

# The Gadaden Grotto

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**A Trip To Mutt Canyon**  
**Saturday, 6/16/01**  
**Written By: Mark Medlen**

On Saturday, Jim, David, and I went back to Mutt. We signed in at the register near 10a.m. and made our way to a small North bound passage. We carried with us a bolt kit, and a 150' push rope. The passage dead-ended at a East-West T. The East passage went into the main North passage. Our goal was to rig and bottom the pit in the West passage. Jim named this Pit the Complex Pit Dome Complex.(CPDC). Jim and I rigged a large natural anchor while David placed a bolt at the pit edge. Jim rigged up and headed down dragging the tape measure as he went. I called out the measurements as he pulled the tape tight from each ledge below. 24', 48', 68' then he called out to pull the muddy tape up. After pulling the tape up, I found it nearly unreadable. David and I waited to hear the word from Jim to tell us to come on down, but instead we heard Jim yell "On Rope"! When Jim finally made it to the top, he told us how he was looking down into a dome pit even further down, but he needed a hammer to hammerhis way on in. Now we will have to return later with a hammer and chisel. From there we climbed up to the lunch spot in the attic area. After we ate, we decided to rig the pit in the upper area to see where it went. The 1<sup>st</sup> rig, we rigged to several rocks and I volunteered to go down to see where it went. As I approached the rope, David said "Put some pressure on it to test the rig". As I put weight on the rope, the rig came loose, so we had to re-tie it to some different boulders. This time I safely made it over the lip, and while I was going down the pit, I noticed claw marks going up the pit, from the creature that had already explored the whole cave. The pit dropped down 25' into the main canyon junction. We mapped from the Pokemon to the table rock. We all headed toward the entrance at 6:30p.m. and made it back to the trucks by 7:30p.m. We were all muddy from



Jim, and Dave... "Two Pioneers" of the Gadsden

**Our vertical training site Seven Room Rock can no longer be used to train our new members of the Grotto. We need to find somewhere else like Zuber Quarry in Glenco, or Cherokee High Rocks in Leesburg, so we can continue our vertical training to our new members.**

PLEASE SEND YOUR  
 Trip Reports, Pictures,  
 Art, Poems, Etc. to...  
 Gadsden Grotto  
 P.O. Box 2092  
 Gadsden, Al. 35903

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represent the views of the gadsden grotto or the

## The Darkness

Entering through a darkened hole  
Water dripping sweet and cold.

Sliding down on all fours,  
searching for new cave to explore.  
Heading toward a multi-drop drip,  
Another tight squeeze, I can fit through it.

Racing through the horror crawl,  
I hear the sounds of a waterfall.  
Waterfall gets louder, the closer I get,  
Let's grab the rope and rig this pit !

In pure silence, I hear the cave sing,  
While gazing with awe at cave pearls,  
shiny and clean.

Blind crawfish, salamanders, cave crickets, and  
bats,  
All in the darkness, cool, damp, and vast.  
It's time for me to rig up again.  
Derading to leave this beauty I'm in.

Ascending on rope, back up the pit.  
Taking pictures of the neat formations in it.  
Closer and closer I'm reaching the top  
I want to slow down, but I can not stop.

Other cavers down below are waiting on me,  
So I better keep climbing, before they yell at me.  
Keep Climbing the said, so we can ascend up  
this pit, so I kept on going, all drippy and wet.

Climbing up next to the cave's drippy walls,  
Feeling the shower of the waterfall.  
Back to the top on the Earth outside.  
Staring at the mountains, all mighty and wide.


Watching the sunset as the day tucks in,  
Respecting the beauty of God's creations.

Written By : Kelly Keener  
NSS # 48045


**Our Patches Have Arrived !!!**  
Our new Gadsden Grotto patches have  
arrived. For those who havn't purchased  
one the price of these patches cost only  
**\$7.00 ea. for G.G. members and**  
**\$10.00 ea. for nonmembers.**  
**Get them while they last !!!**



*Kelly and friend Kristie Horton in  
Weaver Cave.*




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Alabama State Board Requires: "No representation is made about the quality of the podiatric  
service to be performed or the expertise of the podiatrist performing such services."

While Brent took down the data, we eventually found

each ledge below. It was 10,000 feet high and we had to

## Another Push Trip To Mutt Canyon

On Sat June 9, Jim Loftin , David Teal and I headed back to the Mutt for more surveying and to bottom some new drops. Upon reaching the gated dirt road that goes to the cave we spotted a burned Ford Contour possibly stolen and dumped. We arrived at the Ent at 10.00 geared up and did the Ent. drop (72'). David set a rebelay about half way down that help a lot on the climb out. Jim placed a new register at the bottom of the pit, and we head to the first of three unexplored drops. The first drop was a large hole going down into canyon passage after close inspection David saw footprints at the bottom, which were ours from a previous trip.

