CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements ……..……..……....2
Minutes……....……..…….……..….2
Treasurer's Report ……..……..…....3
Trip Reports
Broken Horn, May 17, 2008, by Steve Beleu .. 3
Potpourri
The Goofiest Questions,
cartoon by Sue Bozeman ……..…… 2
Midsummer Update Aug. 1, 2008:
White Nose Syndrome by Peter Youngbaer ….4
World Beneath the World 5: Moon light Cave
Poem by Steve Beleu……..……..……....4

Page 5 ***Evolving Technology celebrated in exhibit***
Marc Baker exhibit at the State Capital thru Sept. 14

The September meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30, Friday, September 12, 2008, at the home of Dale Amlee.

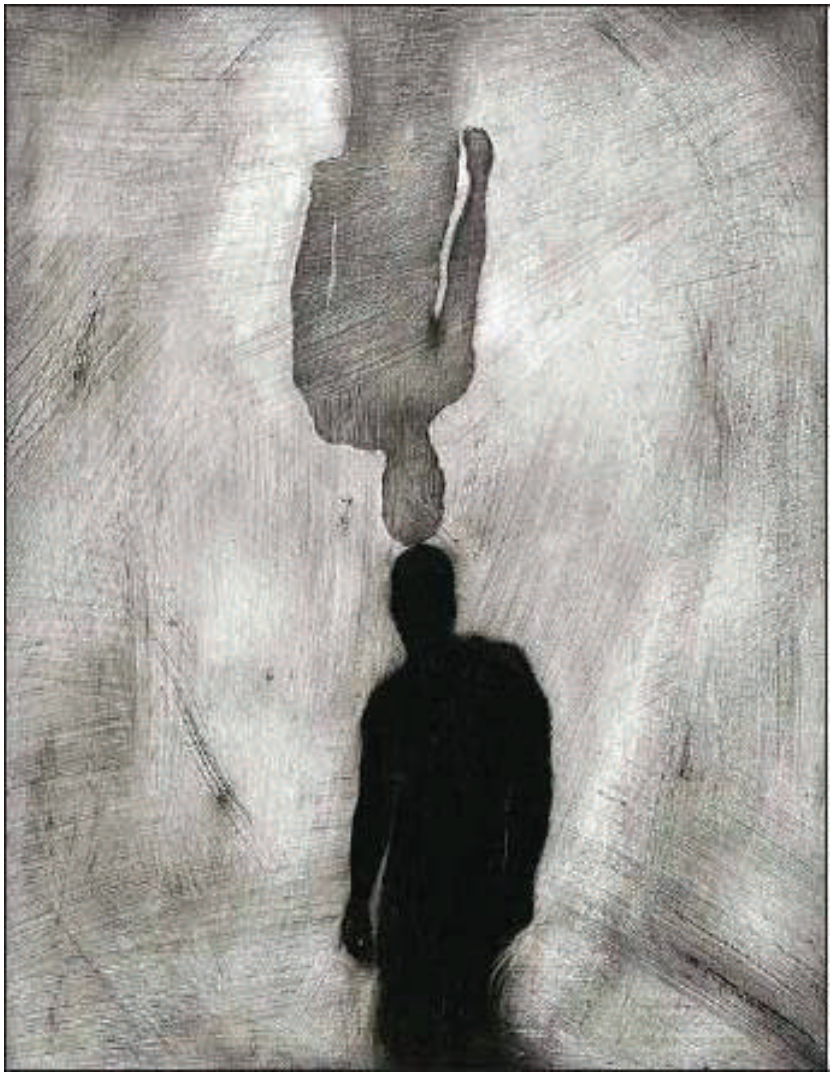
This is the first meeting since June, Be sure to come to see when the next trip is and what's happening!

Evolving Technology celebrated in exhibit

Marc Baker exhibit at the State Capital thru Sept. 14

The article from the Daily Oklahoman is on page 5.

