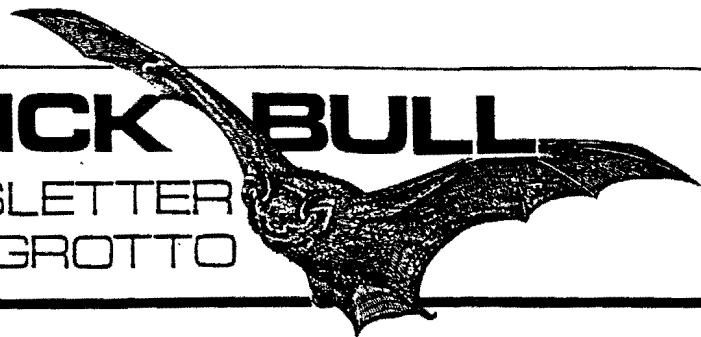


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 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 copyright belongs 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

Ongoing	Monthly work trip to Colorado Bend State Park. Weekend of the second Saturday of each month.
October 3-7	National Cave Management Symposium, sponsored by TSA, TP&WD, and ACMA. To be held in New Braunfels, Texas.
October 6-8	Maverick Grotto Anniversary Party at M&W Ranch near Glen Rose. Bring all your own food and drink.
October 10	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
October 13-15	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
October 14	Cave Research Foundation survey trip to Fitton Cave in Arkansas. Contact Terry Holzinger for details.
October 27-29	TSA sponsored survey trip to Powell's Cave, the second longest cave in Texas. Details at the grotto meeting.
November 1	Last day to submit material for the November newsletter.
November 10-12	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
November 14	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
November 23-26	Thanksgiving Weekend trip to the Guads in New Mexico.
December 8-10	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
December 12	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
December 26-30	MEXPELEO 89 in Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosi, Mexico The 1st major international caving convention in Mexico

ON THE COVER

Our Cover Cover this month is Bruce Anderson. In this photo by his wife, Donna, Bruce is shown doing contortions to somehow pass through the entrance squeeze at Hick's Cave (or Wind Cave) on Wind Hill south of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Maverick Grotto met on Tuesday, 12 September 1989. Among those present was a first-time visitor, Jimmy Thomas. Jimmy will be a very welcome addition to the grotto, as he is a geologist.

Discussion was held on plans for our annual anniversary party. It was decided to go again to the M&W Ranch outside of Glen Rose, over the weekend of 7-8 October. Planning, organization (and work!) are being kept to a minimum, so bring all your own food and favorite beverages. We will not be having a communal dinner this year. ~~We will be having lots of fun.~~

The following weekend, 13-15 October, will be the monthly trip to Colorado Bend State Park. Over the hot summer months, attendance dwindled, but hopefully with cooler temperatures returning, more cavers will show up through the fall and winter. Butch Fralia reported that only three cavers showed up in August, from the entire state! November and December trips will continue as usual, but in January, the cavers will move across the Colorado River to an as-yet-unexplored region of the park.

Also on 14 October, Terry Holsinger announced a Cave Research Foundation survey trip to Fitton Cave in Arkansas. Contact Terry if you're interested. His number is (817) 595-1406.

On 28-29 October will be the second big survey trip to Powell's Cave near Menard, Texas. Details on this trip are on the back page of the newsletter.

There were also preliminary announcements about an upcoming trip to the Guads (possibly to Three-Mile Hill) over the Thanksgiving weekend. We'll hear more about that next month.

Announcements were also made about the Texas Old-Timers Reunion at the end of September.

Al Rehfeldt said he was still planning to pursue the possibility of asking commercial equipment companies for donations in order to hold a raffle or treasure hunt as a grotto fund-raiser. But he has not made any progress as yet.

Russell Hill announced that the library is growing. He received several nice new donations during the past month.

Dale Ellison reported that it's almost time to elect new officers for 1990. Nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary/Editor will be made at the October meeting. Then the actual election will be held in November. Have your nominations ready this month.

The Program for the October meeting will be on cave photography. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite cave photos. We will pass them around, sharing memories, and hopefully sharing a few techniques on cave photography. It should be fun.

