

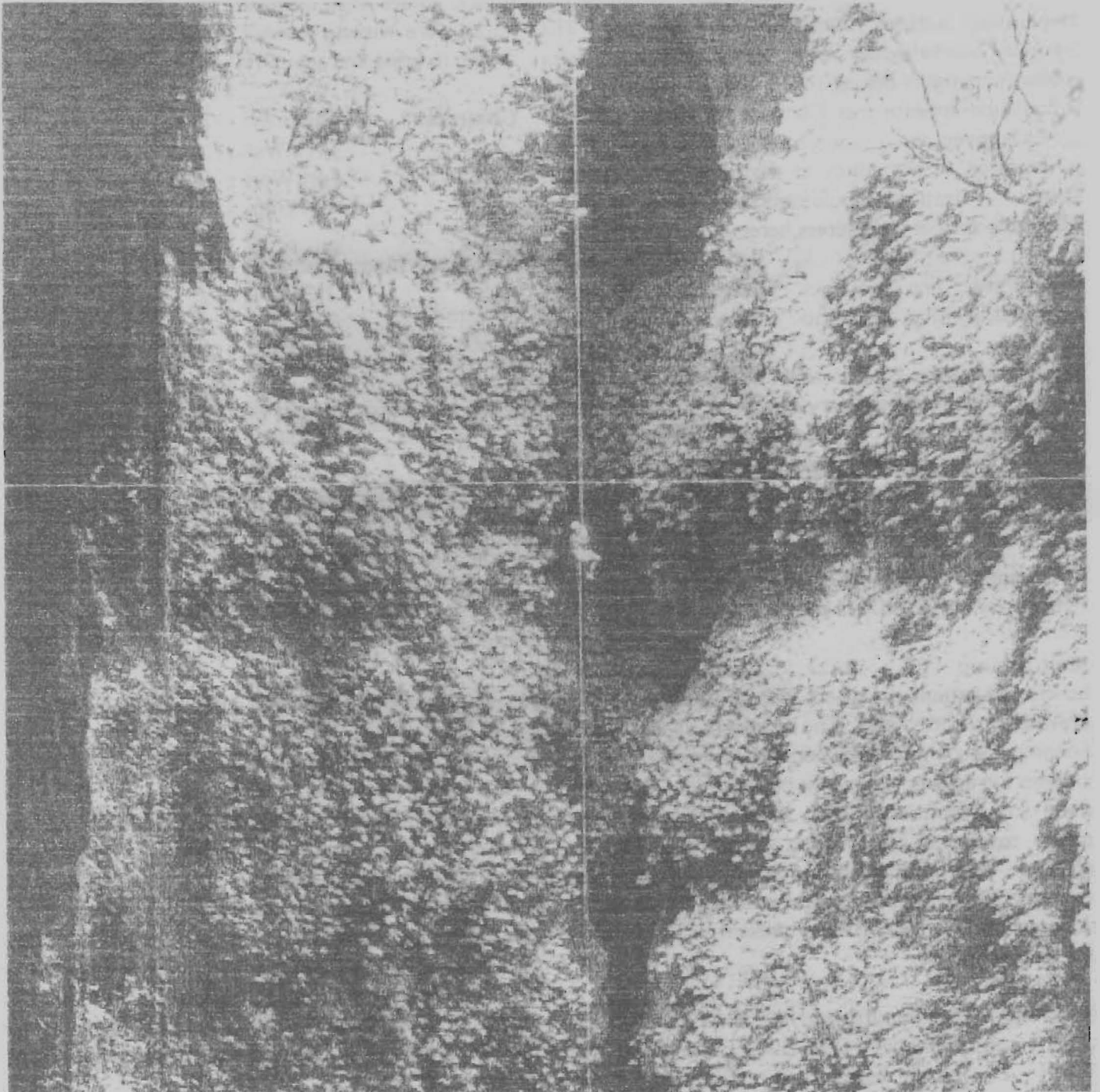


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE MAVERICK GROTTTO

Volume 7, Number 11

November, 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.

