



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

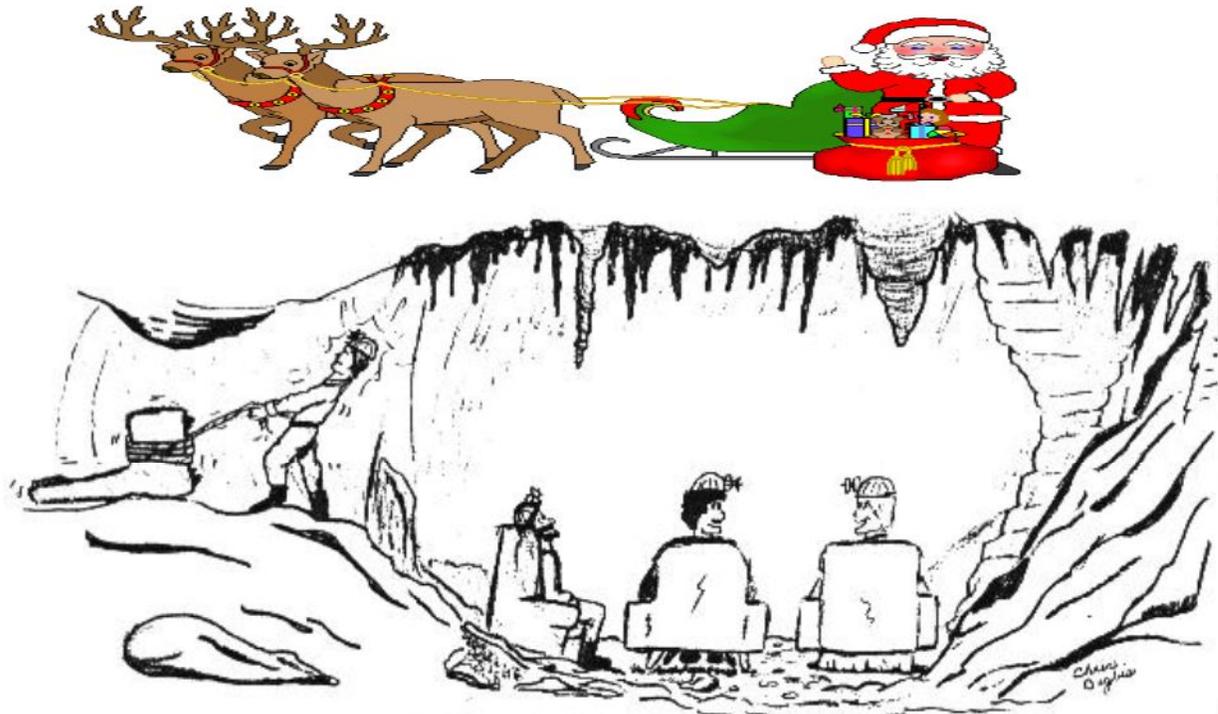
Announcements	2
Minutes	2
Treasurer's Report for October	2
SuzNuz	3
Trip Reports	3
Cherylsbad: Nov. 19, 2016 , written by Sue Bozeman..	
Days of Years Past	
Search for Cherylsbad, November 22, 2014 written by Dale Amlee	4
Cartoon reprinted from the Feb. 2006 Newsletter.....	4
Potpourri	
Mystery species hidden in cave art appears to be Unknown bison-cattle hybrid	4
Fire clues in cave dripwater	4
-5	

The December meeting will be Friday, December 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Bozeman's.

REMEMBER THIS IS THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!



YOU HEAR SOMETHING???



Cartoon found at <http://www.angelfire.com/tx2/toons/1999mar.html> The Christmas addition done by the editor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contact Sue or John Bozeman for details.

*The December meeting will be Friday, December 9, 2016 at the home of Sue and John Bozeman.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL, APRIL 2016

This is the latest formal revision of the national decontamination protocol to prevent spread of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. This document is the product of a collaborative effort with multiple federal and state agencies and several non-governmental organizations.

Go to this website to view the detailed suggestions listed to help stop the spreading of WNS.

<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/news/national-white-nose-syndrome-decontamination-protocol-april-2016>

For the latest information about WNS visit this site:

<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2016

Host: the home of Matt Brasher

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, Matt Brasher, Jason Talbot, John Talbot, The Skillful Ogre

The Honorable Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:00

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

2017 OFFICERS BEATEN INTO OBEDIENCE

We forced these sorrowing individuals into these officer posts for 2017 –

Chair – Jon Woltz (notice that he didn't attend, so he's Chair)

Vice-Chair – Dale Amlee

John Talbot – Treasurer

The Skillful Ogre – Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his reports for November.

