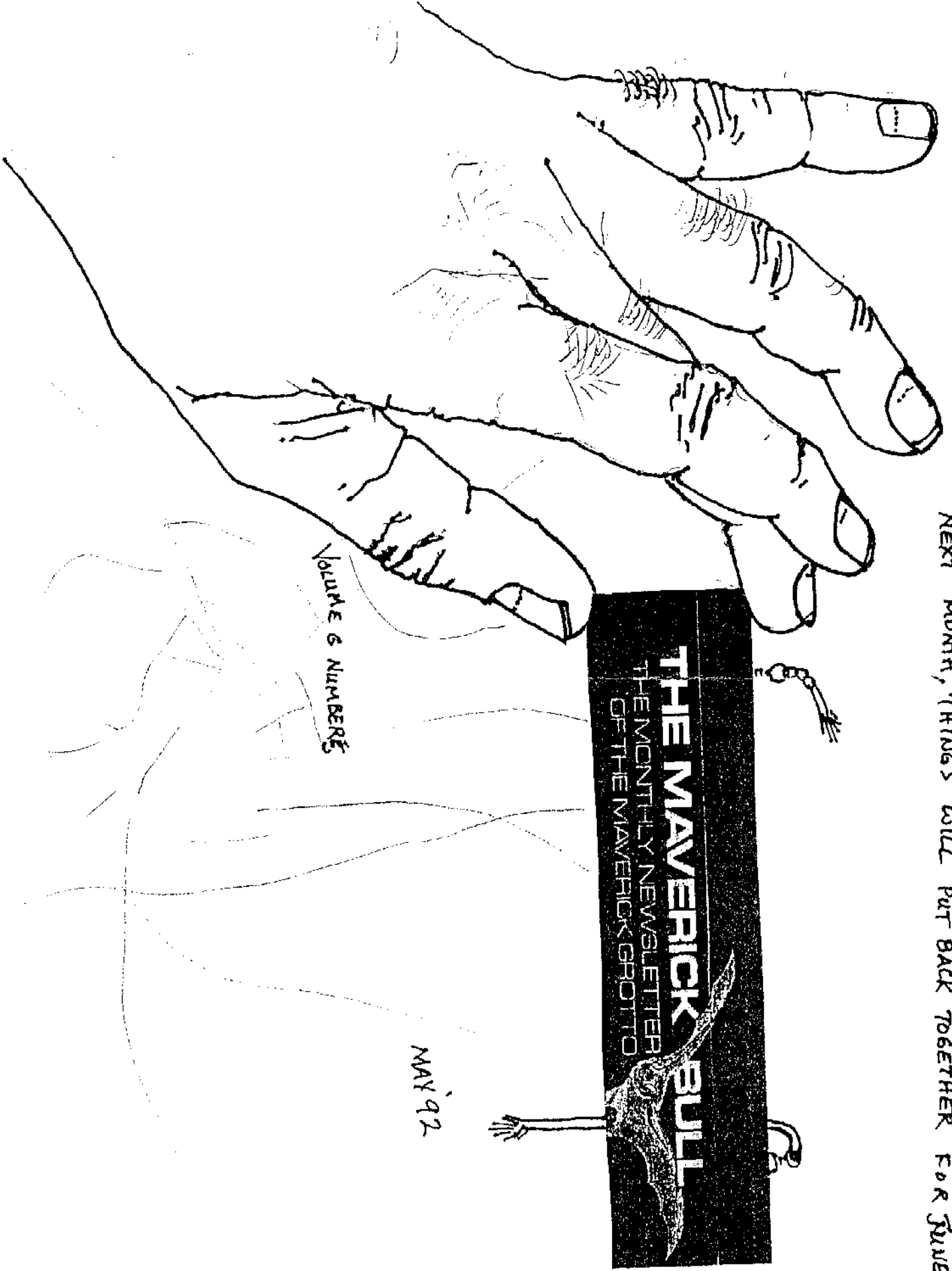


EDITORS NOTE: DUE TO THE STORM THAT HIT SOUTH ARLINGTON, THE NEWS LETTER WAS UNAVOIDABLY DELAYED, AND NOT ALL ITEMS WERE INCLUDED THAT WAS PLANNED FOR THIS ISSUE. HOPEFULLY, NEXT MONTH, THINGS WILL PUT BACK TOGETHER FOR JUNE.



