

THE MAVERICK BULL

The Monthly Newsletter Of The Ft. Worth Maverick Grotto

September 1998

Volume 12, Issue 9



Copyright 1998. The Maverick Grotto.

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.

Chairman:

John Langevin
4700 Trail Lake Dr.
Fort Worth, TX. 76302
(817) 924-1919

Vice-Chairman:

Dave Milhollin
101 Hosack St. #3
Arlington TX 76010
(817) 459-3959

Secretary/Editor:

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

Treasurer:

Sharon Mastbrook
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 346-2039

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

Photo Credits

This month's cover is of Dave Milhollin at the bottom of a waterfall in O-9 well by Brian Pate
Page 4: Brian Pate in O-9 Well by Dave Milhollin.

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 August Meeting

Minutes to the August 11, 1998, Grotto Meeting

The August meeting began at approximately 7 p.m. The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Grotto Chairman John Langevin.

First-time Visitors:

Chris Gilbert, Denton; Dan Gocken, Bureson; Robert (Bob) Halcro, Ft Worth.

Announcements:

Fall Party September 26th - 27th. Bring your best chili in a pot and/or other food items to go with chili. The hot tub & sauna will be available. The place is the same one we've used the past few parties - Glenrose.

January 23-24, Wen & Christmas Tree Cave Permits. Contact Mike Coulter, 940-433-2642, email: camelot@wf.net

Butch obtained a conservation

software for the TSS.

A self rescue class with Joe Ivey will be next spring.

Bustamante trip is Labor Day. \$2.00 fee with Beggar's Feast.

Officers Reports

Treasurer: We have \$\$\$.

Old Business:

Fall Party date was voted and passed for Saturday, September 26th and camping until Sunday, September 27th.

New Business:

3 Video tapes donated to the Grotto Library.

Trip Reports:

Laura & Ed Goff, and Robert Milhollin went to Mrs. Miller's Cave in Huntsville Alabama at the NSS Convention. They went to the 77' pit where it was wet, cold, a person could see his breath. It has a stream and pool salamander and crayfish.

They gave it a "Nice Cave" rating.

Chris Gilbert from Indiana (Denton now) went to Porter's Cave this summer went to a waterfall cave and did a cliff rappell at Great Salt Reter Cave (CCIC) at Karst-O-Rama.

Shannon & Angela Seals, Ed & Laura Goff, Russell Hill, Dave McClung at the NSS Convention went to Fern & Middle Cave.

Dave Milhollin went to O-Nine Well upstream and dove the sump.

Ed attended a pit photo workshop at NSS Convention.

Program

Chris Sobin gave an excellent presentation on how to assemble a small first-aid kit for our caving backpacks.

The meeting closed at 8:21 pm.

Editor's Ramblings

Happy September.

By the time you read this, if all goes well, Ed Goff, Troy Shelton, and my self will be on our way to Bustamante. I've wanted to go on this trip in the past, and it looks like this year I'll get to. This will be my first international caving trip. My only other real chance to go to a Mexician cave was several

years ago with a couple of guys whos extent of the Spanish language was sure to wind us up in jail!

This trip will be great I'm sure.

Still don't have any trip reports from the convention. Would love to see a convention trip write up by one of you lucky enough to get to go. Maybe next year.

Did anyone happen to record either the "This Morning America" piece on caves, or the PBS/Discover caving special? I didn't have any advanced notice they were going to be on so I missed both of them.

Good Caving.

CF

September Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m. The program for the August 1998 Meeting of the Maverick Grotto will be a French-made video, "009", a farsical treatment of the popular

"James Bond 007" genre. The bulk of the film is action, much of it filmed in caves, what little dialogue there is in in French, so it would be great if a FRENCH LANGUAGE interpreter/teacher could be present at the meeting, even if she has to teach

school the next day. The film is 20 minutes long, so get your popcorn and cokes and sit down after the traditional 10 minute break following the business meeting.

