

The Carbide Courier

Volume 18, Issue 6

THE
DAYTON
UNDERGROUND
GROTTO
OF THE
NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

June 2009

**DUG Caver Immortalized
in Bronze!**



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GROTTO MEETINGS

Grotto meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month (except for September, December and month of Wormfest) at 7:00 pm at Roger and Lynn Brucker's house, 1635 Grange Hall Rd., Beavercreek, OH. For directions, see the map on the back cover, or go to the DUG web page:

www.dugcaves.com

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Annual membership is \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family. Membership includes the monthly publication of *The Carbide Courier* in paper or electronic format. Memberships are renewable on October 1st. Dues can be mailed to:

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2217 Cleney Ave.
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Please make checks payable to:
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You can also pay online using PayPal at:

www.dugcaves.com/joindug.htm

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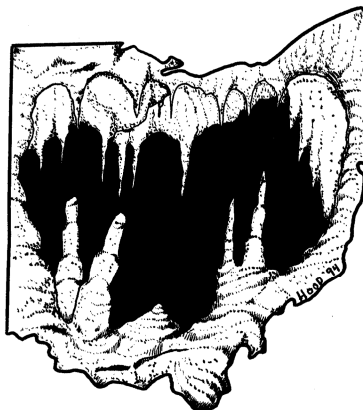
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Inside This Issue:

<i>Officers, Representatives and Committee Chairs</i>	2
<i>From the Editor</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events and Birthdays</i>	4
<i>SCCi Reopens Caves</i>	4
<i>From the Chairman</i>	5
<i>Wormfest Information</i>	5
<i>Minutes of the Grotto Executive Committee Meeting</i>	6
<i>Minutes of the General Membership Meeting</i>	6
<i>Update from the RKC Chairman</i>	7
<i>Information Concerning IKC Properties</i>	8
<i>NSS Web Page Award Comes to an End</i>	9
<i>Huber Heights Karst Features</i>	11

Front Cover: Statue in Columbia (yes, South America) that looks eerily like our own Bruce Warthman! Photo © by Colin Gatland.

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June 2009

The Carbide Courier is sent electronically the last week of the preceding month and also sent to the printer at the same time. Submissions must be sent to the editor by the Friday preceding the last week of the month at carbidecourier (at) yahoo (dot) com.

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From the Editor...



Hello DUGsters,

I'm sure you've seen all the e-mails that have gone around lately about the dues increase. Some understand the reasoning, some don't. I've reprinted an e-mail Dana sent in May that explained the reasoning.

With that said, I encourage you to come to meetings and be informed of grotto business—have a say in what happens in your grotto! We have 173 members, yet only 17 attended the May meeting.

Our main fundraiser is Wormfest. Unfortunately, not many have attended the past few years and we haven't brought in much money from this event. This year's is right here in Ohio! I hope you'll attend this year's Wormfest and help out your grotto!

As you know, the Executive Committee has been encouraging members to switch to the electronic version of the Carbide Courier in an attempt to save the grotto some money. With the recent postage increase, it now costs 61 cents an issue to mail.

That's it for this month. I hope to see more of you at upcoming meetings and events!

Mike Hood
Editor

DO YOU GET A PAPER COPY OF THE COURIER? DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET OR E-MAIL?

If so, why not consider switching to electronic means of getting the Courier? You'll get your Courier quicker (and in color!) and save the grotto some money to boot! Contact Alan Leach to change your status.

Calendar of Events

- June 14th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- June 25th-28th** Karst-o-Rama at the Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve.
- July 12th** 7pm - Grotto General Membership Meeting
Roger & Lynn Brucker's House (See back of Courier for map)
- July 19th-26th** 15th International Congress of Speleology and NSS Convention in Kerrville, TX
(<http://www.ics2009.us/nssconv.html>)
- August 14th-16th** 56th Indiana Cave Capers at Camp Rivervale, Mitchell, IN
(<http://cig.caves.org/pages/capers.html>)
- August 21st-23rd** 18th Annual Wormfest at Rocky Fork State Park, Hillsboro, Ohio (See page 5 for more information)
- September 12th-13th** Caver Appreciation Weekend at the Great Saltpetre Preserve
- September 19th** Annual DUG Picnic at the Great Rice Preserve (Dave & Sandy's House)
(Tentative date) (Short business meeting before picnic and usually grotto auction)

June Birthdays!

