



**P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK**

**VOLUME 3  
NUMBER 9**

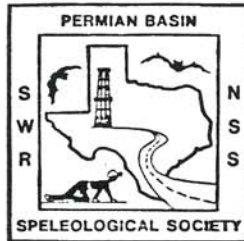
**OCTOBER 1986**

Bill Bentley 9-86

# P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK

OCTOBER 1986

BILL BENTLEY-PRESIDENT  
4534 SINCLAIR #2-102  
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79707  
(915) 697-3079



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 9

TONY GRIECO-EDITOR  
4723 W. ILLINOIS  
MIDLAND, TEXAS 79703  
(915) 697-0323

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## MEETING:

The October meeting of the PBSS will be held Thursday, Oct. 9, 7:30 PM at the home of Pat Kambesis and Jerry Atkinson, 3319 Fannin. Call Pat or Jerry at 697-3807 for further information or directions. Topics of discussion will include the election of officers for the upcoming year, the scheduling of more cave trips for 1987, and the monthly grotto trip.

## NEWS FLASHES:

### PBSS SCHEDULE

OCT. 10-12: SOUTH PLAINES REGIONAL, ARBUCKLE MNTS. Contact: Joe Giddens (817) 572-4082  
OCT. 18-19: HIDDEN, BLACK, COTTENWOOD CAVES & 3 FINGERS CAVE Contact: Tony Grieco at 697-0323 or Richard Galle at 362-6964  
OCT. 25 ENDLESS, MCKITTRICK, AND SAND CAVES Contact: Tony Grieco @ 697-0323  
NOV. 1-2 MADONNA CAVE Contact Suzy Noldan @ 689-7218  
NOV. 1-2 AMAZING MAZE CAVE Contact : Bill Bentley @ 697-3079  
NOV. 8-9 SENTINEL AND BIG DOOR CAVES Contact Bill B. or Tony G.  
DEC. OPEN

## CAVE TRIPS:

OCT. 18-19: The grotto trip for this month will take us into some really show class caves located in the Lincoln National Forest (see above schedule). This will be a combined trip between the Permian Basin Outing Club and the PBSS. Please take note that both Hidden and Three fingers Caves are vertical and will require rope work and only those with proper gear and experience will get to go into these caves.

## NEW MEMBERS:

The PBSS is proud to gather two new members, they are Jerry Atkinson and Pat Kambesis. Together they have over ten years of caving experience and will be boost to the PBSS membership.

## YOUTH GROUP CAVING:

Tony Grieco is still looking for volunteers to help him lead the LDS Church young people into some BLM caves, if you are interested call Tony @697-0323.

TRIP REPORTS:

Cottenwood Cave "Wonderland Section"

June 22, 1986

Bill Bentley, Jack Crabtree, Bob Crabtree, Laura Jones, Nathen Phiffer, and Pat Copeland

None of us had ever been to Wonderland before, but Bill Greenlee had written Bill Bentley some good directions on how to find it. We got through the small gated entrance and soon we came to the coke bottle( I had heard it called a few other names.) Bob with his long legs climbed up and tied a rope off and we used the rope to climb up. Jack decided to not try it so he returned to the main room. This was only the first obstacle we had to overcome, next came the Vertizontal and it was just as bad as everyone had said it was! I got stuck in the middle to pass packs and boy was it ever hard passing over my head, but we got everyones gear and everyone made it. (Imagine yourself sandwiched between two pieces of bread , but instead of nice soft bread your between nice hard limestone.) It was almost slick, probably because of the many bodies that have squeezed through the years. Anyway we made it through and on to the next challenge. I didn't think it could get worse but guess what! The small key hole ( Every cave has one.). You had to take off your helmet and anything else that was on your body to get through it. Bob had broad shoulders and he had to find another way so he did. We met up with him just before we found the elusive Wonderland. It was as beautiful as I had heard it was. Bill, Bob and I started taking pictures and Bill ran out of film and he said " I'll see you back at the entrance guys" and away he went. After we realized that he really meant it we went back to taking pictures and looked at all of the beautiful formations. I saw one that almost looked like the " Butterfly" in Sonora Caverns. After awhile Nathen, Laura, Bob and I decided to see if we could find the outside world. Nathan found the register and Bob did a good job leading us out. We knew we were going right when we came to the key hole! Bob went around again but the rest of us had to go through this "thing" again.

