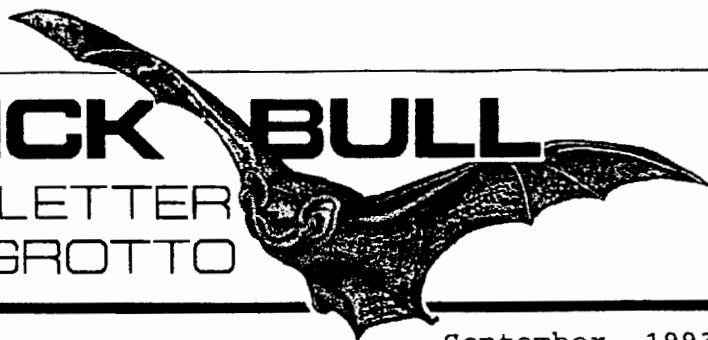

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Volume 7 Number 7

September, 1993

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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.

Complimentary Newsletters: The Maverick Grotto will provide complimentary 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. 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 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 Sherrod
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

Colorado Bend State Park

TSA Project for 1993-1994

Project dates:

October 8-10, 1993

December 10-12, 1993

February 11-13, 1994

April 8-10, 1994

The Colorado Bend State Park project is only scheduled for four weekends during the 1993-1994 caving season. The project weekends are listed above. If you attend the park on weekends other than the dates listed, do not go to the TSA campground. Please proceed to the river office and pay the normal park entry fee. There is no caving during non-project weekends.

During project weekends, normal arrival will be Friday night with camping at the TSA campground. Friday night is also a time to register. Ed Young will have release forms and other materials to be handed out for the weekend. Everyone must sign a release form every weekend they come out. Saturday arrivals are discouraged and cavers who plan to arrive Saturday must pre-register with Ed Young at (214) 262-8188 prior to Friday of the project weekend. The project day usually starts around 10:00 A.M. Saturday morning and lasts until around 6:00 P.M. Written reports for each team's activities for the weekend should be turned in by Sunday morning. There may be Gorman Cave trips available Saturday

night to project participants. Sunday is usually an open activities day for the TSA volunteers. A limited number of people may visit certain caves, so check with one of the project coordinators Saturday and make your arrangements in advance.

Project goals for this year include the following tasks. We hope to finish ridge walking the area East of the TSA campground to the river front. This activity includes tagging caves, marking their location on a topographic map and exploring the caves. We will be writing descriptions of these caves as they are explored. We will begin writing cave descriptions of previously documented caves, and checking existing descriptions for accuracy. Very few caves have been surveyed and this will be one of the major activities of the project. Overland survey will continue in the areas where cave density is high enough to warrant this method of locating the caves on topographic maps.

Other activities will come up during the project and these they will be scheduled as time permits. We will have more details available during our first project scheduled for the second weekend in October. Have a safe caving trip and hope to see you this fall. For more information about the project, contact Ed Young at (214)-262-8188 or Butch Fralia at (817)346-2039 in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area, or Rune Burnett at (512)444-1127 or Keith Heuss (512) 462-9574 in the Austin area.

MULTI-GROTTO RIVER STYX SURVEY PROJECT

by: Donna Anderson

Although many of us have talked about re-surveying River Styx for several years, it was not until Pete Lindsley suggested putting in some permanent bench marks that we really got serious about the project. A new map is needed to include the many passages which have been located and some that have been dug out. Also, many of the passages have undergone changes because of the fact that it is a gypsum cave. We took a quick one day trip out to Styx, set some bench marks and discussed creating a joint grotto project. Pete asked me if I would be willing to be the Project Director. After a bit of discussion, I agreed to do this. We decided it will be a joint

grotto project for any grotto who wishes to participate. It will also be a learning project for any individual who wants to try to do a cave map. I will be coordinating the areas surveyed and collecting the survey data from each group. I will then mail copies of all survey notes to anyone who wants to try their hand at making a map. If you have never wanted the responsibility of making a map because you were unsure how it would turn out, or if it would turn out, now is your opportunity. You will be able to compare your map with others. Whether you are just interested in trying out your new computer map program or if you want to do the actual drawing, you

