CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

June, 2004

June's Meeting is at The Del Vecchio House

The June meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at Duane Del Vecchio's place at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2004. Remember , the meeting has been moved up a week because of the Carlsbad trip the following weekend.

Address: 1117 NW 74th St., Lawton

Telephone: 580-536-5097

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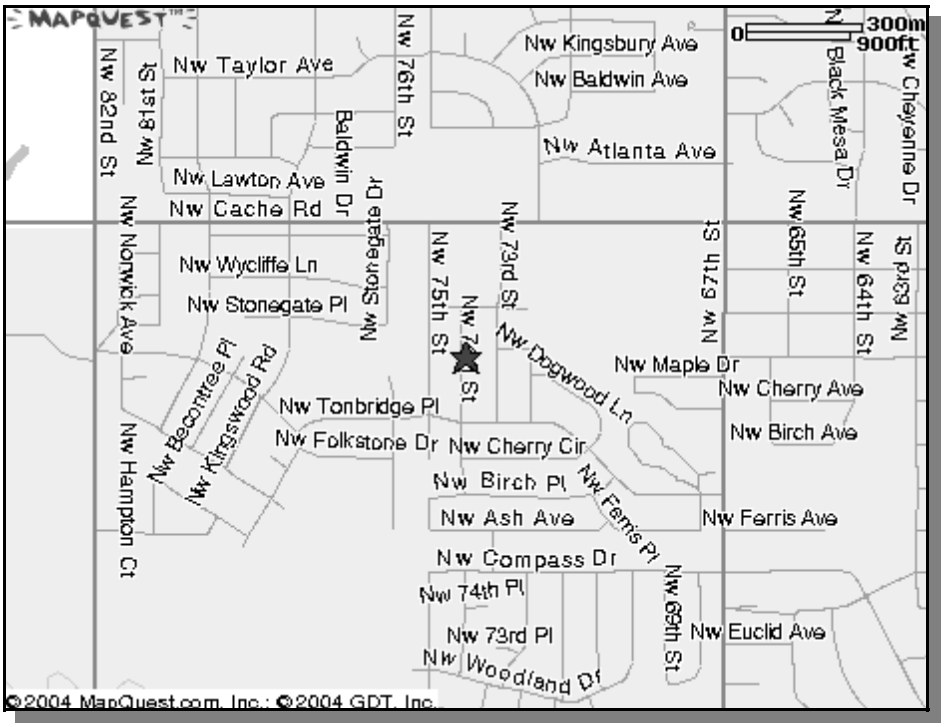


Direction's to Duane's Place

Directions to Duane's place for the June meeting: Coming from OKC: On I-44 South....Take the Rogers Lane (Hi-way 62) West Exit. Go 5 Miles West. Exit South (left turn) on 67th St. (You should see a Wal-Mart to the south) Go 1 mile. At second stoplight (corner with Walgreens, Circle K, What-a-burger) which is Cache Road, turn Right (West) and go for 0.4 miles. You will see a West Side Drug and First Baptist West Church (just past Outback Steakhouse). Turn on 73rd St. (South) for one long block. Then turn right on Maple and 1/2 block to 74th St. Turn left on 74th St. I'm the first driveway on the left on 74th St. (has a bathouse on the basketball goal!).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contract Sue or John Bozeman for details.
*Southwest trips are scheduled the first Saturday of every month. Contact Lil Town for details.
*The June meeting will be at Duane Del Vecchio's house, 1117NW 74th St., Lawton, OK. His phone number is 580-536-5097.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
Minutes of the May 14, 2004 meeting

Host: the abode of Nicole, Roy, and Cassandra Diehl in Norman, victorious home of the OU Sooners

Members present: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Jon Woltz, and Steve Beleu

