



The Month's Guano

March 2002

Kansas City Area Grotto

Volume 16, Issue 3

Whiporwill Cave

By Mike McKinney

NSS 39699

NCRC III

WHIPORWILL CAVE: January 5, 2002

Present: Richard and Jerry Cindric, Regan Youngman, Barry Godsey, Mike & Gina (Stella) Jacobs, Jeff Page, Terry DeFraties, Jeff & Josh Andrews, Bryon Carmoney, Mike McKinney, and of course Mike Fraley.

This was such a fun trip! I wanted to make this trip special for Mike Fraley for his pre-wedding trip, so this cave was the real focus of the trip. None of us had been there before, and we were doing a "through trip"! Richard Cindric had previously led a trip to Kiddymix, and while there a ranger had told his group about Whiporwill cave, and even gave them a map! It was Barry Godseys suggestion to go here and I am glad we went. Thank you Barry! Also, we were taking a total novice with us: Mike Jacobs' (The Rev) daughter Gina, who we affectionately nick named "Stella"...you gotta love it!



"Stella" and The Rev aka Mike & Gina Jacobs

The cave is easy to find. We parked right be-

tween the entrance and the spring where we came out. It's about 800 ft from the entrance to the spring exit as the crow flies. We were in the cave for 4+ hrs and didn't by any means see all of it. There is a multi level maze section that was fun and challenging. It's a good thing we had a map, though the map looks deceptively easy and clear. I definitely would not go in here without a map.

Whip (Continued on page 3)

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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.

- March 2002 **Devil's Icebox Trip.** This trip is limited in size. Those not able to be on the last trip will have priority seating for this trip. See article in January *Guano* for details.
- March 9-10, 2002 **Mammoth Cave Restoration Project.** See Article in the December 2001 *Guano* for details Go to <http://oldsci.eiu.edu/physics/len/mammoth/mcrp0.html> for More information
- April 6-8, 2002 **Digital Photography Trip.** Little Bear and Four Mile Caves. See Richard Cindric for details. cindric@swbell.net. (913) 262-2006.
- April 5-7, 2002 Scout Trip. Date is firm but nothing else is. This is a closed trip. See Mike Fraley for details.
- May 4-5, 2002 **Mammoth Cave Restoration Project** See Article in the December 2001 *Guano* for details Go to <http://oldsci.eiu.edu/physics/len/mammoth/mcrp0.html> for More information
- May 18-19, 2002 **Spring MVOR.** This one is being sponsored by CCC. If interested in helping give Rick Hines a call. <http://www.mvor.org/>
- August 4-10, 2002 **Mammoth Cave Restoration Project** See Article in the December 2001 *Guano* for details Go to <http://oldsci.eiu.edu/physics/len/mammoth/mcrp0.html> for More information
- November 2-3, 2002 **Mammoth Cave Restoration Project** See Article in the December 2001 *Guano* for details Go to <http://oldsci.eiu.edu/physics/len/mammoth/mcrp0.html> for More information.

(Continued from page 1) Whip



Jeff and Bryon come face to face from different directions in the maze

We had 2 injuries occur during the trip: Jerry Cindric twisted wrong and threw out his back. This is usually pretty much debilitating for him. We medicated him, put my back support on him, and convinced him to let us carry his pack. Jeff Page slipped and tried his best to grab onto a rock with his right kidney. It knocked the wind out of him and he had a good abrasion and contusion from it. We medicated him and kept him moving. We then tried to ensure we found the most direct and certain way out of the cave before any of our injured team members became immobile.

Now for highlight of the trip: the way out! In order to complete the through trip we needed to go out through a water passage. The passage was 2.5 feet tall, with 2 feet of ice-cold water, 6-7 inches of air, and was 30 ft long.



Jerry Cindric waiting for his medication to take effect

As I've said before, Terry has a gift for understatement. Terry poked his head into the passageway, and his description of it was

“gruesome”. We gathered the entire group together for a final pep talk. If anyone wanted to turn back and find their way back through the cave, we would give them a copy of the map, but once they got in

this final passage they would have to be committed...no turning back! The look on some of the faces was priceless, but no one elected to turn back.

Instructions were given to stay close to the heels of the person in front of you and keep moving through the water and to directly exit the cave, go to the cars and get out of the cold wet clothes (it was January after all).

