

The

Maaberrick

Mail

The Maaberrick Grotto Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 2

February 1987

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THE MAVERICK BULL, is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, proposed internal organization of the National Speleological Society (Constitution and Charter membership submitted). The Editor invites all cavers to submit articles, news, maps, cartoons, art, and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed, stamped envelope should accompany it. News items will be accepted and are urged to be submitted on floppy diskettes in either APPLE II, or IBM compatible ASCII Text file format. Items should be of interest to cavers and their ilk, and be non-political (except cartoons of very good humor) in nature.

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EXCHANGES: THE MAVERICK BULL, will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact any officer.

PRINTING: This issue was printed FREE by the TROG PRESS, INC. in the Republic of Texas. General flunkies for this issue were Indiana Smith, and Major Meister Brau.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Subscription Rate is \$10.00, per year for non-members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any caver whos interest, beliefs, and actions are consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO and the National Speleological society is eligible for membership. Membership in the National Speleological Society is encouraged, but not mandatory except to hold office. Acceptance of the new regular, family, or associate members shall be by payment of dues and by and by a two-thirds vote of the grotto membership present at a regular monthly meeting, after a three trip requirement with at least three different grotto members has been met. These three members shall act as sponsors and one must be present at the time of meeting.

Maverick: 1) American pioneer who did not brand his calves, 2) An unbranded range animal, especially a calf.

MEETINGS: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, at SMOKEY'S RIBS, at 5300 East Lancaster in the east central part of Fort Worth, Texas. Just short of one mile west of Loop 820. This is a central point in Tarrant County, and should be convenient to the mid-cities, Arlington, and Fort Worth! The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good. Go through the regular line for your grub and then come to the "party room" which we have reserved in back.

#### OFFICERS

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COVER: This months cover art provided by Dale Ellison; is a free-hand sketch from a photograph of Daring Danny Sherrod, squeezing in through the entrance passage of Robber Baron Cave in San Antonio. Thanks Dale!!!

#### 1987 CALENDAR

February 10; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

February 28; Possible Gorman Falls work trip  
Call Jody Robertson  
817/282-6272

March 10; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

April 14; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

April 18-20; Guads trip to Sand, Little Sand, Fort Stanton, and Wind Cave.  
Contact Corky for details.

May 12; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

May 16/17; Trip to Sherfield Cave  
Boxley, Ark. Contact  
Corky Corcoran for details.

May 18,20; Missouri Caves,  
after Sherfield Cave;  
Big Smittle  
Hooten Cave (maybe)  
Big time caves, waterfalls.  
Contact Dale Ellison  
817/473-0463

June 9; Maverick Grotto Meeting.

## LAST MEETING:

The last meeting of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, was held Tuesday, January 13, 1987 at Smokey's Ribs in East Fort Worth. Upon arrival, Dale Ellison and Butch Fralia were jovially greeted by several persons in the Party Room. They immediately began a lively conversation about irrigation until everyone became totally confused. The irrigators finally realized they were in the wrong room while Butch and Dale realized that there wouldn't be as many new visitors at the meeting as expected.

Joe Giddens III, reported that the NSS is now verifying that all NSS members on the Grotto charter membership list have their membership dues paid up. As soon as this is completed, the Charter will be returned, approved!!!

After the start up formalities, projects for the Grotto were discussed. Suggestions are as follows:

1. Complete survey's and exploration in the Hinton Creek Area of Collingsworth County.
2. Complete exploration for new caves on the Sparks Ranch in Oklahoma.
3. Survey and map small caves in Johnston and Pontetoc Counties of Oklahoma.
4. Complete data needed by the TSS for caves in North Texas.

No decisions were made as to formal projects.

Al Rehfeldt, featured in last months article on

cave divers attended as visitor. Al stated that he "is not" a certified NSS cave diver as was reported in the article but has done cave diving and will likely become certified if enough wet caves are available. He will only dive with experienced cave divers due to the hazards involved.

