

David Lee Boswell

David Lee Boswell was born on April 19, 1936 in Breckenridge, Texas, the second of three sons of Howard Bartlett Boswell and Eva Lucille Stubblefield. When he was still in grade school the family moved to Temple, Texas. After graduation from high school, he enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin and majored in math and engineering. He also became a serious spelunker and joined the University of Texas Speleological Society. He had been a minor spelunker in high school along with Jamie Spence.



Dave climbing out of one of the lakes at the bottom of the Devil's Sinkhole in Texas.

Dave liked to tell the following story as the major high point in his caving experience and memory. While he and Jamie were living with two other spelunkers, Fred Berner, and Dave Hannah, in a large garage apartment, they decided to try diving at the lakes in the Devil's Sinkhole. To this end, they bought large sheets of thin neoprene rubber and a pattern to cut and make "dry suits." The final result was that they actually leaked the very cold underground lake water like a bucket with holes in its bottom. Dave liked to say in later years, that he and Jamie shivered for many days from the cold Devil's Sinkhole lakes.

According to Dave, he ran short of money, took a sabbatical from UT after the Sinkhole trip (with UT's encouragement), returned, married a tremendous spelunker wife, Almita Goodnight, and worked with Dudley Roberts and Tom White at his father's White Instruments Co. They had their first son before he graduated in 1961 with a BA in Mathematics.

From a piece penned by Dave for the 1994 spelunker reunion at Fort Davis, we have the following:

Friends and events I will never forget: Art Simpson and I waking Dave Kyser at 3 AM with a cigar to announce my first son; unending coffee gathering of the clan; parties at Cronenwett's and Lynn and Joy Allman's all night bull session solving the world's problems, laughing with Fred Berner and Bill Helmer; surviving close quarter living with Dave Hannah, Fred Berner, and Jamie Spence; engineering at Holder's; candid snap-

shot of René Cardenas at bottom of Sinkhole; going to Lynn Allman's car races; fun being neighbors with the Jack Propsma's and with Dudley Roberts and Carol; watching Nan Jones' unshakable organization at the Sinkhole; homemade beer; Dave Hannah's commentaries; TR Evans never losing his cool; Marge's parties; L L Williamson's memory of a car's intestines; Tom White's seriousness; Almita's enthusiasm and readiness to plan a party; Paul Donn's sailing; Richard Reed's apple pie; Nan Austin's filterless Camel cigarettes; the nighttime cool-downs at Scholtz Beer Garden and at Fritz's, too.



Dave around 1961

David Lee Boswell

After he finished his BA in Mathematics he went to work for Tracor, a company involved in developing military systems, especially high end electronic systems. He became a department manager and worked for Tracor for eleven years.

After Tracor, Dave worked in the health and life insurance industry but found that it did not really fit well with his talents and interests. Later he became what is best described as an entrepreneur. He was involved with computers, and started a business supplying computer software services to small businesses. He also worked in miscellaneous sales positions. At a US Department of Commerce meeting he met a gentleman from China who helped him get a visa approved and set up a company to develop trade with China.

During this period, Dave accepted a position as Chairman of a non-profit foundation structured to solicit and use US government grants to send advanced US business graduates to train new business entities in the newly developing Poland. He hired several people and sent them to Poland on a one year contract. Unfortunately the president of the foundation in Poland had evidently misused funds for a political agenda. Dave then worked to bring the staff home and closed the foundation.

After the Poland experience came Dave's partnering with a Chinese partner and a major Beijing investor to import equipment and construct a production facility for physical vapor deposition of industrial cutting tools. After construction and start up, he became president and it started operating cash positive after six

months. That ended when Dave learned that the Beijing investor had made his money illegally.

Dave next took a one-year sales position for a very small Houston company manufacturing electronic control systems for full control of oil drilling rig operations. He later worked with a friend in developing an online service for engineering and manufacturing companies to list and sell their surplus equipment. This was, of course, long before eBay.

After that Dave took a break and moved to a job in Boulder, Colorado with an engineering company that made various "cathode" assemblies for various size physical vapor deposition companies.



Dave at the UTSS reunion of 2015.

Two years later, Dave returned to Houston to partner with another Chinese friend in importing Chinese oil drilling chemicals and additives for major US oil companies. According to Dave, that was a major experience in trading industrial commodities with China and the US. This experience led to Dave's involvement in numerous joint ventures and consulting time in China, India, Poland, Ukraine, Mexico and Puerto Rico including project support for a Chinese friend's project in Ecuador.

Later he became an independent broker dealing as a match maker between buyers and sellers primarily of industrial commodities involving various raw and processed ores and minerals, agricultural, and petroleum products.

Although he had long given up spelunking, Dave attended both the 1994 UTSS reunion at Fort Davis and the 2015 reunion at Round Rock, Texas.

In 2013, living in Houston, he met and married his wife Yonne Chou from Taiwan.

Dave died peacefully on June 20, 2025. He leaves behind a wife, two sons, a daughter, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**written by Robert M McClure with serious help
from Dave himself**