
THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTA

Volume 9 Issue 3

March, 1995



Pre-historic French Cave Art

Copyright 1995. The Maverick Grotto. issue to persons interested in becoming members.

The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of The Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of The National Speleological Society (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other grottos to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed 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 stated in the byline) first appearing in *The Maverick Bull* if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor of *The Maverick Bull* at the address herein.

Exchanges: The Maverick Grotto will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

Complementary Newsletters: The Maverick Grotto will provide complementary newsletters to persons or organizations that provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Maverick Grotto will provide one free

Subscription Rates: Subscription rates are \$15.00 per year for non-members and free for members.

Membership Policy: Any individual with interests, beliefs and actions consistent with the purposes of The Maverick Grotto 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 located less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next to K-Mart. The time is 7:00 p.m., and the food is good.

Carbide: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting if prior arrangements are made. Carbide is free for the asking. Contact Russell Hill at 220-7108 or Butch Fralia at 346-2039 for more information.

Library: Support your Grotto Library. Russell Hill will be accepting books and magazines 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:

Mike Anderson
532 Arroyo Dr.
Fort Worth, TX. 76108
(817) 448-9764

Vice-Chairman:

Michael Nelson
7232 Harwick Ln.
N. Richland Hills, TX. 76180
(817) 788-8327

Secretary/Editor:

Chad Fenner
3700 Wayland
Ft. Worth, TX. 76133
(817) 292-7722

Treasurer:

Mark Porter
513 Valley Park
Garland, TX. 75243
(214)271-8147

Cave Rescue: Call collect:
(512) 686-0234

Photo Credits

This month's cover photo is of the newly discovered pre-historic French cave art. Retrieved from Internet. See related stories.

Other Credits

Editor: Chad Fenner
This month's meeting minute-taker: Meta Huzarevich

Editor-in-charge-of-English: Lisa Fenner ;)
Far Side: Gary Larson, submitted by Kevin Glover

Minutes for the February Meeting

The February meeting informally began around 7 p.m. The business portion was called to order at 7:36 by Grotto President Mike Anderson. Twenty-two attendees arrived by the end of the meeting.

New visitors:
Robert Kam and Casey Holland from Grand Prairie.

Announcements:
The annual grotto dues are now due.

Officer's Reports:
Mark Porter reports that we have \$606 in the treasury.
Mike Nelson needs ideas for programs.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:
Clark and Susie Giles were voted into the Grotto.

Rites of Spring may be the first weekend in March. (Then again, maybe not! See related story.)

Trip reports:
Sharon Mastbrook and Butch Frailia were in Colorado Bend. It snowed on them. Caroline (a first time caver) broke her wrist in two places while ridge walking. Butch and Sharon stayed with her at the hospital, then drove her home.
Donna went to the Permian Basin restoration trip. She reported that they are beginning to check boot soles for marring. They scrape your boot on a piece of white tile. If it leaves a mark, you don't enter the cave.
The Easter trip is filling fast. See related article.

Program
The program was a video on Dr. Bill Stone's "Hualta Expedition".
Thanks to Meta Huzarevich for being this month's meeting minute

Editors Ramblings

Happy March!
Welcome to the March *Maverick Bull*. This month is a little light again, I guess no one is out caving, since I didn't get any trip reports again. I heard a rumor that the February *Texas Highways* has some caving stuff. Can anyone confirm or deny this? While "surfing the net", I found a cool photo of the recently discovered, pre-historic French cave art. Lisa thought it would make a cool cover. I agreed. The Easter trip is filling up fast. I hope I can expand a couple of the permits, but apparently the LNF is understaffed and has reorganized its permit procedures. Where's Kevin when you need him? Happy caving.
-CF

March Meeting

The March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m. This month's program will be a first-aid presentation covering bleeding, sprains, and strains (the most common injuries cavers face) as well as basic first aid equipment. I'm sure you won't want to miss this very important topic,

Rites of Spring Announced

The annual Rites of Spring party 1st (April fools day!), and all *Maverick* discuss finances at this months has been announced and is on April grotto members are invited. We will meeting so be sure not to miss it!

