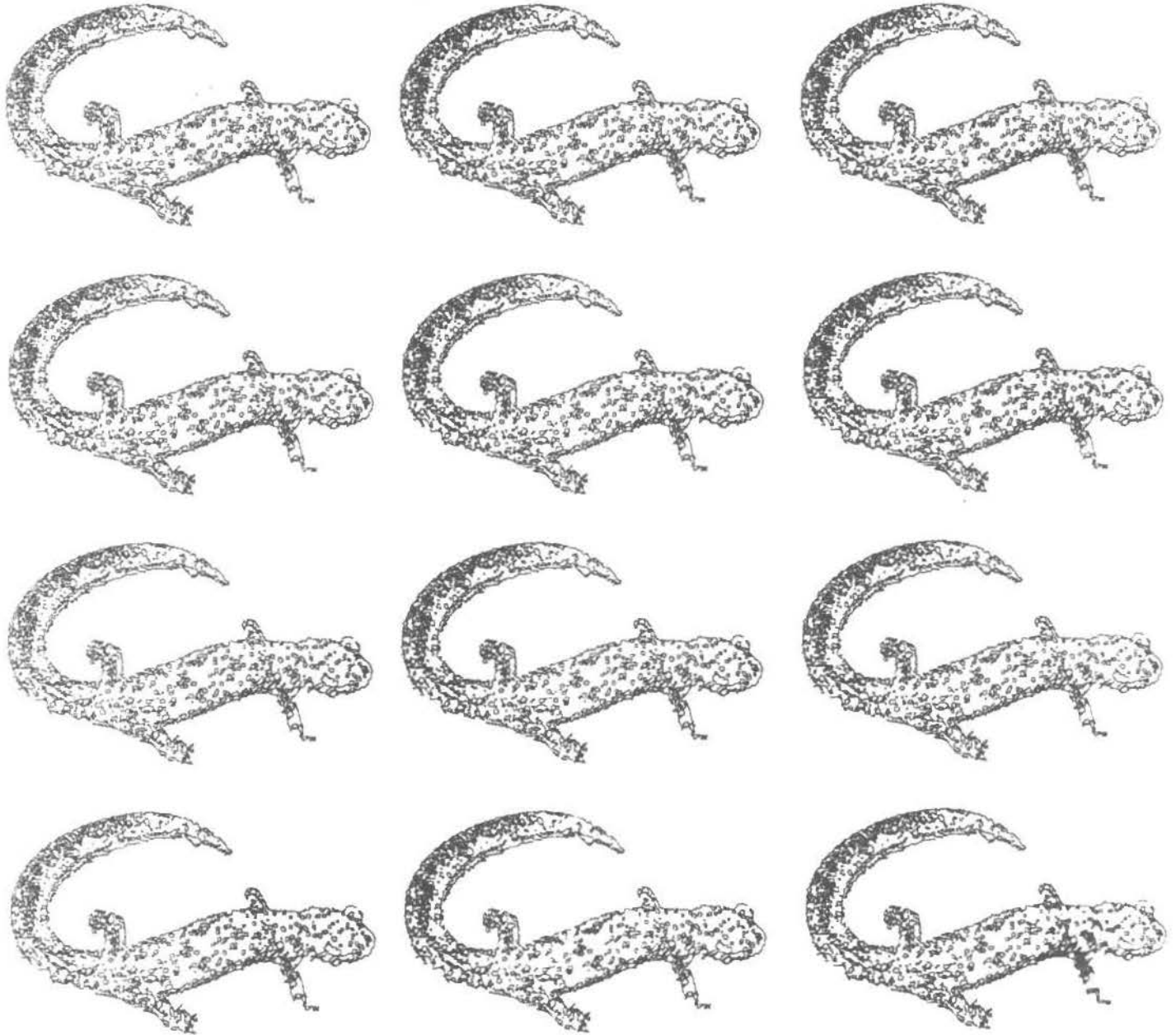

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Volume 8 Issue 9

September 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 if prior arrangements are made. Carbide is free for the asking. Contact Russell Hill at

220-7108 or Butch Fralia at 346-2039 for more information.

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 Credits

This month's cover photo *March of the Salamanders* was created by Chad Fenner, using the Image Contour function (as well as a few others) in Aldus Photostyler-SE, using a photo of a salamander taken in Fitton cave by Clark Giles. Bear and Bo in River Styx taken by Clark Giles. (Pretty good, considering he's in the picture)

Minutes For the August Meeting

The August meeting informally began at 7 p.m. The business portion was called to order at 7:30 by Grotto President Mike Anderson.

New visitors:

Gary Cameron from Ft. Worth

Announcements:

Donna Anderson announced that she was hungry. Other than that, no announcements were made.

Old Business:

The River Styx trip taking a group of school kids has been tentatively set for September.

Mike Nelson reported on grotto T-

shirts. After checking prices at many places, the best prices were around \$4.00 a shirt (little less for white, little more for colors) plus \$20-30 setup fee. The grotto voted to proceed with the acquisition of grotto T-shirts, with Mike continuing to coordinate the effort and Butch Frailia providing the necessary artwork.

