

The Maverick Bull



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: A montage of Photos from TCR 2006 by Bill Bentley and Butch Fralia

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: October 9th , 2007 - 7:00 pm

Angelo's BBQ, 2533 White Settlement Rd. Fort Worth, TX 76107. 817-332-0357

Program: The Death of Floyd Collins. Since Billy Bob Thornton supposedly has a movie coming out about it at Christmas, and I have some material, I'll give one on it. I saw his body once with my own eyes. I'll tell about how that happened too. — Bill Steele

Chair

Daniel Dase
6458 Sumac
Fort Worth, TX 76116
C: (903) 814-8342
danieljdase@yahoo.com

Secretary

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

Newsletter Editor

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

Vice-Chair

Bill Steele
500 Kingston Dr.
Irving, TX 75061
(214) 770-4712
speleosteele@tx.rr.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

Caving Calendar

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 30th Annual 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>

Oct 27 Sixth Annual Austin Cave Day (Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve): This a day to get the public out on the karst, to have fun and educate them about our wonderful TX caves and to get them underground to experience a little of what makes TX and in particular our aquifer so precious and special. WE NEED caver help for this event. We need folks to help clean up the preserve before Cave Day, and on that day to help gear up visitors, we need folks to help manage access to the two small caves on the preserve. We need folks there to answer questions, provide information. **Julie Jenkins**—jjenkins@bseacd.org

Oct 28: Government Canyon Karst Survey Project — Find the intersection of U.S. 16 and Loop 1604 in northwest Bexar County (clearly shown on any state highway map). Drive 2 miles north on U.S. 16 to the third traffic light and turn left onto FM 1560 (there is a Shell station on the corner). Follow 1560 for 3 miles till you see a sign for Government Canyon State Natural Area. Turn right following the sign and drive 2 miles to the gate of GCSNA. Enter at the gate and then take the first right. There is an unlocked gate that will need to be opened and then closed behind you. Continue to the Volunteer/Research Station, where we will meet at 9:00 AM each morning.
Website: <http://www.cavetexas.org/projects/gcsna.html>

Map: <http://www.cavetexas.org/maps/gcsna.html>
Contact: Marvin Miller—mlmiller@gvtc.com

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

Nov 13: Maverick Grotto Meeting—Angelo's BBQ and Grill, 2533 White Settlement RD, Fort Worth.
Election of officers for 2008.

Nov 17-18: Government Canyon Karst Survey Project — Find the intersection of U.S. 16 and Loop 1604 in northwest Bexar County (clearly shown on any state highway map). Drive 2 miles north on U.S. 16 to the third traffic light and turn left onto FM 1560 (there is a Shell station on the corner). Follow 1560 for 3 miles till you see a sign for Government Canyon State Natural Area. Turn right following the sign and drive 2 miles to the gate of GCSNA. Enter at the gate and then take the first right. There is an unlocked gate that will need to be opened and then closed behind you. Continue to the Volunteer/Research Station, where we will meet at 9:00 AM each morning.
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Dec 16: Government Canyon Karst Survey Project — Find the intersection of U.S. 16 and Loop 1604 in northwest Bexar County (clearly shown on any state highway map). Drive 2 miles north on U.S. 16 to the third traffic light and turn left onto FM 1560 (there is a Shell station on the corner). Follow 1560 for 3 miles till you see a sign for Government Canyon State Natural Area. Turn right following the sign and drive 2 miles to the gate of GCSNA. Enter at the gate and then take the first right. There is an unlocked gate that will need to be opened and then closed behind you. Continue to the Volunteer/Research Station, where we will meet at 9:00 AM each morning.
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Meeting Minutes September 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 by Chairman Daniel Dase. Members in attendance: Scott Boyd, Mike Cagle, John

Crosthwait, Lex and Tammy Cox, Jose Curras, Steve Dalton, Daniel Dase, Butch Fralia, Milo Marks and James Savage. Visitors: Dana Holtz and Alexa Ewen.

The program was a presentation on Bad Air by Butch Fralia. It covered the makeup of the normal surface atmosphere, went through the effects of bad and the physiological effects on people.

The officers reports didn't get recorded but V-C Bill Steele and Treasurer Sharon Mastbrook weren't at the meeting. Sharon passed on the word that the grotto has as much money as it did last month.

Secretary/Editor/Webmaster reported that articles are always needed and the domain name MaverickGrotto.org had come due and he renewed it for five years.

There was a hat drawing for something called Java Juice, some sort of coffee/caffeine drink.

Editorial

Butch Fralia

A dear friend, Donna Mosesmann has left us. Donna succumbed to Pancreatic Cancer September 11, 2007. Donna was originally a Wichita Falls caver and attended various events around the state. She moved to Dallas and often attended Maverick Grotto meetings before moving to Houston. Sharon and I knew Donna well and she will be sorely missed by us and all who knew her.

The weather is starting to cool down and there are caving trips popping up all over the place. TSA projects like Colorado Bend, Government Canyon, and other "stuff." In a few weeks, it will be time for TCR, time to meet old friends, make some new ones and just have a great time. Hopefully with all this going on there will be some energetic writers of newsletter articles along with great pictures.

I keep talking about how fast this year has gone by and see it's already time to nominate officers for 2008. That occurs at the October meeting. In November the election will be held for the highly contested positions. Don't miss your chance to nominate a friend or get nominated. All persons not attending the meeting will be subject to nomination.

As always, contributions to the newsletter and website are always solicited and welcomed.

Website Report

Yes Virginia the Maverick Grotto does have a website, with a number of interesting pictures, maps and general caving information. As usual it needs some new material to help people realize why they might want to go caving.

Over the summer months, the website visitation dropped down to 1000-1200 unique visitors. In September the visitation was back up to over 1500. An interesting statistic that I've noticed on a number of other websites I'm involved with. This includes caving and customer websites.

Don't forget to register for the members area if you haven't already, you can find the latest newsletter (last 3), up to date member information and add stuff to the calendar. It's all real time database driven so it's online just as soon as you hit submit.

Donna Mosesmann
June 7, 1942 - Sept 11, 2007



The gracious lady spoke of facing death from pancreatic cancer as another great adventure in a fascinating life. With her firm Christian faith, this attitude came easily. She was born Donna Grace Gates in Detroit Michigan to parents Ralph Christopher Gates, a Ford Motor Co. analyst and his wife Evelyn Cecelia Brietka Gates. As a girl Donna experienced strong religious feelings. She attended Capital University in Columbus Ohio planning a career in the Lutheran Church. In 1962 she fell in love and married Siegfried (Sig) Mosesmann, a vibrant young man from Colombia South America. She became a military wife, and in postings across the USA the couple raised three girls, Diana, Miriam and Amy. In 1992 Sig died of heart failure in a bicycle rally in Wichita Falls, Texas. Donna was very proud that despite her husband's death all three daughters finished college. She herself acquired a BS at Midwestern State in Wichita Falls and attended graduate school in Dallas. She worked as a Speech Pathologist in north Texas and Dallas area public schools. In 1996, invited by friend Jim McLane, she moved to southwest Houston. She joined the Fort Bend County public schools, and for 10 years provided speech therapy to young and often disadvantaged children. Donna was an enthusiastic church worker and her good Spanish language skills allowed her to help immigrants. She was known for personal charity, patience, tolerance, and respect for people of all races and cultures. Politically, she took sides on issues that benefited the poor, the helpless and underprivileged. Always active and athletic, at the age of 50 she embraced the unusual hobby of cave exploring. She was a member of several caving clubs around the state and in the summers worked as a volunteer in Carlsbad Caverns. She served as a director of the Texas Cave



Donna Mosesmann and Jim McLane man the TCC booth at 2006 TCR.

Photo—Bill Bentley

Conservancy. She especially liked camping, reading, flowers, working puzzles, and music (she was a competent clarinet player.) She enjoyed museums and travel. Comfortable in any social setting, her inquisitive mind, and intelligence attracted friends and admirers of all ages. She could sense the needs of those with problems, evaluate situations, and offer useful advice. She loved pets and for several years cared for Darwin, a 5-foot lizard who had a private room with his own TV! Friends remember Donna as a beautiful and shapely woman who seemed much younger than her actual age. She and her loving companion, local engineer James C. McLane III shared the finer aspects of our human experience. She is survived by her three daughters and their families: Diana Allensworth with husband Ken and sons Tyler and Clayton of Wichita Kansas, Miriam Simmons with husband Raymond and children John-Cole, Elizabeth and Ethan of Montgomery Alabama, and Amy Barr with husband Kevin and children Lauren, Luke and Logan in Spring Texas. She has one sister, Cheri Hill with son Lyle of Houston, and cousins Joyce Roberts of Ypsilanti Michigan and Lee Roberts of Sandlake Michigan. She doted over her grandchildren who range in age from 1 to 20 years old. These kids are blessed to have inherited from Donna, in various degrees, the noblest traits God has bestowed on our human race.

