CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC
www.okcavers.org

C.O.G.nizance

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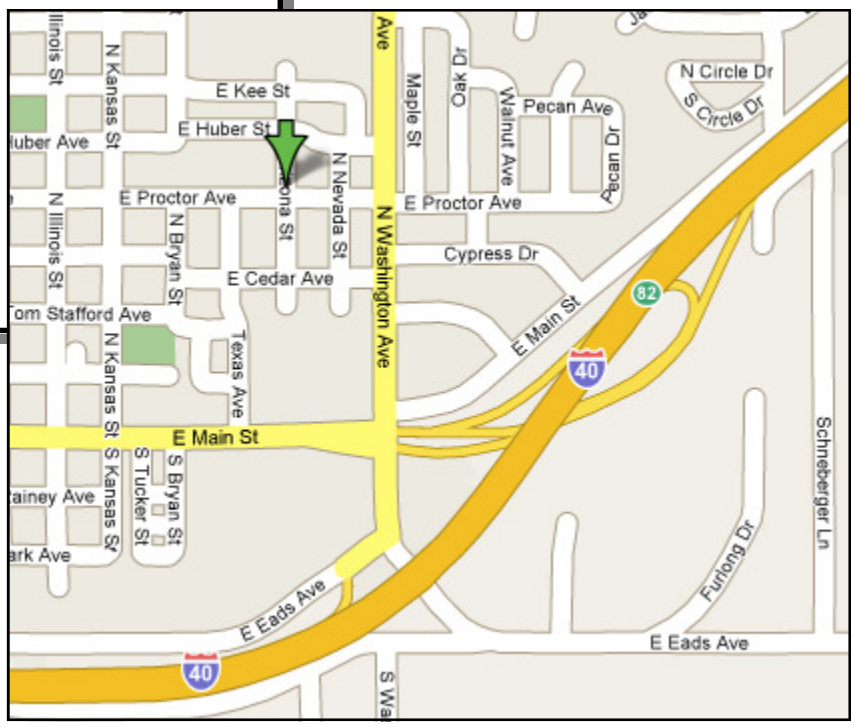
The September COG meeting will be at Jon and Kelley's house. This will be the first meeting since June.

Address: 515 N. Arizona St., Weatherford, OK (Google map link: tinyurl.com/2hlyxl)

Directions from Oklahoma City: Go west on I-40 until you get to Exit 82 (E. Main St.). Turn right at the bottom of the exit onto Washington Ave. Go north on Washington to Proctor Ave. Turn left onto Proctor. Travel west on Proctor to Arizona St. Turn right onto Arizona. Look for the white house on the west side of the street. My white Dakota pickup will be in the driveway.

Phone: 580-774-2561



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The September meeting will be Friday, Sept. 14th at 7:30pm at Jon and Kelley Woltz's house, 515 N. Arizona St., Weatherford, OK. The phone is 580-774-2561.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of 8 June 2007

De Facto Chairman Jon Woltz began the meeting at 7:28.

Host: Duane Del Vecchio, who prepared for us his customary feast of grilled burgars, hot dogs, and sausages, other food, and several hundred beers. For all of which, much thanks!
Atttendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, Sue and John Bozeman, John Talbot, Jon van Dyke, Kelley and Jon Woltz.

OLD BUSINESS

Carlsbad trip report

Dale Amlee related the main tasks of our 2007 trip: the work of Dale, Duane, Dale Town, and Jon in replacing the two catchment screens at the bottom of National Geographic Pit. Duane has written the report that NPS personnel require from us; this report and other reports from this trip are available from the COG website at this address: **www.okcavers.netfirms.com/trip%20reports/carlsbad07/index.htm**.

Nixon Ranch Cistern report

One of Betty Selmon's neighbors contacted Sue and John concerning their fear that two historic, no longer in-use cisterns (one completed, the other begun but not completed) on either side of their house could cause their house to collapse into a sinkhole. John determined that the cisterns posed no threat to them, and were about 14+ feet deep

On May 22nd Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, and the Bozemans delivered a talk about caves and caving to a gang of 20+ children someplace or the other. Dale dressed in full caving gear. They made a good impression upon the rambunctious youth.

NEW BUSINESS

Anne proposed that COG reimburse those who drove to Carlsbad for their gas expenses. Much debate and discussion ensued, with Anne proposing that COG pay 100% of expenses, and Sue proposing that COG pay a percentage of expenses.

