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Contact the editor @ 915-559-3297 after 8 p.m. Fax line and voice mail @ (915)694-1824, any time.



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Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 1996 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

Mr. Bill Martin could not attend this meeting to present a talk on knots. Hopefully we can do this at our January meeting.

Noel Pando should have more details on our possible trip to Montgomery.

Walter Feaster will have more information on restoration projects at CACA.

PBSS membership dues are due now. If you haven't paid, January will be your last newsletter.

If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297, or 694-1824.

HAVE  
A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS



Visit our Web Site

At

http://www.apex2000.net/personal/bb2145/pbss.htm

## Future Cave Trips: Also other events from PBSS and other grottos.

November 28-Dec. 1 CRF Thanksgiving Expedition: Surveying and restoration. Contact Erik Niemeyer (personnel manager) @ 505-298-8223 H, or 505-988-6863 W.

December 7. SWR Winter Technical: Will be held at the Carlsbad Library Annex, Carlsbad, NM. Contact Carol Belski @ 505-885-6168 or e-mail at: [belski@caverns.com](mailto:belski@caverns.com)

\*\*\* January 25, 1997 Amazing Maze Cave: Contact Gralin Coffin @ 915-682-1904 or Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297 or 915-694-1824. Be there or be square. \*\*\*\*\*

Most all of this material was stolen from various and sometimes reliable caving newsletters in the Southwestern Region and surrounding area, including the TSA's "Activities Newsletter"

\*\*\*\*\* Denotes a PBSS club Trip...

Carlsbat Cavers: Contact Phyllis Weston @ 505-887-6790 for restoration, educational programs, off trail trips.

Amazing Maze: TCMA cave. Contact Gralin Coffin @ 915-682-1904, or Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297 or 915-694-1824.

Colorado Bend State Park: Contact Ed Young 915-682-3449 or Terry Holsinger 512-443-4241 or Dale Barnard 512-452-5709.

Fitton Cave Survey: Contact Pete Lindsley @ 214-727-2497 or e-mail [lindsley@mcopn.dseg.ti.com](mailto:lindsley@mcopn.dseg.ti.com)

Government Canyon Karst Project: Contact George Veni 210-558-4403 or e-mail [kveni@tent.edu](mailto:kveni@tent.edu)

Honey Creek Cave: Contact Mark Minton 512-847-7422.

Madonna Restoration Trips: Contact Mike Huber @ 505-885-8898.

Mystic Cave Survey: Contact Woodrow Thomas @ 903-395-4431 or e-mail [wvthomas@tenet.edu](mailto:wvthomas@tenet.edu)

0-9 Well: TCMA cave. Contact Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297 or 915-694-1824. (CLOSED UNTIL NEXT SPRING).

Powell's Cave Survey: Contact Terry Holsinger @ 512-443-4241.

Robber Baron Cave: TCMA cave. Contact James Loftin @ 210-731-9392.

Whirlpool and Lost Oasis: TCMA caves. Contact Nico Hauwert @ 512-282-8441.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY CAVING TRIPS PLANNED, PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW AND HE WILL PUBLISH THEM HERE IN THIS SPACE!.....**

### PBSS Election Results

Of the 25 ballots sent out, 14 were returned. This was better than last year when 5 ballots were cast.

In the race for President Noel Pando received 10 and Gralin Coffin received 4. Congratulation Noel Pando on your reelection.

The race for Vice-President turned out just a little different. We had 3 people running for Vice-President: Kerry Lowery, Rebecca Lee, and Felder Hogan. Kerry received 5 votes, Rebecca received 5 votes, and Felder received 4. Kerry and Rebecca tied for Vice-President. A motion was presented and seconded that Kerry and Rebecca share the office. The motion was voted on and passed by the majority of the members present. So the PBSS has two Vice-Presidents. Co-Vice President Kerry Lowery and Co-Vice President Rebecca Lee.

Congratulations to both Vice-Presidents.

### New Cave Rescue Numbers

U.S.A. 1-800-692-0234

MEXICO 1-210-686-0234 (call collect)

NEW MEXICO, U.S.A. Try "911" First

### PBSS Welcomes New Member

PBSS welcomes Dutch Carouth to our grotto. Dutch is from Midland and has been a past member of the PBSS. He has seen the error of his ways and has rejoined. We hope to see you on future caving trips.

### From the Editor

It has now been just over a year since I volunteered to be the editor of "The Hole News". Producing this newsletter every month has been a very interesting endeavor. There has been computer glitches, writer's block, no news, too much news, long hours, and the most fun of all, fold, stamp, staple, and mutilate. I can not take all the credit. I would like to thank Gralin Coffin and Bill Bentley for their help and technical assistance in producing this newsletter. Without them it would have been a very difficult job.

Plus, I would like to convey a very special thanks to Rebecca Lee. Rebecca has contributed more trip reports than anyone in the grotto. Thank you very much Rebecca, and keep up the good work.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. W. Feaster

## TRIP REPORTS: and other lies and stories



### Carlsbad Caverns National Park Trip Oct. 13, 1996

**Caves:** Christmas Tree Cave and Helen's Cave

**Cavers:** Kerry Lowery, Mike Bandy, Ruel Metcalf, and Rebecca Lee.

Due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. Mike's inability to get out of bed quickly despite numerous attempts to wake him), we got a later start on our trip than hoped. Our late night run to Carlsbad for dinner, may have had something to do with Mike's lethargy. Daybreak was our starting time goal. 9:00 AM was the reality. Luckily, the sun hadn't had time to really intensify yet and the 1.25 mile hike to Christmas Tree was direct. Direct to the point that we stayed on trail while resting frequently.

Before climbing the mountain, I pointed out the area where I believed the cave was located. Having been there before, I knew the general area. Well, I came up a little long on my estimation and I thought I'd never hear the end of it. So when asked where Helen's was when we made that hike, I knew better than to answer. (This paragraph's for you Mike).

We dropped in to Christmas Tree with no problem, made the tour around, and exited via Jumar all in one hour. It is a small cave but an extremely nice cave. It's well worth seeing the dagger-like stalactites, the huge columns, and the Christmas tree formations. We saw three Christmas tree formations and weren't really sure which was the true tree. It never stepped forward.

One cave done and one to go-the elusive (at least it was for me) Helen's Cave. The first time I tried to see this cave, well, let's just say I didn't see it. This time we had a little difficulty finding the trail head to Helen's because someone or something knocked the cairns down. By this time, the sun was blazing in full glory. A little exploring and Ruel found the trail. It was just a couple of feet from where we were resting. Everyone was dragging on this uphill hike. The trip was catching up to us.

Ruel rigged the drop. Once on bottom, the cave was near. Would we get past the gate this time? Yes! Mike unlocked the gate, squeezed through, and was in. (Some had to squeeze and some didn't). The cave is nice but not spectacular. The bulk of the formations is stalactites. The guys thanks to their long legs explored an upper passage while I directed their footing from the bottom. Satisfied we had seen the cave, we decided to leave.

When we got back to the rope, I looked up and noticed water drops falling readily through the entrance. It was raining. Kerry was the first out and it rained mostly on him. By the time the rest of us Jumared out, the rain had stopped. But, it was a new experience for us anyway.

We hiked back to the cars, ate lunch, and went home. It was a fun trip mostly at the expense of Mike but we only kid him because we like him. Our foursome wouldn't be the same without him. So to you Mike, I dedicate this trip report and look forward to making fun of you, I mean having fun with you in the future.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee NSS# 42075

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## More Trip Reports:

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### My Version Of The 5th Annual Caverns Of Sonora Restoration

Nov. 2, 1996

I arrived at 5:00 PM Friday and was the third person to sign in. Cheryl Chevalier eagerly gave me the whole spiel. But when she asked me if I am a vegetarian and I answered, "Yes," I received the deluxe spiel on all the "vegetarian" food they were providing. And I might add that the "vegetarian" food was pretty good. I don't know about that other stuff they were serving. From what I understand, it was pretty good too.

Saturday started at 8:45 AM as everyone grabbed buckets and were led in to the cave for a hard day's work. The first thing one realizes when entering the cave and exerting a little energy is that clothing is more of a hardship than a help. As we all lined up and the work of passing buckets began, the sweat (or perspiration for you more delicate cavers) began to fly. It didn't take long for the smarter cavers to realize this was going to be a long day. And that it was.

We moved 15 tons of rock out of the cave in eight hours. The task was a huge success though there were some glitches in the rotation of people from job to job. Most everyone was stuck in the same place for the last two hours which seemed like the longest two hours of my life. A lot of people (not mentioning names) began to get a little testy toward the end of the day. Maybe the whole idea of this being free labor began to finally sink in.

I was able to do some of the digging in the pit which was the best of the jobs. But, the worst job for me was trying to get those stupid buckets unstuck. I've never had to wrestle with anything so hard and boy did I get my butt kicked.

There was a rumbling cheer when we were finally released to exit the cave and a rumbling noise in my stomach. This is where I was informed by Walter Feaster to mention in my trip report that yes I was the second person in line for dinner. But, I was dragged there by Melynn Conway who was first in line. I had no control over the situation. Right?

After dinner, we were separated in to groups for our lights out, photographic tour which ended up being mostly lights on. Bill Sawyer led my group. Every time I see this cave I see something new and beautiful. It's amazing place and I know I'll get no argument about that. When Melynn, Mark Beauchamp, and I exited the cave with the group at 10:00 PM, we went back to camp and crashed. The exhaustion took over. No one felt the cold too much that night.

The weather was pretty cold on this trip but that was the worst of it. The work was hot and tiring but at the same time a lot of fun. Maybe we had a little too much fun. Some people said the cave was getting to us.

I can see why so many people are anxious to volunteer for this restoration project. The atmosphere, personnel, and hospitality is wonderful. It's worth the one day of hard work because the rewards are great. Think I'll do it again next year.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee NSS# 42075

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### Caverns of Sonora Restoration

I was asked to submit a trip report also. I can't expand to much on what Rebecca has already reported. The work was hard, the perspiration ran freely, (I perspire, for I am a delicate caver) and the comradery was great. Rebecca, Gralin, and myself were the only PBSS members attending. When the work started we were scattered along the bucket line which extended from the dig to the entrance, where the dump truck awaited. Some of the cavers I knew, others I didn't. We cussed, discussed, told jokes, and for the most part solved the problems of the world. We coined a new term, "bucket hands". This condition occurs when your hands conforms to the contours of the bucket handle, and it doesn't go away. The only remedy (at least in my experience) is drink heavily and get lots of rest.

Later that evening when it was time to feed the slaves, I was standing towards the back of the "chow line." Observing the serving tables from a far, is like displaying raw meat in front of a pack of starving wolfs. Hurry up! The food was great. I know, I had a lot of everything, including the "veggies." The "other stuff" that Rebecca refereed too, was great also. I kept hearing voices from behind me saying "leave some for us Walter."

I must agree with Rebecca, I want to attend next year. It was hard work, but fun. You should consider it too.

Cave long, and prosper. Walter Feaster NSS#31624

## MEMBERS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME:	ADDRESS:	PNONE #:	NSS #:
Abernathy, Tony ?	4415 Parkdale, Midland, Tx. 79703	915-694-7919	38776
Anderle, Chuck ?	5707 County Road 57 East, Midland, Tx. 79705	915-685-3119	31477
Abner, Rich ?	1502 Pennsylvania, Big Spring, Tx 79720-4250	915-264-0023	Applied For
Bandy, Michael W.	1321 Tucson, Big Spring, Tx 79720	no record	Applied For
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Coffin, Gralin	910 W. Kansas, Midland, Tx. 79701 6124	915-682-1904	33471
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Day, Rick ?	114 N.W. Ave. "F" Street, Andrews, TX. 79714	915-523-9665	Applied for
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Grieco, Tony	1221 East Llano, Hobbs, NM. 88240	505-393-5604	Expired
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Kamon, Ken	4400 Andrews Hwy # 801, Midland, Tx. 79703	915-699-7192	34637
Lee, Rebecca	3217 Heritage Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606-3317	915-695-0793	42075
Lowery, Kerry	P.O. Box 39, Coahoma, Texas 79511	915-394-4230	Applied For
Metcalf, Ruel	1410 E. 4th, Big Spring, Tx. 79720	915-264-9246	Applied For
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

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. *Members with a ? beside there names have not yet renewed for 1997.*

