



**THE
SUBTERRANEAN
VOICE**

ST. JOSEPH VALLEY GROTTTO

NOVEMBER 2008

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

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

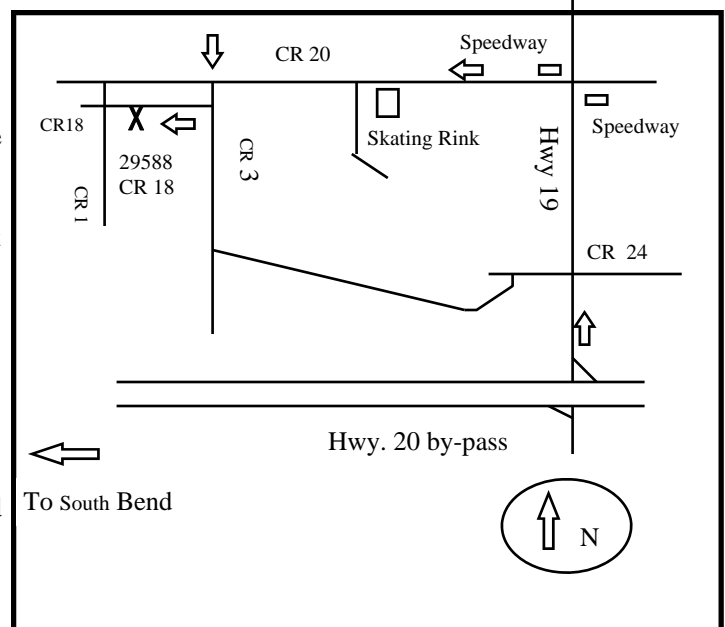
SJVG members are invited to join our yahoo newsgroup. The address for the newsgroup is sjvge-news@yahoogroups.com. Trips are coordinated, topics discussed, jokes made and trial balloons floated. To join please email to Mark Kraus.

How to Get to a SJVG Meeting

Grotto meetings are usually the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 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

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

November 27-30: SJVG grotto trip will be Thanksgiving at Mudpuppies! He is planning a Thanksgiving dinner Thursday at 7pm CST. Please contact him ASAP if you have not already done so. The easiest way to contact him is by using the SJVG E-news. If you do not have the e-news see how to join on the previous page. It looks like he is planning a great long weekend.

December 6: The 12th Annual SJVG Christmas Party will be held at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. This will also be the December SJVG grotto trip and final monthly meeting of 2008. The annual Executive Board meeting is planned for 5 PM with the general meeting to follow immediately. We will try to plan the 2009 monthly grotto trips at this meeting so bring your calendars and trip ideas. Grotto elections will be held during the evening. Ballots are attached to this issue. The dinner will be a pitch-in with the grotto supplying the main dish. Please bring items to donate for the raffle. See the map on the previous page for directions.

New Years Eve: There will be NO New Years party at Mark and Kristie's as they are opening a restaurant!

January 8, 2009: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

January 17, 2009: SJVG grotto trip to Buckners Cave. Please see article on next page for trip info and meeting place. Mark Kraus is the trip leader.

February 12, 2009: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

March 12, 2009: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

April 9, 2009: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

May 14, 2009: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

June 11, 2009: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

July 9, 2009: Monthly grotto meeting at Tony and Leslie Cunningham's house. See the map on the previous page for directions.

July 19-26, 2009: Combined NSS National Convention and International Congress, Kerrville, Texas

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 easiest 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.

November Trip

By Mark Matthews

A reminder that the November grotto trip is November 27th-30th at Mud Puppy's. If you are planning on going you need to inform Mud Puppy, NOW, so he can make his plans. His E-Mail is BHMmudpup@aol.com. If you need directions he will give them to you.



Christmas Party

By Tony Cunningham

The 12th annual SJVG Christmas Party will be held at the Cunningham home on the evening of December 6th. See the map on page 2 of this newsletter for directions. There will be an E-Board meeting at 5:00 PM The general grotto meeting is scheduled for 6:00 P.M. There will be elections at the general meeting. Bring a dish to share, your caving pictures to pass around, items for the raffle and a towel if you're going to visit the hot tub. The party is B.Y.O.B. There is plenty of floor space for out-of-town guests. The grotto will provide smoked pork and soft drinks. Hope to see you there!



January Trip

By Mark Kraus

January 17th is the date for the grotto trip to Buckner's Cave. Buckners is a well known cave in Monroe county Indiana and has been the site of many recent and ongoing clean up projects. Buckners is a warm dry cave and an excellent choice to visit during the winter months.

On this trip we will visit one of the nicer passages in the cave known as the BS South Crawlway. Trust me when I say there is much more than a crawlway ! Be sure to bring your cameras. Some people may also want to visit the Waterfall passage or do the Circle route when we are there.

We will meet at the parking lot at he cave which is located at 8070 West Eller Road . The cave is very easy to get to, Just take SR 37 south to the SR 45 South/ Bloomfield Rd/ 2nd Street exit and go west passing Wal-Mart on your left. Stay on this road about 1/2 mile, go through the stop light at Airport Rd and go about another 1.3 miles and turn right on Eller RD. Take Eller Rd all the way to the bitter end, the road ends at the parking area.

The intersection of SR 45 and Eller RD has nice wide turn off lanes and there is the Coombs Veterinary Clinic in a red brick building on the southeast corner of the intersection. I believe there is also a flashing yellow light at the intersection (maybe not though). Turning left at the intersection puts you on Leonard Springs Road. If you get to Sanford, you have missed the turn onto Eller RD and have gone too far on SR 45.