Recent Exploration in the Upstream Portion of 0-9 Well,

Crockett County, Texas
R. D. Milhollin NSS 29962

The weekend of August 8 marked the last of the summer vacation public school teachers enjoy in the district I work for, and in a last-ditch attempt to cram some more adventure into the waning season I accepted the invitation to meet at 0-9 Well for some caving. For those who have not been there, the well sits under a steel windmill, securely gated, amidst the monotonous backdrop of northern Chihuahuan Desert / southern Edward's Plateau environment of widely scattered mesquite trees and apparently thriving stands of a variety of cacti. The descent of approximately 130 feet (90m) is interrupted by a single rebelay, but most of the way one just follows the well casing down into a tall, narrow room bisected by a running stream. From here the caver has the option of turning upstream into hours of deep mud and tight squeezes, or going downstream into a series of pools lying in narrow-walled canyon passage, and terminating in an alternating series of vertical drops into large (for Texas) dome rooms. The previous try I was involved in was highly structured, and supervised by the ubiquitous Terry Holsinger. On Saturday, Terry directed the several survey teams upstream and through a leap-frog system obtained several hundred feet of good detailed survey. Sunday was reserved for those who still had some stamina remaining from the previous day who wanted to see the beautiful rooms that lay downstream. The upstream passage changed to wet, low stream passage after about

2 hours of muddy, obstructed canyon caving, and then the survey ended at a sump. Since the teams were already cold from several hours of lying about in the water while the sketchers did their work, the teams were glad when they began the exit to the entrance climb. The team I was on entered the cave about 11:00 a.m. and exited about 1:00 am the following day, about 12 hours underground. We were all starving and grumpy when we arrived back at the surface, and consequently ate our Beeny-Weenies (or approximations thereof) and headed to the tents, which had cooled somewhat by the early hours of the morning.

The trip of August 8-9 began with a call from Brian Pate of Dallas, who had been advised by Walter of an open date for a trip. I agreed to attend and share a ride out to the remote site, expecting a light turnout due to the concurrent NSS Convention being held in Sewanee Tennessee. The turnout was a little lighter than I expected, with Brian and I being the only attendees other than Walter. We discussed the possibilities, and even though aware of the dangers of a two-person team quite a ways into an often difficult passage, we proposed keeping the plan I had developed the previous week. Since his vertical gear had not made the trip with him, Walter would stay on the surface and deal with the heat and the gnats, which proliferated, most likely due to the effects of rain which

had muddied the roads a few days prior to our arrival. We only had to rig the initial 20 or so feet, as the primary drop had been previously rigged, and like the downstream section drops, has ropes fixed in the cave which are deployed when needed and pulled up and secured out of the water upon exit. I descended first, secured the initial rope to the rebelay point, and allowed the looped rope to drop down into the pit. As I finished my descent and de-rigged, Brian was lowering two bags of gear we would have to carry back to the sump, this in addition to our own personal cave packs. We agreed to be extra careful and to travel slowly to minimize the possibility of mishap, any of which would be difficult to recover from in a reasonable time.

Brian had only been downstream before this trip, and was probably not prepared for the very different conditions upstream. I had initially estimated the trip to last about 10 hours, but as we discussed the logistics together we lowered the



expectations to 8 hours, although Walter later admitted he mentally allowed us an additional 2 or 3 hours to account for unknowns. Brian was dressed in a medium thickness wetsuit, and I opted for a full layer of polypropylene layered with cotton, and covered with a set of polyester / cotton coveralls. Entering the well at 11:00 am we were expected to return around 7:00 PM, or thereafter. The pace we set initially was not demanding in itself, but as the stream meanders in and out of the passage for the first hour, then transits through a lower level not accessible to cavers, Brian was happy to delay a few minutes to sit in a pool to cool off. When the water passage played out, and just the knee-deep mud was left to contend with, he was pretty miserable, especially in the hor of crawl space. This was easy-going for me, but about 3 hours into the trip the tables were reversed. When we entered the water passage continuation past the crawl spaces, the wetsuit Brian wore was perfect. He was able to float and just pull himself along, dragging his Pelican camera case behind with a lanyard. I was forced to knuckle-walk along the mud banks, avoiding immersion as much as possible, although this was necessitated occasionally in the 1 to 4 foot (.3 to 1.3 m) water depths. This procedure puts considerable pressure on the lower back, and performing it was the least pleasant part of the experience for me. My frustration and pain was made no less bearable seeing Brian happily floating along like an otter. After an hour of this, we were chest-deep in the water and facing the end of the survey, the upstream sump.

