

April 2004

Intercom, Volume 40, No. 2, March-April 2004

Scott Dankof

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/intercom>

Recommended Citation

Dankof, Scott, "Intercom, Volume 40, No. 2, March-April 2004" (2004). *Intercom*. 39.
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/intercom/39>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Intercom by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

INTERCOM

Published Semi-spasmodically By
The Iowa Grotto

March - April 2004
Volume 40 Issue 2

INTERCOM

Volume 40, Issue 2

March - April, 2004

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 July 1 and September 1. Send material for publication, e-mail, disk or hard copy, to:

Editor and Typist: Scott Dankof 515-986-3219

410 Hickory Circle

Grimes IA. 50111

E-mail sdankof@msn.com

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: Little Bear Cave, Ark. 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 40

Issue 2

C O N T E N T S

Iowa Grotto Meeting Minutes - - - - -	20
Trip reports:	
Ridgewalking Shawnee National Forest - - - - -	21
No Plan - - - - -	22
S & M - - - - -	22
Georges Braque - - - - -	23
Spring Arkansas Trip - - - - -	24
An Escape To The Ozarks - - - - -	24
Cave Maps:	
Long Cave + Braque Cave - - - - -	25
Cricket Cave + Wear And Tear Cave - - - - -	26
Sallywag Shelter + Red Tail Cave - - - - -	27
Photo Gallery:	
Rock Creek Cavern and Walnut Cave - - - - -	28
Old Jug Spring and Mr. Stub - - - - -	29

IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

March 24th, 2004

The meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace at 8:00 p.m. following a slide show on Iowa winter caving, with 4 members present. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. A treasurer's report was given which showed balances of \$640.86 in the Coldwater fund; \$1193.32 in the General fund; and \$137.72 in petty cash.

TRIP REPORTS: Gary Engh reported on a leadchecking trip with Ed Klausner and Elizabeth Miller to Dubuque County where one small cave was mapped. Mike Lace reported on recent trips into Coldwater Cave to dig, survey, and place scientific equipment. FUTURE TRIPS: Doug Schmuecker will tentatively hold a vertical training/horizontal cave rescue training session for late spring or summer. He also will hold a mock rescue training session at Coldwater Cave. Contact Doug for details. Small cave survey trips are currently planned to Jackson County. The Iowa Grotto Picnic will be held in Jackson County on the first weekend in August (7-8th). See details for additional upcoming regional caving events in the Hotline. Doug Schmuecker and Scott Dankof will have a presentation on cave safety and conservation at the Iowa Science Center in Des Moines on March 27th. The NCRC will hold a weekend Cave Rescue Seminar on May 22nd in Barneveld, WI. OLD BUSINESS: A total four filing cabinets have been donated to the Grotto library. Auction items are needed for the Grotto Auction at the picnic. NEW BUSINESS: The next Intercom deadline is May 1st. With no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

IOWA GROTTO MINUTES

April 28, 2004

The meeting was called to order by member Elizabeth Miller at 7:35 P.M. Seven members were present. The meeting began with a slide presentation of caves of northeast Iowa by Rudy Prusko. Many of the slides were taken in Becker Quarry cave, which is now closed. Discussion following his presentation centered around the Mines of Spain area and possible visits to Dubuque caves.

The business portion of the meeting followed. No officers were present, so minutes of the previous meeting and treasurer's report were not presented. Liz and Brad discussed attending a meeting to help plan the Howdy Party at this year's NSS convention, scheduled for July 12 in Marquette MI. Trip reports were presented. Nathaniel and Matthew reported on their trip to Illinois Caverns with friends earlier in the year. The trip was successful, but was cut short because of rising water level. They also explored Wells Cave in Kentucky. John Kirk reported on a trip to Sand Canyon and Guardian Fang passage at the April Coldwater trip with Ed Klausner, Larry Welch, and Jim Roberts. Attempts were made by Ed and Larry to continue surveying on Sand Canyon and to possibly extend the passage by digging. The surveying was successful but the digging was not. Mike Bounk also visited Coldwater with a group of 8 people and Mike Lace led in a number of college personnel from Dubuque.

Upcoming trips were discussed. Elizabeth Miller was going to attend Introduction to Cave Rescue sponsored by the Wisconsin Grotto on May 22. Liz reminded the group of Speleofest Memorial Day weekend at Camp Carlson KY and MVOR in SW Missouri.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Ridgewalking Shawnee National Forest

March 26-28, 2004

Dawn Ryan, John Lovaas and members of the Illinois Speleological Survey

By Dawn Ryan

The scenery, conversation and company made the long drive to south- west Illinois very pleasant. John was going to start helping with a GIS project for the ISS. And since Jack Wood, ISS vice-president had come up to help on the Little Princess Mine survey, I thought it would be nice to come and help on a project of theirs. We stayed in Giant City State Park near

Carbondale. Giant City is nestled in the Shawnee National Forest and is home to the Giant City Streets, which I was really looking forward to hiking through. The ISS is working with the Shawnee National Forest to inventory karst features.

