

# THE MAMMATHERICKS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Ft. Worth Maverick Grotto

Volume 16, Issue 5  
May 2003



Copyright 2003 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, 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 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 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:** Currently carbide is unavailable.

**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.

#### Chair

Ed Goff  
737 Bizerte Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75224  
(214)942-6024  
egoff@rice.edu

#### Vice-Chair

Phil Sanders  
Box 180664  
Dallas, TX 75218-0664  
(214)557-0769  
utcaver@yahoo.com

#### Secretary

Karen Perry  
6112 Eagle Court  
Joshua, TX 76058  
(817)309-2283

#### Treasurer

R.D. Milhollin  
3711 Gene Lane  
Haltom City, TX 76117  
(817)834-2327  
rdmilhollin@maverickgrotto.org

#### Newsletter Editor

Diana R. Tomchick  
10106 Technology Blvd. #826  
Dallas, TX 75220  
(214)418-5827  
Diana.Tomchick@utsouthwestern.edu

#### Cave Rescue

Call collect (512) 686-0234

## Photos and Artwork

Cover photo: Jack "Solo" White, in one of the drops in the entrance series of Cueva del Tecolote, by Ed Goff

Page 3: left, James Savage; right, Ed Goff

Page 4: map by Ed Goff

Pages 5 & 7: Mark Gee

Page 6: map by Mark Gee

## Visit Our NEW Web Site!

Check out the site at its new location:

[maverickgrotto.org](http://maverickgrotto.org)

# April Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order after 7 p.m. by Ed Goff; eight members were present.

**Visitors:** Jose Curras, Milo Marks.

**Announcements:** newsletter contributions will be cheerfully accepted, and are needed for the May and June editions.

**Old business:** Phil Sanders said he would try to recruit new member candidates from the Dallas Sierra Club. The prospect of new grotto T-shirts was discussed, and it was agreed that it would be helpful to have a member volunteer to organize this effort.

**New business:** Jose Curras and Milo Marks were unanimously accepted into the grotto as members. Several members suggested that the grotto hold a fund-raising auction. It was agreed that it would be best to hold it near the end of the calendar year (in October or November).

**Trip reports:** Ernie Parker talked about his Valentine's Day trip to the hospital due to his heart attack and subsequent triple-bypass surgery. Ernie has discovered one unexpected benefit from his ordeal: he has had no desire to continue smoking cigarettes. Several people remarked that Ernie appears to be doing quite well so soon after his adventure. He also reported on the Palo Pinto dig project—four more feet of cave has been uncovered, and the archaeologist exploring the historical part of the cave found a suspected bone scraper.

Mark Gee spoke about his trip to multiple caves in Edwards County, which

## May Meeting

Ed Goff will be presenting slides from the Cueva del Tecolote expedition in March. Be sure to join us at Smokey's!

is featured in his trip report in this issue (see "Falling Waters Ranch"). He also found time to visit a cave near the land his family owns, and went on a trip with 28 other people to Maple's Battle Branch Cave.

Milo Marks accompanied 22 Boy Scouts (aged ten to sixteen years) and 5 adults to Cicurina and Lemon's Ranch Cave in Colorado Bend State Park.

Ed Goff and 22 cavers from Mexico, the U.S., and Canada spent 7 days exploring and surveying in Cueva del Tecolote, Tamaulipas state, México, from March 8-14 (see the cover photo of this issue). This is near Ciudad Victoria, in the Purificación karst area. Huge borehole passages and clean stream passages (aside from loggin truck tires washed in from the surface) characterize much of this cave. The total for the new survey is 3,881 meters, which brings the currently surveyed length of the cave to 40,443 meters (Ed believes this makes it the 6th longest in México); the depth is unchanged at -424 meters.

Dan Smith accompanied his boys, his girlfriend and her children to the Carlsbad region. They toured the Cavern, went on the Slaughter Canyon Cave tour, then to the Park's Ranch area.

Diana Tomchick and a friend visited a few small caves in the Ozark National Forest after canoeing on the Buffalo River in Arkansas. Numerous bats and an Ozark Blind Salamander were observed in Back of Beyond Cave, which has unfortunately suffered from rampant vandalism (primarily destruction of speleothems).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. There was no program.

## New Member Profile

Jose Andres Curras

NSS #30221

I've been backpacking, camping, diving, fishing or skiing most of my life, so it was no surprise when, in the early 1980s, I jumped on the chance to go caving with some friends in Virginia. Fortunately they had been caving in Virginia and West Virginia since their college days so I had some good teachers. Back then



we caved with carbide lamps, wore old army clothes and our vertical caving equipment was a roll of tube webbing. We also didn't belong to any grotto since we thought joining anything was for squares.

All that changed when a couple of my caving friends joined the NSS so they could go to the 1988 NSS convention in South Dakota. They brought back shiny new gear and tales of nekkid partying in a hot tub. That was enough to entice us to join the NSS and our local

club, the Tidewater Grotto. We soon started going to the Old Timers Reunions in West Virginia to load up on all the latest gear - nylon suits, climbing helmets, ropes and ascenders.

