

The Maverick Bull



Maverick Grotto Information

Copyright 2008 The Maverick Grotto.

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

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

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

Complimentary Newsletters: The Maverick Grotto will provide complimentary 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. Corky Corcoran will be accepting books and magazines on cave-related topics, copies of homemade cave videos, etc. for our library.

Photos & Map Credits

Cover Photo: Miscellaneous photographs from Rahr's Brewery—Butch Fralia

Back Cover: Google Map showing the location of Rahr and Sons Brewing Company.

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 **SUTTON:** 315-387-3424

TRAVIS: 512-663-2287 **PARKER:** 817 657-5780

Next meeting: June 10th , 2008 7:00 pm

Rahr & Sons Brewing Company

701 Galveston Avenue

Fort Worth, TX 76104

(817) 810-9266

Program:

Chair

Daniel Dase
6458 Sumac
Fort Worth, TX 76116
C: (903) 814-8342
chairman@maverickgrotto.org

Secretary

Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 346-2039
secretary1@maverickgrotto.org

Newsletter Editor

Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 346-2039
newsletter1@maverickgrotto.org

Vice-Chair

Chris Cole
2916 Willing Ave
Fort Worth, TX 76110
C:(817_ 422-4869
vicechair1@maverickgrotto.org

Treasurer

Sharon Mastbrook
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 346-2039
treasurer@maverickgrotto.org

Webmaster

Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 346-2039
webmaster@maverickgrotto.org

Meeting Location Change!!!!

The Maverick Grotto meeting is moving to:

Rahr & Sons Brewing Company
701 Galveston Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76104
(817) 810-9266



Caving Calendar

Jun 10: Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Jun 21: Robber Baron Cave: The long running Restoration Project at TCMA's Robber Baron Cave is nearing its completion! This project has been ongoing since 2003 and has involved:

- modification to the sinkhole to create amore natural entrance conditions to enhance species habitat,
- re-landscaping the sinkhole and property to remove exotic vegetation and restore native plants,
- promoting educational use of the entrance area,
- correcting and improving conditions at Robber Baron Cave that TCMA inherited from the previous owner,
- and more than 3200 combined volunteer hours, \$12,000 in donations, and \$16,500 in grants.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! Plan to come to one of the remained work days and help us make the final push to finish this project and then plan to come and celebrate its completion!
 Contact: [Joe Mitchell](mailto:Joe.Mitchell) - Project Manager
 Website: <http://tcmacaves.org/caves/robberbaron/index.html>

Jul 7-6: Rocky Mountain Regional—Hosted by the Hole in the Wall Grotto in Lovell, WY.
 Website: Rocky [Mountain Regional](#)

Jul 8: Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Jul 17-20: KARST-O-RAMA — The Greater Cincinnati Grotto invites you to attend the 2008 Karst-O-Rama at the Great Saltpe- tre Cave Preserve in Mount Vernon, Kentucky.
 Website: <http://www.karstorama.com/>

Jul 26-27: High Guads Restoration Project (Carlsbad, NM): Annual rescue practice???? — 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.
 Contact: highguads@yahoo.com
 Website: <http://www.hgrp.org/>

Aug 3-9: Mammoth Cave Restoration Weeklong Camp — Signup is required and space is limited.
 Contact: Roy Vanhoozer rvanhoo@yahoo.com
 Website: <http://www.restoremammoth.com/>

Aug 11-15: NSS Convention — in Lake City, Florida (west of Jacksonville), hosted by the NSS Cave Diving Section, the Florida Speleological Society, and members of the Tampa Bay Area, Flint River, and Central Florida Grottos.
 Website: <http://www.nss2008.com/>

Aug 12: Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Sep 9: Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Sep 9– 21: Fall VAR — hosted by the Blue Ridge and James River Grottos at the Moose Lodge field in Covington, VA.
 Contact: Susan Burr pondlady97@cox.net
 Website: <http://www.varegion.org/>

Sep 20: Robber Baron Cave: The long running Restoration Project at TCMA's Robber Baron Cave is nearing its completion! This project has been ongoing since 2003 and has involved:

- modification to the sinkhole to create amore natural entrance conditions to enhance species habitat,
- re-landscaping the sinkhole and property to remove exotic vegetation and restore native plants,
- promoting educational use of the entrance area,
- correcting and improving conditions at Robber Baron Cave that TCMA inherited from the previous owner,
- and more than 3200 combined volunteer hours, \$12,000 in donations, and \$16,500 in grants.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! Plan to come to one of the remained work days and help us make the final push to finish this project and then plan to come and celebrate its completion!
 Contact: [Joe Mitchell](mailto:Joe.Mitchell) - Project Manager
 Website: <http://tcmacaves.org/caves/robberbaron/index.html>

Oct 10-12: TAG Fall Cave-In — Held at the TOTM site atop Lookout Mountain, GA and hosted by the Dogwood City Grotto..
 Website: <http://tagfallcavein.org/hosting/dcg/cavein/homex.html>

Oct 14: Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Oct 17-18, Texas Cavers Reunion — 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 25: Robber Baron Cave: The long running Restoration Project at TCMA's Robber Baron Cave is nearing its completion! This project has been ongoing since 2003 and has involved:

- modification to the sinkhole to create amore natural entrance conditions to enhance species habitat,
- re-landscaping the sinkhole and property to remove exotic vegetation and restore native plants,
- promoting educational use of the entrance area,

- correcting and improving conditions at Robber Baron Cave that TCMA inherited from the previous owner,
 - and more than 3200 combined volunteer hours, \$12,000 in donations, and \$16,500 in grants.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! Plan to come to one of the remained work days and help us make the final push to finish this project and then plan to come and celebrate its completion!

Contact: Joe Mitchell - Project Manager

Website: <http://tcmacaves.org/caves/robberbaron/index.html>

Oct 25-26: High Guads Restoration Project (Carlsbad, NM):

More Scrubbing Caves — 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.

Contact: highguads@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.hgrp.org/>

Nov 1-2: Mammoth Cave Restoration Weekend Camp —

Signup is required and space is limited.

Contact: Roy Vanhoozer rvanhoo@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.restoremammoth.com/>

Nov 8: Robber Baron Cave—Dedication Day : The long running Restoration Project at TCMA's Robber Baron Cave is nearing its completion!

This project has been ongoing since 2003 and has involved:
 - modification to the sinkhole to create amore natural entrance conditions to enhance species habitat,
 - re-landscaping the sinkhole and property to remove exotic vegetation and restore native plants,
 - promoting educational use of the entrance area,
 - correcting and improving conditions at Robber Baron Cave that TCMA inherited from the previous owner,
 - and more than 3200 combined volunteer hours, \$12,000 in donations, and \$16,500 in grants.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP! Plan to come to one of the remained work days and help us make the final push to finish this project and then plan to come and celebrate its completion!

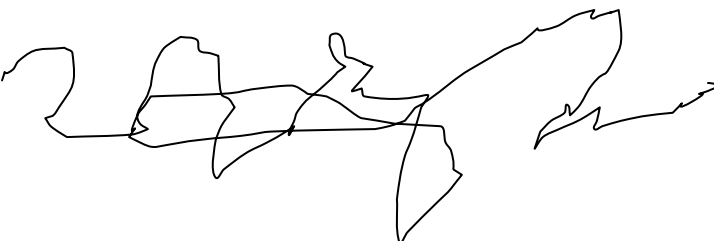
Contact: Joe Mitchell - Project Manager

Website: <http://tcmacaves.org/caves/robberbaron/index.html>

Nov 11: Maverick Grotto Meeting.

Jul 19-26, 2009: International Congress of Speleology - Kerrville Texas — Sort of like the NSS Convention on Steroids! In fact, the NSS Convention and International Congress of Speleology are combined in 2009.

Website: <http://www.ics2009.us/>



Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2008

The May 13 meeting of The Maverick Grotto was held at Rahr & Sons Brewing Company, 701 Galveston Avenue, in Fort Worth.

Attendees: Mike Cagle, Chris Cole, Lex Cox, Tammy Cox, Jose Curras, Daniel Dase, Chad Fenner, Butch Fralia, Ryan Gebharpt (V), Jason Magby (V), Sharon Mastbrook, Bill Tucker, Francie Tucker, Patrick Wells (V).

The program was held before the meeting, it was a cave video from the Planet Earth, television series. Wasn't any problem seeing, the screen is huge! It was little easier to see than hear.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Chairman Daniel Dase.

