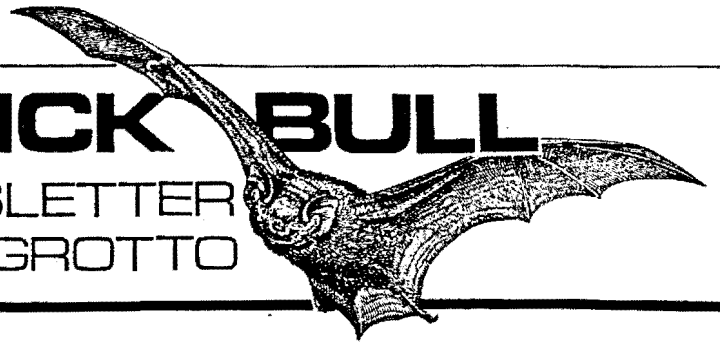

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 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

Ongoing	Monthly work trip to Colorado Bend State Park. Weekend of the second Saturday of each month.
November 10-12	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
November 11-12	Vertical Practice Session at Mineral Wells State Park. See Ernest Parker.
November 14	Maverick Grotto Meeting ---includes election of officers for 1990.
November 18-19	Part Two of Vertical Practice Session at Mineral Wells.
November 23-26	Thanksgiving Weekend trip to the Guads in New Mexico. See Bruce & Donna Anderson.
November 23-26	Thanksgiving Weekend trip to San Luis Potosi, Mexico, including Golandrinas. See Terry Holsinger.
December 1-3	Trip to Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in Southwest Oklahoma. See Russell Hill.
December 1-3	Cave Research Foundation trip to Fitton Cave, Arkansas. See Terry Holsinger.
December 8-10	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.
December 12	Maverick Grotto Meeting.
December ?	Maverick Grotto Christmas Party
December 26-30	MEXPELEO 89 in Ciudad Valles, San Luis Potosi, Mexico The 1st major international caving convention in Mexico
January 9	Maverick Grotto Meeting
January 12-14	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip.

ON THE COVER

This month's cover photo was taken by Arlene Heintz on the Labor Day trip to Missouri. It shows David Finfrock exiting Berry Cave, in Pulaski County.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

The Maverick Grotto met on Tuesday, 10 October 1989 for its regular monthly meeting. Among those present were first-time visitors Billy Stone and Jason Sherburn.

Also visiting was Ernest Parker who invited grotto members to take part in a workshop to learn and practice vertical rope techniques. An article in this newsletter gives details on the training session.

Nominations were made for officers for 1990. More information on the November election in this newsletter.

Several grotto members reported on their experiences at the Texas Old Timers Reunion. David & Shari Finfrock and Pooch Amy & Teresa White also reported on their trip through the granite cave atop Enchanted Rock, on Sunday afternoon after the TOTR.

Al Rehfeldt said that the raffle or treasure hunt may occur in conjunction with the December Christmas Party.

Russell Hill told briefly (there wasn't much to tell) about the Third Annual Grotto Anniversary Party on the banks of the Brazos at the M&W Ranch. There wasn't much to tell because only 4 people showed up. That was largely due to a slip-up on the part of your editors. We were supposed to send out an additional mailing about the party last month, but we forgot and most members of the grotto never knew about the party. Maybe we'll have a make-up party in the spring. One notable event did occur at the party, however. Butch Fralia drove under a low-hanging tree branch. Now he has the only convertible motor home known to the caving world! Our condolences.

Upcoming trips to Fitton Cave, Powell's Cave, and the big trip to Great Britain were discussed.

Over Thanksgiving weekend, Bruce & Donna Anderson and others are considering a trip to the Guads in New Mexico. Three-Mile Hill is a possibility.