Armed with all this new gear, we were able to tackle the more challenging caves not only in Virginia and West Virginia but also wherever the NSS conventions took us: Tennessee, California, New York and Indiana. We could not attend the NSS convention in Oregon so we arranged our own caving expedition to Crow's Nest Pass in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada. Unfortunately, we also missed the Brackettville, Texas convention but we were busy caving in West Virginia. We went to the Blacksburg convention but that was my last one for a few years since I left the US to work in Australia. One of the first things I did in Australia was to contact the local caving club, the Victorian Speleological Association (VSA). Before long I was going on four wheel and backpacking VSA and Sydney Speleological Society expeditions to the remotest caves in the Australian Alps in Victoria and New South Wales. Work eventually took me to Western Australia, where I joined a VSA expedition to map caves on the Nullarbor Plain. While in Australia I flew back home to attend the 1998 convention in Sewanee. On another trip back to the US, I stopped in Malaysia to go caving in Mulu National Park on the island of Borneo. By 2001 the Aussies finally had enough of me and sent me back to the US. On the way I stopped in New Zealand to go backpacking and caving in both the South and North Islands. Back in the US, I lived in upstate New York for a while and went to the 2001 convention in Kentucky before being transferred to Texas. In the few months since, I've been travelling a lot but I had a chance to go caving in Carlsbad, New Mexico. So here I sit in Fort Worth, pondering my next big adventure - 2003 convention anyone?

## Pozo Clemente

(see map on following page)

by Ed Goff

This is a little pit Will Harris and I surveyed at Minas Viejas on the tail end of a trip to Pozo de Montemayor last August (Ed. note: see trip report in November 2002 edition of the Maverick Bull). It's named after the 78-year-old German-American-Mexican dozer driver who had uncovered it with a front-end loader just days before. The pit is at the edge of a new parking lot, and he put the big rocks around the entrance to keep cars from driving in (there's a mound of earth behind the entrance). The big rock at

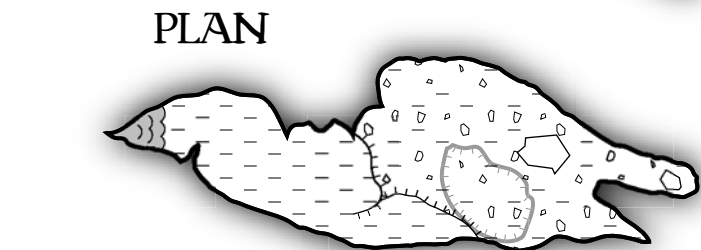
the bottom is one that fell in when he first opened the pit up.



Minas Viejas rancheros. From right to left: Clemente, proud discoverer of Pozo Clemente, unidentified, and Dimas.



120° PROFILE

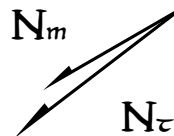


PLAN



# POZO CLEMENTE

*Minas Viejas, NL, México*



*Length: 42.7 meters*

*Depth: 30 meters*

*Suunto & tape survey*

*18 August 2002*

*by Ed Goff, Will Harris*

*Drawn by Ed Goff*

# Falling Waters Ranch

by Mark Gee

I had a most enjoyable time a few weeks back while exploring and surveying a newly discovered cave. I took off work early because of the long drive. The plan was to stop in Austin and pick up Keith Heuss at his home, and then continue on to Uvalde, Texas. I made sure that the cold beer that Keith had with him was loaded in the truck, and then continued to load the rest of his gear.

Keith had been contacted by Christi Bennett to do a cave radio location so that the landowner could drill a well to bring water to part of his ranch. The ranch had a clear running stream on its east side, but the other side of the ranch was dry.

When I had last talked to Keith on the prior weekend, he told me that only four people would be going on the trip. When I arrived at his house on Friday, he told me that fourteen people would be going—"Well, the more the merrier!" We quickly loaded my truck and headed for a weekend of fun and adventure.

We found the road to the ranch, and after going through six bump gates, we pulled up to what we thought was the rancher's home to ask where we were to stay for the evening. We were the first cavers to arrive at the ranch. A friendly face answered the door and told us that the house we were looking for was a little way down the road. We got back in my truck and drove on across a creek and up to the owner's home. We knocked on the door, and a woman answered. We introduced ourselves and let her know that we were cavers. She told us her name was Pat and asked us to come in. The conversation led to the question, "Where are we to stay?" She said, "We have two homes out here that the cavers stay in." At that moment her husband walked up and we introduced ourselves again. His name was Tom, and he asked us if we wanted a beer. Life is good! We both got a beer. Tom was surprised to see us ahead of the others. There had been a mix-up, it seems we were supposed to meet the rest of the group back at Castroville, TX. The group waited one hour for us there, as we found out later. Keith and I were both apologetic about the mix-up.

