

THE SUBTERRANEAN VOICE



The St. Joseph Valley Grotto

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How to Join the SJVG

We have twelve requirements to join our grotto and they all have George Washington's face on them. We do not require anything else. If you wish to receive this publication and be included in caving trips and/or other SJVG functions, just send twelve big ones to the address on this page. That will get you a one year membership in the grotto. If your only interest is in receiving this newsletter, we have a subscription only price of \$10.00 per year.

The SJVG is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society. All grotto members are required to maintain a membership in the NSS to be voting members of the SJVG.

Recreational caving, vertical caving, cave surveying, cave conservation efforts, cave photography, out-of-state trips, camp outs, picnics, parties, friendship, politics and being lost in the woods are all benefits of membership in the SJVG. We have a scheduled grotto trip each month. Someone in the grotto goes caving almost every weekend. If you are interested please contact us.

SJVG Web Mail

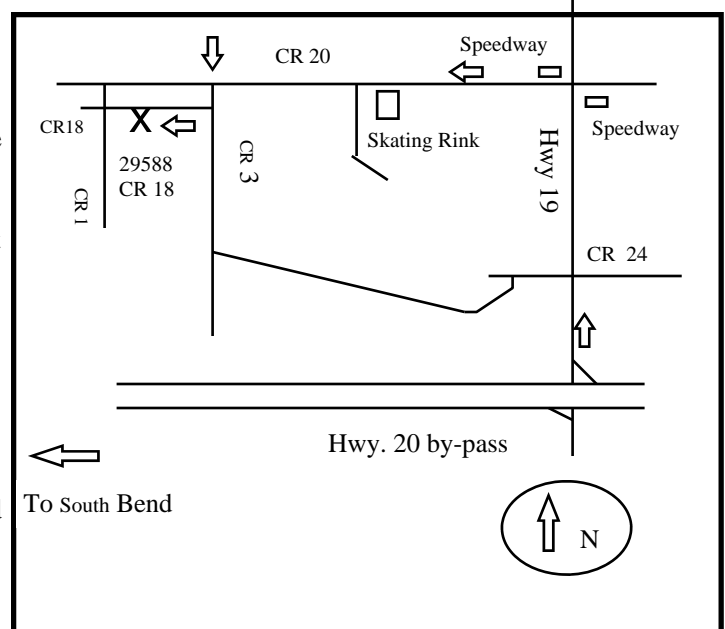
SJVG members are invited to join our yahoo newsgroup. The address for the newsgroup is sjvge-news@yahoogroups.com. Trips are coordinated, topics discussed, jokes made and trial balloons floated. To join please email to Mark Kraus.

How to Get to a SJVG Meeting

Grotto meetings are usually the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Our meetings are informal and usually include food, beverage and an occasional program.

Directions:

From the intersection of highway 20 and SR 19, go north on 19 to CR 20. There is a Speedway gas station on two of the four corners of the intersection. Turn left onto CR 20, go past the roller rink to the light at CR 3 and turn left. Go south on CR 3 to the first road and turn right on to CR 18. After about 1/2 mile you will see the Cunningham's white house on the left hand side of the road. The address is 29588. Park in back and enter at the rear.



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Speleo-Calendar

Please Note: Trips may be changed due to cave closures. Contact the trip leader or check the message board if you plan to attend a trip.

August 14-16: The monthly grotto trip will be to Cave Capers at Camp Rivervale in Lawrence Co. Indiana. Go to cavecapers.com for more info and the preregistration form.

September 3-7: The Robertson Association hosts the 60th Annual Old Timers Reunion in Beverly WV. Please see News and Notes for more information.

September 4-7: Pupfest 7 will be held Labor Day weekend. The event is invite only and all SJVG members are invited. Please see news and notes for more info.

September 10: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

September 12: Monthly grotto trip to Clicks and Henderson Park Caves. For more info see the trip updates following the calendar.

September 19: Tour of the Lost River Karst System led by Robert Armstrong, chairman of the Lost River Conservation Association. Meet at 7:40 AM at the gazebo on the town square in Orleans IN.

October 8: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

October 8-11: The 32nd annual Fall TAG Cave In hosted by the Dogwood City Grotto in Georgia. Go to falltagcavein.org for more information and a preregistration form.

October 24: Monthly Grotto trip led by Sharon Schierling. Please see trip updates for more information.

November 12: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

November 26: Monthly grotto trip to Pups for Thanksgiving. See Trip updates for more info.

December 12: Grotto Christmas party and monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. Please see trip updates for more information and see the map on the previous page for directions.

