

December 2011



Volume 21

Issue 6

The Near Normal News

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

Christmas Party December 9, 2011!

Bring your white elephant gift and  come to the Near Normal Christmas party Friday, December 9! This year it will be held at the McCartney residence, a warm, cozy, festive location. Please bring a dish to share. There will be videos of past trips on the big screen. This is very kid friendly, but adult beverages will be available.  The party will be at 1926 E. Taylor St. Bloomington, IL 61701 Party starts at 7 pm.

From Peoria: Take 74 East to Bloomington. Follow signs for 55 south. Go approximately 6 miles. Just before the exit for 55 south, look for exit for Veteran's parkway which will be to your left.

Take this exit for Veteran's parkway. Follow Veteran's into Bloomington. Once you pass the Double Tree hotel, TGI Friday's, Panera on the left side of street... take a left at the next light onto Mercer.

Go through two stop signs then take a left onto Taylor St. Go to first stop sign, our house is on the right hand side corner of Taylor and Moore St. White house with red and green trim.

From Champaign: Take 74 West towards Bloomington. Take the exit for S. Main St. North. Follow S. Main several stop lights then exit onto Veterans Parkway on your right. Follow Veteran's into Bloomington. Once you pass the Double Tree Hotel, TGI Friday's, Panera on the left side of street.... take a left at the next light onto Mercer. Go through two stop signs then take a left onto Taylor St. Go to first stop sign. Our house is on the right hand side corner of Taylor and Moore St. White house with red and green trim.

November 2011 Minutes



Near Normal Grotto

Minutes of the meeting November 11, 2011

Present: Ralph Sawyer, Jason Kern, Matt Level, Bill Morrow, Todd McCartney, Laura McCartney, Bill Roth, Chris Haydel, L. J. Tognetti, Andrea Tognetti, Julius Tognetti

Vice President Todd McCartney called the meeting to order. Remainder of meeting was chaired by President L. J. Tognetti.

Minutes of the previous meeting were examined and approved.

Treasurer Bill Roth reported a balance of 703.02. Dues are due in January.

Old Business

Christmas Party at Todd and Laura's house on December 9th at 7:00. Pot luck. White Elephant gift exchange. Okay to bring wine etc.

Cave Puzzle Six – Deep US Caves Word Search

By Bill Roth Near Normal Grotto Bloomington, IL ©, copyright, Roth, 2011

AINTNO
 AMBIGUA
 APE
 BABYHOGHORROR
 BEARHANNA
 BIGFOOT
 BIGRED
 BUCKEYE
 BULL
 BUTLERSINKINGCREEK
 CHURCH
 CODY
 DEEP
 DULANEYS
 ELMOS
 EMESINE
 ENGLEDOUBLE
 FERN
 GAPCAVE
 GARYSELF
 GILLEY
 GOUFFFRE
 GUYS
 HELLHOLE
 HICKEY
 HUEHUE
 HUMMELS
 ILLIAD
 JEWEL
 JEWETTII
 KAELEKU
 KAUHAKO
 KEALA
 KELLYRIDGE
 LAMALUA

