

# THE NEAR NORMAL NEWS



Volume 17 #3 July 2007

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Membership in the NEAR NORMAL GROTTTO is \$15.00/year and includes a subscription to the *NEAR NORMAL NEWS*. Six issues are published per year in alternating months.

Send address changes or membership requests to David Carson at [the4carsons@verizon.net](mailto:the4carsons@verizon.net) or to the address above.

### Editors

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Science Editor, Bill Morrow [wsmorrow@mchsi.com](mailto:wsmorrow@mchsi.com)

### Submissions

We accept most cave-related submissions. Trip reports, pictures, reviews, scientific articles, announcements, cartoons, and artwork are all welcome. Submissions must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Scientific articles require extra time for review by our Science Editor.

Send all submissions as an e-mail attachment to David and Angela Carson at [the4carsons@verizon.net](mailto:the4carsons@verizon.net) or on disk to P.O. Box 405, Mackinaw, IL 61755-0405. Please use the guidelines below:

Written submissions should be in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word®, OpenOffice®, plain text, or simply incorporated directly into the body of an e-mail.

Scientific and technical articles are expected to be of a high standard, citing evidence of statements and crediting references, where appropriate. These articles will be reviewed by our Science Editor, Bill Morrow ([wsmorrow@mchsi.com](mailto:wsmorrow@mchsi.com)) as well as our lead editors.

Photographs and graphic submissions are best made in JPEG format. Other formats may be incompatible with certain software. Inquiries should be made to the editors if you wish to use other graphic formats. Photographs should list to the cave, general location (ex. Southern Illinois, or Monroe County, IL), names of any persons included in the photo, and the name of the photographer.

THE NEAR NORMAL GROTTTO is an Internal Organization of the **National Speleological Society** (NSS). We strongly encourage those interested in caving to join the NSS. For membership information about the NSS consult <http://www.caves.org/info/member.shtml>.

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Phone: (256) 852-1300  
E-mail: [nss@caves.org](mailto:nss@caves.org)

THE NEAR NORMAL GROTTTO meets the second Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Community Room on the basement level of:

National City Bank  
202 E. Washington St.  
Bloomington, IL

Holidays, special events such as vertical training and the annual September picnic, and inclement weather may affect meeting times and/or places.



### NEAR NORMAL GROTTTO EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President, Ralph Sawyer [sawyer@mtco.com](mailto:sawyer@mtco.com)  
Vice-President, Marc Tiritilli [marc\\_tiritilli@hotmail.com](mailto:marc_tiritilli@hotmail.com)  
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## About the Cover

**Front/back cover:** *Mine Warriors* by Larry Bird, near Utica, Illinois. It takes a lot of rain in the fall plus very cold temperatures to cause these ghostly warriors to rise just inside three of the mine openings. These icy soldiers stand guard only when the outside temperatures dip to 5° F for seven to ten days. When the temperature returns to 20 to 25° F, they melt into the ground. Larry says it has been about six years since he last saw them.

Also pictured on the back cover are the upper falls at Clark Falls Farm.

## Editors' Notes by David S. Carson

First, we must thank author Earl Neller, *NSS News* editor Dave Bunnell, and the National Speleological Society for granting permission to reprint Earl's letter, "Grotto Newsletters," which was originally published in the May 2007 *NSS News*. This is sure to be a hit with grotto newsletter editors nation-wide. In this letter, the author provides several compelling arguments regarding the importance of the local grotto newsletter and why it is essential to keep your publication, the *Near Normal News*, supplied with articles, reviews, etc.

Why did we decide to publish photos of the icy-cold *Mine Warriors* in the middle of summer? In these days of 90° F plus, we thought it would be a nice reminder that cooler days sometimes prevail. It also reminds us that there is wondrous beauty present underground no matter what the season.

With that said, we hope you enjoy the July issue of the *Near Normal News*!



# President's Column

by Ralph Sawyer



If I were to keep all the books I have read on caves, here are some notables you would find on my bookshelf:

*Cave Passages*, by Michael Ray Taylor. Each chapter is a separate essay on a cave or some aspect of caving. Taylor is such a good writer that he makes his chapter on commando caving in metropolitan sewers entertaining. Here's a quote from the book: "There is a surface world and there is a world underground. The only real one is the one you are in at the moment. The other one stops existing until you return to it." That has been my experience caving, and probably yours, too.

