CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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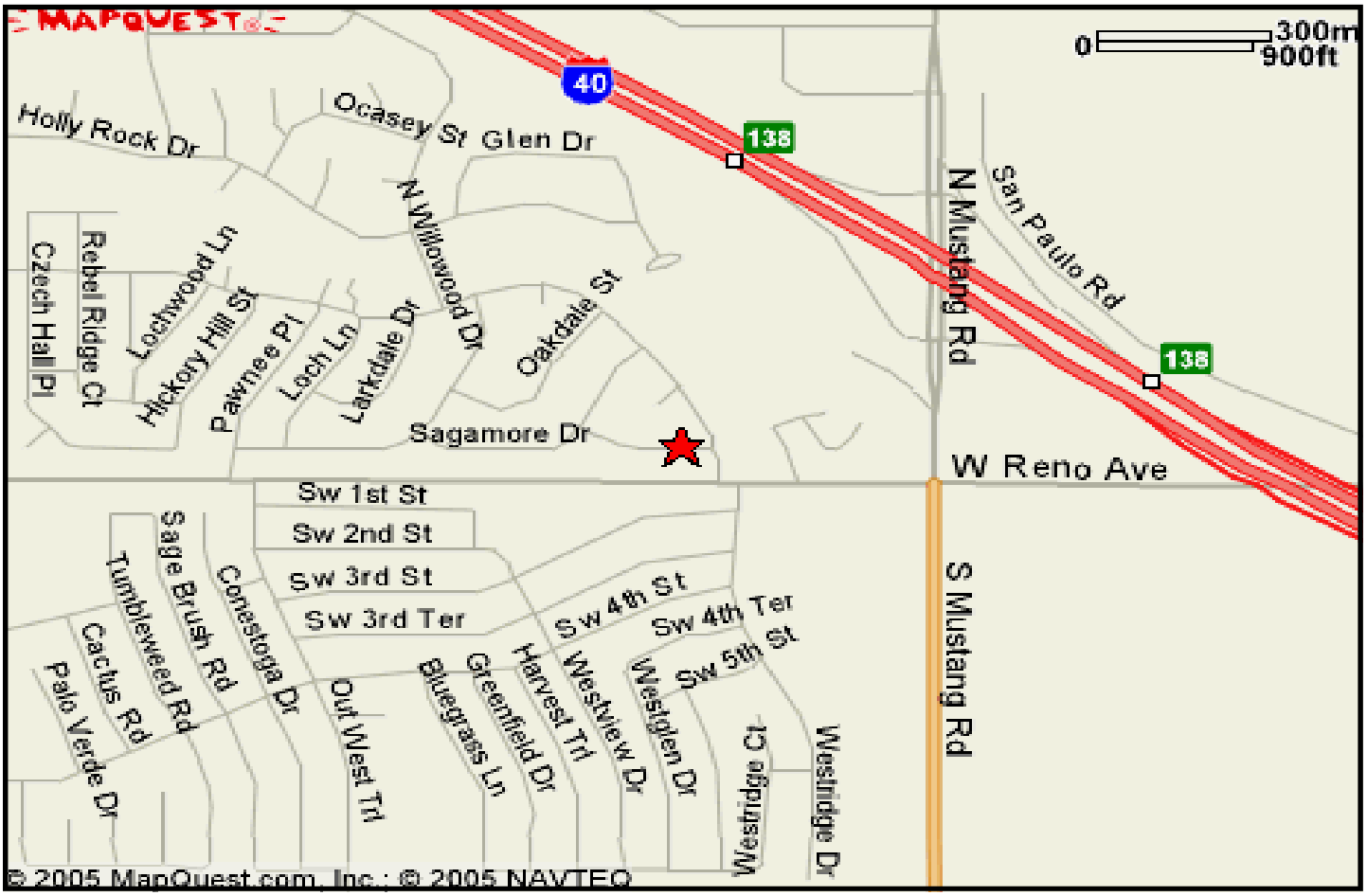
The February meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at the home of John Van Dyke at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8, 2008.