January 14, 2010 : Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

February 11, 2010: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

March 11, 2010: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

April 8, 2010: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

May: 13, 2010 Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

June 10, 2010: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

July 8, 2010: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

July 12-17, 2010: NSS National Convention, Essex Junction, Vermont

Please note: Sometimes last minute trip changes are necessary due to weather or a change of plans of the trip leader. The meeting time, place, or even the trip destination may change. Participants should always contact the trip leader in advance so their attendance can be planned for and so that they may be notified of any last minute changes. Everyone is always welcome to just show up at the designated time and place, but please realize that by showing up unannounced that you are taking a risk that changes will have been made that you won't know about. If you are planning to go on a survey trip, advance notice is even more important so that there will be an adequate supply of sketchers and instruments.

Trip Updates

The best way to receive trip updates is by joining the SJVG Yahoo News Group. Its free and easy to join. The address is sjvge-news@yahoogroups.com. To join contact Mark Kraus. His info is on the inside cover.

August Trip

The 56th annual Cave Capers hosted by the CIG will be this months grotto trip. It will be June 26-28 at Camp Rivervale. There are self led and guided cave trips planned by the CIG. More details can be found at <http://cig.caves.org/pages/capers.html>. There will be no trip leader for this month. Please post any questions on the e-news

September Trip

The September trip will be to Clicks Cave with Middle Cave at Henderson Park as the back-up. Please be sure to check the SJVG web mail prior to leaving in case both caves are closed. Both caves are moderately wet. At Clicks the water is a little easier to avoid. Middle Cave will also require that the cavers climb a 15-foot ladder. Either trip should take about 4 hours. We will meet at Elaine's Restaurant in Salem. They serve a nice breakfast. Those who wish to eat breakfast at Elaine's should plan to arrive early enough to be ready to depart for the cave at 10 am.

October Trip

The October trip will be the weekend of the 23-25th. On October 24th we will visit Bryant's Cave, east of Spring Mill State Park and west of Salem off of Hwy 60 (directions to follow on e-list or contact Sharon Schierling by email at sschierl@nd.edu or by phone at 574-210-3910). The Lower passage is a beginner trip; upper passage for seasoned cavers only (very pristine, with 1 foot exit opening). We will have a cabin for camping, vertical caves nearby and wonderful friends. Mudpuppy will be working there the week before and the week after so base camp will be firmly established. The cabin and camping are on the cave property, with cabin reserved for SJVG grotto members only. On Sunday, we will be doing some vertical pits in the area.

November Trip

Hey ya'll. Ya'll are welcome and encouraged to come down and spend Thanksgiving here in TAG. We will be having trips for all levels of skills, hopefully including some more hardcore trips and certainly some surveying into virgin TAG (hardcore survey that weekend, call to reserve a spot!) cave. As usual I will kill a bird and bake it. For those coming to dinner, it will be at 8 PM Thanksgiving night, CST, so you gain one hour!!! Please bring a dish to share. As usual also, if you are coming, email me so I can tell you what to bring for food to cover the remaining days. I would rather cook for all while you shower and enjoy a beer or something. Directions, email me also. There usually is a lot of room inside, so a tent ain't required, unless you snore loudly LOL. So come any day, leave any day, I don't care. Just please come down, make sure your gear is WNS squeaky clean and enjoy what GOD gave us here in the southland. How many years have we been doing this? Seems like only yesterday.....

My house, your house,
Mudpuppy

December Trip

Christmas Party! Tony and Leslie's house on December 12th. The Grotto will supply a main meat dish and mixers and snacks. Bring a dish to share, possibly something besides chips. There will be door prizes and a big raffle, so bring your special items, caving related or otherwise, to use as prizes. There will be a bonfire and hot tubbing, maybe karaoke, and lots of great story telling. We encourage everyone to have fun, and bring a sleeping bag if you plan to drink a bit. We have more floor space than bail money. The party will start around 6 pm, the E-Board will convene at 6:30, and the regular December Grotto meeting will start at 7:00.

From the Editor

By *Sidney Hawkins*

OK so the newsletter is a bit lacking..... I have recently gotten a job and am very short on time. I am still willing to do the newsletter, but I need help. I didn't receive any photos and only a few speleologists for this issue. I need you to send me photos, maps, trip reports and anything else you find interesting. Trip reports can be about hiking, climbing, camping, ridge walking, kayaking, anything. You can also send me articles you think others will find helpful. Please send things for the newsletter to me and not just the E-news. You can email me or send stuff to the PO Box. All the info is on the inside cover. I do get things from some people issue after issue. To those of you that send me things: THANK YOU!!!

Thanks: Mark Matthews, Mark Kraus, Dave Tibbets, Shay Furbush, Mike Wickersham, Kriste Lindberg, Dave McGowan, Beth Acosta, and Mudpuppy for their submissions to this month's newsletter.

Cover: This month's cover is a photo of Seneca Rocks in West Virginia.

