

**EDITOR'S PAGE**

Birmingham Grotto Newsletter is published once each month.  
EDITOR----KATHY HOLLAND-933-8088  
PRINTER-JOE DOMNONAVICH

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GROTTO OFFICERS-----  
Jim Davis-Chairman  
J.B. Weldon-Vice-Chairman  
Doot Morin-Secretary-Treasurer  
Kathy Holland-Editor  
Joe Domnonavich-Project Chairman  
Jay Clark-Program Chairman  
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GROTTO MEETINGS HELD ONCE MONTHLY  
at the Alabama Gas Corporation  
Building, 1918 1st Avenue, North,  
Birmingham, Alabama, 35203, at  
7:30 p.m.

JUNE MEETING---June 5, 1972

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PLEASE BRING YOUR GROTTO MEMBERSHIP  
CARDS to the June meeting. We are  
trying to get an updated membership  
list and will be deleting those  
non-member names on our mailing  
list. If you do not have a card  
and have paid your 1972 dues please  
see Doot and get a card.  
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THE JUNE FIELD TRIP will be to  
OLD BLOWING CAVE. The third week-  
end of June, which is June 17, is  
a purposed date.  
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As you can see, SERA is coming up  
in July. As many as our Grotto  
can get going should join in on  
these activities  
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There aren't many trip reports in  
this Newsletter. Some of you have

been falling down on your job  
by not making reports on your  
caving trips. To you I dedicate  
something found in the last  
NSS News.

Editor's Lament

Getting out a publication has  
its problems.

If we print jokes, some readers  
call it kid stuff. If we don't,  
others say we tend to be too  
serious and technical.

If we don't print every word of  
every contribution, we don't  
appreciate them. If we run  
them verbatim, the news bulletin  
is filled with junk.

If we change the other fellow's  
copy, we're too critical. If we  
don't, we are reproved for  
slipshod editing.

If we clip items from other  
publications, we're too lazy  
to write them ourselves. Likely  
as not, you'll even say we  
borrowed this one.

You're absolutely right. WE DID!

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The May Field Trip to Georgia  
was one of the best ever. A  
report is in this Newsletter.  
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JUNE PROGRAM-Slides of May  
Field Trip presented by those  
who were actually there!

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The Editor needs an artist of  
some kind to help liven up the  
Newsletter. Please see Kathy  
if interested in helping out.

Finally plans have been made concerning the 1972 SERA Cave Carnival. Due to plans falling through and other parties re-nigging, etc., etc., etc., West Georgia Grotto feels it can now offer one of the finest bargains to come along in a good while.

Registration fee will be a very meager \$1.00 (that's right, one dollar) This is to cover the cost of the guide book, Saturday night refreshments, tranquilizers, and other necessary goods.

The agenda for SERA looks something like this:

**FRIDAY NIGHT:** Late Registration, caving and a party

**SATURDAY A.M.** Speleolympics, which will consist of four contests. There will be individual winners in each event, and a quadrathlon winner, to be immortalized with a plaque.

All day caving!!! Caves for the horizontal nutts, caves for vertical nuts, caves for every nut. Leaders will be provided for some caves.

At night--Beer and Corn on the Cob party at the campgrounds, followed by more caving for those that there who are able.

**SUNDAY--**More caving and heading home.

SERA will be held at Rusty and Inez's (At Moses Tomb area) at the south end of Fox Mountain, near the Ider exit of I-59 (see detail map) Campground will be semi-primitive; in other words, no showers

or running water, but a Port-a-john and water will be provided. concerning Saturday night activities, WGG will provide a keg, so all over the keg is on you. We suggest that you purchase a supply at your own favorite place, as the local bootlegger is a big rip-off....ALL PROFITS TO GO TO THE HEADQUARTERS FUND! There will be fun and fellowship food for everyone. Come cave the friendly karst with WGG, July 28, 29, and 30th.

There are motel accommodations in area. Write for details.