Mark Schumacher—2nd
 Jeff Chase—5th
 Will Seehawer—9th
 Pam Carpenter—11th
 Tom Cottrell—13th
 Dan Dimiduk—17th
 Mike Haines—17th
 Tim Hale—18th
 Michael LeMay—19th
 Heather Jackson—20th
 Jeff Connaroe—25th
 Tony Lutz—25th
 Jim Perkins—26th



SCCI REOPENS CAVES

On May 22nd, 2009 the SCCi Board voted to re-open the following Tennessee caves: Gourneck Cave, Sinking Cove Cave(s), South Pittsburg, Snail Shell Cave, and Swirl Canyon Cave. Logsdon Cave in Kentucky was also reopened. Please refer to the management plan for each cave for access guidelines. The following caves in Tennessee and Kentucky will remain closed: Hardins / Junkyard Cave, Holly Creek Cave, Rattling Pit, Wolf River Cave, and Frenchman Knob Cave.



From the Chairman

I don't really have much to say this month. I would like to thank Traci Fearday for her service as the secretary. You will be missed.

KOR is this month. I'm attending and hope to see several of you there.

Wormfest is coming up in August. Get with Amy Hill if you would like to help. I'm sure there are several things she will need help with.

Because of conflicts with work I will not be at the June of July meetings. Anyone with program ideas let me know. I'm running out of ideas.

That's about it.

Dana Sutherland
Chairman

Editor's Note: Dana sent an e-mail out to the grotto on May 19th that I thought had some good information for grotto members to know. So, I'm exercising "editor's privilege" and am reprinting it here (with a few editorial changes) in the Courier.

DUG members:

Over the last couple weeks there have been several bulk e-mails about DUG raising dues. This e-mail is going to be fairly long so please bare with me. I hope to answer most of your questions and explain why we are raising the dues.

The first thing I feel needs to be clarified is the accusation the E/C is "not following the by-laws." This is a non-truth. I asked Mike Hood to review the by-laws to see how to properly raise the dues. The reason I asked Mike is because he is an elder of the grotto, and held many positions over the years. I felt, and still believe he was the best person to research this. Mike reported all that was needed is a vote of the E/C. I announced to the DUG members the time,

(Continued on page 10)

WORMFEST!

Greetings DUGsters!

We have a place for this year's Wormfest!

Since caving is limited due to WNS we chose the great state of OHIO! Looks like it's a surface dwelling at ...ROCKY FORK STATE PARK. It will be August 21-23.

Rocky Fork State Park is located in Hillsboro, Ohio. Close to home. There are plenty of outdoor activities including a 1,992 acre lake. Some near by attractions include....

- Paint Creek for canoeing and kayaking.
- Serpentine Mound.
- 7 Caves.
- Amish stores.
- Hiking, swimming, boating, and fishing.

I'm looking for volunteers for the following:

- Wormfeast
- Guidebook
- T-shirt
- Registration
- Raffle

Anything else I'm not aware of.....

Amy Hill
DUG Vice Chairman

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting began at 5pm at the El Toro Restaurant, Beavercreek, Ohio.

In attendance were:

Dana Sutherland - Chairman
Traci Fearday - Secretary
Debbie Bowers - Treasurer
Mike Hood - Courier Editor
Jim Piscarowitz - Board Member

Tama Cassidy
John Cassidy
Kelly Cassidy
Paul Conover
Don Conover
Colin Gatland
Chris Hacker
Mike Lukas

Topics discussed included:

The GRP Meeting - Sandy would like to have the September meeting at the GRP and suggested September 5. This date was not received well, considering that OTR happens that weekend AND it's Labor Day weekend. Dana will discuss alternate dates with Sandy, including September 19.

Wormfest - Amy has looked into the Rocky Fork State Park in Ohio for the non-caving Wormfest caving/party weekend. Dates suggested were August 21-23 and also a September weekend. The EC liked the 21-23 idea - Dana will get back with Amy to firm this up.

WNS - the DUG EC recommends responsible caving when dealing with the WNS outbreak including gear decontamination and attention to cave surroundings. The DUG gear is again available for rental.

