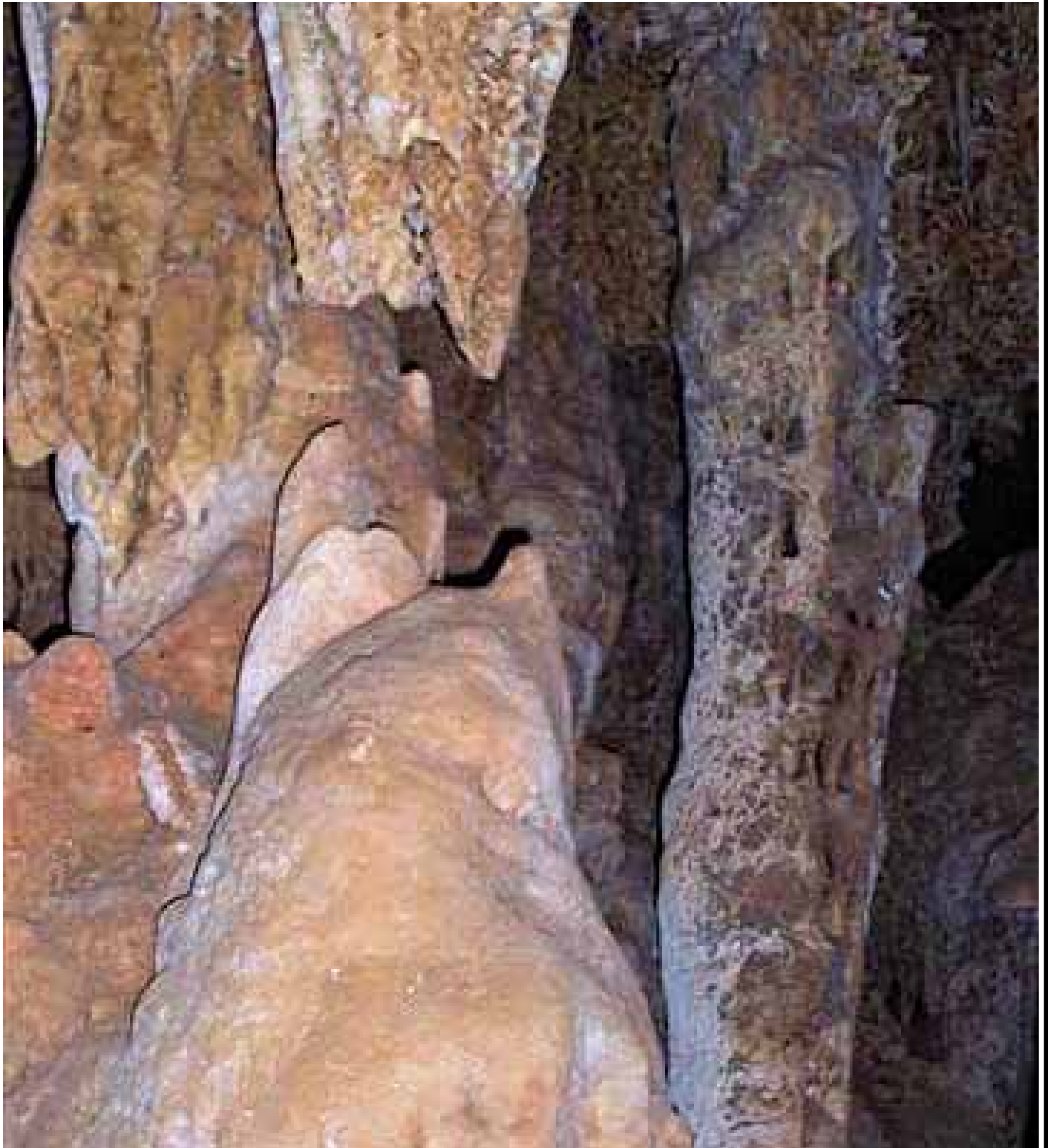


The Maverick Bull



Volume 20, 9

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. Diana Tomchick or Bill Steele will be accepting books and magazines on cave-related topics, copies of homemade cave videos, etc. for our library.

Photos & Map Credits

Cover Photo: Inside Deep Cave—Tammy Cox
Back Cover: Outside Deep Cave—Tammy Cox

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

Cave Emergency:

FOR A LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY IN TEXAS DIAL 911. FOR CAVE ASSISTANCE START BY CALLING THE CLOSEST NUMBER:

BEXAR: 210-326-1576 **COLLIN:** 214-202-6611
HAYS: 512-393-9054 **KENDALL:** 830-537-6111
SUTTON: 315-387-3424 **TRAVIS:** 512-663-2287
PARKER: 817 657-5780

Next meeting: September 11th , 2007 7:00 pm
Angelo's BBQ, 2533 White Settlement Rd. Fort Worth, TX 76107. 817-332-0357

Program: Bad Air!

