

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 1988

TO: MR. CLAUS

C/O: NIEMAN-MARCUS

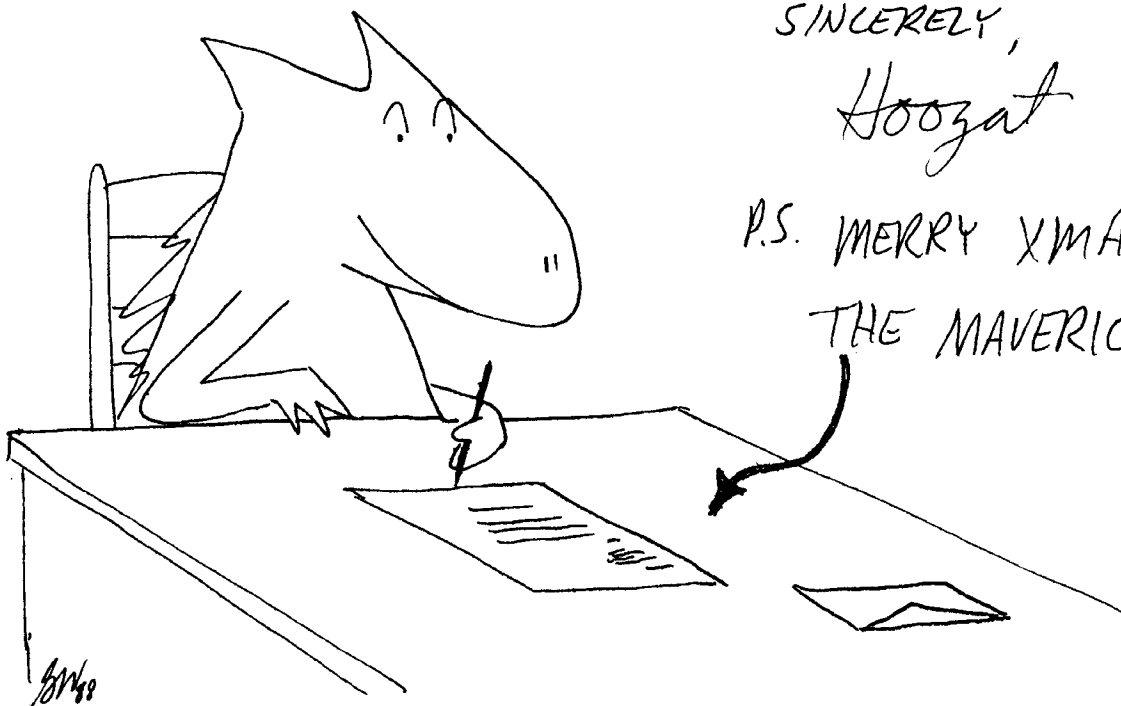
FROM: HOOZAT THE HORNERD TOAD

DEAR MR. CLAUS,

PLEASE SEND ME A NEW BACKPACK FOR XMAS.
MY PACK WAS LAST SEEN HEADING YOUR WAY AT
THE SPEED OF SOUND (REMEMBER LAST MONTH SANTA?) ALSO SEND
MY FRIEND A NEW MAZDA HOOD.

SINCERELY,
Hoozat

P.S. MERRY XMAS FROM
THE MAVERICK BULL.



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 GROTTTO, 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.

PRINTING: This issue printed FREE by UNDERGROUND PRESS, INC., The Republic of Texas.

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) a member of a caving organization headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at SNOKEY'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
602 Rose
Denton, Texas, 76201

Vice-Chairman: Donna Anderson
504 Kimbrough
Fort Worth, Texas, 76108
817-246-6313

Treasurer: Dale Ellison
1208 Dan Gould Rd.
Arlington, Texas, 76017
817-473-0463

Editor/Secretary: Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas, 76133
817-346-2039

COVER: This months cover by Gregg Wolffarth, a non caving associate who volunteered to help us out. This artwork consists of a whole series of cartoons which will run through December 1988.

CALENDAR

Dec. 9-11; Gorman Falls Work Trip cancelled due to deer lottery, trips resume in January.

Dec. 10; Annual Christmas Party to be hosted once again by Danny and Jane Sherrod. More on this later.

Dec. 26-?; Possible Missouri Cave trip, contact Dale Ellison, 817/473-0463.

Jan. 10; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Jan. 13-15; Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

Feb. 10-12; Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

Feb. 14; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Mar. 10-12; Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

Mar. 14; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Mar. 18-26; Possible work trip to Devils River State Park. Number of people limited -- Contact Butch Fralia, 817-346-2039 Keith Heuss, 512-385-7131.

Apr. 7-9; Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

Apr. 11; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

May. 9; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

May 12-14; Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

Jun. 9-10; Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

Jun. 13; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Oct. 1989; American Cave Management Symposium, Sponsored by TSA, TPWD, ACMA. To be held in New Braunfels, Texas.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGES

Beginning in January, please direct all exchanges to the Maverick Grotto's new (joint) newsletter editors.

David & Shari Finrock
1974 Barron
Fort Worth, Texas, 76112

MAVERICK GROTTO PATCHES, AT LAST!!

We still have a large collection of Maverick Grotto Patches. They really look great after their long journey from Taiwan and deserve a resting place on your favorite cap, shirt or jacket. The patches are available through Dale Ellison for \$3.00 each. Have your Cash, Check or Money Order ready, they'll be going fast!!!

MAVERICK GROTTO SONG BOOKS!!

Maverick Grotto Songbooks are still available from Donna Anderson, for the paltry sum of \$3.00 ea. for members and \$3.50 ea. for non-members. This collection of cave ballads written to the tune of your favorite songs by your fellow cavers is well worth the money.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the MAVERICK GROTTO was held at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster on November 8, 1988.

The meeting was chaired by Vice-Chairman Donna Anderson.

