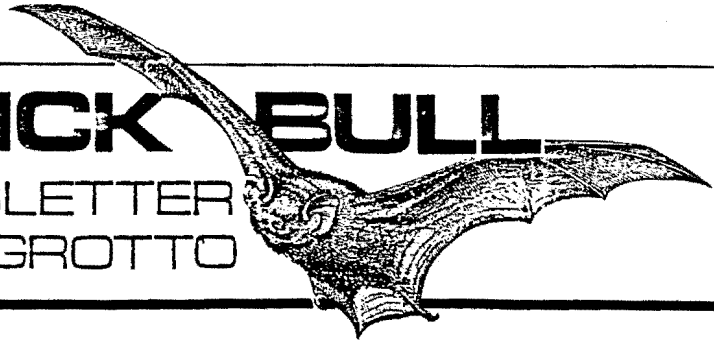


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# THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 4    NUMBER 7

JULY 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.

Chairman: Dale Ellison  
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Arlington, Texas 76017  
(h) 817-473-0463

Vice-Chairman: Danny Sherrod  
3 Cobo Drive  
Joshua, Texas 76058  
(h) 817-295-5167  
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(h) 817-451-3539

**CAVE RESCUE:** Call Collect 512-686-0234

### CALENDAR

Ongoing	Monthly work trip to Colorado Bend State Park. Weekend of the second Saturday of each month.
July 7-9	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
July 11	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
July 31-August 4	NSS Convention at Sewanee, Tennessee.
July 28	Last day to submit material for the August newsletter.
August 8	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
August 11-13	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
September 1	Last day to submit material for the September newsletter.
September 8-10	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
September 12	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
September ?	Texas Old Timer's Reunion.
September 28	Last day to submit material for the October newsletter.
October 3-7	National Cave Management Symposium, sponsored by TSA, TP&WD, and ACMA. To be held in New Braunfels, Texas.
October 10	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
October 13-15	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

### ON THE COVER

Our cover caver this month is Sherrie Richardson, on her first cave trip, at River Styx. She is shown here emerging from the 1963 entrance after five hours underground. I guess since this was her first caving experience, she didn't know that cavers are supposed to look dirty, slimy, and bedraggled. She had no right to look that fresh, clean, and cheerful!

LECHUGILLA CAVE UPDATE

On March 9, 1989 Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico introduced Senate Bill 558 to authorize a study on methods to protect and interpret the internationally significant Lechugilla Cave. The following is the text of that bill taken from the *Congressional Record*:

**S. 558**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That*

**Section 1.** This act shall be cited as the "Lechugilla Cave Study Act of 1989."

**Sec. 2.** The Congress finds that,

(a) Although the existence of Lechuguilla Cave has been known for over 75 years, recent explorations of Lechuguilla Cave have provided amazing new information about the cave that has captured the interest of cave enthusiasts from around the world;

(b) Lechuguilla Cave is the longest deep cave in the United States;

(c) Lechuguilla Cave, which is 1,501 feet deep, is the second deepest cave in the United States;

(d) At over 21 miles in length, Lechuguilla is the 13th longest cave in the United States;

(e) Lechuguilla Cave is filled with awe-inspiring gypsum deposits and formations, such as 15-mile-long gypsum crystal "chandeliers," delicate gypsum "flowers," gypsum threads as fine as angel's hair, cave pearls, gigantic "soda straws," and billowy cloud formations;

(f) the National Speleological Society has described Lechuguilla Cave as possibly the finest cave in America; and

(g) The exploration of Lechuguilla Cave has attracted international attention.

**Sec. 3.** (a) in recognition of the international significance of Lechuguilla Cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized as directed to conduct a study of the most appropriate way to protect and interpret Lechuguilla Cave. The study shall include but not be limited to an evaluation of the feasibility of constructing facilities to provide public access to the cave and an evaluation of the feasibility of designating the cave as wilderness.

(c) The study shall be completed and transmitted to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate within two years of the date on which funds are appropriated for the study.

**Sec. 4.** There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act."

A big push is being made locally (in Carlsbad) to encourage commercial development of the cave. Congress and the National Park Service need to hear the other side of this issue from cavers.

