Featured on the cover of this issue is a picture from a grotto trip to Big Bat Cave in January of 2011. The trip made for a great opportunity to take some photos with my new camera and tripod. We made it to the infamous Mountain Room in just under 4 hours. The room is 3,000 feet long and contains a handful of mountainous breakdown piles scattered throughout. The picture from the front cover is the first breakdown pile that is encountered. All 8 people in the group are present in the photo. The picture on the back cover is located towards the end of the room. Sue and Adam stopped to marvel at the cavern and pose for a colorfully lit photo. It was a great trip had by all.

Big Bat Cave, 2011
Photo by Tim Stoops

This issue of the Karst Window was edited by Tim Stoops
Thank you to those who submitted content.
The Louisville Grotto is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS). The Grotto is one of nearly 200 local chapters located around the country, which represent the bulk of the internal organizations of the NSS. The Grotto conducts regular meetings serving to bring cavers together within the general area and to coordinate activities. A Yahoo mailing group also serves as a means of communication between members. Membership is $20 per year for individuals or $25 for the whole family.

Meetings are held at the Bon Aire Public Library on Goldsmith Lane in Louisville, beginning at 7 p.m. The meetings are open to the general public and guests are encouraged to attend. Directions can be found on the grotto website as well.

Our annual fundraiser is a 4-day caving event called Speleofest. The event takes place on Memorial day weekend. More information can be found on the grotto website.

Caving trips. The Louisville Grotto has regular trips to various caves in Indiana and Kentucky. Our goal is to have at least one beginner-level trip per month in which all members are invited to attend.

Website
louisville.caves.org

Lone Star Preserve
Lone Star Preserve is a 67-acre caving preserve, which has been purchased and developed by the Louisville Grotto for the purpose of having Speleofest at a permanent central location in cave country. The preserve is located in Bonnieville, Kentucky - just north of Cave City on I-65.

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The Grotto publication is the Karst Window, a quarterly newsletter that is published on grotto meeting dates during the months of March, June, September and December. If you wish to submit content, please have any news items, articles, trip reports, upcoming events, etc. submitted no later than February, May, August, and November 15th. If you forward articles authored by someone other than yourself, please forward their name for proper credit in the newsletter. We are looking for original articles above anything else (i.e. trip reports, survey reports, gear reviews, etc.), but any caving related articles are fine, especially anything that is related to or effects caving locally. If you would like to submit content or to be added to the mailing list, send your request to tim.stoops@gmail.com.
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Link demonstrates 1 candlepower lamp in Death Mountain Cave
“Celebrating a generation of Adventure caving and Karst study”

The Louisville Grotto invites you to be part of our 40th year at the 2011 Speleofest Celebration, held on May 27th through 29th at “Lone Star Preserve” in Bonnieville, Kentucky. This event is the annual fundraiser needed to operate and maintain Lone Star Preserve.

The Preserve will be opened Thursday May 26, after 2:00 pm (additional overnight fee) for those that wish to arrive early. This will give those an opportunity to find a prime camping spot and meet new cavers. The general theme this year will be spotlighting “Caving adventures past to present.” Come on down and share one of your own stories of days gone by. Join us in celebrating 40 years of exploring the underground. Registration opens Friday, May 27th at 9:00 am.

There will be many new caves that will be featured south of Lone Star Preserve. We will also offer kayak and canoe floats down the Green and Nolin Rivers. There is always Lone Star Salt Peter Cave to cool off and relax in, any time.

Friday afternoon will have a few cave trips offered close by, so you’re back in time for supper. First time ever this year will be the wet-n-wild, CAVERS DE-KON Speleo-Slide. One of our fellow cavers, Ken Bailey will speak on “Map reading and understanding how Kentucky Caves are Formed”. Friday night will kick-off with a DJ Romp’n Howdy Party under the shelter. Liquid refreshments will be on hand to help quench your thirst and keep us on track. Stop by the Bon-Fire and be part of the 1st ever “Burning Caveman” social.

Saturday morning, activities for the day include a climbing contest, hayrides, geo-caching, kid games and a Forest Ecology field trip, walking LSP by our resident Forestry specialist, Steve Gray. There will be an evening banquet under the shelter, featured guest speaker “Doc Pearson” will talk on “Cavefish of Kentucky”, followed by Door Prize drawings. The Rock’n Party starts around 9:30 pm with Live Music. For those that wish to stay up later than most, there will be a designated “Party Camp” area this year. Common courtesies toward your neighbor still apply. Extended party time is expected in this Camp, so plan accordingly.
**Sunday** we will have more caves and float trips available. Sunday evening will be our way of saying “Thank You” to all our fellow cavers with an Appreciation Social inside Lone Star Saltpeter Cave. A good time to sit back, relax and share caving experiences and stories with each other. On Rope 1 will be there for all your caving gear needs. A few miles south of Bonnieville, Ky. is Cave City for more shopping and site seeing opportunities.

So make plans early and be part of celebrating with us, at “40th Speleofest, 2011”! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Jim Bobbitt, Speleofest Chair
***SPECIAL DISCOUNT  Speleofest Event Tickets***

January 1st through March 31th

$5.00 savings per person for Adult Pre-registers
$2.00 savings for Young Adult, Scout or Pet Pre-registers
$2.00 savings per person for Child Pre-registers

***On April 1st, Prices revert to Full Registration Cost***

FULL REGISTRATION with Guidebook
Adult (18 and over) $28.00
Young Adult (13-17) $16.00
Children (7-12) (no guidebook) $12.00
Children (6-under) Free
Scouts $15.00
Pets $15.00 each (MUST BE ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES)

DAY-PASS – No Guidebook
Adult (18 and over) (no guidebook) $10.00
Young Adult (13-17) (no guidebook) $8.00
Children (7-12) (no guidebook) $5.00
Pets $5.00 each (MUST BE ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES)

Banquet (Sat. Evening) $8.50
Ice Cream Cone Social Sunday (see registration form) $1.00 per cone

T-Shirt Prices
Tee’s
S, M, L, XL $15.00
XXL $17.50
Tank Tops
S, M, L, XL $10.00
XXL $12.50

Mail in registrations must be postmarked by May 15th!
Additional information, on-line registration form and updates to follow

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact:
Chairman: Jim Bobbitt trailblazerr@yahoo.com
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Dec 12th, The grotto took a trip to Stillhouse Cave in Monroe County. It was a short cave with some formations and had water running though it. A snow storm came though while in the cave and some got lost in the woods while walking back to the car.

Jan 23rd, The grotto took a trip to Flat Rock Cave and Knights Cave in Hardin County. Knights Cave turned out to be very small but Flat Rock is a nice cave with two entrances and lots of formations.

Feb 13th, A small group of grotto members met some landowners close to LSP and were shown some new caves. Plans are being made to explore the caves and work is in progress to keep searching for more new ones.

Feb 14th, Tim Stoops and Jefferson Cay gave a Caving Basics presentation to Boyscout Troop 319. The troop reported that they went to Hidden River Cave the following weekend and had a good time.

