

The Month's Guano

July 2001

Kansas City Area Grotto

Volume 15, Issue 7

A Real Novice Trip By Terry DeFraties

After months of anticipation and hundreds of e-mail and telephone contacts, Regan Youngman, her nephew, Johnny, Kathy Sumner and I and everyone else made the rendezvous at the fireworks at 7 & 71 by 7:10 AM on Saturday, June 23. Eric & Gary Charles, Sam Clippinger, Brent Gerling, Tom Grey and Cheryl Kinsel met us at the rendezvous; and Linda Garland met us at Skaggs. Although this was probably a record-setting start, we did need to make the usual Wal Mart stop so that Sam could buy a second pair of caving boots to park next to his other boots which were left at home. However, I have never seen anyone else make a Wal Mart stop in three minutes flat from the front door to the checkout line. We made it to Skaggs in three hours forty minutes, including all stops. Then we spent the next half hour putting three full size pickups, one SUV and three cars in the official parking area which the guidebook describes as three car parking. It was an impressive performance.

In spite of insisting that novice trip leaders should lead only novices, Kathy and Regan relented 200' (which is not very long at 55 mph) from the turnoff to Berry (where several of us had planned to go) and decided that we could all go to Skaggs. I just had to stay in back with my mouth taped shut. We spent about four hours in the cave without getting lost thanks in part to Kathy's reflective popsicle sticks. We spotted several interesting critters in the water and had a good trip.

We camped at Feakes and visited with Micki. Most people cooked over the campfire. Between the sun shower and my portable shower, everyone who wanted to clean up was able to do so. After dinner, Tom shared some gruesome stories about the Kansas City water supply system.

By about 10 AM Sunday, Regan, Johnny, Sam, Brent, Kathy and I were off to Berry Cave while the others headed back home. We poked around there for about three hours and then headed home ourselves. The mud was not even knee deep; so no one got stuck (for long.)

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Kansas City Area Grotto is affiliated with the National Speleological Society, The Missouri Speleological Survey, and a Founding Member of Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy.

Meetings held every second Wednesday at 7 p.m. (**alternate site in May**), Magg Hall, behind Spencer Laboratories, Volker Blvd. & Cherry, Kansas City, Missouri. Annual Dues: \$ 15 for Full Members (3 caving trips with KCAG, nomination and vote of membership required.)

NCRC Callout number Emergency use only

Central Region 502-564-7815. This number may be used for cave rescue emergencies in the states of, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, **Missouri**, Ohio and Wisconsin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

REMEMBER OHG HAS AGGREGED TO LETS US CAVE WITH THEM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A TRIP YOU MUST CONTACT THE TRIP LEADER.

- July 28-August 4 **NCRC Training. Canceled, Canceled.**
- July 11, 2001 **Grotto Meeting.** Meeting in MAGG Hall at 7:00 pm. After meeting to follow.
- August 4-12, 2001 **Eastern Region NCRC Training.** This one questionable. See Terry for details
- August 8, 2001 **Grotto Meeting.** Meeting in MAGG Hall at 7:00 pm. After meting to follow.
- September 7 - 9 2001 **Beaver Lake.** Come one and all. There will be boating, fishing and yes caving. Reserve your site here.....<http://www.reserveusa.com/nrrs/ar/lost/>
We already have site 19 which is in the upper part. I belive it is three tents per site or one tent and one trailer.
- September 12, 2001 **Grotto Meeting.** Meeting in MAGG Hall at 7:00 pm. After meting to follow
- Oct. 5-7, 2001 **TAG, Valley Head, AL**
- October 10, 2001 **Grotto Meeting.** Meeting in MAGG Hall at 7:00 pm. After meting to follow
- November 14, 2001 **Grotto Meeting.** Meeting in MAGG Hall at 7:00 pm. After meting to follow



MEETING AGENDA

Pass out extra copies of Guano to those who have not received their own copy

Approve/modify minutes of last meeting

Treasurer report

Old business

New business

NSS IO Committee request

NSS Convention Speleology Course 7-27-01

Cave cleanup/restoration project(s) for KCAG?

Trip reports

Trip announcements

Program

Toby Dogwiler, a MU postgrad geologist, will speak about tropical island karst

Springfield Youth Rescued from Brown's Cave Thursday Night

This appeared in the Douglas County paper, April 6th(?).

Several area fire departments and medical personnel took part in a grueling rescue operation last Thursday evening to remove a 16-year-old Springfield youth from Brown's Cave southeast of Ava. Joseph Brown, 16, and a group of friends were investigating the cave Thursday afternoon when Brown lost his footing on a slippery surface in the cave and suffered a compound fracture of the leg. Realizing they would be unable to remove their friend from the cave without help and the aid of more personnel and rescue equipment, one of the boys exited the cave and called for help. The severity of the situation was not known, however, until the first emergency personnel arrived on the scene at around 5 p.m. and learned the boy was deep inside the cave. The report to the sheriff's office was only that a friend had a broken leg at Brown's Cave and they needed something to carry him out on. The dispatcher was not told the boy was half a mile or more deep into the cave where rescuers would have to crawl, wade deep water and mud, and traverse slippery slopes to facilitate the rescue operation. Before the rescuers entered the cave, a call was issued for ropes and additional personnel, including Air Evac helicopter ambulance. Paramedic Kym Trimble of Ozark County Ambulance, and Ava fireman Keith Moore, were the first to reach Brown who was suffering from hypothermia and shock, as well as a fractured leg. It would be several more minutes before additional personnel, including more firemen and the Air Evac flight crew, would work their way back to the patient with more equipment to facilitate the rescue. Richard Mitchell, of Goodhope Fire Department and Moore were dispatched initially by the sheriff's department to help carry the young man out of the woods. It was not until they arrived at the scene that they were told the boy was actually inside the cave. Once the leg was splinted[,] an IV established, and Brown was placed on a Stokes basket, the long, exhausting exit began. With some 11 individuals taking turns on the basket, the trip out would take approximately three more hours. The first rescuers entered the cave around 5 o'clock and didn't come out until the rescue operation was completed after 9:30 p.m. Once outside, Brown was transported

