

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE MAVERICK GROTTO

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1988



GEORGETOWN, WILLIAMSON COUNTRY 1988

THE MAVERICK BULL, is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS 6-322).

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The Editor invites all cavers to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed, stamped envelope should accompany it. News items may be submitted on floppy diskettes in IBM compatible ASCII Text file format. Items should be of interest to cavers and their ilk, and be non-political (except cartoons of very good humor) in nature.

Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to author as will be stated in byline) first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL, if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to THE MAVERICK GROTTTO address at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the grotto at the address herein.

EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK BULL, will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact any officer.

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations considered to be Grotto friends. Grotto friends are persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers.

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide three free issues to interested parties. At the end of this period the persons receiving the newsletter will have subscribed, become a Grotto member (or will be one soon) or complimentary newsletters will be suspended.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription Rate is \$10.00, per year for non-members.

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MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any caver with interest, beliefs, and actions, consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO and the National Speleological society is eligible for membership.

Membership in the National Speleological Society is encouraged, but not mandatory except to hold office. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three trip requirement with at least three different grotto members. These three members shall act as sponsors and at least one of these members will be required present at a Grotto Meeting where they may be voted in by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.

MAVERICK: 1) American pioneer who did not brand his calves, 2) An unbranded range animal, especially a horse, but also applied to cattle, 3) the former University of Texas, Arlington, football team, 4) a member of a caving organization headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at SMOKEY'S RIBS, at 5300 East Lancaster in the east central part of Fort Worth, Texas. Just short of one mile west of Loop 820. This is a central point in Tarrant County, and should be convenient to the mid-cities, Arlington, and Fort Worth! The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good. Go through the regular line for your grub and then come to the "party room" which we have reserved in back.

OFFICERS

Chairman:	Corky Corcoran 2301 Streambed Ct. Apartment 1306 Arlington, Texas, 76006
Vice-Chairman:	Donna Anderson 504 Kimbrough Fort Worth, Texas, 76108 817-246-6313
Treasurer:	Dale W. Ellison 1208 Dan Gould Rd. Arlington, Texas, 76017 817-572-4082
Editor/Secretary:	Butch Fralia 3412 Walton Ave. Fort Worth, Texas, 76133 817-346-2039

COVER: This month's cover taken by Ed Poynter, in an unknown cave in Georgetown, Williamson County.

1988 CALENDAR

- Feb. 9; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
- Feb. 12-14; Gorman Falls Work Trip.
- Feb. 20-21; Honey Creek Cave,
South Texas.
Contact Donna for details.
- Feb. 27-28; Beginner Trip, River Styx,
King County, Texas.
Contact Donna for details.
- Mar. 8; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
- Mar. 11-13; Gorman Falls Work Trip.
- Apr. 8-10; Gorman Falls Work Trip.
- Apr. 12; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
- May 10; Maverick Grotto Meeting.
- May 13-15; Gorman Falls Work Trip.
- June 10-12; Gorman Falls Work Trip.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please notice that THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, is a grotto on the move and in keeping with that tradition, two of your grotto officers have new addresses.

Grotto Chairman, Corky Corcoran, has moved to Arlington but as of yet hasn't gotten a new phone number.

Editor/Secretary, Butch Fralia, has moved again but retains the same phone number. Please direct all exchanges to the new address. Butch should stay put for awhile now since he's buying a house, is gainfully employed (to make the payments) and is tired of moving.

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, was held at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster on January 12, 1988.

Al Rehfeldt and Diana Andrews, were accepted for

membership into the Grotto. They paid their dues and are ready to go caving. Colors for the Grotto Logo were finally selected so we can get underway toward having patches, T-shirts, etc. made. Christmas Party awards were handed out to those who were unable to attend the party and receive them there. Russell Hill, receiving the Two Mules for Sister Sara. Award commented; "Katherine, the subject of this award will enjoy such a tastful certificate, she'll get it as soon as I get home."

As scheduled, Michael Fox, of Sport-a-ways, made a presentation on their organization. Michael, presented slides and a lecture on their services. Dave Milhollin, presented slides on diving. Dave is NSS trained and is interested in cave diving.

