

The Carbide Courier

The
Dayton Underground Grotto
of
The National Speleological Society



Volume 18, Issue 9

September 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:

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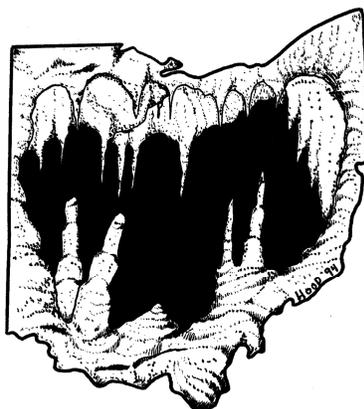
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Front Cover: Bat flight at Bracken Bat Cave during the ICS/ NSS Convention. Photo © by Van Bergen.

***From the Editor...***

Hello DUGsters,

I can't believe summer is over! I don't think I'm ready for winter yet, but oh well.

Wormfest was a great time, and if you weren't there, you missed what was probably the best non-caving caving event you can go to! Amy and her staff did a great job and Jim served (in my opinion) the best Wormfeast we've ever had!

Nominations for officers for 2009-2010 will continue through the September meeting. As of this writing, we have NO ONE running for Chairman. C'mon, step up and help lead our grotto!

Remember, the September meeting is at Dave and Sandy Rice's house. It's our annual picnic and auction. This is another opportunity to raise funds for the grotto, so bring items to auction and be ready to bid on stuff! Also note the date of the picnic is September 19th.

See you there!

Mike

**CORRECTION TO
THE AUGUST
CARBIDE COURIER**

I forgot to credit the front cover of the August edition of the *Carbide Courier*. It's an entrance to one of the few caves known to exist in Montgomery County, Ohio. The photo was taken by Tracy Hood.

Calendar of Events

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 3rd Dayton Five Rivers Metropark's Gearfest (<http://www.metroparks.org/GEARFEST/>)

October 11th 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting. 2009-2010 officers take office at end of the 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)

December 5th Grotto Christmas Party (location may be changing, so stay tuned...)

January 10th 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)

February 14th 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)

September Birthdays!

Bob Fulcher—4th
Ken Bonenberger—9th
Phillip Davis—9th
Bruce Silvers—12th
Joe Hall—15th
Lilly Hall—15th
Morgan Hall—15th
Debbie Bowers—17th
Bill Walden—24th
Joe Gibson—24th
Lea Turner—24th



2009 NSS-UIS Convention Schreiner University, Kerrville, TX By Thomas Cottrell

Pre Convention:

I left Xenia on Monday 13 July heading for Kerrville, TX, and the combined UIS&NSS Convention. I had packed my art work, cave gear, prospecting gear, etc for the long trip. Objectives of this trip were the convention, prospecting, genealogy in Texas, a visit to a friend in College Station, TX, and relatives in OK. I camped in Wal-Mart parking lots on the way, and my Gold Prospector books showed the possibility of gold in the Llano River, so I headed in that direction to look around. Texas is in a long drought being 30" behind in rainfall. Most streams are dry, the only green is in irrigated fields, there is much cactus, scrub brush, and rocky soil. In addition the temperature is above 100 degrees day after day. I'm suffering in the heat and Xenia was going to have a low of 50 degrees. I enjoyed looking around in Llano, TX, and "The Slab" at Kingsland, TX, where the Llano River has cut a broad valley across a large expanse of red granite. At a low water bridge there is an area similar to a beach where locals gather to sunbathe, sit in the river talking and drinking beer, swimming, and then there is me looking for gold in the cracks of the bedrock granite of the Llano uplift. In the afternoon I visited Longhorn Caverns State Park before heading south to Kerrville.

Thursday afternoon I arrived at Schreiner University in Kerrville. I found the Logan Library to drop off my drawings for the NSS Fine Arts Salon. There was much work to be done to prepare the library for the event. Many 4x8 plywood sheets and 2x4's and rolls of paper, screws, staples, and tape were used to close off the stacks and provide surfaces to hang many cave maps, photographs, posters, publications, and art work. The dozen quilts and last years collaborative art work were hung from beams hoisted high overhead in the high ceilinged library. With the help of many volunteers it was near completion by the end of the day. The next step was the daunting task of mounting all the art work for display and judging in the next two

days. In an adjacent room there was an amazing collection of vertical gear on display, and the T-Shirt salon was displayed at the end of a hallway.