Congratulations Marc!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The 7:30 September meeting will be at Dale Amlee.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
Minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2008

Host: the home of Duane Vel Vecchio
Atttendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, Jon Woltz. S. Beleu. Guests: David McDermott, Tom Roche

The Honorable Jon Woltz commenced the beginning of the meeting at 8:21

OLD BUSINESS

We agreed to raise the price of an annual membership for students from $6 to $9.

NEW BUSINESS

Jon spoke forth that he had received two requests about caving which he answered in our behalf from the public general. One request, from an established caver in the Wichita Falls area, sounds good.

Dale Amlee spoke forth that he may have a potential member whom he knows and can vouch for.

We all spoke forth about returning to the caves in southwest Oklahoma. John Talbot suggested that we make our annual fun! caving! trip! to Horseshoe Valley Cave in August to get this process started. His suggested date was August 16. If you own water wings, bring them.

Our next trip: Saturday, June 28, Broken Horn Cave, another 500+ feet for to survey.

TRIP REPORT

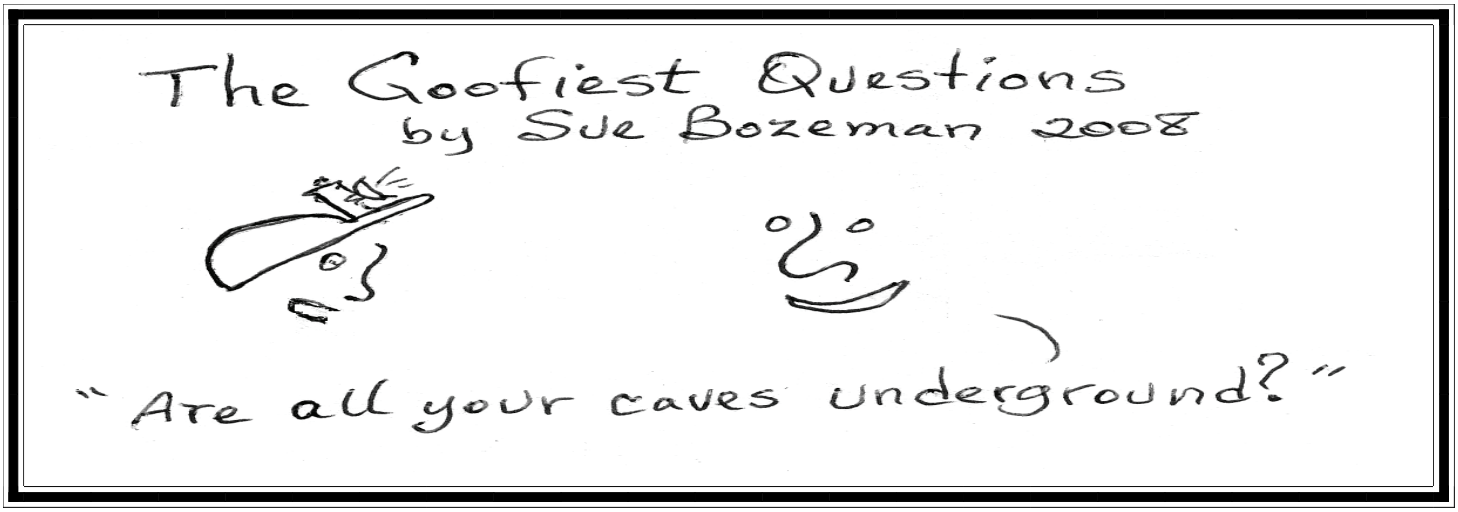
Those who went spoke forth about surveying 535 feet in Broken Horn Cave on May 17.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot spoke forth his report.

We concluded the end of the meeting at 9:02

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



TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Publication Sales	$ 5.00		
DIVIDEND	$ 0.09	PRINTING NEWSLETTER	$ 3.75
		POSTAGE	1.65
TOTALS	**$ 5.09**		**$ 5.40**
CASH ON HAND	$ 149.15		
CHECKING	$ 427.92		
SAVINGS	$ 2,674.42		
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 6/5/08	**$ 3,251.49**		

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

I couldn't find any new trip reports for July,
August, or September. If there was one, let me know and it will be in the next newsletter! This was on June's web version, but not sure it was in the mailed copy!