Speleolog

Devils Lake Trip

By *Mark Matthews*

On Friday, May 15, Dave Tibbets, Joy Baiz, Dan McDowell, Shay Furbush, Mike Wickersham, and Mark Matthews, left northern Indiana for the great state of Wisconsin for a Grotto trip. Dave and Joy arrived about 11:30 at the camping and climbing site of Devils Lake State Park (some people get up early). They proceeded to hike several trails, making the loop around the lake. Shay arrived about 2:30 and checked us in at the office for the camp sight, thanks Shay. Mike and Mark met Shay at the top of a hill (one of the few places to get a cell signal in the park) at about 3:30. The three of us set up our tents, then went to set up climb rigging with Scuba Steve just outside the park. All the time wondering where Dave and Joy might be (over due for the time they left). The three of us went back to the camp site at about 6 and found Dave and Joy, they had been hiking all over. Good for us they had started the fire. Dan showed up later, and we all had supper.

About midnight the neighborhood went down the tubes, some boy scouts showed up making LOTS of noise. Joy went down about 12:30, asking for the scout master to keep the noise down. Too late, the noise woke up the local prehistoric bird population (heron's). They kept us awake for another hour. Damn scouts and birds.

Waking up in the morning we ate breakfast. At 6:15, Scuba Steve showed up to help set anchor points. Scuba, Mike, Dave and Mark carried two and three packs of gear and food up the numerous steps to the top. Some of us older ones had to stop several times to rest. Long climb. Much later the last two brought the last of the gear. We rappelled down two ropes many times having a good time. Two other ropes were rigged for rock climbing, which we all took turns at. We all had fun. Then we

had to carry all that equipment back down, Oh my legs still hurt, and I am sure some others also. Dan went on hikes by himself, seeing the sights. (editor's note: Mark is too kind -- leaving out that Joy is apparently a vertically challenged rock climber -- able to stand on the ledge at the edge of the 60 foot drop, but not able to step off -- maybe next time!)

After a rest, we drove over to Parfreys Glen Nature area. This area was hit with the big rain last year, causing great flooding in the canyon. It washed out the board walk and caused a new streambed. The canyon was still very nice to see with a pretty waterfall at the end of the hike.

Then we drove over to Natural Bridge Park, Dan had been there earlier that day on his own. We took the scenic (long) walk to the bridge, thanks to directions from Shay (and the rest not looking at the map at the trail head). The bridge looked good with a grotto cave under it. Back to the camp site and bed.

Sunday, we were awoken by bugle from the scouts at 6 AM, (we thought of putting the bugle where it belonged in the scout master). Breakfast and break camp. Kasey Fiske arrived at just before 8 right on time. Dan went his way to hike before returning to Indiana, and the rest headed for Popps cave. On the way we stopped at a Culver's to pick up two people from that area, then continued to Popps. Popps is a nice young, decorated cave, with formations on the bottom of all the breakdown. The ceiling caved many times over the years. We spent about two hours in the cave checking out long passages.

The next stop was back to Culver's to eat then on to Castle Rock Cave. This cave is a short but very mazy with lots of side passages. Mike was not able to get in past the tight squeeze (too much lunch). Dave stayed in the first large room. Shay was gone, wiggling through

Speleolog Continued

small places. the rest looked around in the back. We then heard Dave calling out "where are you guys I'm lost" (total cave extent -- 800 feet). He crawled into a very mazy room and could not find his way out. Thanks Dave we needed a laugh.

When we finished this cave, Shay had to be rescued when his motorcycle did not start, loose battery terminal. Two went home from here, the rest went to a commercial cave almost to Madison (Cave of the Mounds). Dave & Joy did the tour -- one of them in their newly acquired "bat hat". Mike, Shay, and Mark stayed a short time then left for home. Mike had school the next day, he needed to be wide awake for the sweet school children.

A GOOD Time was had by ALL.

Alaska

By Mark Kraus

On Saturday 5/16, Mark Kraus visited some small glacial ice caves at the face of the Matanuska glacier in the Mat-su valley north of Palmer Alaska. The floor of the cave was thick glacial mud and water and had two sky windows at one end. The caves were really cool in more ways than one.

Southern Indiana

By Dave Tibbets

May 29, 2009: Dave Tibbets took the commercial tour at Squire Boone Caverns. He was happy to note that the little gnome with a "tipping the guide is allowed" sign is no longer present near "Squire's" coffin. Maybe someday those bones will be put to rest like Floyd's finally were.

May 30, 2009: Rand Heazlitt, Dave Tibbets, Burnis Piper, Brad Barcom, and Dave Everton surveyed, modified and moved limestone in a Binkley cave 11 hour adventure.

Cavers interested in participating in this fine project should contact Everton. He will treat you right!

July 10, 2009: Joy Baiz and Dave Tibbets checked out a lead provided by Joy's brother John. It looks like it may be a real cave. There is a bit of digging needed, but a lot of air movement.

