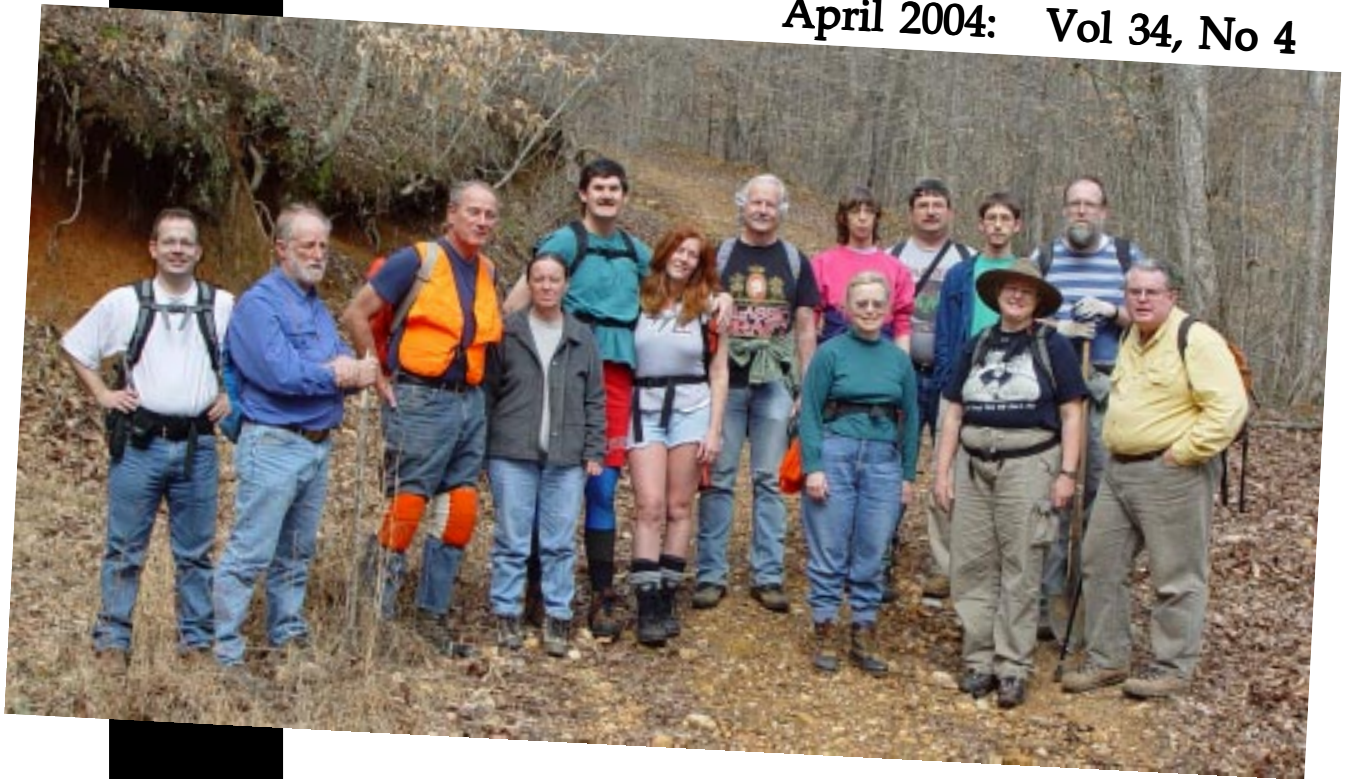


# Birmingham Grotto Newsletter



April 2004: Vol 34, No 4



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## Cavin' Calendar

**\*Disclaimer\*** Caving trips posted are led by volunteers. **\*No grotto committee reviews any trip leaders' qualifications. New cavers should inquire about the nature of the trip and the experience of the leader in advance.\*** Those participating in the trips should be aware of their limits. On vertical trips all participants are expected to supply their own gear and be knowledgeable about rigging and safe practices.

April 4 - Grotto trip to **Whiteside Cave** in TN (See Page 184).

April 15: **GROBS** starts at 7:30pm. Ask a Grotto Officer for the current hot spot.

Today is also the very last day you can pre-register for SERA!

April 17 - **Rocky River Cave Clean-Up IV** (TN) and the first **TAG Fall Cave-In Site Development Work Weekend** is scheduled for this weekend (See Page 184).

April 18: **ACS Meeting** starts at 10 am. See page 184 for details.

April 23-25 - **2004 Florida Cave Crawl** will be held at Tim Lewis' Hideaway in Havana, FL (See Page 184).

May 6: **Grotto Meeting** at Southside Library at 7:00 pm.

May 20: **GROBS** starts at 7:30pm. Ask a Grotto Officer for the current hot spot.

May 20-23: **SERA** Summer Cave Carnival, Camp Davy Crockett, St Clair, TN

May 28-31: **Kentucky Speleofest** at Camp Carlson, KY.

Jun 3: **Grotto Meeting** at Southside Library at 7:00 pm.

