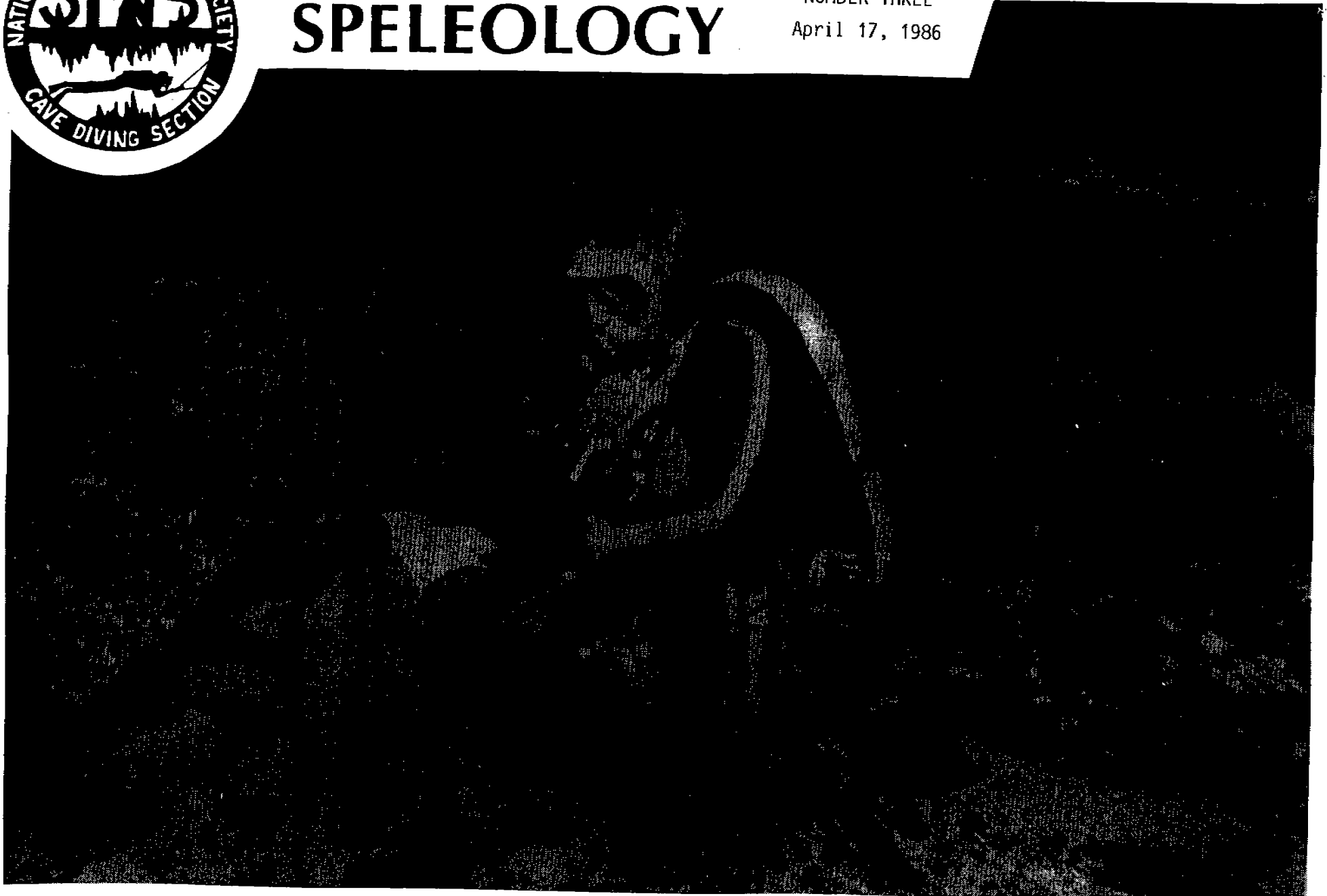




UNDERWATER SPELEOLOGY

VOLUME THIRTEEN
NUMBER THREE
April 17, 1986



Kathy McNally computing decompression at Devil's Eye. Photo by Jeffrey Bozanic.

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Underwater Speleology is the official newsletter of the Cave Diving Section of the National Speleological Society, Inc. Section membership, which includes subscription to the newsletter, is open to all members in good standing of the NSS at \$5.00 per year. Subscriptions for non-members are \$7.50 per year. Membership/subscription information, applications, and status may be obtained by writing to the Secretary-Treasurer c/o the Section's permanent address:

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All current news items, reports, articles, photographs, negatives, slides, cartoons, or other submissions for the newsletter should be sent or phoned in directly to the editor:

H.V. Grey, Editor, UWS
POB 575
Venice, FL 34284-0575
(813) 488-4672

CALENDAR

Mar. 24-25 - NSS-CDS Spring Workshop, Branford High School, Branford, FL. Workshop Chairman: Wayne Marshall, POB 1414, Seffner, FL 33584, (813) 681-3629.

