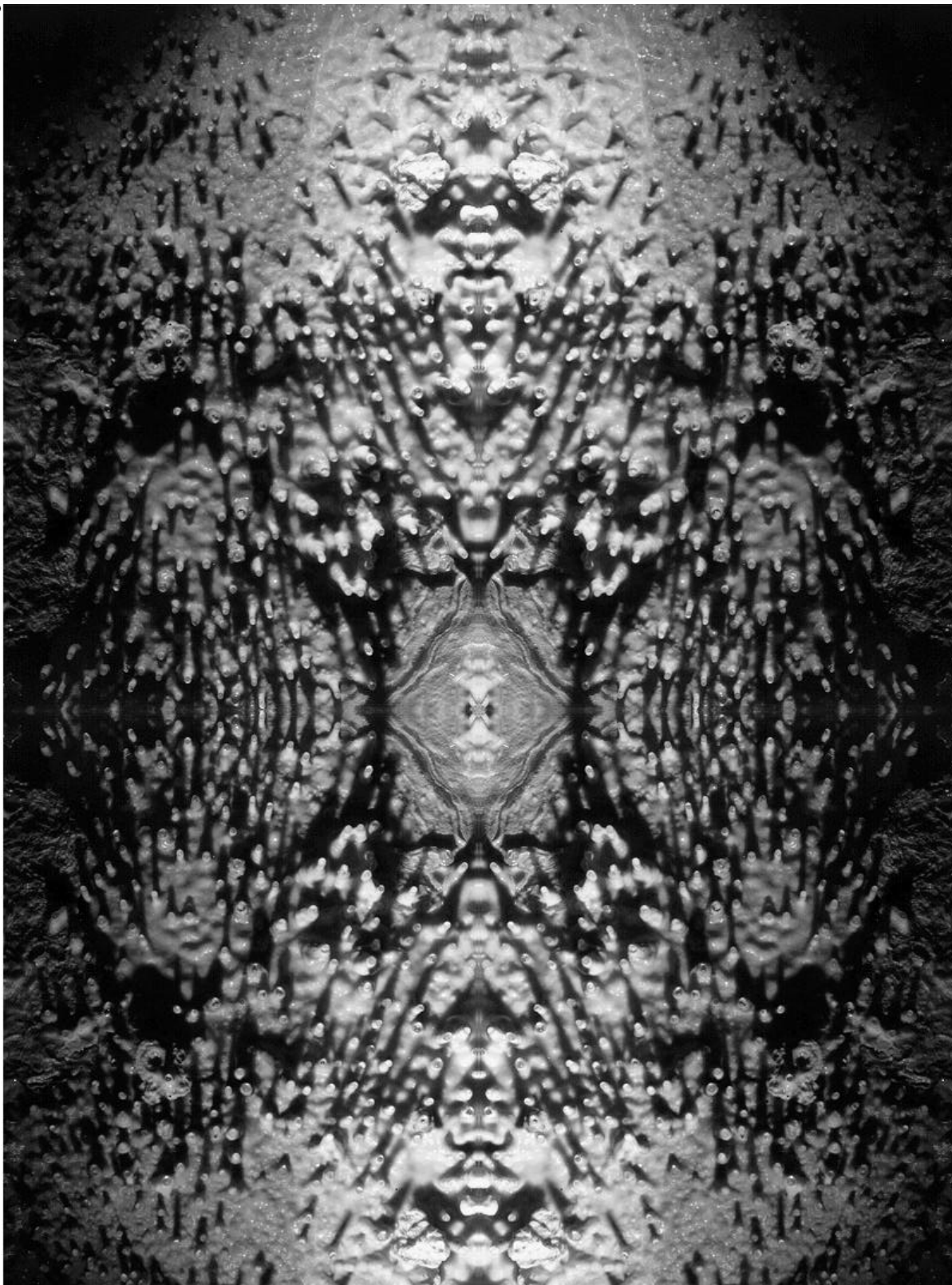


# THE MAVERICK BULL

The Monthly Newsletter Of The Ft. Worth Maverick Grotto



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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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Fort Worth, TX. 76302  
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**Cave Rescue:** Call collect: (512) 686-0234

## Photo Credits

This month's cover is another creation from the editors mind. It clearly shows a warped imagination and a case of bad taste.

