

June 2012

## Intercom, Volume 48, No. 3, May-June 2012

Scott Dankof

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Dankof, Scott, "Intercom, Volume 48, No. 3, May-June 2012" (2012). *Intercom*. 46.  
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/intercom/46>

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](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

## **INTERCOM**

Volume 48, Issue 3  
May - June 2012

### **Iowa Grotto**

P.O. Box 228  
Iowa City, IA 52244  
Grotto Website: [www.caves.org/grotto/iowa](http://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.

**Due Dates:** for submission of material for publication in the INTERCOM is Sept. 1st. 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](mailto:sdankof@msn.com)

**Coordinate photographs** for publication in the INTERCOM with Scott Dankof, the INTERCOM 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:** Lehman Cave, Nevada.  
Photo by Ed Klausner.



National Speleological Society  
P. O. Box 228  
Iowa City, Iowa 52244

Chairman - - - - - Mike Lace  
Vice Chairman - - - - - Ed Klausner  
Secretary - - - - - Teresa Kurtz  
Treasurer - - - - - John Donahue

Volume 48

Issue 3

## **C O N T E N T S**

### **Trip reports:**

Meeting Minutes - - - - -	26
Bat Boy the Musical - - - - -	27
Lava Beds National Monument - -	28
Stone House Crevice - - - - -	29
NSS Convention - - - - -	31

## **C A L E N D A R**

2012 Grotto Picnic - (August 3rd thru 5th). To be held at the Brown family private campground in Ozark, Jackson County, IA .

August 22nd Grotto Meeting will be held at Phil Larue and Gaylene Gilbert's new house (574 Delta Avenue, Mechanicsville, IA). Grill meat will be provided but feel free to bring a dish to pass around. Directions on how to get there will be sent out as August gets closer.

Vertical training session - Sept. 8-

9th (Doug Schmuecker needs a minimum of five cavers to attend; contact him at 319-642-7676)

September Grotto meeting - Sept. 26th, room 125, Trowbridge Hall.

October Grotto meeting - Oct. 24th, room 125, Trowbridge Hall.

October 6th and 7th - Cave Rescue drills. Location to be announced. For info contact Doug Schmuecker at 319-642-7676.

November Grotto meeting - to be held on the fourth wed. ( Nov. 28th)

No December Grotto meeting due to the holidays.

Iowa Grotto  
Regular Meeting  
May 23, 2012

The regular meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Chairman Mike Lace, at 8:20pm with 14 members present. Prior to the meeting, Maria Perez gave a presentation "Cultures of Caving: Anthropological Perspective".

Minutes of the April 25, 2012 regular meeting were presented. Treasurers Report: Ending balance bank accounts--\$3,508.03; petty cash--\$118.60.

**TRIP REPORTS:** Mike B. gave a report on Coldwater trips and activity. Ed Klausner reported on trips to Fitton Cave (AR); Lava Beds; and Lehman Cave (Great Basin Nat'l Park, NV) Mike Lace reported on a small cave mapping trip to AR, where several cave surveys were completed (Wind Tunnel cave-1500 ft.; Singing Waters cave-4,040 ft.) Jasen Rogers presented information on a recent trip to Maquoketa caves. John Kirk reported on a cleaning/restoration expedition near the Niagra entrance (Mammoth Cave, KY)

**FUTURE TRIPS:** Grotto picnic: several trips are planned for Saturday morning/afternoon. Kemling: A trip is planned for Memorial Day weekend.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Grotto Library: contact

Ed Klausner for old Grotto newsletters and misc.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion regarding the recent Wye Cave (Maquoketa Caves) incident, and the Iowa Grotto's procedure for call-out emergency response.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Vertical Workshop: September 8-9. Contact Doug Schmuecker. A minimum of five Grotto members need to register in order to hold the workshop.

Rescue Training: October 6-7. Contact Doug Schmuecker.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. Following the meeting, Alex shared a slide presentation on Ukrainian caves.

