

THE MAVERICK BULL
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Volume 9 Issue 9

September 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 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 was taken Chad Fenner in Ogle Cave New Mexico.

Other Credits

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Minutes For the August Meeting

Maverick Grotto, August 8, 1995

The August meeting informally began around 7 p.m. The business portion was called to order at 7:33 by Grotto Vice-president Mike Neison (I'll bet you didn't even know we had a president in charge of vice!)

Visitors:

Mike Montgomery from White Settlement

Announcements:

There are still T-shirts available. (You know, I thought that we could get the T-shirts out of the meeting minutes when we finally got them printed. Little did I know they would

just transition from "Old Business" to "Announcements")

Russel Hill has a new hobby that is cutting into (but not eliminating) his caving time. He has a 22-foot sailboat. He made an offer to anyone interested to take them out.

Treasurer's Report:

The Porters were here and gave a treasurer's report, but I wasn't paying attention, so I missed it. Suffice it to say, we still have money in the bank.

Old Business:

The Vertical Practice date has been set and expanded to three

weekends. It's now Sept. 30/Oct. 1, Oct. 7/8, and 14/15. The location is still TBD.

New Business:

None.

Trip Reports:

John and Dawn Langevin went to the NSS '95 Convention.

Pam Massey made a trip to Carlsbad and got into Lower Cave and Lake of the Clouds.

At a near-record of 7:56 p.m., the meeting was then closed. There was no organized program, but we did talk a lot and look at Pam's pictures.

Editor's Ramblings

Happy September!

The fall caving season is upon us. I know of several great fall trips, so I hope to see many trip reports in the coming weeks.

COWs mount an assault on Slaughter Canyon. No, it's not what you think. On a recent trip I was on, Shannon Seals, Larry Martin, and myself found ourselves huffing and puffing away as we made our way up to the entrance of Ogle Cave. We decided to call ourselves the "Fat White Boys With Desk Jobs." Clark and Susie Giles were with us, and in spite of their pleading, we voted to

not allow them into our "club." (Not nearly enough panting!)

The next day, we were joined by Shannon's wife, Angela, on our way to Christmas Tree Cave. Angela's performance certainly qualified her to be a charter member, maybe even president; however, she obviously wasn't a "boy." That, and in the interest of being PC, caused us to rethink our name. We finally agreed on "Cellulite-intensive Office Workers", or COWs for short. Thus a new era of caving is upon us.

Oh, one other thing. During the Christmas Tree trip, Clark committed

an offense against the COWs that was so great that it earned him the first-ever "banned for life" status from the voting members of the COWs. He carried Angela's pack! Not instead of his own, but *with* his own pack as well. And he had the rope to boot. And to top it off, he still beat the rest of us to the entrance. Disgraceful!

What happens if you take an S-10 Chevy Blazer and give it plenty of water and fertilizer? Ask me at the next meeting.

Good caving.

The September Meeting

The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept 12 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E Lancaster, at 7 p.m. This month Butch Frailia will be doing a slide show on Colorado

Bend State Park. The slides come courtesy of Keith Heuss who coordinated the project for eight years. The slides presented will cover cover years 1988 thru 1990.

Among the slides are rare shots from the January 1988 trip when the temperature dropped down to 13°. Gorman Falls froze completely creating a spectacular sight.

Fall MVOR

This message is to let everyone know that the 1995 Fall MVOR is being hosted by the Evansville Metropolitan Grotto and will be held September 29, 30 and October 1, at the Crawford County Fairgrounds in English, Indiana.

The event opens Friday at noon with registration and self-led cave trips. On Friday night, we will have a hotdog and soda howdy party. Saturday will feature led and self-led cave trips, along with discount coupons for Marengo Cave and Cave Country Canoes. Saturday evening will feature a banquet (fried chicken, roast beef, corn, green beans, slaw, mashed potatoes, rolls, fruit cobbler, coffee, lemonade and iced tea), followed by a guest speaker, business meeting, door prizes, and traditional bonfire!

If you are interested, pre-registrations must be in no later than September 8, 1995! If you need any further information, feel free to send me a private message at the following address:

dmayes2717@aol.com

or FALL MVOR
c/o Steve Weinzapfel
1787 W. Division Rd.
Jasper, IN 47546

Huautla in the Media Again

The quest of Dr. Bill Stone's Huautla Cave System project has once again made the magazine stands in America. Is it just another "Bill bashing" as last years "Outside Magazine" article was propoorted to be? I think not, this time anyway.

The magazine is the September 1995 issue of *National Geographic*. The reason that this Huautla article probably won't be as antagonistic toward the project's leader is that the article is written by Dr. William C. Stone himself. The 16-page article describes the cave itself, as well as the goals of

the project (which include connecting the system to a downstream river, making it the deepest cave in the world), and even how the 44-member crew was affected by the death of Ian Rolland last year. In addition to the text, there are 15 photos from inside the cave, many-full page, some even spanning two pages, an insert on the MK4 diving rebreather, and a detailed map of the cave system.

National Geographic has an incredible reputation to uphold, and this article isn't dissappointing. The only downside to it is that, since it is *National Geographic*, you can't just hop on down to your local magazine store and pick up a given issue. The magazine is only sent to those who are members of the *National Geographic* Society. Fortunately, since no issue of *National Geographic* has ever been thrown away, particular issues are often available at used book and magazine stores within a few months of publication. (You are aware of the prediction that the entire North American continent will sink from the total combined gross weight of every copy of every issue ever printed, right? Since no one ever throws away issues of *National Geographic*, eventually, enough will be printed to sink the entire continent.)

In any case, beg, borrow, or steal one, but check it out.

Incident in Lechiguilla

Apparently there was a minor accident in Lechiguilla last month. Peter Jones first mentioned it on the Net, but his details were sketchy and second-hand. Here are two first-hand reports that were posted on the Internet.

Story one by John Lyles

There was a rescue in Lechiguilla Cave last Monday/Tuesday, Aug. 8-9. An official Park Service press release was issued, which Oren will probably post here. It was also in the Carlsbad paper. One correction to that article is where it says "a NPS rescue team brought [Brad] Christian out of the

cave....12 NPS employees participated in the rescue operation." About 20 LEARN members plus a few others participated in this rescue. And 2 other Canadian cavers from London, Ontario, had a big part in the rescue of their comrade. Because it was accomplished well, much of the LEARN work continued this week, so I'm just posting this today.

The "short" story:

Brad, an experienced climber, slipped in the Lake Lebarge area. Nothing special, except he felt some pain and a snap in his rib area, I think. His team was heading out, including Rick Haley of St. Charles, MO, John & Miriam (?) Swartz from Atlanta, GA. Our survey team was next in line at Boulder Falls, when Brad complained of shortness of breath, of being 'toasted,' not able to climb anymore. It was about 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Art Fortini, EMT and sketcher on our team, geared up, while Rick dropped the emergency rope beside the main. Art climbed up and eventually was able to free Brad from his climbing gear and pick him off to a descend back to the floor. From there Art headed out of the cave for help from the park. 3 - 4 teams were heading out and were bottlenecked by the event at Boulder Falls. We all prepared for a long night. During that time, many of us climbed up and waited at the top of the pit. Randy Brown, Art, and Shadi Farbin (MD resident from Denver) stayed with the patient. Shadi had determined that further climbing might risk internal harm, such as lung compression, or worse.

A few hours later, Jason Richards and Harry Burgess of the park assessed the situation. It was decided to use a SKED and haul Brad up, with Art beside him on rope. A 3:1 mechanical advantage was rigged by Chris Hastie, a Canadian caver who is a high-angle rescue trainer. Don Broussard, Harry Burgess, Rick Haley, & Michael Queen assisted, along with others. I sort of kept an eye open, was a general go-pher, tied webbing, dozed beside the trail. But my main job became one of

photographer.

The rescue was not chaotic, quite orderly I thought. Several cavers departed due to fatigue for the entrance, to support there. Sometime in the early hours of Tuesday, the system was rigged, including installing bolts over Boulder Falls.

Many lessons were learned from the past Emily Davis Mobley rescue there. Numero uno was to NOT INVITE A MEDIA CIRCUS TO THE CAVE. All communications were kept minimal on radio, and the Walnut Canyon loop road was closed to traffic.

The third Canadian caver, Paul Locke, became task master, sergeant, whip cracker, for the haul team, of which I was enlisted. There were around 6-7 of us pulling: Digger, Patti, Carl, myself, the Durango Cavers -- maybe more. There were also a lot of runners, hauling packs and food back and forth. Once we got him over Boulder Falls, a 150-foot rope, we derigged instantly, and rushed the ropes/pulleys to the surface pit, about 80 feet deep. Same drill there.

Brad was able to hike between the pits, with Art's assistance. The surface haul had more personnel, including more NPS personnel, and "fresher" LEARN bodies.

We got Brad out at 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, roughly 17 hours after he stopped climbing Boulder Falls. He was able to walk to my truck. Chris, Paul, Art, Harry, Jason, Rick, Patti, and the dozens of LEARN volunteers did an excellent job. In the debriefing with NPS on Tuesday, everyone agreed that it was an exceptionally smooth cave rescue. No one else was injured, everyone was calm and agreeable, few problems encountered. And Brad is recuperating, without major injuries trying to get out of the big cave. We all left this morning, after developing strong new friendships through the rescue. They'll be back to the Guads.

Story two by Art Fortini

Congratulations to Peter Jones for making it clear that his info was third-hand and should not be considered

God's given word. Unfortunately, the media in Canada did not exercise such restraint. Apparently, a co-worker of the subject's girlfriend heard that Brad (the victim) had taken a 300-foot fall! Not bad, considering there were no reporters to be found during the rescue, and there WAS an official press release made soon after the evacuation was completed.

Anyway, here's my two cents' worth...

I wasn't there when the injury occurred, but it is my understanding that Brad was climbing over some breakdown in the Yellow Brick Road area when his foot slipped off a hold. His torso then fell a short distance (I'm guessing ~6"), landing his ribs on the rock. I'm not sure how long it took him, but he made it to Boulder Falls with only the assistance of his 3 team members. He was just starting to climb up Boulder Falls when I arrived.

He was using an ascending system similar to a Mitchell, but not quite; he called it a Yosemite system. He was moving up slowly when the others on his team started expressing concern over his injury. This was the first anyone in my team heard about it. When he was ~60' up the rope, he became exhausted and could climb no further.

Fearing inversion or harness induced unconsciousness (a la the French experiments), we decided to take action. Brad was considering doing a change over, but we felt it would be safer if someone were up there with him. Rick, an NCRC instructor, was at the top and sent down the second rope. (A spare rope is kept at the top of BF just in case of something like this.) I went up, did a pick-off, and lowered Brad to the ground.

We had an emergency room doctor (Shadi Farbin) in the group at the bottom who examined him and gave us a working diagnosis of a rib fracture with no signs of lung involvement. She said it would be safe to haul him up in a seat/chest harness, but exertion (ie, heavy breathing) would have to be avoided due to the risk of puncturing a lung with a broken bone end.

From my position on the rope, I could easily communicate with both of the people at the bottom and Rick at the top. With Brad (the patient) now under a doctor's care, Randy Brown (a trip leader) was appointed to start getting people to the top of BF. Rick was to marshal the troops at the top and assume control of the operation.

When I arrived at the top, Rick and I looked over potential anchor points and concluded that we would need an additional rope and some additional hardware to do the haul in a safe manner. Since the patient was stable, the cave was warm (68 F), and everyone had bivy bear, we had the luxury of time. I exited the cave to alert the park service and return with the necessary equipment. It was agreed by myself and Rick that if he didn't hear from the surface in 3 hours, he should start sending people out in groups of 2 every hour or so for/with updated information.

I found Dale Pate (CCNP Cave Specialist) and informed him of the situation. He alerted the appropriate people, and within ~1 hour, an initial response team of ~5 CCNP personnel and the few cavers on the surface (~5) were heading to the cave.

I don't know the details of what happened in the cave during my absence, but everyone except the patient, the doctor, and two other cavers, were at the top when we returned. Harry (CCNP) and I went to the bottom of BF, Jason (CCNP) remained on top of BF initially. Some of the others began ferrying loads into the cave, and some remained on the surface. Since I was at the bottom of BF, I'm not sure of these details. When Harry and I arrived, things on the bottom were pretty low-key; the patient had been given some pain killers, and everyone was trying to get some sleep.

In spite of the doc giving the green light for a harness evacuation, Harry elected to do a vertically oriented Sked evac to minimize the size of the target exposed to rock fall danger (BTW, this is what Boulder Falls got named for).

The Sked, bolting gear, and radio

headsets were brought into the cave. The patient was hauled on a 3:1 system using cavers to do the pulling, and the litter attendant (me) climbed a separate rope.

Upon reaching the top of BF, the patient was unpackaged and allowed to walk to the entrance pit. The patient was then re-packaged and hauled up the entrance drop using the same technique as at BF.

Since the current treatment for broken ribs is to simply wait for them to heal (no casting, taping, binding, etc.), the patient decided not to go the hospital. Since there was no indication of lung involvement, this appeared to be a sound decision. Besides, once he returned to Canada, health care would be free.

Lessons learned:

1. During Emily's rescue, it was decided that the natural anchors at Boulder Falls were unsuitable for rescue work. (I wasn't there, so that is second-hand information.) As a result, 4 bolts were placed for the current rescue.

2. All of the cavers were taking initiative and getting things done. These included glamorous things like relaying messages, carrying in gear, food, water, ropes, etc. No one was frantic, and everyone was showing enthusiasm.

3. Things were running smoothly before the NPS arrived, so they generally let the cavers continue to do what they were doing. As a result, things continued to run smoothly. It was clear to everyone that Jason and Harry were in charge when they arrived, but the roles of the individual cavers changed very little. The cavers in leadership positions continued to provide leadership, and the cavers shuttling gear continued to shuttle gear.

4. In every rescue, there is a need for leaders and worker bees. We had enough leaders, and no one complained about being one of the worker bees. No ego rose to the surface in search of a more glamorous role.

5. There was good communication

among everyone involved, both within the cave and on the surface. I'm assuming this played a major role in how smoothly things went. The wireless headsets were worth their weight in gypsum at Boulder Falls.

A few personal observations:

6. This was one of the smoothest rescues I've seen in a long, long time. There was good communication and a very real atmosphere of teamwork and cooperation. This is significant, considering that none of the cavers had ever done any rescue training together.

7. The Park Service provided enough manpower to get the job done, but did not let things get out of hand. They had additional resources at their fingertips if the need were to arise (CCNP personnel, the BLM cave rescue team, etc.), but elected not to use them. IMHO, this was a good call.

I'm sure there are plenty of things that occurred that I did not address because I was not aware of them. What is written above is simply one person's perspective. If anyone who was at the rescue would like to add to this, please feel free.

Once again, my thanks to everyone for not letting the rumor mill go wild before the facts were in. And, of course, Brad sends his thanks to all who helped out.

Exploration Of The Karstic Resources Of Southeastern New Mexico

November 19-25, 1995
Instructor: RONALD C. KERBO

This six-day course is an introduction to the cave and karst areas of the Permian-age Delaware Basin and Capitan Reef complex of Southeastern New Mexico, taught by Ron Kerbo, the Cave Management Specialist for the National Park Service. It is a unique field experience, allowing entry of

restricted-access caves in both gypsum and limestone, including such caves as Carlsbad Caverns, Endless Cave, Sand Cave, McKittrick Cave, Parks Ranch Cave, Dry Cave, Wind Cave, and Cottonwood Cave. During the course, participants will reside at Washington Ranch for \$22 a night, which includes two meals a day in dormitory-style housing. While this course is designed for those from any caving background from novice to experienced, good physical condition is a requirement. This course can be taken for credit or as a workshop.

