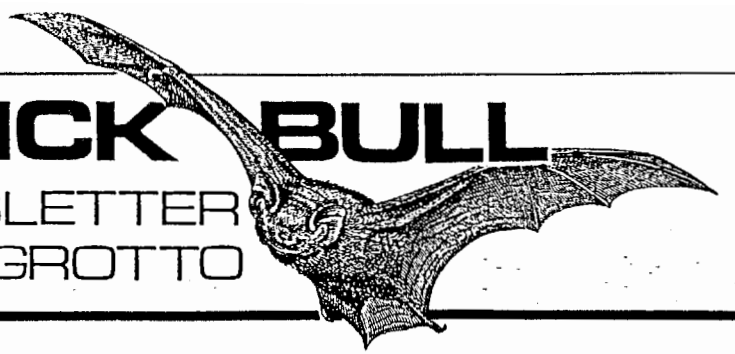

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 6

JUNE 1990



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THE MAVERICK BULL is the monthly newsletter of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO, an internal organization in the National Speleological Society (NSS 6-322). The editors invite 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. Items should be of interest to cavers and be non-political in nature.

Internal organizations of the National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to author as will be stated in byline) first appearing in **THE MAVERICK BULL**, if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to THE MAVERICK GROTTTO address at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the grotto at the address herein.

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

COMPLIMENTARY NEWSLETTERS: THE MAVERICK GROTTTO will provide complimentary newsletters to persons or organizations who provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Grotto will also provide three free issues to persons interested in becoming members.

MEMBERSHIP POLICY: Any caver with interests, beliefs, and actions consistent with the purposes of THE MAVERICK GROTTTO 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 East Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is a little less than one mile west of Loop 820 East and next door to a K Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M., and the food is good.

Chairman: Dale Ellison
1208 Dan Gould Rd.
Arlington, Texas 76017
817-473-0463

Vice-Chairman: Bruce Anderson
504 Kimbrough
Fort Worth, Texas 76108
817-246-6313

Treasurer: Teresa White
5424 Finian
North Richland Hills, TX 76180
817-281-6240

Editor/Secretary: David & Shari Finrock
1974 Barron
Fort Worth, TX 76112
817-451-3539

CAVE RESCUE: Call Collect 512-686-0234

CALENDAR

Ongoing	Monthly work trip to Colorado Bend State Park --- Weekend of the second Saturday of each month
June 9-10	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
June 12	Maverick Grotto Meeting
June 16-23	NCRC Texas Seminar on Cave Rescue Operations and Management in Colorado Bend State Park and in the town of San Saba
June 22-24	TSA Survey Project at Powell's Cave, Menard County
July 10	Maverick Grotto Meeting
July 14-15	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
July 9-13	NSS Convention at Yreka, California
July 21-22	Big Manhole Digging Project
Aug 11-12	Colorado Bend State Park Work Trip
Aug 14	Maverick Grotto Meeting
Sept 21-22	Big Manhole Digging Project
Fall	2nd International Speleological Congress in Monterrey, Mexico

ON THE COVER

The cover cover this month is John Brooks at the entrance to Christ's Forty-Meter Cave. It is one of the Bower's Trail Caves in Pushmataha Co., Oklahoma. The photo is by Woodrow Thomas.

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

The Maverick Grotto met on Tuesday 8 May 1990 for its regular monthly meeting. In the absence of Chairman Dale Ellison, Vice-Chairman Bruce Anderson presided. He recognized a first-time visitor, Kevin Glover.

The grotto membership elected in absentia, a new member, Don Lloyd, from Henderson in east Texas. Don couldn't be at the meeting, but promised to send in his dues upon his election to membership. Welcome Don, and wife Corinne.

David Finrock announced that our treasurer Teresa White has recently graduated from training and has earned her wings as a flight attendant for American Airlines. For the next year or so she will be based out of Miami, Florida, before she can get a transfer back to D/FW. (Her husband Pooch says he will be working hard to burn off "nervous tension" in the meantime). Since dues have already been collected, there's not much left for the treasurer to do the rest of the year. So Bruce Anderson moved, and the grotto approved, that Pooch Amy be designated to perform as the treasurer's assistant in Teresa's absence.

