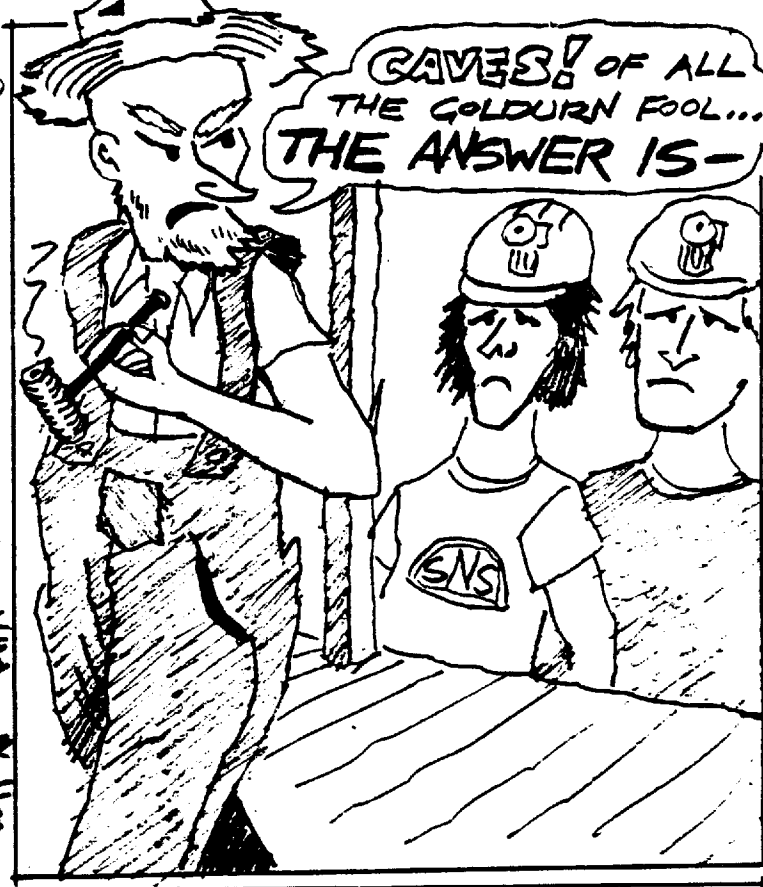


THE LOCAL GROTTO



BIRMINGHAM GROTTO MEMBERSHIP DATA

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip

PHONE: _____ (home) _____ (work)

NSS #: _____

BLOOD TYPE: _____

DRUG ALLERGY / SPECIAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS: _____

INTERESTS: () Sport Caving () Exploration () Mapping () Conservation
() Photography

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE NOTIFY:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT (Please check)

- | | |
|---|---|
| () Wheat or Mine Spot Lamps | () Wetsuit |
| () Justrite or other battery systems | () Scuba Gear |
| () Carbide lamp | () Survey compass / type: |
| () Combination carbide / electric system (ie. Petzl) | () Clinometer |
| () Rope Length(s): _____ | () Tape |
| () Jumar ascenders | () Specialized Rescue Gear
(litters etc.) |
| () Gibbs ascenders | () CB, Walkie talkies |
| () Rescue pulleys | |
| () Cable ladder | |
| () Technical climbing hardware | |
| () Bolt Kit | |

TRAINING

Date Training Received:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| () CPR | ..... |
| () Basic First Aid | ..... |
| () Advanced First Aid | ..... |
| () First Responder | ..... |
| () EMT | ..... |
| () Paramedic | ..... |
| () NCRC Cliff & Cave Rescue () 2 day | ..... |
| () 7 day | ..... |
| () Scuba (PADI or equivalent ) | ..... |
| () NSS Cave Diving | ..... |

() Special Skills (ie computer, welding, electronics): _____

Minutes of the Birmingham Grotto - October 5, 1987

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 pm. The minutes of the last meeting were read. The Grotto Treasury has a balance of \$1616.23.

Visitors to the meeting were Paul Nuckolls, Sam Malone, Carl Reddin, and Stephen Spencer. 27 members were present.

