

November 1979

## Intercom, Volume 15, No. 6, November-December 1979

John Johnson

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THE IOWA GROTTO

*National Speleological Society*



Volume XV Issue 6

November — December 1979



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

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COVER PICTURE: Lowell Burkhead working his way through Searls Cave

Photo by Mike Bounk

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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

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## GROTTO MINUTES AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

## Regular Meeting Novemer 14, 1979

Room 3407      Called to order: 7:47 PM      Adjourned: 8:23 PM  
Attendance: 9 members and 3 guests      Treasury: \$108.99  
The University of Iowa Student Senate has voted to provide funding of \$497.50 to the Iowa Grotto. The final dollar amount is being sent back to committee where we may be allocated an additional amount. Trip reports for the Intercom are requested as soon after a trip as possible. Please turn them in to the Editor. Nominations for Grotto Officers are due at the next meeting. The possibility of co-hosting a North Country Region meeting was discussed. Mike Bounk reported on the vertical practice and Criss Gilbert gave a report on the Geology Undergraduate trip. Greg McCarty is planning a trip to Gudenkauf. Mike Bounk has a novice trip planned for the 25th of November.

## Regular Meeting November 28, 1979

Room 3407      Called to order: 8:00 PM      Adjourned: 9:05 PM  
Attendance: 8 members and 1 guest      Treasury: \$107.99  
The North Country Region meeting will be held in Lombard, Illinois, on December 15, 1979. Lowell Burkhead reported on progress being made on the Grotto library. Greg McCarty will be meeting with the Student Senate to get final approval of money allocations from the University. Greg has been nominated for the possition of Vice-Chairman of the NSS Cave Diving Section. Nominations were presented for Grotto Offices. Mike Bounk, Barb am Ende, and Mike Tempel were nominated for Chairman/Vice-Chairman. Criss Gilbert, Tom Hruska, and Barb am Ende received nominations for the possition of Secretary-Treasurer. A Grotto party was announced for December 8 & 9, 1979 at Gary and Gwenne Engh's home in Oxford. Trip reports were given on Harding Cave, Coldwater, and Gudenkauf.

## Regular Meeting December 12, 1980

Room 3407      Called to order: 7:40 PM      Adjourned: 7:55 PM  
Attendance: not taken      Treasury: \$111.99  
Final word has not yet been received from the University on funding. It does look like we may be allocated more funds than originally expected. Mike Bounk will attend the North Country Region meeting on December 15. The party at Gary and Gwenne's was a success, everyone had a good time. A Coldwater mapping and work trip is scheduled for December 21 - 23, 1979.

## Regular Meeting December 26, 1979

No meeting was held.

## GROTTO ELECTION

Tom Hruska, Secretary

The annual election of grotto officers was held in December. New rules for voting and tabulation of results went into effect with this election. The voter is asked to cast one vote for chairman and one vote for vice-chairman. In the past, two votes were cast for the combined election of chairman and vice-chairman. The election for chairman is tabulated first. The person receiving the most votes is elected to the office. The election for vice-chairman is more involved. The number of votes the candidate received for chairman is added to the number of votes received for vice-chairman to get the total number of votes received in the election for vice-chairman. For example, if John Doe received two votes for chairman and four votes for vice-chairman, he received a total of six votes in the contest for vice-chairman. Under these new rules, a tie ballot was cast for vice-chairman. A runoff election was held at the January 9, 1980, grotto meeting to determine which of the two parties will serve as vice-chairman for the year 1980.

Five grotto members were nominated to run for office in this year's election. Barb am Ende, Michael Bounk, and Mike Temple were nominated to run for chairman. The same three people were also nominated to run for vice-chairman. Barb am Ende, Criss Gilbert, and Tom Hruska were nominated for the position of secretary-treasurer. When the ballots were counted on December 26, 1979, Michael Bounk had been reelected as chairman. The tabulation put Barb am Ende and Mike Temple in a tie for vice-chairman. The vote in January broke the tie and made Mike Temple the new vice-chairman of the Iowa Grotto. In the contest for secretary-treasurer, Tom Hruska was reelected to his twelveth term.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Tom Hruska, Treasurer

Below is a copy of the financial statement of the Iowa Grotto for calendar year 1979 as submitted to the National Speleological Society as part of the annual report.