Feb 20th, A group of grotto members visited Ekron Pit in order to take measurements for a planned cave gate that the landowner has requested.

Feb 20th, A group of grotto members continued a dig in Lone Star Saltpeter Cave. Some new passage was gained but it didn’t make the connection that was hoped for. Exploring was also done on a lead in Storage Pit cave and it was found that the passage chokes out after dropping into a very narrow canyon.

Feb 26th, The Grotto had our first work day and road cleanup at LSP this year. Lots of trash was picked up from the road, trees were cleared, the orienteering map is close to completion, and Jpat ate a mashed potatoes and gravy salad. Everybody is working hard to make preparations for Speleofest 2011.

Breaking News!!

Feb 13th, Local land owner in Hart county reveals that every cave in Kentucky is connected to Mammoth Cave. This is great news for cavers. Keep pushing those leads!!

Jan 18th, A report from the water company reveals that we used 27,000 gallons of water at LSP during a time when the water valve was turned off. It is believed that the water has disappeared into a newly formed cave in the Beverbend Limestone Member and contains roughly a mile of borehole passage. Despite that this hypothesis has not yet been confirmed, the cave has already been named after the water company that formed it, Hardin County #2 cave.
"CAVING then and NOW"

When I was a young buck with strength and mobility
I rushed through the caves in a state of sublimity

Wedging and climbing each with stability
moving and crouching with a touch of agility

Now the trips seem so harsh is it age and fragility
sometimes I question my own virility

The same caves are demanding more time, less rigidity
and they're testing my memory dear GOD, not senility

By: Jpat Stevens
Woodcutter’s Cave Exploration
By: Tim Stoops

My involvement with exploring Woodcutter’s Cave began some years ago when I visited with Chris Stoops and Shawn Heavrin (Peanut) to push a couple of leads. I have always liked Woodcutter’s because it is challenging and is different than what I’m familiar with. The passage consists of a narrow vadose canyon that cuts deep into the hillside, offering a few notable climbs and some very high ceilings in parts. The narrow, winding passages make it challenging to gain distance, while the perennial stream in the canyon remains a constant nuisance that is avoidable only to those skilled in acrobatics. The cave is located in close proximity to the Lone Star Preserve in Hart County, which makes it a major priority for exploration; any cave within walking distance of a caving preserve should be a priority of exploration in my opinion. This is especially true since there is the possibility that it may even connect to one of the other known caves in close proximity, which include Rendezvous Cave, Neil’s Cave, Bucket cave, Storage Pit, and possibly even Lone Star Saltpeter / Peccary Cave. Making a connection between any of these caves would be an excellent discovery.

On that first Woodcutter’s "push trip" with Chris and Peanut I was unable to make it past a narrow canyon lead at the back of the cave, but Chris and Peanut pushed forward to discover what they claimed was "borehole passage". We checked every other side lead in that cave and determined that they didn’t go anywhere. It would be two years before I made a successful trip with Justin to go back to that area and see the supposed borehole passage for myself. On November 13th, 2010 me and Justin pushed the same canyon in the back of the cave and discovered that there is no borehole passage, just one dome/pit room. From the dome/pit room is a drainage crawlway that leads to the sump room at the end of the cave. While leaving the cave, at about the halfway point, we decided to check one more lead that I was sure to have also been neglected on our previous exploration. Justin pushed the narrow lead into a fair-sized dry room. An open lead connects this room to another, larger room that contains a pit. From the top of the pit we judged the depth to be about 20 - 25 feet deep. We could see a drainage slot at the bottom of the pit that looks like it might go. We explored the pit room further and climbed down a ledge to get a better view; the bottom of the pit was still about 15 feet deep and we concluded that it was not free climbable. I found a great place to rig a rope above the pit which would make it possible to drop the full 25 feet. We did not have climbing gear so we took the time to explore the upper portion of the pit room.

Another lead in the room has the sound of dripping water coming from it; it is a narrow canyon that requires a belly crawl to get through. I could see clearly in the dry, dirt floor where somebody else had pushed it before me. I could also see clearly where they had stopped. The walls in this passage were sharp with popcorn and there was difficult maneuvering ahead. I sucked it up and ignored the tearing of my coveralls and the skin beneath. I made it into the virgin passage and continued on by myself for a quick exploration. I stopped when I came to a small room with four leads in it, two of which looked pretty promising. This could be it; this could be the key to making a connection between Woodcutter’s and the close-by Rendezvous Cave. I was happy to make the discovery, but honestly, at the same time I was a little disappointed because I knew that I would have to come back to a cave that I really didn’t have much interest in coming back to. We planned to make another trip as soon as possible.
Woodcutter's Cave Follow Up
December 5th 2010
Justin, Tim, Harrison and Chris
By : Tim Stoops

On December 5th a group of Louisville Grotto members set out on a caving trip to answer the question, "does Woodcutter's Cave connect with Rendezvous cave?" This is a question that I have discussed many times amongst fellow grotto members, and the possibility of answering this question was looking very hopeful since we had discovered some new leads on the previous trip. In order to answer this question we would plan to leave no hole unchecked and to push every lead to the end. Unfortunately we had no idea what we were actually getting ourselves in to. Firstly I'll go ahead and admit that we made some major mistakes on this trip from the beginning. I have no problem detailing our mistakes because I know that it is important we learn from them, and there is a lot to learn from this trip.

We came prepared with rope and vertical gear to drop the 25' pit so we could explore the lead at the bottom, but unfortunately we didn't prepare well with other critical supplies. Upon reaching the cave we realized that we only had two bottles of water for the four of us. Since nobody wanted make a 40 minute walk to retrieve more bottles, we simply decided that we would have to keep in mind that we are short on water and will not be able to sustain a lengthy trip. Making the short trip to the pit was much longer and more tiring than I had expected; it's amazing how much harder it is to move through a cave with the extra weight in your cave pack. Upon reaching the pit, Harrison did some further investigating and found a hole that provides access to a climbable section of the pit – hand-line required. It was a little disheartening to realize that we brought the vertical gear for nothing, but I was relieved that we didn’t have to mess with rigging a nuisance drop.

