CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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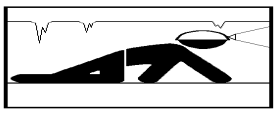
Photo by Duane Del Vecchio: Dave McDermott Gets to See Giant Selenite Crystals during the 2009 Bat Count.

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 May meeting will be at The Town House, Friday, May 8th.



MINUTES

We did not have an April meeting so here are the March minutes again!

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

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	$	3.42	Newsletter printing	$	5.60
Dues					
TOTAL	**$**	**3.42**	**TOTAL**	**$**	**5.60**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**182.97**			
CHECKING	**$**	**516.38**			
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,693.54**			
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 4/6/2009	**$**	**3,392.89**			

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report: Broken Horn Survey:
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2009
Team 2: Steve Beleu, John Bozeman, and Lil Town
Trip Report: Lil Town

This was a great trip. Two great things happened; I finished the whole trip, and we made a connection!!! How much better can life get.

We divided into 2 groups. Sue, John Woltz, and Dale Amlee, hard core cavers, went in the primary entrance. Hard core because this group had to truck through the cave through a mucky wet passage for close to an hour just to reach the last survey point.

Our group, John Bozeman, Steve, and Lil, started at the survey point marked John-Jon and started surveying into the entrance we hoped to be a back door and a shorter way to where the other group was surveying.

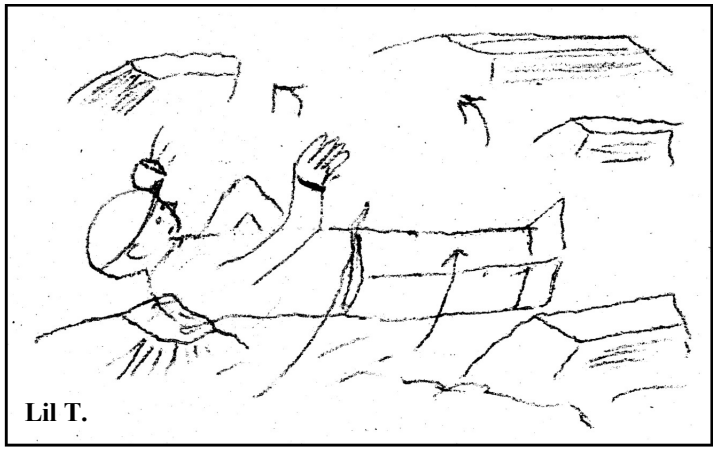
The good aspect about this entrance is it was dry! At least during this part of the trip. Now the down side was there was some walking, some crawling, but a lot of areas where the ceiling was too low to crawl, you had to use your feet and elbows!

Now when one's hip hurts this is hard to do, so you have to improvise. I used a cave move I dubbed 'The Cave Roll!!

We surveyed about 12 points and thought we were hearing sounds from the other group. As we went on, we could hear voices and were able to talk to each other! At station 18 we met and were able to shake hands. Yes, a connection!

We all went out this newly surveyed entrance, but the other group voted to go in their entrance the next trip, it may be wetter, but they liked the walking part! To each their own!

After changing clothes, the landowner graciously had Blarney Stone cakes and coffee for us. Of course we are spoiled! Yes, life can be better, After changing and on our way home we stopped and had pizza! Great Day!



Introducing the Cave Roll!

Trip Report: Broken Horn Survey: CONNECTION!!!
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2009
Team 2: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, and Jon Woltz
Trip Report: Sue Bozeman

The alarm bleeped at 6. I rolled over, grabbed the phone and started calling Jon. This was our new pact: we'd call him 1) when WE got up; 2) when all the OKC/Moore/Norman-ers were at our house ready to depart at 7; and, if it was deemed necessary, 3) from an hour's travel out near Kingfisher!

The third call wasn't necessary -- and actually, the second call wasn't either as Jon was eating breakfast! Which we hope was a good one, because he had a lot of dis- and re-articulating to do ahead of him.

We got into the cave at Jay's Entrance and scrambled the 55 minutes to our last survey point by 12:35 p.m. The other group (Steve Beleu, John Bozeman, and Lil Town) would be starting at the presumed entrance (we think they are going to call it Fanny Mae Entrance -- since they scooted into in on their butts and in light of the financial meltdown - a Steve Beleu naming). They would survey in; we would survey out.

