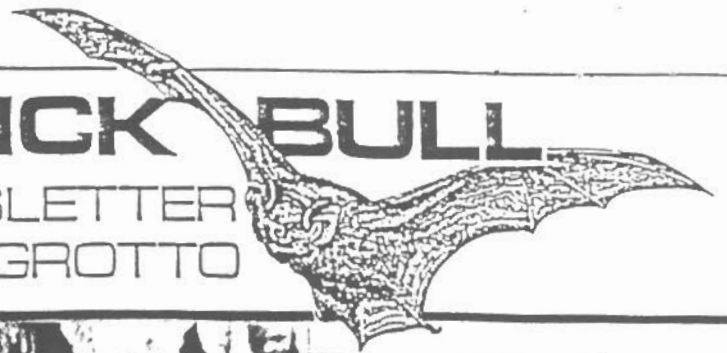


August 1991

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



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② Rafal in a sidelead at the top of the second pit, Polish Cave, Colorado Bend S.P. Photo by Wojciech Kedzierski.

See you at the Grotto meeting.

Sincerely yours
Rafal Kedzierski

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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTO, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS #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 GROTTO, will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

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 MAVERICK GROTTO 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 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.

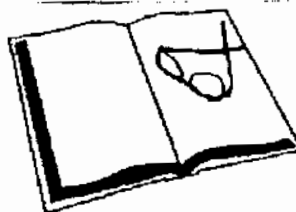
MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at SMOKEY'S RIBS, 5300 East Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next door to a K-MART. The time is 7:00 p.m., and the food is good.

GROTTO OFFICERS:

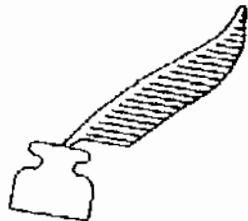
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(817) 599-8278



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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 16, 17 & 18; Survey/Cleanup trip to River Styx. Lubbock folks to meet us there. Possible dig to re-open Styx Drain Cave. Likely, Saturday night party!!!

AUGUST 9,10 & 11; Whirlpool Cave in Austin. Dig, cleanup and PARTY!!!

TRAIL TIPS

BY: CLOSET MOUNTAIN MAN

CARING FOR YOUR TENT

To wash your tent, use a mild soap (flakes or liquid are best) and hand wash; rinse thoroughly. Don't machine dry your tent, but instead allow it to air dry. Always be sure that your tent is sufficiently dry before storing. NEVER store a damp tent or it will mildew. Never spray insect repellent on your tent. These basic precautions will help increase the life of your tent.

ZIPPER CARE AND REPAIR

As the only moving part of a pack or tent, the zipper is usually the first part to wear out. A zipper's life span can be lengthened by occasional lubrication with silicone or beeswax. The most common zipper failure results in the zipper separating behind the slider when zipped closed. Usually this means that the channels of the slider have worn from use and will no longer mate the two coil halves. This eventually happens to all zippers. You can usually repair the zipper temporarily by gently squeezing the "wings" of the slider with pliers so that it grabs the zipper coil again.

AUGUST MEETING PROGRAM

Bruce Anderson has contacted Bert Grantges to give a presentation on bats. Bert will be bringing some living bats for us to see. Be there or be square!!!

TO DALE:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FROM DALE.

Polish Cave Story
by Rafal Kedzierski

The June trip to Colorado Bend State Park was the last of the season, and it was time for barbecue and discussion about the work done in the park. One topic especially stood out - Polish Cave, the most vertically challenging and most promising cave in the park. Even though the cave was discovered in March of this year, 5 survey outings and several exploration trips were organized. The detailed results of the whole effort will be published in Texas Caver by Pat Geery, surveyor-in-chief, and by me. For now, I hope, this short report will do.

The story of Polish Cave reaches back to February of this year, when Donna Anderson led Don Denton, Wojciech Kedzierski, and me to Gorman Creek Crevice. Upon exiting the cave late that night, everybody except Donna expressed his lack of ability to move without painful sensation, and Wojciech and I decided to look for bigger caves.

