

The Carbide Courier

The
Dayton Underground Grotto
of
The National Speleological Society



Volume 18, Issue 7

July 2009

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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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You can also pay online using PayPal at:

www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm

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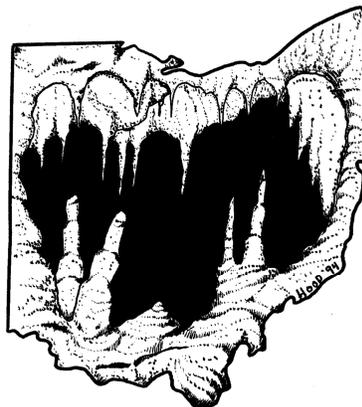
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**Happy 4th of
July!**

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Front Cover: Spring in Huber Heights, Ohio, during moderate flow. Photo © by Jerry Baker

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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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From the Editor...



Hello DUGsters,

Well, summer is here, and for me it's about time! Although I'm from Indiana, I'm no fan of winter and the ice and snow that goes with it! To be honest, I wouldn't care if the only time I saw snow was in a picture!

With summer comes lots of caving events (KOR, Cave Capers, Wormfest, the NSS Convention, and others). Even though WNS has limited the number of cave trips at these events, it's still a great opportunity to socialize with fellow cavers. I hope to see you at some of them.

Next month we begin the process of nominating officers for 2009-2010. I want to encourage you to consider running for a grotto position. It takes dedicated members to make the grotto function. I hope you'll consider running for an office!

I know we have some DUGsters who will be attending the ICS/NSS Convention this month. *The Carbide Courier* can always use good convention stories (hint, hint).

I want to thank Harry Goepel for sending me the article about the Peter Cave cleanup. Good job by all!

That's all for now.

Mike Hood
Editor

Oh shut up! I'm working on my tan!



Calendar of Events

- July 12th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- July 19th-26th** 15th International Congress of Speleology and NSS Convention in Kerrville, TX
(<http://www.ics2009.us/nssconv.html>)
- August 14th-16th** 56th Indiana Cave Capers at Camp Rivervale, Mitchell, IN
(<http://cig.caves.org/pages/capers.html>)
- August 21st-23rd** 18th Annual Wormfest at Rocky Fork State Park, Hillsboro, Ohio. This is also the August grotto meeting.
- September 12th-13th** Caver Appreciation Weekend at the Great Saltpetre Preserve
- September 19th** Annual DUG Picnic at the Great Rice Preserve (Dave & Sandy's House)
(Short business meeting and grotto auction)
- October 11th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting. 2009-2010 officers take over at end of meeting. Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- November 8th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)

July Birthdays!

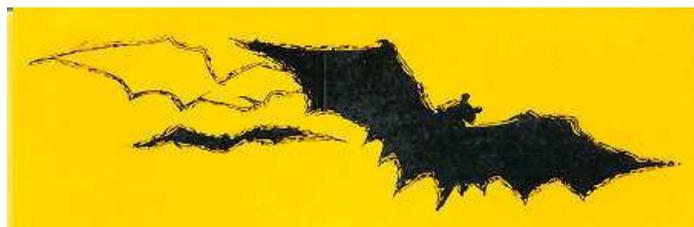
Angela Lucas—2nd
 Nickie Lucas—2nd
 Mark Swelstad—2nd
 Greg Whittaker—2nd
 Dave Rice—6th
 Bob Ausdenmoore—20th
 John Cassidy—27th



New Dug Member!

Brian LaMaster—Richmond, IN

Welcome!





From the Chairman

Hello,

We have a couple things coming up at DUG in the near future.

Wormfest is in August this year. Anyone who is interested in helping with the event should contact Amy Hill.

It's also time again for the DUG elections. The Executive Committee will need a few members to step up and run the 2009-2010 DUG elections. Feel free to contact any Executive Committee member if you're interested.

Dana Sutherland
Chairman

WORMFEST UPDATE

Amy is still looking for members to help out in various roles and positions. Please contact her if you're interested in helping out. I'm sure she would appreciate the assistance.

Jim Perkins will be in charge of the Wormfeast this year. He says he hasn't decided yet what the menu will be, but that is will be **GOOD!**

At the June grotto meeting, the subject was discussed of whether or not it was worth having Wormfest based on the past couple of year's attendance and the fact we cannot afford to lose money on this activity. The consensus of those at the meeting was to move forward with the planning and have the event. It was discussed that to save money, something other than a t-shirt might be offered this year.

