

July 1979

Intercom, Volume 15, No. 4, July-August 1979

John Johnson

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Recommended Citation

Johnson, John, "Intercom, Volume 15, No. 4, July-August 1979" (1979). *Intercom*. 67.
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Published Semi-spasmodically By

THE IOWA GROTTO

National Speleological Society



Volume XV Issue 4

July - August

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.

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COVER PICTURE: Upstream Passage in Coldwater Cave

Photo by Mike Bounk

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

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GROTTO MINUTES AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

Regular Meeting July 11, 1979

Room: 3407 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:40 PM
Attendance: 7 members 2 guests Treasury: \$149.34
Mike Bounk and Mike Temple announced they will be going to the North Country Region meeting at Illinois Caverns near Waterloo, Illinois. Discussion of arrangements for the Iowa Grotto 30th Anniversary Picnic covered most of the meeting. Movies and NSS shows were mentioned for evening entertainment. Loren Schutt gave his report on the Massilon Park trip. Greg McCarty's trip to Gudenkoff has been postponed to August. The NSS alide show "The Gwonk Show" was presented

Regular Meeting July 25, 1979

Room: 3407 Called to order: 7:55 PM Adjourned: 8:20 PM
Attendance: 5 members 1 guest Treasury: \$153.84
Greg McCarty is checking the NSS program lists for shows at the 30th Anniversary. Mike Bounk reported on the North Country Region meeting at Illinois Caverns July 14 & 15, 1979. Minnesota and Missouri are both considering future NSS Convention bids. Mike Has a mapping trip to Fayette County. Greg's trip to Gudenkoff is still set for August.

Regular Meeting August 8, 1979

Room: 3407 Called to order: 7:55 PM Adjourned: 8:35 PM
Attendance: 5 members no guests Treasury: \$153.84
There was a discussion of picnic plans for the 30th Anniversary. Programs will be ordered from the NSS. Nothing has yet been settled on a banquet. Dave Schwendinger is having the small Iowa Grotto decals produced at the mens reformatory in Anamosa. Loren Schutt moved that the Iowa Grotto Library be moved to Lowell Burkhead's for easier access in the coming months. Mike Bounk reported on his mapping trip to Fayette County.

Regular Meeting August 22, 1979

Room: 3407 Called to order: 8:00 PM Adjourned: 9:00 PM
Attendance: 6 members 5 guests Treasury: \$152.84
The "Nevil Films" and "The Wilderness Below" have been reserved for showing at the Grotto Anniversary Picnic. Greg will co-ordinate a committee to prepare the picnic supper. A fee of \$3.00 will be charged for the picnic to cover costs. There was a discussion of the move for the Grotto Library. Greg has indicated he will take over the "Intercom" in 1980. Mike reported on the Coldwater trip August 17 - 19, 1979. Greg's Gudenkoff trip has been postponed.

THE MASSILON PARK CAVES

July 1, 1979

Loren Schutt

Loren Schutt, Mark Schutt, Mary Schutt, Timothy Schutt, Mike Bounk

Mark, Mary, Tim, and I met Mike at Massilon Park about 9:30 AM. on 1 July 1979. The park is run by the Cedar County Conservation Commission, and is located near the town of Massilon, Iowa, on the south bank of the Wapsipinicon River. Along the park the river flows approximately west to east.

We parked on the bluff parking area, and hiked across the valley separating the parking area from the ridge on which the caves are found. This is going east, or down stream along the river. There is a small flood plain all along the bluff. The known (to us) caves are a series of four sinks on the north west point of the ridge. The local story has it that there is a whole series of sinks, some with water in them along one of the trails. So, after looking at the sinks, we set out along one of the fairly good trails through the timber. We followed the ridge for a mile or more. While the weather was good and the hiking pleasant, we did not find the open sinks and "natural wells". In all fairness, though, they could have been a few meters from the trail and we wouldn't have seen them: the typical summer cave hunting problem. We hiked back along the foot of the bluff, and while there was a lot of exposed limestone we didn't find any caves.

