

The Speleograph

Lake Ozarks
Grotto

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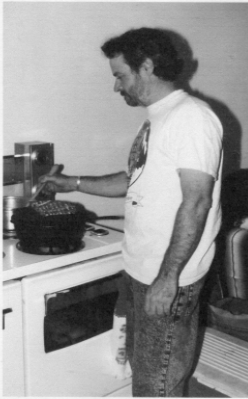
Gary Zumwalt at the entrance to Kiesewetter Cave

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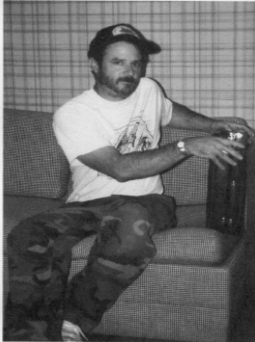
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Photos from the past



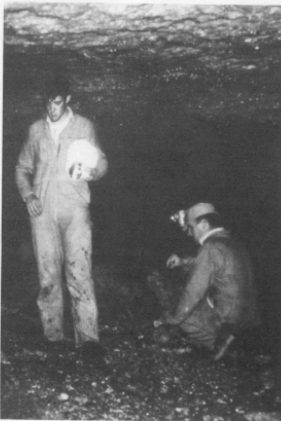
HERE IS DON TOOLE —THE CHEF. (Tip: he doesn't skin his potatoes. He cruelly cooks them skin and all.) HERE IS DON TOOLE—THE MUSICIAN. We're probably the only non-critical audience he has ever had. And HERE IS DON TOOLE about to show us his CAVE ETCHINGS. He makes a nice substitute for the devil at Halloween. His alter ego in hell is HAROLD!



(L to R) ROSS HURLEY, BILL HALE, FRANK HURLEY.



BACK ROW (L to R) DAVE SANDLIN, MORRIS HALL, ROSS HURLEY
MIDDLE (L to R) BILL HALE, FRANK HURLEY (CHILD NO ID)
BOTTOM (L to R) DWIGHT WEAVER, JIM PHILLIPS, NO ID
Photos from the 1970s

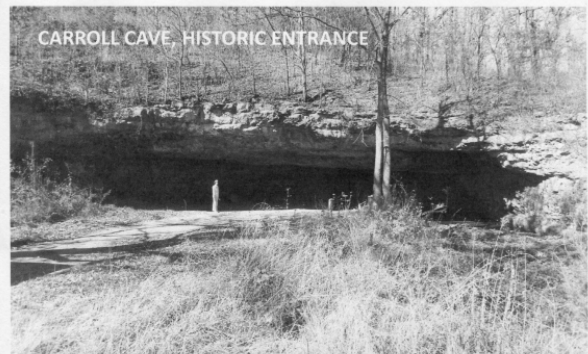


JAMES RAMBO
(Standing)
FRANK HURLEY
(Kneeling)

In Schoolhouse Cave in Camden County. James learned safe caving and learned not to trust an old rope somebody had left hanging from a cave entrance. His accident was at HaHaTonka .

FRANK HURLEY (left)
ELAINE RAMBO (right)

Looking up at the spectacular domes in Windermere Cave. These two caves were from the first field trip sponsored by the club in 1967.



CHARLIE CARROLL
1956. Unfortunately he died a few years later in a tractor accident.



Person on left is standing very near where Charlie Carroll had a holding pen in the exiting cave stream where he could put his milk cans. The milk truck could pull into the cave to pick them up.

The Speleograph

IN TOP PHOTO AT RIGHT — **MORRIS HALL** (on left) before he knew he was going to be a geologist. Photo taken at Stark Cavers. To his right is **MARK LAWENCE**, who grew up near Stark Caverns.



IN THIS PHOTO IS (L to R) **BILLIE CAMPBELL** and his wife **BERNICE** waiting their turn to crank the handle of the mimeograph machine one night when we were working on one of our publications.



AT A MEETING OF THE GROTTTO (L to R) - **LORELY LATHER**, **BILL PFANTZ** and **RICK WALK**. The photo was taken when the grotto was having meetings in the Community Room of Bank of Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach



IN APRIL 1985, Dwight Weaver was flown to Washington DC to shake hands with President Ronald Reagan and accept the 1985 Volunteer Action Award in behalf of Missouri cavers for all their work recording, exploring and mapping Missouri caves. The MSS is the only caving group in the nation to ever win such an award from a sitting president. In **Middle Photo**



Dwight & Tex Yokum with the wives of some Congressmen. **Bottom photo**, Dwight wears the award metal. It is kept by the MSS at Rolla and displayed on special occasions.