Motion #1 – made by Anne to pay 100% of expenses failed.

Motion #2 – made by John Van Dyke to pay so many cents per mile failed.

Sue insisted that only one model of reimbursement would work, which is this: that all drivers present their receipts, regardless of whether they drove from their house to Carlsbad or drove from their house to Lawton or Altus, and also regardless of whether they allowed others to ride with them or whether only they and their family rode in their car. Other members argued that several models of reimbursement were possible, to wit: 1. that reimbursement begin only from Altus for those who drove from Altus, 2. that reimbursement be limited to those who drove only from Altus who allowed others to ride with them, and 3. my own proposal that anyone driving from anywhere would be reimbursed only if they allowed Satan to ride with them. But all came to naught.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Talbot gave his report.

Jon ended the meeting at sometime around 9:30. I'm not sure that I recorded all the minutes correctly because we were sitting on Duane's patio and it had become dark by the end of the meeting and I couldn't see how to write so I didn't, so I'm counting on my tattered memory to supply all the details. I attempted to take minutes on my Etch-a-Sketch, but I couldn't keep up with our banter. So once again: minutes taken by crayon upon Big Chief tablet, doing my best to write between the lines.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

August, 2007

INCOME

DIVIDEND	$	6.80
DONATIONS	$	11.50
PUBLICATION SALES	$	93.00
NEWSLETTER SALES	$	24.00
POSTAGE CREDIT	$	16.00
TOTAL	**$**	**151.30**

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES $ 0.00

SAVINGS	$ 2,647.77
CASH ON HAND	$ 43.54
CHECKING	$ 442.32

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 5/13/07 $ 3133.75

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report: Carlsbad Restoration
Trail Cleaners: A.M. Team; John Bozeman, Becky and Mark Hunsinger, Mark Miller, and Lil Town
P.M. Team; John Bozeman, Lil Town, Anne Ault
Date: June 2, 2006
Written by a COG member!

Those who didn't go down to the lower caver, were able to walk and enjoy the beauty of the big room while looking for any trash to pick up along the way! Any excuse is good to be able to spend time in a cave! Those who walked trail rotated with some who were working in the lower cave. We were surprised how little trash we found along the trails. Even the rangers we met commented on the fact they hadn't seen as much as they have in the past.

The trail walkers did take their share of pictures while looking for litter. We also served as interpreters when the lower cave teams were seen going up and down off trail when carrying supplies and trash. One frantic visitor asked us if we could help because they saw someone go off trail and you are not suppose to do that! We were excited that visitors do take staying on trail as a serious matter, and explained the group was part of a work team that had ranger permission to get off trail to do cave restoration. They asked about our group and thanked us for donating time to help maintain the cave!

Some of us had another experience we hadn't encountered before. A few groups of visitors thought it interesting that we were donating time to help with cave restoration and they wanted to have a picture taken with some of us!

It does thrill a caver when others show admiration for a cave and want to know more about them. I do thank the park service for allowing our group to come and spend time in the cave. Even gyp cavers have an appreciation for limestone!

Trip Report : Carlsbad Cleanup Trip
Date: June 2, 2007
Location: National Geographic Pit
Written by Duane Del Vecchio

Web reports, slide shows, and picture gallery of this trip are available at: http://www.okcavers.com.

On Saturday, June 2nd, the gang from Central Oklahoma Grotto showed up at 8:30 a.m. on Tom Bemis's doorstep…err…office to finish a project we started thinking about four years ago. When getting the paperwork for working in the cave, Tom informed us that just the day before he had gotten official confirmation that the project was good to go! <whew! Just in time!!>

Ever since we were assigned to the National Geographic Pit to clean it back in 2004, we were thinking to make this our project to make a better net to catch things. The current system while fairly adequate did have some fall backs… it was rusting though in some places with the screen where the water was always dripping on it and there were some places where large gaps appeared between the shelf and the lower part of the pit allowing things dropped down the pit to possibly miss the screen and fall below. When asked two years ago if we could rebuild the cover, we were asked to submit plans

(Continued on page 4)

to the park and see if they met specs etc… Last year (2006), we took exact measurements of the pit and came home with the thought to get 'er' done this year. Finally in February, it hit us that we better get a move on and started discussing the building of a better catch net system. We found a polyurethane netting material that was resistant to mold and rot, yet flexible and strong enough to take punishment from a weighted object (like a D cell battery) falling on it from the top of the pit. We finally sent samples to Tom Bemis to get park approval. We loaded up supplies (100 feet of 1 inch PVC pipe, about 75 connectors from 90 degree turns to T's to 45 degree pieces, glue, drop cloths, zip ties, and tons of duffle bags to bring it all down. After the paperwork was completed, Tom helped carry all of our junk in his vehicle to the parking lot at the Visitor's Center rather than us carrying it all the way over there. (Thanks Tom!)

