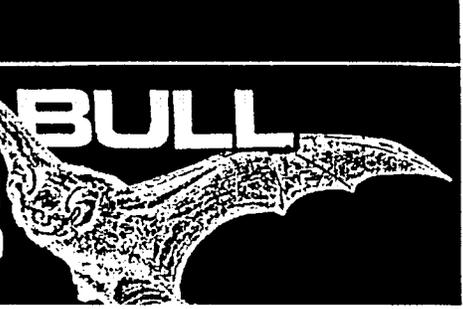


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2

PRODUCED BY CHARLIE C

FEBRUARY 1992

DIFFERENT FOLKS MAKE DIFFERENT CAVERS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7-9, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK PROJECT & EARTH DAY PLANS. *The project this weekend is installation of a gate inside Gorman Cave. This activity requires the effort of attending volunteers. Contact: Butch Fralia, 817-346-2039.*

FEBRUARY 8-9, *Monthly expedition to Mystic Cave area. Contact Woodrow Thomas 903-395-4431 or Greg Mooty.*

FEBRUARY 11, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING. *If you have not paid your membership/subscription dues for the 1992 calendar year; your time is running out. The delivery of your Newsletter may be interrupted. We've set computer system used for generating mailing labels to delete a name after: A. one month free introduction, B. subscription expires, C. membership expires. An invoice will be mailed shortly to help you remember.*

FEBRUARY 11-14, 1992, HONEY CREEK CAVE: *The first Honey Creek trip of 1992 (after deer season). Honey Creek is the longest and wettest cave in Texas. This cave usually offers new finds on almost every trip. Cavers should be experienced and have wetsuits, since this cave is not for novices. More information can be obtained from Kurt Menking, (512)824-7230.*

FEBRUARY 21-23, POWELL'S CAVE. *This survey trip to Powell's Cave will be a good time to apply the experience gained at the TSA Winter meeting in surveying. Trips occur on the fourth weekend during the months of October, February and June. For those who attended the TSA Winter Meeting, this is a great opportunity to try out new surveying skills. Contact: Terry Holsinger, 512-445-7340.*

MARCH 7-8, *Monthly expedition to Mystic Cave area. Contact Woodrow Thomas 903-395-4431 or Greg Mooty.*

MARCH 10, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING, *last chance to pay dues and retain 1992 membership or subscription.*

MARCH 13-14, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK. *Contact: Butch Fralia.*

MARCH 28-29, HILL COUNTRY STATE NATURAL AREA, *Special project to complete work in twenty-one caves that has spanned over several years. The last time, the park staff barbecued a Pig (no pig guaranteed for this trip). Contact: Butch Fralia, (817)346-2039.*

APRIL 4-5, *Monthly expedition to Mystic Cave area. Contact Woodrow Thomas 903-395-4431 or Greg Mooty.*

APRIL 10-13, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, *monthly work trip. This should be a back to normal weekend of finding and exploring new caves. Contact Butch Fralia.*

APRIL 14, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING.

MAY 1-3, TSA SPRING MEETING. *Preliminary planning for the spring meeting is underway. Previous plans listed Kickapoo as the meeting site. This is no longer the case. TSA Chairman Carl Ponebshek is working on Luckenbach, Texas.*

MAY 8-10, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, *monthly work trip.*

MAY 12, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING.

JUNE 9, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING.

JUNE 12-14, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, *monthly work trip.*

JULY 10-12, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, *monthly work trip.*

JUNE 14, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING.

AUGUST 3-7, NSS CONVENTION, *Salem, Indiana, Delaney Creek Park. Contact: Scott Fee C/O 1992 Convention, P.O. Box 2262, Clarksville, IN, 46206. (317)291-7807. All fees are fully refundable.*

COVER: *A hodgepodge of different folks doing different things. Drawn by Editor Dale Ellison then electronically scanned.*

IN LOVING MEMORY

We are saddened to hear of the death of a dear friend and family member in Russell Hill's family. Russell and his wife, Cynthia, lost their five year old son Jonathan. He accidentally drowned in a swimming pool. Memorials may be made to infants' and children's programs at the

First United Methodist Church, 800 W. 5th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you Russell and Cynthia in this time of grief. All who were fortunate to know Jonathan, grieve with you.

