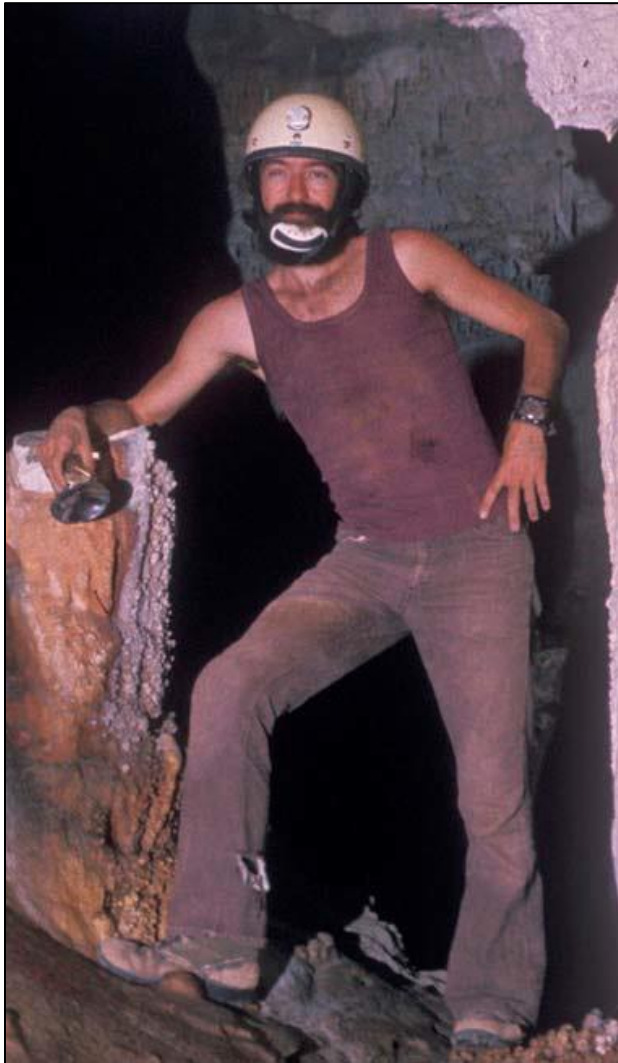


George Jacob Sevra Jr.

4 October 1946 – 10 April 2002, 55

George was a caver and photographer from Dallas. He was a member of Carta Valley Sucks for a few years, but he disappeared from caving after 1976. In 1971 he assisted some people who hiked across Death Vally. In 1985 he published a *Guide to Bicycling in Texas: Tours, Tips and More*, still available as a paperback on Amazon. He lived in Rock Springs, Wyoming, and Franklin, Pennsylvania in 1994. He reportedly died in a care facility in Dallas. Some of his trips are listed below.



George Sevra, early 1970s.
By Carl Kunath

First known caving trip by George Sevra:

The Texas Caver, November 1970, p. 220.

Date: 30-31 October 1970

Destination: Carta Valley

Personnel: R. Glenn Fieseler, J. Warren Vinson, George Sevra

Reported by: **George Sevra**

The purpose of the trip was to check out some leads and chat with the ranchers. Neither was very successful, but some leads were checked---none went. Russ Harmon was dubiously honored with a collect call from Carta Valley at 2:00 AM Pa. time, He must surely have been proud! Bill Murphy was similarly honored. We returned Saturday in order to go “trick-or-drinking” at Kunath's.



Louise Power and Jay Jordan look on as George Sevra creates another of the original CVSUCKS tee shirts with a cardboard template and a can of blue spray paint. No fancy silk screens here. This is the true caver way. Circa 1970. *Carl Kunath.*

Kincade, Kit. 1971. Blonde, 19, holds Death Valley mark. Long Beach Press-Telegram, Wed. Sept. 8. p. 12 Z-1.

In 1971 George was mentioned as a Dallas photographer who accompanied a young woman and her husband hiking across Death Valley. George Sevra, 24, drove a jeep and trailer with supplies. The temperature ranged from 98 to 125° F.