Submitted by Teresa Kurtz, Secretary

Iowa Grotto  
Regular Meeting  
June 27, 2012

The regular meeting of the Iowa Grotto was called to order by Ed Klausner, at 8:02 PM, with John D, John Kirk, and Loren Schutt as members present. Prior to the meeting, Ed gave a presentation of his trip to California working on the Lava Beds.

Minutes of the regular meeting from May were not available. Treasurers Report by John Donahue was read. Iowa Grotto Ledger: \$3,497.08 Coldwater Fund: \$75.85

Petty Cash: \$158.60.

**TRIP REPORTS:** John Donahue gave a report on a trip to Arkansas with Teresa Kurtz, Mike Lace, Scott Dankof, Mike Nelson, Gary Eng, Doug Schmuecker, Will and Eve Feltman. Ed Klausner gave a report on a trip to Fitton Cave and a nice description on the cave and current cave activities. Ed also reported on a recent trip to Kemling Cave doing restoration work with Mark Jones and Chris Beck. Loren Schutt gave a report on his recent trip to the Black Hills, Wind Cave (which he noted the abundance of Boxwork), and also two old gold mines he visited.

**FUTURE TRIPS:** Ongoing survey trips to Mystery Cave. Contact Warren Nether-ton.

Chris Beck is looking to do a Kemling

trip soon. Plans are to finish the 'Land of Oz' now with the current drought conditions. Contact Chris for more details.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Registrations are being accepted for an August restoration camp at Mammoth. They are in need of help. \$60 for food costs. Contact John Kirk.

**ANOUNCEMENTS:** The August picnic will be on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Details have been mailed. For more information check the list-serve or contact Mike Lace. Meeting adjourned at 8:37. Submitted by John Donahue, Treasurer.

#### Bat Boy the Musical

May 4, 2012 Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, Brad and myself with a friend.

We saw that Augustana College would be doing a production of Bat Boy the Musical from a flyer last fall. I notified both the Windy City and the Iowa Grotto people of the dates, times and cost (we do not know if any other cavers decided to go see it). At \$12 it was not a bad price compared to a professional commercial production. Augustana is one of those very selective liberal arts colleges started about 150 years ago in Chicago to train Swedish immigrants in Lutheran religious matters. The production was held in a small intimate theater on campus. There was a wall on the back with some chronology of Bat Boy in the Weekly World News as well as some comparison to Caliban of Shakespeare fame. The production was very nicely done. The sets were moved around easily to create the scenes. There was a small ensemble playing the music in back of the stage. The instrumentalists were good as well as the singing by the cast members. The story begins when some speleoboppers enter the cave hand over hand on ropes and find Bat Boy crawling naked through the cave passages. He bites one of the speleoboppers and she is taken to the hospi-

tal. I will not tell you the whole story and spoil it for you, in case you have not seen it. I found it interesting that there was a coach for teaching the actors proper West Virginia dialect. We also all agreed that the ending of the play was somewhat disappointing that the villain dies in the end but his villainy is never revealed to the characters, although we in the audience know it. Program notes indicated that the production intentionally focused on the horror aspects of the story, but they also focused on the areas of tolerance, inclusion and acceptance of those who are different. One thing that was interesting was that except for the main characters the cast members who played the secondary characters played both men and women. In one case the cast member who was playing a woman took off his wig and you could see he was a man. I thought that this was interesting, given that with the large student body, they could have probably recruited others to fill in the roles. This added to the bizarre nature of the play. I also think it was interesting that the Weekly World News and this play had Bat Boy as some kind of vampire when there are no vampires in the US. In the bizarre pictures from the Weekly World News, Bat boy always his mouth open and teeth bared looking for insects to fly in--something untrue of real bats. I suspect that the WWN either could not or did not know how to alter that mask they used. In this production Bat Boy wore no mask and the actor used normal facial expressions. He did have a pair of bat ears attached to his own. Brad said that he thought it would be interesting to have a production of the play at an NSS Convention, however this might be difficult with a musical that also carries copyrights. We do have a copy of the Bat Boy book from the Weekly World News that was reviewed in the NSS news. You can get it in CD or in book form. As you can guess overall all of us enjoyed the production and recommend Bat Boy to others in the caving community.

