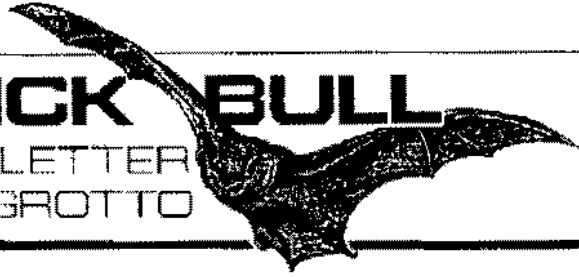
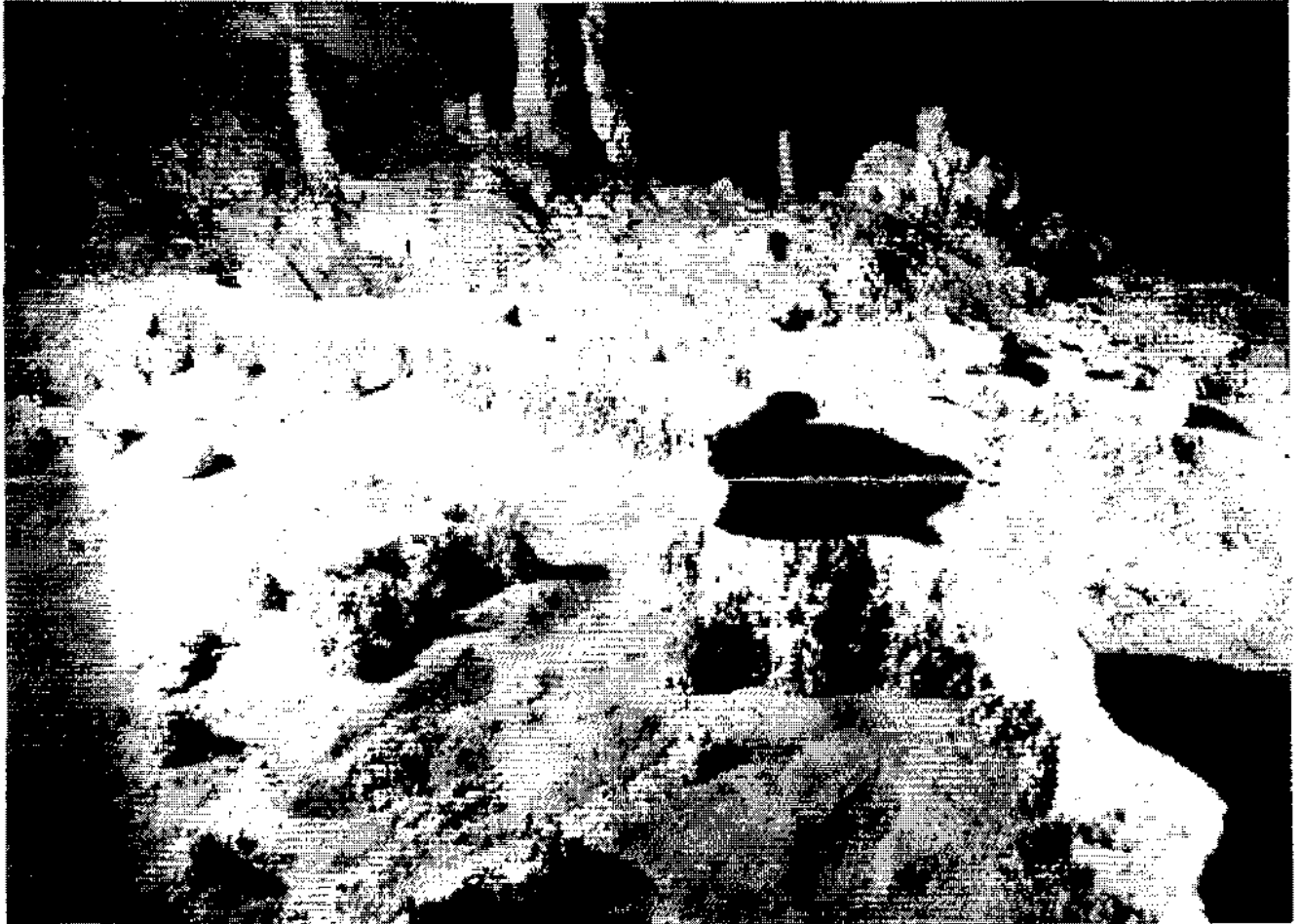