Be sure to send letters to your own Congressional delegation and ask them to speak to Senator Domenici. Letters to the National Park Service in Washington and Santa Fe, Manuel Lujan-Secretary of the Interior-and other influential folks can't hurt if you have the energy to write lots of letters.

Please write your letters immediately! Our wild caving future may well be at stake.

The addresses include:

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-NM Room SD-434 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-6621	Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-NM 502 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-5521
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Rep. Joe Skeen, R-NM 1007 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-2365	Rep. Bill Richardson, R-NM 332 Cannon House Office Bldg Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-6190
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The Hon. Manuel Lujan Jr. Secretary of the Interior Washington, D. C.	F. Dale Robertson, Chief U.S. Park Service P.O. Box 96090 Washington, D.C. 20090-6090
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Mayor's Task Force: Lechuguilla Cave  
City Hall  
Carlsbad, N.M. 88220

For added impact, please send copies of your letters to:

Your two senators and your representative:

Hon. _____ Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	Hon. _____ House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
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PLEASE HELP!

**CAVE-TOONS**



LONGHORN CAVERN CLEANUP PROJECT  
by Butch Fralia

April 1-2, 1989, some seventy-five cavers came from across the State (one from as far away as England) to participate in the Longhorn Cleanup Project, and what can I say, it was a complete success. As of this writing, cavers are still being recognized for their efforts.

Doug Allen, vice-chairman of the Texas Speleological Association (TSA) organized the project with consulting services and appropriate introductions made by those already known by the Park Service for their previous involvement in Park Projects. Unfortunately, the TSA hasn't completely been recognized as an organization by TPWD, they still rely on contact and recommendations from people they are used to working with and who have a proven performance record. Doug hadn't been involved in a project this large nor had he been involved with Park Projects so he had to prove himself as a worthy person capable of assuming the desired task. He accomplished this and set about to organize one of the best, most successful one time projects to date. Doug cannot receive enough honorable mention for the role he played in this project.

The fun began around the campfire Friday night and lasted into the wee hours of the morning. Old friends gathered to collect the latest news, participate in the camaraderie, take part in the project and even to party a little bit.

The real work began Saturday morning at the headquarters building with five state archeologists briefing cavers on what constitutes an archeological artifact. Anything over fifty years old or which appeared to be over fifty years old would have to be checked out and possibly left in place. Carl Ponebchek, just shuddered and hoped he wasn't included in that. Ronnie Waggoner, the park manager and lessee said that having cavers present for the project was the answer to a dream he'd had since the seventies. He had long wanted to get the various messes cleaned up but the resources just weren't available. We were welcomed and advised we'd have the cave all night Saturday night as reward for our efforts.

Groups began to form and those wishing to work underground lined up. It was a beautiful day to enjoy sun and nature, even if it did involve cleaning out a sinkhole so yours truly decided since the cave would be available all night, he would remain topside. Ah but this was not to be, Doug Allen approached and requested an underground appearance. Something about needing an older person underground. He could have said a more experience person was needed or a seasoned caver, but no.... we had to have an older person in the cave.

Soon it was all organized and the different groups headed for their assigned tasks. The older person, Don Denton, an Arab medical student named Shariff, escorted by a park employee/tour guide soon found themselves under ground. Quite near the main room in the cave where the speak easy once resided, the indian councils were once held and where more historical events than ever recorded took place was the sight of their part of the project. A high fissure was the home of civil defense rations placed there in nineteen sixty-two. Having been a high school student during the Cuban crisis and looking out the class room window over stacked sand bags, made it easier to

appreciate the presence of these articles, it was a crazy era. Survival crackers and carbohydrate suppliments, over a hundred cans of them, large cans weighing on the order of forty pounds apiece. The older person and Don climbed and began handing cans down to Shariff who assisted by the able tour guide began preparing them to be hoisted to the surface. A team was formed on the surface to manually haul the cans up via rope. Who says college students don't work, these University of Texas (UT Grotto) people assisted by "older" cavers hauled all day. Over a hundred trips down into the cave with the rope and back up with a can of crackers or carbohydrates.