H	T	B	I	G	R	E	D	L	R	D	N	J	P	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	T	L
U	H	U	G	N	G	O	N	A	N	I	L	B	A	M	B	I	G	U	A	O	B	I
M	E	T	O	H	U	E	B	I	G	E	P	I	P	I	P	F	H	W	P	S	A	L
M	K	L	U	E	Y	P	B	R	E	P	F	G	O	J	N	E	K	H	X	T	B	B
E	I	E	F	L	S	C	I	E	N	L	N	F	O	I	U	T	S	L	Z	O	Y	U
L	D	R	F	L	I	V	V	A	A	E	S	O	S	H	L	A	N	E	Z	L	H	R
S	S	S	F	H	B	T	Z	L	P	R	W	O	E	C	W	L	N	O	L	E	O	N
R	U	I	R	O	U	J	T	Q	Z	A	H	T	N	T	A	O	I	M	Q	N	G	E
C	W	N	E	L	C	M	M	L	C	L	H	A	O	S	A	N	M	A	F	W	H	S
E	K	K	R	E	K	L	D	E	E	P	Z	O	N	N	F	K	Y	E	D	E	O	P
N	U	I	K	A	E	S	T	J	C	B	T	C	A	N	T	E	V	O	K	L	R	A
G	M	N	A	T	Y	L	O	S	T	C	R	E	E	K	A	A	B	M	N	L	R	N
L	I	G	M	J	E	W	E	T	T	I	I	U	D	C	C	L	S	D	Q	D	O	I
E	I	C	K	E	L	L	Y	R	I	D	G	E	S	P	H	A	E	Y	W	A	R	S
D	M	R	A	W	M	A	G	I	L	L	E	Y	A	H	P	U	E	C	I	V	P	H
O	A	E	U	E	U	O	S	H	Y	U	I	G	M	S	C	K	R	Q	N	I	E	E
U	N	E	H	L	J	M	R	M	R	K	F	M	U	S	C	R	L	C	D	S	M	A
B	U	K	A	G	C	I	K	I	A	R	O	K	O	I	N	L	E	R	H	C	E	J
L	K	M	K	J	S	C	E	C	A	L	E	M	H	O	E	Z	Q	E	E	O	S	B
E	A	T	O	S	T	O	N	E	D	L	L	Z	E	R	N	N	Z	Y	K	V	I	U
L	O	R	G	A	N	D	T	Z	E	E	D	S	U	G	A	R	R	U	N	E	N	L
D	U	L	A	N	E	Y	S	A	S	I	P	A	P	U	A	P	A	I	U	T	E	L
T	O	N	Y	S	I	N	K	S	O	C	L	S	Y	E	G	A	R	Y	S	E	L	F

LAUREL	ORGAN	STONED
LILBURN	PAHOA	SUGARRUN
LITTLEBRUSHCREEK	PAIUTE	SUNRAY
LOSTCREEK	PAPOOSE	THEKIDS
MEMORIALDAY	PBAR	THUNDER
MOONRAY	REAL	TONYSINKS
NAONE	SIPAPU	UMIIMANU
NEFFSCANYON	SMALL	VIRGIN
NEWTON	SPANISH	WASHPOT
NIELSONS	SPASM	WIND
OMEGA	STOLENWELLDAVIS	
	COVE	

When is the last time
 YOU have been to a
 caving meeting?
 Come to the Christmas
 Party!!!!!!!!!!



Near Normal Grotto

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

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



We're on the Web!

See us at:

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

November 2011 Minutes - continued

New Business

Following members accepted nominations for the Executive Board for 2012:
L. J. Tognetti, President; Laura McCartney, Vice President; Bill Roth, Treasurer; Ralph Sawyer, Secretary; Jason Kern, Member At Large

Todd is planning a trip to Tennessee-Alabama-Georgia (TAG) in early March, after hunting season.

L. J. brought up and we discussed participation in National Cave Rescue Commission week-long training. Secretary's note: dates are May 19-26, 2012 at Camp Skyline near Mentone AL. See <http://www.caves.org/commission/nrcr/national/2012Seminar/seminar2012.htm>

Trip Reports

Bill and Nick Morrow, Todd and Laura McCartney, and Lauren and David Pierce went climbing at Cedar Bluff, then Jackson Falls, in southern Illinois. There is a cave at Cedar Bluff.

Chris Haydel took Scouts to Sullivan Cave near Bedford Indiana. Chris lead the advanced group to the Spiral Room. The water was very low, although a visit to look at The Manhole revealed higher than usual water level. Also a visit to the Merry Go Round.

Bill Roth reported on a trip through Sinking Cove in TAG.

Matt Level took kids to Onondaga Cave in Missouri.

Program

Laura McCartney presented slides of the TAG Fall Cave-In, held in October.
Meeting adjourned.

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, engineers, geologists, mechanics, nurses, teachers, insurance professionals, 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!



Ralph Sawyer and LJ checking out the squeeze box at the fall picnic. Only problem is that they went in feet first... Photos taken with Ralph Sawyer's camera.