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



Volume 8 Issue 1

February 1994



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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:

Mike Anderson
532 Arroyo Dr.
Fort Worth, TX. 76108
(817) 448-9764

Vice-Chairman:

Tracy Van Eps
276 Michelle Ct.
Mansfield, TX. 76063
(817) 483-8351

Secretary/Editor:

Chad Fenner
3700 Wayland
Ft. Worth, TX. 76133
(817) 292-7722

Treasurer:

Mark Porter
513 Valley Park
Garland, TX. 75243
(214)271-8147

Cave Rescue: Call collect:

(512) 686-0234

Cover Photo

This month's cover photo was taken by Larry Martin and Chad Fenner in Hidden cave in the Lincoln National Forest. It is the famous dam and is one of spectacular sights on the lower level. The shot was taken with an unsynchronized flash. In total darkness, Larry held the camera, with the shutter open ("B" setting), while Chad set off the flash at a 45 degree angle from the camera.

Minutes for the January Meeting

The January meeting informally began at 7 p.m. The business portion was called to order at 7:30 by Grotto President Mike Anderson. Two guests, Katie Monohan and John Chelt, were recognized. Katie and John are former south Texas cavers who moved to Ft. Worth about a year ago and want to get back into caving.

Ed Young reported on the new climbing gym in Carrollton. It is built in what appears to be abandoned silos. Ed said that with advanced notice, they can set up a 110 ft. free repel/ascending rope.

Ed also reported that cave tours were being led at Colorado Bend State Park and guides were needed. He said that the possibility of pay existed under the new state entrepreneurial budget system. Call him for more information on either of these items.

Mike Anderson then

reminded the grotto of the grotto carbide policy. After some discussion, Russell Hill motioned that the carbide be put in two-quart cans and sold for the cost of the container. The motion was seconded and passed. Russell will be bringing carbide with the library in future grotto meetings.

Mike then began asking about other grotto assets, such as rescue equipment and the grotto songbooks. Russell reminded the grotto that all grotto equipment, as well as all books and old newsletters (our own as well as a number of exchange newsletters from other grottos), are available for check-out by any grotto member.

Treasurer Mark Porter then reported that the grotto had about \$80, plus whatever was collected in dues that night. Tracy Van Eps made a call for programs. Several good ideas were made, including Russell volunteering to show

off his England and South Wales trip.

Under "new business," Bruce Anderson proposed that an amendment be made to the grotto constitution. As per the constitution, the amendment is being published in this month's newsletter and will be voted on at the next meeting.

A number of what sounded like exciting trip reports were reported on, but since only one of them actually resulted in a trip report (Thanx, Arlene!), the rest must have been dull.

Donna Anderson reported on an upcoming resurvey trip to River Stix (see calendar).

Meta Anderson then motioned that the business meeting be adjourned. After many seconds -- and several minutes -- Tracey showed excerpts from *Spirit of Exploration - Discovering the Wonders of Carlsbad Caverns*

The February Meeting

The February meeting will be held on February 8, at

Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster at 7 p.m. This month, Russell Hill will show some

exciting slides from his November England and Wales trip.

Editor's Ramblings

Happy February and welcome to this month's Maverick Bull. At work, people are always bringing me "cave" related stuff. Last month, my boss showed me a Nikon ad in a magazine he reads. The ad featured a photograph of a caver hanging free on rope in a cave in Antarctica (Not one I was familiar with, and the ad didn't say. If anyone knows what cave, drop me a line.) The shot was taken from below and had a real cool view of the entrance above the

caver. The ad went on to say how the shot was set up -- lighting, shutter speed, aperture, etc -- and that only with the Nikon N 90 camera and SB-25 speedlight could the shot be taken right the first time, because "sometimes you don't get a second chance." I want to see the rest of the roll and see if EVERY shot came out right the first time. As a cave photographer, I contend that every cave photo has an element of uncertainty, and is just "a shot in the dark."

Someone else showed me their February *Texas Highways*. It featured a lengthy article on Texas Caving by Austin Caver Dale Weisman, who, apparently has never heard of the Ft. Worth Maverick Grotto, because he lists the NSS grottos in Texas and leaves out ours. In spite of this MAJOR faux pas, the article is really good, with some cool photos of Devil's Sink Hole and just about every commercial cave in Texas. Chad says "check it out."