Old Business

None

New Business

The American Cave Conservation Association sent out a flyer announcing that two men had been convicted and fined for killing hundreds of bats in a Virginia cave. Hardhats off to the success of one cave protection law. At present rates of printing and postage, the Newsletter costs will continue to steadily deplete the Grotto Treasury. There was some discussion as to how the monetary situation should be handled. At present, \$4 dues do not cover the cost of yearly Newsletters / member. Approximately \$6.50 dues / year would make the Newsletter self-sustaining for members. Exchange newsletters are subsidized by the Treasury, but as such are a reciprocal service provided by Grottos to each other. Discussion included maintaining a quality Newsletter, changing print size while preserving content, possibly switching from monthly to bimonthly publishing etc. Discussion was tabled and a committee formed (Dave & Valerie Howell and other interested parties) to explore possibilities.

Elections! As is traditional, the October meeting always has the biggest Grotto membership turnout for the changing of the guard. After much pre-meeting stumping in the parking lot and speeches before the membership, the results were as follows:

President	Shari Lydy
Vice-President	Jet Thomas
Treasurer	Andy Zerbc
Secretary	Jim Harrison

These officers pledge to bring new life to the Grotto. They hope to get the whole Grotto more involved in conservation and mapping projects, ridgetraveling, and caving together. May the comraderie and spirit of the Grotto in past years be rekindled!

Grotto Party

Halloween - October 31 at 8:00 pm. The Haunted House at 1743 15th. Avenue S. Phone 930-9143. For a howl in good time, Buoys and Shoals, come properly attired. BYOB and your favorite munchies.

CANCELLED

Grotto Trip - Anderson Cave on November 1. Meet at 11:00 am at the bridge on U.S. 119 heading east. Call Everett Bagby at 780-6478 for more details.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm and everyone headed for Burley Earl's.

Respectfully submitted,

Shari

Shari Lydy & Jim Harrison

The BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER is published approximately twelve times per year by the Birmingham Grotto of the NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Other organizations may reprint our material when credit is given to this publication.

Subscription and membership fees are prorated from October. Annual dues are \$4.00 which includes the newsletter. The subscription rate of \$4.00 is available to persons outside the Birmingham area.

The Grotto meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Parke Memorial Branch Library located at 1814 11th Avenue South (corner of 11th Ave. and 19th St. South). Park at the rear of the building. The meeting after the meeting is at Burly Earl's, 2109 7th Ave. South, at about 9:00 pm.

Exchange newsletters and other Grotto mail should be sent to: Birmingham Grotto
PO Box 55102
Birmingham, AL 35255-0102

The 1987-88 Grotto officers are: President: Shari Lydy 595-5268
Vice-President: Jet Thomas 933-6162
Secretary: Jim Harrison 853-6977
Treasurer: Andy Zerbe 933-2111

NEWSLETTER STAFF: Dave & Valerie Howell, Jimmy Harrison, Shari Lydy, RB West, Nancy Boice and Mike McEachern (for last month's cover), and YOU.

TREASURER'S REPORT 1987

INCOME

Beginning Balance		\$2342.12
Dues	\$87.68	
Interest Income	76.50	
Total Income	\$164.18	

EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing	\$553.95
P.O. box	22.00
Mailing Permit	35.00
Postage	133.00
Ruffner Dues	25.00
Flowers	69.41
Alabama Cave Survey	60.00
Supplies	17.66
Miscellaneous expenses	10.40
Total Expenses	926.42

Ending Balance	\$1579.88
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This statement covers the period from October 1986 to September 1987. It has been a learning experience for me. Since I didn't realize the necessity for detailed records at the beginning of my term some of the above figures are not broken down properly. Everything I could not account for was thrown into newsletter printing since it was usually involved in this in some way. As an example I didn't separate postage and

Technology vs. Caving



The following is a transcript of the only cave-related call we received during the time we were encouraging you to call in your trip reports or other items of interest for the newsletter. Apparently, the machine sends a tone to the caller at regular intervals to let them know they're being taped. We didn't know that and neither did RB, who took it as a sign the machine had hung up on him. We thank RB West for braving the technology and calling back (3 times!) in order to give us this report and hope he won't mind its being presented in an unedited form.

