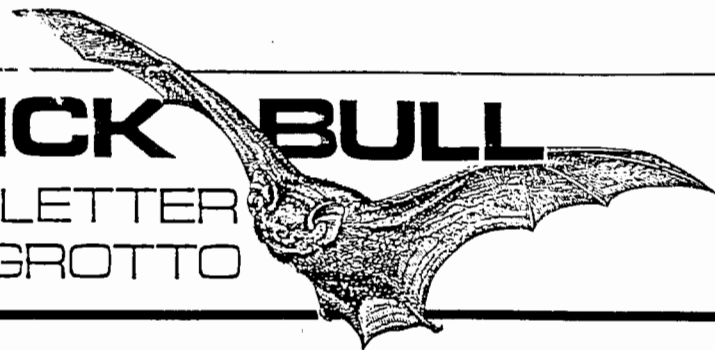


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1989



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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTO, an internal organization in the National Speleological Society (NSS 6-322). The editors invite all cavers to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed, stamped envelope should accompany it. Items should be of interest to cavers and be non-political in nature.

Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to author as will be stated in byline) first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL, if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to THE MAVERICK GROTTO address at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the grotto at the address herein.

EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK GROTTO, will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact any officer.

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTO will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations, who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Grotto will also provide three free issues to persons interested in becoming members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any caver 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 East Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 East and next door to a K Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good.

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CAVE RESCUE: Call Collect 512-686-0234

CALENDAR

Jan. 10	Maverick Grotto Meeting. Bruce Anderson will discuss the use of various type of lamps. Also please bring your ideas for future programs and trips.
Jan. 13-15	Colorado State Park Work Trip.
Feb. 10-12	Colorado State Park Work Trip.
Feb 14	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
March 10-12	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
March 14	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
March 18-26	Possible work trip to Devils River State Park. Number of people limited. Contact Butch Fralia (817-346-2039) or Keith Heuss (512-385-7131).
April 7-9	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
April 11	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
May 9	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
May 12-14	Colorado State Park work Trip.
June 9-10	Colorado State Park Work Trip.
June 13	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
October 1989	American Cave Management Symposium, sponsored by TSA, TWPD, ACMA. To be held in New Braunfels, Texas.

ON THE COVER

We plan to publish a cave map or photograph on the cover of each month's *Maverick Bull*. It may not be the best quality of reproduction, but it beats nothing! Send any suggested maps or photos to the editors. Please include a self addressed stamped envelope if you wish the item to be returned to you.

This month, our cover caver is none other than Pooch Amy, at the vertical entrance to Sand Cave in the Guadalupe Mountains. You can tell it's him by the well ventilated pants he's wearing.

EDITORIAL

By David and Shari Finfrock

This is the first issue of the post-Fralia era of the *Maverick Bull*. It's only after actually writing and putting together an issue of the newsletter, that we can really appreciate how much Butch has meant to the Maverick Grotto. For the first two years of the existence of our grotto, he was the glue that held us together, keeping us involved in caving together and informed of the activities of grotto members. His record for on-time publication of the newsletter, every month, without fail, is probably unparalleled in caving history. Thanks, Butch.

So far as the new editors are concerned, there will be some changes in the appearance of the *Maverick Bull* this year. A different kind of word processor will result in a new look, of course. But there will also be changes in content. We will be happy to print any news, editorials, or trip reports, maps or photographs sent to us, but if we don't receive anything from grotto members, we don't plan to pad the newsletter ourselves. That means the length of the *Maverick Bull* may vary anywhere from two to ten pages each month, depending on the contributions of the membership. But one thing we promise: we will do our best to get out the newsletter on time each month, just as Butch has done the past two years.

ABOUT OUR PRESIDENT

I know, a newsletter, by definition, is supposed to have news in it. But I never thought we would get a scoop like this in our very first newsletter.

Our newly elected grotto president, Dale Ellison, got a rather extraordinary phone call the day after the grotto Christmas party. Actually, it wasn't the phone call that was unusual. What was so strange was who the call was from. You see, it was Dale's daughter calling That's right, his daughter. And if that's shocking to you imagine how Dale felt!