Jun 5: The annual Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit **Tyrolean Traverse** will be at DeSoto Falls. (See Page 184)

Jun 17: **GROBS** starts at 7:30pm. Ask a Grotto Officer for the current hot spot.

July 1: **Grotto Meeting** at Southside Library at 7:00 pm.

July 15: **GROBS** starts at 7:30pm. Ask a Grotto Officer for the current hot spot.

July 12-16: **NSS Convention** to be held in Marquette, Michigan (Upper Peninsula)

Aug 5: **Grotto Meeting** at Southside Library at 7:00 pm.

Aug 19: **GROBS** starts at 7:30pm. Ask a Grotto Officer for the current hot spot.

Aug 20-22: **DUG Wormfest**, Camp Rivervale, Bedford, Indiana.

Sep 2: **Grotto Meeting** at Southside Library at 7:00 pm.

Sep 16: **GROBS** starts at 7:30pm. Ask a Grotto Officer for the current hot spot.

Sep 30: **Grotto Meeting** at Southside library at 7:00 pm. (Note: Change of Date!)

Oct 8-10: **TAG Fall Cave In. New location on Lookout Mountain!**

Oct 14: **GROBS** starts at 7:30pm. Ask a Grotto Officer for the current hot spot.

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*The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter is published twelve times a year by the Birmingham Grotto, Inc. of the National Speleological Society, Inc. Other NSS Internal Organizations may reprint material provided credit is given to this publication and the author.*

*Annual dues are \$15.00 per individual and \$20.00 per family which is payable on October 1st. Dues are prorated for anyone joining during the year. The subscription rate is \$15.00 per year. The Birmingham Grotto will exchange publications with other NSS Grottos. Exchange newsletters should be sent to:*

*Birmingham Grotto, PO Box 55102, Birmingham, AL 35255.*

*Articles, Trip Reports, Graphics, Poetry, and any other speleo-related material should be sent to the Editor via email at the address noted below. Naturally, the Editor will accept typed text in practically any form or you can give written material to the Staff Typist noted to the left. Submission can also be done via e-mail to: caverjules@aol.com. The deadline for publication is the 20th of the month; however, the Newsletter is limited to 12 pages and often fills up quickly.*

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## On the Cover....

Dr. Gary Barnes squeezing up from a hole in Anderson Cave (Joel McGuire)

A Cast of Thousands for the GG Ridgewalk Led by Dave Howell (Clyde Simerman and Scott Parvin)

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## Birmingham On-Line!

Check out our web site: [www.caves.org/grotto/bag](http://www.caves.org/grotto/bag)

## 2004 Guntersville Getaway

Dave Howell

Grotto ridgewalk on Saturday: Donna Atchison, John & Myrna Attaway, Scott Fee, Don Harter, Dave Howell, Julie Morgan, Larry Mullins, Scott Parvin; Cathy, Clyde, & Mark Simerman; Jimmy Sims, Kitty Wooldridge.

Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> is a business trip, just up to Nashville for the day, but my flight isn't getting in to Birmingham until 8:35 that night, so we'll leave for the Getaway from the airport. However, that afternoon brings storms to the Nashville area with lightning, heavy winds and rain. My flight departs on time but is delayed as the pilot detours around the worst of the weather, even so the flight is rough and rollercoasterlike, and lands almost half an hour late. Between this and a poetry reading Shay is attending running overtime, we don't get out of town until about 10:00, arriving at G'ville Park around 11:30 amid the first sprinkles of the night.

The Friday night party is in full swing of course, with a card game straight out of *The Sting* in progress, and the keg in business. We are only there about 10 minutes before the cabin is pelted with torrential rain and vast, strobeflike lightning flashes illuminate the entire lake in blue-white surreality. Good thing Valerie, Shay and I got our bags and stuff into the quiet cabin first thing! The spectacle of the storm is challenged only by that of Julie stepping across the rain-slick deck for a refill and having instead a close up and personal encounter with walking surface. Only superficial damage, though, fortunately. V, S and I go down around 1:00 (I think) when a lull in the storm allows us to scoot next door without a total drenching.

Up around 9:00 Saturday morning for a run to the breakfast bar at the lodge. Wait - wasn't the lodge supposed to be closed for remodeling? Turns out it's closing March 14 for renovations expected to last 14-24 months (!). However, the breakfast bar is uncharacteristically abysmal, although the kitchen staff respond by cooking fresh eggs to order on request, and after a caffeine fix everything looks much better.