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. 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

NOVEMBER COVER:

This month's cover was downloaded from a bulletin board by editor Earnie Parker. We don't know what cave the picture was taken in. It's a neat picture of a caver rappelling in a very deep cave. You can let your conscious be your guide and your imagination define the cave. In fact, deciding where the cave is located could be fodder for campfire discussions for years to come. When there are more pictures from Grotto members then we'll be able to say where, what, when and how!

NOVEMBER MEETING! GROTTO ELECTIONS

It's that time of year again. It's time to elect grotto officers. This newsletter is going to press early in order to let everyone know about the fall party, but at press time there have been three people agree to accept nominations.

Mike Anderson has agreed to accept the nomination for Chairman. Butch Fralia, citing job reasons, has agreed to step aside and throw his support to Mike! Mike will make an excellent chairman assuming the grotto is willing to elect him. Mark Porter is willing to continue his position as treasurer. Earnie Parker announced his "retirement" from the position of newsletter editor and Chad Fenner is willing to assume that position.

The office of Vice-Chairman is open. Danny Sherrod has expressed to several people that he will not run for a second term, citing business reasons.

Politics are not everyone's cup of tea, but everyone is urged to take the time to seriously consider who their officers are going to be for the coming year. The apathy shown during last years elections was appalling! The officers of the grotto are not just officers one day a month. They work hard behind the scenes all month long to keep the grotto functioning and to develop and maintain good working relations with other grottos and government agencies. The grotto cannot function without them!

Please take an hour or so and give this election the thought it deserves. If there is someone you really want to be elected, spend some time on the phone, it's worth it!

As a general reminder, officers must be members of the NSS. They must be members of the Maverick Grotto. They cannot be officers of another grotto. They can be officers of a larger organization such as the TSA or NSS.

OCTOBER GROTTO MEETING

Chairman Butch Fralia opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

The meeting opened by recognizing visitors. There were several, including Martha MacArther's teaching buddy and Carl Haggard who has Missouri caving experience. There were other visitors but the newsletter editor's computer is in the shop and his notes are home as this is being typed.

The October CBSP work trip was held this last weekend. There were about 50 people there by the time it was all said and done. A reminder! We're only having four trips there this year!

Butch reminded everyone of TOTR coming up the following weekend.

Russell Hill, outlined his Wales Trip departure was Nov. 4. Chad Fenner mentioned that he was leading a trip to New Mexico. Donna reminded everyone of the River Styx work trip.

Mark Porter reported that the Grotto has about \$404 in the bank.

The fall party was discussed. Bruce Anderson is in charge of getting the food for the party. He stated he will make fajita's!

Everyone agreed the Maverick Grotto will again donate door prizes for the TOTR.

Butch reminded everyone of the upcoming elections. Ernest Parker announced that he would not run again for Secretary Editor. Mark Porter said that he would run for Treasurer again. Butch said that he would accept the position of Chairman again, if nominated and elected. He also stated that he would like to see someone else step forward and run for the office because of his uncertain work hours. Butch reminded everyone that if they wish to nominate someone to be sure that they are willing to accept the nomination. Nominations are supposed to be made at the October meeting, however there were none!

Mike Nelson applied for membership and was accepted by a majority vote. He has been to Fence Line Fissure with Butch Fralia, and CBSP with Butch and others.

The meeting was officially adjourned then Martha MacArther gave a slide presentation of Ogle Cave.

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

**'94 NSS CONVENTION COMMITTEE
13 NOVEMBER 1993
FORT CLARK SPRINGS
7:00 P.M.**

There will be a work session to clean and begin repairs on the Old Commissary building coupled with a business meeting. This will be a dirty one, so bring

your work clothes. Respirators will be required to work in the building as the pigeon manure may have histoplasmosis. Sleeping arrangements have been offered by Fort Clark at the old theater but cooking will be a problem. We may cook at the campground or another spot may be offered. There will be no shower facilities available. Information will be updated next month. If all else fails, we may camp out in the same location used during the last TSA convention. Check at the guard station for information.

