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Scott Dankof

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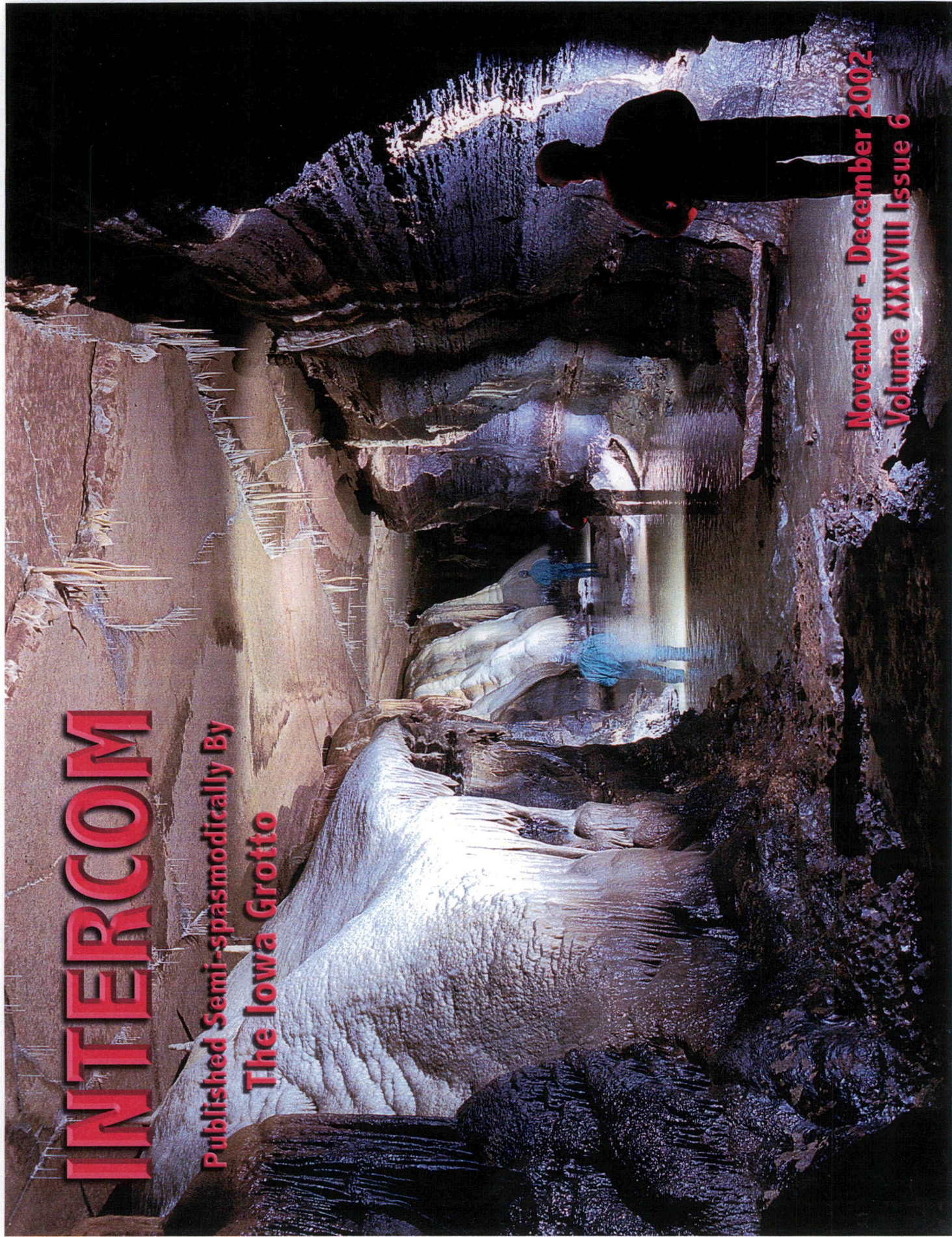
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INTERCOM

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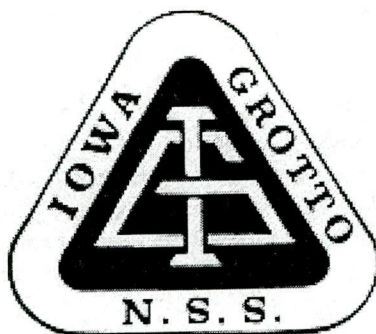
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Iowa Grotto Meetings: are the fourth Wednesday of each month, third Wednesday in December at 7:30 p.m. in room 125 or thereabouts of Trowbridge Hall on the campus of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Cover Photo: Mainstream Gallery Section, Coldwater Cave, Ia. Photo by: Scott Dankof



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 6

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Iowa Grotto Minutes
December 11, 2002
Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Vice Chairman Ed Klausner at 7:30 PM with one other member present. Minutes for the November regular meeting were not available, but would have been approved if they had been. There was no treasurer's report available. TRIP REPORTS: Ed Klausner reported on the installation of a gate constructed by Chris Beck in a Jackson County cave. Mike Lace, Gary Engh, Phil LaRue, Loren Schutt, Ed Klausner, and Elizabeth Miller assisted Chris in the installation. Ed also reported on a trip to Landmark Falls in Coldwater Cave with Larry Welch, John Lovaas and Mark Jones, a trip to Jones County with Phil LaRue and Rich Feltes, and a trip to Clayton County with Chris Beck. FUTURE TRIPS: See the Hotline and the NSS News for details. There will probably be several off-weekend Coldwater trips. OLD BUSINESS: No new nominees were received for grotto officers. NEW BUSINESS: Doug discussed various methods of getting up Landmark Falls including bolting, using the grappling hook, scaling poles and ladders. The pros and cons of each method were discussed. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Real Cavers Don't Stop and Ask Directions

