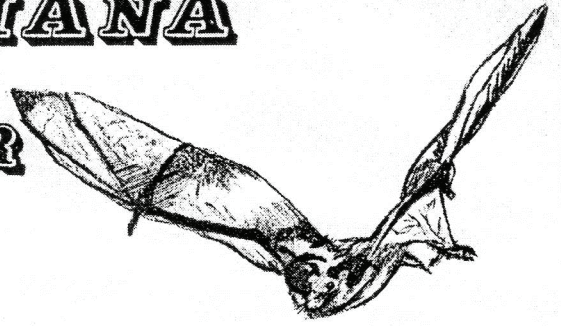
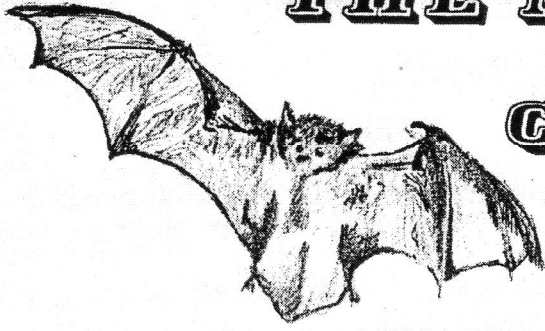


THE MICHIANA CAVER



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Grotto Officers and Staff

Chairman

Dave Seng
ddseng@comcast.net

Vice-Chairman

Jennifer Pelter
hodaglad@yahoo.com

Secretary

Clyde Simerman
csimerman@frontier.com

Treasurer

Gene Pelter Jr.
(260) 456-3374

Boardmember

Bobbie Seng
bobbiept@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Dave Seng
ddseng@comcast.net

Webmaster

Dave Seng
ddseng@comcast.net

Quartermaster

Aaron Johnson
(260) 418-8321

Librarian

Dan Hanes
dlhanes@hotmail.com

Trip Coordinator

Jeff Hamman
hammanjeff@yahoo.com

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On The Cover

Stephens Gap, Al

by

Dave Seng

(I think, I really don't remember if I took this or not)

Grotto Meetings

The NIG meets on the second Friday of each month at Gander Mountain. The meetings start at 7:00 pm with an after-meeting get-together to discuss caving and other outdoor activities. Gander Mountain is located at 6043 Lima Road in Fort Wayne.



Trip Report: Shiloh Cave 7-17-10**By Bobbie Seng**

Bobbie and Dave Seng, Dan and Vikki Hanes, Brent Grist, Jeff Hamman, Hank Parton, Michael Blair, Aaron Johnson

We met up at Bob Evans in Bedford and combined passengers and gear to be in 3 vehicles. It was a short drive to the cave. The walk to the cave should also have been short except we didn't locate the entrance as quickly as we could have, and did more walking than we would have like since it was in the upper 80's and humid. We found the entrance which was close to our original walk down the hill toward the quarry stone. On the final approach to the entrance we had to navigate a narrow rock ledge. Most had already navigated this ledge but it became a mind over matter task for me. It looked worse than it was but Brent assisted with an arm hold to help me. Once we were in the cave we walked through knee deep then lower rib cage deep shriekingly cold water and had to then crawl over a dam/through the gate. We followed the stream to the church entrance noting the formations along the way. Most of the passage was easy walking but in water. Occasionally we were out of the water briefly, walking on a higher bank or climbing over breakdown. On the way back out we went down the 'black damp' passage. The floor of this passage changed from gravel/sand/mud to limestone with potholes. The walls, worn smooth by the water, were closer and the ceiling not as high. The layers of the walls were colored from black to tan and looked more like polished wood at times. Occasionally we had to duck under a natural bridge, navigate around a deeper pothole, or climb up a waterfall. A few members of our group continued beyond the last waterfall into the dead end crawlway. We headed back out of the 'black damp' passage and then to the quarry entrance/exit of the cave. The deeper water encountered on our exit did not feel nearly as cold as it did when we entered. Part of the rock ledge was avoided on the trip out as we walked through the deeper water that we were trying to avoid on the way in. The second part of the ledge was easier for me to navigate on the way out also. The heat of the day felt initially quite good and I did not feel hot (in full wet cave gear) until we reached our vehicles.

