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Scott Dankof

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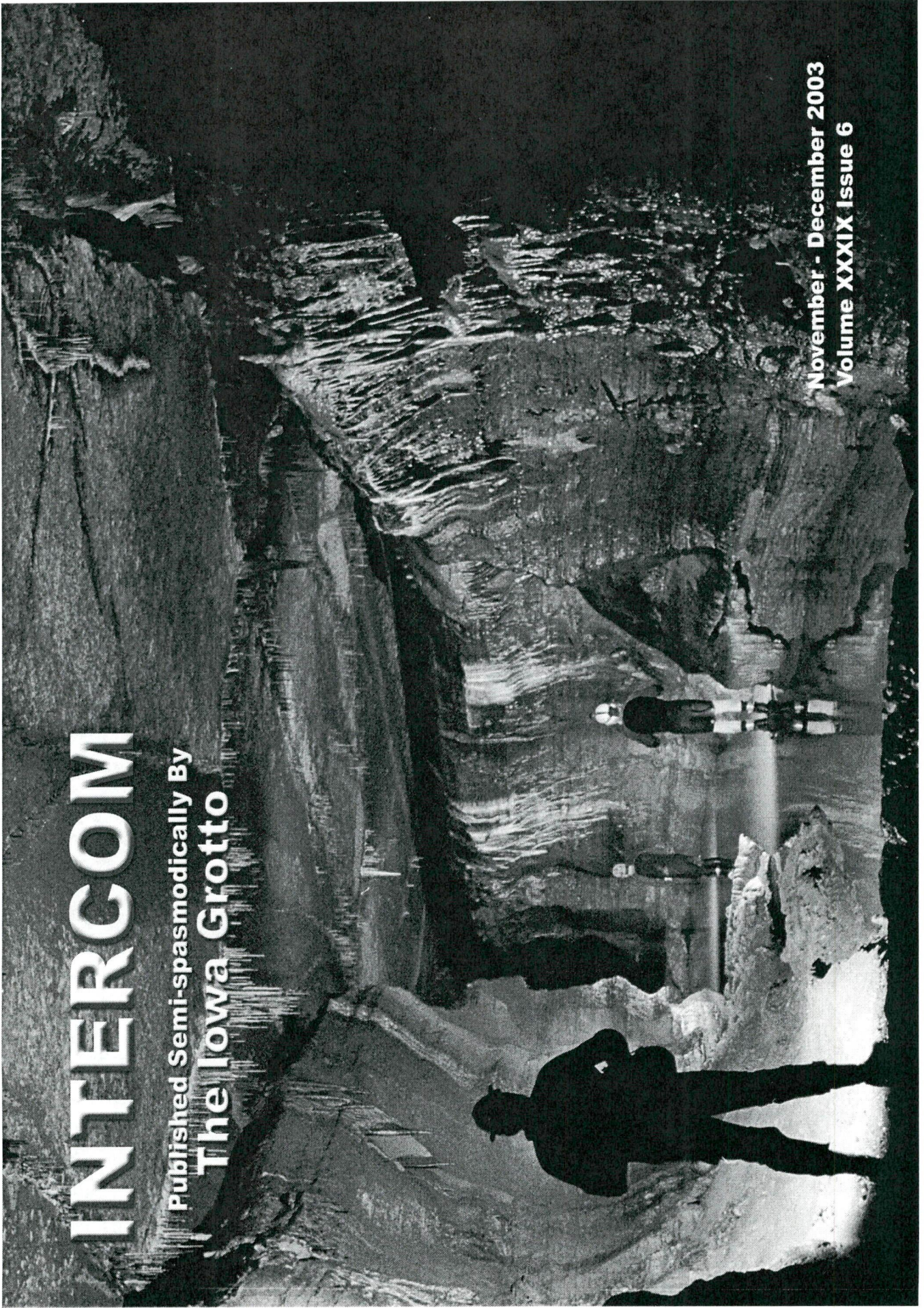
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INTERCOM

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Iowa City, IA 52244

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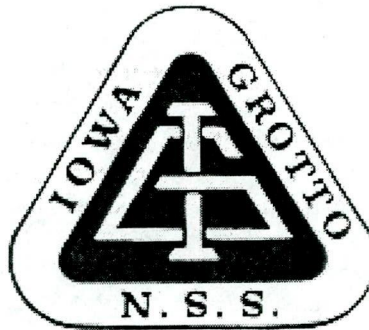
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Cave Rescue: Contact the Kentucky Disaster and Emergency Services Central Dispatch at 502-564-7815 for cave emergencies only in the NCRC Central Region of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

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: Bill Mulder, Ed Klausner, and Chris Beck in downstream Coldwater Cave.
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 6

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IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

November 19th, 2003
Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace, at 7:30 p.m., with 3 members present. Minutes from the October 22nd, 2003 meeting were approved. A treasurers report was given which showed balances of \$640.86 in the Coldwater fund; \$744.34 in the General fund; and \$190.72 in petty cash.