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expense</u>	
dues	\$80.05	publication	\$80.60
sales	10.00	P.O.Box	28.00
publication	32.00	misc.	24.00
donation	40.00	total	\$132.60
total	\$162.05		

Balance from previous year	\$81.54
Net income for year	29.45
Balance at end of year	\$110.99



## GROTTO MEMBERSHIP LIST (DECEMBER 1979)

Alton, Everett	NSS 7390	(319) 351-4887
RR#2, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
am Ende, Barb	NSS 15789	(319) 353-2441
E 336 Currier, Iowa City, Iowa	52242	
Beyer, Debbie	---	(319) 353-2939
927 Stanley, Iowa City, Iowa	52242	
Bounk, Mike	NSS 13468	(319) 626-6104
Holiday Home Ct. #47, North Liberty, Iowa		
Burkhead, Lowell	NSS 13068	(319) 854-6650
RR#1, Springville, Iowa		
Carter, C. Went	NSS 262	(515) 732-4325
609½ Main Street, Osage, Iowa	50461	
Dockal, Jim	---	(319) 338-1714
527 Ronalds, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
Engh, Gary	NSS 20424	(319) 628-4703
Box 46, Oxford, Iowa	52327	
Engh, Gwenne	NSS 20425	(319) 628-4703
Box 46, Oxford, Iowa	52327	
Gilbert, Criss	NSS 20448	(319) 337-6376
1110 N. Dubuque #634, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
Hannon, Jim	NSS 15696	(319) 377-3222
2305 11th Avenue, Marion, Iowa	52302	
Hedges, Jim	NSS 3848	(301) 772-0419
7750 Bender Road, Landover, Maryland	20785	
Hruska, Tom	NSS 7820	(319) 365-8173
315 20th Street N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa	52402	
Huber, Jim	---	(319) 354-7519
36 Olive Court, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
Johnson, John	NSS 8990	(319) 337-2910
1822 G Street, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
McCarty, Greg	NSS 13673	(319) 338-1757
Box 1486, Iowa City, Iowa	52244	
Schutt, Loren	NSS 15790	(319) 351-3278
2404 Bartelt Road, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
Schwendinger, Dave	NSS 18551	(319) 465-4896
323½ West 1st Street, Monticello, Iowa	52310	
Sheehan, Tom	NSS 15726	(801) 756-5133
160 North 1st East, American Forks, Utah	84003	
Sires, Terry	---	(319) 362-5977
632 Carroll Drive S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa	52403	
Smith, Jim (Ed)	NSS 5037	(515) 432-3654
226 Benton, Boone, Iowa	50036	
Temple, Mike	NSS 20540	(319) 338-3380
1718 California, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
Thielman, Malinda	---	(319) 338-8596
2261 Taylor Drive, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	
Weliver, Steve	---	(319) 268-1656
700 West Ridgeway, Waterloo, Iowa	50701	
Zophy, Greg	---	---
831 E. College, Iowa City, Iowa	52240	

NOVEMBER COLDWATER CAVE TRIP  
(Winneshiek Co. Iowa)  
(Rock River Speleological Society)

November 17-19, 1979

Michael Bounk

Dr. Warren Lewis, Ed Artirs, Mike Bardon, Gary Brown, Ann Cleeland, Dave DeVries, Jim Elliott, Gary Engh, Gwenne Engh, Bruce Foyer, Mary Foyer, Criss Gilbert, Kevin Henning, Kathy Jamrog, Marc Robinson, Mike Tempel, Jim Whitehurst, Walter Wolfe, George Zackorizen, four teachers, and Michael Bounk.

At 7:30 PM Mike and I left North Liberty. About 10:30 PM we arrived at the Coldwater Cave shaft shed where we met Gary and Gwenne Engh and Criss Gilbert, three other Iowa Grotto members, who had arrived from Iowa City earlier that evening.

We removed the cap from the shaft, and Criss, who had never been to Coldwater before, and I climbed down to the platform to measure the stream level and look at the passage from the platform.

After we exited the shaft, we tried unsuccessfully, to start the stove.

About 11:30 PM Dave arrived and started the stove, but it did not work very well.

Later that night, Dr. Lewis, Bruce and Mary Foyer, Marc Robinson, and Jim Elliott arrived from Rockford, Illinois, and George, Kevin, Mike Bardon, Kathy, Jim Whitehurst, Walter, Gary Brown, Ann, and Ed arrived from Wisconsin.

The next morning, Mike Tempel, Criss, and I rode into Harmony, with Gary and Gwenne Engh, where we ate breakfast with the Rock River, and some of the Wisconsin cavers.