Around Town

The Dallas Museum of Natural History is opening a new exhibit titled *Masters of the Night - The True Story of Bats*. It is advertised as "a multi-sensory exhibit that dispels centuries of superstition, . . . a magical Gothic castle, . . . and life-like caves." (We'll be the judge of that! -Ed.)

The exhibit is scheduled to run from February 6 through May 30. If anyone is interested, a grotto trip might be organized to go as a group. For more information call (214) 421-3466.

Constitutional Amendment Proposed

After a (far too) lengthy discussion of the grotto budget, Bruce Anderson proposed an amendment to the constitution. The grotto constitution not only allows the treasurer to collect dues, but it sets the

amount of the dues.

Bruce's proposal would allow the dues to be modified without having to modify the constitution. The amendment reads,

"Dues shall be set at the January meeting each year."

The amendment will be voted on at this month's meeting.

MISSOURI CAVING

Arlene Heintz
Todd Heintz
Gary Hambrick
Scott Hambrick

I arrived in Conway on Christmas Eve, looking forward to seeing my family and going caving. I knew that Todd had taken a couple extra days off work and I couldn't wait to check out the caves he had planned.

Todd and I arrived at Gary Hambrick's home in Waynesville on Monday morning, ready to go caving. Gary had contacted the owner of Kempton Onyx and Jim Jones Cave the previous week and had obtained the appropriate permits. We headed off toward the caves with Scott as our chauffeur. When we arrived, we parked along the gravel road and set off on foot for the caves. It was a very cold, cloudy and windy day, but we soon warmed up as we walked about a half mile to the first cave.

Kempton Onyx Cave, also known as Big Queen Cave, is located part-way up a ravine with an entrance about six by eight feet. As we entered the cave, the passage sloped downward until we were in a room with a ceiling height of about 20 feet. There were a few stalactites and soda

straws in this room. The stream meandered below us and was several feet deep in places. We continued on and noticed some evidence of onyx mining. The owner had mentioned that there used to be tracks exiting the cave -- tracks that were used to haul carloads of onyx out of the cave. We saw no sign of this, however.

About 600 feet into the cave, we scrambled down a breakdown pile into the deepest water of the cave. It was frigid, chest-deep and continued for about 20 feet until we could climb up into the last room of the cave. Luckily, this room was well worth the effort. There were numerous glistening white soda straws and stalactites. One particularly pretty stalactite looked like a white, crooked finger and had a steady shower of water pouring down onto a large, white, bumpy-looking formation. Gary got out his wonderful, old-fashioned Argus camera, with its round, silver reflector dish for the flash and snapped a picture of this formation, with Scott backlighting it. We took our time examining this room, since we were in no hurry to get back into the deep, icy spring water. But eventually we took the plunge and headed on out. When we were almost out of the cave, we looked under a ledge where the stream meandered below the main passage. Gary challenged that "a manly caver would check out this passage."

Todd decided to do this and was soon bent over and scooping cold water into the neckline of his coveralls. No one else wanted to be "manly" enough to try the low-ceilinged, wet passage. When Todd emerged, we exited the cave.

Gary then led us about a half mile through Hickory Hollow to Jim Jones Cave, also known as Little Queen Cave. Jim Jones had a lower, duck-under type entrance and then opened up into a large, high-ceilinged room. This cave was also heavily mined for onyx in the 1890s. Huge blocks had been drilled out of the tall, flowstone walls. The floor was piled high with some of the cut blocks that had never been removed from the cave. This large room continued into a crevice-like passage that ended in a flowstone wall, about 250 feet back into the cave. At the top of this flowstone wall was a tight belly crawl. Anyone who has caved with Todd knows he likes to push all crawlways to the very end. This was no exception, and Todd and Scott decided to push it, while Gary and I stayed behind. We could hear the sounds of boots scraping rock, grunts and an occasional, "Ouch!" as they pushed along. When they returned, they reported that the passage was about 70 feet long -- all crawling, except the last 15 feet was walking passage. No formations to speak of, though. We were now finished caving

for the day.

