

April 2002

## Intercom, Volume 38, No. 2, March-April 2002

Scott Dankof

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# INTERCOM

A man with a mustache, wearing a dark jacket and a headlamp, is looking directly at the camera in a dark cave. The headlamp is on, illuminating his face and the cave floor. The cave walls are rocky and textured. The overall atmosphere is dark and mysterious.

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**I N T E R C O M**

Volume 38, Issue 2  
March - April, 2002

**Iowa Grotto**

P.O. Box 228  
Iowa City, IA 52244

**Membership Dues:** due January 1, \$15.00 per year, includes INTERCOM and Hot-Line subscriptions. INTERCOM subscriptions only are \$13.00 per year. The Iowa Grotto reserves the right to decline membership during or after a probationary period.

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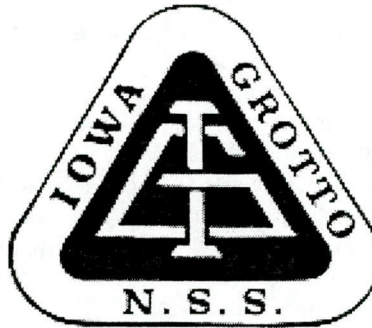
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**Coordinate photographs** for publication in the INTERCOM with Scott Dankof, the INTERCOM photo and cover editor.

**Cave Rescue:** Contact the Kentucky Disaster and Emergency Services Central Dispatch at 502-564-7815 for cave emergencies only in the NCRC Central Region of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

**Iowa Grotto Meetings:** are the fourth Wednesday of each month, third Wednesday in December at 7:30 p.m. in room 125 or thereabouts of Trowbridge Hall on the campus of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

**Cover Photo:** Rare photo of Chris Beck in Spong Siphon, Coldwater Cave, Ia.



*IOWA GROTTO*  
National Speleological Society  
P. O. Box 228  
Iowa City, Iowa 52244

Chairman - - - - - Mike Lace  
Vice Chairman - - - - Ed Klausner  
Secretary Treasurer - Phil LaRue

Volume 38

Issue 2

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## IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

March 27, 2002

Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace, at 7:55 p.m., after a slide show on Iowa caves. There were ten members present. Minutes from the February 27, 2002, meeting were read and approved. A treasurers report was given which showed balances of \$747.67 in the Coldwater fund; \$570.03 in the General fund; and \$133.72 in petty cash. TRIP REPORTS: Ed Klausner reported on Coldwater weekend. Pat Kambesis recruited a cast of characters to help with the collection of background information for her research project. He reported on a survey trip to Sand Canyon with Mark Jones, Jim Roberts and Larry Welch. He reported that on lead checking trip to Jones Co. with Gary Engh, Mike L., Phil LaRue and Elizabeth Miller. He concluded his report on a trip to Jackson Co. with Gary E., Pat K., Ulf Konig, Mike L., Phil L. and Elizabeth M., where 17 small caves were surveyed. Greg McCarty reported that the trip to Soward's Cave with Charlie Winterwood was cancelled due to weather. He continued that although the trip was off, he visited Soward's and conducted a bat count, and then photographed several of the area caves. FUTURE TRIPS: See the March Hotline and N.S.S. News for details. Doug Schmucker is planning a vertical rescue training session. OLD BUSINESS: Volume III of the Cave Map Book is available for \$25.00. Republished back issues of the Intercom are still available. "Amazing Caves" is showing at the IMAX theatre, Putnam Museum, Davenport, Iowa, until July 12th. Call (563) 324-1933 for more information. The Grotto Library is still looking for library materials. NEW BUSINESS: The Intercom deadline is May 1st. Articles are needed for the upcoming issue. See the Hotline for new members. Coldwater Cave has passed the sixteen mile mark of surveyed passage, making it the 32nd longest cave in the United States. Liz Robinson reported on a rescue by non-cavers of a person injured by a boulder while in cave in New York state. With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m..

## IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

April 24, 2002

Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Secretary Phil LaRue at 7:30 p.m., with three members present. Minutes from the March 27, 2002, meeting were read and approved. A treasurers report was given which showed balances of \$747.67 in the Coldwater fund; \$541.68 in the General fund; and \$133.72 in the General Fund. TRIP REPORTS: Phil LaRue reported on the trip to Jackson Co. with Chris Beck, Gary Engh, Ed Klausner and Mike Lace. Two small caves were surveyed. He then reported on the trip to Werden's Cave with the Mechanicsville Cub Scouts. FUTURE TRIPS: See the April Hotline and the N.S.S. News for details. OLD BUSINESS: Volume III of the Cave Map Book is available for \$25.00. Republished back issues of the Intercom are still available. "Amazing Caves" is showing at the IMAX theatre, Putnam Museum, Davenport, Iowa, until July 12th. Call (563) 324-1933 for more information. The Grotto Library is still looking for library materials. NEW BUSINESS: The Intercom deadline is May 1st. Articles are needed for the upcoming issue. See the Hotline for new members. Phil LaRue reported that in April he gave two presentations on caving ethics and safety to members of the Manchester girl scouts and the Mechanicsville cub scouts. With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m..

## Unclogging The Sumps

Coldwater Cave  
Winnesheik County, Iowa  
October 20, 2001

By Mark Jones

\*A dark cloud covered the October Coldwater trip with the loss of two Iowa Grotto members in the past week. Both men had Coldwater Cave experience making it fitting that we assemble to continue exploring the system. Chris Beck, Ed Klausner, Jim Roberts, Larry Welch, and myself arrived Friday night to a star-filled sky and hopes of great deeds in the morning. (Actually Chris had no cave aspirations since he'd conveniently left key caving gear at home.) Larry was so pumped about the possibilities that he dropped down the ladder to check the water level. A seasonally low .52 meant that the Three Dive may be passable with some luck. Larry and I dropped the shaft around 11:00 a.m. to attempt pushing further upstream passages. Larry packed a rock hammer and chisel and I brought along a folding shovel in case excavation of the streambed was needed. With a low water level the walk upstream was an easy stroll with short rest stops along the way. Soon we'd arrived at the Rock River Formation, which we ducked behind to hood up on some breakdown slabs. With our gear packed up we slid into the Spong to float through to the Big Room, followed by the Norwegian Rockdance Room, the Tuna Sea, the Scandahovian and up to the Three Dive. Here, we were stopped by high water, and very low airspace. We were denied last season by this problem and vowed to dig a deeper trench to improve our chances of breaking into the Nelson section. Larry quickly set to chipping away at a ceiling constriction while I broke out my army surplus folding shovel to deepen the channel. We spent 45 minutes at our respective jobs before Larry called me ahead to view his handiwork. Sure enough he'd chiseled a



higher groove into the "nose slot" which should allow us easier going in the coming months. Satisfied with the work at the Three Dive we retired to the gravelly stream bottom to excavate a deeper trench. Since most of the fill was sand and small gravel the work went quickly as we dug a 2' wide by 6" deep channel to drain below the Three Dive. A canal over 30' long was dug during our time here. Pleased with the potential for getting upstream this year we stowed the shovels in the mudbank and casually made our way back to the mainstream. With plenty of time left I shot another roll of film before reaching The Spong. (Ed. Note: More snapshots) Although we didn't score any new survey or find a promising lead there's hope that this bit of digging will improve the chances of getting into the Nelson Section this winter.

## SWEET SIXTEEN

Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, IA

16 March 2002

by Ed Klausner

Mark Jones, Ed Klausner, Jim Roberts and Larry Welch

Larry Welch, who keeps track of survey data from Coldwater Cave and tallies survey footage, calculated that we were about 29 feet short of 16 miles. Surely, we could find 29 feet somewhere during the March Coldwater weekend. Larry had assured us that we could find that footage in Sand Canyon. I had never been to Sand Canyon and had told Larry that I would go at least once with him. That was a while back and the reality of going to a passage about which only Larry had ever said anything nice was a bit worrisome, but I had little enough sense to actually want to go. We brought hoods along just in case we lost enough brain cells to contemplate surveying the Sinus instead.

Pat Kambesis was up at Coldwater for the weekend as she was beginning her Coldwater study as part of her thesis at Western Kentucky University. Her first objective was to place bugs of activated charcoal in all the side passages of Coldwater and also in some surface locations. These measurements would be used as an indication of background levels before any dye was introduced into surface water courses and sinking streams. At breakfast, we decided where each of us would be going for the day and divided up the side passages accordingly. Mike Lace and Scott Dankof took bugs for North Snake, Pete's Pipe, the mainstream just before the sumps and Waterfall Passage. Al Ticknor and Bill Mulder took a bug for Cascade while Mark Jones, Jim Roberts, Larry Welch and I took bugs for Guardian Fangs, Brothers Grimm, Beaver Boneyard, Sand Canyon, The Sinus, and First Right Hand Side Passage. Larry, Mark, Jim and I would also find at least 29 feet of cave to survey, maybe more. As we were ready to leave the restaurant, Pat offered to pay for all our breakfasts. Wow, we were actually getting paid to go caving. "Will Cave For Food" may be added to the other monikers of the grotto.

