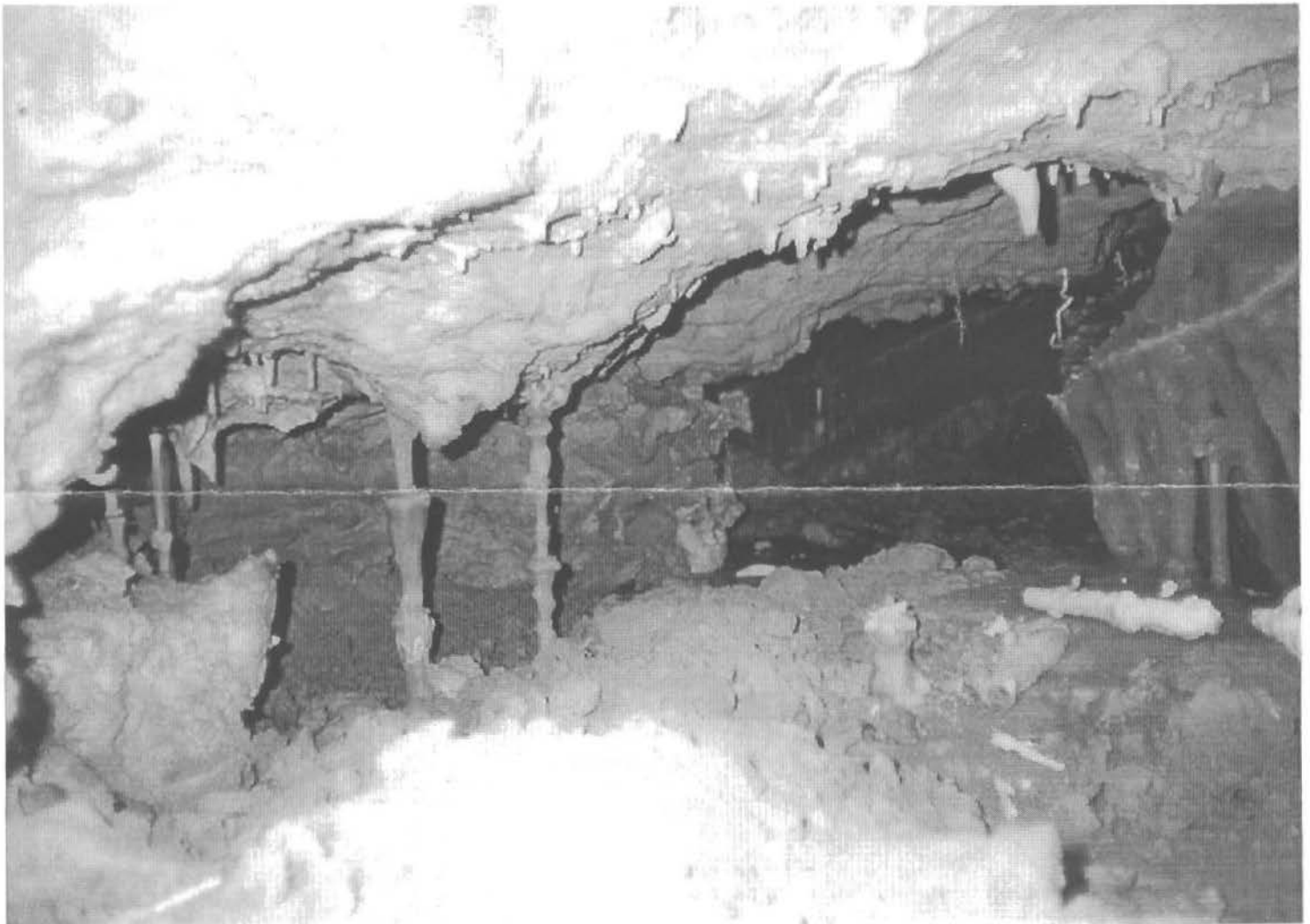

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Volume 9 Issue 10

October 1995



Copyright 1995. The Maverick Grotto.

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.

