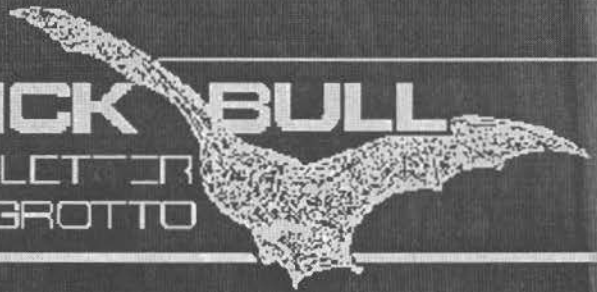


THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTO



Volume 9 Issue 7

July 1995



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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 pro-

vide 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 Mike Anderson at 448-9764 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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(512) 686-0234

Photo Credits

This month's cover photo was taken by Shanon Seals during his recent expedition to Pink Dragon. See article inside. Page 5 The Pink Dragon crew. Not sure who took it, since everyone is in it, but Shanon submitted it.

Other Credits

Co-Editors: Chad Fenner
Butch Frailia

Editor-in-charge-of-English: Lisa Fenner

Meeting-Minute-Taker (June meeting): Mike Anderson

Minutes For the June Meeting

Maverick Grotto, June 13, 1995

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

Visitors:

Keith and Kari Foshee

Ed and Laura Goff

Announcements:

Don Metzner announced an upcoming Mystic Trip for June 17.

Jim Payne will be married this weekend in Junction, Tx.

Mike Nelson needs women softball players.

Mike Nelson did not get the NSS video that was to be this month's program.

Treasurer's Report:

Not available.

Old Business:

Vertical Practice: Butch did talk to Ernest about doing a vertical class. It will have to be in the late August/September time frame. A classroom will be needed for part of the class. Mike Anderson offered his house if no other could be found.

New Business:

None.

Trip Reports:

Fitton: A group went to Fitton that included Mike Anderson, Pam Massey, John Langevin, Dan, Ben, and Pam Jones.

The last trip to Colorado Bend State Park went well, except for some rain. Butch and Keith have decided to shut down the monthly trips for a year to give themselves a break (See article in last month's *Bull*.)

The meeting was then closed, and in lieu of the missing NSS video, Pam Massey showed pictures of her recent Fitton Trip.

Co-Editor's Co-Ramblings

Happy July!

This month's newsletter is a co-production by myself (Chad) and Butch Fralia. I'm leaving for vacation tomorrow (June 26) and won't be back until after the newsletter is supposed to be mailed, so Butch graciously agreed to help out. The bad news is that now you have to sit through both of us doing some rambling. (Good thing the meeting minutes were short or we might not have enough room!) Fortunately, I started out with three trip reports (with pictures) in hand, so my half was easy.

Maybe next month we'll have a trip report from the recent Fitton trip. Not that I'm dropping hints, but Pam did such a great job with trip reports from Virgin and Colorado Bend in last month's newsletter that I bet she could do a fine Fitton report.

Well, I better save room for Butch.

Good caving.

-CF

Here I am rambling again while some people get to go on vacation. Chad dropped off the newsletter and said; 'I left you lots of room to ramble,' so here I am. Chad also left a few pages to fill up. As I'm writing this, I haven't any idea what I'll fill it up with but have patience gentle reader, something will come along. I'm going to dig through some pictures I've collected over the years. My collection isn't the greatest but they bring back memories. I'd like to solicit a collection of photographs from you the reader of the *Maverick Bull*. I'd like to put together a photo article called "THE WAY WE WERE." It's no secret that I haven't been caving all my life. About ten years ago, I made my way to cavers and with their help got

to participate in the dream of a lifetime. In that ten years I've watched people come and go. They tried their hand at caving then went on to their next "great adventure." I'd like to gather pictures of those folks and revive their memory here in the *BULL*. If you have anything you'd like to immortalize in print, let me know.

Chad and Lisa continue to do a great job on our newsletter. Since I'm finishing it off (and rambling), I want to brag on them a little. Every month they put out a class newsletter. Every month they scramble for articles and always come up with something neat. Great job Chad and Lisa!!! You gotta brag on them once in a while and keep their interest up!!!