The March trip to the park gave us such an opportunity. On Saturday morning, Wojciech located a small sinkhole in a streambed adjacent to the park road above Big Gorman Cave. We both removed some rocks and in a short time there was just enough space for me to squeeze through. I saw a walking passage heading toward the lip of a pit, and that was only the beginning.

In the following months, the cave was extended to 164 feet in depth, becoming the deepest in the park and the third deepest in the county. Cavers from around the state explored and surveyed cave's 4 levels and 3 pits (25, 60, and 43 feet deep). The biggest surprise was neither good air nor impressive size, but wonderful living formations - anything from simple stalagmites, soda straws, draperies to helicitics, frostwork, and even boxwork! There was so much work at the higher levels that the last pit was entered only by Butch Fralia, who reported possible leads at the bottom.

The cave is already a caver's dream come true, but I hope there is more to come. Polish Cave appears to be located on the same fault as Big Gorman Cave whose sumps head in the direction of Polish Cave. Who knows, someday cavers might survey in stream passages below Polish Cave; but even if the cave does not go, there is still plenty to enjoy in Polish Cave.

So, see ya'll in the park next season!

TEXAS STATE PARKS: WHY BOTHER?
by Butch Fralia

In working with Texas Parks and Wildlife projects, I've been asked; Why Bother? I've heard people speak on how Texas cavers are mistreated and used by Parks and Wildlife, how we're fixing to get thrown off/out of Parks, etc. With all these negatives, Why Bother?

First, I believe it's worth the bother and the main reason for being involved in Park Projects is; IT'S FUN!!! Lets's keep it that way, for my part, when it's no longer fun, it isn't worth the effort. As an organization (TSA or Grotto) we are not professionals regardless of what our ego tells us. Many cavers have professional expertise which provides a valuable contribution to the effort. We are not and will not be paid for what we do so we are not professionals!

Many people enjoy the park projects. I've just tallied up the names and hours of people who've been involved in Colorado Bend this year (not including Earth Day) and discovered 1,769 volunteer hours from people who apparently enjoy project activities (list following this article). To downplay that I'm showing the largest number of hours, I must point out that I have included my total hours on and off park. Keith Heuss for instance has more time involved than I because he does final formatting of reports and he's entering all the Surface Survey data on his computer through SMAPS. Terry Holsinger enters survey data on Keith's computer and puts in more than the hours shown. Additionally Terry is now the liaison between TSA and Parks. Rafal and Wojceich Kedzierski have spent a lot of time off park with notes, research, maps, etc. I don't have any way of getting off park hours for these people but their time on and off the park is appreciable.

A number of people who frequent Colorado Bend were present at Hill Country State Natural Area, Memorial Day weekend to finish some work left hanging from a past project or two. In three days a lot was accomplished and there is still work to be done at some future time. The main accomplishment was fun enjoyed by cavers and park staff alike. To help assure the "fun" of this event, the Park staff roasted a wild pig for us.

A number of cavers worked at Colorado Bend during the Earth Day festivities. This wasn't an official work project though it was held in conjunction with Cavers and Parks. Cavers provided video tapes, made speeches on cave ecology, hydrology, the History of Gorman Falls and sponsored tours for the public in Gorman Cave, the first and only time it's been officially open to the Public in about 9 years. At this event, Texas Cavers were presented an award for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the park.

A lot of people enjoy making a contribution to a worth while project. They enjoy expanding their ego with the thrill of finding a new cave. They enjoy expanding their ego in being the first explorer and possibly naming it. Many people enjoy studying the geology, or hydrology, or biology of caves and Colorado Bend offers a large number of caves for any of these purposes. There are many reasons as there are caving activity to explain peoples involvement.