from the mouth of the cave by 4-wheel drive pickup to where a Cox Air Care helicopter was waiting near the county road, about a quarter mile from the cave. From there he was airlifted to St. John's Regional Health Center in Springfield. Making the rescue operation, in addition to Trimble were Justin Colburn and Moore, with Ava Fire Department; Butch Linder, Jody Linder, and Robert Hamilton from Skyline Fire Department; Jess and Wes Pollard, Michael Lirley and Dan Baldwin, from Goodhope Fire Department; and Matt Hollis with Air Evac helicopter. After spending 4 1/2 hours in the cave, the responding medics were hardly in any condition to perform their jobs, so a second helicopter was dispatched to transport the patient, and a second ground ambulance was also sent because of weather conditions that could have prevented the helicopter from flying. Another Air Evac flight medic, Bobby Guy, entered the cave with Hollis, but when he got within about 50 yards of the patient, he too, slipped and suffered a severe ankle sprain and also had to be helped from the cave. Several other firemen, medics and officers worked outside or just inside the mouth of the cave during the rescue operation. (...author not specified) Of course, the implications of this accident are certainly food for thought. Could OHG have effectively helped with this rescue? Do rescue personnel in southwest Missouri know that OHG exists? With our own rescue guru out-of-state, who could have responded in OHG's name? Will the landowner face any legal repercussions? Is Brown's Cave a "sacrificial" cave, not worth saving given its present state of popularity?

This is from OHG's Newsletter and here is one response

As much as I respect firemen, police and rescue services this sounds like nothing less than another Keystone cops adventure. I'm sure that if your caving club was contacted for the rescue, the teams that actually entered the cave would have had some much needed caving advice. Although these individuals are brave and needed in times of emergency, they are under qualified for on-the-spot judgment calls when

Rescue (Continued on page 5)

MDC/MCKC Bioinventory Project

Re: Cave Fauna Survey
Training Date: July 20-22
Contact: Lawrence Ireland

For anyone who hasn't yet heard the news, the MDC and the MCKC will be starting a very important study funded by their award of a US Fish & Wildlife Service "Partners in Wildlife" grant. I know many of you have been waiting for the official word on this project, and I'd like to formally announce that it's finally "all good".

About 20 years ago, Gene Gardner and his wife simply counted cave fauna in some 400 caves. This project will follow up on that data, providing the MDC and the caving/scientific community with some idea of how our critter populations are doing. This is exciting stuff - long-range studies like this are surprisingly scarce.

By volunteering, cavers can gain some biology experience AND earn the MCKC as much as five or even TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (@ \$10/hr.)! Our list of caves has been whittled down to just 42, scattered across the state, all to be examined in the span of one year. Participants can help at one or just a few caves, but training is essential for us to get good results.

Dr. David Ashley has arranged for us to use the Reis Biological Station, near Steeleville, for a week-end-long orientation seminar. We'll be looking at photos and slides of our subjects, learning how to distinguish certain species, and figuring out the study's protocol in general. Sunday, we hope to go CAVING and actually get some hands-on experience in the field. Please mark your calendars, notify me, and plan to attend on *** JULY 20-22 ***

If you absolutely cannot attend, there will probably be a second opportunity on Sep 21-23. In any case, please contact me, if you are interested in this study, giving me your full name, address, e-mail, phone#, etc. It's also important for me to know how much you're willing to commit to the project - 50 hours? 10 trips? Also, just how far from home are you willing to travel? I hope to make most of these trips, driving from my home near Branson, but many of these caves are much closer to St. Louis, Rolla, etc.

I'll be constructing a web page specifying some details: our list of caves, a map to Reis Bio. Station, and a better description of the project. Visit <http://members.aol.com/OHGhome/bioinv.html> here in a couple days.

Thanks for your attention!
Lawrence Ireland
OHG Secretary and MCKC Board member

(Continued from page 4) **RESCUE**

entering a cave -- especially during a rescue call! Since they were on-scene and in charge of rescuing this foolish youth from the cave, they were, certainly, dubbed the lofty title of 'expert' which they most certainly are not in this case.

Hopefully, in the future, other grottos will have contacted the local authorities and made their presence known and become trusted by the local authorities so that when the need arises help/advice can be given.

Of course, that may entail several members from each grotto to become a licensed EMT. Only then, IMHO, will the local, or even provincial, authorities learn to trust caving enthusiasts.

Later.
Carl Carmoney

Kansas City Area Grotto

KCAG

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Goes
Here

Editor's Corner

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<http://members.tripod.com/~kcagrotto/>

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