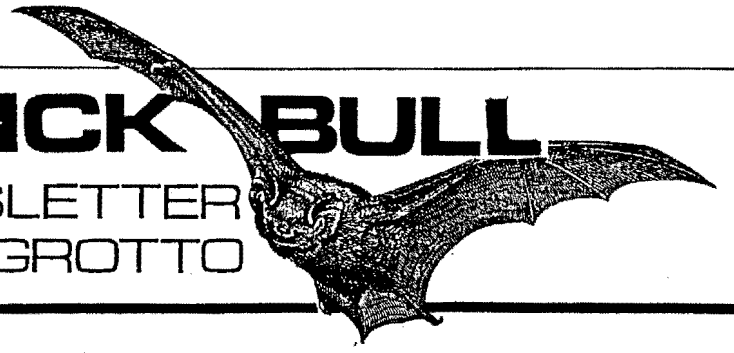

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1990



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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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Arlington, Texas 76017
817-473-0463

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504 Kimbrough
Fort Worth, Texas 76108
817-246-6313

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North Richland Hills, TX 76180
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Editor/Secretary: David & Shari Finfrock
1974 Barron
Fort Worth, TX 76112
817-451-3539

CAVE RESCUE: Call Collect 512-686-0234

CALENDAR

Oct 9	Maverick Grotto Meeting
Oct 12-14	Texas Old-Timers Reunion on Blanco River near the town of Wimberley
Oct 19-21	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip resumed after summer break
Oct 26-28	Continuation of the TSA Survey Project at Powell's Cave
Nov 1-6	Exploration of new ranch property near Del Rio (Contact Danny Sherrod for details)
Nov 10-11	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
Nov 13	Maverick Grotto Meeting
Dec 8-9	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
Dec ?	Maverick Grotto Christmas Party (instead of the regular monthly meeting)
Dec 29	Lechugilla Survey Project ---Contact Pat Kambesis at (404) 378-2836

ON THE COVER

Our cover cover this month is Donna Anderson, on rappell into the vertical entrance of Sand Cave on McKittrick Hill north of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Maverick Grotto was held Tuesday evening, 11 Sept 1990.

Dale Ellison opened the meeting and read announcements of upcoming events. Among these was the TAG Fall Cave-In in Alabama on 5-7 October. Also, it was reported that Woodrow Thomas now has a new phone number --- (214) 395-4431. He is still doing numerous rige-walking and surveying trips into Oklahoma. Call Woodrow if you would like to help out.

Butch Fralia reported that the Colorado Bend State Park work trips would resume in October. If you are coming, please call Butch Fralia or Keith Heuss before you come, so they can plan work projects accordingly.

Completed plans were announced for the joint Maverick-D/FW Grottoes fall party. Donna Anderson told all about the plans for the party at the M&W Ranch near Glen Rose over the 15-16 Sept. weekend.

TOTR is coming up in October and Dale Ellison suggested that we sell Maverick Grotto patches and songbooks there as a fund-raiser. Donna Anderson pointed out that we have less than ten songbooks left, and said we should save them for future grotto members.

Members were also reminded that there will be a special called meeting of the Maverick Grotto at the TOTR on Saturday, 13 October 1990.

David Finfrock pointed out that the Maverick Grotto elections for 1991 will take place at the November meeting. Nominations will be made at the regular October meeting. Any member may make nominations from the floor, providing the nominee has agreed to serve, if elected.

Bruce Anderson discussed an article he had

read in the Lubbock Area Grotto's newsletter on snakebite. David Finfrock had seen it also, and promised to copy it in the very next issue of the Maverick Grotto.

Russell Hill, Danny Sherrod and Jay Jordan are talking about a return trip to Great Britain. Give one of them a call, if interested.

Lechugilla Cave has now passed the 50-mile mark in surveyed passage. The next scheduled trip there is for the week of 29 December 1990. Contact Pat Kambesis for more information, and send her a caving resume at: Lechugilla Survey Project, 1026 S. Candler St., Decatur GA 30030. Or call her at (404) 378-2836.

Butch Fralia says he has now received permission to do Harrell's Cave in San Saba County.

