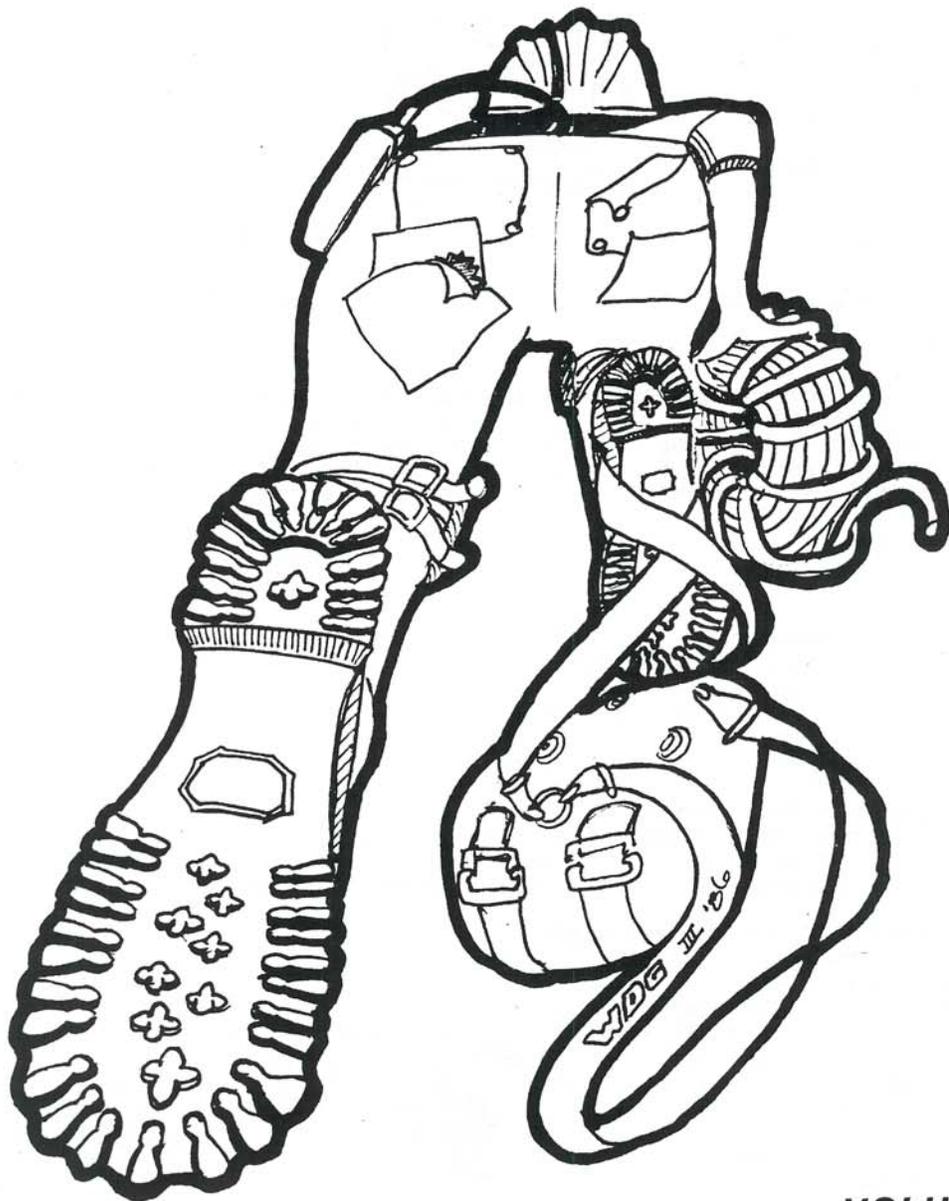


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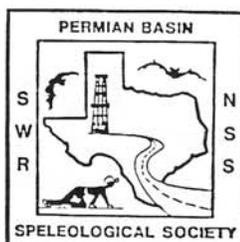
APRIL 1986

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 5

P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK

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MEETING

The April meeting of the PBSS will be held THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 7:30 PM at the home of Bill Bentley, Tremont Apts. #621 (right near the intersection of Wadley and Loop 250). A slide show titled "Saving America's Bats" has been scheduled for this meeting. Topics to be discussed include preparations for the BAT CAVE BLOWOUT, so be there!!