The Annual Grotto Anniversary Party was discussed, for those who attended but couldn't remember, it was interesting learning about the events which transpired. For those who missed the party, they had an opportunity to see what they'd missed.

The annual election of officers was held, those who'd been previously nominated, were elected by acclamation since there wasn't anyone to run against them. New officers for 1989 are:

Chairman: Dale Ellison
Vice-Chairman: Danny Sherrod
Editor/Secretary: David & Shari Finrock
Treasurer: Teresa White

See the related article about the elections later in this issue.

Woodrow Thomas presented a slide presentation on the Caves and Sinkholes of Kentucky. The primary focus of attention was the sinkhole plain in the Bowling, Green Kentucky area. Woodrow is an accomplished speaker, which along with a very good collection of slides, made for an excellent presentation.

DECEMBER MEETING

In lieu of a December meeting, the Maverick will hold their annual Christmas Party. Danny and Jane Sherrod, once again host the event in their home at Joshua, Texas. There will be a related article and map near the end of this issue.

1989 OFFICERS

The November Grotto meeting, saw the election of a new slate of officers for 1989. It's time for a change and to be sure it occurs, the present officers (excepting treasurer Dale Ellison who had his arm twisted to encourage him to run for Chairman -- the alternatives were frightening -- our constitution doesn't allow the drafting of officers) declined any nomination and opted to retire. Please support your new officers in every way possible, they have some new problems facing them in '89 and any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

To help introduce the new officers, their names, positions, addresses and unbiased information about each of them follows:

Chairman: Dale Ellison
1208 Dan Gould Rd.
Arlington, Texas, 76017
817-473-0463

Chairman Dale Ellison is a charter member of the Maverick Grotto. He has been caving about three years, he was instrumental in the formation of the Maverick Grotto, and is frequently seen on cave trips and meetings. Dale is a gung-ho caver with a great deal of interest in the Grotto and will help it grow and maintain it's success.

Vice-Chairman: Danny Sherrod
3 Cobb Drive
Joshua, Texas, 76058
(h)817-295-5167
(w)817-295-6186

Vice Chairman Danny Sherrod, has also been caving for approximately three years and like Dale is a Charter Member of The Maverick Grotto. Danny has to spend a great deal of time traveling professionally yet manages to have the energy to attend grotto meetings and make quite a few caving trips when he's not otherwise occupied. He is very interested in the Grotto, it's growth and success.

Treasurer: Teresa White
5424 Finian
North Richland Hills, Texas, 76180
(h)817-281-6240

Teresa White is an excellent caver and cave ballad singer. Teresa began caving in 1987 along with her fiance Pooch Amy. Teresa and Pooch's first cave trip was to Crystal Lake Crawl cave where there's no crystal, no lake but plenty of crawl. If that didn't scare her off, she has what it takes to see the grotto succeed. Perhaps Teresa can coax Pooch into demonstrating some of his excellent writing and drawing talents for "The Maverick Bull."

Editor/Secretary: David & Shari Finrock
1974 Barron
Fort Worth, Texas, 76112
(h)817-451-3539

David & Shari Finrock have become regulars in the caving world. David was a charter member of the Aggie Speleological Society. David & Shari both appreciate the importance of communications and will put forth an excellent newsletter. David has excellent writing skills which he's demonstrated in past trip reports published in the "Bull."

EDITORIAL
by Butch Fralia

This is the 26th issue of the Maverick Bull, my last

issue unless David and Shari tire of it sometime in the future, I get caught up on my other activities, no one else will come forth to save the day and I have an attack of someone's got to do it. All of which are highly improbable.

I want to express my appreciation to all those who provided articles or just moral support. You've often heard complaints about the lack of articles but everything worked out and for all my complaining, it's really been fun. Over the past few months, personal obligations have increased to the point where each issue is a real hassle. My creative juices have begun to dry up and suddenly the "Bull" has become a job instead of providing the enjoyment it did earlier. When this happens, especially in the case of an organizational letter, it's time to get out.

There've been many great articles pass through this old computer and onto the printed page in the past two years. Publishing a newsletter can be fun and frustrating at the same time. In the case of the "Bull," I've tried to work to a deadline and assure the newsletter is out and received prior to the monthly meeting. There've been times I mis-read the calendar and suddenly discovered there were only a few days before press time and a few small things were missing; like articles! Many times I called the other officers and suggested that if they'd like to have a newsletter for the month, perhaps they could help dredge up something to print. They always responded to the plea!!! There's been at least one issue where there wasn't enough material for the usual ten pages (five sheets) and the newsletter was a little shorter.

In a previous editorial, I expounded upon the value of communication in helping any organization succeed in it's endeavors. I feel very strongly about this and hope that everyone will help David and Shari to provide the quality publication which is so important to the success of the grotto. I've volunteered to provide a few guest editorials and articles in the event their creative juices dry up. This happens periodically and any help is greatly appreciated.

"The Maverick Bull," belongs to the Grotto rather than the incumbent editor and there's an obligation that goes with the job. I'm not preaching to David and Shari for they understand this perhaps even better than I. If there's a message to anyone, it's to the membership and readers, you've had mostly positive comments and support for the newsletter but little in the way of written contributions. There are 6,500 - 7,500 printed words in each newsletter and they have to come from somewhere. Everyone seems to enjoy reading the newsletter but few have time to pen an article. In the beginning, I felt there were many unpublished authors in the world just waiting for their opportunity to see their by line in print. It didn't take long to overcome this illusion. The newsletter belongs to you, the member, the reader and if you enjoy it, try to contribute more in the future.

David and Shari, along with the rest of the Grotto face new problems in the upcoming year. The first few issues of the newsletter were printed free by "The Frog press." "The Oilfield Trash Press" soon became the established printer. Both firms, known for their ability to operate late at night when others weren't around to tell tales. In late August, free printing was no longer available by the established printer and suddenly there loomed the probability of paying for printing.

