
PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER, 1991

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, November 12

Location: J. D. & Melissa's house, 4306 Ferncliff, Midland. SEE MAP ON PAGE 5.

Time: 7:00 PM

NOVEMBER TRIPS

J. D. is planning a dig in a Texas cave this weekend (November 2 or 3). Call him if you're interested. Chuck is attempting to obtain permission for a visit to Rediscovery Cave near Ozona. At present, nothing else is planned for November, although you may wish to attend the November meeting or stay in touch with J. D. for additional developments.

GOODBYE ART AND JOAN

Art and Joan are moving to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, where Art has been offered a park ranger job. They wish us "The Best" and "Happy Caving."

NEW MEMBERS

OK, Henry, Rick, and Walter. You can no longer complain about the absence of single women within PBSS. Cheryl Seefeld has joined, and she is **single by chance, not by choice**. Cheryl, Chuck's neighbor, went caving for the first time back in mid-September. She's already acquired vertical gear and done two vertical caves. At this rate, she'll be dropping deep pits in foreign countries by year-end 1992.

Also, David Eddy, who lives in Parsons, West Virginia, and who has a low NSS number (#11830), has joined. With the addition of Dave, PBSS is truly on the way to becoming an interstate organization.

Denise J. (D. J.) Wall of Dallas, but formerly of Midland, has just joined. D. J. is quickly getting a reputation as a caver everyone would like to have along. During the recent backpacking/caving trip to Pink Ridge, Walter and Gralin were prepared for a mundane supper of canned goods and water. Much to their surprise, Denise prepared a six course French meal, with enough for Gralin and Walter too. We don't know whether she brought extra food, or whether she normally eats a lot and felt sorry for Gralin and Walter.

Larry Gray of San Angelo has joined. Larry lives near some good caves that none of us have visited, and hopefully he'll keep us informed about opportunities in his area.

Finally, Terry Cargile is joining. Terry made the Pink Ridge trip, and J. D. says he's anxious to do some more caving. Terry is currently working on Confederate Air Force facilities at the Midland Airport.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bill has acquired Walter's Wheat lamp in return for some electronic equipment. Walter is now using a Petzl Mega Light, which he feels is more macho than his old light.

Chuck has discovered a practical, tax-deductible use for caving equipment. He used his rope, gear, and prussik knots to pull the pipe and pump from a neighbor's 110 ft. water well the other day.

TRIP REPORT -

THE OMEN III, or CHUCK'S BIG HEADACHE, by Gralin Coffin*

Date: 10/05/91

Place: Guads - Dark Canyon Area

Cave: Sentinel

When I arrived at the Texas campground Saturday morning at around 10:00 am everyone was already there and getting ready to go. Those in attendance were: Ken, Steve, Chuck, Jan, Tiffany, Rick, Gralin, and two "New" cavers -- Cheryl and Noel. After a final check everyone packed into vehicles and headed for Sentinel campground. *Chuck's first omen* -- his su-bur-ban couldn't make the last rocky slope, so he parked it and his crew hitched rides with Rick. Once everyone reached the campground we all got in a single file and headed out for the 1-1.5 mile trek to Sentinel. Soon everyone was at his or her own pace and moving right along except maybe Jan. *Chuck's second omen*: Jan was sick and getting sicker -- to the point that she told Chuck and his crew to go ahead and she would "just lay right here" (on the rocks) and she would see us when we came back.

We then came onto Sentinel Trail Cave and Chuck, like any good caver, decided to give it a look. Those of us that had been there before explained that it "wasn't much", one small room and a fairly tight entrance. (*Chuck's third omen.*) But a cave's not a cave until "you've seen it." So Chuck, Tiff and Rick went in.

Ken, Steve and Gralin went on down the mountain towards Sentinel. Ken and Steve made the descent to the entrance to rig up while Gralin stayed at the point of descension to wait on the rest of the crew to get there and not get lost. (None of the rest had been there or knew where to turn off trail.)

After a good spell, Cheryl and Noel came and said that Chuck had gotten hit by a rock. Rick was taking him to the car and would then be back. It was finally decided that Rick wasn't coming back and so Cheryl and Noel went to check on him and Chuck. Little did any of us know of Chuck's true condition or for that matter Jan's. However, Rick, Cheryl, Noel and Tiffany did get Chuck and Jan and themselves back to the Texas campground. After being checked by a Lechuguilla paramedic and with the help of J.D. and Richard (who had arrived later that morning) Chuck finally got to the hospital in Carlsbad with his face intact (or at the very least still attached to his skull) with a big headache and everything on the right side black and blue and green -- BUT nothing broken -- way to go Chuck! Of course, not as much can be said of Rick by the time the hospital staff, the sheriff's department and the police got through with him about beating poor Chuck practically half to death with a baseball bat or some other blunt object.