Address: . 11625 Lochwood Dr., Yukon, OK

Telephone: 405-324-8566

The February meeting is at John Van Dykes (not John Van Talbot's!)

Directions to John van Dyke's House: The exit number is 138. Turn south onto Mustang Road (Hwy 4) and go to the second light, which is Reno. Turn right (west) onto Reno then turn right at the second street (Willowwood). Turn left at the first street - careful! -- it's a short block - which is Lochwood Drive. Sixth house on the right (north side).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The February 8, 2008 meeting will be at the home of John VanDyke's, 2902 Shannon Drive, Bethany, OK. Phone: 405-324-8566

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2008

Host: the home of John Talbot
Atttendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, Sue and John Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, Jon van Dyke, S Beleu.

Vice-Chairman Amlee began the meeting at 8:27

OLD BUSINESS

We discussed the invertebrate collecting that we have been doing for Dr. Graening. Lil showed off her new toy, Wally the Waterbug, as a component of our scholarly discussion.

John B. reminded us of our need to photograph Broken Horn Cave as we survey it so we'll have photos of it ready to include in the next publication of the *Oklahoma Underground* in 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

We discussed the bat count scheduled for February 16, and our continuing problem of not having enough caverpower to satisfactorily accomplish the count. Everyone who can work on more than one bat cont needs to volunteer to pull double duty!

Anne read from a newspaper article published in 1904 in Eric, Oklahoma written by a person who toured "Jester's Cave". The original owner himself, D.C. Jester, was his guide!

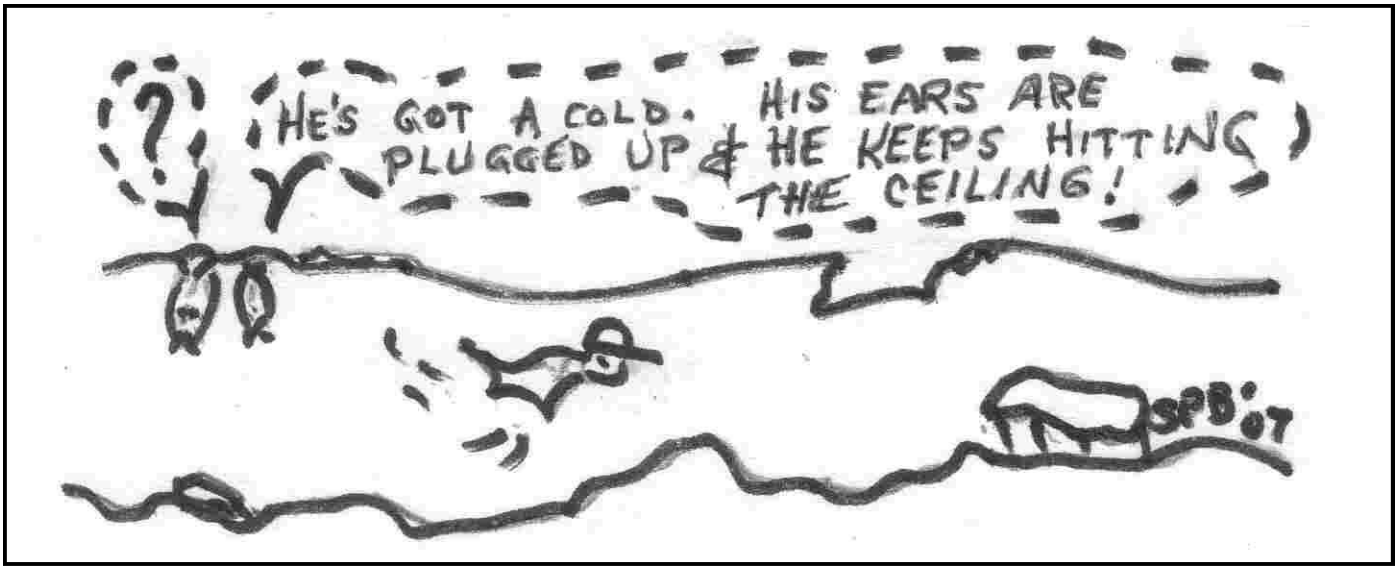
We're going to Carlsbad Caverns June 6-8. More about this later.