TRIP REPORTS: Ed Klausner reported on a trip with Larry Welch to resurvey and deliver dye to an eastern segment of Coldwater Cave. Ed also described a recent survey trip to the Dubuque area where three new caves were found and a final survey trip to the Little Princess Mine in IL. Mike L. also reported on an orientation trip with Bill Mulder and two newcomers as well as a digging trip by Chris Beck and Jim Roberts at Coldwater.

FUTURE TRIPS: Doug Schmuecker has a beginner vertical training session scheduled for the weekend of December 12th. Contact Doug for details. Small cave survey trips are planned to Linn County and Jackson County in December.

OLD BUSINESS: Pat Kambesis will be presenting information on her thesis project - The hydrology of the Coldwater Cave Basin, at the January meeting. Slides donated for a Grotto slide show on caving for beginner groups, and available from the Grotto Library, will be previewed at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The next Intercom deadline is Jan.1st. The December Grotto meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday due to the holidays. Nominations for Grotto Officers will continue to be taken until the December meeting. There was a nomination to have the existing officers retain their offices.

With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m..

IOWA GROTTO MINUTES December 17th, 2003 Regular Meeting

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace at 8 PM after a slide show that will be part of the grotto library collection. There were 4 members present. Minutes from the November 19th, 2003 meeting were read and approved. A treasurer's report was not available.

TRIP REPORTS: Ed Klausner reported on a trip to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky with his wife and daughter where they had three days of survey trips. Ed also reported on a trip with Mike Lace, Eric Sutterlin and Chris Beck to Jackson County where they surveyed 9 caves (7 resurveyed and 2 new caves). Ed reported on a trip to Linn County with Mike Lace and Gary Engh where they surveyed two caves. Mike Lace reported on a trip to Dubuque County where a 96 foot crevice was surveyed and a sinkhole dug open by Mike, Chris Beck, and Marc and Rene Ohms. Mike reported on a trip to Clayton County with Gary Engh, John Lovaas and Dawn Ryan where they added 150 feet of survey to Keppler's Cave. This represents digging progress by the owner over the last few years. Mike estimated that there was still another 150' of new passage left to survey.

FUTURE TRIPS: Doug Schmuecker will hold an additional vertical training session in the spring to build on the techniques learned at the training session held December 13th and 14th. Spring MVOR May 2003, NSS convention July 12-16 Marquette MI, Iowa Grotto picnic first weekend in August and continuation of the small cave surveys in Iowa.

OLD BUSINESS: Pat Kambesis will present the results of her research work at the January Iowa Grotto regular meeting (January 28th). For those not able to attend, she will also present the result of the research at Coldwater Cave for the landowners in the area. Elizabeth Miller will discuss her mosquito work in Iowa caves at the February grotto meeting. There were no additional nominations for grotto officers, so the nominations were closed. Since the three officers were unopposed, they will serve another term.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike Lace, Phil LaRue and Ed Klausner started cataloging the grotto map collection. We will need one or two additional file cabinets for the library. If you have a 4 drawer model that you can donate, please contact Mike Lace. The Iowa Cave Map Book Volume 4 will be available by the grotto picnic this summer.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Campsgulf Trek

Campsgulf Cave, Spencer Tenn.

November 8, 2003

By Scott Dankof

Larry Welch, Mark Jones, Jim and John Ruppel,
and Scott Dankof

Larry had called me in October and was looking for some warm bodies to go on a quick trip to Tennessee. He had auctioned off his services as a cave guide for a local charity. It had been 4 or 5 years since I'd been down there, and figured this would be my chance to get back.

I drove over to Galesburg on Thursday night. We then left Friday morning in Jim's Grand Caravan Extended, and picked up Mark on the way. It was dark by the time we arrived in Spencer, and there was a wicked fog as we drove up the mountain. Our final stop was Fall Creek Falls State Park. Larry had reserved a 3 bedroom chateau on the lake, for the weekend. Not too shabby, and it sure beats camping.

Saturday morning found us parked at the trailhead and ready to go. It was about a ¾ mi. hike to the large entrance. Mark and I had last been here during the 1998 N.S.S. Convention. It was nice to be back. Larry, John, and Jim were ogling the large entrance passage, but we had been telling them the best was yet to come. We turned on our headlamps and entered. After a few hundred feet of walking (almost skipping) we came to the infamous breakdown pile. It blocked the passage and extended up and out of site. Mark led the way, following the elephant trail up and through the large blocks. It's a bit confusing going through the pile, but soon we were standing on a balcony looking into blackness. The first large room is known as Expo Hall. We took a few minutes to look around and realize what a huge room it really is. To the right and down is the cave register. From there it's a couple hundred more feet of walking passage to the Rotunda and Echo Hall. Echo Hall is the largest room in the cave, 380 feet wide, 765 feet long, and the ceiling 290 feet above.