TCMA:

Donna Anderson is selling wind chimes constructed of white onyx. They are attractive and sturdy. Proceeds go to TCMA.

If interested attend the February meeting or call Donna at (817)246-6313.

JANUARY GROTTO MEETING '92

Chairman Butch Fralia opened the meeting by handing out this meeting's agenda. Butch introduced the visitors which were John Hoover and Jim Payne. John and Jim attended the December and January work trips at Colorado Bend State Park. They, along with Rafal and Wojceich Kedaierski, located a promising new cave. Travis Kinchen also attended this January meeting. Travis is the president of the Aggie Speleological Society. Nolan Fowler attended, as did Chad and Christopher Fenner. An old time caver, Wayne Burks, graced Mavericks portals this evening which we welcomed. Angela Durbin attended with John Thompson. Angela has signed up for a three month free Maverick Bull and we hope to see her on upcoming cave trips.

Chairman Fralia has revised the meeting format. The meetings will be in the format of announcements, old business, new business and program. Meetings will be held in the shortest amount of time possible. More people attend meetings to visit with friends than through interest in Grotto business. The goal is to be finished with the meeting and program by 9:00 P.M. so friends can visit. To accomplish this, your cooperation is requested. Please keep announcements, comments and discussion short and to the point.

Chairman Fralia made a plea to the attendants about the Maverick Bull. "If you're tired of reading my articles, feel free to submit your own, you'll likely get priority on space. You don't have to

submit a letter perfect article, you've got a good editor to take care of the rough spots. The newsletter is our biggest money maker. If you know someone who might be interested in receiving a copy, hit them up for ten bucks. It's going to be worth it."

For those of you who know Carl Ponebshek, his wife recently had a heart attack. Carl's at the hospital alot and at the time of this meeting, no word on how she is doing.

Donna Anderson announced that she has in her possession "Bat Wind Chimes" for \$12.00 each. These attractive wind chimes are made of white onyx. Money generated from sales goes to the Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA) which goes to the purchase of caves. Donna can be reached at home in the evenings at 817-246-6313.

Bruce Anderson gave an announcement of TSA plans for the NSS Convention in '94 location. Final plans are not final at this time. Bruce also rendered a trip report to Mexico over the Christmas Holidays. Steve Dalton made an announcement about vehicle safety. Latch everything down because loose items are strewn about and become dangerous projectiles if an accident should occur as was the case with him in Mexico recently.

Chairman Fralia will rewrite paragraph six and seven of our Constitution to officially reflect changes made and voted upon in earlier meetings. A discussion of these re-writes will be on the agenda for the February meeting.

Editor Dale Ellison made a suggestion about business of the Maverick Bull. Since the Bull is the primary revenue maker for the Grotto and it is a "News"-letter, more "News" should be gathered for distribution to our Subscribers and Members. It was therefore presented to the attending membership that Grotto funds be spent to subscribe to the Nylon Highway and any other publications available. This was voted upon and passed.

It was voted upon and passed that a separate mailing in the form of an invoice be sent to all Subscribers and Members soliciting their dues. Someone on the Editors' staff is designing and planning the new Maverick Grotto Subscription/Membership Dues invoice and if you haven't paid for '92 yet, you will be receiving the product of their design.

Want to be part of National History? You can if your design for the '94 NSS Convention Logo is accepted as the final

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting should see the presentation of amendments to the Maverick Grotto Constitution. Approval of the amendments will occur at the March meeting. Steve Fritts and Dave McClung may have some plans laid for a winter joint party between DFW and Maverick Grottos. Bruce Anderson will have the latest report on Texas Cavers for an NSS Convention. Someone will likely have something entertaining to add for

design. The last time the NSS Convention came to town (years ago) the Logo was "Deep in the Karst of Texas." There will be more about this important and prestigious task in future newsletters.

Barbe Barker applied and was accepted as member of Maverick Grotto as was J. Travis Kinchen. WELCOME

The program for the evening was an impressive video about the Black Bear that contained valuable information about staying healthy around these beautiful animals. The sound was EXCELLENT, as clear as a bell, and could easily be heard by everyone.

The '91 ending balance for the Grotto treasury is \$424.90, with all bills paid. (See "State of the Newsletter" elsewhere in this issue of the Maverick Bull.)

announcements or new business.