It is important that we meet as a group at the cave since we will have to unlock the gate and then lock it behind us. There is no provision for late arrivals so please call me on my cell if you will be delayed and we will wait.

Camping can be arranged at the caving area but I will need to ask permission and relay the gate combination to anyone who wants to camp. Please contact me at mpkraus@verizon.net so I can make camping arrangements. I can also be reached at home 574-294-2076 or on my cell the day of the trip at 812- 329 -9441

Buckners is a good all around cave which offers many routes and will test your route finding skills. It is well known for the entry crawl and knee pads are highly recommended .

Please let me know if you will be joining us so we can be expecting you.



A Note From the Editor

By Sidney Hawkins

I am not a great writer nor editor but, I will do my best at both. I am only able to publish a newsletter 4 times per year. **The Executive Board members are proposing an amendment to the bylaws to change the newsletter to a quarterly publication.** Ballots for the election as well as the change are included with this newsletter. The votes will be tallied at the December meeting (see insert below). I cannot publish a monthly newsletter and if this vote does not pass will not be able to continue as editor. If the vote does pass I will publish issues in the following months: In early February with all trips planned at the Christmas party listed. In mid May so I can include summer updates. In mid August with updates for fall trips and campouts. And after the November meeting with ballots. All issues will still include a calendar, minutes, news and notes, speleology and anything you send. Please send trip reports, photos, articles, or anything you would like included to me via e-mail at hawkinssidney@comcast.net with newsletter as the subject. If you would like to help publish an issue of the newsletter please contact me, as I am happy to share the job.

The last page of this issue is an updated members list. At the September meeting I made a motion to extend all memberships of members current as of February 2008 six months to make up for the recent lack of newsletters. The motion was passed and this list shows the new expiration dates. All members current as of February received this newsletter. Please check your new expiration date and other info. If anything is incorrect or missing please contact me.

How To Change Bylaws

The constitution states:

“Amendments to this Constitution shall may be proposed either by the Executive Board or by a petition of ten percent of the members in good standing. Adoption of the amendment(s) shall require a two-thirds vote of the members voting, either in person or by absentee ballot, provided that notice of the meeting and the content of the amendment(s) shall have been announced to the membership by mail or at a meeting at least thirty days prior to the time at which the vote will be taken.”

Grotto News & Notes

Thanks: The editor would like to thank Tony Cunningham for his work as editor over the past years and the mostly finished issue of this newsletter. Also, Thank you to Beth Acosta, Mark Kraus, Mark Matthews and Dave Tibbets for their contributions to this issue.

Corrections: The speleo-log for the January trip was submitted by Joy Baiz, but we neglected to credit her contribution. There were several corrections made to the membership list published in this newsletter. Please make sure your information is correct.

Congratulations: Keeping up with the trend over the last year, Kevin and Stephanie Kulwicki had their baby on Jan 15. Its a female caver named Olivia.

Membership: There have been numerous membership renewals and new members sign up. They are included on the members list.

Cover: The cover photo is by Charlie Hawkins and was taken during precamp in Marengo Cave.

Surrender - An Editorial

By Tony Cunningham

I have been either the editor or publisher of this newsletter for the entire life of the St. Joseph Valley Grotto. There was a time when the grotto newsletter was the glue that held each grotto together. The calendar was the official schedule of grotto activities and reminded everyone of upcoming caver events. The newsletter was where cave maps were published, speleo-logs were recorded and interesting cave information shared. Grottos exchanged newsletters and built up libraries of information.

This is no longer the case. Other grottos seldom send out newsletters today. We are not publishing cave maps on a regular basis. To great extent the internet has taken over the function of the newsletter. I think that every single SJVG member has access to the internet. SJVG trips are by-and-large set up on the web. The SJVG web mail is so efficient at setting up trips and distributing information that it is hard to keep up with a newsletter. Here I am trying to get out the March 2008 issue, but everyone read the February minutes weeks ago when I put them on the web mail. The grotto has a web page where the calendar can be posted. Libraries of color photos are available for viewing at various sites on the internet. If you want you can print out a copy of any photo and frame it.

Another problem is that the cost of making and distributing a newsletter is always going up. It is not just the cost of postage. The cartridges for our photocopier cost \$90 each. The ink cartridge for the printer is \$35. We recently raised the dues of the grotto to partially pay for these cost increases and provide for a newsletter with a color cover. But Leslie and I have never charged back all of the cost of producing the newsletter.

For the editor, it takes at least a day to put *The Subterranean Voice* together. Kim DeCero, Jake Morris and Mark Deebel have all given many hours and everyone appreciates their efforts. It takes another day to photocopy, collate, staple fold, label, tape and post-mark the 90 issues that go out in the mail each month. I have done all of this almost every month for eleven years. I appreciate the help that I have received from Leslie, Ashley, Charlie, Ben, Dave Adam and other Weed Patrol employees and grotto members.

At the meeting Thursday night I intend to ask for the following changes in the SJVG procedures and by-laws:

The Subterranean Voice should be changed to a quarterly or biannual publication issued every three or every six months. This would hopefully make each issue more special with many photos and maybe an article or trip report. Maybe we could even get a few maps included...

