

January 1979

## Intercom, Volume 15, No. 1, January-February 1979

John Johnson

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Johnson, John, "Intercom, Volume 15, No. 1, January-February 1979" (1979). *Intercom*. 64.  
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/intercom/64>

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).

# **I N T E R C O M**

Published Semi-spasmodically By

THE IOWA GROTTO

*National Speleological Society*



Volume XV Issue 1

January — February 1979

IOWA GROTTO *INTERCOM*  
P. O. Box 228  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

The *Intercom* is printed in six issues each year by the Iowa Grotto, NSS. Subscriptions are two dollars for six issues, or free in exchange for similar publications of other grottos.

*INTERCOM* STAFF

Editor: John Johnson  
Printer: University of Iowa  
Typist: Jane Ries  
Lithophotography: J. Ceronie

COVER PICTURE: Mike Bounk at the entrance to Sowards Cave

Photo by Mike Tempel

Copyright 1979 by the Iowa Grotto of the National Speleological Society



IOWA GROTTO  
National Speleological Society  
P.O. Box 228  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Chairman - - - - - Michael Bounk  
Vice-Chairman - - - Barb am Ende  
Sec'y-Treas. - - - - - Tom Hruska

Volume Fifteen	C O N T E N T S	Issue One
Grotto Minutes at a Glance - - - - -		2
Trip Reports		
Sowards Trip - - - - -		3
February Cold Water Cave Trip - - - - -		5
Longest Caves in the State - - - - -		6
Longest Caves in Each County - - - - -		7

## GROTTO MINUTES AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

## Regular Meeting January 10, 1979

Room 3407            Called to order: 7:50 PM            Adjourned: 8:35 PM  
Attendance: 8 members and 5 guests            Treasury: \$81.54  
Intercom discussed. John Johnson will edit the 1979 issues of the Intercom. Tom Hruska will continue to work on back issues. John announced that all trip reports will be due with-in one week following the trip. A possible spring picnic was talked about but discussion was dropped until later. Mike Bounk reported on a trip to Sowards Cave on January 6, 1979. Mike announced a future trip to Cold Water Cave on January 20, 1979.

## Regular Meeting January 24, 1979

Room 3407            Called to order: 7:50 PM            Adjourned: 8:00 PM  
Attendance: 5 members and no guests            Treasury: \$80.54  
Several proposed trips were discussed. Greg McCarty will lead an exploration trip to Glenwood Cave this summer. Barb am Ende is planning a trip to Millers Cave after the snow is gone. Mike Bounk proposed a mapping trip to Middlestadt Cave this winter. Mike also said that a cave trip to teach mapping would be planned. The new University Health Services helicopter ambulance was discussed in relation to the Iowa Grotto's rescue planning.

## Regular Meeting February 14, 1979

Room 3407            Called to order: 7:50 PM            Adjourned: 8:25 PM  
Attendance: 7 members and 2 guests            Treasury: \$80.45  
The Iowa Grotto's thirtieth anniversary was briefly discussed. Jim Hedges has cave maps available for a self-addressed stamped envelope. Rock River Speleological Society is planning to compile a publication on Cold Water Cave and would appreciate any contributions. No trip reports were given. Several future trips were announced. Greg McCarty will be leading a trip to Dubuque. The regular monthly trip is planned to Cold Water Cave. Mike Bounk is going to Sowards Cave again.

## Regular Meeting February 28, 1979

Room 3407            Called to order: 7:55 PM            Adjourned: 9:00 PM  
Attendance: 6 members and 2 guests            Treasury: \$81.54  
The financial report for calendar year 1978 was presented to the membership. The thirtieth anniversary was again discussed. A date of September 8 & 9, 1979, was proposed. Other proposed plans include a possible program from the NSS visual aids, catered food instead of members prepared food, and possible locations of Duttons Cave Park, Wapsipinicon State Park or Pictured Rock Park. Mike Bounk gave a report on Cold Water Cave. Future trips were announced to Floyd County and Sowards Cave.

SOWARDS TRIP

January 6, 1979

Mikael Bounk

Neal Heitman, Jim Huber, Mike Temple, and Mike Bounk

At about 7:40 AM, Mike and I met Jim at the Iowa City K-Mart parking lot. We then drove to West Union, where we met Neal at about 10:15 AM.

After eating breakfast in West Union, and speaking to the landowner, we entered Sowards Cave about noon.

While Jim showed Neal part of the cave, Mike and I enlarged the entrance to the lower level, at the back of the cave.

