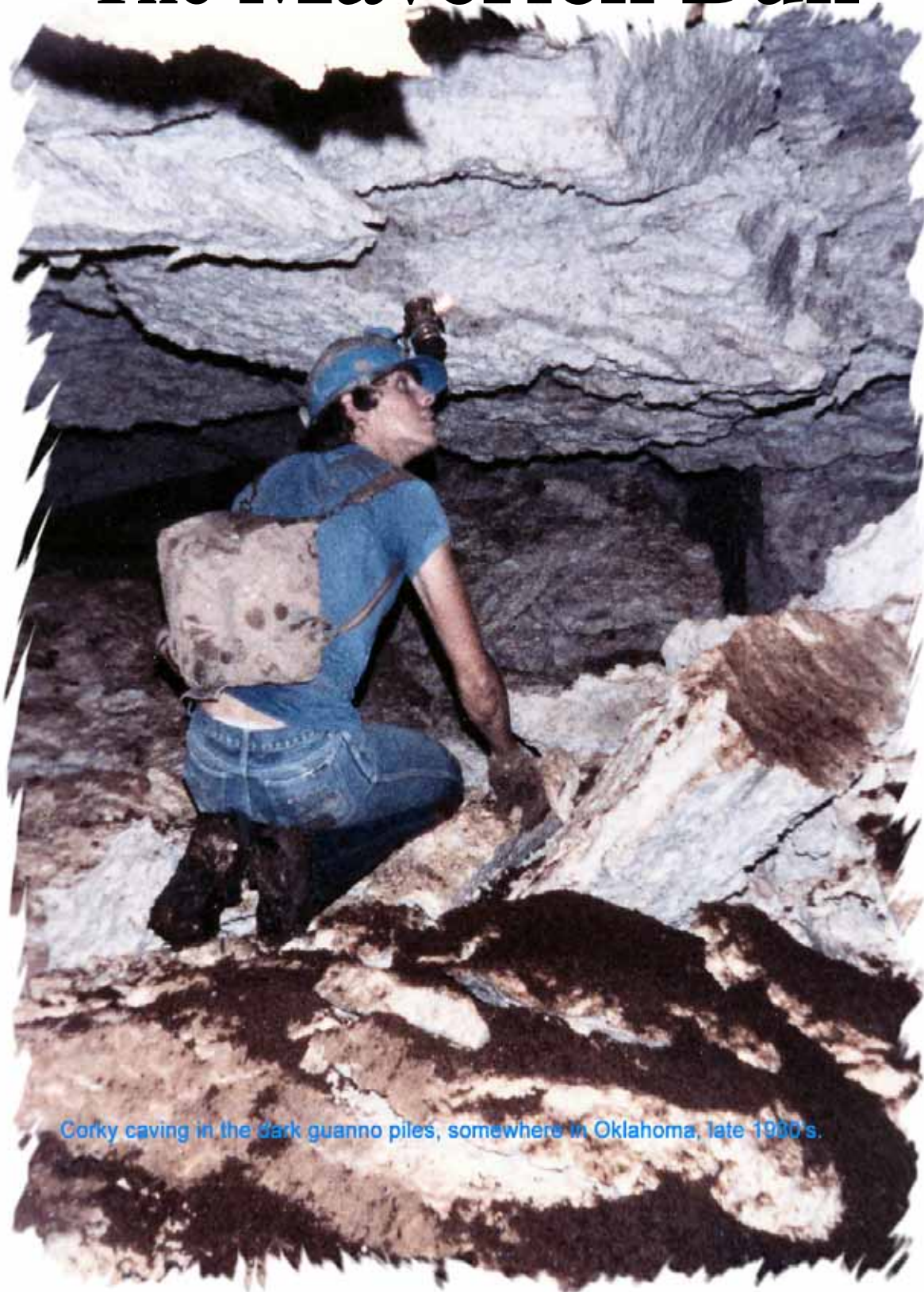


The Maverick Bull



Corky caving in the dark guano piles, somewhere in Oklahoma, late 1980's.

The Newsletter of the Maverick Grotto Volume 19 Issue 4 April, 2006

Maverick Grotto Information

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The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of The Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of The National Speleological Society (NSS G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other grottos to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed stamped envelope should accompany it.

Reprinting Articles: Internal organizations of The National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author as stated in the byline) first appearing in *The Maverick Bull* if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor of *The Maverick Bull* at the address herein.

Exchanges: The Maverick Grotto will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

Complementary Newsletters: The Maverick Grotto will provide complementary newsletters to persons or organizations that provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise 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 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced prior to each meeting.

