
◆ THE HOLE NEWS ◆

March 1994

Volume 10 number 3

The monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society

FROM THE EDITOR:

Well it looks like I have finally found the perfect program for editing "THE HOLE NEWS" It is Microsoft Publisher and I like it. So you had better get used to it.

We have got lots of material for this newsletter so as Ken Kamon would say read on.

Bill Bentley

Upcoming Trips:

The Next official PBSS club trip is planned for March 5, 1994 to Amazing Maze Cave. If you are interested contact Walter Feaster @ 699-7049 or Gralin Coffin @ 682-1904.

Walter bought a house and is now living in Midland and is believed to be camping out in his front room with a stream of water from a man made spring. He has spared no expense to keep the feel of the Guadalupe at home. He also had a cement cave built in his backyard. I have seen down in it, it is very dark. I forgot my light I even hear he will have Richard Kiley narrate the future tours.

OUR NEXT MEETING:

Our next meeting will be at our favorite pub Murrys Delicatessen 3211 West Wadley.

Date: Tuesday

March 8, 1994. Food Consumption and cover gossip usually

begins around 6:30 PM and are optional, however if you are late you will be the topic of discussion. Murrys Delicatessen is located on the South side of Wadley River, in the strip shopping center East of Midkiff Rd. and Texas Burger. Be there or just stand outside and look stupid.



PBSS TEN YEARS AGO:

The PBSS spylunks were busy 10 years ago with the monthly meeting held at the home of Terry Hill. They had some official club T-shirts and patches made. They had gained permission to enter Wizards Well and were busy planning a trip there. As a new grotto they started talking about joining the Southwestern Region of the NSS. They had 19 paid members and 8 give away newsletter exchanges which was edited by Tony (Guad Slut) Grieco. This fearless band of spylunks had made intrepid journeys to Montgomery gypsum cave and to Troll cave as well as trips to McKenzie (Amazing Maze), Endless, McKittrick, and Sand caves.

Future Cave Trips: And other events from PBSS and other Grottos.

March 12th, and 14th, 1994 400 Foot Cave, contact Walter Feaster @ (915)-699-7049 if you are interested in making this trip. This cave is vertical and is limited to 5 cavers. More info at meeting.

March 2nd, and 3rd, 1994 Cave Tree, 3 Fingers Caves, contact Mike Huber @ (505)-885-1183

March 5th, and 6th, 1994 Amazing Maze Cave workdays, contact Bill Bentley @ (915)-697-3079 sc of 357. Or Gralin Coffin @ (915)-682-1904 or as a last resort call Walter Feaster @ (915)-699-7049. Good Luck!

March 15th, 1994 LAST DAY FOR \$10.00 DISCOUNT ON NSS CONVENTION REGISTRATION!

March 19th, and 20th, 1994 TSA Meeting

March 18th, thru 20th, 1994 PBOC Orienteering at Ft. Davis, Texas contact Andy Smith @ (915)-366-6225 fo more information.

March 19th, and 20th, 1994 CRF Guadalupe Mountains expedition led by Tony Grieco if you are interested in attending this trip call Fritzi Hardy @ (505)-345-4709.

March 26th, and 27th, 1994 SWR Spring Regional at Corona Pumping station near of course to Corona, New Mexico. If interested call Anita Pape @ (602)-574-3446. NOTE this is a change

The Following information was stolen from these fine publications: The Southwestern Cavers, The Cavers Echeo, The TSA Activities Newsletter, The Guadalupe Hooter, and The PBOC Newsletter.

March 19th, and 20th, 1994 Sentinel and Franks Caves Lincoln National Forest Contact Alan or Rose Laman @ (915)-550-0910

March 19th, and 20th, 1994 Montgomery Gypsum Cave contact Rick Day @ (915)-523-9665

Have you heard: Gossip and Tidbits

Rick Day couldn't make the last PBSS meeting because of complications, by the way how is Susan? At the last meeting Rose Laman made a delicious cake and presented it as a thank you for Ken and little Noel. I wonder what those boy haver been up to? Martha says that Ken lost his upper moter skills and almost fell in the fire at the New Years Eve Party on 3 mile hill. Wasn't that skipper water I saw Ken emptying out of his canteen? Ken says get ready the British cavers are coming and should arrive here in the states around June 4th, 1994. There will be no PBSS club trips planned in June because of the NSS convention .

