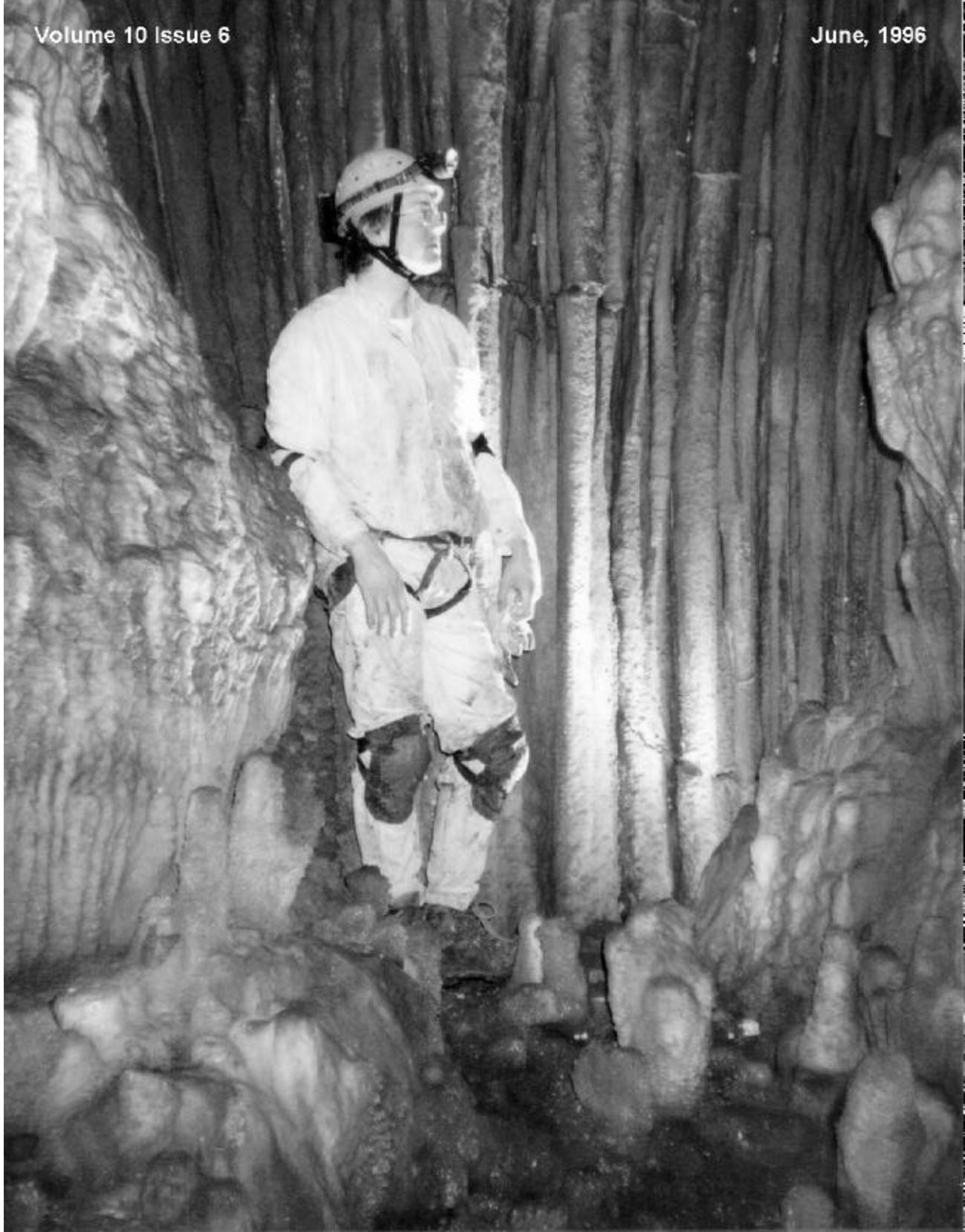

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



Volume 10 Issue 6

June, 1996



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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 issue to persons interested in becoming members.

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.

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Photo Credits

This month's cover photo of Ed Goff in World Wonder was taken by Pam Massey.

Page 4: Pam Massey backlighting drapery in World Wonder taken by Ed Goff.

Page 5: The Expressway and a Green Lake formation in Endless Cave taken by Shanon Seals.