## Other Credits

Editor: Chad Fenner

Editor-in-charge-of-English: Lisa Fenner

## Visit Our Web Site

The *Maverick Bull* is available as a World Wide Web site at:  
<http://www.fwst.net/np/maverickgrotto>  
Web space donated by Star-Telegram Online Services.



## Minutes for the May Meeting

### Minutes to the May 12, 1998, Grotto Meeting

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 John Langevin.

#### Visitors:

Chip Shelton and Clint Caddell

#### Announcements:

Cave Diving in Lake City Florida  
Stiver Ranch May 22nd, 23rd, & 24th

Digging Trip to be planned for Palo Pinto County in the near future. Butch Fralia will update with details later.

NSS Convention in August in Tennessee

Carlsbad June 21-25 - Contact Barbe Barker.

Officer's Reports:

\$591.46 in the treasury.

#### Old Business:

The special banking committee presented their information about bank charges throughout D/FW. Dave Milhollin made motion that we keep the Maverick Grotto checking account at the current bank, Coamerica. Butch Fralia seconded the motion. The grotto voted and motion was passed.

The 1998 Phone List did not reflect the status of Russell Hill as a Charter Member. It has been corrected in the database.

#### New Business:

None

#### Trip Reports:

Ed Goff - CBSP worked on the survey of Chimneyer's Delight.

Dave Milhollin - Arkansas, Nesbitt Cave

Dave McClung reported on the MVOR convention. He stated he didn't get any caving done, but, did enjoy mingling with the folks.

#### Program

Dave Milhollin presented a very interesting archeological program on the Mayan Caves in the Cancun, Mexico region.

The meeting closed.

## Editor's Ramblings

Happy June.

Sorry about not making the meeting last month. We got back from the mid-week-day-game, dollar-hot-dog, half-price-Tuesday Rangers game and was just too beat from watching Wettland annihilate the final three batters to get the save. (I'm sure you are all feeling sorry for me.)

Well, many of you have already heard this, but I gave up on my truck. I decided that \$3500 in repairs (including the \$2000 for the transmission) was a bit high for two and a half years of ownership of a four-year-old truck. The worst of it is that I traded it in for a new car for my wife, Lisa. (Well, not bad for her I

guess!) That leaves me with her old car, an '89 Nissan Sentra. Not exactly a caving vehicle. I guess I'll be doing more Slaughter Canyon and less Three Mile Hill, unless the Dragon's Teeth rumors are true (see related story inside).

Last month, I had so much material that it wouldn't fit without extra postage. Fortunately, enough if it was undated material so I could just slip the excess to this month. That works out well because I was a bit shy of material this month.

One of the things I stuck in is from a web site Ed Goff found several months ago. (I didn't ask him how he found it, and I'm not really sure I want

to know, either.) He suggested using it for the April issue. The scary thing is that someone actually believes this one.

Speaking of April, I did seem to forget to print the usual May retraction of one of the April stories. By now I'm sure no one was caught off guard, so it should come as no shock to anyone that Vice President Al Gore did NOT visit Christmas Tree cave as printed in the April Issue. It was just a joke of the April Fool's variety. Hope you enjoyed it.

Good Caving.

CF

## June Meeting

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

This month's program was not available at press time, but RD has been doing a great job coming up

with them, so I'm sure it will be great.

Come join us for this great program and cave talk.

## Guads Caves Update

Noble Stidham, NSS 26240

Prospects of shelving [the idea of] cave use fees came closer to a reality on April 11, 1998 when a "First Official Meeting" took place between the National Forest Service, Guadeloupe Ranger District and Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas cavers. Held in Carlsbad at the invitation of Mike Baca, district ranger, cavers met at the Forest Service offices at 9 a.m. in the Federal Building. At the last minutes prior to the meeting, Mr. Baca was called from his office for assistance in fighting range fires in the Guads.