Thursday, the 11th of November, is a state holiday and some plan to drive down on that day and begin work on Friday morning. Those of you able to come early, there will be work to do. We plan to work only until noon on Sunday to allow people to drive home in comfort. Breakfast, lunch, and supper on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday will be provided. There will be beer on Saturday night. The food will be provided by the convention committee and will be prepared by Carl Ponebshek and Bob Cowell.

The following list of tools will be required on the job site. If you have any tools to bring, please do so. Mike Anderson, Gill Ediger and Pete Strickland will be in charge and will bring the heavy tools. Ask them clean-up related questions.

Dust masks or respirators; push brooms and hand brooms, hand scrapers; hammer; crow bar, wrecking bar or nail bar; assorted nails (8 and 6 penny finish); power miter saw; skill saw; reciprocating saw (Sawsall); table saw; air compressor; nail guns (framer and trim); power nailer (cleeter floor); wire cutters; pliers; screw gun and screw drivers; pry bars; electrical meters; step ladders; jig saw (saber saw); floor sander and paper; sanders; extension cords; drywall screws (1 to 3 inches); Elmer's yellow wood glue; flat shovels or scoops; and garbage bags.

Call Ron Ralph (817/799-2487 days or 799-4837 nights) if you have any questions. You might think about car pooling as the trip is 311 miles from Waco, one way

1994 CONVENTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 17, 1993

Ron Ralph opened the meeting. Donna Anderson reported that the minutes to the September 19th meeting, held at Bamberger Ranch, was sent to each grotto contact person and printed in various

grotto newsletters. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as published. The motion passed.

Bruce Anderson gave the Treasurer's report. The balance from the last report was \$1,762.32. Receipts from registration fees and vendor registrations totaled \$1,935.00. \$500 was transferred to the First State Bank of Brackettville. Total expenditures were \$129.83. The total balance is \$3,567.49. The projected budget has been updated to reflect more postage expenses as we will be mailing conformation cards to those who pre-register. Expenses under publicity was changed from \$1,000 to \$1,500 due to a double run on registration forms as well as the need for purchase of a Xerox machine. A new line item was added under Howdy Party for the plastic mugs with the convention logo which will be used for the duration of the convention. Another line item was added to reflect the repayment of money loaned to the committee from the Texas grottos. There will be other expenses that will come up that are still not budgeted such as the repairs on the old Commissary building. The previous budget had a break even point of 925 people but now it has increased to 982 people.

Rune Burnett, liaison to Texas Parks and Wildlife, reported that we have access to Devil's Sinkhole but it will be required that we have a written plan and that we have a Pit Master. Ron Ralph asked that anyone interested in being Pit Master to contact him.

Mike Anderson, Publicity Chairman, reported that he checked with a Mike Duncan with Cannon Graphics in Del Rio for printing the conventiongram. He can do 1 page, printed on both sides, for \$84 plus tax. They can also do an 11 x 17 folded, which would be a 4 page for \$157 plus tax. He said we could send it on the bus line or use a modem or a high resolution FAX machine to get it to Del Rio. He is willing to do the printing at night. He could then send it back to us on the bus line at 6:00 a.m. He has 4 presses so he has back ups. Mike will let Norma Peacock, who will be doing the conventiongram, know about this information. Mike is working on an article for the NSS News.

Donna Anderson reported that pre and post cave trips are going very well. There are many people working on caves for the week of the convention. Land owner relations have to be established and we will know more later about access.