Jul. 12-13 - NACD Cave Diving Seminar, Branford High School, Branford, FL. Workshop Co-Chairmen: Judd Sheets and George Bortnyk. (See announcement, page 4.)

Oct. 25-26 - NACD Cavern Workshop for OW Instructors, Manatee and Ginnee Springs, FL. Workshop Chairman: Steve Gerrard, 5714 Ed White Ct., Tallahassee, FL 32301, (904) 877-8196.

Oct. 30-Nov. 2 - Annual International Scientific Diving Symposium, Florida State Univ. Conference Center, Tallahassee, FL. (See announcement, page 4.)

RESCUE/RECOVERY TEAM MEMBERS - A REMINDER!

Please be sure to notify the National Crime Information Center in Jacksonville, FL, of any change in your address or phone numbers within 24 hours. This is absolutely necessary if the Recovery Team is to maintain its credibility.

NCIC phone: (904) 633-4159

BOOK REVIEW: THE BLUE HOLES OF THE BAHAMAS, by Robert Palmer. Jonathan Cape, London; 1985, 184pp., hardbound. £10.95.

Reviewed by Bill Mixon

The Blue Holes of the Bahamas are drowned caves. They were formed when the sea was high, filled with formations when the sea was low during the Ice Ages, and then filled with water when the glaciers melted and the sea rose again. Some of them were first explored by George Benjamin, whose work is the subject of one third of Jacques-Yves Cousteau's 1973 book, Three Adventures. Underwater caving in the Bahamas continued after that, but until several British expeditions in the early 1980's, the main accomplishment was the exploration of the inland Lucayan Caverns, the longest underwater cave in the world. Then Rob Palmer became interested in the Blue Holes, caves entered from opening below the surfaces of the ocean or lakes near the coast. This book is the story of his expeditions.

It was the culmination of Benjamin's explorations when he finally found caves with formations in them, proving that the caves had once been above sea level. The caves explored by the British seem to have formations everywhere, and they are strikingly beautiful. Some of the 82 color photos show gleaming white formations, including even sodastraws, that would be impressive anywhere. They have all been under water for thousands of years. The caves are rich in life, too. One cave yielded three different species of Remipedia, a class of crustacean that was first discovered in Lucayan Caverns only a few years before. Palmer is obviously fascinated by the biology, and it is emphasized throughout the book.

Although Martyn Farr's The Darkness Beckons gives a wider survey of the history and scope of the general cave-diving scene, Palmer's Blue Holes is the nicest book there is on the subject. It is also the most beautifully written cave book I have ever read. Sure, there are a few lapses that prove that skilled copy editors are as rare in Britain as they are here, but one can put up with missing commas in writing such as this description of the entrance chamber of one of the caves.

"There was an added magic to the cave that day. The chamber
(Cont'd on Page 4)

**27th CAVE/CAVERN DIVING WORKSHOP
MAY 24-25, 1986 - BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL,
BRANFORD, FLORIDA**

**"RE-INTRODUCTION TO SAFE CAVERN AND CAVE
DIVING"**

This summer's workshop is designed to re-introduce those who are interested in the sport of Cavern and Cave Diving to topics which they may have forgotten since they first came in contact with Caves and Caverns. The program will offer topics of interest to newly-certified open water divers, and already certified Cavern or Cave Divers.

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1986

8:00-9:00 REGISTRATION and EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS
9:00-9:30 GEOLOGY of FLORIDA'S CAVE SYSTEMS
9:45-10:15 EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROCEDURES DAN - DIVER'S ACCIDENT NETWORK
10:15-10:45 ACCIDENT ANALYSIS
10:45-11:00 BREAK AND SETUP FOR GROUP SESSIONS
11:00-12:00 GROUP WORKSHOP SESSION I
12:00-1:30 LUNCH - on your own
1:30-2:30 GROUP SESSION II
2:30-2:45 TRANSITION TO NEXT GROUP
2:45-3:45 GROUP SESSION III
4:30-5:00 DIVING IN FLORIDA'S STATE PARK SPRINGS
5:00-5:30 CAVING IN AIR FOR VARIETY'S SAKE
5:30-6:30 CAVE DIVING SECTION MEETING
6:30-8:00 DINNER - STEAMBOAT SPRINGS RESTAURANT
8:00- ? AWARDS & SLIDE SHOWS including 1986 PUERTO RICO EXPEDITION

GROUP SESSION TOPICS WILL BE: 1) EMERGENCY CARE OF ACCIDENTS IN REMOTE SITES; 2) MODIFICATIONS TO MAKE BETTER OR SAFER GEAR; 3) SAFE USE OF SCOOTERS IN CAVE DIVING

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 1986

CAVERN DIVING TUNE-UP COURSE - LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

A SERIES OF LECTURES, TUNE-UP DIVES AND CRITIQUES OF ANY DIVERS WHO FEEL THE NEED TO MAKE A TUNE-UP DIVE OR BE RE-INTRODUCED TO CAVERN DIVING. THE IDEA IS TO PROVIDE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CAVERN DIVE RECENTLY WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO WITH EXPERIENCED DIVERS, AND TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS ON TECHNIQUES AND GEAR TO THE PARTICIPANTS. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS PROGRAM.

RESCUE/RECOVERY WORKSHOP

THIS EVER-POPULAR TRAINING PROGRAM WILL ONCE AGAIN BE CONDUCTED BY HENRY NICHOLSON, NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION DIVING OFFICER. THERE IS A REGISTRATION FEE OF \$5.25 FOR THIS COURSE TO COVER THE COST OF CERTIFICATION.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST !!

PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING PRINTS AND SLIDES FOR ENTRY IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST TO BE HELD THE DAY OF THE WORKSHOP. PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN FOR BEST SLIDE, BEST B&W PRINT, BEST COLOR PRINT, AND BEST SLIDE SERIES (UP TO 8 SLIDES)

LOCATION : WILL BE HELD ONCE AGAIN AT BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, BRANFORD, FL. OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE MAIL TO NSS-CDS WORKSHOP, P.O. BOX 950, BRANFORD, FL. 32008-0950 BEFORE MAY 15TH, 1986. PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH REGISTRANT OR ATTACH A LEGIBLE LIST OF NAMES.)

COST OF THE WORKSHOP WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

NSS-CDS MEMBERS \$5.00 PRE-REG -- \$7.00 AT THE DOOR

NON-MEMBERS 7.00 PRE-REG -- \$9.00 AT THE DOOR

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

_____ NSS-CDS MEMBER _____ NON-MEMBER NSS # _____

NACD APPOINTS NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Steve Gerrard, formerly Vice-President of the NACD and currently its Publications Coordinator, has once again assumed editorship responsibilities for NACD News. He has already published two fine, six-page issues and has laid out a firm schedule for the publication of four more issues this year.

Subscriptions to NACD News are \$15 per year. Membership in the NACD, which of course includes receipt of the newsletter, is open to any cave-certified diver for \$15 per year, although voting membership is restricted to NACD-trained divers. Application may be made by contacting the NACD at POB 14492, Gainesville, FL 32604.

NACD CAVE DIVING SEMINAR - JULY 12-13, 1986

The NACD is sponsoring its 18th Annual NACD Cave Diving Seminar, to be held at the Branford High School, Branford, FL, Saturday, July 12 through Sunday, July 13, 1986. This year's theme is "Cave Diving Technology," focusing specifically on cave and cavern-diving equipment, as well as equipment concerns related to other overhead environments such as wrecks and ice.

Equipment displays, seminar speakers, "hands-on" demonstrations, and door prizes are all planned. Registration is \$5.00. All presentation papers will be published in the forthcoming proceedings book by the NACD.

For more information and details call or write to the seminar co-directors:

Judd Sheets
431 Pinellas Way South
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
(813) 345-2720

George Bortnyk,
13938 85th Terrace N.
Seminole, FL 33542
(813) 391-9077

NACD CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers for the above-mentioned NACD Summer Seminar, to be published in the 1986 NACD journal, are now being solicited.

The theme of the Seminar/Workshop is "Cave-diving Equipment," and only papers which address this theme will be considered for publication. The topics of the papers should be "germane to the design, construction or operation of equipment used in the field of cave diving and/or the applications of equipment in cave diving or other overhead diving environment."

The papers should run between 2 and 8 single-spaced, typed pages, but this is only a guideline. Paper length should appropriately fit content. The length of the oral presentation should run between 15 and 45 minutes.

Deadline for submitting abstracts (approximately 100 words or less giving a succinct statement of paper content) is May 16, 1986. Acceptance of papers will be based on an evaluation of the abstract, and notification of acceptance or rejection will be mailed to the author within 48 hours of receipt.

For a complete 2-page description of the procedure for paper submission and further clarification on workshop presentations, contact either Judd Sheets or George Bortnyk at the above addresses and phone numbers.

NSS CAVE DIVING MANUAL reprint COMPLETED

At the Winter Workshop CDS board meeting, a reprinting of the NSS Cave Diving Manual was authorized. Publications Chairman H.V. Grey and Secretary/Treasurer Joe Prosser are happy to announce that the reprint has been completed and the books (all 2000 of them--weighing nearly 2000 pounds!) have been received. Joe, who is also now acting as the dive-shop publications coordinator, has graciously offered to store all of the books at his business in Miami. He said that their little fork-lift truck had never done so much work in one day! [The manual has been selling at approximately 500/year, so we figure that the 2000 books should about carry us through the term of its usefulness.]

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC DIVING SYMPOSIUM

October 30 - November 2, 1986; Florida State University Conference Center; Tallahassee, Florida.

The American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) is a self-regulating body dedicated to safe diving through the establishment and continual peer review of standards of practice for scientific diving. Organized in 1977, the Academy provides a national forum for the exchange of information on scientific diving. The AAUS is concerned with diving safety, state-of-the-art diving techniques and methodologies, and research diving and expeditions. Membership in AAUS is open to any individual or organization committed to the advancement and practice of scientific diving.