This project lasted a time 'til suddenly all the cans and rotten cardboard boxes were out of the fissure waiting transportation to the surface. Shariff and the tour guide were busy tying these on the rope. During this whole period, tours were coming by and explanations were made about the Civil Defense Rations but not about the strange people standing around wearing kneepads, hardhats and carbide lamps. There was much staring on both sides. Don decided he wasn't needed to tie cans to the rope so he took the opportunity to check out some of the area side passages (mostly crawlways) for "garbage." The older person started hearing some tourist singing the Marlboro song and decided to see what was happening on the surface. He was curious about where the ration cans were being hauled up from.

The maintenance access was located about the time a large dump truck, slightly overloaded with trash came from somewhere farther back on the property. This indeed was to be a successful day if a truck that large was loaded already. The truck headed for the dump, one of six trips it would make that day.

Those pulling the ration cans out of the cave, had stopped long enough to open a can of crackers and a can of carbohydrate substitute. Believe it or not but after twenty-six years in the cave, they were still good. The crackers weren't much (but then they never were) but the carbohydrate substitute turned out to be quite edible candy. Hard lemon drops, and various other flavors were sampled and suddenly the rush was on, these delicacies had to be saved and everyone was scrambling for their own can to carry home. The candy will probably be eaten but all those crackers? White elephant gifts at this years christmas parties will be especially interesting. In a few more years they'll be antique survival rations.

Back into the cave with Doug Allen, leaving those on the surface to their noble efforts. The dynamic duo was immediately accosted by a tourist lady who wanted an explanation of why the rations and garbage were being removed. She complained that since they weren't in sight, they couldn't hurt anything. A quick explanation of the of the karst relationship to the water table quited her, she exclaimed "you mean these holes have some use for something else besides to walk around it?" While she was think this over, the cavers excaped leaving her to be tended by her frustrated tour guide. The tour guides later reported she upset the whole tour complaining about the cleanup. The only thing we could figure to explain her attitude was perhaps she thought the state was paying good money for our services when they could have been doing something more useful with it like building prisons.

Destination: Colorado Band State Park

Trip Date: March 10-12, 1989

Reported by: Butch Fralia  
Keith Heuse

Trip Leader: Butch Fralia

Paranell:	Bruce Anderson	Donne Anderson	Velma Beall
	Cathy Berkeley	Steve Brocker	Page Calloway
	Rob Donald	Butch Fralia	Jennifer Fralia
	Terry Free	Cleo Garcia	Keith Heuse
	Terry Holsinger	Lee Beth Looney	David Milhollin
	Mark Porter	Pam Porter	Andrew Roe
	Phillip Roe	Gene Seesom	Danny Sherrrod
	Quinta Wilkinson		

The weather was beautiful for a change and 22 cavers arrived for the March work trip ready for most anything as long as they could enjoy the sun. The schedule this weekend called for the "Made in Texas" video team to tape caving activities.

Keith Heuse met Cleo Garcia, program producer, and Rob Donald at Park headquarters in Austin Saturday morning. They left around 10:30 A.M. They caravanned to Colorado Band State Park by way of Lampasas. Keith spent the remainder of Friday giving the video crew a tour of the park. In addition to the cave related activities, they took a quick look at Spicewood Creek and the river front area. Friday evening the video crew went back to Lampasas for the night.

The morning began with a number of people waiting for the video team. While they were waiting, Park Superintendent, Jesse Tarin, arrived with Rob Dennison and Larry(?), asking for directions to Lemon's Ranch Cave (SAB 73). Rob and Larry, were present to check out various situations for a proposed cave rescue seminar to be held for TPWD personnel. Butch, Keith, Quinta, and Terry H., set out to show them the way. After locating the cave and a brief consultation, they returned to camp to learn the video crew had arrived and left, saying they'd meet the "subjects" at Horseshoe Chimney (SAB 182).

Mark and Pam Porter, Gene Seesom and Danny Sherrrod, left for a ridgewalking expedition to locate Danny's infamous "Carliabad Connection." They parked at Superintendent Tarin's house and walked directly east on top of the ridge line. Approximately 75 yards east of the house a small fissure was observed. Modification of the entrance would likely result in a small cave.