This was a shock to everyone as previously, the newsletter magically appeared and no one asked from whence it came. Up to that point, dues were only intended to cover postage and printing cost were suddenly a consideration. For the months of September and August, Danny Sherrod's Dock Board Press took up the slack with Danny paying printing cost out of his own pocket for September then using his company copier in October. Unfortunately Danny can't

continue to print because his small copier is not designed to provide the number of copies required by the Grotto and his business and it's unfair to expect him to personally pay to have the issues printed. Bruce Anderson, made arrangements for the November and December issues but again, this arrangement isn't permanent. We have a volunteer to print the newsletter who believes it can be provided on a regular basis, but again this is a situation which may not be permanent. That leaves us searching other alternatives.

The most probable alternative is an increase in dues for both subscribers and members. Unless someone pulls a rabbit out of their hat, this appears to be more and more probable by the moment. Hopefully, someone will come forward with a satisfactory plan which will solve the problem without a dues increase.

This problem isn't unique to the Maverick Grotto; other Grottoes face the same problem on a monthly basis. Cavers are notoriously cheap (me included) and the idea of a dues increase or drastically changing the newsletter, appears to be the major issue facing us in the future. I don't envy the new officers for having to deal with this problem immediately upon assuming their offices. If there'd been any choice in the matter, things would have remained the same, the newsletter would still magically appear and nobody would have ever known the difference.

Another problem facing our new officers, is trying to get some of our armchair cavers in the field once in awhile. If they have the opportunity to be reminded first hand of what caving's like, they will probably ask themselves why they've been off on other pursuits for a time. I'm not talking about those who can only make a few cave trips a year but those who haven't been on a trip since they became members? Something brought them into caving, spurred their interest and kept them around long enough to become members. Something seems to as suddenly taken them off in other directions. Perhaps the new officers can solve this problem.

Just because I'm turning the newsletter over to David and Shari, it doesn't mean I'm fading away from caving, if anything, it means I'll have time to become more active. Keith Heuss and I, are working on cave management plans for State Parks. Keith is looking into access to parks other than Colorado Bend, we'll be evaluating their cave potential. Parks and Wildlife has new properties; 1) Devils River State Natural Area, near Del Rio with five known caves and 19,988.6 acres of potential caving, 2) 217,016.6 acres in the Big Bend area near where the deepest caves in Texas form. Distance makes driving on a regular basis impractical but they're projects worth looking into. Quinta and I are working on promoting the Cave and Ground Water Protection Acts, which would be of benefit to cavers and landowners alike, not to mention help preserve the aquifers as a source of water for future generations. There are several cave leads I want to check out and see if they exist and there's even a computerized database of Texas caves I helped start and want to finish. There's a lot of things going on which offer caving potential for one and all. There'll even be a need for related articles.

THE MAVERICK GROTTA

THANKS!!!

by: Donna Anderson

Editors note: Donna Anderson wrote this article but her feelings are shared by all the officers. Thanks to Donna for her unrelenting efforts to promote the Grotto, organize trips and just for being there when we needed her.

The Maverick Grotto is now two years old. We have grown tremendously during this time. Many of us have spent a great deal of time making the grotto what it is today. As

this year is almost over, I would like to recognize some of the people who have contributed their time and effort to the grotto during these two years.

Thanks go to Joe Biddens who offered us his assistance when we approached him with the idea of starting a grotto in Fort Worth. He spent a great deal of time putting together and revising a constitution for us. He submitted all the paperwork necessary for the NSS to approve our Charter. Without his knowledge and expertise, it would have taken much longer to wade through all the red tape to get our Grotto recognized by the NSS. Joe served as Treasurer during the first year of the grotto. Joe also found some stretchers for our grotto to purchase at a fantastically low price. Thanks to all who donated money for them so that we would not have to use grotto funds. Thanks to all of you who contributed artwork for our Maverick logo and to Mark Porter for his winning entry. I would like to thank our officers, our trip leaders, our various committee members, those who contributed articles and cover art for the newsletters, those who helped to xerox and mail the newsletters, those who gave programs at our meetings, and all the cavers who participated in our grotto trips. Thanks go to one of our youngest members, Joshua Thompson, who contributed art work for two covers of our newsletters, one when he was 8 years old and one when he was 9 years old. A big thanks go to Steve Dalton and Mike Cagle for preparing and cooking the fajitas at the last two annual Maverick Parties. It took several hours the night before the party just to trim and prepare the 30 pounds of meat. The meat turned out superb and everyone raved about it. Thanks to Bruce Anderson and Butch Fralia for providing fireworks for the party. Thanks to Bobby Moore for bringing and setting up a sauna at the parties. Thanks to Cynthia and Russell Hill who brought a donkey and a mule to the parties. They made a big hit with the kids. Thanks also go to Danny and Jane Sherrod for hosting our Christmas parties. This year will make the third Christmas Party they have hosted. Thanks go to Butch Fralia, Quinta Wilkinson, and Jody Robertson who put together the Christmas awards at the last minute on the day of the Christmas party last year. Thanks to Jody Robertson for presenting the awards at each of our Christmas parties. Another thanks goes to Jody Robertson who did the cover art for our grotto songbooks. We also appreciated all of the songs contributed by so many of our members. Thanks to Rey Perkins and others who xeroxed the songbook. Thanks to Pooch Amy and Dawn Burow who won top awards in the NSS Cave Ballad competition this year. Our grotto ranks at the top nationally for cave ballads. Thanks to Dennis Thompson, Corky Corcoran, Dale Ellison, and Butch Fralia who found new landowners with caves for us to visit. Another big thanks go to our landowners and friends, Mr. & Mrs. Otis Brister, Mr. John Sparks, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Cummings, E. Ebell, and C. L. Yarbrough. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to visit their caves. Thanks go to Keith Heuss and Butch Fralia for their dedication to the Gorman project and all the paperwork and reports they completed for the Parks Department. Also, thanks go to all of our members who spent their weekends searching for caves, surveying, mapping, and placing signs on the caves at Colorado Bend State Park. Thanks to Richard Dushman, Al Rehfelt, Diana Andrews, Danny Sherrod, Dale Ellison, Ron Miller, and Butch Fralia for providing video equipment for our meetings. Also thanks go to our camera crews who video taped several caves the past two years. We enjoyed seeing those videos at our meetings. Our landowners also enjoyed receiving copies of these.

