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Chartered in 1984 as the 300th Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting of the PBSS

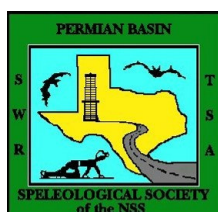
The next meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held February 8th at Murray's Deli located at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland at 7:00 PM.

**Thanks to Cindy and Steve DiTullio
for hosting a great Christmas party.**

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Regular membership dues are only \$10.00 and includes one voting right, associate membership is \$5.00 and does not include a newsletter. Dues should be made out to and sent to: Michael Anderson. If you are interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Barry Hayes at 432-333-8856 or < cavelizard@yahoo.com >. If you are not from this area and some how through circumstances beyond you're control or ours found a copy of "The Hole News" then you should contact the National Speleological Society at 2813 Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL. 35810-4431, or go to < www.caves.org >.

The "PBSS" Home Page
www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.html
built and maintained by
Bill Bentley



President:
Barry Hayes
Vice-President/Trip Coordinator
Jacqui Bills
Secretary/Treasurer:
Michael Anderson

On Going Projects:

CRF Carlsbad Caverns: Expeditions usually occur on holiday weekends. Contact Barbe Barker < cloudcaver@pvtnetworks.net > or 505-687-4270. Or the CRF website www.cave-research.org

High Guads Restoration Project (HGRP): Upcoming events usually take place the last weekend of each month. For more information contact Susan Herpin at 505-457-2253 or < highguads@yahoo.com >.

PBSS Rock Haul at Carlsbad Caverns: PBSS on going restoration in the Big Room of Carlsbad Caverns. For more information contact Walter Feaster < wdfeaster@cox.net > or 432-559-3297.

Future Cave Trips, Events, and Projects:

*****February 12-13 Possible trip to Montgomery*****
details will be posted on the PBSS remainder

April 29-May 1 TSA Spring Convention
Fort McKavett State Historical Site
for more info. contact
Jim Kennedy < jkennedy@batcon.org >

*****Denotes a PBSS Grotto Trip*****
*****Due to permit restrictions or other limitations Grotto members have priority*****

Remailers & Bulletin Boards

PBSS: http://caver.net/mailman/listinfo/pbss_caver.net

CaveTex: www.cavetex.net



If PAID is not marked in the box your membership has expired and this will be your last newsletter.

Dues are \$15.00 for regular membership and \$7.50 for associate membership. The membership form needs to be completed and signed by **ALL** members and returned with dues.

You can mail dues and form to:

Michael Anderson
12157 E. Hwy 158
Gardendale , Tex. 79758

Please make checks out to: Michael Anderson

The 2004 Alpine Karst book is available. For more information: <www.alpinekarst.org>

The PBSS is going to assist with registration at the TSA Spring Convention at Fort McKavett State Historical Site April 29 thru May 1.

If you would like to help out let me know.
<michael@ms-anderson.com>

Survey Class
Powell's Cave
06 November 2004
Jacqui Bills, PBSS

Sometime in October I responded to a post to CaveTex inviting cavers to a sketching class to be held at Powell's Cave in Menard County. This was only my second trip into Powell's; for my first, I accompanied Marvin Miller into various crawly mazy areas while he cleaned up survey sketches so he could finish mapping those areas. During that trip I was able to observe a good sketcher at work. This time I was looking forward to stumbling through my own sketches under the watchful eyes of more good sketchers. And stumble I did...

After we gathered on Saturday morning, Orion Knox and Jerry Atkinson decided to split teaching duties, one teaching sketching and the other, basic surveying. Orion ended up with four sketchers: Shannon Summers; relatively new cavers Mary & Danine (Aggies who are in Tom Iliffe's cave biology class at Galveston); and I. I'm not sure who all worked with Jerry, but we started together in a classroom sort of a group which included a few people who were going into the cave but not to sketch or survey. We received hand-outs of various types of survey sketches, from very good to very useless, just to give us an idea of what is possible. Jerry & Orion then showed us a map of Bustamante the size of the PBSS banner, so we could: 1. see a good map; and 2. see what sketches turn into in an ideal world.

Orion told some Bustamante survey stories which would have provoked chuckles on their own, but the asides provided by Jerry had us roaring. Although it seemed like we were going to get off the track at any moment, all tales led to lessons in surveying.

My team's mission was to sketch a section of the Lower Crevice, a former stream passage that is one of the few areas of Powell's where a person can walk along completely upright. Terry Holsinger joined my group in the cave and just in time to keep us from wandering the entrance maze forever. After learning how to set up the first page of a sketchbook, we started at an established survey marker and Orion took an azimuth (compass heading) and measured incline in degrees to the next survey marker. Terry Holsinger and Orion had a discussion of just what would be the dark lines of the passage and what would be the dotted lines. The dark line would be the main passage in our sketch and the dotted lines would indicate ledges and undercuts.

We made the ceiling the main passage (so if you could look down on the cave through the surface—the plan view—the ceiling edges would be the first thing you see) but quickly switched to using the floor because we would have spent way too much time climbing around trying to see the edges of the ceiling. Drawing the passage at the floor required lots of cross-sections (looking toward the next survey station and drawing the floor, ceiling and sides of the passage). After having to draw three cross-sections in a stretch of passage 10 feet long (yes, we were using feet, not meters), we determined that we'd be better off learning in the Entrance Maze. Before leaving the stand-up area, we wandered down to where the passage ends in water and looked around some.

There is no standing in the Entrance Maze. We started from an established survey station in the middle of a sort of a squared-off wide spot, where four distinct passages meet. We decided on spray shots, taking measurements from the same survey station to the beginning of each passage. By the time we completed sketching the wide spot and the start of two passages we were pretty much brain dead and ready to head out to food and...

I haven't done enough sketching to know what's standard practice and what were "tricks" but the following are some things I thought were helpful to downright necessary:

- Orion carries a metal measuring tape to help him to get ceiling heights and distance to passage walls from where he is sketching. Metal tapes can be run out quite a distance by one person. For ceiling heights, it's great for people like me—I judge distances differently depending on which glasses I'm wearing.
- Besides a North arrow, two perpendicular lines marked in 0, 90, 180, & 270 degrees (North, East, South, & West) helped me to picture the direction my sketch needed to go in relation to the paper. I (or Orion) caught myself in a couple of protractor errors by looking at this "compass rose" while plotting the next heading.
- When I discovered I made a major error in passage layout and needed to copy my sketch over to another page, Orion created a makeshift light table. We placed my sketch on the lens of his Petzl Zoom, placed a clean sheet over in the correct orientation, and traced. I'm not so sure this would work on an led headlamp.

I would recommend that all beginning cavers learning at least some surveying, as it certainly does force you to look carefully at pas-

sages and room shapes and landmarks and makes it a lot easier to get out of a cave when your friends say, "Okay, you lead us out." I appreciate the TSA's decision to encourage people to learn to survey, and it was good to be part of a group of people who actually want to survey. The weather could be a bit warmer for the next class, but if it isn't, I will still be there.

POWELL'S CAVE
Entrance Maze
From Caves and Karst of Texas

NOTE: We were working in the red box area of the maze, starting from EM 39. (The Upper Case letters correspond to the profile, which is not shown).

EM 39

