

Volume 7 Number 4

April, 1993

THE MAVERICK BULL

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE MAVERICK GROTTTO



Copyright 1992. The 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 and photographs. If the material is to be returned, a self-addressed stamped envelope should accompany it.

Reprinting Articles: Internal organizations of The National Speleological Society may reprint any item (unless copyrights belong to the author as stated in the byline) first appearing in *The Maverick Bull* if proper credit is given and a complete copy of the publication is delivered to the editor at the time of publication. Other organizations should contact the editor of *The Maverick Bull* at the address herein.

Exchanges: The Maverick Grotto will exchange newsletters with other grottos. Contact the editor.

Complementary Newsletters: The Maverick Grotto will provide complementary newsletters to persons or organizations that provide cave access (i.e. landowners) or otherwise provide assistance to cavers. The Maverick Grotto will provide one free issue to persons interested in becoming members.

Subscription Rates: Subscription rates are \$10.00 per year for members and non-members.

Membership Policy: Any individual with interests, beliefs and actions consistent with the purposes of The Maverick Grotto and The National Speleological Society is eligible for membership. Acceptance of new members is based on payment of dues and a mandatory three trip requirement with at least three different grotto

members. These three members shall act as sponsors. At least one sponsor must attend the meeting at which the membership vote is taken. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present will be required for acceptance.

Meetings: Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Smokey's Ribs, 5300 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. It is located less than one mile west of Loop 820 and next to K-Mart. The time is 7:00 P.M. and the food is good.

Carbide: Grotto carbide is available at the meeting on even numbered months. The carbide is free to all members and is sold to others at the price of fifty cents per pound. Anyone needing carbide at other times should contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039 to arrange for pickup.

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

Chairman: Butch Fralia
3412 Walton Ave.
Fort Worth, Tx. 76133
(817)346-2039

Vice-Chairman: Danny Sherrod
3 Cobb Drive
Joshua, Tx. 76058
(817)295-5167

Secretary/Editor: Ernest Parker
616 Nw. King
Burleson, Tx. 76028
(817)447-8344

Treasurer: Mark Porter
513 Valley Park
Garland, Tx. 75243
(214)271-8147

Cave Rescue: Call collect (512)686-0234

April Meeting

This month's program will be the second part of the slide and lecture show about the fall trip to the British Isles. If

the first part is any indication, the second half will be very enjoyable. Looking forward to it!

Front Cover

Jimmy Thomas and Mark Porter enjoy a campfire near San Saba, Tx.

March Meeting

Butch Fralia opened the meeting by announcing visitors. We had only one "real" visitor, Wayne Burch. The other visitors, Martha, Sheree, Troy and Steve, visit frequently.

Butch reminded everyone that the Colorado Bend work project was the 13th and 14th, and that the 1994 NSS Convention officers would also be having a planning meeting there.

Bruce Anderson announced that Alamo Village was definitely the location of the Howdy Party for the 1994 convention.

Barbe mentioned that Andy Taylor of England would be here March 10th and asked for volunteers to show him around from Sunday, 14th to the end of his stay.

There was a reminder of the River Styx Cave survey trip on the 27th (see "Calendar of Events").

Mike Anderson told of meeting John Allred of Portland, Oregon. John wrote Mike a letter telling him that if anyone from this area planned to attend the 1993 NSS Convention in Portland, to let him know and he would get them slots on the best cave trips. John's work phone number is (503)224-5858.

The Rites of Spring Party was discussed and May 15-16 was determined as the best dates to have it. It was decided also that NTSS Grotto (Wichita Falls) would participate. The more the merrier!

Martha McArthur discussed the upcoming Easter trip to New Mexico and passed around sign-up sheets for the various caves (see "Calendar of Events").

Terry Doversberger told about his trip with Dale Ellison to Fence Line Fissure Cave and Harold's Cave in Central Texas. They had eight adults and thirteen Explorer Scouts with them.

Barbe McClung, Dave McClung and Greg Mooty did a crawl through of Mystic Cave.

Martha McArthur told about her trip to Little Crystal Cave and Walk-Up Cave, and helped members of NTSS install a gate on Little Crystal Cave.

