

November 2011

## **Cave Research Foundation Quarterly, Volume 39, No. 4, November 2011**

William Payne

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# CAVE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29 NO. 4

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**CRF NEWSLETTER**

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Send all articles and reports for submission to:  
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11023 N. Auden Circle, Missouri City, TX 77459

The CRF Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Cave Research Foundation, a non-profit organization incorporated in 1957 under the laws of Kentucky for the purpose of furthering research, conservation, and education about caves and karst.

**Newsletter Submissions & Deadlines:**

Original articles and photographs are welcome. If intending to jointly submit material to another publication, please inform the CRF editor. Publication cannot be guaranteed, especially if submitted elsewhere. All material is subject to revision unless the author specifically requests otherwise. For timely publication, please observe these deadlines:

February issue by December 1  
May issue by March 1  
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November issue by September 1

Before submitting material, please see publication guidelines at: [www.cave-research.org](http://www.cave-research.org)

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**New Content Editor**

William Payne has resigned as Content Editor of the *CRF Newsletter*. This will be his last issue. Laura Lexander of Streamwood, Illinois, will take over, beginning with the February 2012 issue. Ralph Earlandson will continue as Layout Editor. Now, both the Content and Layout Editors are in the Chicago area. From now on, please send all articles, photos and reports to Laura at [caver1402@yahoo.com](mailto:caver1402@yahoo.com). Laura introduces herself:

Four and one-half years ago while I was on maternity leave with my daughter, Dave West asked me if I wanted the position of Eastern Operations Personnel Officer. I'd only been a JV of the CRF for a little over a year at that point so I was thrilled to be asked and immediately accepted the responsibility. Fast forward to this summer and while I was on maternity leave with my son, Charles Fox contacted me on behalf of himself and Scott House to ask if I was interested in becoming the *CRF Newsletter's* Editor. I was again ecstatic, especially since I love writing and reading. I am looking forward to this new endeavor because anything I can do to help this organization that has so captured my heart, the better. It also gives me another means of staying connected to everyone since most of us don't live near each other and I don't live in any sort of cave country! I am following in some tough footsteps taking on this job. I will do my very best to keep producing newsletters that are on par, if not better, than what everyone expects!

**CRF Meeting and National Expedition**

The CRF Annual Meeting will be in Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, November 18-20, 2011. There will be free camping on Friday and Saturday night, both at the Bell Theater (indoor) and in the town of Cumberland Gap (outdoor). All events are free except for the banquet. See page 12 for further information.

Make your plans now! The 2011 CRF National Expedition will be in Mammoth Cave National Park. The dates are November 21-29, 2011, immediately following the annual meeting. Contact the expedition leader, Dave West, [d270@bellatlantic.net](mailto:d270@bellatlantic.net), for more info or to sign up.

**Cover Photo**

Mike Tennant in BBS Cave, Ozark National Scenic Riverway. See Mick Sutton's report on pages 6-10. Photo by Josh Hafner.



## From the President:

By: Scott House

Transitions...

All good things must come to an end and so we bid adieu to Our Favorite Editor, William Payne. William has done a yeoman job of editing this newsletter for longer than I can actually remember. And he has kept it on time and full of good and interesting items. Mostly, of course, the editor's job consists of cracking the whip over those of us who promise and promise to write articles and occasionally do. This William has done, and always with a sense of humor (or is it humour, William?). So a tip of the helmet to William and we wish him the best.

Fortunately for the organization a new editor stands ready to take over in the person of Laura Alexander, the Personnel Officer for Eastern Operations. Laura is anxious to continue the level of contributions that William has achieved, so expect that a passing of the whip will occur.

Another whip is about to be passed as I will be stepping down as the president of this organization. When I accepted the presidency we had some serious problems and have faced more

since, the biggest of which is our relationship to our partner agencies in the era of White Nose Syndrome. Fortunately, things are generally going well (if you are not a bat) and our partnership arrangements are continuing to prove fruitful for all involved. Other problems have been faced and are being improved upon, most of which folks have noticed. The treasury is in excellent shape now due to the hard work of Bob Hoke, and Charles Fox has done an excellent job as vice-president, which has lightened the load considerably. Five years as president is a long time, and I am anxious to focus more on some of my cave projects. Look for me at least to continue to be an ambassador of CRF, working with folks on CRF projects across the country. It's been fun as well as a challenge but it is time for someone else to take over. Special thanks go to my wife, Patti, who has been supportive in my role as president – couldn't have done it without ya.

Hope to see you all in a cave, somewhere...

## REGIONAL EXPEDITION REPORTS

### Lava Beds Expeditions, May-June 2011

By: Liz Wolff and Scott House

#### May 28-29, 2011:

This trip worked on fixing loop problems in Juniper Cave. Bill Devereaux, Jim Wolff and Liz Wolff resurveyed the worst loop and got the error down to 5.5 feet from 27. Some of the problem was poorly sited stations and the magnetic properties of the lava. We have one more multiple loop area and a couple of straight passages to check and add detail; then I can get the map done. (Liz Wolff)

#### June 3-8, 2011:

*Friday, June 3:* A crew of Scott and Patti House, Dave West, Karen Willmes, and Ed Klausner surveyed 336 ft of Sentinel Annex Cave in the Headquarters Loop complex. Later that same day, Dave, Ed, and Karen began mapping Four Star Cave in the Elmer's Trench area and got 150 ft finished.

*Saturday, June 4:* the entire group went to Corral Cave in the Hardin Butte area (North Castle flow) to continue the survey there (last visited in October 2009.) The cave was nearly finished with 590 ft surveyed.

*Sunday, June 5:* Scott, Patti, and Ed began surface surveys from the back entrance of Cor-

ral overland to other caves. One of these was termed Rock in Hole because it seemed to consist of a rock in a hole. Reaching a complex of two Achilles caves, these were mapped (~480 ft) and then the surface survey was continued cross country to a cave named Muleshoe. This was also mapped to a length of ~270 ft. Meanwhile, Dave and Karen finished out a short lead in Corral and then were resigned to their fate in Rock in Hole which clearly wasn't going anywhere because it was surrounded by known cave. Turned out to be nearly 400 ft long with two entrances, and now that cave was also surveyed.

