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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 10, 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:
Elections!
Christmas Party?
Future Cave Trips & Projects?

If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or (915)559-3297, or E-Mail: <waltfeast@marshall.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 Kerry Lowery @ (915)394-4230 or <lowery4@crcom.net>. 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:

***7-8 November- Caverns of Sonora Restoration Project: ***

13-15 November--Colorado Bend SP Project
Contact: Terry Holsinger @512-443-4241 or trhli@sprynet.com

21-29 November--(all or Part) --UT Grotto Training Trip-- Cueva del Brinco, Conrado, Castillo, Tamps, Mexico. Other trainees welcome. High clearance 4WD & good tires required. Horizontal & vertical caves & campground available. See announcement in TSA Activities Newsletter
Contact: Aimee Beveridge 512-444-4881
aimee.beveridge@rrc.state.tx.us

25-29 November- Student Training in Arkansas. Good caves, take warm clothes. Contact T. Holsinger (512)443-4241 or <trhli@sprynet.com>.

25-29 November--CRF Thanksgiving Day Project Carlsbad, NM.
Contact: Barbe Barker @972-255-7127 or <cavers@gte.net >.

5-6, December--SWR Winter Technical Regional, New Mexico
This will be held at Tijeras, N.M. near Albuquerque. Hosted by the Sandia Grotto. Contact Stephen Fleming <swcaver@earthlink.net>.

11-13 December--Colorado Bend SP Project
Contact: Terry Holsinger @512-443-4241 or <trhli@sprynet.com >.

July 12-16, 1999-NSS Convention. Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Filer, Idaho. Contact: David W. Kesner, PO Box 1334, Boise, ID 83701; (208)939-0979; e-mail <drdave@micron.net>.

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

ATTENTION!
READ THIS

ENCLOSED IS THE '99' ELECTION
BALLOT FOR OUR VOTEING MEMBERS.

PLEASE VOTE

TRIP REPORTS:

Fort Stanton Cave

(PBSS Trip September 26, 1998)

This is my first effort at a trip report, so bear with me. If I misspell your name please forgive me.

Noel and I arrived at Ft. Stanton at about 9:30 Friday night. Several people were already in bed, and others were about to head to bed after a long day. We did visit a little with Ruel, Kerry, and Lori. Allen, Tom, and Mike said hello also. After pitching the tent, which took all of about five minutes, we sat down and relaxed a little. We went to bed about 11:30 or so, but going to sleep was another issue. The ground was quite hard, and there wasn't a place level to put your sleeping bag. We got up about 8:00 and putted around trying to warm up a little. Next came breakfast, then what we were all there for--a little caving.

Walter led us to the cave entrance about 9:30 and after a little tugging on the locks, we were in the cave and heading to Crystal Crawl. This crawl was about 800 feet long and most of it was on hands and knees. We did see some of the crystals that had not been destroyed or carried off. Next we crawled the 1,500 feet of Hell Hole, and every foot of it was! We thought creepers, roller seats, or anything else would be better than hands and knees.

In the very back of the cave were the good formations. Walter and Lori were able to find a better opening than the Keyhole, and joined Tom, Mike and myself in the back part of the cave. Noel decided to wait for the rest of us at the top of a rather large breakdown pile. I think the most interesting formations that we saw were in the Sombrero Room. The stalagmite formations were chocolate brown because of the excellent "modeling" clay that was throughout the cave, and they looked like small Mexican sombreros. We had lunch just off helactite hall, then made our way back to where Noel was waiting. We made the crawl back through Hell Hole and then Crystal Crawl. We exited the cave right at 6:00 that afternoon.

Over all Ft. Stanton Cave was a fun, but tiring cave, and was well worth the trip.

Submitted by Felder Hogan NSS #41068

Editor's Note: See, that didn't hurt a bit. You to can write trip reports. Mr. Felder's rendition was a little short, but it was a trip report.

I must apologize to Mr. Felder for not publishing this report last month. As we say in the business, the newsletter had already gone to press.

Cave Long and Prosper**"98" Texas Caver's Reunion***(Then the rains came down)*

There I was on the road again, Mr. Bill and I headed south east to the Texas Caver's Reunion. I was looking forward to this TCR since I missed the previous year. We arrived Thursday evening and set up camp. Chalk Bluff camp area is really a nice place. Set right along side the clear flowing Nueces River, with large pecan trees and most everything green. We did notice a large area of the camp ground that was washed away during the floods that hit Del Rio a few months early. This mental note would be a deciding factor early Sunday morning. More on that later.

Friday was really nice. It was overcast with a nice breeze blowing, the wind kept the bugs away. It was nice to get out of town and be in such a pretty area. Later that day the rest of the 300+ cavers started to arrive.

By Saturday afternoon the camp area was getting full. We walked around and met many old friends. One friend of mine invited us to go caving. He knew of a few caves near by, so we went. We spent most of the afternoon looking into holes in the ground. One was a walk in with formations and the possibility of more cave. Of course it will take some digging.

We made it back in time for the Saturday night feed. Every body knows me, I try not to miss to many meals. The food was excellent and was welcome after a hard afternoon of caving. The six kegs of beer where a very popular area too. All in all Saturday was great, got to see some old friends, good food and drink, and the weather was great. By 1:00 AM Sunday morning I had enough and crawled into my tent.

The next thing I knew it was about 3:30 AM and it was pouring down rain big time. I unzipped my tent just a little and noticed all these cars driving by. About that time someone was going around to all the camp sites waking everyone up telling them to go to high ground. There had been a lot of rain upstream and the river was rising. Bill and I garbed a few items and put them in his 4-runner and got out of there. We decided to leave the tents and head for high ground. We didn't know how bad things were or how much time we had. When we got to high ground, it wasn't that far away, we decided to go back for our tents. Leaving the vehicle on high ground we walked back and got our tents. By the time we got back we were soaking wet, our tents were wet and our sleeping bags. No sleep tonight. So we decided to go back to Midland. Right off we had to wait for high water on highway 55. We waited for about 2 hours for the water to recede. Close to day break we were at Campwood. From there on into Midland it was as dry as a bone. Like the old saying during The Great Flood of Biblical reference, West Texas got an inch and half of rain!

According to Cave Tex: (caver e-mail) no one was injured or lost anything of importance at the TCR flood of "98". The only fatality was the hot tub. It was found many yards down stream partly buried and badly damaged.

We thank our fellow cavers who warned us about the rising river and possible danger. It is much better to be safe than dead.

By

Walter Feaster NSS# 31624

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* denotes new members

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.

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