There were a lot of people in the shack as we got ready for our trip. Mike Bounk had three visitors along, and Gary Engh and Mike Nelson came up to help Pat with the surface work. Mike Bounk and his group entered the cave first, then Larry, Mark, Jim and I dropped the shaft to head downstream. At Guardian Fangs, we got the bug ready and spent some time figuring out the best way to tie it down so it would stay in the water. Pat had assembled a bag of supplies that included bugs, flagging tape, bobbers, string, and a marker. All this was to help keep the bug in the water and help us find it next month. The bug had to be far enough away from the main stream so the water passing over it would only be coming from that side passage. For some passages, this meant going in 150 or so feet. For others, such as The Sinus, there is a sharp change in vertical relief and we could place the bug a few feet in (up and in) the passage. We got much faster placing bugs and recording their location once we figured out the best way to place them. In a month, we will pick up these bugs and place new ones.

The water level was relatively low (around 0.60 feet at the platform) and the trip downstream was easy. Larry noticed a vortex and pointed it out to us. Mark was hot to get the bugs placed and start surveying and chided us about dilly dallying and lollygagging. You could tell the teacher was at work as he tried to keep us on task.

As we headed downstream, we placed bugs in all our agreed upon side passages, except for Sand Canyon as we decided to save that for last. At the Sinus, we noticed that the water was quite cold, perhaps 10 degrees colder than the mainstream. There was no mist at the Sinus, which often appears when the water of the Sinus is warmer than the mainstream and this warm water meets the colder mainstream. When we continued downstream to First Right Hand Side Passage, we noticed that the mainstream had gotten colder due to the fairly large volume of colder water that entered the mainstream at the Sinus.

At last, with our breakfast paid off, we entered the infamous Sand Canyon. The first few hundred feet weren't bad. We did some crawling and lots of stoop walking before we reached a small room where we dropped our packs and put on lower profile lights. We then continued crawling until we got to the Bath Tub. The Bath Tub was amusing, but entering from the lower level of the s-turns meant we didn't fall in head first. In fact, The Bath Tub allowed us to stand up (well, sort of) and get repositioned. When the Bath Tub is entered from the upper level, you pretty much fall in head first. There is a tight canyon past the Bath Tub that has an S turn. Jim tried twice, but didn't fit. That turned out to be just as well, as our survey route was tighter. He headed back to the junction where we left our packs and waited for us.

The drainage divide that led to The Lost Passage was to be the start of our survey, although we would not be surveying The Lost Passage, but a tight passage that was discovered and sketched by Steve Barnett around 1970. He had found two domes down this left hand passage. This passage was later visited by Mike Nelson and Bryan Bain, but was not surveyed.

Mark was lead tape and I followed with the instruments. Larry was last and was sketching. Shots were all short and reading instrument was difficult both because the instruments were getting very muddy and I had trouble contorting my body to be able to read the numbers. I had to do backsights from some of the locations. It took us four shots to get the footage we



needed to make Coldwater 16 miles. We had a minor celebration that consisted of a hoot or two, while wedged between two narrow walls. In a few more shots, Mark said he could stoop walk and I was tempted to believe him, as there was an echo to his voice. In not very long he was in the first dome. By the time I entered, both Mark and I were hooting and hollering. Poor Larry, he was still stuck in the nasty passage responsibly sketching away (and pointing it out to us, too). In a few more minutes, Larry, too, entered the first of the two domes. They were connected and aptly named Sweet Sixteen Dome, and Edge Of Seventeen Dome. The first was about 35 feet high while the second was a bit taller, perhaps 40 feet tall. They contained a substantial number of cave pearls (Prom Night Pearls). Unfortunately, we did not have a camera. We surveyed the two domes, but did not continue the survey down the additional 100 feet or so of passage that we investigated while Larry finished sketching. We were feeling a little guilty about leaving Jim for so long. We thought we had left Jim for an hour or so. When we got back to our packs, we found that it was closer to two hours since we dropped our packs. We have three reasons to return: to continue surveying, to dig at the end of the passage to see if we get anywhere, and to take pictures of the dome. Hopefully, we will be able to do this next month.

The trip out was uneventful. We did notice that the water level had risen to 0.70 while we were in the cave. The temperature was above freezing, but there was no snow cover to melt. The difference in water level was probably due to melt in the streams and sub surface melt.

