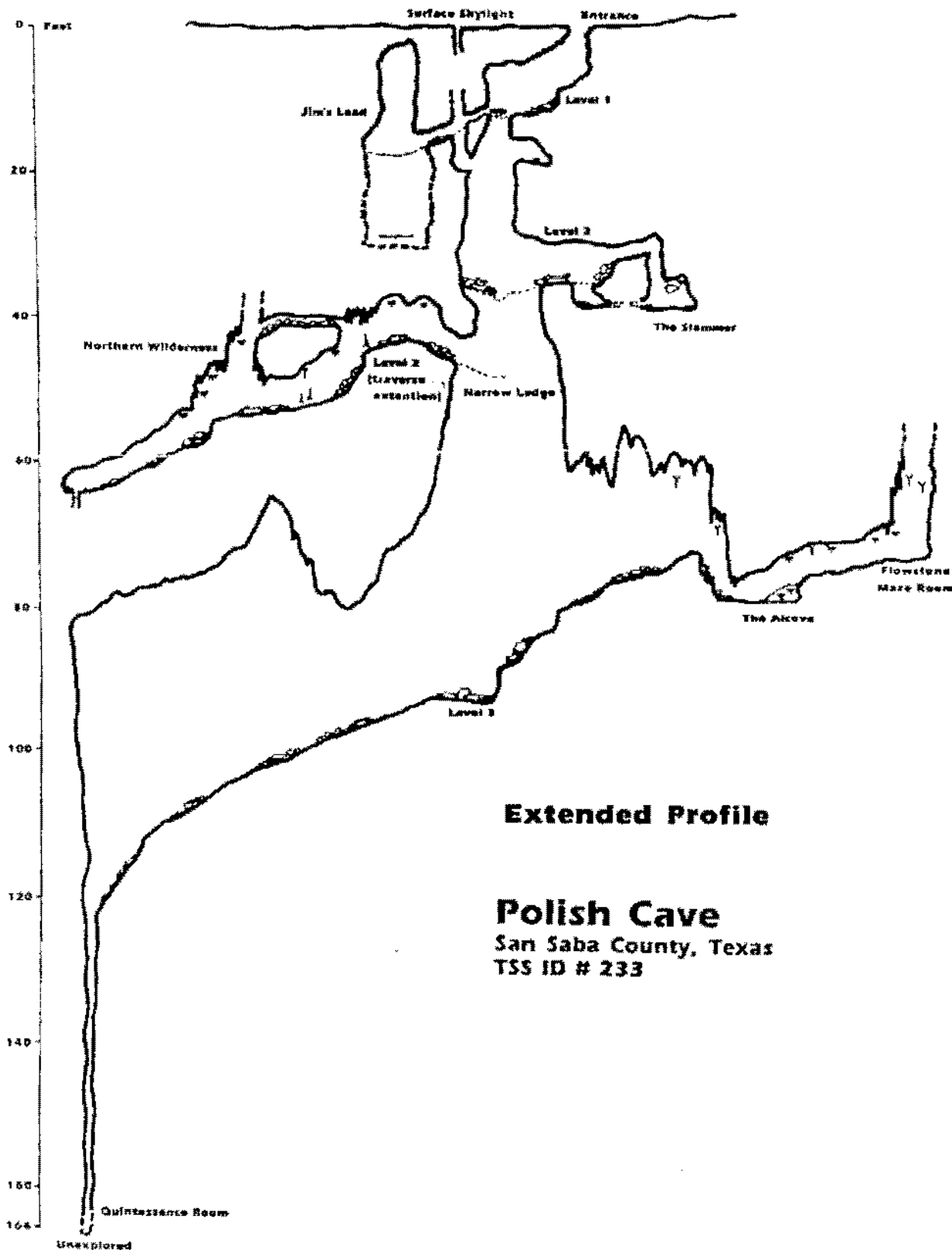


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



OF THE NSS, OCTOBER 1991 COLLECTORS ISSUE



Extended Profile

Polish Cave
San Saba County, Texas
TSS ID # 233

EVENTS OF INTEREST TO CAVERS

OCTOBER 11-13, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK. Contact Butch Fralia at home, 817-346-2039.