TRIP REPORTS:

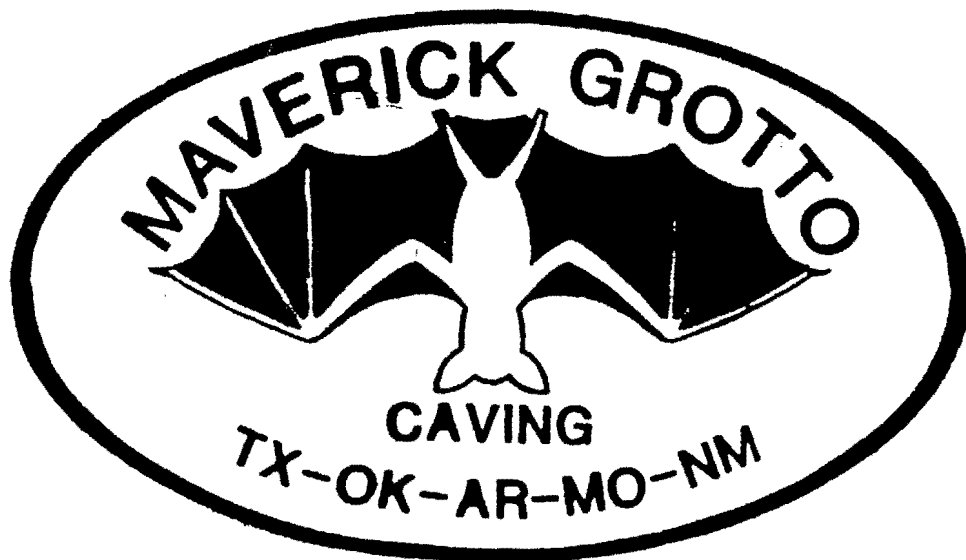
Jimmy Thomas recounted his adventures of the Labor Day trip to McKittrick Hill.

Donna Anderson told about a one-day trip to River Styx, with two Virginia cavers.

Russell Hill related his journey to the Guads, including Pink Panther, Three Fingers, and others. He reported that that whole area has been severely burned by last summer's fires. But there was one benefit of the fire. Russell said you could walk anywhere without fear of being speared by a lehugilla leaf. They were all gone!

Rafal Kedzierski told about the recent cleanup project at Whirlpool Cave in Austin this summer.

After adjournment, the program consisted of a commercial video for Luray Caverns in Virginia. Everyone agreed the cave was breath-takingly beautiful, but it would have been much better with the audio turned down.



MAVERICK & DFW GROTTO PARTY

September 15th was the date of the joint Maverick and DFW Grotto party. There were over 30 people in attendance. Butch Fralia was our chef and he started the Bar-B-Q briskets about 11:00 on Saturday morning. They cooked all afternoon with many individuals sampling the meat to determine the progress they were making. They turned out delicious and ever so tender. Our thanks to Butch for the work involved. Everyone brought something to contribute to the meal. The food was great. Some people went fishing, canoeing, and swimming. Russell and Cynthia brought a donkey. Adults as well as kids took turns riding it. There was also some wonderful wine from La Buena Vida Vineyards. Bruce prepared floaters for the hardy. (Arlene abstained as she still remembered the 15 she had at the last party.) However, Al and Paul, our new caver friends from Virginia, were initiated in our Maverick floater tradition. The sounds of partying and cave ballads filled the air until 3 or 4 a.m. The next morning breakfast tacos were served to the survivors. A good time was had by all.

LABOR DAY ON MCKITTRICK HILL

Destination: Endless, McKittrick, Sand, Boyd
Wind Cave & Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico
Date: Labor Day Weekend, 1990
Personnel: Bruce & Donna Anderson, Butch Fralia,
Jimmy & Pat Thomas, Steven Jung, Arlene
Heintz & Dale Ellison

It probably couldn't happen again, but all cavers left at different times and locations only to arrive within ten minutes of each other atop McKittrick Hill, New Mexico. (Bruce seems to enjoy placing cute little names for cavers caught in "other than normal situations"). Ask Bruce how he obtained the new name of "Mr. Coffee".

A four hour visit in McKittrick was both depressing and exciting. Depressing because of the mining of formations in early years. Exciting because of the variations in this cave's creation and design. We gave a respectable distance to two porcupines which sought daytime shelter in the twilight zone.

The heat of the day and the very short night dictated a welcome cool nap inside Endless cave. Average nap was about three hours. As each person woke up, they went to camp, leaving Bruce alone, asleep in the dark. He said later that he woke himself up snoring and tried to exit Endless without disturbing anyone. At camp was when he realized that he was the only disturbed person there!

Sunday morning, Bruce and Butch were the trip leaders into Endless Cave - but not for long. After everyone followed them around for awhile visiting the same area several times, they made a deal with Donna to help them locate the Gyp Room,

War Club Room, and Green Lake Room. Endless is worth the investment of time to visit its unique beauty.