The Texas Caver, April 1972, p. 74

Date: 11-13 February 1972

Destination: Carta Valley, Midnight Cave, Punkin Cave, Blowhole Cave, Ceniza Hill Cave, Hilltop Cave

Persons: CV Sucks Members

Reported By: Ronnie Fieseler

Some of us went to visit the Frenchmen at Midnight Cave. We met Michel Siffre, who showed us around the camp. He later took Carl Kunath, Jon Vinson, and myself on tour through the cave to show us his camp. It was very interesting. Carl and I rode the hoist to the top of the hill. It was really a keen ride! Carl got to be on French TV! Vinson and crew went to Hilltop Cave to photograph and collect trash. Bob Lloyd, Jon Everage and others went to Ceniza Hill Cave to investigate the possibility of blasting a lead. No blasting was done, but they met the owner. From there they went to Blowhole Cave where Bob found some new passage and **George Sevra** dropped and destroyed a Nikkormat. Groups were coming and going to and from Acuña but all finally met back near Blowhole to camp. Sunday morning some cavers left to go enter a motorcycle race while others rigged and dropped Punkin Cave. Ronnie Fieseler and Don Tebbet began to map while others practiced ropework and explored. The map was not finished, but a return trip is planned.

There were other trips. The last known trip report with George Sevra:

The Texas Caver, March 1976, p. 54.

Where: McKittrick Hill (Sand Cave, Endless Cave)

When: 24 - 26 May 1975

Who: Tom Byrd, Bill and Vernelle Elliott, Jon Everage, Ronnie and Susan Fieseler, Ed Fomby, Carl Kunath, John McDowell, Mike Moore, **George Sevra**, A.C. Stone.

The group converged on McKittrick Hill from Houston, Austin, San Angelo, and Lubbock with only minor delays for van repairs and visiting with Jerry Trout in Carlsbad. As it was already late in the day, we blew off caving Saturday night except for Moore and McDowell who roamed about in Endless. Instead, we were treated to a spectacular view of the lunar eclipse from our ideal vantage point atop McKittrick Hill. Cavers and eclipse reaching totality at the same time, we crashed.

The following morning, we entered Sand Cave early and having split into two mapping teams, commenced the attack. Stone, having practiced once at the entrance, completed the drama by falling head-first down a 7 m slope/crevice. Stone's caving career ended with broken spectacles, two black eyes, and a square foot of missing skin. The mapping continued 6 – 8 hours for both teams and was extremely grim. The lower levels of Sand offer some of the most horrendous maze passage under the Hill and it now appears that Sand Cave is larger than McKittrick Cave; not smaller as we had thought. Very much discouraged with this realization, we left the cave somewhat sooner than planned. On the way back to camp, Susan gashed her hand on the barbed wire fence and joined the ranks of the walking wounded.

Later in the afternoon, Sevra took pictures of the entrances to McKittrick Cave and Sand Cave. Just before sundown, Byrd, Kunath, Fieseler, Elliott, Moore, and McDowell made a photo trip into Endless for some much-needed b/w photos. Emerging at 1 am into a superb desert evening, they found that everyone else had crashed.

By dawn, the perfect weather had been replaced by cold 40 mph winds. Sevrá and Kunath photographed the entrances of Dry, Endless, and Little Sand Caves and the group departed...In Carlsbad, we visited with Andy Kominsky briefly before heading for Andrews, where we threw rubber off a tire and were thus able to entertain ourselves the rest of the way home by watching pieces fly off occasionally with the attendant change in road hum.

Ron Fieseler remembers:

I can confirm that George worked for Gearhart Industries in Rocksprings, Wyoming, for 1-2 years in the early 1980s. Gearhart was an oil/gas wireline service company, and we worked all over Wyoming and parts of Colorado and Utah. George needed a job, and we needed additional workers. I recruited George and he moved to Wyoming at my suggestion. He was my roommate for a few months, and even drove my old blue 1966 Chevy 4x4 until he bought his own vehicle. Oil field work pays very well, and George very likely made more money than he ever had, but he soon tired of the work and the weather after a couple of seasons. He moved back to Texas and began his love affair with bicycling.

Contributors: William R. Elliott, Susan Beaty Hardcastle, Ron Fieseler and Carl Kunath, 21 January 2020.