Obituaries: Donald Carlton

Services for Donald Neatherlin Carlton, 85, formerly of Ft. Davis, were held February 18, 1994 at First United Methodist Church of Ft. Davis.

He died February 12, 1994 in Denton, Texas Community Hospital from complications sustained in an automobile accident on February 3, 1994. His wife died in that accident.

Carlton had worked as an engineer with the Texas Highway Department. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Survivors include one son, Donald Carlton II of Midland; two daughters, Jo Ann Wheeler of Denton and Nacy Carlton of Bristol, England; one brother, C.E. Carlton of Ft. Davis; four grand children and two great-grandchildren .

Editor note: Don, the PBSS and its members extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of your parents. Also thanks to Chuck for submitting this from the MRT to the Hole News.

Three people survive five days in cave

HARRISONBURG, Va. (AP) - A man and his two sons lost in a cave for five days without food or water survived by sitting quietly to save energy and reciting the bible scriptures to remain hopeful, the father said Sunday. "Toward the end, we figured we were going to die," Gary Lutes said. "We were happy it would be all three of us and not just one. We figured it was that was better than continuing on like that."

Lutes, 37, a Tampa Fla., land surveror, and sons Gary Jr., 13, and Timothy, 9, were rescued from a West Virginia cave Saturday, state police said. They had been lost since Monday. They were taken to Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, Va., where they were listed in stable condition Sunday. The search did not begin until Friday. Father and sons endured bats, dehydration and hallucinations during the wait for rescuers that begun soon after their lamps went out while they explored a side trail, Lutes said. "If it had gone on another day it would have been a different outcome," Lute said in a telephone interview with the associated press from his hospital bed. "For the first few days, I thought we would be rescued," he said "After the fifth day, I was really beginning to wonder." Lutes, a member of the National Speleological Society, said it was the first time he had gotten lost in 20 years of cave adventuring. He and his sons were exploring New Trout cave in Pendelton County in Eastern Western Virginia, about 200 miles wet of Washington, D.C.

The trouble began when Lutes put down his pack to squeeze through a small opening, intending to retrieve the pack on his way out. When their lamps went out, he and his sons couldn't find the opening or the pack, which had food, water, and extra flash lights. They took turns keeping watch. They recited Psalms and prayed Lutes said.

Trip Reports:

McKittrick Cave 2/13/94 by Noel Pando

Cavers: Noel Pando, Little Noel, Sandra Dennihy (ElPaso)

Leaving Andrews at 5:00 AM Sunday morning I was hoping some PBSS members would be waiting for me at Parks ranch and had not left the night before because of my non - arrival. When I got there the place was over run with people and I didn't recognize a single face. The group was busy loading up camping gear and dozens of what appeared to be water containers. I think they were from the "Leadership America" or "Republicans for the Enviroment" or something like that. Richard Goodbar with the BLM had told me about them, although I can't remember the name of the organization. He (Goodbar) said that they had most of the BLM cave permits for a while, But that they were doing volunteer work and getting some things done for the BLM.

After finally getting sombodies attention I asked about any PBSS caver that might be around. I was informed that there wasn't any and that they had been ther since yesterday and that they had not seen anybody that resembled a PBSS caver. I left after watching them pack and figured that they were some kind of yankee because of their reluctance to talk about the weather, caving or any of the obligatory Southern bull that accompanies any greetings at 8:00 in the morning.

Leaving Parks Ranch I decided to swing up by the caverns, maybe every body got up early and were waiting for me there. "NOT"!! Well nobody was and Noel and I decide to just go on out to the cave. On the way

through Whites City Noel recognized a black pickup belonged to Sandra Denny a caver from ElPaso. We had met Sandra and a couple of other cavers from the Houston Grotto over the Christmas Holidays. Sandra had been with the Carlsbad Grotto on a lint cleaning work trip and was on her way back to El Paso. We stopped and talked with her for a while then asked if she would like to accompany us on the trip to McKittrick, she accepted. Since there were only the two of us and the BLM prefers groups of at least three cavers it worked out just fine, because when we got there a ranger stopped us and checked us for permits. seems like there had been some vandalism of caves in the area and he was on patrol, everything checked out and we proceeded to find the cave.

