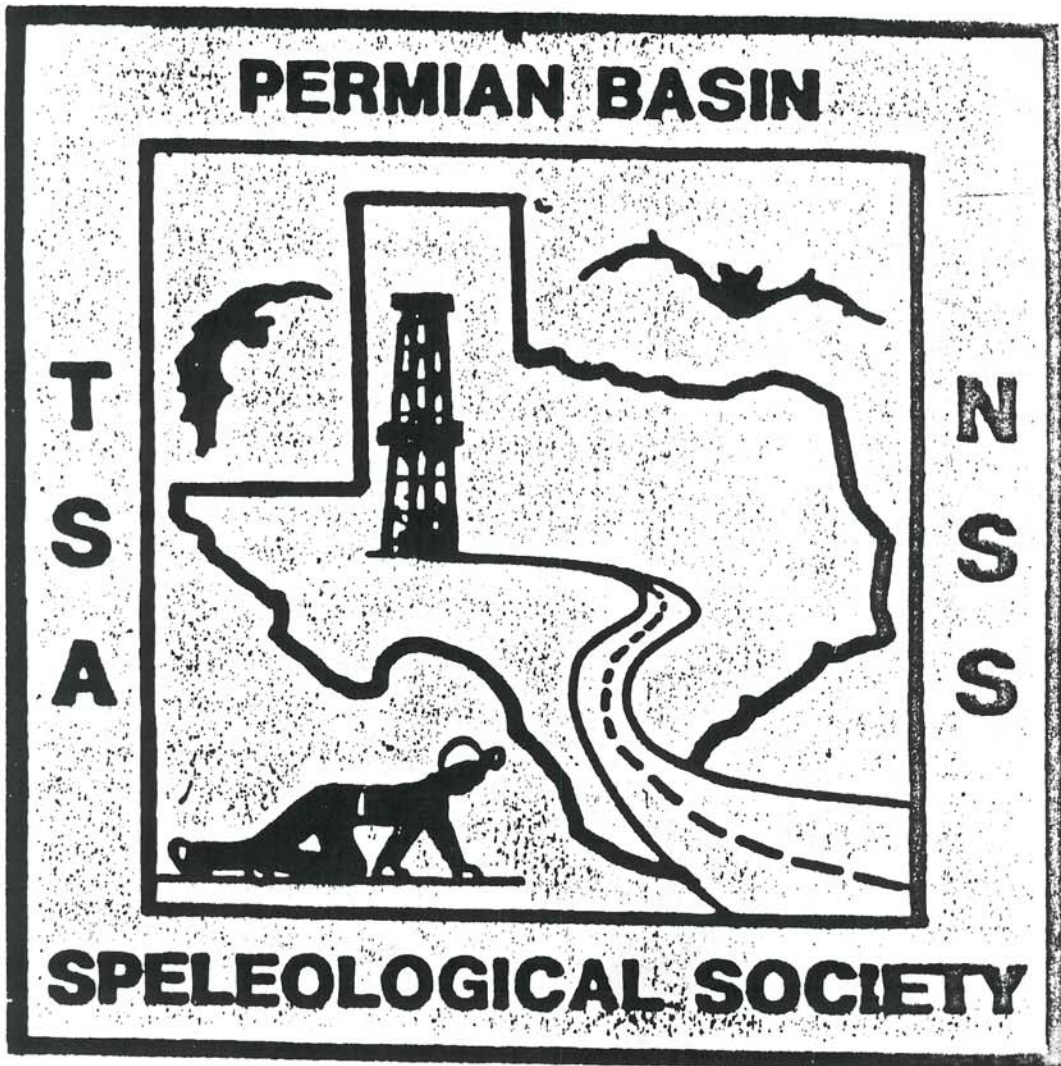


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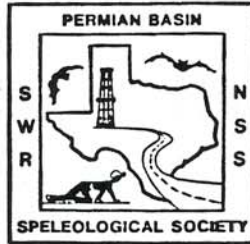
Volume 4, No. 2

SPYLUNK



P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK

MARCH-APRIL 1987



VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

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MEETING:

The March meeting of the PBSS will be Thursday March 12, 1987, 7:00PM sharp, in the First National room, REPUBLIC BANK FIRST NATIONAL, 2nd floor. Enter from the Colorado street entrance. Hopefully there will be a slide show on a Mexico trip and if you have any questions & need directions call Bill or Pat at the numbers above.

TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Southwest Region NSS Spring Regional will be March 14-15, 1987 in the Carrizozo Malpais. CONTACT: Joli Eaton, (505)-585-2417

CAVE TRIPS:

Pat Kambesis has arranged for permits to Mudgetts, Little Mudgetts, and the Manhole Caves to the weekend of March 21 & 22. These caves are located on BLM land in the Serpentine Bends area of Dark Canyon just to the north of the NPS boundry, I don't know of any good close by camping areas. This will be discussed at the meeting and take note the Manhole Caves are VERTICAL, but not very deep.



TRIP REPORTS:

Parks Ranch and New Caves, Eddy County New Mexico February 21 & 22, 1987
 Cavers; Lori Vian, Kathy Schwehr, Suzy Noldan, Jim Sregman, Tom Hill, and Jamie Wooten. REPORT BY Lori Vian

All who went left Saturday morning, Kathy and I met Suzy and Jim in White's City, NM. We all entered the largest opening of the cave and was glad that the temperture of the cave was warmer than outside. We took the right passage first, but there was not any large areas in this direction so we wormed our way through smaller and smaller holes untill we were too big to continue. On the way back to the start of the left passage we met Tom and Jamie. This passage was higher and we were able to walk upright, but there was quite a bit of water in it.

Everyone tried to stay dry for as long as possible by climbing and chimneying on the sharp gypsum walls. Eventually everybody fell into the water or came to a point where there was no choice but to walk through the two foot deep water. Farther back there was a high dry dead end passage and a lowerwet passage in which one way sumped out and the other way was too muddy and wet, so I did not choose to go that way. Then we all backed tracked- this time wading all the way through the water untill we came to some still unexplored areas. In one of these Suzy found a phosphorescent critter of which we all believed to be a millipede that glowed with a bright green iridescence from its head. "NEAT"!

Next came the fun part , the race to put dry clothes on! Thanks to Jim and Tom's fire wood we stayed warm that night for several hours, and of course the many spirits also helped.

Tom and Jamie left the next morning and the rest of us went to visit New Cave. This cave tour is guided by 2 park rangers. New Cave has been mined for its bat guano, and there was also a Hollywood movie made in part of the cave near the formatio called the "Klansman", this could be very scary at times. Then we went into aroom where with 18 different types of formations. The Christmas tree formation was beautiful, there was also flying pizzas and soda strawsand popcorn and helictites ect. There was a 90 foot stalagmite monolith which is reputed to be one of the 7 largest in the world. (?) Later in another part of the cave there was Indian paintings on the wall. There was a fairly large rectangle of floor area which had not been cleaned up since the guano mining days, this proves that caves preserve trash - so don't litter in this type of enviroment or any other for that matter.

December 6, 1986 December Regional, Carlsbad, M.M.

The regional was really great, from papers, slides, dinner and fellowship Everyone did a great job especially Dwights Deal's presentation about the WIPP project. Tom Bemis showed us an interesting device that he called a "Poor Man's sonar", Ray Keeler's slides of Belize caves were great, Jim Goodbar and Bob Alward from the BLM talked about the Volunteer program, Mike Goar gave a really neat slide show for Novice cavers, David McClurg showed us a few necessities of vertical caving, Carol Belski talkded about writting trip reports (a hint) Steve Peerman showed us his Desk Turtle (this little plotter, looked like a mouse, just moved all over this paper and plotted a cave map, Mike Bilbo, from Lubbock, had a magnificent dual slide show, Jim Goodbar, Dave and Janet McClurg showed us some slides of their trip to Spain, the Ninth International Congress, Buzz Hummel had a movie of Ft. Stanton that was very interesting. The dinner that night was also great! What I am trying to say is that the December Regional of 1986 was a great suscess don't you all agree?