In Wind Cave (Hicks' Cave) a number of clay speleo-graphic sculptures had been destroyed, reportedly by a Boy Scout leader trying to protect the morals and virtues of his troops. I say, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." Butch tried to repair what he could of the vandalized artwork. Tip of the hat to you, Butch! Mud City was the only are of Wind Cave we visited, because we intended to make it to Carlsbad Caverns in time to view the evening Bat Flight.

Our schedule was to include steaks before the bat flight. So we stopped at the "Velvet Garden" in White City. Two identical steaks were ordered; one turned out to be the size of a pack of cigarettes, while the other was two times that volume. Complaints about that, along with grilled chicken that resembled chicken jerky, prompted a 2 on a scale of 1 to 10. I think they were as glad for us to leave, as we were to get out alive!

Before this batch of cavers headed back for the metroplex, we visited Carlsbad Caverns on the long "blue" three-hour tour. Wouldn't it be nice if a crack of Gorman opened into a Carlsbad look-alike?

There were other cave trips over the Labor Day weekend, I'm sure, but I still say, "It don't get no better than this". The next trip to McKittrick Hill should contain your name on the permits, as it's definitely worth the trip.

Thanks, Bruce & Donna, for being incomparable hosts.

The following trip report is written by a couple of Virginia cavers, temporarily in our area, and anxious to see a little something of Texas caves.

TRIP REPORT; RIVER STYX CAVE
King County, Texas
by Al Mascara & Paul Seay

The trip started with an early morning rendezvous at Bruce and Donna Andersons house. There we meet Dale and Michael Ellison along with expert caver Meta (Tomato) Huzarevich. There we were lucky enough to see the new face lift on B.U.R.T. We all climbed into the Anderson's van for the short trip to River Styx.

Not long after leaving Fort Worth we could see why they say "Fort Worth is where the West begins." We were both impressed with the vastness of the landscape around us. The weather looked as if it might turn against us, but as it turned out we were in for a beautiful Texas day.

After a quick stop at the ranch house to drop off our list of cavers, we were off down the ranch roads to the cave. We did a quick survey of the surface terrain before donning our gear. Dale and Michael took off to check out a smaller cave seen on a previous trip and the rest of the group headed for the 63 entrance.

Donna set up her video equipment as Bruce squeezed his way thru the entrance. Dale and Michael showed up just as the last of the group entered the cave. Crawling thru the lower entrance passages we all received a good coating of mud !! There were comments of how much tighter the passage seemed this time thru. We gathered in the Junction Room for a break and a quick look at the map. Dale and Michael took off to look for the catfish and said they would wait for us in the Racing Stripe Room.

We took a side tour to see the Gypsum Blister Passage, a sight not seem in Virginia caves. The Blisters appeared so delicate and seemed to be just hanging on by a thread. Then we headed deeper into the cave, to the Dome Room. Someday the Dome Room may be a new entrance. Further into the cave we were tricked into taking a loop back passage. Everyone had a good laugh.

We made our way to the river passage fork where we ate lunch. There's nothing that tastes better then a smashed pack sandwich.

After lunch we caught Dale and Michael enjoying a nap in the Racing Stripe Room. It was obvious where this room got it's name. We went to two bat rooms to see those famous Mexican Freetails. After waking a rather large number of them we opted for a hasty retreat to the river passage fork.

At the fork Michael, Bruce, and Al decided to take the "refreshing" way out, the River Entrance. The rest of the group retraced their path back to the 63 Entrance.

Back on the surface we regrouped and talked about the snakes we encountered on our way out. After cleaning up and changing we were on our way to a much deserved meal.

About 1:00 am we arrived back at the Andersons' house and viewed Donna's video of the trip.

Paul and Al wish to thank everyone involved for a very interesting and enjoyable trip. Texas Hospitality!!

The following article is copied from Volume 5, Number 3, of the Lubbock Area Grotto newsletter, The LAG News.

VENOMOUS SNAKEBITES

Mark Johnston

On Wednesday evening, June 20th, Dr. C.R.F. "Dick" Baker, Jr. gave a talk to LAG on snakebites. He brought slides and a quick wit and made a perfectly delightful and informative presentation. Dr. Baker also made suggestions on developing a grotto policy on snakebites.

Dr. Baker is with the department of Surgery at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine and has attended many snakebite victims. His presentation was based on personal experience, training and research.

Statistics show that out of approximately 40,000 snakebites in the U.S. each year, only 10 people die. Dr. Baker said that you are more likely to die driving to the hospital than from the snakebite.

Dr. Baker said that the severity of the bite is affected by several factors:

The species of snake - a Western Diamondback produces a lot more venom than does a copperhead. A Diamondback is also more aggressive than a copperhead.

