

THE MAVERICK BULL

The Newsletter of the Maverick Grotto Volume 18 Issue 6 June, 2005



Maverick Grotto Information

Copyright 2005 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 provide 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 Bodacious BBQ, 1206 E. Division St., Arlington. The time is 7 p.m., and the food is good.

Library: Support your Grotto Library. Dennis Welch will be accepting books and magazines on cave-related topics, copies of homemade cave videos, etc. for our library. We wish to thank Dennis for his efforts to bring and set up the Grotto Library.

Photos & Map Credits

Cover Photo: Taken by Tammy Cox-Wonderland section of Cottonwood Cave in the High Guads in New Mexico. If you have a chance to participate in a High Guads Resto trip you will not be disappointed.

Page 6: Photo of Wayne by RD Milhollin, photo of a bat being re-hydrated by Roger Mercer.

Page 7: Deep Cave photo taken by John Brook

Page 9: Deep Cave photo taken by Carl Kunath, 1965, Punkin Cave photo taken Carl Kunath, 1972

Back Cover: Photo of a lake in Hell Below Cave in New Mexico taken by Brian Williams.

Visit Our NSS Award-Winning Web Site! Butch has been hard at work constructing the grotto web site and keeping it up-to-date. You'll find information about getting into caving, trip photos and the PDF version of this newsletter (with color photos!): Also, Butch has also done a wonderful job putting all the previous newsletters on the web site. Be sure and check it out.

[Http://www.maverickgrotto.org](http://www.maverickgrotto.org)

Cave Rescue: Call collect: (512) 686-0234

Next meeting, June 14th, 7:00 pm
Bodacious BBQ
1206 E Division St.
Arlington, TX. 76011
(817) 860-4248

Program:

For this month's program Mark Gee will bring a tape called Hollow Mountain Of Mula shot in some caves in Borneo. It's 51 minutes long. We hope to see everyone there.

Chair

Ed Goff
 737 Bizerte Ave.
 Dallas, TX 75224
 (214)942-6024
 egoff@rice.edu

Secretary

Scott Boyd
 509 E Glendale St.
 Crowley, TX 76036
 (817) 297-4427
 sdboyd56@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor

Tammy Cox
 237 Gwen St.
 Azle, TX 76020
 (817) 444-0186
 tammy.cox@charter.net

Vice-Chair

Mark Gee
 3819 Portland
 Irving, TX, 75038
 (972) 358-5105
 Markageetxcaver@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Sharon Mastbrook
 3412 Walton Ave.
 Fort Worth, TX 76133
 (817) 346-2039
 cavedba@charter.net

Webmaster

Butch Fralia
 3412 Walton Ave.
 Fort Worth, TX 76133
 (817) 346-2039
 cavedba@charter.net

Contents

Caving Calendar	3
NSS Convention information	4
“If You Build It They Will Come” article By Butch Fralia	5
Cowtown Grotto bat rescue article by Wayne Peplinski	6
Deep and Punkin Cave article by Jerry Atkinson	7
Deep Cave Survey Maps	8
Lodging Options for Deep and Punkin Cave property	9

Caving Events Calendar

June until Oct Evening Bat Flight Tours, Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area (Rocksprings): Every Wednesday through Sunday the Devil's Sinkhole Society leads tours. Peer down into the depths of Texas and observe up to 3 million bats emerge. A short program will be given on the Devil's Sinkhole and bats. Visitors are shuttled in a tour bus from Rocksprings Visitor Center to the site. Call for times; fees \$10 adults, \$8 senior citizens, \$6 children 12 and under; reservations required. (830) 683-BATS (2287), (830) 683-3762.

Jun until Oct Bat Flights at Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area (Fredericksburg): Observe an estimated 3 million Mexican Free-tailed bats and 1,000-3,000 Cave Myotis emerge from this abandoned railroad tunnel in the evening. All nightly programs begin one hour prior to estimated bat emergence times. These vary during the year so call ahead for times [(830) 367-7923]; seating for lower viewing area programs is on a first-come, first-served basis. **Contact:** Amy Sugeno (830) 990-2860. **Info:** http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wma/find_a_wma/list/?id=17

Jun 11-12 Manhole Dig (Carlsbad, NM): On-going dig project on BLM land. **Contact:** Stephen Fleming swcaver@caverns.com

Jun 11 Bat Flights at Stuart Bat Cave, Kickapoo Caverns State Park (Bracketville) Observe an estimated 500,000 bats emerge from Stuart Bat Cave in the evening. A program will be given regarding bats, the environment and the resources of the park. Call for times; fees \$5 per person; reservations required (830) 563-2342.

