

THE HOLE NEWS

December

1999

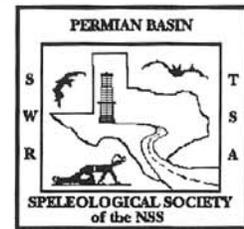
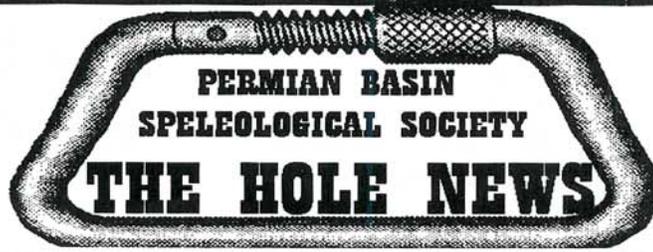


Photo by Walter Feaster

PBSS Members at the “99” Sonora Restoration Project

From left to right front row: Kerry Lowery, Teri Wheeler, Ruel Metcalf, Lori Hales, Greg Sedbrook, and Annmarie Mikelski.
Left to right back row: Galin Coffin, Tom Florer, Don Ross, Felder Hogan, and Cheryl Kettle.
The white fuzz ball in the very back is yours truly, Walter Feaster.





December 1999

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

Volume 14 Number 12

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting: PBSS

Meeting Place has Changed: Read This!

We are combining Christmas Party and meeting at the residence of Mary King at 1907 Centerview, Midland, Tx., starting around 6:30 P.M., Saturday December 18. B.Y.O.B. and bring a covered dish. See enclosed map for directions.

Our Agenda:

Christmas Party!

Meeting (yea, right)!

Bring Videos If You Got Them!

We now have Mass Quantities of Texas Bat Stickers!



If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or (915)559-3297, or E-Mail: <waltfeast@marshill.com> or <wfeaster@caver.net>.

"The Hole News" is the monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Articles and cartoons maybe reproduced by cave oriented publications that exchange newsletters with PBSS, as long as proper credit is given to the author. Please observe copy righted © articles. Items for this newsletter can be sent to the Editor, "The Hole News", c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, TX. 79703. 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 sent to PBSS Secretary/ Treasurer, c/o Walter Feaster, (address above). If you're interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Kerry Lowery @ (915)394-4230 or <lowery4@crcom.net>. Or 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 <www.caves.org/default.js.htm>.

"PBSS Home Page"

<http://www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.htm>

Web space donated courtesy of Bill Bentley & Caprok.net ISP.



Future Cave Trips and Events:

December ?- - Possible Rock Hauling @ CACA: THIS HAS BEEN CANCELED.

December 4 - -PBSS Vertical Training in Andrews: This will happen at 1:00 PM in the Andrews Middle School Gym, Andrews, Tx. Bring your vertical gear. A map is enclosed. **

4-5 December-- 1999 SWR Winter Technical Regional. Where: Tularosa, New Mexico near Alamogordo, New Mexico. Hosted and organized by White Sands Grotto. Business meeting December 4th, 9:00 AM. For Additional information contact: Chris or Joli Lee- jlcee@wazoo.com

****11-12 December--Amazing Maze Family Trip & Cave Rally:-- We have not been able to contact the land owner for permission to go down there at the time of this printing. If we do get permission we will announce it via e-mail and CaveTex. For more info contact Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or <wfeaster@caver.net>.*****

31 December--High Guads Restoration Project--Contact Dave Jagnow 505-662-0553 djagnow@roadrunner.com.

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

Due to permit restrictions or other limitations Grotto members have priority.

Grotto News and Stuff

The PBSS would like to welcome Mary King to our grotto. Mary has graciously decided to host this year's Christmas party. We are all anxious to meet you and thanks again for hosting our Christmas party.

A reminder that the PBSS membership dues a due now. Many of you have not renewed yet. If I don't hear from you, January will be your last newsletter.

Don't forget vertical practice/training Saturday, December 4, in Andrews. A map is enclosed in this newsletter.