The program for the February meeting will be a 3D slide presentation by Andy Lauer. Andy has cave photographs taken with a special camera. This should be a very interesting presentation so don't miss it.

The meeting will be held in the shortest time possible so come on by and visit with friends, enjoy the program, eat great barbecue and have a ball.

THREE FINGERS CAVE CLOSED

On January 14, 1992, Larry D. Sansom, District Ranger, U.S. Forest Service, Guadalupe Ranger District wrote us a letter. It has been decided that during the calendar year 1992 Three Fingers cave will be withdrawn from the recreation cave permit system. This action is needed to allow for restoration of the cave. All cavers interested in cave restoration trips are encouraged to contact the U.S. Forest Service, Guadalupe Ranger District. Volunteer agreements will be used and must be completed prior to project work. Plans include two restoration trips per month.

Three Fingers cave has a vertical entrance requiring all restoration

volunteers to have their own vertical gear. Skills and the ability to maneuver through the cave safely is necessary, however, no restoration experience is required. Forest Service personnel or other experts will be leading all of the restoration trips. A variety of projects will be worked on including: cleaning speleothems; and low impact travel/trail marking.

Your cooperation and assistance will be appreciated during the restoration work. We will continue to provide the best management for all areas of the Lincoln National Forest including our special caves and recognize your contributions.

PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE

Last summer the 72nd Legislature passed several acts concerning Texas Parks and Wildlife. The act that is most interesting is the volunteer services act. The following information comes directly from the Parks and Wildlife Code. Printing it here will allow everyone to work from the same information should the subject come up for discussion. The act is vague in some ways and may be interpreted in several ways. The most notable thing is that volunteers will not be charged park fees while performing volunteer services. Parks and Wildlife may expend funds to help in volunteer services.



Texas Speleological Association and Texas Parks and wildlife are drafting a new memorandum of agreement. It will take advantage of some of these provisions. It will specify that during all park projects,

cavers will have separate camping facilities apart from the public. Texas Parks and Wildlife will furnish special equipment not part of normal caving equipment.

The new volunteer act and MOA will open new dimensions of possibility within Parks for those interested in public service. There is a great deal to look forward to.

11.028 Volunteer Services

Text of section as added by Acts 1991, 72nd Legislature.

(a) The department may use the services of volunteers to help carry out the duties and responsibilities of the department, provided, however, that volunteers shall not be used to enforce provisions of this code or to carry out department duties and responsibilities on private property unless the landowner has consented to the activity.

(b) The department may accept funds raised by a volunteer or volunteer group to promote

the work of the department and to help carry out its duties and responsibilities. The department may use the funds for the specific project or purpose for which the funds were intended.

(c) The director may waive park entrance fees and facility use fees for a volunteer to assist in the accomplishment of the volunteer's service to the department.

(d) The executive director may expend funds appropriated to the department from dedicated funding sources for:

(1) the establishment of an insurance program to protect volunteers in the performance of volunteer service;

(2) recognition of the services of volunteer groups.

Section 3 of the 1991 act provides:

"(a) This act takes effect September 1, 1991.

"(b) Except as provides by Subsection (c) of this section, this act applies only to volunteer services performed on or after the effective date of this Act and authorizes the Parks and Wildlife Department to take action only in relation to those services. Volunteer services performed before the effective date of this Act and any action taken by the Parks and Wildlife Department in relation to those services are governed by the law in effect at the time the services were performed, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

"(c) The change in law made to the Parks and Wildlife Code by this Act that authorizes the executive director of the Parks and Wildlife Department to spend funds for recognition of services performed by a volunteer or volunteer group applies to services performed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act."



TSA WINTER MEETING

The TSA Winter Meeting was held at and around San Saba, Texas, February 1-2, 1992. The main function of the event was a survey seminar taught by some of the most prestigious cavers in Texas. An additional seminar on negotiation was held by Jay Jordan.

Threats of rain had organizers worried until the last minute. An alternate campsite was located because the intended campsite is difficult to reach by wet roads. Friday night, the organizers arrived and began putting out signs to camp at Mill Pond Park in San Saba. Pat Copeland arrived saying the roads to the original campsite south of the nearby town of Sloan were passable. Since Mill Pond Park is quite public, it wasn't hard to decide the Sloan camp was preferable.