This multi-disciplinary symposium has been organized to bring together scientists from different parts of the nation and provide the opportunity for sharing information on many aspects of underwater science and research diving. Papers should be presented in a 15-minute format (with an additional 5 minutes for questions) and will be pre-published in a proceedings: Diving for Science...1986, available at the Symposium.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS ***

Contact: Gregg Stanton
Academic Diving Program
010 Montgomery Bldg.
Florida State University
Marine Lab
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(904) 644-3450

Dr. Gregg Stanton
Room 10
Montgomery Gym, FSU
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Dear Gregg,

Thanks for the copy of your February 1, 1986 letter to Church. Things look good!!

I have been in touch with Nic Fleming, and the Swiss, Australian, and English cave-diving organizations regarding running a CMAS/AAUS First International Cave Diving Symposium during the meetings. Obviously, such a symposium would be totally integrated with our AAUS/CMAS efforts and would give the cave-diving community a chance for its FIRST international meeting. I'm going to have a panel discuss differences in cave-diving technique and equipment in the various countries represented, and hope to have several quality international as well as Florida-based presentations concerning our area of interest.

Tallahassee is the outstanding location worldwide for access to ideal overhead environment diving sites with minimal driving time. My feeling is that use of Wakulla Springs would be ideal for open-water and cavern diving. The Emerald System or Indian Springs could be used to display spectacular cave diving for persons in attendance who were cave certified.

Please keep me advised as developments occur.

With Best Regards, I am,

Milledge Murphey, Ph.D.

[Editor's Note: Milledge informs me that the possibility exists that cave diving on a very limited basis and under strict supervised conditions may be permitted during the CMAS/AAUS Symposium at Wakulla Springs. For more information contact Milledge at 1815 NW 7th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32603; (904) 373-9234. Milledge stresses that at this point it is a possibility only, so don't get your hopes up too high.]

BOOK REVIEW: BLUE HOLES (Cont'd from Page 2)

was a mass of silversides, a flowing shoal of myriad tiny fish that thought and moved as one. We had a front seat for one of the most amazing shows of the sea as the massive shoal danced for us in the cavern waters. Ripples ran along its length as the fish priouetted in unison. We joined the game, disappearing into the shoal, surrounded by a cloud of silver light. No matter how hard we tried, they were beyond our power to touch. We might as well have tried to clasp a ghost.

"At length our air ran low and we had to leave the shining stream behind, cascading in a phantom, ceaseless ballet in the twilight cave."

ACCIDENT REPORT - PEACOCK SPRINGS - Saturday, March 29, 1986

By Joe Prosser (NSS# 24253L)

Easter weekend, 1986, the first three-day weekend of this new year, and my first real opportunity to cave dive since the Winter Workshop. Plans were in the works for several weeks. Kurt Terry (NSS# 24854), his wife Amy, Dan Butler (NSS# 24515), Mark Leonard (NSS# 23295), and I were set to meet Friday afternoon. We were anticipating several days of excellent caving in Jackson County. I had just obtained new photographic toys and was itching for clear water and fabulous pictures. Unfortunately, the trip was not to be. Delays and last-minute commitments forced a cancellation of these plans.

Over breakfast, Saturday, we were continuing to consider alternative sites which would allow us all to enjoy the dive and let me photograph it. By midmorning we reluctantly agreed to drive to the Peacock System (Suwannee County) and examine conditions at Peacock III. Arriving about 10:30 a.m., we found two groups of divers and very green water. The first group was from Kansas City and was returning home from vacationing in the Keys; they had no interest in exploring this portion of underwater Florida.

The second group, consisting of three men and one woman, had arrived Saturday morning from Augusta, Georgia, expressly for a weekend of photography and "spring diving." These divers had just completed gearing up when Mark and I began the usual pleasantries. Their first questions to us were "Do you know how to get to Orange Grove?" and "Is this typical water conditions for Florida Springs?" These questions alone were enough to make cave divers nervous. In addition, the divers were fully equipped for a pleasant day in the ocean, right down to reef gloves, snorkels, single dive light each, and no guideline.

Almost simultaneously, Mark and I began to describe the potential hazards this group was facing in attempting a cave dive in general and under these conditions in particular. The group was not to be deterred, and they demonstrated no desire to wait for a trained cave diver to accompany them. Under the conditions, we tried to aid them in at least undertaking a very limited dive plan; this proved to be uninteresting to the group. They indicated that they had been doing this before and were not in need of supervision. As they discussed the final points of their dive plan, Mark and I were astounded to hear that they planned to enter only so far as the grate. Mark pointed out to the divers that if they were looking for a grate, they may have a very long dive, as the nearest underwater grate was about 20 miles away. This made no impression. My last words to these adventurers were, "Stay in sight of the opening; we (the cave divers) do not wish to make a body recovery so early this year."