My personal involvement with Park activity came somewhat by accident in '87 when the early Gorman Falls trips were on. At that time, a different Grotto had the park every month. The Maverick Grotto didn't have a month and when I tried to get one set up, I was informed it wasn't possible. There was a remote possibility of getting a "few" people in with another Grotto. I was specifically told, the people responsible for reporting the trips hadn't fulfilled their responsibility and Austin was taking a dim view of those folks.

This was a rough period for Texas Cavers. This was the year of the Spring Convention at Cave Without a Name. There seemed to be little organization to anything, the notification of time and place for the convention came about three days before time and needless to say, the turn out was small. The only "sure" thing in Texas Caving at that time was Old Timers. The Maverick Grotto had just been formed and

we were trying to be recognized as an entity. In October '87, a big "work trip" to Kickapoo Cavern State Park (Site) was announced; about a month and a half in advance allowing time to make arrangements to go and to psyche yourself up for the long drive. Maverick Cavers, and North Texas Cavers were well represented. In all, 150 cavers attended from across Texas and New Mexico.

At Kickapoo, I was approached about involving myself in the Gorman Falls Project. It was located to be attended easily by North Texas Cavers, the State had just purchased the Lemon's Ranch and the property had grown by 4,500 acres. I accepted the challenge and yet at that time, I'd never seen the property. I never knew about the Gorman trips until they were over and I couldn't set up a trip. This seemed an opportunity for The Maverick Grotto to have equal access to the property. I was encouraged to maintain the status quo and have a Grotto responsible for the trip for a month but it seemed like time for a change. The what if's began to form, Kickapoo worked well because of advance scheduling and it was open to everyone. The total membership of a Grotto wouldn't be interested or able to attend a work trip when it was available so we decided to establish a set time each month for the trip and see what happened.

The first trip under the "new plan" was in November '87, attended by seven people, six from North Texas and one from Austin. It wasn't a booming start but it did set the stage and set the ball rolling. The second weekend of each month was chosen as the fixed date for the trip because it didn't interfere with any major holidays. Several months passed where it was unclear what was the second weekend and there were two trips the same month. I found it humorous when someone had to define the second weekend of each month. The official second weekend became the weekend with the second Saturday. This has now spread to determine the first, third and fourth weekends.

An area of constant discussion involves what work should be done by cavers and whether that work should constitute what Parks wants done or what cavers want done. This usually ends up to be about 50/50, in doing what Parks wants done which is location and inventory of caves, cavers usually get plenty of what they like to do most; explore virgin caves. Work for a caver is hard to define when work activity on state parks is about the same as "fun" on other weekends. I guess it's an activity in which your involved that is organized in some manner. I have difficulty with the concept of fun becoming work because it's done on a state park. At every Cave Task Force meeting between Parks and Cavers, there's a discussion about whether people are having fun. Some caver always takes the responsibility for assuring Park representatives no one is having fun because everyone is "working." I've always taken this as my cue for a resounding "bullshit." We have a great deal of fun and provide useful services in informing Parks of their (our) assets, both environmental and recreational.

Whats been accomplished? or an even better question may be what hasn't been done? There has been a great deal of public education resulting from this activity and one of the most significant may be the "DOWN UNDER TEXAS," video produced by Parks and Wildlife which has been widely acclaimed. This video aired on Dallas/Fort Worth PBS Thursday, July 11, 1991. Jay Jordan, informs us, the video won first place in one of the NSS Photo Salon categories. The tape is significant in that it clearly gets the point across that caves are more than just our personal play ground and it was a joint project between Cavers and Parks.

Another area of public education has been the opportunity to take Scouting Groups, High School Groups and in one case a College biology class on a controlled caving trip. They are allowed to participate in our project by Parks as long as the required paperwork is completed. Some of these people have gone on to other caves or joined caving organizations. In all cases, they have participated in some manner in the project. It might be in cave cleanup, riddgewalking, exploration but they had to work for the privilege. It's unfortunately but there are few private

land owners in Texas who will permit scouting groups to explore caves on their land.

