

Gadsden Grotto Newsletter



Silent Tranquility

(Photo By: Mark Medlen)

Gadsden Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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MEETING TIME

Every 2nd Tuesday of each month
6:30 PM (CENTRAL TIME ZONE)

MEETING PLACE

East Gadsden Community Center 921
Wilson Ave., East Gadsden
(Across from the Goodyear plant)

Gadsden Grotto Meetings

2nd Tues of every month at 6:30 P.M. At the
East Gadsden Community Center Across High-
way 431 Goodyear plant Parking lot.
(256) 549-4673
Gadsden, Alabama



Gadsden Grotto Newsletter

The Gadsden Grotto Newsletter is printed upon
subscriptions and is included in grotto member-
ship for \$10.00 due each May.

Editor's Comments:

I want to thank Jim Loftin for doing such a great job
on our Newsletter last month . I hope in the near
future Jim will continue helping me putting it to-
gether. I also want to thank Andy Porter for letting
me use his photos and articles to publish in this
newsletter and to everyone who has contributed.

Editor:

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(Photo by: Andy Porter)

Mission Statement

The Gadsden Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS)
was established to organize cavers of the East Alabama area to
better promote the objectives of the Southeastern Regional
Association and the NSS as well as to promote the studies of
geology, biology and hydrology and other cave related sciences
associated with caves and karst regions.

Loony Crack Ho

By: Andy Porter (Atlanta, Georgia)

tagcaving@gmail.com

On Saturday, Mark, Kelly, Jim, Mike, and I walked out to Loony Gap on Beaver Mountain, St Clair County, Alabama. Mark, Kelly, and Mike went looking for a pit there named Loony Gap Well back last Wednesday. They ridge walked and found the entrance but did not have rope to drop it. We returned on Saturday with rope. The entrance to Loony Gap Well is a fairly big hole near a creek in the gap. We taped the drop at 52 feet. The first 25 feet is a nice wall drop while the rest can be free climbed down an offset crack.

After I got out I walked around and found this very tight crack 30 feet higher and 600 feet north. After finding a bunch of holes nearby that did not qualify, Mark explored the tight crack. He need a rope half way down. We taped the drop at 42 feet. With at least 15 feet of horizontal cave, we qualified it. Thinking long and hard, we named it Loony Crack Ho. Marion, if or when you go, you will love it...for the name at least!

<http://www.tagcaving.com/tothebitterend.html>

Andy Porter



Above: Andy Porter In Looney Gap Well.

(Top Photo By, Kelly Keener)

Left: Mark Medlen, measuring the new cave Andy found called "Looney Gap Ho" (Photo By: Andy Porter)

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Looney Gap Mood

We was in a Looney mood, so we went to Looney Gap,
Searching for that cave that is on the topo map.

We hiked about 2 miles until we saw the gap.

There it was "the hole" that was on the map

We had no gear, we had no rope, so at that time we had no hope.

Now we'll get some friends to go back to that cave.

It's going to be this weekend. On a pretty sunny day.

(To Be Continued next trip results)

Another Looney Gap Mood

Was in another Looney Mood

Went back to Looney Gap.

Got rope for the cave we found on the Topo Map

We dropped that pit, we had hope

Another one was found, that was no joke

42'ft deep 30'ft long.

It was named "Looney Crack ho Cave" Woo-hoo!!!

Watch out walking into the woods, especially on the mountains.
you can accidentally step off in a hole and drop down 50 feet or more.

To all cavers who read this... See yaw underground



TRIP TO HURRICANE CAVE

Saturday, January 14, Mark Medlen, Kelly "Mae" Kenner, Jim Loftin, Mike Davis, and I took a trip to Cemetery Pit. We arrived at the parking area around 9:30-10:00 and there was a very light snow falling, and was very cold!

That changed our minds about doing the pit, so we decided on going into Hurricane Cave.

This, I must say is one of the coolest entrances to a cave I have yet to see.

The culvert had a trickle of water, and was a little tough on my knees.

Getting into the actual cave was a long stooping passage, at least I was off of my knees!