Three of the four sinks are enterable, so we decided to map them. The sinks are very near the edge of the bluff which at this point is nearly vertical limestone. All three have openings to the bluff face nearest to them. We started with the two sinks along the river which are nearly vertical, cylindrical solution shafts about 25 feet deep. The bottom of the sink approximately matches the level of the flood plain by the bluff. These two have only very small openings off them. These sinks we numbered one and two in the order they were mapped. Sink number three has what could properly be called a horizontal cave at the bottom. This cave is also enterable from the west (as opposed to northly openings for the other two) ridge face. The sink enters the cave from the side, slightly beyond the middle. Beyond this the cave is high walking passage except for a few feet of possible crawl at the very end which we did not enter. Toward the bluff entrance the cave narrows to a squeeze and crawlway. Total length may be 50 feet (Mike's estimate). The main passage seems to be an enlarged joint.

Although I had previously chimnied into shafts one and three Mike chose to rappel into #1. He also rappelled into #2 which is more difficult because, unlike #1 and #3 which are completely open, #2 is partly covered with bedrock. Mike did the stations in the pits, I did those on top. Mark, Mary, Timothy, and I (mostly the former three) did the bluff side stations. Mike did the sketching. After we found that cave #3 was enterable from the bluff everyone went through it. Time did not permit us to map it though.

Sink #4 is filled, and my probing with a stick only came up with a small, maybe 6 inch, opening on one side that seemed to have some depth.

