

**Volume 17, Issue 3  
March 2004**

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**The Newsletter of the 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, photographs, and other two- and three-dimensional goodies. 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.

**Complimentary Newsletters:**  
The Maverick Grotto will provide complimentary 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 per year for nonmembers 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 Bodacious BBQ,

1206 E. Division St., Arlington. The time is 7 p.m., and the food is good.

**Carbide:** Currently carbide is unavailable.

**Library:** Support your grotto library. Russell Hill is accepting books, magazines, and videos related to caves and caving for our library. Thanks to Russell for his efforts in transporting the library collection to meetings.

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## Photo & Map Credits

Cover photo: Looking out of South Pasture Cave while Joe Ranzau looks back, by Mark Gee

Photos, pages 4 & 5: by Mark Gee

Maps, pages 3, 4 & 5: by Mark Gee

## Visit Our Web Site!

Butch has been hard at work updating the web site, check it out! You'll find information about getting into caving, trip photos and the PDF version of this newsletter (with color photos!):

**maverickgrotto.org**

## Corrections to the February issue

In the article about the Government Canyon Karst Survey on page 5, Rick Corbell's name was misspelled as Cordell. In the article about the TSS Winter meeting on page 6, the editor of *Caves of Sun City* was incorrectly listed as Mike Warton; it should read James Reddell. Thanks to Jerry Atkinson for pointing this out to me.

## Pay Your Dues!

It's time to pay your grotto dues! Included in the last newsletter was a form for you to fill out with your contact info. Fill it out and mail it in with your check to Sharon Mastbrook, 3412 Walton Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76133. This will be the last newsletter you receive until you pay your dues for 2004.

## February Meeting Minutes submitted by Scott Boyd

The Maverick Grotto met February 10 at Bodacious BBQ, on E. Division St. in Arlington. Fifteen members showed up, and there was no mention of any visitors.

**Program:**

The program was a slide show of a caving trip to Canada, around the area of the



borders of Alberta and British Columbia, by Jose Curras. The program was held before the business meeting, while everyone ate dinner.

**Special Election:**  
Scott Boyd was elected grotto Secretary for the remainder of the year.

**Reports from Officers:**  
Treasurer: Sharon Mastbrook reported that the annual report went in to the NSS and was accepted.

**Newsletter Editor:** Diana announced that the deadline for the March newsletter was March 1st, and requested articles and photos.

**Old Business:**  
Butch Fralia reported that he had revamped the Maverick Grotto Web site, along with the TSS Web site. Butch also discussed the possibility of setting up the grotto Web site with a page or two for each member that wanted one. Diana Tomchick talked about early planning for the TSA Spring Convention, and about a TSS sponsored surveying workshop to be held during the convention. A vote was taken to meet at the same location in March.

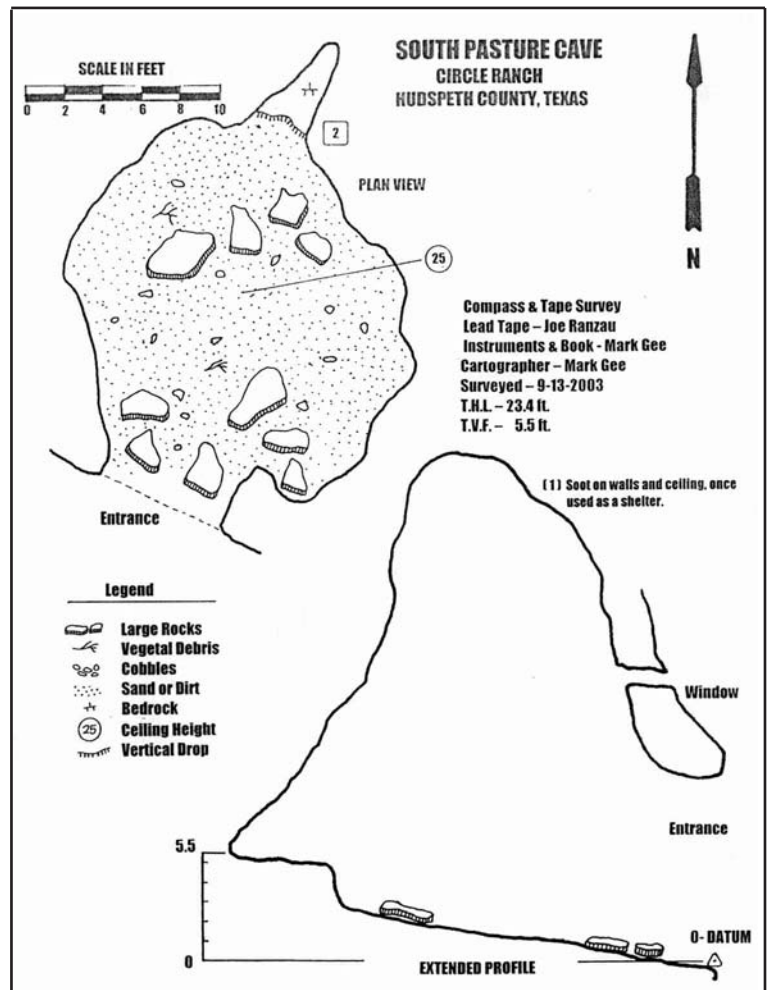
**New business:**  
Bill and Francie Tucker announced the birth of a new granddaughter! Ed Goff passed out copies of a new brochure that is to be used to promote the Maverick Grotto. A raffle was held for one of the three Great-X T-shirts, and was won by Linda Parker.