After breakfast, George, Walter, Gary Brown, and Ann took the four teachers into the cave, on a tourist trip. About the same time, Bruce, Marc, and Jim entered the cave and headed downstream with a tank of helium, and balloons, which they planned to use to measure the height of some of the domes.

Later, about noon, Dr. Lewis, Ed, Mike, Criss, Gary and Gwenne Engh, and I entered the cave. We headed upstream towards the Spong Siphon, carrying Ed's scuba diving equipment. The plan was for Ed to use his tank, and do a brief reconnaissance into the (sump), in order to determine if it was fully sumped or if there was sufficient air space all the way so that it could be safely done by non-divers.

When we arrived at the last dry room before the Spong Siphon, Mike, Ed, and I headed back towards the (sump). The passage was generally crawlway height, with about 6-9 inches of air above the water. After about 100 feet, we reached an area with 14 inches of air above the water. Just beyond this, the ceiling sloped down to where it appeared to sump.



While Ed checked out the sump, some people, including Mike (who has cave diving experience) stayed in contact with him, while others attempted unsuccessfully to lower the water level in the siphon by digging a trench in the stream bed about 40 feet downstream from the Waterfall Passage.

Finally, Ed got through what turned out to be a near sump, and set a safety line. Mike followed him, and then I went through the low spot, which at it's lowest, has 2 to 3 inches of air. This lowest part is about 20 feet long. After this, the passage quickly rises to 4 feet high, with 3 feet of air. After about 50 feet (beyond the "Spong Siphon"), we reached the first breakdown room, where we relit our lamps. We then headed upstream through three rooms floored by massive breakdown. The longest of these rooms is probably 80 feet long and 40 feet wide. The first two of these are connected by a wet crawl, and then a dry breakdown crawl, and the second and third by a wet crawlway. At the upstream end of this third room, we reached the "Tuna Sea Siphon", which turned out to be a wet crawl with 9 inches of air.

Ed, Mike, and I headed down this for about 200 feet, passing two solutioned-out cross joints, and stopping in a third. Mike continued on about 300 feet further, through passage that finally had only 4 inches of air, passing several more joints, and finally entering a room, which had not been reached by previous exploration teams. This room is about 30 feet long and 20 to 30 feet wide. He said that the passage appears to continue from this room with 4 inches of air.

We then exited through the Spong Siphon. At this time I discovered that my 50 Cal. ammo can, in which I had carbide, water, a camera and Dr. Lewis's CO<sub>2</sub> tester, had fallen off of the mudbank, where I had placed it, and floated away. After about 20 minutes of searching, Mike found it among some rocks about 150 feet from where I had left it.

We then returned to the shaft, and exited the cave about 10:00 PM.

We were the last group out of the cave. The Wisconsin group had stayed in for about four hours. Bruce Foyer's group measured the first two domes downstream from the shaft, and the orange and black dome. They found that five or six balloons were needed to lift their wet string to the top of the dome. Dr. Lewis, Gary, Gwenne, and Criss had gone up the Waterfall Passage about 300 feet to the second dome. Criss found a beaver skull in this passage. This, along with the other bones found on this trip, have been repositied with the Department of Geology at the University of Iowa.

After speaking to Ken Flatland, George, Ed, and I went to Burr Oak for supper. When we returned to the shed, about midnight, everyone else had gone to bed or was going to bed, so we went to bed.

The next morning Gary and Gwenne Engh left for home about 6:00 AM. Criss had left Saturday evening.

Mike and I left about 7:30 AM. After breakfast in Calmar, we arrived at Greg's house in Anamosa, at 10:45 AM. I met Greg there for another trip which is discussed in this issue of the Intercom. After my equipment was unloaded, Mike returned to Iowa City.