As they submerged, Mark began to clock time on their dive and our group drove to Peacock III to discuss our possible dive in that location. Dan lost the draw and volunteered to suit up and provide a closer inspection of this unappealing cave entrance. It took Dan approximately 20 minutes to suit up with all of the basic necessities for cave diving even though no actual cave dive was planned on his part. As Dan entered the water, Mark walked back to Peacock I to check on the progress of the "know it all" divers. The group had been submerged about 25 minutes by this time.

A second group of divers had arrived by this time and was beginning to suit up. No direct evidence of the first group could be observed, but the second group did report that air bubbles were seen just moments before Mark walked to the site. By now close to 30 minutes had elapsed; Mark's concern was growing. As Mark was beginning to return to our group, and Dan was surfacing, the woman in the group surfaced. She was carrying the camera originally taken by another member of the team.

Mark approached the woman to question her regarding the dive. She was unwilling to discuss it, in fact, refused to say anything to anyone. However, her mannerism was such that the man was suspected. As Mark turned to call for assistance, two other members of the team surfaced to get help for their missing friend. Dan, being fully suited and ready to cave dive, hit the water within seconds of the alert. Mark directed him to lay in the guideline and use his available air to sweep the line between the "slit" and Pothole. Dan was cautioned not to exceed his safe air limits. Kurt took over surface coordination of the operation, dispatching Amy to Pothole and another person

to nearby Spring Systems Dive Center to alert Wayne Wingate (NSS# 26769) of the situation. Besides being a trained EMT, Wayne is well aware of the logistical needs which are required. Wayne notified Suwannee County Sheriff's Office and called for additional EMT aid. At this time we were still considering a rescue.

As Dan surfaced at Pothole to report his progress to Amy, Mark was hitting the water. Less than five minutes had elapsed since the first alert. Dan had uncovered no evidence to suggest that the victim had attempted a penetration this far into the system. Kurt was organizing surface personnel for possible resuscitation. I entered the water about eight minutes after Mark and met up with him and Dan near the warning sign. We split up into three separate search teams. Mark, having the largest air supply, opted to search the east tunnel (leading to an area known as "The Well"). Dan, nearing his critical air supply, searched the east wall of the main passage, including several of the smaller tunnels, until he was forced to exit. My assignment was to examine the western portion of this tunnel, including the numerous passages leading off but going nowhere.

As Dan signaled me he was surfacing; I completed my search and started toward the area Mark was examining. By now, some 20 minutes into the rescue, it was becoming apparent that Mark and I would be faced with a recovery and not a rescue. As I met Mark, he showed me a rather new "open-water"-type dive knife he had located at the bottom of an opening leading back into the cavern area. Mark was somewhat confused at this discovery, as a line returning to the cavern was in place, and light was visible from this point. Although the passageway is extremely tight, it is negotiable. If the victim had wandered this far into the cave (a distance of some 75 feet from the entrance or about 200 feet from the route the group initially explored), why would he turn away from a clear exit? Mark surfaced to confirm that the knife located actually belonged to the victim. I retraced my earlier search areas to be confident that I had not overlooked some potential lead.

Mark returned a few moments later, indicating that the discovery was confirmed. We re-entered the large east tunnel. Instead of turning south, where the passage began to pinch out (the route originally examined by Mark), we turned our attention north toward "The Well." We located a jump line installed some time ago. This line meandered around in a general circle leading back to the exit line Mark had found earlier. There was a short gap in the line, less than two inches, with a directional line marker after the gap pointing back toward the small exit. In fact the gap line joined the exit line. We located the body of John G. Hodgson (31-year-old white male) at the end of this gap line. He was pointing out of the cave; his single light was still burning; his regulator was out of his mouth. He was laying on the floor of the cave and there was no air left in the single, 80-cubic-foot diving cylinder. The victim was less than 75 feet from an exit to the cavern and approximately 150 feet into the cave system. We located the body 32 minutes after I entered the cave, or less than 45 minutes after our search began.

Accident analysis for this fatality is very much standard textbook review. None of the four divers in the victim's group was trained in cavern or cave diving. No one thought to utilize a continuous guideline to the surface, or to allow at least 2/3's of the starting air supply for the exit. Each member of the team used only one dive light although this was not a factor in the fatality. John G. Hodgson was certified as a PADI open-water diver on May 5, 1985. He had recorded 37 dives. The victim and the survivors had made a trip to Florida in October, 1985, during which they dove Ginnie Springs and Green Sink (upstream) of the Yana Cave System. During the fall dive trip the victim and at least one other survivor had visited one of the local dive shops as the victim was wearing an octopus restraining strap common to north Florida spring sites. The victim was undertaking additional training from an NASDS instructor at the time of his death. The training was not connected with the dive and did not include any exposure to cavern or cave diving.

