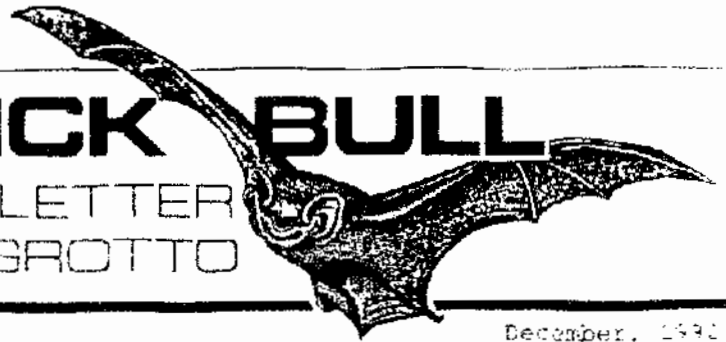


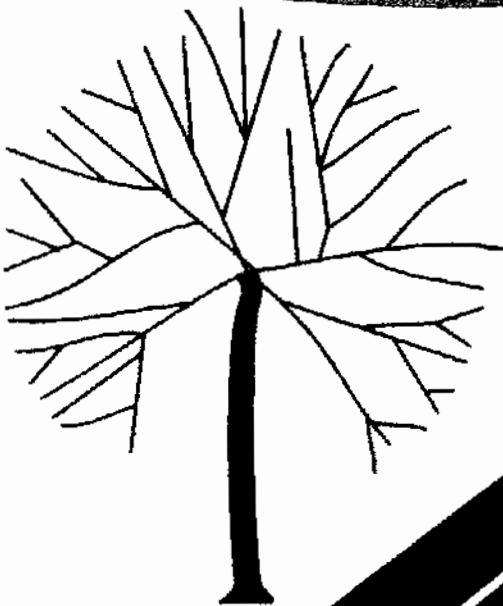
# THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Volume 6 Number 12

December, 1990



**XMAS PARTY!**  
Dave and Barbe's House  
December 17  
Fun And Merriment For All !



**The Maverick Bull** is the monthly newsletter of The Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of The National Speleological Society (NSS G-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.

**Reprinting Articles:** Internal organizations of The National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author as stated in the byline) first appearing in *The Maverick Bull* if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor of *The Maverick Bull* at the address herein.

**Exchanges:** The Maverick Grotto will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

**Complementary Newsletters:** The Maverick Grotto will provide complementary newsletters to persons or organizations that provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Maverick Grotto 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 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. Those 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 Eats, 5300 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is located less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next 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 and magazines 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:** Danny Sherrid  
3 Cobb Drive  
Joshua, Tx. 76058  
(817)295-5167

**Secretary/Editor:** Ernest Parker  
616 Nw. King  
Burleson, Tx. 76028  
(817)447-8344

**Treasurer:** Mark Porter  
513 Valley Park  
Garland, Tx. 75243  
(214)271-8147

**Cave Rescue:** Call collect (512)686-0234

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### Change Of Address For The Editor

A new editor for *The Maverick Bull* has been elected for 1993. Items for publication in *The Maverick Bull* and exchange newsletters should now be mailed to: *Maverick Bull*  
616 Nw. King  
Burleson, Tx. 76028

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

by Butch Pralla

At the October meeting, I had misgivings about the Maverick Grotto continuing as an organization. When the time came to nominate '93 officers the meeting turned to chaos. The only nomination made was for a non member. The widespread apathy concerning grotto operation and purpose is disheartening. Fortunately, Danny Sherrod, Mark Porter, and Ernie Parker came forward and said they were willing to assume the open offices. The new slate of officers were elected by acclamation at the November meeting. This means the grotto has another year of existence left before we have to face this problem again.