Also over Thanksgiving, the San Antonio Grotto is planning a trip to San Luis Potosi in Mexico. One of their destinations is Sotano de Las Golondrinas, the deepest sheer drop in the Western Hemisphere. Terry Holsinger has details if you want to go along. (817) 595-1406

On 1-3 December 1989, Russell Hill is leading a trip to the Wichita Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Oklahoma. There will be hiking, climbing, rappelling, and even exploration of some small talus caves on the flanks of Elk Mountain. Call Russell at (817) 523-7108 or 834-5229 if you're interested.

Also on 1-3 December 1989, is another Cave Research Foundation trip to Fitton Cave in Arkansas. Terry Holsinger again has details.

Over the Christmas holidays, Al Rehfeldt and Diane Andrews are planning a diving trip to the Cocinas Grandes, some of the Bay islands off the coast of Honduras. Opportunities for caving exist, along with some excellent diving.

The business meeting then adjourned. The program consisted of sharing cave photographs taken over the years. A number of people produced some great collections of pictures. But Terry Holsinger stole the show with his portfolio of truly excellent photographs; not only did he take the pictures, he did the darkroom work and enlargements himself. And everyone was impressed with Terry's creative touch. On some pictures he used infrared film. On others he used imaginative darkroom techniques, including some prints in blueprint blue! Quite an impressive showing.

VERTICAL PRACTICE SESSION

On the two middle weekends of November, Ernest Parker is going to be offering an intensive course in vertical rope work. It will include four methods of rappelling, three methods of rope climbing, four methods of belaying, plus equipment construction and care, self-rescue, and basic partner rescue from a line. Problem-solving and safety are stressed. There will be approximately six hours of classroom instruction; the rest of the course will be hands-on instruction.

The classroom portion will be held at the National Guard Armory in Mineral Wells. (Go past the first traffic light in town and watch for the armory near the golf course; if you get to a second traffic light you have gone too far.)

The hands-on training will take place at Mineral Wells State Park. And the entire course will take place, rain or shine, with lightning the only exception. The entire course is 32 hours long; 8 hours each on November 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th. Plan on a picnic lunch each day. Class will start at 8:30 AM each morning. It would be appreciated if you could come at 8 AM to help set up.

The course is free, although there may be a small charge to pay for hand-outs. And of course, there is a \$2.00 fee per car to get into Mineral Wells State Park.

Each student MUST have: a helmet, leather gloves (no welding or farmers fencing gloves: too tight), cleated shoes or boots, a seat harness or 25 feet of 2-inch tubular webbing, and about six feet or so of inexpensive rope for knot-tying practice. If you have any ascenders, carabiners, or other vertical gear, please bring it.

Ernest needs an accurate head count, so please call him if you plan to attend. (817) 447-8344 (before 2:30 PM or after 8:30 PM.)

The following article is copied from the 18 October 1989 issue of The OZOTL Caver, the monthly newsletter of the D/FW Grotto.

National Cave Management Symposium

by Jay Jorden

Destination: More than a dozen caves, including Hills and Dales Pit, Genesis Cave, Wurzbach Bat Cave, Bexar County; Honey Creek Cave, Comal and Kendall counties; Natural Bridge Caverns and Bracken Bat Cave, Comal Co.; Ezell's Cave, Hays County; San Marcos Springs; Goat Cave Preserve, including Wade Sink, Hideout Cave, Goat and Maple Run caves and Hammett's Cave on Westcave Preserve, Travis Co.

Personnel: About 50 cavers, government agency representatives and cave conservationists from around the U.S.

Dates: October 4-7, 1989

Vandalism at a Texas park containing prehistoric cave art prompted state officials to install surveillance devices in an attempt to catch trespassers along the Pecos River, scientists told a symposium.

The surveillance devices, installed at six shelter caves containing significant American Indian art, help protect the paintings and other artifacts from vandalism, Barry L. Bennett of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said on Oct. 7.

"Given the remote nature of the shelters and the rock art, we were concerned about vandalism," Bennett of Austin told the National Cave Management Symposium. "Some people are specifically searching out this rock art."

He said that graffiti discovered at Seminole Canyon State Historical Park, northwest of Del Rio near the Texas-Mexico border, prompted the installation of infrared and magnetic sensors in 1985.

