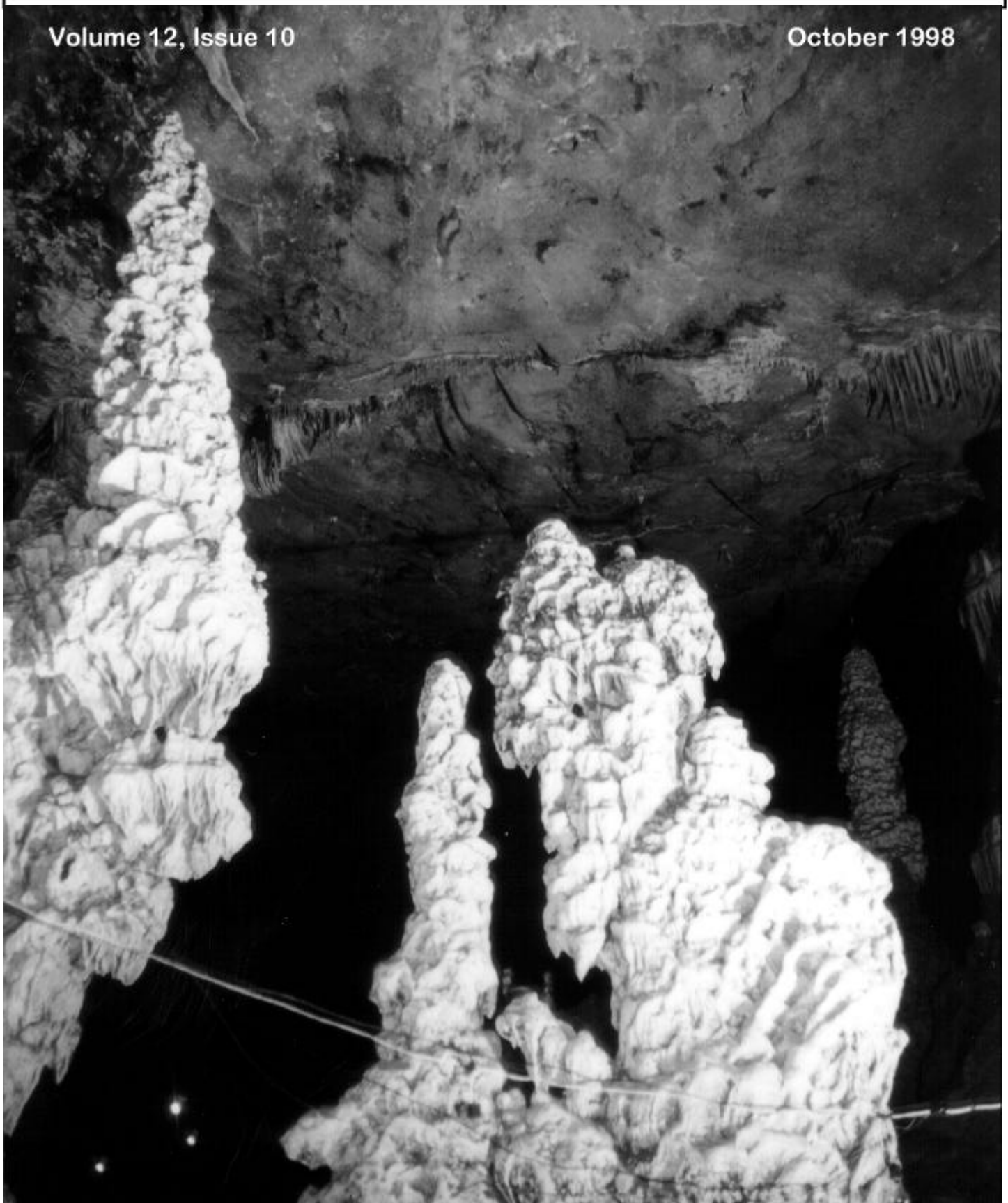


THE MAVERICK BULL

The Monthly Newsletter Of The Ft. Worth Maverick Grotto

Volume 12, Issue 10

October 1998



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The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of The Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of The National Speleological Society (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other grottos to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed stamped envelope should accompany it.