## Lava Beds National Monument

Lava Beds National Monument, California and Lehman Cave, Nevada

May 2012

By Ed Klausner

Theoretically, the snow should be gone from the Lava Beds National Monument area and the temperatures should be comfortable by mid May. We made plans to survey a number of caves starting May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Monument was indeed snow free, but Lassen Volcanso National Park was still closed as was the rim road in Crater Lake National Park (Oregon). We had planned on visiting both on our way to Lava Beds but had to modify our plans. The campground in Crater Lake was still under 128 inches of snow.

Our alternative trip took us to Great Basin National Park in Nevada where we visited Lehman Cave. This commercial cave is well worth the trip. It is a marble cave with over 300 shields. I've seen shields in various caves, but never this number. We also visited some smaller caves in the park.

Scott House had a research permit to survey the caves in the Hardin Butte area. He spent most days there and Elizabeth and I helped him survey caves on two days during our 9 day stay in the Monument. Elizabeth and I surveyed Christmas Cave, Leap Frog Cave and Hornito Cave with the help of Craig Williams and Joyce Hoffmaster.

I surveyed three caves as part of the I & M (Inventory and Monitoring) program. We surveyed Four Star Cave last year and the year we surveyed Pearl Cave which is connected to Four Star Cave by a passage that is too small to crawl through, but there is a voice connection. This was a 400 plus foot cave that Joyce Hoffmaster and Dan Greger helped us survey.

Post Office Cave, also part of the I & M program, is a 2 mile long cave with 9 distinct levels. This is a fun cave as it can be challenging with

numerous climbs. The lower levels are cold, and on many trips we had to stop the survey when our hands got too cold. The temperatures on the surface were in the 80's but the lower levels were in the 30's. We did not finish the cave on this expedition. Surveying with us were Scott House, Mick Sutton, Sue Hagan, Tony Schmitt, Joyce and Dan, Jim Wolff, Craig Williams, Tony Schmitt and Don Dunham.

Valentine Cave is part of the I & M program and also a cave that Monument visitors can enter. Passage are generally large and we finished surveying the cave for a total of 2173 feet. Dan and Joyce, Mick and Sue, Scott and Patti House, Don, Tony and Craig helped with the survey.

The disadvantage of driving to Lava Beds is that you have to drive home again. We caved the morning of our departure and made it home two days later.



Surveying in Lava Beds Natl. Monument. Photo by Ed Klausner.



Formation in Lava Natl. Monument. Photo by Ed Klausner.

#### Stone House Crevice

Stone House Crevice, Jackson County,  
IA By Ed Klausner  
Chris Beck, John Donahue, Frank Frie-  
berg, Ed Klausner, Mike Lace, Eliza-  
beth Miller, Jeanette Muller, and Jim  
Roberts  
June 9, 2012

Several of us (Elizabeth, John, John Lovaas and I) had started the survey of this cave at last summer's picnic, but had to stop because we did not have a second rope. Since that time, Frank modified the entrance to that cave and a nearby second cave.

I sent out an email to people with vertical gear in hopes I'd have two other people to join me. It turned out that everyone contacted could go. There were 8 of us with a total of 8 ropes and after the modifications

that Frank made to the cave, we didn't need any ropes or vertical gear. In fact, the two caves we were going to survey were the same cave.

The cave, named Stone House Crevice, was about 40 feet tall and about 2 feet wide. There were areas of nice popcorn and a few areas where there was flowstone.

The second entrance turned out to have lots of loose rock, so we surveyed to the bottom of the unstable entrance and then Chris dropped a tape from the entrance down to one of our stations to get the vertical distance. The crevice continued for another two shots before it got too tight. The total survey length was 234 feet.