It should be the responsibility of the grotto Secretary to issue the meeting minutes on the SJVG web mail soon after each meeting. It should be the responsibility of the grotto Secretary to update and issue the calendar on either the web mail or SJVG web page once a month.



Speleolog

This is a collection of speleologs I found on the E-news after I offered edit the newsletter. If you would like a speleolog published please email it to me at the address found in the front of the newsletter.

August

By Beth Acosta

August 31, Bowden Cave in West Virginia: Beth Acosta and Brian McCrary decided to try Bowden Cave. After driving around looking for the cave we arrived at the entrance at the same time as Scott Fee and Jules.

Much of Bowden is closed off due to a cave-in in 2002. We were able to do a good portion of the cave.

September

By Beth Acosta

Saturday Sept 27:

Mark Matthews, Joy Baiz, Beth Acosta and Brian McCrary did Peachers Cave. Great Cave and Great Crawl to get in it! It's not really caving until you have to take your helmet off it get through a space! You have to check out the photos posted on snapfish. There are good pictures of us in the crawl.

October

The following are by Dave Tibbets

Friday, October 3: Mark Kraus and Dave Tibbets entered to finish the T cubed passage. After only 2 miserable shots a hole in the ceiling opened into pretty friendly hands and knees passage. 21 shots got 281.5 feet. Unfortunately there was one lead left behind, so somebody will need to do the nasty crawl to get there at least once more. 2 leads deleted, one added.

Saturday, October 4: Mark and Dave were joined by Ray Rough and Bill Kulwicki to survey passage that had never been noted as a lead. You could almost turn your head in most of the passage, which made sketching and reading instruments a dream!

After 13 shots the team had to get out of there, stopping at a "Y" in the passage to leave 2 leads behind. 201.8 feet- 0 leads deleted- 2 added.

Sunday, October 5: Mark, Bill, and Ray went one way while Dave did some solo caving to help the team make a connection. A rock projection barred the way after 3 shots and 22.3 feet. Some passage enhancement may be in order. The weekend totaled 505.6 feet of survey, of which 497.0 will be added to the cave length. Many thanks to Randal Bruner and Joyce for their continuing hospitality to drop in cavers!

Note: That makes Lost River 21.009 miles long, just 49.3 feet over the 21-mile mark and the 25th longest cave in the US. Mark, Dave, Ray, and Bill were on the 21 mile trip on October 4th.

By Mark Kraus

On Saturday October 18th, Mark Kraus accompanied a boy scout troop from Mishawaka and helped remove sand blasting gear from the volcano room in Buckners Cave.

The original plan was to move the gear from the volcano room and stage it at the junction at the T-room. There was a look of surprise on Dave Evertons face when he found out we had completely moved it all the way out of the cave. He thought we did an incredible, fantastic, stupendous job ! It was really tough work moving the heavy hoses and gear through the infamous crawlway, the work seemed endless. I'll spare you the gory details, let's just say it was hell. All went pretty well even though a few virgins fell on some tumbling rocks. Thankfully there were no lacerations or torn flesh, or if there was, it was hidden well.

It was a mystery to me how they planned it, as Joy Baiz, Mark Matthews, Beth Acosta and the pirate arrived just as the work crew removed the last of the gear from the crawlway.

After moving the gear up the hill everyone enjoyed soups and sandwiches provided by Patti Cummings from the RBNC.

Speleolog Continued

On Sunday they just need to take the hoses and gear, hang em high and hose em off.... I hope it doesn't get rusty !

Latter on Saturday afternoon we checked out a spring cave on land in Greene County where we were camping. Even though was no wind blowing from the entrance, we still had great expectations. A quick reconnaissance of the cave found 200 foot of nice going passage with much more ahead, definitely more than one shot. Looks like another cave for the ICS database and another survey project.

Anyone else moaning or groaning at this point ?

Beth Acosta writes

So much for planning....

We (Joy Baiz, Mark Mathews, Beth Acosta, Pirate, Jason Acosta and Kortney Brouwer) arrived at Buckners Cave to help with the removal of the gear. To our surprise we were told it had all been hauled out! Almost... There were a few 100 pounds of oak planks in the signature room that need to come out thought the crawl way. Ugh!

Joy was feeling under the weather and decided to stay upside for fire, food and friendship. This was Kortney's first time caving and the first time Jason Acosta (Beth Acosta's son) had been caving in several years. Both show great caver potential, exploring passages, taking the lead and thoroughly enjoying the caving experience.

Kortney and Jason both did very well in the crawlway (again Kortney's first time in a cave). From the T room we first went left to the Big Room and spent some time taking pictures and enjoying the cave. We were sad to see the recent graffiti on the walls. Then back through the Signature Room and on to the Volcano Passage where we were told there was some sensitive equipment and a bag of trash to be removed. On the way we found a tight crevice with lots of trash that had not been removed in earlier clean-ups. Beth Acosta squeezed in to clean it out and found one unopened "cave beer". The cave beer will be on the prize table at the grotto Christ-

mas party. When we arrived at the volcano passage we discovered someone else beat us to the equipment and all that was left to bring out was the bag of trash. Kortney (future caver) found the entrance into the volcano room. We spent some time enjoying this part of the cave. Pirate took a healthy fall in this room but what's caving without a few cave bruises? When we returned to the signature room we found the scaffolding boards still there waiting for us to bring them out. Again "Ugh". Jason and Beth both took one large plank each. Pirate and Mark tied the long 2x4's in a bundle and worked together on moving them. Kortney took 4 smaller 2x4' and we moved into the crawlway. Eventually Mark and Pirate continued to work with their bundle, Jason had both planks and 3 of Kortney's boards! Beth had the cave packs and Kortney had one 2x4. (I think she still has it stuck to her hand).

