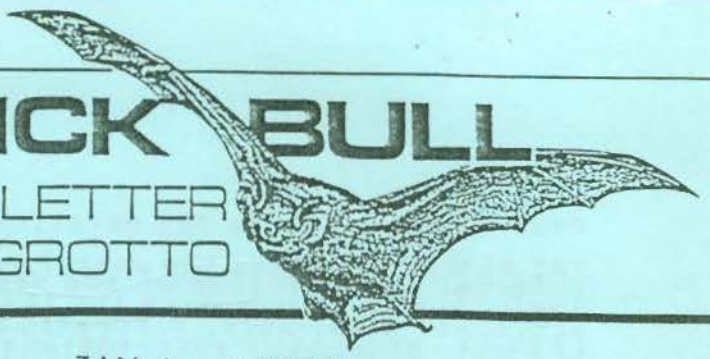


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 6, NUMBER 7

JULY 1991



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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS 8-322). The editor invites all individuals and other grottos to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed, stamped envelope should accompany it. Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author, as will be stated in the by-line) first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL, if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor of THE MAVERICK BULL at the time of the publication. Other organizations should contact the editor at the address herein.

EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will also provide three free issues to persons interested in becoming members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any individual with interests, beliefs, and actions consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO 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 and next door to a K-MART. The time is 7:00 p.m., and the food is good.

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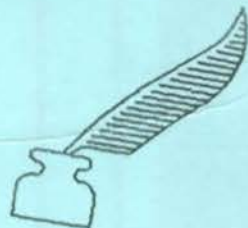
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EDITOR: Donna Anderson
(Guest editor for the month
of July.)

COVER: Bruce Anderson on
a 63 foot rappel in
Lone Bat II, at Colorado
Bend State Park. Photo
by Mark Porter.



LIBRARY: Support your Grotto Library. Russell Hill will be accepting books, magazine articles on cave related topics, copies of homemade cave videos, etc. for our library. We wish to thank Russell for his efforts each month to bring and set up the Grotto Library.





MINUTES OF MEETING

The Maverick Grotto was called to order on June 11th at Smokey's Ribs. Upcoming trips were announced. Trip reports were given. Pollock Pit at Colorado Bend State Park was discussed. It contains beautiful formations and it still has leads to check. Butch reported on the information on non-profit status. As a large fee was required, the membership voted against pursuing this any further. Russell Hill is in charge of studying the idea of a raffle to be held. Various purposes of the funds raised will be considered. He will get back with us at the next meeting with details. Dale mentioned that we need to be thinking about officers for next year. He has served three terms which is all that is allowed by our constitution. Dale also asked if there was anyone who would like to volunteer for newsletter editor for the rest of the year. No one volunteered. The meeting was then adjourned.

(Editor's Note: I called Dale one week later and volunteered to handle the July issue on the condition he not ask me to do the next one. He did agree to this condition.)

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on July 9, 1991 at Smokey's Ribs. Our program will be a

video by Ed Young on Cottenwood, Black, and Hidden on Three Mile Hill in New Mexico.

BATS IN AUGUST

Our Vice Chairman, Bruce Anderson, has arranged in August for Bert Grantges to give a presentation on bats. Bert will be bringing some live bats for us to see. This promises to be a really outstanding program.



RIVER STYX

Bruce Anderson spoke with Pat Helton in Lubbock in order to set up a date when we can all go to Styx at the same time. The date will be the last of July or in August. Exact dates should be available at our next meeting. Some of the cavers will make it a one day trip while others are planning to drive down Friday night and return home on Sunday. We will be mapping and/or removing graffiti from the walls. It should prove to be a lot of fun. If you haven't met some of our Lubbock friends, then please make every effort to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to Dale L. Pate who has been appointed as the new Cave Specialist in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Dale has been with the U.S. Geological Survey in Austin since 1976. He begins his new job June 30, 1991 and will reside in the park.

UPCOMING TRIPS



NES Convention, Cobleskill, NY, June 30 - July 5, 1991, Contact Thom Engel at 518/765-3699.

Ft. Stanton Cave, July 5 - 6, 1991, a CRF trip, contact John Corcoran at 505/892-9651.

