

November 1997

Chartered 1984 as the 300th Grotto of the National Speleological Society

Volume 12 Number 11

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 1997 at 7:00 PM in the back meeting room of Murry's Delicatessen. Murry's is located at 3211 West Wadley, Midland, Texas.

Our Agenda:

PBSS Elections

Future cave trips to New Mexico.

Now accepting Grotto Dues for 98

If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster

@

(915)559-3297, or (915)694-1824

E-Mail: <waltfeast@marshill.com>

"The Hole News" is the monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Articles and cartoons maybe reproduced by cave oriented publications that exchange newsletters with PBSS, as long as proper credit is given to the author. Items for this newsletter can be sent to the Chief Editor, "The Hole News", c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. Regular membership dues are only \$10.00 and includes one voting right, associate membership is \$ 5.00 and does not include a newsletter. Dues should be sent to PBSS Treasurer /Secretary, c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. If you're interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Noel Pando at (915)523-9294. Or if you are not from this area and some how through circumstances beyond you're control or ours found a copy of "The Hole News" then you should contact the National Speleological Society at 2813 Cave Avenue, Huntsville Alabama, 35810-4431.

"PBSS Home Page"

http://www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.htm

Web space donated courtesy of Bill Bentley and Apex 2000 ISP.

Future Cave Trips and Events:

***November 15, PBSS Trip to McKittrick Hill: This trip is for our new members. If you have not been there, these are must see caves. Contact Walter Feaster.

November 27-29, CRF Carlsbad Caverns Thanksgiving Day Expedition: Contact Barbe Barker @ (972)594-1183 &<cavers@get.net>.

***December 13, PBSS Trip to Amazing Maze: Contact Galin Coffin @ (915)682-1904 or <glcoff@agesys.com>.

December ?, 1997 SWR Winter Technical Regional (indoor) Las Cruces, New Mexico (meeting/session location to be determined). Hosted and organized by the Mesilla Valley Grotto. First or second Saturday in December. Business meeting scheduled for 9 AM. Technical paper presentations follow business meeting. If you wish to attend, want to present a paper, or need additional info contact: StevePeerman: <speerman@chilidog.lascruces.nmhs.edu>.

August 3-7, NSS Convention: Sewanee, Tennessee. Contact William Shrewsbury, (432)886-3296 or <nss98@caves.org>.

*****Denotes a PBSS Grotto Trip*****

Attention All You Cyber Cavers !

Do you remember the Bat Boy from the tabloids? Well now he has his own web page! Everything you ever wanted to know about the Bat Boy is here. From the first discovery in a cave in West Virginia to the endless pursuit by the FBI. I know this is what you have been waiting for, so check it out.

http://walden.r10.net/%7Ewaxler/batb.htm



"Howling at the Moon"

The "Howling at the Moon" section of this newsletter is dedicated to rumors, gossip, hearsay and other bovine excrement in the finest tradition of tabloid journalism. The writing staff at the "Hole News" and/or the PBSS Grotto takes no responsibility for what is reported here, because the story was over heard and retold while the reporter person was sitting around an undisclosed campfire recycling a bottle of Tequila! So take it for what it is worth.



"Beyond Hell Hole"

In a recent expedition to Ft. Stanton Cave, N.M. a small group of cavers made the long and excruciating crawl through Hell Hole. In their aimless wondering Beyond Hell Hole, our



intrepid group of cavers happened upon the site of the infamous "Ft. Stanton Cave Massacre." (The "Massacre", in some circles, has been compared to the burning of Atlanta and the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.) Upon closer examination of the site, our cavers discovered an anomaly protruding from the primordial mud of Ft. Stanton. Like the mythical phoenix, rising from the ashes of it's own destruction, and so does our anomaly. The object, can best be described in this publication as "Object d' Art". Under the "Object d' Art" there is an inscription carved into the mud in free style fonts. This can only be for the art critics who participated in the "Massacre". See below.

"I'am Back!"



It is Election Time

Please vote. Enclosed is the official PBSS Election Ballot. At our last meeting we had a small turn out, so there wasn't to many nominations. If you know someone who would like to be a grotto officer, or you would like to be one, write it in.