One of the objectives we had set was to photograph some of the cave for the benefit of those who are vertically challenged, or have accidentally overheard veterans of the upstream passage describing the rigors. We carefully positioned the Pelican case so it would not be prone

to falling in the water, and I secured the "waterproof" dry-bag my dive gear was carried in so it would be easy to kit up. Brian set up the camera, a Canon OEM with 21 mm lens, and I positioned and set the strobes, a Vivitar 283 and Sunpak 383, both equipped with Firefly slave triggers. I carried the aluminum 13 cf tank and Poseidon Odin (Jetstream) brand regulator assembled to minimize the possibility of an air loss in the event the valve was bumped during transport. This system was attached to a waist belt, and the only other dive gear I used was a single Pelican Super Sabrelite, a small facemask, and a small DiveRite reel with braided nylon line. The helmet was replaced once the mask was in place and the dive was ready to commence. My plan was very limited: I was only interested in knowing if there was caver-usable air space a breath-hold distance on the other side so the survey could be extended without too much fuss and bother. If it was found to continue as air filled passage, I would tie off the line and return to Brian, and he would decide whether he wanted to breath-hold through, but he had already voiced some reluctance in doing this at this time, this trip. If no space was found, I would return and report this as well. We would then stow the camera and dive gear, and return to the entrance for the climb out.

The dive itself was relatively uneventful, and although the objective was achieved, I was disappointed that I failed to find the desired air-filled passage on the other side. In order to allow for contingencies while in the zero-visibility water, I computed the approximate amount of time that one-third of my on-board air supply would last, about 4 minutes with several conservative factors built in. Unfortunately, as I turned the air on, a free-flow from the regulator wasted much of the air. The safety factor had to be refigured, this time allowing

only about 2.5 minutes of bottom time. I waited in the neck-deep water for a few minutes while Brian took a few photo exposures. During this wait I felt the first physical symptoms of body heat loss, shivering. I had to get busy with the dive and then get out of the water passage as soon as possible in order to avoid the effects of hypothermia, which even in mild cases can cause poor judgment which might result in an accident, something we felt we could not afford to risk. As I submerged, the light I held became quickly useless, the beam could not be seen at all until held about 6 inches from the mask. The water stayed about the same depth, and the ceiling stayed smooth. I felt the passage contours and determined that it held approximately the same size and shape as before it sumped, except that I did not find the eccentric erosional remnants that decorated the air-exposed walls behind me. I stayed along the ceiling, feeling with extended hand for tell-tale splashing that would indicate air above. I found none in the time allotted for the dive. As I turned to begin the exit the hip-mounted tank briefly became entangled in the thin guideline, but I had anticipated this and had kept the attachment point clear of any other line-entanglement hazards, so the problem was only an inconvenience, although it did absorb some of the time allotted for the exit. The visibility prohibited a reliance on the attached tank pressure gauge to determine how much air was used, so I had to count to myself as I conducted the search for air passage. In doing this I inadvertently overstayed the time my air supply allowed. Soon after surfacing in front of Brian, the tank ran dry! I will need to get a slightly larger bottle for future explorations of this kind.

The trip back to the rope was eventful only because the building fatigue slowed us down. We stopped more frequently for rest than on the way in. Once I was moving again, the

chilling effect of the water was not really felt, although I knew that this was a temporary effect. Upon leaving the water passage and emerging into a chamber where we could stand up, we promptly lay down and with lights off, rested for around 30 to 40 minutes. After this refreshing break, we continued the exit, and emerged to Walter's relief only 2 hours later than originally planned. The next day Brian and I went downstream and photographed the waterfall (second) drop. All in all the trip was exciting and ended up being counted as time well spent. There is still going passage upstream that needs surveying, and we know now that for the time being the upstream sump must remain impassable, at least, until, a more comprehensive exploration of the underwater passage can be made.

