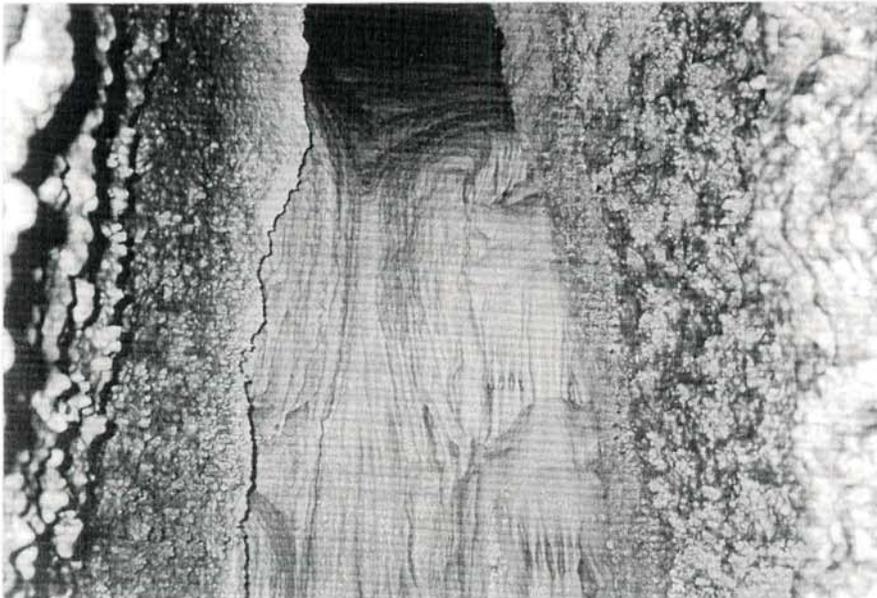
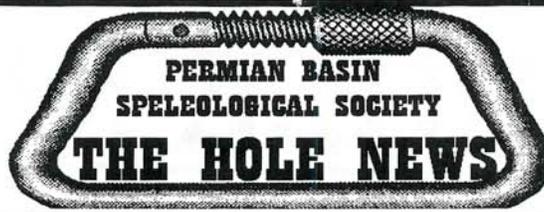


THE HOLE NEWS

August

1999





August 1999

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

Volume 14 Number 8

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL

Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on Tuesday, August 10, around 7:00 PM in the back meeting room of Murray's Delicatessen. Murray's is located at 3211 West Wadley, Midland, Texas.

Our Agenda:

Meeting

Rock Hauling @ CACA

Cave Videos?

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@marshall.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. Items for this newsletter can be sent to the Chief Editor, "The Hole News", c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. 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 Treasurer /Secretary, c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. 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 Alabama, 35810-4431.

"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:

7-8 August--Fort Stanton Bat Cave Dig--New Mexico. Contact: John J. Corcoran III at <john_j_corcoran_iii@msn.com >.

21 August- - PBSS Rock Hauling @ CACA: Limit of 12 people. Contact Ruel Metcalf to sign up. His ph. # (915)263-4890 or <ruelgto@webtv.net>. Zymurgy's Law of Volunteer Labor: People are always available for work in the past tense!**

3-6 September--TSA Labor Day Project--Gruta del Palmito, Bustamante, Nuevo Leon--Once again the emphasis will be on clean-up and restoration. Step work will continue. Camping at the warm springs in the canyon with a Banquet on Sunday night. Precipicio rigged??? Trips to other area caves and attractions. Watch the TSA Newsletter for further announcements. See maps and info @ TSA website for access to Mexico.

1999 SWR Summer Regional Where: U-Bar Cave (area) Near Lordsburg, New Mexico, September 4-6, 1999 (Labor Day Weekend). Hosted and organized by: Mesilla Valley Grotto. Business meeting: September 4, 9:00 AM. For Additional information contact: Steve Peerman <speerman@chilidog.lascruces.nmhs.edu>.

3-6 September--(Labor Day) Carlsbad Cavern, New Mexico (CRF)-- Contact Barbe Barker 972-594-1183 cavers@gte.net

11-12 September--Texas Speleological Survey (TSS) Cave Restoration Workshop--Presented by Val Hildreth-Werker and Jim Werker. Watch this page and the TSA Activities Newsletter for more details.

