

The Speleograph

Lake Ozarks
Grotto

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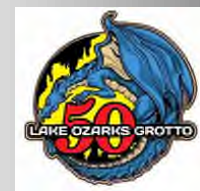


The Mysteries of Goodwin Pit

The Speleograph, a bi-yearly publication, is created by the Lake Ozarks Grotto. All articles and other information is donated by cavers and individuals who have an interest in caving.

For more information please visit us on the web:

www.lakeozarksgrotto.com



Cave men: Overnight in Jacob's Cave



This story originally appeared in the July/August 2022 issue of Missouri Life magazine.

Midnight. The astonishing pitch blackness inside this 48-million-year-old-cave was expected. But somehow it's still surprising. There's no gentle blue gleam from a digital screen. No ambient light seeping under a door, no hint of a glowing bedside clock.

Even more mesmerizing are the sounds in this always-midnight world 55 feet underground and a half-mile from the entrance. It's not a silent world. The rhythmic drips, plops, and plinks of calcium-laden water slowly creating and lengthening stalactites and stalagmites is a surprising though not annoying aural experience. And then there's Zeke, my tent-mate and nephew, sawing logs in his slumber, no doubt especially gratified with the outcome of our Scrabble rematch about three hours earlier. He was wise to bring noise-canceling ear buds based on my warning that I'd be snoring without my CPAP machine. (Thank you, sleep apnea.) He, however, failed to mention his impressive snoring acumen.

Here we are, tucked away in Jacob's Cave in Morgan County near Lake of the Ozarks, still several hours from sunrise—which the innards of this ancient cave have never seen. It's a constant 52 degrees, a few degrees cooler than most caves due to the dripping ceiling and walls, which produce noticeable humidity and a glint of gossamer armor, as if protecting the thick rock walls. Any sort of breeze, no matter how gentle, would make this environment unbearably cold, but Zeke and I are comfortable. Two guys chillin' in a cave. Is there a better way to spend a Friday night in the Ozarks?



The author, Jodie, left, and his nephew, Zeke, before pitching the tent.

By the way, the cave and surrounding land that hosts the popular and much-populated Jacob's Cave Swap Meet a few times a year is for sale. For a mere \$3.4 million, it can be yours—or mine. Jacob's Cave, located between Versailles and Gravois Mills off Highway 5 on State Road T, was the first commercialized cave in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

Cave owner Frank Hurley lives above the shop that opens into the cave. I offered to pay him \$1,000 as a down payment, if he'll carry the note. He laughed, declining my offer and terms to buy the cave that he has owned since 1965.

"I didn't know anything about caves or geology or anything like that until I came down here," Frank says. He was living in Iowa when he heard the cave was for sale in 1965. He's apparently done well with the cave and adds that the cave "has paid for itself at least twice."

KNOWN AS THE CAVE STATE

Missouri is known as The Cave State for good reason. It's not tops in the country for the number of caves—that title goes to Tennessee with more than 9,000—but the Show-Me State has more than 7,000. Those are the ones we know about. Guesstimates for undiscovered caves range from a few hundred to a few thousand. After all, caves are still forming and also collapsing, as they have done for millions of centuries.

Meramec Caverns near Sullivan is the state's longest cave with 4.6 miles of mapped caverns and passages.

By comparison, the longest cave in the United States and on the planet is Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, a system of caverns and passageways at least 420 miles long. Marvel Cave, which birthed Silver Dollar City in Branson, is the state's deepest cave at 500 feet.

I am familiar with one particular feature of Mammoth Cave: the so-called Bottomless Pit, a 105-foot-deep hole in the cave.

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My mother was certain that it would swallow up carefree six-year-old me when my family visited Mammoth Cave more than a half century ago. That experience was the key to sparking and unlocking my lifetime fascination. Considering the number of caves in Missouri, finding one for an overnight experience should have been a cinch, or so I thought. Ninety-eight percent of Missouri's caves are on private property. Only a handful are public. Most of us are familiar with commercial or show caves, from Bridal Cave at Camdenton, Fantastic Caverns (a drive-thru cave north of Springfield), the aforementioned Marvel Cave, and Onondaga Cave and Meramec Caverns, located just twenty-five miles apart in Crawford and Franklin counties, respectively.