Keith and I drove to the small house and moved our gear in and set up our beds. I was getting hungry. Keith had told me that we would all be eating together as a group. It was getting late, and then I remembered that Christi had included her cell phone number in the e-mail message that I had received. I dialed the number and she answered. I asked if we were still going to eat together. She told me it was never the plan to eat together. Another little mix-up, oh well! Keith and I fixed our dinner and cleaned up before the others arrived. Around nine o'clock the rest of the group showed up. A few of the cavers that arrived I didn't know. I said hello to the ones I knew and introduced myself to the ones I didn't. Christi asked me if the landowner was upset about Keith and I showing up early. I told her I didn't think he was upset at all, maybe just caught off-guard.

As I said, there were two houses for the cavers to stay in. The small stone house we were in was very nice. It had a large, deep whirlpool bath, a modern kitchen, and a nice outside porch overlooking two small creeks, one on each side of the house. Many tall trees grew along these small streams, and they were filled with song each morning from the birds. A wild turkey was seen one morning walking down the road away from our home.

The ranch was semi-arid and mountainous; the height of the mountains was between 600 and 1200 feet tall. The owner also had some exotic animals on his ranch. Friday afternoon Tom had asked if we wanted to go feed the zebras. Now how many times

do you get asked to feed the zebras in a lifetime? As we drove out into the pasture, Tom sounded his truck horn to call the zebras out to the road. They came and Tom got out and poured some sort of grain on the ground, then the animals really chowed down. What a sight!

Saturday morning came all too quickly. Christi wanted to get an early start so as to get several things done. First Keith and I were going to do our cave radio location with Joe Ranzau, Linda Palit and Phil Rykwald. Then we were going to survey two or three small caves. When this was finished, we were going to visit a new cave, now called Honeycomb Cave, to see the mazy passages that it had on its second and third levels. Mike Cunningham and Mike Burrell thought that the cave could "go big." I had never before heard that expression. Several of the passages had blowing air. Mike C. commented that when he had removed a fist-sized rock from a dig, a gust of air began blowing sand in his face. They haven't explored all of the open passages as of yet, but there are already several blowing leads that need to be opened up. Could this be another large, beautiful cave for Edwards County?

We loaded up and left the cabin by 9:00 a.m. I followed Joe as he drove through the ranch to Palace Cave. At one steep, rocky spot, Joe put his truck down into low four-wheel drive and drove up a steep section of road. Then I tried to follow. After my fourth try, Joe (from behind me) honked his horn and

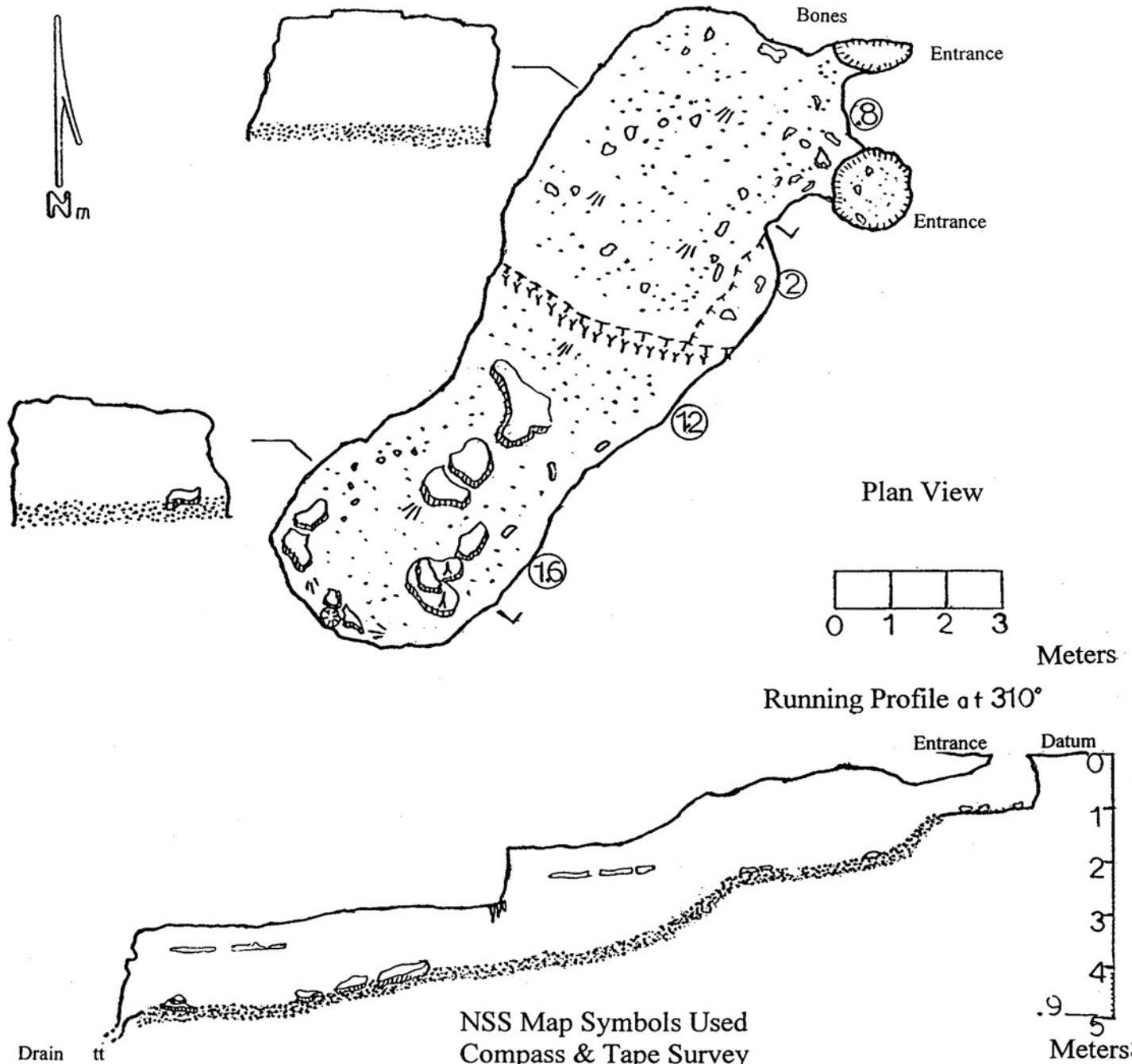


waved at me to come this way. Seems he had pulled a fast one on me, the cave entrance was fifty yards behind his car. I backed slowly down the hill, then pulled up and parked beside Joe's truck. Seems that I was the butt of the joke. They laughed a little, but I'll get even one day, Joe! You'll never see it coming!

So the five of us (Joe, Phil, Linda, Emily McGowan and myself) headed into the entrance of Palace Cave. Keith and Rebecca Rainbolt/O'Daniel headed up the hill to the approximate location of the cave radio signal. Keith and I were going to turn our equipment on at exactly 10:00 a.m. We were going to do three separate radio locations, all in the stream. The best location would be used for the well. The first location we tried turned out to be the best one. It was in a nice clearing, about fifty feet from the road, but best of all, it was at the top of a saddle. Tom would be able to water both side of the mountain. The other two locations were in a big cactus patch. Keith and I felt as though we had done a very accurate radio location. The transmitter was held level for the entire fifteen-minute period. After all three locations were completed we put the transmitter back into my pack. Linda, Phil and I then took our time on the way out of the cave so we could sightsee and take pictures. The cave was 900 feet long and mostly straight. The average width of the cave was 20 to 25 feet, and it dropped about 70 feet in elevation from the entrance to the point where the cave dropped into the stream, at the far end. The cave was filled with speleothems from one end to the other. There were many large and small columns, cascading flowstone, rimstone dams with pools, and countless stalagmites and stalactites were along every step throughout the cave. A lot of the formations were covered with cave popcorn and beautiful cave coral. A large portion of the cave, from left to right, is shaped like a crescent moon that dips down on both sides. Large piles

# JOE ONATE CAVE

EDWARDS COUNTY , TX



### NSS Map Symbols Used

Compass & Tape Survey

Total Length - 19.39 m / Total Depth - 4.9 m

Instruments - Rebecca Rainbolt / O'Daniel

Tape - Keith Heuss

Sketch & Map - Mark Gee

3- 15- 2003

of breakdown occur throughout the center of the cave, and the profusion of speleothems has grown on this breakdown material. The cave is very photogenic.

While we had been doing the cave radio location, Emily and Joe had gone out to meet some of Tom's friends to take them through the cave. On our way out we met this group of seven who graciously allowed us to pass by them. We headed on out to wait for this second group to exit, and then we would go to survey. After about an hour they exited the cave. I took a photo of the group, and then they climbed into their car and headed back to the ranch house.



*Palace Cave is highly decorated.*

seen on the right. The floor dropped down steeply, and the passage enlarged as it turned to the left. The ceiling height grew to two meters. The width of the dirt and rock-floored passage was four meters. The floor continued down under a low ceiling where stalactites grew all the way across the passage. The passage narrowed down to three meters, with some stalagmites and breakdown on the floor. The cave ended in a few more feet at a small six-inch hole where the water exited the cave. Keith, Rebecca and I surveyed this cave in five stations.

As I was finishing the sketch, I could hear the others outside saying, "Let's go, hurry up." I finished the last floor detail and ran to my truck. Joe then led us several miles over some seldom-used roads to a cave named Twin Oaks. This cave was ten feet from the fence line, heading to the southwest and back under the fence line.

The entrance was about 2-1/2 feet wide and eleven inches tall. Phil was down through the entrance first, followed by Linda. They were calling out the dimensions as I recorded them. Then I tried to crawl in—it was tight. As I was trying to decide whether I could fit or not, I heard Phil say, "There's a skunk down here." I called out to Bill Lockhart, who was just outside, to pull me out because I was stuck. Then as Linda crawled out the tight entrance, I grabbed her and pulled her out. Then Phil crawled out and I grabbed him and pulled him out, too. Phil said he had heard a noise several times somewhere near him. Then the skunk began looking at him from behind a rock about two feet from his face. The skunk must have been asleep. He didn't spray us and we were all glad about that! I got three stations recorded for a total of 5.25 meters and a little sketch drawn from what I could see when I was stuck in the entrance. We left "Pepe LaPew" alone and drove over to another cave known as New Cave, but now named Honeycomb Cave.