I lead the exit with Mike Fraley on my heels. I thought since this was “his” trip that it was only fitting he take the plunge with me! We got down into the low passage and headed in...as I came to the water I took a deep breath and kept moving...it got deeper and deeper... my helmet was rubbing the ceiling and the water was soon to my lips...as I rounded a little corner and looked ahead it looked like I had entered a dead-end room of very cold water I moved ahead some more I see what looked like an up-slope and headed right for it...it was a gravel beach the lead up to the exit. As I emerged from the icy water I was greeted by several large ice stalagmites...just to assure me the water really was cold.



Ice Stalagmites

The steam started rolling off me and I grabbed a spot out of the way and quickly started

getting my camera out. People were literally pouring out of the passage...it was like a finely tuned machine. They exited the cave and headed for warm dry clothes...I snapped a few pictures as fast as I could but almost every one was out before I got very many pictures. I got to see Gina (aka Stella) come out with the biggest smile on her face and a big Ya-Hoo! All were present and accounted for and the Groom to be was safe...not even a scratch. Mission Accomplished!*

SKULL PIT

By Mike McKinney
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NCRC III

SKULL PIT : January 26, 2002

Trip Leader: Mike McKinney

with out GPS coordinates, but being technologically prepared, we had no trouble.

Pit Bouncers: Terry DeFraties, Kathy Sumner, Mike McKinney

Observers: Igor Shkolnik, Pam Rader, Kyle McKinney



Kathy Sumner negotiating the lip, as seen from 85 ft below



Entrance to Skull Pit

We had some time to kill in the morning so we decided to go drop Skull pit. This is a pit somewhere between 85-100 ft deep.

There is no cave to explore at the bottom. We rigged 2 ropes and dropped. I shot some pictures with my digital camera while there. And we headed off to do a little recon at Copperhead cave for a troop going there in a few weeks.



Terry DeFraties on rappel



I've done it a couple times before, and it's a beautiful drop. It can be hard to find

Amos Neal Cave

By Mike McKinney
NSS 39699
NCRClII

AMOS NEAL CAVE: January 26, 2002
Trip Leader: Terry DeFraties, NCRClII

Participants: Terry DeFraties, Kathy Sumner, Pam Rader, Igor Shkolnik, Mike & Kyle McKinney



Pam Rader and Kyle McKinney on a Low Water Bridge

In response to complaints that our grotto doesn't provide many novice trip opportunities,

Terry set up a novice trip to Amos Neal Cave in Arkansas. There seemed to be the usual clamor of excitement when the trip was initially brought up and people were wanting to go. As it turned out there was only 1 novice, and that was someone I brought from my work. I realize that cave trips do not always come at opportune times, and sometimes we just can't make them...but come on! It takes a lot of time and effort to set up a trip... any trip. To set up a novice trip takes extra effort, because there needs to be other experienced cavers to support the trip. I consistently tell folks that I don't set up novice trips anymore, and this is why. I also tell them that if they have a chance to go on a novice trip, that they need to make it a priority to actually go. In order for there to be a novice trip, experienced cavers are giving up their weekend when they could be doing another more challenging cave. I realize things come up, and if they do, they do. I love seeing people get their first tastes of caving when it is done right, and that's why I still go to support novice trips, and on rare occasion set up novice trips. Ok, I'm off my soapbox.

Figure 2 Terry DeFraties fording the river

Driving to the location was beautiful. We crossed several low water bridges while driving in the back country of Arkansas...which is beautiful even in the middle of winter. We met TJ and parked at his house. With fresh instructions from him we started our hike up the ridge to Amos Neal.



Mike McKinney at the Gate of Amos Neal Cave

We spent a couple of hours wandering around this little cave enjoying its contoured meandering passages, large rooms, signature rock, and teasing little passages.



We headed out of the cave and the sun was already down. We headed back to the cars and wondered what we could find

still open for dinner when we got back to our motel-camp.



Large Room in Amos Neal Cave

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



Kyle McKinney in Amos Neal Cave



Sand Springs Cave. Picture by Richard Cindric



Igor Shkolnik in Amos Neal Cave



Sand Springs Cave By Richard Cindric



Headin' Home for Grub

Kansas City Area Grotto

KCAG

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Mailing
Label
Goes
Here

Editor's Corner

Be sure To visit KCAG's Website.

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

To download the Acrobat viewer to read the online version of the *Guano* go to:

www.adobe.com