With 68 known species of tiny invertebrates, bats, salamanders, and other critters, Onondaga Cave is perhaps the best example of a vibrant cave ecosystem. (Jacob's Cave has an abundant population of cave salamanders—blind of course—that eat algae in the stream that runs throughout the cave and on both sides of the concrete walkway.)

Missouri State Parks operates four of the Show-Me State's commercial caves: Fisher Cave at Meramec State Park, Ozark Caverns at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, and Onondaga and Cathedral Caves at Onondaga State Park.

Commercial caves, including Jacob's Cave, are inspected annually by the Missouri Department of Labor's Mine and Cave Safety and Health Section.



The shop at Jacob's Cave is built into the side of the hill. You have to enter the building to enter the cave.



Lighted display cases exhibit some of the fossils, minerals, and other prehistoric finds from Jacob's Cave.

CLOSED TO PROTECT BATS ... FROM US

Finding a cave for an overnight adventure was a difficult proposition if only because of the tiny, winged mammals that love this just-right climate: bats. An epidemic of white-nose syndrome—a fungus that has already killed millions of bats in the United States—and the endangered status of many bat species has put the kibosh on human activity in caves. It seems that we humans are one of the primary vectors for spreading the disease.

I had sought out a privately owned wild cave and initially eschewed commercial or show caves. The eight caves at the top of my list were all off-limits in compliance with a Missouri Department of Conservation request to keep humans out. Though often feared, bats are vital to humans for insect control and plant propagation and pollination (mostly in tropical climates). If you don't like mosquitoes, just imagine a world without bats.

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Jacob's Cave manager and chief tour guide Marvin Woolery, a mainstay of the cave operation since 2009, says there's rarely a bat in the cave, which has had a covered entrance through a gift shop since the 1940s. Yet during our visit, a lone brown bat, not more than a couple inches long, clings to a high ceiling. When I was scouting out caves for this adventure, seasoned spelunkers cautioned against sleeping unsheltered because bats, which can carry rabies, have been known to nip people without being noticed.

CONKED MY HEAD

Therefore, the tent is necessary, though only a couple of spots in Jacob's Cave afford space for erecting the canvas home. Our gear consists of the tent, Zeke's cot and chair, my zero-gravity chair/cot, my digital camera in its case, a tripod, a soft-sided cooler with snacks, bottled water and Diet Coke, and a bag of empty water bottles for, um, overnight "relief" if needed. (My GoPro camera, ready to strap onto my forehead to record our adventure, was useless without its memory card.)

I assured Marvin and Frank that they wouldn't know we'd been there, and we kept that promise.

In some ways, camping out in Jacob's Cave felt a bit like cheating the concept of an overnight cave experience, because it is fairly well-lit (we turned the lights off from 10 PM to 7 AM), the wide walkway is paved with concrete, and there are no twists and turns. When I was a young lad, I explored many caves along the Gasconade River at Mt. Sterling and near Vienna. My dad trembled when he found out, and he insisted I stop, telling me that one of his worst nightmares was based on the terrible reality of wanderlust luring some kids—and adults—into caves to become fatally lost in a labyrinth of tunnels. No such danger exists in Jacob's Cave. You'd have to be about two feet tall to squeeze into any tunnels, most of which only go about a hundred feet before petering out, Marvin says. He also warned a few times to "watch your head," because the ability to duck down while getting through some narrow gaps on the tour is paramount. Forgetting that edict, my only brush with danger was conking my head just before reaching our campsite about 30 feet from the back of the cave.



Zeke Assel, left, and Jacob's Cave manager and tour guide extraordinaire Marvin Woolery.

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STEPPING INTO A PREHISTORIC MUSEUM

The advantage of camping in Jacob's Cave is that we know where the light switches are. In some ways, the details, colors, and formations—and even the shadows—are more captivating with lantern or flashlight illumination. Marvin gave us a quick color-coded explanation of the formations, formally called speleothems. White represents calcite; black is manganese; red is iron oxide. Frank points out a rare type of fossilized coral—on the ceiling, of all places—as further evidence that Missouri was once covered by a massive sea that in prehistory stretched from the area between what is now Louisiana and Minnesota.

