

The

Rope's End

Newspaper of the Chaminade Student Grotto
Member of the Missouri Speleological Society

Vol. 5

Number 9

May 1, 1972



Map of Fisher Cave
based on Bretz's Map

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Published by:

Chaminade Student Grotto
c/o Chaminade College Prep.
425 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63131

Margy Meyer
Steve O'Connell

The First Annual (?) High School Grotto Caving--Camping Weekend

April 7-8-9, 1972

Bao. Herman Drees
S.M.

Like the proverbial iceberg, there is more than meets the eye for such an event. It was planned for 8 to 10 grottoes, even if only 5 showed. The same permissions, arrangements with superintendents and concessionaires were necessary. The same planning, phoning and scouting of cave locations also had to be done. And this with two weeks less than originally planned with the original plan already pushing preparation work to the "Impossible Dream" limit! And several moderators were out of state for all or part of the Easter Vacation. But God was with us, and IT WORKED---even TREMENDOUSLY!

After much phoning on March 26th we had a planning meeting with 4 grottoes present. The decision was to "do our own thing, even if it fails" due to the short time to get ready.

Good Friday, my first vacation day, two representatives of the Archaids and

Four Caves Used on the Caving--Camping Weekend

FISHER CAVE (VRA 005) Chris Schonhardt

Fisher Cave is a commercial cave in Meramec State Park. It is easy to find because of its outstanding entrance. The entrance is about 11 feet high and 30 feet wide and it is gated. The gate is made of metal bars criss-crossed with a door in the middle that permits entry. There is a concrete sidewalk, built by the C.C.C., that leads the way through the first part of the cave. It is extremely helpful whether or not you are a spelunker. The entrance room itself, directly behind the gate, has a clay floor. On either side there is a small passageway. Both soon dwindle to nothing. The main passage is 5 feet high on the average. From its sidewalk one can see many rimstone dams on the sides as well as a few stalactites and stalagmites. The passage meets with another passage and forms a "T".

As you enter this larger section of the

New Carbide Lamps

Mike Karpowicz

The new carbide lamp, Justrite model number 314, can be a very troublesome animal, as I found out when I bought one.

The main body of the lamp is plastic and is very simply built, for it has fewer pieces.

The operation is basically the same as the old, you fill the bottom with carbide, then fill the water chamber with water. The water chamber is the best renovation in the new lamp. The water valve has been replaced with a screw, which by turning, enables you to get a more exact flow of water into the carbide chamber.

Now we come to the problems of the lamp. The water chamber is shaped like a funnel with the felt surrounding the plastic body. But after a few times of use, the felt tends to slip up higher on the water chamber. When it does this, it is compressed and the felt is forced over the hole where the gas escapes or should escape. The pressure formed by the backup of gas forces the gas into the water chamber causing the gas to bubble out the tip.

EDITORIALS

We will print any response which is written in a well phrased manner and we retain the right to change spelling or phrasing in order to retain the quality and composure of the paper.

I. Time for elections is again here. Our only advice is to remind you that whenever you elect is going to represent the Grotto and therefore you in his duties. Do not choose people on the their personalities, even though it may help, but rather on their attitude toward working hard and on their leadership qualities.

II. At this time, many questions have come up on the subject of allowing people outside the Chaminate Community to become a type of member in our Grotto and what privilege they should be granted.

We would request that you let your position on the question be made known to the officers.

III. On the election angle, we want to remind you that to vote on any official Grotto business (such as the elections) you

April 23	24	25	17th 26 General Meeting Rope's End	27	28	29
Mapping Trip Barbagallo Pit Cave	30 May 1 Officer's Meeting P.M.	2	3 Constitutional Meeting After school	4	5	6 Tower Pit Rockwoods
7 No Grotto Trip	8	9	18th 10 General Meeting ELECTIONS	11	12	13 Great Scott
14 Mother's Day	15 Officer's Meeting	16 MMU Meeting	17	18	19	20 Snags
21	22	23	19th 24 General Meeting Rope's End	25	26	27 No Trip

May Calendar of Events of the Chaminade Student Grotto. Any questions either attend one of the meetings or call Bro. Drees at 993-4400.