*Monday, June 6:* Dave, Karen, and Ed returned to Sentinel Annex and finished it with 490 ft of survey. Scott, Patti, and John Tinsley did various support activities on the surface.

*Tuesday, June 7:* Ed, Dave, and Karen got an early start at Four Star Cave. Later they were joined by Scott whereupon we split into two teams and continued surveying. Later yet, a highly welcome reinforcement in the form of Bill Broeckel showed up just in time to manage to finish the survey that Ed and Scott were in.



Then while Ed, Dave, and Karen finished a survey in another chunk of the cave, Bill and Scott mapped a little feature known as Fifth Star Grotto. All were finished today, leaving only the adjoining Pearl Cave for another trip. The day's work netted approximately 1000 ft of survey.

*Wednesday, June 8:* Ed, Dave, and Karen launched into the survey of another new cave in the Hardin Butte area, to be named White Tunnel Cave. This improbable feature wouldn't quit going but by the end of the day, nearly 500 ft of passage had been surveyed (there's still some left). Meanwhile Scott and Patti ran a surface survey from Muleshoe to White Tunnel; then they surveyed from Corral Cave to another nearby small cave known as Crescent Moon Cave. Surveying that (~160 ft) they emerged to spot a new and large forest fire to the south. This worried all of us, as there was the distinct possibility that the smoke might close the road south which we had to take in the morning. Eventually after some serious discussion and smoke-watching, we packed up and departed early, choosing to put the fire behind us. (The fire became fairly major but was contained within a week.)

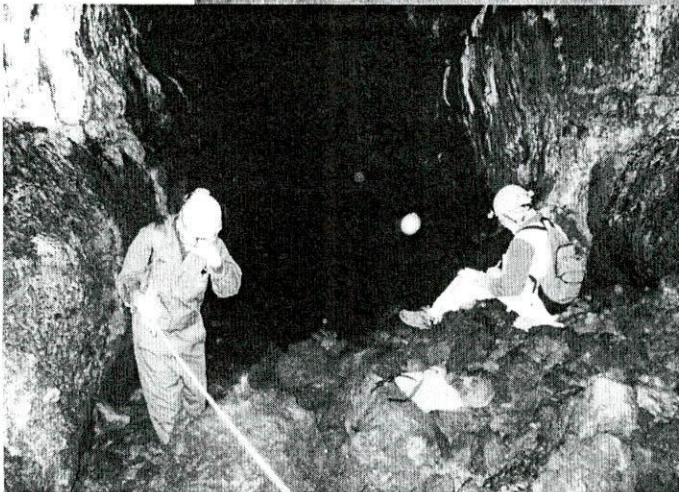
A couple of caves in the immediate area of Township Cave (Hardin Butte) were left unsurveyed: one was vertical and the other had a snake. Four Star Cave and Sentinel Annex Caves were both completed. (Scott House)

#### June 24-26, 2011 - Juniper Cave:

*Friday, 24 June:* Liz Wolff, Dave Smith, and Hans Stein checked part of the loop survey around the cairn entrance of Juniper Cave to try to correct the loop error. We were able to recreate all the stations and decided not to use a couple of them. Detail needed to be added to the original survey in the entrance area.

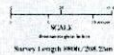
*Sunday 26 June:* Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, and Bill Devereaux completed the loop through the entrance sink tying the lower entrance passage to the rest of the cave. Major magnetic problems were encountered, causing the remaining 4 shots to take nearly 3 hours to complete. This part of the entrance area was needed to be detailed in the drawing also, it had not been done in any of the surveys that joined at station M5.

As before, discrepancies in shot lengths was the main cause of the loop errors; either a dyslexic problem or hearing the numbers wrong or writing them down wrong, as most of them were in the "38.2 / 32.8" category. (Liz Wolff)