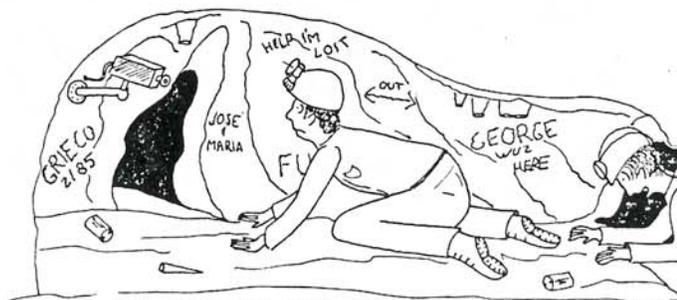
NEWS OF NOTE

PBSS SCHEDULE:

APR. 19-20: MADONNA CAVE
MAY 3-4 : BAT CAVE BLOWOUT AND SKIPPER ROAST
MAY 17-18: VIRGIN CAVE
JUN. 20-22: NSS PRE-CONVENTION TRIPS
JUN. 23-28: NSS CONVENTION
JUN. 28-30: NSS POST-CONVENTION TRIPS
JUL. 12-13: OPEN
AUG. 9-10 : SAN SABA COUNTY CAVES
SEP. 13-14: DEEP CAVE (PENDING PERMITS)
OCT. 18-19: HIDDEN, BLACK, COTTONWOOD CAVES (PBOC TRIP)
NOV. 8-9 : SENTINEL, BIG DOOR CAVES (PENDING PERMITS)

BAT CAVE BLOWOUT AND SKIPPER ROAST:

The 3rd annual Bat Cave Blowout and Skipper Roast is set for May 3-4 at Bat Cave, south of Sheffield, Texas (see attached flier). Hopefully we will have a good turnout this year, as we did last year. Don't be afraid to invite a friend for a mellow weekend of camping, kicking back and even caving! And of course, don't forget to bring a skipper for the Saturday night roast!



I WONDER WHAT THE B.L.M. IS DOING ABOUT ALL THE VANDALISM IN THIS CAVE ?

NEW LUBBOCK GROTTTO:

Our suspicions have finally been confirmed- a new grotto has indeed been formed in Lubbock! It is called (of all things) the Lubbock Area Grotto, and its first chairman is Noble Stidham. They have applied for membership in the Southwestern Region, and their application will be voted on at the next regional. Bill has already sent a letter to Joli Eaton, chairman of the Southwestern Region, telling her that the PBSS wholeheartedly endorses LAG's inclusion in the region. LAG plans to have a newsletter out in the very near future, so if you are interested in joining (you can belong to both LAG and PBSS) the person to contact is:

NOBLE STIDHAM
P.O. BOX 1094
LUBBOCK, TX. 79408

The SPYLUNK will publish LAG's caving schedule as soon as they can get it to us, hopefully we can arrange for some joint caving trips in the very near future!

SWR REGIONAL:

The Southwestern Region will be holding its next regional meeting April 12-13 at the site of the '86 convention in Tularosa. Much work remains to be done preparing for the convention, and any help would be welcome. If you have any questions, call Bill Greenlee (915) 523-9550.

CAVE TRIPS

APRIL 19-20, 1986: The April grotto trip is a foray into Madonna Cave, Guadalupe Mountains. This cave is vertical, with two good drops, so plan accordingly. Several of our 'regulars' have run into severe scheduling problems for this weekend, so we may end up short of people- it would be a shame to have to cancel the trip for lack of personnel, so if you can possibly attend please plan on it. For those of you who have never seen it, Madonna is a SUPER cave, with a spectacular (and scary) first drop. Call Bill Bentley or Tony Grieco if you are interested in attending.

MAY 17-18, 1986: Virgin Cave- Be There!!!