Cave Capers Has Been Very, Very, Good to Me

Submitted by Rick McHenry

I took that extra day off to prepare for Cave capers and I had obtained the holy grail of flashes for cave photographers, the Kalimar Select-o-Flash. Put one flashbar in and select from one to five flashes for a top end Guide Number of 380 for ASA 200. Photo talk for extreme light lust satiation.

The first time I stepped into the breakdown room in Sullivan Cave circa 1969 or so, I contrived to capture that awesome abyss on film. I put in my order for the Select-o-Flash but it had just been discontinued.

Along came jobs, a young family and dreams put on hold, but now a second coming.

It was all coming together for me, just days before the buy it now listing for the Select-o-Flash. My delayed departure, waiting for the shipment of the obsolete 504 battery to power the flash gun, and my painful gear freak decisions of what gear to leave behind, no wait I must take the collapsible quick deployment tripod, quick toss it in and go.

Fast forward to the arrival at the Camp Riverdale campground, Was that a naked man sliding down the water slide back of the pool, just driver fatigue I hope.

Found a camping spot by Jeff Hamman Jr. and set up camp.

Time to get registered and sign up for the trips, and, oh yes tuck away the raffle ticket for safe keeping.

I signed up for the Buddha Cave and Salts Cave trips.

Buddha Cave was reported to have some nice formations in the lower passages, just right to get some nice photos.

The trip was lead by Dean Wiseman.

It was stated that one must be able to free climb down to the lower level.

Dean , who was camping in a climbers port-o-ledge, was offering a climb down alternative to the usual cable ladder drop to the lower level. One way to insure that you could extract yourself in case of an equipment failure or just forgetting a piece of equipment (my worst fear).

To some this brought about a bit of controversy. All I know is Dean served as a belay slave for everyone who climbed down to the lower level. There were some who opted not to climb down and they were not criticized for that decision. Some opted to rig up with ascender system for the climb up and were not discouraged from their personnel choice.

When I got to the lower level I had to deal with a bit of the vapors, no not that kind, just the condensation of the moisture in the air around the warm bodies of my fellow explorers. It causes a bit of a reflective shield when you use a flash.

We went under the climb down and into the lower level of the cave. There they were, significant formations, awaiting the penetrating light from my Select – O – Flash.





The Controversial Climb Down

I smugly deployed my tripod and rigged up for a foray of exposures. Set the self timer arm the flash for all five bulbs and Kapow , my first capture with the Olympus OM-4t and my coveted Select-o-Flash, yes a film camera whipper snapper.

Now another, just pull back on the film lever , oops too much tension time to change the film. The film that is safely protected from overheating and ruining the color saturation, tucked safely away in my cooler.... in my car. Pride goeth before a fall.

Ok, back to digital Olympus touch 3000 camera and the helmet cam. I don't get out much and try to cram a little too much into each trip.

Well it was time to get back to camp , clean up and was I ready for the banquet.

Jeff made a comment about buying some more raffle tickets and I took his suggestion.

It paid off.



My One Shot
Wonder
(wonder where
the film is ?)



Here I am suc-
cumbing to the
dreaded HCHT
syndrome
(Helmet cam
Head Tilt Syn-
drome)
Usually combat-
ed with football
shoulder pads
or a neck brace.



Thanks to CIG & IMO cause OMG I won the Grand Prize Rope, two cave maps and a Cave Country Canoes voucher. My advice, buy more tickets. (Pictured are the Owners of Inner Mountain Outfitters who donated the rope, and yours truly with the newly won nylon highway to underground Indiana.)

Yes Cave Capers has been very, very good to me.

Stonington Fall Get Together 2011 Pictures

By Dave Seng







