

# P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK

Volume II, Number 2

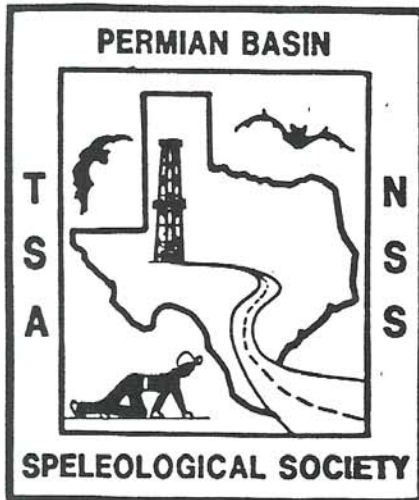
NOVEMBER, 1984



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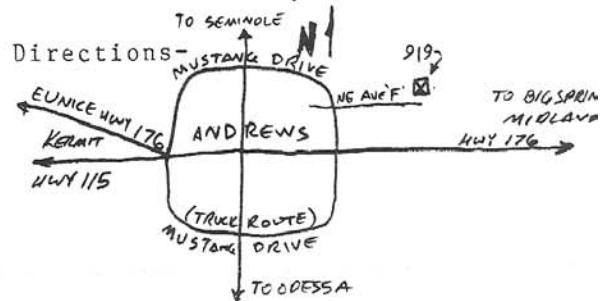
# The P.B.S.S. Monthly Spylunk

NOVEMBER 1984



TONY GRIECO, PRESIDENT  
4723 W. ILLINOIS  
MIDLAND TEXAS 79703  
915-697-0323

**MEETING:** Due to the holiday season, the next PBSS grotto meeting will be a combined NOV-DEC affair. The date is Thursday December 6, 7:30 PM. Location will be Bill Greenlee's house at 919 N.E. Ave F, Andrews, TX.



Call 915-523-9550 for info.

**IMPORTANT STUFF:** The PBSS now flourishes under a new hierarchy. The results of the officer election at last month's meeting are as follows:

Supreme Speleoid and All-Wise; TONY GRIECO (President)  
Master of the Runes; BILL GREENLEE (Sec.-Editor)  
Financial Analyst; BILL BENTLEY (Treasurer)

Unless terminated by impeachment or death, these offices will be held until the next election in October, 1985.

**WINTER TECHNICAL REGIONAL:** December 1 and 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico

## CAVE TRIPS:

November 3rd and 4th- We plan to visit H. T. Meirs Cave near Del Rio. Our party will drive down Friday night with returns on both Sunday and Monday evenings. Call Tony Grieco for arrangements.

Thanksgiving weekend- The Mesilla Valley Grotto plans to 'cave til they puke' in the Guadalupe, and have formally invited the PBSS to participate. We will probably find them at 3-Mile Hill. Both horizontal and vertical cave trips are on the agenda. Call Bill Greenlee at 915-523-9550 for directions.

**BAT CAVE BLOWOUT AND SWR REGIONAL:** The PBSS would love to host a SWR regional meeting during the first weekend of June at Chandler Ranch, near Sheffield, Texas. This meeting will coincide with the anniversary of last year's Bat Cave Blowout. If response is favorable, let's count on it! Look forward to such events as the 2nd annual Skipper Roast, brew quaffing, yarn spinning, and even some caving.

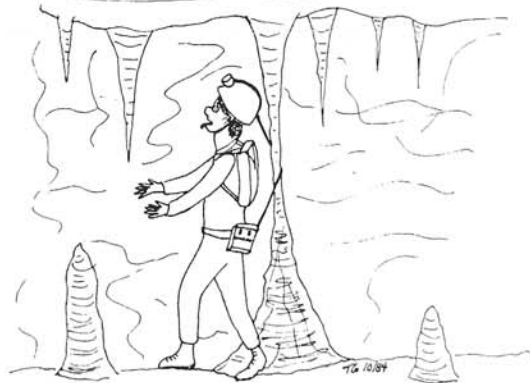
**FUTURE ACTIVITY:** These trips are tentative now, but what great trip is not at one time or other? Regular grotto trips will be scheduled for the third weekend of the month.

Dec- Sentinel, Big Door	Mar- Lake
Jan- Hell's Below, Black	Apr- The Pinks
Feb- Three Fingers or Madonna	May- Powell (a.k.a. Silver Mine Creek)

Also, a Big Bend 4WD trip is simmering for November or December. Be at the next grotto meeting for details.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Word has it that the PBSS display at Midland County Library is the "best ever". Be sure to drop by the library to see if you agree. Our exhibit coincides with the publication of an article about West Texas caving in the Texas Caver. Also, if you're not already an NSS member, you can pick up applications there.

THE PERILS OF ELECTRIC CAVING ...



#### TRIP REPORTS

**October 13, 1984 Drillshaft Cave, Pecos County, Texas.**  
Participants- Bill Bentley and Terry Hill. (Report by Bill)

I thought it was to be a typical slow and lazy Saturday evening, but was I ever wrong. Terry came by around 6:00 PM, and we went to grab a meal at the local burger joint. Our discussion soon turned to caves and caving. I mentioned a tale that Dennis Haynes had told me last week about when his brothers, Haley and Glen, had unplugged an old drill shaft that had been blocked by a rock about four feet down. He also said that it looked big enough for a person to fit in.

