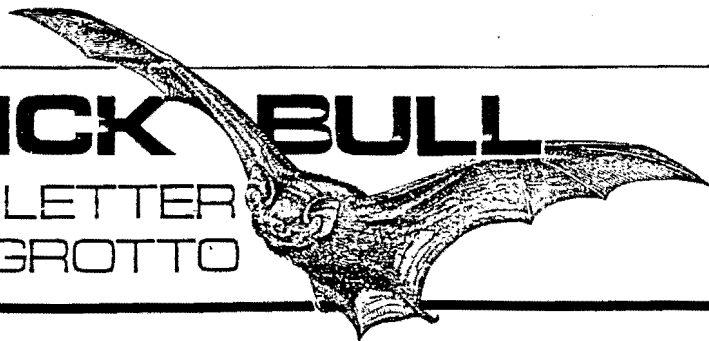

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 6

JUNE 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 Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good.

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CALENDAR

Ongoing	Monthly work trip to Colorado Bend State Park. Weekend of the second Saturday of each month.
June 9-10	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
June 13	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
July 1	Deadline for submitting articles for the July newsletter.
July 7-9	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
July 11	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
July 31-August 4	NSS Convention at Sewanee, Tennessee.
August 3	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
August 11-13	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
October 3-7	National Cave Management Symposium, sponsored by TSA, TP&WD, and ACMA. To be held in New Braunfels, Texas.

ON THE COVER

Our cover caver this month is Jody Robertson. He's posing here in the Racing Stripe Room at River Styx Cave located in King County, Texas.

TAKING IT EASY AT TURNER
By Mark Porter

MINUTES OF THE MAY GROTTO MEETING

Vice Chairman Danny Sherrod opened the meeting, in the absence of Chairman Dale Ellison, who was running a little late. Danny brought up the idea of forming a phone committee, to call all the grotto members whenever a trip is planned. In the past, when spur-of-the-moment caving trips came up, many members were disappointed to find out, after-the-fact, that they had missed out on a fun weekend. This should especially benefit new members.

Dale arrived and took over the meeting. Further discussion was then held on the previous month's questions about membership requirements. Butch Fraia suggested that we drop all reference in our by-laws to any specific amount for membership fees. That issue will probably be acted on later this year.

Russell Hill reported that Bruce Anderson donated some tapes and then copied some caving videos, at his own expense, for the grotto library. Russell suggested that other members who don't have a book to donate to the library might consider donating a blank videotape, instead. He also pointed out, that when anything is borrowed from the library it is due back at the next grotto meeting, unless other arrangements are made in advance.

Joe Giddens, in town from Arkansas, gave an explanation of "speleoniqs", a sort of speleo-electronics. He related how a transmitter is carried below ground to some water-filled passage. Then a receiver on the surface is used to pinpoint the location directly above the water source. It is used as a sort of "electronic water-witcher".

Dave McClung announced that he has compasses and inclinometers for sale, at a good price.

Mark Eusby, who has made three separate trips to Colorado Bend State Park, was elected a new member of the grotto. Stephanie Andrews, who has made a number of trips with her mother, Diana, was elected an associate member, since she is still too young for full membership. Also, Joe Giddens and Chris Williams renewed their memberships.

Several trip reports were given:

1. Danny Sherrod told about his cold, wet through-trip in Honey Creek Cave. It is the longest cave in Texas, and maybe the wettest, too. Wetsuits are required for the through-trip, along with swimming flippers. Contact Danny if you're interested in going.

2. Shari Finfrock reported on a fun trip to Turner Falls, that many grotto members took part in. Included were Crystal Cave and Aerial Cave, the first wild caves for the Finfrock's 10-year old son Ryan. (Mark Porter's report on this same trip appears in this newsletter).

3. Butch Fraia told about the goings-on at the TSA spring convention at Luchenbach. Butch had given a presentation at the convention on serving as a liaison between the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the caving community.

Donna Anderson announced an upcoming trip for the Memorial Day weekend trip to River Styx Cave.

