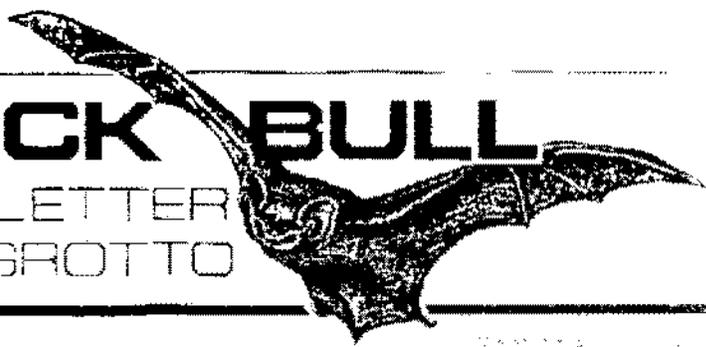


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

FALL 1981



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The *Maverick Bull* is the monthly newsletter of The Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of The National Speleological Society (NSS # 570). 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 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 or other items should contact Butch Fralia (817)346-5029 to arrange for pickup.

Library: Support our 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:

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(817) 448-9764

Vice-Chairman:

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Mark Porter
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Garland, TX 75240
(214)271-8147

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

Cover Photo

This month's cover photo was taken by Carol McGee and Chad Fenner in Hell Below cave in the Lincoln National Forest. The picture was taken by setting off an electronic flash under a pool of water (safely secured in a set of three zip-lock bags, of course). Special thanks to Bruce Fenner for the screening services.

Minutes for the December Meeting

The December meeting? There was no December meeting. Instead of a December meeting, the Maverick Grotto had its annual Christmas party (see related story). As far as the November

meeting minutes, the November meeting saw the election of three new officers. They were President: Mike Anderson; Vice President/program chairman: Tracy Van Eps; and Secretary/newsletter editor:

Chad Fenner. The Grotto Treasure, Mark Porter, remained unchanged, as did the Librarian, Russell Hill. Let's all welcome the 1994 officers, new and old.

The January Meeting

The January meeting will be held on the 11th of January, at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster at 7:00 PM. This month, Tracy Van Eps will show *Spirit of Exploration - Discovering the Wonders of Carlsbad Caverns National*

Park. This video shows many features, including some wild caves, of the Carlsbad Caverns National Park, in the Guadeloupe Mountains of southeastern New Mexico. These caves are among the favorites of many of our grotto

members and are visited regularly. Watch for Guad trips throughout the year. Note that in the closing credits, two former, but not forgotten, Maverick cavers are listed: Kevin Glover and Tony Jones.

Editor's Ramblings

Welcome to 1994 and the 1994 Maverick Bull! This looks like it could be an exiting year for caving in Texas, with the 1994 National Convention being held in our backyard.

This year also introduces a new editor to the Maverick Bull. I don't want to shock anyone too much, so you won't see any radical changes in the format, but I hope to keep it fresh and exciting, as caving should be. I do want to borrow a few things from other grottos (like

this column, or news from other grottos).

One thing, however, I can't publish anything that isn't written. So, if you want to see your trip reported, you've got to write a trip report. I'll take anything from computer-generated files sent via a modem, to notes scratched on the back of a napkin. I'll even write it up myself if you call me and give me the details. We can also take photos. Several members of our group have

scanners that can help capture your experience and make it our experience.

Also, if you see anything caving-related, like newspaper articles, or TV shows, give me a call so I can relay it. Its always fun to see cave stuff in everyday life.

Special thanks this month to my brother Bruce Fenner for providing the screen for the cover photo. He works in printing and has access to all sorts of cool stuff.

Dues Due

Well, its that time of year again, **Dues Time**. It's been a year since last time they were **due**, so here is your fist reminder. **Do** remember that **dues** are \$10.00 and are **due**

each January. Paying your **dues** won't stop **due** from forming on your lawn in the mornings, but they **do** cover grotto expenses such as the grotto newsletter, grotto supplies and equipment, and most of all, grotto parties.

According to the master **dues** keeper, Mark Porter, we are basically broke. So **do** make it a point to see Mark this meeting and keep your **dues** from becoming "past **due**".

Grotto Party

1993 ended with a bang at the annual Maverick Grotto Christmas Party. Like the last two years, the party was a combined party with our neighbors to the east, the DFW Grotto. Also, like the last two years, the party was held at the house of Dave "Cave" McClung and Barbe Barker, though the location was new because Dave and Barbe moved this year.