On Friday I went to Cascade Cavern near Boerne, visited the Alamo in downtown San Antonio, and then to the beautiful Natural Bridge Caverns where I took two tours with many, many, many stairs, but it was worth it. On Saturday I found that my friend at College Station was not at home. I contacted a local GPAA (gold prospectors) chapter in Round Rock and attended their meeting. Saturday evening I arrived back in Kerrville with my brakes grinding and went to registration to check in and get my dorm room assignment. It was a bit crowded, but they were efficient and we all got processed soon enough. Karen and Pete Lindsley and other friends were there. Each of us got a briefcase full of 20 lbs of volumes of the convention proceedings, as well as t-shirt, patch, pin, etc. I was in my room in Delaney Hall getting my stuff spread out when in walks a young fellow who is to be my roommate. I had requested a room to myself. We walked back over to registration and Karen Kastning informed me that there are no single rooms. OK, so I have a room mate. I let him have almost half the room. He was 29 year old ChadiChaker an Electrical Engineer from Lebanon and was a very nice guy and president of his caving club in Lebanon.

During Convention:

Sunday morning the opening ceremonies were performed outdoors with several dignitaries giving short welcoming speeches, and the UIS flag was raised by its designer Carolina Shrewsbury to officially open the convention. Soon afterward inside the auditorium which was decorated with the flags of all the member nations the board of officers opened a business meeting called the UIS General Assembly upon the stage with speeches followed by reports of various sections. I am thankful that they all spoke English, and it was interesting. In the afternoon at the Logan Library the International Speleo

Art Reception was the event celebrating the opening of the 2009 International Speleo Art Exhibition allowing visitors the first viewing of all of the art work while enjoying wine, cheese, and crackers. The exhibit was quite impressive with a broad collection of wonderful cave art from many talented artists. There was a ballot box for each visitor to vote for his own personal favorite piece of art. Sunday evening another event, the UIS President's Opening Gala, was held with more finger food and drink and entertainment by a roving Mariachi Band. Outside on the patio kegs of Shiner beer were tapped. It was a fun social event with cavers from all over the world mingling, taking pictures, and chatting with friends. A group of five from China came up to me smiling and giggling and wanting pictures. Each one of them posed for a picture with the big old man with the long white beard to show to their friends and family back home in China.

Monday morning was the time for sessions to begin. Meals were served in a nearby cafeteria by friendly people. I usually got lunch at the burger grill to save time. I sat in on Geomicrobiology for a while and then went to Speleo Art classes. Unfortunately it was impossible to take in everything that was going on around the campus with many simultaneous presentations in different rooms and in different buildings. There were also many excursions to caves and sites off campus. You simply had to examine the program carefully and plan carefully to get the most out of your time. I didn't have time to watch the rope climbing or the survey competitions. 3-D movies and slides are always excellent, but I didn't get to see any this year. The Howdy Party with a "Yee Haw! Welcome to Texas" was in the Robbins Lewis Pavilion with a Texas BBQ dinner and plenty of Shiner Beer. After dinner a cowboy rode his horse into the pavilion. He was World Champion rope trick artist Kevin Fitzpatrick, and he entertained us with fancy roping while standing up on the saddle and then did tricks with his whip using ladies from the audience. After that there was dancing, etc until 11:00pm when the beer stopped. I found out later that the local law stops the taps at 11. Too bad.

Tuesday morning I caught a bit of a Speleogenesis session before boarding a van to go to Cave Without A Name (CWAN) in Boerne, TX. After a tour of the cave each of us was free to start sketching whatever struck our fancy. We spent about 4 hours in the cave and everyone had time to draw several sketches. The idea was to select some part that we felt we would like to be part of a larger collaborative drawing to be done back on campus. I found several that I liked and began sketching. This was a new experience for me and most of the others. I was using pencil on 5"x7" pieces of paper. On a larger sheet I began attempting a room with beautiful rimstone dams covering an area about 15'x30'. It was difficult and I was struggling. Along came Lois Manno with a large canvas and pastels. She sat near me and in minutes she had a beautiful brown rimstone and blue water drawing and had captured the essence of the scene without attention to precise detail of the shape of each wall or pool. She made it look so simple. When we were "in the zone" there in the cave the passing time was not noticed, and all at once it was time to leave. At that point I realized I was hungry, and thirsty, and needed the restroom. We went back out into the 100 degree heat, met our needs, and headed back. The owner Tom was our guide. His son Thomas the former owner had died last Nov possibly by drowning or possibly from bad air in a plugged water filled passage. The collaborative work will be displayed in Vermont at the 2010 NSS Convention, and is in memory of the son. Back on campus I did some shopping at the vendors area. Another reception was held sponsored by CRF, CWI, and NCKRI with snacks and drinks as before. It was also "open mic" night with talented musicians playing and singing and more Shiner Bock. Off in the Rowdy Camping area a crowd was gathering for "noodle wrestling". The 10' ring had cases of ramen noodles and water mixed and ready. The ref, dressed like a clown, explained the rules, and they began. Sometimes it was one on one, sometimes male against female, but the best was three or four young topless beauties against one or two lucky young fellows. The action was so fast I could hardly get any pictures. In most matches the girls won. It went on furiously until someone was pushed out of the ring or pinned. Very slippery, and "I may never eat ramen noodles again." was one comment.