"People were coming by and some were throwing their beer cans and pitching pop bottles," he said. "Because of the rock art and its value in preserved condition, they did not want anyone defacing the walls with graffiti."

Bennett said he was uncertain how many prosecutions resulted, but the security system alerts the park superintendent and his staff when anyone approaches the cave art, some of which was drawn about 12,000 years ago.

"The sensors have been working quite effectively," he said, adding they also protect spear points, pottery and other artifacts at the park.

Bennett was one of more than a dozen speakers to address the four-day symposium on problems and solutions in managing caves and their contents on government and private lands.

The state park system, totaling 434,000 acres in 129 units, contains dozens of caves, and Texas Parks and Wildlife

Department, (TPWD), officials are working with cave explorers to develop management plans, said Michael W. Herring, the department chief of Parks Special Services in Austin.

The TPWD and the New Braunfels based Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA), co-hosted the symposium. The symposium included field trips to San Antonio and Austin area caves and educational facilities including the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center, located on the campus of Southwest Texas State University.

About fifty representatives from the Nature Conservancy and government including the National Park Service, United States Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, and the United States Forest Service, as well as local cavers, attended the conference.

As millions of Mexican free-tailed bats exited from Bracken Bat Cave, Rex Wahl, of the TPWD, commented that the creatures had been declining in population, especially in Arizona and other Southwestern states. The Austin based Bat Conservation International, (BCI), estimates the cave's population of free-taileds at 35 million - one of the largest in the world. BCI, together with the NSS, have been working to save bats, which eat harmful insects and pollinate many species of plants.

The importance of two San Antonio area caves was discussed. George Veni, of the Texas Speleological Association, (TSA), reported that Genesis and Hills-and-Dales caves are important in replenishing the Edwards Aquifer with water. The nation's ninth largest city, San Antonio, relies mainly on the layer of cavernous limestone to supply water to more than 1 million residents.

But TCMA officials said urban development has destroyed more than 50 caves and other karst features that replenish the aquifer over the last 50 years.

George Veni went on to say that in Bexar County, where the San Antonio metropolitan area is located, occupies approximately 10% of the recharge zone, and that more than 50% of the county is urbanized.

"There is an easy solution to the problem, but that solution is not even considered by the government", said Veni at the start of the symposium. "That is to stay off the recharge zones. To develop there is to jeopardize the water and growth of the city of San Antonio".



ICE CAVES

(This article was taken as an excerpt from Woodrow Thomas' paper on cave winds.)

In his book *American Caves and Caving*, William Halliday stated that the French word "glacieres" is the internationally accepted term for ice caves, freezing caverns, and other locales of subterranean ice.

Especially well-known in various lava tube areas of the United States (including Oregon and New Mexico) these "cold traps" are usually single-entrance, sometimes bottle-shaped caves, with a definite downward trend, that contain ice year-round.

Normally, within a cave, the temperature is approximately equal to the average annual surface temperature for that particular location. But in an ice cave, cold air enters during the winter, and through gravitational drainage, the dense cold air sinks to the lowest levels of the cave. The warm air of summer, being lighter in weight, is largely incapable of displacing the heavier cold air in the cave, and only a limited amount is exchanged through expansion and contraction due to barometric pressure changes. Thus, permanent ice is maintained throughout the year in the lower portions of the cave, despite the fact that the mean annual temperature above ground is higher than freezing. Such caves may have temperatures nearly 18°F below what would be expected from their latitude and altitude.

NEARBY ICE CAVES
By David Finfrock

The nearest ice caves to our area are found in El Malpais National Monument. That is a new National Park area that was established only two years ago, to protect the volcanoes, lava flows, and lava tube ice caves in this part of north-western New Mexico.

If you wish to visit this area, apply for Back Country Permits to visit the Ice Caves. When you ask for the permit, include your name, how many will be in the party, when you are going, where in the park you want to go, and what activities you will do (caving, hiking, etc...)