We divided into two teams: The Pit Crew involving Dale Amlee, Duane Del Vecchio, Dale Town, and Jon Woltz; and The Flowstone Cleaners involving Anne Ault, Steve Beleu, Sue Bozeman (½), Becky Hunsinger (½), Mark Miller (½), and Kelley Woltz (½). The overflow (we had 14 people show up to work this year – our most ever!)(Though we could only take 8 down to clean up). The others got to do a Trash Detail which was to pick up trash from the top down and though out the big room. Those workers were: John Bozeman, Becky and John Hunsinger, Mark Miller (½), and Kelley Woltz (½). The ½ people worked half on one project and half on another.

The two Lower Cave groups went down with all of their gear (pipe, sponges, water bottles, buckets for mud, etc...) The scrubbers helped the pit crew get all of the bags and pipe etc... down into lower cave, then headed off for their section. Their work and experiences will be covered in a different report.

The first part of the pit crew was to clean what was on the catch net, then disassemble the net. We had wire cutters to clip the zip ties, pocket knife to cut the string treading throughout the screens, and a PVC cutter (looks like a hand pruning shears for the garden but made to cut PVC pipe and leave no shavings behind) to cut the pipe into manageable pieces to haul out of the cave. The screening was separated and able to be compressed into a small enough roll that we could get it into a double bagged trash bag. The pipes were all cut into approx. 4 foot sections and placed in trash bags. These were then hauled to the foot of the ladders that bring people into lower cave to await transport back up to the trail and up and out of the cave. We then began the process of building the framework. Dale Town meanwhile was cleaning the pit itself and noticed black rubber like someone was walking in the pit. It was soon after discovered that Dale's boots soles had rotted and the foam rubber below was disincarnating before our very eyes. He quickly abandoned the shoes (which got put in the trash bags) and then valiantly walked out of lower cave, up the ladders, down the trail, up the elevator to the surface, across the walks back to the cars parked on the mountain in his socks to find out his wife had the keys. Back down to the Big Room where he was a trail interpreter at Nat. Geo Pit until Lil (his wife) came by and he got the car keys. He went back up and changed into surf (water shoes) and came back to join us. He bumped into Sue in lower cave and she volunteered to leave her group at scrubbing flowstone and find all of his footprints where his shoe had left rubber and clean it off of the trail. (Thanks Sue… she spent 4 hours cleaning individual footprints along the trail to the pit).

Meanwhile while Dale was on his exhibition, Dale Amlee and Jon Woltz built the mini screen on the other side of the main pit. They ended up keeping the frame as it was still in good shape. They put on the new mesh and tied it down. Duane was cleaning the rubber out of the pit. We then laid out the fittings and tried to see the product in our eyes… a few changes had to be made from the plan and we eventually built it different than at first thought anyway. We decided to build two screens (nets). It has always been a problem getting things that were located in the center of the screen so that you could clean up. We aimed to build a 2 piece system with the furthest back screen being lifted up to pour items onto the shallow screen which can be reached from the sides or even inside the shallow part of the pit, which thus, would make cleaning the screens much easier. We used one leg at the large speleotherm for support as there is no ledge in that area and built around the base to the sides.

(continued on page 5)

Each joint was measured and pre-fitted to see if it would conform to the shape of the surroundings. Then each piece was glued into place. With 45 degree fittings we were able to make little bends where the shelf around the pit wouldn't agree with straight 90's and this also allowed us to make up elevations toward the back end of the pit as they could be rotated to fit terrain. Cross T's were built to strengthen up the framework in the middle to be able to hold a relative amount of weight without sagging the pipes or the screen. The first frame was finished by 2:00 p.m. Having that done, we had a better ideal on how we were doing this and were able to get the second frame done in 1 ½ hours. It took a little over an hour to put on the mesh on both frames.