There is preliminary planning underway to hold a National Cave Rescue seminar sometime in 1990 here in Texas. Most probable site is Colorado Bend State Park, for the mock-rescue sessions, with classroom lectures and presentation in the town of San Saba. Rod Dennison, the EMS Administrator of the Texas Health Department will be one of those coordinating this seminar.

TRIP REPORTS: Wichita Mountains: Russell Hill told about his recent trip to these granite mountains in SW Oklahoma. It's an excellent site for rock climbing and vertical practice, and there are even some granite fracture caves and rock shelters to explore.

Hamilton Ranch: Dennis Thompson, Dale Ellison, Corky Corcoran and Mark Porter recently received permission to ridgewalk this ranch adjacent to the Sparks Ranch in Oklahoma. They found a pit which takes on a lot of water, but which was rather tight for much exploration. There is a lot of potential on the property.

Missouri: Eight Maverick Grotto members went to the Missouri Ozarks over Labor Day. Their reports are found on the next page of the newsletter.

Lechugilla Cave: Danny and Jane Sherrod joined the Labor Day survey trip to Lechugilla over the Labor Day weekend. Hopefully we will have a written report from them next month.

Colorado Bend State Park: Over the summer, Keith Heuss, Terry Holsinger and Butch Fralia explored a new area in the pasture near the park superintendent's house. They were rewarded with the discovery of 5 new caves in that single pasture.

The business meeting adjourned. After a few minutes of visiting, the group settled down for a slide show on the karst geology field trip that Danny Sherrod participated in to central Mexico.

TEXAS OLD TIMERS REUNION

By David Finrock

The annual congregation and inebriation of cavers past and present, from all over Texas, took place over the weekend of 29 September - 1 October. The gathering took place along the banks (and sometimes in) the Blanco River, east of Wimberley, Texas.

A number of Maverick Grotto members showed up including: Pooch Amy & Teresa White, Bruce & Donna Anderson, Diane & Stephanie Andrews, Clay Chambers, George & Kay Crosby, David & Shari Finrock, Butch Fralia, Keith Heuss, David McClung, Al Rehfeldt, and Quinta Wilkinson. There may have been others, but that's all I can remember. A good showing for our grotto.

Butch put in 3 hours at the registration table Saturday morning; longer than he expected, because his relief didn't show up.

Diane and Al set up shop with their diving gear as one of the many vendors at the convention.

But most of us were there just to have fun and to renew old acquaintances. I personally got to see two old caving buddies from my college days whom I hadn't seen in 14 years. John and Alicia Gale have changed! They are even parents now, with two little cavers tagging along. At 6 and 2, Brannon and Morgan must be two of the youngest members of the NSS.

We all gathered for the barbecue spread Saturday evening. There was turkey, chicken, sausage, rabbit, pork chops, briskit, even a whole roast pig! No one went away hungry.

And of course, there were the awards presented for winners and placers in the Speleolympics Obstacle Course (Donna Anderson and David Finrock both won T-shirts!), the rope climbing contest, and the sleeping bag contest.

After the meetings and slide show on the site of the 1990 NSS Convention in California, there was even a wet-T-shirt contest. And then, after suitable mass quantities of liquid refreshment, many of the 350-odd (and I do mean odd!) cavers there, retired to the justly-famous caver hot-tub and sauna. After dark, inhibitions disappeared, and so did most of the clothes!

Everyone there had a great time, and looks forward eagerly to the 1990 TOTR.

LABOR DAY TRIP TO MISSOURI

The following two trip reports describe a Labor Day weekend trip to Missouri. The first part, authored and illustrated by Pooch Amy describes events of September 2nd and 3rd in Wright and Pulaski counties. Bruce Anderson continues, then, with a report on activities of September 4th in Crawford County.

