

CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The December meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at the home of Sue and John Bozeman at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2008

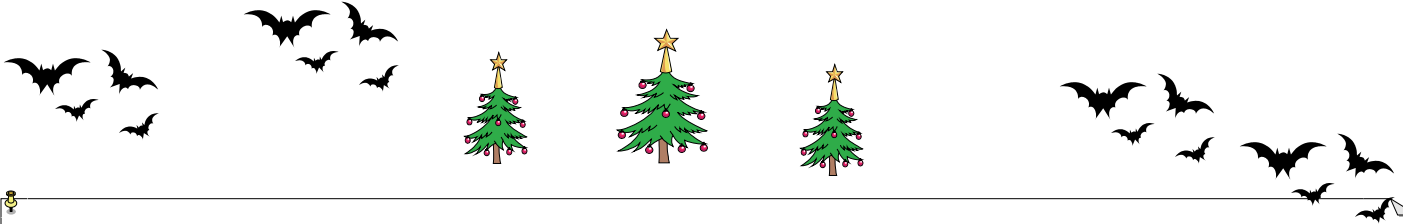


Remember that the December meeting is at the Bozeman's and it's the annual grotto Christmas Party. Be sure to bring a goodie to share!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contact Sue or John Bozeman for details.

*The 7:30 December meeting will be at the John and Sue's house, . Don't forget to bring goodies, it's a Christmas party!



MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTTO

Minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2008

Host: the hut-and-lean-to of Steve Beleu

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, John Van Dyke, Jon and Kelley Woltz

The Honorable Jon Woltz began the meeting at 8:13.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Duane talked about the 2009 bat count; it's set for February 21.

Duane talked about the trip to Carlsbad Caverns; we decided to offer either May 30 or June 6 to the NPS staff as our visitation dates; we will request to work again in "The Music Room". About half of our troop would work there, the other half would work elsewhere in the cave.

"New" officers for 2009--

Chairman – Jon Woltz
Vice-Chairman – Dale Amlee
Treasurer – John Talbot
Reporting secretary – Sue Bozeman
Secretary – S. Beleu

Meeting locations for 2009 –

January – John Talbot
February – John Van Dyke
March – Anne Ault
April – The Towns
May – Dale Amlee
June – Duane Del Vecchio
September – The Woltz'
October – Art Wallace
November – S. Beleu
December – The Bozemans

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his report.

We concluded the meeting at 8:50.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME	
DIVIDEND	\$ 0.09
TOTALS	\$ 0.09
CASH ON HAND	\$ 184.70
CHECKING	\$ 428.37
SAVINGS	\$ 2,684.49

EXPENSES	
None	
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 11/8/08	\$ 3,297.56

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

Location: Broken Horn Cave
Date: 15 November 2008
Personnel: Sue Bozeman, Steve Belev, Dale Amlee, Jon Woltz.
Report by Dale Amlee



This survey trip to Broken Horn began on a cool fall day. The November wind was blowing, but the weekend temperatures were not yet into the seriously cold winter stages just yet. Still, as the group assembled at the ranch and began their preparations for the cave survey, there was a lot of polypropylene in evidence.

Steve began the trip with a bit of a wardrobe malfunction. His high-tech cave coveralls must have shrunk over the previous few months, as they just refused to close properly around him. In the efforts to squeeze into them, the zipper failed in the front. Luckily he was able to improvise an emergency closure method (studded leather belt) that would serve to hold the suit closed during the cave trip.

Every time I enter a cave I am a bit nervous of finding some sort of cave critter near the entrance. Snakes are especially on my mind, particularly in an entrance like this one where the first twenty feet are tight crawly spaces where your face is never more than a foot or two away from various rock shelves and cubby holes that could host some non-human resident.

This time, my fear was (slightly) justified. As I wriggled along in the entrance space, I glanced up to my

He was up on the rock a bit, hanging down from his tail, giving me the eye and flicking his tongue at me.

right and spotted a small, thin snake roughly two feet in length. He was up on the rock a bit, hanging down from his tail, giving me the eye and flicking his tongue at me. My mind rapidly tried to recall all of my boy scout training sessions in identification of poisonous snakes. Even though this one did not appear at first glance to be a poisonous variety, my fear told me that it may just not yet be old enough to sport the full blown visual features of a venomous snake.

As I sat there trying to identify him, he began making little lunges towards me in the air. Thankfully I was out of range of him. Jon Woltz came in after me and was able to properly identify the snake. It turned out to be nothing more than a small baby King Snake. Still, it was somewhat exciting to me, as this was my first ever actual snake sighting in several years of caving.