Sport-A-Ways, is involved in providing group trips for persons interested in almost any outdoor activity. They are involved in canoeing, sailplaneing, mountain climbing, skiing, or what ever people express an interest in doing. They provide group rates to their members providing opportunities to try many activities at reasonable rates. Their Membership rates are as follows:

Singles	\$50.00
Couples(Single Parent)	\$75.00
Family	\$95.00

Donna Anderson, presented an impromptu slide show including formations shot while sewerlunking under North East Mall. The close ups of the sewer formations faked out most folks until the secret was let out.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, will be held at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster on February 9, 1988. The meeting begins at 7:00 P.M. so come on by. Be sure and grab your grub on your way in; the food is good.

CAVE BALLADS

by Donna Anderson

The Maverick Grotto is in the process of putting together a cave ballad songbook. Many of our members have already composed several songs. Most are new lyrics written to tunes everyone

already knows. We plan to sell these songbooks as a money making project for our grotto. I will be typing the songs, Jody Robertson is doing the cover art, and Rey Perkins has volunteered to do the xeroxing. We will hopefully be selling these books at TSA, Souther Plains Regional, and the NSS Convention. We could use a few more songs and are asking you to try your hand at composing some lyrics. Think of some past cave trip you have been on and perhaps one of the interesting, exciting, or funny incidents will give you an idea for a song. Perhaps you would like to write a song about conservation, bats, or carbide lamps vs. electric lights. This can be a group effort - 3 or 4 people could write a song on the drive back from a cave. It makes the drive seem shorter too. Please start writing you songs now and get them to me by the March meeting so we will be able to include them in our songbook.

GORMAN FALLS UPDATE

by Butch Fralia

Trips are still continuing to Gorman Falls. Due to cold weather, the response hasn't exactly been overwhelming but those attending have apparently enjoyed themselves immensely. I wont go into details on the last trip since Danny Sherrod is going to provide the Newsletter trip report for last month (hopefully we'll make contact before printing deadline).

To date we've definitely relocated Lemons Ranch Cave, and Circurina Cave (Rattlesnake Hole).

Lemons Ranch Cave was explored by Terry Holtsinger and Jarvis Tousek to verify it's identification by the map. They reported bad air in most of the cave but were able to go it's full length and verify map accuracy.

Circurina Cave, has definitely been located by it's twin entrances and was partially explored by Jay Jorden, Bobby Moore, Danny Sherrod and Quinta Wilkinson. Circurina, is rated as a 600'+ cave with several unexplored and unsurveyed passages. It is unknown as to why the survey was not continued but it's suspected that when water passage was discovered, that it was winter and no one wanted to hike around the country side wet. This will be a good project for someone willing to descend 10' and traverse tight crawl space getting into the main passage.

They might also get to discover the reason for the name RattleSnake Hole.

There are at least two new caves located, one of which appears to have going passage and bad air. Another cave near Circurina sports a colony of blind mice (Blind Mice Cave) and a depth of approximately 100'. On the date of entry, inadequate climbing equipment, lack of energy and etc., prevented going all the way to the bottom. The air was quite breathable and there was a slight inward air flow indicating the cave probably ventilates.

Interest in the project is picking up and more and more phone calls are being received about a place on one of the trips.

HOW TO USE THE SUUNTO (UPDATE)

by Butch Fralia

Last month's Maverick Bull, contained an article by George Veni, on how to use Suunto surveying instruments. As fate would have it, I was contacted by George (after publication) in regard to another matter. When I mentioned reprinting the old article from the "Texas Caver," George mentioned that since the original printing, certain information had become available and requested this information be added in this months issue.

The article gave instructions on the fine art of using the Suunto Compass. When using one eye to read the Suunto Compass and the other eye to spot the survey point, it has been observed by Eastern Cavers that a parallax error (optical "delusion") results. This can result in as much as a 10% error (on a single survey point) in the survey. This error does not occur when using the inclinometer.

The more desirable method of reading the compass, is to use the same eye to read the Compass and locate the survey point. This takes some practice but is workable and minimizes the potential parallax error.

To understand parallax error, close the right eye and look at a nearby object with the left eye. From the same vantage point, close the left eye and look at the same object with the right eye. Notice the object seems to appear in a slightly

slightly different location than in the first observation. The difference in perspective is what causes us to have three dimensional vision. It's a nice idea until a highly accurate cave survey is desired.