Jay Jordan reported that the D/FW Grotto had come up short in paying for the total expenses of the "Rites of Spring" party last month. The membership requested that the officers of both grottoes get together to reconcile the difference. (After those consultations, Bruce Anderson later recommended that an additional \$20 be sent to the D/FW Grotto, and the other officers concurred).

Butch Fralia and Ellen Allen have recently been conducting tests of water quality in caves at Colorado Bend State Park. They have ordered a \$210 kit which will make those tests easier and more accurate. During the Earth Day clean-up at the park a raffle was held, which raised \$130 toward that purchase price. Butch and Ellen said they would make up the difference if necessary, but would like donations towards that project. David Finrock said that if the water quality kit would become grotto property, he would move that the grotto treasury pay the difference. But the question of who would own the kit was never cleared up, and the motion died.

Upcoming trips were announced:

- Arlene Heintz: Smittle Cave, Missouri
12-13 May 1990
- Mark Porter: Fitton Cave, Arkansas
27 May 1990
- Donna Anderson: McKittrick Hill, New Mexico
26-27 May 1990
- Corky Corcoran: The Guads, New Mexico
26 May - 3 June 1990

TRIP REPORTS:

Sharon Lytle participated in the most recent Lechugilla Expedition, and brought photographs.

Mike Pearson went to River Styx and reported a large accumulation of debris at the entrance, after the recent floods. There was a lot of

excess water still in the cave.

Butch Fralia reported that on Earth Day a high school class from Austin came to Colorado Bend State Park and helped haul a lot of trash out of Horseshoe Chimney. There was also cleanup of Big Gorman Cave. And throughout the park, it was noted that the recent floods had flushed out cave systems, drawing in new air. Air quality was much improved throughout the park, even in caves like Blue-Ribbon Pit, which are notorious for bad air.

After adjournment of the business meeting, Stephen Jung, a practicing EMT, gave a program on first aid for cavers.

PROGRAM FOR THE JUNE MEETING

At the next grotto meeting on 12 June, Dave Milhollin will present a program on Cavern and Cave Diving. Dave's a certified diving instructor and will tell us all about the NSS Cave Diving Section, and what all is involved in getting a start in cave diving.

SCUBA DIVING CLASS

If you're really excited by Dave's program, you may want to consider learning how to dive. Dave will be teaching a course in open water SCUBA diving (NOT cave diving) at TCJC this summer. The class will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 17 July through 19 August. If interested, contact the TCJC Community Services (Continuing Education).

CAVE DIVING TRIP

If you already have your open water SCUBA certificate, and want to learn cave diving, you are also in luck. Dave will be taking a small group to Jenny Springs, Florida on the weekend of 30 June to 1 July. Again, open water certification is REQUIRED for this trip, and intermediate SCUBA training is suggested. If interested, and qualified, call Dave Milhollin at (817) 277-0503.

TSA SURVEY PROJECT

The continuation of the re-survey of huge Powell's Cave in Menard County will be taking place 22-24 June 1990. For more details on this TSA Project, call George Veni at (512) 558-4403 or Terry Holsinger at (512) 476-9031.

LYME DISEASE

Since cavers spend so much time outdoors, we need to know how to protect ourselves from hazards in and out of caves. Lyme Disease is one such hazard that has become much more common in recent years. This article is paraphrased and adapted from two sources: an article that appeared in the JAN-FEB 1990 issue of SOUTHWESTERN CAVERS, and an advertising insert from Wisconsin Pharmacal Company that was sent in by Dale Ellison.

Lyme Disease is now the most common tick-borne disease in America. If left untreated, it can sometimes lead to painful and crippling arthritic conditions, nerve damage, brain disorders, heart malfunctions and occasionally even death. The disease develops from the often unnoticed bite of an infected deer tick. This tick lives in grassy and wooded areas, and in some regions, as high as 65% of the ticks may carry the disease. Although cases of Lyme Disease have been reported now in 43 states, most cases have come from eastern coastal areas from New Jersey to Massachusetts, in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and California. Even so, enough cases have been reported in Texas to make the threat a real one, and precautions should be taken.

