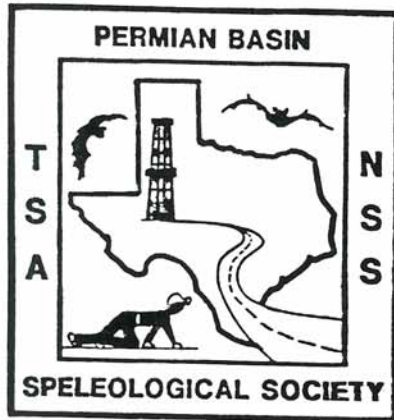


The P.B.S.S. Monthly Spylunk

March, 1984



MEETING: The next meeting of the P.B.S.S. will be held THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1984, 7:30 P.M. at the home of Terry Hill. Below you will find a map outlining the tortuous route you have to take to get there. If the map doesn't help, call Terry at 687-2293 for directions. Anyone who has cave or climbing related slides or pictures feel free to bring them along.

IMPORTANT STUFF:

Dues: If you've received a SPYLUNK it's safe to assume you've paid your dues - but what about your friends? How can you guys sleep at night knowing that some of your caving buddies are going

BILL BENTLEY - PRESIDENT daily to their mail STAR ROUTE A, BOX 31-D boxes, searching for MIDLAND, TEXAS 79707 the SPYLUNK they will

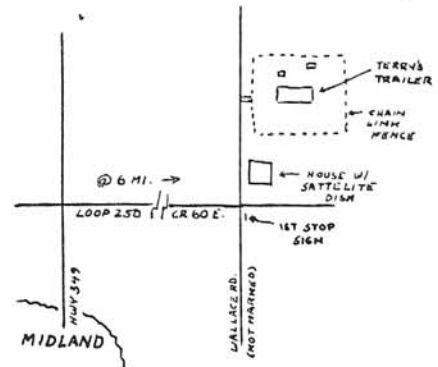
never receive? Shame on you! Seriously, if you know anyone who has forgotten to pay their dues, gently remind them that the rates are \$4.00 per year (\$1.50 if the SPYLUNK is hand-delivered). Leave the strong-arm stuff to us.

Membership List: Attached is the current membership/mailling list for the P.B.S.S. (ok, it's out now, you can all change addresses again). Additions and changes will be noted on a monthly basis from now on, and we'll print another master list sometime around the end of the year.

T-Shirts & Patches: Bill Bentley is working on getting some club T-shirts and patches made up. Unless someone can come up with a better idea, these will just be imprinted with the P.B.S.S. logo. At present it looks like prices will be \$7.00 for the shirts and \$4.00 for the patches. Further info can be obtained from Bill Bentley or at the March meeting.

WIZARDS WELL CAVE: The infamous Wizards Well Cave is now open to us. After massive amounts of negotiation (actually, a couple of quick phone calls) it has been agreed that the present or future grotto president will control access to this cave from this area. This means that there'll be some heavy-duty caving for us in the future!

SOUTHWEST REGION: It has been suggested that P.B.S.S. change our affiliation from the TSA to the Southwest Region of the NSS. This would be a big move (bureacratically, at least) that must not be undertaken without the general consensus of all the P.B.S.S. membership. I won't get into the advantages/disadvantages of such a move now, but I will ask that you think about it before the next meeting. I would also like to invite someone from both the TSA and the SWR to write the SPYLUNK and detail reasons why we should stay in the TSA or go with the SWR.



LITTLE KNOWN (AND LESS APPRECIATED) SPELEO INVENTIONS:



#1: THE SCHWINN ASCENT SYSTEM!



BAT CAVE BLOWOUT:

The 1st Annual Bat Cave Blowout is scheduled for the weekend of June 1, 1984, at (of all places) Bat Cave. Plenty of eating, drinking, caving and whatever is anticipated, so mark your calendar now! Maps and directions will be provided later.

