CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The June meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30, Friday, June 13, 2008. at the home of Duane's.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The 7:30 June meeting will be, Friday, 13th, at Duane's house,

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2008 meeting

Host: the home of Anne Ault
Atttendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, Sue and John Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, Kelley and Jon Woltz, S. Beleu.

The Honorable Jon Woltz got it started at 8:18.

OLD BUSINESS

About our newsletter: the cost of the *COGnizance* that is being printed by Duane costs COG only $3.75 per month. John Talbot said we that need to raise its subscription charge to cover the rise in postage that we can expect over the new few years. So Chairman Woltz proposed that we increase its cost from the current $6 per year to $9. The motion carried by consensus. Sue then noted that we should add 4 months worth of newsletter subscription to all current, paper-format *Cognizance* – only subscribers since they've missed getting the last four months of it. We agreed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his report.

NEW BUSINESS

Sue said that we should raise our dues from the current $12 per year to $15 per year. After discussion we decided to table the motion. Times are tough! Who is made of money? We sell pencils and apples on the street corner! We make mock apple pies out of Ritz crackers!

We all and each one of us groused about how hard it is to get new members to join up. We had no ideas to speak of other than the fact known to all that today's youth is lazy and worthless and won't join any organizations or do anything that appears to resemble work, and as we know, caving is hard work. By consensus we agreed that The Youth is as worthless as a sombrero on a boar hog.

Sue noted that Edmond Boy Scouts Troop 21 bought an Alabaster Caverns publication from us for a trip they're planning there.

TRIP REPORT

Those who went forth unto Carlsbad Caverns talked much and long about the trip. See the latest *COGnizance* for the trip report and the website for photos.

It was over with at 9:48. Deo Gratias!

TREASURER'S REPORTS

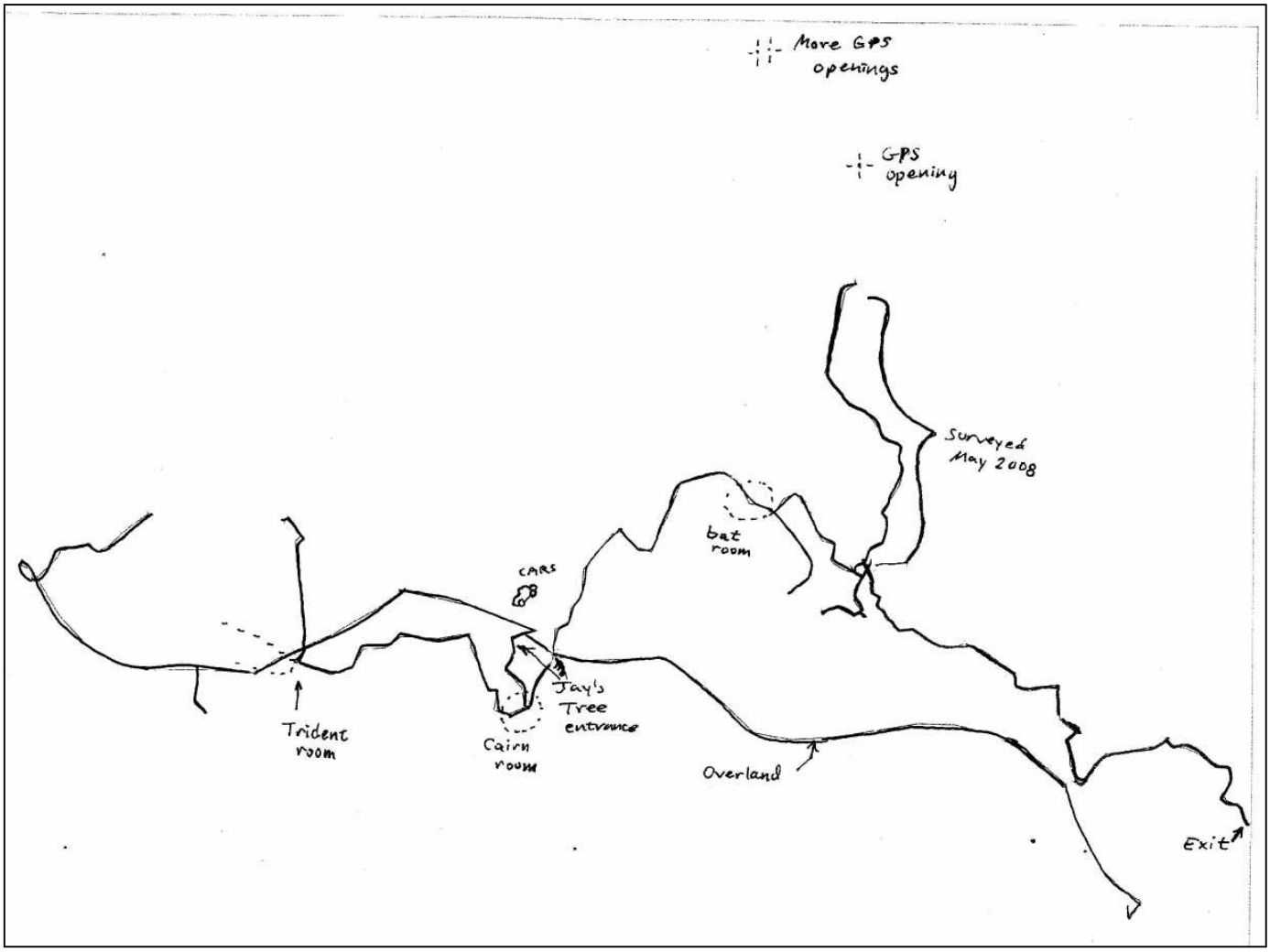
May, 2008

INCOME		EXPENSES	
DIVIDEND	$ .09	Printing Newsletter	$ 6.79
		POSTAGE	$ 12.30
TOTAL	**$ 00.09**	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$ 19.06**
CASH ON HAND	$ 149.55	**TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 5/6/08**	**$ 3,251.80**
CHECKING	$ 427.83		
SAVINGS	$ 2,674.42		

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

This is the latest stick map of Broken Horn Cave. Great job Dale Amlee!