I was the first to climb down the pit and check the lead at the bottom. It was a difficult crawl that ends where there is a rock blocking the passageway. I waited for more company before attempting to find a way around it. I discovered that you can stand up here and go around the blocked passage through a tight squeeze in the canyon, which quickly opens up into a little room. The canyon ends at this point and the passage continues as a low, wide drain that was impassable due to the sand and gravel on the floor. Harrison was able to dig it out with a trowel and push through to where the passage opens up into tube. At this point Chris informed me that his stomach was not feeling good and he would not be able to follow - typical for Chris to have stomach problems. I told him to wait and that we would be back in an hour or so. I caught up with Justin and Harrison where the passage turns into a canyon yet again. The passage from this point on is just brutal. The canyon has sharp protrusions like shark's teeth that constantly alter height and position on the walls. Where the floor opens enough to crawl it is always a better alternative to slide through the muddy stream as far as you can make it. It's like continuous puzzle where each movement requires having to stop and figure out how to gain more distance with the next move. We were constantly switching between crawling, squeezing, climbing, and cursing. We all had frustration with our knee pads shifting and not providing enough protection. I must have banged my knee 20 times; one time I hit it so hard that my leg went numb. A compass reading showed we were trending southwest.
At one point the cave drops about 15 feet into another narrow canyon that is different in structure; this one has a much higher ceiling height and the walls do not have sharp protrusions. I was reluctant to make the difficult maneuver required to carry on because we were getting exhausted and we had been separated from Chris for almost an hour. However, the large canyon passage was too tempting for us to turn around now. I went in feet first without any trouble; however I would suggest rigging a hand line here to aid at least in the return trip. After doing the climb down we did not go much further; it quickly became apparent that the difficult passage was not letting up on us for long. We did not have the energy, the supplies, or the time to carry on through more difficult passage further in the cave. I tied a red flag on a ceiling flake to mark our end point. I joked that the next time I hear a woman complain about the pain of child birth I will direct her to find the flag in Woodcutters cave before talking to me about pain. As we stopped for a rest we realized clearly that airflow was moving deeper into the cave passage. The cave was trending west. We had a much more difficult time on the return trip since we were now very tired and were also climbing in elevation.

When we got back to Chris we rested for a bit and then explored the dry leads above the pit. Chris found that one of the leads deadened shortly, two of them looped together, and the other was too narrow to pass. On the way out we flagged the lead at the main passage and I also flagged the climb-down near the entrance. We then left the cave and nearly froze on the walk back to the car.

So what did we learn on this trip? We learned that we were majorly underequipped for a difficult push trip. If I were to attempt this again I would wear full finger gloves, elbow pads, and long knee pads that cover the entire leg; this would make for much easier travel. It would also be necessary for everybody to have a cave pack with plenty of food and water to allow for plenty of break time. We learned that the trip leader tends to use the most energy because he has to spend more time figuring out how to maneuver through difficult places, so it’s a good idea to alternate the lead caver on a trip like this. Also, on the way out of the cave it is very frustrating trying to figure out how to do the difficult maneuvers again while you are more tired. I would recommend bringing tape to flag the difficult maneuvers so it is easier to remember how to get through them on the way out of the cave. Most importantly we learned that there is an open lead in Woodcutters cave that blows air and trends towards LSP property. Would I make a return trip to Woodcutters? Yes probably, but it would take some convincing.

This was a group shot taken after my very first trip to Woodcutters Cave, which was also my first visit to LSP. November 2007
Objectives:
Exercise
Trip around the Eastern Loop.
Familiarize Richard the route for a Speleofest trip.

Team Members:
Richard Gilliam
Steve Gentry

“My head hurts. My back hurts. My elbows are raw. My fingers are frozen. My knees are raw. My toes are cold. Why do I go caving? ESPECIALLY IN THE WINTERTIME!”
Richard Gilliam: Facebook Status update: 1/8/2011 7:35pm

The planned trip was to Chris’ Cave; the goal was to start survey on one of the leads at N67 & N73. Dave Frazier called Friday night to cancel. I called Richard and told him about Dave. I asked Richard “You want to go to Big Bat? You told me the other day that you wanted to go to Bat and not go swimming for a change”. Richard replied “Let’s go do the eastern loop, I going to do that trip for Speleofest and I want to do a practice trip before then”. My reply was “We have a plan, see you in the morning”. I thought since we are not swimming, that Missy Shields might want to go. I saw her online and invited her on the trip. Missy has wanted to go back into Big Bat since her first trip there last fall. Missy reply to my invite was “aren’t you going swimming tomorrow?” I told her the change of plans and she was in. I gave her the address and time to meet.

The temperature Saturday morning was 17 degrees, with a wind chill of 4. It snowed Friday night, we had about 1 inch of snow at our house. I loaded my gear and headed down the road. About half way to Shepherdsville the snow had all but disappeared. Missy called stating that she was driving on ice and she was canceling out. She didn’t want to drive from Glasgow to Custer on icy roads then back home after dark. I told her, better safe than sorry, see you on our next trip. I called Richard (I wear a blue tooth) told him Missy canceled. He said that the roads where clear near E-town. Well, we were back to two. The closer I got to cave county the more snow there was. Big Spring, Kentucky, is a caver’s landmark for several reasons. There’s the spring, the towns’ namesake, it’s a great gauge for the water levels underground. There are the two general stores that have gas, food, beer and real restrooms. It was like someone drew a line across the road at Big Spring. The snow was all over the roads and there was 3 plus inches on the ground. The drive from Big Spring to Custer was on snow-covered roads. I arrived at Big Bat a few minutes late. Richard was there waiting. We did the landowner thing, packed our gear and walked to the cave to finish suiting up. Once ready, we headed into the entrance passage.

There’s nothing like the Big Bats’ natural entrance on a cold winter day. The wind blows the full length of the entrance passage. Today was no exception, the wind was howling. The pool of water a few hundred feet in was COLD but not frozen. You have to cross this pool and you will get your legs wet. We have seen this pool frozen in the past; you could skate on your hands and knees across it. We caved our way to “Room 1” and stopped for a short break. We adjusted our packs for the next leg of our trip.

Packs tied to our legs, we started the 300ft belly crawl know as the “Key Hole Crawl” to the “Key Hole”. Richard in lead with me following, we crawled for what always seems like forever. I told Richard that no mater how many times you do these crawls you still have to stop and look to see where you are.

Big Bat is known for two things, it’s 25 ft wide and whatever you do, you do forever. You can walk, crawl, stoop walk and everything in between in what seems like forever, and do it all in the same trip-depending on where you go.
We found the “Key Hole” and made our way through into the next room. We walked for a few minutes till we came upon the “Nutcracker”. This crawl is 600 ft long that starts as hands & knees and goes down to belly with a tight spot just before the end. The crawl’s floor ranges from packed silt to sand and gravel. The crawl ends with a 5 ft drop off/wall you must climb down/fall into a room known as the “Junction Box”. We took a lunch break here. I told Richard that I wanted to show him something down the passage to the right. We started off walking but quickly found ourselves in another crawl. We crawled for another 300ft till we popped out into “Great Relief Hall”. I told Richard that that was the first leg of the journey to the “Mountain Room”. I said that we could walk for several minutes before we needed to crawl again and that if he wanted we would go till we turned around. But I also said that if we keep going north that we were returning the same way we came in. No finishing the loop trip today. Richard wanted to push ahead, so north we went. We walked for a while, crawled several more crawls, fought our way over several large slick mud banks, and crossed the stream more than once, found the “Sun” at survey point 124. If you have seen the “Sun” then you know what I’m talking about. We found our way to the “Mountain Room”. This room starts at survey point 131 and ends at 150. Most of the survey shots were 100ft. That makes the room almost 2000 ft long, 100ft wide and 70ft tall. We checked around for leads. We didn’t spend much time on leads because the trip here had eaten up our trip time. I was only planning a 6-hour trip and Kim would be timing our trip while she was waiting for the “We’re out” phone call. We took yet another break before heading south to the entrance.

