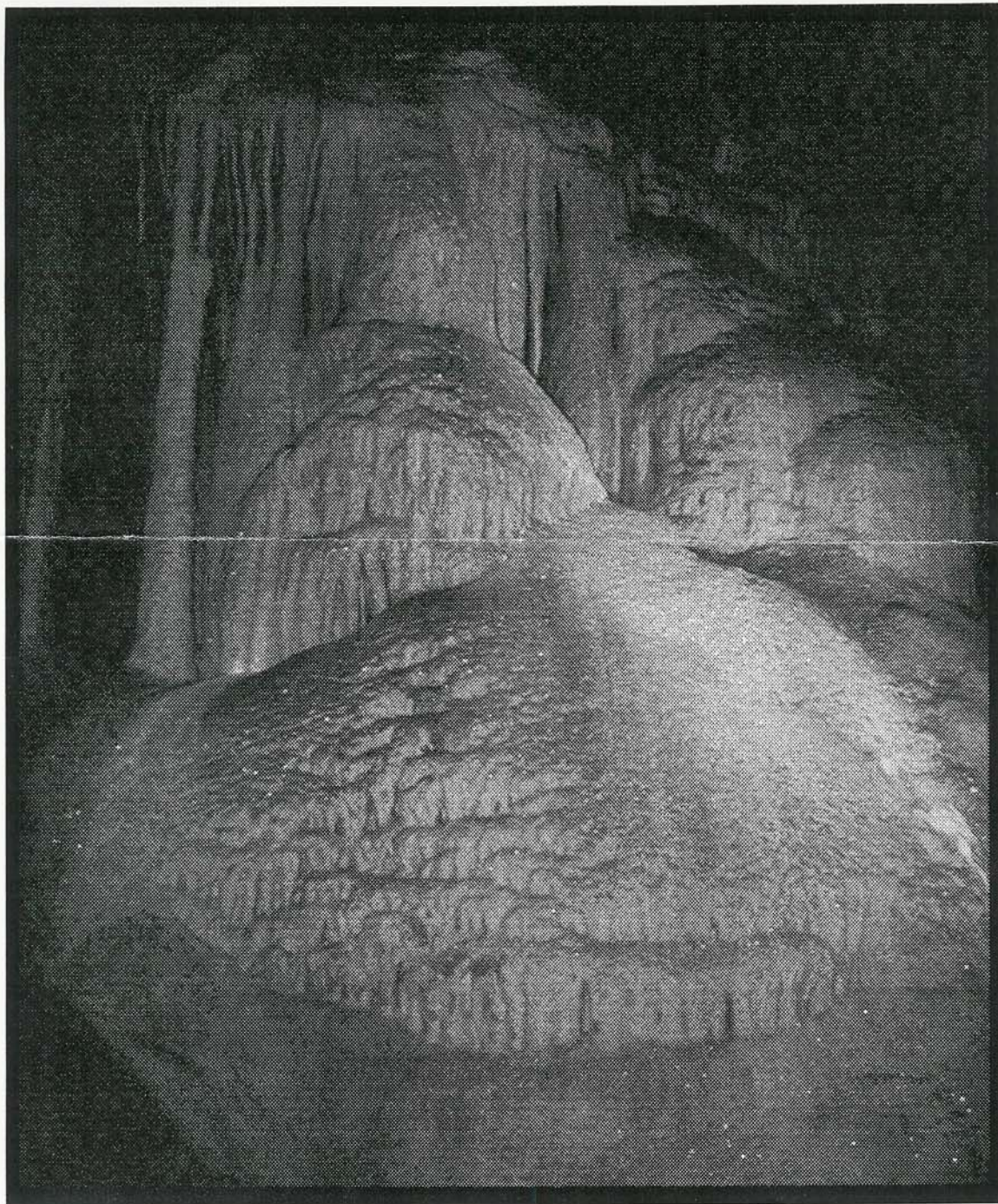


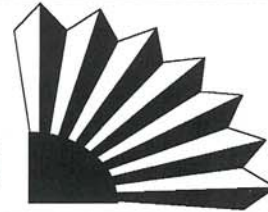
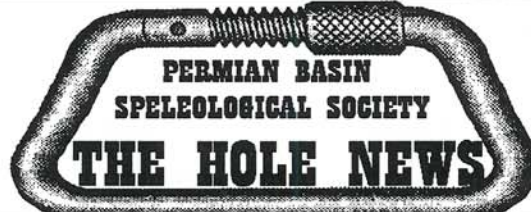
THE HOLE NEWS