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. Bill and Diana will be temporarily bringing and setting up the grotto library on Dennis' behalf.

Photos & Map Credits

Cover Photo: Photo of Corky Corcoran taken by Dale Ellison

Page 4: Photo of Charles Goldsmith by Tammy Goldsmith

Page 6 and 7: Photos taken by Bill Steele

Page 8 & 9: Maps by Mark Gee

Back Cover: Jester group photo by Bill Steele

Visit Our NSS Award-Winning Web Site!

Butch has done an excellent job at 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!):

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

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

Next meeting, , April 11th , 2006 7:00 pm

Buck N' Loons

3517 South Cooper Street
Arlington, TX 76015-3410.

Program:

Donald Selby will give a presentation about attending Jerry Fant's Thanksgiving Week Proyecto Espeleologico Sierra Oxmolon Project in Mexico. More information about the project can be found at Jerry's web site:

<http://home.att.net/~JerryFant/>

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Caving Calendar

Apr 8-9 Colorado Bend State Park Project: Second weekend of the month, this is a terrific project for beginning cavers. A change in project leadership is expected soon, come down and see what the project is about and help in the re-organization. **Contact:** Butch Fralia (817) 346-2039 cavedba@charter.net Dale Barnard Barnarddale@yahoo.com

Apr 15 Texas Cave Conservancy "Cave Day" (Cedar Park): Event open to the public, caver help needed for education of the public about karst and caves. Come see the latest acquisition by the TCC, Avery Ranch Cave. **Contact:** Donna Mosesmann (713) 777-7339 dogmos1@hotmail.com

Apr 15-16 Manhole Dig (Carlsbad region, NM): Cave-diggers welcome, come see if this will be the next big one. **Contact:** Stephen Fleming swcaver@warpedriveonline.com

Apr 22 Government Canyon State Natural Area Project: 20 miles northwest of San Antonio. Activities include survey, exploration, ridge walking, and digging. Participants must enter by 9 am on Saturday, contact in advance if you want to camp and for directions. Caving on Saturday only this month, none on Sunday. **Contacts:** Marvin and Lisa Miller (830) 885-5631 mllmiller@gvtc.com

Apr 28-30 Vertical Training Workshop (Hunt): TSA sponsored training workshop that will use the training manual from the NSS Vertical Section. Course contents include ropes, knots, rigging, rappelling, and ascending using knots as well as mechanical ascenders. Location is the Alamo Area Council Boy Scouts of America Bear Creek Scout Camp, near Hunt, about 15 miles NW of Kerrville. Program will begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday and last until the evening, then begin again on Sunday morning and complete sometime after lunch on Sunday. No need to bring vertical equipment, but if you do it will be inspected prior to your use. The site includes two cliffs (one 40 feet, the other 120 feet) and there will be access to conference facilities. No alcohol! Cost will be about \$20, and will include a copy of the training manual, access to scout reservation, camping and equipment. **Contact:** Geary Schindel (210) 479-2151 (home) (210) 222-2204 (work) gshindel@mindspring.com

Apr 29-30 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

Apr 29-May 7 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

May 5-7 Spring MVOR: The Mississippi Valley Ozark Region

Spring get-together, the Missouri version of the spring TSA Convention. Hosted this year by the Meramec Valley Grotto, there will be plenty of the usual, including vendors, parties, food, caving, etc. The site includes camping at Camp Zoe in Shannon County, MO. **Contact:** Joe Sikorski joesikorski@sbcglobal.net **Info:** <http://www.mvor.org>

May 19-21 Texas Speleological Association Spring Convention (near Fischer): Hosted at the John Knox Ranch, near Fischer, TX, on the banks of the Blanco River. Come see the talks, salons, vendors, meetings (TSA, TSS, TCMA), TCMA auction. All the usual festivities will take place during this weekend. **Contact:** Kara Dittmer vicechairman@cavetexas.org **Info:** <http://www.cavetexas.org/events/tsasc2006> **Also:** <http://www.johnknoxranch.com/>

May 20 Texas Speleological Survey Board Meeting (Near Fischer): Typically held at the TSS offices in Austin at 10:30 a.m., location will be the TSA Convention this time. Open to anyone interested in Texas cave information, its organization and publication. **Contacts:** George Veni (210) 558-4403 gveni@satx.rr.com Jim Kennedy (512) 663-2287 jkenedy@batcon.org Ron Ralph ronralph@austin.rr.com