The trip out was uneventful except that all the crawls seemed longer, the walks shorter and the water colder. The entrance passage was howling into our faces all the way to daylight. All in all we did something like 6000 ft of cave less than 3 ft tall. We made it out just before sundown and headed home after another great Big Bat trip. We still need to finish the loop, but that’s another day.
Survey Trip
12 6 2011
Steve Gentry

Objectives:
Check for possible lead in 2nd dry room. Survey book #1
Continue survey of creek side lead north end. Survey book #16
Survey ridge side loop north end off of survey book #4

There's nothing like caving with single digit wind chills. Richard Gilliam and I met for our trip at 10:30 am in Custer. We did the landowner thing, packed our gear for the walk down the hill to the cave. We didn't drive because of all the rain of the past week. We didn't want the truck parked at the bottom waiting for the ground to dry/freeze enough to drive out in what could be one to several days later. We hauled the gear into the entrance so we could suit up out of the wind and freezing temperatures outside. Gearing up in the tight confines of the entrance room was a small challenge. I had my chair so fighting the wetsuit on was a little easier setting than trying to stand in a room where there's only one spot tall enough to stand up right.

Geared up, we headed to our first objective. I had been looking around the cave with my StenLight on past trips. I had notice what looked like a lead in one of the rooms that I didn't remember. I had copies of the survey books that would help us locate old survey points in order to tie our survey(s) in with the master map. The lead turned out to be a water carved channel through the mud banks with a breakdown cover crack in the floor. I could see through the crack but it's too small to pass. I could see a few feet down but nothing more. It's possible that it leads to the lower level stream passage that's on the far side of the room. That lead is blocked with breakdown after a few feet making it impossible to get in. This room is also the room where we see eyeless fish, we didn't look this time. We had other things on our minds.

Leaving that room I noticed the water in this part of the passage was mucky and up from our last trip. This passage is an overflow passage of the main river, it is here that you will start to notice the difference in water levels. The water was up several inches but still below normal pool. We took a side lead to the main river just before 3 Rivers Room. At the main river I asked Richard if he knew where we were. One of our goals is to teach the team members the cave so we can have multiple survey teams. Richard thought we were in a different part of the river than we were. I explained the layout to him as we walked up stream to 3 Rivers so he could get his bearings.

We turned around and headed down stream to the north end to our next objective. Along the way we checked a short creek side crawlway loop that we spotted. This loop, like many others, has not surveyed and I wanted to see where it went and if there were any passages leading away from it. I found a short side passage that went 15 or feet to a breakdown blockage. This blockage looked like the bottom of what I looked at in the room from our first objective. We will need to mark the hole to see if we can locate it on another trip. Back on course, we headed north. Dave Frazier and Doug Neff started surveying the lead in question in 1995. They surveyed 215ft (book 16) and had stopped in going passage. Our goal was to pick up their survey if we could find their last point, or start over at the beginning of the passage if not. We checked the notes for their starting point. Our plans were to locate their point, check their shots in order to find the last station. We were unable to determine where the starting point had been set. The point in the notes and the passage didn't line up. The compass bearing pointed into the wall where I thought the point would have been. The cave has flooded many times since 1995 and the mud banks near the passage had changed. We set a starting point and marked it with flagging tape.

The passage starts off as a walking passage that goes quickly into a 5 to 6 ft wide by 3 to 4 ft tall mud banked passage. We survey our way up, over, around and through the mud banks. We found Dave and Doug's last point. Dave's sketch shows detail and he drew the rock almost life like where the point was located. We set our point on theirs in order to tie our survey into theirs. We continued surveying in virgin passage. The passage started getting wetter. We came to a pool of water that ranged from 1 to 5 inches deep and continued for next 80 ft. We intercepted a right hand side passage just past the end of the pool. This side passage starts off as a small 18 inch tall by 2 ft wide lead with some water on the floor. We didn't push the lead, but saw that it went least 20 or so feet before it turned. The main passage went for another 15 ft to a large breakdown block. Richard crawled under the block in a pool of water to see more breakdown. We knew we wanted to find a way through because of the airflow we had been feeling. Richard came out and I went in, I could see what looked like a way through if I could be an
Survey Trip
12 12 2010
Steve Gentry

Objective: To continue survey clean up north end. (survey books #4, #22)
Team members: Richard Gilliam, David Frazier and Steve Gentry

Another cold day with snow in the forecast, we geared up for another trip into Chris’ Cave. We walked down the hill to change in the entrance of the cave. Dave’ plans for the day was to tie in the December 6th survey (survey book #22) and continue surveying the outer most creek side lead. Dave wanted to (re)survey and draw in detail this passage in order to clear up questions he had in that area.

One of the biggest problems we are having is finding old survey points. After 20 plus years in a cave that floods on a regular bases, the old points for the most part nonexistent. Dave and I have been studying the old survey notes so that we can locate the old points. We have been carrying copies of said notes in the cave for that purpose. This is the main reason that high survey standards are so important. We have been marking our starting, last and any side lead points with flagging tape on all trips this year. This has helped with tie ins and generally makes the survey easier.

The survey of December 6th was quickly tied in and we continued down the lead in question. The survey moved quickly thru the walking dry passage. Most of the passage is an overflow of the main river with a few formations and large breakdown along the way. We surveyed a short side loop (new survey) in the passage before reentering the river. The survey ended at a junction of three passages. We surveyed around 700 feet of which most was resurvey. Dave had this set of questions answered, and of course has several new ones.

We exited the cave after 5 ½ hours and slowly walked back up the snow covered hill. We spent some time visiting with the owner, warming by the fire and enjoying hot coffee. The biological count of the trip was still mostly nonexistent due to the mucky water. The ride home was most interesting due to the snow covered roads.
Survey Trip  
12 26 2010  
Steve Gentry

Objectives:
Locate & check lead across the passage from Buds Pud Passage. Book 1  
Survey leads north end at C4, D1,C9. Book 3  
Survey loop far north. Books 4 & 15

Team Members:
Richard Gilliam  
Steve Gentry

There's nothing like going caving the day after Christmas. This was also the 22nd anniversary of our adventures in Chris' Cave. Another walk down the hill and gearing up in the entrance room, Richard and I were in the cave around 11:40 am.

Our first stop was at Buds Pud passage, the map shows a surveyed lead on the opposite wall. The passage goes 15 or so feet then is blocked with breakdown. This was the second lead in this area we have looked at this winter. We arrived at 3 Rivers Room and I asked Richard if he would like to run down B Survey. It had been around 20 years since I had been down the lead and I wanted to look at the sump. B Survey is mostly walking passage with water from knee deep to swimming. We passed several leads that I didn't remember and saw the B-side end of Buds Puds Passage. There were several outside Crayfish, scores of Cave Crayfish, 1 outside fish, 1 sculpin and 10 to 15 eyeless fish. I propose we name the passage “The Hall of the Fishes”. The water is still down from normal pool and the sump is maybe 15 to 20 feet from where we stopped the survey. The ceiling drops, the water gets deeper the closer you get to the sump. If we were lucky, there was 3 inches of air space for 10 or so feet before the passage sumped.