Uh, well, gee whiz - I don't know what kind of trip report to leave you with... My brother Richard and I recently investigated a new cave which is not on the survey. It's a sandstone cave, but fairly peculiar for a sandstone cave, located in Polecat Hollow on Lookout Mountain. It's in the same group of sandstones that the DeSoto caves are located in but it's about, I'd say, 2 miles (a little bit farther if you follow the rimrock) down from the DeSoto caves at DeSoto State Park. The area has some peculiar and interesting things: one is a breakdown dome along a large fracture in the rear; another is a spring which seems to be at least semi-permanent if not permanent in nature - there's a great deal of mud in it; and three, there are

>BEEP<

I guess I'm doing something wrong since the thing cut me off - it's really hard to talk this fast without ever stopping to think or do something of that sort. At any rate, continuing on with my new cave, Richard, when he first went in here a couple of weeks ago found a very old shotgun shell as part of a fire or in with some burned wood, evidently a hunter's fire up near in the back portion of the cave where it's fairly shallow but covered over partially with a piece of breakdown- that means either that the roof has been somewhat unstable at that particular location or that the materials were picked up by a lot of water coming in and swirling it around - I'm not really sure which. We had only a single flashlight between the two of us to tour the cave. It does appear to be a real cave. It

>BEEP<

Guess I still haven't gotten the hang of this thing. At any rate, this is a very interesting cave. It needs to be mapped and more thoroughly explored since there seem to be some other passages heading off into the darkness - they were low, wet and muddy and we didn't go through them since Richard was wearing his uniform and had to go back to Guard very quickly that afternoon. Anyway, I didn't call you about this....

At which point, he leaves the brief message he could have left at the beginning, saving himself the hassle of communicating this new find. We appreciate his making the at times heroic effort to relay this information to us. We hope you will all learn from his example and give us a call - ignoring the beeps - and let us know what caving you're up to.

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BAD AIR IN MAGIC SCREWDRIVER?
Jefferson County, Alabama

Jimmy Harrison, NSS 10993

September 18 saw Ron Sparks and me heading to Magic Screwdriver Cave here in Birmingham. After talking to the owner and what seemed to be about half of the neighborhood we entered the cave.

Ron was showing me the first room in the cave, the one with the standing water in it, when I noticed that only after just mild exertion I was really breathing hard. I told Ron that I must be really out of shape to be reacting like that from just traversing a small room. I was breathing like I had run the 100 yard dash. We sat down near the entrance and after getting our breaths back decided to continue on into the cave.

We made it down to the Big Room but any kind of exertion on our parts would make us start breathing heavily. After checking a lower lead that Ron wants to dig into we decided to exit the cave. Just climbing the pit that leads from the lower to the upper levels again put a strain on our breathing and made us dizzy. I have caved for over 20 years and I have never had anything like this happen on a trip before. The air just seemed heavy. My carbide lamp was not sealing properly and was leaking some gas. I don't know if that contributed to the problem or not.

After leaving the cave I felt dizzy and really out of it for about the next 3 to 4 hours. The entire trip seemed like a dream. I went caving the next day and never once felt out of breath although I was doing some things more strenuous than I had done in Magic Screwdriver.

I just wanted to draw the Grotto's attention to this incident and would like to hear from anyone else who may have had a similar experience in this particular cave or another one.



"SHE'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, JET!!
A GIRL CAVER WHO IS CONSERVATION
MINDED, HAPPY EXPLORING AND MAPPING,
AND ALWAYS THERE WITH A HELPING HAND.
AN INTELLIGENT, HUMOROUS, TOLERANT,
GORGEOUS GIRL CAVER WITH BIG TITS!!

CAVE: Falling Spring



SHARI LYDY

LOCATION:

WHEN: July

CAVERS: Bill Torode, Harold Mensch, Jim Harrison, Shari Lydy, Hope _____, Greg Jordan, Glenn ?, and another guy.