We ended the meeting at 8:25

TREASURER'S REPORTS

DECEMBER 2016 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME		
Dividends	\$	00.01
Dues	\$	42.00
TOTAL	\$	42.01
CASH ON HAND	\$	190.63
CHECKING	\$	336.91
SAVINGS	\$	2,138.58
UNDEPOSITED FUNDS	\$	42.00
TOTAL	\$	2,708.12

EXPENSES

Balance as of 12/4/2016

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

SUZNUZ

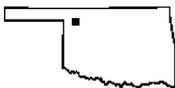
The Cherokee has been sold to a guy who 'knows a guy who could fix that problem' -- John searched and searched on the 'net for a Jeep Patriot -- a baby baby jeep. Nabbed one, year end Black Friday \$5K off deal ... and got us a 4 door 4x4 Deep Cherry Red one -- John's choice. It'll do. And I will likely be able to go AND come home from caving without worrying about being stuck out in the boonies -- with passengers == at night!

TRIP REPORT

Cave: Cherylbad

Date: November 19, 2016

**Personnel: Matt Brasher, Steve Belevu,
Sue Bozeman and Jon Woltz**
report by Sue Bozeman



Our purpose this trip was to finish up the upper high Big Room area in the western arm of the cave and then the upper water passage that eventually sumps. That would finish the cave and we could all relax for a bit and consider working on putting out a publication with the results of several caves.

Not to be. As always, there is a slowness to survey that defies belief. Either we find more passage or the circumstances are extremely difficult, but something interferes with completion.

We all managed to squirm through the breakdown crawl and we got our broad-shouldered and barrel-chested guys up the squeeze into the Big Room. This was the first time Steve was able to ascend and get a first-hand look at just how big this 'room' is. We surveyed across and squiggled to the crack inflow in the back that did not allow passage. We also spotted a probable inflow with debris dribbling in from a ceiling crack. That probability was enhanced by the COLD WIND that also came whirling down. We had a 26 degree morning, the first of the winter, to appreciate the cold water we were going to be entering later. That temperature is notable as it drops down through cracks in the back of a relatively warm upper room. The debris was sift-dribble -- not even leaves and twigs -- so the likelihood of human traverse was minimal.

Finished with the upper area, we trooped to the water passage. Starting at a known survey point, we headed into the tube crawl. It had been explored before and so we surveyed this relatively small tube until it became a belly crawl under a ledge to an uncontrolled mucky slide down about five feet into the water!

What the previous crew had not mentioned is that there is a near-walking passage that parallels the main passage and is by far the preferred route, which connects back to where we started!

What the previous crew had not mentioned is that there is a near-walking passage that parallels the main passage and is by far the preferred route, which connects back to where we started! The water passage is about 9

feet wide and 6 feet tall (with water up to your knees or more, of course!). Still, it beats slithering on your belly down a mud slide. Oh, well, it had to be done for the survey, but egads -- never again!

Matt, Jon and I continued downstream. I had not been in this upstream area before and was pleased at the size of the passage, having seen only the small tube heading off heretofore. The problem we encountered was that the area had received a bunch of rain earlier in the fall and the formerly firm mud slopes were now water-logged and absolutely everything was slimy. Slimy to

The problem we encountered was that the area had received a bunch of rain earlier in the fall and the formerly firm mud slopes were now water-logged and absolutely everything was slimy.

the point where you couldn't even pull off your gloves because the mud was so slick, you got no purchase. Also, the mud under the four-foot-wide stream just kept sucking you down and since you can't reach the ceiling or walls, there is a bit of desperation attending progress. I think Steve's idea of hiking sticks for stabilization may have some possibilities! Either that, or rafts.

Steve, meanwhile, was slowly getting hypothermic and cramping up. It was 4 p.m. and we still had large cave, some breakdown and, according to Jon, more cave to survey ahead of us -- as well as the main water passage back to the dry arm. Way too

Maybe one more trip?

much to consider finishing up this day. So we surveyed to the beginning of the breakdown and tied off some marker tape, calling it quits.

Maybe one more trip?

We saw some critters along the way this day: 3 barred tiger salamanders, small clusters and pairings of myotis velifer, a couple crayfish and a frog. All in all, a productive and enjoyable, if mucky, day.



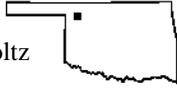
DAYS OF YEARS PAST

Trip Report: Search for Cherylbad

Date: 22 November 2014

Cavers: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Jon Woltz

Report by Dale Amlee



This was going to be yet another attempt at locating the Cherylbad cave. Despite several cavers having strong memories of this being a large, easy-to-find cave entrance, two prior ridge-walks in the last two months had failed to locate it. We had begun to worry that the cave entrance had collapsed during the previous 15 years or so since it was last visited, and our efforts might be wasted. Still, we ventured out on this nice November day to make a third try at locating this elusive cave. We had delayed the caving trip by a week due to inclement weather, and it was a good choice. Weather on this day was very nice, with a cool breeze blowing, but sunny and fairly warm for autumn in Oklahoma.