Presentation of the Forest Service vision/mission for volunteerism within the caving community was in the most capable hands of Richard Carlson, FS Recreation Land staff and Ransom Turner, FS Cave Specialist for the area. Ray Keeler (Arizona Caver) acting as chair for cavers, was articulate and thorough with his job as moderator and spokesman for the caving community and the interests and concerns of all cavers. Mr. Baca suggested that the theme of this initial dialog might be the question. "If I were to return or reflect back in five years on the accomplishments as a result of the implementation of the volunteerism proposal, what would we say we had accomplished?" The discussion evolved back to this theme during the three and one-half hours of conference to reflect and re-focus on these thoughts.

The entire meeting revolved around substantive projects which would benefit specific caves and bring a few caves back to an "open for business" status within a time frame of a few months to no longer than the end of the year. The majority of caves considered for re-opening soon are on Three-Mile Hill and are

Black, Hell Below, Hidden, and Cottonwood (Wonderland). Another cave to be worked on for opening is Panama Ranch Garbage Dump Cave. Priorities were discussed and set for each of these caves.

Three-Mile Hill Caves have been closed for several years due to vandalism, adverse impact, destroyed or poorly designated trail areas and a lack of Forrest Service manpower and money to keep abreast of the needs in every cave under their jurisdiction. At times of cave closures, few options existed. The decisions to close them rather than lose them was the soundest policy for the cave systems.

A need for a workable plan for volunteerism rather than the choking effects of cave fees and the costly prospects of caver alienation has long been a goal of both the Forest Service and the caving community. Both parties in the discussion left the table with common goals and bright spirits for the future of volunteerism.

Efforts will be coordinated by Ransom Turner for the Forest Service. From the cavers' point of view, specific projects may be accomplished by the Southwestern Region, either formally or informally, by grottos, or by individual cavers who are willing to assume the specific projects and who are willing to act within the stated time lines for their duties. Volunteerism at any level is acceptable from the standpoint of the Forest Service. Trust and reliability will be the key words for these new policies.

On the line for the caving community to contribute are approximately \$100,000 worth of in-kind donations for the next 12 months. This may sound like a lot of money, but it is less than the amount of volunteer dollars spent on behalf of the BLM in prior years. Cavers need to keep track of their expenses to and from valid work projects, and receipts for cash donations in the form of cleaning supplies, food and

incidentals such as film or prints given to the Forest Service. A method of logging these expenses is being developed and will be in place for cavers to use.

The projects identified as necessary for the re-opening of the Three-Mile Hill Caves are below. Names noted by the project are cavers now identified as Team or Project Leaders or those who are willing to assume the listed responsibility for these projects.

### CAVE RESTORATION

Consists of clean-up in caves of debris and trash caused by human impact, graffiti removal and grunt work. These clean-ups are great camaraderie and, traditionally, the best way to make new caving friends and learn about conservation and stewardship.

BLACK CAVE: Margaret Tafoya, NSS38015; June and Billy Hoffman  
HELL BELOW CAVE: Hillary Minich Armstrong, NSS23257

HIDDEN CAVE: Ed Goff; Lubbock Area Grotto

PANAMA RANCH GARBAGE DUMP CAVE: Southwestern Region

### SURVEY PROJECTS

Survey projects are a detailed and time consuming part of caving, but a place to polish skills and learn new techniques. Contact the people listed and see how you can help and when their scheduled survey dates are happening.

HELL BELOW: Hillary Minich Armstrong

HIDDEN: Anne Strait; Pecos Valley Grotto

MADONNA: (unnamed)

WONDERLAND: John Lyles, NSS19871

### PHOTOMONITORING

This project is under the leadership of Jim and Val Werker and is ongoing. The process consists of setting a patented permanent camera locking device at strategic or control points within the cave. The device is unobtrusive and is a challenge to relocate unless one

knows where to look. Each time the camera is locked into the point, it takes the same view as the last time - no tripods and no danger of being a foot off the last point. Photos are taken over set intervals, and the information is used to monitor the longer effects of impact, as well as environmental changes.

If you want to learn new technology and good camera techniques, then volunteer to help tote equipment into some of these caves.

