
PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

November, 1993

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, November 9

Location: Murray's Delicatessen, 3211 W. Wadley. Murray's is on the south side of Wadley, in the strip shopping center east of Midkiff and Texas Burger.

Time: Food consumption and socialization are optional and begin at 6:30 PM; the meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

NOTE: YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING WOULD BE APPRECIATED. WE PLAN TO DISCUSS THE SOUTHWEST REGION WINTER TECHNICAL, TO BE HELD IN MIDLAND; THE 1994 NSS CONVENTION, TO BE HELD IN BRACKETVILLE; AND THE UPCOMING CARLSBAD CAVERNS WORK TRIP. WALTER PLANS TO HAVE VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING, AND ELECTIONS FOR OFFICERS ARE SCHEDULED.

NOVEMBER TRIP

Chuck has scheduled a work trip for Carlsbad Caverns on Saturday, November 13. The work will involve moving dirt and rocks with shovels and wheelbarrows. Participants should receive a reward trip, off trail, to a part of the Caverns tourists aren't able to visit. Please call Chuck at 685-3119 if you're interested. Chuck made a special trip to Carlsbad to line up this trip.

Allen has discussed obtaining a permit for Chimney or some other cave on Sunday November 14, while J. D. is considering lining up a Montgomery Trip around the end of the month. Please call Allen at 550-0910 or J. D. at 558-7248 if you're interested.

DECEMBER CONVENTION AND TRIP

The Southwest Region winter technical is scheduled for Midland, the Petroleum Museum, on Saturday, December 4. Call Bill at 697-3079 (magic numbers: 357) if you would like to help or would let out of town visitors crash at your place. A work trip for Amazing Maze is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19. Call Walter at 367-8253 for more details.

NEW MEMBERS

Jon Brown and Wayne Campbell from Odessa have joined PBSS. Unfortunately, I haven't had a chance to meet them and thus cannot relate their life histories to you here. Anyway, welcome Jon and Wayne.

TRIP REPORT

Lower Painted Grotto and Goat Cave, Eddy Co., NM

Sunday, October 24

Cavers: Ken Kamon (PBSS), Laurence Parent (PBSS), Thomas C. Rasor (soon-to-be PBSS), and Janne Wibroe (DANE)

by Ken Kamon

Laurence E. Parent, noted photographer and writer of the Southwest and a member of PBSS, called me on Thursday. Would I like to help photograph (i.e., carry gear to) Lower Painted Grotto the following Sunday? Laurence explained the Grotto is a rock shelter containing paintings created by the Mescalero Apache and other Indians. Laurence also planned to photograph Goat Cave. I agreed to help.

Teresa, my girlfriend, and I left at 6:30 AM on Sunday morning. We made good time. By sunup, we had reached New Mexico and were passing through the Dagger Draw Oil Field. The sweet smell of natural gas mixed with the aroma of Teresa's perfume, and watching the sun rise over the oil field surface facilities was a perfect beginning for the trip.

We rolled by the Carlsbad Caverns Cave Specialists' office at 8:30 AM, Texas Standard Time, in pursuit of a permit. Teresa was not appropriately attired to meet a cave specialist, so I deflated her and crammed her under the passenger seat, where she stayed for the remainder of the trip.

Jason Richards, Cave Specialist, gave me the permit and said that he had felt something sacred the last time he visited Lower Painted Grotto. Indian spirits, perhaps. The paintings had moved him in ways he couldn't explain. In my mind, I contrasted Jason's experience with Walter Feaster's, who said the paintings looked like "Walt Disney threw up."

I arrived in the Slaughter Canyon campground at 9:00, and met Laurence, who was accompanied by Tom-Razor, a physics teacher/photographer from Abilene, and Janne Wibroe, a director for Danish television. We hiked up West Slaughter Canyon for about 2-1/2 hours. The scenery became progressively better the farther we went. Maples were changing color, and places resembled McKittrick Canyon. Lower Painted Grotto was nestled in the side of a cliff, in the middle of an oasis of sorts. Laurence was the first to see the paintings.