The outgoing officers have made their contributions to the grotto, and I hope everyone realizes this. Ed Young as vice-chairman made sure we had a program every month. He bought a television and VCR just to bring to meetings. He made a contribution in encouraging and helping set up a more organized meeting format. Dale Ellison, is a past chairman who assumed the responsibility of newsletter editor. He put the newsletter together with little help from club members. He put his time in and needs a rest along with a little appreciation for his efforts. Jimmy Thomas kept the books in good order while attending a few cave trips, working on his masters degree, teaching lab classes at TCU and operating a business in Weatherford. I personally want to thank these people for the time and effort they've put into their offices and the grotto. Me, of course, you are stuck with for at least another year.

The new officers have also contributed to caving. Danny Sherrod (vice-chairman), is very active in caving. In the last two years, he's been so occupied caving; he hasn't had time to be active in the grotto. He's changing that now, he's ready to get programs together and set up trips. Danny takes some good trips and knows a lot of cavers around the country. This will be a real chance for those who have never visited New Mexico Caves, Mexico Caves, or caves in other parts of the world. Mark Porter (treasurer) is an active caver and active member of the grotto though he has trouble making meetings from Garland. Mark is working on his master's degree in earth science while holding down a teaching job. Ernie Parker (Secretary/Editor - the hard job) has contributed to the grotto with his vertical training classes. He has a hi-class computer system that he wants to try out on the newsletter. I'm looking forward to working with these guys. Hopefully together with the grotto membership, we can revive interest in caving.

I've thought a great deal and talked

with a number of people about the Maverick Grotto and stimulating some interest among the membership. We've discussed the assorted problems of caving from the Fort Worth area. The remoteness of caves and limited disposable income for caving trips are factors. It's a lot easier for people in Austin or San Antonio, they get together after work and go caving in town.

One problem that stands out, is the lack of identity for the grotto as a stand alone organization. It seems we can no longer have any kind of gathering unless it is a joint venture between The Maverick and the DFW Grottoes. This in no way belittles the DFW Grotto and it is good that we can enjoy some joint ventures. There are members of the Maverick Grotto asking: what about us? Who are we? These questions are raised by people who want to participate in an organization with it's own unique identity. These are people who advocate grotto projects and object to using grotto funds for parties and such. Unfortunately these people are more vocal in private than at meetings. They have yet to realize they are a silent majority allowing the voices and votes of a few to overwhelm them.

The most important thing in holding the grotto together is communication. Grotto meetings and the newsletter provide the communication. Our best communication is through the newsletter. To have a good newsletter, we must have a dedicated editor and members who contribute by writing articles and providing information for the calendar. People like to read articles that involve them or people they know. It's nice to have articles about far away places or those reprinted from other publications but there is a local interest factor to be considered. We have the *Texas Caver* and *NSS News* to keep us abreast of what goes on in other places. We need *The Maverick Bull* to keep us abreast of Maverick Grotto and member activity. *The Maverick Bull* can and will announce activity around the state and NSS but that is not the theme of the newsletter. *The Maverick Bull* is YOUR newsletter and the quality is as good as you make it. Ernie will do whatever necessary provide a high quality publication for YOUR work. I've heard people talk about their inability to write. You don't have to be a literary artist to contribute to the newsletter. We have Ernie with a lot of help from his wife Linda, to make your work look like something out of Shakespeare. Ernie is fortunate that he has Linda (a teacher) to help him; she can help clean up our grammar.

We will have communication but will we have participation? The Maverick Grotto

belongs to this membership, not it's officers. The members have as much responsibility as any officer to help generate activity, interest and guide policy. A grotto is still a club made up of members who share a common interest. Lets communicate and see what our common interests are so we can all participate. There must be some interest or people wouldn't bother to show up at grotto meetings each month.

The meeting format will continue as it is now unless the membership chooses to modify it. It will be in the format of visitor introduction, announcements, old business, new business and program. It will be kept as short and to the point as possible to allow more time for visiting after the meeting. Any suggestions, or critique are welcome and desired. We need all the help we can get.

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**The CIA**  
(Cave Intelligence Agency)  
by Jim Payne

The Gorman Bat Report. Beginning this year a new survey is being conducted at Colorado Bend State Park. The survey will report the estimated bat population of Gorman Cave on a monthly basis. The survey will be headed up by Jim Payne of the Maverick Grotto.