Mark and myself stopped where we could stand up and lightened our packs, leaving our jackets there.

We stopped at the "dry room" to eat, and take a few pictures, and sign the register.

Then pushed on. We made it to the flow stone where we decided to go back, too cold to get wet!

This cave is very clean, windy, and beautiful.

There are not many formations, but the ones that are there are very cool.

I can't wait until the next trip!

What more could a person ask for, but a great trip with your best friends!

Mike T. Pearson NSS# 53921



(Upper Photos By: Mark Medlen)



(Photos By: Mike Pearson)

Boy Scout Trip to Tumbling Rock Cave

It was a gloomy Saturday morning when we were getting ready to lead a group of Boys scouts to Tumbling Rock Cave. There were ten boy scout who's ages ranged from 11 to 17 years old. Mike Pearson was on his way to pick us up, and we were to meet Selena Campbell at Wall-mart. We called her and she was already there waiting for us. She told Mark to tell me that she got me some fresh made egg-rolls to take in the cave to eat for lunch. I found out that a Large container will hold three egg rolls, and I usually grab me a small container of Broccoli Salad to eat with them. YUM! It may sound strange, but wrapping the containers with my purple duct tape secures the food from spilling out. Well any way we headed out to Scottsboro, we arrived there just a few minutes before everyone else. As we were waiting for Michael Ray at the house where the cave is awaiting us, the cave owner came out and opened the bathroom and changing rooms. As he was walking back to the house to round up the waivers, the nice cave owner told us that he had Tumbling Rock Cave T-shirts and caps for sale. Good way to make money. Own a house with a cave on your property and help the cavers by supplying us a bathroom and changing rooms. Michel Ray showed up to the house at 10:15a.m followed by three trucks full of boy scouts and troop leaders. Mick Ingle whom we have led a trip of boy/girl scouts with him once before was in charge of arranging this trip. The boys got ready and they all gathered around the cave to take group photos. One young man in a blue jacket stood up on a tall rock and said "I am taller",

"I'm taller than all of you" "I am taller than ALL!!!" It was cute. There were so many scouts I gave some of them nicknames. These are the names that I have given them to remember who was who. Brave-man, the brave one and was ready to rumble. Harry Potter, he was the only one who wore glasses and was a neat young man. Green Bo, because he has always wanted to go to Green Valley Cave. Frodo, the sweet boy who had determination to push himself further. The Candy-man, who saved me from having the sweet tooth. Jolly Ranchers. The Cookie Monster who had all kinds of cookies to choose from Oreos to choc. chips. Speed Racer because he was quiet young man, who was serious, and alert, Drum-line, because he is a drummer at his high school. He wants to join our grotto. Sebastian, because he stayed focused on his surroundings. Little-foot, because he was the youngest of the group. The boys wanted to go all the way back to climb Mt. Olympus to see the Pillar of Fire. All through the cave, Michel Ray, the great school teacher that he is, gave taught the kids a lot about the temp. and geology of the caves beauty and how the formations formed. He was doing a wonderful job teaching them everything they needed to know about not only the geology but the ecology also. We showed them the asphalt oozing out of the walls. Rim stone dams that were formed by pools of water. On the way back out, we stopped at the King's Shower. There they all climbed up to see what was to the right and around the corner. Inside the climb up hole is a 400' ft. top-less dome. For some reason no one

