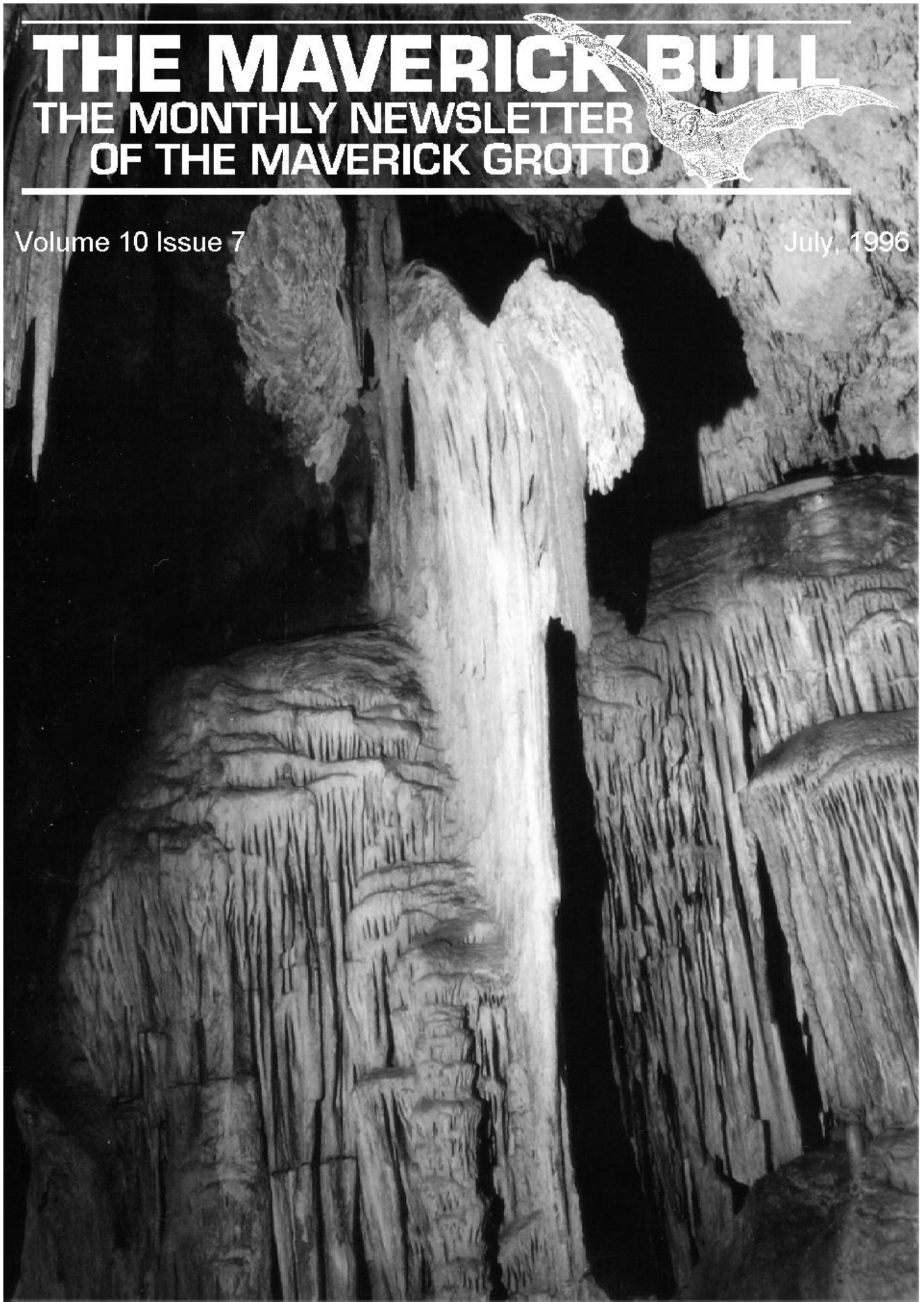

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Volume 10 Issue 7

July, 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

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-

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 the Dragon in Pink Dragon was taken by Chad Fenner.

Other Credits

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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 June Meeting

Maverick Grotto June 11, 1996

by Meta Huzarevich

The June 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

Ray Perkins, a long time caver showed up.

Announcements

Mike Taylor will have a book-signing party on Tuesday, June 18 for a new book on caving he has written.

Amanda Lolar will hold a bat presentation at Mineral Wells.