The survey team will be limited to three cavers equipped with red lenses on their light sources to minimize disruption of the bats.

Population estimations are dependant on the bats being roosted and the size of the cluster. Estimations are based on an equation of 150 bats per square foot of cluster. The surveys will also be conducted in the morning in hopes the bats will be nested after the previous nights flight.

The first survey was conducted on the October CBSP work trip. The survey team consisted of Jim Payne, Mike Nelson, and Ted Allen.

The morning of the survey got off on a bad note. The key needed to conduct the survey was late and the fears were the bats would be already stirring in the cave. Projects this morning were a little muddled since this was the first work trip since June and there was a rather large turnout of cave research volunteers. One unfortunate thing did come up when others wanted to join the trip in that the maximum number for the team had been reached and adding more would be risking more noise. The key did arrive and off the team went to Gorman Cave.

Arriving at the entrance, the final equipment check was made. The ready signal was given, we entered the cave and let the sunlight diminish behind us. Very quietly whispering, and conscience of each sound our footsteps made, we adjusted to be even quieter. Of all the times I have visited Gorman Cave this was the best as we moved deeper into the cave without any thought distracting words.

The first few hundred feet into the underground world was uneventful and void of bats. We had lucked out; the bats

were not in flight skimming up and down the long dark passageway.

We located the first roost about 200 feet into the main passage. The roost was located under a ledge about 4 feet from the floor of the passage near the formation known as the Bathtub. Within another 20 feet and about 7 feet from the floor was a second roost of bats. We were in such close proximity there was no way of getting around without the two clusters being disturbed. Fortunately the estimations were already made and the lights turned out before the bat flight started. A roar of sound erupted similar to rainfall on a tin roof and as we got our lighting back on, the two clusters had flown. The bats had moved higher up into the ceiling of the cavern and settled back into one roost.

Continuing on, we went through the gate. This is where my familiarity with Gorman Cave ends. Two lone bats skimmed the walls and ceilings of Separation Lake.

Working our way around to the breakdown area we found the underground lake of crystal clear water beneath the passage we traveled on. Twisting and turning, on we went till we reached the passage just before the Bat Room.

The air was getting bad at this point. The Bic light test failed; no flame erupted to indicate an acceptable oxygen level. One of the team members was feeling the effects of the air quality. Ted was hallucinating he was a great underground explorer standing in the middle of a patch of 8 foot tall mushrooms (Journey to the Center of the Earth) and a giant prehistoric bat was circling above in search of prey. The bat spotted him and started diving at great speed towards the intended meal. Frantically Ted dodged from mushroom to mushroom to escape the fatal attack.

Meanwhile, Mike and I went to the Bat Room and found the largest cluster of bats surveyed on this trip. After making notes of the size, the roaring sound was beginning to emerge. We turned down the

lights and backed out of the room. The sound ceased and the bats settled back down. Mike and I went back and led Ted out of the land of the mushrooms. As we traveled back the way we came in, the air improved and Ted's head cleared with the exception that he still thinks he's a great underground explorer.

This trip the bat population estimate is 3,300 bats. It marks the beginning of a one year project to collect statistical data for the bat population of Coonan Cave. The project will develop a base line of the current bat population and the bat reaction to public visitation.

## 100% U.S. RDA OF MY MINERAL INTAKE

by Joe Bay

"Caves are for bats." That was mom's idea. "You're just going to drink beer." That was the wife's idea. The truth was, I wasn't getting 100% of the RDA for minerals. In other words, Grape Nuts wasn't cutting it, and a caving trip sounded pretty wild.

River Styx. It made me think of a river and sticks. It turned out to be 1.6 miles of mud, a sub-zero river, and a unique, underground weekend.

Unknowingly standing on a rattlesnake, I enjoyed the view from the campsite on top of the hill. The river entrance to the cave was at the bottom of the cliff some 80 feet below.