Our strawberry yogurt cap survey marker was still securely in place at a junction. We chose to leave the side passage for another trip and push up the inflow arm toward the other group and connection -- loath to have a hanging survey in view of upcoming spring rains. This passage is fed by a huge watershed with certain areas flooding to the ceiling as plastered grass, limbs and small trees choke some of the hard turn twists. Our area was mostly sucky mud, tacky now because there has been no significant rainfall for several months.

Most of our passage was low -- 2 to 4 feet -- with intervening breakdown domes every 100 feet or so. We joked about having to set glops instead of points, as muck was our constant companion. But it could have been worse as most of the ceilings were decorated with grass and twigs. Good to have these areas surveyed, yessiree!

The going was slow as survey points were rarely convenient or comfortable. Jon kept saying, "I've got to reorganize" or something like that -- meaning he had to rearticulate where his feet and arms were in relation to his eyeballs in order to get the compass or clinometer reading.

We passed through a 20 foot tall by about 25 foot wide dome room with a tiny waterfalls. The falls were stained an orange marmalade color, so we agreed to call this Marmalade Dome. There was some live popcorn on the domes muddy sides which added to momentary optical

(Continued on page 4)

pleasure. And then it was back to the stream slog.

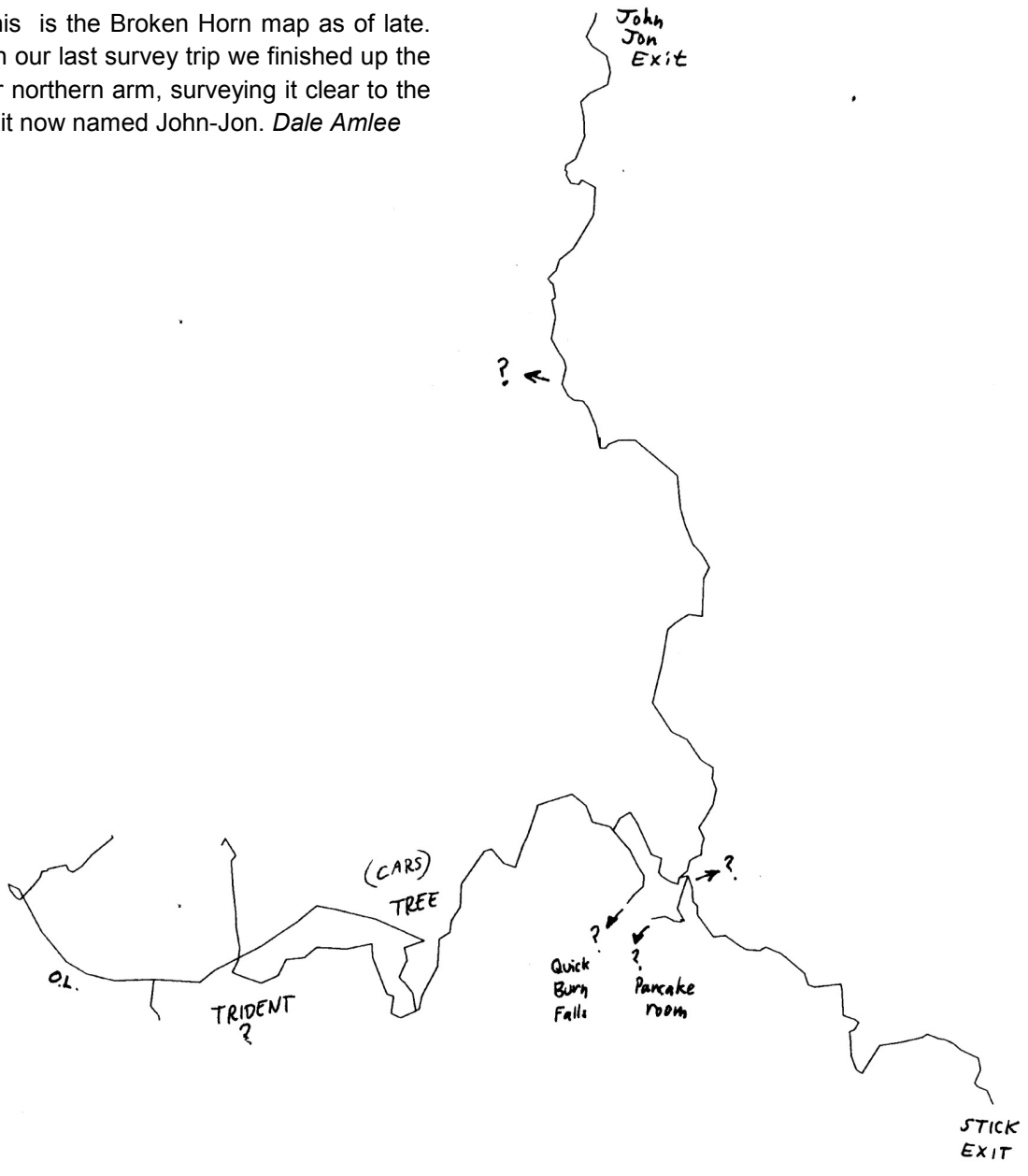
We finally got to where the passage was blocked by fallen ceiling blocks -- a couple of car-sized chunks had just let loose from the ceiling! I got out my Dig It (small folding spade) and Jon dug under a side boulder until he could ooch through. Then he dug from the other side, while I used a flat piece of gyp to dig and clear from mine. This area was relatively easily surveyed through.