Also visible in the cave are six layers of flow stone that Marvin says represent six ice ages.

Zeke and I share “ooh” and “aah” retorts as Marvin points out the length of the ice ages, which geologists determine by studying the depth of the layers, and how the melting ice helped form the cave. There's also evidence of three major earthquakes, including the notorious New Madrid earthquakes of 1811 and 1812.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources website explains that caves share a basic formation story. Mildly acidic rainwater slowly enters porous bedrock, eroding limestone to form underground caverns, and continuing to drip and seep to form pencil-thin soda straw stalactites, flowstone, massive columns where stalactites and stalagmites meet, and sundry formations that are sometimes unique to specific cave systems. Missouri is well-known for this type of karst topography, which is especially critical to water quality for human consumption and also vulnerable to land development and other human activity.

Jacob's Cave opened as a tourist attraction in 1932, with wooden planks lining the muddy cave floor and kerosene lanterns providing light.

The gift shop has a wide selection of native minerals, mozarkite (the official state rock), geodes, galena (lead), and barite (tuff), as well as fossils, agates, crystals, and a selection of novelty gifts and souvenirs. Incidentally, barite and galena were the minerals for which Jacob Craycraft was prospecting when he discovered the cave in 1875.

Jacob's Cave is a living and prehistoric museum, with bones and fossils of mammoths, saber-toothed tigers, ancient bears, and peccaries found here. I was a bit disappointed that there are no legendary tales of hauntings here, though Marvin says some of the tour guides have reported seeing Jacob Craycraft as a thin man with a long, white beard.

“What if we see him?” I ask Frank. He replies, “Just say ‘hi’ and be nice.”

PLAYING SCRABBLE

After two trips to haul in our gear, squeezing and ducking to navigate narrow paths and to avoid prehistoric speleothems, we're tuckered out. We'll rest, set up the tent, then spend the evening and night—maybe all night?—exploring the cave and, of course, playing Scrabble.

That plan quickly evaporates, and we spend about ninety minutes catching up on each other's lives, talking about relationships and parenthood, and pining for one of our favorite shared interests: Major League Baseball. On this early March expedition, when teams should be halfway through the spring training schedules,

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the players are still locked out by team owners. We blame the owners for this debacle, yet have limited sympathy for the millions-of-dollars players. Zeke and I both favor the universal designated hitter. We're not so sure the infield defensive "shift" should be outlawed, and we agree on having a pitch clock to speed up the pace of the game.

Clearly, this game will be my death by two- and three-letter words, a skill Zeke honed in Iraq.

After getting the tent set up—taking extra care not to brush against prehistoric stalactites hovering over the top—we arrange our sleeping accommodations and return to our folding chairs. Maybe we'll do some exploring later, but now the top priority is a Scrabble rematch 20 years in the making.

Now for this belated introduction to my nephew, Thomas Ezekiel Assel, age 41. Though I am about 18 years older, we share uncanny similarities, the same questionable sense of humor, a love of words and language, a love of God and a cappella music, and an affinity for the ironies of life. I've only known him as "Zeke," though he eventually started using "Tom" in his late teen years, and that's the name most of his acquaintances call him. But it all sounds too grown up to me. And I'm adamantly opposed to growing up.

The author had a brief moment of shock when he saw the "eyes" just over this right shoulder—a reflection from the headlamp, not the haunting apparition of a saber-tooth tiger.



Sgt. Assel of the United States Marine Corps was deployed to Iraq for eight months in 2004. A night or so before he set off in July 2001 to learn Arabic at the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey in Monterey, California, we pulled an almost all-nighter, capped by an epic Scrabble game that I won by a score of 304-300—or something like that. It was the first—and only—time I'd beaten the brilliant wordsmith.

I've avoided a rematch for more than two decades.