**Trip reports and Trip Announcements:**  
Melanie Gee went on her first caving trip to Kickapoo Caverns. Bill and Francie Tucker gave a trip report about cave diving in Florida. Diana Tomchick gave a trip report of a group of Plano Girl Scouts, who went to Beck's Ranch Cave near Austin, TX. Bill Steele gave a trip report on Avery Ranch Cave in Round Rock, TX. Mark Gee announced a surveying trip to Schroeder's Bat Cave on Feb. 29th.

## Caves of Hudspeth County by Mark Gee, NSS #49625

September 11th of 2003 found me making a long drive out to West Texas to explore and map some small caves that the landowner had told us he knew about on his ranch. What really got my interest were two things. The first is that the ranch is 52 square miles. The second is that the ranch has a range of mountains running through it that is known to have caves. Have you heard of Carlsbad or Lechuguilla? Both of these caves are found in the same mountain range, so our expectations were high. We were not disappointed, although we didn't find the big one. We did find and locate four small caves and explored and mapped three of these. Kurt Menking and I are working with the same landowner on another project, and the landowner told Kurt about his ranch and invited us out to explore and see the few caves he knew were found on his land.

It's 535 miles from my home, so leaving after work on Friday put me at the ranch a little before midnight. When I got to the ranch, I found that there were several different homes that were open, but no one was around to ask where I was to stay. So I picked the smaller of the two homes and laid out my sleeping bag across the bed and went to sleep. At about 2:30 a.m., the rest of the group awakened me, but at first all I saw was a beautiful



woman standing at the end of my bed. Remember that I had just awakened; I said something unintelligible before I realized that it was Kurt and Kitty Menking and Joe Ranzau. I thought that I was dreaming about (&%!\$#@^\*+%"<?). Kurt told me that we were supposed to stay in one of the other two homes, so I gathered up my gear and moved. Where we ended up was like a bunkhouse, only very nice.

After an interrupted night's sleep, I was up by 9:00 a.m. and ready for our day of fun and exploration. We got up and met the ranch foreman, Charlie King. He said good morning and told us that we were supposed to have slept in the deer hunter's cabin. We apologized for the mix-up and again moved our gear. The hunter's cabin was also very nice. We invited Charlie and his ranch-hand Evidenceco to breakfast. They came and we had nice eggs, potatoes, sausage, and onion breakfast tacos.

The ranch headquarters sits up on a slight hill between two tall mountains. Both have sheer rock faces, one to the north and one to the east. Wildlife abounds across the ranch. We saw mule deer, antelope, coyote, quail, a prairie dog town, and hawks. Numerous, well-taken care of roads wind throughout this 52-section ranch. At 10:30, we met Charlie and Evidenceco at the front of the bunkhouse. In Kurt's truck we followed Charlie to the west for a few miles to the top of a ridge. Charlie walked a short distance to the top of the ridge and pointed down telling us that there was a cave just below. It was known as Indian Cave #1. He told us of another cave a few hundred feet to the left known as Indian Cave #2, or Ladder Cave. We thanked Charlie and he left to go and tend to his ranch duties.

We got our gear and carefully made our way down the ridge face to Indian Cave #1. The entrance was 7 feet wide and 7 feet tall. The cave is one large room measuring 65 feet long and 45

feet across with two small passages on the right side of the cave. Soot covers the floor and archaeological digs are present throughout the cave. A few bats were seen and birds also nest in the cave. Some black beetles were observed feeding on the guano; crickets and harvestman spiders were also noted. The ceiling height was between 3 and 6 feet high. Some small sized breakdown was also present.