This cave had a really pretty sinkhole entrance with a large

tree growing from the floor up beside the lip of the pit. The depth of the pit was four meters, and it was three meters in diameter. I walked to the edge and proceeded to climb down. The sloping floor at the bottom of the entrance sink led to a large room about thirteen meters in diameter. The ceiling was between one and two meters tall. I traversed the edge of the room and found three ways down to lower levels. All three were small, but each would allow me to proceed. Since I was alone in the cave, I walked back to the entrance and climbed out. Those who had been working in the cave were putting away their tools. Everyone was going back to get cleaned up for the party at Tom's home.

The Bexar Grotto really knows how to get a potluck dinner going. Mike C., Christi, Vickie and others (I'm not sure who) prepared some really good food. Barbecued ribs, chicken, three kinds of sausage and brisket were cooked. A very good corn dressing, salads, soup and pinto beans were prepared. Tom provided an ice chest full of beer and several bottles of wine. As you can see, we were treated like special guests. Our lodging and food couldn't be beat.



*Rebecca Rainbolt/O'Daniel and Keith Heuss at the entrance to Joe Onate Cave*

left the party around ten o'clock. I was greeted by a flat tire, but only on one side. I changed my tire and drove back up the hill to the cabin. The lights were still on, but as I got in bed they were turned out. I guess they were waiting up for me.

Sunday morning came all too quickly. I woke up early again, but was still groggy. I started packing and got the truck loaded. Rebecca had asked me to help with cooking breakfast, and I was glad to help (if I cooked, I didn't have to help clean up). Rebecca and I had breakfast sitting on the table, hot and ready to eat in about thirty-five minutes. That Bexar Grotto knows how to eat.

I sure enjoyed my trip to the Falling Waters Ranch. Palace Cave was well worth the drive; it's a beautiful cave. Christi, Mike B., Kevin, Emily, Tom, Vicki, Mike C., Bill, Linda, Rebecca, and Joe led a great trip. I enjoyed the opportunity to participate with the radio location and survey of the two small caves. Thanks again to Christi Bennett.

Till Next Time—

Happy Caving!

## Newsletter Exchange Review

by R.D. Milhollin, NSS 29962

(Thanks to Diana Tomchick for reviewing the *NSS News* while I was away on expedition in Mexico).

*NSS News* April 2003 (Vol. 61 No. 04)

The Tongass Cave Project Expedition trip to Coronation Island, Alaska is highlighted in this edition of the *News*. Chris Krejca's fascinating article about the two-week survey trip in April 2002 includes numerous photos and well-drafted maps, and Jean Krejca's accompanying manuscript focuses on the interesting cave biology found on the island. Coronation Island is in southeastern Alaska, in the Alexander Archipelago, and lies within the largest U.S. National Forest, the Tongass. The Tongass karstlands are in danger from the adverse affects of potential timber harvests and the effects of human impacts such as road building. Chris' article is full of interesting details of the search for and surveying of new caves, as well as the playful interactions of the trip participants. One aspect of caving in such an environment seems unusual to the mainland caver: much time and effort was devoted to caring for Alaskan caver Pete Smith's motorboat, which provided the all-important access to and from the isolated island.

"The Caves of Death Lake" in the Labyrinth Karst region, north of the Nahanni River, in the Northwest Territories, Canada is the subject of an article by Larry C. Simpson. This describes expeditions taken from McMaster University from 1972 and 1973 that led to the annexation of the area into the Nahanni National Park. This area remains relatively isolated and seldom visited by cavers, mostly due to the extreme isolation and relatively short warm season (approximately two months, centered around July). Labyrinth karst is typically found in tropical and sub-tropical areas such as Cuba, China and New Guinea, where the rainfall is greater than a thousand millimeters (39 inches). The Nahanni Karst region is the northernmost known labyrinth karst, and receives approximately six hundred millimeters of rain each year. Much of the time spent by the team members involved tracing the flow of underground water between caves and karst features for several miles along fissures. Travel above-ground was hampered by the unique features of the labyrinth karst, which due to the extensive faulting and fractures of the land result in box canyons and fissures. Many of the caves were in high cliffs too difficult to reach, or ended in fifty meters by blockages due to sediment, broken rock or ice. This expedition used helicopters to shuttle people and gear around the region, and was even re-supplied one day by food-bombs from a floatplane! The article closes with a mention that cavers could visit this area via a weeklong exploration tour offered through a local outfitter.

"Agriculture and Karst: Society's Trade-Off" by Greg Springer expounds upon the effects of cattle and commercial fertilizer on caves. Cavers are typically concerned about the effects of development over aquifers and in karst regions, yet the high nutrient levels found in water runoff from farms may also adversely affect cave organisms. Springer warns that we should not "take it for granted that rolling fields of cows and crops are not having an effect on the karst below."

