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Scott Dankof

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Iowa Grotto

P.O. Box 228

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Grotto Website: www.caves.org/grotto/iowa

Coldwater Cave Project website:

<http://www.caves.org/project/coldwater>

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

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Editor and Typist: Scott Dankof
515-986-3219
410 Hickory Circle
Grimes IA. 50111

E-mail sdankof@msn.com

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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: Glenwood Cave entrance, Iowa. 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 47

Issue 3

C O N T E N T S

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C A L E N D A R

Sept. 24 & 25: Vertical caving workshop.
Location to be decided. If you plan on attending, contact Doug Schmucker at smuckers@IowaTelecom.net Also, if enough interest will conduct a rescue day or weekend. (Vertical and or horizontal).
Sept. Iowa Grotto meeting - Wed. 7:30pm. rm 125, Sept. 28th
October Iowa Grotto meeting - Wed. 7:30pm. rm 125, October 26th

Please welcome new Iowa Grotto member:
Kevin Mossey

Iowa Grotto
Regular Meeting
May 25, 2011

The regular meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairperson Mike Lace, at 7:35 p.m. after Elizabeth Miller's power point presentation on Fungi and Parasitic Worms; Small Dangers of Caves. There were 10 members and 2 guests present. Minutes from the April 27, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund: \$2698.53; Coldwater Fund: \$99.85; Petty Cash: \$103.10

TRIP REPORTS: Ed Klausner reported on a Missouri C.R.F. trip with Elizabeth Miller where 12 caves were surveyed. John Donahue reported on two survey trips to Mystery Cave, one in late April and the other in early May. Attending these trips were John, Hava Berman, Jeff Brandon, Teresa Kurtz, Tyler Kurtz, Warren Netherton, Brandi Zinn, et ali. John reported that he and Teresa became temporarily lost while observing a group of bats in a section of the cave. Teresa Kurtz reported on her trip to Quarry Hill, near Rochester, MN, which is a man made (historical) cave. Loren Schuett reported on a program held by the Jackson County Conservation Board and the State Archeologist. There was a trip to Buzzard Ridge County Park and Levson Rock Shelter. Mike Lace reported on his recent trip to Haiti for the purpose of cave survey work and to help start the Haitian Speleological Survey. He described the extensive rock art observed and their group surveyed 25 caves across the island.

FUTURE TRIPS: The Grotto picnic will be the first weekend in August, at Motor Mill County Park. Coldwater trips are the 3rd weekend of the month. Doug S. will be conducting a mock rescue training session during the June Coldwater weekend, and a beginner's vertical workshop September 24 and 25, 2011. More information will be provided at a future date. There will be a survey trip to Mystery Cave, MN Memorial Day

weekend. John Donahue and Phil LaRue will be leading a Boy Scout and Webelos Troop(s) on a cave trip to Werden's Cave, Jackson County, June 25th. The NSS convention will be in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, this summer. See the Intercom and N.S.S. News for additional trips and events.

OLD BUSINESS: The t-shirt contest was held, Teresa Kurtz was contest chairperson. There were several entries which will be shown in up coming issues of the Intercom. The design created by Joe Dixon was selected by the Grotto members in attendance as the winner. He will be given two free t-shirts as the prize for first place.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe Dixon reported on a new program for farmers: "Karst Sinkhole Protection and Treatment". The program is intended to protect Karst features through the creation of buffer zones around sink holes. How this program will be funded is yet to be determined.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Iowa Grotto
Regular Meeting
June 22, 2011

The regular meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Ed Klausner, at 7:30 p.m. There were 9 members present. Minutes from the May 25, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: General Fund: \$2698.53; Coldwater Fund: \$99.85; Petty Cash: \$103.10

TRIP REPORTS: Phil LaRue reported on a trip Coldwater Cave weekend with Tyson Gilbert to Ice Cave, Decorah, and during the family weekend at Coldwater Cave, leading a short site seeing trip both upstream and downstream with Tyson G. and new cavers, Nick Gaeta and Kent Kinion. Ed K. reported on the mock rescue lead by Doug Schmucker at Coldwater that same weekend at attended by both area emergency and rescue departments and area cavers. Several rescue and recovery techniques were demonstrated using caver volunteers including Mark Jones who got the shaft. Also in attendance that weekend were Jim

