

# Central Connecticut Grotto

The Underground Movement  
March 2004



Onesquethaw Entrance (Jan 24, 2004) Photo by Carl Carmoney

The Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) is a happy bunch of folks who enjoy the exploration, conservation and science of caves.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Underground Movement is published monthly by the Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Reprint permission is granted to the NSS and to other grottos, with Author or Editor permission.

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All cavers are welcomed and encouraged to submit articles, photographs, and other items for publication in the CCG. Your contribution would be very much appreciated.

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## CCG Meetings:

Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7PM. In Plainville CT., just off route 84 near the junction of route 72 at HRP Associates, 167 New Britain Ave. (rt. 372) Plainville, CT. For info call 860-793-6899 x134. Non Members welcome.

## Meeting Directions to HRP Associates:

From Waterbury direction on I-84 traveling East:  
Take Exit 34 (Crooked Street). Turn left at the end of the ramp. At the next light, take a left onto Rte 372 (New Britain Ave). Proceed straight through the first light. Immediately after the second light, turn right into the first driveway by the HRP sign. The front door is on your left, ring the doorbell and when you hear the door buzz - go upstairs.  
- From Hartford direction on I-84 traveling West (or Rte 72 traveling West):  
Exit 33 puts you on Rte 72 West. Move to the right lane and take the first exit - Exit 2 (New Britain Ave Plainville).  
As you approach the lights, move into the second lane from the left (labeled Cooke Street).

Turn left at the lights, then immediately turns right into the first driveway by the HRP sign.  
The front door is on your left, ring the doorbell and when you hear the door buzz - go upstairs.

## Dues:

Regular Membership Dues: \$5 per year  
NSS members can also pay \$20 for 5 year membership

## CCG Website:

The Grotto website is: [www.ctcavers.org/](http://www.ctcavers.org/)

This is an excellent way to find out what other caving things are going on that come up on short notice as well as review some of the history.

## NSS Information:

The National Speleological Society (NSS) is the national organization of which CCG is a part. The NSS can be contacted about other caving or national caving information at [www.caves.org/](http://www.caves.org/)

National Speleological Society  
2813 Cave Avenue  
Huntsville, AL 35810-4431

Voice: 256-852-1300  
Fax: 256-851-9241  
E-Mail: [nss@caves.org](mailto:nss@caves.org)

NSS News submission guidelines may be found at <http://www.caves.org/pub/nssnews/style.html>

## Calendar of Events:

Trips are not limited to what is on the calendar! Contact fellow grotto members to create your own trips. Let the CCG Editor know in advance to post your trip on the calendar.

### March 2004

**March 16** - Tuesday: Monthly Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m. at HRP Associates, Inc., 167 New Britain Ave. (Rt 372) Plainville, CT. For info call 860-793-6899 x134. Ask for Bob Simmons. Non Members are welcome at all our meetings. See [Directions](#).

**March 20** - Saturday Morris Cave Vermont A bunch of nice challenging tight stuff here and there. Contact [Doug Truitt](#)

**March 24th-29th** New Zealand Caving Contact [Jansen Cardy](#) soon for more information

**March 27** - Saturday NCC Board Meeting Held at the Cave House in the Cobleskill quarry. Members are welcomed to attend and encouraged to speak during the Committee of the Whole.

**March 27** - Saturday KWI Award Dinner The Karst Waters Institute invites all to its annual award dinner in honor of featured speaker Arthur Palmer at Howe Caverns in New York State. Dr. Palmer's talk will be titled "Searching in the Dark". For information and reservations contact Emily Davis at or 518-295-7978

**April 2004**

**April 14th - April 17th** Old Fat Man Caving II West Virginia, Greenbrier and Monroe Counties. You need not be old, fat or male to be welcome. Contact [Bob Simmons](#) for details

**April 15-17** - Thursday-Saturday 2004 National Cave Conservancies Forum is a national meeting scheduled to promote education and interaction among cave and karst based conservancies in the United States. Any board member, committee member or involved general member of these organizations should be able to benefit from and contribute to this forum. Online registration and full description available at [WVCC](#).