We took no lunch break as we weren't sure if we could finish all of the build in one day if we did.

The mesh is secured to the PVC pipe with zip ties. The place where mesh meets mesh was tied at 2 inch intervals with zips with the capability of tipping the far screen into the close screen without coins and objects sliding under connecting mesh (they go over instead). We overlaid the mesh so that it extends beyond the pipe in some cases to catch objects that might slide down the rocks or to (cover a space between pipe and pit.

We used 192 zip ties, 85 feet of pipe, over 50 connections, wore out a pipe cutter blade, and approx. 50 feet of 4 foot wide mesh.

We used 192 zip ties,
85 feet of pipe, 50+ connections,
wore out a pipe cutter blade,
and approx. 50 feet of 4 foot wide mesh.

We exited lower cave about 5 p.m. and with our exhilaration of getting the project done (and what we believe done well) we were a bit noisy (loud actually) and got chewed on by a park ranger who gave us a lecture . We were subdued and took our trash, leftover parts and equipment, and tired bodies out of the cave and back to Carlsbad for our annual "end of project" dinner at Chili's. Extra mesh was left over at Cave Resources in case of need.

Our thanks to Tom Bemis, our Cave Resources contact, who helped us over the year to get our proposal though committees just in time to be able to work on the project. All costs were paid for by individuals or the Central Oklahoma Grotto and no expenses were occurred by Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

On a personal note: this was my eighth year doing a restoration project either with the old Texas club or COG and it, to me, was the most personally rewarding trip of all. The planning, building, and completion of a project years in planning made this a special trip and one that was most satisfying. Our thanks to Tom (who always bends over backwards to help us) and Carlsbad Caverns Cave Resources office for allowing us to come to come to such a wonderful location and for putting up with us. <grin!!!>

Trip Report:: Carlsbad Restoration Trip
(Location: Lower Cave – Flowstone Cleaning & Footprint Surprise Cleaning
Date: June 2, 2007
Written by Sue Bozeman

We had way too many people available for work, so the morning team of scrubbers were Anne Ault, Steve Beleu, Sue Bozeman and Mark Miller. Everyone helped carry water sprayers and buckets filled with tooth brushes, scrub brushes and kneeling pads -- including the pit crew.

Also trooping back and forth getting sponges for us from the topside HQ was our newest bride, Kelley

(Logan) Woltz, who never got to scrub but did get to climb up and down the ladder about 4 times -- once totally by herself! She left a toothbrush at every pathway intersection so she could be sure to find her way back to us!

We first went to look at the pit that the pit crew was working on rescreening and then went on to our assigned area. The stalactites, columns and soda straws that we passed en route wowed Mark. He got some great photos and was thrilled. Then we settled in to scrub. The Boston Mountain Grotto had worked on a large area of flowstone and we were to continue their efforts. The muds are insidious. They do need to be freed up by water and gently excised -- a water pik would have worked very well -- and have used up a bunch of batteries! We actually found some white cave pearls in one of the little flowstone cream cups. There is not much in the way of water flowing over this area at the present

(*continued on page 6)*

due to the extreme drought in the area (worse than what is thought to have been the drought that drove the Anasazi from the area hundreds of years ago!), so the pearls are dry and desiccating.

When 1 p.m. came around we headed for the surface and lunch. A switch was made between Anne and Becky Hunsinger for the after-lunch team. Mark stayed on the main tourist trail to roam for photos and ostensibly join the Trash Crew, as did Anne. Steve returned with Becky to the flowstone scrubbing area and I went down to do some footprint cleanup.

Yes, some of us take the motto seriously: Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints. However, a very literal set of footprints was seen all along the trail. One of our number had boots that disintegrated as steps were taken -- and black neoprene footprints adorned the trail from the ladder to the pit! These were to be removed -- with a brush and a dustpan! Believe me -- picking up footprint detritus for the equivalent of 3 city blocks is a back-tiring job! And a first, for me!