Elliott and family, and Ken and Wanda Flatland and family. Ed then reported on C.R.F. survey trip to Lava Bed National Monument, CA. He explained that the Modoc Indians hid in this lava tube during the Modoc Indian Wars, and signs of their habitation were observed. During this trip, several other small caves were surveyed for the C.R.F. John Donahue reported on a survey trip to Mystery Cave, MN with Jarad Allen, Jeff Brandon, Amy Fund, Warren Netherton and Brandi Zinn in the Bear Crawl. Jasen Rodgers reported on a trip to Mystery Cave with Jeff Brandon and Warren Netherton to do more survey work in the Bear Crawl. He then reported on a trip to Werden's Cave, Jackson County with his family and Dale Werden's dog, Ziggy. Brad Smith then reported on attempts to reenter the caves under the town of Watertown, NY with the permission of the city council. Gaylene Gilbert then reported on her trip to Red Rock State Park, Utah with Tyson G., Aubrey Gradert, and Phil L. where native rock art and pictographs were observed. During this trip, they also visited the Hoover Dam.

FUTURE TRIPS: The Grotto picnic will be the first weekend in August, at Motor Mill County Park. Coldwater trips are the 3rd weekend of the month. Doug Schmucker will be conducting a beginner's vertical workshop September 24 and 25, 2011. More information will be provided at a future date. There will be more survey trips to Mystery Cave, MN. John Donahue and Phil LaRue will be leading Boy Scouts and Webelos on a cave trip to Werden's Cave, Jackson County, June 25th. The NSS convention will be in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, this summer. See the Intercom and N.S.S. News for additional trips and events.

OLD BUSINESS: Teresa Kurtz, Iowa Grotto T-shirt contest chairperson requested input on T-shirt, design colors and numbers of shirt sizes to be ordered. Discussion followed. The price per T-shirt will be \$15.00. Images of all entries will be shown in up coming issues of the Intercom.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business. With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

May Mystery Cave Trips

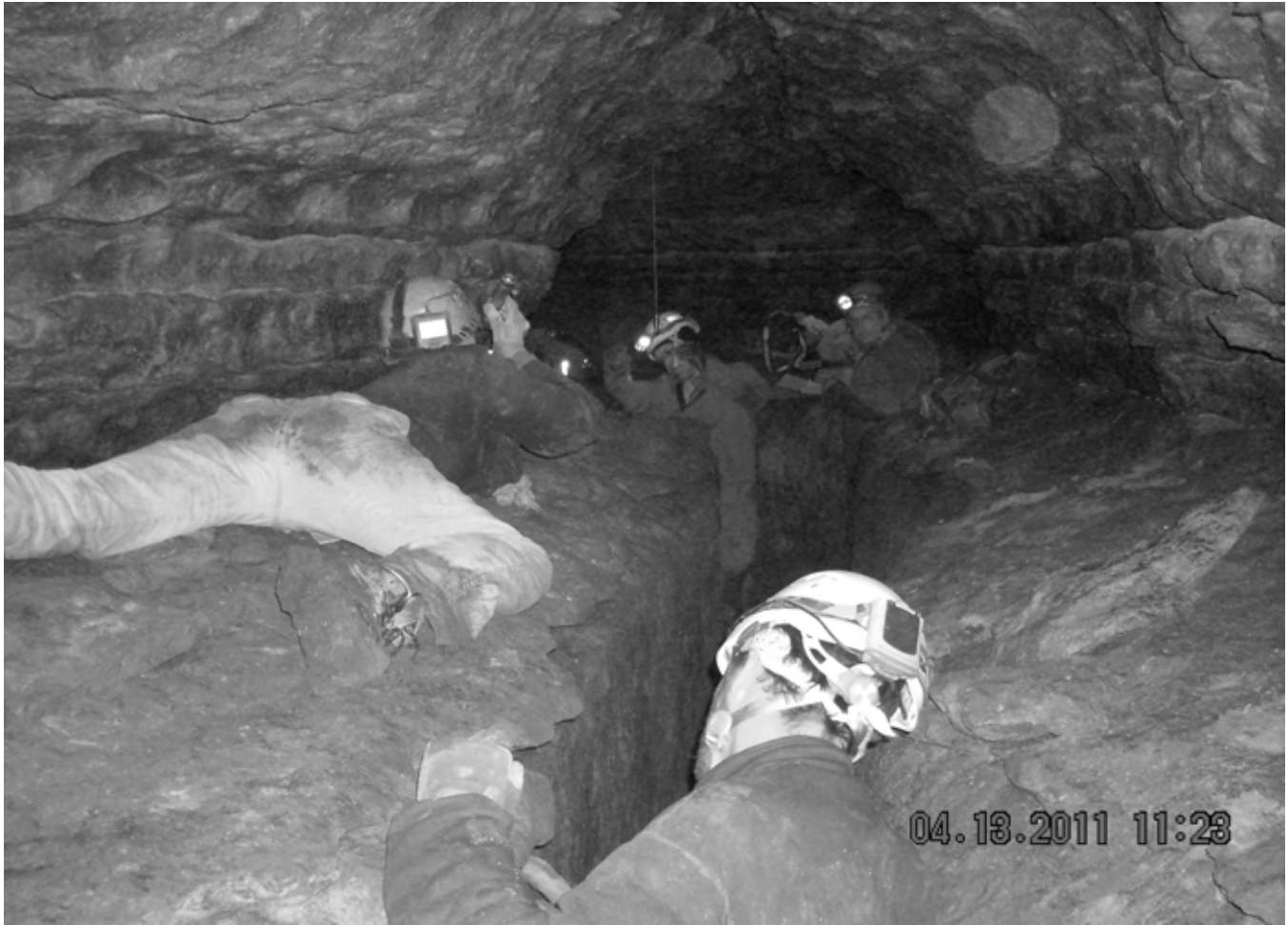
May 14th - Teresa Kurtz, Tyler Kurtz, Jeff Brandon, Brandi Zinn, Hava Berman, and John Donahue.