The main entrance to McKittrick cave is in a sinkhole about 10 feet deep, another is on a ledge above the sinkhole and the third is higher up on the hill that has about an 8 foot chimney. We entered the sinkhole and had a bite to eat. From this entrance you can go either to the right which goes deeper into several rooms and a maze of tunnels, or to the left which opens up into a large room in the upper level with several tunnels that lead to an upper maze. These tunnels were closed off, there were "Bats Roosting" signs posted so we couldn't enter. Both upper and lower mazes have a lot of passage but they aren't extensive enough to get lost for an extended period of time.

After about 3 hours of touring and photo taking we headed out. At the truck Sondra, Noel and myself discussed the trip and decided we needed to return to the area and see Endless cave, which is still in an unspoiled state, unlike McKittrick which was almost picked clean by years of souvineer gatherers. We then loaded up, Noel and I headed back to Andrews and Sondra on to El Paso.

Editors Note: Sorry we missed this one but either work or something has interfered with the last few caving trips, if it keeps up I will have to start telling lies all of the time instead of just around the campfires on the trips. Also thanks to all who are contributing to the Hole News.

Trip reports:

Montgomery Gypsum Cave: 1/29/94 by Alan Laman

We got an early start for a change. We actually left before dark about 4:00 in the afternoon on Friday. It was about 6:30 when we rolled into Sheffield and we stopped for a soda. I looked at the gas gauge and we still had a half tank so I figured we could fill up when we got back to Sheffield. It's an awful long way to Dryden from Sheffield and there isn't anything there! Seems that somebody wanted the Pumpville sign cause we never saw it until we were coming back from Dryden. For future reference the turn off is 8.2 miles from the shell plant turn off. When we got headed in the right direction I started worrying about the gas situation. After what seemed like 50 miles we came to the ranch we went a little farther and decided to wait along side the road. I popped up the top on the camper and we got relaxed. Pretty soon J.D. came along and he knew the way to the cave. As we set off down the dirt road that led to the cave I remembered I had forgotten to set the water jugs down, so I stopped and the water jug decided to set itself down but not very gently! Everything got wet! We have such great adventures! We pressed on. I'm surprised they found the cave. Talk about Tinbucktoo, we were in the middle of nowhere!

It was now about 9:00 and I was beat. Rose and I had brought a battery powered radio and tape player, so we figured music would do the trick. We went through our duffel bag to see if we had any dry clothes for the next day and we didn't, so we hung them up to dry. About 11:00 Noel and some other A.S.S.'s showed up. Randy, who was on his first cave trip, Gary and Felder. Rose and I turned in for the evening. It was about when we heard the camp come to life so we got up and fixed breakfast. It was pretty chilly outside

so we didn't wander too far from the camper. Buddy wanted to see what everybody else was having so he tried to get over to Noel's. J.D. and Richard rigged the first drop from J.D.'s bronco and they went ahead and went down. The rest of us gradually got everything together and started going in. Mr. Harrison pulled up as we were starting down and said he had a complaint that one of the gates was left open. We assured him that we pulled all the gates back as we found them. I talked to him about my problem with gasoline and he said for me to stop on the way out and he would let me have some gas.

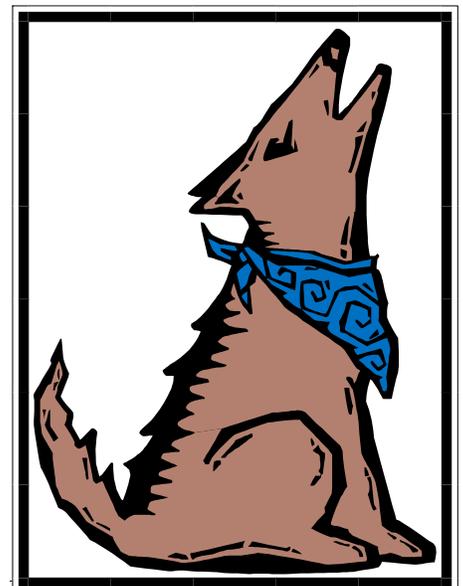
Continued on page 5.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT ! OR THE HOWLING AT THE MOON COLUMN

Dear Editor:

Please either pass this along to the caving accident reports or publish it in the Hole News as you feel is appropriate. Last week on the way home from O-9 Well, (thanks for the use of your wet suit) I stopped by Glowworm cave to check the lock and oil the hinges. When I started to move an old roll of barbed wire out of the way, I got bit. That roll of barbed wire turned out to be a rattlesnake that had swallowed a porcupine. I would like to report that the snake was large enough that he was only slightly stunned when I dropped the 75 pound gate on his head. A good dose of snake bite medicine fixed me right up, but that snake lifted the gate and got back in the cave before I could catch him. Please advise all PBSS members to use caution when approaching rolls of barbed wire. Ed. note: I saw that snake, he was on a motorcycle passing through stiles on a through trip from Best.