June 17-19, 2005 Deep Cave Survey trip (Edwards County): At present the cave has a surveyed length of 6066 feet (1849 meters) and a depth of 299 feet (91 meters). The June trip will focus on exploration and survey in the areas visited by the Project during the March trip. No vertical work is expected. The trip will be limited to a maximum of 16 in-cave personnel. Of these 16 people, 8 will be selected from the core group on a first-come basis prior to each trip. **Contact:** JerryAtkin@aol.com

Jun 18-19 GypKaP (Carlsbad, NM): Long-running cave survey project in the gypsum plain of southern New Mexico. **Contact:** Blake Jordan (505) 260-1096 blandevoid@comcast.net

Jun 24-Jul 2 National Cave Rescue Commission 2005 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar (Union Hill, AL): Basic and advanced cave rescue courses offered the week before the NSS Convention. More info found at <http://caves.org/io/ncrc/2005Seminar/seminar2005.htm> **Contact:** Berta Kirchman 2005registrar@ncrc.info

June 25- July 2, 2005 - The National Cave Rescue Commission will host the 2005 NCRC Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar in Somerville, Alabama. Further information can be found on the seminar web site at <http://seminar2005.ncrc.info> or contact: Berta Kirchman at 2005registrar@ncrc.info

Jun 25 Strickland Pond Party (Austin): Join the festivities at the annual party at Stricklandia. Marvel at the dam, relax in the hot tub, partake of the pot-luck goodies and camp out if you don't want to drive home. **Contact:** Pete Strickland (512) 258-8384 pstrickland1@austin.rr.com

June 25-26 High Guads Restoration Project (Carlsbad, NM): On-going work amid spectacular scenery in beautiful caves of the Lincoln National Forest. Last weekend of the month, permits often include Three Fingers, Virgin, Pink Dragon, Pink Panther, Hidden, Wonderland, and Black Cave. Activities vary from month to month. **Contacts:** Susan Herpin or Jennifer Foote highguads@yahoo.com

Jul 02-09 Fort Stanton Cave Project (Carlsbad, NM) Join the folks working on extending the length of this cave on BLM lands. **Contact:** John Corcoran III john_j_Corcoran_III@msn.com

July 04-08 NSS Convention: (Huntsville, AL): “From Outer Space to Inner Space,” this year's Convention is in the heart of TAG. Registration for NSS members is \$125 before May 31st, \$150 after. - See the Convention website at www.nss.org.

Thank you to Bill Steele for proofreading this issue.

Inner Mountain Outfitters

We pride ourselves on providing the latest and best technology at the best prices around. We have the most complete line of caving gear in the country, and we are always looking for more items to serve you better. We combine that with fast, friendly service to get you what you need when you need it. Orders received by 3 p.m. are normally out the door the same day.

Inner Mountain Outfitters
5715 Lee-Jackson Highway
Greenville VA 24440-1852
Phone: 540-377-2690
e-mail: imo@caves.org



nss2005.com for online registration and information or contact Jim Hall jime-hall2@cs.com (256-772-9829) or Charles Lundquist lundquc@email.uah.edu (256-824-2684) for any questions!. See announcement on this page.

July 9-10 Manhole Dig (Carlsbad, NM): On-going dig project on BLM land. **Contact:** Stephen Fleming swcaver@caverns.com

July 9 Bat Flights at Stuart Bat Cave, Kickapoo Caverns State Park (Bracketville) Observe an estimated 500,000 bats emerge from Stuart Bat Cave in the evening. A program will be given regarding bats, the environment and the resources of the park. Call for times; fees \$5 per person; reservations required (830) 563-2342

Jul 13 Texas Speleological Survey Work Session (Austin): Held at the TSS offices in Austin from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come help with the organization of Texas cave information. **Contacts:** Jim Kennedy (512) 663-2287 jkenedy@batcon.org Ron Ralph ronralph@austin.rr.com

July 16-17 GypKaP (Carlsbad, NM): Long-running cave survey project in the gypsum plain of southern New Mexico. **Contact:** Blake Jordan (505) 260-1096 blandevoid@comcast.net

July 30-31 High Guads Restoration Project (Carlsbad, NM):

August 1-5, 2005 - Mammoth Cave Restoration Camp - Mammoth Cave National Park. I think it will be a very interesting year and I hope to see many of you at the camps. For more information visit the ebsite:<http://mcnpre restoration.com/rfc.html>

August 5-7, 2005 - 52nd Annual Cave Capers! - Crawford County 4H Fair-ground, near Marengo, IN. In addition to some of the finest caving in Indiana we will have a stellar lineup of events for your enjoyment. Friday we will have a few cave trips and live music. Saturday after caving you can enjoy the low dough cookout, followed by Mark Minton speaking about the US Deep Cave Team's recent expedition to Mexico. Then the highlight of the evening, a performance by the ever popular Terminal Syphons. Check our web site at www.cavecapers.com for more information. Or contact Bambi dunlap at bambi.deer@juno.com

August 13-14 Manhole Dig (Carlsbad, NM):

August 14 Bat Flights at Stuart Bat Cave, Kickapoo Caverns State Park (Bracketville)

August 14-19, 2005 - Bat Conservation and Management Workshops - Barree, Pennsylvania. For more details visit the BCI website <http://www.batcon.org> or contact Kari Gaukler at kgaukler@batcon.org.

August 20-21 GypKaP (Carlsbad, NM): Long-running cave survey project in the gypsum plain of southern New Mexico. **Contact:** Blake Jordan (505) 260-1096 blandevoid@comcast.net

August 21-28 14th International Congress of Speleology (Athens, Greece): All subjects and activities of interest to caves and karst will be covered, including paper presentations, exploration reports, caving techniques, speleo equipment, films, media, art, and more. The Union Internationale de Speleologie hosts an International Congress once every four years. **Info:** www.14ics-athens2005.gr

August 27, 2005 TSS Quarterly Board Meeting and Work Session: Beginning at 10:30, the board of directors will meet at building 18A of the UT Pickle Research campus, Austin, TX. Afterward there will be a work session. If you haven't been to the office before, this would be a good chance to get familiar with the type of data maintained in the TSS files. **Contact:** Jim Kennedy at: jkenedy@batcon.org or Butch Fralia at: bfralia@maverickgrotto.org

August 27-28 High Guads Restoration Project (Carlsbad, NM):

September 1-5, 2005 Old Timers Reunion . Held in West Virginia every Labor Day weekend. This is the largest congregation of cavers in the world. There is no pretense of science or cave exploration; just lots of partying and socializing. There are many easily accessible caves nearby. Daily, WV (Randolph County) . . . <http://www.otr.org>

September 10-11 Manhole Dig (Carlsbad, NM): On-going dig project on BLM land. **Contact:** Stephen Fleming swcaver@caverns.com

September 10 Bat Flights at Stuart Bat Cave, Kickapoo Caverns State Park (Bracketville)

September 16-18, 2005 - 41st Annual Hodag Hunt - sponsored by the Wisconsin Speleological Society with Crystal Cave, Spring Valley, Wisconsin. Event includes guided wild cave trips and wild tours through the off-trail section of Crystal Cave, one of Wisconsin's longest commercial caves. Catered breakfast and dinner, guest speakers will hold a mini geology/biology seminar, fund raising auction and door prizes. For more information please contact Dawn Ryan: airst@hotmail.com or 815-260-3454

September 24-28, 2005 - Karst 2005 - DoubleTree Hotel, San Antonio, Texas Tenth Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst Sponsored by the Geo-Institute of ASCE, P.E. Lamoreaux & Associates, Inc., Edwards Aquifer Authority, and co-sponsored by Southwest Research Institute. For more information visit the website:<http://www.asce.org/conferences/karst2005>

September 24-25, 2005 High Guads Restoration Project (Carlsbad, NM):

October 6-9, 2005 TAG Fall Cave-In - Lookout Mountain, Georgia . The cavers of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia get together in early October for a weekend of parties, speleo-competitions, and lots of "pit bouncing." <http://www.tagfallcavein.org/homex.html>

Announcements:

Hi Texas Cavers,

We currently have 26 Texas cavers registered for the 2005 Convention. Encourage your friends and fellow grotto members to join us, we look forward to hosting you all! For those of you who have never attended an NSS Convention in Alabama (which is most of us), there is a good reason for that. The last Convention held in Alabama was June 10 - 18, 1967. It may be 38 years before you have the opportunity again. Make plans now to join us at Convention! In addition to the sessions, climbing contest, and caving opportunities available during the 2005 Convention, a variety of evening events are included in the price of registration giving you an opportunity to meet and visit with NSS members from across the country. Although the early registration discount is no longer available, pre-registration (at full price) will continue thru June 15, 2005. After this date you will need to register at the door when you arrive at Convention.

Visit <http://www.nss2005.com/registration.htm> to register online or download a printable copy of the registration form.

Sharon Faulkner
Chair, 2005 NSS Convention
Publicity



“If You Build It, They Will Come”

By Butch Fralia

Carl Kunath was driving back to San Angelo from the TSA spring convention at Fort McKavett with his wife Glenda. She's been attending TSA conventions since 1965, the last time a convention was held anywhere close to San Angelo. Carl asked for her impressions of the convention and her reply was thought provoking: "You guys used to talk about caves. I sat out there with you for three hours Friday night and all you talked about was GPS, digital cameras, and computer stuff. I didn't understand a word of what you said." Carl was inspired to write an interesting article that will appear in a future *Texas Caver*. He sent me a copy of the article, which in turn started my mental gears turning and inspired this article. I'm not copying or paraphrasing Carl's article other than borrowing Glenda's comment, which is a profound statement on the state of caving today.

Joe Giddens was probably the prime mover in starting the Maverick Grotto. He knew the ins and outs of how such things worked with the NSS. He wrote the first draft of the Constitution and we got our charter back quickly and we were off and running. Joe had a strong opinion about newsletters being the primary means of communications within a grotto and the glue that held it together. He had voiced this for years at DFW Grotto meetings so it should be expected he'd keep up the mantra in the new grotto. A successful grotto always has a timely newsletter with useful information for its membership. That alone can hold a grotto together. I didn't use quotes because I don't remember exactly how he said it but that's probably pretty close.

In 1986, there were three venues of communications within a grotto: Meetings, phone calls and the newsletter. You can say there were four if you include the occasional letter someone wrote and sent to a few friends. I recall a character named Al Rehfeldt showing up at a meeting a year or so after the grotto started, saying he didn't realize it was meeting time again but he got his newsletter the day before and that reminded him to make the meeting. That started a meeting discussion of newsletter timeliness and it turned out that was the reminder that triggered a lot of people to come to meetings. It was a pretty strong statement for the importance of newsletter timeliness. With few ex-

ceptions, the Maverick Bull has always been published and mailed in a timely fashion before the meeting. Meetings have always been well attended and I believe the newsletter has been a factor.

The quote attributed to the movie "Field of Dreams", "If you build it they will come" has always had a strong effect on me. It applies to a lot of situations in life but is particularly relevant to caving and grottos. You have to build it; it doesn't happen by itself. You have to **build** a newsletter, a grotto, a meeting, a convention, a website and even a caving trip. You have to communicate using all the venues at your disposal. Communicate, communicate, and communicate.

It's 2005 and we now have more ways to communicate with each other about caving. The newsletter is still important, as are meetings and the occasional phone call. We've added websites, e-mail and mailing lists to the ways we communicate. Mailing Lists like CaveTex, the Texas Caver list, Metroplex Cavers and our own Maverick Grotto list have become major factors in caver communication. Websites communicate what caving is all about and the non-caving public has the opportunity to share some of our experiences. Occasionally a wannabe caver looks at the website and attends a meeting. Sometimes they stay and join the community and sometimes they don't, but we've at least made the opportunity available to them.

The spring TSA convention at Fort McKavett was well attended because not only was it listed on a few website calendars and newsletters, it was hyped for months on the CaveTex list giving people plenty of time to plan their time to be there.