We checked some of the side leads on our way back. One of the leads took us to the Big Dry Room. The room was named for its size and its sandy dry floor. The room borders both A & B surveys. The main river (A survey) runs the length of the room (ridge side) while B intersects the room with side passages (creek side). We found an old carbide smoked survey point on the ceiling. Surveys points A10, BP22 and 4A all tie in at this point. We were surprised to find the points considering that the cave floods. The room air pockets during floods, so we might find other places in the cave that does the same.

With the detour over, we headed downstream to our next destination. We found the first of the three side leads on our list. We checked the survey notes and moved on to the next one. At lead #3 we were able to judge where the old point was located. We flagged old survey point C9 and started our survey DD.

The passages we were surveying were out of the water with sandy floors, with ceiling heights from 4.5 feet down to 12 inches. The passage branched to the left after one shot. We surveyed the upper part of the branch in one shot called DE. Near the end of this passage, a hole on the right drops down to a lower level. This lower level is close to river level and is 5 ft wide with water and 4 inches of air. It's leading away from the river as far as I could see. We didn't survey this passage. Back to DD the passage continued on while the ceiling continued to drop lower. We surveyed our way to a breakdown pile. The passage dropped down to a lower level on the right, and continued but looked tight on the left. I checked the lower level, it looked like the lower level in DE, low wet and low air space. Richard checked the left, he reported that it got tight after several feet. I checked the breakdown and found a way up and over. I crawled out into a large room. I looked around while Richard made his way into the room. I asked Richard if he knew where we were. As he looked around the room I told him that we had been in this room before. Richard looked at me and said that we were in the room before-Buds Pud passage. We didn't find the passage out of the room that we looked for earlier, but found our way back into the room. We went back into the passage to finish the survey. We marked the bottom of the breakdown and surveyed our way up and out. We flagged the last station, packed the gear and headed out.

We surveyed 211.7 feet of which part was virgin passage. Not bad for surveying a low sandy crawl in wetsuits.
Objectives:
See what affect 1.2 inches of rain had on the cave.
Survey “Big Dry Room” in between A & B Surveys, tie into survey points A10, BP22,4A

Party Members:
Team 1:
Dave Frazier
Ted Burke
Team 2:
Richard Gilliam
Steve Gentry

Another cold day, another walk down the hill. Dave and Ted geared up at the top, while Richard and I geared up outside the cave. We entered the cave around 11:40 AM, we saw the first of many signs of high water. In the “Shovel Room” there was a pool of water with a cave crayfish in low spot in the passage above the normal pool in the room. The water in that pool was up several inches and the passage showed signs of much more water.

Our main objective of the day was to see how the cave was affected by the 1.2 inches of rain that had occurred before our trip. The rain fell over an 8 to 10 hour period that ended about 24 hours before our trip. I had been in the cave before during a flood event in 1992. That trip was 9 hours after .75 inches had fallen. Dave and I have seem high water in the cave many times over the years so we knew what to expect. Today was no exception.

We left the “Shovel Room”, entered the next room, there we placed flagging tape markers on a large rock to let each team know if the other had left the cave. We as a group were going to split off at “3 Rivers Room” to work in different areas of the cave. Richard and I were going north, while Dave and Ted were going south. We continued down the passage to the next dry room. I showed Dave where the passage from our last survey (book 24) entered the room. We exited the room into a water-covered floor into what has been lately dry passage. The water levels of the passage pools was up several inches. We entered “3 Rivers Room” to see that today, there was 3 rivers were flowing into and thru the room. Dave stated that this was the “3 Rivers Room” he remembered. I noted where the water was on a landmark rock in the side passage. I was going to use that rock as a water grade. We moved across the room to the main river. The river was up and roaring. This was the point where we were to part and head to our respective projects.

We looked at the flow of the river and decided that all of us would take the short trip upstream to the “Big Dry Room”. I knew after looking at the flow at “3 Rivers” that Richard and I didn’t need to go downstream to survey and then fight our way back upstream. We entered the river and pushed our way upstream against the current. We found the spot where we always had to swim at normal pool but lately it has been only shoulder deep. It was back to a swim today except on the right wall, that’s if you hugged the wall. There you could tip toe along the wall hoping not to slide into the deep water. Trying to swim upstream was difficult to say the least.

We climbed out of the river to the “Big Dry Room”. We were at one of our objectives of the day. The four of us could survey the room much faster than just two. Dave set up the book, Richard on point and back sights, Ted on tape and where ever he was needed while I was on tape and front sights. We started at A9 survey point from book 5. We surveyed our way around the perimeter of the room with tie ins to every old survey point we found. We set a permanent station in B survey to tie into at a later date. We surveyed 286.3 feet around the room and the station into “B”. We tied the last shot to old survey points A10, BP22, 4A. We packed the survey gear and headed out. The water on the marker rock was down about 3 inches from when we came in. That was the only place that the drop was noticeable. The rest of the river and pools all seemed to be the same level as when we came in. We exited the cave at 3 pm.
Survey Trip
1 30 2011
Steve Gentry

Objective:
Continue survey of north end. Fill in the gaps on map
Survey ridge side lead north end.

Team members:
Dave Frazier
Richard Gilliam
Steve Gentry

The trip started with a nice cool morning. The weather forecast a morning temperature in the 30s with a high in the mid to upper 40s. This was a big change from most all of our trips this winter. We could dress out at the top of the hill by the trucks and hike down with only cave gear for a change.

The plan of the day was to finish up the loops and find the missing 3rd bore hole lead in the north end. We made our way into the cave and proceeded to “Three Rivers Room”. We made a brief stop in the “Fish Pool Room” to check for eyeless fish. We saw the two fish that live in the pool plus an eyeless crayfish. The water in the cave was now at normal levels after the last major rain event a few weeks earlier. The cave has gained the foot or so of water that was lost from this past summer’s drought. We turned at “Three Rivers Room” to head north to pick up our last survey. The river now at normal pool level, provided us with swims we had forgotten about and the still cloudy waters hid the large rocks and drops offs. Dave found one such spot in the river when he fell and went almost completely underwater. Dave said that his body and head went under leaving only his eyes above the water.