Sincerely, Chuck Anderle NSS # 31477



Trip Reports: continued

Montgomery Cave by Alan Laman continued from page 4.

Noel gave him the coat that the club got for him and he was tickled pink. Down we went. Bones are everywhere. While we were waiting for those ahead of us to go down we saw what was either a racoon or a ringtail cat run for cover in front of the second room. We all made it to the bottom without any trouble. Once we were down we went about exploring. Most of us signed the register then we really started to look around. Its really amazing the amount of bones. There was the skeleton of a ringtail cat (probably) that was completely intact. We went to the back of the lower passage and up the ladder to the gypsum room, the "Rams Horns" that adorn the cave are quite beautiful. Next we squeezed through a little hole and had to climb up, don't go to the left!! Stay Right no matter what Noel tells you. After little Noel and I got back down from the left handdead end passage, we went

up the right way and went through a series of crawls. Little Noel and Rose went ahead while Noel and I took the crawl that overlooks the big room. We squeezed through the crack and found that J.D. was going out. Noel and I made our way back to the passage that led to the ladder and then to the ladder. We climbed down and made our way over to the rope. We were all about ready to go out so we started gearing up for our ascent. Randy had a lot of trouble on the ascent. I imagine only having one hand probably complicated things for him, but he did good for his first trip. I went after Randy so I could help Rose if she had any trouble at the top. she didn't at that spot. she got off rope and and then rigged up to go through the corkscrew and she kept on climbing. Pretty soon I heard her yelling and I could tell she was not happy. I went ahead and rigged up and did a self belay to see if maybe I could help. She had climbed up too close to the rigging point and couldn't get off rope. She was mad because no one had waited to help in the event she got stuck!! Finally after she hollered for a while little Noel came back to help. It was pretty funny. as we got to the first drop we found out that Kaver Ken had arrived. We all went out and started lunch. Boy was it good!

After lunch Ken and little Noel and I decide to practice changing over while on rope. We got Noel in a pretty good mess then he decided he had enough. Ken and I did it a few more times and that was enough for me. It was getting close to dark and I didn't want to have to walk in the dark so we put down the top of the camper, making sure to set the water jug with what was left of the water down and said our goodbye's. Ken offered to follow us to Felix's so we set out. In all it was a really wonderful weekend! Thanks Ken for making sure we made it to the ranch. Thanks to Noel for contacting and setting up the cave trip. And a big thanks to Mr. Harrison for the gas and for letting us explore his cave.

Cave softly, Alan Lamen,

PS: Those caver's who dip snuff should refrain from spitting in the caves!

O - 9 Well cavern by alan Laman 2/18/94

The trip started like any other. I took off of work at lunch so I could do all the running around I had to do before it got too late. I picked up my wet suit and asked Rose what time that she thought she could get away from work. I went home and loaded the camper on the truck and started getting everything together. Rose showed up shortly after I got started. The wind was blowing really hard so she helped by steadying the camper while I backed under it. We got everything together and decided to take a shower before setting out. We were really getting the hang of this. We headed ou about 6 pm and stopped at the sandwichery for a bite to eat on the way out. We left there about 6:45 and got under way. Since we live in Odessa we went to Crane and then to Rankin, Big Lake, Barnhart and finally O-9 Well. We stopped in Rankin and gassed up just in case. Remember Montgomery? Walter gave me a map to get there so we didn't have any problems. Great map guys! (Ed. note: Alan obviously recieved a faulty map that passed through quality control). We arrived at O-9 Well at right about 9:00. We got there first so we snooped around for a little bit and then set up camp. We were relaxing pretty good when we saw lights coming down the road. It was Walter followed closely by the girls from Wichita. We said our hello's and Walter got the gate open. The wind was still really blowing hard so I figured it was time to turn in. I didn't sleep to good because the wind blew all night long. When I got up Mike and Mark had shown up, some time during the night. Mike and Mark are from the Dallas, Ft. Worth area. We soon discovered that I should have gotten the propane bottles filled. Good thing I had the coleman stove! We fixed breakfast and ate and pretty soon Chuck showed. Walter was rigging the drop. Chuck made afew repairs to the windmill and the girls were trying to get into their wetsuits. after Chuck climbed down. Walter briefed everybody on the first drop and the rebelay. Thinking that every body understood the rest of us got suited up. Walter went first and hooked up the rebelay. Chuck went next then me. Vicki followed and from there I didn't know. Once at the bottom of the first drop we started out in pairs. This is a really neat cave. There is alot of flowstone. Walter and Chuck had gone ahead. Vicki and I set out. I was a little nervous about sliding into some of the pools because you couldn't see the bottom and Gralin said they were really deep. We later found that only one was really deep. Chuck seemed pretty amused that I went under in the really deep pool.