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Zeke has come equipped with the Scrabble travel board and, of course, the Scrabble Player's Dictionary. In my mind, however, if Zeke spells a word, it's a word. On the other hand, I might get creative with my tiles and force a challenge from him. I'm on the defensive from the start, angling to keep Zeke from parlaying select tiles to extend a word on the board to become a double- or triple-score letter or word. The best I can do to start is spell "TAIL" for eight points. A stalactite drips on my neck. Maybe that's a terrible omen?

LOSING THE GAME

The Scrabble board is our sole focus. After spelling a few four-letter words—no, not *those* words—Zeke blocks me from using a triple-letter J. The maestro skillfully uses two tiles to spell three two-letter words on consecutive moves, almost filling the bottom right side of the board. Clearly, this game will be my death by two- and three-letter words, a skill Zeke honed in Iraq. I remember seeing a photo of him playing Scrabble with his unit in Husaybah, Iraq. Funny thing. Zeke said he was safe. But he was wearing his Kevlar helmet and flak vest, which I later learned was customary gear for when Iraqi forces were lobbing mortars their way. Our game is somehow almost neck-and-neck until he spells "KLEPTO" and pulls away for good. His moves are quick but deliberate. My moves are slow as calcite forming a stalactite.

"Are you just going to slow play me until I fall asleep and you declare victory?" he wonders. "Talk about needing a pitch clock." I protest his trash talkin', but I have no witty comeback—or the necessary letter tiles to make this a competitive game. In the end, the final word comes from Zeke. Considering the sounds of silence that will soon follow, his tiles produce another touch of irony.



Speleothems—the stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and flowstone formations—are emblematic of a cave's mystery and antiquity.

Zeke's final word is "NOISE." And it seals his crushing 373-254 victory.

Time to do some more exploring? Neither of us suggest that as the next step. The deep serenity, connectedness, and sacredness of this space are a drowsy mixture.

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Zeke turns off the lights, and we tuck ourselves in at 10 PM. I think he slipped into deep sleep by about the count of ten. I lie awake for the next two hours plus, entranced by the melody of drips, drops, and plinks, imagining this space millions of years ago. I'm also smiling with pride—is that a tear on my cheek or stalactite drop?—from spending this precious time with my tent-mate.

Snore away, you prince among men.

Visit [Facebook.com/MissouriLife](https://www.facebook.com/MissouriLife) to see the videos I made with Frank before going into the cave for the night and after emerging in the morning around 8:30 AM. (We wanted to be out of the way for the 9 AM to 4 PM tour times.) What started as a quest to spend 24 hours in a cave wound up as a 15-hour experience. I'd do it again, though I think a nap is on my itinerary when I get home.

Credit also goes to *Missouri Life* magazine freelance writer and life-time storyteller, Ray Speckman, who in a way greased the skids for me to select Jacob's Cave for this experience. Ray wrote a story about the Jacob's Cave Swap Meet for *MissouriLife.com*. Ray and his partner, Joyce, also arranged for us to eat breakfast at [Chances 'R'](#) in Laurie with a gift certificate from the restaurant. Let's just say that wonderful restaurant did the Lake of the Ozarks area and biscuits and gravy proud. The amount, quality, and price of the food was astounding, and I give it a 100 percent recommendation.

Jacob's Cave is ageless yet still growing. It continues to be a source of mystery, stories, exploration, and adventure, beckoning us to enjoy its splendor, while also pleading with us to acknowledge—and protect and preserve—its remarkable ecosystem.

May it still be such a source of amazement a million years from now. To learn more, visit [JacobsCave.com](https://www.jacobs-cave.com).

LOG BREAKDOWN:

Buzz Caldwell: Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.....Ben Franklin said that.....

Monica Long to Ken Long: You're blind in one eye and can't see out of the other....

Ken struggling with a wire puzzle- Frank had to show Ken how to get the heart off the wire...
(Ken had another birthday and now his coordination is off???)

Christen Easter on winning a set of 3 magnetic bats: One doesn't play well with others....

Burke Easter: Christen didn't take the bats down.

Christen Easter: I did take the Halloween down.....

Burke Easter: I have a man cave downstairs...

Christen Easter: It's a room.....