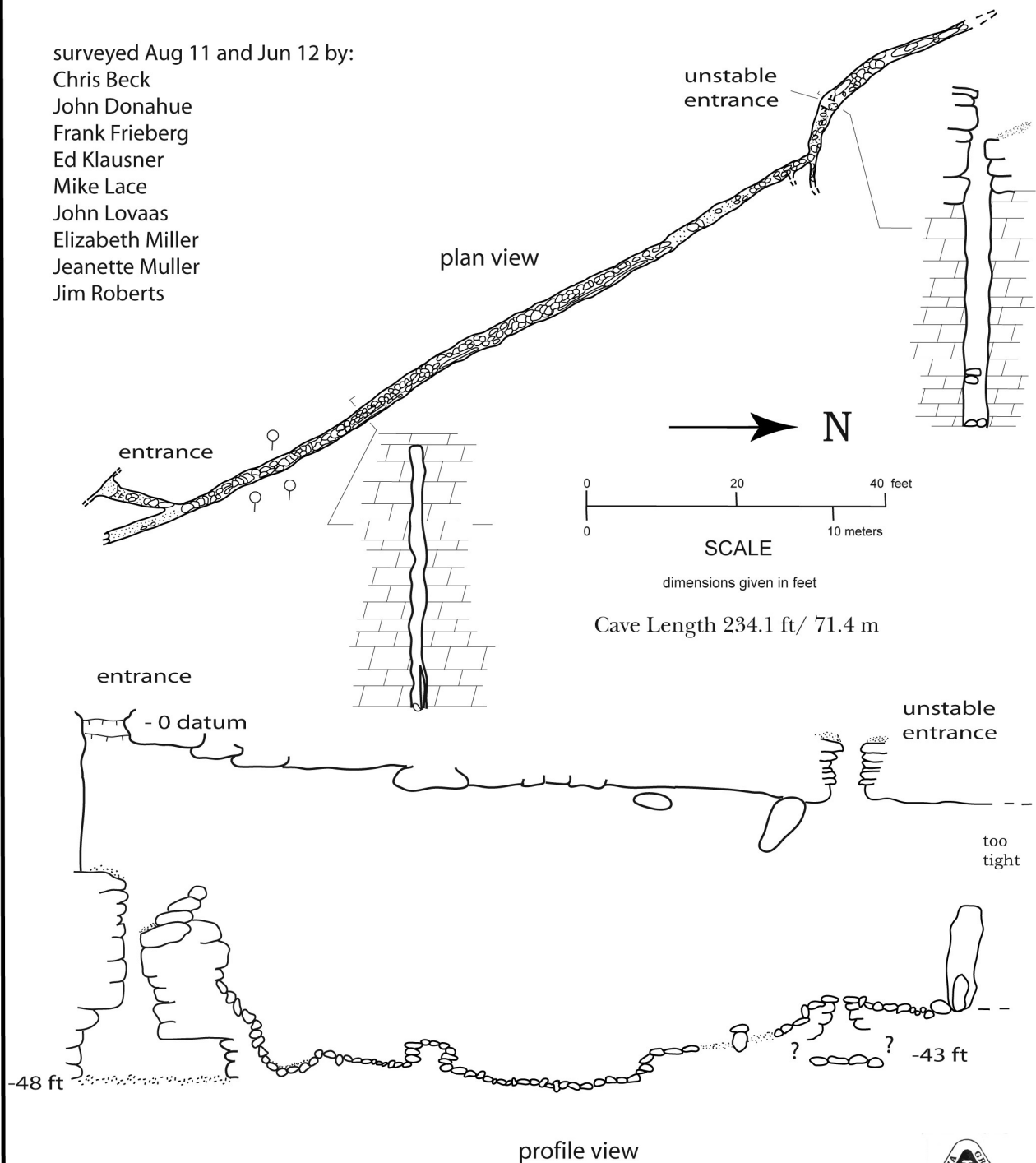
It was great to be out of the 90 degree weather in this dry, comfortable cave. Unfortunately, we did have to come out and eventually head home.

# Stone House Crevice

Jackson County, Iowa

surveyed Aug 11 and Jun 12 by:

Chris Beck  
John Donahue  
Frank Frieberg  
Ed Klausner  
Mike Lace  
John Lovaas  
Elizabeth Miller  
Jeanette Muller  
Jim Roberts



N.S.S. standard map symbols



Klausner 2012

## NSS Convention

WV State Fairgrounds  
Over 1,000 people

By Liz Robinson

We left for Convention about 12:45 in the afternoon on June 19th. We were leaving early in order to get the hot tub set up. We arrived late afternoon on the 20th after a reasonably pleasant drive. It was extremely hot. As we had arrived well before the masses we had our choice of campsites. We selected an area that was relatively flat and under a tree with branches that would shelter us in the morning from the early morning heat.

