

The Carbide Courier



The
Dayton Underground Grotto
of
The National Speleological Society



Chairman Dana Throws Hat into Ring- Plans to Run for NSS President!

See story starting on page 6



In this issue... Discovery in Joe Windows Kettering Cave, "Light Line" Cave Class, Dana to Run for NSS President, Extracts on Early Caves in Monroe County, VA, Secrets of the Hollow Earth,...and more!



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GROTTO MEETINGS

Grotto meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for September, December and month of Wormfest) at 7:00 pm at Roger and Lynn Brucker's house, 1635 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, OH. For directions, see the map on the back cover, or go to the DUG web page:

www.dugcaves.com

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Annual membership is \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family. Membership includes the monthly publication of *The Carbide Courier* in paper or electronic format. Memberships are renewable on October 1st. Dues can be mailed to:

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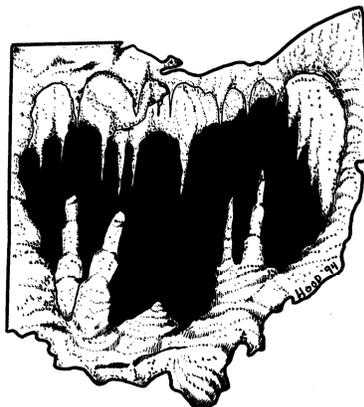
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Inside This Issue:

<i>Officers, Representatives and Committee Chairs</i>	2
<i>From the Editor</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events, Birthdays and New Members</i>	4
<i>2009 Wormfest to be Held at Carlsbad Caverns</i>	5
<i>Brody Austin Seitz Born March 20th</i>	5
<i>DUG to Offer Lifetime Memberships</i>	5
<i>Ergor Rubreck to Offer "Light Line" Cave Class</i>	6
<i>Chairman Dana to Run for NSS President</i>	6
<i>Discovery in Joe Windows Kettering Cave</i>	7
<i>Extracts on Early Caves in Monroe County, VA</i>	10
<i>The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy Purchases Misty Cave</i>	11
<i>Secrets of the Hollow Earth</i>	12
<i>DUG to Consider Hosting 2015 NSS Convention</i>	14
<i>DUG to Give \$5000 Cash Prize at 2009 Christmas Party</i>	14
<i>Karst-o-Rama Registration Form</i>	15

From the Editor...



Hello DUGsters,

What great issue this month! With so many wonderful and exciting things happening with the grotto lately, it was hard to get it all squeezed into this issue!

From Dana running for NSS President, the new discovery in Joe Windows Kettering Cave, Ergor's new class being offered to cavers, and the 2009 Wormfest announcement, there's just so much to read about!

Also, a BIG congratulations to the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy on the purchase of Misty Cave. This is the RKC's second property. See page 11 for more details and also look for more information as it comes from the RKC Board of Directors.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's newsletter as much as I enjoyed putting it together. And remember, if you read it here, it just HAS to be true!! Oh, and be sure to read about the \$5000 cash prize to be given away at the Christmas party!

Until next time, cave safely and softly.

Mike Hood
Editor

Volume 18, Issue 4

April 2009

The Carbide Courier is sent electronically the last week of the preceding month and also sent to the printer at the same time. Submissions must be sent to the editor by the Friday preceding the last week of the month at carbidecourier (at) yahoo (dot) com.

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DO YOU GET A PAPER COPY OF THE COURIER? DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET OR E-MAIL?

If so, why not consider switching to electronic means of getting the Courier? You'll get your Courier quicker (and in color!) and save the grotto some money to boot! Contact Alan Leach to change your status.

Calendar of Events

April 4th-5th	Cincinnati Museum Rotunda Climb
April 12th	7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
May 2nd-3rd	GSP Work Weekend and Cleanup
May 9th	Prep Weekend of GSP Open House
May 10th	7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
May 16th-17th	Great Saltpetre Preserve Open House
May 22nd-25th	Speleofest at the Lone Star Cave Preserve. Hosted by the Louisville Grotto (http://louisville.caves.org/Speleofest.html)
May 23rd-24th	Caving at GSP (No Work—Just Caving!)
June 14th	7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
June 25th-28th	Karst-o-Rama at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve.

April Birthdays!

Sandy Rice—2nd
 Darren Davey—6th
 Mike Wuerth—6th
 Lauren Damon—13th
 Colin Gatland—18th
 Kevin Toepke—18th
 Christopher Conarro—22nd
 James Landram—22nd
 Patricia Forman—25th
 Joshua Roark—28th
 Daniel Bower—29th



New Members!

Darrell Adkins, Hamilton, OH
 Earl Bailey, Cincinnati, OH
 Alice Woznack, Hamilton, OH



Welcome to DUG!!

2009 WORMFEST TO BE HELD AT CARLSBAD CAVERNS!!

Amy has outdone herself with the planning of this year's Wormfest! After months of negotiations with the National Park Service and Southwestern Airlines, she has arranged for Wormfest to be held at world-famous Carlsbad Caverns National Park!