are welcome to join us. When the project ends and everyone who desires to make a map has done so, a committee will be formed to look at all the maps and check any slight differences. A final report, the map and some of the photos will be given to the ranch family. It will also be a learning project for anyone who wants to learn how to survey. There is a river entrance and also a dry entrance. There is plenty of dry walking passage to survey; there are also lots of crawlways on side passages. For those with wet suits, the water passage, which is very beautiful, will also be surveyed. If you are a photographer, there is a need to set up some permanent photo stations. For those who would like to work in a conservation effort, there is graffiti which needs to be removed. We also need a few more bench marks set. If you want to work on a dig, there are several opportunities if you are small in stature and enjoy crawlways. So far, four grottos have made a commitment to this project. All other interested grottos or individuals are welcome to join us. Project dates are the last weekend of September, October, and November: September 25 & 26; October 30 & 31;

November 27 & 28. (However, if it rains, the trip will be canceled as the cave floods.)

River Styx is the largest gypsum cave in Texas with over 8,000 feet of passage. It ranks high on the list of longest caves gypsum or limestone in Texas. It is located in King County between Benjamin and Guthrie. Air flow through the cave makes this one of the coldest caves in Texas. Water temperature in the cave ranges from 32 degrees during the winter months up to 55 degrees in the summer which makes this the coldest cave water in Texas. The water passage is well over 1,000 feet long. There are 3 species of bats in the cave the Mexican brown bat being the most common.

We will camp at the end of the road overlooking the Wichita River. We will camp there Friday and Saturday nights. We will survey on Saturday. On Sunday, anyone who desires to see more of the cave may do so. Salt Spring Cave is also a short walk from the campsite and is definitely worth a visit. If you have any questions about the trip or need directions call me at 817/246-6313.

****MEETING**MEETING**MEETING**MEETING**MEETING**MEETING**MEETING****

**'94 NSS Convention Committee
19 September 1993, 8:00 a. m.
Bramberger Ranch, near Fredericksburg**

The next meeting of the '94 Committee will be held on Sunday morning at the Bramberger Ranch. Our hosts will be the San Antonio grotto and the Bramberger's. The ranch is a large holding with a bunkhouse and swimming hole for our use. We are invited to come the evening before and visit. Directions on the attached map will get you to the property.

There will be a Saturday morning excavation at the New Madrone Dig for those interested. The location is south of the ranch near Pipe Creek. Bring gear and meet at 9:00 at the specified

location. A swimming hole nearby is available for the after-dig cleanup. Call Bob Cowell {(210)662-9171 for more information.

BYOB but leave your loose dogs at home as the ranch is a wildlife preserve with a herd of exotic African Oryx, a large straight horned antelope. Dogs on lease should be o.k.

At 1:00 p.m. following the '94 Committee on Sunday, the Texas Cave Management Association will hold a meeting which will be open to all cavers. Plan to attend.