BLACK CAVE: Jim Werker

HELL BELOW CAVE: Val Hildreth-Werker

HIDDEN CAVE: Val Hildreth-Werker

PINK DRAGON CAVE: Val Hildreth-Werker

**IMPACT MAPPING**

Impact Mapping can be described and illustrated on an existing cave map or on film. Both techniques will be used. Locations are noted where human impact is adversely affecting the cave environment. The capture of damaged or sensitive areas on film provides a base line to monitor changes. Film records the good stuff also, such as growth patterns, water ingress, and historical graffiti. Impact management provides the necessary information to enable specialists to prepare trails and place flagging.

BLACK CAVE: (unnamed)

HELL BELOW CAVE: Roberta Serface

HIDDEN CAVE: Ed Goff

WONDERLAND CAVE: John Lyles

**TRAIL DELINEATION**

New trails will be installed or changed, and old trails will be removed according to standards established by the Forest Service. It was generally agreed that older trails were too narrow, causing cavers on occasion to have to step out of the boundaries to maintain balance. Wider trails will be used where possible (approximately 24").

BLACK CAVE: (unnamed)

HELL BELOW CAVE: (unnamed)

HIDDEN CAVE: (unnamed)

**SPELEOTHEM REPAIR**

A formation repair seminar will be conducted by Jim Werker and Val Hildreth-Werker at the upcoming July 4th mini-regional. Grottos and caver publications will be listing the classes. Prior to any formation repair within the caves, interested parties will be trained in the techniques and materials used. Initial training will be conducted around the campsite on Three-Mile Hill and again on sites located in Pink Dragon and Virgin Caves.

**MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Assistance in writing management plans for the Forest Service is needed. This work is detailed office work and familiarity with previous management plans and guidelines is a skill which can be learned. The volunteer office work will be assisting Ransom Turner in coming up with acceptable verbiage and hard copy for the management of each of the caves involved.

If you are familiar with a particular cave, knowledgeable in your writing techniques, and want some quality armchair caving, then this may be for you.

**ALL CAVES ARE INVOLVED IN WRITING THESE PLANS**

Cavers on Three-Mile Hill during the summer will have the added bonus of seeing and talking to three additional Forrest Service techs hired through September, as well as Ransom Turner. The summer techs will be Kevin Glover, Cyndi Mosch, and Susan Herpin. The hiring of these people will make it possible for volunteers coming from afar (and not making scheduled work trips) to be able to work in the closed caves on these ongoing projects. [See!, Life is good.]

The names and the addition of names to the above will be forthcoming as the volunteers come forward. Contact numbers will be published soon. Contact Ransom Turner at 505-885-4181 if you wish to be considered for a leadership position. Contact the people listed if

you would like to help them, as Ransom will not necessarily know their schedules.

The basic rule is that cavers will get the work done that is needed to re-open the caves -- efficiently and in the shortest period of time necessary for the best results and least impact. When the caves are again open, the caving community will learn more of the techniques of good management from the larger perspective and be able to apply their own teaching skills to help newer cavers as well as the general population.

As a means of kickoff and celebration of the new project, a SWR Regional Meeting is planned for July 3-5 on Three-Mile Hill. Cavers will gather on top around the Texas Camp and may come up on Thursday the 2nd for camp set up if they choose. The kickoff and assignment of project duties for the weekend will start promptly at 9 a.m. on the 3rd. Water will be available from the well at the Guadeloupe Administrative Site near Queen, NM for normal usage and for projects within the cave. All cavers are urged to bring spray bottles, various types of scrub brushes, small plastic bags, and other materials which have been helpful in the past for cave cleaning.

A suggestion was made by Ray Keeler that, upon the successful completion of these first cave projects, the Forest Service show approval and faith by opening two additional closed caves and, in 12 months, again adding two additional closed caves to the list of permitted caves. The prospect was well received by Forrest Service Representatives and will be passed on to Mr. Baca for his consideration.

Volunteers will continue to work as needed to maintain the accomplishments, as well as repeat the work and management process in newly opened caves. Caves which are known to contain extremely fragile systems and that may be biologically or

archaeologically unsuited will not be opened or considered. Current budget constraints would prohibit hiring the scientific and technical skills to study certain cave systems at this time.