January 24, 1987 Whiteface Cave, San Saba Co., Texas

Jack Carroll, Tom Carroll, David Laughlin, Pixie Clark, and Pat Copeland.

Jack and Tom arrived at my house near 8:00 along with Pixie and David. Gear was loaded and we headed for cave country. We arrived at the forman's house to let him know we were going to the cave. The weather was a little windy but it was nice and warm.

After securing the rope we checked for any varmints near the entrance. All the rains we have had was noticeable but not too bad. We made it down the incredible slope one by one for safety because of the loose breakdown and all the slick bat guano. After everyone was down the slope we all grouped together and headed to find the stream. This was only my second time to the stream, but we found it but the water had risen so high that I could hardly recognize where I had been before. We checked the stream out and rested for awhile. David and Tom checked out several leads but none appeared to really go anywhere.

Jack wanted to check out an area that he had taken pictures of over 20 years ago to see how it had changed. We found several rooms not on the map while looking. The cave had some breakdown since Jack was here before. The cave was really dripping and all the water has washed off bat guano from some really nice rimstone dams and beautiful formations. Small streams were running down the dams and running down a crack below. I saw parts of this cave that I had not seen in four visits before.

We slipped down a crack and crawled for a few feet and it opened up to a room eight feet wide and 20 five feet long and the floor was covered with cave coral. At the end of this room we climbed up over a three foot ledge and crawled up into a small room with some pretty formations. From there we crawled on down the crack but after a few feet we were looking down a small fracture that went down a long ways but this looked like a recient fracture with lots of small sharp rocks that could start falling so we elected to forget this one. This cave needs to be checked out more but David had to be back at 4:00 and Jack and Tom had a Scout Dinner at 6:00 and I had a dinner party at 7:30. This cave needs to be checked out more but David had to be back at 4:00 and Jack and Tom had a Scout Dinner at 6:00 and I had a dinner party at 7:30. There were several mounds of guano in this room. We saw several real good leads but we were running out of time so we started back up Pixie's favorite slope. Tom went up first followed by Pixie and David. Jack was putting some trash that someone had thrown down the hole in a small out of sight hole and covering it with some rocks. Sure hope people will learn not to put trash in caves. After Pixie and David reached the top, Jack and I made our way up and out.

We washed up the best we could and put on clean clothes for the drive home. Tom found a armadillo checking the trees and brushes around the entrance for his meal. Pixie and David headed for Brownwood while Jack wanted to check on his water tank at his ranch between Richland

Springs and San Saba. On the way we drove by the Leonard Ranch and Peach and Pecan orchards. He showed us Baker Springs that feeds into Mary Lake. The water was coming out of a hole in a cave up a small canyon. I had never seen so much water running out of the ground by itself it was incredible. We talked to the manager of the Ranch and met the new young man to head the peach department with the same last name as mine. We left, Jack checked this water tank and headed for home. Along the way we saw all these army guys and a lot of equipment. Jack talked to one of the guards at the gate and told him they had camouflaged everything real good except their port-a-potties. The guard said they had to be able to find them. We saw one headquarters where the helicopters were, even got to see one land. There were probably thousands of army participating in Roadrunner Exercises in this area. Sure had a very full day.

December 7, 1986 Hick's Cave (Wind Cave) Eddy Co.

Bob Alward, Mark Calamia, Andy Belski, Dave Milligan, Ransome Turner, Jackie, Kathy Peerman, Mary Ann Roth, Bill Bentley, Patricia Kambesis, Pixie Clark, and Pat Copeland.