I'm sure we'll see more of Jason and Kortney on future cave trips. After they recover from the final crawl

Also By Beth

Sunday Oct 19:

Billy Pea, Beth Acosta, Lily Holman and Brian McCrary did Maple Grove. Lily is my 3 year old Granddaughter and definitely a future caver. Lily has been in a few caves this summer but this was her first hands and knees, crawl in the mud cave. She did great! Even took the lead through one of the crawls! We went as far as the fragile rimstone formations. At that point I took Lily out. We didn't want to risk a 3 year old damaging the great formations. Adults do enough damage as it is. Billy and Brian finished the cave.

Speleolog Continued

November

By Dave Tibbets

Friday, November 7, 2008: Mark Kraus and Dave Tibbets entered to push Mark's lead, now known as the Ankle Biter. Based on the first trip there, they were expecting very low wet nasty conditions. The intent was to knock off these two nasty leads and get out of the cave. It appeared that their expectations were correct, when in the first 50 feet of travel to the lead they found 3 flashlights and one Otter Box lost by the previous survey crew. This passage was HARD! However, Lost River soon came up with a traditional surprise- it went, and not too badly! The passage became bigger, and it paralleled the Impassable passage almost directly below it. There was one going lead left heading directly north under Impassable, and one very tight one headed toward Wesley Chapel Gulf where moving water could be clearly heard. Kraus had his longest ever LR survey shot at 99.4 feet in this passage. 13 shots totaled 394.6 feet of new passage with one lead deleted and 4 added.

Saturday, November 8, 2008: Joy Baiz, Shay Furbush, Mark Kraus, and Dave Tibbets headed for the dregs and Joy's first Lost River survey. Joy and Shay tackled the Raccoon Run bathtub like experienced cave pros and the group found that low water

levels allowed access to the desired passage. The anticipated short nasty survey took a left turn at Albuquerque and they found themselves surveying previously done passage. After correcting their mistake, they found themselves in decent hands and knees virgin passage with a few inches of water. 14 shots gained 260 feet of passage and pushed the survey more than halfway from the Dregs to the Cheesegrater, passing under Raccoon Run about 250 feet south of the bathtub. One lead was eliminated, but 6 were added as the survey ended at a kind of maze. Joy zoomed past 22 surveyors on the footage list with her first Lost River trip. Randal and Joyce provided a delicious supper for the tired and hungry crew, which found itself in bed shortly BEFORE 8 P. M. Lost River sucked all of the energy out of them.

Sunday, November 9, 2008: Joy Baiz, Randal Bruner, and Dave Tibbets found some quality caver togetherness as they experienced Elrod Cave. Shay Furbush and Mark Kraus were unlucky as they attempted to score some Lost River footage with no results, unless you count Mark's sliced and diced finger.



Bat Bites Double

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) - The number of reported bat bites in St. Joseph County nearly doubled to 21 in 2007, an increase that health officials attribute more to rabies awareness and education than a rise in the number of rabid bats.

County health officials say the cases may have included multiple bites in the same household and were not associated with any human cases of rabies.

In 2006, 10 bites were reported in St. Joseph County.

In 2007, 13 bats tested positive for rabies in Indiana. 9 of those cases included human exposure. In 2006, 13 bats tested positive for rabies, eight involving human exposure.



November Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2008

Members in attendance: Mark Matthews, Sidney Hawkins, Sam Hawkins, Leslie Cunningham, Beth Acosta, Joy Baiz, Ashley Cunningham, Charlie Hawkins, Tony Cunningham, Mark Kraus, Sean Cunningham, Jen Sherman, Gary Maloney, Mike Wickersham and Dee Smith.

Interim Grotto Chairman Mark Matthews called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM.

It was decided by consensus to discuss the problem with the September minutes under new business. Mark asked for corrections to the October minutes as distributed. It was noted that Mark Matthews not Mark Kraus opened the floor for nominations at the October meeting. There were no other corrections to the minutes. Gary Maloney motioned that the minutes for October be approved as amended. Beth Acosta seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Mark asked Sidney Hawkins if she had a Treasurer's Report for the month of October. Sidney reported a beginning balance of \$1251.56. There was a \$9.44 of income from the donation can. Expenses were \$11.88 for IKC keys and \$60.00 for the pig in October. The ending balance was \$1189.12. Joy Baiz made a motion to accept Sid's oral report as the official Treasurer's Report for November. Beth Acosta seconded the motion and it is passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

September Minutes: The minutes for September were misplaced prior to being typed up and distributed. After much searching it has been determined that they will never be recovered. Sidney Hawkins remembered the motions that were made at the September meeting. It was approved to spend up to \$100 for the meat at the October cook out. It was approved to extend the membership by 6 months of all SJVG

members who were paying members as of February 2008. The Christmas Party was changed from Mark & Kristie's to Tony & Leslie's. A New Year's Party was scheduled at Mark & Kristie's. She noted that the New Year's Party has now been cancelled due to Mark & Kristie's plans to open Fayetteville Pizza around that time. Beth Acosta made a motion that Sidney's reconstruction be approved as the meeting minutes for September. Gary Maloney seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

November Trip: Thanksgiving at Mudpuppies! Four members present are planning to attend. It was mentioned that 8 members are going down. Sid reminded those who are planning on going to Tennessee be sure to contact Mudpuppy directly so he knows how much food to prepare. She is planning on publishing a newsletter immediately following the November meeting. Mark Matthews will put something on the web mail requesting everyone contact Pup also.