Sue passed around the new issue of *Oklahoma Underground*! There was a minor problem with it—the centerfold map of Cattle Cave isn't stapled into the centerfold—but we decided to have a work party to correct this during our next monthly meeting at John Van Dyke's house. The cost to COG of printing it was $174.41. At such a low cost to COG we decided to sell each issue for only $5.00 each plus postage costs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his report.

We got it over with at 9:28. John had more good home-cooked food for us than we've ever seen anywhere else!



TREASURER'S REPORTS

CORRECTION: NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT HAD TOTAL FUNDS AS $ 33,303.24. This is a misprint, and should have been $ 3,303.24.

DECEMBER 2007

INCOME

DIVIDEND	$	0.12
Dues		30.00
Publication Sales	$	3.50
Map Sales	$	65.00
News letter sales	$	18.00
TOTAL	**$**	**116.62**
CASH ON HAND	$	76.54
CHECKING	$	537.42
SAVINGS	$	2,661.06

EXPENSES

Map copying	$	42.27
Postage	$	2.57
Donation	$	100.00
TOTAL	**$**	**144.84**
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 12/15/2007	**$**	**3,275.02**

JANUARY 2008

INCOME

DIVIDEND	$	7.50
TOTAL	**$**	**7.50**
CASH ON HAND	$	76.54
CHECKING	$	537.53
SAVINGS	$	2,668.33

EXPENSES

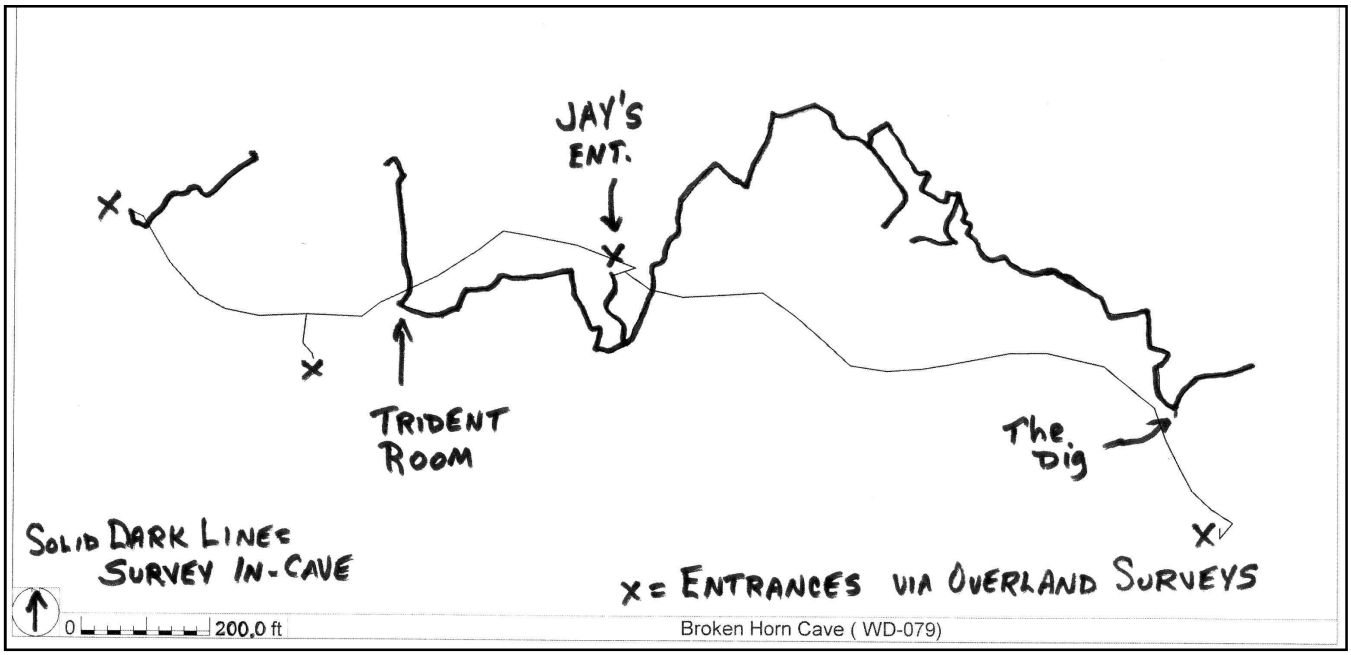
NONE

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 1/11/2008	**$**	**3,282.40**