Steve Dalton and Troy Shelton are going to Mexico April 16th. They have an opening for another vehicle. Troy plans to do some backpacking to look for some new caves while he is there (see "Calendar of Events").

There were four new members nominated and voted in during this meeting (see related article this issue).

Russell Hill gave part one of a two part slide show and lecture on the fall trip to the British Isles. Being something of a history buff, the editor personally enjoyed the slides of the castles and old buildings, and the background Russell provided, as much as the caving part of the program.

New Members

There were four new members nominated and voted in during the March meeting: Pam Massey, Martha McArthur, Troy Shelton, and Richard Speece.

Pam Massey is an enthusiastic new caver who has been making regular trips to Colorado Bend. She has taken a vertical course and one of her first caves was vertical. She can be contacted at (817)295-3576.

Martha McArthur is the editor of *Cavers Echo*, the news letter of the North Texas Speleological Society Grotto of Wichita Falls. She has been caving about two years. She has made the long drive down from Wichita Falls several times to meet with the Maverick Grotto. She can be reached at (817)723-9890. See the "Calendar of Events" this issue for

details of her trip to New Mexico during Easter break.

Troy Shelton has been caving for quite some time. He has held several offices in the DFW Grotto and is presently the editor of the DFW Grotto news letter, *The Oztoti Caver*. He has made numerous caving trips into Mexico. Troy can be contacted at (214)709-1343.

Richard Speece has some caving and vertical experience and is married to Mary, an experienced caver and Maverick Grotto member. One of their three children, Cody, had his first ever trip report published in last month's *Maverick Bull*. Richard can be reached at (817)478-1633.

Welcome to the Maverick Grotto everyone!

REI Inc. Is Open

Recreational Equipment Inc. is open for business. They opened March 26th. The

store is located at 4515 LBJ Freeway at the intersection of LBJ and Welch Rd.

SURVEY POINTS (Cavers' Forum)

PAUL AUGHEY - Tallahassee, FL

I have tried many different things for survey points but keep running into a mutually incompatible problem.

The problem

If you want to have a good map, you have to know where the survey points are in the cave, but if you have easily seen survey points, you are detracting from the cave's natural beauty. The surveys I am referring to are ongoing long-term surveys in areas which the survey stations will not be washed off or broken off. Here are some of the things I have tried for survey points/markers:

Carbide burns

Although easily seen in some caves (caves down here are of very white limestone), carbide burns have to be in good locations for other surveys to progress and they become rather unsightly. The points are very permanent if on a rock wall (on something other than a fragile projection). If the points are made large, they are ugly. If they are made small, they are hard to find.

Flagging Tape

Flagging tape is easily seen and removable. The problem is that they are removable. I do not readily trust points which, due to the intentional or unintentional circumstances, may move or totally disappear.

Flags

Flags are usually a small metal nail with electrical tape or flagging tape flag. Nails will eventually rust. They are great for surveys with a lot of mud, but I feel like I am littering, and the point can move.

Crayon

Our latest attempt is to use crayons. Yes, crayola brand. They seem to work well and are not as obtrusive as carbide (select a color similar to the mud/rock). Marks stay on pretty well. I think it may mold though. I have seen molding wax from candles in some of the caves down here, and I can imagine the survey stations molding off the walls.

Imaginary Points

I have tried using very well documented imaginary points. But in many cases, there is no "obvious" rock to put a survey point. In this case, to find an old survey point to continue on with a new lead, one may have to resurvey from a known point some distance away. I do not think this works well either.

What I have been thinking lately is that maybe phosphorescent paint would work. You know, the kind they stamp on your hand to go into some bars, fairs, etc. It may be the best of both worlds. Make a large point on the wall, and in normal caver lights (carbide, electric, and flashes) it would not show up. But with the right light, all the points would glow. This would make finding old points incredibly easy. I have not tried to find the paint yet, and do not have a clue as to the price.

JEFFREY DILCHER - Atlanta, GA

Paul spoke about survey points, and how they should be

made. He mentioned that carbide "points" are ugly, and perhaps should not be used. I do not mind seeing a carbide dot every now and then when I cave. Is there anyone else who is truly offended by seeing a survey point now and then? I have no problem with "smoking" a dot for each station, and every 4 or 5 stations actually "smoking" the station ID. Carbide soot is not really permanent, and if future generations get motivated to wipe them off, it can be done easily. I do not think that exotic paints, or flags, etc. are really all that necessary. Of course, I would not smoke a point on a pristine crystal speleothem, but I think that most surveyors exercise good judgement.

