

THE MAVERICK BULL

The Monthly Newsletter Of The
FORT WORTH MAVERICK GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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MICHAEL TAYLOR'S MARCH VISIT

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The Maverick Bull is the monthly newsletter of the Maverick Grotto, an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (N55 G-322). The editor invites all individuals and other grottos to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, photographs, and other two- and three-dimensional goodies. 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 news letters 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 per year for nonmembers 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. The time is 7 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 (817) 220-7108

or Butch Fralia at (817) 346-2039 for more information.

Library: Support your grotto library. Russell Hill is accepting books, magazines, and videos related to caves and caving for our library. Thanks to Russell for his efforts in transporting the library collection to meetings.

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And others who helped or contributed

THANKS

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

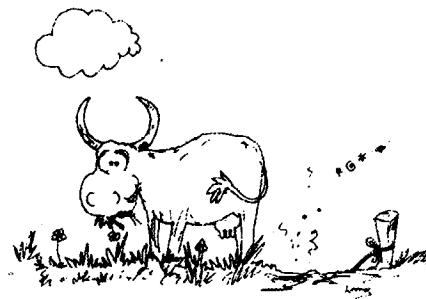
The *Maverick Grotto* web site is now
at: maverickgrotto@hotmail.com

Check it out!

JULY Meeting

SAME TIME, OLD PLACE

The next meeting will be Tuesday, JULY 10, at
Smokey's Ribs, 5300 Lancaster, at 7:00 p.m. Program unknown.



EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

It's the middle of summer and lots of fun, hot weather activities have been well under way. People taking vacations, families doing the family thing. Right now the Bull has some material to print, but I need more. Those that showed up to work the Dallas Museum Of Natural History Outdoor Adventure Day had a great time, met lots of nice folks and enjoyed watching Dave Gers play yo-yo.

The first big vertical practice of the summer brought out some new faces we were introduced to at earlier meetings. Despite the bugs and humidity all had a good time, Now for the arm chair covers out there, a quiz..... How many of you have found the hidden teases in the past Ramblings?????? I've got areallyGOODprize for the first to find them all. And I'll give a great big hint to what you may have been missing. Simply check out the cartoon below for you first clue!

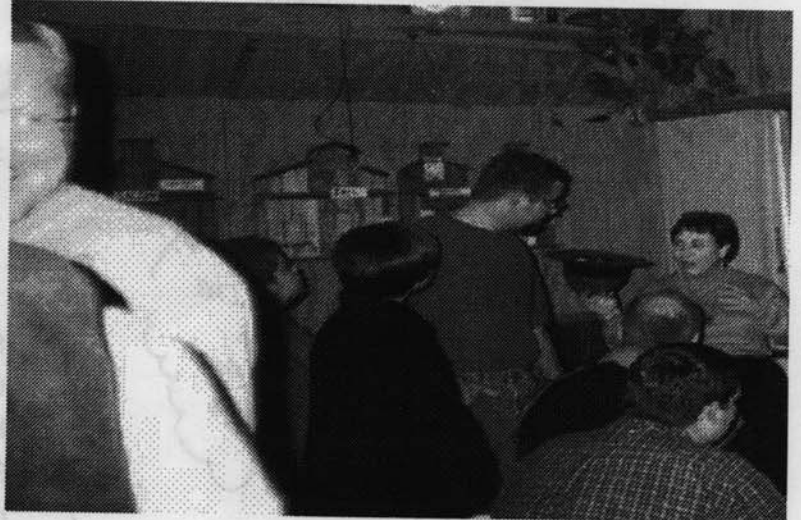
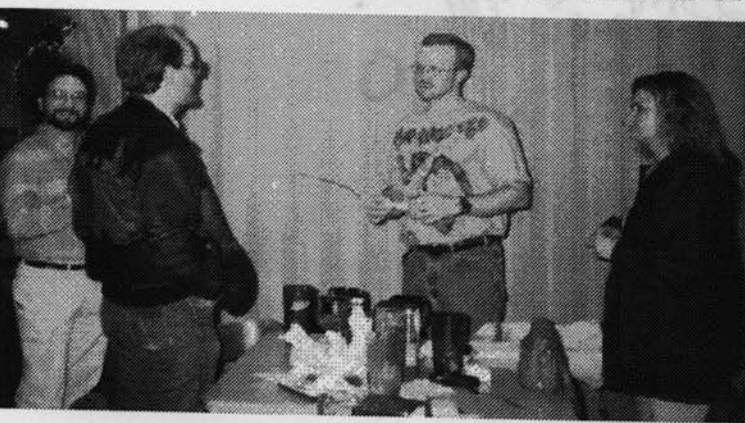
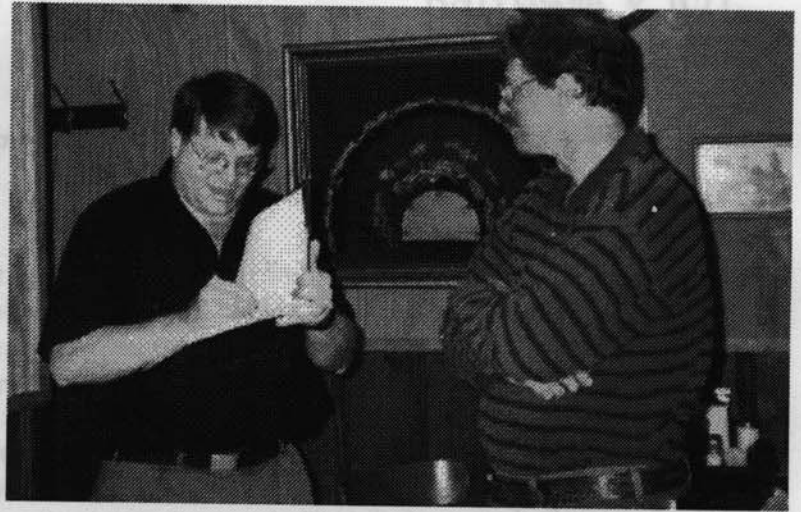