In three years at Colorado Bend, we've discovered at least sixty caves and rediscovered a goodly number of known caves with forgotten locations. There were 177 caves in San Saba County and we recently tagged number 235. All of those past 177 are on Colorado Bend. Most of the locations have been surveyed in for an over land map which hopefully will be completed this summer. An accomplishment of this project is many cavers have learned read instruments and survey. Surveying on the surface is a much easier job than in a cave, you can learn the correct (and accurate) way to read instruments and stand erect like a biped while doing so.

Many people (other than the youth groups) have now experienced Colorado Bend as their very first caving trip. This continues a tradition from years past when many people can say their first caving trip was to Gorman Cave when Charles McLarrin operated Gorman Falls as a fishing camp. They've had opportunity to associate and learn from experienced cavers. They've been shown the right way and in some cases the wrong way to attempt something. The results from the wrong way were significant enough for neophytes to realize they indeed "shouldn't" do whatever was being demonstrated in the manner shown. Since the demonstrations were held by experienced cavers, they had more meaning. It also demonstrated the tag "Old Timer" comes from a persons ability to get old quick rather than the time they've spend in pursuit of caving. We can definitely say many people have been educated.

A large number of friendships have developed during the course of the project. I'd never met Keith Heuss until Kickapoo which was about the time he came back into caving after a five year retirement. He became one of the project leaders of Colorado Bend and one of those on my list of best friends. The Kedzienski's became regular participants in the project and have met many people who would welcome them on any caving trip, anywhere. Through events like the National Cave Rescue Seminar, formal land owner contacts have been made. The owner of Harrell's Cave is willing to host cavers on his property. People have learned of and been invited to caving trips they would never have heard of otherwise.

There was a time when Parks and Wildlife saw caves as a liability risk. There was serious discussion given to bringing in cement trucks to fill the caves. Now they accept the environmental significance of caves and are willing to discuss the possibility of recreational caving on State Parks. The fact they are no longer interested in filling up caves has made all the effort to date worth it. Nothing has come of recreational caving yet (Other than the one opening of Gorman) but at least it's in discussion. The old negative image of cavers as irresponsible is slowly being overcome and each year the working relationship becomes better. As long as activity like the Long Horn Cavern cleanup and Colorado Bend can be considered by them a success story, the future can only look better. There is legislation in the works for Parks and Wildlife to assume \$100,000 in liability protection for volunteers and they are more open to assisting with equipment for projects.

Who knows what the future will bring, there are no guarantees. At any time, a private landowner can become disenchanted with cavers and a cave can be closed. Just as one rotten potatoe can ruin the whole bag, one caver can do in the whole community. In the meantime, I'll continue to enjoy the projects and have fun. I'll continue to feel there is reason to bother and that accomplishments are being made. If at sometime in the future, you go to a State Park, fill out a release to go caving recreationally (just as rock climbers do now), remember to ask me then, WHY BOTHER?

1990/91 COLORADO BEND ATTENDEES

Doug Allen	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	10.5
Bruce Anderson	Trips: 3,	Hrs:	23.5
Donna Anderson	Trips: 3,	Hrs:	30.5
Meta Anderson	Trips: 3,	Hrs:	24.0
Mike Anderson	Trips: 3,	Hrs:	24.0