December Trip: The December grotto trip will be the annual Christmas Party at Tony & Leslie's house in Elkhart. The price of peanut oil has exploded. It will be very expensive to properly deep fry turkeys. Sidney pointed out the mucho pork butt can be purchased for the price of the peanut oil. The smoked pork was very popular at last year's party. She made a motion that the grotto purchase a large quantity of pork butt and smoke it in several flavors. Mike Wickersham seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote. Tony pointed out the there will be ample room for anyone to sleep after the party winds down. He will also set up a large tent in the back yard if the weather isn't too bad. Nobody will be allowed to drive home inebriated!

January Trip: The New Year's party at Kristie and Mark's in Bedford has been cancelled.

November Meeting Minutes Continued

New Business:

January Trip: Mark Kraus will lead a trip to Buckner's Cave on January 17th. The meeting place will be the parking lot at the cave. Plan to go in the cave at 10:00 AM. Mark wants to visit the pretty areas of Buckners. He will put details of the trip on the web mail and in the newsletter.

Donation: Mark Kraus made a motion that the SJVG donate \$25.00 to the Richard Blenz Conservancy for maintenance of the caves. Joy Baiz seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Newsletter: Sidney Hawkins has researched the by-laws regarding the necessary changes required to revise the newsletter publication schedule. She will publish the newsletter quarterly in February, May, August and November. To make this change the by-laws require a vote of the executive board and a ballot of the members. The entire e-board immediately voted to approve the change. Sid will include the suggest by-laws change on the ballot to be included in the upcoming newsletter.

Dues Expiration: There was extended discussion regarding why everyone's dues don't expire on the same date.

Web Site: Mark Kraus wants to be able to update the SJVG web page with the calendar. Sidney Hawkins would like to publish the newsletter on the web page. Mike Wickersham has the necessary software and volunteered to help. Mark needs to get the codes or passwords from either Trae Spires or Mark Deebel to undertake this effort.

Exchanges: Tony noted that very few grottos are sending newsletters to the SJVG. He will remove all out-of-state grottos from the exchange list except The Cleveland Grotto and Loyalhanna. They are

still sending us their newsletters.

Peppersauce: Tony Cunningham did move the sandblasting equipment to New Mexico. He donated \$278 in gas. Ted Bice says hello to all his SJVG friends.

Nominations: Mark Matthews reopened the floor for nominations for 2009 grotto officer positions beginning with Secretary. Tony Cunningham has been nominated to continue as Secretary. There were no other nominations.

Mark opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer. Sidney Hawkins has been nominated to continue as Treasurer. There were no other nominations.

Mark opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Beth Acosta has been nominated for Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations.

Mark opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mark Matthews has been nominated for Chairman. There were no other nominations.

Mark opened the floor for nominations for Fifth Board Member. Tony Cunningham nominated Mark Kraus. There were no other nominations. Sidney said that she would have a ballot included in the newsletter.

Tony Cunningham motioned for that the meeting be adjourned. Mike Wickersham seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote at 8:50 PM.



October Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2008

Members in attendance: Mark Matthews, Sidney Hawkins, Sam Hawkins, Leslie Cunningham, Beth Acosta, Joy Baiz, Ashley Cunningham, Brian McCreary, Charlie Hawkins, Tony Cunningham, and Sharon Schierling. Travis Draime was welcomed as a guest.

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

Approval of the September minutes was tabled.

Mark asked Sidney Hawkins if she had a Treasurer's Report for the month of September. Sidney reported a beginning balance of \$1226.56. There was a \$25.00 correction from April, resulting in a new beginning balance of \$1251.56. There were no expenses or income. The ending balance was \$1251.56. Sharon Schierling made a motion to accept Sid's oral report as the official Treasurer's Report for October. Joy Baiz seconded the motion and it is passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

October Trip: Cook out at Randall's on Oct. 18th will go forward. Trips available are a clean up at Blue Springs Cave, the Buckners Cave restoration project or surveying in Lost River Cave.

November Trip: Thanksgiving at Mudpuppies! Those who are planning on going to Tennessee should contact Mudpuppy directly or post their intentions on the SJVG web mail.

December Trip: The December grotto trip will be the annual Christmas Party at Tony & Leslie's house in Elkhart.

January Trip: The SJVG will host a New Year's party at Kristie and Mark's in Bedford. This will also be a survey weekend. (This event has since been cancelled—Ed)

New Business:

Trip: It was mentioned that Dave Tibbets would like to lead a trip to Yellow Birch Ravine maybe in March.

Peppersauce: The sandblasting equipment should be packed on the trailer on October 18th. It must be moved to Albuquerque by early November. Tony Cunningham is looking at the possibility of moving the trailer.

Nominations: Mark Matthews opened the floor for nominations for 2009 grotto officer positions beginning with Secretary. Beth Acosta nominated Tony Cunningham to continue as Secretary. There were no other nominations.

Mark opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer. Sharon Schierling nominated Sidney Hawkins to continue as Treasurer. There were no other nominations.

Mark opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Leslie Cunningham nominated Beth Acosta. There were no other nominations.

Mark opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Joy Baiz nominated Mark Matthews. There were no other nominations.

