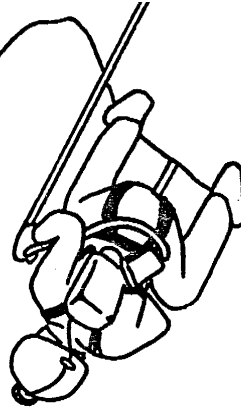


JUNE 1984

P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK

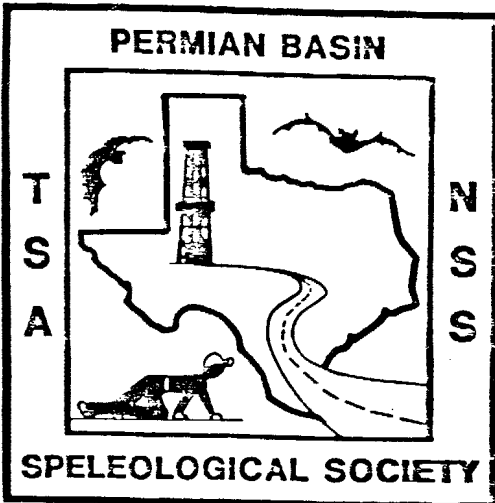
VOLUME 1
NUMBER 7



I'84
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The P.B.S.S. Monthly Spylunk

June 1984



MEETING: The June meeting of the P.B.S.S. will be held THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1984, 7:30 PM at the home of Tony & Vicki Grieco, 4723 W. Illinois, Midland, Texas. Call 697-0323 for directions. This is an important meeting because we need to elect a new Exalted Grand Poobah (see below). As usual, bring your own refreshments.

IMPORTANT SWR STUFF: The Southwestern Region has received our request for membership, and this will be voted on at their next regional meeting at Fort Stanton, June 16-17, 1984. The P.B.S.S. will have a representative at that meeting, though it would be nice if a number of you can manage to get there. Prospects for the P.B.S.S. becoming part of the SWR are apparently quite

good.

Exalted Grand Poobah: Bill Bentley, president of the P.B.S.S., has resigned his position due to work commitments. We will have to vote for a new president at the June meeting, so anyone interested in the job should be present. This will be an interim position until regular grotto elections are held in October or thereabouts. Call Bill Bentley if you want further information about the job.

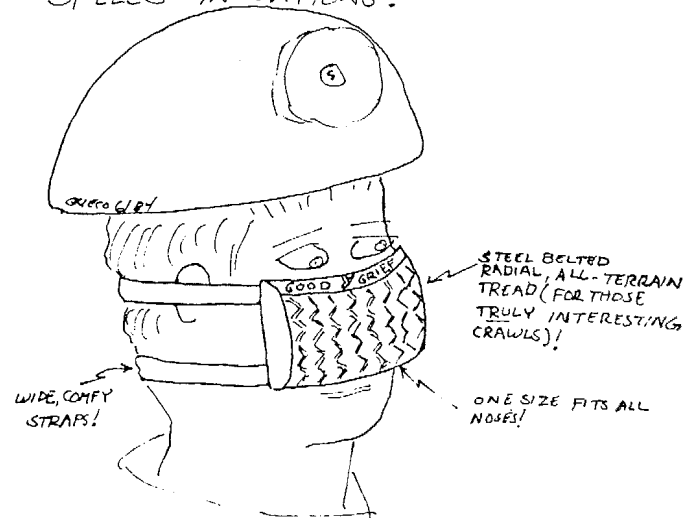
IMPORTANT EVENTS: JUNE 16-17, 1984: SWR regional meeting, Fort Stanton Cave
Call Dave Belski (505-885-6168) for info
JUNE 25-29, 1984: NSS Convention, Sheridan, Wyoming
AUG. 11-12, 1984: SWR Goat Roast, 3-Mile Hill. Call Dave Belski for info

CAVE TRIPS: JUNE 23-24, 1984 - Hidden Cave, Black Cave, Cottonwood Cave (including Wonderland), Guadalupe Mountains. We have the permits to these caves, plenty of open spaces. Several of these caves are good novice caves, so if you know any interested people, have them get in touch with Tony Grieco (697-0323). Note that, once again, the trip was moved from the third to the fourth weekend, this time due to conflicts with the SWR Fort Stanton meeting. Should we make these trips officially on the fourth weekend?

Sorcerers Cave: Still no word as to a specific date for a trip to this cave, but the San Antonio people have indicated that there will be a trip this summer. The SPYLUNK will keep you posted, so keep reading!

RECENT ACTIVITY: JUNE 1-3, 1984: Bat Cave Blow-out - The Bat Cave Blowout was held, and was a complete success. A total of 16 people showed up for all or part of the festivities. Activities included tours of Bat and Montgomery caves, a trip to Fort Lancaster, swimming and a clean up of Bat Cave. In addition, an "Eveready Skipper roast" was held, and two of these infamous "flashlights" met well deserved fates (if the photos come out OK, we'll send copies to the manufacturer). The late-night talks around the campfire (after the women and kids went to bed!) will be long remembered.

LITTLE KNOWN (AND LESS APPRECIATED)
SPELEO-INVENTIONS:



#6 FOR THE CAVERS WHO FALL ON THEIR NOSES AS OFTEN AS THEY CRAWL ON THEIR KNEES—THE "STONEMASTER" FACE PAD!

