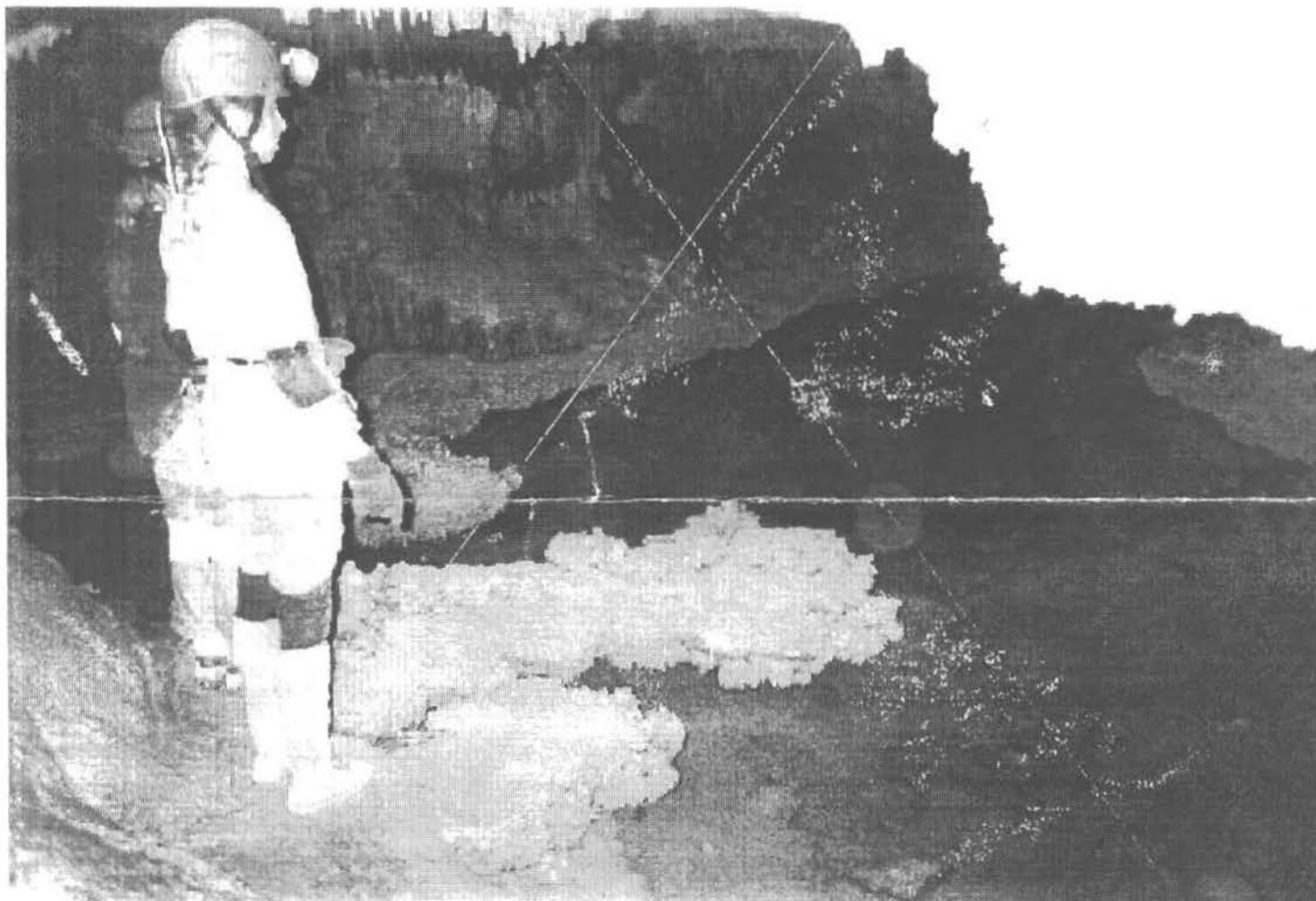

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



Volume 8 Issue 4

April 1994



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The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of The Maverick Grotto, an informal 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 \$15.00 per year for non-members and free for 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.

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Photo Credit

This month's cover photo was taken by Maverick Grotto member Dawn Hill (now living in Temple). It is of Crystal Dusek and Jennifer Fuller in the Green Lake Room in Endless Cave on McKittrick Hill from their trip last December.

Page 5 - This photo of a bat in River Styx Cave was taken by Shanon Seals at the latest River Styx re-survey trip with Donna Anderson.

Page 7 - This map of Centennial Cave in Colorado Bend State Park was drafted by Rafal Kedzierski as part of the ongoing CBSP project.

Trip reports from all of these trips are in this issue of *The Maverick Bull*.

The April Meeting

The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m. This month will be an open slide month.

Martha McArthur will show slides from her 0-9 Well trip. After that, anyone else with caving slides they would like to show off is welcome to

do so. A slide projector, screen, and anxious audience await you. So gather up those slides and join us this month.

Minutes For the March Meeting

The March meeting informally began at 7 p.m. The business portion was called to order at 7:30 by Grotto President Mike Anderson. Announcements were then made about the Grotto mailing list and the NSS internal organizations list (the latter of which the Maverick Grotto is late providing inputs for). The last announcement was a notice of the NSS Convention planning meeting and TSA meeting at Honeycreek cave.

Mark Porter was not available to provide a treasurer's report.