In my opinion, what was accomplished this day by concerned dialog and a love for caves was an achievement not to be lightly brushed over. The results, both for the Forest Service and cavers, may well reach into the far future and could easily prove to be a "showcase" project of national importance.

The testing ground is a whole new concept for government and the proving ground will be up to the willingness and trust of both parties involved. If it works like everyone's vision, it's a win-win situation all the way around.

A second meeting will be scheduled with the Forest Service on July 25th at the Forrest Service in Carlsbad. This will be a critique and discussion of the accomplishments at the SWR Regional. You are invited to attend this meeting.

Participants in the first meeting are as follows:

Richard Carlson, USFS, Recreation Land Staff Ransom Turner, USFS, Cave Specialist Noble Stidham, Lubbock Area Grotto Jim Evatt, Sandia Grotto Roberta Serface, Pecos Valley Grotto Ray Keeler, Spokesperson, Central Arizona Grotto Dave Jagnow, NSS Conservation, Pajarito Grotto Steve Fleming, SWR Chair, Sandia Grotto Dave Belski, White Sands Grotto Steve Peerman, Mesilla Valley Grotto

## Note from the Vice Prez

People need to be careful when sending e-mail to the NSS or calling up the web site. Another

organization, California Amateur VHF Enthusiasts, has registered [www.cave.org](http://www.cave.org) and they are getting some of our mail. The NSS is [www.caves.org](http://www.caves.org)

--Tom Rea NSS Operations Vice President

## Dragon's Teeth Threatened

David Jagnow

Cavers,

It has come to my attention that Lincoln National Forest is planning to upgrade the Guadeloupe Ridge Road for about one mile east of the Dark Canyon Lookout to the fenced Y-Junction (turn off to Hidden Cave). In the process, they are planning to eliminate (cover up) the Dragon's Teeth.

Yesterday, I tried to call Mike Baca and Richard Carlson, but they were both out of town (Richard on leave, Mike Baca on a control burn). So I visited with Johnny Wilson. Wilson was unaware of this situation, but talked to the forest engineer and archaeologist, then spoke to Mike Baca by phone. Mike Baca told Johnny Wilson that there is low maintenance work scheduled for about one mile beyond Dark Canyon Lookout. They have not begun any construction yet. They have an archaeological clearance (since the road passes through ring middens). Johnny indicated this is on their list to "provide better access to other recreational users." I suggested that perhaps an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be appropriate before they make this area readily accessible to the general public.

Today I spoke with Richard Carlson twice. He indicated that he spoke to Mike Baca about Road 201. Several years ago the roads were all reviewed, and 201 was classified as Level 2 Maintenance -- for public

use, but low maintenance. Mike Baca agreed on covering the Dragon's Teeth to make the road more accessible for multiple use.

If you are concerned that eliminating the Dragon's Teeth (just beyond Texas Camp) will provide easier access to the caves, and may encourage increased vandalism of the cave resources, then I'd suggest you write a letter or two to the following:

Jose M. Martinez, Forest Supervisor  
cc: Johnny Wilson, Recreation Staff Officer  
Lincoln National Forest  
1101 New York Avenue  
Alamogordo, NM 88310-6992  
Phone: 505-434-7200; Fax: 505-434-7218

cc: Mike Baca, District Ranger  
USDAFS, Guadeloupe Ranger District  
Federal Building, Room 159  
Carlsbad, NM 88220  
Phone: 505-885-4181; Fax: 505-887-3690

cc: Jerry Trout, National Cave Specialist  
USDAFS, Coronado National Forest  
300 W. Congress  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
Phone: 520-670-4552; Fax: 520-670-4567  
Cave Softly, and Leave No Trace!

## Self-Rescue Course

Announcing a new Self-Rescue Course designed by cavers for cavers! A new self-rescue course for cavers will be offered this summer in conjunction with the National Cave Rescue Commission's week-long seminar in Monteagle, TN July 25 - July 31. The Small Party Self-Rescue Course is completely independent of the NCRC Week-long Course.