MINUTES OF THE CHAMINADE STUDENT GROTTTO

Fifteenth General Meeting, March 29, 1972

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm.

Minutes of last meeting were read.

Treasurer's Report - Expenses: \$15 for mapping equipment; \$2.75 for book, *Caves of Missouri*; \$3 for Moderator's Expenses; \$10 for phoning.

...Old Business...

Cave Radio- We have the instructions for its use. If after testing we find it does not meet our qualifications we may sell it back to owner for all the money back before May 12.

Caving--Camping Weekend- On April 7-9. Weekend of caving for eight high school grottoes. Vertical ropework, first-aid classes, and mapping instruction may be possible. Some type of recognition tag will be used to show that you are part of the organized group. For gear you will need regular caving and camping equipment.

MINUTES, from Pg. 3

Rope's End - The paper may be ready by Friday, come to room 301 and check.

Members - Mike Lackner is now a regular member. (junior)

Constitution - Voting on amendments-not possible-we did not have a quorum.

Trip Reports - 3/18 - Cox Cave with 15 members of St. Joe's GXC.

3/25 - Kreuger Cave map training with other grottoes.

3/26 - Junior Trip to Cox.

...New Business...

Calendar-- 4/10 Officer's Meeting

4/15 Vertical Ropework in Gym (?)

4/12 General Meeting

T-Shirt - A Grotto T-Shirt design committee of two or three people must be set up and submit a few designs so we can have a T-shirt for the Grotto.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Sixteenth General Meeting, April 12, 1972

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm.

Minutes of last meeting were read.

Treasurer's Report was given.

...Old Business...

T-Shirt - The T-shirt design committee is headed by Pete Percich.

Thank-You's - Letters must be written to the Park Superintendent, Sandy Trembly, and Jane Fisher for services rendered during the Caving-Camping Weekend.

Grotto Letters - Since we cannot use the athletic letter design we must come up with our own design, and we are still working on it.

Nominating Committee - We must set up a committee to set up nominations for this year's elections. Brother stated that office preference is given to upper-classmen and restricted to people with passing grades in all subjects. The committee: Tom Conran (Chairman), Pete Percich, Mike Lackner, and Joe Lambright.

Constitutional Amendments - One semester office terms instead of all year - PASSED

Officer takes office when he pays his dues - PASSED.

Trip Reports - 3/31 Marmec State Park to set up Weekend - Bro. Drees

4/1 Marmec State Park to set up Weekend Bro. Drees

4/3 Little Mammoth, -Mike Bender

4/4 Mapped Shower and Onsgollee Pits - Tom Conran

4/6 Jr. Trip -to Piquet Cave - Bro. Drees

4/7-9 Caving--Camping Weekend, - Bro. Drees.

...New Business...

REI - We need more climbing gear, more rope and rappelling gear especially. We are also thinking of getting an altimeter that, calibrated to 15,000 feet.

Calendar - 4/16 Hamilton Cave

4/23 Ropework in Gym.

4/18 RMV meeting

4/29 MVOR (?)

4/22 MSS meeting in Rolla

Meeting adjourned at 4:15

Caving--Camping
Weekend
from Pg. 2

I went to Meramec State Park to make necessary arrangements with the park Superintendent and the Concessionaire of Fisher Cave. We visited the camp site, found the fresh-water pipe, the wood lot, a good cliff on our side of the river for repelling and belayed rock climbs, and we located the entrance to Copper Hollow Cave.

Holy Saturday we were at the Park again with a representative of Fresco Grotto (DuBourg) and several from Chamade. Again we visited the camp site, mapped the layout, located the entrances to Mushroom, Panther and Sprinkle Spring Cave and obtained the phone number of the corporation president that now owns Hamilton Cave.

By Easter Monday, we finally had a lady moderator arranged for each night, Mrs. Sandy Trembley for the first night and Mrs. Jane Fisher for the second night.

By Easter Wednesday the final permission returned from the Missouri State Park Board to use the caves in the park. Also on Wednesday I finally photocopied the "letter to the moderators" that gave the schedule, road log and other particulars including a section warning "How to kill this thing in the bed" which was liberally misquoted in chants heard all over the camp. That evening I personally delivered those letters to two groups intending to reach the others Thursday evening. Thursday evening never materialized as an incompetent mechanic in Rolla spent 5 1/2 hours replacing a fuel pump.