Next, we climbed across the cliff face to a second cave known as Indian Cave #2. The entrance was 10 feet across and 12 feet tall. The floor sloped steeply up to an 8-foot wide by 3-foot tall arch, and extended through this opening to a room 10 feet wide by 12 feet long. The ceiling height was 20 feet. At one corner of the ceiling was a small 2-foot diameter hole going up an additional 12 feet. Beneath this opening was an old 7-foot wooden ladder that I used to gain access to this upper room. Some quartz crystals were noted in the fill at the ceiling. These crystals had a greenish tint to them, and were somewhat transparent. The floor was covered with a three-inch layer of very dry dust. Both of these caves looked out to the valley floor below. It was very picturesque. We decided not to survey the cave and went back to the ranch house.

Evidenceo had told Kurt earlier that we could use the four-wheeler to check for caves. Evidenceo had the four-wheeler gassed up and fixed a slow leak in one of the tires. After a little instruction, Kitty was doing quite well handling the four-wheeler. Kurt and Kitty took off on the four-wheeler and Joe and I took off in his truck. We were off to find Skull Cave. Along the way we spied a deeply cut valley with several trees and exposed limestone, and turned to drive up the mountain. It sure was nice to have a four-wheel drive vehicle. It had no problem going right up the steep hillside. We stopped above the valley floor and with my

binoculars I tried to locate a cave. What appeared to be an opening in the side of the creek bed below turned out to be a shadow. We had directed Kurt and Kitty, with an FRS radio, where to look. We all got back on the road to look for Skull Cave. Joe and I had both looked at a map of the ranch and thought that we knew where the cave was located. The cave Joe was looking for was not the same cave that I was looking to find. We drove beyond where I thought the cave was located, on to the top of a mountain where a radio tower stood. On past the tower the road became very steep and rocky. At one



Joe Ranzau at the Circle Ranch, looking for caves along the bluff.

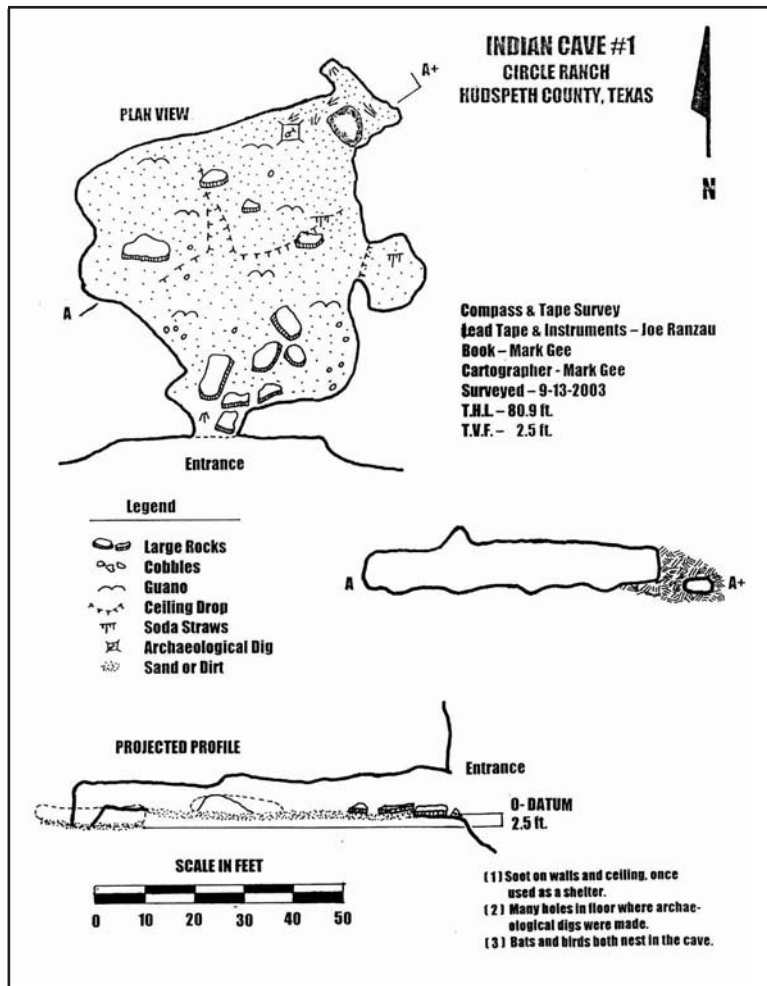
point the truck began to slide sideways, but Joe kept his foot off the brake and let the transmission slow the truck and the truck straightened up. At the bottom of the hill we parked and Joe went up the left valley and I the right. Neither of us found the cave, whose name I can't recall. When we met back at the truck, I told Joe that Skull Cave was back below the black water storage tank on the other side of the radio tower.