We had missed going out for pizza with the rest of the group, but Mike Lace had brought back two pizzas for us. After we changed and ate, we joined the rest of the group at the Flatlands. They had been busy making ice cream. We missed the making, but fortunately, didn't miss the eating.

### Sweet Sixteen II

Coldwater Cave  
Winnesheik County, Iowa  
March 16, 2002

by Mark Jones

\*I met up with Larry in Galesburg for the monthly trip up to Coldwater Cave for research and exploration. This weekend would entail a little of both as we had two exciting projects going on. First Pat Kambesis was beginning her dye tracing of the stream systems above the cave and second Larry had calculated that just 28.9' was necessary to reach sixteen miles for the cave! Arriving at the compound around 11:30 p.m. we found the crew asleep, so we grabbed a bunk and settled in for the evening. Imagine our surprise the next morning when Pat bought everyone breakfast. (About as close as I'll come to being paid to cave.) After receiving instructions from Pat we decided to head downstream to set six "bugs" and survey a side passage off of Sand Canyon. Back at the compound we began to suit up when I discovered that I'd neglected to bring my wetsuit bottoms! Thankfully Gary Engh had arrived that morning to save the day and offered to lend me his wetsuit for the day. Eternally grateful I climbed into my gear and dropped the shaft a little after 11:00 a.m. along with Larry Welch, Ed Klausner and Jim Roberts. The water level was a comfortable .62' for our trip downstream. I led the group on a standard pace to Guardian Fang where the first of the bugs was to be set. I waited at the mouth while the other three ventured inside to complete the task. Ten minutes later they'd returned and we continued on. Since Al & Big Bill were setting a bug in Cascade we moved down to Brother's Grimm where our second bug was set at the mouth. Jim had never been any further downstream than Bertha so he enjoyed the formations and scenery at every turn. I discovered that Ed hadn't gotten downstream much beyond the mainstream breakdown so he liked the refreshing change also. Near the end of The Swim a wall of foam 20' long covered our way. Larry braved the crud to cut a path for the rest of us. About this time Larry became hypnotized by a tiny vortex in the stream, without my ability to stay on task I think we'd still be there. The third bug was placed up Beaver Boneyard, the fourth up The Sinus Passage, and the fifth at First Right-hand Side before we returned to Sand Canyon. Climbing over the mud mound near the mouth of it, we moved about 120' deeper to a site for the bug. Setting it down we continued on to take some survey readings. I'd never been too excited about Sand Canyon, as everyone who's been there (especially with Larry) had nothing but bad things to say about the passage (and Larry). After several hundred feet of easy stooping and crawling we dropped our packs and set off for parts unknown. Larry led, followed by me, Jim and Ed. The plan was to have Larry take book ahead of the survey, me take lead tape, Jim with end tape and Ed taking the shots. Larry warned me of impending doom if I didn't shed my Mega-Light from my helmet. I figured that I'd do that when the time arrived. A short distance into the crawl the passage split and lowered, Larry offered the right fork, but recommended the left. We took the lower left belly crawl for 25' to The Bathtub. Once in The Bathtub it was a tricky little squirm into a sideways crawl. Scooting along on my left side I wormed my way around to the tiny room where Larry awaited. Unfortunately Jim was unable to weave his way through and opted to return to the packs to wait for us. Ed slid on up and our team of three was prepared to continue. Larry announced that we'd start surveying a slim hole off to the left. I was really surprised with this since Larry normally downplays nasty, trying trips and it was neither. (so far). I began the survey by removing my helmet since there was no way it was going to fit through the first ten feet of tapping. With just the three of us I grabbed the tape to look for 28.9' of new survey. It wasn't encouraging at first with the short gnarly shots in a sideways crawl. A Ten footer, a 90 degree to the left, some more short shots, etc. During this time Ed was whining about the hopelessness of the survey wishing for 30' to be recorded so we could get out. Being in the lead I reassured him of the fact that there were turnarounds ahead of me. While relaying survey information I began to hear echos further up the crawl that suggested a possible dome. In Coldwater Cave EVERY passage - good, bad or indifferent, has a dome at its terminus. Imagine our surprise when the mudbank on our right receded, the ceiling opened up and we could stoopwalk. But that was