Cathy Berkeley	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Don Broussard	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	6.0
Mike Brown	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Brian Burton	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	7.0
Page Calloway	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	6.0
Clay Chambers	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	6.0
Cathy Chauvin	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	20.0
Larry Chu	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Illona Chu	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Phillip Collins	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Veronica Davila	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Nyla Dennis	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	16.0
Don Denton	Trips: 3,	Hrs:	32.0
Ed Devine	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	11.0
Marshall Elliot	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Dale Ellison	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Jennifer Falk	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Debbie Flanagan	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	7.0
Nina Fosgren	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Bulch Fralia	Trips: 9,	Hrs:	137.5
Pat Geary	Trips: 6,	Hrs:	61.0
Cynthia Grant	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Sheila Hartman	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Arlene Heintz	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Benjamin Heuss	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	14.0
Christopher Heuss	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Keith Heuss	Trips: 9,	Hrs:	109.5
Tom Kaler	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	23.0
Terry Holsinger	Trips: 8,	Hrs:	73.5
Alvis Hill	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	16.0
Arlene Hinojosa	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Joe Ivey	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Jay Jordan	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Rafal Kedzienski	Trips: 8,	Hrs:	88.5
Wojciech Kedzienski	Trips: 8,	Hrs:	88.5
Jennifer Kerslund	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Travis Kinchens	Trips: 4,	Hrs:	34.0
Sheila Knight	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Alicia Little	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Dave McClung	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	12.0
Yarla McNutt	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Amy Mercer	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	17.0
Ene Might	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	16.0
Geneva Might	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	16.0
Kelly Might	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Sharah Mitchell	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Dave Mithollin	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	11.0
Luis X. Morera	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Allen Moore	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Gary Moss	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Gary Nealey	Trips: 5,	Hrs:	51.0
Bob Obele	Trips: 5,	Hrs:	40.0
Kim Obele	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	12.0
Will Obele	Trips: 6,	Hrs:	59.0
Kenneth Olliff	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Libby Overholt	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	14.0
Marco Padillo	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Linda Pallit	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Scott Pannell	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	16.0
Douglas Parrish	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Dale Pate	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Mark Porter	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	25.5
Pam Porter	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	16.0
Ron Ralph	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Danny Sherrod	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Mary Speece	Trips: 4,	Hrs:	44.0
Rex Steele	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	23.0
Javier Trevino	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Tracy Van Eps	Trips: 3,	Hrs:	28.0
Tanya Villaveva	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	8.0
Joe Williams	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	20.0
Vicki Williams	Trips: 2,	Hrs:	20.0
Jim Wolfe	Trips: 6,	Hrs:	63.0
Ed Young	Trips: 9,	Hrs:	105.5
Jeanne Young	Trips: 1,	Hrs:	7.0
Total		Hrs:	1769.0

SUSAN PENNEY and CHUCK CLUCK
Post Office Box 1475
Alpine, Texas 79831
(915) 837-5249

June 27, 1991

Dale Ellison, Chairman
1208 Dan Gould Road
Arlington, Texas 76017

Dear Dale:

By copy of this letter, please make note of our new address:

Susan Penney and Chuck Cluck
Post Office Box 1475
Alpine, Texas 79831

I also don't recall paying any dues yet this year. Are we current in this regard? If not, please make a note on our next newsletter including the amount owed. *(\$5⁰⁰ for the balance of 1991)*

Chuck finally walked across the stage here at good ol' Sul Ross State University about 3 weeks ago. Consequently, he can't keep a post office box on campus. Chuck graduated with honors; knowing that he entered SRSU on scholastic probation with a 1.7 GPA I have an even greater sensation of admiration for his achievements. We celebrated heartily the afternoon of his graduation at the local lodge, with plenty of beer, food, live music, and games (croquet, badminton, etc.) 'til the wee hours of the morning and continued in a similar fashion for the rest of the week. *Dale*

Chuck was (and actually still is) desirous of becoming employed with a Texas based drilling company, who supposedly will pay him buckets of money to work for them. The best part of this job, besides all that money of course, is that Chuck will get time off (like two-three weeks at a time) between holes. Did you say, well so what? Of course you didn't you said hooray Chuck can go caving with us now. I suppose I should admit that I do get a bit jealous at times because Chuck's dreams always seem to come true. But, in actuality, I am very happy that I can share in his dreams. Chuck should be hearing back from these guys around the end of the summer or this fall; so, keep your fingers crossed.

Currently, Chuck has accepted a temporary job offer, through the University of Texas at Austin, in Emery, Utah. He will probably be there through November. Should you get an urge, you can write him at:

Chuck Cluck
General Delivery
Emery, Utah 84522