The program was an NSS videotape program, "Texas Underground", provided by Danny Sherrod. It was pointed out that, in the past, there has been too much talking and noise-making during the programs. It was urged that all members show courtesy to our program-givers, and keep quiet. If some members want to visit, they should leave the meeting room to do so.

Dates: May 6-7

Location: Turner Falls Park, Murray County, Oklahoma

Personnel: Mark and Pam Porter, Dale Ellison, Russell Hill, Jay Jordan, Al Renfeld, Diana and Stephanie Andrews, David, Shari, and Ryan Finfrock, John ?, and George?.

It was a good sign to see the sun shining bright as we left to make our rendezvous with fellow cavers at Dannels. Transportation figured out we headed north for the Arbuckle Mountains (Hills) of southern Oklahoma.

We pitched camp along Honey Creek and began to look for the rest of the party that came up earlier in the day. A stone's throw down the creek Russell and Al's party was already set up and relaxing. Plans were then switched and gear was gathered to visit some of the caves within the park. We hiked across the creek and over the hills toward our first destination of the afternoon.

Our first stop was a cave that nobody knew the name of but most everyone had visited. It is located a quarter of a mile up the canyon from Crystal Cave. We spent about an hour pushing small leads. Dale somehow managed to get into a very small lead that finally grew too small for him to proceed. He wanted somebody to follow but no one of that slight of stature was closeby at the time. His return squeeze looked somewhat agonizing and after a few tries popped back out into the passage.

Our next stop was to Crystal Cave located half way up the side of a bluff. Russell rigged a rope up top so we could swing up into the cave. Jay and Dale proceeded to push the cave to its end while most of the people waited in the entrance for their return.

The Finfrocks joined the group and we headed for Aerial Cave over the hill. This cave is small but has a fun section to climb. The section is a crack three feet wide, forty feet high and thirty feet long. A four inch ledge is used to shuffle along until you get within five feet of the continuing passage. The ledge is about twenty-five feet above the floor and it would be a rough ride to the bottom if not careful. Everyone got across all right with some using a relay for security. The passage continues for a short while and ends at a small room.

The return along the crack is a little more difficult than coming in. David's son, Ryan, was not quite sure how to maneuver over to the ledge. After a couple of ill-fated attempts, David positioned himself in the crack just below the route taken. He pinched himself off on either wall and became a human stopping stone for his family. When they would cross they would step on his shoulders and he would inch his way across until they could get to the small ledge. This worked out well except for a few feet in the face. Definitely a dedicated husband and father. Once out it was time to head back to camp for food and rest.

The next morning it was decided to have a vertical practice up in the canyon. Russell fixed a rope down the bluff from Crystal Cave. The drop was about seventy feet and nearly vertical. Jay, Russell, Al, George, and myself made several trips down the rope. Russell and Jay also made some trips back up the rope. It was good practice and a little confidence builder for myself.

By this time the little band was on the one so we headed back to camp, packed up and spent some time in the Blue Hole before returning home. A good time was had by all!

NSS CONVENTION

The annual convention of the National Speleological Society takes place in Sewanee, Tennessee from 31 July to 4 August. It's a long drive, and if you're looking for a place to crash along the way, Joe Giddens has offered his four and a half acres as a campsite for any grotto members. It's located just off I-30 in Camden, Arkansas, about a five hour drive from the metroplex. Contact Joe at (501) 574-1133 or write to P.O. Box 891, Camden AR 71701.

Also there will be an NSS Field Camp at Cumberland Caverns, before and after the convention, from 24-27 July, and from 5-6 August. More information elsewhere in the newsletter.

WHAT HAPPENED?
By Butch Fralia

It's nice to be thought of and remembered I thought as I read the suggestive hints in The Maverick Bull, but what's all the uproar about not writing a few articles for the newsletter. After all I did faithfully put out some twenty-six issues with much loss of sleep and sanity. I was reading the LAG News Letter and lo and behold, Pat Helton addresses the question; "Where is Butch Fralia, and why haven't we heard from him lately? Do you still haunt the hallways of River Styx with Shane?" Suddenly the far reaches of west Texas are discussing that I've not written lately. Enough is enough, I plead guilty and throw myself on the mercy of the court!