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5

MAY '92

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 12, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING.

JUNE 9, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING.

JUNE 12-14, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, monthly work trip. This will be the last work trip until October.

JUNE 21-27, CARLSBAD CAVERNS RESTORATIONS. Contact Dick Venters, 410 Stallion Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124. (505)-892-7370.  
JUNE 26-28, POWELL'S CAVE. Contact Terry Holsinger for information. 512-443-4241.

JULY 14, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING.

AUGUST 3-7, NSS CONVENTION, Salem, Indiana, Delancy Creek Park. Contact: Scott Fee C/O 1992 Convention, P.O. Box 2262, Clarksville, IN, 46206. (317)291-7807. All fees are fully refundable.

OCTOBER 16-18, 15th ANNUAL TEXAS OLD TIMERS REUNION. Lone Man II Ranch near Wimberly.

OCTOBER 9-11, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, monthly work resumes.

NOVEMBER 10, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING, annual election of officers.

DECEMBER 11-13, COLORADO BEND STATE PARK, monthly work trip.

DECEMBER, MAVERICK GROTTO MEETING will not be held in favor of Christmas Party.

COVER: As indicated on the front cover of this newsletter, production of this issue was disrupted to such an extent that it almost didn't happen due to the baseball size hail traveling through windows and through the house.

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Editor.

Sometimes people will ask a question and with the best of intentions the response seems to fade and never appear in the news letter. For Shari Finfrock, Bat Conservation International, P.O. Box 162603, Austin, Texas 78716-2603. BCI has a Bat House for sale for \$140.00 or if a member of BCI it is discounted at \$125.00. If this is not your cup of tea to have a signed and numbered Bat House from the Artist, my brother said that he would make you one for the cost of the material and \$10.00. He would make the house from a plan obtained from the NSS.

Thanks Alvis and Dawn for the kind and encouraging word. Newsletters are only as good as the Editors effort but mostly it is the effort that all members of the organization puts into the publication. Most members will use the excuse that they don't know how to write bits and pieces for the newsletter. So the continuing spiral of no contributions to their organizations newsletter becomes a tradition.

Thanks for the request Amy. I will dig up some neat stuff especially for you on Bats for a future newsletter.

There has been alot of talk about the next Vertical Training Session dates. Perhaps Ernest Parker will read this and get the hint!!!

You have been missed James Blase.

JOE GIDDENS, PLEASE PAY YOUR \$10.00 FOR THIS YEARS DUES!

The Editor welcomes your telephone calls with any kind of verbal trip report or tid-bits of interest to recipients of the newsletter.

## AN AFTERNOON IN THE PARK

By Rafal Kedzierski

DATE: April 11, 1992

DESTINATION: Colorado Bend State Park

PERSONNEL: Chris Johnson, Rafal Kedzierski, Wojciech Kedzierski, Jang Dong Kim, Jang Son Kim, Kyuon Lee, Mike Rogers.

STAFF NOTES: The following article is from a State Park Project Report Form. It seemed a note worthy filler article for the "Bull." The boys are all class mates of Rafal's and enjoyed themselves immensely during the trip. This article points out that the exceptionally heavy rain this year has made significant changes in caves around the state. If you have a favorite cave you haven't been to in awhile, don't be surprised if different when you return.