The walk back to Scott's truck was possibly the coldest I have ever been. We were dripping wet from the water in Kempton Onyx cave and had about a half mile to walk. The day was grey and overcast, the temperature was 25 degrees, and the wind was a gusty 25-30 mph. We trudged up a long hill that seemed every bit as steep as the hike to Fitton Cave and then walked a little further down a gravel road to the truck. The truck was parked at the top of the hill, so we had full benefit of the strong winds as we stripped our wet clothes off. This was a slow process, as our numb and clumsy fingers could barely undo buttons, buckles and snaps. I could imagine my non-caving friends back in Texas looking at me with disgusted amazement and asking, "Why would you want to do that?" Because I love it, that's why!

The next day we decided to visit Martin Cave, near Ft. Leonard Wood. None of us had ever been there, but Gary thought he could find it. On the way, Todd suggested we stop and take a look at Boundary Pit. This interesting and unstable-looking pit opened up beside a gravel road back in 1986. It's about 15 feet in diameter and reported to be about 125 feet deep.

We then drove on to where we thought the cave would be. We parked and hiked a short distance along Roubidoux

Creek until we saw the large double entrance in the bluff. The entrance began as a nice shelter where we could leave our quilted coveralls, caps, coats, etc. We were going to make sure we were better prepared for the cold weather today!

We went on into the cave, beginning with a tall, narrow passageway that twisted along until it opened up into a fairly large room, decorated with lots of brownish stalactites, stalagmites and flowstone. The passage continued on around a curve, and we could hear Scott up ahead, calling out, "Hooty-hoo, hooty-hoo!" in his Gomer Pyle, Secret Indian Call voice. We knew there must be good things ahead. When we got there, Scott had already vanished into a forest of four-foot high columns, stalactites and stalagmites. There was just enough room to carefully crawl through. Scott even saw some baby salamanders in one of the pools amongst the formations.

Next we arrived in a larger room with bigger formations and more flowstone. We could see a shallow stream meandering below us through a crack in the floor. The passage was dry, and we climbed over and around the breakdown until we reached a dirt-floored crawlway. It was easy crawling and stoop-walking for awhile. We jumped across the little stream a few times as we went along. Eventually, about 1600 feet into the cave, we reached

the end. We were in a reddish sandstone breakdown room with lots of old signatures carved into the sandstone blocks. We took a brief rest here and then started back to the entrance.

In one of the crawlways, we discovered a little dome-like room overhead which we hoisted ourselves up into. We decided this would make a great "party room" and sat there a few minutes discussing the possibilities.

Then we were back into the dry breakdown passage again. Up at the top of a breakdown pile, we found a room we had missed altogether on the way in. Lucky for us that we saw it on the way out. The room started with a flowstone slope covered with tiny, dry, rimstone pools. At the top of the slope, we could lay down and see about 10 feet back under a shelf. There were beautiful rimstone pools there, filled to the top with clear water. Todd named it the "Chinese Wall," as the rimstone walls were long and twisting and about four to six inches in height. It was a real treat to see.

After this, we went on out of the cave. We had managed to stay fairly dry and had a comfortable walk back to the truck. We all had a good time, and I'm looking forward to my next vacation when I can go caving again!

Submitted by Arlene Heintz

Grotto President Visits Virgin and 3 Fingers

{This space reserved for the article Donna Anderson promised that Mike Anderson would write.}

Not submitted by Mike Anderson

1994 Convention Committee Minutes January 15, 1994

Ron Ralph opened the meeting, which was held at Mike Anderson's house in Ft. Worth. It was moved and seconded to accept the secretary's minutes of the last meeting as published in various grotto newsletters. The motion passed.

Bruce Anderson gave the treasurer's report. The balance from the last report was \$8,647.07. Receipts from registration fees and vendor registrations totaled \$13,072.35. Total expenditures were \$1,878.69. Ending balance was \$19,840.73. It was moved and seconded to accept the report as read. The motion passed. Bruce stated that telephone expenses for convention calls could be reimbursed to individuals. He handed out forms that need to be completed by those wanting reimbursement. The form requires such information as date, time, total minutes of the call, phone number, who was called and

the purpose. This form needs to be turned in to the treasurer, along with a xerox copy of the phone bill.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Liaison Rune Burnett stated that he still needs a plan for Devil's Sinkhole. Gill should have it completed by the February meeting. Rune also needs another logistical plan for Kickapoo and Green for the bat flight viewing. Barbe will give Rune something in writing about how it will work. Rune would also like for Dave Stuart, Kickapoo Park superintendent, and the Region 6 Headquarters to receive copies of the minutes of our meetings. Rune has some volunteers for law enforcement security for the cars that will be parked on the highway by Kickapoo for the bat flight. There will also be some Parks and Wildlife personnel at Devil's Sinkhole. He has some volunteers for bat flight speakers for Green and Devil's Sinkhole.