July 11, 2009: 4 SJVGers joined a bunch of other cavers in a Binkleys trip organized by Dave Everton. Each of them proceeded to demonstrate their abilities as cavers. Joy Baiz showed that she still has the good sense

to say, "No," when confronted with a situation that may have been beyond her ability to cave safely. Dave Tibbets was able to combat crawl backwards over 100 feet after surveying in a very "Lost River" like slime tube. Mark Matthews free climbed into and out of some sketchy pits to help find going leads. Bill Kulwicki showed that he is still the Iron Man of the SJVG by caving longer and harder than his grotto counterparts as his survey team exited the cave HOURS after the others. Thanks to Everton for organizing this great experience and to Rand Heazlitt for providing excellent accommodations for the SJVG cavers. Anyone interested in participating in the Binkley area projects should contact Everton!

Urban Adventure Race

By Shay Furbush

To those that do not know this weekend members of the Grotto represented for the SJVGC in the first Annual Urban Adventure Race in South Bend, IN. The race consisted of biking to several areas in south bend where different challenges had to be conquered. Shay and Joy competed as "The Grotto Duo". As most Grotto trips it started out unplanned and with some complications and ended with a feeling of satisfaction and sore muscles. The first event was the river race where we kayaked, Joy of course felt that the map should be placed in a water proof container prior to getting in the water, Shay didn't think that was necessary. Joy was right. The next highlight of the trip was when Joy wiped out her bike riding across a perfectly clear intersection where "a rock" caused her to fall skinning her knee. Arriving at Notre Dame after riding a good 8 miles on the bikes Joy was especially thrilled to find that we would now have to climb 14 flights of stairs in the Library to the top of touch down Jesus.

In the 4 hours allotted for the race we did not finish (14 out of 24 checkpoints), like many others, but we did have a very enjoyable time and recommend it to any. Highlights of the challenges faced include a rock wall, the river race, and a zip line. Approximately 2-3miles of run walk, 16miles of biking, and lots of crazy challenges.

For those interested Joy did the Zip line, spanning across the St. Joe river for a good 100yards and at least 30ft above the river, at the Colfax St. Bridge.

Ed. Note: The Urban Adventure Race took place on July 18th 2009.

Speleolog Continued

Fredericksburg Cave

By Mudpuppy

Oh my, so much mud! Joy, Mark Matthews, Beth and I braved the mud along with many others folks. Mark K was there but opted out of the trip to do other things. At least he camped with us! We had a good site compared to what we would have had earlier in the day, shelter and everything!

Any who, the hike was short and sweet. Right off the bat, you got in the water. It was deeper (as was the mud) on some more than others. The mud passage which leads to Echo Lake was way too much fun. I could watch folks for hours, climbing and sliding and trying to gain purchase of some kind of ground. This is what is great about this cave. There was a great spot to wash off and I took full advantage on the way out.

That night we had dinner, lots of slides and a little fire. It was fun to be in Indiana with so many good friends! Much thanks to the landowner Todd for letting us camp and cave there.

Southern Indiana

By Joy Baiz

Following an entire day spent at the Indiana State Fair, Mark Matthews, Joy Baiz, David Baiz and Levi Riggensbach (1st time caver & Joy's "nephew") set up camp at Spring Mill State Park late on Friday evening to rest in preparation for Saturday's trip to Peachers & Roberts caves. A hearty breakfast of hash brown/egg/sausage "mess" prepared us for the day's activities (see what you miss by working Kraus?). Several other cavers joined the party at McDonald's in Mitchell -- Todd Webb, Don Ingle and his crew of 5 others from cave capers (forgive me, I am horrible with names -- there was a Tim and a Kyle and then I draw a blank). The crew from cave capers decided to change into cave gear near the entrance to the cave -- this would later prove to be a great decision for the land owner's three dogs that greeted us upon arriving at Peachers. While we played in the cave, the three boxer type dogs played with the gear left in the sink -- there was a shoe here, a shirt there, stuff scattered everywhere! Apparently they were very happy with their new "toys" and played hard while we caved.

The entrance crawl proved to be no problem for the younger participants, a few choice words were heard from the others as the 60 foot belly crawl challenged us all, especially the constriction at the gate half way into the crawl. All survived to enjoy the pretty formations found in this cave. Several side passages were ex-

plored and numerous photos taken, before the inevitable return to the dreaded crawl. Todd persuaded the youngsters to try their hand at pushing a pack ahead of them during the exit making his exit a tad easier. Each of the boys now knows that caving "empty handed" is much easier. A quick change into travel clothes and Joy's crew was off to meet Jon (her brother), Mark Kraus & Dave Tibbets for the second cave of the day.

Roberts cave provided Levi with his second cave experience and Jon's fourth. David Baiz decided he had suffered enough & choose to wait in the shade while the rest of us explored this second cave. We traveled down each of the passages in the cave with Levi often asking "Now, where does that go?" To which Kraus would reply, "Well there are only three ways to find out -- ask someone, send someone or go yourself." Levi seemed to always want to take the third option. I believe we may have a new convert to caving! Our thanks to Keith & Cindy for granting us permission to visit their little slice of heaven (who would not want to have a cave in their back yard?) The day was complete with the serving of a potato/green pepper/onion/ sausage dutch oven masterpiece spiced with just the right amount of pepper (right, David?), prepared at the Spring Mill campsite.