Whirlpool in Austin, map and dig. Second weekends of July, August, and September. Camping at the cave will be provided. There is a one time \$2.00 registration fee for project supplies.

1991 NCRC Rescue Seminar, Schoharie, NY July 6 - 13, 1991. Contact John Evans 508/897-6730 night or 508/858-4114 day number.

Honey Creek July 12 - 14 contact Kurt Menking 512/824-7230.

Lechuguilla High Precision Survey at Lechuguilla Cave, New Mexico. Sponsor - CRF. July 28 - Aug. 3, 1991, call Fritzi Hardy at 505/345-1709.

Survey trip to River Styx with Lubbock Area Grotto. Last part of July or in August. Contact Bruce Anderson 246-6313.

Gypkap at Charlie Martin Ranch area Aug. 17 - 18. Contact Dave Belski at 505/885-6168.

Survey/party at River Styx in August. Contact Butch Fralia 346-2039.

Old Timers Reunion near Dailey, WV Aug. 29 - Sept. 2. Contact Evelyn Bradshaw 703/765-0669.

Gila National Forest & Wilderness - backpacking and camping trip, Aug. 28 - Sept. 2, 1991. Non-caving trip but visits ghost towns, past gold and silver mining camps. Contact Oren Tranbarger 512/349-0208 home or 512/522-2710 work.

Lint Restoration at Carlsbad Caverns NM. Sept. 16 - 21 half a week is \$40, full week \$75 includes room and board, restoration supplies and a T-shirt. Payment due July 1. No refund after Aug. 15th. Contact Pat Jablonsky 303/370-6473 work and 303/399-3449 home.

Southern Plains Regional at Jester Cave Oct 18 - 20. Contact David Kowalski at 405/751-8519.

El Setano De Barro, Nov. 22 - Dec. 1, 1991. This is a 1,380 foot deep pit. Call Oren Tranbarger 512/522-2710 (work) or at 512/349-0208 (home).

NEW MEXICO
BY: DONNA ANDERSON

DESTINATION: COTTONWOOD, HELL
BELOW, BLACK,
HIDDEN, SANGRE DE
CRISTO, FORT
STANTON, NEW CAVE

DATE: MAY 23 - 31, 1991

PERSONNEL: BRUCE & DONNA
ANDERSON, MIKE
ANDERSON, KAY &
GEORGE CROSBY,
MARK & FAM PORTER

Bruce, Mike, and I left Fort Worth Thursday evening in BURT, my Jeep. (BURT stands for Big Ugly Red Truck - so named years before the new paint job.) We arrived at the Stevens Motel in Carlsbad about 1:00 a.m. The next morning we ate breakfast with Kay & George who had also stayed at the Stevens. After stopping at the BLM office, Lincoln National Forest office, ice house, gas station, Arby's, and a telephone booth, we were ready to go. We enjoyed the pretty scenery on the way to Three Mile Hill. After finding a large peaceful camping area, we enjoyed our Arby's picnic. We then drove up the hill to Cottonwood. We met a number of vehicles on the way down. A group had been filming a beer commercial in Cottonwood! A truck with a food trailer came down and then a 3-ton truck came down. They had to stop and help us move rocks so we could get our vehicle over far enough for them to get by. The Forest Service had blocked off the road going to Cottonwood at the fire

tower. We walked about 1/4 of a mile on the road and came to a sign indicating the new trail to the cave. It was a short walk to the cave and everyone enjoyed the impressive entrance. The Entrance Hall was 50 to 80 feet wide with ceiling varying from 50 to 150 feet high. The formations were gigantic with several columns up to 80 feet tall. We went back to the area where you climb up to the Wonderland section. There was a steel ladder on the ground. We did not have a permit to Wonderland so we continued down the Great Sand Slope which dropped about 130 feet. At the bottom of the slope we saw the gate. This part is closed and no permits are issued. We then crawled down into a large room with soda straws on the ceiling. We checked out several leads but they all ended except one. This lead was going down and was mostly crawling. It kept going down and became a belly crawl. It seemed to be getting even tighter so we returned. We climbed back up the Great Sand Slope and continued out of the cave. We then went back to the vehicles at the fire tower. We rolled down the window on the tailgate of BURT and the window came off track. So they had to take the door apart. A piece had rusted off and broken. They duct taped it and greased the gears and put it all back together. It seemed to work. We then continued along the road to see where the Southwestern Regional was set up. There were going to be many cavers on the hill by that evening. We visited with some of the cavers and found out their meeting was to be held the next morning around 9:00 a.m. We were getting hungry so we went back down the hill to our campsite.