Gill Ediger, international coordinator, reported that he had delivered the registration forms and information articles to the cavers in San Luis Potosi. They are setting up a week-long post-convention trip. Registration forms will be going out to each caving club in Mexico. Gill has written an article for the NSS News about the various Mexico trips.

Campground Chairman Blake Harrison stated that he still needs to work on getting firewood. He stated that

everything else is going fine.

Mike Walsh was not present; however, he sent a report. The report stated that everything was fine except for the beer. Fort Clark Springs will not be able to supply the beer. We need a beer picnic permit, which will cost about \$30. A final decision on the band will need to be made next month at Bracketville. Bruce Anderson stated that he needs a budget proposal from Mike regarding beer, band, transportation, facilities, etc. He will contact Mike about this. Bruce stated that he had received bids for the convention mugs. We will be going with the bid for \$0.69 per mug, plus a set-up fee of \$30 for the logo, plus shipping costs.

Mike Anderson, publicity chairman, stated he needs input on articles for the NSS News. There will be articles in each issue until convention. The plan is to have some articles finished and a rough draft of all other articles done by the end of January. Ron stated that if anyone has anything that needs to be in the NSS News, the very last deadline is the middle of February.

Rune stated that the scenic tour will be limited to 80 people (two buses).

Norma Peacock will be doing the conventiongram and needs the logo and a name for the conventiongram so she can pre-print the title page.

Donna Anderson, caving committee chairman, stated

that since the meeting in the middle of November, there has not been much activity. The committee members who are trying to contact landowners have not been able to spend much time on the caves because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Ron stated that Wayne Marshall is working on getting permission for diving the springs at Amistad.

Barbe Barker, special events chairman, stated that NSS is developing a list of materials they need for setting up the speleolympics. Dave McClung, who is in charge of the speleolympics, will make sure the materials are hauled to the site. The event will be Tuesday and Wednesday. Kelly "Deacon" Deem will be over the Speleo Auction. Everyone needs to remember to start collecting Texas memorabilia for the auction. Gary Napier and Nila Dennis are working on the Mexico shopping. People can take their own car to Mexico, and we will have maps and brochures for them. There will be a sign-up sheet for carpooling. There will also be a bus sign-up sheet. The buses will depart around 10 a.m. and return about 3 p.m. If there is a lot of interest, they could offer it three days. Ron Ralph, Terry Sayther, and Bill Elliott are over the archeology and biology trips. There will be an "Are You Interested In..." sheet at registration. If people express interest, they will be directed to the

appropriate person. Susan Souby is in charge of the bat flight and presentation at Green Cave. Speakers have been tentatively arranged. Viewers will park their vehicles along the highway at the main entrance gate to Kickapoo Caverns. They will walk 1.2 miles to Green Cave. Security for vehicles will be provided. Donna Anderson will be handling the Cave Ballad Sing-a-long. It will be held in the amphitheater. For the contest awards, Noble has sent Barbe several commitments from vendors for prizes to be donated. Tom Madison, Lisa De Thomas and Diane Barnes are all working on the Junior Speleological Society. They need people to volunteer to give talks to the kids, help with the vertical section, assist on outings for a day or an afternoon, teach them rock climbing, etc. They also need access to an easy cave that is close to convention. George Veni is in charge of the Caverns of Sonora trip. Barbe stated that there are other ideas of fun things to do at the convention: a cow patty throwing contest, if anyone can come up with some; an armadillo race, if anyone knows where to get them; a watermelon seed spitting contest can be organized at the convention; and a chili cook-off. Don Metzner volunteered to be in charge of the chili cook-off.

Bill Elliott, guidebook committee chairman, was not present; however, he sent a

report. He reported that 75 percent of the cave descriptions are written. February 1 is the deadline for cave descriptions, and February 11 is the deadline for maps and photos. The projected date for sending the book to the printer is April 1. The book will be about 200 pages long. Bill quickly needs cave photos for the guidebook. He also reported that Charlie Loving would like to do a video of Texas caves, using the photos which are borrowed. The report stated he needed a color Texas convention logo. A list was passed around with the names of all the caves included in the guidebook.

