CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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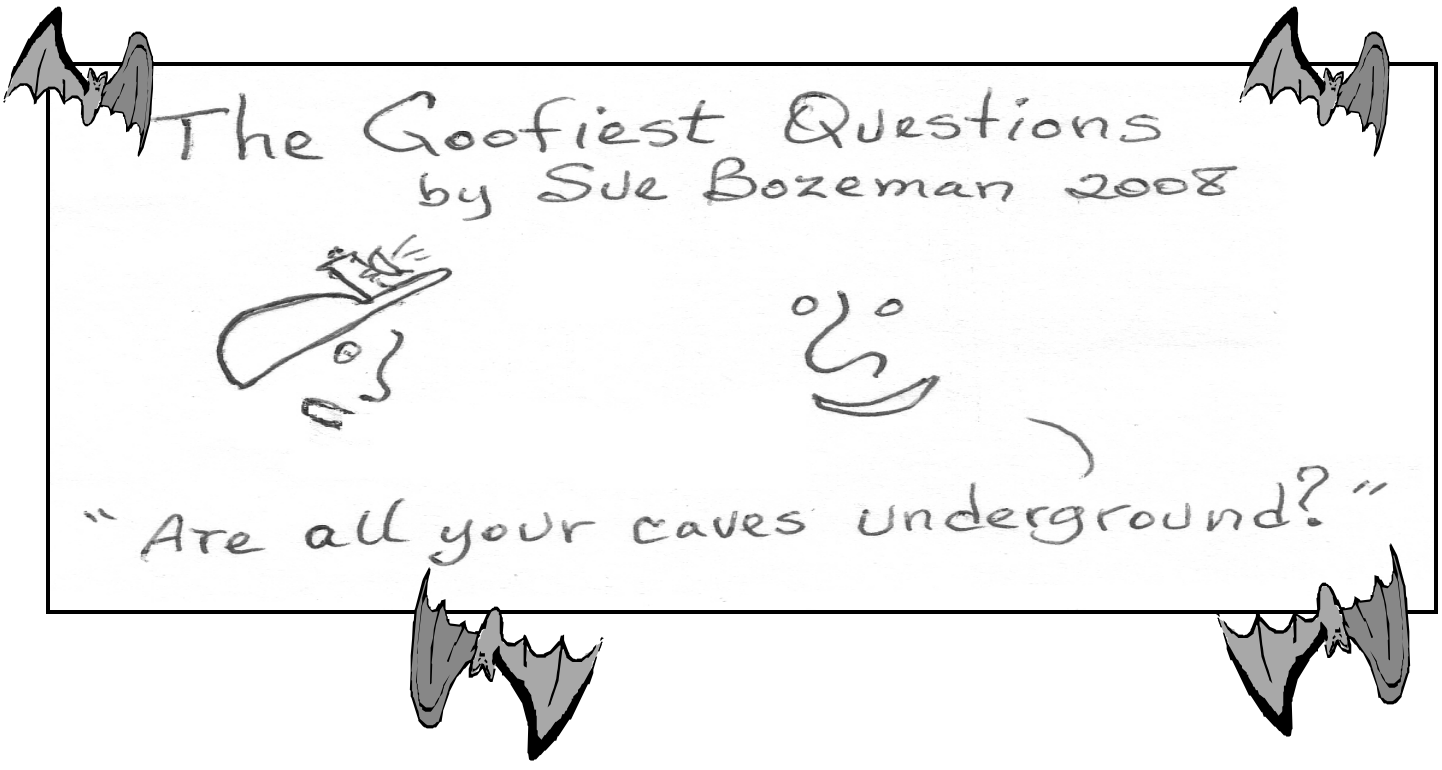
Remember that the December meeting is at the Bozeman's and it's the annual grotto Christmas Party. Be sure to bring a goodie to share!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The 7:30, December meeting will be at John and Sue's home for the annual Christmas Party.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

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

Host: the home of Steve Beleu, the Skillful Ogre
Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, John Van Dyke

The Honorable Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:01:30.

OLD BUSINESS

- We bought a second *Fluke 411D Distance Meter* based on its success during our last surveying trip into Broken Horn Cave.
- In a second letter from Joe Looney, Mr. Looney told us that he will be responsible for all paperwork necessary to implement his "scholarship" proposal. After discussion we voted to accept his proposal. He and COG Treasurer Talbot will begin communicating with each other about these items yet to be decided upon: an agreement about maintaining a separate bank account for Joe's money; and a statement about what happens to this money upon Joe's death. Until more work is done with these details further actions have been tabled.
- We received a thank-you card from the Cimarron Group of the Sierra Club for the donation we made to them in the name of Gary Harrington.

