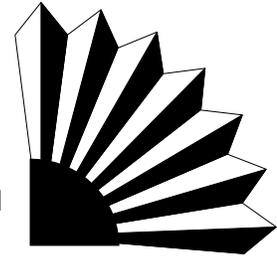
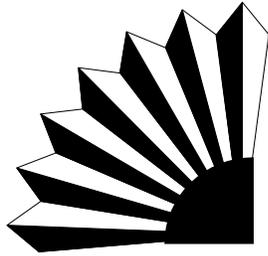


THE HOLE NEWS

JANUARY 1995





January 1995

Volume 11 Number 1

The monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society

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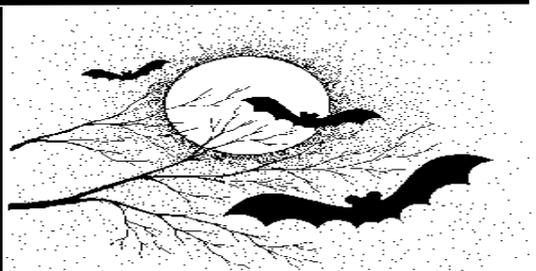
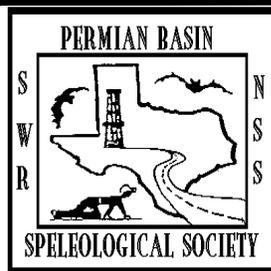
From the Editor:

The PBSS starts with the eleventh year now and with a promise of many more to come. I got a 1080 Mega-byte hard drive for Christmas and had to completely redo the entire system. So after many hours of work I should be able to put out another newsletter for the club. Walter is looking for some help with a IRS form 501C3, so that we can achieve a non-profit status. Some PBSS members owe dues....read on....

Bill

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be on January 10, 1995 at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at Murry's Delicatessen. Murry's is located at 3211 West Wadley. If you need directions then call Walter Feaster at 699-7049 for more information. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM more or less and the usual caver gossip and eating starts at 6:30 PM, however this is not required. Pig chasing is optional. So, see you at the meeting! Ken bring your snow shoes.



The following Cavers owe dues for 1995

Tom Brannon	Larry Glasson
Jon Brown	Kim Gray
Don Carlton	Gary Harter
Rick Day	Tom Hill
David Eddy	Allen Laman
J.D. Fincher	Rose Laman
Richard Fincher	Bill Sawyer

Lesia Whidden

This will be your last issue of the PBSS newsletter until your dues are received by Walter our Treasurer. Please make checks payable to Walter Feaster. Thanks!

Future Cave Trips: Also other events from PBSS and other grottos.

January 13th-15th, 1995 Colorado Bend State Park contact: Ed Young @ 214-262-8188
 January 28th-29th,1995 CACA PBSS Work trip contact: Chuck Anderle @ 915-685-3119.*****
 February 10th-12th,1995 Colorado Bend State Park contact: Ed Young @ 214-262-8188
 February 17th-19th,1995 TSA MEETING CAMPWOOD, TEXAS CAVING TOO! More info later.
 February 25th-26th,1995 Powell's Cave resurvey project contact: Terry Holsinger @ 512-443-4241
 July 17th-21st,1995 NSS Convention, Blacksburg, Virginia, contact: Carol Tideman @ 410-727-2497.
 Endless Cave Resurvey NO DATE SET YET! contact: Noble Stidham @ 806-736-8606

IF YOU HAVE ANY CAVING TRIPS PLANNED, PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW AND HE WILL PUBLISH THEM HERE IN THIS SPACE!.....

Most all of this material was stolen from various and sometimes reliable caving newsletters in the Southwestern Region and surrounding area, including the "TSA Activities Newsletter"
 ***** Denotes a PBSS club Trip...