The group for the publicized Grotto ridgewalk begins forming after breakfast, heading out for The Coon around 11:00. (The Grotto ridgewalk is never in a hurry.) After all the heavy weather last night, today is absolutely gorgeous, warm with a blue sky full of Simpsons clouds. We come down the north side of Low Gap to find the Big Coon Creek in flood and across the road - guess Jackson County got more of last night's storm than we realized. We push on to park at the Big Coon campground beside a heavily swollen BC Creek; the original plan was to ridgewalk west of The Narrows, but there's no way to get across the creek even on foot, so we go to Plan B, a walk of lower elevations north from the parking place, generally following the Management Area boundary. With such a large group, 14 ridgewalkers, we get very good coverage, although the lower end of the group quickly loses touch with the upper end. Not a problem, though, the walk goes forward to produce 2 qualifiers found by Matt with the upper group, and one probable qualifier, a small pit requiring rope to enter which we don't have with us, found by Jimmy in the lower group. In addition we see a number of IKFs (Interesting Karst Features), including several impressive

sinks without entrances, places to return to in one or two hundred years. The group, fragmenting increasingly, makes individual turnarounds to return to the parking place.

We return to the Park to partake of Jason's chili dinner with fresh ground spices - excellent! - and Shay and Kitty's banana pudding, which is also a major hit. The Grotto auction commences, auctioning a number of desirable items which go for high bids ranging from 25 cents to \$200. Good crowd for it too, with many people coming just for this event and the party following. Total raised for the Grotto is almost \$1,300, with over half of this amount collected at the auction's end. Afterward another card game starts; Valerie retires and Shay and I watch for a while, dividing our attention between the game and a hilarious TV show of spectacular sports mishaps, especially in snowboarding and white water rafting - nothing like a little *Schadenfreude* to top off the evening. (Just imagine, people *laughing* at the misfortunes of others! Scandalous!) In the course of the evening a chalk body outline appears on the deck, commemorating Julie's mishap the night before. Shay and I both go down on the early side, a little after midnight, with the party still going strong.

Sunday morning is the usual cleanup, but things aren't in bad shape and come together easily for the 11:00 am checkout. It is another beautiful day and I hear of several trips going out today, but we must get Shay home in time for orchestra practice at 2:00. An excellent Getaway.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 3 - 2004 Turkey Hunting Season for Tennessee is April 3-May 11. There will be a SPECIAL STATEWIDE YOUTH-ONLY HUNT on May 15, 2004.

April 3 - **2004 Spring Tennessee Cave Survey Meeting** will be held on the campus of Sewanee TN in the Blackmon Auditorium, starting at 9:00 a.m. CDT. We are currently taking presentations for the Spring TCS Survey meeting.

Out of state presenters are also welcome. Caving time after the meeting. For more details or to get on the program, contact Debby Johnson, caver39484@mindspring.com or Gerald Moni, moni7597@aol.com or Jerrell Killian,

killian@plateau.vbhcs.org

April 4 - Grotto trip to **Whiteside Cave** in TN led by Sharon Faulkner. Whiteside Cave at 6227 feet long is an easy horizontal cave. There is a stream that runs almost the length of the cave, so your feet/boots will get wet. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the McDonald's in Kimball TN. For directions or more information contact Sharon at (256)739-9957 or sfaulknr@bellsouth.net

April 17 - **Rocky River Cave Clean-Up IV** will be held April 17, sponsored by the SERA Karst Task Force.

Camping will be available at nearby Camp Woodlee on Friday and Saturday night, for \$5.00 per night. There are cabins and hot showers available. For directions or more information contact SKTF representatives Jim Wilbanks or Myrna Attaway.

April 17-18 - The first **TAG Fall Cave-In SiteDevelopment Work Weekend** is scheduled for this weekend. Exact nature of work has not been planned as of this writing. For more details contact Bill Stringfellow at

b.stringfellow@mindspring.com  
(Note: Directions to the new Cave-In site will be posted at a later date-per B. Stringfellow)

April 18 - **2004 Alabama Cave Survey Meeting** will be held at a location to be announced. It is expected to be in Huntsville. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. (Note April 18 is a Sunday).

Two positions for ACS directors will be voted on at the meeting. Costs of membership in the ACS is \$10.00 per year, this includes the current ACS index of caves, and maps of caves turned in for calendar year 2003.

April 23-25 - **2004 Florida Cave Crawl** will be held at Tim Lewis' Hideaway in Havana, FL. Price includes 3 nights of primitive camping with hot showers. From Havana FL take Hwy 12 east 2.2 miles to Collins Road II, turn right and go 0.6 miles passing under the power lines, turn right and go a short ways to gate on right. Pre-registration thru April 10 is \$12 per person or \$22 per family (2 or more people of immediate family). Registration after April 10 is \$17 per person or \$25 per family. Make checks payable to FLINT RIVER

GROTTO Mail to : Carlenna Kyllonen, 5265 Water Valley Drive, Tallahassee FL 32303. No pets please. Liability waiver must be signed on site.

June 5 - The annual Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit **Tyrolean Traverse** will be on Saturday, June 5th, 2004, at DeSoto Falls. This is officially a training event for the HCRU. So...

The HCRU is pleased to invite the TAG Community. A donation of \$10 per person is required to participate. You must be 16 or older & you will have to sign a park release & an HCRU release. Park releases will be available on site this year (you won't have to go to the park store to sign one).

