CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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Potpourri none

The June meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:00, Friday, June 10, 2011. at the home of Duane Del Vecchio.

Get there however you can. Good food, good friends, and a long social hour!!!
Maybe we'll even talk about caving!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Decontamination protocols specific to WNS have been developed and will continue to be revised to incorporate the best available information. All current protocols will be available at the following website: http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome
Source: DRAFT WNS Plan - v. 10.21.2010 from **A National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing White-Nose Syndrome in Bats**
Duane has put the decontamination protocols in the COG website at Suehttp://okcavers.netfirms.com/wns/index.htm

Which cave can you find this passage? Any guesses?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The 7:00 p.m. June meeting will be, Friday, June 11, at Duane's house,

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

The May meeting of the COG started at 8:14-3/4 p.m. at the Town House in Altus, OK.

Great variety of foods with brats grilled by Dale with assistance from whomever walked by as he was otherwise occupied showing us his electronic man cave in the back yard.

Members present: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, John Talbot, John Van Dyke

Guests: Dale Town's friend and gourmet bean cooker, Carol

Steve Beleu, being absent, was minimally supplanted by Sue Bozeman, ancient but Honorary Member and alternate scribe.

Old Business:

1. Carlsbad Cleanup is out for 2011. Park personnel are changing and no one is available to 'handle' us.
2. Compasses and clinometers -- two each -- are okayed for purchase by those present and John Bozeman will purchase them from Forrestry Suppliers.

New Business:

Dale Town broached the subject of where to go for a summer fun trip to replace the cancelled Carlsbad cleanup. No decisions were made and everyone was asked to think about suggestions.

Trip Reports:

Dale Amlee gave a synopsis of our April Trip to Broken Horn. The lead team, Dale and Steve, got well and truly mucky and stopped just before nose-up total body immersion was required. Lots of dead frogs were seen; some alive as well. Wondering if the oil field barrels found at the Rib Crib Entrance had leaked some nasty crud into the water to effect this animal demise. No chemical odor was noticed.

Treasurer's Report: Dividend 2 cents, Dues $36 No expenses

Cash: $246.49 Checking $547.11 Savings $2,182.72

Total: $2,922.32

June meeting: Duane Del Vecchio's in Lawton.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10-1/2 p.m.

Minutes submitted with great respect by Sue Bozeman

TREASURER'S REPORTS

May, 2010

INCOME		EXPENSES	
DIVIDEND	$ .02		
DUES	$ 36.00		
TOTAL	**$ 36.02**	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$ 00.00**
CASH ON HAND	$ 246.49		
CHECKING	$ 547.11		
		PREPARED BY TREASURER	
SAVINGS	$ 2,182.72	JOHN TALBOT NSS#30254RE	
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 5/13/2011	**$ 2,922.32**		

TRIP REPORTS

Reprint of Dale's April Trip Report

Trip report: Broken Horn Cave
By Dale Amlee
16 April 2011
Cavers: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Jon Woltz, Steve Beleu

The weather for this April cave mapping trip was turning out to be somewhat agreeable, compared to the previous few attempts. The cold weather of winter had broken, leaving us with temperatures in the high 60's to low 70's, and the spring rains had not yet begun to soak the landscape and fill the caves with water. We were therefore hoping to finally get a mapping expedition into the center arm of the trident feature on the western leg of Broken Horn Cave. This arm has always held water, and water-filled passages make mapping extremely difficult. Not only is there the goo factor each person must deal with, sinking into the mud while taking shots and so one, there is also the issue of keeping the mapping equipment clean / dry while working. Depending on the size of the passage and the contortions required to negotiate them, this can sometimes pose insurmountable problems.

The four of us met at the Selman ranch, quickly changed into our gear and made our way to the cave. Anticipating a wet survey, I had layered on the polypropolene beneath my coveralls. Sue was doing the book, Steve and I grabbed compass/clinometers, and Jon had the backup laser distance measuring device (Fluke). The entrance of the cave (Barrel sink) was dry and critter-free, so we squeezed in and got to work.

The nice thing about this particular mapping trip is that the last point we had left on this arm was only about fifty feet in past the entrance, so we were starting to take our first readings much earlier in the day than on other past survey trips. We located the last point of the previous survey (TC3) just before noon, and started to survey.

The mud was fairly sticky, but there wasn't much standing water at this part of the passage, so we were able to progress with the mapping at a fairly good pace. The passage here was standing room high, with rocky featureless white walls that required us to use often barely prominent rock outcroppings as our survey points. Steve's compass / clinometers both turned out to be not functional. They were fairly old models, and had served him well for many years, but apparently the mileage had finally caught up with the devices. We tried several backshots and foreshots with them, but could not get the equipment to repeat, let alone verify the readings from the foreshots I made with the Sunnto items I was using. Regretfully, we decided to just use the same Sunnto's to make backshots to supplement each foreshot, which meant I was taking double readings with the same gear. This wasn't that much of a problem, but it was slowing us down.

As we progressed down the passage we encountered deeper and deeper mud, which often required us to get down on our knees and elbows in order to make the compass shots. The areas of standing water became more frequent as well. One particularly wet area of the passage had an unusual number of frogs, some live, some dead. One very large dead bullfrog had the misfortune to be lying directly beneath a survey point (thanks, Steve). I had the choice of either putting my ear against Mr. Dead Frog to make my compass shot, or unceremoniously flinging him across the muddy passage to let him rest in peace elsewhere. Off he went.

The wetness of the passage also had the effect of increasing the stench of the passage. Each boot-step (or elbow-poke) sunk in from four to six inches, and uncovered black slime beneath the reddish brown mud. The black slime had a strong smell to it, sort of a combination of rotten-eggs and methane. Pulling the boot or elbow free from the ground resulted in a small release of putrid funkiness. This slime began to slowly coat our caving coveralls wherever we were in contact with the ground. The ceiling height of the passage slowly got lower and lower as we progressed down the passage, and before long we were just crawling along on knees and elbows, trying as hard as we could to keep the survey gear from getting too clotted with mud and slime. Steve and I were in the fore, with Sue and Jon keeping back a bit. With only one set of survey instruments, there really wasn't a need for everyone in the party to get totally slimed.

We managed to survey for about two and a half hours when we finally came to an area that nobody was willing to enter. The passage had previously offered a few muddy areas interspersed with narrow puddles, and with a little effort, it was possible to stay out of the water for the most part. Steve was in the front, setting points, when he came to an area with a ceiling height of less than two feet, and nothing but water on the floor as far as could be seen. We could see that this room ahead of us continued for at least thirty to fifty feet if not more. From wall-to-wall, standing stagnant water offered no chance at all of staying even remotely dry. We also knew that beneath the water it would be more of the sticky gooey mud. The ceiling height meant that the only way to navigate this passage would be crawling flat on your belly in the water. With only mud to support you, there is a good chance that the only part of a person that could stay above water is possibly their head, the rest of the body would become immersed. Steve named this passage the Room of Godless Muck. Seemed quite appropriate.

We took one last rough compass / distance shot with the laser device to give us an approximate direction of the passage ahead of us. With that last shot recorded, we turned back and started our trip back out of the cave.

We were quite glad to have the warm spring weather while we changed out of our mud-soaked gear back at the vehicles. A quick check of the survey notes showed that we had managed to survey 204.3 feet of passage, with another 53 feet of estimated distance added on from the last rough survey shot. With an eye towards cave gear disinfection, we bagged up our gear and headed back to the Selman ranch for our much needed hot showers and eventual pizza.

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! Web Page: http://www.okcavers.com*

The June meeting will be at Duane's house, Friday, June 10, 2011.

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