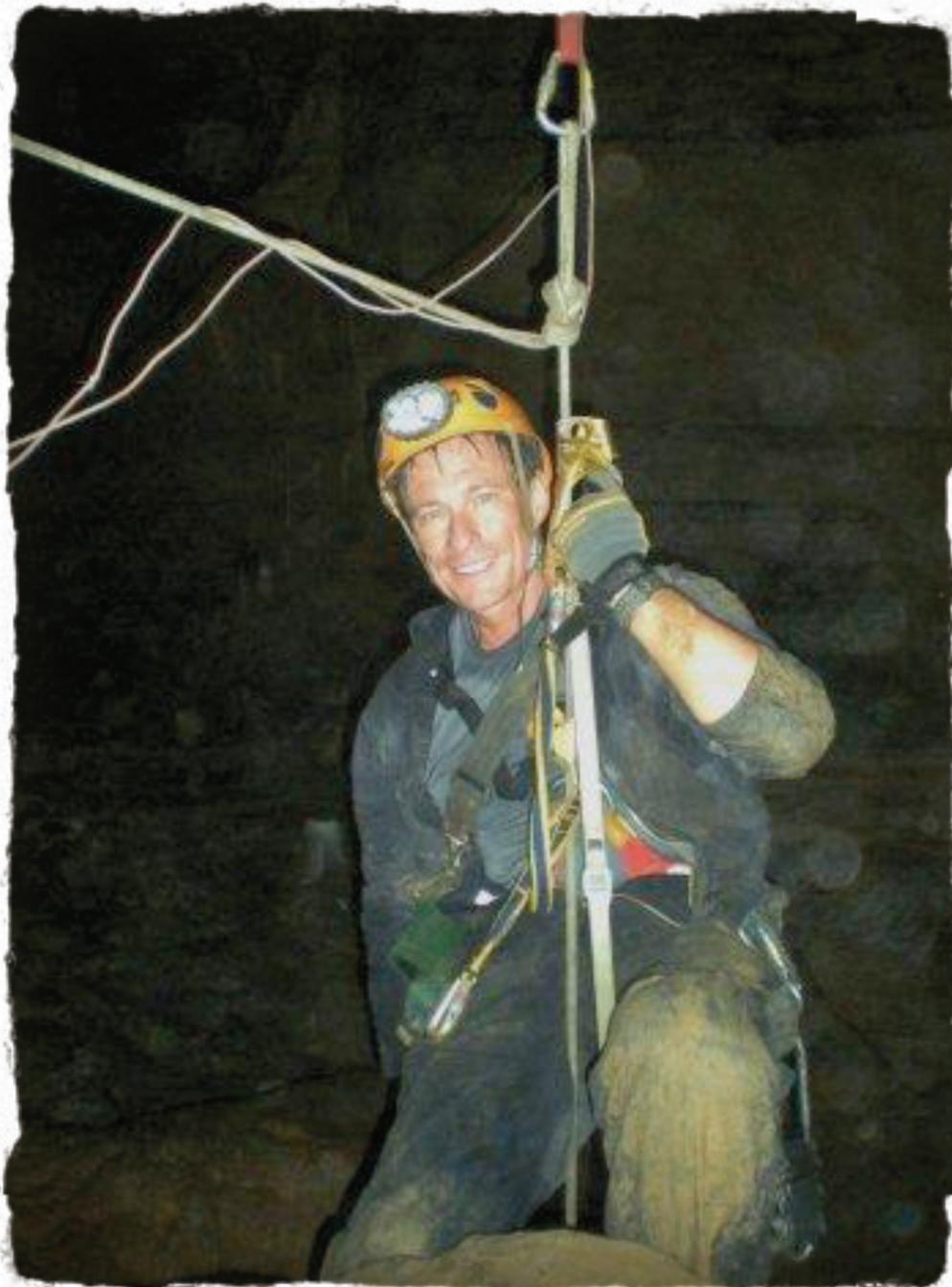


The Carbide Courier



The Dayton Underground Grotto
of the National Speleological Society



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GROTTO MEETINGS

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

www.dugcaves.com

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Cover Photo: Bob Ausdenmoore ascending Varnedoe Pit.
Photo (c) by Bob Ausdenmoore.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Annual membership is \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family (\$5 additional for those wanting a paper copy of the newsletter). 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:

Alan Leach
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Norwood, OH 45212

Please make check payable to:
Dayton Underground Grotto

You can also pay online using
PayPal at:

www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm

From the Editor:

I need your help putting the *Carbide Courier* together each month. I need articles to print! So, if you're doing something interesting (not just cave related) send it to me and I'll publish it. The past few issues have been somewhat short as I haven't gotten much to publish. Thanks to those of you who have sent me photos and stories.

Don't forget this month's meeting is the cookout and swim party.

