

October 2003

## Intercom, Volume 39, No. 5, September-October 2003

Scott Dankof

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# INTERCOM

A high-contrast black and white photograph of a cave interior. A person's silhouette stands in the foreground, looking up at a waterfall of light rays cascading down a rocky wall. The scene is dramatic, with the light rays creating a stark contrast against the dark, textured rock.

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## INTERCOM

Volume 39, Issue 5  
September - October, 2003

### 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.

**Due Dates:** for submission of material for publication in the INTERCOM are November 1 and January 1. Send material for publication, e-mail, disk or hard copy, to:

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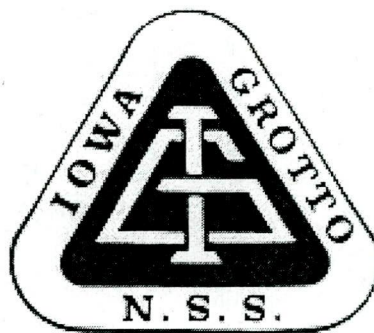
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**Coordinate photographs** for publication in the INTERCOM with Scott Dankof, the INTERCOM photo and cover editor.

**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:** John Lovass in unknown cave, Newton Co. Arkansas  
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 39

Issue 5

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IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

September 24, 2003

Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace, at 7:45 p.m., with 8 members present. A slide show on caves of Illinois and Iowa was shown. Minutes from the August 27, 2003, meeting were read and approved. A treasurer's report was given which showed balances of \$652.86 in the Coldwater fund; \$808.63 in the General fund; and \$190.72 in petty cash.

TRIP REPORTS: Phil LaRue reported on a trip with Chris Beck and Rich Feltes to the Gill Mine and Little Princess Mine in Illinois. Ed Klausner reported that he, Chris Beck, Gary Engh and Mike Lace completed the survey of the Gil Mine. He then reported on a survey trip to Mammoth Cave and Ganter Cave in Kentucky. He then reported on the trip the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center had at Coldwater Cave. He concluded his report on his trip in Coldwater Cave upstream to Bert Falls with Mark Jones and Jim Roberts. Mike L. reported on a trip that John Lovaas and Mike Nelson took to the First Right Hand Passage at Coldwater. He concluded his report that Larry Welch had installed scientific instruments for weather monitoring in Coldwater. John Kirk reported on a lead checking trip to Illinois and his trip downstream at Coldwater Cave. FUTURE TRIPS: See the September Hotline and the N.S.S. News for details. Doug Schmucker has vertical training sessions scheduled for Sept. 28th and a beginner session Oct. 11th. Contact Doug 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. The Grotto Library is still looking for library materials. An index of the Grotto library is now available and can be searched electronically. NEW BUSINESS: The Intercom deadline is Nov. 1st. The November and December meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday due to the holidays. Nominations for Grotto Officers will be taken until the December meeting. There was a nomination to have the existing officers retain their offices. Pat Kambesis will be presenting information on her thesis project this fall. With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

October 22, 2003

Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Secretary Phil LaRue, at 7:33 p.m., with 7 members present. Minutes from the September 24, 2003, meeting were read and approved. A treasurer's report was given which showed balances of \$640.86 in the Coldwater fund; \$772.11 in the General fund; and \$190.72 in petty cash.

TRIP REPORTS: Elizabeth Miller reported on her trip to Jackson and Jones County to visit two caves for the mosquito collection project. Brad Smith and Liz Robinson reported on their trip to the M.V.O.R. in Missouri where Brad visited Rattlesnake Cave. John Kirk reported on his trip to Wanda's Walkway at Coldwater Cave. FUTURE

TRIPS: See the October Hotline and the N.S.S. News for details. Doug Schmucker has rescheduled the beginning vertical training session scheduled for December 12-13th. Contact Doug 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.

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## Up To The Gills

Gill Mine, Jo Daviess County, IL  
September, 6 2003

by Ed Klausner

Chris Beck, Gary Engh, Ed Klausner, and Mike Lace

Chris checked the water level in Gill Mine recently and found that the water level was exceptionally low. This made several hundred feet of additional passage enterable and therefore surveyable. On a beautiful fall day, we met in Jo Daviess County with the hope of finishing the survey of Gill Mine.

We started at the end of the survey done a bit more than a year ago. A few shots along the main passage got us to a "Y". Mike and Gary surveyed the right side that also had the old mining tracks. Chris and I surveyed the left side. The left side was smaller, two to three feet wide and walking or stooping height for the first three hundred feet. There were several pools along the way that were a foot to a foot and a half deep. As Chris noted, the water was cold (we weren't wearing wetsuits.) There were flakes of calcite stuck to the walls in many places. Previously, we had noted these floating on the water surface. With the drop in water level, they stuck to the walls and made interesting reflections in our lights.

The passage became lower and wetter. At one low spot, we had some doubts about continuing, but Chris decided to just see what was around the bend. It turned out that the passage ended, so he took the end of the tape and we got the last shot.

We noted three bats in the cave. One looked healthy, but two were definitely sick. Sick bats have been reported to many county health departments and the state health department this year in Iowa. The cause is unknown.

While Mike and Gary finished surveying their passage, Chris and I looked for the same ore that caused miners to dig out the sediment about 100 years ago, lead. We found a few chunks.

Mike and Gary finished their passage and the mine survey is now finished. We added about 1,000 feet of new survey for a total of 1346.1 feet.

## Ridge Walking in the Hell Canyon Area

by Reno Lippold

"So you're telling me there's a chance!" This is what Lloyd Christmas excitedly proclaimed (actor Jim Carrey in the movie Dumb and Dumber) when Mary Simpson said that the odds of them ending up in a romantic relationship were "like one out of a million". I was thinking about that when I made plans to do some ridge walking in the area around Jewel Cave National Monument, South Dakota. I knew the odds of finding anything significant were extremely remote, but at least . . . there was a chance!

I've visited this area many times before. I always wanted to go ridge walking here. So many times I made the slow winding descent along route 16 down into Hell Canyon. I would gaze longingly up the Hell Canyon ravine as I rode by. This time, however, I was going to stop . . . and stay awhile.