It is known from past experience that holding Wormfest at locations five or more hours away has been a problem in the past. However, this year traveling shouldn't be a problem as arrangements have been made to fly Southwestern Airlines to Las Cruces, New Mexico. From there, the grotto will have chartered school busses to transport you to Carlsbad. Unfortunately, the only place we can fly out of to Las Cruces is Denver. So, you will have to make your own travel arrangements to Denver. Amy tried to get a deal made to fly from Dayton to Denver, but with today's economy, it just wasn't cost-effective.

You also must understand that the cost of this year's Wormfest will be more than past years. Pre-registration is \$1975 and is due to Debbie by April 1st. On-site registration will be \$25, but you have to make your own travel arrangements. Be sure to specify what size t-shirt you want and if you want the Wormfeast. Nachos and Coke Zero will be the Wormfeast meal this year. Please bring something to share.

A pre-registration form will be e-mailed to all DUG members by March 31st. Please be sure to get it mailed in as quick as you can. Because of the current economic situation, only cashiers checks or cash will be accepted for the pre-registration fee.

The first three to register will get to visit Lechuguilla Cave (entrance only).

Hope to see you there! You won't want to miss this one!

(Please bring raffle prizes.)

BRODY AUSTIN SEITZ BORN MARCH 20TH

(From Bonnie Guess' e-mail)

Hi all,

Just an excited G-ma telling all that Melissa & Marc Seitz delivered a healthy baby boy today (March 20th) at 5:52 am after a long night of labor. Brody weighed 8lbs 9.4oz & was 22 inches long. He has light hair, but very little. Can't tell just yet who he looks like. I would have sent you a pic, but my computer is not cooperating. Virtual memory is too low, so, until I can get it to cooperate, you'll have to do with text for now. Melissa & Marc are exhausted. Didn't get much sleep the last 3 nights due to labor on & off. They need to rest up today.

Bonnie



DUG to Offer Lifetime Memberships!

The grotto Executive Committee understands times are tough for many right now and that you might find it hard to pay future grotto dues. The EC also knows you wouldn't want to see the grotto fold. So, to help you out in the long run, the EC has established lifetime dues! For one payment of \$2000, you can be a member of DUG for life, never have to pay dues again, and ensure the future of your grotto! Please send cash only to the treasurer. You will receive a life member certificate, suitable for framing!

ERGOR RUBRECK TO OFFER "LIGHT LINE" CAVE CLASS

By Ergor Rubreck

A field course for cavers to teach "light line" cave climbing techniques will be offered May 18 through May 22 at the Museum of Natural History in Cincinnati. Ergor Rubreck, famous caver and big wall climber will organize and personally teach the class the latest techniques in "minimally invasive cave climbing." Fee for the course is \$437 in small, unmarked bills.

"All cavers are familiar with 5/8" static climbing rope, considered by some to be the standard for rappelling and ascending. Anyone who has worked with these ropes knows they are overkill. They are too heavy to carry, difficult to coil neatly, and entirely too strong by a factor of nine. I will teach you how to use lighter lines and hardware that will conserve the cave AND the caver," said Rubreck.

Light line caving uses multiple strands of military surplus parachute cord instead of heavy, bulky static ropes. These cords have a test strength of 500-pounds, so two of them can replace a 6,000-pound static kernmantle rope -- at less cost. "How often do you drop a Volkswagen on your caving rope?" asked Rubreck. He claims the lighter lines are entirely safe when used in multiples.

Rubreck also uses rubber-like suction cups for anchors instead of bolts or large rocks. The suction cups are made of a transparent elastomer that is waterproof, and is equipped with a ring for clipping on the the light line. "We use shower curtain rings instead of expensive caribeannies to clip into the anchors," said Rubreck. He shrugs off criticisms about poor safety with the fact that he uses multiple suction cups and multiple shower curtain rings to anchor the multiple light lines. "We teach high redundancy techniques, so the climber never depends on just one cord or suction cup," observed Rubreck. "Also, we teach each student to lick the suction cup before applying it to the wall, for better adhesion."

"Nobody has ever been killed using my novel light line techniques," said Ergor Rubreck. He admitted that nobody has taken his class before, since this is his maiden offering of the new techniques. Rubreck said the direction of technology in caving is to use smaller equipment. "Cavers used to use bulky and dangerous carbide lamps, but now they use tiny LED lamps. We must conserve materials as well as money," according to Rubreck.

Asked about future developments in light line technique, he hinted at shower clogs instead of heavy mud-clinging Vibram-soled boots. His shower cap use instead of a hard hat is also designed to save weight and reduce fatigue. Rubreck said the idea came to him when he considered dipping his head in rubber cement to create a more form-fitting, blow-resistant headgear. "It was too tough to comb out, and probably not practical," he said.

A brochure and enrollment form can be downloaded from www.scamRus.com. Must be 17 to apply. No scholarships are available.

CHAIRMAN DANA TO RUN FOR NSS PRESIDENT

By Mike Hood

Dana and I were talking after the last grotto meeting about the NSS and its politics. He asked me how one becomes an officer of the NSS and that he had thought about running for the NSS Board of Governors. I told him that becoming an officer is actually much easier than being elected a director. The membership elects the directors and you have to have a certain amount of name recognition. However, to become an officer, you only have to convince 12 directors that you're the right person for the job. I told him timing has a lot to do with it and my election to the NSS Presidency was mostly good timing on my part.