MARK MINTON - Austin, TX

Paul Aughey asked about survey stations that were both relatively permanent and yet unobtrusive. We have used shallow holes (about 1/4-inch deep) made with a 1/4-inch star drill for permanent stations in several caves in Texas and Mexico. These holes will survive anything short of having the rock itself destroyed. The passage of hoards of cavers and even violent flooding have no effect, save possibly soiling with a bit of mud. The holes quickly become unnoticeable unless you are actually looking for them. They are usually placed at distinctive locations for easy retrieval, and a good description is entered in the survey book. Such stations will be there even years after the survey is "completed," so that there will always be tie-ins in the event a new passage is discovered or a new connection made. The only drawback is that they are a bit slow to place and require carrying a relatively heavy hammer and drill that you might not otherwise need.

BILL MIXON - Austin, TX

Two comments on the idea of using phosphorescent paint to mark stations:

First, you mean fluorescent. Phosphorescence is when something stores up light energy and releases it later, such as the Xmas-tree ornaments that will glow after the lights are turned off. I guess, strictly speaking, phosphorescence is just delayed fluorescence, but what you are talking about is prompt fluorescence.

Second, the main problem with the scheme is that the necessary UV light will not be very handy. If the stations are to be invisible in ordinary light, you will have to use a UV light to excite the fluorescence. They tend not to be very portable. The simplest and cheapest are like fluorescent camping lights. They are not the sort of thing you would want to put on your helmet, for instance. (Somebody is trying to peddle a fluorescent caving lamp, but it costs a fortune.)

JOHN HALLECK - Salt Lake City, UT

Other things to consider: Superglue a (nonfunctional) LED to the wall as high as you can reach. Nobody looks up there, and it is distinctive enough to spot if you are looking for it. (And will be taken as a drop of water from a distance by any body looking around.) In fact, super glue itself is a good marker. When cured, it is transparent, and can easily be taken as a damp spot from a distance. However, it is easy to

and if you are looking for it. Try using graffiti as survey points. They are amazingly stable points.

3M's reflective tape is wondrously visible from a distance. A tiny fleck (1/8-inch for example) is easy to find if you are looking for it, and not that intrusive if you are not.

Points can be buried. Since you should know roughly where the point is, covering it with mud makes it invisible to others and the fact it was covered is obvious to you.

FRED LUISZER - Boulder, CO

I do not have the paint you are talking about, but I have seen it in use. Back in the early seventies in my hippy days, I saw a room that had stars and the moon painted on the ceiling. When the regular lights were shut off and a black light (long wave) turned on, it was quite psychedelic, and the resident advisor (RA) was none the wiser. I think they got the paint from a crafts shop.

Fast forward to the nineties. The active ingredient in such a paint is called "optical brighter." I have 5 lbs. that I plan to use for dye tracing a cave system that probably comes out at a drinking supply. For this purpose, the stuff is great, at 1 ppm, you cannot see the dye in the water, but under black light, it fluoresces a bright whitish blue. Besides the 5 lbs. of powder, I also have a 2-oz liquid sample from Keystone Inc. (Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670). They call it Keywhite CF Liquid. I put a very small amount on a piece of limestone and rinsed it with hot water to see if it would wash off with water (the pure dye is water soluble). The dye was still quite visible under black light.

My black light (which also works great for dye tracing and on fluorescent cave minerals) consists of a RAY-O-VAC Magnum lamp with a 4-watt black light bulb. The lamp costs about \$12.00 at any good electronics or electrical stores. (I bought mine used for \$10.00, new price is about \$20.00-25.00.) I have seen other portable black lights that are about the same price and durability. If you cannot find the paint, try mixing optical brighter with latex varnish (this combo should work and also be cave safe).

Paul's idea is one of the best I have heard for making permanent survey points that are almost invisible.

ALEX KARIKO - Victoria, Australia

For permanent and pretty well indestructible survey markers, we have found 3.5x15-mm stainless steel self-tapping screws to be ideal. We use a 3-mm masonry bit in a small, enclosed engineers hand drill. It takes only a few minutes to drill a 15- to 20-mm deep hole in even the hardest limestone, into which the screw is driven.