Mike and Bruce cooked Bar-B-Q ribs on the propane grill for everyone. While they were cooking, Kay and I decided to mark the way to our campsite for Mark & Pam. We did two very nice signs and placed them in strategic places. We expected them to show up around 2 a.m. When we returned, the ribs were ready. We had homemade potato salad and beans to go with them. It was a feast. After some cave talk and a little wine, so ended day 1.

Mark and Pam arrived around 1:45 a.m. They had seen both of our signs. After breakfast the next morning, we went up the hill to see what was going on at the Southwestern Regional. Everyone was signing up for cave trips for the weekend. We had room for one more person on our trip. We met John Ganter who was interested in going to Hell Below. He loaded his gear in our Jeep and off we went. None of us had ever been there before but we had directions and the trail was well marked. The key to the gate worked and by 11:30 a.m. we were caving. Shortly, we came upon the chimney. The rope was tied and John went first. He came to the 60 foot drop and rigged it. The descent was breathtaking. It was a free drop and most everyone seemed to come down slowly, stopping a few times to view the formations. Once we were down, we visited the small side first. Then we retraced our steps and rigged up to do the other side where most of the cave is located. It was about a 25 foot drop down a slippery flowstone. We continued into the cave and went down the Gyp Joint. The most spectacular sight in this area was the large gypsum flowers. There were also pools

of water covered with calcite rafts. There was moon milk all over in this area. We continued our journey and had to do some traverses with big pits down below. Mike mentioned that one of the formations looked like a caramel chocolate fudge sundae. We stopped shortly thereafter for a snack. We passed by a beautiful lake. Then we came to the prettiest area of the cave. Colorful flowstone covered the walls. The ceiling was very high and the pits dropped down out of sight. John took some pictures while George and I set off flashbulbs. As we had reached the end of the cave, we started our journey back. We were back at the vehicle around 8:30 p.m. and drove back to John's camp. The rest of us then headed down to the base of the hill. Kay was cooking supper for everyone that night. Indeed, it was a banquet: chicken marinated in a wine sauce, guacamole salad, rice, and hot rolls. Everything was so delicious that we all retired for the night with a smile on our faces. So ended day 2.

The next morning after scrambled eggs, hash browns, and pork chops, we gathered up our caving gear and went up the hill. We drove through the campsite of the Regional and saw John. We visited for awhile. He was on his way to do Deep Cave. We headed on to Black. I took the video camera into the cave. It's a very pretty cave with lots of formations. Generally pictures do not turn out so well because the black coloration of the formations absorbs so much of the light. Most of the cave was walking passage. Towards the back of the cave we came to a climb down. Mike went down

first and said that water was blocking the passage and that to go any further we would have to get real wet. No one seemed to be very interested in that. The area Mike was in was very pretty so I lowered the video camera to him to film that section before he climbed back up. We then started back out of the cave. Kay helped me do a lot of video on the way out. We exited the cave and walked back to the Jeeps. We then drove to the Hidden parking area and had a picnic lunch. We decided that we would not cook that night but would eat a nice meal in Carlsbad at perhaps the Sirloin Stockade. We had motel reservations at the Stevens. We thought we would party hardy and watch the videos that I had taken in Black and the videos I was planning to take in Hidden. With our agenda finalized, we then gathered our vertical gear and walked down to Hidden. We did the first drop of 40 feet and explored the upper section. We then did the second drop of 24 feet. The floor of Hidden is very smooth and level. The cave abounds with beautiful formations everywhere you look. I took the video camera in and kept finding pretty areas to film. There was a large rimstone dam called the Chinese Wall which was very impressive. There were lily pads and large flowstone cascades. We finally had to leave. Mike was the last person up the 40 foot drop. He learned how to get tension on the rope in order to start climbing. We derigged the rope and walked back to the Jeeps. We drove back to our campsite and worked fast and furious to break camp before the sun went down. Mike mentioned something about the growth factor of camping

