

Southport Digs

January 2009

Trip Report of the Month

New camera lens @ Reese cave

A Shovel Full:

2008 in Hindsight. by: bull Snook

"Bob" of the Month

& More



The Britt family cavers

A Shovel Full:

Random thoughts from fellow porters

2008 in Hindsight

By: Bull Snook

Many awesome, and a few disappointing happenings were afoot for the porters this past year. Ed and his wife brought a new caver into the world. Buddy lost his home to fire. Frank finished an addition to his home. Sheldon's health bounced up and down. Porters registered several new caves, mapped a few caves, got muddy (Wonder how that happened?), and just plain old. We got together and had fun. So what does all this mean? Well, I'm glad you asked. IT means...we are the Bob's, the Porters, the Southport Chronic Cavers. We find caves, We explore caves, we map caves, we get dirty, we get together, we have fun, we photograph caves, we research caves, we like caves.... we are a family. Need I say more?

Nope, nada, zip, zilch,,,,

Except..... WE LOVE CAVES.

Frugal Fotography By: Andy Britt

I have bought several cheep 35mm film cameras from e-bay. Amazingly, I have as little as \$0.99 in some of these cameras. Yes, I am aware that 35mm technology went out with the formation of "Father Time" in B Cave. However, this affords me to have yesterday's top quality cameras, at a price that buys me some cave insurance.

For the same amount of money that I would have in a disposable camera, I have carried the (top of the line) point-N-shoots of yesteryear into caves. Cameras like the Nikon L35AF, and the Olympus Stylus Zoom (weatherproof). My most recent addition is a Canon EOS 650 (\$12 including shipping).

Admittedly, there are some drawbacks to using outdated film cameras. The most obvious is processing. I pay \$5 and some change per roll to have a photo CD made at Walgreens. This takes me digital, but the cost does add up. The second is I cannot see the photo immediately after it was taken. (This is) A great advantage in digital in my opinion. And of course, there is the cost of film.

The upside to buying outdated photo gear is plain and simple. From a dollars and cents stand, I would be more upset if I lost my cheeseburger than my camera. And thanks to a cave's darkness, there is a real good chance that I may be able to salvage the photos shot on a 35mm, that gets destroyed in a cave. Such as the case with my Olympus Stylus.

My trick to E-baying cameras is to watch several, and watch buyers ratings. I have only bought one lemon camera, and all my caving photos have been taken with my e-bay cameras. Have fun with it, and don't get caught up with "having to have it", syndrome. Remember, you are shopping for a cave camera, nothing more. I look for camera with a long exposure, or "B" setting, with good optics. There are many that are weatherproof, like the Pentax 105WR, and the Olympus Stylus.

Happy bidding. :-)

“Bob”ography of the Month: The Britts

Andy, Dana, Kyle and Cam

We are a close-knit group that likes to be outside in the immeasurable beauty of God’s creation. We are originally from Atlanta, Ga., and this is our second time living in Tennessee. This time, we hope to settle here permanently. We love Tennessee’s people, beauty, and caves.

Our first family cave experience was about three years ago. We toured many of the commercial caves of Kentucky. It wasn’t long after that, I begin researching the NSS on the net, and somehow ran across Bull’s e-mail address. Bull introduced us to the Porters, and to having “Mud in our veins”. Thanks to you all, we are having the time of our lives.

Andy, and the Britt’s



Andy Cam and Kyle in Fountain cave Bedford co TN

Note to all porters:

Please make sure and send us your articles before the end of each month.

And we are still waiting on your cave trip wish lists.

Trip reports: starting with trip report of the month

Reese cave . by: Lynn Roebuck

December 27, 2008

For Christmas I received a new lens and was very anxious to try it out in the cave environment so Saturday's caving trip was to a small cave known as Reese. Brian and I geared up and first explored the small cave for macro models. Having found several tiny species we began taking photos. Our last model was a cave salamander that was very near E2 and as we took photo's we heard a loud noise outside that didn't sound good at all. So we finished the photos and routed toward the entrance. Outside we found out that our truck camper had been broken into but fortunately nothing was missing. Instead of going to other caves we went to the local Sheriff's Department and reported the incident. A few macro photos are on Flickr.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/caving/sets/72157611786539883/>



(Lynn Roebuck)