Thanks to Bill Moore for his climbing instructions for the grotto at Mineral Wells State Park. Thanks to David and Shari Finfrock for putting together the booklet for new cavers, and for all those who contributed ideas for this booklet. Thanks to Michael Fox who gave Maverick members free passes to the Funny Bone. Thanks to Ed Poynter and

Steve Dalton who brought their telescopes on caving trips for the enjoyment of all. Thanks to Arlene Heintz and Dale Ellison who have taken us to some really fine caves in Missouri. Thanks to Steve and Pat Gentry for offering to xerox the newsletters for the coming year. We would also like to thank our Lubbock Area Grotto friends and Bexar Grotto friends for inviting us on their trips. A special thanks goes to Chris Williams who gave many grotto programs concerning first aid. We appreciate the time he spent preparing for these programs and for the literature he provided on the topics. We would also especially like to thank Butch Fralia for editing the newsletter each month since the grotto began. It has been a top notch newsletter from the very beginning. Butch spent many long hours every month preparing the newsletters. The rapid growth in our grotto is largely due to the caliber of our newsletters. The newsletter has provided a good means of communication among our members. Butch has insured that we received a newsletter every month even when few articles were submitted. Thanks for your dedication Butch, we want you to know that your efforts were appreciated.

My, this list can go on and on. This article started out to be one short paragraph, but I kept thinking of all the wonderful contributions everyone made. Thanks to all of you for working together so well.

I feel the grotto will continue to grow during the coming year. Our new slate of officers are very eager and have many wonderful ideas in store for us. Let's all give our new officers our support and help in the newsletters and the new projects for 1989.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

by Dale Ellison

I would like to thank everyone for the vote of confidence in electing me as Maverick Grotto chairman. Other than myself, the slate of officers for the Grotto are new to their posts and are eager beavers.

On November 15, Danny Sherrod (Vice Chairman), Teresa White (Treasurer), David & Shari Finfrock (joint Editor/Secretary), and I met at the Finfrock's home for the purpose of discussing The Maverick Grotto for 1989.

The discussion about "The Maverick Bull" and dues were a main topic. As it last stood, Danny Sherrod volunteered to pay from his pocket, two months of printing and Bruce Anderson two months which would bring us up to January. All newsletters since The Maverick Grotto received it's NSS charter were copied free of charge through a contact of Butch Fralia's (Butch also donated the first years postage to help the Grotto Treasury!). Now, Butch Fralia's contact is no longer in a position to print the "Bull." The Gentry's have volunteered to print the newsletter beginning in January. My hat's off to the Gentry's for this relentless undertaking, however, we cannot expect them to print the "Bull" indefinitely. More about a dues increase during the January meeting.

Grotto projects for 1989 were discussed:

1. Assist TSA on the Gorman Falls project now known as Colorado Bend State Park.
2. Work in the Cave Rescue area.
3. Public relations with area colleges in the Geology departments.

If you have more suggestions on projects or none of the above, be at the January meeting to have your say.

P.S. Be watching for the "new look" "Maverick Bull!"

MISSOURI CAVING
by Dale Ellison

On Monday December 26; for anyone wishing to do numerous Missouri walking caves, we will meet at Bennett Springs State Park in Missouri. To get there, drive to Springfield, Missouri and while your driving around, get on I-44 heading N.E. or to Strafford, Marshfield, and Lebanon. Lebanon is about 50 miles from Springfield where you will take exit 44 to Highway 5, go left or north. When 64 connects to 5, take 6 to Bennett Springs State Park or ask anyone in Lebanon how to get there. Bennett Springs is a beautiful park including a trout hatchery.

From our "base camp" at Bennett Springs, we will set out Tuesday morning for Hooten Cave then Davis Cave. Wednesday, we will explore Dr. Lewis Cave (untouched and rarely visited). Wednesday evening or Thursday morning we will break camp and head to Leasburg, Missouri. There we will camp and explore Lone Hill Onyx Cave in the Merramac State Forest.

Except for an occasional crawl or duck under, these are all walking caves with lots to see. By the way, the two parks we will camp at have restrooms and HOT showers.

McKITTRICK HILL
by: Donna Anderson

DATE: November 17 - 20, 1988

DESTINATION: McKittrick Hill

PERSONNEL: Bruce & Donna Anderson, Kay & George Crosby, and Danny Sherrod

Thursday evening Danny, Bruce, and I left in the van for McKittrick Hill. We stopped at a restaurant in Thurber which Danny recommended. At each of the booths there was a carbide lamp mounted to the wall. They had wired up a bulb where the flame normally would be. The food was good. We continued our journey arriving at McKittrick Hill about 2:30 a.m. Kay and George were already there, asleep in their tent trailer. George got up to greet us. We set up tents, chatted briefly, and quickly went to sleep.

Friday morning was a warm, calm, beautiful day. We decided to go to Endless first as Danny had not seen the war club room. After breakfast, we walked down to the cave and George tried the combination. They Kay tried. Then I tried. Then Bruce tried. Then Danny kept thinking of other numbers to try - reversing the numbers etc. Nothing worked. George and Kay went back to camp to get the permits. When they returned, we tried the combinations given for Sand and McKittrick Cave. They didn't work either. We then split up and went to Sand and McKittrick to see if those combinations would work. They did not. So we all piled into the van and headed for the BLM office in Carlsbad. Upon arrival, we discovered no one knew anything about the combinations. However, Scott Adams was to be back shortly so we went to Wendy's for lunch. George stayed there just in case Scott came back and left again before we got back. When we returned to the BLM office, Scott was there and had given George the correct combinations. We had a nice visit with Scott and then returned to McKittrick Hill.