May 26-29 35th Annual Kentucky Speleofest (Munfordville, KY): Hosted by the Louisville Grotto and held at the Hart County Fairgrounds, located minutes from Mammoth, Crystal Onyx, Kentucky Down Under and Diamond Caverns. Large variety of wild cave tours are available, from easy walking to long, dirty vertical trips. Dave Foster of the American Cave Conservation Association is the featured banquet speaker. **Contact:** Shelly Wolf (812) 597-0275 cavewolf@hotmail.com **Info:** <http://www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto>

May 27-29 Southwest Region Memorial Day Regional (Jemez Mountains, NM): Similar to a TSA Convention, the SWR regional includes a business meeting for the SWR, but caving trips are also an integral part of the event. **Contact:** Kenny Stabinsky nmbatty@zianet.com

May 27-28 Government Canyon State Natural Area Project

May 27-28 High Guads Restoration Project

Aug 7-11 NSS Convention (Bellingham, WA). Held on the campus of beautiful Western Washington University, this convention will be a winner. Register prior to June 15th for a \$30 discount. Sign up for various geology field trips and workshops. Caving trips to limestone caves in Washington and British Columbia, and lava tubes in southern Washington can be arranged. Campus dormitory rooms are available if you don't want to camp, but the weather should be fine, cool and very little rain! **Info:** <http://www.nss2006.com/>

Corky Corcoran

By Butch Fralia

If you have e-mail and are on the Maverick Grotto mailing list, you know Corky Corcoran was severely injured in an automobile accident in Dallas, March 3. He is currently recovering in the ICU at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Since most of the current grotto members don't know Corky, an introduction is in order. Corky enjoyed the distinction of being the first Maverick Grotto Chairman in 1987 and 1988. He found himself working night shift in 1988 unable to attend meetings. Donna Anderson was the first Vice-Chair and chaired meetings for him until Dale Ellison became chairman in 1989. Corky wasn't even a Fort Worth caver, he lived in Plano! He was a very active caver and was caving somewhere just about every weekend. He, Dale Ellison, Donna Anderson and I made a lot of trips together caving in Oklahoma and alternating to an occasional weekend at River Styx Cave in King County. We started caving in different areas as I began making landowner contacts in central Texas (San Saba County) and enjoyed adding new caves to the Texas list rather than Oklahoma. Corky continued caving in Oklahoma working on projects he and Dennis Thompson had working up there.

Corky was well known for his work on Hardrock Cave in Oklahoma. He and Dennis Thompson surveyed the cave and Dennis drew the map. The ranch the cave is on exceeds 30,000 acres and is in an area where there's no naturally occurring water for livestock. It sumps out at about 850' and on occasion of heavy rain becomes a dramatic resurgence, spewing water as high as 70' in the air. The entrance is about 20' wide semi-blocked by large boulders that direct the water upward. Keith Heuss traveled up from Austin one weekend so we could do a cave radio location on the sump and identify where the owner could drill for water. As it turned out, the water drilling companies didn't want to take their equipment to that area unless the road was dramatically improved. That was financially out of the question so the well was never drilled.

Corky was a skinny lad back in those days and was a favorite caving partner of Donna Anderson. Donna was the crawlway queen (and still would be if she hadn't moved of to McAllen), who loved those small passages where rock touched every dimension of her body. Corky was one of the few people besides Shane the Wonder Dog (OK, maybe not really a people) who could follow her into those tight areas. I remember taking a number of nice naps waiting for them to explore tight passage where I couldn't follow.

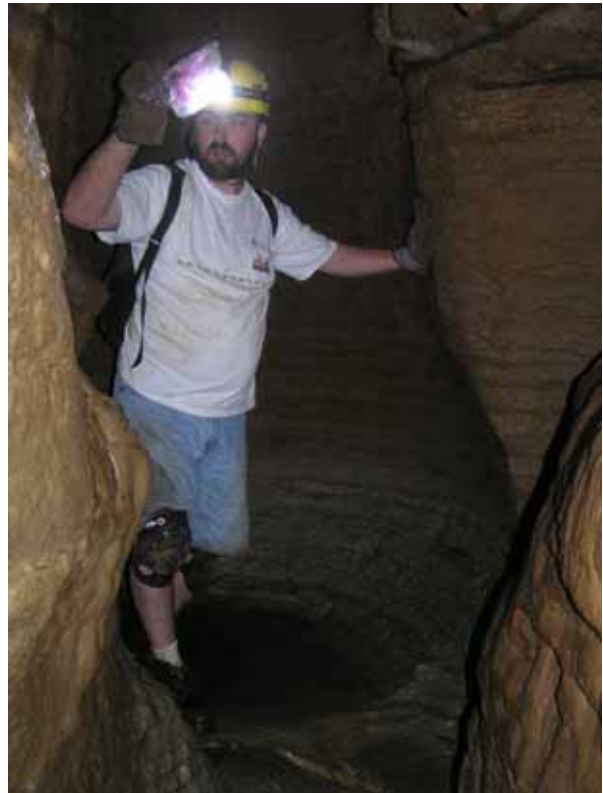
Corky eventually found himself transferred to Houston and his caving career somewhat on the wane. He married Ida (not a caver), had a daughter Megan and eventually ended up back in North Texas. As luck would have it, he bought some ranching property in Kaufman County that has a small cave on it (sandstone, 30' or so pit mud filled at the bottom) that became the first known cave in Kaufman County. He says he didn't know about the cave when he bought the property.