Trip Report: Broken Horn Cave,
Date: May 17, 2008
Personnel: Dale Amlee, Sue and John Bozeman, S Beleu
Written by Steve Beleu

This was a special expedition for me because I returned to caving for the first time since I dislocated my right shoulder in August, 2007 and had to have it operated upon in November. Before the expedition I wasn't sure about my mobility, but I had no problem crawling in and out of Broken Horn Cave. But by the time we reached Fairview to eat after caving lactic acid had so immobilized mine body that my every muscle had become as stiff as an old board and I was staggering along like a robot.

But the next morning I'd slept the lactic acid off and returned to my pseudo-normality.

We went into the cave, then moseyed along until we reached where it branches north. We then surveyed 535 feet of the branch. Science Office Amlee believes that this branch will reach two points we've GPS'd on the surface.

The 535 feet we surveyed was easy going, though wet. The path beyond there we'd stopped seems to continue as easily surveyable, though I understand it gets difficult further north.

It is the type of passage that cavers either work hard to stay try in, or just wade through the water as I always do. But it's possible to stay dry the entire time as opposed to being a wet-dog caver.

What else do I remember from this trip? Well, the cave went this way, then it went that way, there were rocks every where, it was as dark as the soul of the evil Karl Rove, and we beheld [illegible]arred Tiger Salamander. That's it. Out

Midsummer Update August 1, 2008

Dear NSS Members,

The effects of White Nose Syndrome continue to be seen in bats in the Northeast even in summer. It is two weeks until the 2008 NSS Convention and seven weeks since the Science Strategy Conference on White Nose Syndrome a good time for a mid-summer update.

A detailed report on our first four months of activities was sent July 12 to the NSS Board of Governors through NSS President, Bill Tozer. It is included in his Presidents Report, which will be discussed at the BOG meeting at the Florida Convention.

In the interim, we have had numerous communications with some of the key laboratory and field researchers, and several news stories have covered some of the summer developments. While the formal proceedings and workplan from the June Albany, NY Science Strategy Conference have not yet been published, we will post them as soon as we have them.

In terms of whats happening with the bats, something noticed at spring emergence has continued over the summer surviving bats showing significant wing damage tears, scars, holes, and dehydration. One immediate work product of the Albany WNS conference in June was the development of a field grading system for this wing damage. It provides graphic evidence of the residual effects of WNS.

Further, the hope that surviving bats would return to good health once they found enough insects to eat, has proven wrong. Vermont Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Scott Darling says the state is still getting reports of bats dying on front lawns and hanging to screen windows. USFWS Susi von Oettingen is getting reports of dead and dying little brown bats in all four states with confirmed WNS, plus New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, and a higher than usual number of pups falling and dying.

At the June Albany conference, scientists concluded that immediate research should attack three top-priority questions concerning the cause of White-nose Syndrome:

- Why are affected bats starving?
- Are pathogens a direct cause of mortality?

Are contaminants threatening either the bats or their food supply?

Most participants suspect that a combination of factors may be involved.

Unfortunately, a huge barrier to progress is that there simply is no targeted funding to date for WNS research. Most laboratories and state and federal agencies have piggybacked WNS work on already-existing projects. Bat Conservation International has provided some small grants, but major sources are lacking. Grants are being pursued, but there is no commitment from anywhere for sustained research. Typical federal funding sources have previously established priorities, and arent likely to be available for at least another year.

To help address the critical and immediate need for fall swarming studies and winter hibernacula studies, we have proposed to the NSS Board of Governors and the National Speleological Foundation that a fund be established, initial funding granted, and funding solicited from the caving community and general public to get needed monies out in the field by late summer. We have a couple of proposals in hand (from Dr. Tom Kunz and others), and this is something we can accomplish.