Wednesday was field trip day with no sessions or papers. We all lined up for our appointed tours in large air-conditioned buses. My trip was to Enchanted Rock with leader Dr. Ernst Kastning. The area is called the Llano basin or the Llano uplift and the park itself has a dome of red granite somewhat like Stone Mtn, GA. We looked at many features as we climbed the dome in the heat. It's big, about 400' tall, and from the top we had a good view of the area. On the other side, near the top, a large pile of rocks formed a talus cave which we entered to cool off and to explore. Granite is nasty for crawling without pads, and the cave was surprisingly long and complicated. We returned to our bus, ate at Subway, and then headed to Luckenbach, TX, where everybody is somebody. We all enjoyed the stop and I bought a cowboy hat. The NSS Auction was held in Dieter Auditorium with auctioneer Scott Fee. In 1981 I attended the NSS-UIS convention in Bowling Green, KY, and won the door prize which was a large brown quilt upon which was embroidered many cave related items. I enjoyed it 28 years and donated it for auction and it sold for \$275. It was made by an NSS grotto from WV. After the auction I went to the pavilion where Terminal Syphons were playing and more Shiner beer was on tap. The mug this year is a clear plastic cowboy boot which I filled and emptied multiple times.

Thursday morning I got my van from the Dodge dealership where they had fixed my brakes. After lunch I caught a movie about caves on a high plateau in Venezuela. The conditions were extreme and the dangers were many. I would only go to a place like that to die, but the caves were large and beautiful. In the afternoon we mixed pigments and worked on the blank sheet with our drawings, and there were many doubts about the whole process. Soon it started coming together as a work of art, to the shock and surprise of several of us. At some point I saw a presentation on caving in Iran where the terrain is mountainous and very rugged and desert like. Then after the struggle to get there and they enter the cave they are rewarded with beautiful formations and large passages to survey and photograph. Since there were 1500 attendees at the convention, the Photographic Salon and Salon Awards

presentation had to be presented twice in the local theater in downtown Kerrville. Two of my three drawings received ribbons, a blue merit award for "Cave Gear" and a green honorable mention for "Assemble This!". I am happy and honored.

Friday we continued the collaborative work and set up a fan to help it dry. Carolina demonstrated the use of spray paints and multiple layers over many objects for interesting effects. In the afternoon there was a critique of most of the Fine Arts Salon entries which provided good feedback about what the judges looked for, what they liked or disliked, and why one was selected over another. I find this information valuable. Bill Steele had entered a necklace of worn out brake bars from his many vertical trips. It was quite unusual and many thought it was a joke until they read the story he included with it. With the story attached he won an Award of Merit. I finally found some time to see the large maps laid out on the gym floor. The Mammoth Cave map is most impressive and brought back many good memories of my time with CRF back in the 70's and 80's as I walked over the passages in my stocking feet while giving a guided tour to a new friend. The density of passages in Wind and Jewell is amazing. Friday evening was NSS Awards Banquet time at the Don Strange Ranch. We had a long wait for the food to arrive, so we drank a lot of tea, fed the longhorns food pellets being careful not to get slobbers, wandered among the tables looking for friends, and taking pictures. K.D. Soukup was sporting a white nose. I sat with Dave Hubbard and friends, the food arrived, we lined up, it was slow going, the food was satisfactory, and it is 100+ again today. Red and white wines with a special UIS label were served. After dinner the awards were presented with Roger Brucker receiving the Spelean Arts and Letters Award, and Lacie Braley received an NSS Fellow award. There were others given as well. Next came the drawing for the WNS raffle, and my name was called. I was quite surprised and very lucky. The prize was a ceramic bowl in brown with bats all over it. It was designed and made by Chrys Hulburt who also had some nice vases in the Salon.

Saturday morning I attended sessions on Lava Caves by Bill Halliday and others. I also listened to a

Mexican caver talk about exploring deep caves in Mexico with an all Mexican team. It was interesting. This was the day to start tearing down the displays in the library, so I collected my drawings and stowed them in my van. This evening was the UIS banquet at the same location. This time I took the last bus to avoid the long wait, and it worked somewhat. The food and the wine were the same and I sat with Bill Walden and friends. Art Palmer won an award for the best new textbook on cave geology. John Cole played the piano for both banquets and the two Photographic salons at the theater.