If you need a tag, we use waterproof paper or plastic drafting film cut into 50x25-mm rectangles and a hole punched in one end. This tag is placed onto the screw before driving it home. Once when we forgot the "paper" tags, we cut up aluminum beer cans with a scissors, punched them and wrote on them with a ball point pen. Embossing is probably a better term than writing since no ink was left behind, only a grooved version of the characters.

Durability

If the screws are seated right down to the rock face, they

are virtually impossible to snag, bash out or move (without actually unscrewing them). If you leave off the tags, they are nearly impossible to notice if you not looking for them. The drafting film tags hold the 2B pencil well and will withstand floods and moderate foot traffic, but how often will you seat a marker on the floor?

Magnetic Properties

If you specify non-magnetic stainless steel, you can place a compass right on the screw and do not have to worry about magnetic effects.

Environmental Impact

Stainless steel is virtually inert in a cave, and if you decide to remove the markers, a 3.5x20-mm hole is near as damn impossible to see. You are not leaving carbon residues, which may hinder later attempts at dating, and there is no possibility of leaching or staining surrounding cave.

Equipment Load

I carry:

- 100 Screws (in zip-top plastic bags, 25 per bag, in case you drop the bag down a rift, you do not lose everything).
- 100 Tags, (as for the screws, carried in batches).
- 3 3-mm drill bits (they break).
- 1 Compact engineers drill (hand operated, battery is too heavy and has insufficient service life) with a shock cord wrist strap.
- 1 Stumpy screwdriver, 50-mm shaft.
- 1 Draftsman's propelling pencil, 2B grade lead, 0.7-mm diameter.
- 1 100x250-mm cordura draw-string bag, attached to a loop on my harness.

The above items weigh around 1 kg (2 lb) because the screws are surprisingly heavy.

BILL FRANTZ - Los Gatos, CA

At Lilburn Cave (in California), we used stainless steel disks about 2-cm in diameter with a small hole in the middle. We use a carbide scribe to scratch the station identification into the disk and then attach it to the wall by drilling a hole and inserting an aluminum pop rivet. (We carry a hand drill to drill the hole.) We only use the tags for "important" stations (at junctions etc.), leaving scratch marks for the intermediate ones.

Please note that Lilburn is managed as a research cave, so the aesthetic damage is perhaps less important than not interfering with the cave chemistry, and being able to easily identify stations in this highly complex, three-dimensional maze cave.

We have the problem of metal corrosion of the pop rivet, so there are plans to replace the rivets with stainless steel screws starting this summer.

Janet Sowers has used fluorescent paint to mark broken lava soda straws as part of a speleothem breakage study at Lava Beds National Monument. The paint was tinted to look like cave wall under normal light, but additional breakage could easily be identified by using black light.

[reprinted from *The Bexar Facts*]

1994 NSS Convention Committee Meeting
March 13, 1994

Ron Ralph opened the meeting. Roll was taken. All committee heads were present with the exception of Blake Harrison, Bob Cowell, and William Elliott.

Ron stated that Judge Ward can help on a "Caver Crossing" sign in front of Fort Clark Springs. Ron will continue to handle that. The flow chart was handed out which lists each category to be handled by each committee head. Some of the committee heads turned in a report to Ron on their committee. For those who did not have a written report, Ron requested that they send him a written report on what they have done, what problems they have encountered, and what their upcoming plans are. He wants the report sent to him no later than April 17th. The minutes of the last committee meeting on January 30 were read and the minutes to a meeting with Fort Clark Springs on March 2 were read. It was moved and seconded that minutes be accepted as read. The motion passed.

The treasurer's report was given. Bruce Anderson stated that he was able to get the Alamo Village for the Howdy Party for a flat fee of \$4,000. Negotiations on a flat fee for the Old Quarry presentation of "Glory Road" is under way. The amended budget of 11/11/92 was gone over. The meal plan was accepted. The Banquet price of \$8.00 per person was accepted. The NSS advance was \$2,500. The total disbursements were \$1,239.75 which leaves an ending balance of \$1,260.25. In June of 1993, we will owe Ft. Clark Springs another payment of \$500.00.