Date: 2-3 September 1989
 Personnel: Bruce & Donna Anderson, David & Shari Finfrock, Pooch Amy & Teresa White, Dale Ellison & Arlene Heintz

we arrived somewhere around 0-Dark:thirty on Saturday morning. Bruce, Dona, and Dale had waken, cooked and eaten Breakfast and were dressing in cave attire by the time we (Teresa, Shari, David and myself) had stepped out of the Van. The local roosters were still sleeping, so we joined them, while Bruce, Dona, and Dale visited "Little Smittle". when I awoke it looked like we were about to be swallowed by Mother Earth! we had set up camp next to "smittle cave" entrance, about spitting distance, and this was no Texas cave! About the size of a Blimp Hangar! Arlene had arrived by now and coming down the road were the three cavers that had left us earlier. The rest of us jumped in our gear and all of us headed for "smittle."



Smittle cave, the largest and muddiest should be much cleaner now that we brought half of clay out of the cave, on our clothes. The clay was very comparable to New Mexico's "wind cave" and 6 hours after caving smittle, we were very comparable to the clay figurines in wind cave. The rest of Saturday was spent washing mud off mud that was on the mud on our clothes.

Sunday was spent cave hopping. Berry cave is definitely worth visiting, it looked like a warehouse for Carlstad Caverns' formations. Skaggs cave is one I plan to return to. There were incredible formations, a maze of walking, crawling and climbing passages that we could have followed for hours, except that the two day old Missouri clay was begining crack in our underwear. We took time Sunday evening to take tag team showers at a local truck stop.

Date: September 4, 1989

Reported by: Bruce Anderson

Personnel: Bruce & Donna Anderson, Dale Ellison, Arlene Heintz, and Todd Heintz

This report is a continuation of the report of the Labor Day, Missouri trip.

We arose Monday morning and gazed at the entrance to Smittle Cave and started preparing breakfast. The Finfrocks and Amys were busy packing and preparing to depart. Dale, Donna, and I were busy getting ready for our last day of caving.

A ranger suddenly appeared from the Missouri Conservation Department and wanted to see our permit for Smittle Cave. It seems the permit was with Arlene and she had not arrived yet from her parents' house. It was an interesting thirty minutes convincing Mr. Ranger that in fact we did belong there. Finally Arlene and her brother Todd arrived and she produced our permit. The Finfrocks and Amys departed for home and we departed for Onondaga Cave and Lone Hill Onyx Cave.

After a two hour drive, we were at McDonalds so pictures could be taken of a Big Mac going through a cave. (See Donna or Dale for a complete explanation.) We then went on a commercial tour of Onondaga Cave. This was well worth our while as the cave has many formations and beautiful flowstone and a large chamber room.

We then set off to do Lone Hill Onyx Cave. After about a 1/2 mile hike, we came to the entrance. The start of the cave was a nearly dry water passage. The passage opened up and we came to a fork. Dale decided to follow the water passage which was hands and knees and stoop walking. After about 1,500 feet and everyone starting to talk about Dale, he decided we had gone down the wrong fork. We then back-tracked and took the other fork.

We were now in walking passage that was becoming larger. Suddenly we were walking along a huge borehole. After about 800 feet of borehole, we came to a chamber of highly decorated formations. The ceiling was a mass of soda straws and helectites. There were flowstones and curtains. I observed several bats which appeared to have babies and there was a large roost of bats in one area of the room. We then decided to leave and on the way out we explored a side passage and found two more flowstones. After playing around in this area, it was time to exit. I felt that this was my favorite cave of the trip.

On the way back to camp, we stopped for a light snack of cherry trifle (see Donna) and then back to camp. Arlene then departed for her parents forgetting to go back into Smittle Cave to see the Emerald room. I barbecued some ribs and as we smacked our lips we decided "It doesn't get any better than this" yea buddy!

The next day we arose to pack and head home. We all decided that we had caved enough as the pains and bruises were there.

The following article was taken from the Friday 8 September 1989 edition of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Later information indicates that the bats roosting in the Blackstone Hotel were probably sprayed by pesticides.

Bats decided not to hang around

BY JULIE GILBERTO
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Just as mysteriously as the bats appeared, they disappeared.

Hundreds of the winged mammals soared overhead, hung from eaves and crawled over downtown sidewalks Wednesday afternoon. Many were sick and dying. Some were already dead.