The second drop also connected into the main passage to the north. The third drop was reached by slither through a mud and popcorn coated crack which drops into the gnarly Contrast Dome Pit Complex (CDCP). After much looking we found a sold natural anchor and rigged a 75' rope down the crack the down the pit. Jim was on point so he rigged in and approached the lip. While searching for foot holds jim brushes against part of the wall and it breaks off falling into the pit with a loud crash. Jim yells back at us "that was a really big rock!!". Jim makes his way down the lip with much fighting the mud and horrible lip. I reel out some survey tape and Jim heads deeper down the pit pulling the tape with him. The tape reels out to 44' feet and jim yells out he needs more rope. He says to pull the rope up and tie the other push rope to the end. I pull the rope up and tie it to the end and lower it into the pit. By now I can no longer see the rope its just pure mud and the coil of rope keeps getting stuck on a ledge somewhere above Jim. I pull the rope back up ,untie the push rope from it and send it back down. The rope still gets hung on the ledge,By now I am completely soaked in mud with both headlights coated so I could hardly see. I tied the rope to the survey tape and told Jim to pull the rope down to him. Jim was able to pull the rope to him and he came back up. After a short rest on rope Dave handed jim the push rope and he went back down, this time without tape because it was unreadable. Jim went down another 40' past were he stopped the first time then had to stop again for lack of rope. When Jim returned from the pit he was covered in slimey mud, and reported the we had to return with more rope. We coiled muddy ropes and ate lunch before we made our way back to the surface, leaving more passage behind waiting to be explored. We were out of the cave at 4:30p.m.

Writtin By: Mark Medlen  
NSS # 24445



**MARK ON ROPE INSIDE THE MUTT**



**Muddy Tape From "The Mutt" Survey trip**

**YOU CAN INVITE BATS** to your front yard and become active in bat conservation by using an artificial roost to attract bats. Bat houses are enjoyed throughout the United States by a variety of bat species that also use natural crevices and tree hollows. Even if the house is not used by bats, it's presence causes visitors to ask about the house, which provides the owner an excellent opportunity to educate friends about bats! Here's how to build your own bat house.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

One 9' long piece of 1"x 8" lumber, cut into six pieces, each 15 3/4" long for front and back and entrance restriction.

One 5' long piece of 2"x 2" lumber, cut into 2 pieces, each 22" long for sides, and one piece 12 3/4" long for ceiling.

One 16 1/2" long piece of 1"x 4" lumber for roof.

One piece of 15 1/2" x 23" fiberglass screening. (do not use metal screening).

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Nail back to sides to ceiling.
2. Staple fiberglass screening to inside of back and sides.
3. Nail entrance restriction to front, then nail front and roof to sides and ceiling.
4. Make sure all surfaces are free of sharp points.
5. Hang house with hooks or nails about 15' or higher on a pole, house, or tree. Make sure that the entrance area is clear of obstructions.
6. The probability of occupancy by bats is increased if the house is placed within a quarter of a mile from a stream, river, or lake and if it receives appropriate sunlight.
7. Take notes of your occupancy patterns and share your results with neighbors and with bat conservation International's Bat House Research Project.



**Lost & Found**  
By Kelly Keener

Possibly found: Gary Stewart's cell Phone on Fox Mountain. He lost it somewhere between the camp at Moses Tomb and Fox Hole. Several of our grotto members went to drop the Multi-drop cave, and on the way there Gary lost his cell phone. Many items are found due to cavers losing their things, and other cavers find them. Gary possibly got lucky with his. It was very kind and generous of Ryan Moran of Lafayette, Indiana to report it on Tag-net. Mark was logged onto Tag-net when he read about it on a trip report about someone finding a cell phone on the Southeast end of Fox Mountain towards Moses Tomb. Mark instantly e-mailed Ryan and gave him Gary's phone number and E-mail, so that he can contact Gary to figure out if it's his or not. Hopefully, the phone will be returned to Gary, if it isn't someone else's cell phone.

**Found:** Mark found my boots in Oct. 02 on Lookout Mountain. They were my new Timberland Hiking boots that I bought nearly two years ago. I left them next to where we parked his jeep on the previous trip and now they are old and molded looking. I ended up buying a new pair that doesn't really fit as good as the Good Old pair that I "left behind". My new pair are now good and broken in and so I forgot all about my old pair. We were out ridge walking and as we were getting in Marks Jeep to leave to go back home, and he found my boots.

**Sorry, Cave is closed...**

We're going to be hearing that more and more as the years go on.

If you truly enjoy caving its time to get serious about your caving future.

Become a member of the SCCI. Your \$15 yearly membership dues does make a difference. **Check it out at SCCI.org**

 A black and white illustration of a cave entrance. The cave is dark, and the entrance is framed by several long, thin stalactites hanging from the ceiling. The overall style is high-contrast and graphic.



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*P.O. Box 2092*  
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