



Meet The 2008 Officers

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The History of Halloween

By: Angie Miles

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31. Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, visiting “haunted houses”, ghost tours, and carving jack-o-lanterns.

Halloween’s origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain.

The Celt’s, who lived 2,000 years ago, celebrated their New Year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celt’s believed that on the night before the New Year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped. On the night of

October 31, they celebrated Samhain, and the deceased would come back to life and cause havoc such as sickness or damaged crops. The festival would frequently involve bonfires to commemorate the event.

During the celebration, the Celt’s wore costumes in an attempt to mimic the evil spirits or appease them.

Later, Romans had conquered the Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that they ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origins were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 “All Saints Day”, a time to honor Saints and martyrs. The celebration was also called “All-hallows” or “All-Hallowmas” and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called “All-hallows eve” and, eventually, “Halloween”.

Book Review

By: Rebecca Auker

I just started reading a book called Haunted Hoosier Trails, A Guide to Indiana’s Famous Folklore Spooky Sites by Wanda Lou Willis. I have not read many of the stories but what I have read has kept me engrossed.

This book has a very

well organized layout. It is broken out by Northern, Central and Southern Indiana. Then it is broken down by counties.

Haunted Hoosier Trails is superbly written and researched. I highly recommend reading this book.

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What Are Your Favorite Horror Movies?

By: Rebecca Auker (movie info gathered by Kelli McQueen)

To keep in the Halloween spirit, we have asked different members what their favorite horror movies are. I personally am not a horror movie girl. I do enjoy a couple TV shows that are along this line. My shows are Supernatural and Moonlight (I hope it returns). I love Harry Potter, but again I don't think it is a horror movie. Let's see what your co-IGT members consider their favorite horror movies:

Kelli McQueen- Poltergeist

The Exorcist

Night of the Living

Dead (the original)

Chris Garrison- The Haunting (1963)

The Sixth Sense

The Others

Mark Campbell- The Exorcist

Dawn of the Dead

The Shining

Craig Majors- Evil Dead

Texas Chainsaw Mas-
sacre (the original)

Puppet Master

Corey Loos- Night of the Living
Dead (the original)

American Werewolf in
London

Creepshow

Bill Vickrey- Scream

Halloween H2O

Silver Bullet

Angie Miles- Carrie,

Friday the 13th

Texas Chainsaw Massa-
cre

A FUNNY HALLOWEEN STORY:

A daring vacationer in Vienna is walking through a graveyard on Halloween when all of a sudden she hears music. No one is around, so she starts looking to see where it's coming from.

She finally locates the source and finds it is coming from a grave with a headstone that reads, "Ludwig van Beethoven."

Then she realizes that the music is the Ninth Symphony and it is being played backward. Puzzled, she leaves the graveyard and persuades a friend to return with her.

By the time they arrive back at the grave, the music has changed. This time it is the Seventh Symphony, but it is also being played backward.

Curious, the ladies agree to consult a music scholar. When they return with the expert, the Fifth Symphony is playing and the expert concludes that the symphonies are in fact being played in reverse order.

By the next day the word spread and a huge group gathered around the grave to hear the Second Symphony being played backward. Just then the graveyard's caretaker approaches the group. Someone in the crowd asks him if he has an explanation for the music.

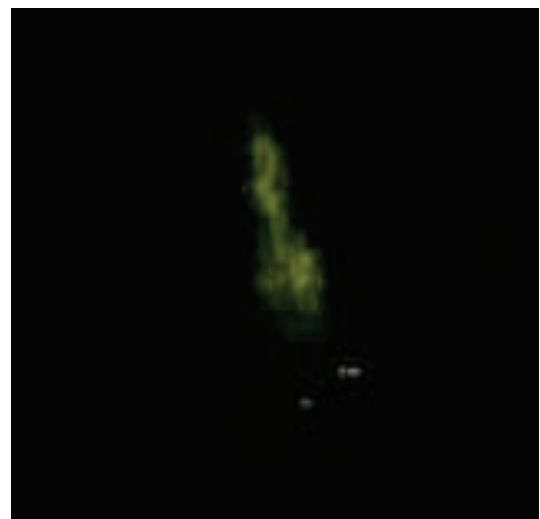
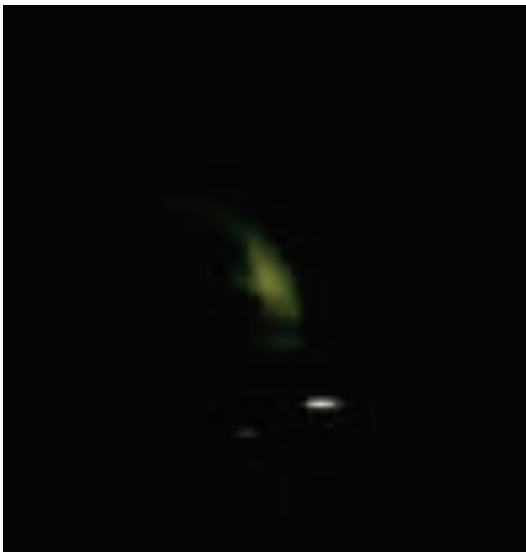
"Oh, it's nothing to worry about" says the caretaker. "He's just decomposing!!"