Sunday I attended some sessions and spent several hours helping in the library to put it back in the condition prior to our arrival. Many people were gone or leaving. I drove along the Guadalupe River to Hunt, TX, and its one store, and then back to Kerrville where I had supper at Mamasita's joining Peter Jones and others. On Monday morning I finished packing and checked out.

Post Convention:

I went west on I-10 past Sonora to Sonora Caverns. This was the best cave full of formations that I have ever seen. I took many pictures. Next I had planned to see the bat flight from Devil's Sinkhole near Rock Springs, but found that you must plan in advance and their office was closed for at least another day. I gave up and headed NE toward the Llano River. All day Tuesday I was in the river with my dredge sucking up the sand and gravel and collecting pretty rocks. I had used plenty of sun lotion, but it must have washed off as I sat in the river. It was hot again, but the water made it tolerable. I found black sand and even 90 buckshot, but there was no gold. After 8 hours I gave up and left. I was sunburned and my right leg was swollen. In Llano I arrived minutes too late at Cooper's BBQ. The register was closed, they couldn't take any money. When I told them I was from Ohio, they gave me a freebie if I took it to go. I selected ribs and found a park by the river to eat a portion of the large serving they had wrapped up for me. My painful leg and sunburn made it hard to sleep.

The next day was Wednesday and I went to Georgetown, TX, to see Inner Space Cavern. It was discovered by a test borehole in the construction of I-35. The cave has a tram at the excavated entrance instead of the usual stair steps. After this trip I headed south on I-35 to Austin and the Congress St. Bridge. When I arrived people were starting to line up on the bridge. I parked and found a crowd gathering in a small park near the bridge. There are 1.5 million Mexican free tail bats that live in the 18" deep spaces between the concrete and steel girders underneath the bridge. The flight started and increased steadily with bats swirling in large clouds from their roosts. Boats on the river held many tourists. There may have been 1000 people watching.

By Friday and Saturday I was in Canadian, TX, and Pampa, TX, looking for a distant cousin with no luck. I visited Medicine Park, OK, where houses were built of round granite boulders. I arrived at Co-weta, OK, to visit my brother-in-law and two nieces and their families. They saw my leg and took me to their doctor who gave me a shot, antibiotics, and an ultrasound. It is an infection. I stayed with them two days, and on Tues evening I arrived in St. Louis, MO, and called old friends, the Hildebolts, formerly of Beaver creek. On Wednesday 5 Aug I got home in Xenia with a loud rattling under my van, but I made it. The trip total was 4642 miles in 24 days with 769 pictures. It is great to be home.

There were many friends, acquaintances, and famous cavers from all over. Locally, there was Roger McClure, Joyce Hoffmaster, Daniel Greger of Dayton, and Don Conover of Xenia. I also saw Gordon & Judy Smith of IN, Stan & Kay Sides of MO, Red & Patty Jo Watson of MT, Don & Sherri Coons of IN & HI, Roger MacMillan of TN, and the list goes on and on with friendly groups from France, Canada, Poland, etc. The 2009 Convention is now history, and I personally had a wonderful time but sorry I could not attend more sessions. You may think this is too long, but with a travelogue like this I could easily expand one line, for example, about Lonestar Cavern to at least one page.

Strategic Plan for Great Saltpetre Preserve

Mission

To provide, protect, and preserve a place where people can experience the value of caves and enjoy their discovery, exploration and history as well as their relationship to the environment. Great Saltpetre Preserve offers opportunities for fun, education and participation to youth and adults.

Objectives

1. Improve relationships with our neighbors for mutual benefit and help.
2. Provide a safe, comfortable place for rustic & primitive camping with opportunities to experience the solitude of nature.
3. Continue discovery of the Great Saltpetre Cave and its scientific, exploration, and educational aspects.
4. Preserve the natural resource for future discovery and enjoyment.
5. Be known as a model preserve, an example worth emulating.

Obstacles

1. Insufficient volunteers and motivation & rewards for service.
2. Occasional negative perception by neighbors or community.
3. Driving distance for many volunteers.

Plans:

1. Recruit more volunteers
 - a. New Members: Take a new member caving, THEN introduce them to GSP.
 - b. Current Members: Promote new discoveries in Great Saltpetre Cave.
 - c. Canvas the members and create a database of skills, talents, and expertise.
2. Explain draft plan to all stakeholders.
 - a. Grottos: Turn the Strategic Plan into a program for the Grottos.
3. Convert Suspicion to Support (Become Better Neighbors)
 - a. Establish a Committee to further neighbor relations.
 - b. Compile an up-to-date history of the Preserve.
 - c. Write quarterly articles for Mt. Vernon Signal.
 - d. Continue Open House.
 - e. Pig Roast or something for neighbors.
4. Public Relations Program – focusing on:
 - a. neighbors
 - b. local area
 - c. all others
 - d. future partners
 - e. Prepare a new map of the cave including a wider range of information.