Mike Walsh, Howdy Party Chairman, stated that yesterday he had a Howdy Party meeting. If anyone else is interested in helping, please let him know. Several people are still checking on bids for the Howdy Party. He has several bids for the meal. One bid is from Bill Miller's Bar-B-Q which is \$2.80 per person if we go pick it up, deliver it, serve it, and provide plates etc. The Brackettville Chamber of Commerce has offered to do Bar-B-Q for \$4.00 per plate. Taco Cabana had a \$4.00 per person bid and Cactus Jack had a \$4.00 bid. For all of these bids, we would have to do the serving and provide the plates, napkins, silverware, etc. which would put us in the \$5.00 range. Charlie Loving and Associates gave a \$5.00 per person bid which includes serving, plates, napkins, and silverware. The meal would include chips with picanti sauce, chalupas, stuffed jalapenos, guacamole, fajita's, chili con queso, tamales, u-peal-em shrimp, Texas caviar, corn on the cob, bar-b-q chicken, bar-b-q sausage, vegetarian tacos, watermelon and cantaloupe. Mike Walsh's recommendation was to go with Charlie Loving's bid but he wanted the committee as a whole to vote on it. A motion was made and seconded that we accept Charlie Loving's bid. The motion carried unanimously. Ron Ralph encouraged people to sign up to assist with the Howdy Party as a great amount of help will be needed.

Gill Ediger, international liaison, reported that he has talked with cavers from San Luis, Mexico and that they are willing to lead trips to caves in that area. These will be caves that probably no gringos have ever seen.

Barbe Barker, Special Events Chairman, stated that George Veni has been working on a Caverns of Sonora trip. George stated that we will need to coordinate something, perhaps with the registration committee, to have a box set up for the admission fee to go on this trip.

Bill Elliott reported that the Guidebook is progressing. Allan Cobb has volunteered to be photo editor. If you have some really good slides of some of the more prominent caves, especially in southwest Texas, please contact Allan Cobb. George Veni has already written a great deal. Bill and George are co-editors of the guidebook. The convention guidebook and the geology guidebook will be one volume in order to avoid some duplication. Anyone is welcome to contribute cave descriptions for the guidebook. They will be given credit as the author with a by-line in the guidebook. The cave descriptions are

needed very, very soon. There will be some material in the guidebook about Mexican caves such as those in the Bustamante area and Minas Viejas.

Bill Mixon, Sessions Chairman, stated that the call for papers was sent to the NSS News. He has received a few requests for rearranging the schedule but nothing of major impact on the facilities.

Bill Steele, Facilities Chairman, was not present.

Vendors Chairman, Noble Sudham, stated that there are around 35 to 40 potential vendors. Money is coming in slowly but he expects that by Christmas he will be looking for overflow.

George Veni, Waltz Across Texas Chairman, stated the geology field trip is planned and the road log is figured. He has contacted A. Richard Smith and Ernst Kastning to co-lead one of the geology field trip buses. George needs the road logs for the archeology/biology and scenic tour trips as soon as possible so that he can confirm the prices on the buses. The prices are based on mileage. He also needs reports for the guidebook on archeology/biology. Carl Ponebshek is taking care of lunch for the field trips. The tentative lunch site will be at Laughlin Air Force Base. They have water, electricity, clean rest rooms, shade, and they are high on a hill for a breeze. Carl will be going out there to check on the site. The only stipulation Laughlin has is that they want someone who is retired military. Carl and Bob Cowell fit those requirements. Carl will check on buying the food at the commissary prices. Carl needs a lunch staff so please contact Carl to volunteer to help with the Sunday lunch for the field trips. George will need some trip assistants for the buses to answer some of the geology questions and make sure that the people get back on the buses quickly. George stated that he has come across some cave leads on Amistad National Recreational Area. If anyone is interested in checking on these, contact George and then you can coordinate with Donna if they are appropriate caves for the convention. George sent Dave Milhollin, a Florida cave diver who is interested in setting up some diving, some information on Good Enough Spring. The National Park Service is willing to support some cave diving. George has some agency contacts for anyone interested in pursuing this.

Bob Cowell said it may be possible for those who want to take a day trip to rent a pontoon boat to go look at the numerous pictographs along the Pecos.

Terry Sayther stated that he has talked to the mayor at Bustamante and the owner of the Ancira Hotel. The hotel is particularly interested in hosting any festivities for pre-convention. They have been adding on rooms and there will be about 50 rooms available by then when they are through with their construction. There is a paved road through to the springs at the head of the canyon. There are plenty of camping areas throughout the canyon. The pre-convention trips will include Palmito, Carrizal, Precipicio, and pictograph areas. He is looking for some people to lead people through the caves. There will be a post convention trip to Minas Viejas by Linda Palit and Joe Ivy.