nothing compared to the spectacular twin domes ten feet off to the right! Larry was none to happy having to finish up sketching the last shots while Ed and I explored these beautiful sites. Sweet Sixteen Dome (for obvious reasons) was a 4' shelf above the crawl with cream flowstone covered rocks and a 35' ceiling. On The Edge of Seventeen was at stream level and approximately 40' high with abundant cave pearls. Larry aptly named these Prom Night Pearls. Footprints in the mud revealed that Mike Nelson and others had journeyed here years earlier. Once again Larry told us there was nothing to photograph in our survey so we left the cameras behind. That'll not happen next time. We spent twenty minutes taking in the domes, poking around, taking survey shots and sketching the rooms. Before leaving we all dropped back into the crawlway and slid upstream another 100' to where the passage becomes mud-filled. Now Ed's enthusiasm for this area becomes apparent when he says that we could dig the mudpile off to the right to break into more passage. (This sounds a lot like Mr. Welch to me.) On our return trip we met up with Jim, set the last of the bugs, took some mainstream photos and wandered back to the platform. An excellent trip with over 125' of new survey, We're well on our way to 17 miles!

### SLACKING (AGAIN)

Methuselah's, Variations In Travertine, Diverticuli, Rock With Yew, Slacadaisical, Slacitude, Slacalacious, Pancake, Slippery Slope Talus, Stars and Stripes, Rocky View, U.K., Never Ending Valley, Trainee, Chickadee and two unnamed Caves in Jackson County

23 March, 2002

by Ed Klausner

Gary Engh, Pat Kambesis, Ed Klausner, Ulf Konig, Mike Lace, Phil La Rue, and Elizabeth Miller

We had only surveyed 26 caves so far in 2002 and Pat Kambesis had accused us of slacking off again. She was in Iowa to start her research project at Coldwater Cave and decided to go out ridgewalking and surveying with us before heading back to Kentucky. Jackson County seemed like a fine destination for a mild March day.

Mike Lace had called a landowner in advance and gotten permission to enter his land. We had some mop up work on near by state land, so we started there first and then would cross into private land. We started with a section of rock that we had passed before, but not searched for caves. Gary went up high on the ridge and found a phreatic tube entrance that couldn't be seen from below. Gary, Elizabeth and I stayed to survey this cave (Methuselah's Cave) while the others continued ridgewalking. Gary had also found a mechanical cave in the area. We weren't sure if one of the other survey teams had also found this mechanical cave, so we left it for later in the day when we would pass it on our way out.

Methuselah's Cave was surveyed to 44.1 feet and was a phreatic tube with lots of inactive formations. It had a few active formations also. The location of the cave (high on a ridge and hidden from view) has kept the delicate formations from being broken off by careless visitors.

In the mean time, Pat and Phil had found a shelter cave, Rocky View Cave, that was 25.5 feet long with a large room. Pat sketched while Phil did tape and instrument. The seven of us met up at an intersection of valleys. Mike and Ulf headed off in one direction, Phil and Gary in another, while Pat, Elizabeth and I went off in yet another direction. Pat found a pair of phreatic tubes. She surveyed one (Slacadaisical Cave) that was 17.3 feet long. This was one of the cave names given with the theme of slacking. I surveyed Diverticuli Cave, 15.6 feet long, that had lots of solutional pockets (hence the name). While I finished up Diverticuli, Pat and Elizabeth found Stars and Stripes Shelter Cave and surveyed it (19.1 feet long).

At some point in the day, Pat found and surveyed other caves and gave them names in the Slacker series: Slacitude Cave, Slacalacious Cave, and Slacadaisical Cave (as noted above). She also found and surveyed Pancake Cave higher up on the ridge from Stars and Stripes. I never saw any of the six caves that Mike and Ulf surveyed: U.K. Cave (16 foot solutional tube), Never Ending Valley Cave (15 foot solutional cave), Trainee Cave (15 foot solutional cave), Chickadee Cave (27.5 foot solutional cave), and two unnamed caves (one was a 24 foot mechanical shelter and the other a 23.4 foot mechanical cave).

We had finished with the private land and headed back to the public land where we started the day. It turned out that no one else had surveyed the mechanical cave that Gary had found in the morning. Pat and Elizabeth surveyed Slippery Slope Talus Cave (21 feet long) while I found and surveyed Rock With Yew Cave. It was also a talus cave and was 25.6 feet long.

The last cave of the day was one that Ulf had pointed out to us several months ago. It is a phreatic tube in the side of a cliff face. It is a bit awkward getting into it, perhaps that is what kept it so well preserved. The cave was only 30 feet long, but was heavily decorated. Pat went in first and did back sights for the first three stations. It was easier to shoot forward to the last station. Variations In Travertine Cave is well worth a visit.

