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### Next Meeting of the PBSS

The next meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held August 10th at Murray's Deli located at 3211 W. Wadley in Midland at 7:00 PM.

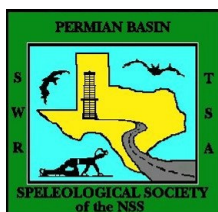
### *Our Agenda*

### **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 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](http://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](http://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 16-17: Texas Cavers Reunion**  
Flat Creek Ranch  
[www.oztotl.com/tr](http://www.oztotl.com/tr)

**??? 1st Annual Texas Caver Chili Challenge ???**

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

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

### *Retailers & Bulletin Boards*

**PBSS:** [http://caver.net/mailman/listinfo/pbss\\_caver.net](http://caver.net/mailman/listinfo/pbss_caver.net)

**CaveTex:** [www.cavetex.net](http://www.cavetex.net)



**Crockett's Cave**  
**Lincoln County, New Mexico**  
**By Rebecca Lee**

On July 13, Tom Kaler and I had the opportunity to visit Crockett's Cave near Carrizozo, New Mexico. This is a gated, permitted cave obtainable through the BLM Roswell Field Office. This is one of the most easily accessible wild caves I've visited. You basically drive 7.5 miles down a dirt road off of Highway 380 to a human access gate. Park. Then, walk about 200 feet directly to an obvious sinkhole.

Crockett's Cave is a gypsum cave with entrances on either end. However, the BLM doesn't allow through trips. You have to turn around and climb back out. The cave is littered with breakdown so scrambling from rock to boulder is a constant knee and ankle exerciser. The cave has approximately 1,158 meters of surveyed passage. Mazy and easily confusing, someone has placed pathway reflectors in the cave to help cavers battle those bouts with chronic, temporary confusion that plagues many of us.

The bragging right of the cave is the boxwork. The cave has some pretty nice specimens of the stuff. In fact, it's been deemed the best display in New Mexico. There are also a few wacky stalactites that look more like overgrown helictites.

A fairly tight fissure called Zebra Alley is fitting of its name. A banding in the rock gives the area its name and is not like anything I've ever seen. Dark, horizontal bands are lined with a thin strip of white crystals. The bands are unusually uniform from boulder to boulder.

Another interesting feature of the cave is a room called the Big Room. At 300 feet by 90 feet, it's no match for Carlsbad Cavern's namesake but its impressive nonetheless. Here we met a small group of bats roosting on the ceiling.

We also encountered a whole lot of guano in the Bat Rooms. Crockett's Cave is closed November 1 to April 15 because of its hibernating bat population. The Bat Rooms reminded us just how foul guano smells so we didn't spend much time there.

Crockett's Cave has just enough hairy climbs to make it a little dangerous for folks not used to exposed climbs and certainly kept us on our toes. Of course, there are a few real fun crawls over jagged, clothes ripping (Tom ripped the crotch out of his pants) rocks.

We spent about 5 hours exploring Crockett's Cave. Once on the surface, we hiked to the second entrance where a nice sized rattlesnake rested in the shade directly under the gate. Had we been allowed to enter the cave through this entrance, the snake would have greeted us kindly, I'm sure.