Jay Jordan stated things are going along very well. He stated that volunteers will be the key to the success of the convention. If anyone knows people who might like to help with any of the activities which have been discussed, please let them know that they have a role in this convention.

Donna Anderson stated that we are having a brand new salon this year. It will be a T-shirt design salon in order to recognize all the artists which have given us so many wonderful T-shirts. They will be displayed all week at convention and then they will be held in archives for future conventions. Those T-shirts entered in the salon which are currently for sale, will have a card attached to them with all of the ordering information for convention goers.

Cathy Winfrey, Registration Chairman, stated that more people are volunteering to help with registration.

A question was raised about what is happening on the banquet. Ron stated that the banquet will be catered by the restaurant at Fort Clark Springs. They will take care of the set up and take down. It will be a chicken fried steak dinner. Pat Copeland is in charge of the decorations, possibly a sound system, and ensuring that things go smoothly. The banquet will be outdoors at Fort Clark Springs somewhere near the pool. After the meal, we will adjourn to the amphitheater for the awards ceremony. Everyone should be able to hear very well with the sound system in the amphitheater.

The next meeting of the convention committee will be held at Fort Clark Springs on Saturday, November 13, 1993 at 7.00 p.m. This will be in connection with a working weekend to begin work on the old Commissary building. Ron and several others will be there on Thursday evening, November 11, to begin work on Friday morning. Work will end at noon on

Sunday. Anyone who wants to come Thursday night or Friday morning is encouraged to do so. If you can only come for part of the weekend, that will also be appreciated. The more people we have on the November work trip, the more work we will be able to get done. Ron stated that the roof was gone for a long time in the Commissary building and that there is residue on the floor that we would not want to breathe. Anyone who has a face mask respirator should bring it. There is a small possibility of histoplasmosis, so we want to keep that possibility down. Ron Ralph stated that there is another large building now available to us at Fort Clark Springs. We will need to do some clean up work on it. On the November 13th meeting, he would like to plan where the January meeting will be. Ron and Jay felt we should not have a December meeting because of the Christmas holidays. Everyone agreed on this. Ron would like the various grottos to be thinking about hosting a meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by Donna Anderson,
Convention Committee Secretary

SPACE FILLER

One of the most exciting things for a newsletter editor to do is figure out what to do with these annoying white space areas where! A newspaper has access to wire services and small articles to take care of these spaces. That is not the case with a small newsletter.

If it were not for Donna Anderson and the NSS Convention information, this month's newsletter would be full of white space and any articles printed would have to come from the NSS Bulletin Board or some other source.

You can see that even a small article would take up a little room. If it is written by a Grotto member and has some local interest, it will be enjoyable for everyone to read. As it is, you are stuck with these inane commentaries.