My goal for the day was to photograph a very large section of borehole past Echo Hall. Trying to find this passage out of this immense room proved to be a challenge. We angled to the right and moved towards the far wall. We'd come to find out that this wasn't the way. What I thought was the passage, ended up in more breakdown. We then worked our way left, checking every lead that looked promising. Mark was up ahead and had come to a large breakdown mountain. He climbed up and we followed. From the top, the room continued on. It's hard to believe just how big this cave really is. Farther back into the room, at the bottom of a steep climbdown, we finally found the entrance to the borehole passage. Carefully we worked our way down a steep 50 foot breakdown slope. At the bottom was a large elliptical tube that stretched into darkness. Mark and I went ahead to decide where to set up for a long passage shot. We stopped at a funnel-shaped depression that spanned the passage. A murky pool of water was at the bottom. It looked like someone had cut some footholds in the steep mud banks around the sides. One misplaced step would mean an exciting ride into the cold pool. We checked the time

and decided on a spot to do the photo. I set up my tripod and camera. I gave each person a flashgun and placed them about 30 feet apart on alternating sides of the passage. Everyone shut off their lights, I opened up the lens and yelled fire. All four flashes went off. I covered up my lens and yelled lights on. The four photo minions moved further down the passage and spaced themselves about 30 feet apart again. Lights were turned off, then I uncovered my lens and yelled fire. Again all four flashes went off. We did this same shot two more times with the camera set at different f-stops. From where I stood at the tripod it looked like it would be a good picture. We probably lit up about 240 feet of passage. I packed up my gear and we headed back. It was dark when we emerged from the cave and the moon lit up the forest. A great trip was had by all.

Not Bad

Katie's Dream, Hannah's Drop, Eden's Delight, Dubuque County, Iowa
November 8, 2003

By Ed Klausner

Chris Beck, Gary Engh, Gerda Hartman, Ed Klausner,
Mike Lace, Katie and Steve P.

Gerda had done her usual good work in lining up caves for us in the Dubuque area. It was sort of ridgewalking without actually ridgewalking. As usual, she also had far more for us than we could even visit in a day.

Our first stop was to a landowner with three known caves. All were said to be vertical, so we brought our vertical gear along. The first cave turned out to be enterable without a rope, but we rigged a handline for nine year old Katie. She wore Gary's helmet while Gary ridgewalked the area. Katie's Dream (she said she had a dream about the cave) had not been mined as had many of the Dubuque crevices. Two shots got us down to the bottom and then one more to a T junction. Ceilings here were 12 to 15 feet with walls only a foot and a half apart. A bit after the T, there was a climb up to an awkward squeeze. Katie was not used to wearing a helmet and after a few tries at the squeeze, decided to head out. After helping her out, we continued the survey. The cave got wider and taller, but unfortunately ended all too soon in breakdown. Total was 110.9 feet. We found 7 pips hibernating and a few mosquitoes flying. There was some nice popcorn and good air movement in the cave.

The next cave (Hannah's Drop) presented a bit of a problem. It was over 100 feet in length and would have been nice to survey. The cave, however, did not require the vertical gear we had carried it with us. We decided to go to the last known cave and rig the pit as it was known to have walls that were too far apart to chimney. We thought we would at least get that one surveyed and then return to Hannah's Drop some other time. Hannah, by the way, joined us along with her mother and grandmother.

Off we went towards the last cave, passing a mostly plugged hole with good air movement. This will require some digging, but if other caves in the area are any indication, this will be worth the dig.

Chris rigged the pit (Eden's Delight) and descended. I joined him and we headed down a slope towards another hole in the floor. It looked as if we'd have 6 or 7 survey shots with about 60 feet of vertical relief. Since it was about to get dark, we also put this one off until another day.

The landowner was curious about our finds and wanted to join us when we surveyed Hannah's Drop. Hopefully, we'll survey those two remaining caves and find a few more in the area. Three caves over 100 feet is not bad for a day of non-ridgewalking.