OCTOBER 12-13, BARTON UNDERGROUND RESEARCH PROJECT II, Whirlpool Cave Preserve. Austin, Texas. Contact Jay Jordan, 214-398-9272.

OCTOBER 11-14, PRECIPICIO, Mexico. Call Oren Tranbarger at 512-349-0208 (N)/ 512-522-2710 (D).

OCTOBER 18-20, M.V.O.R. Jacobs Cave, Missouri. Lake of the Ozarks Grotto. In the Cave banquet. Contact Don Toole, P.O. Box 277, Climax Springs, Missouri 65324. I don't have this cavers' phone number but the Grottos' # 1 contact is Alberta Zumwalt, (H)314-782-3560/ (W)314-893-5311.

OCTOBER 18-19-20, THE 1991 TEXAS OLD TIMER'S REUNION, Lone Man II Ranch. Contact Gill Ediger, 512-441-0050 or Butch Fralia, 817-346-2039. (Additional information about this great event is located elsewhere in this newsletter.)

OCTOBER 19-20, CRF Fitton Cave Survey. Contact Pete Lindsley at 214-727-2497.

OCTOBER 25-27, Powell's Cave Survey Project. Contact Terry Holsinger at 512-445-7340 or George Veni at 512-558-4403.

OCTOBER 26, Dutch Oven Cook-off and Pack Food Demo. call Mountain Sports at 817-461-4503 for information.

OCTOBER 25-27, SPR (Southern Plains Regional) meeting. Darritz Mountain State Park, Okla. Contact David Kowalski at 405-751-8519.

To cover the lag time that the **BULL** list on calendar dates, some November dates are included here for your planning and enjoyment.

NOVEMBER 1-3, Guad Trip. (This is a tentative weekend for the next trip to Three Mile Hill in New Mexico). Considered Caves are Sentinel and Three Fingers. Contact Oren Tranbarger at 512-349-0208(N)/512-522-2710(D).

NOVEMBER 9-10, Monthly expedition to Mystic Cave area. Contact Woodrow Thomas at 903-395-4431 or Greg Mooty at 214-827-2857.

****ALWAYS RECALL THAT YOUR MAVERICK GROTTA MEETING IS EACH 2nd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT SMOKEY'S RIBS IN FORT WORTH.**

SEPTEMBER MEETING 1991

Visitors at the September meeting were Darrin and Steve, welcome you guys. Darrin called the Chairman with his desire to get underground. A passage that's lit with colored lights in some commercial caves indicates that the passage continues. Well, he always wanted to persue that elusive passage. Steve is a young man that assisted in the digging out of a possible new water passage at River Styx Cave.

A very impressive donation to the GROTTO Library was finalized at the September meeting. Arlene Heintzs' brother, Caver Todd Heintz of Conway, Missouri donated books about caves and canoeing. So, to you from all of us down here in Texas. YE-HA. Thank Ya. (It looked like alot of chickens on one Junebug).

Russell Hill announced an impressive list of items that will be raffled off during the 5th anniversary party of Maverick Grotto thats being held on Sept. 28th at the M & W Ranch with our caving friends from DFW Grotto. This is an incomplete list but will include things like numerous can of Carbide, Carbide lamp, knee pads and a tent. Russell also announced a trip to Scotland and England probably the first of November. (Russell told me that tickets would need to be purchased in advance, so when you read this, it may be too late). Anyway, contact Russell or Jay Jorden.

Up and coming trips were announced which included a Mammoth Cave trip on Oct. 11-14. Various Guad trips and the monthly expedition to Mystic Cave in Oklahoma were just a few.

After trip reports were given, party plans were made for the up coming party. (Russell Hill smoked 40 lbs of brisket that melted in the attendees mouths like cotton candy).

Butch Fralia and Mark Porter are making plans for a Thanksgiving trip to Filton Cave. If your interested, call Butch at 817-346-2039.

The program was brought by Bruce Anderson which consisted of an excellant video tape.