After breakfast Saturday morning, Jack described our objectives and the different areas to be ridge walked. I eagerly volunteered John and I on the “death march” through the Clear Springs Wilderness very near the Bald Knob wilderness area. We were teamed up with Marc Stamborski, his sister Amanda, and friend. We were all new to the area so finding the place was a bit of a challenge. The area reminds me of the beautiful Kentucky hills and we did get to see a good portion of the area before we found our destination. We parked next to Hutchins creek where the road ended. It must have been washed out as it continued on the other side. We could see fossils in the limestone creek bed, crossed over to the other side and just around the first bend was our first karst feature. A limestone outcrop with sinkhole, what luck! We followed the road along the creek. We were looking for an old abandoned farmhouse. We were to ridge walk the area directly across from there. As we hiked, the road became less and less apparent. It’s amazing how nature can reclaim itself. One area had recently felled logs from beavers. Marc often checked the topo map to be sure we were on the right path. Just ahead at a very large bend in the creek we all noticed a shadow in the bluff ahead. Coming in view was a large sandstone outcrop with depressions but it was difficult to see from the side of the creek we were on. John took a GPS reading of the area but as we were waiting we noticed just further down the flow of water was coming into the creek from the opposite direction. It was time to get wet. We crossed the creek to investigate both finds. The sandstone, although pretty turned out not to be enterable. But there proved to be a spring flowing from the adjacent limestone. The water flow was pretty high but just up from there was an overflow that allowed you to lie down and look inside. The air movement was very good but was too thin for any of us to enter. John named the spring, Old Jug Spring after an old ceramic jug found at the mouth. We located the old farmhouse and were greeted by some turkey vultures looming down on us from the roof of the house. We explored the old house for a bit. The vultures started circling above us, kind of an ominous feeling. We were definitely intruding, so headed on to our destination across the creek. Our ridge walking through the valley proved fortuitous. We located another spring, a rise pool and a cavelet. GPS cords were taken for all and John did some sketching of the outcrops. The sun was soon to set and we had a long hike back so we hiked directly down the creek. On our way I spotted a snapping turtle that John picked up by the tail for display.

We arrived back at camp well after dark. Dinner was a hodgepodge of vegetables brought by everyone and chicken stewed together in a cast iron Dutch oven and buried under hot coals. After dinner, caving stories were exchanged. Philip Moss told some really bad jokes. The group seemed very interested in Wisconsin caves and WSS speleolo-politics and especially the state of cave conservation in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. I acquired the nickname of “non-native cheese head” somehow. There was even interest in Hodag Hunt. I’m hoping our Illinois friends will join us this year.

Sunday morning John and I were invited to sit in on the ISS meeting. Next to the lodge where the meeting was held is an 82-foot, 100,000 gallon water tower that features a 50-foot observation deck. I thought of JD and the Maribel group. Perhaps this is an option to gain partial funding if the county is willing. I was surprised how formal the meeting was. The secretary took minutes directly on to Philip’s laptop computer. All the data collected yesterday was entered on to topo maps on Philips computer. Philip is the president of the ISS and most of the directors were in attendance. The infrastructure of the ISS is not that of a “go caving” type organization but more of a repository and acquisition of cave data. Most trips have some sort of survey or science objective. Philip said to me several times and I agree that if a person goes into a cave they should leave with useful information, rather than just going into a cave to say you’ve been there.

After the meeting was adjourned John and I headed for the “Giant City Streets.” The “streets” were formed about 12,000 years ago of huge sandstone bluffs. Eons of faulting and folding have molded the sandscapes like no other I have seen. The sandstone structures are massive and during the Civil War were used as havens for both the Union and Confederate armies. Rock shelters worn into the sides of the cliffs showed the faulting and folding. Some black smoke residue on the ceilings of the shelters revealed evidence of human habitation. Jack and Philip caught up with us and suggested lunch in a cute little town called Makanda complete with western style wooden sidewalks and mostly homemade art shops. All too soon, it was time to head home.

No Plan

Long, Mink, Bone Head and No Plan Caves, Jackson County, Iowa
April 3, 2004
Gary Engh, Ed Klausner and Mike Lace

By Ed Klausner

Since Mike could get out with Gary and me, we decided to let him plan on our destination for the day. When he said that we should head to Jackson County, neither Gary nor I groaned, even though almost all of the caves surveyed this year were in Jackson County. At least we didn’t have to plan on where to go.

The first several stops were disappointing as either there were new calves in the area and the landowner suggested we come back later in the year, the landowners weren’t home, or the landowners who were home didn’t own the valley we were

interested in. Finally, we stopped at a landowner's house who not only owned land with exposed rock, but he even knew where some caves were located. Furthermore, he said he would show us where they were.

In a few minutes, we were off with him and his three young sons. The kids referred to one of the caves as the long one, thus the final name of Long Cave. It was a solutional tube of 108 feet with some dry flowstone. They watched while we surveyed. The next two were smaller: Mink Cave was named for a mink they saw in the area and Bone Head Cave for the skull found in the cave.

The dad sent his kids home for a snack and then showed us the last cave. It was a vertical crack that was difficult to enter and not very easy to chimney. I can see why he didn't want his kids to know where this cave was located. We finally decided to survey it and I grumbled about a plan view being meaningless as the profile view would show everything. Mike would have none of that and said I needed to do a plan view. No Plan Cave not only described my feelings towards it, but to the day in general. Anyway, the cave was a bit over 30 feet deep.

That makes 30 caves for the year, 29 of which have been in Jackson County. Hopefully, next weekend, we'll go to some other county.

S & M

S & M Dome Coldwater Cave, Winneshiek County, IA

April 17, 2004

By Ed Klausner

John DeLong, John Kirk, Ed Klausner, Jim Roberts, and Larry Welch

When an easy to reach passage has been known for at least 30 years yet remains unsurveyed in Coldwater Cave, there has to be a reason. All the easy passages, not so easy passages, unpleasant passages and ugly passages have already been surveyed.