I soon found that going back through was worse, by this time I had got through, my jeans were just about down to the embarassing stage. Now I know why most cavers wear coveralls. We rejoined the rest of the group at the Vertizontal. This time was much easier. After slipping our way through we made our way to where we had tied the rope. We all went down and Bob untied Bill's rope and he used his long legs to come down with. We gathered up our gear and headed for the way out. We unlocked the small gate and headed out. After locking the gate I joined the others.

Joes Cave

July 19, 1986

Pat Copeland and Pixie Clark

This cave had two entrances, one was a straight vertical drop and the other one was a sink. We had to get past several nice colored snakes, we had seen a pretty " Ringtail" upon entering the sink. The cave had some flowstone, curtains, popcorn, and some knobies that looked like flowers. We found a decomposed goat and ringtail along with about five goat or deer skeletons (skulls). After taking pictures we decided to exit and on our way out we discovered a huge black porcupine had come down to the cool cave from the 100 degrees weather outside. He gracefully crouched in a corner and let us by, so we encountered the snake next. The mother snake was feasting on a nice juicy frog. (Editor YUCK!) Sure wished we could have helped him but we couldn't, so we just slid on past her and out the small entrance into the hot sunlight.

TRIP REPORTS: cont.

Sitting Bull Falls Cave

August 10, 1986

Pixie Clark, Pat Copeland, Mary Ann Roth, Maggie( her dog), Dave Gose, and Mel Fritchey

We all decided to stop by this wet and pretty cave on our way home. We said our goodbye to everyone and left camp in the cool cool mountains. The park was full with people everywhere, and most everyone had their swim suits on. There was a park Ranger and a deputy Sheriff there also to keep peace. Wemade ourselves comfortable at a table in the shade and had our lunch.

After eating we made our way up the steps under the falls. The cave was really leaking, but all the formations were really fantastic and big. The pools were really deep and this time the cave wasn't trashed, a beer can was observed in one of the pools. Mel and I took pictures and then we all stood at the entrance looking out. It was very beautiful view.

On the way down we stopped at one of the pools and after shedding my coveralls, (I had a blouse and shorts on.) I sat down in and cooled off in the nice cool water. Sure wish I had my swim suit, anyway we all walked back to our cars and had to say our goodbyes again and headed for Brownwood.