The mountainside below the storage tank was very steep. I had walked down about 400 feet in elevation, all the while looking for a cave entrance with my binoculars. I climbed down to the top of a 50-foot drop and checked below me and noticed a small opening at the bottom of a small vertical crack. At the time I didn't think that this was the cave, as I didn't think it would be that low down the mountainside (later on back at camp, I looked at the map and discovered that this was Skull Cave). I decided to climb back up to the truck. On the way up, I looked at another steep draw, but was unable to locate the cave there also. We made our way to the truck and drove on up the ridge and stopped occasionally to look through the binoculars to check the mountainside and valleys below us. A little later we found ourselves back at the cabin. It was 6:00 p.m. now and we were getting a little hungry.

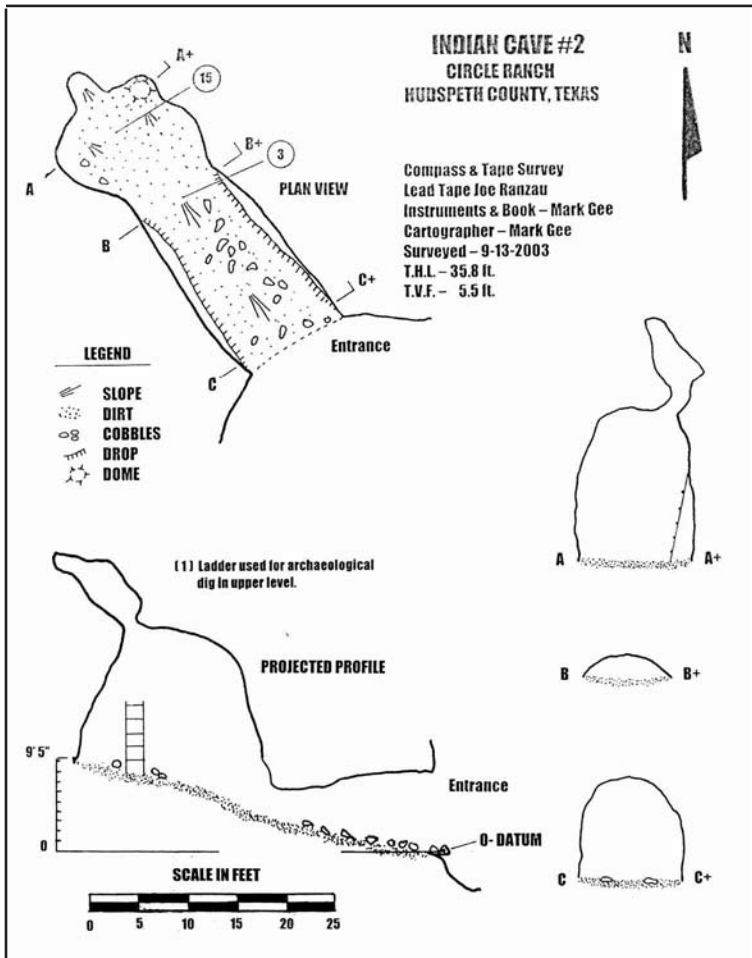
Kitty made up a grocery list and Joe and I headed to town to buy the fixin's. We found a grocery store very quickly in Van Horn, and were back at camp in about an hour. Kurt had brought some red snapper from home and with the groceries that we had purchased we sat down to a very nice dinner. After cleaning up, we stepped outside to talk and look at the almost full moon. Mars was close to the moon and both appeared right next to the tall mountain peak to our east—it was very picturesque. It was getting late, and we were all tired from the long drive, lack of sleep, and way too much fun. The pillow never felt so good.

On Saturday morning, we attempted to get an early start. I got breakfast going and did everything except cook the eggs. When everyone showed we sat down to breakfast.

After breakfast Joe and I took the four-wheeler to look for South Pasture Cave. Kurt and Kitty went up to look at some old







mines on top of a mountain behind the ranch headquarters. Joe and I both studied the map and had no trouble finding the cave. The entrance was at the bottom of a sheer rock face up a deep canyon, and could be seen from the road. We drove up to within 100 feet of the large entrance. The entrance was 10 feet tall and 12 feet wide but the cave only had 24 feet of horizontal extent. Joe and I quickly surveyed it. Next we drove down along below the ridge where Indian Cave was found. We followed this ridge for over a mile, but didn't see any other entrances. Joe and I



Joe Ranzau and Kitty Menking looking out the entrance of Indian Cave #2.

decided to go back to Indian Caves #1 and #2 to survey them. In about one hour, we finished up and then drove back to the hunter's cabin to meet up with Kurt and Kitty. It was getting late and there was talk about driving to the McDonald Observatory to view the stars. Over dinner this was discussed, but we voted instead to stay at camp and get a good night's sleep. After a few cold ones, we all turned in.