MAPPING IN GUDENKAUF CAVE

November 18, 1979

Greg McCarty

Mike Bounk, Deb Berg, and Greg McCarty

Mike Bounk was dropped off at my parents house in Anamosa by Mike Tempel, after a Saturday trip to Coldwater Cave. We transferred his gear to my car, filled the water jugs, and headed for the cave. Mike was a little concerned about the quantity of water that was needed to keep my car running, due to a very leaky water pump, but we assured him that all would be well. Or well enough to get by anyway. Some people are not fond of riding in my car since the muffler and tailpipe fell off last spring, and the water pump leaks a continuous stream of water, and the sixteen year old body is rusted out and covered with a layer of sparrow manure, and the heater broke last winter. But I feel they're just being too picky. Since I had forgotten my county maps in Iowa City we had to go by way of Cascade, rather than the back way in which is shorter. We just made it into the farmers driveway before things got too hot to drive. I took off the radiator cap and watched "Old Faithful" spout a three foot stream of water. The owner wasn't home, but his kids told us where he was. After replenishing the water supply we drove down the road to the neighbors, and back into a corn field to where he was working. He's very interested in caves, so we talked with him for a while about them. When we got back to the farm we left a note with the kids absolving him from liability, as he had requested, then followed his sons back to the cave. They were to show us where the raccoon traps were in the entrance sink. Gudenkauf has over 400 feet of passage, making it the longest cave in Delaware county, and is often filled with large quantities of raccoon manure. This time things weren't so bad. We started at the entrance with Deb on lead tape, Mike on compass, and the note taking and sketching left to myself. The reason for the trip, besides the fact that the cave is a large one for Iowa and needs to be mapped, is that I was using the mapping as a project for a class I was taking. Unfortunately, the cave turned out to be more difficult to map than I had hoped, due to the constant change in passage shape and dimensions. The sketching was taking up quite a bit of time. Also I wasn't really in a mood to do any mapping that day, and I soon tired of the slowness. We had mapped beyond the long side passage to the left, and had come to a good sized piece of breakdown. We terminated the survey at the highest point on the breakdown. It wasn't going to be possible to map the cave in one day, and I was discouraged.

There was a lead in the back of the cave I wanted to check, this sort of activity is more up my alley, so we continued down the main passage to the room where the cave splits. Downslope to the right the passage starts out wide, but soon you get to where it is much smaller and you would have to dig. We quickly looked at this, then went back to the room to change carbide and get a little something to eat. We then spent some time poking around and peeling off the large slabs of mud that people had plastered on the wall so they could write their names. Following the passage down to the left, we entered the Pancake room. The room must be eighty feet across and is roughly circular. Most of it is no more than a foot high, and it's only five inches high along the edges. A ceiling joint at the center of the room is solutioned out to more than six feet in height, though, and makes a nice place to check out the room from. On a trip back in 1976 I



thought I had seen a wide passage leading off of this room, but it was too low to enter. This time I brought a trowel, and started to dig a trench so I could check it out. Fifteen minutes of digging, after squeezing in as far as I could without digging, produced a trench six feet long. From there I was able to turn my carbide lamp up very high and see that there actually wasn't a passage. It was an illusion created by the low passage and a couple humps of dirt. We checked out some other holes briefly, then went back to the end of the long side passage near the end of the survey. Even though this was only Deb's second cave, she had an easier time than Mike or I getting back through the sharp bends near the end.

When we got out we talked to the owner for quite a while about caves, and he told us about his plan to drill a hole down into the cave and use the air to help heat and cool his hog house. After filling the car up with water once again, we roared on back to Anamosa for supper.

#### GEOLOGY CLUB TRIP

November 24, 1979

Jim Huber

On November 24, 1979 the undergraduate geology club lead by Jim Huber and Criss Gilbert went to Maquoketa Caves. Steel gate and Dance Hall were looked at first. Several brown bats were seen. We picked up a lot of garbage and left the cave.

Then the club went to Wye Cave. One member of the club, Ken Grant, got cold feet and waited at the entrance. As we entered the right hand passage we found the water was higher than it had been in the past.

As we left we also removed all the garbage left in the cave. Six members of the undergrad geology club attended and fun was had by all.

#### GROTTO CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 8 and 9, 1979

Gary Engh

The Grotto Christmas Party was held on December 8 at 213 Wilson (the G and G Engh Home) in Oxford. Attending were Ed and Lucy Smith, Mike and Jam Tempel, Mike Bounk, Chris Crowley, Barb am Ende, and Criss Gilbert.

Ed brought some all purpose cave slides and a good controlled time was had by all. Roger Brucher was also present by way of an on tape interview. The interview was conducted by friend, caver, and journalist Nancy Davis from Virginia.

The following day a lead checking trip was planned to a reported sink near the Coralville Reservoir. As overnights Ed and Lucy had to return to Boone, the party consisted of Mike Bounk, Gwenne Engh and Gary Engh. The sink was easily located and digging began. Work stopped at nearly 2½ feet. There is still potential at the sight and further digging is planned at Harding Sink - Harding Pit - Harding Cave.

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