The first day on location I, of course, decided to hike up Hell Canyon, north from Route 16. There is a maintained trail that runs up the canyon bottom, and as I was later to learn, loops back on the west canyon rim, forming a complete loop of about 5 miles. The most interesting thing about the canyon was that nearly all the creek bed was dry, even though there had been plenty of recent precipitation. I did run into two places where flowing water was present, but in each case, it only went a few feet before leaving the creek bed dry again. Some areas along the canyon bottom appeared to be untouched by the Jasper fire of 2000; others were burnt to-a-crisp. I traveled about 3 miles up the canyon, following the west fork, which is where the maintained trail goes. I assumed that every nook and cranny visible from the canyon floor had been well poked and prodded, but I was hoping that the burn would improve long distance visibility, thus providing new opportunities for discovery. I'm sure this was true, to some extent, but it created a problem of its own. Short blackened tree stumps looked like small cave entrances at a distance. At



great expense to energy reserves and physical health, I did climb the canyon walls several times to examine some interesting "anomalies", a few of which turned out to be just burnt tree stumps. By plan I didn't venture far from the canyon bottom and the maintained trail this day. I was surprised that it was still early in the day when I got back to the trailhead. So I decided to hike down into the nearby Teepee Canyon and pay a visit to Jasper cave, and that area.

Arriving at Jasper, I was surprised to see clothing near the entrance. I examined it briefly and was about to leave when I heard grunts coming from the entrance. Two young men emerged, one wearing coveralls that were so badly ripped that I had a hard time understanding how it was staying in place. After a brief conversation about caves and caving, we parted and I headed further down into Teepee Canyon and across to the far side to do some bushwhacking. It took several hours to get back to my car. I believe it was here that I noticed a tick crawling up my pant leg. Further examination revealed several more here and there -- they were everywhere! In all, I eventually picked 14 ticks from my clothing and body.

On day two I visited Jewel Cave National Monument and hiked the Canyon Lands Trail. The Canyon Lands Trail winds its way down into Lithograph canyon from the visitor's center. It reaches the canyon bottom not far from where the man-made portal entrance to Jewel is. I had to take a look-see and snap a few joke photos of me trying to force the locked door. The trail continues to the junction with Hell Canyon, then heads north, up the bottom of Hell Canyon. I made an attempt to find the blowhole that is, according to the Jewel Cave Visitor Center wall map, found only a few meters from the canyon bottom. I was unable to tell where it was though. It would probably take a very cold, low-pressure day to find this without some help. As the trail approaches route 16, it finally takes a turn up the canyon wall and goes past the historic entrance and then back to the visitor center. Having some time left in this day I visited an abandoned Cesium mine described in the Roadside Geology of South Dakota book.

While hiking I would find myself wondering how would one know if you were close to major cave. Imagine you were walking in this area before anyone knew Jewel cave was there. Ok, the obvious sign of a cave would be the wind rushing from a natural entrance. But imagine, too, that such an entrance did not exist, or if you'd rather, that that you are visiting on a day of air-pressure equilibrium. What other signs, if any, would there be? Yes, the outcropped limestone and the dry creek bed is certainly a hint of hollow ground below, but I'm talking more about specific knowledge of when you are within a few meters of major passage. Where Lithograph Canyon crosses the Jewel Cave Hurricane Corner area, there is only about 30 feet between the surface and this underground paradise. I believe you are also nearly this close when crossing the cave passages under Hell Canyon. So close, but how would you have any idea? There are no pits, sinkholes, insurgences, or resurgences here. There is Jasper cave about 2 miles distant, but no other significant caves, to speak of, here. According to historical accounts, the original natural entrance was higher on the hill, and the existing historic entrance was blasted open. Examining the rock here you can see where the natural cave starts and the man-made tunnel begins. There appears to have been only a few feet of rock between nice walking passage and the canyon walls! Busche's Cave, a small, barely-a-cave near the Jewel historic entrance gives cause for further reflection on this matter. If you were to run across such a minor cave, would you consider it significant? Would you invest any time in a dig into one of the sealed-off passages? How would you know that the passages of this micro cave come within a few feet of one of the largest caves in the world? That is an interesting aspect of this area. There doesn't seem to be much of anything that would give a hint of the cave passages that lie below. This is a bad thing, for actually finding new caves, but helps keep your interest, as you always have to wonder just how close you could be.

My third day I decided to go back up Hell Canyon from the route 16 trail head planning to concentrate on some bushwhacking. This time, however, I noticed that a large bolder in the streambed that had nail head spar crystals on it. I at least recognized them for what they were - CAVE SIGNS! The bolder had obviously rolled from some point high on the canyon wall. Now I just had to deviate from my plan for the day and climb the slopes here. I found several small pocket caves that also contained the nail head spars. These caves, or shelters really, did not seem to be very significant, but then, there's Busche's Cave to think about. After this exhausting side trip, I continued up the canyon and took the east fork



this time. This appears to be the main branch of the canyon. There is not a maintained trail this way, but there is an old, somewhat overgrown, logging road that made things fairly easy going. After about 3 miles in I decided to head up a side draw for the start of the bushwhacking. After a very difficult climb up the canyon walls I found myself in an open, relatively flat area that had been heavily logged. This continued for several miles until I was back on Jewel Cave NM property. Here things became a bit more remote looking, but it was still hard to find a place that didn't appear to be well stomped by humans. I found my way back down into Hell Canyon and to the trailhead. It was here that I realized I had left my Gerber multi-tool at a rest stop about 2 miles back in. There was NO WAY I was going to hike back the way I had come -- but I didn't want to lose that tool either. I was able to drive to point about 1/2 mile from where I thought I had left the tool, hiked in, and found it! I gave myself an orienteering award.

By the fourth day, my body was so highly damaged that I was having trouble walking even around my campsite. So I decided to take a scenic drive into Wyoming and then down Spearfish Canyon. Spearfish Canyon is really spectacular, with huge limestone cliffs that go for miles. What really surprised me is that the fast flowing stream, near the top, completely sinks into the riverbed near the bottom. But where are the caves?

### Ed and Mark Ascend Into Heaven

The campground was packed when I pulled into the Flatlands Coldwater Compound on Friday night. I parked just outside the gate and unloaded my gear into the shed. A ring of people surrounded the campfire, catching up on the latest cave gossip and swapping summer stories. Larry Welch had been installing a weather station all day and would not be cracking the whip on Saturday. I was worried that there would be few people to make up a team, but that didn't last long. After an hour we gradually broke away from the fire and headed to bed.