By the end of the day, we had surveyed 17 caves. Not bad for the Shiftless, Driftless Cavers of the Iowa Grotto.

### SMALL DUBUQUE COUNTY MINES

Morel, Old Bat, Door To Door and Cannibal Mines in Dubuque County

30 March, 2002

by Ed Klausner

Chris Beck, Ed Klausner, Phil La Rue and Mike Lace



Several years ago, Mike Lace dug open Morel Mine in Dubuque County. He did not survey it at the time, so after a few false starts on what to do for the day, we found the landowner home and got permission to walk his land.

Morel Mine was easy to find. Like other small mines in the area, there was a pile of sediment around the entrance from the mining activity. Morel Mine had filled in a bit in the last 6 or 7 years, so Phil and Chris did some excavating while I started sketching the entrance and Mike went looking for more open sinkholes.

Once the entrance was dug open enough to enter, Phil did lead tape and Chris read instruments. The cave was 40.6 feet long and a bit roomier past the entrance. Ceiling heights were between 2 and 3 feet.

Mike, in the meantime, found another mined crevice. Old Bat Mine was a 20 foot long "L" shaped cave that I surveyed while the others continued their search for cave entrances. Old Bat Mine was named for several of our members who are reaching milestone ages.

We took a break from surveying and visited two larger mined crevices in the area. Three Boys Cave was 105 long and had a nice chimney down. Three Boy Cave was first described by Marc Ohms (Intercom XXVII issue 1 p11). There were three pipistrelles that were dew covered and presumed to be still hibernating. Nearby Two Shot Cave (article by Mike Lace, Intercom XXXI issue 1 p6) had one pip, but it was not dew covered and was possibly out of hibernation. Two Shot Cave was 61 feet long. Both were surveyed in 1995 and can be found in the Iowa Cave Map Book volume II.

On the way back to the trucks, we found two more small caves. Phil and I surveyed Door to Door Mine while Mike and Chris surveyed Cannibal Mine. Both were in the 20 foot range.

We also looked at a 40 foot pit that had previously been left unsurveyed. We did not have vertical gear with us, so we will need to return to the area to complete this survey.

## HOPELESS

Cave of the Yellow Beast, Hopeless Pit, Dubuque County, IA

6 April 2002

by Ed Klausner

Chris Beck, Gary Engh, the Hartmans, Ed Klausner, Mike Lace, and Jake (the Yellow Beast)

The Hartmans had a few sinkholes to show us on property that was going to be sold within a few weeks. We took a Saturday to meet them in the Dubuque area and see whether the sinkholes were open. It turned out that they were not, but we found two others that, with a little excavating, were open.

The first, named for Chris' dog, Jake, was a 64 foot long crevice. It didn't take long to dig it open. Chris and I surveyed while Mike and Gary continued ridgewalking. Cave of the Yellow Beast was quite narrow. There weren't many places where you could turn your head and there weren't good footholds to use for chimneying down the 25 feet to the floor. In fact, the walls were pretty slippery and in order to stay in one spot to sketch, I had to turn slightly and wedge my hips against the walls so I could have my hands free. I don't plan on returning any time soon.

The second cave, Hopeless Pit, caught our attention because of the large volume of air coming out of the opening. It took us a few hours to dig it open enough to realize that after 18 feet, the walls were too narrow to get through. We kept saying that it looked hopeless, but kept right on digging anyway. We finally gave up and surveyed our 49<sup>th</sup> cave of the year.

## Hawaii Caving 2002

Chris Beck, Don Coons and various other cavers both mainland and Hawaiian

by Chris Beck

I had an offer extended to me last winter to go caving in Hawaii, and given my current lack of personal commitment and the low airfares I decided to go tubing. Don Coons told me that he had low cost places for us to stay and a vehicle, so it was to be a very low cost trip. He also said that he had lots of going leads to survey so a great trip was virtually guaranteed.

Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> travel to Hawaii, non eventful.

Wed. spent in Kona waiting for vehicle repair. Drove to high county cabin for the night.

Thurs. Walked upper "1881" flow looking for caves. Found and surveyed a new 500ft.

Fri. packed up gear from cabin and headed to Volcano N.P. Don spent day with Dr Holiday. Hiked on new lava flow.

Sat. Vertical training/practice at Kula Kai cave with the H.S.S.

Sun. Clean up work on Don's new lot and survey of cave on lot. Approx. 300ft

Mon. Survey in Maelstrom section of Kanohina cave ( short leads go. Survey 990ft and going )

Tues. Don gave Power Point presentation to resource staff at P.T.A. military base. Travel to Hawaiian acres.