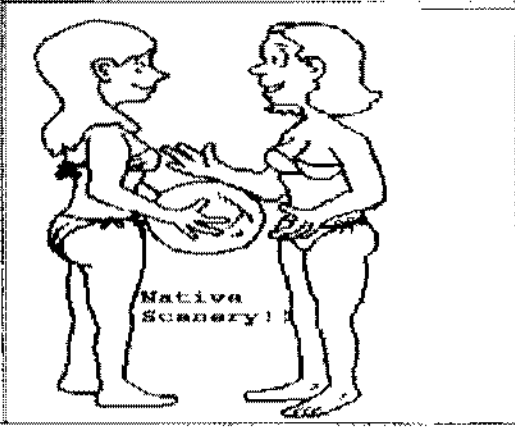
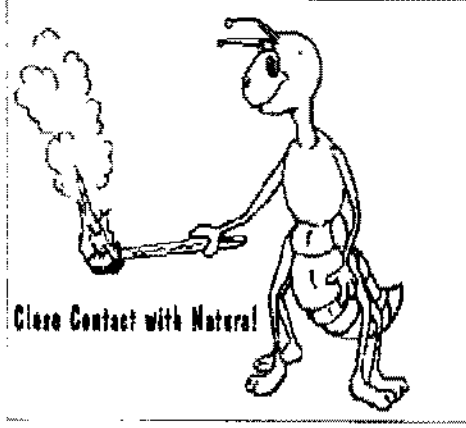
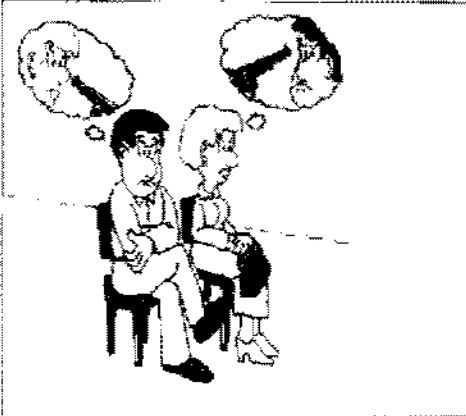
If in the future, you wish to become a budding writer, please remember your Grotto newsletter!

I've enjoyed being editor of this newsletter this year. It has been, for the most part, enjoyable. There have been some trying moments but that's true of anything one does. It has been a learning experience for me since I've never done anything like this before.

REASONS CAVERS GO CAVING!!

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Captions courtesy of Newsletter Staff

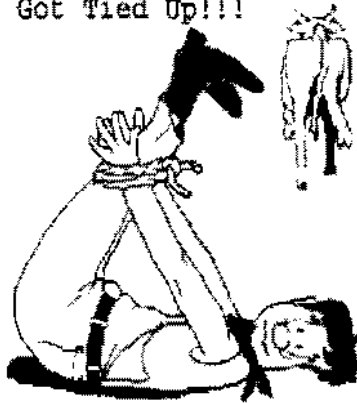


REASONS CAVERS DON'T GO CAVING!!
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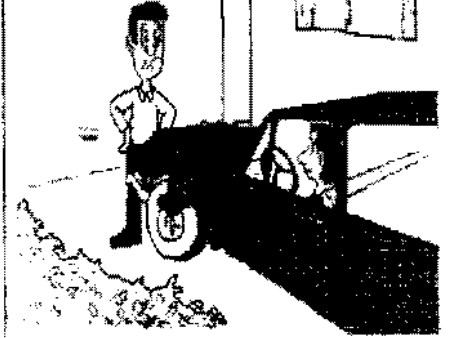
Too Old!!!



Got Tied Up!!!



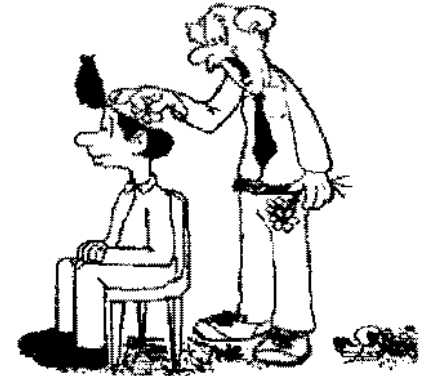
**Working on
the Car!!!!**



**The Witch
Caught Me!!!**

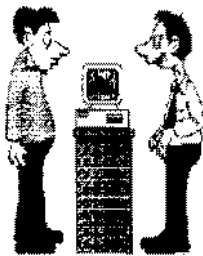
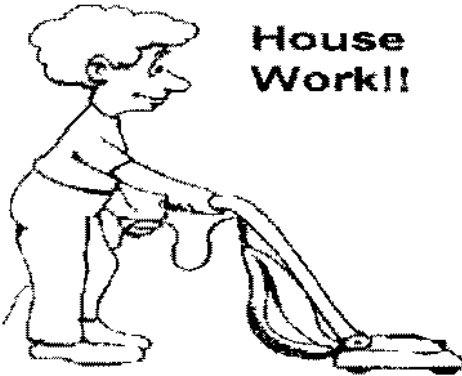


She Caught Me!!!