New Business:

Tracy Van Epps is now a grandmother. Her daughter had a successful home delivery, with Barbie Barker lending a hand with the birth of Nicci Lee Freeby. Mother and daughter

are fine.

Trip reports:

Two different River Styx trips were reported on, one by Bruce Freeby from Wichita Falls, and the other by Butch Frailia (see related article).

John Langevin announced a Fitton trip on August 20 and Chad Ferner announced a Pinks/Hell Below trip on October 1 and 2.

Butch Frailia then motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

The program consisted of slides provided by John Langevin.

Editor's Ramblings

Happy September!

Yea, yea. I know, what kind of cover is that? Well, I was in an artsy kind of a mood, so that's what I came up with. The picture was originally taken by Clark Giles in Fitton cave, but the background around the salamander's head was so dark that when Butch Frailia and I converted it to black and white, it was indistinguishable. I did want to do something with it, so, using Aldus Photostyler-SE, I outlined the head with a different color so I could select just the salamander and cut it out.

Once cut, I tried playing with a number of the fancy filters Photostyler has, and decided that one of

them, "contour", looked pretty cool.

After several hours of playing, I finally came up with the arrangement used.

Hope you like it.

Speaking of Butch, he once mentioned doing the newsletter for me one month to give me a break. Since next month I will be caving the weekend that I need to work on it, maybe I can talk him in to it. It might be kinda fun to have a guest editor occasionally. If anyone else wants to try doing it one month, say something. I certainly won't be offended.

While we're on the subject, I have heard a few people mention combining the Dallas/Ft. Worth and

Maverick newsletters. Since both newsletters are used to announce their clubs' respective monthly meetings, and the two meetings are about two weeks apart, that probably wouldn't work too well. However, in November, the DFW meeting moves from the fourth Wednesday to the third Wednesday, making the meetings only one week apart. If the folks east of us are game, I would be willing to do a combined November issue for both clubs. Who knows, maybe we can start a new tradition between the two clubs and next year, they can do the combined November issue. Just an idea.

-CF

The September Meeting

The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at

7 p.m. This month's program was not available at press time, but I'm sure everyone will have a good time.

Plan on attending and enjoying the eats, drinks, and caving talk.

Bear and Bo Go Caving!!!

by Butch Fralia

Date: July 29-31, 1994

Cavers: Bear, Bo, Butch Fralia, Clark and Suzy Giles, Mike and Krisann Nelson, Sharon Mastbrook

Cave: River Styx Cave, King Country, TX.

Impressions of River Styx cave from the eyes of new cavers are more interesting than from those of us who have been there many times. Mike, Krisann, Clark, Suzy, and Sharon have all been caving before, but never to River Styx. Bo, the Giles' seven-year-old German Shepherd has been on caving trips but never in a cave. Bear, the Fralia household seven-month-old, sixty pound Labrador puppy, had never been camping, much less caving. The Giles, the Nelsons and Sharon had a great time, but as you can see from the title, this story is about Bear and Bo.

Bear's first inkling that something different was coming down was Friday night, July 29 when Butch and Sharon kept going outside and putting things in the big orange truck. Bear hasn't been big on riding in the truck, but a few trips to the lake for swimming piqued his interest. He had fun

looking at things going in the truck, in particular the ice chest with the big sirloin steak. He realized that wherever the truck was going, it involved him when the dog food, feeding bowls and doggie toys got loaded. He immediately went out to the truck and loaded himself, a first. Until this trip, he'd always been "helped" into the truck.

When your longest car trip is 20 miles, the 200 mile trip to River Styx is a long one. The redeeming benefit of the trip was mindful owners who stopped a lot along the way in the interest of keeping the truck seats dry. Wow! There were so many trees, and a lot of dogs had left their mark on them. Not to be left out, Bear added his signature at every opportunity. A noble effort for a male dog who hasn't learned to lift his leg yet and still squats. He managed all the same.

Bear knew something was up when the truck slowed down, made a right turn, and the roads got rougher. His nap so rudely interrupted! He sat up in the seat and started looking out the window. It was probably the most open space without houses he'd ever seen. The truck finally stopped on this rocky hill, and he got out for a look around. Gee, guys? What's that big cloth house doing over there? Where are all the regular houses and all the fences? Where's all the grass?

Where's my bed? Where do I sleep tonight?

