
PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

March, 1993

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Saturday, March 13

Location: Meet at 10:00 AM in Rick Day's front yard in Andrews. Rick lives at 114 N.W. Avenue F #B. He is the owner and landlord for a multi-unit dwelling at that address, and would appreciate it if you wouldn't destroy his tenant's property or leave anything disgusting on their lawn. Rick's house is easy to find. If you're coming from Midland, you may come in on 176, in which case you'll make a right on 385. If you're coming from Odessa north up 385, you'll go through Hwy. 176, which is the main east-west road through town, and as you continue north you'll note the streets are numbered A, B, C, etc. Make a left on F, and go until it ends where it runs into the Andrews Middle School. Rick's house will be on your right at the end of the road. If you're late, look across the street at the Middle School where all our cars are likely to be parked, and come into the gym near the cars. If you're really late and no one's at the gym, come by Buddy's at 106 E. Broadway (actually on Hwy. 176 just east of 385), where we plan to enjoy world famous steak fingers for lunch. If you become lost, which would be awfully hard to do, just ask where the Middle School is.

Bring your ascending and descending gear and helmets as we plan to devote the morning and perhaps part of the afternoon to practice. Thanks to Noel and Rick for organizing this.

MARCH TRIP

Spider Cave, a horizontal cave in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is scheduled for Saturday, March 20th and Sunday, March 21st. By National Park Service stipulations, the group size is limited to 10; trip must be led by a Ranger; and there is a \$10 per person fee to be paid at the information desk at the Visitor Center. Age limits are 18 or older, or 13 to 18 with written permission from parents. Under 13 requires written permission from parents and permission from the park superintendent in advance. Bill will need written parental permission for cavers 13 to 18 when he submits the request for the permit to the Park Service, and he strongly recommends that we don't bring along anyone under the age of 13. The Saturday trip to Spider is full. There are slots still left on the Sunday trip. If you're interested, call Walter at 367-8253. I assume everyone will meet at the visitor center, but don't know what time. If you miss the meeting and plan on arriving on Saturday morning or Sunday morning, call Walter for the time.

Walter has scheduled Chimney Cave, a vertical cave in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, for Sunday, March 21. Although the permit is full at present, it's likely some people will back out, so stay in touch with Walter if you want to go. The Chimney Cave expedition will meet at the Visitor's Center at Carlsbad Caverns National Park at 9:30 AM Texas Standard Time on Sunday Morning.

For both Spider and Chimney, we will camp at the Parks Ranch Caving Area (map enclosed). The Outing Club is likely to be at Parks Ranch that weekend as well; but, as explained before, they are not like the San Francisco Outing Club, so don't let their presence worry you.

A work trip for Amazing Maze Cave, sponsored by our grotto, is scheduled for Saturday, March 27. There are likely to be a lot of people from out of the area present. Walter notes this is a good kid cave. Groundfires and pets are not allowed.

Take the number 285 exit (McKenzie Road) off Interstate 10 exactly 26 miles east of Fort Stockton, or about 11 miles west of Bakersfield. The St. Genevieve Winery, which covers acres, is on the south side of Interstate 10 at the exit. Get on the north service road and go west. You may need to "Y" off to the right of the service road to get closer to the fence line. You'll take a right and go north through a metal gate that's about 200 yards west of the overpass. After going through the gate travel on the road perpendicular to the fence line about 1000 feet. Then you'll see another road heading off to the right; take

that road, and go about 500 feet down into a caliche pit. Camp there if you come up on Friday night. Please call Gralin (682-1904) or Walter (367-8253) if you plan to make this trip.

APRIL TRIP

Bill has scheduled H. T. Myers Cave, a vertical cave near Del Rio that involves 6 drops, for April 17. Tentatively, camping will be at Paint Creek Marina on Amisted. The cave floods when it rains, so the trip will be cancelled if it looks like rain. If you're interested in going, please call Steve at 683-3305.