Alas -- all's well that ends well -- Chuck's fine, Jan's fine, Rick's not in jail, and we all lived to see another cave trip two weeks later.

As far as Sentinel Cave is concerned -- Ken, Steve and Gralin had a pretty good time. We dropped into the cave via a hand line and proceeded back to the fickle finger of fate room. Ken and Steve rigged for the traverse of McCollum's Pit while Gralin stayed at the top of the slope "just in case". (Chuck's omen could've been meant for Ken.)

Ken made the traverse -- a very good job (and probably easier for a long legged person than a short one like some of us) with only one tricky "fall" spot.

After adding up all the rope it was decided that we were one 50 ft. handline short to make the traverse and the approx. 300 ft. drop into the back pit. Sooooo...we rigged for the approx. 70 ft. drop into McCollum's Pit in which Ken freeclimbed about halfway out and ascended the other half in about 45 seconds -- whoooa!

Over all a good cave, and I think we will indeed go back some day and bring the other 50 ft. handline.

*The title is a collaboration of Gralin and Walter.

TRIP REPORT - DAMN, PINK PANTHER, PINK PALETTE, AND PINK DRAGON CAVES, by Denise (D. J.) Wall

(Typists Note - The trip report on the following page was written jointly for PBSS and for the Permian Basin Outing Club. As a result, some of the names (i.e., PBOC) and people (i.e., Bill Martin) mentioned may seem strange. The PBOC is involved in various outdoor activities. Walter, Rick, and Bill are active members, and can provide information about the organization. Despite its name, Walter claims the Outing Club is in no way related to the San Francisco Outing Club, or any of the alternative lifestyle organizations that have advertised recently in the NSS News classifieds.)

New Mexico Cave Trip Report

After a long morning drive from Dallas, my adventure started out on Friday afternoon (Note #1 - it is a long 42 miles from Odessa to Kermit when you run out of gas). Did everyone see the beautiful sunset around Carlsbad? The next adventure started out on Friday evening (10/18/91) about a mile past the lookout tower in Dark Canyon. The PBOCers were to meet up with the PBSSers for a combined trip. It was a welcome sight to see Walter Feaster driving up from behind. Who said you needed a 4 wheel drive to get that far? I noticed he had left his 280 at home. Jerry Schilling and I were comparing our vehicles that did proceed to make it. (240SX vs. ?) I was glad to see someone else camping in 30° weather with a head cold. I noticed no one was wearing shorts and a tank top the next morning after the cold front came through - it was sure chilly. How loud did Walter snore in his truck?

After a quick granola bar, we all proceeded to take the 4 wheel drives beyond the moon craters (3 miles) and park on top of the world to set out on our backpacking excursion towards the caves. (Note #2 - have food and gear prepared ahead of time or you end up carrying it in a plastic grocery sack, which may rip at first sight of a mesquite bush) Thank you J.D. for the extra hand.

After dropping our packs off on top of the rim where we would eventually make camp, we all headed down towards the caves. Pink Dragon was the first of the four and the ones that did explore it said it was the prettiest of the four and it went back in further than they realized.

Next was Dam cave. We were all wondering how it got its name. Some said from holding water, but from the trail we had other conclusions. After reaching it we learned that it was from the water. Rolling up our pants, taking off our shoes and socks to wade through knee deep water was fun, but very cold. There is a short climb, in which Jerry and his friends had put up ropes to aid us. I still think they are right - the cave is small enough to play racketball in. Did anyone come home with pneumonia? We all took a short break for lunch and munched out on Alice Eads cookies.

Onward ho to Pink Pallet and Pink Dragon, (Note #3 -don't forget the key to the cave or its a long walk back to camp "Walter"). We made friends with a tarantula on the trail and found Pallet wet and slippery. We saw a bat sleeping and also found out when the cave dead ends after you're on your hands and knees it is hard to turn around.

The hike up towards Panther is a rough one. We would not suggest any of the trails after dark, although the caves are dark and you have light sources. (Note #4 - make sure after you get to cave you have all the ropes or its a long walk back to first cave "Walter") After he returned with the ropes, I watched him eat his army rations (MRE's) and his famous last words were "I want a beer!!!" Repelling down into Panther was great (Note #5 - Don't let go of the rope with your right hand) Panther is better than Hidden ever was. There are three lips you have to get over and a slight squeeze. We got to see bones of a deer and at the bottom the skeletal remains of a bear that had fossilized. This was truly a great experience. As we climbed up out of the cave we learned