What is good air?

What is bad air?

What does it to to you?

How does it do it?

Chair

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Caving Calendar

Sept 15: Texas Speleological Survey Board of Directors Meeting—Government Canyon State Natural Area. A change of pace away from the office. The TSS will meet on Saturday and possible take on some project work on Sunday.

Contact: jkennedy@batcon.org
ronralph@austin.rr.com

Sept 15 TCC Cave Day (Cedar Park): This is an open house where visitors visit the caves at the Westside Preserve, Dies Ranch Shelter Cave and the TCC owned Dies Ranch Treasure Cave. Since we expect in excess of 500 visitors, your help in the public education project is important. **Info:** <http://texascaves.org>

Sep 15-16 Manhole Dig (Carlsbad region, NM): Cavediggers welcome, come see if this will be the next big one. If you plan to come, contact Steve as they need a minimum of eight people now to run the dig. Located on BLM land not far from Lechuguilla Cave. **Contact:** Steve Peerman gypcaver@comcast.net

Sep 29-30 High Guads Restoration Project (Carlsbad, NM): On-going work amid spectacular scenery in beautiful caves of the Lincoln National Forest. The HGRP schedule has gone to a semi-regular basis. Permits often include Three Fingers, Virgin, Pink Dragon, Pink Panther, Hidden, Wonderland, and Black Cave. Activities vary from month to month. The next project trip will be a mock rescue at Black Cave. Participation may be limited to 15 people. Bring vertical gear if you have it. **Contact:** Jennifer Foote highguads@yahoo.com

Oct 4-7: 30th Annual TAG Fall-In Lookout Mountain Georgia. **Website:** <http://www.tagfallcavein.org/>

Oct 6-14 Fort Stanton Cave Project (Ruidoso, NM): Join the folks working on extending the length of this cave on BLM lands. Weekends will be devoted to installing the new entrance into the Mud Turtle Passage, weekday trips will be scientific surveys. You can attend during the whole project week, or either weekend. **Contact:** John Corcoran III john_j_corcoran_III@msn.com

Oct 8-12 National Cave & Karst Management Symposium (St. Louis, MO). Held at the Holiday Inn Southwest/Viking Conference Center and Powder Valley Nature Center. Co-sponsored by Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy. **Contacts:** Bill Elliott Bill.Elliott@mdc.mo.gov Jim Kaufmann president@mocavesandkarst.org

Oct 12-14: Colorado Bend State Park Project, San Saba County. This long running project has been a favorite of Metroplex Cavers for many years. There's always something to do for the newest and most experienced cavers.

Webpage: <http://www.cavetexas.org/projects/cbsp.html>
Map: <http://www.cavetexas.org/maps/cbsp.html>
Contact: cbsp@maverickgrotto.org

Oct 15-21 Cave Research Foundation 50th Anniversary Celebration (Hamilton Valley, KY). Come celebrate 50 years of exploration of Mammoth Cave (and other caves around the U.S.) at the CRF Hamilton Valley Field Station. Caving, guided tours, camaraderie, food, song, camping and general good fun. Field trips will be conducted from Oct. 15-18th in the Mammoth Cave System, general celebration will occur from Oct. 19-21st. **Contact:** Pat Kambesis pnkambesis@juno.com

Oct 19-21 Texas Cavers Reunion. This year, the TCR will be held at Paradise Canyon Park on the Medina River. The site is located just outside of San Antonio below the Diversion Dam on the Medina River. The site has a half-mile of river front with many good camping areas. The swimming will be superb and there are even some small caves across the river. **Website:** <http://cavetexas.org/events/TCR/index.html>,
MAP: <http://www.cavetexas.org/maps/tcr2007.html>

Nov 9-10: Colorado Bend State Park Project, San Saba County. This long running project has been a favorite of Metroplex Cavers for many years. There's always something to do for the newest and most experienced cavers. This is the 20th year anniversary of the project.

Webpage: <http://www.cavetexas.org/projects/cbsp.html>
Map: <http://www.cavetexas.org/maps/cbsp.html>
Contact: cbsp@maverickgrotto.org

Nov 10-12 Manhole Dig (Carlsbad region, NM): Cavediggers welcome, come see if this will be the next big one. If you plan to come, contact Steve as they need a minimum of eight people now to run the dig. Located on BLM land not far from Lechuguilla Cave. **Contact:** Steve Peerman gypcaver@comcast.net

Meeting Minutes August 14, 2007

The August meeting was held at Angelo's BBQ, 2533 White Settlement Rd. Fort Worth. The meeting was called to order at 7:17 with 15 people in attendance.