Brain Dead!!!

**House
Work!!**

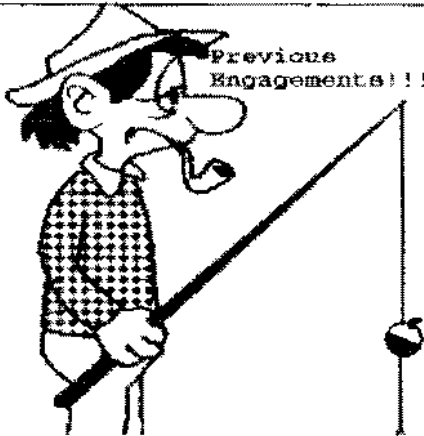


**Computer
Crashed!**



Homework!!!!

**Previous
Engagements!!!**



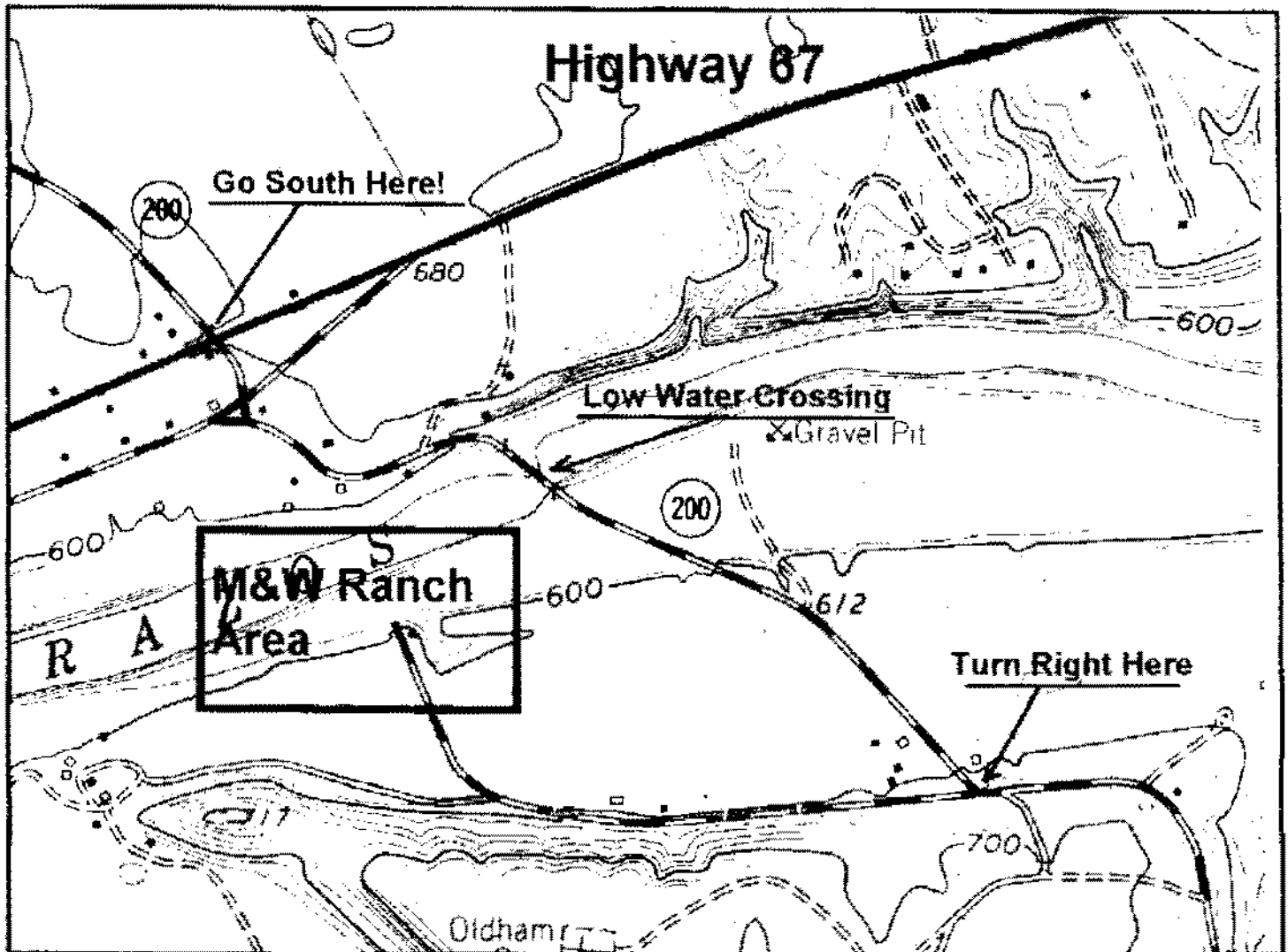
**Caving
Gear
Stolen!!!**



**No
Excuse!!!**



rites of fall party



The has fled and winter is nigh. Once again it is time for the Annual Joint Fall Crazy Time and seventh anniversary celebration of the Maverick Grotto. The usual Fall rituals will be observed. Bacchus will be roasted, Neptune (the God of the hot tub) will be honored, and general gluttony will prevail. Pilgrims from strange, faraway lands, including Dallas and Wichita Falls will participate.

The festivities will begin the afternoon of Saturday, November 6, and last throughout the night. However, pilgrims are expected to start arriving as early as Friday evening, and will stay until Sunday.

The rites will be held again this year in the kingdom of M&W Ranch. Expect to pay the ogre that guards the gate a tribute to enter.

Maverick Grotto will furnish the banquet food, but additional provisions will be needed. In addition to food needed if you are staying overnight, you will need to bring a covered dish of chips or such. Also bring soft drinks for your group. DFW Grotto will furnish the beer.

There are many routes to attend the festivities. The most common is to travel to Cleburne then head west on Highway 67 south. About sixteen miles west of Cleburne, keep a sharp eye out for the Brazos River bridge. Two and a half miles later, take FM 200 south. Follow FM 200 across the low water crossing and a quarter of a mile later, the road will make a sharp turn to the left. At the turn, there is a paved driveway to the right leading into the M&W Ranch. (There may or may not be Maverick Grotto signs at the entrance). Follow the paved road to the fee station and pay the ogre his due. After the fee station, the road will immediately turn to dirt. Take the first right turn and follow the road along the river until you see the a large group of cars and people. The hot tub is a dead give-away that you've reached the party.