Chairman:

Mike Anderson
532 Arroyo Dr.
Fort Worth, TX. 76108
(817) 448-9764

Vice-Chairman:

Michael Nelson
7232 Harwick Ln.
N. Richland Hills, TX. 76180
(817) 788-8327

Secretary/Editor:

Chad Fenner
3700 Wayland
Ft. Worth, TX. 76133
(817) 292-7722

Treasurer:

Mark Porter
513 Valley Park
Garland, TX. 75243
(214)271-8147

Cave Rescue: Call collect:

(512) 686-0234

Photo Credits

This month's cover photo was taken by Pam Massey in Endless Cave.
Page 4 Warclub Room, Endless Cave by Pam Massey
Page 4 Ft. Stanton water passage by Pam Massey
Page 5 Somewhere in Endless Cave by Pam Massey
Page 5 The Ft. Stanton Troopers by Pam Massey

Other Credits

Editor: Chad Fenner
Typos found by: Ronny "I-found-a-typo" Clark

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

Minutes For the September Meeting

Maverick Grotto, Sept. 12, 1995

The September meeting informally began around 7 p.m. The business portion was called to order at 7:38 by Grotto President Mike Anderson.

Visitors:

Trent Hodgkins from Ft. Worth and Bruce Smith from Ft. Worth. There were several "return visitors" as well.

Announcements:

There are still T-shirts available.

OTR is coming up at the end of October.

Terry Holsinger will be re-opening CBSP the second weekend of each month, beginning in October.

Treasurer's Report:

We have roughly \$620 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 of the first session will be at Mike Anderson's House. The remaining sessions' locations will be announced at the first session.

New Business:

Next month will be grotto officer nominations. Mike Anderson has hinted that we may need to come up with a new nomination for president. All other officers have indicated that, if nominated, they will run. If you feel someone else would make a good officer, nominations will be made at the October meeting for November

elections.

Trip Reports:

Chad Fenner, Shannon and Angela Seals, Clark and Susie Giles and Larry Martin went to Ogle, Christmas Tree, and Chimney Cave just before Labor Day.

The Andersons (Bruce and Donna) led a trip to Ft. Stator/McKittrick Hill. (See trip reports)

Butch went to the Congress Ave. bridge in Austin to watch the famed bat flight.

The meeting was then closed and we watched slides, presented by Butch, on the CBSP project as it has proceeded over the years

Editor's Ramblings

Happy October!

Well, its a light month this month. I got two trip reports (from the same trip, oddly enough), though I had hoped for a couple of others. (Maybe next month, huh guys?).

This month is nominations for grotto officers. Everyone but Mike Anderson has expressed an interest in running again for their respective offices. That doesn't mean that others aren't welcome to participate in the democratic process. If you're interested in being an officer or seeing someone else an officer, now is the

time of the year to speak up.

To some degree, many officers remain officers only because no one else is willing to take the job. Just look at Mike Nelson's job. He has to find some program every month to keep us entertained. I'm not that creative. Who would want that job? (He has done a great job, though!)

As for me, being a computer geek at heart, doing the newsletter is still fun, and I'll continue to do it as long as ya'll will have me, but if someone else wants a shot at it for a year, I'd much rather watch Voyager and

Monday Night Football on the first Monday of every month.

Well, did you notice the photo credits? I should dedicate this issue to Pam for the great job she's doing. I already have another trip report from her. I'm just waiting on pictures.

Well, that's it for this month. By the way, do you all realize that October is the ninth anniversary of the Maverick Grotto? Next year will be the big one-zero.

Good caving.

-CF

The October Meeting

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct.10 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m.

This month Chad Fenner will host a discussion, "How to Get Cave Permits." If you're tired of sitting around

waiting for someone else to get permits so you can go caving, this is the meeting for you.

Labor Day Weekend: Ft Stanton/Endless

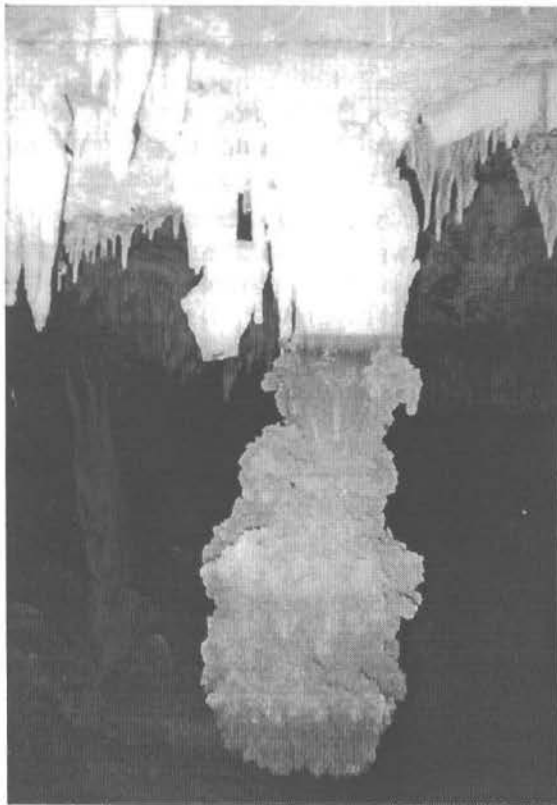
Ed's Note: Sometimes its like pulling teeth to get people to write trip reports. Sometimes I get lucky, though. In this case, I got two trip reports from the same trip. Not wanting to see good trip reports go to waste, here they are, for you're consideration.)

by Pam Massey

Cavers: Mike Anderson, Evan Anderson, Pam Massey, Gloria Bariteau, Richard Bariteau and Richard Allen Bariteau

Date: September 2 & 3, 1995

I think Donna was looking for some publicity in the *Maverick Bull* when she distributed maps to Ft. Stanton cave with the wrong directions, so here it is! Okay, so it was only six to seven miles off and the landmark sign is no longer there, it still makes a great story about cavers getting lost and wondering if

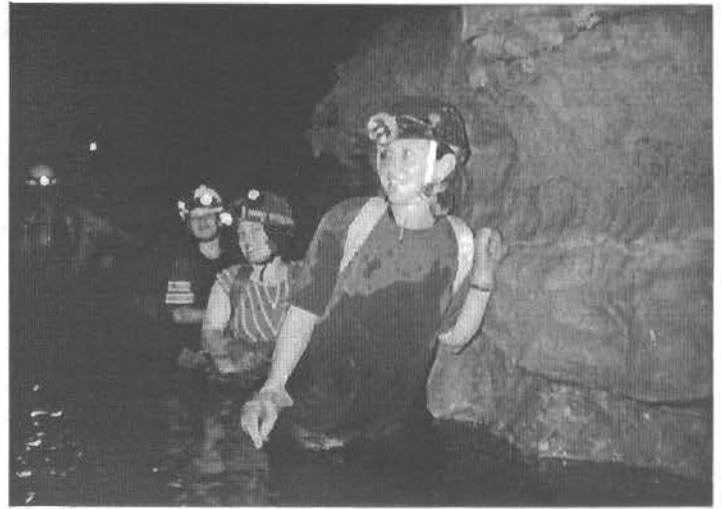


Warclub Room, Endless Cave

they will get to the cave or not. I've never seen the movie "Deliverance," but friends have described it to me. Donna's map led me to "Deliverance" land for, oh ... about five minutes. I didn't even turn around when I saw Farmer Brown's house and all the "no trespassing" signs - I just backed out as far as I could!

With the help of a teenager working at the local cafe/motel, we found our way to Ft. Stanton cave. Donna planned on going upstream in the river passage and exploring some huge rooms that were supposed to be somewhat dry. A group doing a precision survey was also at the cave this weekend, and one of their members informed us that the water in the river was low, not more than three feet. With this in mind, we didn't take Donna's raft, which she brought for us to put our gear in while we travelled upstream.

To make a long story short, I'm about 5'4" and I was swimming and taking in some water at the neck of my wetsuit by the time we decided we should turn back. It was at this point when my faithful camera drowned in my pack. I took my pack off as quickly as I could and handed it to Clark and Susie, who were already out of the water. They took the camera out of the pack, and we all watched it drip. Luckily, Susie had put my extra batteries in her dry pack,



Ft. Stanton water passage

so they remained unharmed. The fate of the camera was still unknown.