Reprinting Articles: Internal organizations of The National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author as stated in the byline) first appearing in *The Maverick Bull* if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor of *The Maverick Bull* at the address herein.

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

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

Maverick Grotto will provide one free issue to persons interested in becoming members.

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

Membership Policy: Any individual with interests, beliefs and actions consistent with the purposes of The Maverick Grotto and The National Speleological Society is eligible for membership. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three trip requirement with at least three different grotto members. These three members shall act as sponsors. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

Meetings: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is located less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next to K-Mart. The time is 7:00 p.m., and the food is good.

Carbide: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting if prior arrangements are made. Carbide is free for the asking. Contact Russell Hill at 220-

7108 or Butch Fralia at 346-2039 for more information.

Library: Support your Grotto Library. Russell Hill will be accepting books and magazines on cave-related topics, copies of homemade cave videos, etc. for our library. We wish to thank Russell for his efforts each month to bring and set up the Grotto Library.

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Photo Credits

This month's cover was taken at Palamento Cave in Bustamante by Chad Fenner.

Page 4: Ed Goff on a ladder cleaning graffiti by Chad Fenner.

Page 4: Downtown Bustamante by Chad Fenner.

Page 5: Troy Shelton cleaning graffiti by Chad Fenner.

Page 5: Sidney from Houston near a large formation in Palamento Cave by Chad Fenner.

Page 6: Bustamante barber shop (with props) by Chad Fenner

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 September Meeting

Minutes to the September 8, 1998, Grotto Meeting

The September 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:

Guy Fox from Springfield Mo.

Announcements:

REI is having a scratch-and-dent sale.

Texas Caver Reunion is October 16-18.

Dave Milhollin may do a cavern class October 12.

Mark Allman is looking for caving props and volunteers for a Dallas Museum of Natural History display.

Officer's Reports

Treasurer: We have \$535.73

Vice-Chairman: Dave is looking at arranging some program swaps with the Austin and San Antonio grottos. The October program will be on the new Grotto Library.

Old Business:

Fall party coming September 26.

A Grotto Halloween party will be at Karen Perry's house, 8:00 till late.. Costume required. (No fair dressing as a caver!) Bring potluck drinks and snacks. 2212 6th Ave. Map in this newsletter.

New Business:

Tony Sultanious was voted in as a new member.

Trip Reports:

Tony, Karen, Chad, Dave, Troy Shelto (D/FW) and Ed all went to the Bustamante, Mexico restoration trip.

Twenty-nine people showed up to the CFR Carlsbad restoration trip.

Dave Milhollin wants to go to Neels cave and needs a crew. He is also trying to organize holiday trips (Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year) to Mexico.

John Langevin is going to Arkansas the weekend of October 31.

Program

This month's program was a French parody of the James Bond movies, called "009." Most of the film was set in a cave and was absolutely hilarious.

Editor's Ramblings

Happy October.

In case any of you missed the September meeting, or if you were there and are not very good at picking up hints, I have an announcement to make. After filling this column, and the rest of the *Maverick Bull* for five full years now, I've decided to pass it on. I've asked around and found someone willing to take on the task of the newsletter, assuming he can resolve some time concerns. Who is it? Find out when I nominate him at the October meeting.

Looking back over the five years, it has been a really great time. I've learned a lot about desktop publishing, caving, cave politics, and people.

While preparing this issue, I pulled out some old issues I did back in 1994 and had a good laugh. We've come a long way in five years. I'm sure — will take us even that much further in five more years.

I've outlasted every newsletter editor in Texas except some old crotchety editor northwest of here, though I hear

she's been trying to bail for a while now.

Well, I still have to the end of this year, but I want to leave one thing with you. This newsletter belongs to the whole grotto. The editor simply pulls it all together and sends it back out. So whoever the editor is, he can do nothing without inputs from the grotto members.

Good Caving.

CF

October Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m. The program for the

October 1998 Meeting of the Maverick Grotto will be on the building of the new grotto library. Russell, will talk about where we are

and where we are going. Sharon and Dave will discuss the cataloging process. The intent is to get everyone involved in making our

Grotto Halloween Party

Come in costume Halloween night to Karen Perry house for a grand Halloween Party. (No dressing as a caver!) Bring a potluck snack/drink sometime after 8:00 p.m. on October 31 to 2212 6th Ave. Fort Worth (See map last page) for a howling good time.

