

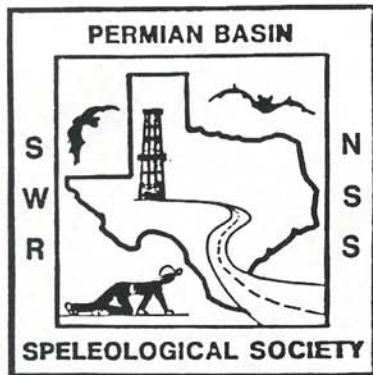
PBSS SPYLUNK

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PBSS Monthly Spylunk



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MEETING: The April meeting is scheduled to be at Bill Greenlee's residence in Andrews. As usual, our regular grotto meeting night is the third Thursday of the month- in this case, the 18th. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM. First priority for cave trips requiring permits is given to active participants.

Cover Art: PBSS spylunk Tony "Mr. Carbide" Grieco muses over the bizarre formation known as "Gnome Dome" - one of many beautiful and unique features of Spider Cave in Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: This month's trek to the underworld is to the caves of Pink Ridge, in the Guadalupe. A splendid time is guaranteed for all.

APR 20 & 21 The Pinks (Horizontal)

MAY OPEN: Suggestions, anyone?

JUN 15 & 16 Hell Below, Black (Horizontal and vertical)

JUL 20 & 21 Virgin (Vertical)...but not for vertical virgins

SWR SUMMER REGIONAL: The PBSS is hosting a combined regional and 2nd annual BAT CAVE BLOWOUT during the weekend of June 1 and 2. This event will feature a fine opportunity for vertical training, especially for vertical virgins. Also, some area horizontal caves are available. Montgomery Cave (South of Sheffield, in Terrell County) is the location. A flyer with details will be mailed to you soon so mark your speleocalendar!



Grotto Patches: Embroidered PBSS logo patches are available through Tony. Send check, money order, or Rolex watch now, while supplies last! Cost is \$3 each.



TRIP REPORT:

March 9 and 10, 1985 Montgomery Cave (Terrell County) and Amazing Maze Cave (Pecos County) Participants- Bill Bentley, Coyote Coston, Bill Greenlee, Terry Hill, Tom Hill, Matt Killam. (Report by Bill Greenlee)

Our purpose for this trip was to initiate some novices into the realm of vertical caving; Bentley, Terry, and I being vertical veterans while Coy, Tom and Matt were our gung-ho vertical virgins. All three virgins, of course had been thoroughly surface-trained previously.

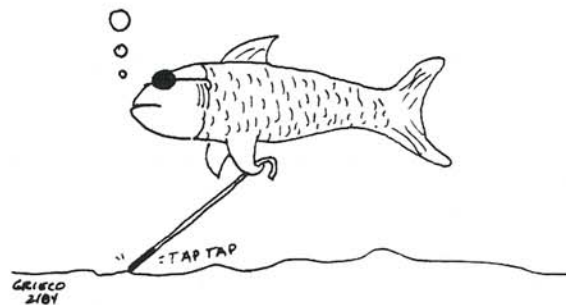
Matt and I arrived at Montgomery Saturday morning. The rest had camped there overnight and had already rigged the four drops and descended. We rappelled into the 20' mouth pit and down the 40' second drop without incident and without seeing the others. However, at the next hole, I heard what sounded like a heated conversation (and even swearing!) on the next lower level.

I established voice contact to determine if they were coming up or still descending. The reply was, "I'm not going any*#@%&!where, ~#@\$-it! I'm stuck here with my @\$\$ hanging out over a #**%@^~ huge crack!" We descended the third short drop and found that Tom Hill owned the mysterious voice. He was indeed perched directly over the gaping mouth of an alternate pit that leads to the lowest level. However, he was safely looking out a window and had wisely not committed himself to unnecessary exposure.

It turns out that Tom had actually found and used the legendary "Haynes Bypass" and had climbed to his present position without having to use a rope. By now, Bentley joined us, having ascended the fourth drop conventionally. Together, we managed to toss Tom a seat harness and Jumar on the rope. He then chimneyed over to us without risk. Coy and Terry now joined us in this passage that seemed like Grand Central with all of us meeting here from three directions. After passing the time of day with everyone, Matt and I continued on down while the rest exited.

We toured all the known sections of the beautiful gypsum-encrusted chamber. Many skeletons of small creatures caused us to wonder about their fates. Delicate gyp flowers are abundant in this lowest vault. Near the bottom of the last drop, the remains of a rope-and-wood ladder are well preserved. A spectacular giant gyp crystal formation towers many times taller than a man. I like to think of it as "Old Granddad". Finally, we negotiated a tighter passage that runs parallel to the main one (originally discovered by the Haynes brothers).