The Maverick Grotto

By Meta Victoria Anderson Huzarevich

At the February meeting, Val (Smokey's manager) was reminiscing on how there used to be a lot more people come to the meetings a couple years ago than now. She's right, there used to be more people show at the meetings. At the February meeting we had 16 people all the way through and 22 people by the end.

Mike Nelson has had great programs, Chad Fenner has really good newsletters (*Hey! How come Mike programs are "great" and my newsletters are only "good"?* -Ed), and Mark Porter has been giving us great news every month (\$606 in the treasury this month). We have an excellent library and Michael Anderson has been giving short (but thorough) meetings.

Now, why do we have less people show? Yes, we all know the answer, work. We all understand if you aren't there because of it. Everyone has to make a living. I was wondering, if at all possible, that you could keep your calendars open on March 14th for the Maverick meeting. This one month out of this year that we could possibly get as many people out here. I'm sure

Smokey's won't mind, it will hopefully give us an interesting meeting, and anyone who hasn't paid their dues can pay up. We don't care if you're a little late, a little early, or if you're right on time, just be there. I hope to see all y'all there.

Cover Story #1:

NEWLY FOUND CAVE ART DEPICTS A WORLD LONG- HIDDEN

by Boyce Rensberger
The WASHINGTON POST - February 8, 1995

reprinted from the Bexar Facts

It was about 20,000 years, in the midst of the last glacial epoch, when the Stone Age people of Europe practiced an extraordinary and still mysterious artistic, and perhaps religious, ritual. Carrying flickering oil lamps, they would descend deep into the remotest passageways of caves

and paint dramatic images of animals on the walls and ceilings.

Several such caves have been known to modern peoples for many years -- the most famous being Lascaux in France and Altamira in Spain. Two weeks ago, the French Ministry of Culture announced that a new such cave, harboring a trove of spectacular cave art, had been found -- holding more than 300 images of animals and human hands. The cave is near the town of Vallon-Pont-d'Arc in southern France.

Lions encounter bison. A pair of rhinoceroses clash horns. A herd of wild horses follow long-horned aurochs, an extinct species of ox. The new cave paintings are remarkable for their large number of bears and rhinos -- more than twice as many examples of these species as in all previously known Ice Age caves.

Like much of the previously known Ice Age art, the images are bold and dramatic, clearly the work of skilled artists, according to modern art critics, and not mere doodlers. The colors are the blood red of powdered hematite (a form of iron ore), the dark yellow of ocher (an iron-rich clay) and the black of charcoal.

The cave had been unknown because its opening to the surface was long ago closed by a rockslide. It was discovered by accident when hikers noticed a cool breeze coming up from the rocky ground. After clearing some rubble, the hikers found they had opened a passage into a huge cavern. Experts believe the cave may have been sealed for thousands of years. If so, that means the footprints the hikers found on the floor may be those of the original artists.

French officials say the cave will not be opened to the public. Like many others, it will be accessible only to qualified researchers. This is largely because it was found that public access was destroying the art in some caves because the humidity of human breath and the lights were encouraging the growth of molds and algae on the walls.

Cavers Surf the Net

by Chad Fenner

"Surfing the Net" seems to be the big buzz word now, but if information is what you want, the information highway is the place to get it. If you want the scoop on the recent French cave art discovery, try the FTP sight at:

<ftp.primenet.com>. (Look under the /users/r/rspear directory.)

Those of you with WWW access might try the French cultural home page at:
<http://www.culture.fr/gvpda>

Other Web home pages include the NSS '95 Blacksburg Convention at:
<http://sfbox.vt.edu.10021/B/balister/nss95.html>

or the South Wales Caving Club at:
<http://www.acs.lamp.ac.uk/~male/swcc>

A popular FTP site where cave-related downloads can be found (including the Cavers Digest archives, some great photos, and several shareware and freeware survey programs) is:

speleology.cs.yale.edu

If you know of other Web or FTP sites with cave-related stuff, let me know.