Rappelling Class

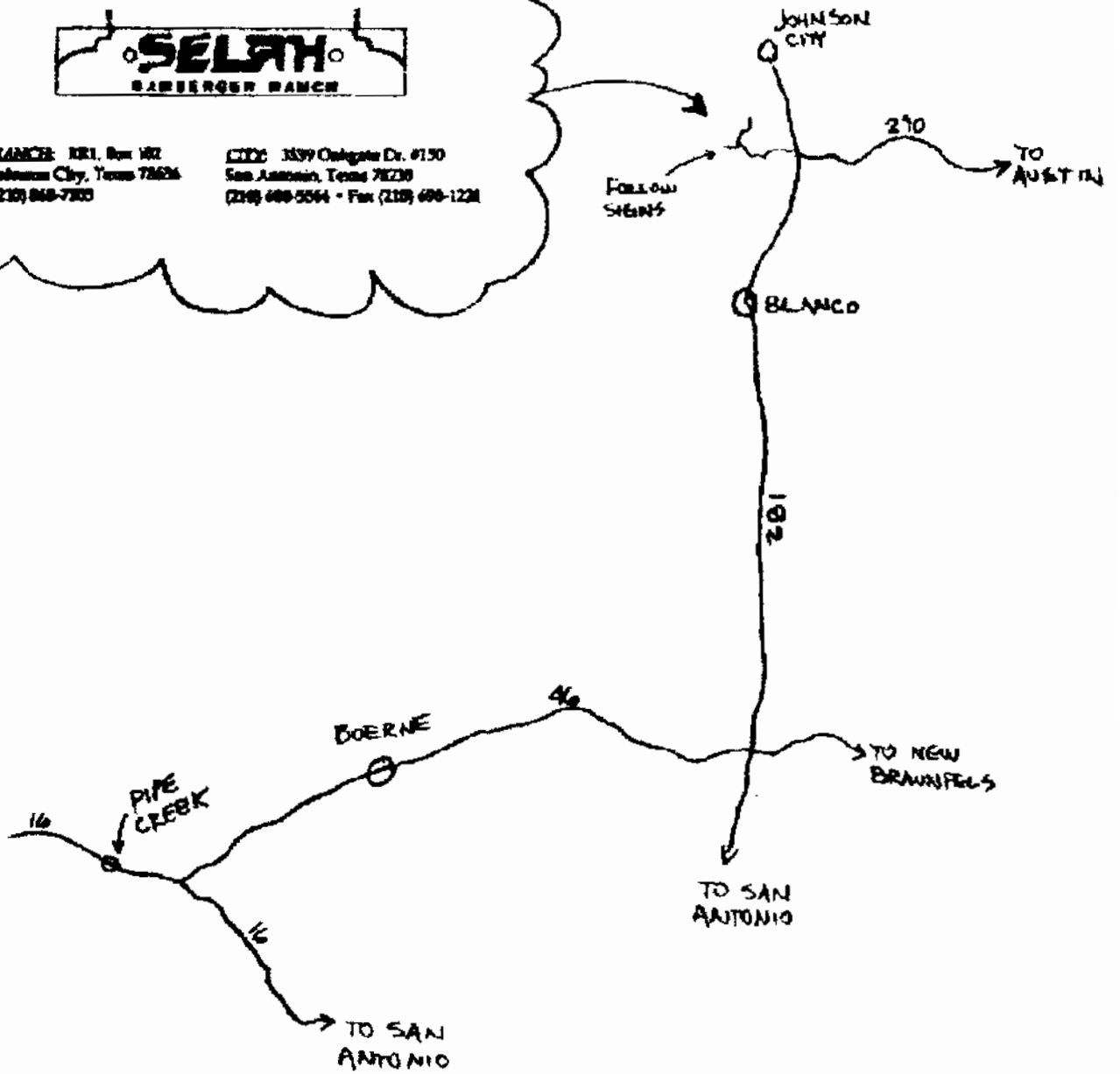
I have had a number of people ask about having another rappelling course soon. If enough people are interested to form a class, I'll give another one. My classes include some techniques not usually covered in other rappelling courses so those with experience might be interested also. Time and date not determined yet. If you are interested, contact Ernie Parker at a meeting or call.