MAY TRIP

09 Well has tentatively been scheduled for May 15. This is one spectacular cave, and difficult to get into. It requires a wet suit, which you can rent, and you may need to switch ropes during descent and ascent. Call Walter soon if you want to go, as this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is going to fill up fast.

NEW MEMBER

Tiffany Terrett, Jan & Chuck's daughter, and Noel M. Pando, son of Noel D. Pando, have finally joined PBSS after freeloading for all this time. They've both been caving with us a lot, and need no introduction. We appreciate having Tiffany and Noel M., as they are small and gullible, and will go places the rest of us won't.

Tony Abernathy has joined PBSS. We failed to quiz him on his life history at the last meeting, and will include biographical data in a future edition. Tony's phone number, which is missing from this edition but will be in the next list, is 694-7919. Welcome Tiffany, Noel and Tony.

MISCELLANEOUS

If you missed the last meeting, Chuck et al are continuing to pursue some leads for new caves southeast of Midland, and have completed a rough draft of a map of Watkins Cave. Efforts to determine whether a new species of worm has been identified in the cave have not been successful to date.

As a result of the efforts of Walter and Gralin, PBSS is the caretaker for Amazing Maze Cave.

J. D. would like to invite PBSS over to his house to paint it, and will let us crawl around in his basement if we do a good job.

Noel notes that we should express sympathy to Bill, who will be passing kidney stones next week, and to Walter, who passed a knot last Sunday. Also, it is understood that sympathy may be the order of the day if certain PBSS members find out who was passing gas in the Guadalupe Room recently (see trip report). Bill, who has done a lot of work lately lining up Spider and H. T. Myers Caves, will be out of commission for a while, but should be back caving later this spring.

The Guad Slut and Bill have done the art work for the new official emblem for PBSS. If there's room, Gralin will run a copy in this edition of the newsletter, to let you know what will be coming out on T-shirts and patches soon.

Gralin is improving our public exposure via our homemade cave videos, showing them to the Methodist Men and the Odessa Jaycees.

TRIP REPORT, by Bill Bentley

"Reward Trip or how to get Gassed in a Cave"

We left the CRF research cabins around 6:45PM Texas Standard Time and started our walk into the greatest of all caves in the world or better known as Carlsbad Caverns. Our band of intrepid souls included our fearless leader and answerer of the great question "Are we there yet?" Kevin Glover, also Don Carlton who was almost overcome by deadly noxious fumes of the gastrointestinal type. Then there was

Ken Kamon whos tall skinny self slithered through the tight cracks and passages, Terry Cargile, Larry Gray and myself Bill Bentley. We entered by way of the natural entrance and as we got closer to the heavily barred gate we discussed the fatal and near fatal attempts to bypass the gate by attempting the ledge of death crawl which is thousands of feet above the trail below. It was strange to look up and see from the trail below the natural entrance the end of a cold February day ending in twilight. Maybe that is why its called the twilight zone. It is hard to imagine the enormous size of this cave when the lights are out and all is quiet when there are no visitors and only the soft glow of headlamps lighting the way along the visitor trail.

