
THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



Volume 6 Number 6

Produced By Charlie C

June 1992



"GEORGE C. THE CAVER" Photo by: New Mexican John Ganter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY MINUTES

JUNE 9, MAVERICK GROTTA MEETING.

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

JUNE 20-21, CRP Fitton Cave Survey, Buffalo National River, Arkansas. Contact Pete Lindsley at 214-727-2497 for any information needed.

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 11-12, Monthly expedition to Mystic Cave area. Contact Grog Mooty, 214-827-2857 or Woodrow Thomas at 903-395-4431.

JULY 14, MAVERICK GROTTA MEETING.

AUGUST 3-7, NSS CONVENTION, Salem, Indiana, Delaney 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. Now is not too early to make plans for this awesome event.

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

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

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

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

COVER: Our June "Cover-boy," is George Crosby from Lake Charles, La. at the edge of a pit in New Mexico. Photo donated by Donna Anderson.

Thirteen people showed up on this rainy night. Chairman Butch Fralia opened the meeting and gave information on the TSA Spring Convention. The June trip to Gorman /Colorado Bend State Park will see plans for a big cook-out. Don't miss this event which is the last one for this season (officially) until October.

Donna Anderson announced that alot of different committees have been formed and a list of them was passed around for anyone wishing to sign up for one or more could do so. It will take alot of cavers to staff various jobs for the 1994 NSS Convention. Become part of history when TEXAS host the NSS and the WORLD.

Cave Dave proposed a Grotto equipment stock to be used by new cavers and would be paid for out of Grotto funds. A short discussion followed. At this meeting, nothing was decided specifically.

Editor Dale Ellison offered a thought for consideration for the next Maverick/DFW party. A Part-O-Let. (An out door construction type toilet.)

CONGRATULATIONS to Wojciech Kedzierski and family for obtaining their green cards, which means we will enjoy their friendship longer. Another CONGRATULATIONS to Rafal Kedzierski for being accepted to the University of Texas at Austin. He will be majoring in Chemistry. We are all very proud of you and your family.

Items of interest in some future issues are but not limited to, and article on BATS.

An article titled "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A KARST RESEARCHER: EVIL PACKRATS CHEWED MY ROPE" by Woodrow Thomas.

From the Texas Christian University, our own Tres. Jimmy Thomas with a essay titled: STORMWATER RUNOFF AND THE EDWARDS AQUIFER.

A humorous "but true" short story written by Dale Ellison that references, eating.

A scrambled word puzzle with members and subscribers names mixed up for you to find.

Joe Giddens paid his dues and sent along with his check a letter wrote on another letter about something I've never heard of.

A FIRST TIME VIEW OF RIVER STYX

By Jim Payne

DATE: April 3-5, 1992

DESTINATION: River Styx Cave, King Country, Texas

PERSONNEL: Bruce Anderson, Donna Anderson, Mike Anderson, Daniel Brown, Connie Chaney, Butch Fralia, Pat Gentry, Rachel Gentry, Steve Gentry, Lindsey(?), (Rachel's friend), Meta Huzarevich, Bobby Moore, Jim Payne, Mark Porter, Pam Porter, Tag Swann, Joel Williams, Vickie Williams.

Getting to the camp late Friday night, I didn't see much of the landscape. I immediately went to setting up the tent. After getting everything in place it was bedtime for this guy. Well I woke up about three hours later, evidently I brought the wrong air mattress. This one required air for every three hours of comfort. So after a long restful sleep it was time to get up. Emerging from the tent blurry eyed I got my first scenic view of the area. The hilltop camping location gave way to a steep slope dropping about 200 feet down to a small river and immense valley. Evergreen scrub and grasses covered the valley. The hilltop also afforded for a very strong brisk wind coming out of the valley that provided for an eye opening experience. Clear skies were a welcome sight.