I also mentioned in the editor's note preceding the article that George is working on his Doctorate but I didn't know on what. George is working on his Doctorate in Geology for those interested.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

by Jody Robertson

EDITORS NOTE: We've refrained from publishing restaurant reviews since they usually have little to do with caving. This restaurant deserves special attention since it has received rave reviews from our local gourmets.

It was a brisk fall evening in central Missouri. Danny Sherrod and I opted to head into town and look for a place to eat after a good day's caving at fall MVOR. We discovered in the modest town of Osage Beach, a nifty little seafood restaurant that should fill the bill for any famished caver who happened to be in town. The Happy Fisherman, is located on the main drag in downtown Osage Beach and is easy to find. Danny and I had a rather lengthy wait, as the place seemed to be quite popular amongst the locals and was subsequently packed. Once seated and having reviewed the menu, we decided it was time for mass quantities of food. The marquis outside said all you can eat shrimp and that was enough to sway our decision. We both ordered the all you can eat rock shrimp, which comes with the salad bar. Also available on certain days is the all you can eat catfish or Honduran shrimp, both of which looked fabulous. We ate until could hardly move and then ate some more.

Our waitress was Katy and her service was impeccable, as she brought us plate after plate of the delicious, tender shrimp. Owners Mike and Linda Craig have a nice little restaurant and one should heavily consider dining there if in the area on some wild caving crusade. It is well worth it.

CARBIDE

by Butch Fralia

We're off the hook again, due to the efforts of a charter member on behalf of the Carbide Cavers, there's approximately 50 pounds of Carbide sitting in my Garage waiting to be placed in those vintage Justrites, Autolites, or a lowly Premier. Quinta Wilkinson, deserves the Kudos and thanks. Remember her kindly the next time you light up.

Kudo's

In honor of the Carbide, the following two articles are published to brighten up your monthly reading pleasure.

K.R.'s KARBIDE KWIZ (or, I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!)

by Kerry Rowland

EDITOR'S NOTE: This quiz has been floating around for a long time and with the acquisition of carbide, it seemed a good time for it to reappear. Unfortunately the answer sheet has been misplaced so you'll have to contact an experienced carbide caver for answers. I won't make any recommendations since I'm sure you know at least one.

- 1) Where did the Carbide lamp first gain widespread use as a lightsource? -- A) by coonhunters? - B) by natural gas workers? - C) by miners?
- 2) How much carbide does the average lamp require per filling? -- A) one lump? - B) two lumps? - C) about half a basefull? - D) stuff 'er full?
- 3) If you should manage to overfill a limp, and the contents turn to something resembling reinforced concrete, what is the best way to remove the stuff? -- A) a strong stream of water and/or a blunt instrument? - B) a pocketknife? - C) a tactical nuclear weapon?
- 4) The key to successful carbide lamp operation is? -- A) a good vocabulary of cuss words? - B) cleanliness? - C) Godliness?

5) A small blue flame or one that comes out of the tip at an angle is usually a good indicator of what? -- A) impending doom? - B) bad karma? - C) out of carbide? - D) a plugged tip?

6) The proper method of using a tip cleaner is? -- A) gently force one wire straight through the tip? - B) Shove in a coupla' of wires an' ream that mother out? - C) Tip cleaners aren't tools, but merely a form of cave jewelry?

7) A good time to replace you tip is when? -- A) when you knock the tip out of the lamp and can't tell the difference? - B) When you have to turn the water feed very high to get a decent flame? - C) When you hit age 65?

8) The purpose of a felt in a lamp is? -- A) to cause problems when you least expect or need them? - B) to serve as an emergency handkerchief? - C) to prevent water or carbide from entering the gas delivery tube?

9) If you are caving and start having lamp problems, what should you do? -- A) Whack you lamp soundly on the nearest solid object? - B) Take a lamp from the caver you just whacked on the head with your lamp? - C) Sit down and check you lamp's systems out thoroughly until you locate the problem?

10) A flame that pulsates or gets bigger when you turn the lamp down usually means what? -- A) the caver in front of you had beans for lunch (impending doom)? - B) you are probably out of water? - C) You 500 Burmly Tech. School Bonds just fell 60 points?