The camp at Sloan (advertised on all the meeting maps) is a beautiful campsite on the San Saba River. In warm weather, this would be an ideal site for a casual camp out. There are no facilities but what does a real caver need besides nature. There are large trees in the area and camping is sheltered from everything but rain.

Signs and flagging were put out to lead the way to Sloan. Upon arrival at the Sloan Camp, the organizers found that a number of cavers were already present. They decided they preferred the potential bad roads to downtown San Saba.

The term "organizers" has been loosely used thus far. Pat Copeland and Nyla Dennis organized the camping area and arranged for the San Saba School. The remaining "organizers" had only to make an occasional phone call to assure everything to be going to plan. The "surveyors" met in Austin to plan their classes. There was little else for them to do but show up.

Saturday morning began in San Saba, with a TCMA meeting. This meeting was to inform TCMA members from across the state of the accomplishments of the organization as a whole. Carl Ponebshek, Ron Ralph and Mike Walsh chaired the meeting. To encourage attendance, TCMA provided coffee and donuts. Mike, brought slides and made the "state of the TCMA" presentation.

Following the meeting, the instructors, Bill Elliot, David McKenzie, Peter Sprouse, George Veni and Mike Wharton began organizing classes. Three classes were set up; 1) basic sketches, 2) reading instruments, and 3) drafting and data reduction. Every class was filled. More time was needed but a good idea of what is needed for a good cave survey was conveyed.

At 12:30, there was a break for lunch. The school is conveniently located across the street from Storm's Drive In Restaurant. The revenue from all the strange people seem greatly appreciated.

After lunch, class began anew. Jay Jordan held a seminar on negotiation. He prepared a first class presentation for people who had never been involved in negotiation. All the attendees had at least some level of experience. It quickly evolved into a detailed discussion of the fine points of negotiation. Bruce Anderson has experience in Union

Contract negotiation. He offered many good points which could be used in everyday life, not just contract negotiation. The seminar ended with a case study of a landowner negotiation under way by the TCMA.

The TSA meeting scheduled for Sunday morning was accelerated to 4:30 pm Saturday. Carl Ponebshek chaired the meeting. He stated he'd been derelict in his duties because his wife has been in the hospital with a heart attack. He announced the spring convention originally announced at Luckenbach is on the rocks. There are three other sites under investigation. There's plenty until the convention in May. Jay Jordan announced that he has the IRS paperwork to apply for non profit status. He and Butch Fralia will be meeting in the near future to get this filled out and mailed. Keith Heuss reported on the status of Parks and Wildlife. A memorandum of agreement is in work and Butch Fralia is preparing a list of caves for proposal to open for recreation on Colorado Bend. The meeting lasted approximately 23 minutes.

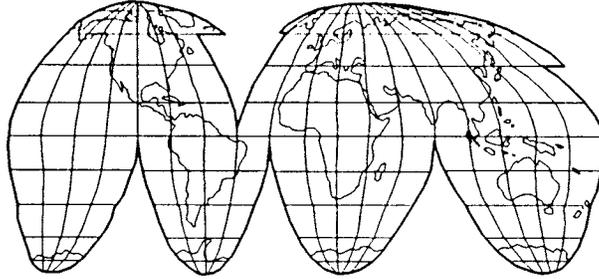
At 5:00, the Texas Cavers for a 1994 NSS Convention meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm was held. This lasted for some time. A discussion and slide presentation of the site was held. The site at Brackettville meets the requirements of the NSS. It's located in an area with access to caves. There will be opportunities for side trips down into Mexico (a short distance away) for super caves there. It was agreed the proposal will be pursued. A presentation will be made to the NSS board of governors in the near future. The effort will require donations from interested cavers to gather funds for travel to the meeting.

At last it was back to camp. A large group gathered around a campfire for a song fest. Peter Sprouse brought his mandolin, his songbook and lead the event. This turned into one of the highlights of the weekend. Peter Strickland attended with memory of a great number old songs. This lasted until the rain started. The musicians put away their instruments and the singing ended.