Teresa, Tyler, Jeff, and John arrived early on Friday evening and were in the cave the next morning around 9 AM. Objective was to survey after the 'Bear Crawl' starting in the 'Standing Room Only' junction. Later, (some time after noon) the four were joined then by Brandi and Hava who had been escorted up to the 'Bear Crawl' by one of the Parks employees. Surveying was slow going with so many in the group but offered the opportunity for training Tyler, who was new. If you've never done the 'Bear Crawl', you should give it a try. It is a crevice tube about 300 foot in length. The average sized person must lie on the ground and crawl on their side dragging backpacks on one foot. After the initial 200 foot there is a 90 degree turn, making it essential that you start your crawl on the appropriate side (left side). A six foot person has a very difficult time going around this corner and I would not recommend it for anyone larger unless they are double jointed in the knees. Of course then on the way out you have to do it all over again, luckily on the opposite side (right) so that your bruises are proportionate. It should also be noted that on the way out, after the 'Bear Crawl', there is a junction where the trail makes a sharp right turn. If you miss this turn the passage takes you all the way back to 'Tree Roots' and the passage can be very deceiving.

May 28th - Jeff Brandon, Brandi Zinn, Jared Allen, Amy Funk, Warren Netherton, and John Donahue.

Jeff, Amy, and John arrived late on Friday evening and were in the cave around 10 am. Objective was to continue surveying behind the Bear Crawl were the last survey had stopped two weeks earlier. Later Brandi and Jared showed up and shortly thereafter Warren joined the group so that we could form two teams. We made good progress and exited

the cave (on time) with excellent work done and much satisfaction.



Jared, Brandi, Jeff, and Warren using a 'Plumbob' (photo by John Donahue)

Lava Beds National Monument, June 2011

By Ed Klausner

The CRF submitted two Research Project Proposals and got both approved by Lava Beds National Monument (LBE) in northern California. One was to continue mapping the caves in the Township Cave area of Hardin Butte and the other was to map two caves that are part of the Inventory and Monitoring (I & M) program of the park service. Both Sentinel Annex Cave and Four Star Cave are monitored as part of the I & M program and the park asked CRF to produce maps of these two caves. The park provided compasses, inclinometers, tapes, survey bags, survey flagging, GPS units, and distos for us, so we didn't have to bring them with us.