Sunday morning came and I was up early for the long, nine-hour drive home. I took a few photos of the ranch, and then turned for home. I had a good time at the Circle Ranch and look forward to a return trip to find, locate, and survey the other caves that are on the ranch property. A big Thank You goes to the owner for allowing us to visit his ranch and for the hospitable use of the hunter's cabin.

Till next time! Happy Caving!

## UT Grotto Meeting, Feb. 18, 2004

by Diana Tomchick

I hadn't planned on attending the February 18<sup>th</sup> U.T. Grotto meeting for any special reason, though I have wanted to attend at least one meeting of each of the Texas grottos during my tenure as the TSA Chair. Bill Steele needed a ride down to Austin on that evening to pick up his daughter's car, and I offered to take him so he wouldn't have to ride the Greyhound bus, with the stipulation that we go to the meeting. I'd heard rumors that this grotto was a tough crowd, that any perceived lack of professionalism in a grotto program was likely to be greeted by hoots and catcalls from the audience. Aimee Beveridge, the grotto Vice-Chair, had announced that afternoon on CaveTex that Pete Strickland and Peter Sprouse would be showing slides and videos from the Purificacion area in Mexico as the grotto program. Many grotto members would be visiting this area soon for spring caving trips, and there was even a wedding planned between two grotto members at a church in the area. It sounded like a good meeting to attend, so at 3:30 p.m. we left the Metroplex in the hopes that we would arrive a bit earlier than the 7:45 p.m. meeting time.

The drive went smoothly, we found a close place to park, and Bill assured me he could find Painter Hall on campus. After a wrong turn into Welch Hall, the famous chemistry building (the Welch Foundation provides a lot of money for chemical research in the state of Texas), a student steered us in the right direction, and soon we recognized many friendly faces in the auditorium. Ernie Garza and Bill Russell seemed happy but not too surprised that we should suddenly appear at their grotto meeting, as if such things occurred on a semi-regular basis. Bill Mixon was there to spread out grotto information handouts and copies of recent caving literature. About 30 people showed up and stood around and chatted about caving trips, past and future, until it was time for the meeting to start.

The meeting was cheerfully presided over by Wes Schumacher, the grotto Chair. Wes started caving with the grotto as a teenager with his mother, Carol. He is now a UT student, and has been the grotto chair for the last two years. Though the meeting takes place in an auditorium on a university campus instead of a restaurant, the organizational flow of the UT grotto meeting would seem familiar to the members of the Maverick grotto. They adhere to "caver time" by starting the meeting 15 minutes late, general announcements are interspersed with trip reports and trip announcements, and there seemed to be no old or new business that anyone cared to discuss. Details about the caver wedding in Mexico seemed to be the biggest topic of discussion, with suggestions about how to find the locale and how much alcohol to buy before arriving. Bill Mixon weighed in on Bill Stone's upcoming trip to Cheve with an interesting description of Stone's plans for high-tech removal of carbon

dioxide from the cave by using one of the scuba re-breathers he had designed for sump diving. Members had recently been caving at Colorado Bend (sound familiar?) and Aimee Beveridge discussed the TCMA plan to buy a piece of property that contains the entrances to Punkin and Deep Caves in Edwards County.

After the meeting was finished, Pete Strickland, that wizard of caver hot tubs, gave his video presentation. The footage was from Nacimiento del Rio Choy, a resurgence near the site of the caver wedding. Pete described his plan to take people to the cave for a swim after the wedding, then started showing the video. Unfortunately, Palmer Hall is an old building, and the video projector in this auditorium is about ready to retire. The result is that the bottom left hand corner (approximately one quarter) of the screen is displayed with a bluish tint, which is quite distracting. Pete noted that this effect seemed worse than usual, but then blithely ignored it and continued to show the video. Now I had been warned in advance that Pete has a tendency to show every slide in a carousel, no matter how bad the quality ("The people in this picture are small, but if you could see them, this is what you'd see..."), so I wasn't too surprised. The video included footage of people walking to the cave, checking out the various entrances, swimming in the water, and it moved rather slowly. After awhile Pete stopped the video, claiming that he had some different, more interesting footage on another tape. The footage from the new tape looked familiar, but Pete didn't seem to notice. "It looks a little less blue," he commented, which seemed to get the biggest laugh of the night from the audience, as it didn't look any different than the previous video. After awhile, everyone in the audience noticed that we'd seen this footage before, and some nervous laughter broke out. It seemed that Pete had brought duplicates of the same video tape. When Pete pulled out a third tape, the audience started to rebel, with people calling out "Slides! Show the slides!" so after about 5 more minutes of watching the same video of people searching for the cave entrances, Pete turned the tape off and relinquished the floor to Peter Sprouse. Peter showed slides (many of them old ones from the mid '80's) of the area around Xilitlia, San Luis Potosí. The audience settled down and the catcalls stopped. Once the slide show finished, Bill and I discussed great caving leads with Bill Russell.