After exiting and resting, the Hills went back to Midland and the rest of us journeyed to Amazing Maze Cave. Next morning, we toured the dry and labyrinthine passages and noted such features as the Air-Conditioning Rock, pits to the Lower Maze, and a new section discovered by Bill Bentley that he calls High Domes. The PBSS has begun a survey of the cave, but a complete map will be an investment of many spylunk-hours.



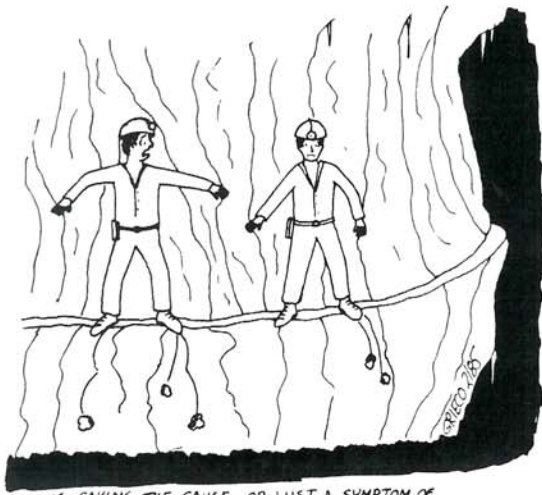
March 16, 1985 Spider Cave, Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Participants- The old pros: Tony "the Mad Scientist" Grieco and Wild Bill Greenlee; the novices: Matt Killam, Vance Woolley, and Debbie Wolfe. Our guide: Matt Safford, park ranger. (Report by Debbie)

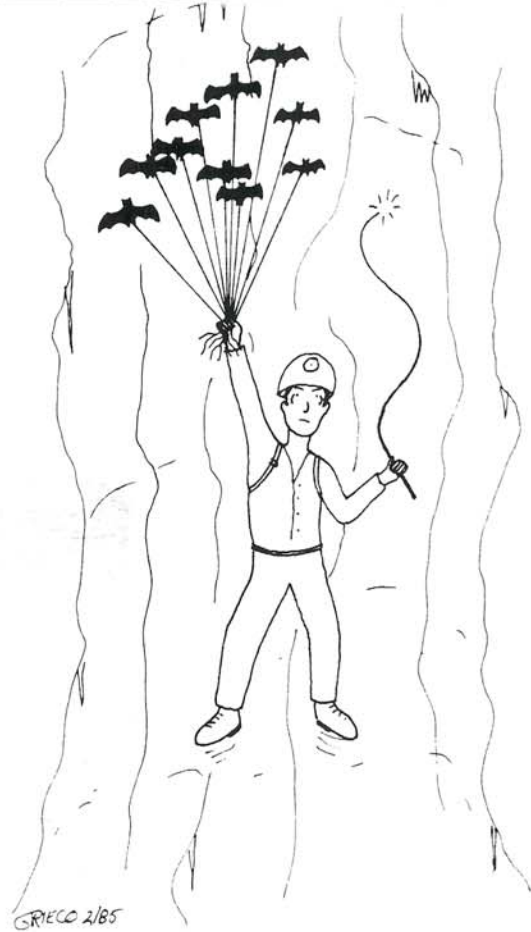
We left the visitor's center around 9 AM and headed for Spider Cave. After hiking down to the entrance of the cave, we proceeded about 10' down into the cave via a ladder. Immediately, we found ourselves crawling on our bellies for the next 30'. Vance was in front of me and he didn't think that he could fit through (I see why all cavers are skinny). But after doing some digging, he made his way into the cave.

The cave is beautiful, with its milky-white formations reminding us of shaving cream, whipped cream, and soap suds. There are lots of soda straws and delicate looking formations, and the cameras were flashing in Mace and Medusa Rooms. In addition to the white formations, the cave is very colorful with lots of reds and glistening crystals. Since the cave is small, it was soon time to head back.

My Eveready flashlight gave out and I promised Tony that I would donate it to the "Skipper Roast" at the Bat Cave Blowout. We ascended back into the sunshine around noon, at which time I headed back to Midland. Enjoyed it, fellas! I am looking forward to seeing you all again at the Pinks. Until then....love a bat!



IS CAVING THE CAUSE, OR JUST A SYMPTOM OF MENTAL DERANGEMENT?



ACCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT; August, 1984

Bill Bentley (24), while at his home attempting to unravel the mysteries of his Butterfly carbide light, unknowingly allowed some of the carbide to fall into the drain of his kitchen sink. Moments later, while trying to start the lamp, a spark from the lighter ignited the gas accumulated in the drain, causing a small explosion. No one was injured. Property damage was minimal, consisting mainly of drain-crap being splattered all over the kitchen. Bill is presently exploring the commercial possibilities of his new drain cleaning technique, and is planning to apply for a patent.

ANALYSIS:

Carbide lights, like any tool, can be dangerous in the wrong hands (especially those of a fanatical electric caver like Bill). Only experts with hours of training in carbide light safety should be allowed to use them without parental guidance.