Following the morning jaunt up to Harmony for breakfast we began suiting up for the various trips. Ed Klausner, Jim Roberts, and myself were going to slip beyond the sumps to attempt surveying and photographing past a delicate formation area near Bert Falls. Mixed in with people from the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center, we dropped to find the water level at drought levels. This made for a easy day of walking upstream. Along the way we noted how dry the formations were and how they were losing their luster. Once past Three Dive we broke for a snack before the "Crawl of Death" to Bert Falls. When Ed and I had first made it past the Three Dive, Mike Lace zipped ahead leaving us to our own devices on how to move. Since that time, Ed has always hated this short 400' hands and knees crawl in 18" of water and sucking mud. I on the other hand have come to embrace this special part of the cave, and have learned to appreciate it for what it is. At Bert falls we checked out the possibility of surveying into Bert Falls and quickly decided Larry was nuts. The water flows out from under a pile of breakdown slabs with little room to maneuver amongst the rock. We'll save this adventure for Larry and the next generation of Coldwater explorers.

With our plan taking shape, Ed cleaned himself off as best he could while Jim filled water bottles to wash near the survey. "Clean" Ed crawled up the dried dirt slope, past the equipment cache, off to the left and up another dried dirt slope to the Formation Constriction. The Formation Constriction is a narrow canyon that sits about 70" up the dirt mound with a lone 4' stubby stalagmite perched in the center. On either side are rock/mud walls that extend 12' to 16' vertically, giving no hint of what lay's beyond. Hopefully we'd discover at least another 100' to add to the survey. At the base of the stubby stalagmite we laid down some plastic sheets for Ed to remove any mud picked up on the climb. A canvas tarp was also placed so we wouldn't damage the flowstone floor. Ed carefully worked his way around the stalagmite and placed more sheeting to protect the flowstone. Impressed with what he'd seen, Ed continued up through a cluster of stalagmites to the top of the mud slope. The moment of truth was upon us. Ed turned in all directions and announced that it ends here. Disappointed with this information, we still were excited about seeing the formations and gathering the survey. I covered the stubby with a garbage bag that fit perfectly and slid around to join Ed. The mud slope continued another



20', leveled off and ended in a mud choke. As Ed took survey notes I whipped out my disposable camera and shot some photos. (ED. NOTE: I think he meant snapshots.) Jim stayed on the lower side of the slope to carry water to clean the area when we left. With two survey shots we added another 53' to the Coldwater length (16.5 mi.) Ed took his time making a very accurate drawing and even used his protractor for acquiring the proper angles. About this time Ed said he was in heaven - so be it. The alcove area is now Heaven. Since Ed had his real" camera equipment along, he also photographed the area and even got out some flashbulbs for that professional look. The floor of the mud slope is pocketed with splashcups and mud crystals that add to the overall beauty of this level. With the flowstone area rinsed off, there is no reason for further exploration past the stubby stalagmite since it has been fully documented. As we exited, Jim wanted to visit the Sand Room. We strolled up to the Y, turned right and walked into the Sand Room. According to records, I believe this is considered the largest known room in the cave. Unfortunately most of it is buried in sand. After 10 minutes we headed downstream to rejoin the others at the shack. Another fine day of caving at Coldwater.

#### Alien Mustard

Alien Mustard Cave, Jones County, Iowa  
October, 4 2003  
Ed Klausner and Elizabeth Miller

by Ed Klausner

Elizabeth and Professor Wayne Rowley from Iowa State University had talked about mosquitoes, caves and West Nile Virus many times. It is unknown if the species of mosquitoes, which overwinters in caves and culverts, can carry the virus throughout the winter. One question that can be relatively easily answered is "do mosquitoes with a blood meal have a different mortality rate overwintering in Iowa caves than mosquitoes without a blood meal." Elizabeth will write an Intercom article and / or give a talk at a grotto meeting explaining the experiment in more detail. In any case, we needed a cave or two to put sealed containers of each type of mosquito in for the winter.

We visited two landowners in Jones County to get permission to put the boxes of mosquitos in their caves. Both were interested in the project and readily agreed to let Elizabeth do this. In talking to one of them, he mentioned some holes in a cliff that he owns and wondered if there were any caves there. We decided to take a look, but as he had noted, it is almost impossible to see them until the leaves are down. We did, however, find a mechanical cave that we surveyed. Elizabeth compared it to surveying under a rock, but I prefer to think of it as a slip fault cave. It was 26 feet from entrance to entrance, so it was surveying under a pretty big rock. There were non-native mustard plants in front, this thus cave name.

#### The Blue Owl

Blue Owl, Perched, Bodine's and Turn Around Caves, Jackson County, IA  
October, 11 2003

by Ed Klausner

Gary Engh, Ed Klausner, Mike Lace and Jim Roberts

A recent talk with a landowner in Jackson County led us to a return trip to this area to find and map two known caves. We got directions to the two and started off towards a point on the bluff. The view from the top of the bluff on this crisp fall day was spectacular. Try as we might, we could not find the cave to the right and below the point. On our search, we did find a slip joint cave (Bodine's Cave) that was 38 feet long and walking height for most of its length.

We crossed under the point at different levels and came to the second described cave. It was close to a road and had a cement slab on the floor near the entrance. We also found electrical cables in the cave, along with some other debris such as an old microwave. We had a difficult time figuring out the composition of the walls of this solutional cave, but since we could see the sedimentary layers, we guessed it was dolomite with a fair amount of sand embedded in the dolomite. We surveyed



this 113 foot cave and found one bat near the back. We don't run into 100+ foot caves every weekend, so we were pretty pleased with ourselves.

Later in the day, Jim stopped at a local antique store and learned that the cave was called Blue Owl Cave and was used as a dance hall / band pavilion in the early 1970's. That explained the cement slab and the electrical cables.

On the way back to the point, we turned around in a small ravine and noticed a small opening that we had just missed. Gary went to check it out and we thought he was kidding when he said it had rimstone dams. Gary and I surveyed this small solutional cave in which I had enough room to actually turn around. Turn Around Cave was named for this and because we had to turn around to see the entrance. There were indeed small rimstone dams and some dried flowstone. I usually don't draw ceiling changes when the ceiling changes from 0.9 feet to 1.5 feet, but in this case, it made the area in the back roomy (at least for me.)