It was a good turn out. Everyone scrambled for breakfast as the camp came to life. After breakfast Butch led a trip down to the river entrance. Steve, Pat, and Rachel Gentry, and her friend Lindsey, Mike Anderson, Meta Huzarevich, Tag Swann, Joel and Vickie Williams and I followed. Only a short hike and we were at the entrance. Butch, Tag, and I ventured in a short distance over rocks and through the mud avoiding the water. The many bats clustered inside indicated a very hefty population. Going as far as we could without getting wet, we returned to the entrance and began the climb back. Butch led as we climbed up the side of the hill taking a challenging route that required negotiating a trick ledge.

Back at camp two late arrivals came. Daniel Brown rode out from Denton on his motorcycle. Mark and Pam Porter followed immediately behind. Butch, Donna, Joel, and Vickie left to go to the ranch house. Donna had brought a large pot of flowers for the owner to maintain good relations. Daniel and I went out to look at the sink holes. There were several sinks alongside the road to the camp. Sink holes deep enough and large enough to fit a house. Some had drains that appear to have possibilities for an entrance. After ridge walking awhile, we headed back for the camp. On the way back, Butch and the others were also coming back from the ranch house.

Back at camp preparations for the trip through the River Styx cave began. The cavers unloaded their gear, stuffed their packs, filled their canteens and put their knee pads on. The Group gathered, Bruce Anderson and Mark Porter armed with wet suits were going to brave the river entrance. The rest of us including Pam Porter, and Bobby Moore set out for the '63 entrance. Connie Chaney stayed and kept watch over the camp.

The hike to the entrance included checking out the '64 entrance and a search for Big Bubba. Big Bubba was nowhere to be found so we moved on to the '64 entrance rubble area. Butch and Donna were looking for new entrances and found some promising holes. Butch checked out one, going head first. He started down, down a little bit, then down some more until his legs were straight in the air. Butch decided he didn't want to go further, but gravity had other ideas. Donna and I ended up grabbing on to what was left sticking out of the hole. Donna with one foot, and I with the other pulled and Butch was able to work his way back up. He came out talking about rocks shifting and a possible new entrance dig. Donna looked in and agreed with the possibility. After Butch had his fill of poking around the rubble we were back off to the '63 entrance.

The group strapping on helmets lined up as Donna went in first and checked for rattlesnakes. Getting in was tricky, but easy. The first passage was an easy crawl with bats dotting the ceiling here and there. The group being mindful, kept their heads down to avoid any disturbance of the bats. The passage grew larger and larger, Meta was in the lead as we reached the Junction Room. It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how this room got its name. With five passages intersecting from this one room it was a definite main of the cave system. The ceiling rose to about twenty feet and two of the passages appeared

identical. One will lead you out and the other will have you going in circles. While waiting for the rest of the party I sat there in awe. The others arrived and we all took a rest.

Donna volunteered to take the party to the Gypsum Blister Passage (another fitting name) gypsum was blistering from the ceiling. The blisters had formed into hanging sheets of rock bent in the center with unusual edges. Some defying gravity where very little of the blister still clung to the ceiling. Donna noted there is less gypsum blister now than at earlier times. Joel and Vickie broke out the camera to capture the image. After taking in the visual delight of the Blister passage we moved on.

Going back to the Junction Room the party went to the passage on the right. This was a short walking passage with plenty of room. The passage turned back on itself as an "S" and rounding the first turn was the Window. Looking back from the other side of the Window the others were there looking and walking around the "S," a window for sure. Down from the Window more crawl passages. The group took an upper crawl passage at the top of breakdown. Donna, Bobby and Daniel pushed an upper crawl leading off this passage. The rest of us crawled on and found a hole in the floor with a climb down into the main passage. This intersection is about one hundred forty feet from the Junction Room.