Lost River Cave

Iowa County, WI.
Nov 16, 2003

By Dawn Ryan

This was a joint grotto effort with about 20 cavers from the WSS, UW Madison Hoofers and the Iowa Grotto. After meeting with the landowners a couple weeks prior and finding out what it was that they wanted, everything was set to close up the man-made rear entrance and clean up and remove the remnants of the ex-commercial venture inside the cave. Matt Weineke and co-workers Rhys and Barney brought their heavy equipment to do an expert job of sealing the back end of the cave. Matt cautioned us to stay out of the way of the backhoe, so the rest of us got started on the inside. Some cavers started on the upper level. Old wiring and fixtures were removed and placed in the garage. Scott Moll and family worked on removing the black light paint in the first right hand passage. A raccoon ravaged cushion was picked up. John Lovaas, Johan Ragner, James Reeves, Jennifer and some of the Hoofers formed a human chain to pass up and out the old wooden stairs, PVC pipe, fixtures and wiring. One light bulb made it out intact even. Buckets were filled with broken glass and small pieces of wood and hauled out. Chris Beck brought his generator, sawzall, and cutoff tool along, so he and Casey cut the metal stair frame in three pieces so it could possibly be used for the entrance. Even with cutting it into smaller pieces, it was still a job hauling it up the slope and out the entrance. Hal Hempe obtained a deadbolt for the door and Chris installed that, as well as reinforcing the door with a metal plate. A bat-friendly slot was cut in the upper part of the door, to allow the bats free access. With everything accomplished that was set out to do that day, work ended just around 5:00p.m. The day ended with pizza and pop in the garage.

The next day Matt and crew returned to place a large boulder over the small airshaft and seal that. This will be a big help in restoring the original temperature and humidity conditions. Everyone worked really hard. I know I was a little sore the next day. A sincere "Thank you" goes out to everyone who came to help.

Puzzled

Mammoth Cave, Kentucky
November 28, 2003

By Ed Klausner

Charles Fox, Sue Hagan, Ed Klausner, and Darla White

There have been several trips to Emily's Puzzle recently with each bringing back more leads in this mazy section of Mammoth cave. Charles Fox had been on many of those trips and got me interested in joining him for a vertical trip. The previous trip found a narrow crack in a ceiling and shoved a small person through to see what he could find. He noted that there was a short canyon to a dome where he'd need rope to get to the bottom. He could not see the far end of the dome as it curved around a corner. He also noted that the canyon continued past the dome.

We were joined by Sue Hagan and Darla White. We brought vertical gear and a rope. This was easy in Cleveland Avenue and El Ghor, which are large passages. It presented more of a problem when we left the main trunk passage and headed off on hands and knees towards Emily's Puzzle. At the narrow climb up, we sent Darla up to rig some webbing and then attached an etrie. The climb up was tight, but manageable. We then rigged the rope into the dome as the edge of the dome was overhung and couldn't be free climbed. The dome was about 25 feet high and unfortunately, ended just past the "S" turn about 50 feet away. The canyon passage on the opposite side of the dome also pinched out after a few feet. We did notice an interesting roaring noise near the back of the dome. It was probably from the Mystic River below us.

After dropping our vertical gear at a spot where we could pick them up on our way

out, we climbed down to a small room for lunch. The next bit of survey was in a nearby low passage that had good air flow. After two stations, there was a break in the ceiling and I could see several different levels. I went down one and found myself in the lunch room again. Another passage slightly higher also wound its way back to the lunch room. In all, there were 4 different levels of passage in 15 vertical feet. Not all led back to the lunch room. We surveyed several of the levels and poked around a bit to get an idea of the nature of the remaining passages (wet and low). The area is puzzling and perhaps that is in part of how it got its name. Emily Avenue and Emily's Puzzle are listed on Max Kaemper's 1908 map, but the identity of Emily is a puzzle.

When we exited via the Carmichael Entrance, we were surprised to see that it had been snowing. It wasn't much, but it looked nice on the trees on our way back to Hamilton Valley where we were staying.

Minna's Way

Mammoth Cave, Kentucky

by Ed Klausner

30 November 2003

Charles Fox, Ed Klausner, Elizabeth Miller and Karen Willmes

For the last day of caving on the 3 day CRF Thanksgiving expedition, we went to an upper level passage near Albert's Domes. We entered the Violet City entrance and followed what is now the lantern tour trail to Wright's Rotunda. From there, we left the tourist trail and followed Ranshaw Avenue to a small dome on the opposite end of Ranshaw. Along the way, we stopped so I could draw a cross section of the connection between Ranshaw and Ganter Avenues. It was a bit confusing to me as Ganter is a floor crack in Ranshaw for a hundred or so feet before it separates and becomes two different passages.

At the small dome at the end of Ranshaw, we rigged a handline and etrier for the climb up to a ledge. We had to rig another handline for a traverse to Minna's Way, our destination. That in itself is not significant except that we used all of our hand lines and webbing and left them in place for the return trip.