NCRC training coming up, \$350 for

an 8-day training class.

There will be a diving course at Cozamel (beginning and advanced): Open Water in July and Cavern Diving in August.

Officers' Reports

Mike Nelson requested help in finding programs.

Old Business

Tenth Anniversary Party, October 5 at Keller Ranch

New Business

There was a diving conference in Dallas last month.

Looking for something spectacular for the 10th Anniverisy Party.

Trip Reports

John Langevin went to Denton and Conner Cavers.

Mike Anderson went to 0-9 well with Mark Porter. They tried to catch up with Donna Anderson and Caverns of Sonora, but didn't. They did end up at Enchanted Rock.

Donna Mosesman went to a caver restoration at Webb Cave. (Big tick problem.)

Dave Milholen went on a diving trip in Florida.

The meeting closed and was followed by this month's program, which was a slide show on Fern Cave from the NSS.

Editors Ramblings

Happy June!

It seems my trip report well is slowing down a bit. No matter, Martha McArthur from NTSS e-mailed me a couple of trip reports that were submitted for their newsletter that involved one or more Maverick cavers, so I stuck them in. No pictures, though. Mike Pearson from D/FW wrote one.

I also found a couple of items off the Net I thought are humerous. One, a rap sheet on Batman, was written by the same guy who wrote the "I Have Seen the Light" article on carbide cavers a few months ago, Paul Steward. I actually found it a

month or so ago, but it got squeezed out by the grotto mailing list.

Checked out the Web site receintly? Ed and I have rearranged it a bit and added some backgrounds. Now you should be able to navigate around without scrolling until you get to an actual article.

I also decided that there was no reason to keep nine issues online. I mean if you haven't read the articles from last October's issue by now, you probably won't. Having the last six issues online is probably enough. On the other hand, since pictures are always good, I decided to pull the

pictures out of the first three issues and start a photo archive. It's not much, 14 to be exact, but over time it will grow. Right now they are just listed in order of appearance in newsletters, but once we get a few I'll organize them a bit.

Speaking of pictures, our resident award-winning grotto photographer, John Langevin, has something big planned coming up in the next few months. You'll have to wait to see it.

Oh, and once again, thanks go out to Meta Huzarevich, our un-official and un-elected assistant secretary. She took the meeting minutes in my absence last month.

June Meeting

This months meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m.

This month's program will consist of our president, Mike Anderson, showing some slides. As usual, I'm

sure it will be good. Join us for good food and good cave talk.

Maverick Grotto 10th Anniversary Fast Approaching

The Maverick grotto will hold a reunion/birthday party in celebration of its 10th anniversary on October 5th. It may seem like a long way away, but it's approaching fast. Anyone who has ever been a part of the Maverick grotto over the last 10 years is invited. If you know any long-lost Mavs, then make an effort to get the word to them.

The specifics are still being worked out, but what is known so far is that it will be the weekend of October 5th and it will be at Keller's Ranch on the Brazos River (not far from the old M&W place). Be there.

Jester Cave

submitted by Mike Pearson

Cavers: Mike Pearson, James Loftin, Linda Streckfus, Christie Bennet, Martha McArthur, Rob Kam, Ryan Tei, Casey Holland, Cassie Davis, Maliene Davis, Oran Tranbarger, Ann Wentworth, Tag Swann, Aurelio Duque, Sheree Mahan, and Gary Mahan

Date: May 4, 1996

Cave: Jester

Almost everyone filtered into the McArthur abode by midnight Friday night. Some slept inside, others outside. Saturday morning, the management of EL CASA McARTHUR provided a continental breakfast for interested parties consisting of turkey sausage in a roll and juice or coffee. This caver wishes to express gratitude for the hospitality extended to him and Aurelio Duque.

We met other cavers at the McDonald's in Wichita Falls at 8 a.m. that morning. Sixteen cavers or wanna be's loaded into six vehicles and headed northward towards Oklahoma. After a few stops for provisions along the way, we arrived at the sheriff's house. He led us over to the gate leading to the cave and took off for town. We had a little difficulty with the lock on the gate, but after a few minutes James had us in the gate and on our way to the cave.

Everyone geared up and was told to take a north bearing and look for a pumphouse after the fifth sinkhole. Well, we didn't find it right off. We found a feeder and a sinkhole at first. James investigated the sinkhole, and we almost went in except Martha said the entrance should be bigger so everyone took off to find the correct entrance.