After the meeting we followed many of the members to the traditional nearby watering hole, the Posse East, where we drank a few beers and talked some more about caving. Bill fed some of our french fries to Bill Mixon's dog while we discussed speleoliterature, and eventually we realized it was 11 p.m. Everyone wished us well and asked us to return for another meeting. Our drive back to the Metroplex was uneventful, though we didn't get home until 3 a.m., so it may be a few months before we plan a return visit.

## **Texas Speleological Association Convention and Texas Speleological Survey Workshop, May 21-23, 2004**

George Kegley, the Resource Coordinator in the Natural and Cultural Resources Program of Texas Parks and Wildlife Division notified me on Friday February 27<sup>th</sup> that TPWD supports the use of Longhorn Caverns as the camping site for the 2004 Texas Speleological Association Convention, which will be held on the weekend of May 21-23rd. The talks and vendors will be located at the Burnet Community Center, which is 11 miles from Longhorn. The Community Center is located just a few blocks from the historic downtown of Burnet, with plenty of places for shopping and eating.

This will be the first time that Longhorn Caverns, a Texas state park, has been the site for a TSA Convention. In the past the TSA has sponsored cleanup and resurvey projects at the

site, and many people may remember the removal of old Civil Defense supplies from the cave. This time the primitive campsite will be in the picnic area, which is on the same side of the road as the information center. This site is large, level, tree-shaded and includes several picnic tables and ground grills. No campfires or RVs will be permitted on this site due to the sensitive nature of the karst environment. If you wish to make your own arrangements, additional camping is available at Inks Lake State Park, a private RV campsite is located near Inks Lake and there is a Holiday Inn Express a few blocks away from the Burnet Community Center.

This year the event is being co-sponsored by the Texas Speleological Survey, who will run a surveying workshop on Sunday morning. The workshop participants may get an opportunity to survey in some of the smaller caves on the park property. More details about the event will be posted in the near future to the Maverick grotto and Metroplexcavers mailing lists, CaveTex, the Metroplex grotto newsletters, the Texas Caver and the TSA website ([www.cavetexas.org](http://www.cavetexas.org)).

There are many tasks that need to be done in order for this event to run smoothly, and since the Metroplex grottos have volunteered to host the event, it gives us an opportunity to work together to make it really special this year. Joe Ranzau, as Vice Chair, is the TSA officer in charge of the Convention, and has expressed an interest in meeting with the volunteers sometime in the future. Ed Goff and Pete Lindsley (DFW grotto) have volunteered to assist Joe Ranzau on the Program Committee, which invites speakers—so if there's anyone out there you'd like to hear at this year's event, pass your suggestions on to them. Robin Barber has volunteered to run the Map Salon, and Mark Gee has indicated an interest in helping out with on-site registration. I am in the process of lining up someone qualified to run the Photo Salon. Currently we need people to coordinate publicity, campsite preparation and food preparation. I have contacts and info to give to anyone who would like to volunteer for these all-important tasks, this should make these jobs much easier to complete. I will have more details at the grotto meeting next week, and I hope to see you there.

--Diana

## **Newsletter Exchange Review**

by R.D. Milhollin, NSS 29962

NSS News February 2004 (Vol. 62 No. 02)

Most of the articles in this month's *News* deal with caves in Hawai'i. Ric Elhard and Rose Herrera lead off with "Caves in our Front Yard" which is a chronicle of exploration on the southern end of the Big Island. The authors bought land in an early subdivision on the island in 1989 and began work toward opening a commercial cave attraction in a lava tube named for the neighborhood, Kula Kai. Caving had been going on there since the 1950's, but involvement picked up when more cavers became involved in 1998. The surveyed length of the cave grew quickly, soon being measured in miles rather than feet. Other entrances were discovered in the vicinity, and these were connected into the cave system over time. As more tunnels were connected in the system became known as the Kanohina System. The explorers established a Hawai'i Cave Conservancy in 2003 to acquire and preserve land above caves on the islands. To date the entire connected system measures 15.86 miles with vertical extent of 682 feet, making it the largest lava tube cave system in the world.