**April 20** - Tuesday: Monthly Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m. at HRP Associates, Inc., 167 New Britain Ave. (Rt 372) Plainville, CT. For info call 860-793-6899 x134. Ask for Bob Simmons. Non Members are welcome at all our meetings. See [Directions](#).

**April 24** - Saturday Lava Tube Hunting Contact [Ray Keeler](#) for details. (Probably Cancelled. Anyone want to take up the lead? Ed)

**April 24** - Saturday Vertical Practice Cathole Mountain. Rain Date: Sunday April 25. Details to be Announced.



The next CCG MEETING will be held Tuesday, March 16, 2004 at HRP Associates at 7:00pm. [Directions link](#).

**NEWSLETTER CORRECTIONS and RELATED ITEMS:**

No Corrections have been recently submitted.

**MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING (02.17.04):**

02.17.04 Secretary's Report – (Cheryl Kenez (As read by Bob Simmons)) minutes of last month accepted.

Treasurer's Report - (Norm Berg) ~\$1140 - \$1150 in fund.

Membership - (Laura Ritter) Slow month.  
Sent memo to delinquent memberships.

Communication - (Jeff MacDonald) Nothing to report.

Safety - (Doug Truitt) Nothing to report.

Conservation - (Carl Carmoney) Nothing to report.

Vertical - (Tom Oakes) Nothing to report.

Vice Chair - (Steve Adams) Nothing to report.

Chairman - (Bob Simmons) Nothing to report.

Newsletter chair - (Ray Keeler) Newsletters are being sent to the NSS Cave files.

**Past trips**

Bob Jacobs led a trip to Onesquethaw. Nine members from CCG attended.

Gary, Chris and Tom did not go caving.

**Old Business**

Nothing to carry forward.

**New Business**

**Lechuguilla:**

Ray Keeler – The proposal to map human impact in Lechuguilla HAS BEEN APPROVED by the managing agency!!  
Trip Date (TBD) - Last week in April 28 to start of May.  
(Update: The trip is set for entry on Sunday, May 9th through May 12th. Plan accordingly.  
Winners were selected based upon their choosing a number. Those closest to the 'secret' number will go. The secret number was 42.

**Lottery winners are:**

Name (Primaries)	Chosen Number
Jansen	46
Cramp	49
Gary	50
Tom	23

**Lottery backups are:**

Name (Secondaries)	Chosen Number
Bob J	63
Peggy	63
Steve	14
Nick Dangerously	75
Doug	100

(Ed)

(February minutes continued...)

Rough itinerary:

1. Fly to El Paso
2. rent two cars
3. drive to Carlsbad
4. stay over night at a Carlsbad, NM Hotel
5. Training in Carlsbad Caverns by Lechuguilla Managing Agency.
6. Go in Lechuguilla.
7. Five hour hike in to base camp.
8. Mapping human impact
9. 72 hours total.
10. Hike out

Ray is arriving early or staying later (TBD) to cleanup Carlsbad Caverns.

PROPOSES A LOTTERY to choose CCG members since so many want to go.

**Commitment:**

Cost to you - Plus others...

1. Plane tickets ~\$300.
2. Car Rental,
3. Food,
4. Human waste removal,
5. Appropriate caving attire,
6. NON-Marking footwear
7. Potable water,
8. Others (TBA/TBD)

Future Trips possible to map human impact based upon output/productivity of mission.

Training:

Climb 150' of rope w/ 100lbs of dead weight attached,  
Climb boulder falls,  
20 rope-drops in cave,  
Train sketcher...for future missions based on output,  
Possible return trip in fall '04.

**Future trips:**

**3/20/04** – Morris Cave - Trip Leader: Doug Truitt

**3/27/2004**

NCC Board Meeting - Caving the next day (28). Contact Bob Simmons.