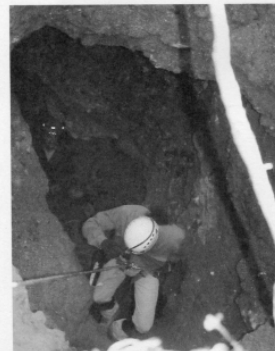


In May 2006 LOG learned of a new pit that had opened up in the hills south of Stark Caverns. Above part of our crew..



LOG president Ken Long prepares to drop the new pit.

Over the lip and down a caver goes. To what?



LEFT—Descending. At the bottom 25-30 feet down was a short unstable passage.

BOTTOM LEFT—Ron Lather, after dropping the pit.

BOTTOM RIGHT—Ken Long after dropping the pit. Muddy but happy. They must return some day to see if the pit has stabilized and grown.





AZURE POOL in the LEFT FORK of CARROLL CAVE.



PREPARING FOR THE TRIP OVER THUNDER RIVER FALLS, February 1957. CAVER SITTING IS DR. OSCAR HAWKSLEY.



WATERFALL RIGGED HAWKSLEY BEGINS THE DESCENT. WHEN THIS DESCENT WAS MADE ALL OF THUNDER RIVER WAS VIGIN CAVE.



HAWKSLEY MAKES THE PLUNGE IN A POWERFUL FALL OF WATER—NO WET SUIT.



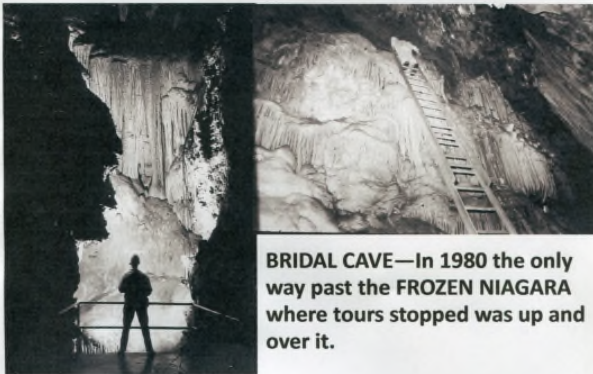
HAWKSLEY ON THE LAKE BELOW. AN INFLATABLE BOAT TIED TO A ROPE WAS TOSSED DOWN AHEAD OF HIM.



AT THE TIME OF HAWKSLEY'S DESCENT the water in the lake below was shallow except at the plunge pool.



WHEN LOG BEGAN THE EXPLORATION OF BRIDAL CAVE THERE WAS BEAUTY BEYOND THE FROZEN NIAGARA THAT MOST CAVERS AND THE PUBLIC HAD NEVER SEEN.



BRIDAL CAVE—In 1980 the only way past the FROZEN NIAGARA where tours stopped was up and over it.





THE FIRST UNDERGROUND LAKE in Bridal Cave is in Mystery Lake Chasm. A few years following LOG's exploration work the cave's ownership and management began new development and carried it to the lip of this chasm. This is where today's visitors stop but the cave and it's beauty goes on. The rope in the photo supports a cable ladder LOG used to get down to the lake.



UPPER LEFT—Looking down at Mystery Lake.

TOP—Dwight Weaver descends to an inflatable raft on Mystery Lake.

LEFT—Gary Zumwalt and Scott Jenkins on Spirit Lake before their historic dive of the siphon.



LOG EXPLORES THE BEAUTY OF CRYSTAL LAKE CAVE - The entrance is in a sinkhole. **BELOW**—Bob Gitchell at the cave entrance.



LAKE OZARKS GROTTO
MEMBERS, SPOUSES and SEVERAL OFF SPRING
2016
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING OUR 50 ANNIVERSARY

Goodwin Workday – April 28th, 2019

Up at 5 am, on the road to Goodwin shortly after 6 am. A quick stop in Osage Beach for our McDonald's sausage muffin and we were on the road again. The weather forecast for the day was sunny and warm. We pulled up to Goodwin to cloudy, windy and cold.... Klaus Leidenfrost and Ken Long were already there. Ken had the porta potty that was donated by LOG member, Jason Synder, on the back of his truck. It had been delivered to Ken's workplace and he transported it to the sinkhole. We had our trailer with the cedar posts and tin for the tool shed.