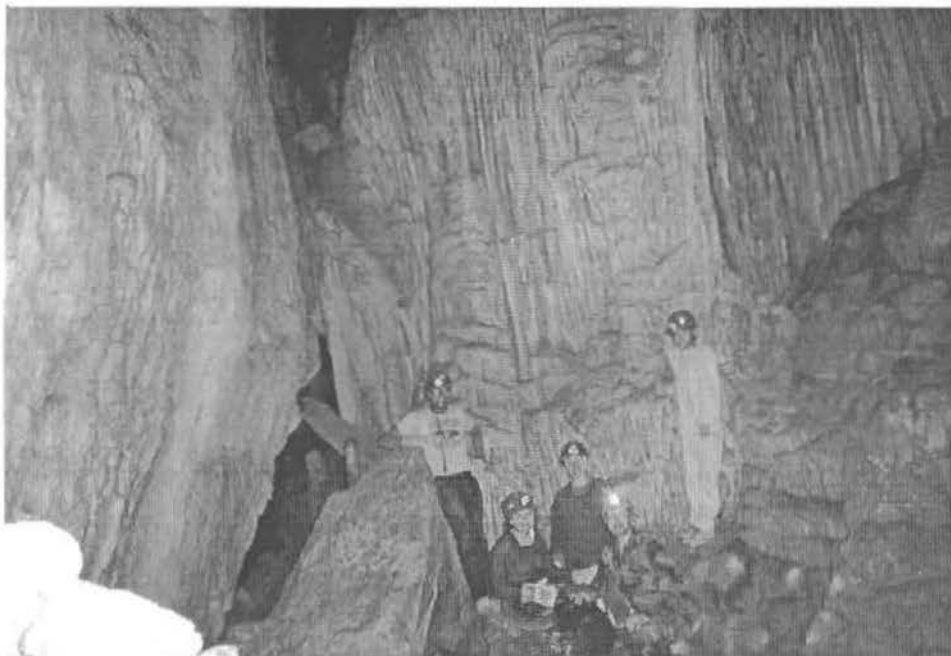
Well, I've almost used up I my rambling room, so as Chad said Good Caving!!!!

- BF -

The July Meeting

The July meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11 at Smokey's Ribs,

5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m. This month's program will be ???



completely inside, the dust was not as bad. Eventually I was able to remove the bandanna. Our first big formation was a mushroom (see cover photo). I had never seen one before, so it was really great. We moved along and saw many other pretty formations. Much of the cave is no longer alive, but it was still beautiful. There was one place toward the back that we had to take our packs off and crawl through on our stomachs. It was tight, but we all made it. Once we were through, Troy pointed out the formation that gave the cave its name -- the dragon. We decided to take a break there because it was a nice big room.

The next room was where the fried egg is located. We all stood around it with our lights off. Troy flashed it with his camera, and we watched it glow. We headed back to the room where the dragon was and saw another path to explore. Liz and I were tired and dreading the hike back, so we let the others go to see if it was anything special. After a few minutes, Shanon came back to get more film for the camera. He said they found a beautiful room. Liz and I headed down the path, while Shanon went looking for film. Liz and I went farther and farther down what was like a corridor. We reached the end and could not figure out what happened. We never found Troy or Rachel, but there was no

where else to go. We started to call for them, but no one answered. We started to get a little concerned. Even Shanon was not answering our calls. I decided that we should just stay there, and Shanon would come get us. He knew what direction we had gone. Liz and I were enjoying the view around us while we waited. I looked up at the ceiling and noticed a hole. I told Liz she should come over and see this hole. As I moved closer, I screamed. There was Rachel sitting at the top of the hole. She and Troy were really laughing. They had been right above our heads the entire time.

The room was so small that only one person could go in at a time, and another person could stand in the opening. Shanon came back, and I went in with him. The room looked like glitter had been sprinkled on the walls. It was gorgeous!

We went on to explore the rest of the cave. There were several other large rooms with great formations. One room had a pool that was emerald green. Just past the pool was a room that had a slope that looked like a giant slide. I knew that I could not make it back up with my sore ankle, so Liz and I stayed behind. Rachel came back saying it was good we stayed behind because the "slide" was covered in dogtooth spar, so it was a bumpy

ride.

Back at the entrance of the cave we rested for a while before heading back. The trip back was long and hard for me because of my ankle. I wish I had a nickel for every time Troy said "We're almost there." Shanon got a nosebleed about halfway back, so we had to stop for that (not that I minded the break). (Ed's note -- You'd think that anyone who could do Madonna on his first trip to the Guads could've made it to the Pinks and back without a nosebleed!) Then he ended up carrying my pack the last portion of the trip. We finally made it back to the truck. (I say "we" -- Troy and Rachel were there way ahead of the rest of us.)

On the drive back to camp Rachel said that the road was too rough and she was going to puke. We asked her if she wanted out so she could hike back to camp. She replied, "I'd rather puke than hike!"

Return

By Johnathan Smith

This is a follow up report to the article last month regarding the exploration of Los Juanitos, a very deep vertical cave in southern Mexico.

In previous explorations we had encountered high levels of carbon dioxide at varying degrees and at different depths in the cave. We found an excellent article by one Butch Fralia in *The Maverick Bull* on how to use a simple lighter to determine oxygen and carbon dioxide percentages in such situations. I highly recommend this article to anyone "caving" in this kind of environment. Butch was also extremely helpful in an hour phone conversation about the same topic. Armed with this new knowledge, we returned to Los Juanitos last March ('95).

For the first time in four years, everything clicked along right on schedule or better. No problems at the border, no vehicle trouble on the 1,600-mile

(one-way) trip, plenty of donkeys at the village to shuttle all the heavy technical gear to the top of the mountain. Because we all either work or study, our exploration time is limited to a total of 11 days, including travel time. By the end of the first day at the site, we were set up to descend to a ledge at -800 ft. We set up a few anchors and communications relay to go for the "Great Unknown."

After a good and much-needed rest, Mike Galdamez and I began our descent to the ledge, unspooling communications wire and guiding a large load of gear. Everything went incredibly well to -600 ft. The air quality was excellent, everything was going smoothly.

At that point, Mike's radio wire jammed temporarily. I checked the air quality, then descended about 20 ft. farther. Immediately I began experiencing low oxygen/high carbon dioxide symptoms - clammy sweatiness, accelerated heartbeat, poor breathing. The flame test revealed that the oxygen was well below 17%. The lighter would not light.

After having Mike verify my observations, we radioed the top with the sad but true news - we'd have to abort. We changed over to an ascent mode. When I reached where Mike was, I found that the air quality was the same as it had been lower down - still no flame. We had to climb 200 ft. to finally reach good air again.

IMPORTANT NOTE - The weather was unseasonably warm -- about 75° for an afternoon high. I am all but convinced that the relatively warmer air at the surface was creating a low pressure system that was pulling up bad air from lower in the cave. That is the only logical explanation I have come up with for why the bad air was rising so rapidly. SO... keep surface air temperatures in mind when exploring potentially bad-air caves. Areas that may have good air may quickly change.

So we climbed out and got off the mountain on the third day, glad that everyone was well, but quite disappointed nonetheless.

Friday, the last day available for spelunking, we hiked back out to the same general area of Los Juanitos to another deep pit I'd found in a valley many years earlier. I'd named it El Margarito in honor of one of my best friends from that region who'd instilled in me a great love for these wonderful mountains. After an easy three-point anchor setup using natural protection, we rappelled to the bottom with no problems whatsoever. The air was excellent, the formations on the walls were great, the rappel was spectacular. The total depth is -500 ft., shallow by Los Juanitos standards, but a delightful pit all the same. Unlike Juanitos, the entrance to El Margarito is huge, possibly 80-100 ft. across. At the bottom we found a small, shallow pool of rainwater about three feet deep, covering the entire shaft bottom. There is a large cavern (The ceiling is about 30 feet above the floor.) going off from the bottom of the shaft in a south-easterly direction -- right toward Los Juanitos several miles away and about 1,500 ft. lower in elevation. Time constraints kept us from doing any lateral exploration, but we look forward to returning and seeing what lies behind the darkness.