To prevent contacting the disease, just use common sense precautions:

- Avoid grassy and marshy woodland areas
- Don't walk barefoot in grassy areas
- Wear light-colored clothing (makes it easier to spot crawling ticks)
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, and tuck your pants legs into your socks or boots
- Use a strong insect repellent
- After being outdoors, undress and check for ticks, especially along hairlines, around ears, behind the knees and in armpits, and all around the groin area

If you are unlucky enough to be bitten by a tick, remove the tick carefully by USING TWEEZERS. Do not squeeze the tick's body as this may force fluids from the tick back into your body. Instead grasp the tick as near its mouth as possible, and pull slowly but firmly until the tick lets go.

If you have been bitten watch for symptoms that may indicate that you have been infected.

- Within 3 to 30 days you may develop a slowly expanding bull's eye shaped rash with a clear center. along with fatigue, stiff neck, headache, fever and chills. Treatment by a doctor at this stage is usually rapidly effective.
- After a month or more, the rash may fade, but if it is untreated, you may develop heart palpitations, light-headedness, a shortness of breath, severe headaches and possible muscle paralysis on the sides of the face.
- Months to years later, you would likely experience chronic recurring arthritis which can lead to extreme joint pain and swelling and possible erosion of bones or cartilage. On rare occasions, the disease may attack the liver, eyes, or the brain.

Your doctor can treat the disease, especially in the early stages, by oral antibiotics. When Lyme Disease is diagnosed and treated early, a complete recovery is likely.

For more information, you can contact the Lyme Borreliosis Foundation at P.O. Box 462, Tolland, Connecticut 06084. Or call their hotline number at (203) 871-2900.

NEW MEMBERS ... NEW ADDRESSES

At last month's grotto meeting Don Lloyd was elected to membership in the grotto, while Mike Pearson was added as a subscriber. In addition we are pleased to announce the recent marriage of two of our members: Debra Morris & Jody Robertson. (Maybe we will have an article on the wedding in the July newsletter). And several other members have recently changed addresses or phone numbers. Make these changes in the directory printed last month:

Don Lloyd
Rt 9 Box 336
Henderson, TX 75652

Amy Mercer
5720 Sagebrush Tr.
Arlington, TX 76017
817-478-7162

Cindy Hamner
817-277-7197

Jody & Debra (Morris)
Robertson
8019 Calmont Apt 110
Fort Worth, TX 76116
817-244-4556

Mike Pearson
Rt 3 Box 174
Farmersville, TX 75031

Jimmy Thomas
817-599-8278



FROM YOUR EDITORS

We have published the Maverick Bull now for a year and a half. And each month we manage to fill up 8 to 12 pages. You may have noticed, however, that lately there have been almost no trip reports from our members. A visitor to our grotto might get the impression from reading our newsletter that none of us ever go caving. I know that's not true, but you couldn't prove it by our newsletter. Please, when you go caving, take the time on each trip to designate someone to write and SEND US A TRIP REPORT. It makes for a much more interesting newsletter, when there are first-hand stories about real-live caving experiences.

On the next page is a new Maverick Grotto Release and Waiver Form prepared by Butch Fralia for use by grotto members. Photocopy it so you have release forms whenever you need them.

NSS Convention Update

Yreka, California, July 9-13, 1990

"Where the lava meets the limestone"

By Victoria Johnson
Program layout by Bill Frantz

This article consists of some new information, some announcements, a few minor changes, and a very tentative program. Please scan this article for areas of personal interest to you.

The "Very Tentative" Program: Sensational sessions for everyone.

Bill Frantz and Gary Mele, our Program Co-Chairmen, have arranged a "very tentative" schedule (see chart). It is their intention that any concerned parties contact them ASAP if they are scheduled to appear in two rooms at once, or before they actually plan to arrive at the Convention, and so forth. Bill and Gary have put a lot of thought into this program design, and have tried to run several parallel "tracks" for special-interest cavers. For instance, there is a "science track," a "photography track," a

"speleo-political track," and a "vertical track." This approach should minimize the inevitable conflicts, as it seems that every caver wants to attend every session.

Map Packet: Looking for Limestone?

If you are planning on hiking or caving during the Convention, you may want to order our \$10.00 Map Packet. For your convenience, we have assembled the four relevant U.S.G.S. topographical maps—Yreka, Shasta, McArthur, and Burney—in one packet for you. These are the newest metric 1:100,000 quads, which normally sell for \$4.00 each.