Jay Jorden, over the Symbolic Device Committee, stated that he has measured where partitions are needed for the vendors. He has registrations from 10 outdoor vendors and four inside vendors. This does not include consignment nor the NSS Bookstore. He has requests for 36 tables. The tables are rented by the vendors for \$14 per table.

Waltz Across Texas Chairman George Veni was not present; however, he sent a report. The buses will run \$650 to \$800 per bus. He and Andy Grubbs are contacting people in other countries. Ron stated that there are some families in Bracketville who are willing to host those from foreign countries for free.

Ron stated that we need someone to talk to the Rotary Club about our convention on February 10. Jay stated that

we have had four articles in the Bracketville News which our people have written.

Cathy Winfrey, Registration Committee chairman, reported that 233 people have registered. Regarding patches, she has a bid of \$1.10 per patch from a place in Florida if 1,000 patches are ordered. She has received a sample of the patch. Everyone agreed it looked very good. She has not had any bids for t-shirts yet. She has received a bid for pins. Cathy stated that 21 people have registered for the archeo/biology trip, 23 people for the scenic tour and 38 people for the geology trip.

Blake Harrison, facilities chairman, stated that we need to walk around to each building we will be using at Bracketville and make a list of what is needed.

We need prices on rentals for tables and chairs from somewhere near Bracketville. The amount allocated for this is \$5,000. Gill will be checking in San Antonio on the price of chairs.

Bill Mixon, Sessions Committee chairman, distributed a list of NSS contact persons for various sessions. He also handed out a revised draft schedule of sessions. He stated that May 1 is the deadline for anything that needs to go in the program book. He stated that Dave McClung is talking about having an advanced vertical workshop in addition to the usual elementary one. The people in the

vertical events need to have access to the ceiling in the Civic Center. It has a dropped ceiling now, so we will need to move the panels before the vertical events begin. The following is a list of items that Bill needs to borrow for audio-visual:

4 overhead projectors

5 Ektographic projectors for Photo Salon alone

5 or more additional Carousel projectors

3 PA systems with clip-on mikes

1 large-screen TV and VCR

3 laser pointers

2 small theatrical spots with dimmer

Remote control cables, empty trays, spare bulbs, etc.

Projector screens

Bill stated that he would

want to have the items by June 1 in order to verify that they work, have time to buy correct spare bulbs, etc. There was then a lengthy discussion of what sessions would be in each room of each building.

Ron stated he had the convention slide show and copies of it are at the NSS. The video is finished and should be in the mail. Ron stated that the convention insurance is being worked on.

Bill Mixon mentioned that it would be nice if we could provide some type of luncheon, such as sandwiches, for the Monday closed board meeting. There will be about 18 people.

Our next convention planning meeting will be in conjunction with the TSA Winter Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 12 at Bracketville. At 10 a.m., the committee heads and any

other interested persons will meet at the Commissary and have a walk about to discuss what session or event will be held in each room, what will need to be done to each room and what equipment will be needed. The Convention Planning Committee will meet at 2 p.m. at the Commissary. The March meeting will be held in San Antonio. Pat Copeland will be checking on a place for the meeting. On April 30, we will have another meeting in Bracketville in conjunction with the TSA Spring Convention. We will have a meeting on June 4, but the place has not been decided upon.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Convention Committee Secretary.

'94 NSS CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING 12 FEBRUARY 1994 BRACKETVILLE, TEXAS 2:00 P.M.

There will be a convention planning meeting held in Bracketville on Saturday, Feb. 12, 1994. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. at the Commissary Building. This will be in conjunction with the TSA Winter Meeting. Earlier on Saturday, at 10 a.m., all of the committee heads and any other interested persons are requested to meet at the Commissary Building for a walk about. The purpose will be to discuss what session or event will be held in each room, what will need to be done to each room and what equipment will be needed.

Calendar of Events

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

February 26-27, River Styx Resurvey Project. Contact Donna Anderson (817) 246-6313. Training will be provided, but experienced surveyors are welcome.

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 Jordan (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, Ce.S.F.E.T., at Romana 17, I-50125 Firenze Italy, (39) 55-222389, FAX (39) 55-222565.

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.