We entered Endless Cave with no further problems. It wasn't long before Danny was pulling out his camera. We traveled through the upper maze to the expressway. We then explored around the Gypsum Room finding exquisite areas for Danny to photograph. We then proceeded to the Green Lake Room and the War Club Room. Danny was only able to take one picture in the War Club Room before running out of film. We toured the beautiful room enjoying the striking bands of

different colors on the walls from the various minerals at different water levels when the room was filled with water. We signed the register and left the area. We then went to the Little Expressway and looked around. It was time to leave so we decided to go back the way we had entered. On the way out, George and I went ahead to check out the correct route while the others took a break. The passage led to the upper maze. George saw a centipede about 8 inches long with stripes across it and pincers at the back and its head was bright red. He took a picture of it. When we put our lights on it, it reared its head up angrily. George was glad he was not in a small crawlway when he found it. We then left it in darkness and returned to the rest of the group. We reported that the area we had checked out was not the exact route we wanted but that we did know exactly where we were. We continued on out. It was about 10 p.m. when we left the cave. It was really cold and of course the wind was blowing hard. Bruce started a fire and we huddled around it. We all retired fairly early as the thought of a warm sleeping bag began to overshadow all other thoughts.

Early the next morning it was bitterly cold with strong winds. No one got a lot of sleep as the noise of the wind on the tents kept waking us. We decided to see if it was less windy at the lower camping area. Bruce tried to start the van but it wouldn't start. George tried to start his Jeep but it wouldn't start. We only had the two vehicles. But George tried again and his started. Bruce tried again several times and it finally started. Bruce and Danny drove down the hill searching for a less windy area. No luck. We all got inside Kay & George's tent trailer. The coffee was started and breakfast was cooked. Then Pat and Matt Helton and Richard Knapp arrived from Lubbock. We all gathered in the trailer. Soon Noble Stidham and Jimmy Thurlio arrived. Noble had just heard a weather report and it was expected to be about 15 degrees that night. This prompted a discussion of whether to camp there that night or go to a motel in Carlsbad. We decided that if the wind was blowing and it was 15 degrees that it would be mostly miserable camping. So we packed up our gear and took down the tents. While we were packing, some snow flakes started falling. This brought a smile to everyone's face; maybe because we knew we would be in a warm motel that night.

We then went to McKittrick Cave and practised rappelling and ascending at the pit entrance which looked to be about 30 feet deep. The warm air rising from the cave felt really nice. Later we went into the ledge entrance of McKittrick and looked around. We were walking along in a large passage and we spotted a porcupine. It tried to hide behind some rocks but was still plainly visible. We talked to it for awhile but we could tell he really didn't want to have anything to do with us. Then we went out and went in the pit entrance. We soon ran into the cavers from Lubbock. They were doing photo monitoring for BLM. We visited with our Lubbock friends for awhile. We then decided to go back to Endless. The others headed to the van while George and I went to both entrances of Sand Cave to change the lock combinations for BLM. This accomplished, we returned to the others. We drove back down to camp. There were some college students setting up camp who were from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. We warmed ourselves by their campfire and found out that they were taking a class on caving. They were earning two hours of college credit for this!

We then decided to head for Carlsbad. We checked into a motel, called Jim Goodbar and told him where we were, and then proceeded to the Sirloin Stockade for an all you can eat buffet.

The next morning we went to the motel restaurant. A few minutes later Noble and Jimmy showed up. They had also spent the night at that motel. A little bit later Jim and Andrea Goodbar showed up. We all had a wonderful visit. All too soon it was time to return to Fort Worth. Kay and

George started their 16 hour drive back to Louisiana. We all enjoyed the trip and know we will be back there again.

Colorado Bend State Park
November Work Trips
by Butch Fralia

The month of November saw the largest group ever, 28 people gather at Colorado Bend for the 2nd weekend work trip. Since the December trip was cancelled, a small group also gathered over the Thanksgiving holidays for a "casual" work trip. A list of personnel present for both trips was omitted to prevent taking up the remaining space in the newsletter.

To satisfy a need for park personnel cave rescue training, Jay Jordan contacted Ken Larsen who works for the Plano Fire Department all the credentials necessary to teach a certified course, he teaches rescue classes to the Department of Public Safety, he has credentials in vertical rescue, cave rescue to name a few. Ken had previously contacted the Park Superintendant and arrived with a contingent of rescue personnel and equipment. During the course of the weekend, they worked out the details for a pilot rescue course with Superintendant Tarin and the problem is now solved. There will be a trial course sometime during the spring and if all works out, there will be further courses offered to cavers.

Round rock cavers Bill Larsen (no relation Ken) and John Gunther along with Alvis Hill, Debra Morris, Jody Robertson, Jeff Duval and Jeff's friend Jeff, spent most of Saturday entering caves in the Lively Pasture to obtain the information needed to write cave descriptions. Some of these caves have been surveyed but as yet the maps haven't been completed. Keith Heuss has taken this information and developed a very good set of cave descriptions for the park.

David Finfrock, Pooch Amy along with Pooch's brother and cousin, arrived to survey Dynamite Cave. David requested a simple cave to survey for the purpose of doing his first cave map. They departed to Dynamite and came back some hours later excited with the data they had accumulated. Unfortunately they weren't able to stay the entire weekend but enjoyed themselves while they were there.

Jay Jordan and John Brooks (along with others) went to Lemons Ranch Cave to obtain survey data to add a 60 foot pit near the end of the cave to the existing map. The air was quite bad but they survived and came out with a great deal of data.