Day two dawned hot & sticky so we were off to get into a cave as early as possible. This time the crowd included Joy, Dave, Kraus, Matthews & Levi (David opting to stay in camp and guard the food). Mark Matthews had made arrangements with the land owner of Maple Grove Cave to have us survey a small cave in his backyard. Indian Boundary cave measures just under 50 feet and was Levi's introduction to cave survey work. As with all newbie survey members, we made him carry the tape out of the cave. Joy made Kraus exit the cave first, thus depriving him of the opportunity to pursue another "eclipse comment". With Kraus's sketch complete, we headed over to introduce Kraus, Tibbets & Levi to Maple Grove Cave.

Now that Levi was to enter his fourth cave in two days, we decided to make him temporary trip leader and have him lead us through the cave. He did well, finding both the right & left ends of the main passage with relative ease. There were several comments from the peanut gallery regarding the "performance" of Joy's newly acquired caving shorts in the crawlway, but the exact content of the comment is not suitable for repetition in mixed company (if you ask, I am sure they will give you all the sorted details!) We enjoyed all the fine rimstone dams and formations in the cave before asking Levi to lead us

Speleolog Continued

out. All four of us managed to get up the entrance crawl and almost to the entrance room before Levi realized he had walked past the entrance passage & was continuing back to the left passage which we had done first on the way into the cave. Alas, he found his way and followed us out.

As a final stop on the "Cave Country" tour, David Baiz, Mark Matthews, Levi & Joy Baiz headed for pizza at the best pizza joint in Fayetteville. Even after all the sore muscles, wet clothing, & mud covered boots, Levi declared his affection for his new found sport and requested to be included on future cave trips. I think a 10 hour trip to Binkley should be next!!!

News and Notes

Membership: Dues were paid as follows: Trae Spires 1 yr, Brent Grist 4 yrs, Charlie Hawkins 1 yr, Sidney Hawkins 1 yr, Brian McCrary 15 months.

WNS Video

By *Kriste Lindberg*

Dave McGowan called yesterday to ask if we'd help them get the word out on their new, nine- minute WNS video.

From what I understand, it will be hosted on the "Caves: Life Beneath the Forest" web page, www.cavebiota.com, and should be up and running either later today or tomorrow...

Check it out!

Nature Conservancy Videos

David McGowan

Please take a look at our latest Nature Conservancy video at: <http://www.vimeo.com/4893859> The program presents a short portrait of Southwest Indiana and the people who strive to preserve its natural beauty.

We've exceeded our bandwidth allotment with the server at www.cavebiota.com You can access "The Battle With Bats" at <http://www.vimeo.com/4894773> I anticipate that www.cavebiota.com will be operational at some point today.

October 2-4

By *Dave Tibbits*

Come for all 3 days or any part thereof!
Activities will likely include:

Saturday: Canopy Tour (\$85)- http://www.hockinghillscanopytours.com/tour_overview.html

Sunday: Cave Tour operated by the Shawnee nation (\$11)- <http://www.zaneshawneecaverns.netcavern.shtml>

Other times:

Rappelling/climbing (free)- <http://www.heartofhocking.com/RockClimbingHockinghills>.
[http](http://www.heartofhocking.com/RockClimbingHockinghills)

Hiking to waterfalls and shelter caves (free)- <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/tabid/743/Default.aspx>

Driving to see petroglyphs (free)- <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=2751>

Camping: SJVG old timer Andrea Anes has graciously offered to let us stay on her property (she lives in Hocking Co.) and will possibly facilitate rappelling and paddling activities.

eating, drinking, and hanging out with me: (somebody should pay you to do it)

I need to know if you want me to reserve you a space:
-on the canopy tour (I will reserve spots as soon as you let me know. This weekend is already filling up on their schedule!)
-on the cave tour
-for tasty dutch oven pizza cooked in camp Saturday night.

If you want me to make your reservations you need to tell me for sure which one(s) of the 4 you want to do before August 19. That gives you 10 days to check your calendar and make up your mind. You also have to sign a blood oath that if I front the money for your reservation(s) you will pay me back whether you go or not!

After August 19 you are STILL most welcome to come along, but you will need to make your own reservations!
Ed note: Due to when the newsletter was published you will need to make your own reservations. There is more info available on the e-news. Please contact Dave at tibbitsd@msn.com if you plan to attend.