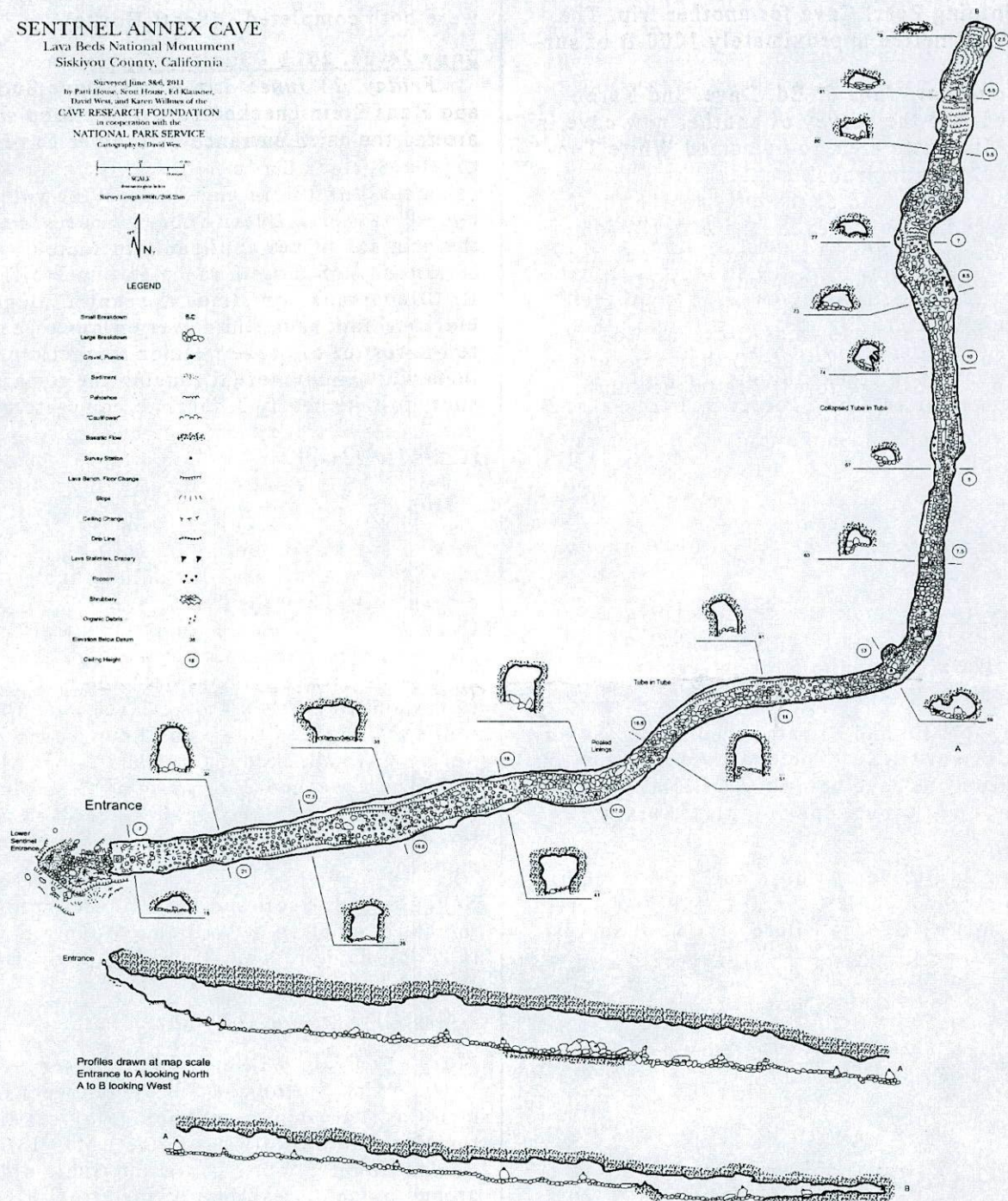


## SENTINEL ANNEX CAVE

Lava Beds National Monument  
Siskiyou County, CaliforniaSurveyed June 3&6, 2011  
By Patti House, Scott House, Ed Klausner,  
David West, and Karen Williams of the  
CAVE RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
in cooperation with the  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Cartography by David West.

## LEGEND

Small Breakdown	SC
Large Breakdown	SC
Crustal Patches	SC
Sediment	SC
Palaeosol	SC
"Cauliflower"	SC
Basaltic Flow	SC
Survey Station	*
Lava Bench Floor Change	SC
Slope	SC
Ceiling Change	SC
Dark Line	SC
Lava Stratum, Crustary	SC
Fluorite	SC
Stratigraphy	SC
Organic Debris	SC
Elevation Below Datum	SC
Ceiling Height	SC



Photos on preceding page: Top: Ed Klausner readies a shot into Achilles Cave. Schonchin Butte in mid-background, Medicine Lake caldera (shield volcano) is in center of the far horizon. Lower left: Surveying in Sentinel Annex Cave. Lower right: Ed Klausner, Dave West, and Scott House work to figure out the incoming data at the Lava Beds Research Center. All photos by Patti House. Map of Sentinel Annex Cave from Lava Beds NM by Dave West.



## Restoration Field Camp, Carlsbad Caverns, June 27-July 1, 2011

By: William Tucker

Six experienced Texas cavers (Eddie Baker, Sara Baker, Matt Rasler, Karen Masters, Tammy Tucker and William Tucker) performed various restoration projects at Carlsbad Caverns during the Restoration Field Camp the week of June 27 to July 1, 2011. Two days were spent working in the Rookery in Lower Cave cleaning mud and silt from the numerous nests of cave pearls. One day was spent in the Dome Room cleaning tracked mud and debris from flowstone and shelfstone and lamenting the state of the small pool for future work. One day was spent removing foreign material (mostly coins) and other debris (only some of which was disgusting) from various pools near the visitor trails. We experienced quite a bit of interest in our activi-

ties from visitors including one young man who volunteered to dive into Longfellow's Bathtub to retrieve a coin. We did not take him up on his offer. We took those opportunities to educate about cave conservation, the CRF, and responsible caving. One evening was spent cleaning Crystal Springs Dome.

A total of 198 in-cave hours were volunteered. 127 square feet of area was restored but that statistic is not applicable to some of the activities such as coin removal.

Tammy and William also spent a few hours inventorying maps and making plans to have the large number of paper maps scanned to preserve them and the effort that they represent.

## Ozark Trips, March-May 2011

By: Mick Sutton

*Trips missing from the previous report (August 2011 Newsletter):*

**January 15-16:** Scott House, Ed Klausner and Elizabeth Miller monitored caves in Bear Hollow in Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR).

**January 17:** Ed and Elizabeth monitored Sextus Mille Cave at ONSR (The unorthodox name arises from the cave being the Official Cave No. 6000 in the Missouri Speleological Survey files).

**January 28-30:** Scott House and Tony Schmitt monitored Smokehole Cave at ONSR and were then joined by George Bilbrey for a bat survey



*Sarah Holderfield dropping into Keeton Sink in Buffalo National River. Photo by Chad Holderfield.*

in Medlock Cave, finding plenty of guano from the past summer's gray bat colony and a few hibernators. They then monitored Flying W Cave, which has been seeing heavy traffic up to the point where the going gets tough. The next day, Scott and Tony monitored the Buffington Caves and Bay Creek Camp Cave. They then found and mapped three small new caves: Dyer Spring Cave, Backdoor Cave and Island "Cavelet". There was more of the same the following day: Jug Cave and McDonald Cave were monitored, Twin Cedar Cave was discovered and mapped.

**February 14:** Scott and Patti House monitored the bat population at Williams Mountain cave (ONSR), home to a small colony of hibernating Indiana bats.

*Ozark trips March-May, 2011:*

**March 5:** Craig Williams Suzie Jensen, Alicia Lewis, Mick Sutton and Sue Hagan went to Pillman Cave, a much visited archeological site on the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) in Phelps County. While Craig and Suzie did an archeological assessment of the large, highly disturbed passage Mick, Sue and Alicia did a biological survey - the fauna included a slightly alarmed screech owl perched in deep twilight. We then remapped the cave to replace an older undetailed map, including especially a vertical profile, which was lacking from the existing map. We followed that up with a survey and biological inventory of nearby Graham Cave, a short, dry crawl.



**March 5-7:** At Buffalo National River (BNR), Scott House and Bob Osburn worked at resolving problems with the Fitton Cave survey net, while Kayla New and Chad Holderfield mapped the small Trillium Pit (60 ft.). The following day Bob Taylor, Roy Gold, Todd Twilbeck and George Lantz began a survey of Mud Cave, while Scott, Bob and Ed Klausner relocated and mapped Bruins Bedroom Cave and relocated a variety of other small caves and karst features in and around the Cecil Creek drainage. Jeff Bridgman, Mike Tennant and Natalia Kolk-Tennant mapped Bartlett Cove Cave, a small cave in Broadwater Hollow ending in a low, wide crawl. Next day, the same crew monitored Rat Castle Cave.

