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Volume 14 Number 4

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 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

Rock Hauling at CACA

If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or (915)559-3297, or E-Mail: <waltfeast@marshall.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. Items for this newsletter can be sent to the Chief Editor, "The Hole News", c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. 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 Treasurer /Secretary, c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. 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@crcom.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 Alabama, 35810-4431.

"PBSS Home Page"

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

Web space donated courtesy of Bill Bentley & Caprok.net ISP.



Future Cave Trips and Events:

10-11 April -1999 SWR Regional: Will be held at the Valley of Fires National Recreation Area (BLM), near Carrizozo N.M. For more info contact Chris or Joli Lee <jclee@wazoo.com> or Steve Peerman <speerman@chilidog.lascruces.nmhs.edu>.

9-11 April--Colorado Bend SP Project: Contact: Terry Holsinger 512-443-4241 or <trhli@sprynet.com>.

17 April- -PBSS Rock Hauling @ CACA: Limit of 8-12 people. Contact Ruel Metcalf for more info at (915)267-7330 or <ruelgto@webtv.net>.**

24 April- -PBSS Trip to Montgomery Gypsum Cave: For more info contact Noel Pando (915)5239294 or <npando@esc18.net>.

24 April--Earth Day at Colorado Bend SP: Sponsored by CTG--Pat Copeland 915-643-2952 <copeland@web-access.net>.

24-25 April--High Guads Restoration Project:--New Mexico-- Contact Dave Jagnow 505-662-0553 <djagnow@roadrunner.com >.

1 May--May Day is Cave Day at Cave Without A Name: There will be an open house (open cave) at CWAN for the public and the media to show off the renovations taking place there. Cavers will be doing restoration and putting on caving demonstrations and collecting cave leads. All are welcome. Blair Pittman 830-537-4212 <cavepit@juno.com >.

7-9 May--Colorado Bend SP Project-Contact: Terry Holsinger 512-443-4241 or <trhli@sprynet.com>. Last CBSPP trip of the season. Project resumes 8-10 October.

15-16 May- -PBSS Trip to the National Forest in the Guads: Allen Laman has permits for Cottonwood, Hidden, Black, and work trip to Hells Below. For Sunday he has Hidden, Black, Cottonwood, Pink Panther, and may be Deep Cave in the National Park. If you want to go or need more info contact Allen Laman (915)550-0910 or <ilove2cave@msn.com>. Here is a good opportunity to see some nice caves in the Guads. **

(Continued page 1)

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Spring Guads Trip Report 3/8/99 to 3/11/99

Submitted by: Melynn Conway, Rebecca Lee-Kaler, Gary Mahan, & Tom Kaler

Gary Mahan and Melynn Conway left Wichita Falls, Texas on 3/8/99 at approximately 9:30 a.m. (because Gary was late) to travel to 3 mile hill. We were going to meet Tom and Rebecca Lee Kaler, as well as Kerry Lowery (from Big Spring) upon the hill. Gary and Melynn loaded up the Tajamapop and began our trip. We were delayed outside of Munday, Texas, because the camper had a blowout. After changing the tire and repairing the spare, we continued our trip. We made it up the hill and camped at the Texas Camp. Kerry Lowery and his family were already there. We set up camp and then went to bed. Tom and Rebecca (who lived the closest) didn't arrive until after midnight. They said they were delayed, because Tom had to fix his "drive-shaft" on his jeep.

DEEP CAVE

Participants: Melynn Conway, Rebecca Lee-Kaler, Tom Kaler, Gary Mahan, and Kerry Lowery

The following morning, we woke up at 7:30 a.m. (Texas time, or in other words, real time) and prepared for our trip to Deep. After a 45 minute drive (4 wheel drive road), we arrived at the parking

area. After a short hike to the Cave, we found it. Kerry was ready to go and anxious to rig the cave, but it took longer for some people to be ready. Eventually, the rope was rigged for the drop, but a delay from a kinky rope led to Kerry's frustration. He noted on the rappel down that the rope had a knot in it. While on rope, he had to untie the knot, by pulling the 300 ft. rope up and thru the problem area three times. Finally, everyone made it down the rope. We toured the cave as a group on the flagged trail (consciencious cavers that we are). On our tour, we noted stacks of fried eggs, bacon, broom stick totem pools, shields, gigantic columns, and the eerie entrance of the cave in the far distance. We made a loop around the cave. A larger light source would have been helpful to fully appreciate the formations i this cave, due to the enormity of the cave. Before the arduous and tedious task of ascending the rope, we ate lunch at the bottom of the drop. While eating lunch we discussed the fencing wire and wood ladder previously used by fools to descend this drop. Gary decided to go ahead and climb the rope, as he didn't want anyone making fun of his little weinies he brought for lunch. Rebecca graciously allowed other cavers to ascend the rope while she froze at the bottom of the cave. After de-rigging the cave, we hiked the long trail back to the parking area. Kerry's wife and children were anxiously awaiting his arrival by this time. We loaded up the gear and drove back to Texas camp. We said goodbye to Kerry and his family as they had to drive home that evening.

RED LAKE CAVE

Participants: Melynn Conway, Rebecca Lee-Kaler, Tom Kaler, and Gary Mahan

After a windy night, we broke camp, and headed down the hill to a traditional breakfast at Queen. Following breakfast, we made our way to the little known, Red Lake Cave. After following a confusing map, Tom found the cave. The cave was located right by a fence line under a gnarly, twisted juniper tree, which guarded the entrance. Gary rigged the rope for the 35 ft. to 50 ft. rappel (depending on who was guessing). The beginning of the rappel was a tight crevice that opened into a large room. At the bottom of the drop was another fence wire and wood ladder, originally used by Jim White (first explorer of Carlsbad Caverns). We soon discovered that the cave only consisted of this single chamber. The highlight of this cave was the two large, rare tiger salamanders in the corner of the cave. They were not very happy about the bright lights invading their home. After convincing Rebecca she could not take one home, we toured the room and climbed out of the cave. We de-rigged the cave and went to Sitting Bull Falls We hiked trail #68 to the falls fed spring and then back to the picnic area. Following this trip, we drove towards Carlsbad Caverns, but took a side trip to visit a huge Indian midden, just off the road from Sitting Bull Falls. We ended our day at the home of Tom and Rebecca, where we all enjoyed well earned and needed showers. After lupper (lunch and supper), we all wrote this trip report and then retired for the evening, as Gary and Melynn had to make the long journey home the following morning.

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* denotes new members

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