Wormfest is being held August 21st-23rd at Rocky Fork State Park, Ohio. For more information about the park please visit:

<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/rockyfrk/tabid/784/Default.aspx>

TOM CROCKETT PASSES AWAY

I received word from John LaMar Cole of the passing of Tom Crockett who owned a lot of the entrances to Sloan's Valley Cave System, and of course a lot of you know him from attending his Thanksgiving caver dinners. He had had serious health issues the past few weeks.

He was a true legacy and will be sorely missed. I loved the stories he and Cathy would share, especially his version of free-climbing Screaming Wil- lies in cowboy boots to rescue a caver (the points made handy toe-hold when jammed into cracks), and how he like to tell people he met his wife when she crawled out from under a rock in his yard.

Debbie Moore

A memorial service to honor and remember Tom's life is planned for Saturday, July 11, 2009 and will be held at the Crockett residence in Sloan's Valley, Kentucky. It is requested that all who attend bring a covered dish and of course BYOB. Please bring any and all old pictures and/or videos that you may have along with all of your best "Tom stories" to share with everyone. I hope that all of you can attend so that we can give him a great memorial.

John LaMar Cole

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2009-2010 DUG OFFICERS

Nominations for the 2009-2010 grotto officers will open at the August grotto meeting (usually at Wormfest). Nominations will continue through the September meeting and results of the election will be announced at the October meeting. New officers will begin his or her term at the end of the October meeting.

You do not have to be nominated at a grotto meeting. The Elections Committee Chair (to be determined) will accept nominations via e-mail, telephone, or regular mail.

KARST FEATURES IN HUBER HEIGHTS, OHIO

By Mike Hood

Photos © by Jerry Baker

In last month's issue I told a little bit about some small sinkholes and a large spring in Huber Heights. I've been interested in the possible karst areas of Huber Heights ever since hearing about caves that used to exist before being buried during development of the town.

I received a call from Jerry Baker, who was interested in the story about Joe Windows Kettering Cave. He told me he had been checking out a ridge in Huber Heights that contained many small sinkholes and one large spring (photo on the cover). He told me the sinkholes did take a lot of water after heavy rain and that the spring also flowed heavily at the same time.

The spring is about 1000 feet away from the sinkholes and about 40 feet lower. The spring is also in a direct line from the sinkholes, so it is assumed at this point the water channeling into the sinkholes is the same water that emerges from the spring. Dye tracing might be an interesting project to prove this theory.

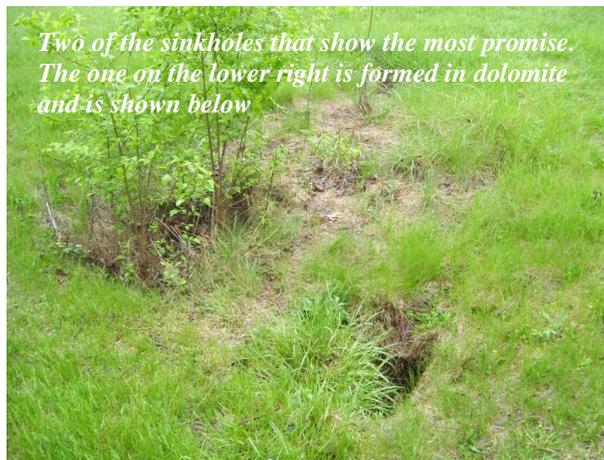
I met Jerry at the location on May 16th and we walked the ridge while he showed me several of the sinkholes. He said he has counted nine so far, with most of them in the open field, with a couple more in the woods.



Sinkhole plain at the top of the ridge

All of the sinkholes were small and plugged with mud and debris, although a couple actually showed some promise with a little digging. I doubt any of the sinkholes would open to passage large enough to traverse, but one never knows. It's obvious there is quite a bit of subterranean drainage, but is it through small cracks, or is there actually open passage somewhere below the hill?

There is one small sinkhole in particular that is actually in dolomite and has a small amount of passage under it. However, it does fill up after a short distance, but some digging might prove interesting.



Two of the sinkholes that show the most promise. The one on the lower right is formed in dolomite and is shown below

After walking around the field looking at the sinkholes, Jerry then led me through the woods and down to the spring. I could hear the water flowing over the rocks before I actually saw the spring. The spring is very pretty and was issuing a good amount of water from three small holes. The majority of the water was coming out from under the gravel and rocks in the main part of the stream bed. Above the spring is a dry streambed that appears to channel a lot of overflow during flood conditions.

