



MGnews

• MONTGOMERY GROTTO •

November 2008

Volume 1, Number 4

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Grotto
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**Caving
Information
Online:**

MG Website:
[www.caves.org/grotto/
montgomery/](http://www.caves.org/grotto/montgomery/)

NSS Website:
www.caves.org/

SCCi Website:
www.scci.org/



We would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone interested in speleology to attend our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at the First United Methodist Church at 7pm. The address is 2416 W. Cloverdale Park, Montgomery, AL 36106. Meetings last about one hour during which we discuss grotto business, welcome newcomers, plan trips and more. For additional information, contact Stan Tew at stan_tew@yahoo.com.

Disclaimer:

Caving is an inherently dangerous and demanding sport. Care should be given when deciding to participate in caving trips. You should be physically fit and not afraid of tight spaces. Caving trips are lead by volunteers; before participating, you should gather information about the difficulty of the trip and the experience level of the leader. Participating in any or all activities is at your own risk.

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On The Cover

On October 18th, Bo, Jelene and Chuck enjoyed a day away at Tumbling Rock Cave. We ventured down into an area of the cave we had not been in near the Kings Shower. Chuck is shown in this picture posing with the “logs.”

Announcements

- (1) Bo still has supplies of MG stickers and patches – they are available for \$2.50 each to grotto members and friends.
- (2) Remember to check out our website for trips and upcoming events.

Calendar

Dec 02	<i>MG Meeting</i>
Dec 13	<i>Tumbling Rock</i>
Dec 25	<i>Christmas</i>
Jan 01	<i>New Year's</i>
Jan 05	<i>MG Meeting</i>
Jan 17	<i>Tumbling Rock</i>
Feb 02	<i>MG Meeting</i>
Feb 14	<i>Valentine's</i>

Info/Trip Reports

TAG Fall Cave-In (Chuck Tice):

This year's Fall Cave-In was October 9-12. Our group was able to go to Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave Saturday morning and then make it to the Cave-In site in time to compete in the climbing contest. Stan, Robbie, Lee and Chuck each

took a turn doing the 100' part. Lee was able to do it in 1 minute 12.9 seconds; Chuck did it in 1 minute 25 seconds; Stan and Robbie did it in only a few seconds longer. After leaving, getting cleaned up, and eating, we returned in time to just miss lighting the bonfire. The fire was nice, especially after the temperature started dropping; the band was good. After an outstanding breakfast at Stan's place, our group was able to get some rappelling in Sunday at a 110' spot in Little River Canyon.

Ellison's Cave (Chuck Tice):

On November 28, I left home at 5:30am to start my trip toward Trenton, GA. At around 8:15am, I arrived at the Trenton Hardees. Harold Calvert and three other members (Evon, Kuenn and Scott) of the Cullman Grotto arrived at around 8:30am. At 9:00am, we finished our breakfast and made our way up the mountain toward Ellison's Cave. We made it to the parking area a little after 10:00am. Once dressed and organized, we started our hour long hike up the mountain to an elevation about 1,000' higher than where we parked. We entered the cave at 11:30am. Once inside, any sense of time was gone. We worked our way along the stream bed to the warm-up pit. After rappelling the 124' drop, we did a little more caving to get to the nuisance climb – about an 18' area that required us to use our ascending systems. We then did a little more caving to reach the narrow ledge at the top of the deep pit. After clipping in, we

crawled around the edge partially dangling out over what appeared to be a dark bottomless hole. Once we were all on the other side, the 620' rope was rigged. Since there were five of us in the group, we decided that three people would go down, then two would ascend tandem, then the other two would go down, then one would ascend alone, then the last two would ascend tandem (which ended up being Harold and I, with me underneath). I believe the quickest one up took around 32 minutes and the longest one took around 53 minutes – it took me 48 minutes. To be blunt, the climb was HELL!! It took everything I had plus some; I ended up taking short breaks about every 20' (and that's a lot of breaks for 586'!!). So, was it worth it? OH YES!! Will I do it again? OH YES!! But the story is not over yet. Once everyone was up, it took probably another 30 minutes to get the rope up and packed. From there, everything continued to work in reverse. We made our way back around the ledge, which seemed just as scary as the first time. We rappelled the nuisance climb, and made our way to the warm-up pit. A couple of comments were made about the 124' climb being really hard after doing the deep pit – it really wasn't that bad for me, I just had to take my breaks every 20'. It was close to 8:00pm when we made it out of the cave. We made our way back down the mountain, changed clothes and were in our cars just after 9:00pm. Then we made our way back to Trenton and ate at the Huddle House. Once finished, we said our goodbyes and

were on our way home. Needless to say, I was a bit tired. Since I was alone, I made my way to the rest area just past Gadsden where I parked and took about an hour nap. I resumed my drive and it rained on me all the way home, where I arrived at 2:45am Saturday. It was an absolutely awesome trip which I greatly look forward to doing again!

MG Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2008:

- ❖ Meeting started at 7:12pm
- ❖ T-shirts, hats, stickers, etc. were passed out
- ❖ Stan passed around pictures of his plane crash
- ❖ Stan discussed:
 - TAG – SCCi announcement Friday
 - TAG – Saturday cave trip will be to Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave
 - TAG – discussed other activities
- ❖ Deirdra discussed Rickwood Caverns State Park and MG voted to send \$25 to support their efforts
- ❖ Stan announced that he now has a key to Glory Hole
- ❖ Chuck mentioned the Cullman Grotto Family Day
- ❖ Stan mentioned the Cemetery Pit trip and vertical equipment that could be borrowed
- ❖ Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm