



November 1999

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

Volume 14 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 9**, around 7:00 PM in the back meeting room of Murray's Delicatessen. Murray's is located at 3211 West Wadley, Midland, Texas.

#### Our Agenda: Meeting

#### PBSS Elections

*Cave videos if we can get a TV to the meeting*

*We now have Mass Quantities of Texas Bat Stickers!*



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> or <wfeaster@caver.net>.

"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. Please observe copy righted © articles. Items for this newsletter can be sent to the Editor, "The Hole News", c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, TX. 79703. 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 Secretary/Treasurer, c/o Walter Feaster, (address above). 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 AL, 35810-4431, or <www.caves.org/defaultjs.htm>.

### "PBSS Home Page"

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

Web space donated courtesy of Bill Bentley & Caprok.net ISP.



### Future Cave Trips and Events:

\*\*\*6-7, November--Caverns of Sonora Restoration: For everyone in PBSS that is going, we will see you there. If you can't go contact Walter Feaster before Friday, November 5. \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*9, November- -PBSS Elections: In this newsletter there is an election ballot for each paid member of PBSS. Please vote.\*\*\*\*\*

20-28 November--Nine-day caving trips to Mexico: -Start planning now for the Thanksgiving Week Caving Break to the World's best caves. It's a 40 year Texas caver tradition. Do your own thing or watch the TSA Newsletter for details.

25-28 November--High Guads Restoration Project--Contact Dave Jagnow 505-662-0553 [djagnow@roadrunner.com](mailto:djagnow@roadrunner.com).

24-28 November--(Thanksgiving) Carlsbad Cavern, New Mexico (CRF)--Contact Barbe Barker 972-594-1183 [cavers@gte.net](mailto:cavers@gte.net)

\*\*\*December ?- Possible Rock Hauling @ CACA: No details at this time, contact Ruel Metcalf @ 263-4890 or <ruelgto@webtv.net>.\*

Early December?--Amazing Maze Family Trip & Cave Rally--Sponsored by PBSS and TCMA. Watch for details.

31 December--High Guads Restoration Project--Contact Dave Jagnow 505-662-0553 [djagnow@roadrunner.com](mailto:djagnow@roadrunner.com).

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

\*Due to permit restrictions or other limitations Grotto members have priority.\*

### News You Might Want To Know!

The PBSS welcomes a new member, **Sean Wolff**. Sean joined at our last meeting and made a \$5 contribution to the grotto. Welcome Sean.

**Tom and Rebecca Kaler** have completed their seasonal employment with the National Park Service at Carlsbad Caverns, and Tom has accepted a job at Mitchell Caverns State Park in California. Mitchell Caverns is located 50 miles west of Needles, California. Rebecca may get a job at nearby Mojave National Preserve. On behalf of the PBSS we all will miss you on our rock hauling trips to Carlsbad Caverns, but wish you the best out there in California.

Also **Mike Gray** has left us for Seattle, Washington. Not many details are available, but we must assume he has left for a better job and life. We hope there are caves up there and lots of luck for the future.

We (PBSS) now have **Texas Bat Stickers for sale**. I just about emptied the grotto treasury to buy them, so buy all you want. If you can not make the meeting contact Walter and we can do a mail order.



**Trip Report**  
**NCRC Cave Rescue Seminar**  
 October 9&10, 1999

Kerry Lowery and Ruel Metcalf made the 6 hour drive from Big Spring to Socorro, NM this weekend for the 2nd annual National Cave Rescue Commission training seminar. This two day event began Saturday in Box Canyon about 10 miles outside of Socorro. The lead instructor was Harry Burgess with assistance from the Socorro Subterranean Search and Rescue team.

The day started off in an outdoor classroom and Harry trying to explain the basis for what the rest of the weekend would bring. This would take us into the lunch hour, after which we would take the classroom up the mountain for some low angle practice. We learned how to make a 3 to 1 and 4 to 1 haul system which we put to use pulling an empty litter up the side of the mountain. The biggest problem we had was organization with 19 people with 3 hours of classroom learning trying to rig up a haul system with a belay line, ratchet system, and a lowering device all included. After all afternoon we succeeded in raising and lowering the litter twice, but it was good practice for Sunday where we would take it to the cliffs.

On Sunday we made our way to the top of a 30 foot cliff where Ruel volunteered to be the assistant for the litter and the 185 pound Rescue Randy dummy we would haul to safety. At the same time Kerry volunteered to head up the first rescue of the day and assign tasks to the rest of the group to make this rescue a success (Too bad I didn't owe Ruel any large amounts of money). Everything worked out, Randy was rescued, and we got some practical experience to aid in/or do a rescue if the need ever arise. After lunch Harry took us over some basic self rescue techniques such as changeovers and pickoffs and answered any questions we had about the weekend. Then there was the inevitable 6 hour drive home.

This weekend was fun and very educational. I would encourage every caver to take a course to this effect sometime. Not only did it give us some rescue training but it gave good practice for knot tying which you need for nearly every situation.

Cave Safely so I don't have to use my small amount of knowledge.

Kerry Lowery NSS# 41518

**The Nylon Highway**

Dear Grotto Newsletter Editor,

I am the new Editor of the Nylon Highway, the publication of the Vertical Section of the NSS. Below you will find an explanation of the format of the Nylon Highway. Please reprint this announcement in you local newsletter. I am also requesting to be added to your grotto newsletter exchange mailing. I am always looking for a new lead and/or reprintable material. As an exchange for your newsletter, I will send you the completed yearly volume of the Nylon Highway. Thank you so much for your time and effort.

**NEW NYLON HIGHWAY FORMAT**

During this year's Vertical Section Meeting at the NSS Convention in Idaho, the Board approved a change to the distribution method used for the Nylon Highway. To provide a timely release of articles as they're received, they'll be published immediately on the Vertical Section website, where they will remain indefinitely. Along with the posting to the web site, the articles will be available for downloading in a pleasing format and layout as a PDF document. Using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader one will be able to view, save

and print the Nylon Highway in the magazine/newsletter format with all photos, diagrams, etc. At the close of each year, the "Annual Volume" of articles will be printed and mailed to those members having paid the dues level for paper.

As noted below, the dues structure has been changed to offer electronic-only access at a lower cost. Passwords will be issued to members to access the issues they've paid for. Section Annual Dues have been expanded, as follows:

- \$5.00 - Full Membership, with paper copies of NH.
- \$3.00 - Full Membership, with electronic-only NH.
- \$5.00 - Subscription to NH, with paper copies.
- \$3.00 - Subscription to NH, electronic-only.

Full Membership in the Vertical Section is open to all NSS members in good standing. Full Members can vote, hold office, and participate in all Section activities. They also receive access to the Nylon Highway each year, plus any other publications, as authorized by the Executive Board of the Section. Subscriber Membership is open to Non-NSS members, or groups, who have paid subscriber's dues. Subscribers are entitled only to receive Vertical Section publications. Dues for Subscriber Members are currently \$3.00 per year for "electronic-only" access to NH and \$5.00 per year for both electronic and paper copies of NH. **Note:** As a possibility that the format change for the Nylon Highway may be unpopular to some existing members, the VS Board has decreed the following: Members currently paid-up for unfulfilled years of dues have the option of a full refund or application of their outstanding dues to either type of new membership. Please contact the Section Secretary/Treasurer, shown below, to exercise your options.

Please send the following information:

- Type of Membership Desired (Full or Subscriber)
- NH Access Desired (Electronic or Both)
- Full Name
- NSS Number (if applying for Full Membership)
- Mailing Address
- City, State, and Zip+4
- Country (if not USA)

Include a Check or Money Order for the correct annual dues, made payable in U.S. funds to "Vertical Section of the NSS".

You may pay for as many years of membership as desired.

Send the above items to the Section Secretary/Treasurer:

David Joaquim, 8120 E. Mitchell Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85251-5812

I am earnestly seeking submission of suitable material for publication in the new Nylon Highway. What better location to publish your research, present your new idea, share your latest discovery and demonstrate that newly refined technique? The Nylon Highway is the ideal medium to introduce new vertical procedures, display refined rigging methods or offer your insight on systems used for vertical work. With the new Nylon Highway, we are giving you the avenue to express your ideas, questions and concerns. The "soap box" is yours! You now have the ears of one of the largest I/O's in the NSS waiting to hear what you have to say. With your help, we can continue to make the Nylon Highway the leading publication in the vertical caving field.

Send submissions for publication to:

Tim White, Editor Nylon Highway  
 111 Sanibel Circle  
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\* denotes new members

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