Vice Chairman Bill Steele presented a program on Caving Water, not the kind in a cave but the kind you carry and drink on trips. The program covered containers and purification methods useful for a long trip into Mexico. A very informative program.

After the program, there was a discussion of tattoos with Sharon Mastbrook and Lex Cox sporting new tattoos. Things moved down hill to body piercing.

There was a short discussion of past and upcoming trips.

The raffle was held with Lex Cox winning a mini-duffel.

Attendees:

Liz Bartay—Visitor

Tammy Cox

Lex Cox

Lwx Cox—the younger

John Crosthwait (may soon be regular Army)

Jose Curras

Daniel Dase

Butch Fralia

Carol Gerow
Russell Hill
Dana Hotko—Visitor
Phil Sanders

Editorial

When you're young, time passes slowly and it seems like a long time until you're 16 or 21 or 30 but then it starts to move pretty fast. All of a sudden you're 40 and you wake up and have a mid-life crisis when you realize all the things you wanted to do but might not be able to do in this lifetime. Come 60 and you're accepted for the most part who you are and what you can do, have done and will do.

Read that first paragraph and you'll wonder if I'm losing it! Not really, but I started this newsletter and it dawned on me there are two things about to happen. 1) The dog days of summer are starting to wind down and caving trips will be starting up again. CBSP, TCR, probably lots of TCMA sponsored "stuff." 2) Next month is October and it will be time to nominate officers for 2008 something to be thinking about between now and then.

It's September and I barely remember the year up to now. Old age maybe but it's moved along pretty fast. I know we've met at two different places, Swinford's and Angelo's and it looks like we'll be at Angelo's for awhile. I do recall a discussion of a merger and a lot of pent up feeling that came to the forefront. The merger sort of died down but I have promises that the subject will be revisited.

Even if there were a merger, we'd still have the same bunch of tired burned out people. What all three local grottos need are some young enthusiastic faces. Daniel has joined our ranks and has brought some new energy. A lot more of that would really help.

I'd take all the younger faces we can get but for now will settle for more newsletter articles to fill the newsletter out. Past editor Tammy Cox has been helpful and keeps sending pictures to fill up space. I understand there should be some trip reports from the Labor Day trip to Deep and Punkin' caves. Come on trip reports and caving season so more people will have stuff to write about.

Colorado Bend State Park

By Butch Fralia

October 12-14 will see the Colorado Bend State Park Project start back up again. In November, the project will celebrate it's 20th anniversary, a pretty good record for a caving project. There's still a lot left to do, plenty of caves to survey and caves still to be found. Going back over the projects from over the years, it appears there are still some areas to be ridge walked which means there are still new caves to be found.

There's always something to do for new cavers and experienced cavers alike. It's not Mexico or New Mexico but there are plenty of caves and a lot left to do.

Don't be put off if someone calls it a work project, it's still the same stuff cavers do on other non-project trips and call fun.

November of 1987, Butch Fralia, Terry Holsinger, Keith Heuss, his two boys Benjamin and Chris (now grown men), Pam and Mark Porter and Quinta Wilkinson made the first trip. The only time we ever looked back was to see what we missed. We were stormed, frozen, shot at once and wouldn't trade a moment for the experience!

Organize Your Photos

by Keith Heuss

When Carl Kunath made a call for photographs for his book about 50 years of Texas Caving, I was organized. I sent him the historic photographs I had and he was impressed with my since of organization. I do hope that he will use some of my photographs in his book. I am looking forward to it coming out.

