

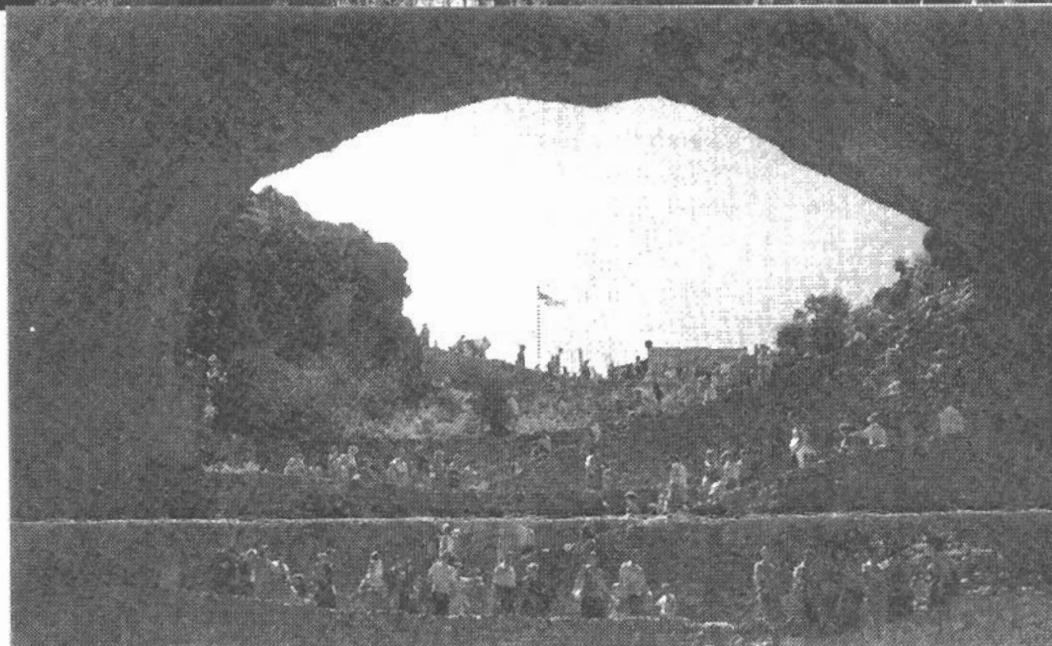
THE MAVERICK BULL

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
FORT WORTH MAVERICK GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

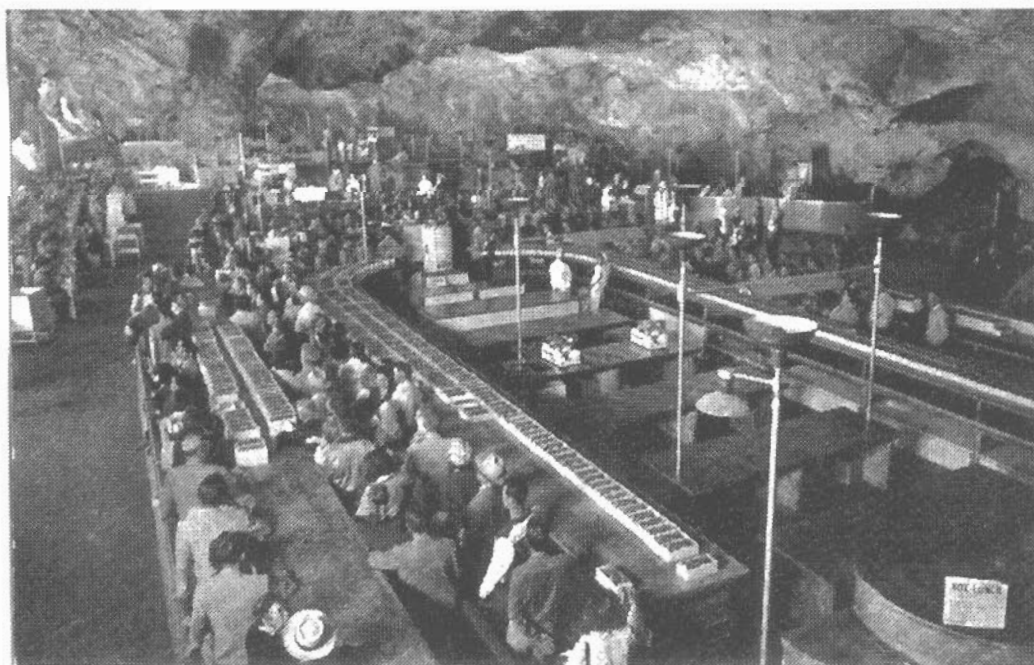
Volume 14, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2001