Friday, cars and tents previously only possibilities suddenly materialized into more than we needed. Two grottoes notified us that they could not come. Arriving at Meramec State Park about 5:00pm, we found DuBourg already there, pitched our tents, unloaded cars, set up registration under a canopy on a park bench, assigned camp sites, fetched wood and built the first big campfire. But it was cold! Following the cooking of supper, done individually or in tent groups, the First Aid instructors on hand and the supplies available in camp were mentioned by Bro. Marvin of South Side Grotto, and then some gathered still closer to the fire while others sought refuge from the wind in their tents. Before 11:00pm most tents were dark and quiet.

Saturday about 5:00am most of us were awakened by unappreciated wood chopping, even though we all relished the fire later on. By 7:00am most everyone was up and some had already finished breakfast. Three cave trips were then organized to leave by 8:00, one to Fisher Cave, one to Bear & Mushroom Caves, and one to Lone Hill Onyx Cave. By noon, all had returned, the Lone Hill group coming in last because of the difficulty of the lock. With lunch finished, an imprudent rugby game developed from football keep-away. This was not for girls!

The Arachnids took over at 1:00pm with previously set ropes by Mr. Schwitz and Dan Smith. Belayed rock climbs of about 75' and repels were then tried by those brave enough to try. The jumers and Habelers, due to circumstances presented difficulties.

By 4:00pm some chose to continue climbing or return to camp and take a nap, but the majority were organized again into three groups going to the same 3 set of caves but with different cavers and a different leader for each group. By 8:00pm all returned to camp and hungrily sat about getting something warm into their insides. Again the temperature was dropping below freezing, but not quite as low as the first night. The mapping session turned into a marshmallow roast with stories by Jane Fisher. Again by 11:00pm dark and quiet settled on the camp.

"POET'S CORNER"

Margy Meyer

*We touched the darkness,
And where only cold and damp had existed
heretofore,
Life surveyed the cold.*

*The ancient rocks
Weighted with the tons of centuries,
Looked with blindness on the passing moment.*

*When, trusting to the light which had
departed,
You ran to the edge of nothing,
And nothing stopped you.*

*The knowledge is locked in the rocks,
With the inferno which inception then,
And the long slow cold in which they sleep.*

Caving—Camping
Weekend
from Pg. 4

Sunday we rose slowly to a warm fire (no chopping) about 7:00am, by 8:00 we had no takers for Fisher or Lone Hill Onyx, so all who wanted went with Jane Fisher (4 carloads) to Wildest Cave and then to Mushroom until we ran out of time. Returning to camp, we had a Sunday noon Mass by Fr. Hilgeman of Du-Bourg. Then we ate and took down our tents in a bit of heavy dew (?). Saying "Adieu" (as specified in the letter to the moderators), the new-found friends went their separate ways... "till we meet again"... in fall (?).

In spite of the short preparatory time and the cold nights, everyone who voiced an opinion wanted another one—soon. But we did miss our friends who couldn't make it—some because of the death of a close friend, others from sickness or sudden jobs thrust on them. You'll be there next time, won't you? (This does not do justice to the personalities present and their individual and group contributions to the prevailing good spirit and fellowship.)

* * * * *

(About 50 cavers

were present from:
Arachnids, South Side
Freese, Baje and
Chamaine.)

Four Caves Fisher Cave (cont.)
from Pg. 2 cave you notice that the ceiling has gone up about twenty feet making it about 30 feet in all.

The stream is located near the wall first on the left side then on the right hand side. But the most wonderful surprise is the large amount of formations and all of their beauty. The highlight of the cave is the Governor's Ballroom where the formations are most prevalent and the cave itself is large.

The passage now splits, we did not take the left hand passage for very long, but it appears to be small and often difficult although the maps show that it goes on for a while. The main passage goes on for only less than a thousand feet and breaks up into several smaller passages.