After breakfast the next morning and once everyone had arrived we staded on the hike to the cave. Butch led the others off on a tour of the sinkholes, and the Big Rubba Shrine. I heard about the tour later and was glad I didn't go, I was more interested in getting out of the sun. So, I went along with the other group, led by our fearsome or is that fearless(?) leader Dale Ellison. The entrance was a lot smaller than Brian or I had expected.

We all took turns wriggling our way in and I turn on my virgin cave light since this was my first cave. It took a while for my eyes to adjust to the dimness. We all gathered around inside as the Fearless(?) Dale explained about Cave Flooding by studying the twigs and leaves positioned on the ceiling. It was all very interesting but I missed the cave ecology speech.

Following the class it was time to "CAVE." The first 30 feet was a blast it had a ceiling height of about 15" to 20" inches. Each time you put your hands and knees in the mud we were belly crawling through, you sunk a few inches, giving you a little more headroom. The mud was so DEEP and THICK (Like Peanut Butter) it pulled Brian's plastic top off his knee pad. We left it as a memento.

We twisted and turned throughout the

cave, crawling, and walking. Mostly crawling. The Junction Room gave us an opportunity to catch our breath and get a closer look at the ceiling formations. They weren't really Stalactites though. The ceiling looked rather blistered. Maybe that's why they call it the Blister Passage. On the way to the Third and Main Bat Room, I discovered why you wear a hard hat. It was another crawl, and a long one at that. Believe it or not, there were bats in the bat room. This was one of the biggest rooms, giving us a good view of the tall ceiling and how it appeared to be on it's way to opening up into a vertical entrance some day. After a nice visit with the local bats and Dale showing off his helmet christmas lights, it was back the way we came. Which meant crawl. I could barely hear someone calling my name. I think it was Athiesor Busch, but I couldn't be sure.

We came to a fork in the cave, Bat Cave Junction, it meant decision time as always. Did we want to go back the way we came with fearless(?) Dale or did we want to be real explorers and take the river passage out. Of course we took the river passage, Dale went back out the #3 entrance.

Most of the walk was just that. A walk. Did you catch that most? Part of it of course was swimming. Either after you fell in a hole, or the ice cold water level just reached that part of the body which makes it nearly impossible to maintain your balance.

The frogs and crawdads met us as we came out and thinking I had not fallen enough, I went ahead and slipped once just for good measure. I didn't want to come out looking too much better than everyone else you know.

We hiked up the cliff back to the camp and ate lunch. Everyone got halfway cleaned up and turned the rest of the evening into a nice little gathering. The Bats flew, the coyotes howled, and we went to bed.

1994 NSS CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 18, 1992

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairman, Ron Ralph. As the minutes of the last meeting had been sent to each grotto and published in the Texas Caver, a motion was made by Bruce Anderson and seconded by Ivy McLane to not read the minutes. The motion passed. The Treasurer, Bruce Anderson, went over the financial reports. The initial donated funds of \$362.50 have been totally spent. It is possible that we may be able to get some pre-bid monies from NSS. If we are successful, these funds will be split up amongst the grottos that donated. The \$2,500.00 after-bid advance, has been obtained from the NSS. \$956.08 has been spent thus far on deposits and check printing leaving a balance of \$1,543.92. We have a remaining obligation of a \$500.00 deposit to Fort Clark Springs due in June of 1993. This will be due prior to receiving advance registrations. We have \$1,043.92 to operate on until the Oregon convention which should generate advance registrations. Prices need to be obtained on T-shirts, patches and buses before the registration forms can be printed.

The winner of the logo contest was announced. Logo #1 by Robin Wilson obtained 56% of the vote. Jay Jordan, co-chairman, stated that all of the entries were really great and that they may all be published in the Texas Caver.

Ron Ralph went over the names of the Executive Committee and the 11 committee chairs. He also told what tasks were under each committee. (see attached list.) Jay Jordan commented that it was

very difficult to choose the committee heads and that much thought was given to it. He also stated that there is lots of work to do for everyone who wants to get involved.