Several more trips below the point still didn't get us to the described cave, so we headed back to the landowner's house for directions. He decided it would be easier to just show us and he and his daughter walked us to the point. He then showed us the narrow trail directly below the point to a hidden entrance. Mike and I tied a handline onto a tree and worked our way down to the entrance. The entrance was 120 feet up the face of the bluff and offered a fine view of the area. Unfortunately, Perched Cave was only 22 feet long.

Surveying four new caves was a pleasant way to spend a fine fall day at the beginning of ridgewalking season.

#### Sustained Misery

Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, IA

October, 18 2003

by Ed Klausner

John Kirk, Ed Klausner, John Lovaas, Mike Nelson and Larry Welch

I was a bit surprised when Larry called a few days before the October Coldwater trip to suggest that we continue the survey in Downstream Wanda's Walkway. Usually, when the water level is low, we head upstream through the sumps. That was exactly Larry's point, so I started preparing for a trip to Downstream Wanda's. I was a bit suspicious when Mike Lace was encouraging and thought this work needed to be done. He would not be there and has a habit of sounding encouraging when he sends us off to some place that turns out to be miserable.

When Mike Nelson appeared on Saturday morning, he asked where we were planning on going and I informed him that we were going to Downstream Wanda's, he seemed to lose his hearing. Mike and Bryan Bain had been the furthest in Downstream Wanda's 15 years ago. Six years ago, John Lovaas and Larry Welch had surveyed most of what Mike Nelson and Brian Bain found. In those 15 intervening years, there had been only one trip to the area, hummm.

John Kirk and Mike planned on following us to Cascade Passage and then poking around the Pig Trough for leads while the rest of us continued on to Downstream Wanda's. We were a bit disappointed when the water level in Downstream Wanda's did not appear to be very low at all. We readily found Larry and John's last survey station - a pencil in a mud bank, and started surveying. I did lead tape, John instrument and Larry book. Larry and John had frozen out after four shots six years ago, so we wore hoods and polypro under our wetsuits in the hopes of lasting several survey shots. The passage remained a belly crawl through a few inches of water with no breaks in the ceiling to sit up turn your head easily. The passage had a few formations, and by and large, remained 5 to 8 feet wide and about a foot high. We found the spot where Mike Nelson and Brian Bain stopped and continued past it. It was a low spot where John said he had to exhale and push forward.

All in all, we surveyed a bit over 230 feet before I had frozen hands and feet. At the last station, Larry went forward about 50 feet and said it got to hands and knees crawl. This was probably an attempt to lure us back some day. He also said this was the longest stretch of sustained misery in the cave. The trip out was long and tiring. When we discussed the trip report, Larry said it should be called "Never Say Never Again" leading me to believe that he and John never intended on



returning to continue the survey. The passage definitely continues and is interesting, as it is parallel to mainstream Coldwater.

We had a rescue on the way out, albeit a toad rescue. The toad was definitely cold and out of its element, so John gave it a ride in his camera case.

### Little Princess Mine

Nov. 1, 03

by Dawn Ryan

Mike Houle, Mark and Lynn Langenfeld, Stephanie Kaufman, Linda Chandler, Jim Roberts, Gary Engh, Ed Klausner, Chris Beck, Jack Wood, John Lovaas and Dawn Ryan

I just wanted to add few details to go along with Ed's trip report as some of us entered and exited the cave at different times. We began with seven in our group. As we came up to the first short traverse, I crossed over first. The person following me wanted to wear a harness and so John gave her mine to use. She made it across ok but in the attempt to throw it back over, it came off the rope and ended up in the drink. John and I both wore wetsuits, but John, being the kind person that he is, volunteered to retrieve my harness. He descended the ladder to the cold, deep water below. The water was very cold from the sounds he made and deep too. You could barely see his helmet floating above the water. I was sure the harness would be lost forever. But no! Success! The harness emerged from the water. John tied it securely to a rope for Jack to pull up and Mark returned it to me. John seemed to start to enjoy the brisk water and continued down the water filled passage below us to another opening where he ascended. Our party, down to five, continued on. We came up to another very large traverse, wondering how the others must have gone. It was very deep with styrofoam floating in the water below. We could see the ropes bolted in the walls across from us and decided to follow. We went back for our harnesses, our party, now down to three, continued on. Just in the nick of time, here comes Ed and Gary from the other side. So now we were sure which way to go and watched them negotiate the very narrow ledge. Jack, John and I, all made it across handily and soon joined Chris, Jim and Stephanie at the raft. They were already across so Jack took his turn. The water looked so inviting, I climbed down the cable ladder and went for a swim. Ahhh...it was very refreshing. John swam over too. One more swim through the rest of the passage and then we started to survey. Jack, John and I took the first right hand passage, while Chris, Jim and Stephanie took the main passage to the end. As the three of us continued down the passage, Jack's CO2 meter kept going off more often, indicating the lack of oxygen. Luckily, there was one final shot around a left-hand corner just as the meter was going off continuously and we were done. We met the others back in the main passage. They surveyed to around 300 feet and we got around 230 feet to complete the survey. Hauling out the ladders, raft, wood panels and all the other gear was a little tricky but everyone made it out fine and stopped at a restaurant to enjoy a fine Mexican meal.

Ahoy

Little Princess Mine, Jo Daviess County, IL

November, 1 2003

by Ed Klausner

Chris Beck, Linda Chandler, Gary Engh, Mike Houle, Stephanie Kaufman, Ed Klausner, Mark and Lynn Langefeld, John Lovaas, Jim Roberts, Dawn Ryan and Jack Wood

Dawn and John had arranged a trip to the Little Princess Mine for some members of the WSS and the Windy City Grotto. Chris has been involved with the survey of the mine and thought it would be a good opportunity to do both on the same day. Before the meeting time, Chris rigged the traverse, rigged a cable ladder a few hundred feet beyond the traverse, and brought an inflatable boat to the back of the surveyed cave. This was as far as the survey of 1947 had gotten. Chris knew the cave continued further than what was listed on the 1947 map. We had taken several



trips to the mine to resurvey what had already been done (we lacked the original notes and therefore had no tie in to the previous survey.) In addition, we added a few small passages that would have been easy to pass up. Today, we hoped to extend the survey beyond these 1555 feet. What had stopped the original survey was a 6 foot drop into deep water. There was no way across without swimming or using a raft.