**April 3** scout meeting moved **May 22, 2004**.

**April 14/15 – 17<sup>th</sup>**

OFMC II –

Leaving the night of 4/14 or day of 4/15. 4 day trip.

Details to follow.

**4/24/04** - ridge walking/lava tube walking

Goal: To locate the first lave tube east of Mississippi.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> -12th** – Lechuguilla Human Impact Survey

Trip Leader: Ray Keeler.

Introductions

Votes to watch one movie: ice caving and The Jewels of the Dark.

Jewels of the Dark wins.

2/17/2004 08:30PM - Meeting adjourns.



Jansen Cardy will host a caving trip to New Zealand the latter part of March 2004.

**Come caving in New Zealand!**

Jansen Cardy

I am willing to host trips and assist with accommodation and sightseeing for any cavers that decide to make the long journey. The ideal time for me is between March 20th and early April, 2004.

(Update: Trip dates are March 24th-March 29th. Contact [Jansen Cardy](#) for more information.)

You would be flying into Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand, and my home town. It will be late summer, so expect temperatures in the low 20's Celsius (around 70 F) with moderate humidity, and a little cooler at night. It's a great time for the beach, hiking, and enjoying the sights. There is plenty of entertainment to enjoy, including casinos, bars, restaurants and clubs. And of course, caves.

There are numerous small lava tubes within the city area, and on the offshore islands. A few hours drive and you are in the Waitomo area, the focus of most caving in the North Island. Rolling green hills disguise an extensive limestone karst, very similar to West Virginia. But these caves not only have fantastic formations, they also contain small creatures unique to this part of the world. Millions of glow-worms create awesome star-like effects on the ceiling of many larger caverns. Cave temperature is about 55 F.

The preferred accommodation in Waitomo is a local caving club hut with power, water, and bunk beds. The club may have some group gear available to us, but personal caving equipment including vertical equipment and a wetsuit should be brought. The wetsuit is essential for Black Water Rafting. For those who prefer carbide lighting, local supplies are available. To look at some pretty pictures, check out <http://www.asg.org.nz/photogallery.asp> (Link seems dead. Try [this one](#). Ed.)

The US dollar currently buys just over \$1.50 NZ, so local goods and services should be comparatively cheap. Imported items may not be so cheap. Traveling to New Zealand and back will take about 24 hours each way, so plan to stay for a while to make it worth the flying time. There are plenty of ways to see NZ on a variety of budgets, like adventure tours, backpacker accommodation and bed-and-breakfasts. Don't forget your credit card.



# First Time Caver's Adventure

Written By Elaine Connery  
Pictures by Steve Adams

Cave Team Members: Elaine Connery, Grace Morrison, Elnor Morrell & Steve Adams

Well, here I am, at the opening of Tory's Cave feeling astounded and amazed that I actually wanted to come here and go caving. For months I talked about going into a cave. Steve, our leader, told me about all of his caving adventures and described many of his caving experiences. I had looked at hundreds of cave pictures on the internet and saw some that were breathtaking. I read articles on cave adventures and read a book about Lechuguilla Cave in New Mexico.



So why did I actually want to experience going into a cave, who knows. It was just one of those things that becomes a challenge but you don't really expect will ever happen. When it did, I knew that I was not at all prepared for the adventure. As much as I had asked Steve about Tory's Cave before the trip, most of what I experienced did not remotely resemble what he described. In all fairness, it is possible that my mind visualized only what I could expect and deal with. Either way, I had a lot of second thoughts, anxiety and fear.

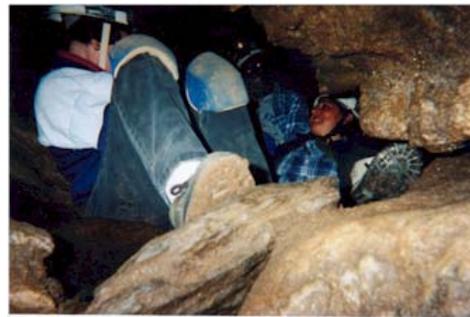
The adventure began with an hour and a half drive to New Milford. We arrived at the parking area and I saw the hill to climb to get to

the cave site. It looked steeper than I thought and I started to feel my first anxiety about what was ahead.