Thom Engel contributes a personal account of "Kanohina Caving 2003" as the following article. It is a more detailed version of exploration over a short period of time and describes what the experience was like for him. Don Coons covers the "Speleogenesis of the Kipuka Kanohina Cave System" next, describing the formation of the cave passages and some unusual features within



the caves. Ric Elhard and Don Coons team up to discuss the "Mineralogy of the Kipuka Kanohina Cave System" which is of course very different in a lava tube cave as compared to a carbonate cave. Ric discusses the problems associated with local dumping in cave entrances in "Cleaning the Maelstrom". Ric and Don collaborate again with the "Archaeology of the Kipuka Kanohina Cave System". The article discusses cave entrance occupation, including stone walls, petroglyphs, water collection systems, fire pits, and remains of wooden torches.

Two books are reviewed in the *Reading* section. The first is "Dead in the Water" by Margaret Hoffman and reviewed by Rick Breisch. While fiction, the story is based on an actual rescue from a Channel Island underwater cave. The other book is *Gems of the Golden State: The 15 Best Caves to Visit in California* by Ann Bosted, photos by Peter and Ann Bosted. Bernie Szukalski reviewed this book, and notes that it is smaller than he would have guessed, but is priced appropriately, and is definitely geared toward the tourist, not the serious caver.

The first detailed description of the 2004 NSS Convention site is included in this issue. It will be held in July on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, affectionately known as the Da Yoop (Dah Yoo' Pee). If you are considering journeying up north this summer check out the descriptions of this place. The next article describes the procedures necessary to enter the various salons at the 2004 NSS Convention.

Jeff Bray announces "The First Cave Conservancies Forum" to be held in Lewisburg, WV April 15-18. The 2004 Black Hills Cave Restoration Camp is to be held June 7-11 at... you guessed it!

Bernie Szukalski's *Underground Update* is busy as seems to be the newly established norm. He contributes a monthly review of articles from various grottos that he finds of particular interest. He starts off with news from the *Gadsden Grotto Newsletter* in Alabama, with a series of reports from Nick Medlin concerning finding and exploring pits and caves in that area. News from Germany Valley in WV is covered in *The Potomac Caver*, in which a couple of kids discover a couple of caves; chalk it up to youthful enthusiasm. The Shasta Area Grotto's *SAG Rag* reports the sighting of a rare salamander, and the

exploration of Red Beard and Red Shirt Caves, and Pool Parlor Cave. Jim Kennedy of BCI authored an article for *The Electric Caver* of Cincinnati about bat caves in that area. The *Cave Crawler's Gazette* has news about the discovery of a new cave very close to a "well known cave" in central Arizona. In the same issue Dave Joaquim reports on Val and Jim Werker repairing a large fallen and broken stalactite in Colossal Cave. Terry Ragon contributed maps, photos, and an article detailing the discovery, digging-out, and dropping of a new pit in Jackson Co. Alabama in *The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter*. Exploration and survey of Redman Cave in Indiana is reported by Brian Killingbeck in the *CIG Newsletter*, and includes tales of diving, digging, and borehole! Same newsletter, tales of dragging extension ladders through the woods and into a pit to check a dome lead on the far side, and a reprint of a 1959 article written by a boy who was stuck in a cave for 26 hours when his light failed. Guess the cave name...

*The Maverick Bull* is mentioned as Bill Tucker reports on some cave dives performed in San Saba County's Whiteface Cave. Maribel New Hope Cave in Wisconsin is the focus of a combined edition of the *Wisconsin Speleologist*. The Virginia Highlands Grotto publication, *The Highlander*, contains lots of articles on Germany Valley caving, including three from Pete Penczer on Memorial Day Cave. The *Nittany Grotto News* contains reports on a caving expedition in Panama, and Bob Bennett describes the survey of a newly collapsed sinkhole in West Virginia in the *Dead Dog Dispatch* of the Tri-State Grotto.

This month the *Spelean Spotlight* illuminates Virginia cavers Mike and Andrea Futrell. They discuss caving together in Virginia, Mexico, and the Far East, among other places.

*The Oztotl Caver* (DFW Grotto), *Speleospace* (Greater Houston Grotto), *COGNIZANCE* (Central Oklahoma Grotto)

No newsletters received from these clubs in February.