NEW BUSINESS

- Guests Rhonda Roby and Shirley Shoemake told us about their plan to hold a family reunion in conjunction with a visit to Mary Jo Fletcher Cave near Quinlan in northwest Oklahoma east of Mooreland. Ms. Fletcher was a member of COG in the 1970's, and "Mary Jo Fletcher Cave" is named for her. Their goal is to hold a celebration of Mary Jo's life on Saturday, March 6, 2010. They will meet on the Friday night before to dine together. Then on Saturday morning they'll hold a 5K run for family members, and on Saturday afternoon those able and interested will enter Mary Jo Fletcher Cave. They would also like to place a memorial to her in a town near the cave. They ask for our help in scouting out the cave as to its current suitability for caving – which we need to complete by the end of January – and in helping them enter and make their way through the cave. Shirley is Mary Jo's daughter; Rhonda is her aunt.

ANNUAL BUSINESS

- We voted on officers for 2009:
  Chair – Dale Amlee
  Vice-Chair – Jon Woltz
  Treasurer – John Talbot
  Secretary and Sergeant-at-Underarms – S. Beleu

- Meeting locations for 2009:
  January – John Talbot
  February – John van Dyke
  March – Anne Ault
  April – Lil and Dale Town
  May – Dale Amlee
  June – Duane Del Vecchio
  July, August – no meetings
  September – Jon and Kelley Woltz
  October – Art Wallace
  November – S. Beleu
  December – Sue and John Bozeman

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his report.
We concluded the meeting at 9:25:42

TRIP REPORTS

Location: Broken Horn Cave
Date: November 21, 2009
Personnel: Anne Ault, Dale Amlee, Steve Beleu, Sue and John Bozeman.
Report by John Bozeman

As per usual, the five of us met up at the Bozeman residence around 7 a.m. The Bozeman jeep hadn't enough room for five cavers and all their gear, so we forced Mr. Beleu to drive his vehicle. (Besides, it is good caving etiquette/safety to keep Steve and Anne separated, as much as possible.) It was a long, foggy drive to the caving area, but the weather was pleasant in Woodward County. After visiting some with Betty Selman and changing into our gear, we were off to the cave, where we decided all five of us should stick together on this survey trip as we were one short of the minimum for two survey crews.

This was my first trip into a cave since March and my bout with ARN (acute retinal necrosis) and vitrectomy for the resultant retinal detachment. Oh well, at least the other member of the Cyclops Club (Steve) was along to give me some pointers on how to cave without true binocular vision. Sue and the others were protective and helpful, so all went well, although the footing thing was interesting: without good depth perception, the nearest wall was always farther away than it appeared!

We followed Dale through Jay's Entrance into what really reeked and looked, from all the porcupine scat, like an animal den. Quickly into the main passage, we scrambled through breakdown to the stream-level. Proceeding downstream, we kept up a reasonable pace until we arrived at the waterfall (about 2 1/2 to 3 feet high) where we picked up the survey. Up, over and through breakdown, the surveying went slowly because I was running Suunto instrument and had some difficulties getting several readings. All were patient (and eventually COLD) as I re-familiarized myself with the art of survey. We finally returned to the stream level and observed that the passage in which we were standing (comfortably) rapidly lowered and continued as a stagnant and really nasty- looking water crawl about eighteen inches high!

Luckily, Dale examined the dirt slope on the opposite side of the stream and noticed that the dirt fill didn't extend all the way to the ceiling. This was promising since we had started out with hopes for making a connection with the Pancake Room survey which Sue and I had done several years (?) back. Dale had brought along copies of old surveys in the area, so we knew we were close. Our Official Cave-Digger (Mr. Beleu) was, unfortunately, unencumbered by his "Weapons Of War" and had to make do with Sue's Dig-It tool. But he persevered with this inferior instrument and opened things up enough that we could see the passage continued (but too tight for human progress except with the proper tools) for twenty plus feet. (There was a false alarm when a vertical stick was found in the dirt and we jumped to the conclusion that it must have been the last point of the Pancake Room survey.)

