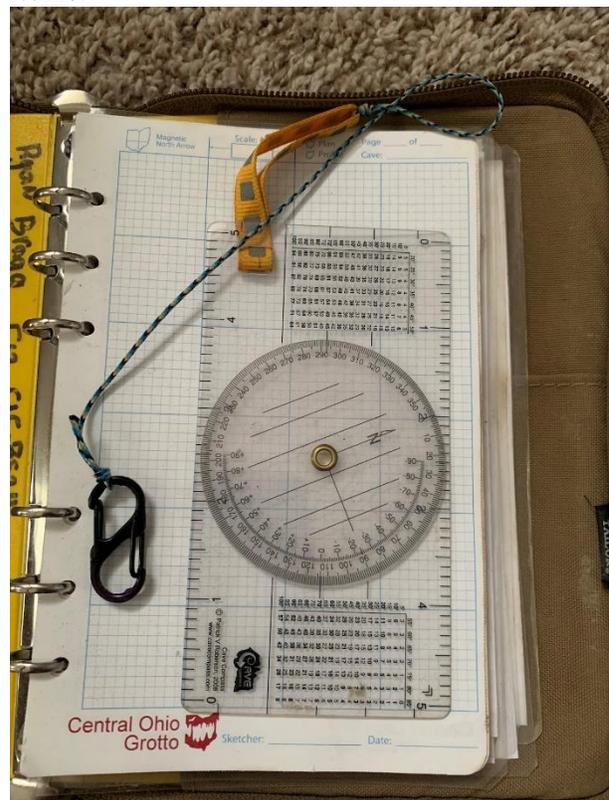
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rain pencils/ pens, I have found that regular mechanical pencils work just fine. I do not recommend pens at all as you will make many mistakes and to have a pen would lead to a lot of survey paper being wasted. I keep a pen in my kit as an absolute last resort but hope the day never comes that I have to use it! I bring 3 mechanical pencils and an eraser pencil and that has been sufficient. If you wanted to save space, you could ditch the eraser pencil; however, I've found that rite in the rain paper is hard to erase and that you'll be doing a lot of erasing. Due to this, I've noticed that I eat through pencil top erasers quickly while surveying. You may notice that I have the S carabiner with the micro paracord serving as tether. I'd highly recommend this as the carabiner allows you to clip to the binder rings and not lose your writing devices and other items.



We have the paper and the binder to store these things, now we need the writing devices! While you can purchase rite in the

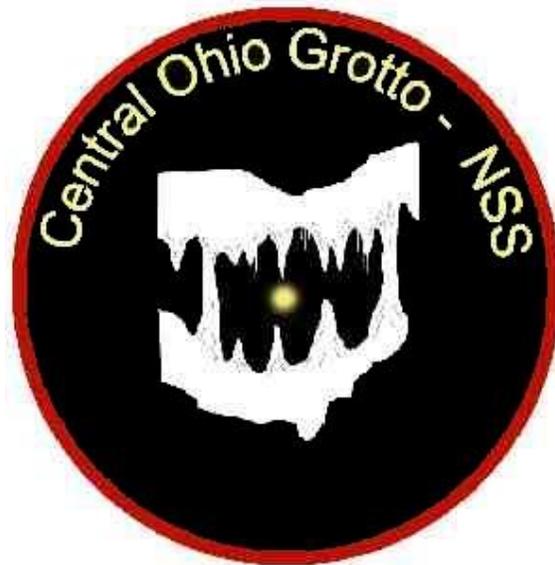


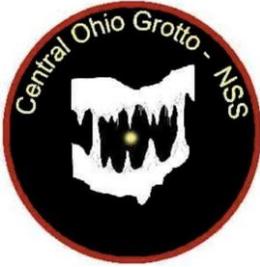
Lastly, you will need a device called a cave compass. These can be bought online in both meters and feet. Being in the US, we mostly use feet but it may be nice to have the

meters one as a backup just in case. I carry two cave compasses on a survey ensuring I have a backup if the dial were to break. The purpose of this device is to aid you in sketching so when you create a line plot, you can use the compass to draw straight lines at the exact angle that the cave passage is going.

I hope this was helpful if you were looking to pick up sketching gear for a survey and hope to see you on one of our grotto surveys. Even if you don't want to sketch, we'd be more than happy to teach you other survey roles so you can join us and get your name on the map!

p.s. I have a ton of micro paracord so if you want to do your own tethers, ask me to bring it to the next grotto meeting and I will :)





COG Monthly Meeting

11/21/2024

7:00 pm

Worthington Presbyterian Church

COG Blog: centralohiogrotto.blogspot.com

Upcoming Events: [COG's Google calendar](#) (Also check Facebook, [blog](#), [website](#))

- [Scout Trips](#)
- [COG Christmas Party](#): December 14, 6 pm
- Winter Adventure Weekend (WAW) 2025
- Remember to check the [Google calendar](#) for all trips and events!

!COG Newsletter: Don't forget to send trip reports, photos, gear reviews, etc. to Mark (mewelstad@gmail.com) by the end of this month to be featured in the December edition! If you are a paid member and are not receiving the newsletter, let Mark know.

Did you know? You can borrow equipment such as helmets and headlamps from the grotto! Contact any member of the Executive Committee for more information.