DETAILS: We walked to the cave, although arrangements had been made for the gate to be open. Typical sightseeing trip. Bill and Harold wanted to do some mapping and exit the back entrance. Greg showed us some nice formation areas in high leads. Harold and Bill found 1200' of virgin passage, so the moral of this cave trip is never to abandon your trip leader. Note: Caves on Tom Bean's land are off limits to cavers September through May - maybe all year.

CAVE: Ellisons

LOCATION: Pigeon Mountain, LaFayette, GA

WHEN: September 19, 1987

CAVERS: Bob Coney, Kathy Minter, Greg Andrews, Hillary Minich, John VanSwearingen IV, Shari Lydy

DETAILS: A photographic and sightseeing trip. Greg and I helped JV photograph TAG Hall, Fantastic Pit, The Rectum, and Warm-Up Pit. Bob, Kathy and Hillary made a through trip to Incredible Pit while visiting the Gnome Creamery, North Pole and Angel's Paradise.

CAVE: Fern

LOCATION: Paint Rock Quad

WHEN: October 3, 1987

CAVERS: John Van Swearingen IV, Shari Lydy

DETAILS: Entered the cave via the Johnston Entrance. We proceeded to the Petrified Forest and the other formation area. We rigged the 30' Blowing Hole and dropped into a dome. Next we traversed the Gold Passage which is a multi-level narrow canyon passage. After many climb ups and downs the ultimate destination was Helictite Heaven. Unfortunately my flash malfunctioned so the photo gear was carried in vain. Next, the Fault Room was visited. Again intersecting the Gold Passage, we continued on into the cave another 1500'. At the end of this passage, there is supposed to be a short drop, but we turned around before getting there. The way in is the way out, so we about-faced in the Gold Passage. There are key climbups and climbdowns to remember in order to exit the Gold Passage and find the rope. It is a very confusing area in the you can be on the wrong level and not realize it for a long time. Back at the Entrance Room, we decided to meander down the middle level of the West Passage. After dismantling several rock cairns, we exited via the upper level. If JV's objective was to thoroughly confus

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FIRELIGHTER'S CAVE & CEDAR GROVE RIVER CAVE
Blount County, Alabama
Jimmy Harrison, NSS 10993

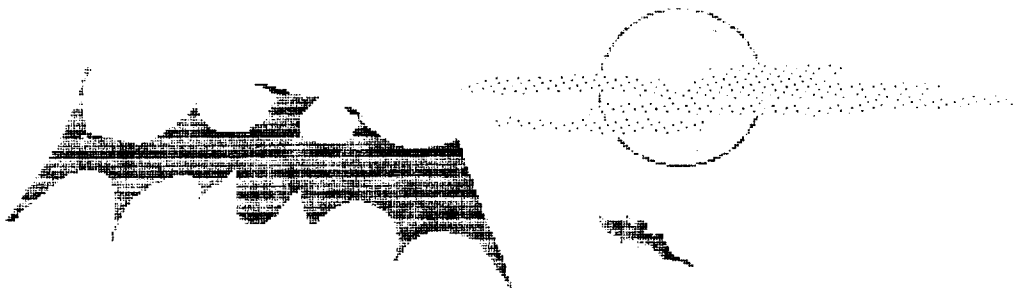
On September 19, five representatives of the Birmingham Grotto once again cheated death in the name of Speleology. They were Tim DeLorey, John Meadows, myself, and the infamous Bad Boys of Cavin'...Jet Thomas and Andy Zerbe.

Having arrived in the vicinity of Firelighter's Cave, we set across country to find one of the entrances to it. Let me put it this way, if I were going out to look for a Copperhead or Rattlesnake, this would have been the place I would have picked in Blount County. Sure enough, I had just turned around to tell John to watch out for snakes when I looked down and saw that I had just stepped within a couple of inches of one Motha' of a copperhead. We held church services at that point because that scared the HOLY SHIT out of me. I guess I'm really not afraid of snakes, it's just that I respect the hell out of the one's with hollow teeth.