HT Meirs Cave Update

Posted to Cavers Digest by Terry Holsinger

The Meirs Ranch was recently bought and is being subdivided. The 1000 acres that H.T. Meirs Cave is on has been bought and the new landowner does NOT want anyone to visit the cave. He also does not want to be contacted about visiting the cave. Lets honor his wishes on this and stay out of his hair. Cavers may have had a chance to buy this cave, however the fact that it was available became known to late. If you hear of a cave for sale, let the other cavers in the state know. Someone may be interested in buying it.

Basic Cave First-Aid Kit:

prepared by Chris Sobin for the

Maverick Grotto August 1998 Meeting

The entire kit fits in a #5 Rubbermaid (tm) container(really!)

- 4 4"x4" gauze sponge
 - 1 5"x9" combi dressing
 - 1 roll 2" Coban (tm) wrap
 - 1 Adaptic (tm) pad
 - 1 roll 3"x180" gauze
 - 1 instant cold compress
 - 1 space blanket
 - 1 tube triple antibiotic ointment
 - 1 bottle aspirin, Tylenol (tm), ibuprofen, ketoprofen, (codeine by prescription)
 - 1 pair bandage scissors
 - 1 pair tweezers
 - 1 pair gloves: powderless latex (less expensive but some allergies) or nitrile (more expensive)
 - 1 ziplock freezer bag
 - 10' duct tape rolled onto a pen
 - 1 film canister containing:
 - 5 Band-Aids
 - 3 butterfly closures
 - 1 needle
 - 4 safety pins, 2 large, 2 small
 - 1 bottle tincture of benzoin (make bandages stick)
 - 1 bottle tincture of iodine
 - 1 bottle antacid
 - 1 Epi-Pen or small bottle of benadryl (chew for fastest effect) for stings
 - 1 glucose liquid for diabetics
- Additionally, pack a SAM splint, although this will not fit in the Rubbermaid box.
- Suggested Training:
- CPR and basic first aid classes (Red Cross, American Heart Assoc. etc.)
 - ECA Course through a local Community College
- In emergency: Call 911 and the Texas Cave Rescue hotline (956) 686-0234

National Cave Rescue Commission Basic

Cave Rescue Class

Hosted by: Socorro Subterranean Search and Rescue

To be held Saturday and Sunday, September 19-20, 1998 at New Mexico Tech, Socorro, New Mexico.

Schedule:

Day 1: Classroom, 8 AM to 5 PM
MSEC 101 (Tech campus) BBQ, 6:30 PM, NM State Fire Academy

Night Session, 9 PM to TBA

Day 2: Field Session, 8 AM to TBA
Certification: NCRC Basic

This will be an introduction to cave rescue, with 16 to 20 hours of certified instruction with material directed at cavers. Application in progress with state for continuing education units (CEUs) for this class.

Requirements:

Acceptable caving gear, physically fit to participate in field session. Field session may be up to 2 hour drive from Socorro.

Training:

Rescue operations, patient packaging and medical considerations, evacuation, cave rescue techniques, logistics, introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS), and multi-organization rescues.

Again, this will be material directed towards cavers, for cavers to use in the event of a cave rescue callout. Other organizations will be present, but all will be expected to work off of information at the operations level.

Cost:

\$18 if pre-registered (by September 1), \$20 after September 1.

Cost includes all printed materials and BBS on Saturday night.

Please request application: contact ahicks@rt66.com or call: (505) 835-5882 (W)

Questions? Contact:

Aaron Hicks (505) 835-5882 (w)

ahicks@rt66.com

Don McPheeters (505) 835-3610 (h)

wasson@nmt.edu

Bob Treacy (505) 835-3315 (h)
btreacy@nmt.edu

We look forward to seeing you at this class; we expect it to be of value to everyone!

-AJHicks

Socorro Subterranean Search and Rescue, Socorro, NM

NSS Members Manual Errata

To all NSS members:

It has come to my attention that some problems exist in the newest issue of the NSS Members Manual. This communication is intended to address those, and I invite anyone who notices other errors to contact me directly so I can correct them for the next issue.

The newest issue of the NSS Members Manual does not contain the most updated information about active Projects. Unfortunately, the updates came to me so late that it was not possible to include them in time to meet the printing schedule. As a result, a number of project coordinators have alerted me to the fact that their members are upset about this oversight.