The water level was low, but there was a chance of rain on the April Coldwater weekend which limited our options. Larry suggested Sand Canyon which had the general effect of having several people lose their hearing and suddenly have something else to do. I've had a few good trips to Sand Canyon and didn't mind the passage. Larry had told me about a passage to a dome that had been reached twice before but never surveyed. Over 30 years ago Steve Barnett and (I think) Dave Jagnow explored Sand Canyon and reported on a dome north of the passage reached by a tight keyhole passage. Steve Barnett gave Larry a sketch map of the passage and dome. Many years later, Mike Nelson and Bryan Bain were in Sand Canyon and Mike reported on how tight and awkward the passage was. Later, Larry and Mark Jones attempted (unsuccessfully) to reach the dome. That was not the objective of their trip that day and the lead went unsurveyed.

Knowing better but ignoring my instinct to run, we decided to attempt to reach the dome and survey the passage. John DeLong was on his first Coldwater trip and joined us along with Jim Roberts and John Kirk. They would explore elsewhere in Sand Canyon while Larry and I would survey.

The trip downstream was easy as the water level was low. Of interest were the fresh raccoon tracks at the entrance to the Brother's Grimm Passage. Once in Sand Canyon, we quickly reached the Keyhole Passage. One look told us why it has remained unsurveyed. The bottom of the keyhole was narrow and about three feet tall. Around a tight turn near the entrance of the side passage, the bottom of the keyhole was too narrow to fit a leg in, so we had to stay above the slot. The general problem was that there was very little head room above the narrow lower section and we were in an awkward position with our bodies far forward and one foot down in sucking mud. Now we had to set station, read instrument and do book in this position. The mud was pretty bad, so we had to periodically back out to clean off the book and instruments before heading back for the next shot. At one point I had had enough and considered bailing out. Larry said he could hear the dome, but I'd heard that before and have even heard myself using the same ploy. He said that he would see how far it was to the dome and much to his surprise he was only a few feet away. We found it was best to continue forward into the dome and then work back to our last station.

The dome was interesting. It wasn't too tall but had 5 additional passages leading out of it. We surveyed the two biggest first as they were both mud plugged. The last three were interesting in that the leftmost had water flowing towards the dome, the center one had water flowing away from the dome and the rightmost one had water flowing towards the dome. This was not obvious at first as there was just a trickle of water so the direction of flow was not apparent. It took a while to figure it out, but they were all the same passage that made an "S" turn at the dome. Somehow, S & M Dome seemed fitting (M for Mud, of course.) Steve Barnett's sketch map had the passages, but he did not connect the middle three.

We managed to survey about 160 feet, far more than we expected and far more than anyone expected us to survey. At least the dome is now surveyed.

Getting out of the passage was much easier than getting in, and we were out in a hurry. I don't think neither Larry nor I wanted to linger in the Keyhole Passage. Luckily, it hasn't rained much during the day and the water level remained the same.

That made our trip back upstream relatively easy.

Georges Braque (1882-1963)

Into The Breech, Braque and Scallop Caves, Jackson County, IA

April 10, 2004

Gary Engh, Ed Klausner, Elizabeth Miller, and Jim Roberts

By Ed Klausner

We really didn't want to spend such a disproportional amount of time in Jackson County, but most of our other leads were for vertical caves and it was too wet to attempt them. So, it was off to Jackson County, AGAIN.

The first several stops turned out to be disappointing. Either the landowner wasn't home or we couldn't get permission to ridgework. Finally, we found someone home and he gave us some information that we didn't expect. There was a valley with exposed rock belonging to a nearby landowner that we knew. We drove the short distance to this landowner and he readily gave us permission to walk his land, although he didn't know of any caves in that valley.

The valley turned out to be quite beautiful with lots of exposed rock and wildflowers. Best of all, it had a few caves. The first two were across from each other. Into the Breech Cave had lots of Dutchman's Breeches out in front, but there was already a cave named Dutchman's Breeches Cave, so Elizabeth named it Into The Breech Cave. It was small, but had several stalactites. Across the small side valley was two solutional tubes. The shared a common dripline so they were surveyed as one cave. There was a large cubic breakdown block in front leading it to be named after the cubist painter, Georges Braque. The cave was about 47 feet in length and had soda straws, stalactites and some drapery – all small.

The last cave we found was a mechanical cave, 30 feet in length. It had a single pipistrelle sleeping in a crevice. Jim named it Scallop Cave due to the scallops on the ceiling from water flow some time in the past.

One of these days we're going to survey something outside of Jackson County.

Spring Arkansas Trip

Icebox, Walnut, Mud, Fluted Maze, and two unnamed caves, Arkansas

April 26, 2004

Scott Dankof, Gary Engh, Ed Klausner and Bill Mulder

By Ed Klausner

Day two of our Spring Arkansas trip involved a hike into the area of Fitton Cave to visit several nearby caves. Mike Lace and Doug Schmucker decided to stay around camp and work on Mike's property.

With recent flooding, we thought the waterfall in Icebox cave would be pretty spectacular (it was) and it would also give Bill a chance to see some of the caves as this was his first trip to the area. Scott had a new digital camera that he brought along and hopefully some of the pictures will appear in the Intercom soon.

Our first stop was Icebox cave and we had little trouble finding it. In the waterfall room, Scott and I set up to take some pictures using remote flashes. We had to shout at each to fire off the flash as the waterfall made quite a bit of noise.