Her name is Donna Robinson. She's lived here in Tarrant County all her life. One of Dale's friends asked him if he knew Donna's mother. (I sure hope that wasn't a caver!) He may have known her mother, but until last month Dale had no idea he was a father. Dale says he went through every emotion in the book, and some that aren't listed there. But he showed some real spunk and courage in meeting with her at a local mall. (Needless to say, Donna showed some tremendous courage in getting up the nerve to call him in the first place.)

After that meeting, Dale said that if he is going to have a daughter, Donna is just the sort he wants. She's even interested in going camping, and maybe, even caving some day, with Dale and Arlene. Yes, Arlene, bless her heart, approves. So perhaps we'll all get to meet Donna at a Maverick Grotto meeting soon.

So now you think you've heard it all. Dale's a daddy. But if you're standing up right now, take my advice and sit down. There's more. You see, Donna is pregnant. Or, perhaps I should say, Donna was pregnant. By the time you read this, the baby should have been born. Yes, Dale is not only a father, but a grandfather, as well! It's been quite a Christmas for Dale and Arlene.

But I wish they could have scheduled things better. With a little advance notice, we could have had a "Name That Caver" contest. As it is, you'll just have to ask Dale about his grandbaby at the Grotto meeting.

Congratulations, Dale and Arlene, from all of us. And welcome, Donna, to the world of caving.

FOR SALE

Multicolored Grotto patches and the award-winning Maverick Grotto songbooks are still for sale. Get yours at the grotto meeting!

WHAT DOES THE NEW YEAR BRING?

by Butch Fralia

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! The new year is upon us and it's time to look into the future and see what lies ahead for The Maverick Grotto and Cavers in general. Caving is an activity which offers boundless opportunities for achievement, excitement, and involvement.

First off, it's been said many times now but can't be said often enough, we have a new slate of officers, gung-ho and ready to lead us into an exciting future. With the coming of the new year it's a whole new world. Chairman Dale Ellison is planning new ways and opportunities for cavers to become involved in Grotto and caving activities. Vice-Chairman Danny Sherrod is planning some great meeting programs and group trips for the future. David and Shari are planning a great newaletter to keep us informed of what's happening in the Speleo World. We've got a lot to look forward to under their leadership.

Caver's have historically been a closed group discouraging others from joining their ranks and disavowing any contact with the general public. Times are a'changing now as cavers begin to come out of the closet and get involved. Caver's possess unique knowledge and ability which isn't readily available anywhere else. Knowledge of the unique world under the earth and the impact of caves on the environment. These abilities are being sought after now and opportunities abound for public education and involvement in environmental protection. It's time to give those interested the opportunity to visit a wild cave, if they don't choose caving as a regular activity, at least they can come to appreciate caves and cave dwellers as important parts of the environment. At the very least they'll have an experience of a lifetime and hopefully learn that spray paint isn't part of acceptable caving gear.

The Cave and Ground Water Protection Bills are progressing but need as many persons as possible to contact their state representatives and other groups to garner support for the bills. These are important as they go beyond protecting what's historically been a private playground for a unique few, to protect the water resources of the State of Texas. These bills should go before the Legislature and Senate sometime in September. The probability of their passing is very good especially if you can help push them.

Texas Parks and Wildlife will have a great deal of responsibility for administering cave management on state lands if the bills pass, they are beginning to open up parks and park sites for caving projects. They're depending on cavers for determining the management efforts necessary for protecting the caves. They're expecting a lot from us in the upcoming year. We have the opportunity to do some good toward public education and cave access. Parks with known caves include Big Spring, Caprock Canyon, Davis Mountains, Franklin Mountains, Garner, Colorado Bend, Guadalupe River, Hill Country Natural Area, Honey Creek Preserve, Huaco Tanks, Kickapoo Caverns, Lake Corpus Christi, Longhorn Caverns and Lost Maples. Park sites at Del Rio and Big Bend have known or potential caves. There are many parks which offer the opportunity to find caves yet haven't been explored.