From the amount of water I saw coming out of the hillside, it's apparent there is a sizeable underground flow through the ridge.



The most promising sinkhole

After admiring the scenery around the spring, we followed the dry streambed above it to see if there were any swallow holes that might channel water underground. We didn't find any, but we did see signs of sinkholes that were now filled with debris and trash.

We didn't walk the entire woods, so there may be more karst features on the ridge we didn't see. Jerry also said there were no other springs along the base of the ridge that he knew of and we didn't check the entire base of the ridge for others.

Although there may never be a cave discovered here large enough to enter, any karst features in Montgomery County are interesting and worth checking out. After all, there are some small caves known in the county (next month's cover shows me at the entrance to one of the larger entrances in the county) and rumors abound of caves that used to exist that have been sealed and buried.

Jerry said he would continue to monitor the sinkholes, especially after heavy rains, to see if any of them open up. If nothing else, the spring is worth seeing and would be a nice place to sit and have a picnic.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE JOE WINDOWS CAVE FELLOWSHIP AWARD

It's time to nominate a deserving caver for the Joe Windows Cave Fellowship Award. This award is named in honor of the late Joe Windows, one of the founding members of the grotto and affectionately known as the "Father of the Grotto."

The award is presented annually at Wormfest to a caver who has led numerous beginner trips, given presentations to groups about caving, and any other activity that promotes caving to beginners. The grotto act that describes this award, and the nomination form, can be found at:

<http://www.dugcaves.com/awards.htm> (a copy of the nomination form is in this newsletter)

The award comes with a framed certificate and \$50 cash prize. Send nominations to Dana (the form on the web page still has Mike's address on it, but the chairman should receive the nominations).

Past winners are:

2006 - Bill Simpson
2007 - Andy Niekamp
2008 - Scott Sweet

**WHEN WAS THE LAST
TIME YOU'VE BEEN TO
A GROTTA MEETING??**

**ATTEND MEETINGS AND
HAVE A SAY IN WHAT
GOES ON IN YOUR
GROTTO!**



**"My doctor told me to start my exercise program
very gradually. Today I drove past a store
that sells sweat pants."**

PETER CAVE CLEANUP - WAYNE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Text by Dorothy Goepel

Photos by Tim Williams, Bill Walden, and Dorothy Goepel

April 18, 2009

Chris Bauer, John Cassidy, Dorothy and Harry Goepel, Synda Heikkinen, Laura Kalb, Betty Lou L., Brenda Mitchel, Tammy Otten, Janeen Sharpshair, Bill Walden and Tim Williams.

Exploring Peter Cave on March 8, Janeen, Tim and Harry viewed several large chambers connected by two belly crawlways, one naturally made and one man-made. The naturally made one can now be bypassed, thanks to two short digs by local residents. The second crawlway, dug out over a period of a few years by different cavers including Brenda, Bill and Harry, is 30-40 feet long and was finished in February 2005.

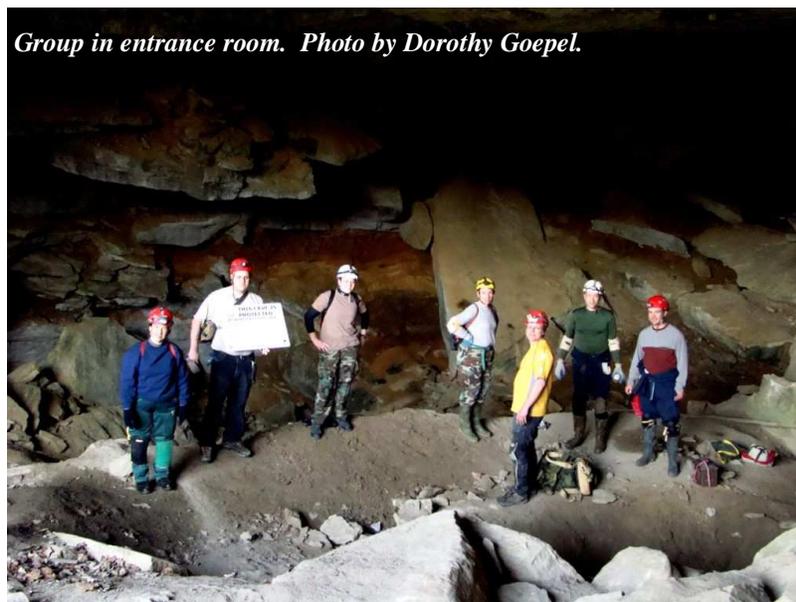
As Janeen, Tim and Harry explored Peter Cave, they noticed empty bottles of soda and other assorted litter as well as walls defaced by spray paint and formations broken off. Harry had wanted to schedule a clean-up trip for the spring, and after exploring Peter Cave, it became clear he had found an objective. Harry told me later that he felt awful about the vandalism in the cave; he conjectured that the man-made crawlway had been an invitation to people who hadn't learned or had no inclination to protect natural resources.



