

Gadsden Grotto

NEWSLETTER

Volume One • Number 1

P. O. Box 2092



October 1999

Gadsden, AL 35903

REUNITED

The original Gadsden Grotto was formed by David Teal, William Garrett, Bobby Whorton, Emily Deavor and Jimmy Harrison. On May 13, 1980 it was chartered by the Internal Organization of the NSS as number C-267. Several members moved away and in 1992 the Gadsden Grotto became inactive.

We have returned. On May 29th, descendants of the grotto gathered for a pseudo-grotto cave trip to Tumbling Rock. On June 18th the Reunited Gadsden Grotto reconvened at the Gadsden Public Library for the first time in seven years. The following officers were appointed: Michael Ray, Chairman; Jim Loftin, Vice Chair of Programs; David Teal, Vice Chair of Public Relations; and Susan Teal as Secretary/Treasurer.

Inside This Issue

- Reunited
- Tumbling Rock
- Colvin Mountain
- Mose's Tomb
- Meeting Dates

The NSS was contacted for reinstatement. The Internal Organization division of the NSS is presently reviewing our request. For meeting dates and a trip report see the next page.



Photograph by M.Ray

Historic 1st Grotto Trip to Tumbling Rock

Gadsden Grotto Caves Again

By: Derrick Mitchell (Attalla, Alabama)
 gpl@gadsden.com
 Copied by permission from TagNet.

Saturday, May 29th, after a long absence from the underworld, the Gadsden Grotto had a new beginning in Jackson County. Meeting at Shoney's in Gadsden, 15 cavers loaded up and immediately got separated on the trip to Tumbling Rock. When we assembled, paid our \$5.00 and signed the release, this group consisting of the most hard core to the greenest novice entered this great cave (the two greenest were both named Rebecca Marie, one being an 8 year old and the other an adult and totally unrelated).

Under the masterful leadership of David Teal, we traveled these passages seen by so many, but never appreciated any more than by this group. Because of the differences in ages and experience levels, the group slowly divided. However, David never missed a beat gliding back and forth like a mother hen, protecting the flock, sharing his years of experience in this cave. No less capable and just as willing to share their knowledge of the cave were Jim Loftin and Michael Ray. It was really fun to see these hardcore cavers share the uniqueness of this cave with the first timers.

Making it passed the Elephant's Feet, the Totem Poles, and the Christmas Tree we made the Topless Dome, the stopping point for this trip. All eyes fixed upward, we marveled at this incredible sight. At this point we exited the cave and made our way to Neversink.

Six of our group of fifteen having vertical experience bounced Neversink for both our own enjoyment and for the entertainment of the rest of the grotto. At this point we pulled the rope, took our tired group and headed for Western Sizzlin.

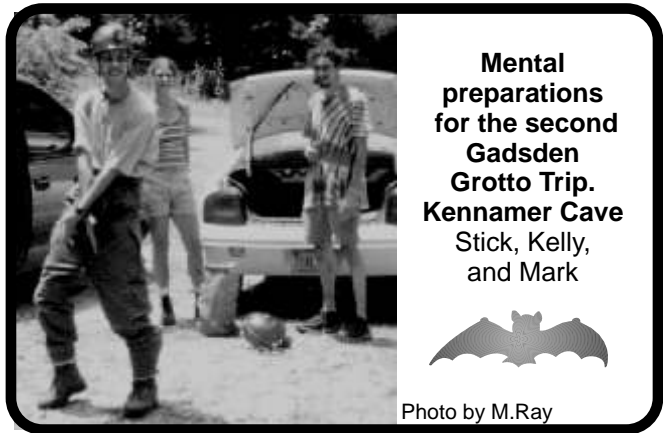
Yes, this was your typical tourist cave trip, to probably the most visited sites in TAG, but it was special to us. This trip begins anew a grotto with a great history. Please wish us luck, light a candle, say a prayer and

Gadsden Grotto Newsletter is published on a semi-regular basis by the Gadsden Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS) as its official newsletter. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing for clarity, grammatical considerations, and to meet space limitations. Any opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) named and do not necessarily represent the views of the Gadsden Grotto or the NSS. Unsigned material may be attributed to the editors. Reprint permission provided that both the author and the source are credited. Tunnel Vision is distributed free of charge to Gadsden Grotto members and in exchange for the publications of organizations with similar interests. All materials for publication should be submitted to Michael A. Ray at 12725 Co. Rd.31, Centre, AL 35960 or email to mray9@tds.net.

cross your fingers, for the great trips and finds we hope to report in the future.

The group consisted of: David Teal, Jim Loftin, Michael Ray, Gene Reeves, Derick Mitchell, Rebecca Buckner, Lesley Ray, Rebecca Kennedy, Rachel Kennedy, "Stick" Harper, Jeremy Dodd, Marion Dodd, Mark Medlin, Nick Medlin and Kelly.

The Green Horn Tourist Caver: Derick Mitchell



Colvin Mountain by: -Mark Medlen

Me and Alan (Stick) Harper went to Colvin Mtn looking to do Colvin Pit . We walked up and down a gully on the Mountain looking for the pit , but we couldn't find it. So we went in Bat In The Pocket up to the first pit .

Mose's Tomb by: Alan (Stick) Harper

The Gadsden Grotto went to Mose's Tomb Saturday. The company was David Teal, Mark Medlin, Jim Loftin (being his 47th B'day), Michael Ray, Kelly, Derick Mitchell, Becky Buckner, and me Stick Harper. We started up the old way up the mountain..... Mistake! Take the new way on the upper side. The new way is a nice trail and is a direct route. The pit was awesome. NICE solid walls of formations. The trip was kewl, and there were some great photo ops. Some members even camped in the camping grounds there. I wanna go back during TAG... possibly.... i dunno. God Bless You in the Name of Jesus
 Stick

Want to know more?

Come to the
Gadsden Grotto
 Meeting at the
Gadsden Public Library
 254 College Street
When: 2nd Tuesday
 of every Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.