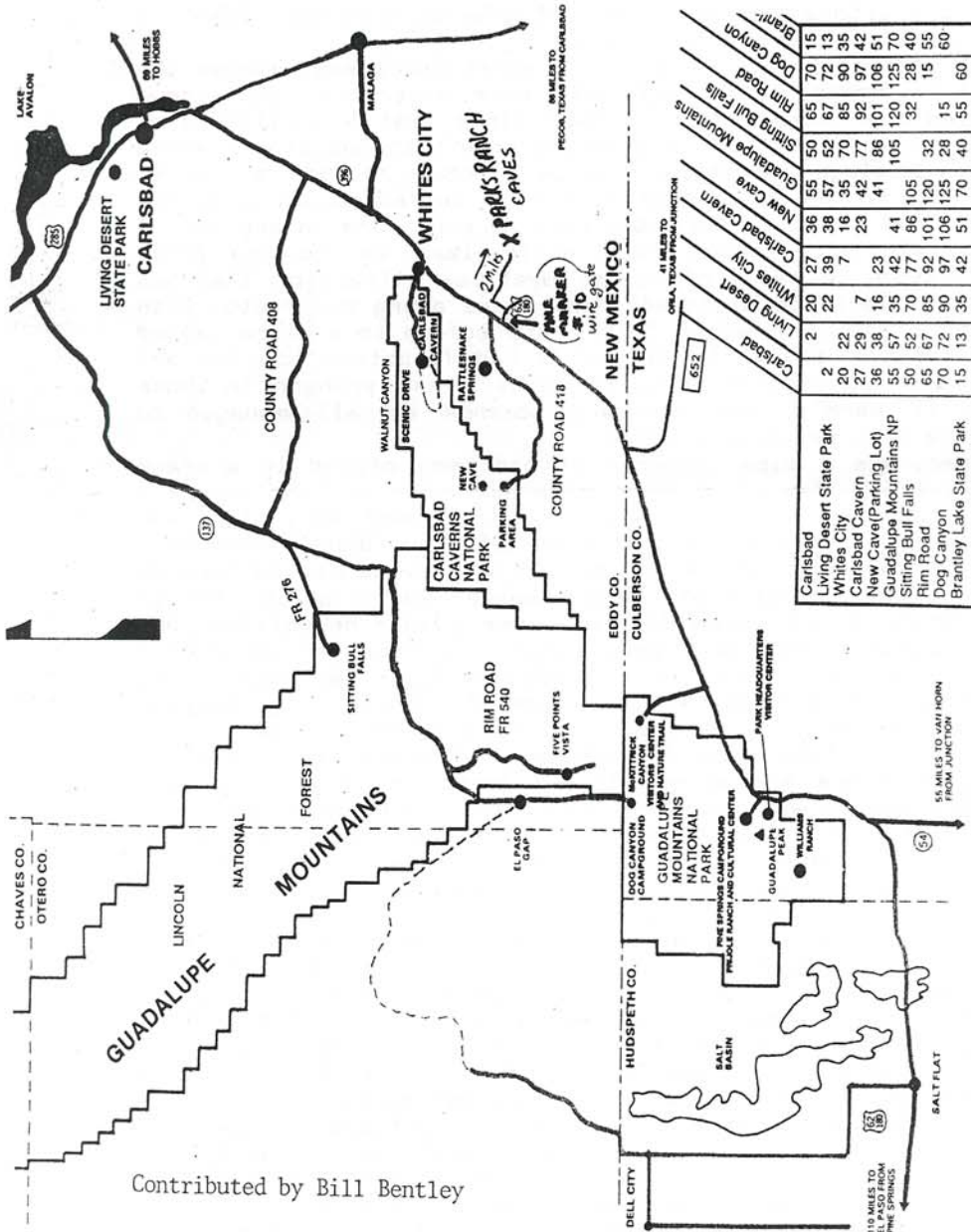
We left the trail at the point where one always leaves the trail in hopes of a real wild cave adventure, our group crawled over some electric power lines that had zillions of volts of power and I let everyone know that one tiny pinhole and some slight arcing and a caver could become a charred burnt crispy caver resembling a well cooked piece of bacon. We did the old over and under routine even some in and out of the crawls and spaces that would lead us to our final destination, a place of almost mystical attraction that had been and would be discussed many times along our route. Even though I had been along this route before to a place called "The Hall of the White Giants" I had forgotten how far and how rough it actually was, or maybe I was younger in those days. It wasn't that bad and somehow we all managed to survive this perilous journey.

