
PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume III No. 8

June, 1991

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 1991

Location: Rosa's Cafe & Tortilla Factory, 903 Andrews Hwy., Midland

Time: Socialization and food consumption commence at 6:30 PM; business meeting to follow at 7:00

JUNE TRIP: DOC BURRITO, JERNIGAN #2 AND HICKS CAVES

Doc Burrito and Jernigan #2 are scheduled for Saturday, June 15, and Hicks is scheduled for Sunday, June 16. Walter believes Doc Burrito and Jernigan #2 are walk-ins, and Hicks requires hand lines; however, he recommends you bring your vertical gear, and asks that you let him know in the event you plan to make the trip. Camping will be at Parks Ranch.

REALLY OLD TRIP REPORTS

Rediscovery Cave, by Chuck Anderle (2/10/91)

Locality: Ozona Area
7.5 min. Topo: HowardsWell SW

PBSS member Bill Bentley was contacted about this cave by the hunter who leases the property. Having discovered the hole in the ground while deer hunting, he wanted to see what's under there before he has to ship out to Saudi Arabia next month. Walter Feaster and Chuck Anderle drove in Saturday night after spending the day in Fort Stanton cave, and met Bill, Terry Hill, the hunter and his friend.

Sunday morning -- Expecting the "25 foot pit with 2 openings visible" to probably be a 15 foot sink with 2 rat holes, we were pleasantly surprised to find a 25 foot diameter opening in limestone beside a shallow streambed and at least a 50 foot drop into an entrance grotto. Rigging and instructing our pair of novices presented no unusual problems. We dropped into a semicircular room 15 ft. by 30 ft. There were 2 walking leads heading NW and NE. The NW lead drops about 25 ft. down a breakdown slope into a roughly cylindrical room 20 ft. in diameter by 100 ft. long. The far end of this room has a crawlway opening into a crack 2 ft. wide, 20 ft. tall, and 25 ft. long. The upper portion of this crack had about 20 cave crickets, in February. The east wall has 2 other climbable upward joints about 30 ft. long which connect at the upper ends. The floor is breakdown boulders, 2 to 10 ft. slabs covered with 1 to 12 inches of guano. No bats were seen. The room is moderately decorated and contains some active stalactites, stalagmites, and soda straws. Helictites are impressive in small alcoves below the NE corner of the breakdown slope, although the air is dusty. The second lead off the entrance heads down into a tunnel varying from 20 to 40 ft. wide and 25 to 70 ft. tall, although it is mostly filled by large breakdown blocks which require constant scrambling and can be very slick with dripping water and guano. Portions of an old nylon trotline cord line the main trail and at one point cross a fried egg formation and have become cemented into the yolk. A flying ant was noted expired on top of a 4 ft. tall wet stalagmite just past the egg. Continuing along the main trunk, a 15 ft. drop is encountered which can be bypassed by slipping down a 2 ft. diameter opening to the left of the drop. This heavily decorated area is covered with rust colored (from guano staining??) calcite crystals. Most of the crystals on the floor have been trampled. Beneath the drop there is a 20 inch circular lead into limestone which turns left and down within 6 ft. of the opening. Continuing to the end of the trunk passage about 800 to 1000 ft. from the entrance room, there are white rimstone dams and a white lined former pool with a shelf at the old water level. Near the pool,

more formations on a lower level are visible down a 3 inch crack. Below the old bat roost, there is a 50 degree down slope covered with guano over a foot deep, which heads into a 2 ft. opening 5 ft. wide.

The size and amount of decoration were a great deal better than our expectations and the only drawback to exploration was the amount of litter at the bottom of the pit and the little green pieces of plastic. Rats! It's not virgin. It seems somebody has done an "R" and "W" survey using green plastic station markers about 1/2 x 2 inches. The ranch owner did not know about former visitors, so we now know what's there but not where we were. Until we find out where we were, I dub this hole Rediscovery Cave.

Pink Panther Damn! (or the Lost Art of Caving), by Jeff Glossa

(Typist's note: The following was written under protest. While at the bottom of Pink Panther, the writer was presented with two propositions: either write the trip report, in which case he would be supplied with ascending gear, allowed to leave the cave, eat supper, and lead a generally normal life; alternately, he could choose not to volunteer to write the report, rot in Pink Panther, and 20,000 years from now, cavers of the future would visit the cave to see the remains of an ancient bear and an ancient humanoid. Glossa took the easy way out. He chose a comfortable life over archaeological glory and a part in the geologic record.)

BEEN THERE DONE IT
 GOT THE T-SHIRT
AND WE SAW THE BEAR.

But it wasn't easy! We blew in Friday night. The wind didn't blow; an ill omen it was, quiet enough to hear the outhouse mouse. Saturday we wandered the cliffs of the Guad's in the morning heat, hours spent seeking the illusive openings to these caves. As we found 'em, we all held one thought: "Wouldn't it be great if we had walked straight to these openings? No, if six lusty, young models joined us to lead us along? Yeh, and they brought a really great beer! Then later we all went to the caves and....." You should'a been there.

Pink Dragon Cave (5/19/91)

As a result of knee and toe injuries, only Rick Day, Walter Feaster, and Ken Kamon remained for the trip back to Pink Dragon on Sunday. We set out from camp at 9:40 TDT, arrived at the trailhead at 10:00, and made it to the entrance by 11:15. Because Chuck's topo map (which included Dave Belski's directions) left with Chuck, we had more difficulty finding the Pink Dragon on Sunday than the day before. The entrance to the cave looks difficult at first, but can be managed without a handline--the hardest part is a 5 ft. drop onto a steep incline. After proceeding through the entrance and a well-decorated passage that included some impressive columns and draperies, we came to a rubble breakdown, consisting of sharp, angular rocks. We crawled through a fairly small hole on the right side of the breakdown, a painful experience that we compared to childbirth. A large room was on the other side of the breakdown. Once we exited the rubble, one passage extended straight ahead, and another extended a considerable distance off to our left and behind us. To our left and front, several pits extended downwards. Rick found a small room with some good helictites off a passage connecting pits. Two of the pits looked tight and endless, and appeared to offer an opportunity for some good sado-masochism, except that, unfortunately, Walter had been too lazy to carry his 300 ft. rope to the cave. Exiting the cave, Rick noted streaks of pink on the entrance dome, and we concluded this is why the cave is called Pink.

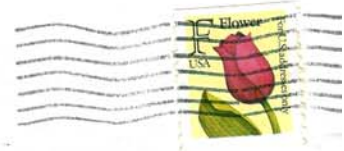
PBSS Newsletter

Please mail material for newsletter to Ken Kamon, 400 W. Texas #1100K, Midland, TX 79701

PBSS MEMBERSHIP

Last Name	First Name	W. Phone	H. Phone	NSS #
Anderle	Chuck	685-3119	685-3119	31477
Anderle	Jan	685-3119	685-3119	31478
Bentley	Bill	694-7721	697-3079	21977
Brinson	Debbie	699-4081	687-4443	31906
Brinson	Will	699-4081	687-4443	31905
Carlton	Don	335-3265	687-4352	30417
Coffin	Gralin	684-5548	682-1904	33471
Coffin	Kari C.		682-1904	33472
Day	Rick		523-9665	-----
Dickens	Henry	563-0421	367-5275	-----
Feaster	Walter		367-8253	31624
Fincher	J. D.		694-4381	-----
Scott	Melissa		694-4381	-----
Fincher	Richard		694-4381	-----
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Hill	Patrick		689-8347	-----
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Kamon	Ken	686-0720	699-7192	-----

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