

BEXARfacts

August 2011

THE CARL PONEBSHEK MEMORIAL AWARD

IN MEMORY OF CARL PONEBSHEK, who died August 14, 2009 the Bexar Grotto will present a One Year NSS Membership each year to a deserving new caver. Beginning October 1st, nominations will be accepted and the award will be presented at the first meeting in December.

A life long caver, Carl gave 25 years in military service to our country and was a proud family man. He caved all over the world - from the caves in Camp Bullis, to Lascaux in the Dordogne, France. Link to the March 2009 Bexar Facts newsletter to read the feature article about Carl.



Procedure Rules

- *The Grotto Chairperson will announce that nominations are open.*
- *The recipient will be chosen by the Chairman, Vice-Chair Trips, Vice-Chair Programs, Secretary, and Treasurer.*
- *In the event nobody is nominated, the afore-mentioned officers will decide upon a recipient using their own discretion.*
- *If the recipient already has an NSS membership, Grotto officers may substitute a membership to the TSA or TCMA, at their discretion.*

Nomination Criteria

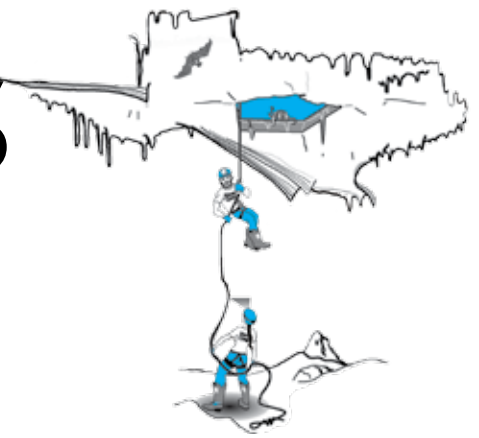
1. *Nominees must new cavers (must have started caving within the previous 12 months).*
2. *Nominees must have gone caving three times during the previous 12 months.*
3. *Nominees must be paid members of the Bexar Grotto.*
4. *There is no age limit.*

NOTE: There will be another BF issue at our first September meeting. Some beautiful photos contributed by Bennet Lee, Lori Harris and Ellie Watson and time ran out to do them justice.

Please send photos, announcements or articles for September issue by September 8. Next Grotto meeting is September 12.

Thank you

- Editor



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Special thanks to Ellie Watson for starting this new BF feature.

Shawna & Robert Baker

We have known each other for about 17 years but only have been together for 7. I have a 13-year-old daughter who enjoys some caves. Robert is a painter/media blaster for a small company in the Leon Valley area, and I am a stay at home mom. We enjoy camping, rock climbing, tubing, basically anything outdoors, and of course caving.

We have always enjoyed the thrill of going inside a cave and exploring someplace that hasn't been touched by the modern world. We haven't really been to many caves but we have been into Twinkie's Palace, Cub cave, the cave at Enchanted Rock and a few other small ones. Robert has been into Bear Cave and Airman's Cave which for various reason's I wasn't able to go with him.

We just recently find out about the Bexar Grotto and we knew that we had to join for the chances to see caves that we normally would never have the chance to see. One day we hope to be able find and explore new caves.

The thing Robert loves the most about caving is the thrill of it for me it's mostly the beauty that you can only see inside. So far everyone we have met at the grotto has been very welcoming and helpful and we would like to thank you all for making us feel welcome.



TCC CAVE DAY IN CEDAR PARK

On September 17 TCC will host CAVE DAY. Information will be posted on the TCC website on September 1, 2011 that will allow you to go directly to Avery Ranch Cave, Dies Ranch Treasure Cave, the Discovery Well Preserve, or to the Dies Ranch Indian Shelter. The Information station will be at the Dies Ranch Treasure Cave location. For additional information contact the City of Cedar Park at: 512-401-5500. They will receive the most up to date information on September 1, 2011.

This is a great opportunity for new cavers to get to know the caves in the Austin area.