The video program, "The Elusive Depths of Mexico," about a British caving expedition in Mexico was very enjoyable. It provided information on the dread cave disease, histoplasmosis. Several cavers on the expedition, (including the pretty blond) caught the disease and ended up being flown back to England for treatment.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Mr. Walt Davis of the Dallas Museum of Natural History will make a presentation on the Cave Swallows of South Texas. He will provide exhibits. This should be a very interesting presentation for nature buffs so please attend if possible.

Minutes from the last NSS Board of governors meeting will be available to those interested in reading them.

There will be a petition which is being circulated throughout all grottos for interested parties to sign. The petition request the NSS Constitution be amended to limit time in office of NSS Board of Governor members to two consecutive years, they will be allowed to run again after one year out of office. The total time a member may serve on the board will be seven years.

Apparently, this has been an area of contention since the Congress of Grottos has voted on several occasions to limit BOS terms but the Board has refused to act on them.

## LOGO CONTEST

THE MAVERICK GROTTTO is holding a contest to select a Logo for the new grotto. The logo should be appropriate for the Grotto name. The winning logo will be the official Grotto Logo for use on patches, bumper stickers, Tee Shirts or whatever. The prize will likely be a Carbide Lamp of collectors interest, provided by Corky Corcoran.

Entries for the Logo Contest should be in by the March Meeting. Rumors abound that commercial artists' are being summoned in by several members who cannot draw.

#### EDITORIAL

The Maverick Grotto is off and running. Our initial charter membership is made up of a number of interested and interesting cavers. As time goes on we should see that number grow considerably. I personally am ecstatic to be part of such a group and look forward to warmer weather and increased trip activity. We have many interesting caves available for exploration and the Grotto will be organizing as many trips as possible.

In last months "BULL" in an article titled "COMPUTERIZED CAVING," I reported being involved the TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY (TSS) in compiling a computerized database of Texas Caves. A database for those not proficient in computereze; is a file with multiple records stored on computer disk, usually in some specific order for easy retrieval. The database will contain such information as county, name of karst (cave), specific locations where available, land owner names when known and various statistics about the cave. For those of you who have seen the TSS publication; A FIELD GUIDE TO THE CAVES OF KENDALL COUNTY, Published December 1985, you will know the type information we're trying to get in the database.

A point of special interest is the method used to pinpoint cave locations. Russell and Costello, devised a scheme for locating caves on topographic maps. Starting in the upper left hand corner of the specific USGS quadrangle map, measure down to a point horizontal with the cave's location and then measure horizontally from the left side of the page to the cave entrance. All measurements are in millimeters.

Specifically, I'm involved in compiling data bases for North Texas Limestone Caves and also Texas Gypsum Caves. The work is progressing well but it appears that a great deal of information is missing on many of the caves. There are many caves within 2 1/2-3 hours drive which need to be verified, surveyed, mapped, precise locations, and current land owners established.

Bill Elliot, is creating a database of cave maps and within another month, I hope to have sufficient data compiled to create a list of caves needing work, in both Limestone and Gypsum areas. This offers a large selection of caves and should be a real adventure. Work is underway now to establish land owner contact and develop relations which will allow easy access to caves. Completion of the exploration of these caves and their surrounding areas would be a very worthy project for our Grotto and would benefit cavers state wide.

When the work list is available, it will be discussed at a meeting and trips can then be organized to work on exploration projects. Those interested in participating in these projects will have to make a difficult decision over whether to Gyp or to Lime.

THE MAVERICK BULL, is your newsletter. It's fun to put together and I solicit any comments you might have on any aspect of the publication as well as articles you wish to see published. There's no greater feeling of satisfaction than having positive comments returned from membership and subscribers. The best way to obtain these positive comments is provide information of interest to the reader. The only way to know if articles are of the type you wish to read is from your feedback. The bottom line is that if you don't see what you want, you haven't told me and/or you haven't helped provide the articles.