MASSILON PARK CAVES NO. 1,2

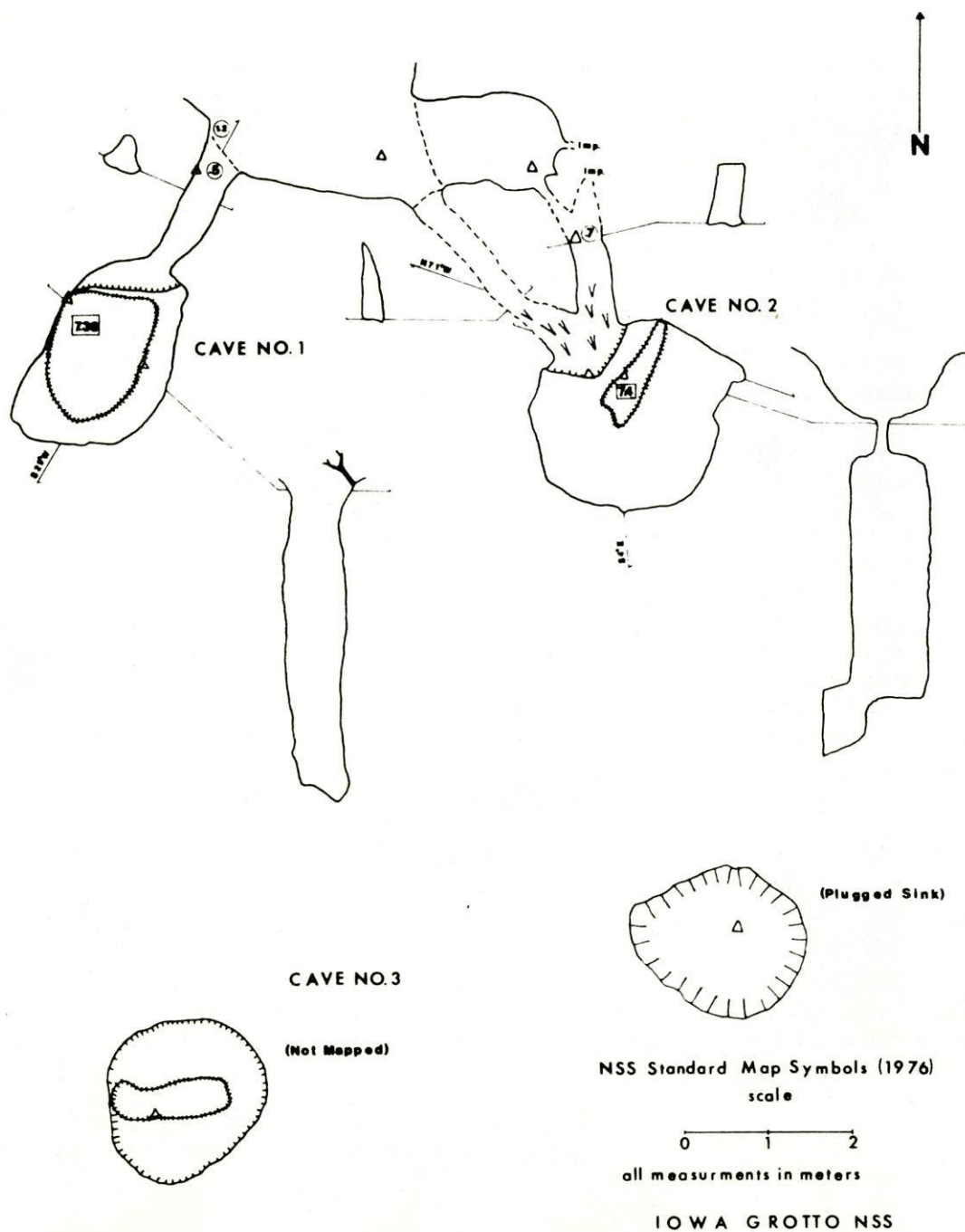
CEDAR CO. IOWA

Brunton and Tape Survey

July 1, 1979

by

Loren Schutt, Michael Bounk, Mark Schutt, Mary Schutt, Timothy Schutt



On the north face of the bluff in the area of the sinks there is a rock shelter. The west face has a possible crawlway entrance, but we did not investigate it as it was in a pool of water which also surrounded the under cut point of the ridge. (It probably doesn't go.)

NORTH COUNTY REGION MEETING
ILLINOIS CAVERNS, ILLINOIS

July 13, 14, 15, 1979
Mike Tempel, Michael Bounk

Michael Bounk

At about 5:00 PM Friday, Mike and I left Iowa City for Illinois Caverns, near Waterloo, Illinois, where we arrived at about 11:00 PM.

When we arrived, we met a number of Rock River Speleological Society cavers, and a number of other Illinois and Missouri cavers. By the time we had finished talking with people, we decided that it was too late to do any caving, so we went to bed.

The next morning, after eating breakfast in Waterloo, Mike and I and a couple of Rock River cavers joined a trip lead by George and Cindy to Lemonade Cave, which is part of the Fogelpole cave system. The entrance, which we used consists of a 30 foot deep strattle chimney, below a 10 foot climb. At the base of the chimney is an 8 ft. deep drop into a cobble floored crawlway. We followed this downstream to where it changed into a canyon passage which is generally 15" to 25" wide at floor level and about 15 feet high. Most of the time, we stayed at floor level, but we were told that at times of high water, it is necessary to traverse this passage by chimneying above rapidly moving water.

We followed this passage which finally became wider, until it intersected a 20 foot wide trunk passage, which we followed upstream. This passage is walking height.

After a short distance, we climbed up a 15 foot high breakdown mass and continued upstream. Finally, we reached a room with abundant formations. After taking pictures, and changing carbide, we headed back out, stopping just before the canyon like passage, so that some of the people could look at the base of another entrance drop; about 300 feet up a side passage. We then exited the cave by the same route through which we had entered.

This was a very well led tourist trip, with plenty of time to enjoy the cave, not the rushed type of guided trip, often encountered.

After the trip, we returned to camp, where we relaxed and talked, until about 5:30 PM, when we attended the North County Region Meeting in Waterloo.

After the meeting, we had a banquet, and a slide show on caving in Mexico.

About 11:00 PM, Mike and I returned to camp, and headed into Illinois Caverns, a former commercial cave, whose entrance is located on the campground.

This cave is entered by steep concrete steps going down a 40 foot deep pit. The passage at the base of these steps is about 20 feet wide and five feet high.

There is a meandering stream entrenched on the floor of this passage. As we followed it downstream, stopping frequently to take pictures, it became more deeply entrenched, finally becoming canyon like. Finally, we reached the end of the canyon, and shortly after that the passage intersected a ?trunk? passage.