Chairman Diehl began the meeting at 8:18:37

OLD BUSINESS

1. Concerning Duane's proposed COG website project—Duane has now registered the domain name of "okcavers.org" for us. The cost to COG this first year will be $35.
2. Duane discussed our upcoming trip to Carlsbad Caverns on June 11-13. Our park contact this year will be Stan Ellison. Former COG member Sam Martinez from Wyoming and current COG member from Los Alamos, New Mexico Becky Hunsinger and her husband will join us there.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Roy noted that a graduate student from Kansas contacted him, interested in purchasing copies of the *Oklahoma Underground.* We will send him our bibliography of COG publications.
2. Roy informed us that he has been contacted by an Edmonite representing the "Venture Scouts". They offered to train us vertical rope techniques as part of their commitment to service to their local community.
3. Anne motioned that we change the date of the June COG meeting from June 11 to June 4, since we'll be motoring forth to the Carlsbad environs on June 11. We voted and the motion carried. Therefore we will meet at Duanes's house in Lawton for our next COG-meet on June 4.
4. John Bozeman reported that the Texas Speleological Society is currently buying two caves in Texas.
5. John furthered reported that Betty Selman wants the entrances to Broken Horn Cave that are on her lands surveyed by a survey team from the Oklahoma Society of Land Surveyors. She also wants John to be there as the survey team does its work. She wants to know precisely how much of the cave is on her land, and how much is on her former land that she deeded to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. She may ask to have all of the deeded land returned to her from ODWC. NOTE: although many months have sauntered by, COG has still not received permission from ODWC to work in their part of Broken Horn Cave.

TRIP REPORT

John Bozeman reported about his and Sue's trip to survey Refrigerator Cave. There being a stubborn rattlesnake in the entrance of the cave, they couldn't get into this short 100+ foot cave to survey it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot read his report, which is included in this newsletter.

Chairman Diehl concluded the meeting at 9:00:03
Minutes by El Mono Loco

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
DIVIDEND	$ .07	POSTAGE	$ 26.47
CARBIDE	$ 8.05		
BOYSCOUTS	$ 20.00		
TOTALS	**$ 28.12**		**$ 26.47**
CASH ON HAND	**$** 35.12		
CHECKING	$ 341.41	May 5, 2004	
SAVINGS	$ 2,576.23	PREPARED BY TREASURER	
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 4/6/04	**$ 3002.76**	JOHN TALBOT	

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report: Cattle Cave, Walk Through Trip
Date: May 15, 2004
Personnel: Dale Amlee, Steve Beleu, John Bozeman, Lil Town
Report by Lil Town

Four hardy souls traveled NW to once more venture into Cattle Cave. I was surprised to arrive before the Oklahoma City group, a new experience for me. When John, Steve, and Dale arrived they related their ride through the fog and barely avoiding hitting an accident that blocked the road. After they recovered from having a near collision and being chewed out by the police, they had to turn around and take a detour. No wonder they were a little late!

We packed into the Bozemobile and set forth to the parking area and then continued to hike to the cave. Nice day for a walk, shame there wasn't overland work to do.

This trip was to continue the walk-through to check the map to be sure what was drawn was actually in the cave. We were also going to check to see if the passage we found in Cattle Cave leading toward Salamander could be pushed further.

The first thing we did was check on the side passage. We quickly determined that if we did try to push it, would do it at the end of the day because there was mud to crawl through.

We continued on to where Sue and I had stopped the previous trip, which required another hike over guano mountain. Yuck. Gnats.

We got as far as the Trumpet, a tight squeeze that leads to the back-end of this arm of the cave. I have never been through the Trumpet and didn't go through this trip either. It was getting late and this seemed like a good place to stop.

The map still needs to be check from The Trumpet on to the end of this arm, and the entire other arm before the final map can be started. Guess there will be a few more trips made before we are finished.

I did discover one thing. I had The Trumpet drawn in the wrong part of the passage! Whoops. Guess that's what these last trips are for, that and to be sure we didn't miss a passage.

We did go back to the passage that seems to lead to Salamander. Dale crammed his body through and officially determined that man would not go much further. That was a relief to know we didn't need to worry about continuing a survey in that area.

We cleaned up and ate the required pizza before driving back to our homes. The trip home was incident free, to the relief of the OKC group!

POTPOUURI

March 20th COG conducted a landowner/boyscout tour through Jester and met a group of Texas cavers that were also enjoying a trip through the cave. I saw this trip report in the May 2004 edition of the Maverick Bull, a publication of the Maverick Grotto, and decided to reprint it to share our neighbor's enjoyment of the Jester mud!