After discussing many issues facing the Society right now, Dana decided to run for a vice president position at the convention this summer. I told him it's actually easier to get elected president as not many run for this position. After further discussion, he told me he would run for the position and would travel to the spring Board of Governors meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado to be held on April 4.

(Continued on page 11)

DISCOVERY IN JOE WINDOWS KETTERING CAVE

By Mike Hood

It's not often one gets to discover new cave passage in Montgomery County, Ohio; but that's exactly what happened on Sunday, March 15, 2009 for three DUG members. It all started with the simple resurvey of Joe Windows Kettering Cave.

Joe Windows Kettering Cave was first surveyed on May 14, 2006 by several members of DUG (see *Carbide Courier* Volume 15, Issue 5). At that time, it taped out at 99.2 feet. There is a short crawlway in the back of the cave we knew could easily be dug out a bit to reach the 100-foot mark. Even though JWKC is the longest of the four known caves in the county, some of us wouldn't be satisfied until we made it 100 feet long!

Pam Carpenter and I had been talking for a couple of years about going back to dig out the crawl and resurvey the cave. The crawl is in soft sand, so we knew it wouldn't be much of a project to get another foot or two dug out. So, we finally settled on Saturday, March 15th, as the day we would make our assault on the crawlway. We also knew we could dig a bit in a small window to connect to another short crawl and complete the first loop in the cave. Wow! Actual project goals for a cave right here in the Dayton area!

My wife, Tracy, is a DUG and NSS member, but doesn't really cave (though she has been with me a few times). I invited her to come along just so she could see the cave and sit at its picturesque entrance. The first words out of her mouth were "Will I get wet or muddy?" I assured her that other than the stream we have to cross, the cave is bone-dry, and she wouldn't have to actually enter the cave. So, with that reassurance, she decided to tag along.

Pam met us at the parking lot and we stored our cave gear in small backpacks so not to draw attention to ourselves. We made our way up the stream and were soon at the entrance to the cave. I hadn't been to the cave in a couple of years and was glad to see the pretty entrance and cliff face hadn't changed any.

For those of you who haven't been there, JWKC is not a true limestone cave, but is formed where glacial moraine has been washed out from under a large dolomite ledge. However, you can stand up in it, get into total darkness, and do some crawling in short crawls at the back of the cave. It's worth a trip to see, but just don't poke at the ceiling!

Pam and I geared up while Tracy hung out at the entrance. I did bring an extra helmet and light should she decide to enter the cave. At the moment, she was happy to stay at the entrance. Pam and I decided we would dig the crawlway in the back to reach our objective of making the cave 100-feet long, and then we would begin the resurvey.

I took point as Pam is more experienced with instruments and sketching than I am. I easily made my way to the back of the crawlway, which is roughly three feet high by three feet wide. At this point, the ceiling lowers down to the sandy floor. I started to dig with my trowel, knowing I only needed a foot or so, when I suddenly contacted the dolomite ceiling. We had penetrated past the gnarly looking packed gravel ceiling! I figured we were at the point where we reached the back of the dolomite overhang and didn't expect to go much further. I relayed this to Pam and she said that it should be enough to reach the 100-foot mark. Before deciding to back out of the crawl, I took one more shot at digging under the shelf when I punched through a small void. I immediately felt cold air blowing in my face. This was extremely interesting as I knew there just couldn't be more cave in this hillside. Shining my mini-mag into the hole, I noticed the ceiling stayed flat and level, but the floor actually sloped down at about a 45-degree angle.

I told Pam what I had found, so she came up to take a look, after I had backed out to give her room. After peering into the hole, Pam sounded excited and exclaimed that she thought there might actually be more passage beyond!

By now, Tracy heard our excited conversations and ventured into the entrance room to better hear what we were talking about. I told her about what we had found and that we were going to try to dig into this new passage. We felt pretty safe in that we were actually under the dolomite overhang, and not under the packed gravel. Pam started digging in the soft sand and it wasn't even five minutes before she had it big enough to slide into. She slid down the sandy slope head-first and said she was in a room roughly three feet high, by six feet wide, by 10 feet long. What was really exciting is that it was packed with formations on the left hand side of the room! Where is a camera when you need one?? As this room is under the dolomite cliff face, it obviously gets enough water through it to produce formations. She also said there was a crawl going off of the back of the room and that it had a steady breeze issuing from it. She had found the source of the air; but where was it coming from?? I quickly followed her in, smiling like the Cheshire Cat! How often does one get to see virgin cave in Ohio, let alone Montgomery County?

We crawled to the back of the room, where the crawlway is and peered in. Pam let me go first, since she got to scoop the virgin room first. I entered the crawl, which was two feet high by three feet wide, anxious to find where the breeze was coming from. It went about five feet before making a right-hand turn that was easy to negotiate. I crawled cautiously around the right hand bend and immediately saw sunlight filtering in. There, in the ceiling, was a slot in the dolomite that had light coming through it. I rolled over on my back, inched under the slot and looked up it. The slot went straight up to the surface! I estimated it to be about 12 feet up to the opening at the surface. I told Pam what I had found and that I thought I could squeeze up the slot. She was concerned that I would bring the place down around me, but I assured her it was in dolomite and not the gravel fill.