**REGISTER EARLY TO GUARANTEE
A SPOT IN THIS EXCEPTIONAL
COURSE!**

FEES:

A.) Lab Fee: \$16 is required for each course, whether taken for workshop or credit.

B.) Tuition: As a non-credit course: \$225. Tuition as a credit course from Western Kentucky University varies.

For those who are interested, special transportation will be made available from Western Kentucky University.

For additional information, write or call: Dr. Nicholas C. Crawford, Director Center for Caves and Karst Studies Western Kentucky University Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576

Phone: (502) 745-4555 FAX: (502) 745-4556

Special-Use Fees and National Parks

Cavers aren't the only ones feeling discriminated against with more and more federal agencies moving to special-use fees for more and more activities.

In the August 13 *Dallas Morning News* there was an article on how special-use fees were affecting climbers in various national parks. The article details many of the park system's

reasons for charging special-use fees, many of which parallel the logic currently under consideration by the National Forest Service and BLM in their proposals to implement special-use fees for cave-related activities. The biggest reason seems to be financial. According to the article less than one-half of one percent of the visitors to Mount Rainier National Park are mountain climbers, yet they account for over half of the parks rescue costs.

On the other hand, the BLM-proposed \$3 dollar permit fee and \$5 per caver fee pale in contrast to the \$150 per climber fee it now costs to attempt to assault the 20,320-foot Mount McKinley in Alaska.

(If anyone is interested, I have a copy of the entire article. --CF)

Going Batty

In another article in the August 13 *Dallas Morning News*, Texas' bat-flight viewing opportunities are detailed in living color.

The human-interest article describes a bat flight at the famous Congress Avenue Bridge and also lists several other popular viewing spots for those who enjoy seeing the dusk flurries, including Kickapoo Caverns and Devil's Sinkhole (see inset). The arti-

CENTRAL TEXAS SPOTS FOR VIEWING BAT FLIGHTS

- 1. Congress Avenue Bridge:** On the Colorado River in Austin, one mile south of the Capitol. By August, the bat population will be as many as 1.5 million. There are several places for good viewing, including some public spots, hotels and restaurants near the bridge. For information, contact Bat Conservation International at (512) 327-9721 or the Austin Parks and Recreation Department at (512) 499-6700.
- 2. Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area:** Between Fredericksburg and Comfort. It has bat-watching tours Saturday nights through October. Someone in the party must have a \$25 Texas Conservation Passport (TCP), available at state parks. For reservations, call (210) 868-7304.
- 3. Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve:** 18 miles southwest of Mason on FM385. Owned by the Texas Nature Conservancy, free bat tours are available Thursday through Sunday. The bat population is estimated at 4 million to 6 million. Group tours can be arranged Monday through Wednesday. Call (915) 347-5970.
- 4. Kickapoo Cavern State Park:** Near Brackettville. Park Manager David Stuart conducts regular bat tours. All participants 17 or older must have a TCP. Call (210) 563-2342.
- 5. Devil's River State Natural Area:** 50 miles northeast of Kickapoo Cavern near Rocksprings. Kickapoo Cavern State Park officials also conduct special tours of Devil's Sinkhole, where participants pay \$8 per adult, \$2 for children under 12. Call (210) 563-2342.

cle goes on to interview state employees and volunteers who work to raise awareness for the furry little mammals.

NCMS Web Page

A World Wide Web page for the 1995 National Cave Management

Symposium, to be held in October in October 1995, has been established:

<http://www.halcyon.com/samara/ncms95/>

It includes the call for papers, and notice about the symposium. In addition, a registration form is provided that can be printed out, filled out, and sent in. There are also links to several Web sites in Indiana that give information about the area.

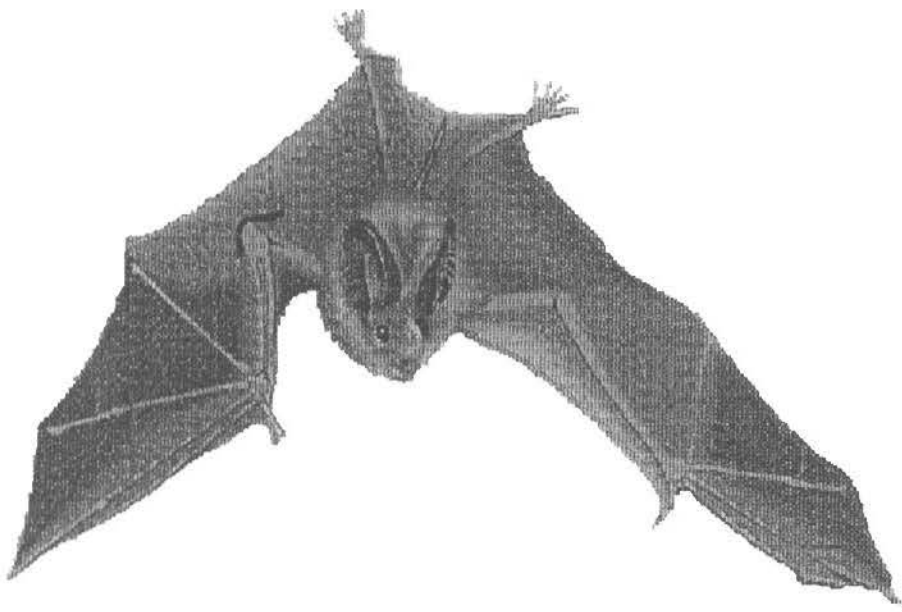
Note that the paper deadline has been extended until August 15. The early registration deadline is August 31; after that, the price goes up.

The 1997 NCMS, to be held in October 1997 in the Pacific Northwest, is at:

<http://www.halcyon.com/samara/ncms97/>

The initial Home page includes some basic information and will be expanded as planning progresses.

Rob Stitt Marcia Elston



1995 NSS Award Winners

Mike Hood, NSS 24166LF
NSS Awards Committee Chairman

Congratulations to the following NSS
award winners for 1995:

**WILLIAM J. STEPHENSON OUT-
STANDING SERVICE AWARD**
Albert C. Mueller

HONORARY MEMBER
Dr. David C. Culver

LEW BICKING AWARD
Peter Quick

SCIENCE AWARD
Dr. John Holsinger

CONSERVATION AWARD
David Jagnow

**SPELEAN ARTS AND LETTERS
AWARD**
Linda Heslop

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
George Dasher
Don Paquette
G. Thomas Rea
Dr. Trevor Ford

FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY
Carl Anderson, 27123
Mark D. Leonard, 23292
Rossano Boscarino, 26699
Cliff Lindsay, 11224
Barry Chute, 11078
Roger McClure, 2057
Alan Cressler, 24392
Tom Miller, 10183
James Fowler, 98
Walter Olenick, 9782
Kris Green, 14891
Mimi Ortiz, 32125
Walt Hamm, 24554
Bill Papke, 7629
Miles Hecker, 18733
Nancy Allyn Pistole, 22989
Jim Hildebrand, 27977
Bill Putnam, III, 21117
Lamar Hires, 23991
Barbara Ritts, 22370
Bushrod Hopkins, 65
Dave Socky, 16334

David Hughes, 14550
Al Stewart, 8695
Ted Kayes, Jr., 6122
Bob Stucklen, 4752
Stephan Kempe, 15158
Van VanSwearingen, 12038
Jim Kennedy, 26791
Jim Washington, Jr., 22333
David Kesner, 28258
Steve Worthington, 23760

**PETER M. HAUER SPELEAN HIS-
TORY AWARD**
Fred Grady

JAMES G. MITCHELL AWARD
Kevin Simon

**NCA BEST PAPER ON A SHOW
CAVE AWARD**
Dr. Horton H. Hobbs, III and Dr. Fred
Wefer

**NSS GROUP CONSERVATION
AWARD**
Richmond Area Speleological Soci-
ety

In case you are unfamiliar with some
of these awards, here is a description
of some of them as we call for next
year's nominations.

