
PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

July, 1992

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, July 14

Location: Murray's Delicatessen, 3211 W. Wadley, Midland. Murray's is on the south side of Wadley, in the strip shopping center east of Midkiff and Texas Burger.

Time: Food consumption and socialization are optional and begin at 6:30 PM; the meeting starts at 7:00.

JULY TRIPS

J. D. has reserved Fort Stanton cave near Ruidoso for Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19. As there are ten places available each day, there should be plenty of room for anyone who wants to go. Fort Stanton is in a very scenic area, and the cave is very long with a lot to see. The cave is horizontal - vertical gear is not required. BRING YOUR VIDEO CAMERA, as we plan to start on the training video discussed at the last meeting. Call J. D. for more information or to reserve a place.

Don Carlton has reserved the upper section of Cottonwood for Saturday, July 25. The upper section is gated, and includes Wonderland. Cottonwood has one of the most impressive entrances of any cave in the area and includes giant columns and a giant room. This horizontal cave is accessible without a lot of physical effort, and no crawling is required except in the gated section. Call Don to reserve a place -- the list for the upper section is likely to fill up quickly.

AUGUST TRIP

Don Carlton has scheduled a work trip for Three Fingers for Saturday, August 15. If you're interested in going, be sure to call him early, as there are only 6 places and you'll need to fill out a Forest Service application form. Depending on how far we go, Three Fingers will require one or more substantial drops.

TRIP REPORTS

Ogle Cave

June 13, 1992 Ogle Cave CACA Eddy Co., New Mexico
by Bill Bentley

Cavers: Bill Bentley, Steve Franks, Ken Kamon, Larry Gray, Noel Pando, Rick Day, and Dolly Pando (who didn't go in)

I left Friday morning at around 10:30 AM and arrived at Parks Ranch around 2:30 PM (no sense being in a hurry). I took a nice hike around the area and a good nap as I knew I would need it later on. As I waited and the sun set I had supper and fought off the killer White City B-52 mosquitos. The distant echoes of traffic on U.S. Hwy 62-180 and the silhouette of the Guads against the setting sun's last glimmering rays was to be the start of what I thought would be a nice quiet restful night of blissful sleep. Boy, was I wrong! After drifting off somewhere around 1:30 AM (Texas Standard Time) I was awakened and much startled by the noise of a combustion engine. I thought it was maybe some of our group, but nooooo, it was some thoughtless inconsiderate Colorado Cavers out for a week of caving in the Guads and playing "MUSIC" at levels well above the OSHA standards for the lone prairie.

This ruckus of music and clatter of camp gear kept me awake until 4:00 AM or so. Finally they went into the Parks Ranch Cave and all was quiet until they came out around 5:00 AM. (Don't these cavers ever sleep?) The next morning I awoke and found that JD and son had made it in and after eating breakfast we

headed to the cave and arrived at the parking area around 9:30 AM. Larry, Steve, Rick and Noel & wife were there already so off we went to the cave. Where was Ken? About 1/2 the way up the canyon wall on the way to the cave we stopped to admire the mine shaft and there was Ken coming up the trail. We all got to the entrance and rested. The day's heat was well on its way to becoming plain old hot. After rigging the drop at the entrance everyone descended except Dolly who chose to wait and bake, barbecue, or broil on the flat limestone around the entrance. Oh, by the way, a 200' rope won't cut it on the 185' drop to the entrance. Did you know that the single piston Donkey Engine and rusty drawworks, vintage 1900, is not bolted to anything?

After getting into the cave we regrouped and started to explore Ogle cave. I went with Larry and assisted in a couple of photographs. "Stand there and look intrepid." How do you look intrepid? While inside we followed the west wall and went all the way to the back and along the east wall back to the entrance. A couple of hours of looking around and we were back at the entrance, myself and Larry that is. Ken followed us. I was the first one out, about 5 minutes on rope, followed by Larry who had some slight difficulties, but nothing a little strategic cursing couldn't help.

After baking in the 100+ degree sun, I went down the canyon and found Dolly resting under an Ocotillo bush. Not much shade! We waited and here came Larry who had to leave ASAP for home and then San Antonio. We followed him back to the vehicles. I didn't know a soda pop could taste so good! I left because I was suffering from photosensitivity from a drug reaction to some antibiotics I had been taking. On the way out I saw J.D. who had chilled out at CACA with his son. Oh, by the way, there is a vicious racoon who eats cheese nips at the New Cave parking lot. Anyway, you missed a good trip.

Montgomery Cave and Black Jack Cave - Terrell Co., Texas by Gary Harter

Our trip to Montgomery began with an evening workout in the Andrews Middle School weight room. Rick Day, a fellow teacher and adventurer, suggested we practice climbing in the dark to become acquainted with the helmet, lamp, and other equipment. Little did we know what was in store for us. As usual, the evenings sleep was short, because we were filled with excitement of our coming adventure.

Our group consisted of Rick Day, Noel Pando, Tony Stricklin (Rookie), and myself, Gary Harter(Rookie). We met in Midland with the other cavers, J.D., Richard, Ken and Steve. We traveled past Rankin, Iraan, through Sheffield toward Dryden. Soon we stoppped and found were were to see Black Jack Cave. We learned some history about the cave on the 1/4 mile hike to find it. It was named after a cattle thief, who used the cave to hide livestock. He then ran the cattle to Mexico to sell.