Corky's recovery will probably be slow as there's a lot of damage to his body but we're hoping for a complete recovery with maybe a caving trip or two in his future. Ida would like to see him get back into caving, at least a little bit. If nothing else,

maybe the grotto can make a digging trip to Kaufman and see if any of the legends about his cave are true.

New Member Profile

Howdy folks, the name is Charles Goldsmith, and I'm a caver! My wife Tammy and I have been caving since 1997. We visited Carlsbad in the spring and both immediately fell in love with the underground. In September of that year, on our honeymoon, we were hiking in the Buffalo National River area, going down from Compton to the Hemmed-in-Hollow waterfall, when we passed some cavers coming up the trail. We had noticed that one of the vehicles parked above had NSS stickers and such, and then the caving gear on hikers, we figured there was a cave along that trail somewhere. We've since found out there is no known cave near that trail (the waterfall area is used for rappelling practice), but that got our interest up. Searching on the web and talking to a few of the Arkansas grotto's got us in touch with someone in the area, and we were shown a few of the beginner caves, Cave Mountain Cave, Copperhead, and Mud Cave (across the hill from Ice Box). We've been caving ever since, and got very active in grotto's last year. To keep our habit funded, I work as a network engineer and team supervisor for Comp USA's corporate office in north Dallas. Tammy and I have two kids, Brittany and Dylan, who sadly show no interest in the underground (except for the occasional show cave). Other hobbies of mine include computer gaming, reading, movies, and motorcycle riding.



Charles Goldsmith

Chairman's Corner

Happy April! Unless someone else writes it, the only April fool you'll get this month is me.

We made it through the NSS BOG meeting March 25, and to all accounts it was a pretty good one. Representatives from the three local grottos welcomed everyone to Texas then the meeting started. Diana asked me if I was learning anything and my response was same old stuff, just on a larger scale! We're trying to get a 20th anniversary party going for this fall and they are planning NSS Conventions out through 2011.

One observation from the meeting is that all but a very few BOG members are pretty old! That's the same thing I see across other caving organizations and it concerns me a little. I don't know if that means that younger folks aren't interested in taking the reins and responsibility or cavers are a dying breed. I'd like to see more young folks stepping up to the bar and at least getting their thoughts in the mix.

I put 315 miles on my big red truck shuttling people from the airport and running back and forth. Not bad for a weekend in the Metroplex.

Those of you on the Texas Cavers e-mail list know that Texas has crossed a milestone in the last few weeks by increasing the state cave count to 4022 and breaking the 4000 cave barrier. Does that mean we've found them all? Heck no! We've only scratched the surface of what's out there. It's a big state with caves concentrated in many areas. There's just a lot of ground that hasn't been covered. Take Brewster County, that's where Big Bend is if you don't know. It wasn't that long ago there were only a few known caves in the county. Steve Fleming (a New Mexico caver) started an exploration project out there and now there are at least four times as many caves. The work Milo Marks has done in gaining access to ranches in San Saba County has added significantly to the record count there.

There are a lot of places with caves in Texas that are far enough away from where cavers live that there's just not much caving traffic in the area. When cavers go, they scoop booty and the cave/db record count increases. Something for you to think about when planning your next extended trip. Mexico, Arkansas, and New Mexico are great caving places with some world class caves. However you can make history here in Texas by finding new caves and reporting them to the TSS.

March has been an interesting month for <http://www.maverickgrotto.org>, we've been averaging about 1100 visitors per month over the last few months but it looks like this month we're going to hit around 1500 (unique visitors) and 2000 visitors including repeats.