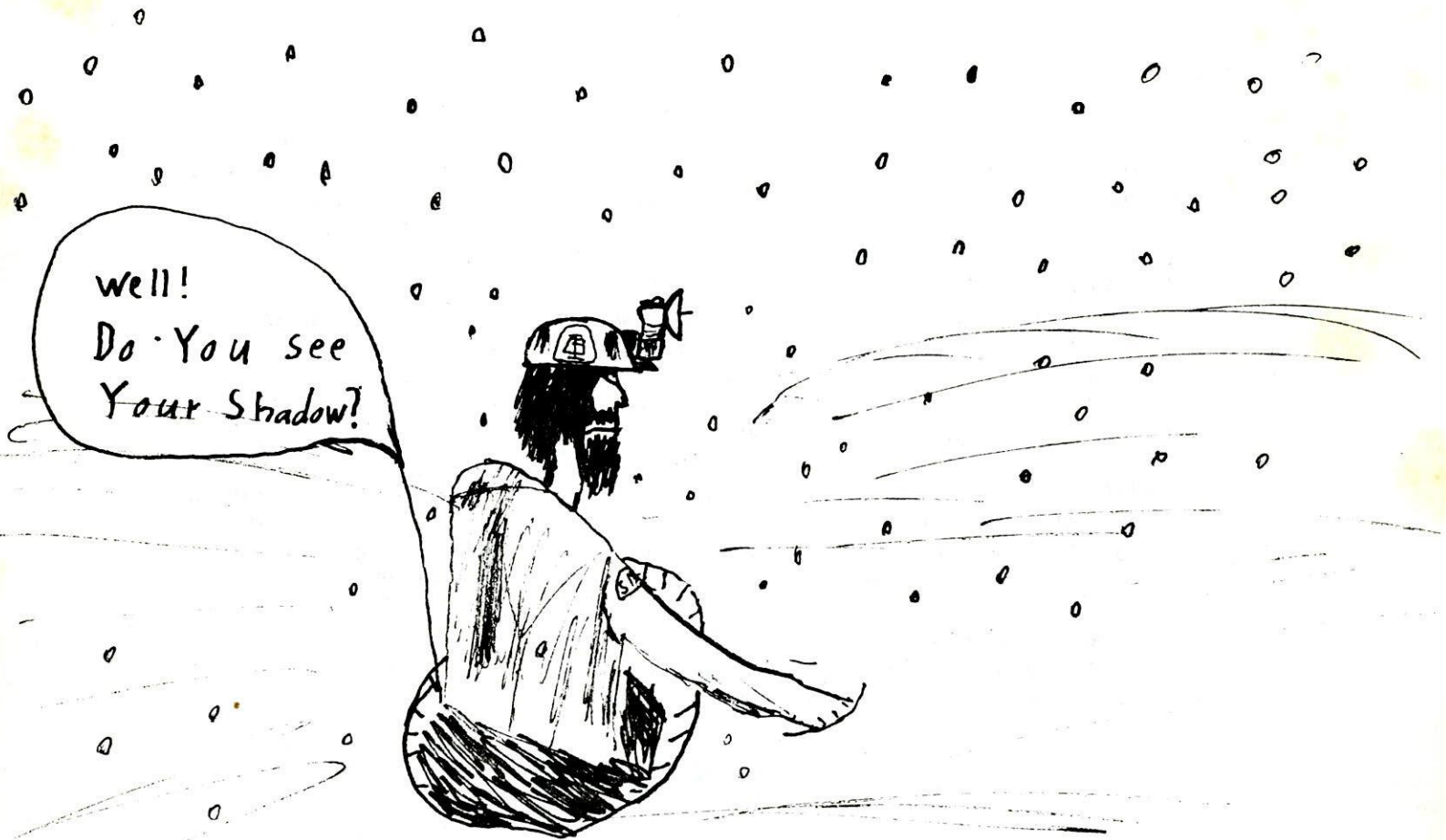
After this entrance had been enlarged, we put on wet suit jackets, and Neal and Mike entered the lower level.

While Mike established a survey station in the passage, Neal crawled ahead, planning to dig open a constriction, which I had encountered when I entered this passage on April 24, 1977. However, Neal reported that the passage had become impassable before he reached the point where I had stopped.

After Neal and Mike had exited the passage, I entered it with Jim. While Jim held the tape on the station, which Mike had established, I crawled to where the passage curved sharply to the right. About nine inches of mud and gravel had been deposited since the other time I had entered the passage. Thus, the passagewas lowered to about 18-20 inches high, with about 12 inches of water.