From there, we attempted to locate Walnut Cave. It took a while, but it was worth the effort. The entrance slope was pretty muddy and we had to be careful that we didn't slide down. The floor of the large room is normally pretty dry, but this time it held a sizable lake. The lake made for some very nice pictures.

On our way back, we stopped at Mud Cave for a brief visit. It lived up to its name. We took some pictures and kept to the entrance area. Scott wanted to photograph some of the waterfalls in the creek that we were following and the rest of us wanted to try to locate Fluted Maze. Scott gave us good directions and we did find an opening, but it didn't match the description of Fluted Maze. We saw about a thousand feet of cave that was north of the entrance pit. Later we discovered that the cave that was described to us was the part south of the entrance pit. It is a fairly large cave and we'll have to go back on some future trip to see more of it. We found a second entrance to Fluted Maze and two nearby small caves before it

started to rain. We met up with Scott and headed back to his place to get ready for the canoe trip down the Buffalo River that we had planned for the next day.

An Escape to the Ozarks

Rock Creek Cavern, Newton County, AR
Scott Dankof, Will Feltman & Mike Lace
4-29 -04

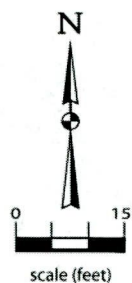
By Mike Lace

It was a warm, sunny day and we were caving in the Arkansas Ozarks. The rest of our crew had already headed north for home, presumably due to commitments to work, family, blah, blah blah... We suspected that it was to duck out of the work left to do on Scott's place (a.k.a. The Gulag). No problem though, as we consoled ourselves with a couple days of caving to round out our busy week. Will Feltman is an expatriate WSS member who had settled in Newton County several years ago and both he and his wife Eve were anxious to host a few fellow Midwest cavers. We had spent most of the morning checking cave and spring entrances in the area but settled back at Will's place to take a good look at his cave. John Lovaas and Dawn Ryan had begun the survey of the cave earlier that week and we brought enough gear to continue the work and take some photos along the way.

Will and Eve had dug their way into the spring, slowly and relentlessly, until they finally emerged into the comfortable stream passage that shuttled the water to the outside world. There are two entrances to Rock Creek Cavern - one horizontal slot where the spring feeds Rock Creek, and a vertical 15 foot slot that required a little contortion to traverse. The second entrance was dug open after breaching the cave to allow "easier" access. Scott looked at the vertical slot entrance with some trepidation, wondering if his girth exceeded the width of the tight spots. Dropping in, after all, was relatively easy but squirming up and out was altogether different. Scott slipped in, followed by the camera gear, then me. The dirt talus slope led down to a roomy crawlway with a stream gently rolling over a clean cobbled floor. It was pristine, with dense clusters of white stalactites covering the ceiling.

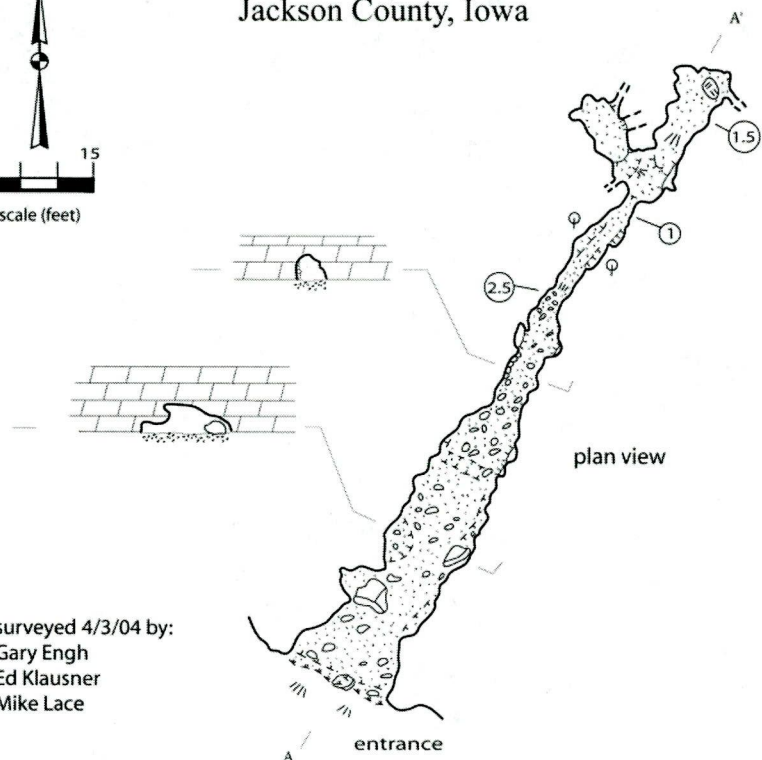
We wandered off along the left branch to where Mike Nelson had done an exploratory dive some time ago, floating while pulling ourselves along the stream. The continuation didn't end up looking promising, according to his report, but the sump pool looked inviting nonetheless. It was getting late in the day we decided to break out the photo gear and shoot as much of the gorgeous stream passage as we could. The survey would have to wait for the next visit which frankly can't come soon enough. We took several shots in the left branch before moving toward the resurgence where the passage reached walking height. The formations were still impressive and we finally wrapped things up only after several more flash bulbs bit the dust.