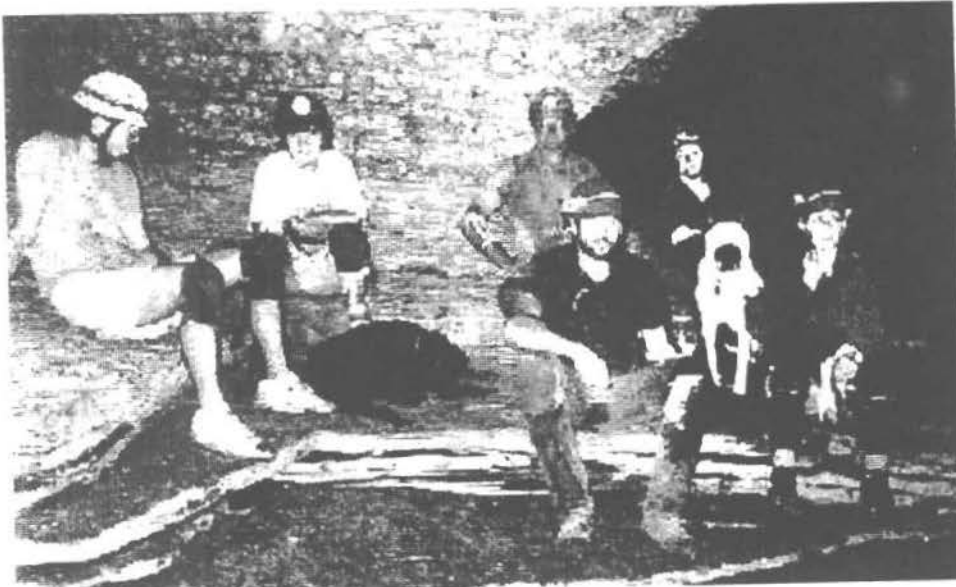
Sleeping was a new experience for a dog not allowed on the bed at home. He got to sleep between Butch and Sharon. He took advantage of the situation, and boy did he ever snuggle! The night lasted a long time, but finally it started to get light and Bear decided it was time to explore. He went out the window, leaving Butch and Sharon with their dreams of winning the lottery and going on a perpetual camping and caving trip.

Outside the truck were hills and trees and early riser Clark Giles walking with his dog, Bo. Wow! Another dog, a buddy to share this experience with! Bo, this is Bear, Bear, this is Bo Friendship at first sight, in spite of the difference in their ages. Mike Nelson got up, and Bear had another buddy. Mike had a tireless throwing arm and seemed fascinated that Bear would retrieve sticks forever.

By the time all the humans were up and about, both dogs had put in a full morning. Humans can be slow movers for two dogs who've already gotten their metabolism in high gear. Never mind all the coffee. Let's explore! Come on, guys! We can see forever! It's time to explore! Come on, guys!

Finally the humans moved and started looking as if they might explore! As all experienced River Styx cavers know, you must perform the mandatory ritual before going caving. That's the taking of the names to the Bateman Ranch house. Butch removed the bedding from the big orange truck, then six humans and two dogs loaded in. The road from the camping area to the main Ranch road was re-traveled. Along the way were some of the biggest dogs that Bear and Bo had ever seen! These dogs looked ominous with those big teeth on top of their heads. They took a vote and decided these were definitely not dogs to trifle with!

To the knowledgeable, there are two routes to the Ranch house. Drive out to Highway 114, and seven miles back east to the Bateman headquarters road. Then there's the back way, across the ranch roads, through the



Bear and Bo (and everyone else) in the River Styx Junction Room
(Bear and Bo are the two without helmets)

trees, herds of cattle, and such. That's the scenic route preferred by the orange truck driver. Oops, the truck is orange, not the driver.

Paper delivered, a short visit with Mrs. Charley Bateman, and it's time for some sightseeing! O.K., so the driver got carried away, but the dogs had fun! The best fun part of the tour was the rubber dam! If you've never seen the rubber dam, hunt it up the next time you go to Styx. From the cave, go back to the main ranch road and turn north (left). Drive past the Exxon maintenance area until you come to a tank farm on the right. Turn right on the road at the tank farm, then drive until you come to a big, beige building. Upstream from the dam are five salt springs that drain into the Wichita River, impairing its drinking quality. The river runs into Lake Kemp, the main water source for Wichita Falls. The Army Corps of Engineers installed the rubber dam and a pump station to pump water into another drainage basin, away from Lake Kemp. An interesting feat, from an

engineering standpoint.

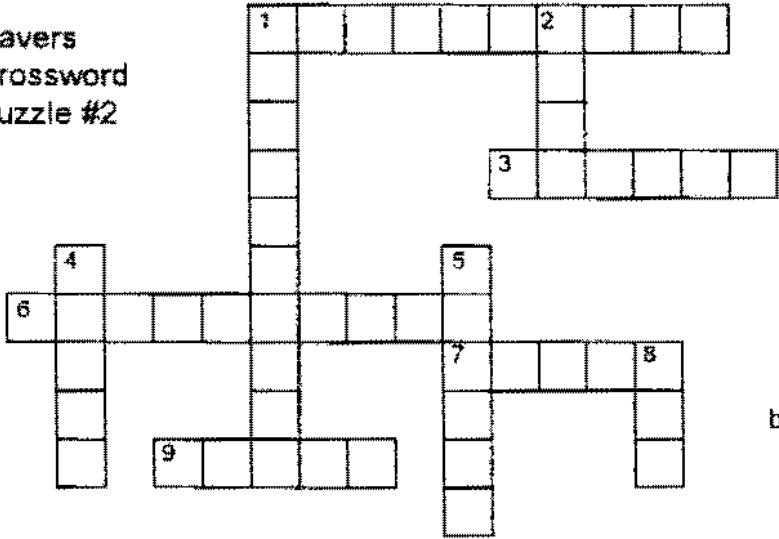
Bear and Bo, being dogs care less about technology. Bear and Bo went swimming! There's nothing a Labrador Retriever likes better than a good swim. Bear is no exception. He won't pass up a chance to take a dip. Bo wasn't so hot on the idea, but wouldn't be shown up by a younger dog, so he waded in. Bear decided to try something different and dived off the dam into water over his head. The humans held their breath when he went about three feet under water, but decided it was okay when he surfaced. Bear swam back to the dam, and for a minute it looked as if he was having trouble swimming. He was trying to get himself repositioned to reach up and touch noses with Bo. No one knows what doggie conversation took place, but Bear convinced Bo to make the same dive. To everyone's surprise, Bo dove in and went down about three feet. Water doesn't have the same meaning to a Shep as a Lab.

The tour ended when some of the humans got restless with thoughts of

darkness and crawlways flashing through their hearts. They returned to camp where everyone donned appropriate attire. They then made a trip down to the river entrance. Bear and Bo never noticed the cave; all they saw was more water. While the humans went about three 300 feet into the cave, they waded along enjoying the water. When the humans came out, the dogs stayed in the cave for a time, but finally came out for the next adventure.

Next adventure indeed! Climbing up the cliff to get back to camp! This little ordeal gets worse with every trip, as more and more of the path erodes away. A short way up, there used to be a narrow trail across the cliff face. Now there's a sheer cliff face with minimal hand and foot holds. Krisann yelled out, "Butch, you'll be proud of your dog. He's a real rock climber!" Bear picked out the foot holds and ran across the face, with Bo close behind. The climb wasn't as easy for the humans, but everyone made it. A few hearts were beating rapidly when

**Cavers
Crossword
Puzzle #2**



by Meta Huzarevich

ACROSS

1. A common formation that grows up from the floor of a cave.
3. Everybody needs to go ____.
6. They grow in different directions and they're a cave formation.
7. All cavers are ____.
9. What does Chad do to get trip reports?

DOWN

1. A common formation that grows from the ceiling.
2. Who wrote this puzzle?
4. To go down is to ____.
5. To come out of a verticle cave.
8. Who needs to send in trip reports?

memory and not some other form of mischief

Bear and Bo, tired after the bat flight, were barely able to stay awake for the ritual steak cooking and campfire talk. They summed up the day as wonderful and retired for the evening. This was one night to leave exploring for another time. They didn't even move when the coyotes started howling

Sunday morning, Mike and Krisann made an early departure back to the Metroplex. Butch, Clark and Suzy took a five-mile ride on mountain bikes with Bo trotting along side. Bo took every opportunity to stop and rest. Bear remained at camp with Sharon. The humans packed up their camping gear and started home. Along the way, Bear enjoyed several short swimming adventures, but did not express regret when it was time to go.

That was Bear and Bo's first trip inside River Styx cave. They had a great time and thanked the humans profusely for allowing them the adventure. Stay tuned for more caving adventures of Bear and Bo. They'll be underground again soon at a cave near you!

Kickapoo Cave

by Pat Copeland

Date: April 23, 1994

Cavers: Runi Burnett, Susan Scouby, Barbe Barker, Dave "Cave" McClung, Mike Anderson, Julie Huzarevich, Martha McArthur, Sheree Mahan, Donna Anderson, Paul Rodriguez, Pat Copeland

Cave: Kickapoo Caverns and Green Cave

(Susan, along with Ed Alexander and a group of Texas cavers, were surveying the cave, sometime in 1990, when Ed called out to Susan that her last name was written on the cave walls. Susan had not known that her grandfather had ever been in a cave, but to her surprise, after checking, she found out that it was her grandfather after all. Maybe she inherited her spirit for caving from her great-grandfather.)

Max was born near Com City. His

father died when he was really young, and his mother brought them back to Del Rio. Max Scouby and his brother, James, age 16, visited the cave on George Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, 1894. They spent their younger years in and around the Del Rio area. When he was old enough, his mother sent him to Nashville, Tenn. to prep school, then on to Vanderbilt for college. After graduating, he stayed and taught at Vanderbilt.

Susan's father was not a caver, but he was an adventurous man who built his own airplane and also raced boats. In fact, Susan is the only one in the family to enjoy caving. She says she kind of backed into it when Runi was working with Devil's Sinkhole.

Kickapoo Cave is located in a state natural area. This is not a park, like most people think. This is an area that has endangered species of Black-Capped Vireo, which are smaller than a wren and nest only in shrubs or small trees no taller than 33 inches. Cutting of the cedar has left the small birds almost homeless. Runi says there are 125 nesting pairs in the natural area. Also, the Pinion Pine is found there, along with the Tobusch Cacti. (Echino cacti) To'buschii.

The Mealey Blue Sage wild flower

was growing in abundance, also

Green Cave

The bat flight out of Green Cave was breathtaking.