*Trapped!: The Story of Floyd Collins*, by Robert K. Murray and Roger W. Brucker, is an account of the attempted rescue of Floyd Collins. The first few pages of this book are probably, to a caver, scarier than anything you will ever read by Stephen King or Peter Straub. I always wonder about taking a group of new cavers through the Buckner's Cave crawlway, then reading them the frightening prologue—but then I rule it out as a bad idea.

*The Life of the Cave*, by Charles E. Mohr and Thomas L. Poulson. In high school I was mesmerized by this book on cave biology. I asked for it for Christmas and got my wish. Outdated, with what is now considered snapshot photography, it still resides on my bookshelf.

*On Rope*, by Bruce Smith and Alan Padgett. This is a great place to start if you want to become a vertical caver, or if you just want to start an argument among experienced vertical cavers. I still consult my copy. It has taken a few years for some of the lessons to kick in.

*Images Below*, by Chris Howes, introduces classic techniques of cave photography, though it predates the use of digital photography in caves.

*On Caves and Cameras: A Comprehensive Guide to Underground Photography*, by Norman Thompson and John Van Swearingen, IV. Entertaining, informative, inspiring, and probably out-of-date the day the NSS published it, due to minimal mention of digital photography. If you told me I had to give up this or *Images Below*, I'm not sure what I would do. Both books do a great job discussing lighting, composition, and duration of exposure.

What about fiction? This is where caving gets really interesting and sometimes ridiculously entertaining.

*Journey to the Center of the Earth*, by Jules Verne. Skip the first few chapters; that's just travelogue aboard a steamship. Follow Verne's characters down a pit on the trail of Arne Saknussemm. No, they did not take a goose with them like they did in that

nauseating film with Pat Boone. If they had they would have eaten it. They do find an undersea ocean, flee from an eight foot cave man, encounter dinosaurs (naturally), and get blown back to the surface through a volcano—riding a wooden raft. The Classics Illustrated comic was great, too.

*Blind Descent*, by Nevada Barr. Park Ranger Anna Pigeon somehow winds up in Lechugilla Cave helping with a rescue and investigating a murder. It is obvious that Barr took the trouble to research caving and cave rescue. This one has a completely dark chase scene. As a guy, I had trouble relating to the female protagonist. Does that make me a male chauvinist, or does it make this a must-read for chick-caver mystery buffs? On her web page Barr mentions *The Time Machine*, by H. G. Wells. Remember the cave-dwelling Morlocks? Or were they miners, not cavers?

*The Eternal Savage* and *Tarzan at the Earth's Core*, by Edgar Rice Burroughs. In 8th grade I was convinced these were the greatest novels ever written (they were pulp fiction, written for 8th grade boys by the master). Burroughs knew what he was doing; when his readers tired of Mars or Venus, he escorted them by various means (a burrowing ship or a hole in the earth's crust near the North Pole) to Pellucidar. Seems the Earth is hollow, with an eternal noonday sun. There is no horizon—the earth curves up and away from you. There is no night and no concept of time. So naturally there are—you guessed it—lots and lots of dinosaurs and prehistoric cave bears (that means caves within this really, really big cave). Burroughs was either the master of coincidence or its slave. At one point, with two pages to go in the book, the *Eternal Savage* breaks through to the outer surface—at the exact spot where his civilized girlfriend is about to be captured by filthy Arab white slave traders. (Is a white slave trader even worse than a black slave trader?) If anyone wants to borrow my copy of *Tarzan at the Earth's Core*, it is really good with Cheetos and beer.

*Dogs of God*, by Pinckney Benedict. This one ain't for chicks. The hero is a down-and-out boxer headed for bare-knuckles bouts held in barns of the rural South. Benedict somehow shifts the scene to Crystal Cave, with Floyd's body in a glass coffin. The lights stay out so long that the eyes of one character become accustomed to the eternal gloom. This is something that happens in numerous Conan the Barbarian tales, also. If someone hadn't stolen *Dogs of God* from the Peoria Public Library, I would have reread it by now, Miller Genuine Draft in hand.

What's on your bookshelf? Write to me or to your editors!