Before we entered the cave, Will had encouraged us (with a sly grin) to take a quick look at the resurgence passage before exiting. We were both game and slithered into the crawlway that snaked its way to the creek. The recent rains had engorged this part of the cave and stream levels hadn't retreated enough to make the traverse "comfortable". It was doable but it meant squeezing through a phreatic tube with barely one eye out of the water. It was nothing we hadn't done before in other caves but time was short and this sporting exit would have to wait as we returned to climb out of the vertical slot. The exit had its own "sport" for Scott as forcing the air out of his lungs let him pop right out. Will and Eve greeted us as we emerged and walked us back to house where we cleaned up and showed them the days photos on Scott's laptop. We thanked the Feltmans for their generous hospitality, vowing to take them up on their offer to stay in their caver bunkhouse on our next visit, and headed into town for catfish on the way home.

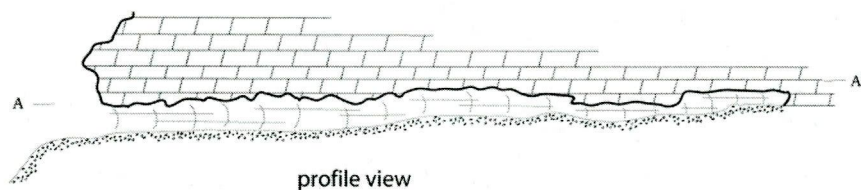


Long Cave

Jackson County, Iowa



surveyed 4/3/04 by:
Gary Engh
Ed Klausner
Mike Lace



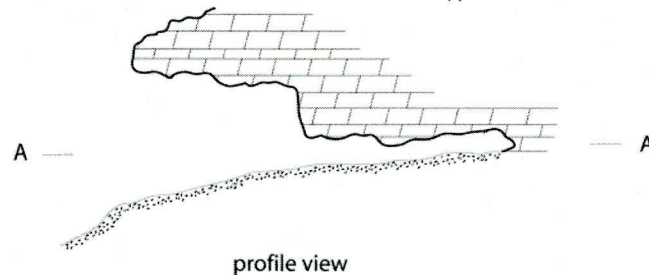
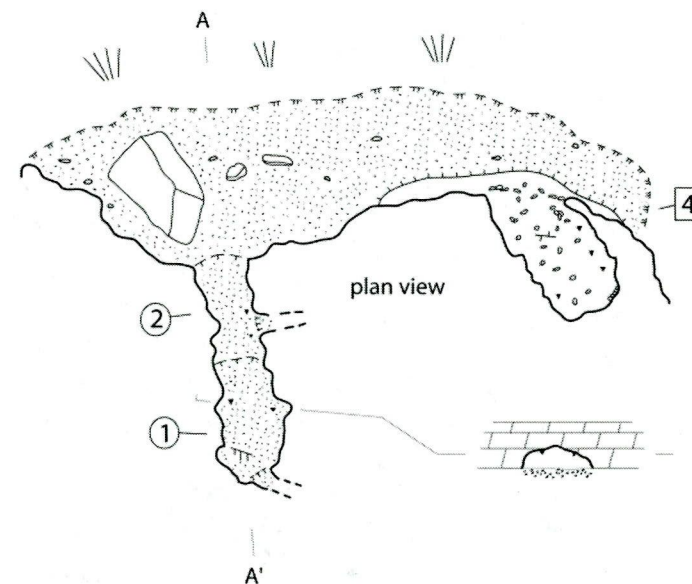
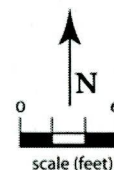
total surveyed length = 108.2 feet (33.0 meters)



Klausner 2004

Braque Cave

Jackson County, Iowa



surveyed 4/10/04 by:
Gary Engh
Ed Klausner
Elizabeth Miller
Jim Roberts

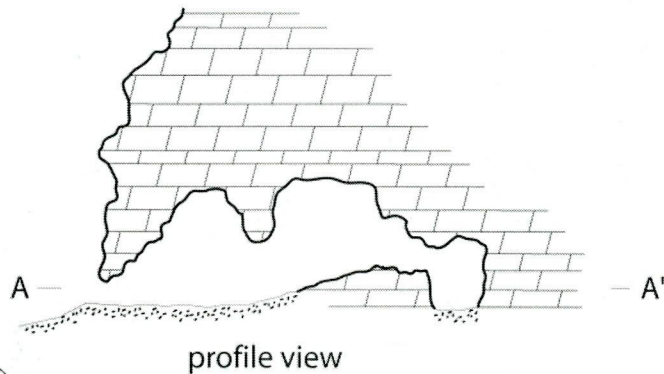
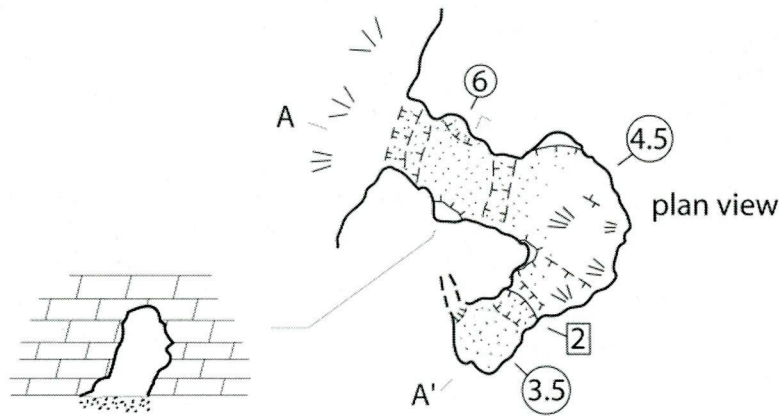
N.S.S. standard map symbols

total surveyed length = 47.2 feet (14.4 meters)