Officers Reports:

Chairman: Daniel apologized for the noise for the evening but said the bottling wouldn't be going on in June. Thanked everyone for coming. Daniel said he's working on a special "Cave for the Cure" patch that he wants to get copy righted.

Vice-Chair: Thanked everyone for coming, mentioned the bottling going on.

Treasurer: Sharon Mastbrook reported \$1,119 total funds. (Butch noted that part of the belongs to him for unpaid newsletter expenses)

Secretary: Had a newsletter for May, as usual need articles, and photographs for the newsletter and website. Thanks to Tammy Cox and Scott Boyd for articles. There hasn't been much time to work on the website.



Patrick Wells—meeting visitor

- photo Butch Fralia



Ryan Gebhart and Jason Magby—visitors (don't remember which one is which).
- photo Butch Fralia

Food provided for the meeting by Risky's BBQ.
- photo Butch Fralia

New Business:

Daniel is getting 30 grotto t-shirts made and 20 "Cave for the Cure" shirts ("I go Bats over boobies" on the back).

Daniel is getting Maverick Grotto, "Cave for the Cure" bracelets made. Chris said those could be sold at events for a few bucks to recover expenses, make a few bucks for the charity and get some promotion for the grotto. He asked for volunteers to attend the Saturday beer tasting to sell them. Chris said there's usually 500 people at the Saturday beer tasting so the money should be recovered pretty quick.

Caver of the month: Chris Cole

Rag of the month: Adam Hayes

Old Business:

Trip Reports:

Bill Tucker went to Robber Baron Cave in San Antonio. He reported the cave being hot and having bad air at the back of the cave. Robber is a maze cave owned by TCMA.



Daniel chairing the meeting behind beer boxes ready to fill from the bottling operation.
- photo Butch Fralia

Chris Cole Beer Tending
- photo Butch Fralia



16' x 9' projection screen

- photo Butch Fralia



Brew Master

- photo Butch Fralia

Editors Corner

By Butch Fralia

Hello June and the hot dog days of summer. It's already HOT!! I don't expect much in the way of trip reports (but will take what I can get) over the summer so it's going to be struggle to do a newsletter time.

Last month, I wrote about diesel and gas prices going up and they've gone up quite a bit since. At least gas is starting to catch up with diesel. Unfortunately the lack of caves in the Metroplex makes going caving a major investment. There are caves about 45 miles out from us but a trip to Blum Cave or Manley's water-hole isn't that appealing.

The May meeting at Rahr's came off pretty well so you might call this the beer issue. There weren't any trip reports submitted so pictures from the meeting and these comments pretty much make up the issue.

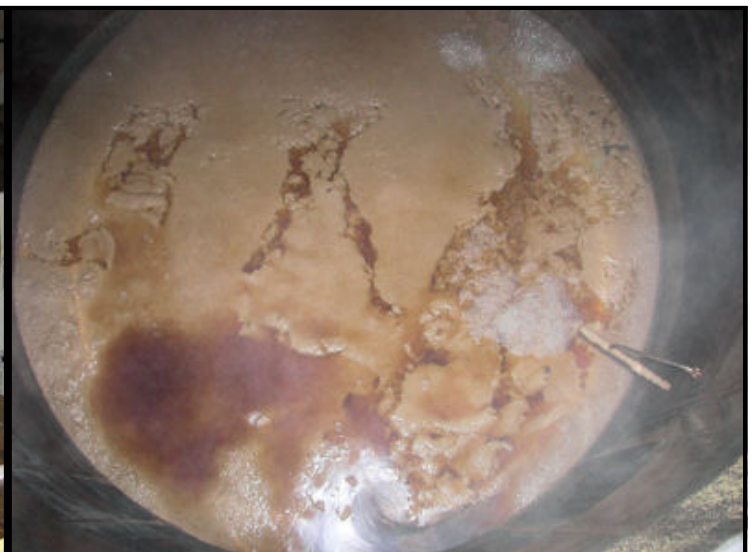
It was a little noisy because they chose the meeting night for bottling operations. Having free beer and food, I'm not sure how many people noticed the noise. The projection screen is huge and the speaker system big enough to overcome the noise. There's not supposed to be bottling during the June meeting so it should be quieter.