There are never ending opportunities to get into new caves and see old ones which bring up memories of good times and excitement.

There will be trips available to private caves which haven't been visited in some time. With luck, good relations and some hard work, we'll be able to open new properties for exploration.

There are many educational opportunities looking up. For anyone interested there are always opportunities to learn about and get involved in cave rescue. This is always good information just for the cave trips you're involved in.

There are plenty of opportunities to learn to survey, draw cave maps or learn vertical. There's something available for everyone no matter what their interest.

Let someone know what you're interested in, what you'd like to do and if you're willing to help set something up, let them know that also. There's a great new year looking up ahead of us. It'll be a good year to get involved in something, reinvolved if you've been inactive for awhile, or stay involved in the things you already have going.

1988 CHRISTMAS PARTY by Butch Fralia

December 10, 1988, time for the annual grotto Christmas Party at Danny and Jane Sherrod's home in Joshua. Bruce and Donna Anderson, Mike Cagle, Steve Dalton, Don Denton and friend, Jeff Duval with friends Jeff (the other Jeff) and Mark, Dale Ellison and Arlene Heintz, Butch and Jennifer Fralia along with Quinta Wilkinson and grand-daughter Leigh Beth Looney, Jay Jordan, Debra Morris and Jody Robertson, Dave McClung and Sheila(?), Mark and Pam Porter, Ed Poynter, Diana Andrews and Al Rehfeldt, Lisa Johnson and Dennis Thompson were all present for fun and excitement. Those absent due to work schedules, conflicting events, etc, were sorely missed.

The party began with attendees enjoying the great deal of food and drink they'd collectively brought. They milled around, eating and drinking, "warming to the occasion" until the party was officially kicked off by the presentation of awards.

This year, everyone in the grotto and some who aren't, received an award. There were "To Whom it May Concern," and "Friend or Relative of Caver" awards. Quinta Wilkinson spent the week, prior to the party, printing the awards on her home computer. There were over eighty awards handed out by Master of Ceremonies, Jody Robertson.

Butch Fralia kicked the event off assuring those attending their first awards ceremony they weren't being attacked by receiving an award but received an award because someone cared. If no one cared, they would have been ignored.

Once the awards were completed, the white elephant gifts were exchanged. The method for choosing who receives which gifts involves numbering each gift then drawing a number from a bag. Some of the finer gifts received this year were the golden boots, a swordfish which came disassembled, a smashed hardhat as a safety reminder, magic pills, and various varieties of hard hats.

After the ceremonies, everyone got down to serious partying, hot tubbing and pool shooting. As usual the party was a great success.

CAVING CUISINE

At an executive meeting of the newly elected officers in November, one proposal made was the publication of a book of recipes for cavers and campers. Rather than prepare a whole recipe book now, the editors decided it would be a good idea to publish one recipe in each newsletter. And in a year or so, we may decide to put out a recipe book as a fund raiser. So any favorite recipes from you cavers out there would be appreciated. They should be tasty, but easily prepared, and above all filling. This month's recipe is from the kitchen of David and Shari Finfrock.

Chicken Succotash Stew

3 slices bacon	3 tablespoons flour
1 1/2 pounds chicken (boneless, skinless)	3/4 teaspoon salt
2 medium red potatoes, thinly sliced	1 16 oz can stewed tomatoes
1 12 oz. can whole or cream corn	1 chicken bouillon cube
1 16 oz can Veg-All or your favorite beans	

In 8-quart Dutch oven, cook bacon until browned. Remove and drain bacon. Spoon off all but 1 tablespoon of drippings. Cut chicken into bite-sized pieces. In remaining drippings, brown the chicken. Add all vegetables, bouillon, salt, and 3 cups water. Cover and cook over medium heat for 10 minutes or until chicken and vegetables are tender. Use the flour mixed with a little of the broth to thicken the soup. Sprinkle with bacon. Makes about 6 servings.