I thought maybe that was because the NSS BOG information pages were hosted on the back of the Maverick site. There's been activity there and maybe that's what brought people in. It appears however that the NSS BOG pages aren't the most heavily visited. I'm not sure what this means but maybe we've been discovered. Other than the home page, most visitors seem to like looking at cave related pictures of which we probably have more than most cave related websites.

Bill Bentley has been the TSA Webmaster for several years and due to the company he works for being bought out and job uncertainty asked to be replaced as webmaster. Pete Lindsley and I are going to take it over. Pete will probably do most of the updating and maintenance functions and I'll work on organization and other aspects of the website. TSA is trying to determine if they want to upgrade their online store functions or? It should be an interesting experience. I really wasn't in the market for another website that I don't get paid for but whatever it takes to keep the caving support up in Texas then I'm willing to help.

Lest we forget, this is still the 20th anniversary year with activity to be planned accordingly. Russell Hill was at the last meeting and said he still has his trailer mounted smoker and he'll bring it to the party so we'll be able to cook mass amounts of delicacies again. We need ideas for a t-shirt design, Sharon thought about a t-shirt with a list of the charter members on the back and some sort of montage of old member pictures on the front. Ideas please!

We still need to decide if we're going to keep meeting at Buck N' Loon's or try some other places. I don't have time to get out and look for another place so it will require some other folks to do that. If all goes well, it will be some place where we won't be accosted after the meeting for more money because someone didn't eat. B&L is pretty happy to have us because they already have other outdoor groups (golfers and an RV club that I know of) and we fit into that mold quite nicely. We have reservations for April and it looks like I'll have to get reservations going for May unless we get a definite on another place by the April meeting. I for one don't want to get hung out in limbo because we think we have a place and it turns out we don't.



NSS Board of Governors meeting by Bill Steele

On the weekend of March 24 – 26 the three Metroplex grottos hosted the National Speleological Society's spring Board of Governors meeting. The NSS has five officers and twelve elected directors and they meet three times per year: once at the summer convention, and fall and spring meetings. These latter two meetings are hosted by grottos and move around the country. There has never been one before in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

I submitted a bid for us over a year ago. Then, last summer, Diana and I attended the annual NSS convention which was held in Huntsville, Alabama, and I gave a personal pitch for our hosting a meeting this spring. It was accepted. All three area grottos: the Maverick Grotto, the D/FW Grotto, and the Cowtown Grotto approved participation in a three-grotto hosting. All three approved money from their coffers too, which was spent on over 1,500 copies provided for the meeting, Saturday lunch for the board which they ate during their closed session, and refreshments and snacks for the parties held on Friday and Saturday nights.

The first attendee to arrive came on Thursday afternoon. On Friday afternoon the rest of the out-of-towners began arriving, and they came in steadily until midnight, arriving at both the DFW airport and Love Field. Grotto members from all three grottos rose to the occasion and picked them up and put many of them up in their homes for as many as three nights.

Diana and I provided a party place in our home for both the Friday and Saturday night parties. Our estimate is that we had 30 people on Friday night, 40 people on Saturday night, and that's probably low. We had 11 guests

spend the night at our house both nights, with six in the house and five outside in campers and an RV.

The meeting place we provided was the Arts and Garden Center in Irving. I got there early on Saturday morning with the president of the NSS, Bill Tozer, who had spent the night with us. I raised the NSS flag on the flagpole, something I bought years ago at an NSS convention but had never used. There was doubt that the City of Irving would allow a flag to be raised, even though I had requested that a cord be installed on the flagpole to the pulley at the top when I first made our reservation for the building. Finally, after making a large copy of the flag and dropping it off at the Irving Parks and Recreation office, they realized we weren't a controversial, subversive group and said they would allow us to raise our flag. Once I heard that I said to the man on the phone, "You realize that we're an underground organization, don't you?" There was a crisp silence on the phone, followed by a chuckle and, "I get it," he said.

While the closed meeting was held on Saturday, and the reason they do that is to review and give approval to the award recommendations of the Awards Committee and to discuss sensitive subjects, a dozen or so of

us went to an authentic Irving Mexican food restaurant, Cesar's Tacos. During lunch Maverick AND Cowtown grotto member Dennis Welch came up with a brilliant idea that he would see about arranging a tour of a control tower and the air traffic control nerve center at DFW airport for us. Dennis works there and has for many years. Dennis got on his cell phone and got permission, and very soon we were on an elevator to a backup control tower, one of three at DFW. Thanks, Dennis!