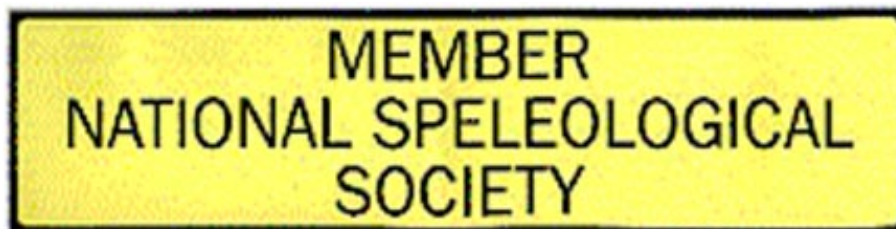
Everyone MUST read <http://HCRU.org/HCRU-tyrolean.html> for gear requirements & details.

You should contact the park and make camping reservations now. See <http://www.desotostatepark.com>

Please keep in mind that this is also a fundraising event for the HCRU, and that safety always comes first. The HCRU has final say on all safety issues. Send questions to: [info@HCRU.org](mailto:info@HCRU.org).

Yeeeeee-haaaaaaaaaaaaa!

-Marc Salverson



# Birmingham Grotto Newsletter

## February Ridgewalking

Sharon Faulkner

On February 21, 2004 Casey and I planned to meet Jeannie Cates on Scottsboro Mountain around midday. When we arrived Jeannie was there, already setting up her tent for camping, along with a few guys from Georgia, David McGuire and John somebody (can't remember that last name) who had plans to meet some more Georgia folks for a Kenamer trip.

After Jeannie finished getting her tent set up, we left with plans to do a short horizontal cave that I had done a few years ago. Well, the cave has apparently moved since my last visit, so we ended up doing some ridgewalking. We had a great afternoon to be hiking through the woods, and even with Casey in tow we covered a good bit of ground. We had decided to cross one more ravine before calling it a day, and heading back in the direction we had come when Jeannie said she found a hole. She didn't sound very excited about it, so I wasn't expecting much, but Casey and I walked down to look at it. It was a very recent collapse. It was so fresh that the fern fronds that had broken off in the collapse were still totally green. It was not a small hole either; it was circular and around fifteen feet across, and between ten

to fifteen feet deep, with the bottom chocked with boulders, fresh dirt, and leaves. The sides were completely vertical, and it was not possible to get into it to check or dig around in the bottom without a rope. I guess technically you could get in without a rope, but getting back out could pose a problem. It is located to the left of a deep ravine that no longer has water coming down it. It appeared to be a good candidate for digging, but will need a return trip with a more prepared crew.

This was Casey's longest ridgewalk to date, and she did well, but she isn't up to digging in large sinks just yet. It was also my first ridgewalk in over two years that I haven't had to wag diapers or a baby bottle along. I still have to carry everything else Casey needs, like helmet, gloves, water and even her at times. She did well, but she was tired out by the time we got off the mountain.

We were all hungry and tired by the time we got changed, so we just went through a fast food drive thru, and continued on to Scottsboro Mountain. Casey went to sleep before we arrived on the mountain, and I let her sleep while Jeannie and I built a nice big campfire. We had a roaring

fire going by the time the Kenamer crew returned shortly after dark. Don Harter and Duane Thompson (Montgomery) returned from their day a bit later. David cooked a mix of chicken breast, bell pepper, squash and potatoes in a foil bag that was delicious. He put all the ingredients in the bag and let them roast over hot coals from the fire for hours. Yum, yum...

On Sunday morning, we all slept in and woke up around nine or later to a bright sunny day. We built the fire up and had a leisurely breakfast before slowly getting ready to leave. I think it was around eleven before anyone started off for the day, some left to check on a dig, and Jeannie wanted to eat somewhere before heading home. Casey and I decided to tour some cave entrances close to the roadside before leaving TAG land for the weekend. We stopped by Larkin Cave and took a few photos of the totally sumped entrance, then Limrock Cave with far more water in the stream that she and I wanted to walk through to even get to the entrance. We settled on a short walk to the lower and the upper entrances of Sauta Cave. These are both such big beautiful entrances. It was a good way to end another weekend in TAG.

Jeannie Cates (Sharon Faulkner)



Casey the Cavin' Baby (Sharon Faulkner)



# Birmingham Grotto Newsletter

## Fun at the Guntersville Getaway

Jeannie Cates

Friday night started off with a good party in the party cabin at the Guntersville Getaway. Steve Sills hauled 3 kegs of beer to the Getaway so we didn't run out. We had the bed raffle at 9:00 p.m. and the winners were: myself, Tom Champion, Jason Wall, Jimmy Sims & Donna, John Attaway and Peter Michaud. I passed out Marde Gras beads to all the ladies and Jason got to wear the blinking beads as an incentive for being the Grotto cook.

It stormed some Friday night and this year only one person fell on the slick wood, so we didn't have too many injuries. Jason, the great chef as he is, made some Mexican munchies and Scott Fee and Julie Morgan brought jugs of Sangria.

