
PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

June, 1993

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, June 8

Time: 7:00 PM. We have a room reserved from 7:00-8:30PM

Location: Mr. Gatti's, Midland, 3205 W. Cuthbert (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION AND TIME, FOR THIS MONTH ONLY.) Kids eat free at Gatti's on June 8, so, instead of leaving the spouse and kids home to feed on bread and beans while you whoop it up, bring the whole family this time.

JUNE TRIP

Bill has reserved Sentinel Cave for June 19 and 20. Getting into the cave requires a short rappel, or, if you're coordinated and in good shape, a trip down a hand line. Much of the cave can be seen without further vertical work, although getting to the bottom involves a traverse and a 200+ foot drop. (You don't have to go to the bottom.) Call Bill at 697-3079 to reserve a place on the permit, or be at the meeting.

Mike Huber in Carlsbad has reserved Virgin Cave for June 20, in order to introduce an Englishman to Caving in America. We're invited, assuming there are places left on the permit. I'm going. Like Sentinel, the Cave can be difficult or easy, depending on how far you want to go. Call Ken at 686-0720 or Mike Huber at (505) 885-8898 for more information or to reserve a place on the permit.

Mike has also reserved Wonderland in Cottonwood for Monday, June 21 for the benefit of the Englishman, and is looking for someone to lead the trip who has Monday off and knows how to get to Wonderland. If you have Monday off and don't know how to get to Wonderland, you're welcome anyway. Call Ken, or call Mike at (505) 885-8898. Also, Mike may reserve Ogle for sometime during the week of June 21st.

The Englishman will be joining us on the Sentinel trip, and you may wish to be nice to him, so he will show you around the caves of England if you're ever there. (Typists note - Rick - I know what you're going ask already, and to avoid wasting my time, the answer is Englishmen are not like Eskimos.)

JULY TRIP

Bill has reserved Virgin Cave for July 17 and 18 (see description above).

TRIP REPORT

09 Well - Wet and Wild in West Texas, by Walter Feaster

You haven't been caving yet until you've been to 09 Well.

Rick Day, Larry Glasson and I met Mike Warton and 5 others from the Warton Grotto Friday night. (Sorry guys, can't remember all your names). We did the standard festivities around the campfire until the wee hours of the morning, and finally went to bed.

Saturday morning we ate breakfast, fooled around, and met Mr. Estes, one of the landowners in that area. We had coffee and visited with him for a while.

About 11:00 we donned our wetsuits and entered the cave. The entrance rebelay turned out to be very, very easy, no problem. After a rappel of 127 feet, we dropped into ankle-deep water and an environment very different from the flat mesquite plains up above. Our first objective was to get into the water and get cooled off.

The cave consists of many pools (knee-deep to chest-deep) and three more drops of 55 feet, 38 feet, and 14 feet, where the cave sumps out. At the 300 foot level, there is a mud hill which provides a 20 to 30 minute slip and slide tournament, which I lost.

With a wetsuit, Rick, Larry and I never really got cold. We were in the cave 6 to 7 hours and the cold was never a problem, even though the water temperature was a brisk 66 degrees Fahrenheit.

Coming out involved a couple of hours of vertical work, but no problem. The 127 foot entrance drop was a little tiring for me, but 20 feet from the entrance while hanging on the rope with my mouth open, Mike Warton poured beer on me, by the way, none of which hit the bottom of the cave.

After coming out it was a great relief to get out of those d__ wet suits, because it was hot on the surface. After a while we were all under the shade of Rick's camper reminiscing about the day's events. I was thinking it can't get better than this. But it did.

No, not the Swedish Bikini Team. Even Better. Mike Warton offered management of 09 Well to us. On behalf of PBSS I accepted.

This is really a different and unique cave. I haven't had this much fun in a cave for a long time. We will have more details at our next meeting. Rick, Larry and I want to go back. Be at the next meeting to help plan our next trip to 09 Well.

Cave softly,

Walter Feaster

MISCELLANEOUS

HR-698, the Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act, which prohibits oil and gas drilling, passed the House of Representatives unanimously.

Kari A. Coffin (She's real particular about that "A") is doing all the work folding, stuffing & mailing the newsletter this time. Thanks, Kari A.

PBSS Newsletter

Please mail material to Gralin & Kari Coffin, 910 W. Kansas, Midland, TX 79701 or to Ken Kamon, P. O. Box 10589, Midland, TX 79702.

PBSS Membership

To join PBSS, mail \$5.00 to Don Carlton, at the address that appears below. Make checks payable to Don, and include your address, phone numbers, and, if you have one, NSS number.

PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
c/o Don Carlton
1301 Daventry
Midland, TX 79705



Bill Bentley
3815 W. County Rd. 116
Midland, TX 79703