We arrived at our destination and began setting up to survey. The first thing was to find a spot where we could get out of the river in order to unpack the survey gear. The starting shot was in the middle of the river on a rock sticking out of the water. The closest sand bar was 75 to 100 ft away. Once the gear was unpacked we went to the point and started the days’ project. Dave on book, Richard on point and back shots and I have front shots and rear tape. Those who survey caves know how important it is to have an accurate survey. Today we are surveying in deep water. Most of our shot are in water that’s over our heads. The points are set on the ceiling and/or close to the walls. There are no sand bars or rock ledges or any way to do anything but swim while setting point, shooting instruments and keeping book. We are wearing life jackets to help us float while surveying. Dave and I have surveyed while swimming many times before, but this was Richard first time. Dave and I enjoyed watching him try everything possible to stay in position, but then we were having the same problem. We surveyed the loop in question with a tie in on both the starting and ending points. We then swam to the next starting point.

We plan was to survey from a known survey point to an unsurveyed ridge side lead. This lead was the last major lead in the north end left to be mapped. We still have several smaller leads that have never been pushed out that are also waiting their turn for a survey team. Richard and I started setting up our next shot while Dave swam ahead looking for a spot to get out of the water. Dave was feeling cold after going under earlier. Richard swam up to where Dave had stopped. Dave told Richard that he was feeling very cold and that he needed to warm up. They called it a day. Dave started out while Richard swam back to me. Dave was going to meet us at a break down pile before “Three Rivers Room”. I had been setting on an underwater ledge waiting for Richard to return. We packed up the gear and headed out to meet up with Dave. We met up with Dave at the breakdown, with Richard in lead, we headed toward the entrance.

Caving under our standard trip leader rules, we lead in then have the new cavers lead out. This is the best way to teach new cavers to watch where they are going. It will make you look and pay attention to where you are going and where you have been. Richard has been on lead the past few trips and he’s learning his way around parts of the cave. We made it out only an hour earlier than our normal exit time. We surveyed 141.3 ft. Closed another loop. Biological count of 3 eyeless fish, 2 outside fish, several crayfish in the cave and outside.

Steve Gentry swimming. Photo by Dave Frazier
By Jpat Stevens

The time was December, the year was 2001, the place was Lone Star Preserve in Hart County KY. Lone Star Preserve was now 3 years old and all members were still excited, full of energy, working hard to bring the 67 acre area of woods and hill country to appear as a preserve. The MISSION STATEMENT had been written, the objectives had been visioned, the planning and work was on schedule and LOVE was in the AIR !! Many members were involved in the LSP project and several of these became close as time progressed, some became very close. The Shelter house was finished, the barn was well underway, LSP was looking more like a park, the grotto members were getting to know the neighbors in Hart county and the members were aggressively preparing for SPELEOFEST 2002 at OTTER CREEK PARK, the Speleofest chairman for 2002 was Scott Cundiff. The Grotto committee leader for all work projects at LSP was Glenn Driskill and Glenn did all the planning of work, work weekends and notifying the members of work to be done. Jpat and Steve G. were always there to follow Glenn's lead along with others. Glenn, Jpat and Steve grew close and worked well together. Now back to LOVE was in the AIR !! About the first of December 2001 Steve let Glenn & Jpat know he was planning to MARRY one of the other Grotto members. Jpat got Steve off to the side and asked WHO would be Steve's best man... Steve let Jpat know it would be GLENN ~~~ Jpat was heartbroken as he thought he and Steve were best of friends but it was obvious STEVE & GLENN were inseparable !!! As the BIG day drew closer Glenn started new work on the LSP cave where the " WEDDING " was to take place, Glenn also lined up a PREACHER who lived up the road from LSP to perform the NUPTUAL CEREMONY in the cave as Glenn wanted everything to be perfect for Steve. Jpat followed Glenn's planning for Steve & Kimmy's day of LOVE !! Finally the BIG DAY arrived, The Bride & Groom were there, The Best Man GLENN was in place, the MAID of HONOR was LISA THORNER, the LSP Attorney and the flower girl was Lisa's Little daughter. (Jpat was there but still brokenhearted ). The Wedding took place in Lone Star Salt peter Cave and as you can see in the photo's everyone was Jubilant & LOVE was in the AIR ! The reception took place in the Shelter house and most of Steve's family were there along with many of the grotto members. It was a COLD and beautiful day.
We didn’t get any LG gear reviews this quarter so I have decided to publish some new helmet reviews that were submitted by the Muslim Brotherhood Caving Club in Egypt.

**Bread helmet**

Review by Khalid Al-Mihdhar: This weekend I used the bread helmet on a caving trip near Cario. The wheat roll and package tape did manage to protect my head very well from bumps and scrapes. However, the parmesan and garlic from the soggy breadsticks rubbed into my skin and made me very angry. I would not recommend using this helmet.

**Cardboard helmet**

Review by Majed Moqed: On a recent expedition to Tut’s Spring cave I tried out the new Cardboard Helmet design. It was not good because there was no way to mount my headlamp onto it. To make matters worse the helmet ripped while in the cave and was beyond repair. Despite the mishap I was able to keep my composure and remain calm throughout the duration of the trip, however I must admit that once we got out of the cave I broke down and cried like a little girl.

**Wool Wrap Helmet**

Review by Salem Alhazmi: I have been caving with the Wool Wrap Helmet for almost 1 year now. I like it very much. It is simple to use and it keeps my head warm. The only drawback is that it is very easy for my caving buddies to sneak rocks into the helmet when I am not paying attention. These pranksters have “rocked” my helmet twice in the past month.
In Flat Rock Cave, Harrison climbs up the flowstone formation. The rope in the cave does not seem safe and is best to avoid, but it helps a little.

This was the group shot outside of Flat Rock Cave. This picture was taken in High Dynamic Range to combat the high contrast outside of the cave entrance. It was a short trip but is a very nice cave, so we all had a good time.
In Still house Cave, the group prepares to get their feet wet. Meanwhile it is snowing outside and the walk back to the car is not short.

This is the “Blue” hole near Lone Star, Kentucky. Picture was taken just after a rain storm and the water was churning ever so slightly. This is a window into the aquifer that resurges at Roundstone Creek.

Did you get a new car? I don’t see a bat sticker on it.
In Cooch-Webb Cave, Harrison stops above the rimstone pool. This passage leads to the pit room in the cave. We were surprised to find more passages up ahead that were flooded with more water than we had seen before.

In Big Bat Cave, Alan tries out his new Fenix headlamp in the Helectite Room. I found it a good opportunity to try out my new tripod.
North Carolina Confirms WNS – White-nose syndrome has been discovered in a retired Avery County mine and in a cave at Grandfather Mountain State Park, marking the arrival of the disease in North Carolina

Mammoth Cave NP Issues WNS Plan - The plan details the elements critical to the investigation and management of WNS and protection/use of related park resources at Mammoth Cave National Park (MACA). The plan includes access restrictions and decontamination requirements that apply to bat research and all human activities in park caves.

Indiana DNR Confirms Bats with Geomyces Destructans - The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have received confirmation that a bat found in Endless cave has tested positive for the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. The case is the state’s first for the WNS fungus, believed to be responsible for the deaths of more than one million bats in the eastern United States. Additional bats with signs of WNS were discovered during routine bat count surveys at other caves.