TRIP REPORTS

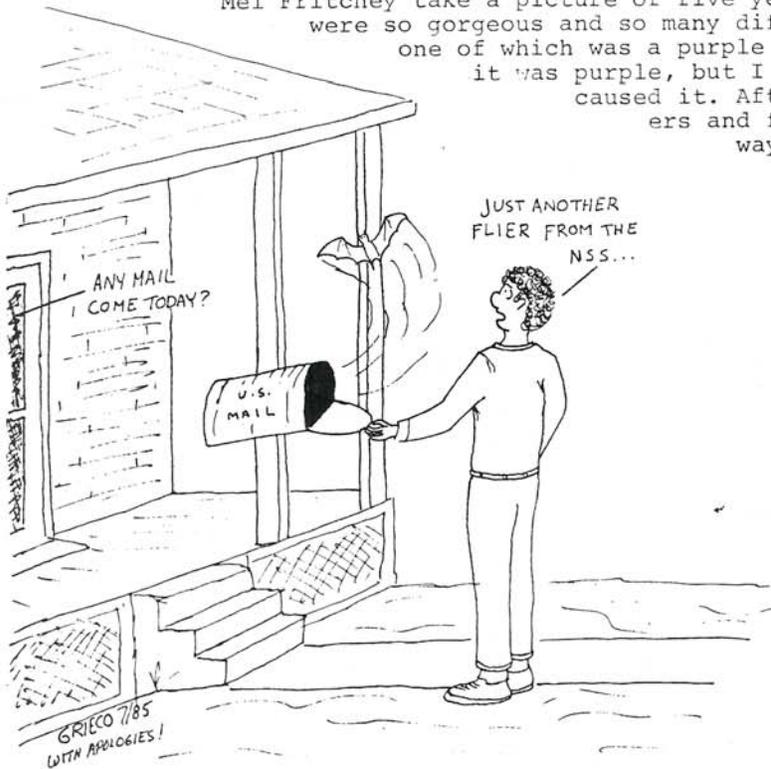
HELL BELOW, LITTLE BEAUTY, STORYBOOK, AND BLACK CAVES, eddy Co., N.M., February 8-9, 1986.
Participants: Bill Bentley, Slim Baxter, Suzy Noldan, Dave Gose, Tim George, Wayne Walker, Tony Grieco, Pixie Clark, Pat Copeland (report by Pat)

After hunting for Storybook and Little Beauty for hours with no luck, a few of us decided to take Wayne to see Black Cave since he had not seen it. We took a quick photo trip through Black while the others went on to rig Hell Below.

Slim took Pixie back to camp because she was tired and cold and Slim doesn't care for Hell Below since Carol's (Belski, that is-editor) little accident there. They dropped Wayne and I off at the campsite

near Hell Below and we walked on to the entrance. I put on my gear outside because I remembered how small the area was before the drop. We went in the small, two-foot square masonry 'tunnel'. The floor dropped down and the ceiling rose immediately at the end of the tunnel into a medium sized room. From there a three to six foot wide fissure continues on, sloping down. A chimney dropped about eighteen feet then a small, short crawlway doubles back through an awkward squeeze- and then came the awesome drop! We called down to see if anyone was on rope and a voice said that Bill was climbing. After Bill was up, Wayne rigged in and down he went, followed by me. The drop is just as beautiful as it was my first time back in 1981. We made it down the first drop then on to the second drop, where we found out that the rope didn't go all the way to the bottom. About four feet from the bottom, on a small ledge, I unhooked and held on to the wall and made my way to the bottom.

The others had gone on so we found our way down through the cross section that was fifteen to twenty five feet wide and fifty to 140 feet tall. The floor and walls were encrusted with popcorn, as was the breakdown. A crevice runs through the middle with a small breakdown bridge at various places and depths. There were also several deep pits along the way. We could hear the others and soon saw them across the deep crevice. We met at the Lake Room and sat and talked for awhile. The picture that I helped Bill Goodall to take meant more to me after seeing this beautiful cave again (the picture was a big 11X14 of the Lake Room). After looking over the big room, we all started back. Suzy belayed each one of us across the dangerous ledge, and then Wayne belayed her across. They had already toured the Gyp Joint, so they went on to start going up while Wayne and I went through the Gyp Joint. I wanted to see the beautiful gypsum flower that I had helped Mel Fritchey take a picture of five years ago. The flowers were so gorgeous and so many different shapes and sizes, one of which was a purple color. Wayne told me why it was purple, but I forgot what he said caused it. After viewing all the flowers and formations we made our way to the bottom of the drop where Suzy and Tony were.



It wasn't easy to rig up while making love to the small ledge, but we all managed and made it up to the second ledge. Dave and Tim had already gone up, and Wayne went up next. Then it was my turn. I had promised the Lord (my first time in a cave) that if he let me get out of there that I wouldn't do it again so I was hoping that he wouldn't hold me to it. The climb wasn't so bad and after I was up, Tony and Suzy followed. It was dark outside and cold, so after everyone exited the cave we headed back to

Tony's vehicle and climbed in and headed for a nice, warm campfire.

It was so nice to be with all my caving friends and relax in the beautiful mountains of the Guads. Thanks to all and we look forward to the PBSS grotto trip in August.

AMAZING MAZE CAVE, Pecos County, Tx. March 1, 1986.