5. Encourage Discoveries & Scientific Studies
 - a. Allow digging in certain designated areas.
 - b. Encourage documentation.
 - c. Offer fellowships which include requirement for copies of all documentation.
6. Facilities and Infrastructure (list of projects)
 - a. Update Management Plan
 - b. Provide adequate sanitary facilities
 - c. Educational Center
 - d. New Sign at Entrance
7. Development (Fundraising) - future resources
 - a. Develop new brochure for potential funding sources.
 - b. In all grant applications or other requests express the needs in project terms.

Advantages of adopting this Strategic Plan:

1. Improved communication
2. Focus effort & resources on issues of priority
3. Stimulate volunteers
4. Method to verify and document consistency of stewardship
5. Establishes boundaries (limitations on activities)
6. Good for adaptation elsewhere
7. May attract funding for projects
8. Plans for growth
9. Pro-education

Disadvantages:

1. Increased usage & management challenges.

Action Steps:

1. Recruit Volunteers to Manage these (and similar) Plans.

Issued for Public Comment on May 15, 2009.

The Strategic Planning Committee included: Bob Dobbs, Werner Jud, Neena Jud, Mike McNabb, Howard Kalnitz, Gary Bush, Mary Gratsch, Bill Simpson, Tim Hale, Chris Hacker, Pat Hutson, and Shawn Pollock.

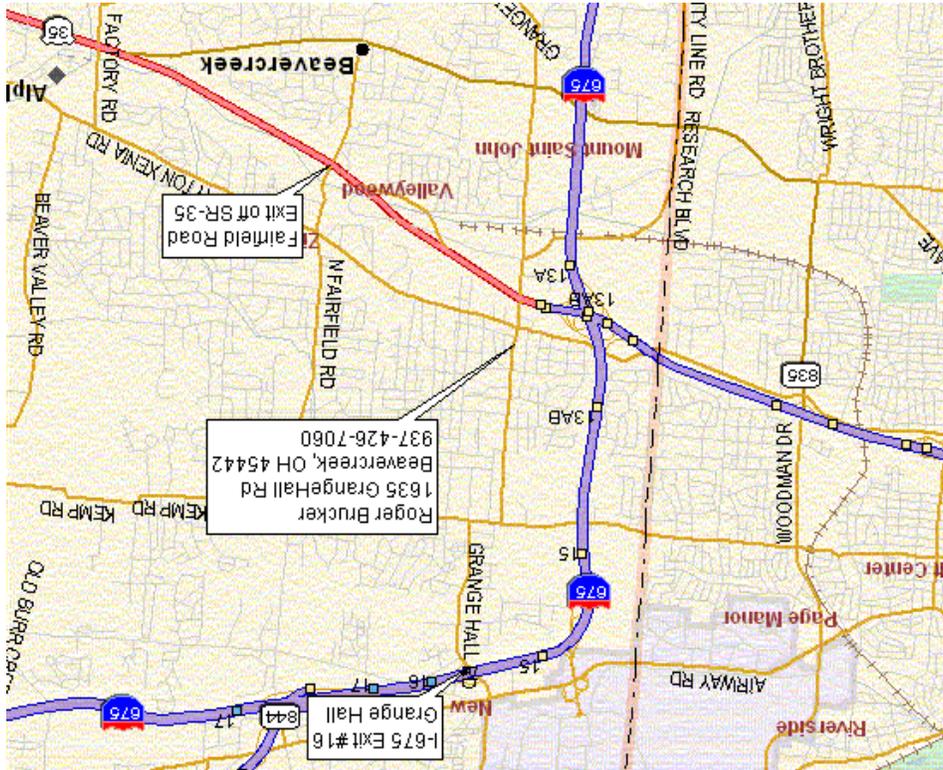
The Process was facilitated by Roger Brucker.



Van Bergen sent these photos of DUG and GCG members enjoying themselves at the NSS Convention in Kerrville, Texas.



Don't forget the September meeting and picnic is at Dave and Sandy Rice's house (the Great Rice Preserve) on September 19th. This is also the grotto auction, so please bring items to be auctioned and be ready to bid on some great stuff! Remember, "one man's trash is another man's treasure!"



**The Carbide Courier
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FIRST CLASS

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