OLD TIMERS CAVERS' REUNION

This awsom event will be held on the 18th, 19th & 20th of October at the Lone Man II Ranch near Wimberly, Texas. This is the same site that has been used for the past three years. Yes, they know it is a small campground. They ask that you be consciencious about parking, so that the maximum number of cars may be accomodated. Entry fee will be \$12.00 per person. The Austin Lounge Lizards will play Saturday evening. Try to bring or encourage as many new cavers to attend as you can. The following narrative directions should serve to get you to the site. From I-35 south out of Austin, 15-20 miles or so to Kyle, Texas at Road number 150, go West. At RM 3237 go left to RM 12, east of Wimberly. At this intersection stay on RM 3237 six tenths of a mile. Turn right onto Elite Acres Road (CR 173). In 2.5 miles turn right onto CR 174 and cross the Blanco River over a low-water bridge. Follow CR 174 for 2.2 more miles and look for the registration tent on the left ahead. I hope to personally see YOU there.

Address change: Dave Milhollin, 7350 DILido Blvd., Mira Mar, FL, 33023. Phone: 305-983-5315.

*** (David L. Eddy, for another \$4.00 you will have 1992 subscription paid for. I'll write to you in a few days. Thanks).

Destination: Colorado Bend State Park

Trip date: September 13-15, 1991

Reported by: Butch Fralia and Keith Heuss

Report date: September 17, 1991

Trip Leaders: Butch Fralia and Keith Heuss.

Personnel:	Carolyn Biegert	Dale Ellison	Butch Fralia	Pat Gerry	ED YOUNG
	Keith Heuss	Alvis Hill	Dawn Hill	Mark Porter	

Synopsis: ■ Space Heater Cave cleanup continues after removing bad air.
 ■ Cave task force meeting sets goals for caving season.

Jesse Tarin and Steve Densmore are no longer at Colorado Bend State Park. The new superintendent at the park is Robert Basse. He has been at the park for less than a month when we held this trip to the park. Our purpose in this special trip was to make our introduction to Robert and to make our plans for the upcoming caving season at the park. Some changes have occurred and we wanted to keep in the know as much as possible so our project can keep its objectives current.

The weekend began with my usual early arrival at the park followed shortly by Alvis and Dawn's arrival. We talked briefly to Robert Basse then headed for camp. We made a stop by Polish Cave to see if the ID tag is installed. The SAB 233 tag is installed at the cave entrance. Harvestman lined the entrance to the cave. After a quick look, we made our way to our camp.

Since we were going to be at the park, Pat Gerry suggested that we do a Space Heater cave clean-up Saturday. We made plans to do the clean-up work early in the day while it was still cool. We departed for Space Heater at 7:30 AM shortly after Pat and Carolyn arrived from Austin. We arrived at the cave 15 minutes later.

We rigged the pit with a static line for rappelling and a second line for hauling trash. Pat rappelled in and we measured the depth to the top of the trash (27.5 feet). Pat questioned the possibility of bad air in the cave. We told him to climb out of the pit and we would measure it. After returning to the surface, we rigged a carbide lamp on the end of a rope. We lowered it

into the cave and it went out at 17.5 feet into the pit. This was 10 feet above the trash floor of the cave.

We contemplated the situation for a while. We weren't going to let a little thing like bad air keep us out of the cave. The suggestion was made to use the buckets and lower them into the pit. We would lift them out thus removing some of the bad air out of the cave. Somebody else suggested that we used the 30 gallon plastic trash bags. So we rigged a wire hoop around the mouth of a bag to hold the end open. We put a small rock in the bottom of the bag to weight it down. The bag was lowered to the floor of the pit and allowed to collapse. It was lifted out using the rope we had rigged for hauling the trash buckets. As it was lifted out, the bag would open thus capturing the bad air in the bottom of the pit. After ten bags were hauled, we lowered the carbide lamp into the cave to test the air. Yes, it was working, we could lower the lamp about five feet further into the pit before it would go out. After hauling another ten bags full of bad air out of the cave the carbide lamp could be lowered all the way to the bottom of the pit without going out. Pat reentered the pit and did the old bic lighter test. The air was ok.