But about 100 feet upstream, we found yet another ceiling fall. Here we had to contort and ooze through, chewing up bodies and time getting good fore and back sights. We did NOT want to have to come back and resurvey this stuff .

We finally heard muffled sounds from upstream. I said, "I'm sure I hear Lil's voice!" I shouted, "Hellooooo!" and got an immediate answer! That was at 4:05 p.m. After another shot, we heard John Bozeman coming to visit. He was on one side of a ceiling-down pile and Jon was on our side. I think they shook hands and then John went back to continue surveying toward us.

We made the final survey connection at 5:35 and everyone was out of the cave a bit after 6. We left, of course, via Fanny Mae, but it will NOT be the easy way in, especially after it rains! (Since I'm writing this a week later, I can tell you that this cave area received 24.5 inches of snow on March 28th! Very glad we finished this survey leg -- yessiree!)

This is the Broken Horn map as of late. On our last survey trip we finished up the far northern arm, surveying it clear to the exit now named John-Jon. *Dale Amlee*



POTPOURRI

Cave Activity Discouraged to Help Protect Bats From Deadly White-nose Syndrome

Contact: Diana Weaver 413-253-8329

Reprinted from an email

White-nose syndrome, a wildlife crisis of unprecedented proportions, has killed hundreds of thousands of bats from Vermont to West Virginia and continues unchecked. Now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking those who use caves where bats hibernate, called hibernacula, to take extra precautions and to curtail activities to help prevent the spread of WNS.

There is no known human health risk associated with white-nose syndrome in bats. While the actual cause of WNS is unknown, scientists are reasonably certain that WNS is transmitted from bat-to-bat. However, WNS has been found in caves a significant distance from WNS-affected hibernacula, leading scientists to believe that something else is moving WNS.

We suspect that white-nose syndrome may be transmitted by humans inadvertently carrying WNS from cave to cave where bats hibernate, said Northeast Regional Director Marvin Moriarty of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Service cave advisory asks that cavers curtail all caving activity in WNS-affected states and adjoining states to protect bats from the spread of WNS. The advisory also asks that cavers beyond WNS-affected states and adjacent states use clothing and gear that has never been in affected and adjacent states. And finally, cavers everywhere should avoid caves and mines during the bat hibernation period (winter) to avoid disturbing bats.

In addition, federal and state scientists will evaluate all scientific activities in hibernacula for their potential to spread WNS, weighing potential benefits of the research against the risk to bats.

We are working closely with state natural resource agencies, the caving community, conservation organizations and other federal agencies on this issue, Moriarty said. We understand that following these recommendations will inconvenience recreational cavers, but we believe this is the most responsible course of action as we face this unknown threat to bats, which play an important role in our world.

The Service cave advisory is available at **http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html.**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and a trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information about our work and the people who make it happen, visit http://www.fws.gov.