**March 12:** Another BNR trip saw the continuation of the Novak Spring Cave survey, by Jeff Bridgman, Mike Tennant, Natalia Kolk-Tennant and Adele Ayers.

**March 19-20:** The survey of Math Branch Cave (MTNF, Christian County) was completed by Jon Beard, Mike Tennant and George Lantz. The cave ended low and wet, with a total length of a little over 1,000 ft. Meanwhile, Craig Williams, Suzie Jansen and Natalia Kolk-Tennant did an archeological assessment and photographed a series of interesting petroglyphs elsewhere in the cave.

**March 24-26:** Jim Cooley, Jenny Bentz and Kathy Bovard went to the Piney Creek Wilderness (MTNF, Barry County) where they relocated Moonshine Hole Cave and possibly Piney Creek Blowing Hole – the latter was a long way from its supposed location, and may instead be a new cave. On March 26, the same crew plus Larry Shaffield and Mark Lanford, confirmed the location of Sugar Silver Cave, also on the MTNF Cassville District. This one had been “missing” for a long time, with several incorrect locations in the Missouri Speleological Survey records. We had recently discovered, however, that MTNF archeologists knew all along where the cave was, and their location turned out to be correct. The cave provides a missing piece of the story of the notorious “radium-mining” enterprise which took place in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in several caves in the Butler Hollow area. Sugar Silver Cave now needs to be mapped and inventoried. The same day, the crew also monitored Butler Hollow Mine Cave and Butler Hollow Mine – the latter is mostly artificial but does have some natural solutional features.

**March 27:** Jon Beard, Mick Sutton and Sue Hagan accompanied MTNF staff members Klaus Liedenfrost and Kelly Whitsett to McCormick Cave (MTNF, Phelps County) to discuss possi-

ble strategies for restoration of this much-modified cave and to do a quick bat survey. The cave is the site of an abandoned Missouri University of Science and Technology (MST) seismograph station, and the entrance is modified with a very bat-unfriendly concrete block wall. A few pipistrelles manage to make their way in through small gaps in the wall, but as expected, there was no other evidence of bat use. The wall and seismograph station are scheduled to be removed with the cooperation of MST.

**April 3:** Deviating somewhat from CRF’s core mission, Sue Hagan and Mick Sutton checked out some abandoned mines at Silver Mines on the Fredericktown District of the MTNF. There is some concern over mine safety and the possible use of abandoned mines as hibernacula. The main and best-known mine here is the Einstein Mine, an adit which is gated rather crudely with a bat-unfriendly gate. We agreed with earlier assessments that, although enterable, the entrance tunnel is partly collapsed and looks dangerously unstable. A nearby upper entrance, originally to the same mine, was much safer but ended after only 60 ft. in a complete collapse. We sketched this, and then mapped an actual cave – Silver Mines Cave – which is a short talus cave in granite. We then looked for but failed to find the Apex 3 mine and Gabriel Shaft, but succeeded in locating Apex 1 – this had only about 25 ft. of accessible passage sloping steeply down to a near-sump. Some of these sites are due to be gated or re-gated by CRF in 2012.

**April 9-10:** Jim Cooley led a large crew at Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR). They monitored a wide variety of caves and located a small new cave – Black Bluff Aerie Cave – requiring a rappel from the cliff top.

**April 19:** John Tinsley, on loan from CRF’s Sequoia-Kings Canyon Operation, gave a lecture at ONSR headquarters on the earthquake study he has been conducting on caves potentially affected by quakes on the famous New Madrid fault. Dating of broken straws suggests several discrete time frames for the damage, which Tinsley and others are beginning to correlate to earthquakes dated by other methods. The technique appears to be quite promising.

**April 21-23:** Bob Taylor and Roy Gold completed the survey of Cob Cave at BNR, while Kayla New, Mike Tennant and Natalia Kolk-Tennant took a short evening trip to continue the survey of Ice Box Cave. The next day, after everyone spent the morning sheltering from a severe storm, Mike and Natalia with Jim Cooley worked on fixing a bad survey loop near the en-



trance of Novak Springs Cave. Jeff Bridgman, Meghan Gallo and Kyle Moore mapped Steel Creek Campground Cave for 260 ft. Kayla with Don Locander and Jenn Ellis began a resurvey of Eden Falls Cave, which needs a profile and side passages surveyed. Progress there was somewhat hindered by heavy tourist traffic.