Based on conversations with the victim's buddy, James Takacs, our own conversations with the group before the dive, recovery of the victim's equipment, and speculation on our part, we believe the following took place on the fatal dive. The group entered the traditional cavern area and explored here for an indeterminate length of time. When they reached the western

PEACOCK SPRINGS ACCIDENT REPORT (Cont'd)

portion of the cavern, they saw the orange warning sign and began to move toward the "slit" looking for clear water to photograph in. Reaching the "slit," the victim and Takacs descended while photographing the other two members of the team. Hodgson became bored with simple photography and left his partner. Returning a short time later, the victim signaled "OK," then left again. We believe he followed the main passage guideline as far as the white warning sign. Finding very poor visibilities, he turned and started toward the entrance.

When Dan checked out Peacock III, he found very high outflow with very poor visibility. With Peacock III outflowing vigorously, the east tunnel leading to "The Well" would be siphoning vigorously. With confidence gained from earlier exploration, the victim wandered off the guideline and literally followed the flow into the east tunnel toward "The Well." Conditions at the time were extremely silty. With the victim swimming along the bottom, much silt was stirred up, further reducing visibilities. The victim may not have realized he was lost until he became tangled in a guideline actually leading out of the cave. He probably removed his knife to cut the line and either dropped the knife immediately, or managed to free himself and then dropped the knife. Recall that Mark found the victim's knife at this junction.

With visibility reduced, the victim, under extreme stress, was unable to see his alternative exit. Instead, he turned into the clear water of the cave. He followed the line he stumbled onto until it reached a dead end. Nearly out of air and in a state of panic or near panic, the victim dropped his light. Within a few feet, air exhausted, the victim let his mouthpiece fall from his mouth and a drowning occurred.

After the recovery, as the authorities were wrapping up

their on-site investigation, Wes Skiles (NSS-CDS Training Chairman) asked one of the survivors if the group had considered any type of cavern or cave-diving training during one of their past trips to the region. The survivor indicated that they had never discussed the idea, as none of the group had planned to enter a cavern or cave very far. He did suggest that during a past training exercise, his instructor had taken him and the other divers to Ginnie Springs. The exercises did not include any orientation to cavern diving nor did the group make any penetration into the overhead environment during these exercises. The instructor did point out to his students at that time, that cavern and cave diving required very specialized training and that no one should attempt this activity unless trained. Apparently no specific sources of training were brought to the students' attention even though Ginnie Springs is one of the world's largest cavern- and cave-diving training locations.

When considering all of the tragedies associated with this fatality--the loss of life, the grief inflicted upon the victim's family and friends--the cave-diving community must also explain how and why another victim has fallen prey to these "dangerous" caves. The victim and survivors had been aware that training was required; they knew of at least one source of that training. Yet they refused to undertake that training because they were not going to go into a cave very far, and their trips were limited to only a few times each year. At the same time, the victim and his group had signed up for and started an advanced diving course to further their open-water training. Just moments prior to submerging for the fatal dive, cave divers approached the group and attempted to persuade them to avoid the dive. Certainly one must assume responsibility for one's own actions, yet responsible cavers and divers must live with the consequences of these irresponsible actions.

FOLLOW-UP REPORT - MORRISON SPRINGS DROWNING

[The following is a report by John Burge of Pensacola, FL, of a drowning that was reported in shorter form in UWS 13:2. Burge's report was submitted to NSS News for publication (and was subsequently published) but is printed here for the benefit of those who do not belong to the NSS.]

Accident Analysis - Cave Diving

On Saturday, February 1, 1986, three out-of-state young men arrived at Morrison Spring, Ponce de Leon, Florida to enjoy a camping/diving weekend. During the afternoon/early evening, the three young men dove the spring.

Later on that same evening after making camp and "partying" for a while, two of the group decided to do a night dive. The third of the group decided that by that time--close to midnight--it was his bedtime, so he bedded down. The other two young men, Todd DeLoach and David Joseph Treadwell, both aged 25, planned their night dive into Morrison Spring. They both were using single 72's with single valves, and were equipped with "some rental gear," including a single rental "underwater flashlight" for each, which the rental agent described as being in "real good condition--new batteries," and a rented wetsuit top. The two divers entered the spring, and the third hit the sack.

At approximately 6:45 the next morning, the third individual awoke to find his buddies missing. He notified the Spring proprietor, and a down-river search was done with no results. The local Sheriff was notified.

Just prior to the arrival of the Sheriff, a Pensacola diver, his wife, and another diver arrived. They volunteered to look for the missing divers.

They located one body approximately 15 feet inside the lower cavern against the ceiling at approximately 65 feet. He had no mask, no light, and roughly 1500 psi in his tank. They retrieved the body. His mask and light were recovered. The light was operative, but not turned on.

Later, another diver, an instructor from Tallahassee with a class, arrived and did the search for the other body. It was found at the bottom of the lower cavern at approximately 95 feet. "Some" air was still in his tank. His light was there but was inoperative.