**DIRECTIONS TO SERA, 1972**

Coming South from Chattanooga or Trenton, simply get off of 11 or I-59 at Ider Exit and go west. Paved road will fork. Take right fork and follow until you reach first road (dirt) on right. Follow signs from here. Coming north from Gadsden, get off at the same darn place and follow the same darn directions.

YA 'LL COME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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A MAP WILL BE AT THE MEETING FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO "SEE" THE DIRECTIONS TO SERA.

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Please send in your \$1.00 and registration form as soon as possible for SERA. The form is on the following page. SERA will be discussed at the meeting especially since the Birmingham Grotto is in charge of SERA next time! Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Enclosed is registration fee for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) at \$1.00 per person.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names and affiliations of registered: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail as soon as possible to:

West Georgia Grotto-SERA  
P.O. Box 10004  
West Georgia College  
Carrollton, Georgia 30117

cut here

HORIZONTAL CAVES

- Stewart Spring Cave ----- Beautiful formations, 2 miles+
- Allen Cave ----- anything you want, over 1 mile
- Indian Trail Pit ----- 40' entrance leads to big cave
- Kudzu Cave ----- very good chance for virgin cave, 3000+
- Little Creek Cave ----- Over 1 mile mark
- Stanley Garden Cave ----- Over 1 mile mark

!!!many others!!!

VERTICAL CAVES

- Mose Tomb ----- 230' free fall pit
- Rockeater Pit ----- 169' free fall pit
- Pannell cave ----- 124' pit in cave

If as many as four people request it, there will be trips to other caves and pits-----

DAVID TEAL  
Vice-Chairman  
West Georgia Grotto

TRIP REPORTS

Joe Domnonavich

It was a warm midweek night when we met our guide "Flyblow" in the parking lot at Northwood Mall. With daylight hours still remaining, we (Tom, Dick, Harry and Sam) followed our leader to Gate City Cave.

Having shown us the way, our leader left saying he would return. Parking the car and "motor" in the woods behind a church out of sight, we proceeded to the cave, entering with the aid of a 30' rope. Two hours later having finally dragged the big ox, Sam, out of the opening with the rope because of his bulk, we returned to the car, only to find it was gone.

Fearing the worst we rushed to call the local police; arriving they told us that they towed off the vehicles and we were under arrest for molesting a graveyard.

Next we were taken to our cars in the hope we would return to the precinct to aid the cause of our driver. Arriving at the precinct we signed bail and were released without confinement. In fact the police were very nice after we were identified as non-hardened criminals but to court we still had to go.

By now there were rumors that the police had caught those desperate murdering rapists who were seen behind the church.

Arriving in court Monday under words of reassurance from the

arresting officer that we would be freed and no record made, several of our number were ready to confess to any unsolved crimes to at least be convicted of a better sounding deed.

But the Judge saw the mistake and justice prevailed, and once again we were free men.

A word of warning, DON'T PARK AROUND THE CHURCH BELOW GATE CITY CAVE!!!!

The names have been changed to protect the guilty.

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DOODLEBUG HOLE-----Sat. April 15  
David Teal

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Dennis Holt, Doug Strait,  
Karen Hingston, Barry Prince,  
Bill Orme, and Barry's sister,  
Lynn, and I left the Fern House  
and headed for the famed Doodle-  
bug Hole.

After finally rigging the entrance drop, Dennis rappelled to a ledge 170 feet down to rig the second drop of 140' with 3 ledges. The last 65 feet was in a small waterfall getting the rappeller damp on the descent and soaked on the climb out.

At the bottom, Doug and I set out for a little caving. We saw some really high domes in our exploration. Doug did some rock climbing and then we headed out.

NOTE: Doodlebug is again closed and under no circumstances is anyone to go to this cave until further notice.

Teal

After Breakfast at Hodges in Woodville, Doug, Bill and I headed for 23 Dollar Cave.

At the cave, I rigged the 83' entrance drop. Doug went in first carrying a 40' rope for a drop of 20 feet. I came in next bringing my 320' length of Blue Water II. Bill followed me. At the bottom of the 20' point we went next to a drop of 62 feet. We rigged this one, then Doug went on down and finished rigging the 139' drop. I went down the 139' drop first followed by the others. At the bottom Doug began bolting up a waterfall dome. He set 5 bolts in about 70 or 80 minutes.