E-mail (including the lists) is probably the greatest thing that ever happened in the caving world. You can send an e-mail almost anywhere in the world and it's there within a few seconds. When I'm done with this article I'm going to e-mail it to Tammy for the newsletter. When she finishes the newsletter, she'll upload it to the website. She will then e-mail me that it's there ready to be converted into PDF format. I'll perform that task, upload the PDF, modify the member subscriber page then send an e-mail notification to the Maverick mailing list that it's ready for download. Processes that once took days are now done in hours if not minutes

Having the newsletter on the website has been useful, especially for far away members who can download the newsletter shortly after it's available and see it in color rather than having to wait for the US-Mail which is sometimes harsh on newsletters. The older newsletters have been popular with the caving public. Tammy's February 2005 newsletter has been downloaded 48 times now.

The website has set a new record for visitation this month. Recently 89 pictures from the Colorado Bend project were added and announced on the various mailing lists. The response has been so enthusiastic that we've already exceeded 1.5 GB (gigabytes – one billion characters) of download bandwidth this month. Last month we broke 1 GB for the first time because 100 old newsletters were added and announced. Bill Tucker's Phantom Springs pictures held the top download position until then.

If you build it, they will come!

Cowtown Grotto Members Take Action!

A seven story structure (not including the basement and sub-basement) located in an upper-end section of downtown Fort Worth was thought to have had several bats trapped in it. The Kress building had been used by the bats for decades without problems. But the building was now being refurbished and it appeared the contractor had inadvertently sealed the entry/exit for the colony forcing the bats to seek an alternate means of escape. Many volunteers came to help.

A big THANKS to the Cowtown Grotto members who assisted me in the rescue. It was a long week and the extra eyes searching saved many of the little guys. Roger Mercer located a "secret passage" in the building that I had over looked and saved lots of bats. Without their help we would have lost many more Mexican free tailed bats. I wish the contractor had called a few days earlier. The basements and sub-basement had rooms that had not been entered in probably 25 years or more, I am told by Amanda Lollar at BatWorld Sanctuary in Mineral Wells (our rescue centers headquarters) that this was the biggest bat rescue that she or all the other rescue centers in the U.S. have ever heard of in 25+ years of bat research, and rehab. work in the whole country. I used over 800 syringes hydrating them so they could make the ten mile journey to my place. Once there it had to be repeated

for all with new syringes plus a little food to keep up there blood sugar levels. This was done for fifty-four hours straight the first few days. Over 60 lbs. of bats were brought out. Thank God for the donations of medical supplies. I used more this week than I would in ten years of rescues! We used over 4,000 syringes just rehydrating them. The rescue including meds, fluids, caging, gas, lost time at work and such ended up costing us almost \$5,000. This was the largest (and most drawn out!) rescue the organization has had in 20+ years. We even called on rehabbers who



Wayne Peplinski

never worked with bats before and gave them a crash course on bat medical protocol. Batworld Lonestar, Trinity River and the Sanctuary were completely overloaded and were waiting on the lawyers for the owners to make a donation to help cover costs. It would have cost \$10,000 or more if they had called a bat excluder in and they usually say "public health threat" and start killing bats. They have promised to help, we just hope they do. We have received a lot of positive attention about it from all over the U.S. and that always helps!

Wayne Peplinski,
Regional Director, BatWorld Trinity River FTW



Survey and Exploration of Deep and Punkin Caves Resumes

In February 2005, the TCMA Deep Cave Survey Project was initiated in order to continue the exploration, survey, and resource assessment of the caves on the Preserve. Initially, the project will focus on the survey of the areas immediately adjacent to the preferred visitation route through Deep Cave so as to assess and potentially open those areas to future visitation. The cave can best be described as a 3-dimensional maze in both breakdown and bedrock that requires a good deal of crawling and climbing. Surveys will be conducted according to a standard set of project guidelines so as to maintain quality control throughout the course of the project. Participants do not necessarily need to have prior survey experience but it is encouraged. Some portions of the cave require vertical rope experience but most areas do not. As the cave is quite complex, survey trips will be rather slow paced in order to allow for adequate exploration and sketching.