Discussion with the Spring proprietors, two of the recovery divers, and the Sheriff's Department led to the following conclusions:

1. Both divers were "open-water" certified but relatively inexperienced.
2. Neither diver had any cavern- or cave-diving training.
3. Visibility in the spring was very limited compared to normal. Reports ranged from 2 to 20 feet.
4. Alcoholic beverages reportedly had been consumed before the fatal dive.
5. A guideline was not used.
6. There was no evidence of air-management planning.
7. There was no redundancy of air or of lights.
8. Neither diver had a compass, and no other means of navigation was available. No light, chemical or otherwise, was used at the entrance.

The apparent scenario was that both divers entered the cave, each with a single "underwater flashlight," but with only one in use. Inside the cave, the one light in use failed. The diver with the other light tried to turn his on and, in the darkness, the only backup light was lost. Panic ensued. Result: death in total darkness.

Lack of experience, lack of training, and certainly the violation of virtually all cave-diving rules took the lives of these two young men.

As you would expect, the local media and rumor mill has it that "Two more cave divers were killed in Morrison Springs."

GEAR FOR SALE

- Parkway Jetsuit/Drysuit, Small, excellent condition, blue/black - \$150.00.
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- Sherwood manifold - \$350.00.
- Call Steve Gerrard - (904) 877-8196, Ed White Ct., Tallahassee, FL, 32301.

LETTER TO SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE - FROM JILL YAGER, BIOLOGIST

February 26, 1986

Ann Johnson
 Skin Diver Magazine
 90 Sunset Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90069

Dear Ms. Johnson:

In October you published an article by Fred Schram concerning the collecting of rare crustaceans from submerged caves. The article called cave diving "an exacting and specialized sport" and never went on to mention the danger involved if one is not trained. Unfortunately, the article is now serving to entice untrained divers into caves in the name of "science."

As the first person to collect the very first remipede from Lucayan Cavern on Grand Bahama Island, and having since discovered many more new species through the West Indies, I am well aware of the environment in which these crustaceans are found. I am presently working on my Ph.D. on the ecology and biology of these animals. Dr. Schram is well aware of my work with remipedes, as we were at one time collaborating on the group. Due to differences of opinion, we are no longer working together, hence his plea for cave divers to collect for him.

The article which you published fails to mention that the cave environment where remipedes are found is VERY fragile. It requires highly experienced cave divers familiar with Bahamian cave systems in order to prevent damage to the ecosystem. The article also fails to mention that in many caves the remipedes are quite rare and could easily be over-collected. His statement that remipedes are found close to the mouth of one particular cave is quite misleading. In that cave they are found below very murky water through a crevice which requires cave-diving techniques and equipment to safely access.

I have already received a call from a man at the New York Aquarium who was prepared to send down an untrained sport scuba diver to collect remipedes from caves in the Turks and Caicos. He said he read about them in Skin Diver.

The cave-diving community is continually working to educate sport divers about the dangers of going into caves without proper training. Despite this, sport divers and even diving instructors are still dying in caves because of lack of training in order to safely access the cave environment. Although it is addressed to cave divers (a tiny portion of your reading audience), the article which you published only serves to lure more untrained divers into caves, with the excuse of searching for rare animals. I only hope that there are no diving fatalities in West Indian caves as a result of what can only be termed a negligent article.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jill Yager
 Department of Biological Sciences
 Old Dominion University
 Norfolk, VA 23608-8560

[The official editorial response from SkinDiver was:

Dear Ms. Yager, Thank you for writing. I can understand your concern about the Schram article but I think you are overreacting. The places mentioned are not easily accessible nor are they easy to find. Hordes of divers just aren't going to rush to these caves. Thank you again for writing, however. Reader input is always appreciated. Sincerely, Bonnie J. Cardone, Executive Editor, SKIN DIVER Magazine.

--to which the "official editorial response of UWS" is:
 SNIFF!!! Maybe you'd think differently, lady, if you had to type up all the accident reports--or pull out all the bodies.]

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HERNANDO COUNTY SINKHOLE

Dear Editor,

March 20, 1986

I'm a recently certified cave diver, and noticed your recent question (Vol. 13, No. 2, page 2 UWS) on the Hernando County Sinkhole. It's located one mile from my house and, needless to say, I could hardly contain my enthusiasm when my girlfriend brought me the clipping out of a small local paper! We immediately drove by and found it was roped off, patrolled, and patronized by numerous curiosity seekers gossiping along the perimeter. I have intentions of getting into it once I'm assured it is stable, and this initial fanfare dies down. I'd be happy to send you a copy of my clipping if you have not already been advised, and to keep you posted on a periodic basis of its progress.

Regards,

Tim Holden
 1406 Nobleton Dr.
 Spring Hill, FL 33526

"Truck in Spring Hill gets a sinking feeling" - Spring Hill Tribune, Spring Hill, FL.

A second sinkhole just yards from a cavernous hole that swallowed a house in February opened Wednesday under the front tires of an aluminum company truck.

Gerald Hero, a Hudson aluminum company worker, said the hole opened under his truck as he was driving across a vacant lot on his way to 1215 Persian Ave. to remove a screened-in porch from the house there.

