



April 2001

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

Volume 16 Number 4

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting of the PBSS:

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held **Tuesday, April 10**, around **7:00 PM**, in the back meeting room of Murray's Delicatessen. Murray's is located at 3211 West Wadley, Midland, Texas.

Our Agenda:

Meeting

More on the TSA Spring Convention

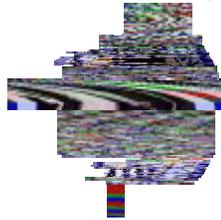
If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or (915)559-3297, or E-Mail: <wfeaster@home.com> or <wfeaster@texascavers.com>.

"The Hole News" is the monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Articles and cartoons maybe reproduced by cave oriented publications that exchange newsletters with 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 Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, TX. 79703. 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 Secretary/ Treasurer, c/o Walter Feaster, (address above). 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 <lowery4@rcrom.net>. 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 AL, 35810-4431, or <www.caves.org/defaultjs.htm>.

"PBSS Home Page"

<http://www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.htm>

Built and Maintained by *Bill Bentley*



Future Cave Trips, Events, and Projects:

*****April 7- PBSS Trip to Ogle Cave:** Contact Lori Hales for more info at (915)381-3408 or <lahaless@excite.com>.*****

*****April 21- PBSS Trip to Abyss Sinkhole:** Contact Dwaine Moore at (915)683-7016 or <dlaviation@aol.com>.*****

*****May 19- TSA Spring Convention:** Will be held at Sonora Caverns and hosted by the PBSS. Go to <www.texascavers.com/tsa/tsa_conv.htm> for more info and pre-registration form.*****

*****June 30- PBSS Rock Haul @ CACA:** Contact Walter Feaster at (915)559-3297 or <wfeaster@texascavers.com>.*****

July 23-27-2001 NSS Convention: Mount Vernon, KY. For info visit www.nss2001.com or contact Bill Carr, PO Box 1406, Mount Vernon, KY 40456. Phone: (606)256-0205 or <chairman@nss2001.com>. Register online; registration fees fully refundable until May 1, 2001.

October ? Texas Cavers Reunion : Details later.

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

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

On Going Projects:

CRF- -Carlsbad Caverns: Expeditions usually occur on holiday weekends. Contact Barbe Barker (972)594-1183 or <cavers@gte.net>. Or possibly CRF website -www.cave-research.org.

High Guads Restoration Project (HGRP): Upcoming events will take place the last weekend of each month. For more info contact Susan Herpin (505)785-2423 or <sherpin@caverns.com>.

PBSS Rock Hauling At Carlsbad Caverns: PBSS on going restoration in the Big Room of Carlsbad Caverns. Tentative dates for 2001 are (as you know this can change): **June 30, Sept. 15, and Dec. 8.** Contact Walter Feaster at 694-1824 or <wfeaster@home.com>.

TSA Activities Newsletter

If for some reason you do not receive the TSA Activities newsletter, you can find it at <<http://www.texascavers.com/tsa/tsaact.htm>> in printable form. Very interesting reading.



New Members and Grotto Stuff

PBSS would like to welcome **Barbe Barker** from Irving, Texas and **Frank Everitt** from Roswell, New Mexico. Both new members helped out with our last Rock Hauling at Carlsbad Caverns.

Also **Arlon Carroll** has returned to us after a long absence. He is now residing in Red Oak, Texas. **Welcome all!**

For all of you who can not or will not go to the TSA web site, I have enclosed the **TSA Spring Convention pre-registration form**. Follow the instruction and send in your \$20, for what should be a great time.

Trip Report

Editor's note: As most of you have noticed the past few issues of the "Hole News" have been some what empty. I have tried and tried to come up with something to make this publication more interesting to read. So, as a last resort, I have resurrected from my fading memory one of my most memorable cave trips. For some of the "old timers" in the grotto, you where there. The rest of you have heard the story, or parts of it. Now for the first time in print you will read the official version. At least according to me!

My Weekend

(or I just should have stayed at home in bed)

By Walter Feaster

There is an old saying that bad luck, trouble, and catastrophes comes in groups of three's. A forth incident is just another group of three's coming down the road. This all has to do with Murphy's Law and such. If it can, it will. Believe it, and you will not be to surprised. Any way on with the story.