It was not 9:15 and we were ready to start the trash removal. Pat was insistent so we let him haul the first shift. Alvis took joined him later in the project and they both worked for a while. Pat came to the surface for a short break and rejoined Alvis in the pit to finish the day. On the surface caver humor was going most of the time

Colorado Bend State Park

and it showed that we all had a case of cabin fever. Dawn logged the 5 gallon buckets lifted out of the cave. We had planned to stop around 11:30 and head to camp for lunch and be ready for the meeting at 1:00 PM. We had 85 buckets out of the cave and we quickly set a goal of 99 buckets for the day before we would quit. This is equivalent to nine 55 gallon drums. In addition, separate lifts removed two tires, three lifts of stove parts, one clump of metal one load of oven parts and one space heater, not the one the cave is named for.

Several people have asked what kind of trash we are lifting out of the cave. To this request, Dawn logged some of the trash removed out of the cave. The majority is rusted metal with some glass mixed in. No dirt is mixed with the trash. In addition, these separate items are noted: a radio speaker, a small gas heater, two stove tops, copper tubing with valve, table leg, more stove parts, a toilet float, a Frito package (6 oz 35c), cranberry juice in a bottle, a garden hose, an old can (possibly gas can), glass Frell bottle, a live toad rescued from the bottom, a frog crawled out, a float out of a stock tank, old boot, old thermos type water bottle, cowboy boot, burner out of a stove, oven door, front of an aie, broiler of an oven, coffee pot, and some pipe. Excuse the long sentence! Pat also reports that towards the bottom of the pit, the trash became more decomposed and less gooey with much more rust with a lot fewer glass bottles.

We ended the project at about 12:00 noon. The measurement from the measuring bolt to the top of the trash was 30.5 feet. Another 3.0 feet of trash removed during our 4.5 hours of work. A small hole in the trash extends another 3.2 feet deep below the level of the trash. The hole is all lined in trash so we have another 3.2 feet to remove before any bottom can be reached. We arrived at camp and met with John Williams, TPWD/TSA cave liaison and Robert Basse, CBSP park superintendent. We headed for the conference center for a quick lunch and our meeting.

The cave task force meeting started around 1:00 PM in the afternoon. John announced that the legislation for volunteers in the parks has passed.

Robert will have the falls area for guided tours and would like to have assistance for Gorman Cave tours. One tour per month is set up and the first tours will be on Saturday, September 28, October 12 and November 9 of this year. Pat, Carolyn and Ed volunteered to be at the cave the in September. The October and November tours will coincide with our regular project to the park. Butch volunteered to be a guide at the cave these two weekends and will need at least one more assistant. John will be getting helmets for public to use in the cave. Discussion was made about a gate in the cave. We decided a gate should be put in the previously selected area, about half way through the cave. This project was beyond the scope of our volunteer efforts and a professional will be given the project. Some volunteer unskilled help may be provided if possible.

These area openings will be limited to only 30 cars allowed at a time in the falls area. Additional Gorman Cave parking will be at the gravel pile parking lot with use of the trail blazed during our previous trips as the route to the cave.

We presented our cave locations map of caves located thus far during the project. The map is a draft and a better map will be available before the October trip to the park.

Discussion was made about a cave passport system to allow access to caves on park lands. No decision was made on this topic at this point.

A project redirection is made at this time. We will be working to locate as many caves as possible within the park. They will be marked on the topographic map as close as can be reckoned. The overland survey will be used somewhat sparingly at this point. Short descriptions of the cave will be written up and the cave will be tagged with an ID tag. We will be expanding our operation to the Gorman Falls area of the park. We need to get any existing data known about caves on the Gorman Falls area of the park. The park service will be using a GIS system in the future so cave locations will include the UTM grid coordinates of the cave entrance.

We will have an Earth Day Project this year at the park. The weekend of the project is April 25, 1992. Of course we will be there all weekend, Friday through Sunday. Planning for the Earth

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Day will be in February 1992.

Dale and Ed will be doing bad air studies. They will visit as many caves as possible during the weekend and gather air quality data. This will data will be compared with weather data for any correlation. Rainfall data for the park will be collected to see what influence it has on bad air in the caves.

This is a short rundown of the project and its future and our goal for the 9 month caving season will be to locate as many caves as possible. Project weekends are listed below.