Since elections for officers will soon be looming over us again, I am going to take this time to say I will Not be excepting a 2nd term as secratery and editor. So, start thinking about who you would like to see take over. Or maybe one of you would enjoy volunteering! It's a tuff job, but does have it's rewards.

Maverick is seeing growth and lots of interst. Let's keep the momentum up. Maybe become a trip leader or do a program. After all, Maverick exist because of it's membership.

Karen

THE MAVERICK BULL THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES.....



MAVERICK AND DFW GROTTOS BOTH TURNED OUT IN NUMBER TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF AMAZING CAVES WITH A SPECIAL PRIVATE EVENING WITH THE AUTHOR OF THE COMPANION BOOK FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC....MICHAEL TAYLOR.

HIGH GUADS RESTORATION REPORT/COTTONWOOD CAVE

BY ALAN GOODMAN

On Sunday, April 29th, 2001, : Alan Goodman, R.D. Milhollin, Christofer M. Hall, Aurelio Duqu, Dr. Rafal Kedzierski and Mark Gee gathered at the Guadalupe National Forest summit campsite for an orientation session conducted by Susan Herpin, H.G.R.P. and Ransom Turner, U.S.F.S. This session was to coordinate teams to perform cave conservation operations at a few local cave systems. In addition to our team of six (6) people destined for the Cottonwood Cave System, there were other teams assembling to carry on cave conservation projects at other cave locations. The previous day, we had conducted a cave conservation operation at Hidden Cave, not far from our campsite.

Team members traveled from as far as Arizona, South Carolina, and Texas, to provide voluntary cave conservation services to conserve and preserve these cave systems for future generations of people, wildlife, etc. Susan and Ransom provided information on the cave systems themselves, safety procedures, reasons for performing the conservation operation, and general do's and don'ts about the conservation work to be performed.