Mark reminded everyone that nominations will again be requested at the November meeting.

Beth Acosta proposed adjournment. Sharon Schierling seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote at 8:35 PM.



August Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2008

Members in attendance: Mark Kraus, Sean Cunningham, Sidney Hawkins, Mike Wickersham, Sam Hawkins, Leslie Cunningham, Beth Acosta, Joy Baiz, Ashley Cunningham and Brian McCreary.

Grotto Secretary Tony Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

Tony asked for a motion to approve the July minutes as published. Beth Acosta made the motion. Mark Kraus seconded and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Tony asked Sidney Hawkins if she had a treasurer's report for the month of July. Sidney reported a beginning balance of \$1110.53, income of \$51.03 from donations and expenses of \$12.00 for the grotto web page. The ending balance was \$1149.58. Joy Baiz made a motion to accept Sid's oral report as the official treasurer's report for July. Leslie seconds the motion and it is passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

August Trip: Tony reported that the grotto trip to Shiloh Cave was full.

September Trip: The September trip to Sullivans Cave will be rescheduled to the 27th. Joel Annabel will lead. More details will be announced later.

October Trip: Cook out at Randall's on Oct. 18th (Buckners Weekend). It was suggested that the Buckners volunteers be invited down to Randall's for food. Grotto will provide the meat. The back up plan is pizza at Mark & Kristie's. This should be considered a survey weekend.

November Trip: Thanksgiving at Mudpuppies!! Sidney has talked to pup and he says that all SJVG cavers are welcome. Pup wants to know what kind of caves we would like to visit so he can set things

up.

December Trip: After discussion Sidney Hawkins made a motion to change the Christmas party back to Elkhart and set up a survey weekend/New Year's Party at Mark and Kristie's. Beth Acosta seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote. The SJVG Christmas party will be held at Tony & Leslies on Dec. 6th.

New Business:

January Trip: The SJVG will host a New Year's party at Kristie and Mark's in Bedford. This will also be a survey weekend.

Officers: Sidney reported that her research of the by-laws revealed that the process to replace officers has been properly followed. Gary's appointment of Mark Matthews to follow him as chairmen should be approved by the rest of the board. Mark would have to appoint a Vice-Chairman, or the grotto could go without one until the elections in December.

Newsletter: Sidney said that she would like a crack at doing the newsletter. Those present gave their approval.

Memberships: Sidney made a motion to extend the membership of all current SJVG members for six additional months because no newsletters have been published since last fall. Ashley Cunningham seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Grotto trips: Mark Kraus suggested that SJVG members bring ideas for 2009 grotto trips to the Christmas Party.

Mike Wickersham proposed adjournment. Leslie Cunningham seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote at 8:27 PM.



June-July Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2008

Only three SJVG members were in attendance at the June meeting: Tony Cunningham, Sidney Hawkins and Mark Kraus. There was a general discussion of grotto business and no official minutes were taken.

July 10, 2008

SJVG General Meeting

Minutes taken by Sidney Hawkins

Members in attendance: Mark Matthews, Gary Maloney, Mark Kraus, Sean Cunningham, Charlie Hawkins, Sidney Hawkins, Sam Hawkins, Leslie Cunningham

Called to order at 7:47 PM by Gary Maloney

Approval of June minutes waived due to the fact that only 3 people showed up for June and no decisions were made.

Treasurers Report :

Beginning Balance \$1076.53

Income: Dues (Jim Bontrager, 2yr) \$24, Guidebook \$10

Expenses: none

Ending Balance: \$1,110.53

Mark motions to accept Sid's oral report as the official Treasurer's report. Leslie seconds the motion and it is passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

June Trip was Cave Capers. Ray Rough & Gary Maloney went caving on Saturday. Mark Kraus & Gary Maloney went to Old Town Spring Cave on Sunday. MARK DEEBEL WAS AWARDED THE LOUIS DENDOW LAMON AWARD IN PUBLIC IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY!!!!

July 4th survey: About 800 ft. left to 2nd longest cave in Indiana. Gary is now way close to his Mile-O-Tar. The surveyors killed many leads with marginal footage added. Mark Deebel provided the feast on Friday. Randall Bruner provided the feast on Saturday. Gary whined, got drunk, almost lit himself on fire, and made mortal enemies with Dave Tibbets

September Trip: Sept 20th?? Joel Annabel to lead to Sullivan's. Date and details must be firmed up. (Note: *this trip is now scheduled for September 27th - ed.*)

October Trip: Cook out at Randall's on Oct. 18th (Buckners Weekend) Grotto will provide the meat if we do have cook out at Randall's. The back up plan will be pizza maybe at Mark & Kristie's. This should be considered a survey weekend. Trips may be taken to other caves, possibly Maple Grove.

November Trip: Thanksgiving at Mudpuppies!! Sidney will arrange plans but probably not be on the trip.

December Trip: Christmas party Dec. 6th at Kristie and Mark's house

New Business:

Mark Matthews proposed that the grotto pay the \$12 for NSS web space. Mark Kraus seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Sidney will research the SJVG Bylaws on succession of officers by the next general meeting.

Leslie Cunningham proposed adjournment. Mark Matthews seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote.

May Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2008

Grotto Chairman Gary Maloney called the SJVG general meeting for May to order at 7:56 PM. Members in attendance were Sidney Hawkins, Tony Cunningham, Mark Matthews, Sean Cunningham, Gary Maloney, Joy Baiz, and Leslie Cunningham.

