



March 2006

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

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THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting of the PBSS

The next meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held **March 14th** at Murray's Deli located at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland at **7:00 PM**.

On Going Projects:

PBSS Rock Haul at Carlsbad Caverns: PBSS on going restoration in the Big Room of Carlsbad Caverns. For more information contact Walter Feaster <wdfaster@cox.net> or 432-559-3297.

Our Agenda

2006 PBSS Membership and Dues

NSS Membership (Info Letter Included)

**ESS Cave—Repair Gate-Replacing Rope
Montgomery Video
Dry Cave Survey**

Future Cave Trips, Events, and Projects

*****April*****

Montgomery's Gypsum Cave: Objection: To finish the Video. Survey a small cave near there. For more info contact **Bill Bentley** <caverman@cox.net>

Big Manhole Cave Dig: For more info contact **Bill Bentley** <caverman@cox.net>

*****May*****

2006 TSA Spring Convention: May 19th-21st **Location:** John Knox Ranch -Fischer, TX Talks on TX caving, map & photo salons, Saturday banquet, auction. On-site camping included w/ registration. More Details to follow.

*****June*****

Deep and Punkin Cave: June 17th-18th

Objection: Visit Both Caves, Help where needed for use of facilities. For more info contact **Kerry Lowery** <klowery3@cox.net>

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

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

"The Hole News" is the publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Articles and cartoons may be reproduced by cave oriented publications that exchange newsletters with the 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 Cindy DiTullio at <cadzone@sbcglobal.net> or mail to Cindy DiTullio, 2205 Independence Drive, Odessa, TX 79762

Regular membership dues are only \$15.00 and includes one voting right, associate membership is \$7.50 and does not include a newsletter. Dues should be made out to and sent to: **Barry Hayes**. If you are interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Barry Hayes at 432-333-8856 or <cavelizard@yahoo.com>. 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 go to <www.caves.org>.

The "PBSS" Home Page
www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.html
built and maintained by
Bill Bentley



August 7-11, 2006 The 2006 NSS Convention will be hosted at beautiful Western Washington University. The university is located between the Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains, just outside of downtown Bellingham. Situated between Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia, the spectacular surroundings of this region will make a stunning backdrop for the convention. For more information, visit the website at <www.nss2006.org>.

2006 Elected Officers

President: Bill Bentley
Vice-President: Jacqui Bills
Secretary/Treasurer: Barry Hayes

Newsletter:
Steve & Cindy DiTullio



Remailers & Bulletin Boards

PBSS: http://caver.net/mailman/listinfo/pbss_caver.net

CaveTex: www.cavetex.net



Texas Cavers .com Changes Administrators

Bill Bentley, the webmaster for Texas Cavers.com, has decided to pass on the burden of administering the list server due to time conflicts. Charles Goldsmith of the North East Texas Cavers has graciously volunteered to take the position and maintain the remailer. The website has been recently updated with a few things; noticeably a new link to the archives, a search function to the page, and a banner ad at the bottom. All donations to Texas Cavers.com that exceed the operating budget will be donated to one of the caving related charities such as TCMA, TSA, NSS, etc.

Please give your thanks to both these gentlemen the next time you see them for a job well done!

TRIP REPORT FORM Report submitted by: Stan Allison
CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK

DATE: 1-21-2006

CAVE: Carlsbad Cavern

SPECIFIC AREA: Old Underground Lunch Room

TEAM LEADER: Stan Allison

TEAM MEMBERS: **Bill Bentley, Cindy DiTullio, Stephen DiTullio, Walter Feaster, Lori Hales, Jacqui Thomas, Tom Kaler, Susan Herpin**

TIME ENTERED: 8am

EXIT TIME: 330pm

PURPOSE OF TRIP

RESTORATION (SPECIFY): Old Underground Lunch Room Project

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR TRIP AND ANY SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS:

I provided a copy of the Old Underground Lunch Room Project Proposal to **Bill Bentley** who read it to the entire group of **Permian Basin Speleological Society** folks. We met at 7am New Mexico time which was 8am for all of the Texans and I discussed the Job Hazard Analysis and did a short briefing. Since it is winter, the dump-truck that we normally use was equipped with a sander, chains and a snow-plow. So we had to resort to a truck that we would have to unload with shovels.

I had originally intended to start working at the far southwest end of the area near the Main Corridor/Big Room Junction. However, it appeared that previous rubble haul work in this area had gone below the ~2' thick layer of white blast rubble and had exposed ~2' of what appeared to be natural cave sediments. Rather than spend a lot of time trying to figure out what was going on in this area, I started the crew working a little bit further north where the digging had stopped at the natural sediments thinking that it would be easier to remove the rubble from this area exposing the natural floor and eventually working southwest in future project days.

We managed to remove 4 truck-loads of rubble from the site. I thought that it was an excellent effort and was happy with the progress, especially considering that we didn't have a dump-truck. Many thanks to the PBSS folks who graciously volunteered their time and their backs for this project.

Aside from the blasting wire encountered in the fill the only artifact that was discovered was a 1944 wheat penny. The exact location of this penny was not surveyed to as it wasn't discovered until it had already been removed and placed in a bucket. This penny has been delivered to the Cultural Resource Specialist.

Notes for future projects:

- Before planning a rubble haul project, Jimmy Sillas should be contacted about dump-truck and dump-truck operator availability.
- If at all possible in the future it is best to avoid planning rubble hauls between late November and February as the dump-truck will not be available during this time period.
- Ideally an authorized dump-truck operator will be present to take the rubble to the quarry. If this isn't possible, then the green truck should be used at the small loading dock once the dump-truck is full.
- In order to protect the freight elevators from wheelbarrow scratches, recycled cardboard should be duct-taped to the areas where the wheelbarrows can scratch the elevator cars.



Being a grotto member, we know you are already interested in caves. Why not take the next step and show your commitment to cave and karst study, exploration, and conservation by joining the National Speleological Society? The National Speleological Society (NSS), founded in 1941, is a nationwide organization with a membership of more than 12,000 individuals from all walks of life and age groups. We are cavers just like you bound together by our love of caves and desire to protect the underground wilderness for future generations.

Regular membership in the NSS entitles you to receive the monthly caving magazine, the NSS News; the scientific Journal of Cave and Karst Studies three times a year; the annual membership directory; and American Caving Accidents. Membership also entitles you to audiovisual and printed library privileges and NSS Bookstore discounts, as well as a discount for the Society's annual convention.

Membership costs just:

Regular- 1 year: \$36 2 years: \$70 3 years: \$103 (Over 17 years of age; all privileges of membership)

Associate- 1 year: \$25 2 years: \$49 3 years: \$72 (Under 17 and, optionally, full-time students. Non-Voting)

Sustaining- 1 year: \$108 2 years: \$214 3 years: \$319 (Regular membership, with \$72.00 credited towards Life membership each year)

Conservation- 1 year: \$100 2 years: \$200 3 years: \$300 (The difference between the regular dues and the Conservation dues will be applied specifically to NSS conservation and education programs and activities)

Life- \$720 (Regular membership privileges for life for a single payment)

Conservation Life- An additional payment of \$1,000 made by any type of Life Member

Institutional- \$75; Educational and scientific organizations, show caves, libraries, etc.

Limited- 1 year: \$15 2 years: \$29 3 years: \$42 (Over 17 years of age, privileges of Regular membership, but without the NSS News and the Journal)

To join please go to the NSS website at: <https://www.caves.org/newmember.shtml>

Email questions to Eric Weaver at: WEAVEREM@UCMAIL.UC.EDU or Dawn Ryan at (815) 260-3454

The NSS Membership Committee