Merry Christmas

&

And A Happy New Year

AND DON'T LET THE Y2K BUGS BITE!





Photo by Walter Feaster

Members of the 1999 Sonora Restoration Project

99 Sonora Restoration

By Walter Feaster

From the bowels of the earth there could be heard: Hummmmmmm! Hummmmmmm! Be at one with the bucket. Hummmmm! Be the rock in the bucket! Hummmmmmm! Any way that was how some cavers where coping on the bucket line this year at Sonora Restoration. 850 + buckets of dirt and rock where removed from the Devil's Pit area of Sonora caverns. It seemed like a lot more than that.

Not much has changed from last year. A few new faces and a lot of old friends. Friday night most everyone was in a festive mood. The party went on until the early hours. Those that did over indulge seemed to be bright eyed and bushy tailed the next morning. Do I need to bring that bottle of tequila to the Christmas party?

Saturday was filled for the most part of mindless, repetitive, hard manual labor in a hot, humid cave. The camaraderie, the jokes, the gossip, the down right out lies! Oh, we love it, don't we? Finally, what all of us where waiting for, "Quitting Time"! Now it is time for Master Veni to feed the slaves! First off, a tall cold one or two (only speaking for myself here). Then to the showers to remove the stink. Oh yes we stank, (only speaking for everyone else here). After what seemed to be a very long wait, it was supper time. When they said come and get it, this was like holding raw meat in front of a pack of starving wolves! It was good, as usual.

After supper there were slide shows, and a cave tour or two. Saturday night was totally different from the night before. No partying this night. The camp ground was very quiet. For everyone that left early or went to bed when the chickens do, you missed the "Fire Dancer"! Yes, we had entertainment late Saturday night. A young lady that use to work at Sonora put on a performance that only can be seen to appreciate. I was

impressed! YOU MISSED IT! May be next year.

Mr. George Veni tells us that next year will be the last large scale rock hauling at Sonora. After that they start on the small stuff, cleaning formations and such. Not as many people needed.

I must say we (PBSS) had a good turn out. Twelve is a good number. We have had less on most trips. For those of you that couldn't go, you missed a good time. Hopefully we can do this next year.

Cave On!



Photo by Lori Hales

Felder Hogan and Teri Wheeler (in the back ground) in Devil's Pit getting ready to move some dirt and rocks.

PHOTO GALLERY

99 Sonora Restoration

Left: Looking out of the Devil’s pit work area. We think that is Kerry Lowery at the top looking down.

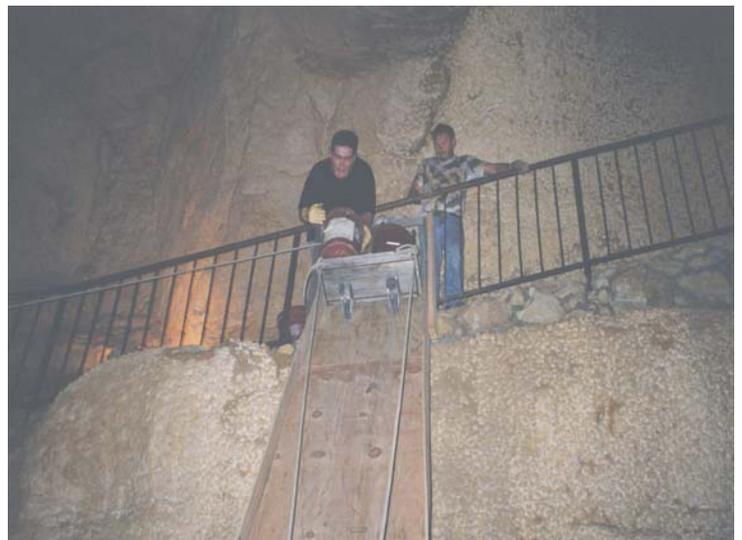
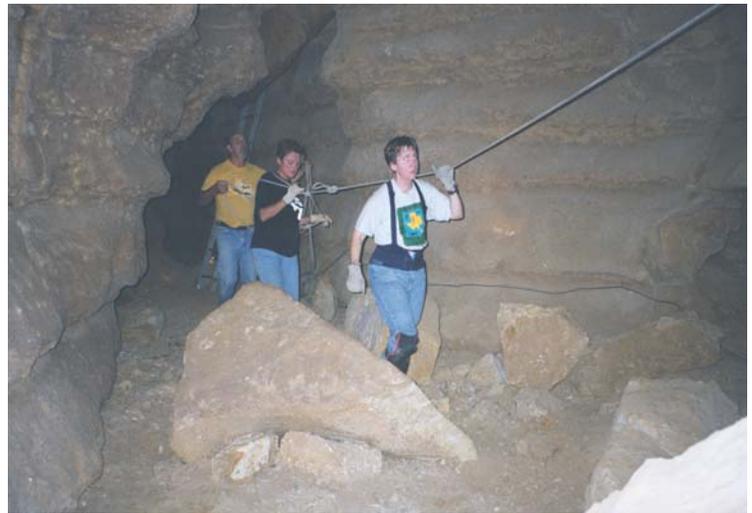
Below, clockwise from the top left: A bucket of rocks being levitated out of the pit.

Below right: Cheryl Kettle and co-workers on the haul line.

Bottom left: Teri Wheeler loading buckets.

Bottom right: A picture of one of the haul devices. Ruel Metcalf looking on.

All photos by Lori Halesk



PBSS

Christmas

Party / Meeting

Saturday, December 18, 1999

Around 6:30 P.M

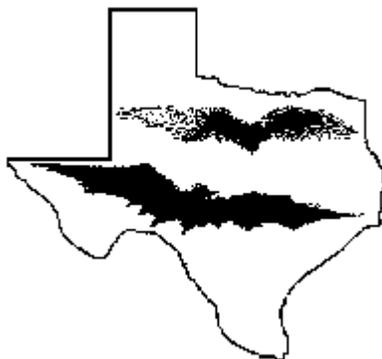
Hosted by Mary King

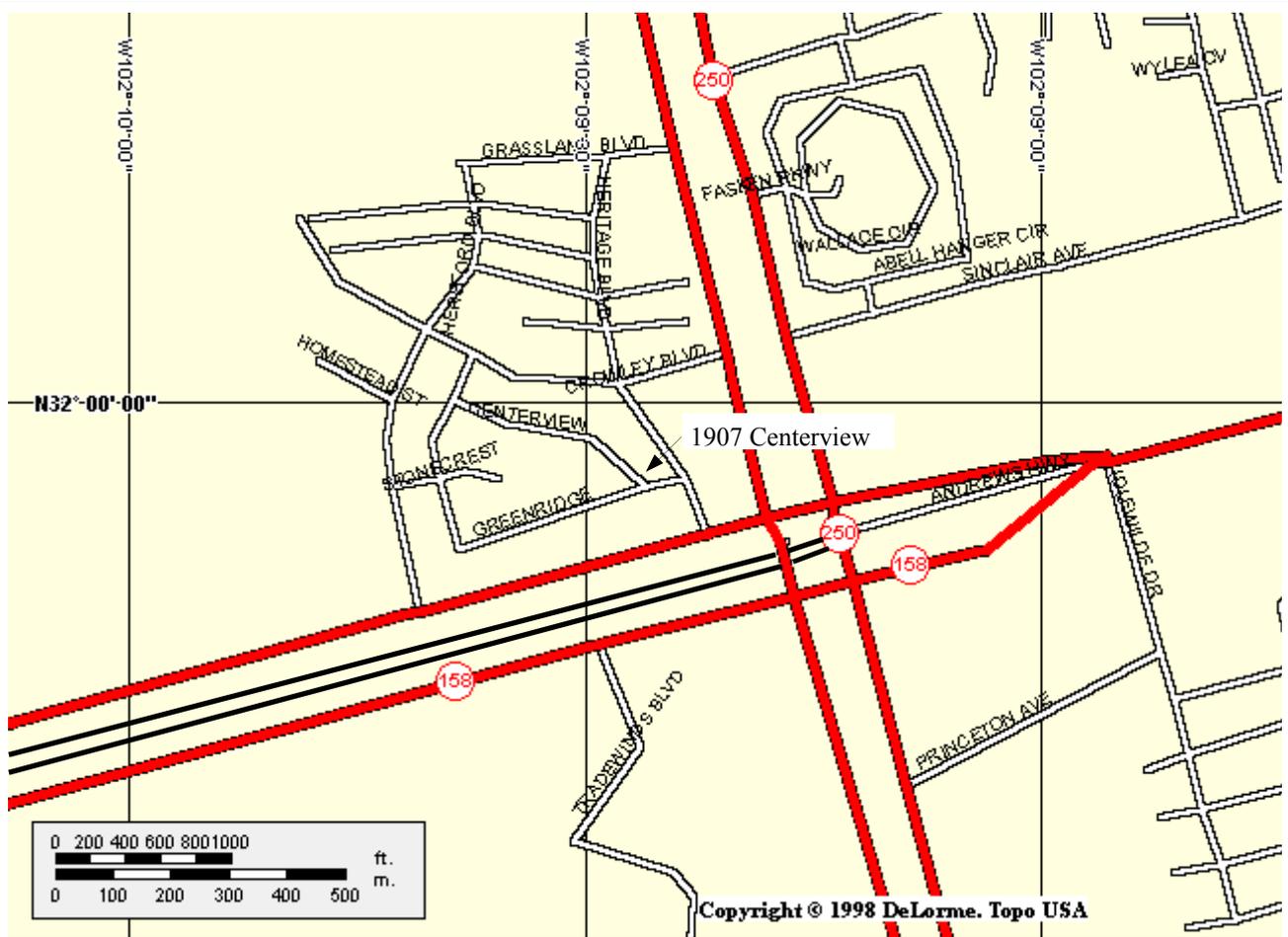
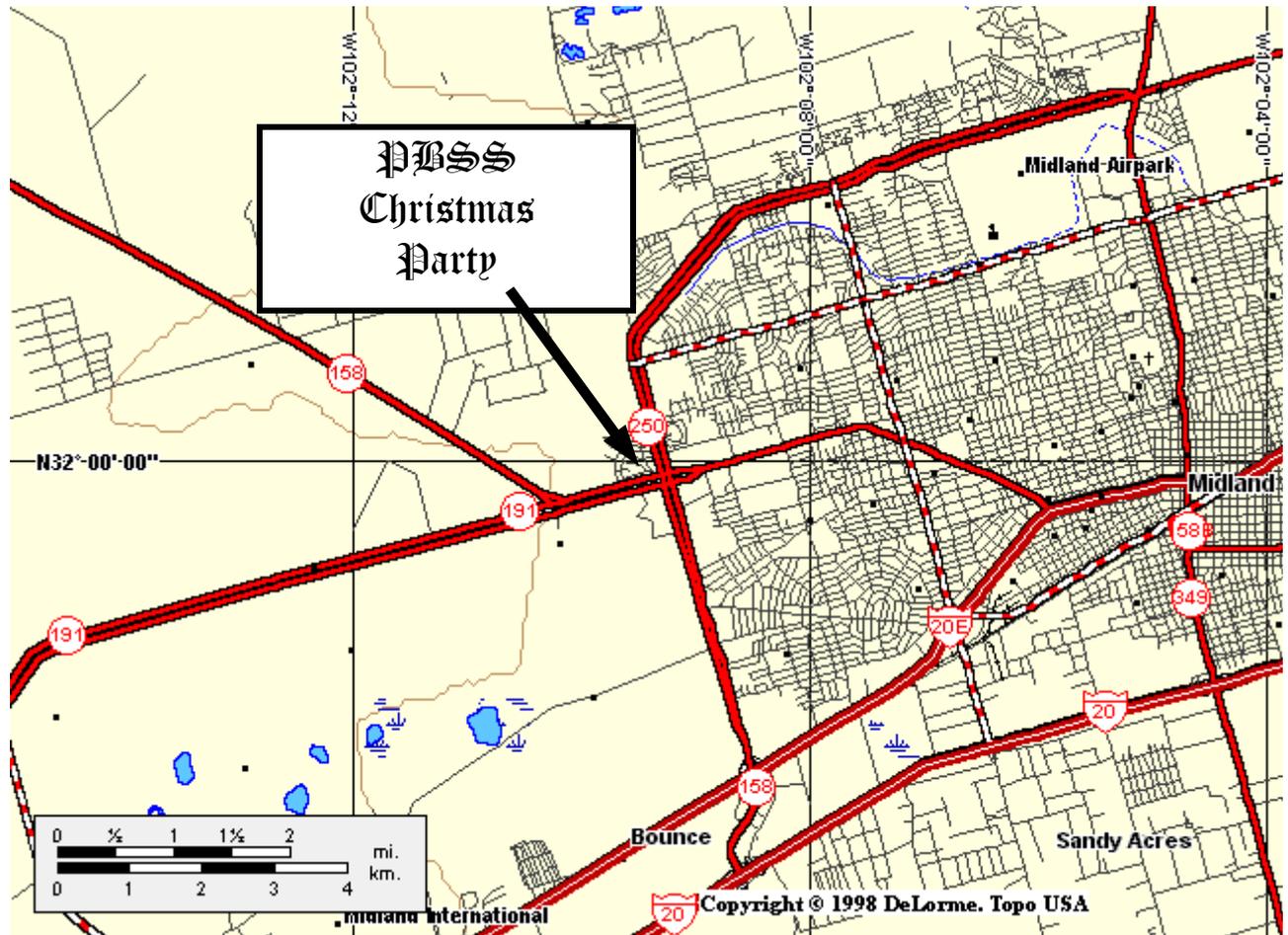
1907 Centerview, Midland, Texas