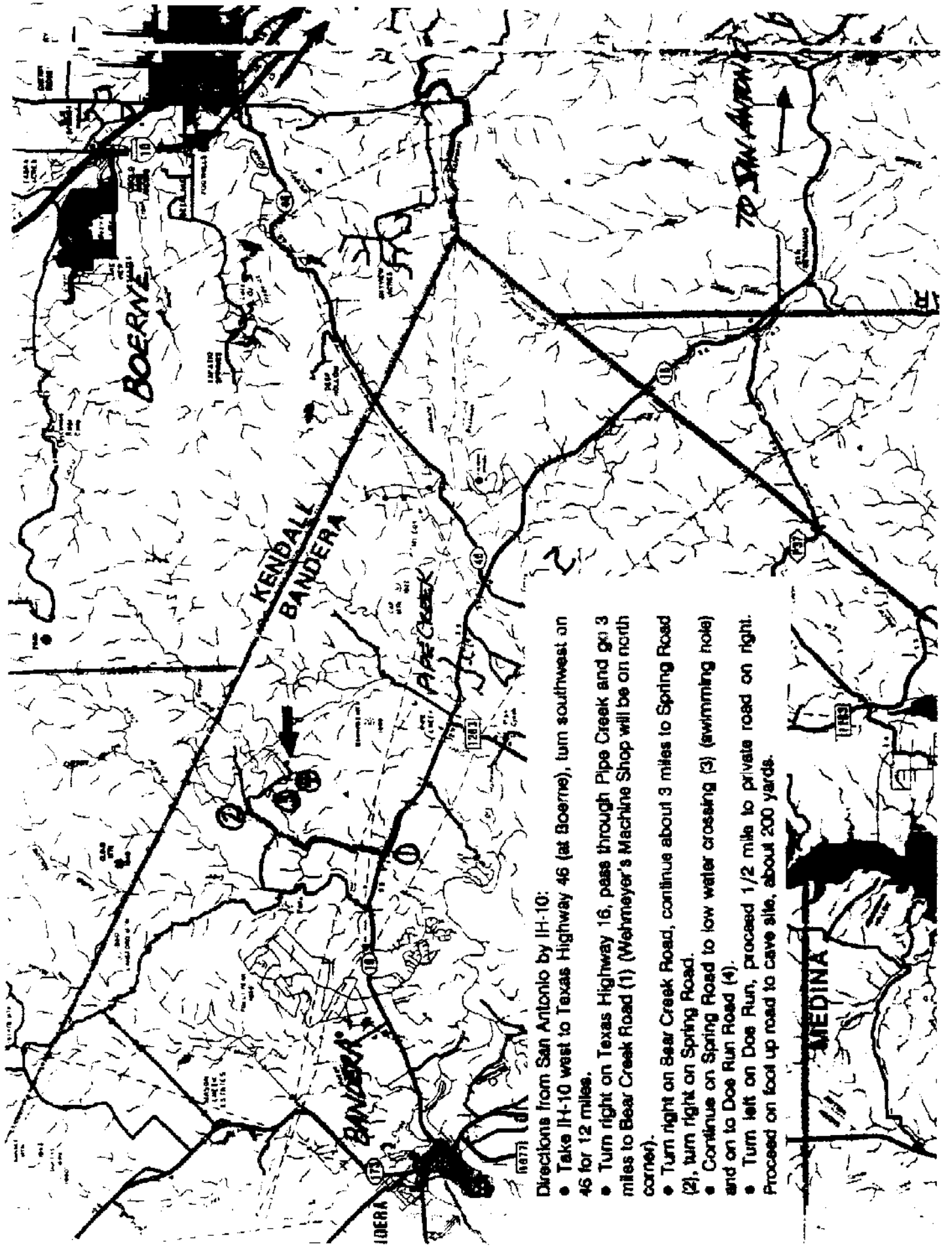
J. DAVID BAMBERGER
Land Steward



RANCH: RR1, Box 182
Johnson City, Texas 78226
(214) 698-7300

OFFICE: 3539 Oakgate Dr. #150
San Antonio, Texas 78230
(214) 698-5564 • Fax (214) 698-1221





Directions from San Antonio by IH-10:

- Take IH-10 west to Texas Highway 46 (at Boerne), turn southwest on 46 for 12 miles.
- Turn right on Texas Highway 16, pass through Pipe Creek and go 3 miles to Bear Creek Road (1) (Wehmer's Machine Shop will be on north corner).
- Turn right on Bear Creek Road, continue about 3 miles to Spring Road (2), turn right on Spring Road.
- Continue on Spring Road to low water crossing (3) (swimming hole) and on to Doe Run Road (4).
- Turn left on Doe Run, proceed 1/2 mile to private road on right. Proceed on foot up road to cave site, about 200 yards.