It was interesting watching the bottling, reminded me of TV programs in my youth showing how stuff was done, like bottling. I guess there's still a lot of stuff like that on the Discovery channel.



Grotto treasurer Sharon Mastbrook

- photo Butch Fralia



Brewing vat draining during bottling operations

- photo Butch Fralia

It's more interesting seeing it first hand. It was also interesting to learn there are only two paid employees at the brewery, the brew master and our own Chris Cole. All the people involved in the bottling were volunteers, working for beer. Chris said he was a volunteer for three years before becoming a full time employee involved in sales.

If you're into beer, Rahr's makes a wide variety of good beer. I'm partial to the Red myself but there's something for everyone. Personally I'm looking forward to meeting there again and for as long as possible.



Editors Note: The following essay was pointed out on the TexasCavers list and started a debate as to its accuracy and the statement that Texas has more caves than any other state. Texas currently has 4,361 caves. Tennessee has the most caves and Texas is probably #5 on the list. Texas is a huge state and new caves are found almost every week, it could well have the most caves if they were all located and reported. Something for Texas cavers to do!

Underground Texas

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Reprinted from: <http://woodlandsonline.com/npps/story.cfm?nppage=25038>

From the High Plains to the Big Bend, the Hill Country to the Piney Woods and places in between, Texas's natural beauty has always been part of its broad appeal. But Texas also has a less familiar attraction: some 3,000 caves that make up a vast expanse of underground wonder.

Texas has more caves than any other state. For generations they have provided utility, historic fascination and scientific insight into life below and above the surface. Underground Texas yields information for scientists and students in biology, geology, paleontology, anthropology, archaeology and speleology—the study of caves.

“Because things may be preserved in a cave that would be destroyed almost anywhere else, caves add greatly to our knowledge of the past,” a geologist writes in *Geo-Texas*. More than 1,200 animal species have been found in Texas caves.

Several caves are National Natural Landmarks, but many are on private land. I co-sponsored the Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2007 to provide tax incentives to private landowners who voluntarily protect habitat of endangered or threatened species. This approach respects property rights of Texas landowners.

Texas has both “wild caves” and “show caves.” Wild caves exist in their natural state, with no lighting or public paths. Honey Creek Cave is the longest cave in Texas, stretching more than 20 miles underneath Comal and Kendall counties.

Exploration of a wild cave may involve crawling through water, mud, insects and other distractions, or descending into total darkness on a rope. It has been compared to mountain climbing, “only backwards.”

The state's seven show caves provide easier access, and welcome thousands of visitors every year. Most are in the Texas Hill Country, with several between Austin and San Antonio. The westernmost show cave is the Caverns of Sonora, about 170 miles northwest of San Antonio.

Show caves often feature translucent, icicle-shaped stalactites, stalagmites, crystalline walls and mirror-like pools. The remarkable formations in caves result from the continual dripping of mineral-rich water over millions of years, and the flow of underground streams.

Caves figured prominently in Texas history. Analysis of arrow points and other artifacts indicate some Native Americans lived in Texas caves, beginning thousands of years ago.

Comanche Indians once used Longhorn Cavern, near Burnet, for shelter. The cavern went on to become a gunpowder factory for the Confederacy and later a nightclub during the Roaring Twenties. In an ironic conversion, Longhorn Cavern once even housed church services. The State of Texas bought Longhorn Cavern and opened it to the public as part of a state park in 1932.

In one tale, Texas Rangers followed Comanches into Longhorn Cavern in search of a kidnapped young woman. The *Geologic Story of Longhorn Cavern* recounts the story: “There by the dancing firelight they saw Miss King against the wall with her hands bound behind her ... the Rangers rushed in, freed the girl, and were climbing out of the cavern when the Indians, seeing there were only three of them, attacked ... Keeping between Miss King and the Indians, the Rangers were able to fight their way to freedom.”

Even without embellishment, Texas caves can offer a great adventure for young people—particularly in the summer, when they also provide an escape from summer heat. When temperatures above ground soar into the 90s or higher, most caves have constant temperatures around 70.

There is no substitute for visiting caves in person and learning more about life under the ground of Texas. They're a little-noticed part of what makes our state great.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge.