Minna's Way seemed unusual to me in that it is an upper level passage yet is fairly wet. I associate upper level with dry and dusty. Eight stations ahead I sketched the details of a dome as I did not understand the original sketch. A few stations later we again stopped to clear up some confusion in the sketch. This area was wet and had an infeeder that we could hear but not see.

The previous sketch notes indicated a canyon passage that needed to be surveyed. It was about 1 to 1.5 feet wide and twisty, so we needed 5 stations to get 60 feet. When the canyon led to a dome, we realized we needed a hand line to get down. With all our rope and webbing already rigged at the climb up, we were forced to put off the rest of this survey until some other time.

The next objectives were some leads closer to the beginning of Ranshaw. We retraced our steps and dropped down to a roomy canyon and followed that for about a thousand feet. There were lots of cane torch fragments that were about 3500 years old. The unnamed passage changed to a low crawl. We again checked leads and cleaned up some confusion in previous survey notes. The leads, unfortunately, were too tight to fit through. We were happy when the passage got suddenly larger. At this spot, there was a Max Kaemper signature on the wall from 1908. The Kaemper map did have the low crawl we had just passed through. The passage continued for a few hundred feet until it intersected with Ganter Avenue. I had been down Ganter several times, the last time was just a few days before. Instead of retracing our steps, we followed Ganter Avenue to the Wooden Bowl Room and then out the tourist trail to the Violet City Entrance. It was long after the last tourist had left, so we had the trail to ourselves.

Dig

Coldwater Cave, Ia.
December 20, 2003

By Jim Roberts

Back in July of 2003 I was with Larry Welch and Ed Klausner and we were returning from a trip downstream. We stopped at a location between Guardian Fangs and Dead Raccoon Run. High up on the left hand side was an old side passage where a dig was initiated a month earlier. They jokingly called it Ed's Dome Complex. We all took a turn digging with a hand trowel. I was intrigued by the small scallops on the ceiling and the fact that the space between the ceiling and sediments was getting wider. When a light was shown into this six inch space between the ceiling and sediments it was apparent that the passage continued on for quite a ways. It was easy digging because it consisted of wet, but not pasty, sediments and it could be stored away on the sides between the ceiling and top of the sediments. I vowed to return and dig some more. I didn't make it up to CWC in August because of that nasty habit called work and in September the water level was very low so a trip upstream to Bert Falls was warranted.

Finally in October I returned to the dig. This time though it was just me. There were a few parties going downstream and so I figured that I would stay behind at the dig and when they came past they could check up on me. I dug for roughly five hours and chalked up 15 to 20 feet. There was still plenty more to bring me back to the dig. The passage was as wide if not wider in many places. In some places it stretched across nearly 30 feet. Instead of six inches of space there was eight inches between the ceiling and sediments. Shining light down the passage still showed that it continued. The best part was the faint burst of cool air coming from the space between the ceiling and sediments. This side passage seemed like it was an enormous space at one time and I kept thinking of where all this sediment had come from.

I returned to the dig in November with Chris Beck and John Kirk. We took turns digging and while one was digging at the face of the dig Chris would be back winding the passage for easier access. At the end of our day we took a rough measurement with the tape and found that the dug passage slightly meandered around 75 feet. The dig was now turning left towards the east and it seemed to be going into a large room some 50 feet wide but still with six to eight inches of space. The air was getting slightly stronger and you could see that we were digging on the top of a sediment berm that tapered off towards the walls.

I drove up to CWC on Saturday morning for the December weekend and made the trip in 3 and a half hours. When I got to the shack everybody had just returned from breakfast and were sitting around wondering what to do. A photo trip beyond the sumps was scrubbed because of the possibility of a strong surge from snow melt. It was decided that a photo trip would be made downstream just beyond the swim and another group was going to resurvey from the platform going upstream. My charm must have convinced John Kirk to join me on the dig. I had been thinking about where all the sediments had come from to fill this large side passage and about two weeks earlier I realized that I should take a look at the ripples on the sediments. The ripples should be like waves or sand dunes. The short side of the ripple should be on the side in which the water was flowing. So it was one of my objectives to see if this could be observed. The other objective, besides digging, was to survey up to the face of the last dig. John had never surveyed and I had never kept book and sketched. So I explained to John on what to look for when setting a station and put him to work setting the stations and reading the tape. I read forward sights, took book and sketched. There was a nice station tagged in the main passage to tie into. I must admit that John did a great job finding the right place to set a station with my nebular instructions. I'll have to see if have what it takes to keep book and sketch when other, more experienced eyes, look at my work. With surveying done we commenced on digging. I asked John to describe the ripples and he thought that the short side were all pointing into the passage. When I looked I concurred that

