CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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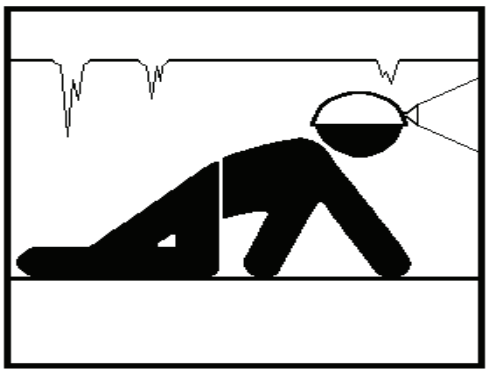


There will not be an April meeting. The May meeting will be at Dale and Lil's in Altus.

Photo by Duane: **Our Bat Friends up Close.** Taken during the NW 2009 Bat Count

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contract Sue or John Bozeman for details.
*Carlsbad cleanup trip is June 6th.

*The 7:30 May meeting will be at The Town House, house, Friday, May 8th. **Address:** 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, OK

Telephone: 405-580-477-4027.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of March 13, Friday the 13th, 2009

Host: the home of Ann Ault
Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, John and Jeremiah Van Dyke

The Honorable Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

We talked about the recently-concluded bat count and the harmful effects on the bats of Jester Cave made by about 30 cavers from the Dallas -Ft. Worth Grotto who were sport-caving through Jester on the same day that COG was there to count bats. Since this group was loud many of the bats were in flight, making them hard to accurately count. The bat counting crew has had this problem with this grotto before when they needed to conduct an accurate bat count.

We talked about our June pilgrimage to Carlsbad Caverns.

NEW BUSINESS

Despite the fact that the cost of a postage stamp is going up to 42¢ soon, we decided to not buy new "Forever" stamps at this time.

We talked about an upcoming book, title: *Karst of the United States*,
that will include a smidgen of information about Jester Cave. The authors of this book have requested a map of the cave that they will print at the size of 2" x 3" inches; we agreed to supply them a map of the cave for this purpose. We may possibly buy the major landowner of Jester a copy of this book when it is published.

Lil talked about some woman who wants to go on a fun trip through Horseshoe Valley Cave; John Talbot wants to return to this cave also.

Sue said that John Bozeman selected and purchased a new computer for Betty Selman; Duane will take it to her house and set it up for her.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his report.

We concluded the meeting at 9:13

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dividends	$	0.08	Postage	$	21.67
Publication Sales	$	44.16	Envelopes	$	4.54
Dues	$	39.00	Map Reproductions	$	14.63
Postage Credit	$	8.36	Glue Stick	$	1.97
			Card	$	0.54
TOTAL	**$**	**91.58**	**TOTAL**	**$**	**43.35**

CASH ON HAND	**$**	**155.54**
CHECKING	**$**	**434.71**
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,668.33**

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 3/6/06 $3,258.58

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report: Jester Bat Count
Date: Sunday, Feb. 23, 2009
Bat Counters: John and Jerimiah VanDyke, John Talbot, Lil Town
Trip Report: Lil Town

It was a nice day for a hike to the cave! We met at the meeting place and but on our caving gear. We also did an inventory to be sure we had a book, pencils, and thermometer with us so no one would have to hike back to the car.

We went into Jester and started counting bats. The cave was fairly dry, for Jester. There wasn't the large packs we'd seen in the past, but there were some. The counts are in last month's newsletter.

Not much more to say about the trip, outside of the fact that when John T. talked with the caretaker, he was told that there was cave group going through the cave that day. Bad news for counting bats!

The bats were calm when we started the count, doing what bats do best during the day while hibernating! Toward the midpoint of our count, we heard the group enter the cave, cave softly was apparently not one of their mottos. Not sue how many where in the group, but they were quite noisy. I went back to let them know we were doing a bat count, and with all the noise, they were starting to fly making it really difficult, and not good for the bats.

To my surprise when I went back toward the group, I saw a small creature with to shiny eyes come at me. It was a fluffy dog tromping through the muddy water to say hi!

