

June 2006

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

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THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting of the PBSS

The next meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held **June 13th** at Murray's Deli located at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland at **7:00 PM**.

On Going Projects:

PBSS Rock Haul at Carlsbad Caverns: PBSS on going restoration in the Big Room of Carlsbad Caverns. For more information contact Walter Feaster <wfeaster@cox.net> or 432-559-3297.

Our Agenda

Upcoming Deep & Punkin Cave Trip

PBSS Summer Party

DVD/Snowy River Discovery area of Fort Stanton Cave in New Mexico

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Regular membership dues are only \$15.00 and includes one voting right, associate membership is \$7.50 and does not include a newsletter. Dues should be made out to and sent to: **Barry Hayes**. If you are interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Barry Hayes at 432-333-8856 or <cavelizard@yahoo.com>. 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, AL. 35810-4431, or go to <www.caves.org>.

The "**PBSS**" Home Page
www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.html
built and maintained by
Bill Bentley

Future Cave Trips, Events, and Projects

*****June ***Deep and Punkin Cave: June 17th-18th:**

Visit Both Caves, Help where needed for use of facilities. For more info contact **Kerry Lowery** <klowery3@cox.net>

24th- Summer BBQ- Rule's place , **BYOB**

Meet at 3 pm @ 1008 E. 3rd-Big Spring
Food to be provided.....Bring Caving Gear....
Cell contact # 267-7330

*****July *** (CANCELLED)**

High Guads Restoration/Ft. Stanton Trip

*****August *****

Lincoln National Forrest Caves

*****September*****

Caverns of Sonora/TCMA Caves

*****October*****

TCR

*****November*****

4th-Carlsbad Caverns Rock Haul

*****December*****

16th-Annual Christmas Party (BYOB)

Steve and Cindy DiTullio house- Odessa

*****Denotes a PBSS Grotto Trip*****

*****Due to permit restrictions or other limitations Grotto members have priority*****

Remailers & Bulletin Boards

PBSS: http://caver.net/mailman/listinfo/pbss_caver.net

CaveTex: www.cavetex.net

2006 Elected Officers

President: Bill Bentley
Vice-President: Jacqui Bills
Secretary/Treasurer: Barry Hayes

Newsletter:
Steve & Cindy DiTullio



The following is the report written by the Big Manhole Dig trip leader, Stephen Fleming. I really enjoyed both the digging and the people. The cave is pretty cool, too. Depending on where you are sitting in the bucket line and whether or not the cave is blowing, very cool is more like it. I was glad of the old waffle cotton long-sleeved shirt I had in the bottom of my caving crate. I did not find the gas pad/campsite with the map and directions given out at April's Grotto meeting. I did find the right road off the road to Sitting Bull Falls, and called Lori from there to see if she had found the place. She had just left friends in Carlsbad and was headed back to Odessa after searching the oil field roads for a long time, looking for anybody who looked cave-y. A couple of the New Mexico guys said she passed them on her way out and they thought she might be a caver, confirmed by their sighting of the Texas Caver sticker in the back window after they passed one another. Stephen thought she looked kind of fed up. D'oh.

I wandered about myself for a long time, spending a fair amount of time walking around a likely area, enjoying the sights and smells and repeating, "go away snakes" at regular intervals. As it got dusky, I backtracked enough to find my first error and started over. Spotting headlights, I tracked down E.T. and Hank (see Stephen's report), who were in turn tracking me while en route to their RV for the night. They gave me very good directions so I did finally catch up with the campers. The rest is pretty much as written by Stephen.

Please let us reschedule—please note in the report that the next scheduled trip is the weekend of the 24th of June. There will also be one in July. It was great fun—rewarding work—and is a project well-suited to PBSS. Jacqui.