Mike

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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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Calendar of Upcoming Events

- July 11th** **3:30pm - Grotto Cookout, Swim Party and General Membership Meeting**
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for Map)
- July 15th-18th** **Karst-O-Rama at the Great Saltpetre Preserve**
<http://karstorama.com>
- August 2nd-6th** **NSS Convention, Essex Junction, Vermont**
<http://www.nss2010.com>
- August 8th** **7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting (Officer Nominations open)**
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for Map)
- September 12th** **7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting (Officer Nominations open)**
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for Map)
- October 10th** **7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting (Election Results)**
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for Map)

July Birthdays

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



A Combination of Hobbies

By Steve Greene (aka Daytondigger)

Those of you who know me may be aware that I run a website pertaining to my hobbies. I have been metal detecting since I was probably 12 or so. I collect tokens, coins, old bottles, mining collectables and other historical items. Most of my collection is found by me using the metal detector and probes constructed to locate buried bottles. I started caving in 1995 and have enjoyed it through the years. I spent time caving and surveying in Rockcastle, Pulaski and Bell counties in Kentucky, in Greenbrier county West Virginia and in Fentress county Tennessee. I always enjoyed being in these remote areas and would search for remnants from the past. Old dumps, mines and railway tracks would often lure me away from the caves themselves. Eventually I was becoming less involved in caving and more involved in digging.

A few years ago I received an email asking for help in Hart county KY to clean up a sinkhole. I began to think what had been tossed into these sinkholes. I decided it would be an opportunity to satisfy both of my hobbies,

might find some new cave passages and "treasure". I arrived at the Cave museum and saw their display on solid waste. In the display I saw flat top beer cans. I have digging buddies that search exclusively for old beer cans. They soak the rusty cans overnight in a mild acid solution which removes the majority of the rust without taking off the paint. There is a National club of collectors called The Rusty Bunch. And yes, there can be value in these rusty cans. I have personally found cans that catalogue for \$1000. and up non-dug. Rusty cans obviously are tougher to sell, but rare ones can bring \$100.00 and up. I have traded cans for bottles and other collectables.

The clean up was at a large sinkhole full of trash dumped in the 70's and 80's. No collectables were found, but a great deal of satisfaction was gained after seeing all this trash removed. The land owners were very kind and invited me back. After hearing the history of this site, I determined I would return with my detector at another time. This was a beautiful area. I would like to thank everyone

involved and promise to help out again.

In June of 2007 I traveled to Rockcastle county Kentucky for a clean up. Deb Bledsoe had sent out a request for cavers to help. I met up with Deb and the Rockcastle solid waste folks near Sand Springs. We walked a karst influenced stream and removed all sorts of trash including appliances, bottles and cans, clothes, a car frame and who knows what. I was later treated to lunch by Deb and enjoyed the best lunch I'd had in some time. Thanks, Deb. Once again no collectables were found, but I'm still enjoying myself. I was also given some dump leads by the crew.

In the Fall of 2007 Ron Fulcher and I attended a clean up at Sinks Of The Roundstone cave in Rockcastle. Once again Deb and the solid waste crew were there to greet us and supply us with tools and bags, Ron and I removed a dozen or more bags of trash, some were nearly too heavy to get back to the drop off point. I can't believe the bags held up. Some older cans and bottles were located and one nice insulator was recovered. I am happy to give my time to this cause.

57th Annual Indiana Cave Capers

By Mike Hood



I woke up early on Friday morning, June 25th, and went to check my e-mail as I always do first thing in the morning. Near the top of my list of messages was a reminder that Cave Capers was that weekend. I had been contemplating off and on for a month or so about going, but by this time had pretty much decided I wasn't going to go as I just had a tiring (but enjoyable) four days in Chicago the weekend prior.

The Indiana Cave Capers has been going on since 1954 and is sponsored by the Central Indiana Grotto, of which I have been a member of since 1982. I have been to several Capers over the years and have always enjoyed them. They always offer a variety of cave trips and a good banquet and guest speaker. I haven't been to Cave Capers since 2001 and decided to go on the spur of the moment.

So, at 8am, I found myself running around getting camping gear together and making a trip to the store for groceries. I was on the road to Delaney Creek Park, in Salem, Indiana, by 10am. Delaney Creek Park was the location of the 1992 NSS Convention and is a beautiful park with abundant camping sites, cabins, and a large lake to enjoy.

I arrived around 1pm and was one of the early birds. The advantage of arriving early is having your pick of shady campsites. I found a nice spot under a large shade tree and set up camp.

I spent the rest of the afternoon visiting with CIG members I haven't seen in awhile and got caught up with all the news of the Indiana caving scene. As the afternoon wore on, more and more people arrived and by evening the campground was full of cavers to visit with.

Friday night was beautiful with a clear sky and large full moon to light up the park. Even though I had set up camp in the "quiet" camping area, I had no idea the "rowdy" camping was just across the road and occupied by a group named the Shallow Grotto. I must say these folks know how to party and put on quite a show into the wee hours of the morning. Thank goodness for ear plugs!

Saturday morning dawned bright with a promise of another hot and humid day. I did not bring my cave gear this weekend as I need to get some new boots and coveralls and didn't have time to get them since my coming to Capers was a spur of the moment decision. So, I decided to spend the day on the Knob Stone Trail and maybe go swimming.