Once we all had on our caving gear, we started up the hill and climbed until we reached the cave. There in front of me, was this large circular area of rocks with a steep incline down to the opening of the cave.

It looked very dark and spooky. Reality had set in. It was at that moment, I began to realize that there might be some parts of this adventure that was not going to be exactly as I had pictured it and that Steve didn't exactly see things as a non-caver would see them. "Never believe a caver." "They lie."



As I stood there surrounded by rocks, my thought was where was the opening that we had to crawl through.

I couldn't see an opening at all. After stepping down into a musty, dirty pit, I still couldn't see the way in. This did not look good. I asked Steve, "Where is the opening you described?" Steve pointed his flashlight to the right, to a hole in the ground, and my first words were, "That's where we're going in!" "I'm not going in there!" What I had expected was a four foot long crawl into a big room. Instead, there was just a hole that I would discover lead to a sloping, curving, unable to stand up in, twelve foot ascent into the unknown.

At this point I had my first doubts that I would be able to go into the cave. I had told myself for so long that I would do this and I was determined, but it was too real now. I didn't think I would have the nerve. I had never been in a cave in my life, and now I understood

why. The whole thing felt and looked creepy and I was overwhelmed.(continued...)

I cannot say, even now, exactly why I went through that hole or how I actually did it. My mind must have blanked that part out. All of a sudden I was just going through, saying, "I can't believe I'm doing this. I do know that I would never have been able to continue without the encouragement of my two teammates, Elnor and Grace. They were strong, brave and daring. They inspired me.

I have to admit that Steve had been right about no bats being in the cave and luckily I didn't see any spiders either. The only predator I saw was a worm in the wet mud and Grace, with casual indifference, said, "That's ok, I'll get rid of him," as she picked him up and flung him over to the side.

To try to describe all of my feelings and how my mind reacted along the way is very hard to put into words. I do know that while I moved through the cave, I never thought about anything else. My mind was totally focused on where I was and what I was doing. There were many moments when I thought about being able to get back out the way I had come and how I was going to deal with going forward. Luckily, these thoughts and fears did not stop me dead in my tracks and other than being scared to death a few times, I felt ok.

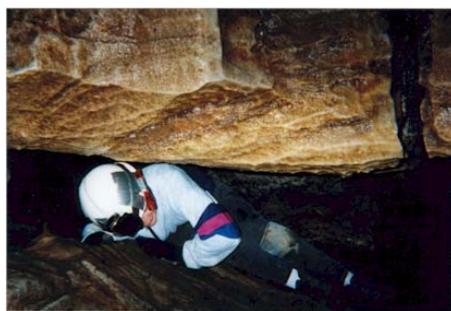
Each obstacle I came to always looked worse than how I had imagined. The passages were narrower, lower and dirtier. Shortly after entering the cave, there was one spot where I had to climb down and try to step on a rock over to the right but my foot couldn't reach it and I felt like I would fall trying. At that moment, I was too scared to go on. I knew then that heights did bother me and even though the drop was only about five feet, to me it seemed like ten. After two tries, I was just too nervous to do it and asked Grace to go first. Watching her as she climbed down and did just fine, I tried again. Now, I was in the "big room" and worried about whether I would be able to get back out.



Being in the "big room," which by the way wasn't all that big, was a lot

better than the descent to get there. At least I could stand up and try to get myself together enough to continue on. I feel I have to emphasize here that this whole experience was well beyond anything I had ever done in my life. The fact that I was able to get as far as I had come was amazing to me. My whole objective from the beginning was to be able to go into the cave. So at this point I had already accomplished more than I thought I could. I knew from the beginning that I had a lot of reservations and anxiety. I had never felt totally comfortable with what I was going to do, but because I had been motivated all year to push myself to do things I feared, this was a very big challenge. I was astonished that I had not chickened out yet.

