

March 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, March 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: Cave Gates?

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>

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Future Cave Trips and Events:

7-8 March- GYPKAP Project: New Mexico-Contact Joli or Chris Lee @ (505)585-8406 or <jclee@wazooo.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 <trhi@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.

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: Sewance, 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*****

New Members

The PBSS would like to welcome two new members to the PBSS. Christina Page from Odessa and James Lewallen from Odessa too. Both are eager to do some caving.

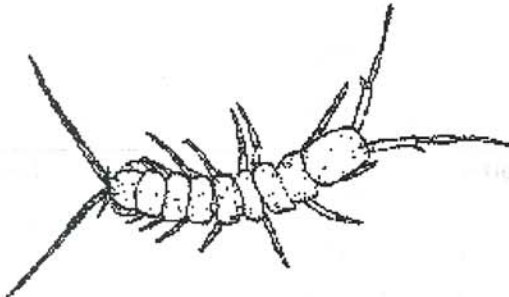
Hopefully in the near future we will have trips to some neet caves.

Welcome and Cave Softly and Safely.

Cave Trips:

Ken Kamon is taking some British cavers to the Guads this June. There is usually a few spots open on the permits. If you think you would like to go, contact Ken at (915)699-7192 or e-mail <kendamon@apex2000.net>.

The caves and the dates are, Ogle June 20, Christmas Tree and Wen June 21. This time Ken, try not to insult our allies.



**Permian Basin
Speleological Society
Officers**

President: Kerry Lowery

Vice-President: Ruel Metcalf

Secretary/Treasurer: Walter Feaster

Newsletter Editor: Walter Feaster



Space

Reserved for

Trip Reports

or

Something!

Trip Reports:

CAVING ON THE B.L.M. IN NEW MEXICO OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1997

Since moving to the Carlsbad area, Tom and I have been trying to do some caving outside of the National Park. After speaking with Jim Goodbar, we found out that the majority of nonpermitted caving is done on land controlled by the B.L.M. They supposedly have 150 known caves with only 16 requiring permits. However, they will not disclose the locations of the nonpermitted caves unless asked about by specific name. Well, we know only a few names and the following caves are those. Mudgett Cave (Kindel Cave) is one we read about in Nymeyer's book and it is on the topographical map. It was easy to find this gapping hole 300 feet up in the side of a cliff. The closer we hiked to the base of the cliff, the harder the climb to the cave looked. Turns out it only took us 20 minutes but we were breathing pretty hard when we got to the top. The view from the entrance is spectacular. Just like it is in Nymeyer's book. We could see for miles it seemed and the only difference from the book's picture is a prominent road cutting across the canyon floor. There are artifacts from the abandoned guano mining operation bolted in the entrance ceiling and a register lies solely on the dusty floor. It appears from the register as though the steep climb to the entrance tempts very few cavers to visit this cave and that's too bad. For this cave should have been called "Drapery Cave" or something like that. The display of draperies in this cave is great. We saw them everywhere as we ventured further in to the main corridor of the cave. Occasionally we passed a row of columns or some short soda straws but nothing as numerous as the draperies.

When we reached the end of the main passage, we found some crawling passages going but Tom and I were beginning to run low on batteries. Having not been too prepared for this cave's length, we decided to exit the cave. We understood from Nymeyer's book that the cave doesn't go any farther but we still would have liked to check it out for ourselves.

One highlight of the cave is a flowstone that Nymeyer has a picture of in his book. Tom Kaler took a picture of me next to it and the eerie resemblance to Nymeyer's photo makes my skin crawl. I enjoyed seeing this cave from the historical standpoint of the guano operation to the Nymeyer exploration. It really made me feel like I had been somewhere important and that's kind of neat.

Another cave we found on the topographical map is Boyd's Cave. Tom understood it to be a party cave for the locals and as evidenced by the Bud bottles that looks to be true. Nonetheless, the awe factor of this cave is its unexpected massive, sink entrance. A number of Native American families could have existed in this cave for it is so large that there never is total darkness. A large tree is growing in the entrance and it makes for nice shade. The only drawback might be the obvious sign of drainage running through the center of the room and pooling in the back of the cave. But the room is so big that it could easily be walked around.

There are only a small number of formations in the back of the cave consisting mostly of flowstone covered in tiny rimstone dams. There are some crawling passages that go a few feet only to choke. However, someone believes that there must be more because there has been some digging in one of the crawlways, I tend to believe there could be more too but who knows how much digging it

would take. So much digging, so little time.

With this cave too I got a deep sense of history. The only evidence of Native American habitation is the midden located 100 feet away from the entrance and the soot on the ceiling. I really could see this cave as a home and I asked Tom if we could ditch our trailer and move in. He said sure but we would have to share it with the beer guzzling rowdys that visit the cave every weekend. So what's new?

Little Sand Cave is nestled among the great caves of McKittrick Hill. It is gated but not locked and Jim Goodbar said no permit is required to see it. "Cool!" I thought, "Let's go!" And we did. Now I know why no permit is required. Entrance requires a ten foot chimney in to a circular room that has a register and about four passages going no where beyond two feet each. "There's got to be more," Tom exclaimed, "I've seen the map." So we searched under every rock, in every nook, and around every corner. Nothing. We concluded that the on going passage is filled and Little Sand is in dire need of digging. We hope to do that very soon. But until then, this trip report is on hold.

One day when hiking on our public land (I love being able to say that since we moved to New Mexico) Tom and I saw a huge shelter carved in the side of a cliff. Curious, we climbed to it and were excited about what we found. Pictographs lined the wall with tiny, white numbers next to each one. There are 50. Apparently some archaeologists had studied the faded pictographs and left the numbers hanging. Later, Jim Goodbar told us that it is called Key Painted Shelter. It was a neat discovery but our next discovery just down the canyon from the shelter was even more exciting.

We saw a hole about twenty feet up in the slope of a mountain. Reluctant to waste any time checking it, we meandered to it and happened upon a porcupine. He was docile. When we got to the hole, the smell of skunk was strong. Tom peered inside and there was a gate. Then I saw a B.L.M. seal declaring this cave Honest Injun Cave. We had never heard of this cave and were very enthused. But as luck would have it, this cave is restricted to research visitation only. Apparently a lot of artifacts have been found inside and the rest are being protected. Jim told us that there is nothing other than that in the cave and it only goes back about 100 feet. Anyway, we found it and that was pretty thrilling.

Those are the B.L.M. caves we've found so far. We are continuing to look with great anticipation of finding something else fantastic. So for now, cave safely.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee-Kaler NSS # 42075