White Nose Syndrome and Bat Hibernation Areas - February 21, 2011

Map Information: Bat Hibernation Areas are based on known hibernacula from bat ecological data for Little Brown, Big Brown, Indiana, Southern, Grey, Rafinesque’s Big-eared, Northern, Eastern Small-footed, and Tri-colored bats. Some hibernacula are not represented.

A wallet was found in Lone Star Saltpeter Cave. I don’t recognize the name so I took pictures of the items inside. To claim please contact any grotto officer.
MEETING OPENED AT 7:10 P.M.
Amendments will appear in bold and red print, a few copies will be handed out at the Grotto Meeting for those who didn’t read from the Louisville Grotto page.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Carter, Richard Gilliam, J Pat Stephens, Fran von Selzam
DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jim Bobbitt, Bill Napper Dave Weller
ATTENDANCE: 15

Dr. Brian Anderson our guest speaker from the Preston Chiropractic & Rehabilitation Center was introduced by Jim Bobbitt. The presentation covered the aspects of twists and movements one can make to enhance the stress to the psyatic nerve due to caving. He showed us different stretches and the importance of jogging in place to loosen up our bodies before stressful activities then answering questions from the members. Those who asked questions were given a T-shirt. Cards for his business and appointments were placed on the table for those wishing to take them, he also left cool/hot packs for the taking. A good informative presentation for all of us.

Minutes were read, Sue Milburn motioned for approval, Judy Woosley 2nd. Motion carried.
Treasurer’s Report given by J Pat Stephens, Tim Stoops motion to accept, 2nd by Jim Bobbitt

Trips Reports: Tim Stoops reported a drive to Bylew and drove for 2 hours to find the cave. He went to Mammoth Cave National Park, found huge 250 foot cliffs, 1 or 2 have formations. Neat! He also went to Red River Gorge, many caves were gated and the waterfall has been blocked by the owner to trespassers. The Three Bridges was discussed and could be in the park.

Judy Woosley went to Blue Springs in Tennessee. It was beautiful everywhere. There was a 1400 foot crawl. There was gypsum everywhere. Gorgeous!

Doc Pearson reported on his trip 2 to 3 weeks ago with students to Websters, they went all the way back and saw 100 cave fish and saw more crayfish. The water was deep in some areas but low in others, as low as he has ever seen it.

Bill Napper went to Mammoth Cave last Friday night for the historic Edmond Turner presentation on Saturday. There were 2 new cavers who took off by themselves which made everyone nervous, but they found their way back to the group. A tombstone was placed for Edmond in his honor for his contributions to Onyx Cave, he did a guided tour where they found a 1914 signature of Edmond. Floyd Collins opened the cave in 1915.

Sue Milburn reported on Deer Hole (Warren Cty). It has many levels, Harrison Hyden and Jim Bobbitt found a main passage, they kept pushing the passage and exited the sink hole. There was soft sand and debris. J Pat mentioned the 100 feet below the entrance they went in and 900 feet way! They arrived back at the original entrance and were waiting for J Pat and others. "WOW THEY WERE QUICK"! J Pat has maps to share.

Jim Bobbitt reported on Bylew, it was pretty with a big over hang, sandstone with a 50 foot drop. The rock shelter was similar to Holly Cave. He also reported on Payne Cave Skaggs, Salt Peter., Mazie’s, he saw big and little browns. It was trashed. J Pat passed out maps and pictures.

J Pat Stephens said the next Grotto Trip will be to Stillhouse Cave on Sunday, December 12th.
OLD BUSINESS:
Sign design for entrance to LSP, J Pat will get it,
Tim Stoops mentioned a sign for camping fees, he is not interested in making it.
Jim Carter reported on Orienteering at LSP with maps and hiked 6 to 8 miles, he would like to see it open permanently to the Orienteering group. "Under old business relating to orienteering it should read install a permanent orienteering course."

Jim Carter: Electronic Voting. Articles 8 2B and proxy votes. He feels proxy is good and if the electronic voting is to put in to motion and who will head it up. All votes must be identified and must be able to make hard copies for verification. A vote must be made on this with a strong emphases on verification of voter.
Jim Bobbitt motioned to eliminate the reading of the minutes to save time at monthly meeting, 2nd by Judy Woosley. The minutes are not only electronically sent out but hard copies to be given at meetings. Motion passed.
LSP Committee:: Richard Gilliam will be the Chair with Jim Carter's help to set up working schedules.
Fran von Selzam said a strong commitment from members to work at the Speolofest Registration is needed. It is a 2 hour shift, knowing that people at this time do not know when they will be caving or leading a trip but to give on their spare time. A notice will be put out on e-mail with time slots that need to be filled.
J Pat Stephens will be giving out cards to Grotto members to place on their windshields so the cave owners will know who is on their property, cave owners will also have the cards to identify members from the non-members.

NEW BUSINESS:
DUES are due NOW!
We need programs for the meetings
J Pat needs repayment for $65.00 for mower equipment. J. Bobbitt motioned and Tim Stoops 2nd.
Tim Stoops regarding the Karst Window. There will be changes to the website, he needs trip reports. He also stated that sponsorship for Speolofest will on the website. Tim also accepted the responsibility of monitoring our yahoo groups page.

Jim Bobbitt motioned for meeting to adjourn at 8:38 P.M., Judy Woosley 2nd.
LOUISIVILLE GROTTO JANUARY 5, 2011 MINUTES

MEETING OPENED AT 7:00 P.M.
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Carter, Richard Gilliam, J Pat Stephens, Fran von Selzam
DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jim Bobbitt, Dave Weller
ATTENDANCE: 22
NEW MEMBERS: Stephanie Coffey, Adam Sampson, Craig Weisman
Judy Woosley made a motion to approve the December minutes, Sue Milburn 2nd.
Treasures Report: J Pat Stephens will check out the water situation and why the cost has risen. Ending Balance: $9,756.77. Dues: Single $20.00 Family $25.00. Jim Bobbitt motioned to approve, Judy Woosley 2nd.

Trip Reports:
Tim Stoops went to Big Bat's Formation Room through the natural entrance, took pictures. He also reported on Woodcutters. He and Harrison found a new lead off to the right, went into a pit. Harrison dug out an entry into a canyon, it was tight but feel this might be a connection to Bucket Cave.
Jim Bobbitt went to Flat Rock on a survey trip. There are actually 2 cave entrances at the same elevation on opposite sides of the ridge. Our goal was to survey the other entrance on the Southside, (I 'll call it Flat Rock No. 2) in hopes of finding a connection between the two. The north entrance called Flat Rock Cave was surveyed and mapped in 1983.
Sue Milburn went to the Upton cave. Nice cave, it used to be a fallout shelter.
Richard Gilliam went to Chris's Cave to survey a virgin passage. Water was up with a heavy flow.
Ken Bailey reported on Wonderland, all bats appeared to be healthy, it has no gate and vandalism has occurred since it is a party cave. A discussion followed regarding the types of gates that should be in place.
Tim Stoops reported on the Grotto Trip to Stillhouse, took pictures and said he got lost in the woods.