Mail to the Chief Ranger (currently Ken Mabery) at El Malpais National Monument, Box 939, Grants, NM 87020. Or you can call (505) 285-4641 or go in person to the headquarters at 620 E. Santa Fe in Grants, New Mexico.

The following article, copied from the September-October issue of the *Southwestern Cavers* discusses current and future mapping projects in the El Malpais National Monument lava tubes.

MAPPING IN THE MALPAIS

Recent Survey and Mapping Efforts in El Malpais National Monument

by Mike Goar

Members of the Southwestern Region and Arizona Region have been exploring the lava tube systems in the malpais area near Grants for many years. During the last three years and particularly during the last 12 months, there has been an increased effort toward mapping the most well known lava tubes contained within this large complex of lava tube systems. With the recent creation of El Malpais National Monument and the inclusion of most of this vast lava flow in the monument or other adjacent protected lands there is also now strong interest from land managers, particularly those conducting resource inventory and/or recreation planning, in having these well known lava tubes surveyed and mapped.

Members of the Central Arizona Grotto conducted a survey of Classic Cave in May 1988 and are near to publishing a map of this 4000+ foot tube. An exploration and survey of Brewer's Cave was begun in July of 1988 by Mesilla Valley and Sandia Grotto members and was completed in a busy weekend in March of 1989 by surveyors from these two grottos as well as the Lubbock Area Grotto. This lava tube has a length of over 2800 feet and its map was completed in July of the same year. Also in July, a team of surveyors mapped the smaller (500 foot) but beautiful Navajo Cave. The map of this tube has also been completed. Work on mapping Skylight Cave was begun in August 1989 by Sandia Grotto members.

On June 29, 1989 an informal meeting between Kent Carlton, a resource manager for El Malpais National Monument, John Cochran, and myself took place at the Cochran residence in Albuquerque. Along with a discussion of cave management and protection philosophies and a wonderful slide presentation on the El Malpais lava tubes by John, we also went over a "wish list" of well known lava tubes for which the park service would like to have maps. It was agreed that some common standards should be set to insure that there be a minimum consistency between maps of lava tubes coming from different sources and that information on what has and has not yet been surveyed be available to avoid duplicating efforts.

To this end I am asking for any individuals with maps, initiated, completed or planned surveys of lava tubes in the El Malpais area that are not mentioned above to contact me by phone or mail so that future progress in this area can be a bit more coordinated. (Actually, avoiding the duplication of work is my main goal.) I would also be glad to hear from anyone interested in helping with lava tube surveying on future trips.