1994 CONVENTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 1994

Ron Ralph opened the meeting which was held at Fort Clark Springs. Donna Anderson gave the secretary's report. She stated that the minutes to the last meeting, which was held at Old Timer's on October 17th, were 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 \$3,567.49. Receipts from registration fees and vendor registrations totaled \$9,428.49. Total expenditures were \$781.42, the main items being \$500 to Fort Clark Springs as the last installment on the deposit and \$200 to Noble Stidham for the purchase of a copy machine. The balance at the

beginning of the work trip came to \$8,647.07. Bruce stated that additional money was spent during this work trip for lumber, saw blades, and groceries to feed the workers. It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion passed.

Bill Mixon stated that the NSS board passed a resolution last weekend regarding the convention insurance which we are required to obtain. Their resolution stated that before we sign for the insurance, the NSS legal committee needs to look at the contract.

Rune Burnett, liaison for Texas Parks and Wildlife, stated that he would like a copy of the convention slide show for viewing by his department's staff. He feels he could generate some interest and thus obtain more volunteer assistance.

Ron stated that Bill Steele and Gill Ediger are interested in working at Devil's Sinkhole as Pit Bosses.

Gill Ediger, international coordinator, reported that he has prepared a three page announcement for the Mexican cavers about what is going on and what is required to get to the convention. A registration form in Spanish has also been prepared. Andy Grubbs and George Veni will send out information to European countries and China.

Blake Harrison, Campground Chairman, stated that everything is on schedule.

Mike Anderson, Publicity Chairman, stated that an article

was sent to the NSS for the November issue regarding motel accommodations and condos. Jay Jorden stated that they had talked today with Jean Fortenberry, the editor of Brackett News. She said that some of the local citizens had expressed interest in opening up their homes for Bed & Breakfast facilities. Jean is on the Chamber of Commerce, and they voted to offer their phone number as a contact for cavers to call for this type of accommodation. They will keep a list of the residents offering this service. This information will be published in the NSS News. Cathy last stated that she had been receiving notes along with the registrations asking what accommodations are available. Ron said that she needed a flyer with all that information on it to send to those who specifically request this information. Jay said he could provide the information for the flyer. Mike stated that they plan to have some type of convention information in every NSS issue beginning with the January issue. He has been working on a list of phone numbers and a list of points of interest in Texas. Gill will be sending an article on pre and post Mexican cave trips to Jay. Gill also wants to have a convention phone number soon so it can be published in the information to the Mexican cavers. Jay stated that the Brackett News will be publishing an article about what we have been doing this weekend on the Commissary building. Rune

stated that Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Highway Department are willing to do articles in their publications about the convention. It was decided that it was fine to do the articles as long as it is not presented as a tourist convention but just states that cavers will be meeting that week. In this way, if there are people out there who really want to be cavers but do not have any idea who to contact to get started, then this could provide them with information.

Mike Walsh, Howdy Party Chairman, stated he talked with Happy Shahan today. Happy wants to film some during the Howdy Party for publicity for the Alamo Village if that was all right with us. Mike asked him if it was all right to use live artillery demonstrations during the Howdy Party. Happy said he did not have a problem with that. It is hoped that by the January meeting there will be a solid recommendation for the band for the Howdy Party.

Gill stated that he would like to reserve the area around the covered barbecue facility in the campground. He would like to put some electric refrigerators and gas stoves there for community cooking especially for, but not limited to, the Mexican cavers. He will have tents set up in that area for the Mexican cavers, but anyone else can also camp there.

Bruce mentioned that he is in the process of getting bids on the souvenir mugs which will be distributed to everyone at the Howdy Party. The mugs will

have a one color NSS logo on them, they will have a handle and will be 14 ounces. If he can find insulated mugs at a good price, those will be considered also; however, he is having difficulty finding these. The insulated mugs would keep the beer cold and thus less beer would be thrown out because of it becoming hot. If anyone knows of a source for insulated mugs, please let Bruce know. He stated that anyone interested in bidding on mugs should send the bids to him. He would like to be able to order them by January.

Gill asked that the publicity people suggest in their articles that people bring more recyclable items such as eating utensils which can be washed instead of throw away items. Ron stated that Don Broussard is in charge of recycling and that a recycling center has been found in Del Rio.

Donna Anderson, Caving Committee Chairman, reported that many individuals are currently working on cave access. There is nothing new to report at this time.

Barbe Barker, Special Events Chairman, was not present.

Bob Cowell, Health & Safety Committee Chairman, was not present; however, Carl Ponebshek gave his report for him. He stated everything is going along fine. Bob will be at Brackettville next Wednesday to meet with medical people. If anyone knows of any doctors or nurses that will be coming to

the convention who might be willing to be on-call or to help, please let Bob know. Rune stated that there is a possibility that there might be some law enforcement available from Texas Parks & Wildlife for helping with field security such as at Kickapoo. Ron stated that Rune should coordinate that with Bob Cowell. Carl stated that Bob has been discussing with Fort Clark Springs about having heavy security in the campground on Monday night when everyone is at the Howdy Party. Carl stated that the county EMS is located about 300 meters from Fort Clark Springs.