I was initially concerned as to whether there would be enough material to print but interest in increasing in providing articles. Trip reports are at a minimum right now because of the off season so educational articles are being put together. Everything in the newsletter should be educational whether it be a trip report or something along the lines of what Corky wrote about where to find antique carbides.

In this months issue you'll find an article by Dale Ellison about Ground Water. We intend for this to be an educational monthly column and each month we will have information on different aspects of Geology or Biology where it pertains to Speleology. Donna Anderson, has researched many of the Mail Order businesses providing discount caving/camping supplies. This information will be worth saving for future reference.

## DID YOU KNOW?

by Dale Ellison

Since my virgin descent into the underground voids, I've had a desire for more knowledge of caves. The more I learn, the more I stand in awe of nature's beauty. When in a cave with other with other cavers, it's tough to bring the entire pack to a halt and inquire about some feature I've noticed. To fully appreciate and understand the caverns we visit, some knowledge of Geology is imperative. Each month in our news letter, I hope to bring you information relative to Speleology and Geology. Some folks will consider a specific topic elementary while others will acquire new knowledge and better understanding; ultimately a better understanding of caves.

## GROUND WATER

Did you know that water underground is about 30 to 40 times as plentiful as fresh water on the surface? The only exception is water frozen as glaciers. Needless to say, ground water is a very important resource. The need to protect this resource is a matter of common sense.

The relationship among springs, rivers and ground water; forms distinctive geologic features, such as caves, sinkholes, hot springs, and geysers.

Ground water, the water that lies under the earth's surface, fills cracks, crevices and pore space (porosity) of rocks. The source of nearly all ground water is rain and snow which falls onto the land. The amount which is absorbed into the ground depends on climate, land slope, soil type, rock type and vegetation. Of the total precipitation, only 15-20% ends up as ground water.

The subsurface zone in which all rock porosities are filled with water is called the zone of saturation and the upper surface is called the water table. Ground water may move hundreds of meters vertically downward to the water table before again appearing at lower elevation surfaces as springs, or to seep into the beds of rivers and lakes.

A spring is a place where water flows naturally from rock onto the land surface. The point of

it's occurrence is where the water table intersects the land surface, but also occurs where water flows out from caverns or along fractures, faults, or rock contacts that come to the surface.

An aquifer is a body of saturated rock or sediment through which water can move easily. A well must be drilled into an aquifer to reach an adequate supply of water. A well is a deep hole that is dug into the ground to penetrate an aquifer below the zone of saturation. Usually, the water must be lifted or pumped to the surface.

An artesian aquifer, is one confined above, and sometimes below, by impermeable rocks. Part of the aquifer must be exposed at the surface. Most of the aquifer is below the level of recharge. Therefore the water is under pressure from the weight of the water above. When a well is drilled into the aquifer, this water pressure forces water up the well. A well is known as an artesian well if the water in it rises above the level of the aquifer.

What does all of this mumbo-jumbo have to do with caves? Tune in next month for the effects of ground-water action. I'll cover caves, calcite, formations, sinkholes, karst topography, and Geodes. In future reports look for: hot springs, geysers, and Geothermal energy.

XRecharge; the addition of new water to the zone of saturation.

XPermeability; the ease with which fluids flow through rock pore space (porosity) or fractures. An impermeable rock therefore is one through which water cannot flow.

Information for this article condensed and paraphrased from PHYSICAL GEOLOGY, by Charles Plummer and David McGeary. Published by the W. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa, © 1985, pp 213-221.

## SUPPLIERS OF CAVING/CAMPING EQUIPMENT

by Donna Anderson

On cold winter evenings, do you enjoy browsing through caving/camping catalogs, comparing quality and price of gear? If you have not seen

all of these catalogs, you may be missing out. You may call or write the following companies which are not listed below, please contact Donna Anderson and we will list those in future newsletters.

American Eagle Outfitters  
Direct Mail Division  
150 Thorn Hill Drive  
P.O. Box 788  
Warrendale, PA, 15095  
800/245-1941

Artistic Impressions\*  
P.O. Box 627  
Windham, NH, 030807

\*This company offers rubber stamps with bats, carbide lamps, helmets, etc.