Page 6: Floor lit Green Lake Take by Shanon and Chad Fenner

Other Credits

Editor: Chad Fenner

Editor-in-charge-of-English: Lisa Fenner
Typos found by Ronny Clark

Visit Our Web Site

The *Maverick Bull* is available as a World Wide Web Site at: <http://www.why.net/user/caver/bull/>

Minutes for the May Meeting

Maverick Grotto May 14, 1996

The May Meeting began at approximately 7 p.m. The business portion of the meeting was called to order shortly after 7:30 by Grotto Chairman Mike Anderson.

Visitors

Pam Massey's mother,
Virginia Fontanez, from Arlington

Announcements

NCRC (National Cave Rescue Commission) will have it's next training class, Cave Rescue and Operations and Management, July 27 - Aug. 3. Eighty hours training in 8 days for \$390 in Jasper Arkansas. (See article within for more details)

Old Business

The location of the upcoming 10th anniversary party was discussed. At the Rites of Spring party, we

discovered that the M&W Ranch was closed, so the Rites party scurried around and ended up at Keller's Ranch. After a bit of discussion, Keller's was proposed, voted on, and accepted as the site for the anniversary party. A date of October 5 and 6 was also voted on and accepted.

There are still a few grotto T-shirts left for sale.

New Business

Liz Lightfoot has requested membership by proxy. Mike Anderson said that was fine, but she will still have to fill out a membership application. Chad Fenner took the action to mail her one.

Trip Reports

Ernest, Butch, and Sharon went to the monthly Colorado Bend State

Park trip. Ernie noted the amount of walking they did this month.

Pam Massey went to Alabama on a business trip and got hooked up with some local cavers down there.

Butch, Chad, and Donna Mosesmann went to the Texas Survey Society's technical meeting.

John Langevin went to the TSA convention and received a 2nd place in the Slide Show.

Dale Ellison is going to Smittle Cave on September 8.

The meeting closed at 8:25 and was followed by this month's program, which was a video on cave surveying put out by the TSS and distributed to each grotto at the recent TSS technical meeting.

Editors Ramblings

Happy June!

Things, they be a changing around here.

Butch and I have been increasing dissatisfied with the software package we've been using to do the newsletter. (Especially since the month Ed did it on his Mac it looked so much better than what we've done recently!) So this month we've decided to experiment. This month we've switched from AmiPro/WordPro to Microsoft Publisher. At this point, I like it, but I refuse to pass judgment till we're finished printing. That's where things that go wrong always do.

On the Web side, Ed and I have been dorking with the Grotto Web

site. (Did you see the NSS News coverage?) He has a few ideas, and we're starting to implement them. Look for more changes this month that make it a bit easier to navigate.

I've been hearing around the state that a lot of people think we've got a pretty good newsletter. I think its because of the great trip reports and photos that you all keep submitting. Almost every month I have at least one and most of the time two trip reports with pictures. In my mind that goes along way to putting out a great newsletter. I'd especially like to thank Pam Massey for consistently submitting well written, interesting trip reports.

In the trip report area, this month

we have a treat. I went to McKittrick Hill a couple of months ago with a buddy of mine at work and his son, Bryan and Josh Kenney. They submitted a tag-team, father-son report, and Shanon Seals had some great pictures to go with it.

Well of course as soon as I publish a grotto mailing list, I get a boat load of changes and updates, so, I decided to reprint it this month. Sorry to all those that had already submitted updates, but I never got them entered.

Good Caving
CF

June Meeting

This months meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m.

As has been the case for the last few months, this months program was not known at press time. But again,

as usual, I'm sure it will be good. Join us for good food and good cave talk.

Easter in the Ozarks

by: Pam Massey

Cavers: Gloria, Richard & Richard Alan Bariteau, Elizabeth Lightfoot, John, Dawn & Kelby Langevin, Mike & Evan Anderson, Meta Huzarevich (with friend Kevin), Ed Goff, Pam Massey

World Wonder - Easter Sunday

(Pam, Ed, and Dawn)

My first experience at World Wonder consisted of crawling into the cave entrance with my new nite lite headlamp and my sunglasses on....I wondered why my lamp was dimmer than it had been the day before after only a few hours' use. John quickly pointed out that it would help if I'd take my sunglasses off. Thus, marketing for the nite lite wizard for cavers was introduced..."Light so powerful you can cave with your sunglasses on"-J. L. That was in February. This time I would actually get past the breakdown and go caving (without my sunglasses).