DUG Dues - research into the cost per person for a paper Carbide Courier was conducted. It costs \$7.50 per year per person to produce a paper Carbide Courier. Because of this, DUG Dues will go up by \$5 for those who elect to receive a hard-copy of the Carbide Courier, beginning this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

Traci Fearday
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2009 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The meeting began at 7pm. 17 people were in attendance.

In-attendance position reports are as follows:

Secretary - nothing.

Treasurer -

Checking: \$640.49

Savings: \$2082.99

The treasurer voiced concerns about our dwindling checking account and is looking at options for fundraising possibilities. Tailgaters offers an option to go eat/drink and 15 percent goes back to the organization. Also looking at other options for fundraisers, and will report back to the EC within the month.

Courier - Electronic edition for May is out. Hard copies will go out sometime this week. June edition in the works - send stuff by Memorial Day weekend.

Membership - 173 members.

Equipment - Rental had been temporarily suspended - will start back up again as of this meeting. Members renting the gear are required to decontaminate the gear properly after use.

Vertical - 5:30 at Happy Corners this Thursday. Let Tama know if you plan to attend.

Lunacy - Person (Colin) is here!!! Nothing except the presentation.

Great Saltpetre Preserve - Open House this coming weekend. Karst-o-Rama happens in June. Amendment to management plan is out regarding Bbanishment - now that the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy is responsible, this is needed. A written complaint needs to be submitted regarding occurrences. Text is on website and will possibly be in the newsletter. Work weekend happened this weekend. Meeting on the 12th at Molly Malone's @ 7pm.

Indiana Karst Conservancy - WNS is the big topic right now. All properties are open save for Grotto, Coon, & Robinson Ladder caves.

Richard Blenz Nature Preserve - Dispute with landowner over half the cave. No trespassing signs now up IN the cave. Owner does have pit entrance on his property and claims that he'll prosecute people in the cave under his property. Cave is officially owned by the NSS.

Kentucky Speleological Survey - Talked about how to handle WNS - if a valid request is filed, they'll release information. Otherwise, nothing special will happen voluntarily. Changes in bylaws also occurred with a quorum present.

White-Nose Syndrome - The EC's recommendations concerning WNS were covered: the DUG EC recommends responsible caving when dealing with the WNS outbreak including gear decontamination and attention to cave surroundings. The DUG gear is again available for rental.

Wormfest has been moved to Rocky Fork State Park on August 21-23. Primitive camping, shelter house, and showers are available at the site (Ed., this will be the first Wormfest held in Ohio).

Dues - Dues will go up for those wanting a paper Carbide Courier by \$5. If you get electronic, dues will go up by \$5 beginning now.

A 15 minute break was taken. Colin Gatland and Mike Lucas gave a presentation on the History of Mine Lighting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Traci Fearday
Secretary



UPDATE FROM THE ROCKCASTLE KARST CONSERVANCY CHAIRMAN

MISTY CAVE

May 15th - the opening date for Misty Cave is upon us. After much discussion, information searching, meetings, and comparison with other conservancies around us, we have decided to keep Misty Cave closed on a month to month basis, until a clearer picture of WNS emerges. Misty cave is an active and large hibernaculum and we do not want to take chances until we fully understand the risks. This is not an easy decision, nor was it unanimous. We are committed to continually assess current information and try to clear access as soon as possible.

However, PLEASE, don't let this keep you from donating to pay off the debt. The post-WNS caving world may look a lot different, and we may be depending more and more on our conservancies to secure access and permissions to cave. Paying off Misty as soon as possible allows RKC to grow and purchase more caves. Please give and continue to support Misty Cave, RKC, and Caving in general.

(Continued on page 9)



**INFORMATION CONCERNING
INDIANA KARST CONSERVANCY
PROPERTIES**

Mike Hood, IKC Representative

Dear IKC member,

As you likely know, White-Nose Syndrome is seriously impacting several species of bats in the east and is likely to spread as time goes on. It is too soon to tell how fast it will spread to major hibernacula in the Midwest, if an intervention can be formulated, or a natural response will slow or stop the disease. Regardless, federal and state agencies are reacting to the concerns. While some precautions and closures are warranted, some agencies are at a loss and are probably overreacting by closing down everything in an attempt to do something. It is too soon to judge if that is appropriate or necessary, but it is what it is.