Back at the BOG meeting it was grinding on and on, ever so slowly slogging through a 13 page agenda. My biggest concern was that it would finish in time to match our private dining room reservation at Spring Creek Barbeque of 7:00 p.m. Finally, realizing that they were running late, I asked Pete and Karen Lindsley to go on to the BBQ place and claim our turf. That worked out well, and we had a nice big room to ourselves, with as many as 40 people eating Texas barbeque.

The Saturday night party was a highlight. Mark Gee's redheaded girlfriend Diane was diligent in keeping the fire in the main fireplace well stoked, Butch Fralia came up with some captivating stories, Diana kept the snack bowls well stocked, and I made sure that the liquid refreshments were cold and available by visiting them regularly. The grand finale of the evening was a slide show by George Veni, chairman of the 2009 International Congress of Speleology to be held in Kerrville, Texas.

On Sunday people started flying out early, heading home. Diana and I took New Mexico caver Louise Hose to the Grand



The NSS BOG meeting at the Irving Arts and Garden Center

Prairie airport where she had her own airplane tied down. As thanks for the ride she took each of us up for a 20 minute flight, even handing control of the plane over to us for a few minutes.

The last people to fly out were Bill and Peri Franz of the San Francisco Bay area. They were with us all afternoon, and we had enough time to go downtown to the Dallas Museum of Art for the Maya exhibit, which included several references to caves, and to go sewerlunking in the large Delaware Creek storm sewer tributary. We extended the exploration of it more than we had before, but it still goes, has good air, and there may even be an up-stream entrance!

And to the following cavers who rose to the occasion and came through in a big way, many thanks!

Jose Curras	Karen Lindsley	Sharon Welch
Butch Fralia	Pete Lindsley	Dennis Welch
Diana Tomchick	R.D. Milhollin	Jay Jordan
Will Harris	John Langevin	



Diana Tomchick prepares to fly with Louise Hose



Californian Bill Franz photographs wall art in Irving storm sewer

Jester Cave trip report

By: Christine Talley

I just wanted to say that my first trip with you folks (and the first ever, non-commercial cave for my 13 year old son, David) was great! Dave even admitted once he got over the shock, that the bat guano was nice and soft! It was the trip to Jester and I was very impressed with our group's leaders and their forethought in putting such a patient person as the "rear-guard." I'm so horrible with names- have been my whole life, but your group is so warm and friendly. Thank you for a great trip.



Venture scouts going through the longest gypsum cave in the Western Hemisphere

Jester was wet, cold (actually pleasantly so, for this northerner), very muddy, and tiring- WOW- I remember why I loved this sport! Even though I slogged on slowly, trailing further and further behind, I enjoyed it so much. The run-around ramp-thingie looked like a lot of fun but I was too tired to try it- hooray to those who did, even if they didn't succeed. A lot of stooping over, a lot of pulling your feet out of knee-deep mud, some climbing over breakdown (softened by the guano)- we cavers must be crazy for enjoying it but we get joy from it.



Lunch break in the cave. Christine Talley in the background.

Colorado Bend State Park Survey

By Mark Gee NSS# 49625

Dale Banard and Terry Holsinger led another cave research project January 14th through the 16th at the park. Fourteen people showed up for a weekend of survey and discovery that will help compile the information that the park and the TSA want so the park can plan the management of its resource.

I much enjoyed my first trip back to CBSP in two years. Other cave projects and family have kept me from this project. Rafal and I had rode down together Friday evening and arrived at the conference center at 9:15. It was good to see my old friends. We talked about the next day's events and what we would like to do. Dale asked us to check on one cave and get a GPS location. After a few shots of Tequila and a worm or two it was off to never never land.

Saturday morning came way too early and I had a ringing sensation in my head. Maybe one of those worms was trying to get out. Each one of us either shared or fixed our own breakfast and then geared up for our boat rode across the river to our survey destinations. Rafal and I loaded up a small flat-bottomed boat on Fran Hutchins truck and everyone piled into Fran's truck. I rode in the back to hold the boat for the short ride down the hill to the river. The boat was put in the river and the six of us got in and carefully paddled across to the other side. It was a very short trip but nice to be dry. Not every one that has paddled across has stayed dry. I remember Chris Hall and his, not quite air filled, rubber raft which would fold up in the middle and fill up with water soaking every one on board.