Cover Story #2

Last month, the annual Easter Guads trip was announced. Apparently, everyone liked that announcement, because the permits are almost full. (I understand that Susan Herpin's permits are nearly filled also!) If you're not on a permit, call fast. I'm going to try and get a couple of the permits extended, but there are no guarantees, and I'm NOT going to violate the conditions of the permits by allowing more than the legal number of cavers go to a given cave. There is one slight hitch. I kinda messed up reporting what days I have what permits on, so if you're not sure what days you have which caves, call me. --Chad Fenner 292-7722

PALEOLITHIC ART DISPLAY FOUND IN FRANCE

Paris (AP) - Archeologists inching through a cave suddenly found themselves amid a stunning art show -- 300 glacial-era wall paintings of animals, a 20,000-year old display that experts say eclipses the cave art of Lascaux. The paintings, discovered Dec. 24 in caves of the Ardeche River Canyon in southern France, depict horses, lions, bison, bears, panthers, mammoths, owls, wild oxen, wild goats, and woolly rhinoceroses. The paintings show standing or galloping groups of animals about 15 inches high.

The Culture Ministry, announcing the find Wednesday, called it "the only totally intact and ornate network of caves from the Paleolithic era." The caves are near Combe d'Arc, 260 miles south of Paris. They are about 1,500 feet deep. The discovery was not announced until Wednesday so the site could be protected. The caves, yet to be named, were quickly protected by a heavy door and TV surveillance.

They "will not be opened to the public so that the extremely fragile and precious relics can be studied," Culture

Minister Jacques Toubon said. "Preservation is our priority at the moment." Jean-Marie Chauvet, guardian of about 15 caves in the same area that have prehistoric artifacts, stumbled upon the art with two assistants during an inspection tour, the Culture Ministry said.

Searching a narrow gallery, the team found a shaft that led to a network of large galleries where the paintings were found, the ministry said.

washing tracked mud and boot marks off natural flowstone formations, cleaning up loose emery chips along trails, and algae removal around lights.

Leading the Sierra Club sponsored youths during work at Carlsbad Cavern will be Sondra Denny. Before moving to El Paso, Denny worked with the Carlsbad, NM volunteers known as the Carlsbad Cavers who were recently recognized for donating over 2,500 hours doing similar work at the park.

SIERRA CLUB INNER CITY YOUTH PROGRAM at CCNP

Posted to Cavers Digest by Oren Tranbarger

News Release
National Park Service
by Bob Crisman
505-785-2251, ext. 322
January 31, 1995

The El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club has an Inner City Outings Program that helps not only inner city youth, but also will be helping Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CCNP) and other similar park and wilderness areas.

The youth and their adult leaders volunteer their time to do conservation service projects. Working in groups consisting of eight youths, paired one-on-one with eight adults, the volunteers will be working with the CCNP cave resources office to help restore natural conditions in parts of Carlsbad Cavern altered over the years by lack of care in development of the cavern for visitor use, as well as inappropriate use by some visitors. The work will involve removal of discarded construction debris, removal of trash and lint,

Lincoln National Forest Changes Cave Permit Issuance Procedures

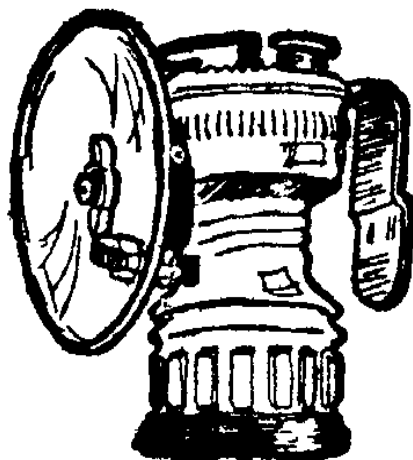
Posted to Cavers Digest by Oren Tranbarger

USDA
Forest Service
Guadalupe Ranger District
Federal Building, Rm 159
Carlsbad, NM 88220
505-885-4181
Reply to: 2350
Date: January 30, 1995

This letter is intended to notify interested parties that the Guadalupe Ranger District is changing the method in which we will issue permits for cave trips. We feel that the following administrative changes are needed to handle the present workload and the amount of time that it is now being spent coordinating permit issuance.