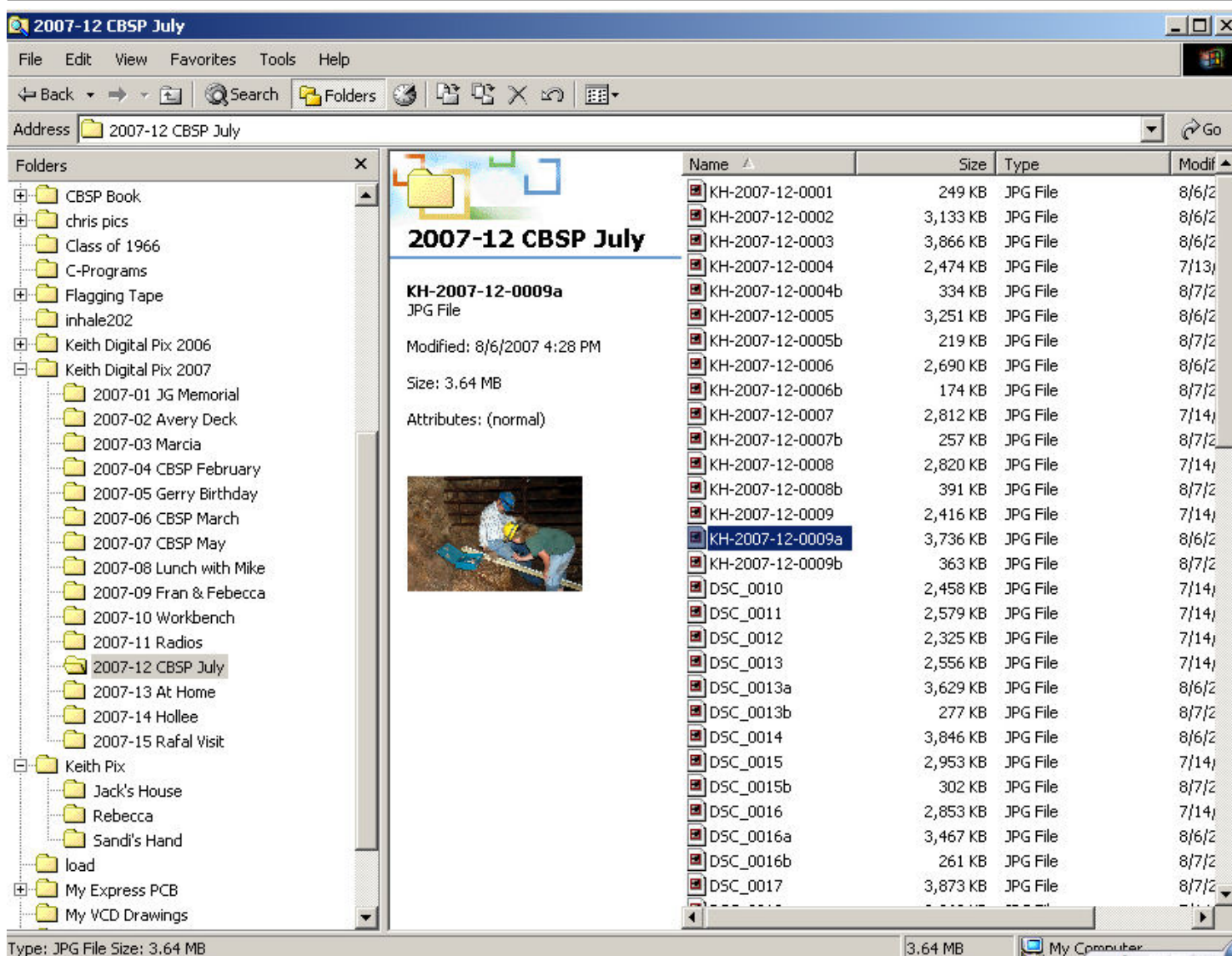
How did it all get started? Well, it was back in 1969. I was in Frankfurt, Germany working for Uncle Sam; the Army that is. I had been in photography since December 1966 and I had gone to slides after shooting two rolls of print film. I shot Ektachrome in those days. I had a Nikon F1 with a couple of lenses and that was all.

I was stuck in Germany for the duration and not having much to do, I had my parents mail me my collection of slides. I sat in my room thinking of how to organize all of this mess. I soon came up with a plan. I would assign a number to each slide and keep them in slide files in order of when I shot the pictures and keep in index of numbers and what the pictures were of.

So, what kind of number would I give the slide. It is really quite simple. I would assign a number based on the year the slide was taken, the roll number and the slide number in the roll of film. Thus, the first roll of film I put in my camera in 1969 was given the number 69-01. The second roll was numbered 69-02 and so forth. The picture number in the roll was also added to the numbering system. Thus, the first shot of roll 69-01 would be 69-01-01. The second picture of that roll would be numbered 69-01-02. This sequence would continue through the year. The next year, when the first roll of film was loaded, the numbering sequence would reset to 70-01, with the first picture being numbered 70-01-01. This system worked well until, you guessed it, Y2K came along. Not much change, I just changed the numbering system to include two more digits, thus, 2000-01-01 was the first photograph of the new millennium.

All was well until digital photography came along. Now what to do. Well, after a year of taking digital photographs, I have come up with a similar scheme for the digital photography I am now taking. The scheme is the same. The first Aroll@ I take in 2007 is numbered 2007-01. With film, a roll was 20 or 36 photographs. Later they went to 24 frame film instead of 20 frames, but the roll was a roll. On a weekend shoot, you may shoot 2 or 3 rolls of film. With digital and the large picture count memory cards, a weekend shoot would be a single roll, sometimes with 500 possible shots or more.

