
THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Volume 10, Issue 10

October, 1996



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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 Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is located less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next to K-Mart. The time is 7:00 p.m., and the food is good.

Carbide: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting if prior arrangements are made. Carbide is free for the asking. Contact Russell Hill at 220-7108 or Butch Fralia at 346-2039 for more information.

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

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Photo Credits

This month's cover photo is of some Indian petroglyphs and was taken by Mike Cagle.

Page 4: More petroglyphs taken by Mike Cagle.

Page 6: Stock Photo of Horsethief cave. Copyright Corel.

Page 9: Smittle cave photos by Mike Anderson.

Other Credits

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Visit Our Web Site

The *Maverick Bull* is available as a World Wide Web site at: <http://www.why.net/user/caver/bull/>

Minutes for the September Meeting

Maverick Grotto Sept 10, 1996

The September meeting began at approximately 7 p.m. The business portion of the meeting was called to order shortly after 7:30 by Grotto Chairman Mike Anderson.

Visitors

Don and Eric Abercrombie
Brian Payne
Paige Shoemaker
Linda Shoemaker
Lydia Harrell and Brad Loveless

Announcements

Martha McArthur's husband had a heart attack.

Connie Sparks' mother died.

Officers' Reports

VP — Bring something or some story from the grotto history to next months meeting. We'll be celebrating the 10th anniversary that month.

Treas — We have just over \$700, some of which is owed for newsletter expenses.

Old Business

The 10th Anniversary Party is almost here!

A motion was made and passed to allocate funds (\$100) to the party.

A sign-up list for side dishes was passed around.

Butch (through Sharon) and Russell gave progress reports on meats.

A case of wine and two bottles of champagne have been donated for prizes.

Mike Anderson will be responsible for soft drinks and ice cream.

Bruce Anderson is in charge of cobbler.

Donna Anderson is in charge of lights.

Russell Hill has wood, just needs a truck to transport it.

New Business

Nominations for officers will be next month. All offices except secretary will need filling.

Trip Reports

Mike Anderson, along with Dale and Arlene and Dave and Barbe went to Smittle cave. See associated photo.

Mike Cagle went to an Indian cave in Colorado and saw some pictographs (See cover and related story)

A couple of new members were voted in, including John Pipes and Shanon Seals.

The meeting was closed and followed by this month's program, which was a slide show on Urban Caving in Cleveland.

Editor's Ramblings

Happy October!

It's kind of hard to follow last months newsletter, but it's got to come out one way or another. I did have plenty of material for this month, so keep up the great work.

We must have inspired *Speleospace*, the Greater Houston Grotto Newsletter, because they also had a color cover last month. If I remember, I'll bring it to the October meeting so ya'll can compare the two.

One funny thing did happen last month, but it occurred after I had written this column so I didn't get to comment on it. I had generated the normal 10 pages (five double-sided sheets of paper, including the cover

and back page) and went to Butch's for final printing before we went to press. Normally the legal stuff is on page two, which is on the back of the cover. Well, last month's cover, being the super deluxe cover it was, was copied on special paper. Apparently, that paper and Butch's laser printer doesn't get along too well.

When I stuck one of the covers in to run as a test to see if we could indeed print on the back of one, the paper never came out of the printer. Sharon and I looked all around the printer for it. We heard it run through the printer, but it was nowhere to be found.

Finally we looked inside the printer

and found it had melted itself to one of the rubber rollers. Butch was not yet back from class, and we just knew he'd kill us if we goofed up his super deluxe model printer.

Fortunately, we were able to get it out without damaging the printer. That explains why last month's newsletter had a blank page on the back of the cover and page two where page three should have been, etc.

This job is always exciting. Never know what's gonna turn up next.

But next month we're all in for a treat. Two of our former newsletter editors, Butch and Dale, are putting together a special 10th anniversary issue. I know I'll enjoy it. Especially

October Meeting

This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8 at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, at 7 p.m.

The program will reflect on the rich 10-year history of the grotto. Bring any pictures, stories, or other

memorabilia that represent the grotto history. Join us for good food and good cave talk.

Indian Sweetwater Cave

submitted by Mike Cagle

Cavers: Mike, Karin, Grace, and Calvin Cagle

Date: 6/14/96

Location: Colorado

We were going to be in Breckinridge for a vacation, so I was looking for things to see in the area. I



checked out the NSS convention guide web site and came upon this along with many other "Things to See and Do in Colorado".

It was Friday, and we had been gone a week. The day's first stop (exit 133 I70) was Dotsero volcano. This is the state's youngest volcano at 4150 years. The crater is 1/3 mile wide and 800 feet deep. The lightweight cinder is being mined to manufacture cinder blocks. We drove to the top, up the mining road. Watch for trucks coming down on the one-lane road! It was very impressive, and we collected large chunks of lightweight pumice stone.

This exit is also the exit for the White River Plateau. According to the convention guide, this is the site

of some of Colorado's most important caves. We chose Indian Sweetwater Cave among those described because the hike was easy to moderate (the kids are ages 5 and 6), and we liked the idea of real Indian petroglyphs.

From Dotsero we followed the spectacular Colorado River Rd. about an hour to Sweetwater Lake Campground. This turned out to be a small National Forest campground with what we agreed were the best car camping sites (8) we have ever

seen. It had filled up when we returned from the cave.

The trail left campsite #4 and wound up along the side of the lake into a beautiful, aspen-filled valley. The trail was well maintained and marked. We found trail #1855 (Colorado Gazetteer, page 36) and continued through the forest, crossing streams on log bridges. Soon we were at the path leaving the main trail leading up to the entrance. The entrance is about 10' x 10' and triangular, with a nice view out over the valley. The hike had taken a leisurely hour.

Inside the cave, petroglyphs cover the walls. Most were black charcoal hunting scenes with mounted riders. Red and yellow shield-like symbols also were present. Graffiti from the 1860's to the present also appeared on the walls. About 200 feet into the cave, past the mummified rodents, was a 10' drop rigged with a very old manila rope. Our visit into the cave

ended here. We photographed our way out and hiked back to the campsite.

Horsethief Cave

Crime: Horsethief Cave

Punishment: Dust

Location: Horsethief Cave, Wyoming

Date: July 10, 1996

People: Susan Herpin, David Herpin, Rich Wolfert, Libby Overholt, and Kevin Glover

Report by Kevin Glover

Cough, Cough! Hack! Wheeeeeze. Dust. It's everywhere. We've been crawling through it for what seems like a long time. Well, maybe it has been, what with Rich's side trip. He had said that there were several registers in the cave, so...."Hey look, found another register up here!" "Oh, yea. I see, it's the same one we signed in 30 minutes ago." Ok.... we're not far in, somewhere along Denise's Crystal Crawl. The dust looks like it was tracked in here by cavers over several decades (they left chest and knee prints instead of boot prints). But it doesn't matter because it gets stirred up and breathed in by all of us regardless. In some areas the dust is thicker, — must be where all the tracked dust came from, — and so we crawl through clouds.

Up ahead, Libby is backing up toward me and away from a small passage. "Hey, what's up? The pretties are in the other direction."

Libby tells us that she won't fit through the next bellycrawl. Man! She won't get to see the pretties. All this punishment taken, and she doesn't even get to enjoy the crime. Susan and I go on through the crawl, pushing packs before us. I don't want to say that this cave is small, but if that crawl had had six inches of water in it, I might have drowned.

We decide that Rich will escort Libby to the entrance and then come back the short distance to us and we four will continue....through the dust. Susan, David, and I used that half hour to eat, rest, and photograph some gypsum flowers. There were a couple of them that were a foot long and as thick as my forearm. Anyway, Rich showed up and we were soon crawling again. After a brief episode of walking, we were back to crawling in the dust. Rich mentioned that we really should be wearing dust masks, but we were already in the cave when he said that.

Soon we come to the Gypsum Wall climbdown. It's 15 feet down on a slightly overhanging wall. Rich goes first. I climb down second, and Rich guides my feet. Susan asks, "How is it? Is it very difficult?"

"It's not too bad," I say, "but it is slightly overhanging on the lower half."

"I'm not gonna have to whine, am I?"

"No."

David comes down next and has some difficulty due to short legs. He makes it, and then Susan comes down last. "Where's my next foothold?" she asks standing at the midpoint.

"Just lower your right foot down about two feet," instructs Rich, "while you find some lower handholds."

"What lower handholds? I can't find that foothold. Now, how did I get into this?" A good question.

The night before, the five of us drove into Lovell, Wyoming and camped in a park in the city. Susan, David, Rich, and Libby were in the suburban while my Dad and I drove

there in another car. We were traveling to Montana and Canada for some hiking, glacier viewing, and major oohing and ahing over mountain scenery, but we had stopped in Wyoming so I could go see Horsethief Cave with the group. Susan, David, and Libby had driven into Colorado, picked up Rich, and driven on to Lovell. Thus, we were all here at once. Later on, the plan was for Rich to take them through nearby Wind Cave in South Dakota.

On the morning of the cave trip, we got a lazy start from camp and began driving in both vehicles toward Horsethief Cave parking area. Soon we were on dirt roads and then we reached the base of the canyon. Here the road climbs up one wall of the canyon as the canyon itself climbs elevation. It's a long, steep road. Well, our car wouldn't even begin it. So, we were forced to transfer gear and ourselves to Susan's Suburban where all six of us crammed inside. We drove up....way up. Eventually we leveled out and drove through trees and over hills. Next, came Ballbearing Hill. Rich told us that it's been vastly improved, but that years ago it was like driving steeply uphill on ballbearings. If you stopped midway up the hill, you couldn't get started again, at least not in an uphill direction. Well, we zoomed right up that one and leveled out again. We drove over flat roads among grassy plains for a long while....Left here, right here, right again, take the middle fork, follow the fenceline, left, left again....you are keeping track, aren't you?

We passed by an old mining camp from past decades. For some reason the camp was called "Armpit", though I can't remember why. Rich told us that uranium has been mined out of these mountains and that the whole place is radioactive. Some expert somewhere had figured out that as long as you didn't spend more than 80 hours a year underground in this region that you would be OK. Or was it 40 hours a year? Well, whatever, we didn't

approach it....I hope.

So we drove up to the entrance. It's a sinkhole 50 feet across containing a 30 ft. by 15 ft. walk-in entrance. Rich pointed over to a sign by the sinkhole. He explained that it was a border between Wyoming and Montana and also between BLM (Bureau of Land Management) and Park Service land. BLM is on the Wyoming side and has 99% of the cave under it and controls the access. A small portion of the cave is under Montana (we got to go caving in two states). Furthermore, the National Park lands on the Montana side aren't really Park lands. The Park Service rents land from a local Indian Reservation. Confusing? Not at all compared to the mazes in Horsethief. (Ed note: More than 1% of the cave is under Montana. However there is a second entrance in Montana, and the connecting passage was cemented closed. Most of the cave under Montana can now only be accessed from the Montana entrance, which requires a separate permit from the Park Service, while the Wyoming entrance allows access to the cave which is 99% under WY and requires a permit from the BLM.)

We entered the cave about noon. Now, my Dad, who was not going in with us, was preparing for an eight-hour wait. We figured we could do everything we wanted within eight hours. So he went down into the entrance with a lawn chair and read a book while we entered the cave. It was a lot cooler down there than on the surface. Also, it was a nice big entrance and entrance room with a large main corridor leading further in. And, of course, an hour later Libby joined him at the entrance while the rest of us did our "eight-hour-long" trip. But standing in this big entrance room looking up at the high ceiling, it was easy to imagine a cave with not so much difficult crawling, climbing and so forth.

"Am I almost there?" asks Susan.

"Your right foot needs to go further out," answers Rich. Rich decides to

stand on a rock just behind Susan, as if to catch her when she falls. (Ed note: when I fall? Thanks, Kevin) But she soon makes it down with a long step and some support from Rich.

Further into the cave we find climbing passages and rooms broken by crawlways in between, and soon the dust lessens considerably. Next, we're on our bellies again routing through a breakdown maze. But, I suppose it was all worth it, because next came the pretty part. We were in walking passage most of the time. Real, stand up, no knocking your head on the ceiling, straighten your back out, walking passage. As you can see I'm accustomed to stand up passages like those in New Mexico caves. However, this doesn't preclude me from punishing my body along with the rest of them. Well, the pretty part was really pretty. There were formations everywhere, draperies, sodastraws, flowstone, lily pads around pools of water, even a 30 ft. column. But what else could I say after all those crawlways?

When we got through with that, Rich walked us across a large room to the so-called "Crack Where the Water Comes Down." It's an almost vertical fissure a few feet long and six to 12 inches wide. It went up through the ceiling and was 15 feet long or high. It starts four feet off the ground and is tucked into a corner of that large room we walked across. Oh, by the way, there's no water coming down, and there may never have been any.