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A sinkhole discovered Wednesday, August 17, 2022, in front of Doctor's Landscaping in the Sunrise Beach area of Lake of the Ozarks.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (KMIZ)

A lane of a state highway in the Sunrise Beach area was closed Wednesday while crews filled a sinkhole near the road.

The Missouri Department of Transportation closed a lane of Route TT in front of Doctor's Landscaping to fill the hole, which was discovered Wednesday morning, the Sunrise Beach Fire Protection District said. The hole is about 10 feet wide, the district said. MoDOT crews found its depth ranged from 18 to 24 feet.

MoDOT will use special scanners Thursday to determine whether more work is needed after filling the hole with rock, according to a fire district news release. It wasn't known how long MoDOT crews would be at the scene.



Volunteers discover new room while mapping Devils Icebox Cave

CLAUDIA RIVERA COTTO Oct 6, 2022



A volunteer from the Missouri Speleological Survey looks up on Saturday Oct 1 at the devils icebox cave in Columbia, Mo. More sections of the devils icebox cave were found during the survey.

Five groups of volunteers from the Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) canoed the waters from the Devil's Icebox and explored its unmapped passages in one of the most extensive efforts yet to add to the cave's map published in 1960. In the process of mapping, one of the groups went through a hole and discovered a room they could stand in. The room was decorated with a number of sparkly calcite deposits and a "pool" of water with deposits surrounding it and crystals growing around the edges.

The "pool" found in the room, named Crystal Flats Palace, is a "very delicate, very special" finding, said Roxie Campbell, the park naturalist at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. Usually every fall and spring, a smaller group of volunteers from the Cave Institute researches inside the caves. Past efforts to map more areas of the cave have been minimal compared to what happened last Saturday, said Campbell, who has

worked around 30 years at the park. "Jeffrey Crews (former MSS president) has been working on this survey for a couple of years but, with very limited access to this cave, it has been slow going," the survey read. This time, 25 volunteers and staff divided their tasks to include the extensive passages on the map. Some guest keepers sketched and drew with symbols and legends when navigating the passages, while others used instruments to compass bearings and get distance measurements, Campbell said. The data was then uploaded to a software to map the additional several hundred feet of passages. "We were fortunate that they came to our location last Saturday and spent their time and talent to do this mapping for us," she added.

The total reported footage of the cave now, including the dive survey, is 6.79 miles, Jeffrey Crews, a geologist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, said in an email. The Devil's Icebox Cave is the seventh longest in Missouri out of 7,000 caves.

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In the room discovered during the latest survey, the volunteers saw two spotted salamanders, which is very rare, Campbell said. “Caves don’t usually have many animals, finding two in a room is unusual,” she said. Among the animals found at the Devil’s Icebox are grey bats, with an estimate of five to six thousand, revealed by a video monitoring the cave this summer. The cave is also home to an endemic flatworm, the pink planarian, which is not found to live anywhere else in the world except Devil’s Icebox. The information obtained during the research and mapping is stored in the geology office of the Department of Natural Resources.

“It is something that can be referenced for many years to come,” Campbell said.

The mapping also serves for the public to visualize the passages of Devil’s Icebox, since the cave is now closed to the public to protect the safety of wildlife and visitors, she added.

Visitors can still access Connor’s Cave, which is to the left of the cave entrance and goes back about 160 feet. Campbell said she would like to host MSS again for several years until all the passages known get mapped. Any volunteers interested in project mapping at Devil’s Icebox or other major Missouri caves can [contact MSS for volunteer opportunities](#). New cavers specifically interested in Devil’s Icebox can contact Rock Bridge State Park about joining the [Cave Institute program](#).