Holiday Bridge

By: Kelli McQueen

In August, IGT members attended an outdoor hunt at the bridge on Holiday Road in Zionsville, Indiana. The bridge, which has been out for some time requiring people to park and walk the length of the spooky wooded road, is reported to be haunted by the spirit of an African-American male who is said to have been hung off the bridge by a white supremacist group in the Zionsville/Whitestown area. Though this location has been frequented many times by IGT Indy members as well as by local teens seeking a

thrill, this was the first time at the bridge for a few brand new members of our group. One member, Steve Shepard, happened to catch some very interesting photos of the area including the bridge itself and the surrounding wooded areas. Everything from orbs to weird streaks of light, to a green blur that eventually appears to take the form of a human was captured on his camera. The photos were viewed by members at the September meeting. We plan to revisit the bridge in warmer weather.



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

What is your name? Chris Garrison

What is your forum ID? erichris

When did you join IGT? First meeting was in August, 2003 and joined that September.

How did you hear about IGT? Well, Amy found IGT online initially, and she dragged me along under protest, but after our first meeting, training and ghost hunt, I was absolutely hooked.

How did you become interested in ghost hunting? As a kid, I was very interested in fringe and paranormal things... I watched "In Search Of..." and "Project Blue Book" and read books on unexplained phenomena, Bigfoot, UFOs and so on. I had some pretty bizarre paranormal activity at a couple of places I lived (both in the Broad Ripple area)... I didn't actually consider **looking** for ghosts and such until that first IGT meeting, however.

Where was your first IGT hunt? At that August 2003 meeting, we were taken to a supposedly haunted bridge and some cemeteries up around Frankton. At one of the cemeteries, a police officer showed up, and he was so intrigued that he came along with us to see what we did.

Do you have a favorite IGT moment or hunt you would like to share? Hmm, too many to choose from, and many I can't talk about in a publicly-posted newsletter due to confidentiality... Last year's IGT Awards Banquet really stands out as a time when I really had a great time with IGT friends, talking and partying and dancing. Friends are really what IGT is all about for me.

Do you have any dislikes? I get really edgy in big, close crowds.

Do you have any other hobbies you would like to share with the group? I have been brewing my own beer and wine since 1993. I like to go geocaching now and again. I am an avid reader of science fiction and fantasy books. Last year, I wrote my own novel, Four 'til Late, which is about a paranormal roadtrip.

FUNNY FILES

Kentucky Ghost Story

This happened about a month ago just outside of Owensboro, Kentucky, a small town on the banks of the Ohio River, and while it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's indeed real.

An out-of-state traveler was walking along the side of the road hitchhiking on a dark night in the middle of a thunderstorm. Time passed slowly and no cars went by. It was raining so hard he could barely see his hand in front of his face.

Suddenly he saw a car approaching, moving slowly and appearing ghostlike in the rain. It slowly and silently crept toward him and stopped. Wanting a ride very badly, the guy jumped into the car and closed the door; only then did he realize that there was nobody behind the wheel, and no sound of the engine to be heard over the rain.

Again the car crept slowly forward the guy was terrified, too scared to think of jumping out and running. The guy saw that the car was approaching a sharp curve and, still too scared to jump out, he started to pray and beg for his life. He was certain the ghost car would go off the road and into the river, and he would surely drown! But just before the curve, a shadowy figure appeared at the driver's window and a hand reached in and turned the steering wheel, guiding the car safely around the bend. Then, just as silently, the hand disappeared through the window and the hitchhiker was alone again.

Paralyzed with fear, the guy watched the hand reappear every time they reached a curve. Finally the guy, frightened nearly to death, had all he could take and jumped out of the car and ran through the storm to the nearby town.

Wet and in shock, he went into a lighted tavern and with voice quavering, ordered two shots of whiskey, and then, shaken, he told everybody about his supernatural experience.

A silence came over those listening and everybody got goose bumps. They realized the guy was sober and was telling the truth. And the sounds of the storm continued outside.

About half an hour later, two guys walked into the bar and one says to the other, 'Look Billy Bob, there's that idiot that rode in our car while we was pushin' it in the rain.'