A New Session: Advanced Cave Cartography

Carol Vesely has just announced the addition of a special session. Carol says, "This session will consist of presentations on specific cartography projects, followed by a discussion session addressing problems and techniques of "advanced" cave cartography. Some possible

topics include protraying multiple-level maze caves, creating three-dimensional representations, using computers for cartography, mapping "unusual" caves, managing large cartography projects, creating maps for specific scientific purposes, and other related topics." Carol is anxious to hear from possible participants. Write Carol at 709 South Primrose Avenue, Apt. A, Monrovia, CA 91016 or call her at (818) 357-6927.

The Campgrounds: Fun in the Sun.

Our Facilities Chair, Cindy Heazlit, wants to emphasize that our campground is located on the Carnival Lot and the Race Track of the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, which are, of course, *open* ground suitable for ferris wheels and racing horses. This means that you should plan on bringing any portable tables and/or shade canopies that you wish to use. A small water container might also be handy, as water may not be near your particular site.

The article on this page and the registration form on the next page are copied from the April 1990 NSS NEWS.

Very Tentative 1990 Convention Schedule

	Monday		Tuesday			Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	Morning	Afternoon	
Theater	Geology and Geography		Volcano-speleology			Congress of Grottos	California Exploration	International Exploration		U.S. Exploration	
Room 1	Board of Governors		Conservation and Management	Caver Conflict Resolution	Paleontology Anthropology	Spelean-History	Biology		Board of Governors		
Room 2	Cave Diving	Board of Governors	Communication & Electronics	U I S	V D C	Photography	3D Slide Show	Cave Ballads		Convention Planning	
Room 3	Speleo-philatelic Section	Video	Survey Cartography	Large Cave Projects	Advanced Cartography			Photo Workshop	Photo Field Workshop		
Room 4	Cave Survey Workshop	Beginning Cartography Workshop				Cave Rescue Section	International Reception	NCRC Open Meeting	NCRC Board Meeting	Western Region Meeting	
Various Other Locations	Vertical Section		Vertical Contests			Vertical Contests		Vertical Short Course		Map Salon Workshop	
			Canvas Grip Workshop			Speleo-olympics				Next Best Photo Salon	Photo Salon Workshop

Evening Activities

Howdy Party	Shasta Caverns Barbecue	Wine Tasting, Auction, Campground Party	Photo Salon	Banquet
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Lunches

VDC - Cave Vandalism Deterrent Reward Commission
UIS - Report on the International Union of Speleology Informatics Commission

Board of Governors - Monday
Geology/Geography - Monday
Cave Diving - Monday
Vertical - Monday
Cartography - Tuesday
Conservation/Management/Womens/Social Sciences - Tuesday
American Spelean History - Wednesday
Photography - Wednesday
Rescue Section - Wednesday
Biology - Thursday



NSS CONVENTION 1990

July 9-13 Yreka, California

"Where The Lava Meets The Limestone"

Name	Name on Badge	NSS#	Type*	Age
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

* See back of form for Registration Type Codes

Address _____ Affiliation _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

I am willing to assist at the convention as a _____ Doctor _____ Nurse _____ Paramedic _____ EMT

In case of emergency, contact (someone not at the convention):

Name _____ Phone (____) _____ Relationship _____

To help us avoid scheduling conflicts, please indicate the number of people who may wish to attend the following sessions:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cave Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Cave Biology | <input type="checkbox"/> Cave History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Geography | <input type="checkbox"/> International Exploration | <input type="checkbox"/> US Exploration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paleontology | <input type="checkbox"/> Vertical | <input type="checkbox"/> Cave Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cave Diving | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics & Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survey & Cartography | <input type="checkbox"/> Cave Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety & Techniques |

Send me more information on:

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Motels | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Connections | <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Attractions | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre & Post Convention Trips | |

Pre-registration Deadline: June 1, 1990.

You may register by mail until July 1. After that, please register on site.

Make Checks Payable to NSS Convention 1990.

Mail Registration to : Dave Lemberg Home: (408) 257-8755
 18740 Tilson Ave. Work: (408) 559-4424
 Cupertino CA 95014

TRIP REPORT: Spelunker's Cave - Tarrant County, TX

Date: August 17, 1989

Personnel: Heather Gillespie, Laura & Jim White

During a short vacation with my daughter and her friend Heather, we decided to visit a commercial cave in Texas, arriving late in the afternoon. Because it had been a rainy day, there were not many visitors to the cave that day. Understandable, because this is a water cave, much like the first cave wild cave I ever visited, Mystic, in Murray County, Oklahoma. However, because this is a commercial cave, we did not have to wade and swim through the water, but instead sat in a small boat, slowly drifting downstream into the darkness -- an unfamiliar, naked feeling not to have a lamp on my head when entering a cave.