Rub-a-Dub-Dub, Four Men in a Surburban

by Chad Fenner

Cave: Palmetto Cave, Bustamante Mexico

Cavers: Dave Milhollin, Ed Goff, Troy Shelton, Chad Fenner, Karen Perry, Tony Sultanious, and 75 other Texas and Mexico cavers.

Date: September 4-7, 1998

I remember reading last year's trip report by Ed Goff on the TSA Labor Day restoration trip to Bustamante Mexico. Even though he had a fever the entire time, it still came across as a fascinating trip.

But so what? What are the chances I'd ever get to go on a trip like that? With my family situation, I have to be sensitive to my wife's needs, and not just abandon her with the kids for a long weekend more often than is my fair share.

My wife is more than accommodating when I want to go caving (as long as I don't abuse the privilege), so earlier in the year, when she asked me if she could spend a weekend with some friends for a homeschool convention, I was more than willing to stay with the



kids. She told me that she wanted to leave on a Thursday night, so I'd have to take off Friday. I didn't have the vacation time, so that meant I would have to work four ten-hour days, but that was OK. She's done a ton for me, so I could do this. A week or so later, she asked me if she could go to Houston for a women's conference that a friend of hers was speaking at. I was again happy to oblige. This time, she wanted to leave Friday morning, so I would

need to take Friday off. The kicker was that the conference was the week after the homeschool convention. That meant 2 weeks in a row of four ten-hour days.

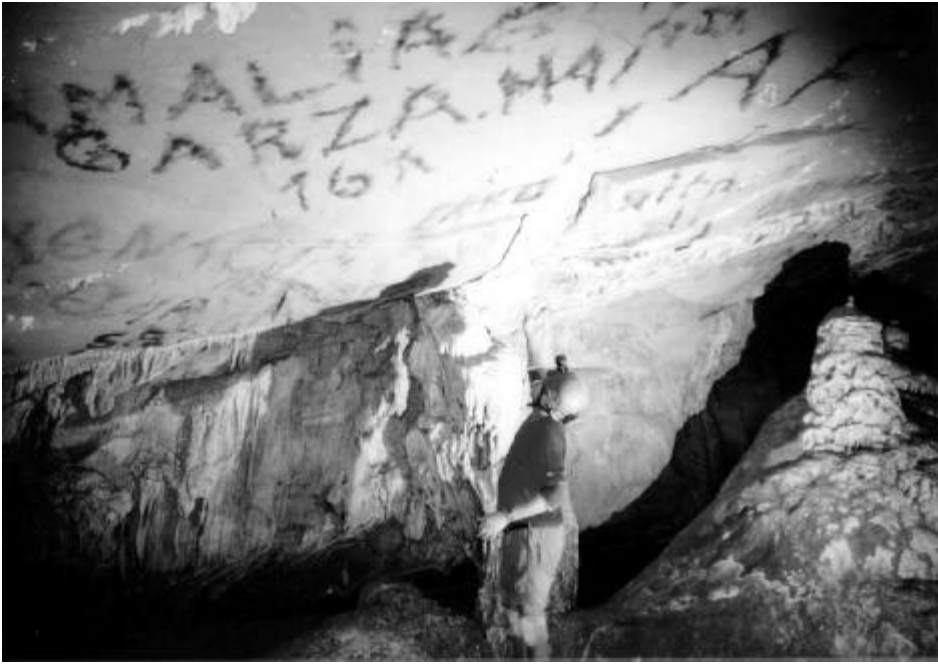
As those two weeks approached, I made an amazing discovery. Those two weeks immediately preceded the long Labor Day weekend. The weekend of the TSA Bustamante trip. I decided to see if staying with the kids two weekends in a row got me enough brownie points to skip off to Mexico for a few days. To my joy, it was!

Now all I had to do was get there. Initially I thought I might make the trip with Karen Perry, but our schedules didn't match, so I ended up in Ed Goff's Surburban with Dave and Troy and Karen ended up in Tony's truck.