We followed this passage downstream, until we reached a waterfall, which is about 2 feet high. At this point, we headed back towards the entrance. On the way out, we met Barry Schuman and Jim Klager, of the Rock River Speleological Society, who were checking out a side passage. After looking at another side passage, which they suggested, we exited the cave.

The next morning, we left the campground about 7:00 AM and returned to Iowa City.

DUTTON'S: MITTELSTADT CAVES MAPPING TRIP (FAYETTE CO. IOWA)

August 4, 5, 1979

Michael Bounk

Ross Black, Jim Dockal, Bob McKay, and Michael Bounk

About 5:30 PM Saturday, August 4, Ross, Jim, Bob, and I left North Liberty in Jim and my vehicles and headed for Dutton's Cave Park, near West Union.

After a few stops, we arrived at the park about 9:00 PM. While we were cooking supper, the ranger arrived. We spoke with him for several minutes, about our plans to map Dutton's Cave, and caves and caving in general. We told him about the picnic which we would be holding there in September. He said that Dutton's had been washing open more, and that earlier that week, two foot deep water had flowed out the entrance.

Later, about 12:30 AM, we visited the main level of Duttons, which we checked out in detail, in preparation for mapping later that morning. We located a shaft about 15 feet high near the entrance. However, we were unable to enter it due to a lack of footholds.

There was about 14 inches of air in the lower level so we thought that it would be sumped a short distance inside, and thus not mappable for it's full known length. Therefore, we did not enter it.

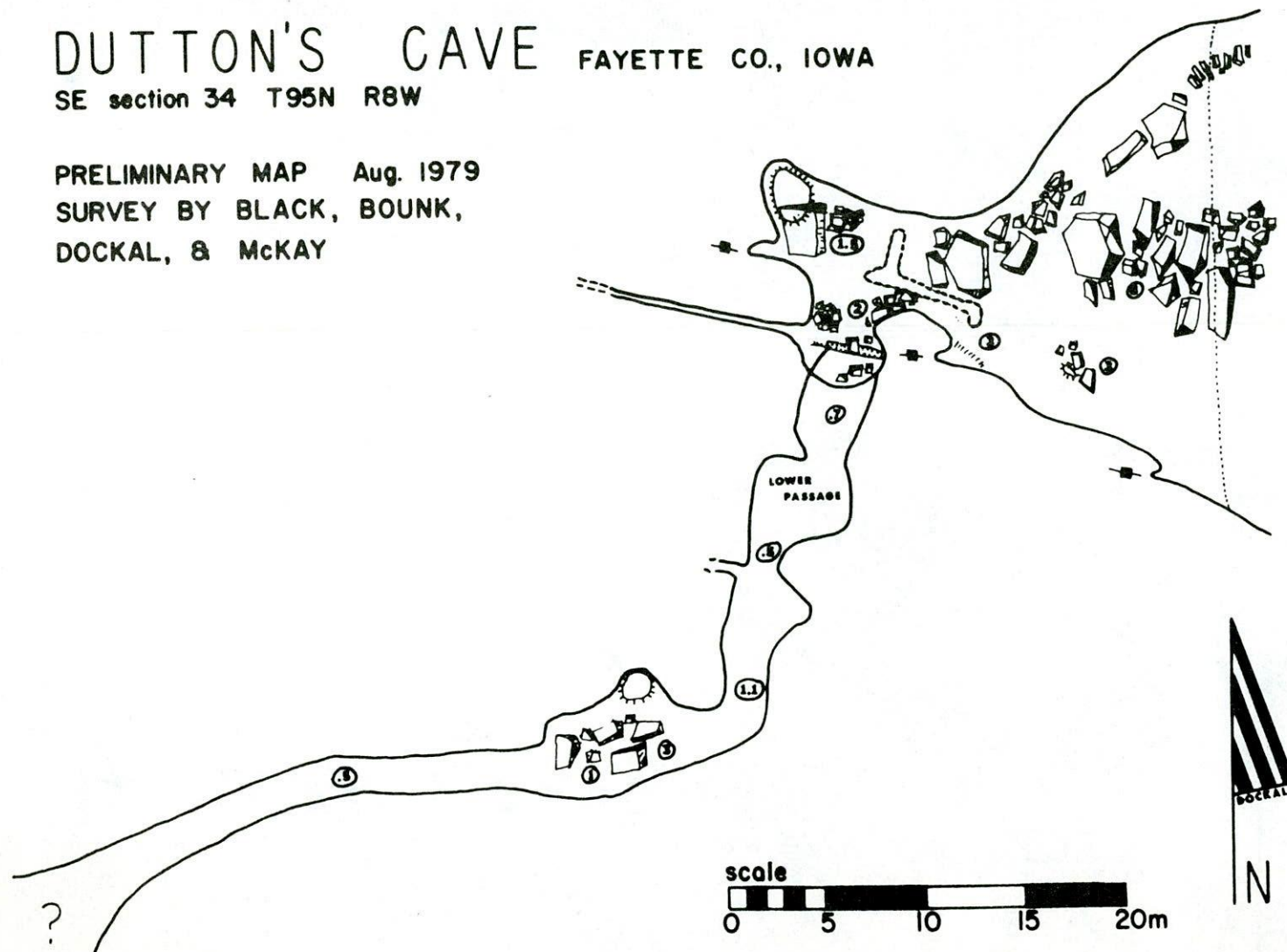
The next morning, after breakfast, we mapped the main level of Dutton's, and all side passages. We did not map the lower level.