On March 19th, 2005, the Project held its first weekend trip to both Deep and Punkin Caves. Twelve cavers attended the weekend effort and surveyed a total of 415m (1360 feet). Deep Cave is presently 1849m (6066 feet) long and 91m (299 feet) deep. Punkin Cave is 44.7m (147 feet) deep and approximately 300m (1000 feet) long. The following is an abbreviated report of each team's efforts:

Deep Cave Team 1: Jerry Atkinson, Darla Bishop, John Brooks, and Philip Rywalder surveyed 112.4m (369 feet) in the Lost World (LW survey). The passage consisted of an extensive breakdown maze with sizeable rooms separated by nasty crawls. The team attempted to follow good airflow but

all such leads ended in tight squeezes that would need enlarging. The surveyed area underlies the Swiss Cheese Corridor and Bat Room. Numerous leads remain. Interesting monocrystalline spar stalagmites resembling pagodas were noted and animal claw scratches were observed on broken draperies.

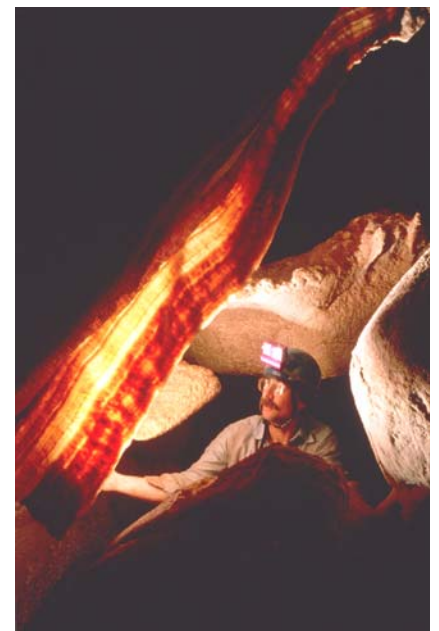
Deep Cave Team 2: Marvin Miller, Ed Goff, Linda Palit, and Joe Ranzau surveyed 123.8m (406 feet) in the Miller Time Room area (CF survey). The team completed the survey of the Miller Time Room and extended the breakdown maze northward to connect into the Helictite Room. They then continued the survey to the southwest along the rift that parallels the corridor leading to the Crystal Waterfall area. The breakdown maze continues with numerous leads and airflow.

Punkin Cave Team 1: Pete Lindsley, Jim Kennedy, Clark Giles, and John Crosthwait surveyed 178.4m (585 feet) from the entrance of the cave down through the rift passage developed at the south end of the entrance room (R survey). At the bottom of the steep rift passage, the team found a large, 11m (35 feet) wide by 20m (65 feet) long, flat ceiling room averaging 2m (6 feet) high (Mortuary Room). Goat bones were observed in the room. Numerous leads with good airflow remain to be surveyed. A new route was explored back to the entrance room which also remains to be surveyed.

A large, Barred Owl was seen in the entrance room and several Eastern Pipistrelles were observed in the rift passage.

Future Efforts: A large part of the known caves remain to be surveyed, and based on the exploration to date, much remains to be discovered. Both caves contain unique speleothems and geologic features which need to be documented and assessed for potential impact due to visitation. Biological and photo documentation studies have begun, but much work remains. Individuals interested in participating in the Project or that have questions should contact Jerry Atkinson via email or by phone. Future trips are scheduled for every two to three months and will be announced on CaveTex.