The age of the snake - an old snake produces more venom than a young snake.

The length of time since the venom has been expelled - if the snake has bitten something else recently, the venom may be less potent; or the snake may be more aggressive and deliver more venom.

The age and weight of the victim - the smaller the victim, the worse the reaction.

Where the victim was bitten - being bitten on the nose is worse than being bitten on the toes.

Dr. Baker said that his preferred method of treatment is the use of surgical exploration on the effected limb. He said that along with other effects, the toxin produces severe swelling and that the resulting compression, if left alone, can cause loss of limb. He will cut open the limb lengthwise to allow decompression. Several days afterward, the limb is sutured.

CONTROVERSIES:

Anti-venom: There are doctors who believe that every venomous snakebite can be treated with anti-venom. They believe that all surgery for snakebite is unnecessary. This is not the position taken by Dr. Baker. He believes that anti-venom is almost always unnecessary. He feels that surgery is the preferred mode of treatment.

Stun Guns: Outdoor magazines have popularized the idea that high voltage electricity will somehow neutralize the venom. Dr. Baker says that there is absolutely no medical evidence of this.

Ice on wound: Some doctors used to say that ice on the wound would slow the spread of the venom. It has been found that ice will concentrate the venom at this one spot and serious problems will develop including the loss of the limb.

CUTTING:

The Boy Scouts used to recommend cutting. They no longer recommend this because people would cut veins, lymph channels or muscles and cause a more serious injury than the snakebite. Dr. Baker said that he is going to cut you when you get to him and that under certain conditions you might want to cut yourself. During the first 20 minutes, the venom is somewhat localized and if the bite is cut open, the venom can drain out and lessen the severity of the bite. This also decompresses the area which will also lessen the effect. There is the risk of infection and serious damage if you cut yourself. If you are within two to four hours of a hospital and if you can get there without effort, it is better not to cut. If you are a long way out by yourself and you have to walk up and down hills to get to the car, one might consider cutting the wound.

Dr. Baker said that the preferred way of cutting is as follows:

Always cut along the axis of the limb (lengthwise) and never across or diagonally.

Cut the skin and fat only. Do not cut into the muscle, blood vessels or lymph system. Depending on where you were bitten, this is about 1/8th of an inch. The length of the incision should be about one inch long.

If the puncture wounds are across the limb, cut one time through each. If the puncture wounds are lengthwise along the limb, cut a single cut through the puncture wounds.

Bandage the wound to prevent infection.

Be very careful.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Things to do:

Look around and slowly get out of the immediate area. There may be more snakes around.

Place a loose tourniquet above the wound. Be sure you can slide three fingers under the tourniquet . This is to impede the flow of venom in the lymph system. A tight tourniquet can cause loss of the limb.

Cut the wound at your own risk!

If you have a suction device, put it on the wound and keep it on for 20 minutes. The venom is somewhat localized for twenty minutes and suction can pull some of the venom out.

Calm yourself down.

Let others carry you if possible, and if not, walk slowly and try and not exert yourself.

Get to a hospital as quickly as possible keeping in mind the previous suggestion.

Things not to do:

Do not use ice on the snakebite. It will concentrate the venom and and cause serious damage to the atrea around the bite.

Do not panic or run to the car. You have to keep your heartrate low to minimize the spread of venom.

Do not use anti-venom. Let the emergency room doctor use anti-venom if he thinks it is warranted (see controvers-ies).

Do not kill yourself trying to capture the snake that bit you. It helps if you can identify it, but do not get bitten again or run around trying to get it.

