

Cave Surveying Class

by the Boston Grotto

Instructor: Kevin Harris

About the Class:

Kevin will show us briefly the use of survey instruments (compass, clinometer, tape) in a cave-like setting in his backyard (the so called "Backyard Cave"). We will practice cave surveying techniques and sketching, first at daylight and then in darkness, i.e. after sunset. In particular, Kevin will teach the "front-and-backsight" surveying method and the "sketching to scale" method. Both techniques are accepted worldwide.

We will meet one weekday evening at Kevin's house for survey instructions as well as surveying and sketching practice in his "Backyard Cave". Another follow-up session might be organized later on, depending on the students' progress, interest and Kevin's availability.

Meeting Date and Place:

An evening in the week of June 9 to 13, 2003. The specific date and time will be announced at the next Grotto meeting in June. Meeting place is Kevin's house in Nashua (NH).

Class Preparation

Kevin strongly recommends to read up on surveying instruments and techniques as well as cave mapping before the class starts. A list of books is given below. The better you are prepared the more you will get out of the class. If you have your own survey instruments or can borrow them, practice using them in advance and bring them to class.

Survey Literature

The following books can be ordered from or purchased at SpeleoBooks (see link below). If you are planning to go to the Spring NRO (May 16-18), check the vendors there for one or more of these titles:

- 1) "*A Guide To Cave Mapping*". A new edition of John Gantor's 1986 publication. A short guide which compares techniques and considers the advantages of each. More of a "when & why" which encourages improving mapping practices, than a detailed "how to". 27pp, 2000 (2nd Ed.). **\$5.00**
- 2) "*On Station*". A complete handbook for surveying & mapping caves. A good place to start your training. An NSS publication. By George Dasher, 1994, hb, 242pp. **\$16.00**
- 3) "*Cave Surveying*". A new British handbook (BCRA #11) of techniques for the preparation and interpretation of conventional cave surveys. Replaces earlier BCRA publication. By Anthony J Day, 40pp, 2002, pb. **\$8.00**

Material and Equipment to bring to Class

- caving helmet
- small flash light to be able to read the instrument display
- survey instruments and other survey/mapping equipment if you got them
- clothes and boots which can get dirty
- extra clothes for change or to keep you warm/dry
- bug dope

Useful links:

Survey literature: <http://www.speleobooks.com/catindex.html>

Survey gear: <http://www.caves.org/imo>
<http://www.4bobandbob.com>
<http://www.karstsports.com/surveying>
<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com>

Survey and Cartography Section of the NSS (information about surveying, mapping and mapping software):
<http://www.caves.org/section/sacs/main.html>

Further Information

There will be a sign-up sheet circulated at the next Grotto-meeting on June 4, for interested Grotto members. If you can't make it to the Grotto meeting or have questions, please contact Kevin (kevin.w.harris@attbi.com) or Sybille (sybrex@hotmail.com) per email. A couple of days after the Grotto meeting, interested students will receive more detailed information about meeting date and time as well as directions to Kevin's house.