Another thing I added was putting my initials at the front of the number. Thus the first Aroll@ of electronic film I took this year was KH-2007-01. The frame number is also expanded. The first photograph of the year was KH-2007-01-



0001. I used the 4 digit frame number because that is the camera default. Another change and an advantage is that a Aroll@ of electronic film can be from 1 to 9999 photographs.

My shooting habits are that I keep the original of every shot. If I make a change to a photograph, I will add an a, a b or cr or some other letter to the end of the picture number to indicate some change. I use photo shop 6 and some pictures are better if I change the contrast or do other manipulation to the photograph. If I crop a picture from the original image KH-2007-05-0023, the cropped photograph would be KH-2007-05-0023cr. In my computer, the photograph number is the file name of the photograph.

It is now and electronic slide file. I have an icon on my desktop and it's name is A Keith Digital Pix 2007.@ In that folder, I have subfolders, one each, for every electronic Aroll.@ Since long file names are allowed, I also add a descriptive name to the ending of the file. See diagram included in the article for a peak into the scheme. In the diagram, you can see how I am in the process of changing file names from the default DSC_0010 to KH-2007-12-0010. This a tedious task. There is some programs available that will automatically change a group of file names for you. I have yet to discover this program as yet.

When I have time, I am going to scan in my slide collection.

The plan is to only scan in the slides I hope to use. I will keep all of the slides I have no use for on file somewhere. I do not intend on throwing away any of my slides. When I scan in slide number 69-05-23, it will become file name KH-1969-05-0023. It will match my digital scheme.

This scheme lets you easily document a slide presentation. Maybe an introductory slide show for beginners would be documented thus:

- KH-1972-04-0004 Packing for the trip
- KH-1974-23-0005 Crossing the border
- KH-1983-02-0025 Base camp
- etc.

I don't want to waste the space on this list. You get the picture. You may have 100 pictures in your Ashow@ and you can keep a file on your computer under a folder Aslide presentations@ and keep a list of the photographs and a test to go along with it.

Another hint is to write protect all of the original picture files so if you are editing any, you will not mistakenly overwrite an original file. Another thing; I always keep ALL of my photo-

graphs. I throw away none. Remember to always back-up your files. When I finish up this article, I am going to pop in a DVD and do that myself of the 15 rolls of film I have accumulated this year. Another idea is to add a description on each photograph as the long file name, indicating what each photo is of. If you can find the time to do that, let me know where you found it and let me know. Ah, so many photographs, so little time. Good shooting and get organized.

Cave Mountain

by Liz Barclay

Editors Note: In the July 2007 issue of The Maverick Bull, Tammy Cox reported on a trip to Cave Mountain in Arkansas which was Liz's first cave trip. Tammy referred to Liz as a "trooper" several times in the report. This is Liz's version of the report apparently from a Yahoo Group because I had trouble formatting it.

So I had a great time this weekend. I went caving for the first time. What is caving you ask, it is a fun, physical, exploration of caves. Its like when we were little and used to climb through the forest looking for cool stuff, only with gear and supplies. =)

Daniel, hot caving club president, asked if I wanted to go caving this last weekend. It sounded fun, like skydiving, so I said yes. Needless to say, I spent a load of money at REI and was well prepared. All except for the shoes, which you will hear about later. Provided I remember to write about them.—Lol

Daniel picked me up Friday after work with Curtis and RD.



L-R: Lex Cox, Curtis Bullard, Daniel Dase and Liz getting ready for Cave Mountain.

— Tammy Cox

We had a nice ride up to the camp in Arkansas. On the way, we got a flat. We got out and the tire was shredded. Stupid exit ramps with crappy roads. (I really cant even tell you what state we were in when it happened though) — lol.

I learned on the drive that if you are tired (Daniel) you will see headless animals along the way. Makes me worry, but we stuck with him. Lol

We set up camp at 2:15am and didn't go to bed until 3am. I will say that a pop up is the way to go. The beds are roomy and its nice. We should take the pop up to Matt's house. LOL Matt.

So we get up early and I meet everyone. We had breakfast and off we go.

I have to say that I was excited and nervous at the same time, but when we got to the first cave on Cave Mountain, I knew it would be awesome. Tammy took me through the crawl to get the main part of the cave. It was tight and you have to crawl most of the way through it. We got muddy! =)

We explored the cave and needless to say, I was wet, muddy, but excited. We saw bats, cave art, and climbed some really cool places. It was one of the most physical things I have done.

We came out to eat lunch at like 3 or so. Tuna, jerky, and water. MMMM. We went back into the cave. Boy was I glad to have long sleeves.

I did the crawl 2 more times. I did it more than anyone else. Clearly they knew something I didn't. Like my freaking body was getting destroyed. ha. Daniel even offered to carry my pack cause I was so tired.