Committee heads need to give Bruce Anderson a list of what the expenses for items under their committee will be. Each category should be defined. If a price can be given, that will be helpful, but the main emphasis is to list what the categories are. Bruce called this a "Wish List" and said he would look at the budget and budget for the necessary items first and hopefully be able to include many of the non essentials. Bill Mixon stated that 4 or 5 copies of the convention slide show to send to various grottos will be an expense that will come up soon. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report and budget be accepted as read. The motion passed.

George Veni stated that the area code has changed from 512 to 210 for himself, Mike Walsh, and Bob Cowell. If you dial 512 from now through April, they will automatically put you through. After that you will have to dial the correct area code. San Antonio and New Braunfels is changing. Brackettville may also be changing. Ron will check into that. The flowchart will be revised to reflect the new phone numbers.

The report on registration was given by Committee Chairman, Cathy Winfrey. Bids went out on March 10th for T-shirts, patches, & pins. Cathy asked if anyone knew who made pins. Bill Mixon stated that NSS has pins made. Noble Stidham said that he would send Cathy the name of a contact person for pins. Cathy stated that the logo artist gave permission to use the rearranged logo. She showed an example of the letterhead and envelopes which has the logo on it and the Austin P.O. Box. They will be given out to committee heads. They will not be used for internal correspondence but for outside correspondence. Ron and Jay have already received several letters from out of state requesting information on our convention. Cathy will respond to these with a form letter. Cathy will be responsible for badges for the convention. Noble Stidham stated that he has a round badge machine. There is also one of those in the equipment trailer that is sent to each convention. Bruce Anderson stated that two pre-registrations were auctioned off at the Indiana convention. Wayne Marshall bought the #2 registration. Bruce has written Wayne Marshall, NSS Administrative Vice-President, and requested the name of the person who bought the #1 registration and requested the proceeds be sent to him as had been agreed upon. Jay stated he thought Dick Blenz bought the #1 registration.

There will be two printings of forms, one for pre-registration and one for registration. Noble Stidham stated that he needs about a 10 day lead time for printing pre-registration forms. It will be on one sheet, 11 X 17 folded. On the first run he will print between 2,000 and 2,500. The registration form was then discussed and changes agreed upon. A copy of the pages that go with the registration form was distributed. Ron would like each committee chairman to go over the wording and send any suggestions to Cathy.

Bill Mixon reported on the Sessions Committee. He plans to tour the facilities during the spring TSA meeting to determine the size of the various meeting rooms. He should know by the Oregon convention where each session will be held. By September he plans to have appointed chairmen for the paper sessions and by the end of September to issue a call for papers. For the program, he will ask each committee head about events they are planning. Bill stated that he will be looking for a volunteer to take the audio-visual responsibilities. Bill Mixon stated he will loan his personal copy machine for convention staff office use

during the convention.

We discussed advertisements for the program. Mike Walsh suggested donating the profit from the advertisements back to the city in the form of books for their library. This would be good for public relations and the city would have something valuable and lasting from our group. The treasurer stated that until we get farther along with the convention and know what everything is really going to cost that we postpone making that kind of decision. Another suggestion was to present a plaque to Fort Clark Springs and a plaque to the city of Brackettville from NSS and at that time hand them some books for the library.

Mike Walsh thought that everyone should be advised that they cannot go to Fort Clark Springs just to see where the convention is going to be held. It is a private facility with a guard on duty. They do not allow anyone to enter the fort unless they have official business with someone there.

Blake Harrison, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, was not present. Facilities were discussed. The banquet will be held underneath the trees at Fort Clark Springs. Then everyone will go to the amphitheater for the banquet program. Telephones will be under the facilities committee. Staff will need a phone and we will need a bank of pay phones for convention goers. Gill Ediger is in charge of upgrading the commissary. Ron stated that Fort Clark Springs, the National Guard, or Pete Strickland will build the showers. A spot has been chosen for the showers. It is downhill north of the commissary, and it has electricity. Fort Clark Springs is checking on recycling in Del Rio. Fort Clark Springs is responsible for hauling off the trash. Each committee head should let Blake Harrison know if you have need of any signs. Blake will be checking on hiring the city's football team for things like setting up tables and chairs. We will have contained campfires. Mike Walsh stated that Gennelle Hobbs, Executive Secretary of Fort Clark Springs, said we can use all the firewood we can pick up on the fort.