11) The minimum extra parts and tools a carbide caver should carry are? -- A) a pair of pliers, tip cleaner, spare tip, gasket, and flint? - B) a can of beer, cigarettes, and a copy of "Playboy"? - C) a hammer to take care of that %\$*& lamp once and for all?

12) What should you say to a caver who asks you, "Hey man, got an extra dump bag?" -- A) say "Sure," and hand him a bag in which you've already taken a healthy dump? - B) nonchalantly tell the fool to dump his lamp in his pocket? - C) give him a ration about being ill-equipped and give him a bag or let him use yours?

13) What is the best way to clean an excessively dirty or corroded lamp? -- A) soak it in a

solution of Lime-away? - B) bake in a 375 degree oven for 25-30 minutes?

14) When is the best time to clean you lamp? -- A) 1996? - B) never? - C) within 12 hours of your last cave trip? - D) in the middle of a 1500' water crawl?

15) The best repair material for a cracked or punctured brass carbide lamp is? -- A) cave mud? - B) lead or silver solder? - C) chewing gum? - D) duct tape?

16) A lamp that suddenly erupts into flames like a napalm bomb is a sure sign of what? -- A) sabotage? - B) a loose base or missing gasket? - C) a leaking gasoline storage tank nearby? - D) an extra-good batch of carbide?

17) Which of the following is most important to a carbide caver? -- A) beer? - B) food? - C) sex? - D) a clean reflector?

18) Now that you've finished this kwiz, the best use for it is? -- A) as a blotter to absorb some of the B.S. that's been flowing around here for the past 10 minutes? - B) emergency T.P. on your next caving trip? - C) liner for the bottom of your birdcage? - D) tack it up above that remote corner where you dump your cave gear after each trip as a reminder to clean you #%&\$\$ carbide lamp?

AND REMEMBER.....K.R. IS WATCHING YOU!!!!!!

OFFICIAL CARBIDE REQUISITION REPORT

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following form is reprinted with permission of DFW Grotto. It looks good enough to adopt into our own organization. If anyone has an opinion, bring it up at the next meeting.

FILL OUT REQUESTED INFORMATION AND ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS BELOW. DO NOT WRITE ON BACK OF FORM. BE CONCISE BUT THOROUGH. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE HELD STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. REMEMBER, ALL FUTURE CARBIDE REQUEST WILL BE DECIDED BY THE CARBIDE BOARD. THIS IS PART OF YOUR PERMANENT RECORD!!!

LOST IN THE UNDERGROUND, FOREVER?

by George Crosby

EDITOR'S NOTE: this is the FIRST installment of the longest trip report we've ever received, nine pages, typed. George and Kay Crosby live in Lake Charles, Louisiana. They are both members of the Grotto (accepted at special meeting, Texas Old Timers, 1987, they've even paid up for 1988 -- Hint!). Occasionally we get to see them on some wild excursion, usually at a convention or one of the more exotic trips.

CAST OF CHARACTERS: George & Kay Crosby
The Arabie Family:
Austin
Debbie
Randy
Brian

BRIEF: The following account is the latest version of the true story of an otherwise sane and sensible family that dared venture forth, virgin cavers that they were, into the dark, mysterious underground fantasy world aptly known as Endless Cave. It is also the story of a return to Endless.

THE SEED IS PLANTED:

"We've decided to accompany you to Colorado next summer," Austin said. Having as of late just purchased a Dodge Ramcharger 4X4, he was evidently getting the bug to head for the high country to see what his machine could do and check out some beautiful countryside. His family too, seemed thrilled at the prospect for some Rocky Mountain high.

George and Kay had for the last several years gone for a couple of late summer weeks to Colorado for four-wheelin' fun and spiritual reattunement. "Nothing much like the high country," George was prone to say, "third best feeling in the world," caving he knew of course was the first.