It's time to consider outstanding
cavers and NSS members for the vari-
ous Society awards to be presented at
the 1996 NSS Convention in Salida,
Colorado. Following is a description of
the various awards and sub-chair to
send the nomination to. Deadline for
all nominations is November 15, 1995.

**WILLIAM J. STEPHENSON AWARD
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE.** One
Outstanding Service Award is given
each year to a member of the NSS for
outstanding service to speleology and
to the NSS. Honorary membership is
conferred upon receipt of this award.
Equal with the Honorary Membership,
this award constitutes the Society's
highest award.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP. One
Honorary Membership is given each
year for outstanding contributions to
the field of speleology. The award
confers life membership to the Society.

Equal with the William J. Stephenson
Award for Outstanding Service, this
award constitutes the Society's highest
award. Send nominations for the Wil-
liam J. Stephenson Award and Hono-
rary Membership to Gale Beach, 488
Oak Court, Menlo Park, CA
94025-2843.

LEW BICKING AWARD. This award
recognizes an individual NSS member
who, through specific actions, has
demonstrated a dedication to the thor-
ough exploration and mapping of a
cave or group of caves. The recipient
must have been a member in good
standing of the Society for at least two
years immediately prior to being sub-
mitted as a candidate. A cash award
accompanies this recognition. Send
nominations to Donald Davis, 441 S.

Kearney Street, Denver, CO 80224.
SCIENCE AWARD. One Science
Award is given each year to recognize
one NSS member, who, over time, has
demonstrated outstanding dedication
to the scientific study of caves. Send
nominations to Dr. Louise Hose, 4502
Ranch Circle, Colorado Springs, CO
80918.

**SPELEAN ARTS AND LETTERS
AWARD.** One Spelean Arts and Let-
ters Award is given each year to rec-
ognize one NSS member who, over
time, has advanced spelean arts and
letters by significant artistic expres-
sion, management, or criticism. Send
nominations to G. Thomas Rea, 8677
S. State Road 243, Cloverdale, IN
46120.

CONSERVATION AWARD. This
award is given each year to an NSS
member who has, over time, demon-
strated an outstanding dedication to
the cause of cave conservation. Send
nominations to Jeanne Hill, 662 Old
Gurfey Road, Huntsville, AL 35811.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT. Certifi-
cates may be given to individuals,
jointly to no more than three individu-
als, or to organizations. Several Cer-
tificates of Merit may be awarded each
year for specific accomplishments in
cave exploration, study, conservation,
or for accomplishments which further
other goals of the NSS. Send nomina-
tions to Lee Stevens, 5964 Seabright
Road, Springfield, VA 22152.

"THE _____ EST CAVE IN THE WORLD"

While in Fantastic Caverns last month I noticed that they billed it as "The only Ride-through cave in North America." I guess if you got specific (and creative) enough, any cave could be billed as something. "Welcome to Joe-Bob's Cave, the deepest cave in the world that was discovered on a Tuesday by a guy with a hyphen in his name." Mark Minton published a slightly more legit (but far less creative) list of the world's something-est caves.

