

A synopsis of what is going on in the world of the Near Normal...

Christmas Party at the White House

Well, maybe not the White House, but it *is* at the President's (and First Lady's) residence. The party will be December 10th at 7 pm at 1926 East Taylor Street in Bloomington. The house is at the northwest corner of Taylor and Moore, which is east of the old bank meeting location. A White Elephant gift exchange will be held (not to exceed \$10). This is a family event, but your choice of beverage may be brought.

Ralph Sawyer has written a great trip report on the Mertz Cave attempted sump dive connection, but you will have to wait until the next issue for that. No other trip reports were submitted. The minutes for the past two months meetings are presented.

November Minutes

The following are provisional minutes from the November meeting.

Near Normal Grotto Minutes of the meeting November 12, 2010.

Present: Todd McCartney, Bill Roth, Laura A. McCartney, George Mattson, Bill Morrow, Ralph Sawyer, Jason Kern, Chris Haydel, Gerry Woltering

Todd called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Carson reported via email that NNG has approximately 680.00 in the bank. No contributions or renewals of membership to other organizations have been made.

Minutes of the October meeting were examined and approved.



Nicholas Morrow at Vertical Practice
Picture – Jim Duncker

***Dues for 2011
will be coming due!***



Makayla McCartney at Vertical Practice
Picture – Jim Duncker

November Minutes - continued

Trip Reports

Todd displayed his new wetsuit and hood.

Gerry attended MVOR (Missouri Valley Ozark Region convention). Camping was fine. Did not go on the Mark Twain Cave tour. Buzzard Cave: lots of formations, walking, crawling, relatively warm water from the surface, water shooting out of the walls. Several entrances. Bowling Cave: lots of flowstone, waterfalls, an attempt at dome climbing.

Old Business

Our December 10 meeting is a Christmas party at Todd and Laura's house. Spend \$10.00 or less for the white elephant gift exchange. There will be kids at the party.

Ralph read an article in September NSS News that stated that Bat Conservation International supports the blanket closure of caves in the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region.

Todd moved that we examine each of NNG's customary annual contributions/memberships in January. Motion approved.

New Business

Todd announced that we may have to switch back to our previous meeting area of BroMenn hospital in January.

The following members accepted nominations for positions on the executive board of NNG:

President	L J Tognetti (accepted by phone)
Vice President	Todd McCartney
Treasurer	Bill Roth
Secretary	Ralph Sawyer
Member at Large	Jason Kern

Todd and Laura will be leading a family trip in Sullivan Cave, Bedford Indiana, on Saturday November 20.

Gerry showed us Illinois Audubon Society's "The Cardinal News" which included information on the Society's acquisition of property to protect the Indiana Bat (ed. note - Gerry has further discovered that the cave property is known as Ellis Cave in Pope County in the Shawnee).

Bill Roth distributed the improved Snickerdoodle patches to those who had purchased the originals.

The meeting adjourned, followed by video of the attempt by cave divers to connect Mertz Cave and Crevice Cave in Missouri.

October Minutes

The October meeting was held on a beautiful fall day at the Illinois State University ROTC tower.

Near Normal Grotto Minutes of the meeting October 17, 2010.

This meeting was held at Illinois State University's rappelling tower.

Present: Todd McCartney, Bill Roth, Jim Duncker, Laura McCartney, L J Tognetti, George Mattson, Bill Morrow

Todd called the meeting to order.

No Treasurer's report.

Minutes of the September meeting were examined and approved.

Trip Reports

Ben Duncker reported on a moderate trip in Sullivan Cave in Bedford, Indiana. Ralph added a description of the sensation of going through the No No Crawl. Bill Roth described the trip from the Man Hole to the Speed Hollow entrance of Sullivan.

Bill Roth reported that he, Chris Roth, and Ralph helped with cleanup efforts in Buckner's Cave.

Bill Morrow reported on Near Normal Grotto members' experiences at the TAG Fall Cave-In (TAG = Tennessee-Alabama-Georgia):

Moses Tomb: 230' pit. Warm.

Blunder Hole: Five drops/ascents. We made it through the Wet Willies.

Deep Well: deepest open-air pit in TAG.

Hiked in Shawnee National Forest on the trip home.

New Business

Ralph moved that Near Normal Grotto delay making contributions to other organizations until we can review such at another meeting. Motion passed.

Laura moved that Near Normal Grotto have its Christmas party on the second Friday in December, at Todd and Laura's house. Motion passed.