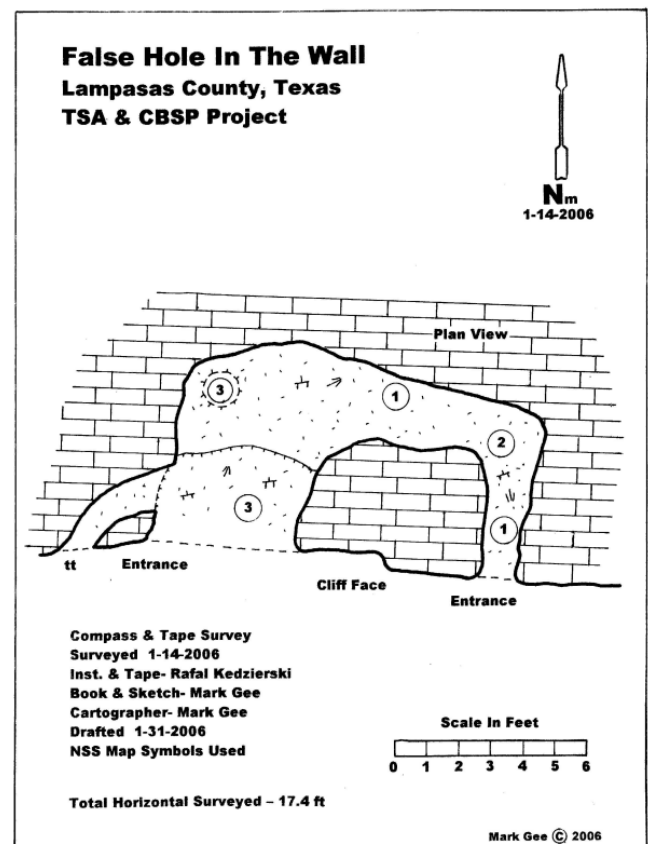
We all got out of the boat and pulled it up on shore and headed up stream to locate our first cave. We were looking for Hole In The Wall Cave. We first found Soot Cave and those that hadn't seen this small cave before went in to check it out. The cave we were looking for was just down stream from Soot, or so we thought. We found a small cave about nine feet up the rock face and a tricky climb was necessary to get into the cave. Justin made the climb first and then I coaxed Rafal into climbing up so we could do the survey. I'm too old for that climb. We got the short survey done and then after a tough climb back down, headed back downstream to find the trail up the cliff face to the other caves that needed surveying. Later we found out that the cave we surveyed wasn't Hole In The Wall so we named it False Hole In The Wall Cave.

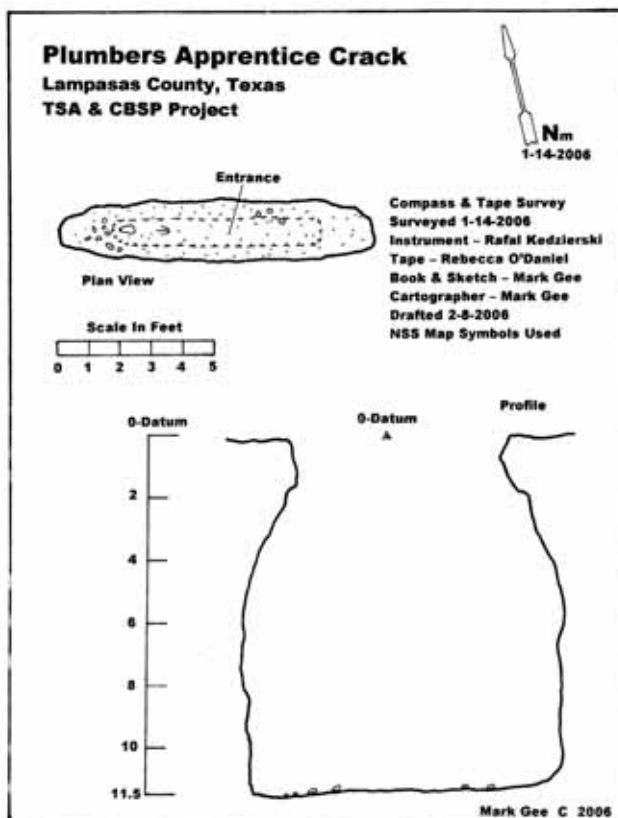
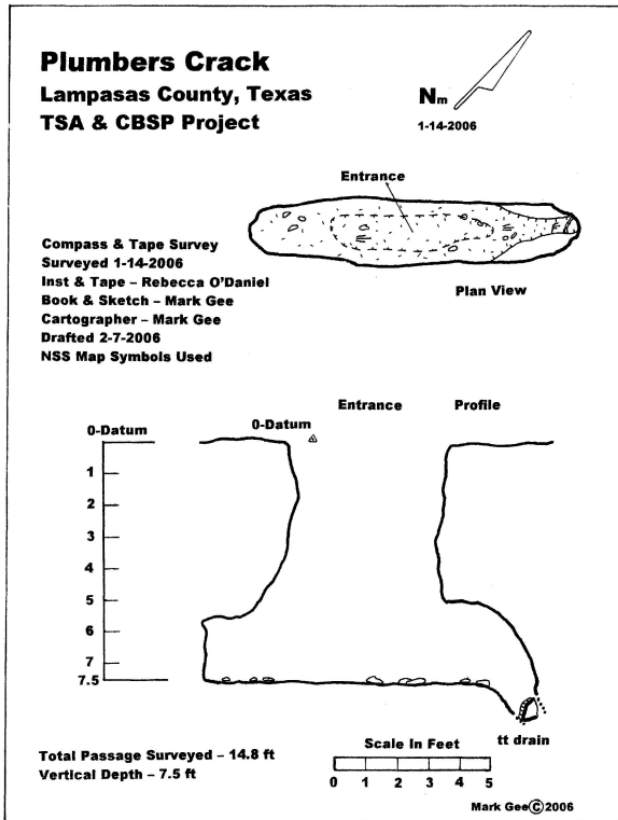
Up the cliff and on to the trail we made the one mile walk to our first two caves. The trail was much over grown from past memory. I guess not much activity has taken place since I last visited the park on this side of the river. We had GPS locations so we found the first cave very quickly. Its name was Shallow Hole #1. Rebecca O'Daniel was given the tape and instrument and with the help of Fran they got the survey started. It only took two shots and their part was done. I got the sketch done and since I had found this cave three years ago, I decided to change the name to Plumbers Crack. We got our gear and walked the short distance to Shallow Hole # 2, which we re-named Plumbers Apprentice Crack. We made one shot and I sketched the cave or karst feature, not sure which. Its depth was measured at 11.5ft deep and 9 by 3 feet long.