Caving Saturday lasted 10 hours. We went back to camp, showered, and ate. I had amazing bruises. I might take pics and post them.

I was so sore on Sunday. We went to another cave and only spent about 4 hours this time. It was a much easier trip. In the cave, my shoes came apart. The clay was so wet and sticky that it was ripping the rubber off the bottom of my shoe. We tried to tie it together, tape it, and finally ripped it off. Daniel had to feed me lunch cause I was so muddy from trying to fix the damn shoe. I saw amazing rooms and formations though. I even got to lead the group some of the time.

Curtis, Daniel and I came back on Sunday. We ate at Outback. Eating in Arkansas takes a while. I'm not sure why.

I slept in the back of the Tahoe on the way home. We talked and laughed.

It was a great trip overall. Tammy and Lex were awesome. I could not have asked for a better trip the first time. Daniel is amazing and took care of me. Curtis made sure I got out alive on

Sunday and Lex saved my ass on Saturday. Tammy took me through the tough spots and made sure I knew everything I needed to know and that I was feeling ok about it all. There is so much I'm leaving out, but I just wanted to get a quick recap up so you all would know how much fun I had.

I would love to go again. Turns out, I am outdoorsy. ;) lol

Top things I learned this weekend:

- Exit ramps are dangerous and cold
- Bad air in a cave normally means that Danny did something bad
- I like mud
- Bruises are trophies
- I love the stupid pop up
- I can do way more than I thought I could
- Curtis can sniff you out (inside joke)
- If you are going caving, wear boots
- Big diesel trucks can take a hit
- Ill eat anything after 10 hours of caving
- I know more about Playboy then some of the people that cave, which is scary
- You should only share a pop up if you don't snore
- Take advantage of the time RD is gone cause he has bad timing
- Daniel is a great guide to caving. =)



Tammy Cox in Airman's Cave

- Daniel Dase

was up against.

Saturday morning Tammy, Lex and I met at Daniels house. Daniel was late getting around and was razzed the whole trip! (Many funny stories there) On the way down we picked up Cynthia, Tammy's friend. She was super nice and even napped with us on the way down.

Lex let us stop to eat at McDonalds in Round Rock. I think everyone in town knew we were coming because they all showed up at once. I must say that McDonalds has an interesting system to serving food and I am glad I don't work there. But, we ate. MMMM...all those carbs! YAY!

After our great meal, we drove down to Airman's. We got there, changed clothes, and then set off. Our first stop was the "last chance stop" (an outdoor port o potty). That is an adventure in itself. I hope to never experience that again. If you haven't been, feel lucky. LOL.

Then we all hiked down to the cave. At this point, its like 400 degrees and we are all sweating and walking through foliage that is touching us and could be poisonous. Of course we thought about sending Daniel first, but we would have to wait too long to find out the effects so we just chanced it.

During our route, there is a bridge that crosses a stream. Well, the bridge was out. Ok, some of the bridge, the walking part. There were handles. So Daniel, being so adventurous decided to put his feet on one side, his hands on the other and shimmy across the water with his back down.

If Daniel can do it, so can I! So, I tried to get up there just like he did. Cynthia and Tammy watched. Clearly, I'm too short...(how tall would you believe I am) and so I decided to try to straddle the wooden handle bar and scoot. Yeah, that didn't

Airman's Cave

by Liz Barclay

On Saturday 9-1 we went to the illusive Airman's cave in Austin, Texas. The way everyone talked about it, I knew it would be hard. I had no idea what I was in for. I thought that Cave Mountain in Arkansas was a challenge, I had no clue what I



Daniel Dase in an Airman's crawl

- Curtis Bullard?

work either. LOL.

Tammy, Cynthia, and I ended up walking around and taking the detour. ha-ha. So much for adventure. Then we finally reached it! YAY! We are at the entrance to the hard cave. Daniel checks for snakes and I get ready. It doesn't look that small....

Daniel and I climb in. I can crawl on my hands and knees. This isn't so bad. Then, Daniel stops and asks if I want to go first. Sure! I start off and it gets a bit smaller. Then smaller. And smaller yet again. I keep wiggling. Clearly if Curtis got in here, I can. I keep wiggling and try to move my arm again and....nope...nothing. I wedged myself in. I had to back out. Then I freaked myself out so I made Daniel go first. Being the great guy he is, he did. I went next and Cynthia said that if I laid on my right side and put my arm out I would get through. She was right! I'll tell you what though, that was tough! Daniel coached me along.

My heart was beating so fast, you could hear it in the cave. ha-ha. After we knew I could do the entrance we headed back.