Having finished the footprint cleanup, it was time to begin hauling trash up the ladder to the Tourist Trail level. John Bozeman went for another rope to our car and Jon Woltz and Duane Del Vecchio had hauled bags with the old screen and bracing to the base of the ladder. Mark Miller and Kelly Woltz manhandled the garbage bags into duffle bags provided by Dale Amlee and I ran up and down the 40 foot ladder with the rope, which they then attached to each duffle bag. Anne Ault stayed above the ladder, slightly below the Tourist Trail level and we hauled the trash out of the Lower Level. From there, the Trash Crew took it to the elevators, up and out.

We were done before final closing at 6:30 p.m., lockdown time! Ropes were coiled, all personnel and trash removed to the surface. Job well and safely done.

Cave Conservation International

Trip Report: Carlsbad, Lower Cave – Flowstone Cleaning
Date: June 2, 2007
Written by Anne Ault

The cleaning of a flowstone mound in lower cave was assigned to the COG members who were not included in the team of SUPREME IMMORTALS of CAVE ENGINEERING, POLYVINYL PIPES and SUPER SCREENING (know as SICEPPSS).

...the team of SUPREME IMMORTALS of CAVE ENGINEERING, POLYVINYL PIPES and SUPER SCREENING (know as SICEPPSS)

The morning team of flowstone cleaners and the elite SICEPPSS team followed Tom Bemis down the ladders to Lower Cave and along the narrow marked trail to the point where it split. SICEPPSS veered off towards the National Geographic Pit and the proletarian crew continued through Lower Cave until we reached the flowstone mound.

It goes without saying that the flowstone mound was gorgeous. Bexar Grotto had been working on it during a previous trip and starting from the top of the mound, perhaps a little more than half had been cleaned by them. Its sparkling whiteness was in stark contrast to the reddish brown sediment covered lower part that COG was to work on.

The flowstone mound had many little dry pools that were packed with cave pearls. Those who were working on the pools would carefully set the pearls in a safe place until the pool was cleaned and polished. The little pearls were then returned to their now, pristine homes.

Our "newbie", Mark Miller, couldn't stop saying "wow"! He apologized for not having better superlatives, but none of us minded. We knew what he was going through.

Tom B. pointed out what needed to be done and we each (Kelley Logan-Woltz, Sue Bozeman, Steve Beleu, Mark Miller, Anne Ault) selected the tools we wanted to use. Anne took the dustpan and brush. The others started with water-filled spray bottles and toothbrushes. Tom B. discovered that we had no sponges to soak up the water we were spraying. We really needed the sponges so Kelley was volunteered to follow Tom through Lower Cave, up the ladders, through Upper Cave to the elevators, through the visitor's entrance, across the parking lot and blessedly into Tom's car. He drove her to the Ranger Station on top of the mountain, gave her the sponges and said: "bye". Kelley said: "no bye"! Kelley was another "newbie" to Carlsbad and didn't have the faintest idea of how to get back to where the rest of us were. Tom relented, drove her back to the cave and then drew a map of the path she needed to follow to get back to the flowstone mound. She is a sturdy and staunch caver and got back to us at the flowstone mound just in time to turn around and go back out for lunch and the shift change. Such is life.

Roswell Encounter
By Anne Ault and Lil Town

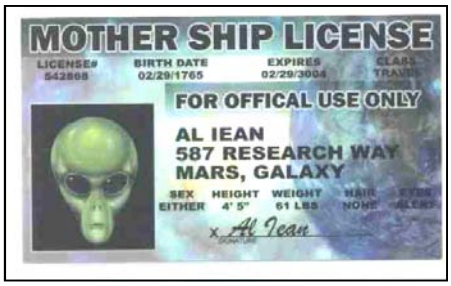
What would be a trip to Carlsbad without a stop at Roswell, NM on the way back? After all, the work crews received brand new alien green work gloves so it only seemed right to stop in the city known for aliens! Besides, Mark Miller hadn't been there and was anxious to have his picture taken with one of the many alien shaped balloons that can be found in the city! Steve also had a desire to shop and see what goodies he could find in the museum store.

Of course a few grumbled over stopping, but not too loudly and a good time was had by all. Some paid their money and went through the museum; others just went through the gift store.

Once everyone was gathered together we got in the cars and headed for home.

I asked Anne to add to this report and this is the answer I received from her.

ALERT: "You humans can be so dull! By the way, you may call me CXSFHTX.
Anne would be happy to write something for Roswell, but I am still there! My alien powers are still strong enough to capture a human frame and deceive you pitiful earthlings. Any attempt to apprehend me is futile. By the time you receive this message I'll have shed this carcass of Anne and be occupying the body of another anthropoid."



