



February 1998

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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, February 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:

Restoration @ CACA

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

@

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

E-Mail: <waltfeast@marshall.com>

"The Hole News" is the monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Articles and cartoons may be 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 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:

13-15 February-**Colorado Bend Project**: Contact: Terry Holsinger @ (512)443-4241 or <trhli@sprynet.com>.

14-16 February-**Carlsbad Cavern CRF**: Contact Barbe Barker @ (972)594-1183 or <cavers@gte.net>.

27-29 February--**Powell's Cave Project**: The entrance pipes are installed and backfilled to the rim, creating Texas' newest pit--28' deep. Bring vertical gear for a fast entry, or a seat harness for safety while climbing the ladder. (Bring a 50' rope in case no one else does.) Still lots of caving to do. Contact: Terry Holsinger (trhli@sprynet.com)

28, February- - **PBSS Restoration @ CACA?**: Restoration work at Carlsbad Caverns. The service elevators are shut down for over-hall. No more rock hauling for several months. Contact Kerry Lowery @ (915)394-4230 or be at the next meeting.**

7-8 March- **GYPKAP Project**: New Mexico-Contact Joli or Chris Lee @ (505)585-8406 or <jclee@wazoo.com>.

27-29 March-**Amistad Cave Project**:-Del Rio. Friday night camping & meeting at San Pedro tent area. Contact: Cathy Winfrey @ (512)444-0170.

Late March- **TSS Photo Workshop**: TBA. Contact Terry Holsinger @ (512)443-4241 or <trhli@sprynet.com>.

5-6 April- **Southwestern Regional**: New Mexico-Mckittrick Hill near Carlsbad. Contact Belski @ (505)885-6168 or <belski@caverns.com>

10-12 April--**Colorado Bend Project**: Contact: Terry Holsinger (trhli@sprynet.com)

24-26 April-**TSA Spring Convention**: Blanco Community Center, Blanco, TX. Camping on site, \$20 for Saturday night banquet. More details later. Contact Jim Kennedy @ <jkennedy@batcon.org>.

24-26 April-**Amistad Cave Project**: Contact Cathy Winfrey @ (512)444-0170.



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Caveing Events Continued:

8-10 May--Colorado Bend Project, Contact: Terry Holsinger
(trhli@sprynet.com)

8-10 May-GYPKAP Project New Mexico: Contact Joli or Chris
Lee @ (505)585-8406 or <jclee@wazoo.com>.

23-25 May- Carlsbad Cavern CRF: Contact Barbe Barker @
(972)594-1183 or <cavers@gte.net>.

23-25 May- SWR Regional: Hermosa, New Mexico. Details later.

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

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*****

CRF is the Cave Research Foundation. Contact the Project Man-
ager/Director for more information about joining a CRF Project.

**Permian Basin
Speleological Society
Officers**

President: Kerry Lowery

Vice-President: Ruel Metcalf

Secretary/Treasurer: Walter Feaster

Newsletter Editor: Walter Feaster

**Trip Report:**

**LONGHORN CAVERN TRIP
OCTOBER 19, 1997**

In my quest to see all of the commercial caves in Texas, Longhorn Cavern was the one I lacked. I really wanted to see it before I moved to Carlsbad. So I set out one day to do that and drove for five hours to fulfill my goal. As I made my way to the entrance of the cave, I saw a man knocking on the wall beside the gate. It sounded hollow and turned out to be a wall made of plaster to look like a cave wall. Comments were made about a there being a "cave in." But it was obviously the Caverns effort to hide wires or something. Our guide soon arrived, gave us the spiel, and let us in to the first room. I thought there was something not right about allowing baby strollers in to a cave and my suspicions were soon founded.

We walked the long corridor deeper and deeper while learning about the C.C.C's vast efforts in making this a show cave. Soon we came to a room with huge calcite crystals in the walls the likes of I had never seen. I was very impressed. But my impressions were dampened the farther in to the cave we went. All of the skylights are covered with dark, hideous buildings. The display of a rock formation resembling a dog seemed to be an object of great pride for this cavern and I soon figured out they were grasping at straws.

Granted, the history of this cave is interesting but history is the backbone of all caves and a ballroom in a cave is nothing to crow about. There is a pretty thing here and a pretty thing there but gimmicks and novelties are what sells tickets and Longhorn Cavern is a prime example of that. As for my suspicions about the possible disasters related to allowing strollers in caves, well, two men trying to carry a stroller over a set of stairs nearly led to a lawsuit. One of the men tripped and fell right to floor landing on his elbow. I heard the thud of his bone striking the asphalt and it's amazing that he didn't break his arm or the baby still lying in the teetering stroller.

But one of the guide's inconsiderations really got my goat. She found one lonesome bat clinging to the low cavern ceiling and she immediately pointed her flashlight at it and summoned the group to see it. The guide from another group also spotted it and was also going to show it to his followers. A kid almost touched it when the guide wasn't looking and I could only feel sad for this poor creature. Caves and bats are sacrificed all the time but sometimes a person gets tired of seeing it especially in something calling itself a State Park dedicated to the preservation of resources.

Longhorn Cavern on its own merits as a cave is great. Longhorn Cavern as a tourist trap is pitiful. Oh well, at least I've seen all the show caves in Texas. I guess that's something to brag about.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee-Kaler NSS# 42075

MEMBERS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME:	ADDRESS:	PHONE #:	NSS #:
Bentley, Bill	400 Eastwood Dr., Midland, Tx. 79703-5308	915-697-3079	21977
Carroll, Arlon&Valarie	1600 E. 53, Odessa, Tx. 79762	915-550-5042	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
Feaster, Walter	14307 Harvard, Midland, Tx. 79703-4847-71	915-694-1824	31624
Florer, Tom	3609 Caldera # 112, Midland, Tx, 79707	915-697-5959	Applied for
Gray, Larry	31 East 33rd Street, San Angelo, Tx. 76903	915-653-3823	19588
Gray, Mike & Aurelia	3501 Boulder, Odessa, Tx. 79762	915-550-2395	Applied For
Gray, Steve	106 Canyon, Big Spring 79720	915-264-7619	Applied For
Grieco, Tony	1221 East Llano, Hobbs, N.M. 88240	505-393-5604	Expired (GDI)
Hales, Lori A.	3509 N. Greer Ave., Odessa, Tx. 79764	915-381-3408	Applied For
Hayes, Barry	1912 Santa Rosa, Odessa, Tx. 79763	915-333-8856	Applied For
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Kaler, Tom	2 Permian Dr., Carlsbad, N.M. 88220	Unknown	27372
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Pando, Noel D.	1204 Alpine, Andrews, Tx. 79714	915-523-9294	39037
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Parent, Larence	P.O. Box 849, Manchaca, Tx. 78652	512-280-2843	Applied For
Snelson, Mike	P.O. Box 2252, Odessa, Tx. 79701	915-580-5218	Applied For
Wallace III, Warren	P.O. Box 382, Coahoma, Tx. 79511-0832	915-394-4310	43891

* 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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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