More about Donna may be seen on line at www.mem.com. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 22 at 2 PM in the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1311 Holman, at Caroline. Interment of ashes will be at Forest Park in the Woodlands Cemetery. Gifts in Donna’s memory should be directed to her favorite 501(C)3 organization, the Texas Cave Conservancy, PO Box 1164, Cedar Park, Texas 78613.

←—————→
Bad Air—Recap
 By Butch Fralia

If you weren’t able to make the meeting, here’s a recap of the bad air program.

I started caving in 1985 and got serious about it in 1986, along with Donna Anderson, Corcoran and cavers from Ardmore, there were a LOT of trips to the Arbuckle Mountains in Oklahoma. There we experienced “bad air” caves. Most of the time we were using Carbide and when the lamp went out, we pulled out the maglite and left the area. We started using electric lights and used BIC lighters instead of the lamp. It seemed to work OK because none of us died or got sick!

In 1987, when the Colorado Bend Project started up, Texas Parks and Wildlife department bought an Oxygen meter and Draeger pump device with CO2 tubes for the project to use. We took a lot of measurements and determined there was definitely bad air but not where it came from.

In the process of the project, Keith Heuss and I ran the test that resulted in the BIC lighter article that was reprinted a few issues back. That article got reprinted in newsletters all over the US. People who knew a lot more about the subject than I began contacting me and we shared a lot of information which brings up up to where we are now.

To better understand bad air, you need to know where you’re starting from:

So What is Good A ir?

- E nvironmentalist will debate until hell freezes over about what is “good” air.
- A ny air that you can stay alive in is good air! (for purposes of this discussion).

| | | |
|----------------|-----|------------|
| Nitrogen | N2 | 78.084% |
| Oxygen | O2 | 20.9476% |
| Argon | Ar | 0.934% |
| Carbon Dioxide | CO2 | 0.0314% |
| Neon | Ne | 0.001818% |
| Helium | He | 0.000524% |
| Methane | CH4 | 0.0002% |
| Krypton | Kr | 0.000114% |
| Hydrogen | H2 | 0.00005% |
| Xenon | Xe | 0.0000087% |

- T hree important gases to note are the amounts of Nitrogen, Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Nitrogen – Self E xplanatory, roughly 4/5th’s the air we breathe.
- O xygen only represents about 1/5th the air we breath!
- Carbon Dioxide content in normal atmosphere is almost imaginary!
- Just for the record, the Brits call it “Foul” A ir.

- OSHA defines "bad" air as 19.5% which is where O₂ detectors are set to alarm.
- "Bad" air (for cavers) is the accumulation of CO₂.
- Generally increased CO₂ replaces a like amount of O₂.
- This isn't always true!
- The term "foul air" usually means to the caver an above normal concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the cave atmosphere.
- However, it is frequently accompanied by the presence of other noxious and foul-smelling gases, for example hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) and ammonia (NH₃).
- Ammonia is often present in bat caves requiring the use of respirators!
- Carbon dioxide, the major alien component of foul air, is a colorless, odorless, noncombustible gas with a slightly acid taste. It is approximately one and a half times as dense as air and liable to displace normal air and settle in pockets. CO₂ is soluble in water (2-3 ml per 100 ml water) and, depending upon the temperature, about 0.1% of the dissolved CO₂ reacts to form an acid solution. CO₂ will not support animal life.

Human Response to "Bad" Air

| Inhaled CO ₂ | Effect |
|-------------------------|--|
| 0.1% | Normal |
| 1.0% | slight increase in rate and depth of respiration. |
| 3.0% | ventilation is doubled slight headache common |
| 4.0% | ventilation almost trebled, throbbing headache, flushed face, nausea, sweating |
| 5.0% | ventilation more than trebled, ("off effects" on removal) |
| 6.0% | ventilation six fold, can be tolerated for several hours |
| 10% | intolerable to breath for more than a few minutes |
| 12-15% | unconsciousness within minutes. |

- Note the above effects were taken from a study by British and Australian Doctors. They state in the body of the text that effects can vary from person to person.