Ken started witching from the new hole that was found when the big machine tried to make a new road into the sink. Klaus assisted Ken, who announced that he had witched a void 30 ft. wide. Gary started on the tool shed, digging the holes for the posts first. Klaus cut up a tree that was broken off and leaning over the fence. Ken did some weed eating. Jean Knoll arrived and set up her area to warm up some monkey bread, make baked beans and a dessert. Klaus and Jean made a campfire which felt good with the cool air and cloudy weather. Klaus decided to burn one of the brush piles that were piled up on a previous trip.



As the sun came out and the wind had calmed down, we were glad to see the arrival of four MST students from Rolla:

Elizabeth Sutherland, Samantha Beadle, Andrew Miller and Brannon Schroeder. Gary was still working on the tool shed. One of the students, assisted by Ken, dug the hole for the porta potty. The other students helped Klaus on the other side of the sinkhole,

where the brush pile was burning. When the hole was ready, all of the students helped Klaus and Ken transport the potty to its new home, not an easy job but they got it done. Ken anchored the potty in place with re-bar and put dirt around the bottom. He even donated the first roll of toilet tissue. Gary donated a plastic coffee can to put the tissue in. Then Klaus, Jean and the students worked on moving a woodpile, which netted a huge spider on one of the logs. Working on another area, a snake was discovered. Now, they've found my two least favorite things – spiders and snakes...Ken continued to do more weed eating. Gary was still working on the tool shed. The students, under the direction of Klaus, put down black matting for a trail from the Goodwin gate area all the way to the pavilion and even the potty area. Jean had brought a plastic wheelbarrow which they used to transport chat from the pile outside the gate onto the trail area.



The Speleograph

At some point, Ken stopped to grill hamburgers. I ended up grilling the brats since Gary was still working on the tool shed. And you ask – what was I doing all this time? Well, I was taking pictures, of course. A hard job but someone has to do it, right? Well, grilling has never been my job at home so this was a learning curve. Between fire flaring up and the smoke in my eyes, it was a rough



situation. Ken offered advice, mainly to put the lid back on so the fire would cease to burn the brats! I guess it could have been worse, I could have been doing the hamburgers, too. Then I would have to watch two grills... The hamburgers and brats got done. Jean had her baked beans ready and everyone stopped to have lunch. Jean had made a chocolate cake & cherries dessert in her dutch oven which was really good. Gary had made chocolate chip cookies.

After lunch, the students went back to putting chat on the trail. Gary went back to working on the tool shed with Ken assisting. Gary had brought the generator to cut the tin. Gary had made the door at home so all he had to do was hang it. They put the roof on the tool shed. We were all so excited to finally have a tool shed! Klaus, Jean, Ken and I got busy putting things in the tool shed. Gary caulked the holes in the tin roof of the pavilion and the tool shed. The students were still working hard to get the trail done.



After the students finished with the trail, Klaus went with them down to the entrance of the cave. I looked down into the sinkhole from the pavilion area. The cave looked so inviting! What a grand entrance! When Klaus and the students got back up to the pavilion, we took group pictures. It had been a good day. A lot had been accomplished. Thanks to the students for all of their hard work. It looks like a park with the neat trail going to the pavilion, past the new tool shed and back to the potty.

Ken weed eaten all of the grass. Everyone worked to clean up the area. There is still more to be done. But for now it's an awesome place!

-Alberta Zumwalt



Cave Clippings by Dwight Weaver

April 1, 1934

Why not revert to speakeasys 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 that 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: *Speakeasys?* 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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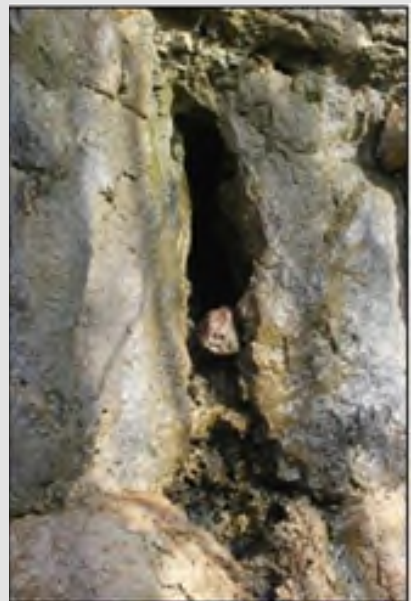
Hatchery Road trip