Come out early, stay late and have a wonderful time!!!!

Calendar of Events

- November 6, Rites of Fall Party, sponsored by DFW and Maverick Grottos.** Details pending.
- November 11-14, 1993. Brackettville, Texas.** Work session at the 1994 convention site
- 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 13, 1993. Honey Creek.** Help survey and push the longest cave in Texas. Requires wet suit. Contact Kurt Menking at (210)824-7230.
- November 19-28, 1993. Mexico Thanksgiving Trip.** Contact Steve Dalton at (817)923-4712.
- November 19-21, National Association For Cave Diving Symposium, "Progress 93".** Contact Dave Milhollin, P.O. Box 595004, Miami, FL 33159-5004.
- November 20, 1993. Robber Barron Resurvey Project.** Contact James Lottin at (210)731-9392.
- November 24-28, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Thanksgiving Day Expedition. CRF project.** Contact Dick Desjardins (505)344-7055.
- 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 10-12, Colorado Bend State Park Project.** Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039 or Ed Young (214)262-8188.
- 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 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)745-4355.
- January 27-30, Precipicio, Bistamante, Mexico.** Another assault on Precipicio. If you are interested, qualified contact Oren Tranbarger at (210)349-5573.
- February 11-13, Colorado Bend State Park Project.** Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039, or Ed Young (214)262-8188.
- April 8-10, Colorado Bend State Park Project.** Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039, or Ed Young (214)262-8188
- 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 Biospeologie, Florence, Italy.** Contact Dr Ginsappe Messani, Co.S.F.F.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)352-0204, FAX (615)385-0491