The paintings were a combination of yellow, orange, red and white. Some of the figures looked like they were from another world -- strange, perfectly symmetrical objects. Ancient astronauts, perhaps. A few figures we recognized as snakes. At first, I couldn't understand Walter's comment, that the paintings looked like "Walt Disney threw up." Then I remembered that time at Parks Ranch in 1991 when Walter threw up on Friday night, and vomit stuck to his beard. The rest of us vowed not to tell him about it, and by Sunday afternoon a colorful montage of red and yellow mold was growing on his face. Walter's face did look like Lower Painted Grotto.

Tom, who's quite knowledgeable about Indian archeology and history, was an able replacement for Rick. At one point, he became inspired. He started wiggling around on his back, and said the paintings were dancing in front of him, floating off the face of the rock. Later, he claimed to shoot a ray to the top of the canyon wall, 1/2 a mile away, and said his body was being hurled along the ray. It was at this point that I began to seriously recruit Tom to become a member of PBSS.

We enjoyed visiting with Janne on the way back. She had just completed a documentary on the European Community, where she and her camera crew would burst into people's houses around dinner time like Geraldo Rivera and ask them questions about Europe.

When we arrived at the junction of Slaughter and West Slaughter Canyons, we discussed whether to visit Goat Cave. The blood alcohol level of a couple in the group was becoming dangerously low, and Janne longed for a Budweiser. [Typist's note: Although she prefers the taste of Budweiser to Danish beers, Janne prefers not to drink Bud in Copenhagen, as it costs a lot and it's what the young yuppies drink.]

We elected to skip Goat Cave and go to White's City, where we ate dinner, and then split. Thanks to Laurence for the invitation. By the way, if you are interested in cave photography and ever have the opportunity to help him, do so. You'll learn a lot.

ELECTIONS AND DUES

Ballots are enclosed for the election of officers. Also, it's time to pay dues again. Please send \$5.00 to Don for yourself and an additional \$1.00 for each family member who desires to remain a member. We don't keep a record of when members joined PBSS; even if you paid \$5.00 in August, annual dues are required again in November. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DON CARLTON.** Mail to Don Carlton, 1301 Daventry, Midland, TX 79705, or bring your money to the meeting.

CIVIL WAR

Rick recently organized a trip to Pink Dragon and Pink Panther Caves, and invited no one from Midland or Odessa, while Noel, Larry, Gary, and Rick have planned a trip to Chimney and Wen Caves, without inviting the rest of us. Please note the common denominator - they're all from Andrews. Noel has intimated they're forming ASS, the Andrews Speleological Society. This means Civil War. Get your guns together and prepare for a trip to Andrews.

THANK YOU

Thanks to those who served as officers in 1993. Bill put forth considerable effort in organizing a number of successful and enjoyable trips, and also organized the 1993 Southwest Region winter technical, the first SWR event sponsored by PBSS in a long, long time. Don, as always, did a superb job of keeping PBSS current with the NSS and managing our finances. Steve, who was lovestruck for almost the entirety of

1993, wasn't good for much. Alas, now he's a lover, not a caver. Special thanks should also go to Walter, who organized a number of trips in 1993, and did the politicking to get us into 09 Well.

MISCELLANEOUS

This is the last edition of the newsletter published by Gralin Coffin, Kari Coffin, and Ken Kamon. Bill Bentley has agreed to edit the newsletter, and Jan Anderle has agreed to publish it. Bill and Jan - in consideration of your willingness to put forth the effort to keep us all informed, and your magnanimity in giving of your time and abilities, we have only one thing to say -- suckers!!!



Announcing:
The
Southwestern Regional
WINTER Technical

Saturday, December 4th, 1993
Midland, Texas

The Permian Basin Speleological Society of the National Speleological Society will be hosting this year's Winter Technical Paper Regional in Midland, Texas, on Saturday, December 4th, 1993, at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library, and Hall of Fame. The Museum is located at 1500 Interstate Hwy 20 West, Midland, Texas 79701. It's not too late to get your topic into the program. However, we are looking for presentations on cave topics (humorous and informative) for this event. Abstracts are not required, but scheduling is important and the program is filling fast. The deadline for scheduling is November 1, 1993.