Dave Howell offered a ridge walk on Saturday during the day and some went caving on their own. Some folks just hung around Guntersville and the cabins since it was nice and sunny outside. The auction was Saturday night and went well. We profited over \$1200 in auction purchases and collected cover charges over the weekend to cover some of the Getaway expenses. Jason cooked his famous chili for everyone, Shay and Valerie Howell made banana pudding and brownies and Pam made margaritas.

Dave Howell was the auctioneer. He did a wonderful job and Julie Morgan assisted him. There were many great items auctioned off. After the auction, Joel gave a nice speech on my behalf for handling the treasurer's position while filling in for Gary Barnes and assuming the position from Leigh Dudrow who did a wonderful job the past four years. After the auction was over, some of us played cards, which were brought by Jimmy & Donna. I won the LMS green bowl for being the last man standing Saturday night. It was sitting

on top of my car when I woke up Sunday morning. Everyone started packing up on Sunday and a bunch of us went to Reid's in Guntersville for lunch.

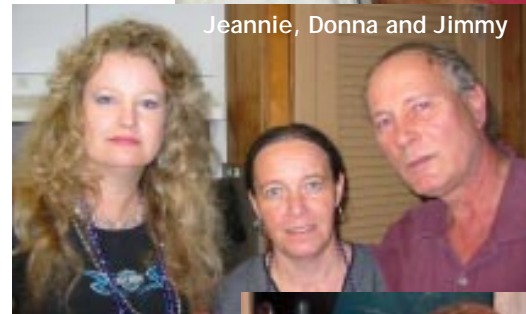
Thanks to everyone who attended and helped out in making the 2004 Guntersville Getaway another success!



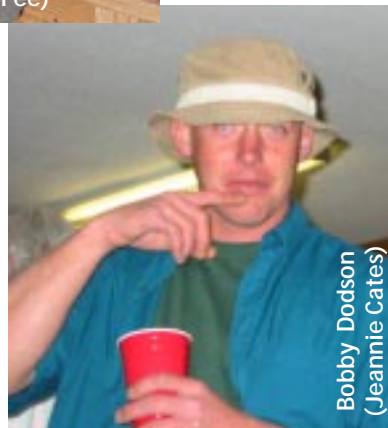
Stevie and Hazard  
(Jeannie Cates)



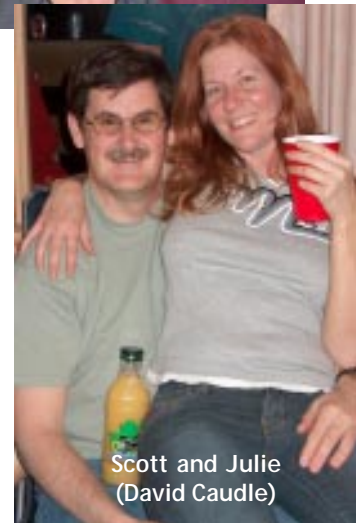
STELLA!!!!  
(Scott Fee)



Jeannie, Donna and Jimmy



Bobby Dodson  
(Jeannie Cates)



Scott and Julie  
(David Caudle)



Jason, Jeannie, Daonna and Jimmy

# Birmingham Grotto Newsletter



Joel, John and Jason  
(Scott Fee)



Cissy and Joel  
(Jeannie Cates)

Scott Fee, Donna, Jimmy Scott Parvin,  
Tom Champion and Julie Morgan  
(Jeannie Cates)



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## The Gay Divorcee and Jet : A Puzzle

Milo Washington

Back then caving was different. Birmingham cavers were a happy lot who were apolitical. My friend Jet Thomas liked caves and mathematics and women, in that order. And one day I visited with Jet at his bachelor pad on the southside...

Jet: Hi Milo, come in. Hey did you meet that new (grin) gay divorcee chick at Burley Earls last night? What a beauty, but just my luck, she has three children, all girls.

Milo: It'll be hard for her to find time to cave with three children. How old are her little girls?

Jet: Well, if you multiplied their ages by each other the answer would be 36.

Milo: Jet, you know damn well that several combinations of three ages can be multiplied that will total 36, I need more information.

Jet: Well, if you add their ages together the sum would be the same as my current apartment number... I mean... bachelor pad.

Milo: ( after reflection ) Damn it Jet, stop it! I still need more information to determine the ages of the gay chick's three girls. Gimme a hint...

Jet: (reluctantly) OK, the oldest girl has blue eyes.

Milo: (sigh) You know Jet, getting information out of you is like pulling hen's teeth. Thank you. Now I know the ages of the three little girls.

How did Milo know the ages of the gay divorcee's three girls?

answer on page 191

## Stephen's Gap and Pipeside Pit

Sharon Faulkner

On Saturday, February 14, 2004, I met Jeannie Cates, Chad and Valerie Dempsey, Tim Hudson, David McRae, and Glenn Riley in Scottsboro for our Valentines Day grotto trip to Stephens Gap and Pipeside Pit. Others planned to meet us at the parking area, or at the cave. As we were pulling out of McDonalds parking lot we met Chuck Constable pulling in. He was in route to meet his group, who were heading to Fern Cave to do Surprise Pit.