Both Susie and Richard tried showing off in the cave by doing feet-first belly slides backward down the muddy slopes and into the water. The rest of us didn't want to try to outdo them, so we just watched.

This was my first cave to do in a wetsuit, so it was really adventurous. The only thing I didn't see, that I thought I really wanted to, was the cavalry.

Eventually we slipped and slid our way out of the cave, with plans of returning with rafts or innertubes.

Oh, by the way, remember the part of my story about the camera? Well, it turned out to be only a *near* fatal incident. I set it out to dry, kept the film in it, and later took a few photos of the campsite with it. I'll tell you if they turn out.

Sunday morning we packed up and drove to McKittrick Hill. My next destination was Endless. I still had a chance to have a "ghostly experience." Our group consisted of Mike and Evan Anderson, Richard, Gloria and Richard Alan Bariteau and myself.

We spent about 45 minutes looking for the expressway in the lower maze. This was even exciting because I really like maze caves, and there were many different passages. When we finally found our way, we toured the

Gypsum Room, the Green Lake Room and the War Club Room. These were all beautiful! The War Club Room was unique because of the definite divisions at the top of the cave by the coloration of the walls and speleothems. A line divided the top part of the cave from the bottom, and one part was much darker than the rest.

We also saw the "toilet bowl" and the "bathtub," but who wants to think about that when they're that far down in the cave? Not me.

Again, in the middle of all the excitement, no sign of Nymyer.

I finished off the previous day's roll of film in Endless and opened up the camera to change it. No sign of moisture or rust yet. Only time will tell, but I swore to the group that I would write Canon if my camera made it through this weekend!

I really enjoyed this cave and I plan to return soon. I hope I meet up with Nymyer and ask where the new passage is, but I guess I have to go back with Donna!



Somewhere in Endless Cave

Fort Stanton and Endless

by Richard Allen Bariteau

Cavers: Mike Anderson, Evan Anderson, Pam Massey, Gloria Bariteau, Richard Bariteau and Richard Allen Bariteau

Date: September 2 & 3, 1995

The caves that I went into were Fort Stanton and Endless. When we went into Fort Stanton Cave, we had to carry some tripods in for the group coming in the cave behind us to survey the dry portion of the cave. About 45 minutes into the cave, we set the tripods down and left them there. Then we began to change into our wet suits that we had brought along for the water part of the cave.

After we changed into our wet suits, we went on and proceeded to the left passage way. In some places, the water was deep and in others it was only about ankle deep. At first we thought shallow water was best to be in, but later we found out that it was better to be in deeper water.

Finally, we got up to a point where three of us were so tired that we were going to turn back. The other three in our group were about 300 feet ahead of us, and when they went on, the water got all the way up to Susie's arm pits. It got so deep that they decided to turn back with us, too. We stayed in the cave about seven hours. All of us stayed in the water for about

5 1/2 hours.

I don't think I enjoyed this cave as much as I've enjoyed other caves, because it had no real formations like other caves have in them.

When we went to Endless Cave, it took us about three minutes to get to the entrance. When we all approached the gate, I spotted a snake slithering through the bars of the gate. I told them that I saw a snake and then Mike, our group leader, began to kick rocks around to try to get the snake to come out of hiding. We didn't see the snake again! We then unlocked the gate and went into the cave.



The Ft. Stanton Troopers

All of us had to go through a crawl at the beginning to get to the other side so we could climb down into the lower part of the cave. We all crawled through another hole and got to the lowest part of the cave.

On our way through the cave, the leader was nice enough to let some of us explore around through some of the holes in the rooms that we went in. We got lost several times and we always ended up back in the Dome Room looking for the Expressway. We all split up and started looking for the Expressway. I wandered off a little ways from the group and found that there was a second Dome Room. Pam from our group was with me. We both started looking around the room and saw a trail marked off with some rocks. When we saw the trail marked

off, we both kind of figured that this was the room that we were looking for. So while I stayed at the entrance of the second Dome Room, Pam went to find Mike to see if that was the room that we were looking for.

