



BEXAR FACTS

Newsletter of the Bexar Grotto

January 2017

Hello cavers,

This is the first Bexar Facts newsletter you've probably seen in a while—and it's only going to get better! This is my first newsletter I've ever written and as I'm writing, I'm realizing that at the end of the night I'm not turning this in for a professor to read and grade or for a boss to glance over and just toss in the trash, but I'm writing for fellow cavers that seek inspiration and information from the very best of the best! I'm going to do MY BEST to get the Bexar Facts newsletter out each and every month at the beginning (1st meeting), but I'm going to need YOUR help in providing me some detailed, juicy information related to the Bexar Grotto, TCMA, TSS, etc., or any recent or upcoming caving events/trips. I want to highlight your caving experiences in a brief paragraph or two for everyone to read!

In the newsletter, I want to incorporate a member highlight—message or email me why you would like to be nominated to be featured as the grotto member of the month! Give me some information about yourself such as: when you started caving, how long you've been a member, what you like to do for fun, things that make you a great caver, etc. (Trust me, everyone secretly wants to be featured—don't deny it)!

Cave Trips:

For past trips in January, there was a CWAN (Cave Without A Name) polar bear caving trip on January 21. Fifteen people showed up to swim through the wild portions of the cave that people dream of visiting everyday (if they could). I was on this trip and we were able to go about a quarter mile upstream until we reached a siphon that Mike Burrell highly encouraged us not to try, and we turned around and went downstream until we reached an area near the Columns Room which was completely submerged underwater (from what I remember). Thank you so much Mike Burrell and Aaron W. for allowing us to go on that remarkable trip!

Government Canyon State Natural Area is constantly being explored for more karst features and caves—many hidden and await to be discovered—others have been found and admired for many years!

Leia went on a Robber Baron Leadership training trip one Saturday in January with Mike Harris, Rob Bissett, MJ Gibbons, and Catherine Berkley. She learned how to open the gate and learned cave etiquette and safety.

“Bennett Lee went to CM to check it out before the tank haul. At the first drop it was like the shower stall at Spring Creek. At the top of second drop there was water below the ladder so they didn’t bother climbing down. OMG was sumped out. They will probably do a project to cement in all the rocks at the top of the second drop due to all of the loose rocks. If anyone has any experience with cement track him down. There will probably be two trips: one exploratory and one work.”

Upcoming Cave Trips/Events:

Snookie's Cave - Bexar Grotto hosted by Guadalupe River RV Resort
On Saturday, Feb 25, 2017, Guadalupe River RV Park & Campgrounds, 7200 Spring Branch Road, Spring Branch, TX, United States ([map](#))
The Bexar Grotto will be hosted by the owners of Snookie's Cave for a day of recreational caving. The event will be at the Guadalupe River RV Park on Spring Branch Road.

March 4 and 5 Government Canyon State Natural Area karst survey. 9 a.m. contact Marvin Miller for more information.

Zach is looking for volunteers to help with high school trip the week before spring break March 6-10. He is willing to train. Correspond with him about dates and the routine. If you’re interested in helping with the high school trip we will have 90 kids over 3 days. This will help to uncover the historic entrance with their labor.

March 18 is a scheduled work day out at Bracken Bat Cave. Fran might be there—planning on it, but even if he doesn’t go, the trip is still on. I believe the time is 9 a.m.—meet at cave parking lot. Fran will talk more about it.

March 24-26 is the Deep Cave survey trip. Joe Mitchell will make more announcements about that. Ask to be put on the wait list if you’re interested.

There could be a Spring Creek Cave trip in March or April of this year. Not confirmed yet. More information to come. Ask Greg Mosier for more info.

April 1 is Ezell’s Cave workday—San Marcos, TX. More announcements should be made, but contact Ron Ralph for more information.

April 1/April 2 are also a Government Canyon karst survey days

Bamberger Ranch Preserve work day, Sat., May 6, 8am – 9am ??
Bamberger Ranch Preserve, 2341 Blue Ridge Dr, Johnson City, TX 78636, USA
([map](#)) ?? More information to be announced.

Bamberger Ranch Preserve BBQ volunteers needed
When: Sun, May 7, 8am – 9am ??
Where: Bamberger Ranch Preserve, 2341 Blue Ridge Dr, Johnson City, TX 78636, USA
([map](#))

TSA-- Amy Morton is in charge of the spring convention. She is in the process of getting approval for holding the event at the Hill Country State Natural Area. If we have more than 100 people we can pay group pricing. Rob is expediting the process and will let us know. Our second choice is Caverns of Sonora. (Rob) ?? More information to be announced. Ask Amy Morton or Geary Schindel for more info. ??

NSS Convention: The NSS 2017 Convention will be in Rio Rancho, New Mexico from June 19 through the 23. You can find everything you need at NSS.org.

More details and stuff for newsletter for the February edition. This will include pictures, more organization, more categories, etc.

Please email me at:

llhill@student.uiwtx.edu to suggest ideas, topics, nominate yourself as a member spotlight for the month, trip reports, interesting facts, etc.,

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