Speaking as one who sees the field situation in our caves and mines up close, it is absolutely critical that we understand the condition of bats going into hibernation this fall. Being able to establish the cause of WNS sooner, rather than later, will help return bats to health, restore populations, prevent the spread to other regions, and help keep caves open for exploration and study.

We hope you will speak to members of the NSS Board of Governors and Trustees of the NSF in support of action at the upcoming Convention meetings, and will contribute to any fund established for this purpose.Sincerely, Peter Youngbaer NSS 16161

World Beneath the World 5: Moonlight Cave

Written by Steve Beleu

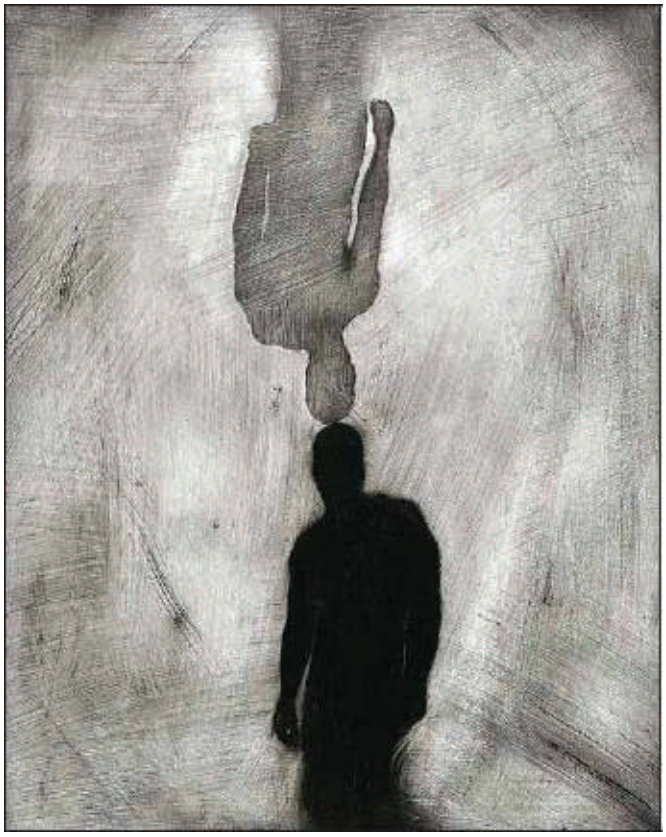
The Morai, Children of Night, dwell in a cave
Whose white waters surge into the night
To become moonlight. Dressed in shining white
The sisters Klotho, Lachesis, and Atropos
Spin the cloth of our lives with the white thread
Of moonlight. Behind them their cave's
Floors, walls, stalactites, and stalagmites
Are white as the night of the full moon.
But not enough of their white light reaches us
Through the poison stain of the warclouds
That encircle earth and threaten to strangle us.
Too little of the white light of the Morai
Burns through the darkness to grace us with their vision
Of knowing where our end will come,
How and why it must, and when.
We exist in the Black Cave of Not Knowing
But instead of leaving the cave of our darkness
We listen to water dripping from the ceiling
And wonder: is each drop a day or year?
Our evening star and morning star
And our star visible all day, the sun, is Anxiety
That rises, becomes strong, and weakens again
To disappear beneath the earth until dawn.
We must learn to cave in white light
As well as in the darkness of the deep caves
Whose boreholes lead us even farther
Away from the light of our star
And then we will know how, and why, and when…
And be wise as The Morai and not waste
Even an hour of life in the Black Cave of Ignorance

Evolving technology celebrated in exhibit

Written by John Brandenburg
Reprinted from the Oklahoman, Aug 3, 2008, Page 46

An existentialist show that deals with "The Illusion of Mattering" and other conundrums of modern life, in black, white and shades of gray, is on view at the state Capitol.

In the exhibit are paintings and prints on board, canvas and paper by interactive media specialist Marc Barker, who describes art as "my meditation and my reprieve from the world of computers."