They continued east until reaching the end of the hill where a bluff dropped off to the east. They then proceeded north where several small fissures were located but all were too small to enter. Continuing north along a small trail, they found several more fissures which they entered. One was fairly large and deep.

These caves had very good flow stone and draperies without damage. These are some of the best formations to be found on the park. Due to the very good airflow and large number of fissures in the area, it could be possible to locate a large cave in the area.

Bruce and Donne Anderson, Steve Brocker, Butch and Jennifer Fralia, Keith Heuse, Terry Holsinger, Lee Beth Looney, Andrew and Phillip Roe, and Quinta Wilkinson, met Cleo Garcia and Rob Donald at Horseshoe Chimney to tape the cave cleanup. Superintendent Tarin had located the park trash truck near the cave to collect the trash. With all being set, Cleo and Rob took some area shots while the cavers rigged the cave for vertical descent. Ropes were rigged for climbing as well as hauling five gallon buckets of garbage from the cave.

Donna Anderson descended first soon followed by Keith and Butch. These descents were drug out for the 23' pit for benefit of the camera. Cleo lowered herself and the camera into the cave to view cavers on the way down. Several buckets of trash were loaded for the benefit of the camera again back on the surface then Cleo, the camera and lighting equipment were lowered to the bottom of the pit. Various scenes and interviews were shot in the cave with 200 gallons of garbage, three large tires and a load of wood removed from the cave.

Donna was working in the down stream area of the cave removing trash bags and a truck tire which block passage. Under the observation of the camera, she cleared the obstruction and was able to drop down into the passage which immediately turned into bedding plane crawl about 10 feet wide. The passage extended for about thirty feet before being blocked again by trash bags. These bags are wedged in an area where it may be nearly impossible to work at removing them. This is unfortunate because in addition having potential passage closed off, this passage is in a main water flow area of the cave. The trash certainly must contribute to the local water quality problems.

After a great deal of the day, a number of batteries and video tapes had been expended, the arduous task of extricating people and equipment from the cave began. On the surface interviews with Terry, Keith and Butch finished off the afternoon. There wasn't a great deal accomplished at the cleanup site other than

video taping but the time lost should be greatly made up for by the public education effort. All in all, it was time well spent.

While the surface interviews were being held, Andrew, Bruce, Donne and Phillip were joined by Mark Porter who'd returned from the ridge walk for a quick exploration foray into Gorman Creek Crevice. They explored the entrance area where there are several small leads which 4'10" Donna may be the only one who can push to any extent.

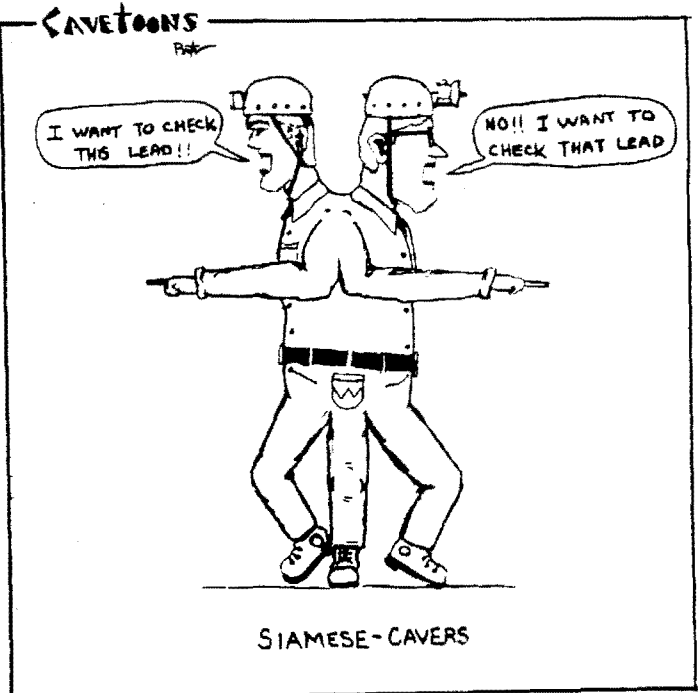
During the evening at perhaps 11:30 P.M. Velma Beall, Cathy Berkeley, Page Calloway, Terry Free, Terry Holsinger, and Dave Milhollin decided for a trip to Lemon's Ranch Cave to attempt exploration of various leads reported to remain there. Some of these people had arrived during the day and not made contact with other cavers until later in the afternoon. They organized this trip in an attempt to catch up with the others. On this trip they went to the infamous drop at the back of Lemon's where the leads are supposed to be and attempted entry by various methods. None of the leads produced any passage of note. They spent about three hours in this endeavor.