We met in Galena and chatted about the day's cave trip and caving in general while waiting for everyone to arrive. I don't know why I told Jack that most of the cave was walking height. Even though I had been there several times, I guess I had forgotten about the crawling sections. Gary and I drove to the cave first, as I had to leave early for my daughter's birthday party later that afternoon. Gary and I got to the last survey station and I set up the survey book and did a cross section while waiting for the others. In the mean time, Chris helped Jim and Stephanie across the traverse. There doesn't seem like there are any footholds, but once you start across, there are indeed enough narrow ledges to get across without many problems. Once at the last survey station, Chris took the end of the tape, got in the boat and headed across the narrow inland lake to the far shore. We got a 95 foot shot. He read instruments from the far side. I pulled the boat back with the cord we had conveniently tied to the boat and climbed down the ladder to get in. This was the first time I've sketched from a boat. It worked quite well. Chris had tied boards to each side of the boat to keep it from getting scraped up on the narrow walls. There was one narrow spot where we had to stand in the boat and brace ourselves against the walls and use our feet to tip the boat and move it along.

Once on the far side, I caught up on sketching while Chris set up for the next shot. Gary called from the far shore and told me it was time for us to head back to Iowa City. I found that hard to believe, as it seemed that we had just started. I quickly caught up on the sketch and had Chris take one more shot (47 feet). Once I finished that, I headed back in the boat towards the cable ladder. Gary and I headed out while Jim and Stephanie got ready to take the boat towards Chris and the continuation of the survey.

On our way out, we met Jack, Dawn and John on the far side of the traverse. Since none of them had been in the cave before, they were happy we came along to show them the best route across. Jack brought his sketching gear and there would be enough people to help him survey the side passage. We also met Mark, Lynn and Linda who had been exploring the cave. They then headed over to the Gill Mine to explore that one too.

Chris told me the next day that they had finished surveying the cave. They added an additional 522 feet of survey and got out of the cave with all their gear by 7 PM. The cave ended in a sump. Since the water was clear, Chris tied a carabineer to the end of the tape and measured a depth of 15 feet. It was a nice trip with three different grottos involved in the survey.

#### Down And Out

October 22, 2003

By Scott Dankof

Mike Lace, Ed Klausner, and Scott Dankof

It was another great day, sun shining, mid 70's. We usually get hit with a bit of rain, and cold temps, but this trip to Arkansas had been perfect. Mike, Ed, and I decided to do some ridgewalking. We had found a cave entrance on a cliffside, near my place, a year or so ago. It looked like a small crevice cave with a lower entrance, which explained the chimney effect on the airflow. We noted the location, and decided to map it at a later date.

We parked the truck and hiked about a quarter mile to the cave. We scrambled along the top of a 50' cliff looking for the entrance. Mike found one, but it wasn't the one we were looking for. A cool breeze was issuing from a crack going into the cliff. Mike and I quickly determined that Ed would be the best choice to stuff into this one. I helped him move a few rocks and he slowly slid in. Ed got about a body length into it, then it opened up into a semi-roomy chamber. He estimated about 25' of passage, then more squeezing to continue.



About this time Mike yelled that he had found the entrance we were looking for. Ed and I walked about 30' farther along the cliff, and there it was, a 3' diameter hole into the cliff. I don't know how we missed the other entrance last year. As close as they were we figured all 3 entrances had to be connected. I chimneyed down to take a look. From where I was perched, the passage went 3 ways. Directly below me it dropped down and out of site around a corner. Ahead of me, it split in two, one way headed up about 20' and ended. The other went into a body-sized hole, and down a 30-degree slope. I poked far enough into it to determine that it went, although it's likely to end up at the entrance we found earlier. It looks like it could be an interesting squeeze. Ed and I ran the compass and tape while Mike took book. I climbed down into the lower passage, squeezed over a boulder, and came to the lower entrance. Ed and I shouted out measurements to Mike. While waiting for him to catch up, I spotted a small lead on the other side of the lower entrance. It dropped down about 10' and curved to the right. I had a little too much bulk for this one, and Ed didn't seem too keen on it either. When Mike caught up, I pointed it out to him. He looked it over, trying to determine how to go headfirst and not get jammed in. He made it through and Ed followed. They quickly surveyed to a point where the passage was blocked. After climbing back, we added up the footage. It was a little over 100'. Not too bad for something that we didn't think would go half that far. We decided to save the upper level lead for next time we come down. I expect it will connect to the other entrance.

Dear Most Competent Caver

Dear Most Competent Caver,

I'm a middle aged, some may say, well seasoned caver. The older I get the harder it becomes to relate to the younger people in our Grotto. What can I do, so I can fit in better?