I, thinking that pumphouse meant electric powered well, spotted powerlines to the east and wandered that way in search of the pumphouse. What I found was an easier way to the cave from the road. Following the trail back towards the feeder, I found the "pumphouse." a concrete and brick structure that was no longer in use. About the same time Martha found the correct

entrance, and everyone converged on her voice. After a short rest in the shade, everyone headed into the cave.

James led into the cave, and I went in last to make sure anyone who needed help would not get separated from the group. There were some delays caused by equipment malfunctions, but soon we were all in the cave and heading south.

The cave is in gypsum, much like River Styx only with more walking/stooping passage. The water runs throughout the cave at various depths. Starting out we could avoid the water or step on rocks to keep our feet dry. It wasn't long before the water was over my water resistant boots, and I got wet feet. I noticed if I stayed to the side of the route everyone else took, the mud was harder and I didn't sink as far. Before long though, this was no longer any use as the water got deeper until my zipper was in the water and body parts were seeking higher ground.

The water wasn't as cold as the water in River Styx but there is more of it. This would eventually force one member of the party to exit back out the entrance with the assistance of three other cavers.

At one point we entered a cavity with breakdown and guano on the floor. Bats were everywhere. Piles of guano were on the breakdown and made climbing over it very slick. James, Linda, and I blazed a trail over the breakdown and re-entered the water.

On the other side we found at least five catfish about 6-9 inches long and whose eyes glowed orange when you shined a light on them. It was at this point in the cave four members exited the cave.

The rest of us slogged on through the sticky, boot-sucking mud beneath the water. Organic elements washed into the cave from a black layer beneath the orange sediment and exudes a strong smell (probably methane) when disturbed. Later on we reached a harder floor with clear water running over trevantine. Here we found 3-4 crayfish of various colors. Further along we found large femur bones on a sandy ledge. Rib bones were embedded in trevantine as well as teeth.

Somehow James and a small group following him had taken a side route down a crawlway, while the rest of the group in front of me took a walking passage. This caused us to get ahead of them. After we determined we had gotten separated, we backtracked a short ways and found James and his group coming down the passage.

At this point one member expressed a need to exit, so we continued on until we found a crawl leading up and exited the cave. We were about 200 feet from where we parked the cars. We took GPS readings for future use.

Martha told us we hadn't seen all of the cave and that we exited too soon. That's alright, it leaves more for next time. We encountered another caver after we left the ranch, and he joined us at a nearby state park where we spent the night.

We sat around camp and told our caving stories and socialized until the last group finally went to bed around 11:30. Before then though the conversation was varied and enjoyable. Especially the discussion on "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" and the fact that there are four or five books in the trilogy. Sunday morning, the San Antonio and Dallas cavers headed home bidding goodbye to new friends.

So until we meet again, "Never go anywhere without your towel" and "42"!

Colorado Bend State Park

Earth Day Project

Sponsored by the Central Texas Grotto

Participants: Melynn Conway, Meliene Davis, and Mark Beauchamp.

Submitted by all of the above.

On April 19, 1996, we left Wichita Falls at approximately 6 p.m. to participate in the Colorado Bend Earth Day project. We arrived at the park at 11 p.m. with only one wrong turn. It's amazing how much time you can save when you don't go through Brownwood.

The first sight to greet us was a raccoon which was acting rather strange. He was kind of scrawny, walking down the middle of the road.

Twice he turned as if he was going to attack the van. Later, we learned the raccoon probably either had rabies or distemper. Driving around the park, we spotted four deer grazing in the public camping area. We found the TSA camp ground and met three of our fellow cavers. Allen and Tom were from A&M, and another female caver was from Georgetown. The camping area was nice, and we made camp and turned in for the night.

Saturday, April 20, we woke up bright and early and began the day. We cooked breakfast, and while we were eating Tom Kaler arrived to tell us what our choice of assignments were. We were offered the opportunity to monitor Gorman Falls and the visitors to the area, participate in restoration at Lemmons Ranch Cave, help with the clean up of Icebox Cave, or assist in leading tours to Gorman Cave. Decisive people that we are, we decided to do a little of all of the assignments.