Continued on page 6

Trip Reports: Continued:

O-9 Well By Alan Laman continued

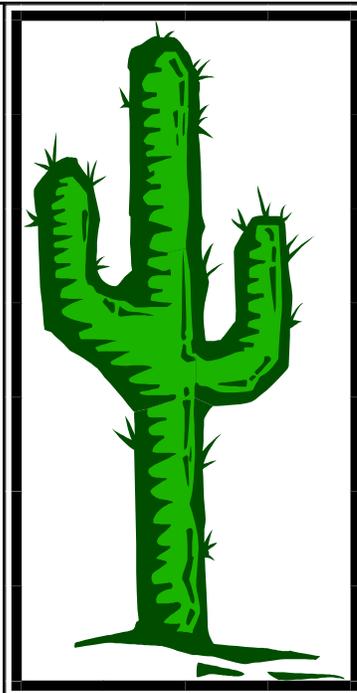
The lake drop is a lot of fun on the way down. the next drop is even more fun if you make waves for the person in front of you. The fourth drop was a piece of cake. This is where walter put in a new bolt. Walter had me put in a new form in the register and I rigged my first drop. Chuck checked it over and down we went. Trying to climb the mud hill is a real chore. Me, Chuck and Vicki were the only ones that went down the last drop. We all decide we would eat lunch and then head back out. Chuck went up, then Vicki , then me. I could only imagine how good I would be at the self belay by the time we got out. I coiled the first rope while everyone was going up the next rope. Then after I was up it was pulled up and coiled up as well. Mark offered to put the ropes in his pack and who was I to argue? The next drop gave Martha a really bad time so Vicki went ahead. After a little coaxing I got Martha to smile and it got a little easier. We got up that rope and coiled and we went on to the lake drop. This is a really pretty room. The drop is about 70 feet and the waterfall is over the flowstone and is absolutly beautiful. It's an easy climb untill you reach the top then it's pretty hard to get onto the ledge and off rope. Walter had waited there to make sure everybody got up. I pulled the rope up on the ledge and unhooked the carabiner. Together we got it coiled and then we set out. We were really suprised when we reached the entrance drop. Everybody was there except Chuck and Sheree. I guess Chuck forgot to untie the rebaley so when Sheree got up there she offered to try to fix it. I guess that Chuck had forgotten what Walter had said about it. Anyway Sheree brought the carabiner out with her and I guess she had a really hard time with her gear. Mark went next to try to fix the rebelay , but there was no carabiner. Chuck was happy to oblige. He sent it down the rope. Mark fixed it but he put the rope on the wrong side of the pipe. Mike went next and he seemed to do pretty good. I heard he pulled a Rose and and ran his gear up on the rebelay. Vicki followed Mike and she did good but didn't pass the pipe at the right place so Chuck had to rig another rope. Walter went next and he made it in record time. (ED. note: The beer factor advantage).* Next Martha went and it only took her about 25 minutes. Finally it was my turn. I put out the fire I built and stowed away my blanket and I said goodbye to O-9 Well Caverns. I think the next time we go we need to get people to understand the concept of the rebelay. I enjoyed the trip a great deal and appreciate Walter taking the time to lead the trip. Hope you got your moving done. Thanks again. When I got out Rose had supper going so I was ready. It ended up being a nine hour trip with three hours sitting at the bottom of the first entrance drop. For all who haven't been it's well worth it. Gralin I hope your ankle is getting better. Chuck and Walter left out Saturday night and the rest of us left Sunday morning. It would be neat to find out the whole scoop on the history of the sight.

Cave Softly

*(The beer factor advantage comes from having ice cold beer waiting in the truck!)

PBSS OFFICERS 1994

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Anderle
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Newsletter: Bill Bentley



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Happy caving,