While looking around the "big room," I made mention of a large pit at the end which, of course, turned out to be the path to the next



room in the cave. It seemed like every step forward became worse than where I had been. I climbed down the rocks into the pit and

then saw Steve lay down and maneuver himself through a two foot high area between two slabs of rock. He moved through the cave like a walk in the park. Here again, I managed somehow to follow, really quite amazed at the fact that I was continuing. I should have been more hesitant but since my mind had not brought me to a standstill, I kept moving. It seemed to be getting a little less scary but I had no idea why. Maybe I was adapting myself to my surroundings and I think it helped that I wasn't allowing my thoughts to wander and worry about all the awful things I usually

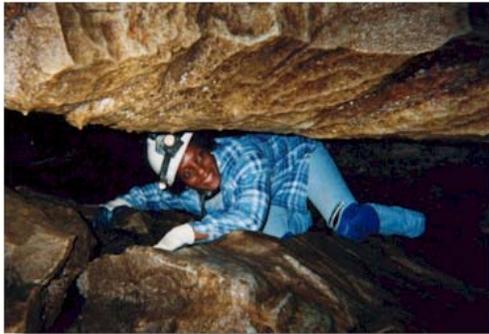


imagined when I was afraid.

As we entered the second room of the cave, I can only

say that it was not very big but at least we could stand again. Now we were almost as far as we were going to go. Steve wanted to continue on through a very narrow crawl that lead to a small area where you couldn't even sit up. God knows why, but when he went in, I wanted to go that far myself. Maybe it was to feel that I was able to go the distance, especially since I had come so far. Elner went in first and when she came out, I asked her if I could make it. With her usual sense of confidence and encouragement, I felt that I would try. I started through the narrow tunnel and for the first time felt good about where I was. Truly an accomplishment for me. Now it was time to head back.

As we proceeded back through the cave, my feelings had somewhat changed. No longer did I have a dreaded anticipation of what was to come, but relief that I would be out soon and still some



apprehension on retracing the steps that had scared me so much the first time.

One of the nicest parts of the experience, was lighting the candles we brought and placed around the "big room." When they were lit, we all turned off our lights and I found it to be inspiring and magical. I guess to see the softness of candle light in such a dark, dreary and dirty place had a very nice effect on me. It almost seemed a romantic place for just that moment in time before the hardness returned.

Another unique experience before we left was to turn off our lights and just be in the darkness. Being underground, in total darkness, was surprisingly not as scary as seeing where I was. I was glad I got to experience it.



As we progressed along the path to freedom, and I saw daylight again for the first time in over an hour, I was relieved and

excited to have succeeded and survived. I was very thrilled that I had accomplished what I had hoped to do. But the real question is, would I ever want to do it again?



## Onesquethaw

January 24, 2004  
By Carl Carmony

The air was briskly cold on the "Saturday Following the Meeting Trip." Bob Jacobs had all the attendees arrive at the McDonald's in Enfield at 28 Hazard Drive (Bob informed me that of all the years we've been meeting at this location, I'm the only one to find out the address of the establishment {grin}). We agreed to meet at 8:00am.

Arriving early, I decided to get some breakfast and wait for the team to trickle in. Bob's group, consisting of Peggy Gilbert and Ken Wooten (I'm guessing) arrived shortly after I began my meal. A few minutes later, Steve Adams and Laura Ritter joined in our merriment of a fine meal fit for kings – such as we are.

We were just about to leave when our final member arrived. As I was parking my vehicle, The Jeff arrived and he and I piled into Steve Adams' vehicle. We left McDonald's at 8:30 or so and headed to Tom Engel's house to sign the paperwork needed to enter Onesquethaw. Steve Janesky and Ken Nichols would meet us at Tom's place.

After we all signed the paperwork we embarked for the cave and arrived sometime after noon. We were all eager to get inside the cave as the chill of the arctic air around us gave us quite a bit of motivation.