Yesterday morning they were gone, and officials from Fort Worth Animal Control, the Humane Society, the Fort Worth Zoo and a host of other city offices were left pondering the riddle.

Where did they come from? And where did they go?

Charlie Duvall, supervisor of the

street crew for Downtown Fort Worth Inc., said one of his workers, routinely cleaning downtown sidewalks for the consortium of businesses, just swept them up with the usual litter.

No big deal. In fact, the worker mentioned it to Duvall only in passing.

"He just does it and doesn't think anything about it," Duvall said. "It's pretty much an everyday occurrence, but usually it's not as many."

Yes, everyday occurrence.

"We don't usually count them," Duvall said, offering an answer to at least part of the bat puzzle.

This swarm, Duvall theorizes, came from the old, vacant Blackstone Hotel

on Main Street and the parking garage across the street.

"The hotel is infested with them," Duvall said. "There must have been someone in the building who left an exit open. I don't have the guts to go in that building."

In the daylight, they probably fly into walls, hit their heads and then fall to the ground, paralyzed, he said.

The Humane Society also has come up with another possible explanation: The bats were migrating and happened to stop in downtown Fort Worth. But they have not ruled out the possibility of heatstroke or pesticides, said Jeff Derosa, supervisor in the Humane Society shelter.

CRUMP'S CAVE SURVEY PROJECT

By Woodrow Thomas

Here is the updated map of Crump's Cave. As you can see, the cave consists of an initial section of several thousand feet of large trunk passage. Then after the Lake Room the passage becomes mostly stoopwalking, until it breaks out into the last quarter of the cave. This section is large and somewhat muddy with quite a few pits. The longest side passage (the "C" survey) is accessed through a hole in the floor here. The deepest point in the cave, 78 feet below the entrance, is located in the downstream "C" survey. The other side passage, the "D" survey (or the Dungeon) is hidden by a tall pile of breakdown in the trunk just before the Lake Room. Both of these side passages are extremely muddy and flood to the ceiling. In fact the water backs up out of these lower levels into the main passage in several places during wet weather.

We are interested in pushing Crump's Cave because it lies in the headwaters of a large sub-surface drainage basin which has its resurgence 15 miles to the south. Theoretically, much cave passage awaits discovery if one can follow the water flow in the cave. So far we have been unsuccessful in our attempts to do so.

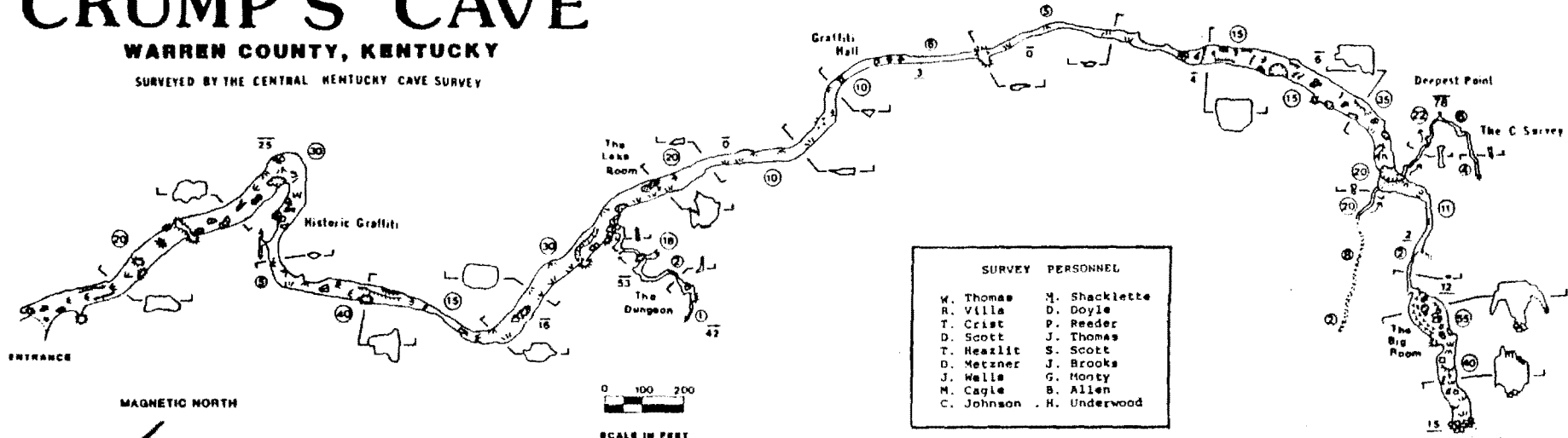
Attention has been turned now to a new section of passages discovered on July 25 by David Doyle and Randy Villa. They surveyed around 100 feet in a small canyon at the top of a 62 foot dome which was climbed by Jim Smith and David Doyle. There are two going passages left; one of which is moving air. Their discovery is at the dome pit just past the Historic Graffiti near the 40 foot ceiling note.

