



Central Ohio Grotto Squeaks

June 2025



Cover photo by Mark Swelstad – Jeff Schebek in John Griffin Cave

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.

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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.

June 6-8	Karst-o-Rama	GSP
June 25	Underground Pool Party	Carter Caves – see Facebook for details
July 3-6	Bear Heaven Vertical Wknd	Bear Heaven Campground – see Wendy Orlandi for details
July 18-20	Everything but the Squeal 2	GSP
July 23	COG Regular Meeting	Worthington Presbyterian Church

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

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Join us for our next monthly meeting in the Worthington Presbyterian Church Youth Room on WEDNESDAY, June 25 at 7 PM in person or online. To join virtually, find Google Meet on COG's Google Calendar or facebook. You do NOT have to be a member to attend, everyone is welcome. After the meeting, we'll head over to Villa Nova Ristorante for pizza and drinks. Please bring cash to cover your share.

COG Monthly Meeting
 Wednesday, June 25 · 7:00 – 8:30pm
 Time zone: America/New_York
 Google Meet joining info
 Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zfc-wktg-wzz>
 Or dial: (US) +1 662-674-1233 PIN: 431 213 899#
 More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/zfc-wktg-wzz?pin=8923801100058>

Our June speaker will be COG's own Mike Renz IN PERSON! He will present "Basic Geology for Cavers: Stuff You Can Share When Leading"



Part of the fun of caving is taking others into the mysterious underworld and showing them around. Although cavers have loads of expertise on Speleogenesis, there is often more to the story than just how a cave formed. Caves are part of a larger geological picture. A local geologist and wannabe caver will cover the fundamentals that you can use to give context to the caves you are exploring.

Mike Renz is a local geologist who served a 9 year sentence at The Ohio State University in exchange for a BS in geology and a shockingly low GPA. Over the past 40 years he has made his living as an "environmental geologist" doing subsurface studies on sites with contaminated soil and groundwater. Renz generally uses his profession as an excuse to wander the country to go kayaking, backpacking, rock

climbing and motorcycling at his clients expense. Renz is also a "wannabe-caver" whose experiences underground so far are spectacularly unimpressive.

Renz also likes piña coladas
 And gettin' caught in the rain
 He's not into yoga
 and has half a brain

Odds and Ends:

Grotto History

The June 1975 issue (which must have been sent out in July) had a very special announcement. Bill and Karen Walden welcomed their baby girl, Katherine, on July 2nd, 1975. Katie is now a geologist in Pennsylvania and is a friend of COG to this day!

Karst-o-Rama Update!

From the Karst-o-Rama committee: We are happy to announce that KOR 2025 will be multi-grotto managed. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to [Matt Sumner](#) or [Meg Lee](#). More info to follow!

Note: you don't have to sign up for an official position to help out. There will be plenty of opportunities to take a 2-hour shift at registration, in the kitchen, helping with garbage, security, cave trips, and so on. Many hands make light work!



Monster in the night: The story of the London, KY tornado – Randall Easley

On Friday night May 16th I received notification of a strong destructive Tornado on the ground in Somerset headed towards London. I intercepted the tornado around one mile south of the last exit in London. Afterward, I engaged in search and rescue. Monday after GSP Open house I was told (by the Open House leadership) to take the remaining hotdog buns and 200 hot dogs and the remaining prepared packs for soup beans helping in the feeding of roughly 13000 meals working with Marco Patriots and Chris Hall 606 Storm Chasing over the next 6 days. The Tornado that hit London was a EF-4 with 170 mph winds and was on the ground 55 miles. Thousands of volunteers have come to help with the recovery.

All photos courtesy Randall Easley



This jar full of change was recovered intact from a destroyed house.



Trees destroyed in the neighborhood of sunshine hills



Remains of a house in sunshine hills



The Tornado On the ground off of my dash camera



The area across interstate 75 to the east



our operations tent where we made 13000 meals



supplies leaving GSP in my truck headed to operations



Flowing Stone Cave Trip Report

Date of Trip: April 25

Filed: May 20

Report by: Jason Glancy and ChatGPT

Participants:

- Jason Glancy (Ohio)
- Todd Durham (Colorado)
- Nate Iden (Ohio)
- Cole Newton (Colorado)
- Jason Wayland (Tennessee)

Objective:

To complete a recreational descent and exploration of Flowing Stone Cave—an iconic and visually striking section of one of the region's cave systems. This trip was intended for enjoyment, photography, and familiarization with the cave.

