CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The September meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto has been rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 18th, 2009. at the home of the Woltz's,

515 N. Arizona St. Weatherford, OK

Phone: 580-774-2561.

From OKC:
Go west on I-40 to Weatherford. Take exit 82 for E Main St. toward I-40 Bus Loop and . Turn right at N Washington St.. Take the 3rd left onto E Proctor Ave. then the 2nd right onto N Arizona St. You should be there, 515 N. Arizona Street.

Special Note:

After the original newsletter was mailed, it was learned that one of our members—Gary Harrington suddenly passed away this week. Our regular Monthly meeting was moved to the next Friday so that friends and fellow cavers could go to the "Salute to the Life of Gary Harrington" party @ 600 Garth Brooks Blvd in the St. John's Nepomuk Catholic School in Yukon this Friday, Sept. 11th.. COG Members are invited to attend—wear cheerful colors, nothing sad or drab. No flowers and any donations are to be made to the Sierra Club. If you attend, please bring a covered dish for the family.

More information next newsletter…..

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, 18, at the Woltz's house, 515N. Arizona St. Weatherford, OK. Phone: 580-774-2561

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
Minutes of the meeting of June 12, 2009

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

First and foremost we thank Duane for providing us with the usual big feed of charcoaled burgers, hot dogs, and bratwursts, and enough beer to make Lake Altus look like Lake Texhoma, and soda for teetotalers like me.

The Honorable Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:28.

OLD BUSINESS

- We talked about the closing of caves on federally-owned lands in eastern Oklahoma.
- Lil reported that she took a call from a human being who's interested in caving in the Ada area.
- We discussed the work we did in Carlsbad cave: job well done.

NEW BUSINESS

- We decided to take our own brushes and buckets to Carlsbad next year.
- We decided to send a "happy retirement" card to Tom Bemis who has been a good shepherd unto us during our years of working together in Carlsbad.

TREASURER'S REPORT
John Talbot gave his report.

We concluded the meeting at 9:11, almost too full to drive home.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

June, 2009

INCOME		EXPENSES	
DUES	$ 54.00	NEWLETTER PRINTING	$ 6.18
DIVIDEND	$ 0.13		
PUBLICATION SALES	$ 100.25		
TOTAL	**$ 154.38**	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$ 6.18**
CASH ON HAND	$ 212.79		
CHECKING	$ 634.87		
SAVINGS	$ 2,693.54		
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 5/7/09	**$ 3,541.20**		

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

There hasn't been any additional trip reports since the Carlsbad Restoration trip. Hopefully this month there will be some activity. We definitely have cave to map!

POTPOURRI

Historical Point of Interest
Created by Dale Town

During our last trip to Carlsbad, we enjoyed a couple of side trips that departed a little from the usual rock cleaning and made the trip a little more interesting.

Leave it to Tom to be at the leading edge of technology, i.e. new cave lighting consisting of the newest in high intensity diode lighting with a color temperature specifically chosen so as not to encourage the growth of algae and to cast a more pleasing, if not natural, light inside the cave.

We were honored in being asked to load up our truck with this high dollar equipment and then "pack mule" it down to the lower reaches of the cave.

Tom also showed us a unique and not often seen bit of cave graffiti left by the Army Air Service back in the 1920's.

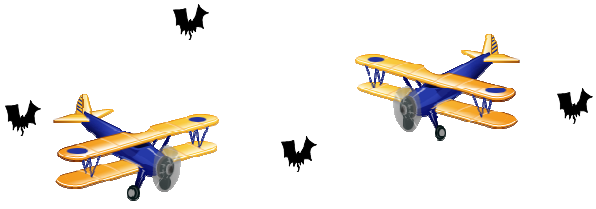
At the time airplanes were quite new and the Army instituted a secret testing program to perfect this new weapon system. Wanting to keep it out of the eye of the general public, the Army quite literally went underground. Carlsbad was chosen, since it was the only cave large enough for the tests.

Small catapults were built and Army biplanes were launched and flown inside the Big Room. The brave young Lieutenants chosen to fly them, of course, wanted to be remembered, so they left their names permanently burned onto the cave wall. Some even signed bricks they made and placed them in small alcoves.

We were honored to see these and will forever wonder if any wartime flying they may have done later in life matched the adventure of flying along with the bats among the cave formations in Carlsbad Caverns.

This photo was taken by Anne Ault

Editor's Note: The bricks, lighting, and cave graffiti is true, the rest might be a little exaggerated!