MEDINA

Calendar of Events

- September 15-17, Ninth Annual Karst Encounters (Fall Ohio Valley Region Meeting), Muscatatuck County Park, North Vernon, Indiana. Contact Brain Leavell, 1626 South M St., Elwood, IN. 46036, (317)552-7619.
- September 18, Little Madrons dig, Bandera County. Contact Oren Tranbarger at (210)349-5573.
- September 19, NSS Convention Planning Meeting. Contact Donna or Bruce Anderson at (817)246-6313.
- September 25, Virgin Cave, Guadalupe Mountains, New Mexico. Contact Mike Huber at (505)887-6065.
- September 25-26, River Styx resurvey and work trip. Contact Bruce or Donna Anderson at (817)246-6313.
- October 7-9, Vertical Rescue II. University of Texas Health and Science Center. For information contact Vicky Smith at (area code?)614-6074.
- October 9, 3-Mile Hill and Sentinel Caves, Guadalupe Mountains. Vertical workout. Contact Mike Huber at (505)887-6065.
- October 8-10, 16th Annual TAG Fall Cave-In, Sequoyah Caverns, Valley Head, Alabama. Contact Carl Anderson, (404)315-1872.
- October 10-16, Lincoln National Forest, Fall Expedition. CRF project. Contact Dick Desjardins (505)344-7053.
- October 15-17, Texas Old Timers Reunion, Wimberly, Texas. Contact Gil Ediger at (512)441-0050.
- October 22-24, Powell's Cave. Texas' second longest cave resurvey work. Dry cave but wetsuited cavers are needed to work stream passage. Lots of digging leads. Something for everyone! Contact Terry Holsinger at (512)443-4241.
- October 24-26, Cave Conservation/Restoration Workshop, Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Contact Pat Jablonsky, Denver Museum of Natural History, DES, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver Co. 80205, (303)370-6473.
- October 24-29, Lint Pickers 6th Annual Camp, Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Contact Pat Jablonsky, Denver Museum of Natural History, DES, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver CO. 80205, (303)370-6473.
- October 27-30, National Cave Management Symposium, Carlsbad, New Mexico. Contact Dale Pate (505)785-2232, ext. 26.
- October 30-31, River Styx resurvey and work trip. Contact Bruce or Donna Anderson at (817)246-6313.
- November 12-14, Intro to Confined Space. University of Texas Health and Science Center. For information contact Vicky Smith at (area code?)614-6074.
- November 19-21, National Association For Cave Diving Symposium, "Progress 93". Contact Dave Milhollin, P.O. Box 595004, Miami, Fl. 33159-5004.
- November 24-28, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Thanksgiving Day Expedition. CRF project. Contact Dick Desjardins (505)344-7053.
- November 25-27, Slaughter Canyon trip. Corkscrew, Helen's, Lake. Goat and Ogle Caves. Contact Oren Tranbarger at (210)349-5573.
- November 27-28, River Styx resurvey and work trip. Contact Bruce or Donna Anderson at (817)246-6313.
- December 18-19, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Pre-Christmas Expedition. CRF project. Contact Dick Desjardins (505)344-7053.
- December 27, 1993-January 3, 1994, Karst Geoarchaeology Of The Yucatan, Mexico. Study of caves and karst and their effects on Mayan culture. Originates at Cancun, extending throughout the Yucatan Peninsula, visiting caves, cenotes and Maya sites. Travel arrangements need to be made by Oct. 1st due to holiday traffic. Contact Dr. Nick Crawford, Center for Cave and Karst Studies, Dept. of Geography and Geology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101, (502)745-4555.
- January 27-30, Precipicio, Bistamante, Mexico. Another assault on Precipicio. If you are vertically qualified contact Oren Tranbarger at (210)349-5573.
- June 20-24, 1994, NSS National Convention, Fort Clark Springs, Brackettville, Texas. Contact Ron Ralph (817)246-4837 or Jay Jordan (214)398)9272.
- July 16-23, 1994, NCRC Seminar 1994, Cave Rescue Operations and Management, Bristol, Va. Contact Nancy Chrimes at P.O. Box 560, Troutville, Va. 24175 or (703)992-3665.
- August, 28-September, 2 1994, International Symposium of Biospeleology of the Societe de Biospeologia, Florence, Italy. Contact Dr. Guiseppe Messina, Ce.S.F.E.T., via Romana 17, I-50125 Firenze, Italy, (39) 55 222389, FAX (39) 55 222565.
- November 4-11, 1994, 7th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain. USA contact: William R. Halliday, IUS Working Group on Volcanic Caves, 6530 Cornwall Ct. Nashville, Tn. 37205, (615)352-9204, FAX (615)385-0491.