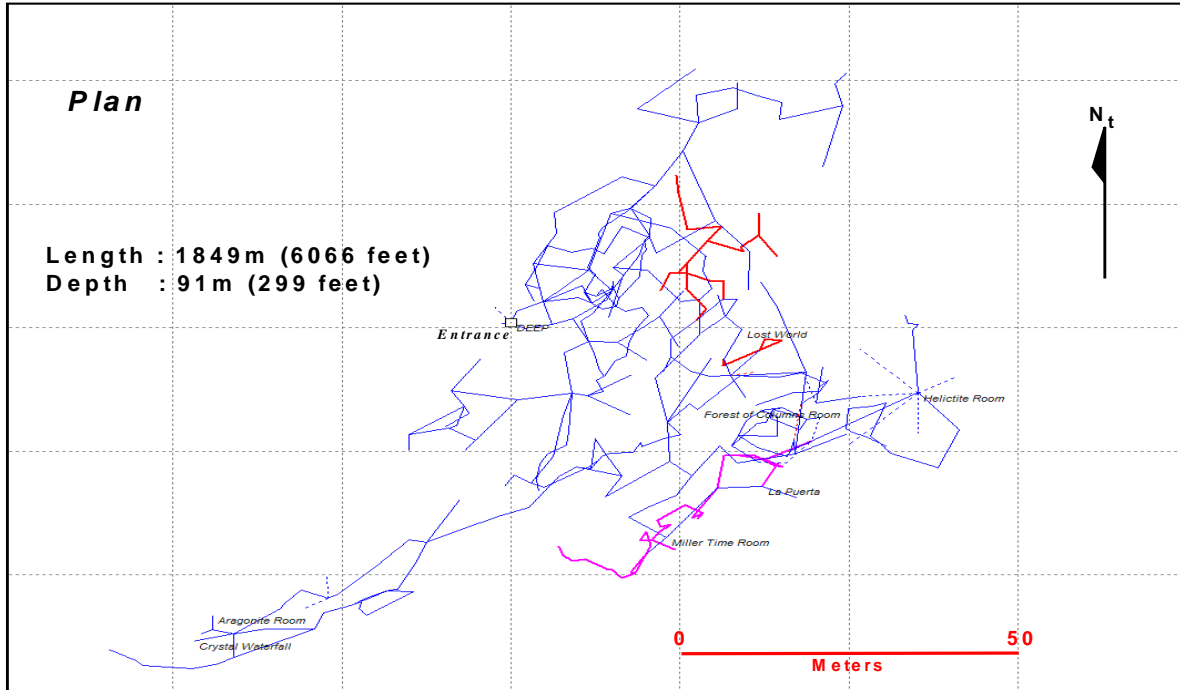
Jerry Atkinson
Deep Cave Project Coordinator
281-360-2244
jerryatkin@aol.com



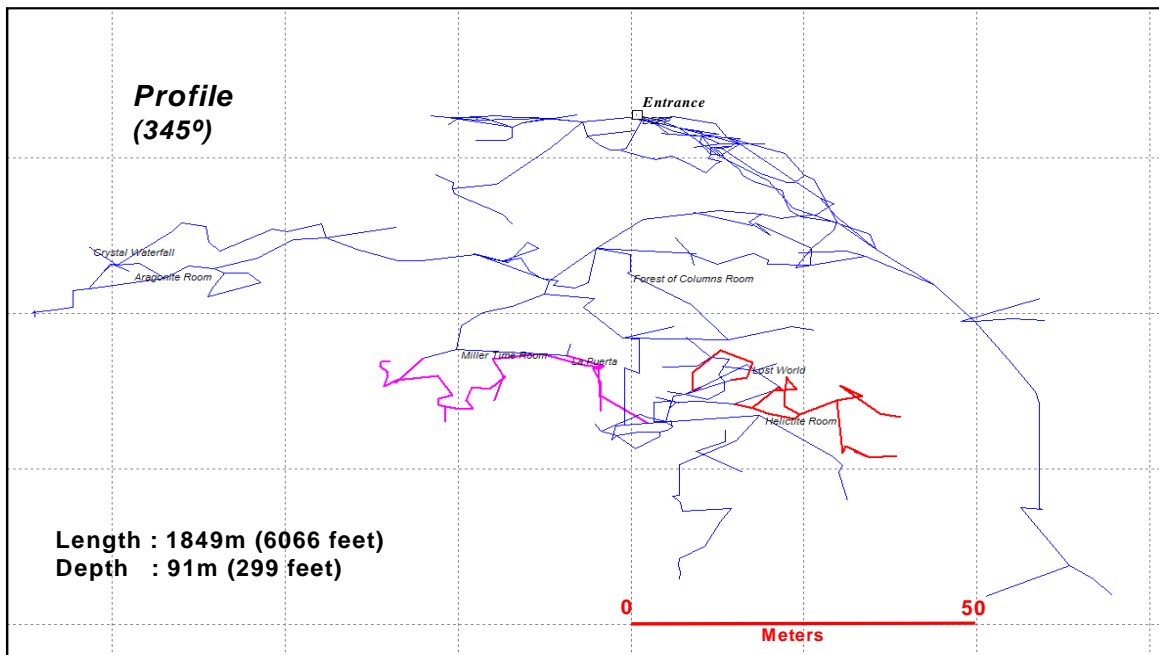
Deep Cave drapery

The purple and red vectors on the maps are the new survey from March 2005.

