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# PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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*August, 1992*

## MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, August 11

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.

## AUGUST TRIPS

Don Carlton has scheduled a work trip for Three Fingers for Saturday, August 15. Don, who won't be able to make the trip, reports that we will meet a Forest Ranger at the campground between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time. Bring vertical gear and ropes; ropes should be a minimum length of 140'. There's still one place left on the permit; call Don soon if you want to go, as you'll need to submit a Forest Service volunteer permit prior to the trip.

J. D. has scheduled a trip to Montgomery Cave for Saturday, August 29 and Sunday, August 30. Getting to the bottom of the cave requires 3 drops, and it includes some spectacular gypsum formations (see July, 1992 PBSS newsletter for trip report). Call J. D. or Rick for more information.

## LABOR DAY REGIONAL

Chuck reports a cave rescue seminar will be held in conjunction with the Labor Day regional of the Southwestern Region. Contact Chuck for more details. A copy of the flier describing the regional is enclosed.

## UPCOMING WORK TRIP - CARLSBAD CAVERNS

Walter is looking into organizing a grotto work trip at Carlsbad Caverns. The work would involve uncovering formations that were buried when the elevator shafts were constructed and would require moving dirt with shovels and wheelbarrows. If we do a good job, there's a possibility of a reward trip off trail in the Caverns. If you have any interest and are not going to make the meeting on Tuesday, please call Walter prior to the meeting.

## NEW MEMBERS

Scott Cruise has joined PBSS. Melanie Cruise may also have joined. Scott and Melanie have a 3-1/2 year old named Frisco who could be invaluable in checking out tight leads. (If Richard, Patrick, Tiffany and Andrew keep growing, they're going to end up being good for nothing; we need new blood.)

Doug Hunt has also joined. Doug and spouse Sharon are avid outdoorspeople, who are looking forward to doing some caving. They're already working on putting vertical gear together.

Gary Harter, a coach at Andrews, has joined. Gary is a friend of Rick & Noel's. He writes excellent trip reports.

## ERRATUM

In July newsletter, second page, last paragraph, 4th sentence, first word should have been "Kroll", not "crotch".

## TEXAS CAVE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Walter and Gralin have joined the Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA). A copy of a section from the TCMA Activities Newsletter is enclosed herein, along with an application form. They are planning to go to the next meeting, in Wimberly sometime in October, and would like to have some company. Reportedly, TCMA may give PBSS the opportunity of helping manage Amazing Maze Cave.

## TRIP REPORT

Fort Stanton Cave

Verbal Report by Walter Feaster

Cavers: Walter Feaster, Gralin Coffin, J. D. Fincher, Richard Fincher, Chuck Anderle, Jan Anderle, Tiffany Anderle, unknown friend of the Anderle family, Gary Harter, Noel Pando, Noel Pando, Jr., Steve Franks, James Cullen (Rick Day was not present because he was acting in a movie with Debra Winger.)

The PBSS cavers got a bright and early start at 10:00 AM Texas Daylight Time. The Anderles went for a short trip, while the rest of the group pushed for the back of the cave. All except Noel, who is a wuss, made it through the keyhole. After much mud and crawling, the group turned around and came back, sore and tired after about 9 hours in the cave. Walter reports the back of Fort Stanton is more impressive than the front, and also reports the group lunched at the sight of the historic Fort Stanton Cave Massacre. Chuck and Walter, who must be older than they look, actually were present at the massacre and lived to tell.

That evening the group cooked dinner, and some departed during a torrential downpour, while others stayed the night before heading out. Steve and James went looking for a cave around Cloudcroft the next day.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Don reports that Wonderland in Cottonwood (July 25) was very wet, perhaps as a result of recent rain. The Forest Service appears to be making Cottonwood into a show cave. There were lots of improvements, including a new trail. Steve, who has made every PBSS trip in the last year, failed to make Cottonwood because he was off carousing with some woman in South America, while Henry failed to make the trip because he was off carousing with a bunch of mules in the Gila.