The objective was to perform the required conservation work and then if there was time left over, the group could tour the cave system at their leisure. On arrival, each member packed up the required horizontal caving gear for this cave. When we arrived at the trailhead leading to the cave system, Ransom Turner, Superintendent for Cave Projects for the USFS, informed us of the work to be performed at this particular location. It was required that the team were to remove a non-native, wild growing weed from the entrance and adjoining areas of the cave system. The common name for the weeds was called "horehound" weeds. The weeds are of a parasitic nature and propagate very quickly. It was mentioned that the seedlings of the weeds were transferred accidentally on the wool coats of sheep, which were herded through the area many years ago. Once the team understood the task at hand, the work started. On the hike to the cave entrance, there were a few people returning on the trail, who did not have a cave permit. They were carrying lights and did not seem to have the proper caving equipment to be touring caves. Ransom Turner stopped them and asked if they were touring the cave system and they indicated that they were not. Most of us continued on the trail and did not get involved in this discussion. When we arrived at the cave entrance, we started removing the weeds. Many large bails of these weeds were extracted from the roots and piled up for removal at a later time. When the majority of the weeds were removed, Ransom Turner advised us that he was going to check on the other groups at other cave locations and when we felt most of the weeds were removed, to go ahead and tour the cave at our leisure. He also advised where to drop off the completed cave permit when we left for the day. The weather was just starting to turn bad when we were finishing up gathering the piles of weeds at the entrance of the cave, so we decided to don our rain gear and run for cover in the Cottonwood cave. Since the rain was getting worse, we decided it was time to tour the cave system. We then donned our caving gear and toured the cave system. Two of the people in our team, Mark Gee and Rafal Kedzierski, explained the conservation work that they had performed in this same cave system the day before. When we completed the tour, we took some photographs, packed up our gear, and hiked out back to the trailhead. We than went back to our campsite, cleaned up, completed the permit information, and drove back to Texas. We very much appreciated the opportunity to help conserve these cave systems and tour them as well. Special thanks are in order to both Susan Herpin and Ransom Turner for coordinating this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Goodman

Maverick Grotto of Fort Worth, Texas

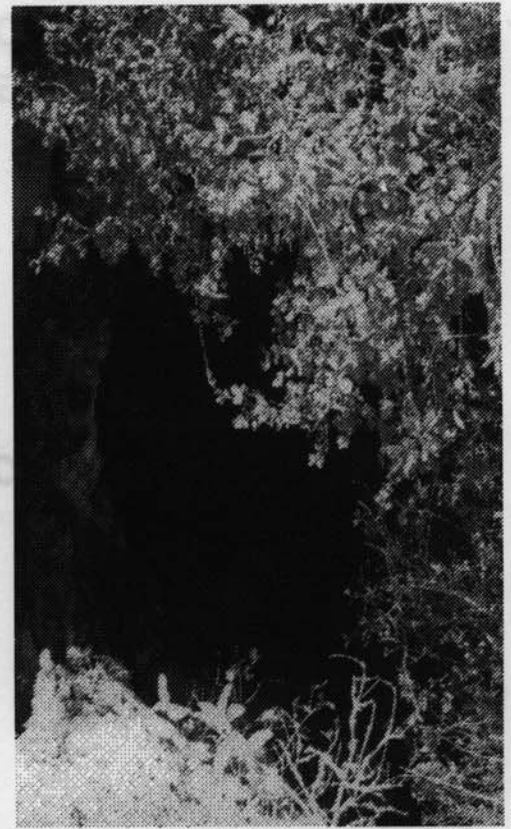
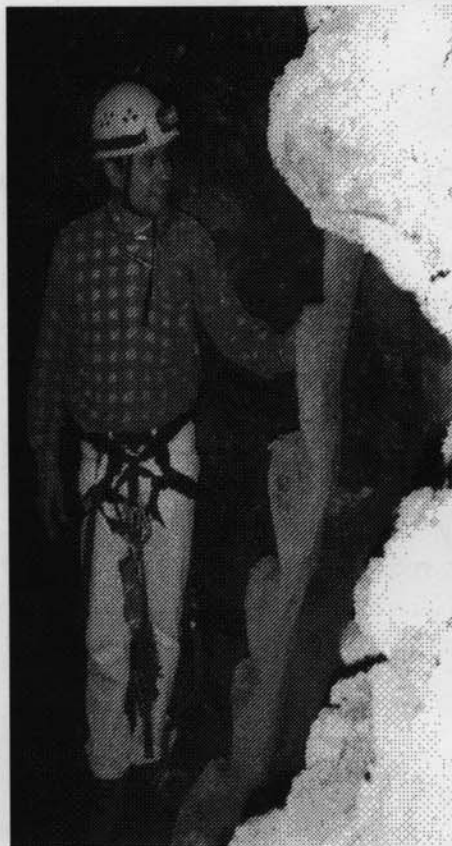
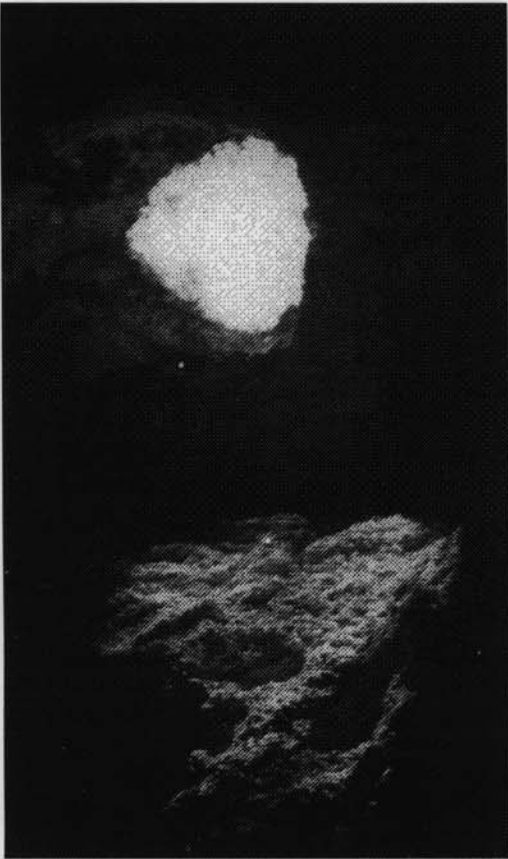
National Speleological Society Member # 42888