Two caves, Yellowjacket and Hicks Cave, were planned for clean ups. We all signed up for Hick's and met at Belski's at 8:00. Pixie, Kathy and I rode with Mary Ann out to the cave.

Bob brought about 15 gallons of water in plastic gallon jugs so we could use it to clean with. After Andy opened the gate everyone entered the cave, each with a gallon of water, spray bottle and brushes. Several places we were able to pass packs and equipment and finally we made it to the work area. Bob divided us into work groups and assigned us our areas to clean. Pixie and Mark cleaned an area up from the Red Giant while Andy, Bob and I cleaned under and around the Red Giant. After ten gallons of water and several hours of hard scrubbing we had made a good deal of headway on cleaning this area of the cave. We all met and ate a bite of food or whatever and headed back out of this here cave. The trip out was much faster than coming in, could it have been the full water jugs! Nay we just wanted to show the BLM that we were all good workers.

We all gathered for a group picture of the "After". Sure hope Dave Milligans picture was good.

Once again Pixie and I headed back to Dave and Carol's house for a quick bath and on to Brownwood, getting home at our usual midnight. Sure had a great time.

2

Christmas in Mexico by Patricia Kambesis

Jerry and I along with cavers from Autin and California, spent the Christmas holidays high in the Mountains of northern Mexico in a small mountain hamlet called Conrado Castillo. Terri and Peter Sprouse from Austin and Peter Bosted, Carol Vesely and Bill Farr (the California contingent) spent over a week camped near the Brinco entrance of the Sistema Purificacion. The cave is over 61 km in length and 895 meters deep..

Most of the trips would be to Brinco, doing photography, lead checking and clean-up surveys. The "warm-up" trip of the week was to Ceuva de Borrego. Peter and Terry S., Peter B. and Jerry and I hiked to the cave which was all of 10 minutes from camp and just off the road. The entrance was a pleasant walk-in type which opened up into a breakdown room. We descended to the north section of the cave through some dry, low crawls (one looked like it was floored with petrified cauliflower), up thru a short chimney, popping out into a flowstone floored chamber. This is where we would start our survey and we spend several ours checking leads, mapping, taking pictures and looking for the elusive "Taco shell". This area of the cave was fairly dry, though some of the lower passages were muddy. (We did find the "Taco Shell" - located high in a fissure. I was expecting to have to stretch my imagination to see it. This speleothem looked just like its name - it had a very delicate white shell and white flowstone poured out one side looking just like sour cream).

The next day we spent hiking in the forested part of the valley, looking for caves. We found several small caves and pits and mapped them. Later one of the locals took us on a long uphill hike to some entrances that he claimed took lots of water during rains. Perhaps we would find a higher entrance to the Sistema. We checked many holes but nothing really looked promising.

The following day, Peter B., Peter and Terry and I went to Brinco. Our destination was the World Beyond to map and take photos. The historic Brinco entrance is located in a small ravine and one climbs over and down some breakdown to gain entry. We quickly made our way to the Dressing Room - where we would change into wetsuits for the rest of the trip. The historic section is dry, dusty and mazy with a lot of friendly climbing. Hand- and foot holds are plentiful and solid and we made good time. Once in the Dressing Room we donned wetsuits for wetter regions of the cave. Down through a crack in the wall immediately got us into cold water. We twisted and squirmed, climbed up a flowstone chute and negotiated the Crack of Doom. Obviously named by normal sized folks. The crack is a long tortuous squeeze type canyon and we all grunted and groaned our way through, our packs giving us the most trouble. Once through this minor obstacle the cave opened into the Moonscape Passage. A long corridor with deeply solutioned walls and floors.