Under old business, the constitutional amendment proposed in last month's newsletter was discussed and passed, followed by a motion to raise non-member subscription rates

to \$15 (to match the dues).

The grotto then voted to participate (financially) in the April 2nd Rites of Spring Party, assuming the funds are available at party time. Along with that, several fundraising ideas were discussed, including selling T-shirts at the NSS Convention. An action item was assigned to Ed to investigate prices and other details.

The grotto was presented the opportunity to take a group of young people to River Styx cave. A number of people volunteered to help, and a motion to do it was passed.

A reminder was made about the upcoming trip to the Dallas Museum of Natural History to see the bat exhibit.

Under trip reports, Martha McArthur, Sherco Mahari, and Mike Anderson reported on their O-S Well Trip, Donna Anderson reported on a River Styx Trip (see related article). Martha reported on an Amazing Maze Cave trip; and John Lengevin reported on a series of Arkansas caves he recently visited.

A new meeting location for the Dallas/Ft. Worth Grotto was announced. They are now meeting at the REI store on LBJ on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Mike Anderson then brought the meeting to a close. Following the meeting, a short 1994 NSS Convention promo video was shown.

Editor's Ramblings

Happy April!

When I first got this job, they told me the hardest thing would be getting people to submit material for publication. Since that time, I keep getting more and more stuff each month. This month we've got four trip reports. (Admittedly, a couple of

them are a bit old, but that's my fault for not going through the stuff Ernest gave me more carefully.), two photos, a map, three national announcements, and an ad. (Well, not really an ad, but it looks like one.) Ya'll are making this job easy. With the spring caving season coming up,

I hope to see lots more trip reports. (Mike, didn't I see your name in a trip report in another newsletter?) As a bonus, if you submit a photo, I will give you a floppy disk with a ".GIF" file of your photo, courtesy of Butch Fralia's and his really cool HP color scanner. -CF

Caves In the News . . .

Speleospace, the newsletter of the Greater Houston Grotto, reprinted an article from the November 22 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*. The article was titled "Subterranean Blues" and it focused on the environmental dangers to America's cave's. Most of the article centered on the debate between Lechuguilla supporters and those who support oil and gas exploration in the area.

Passages in Lechuguilla are within 900 feet of land leased by the federal Bureau of Land Management to oil and gas companies for exploration and drilling purposes. Lechuguilla supporters fear that gas may seep into the cave and destroy the fragile

environment.

The article explores both sides of the issue and how much is riding the (at the time of the article) soon-to-be released Dark Canyon Environmental Impact Study.

Ed's Note: That study has since been released, and next month I hope to either report on the results, or re-print all or part of it.

The article is well written and has three spectacular photos from Lechuguilla. While the article focuses on Lechuguilla, it does mention an ongoing debate between loggers and cave conservationists in Alaska.

Since receiving that issue of *Speleospace*, I have been scouring the used book and magazine stores for that issue of *U.S. News and World Report* to add to my collection of

"caves in the news" magazines. If anyone runs across an issue I could acquire, I would be very grateful.

This issue of *Speleospace*, as well as many other caving newsletters are available through our grotto library. I usually keep each issue a couple of months, then give them to Russell Hill for archiving.

Corrections . . .

Last month's *Bull* had an article on *Fitton Cave*, not *Fonton Cave*. The article was based on a phone call between Mike Pearson and one of our junior reporters, and is in no way Mike's error. That reporter has since been sacked (Not!). The *Bull* management hope to avoid these types of spelling mistakes in the future. -Ed

Caving In New Mexico

by Dawn Marie Hill

Participants: Alvis & Dawn Hill, Crystal Dusek, Jennifer Fuller
Caves: Endless, Park's Ranch
Dates: Dec. 3-5, 1993

It had been sooooo long since we'd been underground AND since we'd taken any of our teens in our church youth group caving that we decided to do both at the same time. Our general order of caving with our youth group is: Enchanted Rock where we put them through as many moves as possible (chimneying, crawling, tight places, dirt, etc.), River Styx and then Endless. (We've only taken one other group to Endless, and that was several years ago.) But in order to get back to our favorite caving state, we skipped River Styx and opted for Endless. We took two ninth grade girls with us.

Friday after work found us leaving at 4:20 p.m. from our house in Temple. The truck was set up with all our gear on a shelf in the back, a boot between the cab and the rear and lots of sleeping bags, blankets, etc. for padding for the two girls who rode most of the trip just on the other side of the boot so we could talk as we drove. We stopped at Golden Fried Chicken in Comanche (a tradition) and watched the girls play with their food, stopped for gas in Big Spring and made it to Carlsbad at 1:30 a.m. their time. As we drove looking for a gas station that was open at that hour, we noted the temperature: 28 degrees! We arrived at a very windy McKittrick Hill at 2 a.m.

At 6:30 the next morning, Crystal (our aesthetic one) woke Jennifer (our highly organized one) with, "Oh! Look at the SUNRISE!" Jennifer responded with, "Shhhhh." After a quick breakfast and change of clothes, we handed out the gear and headed toward the entrance with the usual advice: "You'd better use the bathroom now, because you won't be able to in the cave."