Bill Elliott, Chairman of the Guidebook Committee, was not present.

Bill Mixon, Sessions Committee Chairman, stated that by January he hopes to have a checklist of miscellaneous items which will need to go into the program book. Martha Meacham is working on getting advertisements from the townspeople and from commercial cave owners.

Carl asked if we could get the papers which are to be presented translated into Spanish. Gill will be arranging for interpreters at sessions to give a synopsis of what is being said. Ron suggested that perhaps we could arrange with Texas Parks & Wildlife to use some of their radio receivers for this purpose. Gill stated that if there are any papers given in Spanish, he will provide someone to translate into English.

Ron stated that Bill Steele, Facilities Committee Chairman, has resigned his position.

Noble Stidham, Vendor Committee Chairman, reported that he had given some vendor information to the NSS News. He stated that Bob & Bob has now registered as a vendor.

Waltz Across Texas Chairman, George Veni, was not present; however, he sent a report. Since the last meeting, Dwight Deal has agreed to lead one of the geology trip buses. The geology report and road log is currently being reviewed by the co-leaders (Dwight Deal, Ernst Kastning, A. Richard Smith and assistants Tom Byrd and Jon Cradit). The stops for the archaeology/biology and scenic tour trips are being examined this weekend, and those reports are needed by December 1. Buses and prices need to be confirmed as soon as all the road logs are available. Dave Milhollin from Florida will be coordinating cave diving at Goodenough Spring. Several people have asked him about the trip to Sonora - whether they can register for it in advance and pay in advance or pay upon arrival at convention. The committee decided that registration would not become involved in handling the trips to Sonora. Bruce mentioned that 41% of those registered for the convention have signed up for the Waltz. It is possible that the Waltz could be more popular than we had thought, and if so, we will need more trip leaders and more buses.

Cathy Winfrey, Registration Committee Chairman, reported that 92 people have registered. Post cards have been sent to the principal registrants confirming that we received their registration. Registration forms have been sent out to all internal organizations of the NSS. She has received a bid for patches of \$1.10 each. So if we order 1,000 patches, it will cost us \$1,100. We will need to sell about 280 to break even. Cathy stated that someone has volunteered to bring their computer for use at registration.

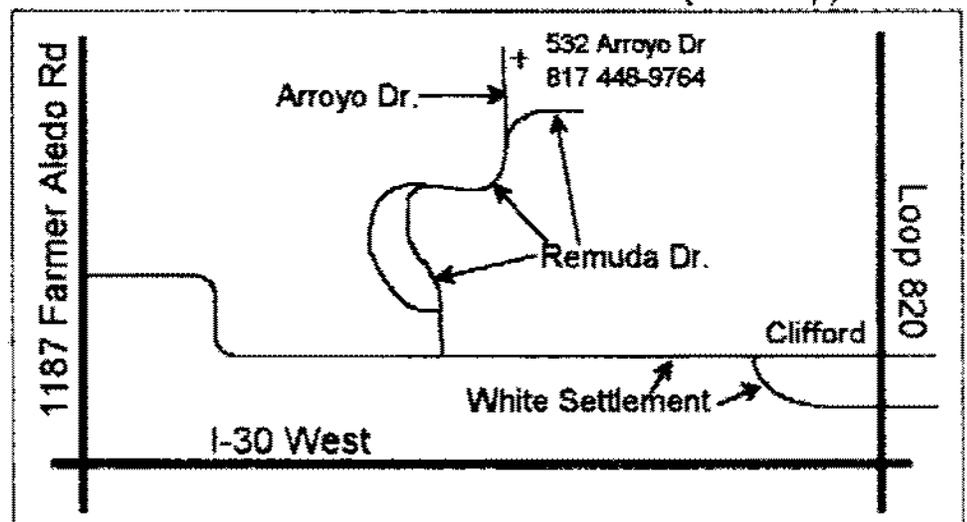
Jay Jorden stated that Bob Obele has offered to print out convention buttons with our logo at cost. Cathy stated she would send him the color artwork if he wanted it. As it is not an item on the registration form, she does not want to handle it at registration. Ron has sent a copy of the logo artwork to Doug in Austin to do a silver medallion. It was decided that we need a Symbolic Emblem Committee. Jay Jorden volunteered. It was then discussed whether the committee

should get a 10% cut on items for sale that use our logo.

Co-Chairman Jay Jorden passed around a list for people to sign stating how many hours they spent working on the commissary building. He thought it would be good for future reference to have documented the number of hours that was spent. He stated that he appreciated the work everyone has done this weekend.