Bob & Bob  
P.O. Box 441  
Lewisburg, WV, 24901  
304/772-5048

Cabela's  
812 13th Ave.  
Sidney, Nebraska 69160

Campmor  
810 Route 17 North  
P.O. Box 999  
Paramus, NJ, 07653-0999

Early Winters Inc.  
2800 Hoover Road  
Stevens Point, WI, 54481  
715/345-2770

Eddie Baur  
Fifth & Union  
P.O. Box 3700  
Seattle, WA, 98130-0006

Gander Mountain, Inc.  
P.O. Box 248  
Wilmet, WI 53192-0248

Gibbs Products  
202 E. Hampton Avenue  
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111  
801/466-2530

Inner Mountain Outfitters  
102 Travis Circle  
Seaford, VA, 23696  
804/898-2809

L.L. Bean, Inc.  
Freeport, Maine 04033-001  
800/341-4341

Lost Creek Packs  
4036 N. Brentwood Drive  
Indianapolis, IND, 46236

Lands' End  
Lands' End Lane  
Dodgeville, WI, 53595-0001  
800/356-4444

Parallel Corporation  
1285 Mark Street  
Bensenville, IL, 60106  
312/766-1150

Pigeon Mountain Industries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 803  
Lafayette, Georgia, 30728  
404/764-1437

Ramsay Outdoor  
226 Route 17  
P.O. Box 1689  
Paramus, New Jersey, 07653-1689

Recreational Equipment, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6-88125  
Seattle, WA 98188-0125  
800/426-4840

Sierra Trading Post  
425 Gentry Way  
Reno, Nevada, 89502  
702/825-1544

Speleobooks  
Emily Davis Mobley  
P.O. Box 10  
Schoharie, NY, 12157

Sportsman Specialties  
P.O. Box 217  
Youngwood, PA, 15697  
800/982-9100

1-1-87

The Speleoshoppe  
P.O. Box 297  
Fairdale, KY, 40118  
502/367-6292

*ordered  
catalog 2-11-87*

The Sportsman's Guide Inc.  
965 Decatur Ave. No.  
Golden Valley, MN, 55427  
612/546-3849

Timberwolf  
Shipping Warehouse  
P.O. Box 463  
Federalsburg, MO, 21632

Walter Craig, Inc.  
P.O. Box 927 Dept. 26  
Selma, Alabama, 36702-0927  
205/875-7989

Wear-Guard  
P.O. Box 400  
Hingham, MA, 02043  
800/343-4406

Wilderness Outfitters Ltd.  
800 Town Clock Plaza  
Dubuque, Iowa, 52001  
319/556-1121

*2-11-87*

S.P.I.C.E.X

by Dale Ellison

DATE: JANUARY 24, 1987

DESTINATION: ?? (West of Twin Sinks), Oklahoma

PERSONNEL: Donna Anderson, Corky Corcoran,  
Dale Ellison, Dennis Thompson  
(All members of the phenomenal  
Maverick Grotto)

XSustained Promotion for Increased Cave  
Exploration.

Eureka, efforts to obtain additional acreage for  
the possible discovery of subterranean voids  
has paid off.

Most trip reports go, i.e. we met here, drove  
there, we did such and such. Hopefully, this one  
will be a little different. As you may note, the  
title has "S-P-I-C-E" in it! So, it will remain

forever a mystery how the planning and logistics  
took place for this trip. Console yourself to  
knowing that all individuals rendezvoused at  
Dennis's Palatial Estate in Ardmore, Oklahoma,  
within two minutes of the preplanned time.

By now you're tired of the jive and saying where's  
the beef, so let's get to the meat of this  
"beefy" article.