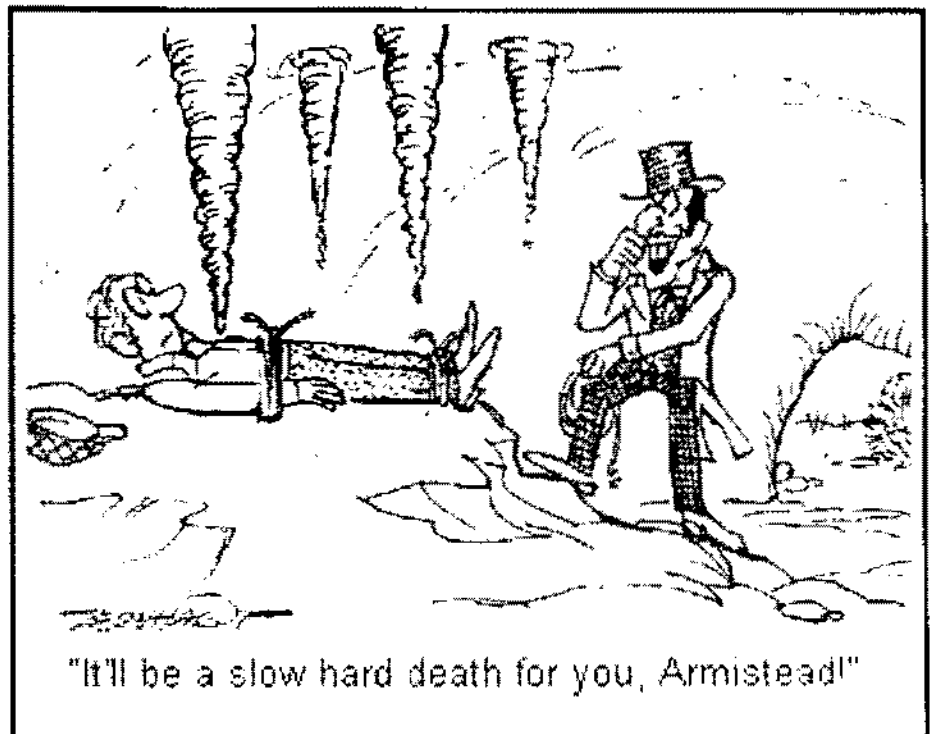
Dave Stewart, who is head over the natural area where Green Cave and Kickapoo are located, was there with a tour of visitors watching the bat flight. The bats are in abundance in Green Cave! The flight took hours, and it was very spectacular. While we were watching them, Susan saw one get caught in a thorn bush near the entrance. Runi rescued the small bat and while he was holding it and checking if it was injured, he showed us why they are called Freetailed bats.

Kickapoo Cave

After watching the bat flight, we drove to the parking area near Kickapoo Cave. Runi led the way. Since we were going to be guides or guardians of the cave during the convention, Runi wanted us to know the cave.

The hike up to the entrance is a short one, straight up the hill. It was a lot like Green Cave. There is a gate to protect this beautiful cave

The first several feet of the cave there is a lot of large breakdown. I was amazed at the massive room. This is the largest cave in Texas that I have



been in. The huge room reminded me of Cottonwood cave in the Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico.

Runi led us to the Signature Room where we saw Susan's grandfather's name. Along the way, we saw a small, white formation that Runi said has grown since 1988. When the state acquired this area, they took stock of it all. The land was overgrazed and that caused the water to run down the hills instead of soaking into the earth. The roots of grasses, flowers, and weeds were able to grow and they, in turn, diverted the water long enough to soak into the ground. Little did people know that overgrazing the land was not only detrimental to the topsoil, but also to the underground cavities. We also saw several other small formations on the rocks on the floor. This cave is getting a second chance to live.

The walls in the back of the large room looked like you were in Sonora Cavemis. It was adorned with many helictites and even some fish tail formations. It also has several large formations like Goliath in Cottonwood cave.

Runi led us to the lefthand room passage that was adorned with many small formations. The passage was only about five to 15 feet wide, and the ceiling was less than 10 feet high. Runi had some flagging, and we flagged a trail for the visitors to follow. Also, we decided to keep the large flow of people out of the Helictite Room and the Signature Room. Since there were going to be up to 100 people in the cave, this decision was made to protect the delicate parts of the cave.

Discussions about teams to man the cave were begun. We would need at least three and four if we had them. One would remain at the entrance to take names and make sure they had their badges issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife ranger at the gate to the park, while the other three would be stationed in different locations in the cave, making sure everyone enjoyed the cave and protecting the areas that were off-limits.

This cave is one of the biggest in

Binerisms

Submitted to Internet Cavers Digest by Frank Reid.

The following is a summary of a (non-drunken) campfire conversation at Indiana Cave Capers (August 13, 1994). Contributors include Anmar Mirza, Amanda Clark, Don Paquette, Frank Reid and others.

U.S. cavers often refer to carabiners as "biners." The term has caused confusion in regions where "beaners" is a pejorative term for Latinos. More-humorous confusion has resulted when U.S. cavers encountered Brits who call carabiners "crabs," which in U.S. English connotes public lice-infestation.