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TOTR

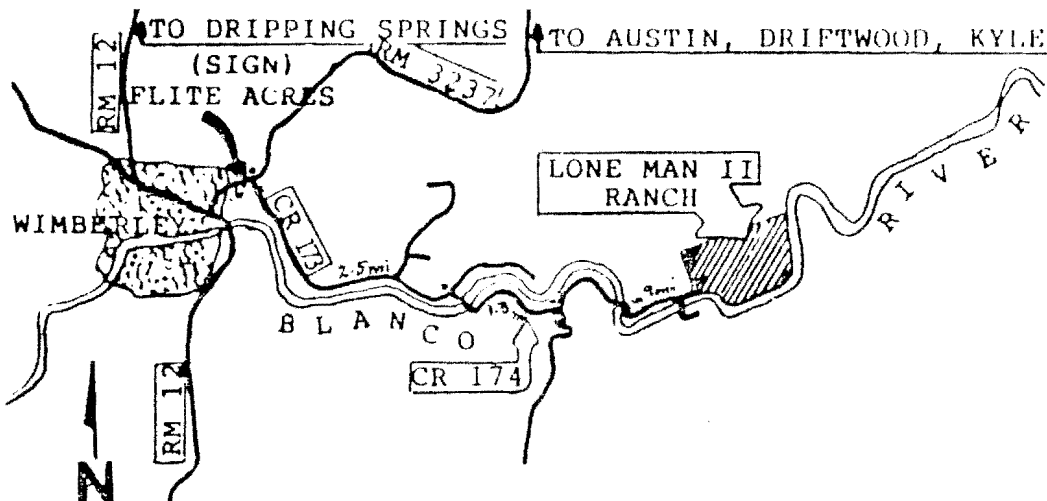
TEXAS OLD TIMERS

The 13th Texas Old Timers Reunion will be held the weekend of 12-14 October, and this is one statewide caving function you don't want to miss. It's a chance for old (or if you prefer, experienced) cavers to meet caving buddies from around the state, and exchange tall tales. And it's also a wonderful opportunity for relatively novice cavers to be exposed to the world of cavers outside of the local grotto.

As usual, there are no rules at the TOTR. But there will be a lot going on. In addition to the traditional activities, some events will take place for the first time this year: a mountain bike rally, a special relay event, and a Team Cave Dig.

TOTR takes place at the same location as the past few years, at the Lone Man II Ranch, outside of the town of Wimberley, right on the clear, flowing Blanco River.

The best way to get there from the Metroplex is to take I-35 south past Austin. Take the Kyle exit and then take RM 150 west to the junction with RM 3237. Take 3237 into Wimberley, then head back east on County Road 173 along the north bank of the Blanco till it crosses the river. Then follow County Road 174 on east along the river to the Lone Man II Ranch. You'll see TSA signs along the way. Have fun!!!



LONG CAVES OF TEXAS

1. Honey Creek Cave (1986)	30,075	98,671	Comal-Kendall
2. Powell's Cave System (1982)	22,851	74,970	Menard
3. Caverns of Sonora	6,096	20,000	Sutton
4. Indian Creek Cave (1962)	5,488	18,005	Uvalde
5. InnerSpace Caverns (1981)	4,529	14,859	Williamson
6. Cave-Without-A-Name (1977)	4,313	14,151	Kendall
7. Airmen's Cave (1984)	3,642	11,950	Travis
8. Longhorn Caverns (1971)	3,002	9,850	Burnet
9. Spring Creek Cave (1983)	2,807	9,209	Kendall
10. Sorcerer's Cave (1981)	2,702	8,865	Terrell
11. Natural Bridge Caverns (1979)	2,621	8,600	Comal
12. Prassell Ranch Cave (1970)	2,615	8,580	Kendall
13. River Stryx Cave (1975)	2,557	8,389	King
14. Stower's Cave (1970)	2,391	7,845	Kerr
15. Diablo Cave	2,067	6,780	Val Verde
16. Felton Cave	2,049	6,721	Sutton
17. Wizard's Well (1983)	2,007	6,585	Terrell
18. West Clutch Cave (1989)	1,788	5,865	Childress
19. Silver Mine (1982)	1,515	4,970	Menard
20. Pothooks Cave (1989)	1,510	4,953	Childress
21. 0-9 Water Well (1965)(1980)	1,372	4,500	Crockett
22. Robber Baron Cave (1977)	1,334	4,377	Bexar
23. Deep Cave (1965)	1,189	3,900	Edwards
24. H.T. Mier's Cave (1984)	1,122	3,681	Val Verde
25. Pape Cave	1,067	3,500	Real
26. Perry Water Cave	1,067	3,500	Real
27. Big Tree Cave (1988)	1,053	3,455	Val Verde
28. Fern Cave	1,036	3,400	Val Verde
29. Big Mutha Caverns	1,014	3,328	Edwards

INFORMATION NEEDED FOR TSS FIELD GUIDE

The Texas Speleological Survey will be publishing a Field Guide to the Caves of the Lampasas Cut Plains (also known as the Comanche Plateau) in time for the 1990 TSA Convention. The following counties are included in this interesting and little known area: Bell, Coryell, Bosque, Hill, McLennan, Comanche, Mills, Hamilton, Somervell, and extreme eastern Lampasas. We would appreciate it if anyone having information on old or new caves in this area (including descriptions, maps, and locations) please send them to the TSS as soon as possible. We will accept the information in any form, including computer disks. Maps can be in final form or penciled. If caves are marked on topographic maps, please send a copy of the map covering the cave. Please help us in this so this can be as complete a report as possible and so that your contributions to Texas speleology can be acknowledged. Information can be sent to:

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