And speaking of caving, why not plan to get underground at some point on the trip. Well, for starters, the Arabies had never been in and wild cave, and George for one was not given to the idea of actively seeking out non-cavers for the purpose of making cavers out of them. "Caves

Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone
Sex (M) or (F) Weight, lbs oz
Height, Ft In
Color of hair
Color of Eyes
Do you have all your appendages?
List any deformities
Religious afflictions
Automobile registration number
Social Security Number
Do you have any prior arrests?
Do you Cave (Caution a wrong answer may void this carbide request)?
How often do you cave ?
Where With whom
Do you have sex with them?
When? How?
Do you have pictures?
Why don't you have pictures?
Has anyone in your family ever been a Pinko commie?
Why?
Approximately how much carbide have you used in the past 25 years? (lbs Oz)
Where was it used?
List all caves?
List dates of visits, (this must be accurate)
State five (5) reasons why you are requesting Carbide?
Give examples and reasons for going caving in the first place?
List all friends, relatives or others who could possible give or loan you carbide?
If you list more than one (1), your application is automatically denied.

If in your background check, it is found you have lied on any portion of this form, the carbide request will be denied. The CARBIDE BOARD will consider all applications in December of each year. No other date will be accepted.

REMEMBER!! THIS IS PART OF YOUR PERMANENT RECORD!!!

are too few and too fragile, and besides a person should feel drawn to caves, not prodded into one at the behest of friends, right?" Right, but even so the attraction of the possibilities and potentials inherent in this situation along with the certain knowledge of the Arabies' conservation sensibilities made it impossible not to make a run at it. Sooooo.....

"Look, just as an idea to consider, something for you and your family to talk over as a possibility, if you want, we can go through a cave on the way back from Colorado. We can do it or not do it, no big deal (a lie), I just want to throw it out as something we could do if everyone wants to. Just ya'll talk it over and let me know. It would be real nice but it's OK with me one way or the other, just let me know." That's the way George put it to Austin, now he would just wait and see.

Their decision wasn't immediate in comin but eventually they took the bait, er, I mean that is to say they accepted the proposal. All the pieces were in place for a perfect vacation trip. A caving they were going!!!! Yippee!!!!

The permit application was properly filled out and returned with the date chosen so that they would visit Endless on the way home. It would be on a Friday. As it so happened, Donna and Bruce Anderson were to be in the Pogosa springs, Colorado area the same week doing their annual pilgrimage to the high country. And so it was arranged (Austin might say schemed) between donna and George that the Louisiana party would stop by for a howdy on their way out of Colorado.

The weeks leading up to departure time were filled with preparations for the trip in general and the cave event in particular. All the various equipment for four new cavers had to be gathered together and tried out. Also several caving type discussions were had wherein many questions were answered and many answers were questioned, but in the end all members of the trip seemed satisfied that things were proceeding smoothly. That is until George produced copies of the Cave map and announced that it was important for each member to memorize same since strange things have been known to happen in the underground and therefore the seemingly remote possibility of someone losing their map and simultaneously becoming separated from the rest of the party was a possibility that should at least be recognized. "After all" he

said "we do want to return to the surface with pert near the same number of folks what go in, right? Hay, where' everyone going!! Come back here. I was just joshing, really I was."

A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER:

"Supper'll be ready in thirty minutes" was the first thing George heard Donna say and music to his ears it truly was. After several days and nights on the trail in the Colorado high country without benefit of any civilizing facilities whatsoever, the Louisiana delegation was feeling rode hard and road weary. Pulling onto a quaint and picturesque circle of cabins nestled in the valley below Wolf Creek Pass late that afternoon after what had been a fairly good day's dusty drive they were greeted by the beaming faces of Bruce and donna. Expecting to just say hello for now and then proceed to look for a bedding down place in the woods, the ragged crew was bowled over at the most gracious and as it turned out continuing hospitality of the Andersons. Even their cabin was offered for use for the duration of the stay, but by chance of good fortune an empty one was actually available for two nights and snapped up immediately it was.

The next thirty six hours were ones of delicious food, good conversation, hot showers, soft beds, playing tourist in Pogasa Springs area, more delicious food, more good conversation, more hot showers, and more soft beds. You get the idea. Everything was great! Not the least of all was Donna's cooking: lasagna the first night and a fantastic Mexican dish the second (be sure to ask her for the recipe). On top of that, Bruce cooked a mean breakfast and later that evening for desert he did up a blackberry cobbler you wouldn't believe, in a cast iron pot over coals, no less.