April 7th, 2019 - Up at 5:30 am, big day planned. Ken Long had a woman that wanted her property checked for caves. We left the house at 7 am, knowing that there were probably going to be two stops before we met Ken. The first stop was in Versailles at McDonalds for our dollar menu sausage muffin. The second stop was in Stover at Casey's for apple fritters. Now we were ready to meet Ken at the intersection of Hwy M and Hatchery Road. It was a short drive to the woman's house. When we arrived, she had the hood up on her car. Ken asked her if she was also a mechanic and she said, "No." She explained later that she had some minor problems with the car, mainly with the battery. She told us about the areas that she wanted us to check. She was quite chatty. Then she hopped in with Ken and we followed in our truck, down her driveway to a field. We walked along the field, eyeing the rocks



along the short bluff. She showed Ken and Gary two holes that she said there were times when one could feel air coming out of them. Shining flashlights in, the holes were too small to enter. She proceeded to take us over to where a little creek was flowing. She said that it never dries up. So the deduction was that it was maybe overflow from the springs feeding the hatchery above. Now, we were headed the opposite direction along a taller bluff. She was talking full throttle all the way. There were several small holes in the bluff. Ken stopped to look into a couple of them. Then Gary concentrated on a narrow hole with water coming out of it. Shining his flashlight into it, he said it looked promising but again, was much too small to enter. One area looked like a huge tree and some soil had slid down the bluff a long time ago. It was very interesting. Farther on, she continued to talk, now picking up rocks all along the way and telling us that they had been carved on by Indians. She started pointing out hearts, wings, and other things. We checked out another

area and then started back to the trucks, stopping at the place Gary had found with the water running out of the hole. We did notice a place in the rock face that looked like a hand about head high or more. It didn't look natural. Ken's hand fit right into the indentations in the rock. There was another place nearby that didn't look natural either. We were wishing Bill Pfantz were here to look at this. Ken told her about Bill and his ability to read such things. He suggested she go to our website and click on his link. Back at the trucks, we proceeded back up to the house. Now we were walking across her yard, past the original house on the property, to the top of the bluff, directly up from the place we had been looking at below. Ken had his witching rods and started across the grass. The rods were showing a void directly in line with the area that looked promising.





Now, she wanted to show us the rock on the bluff top that was perfect to sit on. And it was! Ken perched himself on the rock like a king on a throne She was still picking up rocks and talking non-stop when we got back to the house. She had more rocks to show us. Ken got her email address and I got her address so I could send her some of the pictures that I took. She was grateful that we came to check out her farm. She had told us that she had contacted several different sources and no one would come and look at her property.

We felt sure there was a cave there but no way to get into it at this time. She will be watching for changes in the area. It had been a good day! – Alberta Zumwalt

Kiesewetter Work day - February 22nd, 2019



Gary & I arrived on the scene at 9:10 with Ken Long right behind us. We took a walk down the gravel bed of the little creek to look where Ken proposed a small campground and a gate to the road. This seemed a better entrance than the present one. Back to the trucks to gather our equipment. Gary had borrowed a small generator from Travis, a long, wooden handle inserted into the top enabled two people to carry it. Gary also had a backpack. I had my camera bag. Ken had three cases of tools, etc. We made our way to the fence just as Christen Easter arrived with two left hand gloves, that didn't even match... Luckily, Ken had an extra pair of gloves which she put on over her misfits.

Ken, Gary & Christen rotated on carrying the generator, along with a couple cases. I carried my bag and one of the cases. It was slow going, as the trail uphill to the cave was steep, covered in snow. I brought up the rear. It also started to drizzle, lightly and the air felt cold. The cave had icicles hanging down in the entrance. Ken tried to get the lock on the gate out. He was lying on his back. Then he sat up and tried to no avail. Gary tried and the lock came right out...

Ken & Christen worked on trying to get the new lock in but the shank was too long. Gary started the little generator on the outside of the cave and now they were all behind the gate.... Here was my opportunity.... But I was good.

The Speleograph

Gary worked the grinder, sparks flying, trying to get some of the metal cut off the lock box. More grinding.... With the grinding done, no job is ever complete without a shot of WD40! Gary told me to shut off the generator, the white button next to the red button. I made my way out of the entrance to the generator. I see the red button but no white button. By then, he is yelling at me and I can't hear a word he is saying because the generator is still running. Then I see flashing lights coming from inside the cave entrance which was no help at all...More yelling. More flashing lights. I finally looked on the other side of the generator and there was a white button. Ah, ha! The generator is off!