Gearing up. Photo by Tim Williams.

meetings and Harry delivered the sign to the clean-up. Thank you, Bob, for the sign, and thank you, John, for hauling a cable ladder through the cave only to discover that no ladder was needed. (Read on for details.)

The objectives for the Peter Cave Clean-up: 1. Post the Kentucky cave law sign provided by the Dayton Underground Grotto and the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy. 2. Remove trash. 3. Brush and scrape off graffiti. 4. Scoop. 5. Share recipes, good humor and good food and drink. We had great success with four of the objectives; a scoop, however, was not to be.



Group in entrance room. Photo by Dorothy Goepel.

Harry wondered if a sign could be posted in Peter Cave to alert people of the importance of protecting a cave, and when Tim mentioned he'd seen such a sign at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, Harry e-mailed Bob Dobbs with a request. Bob brought a sign from GSP to one of the Cincinnati grotto

Unlike Fletcher's Cave, site of a September 2008 clean-up, no trash was strewn along the pathway to Peter Cave so the first order of business in the cave was to post the Kentucky cave law sign, and Harry and Bill did so. As volunteers made their way farther into the cave, groups split off to concentrate on particular sections. Hours later, volunteers

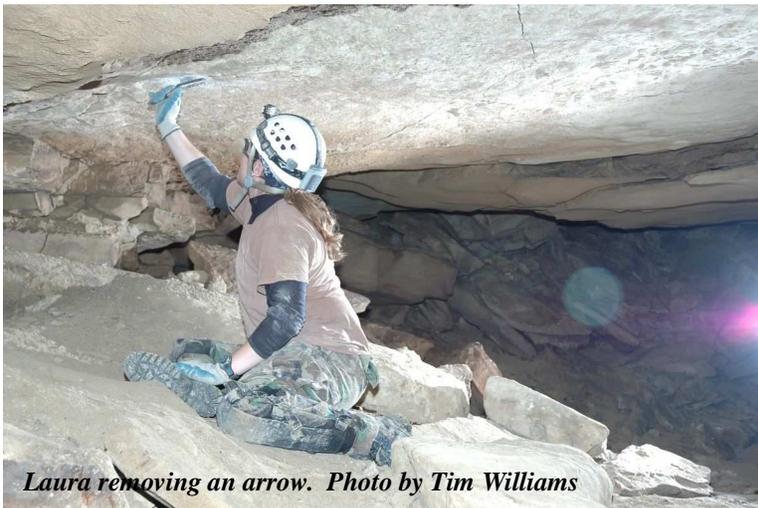
had removed bottles, cans, a rusty mattress and a table top, and had scraped off names and arrows, arrows, and more arrows. (“We had to scrape mud off our boots to spread mud over the scraped-off graffiti,” recalled Harry. He said that on the way out, “there was one more damn arrow!”) He speculated

that those who spray painted the arrows must have had an irrational fear of getting lost: M-a-z-e-o-p-h-o-b-i-a.

Tim recollected that “there were spots where you could see at least five [arrows] at the same time” and that he was amazed “at just how big some of the arrows were and the fact that they had been done by people who were prepared to get deep into the cave. If they had been that worried about getting lost, I’m surprised that they hadn’t unraveled a big ball of string so they could follow it back out!”

About the cable ladder: “Harry and I had very high hopes that the waterfall pit would lead to virgin passage,” recalled Tim, “and the excitement was growing as we prepared the belay and started to get the wire ladder ready. Just as we were about to throw the ladder into the unknown, we were surprised to see a light shining back at us from the depths of the pit . . . John had scooped our discovery by finding a muddy climb down into the pit . . .”