About The Course Some definitions

first. "Called out rescue" is when an emergency occurs and the people involved feel they must call for outside help. This is what 911 is for. This is also what the NCRC teaches during its week-long course. "Self-rescue" is when an emergency occurs and the people involved deal with the emergency with no outside help because outside help is either unavailable or inadequate. The Small Party Self-Rescue Course teaches cavers how to deal with a serious accident underground when there is no help available, including both the evacuation/rigging aspect of rescue as well as the medical aspects. The medical portions of the course will be taught in easy-to-understand terms. (No medicalese spoken here!). The course also teaches cavers when it IS necessary to call for help and where self-rescue fits into our litigious society.

The course runs for six days during which about 40 hours will be spent underground caving. Be prepared for lots of caving!

Requirements The student must be vertically proficient and properly equipped for caving. This course is geared towards the experienced caver wanting to learn about self rescue, not the new caver wanting to learn more about caving. The course will have a small class number to ensure optimum instructor-to-student ratios.

For More Information. If you are interested in participating as a student in this course or would like more information about the course, contact Joe Ivy or Rebecca Jones at 512-292-1878 or by email at joeivy@interserv.com

## The Underground Empire

*Government cover-ups, secret conspiracies, interviews with unidentified "high level government sources," hidden dangers, sounds*

*like a perfect X-Files episode. The following is an excerpt from a web page Ed Goff found some time ago. For the full text see [www.execpc.com/vjentpr/undergnd.html](http://www.execpc.com/vjentpr/undergnd.html)*

*I've been holding it for just the right time, and since I'm low on trip reports this month, it seemed like the right time. Do not confuse the publishing of this as an endorsement by the editor or the Maverick Grotto. We simply report the, umm, ahhh, well, uhhh, "the facts."*

### News from the Aquarian Age

In March of 1980, John J. Williams, a New Mexico "patriot" who published the anti-Communist oriented *Rebel Magazine* revealed some incredible details on an alleged subterranean system which the Navy had been exploring below the western United States. The report appeared in Issue No. 6 of his magazine, and was later reproduced in the Fall 1985 (#164) issue of *Search Magazine*, edited by Marjorie Palmer. The article, titled *California Floats on Ocean?*, revealed the following:

"Some time ago, I heard a man on a TV interview show briefly mention that parts of California and neighboring states are floating on the Pacific Ocean! He was a high ranking naval officer on a top-secret nuclear submarine that has been (and is) exploring and mapping these enormous caverns and passageways underneath the West for over 10 years now.

"A friend of mine finally tracked the man down. He is now living quietly in retirement and asked that no details pointing to him be revealed, as he does not want publicity and government attention. After writing this article, I destroyed my files on him. This is his story..."

Williams explains that not "all" of the areas in question are actually "resting" or "floating" on the ocean, however there are allegedly many subterranean cavities below the

western U.S., and they are not limited to California. Many of them consist of very large, water-filled aqua-systems. These have been explored via nuclear submarines to several hundred miles inland, particularly in the region of southern California and the southern Oregon/northern California area. Williams continues:

"...When he retired several years ago, in spite of about 10 years of intensive naval study, the Navy had not gotten even a handle on their exacts and dimensions. Today, the story may be different.

"He makes the following statements from his observations:

"1. The passageways are labyrinthine with widths from a few to thousands of feet (caverns), averaging roughly about 100 feet.

"2. Much like dry caverns do, heights and depths vary a great deal, and, in some cases, two or more caverns or passageways pass over or under each other at different depths.

"3. Most of the entrances lie just off the Continental Shelf (i.e., in the Continental Slope - Branton).

"4. Most of the entrances are too small for submarine investigation, and many that are large enough lie in waters that are too deep.

"5. Some of the caverns (in S. California) are topped with oil, while some others are filled with gases believed to approximate our atmosphere (in very ancient times).

"6. The San Joaquin Valley is essentially a portion of the original cavernous area that collapsed eons ago due to it's sheer weight.

