

Indiana Cave Survey, Inc.

Quarterly Meeting - September 9, 2002

(Up-Dated)

- Bruce Trotter, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
- Introductions were next in order. There were 4 Officers (Trotter, Noe, Dunlap, Black) and 7 other members present including a distinguished member of the NSS. Welcome back Scott.
- Absent the Secretary, Jim Adams, the Vice President was volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting. The minutes as published in the September 2002 issue of the ICS Notebook were moved and approved.
- Treasurer Dunlap reported \$2,253.53 in the ICS treasury as of 9/9/2002.
- County Director Reports yielded the following:
 1. Bruce Trotter—Nothing in Dearborn or Decatur, Two in Jennings
 2. Tom Rea via proxy Trotter---Nothing to report
 3. Randy Jackson via proxy Trotter---Nothing in Dubois, Perry or Vanderburg. Lots in Orange County.
 4. Ray Sheldon---Nothing to report
 5. Kevin Wools---Lots in Lawrence County plus corrections. No activity in other counties.
 6. Dave Black---Bruce handed Dave a big packet of reports for Crawford and Harrison.
 7. Nick Noe---Jerry Litaker turned in about 45 reports that had been previously submitted for Washington County. Also new reports from Jerry Bailey and Gene Peltier.
 8. Jim Adams—No report.
 9. Kevin Peters---No report. See discussion of Hamilton Co. under Old Business.
- Database Custodian Report—Dave acknowledged that he needs to finish the latest report but has been delayed by work responsibilities plus the late receipt of data from County Director Noe. He will try to have it done before the next meeting. See further discussion of this issue under Old Business.
- Archives Report—Custodian Trotter handed out a new report showing 26 new caves since the June report with activity continuing to document new finds.
- Library Research---Researcher Noe reported some activity with plans to visit the CIG library on 9-10-2002 to wrap up some projects involving newsletter material prior to 1970.
- Website Report---Webmaster Rob Jarboe reports the site is up and going---and GROWING. He thanked all that had made contributions and encourages more submissions to the site. There was some discussion of members having problems accessing the member's only part of the site. It was agreed that Rob would send reminder e-mails containing the MemberID and password to all bona fide members who contact him regarding access problems. Scott Fee suggested that the website be

upgraded to contain a cave report form that could be submitted electronically and then automatically be sent to the Archivist. The Archivist could forward via e-mail attachment to the respective County Director. Rob will look into this. There was also discussion regarding attachments to the report forms submitted in this manner. Some suggested the use of scanners to input map data with location dots. Attachments using a variety of files are currently acceptable. We are still using NAD 27 as our topographical standard for location coordinates. For ease of inserting topographical information to reports, links will be provided to Topozone.com and LandnetUSA.com. It is eventually Rob's plan to have the Database on the website given the technology for protection from unauthorized access. As we become more sophisticated in linking maps to our database, there will be a corresponding need for more megs to contain such data, with the possibility that the data may exceed the capacity of a single CD. See further discussion under Old Business regarding data input to the Database.