I slowly worked my body up into the slot and found it was an easy climb up it. The slot is body sized but easy to negotiate. I popped out onto the surface at the top of the cliff and quickly scampered back down the hill to the main entrance. I had made the first through trip in JWKC! Pam then went outside,

found the opening from the surface and slid down into the cave and then out the main entrance. Thus, she had made the first vertical through trip in Montgomery County!

Satisfied with our find, we coaxed Tracy in to entering the room so she could be one of only three to see the new discovery in JWKC. She decline to do the crawl and new entrance. After exiting the room, Pam and I began the resurvey.

Pam has provided the new map, showing the new room, which we dubbed "Joe's basement", and the new entrance we named "Joe's Skylight." I believe we have reached the back of the overhang and doubt there's any passage that will penetrate any deeper. However, if the newly discovered crawlway is dug on and pushed, it may actually meet back up somewhere close to the dome just inside and to the right of the main entrance. However, I would highly caution about digging there as you are back under the packed gravel ceiling and there's no way of knowing how thick the ceiling is below the dolomite shelf.

Pam and I were thrilled to get to discover new cave in Ohio, and I'm glad Tracy tagged along so she could be one of the first to see the new discovery

If you go to see it, just be careful and don't mess with the ceilings!

DUG HAS NEW OFFICIAL BEER!

Chairman Dana happily announces Guinness Draught® will be the new official beer of the grotto (the first since Genesee Cream Ale in 1993).



"It's about @#!*&^! time! It was pissing me off!" - Colin G., long-time DUG member

"No anchovies, please!" -Scott S., another long-time DUG member

2009 MIAMI VALLEY ADVENTURE SUMMIT AT WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

DUG Board Member, Jim Pisarowicz, provided the following photos from the Miami Valley Adventure Summit. The grotto had many interested folks visit and take brochures and literature. Thanks Jim!



Thanks to Tama Cassidy for arranging the DUG display. Manning the display that weekend were Tama Cassidy, Kelly Cassidy, John Cassidy, and Mike Hood.

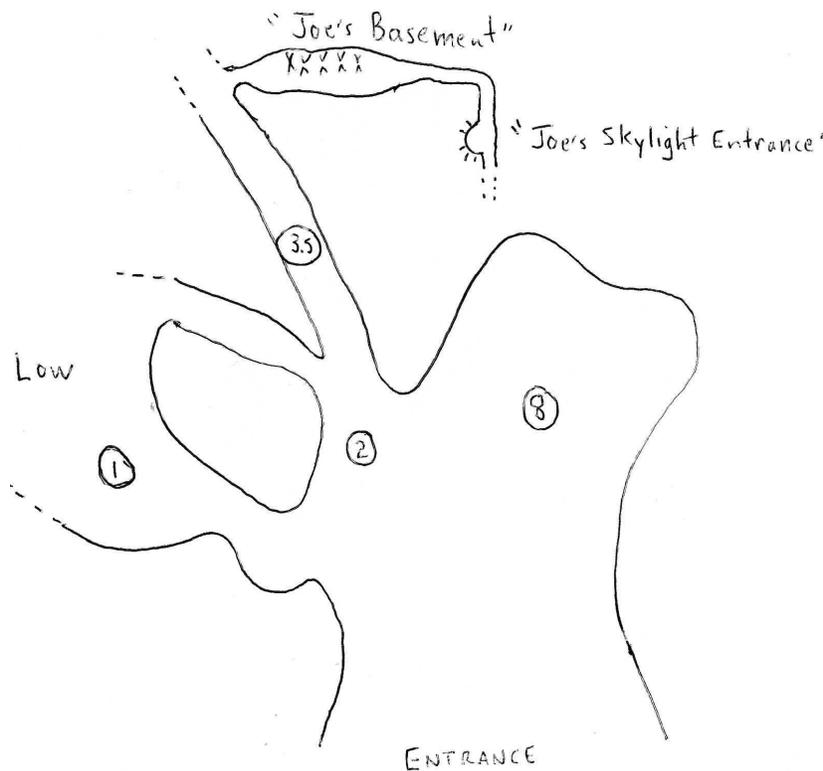
Joe Windows Kettering Cave

121.2 feet surveyed on 3-15-09

1" = 20'

Pam Carpenter
Mike Hood
Tracy Hood

© 2009, P. Carpenter



EXTRACTS ON EARLY CAVES IN MONROE COUNTY, VA
From Monroe County (W) Virginia Abstracts compiled by Larry G. Shuck
By Ron Fulcher NSS 44706RL

Larry Shuck did a wonderful job of transcribing the early deed history of Monroe County and the following bits of information are from Deed Books A,B, C and, D. Since Monroe County was formed in 1799, the years covered are 1799 to 1815 and the more detailed pages can still be found at the Monroe County Courthouse in Union, West Virginia. The first page number denotes the location in Shuck's Book while the second note is where it can be located in Monroe County records. Spelling errors from the original text have been left uncorrected.

