

May 1981

Intercom, Volume 17, No. 3, May-June 1981

Greg McCarty

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

Recommended Citation

McCarty, Greg, "Intercom, Volume 17, No. 3, May-June 1981" (1981). *Intercom*. 76.
<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/intercom/76>

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.

I N T E R C O M

Published Semi-spasmodically By

THE IOWA GROTTO

National Speleological Society



Volume XVII Issue 3

May — June 1981

IOWA GROTTO *INTERCOM*
P. O. Box 228
Iowa City, Iowa 52244

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

INTERCOM STAFF

Editor: Greg McCarty
Printer: University of Iowa
Lithophotography: J. Ceronie

COVER PICTURE: Greg McCarty in Two Days Digging Cave, Floyd County

Photo by Mike Bounk

Copyright 1981 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- - -Lowell Burkhead
Sec'y Treas. - - - - -Tom Hruska
Co-Edt. Typist - -Lowell Burkhead

Volume Seventeen	C O N T E N T S	Issue Three
Grotto Minutes at a Glance - - - - -		27
May Coldwater Trip - - - - -		28
Surface Tres-Walk-Checking at Coldwater- - - - -		28
North Country Region Spring Meeting- - - - -		29
In Attendance - - - - -		30
Yankee Gate Installing 1 - - - - -		31
Indian Bluff Cave - - - - -		31
YMCA Project Report - - - - -		32
Mines of Spain - - - - -		33
June Coldwater Cave Trip - - - - -		34

GROTTO MINUTES AT A GLANCE

Thomas Hruska, Secretary

Regular Meeting May 13, 1981

Room 131 Called to order: 7:55 PM Adjourned: 8:45 PM
Attendance: 8 members and no guests Treasury: \$158.97
The Collegiate Associations Council has accepted the grotto's budget. Mike Bounk's first aid training will begin after the May 27 grotto meeting. Gwenne Engh called a meeting for May 19 to discuss survey discrepancies in the Yankee Cave map. Gwenne has been appointed teaching assistant at Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. No reports given. Greg McCarty will be going to Floyd County on May 23-25, 1981. June 20 & 21 will be the fun weekend and North Country Region meeting at Coldwater Cave. Mike Bounk proposed a trip to Wagon Wheel Cave this summer.

Regular Meeting May 27, 1981

Room Front Lobby Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:25 PM
Attendance: 11 members and no guests Treasury: \$167.97
The members voted to purchase two 100-pound cans of carbide if the price is reasonable. Mike Bounk will start teaching his first aid training course for interested people after the meeting. Mike talked about the stream tracing project he will be doing in the West Union area. Greg McCarty reported on Floyd County. Mike Bounk told about activities at Coldwater Cave. Gary Engh talked about checking some sinkholes. The June Coldwater trip will be a fun weekend and meeting of the North Country Region. The gating project at Yankee Cave will probably be scheduled in July.

Regular Meeting June 10, 1981

Room 125 Called to order: 7:35 PM Adjourned: 8:20 PM
Attendance: 10 members and 2 guests Treasury: \$177.97
Mike Bounk may purchase the lamp carbide through Rudy Pruszek rather than from Bob and Bob. First aid course dropped for lack of interest. Greg McCarty reported that no more issues of the *Intercom* have been printed. The grotto may have lost all of the remaining Student Senate funds. Mike Bounk gave a progress report on his stream tracing project. Mike is collecting wet suits to use at the Coldwater fun weekend. Gwenne Engh gave a report on teaching position at Mammoth Cave. Coldwater weekend June 20-21, 1981. Criss Gilbert is planning a trip to Fence Cave. Mike Bounk is planning a trip to Wagon Wheel Cave.

Regular Meeting June 24, 1981

Room 125 Called to order: 7:40 PM Adjourned: 8:25 PM
Attendance: 9 members and 1 guest Treasury: \$180.97
The treasurer will see that the post office box rent is paid. Mike Bounk is still checking on the purchase of carbide for grotto use. Criss Gilbert talked about his work at Fence Cave. Mike Bounk reported on the activities at Coldwater Cave. Lowell Burkhead told about the attempt to install the Yankee Cave gate. Lowell will try to finish the Yankee Cave gate. Criss Gilbert will continue digging at Fence Cave. Mike Bounk announced a trip to Fayette County in late summer. After the meeting, Mike Bounk gave a demonstration on splinting a broken bone.