I had never been to Mexico on a caving trip. In fact, I had never been to Mexico for any reason. After a few e-mails with Troy, I gathered up the necessary paperwork and I was ready. The trip to Laredo was pretty uneventful, but the boredom ended there.

We decided to enter at Columbia, just north of Laredo. It was not set up for the mass crossing that Laredo had, but as long as there was no line, it should still be faster. Also, we didn't have to fight the Nuevo Laredo





inspection” was, but since they had guns and I didn’t, I decided it best to play along. We opened up the back and started pulling boxes out for the inspection. Dave and Troy began a conversation with one of the guards and found out they were from the district attorney’s office. Almost the moment Dave and Troy said “grottos,” the guards became very obliging and said we could be on our way.

Fortunately, that was the last of our “inspections,” and the rest of the trip there was uneventful.

Bustamante is a small town in a breathtakingly beautiful part of Mexico. It is at the base of some incredible mountains that would take a lifetime to get used to waking up to every morning.

It is far enough from the border that very few of the locals speak English. Of the four of us, I was the only one who knew absolutely no Spanish. (I began to regret not paying more attention in elementary school Spanish classes.) In spite of that, the locals were more than willing to communicate with us if we were willing to put forth effort ourselves. I even managed to purchase some souvenirs by myself.

The town is trying to bill itself as a tourist spot for Mexicans who live in the big cities. A chance for them to get out of the big cities and relax. There is a “family recreation center,” a very nice campground with a spring

traffic. Once we were across the border, it was a straight shot to Bustamante.

At the crossing, we were subjected to only a slight search of the ‘burb. I guess that a suburban full of boxes and camping and caving gear would be a bit suspicious, but apparently, the story we gave matched that of several vehicles that recently came through, so we didn’t get the full treatment.

Inside, there was only one officer doing visas, and the line was a bit longer than we had hoped, mostly cavers, but the bigger problem was the tourists from across the Pacific. Apparently, there was some problem with their passports, and that slowed the process down. Finally, we got our entrance permits, then stood in line to make copies of stuff for Ed’s vehicle permit, then stood in line one more time for the vehicle permit itself. Not too bad.

The next adventure was at the checkpoint. In case you don’t know, it is legal to travel to Mexican border towns without entrance and vehicle permits, but if you want to travel to the interior of the country, you do need them. This is enforced by checkpoints at points where the government decided that the interior

of the country begins.

The process is like this. You pull up to an armed guard, show the appropriate paperwork, then pull up to a pseudo-random light that will light up either red or green as you get to it. Green means you can pass. Red means you get to pull over for a search. We got a green.

We thought we were home-free at that point, but we weren’t that lucky. About 30 minutes later, an unmarked vehicle pulled up behind us with flashing lights. We pulled over and were greeted by more armed guards on a “routine inspection.” Living in the U.S. all my life, I wasn’t sure what a “routine



fed pool, snuggled between two mountains. (This is where the Texas delegation camped.) Finally, there is "the cave."

Palmetto Cave is fairly high up in the mountains above the town. The state is trying to get it built up as a tourist spot. At the foot of the mountain is a small visitor's center. From there you can hike up a trail or take a four-wheel drive shuttle. Since we had our gear, most of the cavers drove, but it was amazing how many Mexican tourist were willing to make the hike. We saw whole families with three generations hiking up the side of the mountain.

But for us Texans, this was not a tourist trip. Unfortunately, the head organizer was trapped in Austin with unexpected car troubles, but we managed to make do. Before the trip, the organizers had stated what the objectives would be: trail making, graffiti cleanup, and trash hauling. So everyone just sort of picked out one of those tasks and self-organized.

Karen Perry became in charge of graffiti removal, which is where I spent most of my time. The main entrance room had a lot of graffiti along one side. Most of it was put there with soot, either by candle or carbide lamp. Some of it was quite high up the ceiling, in fact, there are some huge letters at the dead highest point in the room. We have no idea how they got it there, nor how we had planed on removing it.

Over the two days, we got off nearly all the graffiti off the lower walls, and as much off the ceiling as we could reach with our "brushes on a stick" or ladder, and in some cases, both.