Entering the cave at 8:15, we were disturbed to discover the lock gone off

the closed gate. We looked around for it, but it wasn't anywhere close. Lighting problems came next. Our Justrites that had worked fine before we left home stopped working, and we went through battery checks, case banging and the usual other tests that govern a Justrite. Finally getting our mess together, we took off for the wonders of the cave. Our route took us through the Expressway and to the Venus, Gypsum, Green Lake and War Club rooms. We ended up in the Lower Maze -- disoriented as usual. This was partially due to the fact that we turned the lead over to the girls and told them to find the way out. After a short time of doing circles, they decided

"The next exciting thing that happened was a flat tire."

they were ready to see daylight, and we found our way to the Upper Maze. We exited the cave at 11:45 a.m. -- a short, but satisfying trip.

The drive back down the hill was highlighted by the back of the camper bouncing open (due to someone not latching it) and two sleeping bags and a clothes bag bouncing out before anyone noticed. We turned around and drove back up the hill, collecting the lost items as we went. The next exciting thing that happened was a flat tire. Our plan had been to drive straight to Sitting Bull Falls, but we felt the need to detour through Carlsbad to buy a new tire, since the spare wasn't in great condition, either.

The stop in Carlsbad set us far enough behind that we knew we couldn't go both to Sitting Bull Falls AND Park's Ranch Cave. The girls voted for Park's Ranch, since "the reason they came was to cave."

We entered Park's Ranch at 3:30 p.m. and did quite a bit of chimneying and climbing to avoid stepping in the water until we finally gave up and splashed on through. The girls really enjoyed the chimneying and did very well at it. I had been telling the girls about this neat little crawlway that was

at the back of the cave ('Back' in Park's Ranch is relative), and when we came to it, they jumped right on in. As memories do, I'd forgotten (or not noticed the first time) several important things about this passage: its length, its tightness, its dust and its lack of airflow when a body is plugging the hole up in front of you. Claustrophobia set in, and by the end of the passage, Jennifer thought she was going to die, Crystal wanted out of the cave NOW and I wasn't thinking that that passage was fun in the least! Alvis, being the awesome caver he is, came out totally unscathed. The way out was a crawl, then a belly crawl, but Alvis went ahead and stood at the exit so everyone could see the end. We worked our way through the passage by singing church choruses to keep our minds off the smallness of the passage. There was much rejoicing when the end was finally in sight.

The next obstacle was trying to find our way back to the truck. It was now dark and cold, and we were wet and lost! Alvis' sense of direction didn't fail him and before long he was honking the horn of the truck. Jennifer was having a serious leg cramp, so walking was a little slower for the rest of us. We got to the truck, changed pants and threw all of our dirty caving stuff in a plastic trash bag.

A trip through the Carlsbad campground showers, a hot meal and a good night's sleep still left the girls talking about how terrible the last passage was! We ate breakfast at Stagecoach Inn and made it back to Temple with one stop in 8 1/2 hours. The girls have had a great time telling everyone about their adventure since we got back.

*That's My Story and
I'm Sticking To It*

by Connie Chaney

Participants: Donna Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Mike Anderson, Evan Anderson, Meta Huzarevich, Mike Pearson, Phobe Pearson, Ron Harbuck (Lubbock), Pete Lindsley, Steve Lindsley, Dale Web (Lubbock), Justin

Wagner (Lubbock), Connie Chaney, Shanon Sedis
Caves, River Styx, King County
Dates, February 25-27, 1994

Everything was going smoothly Friday afternoon. I had planned on getting off work one hour early and was running only 15 minutes behind that. I had allowed myself two hours to drive from Dallas to Donna and Bruce Anderson's in Fort Worth. I knew I had not forgotten anything (anything major anyway), and everything had fit into my small trunk. (That way, I wouldn't scare anyone as I pulled up to unload.) I was riding with Bruce and Donna, since my 1991 Prelude was not considered "caving gear."

Donna and I ran to Jack-in-the-Box while other cavers Mike Anderson, and his kids Meta and Evan and a recently new caver, Shanon, rendezvoused at the Anderson household. By the time everyone was present and packed, our three-vehicle caravan headed northwest towards River Styx. Everything was going to be fine. I was excited!

We ended up stopping in Jacksboro for Shanon to gas his vehicle and for the rest of us to stretch our legs. When we started engines, Shanon's wouldn't. The men folk stuck their heads under the hood, then collaborated in a tiny group. Shanon's alternator was not doing what alternators are supposed to do.

After loading Shanon's gear into the back of the Anderson vehicle and him climbing in with Mike's group, we were on the road again. Boy! I was glad I wasn't starting out with such a "first impression!"

On the road again, I quickly curled back down for a cozy nap under Donna's Gore-Tex coat in the backseat of the blue Mitsubishi. I was excited!

We arrived at camp around 11:00 that night. It was cold and windy, but everyone chose their spots and started setting up. The full moon and practically cloudless sky made it perfect for camping. After the help from others, I began setting up house. For some strange reason, I couldn't find

my sleeping bag. We collected in the Anderson's pop-up tent to reconstruct our actions since leaving Fort Worth: I KNEW it had made it to the Mitsubishi, or was it on the curb of Kimbrough St.? Perhaps at the filling station when we added Shanon's gear to ours? While discussing alternatives, I realized I had also left my wet suit in my trunk with expectations of returning for it before leaving Fort Worth. Oh, well. . . . check the tents and vehicle again. . . . nothing. So much for first impressions.

At 1:30, with my two-inch foam padding, heavy denim comforter (made especially for such events), four blankets, one down jacket and Donna's Gore-Tex coat donated for the cause, I set off for bed.

Excitement had faded. The last words I heard from Donna were, "Remember, if you're too cold, you can wake me up, and we'll make the table into a bed."

At 4:00, I was still wide awake and shivered only when I breathed. How could Shanon be sleeping when I could feel cold coming up through my bedding? He had even donated a blanket!

Not caring how little I knew these guys, I headed for the Anderson Motel. They had even left the light on! (Which I found out later was by accident.) The bed was made, and I resumed trying to get a couple hours of sleep. Things were much better when I woke and felt myself stretching from the fetal position. I was thankful for the warm environment and really didn't feel that I was among strangers.

The next morning had come quickly, and the rest of our crew arrived: Pete and his son, Steve, Mike and his daughter, Phoebe and a small group from the Lubbock grotto, Ron, Dale and Justin. It just so happened Ron had an extra DOWN sleeping bag with a broken zipper, but who cares? It would do the job. I was excited.

The day slowly began to warm up, and we all piled into the back of Ron's truck. We arrived at the entrance to the cave, and Pete sent his son Steve, in to check for rattlers. The first group, being a survey team, went in. The second group, made up of new cavers and those who were not interested in surveying, followed. The last group was another survey team.

It seemed the majority of the cave consisted of crawling. That wouldn't be bad, except Donna, Phoebe and Meta could scurry off on all fours. When I tried it, my hip and knee would get wedged between the ceiling and the floor. A belly crawl was out of the question, since that was WAY too slow. It was more difficult than just climbing and walking. Excitement faded.

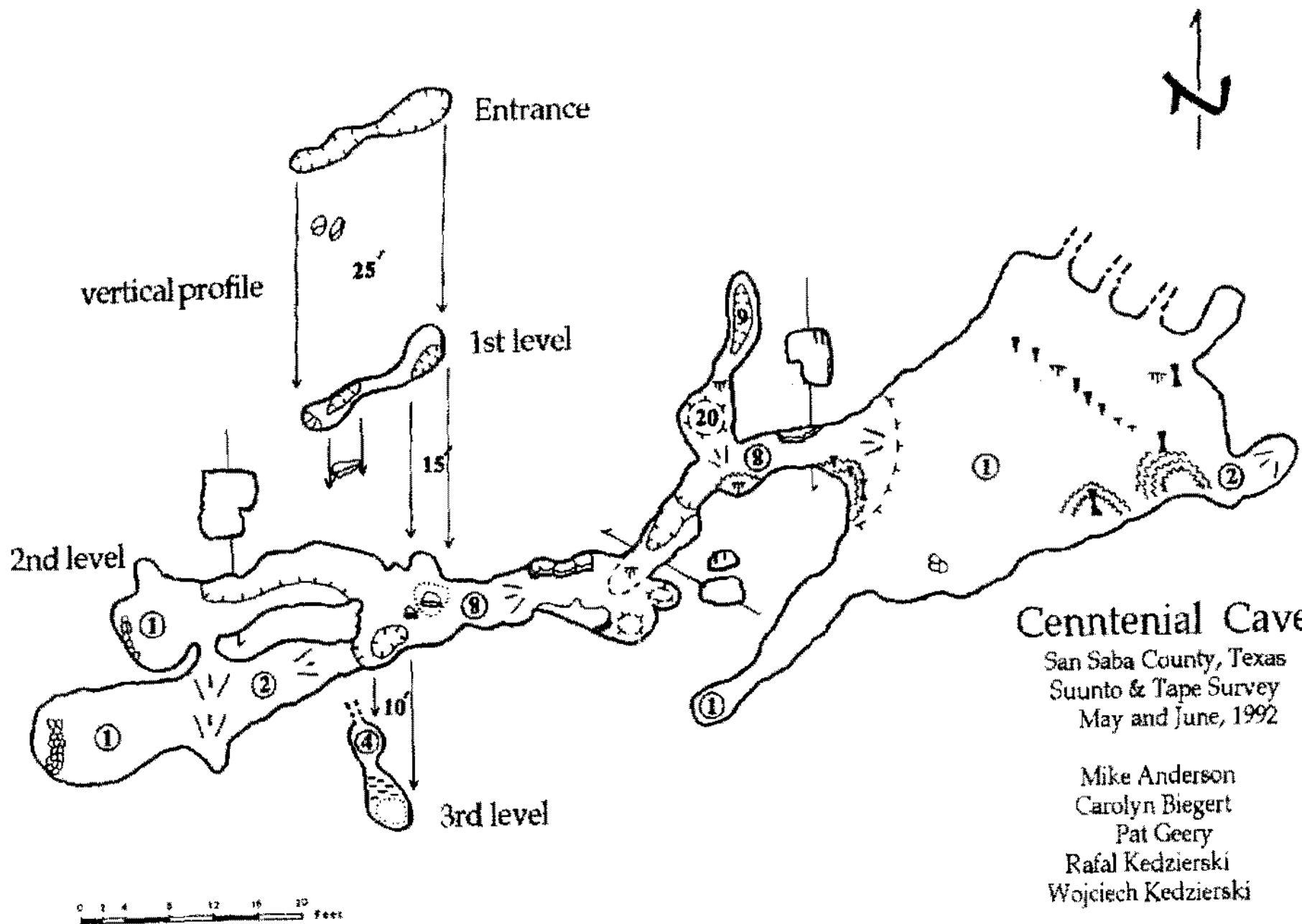
My favorite part of the cave was the bat population. When I was younger, I thought bats were cute, but since becoming an adult, I had picked up my

mom's fear of bats. I concentrated on the positive things I had learned at grotto meetings and articles I had read on bats.

Our tour group visited the Junction Room, the Dome Room and Bat Rooms #1 and #2. Well. . . . I made it as far as the edge of Bat Room #2. While Shanon and Donna climbed up to explore more, I collapsed on a pile of rocks and watched a patch of bats with the ambient light from my helmet. One uncurled a wing and stretched, then uncurled the other and stretched, before taking off in flight. They were all so "cute" nestled in together with their little ears sticking above the soft brown patch.

On our trip (which seemed a never-ending crawl) back to the entrance, Phoebe and Meta cautioned the rest of us to watch for bats on the floor. Donna spotted one was hurt. Upon looking closer, it was found that part of the ceiling he had been hanging from had fallen and pinned him to





Cenntennial Cave

San Saba County, Texas
 Suunto & Tape Survey
 May and June, 1992

Mike Anderson
 Carolyn Biegert
 Pat Geery
 Rafal Kedzierski
 Wojciech Kedzierski

Drafted by R. Kedzierski

This story reaches back to the cold and wet winter of 1991-92. The winter caving was then centered around the Polish Cave area. Groups of cavers ridgewalked that area finding few cave entrances. In the meantime, a group consisting of Pat Geery, Rex Steele, Jim Wolff and others were involved in cleaning and opening a sink in Lively pasture. The depression was filled with old wire, bottles and the "centennial of state" Texas license plate and proved to be a handful of work. But the progress continued and after cleaning the sink in February and March, curious cavers began to remove rock debris to open up an entrance on the April trip. It was late Sunday that weekend when breakthrough occurred. Suited up in vertical gear, Pat Geery got to descend the opened-up pit first. He rappelled to find a 25-foot drop followed by another 15 footer. At that spot, he encountered passage extending downward and all around him. Pat scouted around to realize that it was all worth coming back to survey and, after looking at the time, he returned to the surface.

By the May weekend, the newly opened cave was already christened Centennial, after the license plate thrashing its entrance. This time, Carolyn Biegert, Pat Geery, my father, Wojciech, and I got to go into the cave and do some surveying. The lead downward, a 10-foot chimney, led to maybe 15 feet of passage ending in a tight crawway, but the main level did not seem to end. After realizing that this was going to take a long time to finish, and another survey trip occurring on another late Sunday afternoon, we all exited, eager to come back another time.

In June, another team, this one consisting of Mike Anderson, Carolyn Biegert, my father and me, got an early start to go surveying. After getting back to our last survey station at the beginning of a large, flat room, we surveyed maybe half an hour before running out of places to go in that section of the cave. Returning to the bottom of the entrance drop, we began to survey west, and again in half an hour all of that was gone. We were all out

of the cave quickly thereafter.

Leaving that weekend we knew that Centennial Cave has yielded its secrets to cave explorers. We wondered whether anybody would visit it, and whether Colorado Bend State Park would have other secrets like it.

In the following months, both questions were answered. Centennial Cave on one weekend proved to be a great vertical training site, and in the future, hopefully, it will be used for the same purpose. The other question was answered by caves like Cave of No Return, Psycho Cave and other interesting and worthwhile caves. Cave of No Return, although the name given to it by one of its one-time visitors tells a lot about it, is a deep in-feeder to the Gorman Cave system. Psycho Cave was also later found to be one of the deeper caves in the park. What is in the future we do not know, but I know I will be a part of it, and hopefully you, the reader, will be, too. And we will, with some luck, be caving in caves as good as Centennial Cave.

1994 Convention Committee Minutes

by Donna Anderson
February 12, 1994

Ron Ralph opened the meeting, which was held at Fort Clark Springs in Brackettville. Donna Anderson, secretary, stated that the minutes of the last meeting had been sent to each grotto contact person for publication. Diane Clark made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion passed. Bruce Anderson gave the treasurer's report. The balance from the last report was \$19,840.73. We received \$2,437 from registration fees, advertising and vendor registrations. The total expenditures were \$1,385.94. The main expenditures were \$600 for the deposit on the buses for the Waltz Across Texas and \$382 to one company for a deposit on some of the tables and chairs. The ending balance was \$20,891.79. Bruce went over the amended budget. At current projections, the break-even

point will be 1,050 people. George Veni made a motion to accept the amended budget. The motion passed. Ron Ralph stated that no one should commit to anything for more than \$50 without going through the co-chairs or the treasurer. He also stated that no one should sign any contracts.

Jay Jorden stated that he had sent the required report for the NSS board meeting regarding the status of the '94 Convention plans.

Gill Ediger, international coordinator, stated that things are fine in that area.

Everything is under control in the Campground and Facilities Committees. Ron stated that Fort Clark Springs is interested in permanent bridges rather than temporary ones. The firewood can be stored in a bay in the maintenance area.

Mike Walsh, Howdy Party chairman, stated that he can get Shiner beer for \$55 a keg, but the company will not buy back any beer that is left. He can get Budweiser for \$50 a keg in Del Rio, which includes ice and tax. He will continue to do some more checking regarding beer for the Howdy Party. He will also talk to Happy Shahan about the liquor license. Pamela Lynn reported on the band for the Howdy Party. After listening to a dozen bands, she brought two recommendations to the planning committee. Tejana Dames and People's Choice. She felt People's Choice would be the best one for our convention. The committee voted on the two choices and decided on People's Choice.

Mike Anderson, publicity chairman, went over some of the articles which will be appearing in the *NSS News*. These include an article by Gill Ediger on trips to Mexico, other pre- and post-caving trips, by Donna Anderson and an article on Texas weather by Ivy McLane. The *Texas Highways* magazine published an article about our convention. Jay Jorden stated that he is trying to get a reprint of the registration form in the *NSS News*.

Caving Committee Chairman Donna Anderson reported that we have just received permission to have

trips to Midnight Cave for the convention. Many other caves are being worked on but it takes a lot of time to get landowner permission. We still need a lot of help in obtaining caves for the convention.

Rune Burnett, Texas Parks and Wildlife liaison, introduced Dave Stuart, superintendent of Kickapoo Caverns. We will have three trips a day to Kickapoo, trips to see the bat flight at Green Cave, several trips into Green after the bat flights and trips to Devil's Sinkhole.

Barbe Barker, special events chairman, was not present but sent a report which stated there were no changes in any of the events. A report from Don Metzner outlined the plans for the chili cook-off. There will be an article in the NSS News announcing the chili cook-off. Don will also contact regional newsletters to spread the word. The plan is to have the cooking begin Monday morning at the campgrounds, the judging mid-afternoon and then move the chili to the Howdy Party to

be served. He said he feels the biggest problem will be not enough chili. It would take 200 pounds of meat to provide 1200 people with 1/2 cup apiece. Don asked if the committee would be willing to provide \$400 to buy 200 pounds of meat, award prizes, bowls, spoons, crackers, etc. He suggested that if participation is low, instead of taking the chili to the Howdy Party, it could just be served to those who are interested enough to come by the cooking area. The committee discussed the cook-off and decided that we all support it, but we cannot commit \$400 to it at this time.

The production "Glory Road" was discussed. The historical society wants a guarantee of \$1500. It was decided that we will not make that guarantee. The society will not present "Glory Road", but will provide a VCR tape of the production so that it can be shown. We still have the amphitheater for the week and will request it for Sunday for \$50. We are also requesting that we be allowed to have an

open fire built up off the ground at the amphitheater.

Bob Cowell, Health and Safety Committee chairman, stated that everything is under control.

Bill Elliott, guidebook chairman, showed a sample of the book. It will be 240 to 260 pages. He stated he needs photos and maps within one to two weeks. He needs a one-page welcome from the chairman. Martha showed a proclamation by Governor Ann Richards stating that June 20 - 24 will be declared Cave Week. Bill Elliott talked with the owner of Litter Barrel Cave. The owner specifically stated that no one will be allowed entrance into this cave.

Jay Jordan stated that there has been no activity within the Symbolic Device Committee. Gill Ediger stated that he is nearly ready to give Noble Stidham the logo for the mugs. The mugs will cost the convention 16 cents each, after subtracting the amount we will receive from the advertising on the other side. Noble already has the

" The Texas Caver "

WANTS YOU



... and to prove it, THE TEXAS CAVER will give you a free T-Shirt for your Art, Cartoons, Technical Articles and Trip Reports. There's no coupons to clip and you don't have to be a genius writer. Computers spell check and editors edit. Not only can you be proud of your contribution, you can share your expertise and your fun with the rest of the Texas Cavers.

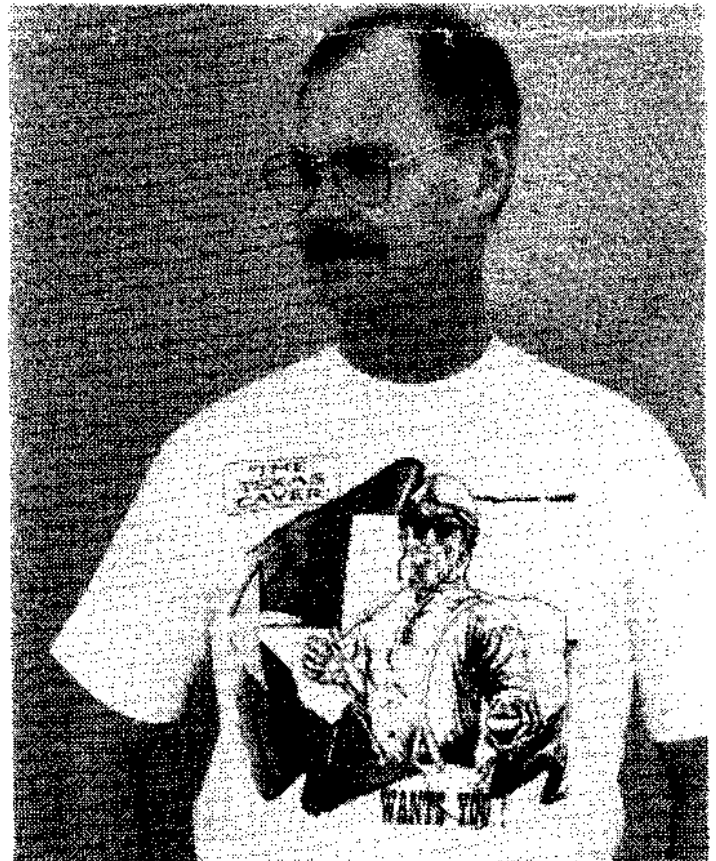
The TEXAS CAVER is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Your submissions should be mailed to the appropriate editor at least one month prior to publication.

Remember that The TEXAS CAVER is our publication and reflects only what we put into it. So, boys and girls, earn yourself a nice 4 color T-Shirt and impress yourself and the rest of your fellow cavers.

The TEXAS CAVER would like for some of you to consider writing a quarterly column on your favorite area of caving. Consider a subject of interest to all of us such as safety, technical rope work, or surveying.

Check out the T-Shirt you can earn and wear with pride in this issue. LAG caver Jimmy Thurlo, who is a very reluctant model, displays the new heavy duty 50/50 T.

Send your submissions to Kieth Heuss or Noble Stidham.



logo from Inner Mountain. The committee decided to use blue ink on the mugs.

Bill Mixon, session chairman, stated that nothing much has changed. Ernest wants some space to set up a multi-photo display for the international convention in Switzerland in 1997. He also wants to show a video about it. There may be about 10 people at our convention from Switzerland. Bill stated that he will be sending the program off for printing on May 1.

Noble Stidham, Vendor Committee chairman, stated that all of the big vendors have registered.

George Veni, Waltz Across Texas chairman, stated we have a bid of \$650 per bus. We need four for the geology trip, two for the scenic trip and two for the archeology/biology trip. All of the road logs have been turned in. George will check on the price of bull horns and water dispensers. Parks and Wildlife may be able to help on these items. Carl will do a deli lunch for the geology trip. A lunch will be packed for the archeology/biology trip. They will have roll-up tables for this purpose. The scenic tour lunch will be catered on the riverwalk in Del Rio. A field trip to sonora will be offered. There will be no off-trail allowed.

Cathy Wintrey, registration chairman, was not present but sent a report. There are approximately 250 people who have pre-registered. We have one bid for T-shirts. Sunshine in Florida has been informed that they have received the bid for the patches. She is continuing to work with them on the pins. Registration is sending information to regional publications and some grotto newsletters regarding the following: description of the three Waltz trips, description of the NSS discount at hotels in Del Rio, description of the trip led by Peter Sprouse to northern Coahuila. Cathy stated that more stationery and envelopes have been printed.

Blake Hamson, facilities chairman, was not present.

Bruce Anderson contacted the insurance company that carries the insurance for TCMA. Noble is talking to

an insurance agent in Lubbock. Ron also stated he has a contact person regarding insurance. Someone suggested that an outdoor rafting company may be a contact about insurance.

Bill Steele gave a presentation to the Rotary Club in Brackettville regarding our upcoming convention.

Noble brought the video of the NSS slide show.

Jay Jordan thanked everyone for all of the volunteer help.

The next convention planning meeting will be held in San Antonio on Saturday, March 19. The details will be announced later. The April meeting will be held during work trip at Brackettville on the weekend of April 23 and 24 at the NCO Club. Everyone needs to bring mops for the clean-up efforts.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Submitted by Donna Anderson
Convention Committee Secretary

BAT EXHIBIT EXPLORED

A small but enthusiastic group of Maverick cavers made the trek to the Dallas Museum of Natural History to

check out the current exhibit titled *Masters of the Night - The True Story of Bats*.

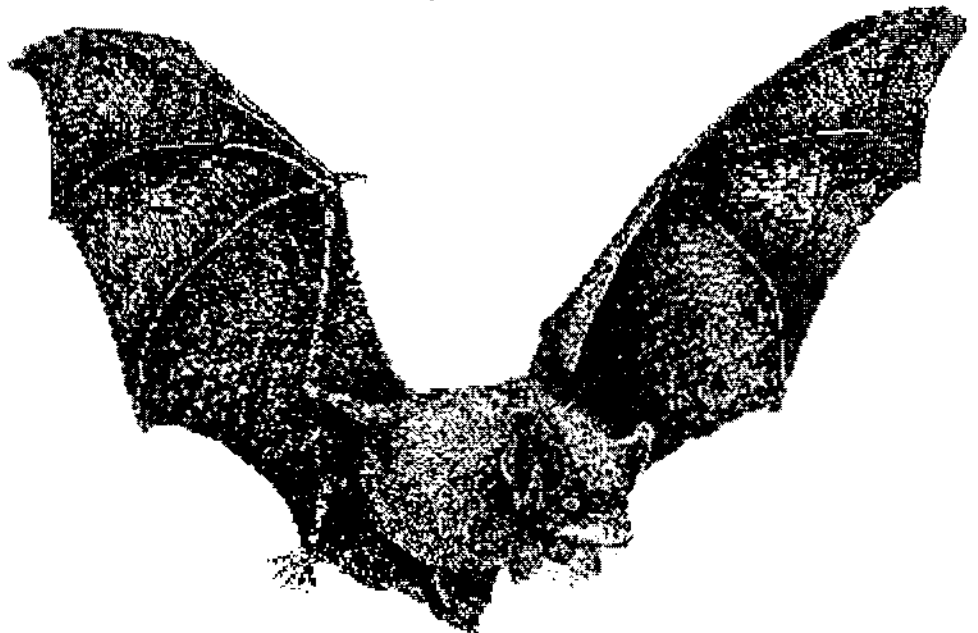
The exhibit had something for everyone, from live bats in a cage to bat masks that kids could color, cut out and wear. It explored, and dispelled, many of the myths about bats, while providing factual information about how bats interact with our environment.

The exhibit included a short videotape of bats in the wild, a global map that lit up to show where different species of bats habitate, as well as a number of "hands-on" displays showing everything from how a bat wing works to how a bat's sonar works.

The exhibit also featured a "mock" cave that you could go through. While I would be reluctant to use the term "life-like" (the paper mache strands gave it away) it was a lot of fun for three-year-old Christopher Fenner and 16-month-old Stephanie Darnell.

We left the downtown area around 3:00 and noted a horrendous traffic jam around Reunion Arena. (The President must have been getting another haircut.)

The exhibit runs through May 30. Chad says, "check it out".



Three Cave Rescue and EMT Courses Being Offered Nationally

Three different courses dealing with Cave Rescue and emergency medical treatment are being offered in various regions of the U.S. Each is being taught by experienced personnel and would make an excellent notch in any caver's belt. Brochures for all three will be available at this month's grotto meeting. See Chad Fenner.

WILDERNESS FIRST RESPONDER

All outdoor professionals may find themselves in situations where help is more than a phone call away. Typical first aid and EMT courses don't address the special concerns of various outdoor activities; these courses merely train students to provide care before an ambulance arrives. Wilderness Medical Associates specializes in practical medical training for areas where help is miles away and dialing 911 is not an option.

The method is experiential and the courses are tough, with emphasis on practical sessions and videotaped simulations using made-up victims.

When: April 25-May 2, 1994

Where: Lookout Mt, TN

Cost: \$399

Info: See Chad Fenner, next grotto meeting

Basic Cave Rescue

This seminar, taught by instructors from the Eastern Region of the National Speleological Society's National Cave Rescue Commission, will bring together local emergency services personnel and cavers to foster a better understanding of the unique nature of cave rescues. Saturday will include classroom training in rescue organization, patient care, equipment demonstrations and practical exercises. Sunday will be devoted to a "mock rescue" in a nearby wild cave, where students will get hands-on experience in a simulated in-cave

rescue situation.

The seminar will be based at Thorn Springs Park, a few miles south of Franklin. The registration fee is \$28, which includes a copy of the latest edition of the NCRC cave rescue training manual, continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, lunch on Saturday and an informal party on Saturday evening. Camping is available in the Park for \$4 per person per night. The Saturday classroom session will be held at the Community Center in downtown Franklin and it will start at 8 a.m. Sunday's mock rescue will be finished by 4 p.m.

Cavers are not expected to have rescue training, and emergency services personnel are not expected to have caving experience. Some hard hats and lights will be available for non-caving participants. The in-cave mock rescue will not require vertical caving experience and will not involve any exceptionally tight or muddy areas.

This seminar is appropriate for anyone who may find themselves in a cave rescue situation, whether as a potential casualty, an associated caver or a member of a rescue team. Cavers will learn how to respond to a rescue situation and to be a valuable part of the rescue effort rather than a hindrance. Emergency services personnel will learn about the cave environment and the special challenges it presents in a rescue. The seminar topics will attempt to introduce the students to the complexities of cave rescues, and the emphasis is on providing practical knowledge of all

aspects of cave rescue.

When: May 14-15, 1994

Where: Franklin, West Virginia

Cost: \$28

Info: See Chad Fenner, next grotto meeting.

Cave Rescue Operations and Management

The seminar consists of extensive class and field work in all phases of cave rescue, including organization and management, underground environment, vertical rescue, hauling systems, extrication techniques, communications systems and medical management. Basic and advanced course material is presented for students who typically include emergency services personnel, cavers and emergency and land management personnel.

The courses provide approximately 80 hours of class and field work in only eight days, and all will be physically strenuous. Participants must be in good physical health and must sign a liability waiver (Persons under 18 years of age should contact the registrar prior to registering for the class.) Students should be prepared to work in difficult situations and to negotiate vertical drops of 25+ meters while under supervision.

When: July 16-23, 1994

Where: Virginia Intermont College,

Bristol, Virginia

Cost: \$175-\$220

Info: See Chad Fenner, next grotto meeting.

Calendar Of Events

- April 8-10, Colorado Bend State Park Project.** Contact Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039, or Ed Young (214) 262-8188.
- April 22-24, Cave and Campsitting Family Guads Trip.** Contact Susan Herpin (713) 939-7265
- TSA Spring Meeting and 1994 Convention Meeting, Ft Clark Springs.**
- April 24-May 2 Wilderness First Responder, Lookout Mt, TN.** Contact Wilderness Medical Associates. (207) 665-2707
- May 14-15, Basic Cave Rescue Orientation, Franklin West Virginia.** Contact Bob Hoke, (301) 725-5877-cuevings.
- 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.
- Independence Day CRF Expedition, Ft Stanton Cave, MN.** Contact Dick Desjardins (505) 344-7053 or Fritz Hardy (505) 345-1709.
- July 16-23, NCRC Seminar 1994, Cave Rescue Operations and Management, Bristol, VA.** Contact Nancy Chrmos. P O Box 560, Troutville VA. 24175. (703) 992-3665.
- August 6-7 Late Summer Expedition at Ft Stanton Cave, MN.** Contact Dick Desjardins (505) 344-7053 or Fritz Hardy (505) 345-1709.
- August 28-September 2, International Symposium of Biospeleology of the Societe de Biospeologie, Florence, Italy.** Contact Dr. Guiseppo Mossana, 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.
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