

THE MAVERICK BULL

The Monthly Newsletter Of The Ft. Worth Maverick Grotto

Volume 13, Issue 3
March 2000



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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, photographs, and other two- and three-dimensional goodies. 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 per year for nonmembers 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. The time is 7 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 (817) 220-7108

or Butch Fralia at (817) 346-2039 for more information.

Library: Support your grotto library. Russell Hill is accepting books, magazines, and videos related to caves and caving for our library. Thanks to Russell for his efforts in transporting the library collection to meetings.

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Photos and Artwork

This month's cover: Maverick Grotto cavers and Jesus Sánchez

in McKittrick Cave, by R. D. Milhollin

Page 4: War Club Room, Endless Cave, by DeJane Kerr

Pages 7 & 8: Maps of Norbert Castaret Section of Resumidero El Borbolión, San Luis Potosí, Mexico, drafted by Sergio Sánchez-Armás

Page 9: Sketch of Pep Pit by Ed Goff

Other Credits

Mailing list: Sharon Mastbrook

Visit Our Web Site

The Maverick Grotto website is at www.fwst.net/np/maverickgrotto.

Webmaster: maverickgrotto@fwst.net.

Space donated by Fort Worth

Star-Telegram Online Services.



February minutes

The January 11 meeting began around the usual time at Smokey's Ribs and was called to order a short time thereafter by Chairman Chad Fenner.

Visitors

None?

Announcements

None.

Reports from Officers

Treasurer: We have \$370.94.

Old business

A letter from TSA Chairman Aaron Addison concerning the KCCP was

read, and the grotto voted not to do anything as a grotto in Kendall County before the TSA convention.

New business

None.

Trip reports

Dave Gers went to Palace Cave in west Texas.

Phil Sanders went to Turner Falls.

Mike Coulter and Karen Perry went to Cave without a Name; Blackwater Cave, where they did a belly crawl over broken glass then had to bail because of "insane children"; and Harrel Cave; and checked out the bucket tour at Natural Bridge Caverns.

Ed Goff was lured to the Glen Rose area to inspect some pseudokarst.

Program

The NSS/CDS public service video/horror flick *A Deceptively Easy Way to Die*, about the annoying discomforts that result from cave diving without proper training and equipment.

March meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, at Smokey's Ribs, 15300 Lancaster, at 7 p.m. The program will be the first half of a movie on *Mobile Cave*. (Second half will be shown in April.) ***

The Puzzled Caver

By Chad Fenner

Caver Word Search and Hidden Phrase

Find the hidden phrase by crossing out letters used by the words in the word list at right. Letters not used will make the phrase.

The answer to last month's puzzle was *Just ask anyone, cave photography is "a shot in the dark."* Kevin Glover was the first to solve it. If you think you might be the first to solve this puzzle, e-mail CaverCF@usa.net.

S S M K G G C A V I C C E S
 S E R A C R Y N G A O O T T
 A V O T M I O P R N B C I A
 P O P S T M R T S L A I M L
 M T E H Y L O E P U T X G A
 O G G K K G R T V O M E A C
 C I C D R V O T H A E M L T
 L A R A A A R L E S M S A I
 R O P T T B R A O M T O T T
 P H I L L I S C P E L O S E
 Y O H A U A T L A P L E O N
 N S N R E V A C R V E E H B
 C A R B I D E T H A E L P E
 H A R N E S S N D A C R K S

BAT
 BOOTS
 CARBIDE
 CARIBBAD
 CARTOGRAPHY
 CAVE
 CAVERNS
 COMPASS
 CONSERVATION
 DROP
 GLOVES
 GROTTA
 GYPSUM
 HARNESSE
 HAUATLA
 HIFIMET
 LIGHT
 MAMMOTH
 MAVERICK
 MEXICO
 NSS
 RACK
 RAFTLL
 ROPE
 SPELEOLOGY
 STALACTITE
 STALAGMITE

Expedition 101

A newbie's point of view

By Patrick Kerr

When my wife DeJane and I got into caving it was more of a passing interest. We wanted to do something that most normal people weren't doing for fun. We got hooked by "cave bug" when we did Lower Cave at Carlsbad.

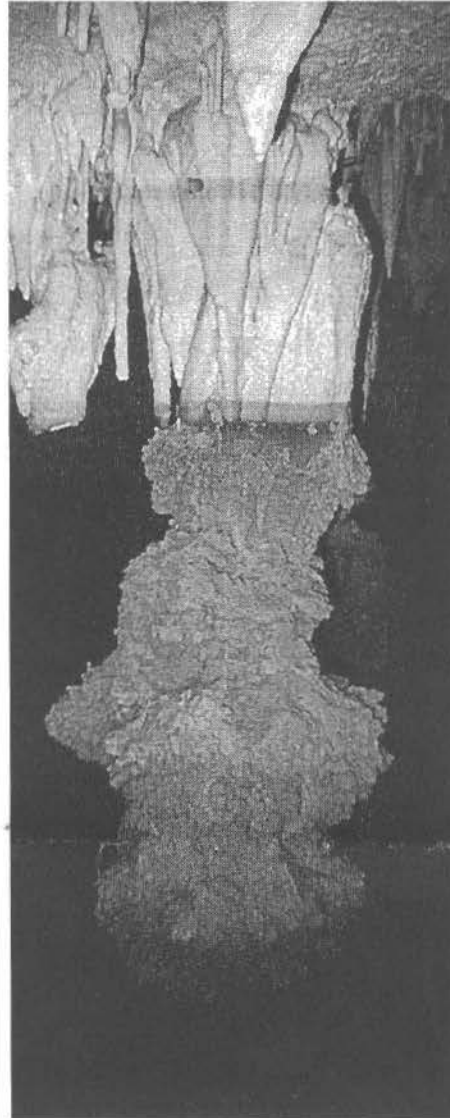
From there it was all downhill—so to speak. We had pretty much covered most of the Carlsbad wild cave trips, so we were looking for more. Several of the rangers at Carlsbad directed us to the Maverick and DFW grotto. We chose the Maverick Grotto, hopefully they chose us as well.

DeJane has pretty much been the emissary for our family since I work evenings. So to say I was apprehensive is an understatement. She kept mentioning all the names of people we were going to travel with. I knew the names but not all of the faces.

Then comes the list. You know the one, similar to "honey-do's" only this one hurts the pocketbook. We need helmets, with lights of course; extra batteries; and even more light sources, that rule of 3 thing. All in all, Academy and REI both got a considerable amount of what should be going to the mortgage. But screw it—we are going caving!

DeJane pre-packs everything in the garage to load up first thing in the morning. Friday comes with the threat of rain. We manage to get the truck loaded to the gills without too much hassle from the "mom" (Mother Nature).

At Karen Perry's house we await the arrival of the other names with faces. Introductions are made: Karen, Phil, Dave 1, Steve, Dave 2, Karen, DeJane, and Patrick. With R. D. (Dave 3) and Jesus to come later. Boy, we have several Dave's along on this trip. We get under way shortly before 10 a.m.



One of a roomful of warclubs in Endless Cave

"ROADTRIP!" This phrase always conjures up emotions that are hard to describe. From sleep induced by the road noise, from years of trips back and forth to Grandma's house, to did we leave enough food for the cats to sustain themselves. Either way it is in our blood to drive anywhere possible to have fun and get dirty.

The journey was long and taxing. We were driving into a stiff headwind. Which really was not a problem till we got to Big Spring. From there we took some farm roads that became obscured by the red dust that the wind was playing with.

Several times the visibility was nil, only to find the occasional tumbleweed jump out at you.

Carlsbad and the wind is still rolling down the mountains. Dust is blowing and we privately ponder our decision to camp. We make all sorts of compromises in our minds to rationalize what the &*\$ we are doing.

Stopping for supplies at Guadalupe Mountain Outfitters, we are interrogated as to what provisions we do have. Good thing because we forgot one thing (something my complementary bladder found to be indispensable)—the bottle. You know the one for those emergencies when you are downstairs and the public facilities are a couple hundred feet above you! Additional purchases were made to compensate for our lacking.

"Wind advisory warnings are in effect for..." was the weather report so it was going to blow all night. We set-up camp in the pitch black that us city folk rarely see, underneath a canopy of stars that we never knew we could see. Wind gusts are up to 45 mph and a temperature around 35. Privately I hope the sleeping bags will keep us warm.

Saturday morning I am awakened to a drip of water on my face. "What the..." It isn't raining, so why is there water all on the inside of the tent? Well in an effort to keep the cold out and the heat in I closed all vents. The condensation built up from our breathing to create a nice little weather environment. Lesson number 1, learned, read all labels printed on the inside flaps of new tents.

Today we are going to escape into Endless Cave. This is one of several caves in the hills surrounding our base camp. Everyone suits up. Even the new arrivals, R. D. and Jesus, who came in under the cover of night.

Endless Cave is named simply because it seems to go on forever. Not that it is that big, but that a lot of the formations and passages are all adjoining giving this maze cave a sense of neverending pas-

sages. Do you go left or right, up this way or down here, were all questions we asked as we went through. Our goal was the War Club Room.

We entered the Green Lake Room. Here there are formations that are still alive. An amazing cave pool that just makes the ceiling move with its shimmer. We all decide to regroup and absorb the surroundings.

Then it happens. The relaxation is broken; there is a photographer in our presence. R. D.—I'll refer to him as Spielberg—opens his bat-embossed backpack to reveal a treasure trove of camera equipment. My first thought was, "You brought that in here?" Ultimately it became, "Does that bag have a bottom?"

I'll tell you the man has a vision for set up, staging, and a knack for blinding people. Not that he actually does the blinding, but when you hold the strobe a certain way and there is no other light source, well those blue dots don't go away for a while. I certainly can't wait to see those photos published, and we all know they will be, or at least should be.

After the "lost caver" photo shoot is completed, a small party forms that continues exploring to find the War Club Room. "Go off one of these crawls." Not this one, we back out. Maybe this one, nope. "I know this is it." Sure enough Karen leads us to the War Club Room.

This room is full of stalactites and stalagmites that have congealed themselves into an awesome array of would-be medieval weaponry. The disappointment is in how the first explorers used this cave as a mine. Not for precious minerals or stones but to appease the appetite for souvenirs. In the 1830s, many caves were "harvested" for their stalactites. Lesson 2, don't assume that everything we do is correct now. Back then they probably thought they were doing the right thing. As I am sure we currently are guilty of something similar ourselves, in some random way either collectively or individually.

By now we have been underground for 6 hours. I am crawling the surface. DeJane still

has her mole pill at full force. Continuing on we find ourselves a little disoriented as to where we are going or where we came from, hence the maze. Finally we decide to break up and send those that want up (and out) and those interested in Spielberg's next shoot. DeJane and I decide to go with Karen and Dave 1 to the surface. We have food to prepare for the pot luck dinner.

We surface to the twilight of the desert mountain. The day is fading fast into the evening's grasp. We quickly gather ourselves for the night's onslaught. The wind is increasing, the temperature is dropping, and the ground beef is browning in slow motion. DeJane is putting together an awesome salad and supervising (I'm cooking) her 7-layer dip (only it is 6 tonight, one ingredient short.) We are just wrapping up the cooking phase when the camera crew arrives out of the desert darkness.

Hungry and weary we begin to set up for chow. Oddly it is only 8 p.m. and yet it feels and looks like midnight. Everyone enjoys as much as they can stomach. The sandman begins to make the rounds early. Slowly people peel off to their respective nightly domiciles for the nightly recharge.

The next morning we awaken to the sounds of the mumlike voice, "wakoy, wakoy" or something to the effect. No consideration (just kidding). We slept great, like logs. Today we will try to get in two more caves, then hit the road for home. The indecision comes as to whether to start to break down our tent, etc. now or later. We opt. for later but our fellow campers are doing a lot of it now, so we concur. Good thing!

With breakfast ingested and daypacks packed, we set out for McKittrick and Sand Cave. We leave R. D. and Jesus behind, as they are still packing. We are not quite sure where the entrances are so we start exploring the surrounding hills. Finally we find McKittrick with its two apparent entry points. The top has a vertical drop and the lower a minor crawl of 10-15 feet. We decide on the lower entry since we only have 2 trail guides, Karen

and R. D. With R. D. still behind, those that are vertically capable have to go with those that are vertically challenged (DeJane and I), sorry, we promise to correct that shortly.

McKittrick turns out to be another maze cave. It too has been gutted by souvenir missions. This cave really, as several other members of our expedition commented, is perfect for the beginner caver. With a few crawls, the majority of it is a walking experience. The treasure is the flat room. Going deeper into the cave you begin to descend on a gradual slope that leads to the flat room.

The flat room is an area comprised of about 2 inches of dust on a perfectly level floor. It is a very surreal environment. Perfect for a sleepover if you want the illusion of the moon.

We didn't spend much more time in McKittrick. From here we ventured out to Sand Cave. This cave was very disorienting. As you walked you kicked up dust. The dust made it very hard to discern any kind of depth. We did find a brown bat, eek, in the cave about 10 yards from the entrance. This cave's dust was doing wonders for my contacts. Not really able to see, DeJane and I pretty much decided it was time to hit the road.

We spent the drive home rehashing events and highlights. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip and found it amazing that 3 caves within a mile of each other can offer such decisively different environments.

Lesson 3. Don't pack more than you need. It seems that we did not use half the stuff we thought we would. Now we know what to really bring and what not to, within reason.

Thank you Karen, Phil, Dave 1 and 2, K. D., Steve, and Jesus for helping us complete our first (of hopefully many) Maverick Grotto trips. Our goal is to become grotto members to further our caving experience. ***

Signed,
Gail Coughing Up Sand

Resumidero El Borbollón Keeps Going

By Omar and Sergio Sánchez-Armás

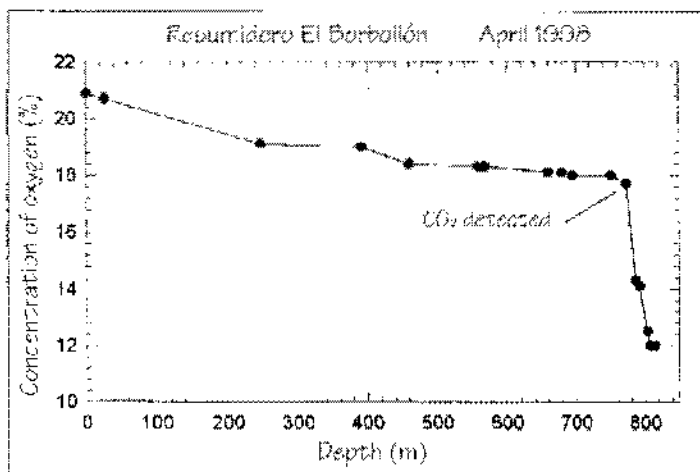
Reprinted with permission from *Teavai*, the bulletin of the Asociación Potosina de Montañismo y Espeleología

On March 7th, 1998, what was thought the terminal siphon of Borbollón since 1988, turned out to be the gate to a new section 268 m long and 142 m deep that upgrades it from 24th place to the 16th deepest cave in Mexico.

Three teams of three to four people from the Asociación Potosina de Montañismo y Espeleología (APME), San Luis

where the water flows through small steps. He explored it for 74 m before he found a 10 m estimated drop at the upper part of a medium-sized chamber. Once he rejoined his companions they congratulated each other for the finding that Borbollón kept on going. The former Terminal Siphon was renamed after the great French speleologist Norbert Casteret, who enjoyed diving through sumps.

The third group (Miguel Angel Blanco, Dalana and Nathaly Ibarra, Guillermo Martínez, and Cuauhtémoc Sánchez) descended the new pit and found a 40 m long drop but were unable to go all the way



down because their rope was too short.

Two weeks afterwards Miguel Angel made a "solo" trip until he ran out of ropes, not before descending 5 pits into the unknown section. Twelve hours after he entered the cave, Salvador and Sergio went into the cave and after setting up

the second camp at ~650 m, they joined him and shared something to eat. As Miguel Angel headed for the second camp, they continued exploring. After a while they found a 15 m drop and noticed that high levels of CO₂ were present since their breathing frequency was higher. They kept on going, descending another 20 m until the border of a third pit, where they decided to head back because the CO₂ levels could be even higher at the bottom of the pit.

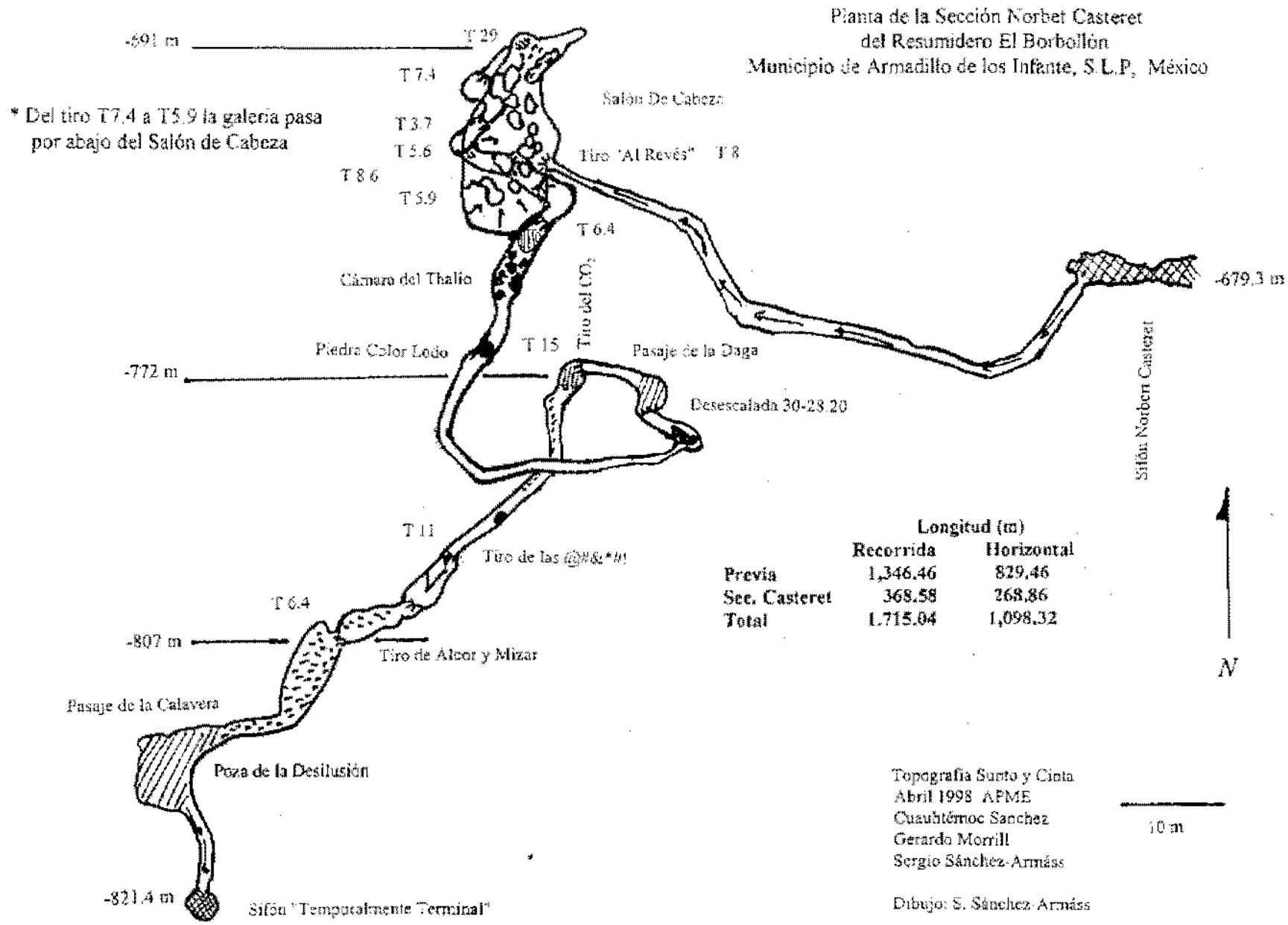
Three weeks later, Gerardo, Cuauhtémoc, and Sergio entered the cave

again, carrying two 0.5 m³ oxygen tanks (kindly provided by Mr. David Solís) and two brave micos (Alocer and Mizar), trying to overcome the CO₂ at the undescended pit. Along the cave they were taking air temperature and oxygen (O₂) concentration readings (see graph). They also surveyed (Suntoos and tape) the new Norbert Casteret Section (see the plan and profile maps).

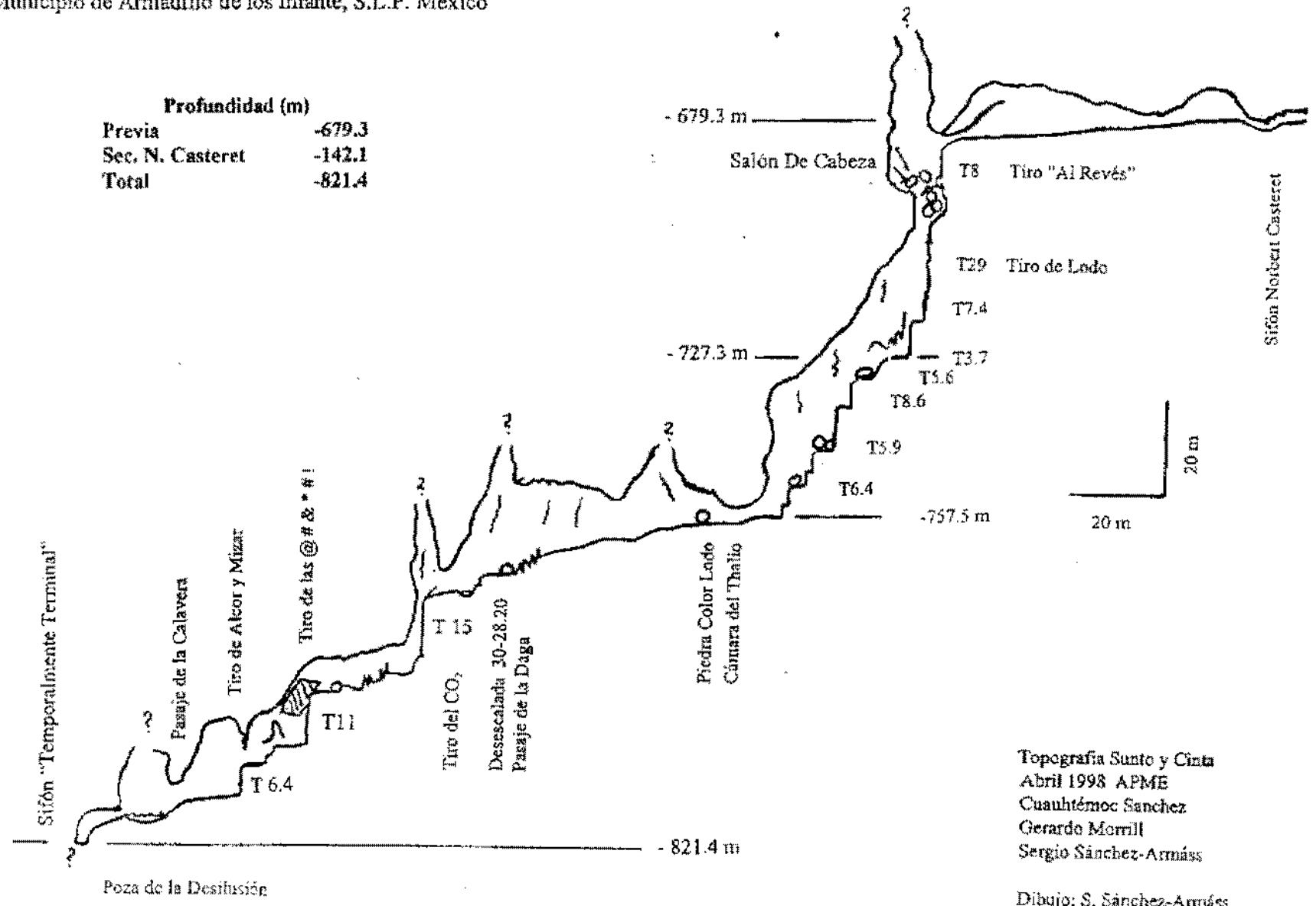
Because the O₂ concentration above the pit was as low as 12% (see graph) the micos were lowered to the bottom of the drop for 10 minutes. Since when retrieved they both looked fine, Cuauhtémoc and Sergio went down the pit with the O₂ masks on to measure the O₂ concentration down there. As it turned out, the O₂ remained at the previous level and Gerardo went down without the O₂ tank. They were in a medium chamber covered by leaves and mud that to their dismay led to a 10 x 6 m pond.

Now that they were sure they could bear the high CO₂ (ca. 5%) and low O₂ (12%) atmosphere, a fourth expedition was launched. On May 2, Francisco Ullderico Jones, Salvador, Jorge Landero, and Ricardo Peralta reached the edge of the pond, and Salvador being secured with a rope went to the other side and found a muddy 9 m passage with trickling water that led to a new but "temporarily" terminal sump of 3 m in diameter. As he was a one and tired because of the low O₂ level, he did not try to pass it. Resumidero El Borbollón is now 821.4 m deep and 1,098.32 m long. Sótano de la Trinidad (SLP) is only 13 m deeper.

As Borbollón is located on private land, the access to the cave is restricted. With the consent of the owner, the APME is coordinating the visits. ***



Vista de Perfil de la Sección "Norbert Casteret" del
 Resumidero El Borbollón
 Municipio de Armadillo de los Infante, S.L.P. México



Topografía Sunto y Cinta
 Abril 1998 APME
 Cuauhtémoc Sanchez
 Gerardo Morrill
 Sergio Sánchez-Armáss

Dibujo: S. Sánchez-Armáss

Texas Speleological Survey Transitions

Submitted By George Veni, TSS President

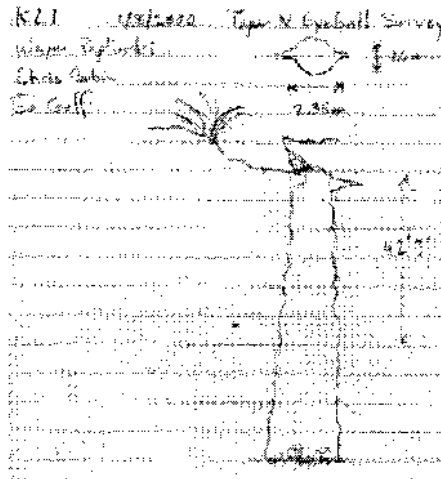
Texas Speleological Survey (TSS) Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Atkinson is being sent by his job to work in England for the next two to three years. Since it will be hard for him to attend TSS meetings, he resigned from his office. The TSS thanks Jerry for his more than four years of excellent service as Secretary/Treasurer and wishes him all the best during his next couple of years "across the pond."

During a specially called meeting, three new directors were added to the TSS Board: Aaron Addison, Jerry Fant, and Logan McNabb. Logan was also elected as the new Secretary of the TSS. Orion Knox, who joined the Board two and a half years ago, will serve as the new Treasurer.

TSS will continue having sessions at its office in Austin to continue gathering, sorting, filing, and publishing Texas cave information to support the cavers of Texas. Announcements will be made through the TSA Activities Newsletter and via e-mail on CaveTex.