After cleaning up breakfast, we loaded up our caving equipment and headed towards the Conference Center. Colorado Bend State Park features 5,000 acres with six miles of scenic Colorado River frontage, two spring-fed creeks, rocky canyons, and a beautiful waterfall. While waiting for a park ranger to take us to Lemmons Ranch Cave, we decided to hike to Gorman Falls. The falls are not open to park visitors, except during special events where the visitors can be monitored. This area was closed due to tourists destroying the areas of travertine surrounding the waterfall. The waterfall was a beautiful sight to behold.

After viewing the falls, we hiked back to Conference Center and headed to Lemmons Ranch Cave. The cave entrance was a wide opening approximately 12 feet deep. Entrance was gained by lowering ourselves by holding onto a knotted rope. The cave itself was very muddy. This cave is visited periodically by ranger-led tourists.

Our assignment was to clean the mud off of several of the formations. We carried in bottles of water, brushes, sponges, and toothbrushes. We first had to go through a crawling passage. We then entered a large

room with several formations including stalactites, stalagmites, and soda straws. We worked for over an hour to clean the formations, and although some progress was made, the formations were stained by the mud and did not become completely clean. After cleaning formations, we were asked to go into the upper passage and destroy the mud sculptures made by a visitor to the cave.

There were 12 sculptures which we pounded back into the cave floor. After exploring the cave, we loaded up our cleaning supplies and exited the cave.

We ate lunch at the entrance to the cave and then loaded into the van and returned to the TSA campground to retrieve our vertical gear, proceeding from there to Icebox Cave. This is a three-level, chimney-type cave where ranchers had been dumping trash for years. It was named due to three ice boxes being found in the entrance. We assisted with hauling buckets of trash out of the cave to a dump truck.

We again met up with the A&M cavers. They told us how Tom had been sent down the cave entrance first (this was his first experience in a cave). He entered the third level of the cave only to promptly hear a rattling sound. Needless to say, he exited the cave faster than he entered. A cave rescue was done, and the rattlesnake was released a distance from the cave without anyone being injured.

The floor of the cave was dug out in order to remove the little pieces of debris and glass. The cave does not appear to have any openings, but who knows what will be found after all the trash and debris is removed from the cave. We briefly explored the cave following the completion of the clean-up for the day.

We then loaded into the van and headed back to the Conference Center. We rested for a short period of time and were then asked to lead of couple of tours to Gorman Cave. We hiked to the cave followed by 16 Boy Scouts and their leaders. The hike to the cave was on a trail through a spectacular wooded area which wound along by the river. We had to wait about an hour before

leading our two tours. While waiting we were entertained by the Boy Scouts, some of whom stated they knew everything there was to know about caving. We also entertained ourselves by playing by the river.

The entrance to Gorman Cave is located in a bluff on the west side of the Colorado River. The entrance is about 10 feet high and 15 feet wide. Some of the walls inside are covered with calcite crystals. A large portion of the cave was closed due to a maternity colony of myotis bats. Tours were not allowed into the back of the cave due to a desire not to disturb the bats.

In the entrance to the cave was a nest with baby swallows. The cave consists of a breakdown slope approximately 75 feet inside the cave. Above this breakdown, there is a second entrance to the cave. The cave also consists of a series of travertine dams and pools. The cave continues another 350 feet with gravel floors, pools, short side passages, and travertine.

After exiting Gorman Cave, we hiked back to the Conference Center. We spotted three armadillos on the hike back. We arrived back at the center where we were fed a hearty dinner of turkey fajitas. Following dinner, we put on our seat harnesses and repelling gear and hiked down a short distance to the cliffs above Gormalette Cave and repelled down to it.

Entrance to the cave was gained by entering though a crawling area. The cave was spectacular and well worth seeing. At one time, it is suspected that the waterfall came out and formed this cave. There were pipistrelle bats in the cave. The formations consisted of a floor almost completely covered in flowstone, stalagmites, stalactites, and two areas of helectites.

There was an area in the back of the cave where there appeared to have at one time been a pool of water. The cave was now dry and dusty. One can only imagine how beautiful the cave was when it was alive.

We exited the cave, climbed back up the cliff, and returned to the Conference Center. We visited with the other cavers and watched Pat

Copeland's slide show. We showered and returned to the TSA campsite at midnight. We saw a fox and lots of rabbits on the return trip from the shows. We retired after an exhausting, but fulfilling day.

We were awakened on Sunday, April 21 by the wind trying to blow away our tents. We decided to break camp and head to the Conference Center, after the van was loaded. There, everyone combined supplies, and we cooked a hearty breakfast. Mark makes great eggs.