I want to assure everyone involved in an NSS Project that this was in no way an intentional slight; everyone contributing their time and energy to these projects deserves the appreciation and support of all cavers. A fully updated version of the Project text will appear in an upcoming issue of the NSS News. Subscribers will be able to copy this and include it in their manuals for easy reference.

I apologize for the substantial inconvenience the exclusion of this material may have caused.

Secondly, The photo credit for the image on the back cover is incorrect. This incredibly gnarly image was captured by Keith Christenson of Pennsylvania. It's errors of this sort that make an editor's blood run cold. Thanks to Keith for contributing this

wonderful photo.

Thirdly, if you detect any typos or obsolete information in your member listing, contact Camille at the NSS Office where they maintain the database. Her email is manager@caves.org (she will ensure that the corrections are made).

And finally, EVP Ray Keeler's email address underneath his photo in the Society Directory is an old one. Please direct all email to Ray at rkeeler@pcslink.com

Thanks to everyone for their understanding and input. The Members Manual contains tons of information, and opportunities abound for error to slip in. Please contact me to suggest changes and make corrections, and please don't send letter bombs to the Huntsville office.

Lois Lyles NSS Members Manual Chairman P.O. Box 23252 Albuquerque, NM 87192 505/286-4059 lois@rt66.com

(Editors note: Did everyone notice the clipart used on page 42 of the NSS Members manual?)

September Honey Creek

Sent to the TSA email list by Mark Minton

There will be a Honey Creek trip on Sept. 19. (That is in addition to the one this weekend, Aug. 22.) The main purpose of this trip will be to clean up gravel and tailings below the newly drilled well hole about half way through the main passage on the through trip route. Therefore no through trips will be permitted. Some people will be needed to assist with the cleanup, including carrying some gear for the divers who will use a "vacuum cleaner" to move the debris. Anyone interested can contact Kurt Menking (gimgr@bcad.org).

Trips to other parts of the cave will also be okay.

Texas Cavers'

Reunion

Posted to Cavers Digest By Gil Ediger

The 21st Annual Texas Cavers' Reunion (also called Texas Old Timers) will be held the 16th-18th of October 1998 at Chalk Bluff Campground, 15 miles north of Uvalde, Texas, USA. Registration fee will be \$14 per adult, \$7 per teenager, kids free, or \$35 maximum per family. A \$5 per adult camping fee will be collected at registration. Well behaved dogs and guests are welcome. As usual, our only rule will be: There will be no other rules and everyone should behave in such a way that we don't ever have to make any. The campground is a beautiful site under large pecan and oak trees on a mostly flat, grassy terrace on the banks of the warm, clear, slow-flowing, spring-fed waters of the Nueces River, once the boundary between The Republic of Texas and Mexico. This year we feature flush toilets and showers. There will be the usual vertical contests and other foolishness, hot tub and sauna, and the always popular "Best Feed in the NSS" put on (mostly) by (mostly) retired Texas cavers (mostly) from the '60s. If you're in the area (from the Carolinas to Southern Indiana to San Francisco) or just passing through, stop in and enjoy the fun.

Caving in France

from various reports

A caver, who plummeted 200ft on to jagged rock suffering serious injuries, because his ropes had been sabotaged, may have been the victim of a feud between cavers and climbers competing for space in the increasingly crowded Alps, according to French police.

Lionel Vivet, 30, and two experienced potholing friends had finished exploring a network of underground caves high in Croix des Tetes Apline range in the Savoy region last weekend when they prepared to descend an external

rockface, using ropes they had installed several weeks earlier.

M. Vivet seized a rope and swung himself on to the rock face, only to plunge immediately on to the rock shelf below. He remains in intensive care in a Grenoble hospital, suffering from multiple head injuries.

"The ropes had been cut by human hand," said Olivier de Bianci, the police captain leading the investigation. The area is a major rock-climbing site, and Captain de Bianci said it was not clear whether the action was an act of malice or "by a zealous mountain climber anxious to clean up the mountain". Several threatening messages have been left for cavers in the area.

The cave is some 600 meters up a steep cliff. The ropes were left to ensure that they could get in and out easily. The rope was not entirely cut through, but the remaining thread was not enough to hold the unlucky caver.