While we did this, others were busy building a trail from the entrance down to the main floor of the entrance room. This meant hammering spikes through wooden steps into the dirt floor. It looked like far too much work for this fat, white, office worker.

Finally, some local scouts (the Mexican equivalent of the Boy Scouts) helped out by doing trash haul out. Last year, the emphasis was on trash hauling, so the easy stuff was done. Now it meant going to the back of the cave, and other hard-to-reach places to get the trash out.

But the trip wasn't all work. On the first day, I managed an hour of just roaming around the main room taking some pictures and enjoying the cave. Most of the main room is lit by some rather unsightly lights strung around. (The big plan in the sky is to replace these with hidden, indirect lights.) In spite of this, it is still a breathtaking room with both large and small formations, dams, helictites, and whatever else you might want.

On the second day, after my work duties, I hooked up with Austin cavers, Logan, Amiee, and Christy and Victoria,

Mexico caver James (don't ask me last names). The main room is well above the rest of the cave. We went to the back of the main room, then started heading down to the lower areas, however, instead of heading to the back, we decided to circle

around the bottom area of the main room, back toward the entrance. Logan seemed to remember some very pristine areas in that vicinity, and he was correct. We found a small hole and dropped in and dropped our jaws. We were almost afraid to move we were so scared we would break something (we didn't). We had stumbled into a small area of undisturbed beautiful formations. From helictites to 6 foot soda straws to something that looked like a bowl of spaghetti upside down on the ceiling, it was all incredible.

On our way out of town, we saw the local barber shop. Well, we assume it is the barber shop because of the picture of the barber pole painted over the door. Along with the barber pole was painted the "male" and "female" symbols. Those made perfect sense. What confused us was the "goat" icon painted on as well. Fortunately, I had my camera and some friends acting as props to document the finding.

I'm not sure the circumstances that allowed me to go will ever occur again, but given the chance, I'd do it all over again.

Holiday Trips in the Making

R.D. Milhollin NSS 29962

The Bustamante Labor Day restoration trip was a blast. There are two more Mexico trips that grotto members may be interested in before the end of the year.

November 25 - 29 will be an excursion into the state of San Luis Potosi. This large political subdivision of the Mexican Republic is well known for world class caving, but this trip will concentrate on the less well-known (to U.S. cavers) caves in the region around the city of San Luis Potosi. We will be guided by the university-based caving club members who have been exploring in this area, and hope to see several lakes and sumps that lie at the bottom of the massive pits, mostly undived. Participants will need to be



vertically competent, and ready for 200m (660 ft.) drops in order to participate fully. It may be necessary to sleep in one of the caves, so appropriate equipment should be secured. Plans are being discussed with the leaders of the caving club. Good camp sites and recommendations for local dining will be discussed in the next few weeks, and maps of some of the caves will be available soon. There may be a need for resurvey of some vertical passage, but the limited schedule will limit the scope of activities possible this trip.

December 16 - 31 will be a fly-drive excursion to the Yucatan Peninsula. A similar trip a couple of years ago was very enjoyable, and quite affordable. We plan on avoiding the tourist trap at Cancun, and instead camp along the way, eating local cuisine or cooking in camp when appropriate. I hope to put divers into several of the cenotes along the route, and will need people familiar with rope rigging, snorkeling and scuba diving (all levels), and mapping-sketching. In addition to the cenotes in Yucatan State, we hope to visit several of the major Maya ruins in the area, depending on who is along we can visit the well known sites, or we could hunt down some of the more remote. We also intend on revisiting some of the historic caves of northwest Campeche, with ropes this time. This will be a longer trip, and the schedule is thus very flexible, and can be modified to meet the needs of trip members. I am hoping that if good quality surveys of the cenotes can be made, the team might be invited back in the summer to assist with archaeological mapping at an important ancient city. There is a cave diving conference in November at Merida which might be a good source of information to guide the trip. I will try to attend if my schedule allows.

Cavers wishing to participate in these trips should contact me as

soon as possible to discuss the particulars. A preferred way to contact me is through e-mail: rdmilh@tenet.edu

Solo vs. Team Diving in Caves

By R. D. Milhollin NSS 29962

Recently, on the "Caver's Digest" e-mail list Jo Schaper asked for cave divers to comment concerning the practice of solo vs. buddy diving in caves. I thought my response might be of some interest to readers of this publication.