We put on our caving duds once again and headed to Pretty Splendid Cave.

After several trips up and down the road, the cave entrance was finally located. The entrance was tight with a chimney entryway which dropped 25 feet. Everyone made the entry okay. Once at the bottom we found a crawlway.

There was a room which allowed everyone to sit and wait for the rest. A scorpion was found on the cave wall. This cave is not highly decorated, however, there are a couple of areas of very nice flowstone.

The exit from the cave was more challenging than the entrance. One caver was stuck and had to receive assistance to exit the cave. The caver shall remain nameless, but she wrote this report. Thanks to all who helped with the rescue. Now we know why the cave is known as Pretty Splendid.

We returned to the Conference Center at 12:30 p.m., showered, changed, and headed back to Wichita Falls, arriving in town at 5:15 p.m. We had a wonderful time and hope to be invited back in the future.

NSS Convention Field Trips

The dates for the NSS Convention are fast approaching. If you plan to attend any of the pre- or post-convention trips, you need to make reservations NOW. Because many of the trips are on public lands, the number of permits is limited. Some trips that still do have space are those being run by Mac Deets (505-286-1964) to caves in Lincoln National Forest and the Guadalupe

Mtns. in New Mexico.

If you want to go to Bighorn Caverns and Horsethief Cave, you need to contact John Gookin (307-332-1264)(gookin@nols.edu) immediately. If he does not have more interest by the end of this week, he is going to cancel the trip.

YOU MIGHT BE A CAVER IF....

By Ray Nance

Reprinted from the
SOUTHWESTERN CAVERS Mar/
Apr '96 issue:

-your automobile interior was originally red, but is now chocolate brown.

-you have a knee that goes out more often than you do.

-you have more money invested in vertical gear than in your retirement fund.

-your idea of safe sex involves the use of a helmet and three light sources.

-you think the Polish word for cave is "Belski."

-you know Bob.

-you know anyone who might be involved in a game of BOG-TAG.

-your significant other has ever made you strip naked on the back porch before entering the house.

-the NSS Board of Governors determines the destination of your annual summer vacation.

-your friends have ever had to break out shovels shortly after hearing you say "I think it'll go!"

-you have no idea what is on TV on the weekends.

-you load up on boiled eggs, sausage, beans, beer, etc. the night before just so that you can provide more "atmosphere" for your friends the next day.

-your idea of luxury accommodations involves a relatively clean stock tank and sufficient shrubbery within a quarter mile for "necessities."

-you own three spare tires "just in case" but can only seem to remember to take one into the field.

-you spend free time perusing the newspapers for battery sales.

-you've ever lost a cave (especially after going into it).

-someone mentions "squeeze box" and you don't think of polkas.

-you think bats are cute.

-you can eat with mud-covered hands and not give it a second thought.

-your garage is a storeroom for vertical gear and lights.

-your Christmas list is a marked-up "Bob & Bob" catalog.

-you've ever experienced how "racks" got their name.

-you no longer flinch when crickets jump on your neck.

-you've ever been chased out of a laundromat for trying to stuff 300 feet of muddy PMI into a heavy duty washer.

-you believe in the Energizer Bunny.

-you've ever overhauled a carburetor in the middle of nowhere with a Swiss Army knife.

-you've ever "shelled" your rear differential on "God only knows what" and had to drive back to town using front-wheel drive.

-you compare helmets with friends to see who has the most dents and scratches.

-you think all trails in the Guadalupe Mountains go uphill--both ways.

-you've ever been on a trip where you spent more time pulling your truck out

of the mud than you actually spent in a cave.

-you own a dog that has been in a cave.

-you think of tourist caves as slumming."

-your name is registered in the "Strange and Exotic Diseases" section of the National Center for Disease Control.

-your doctor has ever said, "No, I've never heard of that illness."

-Your mother really does wear combat boots.

The Rise And Fall Of Batman

Submitted to Cavers Digest by Paul Stewart. Used by Permission.

State police in Gotham City today issued arrest warrants for Batman.

After numerous complaints from state and local agencies, the police have been forced to seek out the Caped Crusader. He is only wanted for questioning at the present time.

One of the agencies most interested in questioning Batman is

the National Speleological Society. It has been learned that the Batcave, presumed one of the largest and most beautiful caves in the area, was stripped of all formations and gutted to make room for all of Batman's equipment. Also thousands of bats were gassed to death before construction began in the cave. No one has ever really seen the Batcave, but several local residents say a large cave did exist in the hills outside Gotham City. This cave is now nowhere to be found.