The efforts of several folks gained access  
permission from several land owners for the  
area west of Twin Sinks/Wild Woman area. It is  
common knowledge that the Wild Woman area  
produces caves like, Twin Sinks, Wild Woman,  
Bitter Enders, and Perrymans. With nonchalant  
fence jumping, there is Pancake Cave and White  
Virgin. What I'm trying to say is that the  
geographical area holds potential for more stuff  
to crawl around in.

The participating gang collected in Donna's 4X4  
cave mobile and headed north on I-35, then west  
on #7 for a way, through four or five gates,  
several cattle guards and finally we sat on top  
of an Arbuckle Mountain with 500 plus acres of  
virgin territory to explore.

As each sink was spotted, one or two cavers were  
dispatched to scout out the speleological  
potential. Although a number of sinks left us  
with "sinky" feelings, others allowed access to  
the realm of darkness below. The initial  
discovery will possibly be named "Ice Cave"  
simply because it's January and this cave  
contained numerous, sometimes large ice  
formations. Guesstimation of length for this  
cave is 30' with a side passage still going but  
unexplored. No noticeable animal life, but it  
contained calcite formations. First caver to  
enter was Dale who reported to Donna, on the  
surface, to "come on down."

With many sinks to investigate, we couldn't linger  
for further evaluation.

While I was back tracking a ravine for anything  
resembling underground access, Donna moved off  
in another direction and literally stumbled into a  
crack entrance type cave. Donna bellowed out  
across the Arbuckles for assistance in checking  
out the black void beneath her feet. She then  
dove in with a somersault complete with 1-1/2  
twist. "Come on down," permeated from below,  
she needed assistance with some excavation. With

some strategic shifting of breakdown, she managed to squeeze for about eighteen feet to a very narrow passage heading down; too narrow even for Donna! While she was pushing, I shifted more breakdown to open another passage heading down. By this time Dennis and Corky had returned from their jaunt over another fence line. Since Donna and Corky are "Pushers," I "allowed" them to pursue the second down lead. A narrow crevice Donna guesstimated as 30' deep was also guesstimated at about 6' by Corky; again too narrow to pursue. After a short discussion, this discovery is now tagged as "Skunk Cave." The reason will be left to future "campfire stories," to create intrigue. (It's not what you think).

Corky and Dennis entered a sink and described passage that halted exploration because of deep hydrology. A dry season visit could prove this to be a significant find.

Due to new access to the property, White Virgin was "re-discovered." White Virgin contained numerous formations, two pips and a horde of Isopods.

By six P.M., miserable from the 30 degree, 20 mile per hour wind, we shot a back azimuth to the Ardmore base camp.

If you want the thrill of being the first to enter and name a cave, time to get off your fanny packs and follow those rumors and leads. Checking out a virgin cave is exciting. Try it, you'll like it.

BETWEEN A PLACE AND A HARD ROCK

BY TRIP PERSONNEL  
EXCEPT DENNIS WHO'S STILL WORKING  
ON THE LAST TRIP REPORT

DATE: February 1, 1987

PERSONNEL: Donna Anderson, Corky Corcoran,  
Dale Ellison, Butch Fralia,  
Dennis Thompson, and Shane the  
Wonder Dog.

DESTINATION: Sparks Ranch, Hardrock Cave  
Unnamed Fissures, Oklahoma

ACT I; SCENE I; "The Spring"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Six cavers in four wheel drive vehicle driving on ranch roads, Sparks Ranch, N.W. of Ardmore, Oklahoma. Discussing Dale Ellison's reaction to a mineral spring, humorlessly referred to as the ritual well.

CORKY: "You should have seen the look on Dale's face when I was trying to get him to drink from the ritual well."

DENNIS: (who had sampled a hand full) "Oh, it really wasn't too strong today," noticing the expression on everyone's face, "really!"

BUTCH: "Donna and I stayed in the truck, because we couldn't stand the Sulfer Smell."

DALE: "I wasn't too sure what Corky and Dennis, were trying to trick me into. I noticed Shane (the Wonder Dog), sniff the water then walk over to a tire track full of muddy water to get his drink!"