Well, I don't think it was Rich's intention to actually take the group up the crack. But, he did suggest that someone climb part-way up it, just for the thrill you know. So David gets a boost up into the crack and goes about half-way. "I can go on," he says, "but I don't think I'll be able to get back down safely from the top." He looks up the crack a few more minutes and then comes back down. Well, it wasn't my intention to go up the crack, either, but seeing David make it only half-way just

made me want to try, too. So I wedged up into the crack. Soon my helmet jams. So I remove it and push it up over me. There are little ledges in many places (except at the very top) so it's not so bad unless you feel the need to turn your head. At the top I extract my helmet and myself into a small room with coral fossils in the wall and look back down at the group. "I'm clear," I say. David tries again, but only to the half-way point. He's worried about getting back down.

"Don't worry," I say, "if you fall, just wedge your body into the crack."

"I'm too thin," he says, "I don't think I will wedge."

Oh come on, nobody is that thin. David goes back down and Susan is next. After the necessary straining and squeezing, etc., Susan hands



me her helmet. "That wasn't so bad was it? Susan? Well never mind."

Soon, David is trying again. "But if I fall, I'll just fall straight down and out of the crack."

"No, you can wedge into the crack. Just jam your body and you'll stop."

"But I'm too thin, I won't wedge."

"It's a real narrow crack, you'll wedge." There are techniques for doing this. My favorite is to do your best imitation of a ball.

"No, I won't wedge," says David.

"Quit whining and get up here," says Susan.

"I'm not whining."

"How are you going to make the fissure to the Cavernacle if you can't make it up this one?" says Susan, referring to an upcoming work trip in the Guadalupe caves of New Mexico.

What Susan and I decide to do is

get directions from Rich to a real big room that's nearby and to go see it and let David figure out the crack. After all, we didn't climb that crack for nothing. We want to go caving. So, we do. Walking a short distance, we enter at one end of a huge room. It's not decorated, just bare rock, fallen boulders and dry mud on the floor. It's a long room, hundreds of feet, but only 100 ft. wide and 50 ft. high. Neat! We make our way back to David, who is now close to the top. Soon, he too extracts himself and his helmet. So, we all look down at Rich.

"Rich, we want to go caving, but you're our guide to the Chandelier." From Rich's talk about Horsethief Cave last night, we found out that in this area are a few gypsum chandeliers.

"You know, I really didn't think all of you would climb the crack," says Rich, "nor did I want to myself. I've been up there quite a few times and I've noticed that with the passing years, each trip is harder than the last."

"We sure do appreciate you, Rich."

Rich comes carefully up the crack, and we explore on into that huge room going across it and into breakdown maze. We find another register and sign in and keep on crawling. Arriving at the Chandelier, Rich figures that he won't be able to remember where the other chandeliers are so this'll have to do. It's a beauty, about three to four feet long. It's got a dirty brown color to it, but it's a nice piece. A sort of chandemite lies nearby on a dry mud floor. A couple of coral fossils lie embedded in gypsum nearby. Apparently, when the limestone rocks were altered to gypsum, these fossils weren't soluble enough to alter along with the cave.

We sat and ate dinner while we contemplated our surroundings, and the way out. We figured we were already behind schedule. So, we start back. Past the register, across the huge, long, breakdown room we go. Down the really tight "Crack

Where the Water Comes Down", — no incident there, — through all the pretty calcite passages, through the breakdown maze crawling, Denise's Crystal Crawl (with dust), and soon into stand-up passage. We surfaced 11 hours after entry. Only three hours late! Well, yes my Dad was worried, but Libby wasn't. We found them in the truck asleep. Great trip! Thanks, Rich.

Let's Talk about Bloomers!

Understanding Our Underwear

Submitted by Dale Ellison

One of the keys for enjoying the outdoors during the winter is knowing your underwear. When it is time to consider purchasing your outdoor underwear, some of this information might come in handy.

Fabric Selection

Consider the types of fabrics when buying winter underwear. Generally, fabrics are composed of either natural or synthetic fibers. Common natural fibers in winter underwear are wool, cotton, and silk, and they have the advantages of absorbency, comfort, and warmth. Synthetic fibers, like polypropylene and Thermax, can offer durability, light weight, strength, and quick drying. Blended fabrics, which combine both natural fibers and synthetics, provide insulation and moisture transfer.

Cost of fabrics

Price can be an important consideration when selecting winter underwear. Cotton and polyester blends are usually the least expensive but also may not offer what you want. Silk is an excellent fabric but also the most expensive. Polypropylene underwear is usually moderately-priced but may also be expensive, depending on the construction and the manufacturer.