In cave rescue, a litter rigged for vertical hauling may have its various attachment points connected to a single carabiner colloquially called the "Jesus biner." Since it is a critical point upon which the entire system depends, the Jesus biner is an extra-large steel type having great safety-factor. The term is allegedly adapted from helicopter terminology: The "Jesus nut" attaches the main rotor to the rest of the aircraft; one trusts in it and Jesus, hoping that if one fails, the other won't.

Someone asked if smaller carabiners are Apostle biners. The consensus was yes, including Judas biners made of plastic. Someone opined that other deities should have biners too, and things went downhill from there, so to speak:

Allah Biners - Made of Allahminum, of course. Being lightweight, they are easy to transport to the mountain. Available with locking and non-locking Allah-gate's.

Buddha Biners - Alliterative virtual hardware for computer simulations.

Holey Ghost - multi-aperture rigging plate.

Mexican Jumping Biners - Bungee and parachute equipment manufactured in Mesoamerica.

Kidney Biners - Oddly-shaped oval/D types.

Navy Biners - Non-corrosive, very expensive. Marked "For Marine Use;" i.e., they are extremely simple to operate.

Pork 'N Biners - Especially strong, for overweight cavers. Also usable as can openers.

Haz-Biners - Obsolete types used by old cavers.

Concubiners - Rings that don't engage. If you fall, it wasn't legally binding.

How-You-Biners (a.k.a. "como frijoles") - Brightly colored, often made of titanium, these are worn as jewelry at caver social functions by biner weenies.

Texas and even though it isn't the longest, it ranks up there with the best of them. It is a must-see for all Texans! Hope everyone will take time at the convention and come see it.

Madonna Cave

by Pat Copeland

Date: July 23, 1994

Cavers: Mike Huber, Wayne Walker, Shannon Seals, Chad Horton, Pat Copeland

Cave: Cave of the Madonna

Marta Hollowell and I left Abilene about 6:00 and arrived at the top of Three Mile Hill about 12:00. We saw a nice, friendly campfire and found Mike

Hiber, Chad Horton (from California), Steve Farrer, Bobby Mack, Joe Miracle from the Amarillo area, and Wayne Walker from New Mexico. It was nice to be back here in the mountains and smell the wonderful pine trees.

While we were sitting around the campfire, we saw several cavers walking down the road. I called out to Wes Wells and his group. They had been to Cottonwood. It was great to see my friend David Feamster and to meet Dempsey Peterson, Wes Wells' son Lindsey, Shannon Seals, Stanley, and his son.

We all introduced ourselves and sat and talked 'til the wee hours. Finally, everyone decided that we had some caving to do and we had better get a few hours sleep.

Saturday morning found everyone getting something to eat and trying to wake up. Jim Werker and Dan Dennison from Lubbock arrived to greet their bunch from Amarillo. They were going to do Hidden cave, then go into Carlsbad Caverns. We bid them farewell.

Shannon arrived from the Abilene camp; he and I rode with Wayne Walker. It takes an hour just to drive to the parking lot of Madonna. Mike and Chad led the way and opened the gates, while we closed them. The road was very rough. Just getting to the cave is always a challenge! Finally, we arrived at the end of the road where we started walking to the entrance.

The mountains were indescribable; rugged, but beautiful. It is hard to describe the beauty of these mountains. Only the lucky, adventurous ones that have braved the rugged mountains know what I am talking about. The walk was great because we had good conversation while hiking.

Finally, after following the nose of the mountain, we started down, and boy, did we ever start going down. The trail was very steep; when we came to the steep rock ledge, I remembered it from the time before. The wind was blowing a little and it helped cool us, but the sun was very bright and hot. We soon came to the

unusual entrance.

The entrance looks like someone cut a gigantic hole in the side of the mountain through a solid rock wall, and just a few feet inside stands the Madonna on a ledge about 20 feet from the sloping area leading down into the cave. I guess we had her permission to enter the cave, for we all made our way through the small entrance that is secured by a gate.

Mike led the way and secured the rope for our descent. Mike went down first, then I went next, followed by Chad, Shannon, and Wayne. For about 70 feet you are in a chimney area, but then the bottom falls out, and you find yourself dangling on a tiny rope in a room the size of a football field. The drop is breathtaking, but I remembered that if you go down ... you also have to go back up....

When we all gathered our gear, we went over to Dean's Drop that leads to the Wine Cellar. The rope was rigged, and Mike went on down to make sure the rope went down the right crack. (Wonder where the other cracks go?) I had tattered my pack, but after a few feet of wiggling down the crack it came loose, and I yelled to Mike and Chad below, but they couldn't hear me. Thank goodness it landed on a ledge about 50 feet below, and I was able to retrieve it. I would have been in trouble if it had not landed on the small ledge, for it had all my climbing gear for getting out of here! They say this drop is 130 feet, but it seems like 230 feet. Finally, I reached the Wine Cellar.