Coldwater Cave
September 21, 2002
Winneshiek County, IA
John Lovaas and Elizabeth Miller

by Elizabeth Miller

A busy Saturday was planned for the September Coldwater weekend. The water level was measured at 0.49 so Ed Klausner, Bill Mulder and Larry Welch decided to head down to first right hand side passage to continue the survey in the low air space area. Another group was to show the major sights to members of the Upper Iowa Environmental Alliance. I had told Mike that I would go with him on this trip. John Lovaas was going to replace dye bugs, place temperature recorders and measure water flow rates for Pat Kambesis who did not come up from Kentucky for the weekend. Chris Beck decided to go on the tourist trip and though I assumed that Mike would help John, he decided to go with the tour and I volunteered for the science trip. I had, after all, been present when all of the current bugs were either placed or replaced. I told John that if he could find the passage, I could find the bug. John quickly made a sketch of the major passages we needed to visit from the line plot posted on the wall of the bunk house and headed down the shaft with most of the gear to place the temperature recorder at the platform. I finished wiggling into my wetsuit, which seemed to have shrunk since I bought it, and wished that I had had more sleep the night before. I figured I had had enough sleep to help with some field work since our passages were not too far from the shaft and the water level was so low.

John had finished his work at the platform and showed me where he placed the automatic temperature recorder. Each recorder was anchored using a 5 pound vinyl covered weight. We left one recorder and weight at the platform and headed down toward Cascade Passage. Although I generally complain bitterly about pothole country, the low water level made it quite passable. Before we reached there we began to hear noise behind us. Who should appear but Mike Nelson who had been hauling wood above ground before we went down, pulling a hollow capsule with his gear in it. The hollow capsule boomed as it bumped into rocks as it floated along. He was headed off to meet up with the group who went down to first Right Hand Side Passage. He loped off and we continued.

Once we reached Cascade we replaced the mesh bag holding the charcoal dye bug and placed the temperature recorder. Then we set about choosing a location for the flow rate measurement. We chose a fairly straight section of the passage, measured width and depth, and then I went to the upstream end and sent our test floats (a

large fishing bobber and a yellow rubber duck) down the passage while John waited with a stopwatch. Unfortunately, the fact that Cascade passage is a series of dams and pools meant that it had a very uneven flow which resulted in very little movement of the float in some areas. Nothing like the real world to defeat research plans. Well, we did our best and then packed up our gear and headed back towards the shaft and up to North Snake passage. We traveled some way above the shaft, found the passage and began to look for the dye bug. It was a little disheveled and appeared to have been moved around. We collected it and put in the temperature recorder. We then headed on up to Pete's Pipe to collect the bug and place a temperature recorder. We did flow rates as well. The only glitch was that the label near the dye bug said "Waterfall". We really couldn't figure out how the Waterfall passage dye bug could have gotten into the wrong passage. We finally decided that someone must have just dropped that label in the wrong passage and then written out another tag at Waterfall passage. As we headed further upstream to Waterfall passage, things began to look wrong. The passage was getting very low and we suddenly came upon what looked to be the entrance to the spong siphon on our left. The label on the dye bug confirmed it. I was so tired by this time that things seemed not only wrong but hopeless. John and I consider ourselves logical and the only logical explanation for this turn of events was that we had indeed missed North Snake Passage, had placed our Pete's Pipe temperature probe in the wrong passage, taken measurements for flow rate in the wrong passage and labeled all of the dye bugs wrong. We might have briefly considered just going back to the shaft with what we had and hoping that Pat could make some sense out of all of this later, but of course True Scientists would never do such a thing. So back to Waterfall Passage to pick up the temperature meter and change dye bug labels, back to Pete's Pipe to place the temperature recorder and do the flow measurements and then back towards the shaft to find North Snake Passage. We looked into every little nook and cranny on the way back to the shaft, feeling more exhausted at every turn. I am sure we both still wonder how it could have been so close to the shaft all along. It was so close that we weren't even looking for it when we had passed that way earlier in the day. The only good thing about it was that when we had replaced the dye bug there we were almost back to the ladder.

The ladder was a welcome sight but I was way too tired to climb it. I sent John up the ladder while I tried to recover. While I waited, who should come along but Ed, Bill and Larry who had taken the long trip to First Right Hand Passage. They have subsequently claimed that I was using uncharacteristically bad language while waiting to climb up. They used quite a bit of abuse to encourage my sorry climb up the ladder. I don't know about John, but I will be unlikely to ever miss North Snake Passage again.