Educators decipher the courtship songs of bats

Copied from the Houston Chronicle; Wed., August 26, 2009; pg.B2
Research finds sophisticated communication
Associated Press

AUSTIN- The summer sounds of love in Texas come from some furry creatures.

Experts at the University of Texas in Austin and Texas A&M in College Station say they have decoded the courtship songs of Mexican free tailed bats.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday that the findings were published this week in an online journal of the Public Library of Science.

Millions of the bats have made a bridge in Austin their home, while others prefer caves and barns throughout the Southwest. A wild colony has been noted at Kyle Field in College Station.

"Bat songs have specific syllable types that are used to construct phrases, and the phrases are put together in specific orders to build the songs," said lead researcher Kirsten Bohn, A&M.

"Buzzes are almost always at the end of songs. But a bat can do chirp-trill-buzz, and then the same bat can do a chirp-trill, chirp-trill, chirp-trill-buzz. So you have this variability she said.

George Pollak, a neurobiologist at UT whose $375,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health underwrote the project, said the courtship calls of bats are similar.

"Whether or not it's ab-solutely innate, whether it requires learning to be ex-pressed or is partially learned, it makes no difference," Pollak said. "The point is, here you have a mammal that has among the richest and most sophisticated communication repertoires of any animal we know of, save man."

The researchers recorded the high-pitched songs for analysis.

Bats could prove to be good models for understanding the neural pathways involved in stuttering, certain effects of Parkinson's disease and other disorders, according to Bohn.

Sierra Club heads out to the caves

Copied from the internet

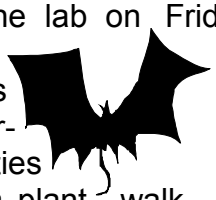
Editor: This was sent to me and thought it was neat on what all was happening at the SLL. Sorry we missed it.

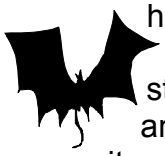
July 18th – 19th - Day Hiking/Bat Viewing/Star Gazing/ Caving at Selman Living Lab Near Freedom, OK.

Outing Description and Itinerary: The Selman Living Laboratory (SLL) consist of 334 acres, two large caves (one a major hibernaculum for the Cave Myotis), 230 + wildflower species, 20 species of prairie fish in Salty Creek, an astronomy observatory, bunkhouses for overnight student groups and researchers, and more.

This will be a rare opportunity for people to visit this research property hosted by Dr. Caire, former Dean of the College of Math and Science at UCO and director of the SLL.

The Outing does not officially start till Saturday morning but many of us may want to car pool to the lab on Friday night. On Saturday, the Oklahoma Master Naturalists will join our group. Saturday's activities may include a plant walk, a short trip though a section of the hibernating cave, an evening of watching the SPECTACULAR stream of Mexican Free-tail mother and baby bats emerge from the maternity cave for feeding.





Saturday night Dr. Steve Maier, Associate Professor of Physics at NW –OSU, will open the observatory for star gazing through the lab's telescope.

Sunday morning, after our traditional BIG breakfast, we'll work on any projects around the lab. Alabaster Caverns, The Sod House Museum, The Little Sierra State Park, Freedom OK, and many other places are nearby to visit on the way home.

Disappearing Cave, Appearing Cave

1
The cave just across the valley
We easily see, its jagged entrance
Promising cool darkness in this heat
That makes the leaves of the trees
Curl up to resemble straws.
But it would take days to hike there
Down the canyon, across its floor,
And up the steep slopes—and not days
But weeks of hard climbing
And dangerous at this altitude
Of 15,000 feet with nearby peaks
An extra 12,000 higher.
So we ignore it. But at night
It invades our dreams unwanted
And we awake from disturbed sleep
Anxious, looking all around us.
It forced itself into our dreams—
We blink our eyes—the cave's image
Appears and reappears.
One of our crew has left, footsteps
Heading toward that far distant cave.
But we're too fatigued to search
And abandon him to his fate.
2
Entering the holy cave to meditate
The monk sat in the humid darkness.
One day friends went to see him,
Ask him for help in penetrating the veil
That surrounds and sorrows life,
But found only his food bowl.
He had gone, enlightened,
And no longer needs his body
Which blocks and contorts
The eternal, selfless soul.
They sat where he sat and hoped
But understanding nothing about
The black sunlight of the deep caves
That are dark as the moonless night
Became bored, stood up, and left,
Unfit for The Cave of Life Beyond Life.
3
They open, they close; appear and vanish
Like enlightenment opens and closes
And too easily can vanish forever
During the deadening days of minutes
That are not the minutes of life
But minutes that are lifeless
Soul-numbing rot and its habits.