News and Notes

Pupfest

By Mudpuppy

Hey Ya'll This is an invitation to all SJVG members to attend Pupfest 7, held in Sewanee TN by the Sewanee Mountain Grotto from Sept 4-7th. It is a RSVP event. So what that means is, you have to RSVP me at least a week in advance so we can get a handle on the number of folks for meat, beer and portajohns. The event is free, but you are asked 2 things. One is to bring an item for the auction that is either caving or camping related. Real cool stuff is also excepted. The other is a dish to share for the big cookout Sunday night. If you need to cook something, you can do that at my house. This year we shall have a "pig in the ground", plus I am sure some chicken, etc, for those that don't eat pork. Several kegs of beer will be on hand for your drinking pleasure. Of course we have both a wood fired sauna and a wood fired hot tub! Horse shoe pit and a really nice volleyball court are right there. Underground activities abound, along with some floating (even to see a bat flight of several thousand) and above ground diversions are plentiful along with some fantastic rock climbing. Did I forget to mention our bonfires? Forgive me. There is plenty of shaded camping at the site. So when you email, if you have not been here, I can give directions and mileages at that time to those that need

it. We usually get a good mix of cavers from all across the country, this year including California.

OTR

By Leslie Cunningham

Labor Day weekend, more fun than I can explain. This year is 50's prom theme and a parade of lights. Bring light items to decorate the campsite and black long sleeve shirt and pants to wear in the Parade of Lights. Also bring some glow stick necklaces for costumes. This year there will not be a Lion's Club dinner, but there will be both a chicken dinner day and a pork dinner provided by the food vendor on different days. Remember to bring your wine for the river, snack for the e-fest, and sign up online now for gate duty. You must be a TRA member or the guest of a TRA member to attend. For more information you can contact Sidney Hawkins. Her info is on the inside cover.

May Minutes

Monthly Grotto Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2009, submitted by Mike Wickersham

Members in attendance: Dave Tibbets, Mike Wickersham, Tony Cunningham, Sidney Hawkins, Beth Acosta, Mark Matthews, Leslie Cunningham, and Mark Kraus by proxy of Dave Tibbets.

Grotto Chairman Mark Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	1329.44
+ donations	11.36
- newsletter	34.21
- pizza at Rulli's	109.81
after ropes train.	

at Northridge	
Current Balance	1196.78

Motion to approve by Leslie, seconded by Ashley. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes

The minutes from March and April were lost in Tony's transition out of Weed Patrol. Beth read February minutes which were updated. Reviewed discussions/ plans as remembered from March and April. Concept of grotto first aid kit was shelved. However Beth will write an article to serve as a guide for leading trips. Motion to approve the "best of our recollections" for March and April by Tony, seconded by Mike. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Trips:

May 15-17--Devil' s Lake--TL=>Mark Matthews, meet at CCC group campsite 9

Jun 19-21--Fredericksburg g--TL=>Mudpuppy

Jul 11--Salts--TL=>?, Meet at Arby's 10 am

May Minutes Continued

Aug 14-16--No TL--Cave Capers, Camp Riverdale, Mitchell

Sep 19--Clicks-- TL=>Tony, Meet at Elaine's 10:00 am

Oct--Bryant's Cave? and ridge walk--TL=>Sharon S. (staying at the cabin)

Nov--Thanksgiving at Pup's

Dec--Christmas party

Update on idea of webcasting monthly meetings--Mike tried setting up a site for broadcasting monthly meetings on the internet to allow participation from afar. However, the initial trial was not successful due to inadequate equipment. Will continue to work on the concept. (secretary's note: however, after Kraus' startling revelation by proxy, some things should probably not be broadcast on the internet!)

Website update--Current newsletters are being posted to the SJVG website. They may be accessed free of charge. Also, please send photos or links to photo galleries of cave trips to Mike Wickersham at the email address listed on the website. He is going to set up a photo gallery page on the website. Please give a one-sentence description to go with the pics. Individual photos may be submitted to be uploaded, or links to galleries.

Not-For-Profit status of SJVG--papers have been signed and are being processed.

New Business

Newsletter costs have gone up! YOU MUST EMAIL SIDNEY (hawkinssidney@yahoo.com) IF YOU CAN GET THE NEWSLETTER OFF THE GROTTO WEBSITE AND DO NOT NEED A COPY MAILED. This will save grotto money. (secretary's note: Don't feel guilty if you can't access the newsletter [pdf file] or still prefer the hard copy.) Please send Sidney info and pics to publish.

Webpage contact updates--General Grotto Contact=>Mark Kraus, delete Trae and Deebel from Survey Contacts, Change Editor to Sidney, Secretary to Wickersham (if approved), update Beth's email. Specific trip questions should be referred to the trip leader listed on the calendar page.

Discussion took place regarding survey notes. Survey notes from Binkley's Cave are lost or at least no longer available. Need to make or get a copy of Lost River survey notes to keep in the grotto library (in case Deebel changes his preference of social groups, loses his mind, or becomes socially unavailable due to residence in a

long term care/protection/ detention facility.) Dave moved we make or obtain a copy of the notes to keep in the grotto library, seconded by Tony. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Lost River is to be locked by the Nature Conservancy with NC locks. We might get back in someday. Who knows?