Now on to the big cave that we had come to see and survey. On the trail we walked past and over Fenceline Frog Fissure and another hole going down named Kissing Mistletoe Cave. We were headed towards Hissing Bat Cave and we were using a GPS to help us find it. We had to move through the thick cedar trees and numerous kinds of cactus and after another mile we walked up on 2-Entrance Cave. Rebecca and I checked out this cave while Fran, Rafal, Justin and Mica went on to Hissing Bat. 2-Entrance was about eight feet deep and forty feet of horizontal cave. I decided not to survey this one and we went on over to Hissing Bat. We yelled to the others and Rafal yelled back. We were able to home in on his voice. We found Rafal sitting in a large sink about 18 feet long and 12 feet wide with the floor sloping down to a climbable drop of another 12 feet. The depth of the cave to the first station was 18.4 feet. We surveyed half the cave but since I haven't finished the survey I don't want to spoil the story that I will write about it later. So for now I guess that I'll call it quits for this story.

Come out to the next CBSP project. It might be under new leadership on the next scheduled week-end but that won't change things. It will still be a great project for cave exploration, cave discovery and learning to help with survey and photography. The project will need the support of all those interested in the underground world beneath our feet.

Happy Caving!





March Meeting Minutes

By: Scott Boyd

The Maverick Grotto met March 14th at Buck N' Loons, on S. Cooper St. in Arlington. There were 15 members and one guest.

Program: Slide show titled "The American Expedition to Mount Thor 2004".

Reports from Officers:

Chairman: Butch talked a little bit about Corky and reminded everyone that the Grotto's 20th anniversary is coming up. If anyone has any programs, contact Diana.

Treasurer: Sharon reported that we have money and more money than last month.

Newsletter Editor: Tammy wasn't able to attend the meeting, but Butch mentioned that if anyone had any trip reports or articles, contact Tammy.

Old Business: Shady Oaks BBQ was suggested as a future meeting place, and then a discussion ensued on future meeting locations. Bill Steele reminded everyone that the NSS BOG meeting was coming up the weekend of March 25-26. He appealed to the grotto for more help picking up people at DFW Airport. Bill also invited everyone to attend the Saturday night party.

New Business: There was no new business.

Trip reports and trip announcements:

- * The TSA Spring Convention will be May 19 -21.
- * The 2nd weekend of April will be a public trip weekend at Colorado Bend State Park.
- * Butch talked a bit about the CBSP project.
- * Bill Steele gave a trip report on a Feb. 25th trip to Jester Cave with Venture Scout Group #425, and seven cavers.

Mark Gee won the drawing for a bottle of Mountain Dew "Live Wire". The drawing raised \$11 for the Grotto.





The group assembles for a photo at Jester Cave in Oklahoma

**Maverick Grotto
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