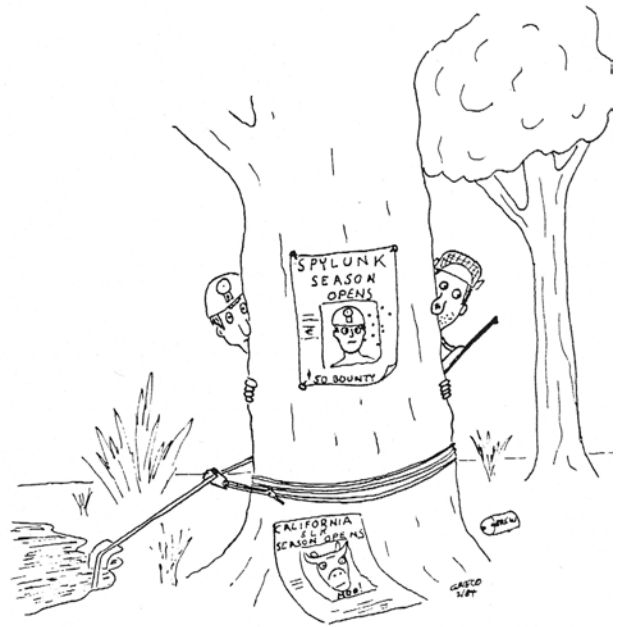
CAVE TRIPS:

MARCH 17, 18, 1984: We have applied for permits to enter Helens Cave and Chimney Cave, Carlsbad Caverns National Park. There are open spaces on the sign-up sheet for those interested. These are fairly easy vertical caves, so if you have not had vertical training call Bill Bentley or Tony Grieco and we'll try to arrange a training session.

MARCH 10, 1984: "Wild Bill" Greenlee is running a novice trip to McKittrick Hill (Endless, McKittrick and Sand Caves) in New Mexico. These are good novice caves, as well as being nice to see and explore. If you are interested in going along, call Bill Greenlee to make arrangements. Plenty of spaces are available

MARCH 31 ^{April 1,} (?), 1984: We plan on going down to Wizards Well Cave to do some lead pushing. This is an extreme vertical cave, so we will only take people with a fair amount of vertical experience. Call Bill Bentley if you are interested in going along.

MARCH ?, 1984: The time has come to undertake some survey work in Comanche Springs Cave (it's a dirty job, but someone has to do it). What we need are more people experienced with a Bunton or similar type compass, and others to assist. With luck, we can get the whole thing mapped in one weekend. Call Bill Bentley to volunteer for this important project. (the fastidious need not apply).



RECENT ACTIVITY:

Christmas Tree Cave, Corkscrew Cave (February 18-19):

Bill Bentley, Barb Edson, Bill Greenlee, Tony Grieco, Vicki Grieco and Terry Hill went along on the February grotto trip to these caves which were the most beautiful any of us had seen. A worthwhile trip by any standards.

Comanche Springs Cave (January 14):

Bill Bentley, Dennis Haynes and Robert Zoecher led a group of divers into this cave for a preliminary, snorkel-type dive. The divers (Jimmy Duke, Phil Bolbow) concluded that the exploration would be hazardous, but they will make another attempt with scuba equipment at an unspecified later date. Also along on this trip were speleo-novices Vicki Bradley and Debbi Duke.

McKenzie Cave (February 11, 1984):