equipment as we tried to stuff everything back into the trailer. More items were piled into the back seat with barely room left for me. It was a wall of bags surrounding me. No problem - it just reminded me of some of those crawlways I love. It was dark when we finally left. We were all very tired, hungry, and looking forward to a shower. It seemed like a very long drive. We reached Carlsbad at about 11:00 p.m. We noticed that the Sonic was full of cars and there were cars circling. Yes, the main drag. We continued through town and noticed all the restaurants and fast food places were closed. That's why everyone was at the Sonic. It would take forever to get any food there so we all knew what choice we had left. At that point it seemed like a wonderful choice. We just wanted to get some food and take it back to the motel so we could shower and crash. We no longer had the desire to party and no desire to watch cave videos. Our dining choice for the evening was the fabulous "Allsup's". **Bon Appetit.** So ended day 3.

Our wake up call came at 6:30 a.m. We met for breakfast at 7:00. We stopped for ice and groceries and then drove to McKittrick Hill where we met up with Noble Stidham. He was there with 3 other people from Lubbock. Noble took us to Sangre de Cristo which is a gated part within Endless. When we got near the area, we had to belly crawl through a long and super dusty tunnel. We then came to the gate and continued belly crawling. It opened up into a room where we took off our dusty coveralls. We had clean clothes on but we had to

take our dusty boots and socks off. We then carefully walked barefoot over rocks and saw gray, white, rust, purple, reddish, yellow, caramel and fudge coloration. The red velvet coated formations were outstanding. We saw a stalactite and stalagmite which were offset by about 5 inches due to a geological shift. The formations were beautiful. There was a mud cracked floor in one area. After pictures were taken, we returned through the dusty belly crawl. Noble had to return home, however, the rest of us toured the Gypsum Room, Green Lake Room, and the War Club Room. We were in Endless for about 6 hours. We then drove to Fort Stanton, stopping for supper on the way. We arrived at the campsite at dusk. So ended day 4.

The next morning we were in Fort Stanton cave by 10:00 a.m. The cave had very large passages with a stream meandering through. The Main Corridor was about 40 feet wide. There were lots of breakdown hills you had to climb up and then down. Some were slippery clay banks upon which it was sometimes difficult to find footholds. We all went through Crystal Crawl. This was a hands and knees crawlway approximately 200 feet long. In the crawlway, and in another area after the crawl, we saw a large quantity of selenite needles. When we reached the beginning of Hellhole, we had our first deserter who was quickly joined by two other deserters. Hellhole is a crawlway about 700 feet long. Pam, George, Bruce, and I continued through Hellhole. We then toured many large rooms and finally came to Ward Thirty which was the last room. We

retraced our steps and looked for the Keyhole Gate off of the Trophy Room. The area Pam & I searched contained many red velvet covered formations. However, we were unable to find the Keyhole Gate. We decided to leave and were out of the cave by 6:00 p.m. After a rest, we cooked fajitas for everyone with guacamole, refried beans etc. After a few George Dickle floaters, a few cave ghost stories, and a few chants to help the moon rise, so ended day 5.

Early the next morning, Mark and Pam departed for home. The rest of us ate a leisurely breakfast. We video taped the entrance of Fort Stanton. We then left for Valley of Fires State Park which was only about 25 miles away. We were going to check out the lava tubes. Upon arrival, a \$5.00 fee was required per vehicle. We then drove through the entire park within three minutes. We saw a nature walk and all got out ready to see the lava tubes. We saw the path zig zag down the long hill and then between the large volcanic mounds. Someone mentioned that we could see all there was to see from that point, however, in order to get our \$5 worth, we all went down the hill. However, at the bottom of the hill when we started to walk through the lava field, we were met with thousands of bees hovering on the ground buzzing around feverishly. We were not sure if this was a war of the bees or a type of mating ritual. However, you could see clumps of 6 or 8 bees massed together. They literally covered the ground and we were forced to retreat. On our way back to Carlsbad, we stopped at Capitan for lunch. A short distance