We made it to the geology field tour and really enjoyed it. We visited the commercial portion of Organ cave which brought back a lot of memories for us from when George Sively owned it, and we spent a few days there exploring. In addition we visited Davis Spring, caves in Unas, an inactive quarry and some other neat places. It was well worth the tour cost.

During the week we still had to hunt for things hot tub, but Tuesday I was able to attend the entire History Section presentation program. There were a couple of interesting things by Thom Engel on New York caves, a presentation from a panel on Herb Conn of Jewel Cave, as well as presentations on Pennsylvania and West Virginia Caves. In the afternoon I attended the White Nose Syndrome symposium as well as the Luminaries of Caving presentation by Jeanne Gurnee. We also got to the 3-D slide show. Later we went to the Digging Section presentation.

The Photo Salon was held across the street in one of the buildings for

the state fair. We attended the later session which included handing out the awards rather than the run through "dress rehearsal." We had seen the art work and I thought it was very nice that the winner of both the Peoples Choice and the judges was the same work. It was a "cranky", an old fashion display of a long thin quilt that is cranked to display the illustrations as the song was played and sung. This one was about Peter Hauer after whom the History Award is given. Roland Vinyard wrote and sang the Ballad of Pete Hauer. Roland knew Peter Hauer, and his wife made the cranky including the frame and quilt. She cranked the cranky along with the song. The next day we went to the self service video showing and watched most of the videos (excepting one that was 2 hours long).

The bad part now began. It was an extremely hot humid day on Friday. Brad suggested that we drive to the banquet but I was concerned that we would have a long wait in line to get out of the parking lot when the banquet was over and that in the long run it would be faster to walk than to drive. So we walked. To make a long story short, there was a Derecho Storm that started at least as far west as Davenport Iowa and was seeping across the Midwest and the east. We were expecting some rain but at the last minute it veered south to Lewisburg. We stayed for the duration of the meal and program. The program went on without lights or microphones. When Brad went to pick up the truck he found a 8 inch diameter tree had come down on it during the storm.

I immediately called my insurance agent and found out that they had a catastrophe and disaster office which was not open, as it was after hours. (Does this mean that one can only have a disaster or catastrophe at