Beginning the week of February 5, 1995, you will need to call 505-981-2416 (the Guadalupe Administrative Site) Wednesday or Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to obtain trip permits.

Permits will no longer be mailed. Instead, permits will be sealed in



envelopes with the applicant's name typed across the front and placed for pickup in a lock box located on the south end of the administrative office. At the time that you apply for the permit, you will be given the combination to the lock. The administrative office is located on Road 137, 3.5 miles past the Forest Service boundary.

We realize this change may be difficult, but it is needed so that our folks can spend more time in the field managing and protecting some of this country's most fragile and unique cave resources.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Cave Resource Manager, Michael Baskerville, at 505-885-4181 between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,
John L. Conner
District Manager

NFS Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis

Posted to Cavers Digest by Oren Tranbarger

USDA
Forest Service
Guadalupe Ranger District
Federal Building, Rm 159
Carlsbad, NM 88220
505-885-4181
Reply to: 2820
Date: January 31, 1995
Subject: Oil and Gas Leasing Analysis

The Lincoln National Forest is asking for comments relating to a request received from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). This request is a consent for the leasing of oil and gas rights on a section of the Guadalupe Ranger District. Before granting that consent, we are analyzing the environmental effects of leasing on the Forest environment. This action

was prompted from an expression of interest from industry.

This analysis applies to the following area located some 14 miles north of State Route 137:

All National Forest system land described below, aggregating approximately 46,000 acres, is located in Otero County, NM as follows:

T. 22 S., R. 18 E., NMPM Sections: 1-3, 11-12, 13-14, 24.

T. 22 S., R. 19 E., NMPM Sections: 1-30, 32-36.

T. 22 S., R. 20 E., NMPM Sections: 4-11, 13-16.

This area contains about 160 acres of private land located in NW 1/4 of Section 1, T. 22 S., R.19E., and is not a part of this analysis.

According to the Lincoln National Forest Management Plan, the Forest is directed to provide energy and minerals exploration and development while demanding practices that are conducted in an environmentally sound manner. Such practices will integrate

with other resources to manage the entire ecological resource. To accomplish this, the Forest Service has been given consent authority for all BLM oil and gas leases on National Forest System lands. Before granting that consent, we are analyzing the environmental effects of leasing on the Forest environment.

Although most of the Guadalupe Ranger District has been leased for exploration, no producing wells have been established. In the '60s and '70s, a half dozen unsuccessful holes were drilled in the vicinity of the lease area under analysis. Since then, there has been no exploration activities. In the past ten years, the Forest has received only one application for a permit to drill (APD). As a condition for granting a permit to drill, a site-specific environmental analysis will be conducted addressing such items as pads, roads, and pipelines, and will be subject to public notification. The analysis will also require an Archaeological Clearance, a Biological Assessment and Evaluation and a

Caver License Plates

by Tim Kilby, NSS 27387 (Used by permission.)

Tim has recalled a list of licenses plate numbers that he has seen over the years. Thought you might get kick out of it. I guess Dave McClung ain't the only one who can get a caving vanity plate.