Old Business

Little Egypt Grotto hosts Camp 76, an annual gathering of cavers, on the weekend of October 23rd.

Meeting adjourned. Cavers resumed vertical practice.

Near Normal Grotto

P.O. Box 813
Normal, IL 61761-0813

Meeting at Bromenn
Medical Center,
Normal, Illinois.
Second Friday of the
month.

E-MAIL:

nngwebmaster@yahoo.com



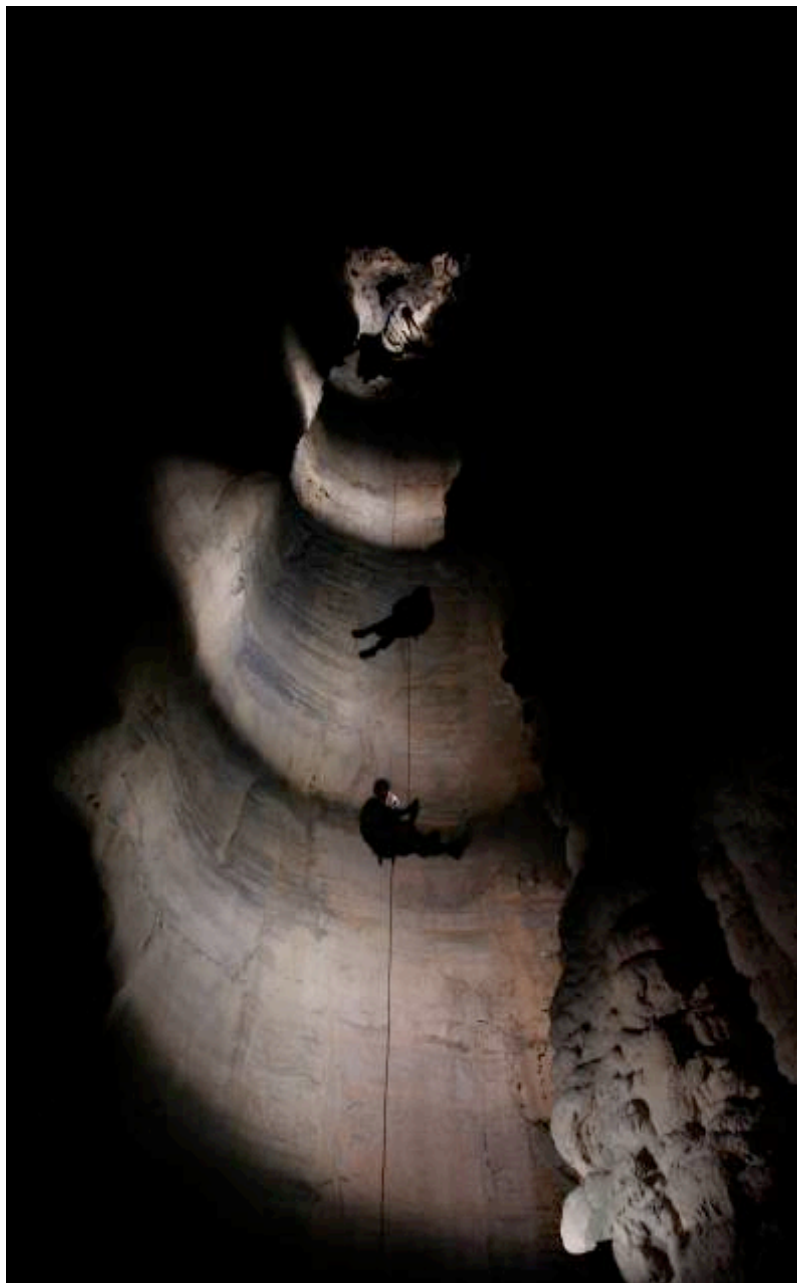
We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.caves.org/grotto/nng/>

About Our Organization...

The Near Normal Grotto is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, exploration and conservation of caves and cave life. Our members come from all walks of life – landscapers, camp counselors, carpenters, geologists, mechanics, teachers, and students, to name a few. In other words, people like you. Our interests may vary from exploration to conservation to photography, but we all share a passion for caving. If this interests you and you would like to know more, feel free to attend one of our monthly meetings!



Moses Tomb, 230 foot pit in Alabama. October 2010 – Picture by Ralph Sawyer, slave flash slave-Bill Morrow