this was the case. That means the sediments, at least the last layer, came from the main passage. I don't know if flood waters could ever come this high from the current level of the stream passage (15 to 20 feet). We dug another 15 feet. Digging was a bit slower because we had to go around some soda straws and stalactites and we tried making the passage deeper and wider. There is now a point where one can turn around. At the face of the dig it is now at the tip of the sediment berm and the sediment berm sharply goes off to the right and directly in front. The passage is now a large room that is taking a dog leg to the left, which I think is due east. At its widest point the room is fifty feet and continues on for even more. It appears that in ten feet or so the space between the sediment and the ceiling will be opening up to more than a foot. You can clearly see the path faster flowing water has channeled over the surface. The inclination is clearly going downhill from this point. The inclination from this point had pretty much been level. I'm excited to get back and see where the water had once flowed. In the distance, at the far end of the passage, I thought I could make out two columns and many larger formations. The ceiling keeps its fairly smooth character. It still holds many tiny scallops and is punctuated with joints. The main joint in the ceiling that has run parallel to the dig terminates beyond the tip of the sediment berm. Other joints crisscross the passage going left. With the air getting stronger and the possibility of being able to belly crawl without digging, I am excited to get back to it and continue digging. Hopefully I can convince some others to help out.

Confusion

Wear and Tear, Cricket, Storehouse and Ten Meter Caves, Linn County, IA

December 26, 2003

By Ed Klausner

Gary Engh and Ed Klausner

Several weeks ago, Gary, Mike Lace and I started resurveying some caves in Linn County. We resurveyed Pavilion Cave and Spider Cave on the north side of the Cedar River. Gary and I returned to the south side of the river for the long hike to the known caves to resurvey them.

To get to the river, we traveled along a stream valley that had exposed rock. Fortunately, we found two unsurveyed caves along the way, which we surveyed. The first had a low entrance that had smoothed rocks from animal traffic that we named Wear and Tear Cave. This was in interesting little solutional cave (25 feet long.) There was a 4 foot drop at the entrance so you could stand up once you go past the entrance squeeze. Unfortunately, you could stand but not walk as the passage became smaller quickly.

The next cave we found was smaller in length (21.8 feet), but had two small domes. The first was 6 feet high, the next 4.5. The second dome was covered with crickets so we named the cave Cricket Cave.

Once we got to the river, we weren't exactly where we thought we'd be, so we headed upstream looking for more new caves. We found none, but eventually located Storehouse Cave, or thought we did. This was a mechanical cave that matched the small map by Jim Hedges, although there was no scale on his map. The cave we surveyed was 22 feet long.

We then headed upstream to find Mallory Cave. Instead we found another mechanical cave that also matched the description of Storehouse Cave as far as shape and ceiling heights, but was a bit over 30 feet long. This did not look like any of the other caves on Jim Hedges map, so we mapped it and hoped to clear up the confusion when we checked the cave file.

Mallory Cave was also a bit confusing as it did not exactly look like the original map. We held off surveying it as it was getting late and we wanted to be able to follow the trail while it was still light.

It seems as if the second Storehouse Cave was probably Ten Meter Cave, so we used that name. Mallory Cave is still a bit of a mystery, so we'll try to clear that up

and continue the resurvey of these caves in the future.

Dear Most Competent Caver

Dear Most Competent Caver

I'd like to order some new cave gear, but my wife has other idea's, like house payments and food for the kids. My wetsuit has provided me numerous hours of enjoyment in the netherworld of Iowa, but has seen its better days. How can I hide the purchase of a new one from her?

Signed,
The Nutty Professor

Dear Nutty Professor,

First of all never pay by check or credit card. This leaves an easy to follow paper trail, which of course, will lead back to your bruised and battered body. Always use cash, I call mine "The Slush Fund".

Now, to really hide your purchase you need to ship it to an alternate address. This is where I, The Most Competent Caver, can offer assistance. Reluctantly, I will allow you to ship all your new purchases to me. I will hold them for you, until you can come get them. I'll even go one step further and take them caving with me, to give them that well worn look. Remember, bringing something bright and shiny into the house will attract attention. Also, I need, uh, I mean you should probably order a new Petzl headlamp. You can never have too many of those.

Dear Most Competent Caver,

I've recently been featured in many photos within a national caving magazine. I'm interested in turning this into a lucrative moneymaking career. What suggestions would you have for me?

Signed,
Beefcake Boy

Dear Beefcake Boy,

Yes, I have a few suggestions. The first would be a Chipandale dancer. I'm not referring to the Disney characters, Chip and Dale. You could have some bright red Velcro rip-away coveralls. Call yourself "The Hunky Caver" I can almost imagine it now. (Shudder).

The second would be to use your fame to get some kind of a "cave for pay" job. There's nothing more honorable than getting paid to go underground. (Cough, scam, cough). Perhaps a stint as a Cave Hydrologist.