The IKC, being an owner and manager of several caves, some purchased or managed for the protection of bats, while others focused on recreation or other resources, also needed to decide what is best for the bats in some situation, and what is reasonable for cavers in others. As such the IKC Board has been discussing and debating for over a month and have consulted with agencies and other land management organizations. With the winter closures at three of our caves ending May 1st, we wanted to have an appropriate decision for those caves and have it communicated to the various Grotto Liaisons (which we did last Friday). As such, the Board adopted the following policy:

"As a preventative measure for White-Nose Syndrome, the IKC will suspend 2009 summer visitation at Coon, Grotto, and Robinson Ladder caves except for approved scientific research. Access to other IKC managed caves will remain open with the added stipulation of practicing appropriate 'safe' cave gear/

clothing precautions."

So for the three bat caves, we have asked the Grotto Liaisons to suspend access for this summer (and I suspect this will be extended in the future). For the other caves owned or managed by the IKC, we think we are being responsible by simply asking all visitors to these caves to take precautions in making sure their gear and clothing are clean/decontaminated before visiting. This is especially true for any cavers who have caved in the 17 eastern states identified by the USFWS as being at potential risk for WNS. We hope to have more information posted on the IKC website soon, but there are already a number of good websites accessible from the NSS website on decontamination procedures and other recommendations to prevent transportation of fungus spores.

We don't anticipate any additional changes to our policies in the near future, but this whole WNS issue has been very dynamic, so it's difficult to predict the future.

Feel free to e-mail me or call me if you have additional questions or concerns. As always, we appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Keith Dunlap
Coon & Grotto Caves Patron
IKC Board Member



(RKC Update, continued from page 7)

Additionally - we are still looking for people to work on the Misty Cave Management Committee. The cave may be closed for a bit, but there are still info kiosks to build, parking areas to be made, trails to be cut. Contact me to add your name to the list - we have to pull this committee together soon!

GREAT SALTPETRE CAVE

The GSP management committee has elected to keep Great Saltpetre Cave open, in recognition of its value as an education and teaching cave much like Carter and Mammoth Caves. The RKC BOD fully supports this decision. Bob Dobbs has already led hundreds of school kids through the cave this year! You can gain entrance to GSP at any time by contacting any RKC board member or GSP committee member.

CORNHOLE ENTRANCE

On a much better note, RKC has signed a lease to rent the entrance and the surrounding lands of the Cornhole entrance to Goochland Cave from Mary Gratsch and Pete Miller!! Yahoo!!!

Mary is acting as the property manager and is pulling together a management plan now. Cornhole is a difficult and vertical cave, and has seen some high profile rescues, so expect a tighter criteria. However Mary has high plans to resurvey this cave, so expect to see trips as this project goes forward.

This means we have another cave to pay taxes and insurance - so, please, don't stint on those memberships and donations!!!

Much thanks goes out to Mary, Pete and Bob Yuelig who spent much time brokering this deal....

Please visit our site to keep up to date, and to join, renew and donate: www.rkci.org.

Howard Kalnitz
RKC Chairman



THE NSS WEB PAGE AWARD COMES TO AN END

By Mike Hood

At the suggestion of the NSS Web Page Award Sub-committee (which I was chairman of), the NSS Board of Governors eliminated this award at the Spring 2009 meeting. Over the past year, the award received no nominations and the committee felt the award had run its course. I established the award in 1998 while I was the NSS Operations Vice President and it was presented quarterly to two internal organization web sites based on criteria the committee used to judge the pages. After a two-year absence from 2000-2002, the award was started up again and became an official NSS award in 2003 (Act 43-737).

What you may not be aware of is that the Dayton Underground Grotto won the award four times, more than any other internal organization. We received the award in Jan-Mar 99 (the first time the award was given), Jan-Mar 03, Apr-Jun 04, and Jan-Mar 07. Andy Niekamp was our webmaster when we received these awards and is deserving of a well-earned "pat on the back" for his hard work in designing and maintaining an outstanding and award-winning web site.

Even though the award is no more, we can still proudly display our award on the DUG website forever!



(From the Chairman, continued from page 5)

date, location and topics that were to be discussed at the May E/C meeting. NO ONE that attended the meeting had problems with us raising the dues for people who receive a paper copy of the C/C. A vote of the 6 present E/C members was taken, and the proposal passed.