Sunday Morning and once again it was show time. Butch, Keith, Terry and Quinta staged an overland survey from a benchmark established near the caver's campsite to a pit called Road's End Sink. This cave is somewhat in the area of Blue Ribbon Pit (SAB 184) and has never been entered because of cactus growing in the entrance. It will likely be a shallow pit without much in the way of horizontal extent. The original intent was to survey to Dove Cava which was slightly farther but in the interest of time, they cut the survey short. The Video Crew was scheduled to tape Gorman Cave and Superintendent Tarin was waiting to take them there (on his day off).

Donna Anderson, Gene Seesom and Danny Sherrrod teamed up to explore SAB 211 which they didn't realize had been fully explored but not surveyed the month before. In the process of exploring this cave, they located the infamous missing "Danny's Carliabad Connection." It's located approximately 100 feet from SAB 211. It has a large horizontal entrance which enters into a large room. The room drops down into a crawl which is quickly choked off with dirt. The crawlway was headed generically in the direction of SAB 211 which has a long crawl leading in the direction of this cave which also chokes off. Perhaps later surveys will indicate these caves could be connected by a small amount of digging.

The remaining cavers not mentioned above spent the day ridge walking and exploring various pits in the area.

Sunday Keith had the opportunity to take Jesse to two caves near his house. Big Bad Air Hole and Little Bad Air Hole are located in a shallow draw just north of Jesse's house. Keith climbed down to the first level in Big Bad Air. This level is ledge about 7 feet below the surface. A tree grows from this level and extends well above ground level and nearly fills the entrance of the cave. The pit leading to the lower level of the cave was full of water to within about 8 feet of the level Keith was standing. The water was not flowing.



The editors of the Maverick Bull were on vacation in June and missed the last meeting. Butch Fralia graciously consented to fill in as secretary, but as of this writing we haven't received the completed minutes for publication. So plan on minutes for both the June and July meetings next month.

While en route to Yellowstone last month, the editors made a stop in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We had planned to take the once-a-day spelunking tour of Wind Cave. It's an off-trail tour complete with hard hats and carbide lights, but unfortunately, we discovered that it was limited to those 14 and over. Our ten-year-old son Ryan was really indignant. He had really looked forward to some real caving after his first caving trip to Turner Falls last month. As it was, we had to settle for the ordinary commercial tour.

Speaking of Wind Cave: watch next month for a special article by Woodrow Thomas on wind and air flow in caves. It arrived too late for publication this month. But we may just about devote all of next month's issue to it.

There has been no new survey added to Crump's Cave since the December trips. The heavy rains during the first part of this year caused unusually high water levels in the cave. Long sections of normally dry trunk passage were inundated. Flowing water was heard in other areas beneath breakdown rooms, indicating previously unknown water routes.

Several excursions into the cave have taken place during the past few months. These included a "sight-seeing" trip by a visiting grotto and a cleanup/photo trip by local cavers. The owner maintains his request that all visits be co-ordinated through the Green River Grotto in Bowling Green.

David Doyle reports that an 1803 date with legible names has been discovered in the area of the cave with historic graffiti. This predates the oldest signatures found there so far, and if confirmed will be older than any in Mammoth Cave. He intends to research the county records for verification.

Also, David Doyle and Jim Smith have begun a technical climb up a 40 foot high vertical shaft with what appears to be going passage at the top. They climbed 20 feet on their first trip and efforts continue.

An updated map of Crump's Cave is forthcoming.

#### 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.