The first person I came to I told him we were doing a bat count and since his group entered the cave, the bats were really starting to fly. Could they please quiet down and hold back a while to give us time to finish counting. He asked if they could just cave past us. I asked if they wouldn't because the bats probably all would be flying after they went through. They did wait, but were still pretty noisy.

We went out and hiked back to the cars. After changing clothes ait was off to Luigi's! What a way to end a trip!

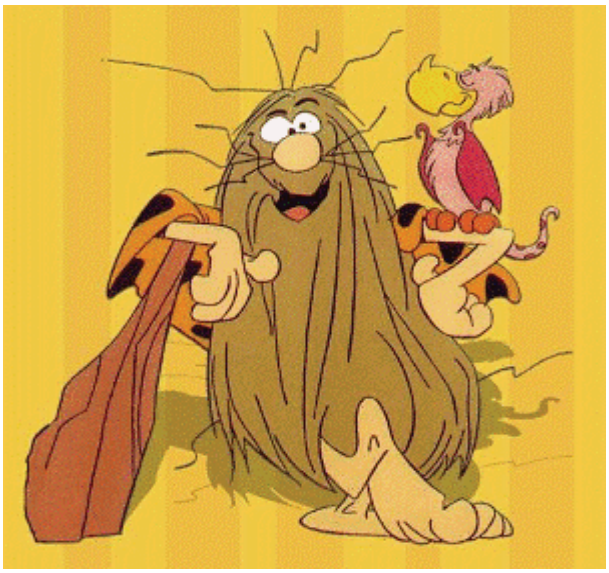
Trip Report: Broken Horn Survey:
COG cavers descend to The Gates of Hell
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2009
Team 2: Steve Beleu, John Bozeman, and Lil Town
Trip Report: Steve Beleu

When we went this past Saturday, March 21, to survey in Broken Horn Cave three cavers (Sue Bozeman, Dale Amlee, Jon Woltz) went into the cave entrance where it took them about 1 hour to get to the point in the cave where they needed to take up the continuation of the cave survey; the other three of us went into a cave entrance via a sinkhole north of any known entrance into Broken Horn. We hoped that it would connect with the cave, and that we two surveying parties would meet.

Our entrance was on hands and knees, and we were stomach-crawling too soon. We were lucky enough to be able to come up on our hands and knees in a few places for a few brief seconds and stand up. The good news is that the passage was entirely dry up to about the 4-hour mark, some 300+ feet in, when the passage dropped down into and through a crawl-in entrance. I was in front, establishing survey points, doing backsights, and calling out point to walls, ceilings, and floors estimates.

But when I lay on my stomach to look into that next section of cave, I saw The Gates of Hell: the passage was low, full of breakdown we'd have to crawl around and through and over, was full of tree branches and sticks that has been washed into it. Its floor was wet mud, and a very cold wind was blowing out of it. As soon as I looked into it I told John Bozeman and Lil Town behind me: "These are The Gates of Hell". They both crawled forward to look into this hellhole; John said something like "This is what gives caving a bad name". Since we could hear the other survey crew who was coming our way I suggested that we stay where we were and take it easy and let the other crew survey through *The Gates of Hell* since they were probably already cold and wet. It was also 4:30, which was our turn-around time that day to leave the cave; we were very pleased that it was turn-around time. But soon John looked around and found a way to climb up and over The *Gates of Hell*. We surveyed up into this area, and met the other surveying party who surveyed to our furthest point. No one need to survey through The Gates of Hell.

We're always looking for new cavers, you know. Don't seem to be getting too many for some reason.

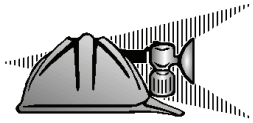


Name this TV Cartoon Superhero from 1977

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!*

There will not be an April meeting.

The May meeting will be at The Town House, Friday, May 8th @ 7:30 p.m.



Central Oklahoma Grotto
C/o 3208 Gettysburg Drive
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