May Coldwater Trip

May 16, 1981

Michael Bounk, Pete DeVries, Lowell Burkhead, Gary Engh, Criss Gilbert, Dr. Warren Lewis, Skip Rose, Richard Williams, and George Zachariasen

Late Saturday morning, after breakfast, Dr. Lewis, Lowell, and Gary went on a surface lead checking trip, as is discussed in their report.

At noon, Criss, Skip, George, and I entered the cave and headed downstream to the dry passage, at chip 203, located about 20 feet upstream of the Sinus passage. However, we discovered that this passage becomes impassable after about thirty feet. Therefore, we continued downstream to the First Right-hand Side Passage, so named by Steve Barnett and Dave Jagnow in the late 1960's, because it was the first major side passage that they encountered on the right-hand side of the main passage as they explored upstream from the sump. The passage begins as wet walking passage, which continues for several hundred feet gradually becoming lower until it sumps. The highest known dome in the cave, 152 feet, is located in this passage.

We began surveying this passage from chip 22 located at its entrance, and surveyed for about 200 feet. By that time, members of the survey crew were becoming significantly chilled by the relatively rapid-moving water, forcing us to discontinue the survey after setting a chip at its end. We then returned to the shaft and exited the cave at 8:00 p.m.

A number of people not mentioned above were present and some of them made other trips into the cave.

Surface Tres-Walk-Checking at Coldwater

May 16 1981

Lowell Burkhead, Doc Lewis (Lead Trespasser), Gary Engh, and Babe the wonder dog

It was a perfect day to do some surface work and Doc had some particular places he wanted to check. We piled into my car and headed over to a place along Rose Creek. We found some sinkholes but nothing that had been recently open and then headed up on the high farmland the other side of the creek. We covered a large area with no permission at all, but we planned to sick either Doc or the dog on anyone who caught us, whichever seemed more likely to work at the time. We found several sinks in the waterways in the fields that had good exposed rock. One was plugged with mostly grass and looked like a crack a foot wide that could be dug open. There was another one that had a very minimal amount of trash dumped in it with good rock showing. By this time I was somewhat lost and probably couldn't find them again but I'm sure Doc or Gary could. (Babe was lost the whole time) I got confused enough that I wasn't sure where we had left the car. It did, however, turn up in the exact spot where it was so there was no problem.

North Country Region Spring Meeting
Coldwater Cave, Iowa
June 20, 1981

Meeting opened at 10:05 p.m. by Chairman Pete DeVries. Minutes of the spring meeting were read by Secretary Michael Bounk and approved as read. Treasurer George Zachariasen reported a balance of \$497.07.

OLD BUSINESS

Greg Valent reported that he had not yet come up with a membership card design.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Pody was advised by Pete DeVries to contact member grottos for publications.

Bob Pody reported that the press used to print the NCR NEWS has broken down.

Greg Valent moved that the idea of cards be dropped; Mike Houle seconded; the motion was passed.

Greg Valent moved that the editors address be included in all future meetings; Bruce Foyer seconded; the motion was passed.

The next meeting will be held at the Hodag Hunt in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, on September 11, 12, and 13, 1981.

Michael Bounk reported that the rescue forms from the Rock River Speleological Society, Minnesota Speleological Society, Iowa Grotto, and Coldwater Project have not yet been received.

The rescue situation in the North Country Region area was discussed.