All the members of the Academic Decathlon Team\* proceeded at 10:00 am to find Lemon's Ranch Cave. Quite luckily we located the cave and all members proceeded to the Cathedral Room. In the crawl way area, we encountered CO<sub>2</sub> and flame burned an inch away from the lighter. This shows high amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> Considering recent floods. However past the crawl way air quality improved as suggested by the lighter. Many members also noted a slight breeze through this part of the cave. There was a little growth on formations although little flow occurred in intermittent stream passage during recent floods. Thus, the cave did not change drastically during recent floods.

After exiting the cave at 11:30 am, everyone proceeded to Turtle Shell Cave. There they located David Cooper and others collecting specimens in what they thought was Lemon's Ranch Cave. Mike Rogers and Rafal Kedzierski noted an opening in the side of the main room. This led about one-hundred to one-hundred-fifty feet through what seemed dry stream passage. The stream passage averaged five feet wide and one to three feet tall. When verifying the description of Turtle Shell, the passage did not appear in it. It can be assumed the passage washed out during recent floods. The passage seemed to end; however, because of time limitations, we didn't check all the leads in this new section. In addition, Kyuon Lee, Jang Dong Kim, Mike Rogers, Chris Johnson, and Rafal Kedzierski dropped the lowest pit in Turtle Shell. At the bottom, we encountered a foot of water, and water obviously flowed here in large amounts. The bottom should be revisited when dry and surveyed for new passage. The whole group returned to campsite by 4:00 pm, and later participated in the Gorman Cave trip.

\*Members of the Irving High School Academic decathlon team who this year placed forth out of twenty-seven teams in the DFW area.

## EQUIPMENT FAILURE REPORT

This failure happened on April 6, 1992 while caving in River Styx Cave in West Texas.

Most of the group went in the dry 1963 entrance. Mark Porter and myself had entered the river entrance. After negotiating approximately 2,000 feet of water cave, we entered the main dry corridor. Mark and I stopped and removed the tops of our wet suits and shot the bull for awhile. We then decided to proceed to find the rest of the group. Mark was ahead of me and I stopped to remove some gravel from my boots. I had just finished tying the second boot when I suddenly smelled smoke and felt something hot against my side. I looked down and discovered that my wheat battery was burning. I quickly removed my belt and the light started failing. I turned off the switch and fumbled for a minimag. I remember thinking, "when is the battery going to blow?". The charger plug in the top of the plastic battery top had now melted completely out of the top. I quickly went into my pack for a screwdriver. By the time I had the battery top off of the battery, the charger plug had completely burned up and all that was left were two bare wires. I separated the wires and turned the lamp back on and all was well so I duct taped the wires back up and continued caving. What really got to me was I kept thinking what would have happened if I had been on rope.

After returning home, I called and ordered a new head, battery top and charger. Needless to say this one charges through the head piece. The old head piece is still on the bedroom floor where I threw it one month ago.

### ANALYSIS

I attribute the battery not blowing up due to the nylon screws that were in the vent holes. I am sure some would say this was my fault as I had been in river cave. I reject this as this is not the first time I have caved in water with this lamp. I had been in dry cave for 30 minutes when this incident happened.

The charger plug simply shorted out and burned up. This lamp was the 5800 or what they also call the coon hunters special. They say the lamp is not MESA approved. What they should say in addition to this is the lamp is not safe for caving. The manufacturer is well aware of the fact that people are using these lamps for caving. The way this model charges is a design flaw and makes this lamp dangerous for the sport of caving.

Submitted by,  
Bruce Anderson  
NSS 29203  
504 Kimbrough  
Ft. Worth, TX 76108  
(817)246-6313

Copyright c 1992, THE MAVERICK GROTTTO.

THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, an internal organization of THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other Grottoes to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-address stamped envelope should accompany it.

REPRINTING ARTICLES: Internal organizations of the NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author, as will be stated in the byline) first appearing in THE MAVERICK BULL, if proper credit is given and complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor of THE MAVERICK BULL at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor at the address herein.

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

COMPLEMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide complementary newsletters to persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide one free issue to persons interested in becoming members.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription rates are \$10.00 per year for members and non-members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any individual with interest, 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 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next door to K-Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M. and the food is good.