Signed,  
Krusty Caver

Dear Krusty Caver,

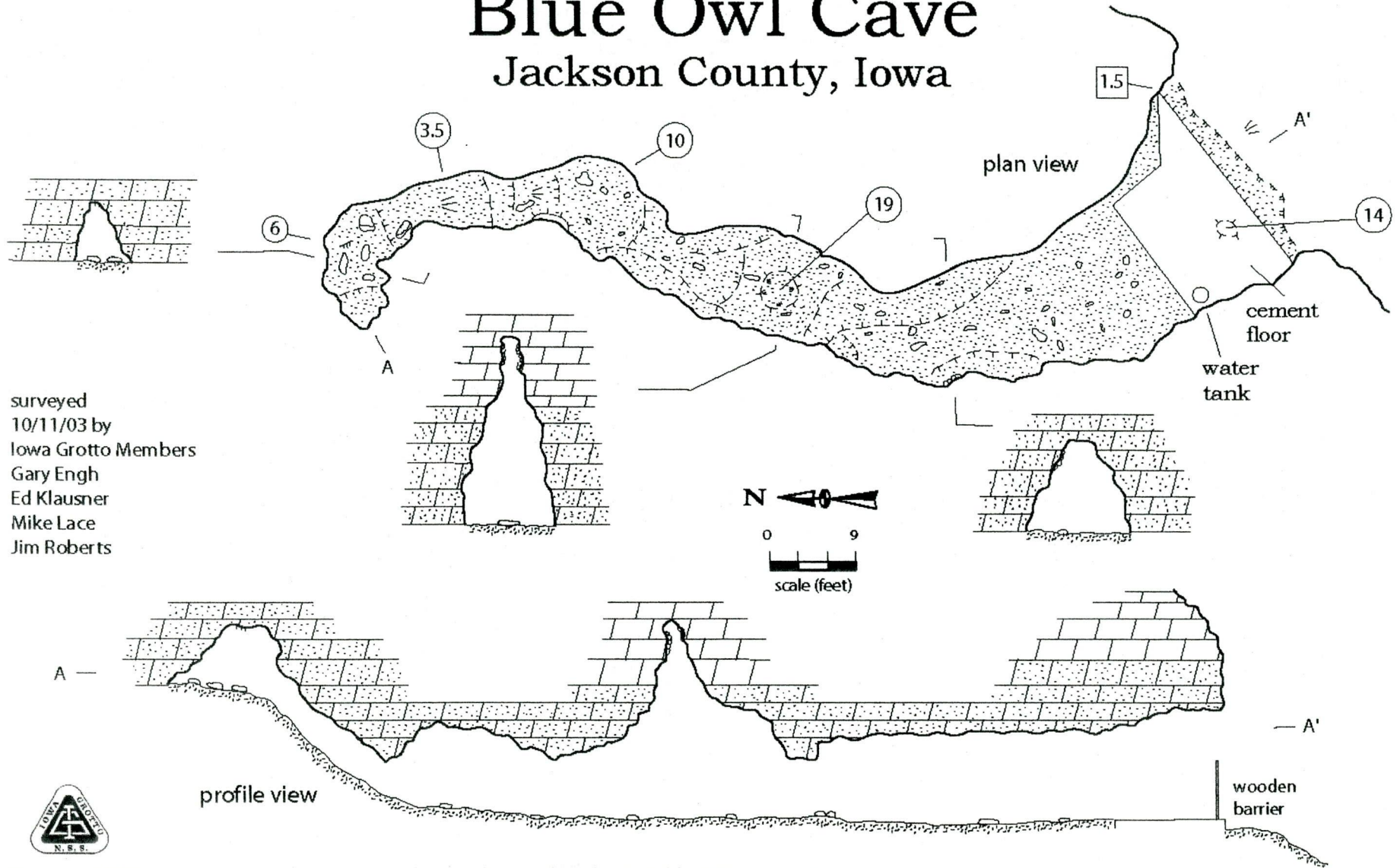
By asking me, The Most Competent Caver, you will now obtain knowledge that could be dangerous in the wrong hands. The first place to start would be your wardrobe. The kids seem to wear their hats strange these days. Wear your caving helmet backwards and remember to adjust the light accordingly. Now, go out and buy some extra baggy pants. The farther they hang down, the better. In your day, if someone walked by looking like that, you'd thought they had some sort of internal gastric problem. Now you need a few catch phrases. Speaking their language is like knowing the secret handshake. Try ending some of your sentences by saying "girlfriend". Here are some examples you could use.

1. Don't be a "Wangster" put away that point and shoot camera.
2. I think you're a little too "Phat" to fit in that crawlway.
3. I was "Chillin" in the sump.
4. If your not careful, I be "Jammin" you into that crevice, "Girlfriend".
5. That mud has a very distinctive "Flava"

Lastly, I recommend you show them a short Hip Hop dance. Hum a tune, (I'm partial to Vanilla Ice or the Snoop Dog) and go for it. The young folk will think it's the "Bling Bling" Good luck and remember in the world of caving, "Busting a Move" is a good thing.

# Blue Owl Cave

## Jackson County, Iowa



surveyed  
10/11/03 by  
Iowa Grotto Members  
Gary Engh  
Ed Klausner  
Mike Lace  
Jim Roberts



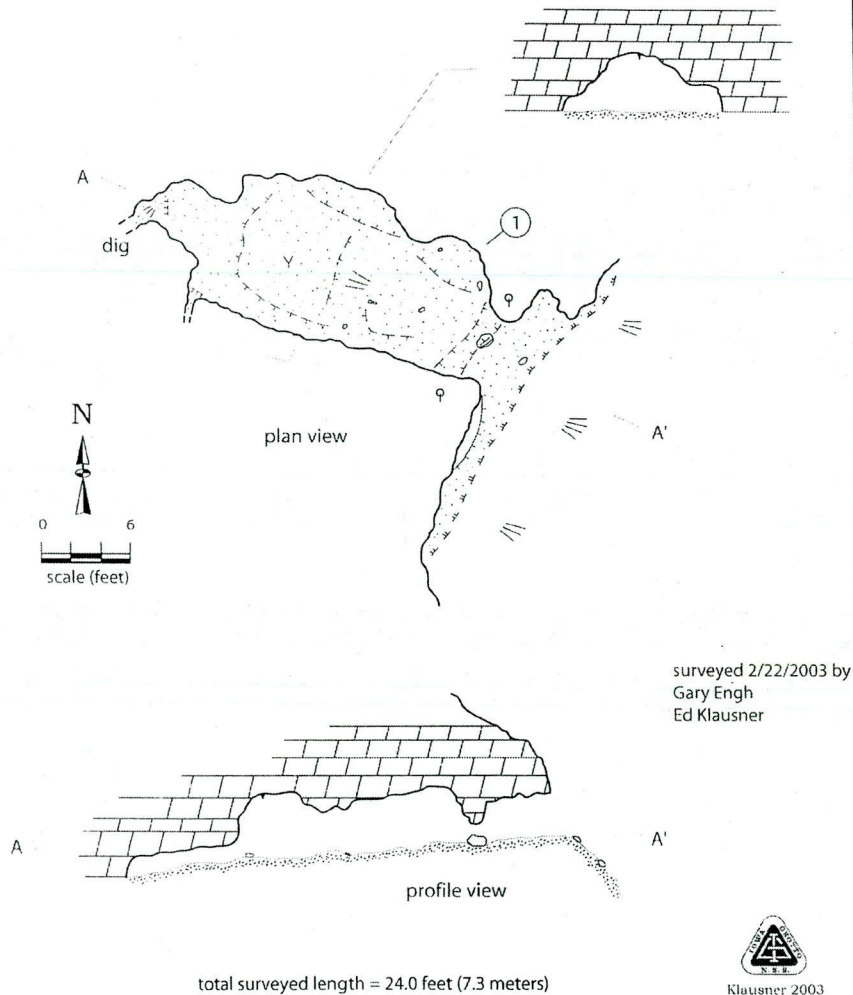
Klausner 2003

total survey length = 113.5 feet (34.6 meters)