Black Jack was a horizontal cave with large rooms. It has some interesting formations of rock and crystal, and also some stalagmites and stalactites. Ken, who was always helpful and full of information, suggested we wear our sunglasses in the cave so we could cave in style. Cavers are very style-conscious.

After Black Jack, we traveled to Montgomery Cave, which was close to no where, 24 miles off the Sheffield-Dryden highway.

Soon we were all geared up and ready to go. The first drop was 30 feet. The eight of us took turns going down, and I was thankful for the professionalism, and the extra help I received. Our next drop was 60 feet down through an opening into what I would call a hallway. Once the rope was secure and checked, we dropped the final 100 feet into a large room. We saw lots of interesting gypsum formations, and some skeletons of fox and skunk. We then went exploring through some crawl spaces that lead into large rooms and a chimney. We climbed up the chimney, which lead into more tunnels. How all this was formed was beyond imagination.

Now it was time to climb out. The first 100 feet was exhausting. I quickly found out that this was a lot different than in the gym. I soon learned to look ahead and figure where I needed to go to avoid getting my crotch stuck under a ledge. Adrenalin helps a lot, expecially when you look down, then look at the skinny rope holding you up. That last 20 feet went quickly.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT-TO-LAST PAGE)

After a short rest, we went up 60 feet -- ahead slow and easy, then a chin up and over the ledge. Wow!!

Now I was really tired, but I could see daylight, and the last 30 foot climb. For some reason it looked more than 30 feet. After a much longer rest than before, up I went. Almost to the top. I stuck my Kroll under a ledge. Great!! It must have been adrenalin, or just the will to live. I pushed and scrambled, then another pull up and over the ledge. What a feeling - tired, sore, dusty, dirty, stinky, excited. What a rush!

When do we go again?

NEW MEMBERS

Don Judson has joined PBSS. Don does a good bit of camping, and his son is really excited about caving.

Scott Johnson has also joined PBSS. Scott, like Bruce Jones, another relatively new member, is a rock climber. We certainly could have used them on a couple of previous trips.

Bill's combination T-shirt/membership sales have resulted in two new additions. Richard Galle, prolific outdoorsman from Plainview, has joined. Richard's claim to fame is having gone skinny dipping with Debra Winger. Martha McArthur of Wichita Falls, noted for her unique, ribald sense of humor, has also joined. Martha recently found parts of Walter in the lunchroom in Carlsbad Caverns.

Welcome, Don, Scott, Richard and Martha.

PBSS PATCHES

Bill has PBSS patches, for sale at \$4.00 a piece, presumably of the same design and high quality as the PBSS T-shirts. Eighteen are left, and you can make your purchase at the meeting on Tuesday.

MISCELLANEOUS

Cheryl and Chuck made the Memorial Day Southwestern Region Meeting in the Black Range. Cheryl reports the area is very scenic. They had difficulty reaching the camp site as a result of flooding, but had an excellent time, especially chimneying in Palomas Creek Cave.

Gypsum formations have been stolen from Torgac Cave in New Mexico: specifically "at least 15 small 1 to 2 foot long gypsum stalactites and a 4 by 5 foot encrustation with large selenite crystals, some as long as 6 inches." (quote from Southwestern Cavers) If you spot anything suspicious in rock/mineral shops or shows, you are encouraged to contact the BLM at (505) 624-1790 or (505) 622-9042.

Regarding the Montgomery Cave trip (see report, above), Gary and Tony, who are prospective members and friends of Rick and Noel, climbed out of Montgomery quickly and efficiently -- amazing, considering it was their first time in a vertical cave, and doubly amazing considering Montgomery requires three drops. And they write trip reports. Hopefully, they'll be joining PBSS.

I'm getting sick and tired of censoring vulgarities from trip reports, especially this word "Caca" that keeps popping up. O.K., if you people want to write dirty words in Spanish, that's your business, but starting this month I'm not going to the trouble to reword your reports.

PBSS Newsletter

Please mail material for copying to Bill Bentley, 3815 W. County Rd. 116, Midland, TX 79703.

Please mail address changes and material for typing 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
Cargile	Terry		697-8700	-----
Coffin	Gralin	684-5548	682-1904	33471
Coffin	Kari C.		682-1904	33472
Cullen	James		(214)412-1632	-----
Day	Rick		523-9665	-----
Dickens	Henry	563-0421	367-5275	-----
Eddy	David			11830
Feaster	Walter		367-8253	31624
Fincher	J. D.		694-4381	yes
Fincher	Richard		694-4381	-----
Franks	Stephen	697-7672	683-3305	35245
Galle	Richard	(806)293-8319	293-2744	-----
Glossa	Jeff	682-9731		-----
Gray	Larry	655-6957	653-3823	19588
Guad	Slut		(505)393-5604	-----
Hill	Tom	560-5065	687-2122	27888
Johnson	Scott	697-7801	699-4470	-----
Jones	Bruce		520-4711	-----
Judson	Don	682-5216	683-2050	-----
Kamon	Ken	686-0720	699-7192	34637
Knight	Kenneth		(817)696-8713	-----
McArthur	Martha		(817)723-9890	yes
McPherson	Kim		699-6135	-----
Nance	Jim		563-5208	27723
Pando	Noel		523-9294	-----
Qualls	Patrick		(505) 397-0884	-----
Scott	Melissa		694-4381	-----
Seefeld	Cheryl	570-3421	570-1124	-----
Showalter	Ernie	563-1663	682-1700	-----
Steele	Debbie		689-7421	-----
Wall	Denise	(214) 373-3755	691-0105	-----

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