Ralph



# Merry Maids—or Buckner's Cave Restoration

by Bill Morrow

I had seen the results of the cave restoration at Buckner's Cave, Indiana, on a recent trip, so it didn't take much for Ralph Sawyer to convince me to go with him on a volunteer clean-up effort at Buckner's. Ralph had been to another Buckner's cleanup recently, so I wondered what it would entail when he asked, "Do you have an old paint brush?"

I said, "Yes, for the cleanup?"

"No, for us," was his reply.

Buckner's Cave is now managed under the Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy. Eventually, the land will be deeded to the National Speleological Society. In prior years, the cave has been heavily vandalized. Only recently has the cave started to turn from a trash pit to a cave worth saving, thanks to a foreboding on-site resident (now gone) who interrogated visitors. The main road entrance is now gated and padlocked, and formal permission to enter must be

received from the Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy. This has resulted in a gradual removal of the considerable trash; however, the graffiti throughout the cave is extensive. One room of the cave has seen so much graffiti, it became known as the Signature Room. This is where the graffiti removal project was targeted.

We arrived and met about ten people ready to help. Above ground, near the cave entrance, sat an air compressor and a generator with power cords and air hose

leading into the cave. Ralph and I both volunteered to be mules and each hauled a 50-pound bag of blasting material through the 700' crawlway. Reaching the T-Room and the Signature Room, I realized that it easily requires 1000' of hose and cord just to get to the work area.

The Signature Room, once a heavily vandalized room filled with graffiti, now looked like a construction site. There were powerful work lights, scaffolding, and air

worked like this: the air hose went directly to the gun. Coming off the hose near the gun was another hose, connected to a container which held the blasting material (sand-sized coal slag). The blast material was sucked up by venturi effect and pepper sprayed out into the graffiti, etching the graffiti off. One person sprayed at close range, about four inches, while the other people shook the slag container and held the tarps.

It was an incredibly dirty job, requiring respirators, eye goggles, and earplugs. I did not wear the earplugs as it was not extremely noisy, although I soon found out why they were given. Fine powder was everywhere. My ears were partially filled with it and getting it out was next to impossible. The whole room became hazy, making it difficult to see with the fine blasting material wafting around and the safety goggles fogging up. We enjoyed the fruits of our labor, watching the rock become clean again.

After spending about five hours blasting off graffiti, we headed for the surface. Even though I had changed clothes and had paint-brushed off my body as well as possible before we left, fine powder kept drifting and settling on the long trip home. Every so often a grain would go in my eye again. The shower felt even better than it usually does after caving, if that can be believed.

With this continued cleaning and restoration of Buckner's Cave by the Blenz Conservancy, I can once again heartily recommend seeing—and enjoying—the cave.



The effectiveness of sandblasting can clearly be seen in this photo by Ralph Sawyer.

hoses going in several directions. Scattered across the floor were blue tarps, covered with black sand-like material. And where there once was a large solid wall of graffiti, there now was a visible limestone wall, with only about 20 percent still covered with graffiti.

We hunkered down to work. While some other people made trash removal excursions, Ralph and I went to the blasting area. The removal process was done in groups of two to three people. The blasting equipment



# Grotto Newsletters

by Earl Neller (NSS 4581) [neller@elltel.net](mailto:neller@elltel.net)

Originally published in the *NSS News*, Volume 65, Number 5, May 2007, p. 29.  
(Reprinted with Permission of the National Speleological Society)

The NSS recently became a beneficiary of the Dorothy D. Pruett Trust. Dorothy (Dee) Pruett and her husband Lloyd were members of the NSS from 1957-1976. They were a part of the group of cavers that created the Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto in St. Louis in the 1950s, and they were active in many grotto activities. There are few alive today who can remember them, but their story continues to be told in old copies of the grotto newsletter, *The Underground*.

Grotto newsletters have always been an important part of organized caving for me. Writing a trip report made me a better caver. It made me pay more attention to the underground world as I traveled through it, and it made me pay more attention to my fellow cavers and what they had to say. It helped me learn their names. It helped me be a part of the caving dialogue. Who would have thought, when we were writing trip reports for *The Underground*, that fifty years later those stories would be important in remembering folks, and telling the story of our club.