- Sep. 13-15, 1991 Cave Task Force meeting
- Sep. 28, 1991 Gorman Tours
- Oct. 11-13, 1991 Project, Gorman Tours
- Nov. 8-10, 1991 Project, Gorman Tours
- Dec. 13-15, 1991 Project

- Jan. 10-12, 1992 Project
- Feb. 7-9, 1992 Project, Earth Day plans
- Mar. 13-15, 1992 Project
- Apr. 10-12, 1992 Project, ED final plans
- Apr. 25, 1992 Earth Day Activities
- May. 8-10, 1992 Project
- Jun. 12-14, 1992 Project, season end

The cave task force meeting was over at 4:00 PM in the afternoon. We returned to camp for supper. Later in the evening, Ed, Butch and I took a hike over to two caves near camp. We went to Big Frog and the cave near it. We installed SAB 237 at the first cave and SAB 238 tag at Big Frog. We left the park Sunday fairly early in the morning with no projects done for the day.

Many thanks to Keith for the article. It is most welcome. Please note a change to David and Shari Finfrocks' address to: 1709 DanCiger, Fort Worth, Texas 76112. They will use this location for about 6 months untill their new home is built. The phone will remain the same. Everybody has missed you guys since Davids work hours have changed. Our sadness is with you, due to the passing of a co-worker, Harold Taft.

I'm glad I got to visit with you Alvis and Dawn at Gorman. I am looking forward for Old Timers because many members of Maverick Grotto live a for piece from where we meet. We'll get to see each other and have a very short meeting. Hope that you can make it George and Kay.

Mr. A.C. Cummings and Mr. Otis Bristor, we here at Maverick havon't forgotten ya'll. Butch Fralia and Dale Ellison hope to make plans to visit sometime in the next few months.

Colorado Bend State Park

PLEASE all exchanges must be sent to the Editor for proper exchange credit. Some exchanges we have listed but I do not know where your copies are going are: Southwestern Cavers from Carlsbad, New Mexico, North Texas Speleo. Society from Wichita Falls, Texas, Lubbock Area Grotto from Lubbock, Texas and DC Grotto from Alexandria, Va.

*Hi to Joel & Vickie Williams, Tracey Van Eps, Tom Torres, Woodrow Thomas, Mary Speece, good to see you Danny Sherrod and Troy Shelton, James Savage Jr., miss you Jody & Debra Robertson, Mike Pearson, Earnest Parker, Jean Might and call me sometime Don Lloyd. Lets get together at Colorado Bend in Oct. Hello to Sylvia Kearney and John & "Liz" Hooper. We miss you Cindy Hamner Kevin Glover and Joe Giddens. Hey Joe, try to make Ol' Timers. We all deeply appreciate all your efforts on the Bull. Steve & Pat Gentry. Did you change your phone number? Hello to Jim Catewood, hope your happy with the newsletter. (Running out of room) Hello to: Jeff Duvall Terry Doversberger, naked Don Denton, Mark Busby, Kuwait Jet fighter pilot James Blaze, Barbe Barker, Pooch & Teresa Amy. Welcome, Kim Duff.

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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTO, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS 6-322). 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.

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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.

CARBIDE: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting on the even numbered months. The carbide is free to all members and is sold to others at the price of 50 cents a pound. Anyone needing carbide at other times should contact Vice-Chairman Bruce Anderson to arrange for pick up.

Maverick Grotto Patches are still for sale, see Jimmy Thomas, his address and phone number are listed above.

I have mentioned this several times and here I go again,... If you team up with someone and ride to a cave and you really don't remember where you left some item, call me and I'll see that it gets put in the Maverick Bull Lost and Found section of the news letter. If you've been looking for it well,...it must be lost! If you get home with extra gear, the owner may be looking for it. They could find it here in the Bull.

Chairman: Dale Ellison
1208 Dan Gould Rd.
Arlington, Texas 76017
(817) 473-0463

Vice-Chairman: Bruce Anderson
504 Kinbrough
Fort Worth, Texas 76108
(817) 246-6313

Treasurer: Jimmy Thomas
3705 Bluebonnet Circle
Weatherford, Texas 76087
(817) 599-8278

Editor/
Secretary: Dale Ellison (Temp.)

CAVE RESCUE: Call Collect (512) 686-0234

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.

(\$10.00 PER YEAR)