The vast majority of dives made within caves require teams to successfully accomplish set objectives, such as survey. However, in my own experience this has not always the case. I suppose one way to look at the situation is to differentiate between "spring diving", in which the water table is easily accessible to a diver, vs. a true cave dive, most often a "sump dive", where the caver/diver must make his way through air-filled cave passage prior to entering the water.

The logistics of moving scuba gear through cave passage can be difficult for small teams, overwhelming to individuals. I have made short dives with pony bottles into sumps about 4 hours from the surface and down 30 m shafts with only one support caver, but that was a hard trip. We had to move ourselves, our personal gear including first-aid, water, and food, as well as diving and camera equipment. This was not the optimal way to approach the situation, but we accomplished the limited goal with success. If the tanks were larger than 15 cf, and if additional regulators, wetsuits, lights etc. were required, which they will need to be to continue the exploration, more caver support personnel will be needed. I could not imagine doing this kind of trip solo.

On the other hand, in Cozumel one of the cave entrances to a system I

am helping to survey is quite close to the road. The entry is very easily made down some natural steps made by living roots, and I can get there via taxi carrying 4 tanks and regulator, a scooter, survey gear, and lighting equipment for a 5 hour dive. The area I am looking at is more than a mile from the surface, and I can make this dive solo, unassisted by anyone else in the cave. It should be taken into consideration that the dive is relatively shallow, rarely exceeding 20m of depth, and I have made the same dive with teams more than 50 times, and more than 15 solo, so I know the cave very well.

Sheck Exley, one of the great American cave explorers, made many of his longest and deepest dives solo. From my limited knowledge of Exley's dives, derived from his own accounts and from second hand sources, many of the the cave dives he made were in similar environments, at least as concerns the easy accessibility to the water surface. A story was told to me about how he discouraged vandalism to his van. The vehicle contained no dive stickers, but instead some coon-hunting stickers or some such decorations. He would pull close to the water, and place a hand-written note on the dashboard reading something to the effect:

"Howdy Bobby-Joe. Gone to take the dogs fer a walk around. Don't go off cause I need to borry some shells, Only brought the 4-10 with me. I'll be back in a few minutes. Jerry Bob"

I can't vouch for the veracity of the account, but my friend was flying over the area looking for sinkholes, and saw the van. After landing back at Tallahassee, he drove out using aviation maps, and found the truck with said note. In a few minutes Sheck surfaced, and got my friend to help him load 20+ tanks back into the van. He had just finished a multi-hour decompression session following a distance record-setting

cave dive, fully solo.

Book Reviews

by Chad Fenner

Blind Descent

by Nevada Barr

Blind Descent is the fifth installment of mystery novels by Nevada Barr surrounding heroine Anna Pigeon. Anna is a National Park service employ and has done stints all over the country, including Guadeloupe Mountains National Park.

In this installment, a friend of hers is injured three days journey inside Lechiguilla. Other than the commercial tour in Carlsbad Caverns she did while at GMNP, Anna had never been in a cave, and liked it that way. Whether it was fear of the dark, or claustrophobia, she didn't know, nor did she care, she was just happy to stay on the outside.

But as fate would have it, she didn't get her way, and was forced inside. (I won't give away the plot.)

I don't know if author Nevada Barr has ever been in Lechuguilla or not, or for that matter, if she has ever been in any cave before. But somehow she does seem to know the lingo and techniques of cavers. As Anna travels through Lech, Nevada describes it in exquisite detail. Since I have never been in Lech, I can't tell where she transitions from fact to fiction, but I know her description of the entrance room and first few areas are factual, and the final destination room is fictional.

There is additional evidence that Nevada is in touch with the caving community. Many of the main characters are obviously patterned after some high profile cavers such as Dale Pate, Jim Goodbar (to whom the book is dedicated), and even Steve and Anne Bosted. (The description of one character is as follows: "Lisa, a New Zealander who had caved all over the world enjoying photographic junkets" with her photographer husband. She was "in her forties and wore her hair in two long palits (braided) that reached the back of her knees." If that's not Anne

Bosted, I don't know who it is!) Also, Nevada refers to the Emily Mobly indident, as well as the lesser known Peter Jones self rescue.