A volunteer paddles a kayak at the Devils Icebox in Columbia, Mo. Five groups of volunteers from the Missouri Speleological Survey paddled the waters from the devils icebox and explored its unmapped passages is one of the most extensive efforts yet to add to the caves map published in 1960

Cave Clippings by Dwight Weaver

April 1, 1934

Why not revert to speakeasy's and start a real cave man's club in the lake area. We've got the caves. All we need is the men. There's Flanders Cave, Aurora Cave, Vernon Cave, Jacob's Cave and Wilson's Cave that could be used to cavort around in -- **Lake of the Ozarks News**

May 20, 1948

EXPLORERS SURPRISED BY DISCOVERY OF CAVE

Persons exploring a cave northwest of Camdenton near Lake of the Ozarks recently were astonished to see a 2-inch iron pipe extending down through the roof of the cavern and reaching on through the floor. Investigation disclosed that it was the pipe from a well sunk by the conservation commission to furnish water for its lookout tower in that vicinity. The well pipe was sunk a few hundred feet and by chance passed through the main chamber of the cave. — **Eldon Advertiser**

Jan 4, 1951

FIVE BOYS EXPLORE CAVES ON NIANGUA

(According to) Mrs. Raymond Sullens of Eugene, who writes our *Locust Mound* news, reports (that) five boys of the community made a thrilling exploration of two caves along the Niangua River south of Camdenton last Sunday. They were James Jenkins, Dale Alexander, Bob Fishburn and Ralph and Liege Enloe. To explore the caves, the boys had to lay flat on the ground much of the time and crawl for quite a distance. They stepped across crevices where they couldn't see bottom and traveled along ledges where a false move could have meant a serious fall. The boys went prepared for exploring the unknown. Each carried lights, reserve fuel and twine to trail behind them so they couldn't get lost. They reported seeing thousands of bats but they didn't bother them as they were in their hibernating stage. — **Eldon Advertiser**

COMMENTS: *Speakeasy's?* What a despicable was to sully a cave. *Well pipe?* Sounds like this cave was close to Bridal Cave, which was opened to the public in 1948. But what cave was it? *Caves on the Niangua.* There are a lot of caves in the hills and bluffs along the Niangua. The fact that they didn't disturb the bats was good. Taking along the twine ranks them as amateurs and such twine was often left behind by early day explorers to the detriment of caves.

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LOG Minutes

July 12th , 2022

The July meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, in the meeting room at Stark Caverns, Eldon, MO.

Roll Call. Eight members present: Buzz Caldwell, Ken Long, Linda Marg, Craig Smith, Karen Weaver, Rosie Weaver, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

Memorial Bench: The bench cost \$103.86. Now waiting for Christen Easter to get the sizes of the plaques so we can decide the wording. Christen was unable to attend the meeting because of car trouble.

Grotto T-shirts/Sweatshirts: Design was sent to Kelsey, waiting on her to do the next step.

Cave-O: Chairman Long reported on a call from Frank Hurley about the possibility of buying the rights to the game or going in with others to produce the game for sale. He wanted every member to vote on it. Consensus at this meeting was that the game belonged to the Zumwalts and the members would not vote to do something with it.

Carroll Cave: Chairman Long reported that the CCC has merged with MCKC and control of Carroll is now with the MCKC. A statement was read with the details.

Kiesewetter Cave: Chairman Long reported that a group from KCAG and Chouteau went there for a trip on June 25th , which resulted in them breaking a key off in one of the locks.

Chairman Long gave them permission to break the lock and went there on July 28th to put a new lock on the gate.

Some discussion on Jim Henry Rock House, led by Buzz.

Speleograph: Chairman Long said the deadline for the next issue is Dec. 15th . He needs articles from everyone.

Goodwin: Chairman Long said the next work day is tentatively scheduled for the end of the month.

Craig led a discussion on Bartlett Mill Spring, Pulaski Co., close to Waynesville.

Meeting adjourned. – respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

August 9th , 2022 – Meeting canceled.

September 13th , 2022

The September meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, in the meeting room at Stark Caverns, Eldon, MO.

Roll Call. Nine members present: Buzz Caldwell, Christen Easter, Ken Long, Linda Marg, Craig Smith, Karen Weaver, Rosie Weaver, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt.

The minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.

Grotto T-shirts/Sweatshirts: Christen showed the emblem on some material swatches of gray and white. Most agreed that it looked better on the gray. Kelsey had told Christen that if we used t-shirts that she had on hand, they could cost around \$5. It was agreed that we need a price on what sweatshirts would cost before asking people to commit to an order.