GSP Report:

- Announcements:
 - Kent Fasick, longtime caver and member of GCG and DUG passed away on November 19th, 2024. RIP.
 - GSP combo lock will be changed on January 10th. You must be a member of COG or other managing grotto BY THAT DATE to receive the combo. Normally you can renew through March without being removed from the member's list. While that may still be true, you will not receive the new gate combo unless you have renewed.
 - Electric sites - if you are using electric sites, including the lower mondo, you should be paying extra. If you charge your EV using an electric site, you should be paying for that as well.
 - The company that picks up our garbage dumpster has raised their rates. We go through a TON of garbage. We pay about \$3500/year just for the dumpster! Please be sure to break down boxes and recycle what you can.
- Treasurer:
 - Income exceeded Expenses in the month of October due to lots of activity.
 - The accounting is complete for KOR 2024, which brought in a total of \$8152. This month we received a check for \$6952 from GCG to add to the \$1200 towards the facilities fees that we received in July.
 - School field trips brought in \$2157. A \$500 donation towards paying off the new Scag mower was received. Halloween brought in \$548 in donations plus \$185 from the Daiquiri whacker towards the CR loan repayment. We received a letter to forgive \$1,000 of the balance from a CR lender. All total we received \$12,816 Income for this period.

- Significant expenses included \$3750 downpayment for the new main water shut-off valve and PRV3 replacements; \$1544 for our General Liability Insurance for a year and \$385 for roofing materials for the Shower House.
- The total amount paid for Expenses was \$6,865.97.
- Caretaker's Report:
 - Kristin was out so the only item reported was Werner doing some work to the Caretaker Residence (CR)
- Miscellaneous Property Maintenance:
 - Caretaker's Residence - several minor' repairs / upgrades made
 - Waterline - done but some holes need to be filled in before major frost.
 - Tractor repair - Scott Pavey - December
 - Ticket House Renovation - No changes since last update
 - Cave - some exposed wiring near north entrance; some lights need replaced; Atlas Pillar still on the To Do list; some boards on bridge to Russian Dome need replaced; Utility Pole outside entrance needs to be addressed.
 - Shower House re-shingling - completed - James Clements
 - Locks and gates - January 10* all combo locks are being changed.
 - Cameras - was Dan Z. now being delegated to Patrick.
- Social Activities:
 - Open House -final report out provided; 2025 Open House dates: May 17/18
 - KOR - final report out completed. 2025 KOR dates: June 6-8
 - Halloween Party - fun time and money was made for the preserve. Next year, Halloween is a Friday.
 - Other events and notes of interest:
 - Field trips and scout trips are done for the year.
 - Fred Ball had some mason's down - almost 600 in donations.
 - Membership lists from all grottos have been sent to Kristin.

Old Business

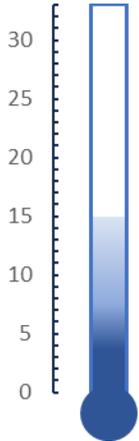
- 2025 Elections:
 - Positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, At large (2)
 - Election Committee: Patrick and Tori
 - Update: Suz withdrew her candidacy for Treasurer and nominated Aaron D.; Aaron accepted; Mark seconded
 - Suz motioned to approve slate of candidates for the uncontested positions; Mark seconded; no opposition
 - Results:
 - Chair: Andy
 - Vice Chair: Wendy
 - Treasurer: Aaron D.
 - Secretary: Bethany
 - At Large 1: Tera
 - At Large 2: Ryan
- COG bylaw revisions:
 - Mark motioned to accept revisions as outlined in November 13 email

- Patrick seconded
- Motion passed

New Business

- COG Christmas Party 2024
 - BBQ (from City BBQ or something similar); please bring money to contribute and a dessert!
 - White Elephant Gift Exchange: \$25-\$30 gift, unmarked and wrapped (or in a gift bag). Who wants to organize the gift exchange? Contact Patrick if you're interested!
 - Space to camp inside or out
 - Squeeze box! Who's going to beat Suz this year?
 - Not on Facebook? Keep an eye out for an email with further details.
- WAW 2025: January 23-26
 - Registration opens December 12. Try to register during the first hour before the good trips fill up!
 - Suz booked a house that lodges around 20 people; more details to come!
- Sloans Trip 2025
 - Presidents Day weekend
 - More info to come
- Cave Water Talk:
 - Tyler Huth from Washington University in St. Louis is going to give an online presentation about the findings from cave water sampling 12/7 at 12pm.
 - Wendy will post a link on Facebook.

Be a part of History, Join the GSP 33!
We Need 18 more people to meet our goal!



Will you be one of the 33 who will commit to supporting GSP with a small \$25 monthly donation over the next 5 years?

Proceeds are used to pay off the loans used to purchase the Caretakers Residence.

Are you interested in a free family camping pass for the next 5 years, a free polo shirt, and a celebration at the end of the commitment period?

Please contact Patrick Gibson for more details!
614.496.5345, kd8ion@gmail.com

Payment Options:

1. Mail a check Monthly or some other defined period such as quarterly/yearly
2. Pay once in Full
3. Paypal as a recurring payment with GSP 33 in comment

Payments should be made out to "Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve" and mailed to

GSP 33
% Patrick Gibson
4211 Caswell Rd
Johnstown, OH 43031