We already have most of the presentations lined up, but we are open to a wide range of cave related topics (such as: geology, speleology, hydrology, exploration, survey, biology, or other cave related subjects).

Be sure to give us your input. Contact: Bill Bentley at 400 Eastwood Drive, Midland, Texas 79703 (915) 697-3079; or Don Carlton at 1301 Daventry, Midland, Texas 79705 (915) 687-4352.

This regional promises to be informative and interesting. But should you become bored then included in your \$7.00 for the evening meal is a tour of the Petroleum Museum that can be taken any time of day during regular Museum hours.

The evening meal will be catered by Ed Kelly. Ed has won several awards including the 'Governor of the State of Texas' award for the best barbecue. The meal will be barbecue brisquit, sausage, beans, potato salad, bread, and ice tea, with peach cobbler for dessert.



1993 SWR Winter Paper Regional — Registration Form

Name: _____


Arriving (check one): Friday Night Saturday Morning Other: _____

Evening Social: # of Adults _____ X \$ 7.00 = _____
of Children _____ X \$ 4.00 = _____
(ages 6 to 11)

Total = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Don Carlton
Mail this form to: Don Carlton
1301 Daventry
Midland, Texas 79705

Special
Dietary
Requirements: _____



NOTE: There will not be any trips for Sunday since the closest cave is about 100 miles away.

TO ALL P.B.S.S. MEMBERS

In looking back at the past four or five years I have been in the club, there have been some really good memories. Some of the trips I went on were the greatest memories I will ever have [except for that time in Old Mexico] but that is another story as they say.

Late at night when the room is dark I can still see Chucks face, the way it looked when Rick hit him with that bat [or did a rock fall on him] I just can't seem to remember which it was.

Or when little Nole decided that it was a lot easier to let four men pull him up the rope instead of climbing under his on power. When he finally was out, he was heard to say [this climbing is really not that hard, but y'all need to get in better shape].

Then there was the time that a few of us came to be lost in endless cave, and Walter, with his compass, found our way out, or did he get us lost to start with [with that very same compass] I don't guess it really matters we all got out, I think! any body seen Tom as of late?

How about this for a memory, Gralin comes out of a cave only to find he is looking down the barrel of a gun, but with his cool calm attitude and a calm voice he is heard to scream [PLEASE DON'T SHOOT THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER CAVERS TO CHOOSE FROM!]. Glad I was not there as I would still be in the cave.

This morning when I awoke I could feel the chillness in the air, and it brought back memories of Don and the way he walked up three mile hill in the snow, [the snow was about a foot deep] we passed him about half way up in the Jeep. This man is a credit to our cave club for neither rain nor snow nor gloom of night can stop him from [getting in when you offer him a ride].

A really good memory that stands out is when Bill told Ken, " well, I was going to go down first but if you want to, go ahead". Later when Ken screamed, " off rope" Bill was heard to say [see after six years of hanging in the garage, and laying in the sun , that rope is still in good shape]. Ken has never said whether it was a soft landing or a sudden stop.

And every one knows that a good joke every now and then hurts nothing. Like when Tom came to the monthly meeting saying no one showed up at Carlsbad on the cave trip [well Tom you will be glad to know we told every one "but you" we were not going] I am very sorry about this-I really am-but Steve Franks isn't!

But the best memories I really have are the one's I have when I think of all the people in our club, and what a great bunch of people they are.

This past year I have not gone on very many of the trips and for that I am very sorry for I know I have missed some really good memories.

If some of you feel like I do, then come with me and make a new commitment to the club, to try to make as many of the trips as possible and to add to the strength of the club whether you cave or camp-just be there.

MEMBER P.B.S.S.
J.D. FINCHER