OTR--Participation in the Parade of lights will not be funded by the grotto.

Tony resigned as SJVG secretary. Approved 7-1. Mike Wickersham agreed to be the new secretary as long as Tony continues to take minutes during the meeting WHENEVER he is present. Mike will type the minutes and send out to the newsgroup. New secretary's note: Thanks to Tony for years of secretarial service to the grotto. At least one person will be missing your secretarial service :)

Date change--December meeting/Christmas party from the 10th to the 12th. Moved by Sidney, seconded by Leslie. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Time change--Sidney suggested beginning monthly meetings at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30 to get done earlier. After a short discussion, Sid moved to change the start time accordingly, Beth seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Tony, seconded by Leslie. Adjourned at 8:49 by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Board Vote regarding secretary:
Accepted Tony's resignation, approved Mike Wickersham volunteering as secretary.
Unanimous vote by Sidney and Beth.

June Minutes

Monthly Grotto Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2009, submitted by Mike Wickersham

Members in attendance: Dave Tibbets, Mike Wickersham, Tony Cunningham, Sidney Hawkins, Beth Acosta, Mark Matthews, Leslie Cunningham, Joel Annable (sp?), Charlie Hawkins.

Grotto Chairman Mark Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report		
Beginning Balance		1196.78
+ dues	12.00 (Spires)	
donations	5.90	
guide book	10.00	+27.90
- newsletter --Staples	108.36	
stamps	54.37	
NSS	22.00	
web space	12.00	
Shipping on "Hidden World of Caves"	10.00	-184.73
Current Balance		1039.95

Motion to approve by Beth, seconded by Dave T. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes

Read minutes from May meeting. Motion to approve by Dave, seconded by Beth. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Trips:

Jun 19-21--Fredericksburg g--TL=>Mudpuppy

Jul 11--Salts--TL=>Mark Deebel was told by Tony that he is the trip leader, even though he is not a grotto member! Meet at Arby's 10 am

Aug 14-16--No TL--Cave Capers, Camp Riverdale, Mitchell

Sep 19--Clicks-- TL=>Tony, Meet at Elaine's 10:00 am

Oct--Bryant's Cave (or another cave of Sharon's choosing)--TL=>Sharon S. (staying at the cabin)

Nov--Thanksgiving at Pup's

Dec--Christmas party--December 12

Webcast update--still not an option until Mike talks wife into new computer!

Not-For-Profit status of SJVG--papers have been signed and are being processed.

As you can see from the treasurer's report, the newsletters are expensive to produce. Anyone who can, is strongly encouraged to utilize the newsletters from the website and email Sidney Hawkins to be removed from the snail-mail list.

Survey notes--no change. We do intend to copy them.

New Business

Fayetteville Pizza Grand Opening June 27-28. Everyone is welcome. Live Band on Saturday. Town wide yard sale! They need grotto tarp. Mark/Beth will transport tarp down when they go to Fredericksburg.

45 copies of "Hidden World of Caves" were requested from NSS to distribute to area libraries and schools for instructional purposes. We only had to pay \$10.00 shipping fee to get them. A list of recipients will be kept. We will put a grotto address/email/ other info. label inside each book. Dave wants 10 copies for caving program @Pierre Moran Middle School. One copy for grotto library. 1 Or 2 copies for Heritage Intermediate School. We believe that this is our total allotment for our grotto. Books will be distributed to appropriate organizations until they run out.

Binkley's Cave is doing a book We will arrange a group purchase on SJVG mail. Mark M. will take care of this. Grotto will buy one copy for library. Moved by Mike, seconded by Dave, approved by unanimous voice vote.

Anyone wishing to survey in Binkley's Cave should contact Dave Everton.

NSS had wrong contact phone no. Sid had it updated.

Letter from IN Dept. of Revenue--2000- 2007 tax returns requested or notarized letter that we had no income. Sid will fax IDR letter to Joy and Joy will take care of it.

Bring long sleeve black shirts and black pants to OTR.

Meeting adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Tony, seconded by Charlie. Adjourned at 7:59 by unanimous voice vote.

July Minutes

Monthly Grotto Meeting Minutes July 9, 2009

Submitted by Mike Wickersham

Members in attendance: Mark Matthews, Sidney Hawkins, Beth Acosta, Tony Cunningham, Keith Johnson, Cindy Hayward, Mudpuppy (by speakerphone).