What Happened? Suddenly I realized that time really flies when your having fun or at least when you're busy. It's been nearly five months since I've written anything. I've been so busy with caving projects that I haven't had time to write about them and then in March, I changed jobs and suddenly I'm involved with computers more than anyone has a right to be. I even spent one thirty-hour day involved in a massive change over from one computer system to another and suddenly I hate computers. I come home at night and here's this spiffy computer which though it's somewhat dated, lots of folks would give their eye teeth for just such a machine but when I see it, my first thought is to throw up. Somehow, it seems more appropriate to cave till you puke than compute till you puke.

Well, as many of you know, I'm into self-hypnosis so I had a chat with myself, calmed my queasy stomach and sat down to write. It didn't hurt that I've gotten the teeniest small bit drunk to build up my nerve. Today, after only twelve hours of computing here I am again sitting in front of a computer. I'll bet David Finfrock doesn't go home and play with a weather radio! and I'll bet a gynecologist go home and well never mind.

I really have been busy, I've had four weekends this year that I haven't been caving and I had to work through two of those. I've been busy with Colorado Bend, Devils River, Longhorn, the Powell's Cave project and a couple of times even taken time to do some fun caving. What am I really saying here? I finally got caught up on my sleep, some of my household chores and got bored, I've had to resort to writing to keep from being bored stiff. It's rained thirteen inches in the last twenty-four hours, I can't do much else.

There's a great deal to talk about; while I'm in the mood I'm going to knock out several articles and throw in the "Official" trip reports for the Colorado Bend project for February and March. David can use these articles for cannon fodder (filler), toilet paper or what ever for the next five months until once again I get my nerve up to write.

Hi gang, it's nice to know you're out there and that I'm missed!

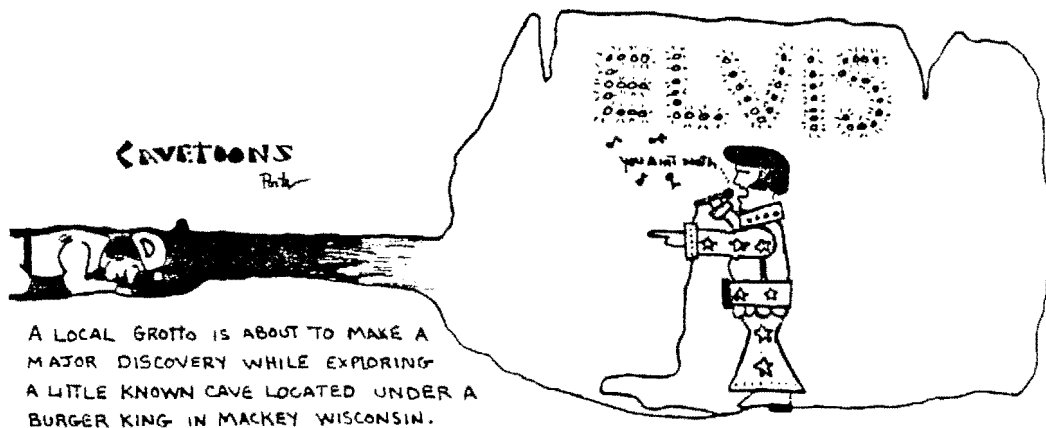
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE LIASON
by Butch Fralia

There's happenings, goings on and plenty of new opportunities because of you and the work you've put in on various State Park projects over the last year and a half. After what's happened at Kickapoo, Colorado Bend, Devils River and Longhorn, the state seems to think those weird people who crawl around underground may be human after all, and what's more they may have more sense than apparent at first glance. People who want to squirm around in holes underground must have a loose screw, right?

That's right cavers, we've come out of the woodwork and we're getting some recognition for the effort put in. June Secrist, volunteer liason for TPWD, wants to submit us to the governor's committee on volunteer labor for some sort of award for Volunteer Group/Organization of the year. The award (if approved) will be presented to the Texas Speleological Association (TSA) but it's really to you, the hard working cavers of Texas.