Our crew arrived at the parking area and everyone got ready. I pulled out a couple of ropes, and Tim and Chad each grabbed one. Since the others that were coming knew the way to the pit, and had told me beforehand not to wait for them, we began the hike. It was cool and cloudy, which is good hiking weather, and no signs of rain yet. We reached Pipeside Pit, which we planned to bounce on the way back, and stashed the short rope out of sight near by, instead of hauling it on up the mountain. As we followed the well-worn trail up the mountain you could hear the waterfall pouring into the pit, well before we reached it. Arriving at the pit, we all admired the impressive waterfall created by the recent rain. The waterfall was a beautiful sight pouring down into the pit; I have been to Stephens Gap several times and this was the most water I have ever seen going into the pit. After looking over our options, the keyhole appeared to offer the driest rappel. Tim started rigging the rope, while others walked into the horizontal entrance to see some of the cave. Scott Becker, April Camp and Leigh and Marty Dudrow, with Flash and Grace, arrived at this time and just a few minutes later, Michael Green arrived with Eski. We now had a large group, and spent the next few hours bouncing the pit, some climbing back out and some walking out the horizontal entrance, while a few explored some of the cave passage. Several had brought cameras, including myself, and we spent quite a bit of time taking photos after bouncing the pit. The water crashing down into the pit provided a great



background for cave photos, but also created a swirling spray of water in the pit which made it difficult to keep water off of the camera lens. I had to wipe the lens of my camera dry between every shot, and still had water spots on some of the photos. I did end up with a handful of photos that I really like.

Leigh Dudrow and Jeannie Cates  
(Sharon Faulkner)

After leaving the big pit, we headed back down the mountain to Pipeside Pit, which Michael who was ahead of us, had already rigged and bounced by the time the rest of us got there. This is just a small 66' pit, but it is a pretty little pit, always worth seeing again. I bounced it and climbed back out. Then Scott, Marty, David, Tim and Chad bounced the pit. Finishing up here, getting the rope pulled and coiled, we hiked back to the parking area. Michael, Scott, April, Leigh, Marty, Jeannie and I had dinner at the newest Mexican place in Scottsboro. After dinner, Scott and April went to Unclaimed Baggage, Leigh and Marty went to Home Depot to buy an axe to split wood, Michael went on a beverage run, and Jeannie and I went on up to the Mountain. Jeannie had to set her tent up and I started the fire. Everyone made it to the mountain and we had a great time

socializing around the fire. Dirk Siron showed up, then Tamara Hughes joined us, and Chuck Constable returned from his trip later on. The only casualty of the night was the wooden bench that Mudpuppy built a year or so ago. It suffered a major collapse when all the guys sat on it for a group photo. It tried to sprinkle rain off and on, and soon after midnight the rain set in for the night. I don't know who was first one down, as several of us went to bed around the time the rain started. We had a very enjoyable day of pit bouncing and socializing!

# Birmingham Grotto Newsletter

## Tuesday Night Caving

Martha Mills

It all started at the SERA Winter Business Meeting the first weekend in February. Don Hunter of the Athens Speleological Society (ASS) approached me about taking him caving when he was in Birmingham for some business in early March. About that time, Myrna walked up to us and I asked her if she'd be interested in taking Don caving when he came to town. I think both of us halfway thought he was joking.

Well, fast forward to Tag-Net March 1, 2004. Don posted to Tag-Net that he was reminding us of the trip - had he suspected we'd try to wriggle out of taking him caving, hummmm! OK we were cornered. The only Birmingham Caves I've visited are a 10 minute cave in Trussville, Alabama Caverns (which can be seen in 20 minutes and isn't like "real caving"), the cave in the backyard in Roebuck Springs that Bobby Dodson had taken us to a couple of years ago, and Gate City Cave.

What to do? I asked on the grotto list if Bobby still had access to the cave in Roebuck Springs and asked

about the parking for Graves cave but got no responses. Meanwhile I'd e-mailed David Caudle to ask what he thought about Bryant Mountain at night since the house there had recently been sold. He suggested that we come do Bryant Corkscrew Cave and Wine Cellar Cave so I e-mailed Don. Somehow communications got mixed up and Don misplaced my phone number and called Myrna who somehow thought I'd decided not to go but in spite of it all we connected and Myrna, David, Don and I went caving on Tuesday night, March 9.

From David Caudle's house it is 5 minutes to the cave. This is a very interesting cave where Lawrence Breeland and former grotto member tried to build a house in the cave. He installed a lot of bricks, some conduit and wires and some framing. There is actually a refrigerator and a sink in the cave that he intended to use. Once you get past the building site it is really a nice little cave, if you don't mind a bit of crawling. I'd forgotten my kneepads but fortunately most of the crawl is sandy so it wasn't a big deal.