≡ CARLSBAD CAVERNS ≡



REMEMBERING BACK



SOMETIME IN THE 1950'S

THE MAVERICK BULL

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The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of the Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (N55 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 news letters 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 & ARTWORK

Front cover: Postcards/Carlsbad
Inside photos: It's a contest!

CARTOONS BY CHARLIE LOVING

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Butch Fralia

Rod Perry for layout help
And others who helped or contributed

THANKS

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

The *Maverick Grotto* web site is now at: maverickgrotto.batcave.net

Check it out!

THE MAVERICK BULL

SEPTEMBER Meeting

SAME TIME, SAME PLACE

The next meeting will be Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 11, at
Smokey's Ribs, 5300 Lancaster, at 7:00 p.m. Program unknown.



EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

I apologize to you all for being late getting the SEPTEMBER BULL out. We had a major computer crash and it took everything we had down, but only for a short while.....

A few years ago, cavers were endangered of losing access to the caves of the LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST in New Mexico. Due to the cries of cavers from all over and their willingness to work with the National Forest Service, we were spared the fate of either the caves being closed or having to pay high permit fees. Part of the agreement made was what has led to the HIGH GUADS PROJECT. Cavers would do the work for the right to visit these wonderful caves. The NFS agreed to open caves for permit.

Well, here comes the rub! In the last issue of SOUTHWESTERN CAVER, the newsletter for the SOUTHWEST REGION OF THE NSS, Chairman Bob Rodgers asked a question many of us are being faced with. Why can we NOT get in many of these caves? We have been working this project, cavers from all over the U.S. Yet access is being denied except to a very few. If you call for a permit you must already know the name of the "OPEN" cave or the name of a "TRIP LEADER" on "THE LIST" before any information will be shared by NFS Office. What compounds the frustration is the NFS will not release any names of these "LEADERS". You must know someone before calling.

Bob feels after all the hard efforts many of us have helped with, this is a slap in the face. "Cavers of great reputation and skill are being denied access to caves in the High Guads. This makes us feel like we are being told we are not good enough to enter these caves. No matter what our skill level is. Caves I helped survey and led many trips to over the last 3 decades I can no longer visit. This makes me angry" Bob told me and others in a recent conversation. "It's the cavers that have found, surveyed, photographed and documented these caves and now we can't get to them. We have got to rally together and work once again with this INDIAN GIVER mentality of the NSF and take back our caves. After all, the forest is public land and the NFS the steward."

If you want to know more, are willing to write a letter or wish to get involved you may contact Bob at: BOB RODGERS
7555 Stanley Las Cruces, New Mexico 88012. Home phone 505 - 382 - 8611, email motocaver@zianet.com.

(Food for thought on this dilemma, even the manager of cave resources can not get in some of these caves to do monitoring and finds the situation his superiors have pushed on him unexpectable in many ways.)

September 29th I have been invited to do steward training for a cave in the High Guads. This will put me on one of the "TRIP LEADER" LIST. I will find out as much as I can and report back. Sorry I didn't announce this trip or confirm with some of you. I wasn't sure I could go or that I even wanted to in light of the high profile politics that are playing out up there. I was also informed I could only bring a limited few. So I made the choice and am taking the two guys I cave with the most. Look for a full report in a future Bull.



I'm starting to wonder how many of you really do read the newsletter! I had only one response to the Grotto Survey. No one tried to win the contest and here I had super good prizes, or so I thought. For those interested you have a second chance to win in this issue! And I made it real easy too!!!!