We went on down the main passage and climbed up a slope of breakdown and entered the Main Dome Room. Inside the Dome Room there was an extensive pile of dirt and rock the ceiling went up about sixty feet. Butch commented on how much had collapsed since he was last here. The collapse exposed the red layer of soil at the top. Butch went on to suggest it wouldn't be much longer before there will be a vertical entrance into the cave. He pointed out that an area on the floor of the dome where cavers normally butt rappel down has now closed off. A space of about twelve feet filled during the last collapse. The cavers followed the remaining route past the dome room by way of a small squeeze. At this point the packs started flying, sandwiches started to emerge and mouths stuffed in a blink of an eye. From out of the dark came two guys with wet suits to join us. Bruce had an experience with his Wheat lamp battery. It seems that out of the clear blue the battery started smoking. No doubt the excitement level was high, especially if the battery you have strapped on started to burn. Fortunately it didn't turn into a serious injury. After lunch we reloaded the packs and off we went away from the Dome Room.

Donna led the way down into a small crawl passage with everyone but Butch following. Butch had apparently stepped off down a side passage. Coming out of the crawlway into a larger passage, Butch stood waiting. This according to Butch and Donna is apparently a "treat" for first time visitors to River Styx. Having a less aggressive and gullible group than usual, Donna had to lead for them to explore the passage. In the larger passage were upper level crawls that Butch and Donna felt might have washed out since prior visits. We boosted Lindsey, Meta and Rachel up for a look but the passage didn't go.

Continuing on, we moved down the passage heading for Bat Cave Junction. The passage was getting muddy as we went forward. There were several interesting experiences "listening" to the younger girls wade in puddles past the woo line. At Bat Cave Junction, Bruce and Mark found some cavers willing to take the river passage. Joel and Vickie, and Bobby went with Bruce and Mark.

The remaining party went on as Donna took us to the Racing Stripe Room. Anyway with the names being so fitting the Racing Stripe Room had stripes running around the walls. Some of the party moved on up the passage looking for more cave. Butch thinks there is a bat nursery further back in the passage during the summer months. This endeavor ended shortly because of guano deposits. Back on track, (in the opposite direction) the passage lowered into a crawl but shortly opened into the First Bat Room. The floor was thick with guano and the ceiling and walls were thick with bats. This room was of good size and like the Dome Room had a breakdown floor.

Continuing down the Bat Cave into the Second Bat Room. This room was similar to the First Bat Room but with much more breakdown. The ceiling of this room has collapsed several times during the last two years. Butch started clamoring around the breakdown looking for the squeeze to take us into the Main Bat Room. Butch took a few stabs at a couple of holes and finally climbed into the right one. He went complete through the breakdown crawl to assure it was the right one before we followed. After a short time, he yelled back saying it was the right passage, come on down. Meta spotting his light, got assistance from Mike and dropped through a hole no one else could use. Yelling directions, Butch finally got someone steered to the right hole. The traverse to the Main Bat Room began. Steve stayed

above the squeeze and provided guidance to the rest of us on the trip.

The trip included taking off any taking off any strapped on gear. Go in feet first, face up, and slide in. Once in, squat walk forward a few feet, lay on your back, and turn on your side. Now get ready to make a sharp turn. Put your feet and legs into the turn while floundering on your side like a fish out of water. As your torso gets into the turn its over on the back and flounder on your back 'til you get through. It took awhile for the party to move from the Second Bat Room to the Main Bat Room passage.

Entering the Main Bat Room it was thick with bats. More than the other rooms for sure. The guano accumulation on the floor was like walking on the moon. From the Main Bat Room it was into the water we go. Like all the other fitting names, I soon found out where River Styx got its name. That water was colder than hell. As I walked through this section of the river passage my feet and legs were tingling with numbness. Keeping as close to the walls as possible I was able to avert any surprises in depth. We traversed this section slowly because submerged rocks, and drop offs were not visible. Throughout the water passage, everyone kept up a running commentary on woo line exposure. A faint light started to appear ahead and we all knew that the end was near and it was time to emerge from the cave. Attentions started turning to food, dry clothes and sunshine. Back up the trail and across the tricky ledge to camp we went.