May

1996



Above: From Cave Without a Name, Texas



May 1996

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

Volume 11 Number 15

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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"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, Midland, Texas 79703. If you're interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Noel Pando at (915)-523-9294. 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.

Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 1996 at 7:00 PM in the back meeting room of Murry's Delicatessen. Murry's is located at 3211 west Wadley, Midland, Texas. If you need more direction or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297.

Topic of discussion will be future vertical cave trips and Lech.

Cave Safely

Bug of the Month:



About the Bug of the Month:

This is a Pseudoscorpion (Phylum Arthropoda, order Pseudoscorpionida). Yes they are found in caves and are common in the Guads. On no something else to worry about while caving. No, not really. They range in size from 1 to 4 mm, or 1/32 to 1/8 of an inch. They do have pincers, but they aren't big enough to pinch a person. They lack the elongated tail, poison bulb and stinger of its bigger cousin. They are very secretive and hard to see and find. So if you want to impress your non-caver friends, tell them about Pseudoscorpions. Tell them they are as big as a small dog and can take off several fingers in one bite. That should keep them from wanting to go caving.



Future Cave Trips: Also other events from PBSS and other grottos.

- May 10 Central Texas Grotto Meeting. For more info contact Tom Kaler @ (817)725-7583, or Pat Copeland @ (915)643-2952.
- May 10-12 TSA Colorado Bend Project. If you want to survey or would like to learn, come on down. They need diggers too. Contact Terry Holsinger @ (512)443-4241, or Dale Barnard @ (512)452-3446.
- May 11 Survey and Mapping Workshop. Mike Warton will be instructing the Central Texas Grotto in a surveying and mapping workshop. Contact Tom Kaler @ (817)725-7583 for more info.
- May 24-27 Caving at Camp Wood, TX. Fun caving, surveying, exploring, and more. Contact: Tom Kaler @ 817-725-7583, Pat Copeland @ 915-643-2952, or Mike Walsh @ 210-629-2169.
- May 25-27 SWR Memorial Day Regional. @ Pinon Cave (near Cloudercroft, NM) contact: Chris or Joli Lee @ 505-434-6604.
- May 24-27 Memorial Day. 0-9 Well If you are planning on going please contact Walter Feaster @ 915-559-3297, or write to- 4307 Harvard Ave, Midland, TX 79703-4847-71.
- June 6-16 Skve, Scotland. Hiking and camping in Skve, Scotland. The Hades Cave Club members are going to spend a week + in Scotland. This involves camping out and caving, I assume. Leaving from and returning to Bristol. Contact Jon Frost 30 Greylands Road, Uplands, Bristol, UK BS13 8BE.
- June 14-16 Cobb Caverns Restoration and Survey. The first clean-up was a great success so the owner wants us to survey the cave and do some more cleaning up. Space is limited. Contact Pat Copeland @ (915)643-2952 (H) or (915)646-9583(W)
- June 15-16 Guad Trip. Ken Kamon and some British cavers are going to Deep, Cottonwood, Gunsight, and Sentinel caves. Contact Ken @ 915-686-0720.
- June 17-22 CRF/NSS Carlsbad Caverns Restoration Field Camp. It cost \$50 for the week. Contact Mike Mansur @ 505-299-8283, or send your money to 8028 Bellamah NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.
- June 22-23 GYPKAP (SWR). Surveying Merritt/Roadrunner caves. Contact Steve Peerman @ (505)523-2167.
- August 3-9, 1996 NSS Convention, Salida, Colorado. NSS Convention Committee, c/o Skip Withrow, 5404 South Walden, St. Aurora, CO. 80015, (303)693-0997.
- August 11 GYPKAP (SWR post-convention). Carcass area?? Contact Steve Peerman @ (505)523-2167.
- August 31-September 2 SWR Labor Day Regional. Gallinas Cave (NW of Espanola, NM). Contact John Lyles @ (505)455-2565.