18 September--James River Bat Cave--Texas Nature Conservancy work days to help maintain trails, repair roads and perform other tasks at Echert James River Bat Cave Preserve. Contact Erica Gustafson at 512-263-8878.

25 September, 30 October, 25-28 November, 31 December--High Guads Restoration Project--Contact Dave Jagnow 505-662-0553 djagnow@roadrunner.com.

25 September- - PBSS Trip to Ft. Stanton Cave: Contact Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or <waltfeast@marshall.com>. **

8-10 October--Colorado Bend SP Project: Resumes activities. Contact: Terry Holsinger 512-443-4241 <trhli@sprynet.com >.

(Continued next Page)

7-8 August--Fort Stanton Bat Cave Dig--New Mexico. Contact: John J. Corcoran III at <john_j_corcoran_iii@msn.com >.

*****21 August- - PBSS Rock Hauling @ CACA:** Limit of 12 people. Contact Ruel Metcalf to sign up. His ph. # (915)263-4890 or <ruelgto@webtv.net>. *Zymurgy's Law of Volunteer Labor: People are always available for work in the past tense!******

3-6 September--TSA Labor Day Project--Gruta del Palmito, Bustamante, Nuevo Leon--Once again the emphasis will be on clean-up and restoration. Step work will continue. Camping at the warm springs in the canyon with a Banquet on Sunday night. Precipicio rigged??? Trips to other area caves and attractions. Watch the TSA Newsletter for further announcements. See maps and info @ TSA website for access to Mexico.

1999 SWR Summer Regional Where: U-Bar Cave (area) Near Lordsburg, New Mexico, September 4-6, 1999 (Labor Day Weekend). Hosted and organized by: Mesilla Valley Grotto. Business meeting: September 4, 9:00 AM. For Additional information contact: Steve Peerman <speerman@chilidog.lasruces.nmhs.edu>.

3-6 September--(Labor Day) Carlsbad Cavern, New Mexico (CRF)--Contact Barbe Barker 972-594-1183 cavers@gte.net

11-12 September--Texas Speleological Survey (TSS) Cave Restoration Workshop--Presented by Val Hildreth-Werker and Jim Werker. Watch this page and the *TSA Activities Newsletter* for more details.

18 September--James River Bat Cave--Texas Nature Conservancy work days to help maintain trails, repair roads and perform other tasks at Echert James River Bat Cave Preserve. Contact Erica

Lighting Up the Black Hole

by Lori Hales

On June 10th of this year, Ruel Metcalf, Mike Gray, Cheryl Kettle, Dwaine and John Robert Moore, and I returned to a cave on private land a few miles south of Midland. The landowner had graciously given us permission to enter this 97 vertical cave and explore what turned out to be a football stadium sized room with a smaller passageway leading into another room with some of the most beautiful flowstone formations we had ever seen.

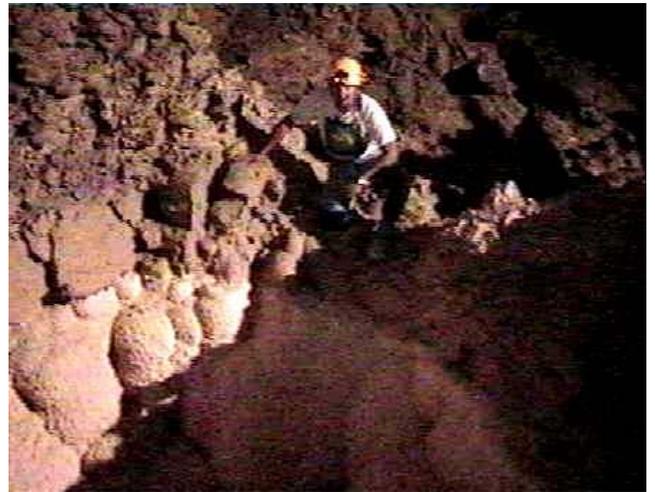
The rancher that owns the cave told us he had never been inside and would like to know what it looked like. So we hauled a portable gasoline generator, about 300 feet of electrical extension cord, and some flood lights into the cave to make a videotape. It took almost the whole day to lower all this stuff down the vertical shaft, which was very narrow in places, set it up inside to do the film, and then haul it all out again. It was a real education in what Hollywood film makers often have to go through, but we got some great video as well as some still photos.