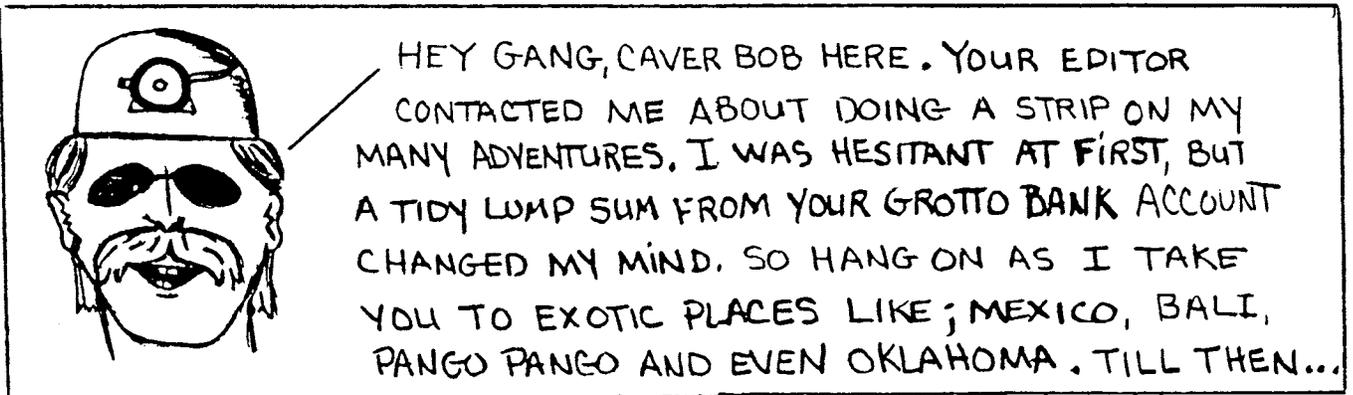
Sunday morning, it was still raining. The weekend ended with a large number of people gathering in San Saba for breakfast before going home. There were 75 paid attendees to the meeting with a few more sneaking in. It was a good weekend, one to be remembered.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE CONDENSED INTO A SINGLE YEAR.

The big bang that started it all was, of course, on New Year's Day (about 15 billion years ago). The Milky Way originated on May Day and our solar system on September 9th. Earth showed up around mid-September and the first living cells around November 15th. December was a big month on the green planet: Worms appeared on the 16th and fish a few days later. Dinosaurs joined the group on Christmas Day and,



the day after that, mammals. Humans didn't appear until the last day of the year, December 31, and then not until 10:30 P.M. Stuffed into the last hour and a half of the last day of the year is the history of man: Buddah was born at 11:59.55 and Christ a fraction of a second later. The Renaissance took place between 11:59.58 and 11:59.59. The rest, of course, is history!



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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, an internal organization of THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other Grottoes to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-address stamped envelope should accompany it.

REPRINTING ARTICLES: Internal organizations of the NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author, as will be stated in the byline) first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL, if proper credit is given and complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor of THE MAVERICK BULL at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor at the address herein.

EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, will exchange newsletters with other grottoes. Contact the editor.

COMPLEMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide complementary newsletters to persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide one free issue to persons interested in becoming members.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates are \$10.00 per year for members and non-members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any individual with interest, beliefs and actions consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO and THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY is eligible for membership. 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. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next door to K-Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M. and the food is good.

CARBIDE: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting on even numbered months. The carbide is free to all members and is sold to others at the price of fifty-cents per pound. Anyone needing carbide at other times should contact Bruce Anderson (817/246-6313) to arrange for pickup.

LIBRARY: Support your Grotto Library. Russell Hill will be accepting books, magazines articles on cave related topics, copies of homemade cave videos, etc. for our library. We wish to thank Russell for his efforts each month to bring and set up the Grotto Library.

CHAIRMAN: Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, Tx, 76133
(817)346-2039

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Ed Young
3030 Oak Ridge Place
Grand Prairie, Tx, 75051
(214)262-8188

SECRETARY/EDITOR: Dale Ellison
1208 Dan Gould Rd.
Arlington, Tx, 76017
(817)473-0463

TREASURER: Jimmy Thomas
3705 Bluebonnet Circle
Weatherford, Tx, 76087
(817)599-8278

CAVE RESCUE: CALL COLLECT
(512)686-0234