Not Today

Rocky, Heartbreak, Cottonball, Coon Print, Good Breeze Caves and one unnamed cave
Jackson County, Iowa by Ed Klausner

9 November, 2002

Ed Klausner Mike Lace and Jim Roberts

This was to be a day that we would check on some leads in the lead list and try to find and survey several additional caves. Mike and I met Jim in Jackson County and went over a few options. We decided on a piece of property with several known but unmapped caves. Fortunately, the landowner was home and with little delay we were off.

The first stop was Rocky Cave. It had been mapped by Ohms and Winch (Cave Map Book vol. 1 p 98), but neither Jim nor I had seen it and it gave us an opportunity to collect mosquitoes for Elizabeth Miller and the state entomologist. They wondered about over-wintering mosquitoes and West Nile Virus. We did collect a few mosquitoes here and in nearby Heartbreak Cave (mapped by Ohms, Lace, Schenck, and Schmuecker - Cave Map Book vol. 1 p 91). Both caves were over 100 feet long and the mosquitoes were collected near the back of each cave.

The next stop was a spring with a talus cave above the entrance. It had multiple entrances and would be a wet, muddy survey. We decided to do it at the end of the day so we wouldn't be wet for the rest of the day. With any luck, we'd find other

caves to survey and never get back to do this one until it was much warmer. As luck would have it, that's exactly what happened, so this is still on the list of known caves that need maps.

Cottonball cave was described in the 1950's, but never mapped. We fixed that and mapped this 16 foot cave. It had a solutional entrance, which led to a perpendicular joint at the back of the cave. It was enough space to stand up, but little reason to do so.

Toad Cave was next on the list, but we did not find it. It is probably high on the cliff face, so we will have to walk the top of the cliff on our next trip to the area.

We continued ridgewalking the west side of the valley and found a mechanical cave that was 25 feet long. It had a perfect raccoon print in the mud at one of the two entrances, and was thus named Coon Print Cave.

It was getting late, so we headed back along the opposite side of the valley, even though we had not come close to finishing this landowner's property. On the way back, we found a solutional cave that Jim and I mapped while Mike continued ridgewalking. Good Breeze Cave was named because of the good breeze coming out of the entrance. The cave was 26 feet long, but the breeze was coming out of a low area near the entrance. Jim and I dug until I could stick my head in to see if there was more passage. Unfortunately, there was a small area with a hole at the top that led to the surface. This caused the cave to act as a chimney.

Mike found and surveyed an 18 foot cave. He has not yet named it. We managed to map four caves bringing our yearly total in Iowa to 81.

Mop Up

Poached and Tortilla Passages, Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek Co., IA
16 November 2002

by Ed Klausner

Chris Beck, Ed Klausner, Charlie Knight, Mike Lace, John Lovaas, Elizabeth Miller, Bill Mulder, Mike Nelson, and Larry Welch

The water level was a glorious 0.47 feet at the platform for the November Coldwater weekend. With water this low, it was a perfect day to take new people through the sumps. Mike Lace volunteered to take Chris and Elizabeth through and then turn around and come back. The first trip or two is a learning experience as you really have to figure out how to stay warm on top of how to negotiate low air space. Both did well and will hopefully return for more upstream trips past the sumps.

Mike Nelson lost his watch two months ago on a trip to First Right Hand Side Passage. He took Charlie on his first trip past Cascade and they too had a successful trip. Mike found his watch while Charlie continued downstream to the equipment cache. They had plenty of time, so they proceeded upstream to the Spong Siphon for Charlie to try his hand at the sumps. He had no trouble, even without a hood.

Larry, John, Bill and I decided on a survey trip somewhere beyond the sumps. It turned out to be a trip with a bit of everything; climbing, digging, sight seeing, belly crawling, and surveying.

With water this low, we could keep our helmets on through the sumps. We quickly found ourselves in Bert Falls and showed John and Bill the beautiful room across the passage from the falls. John immediately plotted on what it would take to get to the upper level, same as everyone else who has ever seen the room.

In a joint, there seemed to be a possible high lead, so John chimneyed up as high as he could safely go. It was difficult to tell if the lead was enterable, so this will have to be rechecked some day.

The next few hundred feet were pretty easy, but the Iguana Crawl proved difficult for Bill. The low areas beyond the crawl weren't much better. By the time we got to the Figure Eight Passage, we decided to turn around and do some mop up survey along the way back to the Iguana Crawl. These passages had been noted and left unexplored while the main passage was surveyed towards Landmark Falls.

Poached Passage was the first that we attempted. It started out low and never got any bigger. We got 65 feet of survey until the passage entered a small breakdown area. We moved some of the breakdown (the room was only a foot or so

high) and saw that the passage continued, but was only about 6 inches high. This will take some digging, but it doesn't look promising.

Just before re-entering the Iguana Crawl, there is a deep area called the Bathtub. There is a passage that is a bit less than a foot tall and is quite wide. We each took turns digging and got about 25 feet along the passage. It continues at the same height and is an enticing lead.

We got through the Iguana Crawl and then checked a small side passage that we hoped would put our survey total over 100 feet for the day. We did a bit better than that and got close to 50 feet of additional survey. It seemed like a good time to return as we were getting hungry. The trip back was uneventful. We guessed the time we would reach the shaft and were all wrong. It was several hours later than my guess and at least an hour less than the latest guess (it was 10:30). As usual, Mike Lace had a pizza waiting for us and most of us started eating before getting out of our wet suits.