DENNIS: "I thank it really got to you when Corky lifted the lid so you could see all the little white bugs swimming in there. That must be good water to keep them alive during the ice storm we just had."

CHOREOGRAPHY: At this point, the audience should be left in suspense as to whether Dale drank from the spring or joined Shane at the tire track. Fade to next scene.

ACT I; SCENE II; "The Road"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Six cavers in vehicle, affectionately known as Speleo Trooper, slithering along muddy cattle trails in four-wheel drive, bumping over limestone outcroppings.

DENNIS: "How much ground clearance do you have?"

BUTCH: "Oh --- "

SPELEO TROOPER: "Bang, bump, bang."

BUTCH: "Good ground clearance but even better skid plates!"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Scene ends, as cavers admire the timely skill of Butch's four-wheel expertise. He had just slid the truck sideways between two large deep sink holes and toward a large tree while managing to miss them all. Fade to next scene.

## ACT II; SCENE I; "The hike"

CHOREOGRAPHY: The mass of cavers are standing about in confusion attempting to sort out gear after the bumpy ride. They are preparing to head off down a ravine.

BUTCH: "Come on Shane."

DENNIS: "Are you going to let Shane go caving in Hard Rock?"

BUTCH: "Sure! Last year Shane was in River Styx, three times, Blum Caves once, and this is his third caving trip to Oklahoma."

DENNIS: "Well I guess he's a caver then. Hell! He was in more caves in '86 than Joe Giddens has been in since '83!"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Hiking on another cattle trail (complete with piles), cavers make their way to several small sinks which they stop and check out. Rocks are tossed in, lights are shone and Corky enters one which went straight down to a sucking mud crawl. Donna and Butch enter two different entrances which go nowhere. Dale in the meantime, wanders around the area looking for more sinks. In a short while he comes trotting back.

DALE: "Dennis, did you know there's a big resurgence over there?"

DENNIS: "Really, where? Show us!"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Cavers follow Dale to resurgence entrance.

DENNIS: "Thank God you found Hard Rock. We might have been lost in this brush for awhile otherwise."

DALE: (face dropping) "Oh , I thought I'd made a big find!"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Fade from scene as caver's begin to prepare gear for entry.

## ACT II, SCENE II, "The Cave"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Cavers are standing at entrance breakdown, looking into squeeze in, ribcage slide, sideways fall, and land hard entrance. All enter; Donna, Corky, and Dennis take

measurements then pictures. Butch and Dale go further into cave down 20 degree slope. After 150' they come to large flowstone, make 30' free climp and continue on into next passage. Donna is shortly lured into making the climb. The luring conversation will not be repeated as newsletter is limited to 10 pages.

DONNA: At beginning of passage atop flowstone, eyes ornate formations stalactites, small draperies, etc. "Oh, it's really beautiful in here."

BUTCH: "Don't forget and stand up or you'll be impaled by all this beauty."

CHOREOGRAPHY: Cavers continue on for some 300' before reaching a deep pool. Dale stops to investigate a small Spring. Butch notices passage at the top of a 40', 75 degree mud slide, he climbs to investigate digging hand and foot holds into the deep clay.

DALE: "What do you see up there?"

BUTCH: Loosing concentration and footing "Yiiiiiiiiiiiiii!" As he casually skids 20' down the slide using nose as drag brake, "Beautiful flowstone, a pure white colum, cave drapes, cave bacon and I hope I never do that again!"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Cavers finish sight seeing in cave, exit and return to vehicle.

ACT III, SCENE I,  
"Remainder of day"

CHOREOGRAPHY: Cavers spend remainder of day exploring fissure openings in direction that Hard Rock runs.

DONNA: "Here's one."

DALE: "I've found one also."

CORKY: "Mine's better than your's."

NARRATION: And so it went until the setting Oklahoma sun found the cavers heading back to the metroplex. All took a sojourn at Dennis's to lament that the recharge for Hard Rock wasn't found. Soon, five headed back to the metroplex. It was during that journey that this drama was born.