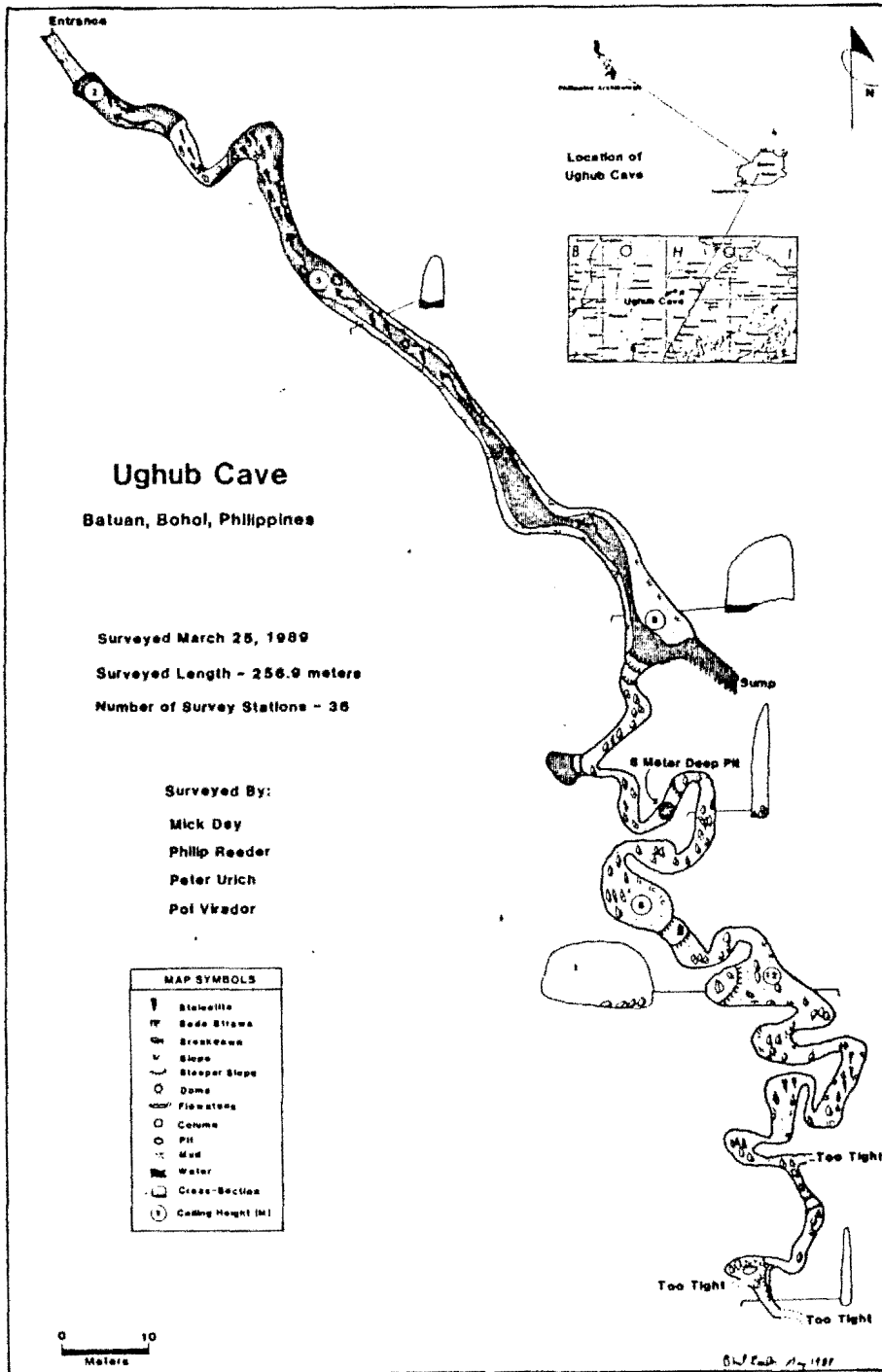
A survey trip in Junction Cave is being planned for later this fall, and a major effort to map the Braided tube system next year is also in the works.

Contact: Mike Goar - 14635 N. Hwy 85, Las Cruces, NM 88005
505-523-6082

(The following map was made by Woodrow Thomas' friend Phil Reeder during a trip to the Phillipines in spring of this year.)

Ughub Cave was the longest cave we surveyed and was a large meandering stream canyon. Where the 6-meter deep pit is noted, our Filipino support crew brought in 12-foot sections of bamboo which we laid across the pit and then shimmied over to the other side.

The cave has been known to the people of Bohol for hundreds of years, but there was no sign that they had penetrated to the back of the cave where things got small and mazy. There was some evidence of guano mining in the cave.



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ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1990

The officers of the Maverick Grotto for 1990 will be elected at the regular grotto meeting on 14 November 1989.

The following nominations were made at the regular meeting in October:

CHAIRMAN:

Donna Anderson (Not present & later declined)
Dale Ellison
Danny Sherrod (Not present & later declined)

VICE CHAIRMAN:

Danny Sherrod (Not present & later declined)

TREASURER:

Teresa White

EDITOR/SECRETARY:

David & Shari Finrock

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November meeting, but all elected officers must be current members of the National Speleological Society. And remember, you must be present at the meeting to cast your ballot.



We have recently been informed that the meeting room at Smokey's Ribs has been designated a non-smoking area.