**Safety Safety Safety SafetySafety Safety Safety SafetySafety Safety
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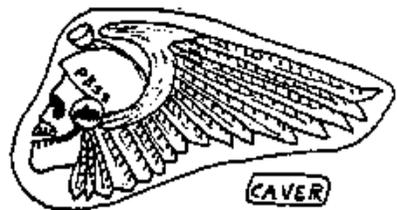
Our editor (Mr. Bill) has asked for someone to write a safety corner for our PBSS news letter. I have decided to take up the challenge. Anyone wanting to write or contribute to the article may do so. We appreciate your thoughts and-ideas on this subject.

For the first article in the PBSS Safety Corner we should start at the beginning. A very simple rule of safety for caving is the Rule of Three's. I have found that the Rule of Three's for caving is a good philosophy to follow.
 RULE ONE . Never go caving by yourself. Have a minimum of three people on any cave trip. If one person gets hurt the other two can help the injured to

safety. Or one can stay with the injured person and the third person can go for help. The possibility of all three cavers getting hurt is very remote.
 RULE TWO. Before you leave home on your big cave adventure, tell at least three people where you are going, what cave you are entering, and when you will be back. You can tell family members, co-workers, or neighbors. If no one knows where you are, they will not know where to look.
 RULE THREE. When entering a cave always carry at least three reliable light sources. These light sources can be flash lights, carbide lights, candles, light sticks, or cigarette lighter. Even the sparks from an empty cigarette

lighter can get you out. If you lose your lights in a cave, you might as well sit and wait for someone to come and get you. A cave is one of those places where the sun does not shine. Caving can be a dangerous activity. If you think before you act and be prepared for the unexpected, caving can be a very rewarding and pleasurable experience. Whatever you may do in everyday life or caving, always remember Murphy's Law.

Cave most excellently,



Lechuguilla Cave Advances on U.S. and World Lists of Long Caves

Copied directly from the *Speleospace* December issue, from a NPS news release by Bob Crisman

Lechuguilla cave in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico has advanced from fourth to third place on the list of longest caves in the United States, and from seventh to fifth on the world list.

An expedition into the cave that concluded October 23rd, 1994 brought Lechuguilla Cave's official length to 79.06 miles, which is more than 2.5 times the current mapped length of the park's famous Carlsbad Cavern.

Lechuguilla Cave also remains the deepest limestone cave in the U. S. at 1,606 feet deep, although a lava cave in Hawaii (Kazumura Cave) is deeper at 2,111 feet.

Expeditions into Lechuguilla cave scheduled for the remainder of 1994 include a surveying and mineral inventory trip November 19-27, a surveying and exploration trip December 3-11, and a science trip December 12-17.

The science trip will be a follow-up visit by the Mars-study team that made their first trip into the cave in April 1994. The December trip will include a U.S. Geological Survey scientist, three NASA scientists, two scientists from the University of New Mexico and University of Massachusetts, and several technical support personnel.

Caves in the U.S. that are longer than Lechuguilla Cave include: (1) the Mammoth Cave system in Kentucky, which is about 350 miles long; and (2) Jewel Cave in South Dakota, which is a little over 100 miles long.

TEN YEARS AGO IN THE PBSS BY BILL BENTLEY

January 1985 found the PBSS monthly publication the "SPYLUNK" with a very good cover sheet hand drawing by Bill Greenlee of Walt Zuliani negotiating the breakdown passage in Border Cave, Greenlee was serving as Secretary-Treasurer at that time. Tony Grieco was President and the regular monthly meeting was held at the home of Debbie Wolfe.

The PBSS had recently been to Amazing Maze Cave and Bill Bentley and Coy Coston did some blasting and gate construction to the entrance, a trip report was submitted by Bill Bentley. Other trip reports were submitted by Pat Copeland on a trip to Sidewinder Well Cave (Squiggles) and by Bill _____ley about a trip to Cottonwood Cave.

The PBSS was planning to visit Langty Lead, Three fingers, Lake, Spider, Hells Below, Black, Powell, and the Pinks Caves over the following six months and published a calendar to plan it out.

The group of cavers were very active and kept an interest in caving throughout the Southwest putting fourth the foundation by which our club still exists today.

**THE TEXAS CAVER
WANTS YOU**

Deadlines for the March, 1995
issue are January 15, 1995.

