

PBSS SPYLUNK

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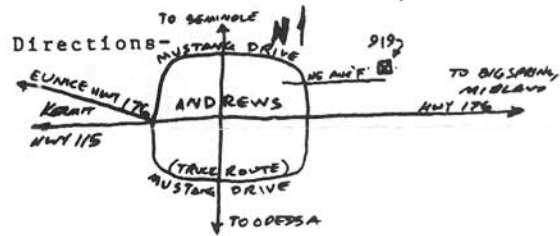
The P.B.S.I. Monthly Spylunk

May - June, 1985



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MEETING: The June meeting of the PBSS will be at Bill Greenlee's residence in Andrews; 919 NE Ave F. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 20th. Topics for discussion will include scheduling cave trips for the rest of the year as well as the '86 Convention plans.



Call 915-523-9550 for further info.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Our regularly scheduled monthly grotto cave trip will be a good opportunity for novices and vets both. **Black Cave and Hell Below Cave** are on the menu. No caver will be disappointed with either of these Guadalupe Mountain grotts. Word has it that Hell Below as well as several other sensitive Forest Service caves will be closed all summer due to recent overuse; this may be the last time for awhile that anyone will be visiting Hell Below. Call Tony Grieco or Bill Greenlee if you are interested in coming. As usual, the regular trip will be on the third weekend of the month- in this case, the 15th and 16th of June. (If you think this is short notice, then refer back as early as your December, 1984 issue of the PBSS SPYLUNK!)

June 23-29: 1985 NSS Convention at Kentucky State University, Frankfort, Kentucky. Contact PO Box 5176, Cincinnati, Ohio 45205 if you crave more knowledge on this matter.

Labor Day Weekend, 1985 is the date for the next Southwest Regional meeting, to be held at Freezeout Canyon in the North Guadalupe Mountains. This will be a whole new underground playground for many, so mark your calanders now! The Pecos Valley Grotto is hosting the event. Stay tuned to this wavelength for additional details as they develop.

The Southwest Region will officially be hosting the 1986 NSS Convention, to be held at Tularosa, New Mexico, next June. A concentrated effort from all you spylunks will enable the SWR to accomplish this task. The payoff will be in the form of new friendships, a better understanding of caver psychology, and a guano-load of fun!

Quote of the Month: "The only thing more uncomfortable than caving with kneepads is caving without kneepads". -- Patrick Murphy

Recent Activity:

The PBSS April cave quest evolved into a nearly fruitless ridgewalking exercise; none of the Pink caves of the Guads were violated by humanoids that weekend. Our party consisted of Andy Belski, Bill Bentley, Bill Greenlee, Tony Grieco, Terry Hill, and Matt Killam. A small, tight virgin-looking cavette swallowed Tony's Wheat lamp, so we enlarged the entrance just enough to squeeze in to retrieve the lamp (as much as Mr. Carbide bitches about his #@%***! electric light, I'm surprised Tony didn't elect to rock up the entrance and leave his Wheat to die a miserable death).

50 YEARS FROM TODAY ...



WHAT DO THESE YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPERS KNOW ABOUT CAIVING—BY CRACKY, IN OUR DAY YOU HAD TO WALK TWENTY MILES THROUGH SEVEN FEET OF SNOW JUST TO GET TO THE DAMN CAVES!!

Bill Bentley and Terry Hill took a serious four-day backpacking trip in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park in May.

Bill Greenlee took a three-day solo 4WD trip to Big Bend National Park in May. Highlights of the excursion included blooming orchids and columbine in the cool recesses of Cattail Falls, swimming in the Rio Grande at both Santa Elena and Boquillas Canyons, camping on the River Road, and visits to the Basin, La Kiva, and Terlingua.

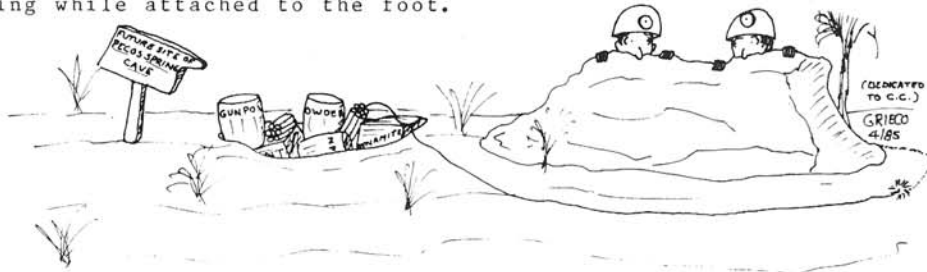
Tony Grieco took advantage of the week following the Bat Cave Blowout this month by becoming a hermit in the Gila Wilderness of Eastern New Mexico. At last report he was holed up in an abandoned shack with seventeen rocking chairs and two tons of carbide exclaiming that he'd achieved Nirvana.

SWR Summer Regional and Second Annual Bat Cave Blowout, June 1 and 2, 1985, Montgomery Cave, Terrell County Texas. Reported by Bill Greenlee and Bill Bentley.

A modest turnout of truly hardcore spylunks made this event a howling success. The out-of-state guests were undaunted by the remoteness of Montgomery Cave, although most complained a little about the "Texas miles" indicated on the road map. A total of twenty-five Homo sapiens and two canines attended. This figure does not include two Arizona cavers who dropped in Sunday morning to say "Hi".