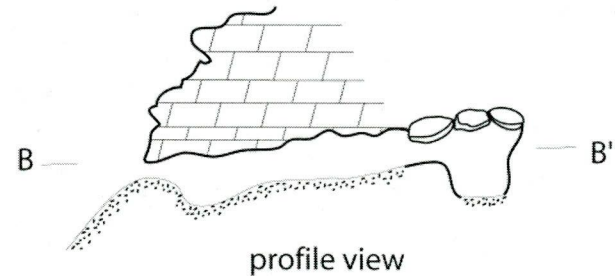
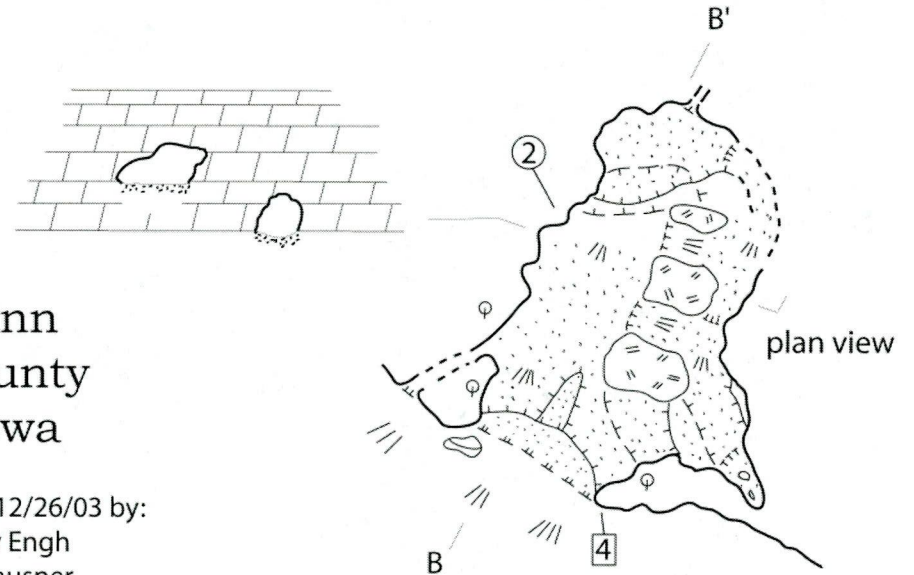
Klausner 2004

Cricket Cave



total surveyed length = 21.8 feet (6.6 meters)

Wear and Tear Cave

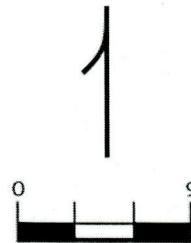


total surveyed length = 25.0 feet (7.6 meters)

Linn
County
Iowa

surveyed 12/26/03 by:
Gary Engh
Ed Klausner

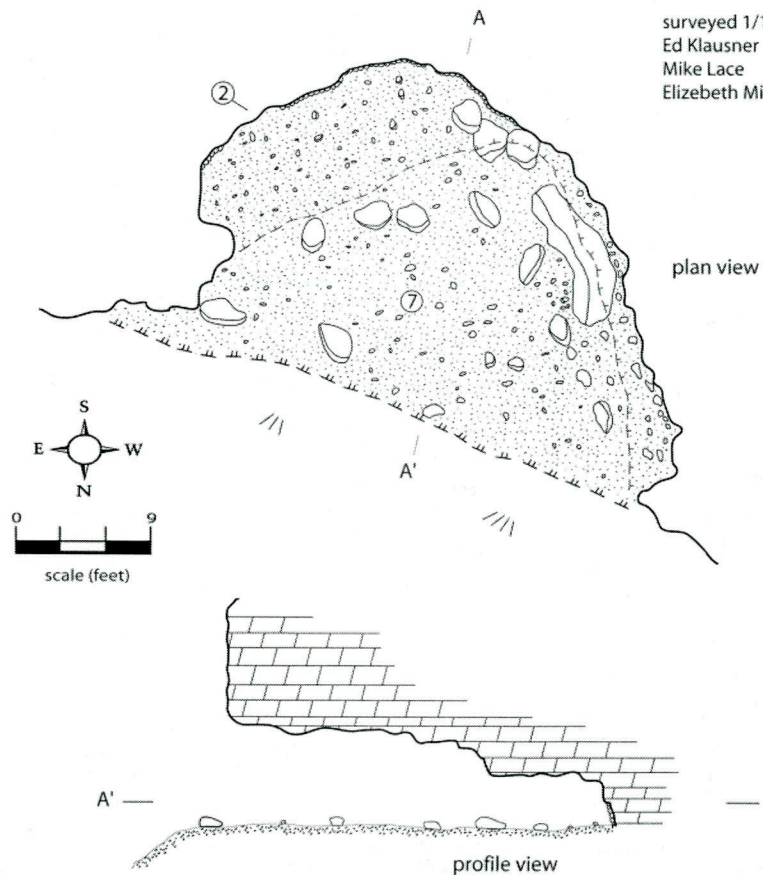
N_m



scale (feet)