Maquoketa Bend

Ice Shield, Maquoketa Bend and one unnamed cave, Jackson County, IA
28 December, 2003

by Ed Klausner

Chris Beck, Gary Engh, Rich Feltes, Ed Klausner,
Phil LaRue and Elizabeth Miller

We had only surveyed 58 caves this year and Mike Lace was pushing for at least 60. It's not as if we were exactly slacking as many of us had been involved in other

survey projects in Iowa and out of the state. Anyway, we really did not need an excuse to find some new caves and survey them so we set off on a warm winter day to Jackson County.

Our first stop was the home of a teen-ager that Gary and I and met several months ago when the brush was high. He told us of a cave near his house in a valley that we had never visited. We told him we would return when the leaves were off the trees and caves were easier to find. When we returned this winter day, he was not home, but the neighbor whose land included the valley was home and gave us permission to walk his land. We found one cave, Ice Shield Cave and surveyed it. This was a small cave with nice ice formations and a restriction a bit over 15 feet into the cave that was smaller than any of us. We found no other caves on this landowner's property but the rock continued beyond the boundary fence. We had a choice of either finding out the land ownership and trying to find the landowner or heading to Rich's uncle's place and surveying a cave that Rich knew.

We opted for the known cave drove to Rich's uncle's farm. The cave was on a bend in the Maquoketa River and was thus named Maquoketa Bend Cave. The entrance was obscure as it was a small hole under a piece of float. The cave was a solutionally enlarged fault with quite a few active formations. We surveyed out of the cave and got a total of 83.4 feet. Phil and Elizabeth did instrument and tape while I sketched. The cave had a collection of wildlife: a bull snake, 3 little brown bats and an angry raccoon.

While we surveyed, Rich, Gary and Chris searched the surrounding area for more caves. Chris found a 26 foot deep shelter cave and surveyed it. He has not yet come up with a name for it. There is more rock in the area and Rich already got us permission from the neighboring landowner to continue our ridgewalking and surveying.