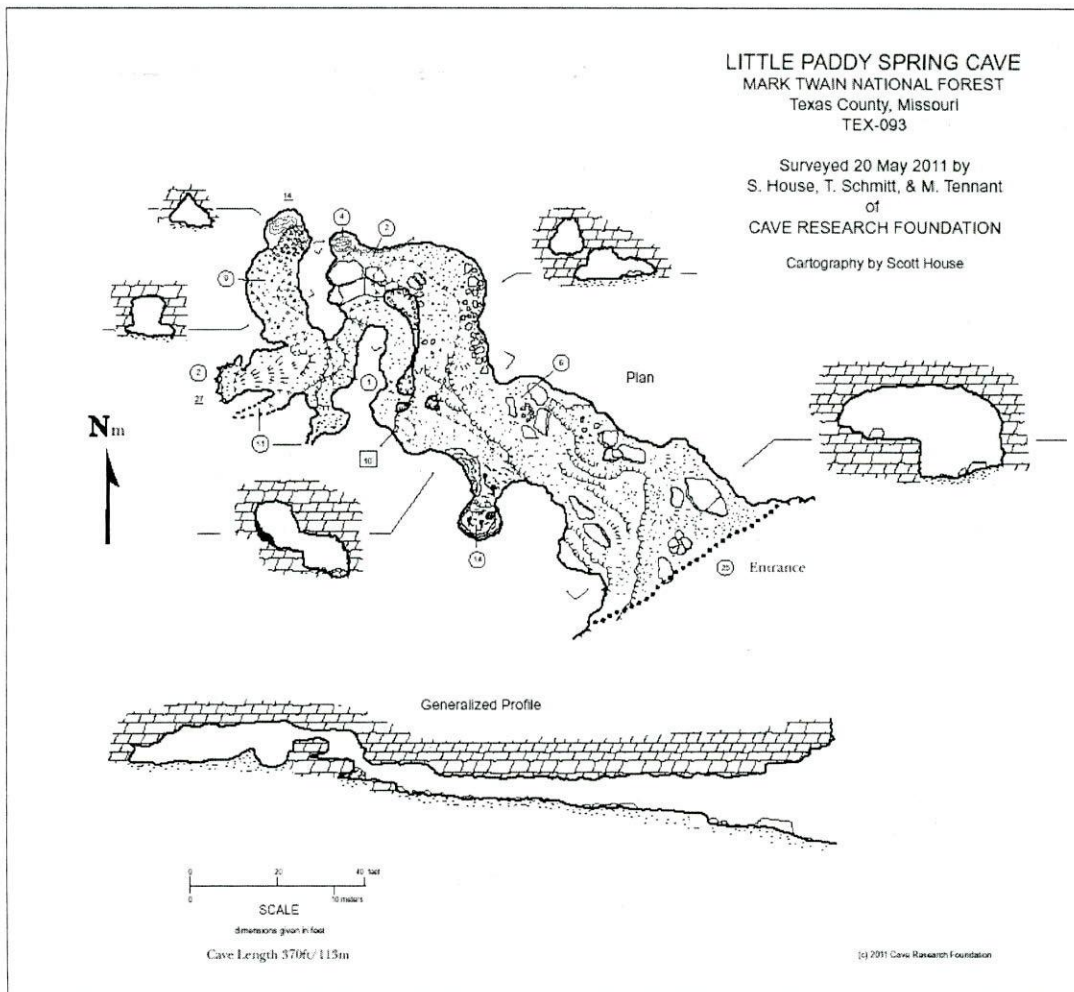
**April 22-26:** Jim Cooley and Cyle Riggs obtained cave locations and documented a large new shelter – an “aboriginal McMansion” – in the Piney Creek Wilderness (MTNF Barry County). The shelter showed evidence of archaeological looting, although probably not recent. Also in Barry County, Jenny and Mark Bentz monitored Twin, Bear Waller and Horse Collar Caves. On the 25th a large team – Jim, Jenny and Mark with Pic Walenta, Kayla New, Kathy Bovard, returned to the Piney Creek Wilderness with Brad Davis in tow. Brad had originally reported several caves in the Wilderness, whose locations were now causing some consternation. Piney Creek Cave was found not too far from its reported location – some surface survey and bioinventory was done there. Piney Creek Blowing Hole proved more elusive but Brad was able to confirm that the cave reported

by Jenny on March 24 was not Piney Creek Blowing Hole. It was therefore named Piney Creek Keyhole Crawl. The following day, Jim and Brad continued searching for the missing cave, and retracing Brad’s route from 10 years ago, they finally found it nearly a mile from its previously reported location.

**May 8:** Sue Hagan and Mick Sutton mapped and inventoried two small neighboring caves, Cedar Bottom Caves, on the MTNF in Madison County. These had been reported recently by our long-time MTNF cooperator Randy Long. The caves were only 23 ft. and 26 ft. long but featured fairly diverse wildlife, including a population of pseudoscorpions.

**May 9:** Jim Cooley met with MTNF representatives at McCormick Cave, Phelps Co. to discuss plans for replacing the massive entrance wall with a bat gate.

*Maps accompanying this report were drawn as follows: This page: Little Paddy Spring Cave by Scott House. Next page: Milk Jug Cave by Kayla New.*





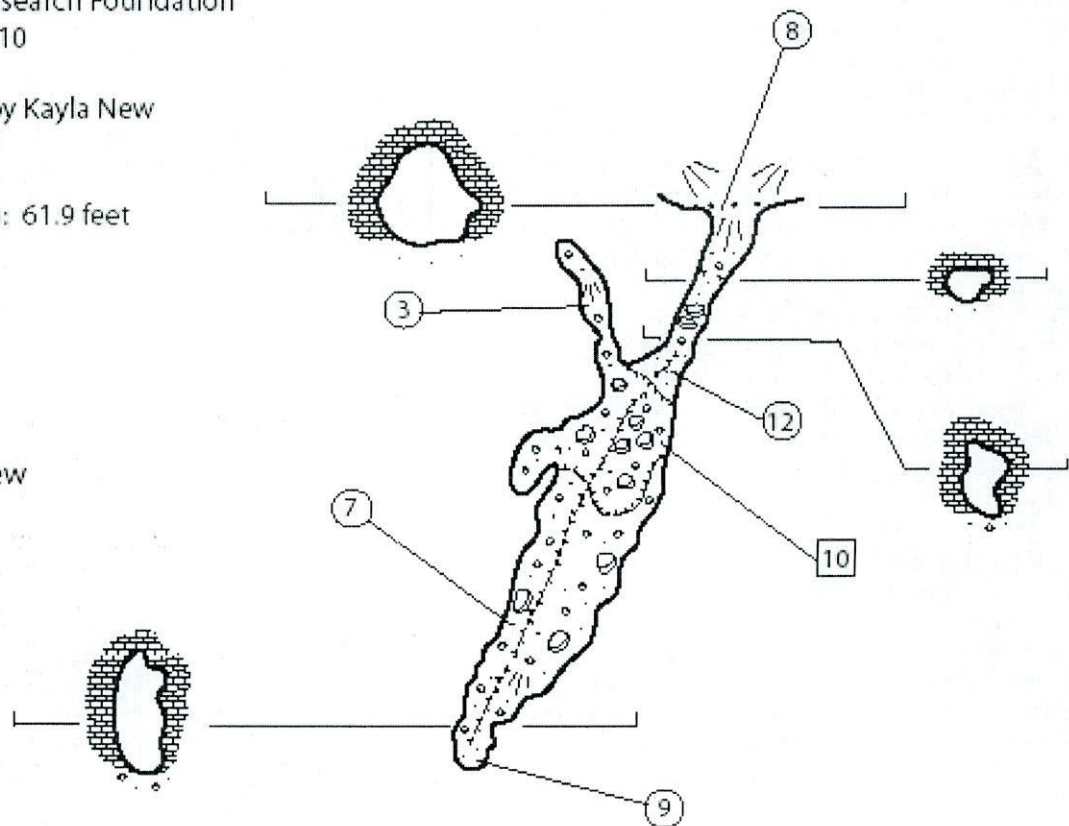
# **Milk Jug Cave** **Buffalo National River** **C 166**