DUTTON'S CAVE

FAYETTE CO., IOWA

SE section 34 T95N R8W

PRELIMINARY MAP Aug. 1979
SURVEY BY BLACK, BOUNK,
DOCKAL, & McKAY



MITTELSTADT CAVE

FAYETTE CO. IOWA

Brunton and Nylon Tape Survey
by

Michael Bounk, Jim Dockal,

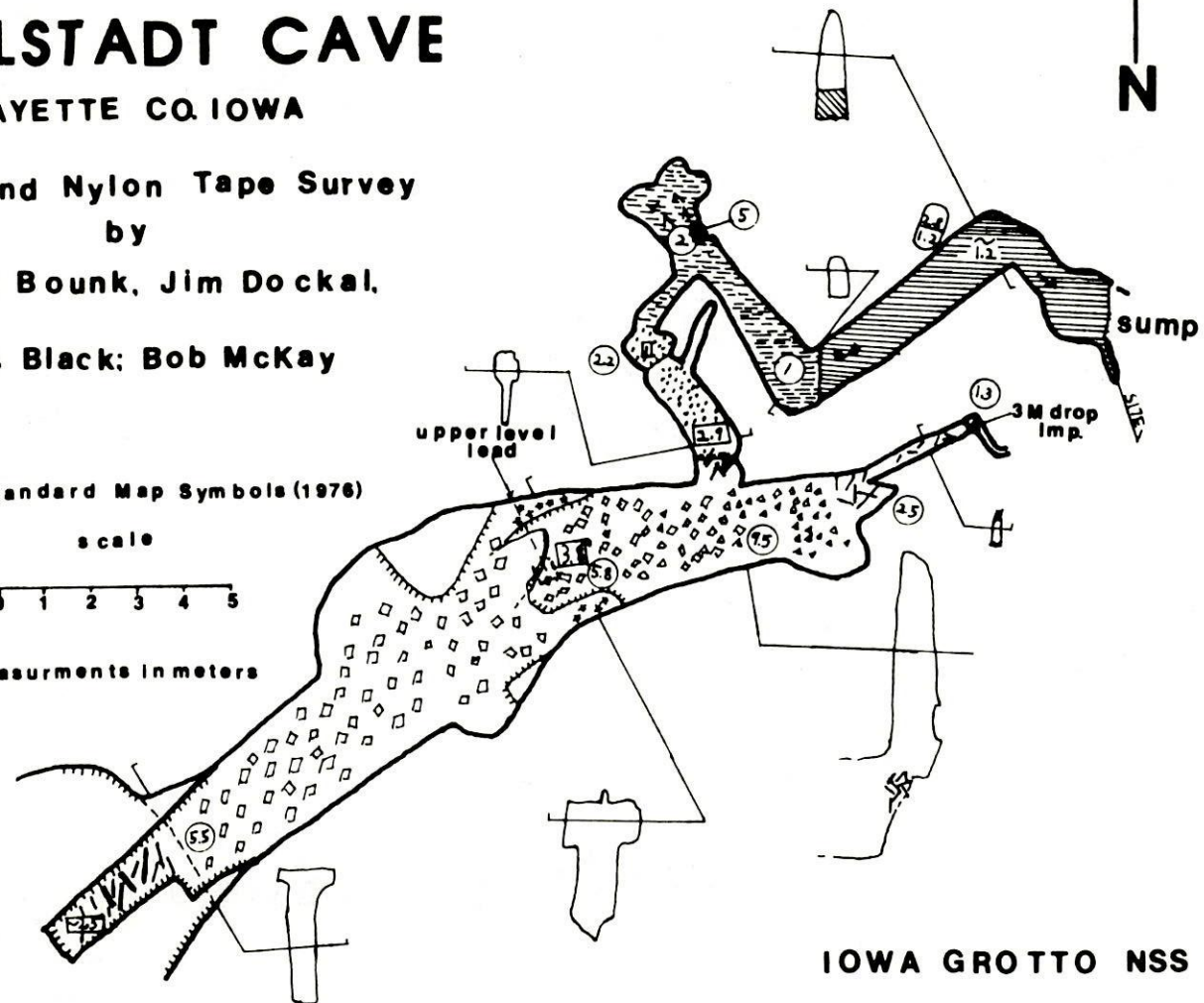
Ross Black; Bob McKay

NSS Standard Map Symbols (1976)

scale

0 1 2 3 4 5

all measurements in meters



IOWA GROTTOS NSS

Jim rigged the shaft discussed above, with a 1" webbing sling, around a jammed block of flowstone covered breakdown. He then attached his bluewater II rope to the webbing by a carabener. A loop was tied in the rope for a foothold. Bob then ascended the pit and found about 15 feet of joint controlled walking passage at the top.

After we had finished in Dutton's, we headed to Mittelstadt Cave which we also mapped.

Although the water level was the same as previously reported, there was fresh vegetation and air bubbles high on the walls of the lowest level, indicating very recent flooding.

After mapping this cave, we returned to our camp at Dutton's Cave Park to pack Jim's tent.

We then returned to North Liberty.

AUGUST COLDWATER TRIP

August 17, 18, 19, 1979

Michael Bounk

Dr. Warren Lewis, Barry Schuman, Dave Schwendinger, George Zachariasen, Bill Zarwell, and Michael Bounk

Dave and I left Monticello about 7:45 PM Friday. We ate supper in West Union, and arrived at Coldwater about 11:30 PM. We met Dr. Lewis, and Barry on the road near Coldwater Cave.