Scallywag Shelter Jackson County, Iowa

surveyed 1/1/04 by:
Ed Klausner
Mike Lace
Elizebeth Miller

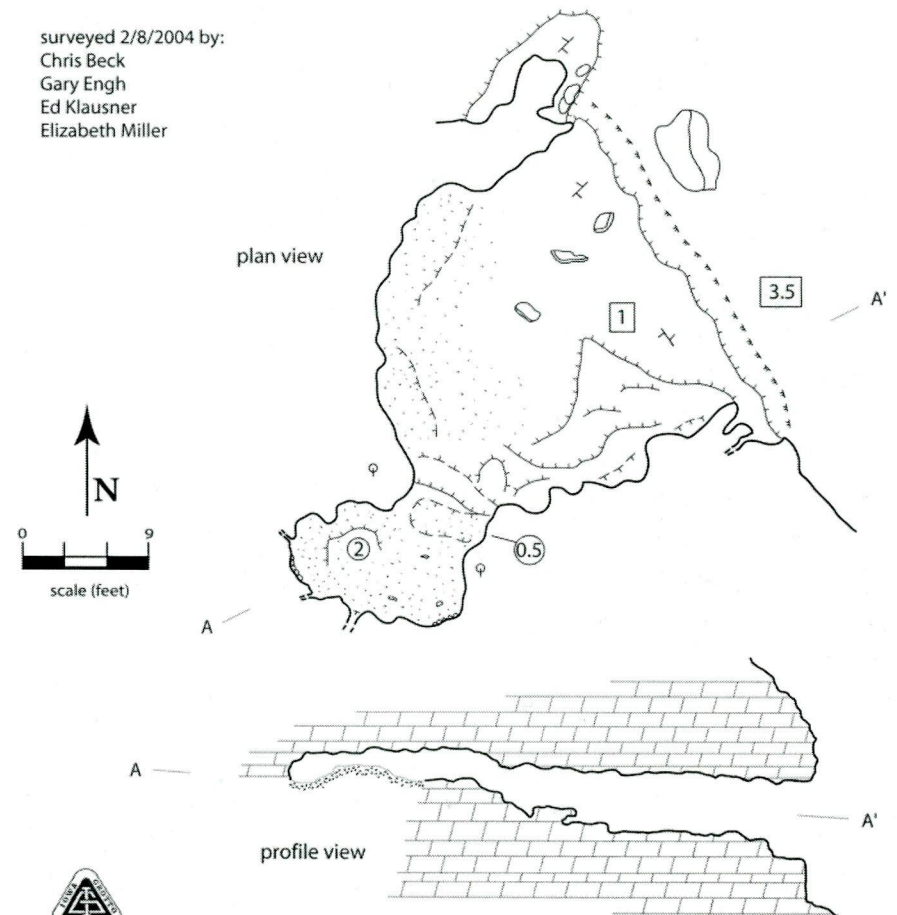


N.S.S. standard map symbols
total surveyed length = 25 feet (7.6 meters)