Ken would have to make a return trip with a different lock with a shorter shank. So on to the little black box that would be installed on the side wall of the cave in front of the cave gate. Ken worked on putting the bolts into the wall. Gary helped him get them secure. Gary went to move the generator part of the way down the hill. Christen assisted Ken in mounting the black box on the wall. He folded a cave map that he had laminated and put it in the box. The finishing touch was putting the combination lock on the box.

Picking up any tools left inside

the gate, Ken then put the bar back into place on the gate so the old lock could be put on. Ken said it would only take Christen 20 seconds to get the lock in. She tried and tried but could not get the lock in the hole. Finally, she asked Ken if he had the bar in the right place. He adjusted it and Christen had the lock in place in just a couple seconds.



With the project for the day finished, we all started the walk down the hill which had now become slushy and slick. The project had taken a short two hours. It had been a good day. Christen left first to make sure that she didn't get stuck. Ken followed Christen. Gary & I took up the rear and we all headed home.--Alberta Zumwalt



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April 9th, 2019

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

Roll Call. Fifteen members present.

The December minutes were read and approved.

Chairman Long asked Chaz Jesiolowski if the grotto would have to start paying to meet in their meeting room. He said no. Chaz reported on the mapping being done inside the cave. He said that Bill Gee was doing a great job and the teams had almost all mapped on the path. A total of 500 feet had been done in one day by two teams. Cliff Gill has been taking pictures. Next mapping trip might be in May or in the Fall. They could use some help.

Kiesewetter Cave – Chairman Long said he was working on the permit forms, etc. for the now MCKC-owned cave. Larry Franklin, the owner of the rest of the property had offered to mow and maintain the MCKC's approx. 15 acres if he could graze his cattle on it. This will still have to be approved by the MCKC. On Feb. 22nd – Chairman Long reported that he, along with Christen Easter, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt had worked on the lock and gate. He explained the procedure for unlocking the gate. He has also put a laminated copy of the cave map in a black box on site. On Mar. 2nd, Chairman Long reported that he and Klaus Leidenfrost worked on the locks and got them changed. The top lock will not get unlocked unless there is an emergency in the cave. There will be a combination lock on a parking lock gate that will be the same as the one on the cave gate. He said that Hartwigs Paradise will be off-limits in the cave.

Goodwin Sinkhole. Chairman Long said the next work day will be April 28th. He said that tools had been stolen on the site and that we would need to build a small tool shed. He had talked to Jason Synder about the potty he said he would donate. Kerry Rowland might be able to help with that. Much discussion on the condition of the cave entrance and what has been done in the past. On March 11th – Klaus Leidenfrost, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt had worked on clearing trees that were going to fall over the fence and cleaned up some of the brush.

Kerry Rowland passed around some pictures of the month-long trip that he and Kira had taken to Thailand. They visited some caves while there. Kerry said it was his third trip there over the years and Kira's first.

MSS – The next meeting will be May 5th at Tom Aley's Underground Lab in Protem, MO. There will be mapping in the cave on Saturday. Alberta Zumwalt passed around the newest issue of Missouri Speleology – The Lemp Brewery Caverns and Cherokee Cave.

Cave trip. Chairman Long reported on a trip with Gary & Alberta Zumwalt to Stover to check out a woman's property for caves. There was one hole that looked good but was too small to enter. He did some witching which showed a void in line with the hole. The lady also mentioned that a neighbor named Heimsoft had a cave on their property that she thought was not recorded.

Chairman Long asked if anyone had any ideas for a cave trip. Chaz Jesiolowski said he may have a possible place – will know more at next meeting. Kerry Rowland asked about Bagnall Cave which lots of people have not been able to find. Dwight Weaver said he never could find it either. Much speculation about where it might be located.

Dwight Weaver did a presentation on his caving history which went into the writing of one of his books: *Missouri Caves in History and Legend*, followed by a slide show of long ago memories.

Meeting adjourned.—respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

May 14th, 2019

The May meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, in the meeting room at Stark Caverns. Eldon, MO. Roll Call. Eleven members present.

