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

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Next Meeting of the PBSS

The next meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held April 13th at Murray's Deli located at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland at 7:00 PM.

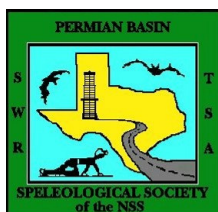
Our Agenda

Meeting

"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 the 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 Michael Anderson at ,< michael@ms-anderson.com > or mail to Michael Anderson, 12157 E. Hwy 158, Gardendale, Tex. 79758.

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 made out to and sent to: Michael Anderson. If you are interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Barry Hayes at 432-333-8856 or < cavelizard@yahoo.com >. 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 go to < www.caves.org >.

The "PBSS" Home Page
www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.html
built and maintained by
Bill Bentley



President:
Barry Hayes
Vice-President:
Lori Hales
Secretary/Treasurer:
Michael Anderson



On Going Projects:

CRF Carlsbad Caverns: Expeditions usually occur on holiday weekends. Contact Barbe Barker < cloudcaver@pvtnetworks.net > or 505-687-4270. Or the CRF website www.cave-research.org

High Guads Restoration Project (HGRP): Upcoming events usually take place the last weekend of each month. For more information contact Susan Herpin at 505-457-2253 or < highguads@yahoo.com >.

PBSS Rock Haul at Carlsbad Caverns: PBSS on going restoration in the Big Room of Carlsbad Caverns. For more information contact Walter Feaster < wdfeaster@cox.net > or 432-559-3297.

Future Cave Trips, Events, and Projects:

*****May 14-16 - Rocking at the Ranch:** Contact Jacqui Bills < jlr bills@sonoratax.net > or 325-387-3424 for more information.

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

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

Remailers & Bulletin Boards

PBSS: http://caver.net/mailman/listinfo/pbss_caver.net

CaveTex: www.cavetex.net

FINAL NOTICE

If you have paid your membership dues for 2004 "PAID" will appear below.

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If "PAID" does not appear:

YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED

Membership information can be found on page 1

NEW MEMBERS

Cheryl Kettle

Miscellaneous Caves of New Mexico

By
Rebecca Lee

In April of 2002, Tom Kaler and I embarked on a two-month introduction to miscellaneous cave in New Mexico. Our adventure began north of Magdalena in the Cibola National Forest. Tom noticed two caves north of the ghost town of Riley marked on an old topographic map and of course insisted that we search for these diamonds in a desert rough. The first search yielded nothing but a scar on the side of Yellow Mountain. Someone, or many someones (probably rock hounds) have vigorously dug out the cave only to leave piles of minerals strewn about the hillside. There is nothing to really indicate that a cave once existed in the mountain except for broken cave formations and other rocks lying like slaughtered soldiers after a hard fought war. OK, that's a little harsh but it really wasn't pretty. We decided to camp that night beneath the carnage and attempt to find the other cave the next morning.

After spending the last five months in the wake of the cold mountain breezes from the Apache National Forest where I worked, I was reminded the following morning by the warm gusts from the Cibola of all the desert mornings I spent in the Chihuahuan and Mojave Deserts. It seemed like old times, but there was little time to reminisce before Tom and I jumped into his Jeep to scour the hillsides for cave number two.

A meticulous search easily exposed the object of our desires. Well, the cave was only a few feet off of the road. It was a rather large hole that really couldn't be missed. A real cave right here in the Cibola. Of course, we immediately climbed in. I really didn't expect too much from this hole other than a snake or a rat, but cavers will crawl into anything just to say they went caving. Who hasn't explored the sewer tunnel next to his house or inched between the supports in the crawl space under his floor?

Surprisingly, it was a going cave. Survey tape and side passages sealed any suspicions. Tom and I carefully but excitedly checked out every nook and cranny we could find. We found minerals in the cave that we had never seen. One mineral was a fine, powdery orange substance. The other was a shiny, boxwork thing that covered all the walls and ceilings. When a bat finally squeaked at us, we felt at home. Sigh.

We wouldn't make it to another cave until the Speleotwins, Melynn Conway and Meliene Bachman, decided to visit from Texas. On May 3rd, we all met at Martha McArthur's house in Zuni for a weekend of lava tubing in El Malpais National Monument. I took the twins to explore Junction Cave and to look at the entrance to Bat Cave in the El Calderon area. I couldn't understand why I kept hearing such complaints as we crawled over the razor sharp lava floors of Junction Cave. I guess I shouldn't have told them that they didn't need elbow pads and gloves.

The next morning, we all went to Braided Cave. The cave lives up to its name and is a pretzel of crossing and uncrossing passages. Bighorn sheep bones gave us more to look at along with a few small stalactites. We had fun. It had been years since we had all met to go caving. The margaritas and memories flowed well that weekend.

May 11th, Tom and I found a limestone cave in the heart of the Gila National Forest. While exploring Palomas Canyon not far from the historic towns of Winston and Chloride, we happened upon an old log cabin. Over the door of the cabin was a hand carved sign that read, "Old Cavers Home." We wondered what this meant until across the canyon from the cabin we saw a huge hole seemingly carved out of a tall limestone cliff. Eureka!

Well, the hole is boarded to keep folks like us out, so we couldn't explore this curious relic of history gone by but just seeing the place was quite a thrill. A steel door detached and fallen lies leaf covered on the canyon floor. We wondered what the old caver was up to as we continued down canyon only to happen upon another cave entrance. This time the cave entrance was open. In fact, this cave had three or four yawning entrances. They are so obvious and welcoming that we had to check them out.

What we found was a full-scale cave system that immediately reminded both of us of the Park's Ranch Cave. A maze of scalloped passages warned us not to go much farther without backup. So, we hope to return like good little cavers with our third explorer.

We continued to hike the canyon and quickly found something that shocked both of us. Someone built a house inside a cave. At the entrance of the cave is a wood and glass room with a short staircase descending into the cave. A locked door keeps people out but we could peek through the windows and see a stove, a bed, a table, and a number of other household goodies to make this cave homey. It's still maintained and appears as though someone still lives there. A metal roof was built over the cave and extends out from the cliff the cave is in. A stovepipe pokes through the roof so we know the cave dwellers are staying warm. We couldn't tell how deep or far the cave went but it really didn't matter because what we were seeing was truly an interesting architectural feat.

Those are the caves Tom and I have seen lately. In the heart of lavaland, we've been able to find some intriguing and unique underground features. But, I think the most interesting thing we found was insight. Just when you think something so primitive as living in a cave was abandoned a thousand years ago by ancient people, think again because some day you might hike down a lonely canyon only to find the Taj Mahal smack dab in the middle of a wilderness.