After touring the upper part of the cave we looked at the crawl to the stream passage but decided to skip that tonight.

Next stop Wine Cellar Cave. This cave is another of Lawrence's projects. He installed some brickwork and a door and was going to use the cave for storage of some sort. David said he hadn't poked into that cave in quite some time and had forgotten it was mostly walking passage. Of course after about 200 feet (maybe less), you must do a duck-under and then you are in a small chamber, which is the end of the cave. We did get our feet wet in this one as we had to walk in a stream to get to the end of the cave.

Back at David's house I quickly changed into clean clothes, said a quick hello to Edna then headed home. I got home about 10 pm.

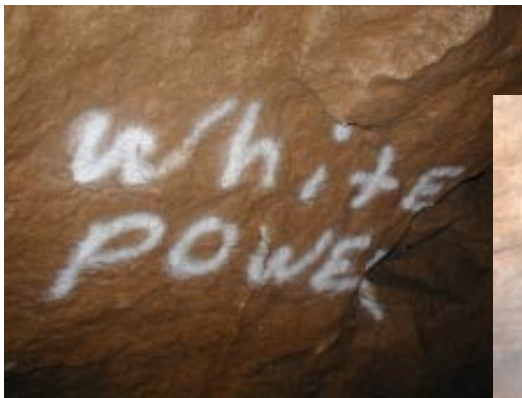


Leigh Dudrow in Anderson Cave  
(Danger Judy)



Marty Dudrow in Anderson Cave  
(Danger Judy)

# A Picture Says it All



Before and after shots at the  
Anderson Cave Cleanup  
(Photos by Joel McGuire)



Gary Barnes at the cleanup  
(Danger Judy)

# Birmingham Grotto Newsletter

## Birmingham Grotto Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2004

The meeting was called to order and the Minutes were approved as written in the March 2004 newsletter.

### Visitors:

James, Elizabeth and January Reeves  
Mary Ann and David Robinson

### Treasurer's Report:

We currently have 4 CD's totaling approximately \$4,000.00 and \$2,194.22 in our checking account.

### Announcements:

We have grotto patches available at \$5.00 each and tee shirts for \$15.00 each.

Sharon Faulkner has the SERA 2004 registration forms.

The Tyrolean is June 5, 2004.

### Old Business:

SERA 2005 - A Motion passed to hold SERA 2005 at Camp Comer since it requires minimal work. The cost will break down to approximately \$2.00 per person per day and it offers 576 wooden buildings and bunk beds. 700 places are already set up to accommodate sleeping on the property. Showers and toilets are

available and there is a 70-foot rappelling tower. There is also a 110-acre lake. The dining hall will rent for \$250.00 for a Saturday night dinner but we can discuss this at another time.

David McRae will have the grotto banner finished by next meeting. Leigh Dudrow is checking into reinstating our non-profit status. She will give an update at another time. A volunteer is needed to fill the position of chairperson for the 2005 Winter Business Meeting. Myrna Attaway volunteered previously and will probably fill this position. Myrna was not at the meeting to confirm acceptance.

Larry Money cannot go to SERA 2004. He needs someone to take the tarp.

There will be an April Grotto trip announced at another time.

### New Business:

A Motion passed to set the date for the 2005 Guntersville Getaway the weekend of February 25 and 26th. Leigh Dudrow will check for cabin availability this weekend. It was discussed putting our members list in the Files section of the egroup

homepage for any member to access.

### Trip Reports:

Don Harter went to Rusty's Cave with Duane Thompson.

Leigh and Marty Dudrow, Scott Becker, April Camp, Joel McGuire, Andy Zerbe, Gary Barnes and several others went with Myrna Attaway to the Anderson Cave Cleanup on Saturday. The cleanup continued On Sunday with another group of cavers. The cleaning solutions Graf-Off and Mark-Off worked well to remove the swastikas off the cave walls. Gary Barnes went to Natural Bridge Caverns.

Sharon Faulkner led a trip to Stephens Gap and Pipeside Pit. Jeannie Cates and Sharon Faulkner went ridge walking on Pine Mountain. Jerrald Saulsberry went to McEtric Hills and New Mexico.

Dave Howell went to Sequatchee Cave.

### Program:

There was no program and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannie Cates

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The Gay Chick and Jet: The Answer

Since there are only a limited number of multiples by three that total 36 and since only Jet and Milo know Jet's apartment number, it is impossible for you to know which group of numbers represent the actual ages of the three little girls.

But why can't the great Milo, who is widely known as the smartest man in Remlap, Alabama, determine which multiple of three numbers totals the number on the door of Jet's apartment?

Let's do the math and see...