If you missed the last meeting, Walter and J. D. are taking up a collection to buy a gift for the owner of Montgomery Cave. He's been very gracious to have let us visit the cave as much as we have recently. Noel has suggested getting a western jacket, and sewing on one of Bill's PBSS patches. If you'd like to donate or have any other ideas for a gift, please contact Walter or J. D.

## DUES DUE

Dues are due for the following members. Please send \$5.00 to Don Carlton (see return address of newsletter for his address). Make checks payable to Don.

David Eddy  
Stephen Franks  
Jim Nance  
Ernie Showalter

# LABOR DAY REGIONAL

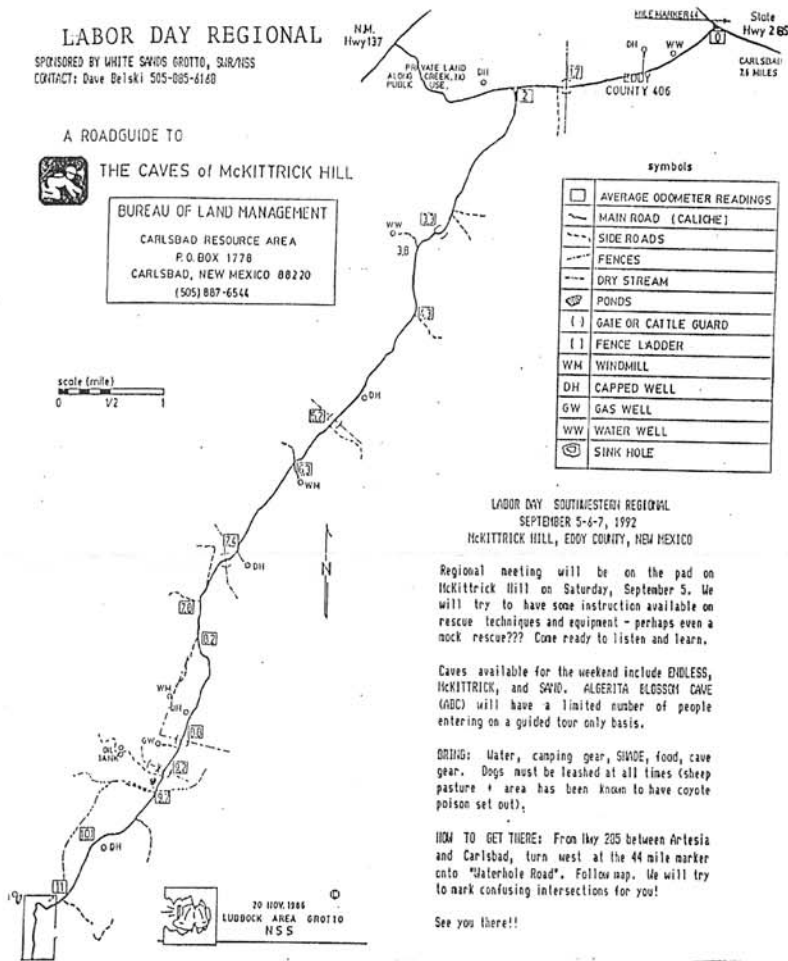
SPONSORED BY WHITE SAWS GROTTO, SURVIVS  
CONTACT: Dave Beliski 505-885-6148

A ROADGUIDE TO



## THE CAVES of McKITTRICK HILL

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CARLSBAD RESOURCE AREA  
P.O. BOX 1778  
CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO 88220  
(505) 887-6544



symbols

[ ]	AVERAGE ODOMETER READINGS
[ ]	MAIN ROAD (CALICHE)
[ ]	SIDE ROADS
[ ]	FENCES
[ ]	DRY STREAM
[ ]	PONDS
[ ]	GALE OR CATTLE GUARD
[ ]	FENCE LADDER
WM	WINDMILL
DH	CAPPED WELL
GW	GAS WELL
WW	WATER WELL
[ ]	SINK HOLE

LABOR DAY SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL  
SEPTEMBER 5-6-7, 1992  
McKITTRICK HILL, EDDY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Regional meeting will be on the pad on McKittrick Hill on Saturday, September 5. We will try to have some instruction available on rescue techniques and equipment - perhaps even a mock rescue??? Come ready to listen and learn.