Well, with minimal preparation at hand and a severe thundersorm breaking loose, we arrived at "S" Cave around 10 PM. The darkness and cloudy skies hampered the search for the shaft. We found the drillshaft at the top of a hill near a pumpjack after an hour of searching.



Shining our bright Wheat lamps down the hole, it appeared to be 70 feet or deeper. I tied a 100 foot Bluewater rope to the bumper of my 4WD pickup and lowered a Coleman lantern down the hole. It looked as if the shaft was about 24 inches in diameter all the way to the bottom. A later measurement of the rope put the depth at 34' 2".

I rigged in with a right foot Gibbs and a Jumar to my seat harness and attempted to walk back down the rope. I was only able to make about seven feet, when this means of movement proved to be futile in cramped quarters.

I then tried a rapell rack. This time, I went about twelve feet. A wave of fear and panic came over me. Some people call it claustrophobia; I'm not sure, but I knew it was time to exit. We left the cave after I dropped Terry's \$8.00 flashlight. It went all the way to the bottom and hit a talus slope. When we pulled up the rope, the flashlight fell on into the cave.

Perhaps with the overcoming of fear of tight places, I might someday make it to the bottom of this cave that still awaits discovery.

**October 16, 1984 Borehole Cave** (Reported above as "Drillshaft Cave")  
Pecos County, Texas. Participants- Bill Bentley, Tony Grieco, Dennis Haynes (Report by Tony).

After the initial visit to this lead the previous weekend, Bill started calling around to see if he could get together a larger group. It was hoped that some kind of hauling system could be rigged, to raise and lower a caver into this promising hole.



The three of us arrived at the cave at about dark. Using my Bronco as a tie-off, we managed to rig a two-Jumar hauling system. The borehole initially appeared to be constant diameter the entire length. Since some of the hole was in excess of twenty inches in diameter at the beginning, we felt that a caver could indeed be lowered to the bottom. Since it was Bill's idea, and since he is the skinniest anyway, we decided to let him have the honor of the first decent.

After testing the effectiveness of our hauling system, we watched as Bill rigged in to rappeil. He felt that rapelling would be simpler than just being lowered. Although I wasn't in agreement, I didn't object (who am I to stand in the way of a lunatic and a potential new discovery?).

After descending about ten feet, Bill discovered that the diameter of the borehole decreased to about 17 inches, which is too small for him to negotiate. So, grunting and cussing the whole time, we had to haul him

out. After we got Bill back to the surface, we spent the whole next half-hour or so lowering Cyalume lightsticks and dropping rocks into the hole in order to get some idea of the size of the cave opening at the bottom.

It was during this exercise that we noticed a slight but definite blow of air from the hole. We estimate that, at most, there is a 2 to 3 foot entrance at the bottom of this well. There is possibly a good-size cave, waiting for someone smaller (and with less native intelligence) than anyone currently in the PBSS.

**October 20-21, 1984 Endless Cave, Parks Ranch Cave, and Carlsbad Caverns, Eddy County, New Mexico.**

Participants- Tony Grieco, Dalton Harvey, William Peterson, Debbie Wolfe.  
(Report by Tony)

This trip had two purposes; first, to introduce Dalton, William, and Debbie to the joys of caving, and also to assist the BLM in gate maintenance and graffiti removal in the McKittrick Hill caves.

By Friday evening, the intrepid spylunks had all collected on McKittrick Hill, and had set up camp. The night was cool and somewhat windy, but by no means unpleasant. However, it didn't stay that way. Sometime during the night, the wind shifted direction and became gale-force in intensity. Both tents collapsed. Although I managed to get my somewhat damaged tent back up, while using my truck as a windbreak (all this while clad only in undershorts), Debbie and Dalton ended up spending a sleepless night in the back of Dalton's pickup.

Saturday morning, our cranky crew met up with the BLM people, and found out what they needed us to do. I decided to take the novices caving before we got to work. We spent the next three hours taking the Warclub Room tour of Endless Cave. Upon emerging at the entrance, we found a whole gaggle of cavers, dogs, and kids sanding paint off the gate. William and I joined the fun, while Debbie and Dalton headed back to Carlsbad to eat and crash. I wondered if we'd ever see them caving again! The festivities ended at about 5:30 PM and everyone headed back to town.

After a good night's crash in Carlsbad, I decided to show William some more caving before we headed back to Midland. We first tried to find Mudgett's Cave using some vague directions, but after an hour we gave up. Then we went to Park's Ranch, and I showed William what a gypsum cave looks like. Total time in the cave was maybe an hour and a half.

On the way back to Carlsbad, I found out that William had never seen the Caverns! We made the long tour.

**Editor's comment** Please submit material for publication in the "Splyunk" to Bill Greenlee, 919 NE Ave F, Andrews Texas 79714. This month's cover depicts PBSS caver Terry Hill in front of a spectacular limestone cascade inside Christmastree Cave, Carlsbad National Park.