Mickey Mouse Trip Report

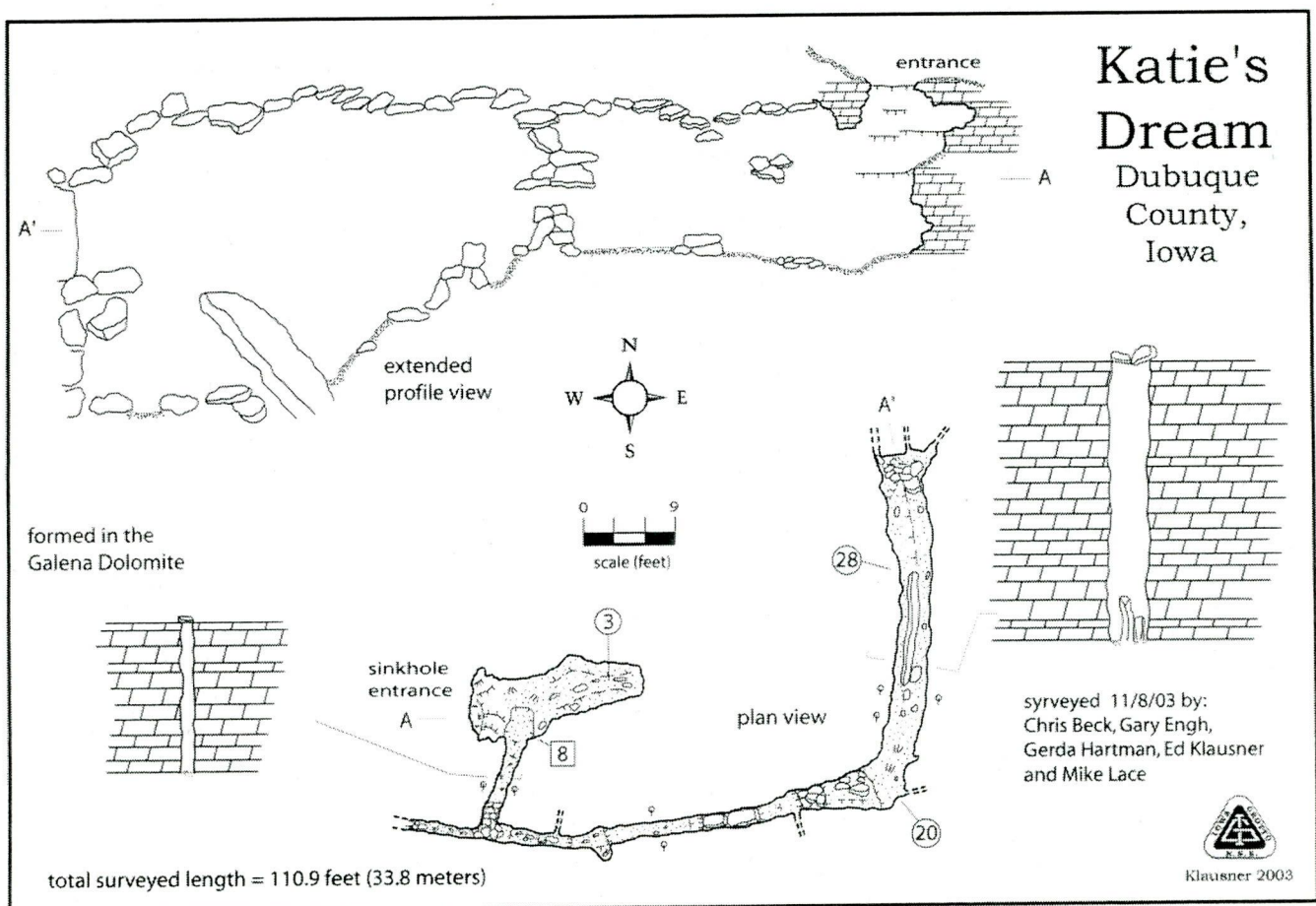
By Jim Roberts

When one thinks of Disney one usually doesn't associate it with caves or anything to do with the subterranean earth. I have been amazed at how much Disney can appeal to the caver. Its reference to the cave environment and its associated disciplines is everywhere to be found at the Walt Disney theme parks and resorts.

I visited Disneyland again in Anaheim, California during the summer of 03. I had visited Disneyland as a seven year old. I remembered the Matterhorn Mountain roller coaster and the underwater 1000 Leagues Under The Sea attraction. As an adult I was taken aback when my family and I went through the Thunder Mountain ride. Its premise is a run away mine train. As you pass through the mines you enter into a cave that features large stalactites, large stalagmites and huge columns. It even had rim stone dams. The bats that it featured were misrepresented as being these large fierce creatures. Oh well, its supposed to be for the thrill of the public at large. The cave also featured a water fall that split into two streams as your train went under it. Along the way you could see authentic mining memorabilia. The ride has many other geologic depiction's such as bubbling hot mineral springs of the type you would see at Yellowstone National Park and dinosaur fossils sticking out of sedimentary rock layers. The one at Disney World's Magic Kingdom has much of the same lay out. As I had mentioned before there was a plentiful amount of authentic mining artifacts being used as props. At both rides there were large sluices, mine carts, tools, lunch pales, oil and kerosene lanterns, and for the carbide buff, carbide lamps and accessories. At the one in California there were hand held ITP's, Justrite hat lamps along with Guy's Dropper hat lamps. At the one in Florida they had fashioned lights out of iron spikes. These were used in mines to hold a carbide hat lamp. Another ride that is both in the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World and at Disney land is called Splash Mountain. This is a log flue ride that gets the riders wet. The theme is the Brier Rabbit and the Fox story. Part of the ride takes you by animated mechanical characters set in different scenes from the story. In one scene you go through (guess what?) a cave. At the ride in Disney

World they fashioned four or five lights out of carbide mining safety lamps. The movie Pirates of the Caribbean is based partially on the theme ride by the same name. Both Disneyland (the original) and Disney World have this theme ride. You take shore man boats through different scenes following the exploits of pirates and, you guessed it, there is a cave in which you pass through. In addition to the cave there is a scene where it appears that pirates are hiding their treasure in a cave.

At Disney World's Epcot there is the large geodesic dome in which is housed the History of Communication theme ride. It traces the advancements made in communication. Near the end of the ride you see a couple of cavers that appear to be typing information into a laptop computer. The cavers are wearing Petzl helmets and headlamps. They are dressed in coveralls with arm pads and knee pads and they are pictured as being in a huge bore hole. Disney World's newest theme park, Animal Kingdom, also features the underground. Throughout the park there are small enclaves one walks through that resemble a small (Iowa?) cave. In the center of the park is a huge artificial tree called The Tree of Life. You can make out many different animals that are hidden within its trunk and branches. Underneath the tree is a theater that is for the presentation of the 3D movie "A Bug's Life". The theater is made to look like the subterranean home of an ant colony. Complete with fungal rhizoid and the intrusion of a dung beetle's dung ball. The movie even has smell-a-vision! Personally I would have liked to visit the real thing, but it was a great family trip. The fact that there was something for the caver made the trip all the better. I'm sure if one tried they could find even more references to the underground at Disney's theme parks. The next time my wife and I go to Disney World we have already decided to take the Behind the Scenes Tour in which they take you to the underground tunnels that connect the parks and run underneath them all.



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