

# Christopher Yeager

2 March 1991, NSS 31232

## NSS Caver Dies in Mexican Cave Accident

**Christopher Yeager** (NSS 31232) was killed on Saturday night, March 2 [1991], when he suffered a fatal fall in Cueva Cheve, Oaxaca, Mexico. Initial reports indicate that Yeager was crossing a rebelay near the top of a 23-m pit when his rack attachment carabiner apparently became detached. He fell when he removed his cowstail attachment to the rebelay line to resume rappelling. Yeager's death was probably instantaneous. Attempts to revive him using CPR were unsuccessful. The site of the accident scene, near Camp 2, is several kilometers and approximately 35 drops into the cave, at a depth of about 850 meters. The cave is extremely wet with temperatures below 50° F. As of press time, plans are to take Yeager's body up several drops to a large, sandy chamber for interment. A body recovery is not planned because the remote location of the accident and nature of the cave would seriously endanger the lives of rescuers involved in the recovery.

NSS News April 1991, p. 130.

Six cavers from the United States and Mexico staged a preliminary rigging trip to Cueva Cheve in December 1991. Then in late January 1992, a large international group of forty-two cavers from the United States, Mexico, and Poland went to the cave. Their goal was to recover the body of Indiana caver **Chris Yeager** who had fallen to his death a year earlier and had been buried at a site 730 meters deep and several kilometers distant into the cave. (See article on Sierra Juarez in this issue.) The original expedition had considered a body recovery to be too hazardous, but, with the expertise of the Polish to guide them, this team succeeded without any serious problems. The entire operation was concluded in two weeks. Source: David Anderson, Windy City Speleonews, April 1992, Lillian Novela, Foresight, Winter 1991, Bill Steele, Texas Caver, June, 1991.

AMCS Activities Newsletter 19, 1992, p. 10.

Note by William R. Elliott, 24 January 2020: His name was spelled “Yaeger” in the NSS report, but I have altered it to the spelling in most articles about this caver, “Yeager.”