CAVES ARE WARM!

Copied from the Ozark Adventure

http://www.fantasticcaverns.com/pdf/ozark_adventure_spring_09.pdf

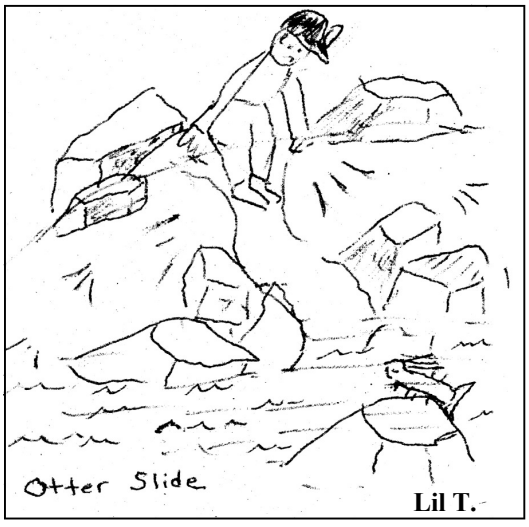
Temperatures in caves stay about the same all year long. A cave's temperature is approximately the same as the average annual temperature in the region where it is located.

For example, caves in the northern portion of the Ozarks have an average temperature of 56 degrees, according to "The Wilderness Underground: Caves of the Ozark Plateau," by H. Dwight Weaver. In the southern Ozarks the average temperature is near 60 degrees.

Thus, cave temperatures vary from region to region. Winter is heating up as a vacation season in the Missouri Ozarks, and with the region becoming a year-round leisure destination; a cave is a perfect place to come in out of the cold.

At Fantastic Caverns, in the heart of the Ozarks just north of Springfield, Missouri, the temperature is a comfortable 60 degrees throughout the year, regardless of the weather outside. Warm during the winter -- cool during the summer. At the

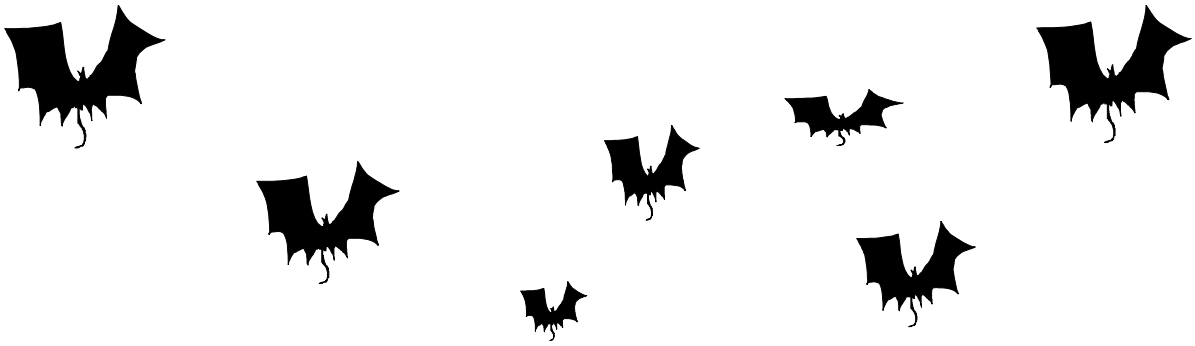
Cave of the Mounds in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, the average temperature is about 50 degrees. It's near 53 degrees in Wind Cave at Hot Springs, South Dakota, and at Skyline Caverns in Front Royal, Virginia, the mercury stays in the mid-50s. Kentucky Caverns in Horse Cave, Kentucky, hovers between 58 and 60 degrees. Lake Shasta Caverns in O'Brien, California, averages 58 degrees. But in warm south Texas, the average reading in the Caverns of Sonora is 71 degrees. Caves by their nature are humid places, and the 98 percent relative humidity in Caverns of Sonora makes it feel like the temperature is a sultry 85 to 90 degrees!

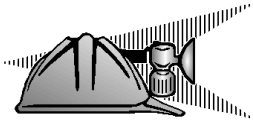


Otter Slide: ***Any Sticky, Muddy, No Traction, Wet Cave Slope!***

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 May meeting will be at
The Town House,
Friday, May 8th.





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