Valentin Rodriguez, San Luis Potosi

(Translated from Spanish by Aurelio Duque, edited by R.D. Milhollin)

Hoyo de los Muertos is an approximately 68.00 meter deep vertical cavity located near San Luis Potosi, Mexico. The prehistorian Primo Feliciano, guided there by the local people, is believed to have been the first to visit the site in modern times. He was interested in verifying rumors that the cave was used as a cemetery by the ancient inhabitants. Propelled along by the passion for caving, and helped with information from local people and the book of Primo Feliciano written about 60 years ago, we decided to take a look at the area. This led to our arrival in the village on March 6th, 2000. From there, two men guided us to the entrance of this pit and to two additional caves. As we prepared to rappel into the cave, we anchored a 100 meter rope long enough to descend to the bottom. It's hard to describe the feeling and the respect or fear that a place like this inspires when you descend into it., each cave has its own virtue and beauty. We decided to descend at 11:30 AM, and I was the first to rappel. As I was going down I didn't have time to fully appreciate the cave because I was dislodging loose stones and removing weeds to allow the other guys come down safely. When I was on the bottom I started to explore a ramp that kept going down a few more meters. This ramp consists of soil and loose rocks. What made me to start to believe in the cemetery story, and then to verify it, was when I found a lot of bones everywhere; they were mixed with the rocks and soil. That's when Aurelio descended and joined me. I told him what I had found and we kept exploring, Soon Professor Esparza joined us on the floor of the cave, and the three of us together discussed how Feliciano and his people had been able to descend with no equipment, but we were never able to reach a conclusion. I decided to walk around the perimeter of the room looking for any artifacts or for paint on the walls. I found an interesting shape that appeared to be a log on the other side of the room. It was 10 meters above us, and it looked like it was one of those logs that the water carries during rainy season, and it got stuck in a log jam. We searched for more than an hour near the bones and found some tepalcates (ceramic sherds, among them a very interesting female figure of approximately 8 cm length, and a piece of a bowl with green grecas, possibly painted with a mineral from the area, like the one that still remains in the front of some old houses) [It is said that the ancient Indians traded shells and other thing from the coast for paint from these people; in fact I have found shells around this area-Aurelio]

We decided to climb up the ramp in order to check the wall in which we found a niche containing bones, and more interestingly, stair steps carved in the stone. We climbed up and reached the log that happened to be a ladder with carved steps. That partially answered the question of how they descended but still there are 65 more meters up there waiting for an explanation, just how did they descend? They were brave, weren't they. In the evening, after we satiated our curiosity, we ascended out of the cave and spoke to our guides who were anxiously waiting our return. We have omitted details and place names to prevent vandalism to the site at the request of our guides. These people who live nearby admire and feel great respect for what they believe is their heritage.



PHOTOS BY
VALENTIN RODRIGUEZ



THANKS TO
R. D. MILHOLLIN FOR
GETTING THESE TO THE
MAVERICK BULL. (KAREN)



THE MAVERICK BULL

FUTURE MEETINGS, 2001:

We're back at SMOKEY'S

JULY 10

AUGUST 14

SEPTEMBER 11

OCTOBER 9

NOVEMBER 13

DECEMBER TO BE ANNOUNCED