Pg. 10 noted as 218 Deed Book A
19th of October 1802; Thomas Nickle and wife Jean Nickle to Andrew Nickle for \$1.00, a Cave in the Sinks called the Devil's Hole and containing 6 acres 3 rods and 20 perches.

Pg. 15 noted as 364-65 Deed Book A
21st of August 1804; John Maddy and Wife Barbara Maddy to Jacob Man and Adam Man a saltpetre cave and ground for entrance and to make saltpetre.

Pg. 15 noted as 376 Deed Book A
17th June 1802; Hugh Caperton and wife Rhoda Caperton to John Maddy 200 acres for \$1.00 on Indian Creek the land where said Maddy lives and called the Singing Cave, adjacent Valentine Cook and William Bradshaw.

Pg. 21 noted as 154-56 Deed Book B
18th February 1806; Henry Sarver and wife Agnes Sarver of Botetourt County Virginia to Andrew Cro-
sure of Monroe County 108 Acres for 135 pounds at the head of Second Creek adj. Martin Turpen and William Waitt, Land includes the Elk Wallow Hole.

Pg. 23 noted as 220-22 Deed Book B
15th July 1806; John Maddy and wife Barbara Maddy to James Maddy two tracts for \$160.00 on Indian Creek near the Sinks of Laurel Creek. 1) 90 Acres, 2) 20 Acres adjacent to tract one adjacent to James Maddy and William Maddy.

Pg. 27 noted as 390-92 Deed Book B
16th October 1804; William Maddy and wife Elizabeth (Lizzy) Maddy by Attorney James Henderson to James Maddy 128 acres for \$1.00 being the Southwest end of a survey of 421 acres of William Maddy made in 1787 on Laurel Creek\Indian Creek\ New River adjacent James Miller and near the Singing Cave.

Pg. 31 noted as 536-39 Deed Book B
19th July 1808; Richard Garten and wife Anne Garten, and James Maddy and wife Anne Maddy to Andrew Allen 194 acres for \$2.00 on Indian Creek a mile Northeast of the Singing Cave.

Pg. 36 noted as 55-57 Deed Book C
16th May 1809; Land of Tristram Patton and Robert Patton deceased, reviewed by John Hogshead, Adam Thomas and, Samuel Williams to make a division for the children of Robert Patton deceased. Land adjacent to Second Creek, Wind Cave on Greenbrier River, sketch included therein.

Pg. 43 noted as 304-05 Deed Book C
19th February 1811; Susanna Young by guardian James Glenn (appointed by the court for children and heirs of William Young deceased) to James Young 220 acres for \$1.00 adjacent to a meeting house, to heirs of William Young, by the Sinks of Miniscove Springs.

Pg. 46 noted as 419-20 Deed Book C
17th December 1811; Jacob Mann and Wife Mary Mann, Adam Mann and wife Polly Mann to John Maddy for \$1.00 one half of the "Singing Cave".

Pg. 59 noted as 270-71 Deed Book D
19th September 1814; Grigsby Foster and wife Martha Foster to George Miller 68 acres for \$1.00 between Little Mountain and Peters Mountain including the Valley Spring.

Pg. 60 noted as 315-17 Deed Book D
13th December 1814; James Wylie to John Lynch
three tracts for \$400.00 in the Sinks on the Long
Draft. One of 180 acres, another of 6 acres and, 29
acres all adjoining.

Conclusion:

The intention of this information was to first document the early history of Greenville Saltpeter Cave that was found by accident while conducting genealogical research on Monroe County. Reading over all of the entries however there were more references to caves or karst like areas. The multiple references to what we now refer to as Greenville Saltpeter Cave are noted as the Singing Cave, Sinks of Laurel Creek and, Saltpetre Cave. The Caperton, Maddy and, Mann families are very prominent in Monroe County history and they either owned all or part of the cave system during the late 1700s and the early 1800s. I found the note on saltpetre making in 1804 particularly interesting.

The area commonly referred to as the "Sinks" is near and around the present Sinks Grove, West Virginia and these general property references were not included. There was only one reference to the "Sinks on the Long Draft" which I suspect is very near the Scott Hollow Cave System we know today. The "cave in the Sinks known as the Devils Hole" is not known by that name now. The Wind Cave is now called Windy Mouth Cave and is located in Greenbrier County. The size of the attached parcel meant the cave was included to describe the most northern border. These caves had value and were noteworthy points of interest for the early settlers of Monroe County, Virginia.

Reference:

Monroe County (W) Virginia Abstracts, January 1996, by Larry G. Shuck,
ISBN # 1-55856-223-0, Library of Congress # 95-083899



Dana to Run for NSS President (Continued from page 6)

I advised Dana that running against current president, Gordon Birkhimer, would be difficult and that he probably wouldn't be successful his first time out. However, I told him it was a great way to get his face and name before the Board of Governors. I also told him that I was not elected as a vice president when I ran at the 1994 Texas Convention, but was later elected at the 1998 Tennessee Convention. Getting one's name known to the board is the way to get elected.