I was a member of Chouteau Grotto when I was a student at the University of Missouri. We helped put together regular issues of both the grotto newsletter *Foresight*, and the statewide journal *Missouri Speleology*. Those publishing parties were as much a part of grotto life as the meetings and the cave trips.

All of us should remember the importance of a grotto newsletter in a caver's life. A grotto newsletter can be the glue that keeps a grotto together. It can be the anvil on which a grotto is hammered into shape. It can be a quilt that brightens up a room on a cloudy day, and keeps us warm on cold nights. A grotto newsletter is a place to teach, and a place to learn. And, it is a place to record and pass on our grotto's history. A grotto newsletter is a tangible piece of a grotto's tradition.

It should be a part of our caving tradition that someone on a field trip is always responsible for writing a report for the grotto

newsletter. It should be a part of our caving tradition that grotto newsletters contain articles about individual grotto members, about cave gear, about caving techniques, and about caves and cave resources. It should be a part of our caving traditions that grotto newsletters contain a list of grotto members, whether paid up or not, with their contact information. The minutes of monthly meetings should be in the grotto newsletter. Many cavers miss meetings, and only go caving a couple times a year. A grotto newsletter can be the primary vehicle for caver participation in a grotto's activities.

A grotto newsletter is also an important vehicle for remembering a grotto's history. Copies of grotto newsletters should always be sent to the NSS, and to local libraries (public, university, historical societies). In this small way we can preserve our caving traditions. Sometimes the grotto newsletter is our only legacy.



## Bio—Earl Neller

To say that Earl Neller has been around is an understatement. He joined the National Speleological Society (NSS) in 1959, and became member number 4581. He has been a member of numerous grottos, many in their infancy at the time, beginning with Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto in St. Louis, Missouri. His first organized cave trip was with Saint Louis University Grotto (a.k.a. Saint Louis Urban Grotto) at St. Louis University. Later, when he went to the University of Missouri in Columbia, he was active in Chouteau Grotto (1961-1966).

Earl has had numerous articles, trip reports, and photographs published. There are far too many to mention here. We have included some of the more notable items. Around the time Earl was in the Chouteau Grotto, he had photographs in several publications, such as *The Life of the Cave*, part of a Time-



Earl Neller at Mount Saint Helens, Washington.

Life Book series on various environments. A photo Earl captured in Ennis Cave, Arkansas, of a gypsum flower was featured in the June 1964 issue of *National Geographic* (Mohr 1964, 818). He has also had photographs published in the *NSS News* and Carol A. Hill's *Cave Minerals*, first edition.

While he was in the Army, he went caving with the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the NSS in Menlo Park, California. Afterwards, while he was at the University of New

Mexico, he went caving with Sandia Grotto in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which lies at the foot of the Sandia Mountains. Later, when he was working at Ozark National Forest, he was a member of the Arkansas Association for Cave Studies. He lived in Hawaii for many years, and occasionally went into some lava tubes, but there was not an active grotto in Hawaii at that time.

During the years he lived in Urbana, Illinois, Earl worked for ITARP (Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program) at the University of Illinois. He was a member of the Near Normal Grotto from 1997 to 2002.

More recently, he lived in southern Utah, and went on a few trips, but the Color Country Grotto in Hurricane, Utah, was in hibernation at the time (2001-2002). Now, he lives in the state of Washington, where he has been in a cave, but Cascade Grotto in Seattle, Washington, is a long way from his home.



# Near Normal Grotto Business

## MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 9, 2007

Submitted by Mark Tiritilli, Vice-President

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Ralph Sawyer, President.

Present: Troy Simpson, Todd McCartney, Bill Roth, John Walther, Matt Level, T.J. Gosnell, Jeffery Gosnell, Carolyn Morris, L.J. Tognetti, Don Kerouac (Member-at-Large), Marc Tiritilli (Vice-President), David Carson (Treasurer), John Ernst, Cory Wheeler, Adam Stanford, Johannah Bluedorn, Chris Haydel

Secretary's Report—Minutes from the February 2007 meeting were submitted and amended to indicate the attendance of David Carson.

Jeffery Gosnell moved, and Bill Roth seconded, that the secretary's report be approved as amended. Motion unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report—No official data was available this month. Treasurer David Carson reported a fund balance of approximately \$500 as of March 8, 2007. The printers made an error in our favor: the January issue of *The Near Normal News* was inadvertently printed in full color. The grotto was charged the black ink only price of \$0.61 per copy instead of the full color price of \$5.61 per copy.