There was a pipe ladder that had been placed in a crack and made a climb up a slick chimney easy. It lead us to a tight spot called "Matlock's Pinch". It was very tight and made Don say some words that the rest of us didn't even know that he knew. Don shame on you! On our way we passed through the well beaten path of "Sand Passage" and a quick stop in the "White Giant" area to view some beaded helectites. Our group finally entered a very large room known as (NO JOKE ! We are really there.) "The Guadalupe Room" We oohed and aaahed at the billions and billions of soda straw formations in a place called "The Soda Straw Forest. While viewing this area conversation sparked a debate of "Did they fall on there on long before man walked this planet, or was it man who damaged the straws upon his entry of this underground world of beauty?" Only two of us at a time could enter the place called the "Canary Room" because it was so packed with formations and was not a big enough area to accommodate more than two at a time.

I don't know if we were all tired from the tons and tons of rock and elevator debris that we had removed earlier in the day or if we were just getting old and wanted to quit but at this point I was the one who weaseled out and asked that we head out. There wasn't much of a cry of complaining with my idea, so exit we did. The trip back was for the most part uneventful, I lead the way and only got mixed up once just before the sand passage area. There is red flagging tape that helped even though with my superior and vast knowledge of most of the underground in the Southwest. Our arrival at the Lunchroom at 10:15 PM TST caused us to jam up with group of wimpy cavers that went to the "Lake o tha Clouds Room". This

is a place that is about 20 minutes from the lunch room and has a couple of thirty foot drops or so I have heard.

A elevator ride of 1 minute 3 seconds to the surface 763 feet above and we left this greatest of all caves so that someday we might return and enjoy what nature has seen fit to bless us with. A good time was had by all. Later that night the nuclear "WINDS" of the Guadalupe destroyed both the screen and the bench, but that is another story.... Tony you missed a good one!



MAP SHOWING DIRECTIONS TO PARKS RANCH

PERMIAN BASIN

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PBSS

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SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PBSS Newsletter

Please mail material to Gralin & Kari Coffin, 910 W. Kansas, Midland, TX 79701 or to Ken Kamon, P. O. Box 10589, Midland, TX 79702.

PBSS Membership

To join PBSS, mail \$5.00 to Don Carlton, at the address that appears below. Make checks payable to Don, and include your address, phone numbers, and, if you have one, NSS number.

PBSS MEMBERSHIP

Last Name	First Name	W. Phone	H. Phone	NSS #
Anderle	Chuck	685-3119	685-3119	31477
Anderle	Jan		685-3119	31478
Anderle	Tiffany		685-3119	-----
Bentley	Bill	694-7721	697-3079	21977
Carlton	Don	335-3265	687-4352	30417
Cargile	Terry		697-8700	-----
Coffin	Gralin	684-5548	682-1904	33471
Coffin	Kari C.		682-1904	33472
Cullen	James		(214)412-1632	-----
Day	Rick		523-9665	-----
Eddy	David	(817) 287-8350	699-6451	11830
Feaster	Walter		367-8253	31624
Fincher	J. D.		558-7248	31859
Fincher	Richard		694-4381	-----
Fox	Charles		(817) 692-5770	-----
Franks	Stephen	697-7672	683-3305	35245
Glasson	Larry		523-9772	-----
Gray	Kim	523-5675	523-6409	-----
Gray	Larry	655-6957	653-3823	19588
Guad	Slut		(505)393-5604	-----
Harter	Gary	523-9758		-----
Hill	Tom	560-5044	687-2122	27888
Hunt	Doug		697-1885	-----
Kamon	Ken	686-0720	699-7192	34637
Knight	Kenneth		(817)696-8713	-----
McArthur	Martha		(817)723-9890	35327
Nance	Jim		563-5208	27723
Pando	Noel M.		523-9294	-----
Pando	Noel T.		523-9294	-----
Qualls	Patrick		(505) 397-0884	-----
Scott	Melissa		694-4381	-----
Seefeld	Cheryl	570-3421	570-1124	-----

PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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