

July 2004

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

Volume 19 Number 6

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 July 13th. at Murray's Deli located at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland at 7:00 PM.

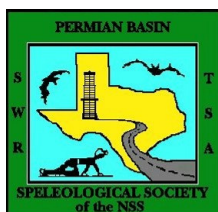
Our Agenda

Meeting

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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 made out to and sent to: Michael Anderson. 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 your 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



President:
Barry Hayes
Vice-President:
Lori Hales
Secretary/Treasurer:
Michael Anderson

On Going Projects:

CRF Carlsbad Caverns: Expeditions usually occur on holiday weekends. Contact Barbe Barker <cloudcaver@pvtnetworks.net> or 505-687-4270. Or the CRF website www.cave-research.org

High Guads Restoration Project (HGRP): Upcoming events usually take place the last weekend of each month. For more information contact Susan Herpin at 505-457-2253 or <highguads@yahoo.com>.

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

Future Cave Trips, Events, and Projects:

October 14-17: Texas Cavers Reunion
Flat Creek Ranch in Blanco County

*****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



Trip Report

Schleicher County Ranch

14-15 May, 2004

Permian Basin Speleological Society members:

Jacqui Bills (trip leader; report), Barry Hayes, Lori Hales, Michael Anderson, Walter Feaster, Robert Holt

Friday May 14th I arrived at the ranch, leaving Barry and Michael and Robert at Barry's trailer in the Caverns of Sonora campground, where Barry had been patiently waiting since Thursday. I parked in the designated area just beyond the dig site, set up camp, flagged the way to the main dig area, again considered what tools were needed, and came up with a plan. My plan was we didn't need a plan until everyone arrived Saturday am. And maybe not even then.

Once this landmark decision was made, I kicked back and watched for other PBSS members. The evening was beautiful; not too warm, sky clear, stars about this close and many meteors, from pinpricks to streakers.

Saturday May 15th Saturday looked good for outdoor manual labor, overcast and not too warm. I flagged the second possible dig area, then followed what looked like a continuation of the second rift. I ended up on the main road without having found any more places where the rift widened. I did see bunnies and jackrabbits, a skunk, and a painted bunting. No snakes. Having misread my watch by an hour, by the time I returned to camp Lori and Barry had arrived and completed their inspection of the main dig site.

Walter and Michael and Robert joined us. With Walter came 5 gallon buckets. Lots of optimistic buckets. By 10:30 everyone was moving rocks. The newly exposed rock, thought to be a solid shelf, was actually fractured and we broke it up for removal. At the break for lunch the hole was about three feet wide and the sides of the hole tapered in and down to a crack in the bedrock at each end of the bottom of the dig. The bottom was about four feet from the surface. At this point we thought there might be airflow at the southeast end of the hole. It wasn't strong and none could tell for sure where it was coming from. The hint of air was enough to keep us digging after lunch.

Rocks became larger: One rock required a chain and some heavy lifting. Removal of this rock left a place for one person to stand about 6 feet from the surface on the northwest end of the lozenge-shaped hole. From this spot we lowered Lori's fancy purple mini-mag into the visible crack in the bedrock on some cord Barry had. It dropped eight to ten feet before it landed on a floor of what looked like solid rock. There was no airflow in this area. We stopped digging at about 4:30 p.m. Saturday when all traces of moving air disappeared and it looked like the rift could go for miles and never be more than 6 inches wide.

After contacting the landowner, we returned enough rocks to the hole to keep livestock from getting hooves caught and to make the sides an easy slope for young critters to climb. It doesn't seem likely that more digging, even with the addition of explosives or heavy equipment, would uncover anything more.

Rats but we did have fun. Jacqui