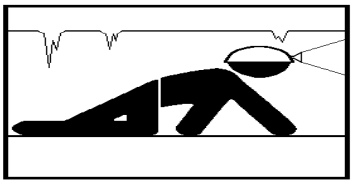
POTPOURRI

This was taken recently, in Kingman, AZ.

The third picture down shows a small opening... could be a cave.

Do you want to go check it out????

Dale Amlee is looking for volunteers to join him!



WILD THINGS

LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

By Jess Blumberg, T.A. Frail, Megan Gambino, Laura Helmuth and sarah Zielinski

Reprinted from the Smithsonian; Jan. 2008; page 19

Contributed by Jeri Ptacek

OUR UNLIKELY NEXT OF KIN

The colugo, a foot-long nocturnal glider from Southeast Asia, is the closest living relative of primates. Researchers from Texas A&M University and elsewhere compared genes from colugos, tree shrews and 30 other mammals with genes from primates such as macaques and humans. They found rare genetic changes suggesting that colugos' and primates' evolutionary paths diverged about 86 million years ago, during the reign of the dinosaurs.

EDITOR: BET YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS A BAT AT FIRST!

Regulators Hopeful Texas Sinkhole Won't Swallow Homes

Reprinted from Fox News.com
Thursday, May 08, 2008

DAISETTA, Texas — The massive sinkhole, with the crumbling dirt around its edges resembling sharp teeth, had managed to swallow up oil tanks and barrels, tires, telephone poles and several vehicles.

Daisetta residents feared the appetite of the sinkhole, which began as a 20-foot hole in the ground on Wednesday but had grown to 900 feet across and 260 feet deep, would continue unabated Thursday and threaten nearby homes.

But by Thursday afternoon officials and geologists were hopeful the monstrous sinkhole was no longer as hungry.

"We're not sure it has completely stopped. We're confident it has slowed down," said Tom Branch, coordinator of the Liberty County Office of Emergency Management. "We feel a whole lot better today."

A day earlier, Branch, other officials and residents had watched as large chunks of earth, as well as the oil field equipment, trees and vehicles that sat on them tumbled into the crater. The mixture of oil and mud at the bottom of the sinkhole made it look like a tar pit.

Carl Norman, a geologist working with officials, said he planned to measure the change of ground elevation around the sinkhole over the next few days to try to determine whether it is still growing or is now stabilized.

But a final answer on the sinkhole's stability might not come anytime soon.

"It will be at least three months before we can say if it's stable or not," he said.

Jayme Downs, whose home is located about 300 yards away from the sinkhole, said she wasn't sure if her nerves could hold out for three months.

"I'm very worried," Downs said as she and her 5-year-old daughter Saira stood in front of the local high school, located about a quarter of a mile away from the sinkhole. Classes were in session on Thursday.

"You don't know what is going to happen. There's no way to tell. The whole town could cave in. You never know," she said.

Officials tried to calm residents' fears by saying that any more growth by the sinkhole would probably be very slow and if nearby homes were in danger, there would be advance warning.

"The cavity is going to grow slowly, if it does decide to continue to grow," said Norman. "This thing may become stable or it may be collapsing six months from now. But it will be a slow process. So people around here will have a warning."

There are about 100 homes in the immediate area of the sinkhole.

Cpl. Hugh Bishop with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office said no homes had been evacuated and there had been no reports of injuries in Daisetta, a town of about 1,000 residents located about 60 miles northeast of Houston.

The sinkhole had not dramatically moved closer to Farm-to-Market Road 770, the main roadway through the town, which had been one of the major concerns, Bishop said.

Officials are still trying to figure out what prompted the sinkhole.

Daisetta sits on a salt dome, a natural formation created below the ground over millions of years where oil brine and natural gas accumulate.

Daisetta was once a booming oil town and today various working oil derricks still dot the landscape.

Norman said oil drilling from over the years might have weakened the salt dome and caused it to collapse.

But the sinkhole might also be a natural occurrence caused by ground water leaking into the salt dome and dissolving parts of it.

Oil production usually doesn't affect the integrity of a salt dome, said Don Van Nieuwenhuise, a geosciences professor at the University of Houston.

Van Nieuwenhuise said he thinks the sinkhole is probably related to saltwater waste that is being stored underground in the area. The saltwater is a byproduct of oil production and has to be stored underground so it won't contaminate water supplies and the environment.

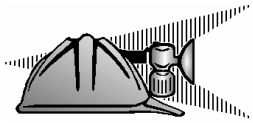
"It probably fractured part of the salt dome and it's leaking out," he said.

Investigators with the Texas Railroad Commission were checking pipelines and trying to determine if any regulations have been violated. Officials with Texas Natural Resources and Conservation were monitoring air and water quality. So far, no pollutants have been detected.

Sunoco, which manufactures petroleum and petrochemical products, secured two 6-inch crude oil pipelines near the sinkhole that had started to leak Wednesday.

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 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, Oklahoma, 73521. All submissions to the newsletter should be sent to the editor: Lil or Dale Town, 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, OK 73521: Telephone: (580)477-4027: E-mail: oklmt@cableone.net. 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!*

The June meeting will be at Duane's house, Friday, June 13, 2008.



Central Oklahoma Grotto
C/o 3208 Gettysburg Drive
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