William Elliott, over the Guidebook Committee, was not present. He needs to know what caves might be available so he knows what information to include in the guidebook. He has not set a deadline yet. He needs to let cavers know he needs cave descriptions.

Donna Anderson, Chairman of the Cave Trips Committee, reported that pre and post convention cave trips are coming along great. We have many Guads caves available. Terry Anderson has obtained permits for the following caves near Roswell one week prior to and one week after the convention: Fort Stanton, Crystal, Crockett's, Millrace, Malapose,

Tres Ninos, Torgac, and White Hall. TCMA will handle trips to Whirlpool, Amazing Maze, and 0-9 Well. Kurt Menkin will handle pre or post trips to Honey Creek. Terry Holsinger is willing to lead a trip to Powell's Cave the weekend after the convention if George Veni can clear it with the land owner. Gordon Smith, President of the Show Caves, will try to get discounts for those attending our convention to Sonora, Natural Bridge, Cascade Caverns, and Inner Space. During the convention, Peter Sprouse will lead trips to H. T. Meyers Cave. The Midland Grotto will lead trips to Montgomery Cave. Joel King has gained access to Acuna Cave, located across the border from Del Rio, which is a 210 feet deep cave plus four more caves on that land. He will also lead trips to Midnight Cave. Mike Walsh has gained access to Wyatt Cave for the convention. He has been to Deep, Punkin, and Blowhole and has been working with the landowner to gain access. He plans to be working on Harrison Cave next month. Bob Cowell, Carl Ponebshek, and James Loftin have also stated they will be working on gaining cave access.

Barbe Barker, Chairman of Special Events, gave her report. Dave McClung is in charge of Speleolympics. She discussed space for the auction items to be displayed. She said there could be sign up sheets for bus trips to Mexico for shopping. Pete Cook, General Manager of Fort Clark Springs, has mentioned handling daily Mexico trips. Kenney County also might be able to do Mexico trips. Ron Ralph may do an extra archeological trip during convention week. Terry Sayther may do an archeological trip to Bustamonte. Green Cave or Frio might be used to watch the bat flight. A bus may take convention goers to the bat flight on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. There will be no sign up and no cost and would be on a first come first serve basis. A cave ballad sing-a-long would be around a small campfire perhaps in the amphitheater. We will need to provide prizes for the speleolympics and any door prizes we might decide to have. The other contests, such as vertical, provide their own prizes. David Cooper has offered to use his plane for us to do aerial photos of the area around Brackettville. We will wait until after the Oregon Convention to decide if we want to have activities for the teens. Barbe said we might have a treasure hunt one night. She will be contacting Burt Grantges to do a bat presentation.

George Veni, who is over the Geology Committee, said he will start to work the Waltz Across Texas after September. He already knows the route he wants to take and the various stops he wants to make. He expects to have the guidebook road log

done by January. He will be the contact person for all the Waltz Across Texas trips. In Indiana, 3 3/4 buses were needed for the geology field trip. Carl Ponebshek will do a luncheon for those on the buses. George said he could not commit to a mini Waltz Across Texas for TSA this year but if TSA has it at Brackettville next year he may be able to do it then. Ron Ralph will be in charge of the scenic trip and may be responsible for the road log and overview of this trip.

Mike Walsh, Chairman of the Howdy Party, stated that it will be held at Alamo Village. In case of rain, the backup for the Howdy Party will be the Civic Center. He discussed the amount of beer that will be needed. In California, for 850 people, 13 kegs of beer were consumed. In New York, for 1200 people, 17 kegs were used. In Salem, for 1300 people, 20 kegs of beer were needed. Mike is budgeting for 32 kegs of beer. There will be 3 tanks distributing soft drinks. He will get a flatbed truck for the band. He will be gathering information on various bands until the TSA meeting in May. His committee is looking for a band that can play progressive country, old time rock & roll, and bluegrass. His goal for the Howdy Party is to have no long lines for the food. As each bus arrives from Fort Clark Springs with the convention goers, they will start serving the food. He may have three caterers, one for chili, one for bar-b-que, and one for Mexican food.