WILDCAT CAVE (FRA 009) Steve O'Connell

Wildcat is really an inappropriate name for this cave because it is very easy to go through. The floor is a mud fill and is an easy walk for the entire cave. The cave's ceiling is fairly constant, about 10-15 feet for nearly 800 of the 1,000 feet of the cave.

Formations are somewhat scarce in this cave. Most of the cave is dead and it is characterized by old and dry formations. But there are several sections of live ones. Some very beautiful helictites can be seen by the hunting eye. Popcorn is sprinkled all over the cave.

There is a small stream that undercuts the wall on either side of the cave.

After about 1,000 feet of large passageway, a pile of breakdown completely, or as far as we know, closes the passage. There are, of course, several small passages that seem to lead around, but as far as we could tell in our limited time, they did not lead around this pile. It appears that if you could get around the breakdown pile, you could find a lot more big passage.

MUSHROOM CAVE (FRA 003)
Paul Vealher

The main entrance to Mushroom is about 15 feet wide and about 12 feet high. At this entrance the wagon tracks from the wagons that used to carry mushrooms from their growing boxes to the public. It is from this business that the cave earns its name. Also at this entrance there is a small stream that trickles down into a steep valley that is opposite the cave. This entrance is the largest and best known of the three.

The second entrance is located up the hill a little bit. It is a concrete paved

QUOTE TIME:

"There is no deep and just short people."
...by Mrs. Jane Fisher
(the delightfully young grandmother)

New Carbide Lamp from Pg. 2

By experimenting we discovered that by removing the felt and replacing it with a piece of nylon the lamp would work much better. This is because then the nylon will let the gas escape through the proper hole.

The second problem is that the plastic bracket hook breaks off very easily. We have solved this problem by using some wire in place of the plastic hook.

The basic idea of the lamp is excellent but like all new products there are things that must be fixed.

EDITORIALS from Pg. 2

must be an active regular member.

We will object and ask to disallow the vote of anyone who is not a regular member (one who has explored four caves, one vertical, and turned in a report) and any regular member who has become inactive (one who has not attended one of the last four meetings).

We feel that it would not be fair for those who have completed these requirements to allow those people have not to vote.

Four Caves

from Pg. 7

Mushroom Cave (cont.)

stairway leading into the most beautiful section of the cave. The entrance was blasted out to allow tourists to visit the cave. By proceeding deeper into this arm you enter the liveliest section of the cave. There are many stalactites, a good number of stalagmites and numerous columns. The floor also becomes the mudiest floor section of the cave. In some section one goes through knee deep mud. But the length of this passage is not too great and it soon reaches the main passage.

The third and final entrance is a crawlway. The crawlway itself is easy. The passage is somewhat windy and has a few formations. This passage meets the main passage a little deeper into the cave than the second arm does.

The main passage is an easy walk throughout most of its extent. The ceiling remains about twenty feet high. There are numerous stalactites and a few stalagmites. There is a good deal of large ceiling breakdown littered on the ground. The floor is mainly dry mud. There is a small stream that stays mainly on the left hand side of the passage but it crosses around near the end of the cave. There are also three large piles of loose rock. These are man-made windbreaks put there to stop the wind from bothering the growth of mushrooms.

LONE HILL ONYX (FRA 002)

Rick Velton

The hardest aspect of Lone Hill is said to be the gate. But we have recently heard at the MSS meeting that this has been solved so we will refrain in giving our views on the problems we had.

After getting thru the gate you find yourself in a small stream passage with a ceiling of about 5 feet. You follow this passage over a few crawls and stoopways and then you come to a "Y" junction.

If you take the left way you follow the stream. There are a few small crawls leading off to the side. But the passage finally narrows down into a stream crawl terminating at a small pool.

By taking the right way you come to the most beautiful part of the cave. There are several large rooms until you come to a "T". On the left side of this "T" you find a formation room full of slanted stalactites, columns, stalagmites and helictites.

By going right you find yourself on a large pile of breakdown and next to some large columns.

By backtracking a little you come to a passage on your left. The passage leads to two beautiful massive columns of pure white calcite. But these have been vandalized by some person putting paint on them.

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The Liaison

(for details see Bro. Drees or an officer)

The Missouri Speleology