We decided to leave and came back later. Bill had long started out of the cave. Doug and I left, derigging as we went.

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BIRMINGHAM GROTTO MAY FIELD TRIP REPORT-----Kathy Holland

The weekend of May 20 and 21 was set aside for the Birmingham Grotto Field Trip.

This field trip was unusual for two reasons, the mileage we covered in getting to the cave and the fact that we were meeting another Grotto for the weekend trip.

Jim Harrison of the Ft. Rucker Ozark Grotto had invited us to join his group and visit Glory Hole Cave in Georgia. Due to the distance, it was decided to spend the entire weekend with the FROGS putting us up.

We arrived in Ozark, Alabama

Friday night of the 19th around 10 p.m. Originally we were supposed to party it up that night, but by the time our group arrived we were pretty well on our way to passing out from exhaustion.

Before I get too far with this report, I think I should name those from our group on this trip.

- Doot Morin
- Ken Kifer
- Jim McDowell
- Chuck Lawley
- Marleen Lawley
- Earl Long
- Charles Brammer
- Shorty Mayfield
- Howard Mayfield
- Kathy Holland
- Lynn Beck
- Sondra Beck
- Joe Demnonavich
- Lawrence Breland
- Jim Davis

After settling down for the night at Jim Harrison's house and with Lynn, Sondra, Marleen and Chuck sleeping soundly in their campers, we arose at 5 a.m. ready for the trip.

Glory Hole was about a 70 or so mile trip from Ozark. We met in the middle of a corn field and began getting prepared for the trip. Most of us had seen the slides Jim had shown at one of our Wednesday night gatherings and knew something of what to expect. Those who had not seen the slides were pleasantly surprised at this unique cave.

Most of us are used to the red and assorted colored formations and had never seen a cave composed of formations sculptured in white crystal. Glory Hole has such crystal white formations, taking hundreds of shapes throughout the entire cave. Our camera buffs were in their glory.

Glory Hole

We spent approximately 4 hours or more in the cave. All told, I believe we had about 19 cavers in the cave at one time. We were also joined by some members of the Florida club.

One of the most unusual happenings of the trip was finding a fossilized "sand dollar" or what looked very much like a sand dollar. It was coated with some material like shellac and was a perfect specimen. We agreed to leave it alone and not bring it home to "Let Milo examine it" after Gill Ediger threatened to do in the entire Birmingham Grotto.

Saturday night we all gathered at another cave "Blowing" and spent a pleasant evening trying out Gill's hammocks from Mexico, drinking beer and enjoying one another's company.

This was truly one of the best field trips for the Grotto and I only wish all of you could have made it.

I want to especially thank the FROGS for their great hospitality and hope to get together with them to do some of our "Glory Holes" such as Tumbling Rock, Guffey, etc.

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GROSS SKELTON Jay Clark

The By-pass from Skelton Cave to the Big Room has been reopened and it seems as if there has been a good deal of traffic through the by-pass. The Register does not reflect a flurry of activity,

but it is fairly difficult to locate.

I made a trip to Gross-Skelton the Wednesday after the last Grotto meeting (May 3). I had a case set in Scottsboro that didn't take long so I decided to see if the by-pass was open.

The water in the cave was a little higher than it has been on my previous trips, but was a little warmer. There was water in the Indian Village area, which I had never seen before. The mud has always been thick there, but I had never seen it a foot under water before.

In spite of what seemed to be fairly heavy traffic, there was still no evidence of vandalism in the Big Room.

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**SPECIAL NOTES:**

Those of our members who have not joined the NSS are urged to do so. Not only is it good for our GROTTO's image to have our members also members of NSS, it is a good thing to get the NSS News and the Bulletin. See Jim Davis at the meeting for applications.

Reports and articles for the Newsletter should be received by the 20th of each month. Articles should be sent to the Editor % 610 Massey Building, Birmingham, 35203.

SEE YOU JUNE 5th, 1972!!!!!!