# Red Dot Cave

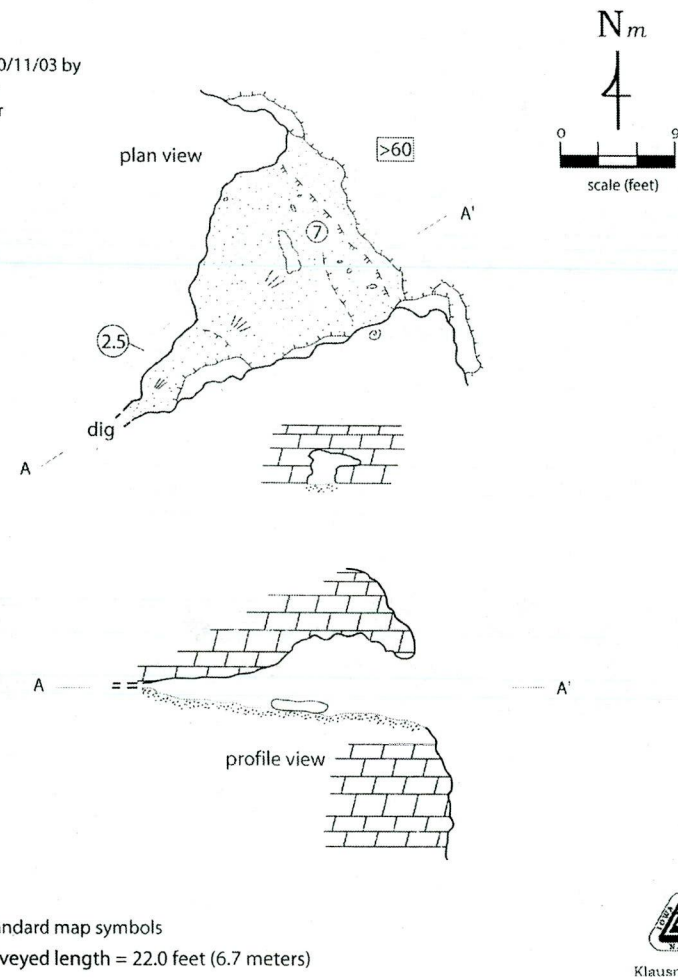
Jones County, Iowa



# Perched Cave

Jackson County, Iowa

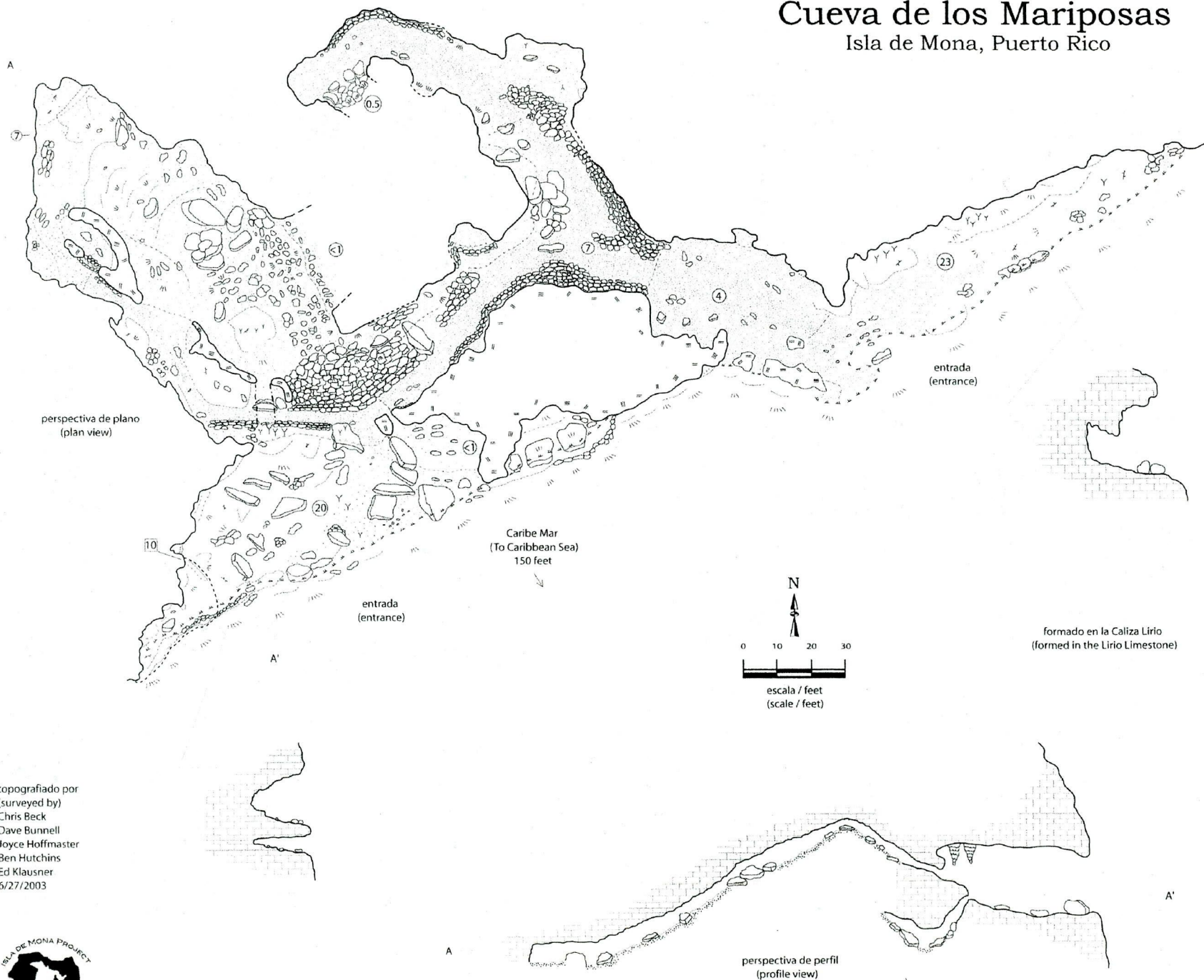
surveyed 10/11/03 by  
Gary Engh  
Ed Klausner  
Mike Lace





# Cueva de los Mariposas

## Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico



topografiado por  
(surveyed by)  
Chris Beck  
Dave Bunnell  
Joyce Hoffmaster  
Ben Hutchins  
Ed Klausner  
6/27/2003