Jeffery Gosnell moved, and Troy Simpson seconded, that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion unanimously carried.

Trip Reports—Jeffery Gosnell described his February trip to Sullivan Cave in Indiana. He made it past the first bathtub. On the same day and in the same cave, Troy Simpson took another group on a not-as-wet trip to the Quarry Room and the Merry-Go-Round.

Old Business—Update on shirts and fleece. More work to be done on designs.

New Business—Preliminary research is beginning on commercial hosting for the NNG website.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Mar. 12—John Marquardt will be lecturing on the science of caves, Monday at the University of Illinois
- ◆ Mar. 13—John Marquardt will be lecturing on the science of caves, Tuesday at Illinois Wesleyan University
- ◆ Mar. 24—Illinois Caverns trip to push side entrances—contact John Schirle
- ◆ Mar. 31—Illinois Caverns trip for beginners and families—contact John Schirle
- ◆ Mar. 31-Apr. 1—southwestern Illinois: Nichols' Cave

reconnaissance, Pautler Cave push past falls—contact Don Kerouac

- ◆ Apr. 27-29—Illinois State University Outdoor Adventure Program trip to Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. Cost: \$179.  
See <http://www.rec.ilstu.edu/trips/descriptions.php> or call 309-438-7529 for more information.
- ◆ June—The Karst Field Studies program will take place at Mammoth Cave National Park—contact Dave Carson for more info
- ◆ July 23-27—NSS Convention in Marengo, Indiana
- ◆ Last weekend of every month through summer—Illinois Speleological Survey trips in the Shawnee National Forest.

Next meeting will be Friday, April 13, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at the National City Bank in Bloomington, Illinois.

Program—Caving Basics by Troy Simpson and Don Kerouac

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



## MEETING MINUTES FOR APRIL 13, 2007

Submitted by John Schirle, Secretary

President Ralph Sawyer called the business portion of the meeting to order.

Present: Larry Bird, David Carson (Treasurer), John Ernst, Jason Kern, Don Kerouac (Member-at-Large), Matt Level, Nathan Marcier, Todd McCartney, Bill and Nicholas Morrow, Kevin Rasmus, Bill Roth, Ralph Sawyer (President), John Schirle (Secretary), Troy Simpson, Cory Wheeler

Secretary's Report—March 2007 minutes were submitted and reviewed.

John moved, and Bill seconded, that the secretary's report be accepted. Motion unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report—David Carson reported a fund balance of \$551.06 as of April 12, 2007.

Larry Bird moved, and Kevin Rasmus seconded, that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion unanimously carried.

### Old Business

- ◆ T-Shirts: Ralph Sawyer brought the artwork design done by Cory Wheeler and got a price quote from Midwest Screen Printing and Design (Peoria) on doing new shirts for us. Production costs would be:



# Near Normal Grotto Business (continued)

\$75 art charge on 1<sup>st</sup> order (1 color), plus:

- ◆ T-shirt \$8.00 each
- ◆ Long-sleeve t-shirt \$10.00 each
- ◆ Crewneck sweatshirt \$15.00 each
- ◆ Hooded sweatshirt \$19.00 each

After discussion, Larry Bird moved, and David Carson seconded, that we approve the design. Motion unanimously carried. Ralph will e-mail a mock-up of the design in light ink on a dark shirt along with a preliminary order form.

- ◆ Website: Bill Morrow volunteered to design and maintain our website, hosting it through the NSS. The cost for hosting will be \$12 for the first 25 Megabytes (MB), and \$10 for the next 25 MB. Troy Simpson moved, and Todd McCartney seconded, that we approve \$22 for hosting the site with the NSS, and that Bill Morrow be authorized to design and maintain it, and to communicate with NSS in setting this up. Motion unanimously carried.

## New Business

- ◆ Dues: There was discussion about the fact that grotto dues have not been raised since the grotto was founded in 1991, and that raising the dues would allow us to contribute more to cave conservation projects. Troy Simpson moved, and Don Kerouac seconded, that

beginning with 2008, the NNG raise dues to \$15, with \$5 per additional family member wishing to join, and a \$10 student rate. Motion unanimously carried.

