



ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER

Solutions To Cave Related Problems

Volume 1, No. 3

October 1990

THE CAVE WIZARD SPEAKS—
CAVING IS A PRIVILEGE,
NOT A RIGHT.



The TCMA Activities Newsletter is the official publication of the Texas Cave Management Association, a Conservancy of the National Speleological Society. Distribution is free to TCMA members. Associate membership costs \$10 annually. Lifetime membership, in equal \$25 installments, is \$100. Send membership requests to TCMA, P.O. Box 310732, New Braunfels, TX 78131. Additional complimentary copies are distributed on a temporary basis at the Editor's discretion to cave owners, NSS members and internal organizations, and others involved in cave conservation projects.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Editor, Jay Jordan, 1518 Devon Circle, Dallas. TX 75217-1205.

SUBMISSIONS: Articles and other Activities Newsletter correspondence should be sent to the Editor.

Copyright 1990 Texas Cave Management Association except as noted. NSS internal organizations may reprint any item first appearing in the Activities Newsletter as long as proper credit is given and a copy of the newsletter containing the material is mailed to the Editor.

Officers

- Mike Walsh Executive Director
- Claire Snider Secy.-Treasurer
- Joe Ivy Board Chairman
- Doug Allen Directors
- Keith Heuss
- Joe Ivy
- Jay Jordan
- Carl Ponebshek

Jack Ralph
Mike Walsh

Typeset at Threshold Communications,
Dallas, Texas USA.

INDEX

Contents.....2
 TCMA Minutes3
 Amazing Maze Cave4
 Austin Cave Protection5
 TCMA Property6

TCMA MEETING
 during
 OLD TIMERS REUNION

Friday, Oct. 12-Sunday, Oct. 14

at the
 Lone Man II Ranch
 Little Arkansas
 Wilberley, Texas

COVER: Pen-and-ink drawing by Norman K. Kristofferson.



TCMA Minutes

By Claire Snider

The Texas Cave Management Association met on Aug. 28, 1990 at its Whirlpool Cave property. While waiting for arrivals, some directors toured the property and viewed the tract's gate, fence and TCMA sign constructed during the Whirlpool project on July 28. More than 50 cavers assisted during the project.

The TCMA plans to hold another cleanup project later in the year. The organization will also continue to work toward developing the property as a campground for cavers.

Membership now stands at more than 40. TCMA directors at the August meeting included Doug Allen, Joe Ivy, Carl Ponebshek and Mike Walsh. A quorum was present.

1. **M/Allen** to spend \$50 for fire ant control. The motion passed. William Elliott and C. Biegert will advise on the best type of control.

2. In order to determine the terms of the directors, lots were **drawn**. This was necessary since the TCMA had dropped from nine to six directors. The terms will expire following the Old Timers Reunion. Nominations will be closed following Old Timers.

The terms of Mike Walsh and Joe Ivy will expire this year. Other directors and expirations of their terms

are: Doug Allen, 1991; Jack Ralph, 1992; Jay Jordan, 1991; and Carl Ponebshek, 1992.

3. Andrew Sansom, a conservationist, has been appointed as the head of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The TCMA will request a meeting with him to see if it can get things moving.

4. Elliott provided information on cave protection activities in the Austin area. On Aug. 20, interested persons will meet and work on cave protection.

5. Mike **Warton** gave a report on Amazing Maze Cave, located near Fort Stockton. (See separate trip report.) The cave is owned by The University of Texas Subsurface Land Division. Mike was given the approval to look into TCMA management.

6. We have now raised \$750 of our \$1,200 goal on the TCMA raffle. Doug Allen is holding the prizes. Members and others are encouraged to bring donations to Old Timers on Oct. 12-14 near Wimberley at the Lone Man **II** Ranch. We need more prizes!

7. **Warton** suggested a TCMA display at Old Timers. Carolyn Biegert will assist.

8. The next meeting will be at Old Timers after the raffle.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Snider
Secretary-Treasurer

Amazing Maze Cave
from staff reports

(**Editor's Note:** The following report appeared in The Bexar Facts' Aug. 27, 1990 issue.)

As usual at this time of year, trip reports are scarce because the NSS Convention has just happened, temperatures are hot, and school is about to start. However, one trip recently occurred during the weekend of Aug. 12, 1990 to the Amazing Maze Cave that is worth mentioning, since efforts were made to thoroughly survey this cave and to determine its full length. The trip leader was Mike **Warton** (UT Grotto). In addition to Mike, those making the trip included Cindy **Warton**, Glen Schnider, Charley Savvas, Don Glasco, Kevin Jacobs, and Mark Cox.