Most all of this material was stolen from various and sometimes reliable caving newsletters in the Southwestern Region and surrounding area, including the TSA's "Activities Newsletter"

***** Denotes a PBSS club Trip...

Carlsbat Cavers, contact Phyllis Weston @ 505-887-6790 for restoration educational programs, off trail trips.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CAVING TRIPS PLANNED, PLEASE LET THE EDITOR KNOW AND HE WILL PUBLISH THEM HERE IN THIS SPACE!.....

From the Secertary/Treasurer

I wish to apologize to our members who showed up at our last meeting expecting to see a new cave video instead of the re-run that was presented. I had sent the request for a video to the NSS 2 1/2 weeks before the meeting. The NSS received it the day after the meeting. So much for 9 digit zip-codes and bar codes.

PBSS welcomes back Rick Day and Felder Hogan, both from Andrews, who rejoined at our last meeting.

Speaking of Rick, the rumors must be true about him getting married. We don't know when or where, but the PBOC had a wedding shower for him and Susan May 4. They where given a two person back-packing tent. So congratulates Rick and Susan.

Guad Trip:

A group of 12 British cavers will be flying into Midland, Texas on June 13 for a weekend of caving in the Guads.

If you are interested in helping out, or loaning camping / cooking gear, call Ken Kamon at (915)-686-0720.

They are planning on reserving the following caves:

June 15: Deep, Cottonwood, and Gunsight.

June 16: Sentinel, Cottonwood, and Gunsite.

Texas and Mexico Cave Rescue

Call Collect 210-686-0234

This is Kriedler Funeral Home's 24 Hour number
Ask for "Cave Rescue" and "John Kriedler"

In New Mexico Dial 911

TRIP REPORTS: and other lies and stories



Carlsbad Caverns National Park Trip April 27-28, 1996

Caves: Lake Cave, Corkscrew Cave, and Parks Ranch Cave.

Cavers: Kerry Lowery, Ruel Metcalf, Mike Bandy, Rebecca Lee.

Lake - Gaylon Knowlton, Steve Adams. Corkscrew - Noel Pando.

When someone tells you it's a long, hard hike to Lake Cave, believe him. And, the hike to Corkscrew Cave is no walk in the National Park. Saturday we started this trip at 7:30 AM because we knew it was going to be a hard day. We didn't know just how hard. Following our step map, we were able to stick to the trail with only a few wrong turns. Three hours later, we were sitting (some were lying) at the entrance to Lake Cave trying to catch our breath and watching the swallows swirl around us. The view from the entrance is awesome. Lake Cave is a must see cave. The lake is incredible and the formations are spectacular. We had two new cavers with us. They enjoyed the caving very much but the hiking not so much. We all felt the hike was worth it.

As we trudged back to the parking lot, who should scream at us from atop a hill but Noel Pando. He came to Carlsbad to go to Lake Cave with us but he was too late. And, there was not enough daylight to go back. Sorry Noel, maybe next year.

We had trouble Friday night finding a place to camp and ended up camping beside the road. Noel introduced us to the Parks Ranch and we stayed there Saturday night. We went caving in the Parks Ranch Cave until midnight. When we emerged from a tiny, hole and wet to our knees, we had no idea where our vehicles were. Luckily, we walked in the right direction and soon found our camp.

Sunday morning, we were slower getting to the Corkscrew Cave trail head. We made several wrong turns trying to get to this cave. The cairns aren't as easy to find even though it's a shorter hike straight up. It was a little windy but 25-35mph winds hardly slowed us down. We were at the entrance in one hour and thirty minutes.