Bat Conservation International

STICK MAP OF BROKEN HORN CAVE



TRIP REPORT

Broken Horn Cave (WD-079)
January 19, 2008
Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman and Jon Woltz
Written by Sue Bozeman

This continuation survey trip began far to the ESE of Jay's Entrance. The hot breath coming out of the entrance coalesced onto the overhanging vegetation, decorating the whole area. It looked like a lacy fairyland. Jon and I admired the sparkling headwall briefly, then bellyflopped before it like supplicants and slithered through the low entrance into the hot blast of cave air.

We gathered at the Junction Room, halfway waiting for Anne and Lil to join us. They were going to go as far as the proposed dig and I wanted to make sure that all lights were functioning for them before I departed. It was SO hot that the guys took off and left behind several items of extra clothing. We were already sweating -- why haul the stuff if you're not going to need it, right?

So while they were readjusting their clothing, I scooted back to the entrance to see how the twosome were coming along and if they needed help. They didn't. Anne's carbide was performing grandly, although her ears were now covered by gloves (!) to keep them warm while Lil tried to get her electric light working. They shooed me on -- they'd be fine. So I returned to the Junction Room and we all headed downstream toward the last survey point (E-34).

It was hot going. None of us had a thermometer -- shame to say -- but since the normal in-cave average is 56 degrees F, we just figured that we were still overdressed for cave scrambling.

Until ... we hit the cold air.

Just after marking the dig spot for Lil and Anne, the passage takes a 90-degree turn to the left. The dig, which has a broad, 3-foot-wide ceiling channel deadending in a wall (probably a former cave passage that had collapsed long, long ago) was still in the warm zone. After 30 feet, the passage turns sharply right and quickly becomes a tangle. Choices are low bellycrawl to the right or clamber through slump and breakdown to the left. There, it gets frigid. Truly.

There, you can see your breath in front of you. There, your clothing begins steaming. And where the two ways through rejoin, is E-34. Anne had remembered. We had forgotten -- it gets windy and cold here.

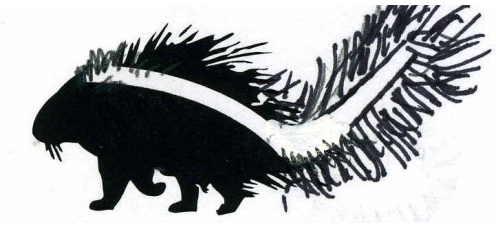
We began the survey and the sweat began to turn to ice. Not really, but it felt that way. We crossed the room and hit the low continuation crawl, which is tacky but manageable. We took a total of 5 shots and called it quits for the day. Wimps? You bet.

We went back to The Dig and still no Lil and Anne. So we picked up all our signs and markers and started digging with my grandfather's old fishing knife, which I use in-cave for a variety of purposes. It cuts the sandy banks well. Dale, Jon and I took turns until we got through ... well, there's only a scallop there, so no grand discovery. We had hoped that the passage was just silted in a bit and that the continuation of the previous arm would be enterable. Not to be. There is a silted in wall that looks like it is being re-excavated with every flood of the current passage. Come back in 200 years and you might see further evidence down that old arm, but not now!

We dejectedly headed back out -- concerned that the twosome might have not found their way. We didn't see them anywhere and so began leaving the cave. I led, Jon followed and Dale exclaimed, "Whoa! Gosh, I nearly stepped on him!" 'Him who?' "There's a porcupine here and you guys must have crawled right over him!"