Eight people reached the bottom of El Margarito, where we left a plastic bottle with our names and the date attached to the wall: Todd Fiskin, Jonathan Smith, Victor Magallon, Martha Magallon, Tim Matlick, Steve Matlick, Jonathan Fast and Mike Galdamez. Date - March 24, 1995. Serving as ground crew that day were Dr. John Galdamez and James "Hans" Madison. The rest of the crew that worked so hard at Los Juanitos opted to spend the day in town. They were: Paul Warren, Paul Potter, Ryan Galdamez and two good friends that accompanied us on the trip, Valerie Horn and Mandi Shearer.

Grateful appreciation again to Butch Fralia for his invaluable information, Blue Water, NSS for the grant for the '94 exploration, and so many that helped in many small ways that enabled this exploration to come off.

Thanks especially to God, our

Creator, for giving us such delightful places to enjoy and protect, and for making it possible for us to enjoy it all in His Presence and Friendship through his son Jesus.



Who is this Caver?

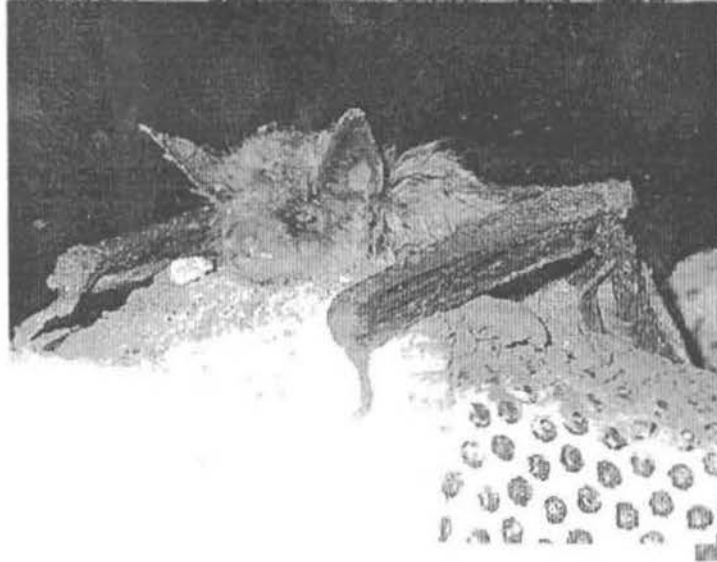
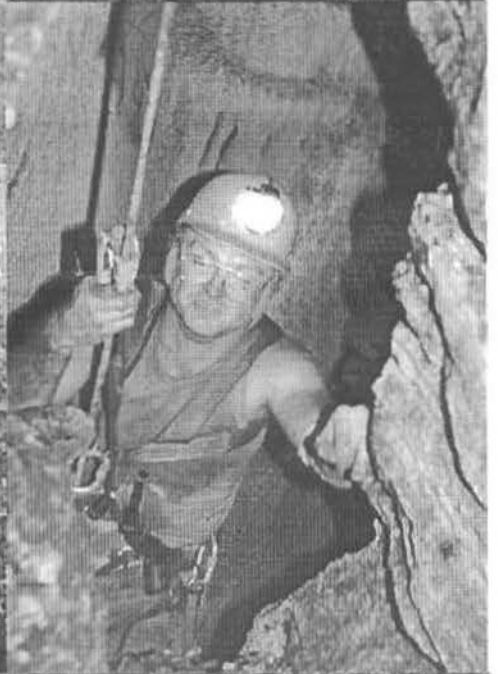
Can you identify this mystery caver? This is a world-renowned caver known to specialize in small places. If you've ever caved with this person, this is what you usually see. In fact, if you can see more than than shoe soles, you're doing pretty good! In a cave, this person isn't happy until rock touches every dimension of the body!

Cavers: Just plain folks who's thoughts run a little deeper than most!

Cavers: People who see the world from the inside out!

Cavers: People who hear "down under" and don't think of Australia!

Cavers: People who like to read newsletters but not write articles!