DNNAKAV	CRAWL4U	LIMESTN	KVER KAR	NOPNDCAV
MUD KVER	DK PIT	CUNACAV	ON ROPE	IM BATY
KVER D8	KAVNQT	CAV WIDO	SUCKIN	CUCAVIN
N2CAVEN	RUACAVR	VUDU KVR	GOIN2L	KV ROPE
STLACTT	CARBIDE	I IS A KVR	IT GOES	KAV KRA-Z
NRC KVER	DK CAVE	SLIME'N	MUDY ROP	PS BNETH
IC CAVES	IMA KVER	MUDY ROX	KAVNNUT	OLD TIMR
DUCK WLK	OLD CAVR	ROPE KVR	GO CAVIN	I8NT2DUM
CHERT	MAD4MUD	CAVE 6-X	SINKHOLE	CAVSRUS
NSS KVER	DK CANYN	WV 1DER	JUMAR	KVERS
IC QUANO	BAT FLT	HI ON SNX	ICAVDOU	KVRNAUT
MUD SUKR	BNACAVE	RUN ROPE	SXY CAVR	CAVES2C
GO N KVIN	H8 MUD	OLD TROG	DROPAPIT	
BAT KVER	CNSRV KVS	JSTRITE	PRUSIK	
BNDDARK	BOPAPIT	KRSTFVR	ENDLESS	
DK HOLE	GR8CAVR	OFF ROPE	2L W/MUD	
KRAZ KVR	UNDR1DR	I CRAL UM	KVNFOOL	
MUDY FUN	SAVE KVS	MUDS4ME	KV BOOTS	

Noxious Weed Assessment.

Clayton, IN 46118

Thank you for your interest.

In highly sensitive areas such as caves/karst occurrence zones, cultural resources sites and threatened, endangered and sensitive species habitat areas, evaluations will be performed and special stipulations developed to protect and/or mitigate any adverse impacts on the resource.

The proposed oil and gas lease area is located more than 17 miles north of the Forest's high cave concentration area in the southern portion of the District. As an extra precaution, the District is considering using strict cave protection stipulations similar to the BLM standards that were developed for their Carlsbad Resources Area. These cave stipulations will apply to all future oil and gas leases on the entire Guadalupe Ranger District.

Please return all comments to this office within 30 days of the date of this letter. Questions concerning this project should be directed to either Richard Carlson of my staff or myself at 505-885-4181.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Lincoln National Forest.

Sincerely,
John L. Conner
District Ranger

National Cave Management Symposium

Posted to Cavers Digest by Bruce Bowman

I would again like to encourage anyone who is involved in cave management, conservation activities, access control, etc. to contact us if you are interested in presenting a paper at the National Cave Management Symposium. We would also like a short abstract and perhaps a 1-2 sentence bio for the program. As Session Co-chair, you may contact me via my e-mail address (BEB@lilly.com) or at the following address:

Bruce Bowman
NCMS Sessions
8364 S. SR 39

The symposium will be held at Spring Mill State Park near Mitchell Indiana, and is in the heart of the Indiana karst -- about 10 miles west of the site of the 1992 NSS Convention. The symposium will begin the morning of October 25th (Wednesday) and continue until around noon on the 28th (Saturday).

Those of you who wish to attend the symposium, wish to pre-register, or who are interested in general and wish to be placed on our mailing list, should contact:

Keith Dunlap
NCMS Committee Chairman
32 Troon Court
Greenwood, IN 46142



"Oo! Grog run into a . . . a . . . Dang! Now which kind stick up and which kind hang down?"

Calendar of Events

March 10-12, 1995, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039

March 10-12, 1995, Whiteface Cave, San Saba Co. - Surveying and exploring. Contact Pat Copeland (915) 643-2952 (hm) or (915) 646-9583 (wk)

March 28, 1995, Endless Cave Resurvey - Contact Noble Stidham (806) 736-8606

April 1, 1995, Rites of Spring

April 7-9, 1995, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039

April 15-16, 1995, Easter on Three Mile Hill - Contact Chad Fenner (817) 292-7722

April 22-23, 1995, NCRC Basic Orientation Course, Richmand, Kentucky - Contact ECU Division of special programs (606) 622-1444, or Dennis Robertson, (606) 272-2776

May 12-14, 1995, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039

June 9-11, 1995, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039

July 17-21, 1995, NSS Convention, Blacksburg, Virginia. Contact Carol Tideman, (410) 792-0742.

August 3-9, 1996, NSS Convention, Salida, Colorado. Contact Skip Withrow, (303) 693-0997.

**Maverick Grotto
C/O Chad Fenner
3700 Wayland
Ft Worth TX. 76133**