The group that caved World Wonder the day before prepared us for the mud we would encounter on our trip. Ooooh, ahhhhhh! It was squishy and gushy and goey and ooey and realllly muddy! But wow, was it fun! Dawn and Ed really enjoyed the sound effects. In addition, we saw a couple of salamanders near the entrance.

I had a great time trying out the flash that John loaned me, so Dawn probably had flashbacks to caving with her husband. There were many huge formations in the first part of the cave, but the most beautiful were found in the Bacon Rind room in the back of the cave.

In the Bacon Rind Room were draperies that hung approximately three feet in height by about 6-8 feet long. There was relatively little damage in this area of the cave, which made the belly crawl into the room worth it. The ceiling above the belly crawl was a little scary because it was a thin sheet of limestone which

appeared to be suspended about 3-4 inches from the cave by some soda straws.

Flowstone, almost pure white in appearance, covered the walls in this room. Other draperies clung to the walls along with soda straws, and several small pools with calcite deposits floating on the water could be found in this area as well.

When we left the cave, we were covered in mud, and outside we added an assortment of foliage to the mud and achieved a great camouflage look. We walked down the stream bed on our way back to the truck in order to lose some of our souvenirs. Ed christened his 4x4 on this trip and transported us safely to and from our destination.

Don Jones' Cave #1 and #2

(Pam, Ed, Gloria, Richard and Richard Alan)

On Saturday, we headed out for Brickshy's (Great pie served here!!!) to meet with Don Jones and visit his caves.

The first cave was small and we were greeted with the stench of a dead snake (my favorite kind in a cave) as we climbed in. Once Gloria was assured of the snake's lifelessness, we ventured on. There were a few minor formations in this cave, but mostly breakdown and small crawls. The entrance from the inside of the cave looked really neat because we could see steam rising off some moss as the sunlight poured in.

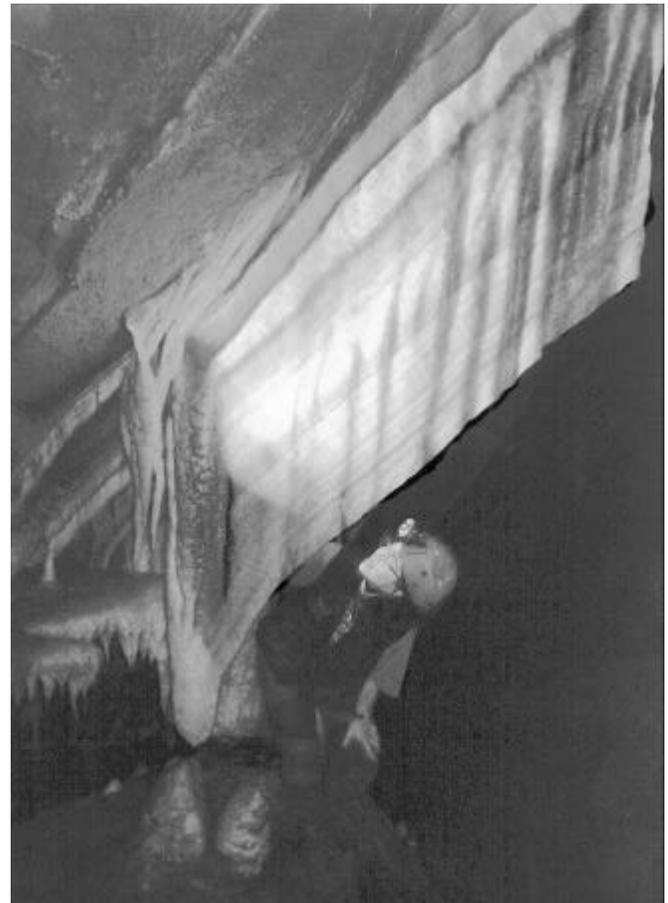
The second cave consisted of a vertical entrance approximately 25-30 feet in depth. This cave was quite different from our experience in cave #1. This cave had many beautiful soda straws and helictites.

There were several huge flowstone formations and many columns. There was damage in the cave as well, but there were many beautiful formations still intact. This cave is highly decorated with small delicate formations as well as the huge ones. This is certainly a cave worth protecting and one worth visiting.