The Lock out.

It was March 27, 1992, a Friday, and for that weekend the PBSS had several visitation permits for caves in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. For Saturday we had Lake Cave and several caves in Slaughter Canyon, I don't remember what caves, I went to Lake Cave.

The company I worked for at the time let everyone go home at 4:30 on Fridays. Well I jumped in my car and zoomed back to my apartment (less than four miles) in anxious anticipation of getting on the road again. I parked my car, closed the door, and locked my keys in the car (**the lock out**). "Oh do-do"! That isn't what I said, but it will suffice for now. I go to the apartment manger's office and get the pass key, get into my apartment, and call the lock smith. Twenty minutes later and twenty dollars later, I free my keys from interment and I am back on schedule. I load up my Toyota pick-up with caving gear and the essentials, beer, steaks, and bathroom tissue! A few hours later I arrive at Parks Ranch just south of Whites City. All the PBSS regulars are there or arrive later. I don't remember who all eventually showed up, but if you where there, you may remember it.

Locking my keys in the car was just a prelude of things to come. One of three.

The Lock-Up.

Saturday morning all of us woke up bright eyed and bushy tailed ready to go caving. Knowing the first law of caving in the Guadalupe Mountains of Southeastern New Mexico, is that all caves are up hill. Both coming and going. So to get around this fact, we decided to drive to Lake Cave. In hind site, this was probably not a good idea, but at the time it sounded great. So off we go. Chuck is in his

Toyota 4wd pick-up with Mr. Bill. I am in my Toyota 4wd pick-up with Gralin Coffin and Larry Gray following in his car. Larry is a new member from San Angelo. The rest of the grotto members head for Slaughter Canyon to visit caves they have permits for.

Arriving at the parking lot of Carlsbad Caverns, Larry parks his car and gets in the back of my pick-up with all my "essentials" and we head down the so called "scenic loop". A few miles down this road we took the turn off to the old Lechuguilla parking lot. This road is the Guadalupe Trail which eventually ends at Lincoln National Forest. Calling this a trail is a misnomer. A goat could break a leg on this path. This ridge road is also known as vehicle destroyer. On the way out to the cave we saw several car parts, like exhaust pipe pieces, mufflers, and other vehicle parts. Fore warning of things to come.

After several hours of bone jarring four wheel driving in first gear and low range, we stop and started the hike to Lake Cave. From our vantage point we are on top of the Guadalupe Ridge looking down into Slaughter Canyon. The cave is near the top of the canyon. Lake Cave is not very big, but has several formations in it. What makes Lake Cave so unique is the large pool of water it contains. I find this remarkable considering the vast arid environment of southeastern New Mexico. It was worth the trip, so far.

Well we came, we saw, and now we leave. At this point Mr. Bill and Gralin decide to hike down into Slaughter Canyon and make their way to the parking lot at the mouth of the canyon and maybe catch a ride there. The rest of the group, Chuck, Larry, and me, we start the long ruff journey back to camp. Now I must tell the story of some one else who had a bit of bad luck on this expedition. Gralin slipped and fell on his way down into Slaughter Canyon. In the process he did a self belay on a yucca plant and saved himself from a long drop. His hands and forearms looked like he played tag with a really mad mountain loin. Fortunately that was the extent of his injuries.

After a couple hours of very ruff traveling, we made our way back the parking lot at Carlsbad Caverns. By this time the caverns where closed and the parking lot was empty. I drop off Larry at his car and we went on our separate ways. Funny, that was the last time any of us saw Larry. I guess he didn't care for the bone bruising ride in the back of my pick-up. It couldn't have been my company!

Driving back to Parks Ranch, as the sun was setting, I was thinking what a great day this has been. Good caving, good friends, and I got to do some off road driving. I think ZZ Top was on the radio too. Soon after leaving Whites City heading for Parks Ranch, my momentary lapse into blissful serenity was rudely interrupted by a loud mechanical bang. My keen skill of observation soon told me I was coming to a screeching halt and I didn't have a choice about it! "Oh no, what now"? (**The lock up**). Two of Three.

(To be continued next issue of the "Hole News")