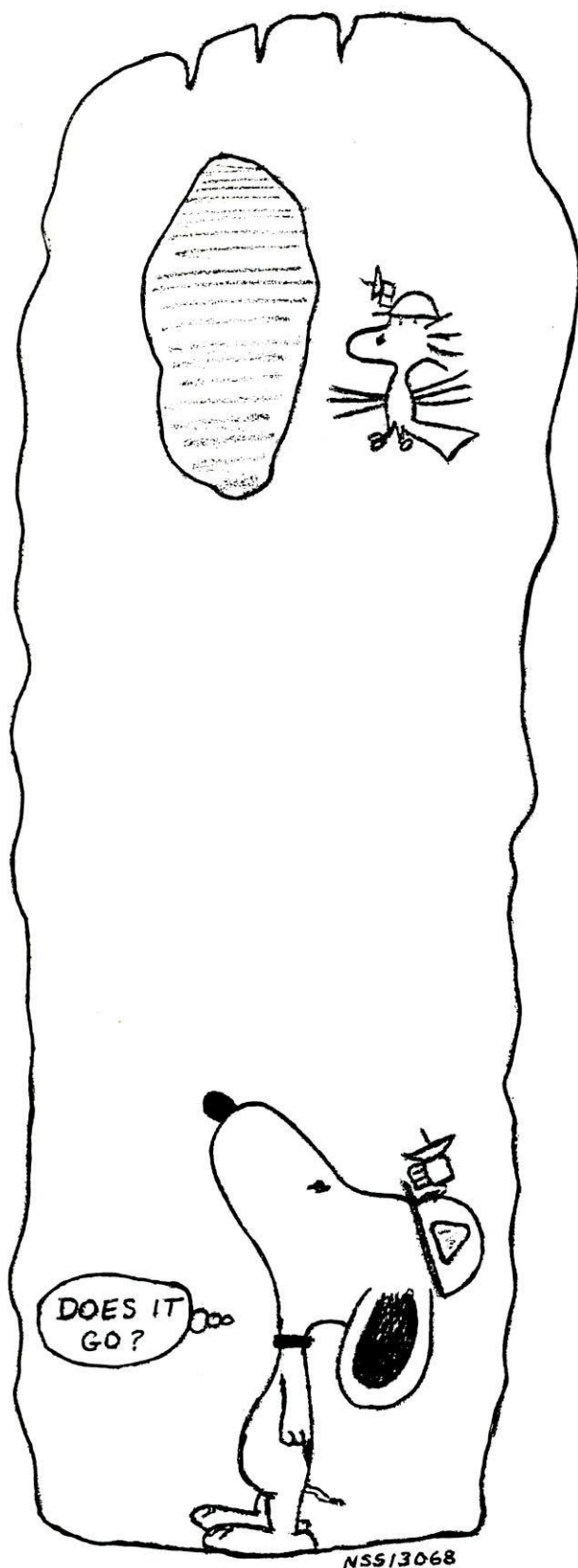
Nominations for Region officers will be held at the fall meeting.

The idea of discontinuing the Summer Region meeting was discussed and rejected.

There will be no summer meeting this year due to the fact that the NSS Convention where it is normally held is combined with the International Congress of Speleology.

The almost free peoples convention will be held the week following the congress in Burkesville, Illinois.

Lowell Burkhead moved to adjourn. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.



NCR News Editor, Bob Pody, 201 N. Charter, Madison, Wisconsin 53715

IN ATTENDANCE

Pete DeVries, Chairman	Rock River Speleological Society
John Moses, Vice Chairman	Windy City Grotto
George Zachariasen, Treasurer	Wisconsin Speleological Society
Michael Bounk, Secretary	Iowa Grotto
Gary E. Engh	Iowa Grotto
Nedo Zackerlead	Michigan Interlakes Grotto
Lowell Burkhead	Iowa Grotto
Bill Fritz	Michigan Interlakes Grotto
Aubrey Golden	Michigan Interlakes Grotto
Mike Houle	Wisconsin Speleological Society
Bob Pody	Wisconsin Speleological Society
Greg Valent	Windy City Grotto
Rudy Pruszko	Iowa Grotto
Paul N. Scobie	Minnesota Speleological Survey
Alice Rolfes	Minnesota Speleological Survey; Michigan Interlakes Grotto
Bruce Foyer	Rock River Speleological Society

Yankee Gate Installing 1

June 21, 1981

Lowell Burkhead

Lowell Burkhead, Michael Bounk, Gary Engh, Gwenne Engh, and two out-of-staters from the Coldwater party.

We arrived at the landowners early afternoon on Sunday after the Coldwater party where the gate had been on display. We followed him around the corn feilds and through the woods on what we laughingly called "the road" to the top of the hill above the cave. He grabbed up the gate which was about 60 lbs and started off down the hill with it. We just followed and didn't offer to help because it would have taken two of us to carry it. That would have been a problem in the woods on the hill. Besides that, the gate was his idea anyway and so what if he's 40 years older than any of us.