Caves available for the weekend include ENDLESS, McKITTRICK, and SAVID. ALGERITA BLOSSOM CAVE (ABC) will have a limited number of people entering on a guided tour only basis.

BRING: Water, camping gear, SHOE, food, cave gear. Dogs must be leashed at all times (sheep pasture area has been known to have coyote poison set out).

HOW TO GET THERE: From Hwy 205 between Artesia and Carlsbad, turn west at the 44 mile marker onto "Waterhole Road". Follow map. We will try to mark confusing intersections for you!

See you there!!

### TCMA News: A Note from the Executive Director

by Jack Ralph

It's time for the recreational caving community to take a long, hard look at their level of commitment to the resource that they depend on for fun and adventure. I contend that if we don't participate and commit our time, money and energies to preserving and managing cave resources they will be lost. We will not immediately lose access to all caves; it will be a gradual process through "development," withdrawal and neglect. It's time for an "attitude check." For too long we have been thinking that maintaining good cave owner relations and adhering to the "take nothing but pictures ..." ethic was sufficient precaution and payment for visitation and protection. While these are unquestionably necessary, it's no longer enough.

Contrary to our impressions within the limited sphere of fellow cavers, there is no clear, strong land or resource ethic in the United States at this time. The National Environmental Policy Act was adopted almost 20 years ago, and it still is considered to represent a controversy between public welfare and private land ownership rights. We have the duty to represent the environmental ethic inherent in this debate and educate the public about our position. Due to our recreational activities, we have an unusual sensitivity to the consequences of unregulated development on cave resources, groundwater hydrology, etc.

Caving, however, is not a licensed profession because society as a whole has not recognized the potentially severe consequences of incompetent resource management. Our responsibility goes beyond marshalling data and information and cataloging these facts. Our responsibility is to put facts into a context of shared community values to affect appropriate change, in other words advocacy. We are responsible for strengthening, at every opportunity, the resource and land ethic that is slowly developing in our society. We are among the group that must lead society to a recognition that humankind has to become an integral part of our earth's ecosystem or suffer the consequences of existence on a dying planet.

The TCMA is relatively new. As a professional and scientific society, our mission encompasses scientific study, resource advocacy and professional management services. Our membership includes an extraordinarily diverse group of skilled people. Recognizing, motivating and utilizing the skill and expertise of our entire membership is crucial to our continued success.

This note is designed to motivate you to become a more active participant in the TCMA. The issues go beyond recreation. Foster policies encouraging proper management of cave resources. Campaign for effective mitigation of development projects. Sponsor a cave in your area. Find new members. Maintain your own economic support of the group. Be part of the solution. TCMA is working. We are a registered nonprofit organization. We have the infrastructure and background to facilitate your commitment. Call or write, but do it now.

Editor's Note: The Texas Cave Management Association is a nonprofit organization that owns and manages cave resources. It is based in Central Texas. The address for more information is: P.O. Box 310732, New Braunfels, TX 78131. The phone numbers are (512) 629-2169 or (214) 398-8272.

### MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION INFORMATION

Our efforts to study and protect caves and their unique internal system requires 2 components - workers and money. Please consider joining the TEXAS CAVE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION today. All of your tax-deductible contribution will be used for cave conservation and management activities. If you believe that caves offer a window into the past; a useful tool to monitor current developments; and a refuge for extraordinary creatures, we urge you to join us.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NSS # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (WK) \_\_\_\_\_ (HM) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories: Associate - \$10.00 (non-voting)  
Life - \$100.00 (may be paid in four years)  
Corporate - \$100.00  
Donations are tax deductible

Make checks payable to: TEXAS CAVE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 310732  
New Braunfels, TX 78131

WELL HOW ABOUT THAT - I GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOUR BATTERY BEING DEAD!



GRIECO  
6/90  
P855