Construction

Check for flat-stitched seams, ribbed collars and cuffs, and durability. Machine washable and dryable fabrics mean easy care, and a fabric that combines softness with good stretch and recovery will

provide maximum comfort. Look for gussets in underarm and inner thigh areas and elastic waistbands that retain their shape without binding. Winter underwear should be snug without hampering movement; chafing results from a loose fit. With two-piece garments, the top should be long enough to tuck securely into the bottoms.

Lightweight underwear

Winter underwear is designed to be worn under outer garments and is made to fit close to your skin without binding. It is also thin and lightweight to avoid excessive bulkiness under clothing. Different weights of underwear are offered by manufacturers so you can match the amount of insulation to your particular needs and activities.

Lightweight underwear is best for outdoor sports that require continuous activity, such as running, cross-country skiing, or cycling. These types of activities demand underwear that provides insulation and is also very effective at transferring perspiration moisture away from your skin.

Midweight underwear

Midweight is ideal for sports involving vigorous activity that is interspersed with periods of rest like ice skating, downhill skiing, wood cutting, or hiking. These activities require a higher degree of insulating cold protection but also require the moisture-wicking properties offered by midweight winter underwear.

Expedition weight underwear

Expedition weight is the heaviest winter underwear and is designed for sledding, winter climbing, hiking and skiing in frigid conditions. This is the thickest and warmest underwear you can buy and offers the maximum degree of insulation. It is usually fleeced on the inside or double-layered to provide extra warmth.

How winter underwear works

The heat from your body radiates outward and warms the thin layer of air against your skin. This layer of air is called the boundary layer and is most effective at keeping you warm if

it is undisturbed. Movement, perspiration moisture, and the evaporation of that moisture all disturb the boundary layer, removing heat and making you feel cold. In cold weather outdoors, this reduction in body heat can leave you uncomfortable and may even lower your body temperature to a dangerous level, and condition called hypothermia.

Good winter underwear protects you in two ways: it traps the layer of warm air next to the skin (maintains your boundary layer), and it transfers moisture away from your skin to keep you dry. Outdoorsmen have known for years that the most effective protection against cold is offered by layers of clothing that establish a succession of warm air layers. Start with protective underwear and layer on heavier outer garments for maximum protection in extreme temperatures.

Shop around for what you want locally, but be careful to pay attention to the quality. My first camping experience was during Thanksgiving years ago. I purchased all camping gear and supplies at a local discount store in one afternoon. Tent, sleeping bag, a can of Sterno fuel, waterproof matches, a micro can opener, couple cans of stew and a Mag-lite. It was *cold* that night in Northern Arkansas. The can opener bent rendering it unusable upon the first attempt at the stew. It was dark and breezy on the edge of the Eleven Points River. The Sterno warmed river water in a metal collapsible cup. It wouldn't stay lit after that.

My fellow campers and canoe partners had campfire broiled steaks with baked potatoes and all the trimmings. They complained about being over stuffed. My ignorance and pride prevented me from eating their leftovers. My weekend canoeing down the Eleven Points River was a memorable one.

If you can't locate the underwear you need locally, go mail order. One source for silk is: Winter Silks at 2700 Laura Lane, P.O. Box 620130,

Middleton WI 53562. Customer Service is 1-800-621-3229 during 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday, CST.

Research Scholarships Available In Bat Biology

Bat Conservation International hereby announces the availability of student research scholarships.

Approximately 9 to 10 grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 will be made in 1997. Grants will go to research that best helps document the roosting and feeding habitat requirements of bats, their ecological or economic roles, or their conservation needs. The application deadline for 1997 scholarships is January 15, 1997. For application forms and more information, write to: Bat Conservation International, Educational Resources Coordinator, P.O. Box 162603, Austin, TX 78716-2603, or email aengland@batcon.org

Subject: 1995 Speleo Digest Now Available
From: scottfee@usa.pipeline.com
(Scott Fee)

Hot Off The Press!

Submitted to Cavers Digest by Scott Fee

Have you ever held your breath while squirming through a lead only to discover virgin borehole? You can read about this adventure and many others in the 1995 Speleo Digest. Having just been printed, it is chock full of every cave-related topic imaginable.