When we arrived at the cave, the landowner didn't stay long and Mike and Gary suited up and drug the gate into the cave. I wasn't feeling well and stayed outside. They came back out and reported that it didn't fit or they had found the wrong spot. By that time there was some really good lightning and thunder and it was starting to rain. They went back in and stashed the gate further into the cave where it wouldn't likely be found if a visitor were to happen in. By the time they came out, it was really raining hard and the water in the cave was coming up fast.

We stayed in the cave shelter until it let up then headed up the hill. We were worried about the condition of the road since it was all dirt and not even well packed. We were prepared, though, since we were in my six wheel drive "Beast". The road was bad in the woods and worse around the feilds. There was one place where it was washed out and there was three feet of water gushing down the washout. We just drove through it and never spun a wheel. The landowner was really glad to see us. He knew that if we didn't make it, there would be no way to rescue the 11,000 pound "Beast". We were also quite relieved to have made it out. Several other trips we had been belly deep in the mud in our cars on this same road and had to be dragged the whole length of it. It sure was nice to be ready for anything for once.

Indian Bluff Cave

May 2, 1981

Rudy Prusko, Dave Schwendinger, and Ron Burds

Ron and I started the day early in the morning by putting our canoes in the Maquoketa River just below the dam in Monticello. Rose and I were in a canoe and Ron was in a kayak. We took our time heading down the river, stopping for lunch along the way. We finally arrived at Picture Rock Park where we took out our canoe and kayak. We shuttled back to my Jeep and then went to Dave's house. There Ron and I picked up Dave and left Rose to visit with Tammy.

Arriving at Indian Bluff Cave, Dave, Ron and I proceeded into the cave. We followed the passage until it ended at a "T" intersection. It was at that point that Dave remembered turning right and following the passage through a small hole into another room and more passage. This all happened about 12 years ago. Since then cavers had been digging the left passage.

Dave Ron and I proceeded to dig open the right passage moving it to the left. After working for a while, Ron had to leave due to a prior commitment. I escorted Ron out of the cave then rejoined Dave who had opened up enough passage to get a good look at the room beyond. Although the opening was not large enough to enter, Dave could see smoke marks on the ceiling indicating that there had been previous travel through this passage.

Since it would take a lot more digging to make the passage passable, we decided to discontinue digging for the day, or I should say the night. We started to head out checking all the side passages along the way. Unfortunately, none of the passages had any potential. We then exited the cave calling it a long day.

YMCA Project Report

May 12, 1981

by Rudy Pruszko

I was contacted by an engineering firm to consult on a sink hole that had opened up under the YMCA building in Dubuque. I was recommended to the engineering firm by another engineering firm that I had done work with before. Thus my community work in Dubuque was starting to pay off with notification of sinkhole and crevice activity in the city.

I started this project with a meeting on April 29, 1981 with the engineering firm and the executive director of the YMCA. After a surface look at the sink hole and discussion with the engineers, I was asked to attend an emergency meeting of the board of trustees the next day.

The board meeting started with a brief explanation of the Dubuque area and its caves and mines. Then I proceeded to hypothesis what had happened here at the YMCA building and what the Iowa Grotto and I could do to help the YMCA. This was followed by a question and answer period.

Later that day I recieved a call from the executive director asking if me and my group could enter the hole and determine what was down there. They also decided to delay the drilling of core samples until we checked out the situation. At this time I started calling Grotto members to form a trip on Sunday. After many phone calls, I turned up a team of one, myself.

So when Sunday May 3, 1981 came, I packed my gear carrying everything a caver could use for a solo trip. I was met in the parking lot by the architect and the engineer. Then I proceeded to enter the room under the building through a small hole. I entered the room that was 6 to 8 feet in diameter formed by a plug of clay that was dropping down sucking the top soil with it. After probing the center of the plug, I noticed that part of the problem was a water leak from the swimming pool area above.

Persons from the YMCA board dropped by to see how I was doing. Me in muddy coveralls and them in their Sunday best. Since the clay plug hadn't dropped enough to open up a crevice, the decision was made to take a core drilling.