Manhole Dig
April 15-17

Dave Belski, Sam Bono, Paul Dunlap, Stephen Fleming, Jim Goodbar, Tim George, Carl Pagano, Kathy Peerman, Steve Peerman, Michael Queen, Kenny Stabinsky, Jacqui Thomas, Evelyn Townsend

On Friday, I (Fleming) and the Peermans arrived at the cave around 1330, after a short enroute visit with Evelyn Townsend and Hank Boudinot who were camped along the gravel road. They set up all the equipment and proceeded to dig for a couple of hours. Arriving back at the gas pad around 1700 we enjoyed a pleasant spring afternoon. Sam arrived shortly before dark, followed by Kenny around 2000. Kenny had met up with Jacqui, who was attending her first Manhole dig. We had seen Jacqui's headlights as she topped the ridge and wondered who it was. As she could see lights approaching she decided to wait and see if it was someone who could confirm her progress on the fairly confusing road network. As she soon learned, she had made it nearly all the way.

At 0140 in the morning (this time is precisely known) the wall of wind that had been forecast slammed into the area. Temperatures were mild but the remainder of the night was incredibly rough as gusts rocked the vehicles pretty much continuously, finally dying down shortly before sunrise. Somewhat surprisingly, no other cavers arrived during the night.

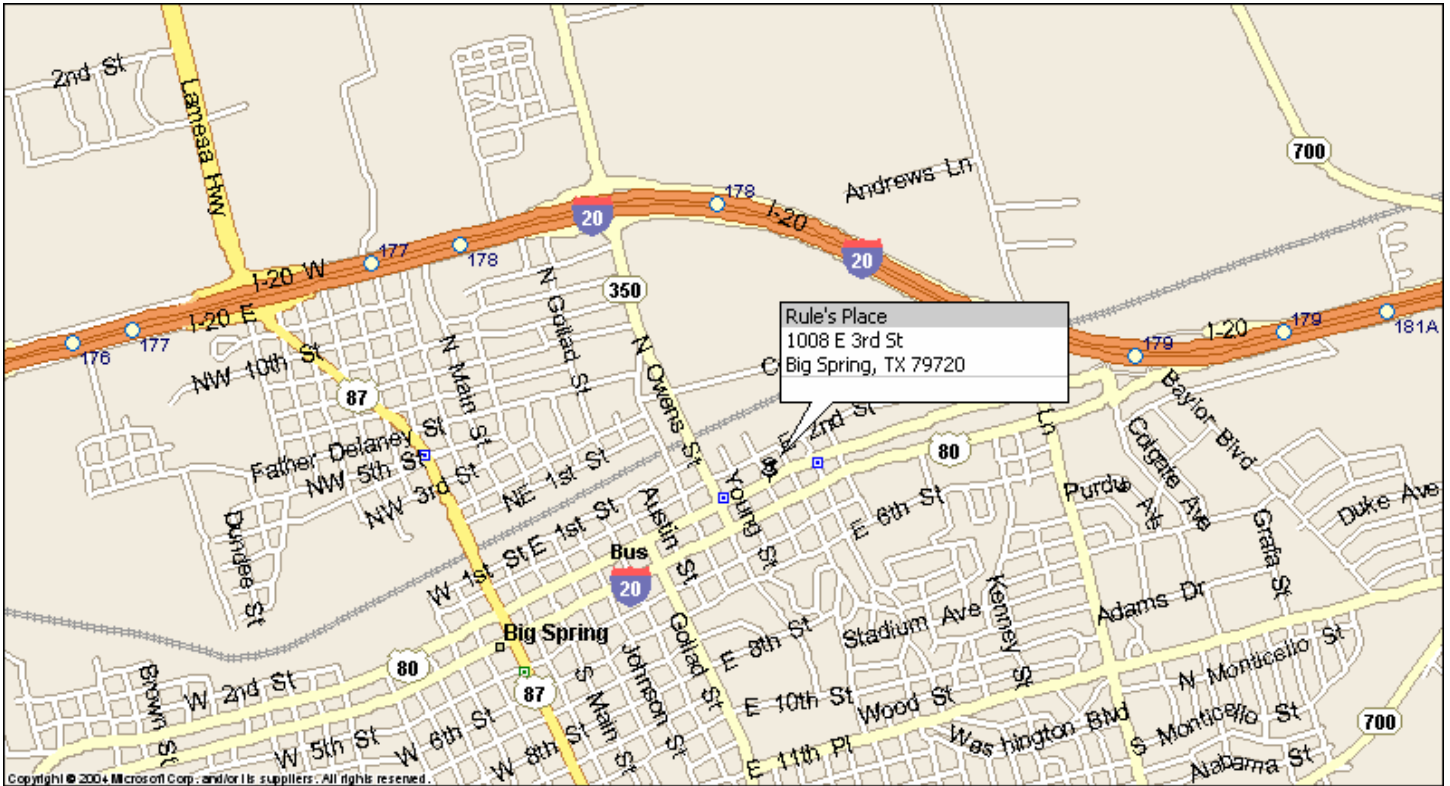
Digging began early on Saturday and continued until around 1800. Goodbar brought a heavy electrical cable which was substituted for the existing surface-to-cave line. We began forward progress at the bottom of the 8 foot pit excavated in February. Results were not quite as impressive as the prior dig, but we advanced about 5 feet, still in compacted sediment. Our hope to pick up the airflow was not realized, but we are paralleling the passage above leading out of the Anxiety Chamber. As noted in the February report, we now are digging under a flowstone cap, upon which rests a very large boulder. We are continuing to follow the left cave wall and the dig is turning slightly more to the west, hopefully toward the large void detected by John McLean's resistivity study last year.