Much of the house at 1215 Persian Ave. was swallowed by a 25-foot-deep sinkhole on Feb. 19. Its owners, Stephen and Helen Semansky, had just had enough time to vacate the house as it sank.

Wednesday's hole was a mere 1 foot wide and 1 foot deep when it opened under Hero's truck, Hero told sheriff's officials. Within two hours, however, it had grown to 6 feet wide and 8 feet deep, he said.

The truck was towed away, Sheriff's Office reports said. Tony Gilbo, a hydrologist with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, said the sinkhole's appearance was not surprising.

"It's common to get a second sinkhole or several sinkholes after a major one has appeared," Gilbo said.

Gilbo said the "satellite" sinkholes usually open up within a day or two after the main one. Because the last hole formed seven weeks ago, Gilbo said he did not expect more holes to occur.

"It's possible that more could open," he said. "But there's probably less than a 50 percent chance."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

March 26, 1986

Thank you for sending me the CDS safety brochures back in June. Most of them have been distributed to the local dive shops (we now have five!) and to the local dive club. I am almost out, and would like to request an additional 100 copies.

I find myself amazed by the lack of information provided by instructors to divers who are about to enter cavern or cave systems. In the last few NSS News and Underwater Speleology issues, there have been several reported deaths or incidents at Morrison and Vortex Blue Springs in the panhandle area above Panama City. I have dived both of these many times and have witnessed light failures, out-of-air emergency ascents, and many lesser problems which occur in these springs. Unlike the north-central area around Branford, people in the panhandle area do not seem to recognize the dangers of cavern and cave diving without training. More divers in my area go to Panama City, and these springs, than any other area of Florida. Hopefully, the NSS pamphlets will at least make them aware that this type of diving is different and that dangers are present.

Sincerely,

Kelly Brady
 4214 Estate Dr.
 Louisville, KY 40216

RESPONSE BY PAUL SMITH TO "What Does 1000 Cave Dives Mean?" BY
ROGER WERNER [UWS 13:2]

A cave dive involves two things by definition. To be cave diving, a person must be diving while he is in a cave--the over-head environment we hear so much about. Being able to see daylight or getting suited up having nothing to do with beginning or ending the cave dive. Swimming through Gator Cave with a snorkel is not a cave dive; it is a cave snorkel or swim. If a person comes to a place where the water of the cave meets the ceiling (a sump), holds his breath, and dives into the sump (hopefully, tied to a safety line), he is technically cave diving. Personally, I do not log breath-holding cave dives even though some of them lead to significant dry caves.

One of the earliest recorded cave dives in Florida was a free-dive done by Abe Davis in Little River Spring. The Cave Diving Section's "Abe Davis Award" is the only quantitative measure of experience we use. It is for the benefit of the non-cave-diving community. By use of the award we can document that X number of Section members have completed X hundred cave dives safely. This helps to convince the public that not all cave divers are suicidal and that cave diving can be done safely.

A person could dive Peacock to Pothole, leave the water for a few minutes, recalculate his air supply, get back in, dive to Peacock, recalculate, go back to Pothole, etc., and log a lot of dives in a short time. A person could dive in a cave for a short distance and stay in one place until his air got low and log a lot of hours in a short time. Quantitative measures are only important to the egotist. It has been my experience that egotistical people do not make good dive buddies. I feel that the qualitative measures are more important. Do we have the same goals for the dive? Will this person respond quickly to signals? Does this person have a safe and competent technique? Will this person stick to the dive plan? Can I count on this person in an emergency? Is this person fun to be with?

What does 1000 cave dives mean? It means that a person has gone into an underwater cave what he considers to be 1000 times, and more importantly, that he has come back out alive 1000 times.

BOOK BRIEF: THE GREAT CAVING ADVENTURE - by Martyn Farr, Somerset, England: The Oxford Illustrated Press Ltd., 1984 229 pp., \$15.00, hardback. Review by Milledge Murphey.

An autobiographical account by Farr which recounts his most memorable caving experiences, this book traces the Farr saga world-wide and includes accounts of both failed and successful expeditions to sites of explorations globally.

Included are descriptions of British and Irish expeditions as well as North American, Iranian, Bohemian, and other efforts. Farr encapsulates humor, hardship and success in his descriptions of equipment, traverse, and penetration difficulties in pursuit of new passage and world-record push attempts.

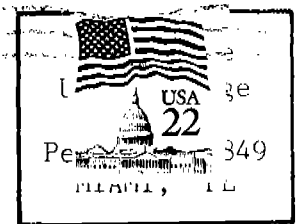
Graphically, the all-color photo section, while small, illustrates many of the sites explored. The reader shares expedition trial, failure, then success as Farr leads through to closure via a world-record push at Conch Blue Hole, Andros, the Bahamas. With these explorations in print, one wonders when America's subaquatic cave explorers will undertake to chronicle North American conquests in book form. Solid reading for all persons interested in significant cave-diving accomplishments.

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