Terry Holsinger took the rescue team to a number of different areas so they could review the rescue conditions of the various caves in the area. The general consensus was that from the standpoint of rescue training, the park has lucrative locations.

Butch Fralia and Keith Heuss, spent most of their time placing signs at the entrance of caves. This project was requested by Park operations sometime back and has been the only area of contention about whether cavers were performing their assigned tasks at an acceptable pace. The state has furnished a Makita, battery powered rotary hammer type drill and masonry bits for the project. Due to the hardness of the rock involved, the bits burn up rapidly and the two batteries for the drill run down quickly. To date we've averaged three signs per weekend. With over one hundred caves on the property, this makes for a long term project.

Sunday morning saw cavers awaken to prospects of various recreational or work projects. Danny Sherrod wanted to try out his new vertical equipment including rope so a group headed for Mouse Hole Cave which has a 30 foot rappel to get to the first level. Upon arrival, Danny dropped his gear at the entrance only to see his new rope bag including rope roll into the entrance and descend to the deepest levels of the pit. Danny immediately was placed in the

position of climbing into the pit to rescue his own rope. He was successful in his endeavors, climbed out with the rope which was immediately rigged for the normal method of descent.

While in Mouse Hole Cave, it was discovered that the air was quite bad in the lower levels which led to a research project involving the use of a Bic (or other butane lighter) for a bad air detector. So this information is clearly stated for all, a related article appears later in the newsletter.

All in all it was a great weekend.

Thanksgiving weekend saw a small group of cavers arrive for a laid back work trip.

The work mostly consisted of installing signs and video taping caves and the immediate area. Approximately two hours of video tape was acquired though a few technical difficulties were experienced. We felt that due to the facilities available on the park, we could recharge batteries etc. As it turned out, the power line voltage on the park is lower than normal and depleted cam-corder batteries could not be brought up to a full charge. Batteries had a tendency to deplete themselves at unexpected times resulting in lots of recharging and delayed shooting. It was the first time for using the new lighting system so there were technical details to be worked out (and still are).

Friday night saw the arrival of two major thunderstorms. It was an exciting night for all as several tents had found themselves placed in the watershed path. No one would have imagined there would be running water two inches deep on top of a hill. Saturday morning saw a great deal of activity involving the draining and relocating of tents, drying of sleeping bags, clothes, etc.

On a previous trip Dale Ellison had discovered a cave which has been named Dale's birthday cave in honor of the occasion. Dale, Keith Heuss and Don Denton took the air meter, air meter and vertical gear. This adventure resulted in a new experience for Keith. In over twenty years of caving, he has never been the first to enter a virgin cave. He's always been the one elected to take pictures of the first to enter (that's what happens when you're an expert photographer). On this trip, he experienced the honor of being the first in an unentered cave. Congratulations Keith.

BAD AIR DETECTION
by Butch Fralia

"Bad air" is often the greatest danger which cavers expose themselves to during normal cave exploration. It is the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the cave atmosphere and is predominately in vertical caves or pits where there is little airflow to flush the carbon dioxide and keep oxygen levels in normal proportion. Carbon dioxide is a heavy gas which displaces oxygen, causing it to rise to some level above the carbon dioxide.

At the surface, oxygen represents 21% of atmospheric gas, 19.5% oxygen has been determined as the point where the oxygen content is sub-normal and possibly a detriment to human health. Cavers have determined they can function quite well in oxygen levels of 17% though some cavers tend to experience headaches at this level. It should be also pointed out that oxygen deprivation is the primary cause of headaches in the first place. At levels below 17%, cavers experience blackouts. Some cavers may function in oxygen levels as low as 14% but this is greatly dependent upon the physiology of the person and the attempt to do so is highly discouraged.

For cavers frequenting bad air areas, Oxygen meters are quite expensive with the less expensive models costing in excess of \$600.00, where the a lowly butane lighter can be

purchased for 69 cents. Cavers frequenting the hill country of Texas and Arbuckle Mountain regions of Oklahoma, have long considered a butane lighter part of normal caving gear, and anytime a caver starts to pant, there's a lot of flicking their Bic. It's long been known that carbide lamps tend to burn quite well even when the human brain ceases to function.

During the November Colorado Bend State Park work trip, the opportunity arose to study the butane lighter as a bad air detector and determine the oxygen levels required to cause it to exhibit an erratic flame and be completely extinguished. With the assistance of a state owned oxygen meter, and a cave with oxygen levels which dropped to 14%, research was conducted.

An area was located in which there was a degradation of oxygen levels over a distance of approximately 5'. The oxygen levels ranged from 20% down to 14% in this area. Using the oxygen meter, a profile of the oxygen level was determined and test begun. At 18.5%, the butane lighter began to flicker and a noticeable gap occurred between the jet and the flame. At 17.5%, there was a gap of approximately one inch between the jet and the flame but the lighter could be extinguished and relit. At 17% oxygen the lighter extinguished and could not be relit.

The measurements described were performed by personnel who in another life are professional technicians who's livelihood depend on their ability to make precision measurements with a variety of precision (and not so precision) instruments. The test satisfied all present as to the viability of using a butane lighter for a simple oxygen meter for cave atmosphere evaluation. It is suggested that the butane lighter be included in the normal cave gear, especially when caving in known bad air areas.

CAVE TASK FORCE MEETING by Butch Fralia

DATE: December 2, 1988

PURPOSE: Cave task force discussion on caver volunteer project activity, cave management and project priorities.

ATTENDEES: Texas Parks and Wildlife:
Mike Herrin, Mike Miller, and David Riskin

Texas Speleological Association:
Butch Fralia, Keith Heuss, Jack Ralph Scott Rote, George Veni and Mike Walsh

December 2, 1988, 1:00 P.M., saw representatives from the Texas Speleological Association and Texas Parks and Wildlife, gather at TPWD headquarters in Austin, to discuss current status of various projects which cavers are performing across the state along with potential future projects, priorities and cave management. At the conclusion of the meeting, all parties left with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.