The refuges from bayou land had truly stumbled upon a utopian oasis and cares and concerns were no where to be found. That is unless of course the cares and concerns gradually starting to creep into the Arabies' minds were considered. This was after all yet going to be a cave trip. Their first wild cave! A maze cave with three levels no less! From the deep lower levels of the subconscious mind, stirrings of foreboding and uneasiness were starting to make their way to the surface. It had been a rather blissful day but now as the six adults lingered about the dinner table, freshly stuffed and

feeling no pain, the conversation eventually made its winding way to none other than a discussion of Endless Cave.

"There's no way you'd ever get me down in that cave" Bruce said pushing himself away from the table with both arms and tilting back in his chair as if by an expression of body language to further distance himself from any ideas of cave exploration. "I'll tell you one thing for sure though," he continued, "if it was me, I'd get myself to the hardware store tomorrow and buy several big rolls of kite string to bring with me. After all it's not called Endless for nothing." Of course the Arabies had only just met Bruce the day before and they had not the comfort of knowing for sure whether such advice was to be taken seriously or jokingly. For sure everyone was laughing, especially Bruce, but was there just a slight trace of gallows humor detectable in their common glee? An inside joke perhaps, known only to veterans of that most confusing of underworlds.

Such was the nature of the conversation for the remainder of the evening. While Donna and George droned on endlessly about this passageway and that passageway and how one might best proceed and on what level, Bruce continued on with his theme that to venture forth inside Endless Cave was to risk the certain fate of being lost forever 'neath the arid lands of Southern New Mexico. Such talk might well have gone on indefinitely had it not been for the fact that the shower house was about to close. With that realization good-nights were said all around and the crew from Canjun Country proceeded en mass straight for the hot water.

The next morning was a busy one for everybody. Donna and Bruce were making last minute preparations for a white water rafting trip they had scheduled and the caving party was loading up for the long drive ahead. One final gathering was had for good byes and further expressions of sincere appreciation for good times, good food, and down right good hospitality. Now it was off to Endless in pursuit of what this trip was all really about in the first place. Ahh..., life is good!

The drive was at first beautiful, later monotonous and finally boring, boring, boring. The fellow named endless must have had in mind the drive it takes to get to it. Miles upon miles of highway

stretching from one horizon to the other, straight as an arrow, with nary the tiniest feature to excite interest. Still, with each passing moment they were drawing closer to their destination and it was that thought alone that gave rise to an ever increasing sense of anticipation.

Arrival! Late afternoon. McKittrick Hill by God, and what a sight! Serene and solemn, standing guard for untold millennium over a vast and empty landscape. For 360 degrees, as far as the eye could see there was not much to see, not a single of specific distinction. But therein was part and parcel of this land's seductive allure and beauty. Seemingly all was laid bare and exposed beneath the deep azure blue bowl of sky and unrelenting stare of the sun. But this was the Land of Enchantment, and here were to be found many unseen mysteries and fascinations if one knew but where to look.

Eager with unrestrained anticipation, Austin's sons were ready at once to see the opening that would serve to gain them access to the underground, so George pointed in the direction of the fence style and challenged them to find it. It didn't take long before all were face to face with tomorrow's adventure. Stooping down, they made their way to the gate and peered in at the dark void. Evening light still feebly illuminated the near parts of the passage, but certainly it was that black impenetrable darkness further back that beckoned and called like some irresistible Siren Song.

Tomorrow could not come soon enough but camp still had to be made, so everyone proceeded back to the vehicles to make ready for the evening. And what an evening and night it would prove to be. A fantastic sunset was followed by a glorious dusk and that in turn was followed by such a spectacular heat lightning show as any who witnessed it had ever seen. Immense fireballs exploded on the horizon while gigantic white streaks silhouetted against the night sky flashed instantaneously into existence as some huge neon sign, then pulsed and throbbed and immediately were gone forever.

Well folks, that's all for this month. Tune in again next month because I assure you this story gets better with every line. George seems to have a poet's way of describing mother nature's finest creations. ---- Butch

THERE WILL BE A PROGRAM AT OUR NEXT MEETING SO COME ON BY AND SEE
WHAT'S COOKING.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN YOUR DUES, PLEASE DO SO ASAP!!!!

NOTICE THE BEGINNER TRIP ON THE CALENDAR, BRING YOUR FRIENDS WHO
WANT TO TRY CAVING AND GIVE THEM THEIR SHOT!!

THE MAVERICK GROTTO
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