When he got there, he told us all that this was the room that we had all been looking for. We crawled forward for a little ways and then ended up in another room. We went around a corner and found a room called the Gypsum Room.

In the Gypsum Room we all had to stay on a marked path. The Gypsum Room was one of the prettiest rooms of the entire cave. We stopped in the Gypsum Room for about 20 minutes to have lunch.

After we finished our lunch, we went into the Green Lake Room. It was a pretty room too. The water in that room was so clear that it was hardly even visible, but there was just a light tint of green to it.

The final room we went into was the War Club Room. It had some of the oddest formations in it. There was a place in the room that you could look up and it looked like a bowl of corn flakes up above you.

After we finished the War Club Room, we started to head back for the entrance. We followed our trail out of the cave and picked up our deflectors as we went. When we got all the way to the entrance of the cave, we saw another snake going out of the cave. It wasn't the one that we saw the first time; it was a different one.

When we got out of the cave, it was already dark out. We locked the gate of the cave and went back to the campsite.

Caves on CD Rom

Compiled from various reports including a posting on Cavers Digest by Bob Thrun.

I came across what may be the first cave-related CD ROM. It is entitled "Exploring Ape Cave & Mt. St.

Helens." It is put out by

OtterStream Multimedia Inc.
10900 N.E. Street Suite 900
Bellevue, Wash. 98004
206-861-8183

It has a list price of \$29.95, but I paid \$17.95 at a bookstore. The main menu has the selections:

Ape Cave
Ape Cave Tour
Common Questions
The Ape Cave Map
An Equipment List
Cave Information
Mt. St. Helens
The 1980 Eruption

It presents a map of Ape Cave with red circles along the length of the cave. You click on a circle and get a photo of that part of the cave. The cave features have labels that can be turned on and off.

Other parts of the CD ROM have pictures of the ranger station and the cave's discoverers. It gives an animated explanation of how lava tubes form. It will do a fly-by of Mt. St. Helens, both before and after the eruption.

The Ape Cave CD ROM might be considered an electronic cave map by some definitions. Alternatively, it could be considered a random-access slide show. It uses the Microsoft Video package with a bunch of scanned images.

Another CD ROM of caver interest is Street Atlas USA, Version 2.0 by DeLorme. This is an excellent program for making street maps of anywhere in the US. In the rural areas it has every road shown on the USGS topos. The item of special interest to cavers is that it has what appears to be the entire Alabama Cave Survey on it. You can go to a cave region, see the location of every cave, and get a map of the area.

This sells for \$70 to \$80 at just about any software store. It has been out for a while, and many cavers know about it, but I have not seen it mentioned here. I looked for caves in

Georgia and Tennessee near the Alabama cave regions and did not see any caves in the other states.

Another CD Rom of interest to cavers is a Tour of the Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the Guadeloupe Mountains put out by the Guadeloupe Mountains, Association. The release date was scheduled for late August but as of September 30, it is still unavailable.

Reportedly, it will have photos, videos, and textual descriptions of the land and area wildlife as well as certain caves, including Lechiguilla.

New Maya Cave Painting Book

Posted to Cavers Digest by George Veni

Hot off the press from University of Texas Press is "Images from the Underworld: Naj Tunich and the Tradition of Maya Cave Painting" by Dr. Andrea Stone. The book is nearly 300 pages long and richly illustrated with over a hundred color and B&W photos, and includes maps of three caves. It is a compendium of all known Maya cave art (although a couple of minor sites have been found since the book went to press). Naj Tunich in Guatemala is the focus of the book, since it has not only the greatest number, but the greatest quality of all Maya cave painting sites.

These are all true cave sites -- not rock shelters. Some hardcore caving was involved in the Maya reaching certain passages. The book includes discussions of the geography of the caves, interpretations of the paintings and their contribution to understanding the Maya, translations (as much as possible) of the Naj Tunich hieroglyphs, a catalogue of paintings and a geologic overview of factors related to the presence and United preservation of the paintings.