Good luck Dana! Maybe the grotto will have its third member to serve as an officer of the NSS!

THE ROCKCASTLE KARST CONSERVANCY PURCHASES MISTY CAVE

On March 19, 2009, The Rockcastle Karst Conservancy completed the purchase of Misty Cave.

I would like to thank:

Bill Simpson for notifying us that the cave was for sale. Jim Perkins for providing good advice. Jon Lewis for giving me a good idea. Howard Kalnitz for being a very strong advocate of the purchase. The Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy for helping us finance the purchase, and all the members of the RKC. Your dues and donations comprised the down payment.

Way to go!

Mike Rzesutock
RKC Treasurer
Misty Cave Case Manager

RKC members:

The stewardship committee has a preliminary management plan for Misty cave - we expect all RKC members to enjoy this cave! This plan will be shared at the meeting this weekend (March 22). However it has been considered a hibernaculum for the past 5-10 years - please don't make any plans to visit until at least mid to late April. And we will be discussing RKC response to WNS and watching what other conservancies around us do.



So - congratulate Mike on his hard worked success, and then celebrate with RKC on adding a great cave and then HELP US PAY IT OFF!!!

Howard Kalnitz
RKC Secretary

Secrets of the Hollow Earth



The interior of the Earth, some believe, is home to strange races of technologically advanced beings. Who are they and where are the hidden entrances to their subterranean cities?

Many readers of the paranormal and the unexplained are familiar with the theory that the Earth is hollow. The idea is based on the ancient legends of many cultures that say there are races of people - entire civilizations - that thrive in subterranean cities. Very often, these dwellers of the world beneath are more technologically advanced than we on the surface. Some even believe that UFOs are not from other planets, but are manufactured by strange beings in the interior of the Earth.

Who are these strange races of beings? How did they come to live inside the Earth? And where are the entrances to their underground cities?

Agharta

The Network. One of the most common names cited for the society of underground dwellers is Agharta (or Agartha) with its capital city of Shamballa. The source for this information, apparently, is The Smoky God, the "biography" of a Norwegian sailor named Olaf Jansen. According to Agartha - Secrets of the Subterranean Cities, the story, written by Willis Emerson, explains how Jansen's sloop sailed through an entrance to the Earth's interior at the North Pole. For two years he lived with the inhabitants of the Agharta network of colonies who, Emerson writes, were a full 12 feet tall and whose world was lit by a "smoky" central sun. Shamballa

the Lesser, one of the colonies, was also the seat of government for the network. "While Shamballa the Lesser is an inner continent, its satellite colonies are smaller enclosed ecosystems located just beneath the Earth's crust or discreetly within mountains."

How and Why They Went There. The many cataclysms and wars taking place on the surface drove these people underground, according to Secrets: "Consider the lengthy Atlantean-Lemurian war and the power of thermonuclear weaponry that eventually sank and destroyed these two highly advanced civilizations. The Sahara, the Gobi, the Australian Outback and the deserts of the U.S. are but a few examples of the devastation that resulted. The sub-cities were created as refuges for the people and as safe havens for sacred records, teachings and technologies that were cherished by these ancient cultures."

The Entrances. There are allegedly several entrances to the Kingdom of Agharta throughout the world:

- Kentucky Mammoth Cave, in south-central Kentucky, US.
- Mount Shasta, California, US - the Agharthean city of Telos allegedly exists within and beneath this mountain.
- Manaus, Brazil.
- Mato Grosso, Brazil - the city of Posid supposedly lies beneath this plain.
- Iguaçu Falls, border of Brazil and Argentina.
- Mount Epomeo, Italy.
- Himalayan Mountains, Tibet - the entrance to the underground city of Shonshe is allegedly guarded by Hindu monks.
- Mongolia - the underground city of Shingwa allegedly exists beneath the border of Mongolia and China.
- Rama, India - beneath this surface city is a long lost subterranean city, they say, also named Rama.

Pyramid of Giza, Egypt.
King Solomon's Mines.
Dero Caves, ?.
North and South Poles.

Nagas

The People. In India there is an ancient belief, still held by some, in a subterranean race of serpent people who dwell in the cities Patala and Bhogavati. According to the legend, they wage war on the kingdom of Agharta. "The Nagas," according to "The Deep Dwellers," "are described as a very advanced race or species, with a highly-developed technology. They also harbor a disdain for human beings, whom they are said to abduct, torture, interbreed with and even to eat."

The Entrances. While the entrance to Bhogavati is somewhere in the Himalayas, believers assert that Patala can be entered through the Well of Sheshna in Benares, India. Says William Michael Mott in "The Deep Dwellers": "According to herpetologist and author Sherman A. Minton, as stated in his book *Venomous Reptiles*, this entrance is very real, with forty steps which descend into a circular depression, to terminate at a closed stone door which is covered in bas-relief cobras. In Tibet, there is a major mystical shrine also called 'Patala,' which is said by the people there to sit atop an ancient cavern and tunnel system, which reaches throughout the Asian continent and possibly beyond. The Nagas also have an affinity with water, and the entrances to their underground palaces are often said to be hidden at the bottom of wells, deep lakes and rivers."