A Suunto and Tape Survey  
 by Cristina Estrada & Kayla New  
 of the Cave Research Foundation  
 December 2010

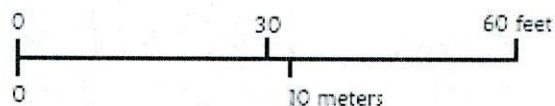
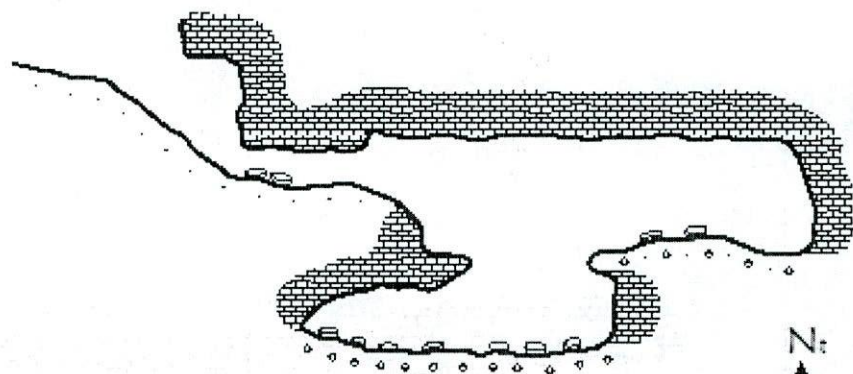
Cartography by Kayla New  
 February 2011

Survey Length: 61.9 feet

Plan View



Profile View



SCALE

dimensions given in feet





**May 14-15:** Mike Tennant, Natalia Kolk-Tennant and Craig Williams went to Pillman Cave (MTNF, Phelps Co.) to do some high-tech archeological survey using a piece of equipment which measures elemental abundances using X-ray fluorescence. The plethora of results can give archeological clues – e.g., the distribution of phosphorus correlates well with the distribution of bone material. One slight drawback is that analysis of the copious data can be quite labor intensive.

**May 19:** Jim Cooley went with Klaus Liedenfrost (MTNF) and a representative of MST to Onyx Cave (MTNF, Pulaski Co.), to discuss cave gate design in preparation for the McCormick Cave gate.

**May 20-22:** There was a trip to the Paddy Creek Wilderness (MTNF, Texas Co.) with participants based at a fire lookout house. On the Friday, Scott House, Tony Schmitt and Mike Tennant mapped Little Paddy Spring Cave. The cave was fairly large, 370 ft. long, and appears to be all too popular with horse riders. They also mapped several small caves nearby. In the same area, Ed Klausner, Elizabeth Miller, Jim Cooley and Jenny Benz mapped Turkey Track (100 ft.) and Natural Tunnel Caves.

The next day Ed, Elizabeth, Jim and Jenny returned to the same cave cluster with Mick Sutton. On the way, they mapped a small sandstone talus cave (Painted Turtle Cave, named for a three-toed box turtle painted with a peace sign!). At the Little Paddy Creek cluster Ed, Elizabeth and Jim mapped two small caves – Crawlway Cave (26 ft.) and Emergence Cave (23 ft.) – while Jenny and Mick did biological surveys of the entire cluster. The crew then

went downstream along Little Paddy Creek to map and inventory another talus cave (Confluence Camp Cave, 50 ft.) and a limestone cave with two entrances. Since one entrance was very ripe with eau de skunk but no sign of the perpetrator, and this was the day when the Rapture was scheduled to happen, we concluded that the skunk must have left us sinners behind – hence Skunk Rapture Cave (68 ft.). Of these, Painted Turtle, Emergence, Confluence Camp and Skunk Rapture Caves were new. Meanwhile Scott House, Tony Schmitt, Dan Lamping, Valerie Barbaro, Natalia Kolk-Tennant and Mike Tennant surveyed Paddy Cave. There was a good deal more to the cave than reports had indicated, with 650 ft. of mostly very large passage. The next morning, Dan and Valerie went looking for Paddy Creek Natural Bridge. They failed to find it but instead found and mapped a small new cave, Paddy Creek Vista Cave (60 ft.).

**May 24-27:** At ONSR, Jim Cooley and Brandy Riggs monitored Bear Cave and replaced a closed sign on Skylight Spring Cave. With George Bilbrey, they also worked at the metal fabrication shop on manufacturing portable welding benches for gate construction. On the 27th, Jim and Brandy monitored Bluff and Little Bluff Caves.

**May 29-30:** Jim Cooley, Brandy Riggs, Cyle Riggs, Mike Camden, Pic Walenta and Larry Shaffield returned to Little Hurricane Creek (MTNF, Oregon Co.) where they mapped a small new cave – Mosquito Cave. The cave, according to Jim, is “filthy, wet and tight.” Next day, the same team less Larry continued the survey of Canyon Cave, which is now a little over 1100 ft. long.

## **Mammoth Cave: Memorial Day Expedition, May 27-30 2011**

**By: John DeLong, Expedition Leader**

The Memorial Day expedition was blessed with good weather and good people. The expedition is also blessed to announce the birth of a 53-year-old caver. The 17 trips accomplished 808 feet of new and 3,211 feet of resurvey, in addition to 3,263 feet of overland survey.

Two trips went out on Friday. A trip set out that afternoon for Donkey Cave. Daniel Greger led Joyce Hoffmaster, Elizabeth Winkler, Rick Toomey, and Rick Olsen to rig cable ladders and ropes to enable trips in to drop the unexplored 100-foot pit on Saturday. At 7 p.m. Rick Toomey led Joyce Hoffmaster, Bill Baus, Karen Willmes, Eli Winkler, Dan Greger, Bob Lodge, Charles Fox, John DeLong, Helena DeLong, and Rick Olson carrying 63 lights to River Hall in

support of the Park's River Styx tour lighting project.