Gary asked for any changes to the April minutes as published on the SJVG web mail. Mark Matthews made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Leslie Cunningham and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report. Gary asked Sidney Hawkins if she had a treasurer's report. Sid reported the beginning balance for March was \$1309.74. Income was \$5.90 from donations. Expenses were \$100.00 for the IKC and \$56.00 for PO Box rental, leaving an ending balance is \$1134.70. Joy Baiz made a motion to accept Sid's oral report as the official treasurer's report for May. Leslie Cunningham seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

May Trip. The May trip is to Cave River Valley. No cabin has been reserved as was previously planned.

June Trip. The June grotto trip will be to Capers.

July Trip. Ray Rough will lead a trip to Reeves Cave in July. Tony will contact Ray and try to get details set up on the SJVG web mail. Scott Cobel may also lead a trip to Doghill/Donahue in July

August Trip. The August trip will be to Shiloh. It will be limited to 15 cavers.. Five additional people signed up at the meeting, but there is still space available.

October Trip. Randall Bruner's.

November. Thanksgiving at Mudpuppies.

December Trip. Tony Cunningham made a motion to hold the grotto Christmas Party at Mark and Kristie's in Bedford. Joy Baiz seconded and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Sidney Hawkins made a motion that the SJVG donate money for the party expenses as usual. Mark Matthews seconded and the motion also passed by a unanimous voice vote

New Business:

White Nose Bat. The situation with white nose bat disease was discussed. Leslie noted that several familiar West Virginia caves have been closed.

Ticks. Beth Acosta acquired deer tick fever after the Tucker Lake SJVG trip and was not in attendance. She found two ticks after she got back to Elkhart. Leslie says she is way sick.

Gary. Gary Maloney announced that he is moving back to Colorado in June. He will make Cave Capers and really wants to get a mile-o-tar before he moves. It was the general consensus that Vice-Chairman Mark Mathews will become Chairman and appoint a new Vice-Chairman. Someone needs to check the by-laws.

OTR. Leslie said that she was definitely going to OTR this year and would like to leave early.

April Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2008

Grotto Chairman Gary Maloney called the SJVG general meeting for April to order at 7:46 PM. Members in attendance were Sidney Hawkins, Tony Cunningham, Mark Kraus, Charlie Hawkins, Leslie Cunningham, Mark Matthews, Beth Acosta, Sam Hawkins and Gary Maloney.

Gary asked for any changes to the March minutes as published on the SJVG web mail. Mark Matthews made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Charlie Hawkins and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report. Gary asked Sidney Hawkins if she had a treasurer's report. Sid reported the beginning balance for March was \$1097.24. Income was \$186.00 from dues and \$39.47 from donations. Expenses were \$12.97 for trash bags, leaving an ending balance is \$1309.74. Tony Cunningham made a motion to accept Sid's oral report as the official treasurer's report for March. Mark Matthews seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

July Trip. At one time Ray Rough had volunteered to lead a trip to Reeves Cave in July. Tony will

contact Ray and try to get details set up. Scott Cobel may lead a trip to Doghill/Donahue as an alternative, but parking may be a problem.

October Trip. After discussion it was decided that the grotto will purchase a pig to roast at Randall's this October.

December Party. There was discussion regarding using the SJVG web mail to conduct a poll to see if grotto members were in favor of having the Christmas party at Mark and Kristie's in Bedford.

SJVG E-Board Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2008

Board members present were Sidney Hawkins, Tony Cunningham and Gary Maloney.

Audit of the Books. Sidney had a the February bank statement. The records were examined and it was determine that there were no discrepancies. The grotto books are in "perfect" order.

NSS. Tony Cunningham stated that he had made the annual grotto report to the NSS.

By-Laws: The procedures for changing the by-laws were discussed. By-law changes must be approved by a vote of 20 per cent of the active grotto membership. Some of the suggested changes discussed included: 1. Issuing the newsletter quarterly. 2. Using the Yahoo group and the web page to update members. 3. Further improvement to the newsletter. It was decided that Tony Cunningham and Gary Maloney would be the committee to craft suggested changes in the by-laws. They will report to the membership at a future meeting where it will be determined if a vote of the SJVG membership will be undertaken to approve the changes.

The E-board meeting was adjourned .

March Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2008

Grotto Chairman Gary Maloney called the SJVG general meeting for March to order at 7:57 PM. Members in attendance were Sidney Hawkins, Tony Cunningham, Mark Kraus, Charlie Hawkins, Leslie Cunningham, Joel Annabel, Sam Hawkins and Gary Maloney.

Gary asked for any changes to the February minutes as published on the SJVG web mail. It was noted that the grotto trips for April and May had been switched due to concern that an April trip to Endless Cave might disturb the bats. Leslie Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes with the discussed change. It was seconded by Mark Kraus and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report. Gary asked Sidney Hawkins if she had a treasurer's report. Sid reported the beginning balance for February was \$1082.24. Income was \$15.00 from dues. There were no expenses, leaving an ending balance is \$1097.24. Tony Cunningham made a motion to accept Sid's oral report as the official treasurer's report for February. Mark Kraus seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

February Trip. Mark Kraus reported that we had one heck of a turnout for the February trip. A total of twenty-eight cavers participated. However an ice storm impacted the results from the clean-up efforts. The ATV and trailer could not be taken to the sinkhole and the trash was frozen solid. Thirty bags and several buckets of material were removed. We will plan to return to remove over 20 tires and at least a dumpster load of trash.