Bruce Anderson stated that a letter had been sent to the contact person for the amphitheater at Fort Clark Springs. The restaurant at Fort Clark Springs can serve 500 to 600 persons on the meal plan. The 13 meal plan includes 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 3 suppers for \$77.50. The 8 meal plan includes 5 breakfasts and 3 suppers for \$47.50. The restaurant can provide the banquet, which consist of chicken fried steak served on china, for \$8 per person. If it rains, the banquet can be held in the Civic Center. Plans are being made to hold the Howdy Party at Alamo Village.

There was no old business. New business began with George Veni discussing the geology field trip. There may be a natural history trip perhaps called the Waltz Across Texas. Tours will start at different times to avoid a crowd at any one place. Ivy McLane suggested a pre-trip for Texas cavers perhaps at a TSA meeting. George said he would consider this. It was announced that Rudy Burnett would be the liaison to Parks and Wildlife.

The next meeting will be held at the TSA winter meeting.

Submitted by,

Donna Anderson  
Convention Committee Secretary

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### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dave and Barbe McClung are hosting the annual Christmas bash again this year at their home located at 2909 Warren Cr., Irving. From Dallas and Fort Worth take Airport Freeway to Irving, north on O'Conner Rd., right on Rochelle, and left on Warren Cr. The party is on December 12th and starts around 7:00 or 7:30 P.M.

Barbe advises that there will be a keg

for liquid refreshment and asks everyone to bring food (snack type). Don't forget to bring a white elephant gift.

There is plenty of room, so bring your sleeping bag if you plan/have to spend the night.

In case anyone has any questions or gets lost, Dave and Barbe's phone number is (214)258-8505. See you there!

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### NO DECEMBER GROTTA MEETING

A reminder that there will be no December grotto meeting. There will be a party instead. See above article.

NSS CONVENTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RON RALPH, CO-CHAIRMAN . . . . . JAY JORDEN, CO-CHAIRMAN  
 (817) 799-4837 (214) 398-9272  
 DONNA ANDERSON, SECRETARY BRUCE ANDERSON, TREASURER  
 (817) 246-6313 (817) 246 6313

REGISTRATION during convention.	Vertical Section	Shower	Guide-Book	During Convention	Speleology	Field Trip	Food Band	Communications	First Aid	Health & Safety	Vendor
Cathy Winfrey	Carto-graphic	Foot Bridges	Program	NM Guads	Speleo Auction	Speleo Auction	Band	Convention Gram	Child Care	Bob Cowell	Edigel
(512) 288-4991	Photo Salon	Recycling	Geology Guide	Roswell NM	Mexico Shopping	Mexico Shopping		Computer Program	Security	Mike Edigel	(512) 441-0550
0170	Photo-graphic Print	Signs for Camp-Ground	book	Honey Creek	Archeological Trips	Archeological Trips		Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Mike Edigel	
	Graphic Arts	Porta-Johns		Amazing Maze	Biological Trips	Biological Trips		Conver-tion Slide Show	Security	Bob Cowell	
	Cave Ballad	Manpower		Northern Mexico	Bat Flights	Bat Flights		Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Bob Cowell	
	T-Shirt Design	Firewood		Bustarante	Cave Ballads	Cave Ballads		Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Bob Cowell	
	Displays	Hot Tubs		Southern Mexico	Contest Awards	Contest Awards		Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Bob Cowell	
	Banquet	Saunas		Arkansas & Oklahoma	Airplane	Airplane		Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Bob Cowell	
	Banquet Program			TP & W	Activities for Teens	Activities for Teens		Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Bob Cowell	
	Amphitheater			Commercial Caves	Presenta-tion of Bats	Presenta-tion of Bats		Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Bob Cowell	
	Facilities							Conver-tion Slide Show	Trans-portion	Bob Cowell	

## MVOR, FALL 1992

By Todd Heintz

Editor's note: Todd is Ariene Heintz's brother. This article appeared in the October, 1992 *Sat Herald*, the newsletter of Lower Ozark Sub-Terrestrials (LOST) Grotto.