You might say I went crazy using a borrowed flash to take a million pictures. I have a lot to learn about using a flash with my point-and-shoot camera, but I did get a few pretty good photos. I'll keep practicing and soliciting advice.

Since this is my trip report, I get to brag about whatever I want to, so I have to mention that I free-climbed (with a belay and help from Ed) out of this cave. I was so excited! Of course I did send my bag up first, and Ed, mincing no words, was quick to point out (after I asked if my bag was heavy) that my bag was not as heavy as I was. Thanks again, Ed!

We all had a really good time and appreciated the opportunity to cave on private land in a cave so beautiful!



Endless and McKittrick Caves

By Joshua and Bryan Kinney

Caves: Endless and McKittrick,
Cavers: Joshua and Bryan Kinney,
Ed and Laura Goff, Shanon Seals,
Chad Fenner

Joshua's Version:

On April 13th, in the predawn, hours I embarked upon a journey unlike any I had experienced before. Chad Fenner, Ed and Laura, Shanon, Bryan Kinney, and Joshua Kinney went up to the Guadalupe Mountains to go to Endless and McKittrick caves, while getting a flat in the middle of nowhere. (That's what you get for letting Chad drive.) (*Editors Note — Teenagers. No respect for their elders anymore*)

Endless Cave was filled with thousands of soda straws and innumerable amounts of gypsum crystals. Surprisingly, a lot of the cave was fairly broad and open, but you still couldn't stand up in most of it. Where there was room to stand up, there were usually some fairly large and/or elaborate formations. We also kept a very watchful eye out for a mysteriously missing pink fanny pack left behind by the last cavers.

In my opinion, the best feature was the Green Lake Room. It was a shallow pond, about three feet deep at the most. It did have a greenish tint in it, most likely due to some copper in the water.

After we emerged from Endless, we got to eat hamburgers and set up

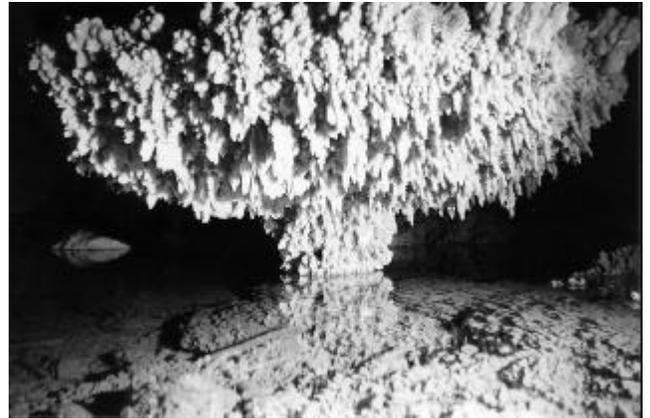
tents in pseudo-gale-force winds.

In the morning of the 14th, we set out for McKittrick cave. This cave was for the most part a dead cave and very much vandalized. We did find a signature on one of the formations that was from 1899. The cave had very large rooms with stalactites everywhere. You could see that most of this cave had been filled with water at one time, but there was little now. One of the formations, called "The Throne," looked like a bulky pummel horse turned upside down. We did find something very interesting though: a large hawk had somehow found its way a long way into the cave and died. There was only the skeleton left. An extremely odd thing that we found was a good-sized hole that dead ended, with eight foot timbers at the bottom, just left there for no good reason. (*Editor's note — Anyone know what they are and why?*)

Then we took a long ride back home.

Bryan's Version:

I had been to several commercial caves as a young'n', — Longhorn, Carlsbad, Sonora, etc. Last summer, my 12-year-old son Joshua and I experienced our first "wild" cave. Spider cave in the Guadalupe Mountains in New Mexico is inside the Carlsbad Cavern National Park, and access is controlled by the park. There were two rangers, one in front and one bringing up the rear who guided this cave two to three times a week. It was crawly and fun, but being led by the rangers was almost like being in a whirlwind. Experiencing the



Guads with the Maverick Grotto made me feel like a neo-caver all over again.

Ed and Laura, Shanon, Joshua and I met at Chad's house early Saturday morning April 13th. We were on the road by 7 a.m. We created a mini-caravan with Chad, Josh and I in Chad's truck in front and Ed, Laura and Shanon in Shanon's utility vehicle close behind. Up to this point I thought I had a lot in common with Chad, attending the same university, working in the same area with the same company, married, one son. But, Joshua and Chad kept me in stitches going back and forth with mind games and talking about computer games.