Mike Anderson, Publicity Chairman, reported that Paul Stevens from The NSS needs the slide presentation for our convention by June 19 to be shown at the Oregon Convention. Noble Stidham said that Val has slide and video equipment and he will check with her about helping. Norma Peacock will be doing the conventiongram. We will have to arrange for Xeroxing. He will check on the location of the nearest print shop to Brackettville. NSS needs to know how the convention planning is going. Articles on Texas caves should be written for the NSS News to promote the Texas convention. A news release should be sent to Brackettville either before or after May 1. There will be day passes for the press. There needs to be a person accompanying the press at all times.

Bob Cowell, Health and Safety Chairman, was not present but had sent a written report. He will be on call for the duration of the convention. He will have an area set up for minor medical needs. Local rescue personnel will be available with equipment and transportation if needed. Because of the varying flight schedules and the cost, it was decided that we would not provide buses to Brackettville for those convention goers flying in. They will need to take care of

their own transportation, but perhaps the Bexar Grotto could help. Citizens Band Radio and Ham Radio will be handled by the Health & Safety Committee. The channel that will be used needs to be printed in the NSS News.

Noble Stidham, Chairman for the Vendors Committee, made his report. He stated that indoor vendor space will be on a first come, first serve basis. He will set a nominal fee for a specified amount of space. There will also be a floating vendor fee for those people who walk around selling items or sell from the back of their truck. Noble will make a map of the vendor's area, list the rules, and prepare a form for registration of vendor space. These rules will be available at the Oregon Convention. Noble stated he would need disconnects, romex, grounded waterproof plugs, and a light string for vendor's row. Bruce stated that there are already plugs and Ron stated that Gill Ediger had volunteered to be in charge of the lighting for vendor's row. Noble will make a list of the signs he will need for his committee. He is considering hiring a local person to run the consignment area each day of the convention. Noble will get ads for the program from caver vendors. He will check on a place for UPS to deliver items, such as for consignment. Cathy will check on sales tax and out-of-state tax for non-profit organizations. Vendors will need change every day. Bruce Anderson volunteered to take care of that each day. Noble stated that he has three hand held radios and 2 base stations that convention staff can use.

Ron thanked everyone for coming. The next meeting will be at TSA on May 1 in Brackettville. The 12 committee heads should be prepared to give a committee report of about 3 minutes in length on what their committee has been doing. He reminded everyone to mail their committee report to Ron by April 17th. He also wants each person to write down the deadlines which they have and mail them all to Donna. She will prepare a combined calendar. The "wish lists" should also be mailed to Bruce. All committee chairmen need to contact each person who volunteered to be on their committee. A list of these volunteers was previously sent to each chairman. The meeting after the TSA meeting will be on Sunday, June 20th in Waco. Ron will be looking into an exact location for this meeting. All committee chairmen should plan to be at that meeting and to mail Ron a report beforehand. Any other interested persons are welcome to attend.