98 Grotto Dues!

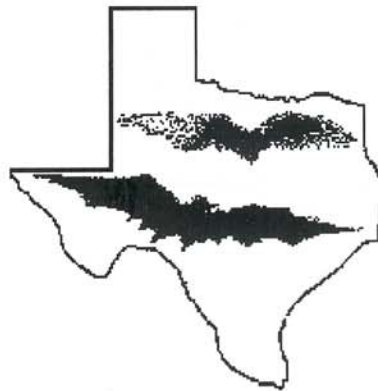
It is time to pay up. Regular membership dues are \$10 and includes one voting right, associate membership is \$5 and includes one voting right, but does not include a newsletter. Please make checks payable to Walter Feaster. PBSS does not have it's own bank account. If you have not paid your dues by January 1, 1998, you will be drooped from the grotto's roster. Have a nice day. :-)

Used Equipment Wanted:

Some of our new members have inquired about any used cav equipment. If you have any thing you want to sell, contact Mik Gray or Arlon Carroll, or any of our newest members.

One of Our Own

One of PBSS's very own is working a Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Rebecca Lee-Kaler is a Student Conservation Assocation volunteer resource assistant. What does this mean? It mean Rebecca will go caving all the time. Cave everyday. Congratulations Rebecca, hope to see you soon on our next work trip to CACA. I guess we will be working for you this time.



TRIP REPORTS:

and other lies and stories

**C.R.F. Lower Cave Restoration at Carlsbad Caverns
August 30-31, 1997**

Tom Kaler and I drove with Melienc Davis to Carlsbad in order to help the C.R.F. clean the flowstone leading in to Lower Cave and the area around the cave pearls in the Rookery. This was our alternative trip as economics kept us from going to Bustamante as we wanted.

Saturday morning we were assigned work groups. Tom and I worked in the Rookery with Lois Lyles and Kevin Justice. Melienc worked with Barb Barker and a group of other cavers on the flowstone. And, some C.R.F. members surveyed. I was surprised at how nice the new ladders are leading in to Lower Cave by far easier than the old ones. When Lois, Kevin, Tom and I reached our destination, Lois showed us her previous work and it was amazing. The silt she and Kevin have removed from around the pearls and in the pools dramatically changed the look of the Rookery. It is so much whiter and prettier as if making the Rookery prettier was actually possible.

Lois put Tom and me to work and we removed enough silt and debris to fill half of a five gallon bucket. Later Lois sifted through the buckets we all had filled and removed the tiny cave pearls that were caught up in the cleaning. Then like a mother goose, she put them back in a nest in the cave.

On Sunday, our work groups were switched and Tom and I were put on the flowstone duty. The previous group's cleaning was spectacular and everyone could tell the difference. But by the time Tom and I got there on Sunday, the area to be cleaned would only hold a few restorers at a time. So, Tom joined Barb at the bottom of the flowstone and removed the slick mud while I stayed on the trail and interpreted our project to the visitors. In the afternoon, Tom and I exchanged jobs until quitting time. Since it was the Labor Day weekend, there were a lot of visitors and we did a lot of talking.

There was some dissatisfaction with the reasoning behind cleaning the flowstone in to Lower Cave when it was obvious that the flowstone would be muddied the next time there was a Lower Cave tour. Many suggested hanging the trail more to the side where there are more handholds thereby keeping visitors off of the newly cleaned flowstone. However, there is an electrical line there and that would have to be rerouted. It remains to be seen what happens but many fear a return to cleaning the flowstone is inevitable.

Little by little, the C.R.F. is making a difference in the overall restoration of Carlsbad Caverns. But with a million visitors a year circulating through the caverns, there will continue to be projects for volunteer cavers. just as soon as we finished up our cleaning on Sunday, Tom and I took a stroll over to Longfellow's Bathtub to look at the new bridge and in the short walk we managed to see pen lights, baby bottle tops, tissue paper, and coins lying off trail. At any rate, we cavers will come and work tediously for free in an effort to preserve this great cave we love so much.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee-Kaler NSS# 42075

**Labor Day Weekend to Bustamante
by Kerry Lowery & Ruel Metcalf**

We are still waiting for it!