Scott and Patti House, Dave West, Karen Willmes and I met in Reno, rented a car and drove the four hours to LBE. We stayed in the Research Center near park headquarters. We had a short time (six caving days) and much to do. Fortunately the weather cooperated and we were able to get in long days. We left the Research Center by 7:30 each morning.

There were three areas and three cartographers on the trip. Scott had already started the mapping of Township Cave in the Hardin Butte area and planned on adding any additional caves to the map to show their relative positions. Dave took on Sentinel Annex Cave in the Cave Loop section and I took Four Star Cave in the Mammoth Crater flow, Elmer's Trench area.

Shawn Thomas, who lived and caved in Iowa with the Iowa Grotto, is a

temporary employee of the park. We made arrangements for him to show us the location of Four Star Cave on our first afternoon. In the morning, we went to Sentinel Annex to start its survey and got about 400 feet of survey. In the afternoon, Shawn and two interns took us to Four Star Cave. While they were checking the cave for bats (if there were any, we'd have to change plans and survey somewhere else). Dave, Karen and I started by surveying the sinkhole around the entrance, since there were two entrances to Four Star Cave and an extensive area around the perimeter of the sink under the dripline. After Shawn and the interns found no bats in the cave, we finished the surface survey of the sinkhole and started the cave survey. We got about 200 feet done before we had to leave so we could get back to the road before dark. There is no trail to Four Star Cave and the area of lava flow is not easy to traverse in the dark.

Relatively little is known of the caves in the Hardin Butte area as it is remote and will become more so when the road becomes only a hiking trail next year. Scott plotted all the known locations on graph paper and we left early the next morning to both survey caves and walk the remaining area systematically to make sure we found and surveyed all the caves in an area that we decided could fit on a map. On the way to Corral Cave that Dave started on his last trip, we found several entrances where we took GPS locations so we could plot them and easily find them again. The terrain is such that many small entrances (and not so small entrances) can easily be missed only a few feet away. We started in Corral Cave and I was surprised at how cold it was. After a few hours of survey, we had to go out a conveniently located entrance to warm up for a few minutes before continuing the survey. We left only one lead before we had to head back to the Research Center. The following day, we returned so Dave and Karen could finish the survey of Corral Cave while Scott, Patti and I surveyed Achilles Cave and Achilles Arch Cave and finally, Mule Shoe Cave. Mule Shoe was unusual in that it was almost circular

with one skylight and two entrances next to each other.

On the fourth day of caving, Dave, Karen and I finished the survey of Sentinel Annex. We had planned on going to Four Star that day, but it was raining and the weather was supposed to clear up the next day. Since Sentinel Annex is a much shorter walk in the rain than Four Star, we put off Four Star for the following day.

The following day, the weather was indeed nicer, so we set off for Four Star Cave. We picked up the survey and worked our way to where a lower level starts. We surveyed to an awkward tight spot that Karen went through. I couldn't get through and thought it would be even harder getting out. Dave got through, so the only thing that made sense was for Dave and Karen to continue that passage while Scott and I surveyed a different lower level passage. Scott and I got a few hundred feet before the passage ceiling got rather unstable (pieces of it were falling on us.) We went no further and the passage looked like to get to small to continue anyway. Scott and I continued mopping up the remaining leads and we were soon joined by Bill Broeckel who came for the day to help out. Meanwhile, Karen and Dave finished up their passage and started on the under the dripline survey around the sinkhole. By the end of the day, we had finished and had a bit over 1200 feet of cave survey for Four Star Cave. Scott and Bill also surveyed Five Star Grotto Cave that has a small connection to Four Star Cave and will be on the same map.

For the last day of caving, we headed back to the Hardin Butte area to continue surveying known caves and continue systematically walking the area in search of additional entrances. Dave, Karen and I returned to a previously discovered entrance and surveyed just shy of 500 feet of a cave we named White Tunnel Cave because one passage had particularly white walls. There were also quite a few bones in the cave along with several lava stalagmites.