Suggesting the evolution of man toward technology in austere, evocative terms are three small oil on board paintings which Barker calls, collectively, the "Deconstruction of a Longbone." In this impromptu triptych, the longbone of the title is replaced by a very thin, cipherlike man, then by some kind of instrument or tool, with each of the objects silhouetted in front of a gray, neutral background.

Posing the question of human aggression and interaction nicely are seven oils depicting the backs of men, turned away from us, their heads touching or crossing, as they look to the sky for revelation. Called "No One Is Your Friend; No One Is Your Enemy; Everyone Is Your Teacher," the seven paintings are arranged on the wall so that, together, they form a kind of pyramid for the viewer to contemplate.

In two of Barker's largest oils, "Waves" seem to be breaking in the open ocean, like metaphors for motion in the universe, and a single "August Cloud" floats over a dark, flat horizon line. Raising a religious question is the title of Barker's "Homo cum Deo (Man Together With God)," a digital reproduction on paper.

In this large print, a gray, upside-down figure just touches the top of the head of a dark, standing figure, either one of which could represent the human or the divine side of the visual equation.

Two medium-sized oils, called "Cloud Array" and "Cave Array," seem to be comparing nine clouds (divided into three rows of three) with nine caves (also divided into three rows of three). Hung directly across from each other, the two paintings appear to be calculated to make us ponder whether there is order to be found in nature, or we merely project it onto our environment.

An upside-down man becomes the "Out Cast," floating over a line of three men, and a small cavern under the downtown skyline becomes an "OKCave" in two more intriguing oils by Barker.

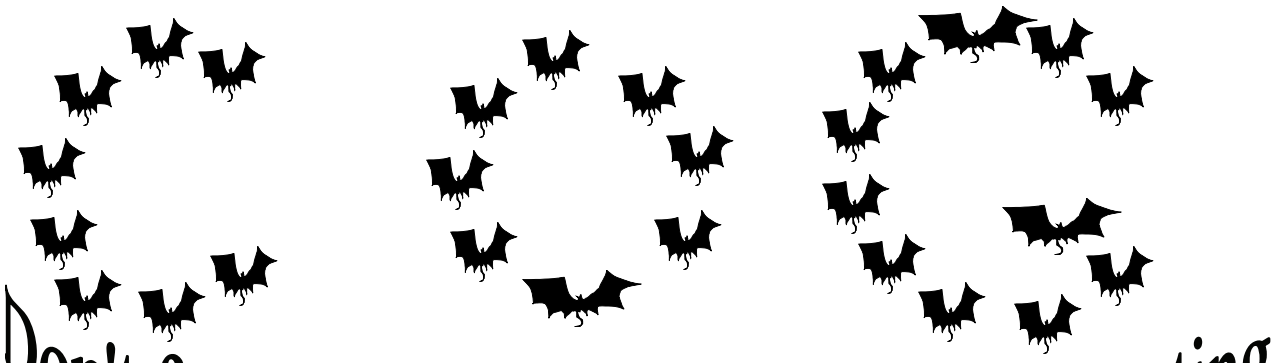
More romantic, at least by implication, are two small oils on board that form a diptych Barker calls "I Don't Want What I Deserve; I WANT what I WANT." In the first, an anonymous figure peers out from behind a wall that cuts him in half, while in the second, a person reaches out to clasp the hand of another figure, perhaps forming a lasting attachment.

ART REVIEW

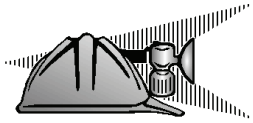
Marc Barker exhibit

- **When:** On view through Sept. 14.
- **Where:** State Capitol, 2300 Lincoln Blvd.
- **Information:** 521-2931.

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, $9 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!*



Don't forget to come to the September meeting, Friday the 12th, at the home of Dale Amlee!



Central Oklahoma Grotto
C/o 3208 Gettysburg Drive
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