On Saturday, 29 cavers set out on nine trips. Daniel Greger led Joyce Hoffmaster, John Feil, and Rick Olson to Donkey Cave to drop the pit rigged the night before. Meanwhile Lynn Brucker, Roger Brucker, Bob Lodge, and Norman Warnell had taken the Austin Entrance to Pohl Avenue to survey in the Cow Falls area. The Pohl Avenue party heard the Donkey Cave party and established the noise was coming from the area near Union Shafts. The two parties established verbal communication and eventually Rick established a visual connection to Lynn's light. The Donkey Cave party attempted various levels of the pit drain until finally Joyce found



a route that she was able to contort her way through. For the final "push," Joyce was fortunate to have worn coveralls with a built-in harness; Norman slipped a pack strap through the harness to help "birth" Joyce through the tightest spot. Joyce congratulated Norman for having given birth to a 53-year-old caver! Because of high flow conditions Joyce left with the Pohl Avenue group as a return though the drain wasn't prudent until a drier day.

Two other trips also began at the Austin Entrance. Mike Freeman led Bob Hoke and Tammy Otten to resurvey in Illinois Avenue. Jim Greer led Laura Jones and Tama Cassidy to Unknown Cave to do new survey at F and G in Helictite Route, above the Corkscrew in Ralph's River Trail. They established there is a need for a standing rope or handline in this area until survey work in F, G, and H are completed. Dave West led Karen Willmes and Bill Baus to check out a potential new cave near Wilson Cave Hollow and perform a surface survey between the Wilson Cave entrance and the new find. The new pit quickly ended, but the party discovered a significant number of Rafinesque bats that will make this a cave of interest to the Park.

Charles Fox led Dan Hedger on a surface survey to tie the brass cap at Donkey Cave to the brass cap at the Austin Entrance, surveying along a dry stream bed in the heat. After 9½ hours in the heat, they were halfway there.

Howard Kalnitz led Pam Duncan and Chanda Ziegler on a survey trip to Miller Avenue to correct bad ties and bad sketch issues from older surveys.

Tom Brucker led Mandy Harris and Aly Signorelli to Bedquilt Cave to survey belly crawls adjacent to Grand Avenue. The party found the entrance had changed significantly once again due to heavy rains but was eventually able to make it to their objective.

Art Palmer led Peg Palmer, Bill Koerschner, and Nicole Hawk to Crystal Cave for a survey trip on a lead above Lost Paradise. They accomplished 528.8 feet of resurvey and 171.6 new survey. The Lost Paradise Area has much resurvey needed and many new leads.

On Sunday morning, 23 cavers signed on for another day of caving. Charles Fox led Roger Brucker to continue his surface survey. They resumed survey and finished up at the Austin Entrance many warm, tick-filled hours later, completing the survey.

Jim Greer returned to Unknown Cave, this time leading Mandy Harris, Aly Signorelli and Tim Green on a survey trip to replace the old Z Survey above the Corkscrew in Ralph's River Trail. In November a side lead was found that forms a long cut-around loop, back to what was the end of the Z. The area was challenging to

survey with really tight crawls. Mandy was put to work on checking out a few very small side leads which pinched down or cut back.

Howard Kalnitz again led Pam Duncan and Chanda Ziegler along with Shane Mullins to Bishop's Domes to accomplish more resurvey.

Tom Brucker returned to Bedquilt to do resurvey in Wretched River with Tama Cassidy and Tammy Otten, making it the Tom-Tama-Tammy Tour. After a fine day of survey the party discovered the lock was very difficult to get the key into, a continuing problem at that location.

Art Palmer returned to Crystal Cave's Lost Paradise with Peg Palmer, Derek Bristol, Bill Baus, Karen Willmes, and Calvin Wiley. They split into two groups and surveyed independently in the same area covering resurvey in the Lost Paradise area, resurvey of the connection between Lost Passage and Mud Avenue and some new survey of Ohio Caverns.

Rick Toomey led Rick Olson, Elizabeth Winkler and John DeLong to Hawkins River in Proctor Cave to replace a water pump at the confluence of Hawkins and Logsdon Rivers, and to measure the depth of Logsdon Well from the surface. Due to spring flooding, water in the passage was wider than any in the trip had seen and too deep to allow for a change of the water pump at this time. They were able to secure the new water pump in a high spot for future replacement. Using a very long string and a plumb-bob, the depth of the Logsdon Well was measured to be 445.6 feet.

Special thanks needs to go to the expedition's camp manager, Pat Kambesis. She was helped by many participants of the expedition, which is always greatly appreciated. Rick Toomey and Rick Olson both helped greatly with administrative details.

**Donkey Cave:** 1) Daniel Greger, Joyce Hoffmaster, Elizabeth Winkler, Rick Toomey, Rick Olson; 2) Daniel Greger, Joyce Hoffmaster, John Feil, Rick Olson; **Donkey Cave Surface Survey:** 1) Charles Fox, Dan Hedger; 2) Charles Fox, Roger Brucker; **Miller Avenue:** Howard Kalnitz, Pam Duncan, Chanda Ziegler; **Illinois Avenue:** Mike Freeman, Bob Hoke, Tammy Otten; **Pohl Avenue:** Roger Brucker, Lynn Brucker, Bob Lodge, Norman Warnell; **Crystal Cave:** 1) Art Palmer, Peg Palmer, Bill Koerschner, Nicole Hawk; 2) Art Palmer, Peg Palmer, Derek Bristol, Bill Baus, Karen Willmes, Calvin Wiley; **Grand Avenue:** Tom Brucker, Mandy Harris, Aly Signorelli; **Ralph's River Trail:** 1) Jim Greer, Laura Jones, Tama Cassidy; 2) Jim Greer, Aly Signorelli, Mandy Harris, Tim Green; **Wilson Hollow Pit:** Dave West, Karen Willmes, Bill Baus; **River Hall:** Rick Toomey, Bill Baus, Helena DeLong, John DeLong, Charles Fox, Daniel Greger, Joyce Hoffmaster, Bob Lodge, Karen Willmes, Elizabeth Winkler, Rick Olson; **Bishop's Domes:** Howard Kalnitz, Pam Duncan, Shane Mullins, Chanda Ziegler; Unknown Cave Z Survey above Corkscrew in RRT; **Wretched River:** Tom Brucker, Tama Cassidy, Tammy Otten; **Hawkins River:** Rick Toomey, Rick Olson, Elizabeth Winkler, John DeLong.