Six of the participants departed upon exit. For those camping, the evening was again quite pleasant but the wind returned once more around 0130 in the morning.

Sunday saw the early departure of one additional person. I was not feeling well so opted to stay on the surface along with Kathy. That left only four to work in the cave. Because of the small crew, no digging was performed. Instead, some housekeeping was accomplished, chiefly being derigging the existing electrical cord that had been left in the dig passage and replacing it with Goodbar's cable. The cave had been blowing hard on Saturday (and it was quite cold in the dig passage) so I sent my anemometer down to possibly track where the airflow was coming from in the passage above the dig. As luck would have it, the cave was barely blowing so that plan was set aside for another day. After the cave crew finished rigging the new electrical cable and collecting the power tools left at the dig face, we hoisted everything out and were clear of the cave by about 1100.

There were two equipment developments. The clay spade that I had ordered well in advance of the dig did not arrive; however, it came today thus somewhat prompting the completion of this report. So, it will be available in June. Also, we are beginning to have bucket issues. The icing bucket source at the Las Cruces Albertson's apparently has dried up. It seems the store found someone (not cavers) who had acquired the free buckets and then was selling them at a flea market. For the time being, that source of supply is in doubt. Our existing supply of buckets in the cave is beginning to show signs of age. We repaired several, but are down to about 10 usable buckets. Everyone is invited to contact their favorite store and find us some free buckets of similar size. They are about a 2 gallon capacity.

Next dig is June 24-25, with a Friday start for those able to come early. As always, we need at least 6 confirmed attendees to keep the date viable. Due to recent progress, we found that 9 people actively involved in the bucket line was not too many. We are going to have to establish another haul line soon at the second shaft so this will require more folks to operate efficiently. It is becoming increasingly important to the dig that we have large numbers of participants reliably show up. Please make every effort to attend.



Rule's Place
1008 East 3rd
Big Spring, TX
Cell # 432-267-7330



August 7-11, 2006 The 2006 NSS Convention will be hosted at beautiful Western Washington University. The university is located between the Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains, just outside of downtown Bellingham. Situated between Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia, the spectacular surroundings of this region will make a stunning backdrop for the convention. For more information, visit the website at <www.nss2006.org>.