In the twilight zone below the vertical shaft we have seen frogs and mice living among the rocks of the big pile of breakdown in the middle of the room. On this trip we also found, or rather Mike Gray found, a snake we'll have to call Sneaky Snake because of his subtle way of changing the conversation to center on himself. Sneaky

Snake, no doubt drawn out of hiding because of all the light and noise, was rummaging through our packs in hopes we had brought along something good to eat when he ran into Mike Gray. Mike's high school English teacher would have been proud at his ability to string several hundred expletives together in a single running sentence without taking a breath. Mike never has liked surprises and he did levitate about 3 feet above the breakdown floor. I reckoned his hang time to be at least 4 or 5 seconds. Even Sneaky Snake was impressed, raising up off the floor to watch Mike bouncing around in the air above. Cheryl Kettle standing nearby shook her head and walked away. Sneaky Snake went back to examining the packs and later posed for photos.

We have made two trips to this cave and have had great fun with it. It has remained largely undisturbed through the years, and we hope things will stay that way. The room with the only formations is very small, but broken formations are mixed in with the breakdown on the floor, indications of what was once a very beautiful cave. We would like to express our appreciation to the rancher that owns this beautiful cave for the great time we had exploring it. **Thanks a lot, Bill!**

(Pictures of cave below and pages 3&4)



Above: Dwaine Moore checking out some formations.
Below: A short formation.

Both pictures provided by Ruel Metcalf.



PHOTO GALLERY

On the Cover: Top photo, Mike Snelson descending the entrance of unknown cave. Bottom, flowstone of unknown cave.

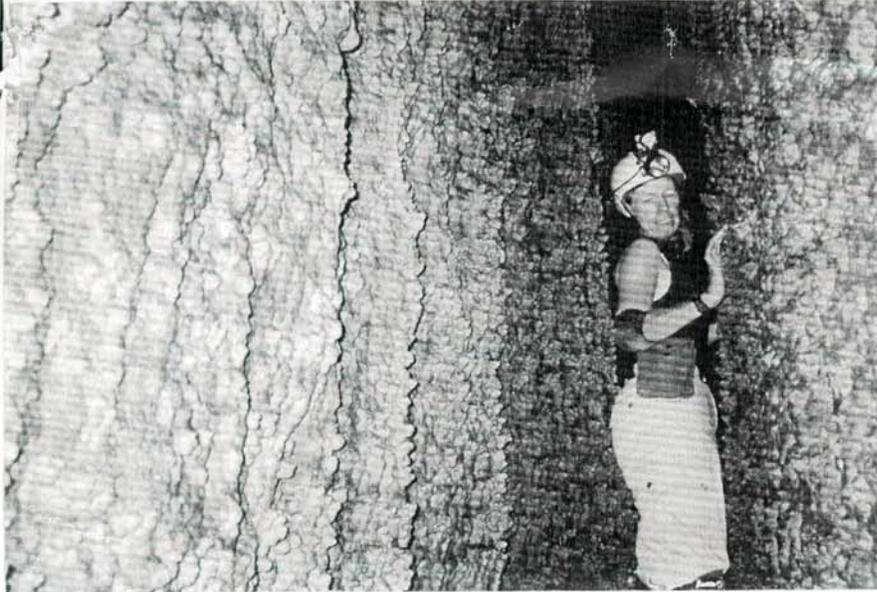
Photo to the right: At the right Cheryl Kettle on rope. Left, Mike Snelson on extension cord.

Photos on the cover and pages 3-4 taken by Lori Hales



The infamous "Sneaky Snake".
"Can Mike come out and play"?

PHOTO GALLERY



Lori Hales squeezing through. Are you stuck?



Cave formations with ancient ascending/descending device.