## Mammoth Cave: August Expedition, August 5-7, 2011

By: Roger and Lynn Brucker, Expedition Leader

This is the second year we have filled in for Tom Brucker, who was testing for his Black Belt. It was a small expedition with stupendous accomplishment. Six cavers turned out and we completed the survey tie from Donkey Cave to Mammoth Cave, adding 1,900 feet to the latter and 400 miles to the former. Joyce Hoffmaster led Dan Greger and Tim Green into Donkey Cave, following a new, easier overland route from the bottom of the hill to the Austin Entrance, up the easternmost arm of Three Sisters Hollow. Donkey was discovered in 1910 by Floyd Collins.

Lynn Brucker led Dave Carson and Charles Fox into the Austin Entrance and proceeded to Station P-50 in Pohl Avenue. They carried a telescoping pole 19-feet long and a red LED to tape on the end to thrust into the narrow tube to complete the survey. On arrival, the Donkey Cave party had descended 60-foot Donkey Kong Pit and were equipped with a newly calibrated Disto-X. Tim Green laid down in the pit drain water and was able to shine the laser of the Disto-X within 2 feet of Lynn in Pohl Avenue, so the pole was not used. Lynn's 2-foot shot tied into the Pohl Avenue P survey and the deed was done.

About 30 feet down Donkey Kong Pit, a 3' W X 2' passage opens into the south wall of the pit. Dan and Tim saw kneepad print marks in the floor, as if a caver had come upon the pit

from another direction. Speculation that the prints might belong to Tom Brucker were dashed when he denied being in that area. He did find a connection from Foundation Hall in Smith Avenue to Union Shafts and there are plenty of pits along the way from Three Spoons to P-50 to be surveyed, he said.

Lynn's party retreated to the Cow Falls drain and found several passages, one leading to a base level pool. Expedition surveys totaled 380.2 feet, 141.8 of new survey and 248.4 feet of resurvey. Roger Brucker signed books at a new bookstore in Horse Cave, Two Bears & A Dog. John Feil and Roger McClure installed three new solid cherry wood bookcases made by Preston and Sheri Forsyth from cherry lumber raised on their farm in Western Kentucky. They kiln-dried the lumber and crafted the bookcases (7 or 8 total), a splendid contribution to CRF's new archive building at Hamilton Valley.

Lynn and I finished the August Expedition with good results. There were 8 cavers in attendance, plus Roger McClure and John Feil doing maintenance work.

**Donkey Cave:** Joyce Hoffmaster, Daniel Greger, Tim Green; **Pohl Avenue:** Lynn Brucker, Dave Carson, Charles Fox.

### General Invitation to All Cavers

### Cave Research Foundation Annual Meeting

**Saturday, November 19, 2011 at Cumberland Gap**

**9 am - Noon**

Breakfast Reception and Walking Tour to Gap Cave  
O'Dell Research Station, Daniel Boone Parking Area  
Cumberland Gap National Historic Park  
First on Right after turning off US 58 into Cumberland Gap, TN

**1 pm - 5 pm**

Presentations at Visitor Center  
Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, North Side of Tunnel  
Pat Kambesis, Art Palmer, Stuart Daw and others are scheduled

**7 pm**

Banquet, 114 West Kentucky Ave., Pineville, KY  
Dinner and more: \$20

**Contact Mike Crockett, [cumberlandgap@gmail.com](mailto:cumberlandgap@gmail.com), or (606) 269-1977**



## 2011 EXPEDITION CALENDAR

Before attending any expedition, you must contact the expedition leader as trip sizes may be limited. Failure to contact the leader may prevent you from attending the expedition as the trip may be full.

### Eastern Operations - Mammoth Cave Schedule

**National Expedition - Thanksgiving**, November 21-29. Dave West, d270@bellatlantic.net.

**New Year's**, December 30, 2011 - January 2, 2012. Charles Fox, charles.d.fox@sbcglobal.net.

All Eastern Operations CRF members who have not attended an expedition safety orientation must do so before participating in expedition activities. The safety orientation is scheduled at the beginning of each expedition after the morning meeting. Those who have attended a safety orientation are not required to participate in another. New members should arrange to be at the expedition early enough to attend the orientation. Those who do not attend will not be allowed to participate in expedition activities. Contact expedition leader for more details on the orientation.

### Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

Expeditions for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park are the last full weekend of each month except December. Contact: Mike Crockett, mickcrockett@hotmail.com.

### Ozarks

**Contacts:** Scott House, scott\_house@semo.net.

Mick Sutton and Sue Hagan, sue&mick@mail.tigernet.gen.mo.us.

### California - Lava Beds

Before participating on any of these expeditions, we would prefer you contact the Operations Area Managers, Pat Helton and Bruce Rogers, at least two weeks before the expedition:

PatAndBruce@heltonweb.com; (510) 301-2003.

Please do not just show up as there may be limits on the number of participants we can accommodate.

### California - Lilburn

Some basic rules of engagement for California expeditions: Contact the expedition preferably two weeks ahead of time; please don't spontaneously show up. We have to deal with head count limits, particularly on our Lilburn trips, so we need to know who is planning to attend.

**Lilburn**, November 12-13. Fofo Gonzalez, 831-776-5385, gonza142@msu.edu.

**Lilburn**, November 20-21. John Tinsley, 650-799-5156 or 550-243-0732, jtinsley@usgs.gov or howard.hurt@gmail.com.

**Paradise Karst**, December 3-4. Joel Despain, 559-565-3717, joel\_despain@nps.gov.

### HSS/CRF Hawai'i Caving - Big Island

Contact Pat Kambesis, 309-762-3860, pnkambesis@juno.com.

### Carlsbad Caverns

Contact for all expeditions:

Barbe Barker, barbebarker@gmail.com.

William and Tammy Tucker, william.tucker@att.net.

**Labor Day**, September 2-5.

**Thanksgiving**, November 23-27.

### **ADDRESS CORRECTIONS**

If you have changed phone number (i.e., area code split), e-mail address, or have moved, please send your information to:

Phil DiBlasi

PO Box 126

Louisville, KY 40201-0126

pjdibiasi@gmail.com

### **THE CRF WEBSITE**

[www.cave-research.org](http://www.cave-research.org)

Contact your operations manager for the user id and password for the members-only section of the site.



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