It was a highly successful weekend. Three people got through the first part of the sumps for the first time, Mike found his watch, and we got 112 feet of survey in virgin passage.

Jackpot

Steamtrail Crevice, Clayton County, Iowa
30 November, 2002
Chris Beck and Ed Klausner

by Ed Klausner

Chris and I met in Clayton County on this very cold and windy day with the hope of finding something to do that would keep us out of the wind. We had heard that a cave owner had acquired additional property. We stopped by to see if this additional property had any exposed rock that we could ridgewalk. We were too early; the acquisition had not yet taken place.

After some discussion, we finally settled on a known pit on the other side of the county, with some additional caves reported to be in the area. It looked like our route would take us past a landowner for whom we had some maps, so we decided to drop the maps off on our way. As luck would have it, his kids were home and one asked if we wanted to see a sinkhole on their neighbor's property. He led us to an open sinkhole that looked very tempting, especially when Chris threw some leaves over the entrance and they shot up into the air.

We got directions to the landowner's house and got permission to ridgewalk his recently acquired 300 plus acres of sinkholes and springs. He informed us that there was a very large, open sinkhole on another part of his property and he would take us there some other day as he already had plans for the afternoon. The day was looking pretty good.

We later found that the cave was Steamtrail Crevice, described in 1992 by Mike Lace and Chris Beck. Since we approached the cave from a different direction, Chris had not recognize the entrance found 10 years before. Chris and I spent the rest of the day mapping this 261 foot crevice. It had nice clean limestone walls with some areas of flowstone. The majority of the cave was about 2 feet wide, so we had plenty of room to climb above and under the wedged pieces of breakdown. One small room formed by breakdown had quite a bit of popcorn and was called Popcorn Grotto by Chris. The entrance drop was a bit over 40 feet and this was the only place that we needed a rope and vertical gear. Total cave depth was about 82 feet.

I stopped by the landowner's house on my way home to tell him the good news. He is anxious to come out with us and look for additional caves on his newly acquired land.

Last Ever Trip

Labrador, Doubtful, Mosquito Dome and Zombie Lake Caves, Jones County, Iowa
1 December, 2002
Rich Feltes, Ed Klausner and Phil LaRue

by Ed Klausner

I don't know how I get talked into these things, but Zombie Lake cave had been surveyed to about 95 feet and another survey shot would bring it over 100 feet. Never mind that I gotten briefly stuck during what I thought would be my last ever trip to this small, wet cave with a number of decomposing raccoon carcasses. Mike Lace, needless to say, was too smart to get suckered into a return trip. This left me to go with anyone who had never had the pleasure. Phil volunteered, as did Rich. The only thing to do was to bring some digging tools and survey gear and see if the cave continued. Since I could see at least 10 feet from the last station, I could certainly get one decent shot and finish off the survey.

Since Zombie Lake would leave us wet, cold and very muddy, we saved it for the end of the day. We started out in a nearby valley with caves described by the landowner. They were easy to find and we surveyed three before heading over to Zombie Lake. The first was a solutional cave that was only a bit over 20 feet long. We named it Labrador Cave for the black Lab that was following us around and was very friendly. The second cave was visible across a side valley from Labrador Cave. It was named Doubtful Cave because I didn't think it would qualify. It did indeed qualify at 20+ feet. This was a mechanical cave. The last cave was again solutional. Mosquito Dome Cave was in a second side valley and was 36 feet long. It had some flowstone and a small dome in the back (4 feet high) with lots of mosquitoes.

Enough procrastinating, it was time to get wet. We brought wet suits down to the entrance of Zombie Lake, but it was way too cold and windy to change into them. I was hopeful that the lack of flow out of the entrance meant the cave would be dry. What it really meant was that the water had frozen near the entrance causing the water to back up and be much higher than on previous visits. Phil elected to stay out. (Smart move).

The water wasn't quite as fetid, but it wasn't odorless either. When we reached the last survey station, we were soaked. While Rich dug with a sawed off hoe, I rested in a pool of water (the ceilings were only 1.5 feet high). After his enthusiasm vanished and he swore he would never return, we traded places and I got the last survey shot. We now have a 100 foot cave.

The walk back to the trucks was as you would imagine on a cold and very windy day. I was too cold to change and drove home wet. At least we now have two caves surveyed that are greater than 100 feet so far this year.

I Can't Believe I'm Carrying this *%!# Gear Through The Iguana Crawl

Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa
14-15 December, 2002

by Ed Klausner

Mark Jones, Ed Klausner, John Lovaas and Larry Welch

Landmark Falls is in the northern part of the known cave. Conditions have to be right for the long trip - the sumps have to be open and the weather non-threatening. Even though temperatures were to be above freezing, there was no snow cover to melt during the day and block our exit through the low air space. The water level was 0.44 feet at the shaft, unusually low, so the sumps were open and conditions couldn't be better for the trip. The reason for our interest is the passage that may be above the falls. From the base of the falls, there appears to be a passage that is about 6 feet high.