Memorial Bench: The bench is in its place in front of the cave entrance. Christen needed to measure the slats on the benches to see what size plaques we would need. Then, we need to decide on the wording. Goodwin. Chairman Long reported on a work day on August 19th where they had pumped water out of the cave and did work at the site. Elizabeth Sutherland, Klaus Leidenfrost & Jean Knoll were also there. Chairman Long put doors on the new pavilion.

Sunrise Beach sinkhole – Discussion on the sinkhole.

MSS Liaison – Some highlights were read of the current issue: Stark Caverns – longest surveyed cave in Miller County at 4,211 ft. Bob Lerch reported on Johnson Cave in Camden Co. at an estimated cave length of 25 ft. Joe Light reported on the dog rescue in Berome Moore Cave. Alex Litsch reported survey work in Carroll Cave.

Missouri Speleology – Buzz Caldwell said he was impressed by Vol. 65 – Bear Hollow Cave, Stories of Cave & Karst by Tom Aley.

Grotto Xmas party - Christen Easter volunteered to have the party at her house on Dec. 4th . Discussion on Stark Caverns.

Meeting adjourned. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

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October 11th , 2022

The October meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, in the meeting room at Stark Caverns, Eldon, MO.

Roll Call: Seven members present - Christen Easter, Ken Long, Craig Smith, Karen Weaver, Rosie Weaver, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Memorial bench. It was decided that "In Loving Memory" & "Lake Ozarks Grotto" would be put on the top plaque. The other plaques would have the name with birth & death year. A motion was made by Gary to authorize Christen Easter to buy the plaques. Seconded by Rosie. Passed unanimously.

Goodwin. Chairman Long said the next work trip was scheduled for October 22nd , weather permitting. He reported that Klaus, Jean and he had done maintenance work on the site on October 5th .

Speleograph. Chairman Long said he needs articles for the next issue due out the end of the year.

Grotto Elections will be at the November meeting.

LOG T-shirts & sweat shirts. Christen reported that Kelsey is ready to work on them but Christen did not have the cost. Kelsey needs to know sizes but we need to have the costs so we can let members know so they can order what they want. They will all be gray, choice of t-shirt, pullover hoodie, zip-front sweatshirt and regular sweatshirt.

The LOG trip into Stark Caverns on the commercial trail is tentatively planned for the Spring, possibly the April meeting. Chairman Long will check with staff.

There was discussion on several caves. Chairman Long brought up the MCKC meeting which will be at Carroll Cave, newly acquired by MCKC from the CCC. Several caves are going to be featured for trips, including Kiesewetter and Goodwin Sink.

The Fall MSS meeting was held at Rockbridge with mapping done in the Devil's Icebox to add onto the 1950's survey done by George Deike. There may be a return next year for the meeting to be at Rockbridge.

The next MSS meeting will be in March at the Geological Survey

in Rolla as the first choice. If not there, it could be held at a room at the University.

Meeting adjourned. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

Nov. 8th , 2022

The November meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, in the meeting room at Stark Caverns, Eldon, MO.

Roll Call: Seven members present - Christen Easter, Ken Long, Linda Marg, Karen Weaver, Rosie Weaver, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved.

Election of Officers. After much discussion on the future of the grotto, a motion was made by Rosie to re-elect the officers for another year, seconded by Karen. Motion passed.

Chairman Long announced that Eric Hertzler will be the new Bridal Cave Manager. Steve Thompson is retiring.

Memorial Bench. Christen will purchase the plaques for the bench. The top plaque will read: On the first line – In Loving Memory; second line – Lake Ozarks Grotto. Additional plaques will feature the names: H. Dwight Weaver 1938-2020; Wm. (Bill) Pfantz 1940-2020; Kerry Rowland 1957-2019.

Grotto Apparel. Christen reported on the prices: for sizes S-XL - t-shirts \$5.00; LS t-shirts \$10.00; regular sweatshirts \$15.00; pullover hoodie \$20.00; zip-front sweatshirt \$22.00. For 2X & larger – add \$2.00 more to each item. A flyer will be sent out so members can order what they want and be able to pick up at the grotto Xmas party.