Plans are being made for trips into Crump's Cave in late August to survey the new discoveries and to verify and document possible evidence of Indian habitation.

CRUMP'S CAVE

WARREN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

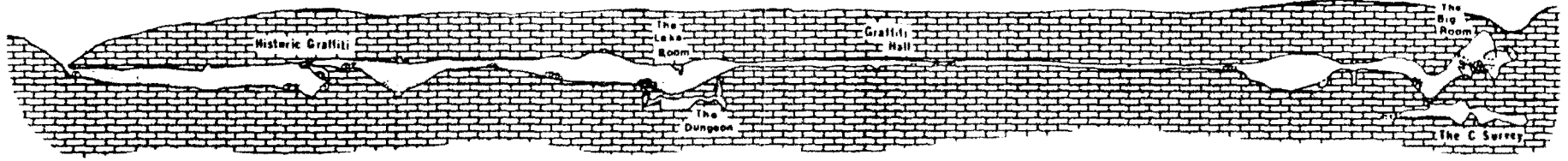
SURVEYED BY THE CENTRAL KENTUCKY CAVE SURVEY



SURVEY PERSONNEL

W. Thomas	M. Shacklette
R. Villa	D. Doyle
T. Crist	P. Reader
D. Scott	J. Thomas
T. Hearlit	S. Scott
D. Metzner	J. Brooks
J. Wallis	G. Monty
M. Cagle	B. Allen
C. Johnson	H. Underwood

CROSS SECTIONS ARE TWICE SCALE



320° PROFILE VIEW
VERTICAL SCALE 2X

Total Horizontal Cave= 6737 feet

JULY, 1989

Data reduction and computer plotting by Dave Scott.
Cartography by Woodrow Thomas.
Project co-ordinators-David Doyle and Woodrow Thomas.

SPIDERS

(The following article, by Dale Ellison, was gleaned from information provided by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. of the Texas A&M University System)

Most spiders are small, inconspicuous and harmless to humans. Only two groups, the recluse spiders and widow spiders, are considered dangerous to people.

Many people have a phobia of spiders. Tarantulas, jumping spiders, and wolf spiders are frequently mistaken for poisonous species. These species are often large, hairy, and formidable-looking, but their bite is less harmful than a bee sting. Some people, however, are extremely allergic to spider venom, and react severely to any spider bite.

The brown recluse spider, *Loxosceles reclusa* Gertsch, inhabits many southern and midwestern states, including Texas. It often lives around human dwellings.

The brown recluse is a non-aggressive spider that spins white or grayish, non-descript webs. Its body and legs together cover about the same area as a quarter. The coloring varies from an orange-yellow to dark brown or almost black.

The most distinguishing characteristics are the eyes and back markings. It has three pairs of eyes arranged in a semi-circle. The eyes also form the base of a violin-shaped marking on the back.