Mike Miller, has been assigned as full time coordinator between cavers and TPWD for all projects across the state. Rune Burnett had previously had tentative responsibilities in this area but his time was limited due to his archeological workload. Mike Miller has time dedicated, necessary to perform the function. Mike a non-caver, exhibits a deep interest in anything and everything necessary for the appropriate administration of the job. Mike's assignment could also be in preparation of TPWD assuming cave management for all state lands should the Cave Protection Bill be passed in the upcoming legislative session.

Texas Parks and Wildlife officially recognizes the

natural resource represented by Texas Caves.

Mike Herrin, expressed openness to accept cave management recommendations for public access into park caves. This was considered a major breakthrough since Park service hasn't previously been open to any recommendations on this subject. It appears to be that both sides have been waiting action from the other. In the future, all ideas will be submitted whether solicited or not. A statement was made that all recommendations involving cave management, cave access, etc. must come from Texas Cavers, they cannot be generated within the department.

The cave management recommendations being proposed are as follows:

CAVE MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS FOR TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

1. Unrestricted
Open to the general public, free of hazards and devoid of fragile resources. Sign-in/sign-out at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department park office is required.
2. Restricted I
Open to the general public, contains some minor hazards and/or fragile resources. Requires no special equipment, requires adult leadership, sign-in/sign-out at TPWD park office and releases from all members of the group to be signed. Information/rules sheet must be given to trip leader.
3. Restricted II
Not open to the general public, contains hazards and fragile resources, may be gated. Requires special equipment and experienced adult leadership. Special permission from Park Staff required and trip coordinated with park staff. Releases for all members of group filed with permit at the park. Information/rules sheet must be given to trip leader.
4. Restricted III (Scientific use only)
Not open to general public for recreational caving, due to hazards, or fragile natural resources, requiring additional rules. Special permission from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, and written investigation design required. Trip coordinated through park staff and releases for all parties filed at park with permit. Written report of data collected is required within reasonable time limits.

NOTES

All releases or permits (to be secured by recreational cavers or investigators) shall conform to State and Federal law.

This recommendation was originally authored by Mike Walsh and modeled from the Missouri State Park management rules. This recommendation is very simple and easy to manage at the Park level. Cavers will grade caves into the four categories. Since all caves are recreational to cavers, it will behoove, TPWD to verify the recommendations within the various frameworks of liability, etc. they must adhere to by law.

Texas Cavers, especially those working at Colorado Bend State Park, and Kickapoo Caverns State Park (site) were recognized for their efforts. Appreciation for all the hard work involved was stated.

Priorities as stated by Texas Parks and Wildlife for current and future projects are as follows:

1. Colorado Bend State Park. — Inventory of caves on property, including location of caves and recommendations for gating, preservation or potential public access.

2. Guadalupe River State Park. — Evaluation of 300 acres of adjacent land which has been purchased by TPWD for inclusion into the park. Evaluation of the Honey Creek Preserve which has been obtained and will be included into the existing park.

3. Kickapoo Caverns State Park Site. — Continue the inventory and mapping of caves on this property which is only 1/3 ridgewalked.

4. Devils River State Natural Area. — Evaluate, and inventory caves on the property. There are five known caves on the property including Fawcetts cave which is approximately 1000' long but has large passage volume and very delicate formations.

5. A possible project at Longhorn Cavern involving cleanup of a trash dump which was left over from the original Civilian Conservation Corps construction during the '30's. This will require cavers since sinkholes are involved and the reward will likely be open exploration of longhorn cavern after normal visiting hours.

WHO AND WHERE TO WRITE

by Quinta Wilkinson

In an effort to gather support of the Cave and Groundwater Protection Acts (see November - 88, "Bull" - Ed.) I've contacted the Sierra Club of Wichita Falls, they are quite interested and have bills of their own which are complimentary to ours. They are sponsoring the Texas Rivers Protection Act. This bill would prohibit reservoir construction, channelization, and channel realignment on selected Texas river segments which are significant because of their ecological, recreational, historical, or other values, and protect certain rights of adjacent property owners. One of these selected river segments includes the river frontage of Colorado Bend State Park.

They have provided the following information which will be useful if you desire to support any proposed bills.

The Address for all state senators and representatives is:

<u>The Honorable (Senator)</u> Texas Senate P.O. Box 12068 Austin, Tx, 78711	<u>The Honorable (Rep.)</u> Texas House of Representatives P.O. Box 2910 Austin, Tx, 78769
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The members of the Senate Natural Resources committee are:

Tati Santiesteban	Frank Tejada
John Montford	Hector Uribe
Kenneth Armbrister	John Whitmore
Buster Brown	Judith Zaffirini
Ted Lyon	

The members of the House Natural Resources Committee are:

Terral Smith	Bill Hammond
Jack Harris	Steve Holzhauser
Dick Swift	Dan Shelley
Sam Russell	Dalton Smith
Jerry Yost	

Please write one, some or all of these persons with regard to supporting the Cave and Groundwater Acts and the River Protection Act if it strikes your fancy.

THE JANUARY MEETING

by Danny Sherrod

Since one of the primary responsibilities of the Vice-Chairman is program and trip coordination for the Grotto, I'm asking you to begin thinking on the subject of trips and meeting presentations. I'd like to have any ideas you may come up with by the January Meeting. This request is being placed in this newsletter to give you adequate time to think on the subject.

I'd like to schedule trips for each of the major long holiday weekends for 1989. While most of you cannot make every trip some of you can make some of the trips. I'd like to set up trips to places you'd like to go.