The Iguana Crawl is just one of the obstacles that has to be crossed on the long trip to Landmark Falls. It is more difficult when you have to carry or push gear through it. Larry thought of the trip report name before we ever got to the crawl, but he had been through it enough to know that it wouldn't be pleasant. He was, of course, correct.

There is no easy way to reach the passage above the falls other than bolting the overhung wall. The wall is not smooth and bolting will be difficult. We decided to carry 50 feet of static and 50 feet of dynamic rope, bolts, hangers, a 30 foot haul line, and various other pieces of gear and stash them as close to the falls as we could get. Then, the following weekend, we would take a drill and batteries for the actual bolting.

Luckily, we were able to haul all the gear plus three containers of fluids all the way to the falls. It took six hours and we were certainly happy to drop the gear in a dry place and lighten our packs.

On the way back, Mark decided to take photographs of this infrequently visited section of cave while the rest of us decided to survey some virgin side passage. Our first survey was into a small passage dug open by Larry on a trip he and I made to Landmark Falls last year. It is just below the NTS dome. He didn't sound very enthusiastic about it at the time, and it was for good reason. It only went 30 feet before being sediment choked. There was a small dome partway in where I could stand up. I believe this is the 101st dome recorded in the cave. Then a bit of buffoonery ensued. Larry gave me a compass to keep as a spare. I was lead tape and John was instrument, so I kept the compass in my wetsuit. When we were back in the main passage, Larry asked if I had the compass. I couldn't feel it in my wetsuit, so Larry and I went back to look for it. Surveying the passage turned it into beef stew-like mud, so we got pretty slimed. I only discovered the compass on my way out when I slid over some breakdown and the compass dug into my chest - inside my wetsuit.

The next stop was a small passage just south of Big Ass Passage. This had a small opening and it was easy to understand why Big Ass was surveyed before this one. It never got any bigger, in fact, it got smaller. After 45 feet there was no enthusiasm for continuing, especially since Larry couldn't see the book anymore as it was too mud covered. I went ahead for 20 feet or so and the passage shows no signs of ending. It probably isn't very high on our lead list. I think we named it Little Ass Passage.

We took a look at the Ohio Passage, so named because of the Ohio shaped piece of breakdown at the entrance. The first time I saw it I thought the keyhole shaped small passage was to be avoided at all costs. This time, it looked like it might open up after 15 or so feet. The trick will be to avoid sliding down and getting stuck in the narrow bottom part of the small tube. The top of the keyhole doesn't have a nice ledge to keep you from sliding down.

We met up with Mark at Bert Falls. After the mud crawl just before the first of the sumps, we put on our hoods and headed back to the cold cabin. With no one on top, the stove would be cold. The Three Dive Sump seemed colder than on our way in. Perhaps we were cold and tired because it was about 1AM, but we all noticed it. When we got close to the shaft, we smelled smoke from the stove and hoped someone arrived and started the stove for us. No such luck - the smoke was from the previous day and was drawn into the cave. It took a while to warm up the cabin, but we had no trouble falling asleep.

Last Trip (At Least, For Now)

Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, Iowa

21 December, 2002

Ed Klausner, Charlie Knight, Mike Lace, John Lovaas and Larry Welch

by Ed Klausner

The original plans were to go to Landmark Falls with a drill, batteries and vertical gear to start bolting up the dome. Larry and Mike had both been sick the previous week and weren't up for the long trip. With five of us ready for an upstream trip, we decided to split into two groups. Mike and I were to survey in the Mystery Is History section while Larry, John and Charlie would go past the Nasty Sump and dig at a small lead at the end of the mainstream passage. They would also survey the lower route through The Hall of the Giants room and a cut around on the upstream end of the Nasty.

Mike and I met up with the rest at the spot where we usually change into hoods and remove headlights before the Spong. Mike didn't think he was up for the trip, so I decided to join Larry, John and Charlie for their trip even though I didn't have a shortie wetsuit under my regular wetsuit which I thought I'd need for the Nasty. Larry said that if I got too cold, we'd turn around and go to the Mystery Is History section and survey there instead, but he really wanted to survey at the end of the mainstream while the water was so low (0.44 at the platform).

Neither John, Charlie nor I had ever been in this section of cave and there were some very beautiful sections. After the Three Dive Sump, instead of turning right at the Y Room, we headed left towards the End Again Sump. Due to the low water level, neither the End Again Sump nor the Nasty Sump presented many problems, and we didn't get too cold. At the Junction Room, we turned left into what we hoped would be a bypass to the James Brown Sump. The lead looked inviting and Charlie was able to fit without digging it open. Unfortunately, it went into a small room and did not continue. One 20 foot survey shot crossed this lead off the list. We then took a look at the other short passage off the Junction Room and were convinced that there were no leads before the terminal sump known as One More Sump. Mike Nelson had tried to dive this sump several times, but couldn't find enough space for a human to fit through.

Surveying under the Hall of the Giants was a bit tricky as there was some loose breakdown, but we managed to finish it in a few survey shots before heading to the cut around known as Mystery Bypass (where Coldwater Cave passed Mystery Cave of Missouri on the long cave list). It too went quickly and we had about 150 feet of new survey for the day. All in all, this will likely be the last trip to this area for a while as there are no leads left.