Participants: Bill Bentley, Fred Hansler, Linda Palit (and her dog Guano), Joe Ivy, Allen Cobb, Scott Rote, Doug Drysdale, Carolyn Biegert, Flint Hinderson (report by Bill)

After a haphazard departure at 7:30 PM on Friday from Midland, we found ourselves, about two hours later, at the parking area for the cave. At around 11:30 PM the Bexar Grotto (San Antonio) pulled up. After a few 'hellos' and some handshaking, we bedded down and were fast asleep by 1:00 AM.

After breakfast, Fred and I went up to the entrance and did some filing on the lock mechanism so that the lid would not be so hard to shut. I had opened the lid the night before, and a steady flow of warm, moist air was now exhaling from the entrance.

Within an hour (near 9:00AM) everyone had signed the register and I was showing off some of the unique geodes found in the limestone of this cave. We took off with plans for seeing the front section of the maze. We caved past the 'D.H.' intersection into the 'Connection Passage', then into the 'X Room' and on straight to the 'Hole Room'. At this point, Linda and Scott got 'initiated' into the hole and disappeared through the crack, reappearing after a few minutes. From the hole we visited the 'Air Conditioner' room, but today it was just barely blowing. I gave the group some directions on how to find the old highway entrance, but mainly because of my 'spider tales', no one elected to go. Speaking of spiders, Doug had 'Cave Biologist' type fun collecting them from under rocks in the 'Air Conditioner' room (That sounds demented-Editor).

At this point, it seems almost traditional in any trip to Amazing Maze to get lost-er, I mean misplaced. Actually, I think that it was the 'Cake Mix Domes' that were lost, because, after all, I knew where I was in the cave! By sheer accident I found the entrance area to the Domes after thirty minutes of looking. I soon alerted the rest of the group, who were relaxing smewhere east of the 'X Room'. We were soon in the dry, dusty passages of the Domes, probing each tunnel for new leads. What a contrast for the San Antonio cavers, who are used to thigh-deep mud or chin-deep water!

Sometime around 2:00 PM we exited the cave. We all ate a quick lunch and then reentered the cave thirty minutes later, with the intention of surveying and exploring the back section of the maze. The survey started slowly, and Fred and I soon found ourselves way ahead of the main group. We left them a trail leading toward the 'Jackrabbit' intersection, then Carolyn, Fred and I went off to the left and found the large, dried up formations- possibly the only ones in the cave. We must have then taken a wrong turn and gotten turned around, for soon we were seeing lights- it was the survey team! We interrupted their survey and told them of a 30 foot deep pit we had found, and they agreed to survey toward it, and soon did. Then the group completed the survey to the same passage, about 50 feet from the 'Jackrabbit' intersection. A total of 189 meters had been surveyed. With this done, we exited the cave at 7 PM through a barrage of crickets.

Within minutes the campfire was going, and soon fajitas were cooking. Exhausted and aching, Fred and I left the San Antonio group at around 11:00 PM. I understand that Linda and her band went off to see the beautiful Caverns of Sonora the next day.

THREE FINGERS CAVE, Eddy Co., N.M.,
March 8-9, 1986.
Participants: Scott Adams, Bill Bentley,
Tony Grieco, Terry Hill, Suzy Noldan
(report by Tony)

The better part of Saturday was spent poking around in this awesome cave. Most of the time was spent in search of the elusive 'Temple of the Cave Fire God', which marks the location of the equally elusive second drop. We didn't find any of these things, but in this cave, no time spent is ever time wasted.



After a few hours, Terry and Bill decided to head toward the entrance drop, while Suzy, Scott and I decided to do some more exploring. The only thing that stopped us was some light problems. We then returned to the 'Pinch' to find Bill waiting for us (Terry had already ascended). From there it was up and out to a beautiful sunset, followed by a not-so-beautiful hike to camp. The fire and cold drinks were nice, though.

The following day Bill, Terry and I elected to return to Midland, but Suzy and Scott (Bless their masochistic little hearts) decided to make a second attempt at finding the 'Fire God', this time with Dave Gose and the Mesilla Valley Grotto hoardes as guides. This time they were successful (Its always nice to go with someone that knows where they are going). Now all we have to do is get Suzy to show the rest of us where this cussed 'Fire God' lives!!!

SUZY'S SAFETY COLUMN

Article written and illustrated by Suzy Noldan.

When we were in the Davis Mountains with the PBOC, a group of us played around with different pulley systems for the raising of an injured (or lazy?-Editor) person either out of a cave or up a cliff face. The four to one piggy-back system is a good system to use with medium loads, and it only uses two pulleys. Using a four to one system means that for every four feet you pull in on the haul line, the load lifts one foot, but the person doing the hauling is only pulling one-fourth of the actual weight(see illustration, next page).