Wed. carpentry work on field house @ Hawaiian acres out house and shower.

Thurs. Finished carpentry.

Fri. surveyed in Dodge cave. 800ft total but stopped by low ceiling and formation block.

Sat. photo trip to Kazomora cave. Cover about 1 mile with 3 vertical drops between 15 and 45 ft.

Sun. Photo/tourist/impact assessment trip to upper Emesine cave covered about 1 mile from entrance to entrance.

Mon. hiking out to see new HOT lava, 2.6 miles one way. ( a totally unbelievable experience) travel back to Ocean View.

Tues. travel back home on "Red Eye".

The island of Hawaii or "The Big Island" is the most active "Shield" Volcano in the world. The current eruption from the Kilauea vent has been continuous from Jan. of 1983 and puts out approx. 187,000 cu yards of lava per day. The Mauna Loa volcano ( the most dominant of the 5 on the island ) is over 13,680ft above sea level and from the base of the sea floor in over 31,000 ft tall making it the "tallest" mountain in the world. The island of Hawaii on an average is covered on 90% of it's surface with new lava every 1,000 years. All the "caves" on the island are lava tubes of varying ages from pre-historic to still flowing and over 2,000 degrees. It takes about 2 years for a "tube" to cool enough to explore. The island has the Largest and Longest in the world, Kozomora Cave. It is over 40 miles of survey and 3,300ft vertical extent. It's possible to take a 26 mile "through" trip that takes 2 VERY long days, and requires advanced placement of camping gear.

Dear Most Competent Caver

Dear Most Competent Caver,

This question came up at our last grotto meeting. How many sticks of dynamite does it take to extricate a stuck caver?  
**Short Fuse.**

Dear Short Fuse,

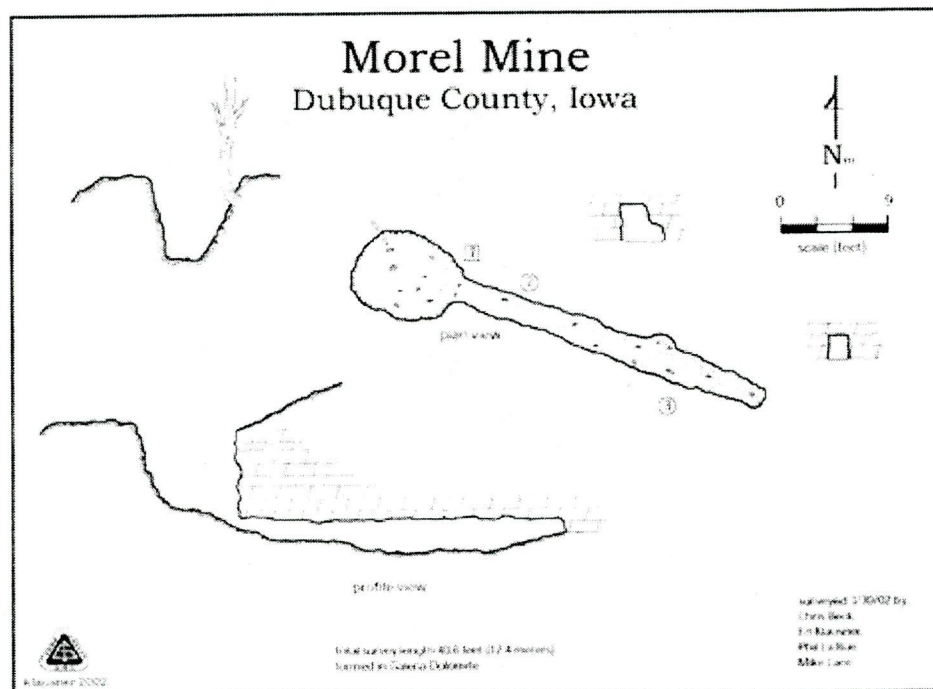
I don't know, but I've read that it takes 10 Iowa cavers to keep him in. Next question.