B.Y.O.B. and bring a covered dish

PBSS will provide a party platter

See Map on reverse side





PBSS

Christmas

Party / Meeting

Saturday, December 18, 1999

Around 6:30 P.M

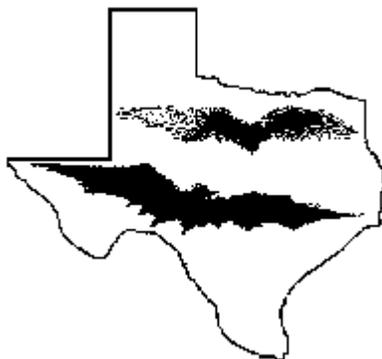
Hosted by Mary King

1907 Centerview, Midland, Texas

B.Y.O.B. and bring a covered dish

PBSS will provide a party platter

See Map on reverse side



385
To Seminole



Andrews, Tx

Andrews Middle School Gym



"E"

"E" Street

Ave. "D"

Sonic Drive In

Ave. "D"

To Eunice
& CACA

Main Street

176

Broadway

176 To Midland & Big Spring

To Kermit



Buddies
(The Best Steakfingers in the World)

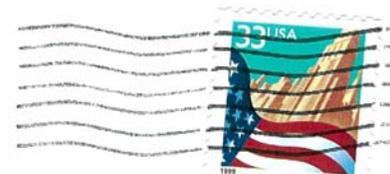
PBSS Vertical Practice/Training Session:

Where: Andrews Middle School Gym.

When: Saturday, December 4, at 1:00 PM

385
to
Odessa

The Permian Basin Speleological Society
c/o Walter Feaster
4307 Harvard Ave.
Midland, Texas 79703 4847 71



BILL BENTLEY
400 EASTWOOD DR
MIDLAND TX 79703-5308

PBSS OFFICERS FOR 2000



Vice-President
Ruel Metcalf

President
Kerry Lowery

Secretary/Treasurer
Walter Feaster