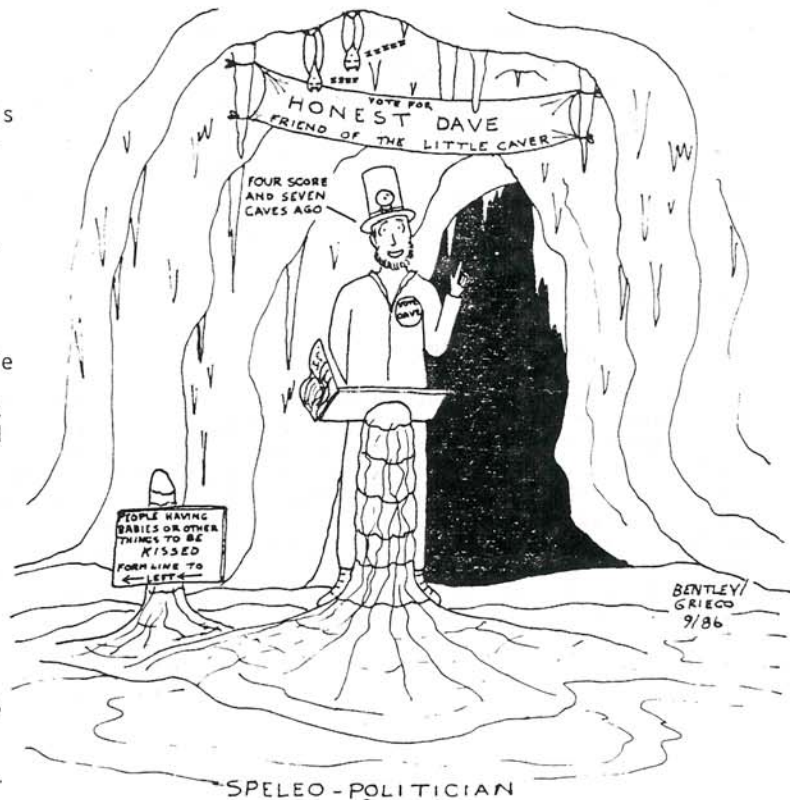
Texas Oldtimers Reunion

September 20, 1986

by Pat Kambesis

On the weekend of September 20th, Jerry Atkinson and I drove out to the New Braunfels area to attend the Texas OTR. It was my first "scenic" drive through West Texas and I was told that it would be dismal- NOT TRUE! In fact, the scenery reminded me of home (Illinois) - only the vegetation and architecture was different. We arrived at the Lazy L campground a little after midnight and after registering we spent the rest of the evening milling around and eavesdropping on Mexico caving stories.

By late Saturday morning the site was crowded with caver vehicles and their inhabitants. There wasn't any cave trips planned or scheduled for this get together but activities and contests abounded to keep people entertained. Since the sight was on the Guadalupe river there were rafting and tubing trips. And for those not interested in aquatic fun there were several contests with good prizes to the winners.



SPELEO-POLITICIAN

TRIP REPORTS: cont.

## Texas OTR, cont.

I hung around the vertical contest which was run by Terry and Peter Sprouse (30 meter mechanical) and even tried racing I didn't win any prizes but did come away with some nasty rope abrasions and Gibbs hickies (short are the wrong attire for racing). In addition there was a cable ladder climb race, speleolympics, knot tying and mostly important - a beer chugging contest. A good time was had by all in spite of the intermittent rain which made the speleolympics course interesting, slowed up the vertical contest and formed lots of mud puddles which the kiddies found to be great fun.

Saturday evening the Texas cavers put on a great on-site feed followed by contest awards and continuous slide show. The hot tub and sauna were present for those who wanted to be truly decadent not to mention musical entertainment around the campfire.

On the way home we stopped at Caverns of Sonora for the last tour of the day. There were about six other people on the tour with us. The guide was a jovial-type of fellow who was proud of the fact that he figured out that Jerry and I were cavers (could it have been the t-shirts or the TSA hat?) Anyway, the cave was quite spectacular and the tour was informative and entertaining. Our only problem was that the guide kept comparing the formations to chocolate sundaes, popcorn, butterscotch, ect. and it was making us hungry. He did know a bit about the early exploration and original routes taken and pointed those out. The lighting was nicely done - all those holes in the ceiling and small crawlways looked awfully inviting. I'd do that tour again.

## Deep Cave

September 13, 1986

Suzy Noldan, Bill Bentley, Terry Hill, Fred Hansler, and Patricia Kambesis

One of the advantages of organized caving is that one can move to a new town, attend a grotto meeting with complete strangers but still feel at home. That's how it was several weeks ago when I moved to Midland, Texas and went to the local grotto meeting. There was a trip to Deep Cave in the Guadalupe Mountains that following Saturday on which I was graciously invited.

We all got up at a reasonable hour Saturday morning, got our gear together and made our way up the bumpy road to the top of the ridge. It was when we were getting ready to leave for the cave that I discovered to my great dismay and embarrassment that I had forgotten all my vertical gear. But everyone was quite understanding (they didn't make any air-head jokes) and I managed to scrounge some webbing, a rack, biners, a jumar, a Gibbs ascender, and a prussik knot. The makings of an interesting ascending rig.

Deep Cave is located about a mile hike along the ridge and just below the main trail. The entrance is fairly large but not obvious as it is angled into the ridge. Suzy pointed out the large rock from which we would rig and from my standpoint it looked questionable, as if it would slide down the pit. So while the group was setting up a belay to traverse the somewhat narrow ledge to the rigging area I scrambled down and cautiously pushed, pulled and jumped up and down on our main rigging point - I was justifiably worried - it wasn't going anywhere. We rigged the pit and descended without any problems. The drop is a pleasant and easy one. The first hundred or so feet is a sloping, guano covered ledge and the last hundred and ninety feet is a pleasant rappel against the wall with a little bit of free rappel to the bottom.