We left the black top at about 3 p.m. and arrived at the designated camp site a half an hour later to be greeted by what must have been 60-mile-an-hour winds. We turned around and went back down the hill a bit trying to use it as a partial wind break. It helped some. Around 4, we were ready to enter Endless Cave. Of course we had to keep with tradition and leave the combination at camp.

Endless was wonderful. We had a map, but I was glad Chad had been there several times. It was large and had lots of potential to get lost in.

First there was the Mud Crack room. Ceiling to floor, the room measured probably 70 feet. However it was only about 30 feet wide. The floor was littered with large, jagged rocks and would have been rough traveling were it not for the passage on a ledge 20 feet up and against the left wall.

When we reached what is known to





see Mr. Neanderthal carrying if you were around some thousands of years ago.

We retraced our steps back to the entrance of the back area and then took the Expressway towards the entrance of Endless. The Expressway was a passage which seemed to be cut out of the

be the back of the cave by most, Endless becomes a confusion of upper and lower mazes. In a casual, kinda fun, haphazard way, we split up and just went roaming through the mazes for a half to three quarters of an hour or so. Shanon and I went one way, and Ed and company took off down another passage. Shanon and I had a pretty good show of some draperies which had a lot of dark blood red through them and got in some climbing, too.

When we rejoined the group we tended up crawling through a short squeeze into a room that opened up into a much more decorated display of flowstone, stalactites, and stalagmites with soda straws. We lingered there for a few minutes just to take in the excellence and to put on a new appreciation for what the cave had to offer.

Not too far beyond that was a serene pond. It was probably 20 feet by 20 feet and about two feet deep. Everyone tried to get photos of the clear water with the greenish tint. Occasionally you could hear a drop hit the pool and you knew you were in inner space.

Another short hike beyond the pool was the War Club room. I think this was the very back of the cave. It was as deep as we would go in. In this room, the ceiling was covered with helectites, and the floor had 50 or more stalagmites rising from it 3 to 4 feet each. They were all larger towards the top than at their bases and resembled something you might

mountain with a machine. The sides were straight up for 50 feet, but the floor was like a serpent's back, rolling for 100 yards or more, up 30 feet then down 30 feet. I felt like Batman when Chad says, "lay on your back and slide through there." It seemed weird that we would travel so far in a room so large then have to leave it through a hole only a foot tall. Then it seemed as if we traveled through an area with a three-foot ceiling for another 100 yards before we came out back in the Mud Crack room.

Sleeping was not a problem that night. The next morning, after hot cereal, we had a 40-minute hike along the ridge to McKittrick. Along the way, we passed Big Sand and Little Sand and at least one more that we couldn't figure out what it was. And keeping with tradition, we left the combination at camp. (*Editor's Note — Thanks Ed for running back and getting it!*)

McKittrick was a much smaller and simpler cave. There was basically a single level. We did not have a map. The instructions on the permit said that you could not get lost even though this was a maze cave. I thought that seemed a bit suspicious, but went ahead anyway. As it turned out, that was true. There were a couple of flows and an area where a whirlpool had been during formation. There was also a pit and some graffiti. It was worth seeing while we were there, but probably one I would not go back to.

All had a good time.

Mad Cow Disease Attacks Cavers

In a recent mutation of the famed "Mad Cow" disease, a new strain that seeks out cavers has formed. This new strain, dubbed "Mad Caver" Disease, includes such symptoms as placing rocks under one's chin and making faces at cameras. The disease has reportedly attacked certain members of the *Maverick Grotto*, but this has not been confirmed.

Anyone noting a fellow caver with any of these symptoms should contact the local authorities, or the nearest funny farm.



NEW SOFTWARE

GeoMag

submitted to Cavers Digest by Garry Petrie <gpetrie@ichips.intel.com>

I am pleased to announce the release of GeoMag 1.0.

GeoMag, a Geographic Magnetic Calculator, is a tool to help you determine UTM coordinates and the magnetic declination that correspond to longitude/latitude pairs.

GeoMag has seven boxes with up/down arrows that allow the user to change the location and time for which the Earth's magnetic declination is calculated.

When the longitude or latitude change, GeoMag automatically translates the location to UTM x, y and zone numbers. In reverse, when changes occur in the UTM x,y or zone, GeoMag automatically translates the longitude and latitude.