September 25, 26, and 27, the Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto hosted the Fall 1992 MVOR at Saranac Springs Campgrounds, in Crawford County. The campground is on the Meramec River, near Onondaga Cave State Park. The campgrounds are large, with flush toilets and coin operated hot showers. NICE and unusual for an MVOR. There were 493 people in attendance and MVOR offered 40+ caves for the event.

Registration opened at noon on Friday the 25th and there was self guided caving offered all that day. Rick Walk gave an excellent slide show complete with music, showing caves in the Ozarks, TAG, and Mexico.

Saturday morning at 7:30 AM, signup for the guided cave trips began. I went with a group of about 12 cavers to Jagged Canyon Cave. The cave is 2,000 feet long and is located near the Meramec River. We followed our guide by car for a short drive to a parking area, then a 1/2 mile hike to the cave. After going through a large opening at the base of a cliff, we walked up a stream passage with mud banks on each side. At about 700 feet we entered a large room. In this room we saw one of the largest speleothems in Missouri. At about 1,000 feet, the stream sumps. We bypassed the sump by climbing to a higher level. This upper level stoopway changes to a 10 to 15 foot tall canyon that gives the cave it's name. The canyon requires straddling along ledges. The canyon leads to the Altar Room, where we turned back.

On the hike to the cars, I stopped at Lookout Cave, a small dry cave with two entrances. I also saw Mud River Cave.

This cave has a very impressive entrance at 80 feet wide by 12 feet high, but is about 250 feet long.

Saturday it started raining so the outdoor banquet had to be moved inside. There was a business meeting after the banquet where it was announced that the next MVOR will be at Jacks Fork in Shannon County, in early May. Eugene Vale, naturalist from Onondaga State Park, was the after dinner speaker. 300 prizes were given and a bonfire followed the meal.

It was still raining Sunday morning, but it turned into a nice day later. I went on a guided trip to Doss Cave. This is one of the major caves in the Huzzah area. The cave has been surveyed to about 1,200 feet. The entrance is medium sized and dry and dusty. The passage is a canyon. To travel through this canyon is somewhat rough. At various times you must crawl, climb, and canyon straddle. Some nice formations can be seen on the way, including spathites. [Editor's note: **spathite**- an argonite speleothem consisting of a vertical succession of small petal-shaped cones; a cork-screw shaped speleothem.] Near the end of the cave is a nice dome room with flowstone walls and two feet of water on the floor. This is where we turned around and headed out.

After leaving the cave, I got in my car and started home. It was about 3 PM and a beautiful day. I had a great time at the MVOR. I met cavers from all over Missouri, Illinois, etc. I was, however, disappointed by the low turnout of Springfield area cavers. Springfield area people I saw are as follows. Gary Avery of LOST & OHG, Gary Horner of LOST & OHG, Tom Morton of OHG, Dave Cobb of OHG, Cathy Rapp of LOST, Joan Adams of LOST, and Randy Justice formally of OHG.

I'm looking forward to the next MVOR!

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## Calendar of Events

**December 12, Grotto Christmas party.**  
Contact Barbe McClung (214)258-8505.

**December 26-January 3, 1993, Fern Cave Project.** Contact Gary Smith at (205)830-5886.

**December 27-30, Mexpaleo '92.**  
Hosted by SMES and AMCS at Grutas de Cachuamilpa, Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico.

Contact Peter Sprouse at P.O. Box 7672,  
Austin, Tx. 78713, (512)873-0256

**January 25-27, 1993, 4th Multidisc. Conference on Sinkholes, Pampa City, Florida.** Contact Barry F. Beck, Florida Sinkhole Research Institute, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Fl 32816, (407)823-5645.

## OTR & CHANGES IN THE TSA

by Butch Fralia

This years OTR was a three day event. As usual it will go down in caver annals as the best old timers reunion ever. There was such a mass of people that it was hard to keep track of everything that went on and everyone who was there. From the North Texas area, Bruce and Donna Anderson, Mike Anderson and Meta Huzarevich, Clay and Kevin Chambers, Butch Fralia, Terry Free, Russell Hill, Jay Jordan, Travis Kinchen, Dave and Barbe McClung, Ron Miller, Bob and Will Cbele, Mark and Pam Porter, Danny Sherrod, and Tag Swan were seen scurrying around.