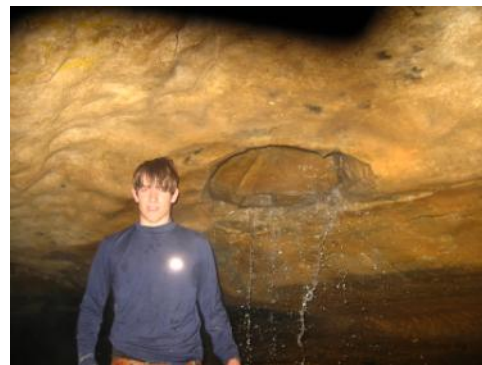
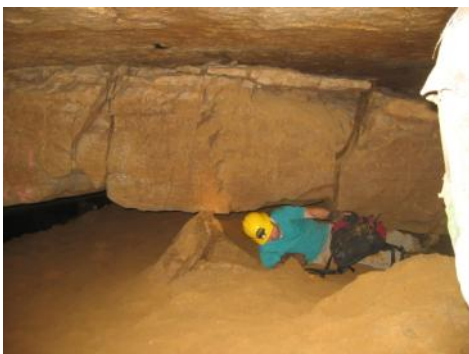
has ever found where the water comes from the top of the dome. Cavers have searched, even climbed it. Green Bo said "That was the most awesome thing he has ever seen." The other boys seemed to like it as well, even though they came out soaked and wet. They seemed to enjoy it. They were quite worn out and tired by the time they jumped back down. The King's Shower had a pretty good amount of water splattering down hard against the rocks that help leverage the kids up.

Most of all. I think it taught them how to become self confident with themselves, it gave them self esteem, inner strength, and togetherness. We were heading back out toward the outside world. Some scouts had what we sometimes call "ENTRANCE FEVER" and was trying to rush to exit the cave. We had to stop and make one more head count before we continued back out. We came out of the entrance and noticed the ground and our vehicles were covered with a small dusting of snow. How cool can that be. We were out of the cave by 7:30 PM. That was a good 9 hour trip for the boys scouts. Some are ready wanting to join our grotto and learn more about caving and getting on rope. The boys had to go back out in the cold where their tents were set up at Camp Jackson. They were going to cook pork chops and garlic mashed potatoes but instead they went to a fast food place. The troop leaders said that the boy scouts were more than likely going to be "OUT COLD" by the time the slipped into their tents. They had a good time that's all that matters.

Tumbling Rock Continued from previous page.

Already wanting to join our grotto and learn more about caving and getting on rope. The boys had to go back out in the cold where their tents were set up at Camp Jackson. They were going to cook pork chops and garlic mashed potatoes but instead they went to a fast food place. The troop leaders said that the boy scouts were more than likely going to be "OUT COLD" by the time they slipped into their tents. They had a good time that's all that matters.

Written By: Kelly Keener
NSS# 48045 Scci.# 1023



Photos By: Mark Medlen and Mike Pearson

I Received this in my e-mail

Kelly- Please pass this on to your grotto members, thanks! Feel free to reprint in your newsletter.

Be safe,
Tim White <>< NSS 26949 RE FE
Editor, Nylon Highway

Southeastern Region Coordinator-
National Cave Rescue Commission, NSS

The NCRC – Southeastern Region presents:
A Regional Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar – Level 1, 2 & 3
June 16 – June 24, 2006

at Union Hill School Somerville, Alabama
(the same location as the 2005 NCRC National Weeklong)

This seminar consists of extensive classroom and fieldwork in all phases of cave rescue including underground environment, vertical rescue, hauling systems, extrication techniques, medical management, communication systems, and the organization and management of cave rescue operations. Basic and advanced course material is presented for students who typically include cavers, emergency services personnel, and emergency managers.

The seminar provides approximately 100 hours of instruction over eight days. Its classes are physically strenuous and participants must be in good physical health. Students should be prepared to work in difficult situations, both above and below ground.

It is very rare and under special circumstances that a Regional is allowed to conduct a Level 3 training. The SE Region is honored that the NCRC BORC approved this Seminar! National Instructors Becky Jones and Rod Dennison will once again be lead instructors for Level 3!
All 3 levels of this Regional training will be conducted and adhere to the same high standards and quality as a National event.

Register now and register early, as class sizes may be limited. For a brochure, registration form and contact information see the training link at: <http://ncrc.info> <<http://ncrc.info/>> or a direct download: <http://www.caves.org/io/ncrc/SoutheasternBrochure2006.pdf> <<http://www.caves.org/io/ncrc/SoutheasternBrochure2006.pdf>>

**Gadsden Grotto
Box
AL 35903**

**PO
Gadsden,**



Griffis Falls: From Left to Right- Jim Loftin, Mike Pearson, Michael A. Davis, and Mark Medlen. (Photo By: Mike Pearson)