Jester Cave, OK

"Trip participants: Lee-Gray Boze; John Brooks; Kelly Butler; Lex Jr., Tammy, Amber & Lex III Cox; Judah Epstein; April Hammond; Kristie Harris; Milo Marks; Melissa Marzahn; Ky McPherson; Kristopher Megahan; Lawrence Najjar; Mike Pearson; Dan, Samuel & Cameron Smith; Brandi Terrell; Diana Tomchick; Bill & Francie Tucker & granddaughter; Robert & Miles Vaughn; Jan Zelinka.

Jester Cave in southern Oklahoma is the longest gypsum cave in the U.S. with a surveyed length of 33,022 feet (6.25 miles). There are 68 known entrances, most along side passages and crawlways so small that some were identified via smoke or voice confirmation with a person on the surface. The main trunk is just under two miles in length. The cave affords ample opportunities to view bats, catfish, crayfish, frogs, and other critters.

An entrance-to-entrance through trip had been made in December by a group of Metroplex cavers and a Venture Scout troup, but I was unable to accompany them due to a previously scheduled trip to the Guads, Pete Lindsley and Mike Pearson had shot digital video footage of this trip and Pete edited this down to a 30+ minute highly entertaining video, so after watching it I decided this would be a great cave trip. Permission was obtained from both landowners to take a group on the same entrance-to-entrance through trip so we were set for our great adventure in a classic gypsum cave. Cavers were invited from both Metroplex grottos (Maverick and OFW) and the Southern Methodist University Geology Club. We also had two transplanted TAG cavers presently living in Austin (Lawrence and KY) join us for the weekend.

Our Friday and Saturday night campsite was Quartz Mountain State Park, about 17 miles north of Altus, OK. Several people stayed in the plush lodge, but most camped out in the park on the shores of Lake Altus-Lugert. The weather was pleasantly mild and the granite hills so scenic that I decided this park would be worth a visit later in the year, when the trees have leaves and the wildflowers are blooming. Our group met in the parking lot at the lodge where we perused the Jester cave map, enjoyed the sunshine and chatted briefly before heading to the cave site. Mike Pearson and Milo Marks were our Jester Cave veterans, so Mike lead the caravan to the property, but made a few wrong turns. Eventually we got back on track and arrived at the northern entrance where we parked the vehicles and prepared for the trip. We were greeted by a herd of discontented cows, who lowed at us for a very long time. Obviously they were accustomed to being fed hay when trucks pulled into their pasture, and that was something we'd forgotten to bring on this trip.

Bats-did I mention that in addition to the sucking mud and water in this cave, that there would be lots of bats? Most were at the upstream, northern entrance, bats everywhere, cute bats, large groups of bats, huddled, smiling bats! In addition we saw pale, colorless crayfish, one of the biggest frogs I've ever seen in the wild, cave crickets, and tons of graffiti. It seems that "Patrick," a local spelunker, had the primal urge to leave his name in orange paint all through the main cave passage. What a shame this turned out to be, as many of the passages are reminiscent of the water-sculpted ones seen in Longhorn Cavern, albeit considerably smaller. I vowed to bring better camera equipment and additional slaves for the next trip to Jester.

We did the through-trip in approximately four hours, and for many of the beginning cavers on this trip that seemed long enough. I had worn polypro long underwear bottoms and wool socks in my trusty all-rubber Bata Boots, which are ideal gear for water caves, but many people were getting cold and tired of being wet. We exited the cave, and on the return walk to our trucks the eagle-eyed John Brooks spotted a Texas Horned Lizard alongside the gravel road.

Dinner that night at the steak house in Blair was a lively event. Our group filled a banquet room in the rear of the restaurant and the waitstaff helped us celebrate Cameron Smith's 17th birthday with cake and a rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Soon it was time to return to the campground for a good night's sleep, and our group dispersed, to return to Texas the next day.