The arm of the cave that we were working on was far to the back of the cave, and we knew that it would be

nearly an hour of walking just to get to where we would start our work. The beginning portion of this cave is always warmer due to the direction of the wind that tends to blow through the cave, but as we proceed deeper into the cave it gradually becomes cooler. Sue took an air temperature reading towards the beginning of the cave and it read 58 degrees Fahrenheit.

During the trip to the back of the cave we encountered a few clusters of bats, but being this late in the year they were not easily riled up. While they often chattered their annoyance at us for disturbing them, very few took flight.

We picked up our survey where we had left off last time. The arm of the cave begins to get fairly jumbled up, I suspected due to the proximity of more than one entrance in the vicinity. There were a lot of parallel passages split apart by breakdown boulders, and the passage tended to wind back and forth on itself frequently. It led to a fairly difficult mapping session, as we were continually trying to make difficult compass shots at odd or extreme angles. There were not going to be any long shots on this trip, in fact the longest compass shot we got the entire day was only 35 feet.

One area we passed through had a small dome room above it, in fact the easiest way to get through the area was to climb up into the dome room, walk across some moderately precarious mud banks and drop back down into the main passage on the other side. The alternative to this was a belly crawl under the breakdown boulders through a stream passage carrying about five inches of water.

Steve spotted a small rock formation up in the dome room that, when visualized from one direction, looked almost like a butterfly shape. Nothing nearly so spectacular as the one (previously) in the Caverns of Sonora, but still it was enough to grab our attention for a few minutes and deserved at least one photo.

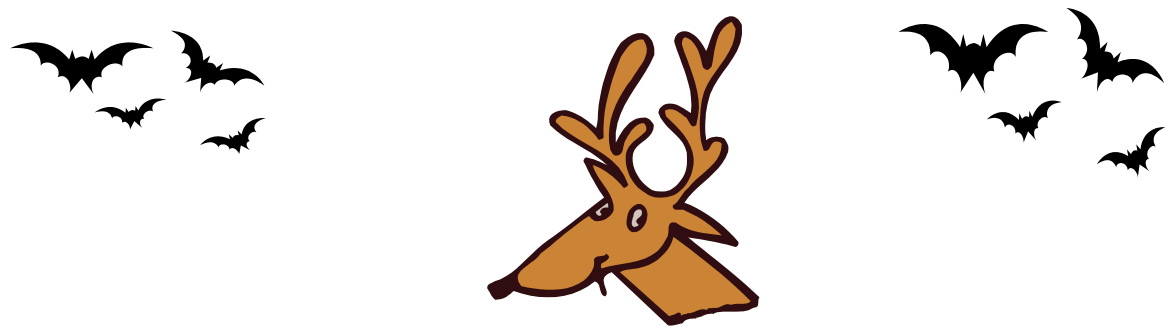
The back of the cave where we were doing our surveying felt quite a bit cooler than the entrance, but Sue's thermometer registered 56 degrees, only two degrees colder than the reading she had taken earlier. Obviously her thermometer is broken. It sure felt cold back there.

Based on earlier overland expeditions I had high hopes that we would be able to find an entrance on this survey trip, but the best we could do over five hours of caving was to get closer to an area where the passage splits apart in three different directions. It is very likely that one of these will yield a human-passable exit, but the discovery of that will have to wait for another day. We exited the cave in darkness, and with the evening temperatures falling rapidly we quickly departed the area in search of hot pizza.

Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL., 35810. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. published general information in a monthly newsletter (\$9.00/year) and detailed cave surveys and related Speleological items in a yearly publication, *The Oklahoma Underground* (\$3-\$8/issue) Membership is by sponsor and is \$12 per year for adults, \$9 for spouses and students. Central Oklahoma Grotto meets once a month on the second Friday of each month. For information, write 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, Oklahoma, 73521. All submissions to the newsletter should be sent to the editor: Lil or Dale Town, 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, OK 73521: Telephone: (580)477-4027: E-mail: oklmt@cableone.net. The deadline for submissions for any particular month's issue is the 20th day of the previous month. If you wish material returned. Please include a SASE with submission. All materials in this newsletter is available for reproduction, provided proper credit is given with the article when you print it. Trade publications are welcomed. *Cave softly and safely!*



Remember to come to the
December meeting at the Bozeman's on Friday,
December 12th.



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