Dale and Sue were elected, because they were the most fit and the rest of us refused, to quickly retreat to the high, crossover crawl and from thence to the Pancake Room to see if a voice connection was possible. The two groups heard each other before the Pancake Room was even reached! We soon discovered we could see each other and the connection was made. To complete the process, Sue and Dale surveyed an additional point beyond the prior terminating shot on their end so that Dale and I could then make the connecting shot. They then retreated and rejoined us, where two additional points were surveyed to the connection point on our side. Several other survey shots were taken to give us azimuths of the two water tubes we had encountered on this trip. One was the stagnant and nasty-looking one and the second was a pretty but COLD and WET one from the waterfall area to near where we re-encountered the stream passage.

I know it sounds as if we tried to avoid all the water on this trip (and we REALLY did try) but we failed miserably. Dale, while investigating the confluence area off the Pancake Room (and where we made an additional voice connection along the stagnant and nasty-looking water tube), attempted to disappear into the sucking silt of the floor of the water passage. I informed him that I had attempted the same feat some years (?) earlier. So we slogged our way out, and the water be damned.

Needless to say, our trip out of the cave and into a starry western Oklahoma night, was much slower than the trip in and there were several discouraging words said! Off we went to Betty's for a quick cleanup; then onward to Fairview and Pizza-Hut cuisine and finally on to the homeward journey.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
DIVIDEND	$ 0.12	POSTAGE	$ 8.00
DUES	**$ 24.00**	EQUIPMENT	$ 136.70
TOTALS	**$ 24.12**		**$ 144.70**
CASH ON HAND	$ 204.38	**TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 11/12/2009**	**$ 3266.19**
CHECKING	$ 345.50		
SAVINGS	$ 2,700.31	**Prepared by Treasurer John Talbot**	

POTPOURRI

Exhibit reveals Artistic Illusions

Marc Barker's Works encourage Viewers to think

Copied from The Daily Oklahoman

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

NORMAN - An exhibit by Marc Barker seems **guaranteed** to make us**'"think** about **our** place in the scheme of things, or "the illusion of **mattering,"** as the artist puts it. The show of oil **paintings** and digital prints of paintings by **the** Oklahoma City artist M is on *view* in the **gallery** at Firehouse Art Center.

Done in black or shades of dark Brown and white Barker's oil paintings oil. Masonite are as exquisite and technically accomplished as they are enig-matic and thought-provoking. A seemingly grinning skull, like that of Yorick in "Hamlet" is; replaced, by what could be the dark double entrance of a cave, or a walnut, and I then *by* a cloud in one triptych. Barker calls the three small oil panels "Deconstruction of a Skull."

A face, "Riddled" with tiny light and dark circles that make it look like some kind of strange berry, floats in front of a pale, sky-like background in his larger oil of that title. Similar light and dark circles reappear in the central panel of t triptych called "Bound Yet Determined."

Flanking this image are panels depicting a crowd of nude men wearing dark hoods, like captured enemy combatants or potential torture victims, through the holes in a T-shaped cross. A seven-part work begins and ends with the empty ocean, bracketing five panels depicting the "Procession" of a cloud across the sky, while a larger oil portrays several joined "Ominous Clouds" over the open sea.

In another triptych, "Landescape," a Southwestern-type mesa seems to have collapsed or become a coastline, seen from above, in the final small panel. A lone, upside-down man, placed in the top-left corner of a larger oil, appears to be questioning his place in the crowd of silhouetted men that fills up the low-er-right corner of the composition. Barker calls this work "I (like men) Know Love's Reason."

Less human "Masses" wriggle like worms across the entire surface of a sec-ond larger oil. One sees the moon rise from the empty ocean, travel across the sky and disappear from the picture plane in a final, digital intaglio collaged combo print, made up of 15 small panels, -- **— John Brartdenburg**

A LEAF FALLS -
In Memoriam,
Gary Harrington, 1948 - 2009

A cactus flower blooms; the next day
A wind gust rips it from its stalk
Down onto the black soil of fall,

Soil that has had so many leaves
Fall on it and swallowed so many
And ground them apart to become dirt

That new, healthy soil renews
Life here each spring - rich, thick soil
That life is dense within, and strong.

He's here, part of that life that flows
Root to trunk to branches
And to the leaves that shade us.

Written by Steve Beleu

Two brothers living in cave outside Budapest stand to inherit $6.6 billion

NewYorrk Daily News. Com
By Kevin Flynn
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER
Friday, December 4th 2009, 11:10 AM

Two men who live in a cave outside Budapest may stand to inherit $6.6 billion.

Inheriting $6.6 billion was so easy even two cavemen could do it.