CAVE DAY is sponsored by the City of Cedar Park - Parks & Recreation Department and hosted by the Texas Cave Conservancy. The event is from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. There is no charge. Contact Mike Walsh at TCC if you want to volunteer.

tcc-caves@austin.rr.com <http://www.texascaves.org/>

CAVE GATING WORKSHOP

By Jim "Crash" Kennedy

TPWD and BCI are sponsoring a cave gating workshop at Colorado Bend State Park on 25 to 30 September, 2011. We will be re-gating Gorman Cave with a state-of-the-art flyover gate, in order to accommodate the maternity colony of *Myotis velifer* and restrict unauthorized human entry.

To prepare for this event, we will be holding a work weekend 2 to 4 September. Our goals are to widen and straighten the trail from the upper gold mine to Gorman cave to facilitate steel and equipment hauling. We will also be staging some of the steel closer to the cave. We have use of the Conference Center for camping that weekend, because we all know it is still going to be horribly hot. Food will unfortunately not be provided, but we should have a couple of coolers of cold beverages for workers. Bring sturdy boots and work gloves. There may be a possibility of evening caving trips if I have enough trip leaders who are not exhausted, but no promises.

Please give me a reply off-list if you are interested, so that I can keep a running count and know what to expect. I will post more details directions and times as we get closer to that weekend, so keep watching CaveTex for announcements.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

| Date | Event | Contact |
|---------|----------------------|------------------|
| Sep 17 | Cave Day | Mike Walsh (TCC) |
| Sep 2-4 | Cave Gating Workshop | Jim Kennedy |

UPCOMING TRIPS

| Date | Event | Contact |
|--------|--|--------------|
| Aug 29 | Logan's Survey | Ellie Watson |
| Oct 22 | Ground Hog Vertical (must have vertical experience) | Ellie Watson |
| Oct 23 | Tag Team Cave This trip is full - contact Ellie to get on a wait list in the event of cancellations | Ellie Watson |
| TBD | Logan's Survey | Ellie Watson |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| Date | Event | Contact |
|-----------|--|--|
| Oct 8-9 | Government Canyon | Marvin Miller |
| Oct 14-16 | Texas Caver Reunion Flat Creek Ranch in Johnson City TX | Allan Cobb www.oztotle.com/tcr |

LOGAN'S CAVE SURVEY PROJECT

As everyone knows, Drew Wendeborn moved to Portland for an awesome LiDAR job but thankfully Joe Shaertl and Wade McDaniel have agreed to step up and be my right hand men to ensure the resurvey of Logan's Cave. Drew was the catalyst for this project and did all the real work so we have some big shoes to fill. I am going to take his place as Data Manager with the hopes to pass the duty off to someone soon. We will all miss Drew's hard work, confidence, and friendship. I would have never been able to start this project without him and want to make sure we finish it.

I have surveyed with Joe Shaertl many times and he is dedicated to accuracy, has a wonderful attitude, and is a great lead checker. Wade is new and inquisitive caver, has a great attitude, and is always ready to learn new skills... do I hear Data Manager??? Much thanks to Joe, Wade and to everyone who has been so dedicated to helping out at Logan's Cave thus far.

Some solid dates are set for the next Logan's Cave Survey Project to begin the Wednesday after the first Bexar Grotto meeting of the month starting October. Many more surveys will happen but these are some "set-in-stone" dates.

- *(NEXT TRIP) Monday, August 29th-Logan's Survey Project*
- *Wednesday, October 12-Logan's Survey Project*
- *Wednesday, November 16-Logan's Survey Project*
- *Wednesday, December 14-Logan's Survey Project*

Meet at 7 PM sharp at the Dairy Queen in Helotes (12902 Bandera Rd, Helotes, TX 78023). Please let us know if you plan on coming so we can let you know if there are any last minute meeting time/location changes.

Ellie Watson (ellie.thoene@gmail.com) & Joe Shaertl (joe@geomedia.com)