Don't forget about the FUND RAISER AUCTION to be held at the October Meeting. Get you goodles together and bring 'em down. It's for the grotto! James Savage has two cave related plates he's putting up for auction. He will also once again be our auctioneer.

And let's get a good show for the Grotto Anniversary Party coming up 1st weekend in October. Look for details this issue. Karen, your unworthy editor - elections are around the corner, any takers?

MAVERICK BULL FIFTEENTH MAVERICK GROTTO ANNIVERSARY PARTY By Butch Fralia

The fifteenth anniversary party and Grotto fall party will be held October 5, 6, and 7. This year's party is on private property so there aren't wont be any camping fees or fees of any sort. The location is Near Hells Gate on Possum Kingdom Lake. It's a little further than we usually go but due to the privacy and lack of fees, it's well worth it. It's about an hour and a half from Fort Worth (see directions and maps) and probably two-hours and fifteen minutes for most Dallas folks.

The only rules are to clean the place up when you leave and be respectful of your fellow cavers. Keep the party on the designated property (22 acres). That being the case, this location could be available for future parties. There's a swimming hole on the property that's about 100' long, 25-50' wide and 9' deep. It's dry right now but rain is a possibility. If it doesn't rain, we have the use of a 1-acre lake frontage for water access (no hot tubs or camping there). We'll be about a mile from Possum Kingdom Lake. There's lots of flat area for camping and partying. There's even electricity for slides or whatever. If anyone is crazy enough to haul it out there, there's even a Direct-TV antenna waiting for a receiver.

We have the donation of a Lamb and an EMU to cook for the party. We may get a ram thrown in if the lamb doesn't fatten up. The Maverick Grotto has agreed to add some additional meat, probably brisket or ribs. Anyone wanting to bring something else is welcome. Your cooks for this event will be Russell and myself.

Everyone should bring their favorite side dish in sufficient quantity to share with friends. If people want to pool their funds for a keg or two, they can but that wont be furnished out of grotto funds. I'd even contribute if someone wants to be responsible for getting it to the party.

The only problem I can think of is that the road to the camping area drops off pretty steeply from the end of a paved cul-de-sac. Some low ground clearance, long vehicles may have a problem. Most smaller cars can get down ok. If anyone has a problem getting down the ramp, there's plenty of parking on the cul-de-sac and no traffic to worry about. We'll ferry your gear over to the campsite, a couple of hundred feet away.

Bring your vertical gear. There are some small cliffs behind the camping area that can be used for vertical practice or training.

If you have a GPS, bring it. Maybe we can practice navigating to waypoints for those who haven't figured that out.

We can probably arrange a trip the nearby Hill's Gate cave for those who haven't seen it. There's bad air right now so it's not enterable but you can look and see what all the articles have been about. In addition to a probable cave in a 150' layer of cave bearing limestone, this cave is a pre-historic burial site.

Please come join us and party hardy. Make this the best fall party ever. All cavers, family and friends are welcome.

>From I-20/I-30 Junction West of Fort Worth:

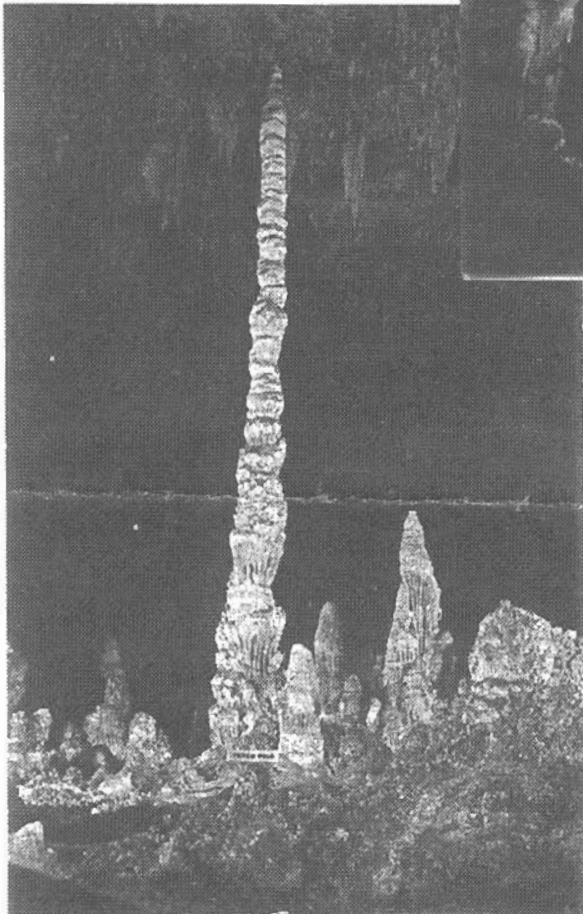
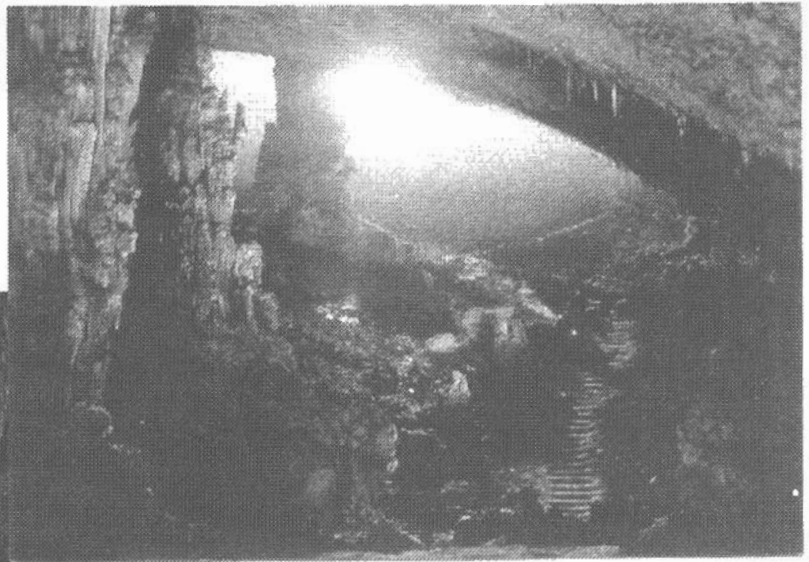
Start at Junction of I-20/I-30	Time from start	Distance (Miles)	
Take exit 406 off I-20/I-30	0.16	15.0	
Drive North on S. Bowie Drive to US180	0.26	7.1	
US 180 to downtown Mineral Wells	1.01	18.0	
US 180 to downtown Palo Pinto	1.18	12.1	
Palo Pinto to US 180/N Highway 16	1.31	15.8	
N Highway 16 to W. Hells Gate	1.38	2.8	(Look for What-a-Burger Sign)
W. Hells Gate to Pecan Cove	1.42	4.7	(Easy to read Street Sign)
Pecan Cove to cul-de-sac	1.54	0.5	
Total:	1.54	75.0	
Graham to Party Site:			
Start Downtown Graham (SR16/67/380)	Time from start	Distance (Miles)	
South to SR intersection	0.36	22.0	(reference only, keep going south)
South to W. Hells Gate	0.55	13.0	(Look for What-a-Burger Sign)
W. Hells Gate to Pecan cove	1.06	4.7	
Pecan Cove to cul-de-sac	1.07	0.5	
Total:	1.07	40.0	

Note(s): The road identified as W. Hells Gate Drive doesn't have a sign. It's located about 100 feet south of a convenience store and Whataburger. Pecan Cove ends in a cul-de-Sac. Slightly to the left center of the cul-de-Sac, a road drops sharply down, crosses a dry creek then turns back to the right. Follow this road around and back across the same dry creek. Note the storage shed (abandoned pickup beside) and a large fiberglass tank laying on its side. Camping is between the shed and tank. The area near the owners weekend trailer is reserved for cooking and the party. There is outside power available near the trailer and a large picnic table.

Most cars should be able to follow the road off the cul-de-sac. However some large cars with low ground clearance will have trouble. You can park in the cul-de-sac and we'll ferry your stuff over to the camp site for you.

This Month's Contest

Name



This

Cave