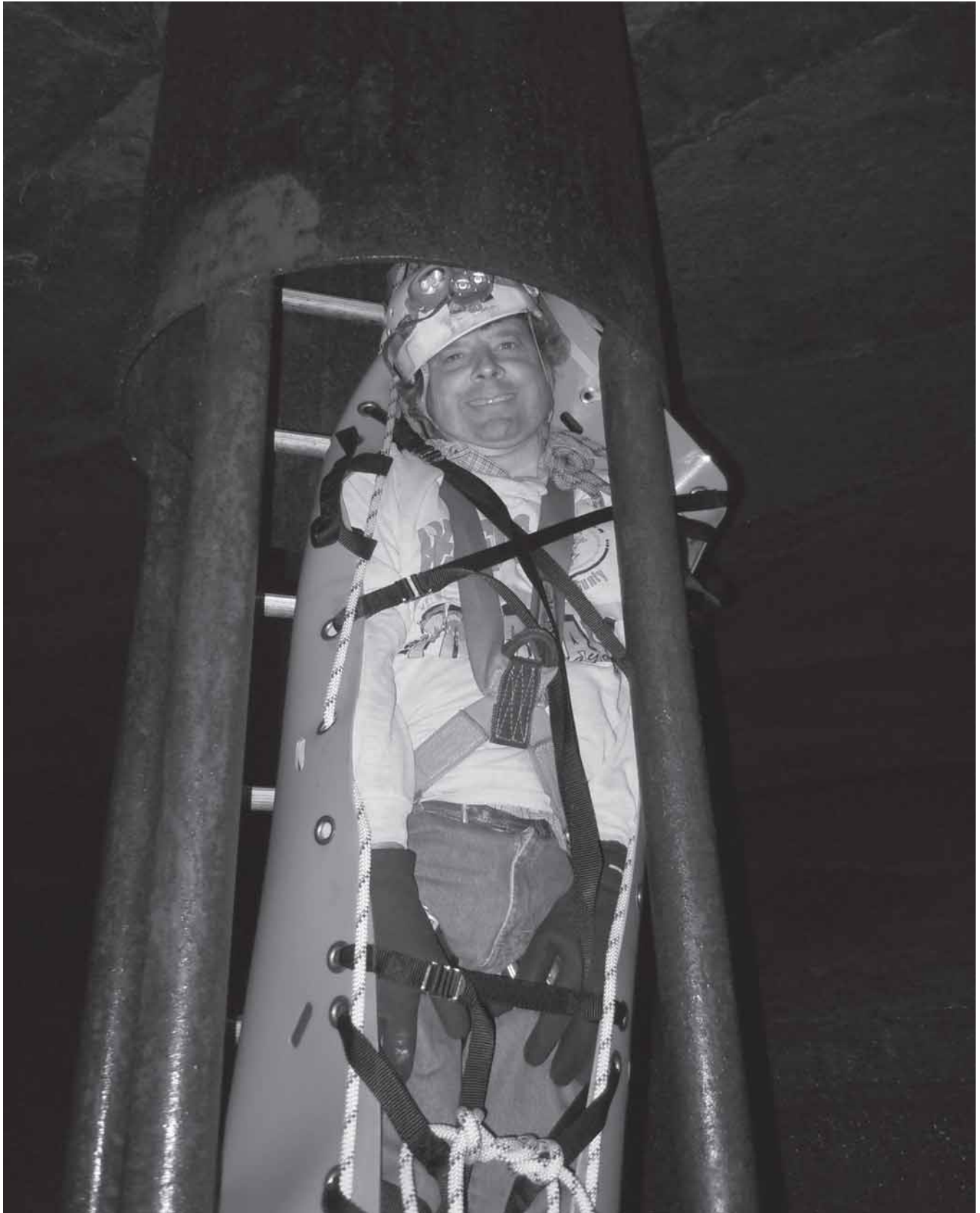
There are a few caves left to survey in this immediate area and the surrounding area is likely just as rich with caves.



Rescue workshop at Coldwater Cave. Photo by Scott Dankof.



Doug Schmuecker and Phil LaRue (the body).



Mark Jones (the victim) ready to be hauled up the shaft. Photo by Ed Klausner.