Noel and Ruel set up a hand line so we could get out. We chimneyed in, and explored this small but pretty cave. There are some really intricate stalactites, a few columns, and a lot of loose talus. After a successful exit, we sort of slid, sort of hiked down the mountain. Ruel and I were the first to leave. Kerry, Mike and Noel were going to leave from my understanding. Even though I kept hearing mumbling of old age getting in better shape, and never doing it again from my fellow cavers, it was a good trip.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee NSS # 42075

More Trip Reports:

Earth Day Project 1996- Colorado Bend State Park

Caves: Gorman Falls Cave, Gorman Cave, Icebox Cave, Gormlette Waterfall Cave, Plenty Splendid Cave, San Saba County, Texas.

Cavers: The Central Texas Grotto and Rebecca Lee.

This Earth Day Project was sponsored by the Central Texas Grotto. I volunteered to help with the cleanup of Icebox Cave and the Gorman Cave tours. April 19th, I arrived at the Conference Center and met with Tom Kaler. He introduced me to the area by showing me Gorman Falls from the top and the entrance to Gorman Falls Cave. This cave is off limits due to the bad air. But, road placed 2 feet from this hole of a 30 feet depth made it unusual.

Later, I accompanied Tom to meet with other grotto members and the park supervisor to talk about the project. This is where I met Pat Copeland. When we got back to the Conference Center, someone mentioned going to Gormlette Waterfall Cave. We all scattered to retrieve our gear but as we assembled ready to go, the person who said he could find it, couldn't find it in the dark. Disappointed, we decided to take a run through of Gorman Cave to see how far we could go before reaching the maternity bat colony. We could go to the Big Room which is just shy of the gate but it was decided to stop the next day's tours just short of the Big Room so as not to disturb the bats. Besides, once you entered the Big Room the guano smell was eye watering.

April, 20th, I and four others began the cleanup of Icebox Cave. We had an unexpected visitor at the bottom of our 25 feet chimney. The visitor was wearing his rattles. None of us was willing to try to capture the little critter so we focused our cleanup at the entrance and were able to do a lot of work. Fortunately, Tom Kaler showed up to check our progress and he and another C.T.G. member went down, trapped the snake in between two buckets, and we hauled him out of the cave. I and two others went back down and worked for three hours removing layers of broken glass, cans and even a hubcap. It was a good cleanup but there's still a lot of work to be done.

On this same day, I helped Pat with a tour of Gorman Cave. When we returned, we found out that someone found Gormlette Waterfall Cave and some cavers had already been in it. Pat and I scrambled for our gear and joined the next group of cavers to go down. Pat repelled to it but I used a hand line as it was climbable. Through a small hole not far to the left of Gorman Falls, is one of the prettiest caves I've ever seen. It is all flowstone. It was formed in a time when the falls flowed over it. This was the highlight of the trip for me.

April 21st, I and C.T.G. cavers went to Plenty Splendid Cave. We had trouble finding it. It's well hidden. It is the thinnest chimney I've done. It drops about 20 feet but it is so narrow that you just wiggle yourself down. Inside is one large, fantastic formation. No, it's plenty splendid. One of the cavers had trouble getting out of the cave. She wedged herself pretty good and it took some pulling by cavers at the top to finally get her out.

There was some cleanup of the Lemons Ranch Cave but from what I understand the mud has stained the formations beyond cleaning. Although that didn't stop the cavers from getting a lot of the mud on themselves.

The Earth Day Project was a great success. The State Park sold 120 tickets to Gorman Cave at eight dollars each and Icebox Cave and Lemons Ranch Cave are one step closer to their natural states. I'm glad I went and I met some wonderful people from the Central Texas Grotto. Next Year, maybe some more P.B.S.S. cavers can go and help make Earth Day 1997 even more successful.

Submitted by Rebecca Lee NSS # 42075