For the uninitiated, Onesquethaw rests in a shallow sinkhole filled with trees and a small stream – albeit frozen this time of year – flowing through the middle of the copse which enters the mouth of the cave's two foot wide entrance. Foolishly, I saw this depression as a perfect place to change into my caving gear. While getting dressed, I wondered aloud to Steve A where everybody else was. He remarked that they were probably changing in Ken's minivan. I learned something in that moment.

A few minutes later, I donned my helmet and headed into Onesquethaw's long V-shaped entrance passage. Amazing formations form as water slowly drips from the ceiling to the floor. Long cylindrical stalagmites grow to a height that can stretch from floor to ceiling. Most of these ice formations were about two feet tall and an inch and a half in diameter. Entering without breaking these formations is tough work. With my handful of two bags (one for dry clothing and the other my caving bag) I slowly worked my way to the first main chamber in the cave to wait for the others to arrive.

When I arrived at the first room Ken Nichols, Steve A, Steve J, Laura Ritter and the Jeff were waiting with baited breath for us slowpokes to arrive. A few minutes passed and the rest of the group arrived. We staged our dry return-trip clothes in an out of the way area and made our way deeper into the cave.

Along the way to the waterfall room The Jeff spied two frogs in the stream beneath us. One frog was practicing the back stroke (at the bottom of the stream – very weird) while the other was apparently hibernating. We left them in their catatonic states and made efforts for everyone to avoid waking or stepping on them.

We noticed that the waterfall in the next room was barely a trickle and soon enough we had seven volunteers climbing the log and wall to explore the passage above us. We found several bats along the way and I found one very unfortunate bat that had been accidentally knocked from the ceiling into the water. I felt he was very lucky as only his legs were in the water and his fur was not matted against his skin. Very cautiously, I picked him up and attempted to place him on the passage wall. He'd have none of it and bared his teeth to me and screeched like threatened bats do. It was horrible.

At a loss for what to do – as the little bugger wouldn't grasp the wall – I asked for help and Bob Jacobs gently took him from me and placed him on a shelf out of the way and out of danger. Everyone involved was extremely distressed about his predicament; but, Bob informed us that he didn't look too badly shaken.

We wondered further down the passage to meet those ahead of us. While we half-walked half-crawled to the others we found fossilized seashells along the walls and ceiling every few feet. It was interesting to note that these passages were once the floor of

an ancient sea bed that was now created by the slow flow of water. We all met up at the end of the passage and took time to rest and to explore the immediate surroundings.

Shortly, we turned back to regroup with the main body of our group and everyone was well on their way to the deeper depths of the cave. Some of the members of the lead group expected our return and started down the passage without us. No worries. The pinch in this section of the cave was slow moving for everyone. The ceiling is about 12" to 16" high in most parts of the passage and sand and gravel are abundant. If you weren't dirty when you started this passage you were dirty now.

As we moved further in, meandering along the path the water takes in the warmer months, we found lots of 'filler' that the water has dragged into the cave – logs, trash, old pieces of porcelain and, of course, plastic footballs. Then we encountered "The Barnyard."

The very name itself should conjure up farm animals – farm animals doing their 'business' in the same place everyday! On this excursion we had to lay a tarp over the beginning because there was a strange red jelly there, and, as unkempt as we were, no one was ready to sacrifice their cave-suits to the gelatinous ochre. So on we pushed – through the slop that very vividly reminded us each of those days on the farm shoveling...well, you get the idea.

After leaving the slop behind we all met up at a shelf just above a frigid water passage that doubles back beneath us. We were in luck – the water was only a few feet deep and it was so cold that our limbs numbed rather quickly so we didn't have to feel the pain for long. This is caving; dark, tight, wet and dirty.

After climbing down the wall face and slipping into the frigid waters, I could see the quickly fading light of The Jeff a few yards away. We were able to keep our torsos out of the water, thus preserving our body heat, but our limbs were drenched with the oppressive cold. After we crouched our way to the other shore we called back to find that the remaining members of our group decided not to make the journey in the rest of the cave. Steve J, Ken W, The Jeff and I ventured forward toward the next large junction in the cave known as The Spider Room.