\*If members of other NSS grottos and caving clubs come across this newsletter, they should encourage their newsletter editor to contact the *Maverick Bull* about the possibility of a newsletter exchange.

## Caving Events Calendar, March 2004

- March 12-14 Colorado Bend State Park Project:** long-time favorite of Mavericks, pretty close to home, semi-regular schedule, second weekend of the month. This month will be a data session in the conference center, involving work on drafting maps. **Contacts:** Terry Holsinger (512) 443-4241 [trhli@sprynet.com](mailto:trhli@sprynet.com) or Dale Barnard [Barnarddale@yahoo.com](mailto:Barnarddale@yahoo.com)
- March 20-21 Beginner's Trip to Jester Cave, OK:** Come see the longest gypsum cave in the U.S., complete with catfish, crayfish and salamanders! Bring along a trash bag, we'll help clean up the cave during the trip. This is a water cave with sucking mud in places, so be prepared to get wet. We'll stay at Quartz Mountain State Park, where you can choose to camp or stay in the lodge. This trip is suitable for families with children aged 14 and above. **Contact:** Diana Tomchick (214) 418-5827 [Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu)
- March 27-28 High Guads Restoration Project: (New Mexico):** On-going work amid spectacular scenery in beautiful caves of the Lincoln National Forest. Last weekend of the month, permits often include Three Fingers, Virgin, Pink Dragon, Pink Panther, Hidden, Wonderland, and Black Cave. Activities vary from month to month. **Contacts:** Susan Herpin or Jennifer Foote [highguads@yahoo.com](mailto:highguads@yahoo.com)
- April 09-11 Colorado Bend State Park Project**
- April 24-25 Government Canyon State Natural Area Project:** 20 miles west of San Antonio. Activities include survey, exploration, ridge walking, and digging. Participants must enter property with group, contact in advance for times. See page 8 of the January 2004 issue of this newsletter for directions. **Contacts:** Marvin and Lisa Miller (830) 885-5631 [mimiller@gvtc.com](mailto:mimiller@gvtc.com)
- May 21-23 2004 Spring Texas Speleological Association Convention and Texas Speleological Survey Workshop, Longhorn Caverns:** This year's convention is hosted by the Metroplex grottos and co-sponsored by the TSS, who will conduct a surveying workshop on Sunday morning. Sessions and vendors will be located at the Burnet Community Center. More information will be posted on TSA website, [www.cavetexas.org](http://www.cavetexas.org) **Contacts:** Joe Ranzau [joe.ranzau@usaa.com](mailto:joe.ranzau@usaa.com) Diana Tomchick (214) 418-5827 [Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu)

**Next Meeting:  
March 9th, 7:00 p.m.**

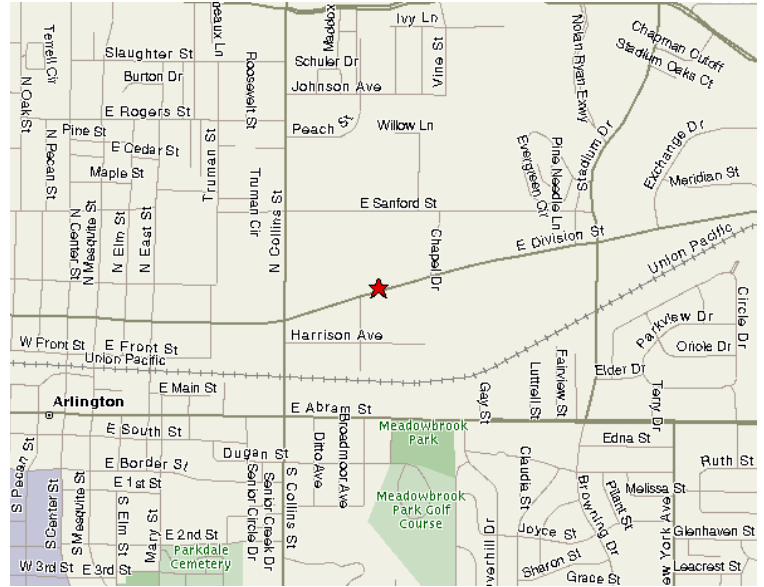
**Agenda items:**

**TSA 2004 Spring Convention.  
Great-X T-shirt auction.**

**Program:  
Jester Cave, OK video by Pete Lindsley**

**Don't forget to pay your grotto dues!  
Be sure to join us at Bodacious BBQ!**

**New Location: Bodacious BBQ**  
1206 E. Division St.  
Arlington, TX 76011  
**(817) 860-4248**



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