Beyond the turn, the passage became difficult. Therefore, we decided that it would be impossible to map the passage at this time. After getting rough measurements of the passage to the bend, we exited the passage, changed clothes and exited the cave about 4:00 PM.

After eating supper in West Union, we returned home. (A minimum of 30 big brown bats were seen on the east wall of the main level. Three set traps were also seen in the cave.)



Feb. 2,

M. J. Bounk

FEBRUARY COLD WATER CAVE TRIP

February 16 - 18, 1979

Michael Bounk

Pete DeVries (Expedition Leader), Roy Cruse, Brucy Fryir, Bill Harrast, Pat Hopper, Jim Klager, Steve Muppenau, Brad Olson, Chuck Rex, Gloria Rex, Jack Ryen, Berry Schuman, Greg Scherf, and Mike Bounk.

After leaving Iowa City, at 6:00 PM Friday, and eating supper at Humphry's Cafe in West Union, I arrived at the Flatland's house at about 10:30 PM. Pete was already there when I arrived. We visited with the Flatlands until about 11:00 PM. We then drove to the hill above the shaft entrance shed. Because of the heavy snow cover, we parked along the road and walked down to the shed. We were able to use a large plastic tray as a sled; and thus hauled almost all of our equipment down in one load.

At about 12:30 AM Saturday, Berry, Jim, Greg, Chuck, and Gloria arrived. Since we were very low on fuel for the stove, Greg and Jim left in an attempt to find some.

About 1:30 AM, Pat and Brad arrived. At 2:10, Jim and Greg returned and reported that they could not find any fuel. Shortly after this, Jack, Bill, Steve, Roy, three scuba divers arrived. Later that morning, after getting some sleep, and eating breakfast at the Harmony House, in Harmony, Minnesota, we prepared to enter the cave.

Bruce, Chuck, and Gloria entered the cave at about 1:30 PM, and headed downstream on a photography trip. Next, Berry, Bill, Steve, Pat, Jim, and Roy entered the cave and headed upstream towards the Spong Siphon, with some diving equipment. At about 2:00 PM, Pete, Greg, Jack, and I entered the cave and headed upstream with more equipment. Our plan was to have Jack, Bill, Steve, Roy, and possibly Pete snorkel or dive through the Spong Siphon, and then dive through the Tuna Sea Siphon.

About 300 feet beyond the jumping off point, Jack realized that he was too tired (due to lack of experience with this type of caving) to dive the siphons. Therefore, I returned with him to the shaft.

On the way back to the shaft, we stopped to inspect the crinoids on the breakdown pavement and to pick up the air tank which we had left in that area.

At about 5:00 PM, while Jack and I were taking pictures near the shaft, Bruce, Chuck, and Gloria returned to the shaft from the area of the Dead Coon Passage. We then ascended the shaft and hauled up all the diving equipment on the platform.

Although No. 1 fuel oil had been obtained early that morning, and the stove was running, the temperature in the shed was about 40 F. I was unsuccessful in getting it above 50 F.

At about 6:45 PM Berry, Greg, and Pat exited the cave. They reported that the divers were still in the area of the siphons.

About 8:30 PM Pete, Brad, and Roy returned to the shaft with more equipment which we hauled up. They reported that there was about three

inches of air in the Spong Siphon but that they had been unable to penetrate the Tuna Sea Siphon, because their tanks were too large.

At about 9:30 PM Bill, Steve, and Jim exited the cave, after having looked around in the area between the siphons. They did not attempt to dive the Tuna Sea Siphon.

Pete was unable to do much more for the stove. When Ken and Wanda Flatland stopped by, they gave us a bottle of heat, which we added to the oil. This did not seem to help either. However, with the stove and a catolitic heater going, it was warm enough to sleep well.

Sunday morning, after Bruce, Chuck, and Gloria had left for the Decorah Ice Cave (on their way home), and everyone else had headed home, Pete, Brad, Pat, and I went to Harmony for lunch. After lunch, we visited with the Flatland's for a while, then returned home.