"7. What is being passed off as the 'San Andreas Fault' are large, unsupported chambers that are in the process of collapsing. When the "Big One" finally hits, many scientists in the know believe that most of California will break off like a cold Hershey bar and slide into the ocean! (It is postulated by some that an ancient land-mass which some

believe may have been connected to what is now California, broke off and sunk into the ocean during an ancient cataclysm - Branton)

"8. (We are deleting this section due to the possibility of undue stress and fear which may result from it's disclosure, and because of recent international events which may have resulted in a solution to this problem. We will merely state that it involves a scenario similar to that which was portrayed in a James Bond movie and which concerned underground caverns, Silicon Valley, nuclear weapons, and the San Andreas fault - Branton).

"9. A well known U.S. nuclear submarine lost its way in these passages and disappeared forever. It was reported to have been lost in open water elsewhere to keep the American people in total ignorance and to justify an enormous pay-off to an eccentric U.S. billionaire (who died in recent years) for providing the fictitious "recovery" effort.

"I have no reason to doubt the man. I can't tell for sure whether or not these caverns and passageways exist or to their extents. The story does sound a bit fantastic but I have no reason to doubt the man. I have seen copies of documentation that at least prove that he was a high-ranking naval officer (nuclear submarine duty) and a distinguished scientist. In fact, his scientific background and reputation are impeccable. He definitely cannot be labeled as a crackpot, lunatic or publicity-seeker. I would very much like more information on this topic..."

## Dr. Slimeroch Returns

Paul J Steward (pddb@juno.com)  
*Originally Published in the Central Jersey Caver. Reprinted by permission.*

Back by popular demand, here is

America's favorite caving doctor to answer all your caving questions. Dr. Slimeroch is a certified Cavetologist. The dr. thanks all for their questions and support. Send all questions C/O this sender.

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, My co-workers tell me that I can't tell the difference between my rear-end and a hole in the ground. I want to try to learn. Do you think it would help if I went caving? Should I also bring a mirror and do a side-by-side comparison? Confused in Cranbury

Dear Confused, Before I was a certified cavetologist I was a proctologist and was constantly being told this by my patients. Caving would certainly help in understanding the difference between the two. Both can be deadly places these days. Leave the mirror at home.

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, I like caving, but hate those boring outfits. They're all baggy and in dull earth tones. Do you know where I can get a spandex jumpsuit, maybe like Arnold Schwarzenegger wore in 'Running Man'? Fashionably Challenged in Freehold

Dear Challenged, There is a company called Suit Yourself that can make special order caving suits. You can call them at 1-800-you-loser. You also may want to contact the above person, Confused in Cranbury. He may want one, too.

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, My name is Robert Levins. I am a lawyer. My client recently jumped off the Empire State building in New York, after advice from you in a recent column. He did live, but due to his injuries, both legs had to be amputated. You are being sued for \$50 million. Do you have anything to say about this?

Dear Mr. Levins, Before everybody gets too carried away, let me take you on a caving trip so you can understand all there is to know about

caving. It will be a short, three-hour tour of a local cave. Also, please tell your client that if he puts a bell on his head he would make a great buoy.

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, I have a problem of staying on the road while driving because I am too busy looking for caves. My wife and children are scared to drive with me anymore. Are there any suggestions or techniques that will help my addiction of looking for karst? Help!

Dear In Need of Help, I am always asked this question. Do not fear. It is not a problem you have, but one your wife and children have. It is called Karsti-vehicular-syndrome. It is the fear they have of you finding a cave while driving, and the cave taking you away from them. I do hold classes to deal with this problem. They run all summer long on Saturday and Sunday That should give you plenty of time to drive around, alone, looking for caves.

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, What significance did the comet Hale-Bopp have for the future of caving activities? Was it a good omen or.....?

I can't believe one of you are still alive. Didn't you drink the punch? The aliens will be here quickly! You don't have much time!

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, What is the meaning of life and death?

It's in the dictionary. Read it for yourself.

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, Why, when crawling, are the sharp, pointy rocks always located wherever you place your knees? Bloody knees

WHAT, a caver who still has their knees? What is your secret for keeping your knees?

Dear Dr. Slimeroch, I have only made it to a grotto meeting on time, once or twice in the past five years.



Why did man invent the bar and make it so much fun? Happy Caver

Dear Happy, Bars were invented to keep people, like yourself, off the road and tucked away from the general public. Have you tried boiled hotdog water and vodka yet?