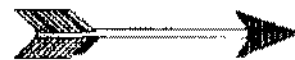
later the water pump went out in Old BURT. Fortunately, Kay and George noticed we were no longer behind them and they came back to our rescue. We made it another five miles to Hondo and Bruce found a water pump 1 1/2 miles away in a town called Tinnie. We were all amazed that we didn't have to go to Roswell to find one. Bruce and Mike installed the new water pump and new belts. However, a clutch fan was still needed but it could be driven on the highway without it. After two stops in Roswell, they found the part and put it on. George followed us to make sure nothing else went wrong. Around 8:00 p.m. we made it to the Stevens and later ate an elegant dinner of prime rib with all the trimmings. So ended day 6.

The next morning our wake up call came at 6:00 a.m. There was some moaning heard about us not receiving a full eight hours of sleep on this trip. However, by 6:30 we were at the motel restaurant and by 7:00 we were on the road. This morning we had reservations for New Cave in Slaughter Canyon. This is a ranger guided tour by the National Park Service. The cave entrance is on the side of a mountain with a 500 foot elevation gain from the parking lot. Our guide was very informative and gave a very good presentation. There were lots of beautiful formations in the cave. After the tour, the ranger pointed out Ogle Cave to us. We then returned to Carlsbad and said our goodbys to Kay and George. We stopped at a couple of souvenir places and then bought some hamburgers and we were on our way home. We thought we would be in Fort Worth shortly after midnight.

Well, around 10:00 p.m. Old BURT made a lot of noise and then just quit. We set out flares and lit up the trailer with a wheat lamp so we wouldn't get hit. Bruce and Mike worked for half an hour but couldn't make it run. Then a really nice person stopped to help us. He towed our Jeep about six miles to the nearest town of Cisco. Fortunately, there was a motel there. We got a room and called Bruce and Mike's dad. He showed up the next morning with our van and a tow bar. So we towed BURT the 100 miles back home. About an hour after we arrived home, Bruce had put a coil on BURT and I'm glad to report he is now in radiant health.

CAVE BALLADS

We currently have a limited number of Cave Ballad Songbooks still available. On the following page is a selection written by David Finfrock about a cave on the Bristol Ranch. It is sung to the tune of "Clementine".



SEE LAST PAGE FOR PHONE LIST

IN A CAVERN IN SAN SABA

1. On a trip to Central Texas went three guys and one blonde dame.
But the cave called Crystal Crawlway didn't live up to its name.
There was not a single crystal, just a lot of jagged rocks.
And thick mud like chocolate pudding stained their pants and filled their sox.

CHORUS:

In a cavern in San Saba excavating for a lead.
They were stuck in Crystal Crawlway till their knees began to bleed.
2. It was dark and it was small but there was not a thing to fear,
Except for showers of cave crickets, which were locally severe.
That low crawl went on forever, said the cavers, with a sigh.
And the biggest of the rooms there, was just barely two feet high.

CHORUS:

3. David's light began to falter. He was plunged into the dark.
And for what seemed like forever, that old carbide failed to spark.
Butch was leading; he was crawling with his belly on the ground.
A tiny squeeze then stopped his progress. It was square and he was round.

CHORUS:

4. David first, and then Teresa squeezed right through that tiny slot.
But the ceiling was a low one, with sharp rocks right at that spot.
Butch had said the cave was friendly, but Teresa called it rude.
Those sharp rocks had ripped her shirt off. Left her lying there half-nude.

CHORUS:

5. Pooch was next, and so he squeezed through, and he said it was a snap.
But old Butch declined to follow. Said he'd rather take a nap.
So the others went ahead then, and the cave went on and on.
And those three might still be caving, if their carbide wasn't gone.

CHORUS:

In a cavern in San Saba excavating for a lead.
They were stuck in Crystal Crawlway till their knees began to bleed.

JULY 1991

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