Joel Despain writes a fine article about Palmer Cave in California—this is one of the caves featured for trips from this year's NSS convention. The accompanying photos indicate that the long hike up the mountain to the cave entrance appears to be worth the trip. Palmer is well decorated with the usual formations, but they are found in a granite cliff!

Bill Steele's "Spelean Spotlight" features intrepid expeditionary and international caver Yvonne Droms. It is a tribute to Steele's writing skills and ability to choose interesting subjects that I have the intense desire to meet these people after reading his interviews; Yvonne is no exception. She reveals that Babar, the elephant king, sparked her interest in caving as a child, that Norbert Casteret's books nurtured this initial spark, and that her husband and teenagers are cavers, too. She also describes being trapped with a group in Hurricane Ridge Cave for 2-1/2 days due to high water, while their friends floated Cyalume sticks and messages-in-bottles in to raise their spirits. At fifty years old she is at the peak of her caving career and is participating in major expeditions (e.g., 2002 Cueva Cheve), and expects to be going strong for some time.

Terry Raines contributes an historical article entitled "Forty Years of Exploration" about the Association for Mexican Cave Studies. This is an interesting laundry list of the major expeditions of the 1960's and 1970's to Mexico, and a description of the genesis of the *AMCS*

*Newsletter*. However, this article prompted a message to CaveTex from the AMCS Advisory Committee (Bill Mixon, AMCS Editor; James Reddell, William Russell and Peter Sprouse) concerning the "creation of the AMCS Activities Newsletter to replace the moribund AMCS Newsletter," and "those wishing to support the current program of publications and other activities of the Association for Mexican Cave Studies, which is now an official project of the National Speleological Society, should use the addresses [www.amcs-pubs.org](http://www.amcs-pubs.org) or PO Box 7672, Austin, Texas 78713."

*C.O.G.nizance* (Central Oklahoma Grotto) April 2003

"CODE RED! We're out of duct tape!" is the caption of the cartoon gracing the cover of the C.O.G.'s most recent newsletter, and an apt "caveland security" cry of panic indeed. Sue Bozeman reports on a five-cave trip to southwest Oklahoma, known locally as an "F and F" trip (fun and frolic). This was to be a light trip, small pack, camera gear, and no major weapons of destruction. The caves visited were Lady Cave, Endless Cave, Gyp Falls, Gun Barrel, and Chamberpot Cave. These are all gypsum caves, and the main feature mentioned in the report was banding of the sedimentary layers visible in the passage walls. There has been a lot of collapse of some of the external features of some of these caves, presumably from natural forces. A series of nice color photos accompany the article.

Ted Blasingame, apparently an avid Trekkie, reports that *Enterprise*, the new series from the heirs of Gene Roddenberry, will air (actually by now has aired, as of April 23) an episode entitled "The Breach" which according to the official series website, deals with topics "speleological, a word many may not be familiar with that refers to the scientific exploration of caves." If you missed it, check out the production report at <http://www.startrek.com/production/seriesv/articles/02103.asp>

A nice touch is a closing poem by Steve Beleu titled "We will Cave On." Check it out.

*Speleospace* (Greater Houston Grotto) April 2003

Busy meetings recently, lots of visitors, several new members, and Kevin McGowan is working hard to show off all his past-date slides of cool places he has visited. The newsletter was a little bare of reports this time out, highlights and rules for the TSA Convention were the only copy submitted and printed this time out. I am sure with new members, a beginner trip report will be due soon.

*The Oztotl Caver* (DFW Grotto)

This is the "other month" in the new "every other" month publication schedule recently adopted by the Dallas Grotto. Oztotl has this month off.

## 2002 Speleo Digest now for sale!

by Scott Fee

The 2002 Speleo Digest is out and it is a doozy! Let the wise people from The Loyalhanna Troglodyte show you how to create beautiful and utilitarian bat origami. Allow Brian Perkins to show you just how many words DO rhyme with underground. Let the jesters from Georgia Underground instruct you in the proper method for rocking a pack. Know what a burrito bag is? Allow Taran Doty to teach you all about how to create one. Whoever heard of an ostrich making home in a cave? Certainly not us, but Pam Tegelman will regale you with a tale that will make you think twice before entering certain caves in West Virginia. All in all, this Digest is guaranteed to please the most difficult audience. Packed full of 293 articles and 236 maps from over 66 newsletters and representing 32 States and 8 countries, this book is chock full of all the great cave descriptions, science, and humor you've come to expect. It will grace your shelf and certainly come to be a most valued and treasured work of art. For a complete list of indexes and to buy your copy on line please visit <http://www.caves.org/pub/speleodigest>.

You can also order your copy from the NSS Bookstore for a mere \$23 plus \$6.00 shipping. NSS Office, 2813 Cave Ave, Huntsville AL 35810-4431 Phone: (256) 852-1300 Fax: (256) 851-9241 (e-mail) [nss@caves.org](mailto:nss@caves.org)

Editor's note: contributions from the 2002 *Maverick Bull* include maps and articles from **Mark Gee**, an article from **Scott Boyd**, and one from **Argyle W. Tucker**. Keep sending in those submissions!