Numbers when multiplied total 36	Sum of the three numbers
36 x 1 x 1	38
18 x 2 x 1	21
12 x 3 x 1	16
9 x 2 x 2	13
6 x 3 x 2	11
6 x 6 x 1	13
4 x 3 x 3	10
9 x 4 x 1	14

Ah ha! Since Milo knows Jet's apartment number and still couldn't decipher the ages of the children, it follows that Jet's apartment number was 13 of which there are two. So the little girls ages were either ( 6, 6, and 1 ) or ( 9, 2, and 2). And when told that only the oldest had blue eyes Milo knew immediately that the oldest girl was 9 and the twins were, of course, 2 and 2.

## News & Notes

by Dave Howell

\*\*\* The past month, our friend Mittelmaerz, brought us the vernal equinox, and respite from the gelid nights and frozen grey-white days of winter. Yes, my friends, SPRING is upon us, with the greens and golds of budding flora decorating the Alabama woods, and the streambeds and wet weather springs coming to life. Rebirth following the temporary death of winter - a metaphor? My favorite season. Let us celebrate the outdoors and its underworld - just watch the weather. I just hate it when I'm 200 feet into a tight drawl and it starts flooding, don't you? Ruins the whole day.

\*\*\* March brought us this year a late GUNTERSVILLE GETAWAY, and a very good one. Great party Friday night, as usual. The ridgewalk Saturday brought us two new qualifiers, both found by MATT SIMERMAN, joining us from Indiana; and also a probable qualifier, needing to be checked by rope, by JIMMY SIMS. An excellent day. Thanks to JASON for doing the killer chili Saturday evening, it rocked, and also to unser Fuehrer, er, I mean our President STEVE for arranging the beer. The auction Saturday night saw donated items of noticeable quality going for anywhere from 25 cents to \$200, raising a total of almost \$1,300 for the Grotto. Thanks and a tip of the Grotto helmet to all who donated auction goods, and to all who bid on them. Good work, y'all!

\*\*\* Did you catch the latenight card game at the Getaway, with that impressive pile of money on the table? Check this out: An article in the Friday, March 5 Nashville Tennessean reported that 2 Tennessee state park employees (including the Park Manager and a Park Ranger), a school board member, a former state trooper, and 4 other men pled no

contest to a charge of running a poker game in a Chickasaw State Park cabin. It seems that Chester County sheriff's deputies and Henderson police received a tip about the game and raided it back in January, arresting the above persons and seizing 2 loaded weapons (belonging to the former trooper), 4 decks of cards, a pair of dice, the table the men were playing on (what?), and \$643.50 in cash. All men involved declined to challenge the charges and accepted fines totaling \$257 each.

Better watch it, y'all!

\*\*\* Congratulations and a tip of the Grotto helmet also to MUDPUPPY on his ascent to the office of President of the recently rechartered SEWANEES MOUNTAIN GROTTOS, with MAUREEN HANDLER as Vice-Prez. Welcome, y'all, nice to have your group with us. I understand that MYRNA is a member also. Hmm... are Birmingham and Sewanee Mtn to become rival fiefdoms, sniping over territory, conducting back-and-forth border conflicts over TAG caving areas? Are ridgewalks by both grottos to be plagued with ambushes of hit-and-run beatings by ragtag bands of ruffians? Are we to - ahem. Perhaps not. Anyway, y'all - our compliments.

\*\*\* Speaking of TAG fiefdoms, I hear that GLENN and MARTHA MILLS have just bought land up on the Cumberland Plateau, 8 point something acres, not far from MAUREEN's place. (hailing a peasant:) "Good sir! Couldst tell us the name of the lord whose towers rise from yon hilltop?" (the peasant, in astonishment:) "Sire! 'Tis the castle of the Baron and Baroness Mills, who rule all that you see about you with an iron hand! Go farther at your peril!" (exits cowering in amazement, stage left).

Congratulations, y'all! Sounds like a great move. Can't wait to see what sort of house design you have in mind. (Towers of pale grey rough-hewn limestone rising to rooftops of black slate, commanding a view above the treetops of the surrounding forest, archers at the ready at slit windows as the approaching riders come - um. Sorry.) Anyway, can't wait to see.

(More of our number lost to this Sewanee Mountain group, yes? Hmm... a meeting of the Executive Council is called...)

\*\*\* Some sad news this past month in the death of CECIL BRYANT, father of DAVID "HAZARD". We're all very sorry for your loss, Hazard. I myself always find that in times of stress my caving and ridgewalking activities, as well as just interaction with my Grotto friends, helps a lot. Hope you will find it so too. We are thinking of you.

\*\*\* Yes! The carbide flame of love has blossomed once again as JULIE and SCOTT announce their betrothal! Great news, y'all! A modest ceremony with just a few thousand guests is planned. No date is set yet... you have to reserve Notre Dame de Paris rather far in advance, you know, and arranging to rent the entire Palace of Versailles for a day and a night for the reception is no mean feat either.

\*\*\* Don't forget the ALABAMA CAVE SURVEY annual meeting on April 18, 10:00 am, but note that it is not going to be at Papa Lovetti's Restaurant in Huntsville as announced. (It's kaput. The restaurant, not the ACS.) Check out the ACS website for the new location. See you there.

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Birmingham Grotto Newsletter

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