We spent several minutes going over the various aerial views and topo maps of the region, peering very closely at the pencil marks made during visits to this cave many years ago. We parked in a spot that would appear to be fairly close to the suspected cave entrance. We decided to perform a very deliberate search of each sink and depression in the area, gradually working East and South from our parking spot in an almost grid-like manner.

The first few spots we found were nothing to speak of. Small crawly entrances that terminated very quickly in breakdown, if they went in at all. Still, the spots we found seemed to align with each other, giving us hope that they may be part of an arm leading to a larger entrance. As we worked our way East we began to get closer to a local creek which received all of the runoff from the vicinity, thus narrowing our area of possible cave entrances. The entrance had to be West of the creek.

Finally we searched down one meandering narrow valley and found that it terminated in a fairly steep cliff face. Sue went high, while Jon and I went low. Jon and I found a small entrance, but it only went in about 20

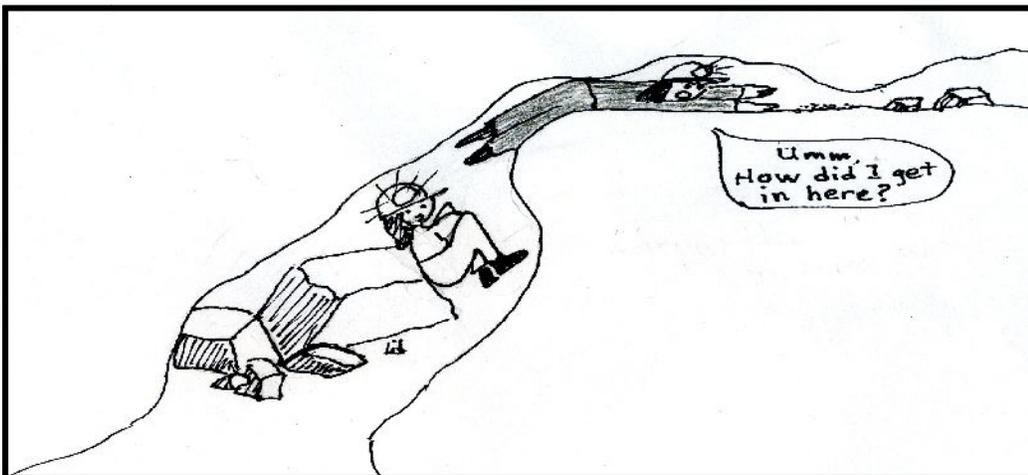
feet or so before terminating in a complex impenetrable breakdown maze. We backed out, and climbed up the valley walls to find Sue. She was patiently sitting, waiting for us in an extremely large, open cave entrance. We had finally found Cherylbad!

The entrance was a large walk-in opening, which dropped down a relatively steep slope as we entered. We spent the next hour or so walking around and mentally mapping the entrance region. There were over 200 feet of high-ceilinged walking passage, forming a general "T" shape, with the entrance at the bottom of the T and the upper portion of the T forming the primary water passage. We walked about as far as we could downstream, but it began to get into breakdown quickly. Perhaps there is a way through, but that would have to wait for future efforts. The upstream end got wet and soggy. Although the general alignment of the primary stream passage seemed at first glance to align with the smaller entrances we had seen earlier in the day, we couldn't confirm that they were part of this same system.

After leaving Cherylbad we decided to visit another local landowner, a person unknown to us but whose ranch house was nearby. The topo map of the region showed a sink at the end of a small dirt road, and we were curious as to whether it contained a cave entrance. This sink would not be part of the Cherylbad system, but its close proximity to the creek made us wonder if there could be a small cave there.

We drove up to the ranch house and spent about half an hour in pleasant conversation with the landowner. He informed us that the sink we were interested in was not actually on his property, but he knew another location that was on his son's land that we might want to visit. He provided us with additional information on names and such for other local landowners in the area that we may contact for additional information on possible cave locations nearby.

Since the day was beginning to run long, we said our goodbyes and proceeded back to Betty's for a quick visit to see how she was doing, and then made our return home. 🐾



Copied from the February 2006 newsletter. May know who the artist is and may even know which cave!

POTPOURRI

Mystery species hidden in cave art appears to be unknown bison-cattle hybrid

October 18, 2016

Source: University of Adelaide

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/10/161018133142.htm>

Summary:

Ancient DNA research has revealed that Ice Age cave artists recorded a previously unknown hybrid species of bison and cattle in great detail on cave walls more than 15,000 years ago.

The mystery species, known affectionately by the researchers as the Higgs Bison* because of its elusive nature, originated over 120,000 years ago through the hybridisation of the extinct Aurochs (the ancestor of modern cattle) and the Ice Age Steppe Bison, which ranged across the cold grasslands from Europe to Mexico.