Ken Bailey made an introduction to the programs that he will present to the Grotto one half hour before the meetings at 6:30 p.m.on picture taking and compass. A possible compass try will be around the exterior library building.

OLD BUSINESS:
Sign design for entrance to LSP. J Pat will get with Corey regarding the welding and is/has the drawing.
Grotto Library: There is no news on the library either from Shanni or Mickey. J Pat has tried unsuccessfully to reach Shanni, but no response from her as yet.
Richard Gilliam reported on the road to Rendezvous. There is not a lot of work but clearing the woods, Don Swart will use Ollie but wants to get it done before hot weather. Jamie Wilkerson said he would help clear the road.
PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2011/19 members have paid dues for 2011
Jim Carter presented a map of LSP for Orienteering at LSP.
Jim Carter: Electronic Voting. Articles 8 2B and proxy votes. He feels proxy is good and if the electronic voting is to put in to motion and who will head it up. All votes must be identified and must be able to make hard copies for verification. A vote must be made on this with a strong emphases on verification of voter
Fran von Selzam said a strong commitment from members to work at the Speolofest Registration is needed. It is a 2 hour shift, knowing that people at this time do not know when they will be caving or leading a trip but to give on their spare time.
Jim Bobbitt gave a report on Speolofest. He has the cave leaders, thoughts on church group or Amish doing the Banquet Dinner. A lot of new caves, there are 26 horizontal and 5 vertical.

NEW BUSINESS:
Judy Woosley will head up the highway clean up this coming year, will be checking on schedules.
Orienteering Meeting at Cherokee Park in April and May. This will be open for beginners and advanced.
A complete financial report will be given once Speolofest is completed.
Ivan Smaagaard will post flyers around U of L for Speolofest.
February the gate and shelter numbers will be changed. The numbers will be given to paid members only. For non-paid members get in touch with Jim Carter or Richard Gilliam.
Up coming Trips for Sunday the 9th:
Upton, meet at the Dollar Store
Big Bat on Sunday the 16th
Louisville Grotto Trip the 23rd, going South
The Louisville Grotto Yahoo Page and the 50/50 Pay Pal will handle the pre-registration.

Meeting adjourn at 8:14 P.M.
MEETING OPENED AT 7:17 P.M.

Amendments will appear in bold and red print, a few copies will be handed out at the Grotto Meeting for those who didn't read from the Louisville Grotto page.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Carter, Richard Gilliam, J Pat Stephens, Fran von Selzam
DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jim Bobbitt, Bill Napper, Dave Weller
ATTENDANCE: 24

Judy Woosley motioned to approve the January minutes, Jim Bobbitt 2nd.
J Pat Stephens gave the Treasurer's Report. David Mcintosh motioned for approval, Judy Woosley 2nd.

Trip Reports:
Tim Stoops trip to Big Bat. Reporting in that we made it out of the Cave and had a successful trip to the Mountain Room in Big Bat cave. There were 8 of us in the group: Judy, Sue, Harrison, Allan, Adam, Sam, Jim, and myself. The total trip time was 8 hours (first in - first out) almost exactly to the minute. We spent over an hour exploring the Mountain Room and taking pictures. I'll post the pictures soon. The trip was hard as expected but nobody really seemed to have much trouble. In fact, I don't think I could have done that trip any faster if I had been by myself. The Mountain Room is an amazing place and definitely worth seeing again. Other comments from Jim Bobbitt. You mean it was a 'Killer Trip", ....that it was , the room is as big as sloan's valley. Went to the very back and found the S.N.S. 1960 * mark. There were a few bats in the back also. was a great trip by everyone. Sue Milburn commented, "What a great trip. We went in at 9:00, got out at 5:00 and even had time for a liesurely lunch and plenty of rest stops. The Mountain Room is as impressive as everyone says. A fun trip!

Bill Napper went to three caves. Old Doyle Cave which has been lost in history, (Park City, Mammouth). JPat has a possible map that the Grotto did. Park City, Nevill Cave, nothing there! Short LaRue Cave, found steps and hand rail. It was never a commercial cave, Interstate 65 stopped it from becoming one.

Ken Bailey went to Hardin County to Cain's Cave he is working for better relationships with the owner.

Richard Gilliam went to Chris's Cave for surveying from North to South. Very cold water.

Jim Bobbitt went to Knights Cave in Upton. It once was a fallout shelter. Dug a little bit. It's family owned where they store apples. He also went to The Ridge and Flat Rock in Sonora. Tim Stoops and Harrison Hyden went down and found flowstone and cascades.

JPat went to three caves, Penitenary Pit and Websters that could possibly used for Speolofest. The other is in Breckinridge County, will let everyone know regarding permission.

Old Business:
Jim Carter and Richard Gilliam will change the combination and will creating the work schedules. The water line is turned off now.
Jim Carter stated that we need a minium of $4,550.00 extra for the tractor, mowers, road gravel (Don Swart needs a minimum of 3 loads), gas, water heaters with possibility of buying a new one. We need wire for the platform for the water heaters. He also stated that we need to stay within our budget. Sue mentioned a $1,500.00 to go to Don Swart, this will be checked on.
New Business:

Judy Woosley regarding the Highway Clean-up. It must be done four times a year, all depends on the weather.

Ken Bailey said that WNS was in Indiana, a ead bat was found outside a cave. Officials of the Indiana DNR will work with Wisconsin DNR. The fungus does not live outside the cave.

Richard Gilliam is checking on E-Bay for equipment.

J Pat will plan a trip soon to Kevin Roberts the owner of the pit. He wants the Grotto to fence and gate. This is good PR.

Jim Carter regarding trespassing on properties. "you cross over, you are in violation" You must get permission first!. If this is not followed the Grotto has always paid for it.

J Pat showed the Parking I.D. which will be placed on the interior windshield. "There will be three initials, ex. RCC. (Ropell). This will be given to the owner, the owner will know it is us." He also mentioned that the Speolofest caves should be flag for the trips.

Jim Carter now has the Grotto library.

Grotto Trip: The movie Sanctum will be shown Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. on Preston. (3-D)

Jim Bobbitt regarding Speolofest. Port-a-Potties, Judy Woosley stated it would be $500.00 for 20. Richard Gilliam is on the work schedule, it's only 16 weeks until Speolofest. A Squeeze Box has been offered and Steve Miller has offered a Maze Box. A band has been chosen and we need to pick colors for the 40 years T-shirt. If you have further questions please check the WebPage.

Richard Gilliam stated by the end of the year we will have 4500 caves.

J Pat Stephens regarding the LSP sign, it has been decided that it will remain the same and Don Swart will handle the placement in the same area.

Judy Woosley mentioned the new blower on the stove. "Plug it in, Unplug it." With the aid of Don Swart and Ken Alwin it is in place and working.

Ken Bailey shared his map that he did last summer based on compass.

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:28 P.M. Holly Mclintock motioned and Sue Milburn seconded.