This 602-page book continues the previous Speleo Digest series and has 32 states and numerous countries represented during the first 300 pages of cave descriptions and maps. The rest of this timely publication has articles on

Archaeology, Biology, Conservation, Equipment, Fiction, Geology, History, Hydrology, Safety, Lighting, Locating Caves, Photography, Surveying, and Vertical Caving. If you prefer more casual reading, the Digest is renowned for its chapter of Caver Humor and the graphics, poetry, songs, and other tidbits spread throughout its pages.

With over 200 authors from almost 100 caving newsletters, this book should cost well over \$100; however, you can order one today for only \$19.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. Don't delay, since a limited quantity was printed (remember the 1989 issue?)

Contact the NSS Bookstore,
2813 Cave Ave,
Huntsville, AL 35810-4431
(Phone (205) 852-1300) or email:
nss@caves.org.

Rescue Training

Submitted to Cavers Digest by Jim Olsen

Any cavers interested in cave rescue should consider taking part in the training courses being offered in Sequoia National Park from September 28 - October 6. Levels 1 and 2 will be offered and will meet the NCRC course requirements. For those of you from other regions of the U.S., Sequoia National Park is located in the Sierra Nevada Region of California, near the town of Three Rivers.

You can visit the Western Region Web Page at:
<http://www.altadena.net/ncrc-west>
(a copy of the course brochure is included)

For additional information contact:
Joel Despain at (209) 565 - 3717 or joel_despain@nps.gov
or
Marianne Russo at (916) 663 - 2571 or russoml@ccvax.ccs.csus.edu

Jewel Cave

Volunteer Position Needed

Posted to Cavers Digest by Mike Wiles

Following is an announcement for a volunteer position at Jewel Cave National Monument. Please pass the information along to anyone who might be interested.

Thanks,
Mike

Each year, Jewel Cave offers a one-year internship in cave resource management. This volunteer position is designed to provide assistance to the cave management program, and also to give the intern relevant training and experience. The position offers no salary, although we provide a place to stay and \$100 per week for living expenses. The internship will last a full year, from January to December, 1997. Applicants need not be enrolled with an educational institution in order to be considered.

Regular duties include: collecting water samples from the cave and nearby springs, analyzing water samples for nitrates and chlorides, monitoring cave temperature and humidity, radon monitoring, computer data entry, bat counts, assisting with photomonitoring and cave inventory programs, cleaning lint accumulations and removing algae from the tour route, helping organize projects involving other cavers, and providing assistance to the interpretive staff. Training will be provided!

Other opportunities may be available, depending on the funding we receive to accomplish special projects. In the past, interns have helped in areas such as water-quality studies, dye tracing, cave radio location, cave SAR preplanning, paleontological test digs, geologic mapping, photomonitoring, and biologic studies.

Additionally, the program can be tailored to your specific interests and skills.

The main requirements are: Caving experience, basic computer skills, and writing/public speaking experience. Additionally, environmental, photographic, and geological experience or training could also be put to good use.

There will be many opportunities for caving. Those with sufficient desire and ability are welcome to participate in the ongoing exploration of this 107-mile-long cave.

Applications can be obtained from:

Mike Wiles
c/o Jewel Cave
RR 1, Box 60AA
Custer, SD 57730

Applications must be returned by Friday, October 25, 1996 and each applicant will be notified of the final selection by Monday, November 18, 1996. Actual starting and ending dates are flexible and can be negotiated for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please call me at:
(605)673-2061, ext. 1226.

Mike Wiles
Cave Specialist

... Worth a Thousand Words

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then these two must be worth two grand. Unfortunately for us newsletter editors, a thousand words takes up a lot more space than a picture, but I'll settle for what I can get.

This photo was taken before and after (guess which one is which) a recent Smittle Cave expedition. Barbe says she has a trip report coming, but as of press time I didn't have it. I did have these two pictures and just enough space to fit it in (as long as I can ramble enough to finish out the page).

They obviously had a lot of good, clean fun, but one thing strikes me funny. Even with all the mud, Mike Anderson looks a lot better in the

second picture than the first. Must be the light.



Calendar of Events

Oct 5, 1996, Grotto Anniverary Party.

October 11-13, 1996, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

November 8-10, 1996, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

December 13-14, 1996, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

January 10-12, 1997, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

February 7-9, 1997, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

March 7-9, 1997, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

April 11-13, 1997, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

May 9-11, 1997, Colorado Bend State Park - Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039

**Maverick Grotto
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