The Old Ones

The Beings. In an article entitled "The Hollow Earth: Myth or Reality" for *Atlantis Rising*, Brad Steiger writes of the legends of "the Old Ones," an ancient race that populated the surface world millions of years ago and then moved underground. "The Old Ones, an immensely intelligent and scientifically advanced race," Steiger writes, "have chosen to structure their own environment under the surface of the planet and manufacture all their necessities. The Old Ones are hominid, extremely long-lived, and pre-date Homo sapiens by more than a

million years. The Old Ones generally remain aloof from the surface peoples, but from time to time, they have been known to offer constructive criticism; and it has been said, they often kidnap human children to tutor and rear as their own."

The Elder Race

The Beings. One of the most controversial tales of inner Earth dwellers is the so-called "Shaver Mystery." In 1945, *Amazing Stories* magazine under the editorship of Ray Palmer ran a story told by Richard Shaver, who claimed he had recently been the guest of what remained of an underground civilization. Although few really believed the story, any many suspect that Shaver may actually have been psychotic, Shaver always averred that his story was true. He contended that the Elder Race, or Titans, came to this planet from another solar system in our prehistoric past. After a while of living on the surface, they realized our sun was causing them to age prematurely, so they escaped underground, building huge subterranean complexes in which to live. Eventually, they decided to seek a new home on a new planet, evacuating the Earth and leaving behind their underground cities populated by mutated beings: the evil Dero - detrimental robots - and the good Tero - integrated robots. It was these beings that Shaver claimed to have met.

The Entrance. Despite the enormous popularity of the Shaver Mystery in *Amazing Stories* - Palmer milked it for all it was worth, and then some - the location of the entrance to this underground world was never divulged.



DUG to Consider Hosting 2015 NSS Convention!

The grotto Executive Committee is happy to announce plans to host the 2015 NSS Convention right here in Dayton, Ohio! An ad-hoc committee is being formed to put together the official bid to be presented by Dana at the Spring NSS Board of Governor's meeting on April 4th, 2009. Dana will be there for his NSS President interview and thinks it would be a good idea to present the bid while he's there.

There has never been a convention in the great state of Ohio and the Executive Committee thinks it's high time there was one and so Dana has appointed an ad-hoc committee which has been charged with soliciting help from the other Ohio grottos and to find suitable locations for camping, sessions, photo salon, the banquet, and more!

One location being considered is the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. It offers ample room for camping and has several large buildings that could be used for sessions and other venues. There would be work weekends to clean out stalls and such. Plus, being right in downtown Dayton, convention goers can walk through our beautiful city and visit it's many downtown attractions (we'll recommend people go in groups).

Another possible location being considered is Eastwood Metro Park. Talks with the Parks Department is on-going to allow camping there. Sessions, photo salon, and banquet could be held at nearby Walter E. Stebbins High School.

The tentative guest speaker at the awards banquet will be our own Ergor Rubreck. His schedule is so busy through 2018 that he isn't sure he'll be available. However, he said he will make every attempt to juggle his schedule.

While there isn't much to offer in cave trips, Colin has indicated he may be willing to lead trips to the storm drains of Huber Heights. He says he thinks he remembers the way through them from his childhood days. Tama also indicated trips to Charleston Falls Cave is possible. Though suggested, there will be no trips to Joe Windows Kettering Cave as we want to keep this our own special little secret! Mike

even tried to get trips lined up for the tunnels beneath Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, but base officials looked at him like they had no idea what he was talking about! Anyway, the search for trips is on-going.

Possible caterers for the banquet being considered are Elsa's, Frickers, BW3's, Cadillac Jacks, El Rancho Grande, and China Garden Buffet. Let Dana know which one you prefer.

A good location for the "Howdy Party" is also being given a lot of thought. If the grotto can work the details out, we may try to get busses to take convention goers to the Argosy Casino in Indiana for the Howdy Party. However, we realize this is a long trip, so we're also considering closer places. The abandoned Meijer's on Harshman Road is being considered, but we need to talk the price of renting it down. However, we might be able to get them to allow camping in it too (although no campfires will be allowed). If these fall through, does anyone have a large back yard (Great Rice Preserve, etc.)? We're sure the grotto can spring for the Lee's chicken. Colin even said he would consider making his home brewed beer again for the party.

One last thing—we need a catchy logo and slogan. Put your artistic caps on and design a logo for the Executive Committee to consider. Also come up with some ideas for a slogan. Personally, I like the slogans of "*So we don't have many caves in Ohio. Who the hell cares?!*", "*Dayton...Riiiiight...*" and "*Come to Dayton, but be well armed!*" Colin suggested "*Convention in Dayton? That pisses me off!*"

Of course, by the time you read this, the spring board meeting will likely be over. Therefore, the ad-hoc committee will give a presentation about the bid at the April meeting (we estimate it will last over three hours, so come prepared). You don't want to miss this one as it should prove quite exciting!