March Trip will be to Bryants Cave. Billy Pea and Beth Acosta will be the trip leaders. Over twelve cavers are committed to the trip.

April Trip. A camp out at Tucker Lake is scheduled

for the 19th. Mark Kraus will be the leader. Dave Tibbets will conduct a survey clinic for those members who wish to learn. We will meet at Tucker Lake.

May Trip. We will go to Cave River Valley on the 17th. Lance McFarren will be the trip leader. Camping available at Spring Mill State park. Meet at 10:00 Am at the McDonald's on Hwy. 37 in Mitchell.

June Trip. Tentatively scheduled to be Cave Capers. Exact location and time to be announced by the CIG.

July Trip. Ray Rough may want to lead a trip to Reeves Cave in July. It was decided to leave July open until we hear from Ray.

August Trip. Tony Cunningham has arranged for the SJVG to go to Shiloh again this year. This trip is limited to 15 cavers and will be scheduled for the first weekend in August. All grotto members who have not visited Shiloh should contact Tony and get their name on the list.

New Business:

September Trip. The “Lance McFarren rule” was invoked. This new grotto policy states that any member attending a grotto meeting, who shows up infrequently, is immediately drafted to lead a grotto trip. Joel Annabel will lead the September trip to Sullivans Cave. The details will be determined at a later date.

October Trip. The SJVG trip for October will be a weekend campout and survey fest at Randall Bruner’s property in Orange County. There will be an official grotto trip to be led by Randall

Bruner. The grotto will provide the main course for a cookout on Saturday. Look for a definite date and more details after somebody talks things over with Randall.

November Trip. We will go south again in November to either Sloans Valley Cave, a camp-out at Mudpuppies, a Thanksgiving trip to Woodard, or other caves to be named later.

December Trip. The December trip will again be the SJVG Christmas Party. Mark and Kristie have invited the grotto to their house for Christmas this year. Mark Kraus will put a poll on the



February Meeting Minutes

(Subsequent to this meeting communication from the IKC indicated that the bats in Endless Cave might be disturbed by a visit in April. The May and April trips were switched and the dates changed.—ed.)

February 14, 2008

Grotto Chairman Gary Maloney called the SJVG general meeting for February to order at 7:53 PM. Members in attendance were Sidney Hawkins, Tony Cunningham, Mark Kraus, Charlie Hawkins, Leslie Cunningham, Mark Matthews and Gary Maloney.

Gary asked for a motion to approve the January minutes as published in the newsletter. Mark Matthews made the motion. It was seconded by Sidney Hawkins and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer’s Report. Gary asked Sidney Hawkins if she had a treasurer’s report. Sid reported the beginning balance for January was \$1034.24. Income was \$48.00 from dues. There were no expenses, leaving an ending balance is \$1082.24. Tony Cunningham made a motion to accept Sid’s oral report as the official treasurer’s report for January. Mark Matthews seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

January Trip. The January trip went well. Lots of nice things we said about the excellent efforts being made at Buckners Cave. Joy Baiz wrote a nice Speleo-Log for the newsletter.

February Trip. It was reported that a minimum of twelve SJVG members are planning on helping with the clean-up. The meeting place has been changed to the Golden Corral in

Bedford. Mark Krause explained that he will drop by the Golden Gables to make sure no one is waiting there on the way to the cave. Mark Matthews will bring buckets with lids for the glass. Gary reported that trashed must be bagged and at the transfer station by 5:00 PM and that recyclables must be at the recycle center by 3 PM. Randall Bruner will supply the bags. Gary is bring his canopy and a table. He hopes to have a “warming station” in case the weather does not cooperate. Patrick Cassidy has an ATV with a utility trailer which we can use. Mark Kraus will try to figure a way to get it delivered to the project site and returned to Patrick. We will need to get some pictures taken at the project both outside and inside the cave. Tony will print and frame some photos from Sean Lewis’ collection for Mark Kraus to deliver to Randall and the cave owner.

March Trip will be to Bryants Cave. Billy Pea and Beth Acosta will be the trip leaders. The cabin at the cave is no available, because the owner is letting a neighbor live there after they had a fire. Camping arrangements and a meeting place will be finalized and details put in the newsletter.

New Business:

July Trip. Ray Rough may want to lead a trip in July. It was decided to leave July open until we hear from Ray.

August Trip. Tony has arranged for the SJVG to go to Shiloh again this year. After discussion it was decided to schedule Shiloh for August.

NSS. Tony Cunningham stated that he had made the annual grotto report to the NSS.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM on a motion made by Tony Cunningham and seconded by Charlie Hawkins.



2009 Ballot

Officers & Amendments

Remember: You must be a regular grotto member to have voting rights. You can mail in your ballot or bring it to the Christmas party. Votes will be tallied at the Christmas party. If you are mailing your vote we need to receive it by Dec. 5th.

Please vote for one in each of the following categories. A blank is included for write in votes.

Chairman:

Mark Matthews

Vice Chairman:

Beth Acosta

Secretary:

Tony Cunningham

Treasurer:

Sidney Hawkins

Fifth Board Member:

Mark Kraus

Vote yes or no on the amendment to the bylaws.

I agree to change the newsletter to a quarterly publication.

Yes No



**The St. Joseph Valley Grotto
P.O. Box 617
Granger, IN 46530**