

Permian Basin Speological Society

APRIL 1990 MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Tuesday, April 17

LOCATION: St. Paul Methodist Church, 4501 Thomason
Park at the rear of the church.

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PROGRAM: A slide show on caving in NM

We watched an interesting video on Lechuguilla Cave that was made even better by Bill Bentley's commentary. Bill as been in the cave several times. We discussed future program plans and Debbie volunteered to get some material from the NSS library. We also decided to put together some sessions on cave rescue techniques.

WELCOME GUESTS

We had two guests at the meeting -- Pat Hill and Justin Lang. Hope to see you two again at the next meeting. The only thing standing between these two experienced cavers and the joy of PBSS membership is \$5.00. Let's all give them some encouragement!

APRIL CAVE TRIP

Will & Debbie have a permit for a club trip to Christmas Tree Cave in Carlsbad Caverns N.P. on Sunday, April 29. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Texas time at the parking lot for New Cave in Slaughter Canyon. No vertical gear will be needed for this one, but a hand line is recommended for the entrance. More details at the meeting, or call the Brinson's. We'll be expecting a long trip report on this expedition next month!

BONUS TRIP

Don Carlton is taking a group of Explorer Scouts to Park's Ranch Cave and probably Goat Cave on the weekend of April 21. If you would like to help lead, or just go along for the fun of it let him know at the meeting.

MARCH TRIP REPORT

Montgomery's Gypsum Cave, Terrell County, Texas -- March 25
Cavers: Don Carlton, Tony Grieco, Jerry Atkinson, Justin Lang, J.D. Fincher, Richard Fincher, Jim Kwolek, Bill Bentley.
Reported by Bill Bentley.

I suppose that everyone just thought that Tony and I had quit caving, Ha. We may have slowed down a bit but were "still kickin". Justin Lang came by my house, and we started a suit up of makeshift climbing gear on Saturday evening. A lot of this gear was borrowed from Pat Hill. (Justin got some of it for his 14th birthday the day before - ed.) Soon Tony arrived, and he had to check his climbing gear since it hadn't been used in several years. At approx. 5:00 a.m. Tony, Justin and I departed Midland under less than desirable conditions; it was 30 degrees and freezing rain. Now I know how to make it snow in July - just plan a caving trip.

We arrived at the rendezvous point at 8:00 a.m. and waited until the others arrived. At around nine we left for the cave entrance. (they didn't wait for me! - ed.) Forty five or so minutes later we were at the entrance to Montgomery's Cave. The entrance pit is on relatively flat ground and is about 10x15 feet in size. Iron bars which can be used for rigging are in place over the center of the entrance, but Jerry decided to use the axle and bumper of his truck. A 100' Bluewater II rope was used at the rigging point above the pit, with a drop of 30 to 35 feet. It always looks much deeper, even deeper when you haven't been on a rope in several years. I was the first to descend, and once on the rope I was at ease and actually felt comfortable. Justin rigged in, and Tony checked his gear since he was new to this sport. I provided the bottom belay. Tony rappelled next, and was noticeable nervous. He soon overcame this and made it to the bottom of the entrance room. He then proceeded to the second drop and tied off the rope (a PMI) to the metal bars in place at that point. He rappelled down to shift the rope into a 10 foot deep crack at the base of this 45 foot drop.

Meanwhile the rest of the group was dropping in behind us; I sent Justin down the 2nd drop and told him to go on to the bottom of the short 3rd drop. I soon followed him.

Tony rigged the last drop from some metal bars and backed it up by tying off to a rock. The rope used here was a brand new Bluewater II that had not been coiled very well. It took a hopeless twenty minutes to untangle, and it was slicker than whale snot (although I have never tested the slickness of whale snot). To make a long trip report short, by 11:30 all were on the bottom, and some were eating lunch.

Richard, Tony, Justin and I made an exploration up the gypsum dome of the Haynes brothers bypass loop, and soon we crawled to the northern extent of the cave and climbed down the homemade scaling pole ladder there. J.D. was at the southern end of the cave enjoying the beautiful gypsum crystals found in that section. At this time I signed the register and realized I had placed it there 7 years earlier - had it been that long? Then I thought back to my first time in this cave almost 10 years earlier. Wow, time flies when you are having fun. The register revealed that many groups had entered the cave, but there were no signatures in 1987. I left a new pen that probably won't last very long.

At around 1:30 p.m. everyone began rigging for the climb out. Justin had never climbed in a cave before, but had practiced on a tower. Tony went up first, and Justin followed, taking about 30 minutes to climb the first 80 feet. The climb out was pretty much uneventful. The last ones up de-rigged and coiled the ropes. I adjusted Justin's gear at the top of each drop and finally got it perfected on the last climb. At about 3:30 the last person was on the surface. There was not much change in the weather; it was still a cold 35 degrees.

All of us left tired and sore, and we regrouped at the Dairy Queen in Iraan for a beltbuster and fries. We arrived home around 8:00 p.m. I can't speak for the others, but I had a good time.

PBSS

Last Name	First Name	W Phone	H Phone	NSS #
Anderle	Chuck	685-3119	685-3119	31477
Anderle	Jan		685-3119	31478
Atkinson	Jerry	688-6160	697-3807	22368
Bentley	Bill	694-7721	697-3079	21977
Brinson	Debbie	699-4081	683-1991	31906
Brinson	Will	699-4081	683-1991	31905
Carlton	Don	683-4701	687-4352	30417
Diffie	David		699-0919	31097
Feaster	Walter		367-8253	31624
Fincher	J.D.		694-4381	31859
Fincher	Melissa		694-4381	31860
Fincher	Richard		694-4381	32861
Hill	Tom	560-5065	687-2122	27888
Noldan	Suzy	687-8476	689-0586	00000
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