1984 Bat Cave Blowout Participants: Bill Bentley, Terry Bolger, Barb Edson, Lloyd Goldwire, Bill Greenlee, Tony Grieco, Vicki Grieco, Dennis Haynes, Glenn Haynes, Pat Hill, Pat Murphy, Brendon Peterson, Christopher Peterson, Joyce Peterson, Steve Peterson, William Peterson

Our thanks to all who attended and helped out. We will try to make this an annual fling, since things turned out so well this first time.

MAY 18-20, 1984: TSA Convention (report by Bill Bentley) - The 1984 Texas Speleological Convention was held on the Longs Ranch at a very beautiful bend in the Llano River near Kingsland, Texas. I was fortunate enough to attend. The Friday night activities included setting up the portable hot tub and registration. Saturday's activities were an excellent and well-planned series of talks and shows that covered Honey Creek Preserve Cave, land owner relations, and films and slides on the Edwards Aquifer. I gave a short presentation on the P.B.S.S. and its history and goals, and was accepted with a round of applause. Saturday night included nude hot tubbing and slide shows on several of Texas' finest caves. A great time was had by all.

Besides myself, Dennis and Glenn Haynes from Fort Stockton, Texas and Lloyd Goldwire from Sanderson, Texas attended and represented the P.B.S.S.

MAY 26-27, 1984: Bill Greenlee, Tony Grieco, Tom Hefner, John Hill, Terry Hill and Vern Martin (also known as the Keystone Kavers) took a cave trip that will be long remembered in the annals of West Texas Speleology.

The trip was to be to Hell Below and Gunsight Caves, neither of which had ever been visited by anyone in our group - thus, our first stop (and some would maintain our first mistake!) was to visit Dave and Carol Belski for directions. We left the Belski's Friday night armed with a topo map and detailed verbal instructions as to location of the caves, rigging the drop in Hell Below and warnings about Hell Below's infamous equipment-eating crack.

Saturday the Keystone Kavers set off in an optimistic mood to find Hell Below. "This will be a piece of cake!" we all thought- and indeed it was, for we found the entrance in only 15 or 20 minutes. The entrance we saw, however, (a) didn't look anything like what we had been led believe it should, (b) didn't look like it had an unlockable gate, (c) wasn't anywhere near where we had expected it to be and (d) was too easy to find - caves are never that easy to find. With these "facts" in mind, we collectively concluded that this hole must be a secondary opening and that the real entrance lay further on.



THEOLOGY

***These dark grottoes are my cathedral,
This feeble lamp my revelation.
The unreached halls beyond are my mysteries -
The droplet-broken stillness is a prayer.***

- Tony Grieco



"HELLO DOWN THERE"

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It didn't, but it took us three hours of intense searching "further on" before we figured it out.

Once in the cave, things started moving more routinely, and in fact the drop was fairly simple to rig and climb. The infamous "equipment eating crack" only claimed one article, a flashlight (mine, dammit!), but I like to think that this sacrifice to Oztotl assured us a safe cave trip.

After a sterling performance like Saturday's, we hoped that Sunday's trip would be more routine. Exhausted from the previous day's foray, but nonetheless enthusiastic, the Keystone Kavers set out on the long hike to Gunsight Cave, accoutered once again with Belski's topo map. To make a long story short, we found the cave, but this didn't stop us from looking for it! We thought that the big hole on the side of the next ridge was Sentinel Cave, and that Gunsight was just below us on the ridge, separated from us by only one nasty climb. We were wrong. Fortunately, the heat, exhaustion and lateness in the day led the group to make its only good decision of the weekend - we said to hell with it and went back to the cars. We now know that, had we made that nasty climb, we would never have found that cave, because Gunsight cave was the big hole on the next ridge!

LITERARY CORNER: Wizardry

Butterfly
Moisture Glistens
Hanging like a bat!

- A cave haiku by Carl Bryson 7/82

MISCELLANEOUS: P. B. S. S. Members Rene Ulmschneider and Emily Hoffman got hitched on May 19, 1984. Our congratulations to the both of them!

For those who took umbrage at this editor's spelling of Wizzards Well, I must say in my own defense that apparently that is the way it is supposed to be spelled, at least according to Bill Bentley. I can edit, but I can't arbitrarily change cave names, even to make them conform to standard english usage.

Remember - the SPYLUNK is a bargain at \$4.00/year, if you haven't subscribed. Send your check to Pat Murphy, P. O. Box 331, Gardendale, Texas. Make your check out to Pat and not to P.B.S.S. please.

Imagine - your worst nightmare come true! You go to your mailbox and instead of finding your regular SPYLUNK, full of timely news, hysterically funny cartoons and in-depth articles, you get only a sheaf of blank pages!! Absurd? Perhaps - but it could happen! In order to publish timely news, hysterically funny cartoons and in-depth articles, someone has to send some to me! If you have any cave related news, articles, etc., pick up your pen, pencil or crayon, write (or scrawl) it down, and send it to Tony Grieco, 4723 W. Illinois, Midland, Texas 79703.

Kudos to the following people this month: Lety Hernandez, who typed the SPYLUNK; Bill Greenlee, for the excellent cover drawing this month; Bill Bentley, for the cartoon contained herein; and Carl Bryson, for the poetry. The SPYLUNK would have been nothing without your contributions, and we owe you our thanks.



THE SECRET LIFE OF THE UNWATCHED
CAVING ROPES:

