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# THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO

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Volume 8 Issue 5

May 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 \$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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**Cave Rescue: Call collect:**

(512) 686-0234

### Photo Credit

This month's cover photo of Maverick Grotto Secretary and Bull Editor Chad Fenner admiring some impressive Lions Tails in Hidden cave was taken by Larry Martin. There is no article in this month's Bull that this photo relates to. I just procrastinated so long that I couldn't get a hold of Butch in time to get anything else scanned. Note that this is the second time that I have appeared on the Bull cover since I became editor, and until more of you submit photos, I will continue to put either me or my photos on the cover. Troy Shelton used this threat with the Dallas/Ft Worth grotto newsletter, so I decided to try it myself.

### The April Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m. This month's program will be a most

unusual slide presentation. Andy Lauer will show his 3-D slides of a number of Guads caves (complete with the red/blue glasses). If you

have never seen 3-D cave slides, you're in for a real treat. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

## Minutes For the April Meeting

The April meeting informally began at 7 p.m. The business portion was called to order at 7:35 by grotto President Mike Anderson.

A number of visitors were recognized, including Clark and Susie Giles from Ft. Worth, Bruce Freeby from Bridgeport, Susan Scott from Wichita Falls, Larry Martin from Desoto and Terry Anderson from Deatur.

Announcements were then made.

Ron Ralph of the NSS Convention Committee requests help from each grotto for a workday on April 23 and 24.

Nila Davis, a caver from near Colorado Bend and a friend of many Maverick cavers, was involved in a mobile home fire. Nila is O.K., but a cousin was killed. Contact Steve Young if you would like to help the family.

Anyone who has not paid their 1994 Maverick dues will no longer

receive the Maverick Bull

The Dallas grotto has moved their meetings to the REI store on LBJ.

Mark Porter then gave a treasurer's report. We have \$366.31

The meeting then went into old business.

Steve Young was unavailable to report on T-Shirts.

In spite of what the grotto president and secretary knew last month, the treasurer reported that the Maverick Grotto did make the NSS list of grottos.

The grotto carbide has been packed into tin cans and is free for the asking.

The River Styx resurvey will continue on April 30. Additionally, a group of 12 youths will be shown the cave. *(Ed. note - At the last minute, the trip was postponed due to weather. Watch for more details.)*

Under new business, the

convention committee needs volunteers to help direct Kickapoo Caverns trips during the convention.

Trip reports were then given.

The Easter trip in the Guads was a success. Caves included Black, the Pinks (see trip report) and Hell Below.

The CBSP project pushed Be Excellent.

Donna Anderson did some Austin city limits caving.

Mike Pearson did Fitton in March and announced the next Fitton trip would be around May 20.

Martha McArthur, Sherry Mahan, and Dave "Cave" McClung did a through trip in Honey Creek. The Water was "high."

Mike Pearson motioned to adjourn the meeting. We then saw slides from Martha McArthur's O-9 Well trip and a few other random trips.

## Editor's Ramblings

Happy May!

I have a friend, who after several years as an engineer, decided that that's not what he wanted to be when he grew up, so, he packed up his bags and moved to Austin to get a different degree. While in Austin, he became involved with the Congress Avenue Bridge Bats. Rather than just watching the spectacular nightly bat flights, he joined the local chapter of BCI (Bats Conservation International). They have a very active branch there and are aggressively persuing an "Adopt a Bat" program.

When Dave found out I was the

editor of a cave-related newsletter, he loaned me some of the various literature he has received from BCI.

BCI has done a lot for the image of bats in the Austin area. Their educational programs are impressive. They have a catalog of bat "stuff", including many books and literature, videos, posters, slides, T-shirts, electronic "bat detectors", and even bat house kits that can house 200 or more bats.

Many of you are already aware of BCI, some are probably members. All of us, however, should support BCI and other organizations that

promote a positive image of bats.

Speaking of a positive image, this month's *Maverick Bull* contains a special surprise mystery image. See if you can find it.

In our "caves in the news" column, my sister-in-law sent me an article from the August 27-29 USA Weekend travel section. It is a travel guide for commercial caving in the U.S. It also includes a "how to wild cave" inset from some guy named Ronal Kerbo. It was interesting Mildly.

-CF

# Pink Dragon

by Meta Huzarevich

Cave: Pink Dragon

Cavers: Danny Sharrod, Bennison Sharrod, Martha McArthur, Jill McArthur, Amy Wages, Mark Porter, Meta Huzarevich

Date: April 2, 1994

We started out on the road by the camp to the trail to Pink Dragon. When we parked the car at the trail, Jill McArthur found she left her helmet. Since Pink Dragon is mostly walking, Martha said Jill could wear her helmet, and Martha wouldn't go very far back. We began to head for the cave.

When it was time to go down to the ridge, Martha and Danny could not decide which trail to use. Danny won, and we went the LONG way. Meta had a little problem on the exposure, but she made it.

At the mid-level of the ridge, we came upon Pink Panther. We stopped there by the gate and ate our lunch. After we rested, we went into another small cave (I don't remember the name) that Martha had a permit to.

Martha, Meta, Jill and Amy headed on toward Pink Dragon, while Danny, Bennison and Mark stopped to look at the entrance gate of Damn. Bennison yelled at Martha to come back -- she said that they found a log book that belonged to Nemiar. Martha said to take a picture of it, but she didn't believe her. Finally Bennison gave up, and she, Danny and Mark began to head toward Pink Dragon.

When we got to Dragon, we decided the entrance looked like the domes on the Russian Cathedrals. We rested and ate in the entrance of Dragon. We head on back past Slab Happy crawl and into what is considered the junction room. Martha said that the Dragon formation looked like the alien in the movies "Alien 1, 2 & 3." Everyone agreed with her.

We took a right to see the popcorn formation, Mark, Martha and Danny went up a chimney to see helectites, while Amy, Jill, Bennison and Meta

went back to the junction. When everyone arrived at the junction, Danny, Bennison and Mark headed towards the left passage to see the fried eggs. The rest of the group headed out of Slab Happy crawl. Jill got stuck three times in the crawl, but finally got out.

When everyone was at the entrance of the cave, we rested for about 15 to 25 minutes. Martha convinced Danny to go her way, and we did. We found Martha's way was three times as fast as Danny's. Well, I guess Martha showed him.

We began to head back on the trail to the car, on The Death March. On our way, Bennison and Amy got a sugar rush and passed everyone and made it to the car first. Finally, Martha and Meta came up the trail as the last people. We got in the car for the drive back and made it to camp by dinner.

My only advice to the people who haven't been to the Pinks is: Don't go there for one cave. The walk isn't worth it. You have to do at least three caves, and if you don't like hiking and going over some exposure, don't go.

## NSS GOES HIGH TECH

From Cavenet, submitted by Tom Rea, NSS Publications Coordinator [trea@delphi.com]

As a result of all the discussion on the Cavenet a few weeks ago, the 1994 NSS Members' Manual will include a list of Internet E-Mail addresses of some NSS members. This list is made up of names from the Cavenet mailing list plus a few additions that were easy to obtain. There will undoubtedly be some errors and certainly many omissions because there was not time to edit the list thoroughly. (The book goes to the printer Friday 4/22.)

This list is included solely as an experiment because there was interest and some available space in the book. Its future depends upon your reaction.

Tom Rea, NSS Publications Coordinator, intends to maintain an informal listing during the coming year. He will maintain name, NSS number, and ONE E-Mail address based on

submissions from the membership. If you have strong feelings about future publications of this list, leave comments for him and let your favorite Board of Governors representative and/or the Executive Vice President know.

## Lechuguilla Cave Trip In CCNP Tied To Future Mars Space Probe

News Release - National Park Service  
Prepared March 17, 1994

By Bob Crisman

Three National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientists involved in exploration of the planet Mars will visit Lechuguilla Cave in Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CCNP) April 10-18, 1994.

The NASA scientists' interest in Lechuguilla Cave was prompted by the microbiological life forms that have been discovered in the cave, and previous research done on these life forms by Dr. Larry Mallory of the University of Massachusetts, Diana Northup of the Cave Research Foundation, and Dr. K.I. Cunningham of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The scientists believe that if there is life on the planet Mars, it may be in subsurface locations. They also believe that investigation of the unusual (if not unique) life forms in Lechuguilla Cave may be useful in planning future Mars missions, including the selection of landing sites.

The NASA scientists who will be visiting Carlsbad Caverns' Lechuguilla Cave are Dr. Christopher P. McKay, Larry Lemke, and Penny Boston, who are associated with NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, California. Also accompanying them will be Dr. K.I. Cunningham of the USGS office in Denver, Colorado; Daie Pate, Cave Specialist at CCNP; and his assistant, Jason Richards.

Park Superintendent Frank J. Deckert said that he welcomes the visit by the scientists and hopes that

the reconnaissance trip will benefit both NASA and the park.

Dr. McKay has said that the question of whether there is life on Mars is focused on the subsurface and possible robotic probes because the Viking space probe showed the surface of Mars to be "very inhospitable to life."

Dr. Mallory's research on microbotic life forms in Lechuguilla Cave are focused on possible medical applications, including potential treatment of cancer.

*(Ed. Note - This press release has generated a LOT of discussion on the Cavenet. If anyone is interested, I will collect this thread and provide it for them. If enough interest is generated, I may publish it.)*

## **New CCNP Video Wins National Award**

News Release - National Park Service  
Prepared March 17, 1994  
By Bob Crisman

A new 50-minute video on Carlsbad Caverns National Park (CCNP) called, "Spirit of Exploration" has won a national award, which was announced March 10, 1994.

The award was for first place in the video category during the 1994 Interpretive Excellence Competition at the Conference of National Park Cooperating Association's conference held in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Comments from judges in the competition described the video as "elegant and intelligent," as having a "pervasive sense of wonder," a "good script," "excellent camera work," "exceptional wildlife photography," "haunting original score" and "exceptional underground score." The judges also said that the new video "should help attract visitors" to the park.

A panel of 15 judges was used to judge the videos and 17 other categories at the competition that was established in 1974 and is celebrating its 20th anniversary. A total of seven videos were in the final competition,

along with 175 publications.

The "spirit of exploration" video was produced by Tom Zannes of Albuquerque. Zannes was the script writer, cameraman, and producer.

Copies of the "Spirit of Exploration" can be ordered from the non-profit Carlsbad Caverns-Guadalupe Mountains Association by calling 505-765-2318, or purchased at one of the Association's three bookstores at CCNP, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, or at the National Park Service Administrative Office at 3225 National Parks Highway in Carlsbad, NM. Cost of the video is \$29.95, plus \$2.00 postage and handling (or \$5 for first-class mail). Visa and MasterCard are accepted both for telephone orders or bookstore purchases.

The Association's Executive Director, Rick LoBello, said that he was elated that the video has won national recognition.

## **Floyd Collins Immortalized in Play**

*(This is a reprint from the New York Times review of the opening of a new play. I retrieved it off of the Cavenet.)*

"Dreamers and Exploiters in a Slice of Americana" by Jon Pareles. A man becomes stuck in a cavern and in the nation's imagination. Philadelphia, April 16 - Before Baby Jessica, there was Floyd Collins. On Jan. 30, 1925, Collins went exploring underground in Barren County, Ky., looking for a cavern that could be turned into a tourist attraction. Trapped by a fallen rock, he could still speak to the outside world. A cub reporter from the Louisville Courier-Journal climbed down to interview Collins and started an avalanche of press coverage, making the buried man a national obsession and drawing 20,000 curiosity seekers and hustlers to the site. The hoopla didn't save Collins, who died after two weeks underground.

"Floyd Collins" is having its premier through April 24 at the Palys and Players Theater here to open this year's American Music Theatre Festival. It was written and directed by

Tina Landau; Adam Guettel wrote the music and, with Ms. Landau, the lyrics.

In "Floyd Collins," the trapped man becomes both character and catalyst. His situation prompts a family explosion, an environmental debate, and a sardonic examination of fame, media, and exploitation. There's also some sentimentality about big dreams and bucolic memories, but it's kept to a minimum.

The crisis sends Collins's father, Lee (Nick Plakias), from extremes of devoutness to lunatic hucksterism; his sister, Nellie (Theresa McCarthy), reveals a passion for Floyd that seems far more than sisterly. At one point in Act II, things grow so overwrought that it seems the Beverly Hillbillies are putting on "Salome." Meanwhile, Floyd's brother, Homer (Jason Danieley), is swept into small-scale vaudeville stardom.

The rescue attempts match a mining company's machines against Floyd's best friend, Johnny Gerald (Steven Lee Anderson), who says things like, "This land, you don't go messin' with it." Meanwhile, there's a media circus in town, with the show's deftest touch: a chorus line of natty, self-satisfied reporters. Scott Zielinski's lighting transforms James Schuette's set, of weathered planks, into zones both open and claustrophobic. Through it all, Collins (Jim Morlino) remains an individual. Mr. Morlino spends long stretches lying on his back, moving only his head and torso. Yet he holds attention with bright eyes and clear, earnest singing as he moves from confidence to a final, wistful delirium.

Since the story takes place in Kentucky, the music sometimes invokes the down-home with banjo and fiddles. But the real musical locale is Sondheimland. Mr. Guettel's music goes right to the border of opera, with winding vocal lines, dense chromatic harmonies, or elaborately dissonant ostinatos. Then, at the brink, it steps back, to offer a little pop sweetness. There are only a few catchy tunes, the rest is atmosphere and tension.

But the music doesn't lose itself in



## Pre- And Post- Convention Trips To Mexico In 1994

Reprint from NSS News

Several trips and field camps are being planned in Mexico for the weeks before and after the 1994 NSS Convention in Texas. Preliminary details are given below. More details will be available at Brackettville for the post-convention activities, or by writing to the contacts listed.

To get yourself into Mexico, you will need a positive form of identification such as a passport, birth certificate, or voter registration card. A driver's license won't work. You will need one if you drive, of course.

To get your vehicle into Mexico is a bit more complicated than it used to be. You now need the clear title and an international credit card (Visa or MasterCard) BOTH IN THE SAME NAME! If your title is not clear, you must also have a notarized affidavit from the lien holder giving you permission to take the vehicle to Mexico. Your card will be charged \$12.50 for the automobile permit which is good for 180 days. You must turn it back in before the expiration date or when you leave the country, or some horrible thing will happen to you. It is unclear at this time exactly what they will or can legally do (it keeps changing.), but they continue to make threats. Just turn the papers in and be done with it. You should definitely buy car insurance for the duration of your Mexican trip. There are vendors in most U.S. border towns who will sell you insurance at any reasonable hour.

### Northern Coahuila Field Camp (Pre-Convention)

A cave exploration project is being planned for the week prior to the 1994 NSS Convention. Access is being arranged to large ranches in the Sierra del Burro, located in Mexico 125 miles west of the convention site. This large limestone area has not been previously investigated by cavers. During a 5-day field camp, new caves will be located, explored, and mapped. This trip has been designed especially for cavers from distant parts of the U.S. who have not had the opportunity to go caving in Mexico.

The trip will depart from the convention site on Sunday, June 12 and will return the weekend before the start of the convention. Attendance will be limited! Pre-registration is mandatory. A secure car park is available at Fort Clark if you need to leave your vehicle. For information or to sign up, contact Peter Sprouse, Box 8424, Austin, TX 78713-8424.

### El Sotano & Guaguas (Pre- & Post- Convention)

For the vertically experienced caver, pre- and post-convention trips will be led to El Sotano del Rancho el Barro. El Sotano requires a spectacular three-day backpack in the cave pocked limestone of the state of Queretaro. This large blind pit has a nearly free entrance drop a quarter mile deep. Before the hike to El Sotano, a warm-up trip to 666-foot-deep Hoya de Guaguas in S.L.P. will be made. Total time for each trip is 8 days. A rope fee will be requested.

You may wish to arrange your own trip to Sotano de las Golondrinas while in the area. For information or to sign up, contact Don Broussard, 7881 RR 3237, Driftwood, TX 78619.

### San Luis Potosi Field Camp (Post-Convention)

Mexican cavers from the San Luis Potosi area will be hosting a post-convention field camp and leading trips to some of the many excellent caves that SLP cavers have discovered in the past few years, most of which have never been seen by Gringos. Valle de los Fantasmos is a beautiful caving area in the western part of the state of San Luis Potosi, the same state in which Golondrinas is located. These caves and the area are good and fun, and the Mexican hospitality is world renowned. If you are looking for some virgin, mostly short, vertical pits, with a few horizontal caves, and a rewarding cultural experience, plan on spending a few days at this camp. It will run for about a week and may cost you an extra 5 bucks to offset expenses. Exact details and a sign-up sheets will be available at the AMCS table in Brackettville during convention. U.S. contact is Gill Ediger, 300 Mockingbird, Austin, TX 78745-3121, (512)441-0050.

### Bustamante Area Field Camps, Nuevo Leon (Post-Convention)

For cavers with less time, the caves around Bustamante and Minas Viejas offer an example of about everything you would expect from

Mexico--BIG caves and deep pits. Two field camps will be operated in the vicinity--one in Bustamante Canyon from which day trips can be made to the several nearby caves (mainly Palmito and Precipicio) and the other at Minas Viejas, an area of vertical caves 10 miles northeast of Bustamante. Several abandoned mines in the area offer good pickin's for the mineral collector. Either of these areas is well-suited for people with only a day or 2 to spend in Mexico on their way home after convention. The city of Bustamante has some entertainment planned especially for the visiting cavers.

A base camp will be maintained in Bustamante Canyon during the week following convention. Cueva de Carrizal and Gruta del Palmito are day trips, and Precipicio is a 1 or 2 day caving trip actually in the canyon & within site of camp. The last 2 caves are HUGE rooms with large formations. There is room for everyone. Precipicio requires some vertical work. Numerous rock art sites are close by. Terry Sayther, 1606 Fortview, Austin, TX 78704 can answer questions. Maps should be available at convention.

The Minas Viejas area has 2 excellent pit caves named Montemayor and Cuchillo, as well as several abandoned silver/lead mines, some about 300 years old. Daily trips will be limited to 30 or 40 people per day. Reservation sheets and directions will be available at convention. There may be a small charge for this camp. Joe Ivy, 4019 Ramsgate, San Antonio, TX 78230, is your contact for this one.

abstractions. Bravado, cynicism, doubt, and tenderness come through clearly. Along with a uniformly strong cast, Mr. Morino and especially Ms. McCarthy, wide-eyed and creamy-voiced, find the emotion behind the tricky music. Like Stephen Sondheim's works, "Floyd Collins" has a bleak message: everyone, except perhaps a saintly friend, is a potential exploiter. Yet it is rarely didactic. Instead, Ms. Landau and Mr. Guettel have created a sustained drama with dark-humored interludes. It has large ambitions, and lives up to them.

## Two Cave Divers Killed

Compiled from wire reports.

Sheck Exley, world record holder for depth dives, has died while attempting to exceed 1,000 feet of depth (thus breaking his own record) in a cave dive with Jim Bowden in Mexico. Apparently, Sheck passed Jim at 900 feet and never turned back. The body was reported to have been recovered when the line was retrieved.

Details are virtually unknown at this time. The funeral will probably be in Jacksonville, Florida, where Sheck's parents live.

The worlds of caving and exploration have lost one of their best and brightest stars. He will be sorely missed by those of us who loved him.

In an unrelated incident, Ian Robbins, of Cardiff Wales, near Bristol, died while diving in Huautla, March 28 1994. He is survived by a wife and two children. Ian was participating in the expedition led by Bill Stone to push the sumps of Huautla to new depth records. The expedition was to be a field test of Stone's "rebreather" technology. The cause of death at this time is not believed to be related to the use of that demonstration technology.

The death occurred on the ninth day of a ten-day trip into the cave, and the body was found in an air-filled chamber 1500' past a terminal sump. Ian was diving alone at the time, and

it is unclear whether he had left the water in this chamber just before his death.

## 1994 CONVENTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 19, 1994

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Convention Committee Secretary

Ron Ralph opened the meeting, which was held near San Antonio at Honey Creek. Donna Anderson, secretary, stated that the minutes of the last meeting had been sent to each grotto contact person for publication. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published. The motion carried. Bruce Anderson passed out copies of the budget. The total income for this convention has been \$142,014. The total expenses have been \$136,257.00. The total net gain is \$6,757. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as read. The motion passed. Negotiations are underway for the port-a-johns. We will be getting about 1/3 of the chairs and tables from Uvaide Rental Ranch. A place in Del Rio will be delivering the rest of the tables and chairs. Insurance is still being worked on.

Rune Burnett, Texas Parks and Wildlife liaison, introduced Clay Brewer, Resource Specialist for Region 6. Rune still needs some written logistics on Devil's Sinkhole from Gill Ediger and Bill Steele. Rune stated that Texas Parks and Wildlife will be working on a release form. It was suggested that perhaps other entities could be included on this release form. Jay Jordan will get the list to Rune. Rune stated there would be armed guards on the Texas Parks land 24 hours a day. Ron asked if there could be 5 Texas Parks security people at the campground and 5 at the Howdy Party on Monday night. Ron also asked if Rune would be able to provide a big screen for video. Ron stated he could provide a 16 foot trailer for hauling wood. Ron is asking the game warden for a smoker if we need it. Bill Mixon wants a one-page welcome for the program book from

Rune from the Texas Parks. Bill also asked for a map and rules for Kickapoo for the program book. Rune said he would provide that.

Gill Ediger, international coordinator, stated that everything is under control. There have been some requests from Cubans wanting the registrations waived. Mixon stated that the NSS has an International Funds Committee that might be able to help. George Veni stated that 3 to 5 Romanians called and wanted a discount. Gill suggested we talk to the NSS quickly. It was decided that for people in foreign countries that do not have convertible currency, such as Cuba and Romania, we try to get some help for them from the International Funds Committee. Cathy Wintrey will check with Carrie Brown of the International Committee and will send the people a registration form.

Blake Harrison, campground chairman, was not present but sent a report. Plenty of firewood has been located at Fort Clark, and a work-cutting day is planned for the TSA meeting in April. He needs some trailers at the April meeting to store wood in at Brackettville until the convention. His report also stated that the poles for the foot bridges have been located from the power company in Brackettville and Uvaide.

Mike Anderson, publicity chairman, stated that the deadline for the May issue was next week. He stated that we need to locate where we can lease a digital duplicator for Norma Peacock for the Conventiongram. Carl will check with the Brackettville school district for one. Mike stated we still need a name for the Conventiongram. Brackettville Gram and Armadillo Express were mentioned. If anyone has any ideas for a name, you may call or write Mike.

Barbe Barker, special events chairman, said everything was going well. There will be a Mexico shopping trip. JSS will have two half-days of rock climbing. There will be country western line dancing. Barbe stated she is looking for people who can whistle. Bill Mixon stated he would like a blurb in the program book about JSS.

Bob Cowell, Health & Safety Committee chairman, was not present, as he was giving a bat program. However, he sent a report. There will be babysitting services available. He wanted to know how many might utilize this service. There is no change in the area of security. He would like to have some Texas Parks security on Monday night during the Howdy Party. There will be pontoon boat trips to look at petroglyph sites on the Pecos. USAF will transport the pontoon boat to a National Park boat ramp. It is a 28-foot boat which hauls a total of 18 people. Life preservers are on board. The Laughlin A.F.B. will provide a driver for the boat. He will want to have something on board for the people to drink. He would like Rune as an interpreter concerning the archeology. There will be 3 trips a day. Rune stated that they might need a permit to do this. He will talk with Bob about this. Rune stated that there is a commercial entity that does boat trips for \$15. Fort Clark needs to know if we are having wine at the banquet so they can get the wine glasses. It is OK under their license, as long as it is a gift and not sold. Barbe will check on getting 1 glass of wine per person. Value Travel in San Antonio has been contacted regarding plane tickets. If you say the password "caver", they will give a discount.

George Veni reported for Bill Elliott regarding the guidebook. By April 1st or 2nd it will be off to the printer. He needs proofreaders next week. He has appreciated the work other people have done on it. He needs input on the book real soon. George will talk to Bill about doing supplementary sheets on cave directions or perhaps it could go in the program book.

Bill Mixon, session chairman, passed out a personnel list of NSS persons who might need to be contacted for various things.

Gill Ediger talked to Alvin McClure regarding where we can have the campfires. Jim Jasek has volunteered to print signs on a color laser printer. These can be put on 11" x 17" plastic real estate signs. Talk to Gill if you need signs. They will also have some

blank signs for last-minute signs.

George Veni asked about the showers being nearer the campground. Gill said that Fort Clark did not want showers near Las Moras. Gill stated he has been looking at air conditioners for the Teen Center but has not found good prices. Several people are looking for swamp coolers to rent. A list is needed from Bill Mixon of where to put the chairs which we will be renting. Bill will be bringing the Longest Cave in Texas. Gill stated he is getting several calls a day regarding the convention.

Noble Stidham, Vendor Committee chairman, sent a report. Everything is going fine. There is one new vendor. Noble would like to know if TSA and TCMA might want to go in jointly for a table inside.

George Veni, Waltz Across Texas chairman, stated that it is all coming together. Carl is checking on renting water igloos. The buses will cost \$14 per person with a full bus with 2 guides. The buses hold 47 people.

Cathy Winfrey, registration chairman, stated that 281 people have pre-registered. There have been 94 individuals who have registered for waltz trips - 49 for geology, 20 for archeology-biology, and 25 for the scenic trip. There have been 50 meal plans, 164 T-Shirts, and 105 patches purchased. Cathy has received pre-registration forms from individuals in Canada, Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany. It was decided that Cathy should order 750 patches. Cathy will accept the T-shirt bid. Plastic "Don't Mess With Texas" bags are available for \$68 per box of 1350. Cathy was authorized to buy as many bags as are needed. Laminated, plastic rectangular name badges were voted on.

Mike Walsh, Howdy Party chairman, stated that Charlie Loving will not be doing the catering. Mike will have alternative food contracts within 3 weeks. He will be checking with Bill Miller out of San Antonio for bar-b-que. It was decided to get enough bar-b-que for each person. Then other kinds of food could be purchased with extra money. Mike has 50 people for servers. He has the

beer and soft drinks taken care of. The re-enactment contract is ready to sign. He will need 10 buses at \$ 68 per mile and \$50 per bus driver. He will have something in writing next week.

Co-Chairman Jay Jordan stated that he hopes more people will register after the new registration form appears in the NSS News. He thanked everyone for their work. If you have any expenses, be sure and get them to Bruce Anderson.

George Veni stated that he felt the meal plan should be inside. He feels many people will want their money back if they find out it will be held outdoors. Ron Ralph stated he has already talked to Fort Clark about this. He told Pete Cook that people will want their money back if they have to eat outside. We could limit the number of meal plans sold in order to insure that there is room for these people to eat inside.

The next meeting will be April 23 and 24 at Brackettville in conjunction with the TSA meeting. During the day we will iron out problems, do clean up, and cut firewood. Be sure and bring mops for the clean up efforts.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## 1994 CONVENTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 24, 1994

Submitted by Donna Anderson, Convention Committee Secretary

Ron Ralph opened the meeting, which was held at Fort Clark Springs in Brackettville. He thanked everyone for all of their work.

Donna Anderson, secretary, stated that the minutes of the last meeting at Honey Creek were sent to each grotto contact person for publication. Pat Copeland made a motion to accept the minutes as published. The motion carried.

Bruce Anderson, treasurer, passed out copies of the budget. The total budgeted receipts are \$142,014. The actual receipts thus far have been \$57,050.15. The total budgeted



expenditures are \$135,257. The actual expenditures thus far are \$15,448.85. Our current ending balance as of 4/20/94 is \$41,601.30. Bruce strongly urged everyone to turn in any expenses they have incurred, in order to modify the budget. The budget is very tight now. He discussed the problems of getting insurance for the convention. It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Blake Harrison, campground chairman, stated that we do not have the telephone poles yet for the bridges. Lots of firewood was cut this weekend. Air conditioners were installed in the Salon building, and evaporative coolers were installed in the Old Commissary building. The campground will be sprayed for fire ants, ticks etc. He stated everything is looking good.

Mike Anderson, publicity chairman, stated everything is going fine. There will be some more information in the next NSS issue. News releases have been sent to the areas around Brackettville. They loughed base with Texas Parks & Wildlife on publicity. Texas Business Machines in Del Rio can provide the machines needed for Norma Peacock for the convention-gram. They will deliver and pick up the machines. Delivery fee for the digital duplicator is \$200. Ron talked with the Chamber of Commerce, and there was an article in their newspaper about our convention.

Donna Anderson, Caving Committee chairman, passed out a list of caves available during the week of convention. The list is very small. Many of these caves are for one trip only. We do have access to Kickapoo. We will have sign-up sheets in order to spread attendance out more evenly each day. A brief description of each cave and directions to the caves which are not led trips will be posted in the registration building during convention. Bill Elliott stated he already had the descriptions and directions to the caves and would give that to Donna on diskette. Mike Walsh stated he had just obtained access to a few more caves.

Barbe Barker, special events chairman, brought fires down for the speleolympics. She stated she has not received any items for the auction. The items should be cave-related or items that are Texas-related. Ron asked for a show of hands of people who had items to bring. A number of hands were raised. Barbe said that if they do not get them to her beforehand, they can drop them off at the NSS bookstore. Things are going well on the Mexico shopping tours. There will be trips to see the bat flights. Barbe stated she has some good volunteers for JSS. JSS will meet in the Dungeon (basement of the Salon building). It has a direct door to the outside without going through the main building. Country western dance lessons will be held. Barbe stated she has about 7 entries in the chili cook-off. The watermelon party is pending on whether there is money in the budget. However, Pat Copeland stated she thought she might be able to get some watermelons donated. Ron stated that Ft. Clark would like to put on a dance for us near the pool on Wednesday night. The name of the band is Borderland. Ft. Clark would like to charge a dollar or two to pay for the band or just accept donations. If there is enough money in the budget, then the convention could pay for the cost of the band.

Bob Cowell, Health & Safety Committee chairman, stated that the Bracken Bat flight trip is filling up. The fee will be \$10 for the Pecos River trip to look at petroglyphs. This money can be used to offset renting radios for communications. Noble said he has a base radio which could go in the registration area. Bob is checking on obtaining flags for the various foreign countries which will be represented at the convention. He is checking on getting a bank of telephones out of Uvalde. These will be set up near the outside vendor area.

Bill Elliott, Guidebook Committee chairman, is finished with the guidebook, and it will be shipped to the printer in a few days. He received a hardy round of applause from everyone. The guidebook is 364 pages long and weighs 2 1/2 pounds. There

are 156 Texas cave descriptions, 120 cave maps, 6 Mexican cave descriptions, and 120 photos. The cover of the guidebook is a photo of Kickapoo Cavern. The back cover is a picture of O-9 Wells. The books will be delivered to Judge Tim Ward in Brackettville and stored in the Civic Center in a locked room. They should be delivered by June 10. The printing and shipping of the guidebook will take up most of the guidebook budget, \$12,000 to \$13,000.

Bill Mixon handed out copies of a checklist for items for the program book and a schedule of events. He needs details of items for the program book within a week. Sessions start at 9 a.m., the lunch break is 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. and sessions end at 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. Cave-related videos can be shown in the small room in the Service Club.

David Locklear will do some area maps to be posted in registration. A program will be given for area local people at the Town Center.

Blake Harrison, facilities chairman, stated that Fort Clark will be cutting limbs and spraying in the Old Fort area. This area is all shaded. He stated that Bruce was able to obtain 32 porta-johns for \$2,000. 22 are singles and 5 are on trailers which have two on each trailer. The ones on trailers will be moved to various areas as needed, such as the Howdy Party, the Wednesday night dance and near the banquet area.

Pete Strickland wanted someone to be in charge of checking on the evaporative coolers. Bob Cowell said that security can check on them when they make their rounds, and if there is a problem, they can notify the appropriate person.

Noble Stidham, Vendor Committee chairman, stated that 60% of the outside vendor area has been reserved. He needs 70 tables for the vendors.

George Veni, Waltz Across Texas chairman, stated there is an area map in the guidebook. The guidebook also has the costs for the show caves. The last price break for registration is the middle of May, and at that time it will be decided how many buses will go on

the field trips. We will not have three half-filled buses. We must have enough people on each bus to pay for our costs. If some buses are half-filled, we may offer money back or combine some of the buses if that is what is wanted by the participants.

Cathy Winfrey, registration chairman, was not present. Donna Anderson reported for her. The total registration is 549. Of these, 94 have registered for the geology field trip, 52 for the archeology/biology trip, and 53 for the scenic tour. There have been requests for 351 t-shirts, 206 patches and 125 meal plans. Cathy has ordered patches and they should be ready by the end of May. Cathy will be ordering receipt forms very soon and needs to know if there is anything else she is to be collecting money for, as she will need a line for that on the receipt form. She needs to know if there is some event she needs to be scheduling for or giving out tickets for at registration. Let her know as soon as possible.

Mike Walsh, Howdy Party chairman, stated the beer will be Budweiser products. If someone wants to buy some cases of Shiner and transport them, talk with Mike, and he will reimburse that person. There will be 2 soft drink trailers at \$12 a tank. There will be 3,000 pounds of ice at \$.80 a bag. The band, People's Choice, will be camping in staff camping. Berghelm got the contract for the food. There will be 750 pounds (after cooking) of meat for 1,000 people but that will increase when we know how many people will be attending. The cost for the food comes to \$5 per plate. Convention mugs have been delivered to Happy Shahani's. Mike has arranged for 7 buses for transportation to and from the Howdy Party.

Jay Jorden stated there are only 8 weeks left before convention. He asked that each person go back to

their grottos and ask for volunteers. He thanked everyone for all their help this weekend. Ft. Clark requested that there be some way their staff could identify our staff persons who could answer questions and solve problems which might arise. It was decided to have staff hats which were Cavalry yellow with a blue florescent emblem. It was decided that the first-aid people should have a different color hat in order to be readily identified. Bob Cowell stated he would need 15 hats in a neon color. Noble can make them for \$2 per hat. Each committee head should let Noble know how many hats are needed. May 1 is the deadline for this.

We need a place to leave messages for the committee chairmen during the convention week. Bruce will buy stacking trays for this, and they will be in the registration building. If we have extra money, we can make bandannas for everyone with the convention logo. We cannot afford wine for the banquet. Fort Clark has made it clear that they have a rule against cut-offs being worn in the pool. All dogs must be on a leash. Tubes are needed for conventioners to float down the Creek. Someone suggested perhaps we can sell them afterwards. A volleyball net, horseshoes, croquet set and tether ball are needed. Let Barbe know if you have these items.

It was decided we will not have a meeting in May. As there will be many people at Brackettville working the whole week prior to the convention, there will be a meeting the Wednesday before convention.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## **Cave Tree**

by John Langevin

Cave: Cave Tree  
Cavers: Susan Herpin, Bill Mays,  
Kevin Glover, Pam Someone, Sandra

Someone  
Date: April 23, 1994

Cave Tree is a small, highly decorated cave that has been closed to recreational caving for many years. Recently, the Lincoln National Forest decided to reopen Cave Tree on a very limited basis. One permit a month is issued, and the trip requires that a ranger be present. Cave Tree trips also require that all cavers change into clean tennis shoes after entering the cave to avoid tracking dirt from the hike in. Finally, no carbide.

But past all the restrictions, Cave Tree is a beautiful cave. There are a lot of soda straws and cave pearls. Former Ft. Worth caver Kevin Glover was the guide for this trip and aided in some of the photography.

One particularly notable feature was a broken formation with an incredible number of helectites growing off of it. Kevin called this "John Berks Helectites". Near the back of the cave was small crawl appropriately named "Soda Straw Splendor".

The entire trip was only about four hours, but was well worth it.