A DUG member then researched the by-laws and interpreted "Rule 2.a" as an improper assessment charge to the DUG members. Like this member, I am not an attorney and was not sure how the interpreted "Rule 2.a". So I got a professional review of Section 2 of the DUG by-laws. Listed in blue below is my lawyer's interpretation (see below).

"Dana,

Unless elsewhere in the rules it says that each member gets a free, paper copy of the newsletter, I don't see anything in here that would prohibit charging the \$5.00 to anyone who wants a hard copy sent to them. If the newsletter is sent electronically (which you said it was going to be), then I'd consider the five bucks as a voluntary contribution from anyone who requests a newsletter in paper-form, and the language below specifically states that voluntary contributions may be solicited for specific purposes. If someone doesn't want to pay it, then they only get the newsletter via email like everyone else...seems simple enough to me! Jana"

The DUG E/C is NOT violating the by-laws by charging \$5 to members who want a paper copy of the E/C. Starting 2010, DUG members who want a paper copy of the C/C mailed to them will be charged an additional \$5.

Prior to last weeks raise in postage it cost approximately \$7.50 to mail the C/C to each member. A new cost has not yet been figured, but rough math says its will cost DUG closer to \$9.00 per member for 2010. (That leaves less than half of your dues for the grotto to operated with and make donations.)

At one point someone stated they were upset that DUG was raising the dues so we had more money

to party with. That is another non-truth. Listed below is a list of the major expenses and events for the past couple year (please see below).

Wormfest 2006	\$281.52 profit
2007	\$160.27 debit
2008	\$108.30 profit
Xmas Party	\$71.80 profit
GRP	\$47.10 debit

Donations, Dues and Expenses:

2007	RKC \$500
	Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy \$25
	8 Rivers Safe Development \$700
	KSS \$50
	5 Rivers Adventure Summit \$25
	Anmar Mirza {fire} \$500
	IKC \$15
	John and Sue Rodefer \$100
	SCC \$15
	Survey Equipment \$307.54
	Jumpline for Website \$191.40
	SCCI \$15
2008	Richard Blenz Nature Conservancy \$25
	KSS \$125
	IKC \$15
	Vertical Equipment \$100
	SCCI {Tumbling Rock Cave} \$100
	Caving Rental Equipment \$213.40
	Web Hosting Account \$191.40
	5 Rivers Adventure Summit \$25
	Public Storage \$157.38
2009	Flash Drive for Courier \$62.01
	IKC \$15
	SCCI \$15
	GSP \$500
	5 Rivers Adventure Summit \$25

The \$500 to GSP is for the construction of the new composting toilet. GCG asked us for \$1,000 and said they would match our donation. The E/C thought \$1,000 was out of our budget and agreed to \$500 now, and \$500 as soon as we could raise the money.

Also not shown for 2009 is the budget we (E/C) agreed to in January (see below).

Rental Equipment \$200 (Andy South)
 Vertical section \$200 (Tama)
 Library \$100 (Dave Rice)
 Website 2010 \$200 (Roger June)

I have contacted other grottos. They are in the same shape as DUG. Its costing the majority of the dues money just to cover paper copies of their news letter. They are too do not want to raise dues, but it's inevitable.

I have several more supporting facts about why the E/C has voted to charge a few more dollars for paper C/C's. But at this point you are tired of reading, and I'm tired of typing. If I was not able to answer your questions, or address you concerns please contact me off list or call me.

Be "green," save a few bucks and go electronic *Carbide Courier*.