Thursday was a great time to get to OTR because there was a wide choice of camping spots. Future plans say that OTR will continue to run for three days. Once again the planners say OTR needs a new location to accommodate more people. Though the registration says just over 400 people, the area becomes more crowded each year. This may be because of more vendors.

Friday was a casual day with a few people being drafted to set up the hot tub, sauna, and circus tent. Old friends gathered and visited, while a few people headed for vertical activity and others snuck off to do some caving in the area. Friday night saw the big influx of people.

Saturday, the event began in earnest with the cooks firing up smokers, speleo-olympics starting up and vendors hawking their wares. I helped the cooks, a feat that entitles you to free samples all day long. If you don't mind a little work, it's a great place to be. The cooks have their own beer keg that gets tapped a little earlier than the other kegs. Bruce Anderson helped negotiate a deal with Gonzo Guano for the Maverick Grotto Door prize. Linda Palit cut us a really good deal on a Petzl Mega headlamp and some colored carabiners. Linda and Joe Ivy did a booming business as their prices were a tad lower than Bob and Bob. They have an edge because of all the custom climbing gear designed and sewn by Joe Ivy. As usual Bob made out like a bandit. One of these days I'll live to hear him say he

made enough to pay for his gas on the way down.

As usual, the meal was outstanding with a wide variety of food to tease the palate. There was a repeat performance of the cabrito cooks, a whole hog lots of brisket, ceveche, deer chili and more things than I could keep track of even though I helped cook it. It layed a good foundation in the stomach for the coming festivities. After dinner, the prize awards were given, then the prizes for the olympic winners and after that the door prizes. I never did find out who won the Grotto prizes. Once the prizes were given out, the Austin Lounge Lizards began in earnest to entertain everyone. There were complaints and there were praises but over all everyone was pleased.

Sunday morning began early with the '94 NSS Convention Committee meeting. That meeting will be reported at a later time when the minutes are available. That was followed by the fall TSA meeting.

The new TSA officers for 1993 are Carl Ponebshek (chairman), Carolyn Biegatt (vice-chairman), Alan Cobb (Treasurer) and Cathy Winfrey (Secretary). The former vice-chairman chose not to run again to have more time for his home grotto and park projects. Alan Cobb wants to computerize the finances for the TSA. He has successfully computerized his personal and business finances. Alan will also complete the non-profit status application in time to take advantage of mailing cost savings for '93.

There will be a substantial change in the TEXAS CAVER for '93. The TEXAS CAVER Magazine will become a quarterly publication. There will be a monthly newsletter sent out that will be a calendar of events across the state. Joel King, has volunteered (I really mean volunteered - not drafted) to publish the newsletter. It will typically be two sheets and the information will be kept up to date by representatives of different grotto's across the state. This should keep everyone abreast of a large number of activities they can participate in.

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### December Meeting

Butch Fralia opened the meeting and announced changes of the TSA officers and in the publication of Texas Caver. See related article this issue.

Bruce Anderson made announcement of the 94 NSS Convention meeting. See related articles this issue.

Nominations for Maverick Grotto officers was made with Butch Fralia as Chairman, Danny Sherrod as Vice-Chairman, Mark Porter as Treasurer and Ernest Parker as Secretary/Editor. These were the only nominations, so a motion was made and carried that they be voted in by acclamation.

The new Maverick Grotto Song Book is ready; Donna Anderson needs to borrow a heavy duty stapler. Contact her at (817)246-6313. Continued next page.

Terry Doversberger announced that, between the cavers and the Explorer Club, they had enough orders to place the vertical equipment order.

Russell Hill brought to the meeting's attention that no plans had yet been made for the grotto Christmas party. Barbe McClung announced that it could be held at her house on Dec. 12th. It was approved by the membership present.

There was no program, just lots of visitation.



any but the best and the best of the  
could be the best of the best