Picking Up The Slack

Unlikely, Corn Husk, Angus Creek, Arena, Emmentaler, Old Setter's, Turtlehead,
Mixed Nuts Caves, Jones County
Sandwich Cave, Fayette County
28, 29, 31 December, 2002

by Ed Klausner

Ray Finn, Ed Klausner, Elizabeth Miller and Jim Roberts

One hundred seems like a nice round number. A few years ago, we thought it would be a good small cave survey goal for a year. By late December, we were at 89 caves and still hoped to reach the goal. After Christmas, Marc and Rene Ohms were visiting from South Dakota and along with Mike Lace, they found and surveyed 3 caves. That left eight. Ray knew of at least one cave in Jones County that we could survey, so Ray, Elizabeth, Jim and I set off on a warm December morning and quickly located the cave. It was a solutional tube that was U shaped and required three survey shots, even though the cave was only 43 feet long. There were 3 little brown bats and some flowstone in the cave, along with lots of mosquitoes. Elizabeth and Jim collected mosquitoes for a project with Iowa State University. Ray named it Unlikely Cave.

We continued down a main valley looking for additional caves and found none. We then headed down a side valley and saw a rock outcrop that even from a distance, looked like Swiss cheese. We surveyed Corn Husk Cave, a solutional cave, 34 feet long before Ray and Jim had to leave. Elizabeth and I surveyed two more (numbers 94 and 95 for those counting) after they left. Angus Cave was 16 feet long and Arena Cave 28. Although Arena was relatively small, it had some nice decorations including a column.

The following day, Jim and I met in Fayette County and hiked most of the day with little except a 28 foot mechanical cave (Sandwich Cave) and a lead to show for it. At least it was warm and sunny. The lead was an open sinkhole that was too wide to chimney down. We'll return with vertical gear.

On the last day of the year, Elizabeth and I returned to the side valley where we had found Corn Husk and Angus Creek Caves. We had not had time on the last visit to survey three additional caves we found. We started with Emmentaler, a multi-entranced solutional cave with some small formations. Below Emmentaler was another small solutional cave with a sandy floor. Old Setter's Cave was a bit over 15 feet and named for the setter that came to pay us a visit while we were surveying.

Across the side valley, there were two more solutional caves. Turtlehead Cave (Elizabeth named it for the overhang that looked like a turtle head). It was 21 feet long, as was Mixed Nuts Cave. Mixed Nuts was a low shelter cave with some flowstone and one small column.

We called it a day as it was quite windy and cold. There is still more rock in the area, but that will have to go towards next year's small cave quota.

Grumbling

Rock Hole, Reluctant, Grumbling Caves, Jones County, Iowa
23 November, 2002
Chris Beck, Gary Engh, Ed Klausner and Mike Lace

by Ed Klausner

There was a hollow in Jones County that looked good on the topo maps. It took a while, but Gary got enough information and contacts to get us permission to walk the land and explore its countless caves. Naturally, it didn't turn out that way and in fact, we found no caves at all. We did have a nice walk, however and I'm sure the exercise was good for us.

We did manage to locate three caves in an adjacent valley. The first was high on a bluff just as we turned the corner and walked into the valley. It was pretty easy to locate as the cave was a solutional hole through the bluff at the point. It was a bit over 20 feet long and had some nice fossils in the ceiling and walls. Chris sketched this one while I found and sketched a talus cave (also a bit over 20 feet long) below.

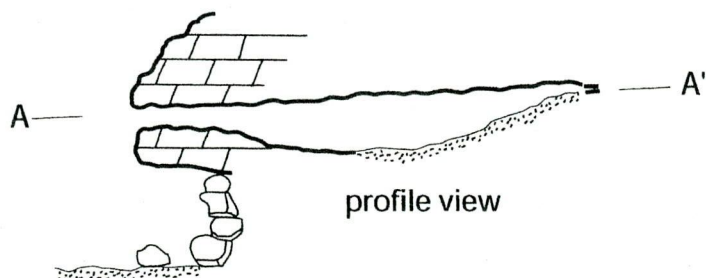
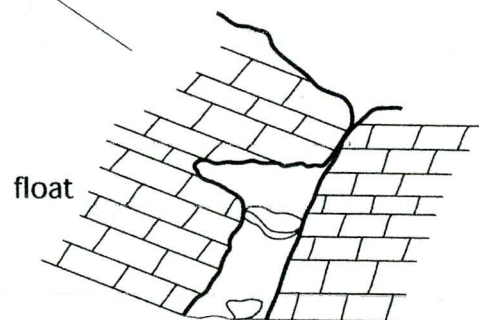
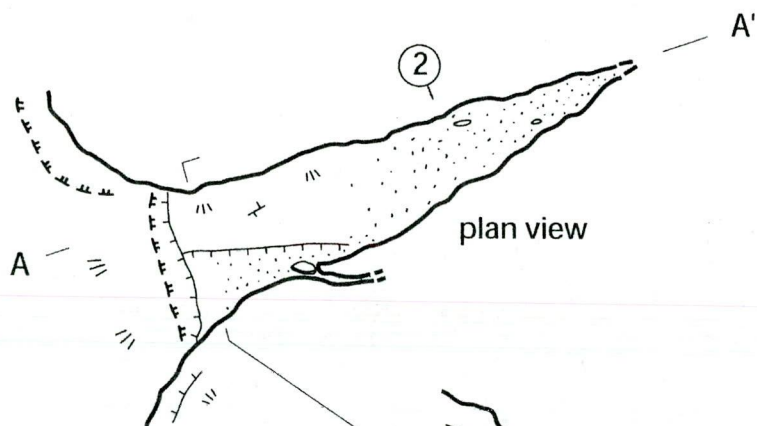
At this point, Gary continued along the Maquoketa river while Chris, Mike and I continued along this side valley. Actually, we didn't really know where Gary went, but we always seem to find each other about the time we're ready to head home.