Police have seized a guest book from a nearby climbing refuge which contains insulting comments about cavers and complaints about their ropes.

New COMPASS Cave Survey Software

I would like to announce a new release of the cave survey software package COMPASS. There are many major new features and lots of minor improvements.

1. Viewer. The Viewer now has a special option that allows you to display a "Shadow Box" around the cave. With the Shadow Box options, the program draws a box around the cave and mirrors the cave on the walls of the box. The option makes it easier to see 3D aspects of the cave. The program gives lots of options for controlling which walls are mirrored and the placement of the walls.

2. Viewer. The Viewer can now

save bitmap images of the screen at high resolutions up to 600 dot per inch. This is useful when you are publishing cave images. High resolution images give smooth lines and images on a printed page.

3. Viewer. The Viewer can save all the settings that go with a particular view of a cave. These settings are called "Views." Views can be saved and restored. Dozens of views can be saved to a file. This means that even the most complicated settings can be restored with a few mouse clicks. This makes it easy to do presentations and work on special projects.

4. Viewer. Up until now, all the passage modeling modes displayed 2D images of the passages. This was necessary for the spline curve modeling and it also allowed the images to display faster. Passage modeling now has a mode that displays full 3D polygons of the cave passages. It also creates more accurate display when doing 3D rotations. You also have the choice of displaying the passage outlines as diamond or rectangular shapes.

5. Viewer. You can now display stereo views of the passage wall modeling. This allows you to see the dimensions of rooms and passages in 3D.

6. Viewer. In the past, the Viewer would place passage wall marks at both the From and To stations. Since most stations are both a From and To station, this puts two sets of markers at each station. The new feature gives you the option of putting only one set of markers at each station. This makes the markings less confusing and easier to use for map drawing.

7. Project Manager. You can now enter fixed station location in either longitude/latitude or UTM. Long/Lat can be entered in either decimal degrees or degrees, minutes, seconds. The program allows you to convert easily between the two units.

8. All Windows COMPASS

programs now support 12 character station names. The only reason they are not larger than 12 characters is to try to maintain a minimum amount of compatibility with DOS version. Because of the limitation of DOS memory, the DOS version will not be able to move much beyond 8 characters.

9. Viewer. There is now an option that moves the Measurement Cursors to the nearest survey station. This makes it easy to measure 3D distances between stations.

10. Viewer. The Viewer now shows the comments and date associated with each survey. This information is displayed in the Find Survey dialog box. Comments can also be searched for any matching or partially matching string.

11. Viewer. The Viewer can now display the angle of cave rotation in three ways. The first shows the number of degrees the cave has been rotated. The second shows the angle you are looking toward as the cave is viewed and the third shows the angle the cave is viewed from.

12. View/CaveBase. The Viewer and CaveBase can now display the query results by coloring shot nearest the station. This is useful when the marking with a symbol would create a crowded and cluttered display.

13. Project Manager. The Project Manager has a new "Project Creation Wizard" that guides you through all the steps of creating a new cave project.

14. The web page has lots of new images that demonstrate the latest features.

There are also 15 other improvements and bug fixes.

HOW TO GET COMPASS

COMPASS is a shareware product. You can try it out free. If you like it and want to use it, you must register. If you don't like it, then don't use it and pay nothing.

The registration cost is \$25.00 for the DOS version and \$25 for

theWindows version. Combined registration is \$38. Registration for the database program is \$15 for previously registered individual COMPASS users. For new registrations the database program is \$20 for private individuals. For institutions, business, and government agencies, the database registration is \$50. Special group rates, and support programs are available.

COMPASS is available free of charge for evaluation purposes. Copies are available through the COMPASS World Wide Web page at:

<http://members.iex.net/~lfish/compass.html>

The Web Page also has full color screen images of some of the most important features. It also has connections to other cave related WWW pages including links to the USGS DEM files. The whole COMPASS package has hundreds of features and a full description of the software is beyond the scope of this document. However, the COMPASS Web Page also has a complete and detailed description of all the features and options.

You can also get an evaluation copy of the software directly from me for \$10.00 to cover materials and handling. If you are a registered user you can get an updated version directly from me for only \$5.00. My mailing address is:

Larry Fish 123 E. Arkansas Denver CO 80210

Please specify DOS and/or Windows and disk size. If you like the software, please register. You will receive notification of updates and other special offers.