POTPOURRI

E-mails sent to Duane from The Cave Resources Office at Carlsbad Caverns National Park concerning the work done by C.O.G.

THANKS!

Written by Stan Allison, Cave Technician
June 28, 2007

Duane,

Thanks a bunch to you and the other COG folks for your excellent work on the National Geographic Pit screens. The COG did an excellent job of developing an environmentally friendly and effective method of preventing items under the influence of gravity from entering the pools in Lower Cave.

Thanks for donating the supplies and your time. Your work looks great, performs well and is much appreciated. Please let the other COG folks know how much our office appreciates your innovative work.

Stan

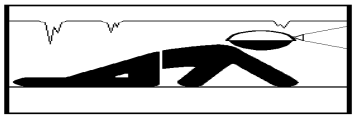
A LETTER OF THANKS FOR SCREEN REPLACEMENT

Written by Tom Bemis, Physical Science Technician
June 28, 2007

Duane,

I went into the Geo Pit two days ago and the screens had already caught about $1.50 in change, a LED flashlight (still dimly shining), a wrist watch (still working), a water bottle, and a few other bits of trash. Only one coin had missed the screen. It had apparently bounced around and fallen into the pit before the first screen. The floor that the rest of the crew was working on is looking good as well. I had a couple of people down there and they were admiring your work. Good job and thanks to you and the COG for all the work!

Tom



Letter Printed in Carlsbad Newspaper Current-Argus

Written by Martha Mauritson, Managing Editor

Your request for a copy of a letter has been forwarded to me, and I am enclosing it below. We are happy for you to post it on your Web site. All we ask is that you clearly credit the Current-Argus where it was first published. Thanks for your interest,

This past weekend I had the pleasure of meeting a group of very interesting people, two in particular, Mark Miller and Dale Amlee. They are cavers, known as "Central Oklahoma Grotto" based in Oklahoma City.

This past weekend I had the pleasure of meeting a group of very interesting people, two in particular, Mark Miller and Dale Amlee. They are cavers, known as "Central Oklahoma Grotto" based in Oklahoma City.

They come here to Carlsbad once a year to clean up our biggst tourist attraction, the Carlsbad Caverns. They are not funded in any way.

On average I was told that at least 12 people from this fine group travel to Carlsbad on their They come here to Carlsbad once a year to clean up our biggest tourist attraction, the Carlsbad Caverns. They are not funded in any way.On average I was told that at least 12 people from this fine group travel to Carlsbad on their

own time and money, to come here and do something that could and should be done by area locals. They told me that this is out of the love for their hobby and that they love Carlsbad and the people in it.

With gas prices increasingly high and getting higher every day, surely by the time they make their next trip here gas prices will top the $5 a gallon mark. I was very impressed by their passion for our city, to travel so far on their personal funds. I'm calling on any area restaurant and motel owner (Mr. Mayor) to show these people just how hospitable we can be by giving them a free motel stay and a free meal or two, if just for one night, and just show a little appreciation for their dedication.

BE CAREFUL WHEN SITTING DOWN

By Dave Hughes and Rob Countess

Reprint from the Georgia Underground, Volume 41, Number 1; Pages 6-7

When jousting with one's co-workers regarding extracurricular activities, dropping a hint about cav-ing often draws looks of incredulity. What kind of moron would actually go into a cave — much less, on pur-pose? It is dark and scary down there.

Therein — if truth be told -- lies at least some of the magnetism to the dreaded netherworld. Yesiree, for the "Danger Is My Hobby" type of individual, speleology might just fit the bill.

Indeed, a good friend once detailed the selection Criteria that he personally employed when choosing a new hobby. Such an activity must::

(1) be dangerous;
(2) be expensive; and
(3) worry his mother.

By analyzing several candidates, and calculating respective figures of merit using the above selection crite-ria, he wound up with "Cave Exploring" at the very top of his "To Do" list. In fact, as regards unbridled danger, caving even surpassed "Running With Scissors".

His mom was horrified. It seemed obvious to mom that her dear child was going to be killed led in a cave-in, poisoned by bad air, attacked by a cave bear, become irretrievably stuck in a small crevice, or wind up forever lost in a mazey labyrinth.