I met Mike and Chris heading towards me. When they said they had something to show me, it could have been only one of two things: either they found had a grim cave that was too gross to enter, or one that was too small to enter. It turned out to be the latter. Getting in wasn't all that difficult and surprisingly, the cave opened up. Well, not exactly. It never did get much higher than a foot and a half, but it did get wider and it was nicely decorated. There were small stalactites and soda straws, plus some flowstone on the walls. There was plenty of room to turn around and some good air movement. All the leads were far too small to enter, but looked enticing.

Not surprisingly, when we met up with Gary later in the day, he had found 5 caves. We'll be back in the area to survey those 5 and continue ridgewalking along the river.

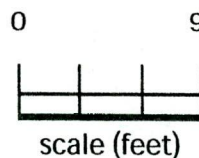
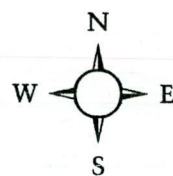
Reluctant Cave

Jones County, Iowa



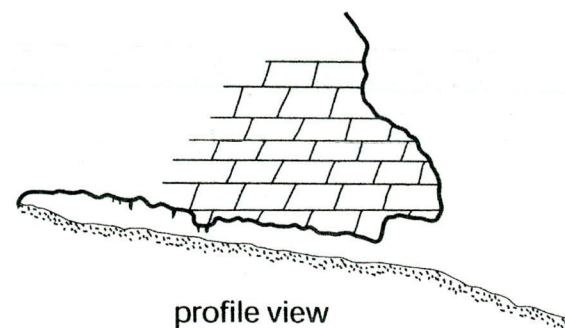
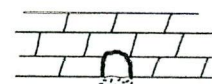
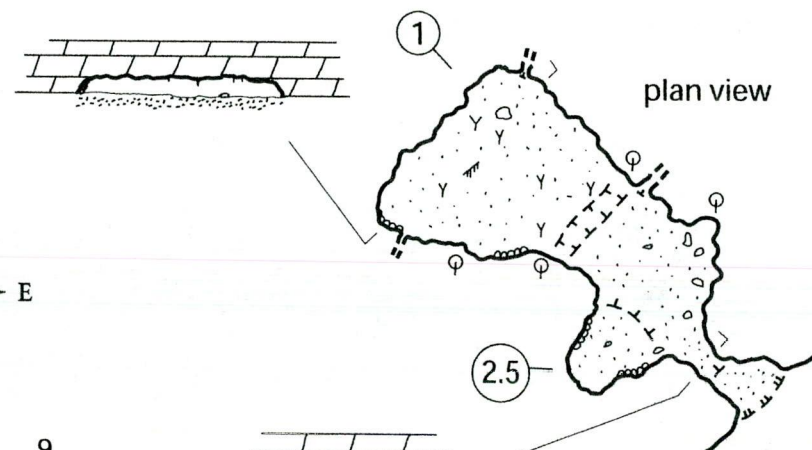
total survey length = 21.5 feet (6.6 meters)

surveyed
11/23/02 by
Ed Klausner



Grumbling Cave

Jones County, Iowa



surveyed
11/23/02 by
Chris Beck,
Ed Klausner and
Mike Lace

total survey length
18.5 feet (5.6 meters)