Accomplishments

Five days were spent in surveying the Amazing Maze Cave, which is in Pecos County. At the peak of the weekend, three teams surveyed for two days. The major accomplishment of the trip was completing the survey of the outer perimeter and referencing it to the main line of the cave. Work is presently being accomplished in completing the survey of passages within the perimeter.

In addition to the major accomplishment above, there is a potential for two more entrances which were previously unknown. Two good

leads were found in the upper level. (Overall, the cave has three levels.) These **upper-**level leads may continue in the main ridge and connect with other portions of the cave.

As a result of these accomplishments, the cave has been extended in length to 5,338 meters (17,513 feet) and is presently ranked as the fifth-longest cave in the state. The deepest point in the cave is only 50 feet (15.2 meters). The volume of the cave, however, is evidenced by the winds at the entrance, which have been clocked at 15 mph. Indian Creek (Uvalde) and Caverns of Sonora are longer than the Amazing Maze by 500 feet (152 meters) and 2,500 feet (762 meters), respectively. Mike estimates that at least 7,000 to 10,000 feet (2.1-3 km) remains to be surveyed. As additional passage is surveyed, it is hoped that the length of the cave will rival Powell's Cave. It is possible that the Amazing Maze Cave could eventually become the third or second longest cave in Texas.

Another accomplishment of the trip was the discovery of a new biological cave species. A **whipless Whiptail** Scorpion was found! This insect was highly adapted to cave life. So far, over 90 beetles have been found in the cave.

An additional find was a mineral specimen that could be magnesite. Presently, the specimen is being analyzed,

and if indeed it proves to be magnesite, this will be the first time that this mineral has been found in a cave.

Austin Cave Protection

by Mike Walsh

The Austin, Texas area cave protection meeting was held on Aug. 20, 1990. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss long-term protection of the Austin area caves.

Those present included: William Russell, William Elliott, Mike **Warton**, George Veni, Mike Walsh, Jack Ralph, Keith Heuss, Claire Snider, Corolyn Biegert, Rod Goke and several others.

Ownership

The Texas System of Natural Laboratories now owns Tooth Cave and several other significant biological sites. Those at the meeting did not feel that they should direct additional caves toward this group. Also, it is felt that The Nature Conservancy will not be interested in acquiring additional caves in Texas, no matter how significant. But since they are acquiring caves in other states, we should not give up on them. Once they own a cave, caver visitation is usually greatly reduced. We should be aware of this possible problem so that cavers do not create a Texas Trout Cave situation.

After discussion, it was agreed that the TCMA is

probably the best candidate available when new ownership is needed. Support in this effort was offered by those present.

On a practical level, the TCMA does not have the money necessary for large scale urban cave ownership. The TCMA must secure at least \$5,000 to \$10,000 if it is to make a significant impact.

Until funds are raised, the TCMA should make its cave management services available to those needing them. It was pointed out that there are many changes coming up and it might be best to wait before getting too involved.

We feel the Austin Watershed Ordinance will save some caves. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may save some of those with endangered species. There **may** be management possibilities for cavers and the TCMA.

It was mentioned that some significant caves will not fall into one of the two protected groups. Perhaps these should be the priorities for TCMA ownership.

The fire ant problem was discussed in great detail. It may be that the fire ants may destroy much of the cave life near the entrance. We should check out widespread, cave related, fire ant control.

The next two to three years may determine whether the significant Austin area caves

will be destroyed. The best hope for success will be for the cavers to communicate with each other and to develop and put into place effective cave management plans.

TCMA Property

by Mike Walsh

The following is an inventory of current property, real and personal, owned by the Texas Cave Management Association, as of September 1990:

_About 4.25 acres, located in South Austin, including Whirlpool Cave and a cave gate, boundary fence and gate, TCMA sign, etc.;

_One picnic table;

_About 300 feet of water hose;

_One wheelbarrow and assorted garden tools;

_One 40- by 15-foot tent frame;

_One 12- by 6-foot mobile display and instructional materials;

_One rear-projection slide display unit;

1518 Devon Circle
Dallas, TX 75217-1205

FORWARD AND RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TCMA Activities Newsletter

FIRST CLASS

- _One slide projector;
- _Two Realistic brand amplifier speakers;
- _One Sony cassette player;
- _One Realistic brand microphone;
- _One pamphlet display box;
- _25 caver caps, at \$5 each;
- _20 TCMA Texas T-shirts, at \$7 each;
- _30 Karstlands posters, at \$4;
- _100 Villa Garcia posters, at \$1;
- _25 assorted posters, at \$3;
- _50 cave management symposium guidebooks, at \$3;
- _15 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department cave management publications, at \$4 each;
- _200 copies of My Mommy Was a Caver, at \$2 each; and
- _25 original artwork documents from My Mommy Was a Caver, at \$20 each.