The Permian Basin representatives included Bill Bentley, Coyote Coston, Bill Greenlee, Tony Grieco, Matt Killam, and Pat Hill. The Pecos Valley Grotto's delegates to the Blowout were Dave & Carol Belski, Slim Baxter, Tom Dillon, Lois Larkins, Joli Eaton and her children Treva, Gene, and Beth. Mesilla Valley grottoids Tim & Karen George, Dick Larson, Dave Gose, Mary Ann Roth, Jeff Lory, Steve, Kathy, and Luke Peerman also attended. Mike Lorimer, presently unaffiliated and living in Austin, completes the list of hearty speleosouls.

Mike's and Mary Ann's dogs reputedly had a sordid love affair during the weekend. They are said to have slept together (the dogs, that is). Joli said that the Forest Service accepted her application as a cave resource technician in the Guadalupe this summer. Tom showed me a compact and light ascent system that uses Prusik knots - good for those difficult-to-reach yet short drops found so often in the Guads. Dave Gose displayed an inventive modification to the Gibbs ascender that assures proper positioning while attached to the foot.



CALL IT CAVER INTUITION IF YOU WANT, BUT I HAVE A GUT FEELING THAT WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE A MAJOR NEW CAVE DISCOVERY!

The Saturday morning SWR meeting covered several topics. First, the SWR sew-on patches, valued at \$2 apiece now, will cost \$3 each next summer at the NSS Convention. Jeff Lory is warden of the patches, so contact him and get yours now! Speaking of conventions, the '86 NSS Convention will convene at Tularosa, New Mexico during June 23 through 28, 1986. Preparations for this mega-event are already under way. Coordination between and cooperation from all SWR grottos is a must. The group decided by vote that one fragile cave in particular should be omitted from the Convention guidebook while still maintaining the proper spirit. The group also determined that the next SWR regional will be at Freezeout Canyon in New Mexico over Labor Day weekend. The forthcoming '85 NSS Convention in Kentucky was announced. After all grotto chair-spylunks reported on individual club activity, we adjourned for caving.

Bill Bentley reports that, "After the meeting, I descended into the cave to the third level, where I directed traffic to the final drop in Montgomery Cave. Then, I went down and found most everyone enjoying the gypsum crystals that decorate the lower level. Proceeding to the North end of the cave, and up the Haynes ladder to the bypass tunnel, I ran into Tom Dillon. After showing him the Haynes Brothers' Bypass, we crawled back down the ladder and met Bill Greenlee, Dave Belski, and Tony Grieco. Tom and Dave were impressed by the sixty-foot tall gyp crystal formation known as 'Old Granddad'. Almost everyone was in the cave when I ascended. We recovered an old rope and wood ladder from the bottom of the cave upon request of the landowner. After resting for awhile, Kathy and Joli asked me to guide them into the cave, so off we went into the depths.

"Kathy, Joli, Jeff, and I reached the bottom in about 45 minutes. We strolled into the South end of the cave and up into the Dome Climb. Kathy tried it first, then decided to let me lead. I've never seen such determination by two women to climb a dome, but they succeeded; it scares me to think about it. Once past the dome, we exited through Haynes Bypass and down the ladder at the North end of the cave. The ascent went smoothly, and everyone was on the surface an hour later."

The cavers quenched their speleosweat in the nearby stocktank. Veteran Dave Belski rates the tank with four stars. However, with the heat, I suspect he would have given a mudhole at least one star.

The "Skipper Roast" highlighted the evening and consummated the Bat Cave Blowout ritual. Four Eveready flashlights were sacrificed to the flames. This symbolizes the superiority of carbide over shoddy unreliable electric light. Bill Bentley describes the occasion:

"As the sun set in the West, a nearby storm provided a spectacular light show. Bill Greenlee announced that the Skipper flashlight roast was about to begin. Everyone made their way to Coy's fireplace and watched as the Skipper flashlights melted and oozed into the fire in a molten, gooey mess."

Coy provided refreshments in the form of a seemingly harmless concoction he calls 'E punch'. I wonder what the E stands for. The angered Skipper God let loose a storm that sent everyone scrambling for cover.

Next morning, after derigging the cave and policing the area, everyone parted company. Those with long drives headed home, but one group went to the Caverns of Sonora. I led a small group consisting of Tom, Slim, Matt, and Pat to Bat Cave near Sheffield. Last year, at the first Blowout, the PBSS hauled over a dozen large bags of trash out of the cave. This time, we could only fill half a bag. Tom and Slim seemed impressed with the size of the rooms and said we should consider having a SWR regional at Bat Cave sometime, since the cave is suitable for children to visit and is easily accessible.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the PBSS's first regional. May it certainly be our privilege to host another. I'll see y'all Labor Day- in the meantime, keep on grottin'....

Public Relations: An article in June 2nd's edition of the Midland Reporter Telegram portrays the PBSS in an adventurous light. Reporter Ron Gilmore attended the May meeting of the PBSS, where he interviewed the core of the grotto.

Wanted: Hodag, cave god, cave ghost, or other unexplainable stories. If you know any, please write them down or record them on cassette tape and send them to Carol Belski, 408 Southern Sky, Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220. Include your name, the cave's name and state, and approximate date. Carol is putting together a caving folklore collection.

Many thanks to Emily Ulmschneider for her professional-quality bat illustration used on the Bat Cave Blowout flyer. Also, thanks to Matt Killam, this month's cover illustrator - we could certainly use more talent of this calibre. Tony Grieco's seemingly endless procession of spylunk-toons go a long way toward filling voids both in this publication and in the serious course of our everyday lives. Thanks, Mr. Carbide.

Please send cave related material for publication in the PBSS-Spylunk to Bill Greenlee, 919 N.E. Ave F, Andrews, Texas 79714.

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