Dear Most Competent Caver,

Last week, my wife found a jar of Vaseline in my cave pack. I told her it was help me get into my wetsuit, which over the years seems to have shrunk up. (Ed. Note: Insert fat jokes here) She didn't believe me and kicked me out of the house. What should I do? **Ned Beatty.**

Dear Ned Beatty,

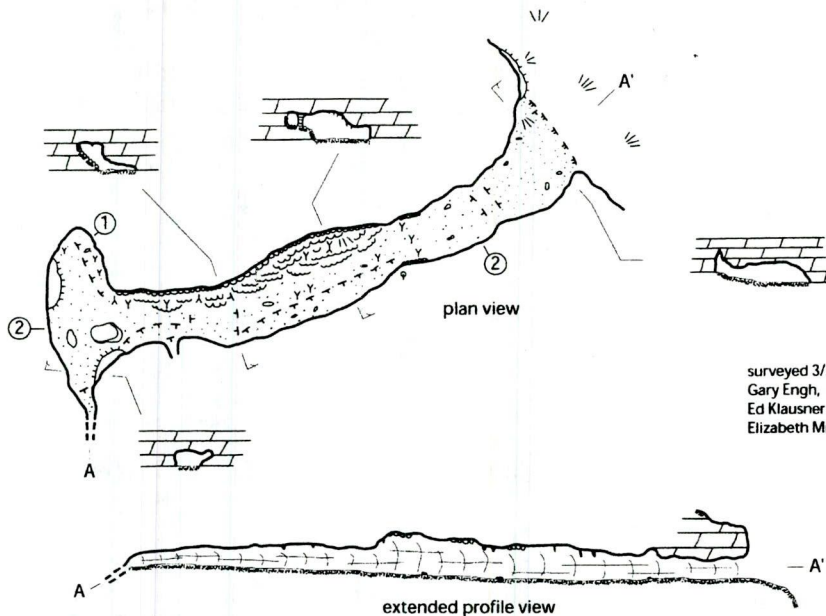
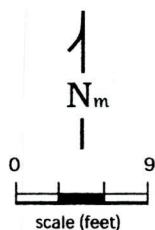
Hmmmm, You carry a jar of Vaseline in your cavepack. I'm with your wife on this one Ned.





# Methuselah's Cave

## Jackson County, Iowa



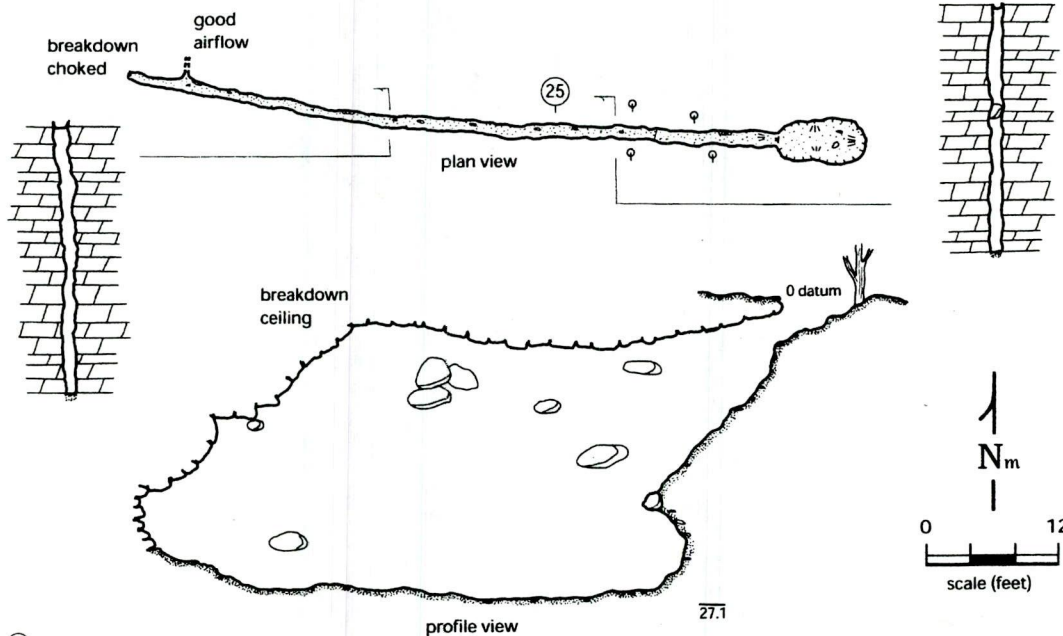
surveyed 3/23/02 by:  
Gary Engh,  
Ed Klausner and  
Elizabeth Miller



total survey length 44.1 feet (13.4 meters)  
formed in Hopkinton Dolomite

# Cave of the Yellow Beast

## Dubuque County, Iowa



total survey length 64.0 feet (19.5 meters)  
formed in Galena Dolomite

surveyed 4/6/02 by:  
Chris Beck and  
Ed Klausner