The cave descriptions in the first third of the book are magnificent as the plot develops. The book seems to have several subplots, some are red herrings, while the rest end up tying up loose ends to bring the main plot to a conclusion.

Nevada has a tendency to go to great detail in describing people, places, and things. In past books of hers, that level of detail seems to me to bog down the book. She continues that trend here, though no level of detail is to great when describing the wonders of Lechuguilla.

The plot is complex, though not to difficult to follow, yet interesting enough to hold your attention. The characters have depth. The book, though detailed in its description of nouns, is well written and enjoyable to read.

Chad says "read it".

Tales of Dirt, Darkness, and Danger

by Paul Jay Steward

Paul Steward, of the Central Jersey Grotto, is in definite need of some psychological help and this book proves it. *Tales of . . .* is a collection of short stories written by Paul, all fiction (I hope!), and all about caves or cavers.

There are a total of 25 stories, and I'll bet someone dies in at least half of them. Not that the whole book is morbid, but it definitely has its share.

On the lighter side, there are several stories that hit on the electric/carbide debate, a favorite theme of Paul's. There are even spoofs of Batman and Steven King.

Paul has a writing style that refuses to let go of the reader. The stories are just short enough that the end of each story begs the reader to "read just one more" before hitting the sack (like you can sleep after reading some of Pauls more darker pieces). It is 150 pages of easy reading. So easy that Dave Milhollin read the

whole thing on the way back from Bustamante.

While it is easy and enjoyable to read, and much of it is comical, there is definitely a dark side. From aliens transforming cavers into mindless blobs, to grisly deaths, to live emtombments, to deadly shootouts, Paul has a story about anything you can imagine that can happen in cave.

In spite of this, I still recommend it, if the darkness doesn't scare you off. Chad says "read it, but only during daylight hours".

Lechuguilla Update

Posted to Cavers Digest by Louise D. Hose.

A California film team is planning an IMAX movie and, unlike the last couple of years of talk, they appear to actually be moving. There is no longer any involvement of the Cincinnati Museum or any other education group. Their plans are pretty vague except that they seem adamant about plans to film IMAX in Lechuguilla Cave. Any doubts expressed by cave experts have apparently been met with, "We are the people who filmed on top of Mount Everest....we can film anything!"

As two full-time, professional film makers with lots of experience in caves have told me, "Mount Everest is wide open, already trashed, and has plenty of light." Apparently, the big impact will come from the amount of light necessary for an IMAX film. (I have heard from film experts that it will be nearly an order of magnitude more light than regular film (not video). The team necessary to carry the batteries in and out, etc., would be huge and the trips numerous. I don't believe anyone knows what the heat from that many candle powers will do to gypsum chandeliers. (Gypsum is a hydrated mineral: CaSO4.2H2O)

If this concerns you, you can probably help by dropping a note to the Carlsbad Caverns National Park

superintendent just saying you are concerned and want to be informed of any actions related to IMAX that may be considered. The NSS is sending such a letter as directed by the Board of Governors. We have reason to believe that the Park will want to protect the cave and do the "right thing" but there is likely to be tremendous pressure from people like Senators, Governors, and other Washington bureaucrats who care nothing about caves. Our letters can give them the support to keep the issue from merely being rubberstamped.

Below is my personal letter. Please plagiarize at will:

Frank Deckert, Park Superintendent Carlsbad Caverns National Park 3225 National Parks Hwy Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

Dear Mr. Deckert,

I understand that a film production company is seriously considering filming an IMAX movie, in part, in Lechuguilla Cave. Please inform me of any actions the Park is considering concerning making an IMAX film in any wild caves in the Park. I assume such an endeavor will require an Environmental Impact Statement or

Assessment and I wish to receive the draft when, and if, the project is considered.

Sincerely,

Louise D. Hose, Ph.D.