One resident was quoted as saying he saw "truckloads of dead bats and very pretty rocks being driven out of town." Local laws do exist that forbid the destruction of cave formations and cave life.

Gotham City Gas and Electric would like to question Batman. It is rumored the electric bill to run the cave must be up in the millions by now.

The phone company is also questioning his illegal use and hookup of the batphone.

Local police say the batmobile is not registered in any state motor vehicle office, nor is Batman a licensed driver in any state.

The F.B.I. and the C.I.A. want to talk to Batman concerning illegal use of computer systems and breaking into protected government files.

The N.R.C. wants to know where he gets the plutonium for the batmobile's atomic batteries and where he is dumping the spent waste.

Several local women say Batman is the father of their children and are demanding child support.

And Robin, Batman's most trusted companion is suing him, stating he was forced to spend most of his youth in the Batcave and has nightmares about all the criminals he had to deal with.

Alfred, Batman's butler, is in the late stages of Alzheimer's and never received medical benefits from Batman and must rely on state aid.

Is this the end of the Caped Crusader? Will Batman turn himself in, or will he join the ranks of his villains who run from the law?

Stay tuned, same bat time, same bat newspaper!

ON STATION 2.1a CAVE MAPPING SOFTWARE

submitted to Cavers Digest by Taco Van Ieperen

I am pleased to announce that On Station 2.1a is now available for FREE download. The program, screen snapshots, and a feature summary is available at <http://onstation.com>.

On Station 2.1 is 32-bit cave mapping software that runs on Windows '95, NT, and 3.1. It is extremely easy to learn and use, yet has powerful leading-edge features such as drawing passage walls and performing loop closures. It supports exporting VRML files so that you can put interactive 3-D maps of caves onto the World Wide Web. The On Station Web page has some examples of this.

On Station has support for three different SMAPS formats so that you can pull your old data into On Station with minimal fuss. On Station stores all of its own information in easy-to-read text files, so that you don't have to worry about being locked into some obscure format that nobody will ever be able to decipher.

LOOP CLOSURE

On Station's loop closure rocks:

- 1) Wind Cave (125km, 1200 loops closes in <20 minutes) on a P90
- 2) 14 km yorkshire pot (10 loops) closes in <5 seconds.
- 3) You can set the accuracy of each instrument in each survey, and the closure will stretch the system based on these figures.
- 4) You can specify an unlimited number of fixed (constrained) points if you have done GPS locations or have good TOPO data.

3) You can set the accuracy of each instrument in each survey, and the closure will stretch the system based on these figures.

GRAPHICS AND COLORING

On Station's graphics and coloring will blow you away.

- 1) Color by depth, for 3-D glasses, or simply customize the colors for each separate survey in the system.
- 2) Eight independent color schemes are stored with you data. You can even turn off sections of the cave to see how a new section affected calculations.
- 3) Bookmarks allow you to go back

to interesting views.

- 4) Draw a surface over the top of your system.
- 5) Open multiple simultaneous views on your system so you can see it from different angles and vantage points at the same time.

DATA MANAGEMENT FEATURES

On Station makes managing your data incredibly easy:

- 1) Surveys are stored in folders which can be nested. You can drag and drop surveys between folders. Everything is saved to disk in a single, easy-to-read text file.
- 2) Surveys are entered into a spreadsheet-like grid where you can cut and paste sections and automatically fill in station names. You can even set the order you would like the columns to be displayed in so that it matches the way that the notes were written down in the field.
- 3) You can store an unlimited number of comments for each station.
- 4) You can cut and paste data between On Station, MS Word, MS Excel, and any other word processing or spreadsheet packages you use.
- 5) You can store information on instruments used, corrections made, people involved, etc... Instrument information is used by the loop closure to determine the accuracy of a particular survey leg.

ADVANCED USER INTERFACE

On Station supports all the latest user interface features.

- 1) Right click on anything to get a context-sensitive menu.
- 2) Drag the needles on the on-screen compass/clino unit to set your view.
- 3) Double-click on any station to center it or to edit the survey that contains it.
- 4) Rotate and zoom the system in real time using the mouse.
- 5) Press F1 anywhere to get full context sensitive online help.

DOWNLOAD ON STATION 2.1a FOR FREE

<http://onstation.com>

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

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