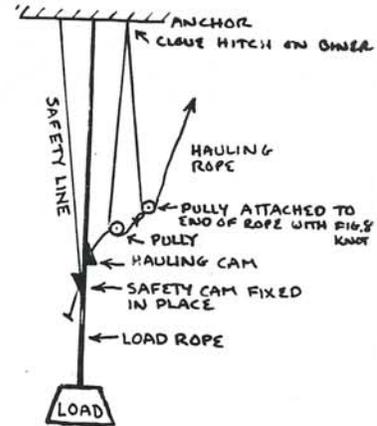
Considerations that apply to any hauling system:

- The mechanical advantage of the system equals the number of sections of rope leading from the load.
- Pulleys at the anchor end of the system provide no mechanical advantage, only directional change.

-The actual mechanical advantage of a system is less than the theoretical mechanical advantage due to pulley friction.

Some thoughts on procedures:

- Give first aid to victim.
- Determine which system would work best, depending on load, muscle, gear and condition of victim.
- Hook up the safety line and set up the pulley system (in caves, where space is a problem, the hauling system can be set up vertically).
- Test the system, making sure that all points of abrasion are well padded.
- Tell the victim how the system will work, and always let the victim know what is happening (If the victim is conscious). In some cases it may be necessary to have someone with the victim to help him over obstacles.
- Now start hauling. The following signals should be used:
 - 1) 'Prepare to Haul'-everyone grabs hauling rope.
 - 2) 'Haul'- everyone hauls until the pulleys come together.
 - 3) 'Brake'-everyone stops pulling and frees hauling rope.
 - 4) 'Rope'-one person slides the hauling cam back down the load rope. When he reaches the end he should quickly check the condition of the victim and the padding (ideally, one person should be stationed at the cliff edge on safety to keep an eye on the victim and for communication). He then yells 'Prepare to Haul' and the procedure starts over.



We are hoping to set up a rescue practice at the fire tower with Bill Martin and Richard Galle in the near future. We will be practicing this system and the more complex systems in which a Stokes litter and attendant are rigged and hauled. If anyone is interested in joining us, just let me know.

MISCELLANEOUS

COVER:

This month's cover was drawn by Bill Greenlee. Bill didn't say just whose rear end is depicted, but judging by the number and position of the patches, I'd say that the most likely suspect is 'Wild Bill' himself. Maybe he'll reveal the truth at the Bat Cave Blowout...

KUDOS:

My thanks this month go to Suzy Noldan, Pat Copeland, Bill Greenlee and Bill Bentley. Couldn't do it without you folks!!

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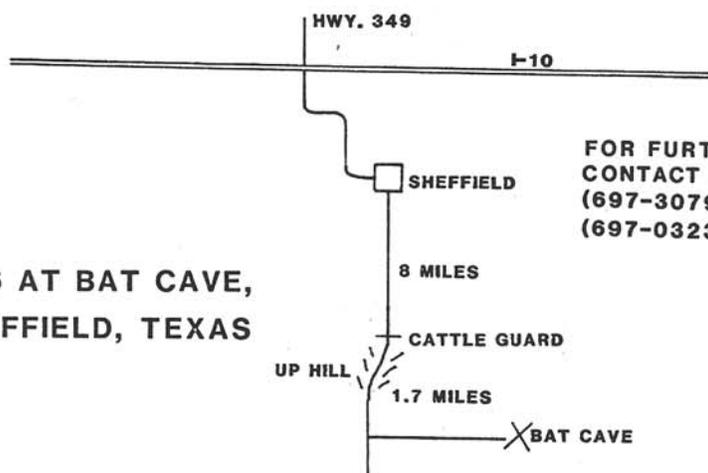
The Permian Basin Speleological Society

PRESENTS

THE 3RD ANNUAL

BAT CAVE BLOW OUT AND SKIPPER ROAST

MAY 3-4, 1986 AT BAT CAVE,
SOUTH OF SHEFFIELD, TEXAS



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT BILL BENTLEY
(697-3079) OR TONY GRIECO
(697-0323)

PLENTY OF EATING, DRINKING, SOCIALIZING, AND EVEN CAVING! BRING
YOURSELF, SOME FIREWOOD, AND YOUR FAVORITE FOOD AND
BEVERAGE- AND DON'T FORGET YOUR SKIPPER!*

* FOR THE UNINITIATED, "SKIPPER" IS A COLLECTIVE TERM WHICH REFERS TO ANY
USELESS OR WORTHLESS PLASTIC FLASHLIGHT...