Caves of Scotland

(Editors Note: I found this and put it in for Russle's sake)

Now available, *THE CAVES OF SCOTLAND* by Tony Oldham 1975 reprinted 1998. xvi + 174 pp 5 plates numerous surveys maps etc. The first *Caves of Scotland* appeared over 45 years ago as a list of 7 caves in 'Britain Underground'. This current edition is made up of odd pages left over from the first edition of 1975. Some corrections have been made to the master copy over the years, and these have been included as footnotes, either handwritten or typed. Over 400 caves are described, most of which have been visited by the author. For each cave, a description is given, together with National Grid Reference, Altitude, Length, Vertical Range, Location, Access Requirements and a Bibliography. Some pages are in

photocopy. SB £15.00 post free

Cavers in the colonies can pay in US \$\$ - \$25.00 post free Personal checks welcome.

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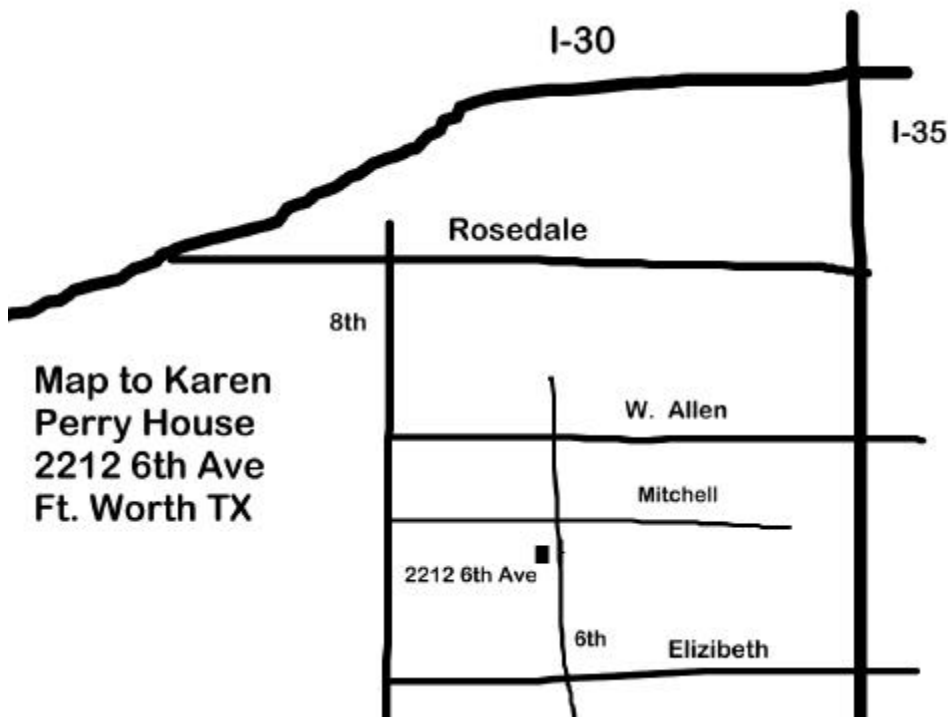
Early Info for 1999 Convention

The 1999 NSS Convention will be held July 12-16, 1999 at the Twin Falls County Fairgrounds in Filer, Idaho, USA. Camping will be at the Fairgrounds. Sessions will be at the newly constructed Filer High School (walking distance from camp). The Photo Salon will be in a plush, air conditioned 935 seat Fine Arts Theater at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls approximately 8 miles from camp (busses provided).

Caving at Convention will be in lava tubes only in three distinct areas: Gooding, Shoshone, and Craters of the Moon National Monument. The closest are less than 30 minutes away and the farthest are about 1.5 hours away. If you read your September issue of the NSS News you will see one of the many fine lava tubes (Gypsum Cave) we have to offer.

The official web page of the 99 Convention is in the process of being formed. We will announce when it is ready for viewing.

David W. Kesner, NSS #28258
Chair, 1999 NSS Convention
12567 West DeMeyer Street
Boise, Idaho 83713-1409
208-939-0979 (home)
208-334-2235 ext. 262 (work 8-5 MST)
208-334-2382 (fax)
drdave@micron.net (email)



**Map to Karen Perry House
2212 6th Ave
Ft. Worth TX**

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

Calendar of Events

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

October 31, 1998, Grotto Halloween Party. See details inside.

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