There was a pause in the communication process between me and the engineers for about a week. Then I recieved a call from the YMCA executive director who informed me that the engineering firm was ready to pour a cement cap. Then I called the archetect and discussed the situation with him. We decided to meet at the hole on Monday night, May 11.

They had enlarged the hole out from the foundation down to the shale layer. The room under the building was also enlarged and deepened in an attempt to expose rock. I informed them that the YMCA building sat right on the edge of the shale layer and that they would probably have to dig down to the limestone layer on the east side of the room. They dug down and hit the limestone layer.

Since there was no open passage or any indication that there was digging possibilities, I didn't argue very much when they decided to put in a solid cap spanning the rock and foundation. I did suggest that they put in a 6" PVC pipe to use as a sight tube through the cap into the clay layer. They took my suggestion and intend to monitor the sinking of the clay under the cap.

It took four truckloads of cement to fill the void between the building and the rock layer. They also plan to do extensive grading and landscaping to promote drainage away from this area.

This completed the YMCA project until the sink hole reopens or the sight tube indicates that the clay plug is dropping again. The goodwill created by the project will probably open the door to other caves in the area. In fact, if a shaft can be located that would lead to this mine system, I'm sure the YMCA and engineering firm will give us support in reopening it for entry to do a survey underground.

Mines of Spain

May 15, 1981

Rudy Pruszko, Dave Schwendinger, Gerda Hartman, Wally Hartman, Doug Snowbarger

We all converged on Gerda's house about 7:00 and loaded our gear into my Jeep and Daves car. Todays trip would be exploring a shaft Gerda and I had found on one of our scouting trips earlier this month.

The shaft was about 6 to 7 feet in diameter in clay and sandstone. It dropped about 70 feet to passage that continues in each direction. There was some junk in the shaft that you had to go around.

We rappelled down one at a time leaving Gerda and Wally on the surface. They had it pretty bad considering the mosquitos. If you didn't have 15 mosquitos buzzing around your face and hands, it was a miricle.

The east passage was followed first. Here we quickly came upon lead in various size pieces. Also, the ceiling was all sandstone as was most of the floor and walls. The ceiling in many places was starting to fall with a 4" gap where another layer was creeping down.

The passage went for about 80 feet to a place of collapse. Here we took turns digging until we pushed another 10 feet into some pockets of air. The digging was easy in sandstone because most of it was sand with some limestone mixed in. We decided to discontinue the digging because of time limitations. I had taken pictures of the passage and the lead veins in the walls

Next we headed to the west passage. We followed it until it pinched out. We found the bones of three animals, two were racoon and one mink. The passage was about 70 feet long.

The cave is naturally limited in size by a ravine and a valley in the east and west directions. The sandstone contained lead in it as well as the limestone layers underneath. Some digging in the shaft area might provide further passage.

We ascended up the rope at about 12:00 and packed up our gear. Eventually about 12:30, we all broke up and headed home.

June Coldwater Cave Trip

June 19, 20, 1981

Michael Bounk, Pete DeVries, Mike Bardon, Lowell Burkhead, David DeVries, Mary DeVries, Sandy DeVries, Diana Downes, Bob Enc, Gary Engh, Gwenne Engh, Bruce Foyer, Mike Geraldts, Jill Haminon, Cathy Jamrog, Linda Kehron, Mike Lenz, Dr. Warren Lewis, John Moses, Brad Olson, Everett Pape, Ken Pape, Bob Pody, Frank Rose, Jacki Rose, Julie Rose, Skip Rose, Barry Schuman, Helen Scobie, Paul Scobie, Greg Valent, George Zachariasen, Ed Zawkicki, Louie Thies.

Friday night, Gary and I rode up to Coldwater Cave with Lowell in the Beast. The next morning, I took Everett, his son Ken, the owner of Sowards Cave, and Louie, who controls access to Middlestadt Cave into Coldwater Cave. After seeing the Gallery section, we headed upstream to a point a short distance beyond the Jumping Off Point. We then returned to the entrance shaft and exited the cave.

That evening, the Spring North Country Region Meeting was held in the shed, as is discussed in the NCR meeting minutes in this issue. There were many other trips into the cave by those listed above and others.