The base of the drop is a large talus pile made up of fist sized slabs. It seemed like we lost another 80 or so feet in elevation traversing down the talus pile and eventually ended up in the main part of the cave: a large room about 500 feet long and 60 or more feet high (my estimation). Mammoth white columns with flowstone bases stand in the middle and at the periphery of the chamber. There was a variety of stalactites, stalagmites and draperies in various hues of cream, white and butterscotch. But the most impressive formations were the long delicate totem pole-like stalagmites that decorated the floors in many places.

Bill, Fred, and Terry played photographer while Suzy and I scrambled around the

TRIP REPORTS: cont.

Deep cave, cont.

breakdown, poking into small alcoves and breakdown off of the main room. There is an interesting balcony over the main array of columns at the back end of the room but my carbide light was not strong enough to allow for a good inspection (maybe I should go electric for the Guads?). We spent almost two hours playing around and finally prepared to make our ascent. We had to sit off to the side as there was some loose rocks on the slope and it seemed our lights attracted hordes of annoying gnats that dive bombed us while we waited. There was intermittent rumblings from above (sounded as though we were at the bottom of a bowling alley) indicative of the rain awaiting us on the surface. And of course I was anxious to try out my triple ascender combo (prussik, gibb, jumar). It does work, is a bit awkward and not the sort of system I'd use on a regular basis.

It had just stopped raining as we derigged and hiked back to the car. But the hiatus didn't last long and the rain continued through the night making the roads messy and treacherous. Apparently there was quite a storm that night but I managed to sleep through it - fortunately the tent didn't leak.

GUEST EDITORIAL COMMENT:

I hope everyone will be patient with me as this is my first time to edit the SPYLUNK and I am doing this to give Tony G. a well deserved break.

The PBSS is now entering a fourth year and with all the PBSS has going for it I don't think it is going to disappear any time soon, but only time will tell. Over the past three years the PBSS has more or less established itself within the Southwest caving community by consistently caving and promoting safe sensible caving. The yearly Bat Cave Blowout is growing each year and the hard core of caving members is growing larger too. With this in mind I look forward to another good caving year in spite of the Guads weather

MISCELLANEOUS:PBOC "OUTING CLUB" NEWS:

The PBOC is offering an elementary Climb School call Richard Galle for more info @362-6964 Rick Gray was elected as the PBOC new President .

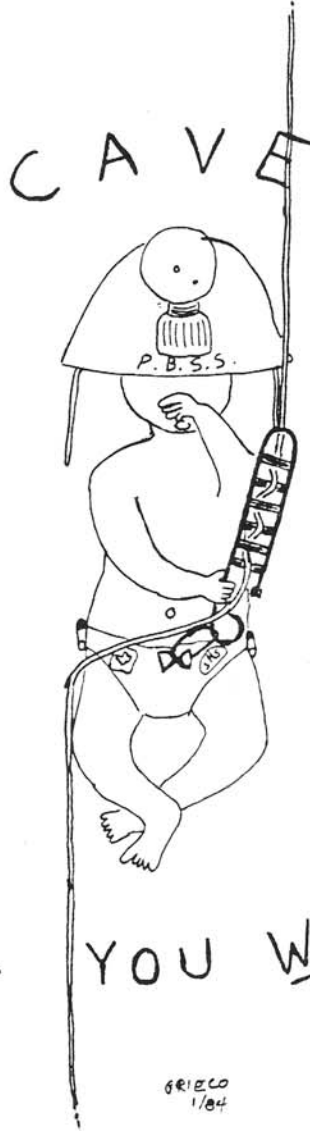
KUDOS:

The next time you see me Bill Bentley shake my hand, Hey I'm the one who drew this months cover. Many thanks go out to all who sent in trip reports and to Tony Grieco for the speleo cartoons.

The PBSS "SPYLUNK" is the official publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society, a grotto (chapter) of the National Speleological Society. Membership, which includes the newsletter, is \$4.00/year, paid to the editor (address on masthead). Material for publication should be sent to same. Republication of material contained herein by NSS publications is encouraged, others may do so with permission of the editor.

NEW SPYLUNK!

MATTHEW  
ALBERT  
GRIECO



SEPT. 12, 1986  
8:23 AM

7 LBS. 3 OZ.,  
20 1/2 IN LONG

RED  
HAIR!