WORLDS 50 LONGEST CAVES

Data from WORLD LONG CAVE LIST 7/94 - COMPILED BY Bob Gulden NSS#13188

Downloaded from Compuserve - Outdoor Forum

Rank	Cave Name	Country	Length (meters)	Length (miles)
1	Mammoth Cave System	U.S.A.(KY)	560071.2	348
2	Optimisticeskaja (Gypsum)	C.I.S.	183000	113.7
3	Holloch	Switzerland	164958	102.4
4	Jewel Cave	U.S.A.(ND)	160934	99.9
5	Siebenhengste-hohgant Hohlensystem (Mutlsee.)	Switzerland	126000	78.3
6	Wind Cave	U.S.A.(ND)	120701	75
7	Fischer Ridge Cave System	U.S.A.	114498	71.1
8	Lechuguilla Cave	U.S.A.(NM)	112654	70
9	Gua Air jernih- Lubang Batai Padang	Malaysia	101500	63.1
10	Sistema de Ojo Guarena	Spain	97400	60.5
11	Reseau de la Courme d'Houernedo(e)	France	90496	56.2
12	Zolushka (Gypsum)	Moldavia	85500	53.1
13	Sistema Purificacion	Mexico	78626	48.9
14	Raucherkarhohe	Austria	70000	43.5
15	Hiriatzhohle	Austria	70000	43.5
16	Friars Hole Cave System	U.S.A. (WV)	69363	43.1
17	Easegill System	United Kingdom	66000	41
18	Organ (Greenbrier) Cave System	U.S.A. (WV)	63569	39.5
19	Red Del Rio Silencio	Spain	58600	36.4
20	Reseau de L'Alpe	France	56727	35.3
21	Reseau de la Dent de Crollee	France	55000	34.2
22	Kap-Kutan/Promezhutochnaja	C.I.S.	55000	34.2
23	Mamo Kananda	Papua New Guinea	54800	34
24	Sistema Huautla	Mexico	52653	32.7
25	Reseau de La Pierre Saint Martin	France / Spain	51200	31.8
26	Ogof Flynnon Ddu	United Kingdom	50000	31.1
27	Complesso Fighiera-Farolfi-Anfro Del Corchia	Italy	49800	30.9
28	Blue Spring Cave	U.S.A.	48731	30.3
29	Carlsbad Cavern	U.S.A. (NM)	45866	28.5
30	Blue Spring Cave	U.S.A.	45544	28.3
31	Crevice Cave	U.S.A.	45385	28.2
32	Cumberland Caverns	U.S.A.	44444	27.6
33	Santo Tomas (gran caverna de)	Cuba	44165	27.4
34	Pestera Vintului	Romania	42165	26.2
35	Eisriesenwelt	Austria	42000	26.1
36	Bol'shaja Oreshnaja (Conglomerate)	C.I.S.	42000	26.1
37	Sistema de los Cuatro V.	Spain	41079	25.5
38	Dachstein-Mammuthohle	Austria	40350	25.1
39	Le Systeme de Teng Long	China	40000	24.8
40	Sloans Valley Cave System	U.S.A.	38640	24.6
41	Xanadu Cave System	U.S.A.	38301	23.8
42	The Hole (Boggs Cave)	U.S.A.	37020	23
43	Whippistle Cave (MCNP)	U.S.A.	36208	22.5
44	Toca da Boa Vista	Brazil	36000	22.4
45	Bulmer Caverns - Castle Keep - Gormenghast	New Zealand	35600	22.1
46	Atea Kananda	Papua New Guinea	34500	21.4
47	Culverson Creek Cave System	U.S.A.	33507	20.8
48	Tantalohle	Austria	33000	20.5
49	Ogof Agen Allwedd	United Kingdom	32900	20.4
50	System Amaterskeja Punkevni Jesky	Czechoslovakia	32500	20.2