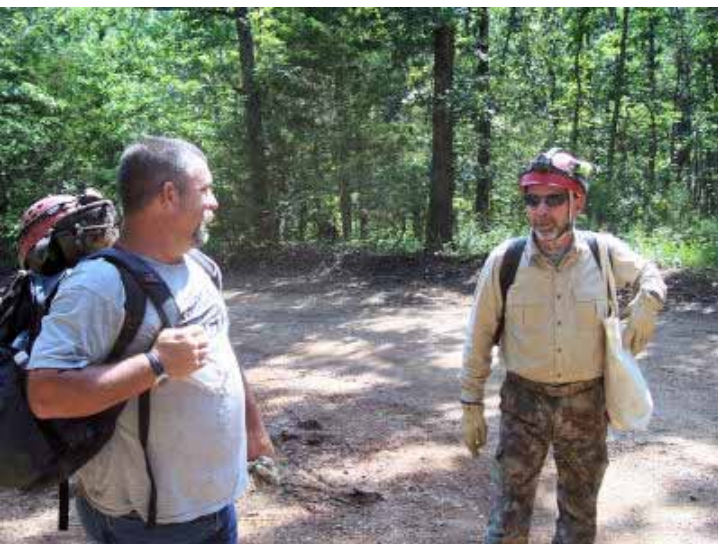
It was a great trip and I look forward to doing more next time...although maybe Ill wait on Airman's...



Fitton Cave Pictures

From Tammy Cox

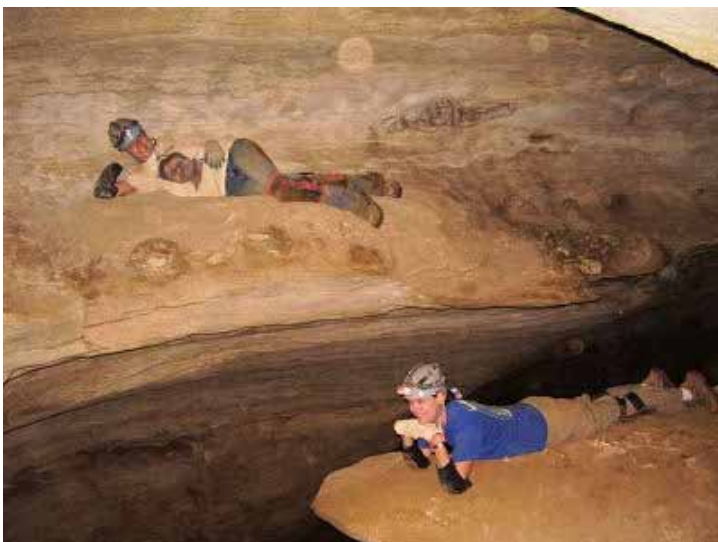
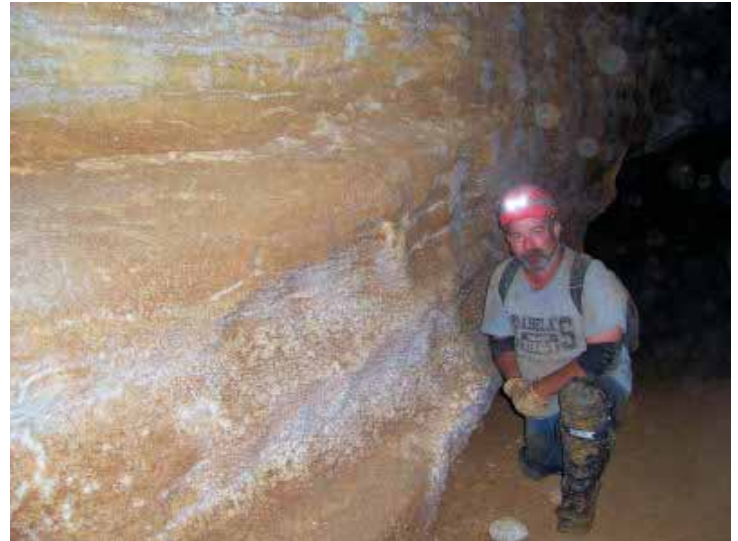
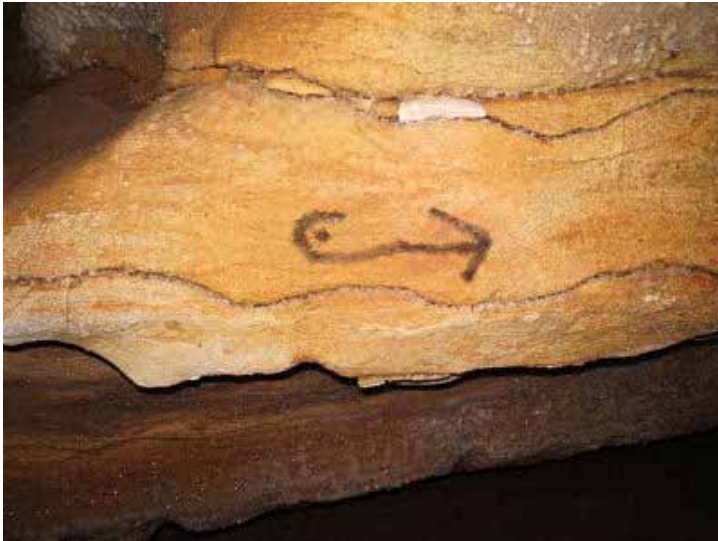
Editors note: The following are pictures from a trip to Fitton Cave in Arkansas. Short a trip report but the pictures are good!