Tim and Harry’s surprise turned into amusement, recalled Tim, as they slid down where John had gone “only to find that the water sank



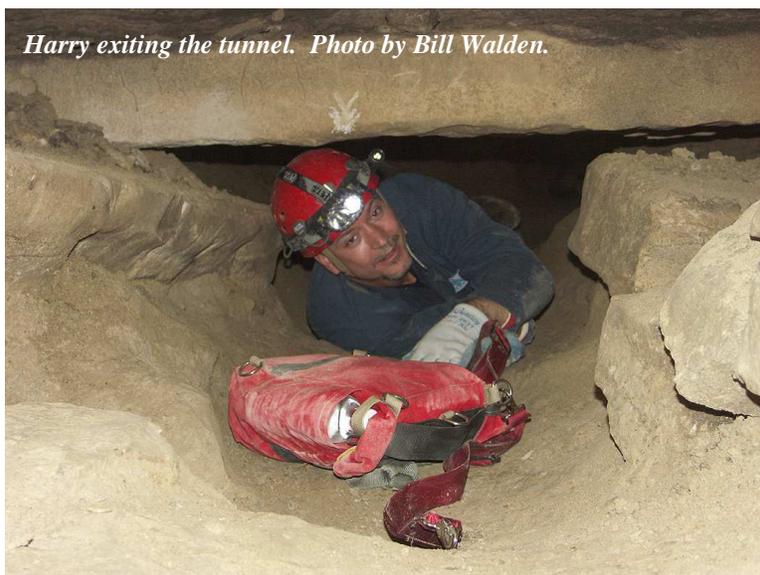
Laura removing an arrow. Photo by Tim Williams

into an impassable bedding plane that will require a serious digging effort.” He noted that “much amusement was then had climbing back up the by now very slippery mud slope and the fact that John had hauled the ladder all that way for nothing.”

As for highlights: It was my sister Betty Lou’s first challenging cave trip, and her first time in a crawlway. She was a real trooper in the 30-40 foot belly crawl; she and Synda did an awesome job getting through this tight man-made crawl.

As for Objective 5 above: Laura baked a delicious cake with decorative chocolate icing and brought it to the Kentucky Hideout to celebrate Chris’s birthday (April 18). ¡Feliz Cumpleaños, Chris. Compliste veinte cuatro años! I made an appetizer of pumpernickel bread topped with a cream cheese spread and cucumber slices. Tammy brought a tasty casserole dish whose main ingredients were eggs, vegetarian sausage and cheese. We stayed up late Friday night socializing, taste-testing brews and spirits, and uncovering the secrets of our universe. As is the custom in Britain, I was told, Brits are prone to hug when first meeting and later greeting you, and so I was the recipient of a hug from Tim.

“Us Brits do tend to hug at any opportunity,” Tim explained. “It’s because we can’t decide how many kisses to bestow upon greeting someone: do we do one kiss; or do we do two (like the French and Italians); or three (like the Belgians)? It gets very complicated when you meet multiple nationalities.”



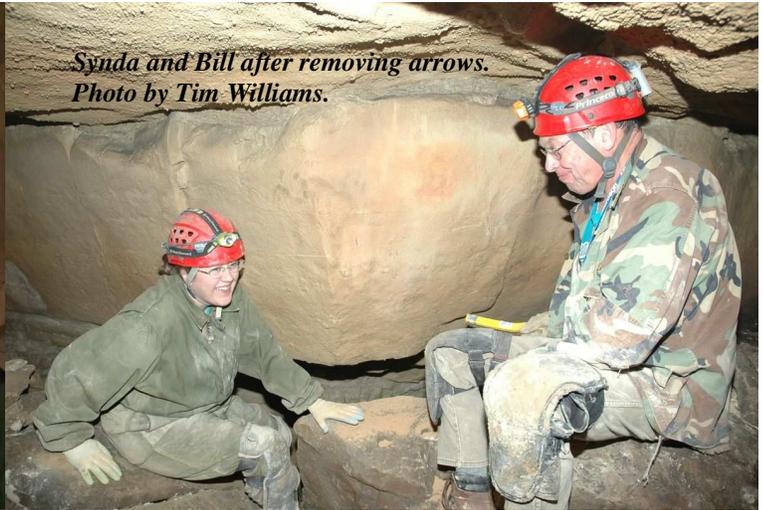
Harry exiting the tunnel. Photo by Bill Walden.

Those who helped with the clean-up will agree that great fun was had by all, and that for the time being, Peter Cave remains virtually free of graffiti and trash. "I had a good turn out and everybody worked hard, all the way to the end," Harry said. "I had a great crew."