If any other Ohio grotto chairs are reading this, please contact us and let us know if you'd like to help out with donations of pop, chips, and beer. Remember, all donations are tax-deductable. *Paid for by the "What the Hell, Let's Have a Convention" Committee. Jim Perkins, Treasurer.*

Karst-O-Rama 2009

June 26, 27, 28

Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Mt. Vernon, KY

Pre-registration Form

Please fill out one form per Adult

Principle Registrants Name _____ NSS# _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Emergency Contact/Phone # _____

Grotto _____ E-Mail Address _____

Additional Children: *(No Guidebook)*

Child _____ Child _____

Child _____ Child _____

Total Family Members _____

Principle Registrant (\$28/33 on site)	<input type="checkbox"/> NSS Member	\$ 22.00		\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-NSS	\$ 27.00		
Children 13-17 (\$22 on site)		\$ 16 .00	X _____	\$ _____
Children under 12		FREE	X _____	\$ F R E E
Dogs or Cats		\$ 20.00	X _____	\$ _____
Camping Wed,Thurs or Sun night <i>(Per Night/Per Person)</i>		\$ 4.00	X _____	\$ _____
Electric Site <i>(Per Nite)</i> <u> </u> Thur <u> </u> Fri <u> </u> Sat <u> </u> Sun		\$ 6.00	X _____	\$ _____
Sat Adult Banquet Ticket		\$ 8.00	X _____	\$ _____
Children under 12 Banquet Ticket		\$ 3.00	X _____	\$ _____
T-Shirt S M L XL XXL		\$ 10.00	X _____	\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

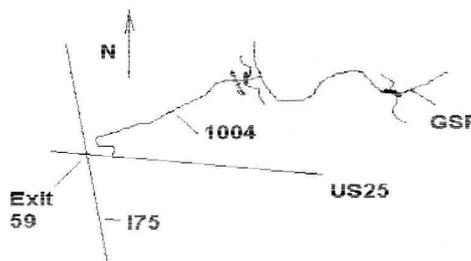
Cut Here and Keep -----

Make Checks Payable To Greater Cincinnati Grotto
Mail By June 1st, To: Matt Keller
131 Wrenwood Ln, Cincinnati, OH 45174

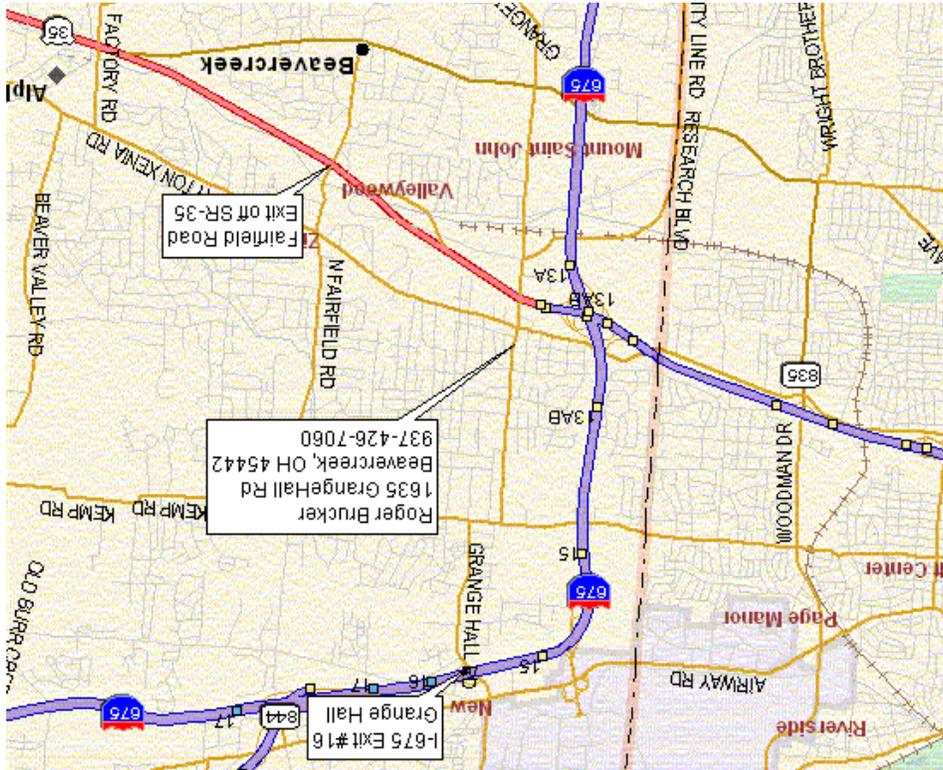
Questions: Chris Hacker at 513-383-8954
or email: smgcaver@earthlink.net

Directions to Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve: Take I75 to Exit 59 (Mount Vernon, Ky). EAST on Route 25 and turn LEFT onto Route 1004. Continue until Route 1004 comes to a "T" (just over the Railroad tracks and concrete bridge) and turn RIGHT. Look for the second Concrete bridge . Continue for ¼ mile up a hill and look for the Great Saltpetre Preserve sign on the right. It is a total of 9 miles on Route 1004.

USE CAUTION, ROAD IS STEEP AND WINDING



There will be a Photo, Map and Climbing Contests.
Please Note: Rockcastle is a dry County.



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