- Almost anyone without severe respiratory problems can withstand 4% CO₂. Past that point, it becomes a gray area!

How it Works!

- "Bad Air" effects are NOT from Oxygen deprivation
- If Oxygen is replaced by some inert gas such as Nitrogen, Oxygen levels may drop to about 13% without ill effect
- The majority of people in this situation would just suddenly pass out without being aware there was a problem.
- The body uses oxygen to consume food for energy production and produces carbon dioxide as a waste gas.
- The oxygen is supplied to the body through the lungs and carried thence by the arterial blood to the tissues where it is used.
- From the same tissues the waste CO₂ is carried to the lungs in the venous blood and passes from the body in the expired air.
- The inspired air contains a negligible quantity of carbon dioxide and mixes (by diffusion) with the air in the alveoli (air sacs) where the concentration of CO₂ is a steady 5.6%.
- The expired air carried 4% CO₂ out with it and the waste gas is thus removed from the body.
- The rate and depth of respiration is controlled by a part of the brain called the respiratory centre (situated in the medulla) which is acutely sensitive to the pH (acidity) of the tissue fluids in that region.
- The acidity in turn depends on the CO₂ content of the arterial blood leaving the lungs and pumped to the brain by the heart.
- Stimulation of the respiratory centre results, and the rate and depth of respiration is increased so that the alveolar gas is more adequately changed.
- Respiration is in fact controlled so as to remove carbon dioxide from the body as fast as it is produced.
- Frequently, exposure to high CO₂ causes hyperventilation!
- Experienced foul air cavers in Australia have observed two types of individual responses on exposure to foul air.

- The common response as might be expected is hyperventilation with some degree of cutaneous vasodilatation, and these subjects are commonly referred to as "pink puffers"
- A small minority do not hyperventilate, show signs of cyanosis and are called "blue bloaters".

% CO₂ Causing Flame E xtinction

- Match: 1%
- Candle: 2.3% – 10%
- Carbide Lamp: 5% - 10%
- Bic Lighter: 4%

"Bad" Air Caving

- An experienced "bad" air trip leader should introduce new cavers to bad air gradually.
- Carry some kind of detection device.
- Bic (or other butane) lighter recommended. Results have been consistent with several brands.
- Most People in reasonable health can sustain 4% CO₂ without difficulty.
- Below 4%, results are unpredictable!
- When the lighter goes out – LE AVE THE AREA!
- Move Slowly! Minimize the creation of body CO₂. Your brain already thinks your body is working hard, don't make it worse!
- Even in high CO₂, hyperventilation may occur.
- Any rigging should be safety checked by at least two people.
- Prolonged exposure to bad air creates blood gas changes.
- To prevent "off" effects, try to transition from "bad" air to "good" air slowly. Give your body the chance to restore you blood gases to normal.
- "Off" effects include hallucinations, headaches, vomiting, extreme hyperventilation, shouting and uncontrollable laughing or crying.

Where is "Bad" Air Found?

- Frequently found in the Arbuckle Mountains of Oklahoma.
- Frequently found in Central Texas (i.e., CBSP – Ellis Ranch).

- Occurs to some extent all over Texas.
- Less frequent in multiple entrance caves.
- More frequent in single entrance pits.

When is the best time to visit?

- Late fall to mid-spring.
- Cold weather cause the air in the cave to "roll" (most of the time!).
- Cold surface air is heavier than warmer cave air, causing the warmer lighter air to be displaced.
- After a Major Resurgence of a cave like Gorman Cave.

Credits

- *FOUL AIR AND THE RESULTING HAZARDS TO CAVERS* - By Julia M. James, Andrew J. Pavey and Alan F. Rogers.
- Personal Experience through years of O₂/CO₂ measurements at Colorado Bend State Park.

The Most Dangerous Cave

Elizabeth Brockey

This weekend was Cave Day! YAY! We get to show many inexperienced people what caving is all about and let them see everything they are missing in the world below. This trip started off as any other and ended with...well, we will get to that in a moment.