Deep Cave (19 March 2005)



Deep Cave (19 March 2005)



Lodging Options for Punkin and Deep

Having just returned from a wonderful weekend at the Punkin and Deep Cave property, I thought I would give a limited trip report on lodging accommodations for future caver visits to the property. Wanting to bring my wife and children along on the trip, I was kindly informed by my wife that we have a travel trailer and she was not going camping in the rain and heat if there was any other option.

After a web search, e-mails to Geary, and phone calls to local residents, I found the closest accommodations to the property. The old store in Carta Valley has been turned into the headquarters for Triple CCC - Hunting, Fishing & Exotics. Behind the store, they have full hook-ups, water, electric, and sewer, for three or four RVs. We have a 27 foot travel trailer and had no problem parking on the hook-up outside of the fence. The pads are level, but there is grass only on the ones inside the fence. The rate was very reasonable at \$10/night, but I do not know if they will continue with that low rate since this first trip was kind of a neighborly gesture. To secure a spot, we first called Charles Hand at (210) 849-7996 and explained that we were to work at the Punkin and Deep Cave property over the weekend. He then in turn called the camp hostess (Fonda at 813-240-4830), yes that is a Florida area code, to let them know we were coming. Hunters have first priority, but they only have a few scheduled until December. Fonda and her husband live in the fifth wheel in the back where the RVs are parked.

The camp headquarters are also available for rent, although the prices for that were not discussed. The headquarters are in the old store and have one bathroom, living room (with fireplace), two bedrooms with a queen bed and two bunk beds, and a quasi-sleeping area with three double beds. The front area of the headquarters has a full kitchen, a large family style dining area (probably can sit 20), and a billiard room.

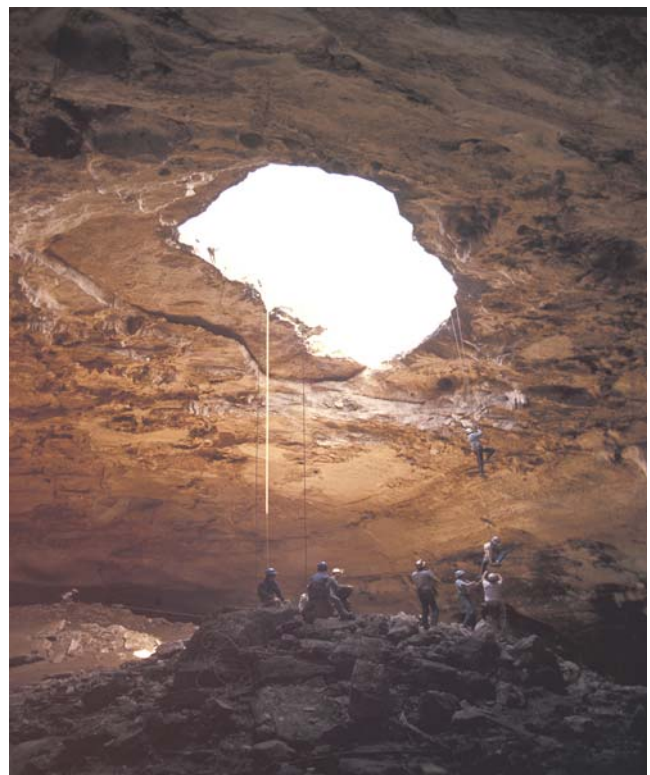
The web site for the camp headquarters is www.Triple-CCC.com which has some pictures of the accommodations and some of the hunting kills. Fonda said that when staying in the headquarters, they can do the cooking or you can do the cooking. I am sure there are different prices for each. There is no air conditioning in the lodge, but all the rooms have ceiling fans. When climbing out of Deep Cave, it is nice to know a good shower is waiting at the headquarters.

The hunting lodge headquarters is across the highway (277) from the ranch road that goes to the Punkin and Deep Cave property. So the only

drawback is the property is ten miles (30 minutes) from the headquarters. Our experience with everyone at Triple-CCC was great and they are looking forward to additional income from visitors to the Punkin and Deep Cave property.

B. T. Price
William.S.Price@WellsFargo.com

Deep Cave , passage near Forest of Columns Room



Punkin Cave, climbers on the main entrance drop.



Hell Below Cave in New Mexico

**Maverick Grotto
c/o Tammy Cox
237 Gwen St.
Azle, TX. 76020**