The book is written primarily for archaeologists, Mayanists, and art historians -- not cavers. Nonetheless, it contains enough "nonspecialist" type

information on the caves and their paintings that many cavers would enjoy having a copy. The price is \$45, which is high but necessary considering the number of pages, top-quality paper, binding, and oodles of photos. Postage and handling is \$3 (plus \$0.50 for each additional copy if more than one is bought). It is available from:

University of Texas Press
P.O. Box 7819
Austin, Texas 78713-7819
512-471-7233
800-252-3206

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service Guadalupe
Ranger District Federal Building Room
159 Carlsbad, NM 88220
Reply To: 2350 Date: August 23,
1995

Proposed User Fees For Guadalupe Ranger District Cave Resource

(Ed's Note: This is obviously too late for anyone to be able to attend the meeting discussed herein; however, it is presented as information and comment as described below.)

This letter is to inform you that the Guadalupe Ranger District will be hosting a public meeting at 10 AM, on September 9, at the Carlsbad Public Library Annex. The purpose of the meeting is to receive public input concerning the possibility of charging a consumer fee for the management of caves located within the boundaries of the Guadalupe Ranger District under the proposed Fee Demonstration Project Bill.

KEY WORDING IN THE PROPOSED FEE DEMONSTRATION BILL.

1. This is a one-year demonstration testing of a variety of new user fee collection methods which can foster incentive-based collections to enhance

recreation and habitat. The Senate concurred with the House, with the following modifications: extends the pilot from one to three years; expands from 30 to 50 sites maximum (per agency).

2. User fees targeted to improve services: The purpose of the bill is to provide quality outdoor recreation experiences and services to the American people while reducing dependency on appropriated funds (taxes) for the operation and maintenance of such services.

3. Eighty percent (80%) of amounts collected shall be used for administration of the unit in which the project is located and (shall remain) are hereby appropriated and available for expenditure . . . for the further activities of the site or project.

4. Amounts available for expenditure may only be used for site or project concerned, for backlogged repair and maintenance projects (including projects relating to health and safety) and for interpretation, signage, habitat or facility improvement, resource preservation, annual operation, maintenance, and law enforcement relating to public use.

5. The remaining twenty percent (20%) of the amounts collected shall be deposited in a special account in the Treasury for each Agency and (shall remain) are hereby appropriated and available for expenditure . . . on an agency basis.

If you have any questions or you would like to receive an overview of the bill, please contact John Conner or Mike Baskerville at the Guadalupe District Office (505) 887-4181.

If you will be unable to attend the meeting and would like to comment, address your comments to:

USDA-FOREST SERVICE John L.
Conner, District Ranger Guadalupe
Ranger District Room 159, Federal
Building Carlsbad, NM 88220

Fall Foliage and Caving in the Ozarks

(An update!)

A permit for Fitton cave for Saturday, October 28 has been obtained. Park rules limit permits to one per weekend, so a beginner's trip wasn't available. I want to go to the Millipede Passage of Fitton, so plan on bringing a figure eight, a harness, and a safety jummar for Jurgens Leap. This plan is subject to change according to the wishes of the participants. Other caves which will be available nearby include:

Copperhead (W)
Skull Pit (V-100',?)
John Eddings (W)
Devil's Den (V-30',W)
Mud Cave

Legend:

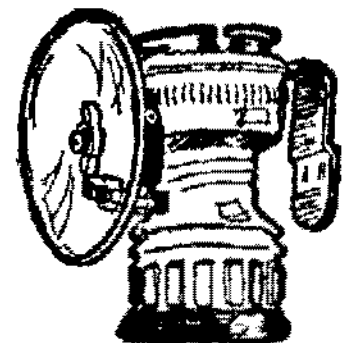
V - Vertical

? - I'm not sure I can find it!

W - Wetsuit may be required, depending on rainfall and your tolerance for being cold and wet.

I hope to add to this list, particularly an interesting one suitable for beginners. If you want to sign up, give me a call.

John Langivin (817) 924-1919



Calendar Of Events

Sept 30-Oct 7/8/14/15 Grotto Verticle 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

Oct. 28-29, Powell's Cave - All skill levels welcome. Call Terry Holsinger (512) 443-4241

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.