Friday after work I headed off to the grocery store as instructed to provide the fuel for our expedition. If you don't know, I drive a Miata, so with a weekends worth of clothes, pillow, shoes, and groceries, my tiny car was busting at the seams.

I drove to the hanger to meet Adam Hayse and Daniel Dase. We were going to consolidate cars, grab the pop up and head off to find Curtis Bullard. I was on time! Yay! In fact early. When I arrived at the hanger, Adam and Daniel were not there yet so I waited. While talking to them on the phone we realized there was no key to open the hanger to get the pop up out. Oh no! Where were we going to sleep!?! Luckily, Daniels brother Matt came to our rescue and opened the door. Problem solved...our event for the trip was over. Whew! I was glad to get it out of the way.

We loaded up the pop up, hitched it to the Jeep and as we are about to load up Daniel exclaims "Someone stole the license plate!" Ok, he didn't really say that but who knows if kids will read this. LOL. So now, there was no license plate. We clearly cant take a pop up trailer with no tag so, being resourceful,

Daniel takes the boat trailer license plate and fixes it on the pop up. So smart. So smart.

Ok, two problems is odd for a trip, but hey...its ok...we are ready to go and actually on time now as I was an hour early. YAY! We are ready to go. Then, yes thats right, another problem. The lights on the pop up wont work. Its dusk. We have an hour drive to Curtis's house. Daniel has had enough so we drive "stealth mode" as he likes to call it.

Luckily, we arrive at the Bullard residence with no other problems. On the way we are all joking. "Daniel did you get my shoes?" "Daniel, did you get my knee pads?" "Daniel, did you remember my helmet?" He says yes! YAY! But.....when we got to Curtis's house, guess what....Liz has no caving shoes. Seriously! I know you cant believe it either.

Ok, no big deal. I went caving in tennis shoes before...although we all remember how that turned out. We load up Curtis with the pop up and he takes his big ole Dodge down to Austin. We stopped at WalMart for drinks and shoes. Problem solved. Then, we stopped at Wendy's...they must do made to order there because it took way too long to get our food.

We finally got to Mike Walsh's place after midnight. Whew! I was glad to be out of the car. We set up camp and enjoyed the evening. Early the next morning we woke up and got ready for Cave Day. Daniel made awesome taquitos and we were so excited to have them. Tammy and Lex Cox arrived. Yay! We all know how sad Daniel will be if his "caving" buddy Lex isn't there. Ok, ok, just kidding. LOL.

We pile in the cars and head out with our instructions from Mike to head to Avery Ranch cave. Now, I haven't done much caving, but Avery Ranch cave is a show cave. Easy cheesy! Tammy says that later we will go to Buttercup and Marigold and test our skills. EEK. I better enjoy the rest I have while its available.

We set up everything at Avery Ranch Cave. We are ready to go. Yes! Right on time. We have pamphlets and stickers. Its awesome. We had a few problems with the lights, but we had our helmets and flashlights, so no problem.

Adam and I stay by the table for the first few people and we welcome them with a friendly smile. I was surprised to see so many people already. After the first wave, I decided that I would go down and check out the cave.

I climb down the ladder and there are concrete stairs. Stairs! In a cave! Apparently, stairs make me comfortable and I forget caution. As I am bounding down the steps, I put my left leg out to step down and snap, I land right on my ankle. Felt the pain as when you roll your ankle, so no big deal. I set down for a minute and then decide to walk it off. No one was around (whew...again) so I walked down the platform to see Daniel there.

I told him I thought I hurt my ankle. He asked if I was ok and I said yes but I was going to rest. The cave was MAGNIFICENT. It was illuminated (after Lex and Curtis got us hardwired) and so friendly to the public. The formations were so close and huge! I looked around and decided to go back up and sit down.

After I reached the top of the cave, there were more people coming. I sat down behind the table and talked to a few and then my ankle really started to hurt. I took off my shoe and sock to find an amazing blue hue that Id never seen before. I had bruised something and it was swelling. Everyone was super sweet and

asked if I wanted to go to the doctor etc, but I'm stubborn and said no. Daniel came to my rescue with an impromptu ice pack (made from a jerky package and ice we had for drinks) and instructed me to put my foot on it. Lex wanted me to put my foot in the bucket of ice where the water was...ewwww. LOL.