There have been opportunities for public education. TPWD produces a television program called "Made In Texas," which airs on Public Television in the Metroplex during the summer months. They followed us around for approximately six days and used up more high dollar video tape than I like to think about. The program about caves and cavers will highlight the cave contribution to the environment, pollution problems and the caver's effort to avert disaster. Look for it this summer, I haven't seen one of their programs but I've been advised by those who have that it's a high quality presentation, worth the time to watch. See local celebrities like Donna Anderson shouting dramatic lines such as "it goes, it goes." See David Finrock prognosticate that "it's partly walking with a 60% chance of crawl."

The State Park projects are alive and well with more and more people taking interest all the time. Opportunities abound for new projects full of excitement and glory and a chance to get underground in a new place. Opportunities abound to be recognized for all the hard work we put in and given the opportunity to put in more. The irony of all this is that we get credited for all our hard work while the "work" is the same thing we do for fun at other places on other weekends. Have we got these people snowed or what?



Destination: Colorado Bond State Park

Trip date: February 10-12, 1989

Reported by: Butch Fraha

Trip Leader: Butch Fraha

Personnel: Pooch Amy Clay Chambers Clinton Cline
 Jeff Duvall David Finfrock Butch Fraha
 Keith Heuss Alvis Hill Wayne Hill
 Terry Holsinger Jay Jordan David McClung
 Don Metzner Mark Porter Steve White
 Teresa White Tim Wyler

Synopsis: SAB 211 (An Unnamed Cave) is explored to it's practical end. Several small pits and new leads in known caves are checked out. Gorman Creek Crevice becomes the second longest cave in San Saba, County and the second longest cave on the park with no end in sight. Another 5,000 feet of surface surveys completed, tying in more cave locations to be provided to IP&D at a later date.

During the February work trip, 17 cavers arrived to participate in the various cave related activities planned for the weekend. There was a great deal of activity around various parts of the park.

Beginning Saturday morning, Jeff Duvall, Keith Heuss, Terry Holsinger, and Wayne Hill, spent four hours surface surveying from Mystery Hole Cave (SAB 188), following the fence line north and picking up one cave entrance (which had little if any traversable passage). They set 4 bench marks, the last of which was at a small hole by the road entering Lively Pasture. A total of 3200 feet was surveyed in this endeavor.

Clinton Cline and Alvis Hill, joined forces to continue the exploration of SAB 211 cave. They followed the upstream, bedding plane crawl passage for approximately 150 feet before it ended. They were involved in this activity for approximately four and one-half hours.

Pooch Amy, David Finfrock, Steve White and Teresa White (no relation) arrived just after everyone had their camp for their various projects. They satisfied themselves for a time, dropping to the bottom of Blue Ribbon Cave (SAB 184) the infamous bad air hole. They made it all the way to the lowest level at about 70' and found the air quality acceptable until they reached the bottom where they noticed they were breathing heavily. Pooch was wearing a Carbide lamp which immediately went out. They took this as their cue to exit the cave.

After lunch, Pooch Amy, Clinton Cline, David Finfrock, Keith Heuss, and Alvis Hill resumed exploring SAB 211. They resumed exploration of the downstream passage, where it left off last month. They dug out a small mud choke, removed a small sliver of rock blocking the passage and entered a highly decorated fissure with tall ceilings. The fissure was very narrow except at the bottom where it was approximately 2 feet wide. They crawled along the bottom of the fissure until the room stopped at a narrow pinch with a deep drop which seems to be approximately 45 feet deep. The drop was rigged and they descended to the bottom to find a mud and gravel floor. A low passage which is filled to within 4 inches of the ceiling leads off for about 5 feet before it makes a sharp turn. The passage could be dug out but it is the exploration team's feeling that they would have to dig for the entire traversable distance. Survey of this cave should result in about 3000 feet of traversable passage. This cave appears to be a direct recharge into the local aquifer. It continues to go deeper (at least 100 feet where exploration quit) and obviously takes on a considerable amount of water during rainfall.

During the afternoon session, Jeff Duvall, Wayne Hill, Terry Holsinger, Teresa White, and Steve White went to Gorman Creek in the Lively Pasture to look at three small openings which had been noted on earlier trips. They removed rock and dirt from some of these openings hoping to discover another entrance to the passage being explored in Gorman Creek Crevice Cave. None of these proved to be the desired entrance although they may be enterable with continued work. They spent the afternoon at this endeavor.

Butch Fraha, Don Metzner, Mark Porter and Tim Wyler, went to Gorman Creek Crevice (SAB 183) to survey. During the January trip, Sheila Hartman, Terry Holsinger and David McClung surveyed 240.9 feet of passage. This being, Sheila's first major cave excursion, they chose not to survey in the bedding plane crawl area and began their survey some distance past the last survey point where the passage becomes larger.

Butch, Don, Mark and Tim, entered the cave and traveled to the point where Butch had stopped the survey during a 1988 trip. During this survey, Butch read instruments, Don was lead tape, Mark Porter sketched (his sketches looked better than many finished maps) while Tim worked ahead locating the next survey point.

They surveyed the 87 foot distance between these two survey points in bedding plane crawl 10 to 12 inches high and 5 to 10 feet wide. During this survey segment, they noted several side passages which would be traversable if piles of dirt were removed from their entrances. Looking over the piles through the 4 inch clearance between the dirt and ceiling. Passage could be seen to extend for some distance. The water flow in this area of the

cave apparently pushes piles of dirt up along the walls of the passage much like those left by a road grader after a grading job.

At the point where the two surveys connect, there are two passages leading off, one striking out at approximately 324 degrees while the other, the main stream passage and the one which the January team worked on, strikes at 262 degrees. The 324 degree passage is the smaller of the two and was explored by Donna Anderson, and Don Denton during a 1988 trip. This passage is approximately 400 feet long with several side leads extending 30 to 70 feet off the main passage. This passage, of course, has not yet been surveyed so the distance is only speculation.

Butch, Don, Mark and Tim, continued in the direction which the January team had surveyed, noting several large, decorated fissures as they went. In two of these fissures, there appeared to be higher level passage but this might have been optical delusion. As they traversed the 240.9 feet to reach the last survey marker, they noticed the passage continually getting larger. At the location where they resumed survey, the passage reached stoop walk height (approximately 4.5 feet). The floor of this section of cave is dirt filled and was quite muddy from recent rains.

They picked up the survey and in about 45 feet came to a junction where the cave splits into two passages. They left a survey marker where the side passage survey could be picked up and continued onward in the stream bed passage. The passage soon began to zig-zag back and forth and the inclination became sharper in a downward direction. They survey 247.5 feet of passage in this section bringing the surveyed length of the cave to 1,150 feet making it officially the second longest cave in San Saba County and of course the second longest on the park. Clark's Branch well - 1,100 feet - located on the nearby Kate's Ranch was previously second. At the point where the survey ended, the passage continues to become larger and trend downward at about -5.0 degrees. The calculated depth (from survey data) at the ending survey point, relative to the entrance is 73 feet.

The last passage surveyed is obviously the main stream passage, due to heavy water flow this section of cave is washed clean. The floor is covered by rocks and the trash observed in other parts of the cave is not present. Occasionally, a can or some other article is observed lodged in a crack between two rocks. We now believe that Gorman Creek Crevice and possibly Horseshoe Chimney are feeders into a main cave passage which has yet to be reached. Due to the conditions of traverse to reach the section of cave where survey left off, it takes hours to reach the survey location. The survey data taken thus far is being line plotted by Terry Holsinger. The plot will be referenced to other known karst features in the area in hopes another entrance can be located which will either shorten the distance or provide easier traverse.