Nope. Never saw him. I go left -- I have my favorite routes through these entryway rocks. Mine don't leave bruises! The porkypine was right of me and must have been for Jon, too. We all admired the fairly large animal and tried to gently urge it to let us get a nice full-figured photograph of him. He was camera shy. So we got what shots were allowed and stopped meddling after some ten minutes or so. This was Jon's first encounter with a porcupine in the wild, let alone in confined spaces, so he had a 'caving first' that day.

We joined the others at the car. Anne and Lil had not gotten past 'the skunk' in the entrance. They remain unconvinced that it was a porcupine, but are amenable to accommodation: it has become a skunkupine.



POTPOURRI

Pot-Growing Cave Sold to Cheesemaker

December 10, 2007 - 11:29pm

HARTSVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - A home built above a large cave that once housed a sophisticated underground marijuana operation may have a delicious — and legal — future.

Authorities seized the home in 2005 after finding more than 850 marijuana plants growing under lights in two secured, 100-yard-long underground rooms connected to the home.

"Everything was just perfect. Look at the craftsmanship," auctioneer Pete Scruggs said of the marijuana operation in the natural cave about 45 miles northeast of Nashville.

Roth Kase USA Ltd., a Wisconsin-based maker of European-style cheeses, won a court-ordered auction of the property Saturday with a bid of $285,000. The company's auction representative, Chuck Olson, hinted about the future of the cave after he was named the winner.

He said the plan is to "make money," and the cave's new operation will be legal "in a tasty way." Caves, with their consistent cool temperatures and humidity, have long been used to age cheeses.

Fred Strunk, the previous owner of the home, was sentenced to 18 years in prison last year on charges of growing marijuana, money laundering and theft.

Boreholes of the Earth

By Steve Beleu

Deep below the earth down tunnels so small
Our left arms and right drag against the stone
Beside us, or walking down vast boreholes
Wide enough for houses to tumble through,
However we wander in these passages phreatic and vadose
We push always deeper from the distant entrance
Through dense bedrock. These boreholes of the earth
Are like the paths that birds use to fly within,
Are like the currents fish use to swim within,
Are like the paths through fields of stone
The wind blows through. Daylight is a memory
And the lives we left behind us are dreams
We can now abandon to live just in these hours
Each of which is a black glowing jewel.

ADVERTISEMENT

X-TREME CAVING ADVENTURES with LIL and ANNE

THRILL SEEKERS! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!
LIVE LIFE ON THE EDGE WITH LIL AND ANNE!

Here is a list of just some of the exciting adventures and training you can expect from this experienced team of X-TREME CAVERS:

1. **Problem Solving:**

   How long do you have to wait for your glasses to un-fog after entering the cave?

2. **Recognizing and Managing Wildlife Encountered In A Cave:**

   Skunks are furry with one or two white stripes down the back and tail. If the skunk doesn't immediately spray you in the face, go back the way you came in as quietly as you can. Pray.

   A skunk does not look like a porcupine.

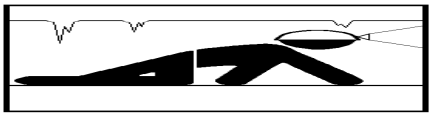
3. **Equipment Management:**

   Learn the correct retrieval form for AA batteries that have fallen out of your headlamp into a deep crack in the cave floor.
   Learn what to do when your carbide lamp becomes engulfed in flames while attached to your helmet. *(Screaming and cursing techniques will be discussed.)*

4. **Using the Compass:**

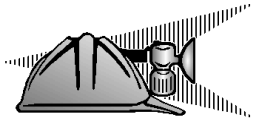
   Special compasses are required to survey a cave. The Brunton and the Suunto are used in Lil and Anne caving trips. The Brunton is preferred since its mirror can be very handy when a contact lens needs adjusting.

   The compass is a handy tool to have on the surface as you try to find the entrance to a cave. Lil and Anne guarantee that they will get you so disoriented and turned around while looking for a cave entrance you will do whatever is necessary to master the art of surveying…on the surface or below.



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 February meeting is at John Van Dyke's, Friday the 8th



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