## Caving Events Calendar, May 2003

compiled by R.D. Milhollin

- May 09-11** **Colorado Bend State Park Project:** Long-time favorite of Mavericks, pretty close to home, semi-regular schedule, second weekend of the month. Lots of activities available for all caving skill levels, several mapping trips usually going on. Great beginner project. **Contacts:** Terry Holsinger (515) 443-4241 [trhli@sprynet.com](mailto:trhli@sprynet.com) or Dale Barnard (512) 847-1521 [Barnarddale@yahoo.com](mailto:Barnarddale@yahoo.com)
- May 10-11** **Permian Basin 20th Anniversary Party:** Come help the Permian Basin Speleological Society celebrate it's 20th anniversary at Caverns of Sonora. Free camping and beer! Bring your own food, there will be a discount on cave tours at the caverns. You may arrive on Friday evening if you wish. **Contact:** Walter Feaster [wdfeast@cox.net](mailto:wdfeast@cox.net)
- May 10-11** **NTSS beginner trip to Copper Breaks State Park area:** (not the Quanah caves!). Caving on Saturday and possibly Sunday (Lady's Descent) on the way home. **Contact:** Phil Sanders [utcaver@yahoo.com](mailto:utcaver@yahoo.com)
- May 16-18** **Return trip to Hideout Cave:** in the Oklahoma panhandle. Access to this cave will be ending in late June, so we'd like to start a survey ASAP. If necessary, a second survey trip will occur in early June (TBA). **Contact:** Phil Sanders [utcaver@yahoo.com](mailto:utcaver@yahoo.com)
- May 16-18** **SERA Cave Carnival:** at Charles E. Parish Wilderness Reservation in Rock Island, TN Information: <http://www.caves.org/grotto/tcbg/sera2003/sera.htm>
- May 17** **Texas Speleological Survey Work Session (Austin):** Not really "caving", but potentially helpful for Texas caves and personally enlightening. Saturday at 10:00 am until dark. Familiarize yourself with the Texas Cave Files and meet cavers. Be sure to call or e-mail one of the contacts to be put on the admission list to the closed campus in Austin where the files are kept. A detailed map to Pickle Research Campus can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/maps/prc>, the building is 18-A. **Contacts:** Ron Ralph (512) 916-9190 [r-dralph@texas.net](mailto:r-dralph@texas.net), Jim Kennedy (512) 663-2287 [jkennedy@batcon.org](mailto:jkennedy@batcon.org), James Reddell (512) 471-1075
- May 24-26** **NTSS trip to Carlsbad, NM:** (Black, Hidden, Cottonwood, + others). We'll be camping at Texas Camp over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. **Contact:** Phil Sanders [utcaver@yahoo.com](mailto:utcaver@yahoo.com)
- May 24** **Hard Bargain Digging Project:** Will this dig lead to massive borehole? Be there to help and find out! **Contacts:** Mark Gee (972) 557-1503 or Keith Heuss [Keith.Heuss@icra.org](mailto:Keith.Heuss@icra.org)
- May 23-26** **Kentucky Speleofest 2003, "Caving the Big Ones":** 32<sup>nd</sup> annual caving festival, hosted by the Louisville Grotto, at Camp Carlson, near Fort Knox, Kentucky. In addition to exploring local caves, a Cave Congo Party is the featured entertainment for Saturday evening. You can find more information on the web site, along with the pre-registration form at: <http://www.caves.org/grotto/louisvillegrotto/>
- May 24-25** **Government Canyon State Natural Area Project:** 20 miles northwest of San Antonio. Survey, exploration, ridge-walking, and digging. Participants must enter property with group, contact in advance for times and directions. **Contacts:** Marvin and Lisa Miller [mlmiller@gvtc.com](mailto:mlmiller@gvtc.com)
- May 29-Jun 7** **Rafting/Caving/Backpacking in the Grand Canyon area near Phantom Ranch.** First two days are rafting, followed by three days of vertical caving and backpacking, ending with two more days of rafting. **Contact:** Phil Sanders [utcaver@yahoo.com](mailto:utcaver@yahoo.com)
- May 31** **Texas Speleological Survey Board Meeting:** Begins at 10:30 am, lasts until 2-3 pm, at the J.J. Pickle Research Center in North Austin. You don't have to be a TSS board member to participate, everyone is welcome to attend, submit their thoughts and suggestions, and even step in to help. The meeting is usually followed by a 1-3 hour work session. **Contacts:** Ron Ralph (512) 916-9190 [r-dralph@texas.net](mailto:r-dralph@texas.net), Jim Kennedy (512) 663-2287 [jkennedy@batcon.org](mailto:jkennedy@batcon.org), James Reddell (512) 471-1075 [jreddell.caves@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jreddell.caves@mail.utexas.edu)
- May 31-Jun 01** **High Guads Restoration Project:** (New Mexico): 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:** Susan Herpin [sherpin@zianet.com](mailto:sherpin@zianet.com)
- Jun 06-08** **Kickapoo Caverns State Park Project:** ongoing project with Texas Parks and Wildlife to record all of the caves on the state park property. The organizers would like volunteers to "adopt a cave", with the eventual goal of drafting a final map. Opportunities to visit Kickapoo Caverns Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings, watch bat flights at Stuart Bat Cave, visit (not enter) Devils Sinkhole on Sunday afternoons and later in the summer possibly watch the bat flights at Devils Sinkhole. The combination to the gate will be given over Cavetex the week prior to each trip. **Contacts:** Kurt Menking [kmenking@bcad.org](mailto:kmenking@bcad.org) (210) 325-5598, Travis Scott [travii99@hotmail.com](mailto:travii99@hotmail.com) (979) 693-4088
- Jun 07-08** **Robber Baron Cave, San Antonio:** first weekend of each month, a new and ongoing project to restore the collapsed entrance to this popular Texas cave. Initial tasks include clearing dead trees and surveying. Plans for the entrance ramp, bunker and surrounding grounds will be developed. Please contact if you are coming, and if you are bringing a truck or a chainsaw for clearing the bigger trees. **Contacts:** Linda Palit (210) 699-1388 [lkpalit@swbell.net](mailto:lkpalit@swbell.net) or Evelyn Mitchell, [joe-evelynn@satx.rr.com](mailto:joe-evelynn@satx.rr.com)
- Jun 14** **Outdoor Adventure Day, Dallas Museum of Natural History:** How often does a caver get the chance to climb on a public building? The answer: at least once a year. The DFW and Maverick grottos have been invited to demonstrate SRT climbing and rappelling on the front wall of the Dallas Museum of Natural History, from 11 am to 4 pm. In past years, the museum supplied all participants with a free lunch and unlimited bottled water. **Contact:** Dave Gers [davegers@jeee.org](mailto:davegers@jeee.org)

