



# Central Ohio Grotto Squeaks

## September 2025

MYSTERY SIGHTING AT GSP!



Cover photo by Caroline Chaput – strange going's on at GSP

## 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.

<b>September 20,21</b>	Caver Appreciation	GSP
<b>September 24</b>	COG Regular Meeting	Worthington Presbyterian Church
<b>September 26-28</b>	Bear Heaven – Intro to Vertical	WV – See Jason Glancy or Wendy Orlandi
<b>October 22</b>	COG Regular Meeting	Worthington Presbyterian Church
<b>Oct. 31-Nov. 2</b>	GSP Halloween Party	GSP
<b>Nov. 13-16</b>	Sloansgiving	Wayne County, KY – currently full. See Joe Chaput for details

Contact Info for Questions regarding trips or meetings: [exec@centralohiogrotto.com](mailto:exec@centralohiogrotto.com)

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Join us for our next monthly meeting in the Worthington Presbyterian Church Youth Room on WEDNESDAY, September 24th 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, September 24th · 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>

Currently, Wendy is firming up details for our September guest speaker.

## Odds and Ends:

### Grotto History

The September 1975 issue of the Squeaks had a couple of reports detailing the exploration and survey of Newell's Cave in Pulaski County, KY. Also, there were reports on a trip to various parts of the Cave Creek system, and a trip to Organ Cave in WV to do some survey. Looks like summer 1975 was an eventful time for COG!

### Elections

Grotto elections are coming up. If you are interested in running for office, let someone in the exec committee know!

### Bear Heaven - Intro to Vertical

We are often asked how to get started on rope. On September 26, COG is headed to Elkins, WV for a weekend of beginning vertical instruction at the stunning Bear Heaven campground and Day Use Area. This trip is designed for those interested in learning vertical caving (SRT) or those who would like to put their beginning vertical skills in practice.

#### *Friday, September 26*

After setting up camp we will take a short hike to the Bear Heaven Day Use Area and rappel 30 ft down massive sandstone boulders surrounded by mountain laurel. More experienced cavers can work on traverses and rebelayes. If you don't want to rappel, enjoy hiking the area. We will have all necessary equipment on hand and expert instruction if you'd like to learn. Long hair should be ready to be pulled back into a tidy ponytail and clothes should be comfortable but not loose fitting. If you've got leather gloves and a helmet/headlamp that's a plus, if not, those will be provided. Over the ankle boots are also recommended.



*Jonna on rope – photographer unknown – maybe Wendy Orlandi?*

#### *Saturday, September 27*

We will have breakfast at 8am at the Gateway Restaurant. From there, we venture on to Kees Cave. Please refer to the recommended equipment list to prepare and let us know in advance if you need to borrow gear. At Kees, you'll find some crawling at the entrance until it opens up into walking passage. In this cave you will have the choice to rappel a short drop or walk around the drop using another passage. The cave also contains a stream and many fossils. After caving, we will have dinner back at camp.

#### *Sunday, September 28*

After breakfast at camp, we will head down to the rocks again for more vertical practice or depending on the skill level of the group, we may take on a fire tower or nearby pit.



Kees Cave – photographer unknown

Cost is \$5 bucks per site a night to camp at Bear Heaven. Sites are big enough to share. No water, pit toilet, picnic table and fire ring. Sign up on Facebook or Wendy Orlandi or Jason Glancy for more details.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AhzogXD B8/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

## Caving Equipment

### Required Gear

 <p>Helmet with chin strap - provides protection without limiting vision or mobility. Good examples: Climbing, bicycle, skateboarding, or hard hat with strap. Bad examples: motorcycle or football helmet.</p>	 <p>Primary light source attached to the helmet, 50 lumens minimum, with new batteries installed. This can be a headlamp or a small light duct taped to the helmet.</p>
 <p>Extra (new) batteries for the primary AND secondary light sources.</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary light source, with new batteries installed, that can be attached to the helmet.</li> <li>• Tertiary light source with new batteries installed.</li> </ul>
 <p>Gloves for grip and protection that do not retain water. Good examples: nitrile-dipped nylon or mechanics gloves. Bad examples: Winter or jersey/cotton gloves.</p>	 <p>Knee pads, either volleyball or strap-on with hard cap.</p>
 <p>Boots with deep tread and ankle protection and support. Good example: hiking boots. Bad example: tennis shoes.</p>	 <p>Wool socks or other warm socks with moisture wicking properties. Avoid cotton.</p>
 <p>Sturdy pants that do not restrict movement. They will get muddy, wet, and possibly torn.</p>	 <p>Long sleeve shirt that does not restrict movement. It will get muddy, wet, and possibly torn.</p>
 <p>Backpack that is small, hands-free, and sturdy. Good example: old school backpack, drawstring bag, fanny pack, or cave pig. Bad example: hiking backpack.</p>	 <p>Drinking water. Optional empty bottle for restroom emergency.</p>
 <p>Lunch and snacks: granola bars, trail mix, sandwich in crushproof box, etc.</p>	 <p>Extra trash bags and a change of clothing/shoes for a comfy and clean car ride after wet and muddy caving!</p>

### Optional Gear

First Aid kit, non-insulated coveralls, elbow pads, and duct tape.





### About the cover...

This photo, recently rediscovered from the personal archives of grotto member Caroline Chaput, shows something very strange afoot in the back field at GSP.

BE CAREFUL!