After locating the upper end entrance we entered that cave. Thereupon my young nephew almost immediately finds a grungy looking hole that was partially blocked by some breakdown. It was blowing a little air, however, so he and I dug it open. John and Jet were elected to go through first. They relayed back that AFTER YOU CRAWL THROUGH THE WATER the passage opened up into a room. The remaining three of us followed on through. It really was a nice room with formations and several leads that soon became too small to follow. The room was virgin as there were absolutely no scuff marks or mud on the rocks. It's really great that you can still find virgin passage in well known caves. What was amazing was that this room was found within sight of an entrance. Just goes to show that no cave can be said to be fully explored.

After retreating from the room, Andy found the entrance to the main stream passage and we were given the 50 cent tour of the cave by him. Progressing on downstream we eventually came to Cedar Grove River Cave. This cave really impressed me. BIG, WALKING STREAM PASSAGE...NO VANDALISM. I would heartily recommend any member of the Grotto who hasn't been there to go see it. It's the kind of cave you might do on a Sunday afternoon stroll.

Today was my birthday so when we decided to turn around for the entrance we brought out the birthday cake and candles (and Jet said it couldn't be done), sang Happy Birthday (sounds great in a cave), made a wish for the future of the Grotto, and blew out the candles. What more could I ask for on my birthday?...great cave, great cavers...well, how about and ice cold Coors?



BIRMINGHAM GROTTO MEMBERSHIP - OCTOBER 1987

Everett Bagby	1536 34th. Street W.	B'ham, AL 35218	780-6478 (H) 325-7984 (W)
Gary T. Barnes	5068 Juiata Drive	B'ham, AL 35210	956-0806 (H) 934-5131 (W)
Victor Bradford	300 8th. Street SW	Cullman, AL 35055	
Kenneth W. Brown	7714 7th. Ave. S.	B'ham, AL 35206	838-1219 (H)
Les Bury & Sue Sillcox	1703 15th. Ave. S.	B'ham, AL 35205	930-9143 (H) 934-3404 (Les) 934-3375 (Sue)
Jay Clark	#207 14 Office Park Circle	Mtn. Brook, AL 35243	
Joe Domnanovich	4949 Nottingham Lane	B'ham, AL 35223	967-9783 (H) 823-7480 (W)
Michael C Gross	591 S. Forrest Drive	B'ham, AL 35209	871-1758 (H) 595-4687 (W)
Jimmy Harrison	541 16th. Avenue NW	B'ham, AL 35215	853-6977 (H)
Harold Higginbottom	7760 1st. Ave. S.	B'ham, AL 35206	836-9549 (H) 655-7510 (W)
Dave & Valerie Howell	4183 Cliff Road	B'ham, AL 35205	591-5127 (H) 933-7751 (W)
Shari Lydy	3726 6th. Ave. S.	B'ham, AL 35222	595-5268 (H) 934-3369 (W)
Mike & Nancy McEachern	1429 17th. Ave. S.	B'ham, AL 35205	939-3278 (H)
Greg & Lynn McGill	756 Twin Branch Road	B'ham, AL 35226	822-7285 (H) 929-8865 (W)
Carlton Reddin	600 F Sundale Drive	B'ham, AL 35235	833-2371 (H) 942-4098 (W)
Richard Richardson	216-2A Robert Jemison	B'ham, AL 35209	942-0264 (H) 934-4378 (W)
Ware Roberson	1433 Ford Avenue	Tarrant, AL 35217	849-5225 (H) 591-5333 (W)
Ronald Sparks	4028 Belvoir Drive	B'ham, AL 35206	833-1925 (H)
Stephen Spencer	541 Maple Street	B'ham, AL 35206	838-5520 (H) 942-6168 (W)
J.E. Thomas	P.O. Box 55253	B'ham, AL 35205	933-6162 (H) 934-4905 (W)
Lynn & Larry Threlfall	4204 Basswood Circle	Adamsville, AL 35005	674-7914 (h) 934-8315 (W)

BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER
P.O. BOX 55102
Birmingham, AL 35255-0102

Dues Are Due! Last Newsletter

DAVID & EDNA CAUDLE *
714 Mill Creek Road
Warrior, AL 35180

NOVEMBER PROGRAM:
Jefferson County Civil Defense
on Emergency Management
11/2/87 at 7:30 pm
Parke Memorial Library