The Spider Room is a chamber where most of the water in Onesquethaw passes before escaping into the inaccessible reaches of the underground water flow. Multiple streams enter from all directions and heights spilling in the room making a lot of racket as it splashes on the floor below. This is also the room that has the most, if not all, of the cave formations in Onesquethaw.

I've been here before but I never got any further than the room itself. On this trip I vowed to explore further. Leaving my cave pack behind, I followed Ken W and The Jeff into a section of cave that looked like it was carved from white marble. This particular passage was devoid of mud and at times as tall as 6 feet in a tubular fashion.

At one point, The Jeff and Ken W swore they had found a catfish in one of the puddles but when they came back to point it out me we couldn't locate it. I'm not precisely sure how a catfish could wash into Onesquethaw as I know of now large bodies of water in the immediate area; but, whatever.

After spending about thirty minutes at the back end of the cave we started heading back to The Spider Room to re-meet with Steve J. As we approached we began to hear shrill whistles coming from Steve's direction and soon enough we were all exchanging tones of our own as we marched along the route to meet him. After we arrived we took some time to refuel and relate our experience to Steve. We even told him about 'The Bird' we found – a human hand-shaped rock cut from stone in a very peculiar formation – all fingers, save one, tucked in.

Soon enough we had packed our belongings back in to our respective cave bags and sloughed in to the frigid water once more. We were clean as a whistle as we left the watery passage but that was soon to come to an end as we had to belly-crawl back into the 'Barnyard.'

On a particularly steep, low-ceilinged section of cave, I watched the The Jeff turn sideways and roll up the hill. He made it look easy and soon enough four grown men were rolling up the passage at a pretty good clip. It took longer to crawl down the main passage than it did to climb back up it!

Soon, we were all back at the first chamber and ready to head out of the cave and into the cold wind of the wintry surface above. Steve J and I had brought our clean clothes into the cave to change into before leaving the cave – I just couldn't justify being wet, cold and muddy and changing in the snow above ground. As cold as I was, I'd rather change clothes in the dark, where there was no wind, than risk pending frostbite above.

As it was, it took me almost thirty minutes to change into my clean clothes. Steve J had brought along a can of Sterno™ to warm the small space and, failing that, at least warm our fingers and toes while we were changing. My toes were so numb from cold that I couldn't feel the heat of the flame even though my toes were only inches from it.

As Steve and I put the last of our wet gear into garbage bags we made our way out leaving the warmth of this freezing cave for the arctic air above.



#### **Announcements:**

Ray Keeler has lost a set of surveying tools. In a message to us, he writes, "I am missing a set of Suunto/Systeco compass and clinometer. I've been through everything. We had two sets at the Glory Hole Survey and I had my wife send out the other two sets for the Indian Oven Survey. The set missing is one of those on the Glory Hole trip so I'm not sure which cave trip is the "Point Last Seen".



Could you ask around and have folks check their cave packs? If they don't show up there's booty in the hills. Six-pack reward (his choice of flavor) to the locator of the compasses."

You can contact Ray at: [rkeeler@pcslink.com](mailto:rkeeler@pcslink.com).



**Acknowledgements:**

CCG would like to extend to Ray Keeler continued success in his profession and his interests in supporting the continued education and support of his fellow cavers. It is my humble belief that Ray's presence has contributed immeasurable enthusiasm and insight that has spread to every member of the CCG Grotto. It was with Ray's help and motivation that CCG found the commitment to engage as our grotto's newsletter editor and leader of numerous trips surveying and searching for lava tubes believed to not exist on the East coast of the United States. With his "Thinking outside the box" mentality he has given us new meaning to the word 'caving.'

As you are reunited with your family and extended family back in Arizona know that you will be missed both as a human being and as a fellow caver. Thank you.

Central Connecticut Grotto