We continued to a beautiful crystal clear stream passage named the Rio Verde. The water cascaded over long flowstone slopes into gour pools, descending steeply into the cave. The gradient was fairly steep in this area and we did a lot of climbing up and over flowstone slopes and solutioned walls - beautiful, classic stream passage. Progressing onward we found ourselves swimming, crawling, walking through a canal. This section was long and low in some places. It was best negotiated by pseudo-swimming along pulling oneself along the bottom with our hands. We "beached" on a delicately flowstone-rippled bank in our pursuit of the World Beyond. I noticed while gingerly crawling across, a number of long narrow, horizontal white tubes on top of the flowstone. I thought at first it was part of the rock but after brushing against one discovered that it was soft! Terri noted that they were some sort of larval stage of moth which inhabits the cave (Yuk!). I avoided those suckers as best I could. We stopped in a mud-floored room to drop off any gear we wouldn't be using on our first survey and took off up a dry upper crawlway. The crawlway opened a bit, meandered and then dropped into an eight foot pit. A flowstone passage could be seen at the opposite side and I climbed up to see if it went. It did but it was dry, smallish type passage with no discernable air movement. The air appeared to be going into a low passage below where we came from. We mapped our way into a wide mud and flowstone floored crawlway. There were peculiar, hollow mud "bubbles" with small mud spouts on top scattered on the floor. No one knew what they were but they appeared to be organic - probably another wierd larval form.

Following the air took us to a long narrow fissure with passage at the bottom. We climbed down, surveying as we went and found a station from a previous survey at the bottom. We tied in while Peter S. speculated where we were. He decided that we were in an upper level off the World Beyond and sent Peter B. off in that to establish a voice connection (which he did).

We returned to our gear drop off spot and made way towards our destination. With a little climbing and some crawling we popped out into a large breakdown floored passage (The World Beyond). This area was very different from those passages which we had just traversed. It was GIANT borehole - the floor and ceiling was made up of very dark grey rock which was deeply solutioned into many potholes. The floor and breakdown was covered with buff colored flowstone that was being eroded way by the water (and air to some degree). It was very sharp as I instantly cut my hand but just grazing past the stuff. We stopped where the water started to get deep and proceeded to take pictures from this point back. We spent a total of 13 hours in Brinco that day.



Since it had started to snow the following day, the next Brinco trip was postponed until we could see what the weather was going to do. It was very wet and Peter S. was concerned with water levels in the areas he wanted to check. So, it was off to Borego again to do some more surveying in the south section of the cave. Peter S. speculates that this cave connects in to the Sistema although no connection had been found yet. This part of Borego was similar to the Brinco area as it was dry and mazy in places. We split up into two survey teams and mapped through a breakdown maze. Near the end of our survey, while trying to do a compass shot and not paying attention to where I was going, I managed to step into a hole bruising my ribs and hurting my knee. At the time it didn't feel serious but as I sat and my leg got colder it stiffened up making it difficult to walk or climb. I sat out while Jerry, Bill Farr and Peter Bosted finished the survey. It sounded interesting - low crawlway that opened up into descending passage. Some climbing was involved to continue on and we quit saving the lead for some future trip. As we exited my knee became progressively worse until at the entrance I could barely walk on it. This effectively ended my caving for the week.

I ended up laying around camp fending off curious children, hungry pigs and obnoxious dogs while the others when caving and or hiking. But the weather was fine and the scenery was beautiful - some consolation for the rest of the trip.

MISCELLANEOUS:

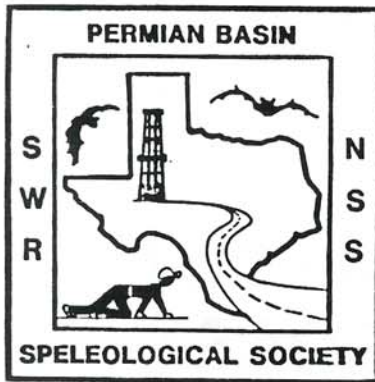
COVER

This month's cover is the logo of the Permian Basin Speleological Society which was thought up by me the editor in October of 1983, It was changed slightly in 1985, and was made into a patch later that same year.