After visiting with friends for most of the morning, I got on the trail around noon and decided to do the eight mile loop that goes around the lake and past another one before returning to the campground. The trail is wide and well maintained and stayed mostly level for the first two or three miles before reaching the bottom of the ridge the trail would go over.

I passed two other hiking groups, one of which who were doing an overnight trip on a portion of the 150-mile Knob Stone Trail. I arrived to the bottom of the hill where the trail makes it way up the steep sides to the top of the ridge. The trail was much steeper than I expected, but I eventually made it to the top of the ridge, which I estimate is an elevation gain of about 300 feet. The top of the ridge was flat with some clear areas to get a nice look at the valley and lake below. After descending the other side of the ridge (which was much steeper than the up side), I wound my way through the dense hardwood forrest and emerged at the other lake, scaring several ducks hiding in the weeds and lilly pads. There were some folks on boats fishing, while others were fishing on the banks. Everyone waved as I walked by and asked me how far I was going on my hike. I was soon back at the campground about an hour and forty minutes after I started. It was hot when I finished the hike and I contemplated going for a swim until I saw how crowded the beach was. Hmm, maybe a cool shower would be just as good (and it was).

I hung around the registration tent that afternoon visiting with folks and listening to the stories from those who went on cave trips that day (there were several horizontal and vertical trips offered). The Capers staff had even set up a decontamination station to clean cave clothes either before or after trips. Fortunately, WNS has not reached Indiana yet, but all agreed that it was only a matter of time and the state had already taken preemptive steps by closing all caves on state land. However, they still allow the boat trip in Upper Twin Cave at Spring Mill State Park. Hmm, that cave must be immune to WNS (but that's an argument for another article).

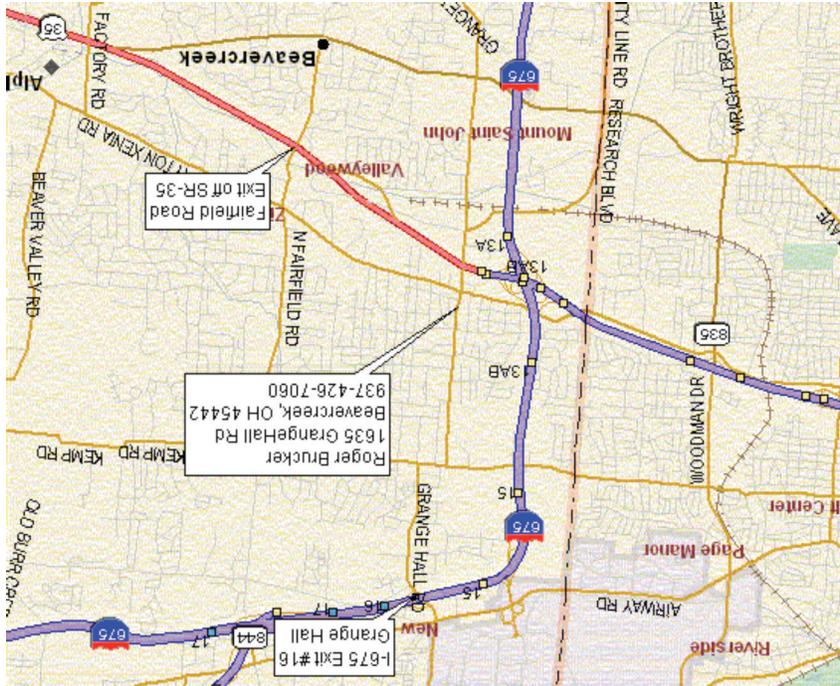
The speaker for the Saturday night banquet was Gary Roberson on 50 years of exploration of

Binkleys Cave, the longest cave in Indiana with just over 24 miles of surveyed cave and many leads left to push. I took a trip to Binkleys at the 2007 NSS Convention and even rode to the cave with Gary. He wowed me with stories about the exploration of the cave over the past five decades. Buying his book, *Below the Sinkhole Plain* was a must and I've been reading it voraciously since. This book is a must for your caving library and sells for \$20. We also should get a copy for the grotto library (if we haven't already),

After a banquet meal of burgers, hotdogs, potato salad, green beans, and dessert, we all made our way outside to listen to Gary's presentation. About five minutes into his talk and PowerPoint show, lightning and thunder began to rumble. We all looked at each other in amazement as the forecast for that evening was clear skies. Oh well, what can you expect for the midwest. So, we had a brief intermission as everything was packed up and moved back indoors. Gary's presentation and photos were excellent and was one of the best caving presentations I have seen. Maybe we can entice him to come over for one of our meetings and give it?

The Shallow Grotto was in good form again that night, though they put away the PA system and air horns this time after getting some complaints about Friday night/Saturday morning. I woke up early Sunday morning and after breakfast packed up and made my way home after another great Cave Capers weekend. The 2011 Capers will be back at Camp Rivervale, near Spring Mill State Park, Indiana, in August (we held our 2004 Wormfest there). Maybe we can have more of a DUG presence there next year.

Kudos to the Central Indiana Grotto for another great weekend!



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