MEMBERS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME:	ADDRESS:	PHONE #:	NSS #:
Bandy, Michael W.	15209 Country Ridge DR., Chesterfield, Mo. 63017	314-519-9081	Applied For
Bentley, Bill	400 Eastwood Dr., Midland, Tx. 79703-5308	915-697-3079	21977
Bentley, Donnie	400 Eastwood Dr., Midland, Tx. 79703-5308	915-697-3079	37549
Carlton, Don	1301 Daventry, Midland, Tx 79705	915-687-4352	30417
Carouth, Dutch	6300 C. R. 55 E. , Midland, Tx 79705	915-685-5094	Applied For
Coffin, Gralin	910 W. Kansas, Midland, Tx. 79701 6124	915-682-1904	33471
Cullen, James R.	8330 Endicott Lane, Dallas, Tx. 75227	214-412-1632	Applied for
Day, Rick	114 N. W. Ave. "F" Street, Andrews Tx. 79714	915-523-9665	Applied for
Feaster, Walter	4307 Harvard, Midland, Tx. 79703-4847-71	915-559-3297	31624
Florer, Tom *	3609 Caldera # 112, Midland, Tx, 79707	915-6975959	Applied for
Franks, Steve	422 W. Pecan Apt D, Midland, Tx. 79705	915-683-3305	35245
Glasson, Larry	1101 N. W. 7th Street, Andrews, Texas 79714	915-523-9772	Applied For
Gray, Larry	31 East 33rd Street, San Angelo, Tx. 76903	915-653-3823	19588
Gray, Steve	106 Canyon, Big Spring 79720	915-264-7619	Applied For
Grieco, Tony	1221 East Llano, Hobbs, NM. 88240	505-393-5604	Expired
Hogan, Felder	P.O. Box 341, Andrews, Tex 79714	915-524-6327	41068
Kaler, Tom	4709 Nursery St., Wichita Falls, Tx. 76302	817-766-1255	27372
Kamon, Ken	4400 Andrews Hwy # 801, Midland, Tx. 79703	915-699-7192	34637
Lee-Kaler, Rebecca	4709 Nursery St., Wichita Falls, Tx. 76302	817-766-1255	42075
Lowery, Kerry	P.O. Box 39, Coahoma, Texas 79511	915-394-4230	41518
Metcalf, Ruel	1410 E. 4th, Big Spring, Tx. 79720	915-267-7330	42854
Pando, Noel D.	1204 Alpine, Andrews, Tx. 79714	915-523-9294	39037
Pando, Noel M.	1204 Alpine, Andrews, Tx. 79714	915-523-9294	Applied For
Parent, Larence	P.O. Box 849, Manchaca, Tx. 78652	512-280-2843	Applied For
Wallace III, Warren	P.O. Box 382, Coahoma, Tx 79511-0832	915-394-4310	Applied For

* denotes new members

E-Mail Address:

Walter Feaster: <waltfeast@marshall.com>

Bill Bentley: <bb2145@apex2000.net>

Gralin Coffin: <glcoff@agesys.com>

Don Carlton: <donc@basinlink.com>

Ken Kamon: <kenkamon@apex2000.com>

Tom Florer: <tflorer@basinlink.com>

Please send all exchanges, correction, and updates to Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard, Midland, Texas 79703-4847-71. Use of this list is for members and cave related functions only and should not be used for commercial purposes.

TSA Membership includes a subscription to The TEXAS CAVER and The TSA Activities Newsletter plus the TSA/TCR Mailing List

Please sign me up for the item indicated.

 \$25 Give me the Works.

Name _____

 \$30 Family (2 votes, 1 Subscripton) \$20 TSA & *The Texas Caver*

Street or Box _____

 \$7 *The TSA Activities Newsletter* Cavers' Reunion notices only

City, St, ZIP _____

 Change of Address/phone/etc

Mail to: TSA

Box 8026

Austin, TX 78713

The TSA e-mail address is

trhli@sprynet.com

Phone Numbers h () _____ w _____

f _____ m _____ e-mail _____