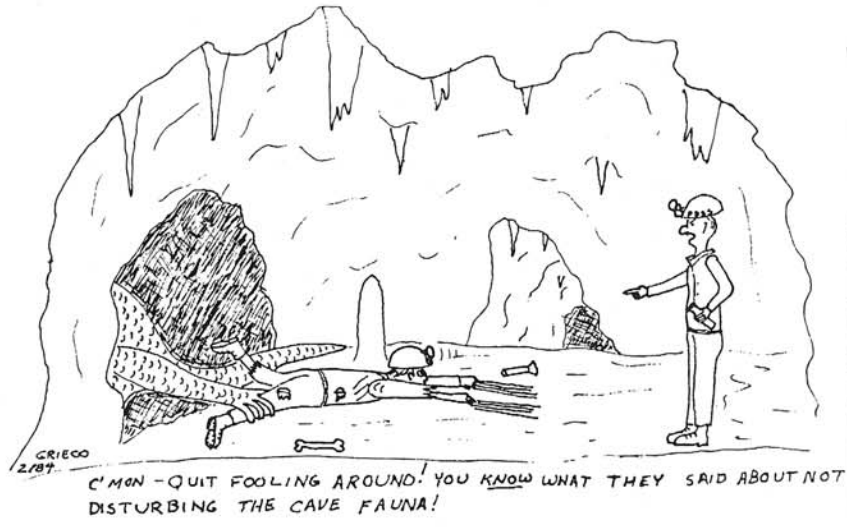
Anthony Ivy led a group of cavers into this cave to replenish the water jugs and replace the cave register.

Sidewinder Well, Border Cave (February 12, 1984):

Bill Greenlee led speleo-novice Walt Zuliana into these caves, to explore and set cave registers. Things went well, and Walt has been awarded an Honorary Spvlunk certificate.

Rattlesnake Cave (February 11, 1984):

Bill Greenlee, Pat Murphy and Tony Grieco took a quick crawl through this cave and set a cave register. All survived.



EDITORIAL COMMENT: And now an editorial comment from the Chief High Mucky-Wuck of the P.B.S.S., Bill Bentley:

"I don't remember where I heard it, but someone told me that sometime back in the late '50's or early 1960's there was a 'real' organized caving group in the Midland-Odessa area. Then in the late 1970's there was the 10-G grotto caving club based in Odessa, Texas. Although not affiliated with the N.S.S., it soon died too. Then as I began caving I came to realize that the need was here for another caving club. Mr. Grieco must have read my mind for he had the same idea. Result, September, 1983, the P.B.S.S. was started.

Timing for this was off because it took us until January, 1984 to get a charter recognized by the N.S.S., and here it is February and still not even a mention of us in the N.S.S. News. I myself was not even listed as a member of the N.S.S. in the membership manual. I'm now ready to call myself the "radical spylunk" and chairman of the "communist grotto". It seems to me that as bad as the N.S.S. wants to recruit new 'cavers' - excuse me, I mean 'members' - they sure make it frustrating and discouraging. Somewhere down the line in all the bureaucrat bull and red tape the real meaning of cavers is forgotten."

Any comment from the Spylunks? Any comment from the NSS hierarchy? Does anyone who is anyone in the NSS read this thing?

MISCELLANEOUS: Kudos to Lety Hernandez for typing the newsletter this month. Also thanks once again to Bill Greenlee for the outstanding artwork that graces these pages - but don't blame him for the cartoons (which don't fall under outstanding artwork, anyway) which are the doings of this editor.

The name for Squeeze Hole Cave (formerly Childress Sinkhole) has been officially changed to Troll Cave by the powers-that-be. Anyone caught using the wrong name for this cave (at least until it changes again) will be flogged.

An excellent article on bats appeared on the January Smithsonian. An attempt was made to secure permission to reproduce it in the SPYLUNK, but without success. If you happen to go by the library, you might stop in and have a look at it - it has some outstanding photographs in it.

McKENZIE CAVE: In the next couple months we plan to begin to survey McKenzie Cave. This cave is a four-level, extensive maze and is exceedingly complex. Those interested in helping to get this project underway call Bill Bentley. This is going to be a long-term project which at best will take several months to complete.

As usual, the newsletter needs material! Think of how proud you'll feel when you tell your friends "My article (or cartoon or letter or trip report) appeared in the SPYLUNK!" They'll be impressed (or else they won't know what you're talking about). It's easy to contribute! Send your cave-related stuff to: Tony Grieco, 4723 W. Illinois St., Midland, Texas 79703. You won't regret it.