I took Shannon to see the Shield, while Chad, Wayne, and Mike surveyed. Shannon was awestruck, just as I was the first time I was in this cave. We took many pictures and just stood and took in the beauty of this room. After seeing the Shield, we



Illustration by Mike for The Cave (1971) Mike/MEL

made our way back to find Mike and the others to help with the survey, but we didn't make the right turn and found ourselves in another beautiful room with lots of Dog Tooth Spar. It was purple, and under the ledge of light blue was a ball about two feet by a foot and a foot high that was solid black with their diamond-shaped ends sticking out. After taking a few pictures, we went back to our gear, and Mike came back for his pack. We followed him back to the most awesome room in the world! We saw on the ceiling spar that was over a foot long. The spar was measured: it was 1 foot, 2.5 inches long and was 2 inches thick. I couldn't believe this was possible, but the room had more. We noticed the wall was solid spar, but it was being covered in areas with white carbonate coating, then in some places it had formations of flowstone forming over the crust. I wonder what the spar had replaced and just how old it was?

Wayne was going bananas trying to sketch everything in on his survey. Chad and Mike checked some high leads, but nothing was found. On one place, we saw black on large wall formations like the entrance of Black Cave. Mike thought there might be another entrance. After the sketching was done, we moved to Mike's favorite room, Oggly Mugiy. Getting there was a challenge, but we all made it.

The room is wet, with the finest helictites I have ever seen. It had every kind of formation you could think of. Then there was the King that the room was named after. He was sitting on his throne with his subjects surrounding him. Although he was only slightly over a foot high, he was clearly the King! Carol Hill talks about helictites in many New Mexico caves, but I wish she could see this room and all its glory. The pictures we took of Oggly Mugly were not as good as the ones Mike has taken. Guess I will just have to beg him for one of the King. We finally pried ourselves away from all the beauty and made our way back to the

Wine List where we all signed our names and read the interesting and funny things cavers have written in the book.

Time had come for us to start up the HORRIBLE chimney. Wayne free-climbed behind me, for I was using my full climbing gear. He unhooked my Gibbs in one place where I could free climb, for my Gibbs kept getting hung up. Thanks, Wayne, for all the help. There is no easy way to do this climb, for I could hear Wayne struggling behind me. We finally made it up, followed by Mike and Chad free-climbing behind Shannon, for he was also us-

ing his gear.

The climb out of the New Year's Room went as usual. It was a lot easier than the climb out of the Wine Cellar- longer, but three-fourths of it is free, and your equipment doesn't get hung. Everyone made it up, and we started out.

It was 1:30 when we reached the entrance, and we looked up at the stars and the beautiful full moon bathing the great mountains in its light. The cliffs even cast shadows on the ridges of the mountains. The moon was so bright, we didn't need our lights to see the trail walking back to

New COMPASS Cave Survey Software Release

Submitted to Internet Cavers Digest by Larry Fish

(Ed's note: I know a number of you are using various software packages for cave surveying, but I didn't know if anyone was using this one. A later Cavers Digest posting gave an FTP address to get this, so if anyone is interested give me a call and we'll make arrangements to get a copy.)

I want to announce the latest release of the COMPASS cave survey software system. This version has many new features and enhancements.

There are more than 30 changes to the software, making it faster, more memory-efficient, and more robust. Here are some of the new features:

NEW GIS FEATURES

The biggest change is the addition of a special GIS module. GIS stands for "Geographic Information System." The GIS module allows you to collect, analyze and display any cave attribute or feature. You can link databases of cave information directly to the survey files. For example, you could tie the location of minerals, water, archeological sites, trade routes, animal life, etc. into the survey file. You can then, at the touch of a button, selectively plot or display these features.

NEW EDITOR MODES

The COMPASS editor now has two modes of operation: One Shot Mode and WYSIWYG Mode. In One Shot Mode, only one shot is displayed on the screen at one time. WYSIWYG stands for "What-You-See-is-What-You-Get." This means that the entry layout looks like a page from a normal survey book. In other words, each survey is on a separate line, and you can

see up to 10 shots at a time.

One Shot Mode has the advantage of giving you a less cluttered display, where it is easy to see each shot item. WYSIWYG mode has the advantage of looking like the survey book, which makes it easier to check for errors.

You can instantly toggle between One Shot Mode and WYSIWYG Mode by hitting a single key.

As always, both modes can be configured so that the order of the data items matches the survey book. For example, azimuth, length, inclination, and up, down, right, left, can be in any order you specify.

EASY INSTALLATION AND CONFIGURATION

COMPASS now features a completely professional setup program that makes installation easy. You just type "INSTALL", and answer a few simple questions about your printer and your computer; COMPASS does the rest. In a few minutes you are viewing caves. You can even do custom installation for laptops and floppy-based systems.

HOW TO GET COMPASS

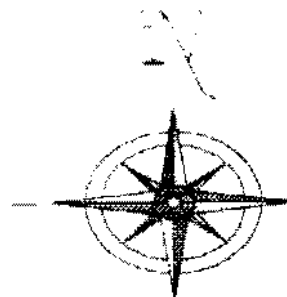
COMPASS is a shareware product. You can try it out free. If you like it and want to use it the cost is \$25.00. If you don't like it then don't use it and pay nothing.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want detailed information about the features of COMPASS, or how to get a free evaluation copy through anonymous ftp, send an e-mail request to

lfish@nyx.cs.du.edu

and I will send you an information packet.



the cars.