CARBIDE: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting on even numbered months. The carbide is free to all members and is sold to others at the price of fifty-cents per pound. Anyone needing carbide at other times should contact Butch Fralia (817/346-2039) to arrange for pickup.

LIBRARY: Support your Grotto Library. Russell Hill will be accepting books, magazines 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.

CHAIRMAN: Butch Fralia  
3412 Walton Ave.  
Fort Worth, Tx, 76133  
(817)346-2039

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Ed Young  
3030 Oak Ridge Place  
Grand Prairie, Tx, 75051  
(214)262-8188

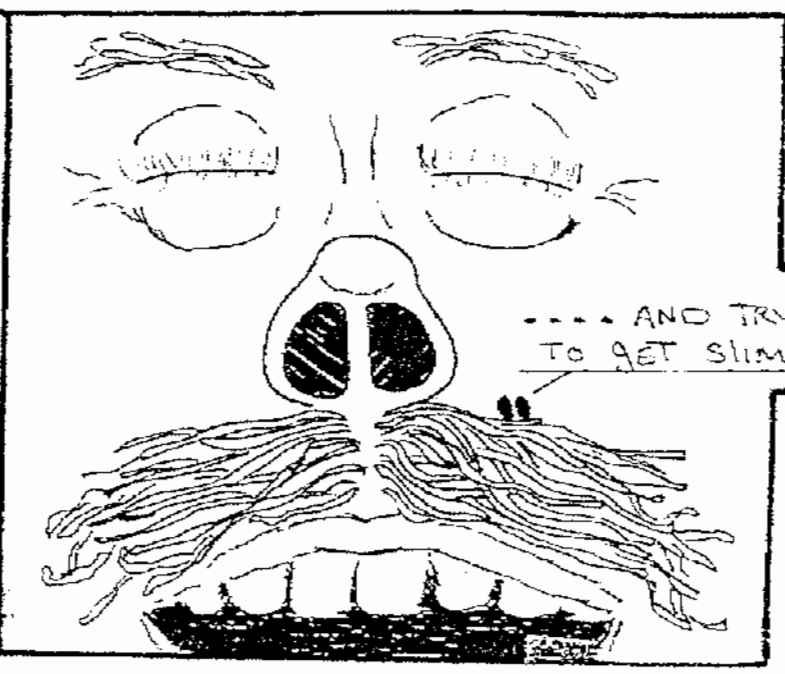
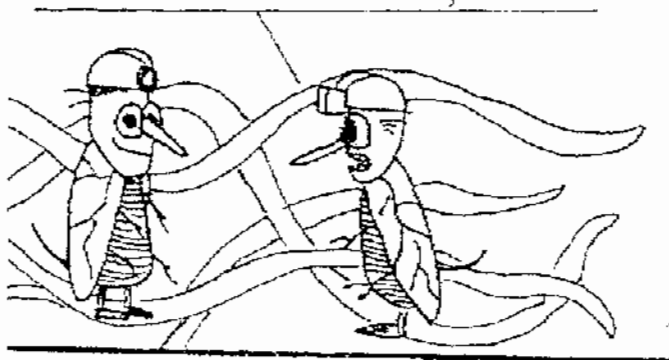
SECRETARY/EDITOR: Dale Ellison  
1208 Dan Gould Rd.  
Arlington, Tx, 76017  
(817)473-0463

TREASURER: Jimmy Thomas  
3705 Bluebonnet Circle  
Weatherford, Tx, 76087  
(817)599-8278

CAVE RESCUE: CALL COLLECT (512)686-0234



WHEN WE GET TO WIND CAVE,  
WE'LL TAKE THE RIGHT ENTRANCE,  
DROP ROARING PIT AND EXIT  
THROUGH THE IVORY ROOM....



.... AND TRY NOT  
TO GET SLIMED!

W  
E  
L  
C  
O  
M  
E

W  
E  
L  
C  
O  
M  
E