Send your articles, trip reports,
cartoons, photos, and general
comments to Noble Stidham,
P.O. Box 1094, Lubbock, TX 79408

The PBSS would like to welcome new members
Dutch Carouth and Mr. & Mrs James Benson to our
club. If you see them give them a big PBSS
welcome!

PBSS Officers 1995

President:

Noel Pando

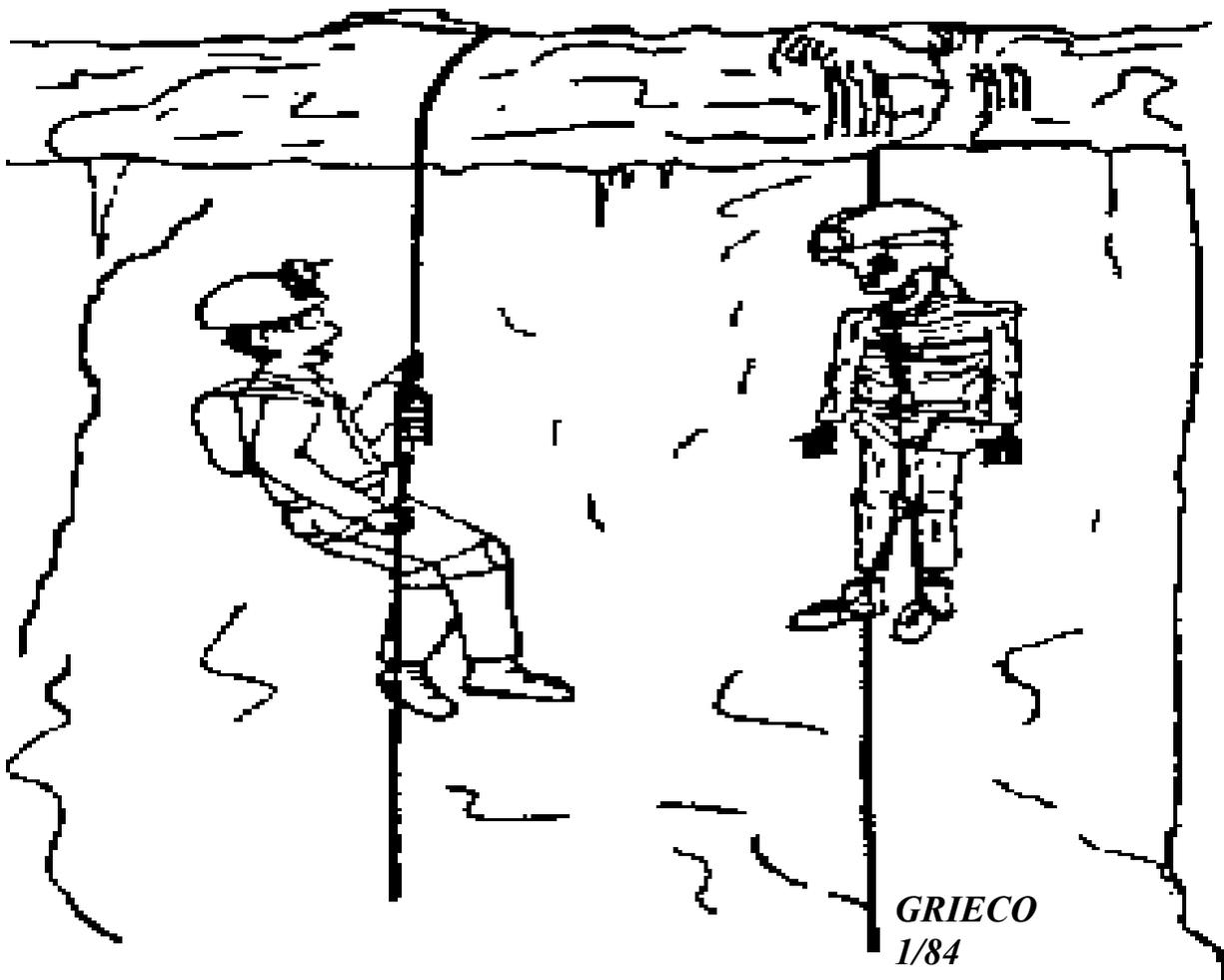
Vice-president:

Gralin Coffin

Secretary/Treasurer:

Walter Feaster

**HEY JOE ! YOU WERN'T KIDDING WHEN YOU
SAID THIS WAS A HARD LIP TO NEGOTIATE!**



Brainbuckets & Bad Hair Days

It continues to be a wonder to me to see the casual attitude many cavers have towards preventing a catastrophe. That may be because they have never had a catastrophe fall on them. Each of us needs to reexamine some of the things we take for granted. For example: "my hard hat will protect my hard head."

When I first got into caving it was with a 1950's style metal hard hat borrowed from a roustabout. It was highly impact resistant, but with a carbide lamp mounted on it, the brim cast a wide shadow at your feet. If

I looked down to see where I was going, my hat would fall off and the carbide light would go out. A few minutes of grubbing around in the dark was usually sufficient to find the separated aluminum hat and brass lamp. Putting on that 2 pound hat and standing up to relight the lamp sometimes caused temporary deafness when I collided with one of those dripping rock things hanging from the ceiling.

Only a couple of trips were enough to convince me to purchase a brand new plastic hard hat and saw the brim off of it so I could see where I was going. That arrangement worked for a few months, but I kept getting headaches from the bolts that held the lamp bracket to the hard hat and the whole arrangement was still front heavy and likely to slide down on my nose when looking over a drop.

Then came the new speleocatalog with a listing of helmets approved by the Mine Safety Committee or some Alpine Mountain Climbers Association. I never had much interest in shoveling coal and didn't plan on visiting the hills of France, so I ordered one of that catalogue company's private label helmets made to their specifications "especially for caving."

A week later the UPS driver arrived with my brand new \$17 custom designed blue caving helmet complete with optional chin strap and a fancy bat emblem molded into the side. Over the next few years that blue helmet got photographed in half of the caves of the Guadalupe Mountains. It was comfortable, light weight, had a molded in lamp bracket and a suspension with a back strap

that kept it on my head instead of on my nose. I guess I would still be happy with that helmet if I hadn't stopped off to tour Sentinel Ridge Cave while we were headed for a grand exploration to the bottom of Sentinel Cave. Only ten feet from the entrance and seven feet underground, I touched the ceiling and was instantly planted on the floor with about 250 pounds of limestone sitting on my head. It hurt! I flopped around like a hooked fish and popped out of what was left of that helmet. The entire bracket had been torn off but the carbide lamp was laying on the other side of the rack from me and still burning. Rick Day squeezed back through the entrance to see what the big kur-thump was and nearly had a heart attack when he saw that blue helmet wadded up only 2 inches thick under that rock and my arm poking out around the side.

At the hospital in Carlsbad, the sheriff's deputy kept coming in every ten minutes to ask me if a rock had really fallen on me because he really thought this gang of crazed cavers had beaten my face to a bloody pulp. It was about then I began to think about what I really should wear for a caving hat.

Nowadays you will find me wearing a Petzel Ecrin helmet but only because I cannot find a Joe Brown or equivalent with its side impact protection that will fit a long oval head [not a joke: that happens to be an actual hat size for Stetsons]. The purpose of this article is not to be a definitive guide to selecting a caving helmet, but to be a safety reminder to you. REMEMBER: Before a catastrophe befalls you [or befalls on you] be sure that the quality of your brainbucket is directly proportional to the value of its contents.

If you are as hardheaded as me, I still have

for sale cheap a heavy duty metal caving hat which will double as a coffee pot.