Grotto Chairman Mark M. called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes

June minutes read. Motion to approve by Pup, seconded by Beth. Approved as published by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance		1039.95
<u>+Receipts</u>		
Dues	72.00	
B. Grist (4)		
Charlie (1)		
Sid (1)		
Donations	7.65	
Total Receipts		<u>79.65</u>
-Expenses		<u>00.00</u>
Ending Balance		<u>1119.60</u>

Motion to approve by Tony, seconded by Cindy. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Trip Plans
 July 11—Salts—tl; Mark Deebel
 Aug 14-16—Cave Capers—no trip leader
 Labor Day Weekend—Pupfest, OTR
 Sep 16—Clicks—tl; Tony Cunningham
 Oct ?--?—trip leader Sharon
 Thanksgiving—Pups
 Dec—Christmas Party

Other Old Business

Fayetteville Pizza had their grand opening. "Hidden World of Caves" book shipment received. Need to create an SJVG label to attach before distributing. Continue to contact Dave Everton to participate in Binkley's Cave survey trips. IRS paperwork is being completed. Indiana has been completed.

New Business

None

Next Meeting

August 13, 2009 7:00 pm at Cunningham's

Motion to adjourn by Beth, seconded by Keith. Adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 7:31.

August Minutes

Monthly Grotto Meeting Minutes August 13, 2009

Submitted by Mike Wickersham

Members in attendance: Mark Matthews, Sidney Hawkins, Beth Acosta, Brian McCrary, Tony Cunningham, Ashley Cunningham, Mike Wickersham, Sharon Schierling, Mudpuppy (by phone), Leslie Cunningham, Joel Annable.

Grotto Chairman Mark M. called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

Minutes

July minutes read. Motion to approve by Beth, seconded by Ashley. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance		1119.60
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+Receipts

Donations	5.65	
Total Receipts		
-Expenses	9.27	<u>9.27</u>
Ending Balance		<u>1115.98</u>

Motion to approve by Beth, seconded by Sharon. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Trip Plans
 Aug 14-16—Cave Capers—no trip leader
 Labor Day Weekend—Pupfest, OTR
 Sep 19—Clicks—tl Tony C. Meet at Elaine's in Salem and leave at 10:00. (If Click's not available, something else close.) Plan on 3-4 hour trips. Either cave of the options are beginner to average difficulty with waist deep water in one of the options.
 Oct 24, 25—Bryants Cave, pits in the area--trip leader

August Minutes Continued

Sharon—Cabin will be reserved for SJVG members only.
Thanksgiving—Pups
Dec—Christmas Party

Other Old Business
“Hidden World of Caves” have been labeled and can now be distributed.

New Business

Anyone taking “Hidden World of Books” must contact Sid and sign the sheet to give record of the books destination.

Dave Everton is still looking for volunteers to help survey Binkley’s Cave.

NSS Internal organization update is complete. The handbook is going to press.

Send Sid pics and speleologists from trips.

OTR is coming. Make plans. Sign up to help if you will be there. Go to otr.org for more info.

Please read emails and published articles regarding WNS. Lots of study and research is coming forth as entire regions make access decisions. BE INFORMED!

Next Meeting

September 14, 2009 7:00 pm at Cunningham’s

Motion to adjourn by Joel, seconded by Brian.
Adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:05.

2010 Trip Leaders Wanted

By Beth Acosta

What does it take to be a trip leader?

Do you need to be an expert caver? No!

Do you need to know the cave inside and out? No!

Will it take hours of your time and all of your sanity to organize the trip? No & No!

Then what does it take? Glad you asked! All you need to do is think of a cave you like or would like to do. Then, get permission and access to the cave for the date you want to do it. If you have not done the cave, or are not comfortable having the blind lead the blind, then you need to find someone who is. Honestly you don’t even need to go in the cave to be a “trip leader” its really about being a “trip organizer”. After the date is firmed up decide on a meeting time and place. I.e.; Parking lot of McDonalds in Mitchell at 10AM.....and get it into the newsletter and on the SJVG E-news.

The day of the trip:

At the meeting place give the group directions to the cave and hand out copies of the cave map if they are available. Before entering the cave a few things must be done so as not to look like a group of spelunkers.

A) Get a head count 9at least you will know if you lost someone).

B) Have someone not on the trip know where you are, when you plan to enter the cave, and when you plan to be out. Don’t forget to call them when you get out.

- C) Make sure everyone has on proper cave gear. Footwear, Helmet, Gloves, Knee pads, Layers of clothing for warm or cold caves, 3 sources of light ect...
- D) Verify everyone has a cave pack with food and water. Remember a planned 2 hour trip may become a 7 hour trip. Everyone should carry food and water for a longer trip then they are planning on taking.
- E) Someone should have a small 1st aid kit (just in case).
- F) Go! Cave! Have Fun!!

After the fun is over, make sure everyone is safely out of the cave and phone your contact to let them know they can stop worrying. (Or as it usually is, remind them they were supposed to be worrying)

See Piece of Cake!!! Anyone can do it! Everyone should try! If only a few are willing to lead trips the SJVG may experience “Trip Leader Burnout” and that is not a pretty thing to witness.

Ed note: We will be lining up leaders for the 2010 grotto trips at the Christmas party. Please think about trips you would like to lead and bring your calendar to the party.



**The St. Joseph Valley Grotto
P.O. Box 3052
Elkhart, IN 46515**