MORE INFORMATION

If you don't have access to the World Wide Web, send an e-mail

request to: lfish@nyx.net and I will send you an information packet.

Government Canyon

September 12 & 13 is the date for the next Government Canyon Karst Project. We have a cave to dig open and survey (if we get it open) and another already open cave to survey (only skinny people will fit). There are also many sinks and features to check out. Be at the gate by 9:00 both days.

Directions to the gate of GCSNA. Find the intersection of U.S. 16 and Loop 1604 in northwest Bexar County (clearly shown on any state highway map). Drive 2 miles north on U.S. 16 to the second traffic light and turn left onto FM 1560 (there is a Texaco station on the corner). Follow 1560 for 3 miles to Galm Road (ignore the Galm Road that appears within the first quarter mile -- believe it or not, it is a different Galm Road!). Turn right on Galm Road and drive 2 miles to the sharp left turn in the road. The gate to GCSNA is straight ahead. Park on the wide gravel shoulder and wait; we will all go in together.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE.....82 JEEP WAGONEER (aka GUADZILLA) 360 CU IN / AUTO / FULL TIME 4WD / 4 INCH LIFT W/3 INCH BODY LIFT / ROOF RACK / GAS / WATER / SPARE TIRE RACK / HEAVY DUTY NERF BARS / RUSH GUARD / LOTS OF OTHER EXTRAS / THE ULTIMATE CAVING VEHICLE / CALL MIKE HUBER AT 505-887-6065 IF INTERESTED

Next TSS Meeting:

Saturday, 3 October 1998
10 a.m. until... usually ends by 2-3 p.m. (including a break for lunch)
TSS Office, Building 18A, Pickle Research Campus, Austin

Work session until dinner time to follow (probably, Jim is out of town and I can't confirm this, but we've talked about having work sessions follow the meetings).

Feel free to announce this in newsletters, web sites, etc., but please include a note saying that anyone wanting to attend must contact Jim Kennedy (512-443-8198 or jkennedy@batcon.org) in advance because the campus is closed on weekends and he needs to give the security folks a list of who's coming.

Anyone coming from San Antonio is welcome to carpool up with me. I plan to stay for the work session, probably do dinner afterwards (which some of us often do), and get back to SA about 9 p.m.

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

Calendar of Events

September 4-7, 1998, Bustamante/Gruta del Palmito TSA Labor Day Project. Contact Gill Ediger, (512)441-0050, gillie@worldnet.att.net.

September 11-13, 1998, Colorado Bend SP Project. Contact: Terry Holsinger, (512)443-4241, trhii@sprynet.com

September 12-13, Government Canyon Project. Contact George Veni

September 19-20 National Cave Rescue Commission Basic Cave Rescue Class Contact: Aaron Hicks (505) 835-5882

September 26, 27, 1998, Grotto Fall Party. Same bat time, same bat location.

September 26, 1998, Carlsbad Bat Appreciation Day, Contact: Rick Lobello, rick_lobello@nps.gov.

September 26, 1998, PBSS Grotto Trip to Fort Stanton Cave, Contact: Walter Feaster, (915)694-1824, walfeast@marshill.com

October 304, 1998, Gypkap, New Mexico. Contact Joli or Chris Lee, (505) 585-8406, jlee@wazoo.com

October 8-11, 1998, Colorado Bend SP Project. Contact: Terry Holsinger, (512)443-4241, trhii@sprynet.com

October 16-18, 1998, 21st Annual Texas Cavers Reunion. Chalk Bluff Campground

October 23-25, 1998, Powells Cave Project. Contact: Terry Holsinger, (512)443-4241, trhii@sprynet.com

November 13-15, 1998, Colorado Bend SP Project. Contact: Terry Holsinger, (512)443-4241, trhii@sprynet.com

December 11-13, 1998, Colorado Bend SP Project. Contact: Terry Holsinger, (512)443-4241, trhii@sprynet.com

July 12-16, 1999, NSS Convention, Twin Falls County Fairground, Filer Idaho. Contact: David Kesner, (208)939-0979, drdave@micron.net