Joel and Vickie told us about the river passage and the pictures they took. Joel described how deep the water was and about some passage where his shirt pockets got wet. Not only the shirt pockets but the camera flash units too. Bruce talked awhile about wet suits. He let us know that even with a wet suit it takes a little while for the woo line to warm back up. Meta said she would never join the River Styx fan club.

Before long everyone had on dry clothes and were preparing dinner. Connie found a perfect site for the campfire. We rebuilt an old fire pit on the site then Donna, Connie, Bobby, and I collected the fire wood. Right at dusk we lit the fire and everyone gathered around. Rachel and Lindsey put on a skit about caving. What I got out of it is, make sure you zip your pack so you don't loose the food. Bobby got out the guitar, Donna broke out the Maverick Grotto Song Book. Tag entertained us with a few songs. Butch and Donna sang some old favorites from the song book. One by one we ended the day, leaving the campfire and turning in.

The memory of this River Styx Cave trip will be lasting. River Styx while an easy cave to explore held challenges that command respect for this system. As this is my first trip with Donna Anderson, I only hope to become as aggressive of a caver as she is. Even after Styx, the next day she was ready for Salt Spring Cave. No one spoke up. Now I regret not saying "Let's go!" Next trip I'll make it a point to visit River Styx Cave and Salt Spring Cave to round out the perfect caving weekend.

INFORMATION ON GEAR

I would like to introduce a catalog that has everything to maximize energy efficiency and environmental sensibility in your home. Super-efficient lighting, refrigeration, water heating, water conservation, water & air purification, recycling, battery charging, and non-toxic household cleaners—the basics of energy sanity. This catalog is named REAL GOODS. Their mailing address is: Real Goods, 966 Mazzoni Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. They have a toll free number which is: 1-800-762-7325.

Some of the items contained in this catalog are Bat House, World's smallest Water Filter and a Dynalite. The Bat House is made of pine, weather-resistant and will comfortably house thirty bats. The house measures 9.5"W x 16.75"H x 8.5"D and contains four internal chambers with perching grooves which are accessed from under the bottom of the house which attaches to a tree or house. The open bottom discourages squirrels and birds from moving in. The bat home is listed as \$28.00. The Smallest water filter is called The Clean Sip. It is small enough to fit in your pocket, yet contains the latest technology in water filtration—a combination of three micro filters, activated charcoal, and a patented, high purity metal alloy. The result is elimination or reduction of heavy metals (lead, mercury, hydrogen sulphide, aluminum, arsenic) as well as chlorine, algae, fungus, scale and sediment. Life is

approximately five-8 ounce glasses of water per day for up to six months, depending on the condition of the water. The filter is listed at \$14.00.Ⓢ Now, the Dynalite. This lite is a manual flashlight. With continuous squeezing action the Dynalite produces a small steady light, perfect for anyone who doesn't want to rely on batteries. The light may not be as bright as a conventional flashlight, but it will not let you down in an emergency. This flashlight is compact, shock proof, and has a shatterproof lens. This light has a great price of \$8.00.Ⓢ

I am getting this information about these products from their 1991 Christmas Catalog so the prices may not be as indicated. For those folks that owns a remote cabin somewhere and it is so remote that no electricity is available, well, the Real Goods people also sells remote home kits that allow power but your not connected to any power company.

If you don't want the catalog but you want of the items listed above, the bat house item number is 54-210, the item number for the straw is 42-607 and the item number for the Dynalite is 37-308. Use the 1-800 number above to call and place your order.

By installing a few simple water-saving devices, costing less than \$50.00, the average household can save more than 30,000 gallons of water and \$60.00 in water and energy cost each year. If every American made this investment as an Earth Day Project, together we would save enough water to cover a football field 1,500 miles high, energy equivalent to 7 huge power plants and over \$1.3 billion per year. {Amory Lovins, Director of Research, Rocky Mountain Institute}



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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.

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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.

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