Shannon was a tired little "puppy" when we reached the cars. Some of us changed clothes and drank our Cokes and Gatorade, then we all loaded into the cars and drove back to camp.

Marta was asleep, but woke up and talked to us while we had a feast on brisket sandwiches, and dessert was cookies. The wind was getting cold, and it was nearly 3:00, so we all decided it was time to get some rest. The others slept in their tents or cars, but I love sleeping outside in the night air. I went to sleep thinking of how gorgeous the moon was shining on the mountains as we came out of Madonna. It is things like this that build memories....

VISITOR HOURS AT CCNP TO CHANGE

Submitted to Internet Cavers Digest by Oren Tranbarger

News Release
National Park Service
By Bob Cnsman
August 10, 1994

Visitor hours at Carlsbad Caverns National Park will change on August 22, 1994, according to Park Superintendent Frank J. Deckert.

The seasonal adjustment in hours and tours is taking place two weeks earlier than in previous years and reflects the late summer drop in visitors that has come about with earlier school openings.

Under the new schedule, the park visitor center will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. The self-guided Natural Entrance route of the cavern will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily, and self-guided Big Room trips will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Ranger-guided King's Palace tours will be offered six times daily at 8:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m., and at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. until early November when four daily trips will be offered. One daily off-trail trip to an undeveloped

area of Carlsbad Cavern is also planned.

While there are no limits for either of the self-guided trips, both the King's Palace tours and off-trail trips have limits, and tickets for the guided trips may be purchased in advance by calling 505-785-2232. Some additional tours are planned over the three-day Labor Day holiday.

Evening Bat Flight Programs, which are held at the natural entrance amphitheater, will continue through October, or until the bat colony migrates to Mexico for the winter. The evening programs are free and begin around sunset.

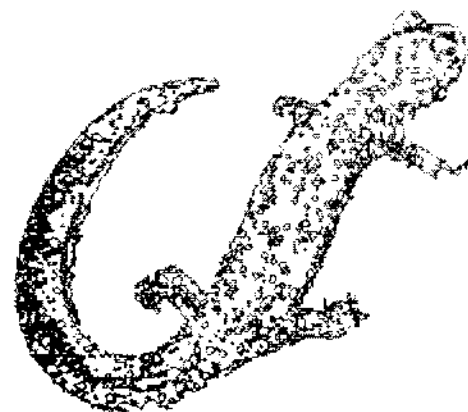
Slaughter Canyon Cave, an undeveloped cave located 23 miles from Carlsbad Caverns visitor center and west of the park's Rattlesnake Springs unit, will also go to weekend tours after August 21, with two tours offered each Saturday and Sunday.

Reservations are required for Slaughter Canyon Cave trips and can be made by calling the park.

Food service, a gift shop, and

bookstore are available at the park, along with exhibits, surface trails and an observation tower.

Self-guided cave trips are \$5 for adults and \$3 for ages 6-15, with children under six admitted free. Ranger-guided trips have separate fees ranging from \$4 to \$12 for adults and from \$2 to \$6 for ages 6-15 depending on the tour route. Holders of Golden-Age passports receive a 50-percent discount on all cavern fees.



Cave Trivia Answers

by Meta Huzarevich

Deepest Cave in USA: Lechuguilla Cave Location NM

Longest Cave in USA: Mammoth Cave Location KY

Deepest Cave in world: Gouffre Gean Benard Location France

Longest Cave in world: Mammoth Cave Location KY

Deepest Cave in Texas: Sorcerer's Cave Location Terrell Co

Longest Cave in Texas: Honey Creek Cave Location Cornal Co

In 1925, who was trapped in a cave for a supposed 15 days? Floyd Collins

What endangered bat is an efficient insect catcher? Grey Bat

Moytis griseciens is also known as the Grey Bat

How old was Floyd Collins when he died? ??

No one sent in a complete set of answers. Better luck next time

Calendar Of Events

September 10-11, 1994, **Fitton Cave Survey**. Contact Pete Lindsay, (214) 727-2497.

September 18, 1994, **Carlsbad Caverns Formation Audit**. Contact Carlsbat Cavers, Phyllis Weston.

October 7-9 1994, **Tag Cave-In, Valley Head, Alabama**. Contact E.T. Davis, (404) 973-8233.

October 8-9, 1994, **Fitton Cave Survey**. Contact Pete Lindsay, (214) 727-2497.

October 21-23 1994, **Texas Cavers' Reunion, Near Pedernales Falls State Park**. Contact Gill Ediger, (512) 441-0050.

November 4-11 1994, **7th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain**.
USA contact: William R. Halliday, IUS Working Group on Volcanic Caves, 6530 Cornwall Ct. Nashville, TN. 37205.
(615) 352-9204, FAX (615) 385-0491.

November 19-27, 1994, **4th Annual Caverns of Sonora Restoration Project**. Contact George Veni, (210) 558-4403

July 17-21, 1995, **NSS Convention, Blacksburg, Virginia**. Contact Carol Tideman, (410) 792-0742.

August 3-9, 1996, **NSS Convention, Salida, Colorado**. Contact Skip Withrow, (303) 693-0997.