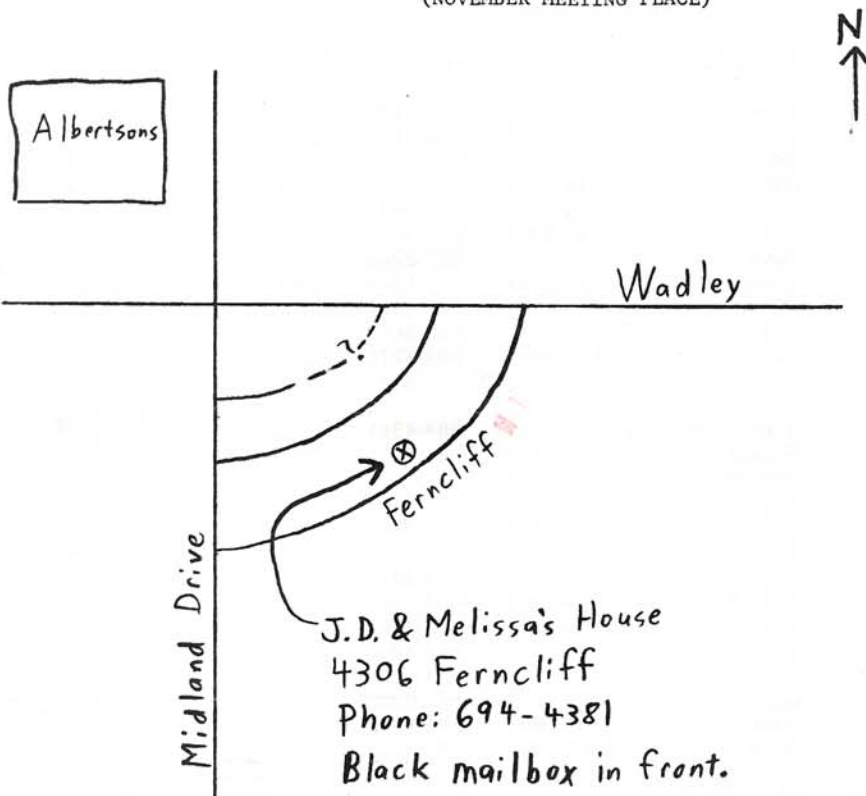
that 39 and 40 is not old and decrepid. Terry, I hope the pictures all come out okay.

That evening on the rim, campfire blazing with warmth, Marc, Graylin, Walter and I feasted over shishkebab beef tips and chicken, turkey and marshmallows which looked alot better than those MRE's. We saw the clouds down below us and also watched the jets fly in their pattern high above. Conversation was "I want a beer!!!!", but settled for the one coke shared between the four of us mixed with a little rum for warmth.

The weekend was sure a hit. We were disappointed the attendance of PBOCers was so small, but are greatful for the ones that did attend. I would like to add one final Note the road log/map that was sent was the best yet. Even though I may now be a Dallasite, it was sure great to be home and message for Bill Martin and Cliff (you missed pancakes with maple syrup and turkey for breakfast!)

Denise (D.J.) Wall

DIRECTIONS TO J. D. & MELISSA'S HOUSE
(NOVEMBER MEETING PLACE)



THANK YOU

Carlos Galceran has donated two hardbound, out-of-print books to PBSS -- Celebrated American Caves and Exploring American Caves. Walter currently has the books, and will pass them onto Chuck and Gralin next.

ELECTIONS

J. D. has been elected president for 1991-1992; Walter is Vice-President, and Don is Secretary-Treasurer.

PBSS Newsletter

Please mail material for newsletter to Ken Kamon, 400 W. Texas #1100K, Midland, TX 79701

PBSS MEMBERSHIP

Last Name	First Name	W. Phone	H. Phone	NSS #
Anderle	Chuck	685-3119	685-3119	31477
Anderle	Jan	685-3119	685-3119	31478
Bentley	Bill	694-7721	697-3079	21977
Brinson	Debbie	699-4081	687-4443	31906
Brinson	Will	699-4081	687-4443	31905
Carlton	Don	335-3265	687-4352	30417
Cargile	Terry		697-8700	-----
Coffin	Gralin	684-5548	682-1904	33471
Coffin	Kari C.		682-1904	33472
Day	Rick		523-9665	-----
Dickens	Henry	563-0421	367-5275	-----
Eddy	David		(304)478-3141	11830
Feaster	Walter		367-8253	31624
Fincher	J. D.		694-4381	-----
Fincher	Richard		694-4381	-----
Franks	Stephen	697-7672		-----
Glossa	Jeff	682-9731		-----
Gray	Larry	655-6957	653-3823	-----
Grieco	Tony		(505)393-5604	-----
Hill	Patrick		689-8347	-----
Hill	Tom	560-5065	687-2122	27888
Kamon	Ken	686-0720	699-7192	-----
Nance	Jim		563-5208	27723
Scott	Melissa		694-4381	-----
Seefeld	Cheryl	687-5042	699-0396	-----
Showalter	Ernie	563-1663	682-1700	-----
Wall	Denise	(214) 373-3755	691-0105	-----

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