Not unexpectedly, mom's list of worries - like those of many non-cavers - was somewhat flawed. Actually, as is well known, her pre-cious offspring was much more likely to he maimed simply driving to and from the cave than he was in danger of being outright killed underground.

Nevertheless, caving tends to be categorized by insurance underwrit-ers, and other pessimistic types, as a "High Risk Activity". After all, how many cave clubs do you know of that are based in Hartford, Connecticut?

In any event, one might be curious as to how various aspects of caving stack up on the continuum of danger.

One of the authors of this article has gathered some interesting data from publicly-available materials, experienced participants, other erstwhile sources. While cautioning that such numbers may artificially skewed as a consequence of unavoidably small sample sizes following table is, nonetheless, illuminating. In it, the Fatal Accident Rate (FAR) per Million User Days (MUD) is tabulated for various dicey activities.

Activity	FAR Per MUD
Tourist Caving	.0-2
Downhill Snow Skiing	1
Snowboarding	1
Mountaineering	9
Whitewater Rafting	9
Whitewater Kayaking	29
Sky Diving	40
Exploratory Caving	146
Hang Gliding	400

As an example, even a casual glance at the table above reveals that one is less likely to "buy it" from casual caving than from, say, hang gliding (or, for that matter, from failing in love).

But, down the road, for a partici-pant fortunate enough to "dodge the bullet" during a career of high risk activity, a certain reality finally sweeps over him like waves of nausea. In particular, all of this dangerous type of fun stuff is realty a young man's event. And, as a fellow approaches geezerhood, he must face the fact that he is physically unable to keep pace with the young bucks who are now leading the charge.

(*Continued on page 9)*

In speleology, such an aging individual must eventually just stay home. There, he is relegated to sitting in his living room, where he is limited to simply reading about the underground adventures of others. Such a crippled veteran is often referred to in the technical literature as an "Armchair Caver".

Until recently, precious little research had been performed on the risks of armchair caving. But now, ground-breaking historical analysis, coupled with careful reflection, has confirmed the inevitability of the following progression:

(1) all cavers who remain interested in the sport eventually become armchair cavers; and
(2) all armchair cavers ultimately die.

Now, hold onto your hats while we paint this heart-throttling reality in the context of the above table. Simply put, even a mathematical knuckle-head can see that armchair caving has an FAR per MUD that can approach an unacceptably-high ratio. In short, armchair cave long enough and you will "cash in" your chips,

Is there a 'Hake home" lesson in all of this? Yet, — those armchairs are uniformly dangerous. Be careful when sitting down.

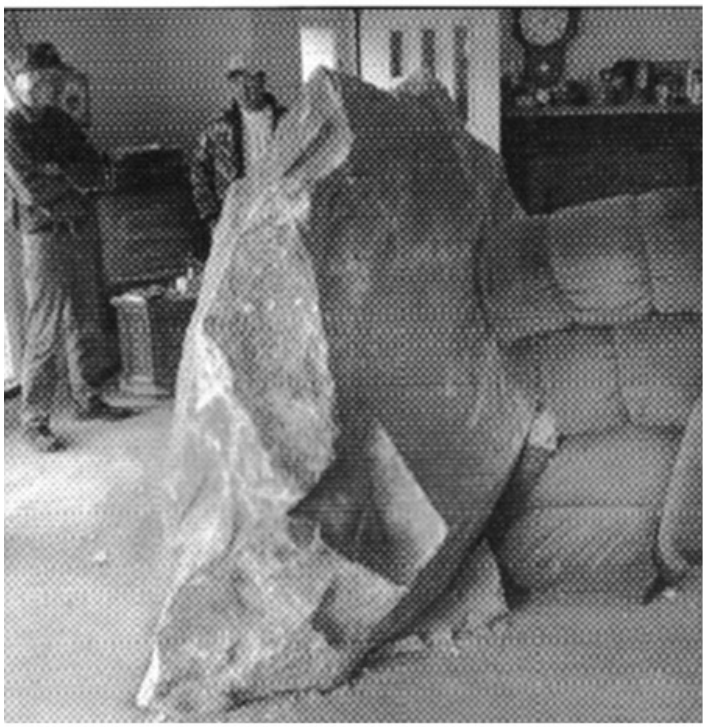
About The Authors

**In his spare time. Rob Countess pursues a variety of caving projects on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. As one example, he is cartography leader for 10.5-kilometerr-long Arch Cave on the island. To support his caving hobby, Rob operates an adventure tourism business headquartered in Canada.*

** Dave Hughes writes the occasional caving article.*

Footnote

*Rob Countess, 'Editorial", The Canadian Caver, Number 63, Page 2, August 2005. Rob's original editor served as the inspiration for this article.