For more information on TSS, feel free to visit our website at www.utexas.edu/depts/trichol/www/tss/index.html or to contact one of our directors or officers:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Aaron Addison | Jerry Atkinson |
| Bill Elliott | Jerry Fant |
| Burch Trala | Keith Hauko |
| Jim Kennedy, Editor | Orion Knox, Treasurer |
| Carl Strub | David McKenzie |
| Logan McNabb, Secretary | James Reddell |
| Bill Russell | George Veni, President |



Feature now cave

By Ed Goff

At the December '99 Colorado Bend State Park Project, Wayne Pepinski dug open karst feature K21 revealing a drop below. He returned with Ed Goff and Chris Sobin in January. They left the instruments at the truck but made a Tape-N-Eyeball survey. This nicely shaped pit, tentatively named Pop Pit, is 12'3" deep (someone forgot to read metric). Unfortunately it doesn't go. ***

Come One Come All to the TSA Spring Convention
Join us near San Marcos on May 5-7, 2000 for this
years convention. Hosted this year by the
Greater Houston Grotto,

This event is shaping up to be the best in years.
BUT

only if YOU attend. Watch the Texas Cover,
the Texas Activity Newsletter and Cave-Tex for
more information.

*So fill out and mail this Pre-Registration form and save a few bucks
This rate is only good until
April 24th*

TSA Spring Convention, May 5,6,7 2000	
John Knox Ranch, Fisher, Texas	
Registration includes: Camping for the weekend, Saturday banquet, All the taxes, and the TSA Meeting	
Name: _____	ISA Renewal: \$27.00
Address: _____	Registration: \$19.00
City: _____	Pro-Registration: \$15.00
Phone: _____	Total Amount: <input type="text"/>
E-mail: _____	
Years Caving: _____	
Make Checks out to the: TSA	

Send your Pre-Registration to:

TSA Spring Convention c/o

Bonnie Longley

4425 Diane dr.

Austin Texas 78745

~~Family Registration \$45.00~~

Family Pro-Registration: \$35.00

C A L E N D A R * O F * E V E N T S

- 11 March 2000, Colorado Bend State Park Project. Contact Terry Holsinger (512) 443-4241, trhll@sprynet.com
- 25-26 March 2000, High Guads Restoration Project, NM. Contact David Jagnow. (505) 332-4452, david@jagnow.com
- 31 March-2 April 2000, TSA Palmito Cleanup, Bustamante, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Contact Aimee Beveridge (512) 444-4881, aimee.beveridge@rrc.state.tx.us or Rune Burnett (512) 459-0505
- 8-9 April 2000, Colorado Bend State Park Project. Contact Terry Holsinger (512) 443-4241, trhll@sprynet.com
- 15-16 April 2000, Honey Creek Cave, Comal and Kendall Counties, TX. Tentative date, surveyors needed. Contact Kurt Menking (210) 654-3014, kmenking@kbcad.org
- 15-23 April 2000, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, grotto trip. Contact Ed Goff (214) 942-6024, egoff@rice.edu
- 22 April 2000, Wind Cave, NM, grotto trip. Contact Karen Perry rodp@swbell.net
- 29-30 April 2000, High Guads Restoration Project, NM. Contact David Jagnow. (505) 332-4452, david@jagnow.com
- 6-7 May 2000, TSA Convention, Wimberley, TX. See page 9.
- 13-14 May 2000, Colorado Bend State Park Project. Contact Terry Holsinger (512) 443-4241, trhll@sprynet.com
- 27-29 May 2000, High Guads Restoration Project, NM. Contact David Jagnow. (505) 332-4452, david@jagnow.com
- 27-29 May 2000, O-9 Well Project, Crockett Co., TX. Contact Walter Feaster (915) 694-1824, waltfeast@marshall.com
- Late June 2000, THG grotto trip. Contact Michael Coulter camelot@wf.net
- 26-30 June 2000, NSS Convention, Elkins, WV. Contact Kelley L. Deem (304) 725-9812, deem@mammoth-geo.com
- 2-6 July 2000, Small Party Self Rescue Course, Greenbriar County, WV. Contact Joe Ivy (512) 292-1878, joeivy@interserv.com