- IGS MOU Report---Ray has been reluctant to contact the IGS until a new Database is available. He will go ahead and contact the IGS with an explanation for the delay; but is most unhappy with the current situation and hopes that it can be resolved quickly.
- HNF Report---Keith reports that work has been ongoing in the HNF but details have yet to be reported by either Steve Lockwood. The archives need to be updated with the newest discoveries on the HNF and the ICS needs to provide the HNF with a "filtered" database that has been updated to contain the newest discoveries. Keith will proceed to adapt our licensing agreement for use by the HNF.
- Old Business---Counties with no caves (Dearborn, Hamilton, Henry) There was some concern about dropping these counties. Specifically, Randy Jackson feels that there are three caves in Henry County near Knightstown that were shown in an older database that is not in the new database. Further, Nick Noe remarked that a media byte by a local TV station showed a cave opening in a Hamilton County quarry where The Carmel Symphony would be playing a concert. The prevailing wisdom was to go ahead and drop these counties until a cave report form was submitted with verifiable data. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the three counties be dropped as ICS Database counties. Bruce will advise Kevin Peters that he is a County Director Ex-Officio unless he gets out and finds his local cave.
- Old Business---Licensing agreement with IDEM. Bruce sent a note to George Cesnik checking on the status of the agreement in IDEM; but has received no response as yet.
- Old Business---New filing cabinets. Thanks to efforts of Kriste Lindberg for locating and Dave Everton for transporting, two new filing cabinets have been obtained from surplus to contain the overflowing archives. Archivist Trotter is happy to see portions of his bedroom floor that have been hidden for months under the overflow.
- Old Business---Logos and Membership Cards. Dave Everton had requested the logo issue be brought back up because he had previously considered putting one on some business cards if there was one. He also had an idea for one that he later found out wasn't original. The question was raised regarding the purpose of the logo. Will it be used for a letterhead and/or patch? There are about 4-5 Old versions floating around from various ages of the ICS. The logo on the newsletter is OK; but what about membership cards? The 2002 member cards were sent out with the January ICS Notebook, but some were lost because the members were not informed that they would be accompanying the Notebook. Rob said that he would promote the logo issue on the website to get a better response from the members on where we should be going with our iconage.
- Old Business---I-69. After a ten-year struggle between environmentalists and the INDOT, things are finally coming to a head. A new DEIS has been drafted by INDOT regarding 5 potential routes with 12 variations to the 5 basic routes. Based on public input at meetings and via mail, INDOT will reach a final decision by the end of the year. Keith reports that a three CD set containing the DEIS is available

on the INDOT website, if you ask for it in the comments section. One of the CD's is a series of maps showing route details for all 5 potential routes. All ICS members are encouraged to review the DEIS and offer their individual comments prior to the final deadline. A Greene County homeowners group has contacted Bruce regarding route impacts to caves in Eastern Greene County. Dave Everton will contact Jim Adams for a follow up on their inquiry.

- New Business---Newsletter Quality. Ray Sheldon expressed some disappointment with the quality of the last Notebook. His concern was that the corporate sponsor was not getting their money's worth from the newsletter ad due to its reproduction quality. He had no problem with the content, but feels that publishing quality (page centering, contrast, paper quality) could be improved. This issue's reproducer Dave Everton acknowledged Ray's complaint and agreed he had responsibility for the quality and would try to do better. Various ways and means were discussed to improve the quality and what the cost would be for each method. It was also agreed to add a link to the sponsor's website from our own site to improve the value of his support.

- New Business---Database Status. Ray Sheldon again expressed his extreme disappointment regarding the current status of the database and how it came to be in such a situation. He suggested a bylaw change that would specify that a county director either submit updates on time or be removed as a county director. Keith Dunlap agreed that we do need a "drop dead" date for final submissions to the database, but that a penalty should not be involved unless there is a chronic lack of response from any director that would justify removal. It was further observed that this problem seems to rotate from director to director as they become involved in either job responsibilities or other outside interests (including caving); and that we should continue to evaluate each director's lack of timely activity on a case-by-case basis. All agreed that it would be best for each director to do the best that they could as volunteers and submit what they could verify by the deadline; but that they notify the archivist and database coordinator regarding missing data so that the new database could contain a disclaimer for those counties affected. It was agreed that current data is important due to the social issues (highway routings, feedlots, etc) that might be impacted by our data. Scott Fee asked what if we had the county directors do only verification and turn over the data entry to the Database Custodian or a third party? The advantages would be that it would promote consistency of entries to all fields in the database, allow multiple issues of the database within a calendar year (rather than waiting on an annual deadline) and spread out the proofreading over the course of a year (rather than one intense period before the database is reissued). Ray asked if a bylaws change was necessary to shift this responsibility from the County Directors to the Database Custodian or a third party. It was agreed to put an item in the next ICS Notebook discussing all sides of the issue and asking for input from the members. It was also agreed that the ultimate solution might be to eventually have the database accessible from the website for qualified members by member ID and password for changes or additions, as well as data downloads.

- Next Meeting---Will be at the Noe Condo, 12-9-2002, 7:30PM. Christmas goodies will abound and the place will be decked out for the holidays.

- Adjournment---Moved, seconded and meeting adjourned 10:10 PM. The balance of President Trotter's potato chips and beverages were duly consumed by those in attendance. Our thanks to the host for his hospitality.

Respectfully submitted

Nick Noe

Secretary Pro-Tem

[Secretary's Note: These minutes were approved by the Membership at the December 09, 2002 Meeting.]