WORLDS DEEPEST 50 CAVES

Data from WORLD DEEP CAVE LIST 7/94 - COMPILED BY Bob Gulden NSS#13188

Downloaded from Compuserve - Outdoor Forum

Rank	Cave Name	Country	Depth (meters)	Depth (feet)
1	Reseau Jean Bernard	France	1602	5236.2
2	Gouffre Miroida / Gouffre Lucien Bouclier	France	1520	4987.1
3	Shakta Vjacheslav Pantjukhina	Georgia	1508	4947.7
4	Lamprechtsofen - Verlorener Weg Schacht	Austria	1463	4865.7
5	Sistema del Trave	Spain	1441	4727.9
6	Boj-Bulok	C.I.S.	1415	4642.6
7	Laminako Aleak (puertas de Ilanina(BU 56))	Spain	1408	4619.6
8	Sistema Cheve (Cuicateco)	Mexico	1386.1	4547.5
9	Sniezhnaja-Mezhonnogo	Georgia	1370	4495
10	Ceki 2 (Cehi)	Slovenia	1370	4495
11	Sistema Huautla	Mexico	1353	4439.2
12	Reseau de La Pierre Saint Martin	France/Spain	1342	4403.1
13	Gouffre Berger - Gouffre de la Fromagero	France	1278	4193.1
14	Cosanostraloch - Berger - Platteneck Hohle	Austria	1265	4150.5
15	Vladimir V. Iljukhina System	Georgia	1265	4150.5
16	Torca dos los Rebecos	Spain	1255	4117.7
17	Sotano (Sistema) Akematl (Axematl)(Axematl)	Mexico	1226	4022.5
18	Abisso Olivifer (Olivifer)	Italy	1220	4002.8
19	Schwersystem (Batmanhole)	Austria	1219	3999.5
20	Orneljsko brezno	Slovenia	1198	3930.8
21	Complesso Fighiera-Farolfi-Antro Del Corchia	Italy	1190	3904.4
22	Sistema Aranera	Spain	1185	3888
23	Dachstein Mammuthohle	Austria	1160	3871.6
24	Jubiläumsschacht	Austria	1173	3848.5
25	Anou Iflis	Algeria	1170	3838.8
26	Sima 56 de Andara (B15-B1(Fuente de Escuin))	Spain	1169	3835.5
27	Kijabe (Xontjoa) Shunthua (Kajabe Xuntua)	Mexico	1160	3806
28	G. de Bracas de Thurugne 6 (Riviere de Sudet)	France	1159	3802.7
29	Abisso Nave le Donne	Italy	1156	3792.8
30	Sistema Badalona	Spain	1149	3769.9
31	Sistema del (Pozu) Xitu	Spain	1148	3766.6
32	Arabikskaja (Kuibyshevskaja)(Kuibyshevskaja)	Georgia	1110	3641.9
33	Schnitzloch	Austria	1101	3612.4
34	Sima G.E.S.M.	Spain	1098	3602.5
35	Jagerbrunntrug system	Austria	1078	3536.9
36	Sotano de Ocotempa	Mexico	1064	3491
37	Siebenhengste-hohigant Hohlsystem (Muttsee.)	Switzerland	1055	3461.5
38	Pozzo Della Neve	Italy	1050	3445.1
39	Akema Bis (sotano de albast?)	Mexico	1050	3445.1
40	Vardima	Slovenia	1042	3418.8
41	Cukurpinar Dudeni	Turkey	1040	3412.2
42	Herbsthohle (Meanderhohle)	Austria	1028	3372.9
43	Torca de Uriello	Spain	1022	3353.2
44	Reseau de la Coumo d'Hyuernedo(e)	France	1018	3340.1
45	Kievskaja	C.I.S.	990	
46	Pozo de Cuetaibo (M2)	Spain	986	3238.1
47	Reseau des Aiguilles	France	980	3215.4
48	Abisso di Malga Fossetta	Italy	974	3195.7
49	Schnellzughohle-Stellerweghohle-144-142	Austria	972	3189.1
50	Moskovskaja	Georgia	972	3189.1

Calendar Of Events

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

Sept. 1-4 TSA Labor Day Project - TBD

Sept. 2-4, CRF Labor Day Expedition - Contact Brian Holcomb (505) 266-8485

Sept 30-Oct 1, Fitton Cave Survey - Contact Pete Lindsley (214) 727-2497

October 20-22, Texas Cavers Reunion, Flat Creek Ranch - Contact Susie Lasko (512) 873-0256

Nov. 23-26 CRF Thanksgiving Expedition at Carlsbad Caverns - Contact Brian Holcomb (505) 266-8485

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

[REDACTED]