

Bexar Grotto Meeting

January 12, 2015

Gregg Williams called meeting to order at 7:00

Visitors

Pahlavi
Miguel
Jessica
Sam and his son

Elections

We held annual elections tonight. The final vote is as follows:

Rob Bissett - Program Chair
Bennett Lee – Trip Chair
Michelle Smith – Secretary
Pam Campbell – Treasurer
Gregg Williams – President

Treasury report

Petty Cash	\$295.04
Checking	\$2,895.27
Savings	\$2,639.86
Total	\$5,830.17

****A reminder was given to all members to pay annual dues of \$5.**

Organization Reports

TSS – Marvin Miller said there will be a board meeting on January 24 in Austin.

TSA – Kurt said there will be a meeting on February 15 at Colorado Bend State Park. That weekend caving is available as well. There is a lodge where people are welcome to stay.

TCMA - Officer elections were held

Josh Brooks - President

Bennett Lee -

Mike

Gregg Williams - Secretary

Linda Palit – she said they received a grant from Texas parks so they can build a new gate. They need a Bat friendly gate. They don't have enough money from grant but if you donate \$ 100 you get your name carved on the steel. Need about \$1,000. It is called Ezell's cave. Marvin Miller made a motion to donate \$300 for the gate. Nomination was seconded by Rob Bissett. All "I's".

NSS – There will be a board of governors meeting on March 7. Geary will have a meeting and a viewing of Alta Miera this Wednesday at 6:30. On the Saturday during the BOG meeting Geary will have a party for board members and Cavers.

Wine tasting party and some caving trips as well on Sunday of that weekend. Details to be announced later.

Bracken – Fran is surveying new property and making list of fences to repair. They spend a lot of time running off poachers. They are planning some karst surveys in February and March. Found dots on aerial photo and it could be sinkholes. There will be ridge walking soon. He has also been doing fundraising. They had a jeep donated to them. They have noticed they have about 400 Ferrell pigs on the property. Tours will begin during the summer.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Allen Montemeyor told us about an issue. There is a catch all permit to take out endangered species. He wanted us to be aware. It is taking some of the protections away from endangered species. There will probably be some hearings etc. Bracken is trying to watch it as well.
- Per Fran, Bob's ashes will be sprinkled at Bracken. They will be planning an event.
- May 3 - Bamburger cook off fundraiser. We voted to help again. Prep work day the day before.
- Honey creek tank haul coming up at end of month. Ellie wants us to sponsor port- a-potties again this year. Kurt's wife Kitty normally orders them. \$150 max. Gregg motioned and Tom Florer seconded the vote. All "I's".

Upcoming trips

- This weekend Deep Survey
- January 24 & 31 - Honey Creek tank haul
- February 7 – 8 Marvin Miller - Government Canyon. Find all caves out there is the overall goal. They will be digging in caves and sinkholes.
- February 15 Colorado Bend

Trip report

- Miguel who is a new caver is with the San Antonio EMT/fire fighters went to genesis cave. Met some grotto members out there. They had bad air. Chris Lafferty probably went as far as anyone.
- Marvin Miller went to Government Canyon two weeks ago. All trails were closed due to rain. He went back to survey this pit. There is a tight squeeze. This cave takes a lot of water and there is a drain at the bottom. Nikki Lake was able to get through the squeeze. A lot of air comes out of

the passage. Joe Shartel was also there. Marvin Miller may go back and do rock shaving next time. On Sunday they looked at sinkholes with Richard Silver.

- Fran went to pan handle in Childress Texas this past weekend. He had gone in May and it was super hot. This time it was very cold. He set out some hibernacula for bats. There was a lot of acres to research. He is looking for a one man or two man raft for a stream they found. They will be going back to survey and take soil samples in preparation for white nose syndrome. It is his fifth year surveying this area.
- December 12 Bennett went to Hill Country State Natural Area. Lots of cool caves out there. He went to move a trail and check out a cave. It was only 13 feet. He also checked out some other caves in the area and one called Groundhog. They have a cabin on the back of the property.
- Rob Bissett is going to look at some holes in Olmos Basin. Some are sinkholes. Need someone who understands movement of water to see if something unique is going on. Allen Montemeyor took a Google Earth photo and drew a line from there to Robber Barron.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 by Gregg Williams