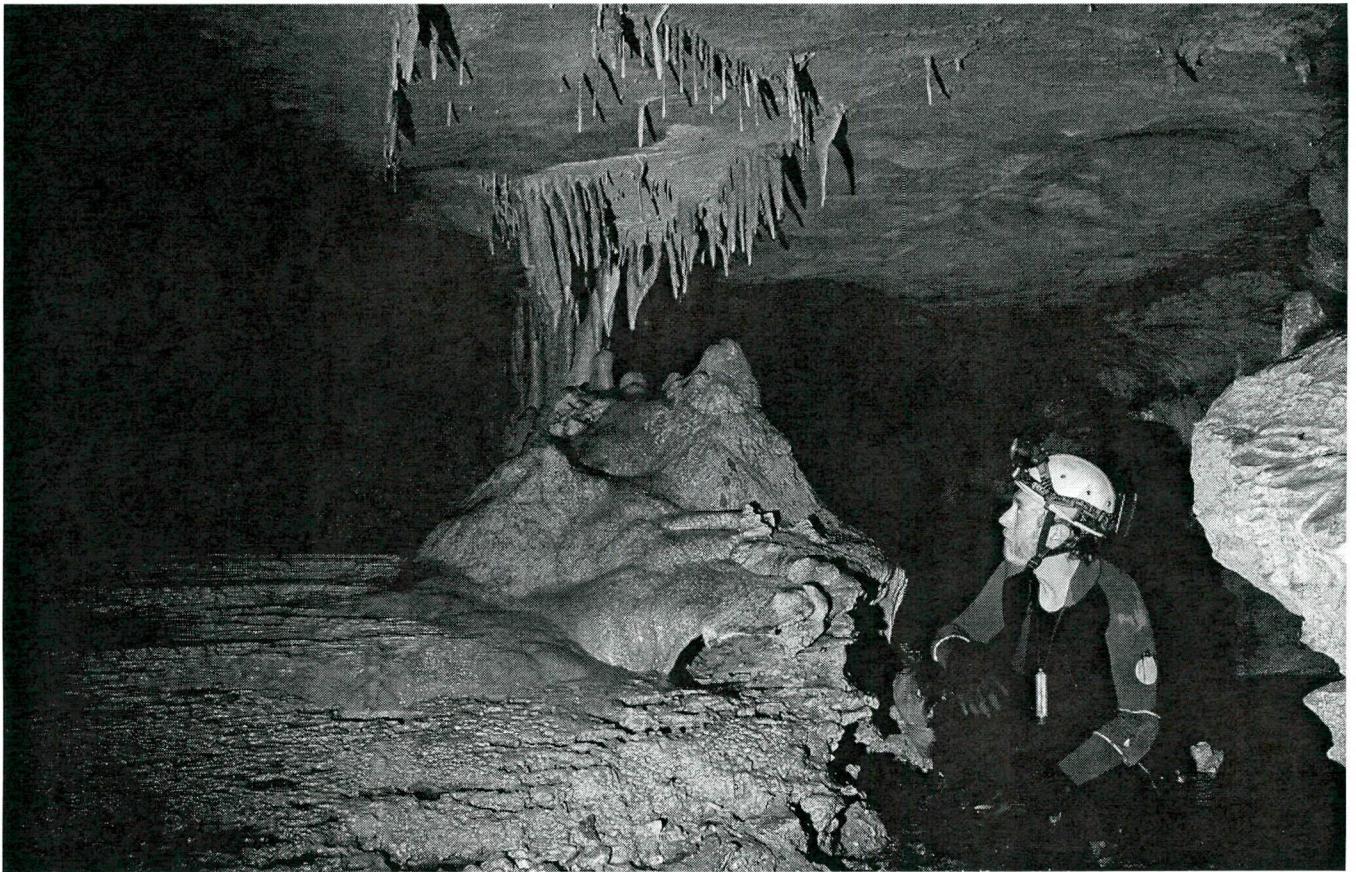
Red Tail Cave Jackson County, Iowa

surveyed 2/8/2004 by:
Chris Beck
Gary Engh
Ed Klausner
Elizabeth Miller

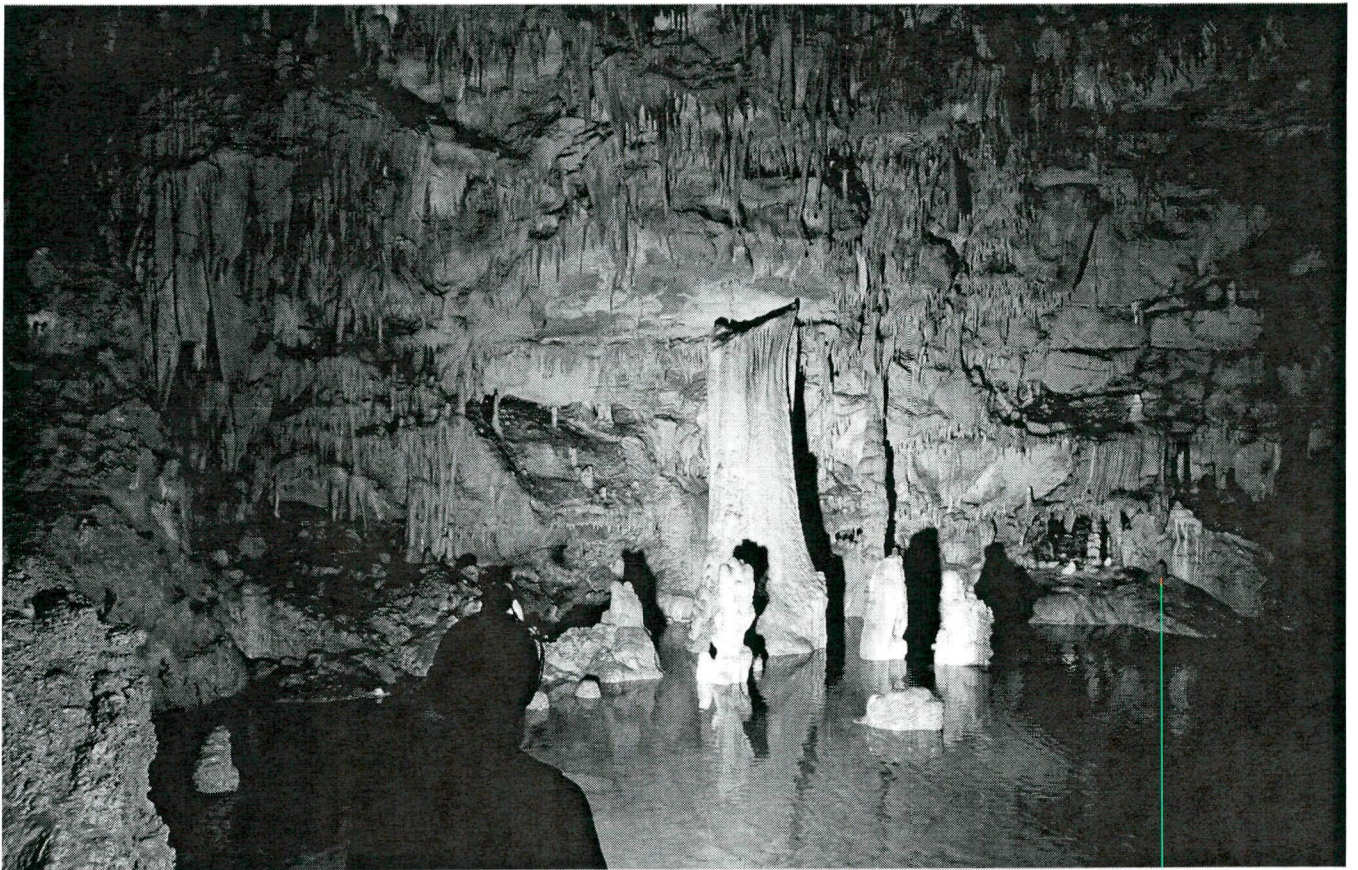


N.S.S. standard map symbols

total surveyed length = 28.0 feet (8.5 meters)



Mike Lace in Rock Creek Cavern Newton County Arkansas. Photo By Scott Dankof



The main room of Walnut Cave Newton County Arkansas. Photo By Scott Dankof



Top Photo: Old Jug Spring
Photo By: Dawn Ryan

Bottom Photo: Stalagmite
stub in Ark. cave
Photo by: Ed Klausner