WORLD CAVES

- Mammoth Cave, USA - world's longest cave (560 km)
- Reseau Jean Bernard, France - world's deepest cave (1602 m)
- Optimisticheskaja, Ukraine - world's longest gypsum cave (183 km)
- Nohoch Nah Chich, Mexico - world's longest underwater cave (40 km)
- Siebenhengste-Hohganthoehliensystem, Switzerland - world's only cave both over 1000 m deep and over 100 km long (1324 m and 133 km)
- Reseau de la Pierre San-Martin, France, Spain - one of the world's most famous long and deep caves (1342 m and 54 km) and the only major cave with entrances in two different countries
- Sistema Huautla, Mexico - deepest cave in the Western Hemisphere and one of the deepest and longest in the world (1475 m and 56 km). Also contains world's deepest independent down and up traverse (-1225/+1100 m)
- Muruk, Papua New Guinea - deepest cave in the Southern Hemisphere (1050 m)
- Anou Ifflis, Algeria - deepest cave in Africa (1170 m)
- Sotano de las Golondrinas, Mexico - probably the most famous of the really deep pits in the world, although not the deepest, even in Mexico (333 m on the low side, 376 m on the high side)
- Lubang Nasib Bagus, Malaysia - world's largest underground chamber (12M m³)

members) of the Society age 25 or younger. Send nominations to Chuck Lundquist, 214 Jones Valley Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802.

NCA BEST PAPER ON A SHOW CAVE AWARD. The National Caves Association presents this award for the best paper related to a show cave presented by an NSS member at the Convention. The award includes a check of \$100 from the National Caves Association. Send nominations to Gordon Smith, Jr., 9850 N. Skyline Drive, Floyds Knob, IN 47119-8821.

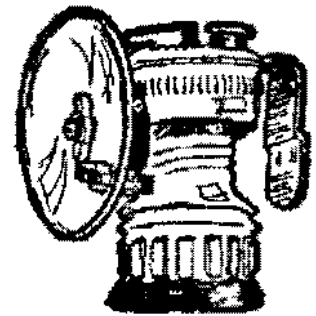
For more information on the NSS awards, please contact Mike Hood, chairman, at 23 Wells Avenue, Dayton, OH 45431-1420.

FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY. Recipients are members who, over a number of years, have exemplified by their actions their dedication to the goals of the Society or the Society itself. Recipients must have been members in good standing of the Society for at least two years immediately prior to their names being submitted as candidates. Send nominations to Bill Nixon, 14045 North Green Hills Loop, Austin, TX 78737.

PETER M. HAUER SPELEAN

HISTORY AWARD. This award provides a cash award to be given to an individual or group of individuals engaged in an outstanding spelean history research project. The project is presented at the Convention for consideration of the award. Send nominations to Dr. Gato Holler, Jr., P.O. Box 100, Old Fort, NC 28762.

JAMES G. MITCHELL AWARD. This award provides a cash award for the best scientific paper presented at the Convention by a member (or



DATE PICKED FOR VERTICAL PRACTICE

Mark your calendars. The last weekend in September and the first two weekends in October – that's the 30th/1st, 7th/8th, and 14th/15th – will be the date of the next vertical practice with Earnest Parker. The exact location is still being worked out, but keep the dates open in any case.

Fall Foliage and Caving in the Ozarks

John Langevin has decided to head to Arkansas this October and check out the local color. Not to worry, though; this trip will be more than just to see the incredible autumn colors in the Ozarks. He plans to take in a few caves as well. The trip will be Saturday and Sunday, October 28 and 29. The trip is open to whomever, but limited to the permit size. Various skill levels will be available, from strictly horizontal to vertical. For more info, call John at (817) 924-1919.

Calendar Of Events

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

Sept 15 NCRC Rescue Classes - Contact Joe Ivy (210) 699-1388

Sept 30/Oct 1/7/8/14/15 Grotto Vehicle Practice

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

Oct. 28-29, Fitton Trip Ark. - Contact John Langevin (817) 924-1919

Nov 19-25 Exploration of the Karstic Resources of SE NM - Contact Dr. Chris Groves of Western Kentucky University (502) 745-4553

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

Dec. 26-29 Mexpeleo '95 - Contact Oscar Barrones (512) 441-0500

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