Submitted by Donna Anderson,
Convention Committee Secretary

Calendar of Events

- April 16-25, Queretaro, Mexico. Contact Steve Dalton (817)923-4712.
- April 17, H.T. Meyers Cave, Southwest Texas (near Del Rio). Multi-drop vertical cave. Contact Bill Bentley (915)697-3079.
- April 17-18, Spring NSS BOG Meeting. Contact Robert J. Lenz, 3311 N. Neenah Ave. Chicago, Il. 60634, (314)545-0622
- April 24, Indiana Cave Symposium. Contact David Black, 6917 Dalby Rd., Georgetown, IN. 47122, (812)951-3886.
- April 25, Under-Earth Day IV, Sullivan Cave Restoration Project, Indiana. Contact Keith Dunlap, Indiana Karst Conservancy, P.O. Box 2401, Indianapolis, IN. 46206, (317)882-5420.
- April 24-25, Guadalupe Mountains, Mid-Spring Expedition. CRF project. Contact Dick Desjardins (505)344-7053
- April 30-May 2, 6th Annual Hogfest, Stage Stop Campground, Corydon, Indiana. Contact David Black, 6917 Dalby Rd., Georgetown, IN. 47122, (812)951-3886.
- April 30-May 2, Spring MVOR, on Jack's Fork River, Texas County, Missouri. Contact Mitch Wieldt, P.O. Box 220081, Kirkwood, MO. 63122, (314)235-0382 (days).
- April 30-May 2, Spring VAR, Greenbrier Mountaineer Campground, Greenbrier Co., W.VA. Contact Michael Friedenber, 8600 Hanford Dr., Richmond, VA. 23229, (804)282-5138.
- April 30-May 2, TSA Spring Meeting, Brackettville. Site of the 1994 NSS National Convention.
- May 8-9, Colorado Bend State Park. Monthly TSA project. Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039 or Ed Young (214)262-8188.
- May 7-9, Spring MAR (Mid-Appalachian Region), Ruitan Campgrounds, Chambersburg, Penn. Contact Pat Minnick (717)765-0521.
- May 15, 7th Annual Rites of Spring Party, M&W Ranch, Glen Rose.
- May 21-23, SERA Summer Cave Carnival, Livingston, Tenn. Contact Helen Galloway (615)588-3617.
- May 28-31, 22nd Annual Speleofest, Seven Springs Campground near Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. Contact Alex and Jenny Hicks, 4806 Lacarem Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40299, (502)499-0768.
- May 29-31, Second Annual Black Hills Caver Classic, Cavern Wells, Hot Springs, South Dakota. Contact J. Kevin Smith, (303)972-9495.
- May 29-31, 3rd Annual Mystic Memorial Day Expedition. Contact Greg Mooty (214)340-5247.
- May 29-31, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Memorial Day Expedition. CRF project. Contact Dick Desjardins (505)344-7053.
- June 4-6, 5th Annual Cavefest, Flatrock Rec. Area, Norton, VA. Contact Roddy Addington, (703) 796-5319.
- June 6-26, Karst Field Studies, Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. A series of 5 one-week courses on caves and karst landscapes. June 6-12, Speleology. June 13-19, Karst Geology and Exploration of Mammoth Cave. June 20-26, Karst Hydrology, and, Cave Survey and Cartography. May be taken for college credit or as a workshop. Contact Dr. Nick Crawford, Center For Cave and Karst Studies, Dept. of Geography and Geology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101, (502)745-4555.
- June 11-13, Second Annual Spring Fling Thing, Huntsville, Ala. Contact Randall Blackwood, (205)539-6113.
- June 12-13, Colorado Bend State Park. Monthly TSA project. Last work project until fall. Contact Butch Fralia (817)346-2039 or Ed Young (214)262-8188.
- June 20-26, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Restoration Field Camp. CRF project. Contact Dave Ecklund (803)648-7610.
- June 25-27, Meramec Valley Grotto 25th Anniversary Celebration. Contact Lois Bronnert-Walsh, 660 Green Hedge Dr., Fenton, MO. 63026, (314)343-6875.
- June 25-27, Powell's Cave, Menard County, Tx. Survey second longest cave in Texas. Contact Terry Holsinger (512)443-4241.
- July 1-31, Tongass Cave Project Expedition, Southeast Alaska. Contact Kevin Allred, Box 376, Haines, AK. 99827 before June. During June, Contact Pete Smith, Box wwp, Ketchikan, AK. 99950.
- July 3-5, Fort Stanton, Independence Day Expedition. CRF project. Contact Dick Desjardins (505)344-7053.
- July 16-18, Karst-O-Rama, Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, Mt. Vernon, Ken. Contact Bill Thoman, 4905 Ralph Ave., Cincinnati, OH. 45238, (513)251-7357.
- July 24-29, Baikal Lake Caves, International Pre-Congress excursion, East-Siberian Institute of Geology. Contact Dr. Andrey Filippov, st. Dekabrskikh Sobitij 29, VostSibNIIIGiMS, Irkutsk, 664028, Russia. Fax 7-095-420-21-06.
- August 2-6, NSS Convention, Pendleton, Oregon. Contact Bill Devereaux, Box 4081, Salem, Or. 97302-8081, (503)363-3831.
- August 2-8, XI International Congress of Speleology, Beijing, China. Contact Secretariat, XI International Congress of Speleology, Inst. of Geo., Chinese Acad. of Sci., Po Box 634, Beijing 100029, China. FAX (861)4919140, Tel (861)202-7766 ext.361.