Dana Sutherland
 DUG Chairman

HUBER HEIGHTS KARST FEATURES

Mike Hood

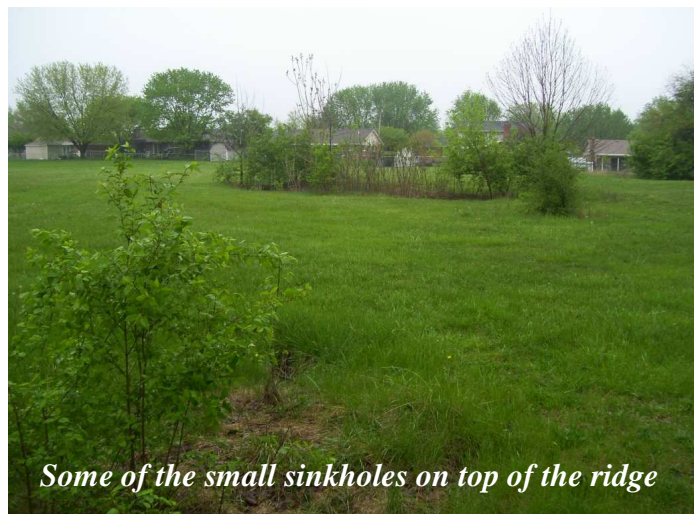
A year or so ago I received a call from someone who wanted to know if I knew about the caves that used to exist in Huber Heights. I told him I didn't and he then told me about stories his grandfather had told him about exploring small caves in Huber Heights when his grandfather was a boy (early 1920s). He said his grandfather told him they were covered over during the development of Huber Heights.

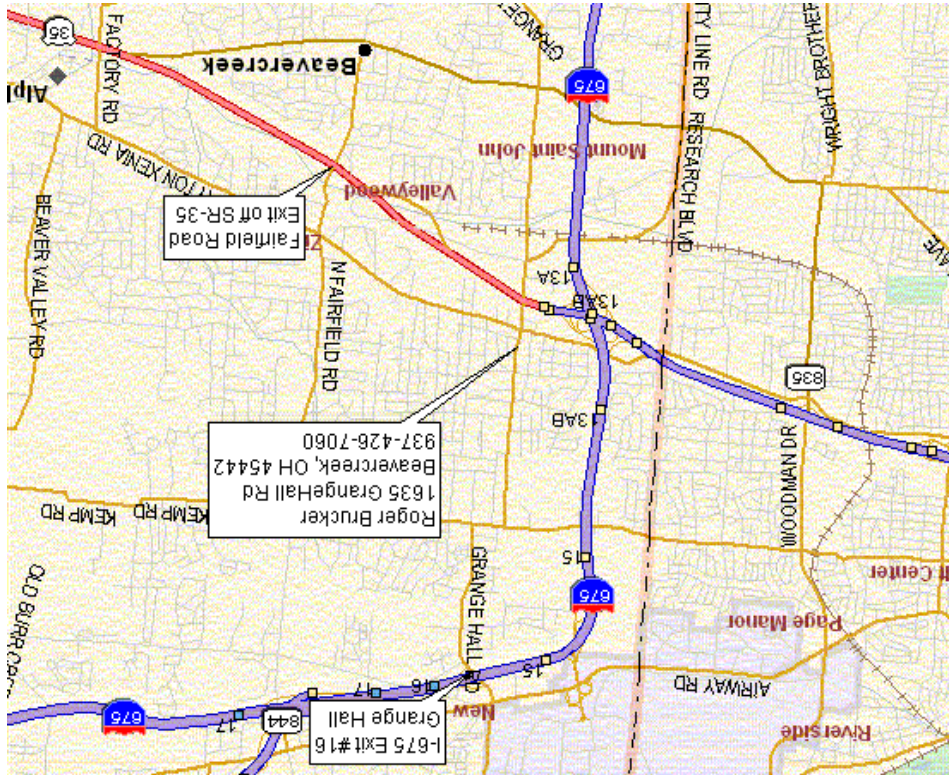
Fast-forward to May 2009. I received a call from Jerry Baker. He was intrigued about the stories of Joe Windows Kettering Cave and explained he is an avid mushroom hunter, as well as caver, and that he came across several small sinkholes and a rather large spring in Huber Heights while mushroom hunting.

He explained that while the sinkholes were small and did not contain any open passage, one did show some potential for open passage, though very small. However, he said some digging might actually open it up more. He also explained that all of the sinkholes channeled quite a lot of water into the ground after heavy rain.

Additionally, he said there was a large spring that was approximately 40 feet below the sinkhole plain and was in a direct line of the sinkholes. He was thinking there may be passage between the sinkholes and the spring.

We set a day for me to meet him so he could show me the sinkholes and spring. I will be writing the story about what we saw for the July edition of the *Carbide Courier*. Stay tuned...





**The Carbide Courier
C/O Mike Hood
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Riverside, OH 45431-1369**

FIRST CLASS

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