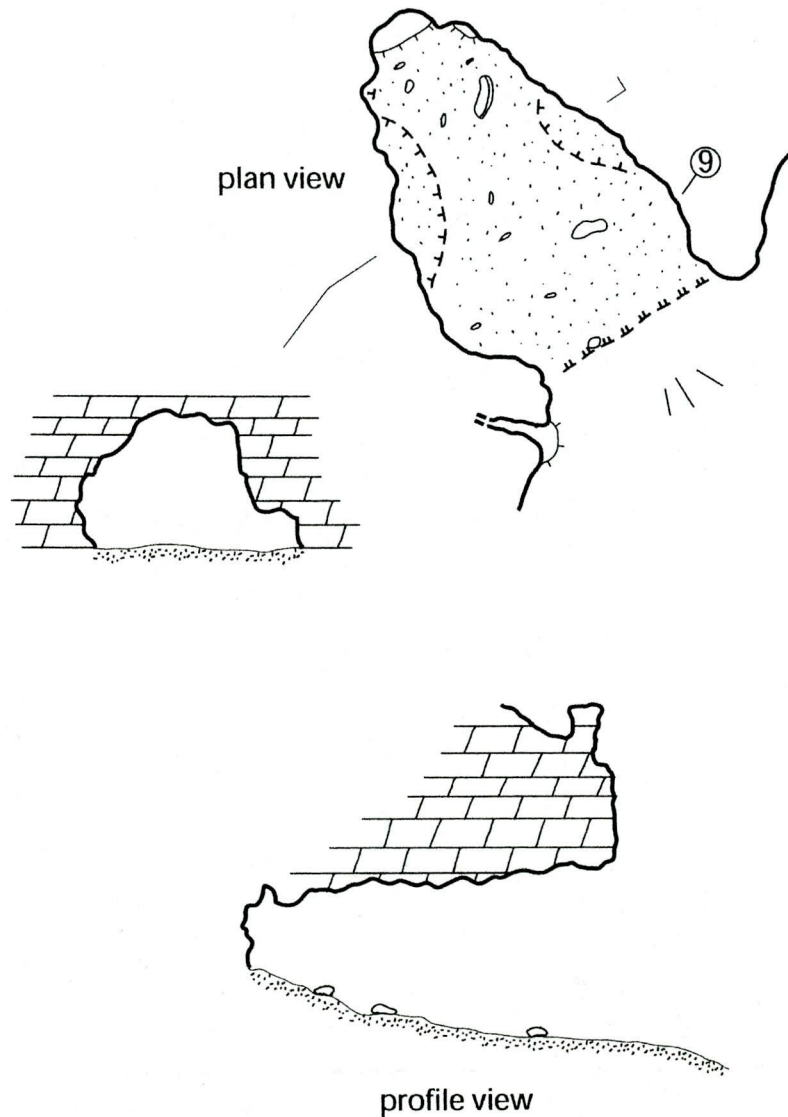
Klausner 2002

Labrador Cave

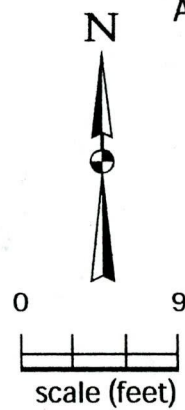
Jones County, Iowa

Doubtful Cave

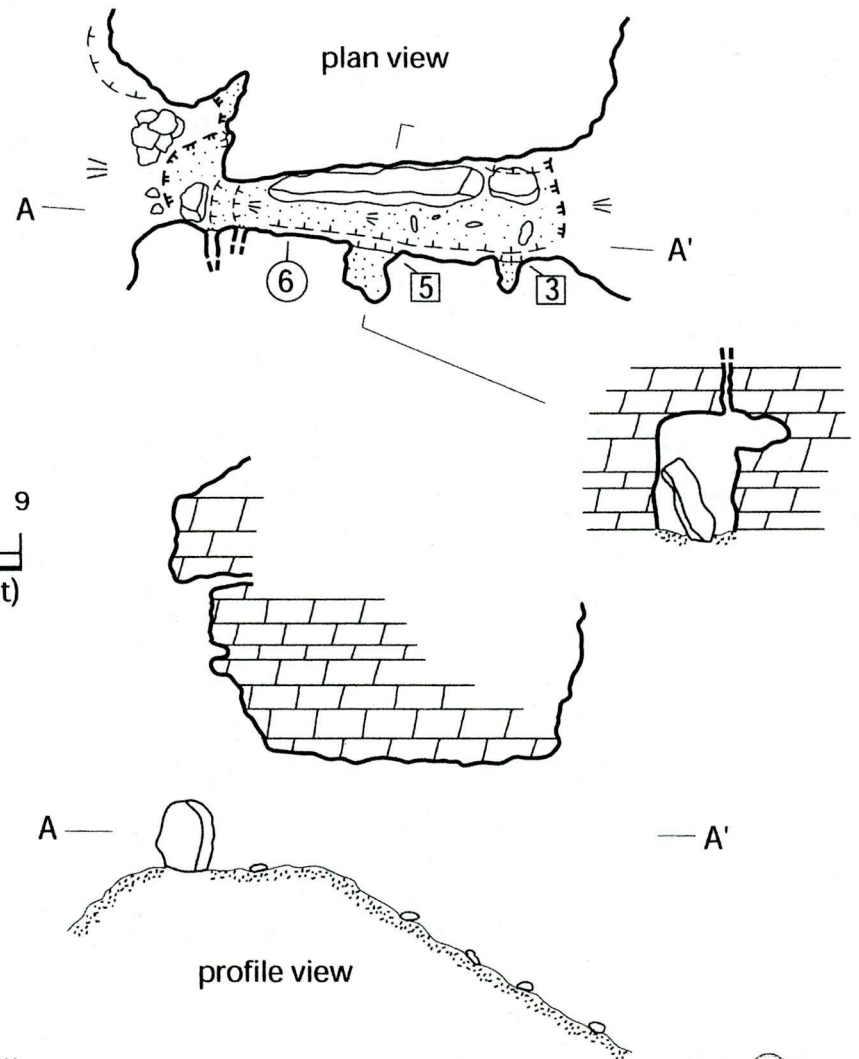
Jones County, Iowa



total survey length = 21.3 feet (6.5 meters)



surveyed
11/9/02 by
Rich Feltes,
Ed Klausner,
Phil LaRue



total survey length = 22.4 feet (6.8 meters)



Klausner 2002

Unlikely Cave

Jones County, Iowa