The April minutes were read and approved. Chairman Long said the Go-Daddy Acct. was due. He was told that there is a newer website which he said would make the LOG website better. He was given a free year. Bill Pfantz explained about a place on the website to promote it.

Kiesewetter Cave – Chairman Long reported that the landowner offered to maintain the MCKC property and level an area for a campground in exchange for grazing his cattle on the property. The MCKC meeting on May 18th will discuss the proposition. At the last meeting, some were in favor of charging the landowner for grazing his cattle on the property. Chairman Long passed around the papers for obtaining trip permit to the cave. Chaz Jesiolowski said that they now own 303 acres around Stark Caverns. There are rumors of another cave on the property. Chairman Long told about a trip done by LOG several years ago to a sinkhole nearby which could be connected to Flanders Cave, which Dwight said was commercial at one time. Chaz said that mapping in Stark Caverns has continued with another trip planned in July or August.

Goodwin. The workday on April 28th was attended by LOG members Ken Long, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt with Klaus Leidenfrost, Jean Knoll and four MST students – Elizabeth Sutherland, Samantha Beadle, Andrew Miller, and Brannon Schroeder. Gary worked on the tool shed, Ken worked on the port-a-pot, donated by Jason Synder. The students helped Klaus burn some brush, carried the potty to its place and built a trail from the road to the pavilion and potty.

Kiesewetter Cave trip – May 11th - Chairman Long took Klaus Leidenfrost, Jean Knoll, Christopher Dopp and three Scouts from Versailles – Quinten Ingram, Conner Souders, and Zack Brodersen. He said there was a full grown vulture in the cave. They saw one adult Grotto Salamander and one baby Grotto Salamander, no bats.

Bobby Seaton asked if anyone heard about the cave rescue last week in Kentucky. There was discussion on safety in caves.

Chaz Jesiolowski will have the program for June.

Bill Pfantz did an excellent program on Sumerian language influence in America, dealing with rock art in Missouri. Everyone should check out his website: rockartmo.com

Meeting adjourned. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

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June 11th, 2019

The June meeting of Lake Ozarks Grotto was called to order by Ken Long, Chairman, outside the gift shop at Stark Caverns. Eldon, MO.

Roll Call. Nine members present.

The May minutes were read and approved. Kiesewetter Cave. Chairman Long reported on the MCKC meeting with Board approval of \$1000.00 for the upkeep and fence for the cave property. The adjoining landowner will level the property, help build the fence and maintain the property in exchange for allowing his cattle to run on the property. Chairman Long said there will be two 10 ft. gates off the gravel road and a little gate on the back to go to the cave. He is the cave manager.

Goodwin. Discussion on the port-a-pot on site. Chairman Long said that Klaus Leidenfrost & Jean Knoll have been working there. The port-a-pot is now painted, a pile of metal scrap is removed, flowers planted. Klaus has hauled away 440 pounds of trash.

Ross Sparrow, a guide at Stark Caverns, was a guest at our meeting.

Chairman Long asked if anyone knew of a cave near Passover Road with no response.

Chairman Long brought up the pit near Stark Caverns that grotto members had visited years ago. Rosie Weaver said she found her notes and had a list of members that were there in 2005. Discussion that we would like to go back and check it out again since it appears that the area is now owned by the Stark Caverns' owners. However, it is not known if the gate we went through to get to the pit is owned by them. Some discussion on Flanders Cave, a former show cave, that is in the area.

Guides at Stark Caverns do black light tours in the cave. We discussed the possibility of the tour as a program after a meeting. Linda Marg asked if the Grotto was going to have a picnic this year. The Secretary suggested that we have a picnic on a meeting night, followed by a short meeting and a black light cave tour as the program. Ross Sparrow said it would probably be better after Labor Day so possibly the September meeting. Chairman Long will get with Chaz Jesiolowski to see if it could be arranged.

Meeting adjourned. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt

BREAKDOWN:

Gary Zumwalt to Ken Long on the phone – The little generator weighs about 50 pounds but with the handle so two people can carry it – about 15# each.....

Ken Long to Gary Zumwalt – You slide it in and I'll fill the hole.....

Gary Zumwalt to Ken Long – I don't know if I can get a hold of it enough to do you any good....

Ken Long to Christen Easter – Put it in and wiggle it down.....

Ken Long's nuts were loose so Gary Zumwalt had to use a wrench to help him tighten them.....

Kerry Rowland – You know what they say about possums.....

Ken Long – The best cave I ever did.....like a virgin.....