I'd also like any ideas you may have for meeting programs, our first program will likely be a presentation by Bruce Anderson on how to get permits from various Federal agencies such as Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Danny Sherrod

December 10, at 7:00 P.M., Jane(?) and I will host the annual Maverick Grotto Christmas Party in our oversized garage, at 3 Cobb Drive, in Joshua. There'll be plenty of room so bring the kids, relatives and friends so they can see who all your weird friends are. There'll be the usual White Elephant Gifts, and Certificates of Meritorious Achievement. I've been assured that I've made significant achievements during the past year so be sure to come by and see me burst with pride over this great event.

The munchies and drinks at the party will be whatever you choose to bring so bring plenty. Be sure to think up and bring your most outrageous white elephant gift and a sense of humor for receiving "your" achievement award. I've been assured that most everyone will receive an award unless we've overlooked someone non-descript person, which deserves an award for being so non-descript we've overlooked you. Be sure and attend so you can tell the true story behind your award, don't let your friends make fun of you in your absence, let them do it in your presence.

The hot tub will be available for anyone interested, please bring your own towels.

Joshua is located in Johnson County and the local constabulary has a major campaign on drinking and driving. Please feel free to camp in the back yard, garage or hot tub but please, please, don't take a chance on ruining a really great party by spending the night in jail, making a lifetime investment in paying your fine or losing your drivers license. Our back yard is large and will hold many tents so bring your sleeping and camping gear.

To reach Joshua and our home, the best way is to take I-35 south to Burleson, then highway 174 south toward Joshua. When you reach the Joshua City Limits sign, Cobb Drive is the street immediately before the sign, turn right (or west). When you reach 3 Cobb (the party sight and home sweet home) you'll likely see familiar vehicles or some nondescript item of caving gear to mark the location (in the past this has been a lit carbide lamp).

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

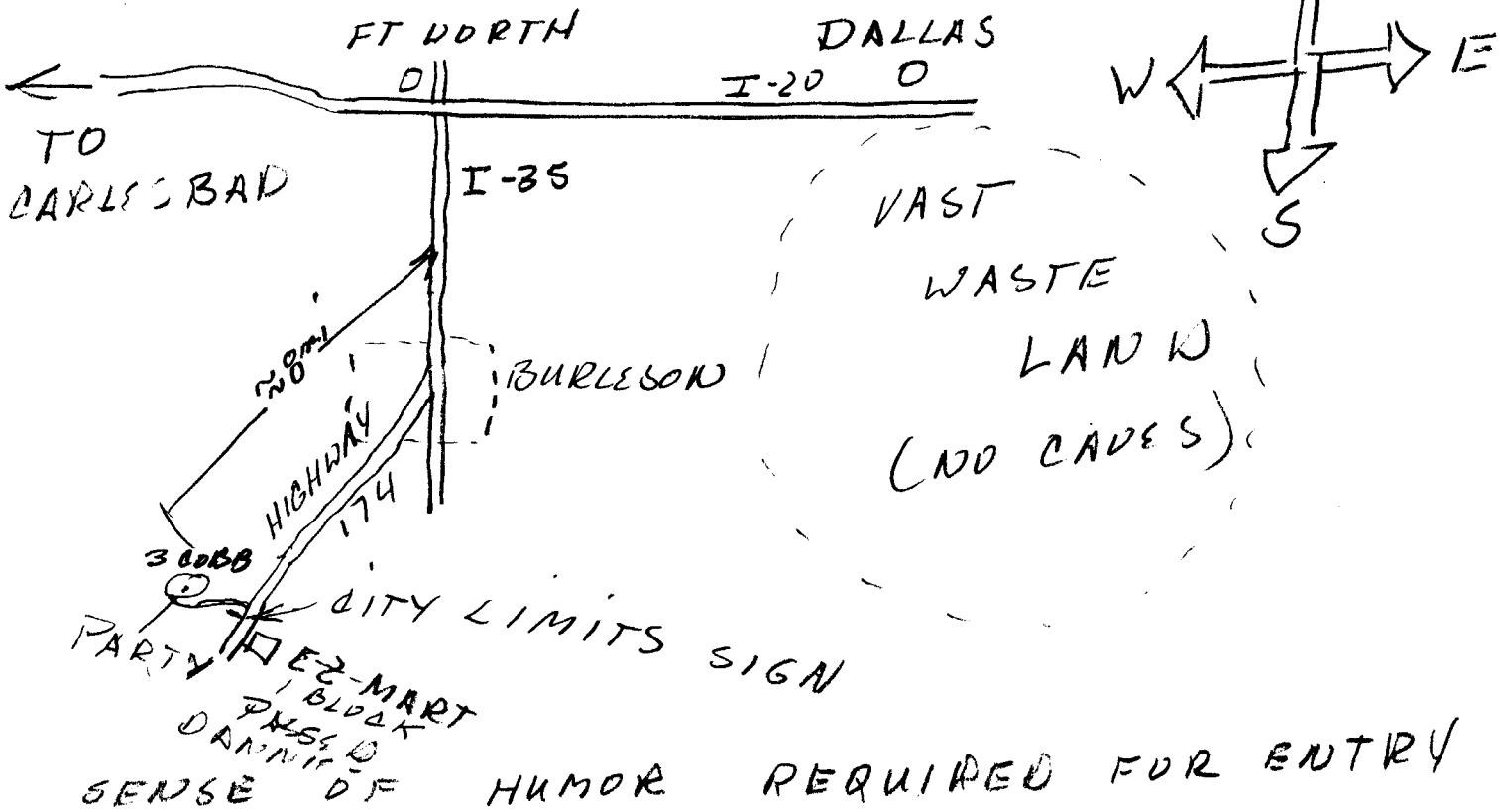
HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM

THE MAVERICK GROTTO

→ Directions to Christmas Party

BYOB - BRING MUNCHIES - BRING WHITE ELEPHANT GIFTS



THE MAVERICK GROTTO
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