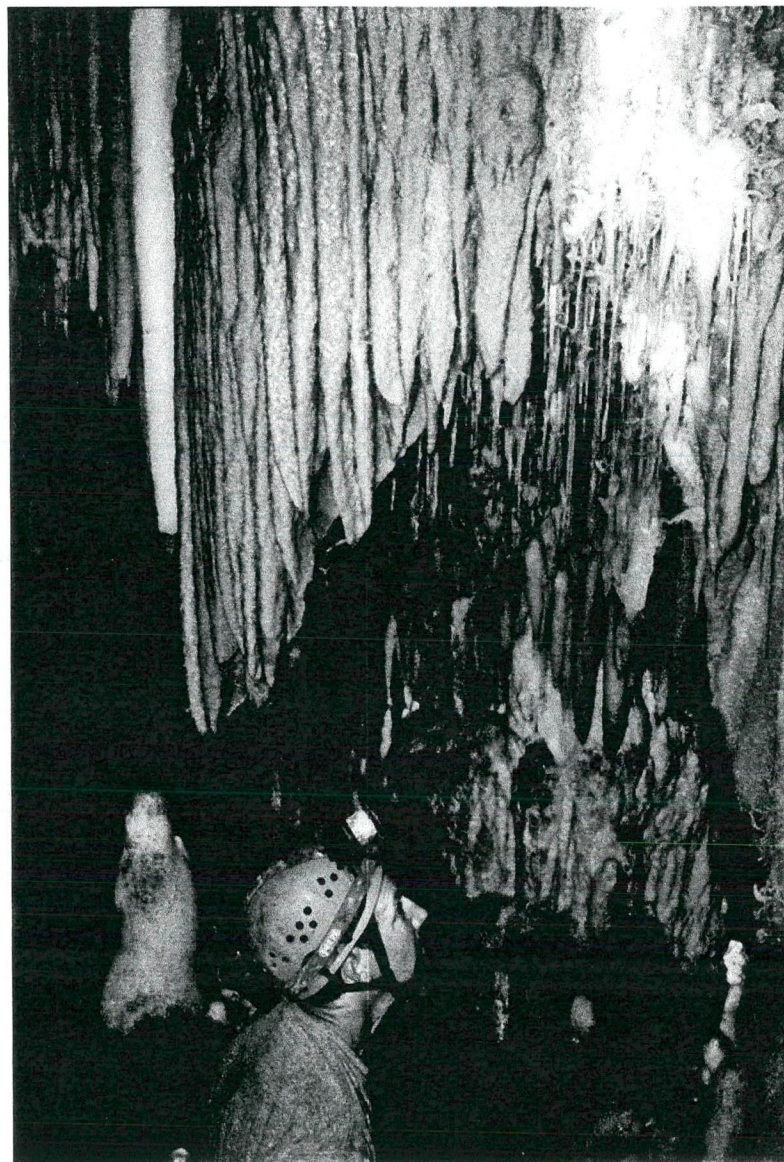
longitud de topografía (surveyed length) 827.2 feet

Klausner 2003





Ed Klausner in Sorbetos, Puerto Rico.  
Photo By: Mike Lace

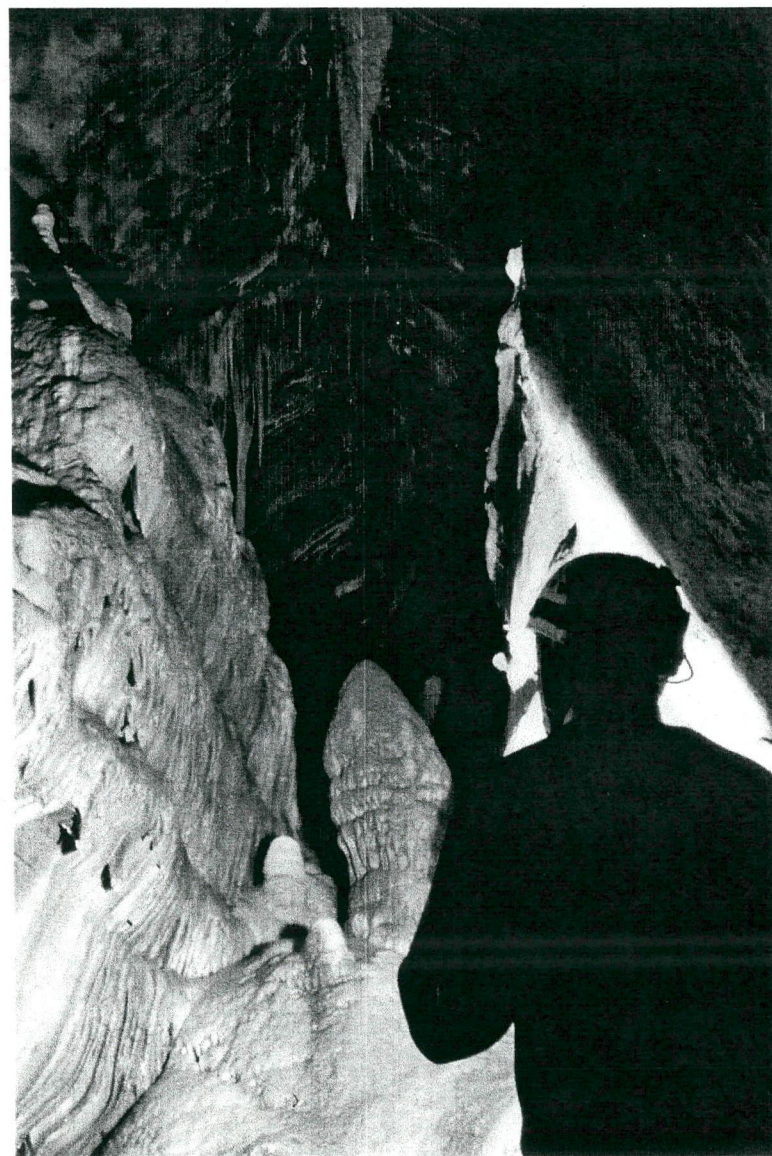


Chris Beck in Sorbetos, Puerto Rico.  
Photo By: Mike Lace





Larry Welch "AKA" Buckethead trying to read his laptop screen, while setting up the Coldwater Cave weather station. Photo by: Mike Lace



Upper level lead above the Bert Falls Room. Photo by: Ed Klausner