Bruce Anderson made a motion that permission not be given to anyone else to make T-shirts, patches, and pins with our convention logo for commercial use except by authority of the convention committee. Anyone else who is granted permission for commercial use of our logo on any other memorabilia will pay a \$50 charge except by authority of the convention committee. The motion was seconded. After some discussion, the motion passed.

The next convention planning meeting will be on Saturday, January 15th at 2:00 p.m. in Fort Worth at the home of Mike Anderson (see map). Mike



stated everyone is welcome to bring their sleeping bag for Saturday night as there is plenty of living room space.

Noble Stidham was asked to check with the Lubbock grotto to see if they are willing to host the February TSA and convention planning meeting. The April TSA meeting will be at Brackettville.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Convention Committee Secretary.

THE CONVENTION PHONE NUMBER IS 210/563-2119.

Currently it is being forwarded to Gill Ediger's residence. This will be the telephone number used at registration during the convention.

SNOWING IN THE GUNDS

Cottonwood:Wonderland.
October 30, 1993.

Chad Fenner, Larry Martin, Mike Huber, Brad somebody-else.

Submitted by Chad Fenner

Who expects snow in October in the desert mountains of southeastern New Mexico? Certainly not me, though I have been sleeted on coming out of Ogle in October.

On Friday night, it began to snow. Huge flakes, and lots of them. Larry and I were camping at Dragon's Teeth and had planned to meet Mike the next day for a Sentinel trip. Mike

mentioned that the weather was supposed to get nasty, and we may want to skip Sentinel and do Sunday's trip, Wonderland, on Saturday instead. He agreed to make the necessary arrangements with Ransom Turner.

The next morning, we awoke to three inches of snow on the ground with drifts up to a foot on our tent. We agreed that the three-mile round trip of Sentinel in three inches of snow was probably not the best idea.

This was my second permit to Wonderland. The first attempt aborted when four of the six of us declined to attempt the traverse/climb to the Wonderland entrance gate. On that trip, we entered Cottonwood, and made it back to the start of the traverse/climb. I made my way across to make sure it was the correct ledge. I found the gate, unlocked it, took my pack off and went back across the ledge, just to find out the trip was out-voted. I then had to go back and lock the gate and get my pack.

This time was gonna be different.

Mike and Brad showed up, and off to Cottonwood we went.

We got to the entrance traverse, and all four of us got across without a hitch. After squeezing through the entrance passage, Mike asked Larry if he had any chimneying experience. "Not really," said Larry. That was about to change.

In the entrance room, there seemed like a myriad of

choices we could take. Mike walked to the beginning of a small hallway that didn't look like it went very far. He then put one foot on one wall, the other foot on the other wall, and began what seemed like hours of non-stop chimney. Actually, non-stop is not entirely correct, because there were many small, connecting passages that had floors, but for the most part, we were doing the splits.

Except for one small chandelier, this was a pretty bleak passageway, but Wonderland was supposed to be incredible. We finally got to what Mike called the "vertozontal" passage. It was a chimney passage so narrow that if your right hip went in first, your right hip came out first. In fact, if your feet went in toes first, they come out toes first. This by itself wasn't so bad, except that the passage was 20 feet long and 30 feet up. Getting the "up" part was challenging without being able to bend your knees. After a short discussion about whether Brad could get through with his pack on, Mike, Brad, and I got through. Larry decided to wait for the return trip. After the vertozontal, there was a small, webbing-assisted climb. This was actually easier than what we just went through; however, my upper body, being fairly weak to begin with, had nothing left for this climb. I finally gave it up and waited with Larry for the return trip.

So, after two tries I still haven't made it to Wonderland. Hopefully, the third time will be the charm.

Calendar of Events

January 27-30, Precipicio, Blstamante, Mexico. Another assault on Precipicio. If you are vertically qualified, contact Oren Tranbarger at (210) 349-5573.

February 11-13, Colorado Bend State Park. Contact Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039, or Ed Young (214) 262-8188.

March 15, Last day for \$10.00 discount on NSS National Convention registration fees.

April 8-10, Colorado Bend State Park Project. Contact Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039, or Ed Young (214) 262-8188.

May 16, Last day for \$5.00 discount on NSS National Convention registration fees.

June 20-24, 1994 NSS National Convention, Fort Clark Springs, Brackettville Texas. Contact Ron Ralph (817) 246-4837 or Jay Jorden (214) 398-9272.

July 16-23, NCRC Seminar 1994, Cave Rescue Operations and Management, Bristol VA. Contact Nancy Chrimes, P.O. Box 560, Troutville VA. 24175, (703) 992-3665.

August 28-September 2, International Symposium of Biospeleology of the Societe de Biospeologie, Florence Italy. Contact Dr. Guiseppe Messina, Ca.S.F.E.T., at Romana 17, 1-50125 Firenze Italy, (39) 55-222389, FAX (39) 55-222585.

November 4-11, 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.