As the illumination from the last tree-filled skylight faded into black, we heard eerie sounds that gave us the feeling that we were not alone. In fact, with all of the people we saw in this cave on a "light" day, I would hate to see it on a busy one. After passing one man eating a belated lunch, we met another working on something with a hammer and chisel. Before the ringing in my ears had ceased, we passed a group of school children and then reached the apparent source of the strange sounds we heard earlier, a man playing a pipe organ!

Just as I had almost given up hope of seeing anything natural left in this cave, we finally saw some cave life -- a large spider (at least 3 feet long in the girls' eyes). This deep in the cave it must have floated downstream until it could get ashore. Later, near a large carved head, we passed an odd creature I could not identify, which was disturbing some bats. I am sure that the cave's owner would like people to believe that the head was carved by some prehistoric tribe, but I strongly doubt it. Back to more normal cave life -- on the shore we observed two of the largest crayfish I have ever seen. (I guess they do grow them bigger in Texas.)

The noise level soon increased again, and we[^] a cowboy pestering an oversize armadillo. He might have been drunk, because we then discovered that the noise was coming from a BAR in the cave! Along with the Boxcar Murray Band, we heard the voice of Dolly Parton singing "9 to 5." I had heard on the radio that she was to perform in the Six Flags Amphitheater, but that was not for another 6 days. What a strange place to practice for her upcoming performance!

We soon had other things in mind, as the once placid stream changed into a stretch of rapids. As we swiftly progressed into a darkened passage, I thought I caught a brief glimpse of a side passage and someone opening a large, very old wooden chest. The gleam from within made me think of the James brothers' alleged treasure in Jester Cave. But no! That is hundreds of miles away. Sighting the remnants of another boat, whose occupants were less lucky than we, abruptly removed all thoughts of buried treasure from my mind.

As the stream gradually resumed its unhurried pace and our hearts did likewise, we passed through an apparently manmade passage, with creaking timbers shoring up the ceiling to prevent collapse, and afterward encountered more visitors to the cave. I had heard about Texas cavers' parties, but I had never attended one, with the guitars, the singing, the dancing. But we were unable to join them as our boat continued on its course.

Then, all too soon, the white flowstone walls were lit by the glimmer of daylight as the exit came into view. Our trip had reached its conclusion, and we regretfully left the boats to return to the steamy heat. From there we proceeded to the Log Ride to get wet and keep cool. We left Six Flags Over Texas shortly before closing at 9:45 p.m.

The tongue-in-cheek article on this page was copied from one of last year's newsletters of the Central Oklahoma Grotto.

NEWS FROM MEXICO

Bill Payne is the editor of the North Texas Speleological Society's newsletter, Caver's Echo. In the most recent issue of this Wichita Falls group, he announced that they are planning a trip to Mexico in October. (Some Maverick Grotto cavers sometimes accompany them on their Mexican caving trips).

Bill also passed along some up-to-date information on Mexico. The official exchange rate is now 2750 pesos to the dollar at the Cambio houses. Stores in the interior accept dollars at the rate of 2650. The peso is holding pretty much steady at the time being.

In Bustamante, prices at the hotel have not risen. The water there is chlorinated, and therefore supposedly safe to drink. The food there is reportedly very good, too.

And prices for motels in Monterrey are about twice that of prices for resorts in the mountains, either on the mesa or around Horsetail Falls.

BIG MANHOLE DIGGING PROJECTS

In the March-April 1990 issue of SOUTHWESTERN CAVERS is information on the summer schedule for continued digging on the lead at Big Manhole Cave. It is adjacent to Lechugilla Cave, and possibly connected to it. The federal government has said all digging must be completed by 30 September. Until then plans for digging include 9-10 June, 21-22 July and 22-23 September. If a breakthrough occurs as expected, exploration trips will be assigned to individuals in proportion to the amount of time they spent on digs.

If interested, contact Steve Peerman at (505) 523-2167 or Jeff Lory at (505) 526-9217 or Bill Yett at (303) 399-3449.