The effects of a brown recluse spider bite may be immediate, or delayed, depending upon the amount of venom injected and the victim's sensitivity. Usually, the bite causes a stinging sensation and then intense pain. Within 24 to 36 hours, a systemic reaction may occur, characterized by fever, restlessness, chills, nausea, weakness and joint pain. The bite also produces a small blister surrounded by a large congested and swollen area. The venom usually kills the affected tissue, which gradually sloughs off and exposes underlying tissues. The edges around the wound thicken, while the exposed center fills with dense scar tissue. Healing may take 6 to 8 weeks, leaving scars of various sizes.

The black widow spider, *Latrodectus mactans* (Fabr.) and its relatives are present across the entire U.S. This spider is found outdoors in all kinds of protected cavities. Around houses, it lives in garages, cellars, gas and electric meters, and in many other unbothered places.

Like most spiders, the black widow is shy and retiring. People are bitten occasionally when they accidentally disturb a hidden spider or its rather coarse, irregular, tangled web.

Females are usually jet-black. The lower side of their rounded abdomen is marked by two reddish triangles resembling an hourglass in shape. In some individuals, the markings may be irregular, spotlike, or even absent. The widow's overall length averages about 1.5 inches.

A black widow bite feels like a pin prick, and sometimes is not even felt. Usually a slight local swelling and two red spots surrounded by local redness, indicate the location of the bite. Pain becomes intense in 1 to 3 hours and may continue up to 48 hours. Symptoms include abdominal pains, rising blood pressure, nausea, profuse sweating, leg cramps, tremors, loss of muscle tone, and vomiting. The toxin also causes breathing difficulties and sometimes unconsciousness.

FIRST AID

Relieve local swelling and pain by applying an ice pack or alcohol directly to the bitten area. Other forms of local first aid are considered ineffective and unnecessary.

In case of severe reaction, consult a physician immediately and if possible, take along the biting spider (or its mug shots) for positive identification of the species. Specific antivenom is available for black widow treatment.

MEXPELEO 89

Second circular

Mexpeleo 89 will take place at La Covadonga, located 10 kilometers south of Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosí, México, over the period 26-30 December. This event will be an international gathering of cavers, and will feature caving trips, slide presentations, and workshops on techniques and sciences. The area around Valles is full of caves to visit, waterfalls, ancient pyramids, and other attractions.



Registration- There will be a moderate registration fee (to be announced) payable on arrival that will cover the cost of camping and the banquet to be held on the final night.

Accommodations- There may be a limited number of rooms available at the convention site itself. There are also two fine hotels in Valles, the Hotel Taninul (phone 2-44-14) and the Hotel Valles (2-00-50). Reservations for the Christmas season are best made a month in advance.

Mapping Projects- Several caving projects are planned during Mexpeleo. Bill Farr (phone 818 357-6927) will be leading the survey of Sótano del Tigre, and Don Broussard (512 847-2895) will be doing the same for Sótano del Venadito. Both of these are multiple-drop water caves located near Ciudad Valles. Other field trips may be announced as per demand.

Workshops- Special interest workshops are being planned to cover various aspects of caving. Workshops confirmed thus far include:

Vertical Techniques- Contact José Montiel, tel. 757-7676 (DF)

Cave Biology- Conducted by José Palacios

Archeology/Paleontology- Contact Joaquín Arroyo (806)-763-9025

Homemade Equipment- Contact John Pint 13-9443 (Guadalajara)

Workshops will take place in the afternoons before dinner time. More workshops may be added. Contact the chairmen listed for details.

Slide presentations- Expedition slide shows on different caving projects in México will be held each evening. Cavers wishing to give presentations should plan on presenting approximately 20 minutes worth of slides.

Equipment swap- Caving gear is difficult to get in México, so bring your old equipment to help out Mexican cavers!

Closing Banquet- A final night banquet dinner will be held on Saturday night, followed by a special multi-media slide show.

For more information on Mexpeleo 89, contact a representative of one of the following group sponsors:

Union Mexicana de Agrupaciones Espeleológicas- José Montiel, 757-7676
Soc. Mexicana de Exploraciones Subterráneas- Ramón Espinasa, 251-2986
Aso. Potosino de Montañismo y Espeleología- Javier Zermeno, 481-834-43
Association for Mexican Cave Studies- Peter Sprouse (512) 467-2283