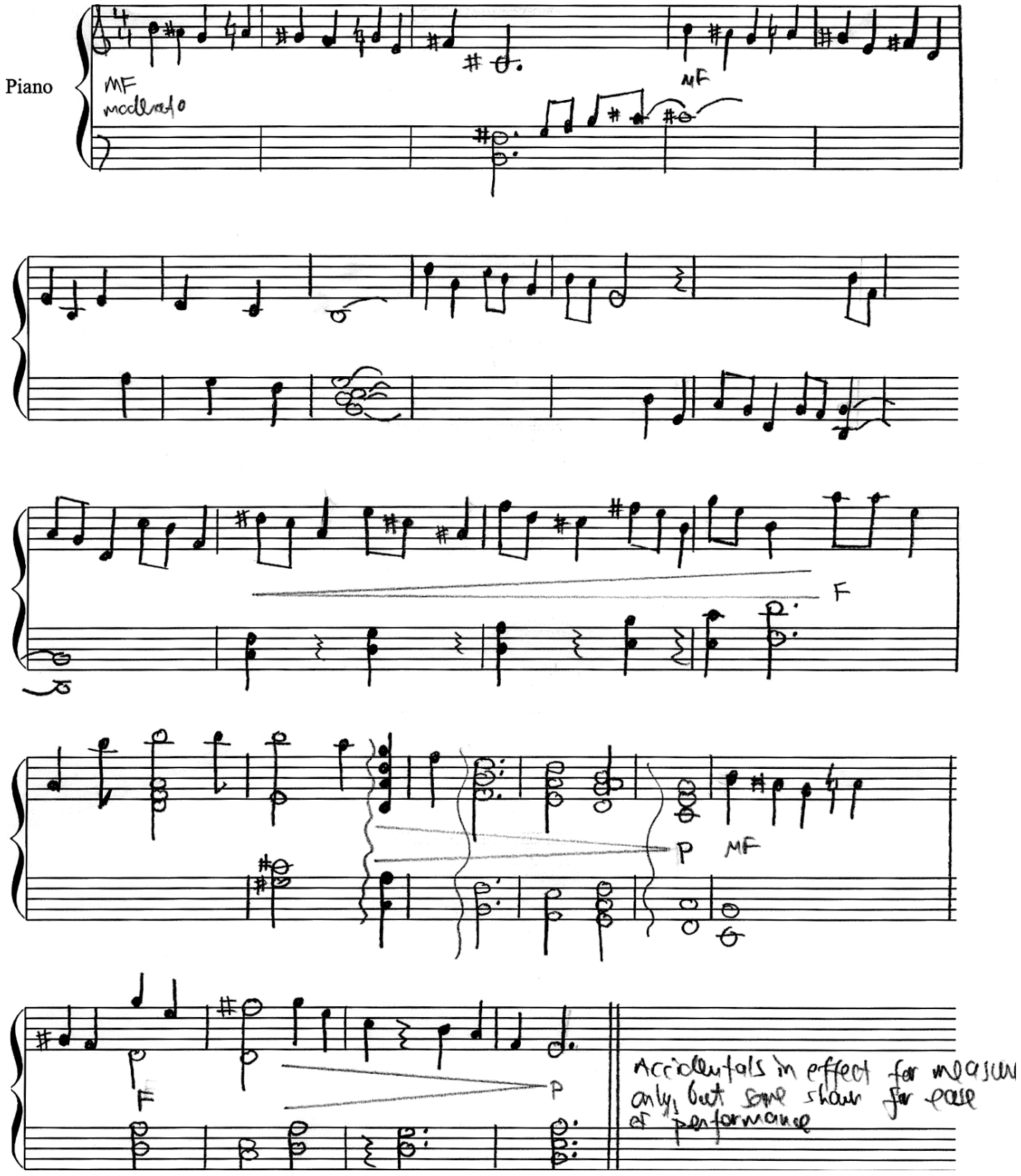
(Note: Bata Boots may be purchased on the Internet for about $17 at http://shop.store.yahoo.com/qcsupply/lac6pvcworsh.html Buy the model WITHOUT steel toes and WITH a steel shank. They are sturdy, easily cleaned, more flexible and provide. better traction on wet surfaces than leather hiking boots.)

BAT

Written by Steve Beleu

Your soft fluttering awakened me
From my remembrance of a past
Long gone for me, a night
Darker than even this cave
When every hour was happiness.
Now I sit in this cave's emptiness
Listening to the gentle sway
Of the "Dies Irae".

Gypsum Caving Bagatelles—14

Written by Steve Beleu

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!*

Don't forget to come to the June meeting
at Duane Del Vechhio's Place, Friday, June 4.

Central Oklahoma Grotto
C/o 3208 Gettysburg Drive
Altus, Oklahoma 73521