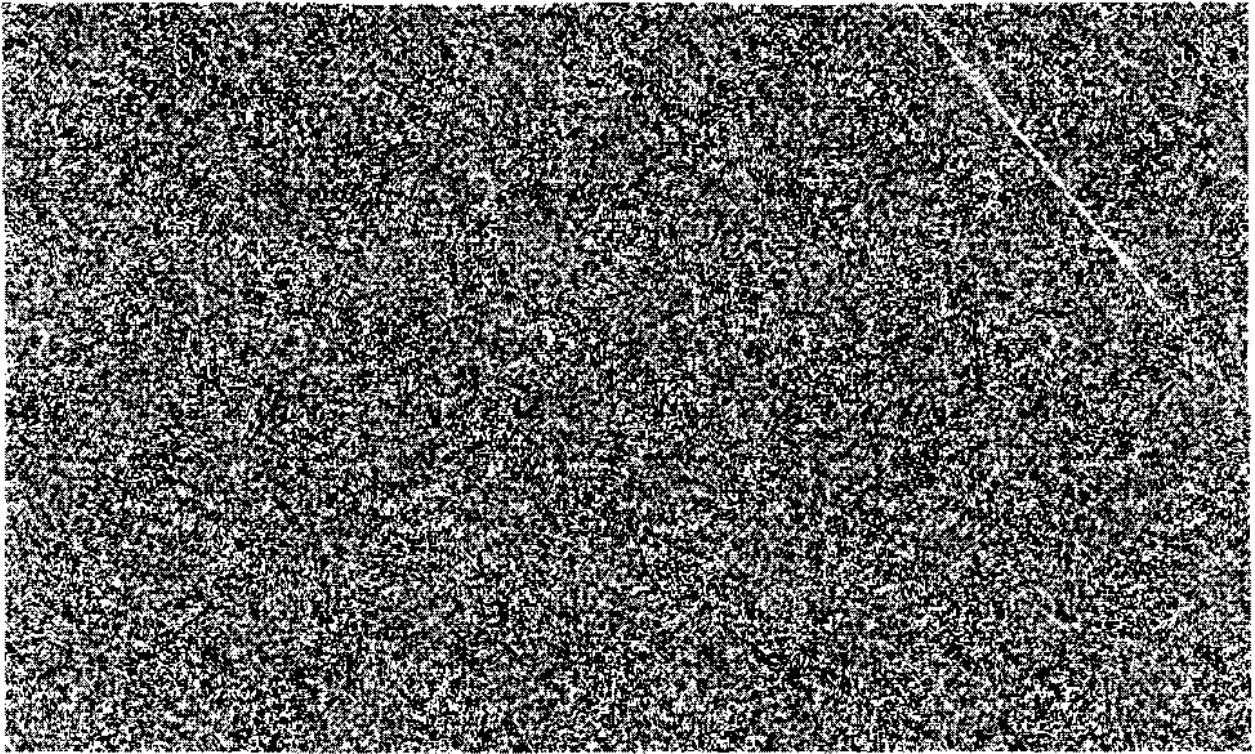
## **Memorial Weekend in Fitton**

John Langevin will be heading up a trip to Fitton Cave, Ark. on Sunday, May 29. This will be a horizontal trip, so vertical knowledge is not required. But it will be a fairly long trip (~12 hours), so a bit of stamina is needed. Currently, John is planning on heading through the Chrystal Pass.

If there is interest, John would like to hit other area caves during the weekend as well.

If you are interested, call John at (817) 924-1919

# What do you see?



This is a Random Dot Sterogram (RDS) 3-D image. It consists of thousands of tiny dots designed to fool your brain into believing that there is a 3-D image. They have become very popular in malls and poster stores.

The image can be seen by focusing your eyes on a point beyond the actual piece of paper, usually about 12" - 18". This usually involves relaxing the eyes and looking at a distant object, then moving the RDS image

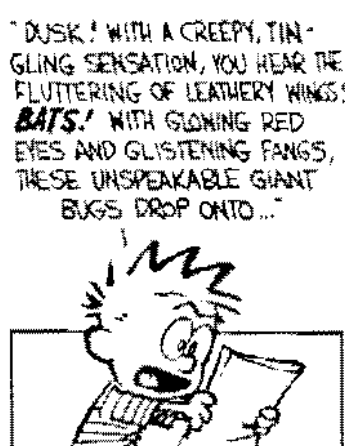
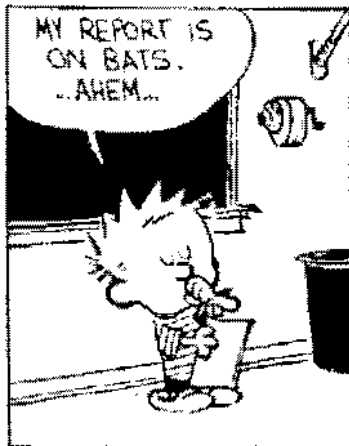
in front of your eyes without refocusing them. I find it easier to remove my glasses when viewing an RDS image.

This image was created using a program called RDSGEN, a freeware program I downloaded off of CompuServe. RDSGEN takes an image in .GIF format and creates an RDS image, using the levels of red and green to determine the various depths. I drew the original image using a standard draw program, then

had RDSGEN convert it to the RDS image above. (The hard part was getting the various parameters set for optimum viewing in printed form.)

I've got no prizes, but I'll print the name of the first person to correctly identify the image above. Next month I'll print the name of the winner and the original image for those of you who can't find it.

Good Luck.



## Calendar Of Events

**May 14-15, Basic Cave Rescue Orientation, Franklin West Virginia.** Contact Bob Hoke, (301) 725-5877-evenings.

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

**May 29, Fitton Cave.** Contact John Langevin (817) 924-1919.

**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, NCFRC Seminar 1994, Cave Rescue Operations and Management, Bristol, VA.** Contact Nancy Chrimes, 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. Guiseppe Messana, 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.