Dave and I entered the shaft about 12:30 PM to check the water level and try out one of Dave's carbide hand lamps. When we returned to the surface about 15 minutes later, Bill, and George, two Wisconsin cavers, had arrived.

The next day, after eating breakfast at the Harmony House, in Harmony, Minnesota, we entered the cave about 11:30 AM.

We headed upstream to the area around the jumping off point, stopping on the way to take pictures. We then returned to the shaft, and Dr. Lewis exited the cave. We then headed downstream to the junction with the Dead Coon Passage. At this point, Dave and I stopped to take a multiple flash picture from the mouth of the Dead Coon Passage. Everyone else headed downstream to the Breakdown Passage. When they returned to the Dead Coon Passage, we all returned to the shaft and exited the cave at 4:20 PM.

After locking up the shaft, shed, and compound, we returned the keys to the Flatland's. After visiting with the Flatland's for a while we drove to Minnesota Mystery Cave to attend a corn boil which the Minnesota Speleological Survey was holding. Unfortunately, we arrived too late to attend any cave trips, and had to leave early the next morning. However, Dave and I were able to see the tourist route in Mystery Cave I.

After exiting the cave, we saw movies of Iowa, Minnesota, and Indiana caves.

The next morning, after eating donuts for breakfast, Dave and I returned home.