Grotto Xmas Party. The party will be at Christen's house at Camdenton. They will have less seating than before so people are encouraged to bring folding chairs if they have them. A list to sign up for food was passed around. The party will start at 1 p.m. We will eat at 2 p.m., followed by games with prizes.

Goodwin. Chairman Long reported a maintenance work trip on Oct. 22nd attended by Craig Smith, Elizabeth Sutherland, Klaus Leidenfrost, Jean Knoll, Ken & Monica Long.

Grotto trip into Stark Caverns is planned for the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

The Speleograph

LOG Christmas Party – 2022

This year's annual Christmas party for Lake Ozarks Grotto was held on December 4th at the home of Burke & Christen Easter, where the party has been held since 2009. A big thank you for hosting the party for so many years and allowing us to return for another year. I am thinking that this year was a bit more burdensome since Burke had to bring the huge dining table upstairs from downstairs..... Sorry....

Frank Hurley was the first to arrive at the party, followed by Travis & Kathy Zumwalt, Gary & me.

It wasn't long before others started to arrive. We had a total of 19 people in attendance. Others in

attendance were: Ron & Lorely Lather, Ken & Monica Long with Grandchildren – Wyatt (10), Jack (8),

& Rian (3), Linda Marg, Craig Smith, Rosie & Karen Weaver. Kelsey, from Roubidoux Grotto and friend

of Christen, who is doing LOG's t-shirts and sweatshirts was also in attendance.

The neighbor had left his chickens out and the kids enjoyed feeding, petting & holding the

chickens. It did keep them out of mischief until time to eat. Ken had brought his Habanera jelly, cream cheese & crackers. I think my ears are still smoking....

Burke did a fine job of carving the turkey. Everyone else brought dishes to add to our buffet. It was all good.... If anyone went away hungry, it was their own fault.

Ken thanked Burke & Christen for hosting the party and there was a big round of applause. Next on the agenda were gag gifts for Ken, since he had just had a birthday the day before. The Weavers & the Zumwalts had special gifts for him and he managed to get tangled up in the one from Frank! The gag gifts were followed by the usual gift of hot sauces, this time I hope they will be the hottest – burn



Playing Cave-O



More Cave-O fun

your butt, Ken! The t-shirts & sweatshirts, pre-ordered by members, were passed out. Everyone seemed to be pleased with the work that Kelsey had done.

The first game was the left/right game, which had previewed at last year's party. It replaced the dice game that we used to do and is more suitable for us older people. Small gifts were passed out to

each person. I read the story while participants sent their little gifts left and right as the story called

for. Gary kept saying the story was too long. And there might have been some confusion as to what

was right and what was left! At the end of the story, everyone got to keep the gift they had ended up

with. Next was Cave-O. I called out the words with less heckling than I usually get.

Cute little Rian was

saying the words after me. She will have a totally new vocabulary for pre-school..... Hopefully, the Grandparents will take the blame for that! I couldn't help being a little sad that Dwight, Bill & Kerry were no longer with us. I missed Dwight correcting my pronunciation of barite, Bill continuously asking me to repeat the word, and Kerry's remarks about "sea caves."

We played three games of regular Cave-O with the winners being: Burke (2), Craig (2), Frank, Karen, Kathy (2), Ken, Lorely, Ron & Rosie. We did a black-out game with 5 winners: Wyatt, Lorely, Christen, Travis & Rian. Karen had donated a 3D dragon which was really unique. Ken & Monica had donated 3 sets of 3 bats which they had made – awesome prizes! Everyone was given a choice of a red or green pencil with bats on it. Ken insisted on a group picture. It took a while to get everyone in a group and then get the camera set up to take the picture.

It was getting very warm in the room since Burke had a fireplace on the large TV screen and it was putting out a lot of heat.....or was that a mind trick???

The Speleograph

Everyone gathered up their stuff and headed out the door. It had been a good party with lots of good food and lots of laughs to end the grotto year with. Here's looking to a good year for the grotto in 2023 – Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year to all! – Alberta Zumwalt