December 13, 2008

Like many other cavers we attended the Annual Cumberland Caverns Christmas Party. Before going to Cumberland Caverns we went to Lost Creek Cave to take some photos. With all the recent rains we hoped the dry creek bed would be flowing into the cave but we need more rain for that to happen. We took photos and checked out some other cave locations before heading to Cumberland Caverns arriving there at approximately 3:30 pm. We had time to socialize with cavers; some

that come to mind are Lonnie Carr, Marion O. Smith, Larry Matthews, Robbie Black, Anne Elmore, Mark Joop, Avis and Gerald Moni, Kris Beckwith, Bill Walter, Sharon Jones, and many others. Avis talked us into taking the Commercial cave tour. It had been 20 years since we had been on this tour so we decided it wouldn't be considered over-visitation if we went on the trip. After the trip it was time for the banquet which is always held in the Volcano Room. We had an interesting dinner and afterward had more time to visit with fellow cavers. A good time was had by all! Of course, the event was Flickr'd! ☺
http://www.flickr.com/photos/caving/sets/7215761128797861_1/

December 28, 2008.

Brian Roebuck made tentative plans to meet with Andy Britt to exchange the Southport Chronic Cavers Grotto Treasury notebook and go on a caving trip to Bone Cave in Coffee County, TN. This is another small local cave that Brian and I have always planned to visit but some how never made it to the cave. Brian and I met Andy, Cam and Kyle and began our search for the cave. With two entrances it was an easy find and we walked right to it. This is a small 600+ foot cave that according to the hand paint on the cave wall was once used as a US Civil Defense Shelter. Kyle explored more cave than the rest of us beyond a tight crack in the floor. He described tight passage and a small room with two muddy crawls. And yes the Britt's were Flickr'd! ☺

http://www.flickr.com/photos/caving/sets/7215761179123781_7/

(Lynn Roebuck)

October 18, 2008

Pea Ridge Cave, Cannon County, TN

Survey trip

Frank Maynard, Rob & Phyllis Davidson

We are at 1360 ft mark and have surveyed a total of 48 stations. The back of the cave is now ready for survey of the stream passage.

October 30, 2008

Gory Hole and Arrow Point Pit, Rutherford County, TN

Frank Maynard and Rob Davidson

Had some extra time, so we started late in the day. We located both pits and decided not to drop them because they were too small.

November 29, 2008

Rocky River Cave, Warren County & Camps Gulf, Van Buren County TN

Frank Maynard, Robert Davidson & friends

Rocky River cave,

We started at Rocky River cave to show Rob's brother & friends the waterfalls, we also took them to the back. They had a great time and we were pumping them for the adventure of Camps Gulf.

Camps Gulf,

The "beginners" had a wonderful time! The trip to the 4th room, proved exhausting for them, their energy was completely drained.

(Frank Maynard)

December 6th 2008.

TMC-420, Nutty Knot, Baby Buzzard North, Baby Buzzard South, and Four Points of Light, Bedford Co., TN. Cam, Kyle, and Andy Britt, Roger Wilson, Matt Butler, Frank Maynard, Ben Maynard, Rob Davidson, Chris Samuelson, Robert Sewell, and myself headed out to Burnt Hill. Frank, Rob, Chris, and Ben had to make a gear run, so they were late getting there. The rest of us headed over to Fountain. Upon returning to the parking area we were joined by the missing, and lost the Britt's due to their time constraints. Those of us who were still there headed back to see the remaining caves of the day. Vertical practice was done in the Baby Buzzard South's entrance crevice. Then we returned to the parking area for the usual cave lies and talk of clean up trips to the area. All in all a good day

December 26th, 2008.

Espey, Cannon Co., TN. Roger Wilson, Terri Nelson, Matt Butler, and friend, Sherri Langford and I went into the main chambers just to fool around, and get some pictures while Matt and friend did some exploring, a short trip with good friends, and that DANG hike after!!!!

(Bull Snook)

Adventures in Mud Soon to Come:

January 10th 2009 Blue Spring Cave, White County, TN (I'll be guiding a small troop of boy scouts into the cathedral hall section, those who want to tag along are welcome, meeting at the Hardees on hwy 70 in the parking lot 8:30am)

February 7th 2009 Friddle cave, Bedford county TN (this trip is contingent on weather and communications with owner/caretaker, some vertical, will require use of seat harness)

Happy New Year
and
Welcome to 2009

Cover photo: "The Britts and Father time" @ "B" cave Bedford county TN, by: Bull Snook 2008