In both case, the Earth's magnetic declination is updated.

GeoMag has three drop-down boxes for selecting East/West and North/South hemispheres and the geographic Datum. For all USGS topographical maps, the user should use the default Datum, the Clarke 1866 model.

The program can also calculate the magnetic declination for any location in the period from 1900 to the year 2000. The altitude can also be varied, but its effect is small for positions physically on the surface of the Earth.

GeoMag is based on work done by the USGS, specifically their GCTP and GEOMAG C and Fortran programs, data files and documentation. Source code written in C++ is available upon request. The program is freeware and can be distributed anywhere.

Look for the program at my [www](http://www.europa.com/~gp/winkarst.html):
<http://www.europa.com/~gp/winkarst.html>

NCRC 1996 Seminar

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

This seminar consists of extensive classroom and field work in all phases of cave rescue including underground environment, vertical rescue, hauling systems, extrication techniques, communications systems, medical management and organization, and management of cave rescue. Basic and advanced course material is presented for students who typically include cavers, emergency services personnel, and rescue management personnel.

The courses provide approximately 80 hours of instruction in only eight days and will be very strenuous. Participants must be in good physical health and must sign a liability waiver. (Persons under 18 years of age should contact the registrar prior to registering for the class.) Students should be prepared to work in difficult situations and be able to negotiate vertical drops of 25+ meters while under supervision.

ENROLLMENT STATUS

Level 1 teaches current emergency management cave rescue techniques, and provides instruction

in caving, basic rope work, and management. It is specifically tailored to the various needs of agency personnel with little or no medical or cave-related experience and cavers with little rescue or medical experience. Level 1 prepares students to function as cave rescue team members and is a prerequisite for Level 2.

Level 2 prepares students to function as cave rescue team leaders. Participants must have successfully completed an NCRC Level 1 course within the past 4 years. This course assumes that students have learned, retained, and practiced the basic skills in management, medical, vertical, and horizontal rescue techniques taught in Level 1.

Level 3 is open to students who have successfully completed an NCRC Level 2 course within the past 4 years. Level 3 is designed to enhance the technical and management skills and talents of the student. Most sessions will be practical field exercises and will specialize in crack and crevice rescue, technical rigging problems, and difficult litter handling situations. Student teams will be given cave rescue problems and be expected to solve them with the assistance and supervision of the instructor.

EQUIPMENT

All necessary tools and equipment will be furnished for the students with the exception of personal caving/safety equipment. Each student must have at least the following equipment available for inspection at check-in registration:

- A. UIAA approved climbing grade helmet with chinstrap (non-elastic, three points of attachment)
- B. Three (3) independent sources of light, at least two capable of being helmet-mounted (electric preferred)
- C. Sturdy, rubber-soled, lace-up boots
- D. Two (2) 20-foot sections of 1-inch tubular webbing
- E. Commercially sewn, full seat harness (chest harness also

recommended)

- F. Six (6) locking carabiners (at least three must be independent of climbing system)
- G. Rugged clothing
- H. Gloves with leather palms
- I. Descending system (rappel rack required)
- J. Ascending system (working climbing system)
- K. One (1) extra mechanical ascender with webbing (or runner)
- L. Water bottle (1 quart recommend)
- M. Small, personal first aid kit
- N. Small, heavy-duty pack or knapsack

All personal equipment should be marked in some manner to identify the owner.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Meals are included with the registration fee. Instructors and students will be camping on the school grounds. Restrooms and showers in the school will be available 24 hours a day. Motel and campgrounds are also available in the Jasper area. Please contact the registrar if you wish more information.

TRAVEL

Students (Level 1, 2 and 3) must arrive by 9:00 AM on Saturday, July 27.

Jasper is located in northwest Arkansas, along the Buffalo River. If traveling by car from Little Rock, you take I-40 W to Russellville, then go north on State Highway 7 to Jasper; or from Fayetteville, you take State Highway 16E to State Highway 74E to Jasper. (It is about 138 miles from Little Rock, 73 miles from Fayetteville.)

Little Rock Regional Airport is the nearest international airport. A smaller airport (Drake Field Municipal Airport) is located in Fayetteville. Transportation from the airports to the seminar may be available. Please contact the registrar if you need more information

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

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C/O Chad Fenner
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Ft Worth TX. 76133**