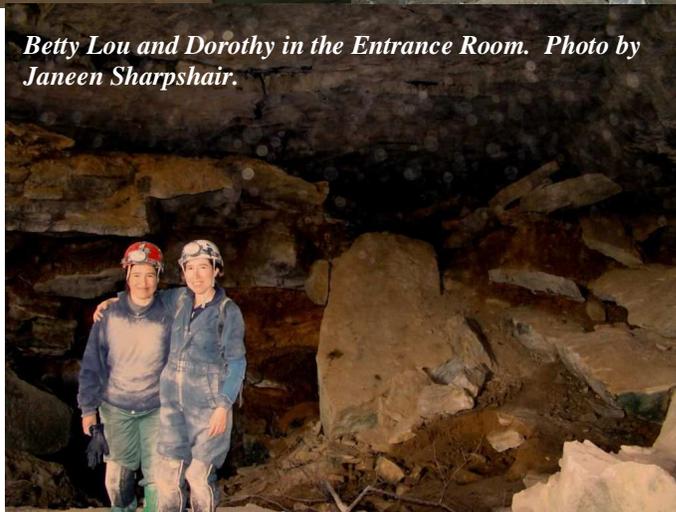
(As for decontamination procedures, clean gear was packed for use, and some people, Tim pointed out, went as far as "relegating some new items to use for caving." After the trip, volunteers decontaminated in compliance with the USFWS protocols. "All our dirty gear was bagged and kept separate from anything that had not been used," Tim explained. "Then, once back at the Hideout, we removed as much dirt as possible before spraying everything with 409 spray or wiping it down with Lysol before letting it all dry off." Some gear was bagged for washing and decontamination treatment at home.)



Bill and Harry pose by the new sign. Photo by Dorothy Goepel.



Synda and Bill after removing arrows. Photo by Tim Williams.

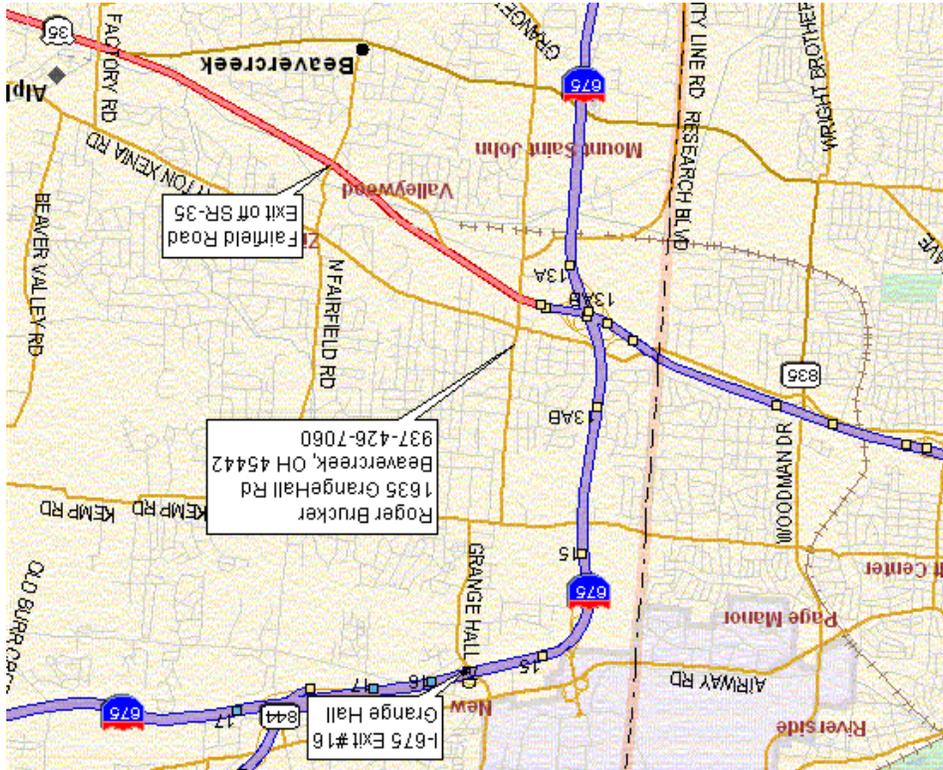


Betty Lou and Dorothy in the Entrance Room. Photo by Janeen Sharpshair.



You've heard of Christmas in July, right?

Well, before you know it, the annual DUG Christmas Party will be upon us. Dana needs someone to chair the Christmas Party! If you're interested in chairing it, or want to help out in some way, then give Dana a holler and volunteer! The Christmas Party is one of the grotto's high-lights of the year and we want to keep it that way!



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