I elevated the ankle and continued to smile and greet people and thank them for coming out. It was so rewarding to see kids and adults enjoying the cave and thank us for doing what we were doing. We gave out tons of information and many people asked how they can donate. It was awesome. I could focus on that and not how I was feeling.

In the last hour I started to complain so Daniel took me to get Tylenol and come back. We all packed up and went back to camp. It was time for the group to go off and do a cave. I elected to stay back because things with my ankle were not getting any better. Adam was such a trooper and stayed with me! I slept a lot (due to meds) and he just hung out quietly and let me sleep. About 11pm we went to bed and then the group came back. We all went to take showers and then had the best steaks ever! Thank you Curtis. Man, I've never had one that good. Lex and Tammy brought amazing mashed potatoes and macaroni and cheese. MMMMM. Alexa, Dana, Lyndon, and George came to hang out with us. It was nice to have everyone together.

The next morning the group slept in. Daniel made us fabulous breakfast taquitos. Thank you Daniel! They loaded up to go to the caves and Lex stayed behind with me. He went up to the house for a bit and I fell asleep. I didn't wake up until the group came back at 5. We cleaned up camp and then went to eat. We had great food at La Margarita. Only two of them ordered margaritas though. ha-ha. Then we drove back home.

So, as far as caving for this trip, I couldn't tell ya...what I do know is...that pop up is the way to go...only next time..with air conditioning.

Things I learned during our Cave Day trip:

- 1) Show caves are the most dangerous caves...Avery Ranch has nothing on Cave Mountain.
- 2) The pop up is always a good idea...I spent most of the weekend in one.
- 3) Daniel makes good breakfast...even if you eat it two days in a row.
- 4) Lex is a good mashed potato maker
- 5) I love this caving group!

Oh yeah, I went to the doctor finally and they said it isn't broken...as for the tendons etc, we have to see in a few days. Crutches give you nice abs. =)



Bev Shade Jonathan Wilson Wedding

Here's an interesting note, hot off the wires. Well known Texas Caver, Bev Shade is marrying Jonathan Wilson in February or March. In lieu of wedding presents, the couple is asking

that their friends and family make contributions to the Texas Cave Management Association. When everything is in place, more information and online contributions may be made at <http://www.tcmacaves.org/wedding/>.

Going Crazy over PayPal

Butch Fralia

Am I going crazy over PayPal? Well no but The Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA) and Texas Speleological Survey (TSS) are. In the not so distant future, TCMA will have the capability of accepting donations and membership dues online through PayPal. The TSS will offer book sales online through PayPal. PayPal is a secure credit card gateway and neither organization will have access to your credit card information.

The TSA already accepts membership dues online through PayPal. All it takes is my time to get it all set up.

30th Annual Texas Cavers Reunion (TCR)

October 19-21, 2007

This year, TCR will be held at:

Paradise Canyon Recreational Park
2230 County Road 2615
Rio Medina, TX, 78066
<http://paradisecanyon.com/>
29.5051194, -98.9029056 (NAD83)

More information at:

<http://www.cavetexas.org/events/TCR/index.html>
<http://www.cavetexas.org/maps/tcr2007.html>
<http://www.oztotl.com/tcr/index.htm>

The reunion is always a great place to meet up with old friends and make new ones. For new cavers, it's a chance to fill your caving calendar out for the next year. There are a lot of trips posted on the TSA and Maverick Grotto online calendars but there are many that are never posted for various reasons. This is the chance to make some of those non-posted trips.

This year, TCR will be at a never before been to location, Paradise Canyon Recreational Park. There's about 1/2 mile of camping on the Medina River, just below the Medina Lake diversion dam. There are small caves across the river from the camping area. The rumor is these people would like for this to become a permanent if not frequent TCR location so are being very accommodating.

- Please remember to bring your own reusable eating utensils to the Grand Feast and to come prepared to take your garbage home.
- Well behaved dogs, friends, and family members are welcome, in that order, those that may tend to be obnoxious should be left elsewhere. This year, the owners of Paradise Canyon Park have graciously allowed us to let well-behaved dogs come out to their place. Please pick up after

your dog!