Chuck Anderle
NSS 31477



MEMBERS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME:	ADDRESS:	PHONE:	NSS #:
Abernathy, Tony	4415 Parkdale, Midland, Tx. 79703	694-7919	38776
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Anderle, Jan	5707 County Road 57 East, Midland, Tx. 79705	685-3119	31478
Benson Mr & Mrs. *	P.O. Drawer 553, Midland, Texas 79702-0553	684-5886	Applied For
Bentley, Bill	400 Eastwood Dr., Midland, Tx. 79703-5308	697-3079-357	21977
Bentley, Donnie	400 Eastwood Dr., Midland, Tx. 79703-5308	697-3079-357	37549
Brannon, Tom	3802 Crestridge, Midland, Tx. 79707	697-2806	Applied For
Brown, Jon	4633 Locust, Odessa, Tx. 79762	366-0581	Applied For
Carlton, Don	1301 Daventry, Midland, Tx 79705	687-4352	30417
Carouth, Dutch *	6300 East County Rd. 55, Midland, Texas 79705		Applied For
Coffin, Gralin	910 W. Kansas, Midland, Tx. 79701	682-1904	33471
Coffin, Kari	910 W. Kansas, Midland, Tx. 79701	682-1904	33472
Copeland, Pat	103 Lori Lane, Brownwood, Tx. 76801	643-2952	22361
Scott, Cruise	4245 Siesta Lane, Midland, Tx. 79705	687-5843	Applied For
Day, Kevin	617 Meadow, Roanoake, Tx. 76262	817-491-1026	Applied For
Day, Rick	114 N.W. Ave F Street, Andrews, Tx. 79714	523-9665	Applied For
Eddy, David	P. O. Box 6217, Fort Hood, Tx. 76544	none	11830
Feaster, Walter	4307 Harvard, Midland, Tx. 79703	699-7049	31624
Fincher, J.D.	P. O. Box 472, Crane, Tx. 79731	558-7248	31859
Fincher, Richard	P. O. Box 472, Crane, Tx. 79731	558-7248	Applied For
Franks, Steve	422 W. Pecan Apt D, Midland, Tx. 79705	683-3305	35245
Glasson, Larry	1101 N. W. 7th Street, Andrews, Tx 79714	523-9772	Applied For
Gray, Kim	P.O. Box 1273, Andrews, Tx. 79714	523-6409	Applied For
Gray, Larry	31 East 33rd Street, San Angelo, Tx. 76903	653-3823	19588
Grieco, Tony	1221 East Llano, Hobbs, NM. 88240	505-393-5604	Expired
Harter, Gary	17 High Chaparrel, Andrews, Tx. 79714	532-9758	Applied For
Hill, Tom	P.O. Box 60633, Midland, Tx. 79711	none	27888
Hogan, Felder	P.O. Box 341, Andrews, Tx. 79714	524-6327	Applied For
Kamon, Ken	4400 Andrews Hwy # 801, Midland, Tx. 79703	699-7192	34637
Laman, Allen	3105 Maple, Odessa, Tx. 79762	550-0910	37903
Laman, Rose	3105 Maple, Odessa, Tx. 797625	550-0910	37904
Mahan, Sheree	5230 Woodhaven, Wichita Falls, Tx. 76302	817-723-8910	Applied For
McArthur, Martha	5209 Stillwood, Wichita Falls, Tx. 76302	817-723-9890	35327
Pando, Noel D.	1204 Alpine, Andrews, Tx. 79714	523-9294	39037
Pando, Noel M.	1204 Alpine, Andrews, Tx. 79714	523-9294	Applied For
Parent, Larence	P.O. Box 849, Manchaca, Tx. 78652	512-280-2843	Applied For
Sawyer, Bill	P.O. Box 1196, Sonora, Tx. 76950	none	Applied For
Slut, Guad	1221 East Llano, Hobbs, NM. 88240	505-393-5604	Denied
Terrett, Tiffeny	5707 County Road 57 East, Midland, Tx. 79705	685-3119	32792
Whidden, Lesia	1031 6th Street, Big Lake, Tx. 76932	884-3162	Applied For
* denotes new members			

Please send all exchanges, corrections and updates for this list to Bill Bentley 400 Eastwood Drive , Midland, Tx., 79703-5308. I will try to update and reprint with every issue depending on space available. Use of this list is for members and cave related functions only and should not be used for commercial purposes.