When The Cave of the Heart opens next
Be ready and leap into it without fear
Rapidly as the sun reflects gold
Then that reflection is gone.
4
Caves of the heart and soul,
We've come to explore your depths,
We'll leave our families and lovers.

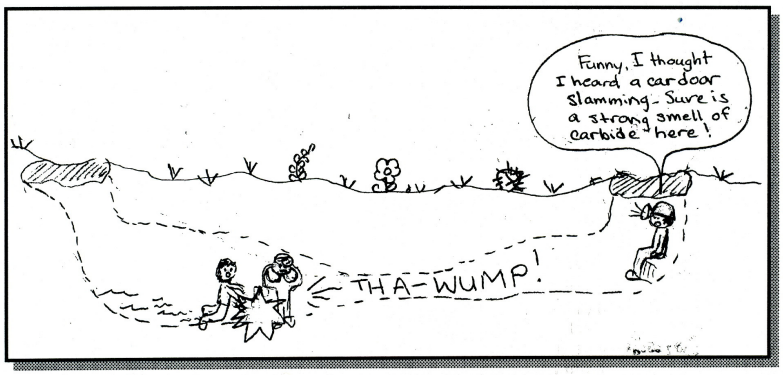
Here between these cool stone walls
We find unexplored passages
That lead us down and within.
Caves of the soul and heart,
We've come to live in your sunless art.

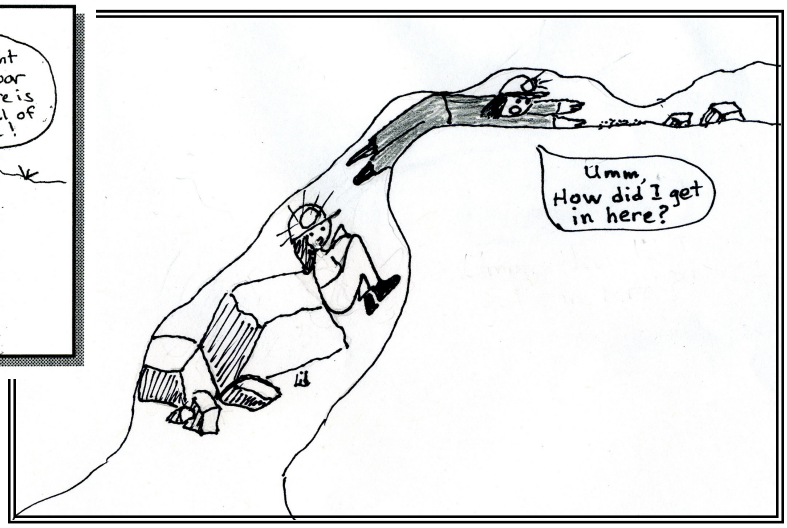
Steve Beleu, January 5, 2009

Caving Humor

Cartoons by Sue Bozeman

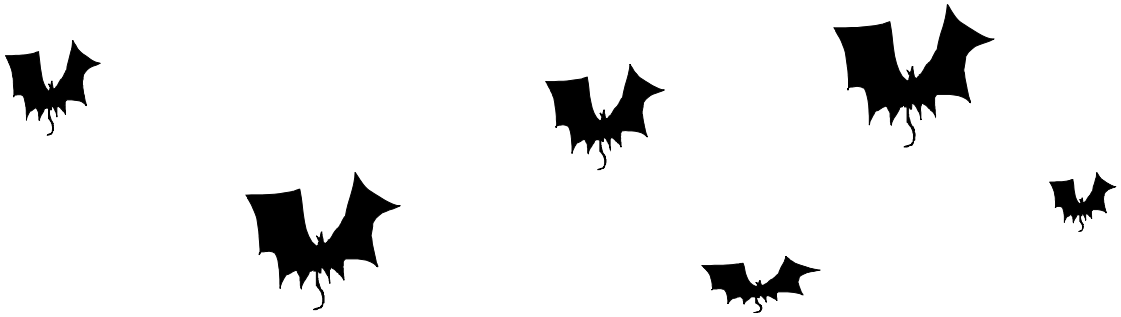
These may have been used already, but are good enough to use again! Enjoy

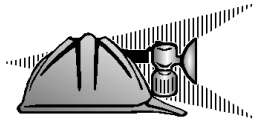




Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL., 35810. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. published general information in a monthly newsletter ($6.00/year) and detailed cave surveys and related 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 September meeting will be at Jon's house, Friday, September 18, 2009.





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