- Port-a-Potties and restrooms will be provided.
- As a convenience to cavers and in support of the Texas Region of the NSS, the TSA will be collecting dues for the 2006 membership year. If you are not a TSA member, this is a very good opportunity to join and to show your support for the organization that cares about cavers and caving in Texas. The TEXAS CAVER, and the many caving Projects are obvious benefits provided to you and other cavers by the TSA. The TSA provides many other benefits that aren't so obvious--please join and support the TSA.
- Vendors of caving equipment and publications will be set up.
- The TCR staff is not in the police business. That means everyone should police themselves and those in their clan. In other words.....you are responsible for the behavior of your children, your dogs, and your guests.
- Using Common Sense and Common Courtesy is the best policy.

Remember, this is primarily a caver event. People who will contribute to the general craziness are encouraged to attend, those who will detract are discouraged.

New From the TSS !!

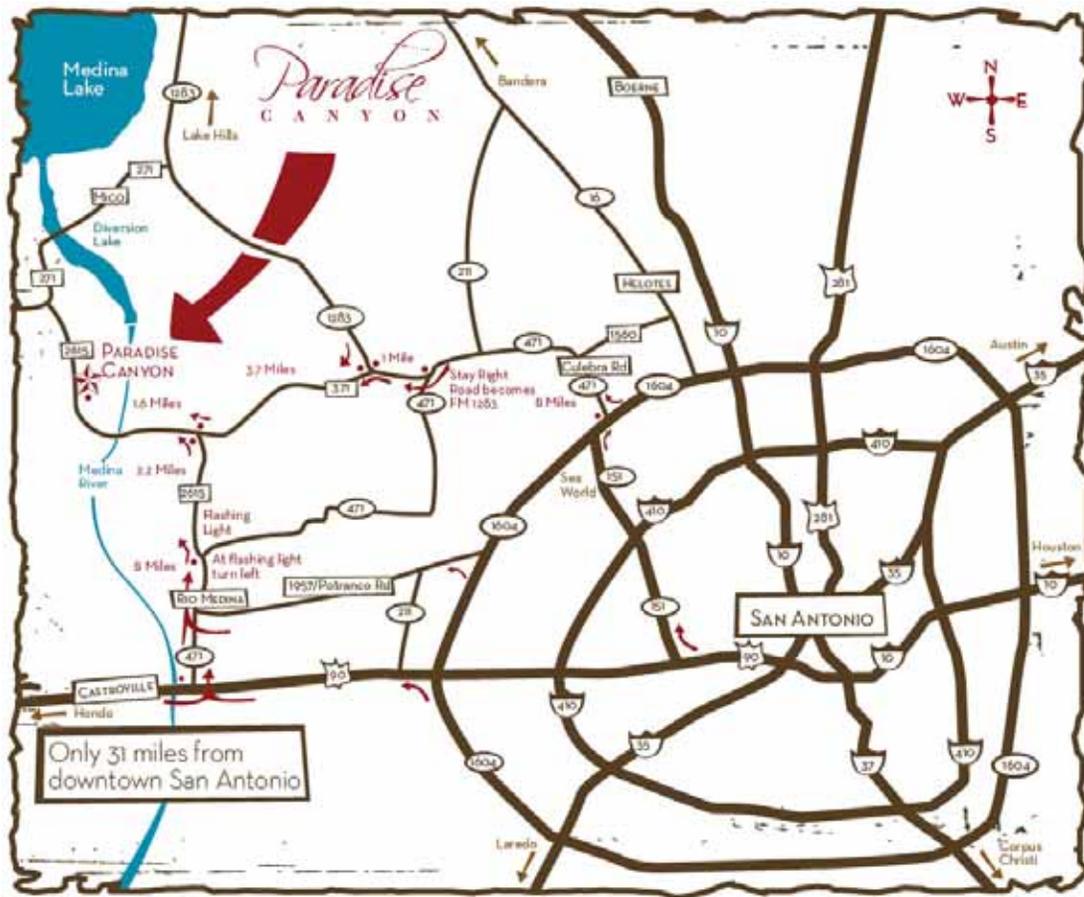
THE TSS MAP CD



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

To order, go to <www.txspeleologicalsurvey.org>



Maverick Grotto
c/o Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76133-2230