THANKS

Many thanks go out with this issue of the spylunk to all those who sent in trip reports. Hey I appreciate those that were already typed for me know what I mean Pat & Pat.

The PBSS SPYLUNK is the official publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society, a grotto (chapter) of the National Speleological Society. Membership, which includes the newsletter is \$4.00/ year, paid to the editor (address on masthead). Material for publication should be sent to the same. Republication of material contained herein by other NSS publications is encouraged, others may do so with permission of the editor.



1987 PBSS CALANDER

- MAR. 12 MEETING
- 21 & 22 MUDGETTS, LITTLE MUDGETTS, BIG MANHOLE, & LITTLE MANHOLE CAVES.
- APR. 23 MEETING
- 18 & 19 HELLS BELOW CAVE, (Clean up project).
- MAY. 2 & 3 BAT CAVE BLOWOUT & ANNUAL SKIPPER ROAST
- 14 MEETING
- 16 & 17 SENTINEL, BIG DOOR CAVES

- JUN. 18 MEETING
- 20 & 21 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL, FORT STANTON CAVE
- JUL. 16 MEETING
- 18 & 19 PINK PANTHER, PINK DRAGON, PINK PALLETE, AND DAMN CAVES.
- AUG. 13 MEETING
- 15 & 16 MYSTERY TRIP *
- SEP 17 MEETING
- 19 & 20 OGLE, LAKE, CHRISTMAS TREE, WEN, HELENS, CORKSCREW CAVES.**
- OCT 8 MEETING
- 10 & 11 PBSS HOSTS THE PBOC (OUTING CLUB) GYPSUM CAVES & NEW CAVE.
- NOV. OPEN
- DEC. OPEN
- JAN. 88 AMAZING MAZE CAVE
- FEB. 88 TERELINGUA SINKHOLE

* Trip to be announced later
 ** Trip is pending permits

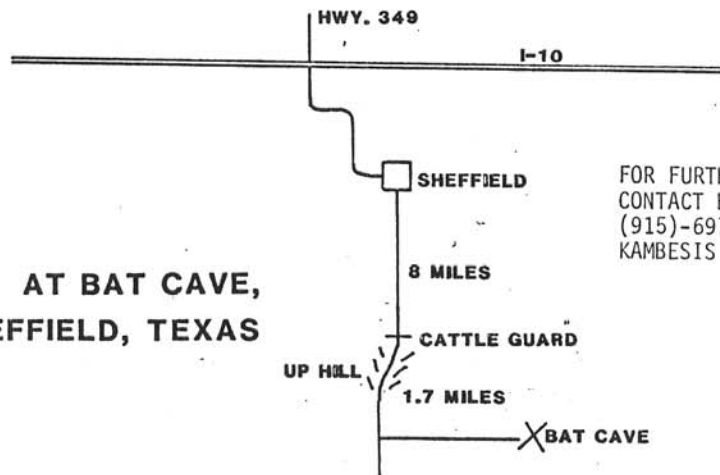


The Permian Basin Speleological Society

PRESENTS
THE 4TH ANNUAL

BAT CAVE BLOW OUT AND SKIPPER ROAST

MAY 2nd & 3rd 1987 **AT BAT CAVE,
SOUTH OF SHEFFIELD, TEXAS**



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT BILL BENTLEY
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KAMBESIS (915)-697-3807

**PLENTY OF EATING, DRINKING, SOCIALIZING, AND EVEN CAVING! BRING
YOURSELF, SOME FIREWOOD, AND YOUR FAVORITE FOOD AND
BEVERAGE- AND DON'T FORGET YOUR SKIPPER!***

* FOR THE UNINITIATED, "SKIPPER" IS A COLLECTIVE TERM WHICH REFERS TO ANY
USELESS OR WORTHLESS PLASTIC FLASHLIGHT...