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Caving Events Calendar, May 2003  
continued from page 9

- Jun 14** **Texas Speleological Survey Open House (Austin):** an excellent opportunity to visit the TSS facilities, explore the files, meet other cavers and eat a bite of burnt meat. **Contacts:** Ron Ralph (512) 916-9190 [r-dralph@texas.net](mailto:r-dralph@texas.net), Jim Kennedy (512) 663-2287 [jkennedy@batcon.org](mailto:jkennedy@batcon.org), James Reddell (512) 471-1075 [jreddell.caves@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jreddell.caves@mail.utexas.edu)
- Jun 20-22** **50th Annual Cave Capers (Indiana):** held near Salem, IN and hosted by the Central Indiana Grotto. Saturday highlights include cave trips and caving vendors. The after-evening banquet speaker is the internationally famous microbiologist and caver Dr. Norman Pace from the University of Colorado, who will speak on exploration in southern Indiana in the 1970's and '80s. Evening entertainment will be provided by the caver/musician band "The Terminal Syphons," featuring Ft. Worth-Maverick Grotto caver Robin Barber on flute and saxophone! More information can be found at <http://www.caves.org/grotto/cig/pages/capers.html>
- Jun 21-28** **NCRC Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar:** held at Camp Washington Ranch, NM. Extensive classroom and fieldwork in all phases of cave rescue; basic, intermediate, and advanced courses will be offered. Each course provides 100 hours of instruction over the eight-day seminar. Register by May 12 to avoid late fee. For a detailed course description, fee structure, meal and lodging arrangements, and registration form, visit the seminar web site at <http://www.caves.org/io/ncrc/seminar2003.htm> Please direct all comments to John Panches, National Coordinator, National Cave Rescue Commission of the National Speleological Society, [national@ncrc.info](mailto:national@ncrc.info)
- Jun 28-29** **Government Canyon Karst Survey**
- Jun 28-29** **High Guads Restoration Project**
- July 18-20** **Karst 'O' Rama:** at Great Saltpeter Cave Reserve in Mt. Vernon, KY. Information: <http://www.gccgrovers.com/kor>
- Aug 4-8** **2003 NSS Convention:** in Porterville, California. Information: <http://www.nss2003.com>
- When Scheduled **Carlsbad Caverns and Fort Stanton Cave Restoration:** New Mexico restoration trips in large, sensitive caves. CRF trips have unique requirements, long holiday weekends. **Contact:** Barbe Barker (505) 687-4270 [cloudcaver@pvtnetworks.net](mailto:cloudcaver@pvtnetworks.net)
- When Scheduled **Val Verde and Sutton County Caves:** Sensitive landowner relations, visits by appointment only. **Contact:** R.D. Milhollin (817) 834-2327 [rdmilhollin@maverickgrotto.org](mailto:rdmilhollin@maverickgrotto.org)

Maverick Grotto  
c/o Diana Tomchick  
10106 Technology Blvd. W. #826  
Dallas, TX 75220