Lex Cox and Bill Tucker on the CRF Camp road.


- Tammy Cox





New From the TSS !!

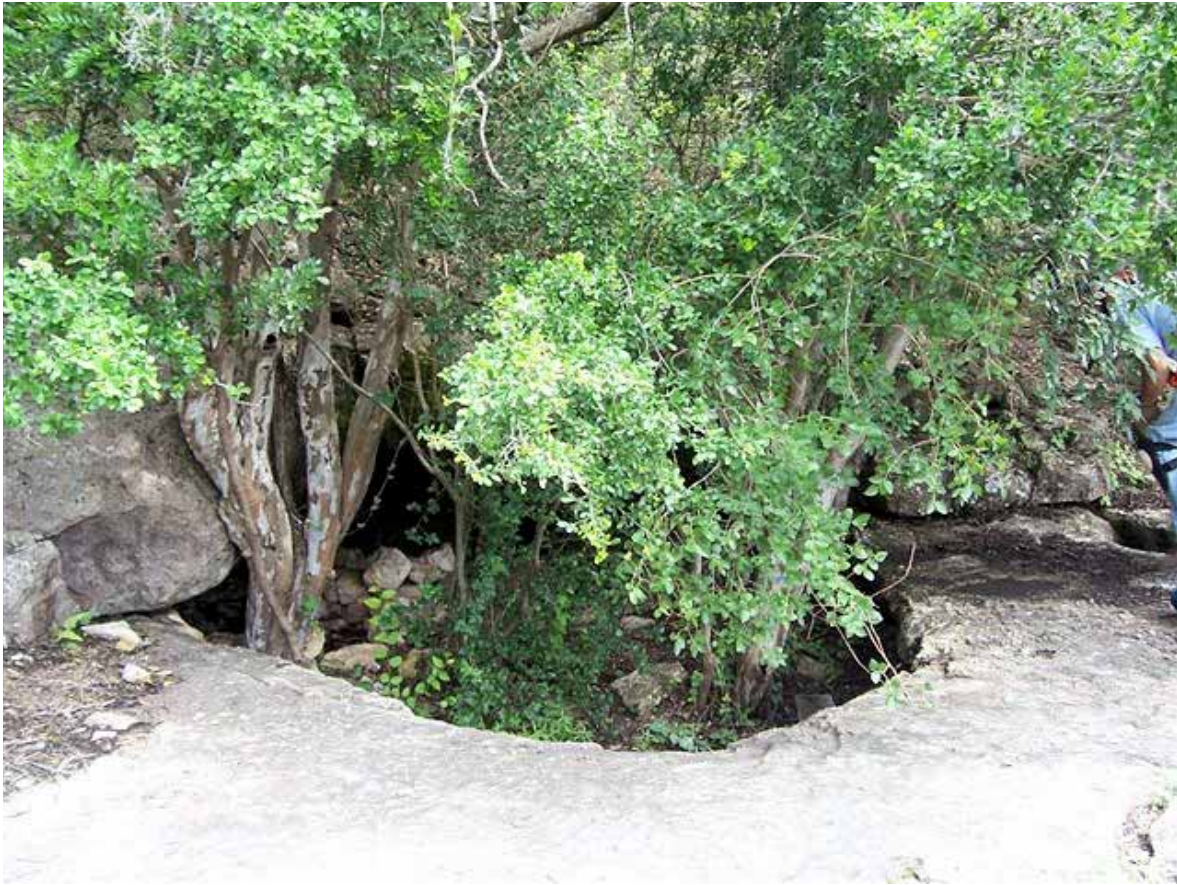
THE TSS MAP CD



The TSS Map CD contains over 1160 maps in 56 Texas counties! All maps are 300 dpi TIFF files and are organized in folders by county. An Excel™ spreadsheet is included which lists all cave maps, the counties for each, and file size. Now you can view maps of your favorite caves without paging through countless publications !

Only \$10 + S&H

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