Two brothers who scraped by living in a cave and selling junk on the edge of Budapest have learned they are in line for a huge inheritance from a long-lost grandmother, London's Telegraph newspaper reports. Charity workers in Hungary relayed the good news to Zsolt and Geza Peladi after being contacted by lawyers handling the estate of their maternal grandmother, who died recently in Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany, the paper reports.

"We knew our mother came from a wealthy family, but she was a difficult person and severed ties with them, and then later abandoned us, and we lost touch with her and our father until she eventually died," Geza Peladi, 43, told ATV television in Hungary.

Beyond a vast improvement in the sheer necessities of food, clothing and shelter, the brothers imagine another benefit of leaving their man cave days behind.

"If this all works out, it will certainly make up for the life we have had until now — all we really had was each other — no women would look at us living in a cave," Geza Peladi told the Telegraph.

"But with money, maybe we can find a partner and finally have a normal life. We don't know yet if [our mother] even told our grandmother about us.

"But with money, maybe we can find a partner and finally have a normal life.

I understand it was only while they were carrying out genealogical research that lawyers found we existed," he told the newspaper.

Under German law, direct descendants are automatically entitled to a share of any estate. As the grandmother's daughter is dead, the money goes to her grandchildren.

The brothers are trying to track down their mother's death certificate and proof of their own identities to prove their relation to the woman before traveling to Germany to claim the fortune, the paper said.

The Telegraph said the grandmother's name was being kept secret to prevent fraudulent claims for the money.

Tall Tale Spun Over Cave Spiders

Yahoo News; Saturday, December 5 01:37 pm

At the end of each day they took some of their equipment to the nearby old orchid house to store overnight.

But the archaeologists had brought some uninvited guests with them - enough cave spiders to start a new colony in the completely new territory of a small and dark building above ground level.

The colony of spiders has been living on the National Trust's Malham Tarn estate in the Yorkshire Dales less than a quarter of a mile from their natural home ever since.

They survived there, the National Trust told Sky News Online, because the orchid house was dark enough with little light so it was in keeping with their natural habitat.

But now it is time for the spiders to move on because the house is going to be renovated.

Staff and volunteers from the National Trust will be carefully transporting this precious cargo - which now numbers more than 150 - out of the old orchid house on the short journey back to where they belong in the caves.

The spiders will be collected using an industrial 'pooter'. This Heath Robinson contraption, consisting of a vacuum cleaner and old fish tank, will make it easier to collect them in the dark as they will be sucked up the spout.

They are then put into individual plastic boxes and released back into the darkness of the caves.

Cave spiders are rarely seen beyond their natural habitat because of their dislike of light.

Verses by Steve Beleu

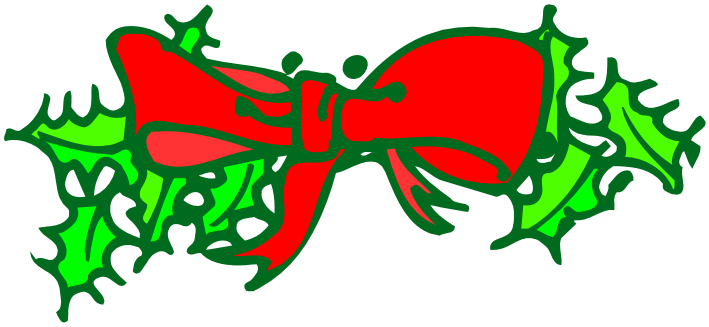
THE CAVES OF UNLIFE - 1

"How much of the cave is underground?"
The would-be wit inquires. I say: none of it -
We must each find our own way through life.
*****
We begin to find caves long familiar to us
Darker, less familiar, chiller - and that passage,
Have we never seen it before today?
*****
That cave you always meant to survey
You return to and it's gone, vanished,
No sign of collapse, no sign it was ever there.
WE HAVE COME HERE; WE MAY NOT BE HERE

Those of us who came here to live began living;
The others were content to exist as they always
Have just existed. The cities we embraced in
Became transparent as the highways we drove down
When concrete disappeared beneath our wheels
And became meadows, and became the winds
That we rode into the Cities of our Minds, numberless,
Infinite as The Infinite has always exceeded our grasp.

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!* Our Webiste is: http://www.okcavers.org

Remember to come to the December meeting at the Bozeman's on Friday, December 11th.



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C/o 3208 Gettysburg Drive
Altus, Oklahoma 73521