- ◆ Todd McCartney knows of a small cave in Pike County (western Illinois). He will check with the owner about getting permission for us to visit and/or survey it.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Last weekend in May—Speleofest near Upton, Kentucky—contact Troy Simpson for more info
- ◆ June 10—A Vertical Training Day is set for Sunday with a short business meeting included. Marc Tiritilli is reserving the tower at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois.
- ◆ June—The Karst Field Studies program will take place at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky—contact Dave Carson for more info
- ◆ July 23-27—The NSS national convention is at Marengo, Indiana. Several from the grotto are already planning to attend. Check the NSS website, <http://www.nss2007.com>, for info.

Next meeting will be Friday, May 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m. at the National City Bank in Bloomington, Illinois.

Todd McCartney moved to adjourn, with Jason Kern seconding. Motion unanimously carried.



## **MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 11, 2007**

Submitted by John Schirle, Secretary

President Ralph Sawyer called the business portion of the meeting to order.

Present: John Schirle (Secretary), L. J. Tognetti, Andrea Burgess, Kevin Rasmus, Bill Morrow, Ralph Sawyer (President), David Carson (Treasurer), and Todd, Natalie, Makayla and Kaitlyn McCartney

Secretary's Report—Secretary John Schirle reviewed the minutes from the April 2007 meeting. One correction was made: David Carson was incorrectly listed as Secretary, instead of Treasurer.

Andrea Burgess moved, and Kevin Rasmus seconded, that the secretary's report be accepted as corrected. Motion unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report—Treasurer David Carson reported a fund balance of \$594.06 as of May 10, 2007.

John Schirle moved, and Todd McCartney seconded, that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion unanimously carried.

## Trip Reports

- ◆ Apr. 21-22—Dave Carson visited Tar Kiln Cave in eastern Kentucky during the Bat Conservation International workshop sponsored by the ESSO Grotto.
- ◆ Apr. 28—Don Kerouac and Jeffery Gosnell went to Pautler Cave near Waterloo, Illinois, and got as far as Pautler Falls.
- ◆ May 5-6—Dave Carson participated in the May Restoration Camp at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky, where the project involved covering cables that have been installed for the new lighting system in Cleaveland Avenue. Sunday included a trip to Colossal Cave to scout for future projects.
- ◆ Todd McCartney and his dad visited Cave-In-Rock, Illinois, on the Ohio River.
- ◆ L.J. Tognetti and Andrea Burgess were married at the TAG Fall Cave-In site (congratulations!) They spent 2 weeks in TAG and did NO caving (!) However, they did get a 1200 foot spool of rope as a wedding present.
- ◆ Bill Morrow went to the Shawnee Forest in southern Illinois and fell and broke his heel while climbing at Jackson Falls.

**Please see MORE BUSINESS, Back Cover**



## More Business

### Old Business

- ◆ New Grotto Shirts—the design is finalized, and we're ready to order new grotto shirts: t-shirts, long-sleeved t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts and sweatshirts. Ralph Sawyer will be sending out order information by e-mail.

Prices have been established at:

- ◆ T-shirt \$12.00 each
  - ◆ Long-sleeve t-shirt \$17.50 each
  - ◆ Crewneck sweatshirt \$22.50 each
  - ◆ Hooded sweatshirt \$28.50 each
- ◆ Website—Bill Morrow has our new grotto website available on the NSS server. His goal is to keep it current, updated regularly, with links to events and affiliated organizations. He will e-mail a link to members so they can check it out.

New Business—Listsrv or Group E-mail—L. J. Tognetti suggested we look into either establishing a listsrv or a yahoo group e-mail for the grotto, so e-mails can be sent to the entire membership via a single address. He will look into what is necessary for setting that up.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ June—The Karst Field Studies program will take place at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky—contact Dave Carson for more info
- ◆ July 23-27—The NSS national convention is at Marengo, Indiana. Several from the grotto are already planning to attend. Check the NSS website, <http://www.nss2007.com> for info.

Next meeting will be Sunday afternoon, June 10, 2007, at the climbing tower at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. There will be a short business meeting along with vertical skills practice. Marc Tiritilli will send out info.

Andrea Burgess moved to adjourn, with Bill Morrow seconding.