#### LONGEST CAVES IN THE STATE

CAVE	LENGTH	COUNTY	COMMENT
1. Cold Water Cave	App. 8½ miles	Winneshiek	Excellant prospects
2. Spook Cave	App. 1½ miles	Clayton	Excellant prospects
3. Glenwood Cave	App. 1 mile	Winneshiek	Pushing should yield
4. Rimstone River Cave	App. 4,000 feet	Winneshiek	Very good prospects
5. Hunters Cave	2,235 feet	Jackson	Explored
6. Skunk Cave	1,200 feet	Winneshiek	Explored
7. Dancehall Cave	1,135 feet	Jackson	Explored
8. Tourists Delight	App. 1,000 feet	Jackson	Mostly Explored
9. Engelken Cave	950 feet	Dubuque	Digging may produce
10. Wonder Cave	App. 900 feet	Winneshiek	Digging may produce
11. Wordens Cave	750 feet	Jackson	Explored
12. Yew Ridge Cave	App. 750 feet	Dubuque	Explored
13. Duttons Cave	App. 700 feet	Fayette	Very good prospects
14. Searryls Cave	625 feet	Jones	Explored
15. Sowards Cave	App. 600 feet	Fayette	Mostly explored
16. Indian Bluff Cave	550 feet	Jones	Digging may produce
17. Fiet Cave	App. 500 feet	Allamakee	Pushing should yield
18. Devils Throat Cave	App. 500 feet	Clayton	Pushing may yield
19. Gudenkauf Cave	App. 500 feet	Delaware	Digging may produce

## LONGEST CAVE IN EACH COUNTY (MAJOR)

CAVE	LENGTH	COMMENT
<u>ALLAMAKEE</u>		
1. Fiet Cave	App. 500 feet	Can dive sump at end, should go
2. Millers Cave	App. 175 feet	Passage to push, may produce
3. Fungi Cave	App. 150 feet	Possibly can be dug
4. Stafford Sandstone	App. 130 feet	Explored
<u>CLAYTON</u>		
1. Spook Cave	1½ miles App.	Main passage still going strong
2. Devils Throat	App. 500 feet	May be pushable
3. Deep Misery Cave	App. 400 feet	May be diggable
4. Swendinger Cave	App. 300 feet	Explored
<u>DELAWARE</u>		
1. Gudenkauf Cave	App. 500 feet	Digging may well produce
2. Hunts Cave	App. 325 feet	Explored
3. Backbone Cave	App. 175 feet	Explored
<u>DES MOINES</u>		
1. Starrs Cave	App. 300 feet	Explored
2. Blackhawk Spring	App. 200 feet	Digging may produce
3. Leopard Frog Cave	App. 70 feet	Explored
<u>DUBUQUE</u>		
1. Engelken Cave	950 feet	Digging may produce
2. Yew Ridge Cave	App. 750 feet	Explored
3. Pond-In-Sink Cave	App. 350 feet	Main passage going, needs digging
<u>FAYETTE</u>		
1. Duttons Cave	App. 700 feet	Main passage still going, sump
2. Sowards Cave	App. 600 feet	Explored
3. Wet Cave	App. 300 feet	Side passage to push
4. Mittelstadt Cave	App. 70 feet	Main passage still going, sump
<u>FLOYD</u>		
1. Jessie James Cave	App. 400 feet	Promissing passages to push
2. Two Days Digging	App. 350 feet	Digging may produce
3. Thorson Cave	App. 250 feet	Explored
4. Wilson Cave	App. 150 feet	Side passage may be dug

JACKSON

- |                     |                 |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hunters Cave     | 2,235 feet      | Explored        |
| 2. Dancehall Cave   | 1,135 feet      | Explored        |
| 3. Tourists Delight | App. 1,000 feet | May be explored |
| 4. Wordens Cave     | 750 feet        | Explored        |
| 5. Wiggins Cave     | App. 400 feet   | May be explored |

JONES

- |                      |               |                     |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Searryls Cave     | 625 feet      | Explored            |
| 2. Indian Bluff Cave | 550 feet      | Digging may produce |
| 3. Doll Cave         | App. 400 feet | Explored            |
| 4. Hattfield Cave    | App. 300 feet | Explored            |
| 5. Bogus Cave        | App. 250 feet | Explored            |
| 6. Partition Cave    | App. 150 feet | Explored            |

LINN

- |                    |               |                        |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1. Horsethief Cave | App. 150 feet | Digging should produce |
| 2. Pavilion Cave   | App. 90 feet  | Explored               |
| 3. Spider Cave     | App. 80 feet  | Explored               |

WINNESHIEK

- |                    |                 |                                    |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Cold Water Cave | App. 8½ miles   | May passages to push               |
| 2. Glenwood Cave   | App. 1 mile     | High passages, diving should yield |
| 3. Rimstone River  | App. 4,000 feet | Several passages to push           |
| 4. Skunk Cave      | 1,200 feet      | Explored                           |
| 5. Wonder Cave     | App. 900 feet   | Digging may produce                |