Sunday morning and activity began anew. Clay Chambers, Jay Jordan and Dave McClung who had arrived late Saturday evening, set out to explore and survey several small pits in the area of Chimney's Delight (SAB 205). To the largest of these, they ran a survey line to from Chimney's Delight to tie it in with the existing surface survey. They rigged for vertical descent and Clay entered the cave first. He encountered passage in two directions, to the right, a fissure went for about 40 feet and to the left it became tight but he negotiated it after some rocks were moved. The entrance drop was measured at 26.4 feet and they surveyed through the fissure passage before coming to a four way joint intersection, then dropped precipitously down a perpendicular fissure.

Clay and Dave negotiated the fissure, they took their survey data and all exited to explore a second pit with a smaller entrance. They rigged the second pit and explored it but detail information of the exploration is not available at this time.

Pooch Amy, David Finfrock, Teresa White and Steve White went to Cicurina Cave (SAB 18) to explore some small leads rumored to be there. They dug out a small passage about 16 inches wide by 4 feet long. This opened into a room about 4 feet tall with 20' by 30' feet length and width dimensions. In one corner of the room was a living flowstone about 8 feet wide with small drapery formations above. This was a real treat since there are few caves with live formations on the park (excluding Gorman Cave). They dug out another small passage at the end of this room which led into another room with 4 foot ceilings about 12 feet by 4 feet wide.

On the way back to camp, they stopped to check a small pit near the stock tank close to the turn off to the Caver's camping area. This proved to be about 15 feet deep with a fissure at the bottom. The fissure is narrow but at the bottom it's about 18 inches wide allowing a small crawl space. They followed this for a few feet until it choked off.

Butch Fraha, Keith Heuss and Terry Holsinger went to Lively Pasture, to connect the small entrances worked the previous day with the existing surface survey data. This resulted in three entrances added to the database and about 2,200 feet of survey.

The details of this trip are not as concise as usual because several people had to leave Saturday Evening before the details of their activity could be gathered because Butch Fraha was in Gorman Creek Crevice. This also affects the detail of the number of hours each person put in. The trip was however successful, in that a considerable amount of work was accomplished.

NSS 1989 CONVENTION FIELD CAMP, CUMBERLAND CAVERNS
July 24-27, 1989 and August 5-6, 1989

The Nashville Grotto is hosting both pre- and post-convention field camps at Cumberland Caverns near McMinnville, TN. The pre-convention camp will be held July 24-27, 1989. The post-convention camp will be held August 5-6, 1989.

There are no official plans for guided cave trips during the week of the convention. In order to minimize impacts on caves, cave landowners, and sensitive areas, members of the Nashville Grotto will lead guided cave trips during the field camps. These trips will be led by knowledgeable, experienced cavers who are familiar with the caves. For those unfamiliar with the Middle TN area, this provides an excellent opportunity to see the primary attractions with expert guides.

Registration is limited; registrants accepted on a first come, first served basis. Each registration will be confirmed; registration deadline is July 9, 1989. Late registrants will be accepted on a space-available basis.

For additional information, please contact Larry Adams at (615)885-2655, or John Hoffelt at (615)356-1615.

NASHVILLE GROTTTO FIELD CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

____ Pre-convention camp (July 24-27)
____ Post-convention camp (August 5-6)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone (home): _____ (work): _____
NSS #: _____ Grotto Affiliation: _____
Immediate Family Members: _____

Registration Fee:	Amount
Pre-convention Individual (\$40.00)	\$ _____
Pre-convention Immediate Family (\$5.00 each)	\$ _____
Post-convention Individual (\$10.00)	\$ _____
Post-convention Immediate Family (\$2.00 each)	\$ _____
 Total	 \$ _____

Cave Trip Preference(s):
Horizontal (no pits): Dry _____ Wetsuit _____
Vertical: Pit bouncing only _____
Multidrop/long caves with pits -- Dry _____ Wetsuit _____

Special Interests:
Biology _____ Conservation _____
Geography/Geology _____ History/Archaeology _____
Photography _____ Survey/Cartography _____
Specific Cave(s) _____ Other _____

Make checks payable to Nashville Grotto. Return to: Larry Adams, 265 Lisa Ln, Nashville, TN 37210.