Dear Dr. Slimerock, I wrote to you several months ago and told you about my problem of always being told to blast away cave passages in the quarry that I work at. WELL, several days ago the explosives shack blew up, killing my boss and the foreman. I took your advice and took off last week. I might have been killed, too. Now all quarrying has stopped, and the caves are being explored. They may turn it into a commercial cave and want me to be a guide! Happy Caver

Dear Happy Caver, That IS good news. I'm glad to have helped you.....with my advice. Another satisfied customer.

Dear Dr. Slimerock, I have been caving for 17 years and have just been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. What should I do? Are my days of caving over? Confused

Dear Confused, Don't fret. Cave trips well be more exciting for you now. You can go to the same cave and the passages will always look different every time.

Dear Dr. Slimy, I recently had an operation and now must wear a colostomy bag. Nobody wants to cave with me anymore. What should I do? S.O.L.

Dear S.O.L., They are just jealous that you don't have to STOP and go to the bathroom anymore. Stay out of tight passages and watch those sharp rocks.

Dear Dr. Slimerock, I am getting up there in age and was wondering, what age should you stop caving? Young at Heart

Dear Old Man, If you are taking

your friends from the nursing home caving, I think it's time to stop.

Dear Dr. Slimerock, My life is out of control. If I'm not in a cave, I'm thinking about one or reading books about them or writing about them, talking about them, looking a pictures of them, drawing pictures of them, I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT CAVES! My child's first word was "cave"! My wife says she is going to leave me if I don't get help. What should I do? Brainwashed

Dear Brainwashed, I don't understand. What's the problem?

Dear Dr. Slimerock, I just found a cave with a large vein of gold ore running through it. I really need the money, but I'm torn between obeying the rule of "take nothing but pictures" and taking the gold. What should I do? Good caver

Dear Stupid, You are absolutely right about leaving the gold in the cave. Please send me the name and location of the cave and I will see that the cave is properly protected.

Dear Dr. Slimerock, What is Cavona? I hear this word a lot.

Cavona is a state of being when you become one with the rock and move with a fluid motion through the cave. Upon exiting, you feel lost and depressed. Only then, have you have achieved Cavona. The ultimate in caving.

Dear Dr. Slimerock, There are no caves in my area, and I'm getting older and fatter. I've decided to change my style of caving. What kind of armchair would you recommend? I have my eye on a pink day-glo folding chair from L.L.Bean that comes with a beer can holder and retractable, hidden alligator clip under the arm. But are folding chairs comfortable enough? Are these accessories still acceptable in the caving community, or are they now kitsch? A-Cold-One-in-Hand

Dear Cold-One-In-Hand, Funny how the words "older and fatter" seem to go together. I do recommend the recliner with the vibrating seat cushion and a built-in heating pad.

Thanks to all for your questions. Keep them coming. Send all questions to the doctor--c/o this sender. Dr. Slimerock is a certified Cavetologist.

Stay tune next week when the Dr. answers that age-old question: Are there any caves in heaven or are they all in hell?

*The Maverick Bull has published several pieces by Paul Steward over the years, including the famous "Addicted to Cracks." Paul is one of the founders of the new NSS Arts and Letters Section, a section dedicated to artistic and fictional works about caving. Paul has now published a book of his complete fictional works called, Tales of Dirt, Danger, and Darkness. He sent me an ad to publish, but unfortunately, by the time it came to go to press, my wife and I had completely cleaned the house, and the I'll-put-it-here-so-I-don't-lose-it location was long forgotten. In any case, I'm sure the book will be available via the normal caving retail outlets.*

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

## **Calendar of Events**

June 27-38, 1998, Gypkap, New Mexico. Contact Joli or Chris Lee, (505) 585-8406  
August 3-7, 1998, NSS Convention, Sewanee, Tennessee. Contact William Shrewsbury, (423) 886-3296  
August 22-23, 1998, Gypkap, New Mexico. Contact Joli or Chris Lee, (505) 585-8406  
July 12-16, 1999, NSS Convention, Twin Falls, Idaho. Contact David W. Kesner, (208) 939-0979