Trip Summary:

On April 25th, Nate and I met Colorado cavers Cole Newton and Todd Durham at **The Blue Hole Campground** where cavers typically stay before tackling Ellison's and Fantastic Pit. After a gear check and some discussion, we drove about half a mile down the road to a locked gate, where we met up with Chattanooga caver **Jason Wayland**. Jason led the group up the mountain on foot—a scenic and steady 2-mile hike through forested terrain—to reach the pit entrance of **Flowing Stone Cave**.

Entry Time: 6:00 PM

Exit Time: 10:00 PM

Duration Underground: 4 hours

Vertical Drop to Main Area: ~220 feet
(entrance shaft)

Conditions: Wet; slick surfaces and active moisture throughout

Photo 1: Jason Glancy preparing to descend the 220' entrance pit of Flowing Stone Cave.

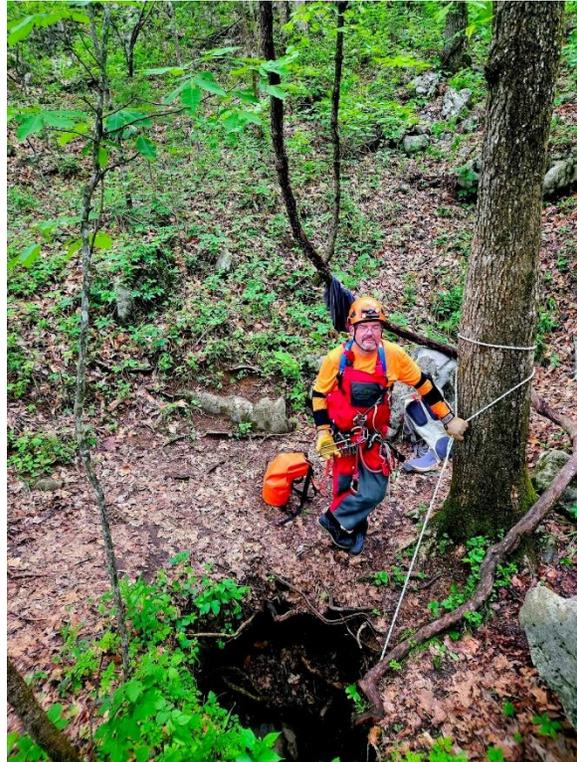


Photo by Nate Iden

The descent began in the early evening. The entrance shaft dropped a full 220 feet and was completed with 300' of 10mm Greenline static rope, a rebelay and a deviation. Once inside, we were immediately struck by the environment—walls slick with moisture and heavy decoration that shimmered under our headlamps, giving the illusion that the stone itself was moving.

Adrenaline was high from the start. The cave's namesake formations—layered, flowing calcite terraces—appeared frozen in motion. The atmosphere was surreal, with

each step demanding focus due to the wet conditions.

Photo 2: Cavers deep inside Flowing Stone Cave.



Note the dramatic lighting and layered formations. Photo by Cole Newton.

We spent approximately 90 minutes inside, photographing, exploring, and admiring the beauty of the main chamber. The group moved efficiently, with everyone maintaining safety and enthusiasm. The return trip to the surface was smooth, and all participants exited safely and in good spirits.

Equipment Used:

- Petzl Vertex Vent helmets
- Zebra Lights
- 300' of 10mm Greenline static rope
- Gloves, harnesses, vertical rigging kits
- Compact cameras and GoPro units

Conclusion:

This recreational trip into Flowing Stone Cave was an exhilarating success. From the scenic hike up to the pit, to the breathtaking and dynamic interior, the experience was unforgettable. The combination of vertical descent, slick surfaces, and dramatic formations made for a challenging and rewarding outing. Flowing Stone remains one of the most visually unique caves in the region and is highly recommended for experienced vertical cavers.