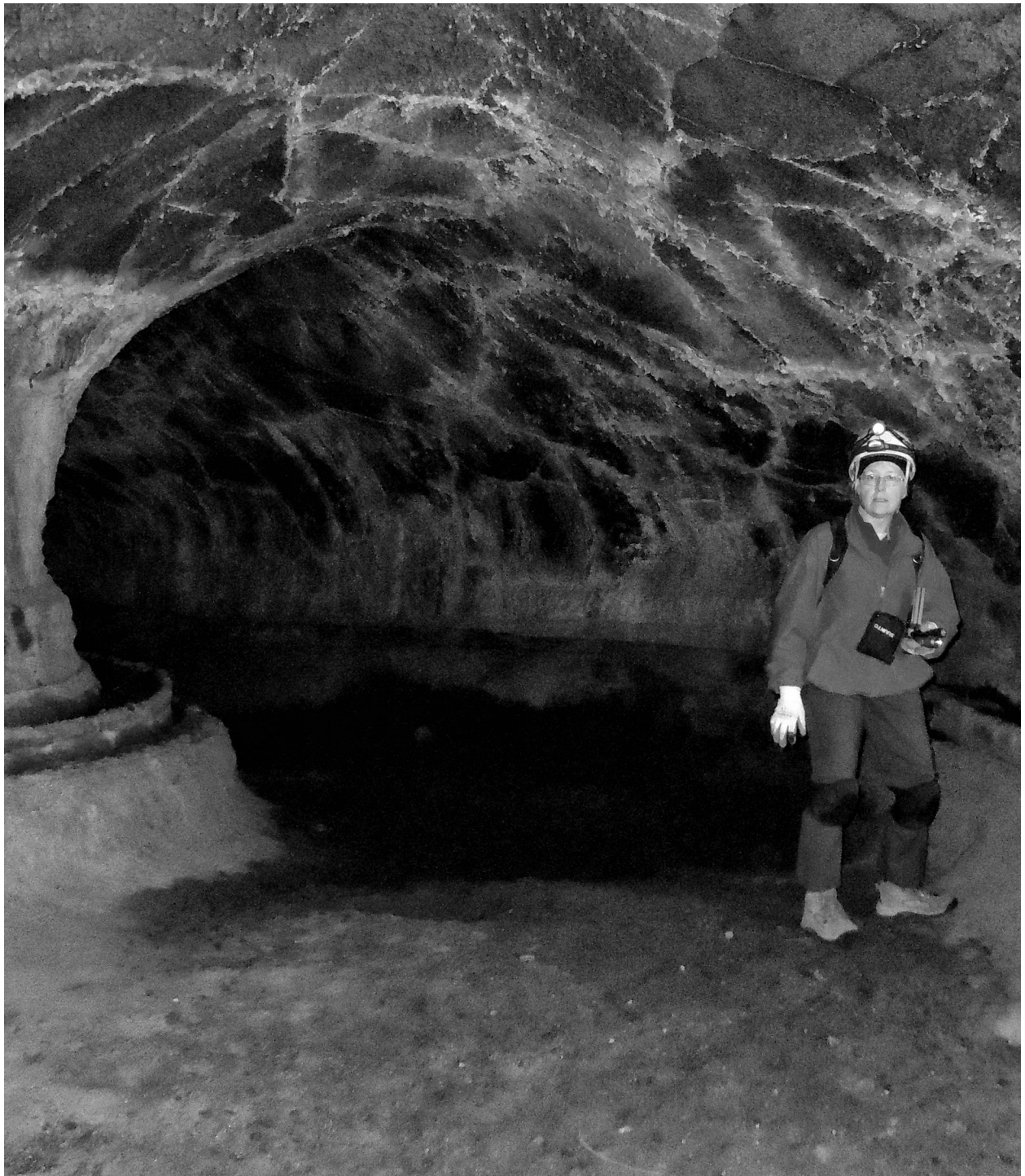


certain hours and days??!!) We later learned this storm system had affected 28 states.

Since our tents were still under the tree, we were not allowed to sleep in it so we spent the night in the banquet building. The next day, Saturday the 30th we broke camp, arranged for the truck to be towed to a local body shop, and took down the hot tub area. We still had no power. We also had the problem of arranging to bring back our worldly goods with a rental car. Again, to make a long story short, we got a U Haul truck for a one way rental. We left behind the barrel that contained the hot tub stove but Brad took the feet, smoke stack and the VogelSang Stove Works door. His 150 feet of copper tubing grew legs and walked away during the night. We had to be out of the campground no later than Sunday morning because of an upcoming PGA golf tournament and a concert that would use the campground. Arrangements were made for us to sleep in the building where the 3D slide show had been. Several people also stayed because gas was scarce. Gas stations needed power to pump and those that had auxiliary power ran out quickly. I believe all of us were gone by Sunday afternoon. We had a decent drive back to the Quad Cities.

Looking back on the situation, while I did kick myself for the "what ifs" I am grateful that we are both unhurt. Had we been in the truck when the tree hit the truck we could have been injured, killed, or gotten a whole bunch of shards of glass in our eyes. The truck is a machine that can be replaced, family and friends cannot. Nobody in camp was killed, just a few campsites and vehicles. Yes, replacing the truck will be expensive but interests rates are lower than

when I bought it 8 years ago and I will be getting a good settlement. Weather disasters and other forms of atmospheric unpleasantness seem to go as a normal of NSS conventions. Remember the flash floods in NM, lightning strikes in SD, the derecho in Indiana and the flood in the 1992 convention in Indiana? Life and the NSS go on and we look forward to next year's convention, disaster or not. One thing we have learned is never park under a tree, especially at an NSS convention. We will remember this as a convention for the ages!



Elizabeth Miller surveying in Lava Beds National Monument. Photo by Ed Klausner.