Research led by the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA (ACAD) at the University of Adelaide, published today in *Nature Communications*, has revealed that the mystery hybrid species eventually became the ancestor of the modern European bison, or wisent, which survives in protected reserves such as the Białowieża forest between Poland and Belarus.

"Finding that a hybridisation event led to a completely new species was a real surprise -- as this isn't really meant to happen in mammals," says study leader Professor Alan Cooper, ACAD Director. "The genetic signals from the ancient bison bones were very odd, but we weren't quite sure a species really existed -- so we referred to it as the Higgs Bison."

The international team of researchers also included the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), Polish bison conservation researchers, and palaeontologists across Europe and Russia. They studied ancient DNA extracted from radiocarbon-dated bones and teeth found in caves across Europe, the Urals, and the Caucasus to trace the genetic history of the populations.

They found a distinctive genetic signal from many fossil bison bones, which was quite different from the European bison or any other known species.

Radiocarbon dating showed that the mystery species dominated the European record for thousands of years

at several points, but alternated over time with the Steppe bison, which had previously been considered the only bison species present in Late Ice Age Europe.

"The dated bones revealed that our new species and the Steppe Bison swapped dominance in Europe several times, in concert with major environmental changes caused by climate change," says lead author Dr. Julien Soubrier, from the University of Adelaide. "When we asked, French cave researchers told us that there were indeed two distinct forms of bison art in Ice Age caves, and it turns out their ages match those of the different species. We'd never have guessed the cave artists had helpfully painted pictures of both species for us."

The cave paintings depict bison with either long horns and large forequarters (more like the American bison, which is descended from the Steppe bison) or with shorter horns and small humps, more similar to modern European bison.

"Once formed, the new hybrid species seems to have successfully carved out a niche on the landscape, and kept to itself genetically," says Professor Cooper. "It dominated during colder tundra-like periods, without warm summers, and was the largest European species to survive the megafaunal extinctions. However, the modern European bison looks genetically quite different as it went through a genetic bottleneck of only 12 individuals in the 1920s, when it almost became extinct. That's why the ancient form looked so much like a new species."

Professor Beth Shapiro, UCSC, first detected the mystery bison as part of her PhD research with Professor Cooper at the University of Oxford in 2001. "Fifteen years later it's great to finally get to the full story out. It's certainly been a long road, with a surprising number of twists," Professor Shapiro says.

*The Higgs Boson is a subatomic particle suspected to exist since the 1960s and only confirmed in 2012.



W E C N E G R U S E R U H P W
 R O C K P I L E E F S O P U M
 E Q R T O C P M X B Q O R U T
 N O I T C E R I D E R E O Q D
 E D L R O O T S I C L E M Q U
 R V L G N I F F I N S F O O R
 R X T F I R F T X B M U Z D F
 A I D J W R A D O N D U I W T
 K Y R A N R E T A U Q Z H O E
 N P C R E B E L A Y A C R S S
 E F G N I G G I R O C K H G K
 L G S N A R U N D K A R R E N
 L W L P G M H C D R S Y D V U
 I M B O T F A R Q R A P P E L
 R I M S T O N E E W T U T V D

**SPELEOLOGICAL AND CAVING TERMS
 BEGINNING WITH THE LETTERS 'Q' AND 'R'**

**QUATERNARY
 RADON
 RAPPEL
 RAFT
 REBELAY
 REDIRECTION
 RESURGENCE
 RHIZOMORPH
 RIFT
 RIGGING**

**RILL
 RILLENKARREN
 RIMSTONE
 ROCK
 ROCKPILE
 ROOF SNIFFING
 ROOTSICLE
 RUNDKARREN**



Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL., 35810. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. published general information in a monthly newsletter (\$6.00/year) and detailed cave surveys and related Speleological items in a yearly publication, The Oklahoma Underground (\$3-\$8/issue) Membership is by sponsor and is \$12 per year for adults, \$6 for spouses and students, and \$3 if under 18. Central Oklahoma Grotto meets once a month on the second Friday of each month. For information, write Lil Town, 25692 Mosier Circle, Conifer, CO 80433: All submissions to the newsletter should be sent to the editor: Lil Town, 25692 Mosier Circle, Conifer, CO 80433: Telephone: (580)471-1238: E-mail: cavemoose@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for any particular month's issue is the 20th day of the previous month. If you wish material returned. Please include a SASE with submission. All materials in this newsletter is available for reproduction, provided proper credit is given with the article when you print it. Trade publications are welcomed. *Cave softly and safely!* Website: <http://www.okcavers.com>

December meeting will be
At the house of Bozeman's
Friday, December 9, 2016.



**Central Oklahoma Grotto
Office of Guano Masterpieces
2119 Holly Oaks Lane #283
Weatherford, TX 76087**