Only one of the many clear dangers of armchair caving!

Bat Conservation International

AFTER READING THE ABOVE ARTICLE, I THOUGHT THIS SUBMISSION FROM STEVE WOULD BE A GOOD ENDIING FOR THIS NEWSLETTER! AT LEAST C.O.G. WOULD BE IN A CAVE AND NOT SITTING IN A DANGEROUS ARMCHAIR!!! THE EDITOR

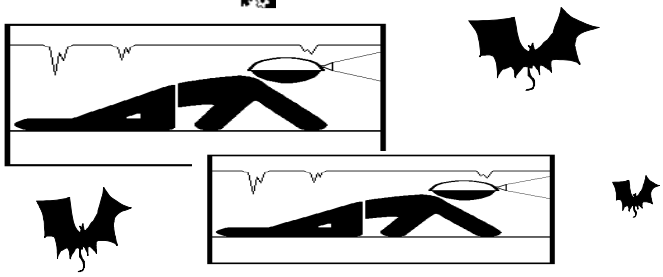
Written by Steve Beleu

After listening to the increasing concerns of many of you concerning the nature of caving and the aging process, I would like to propose the following new division of COG that, if implemented, will help you meet your needs. I propose that we discuss this at our next monthly meeting, if any of us remember.

"CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO SENIORS TOUR"
Our mission - to continue caving into the arthritis years.
Our regulations - "The Dirty Dozen" -

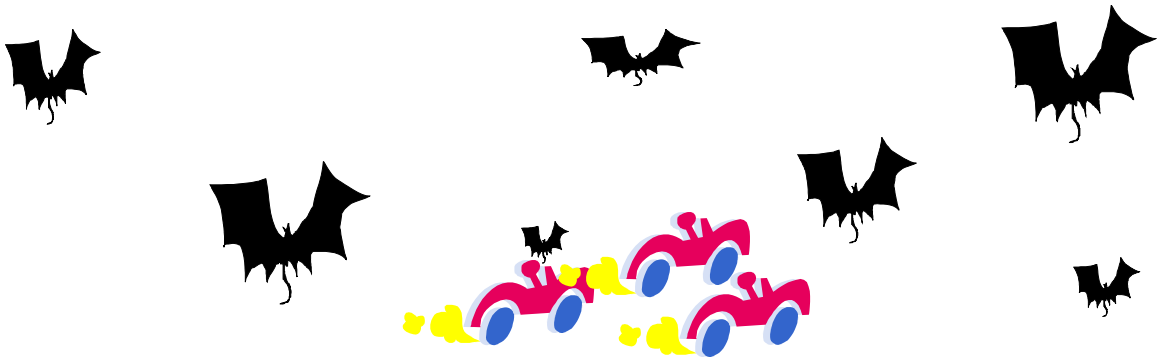
1. You must cave with all your teeth.
2. You must either cave with your own hair or leave what you've bought at home.
3. Both of your bellies must fit inside your jeans.
4. All Seniors Tour caving teams must carry Automated External Defibrillators with them to deliver occasional pick-me-up shocks.
5. Seniors Tour members who wear adult diapers must cave at the back of the pack.
6. Regular COG members must address Seniors Tour members as "O Wise Ones" and ask them for advice.
7. Seniors Tour members must be able to remember their own names.
8. Seniors Tour members can only reminisce about the good old days 1/2 hour of every hour caved.
9. Regular COG members must help Seniors Tour members in and out of caves with ropes, pulleys, and levers.
10. Seniors Tour members are allowed to doze off while driving.
11. Whenever Seniors Tour members die while caving we bury them where they drop and split their gear between us by seniority.
12. Regular COG members must pre-chew after-caving pizza for Seniors Tour members.

Our motto: **Infinitus est numerus stultorum** - *Infinite is the number of fools*



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 the home of
Jon and Kelley Woltz, Friday, Sept. 14, 2007, 7:30pm



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