

## **Bexar Grotto Meeting**

Date: February 22, 2016

Jess Buckles called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
56 attendees

### **Visitors**

- Jack - Hydro Geo Workshop - emailed Geary Schindel
- Nick - Meet up
- Jess - Meet up
- Dave Henry - VPI Club

### **Treasury report provided by Pam Campbell**

**Total            \$11,766.74**

### **Organization Reports**

**TSS** - Nothing to report from Marvin Miller

**TSA** - Spring Convention April 23 in Rock Springs. Jim Kennedy is in charge of the convention.

**TCMA** - conference call this weekend. Trying to put an open house together for the new cave Avery Ranch.

**NSS** - Geary Schindel - NSS convention in Ewing Nevada in July.

**Bracken** - Fran Hutchins reported. He explained what Bracken is for the new people. He also mentioned the resistivity test. He is waiting from George Veni to report on his findings. Bats average about three inches of guano a year.

### **Old Business**

- We will need to move locations due to capacity. Gregg Williams voted we move to new location. Kimberly Hartzog seconded it. All I's.

### **New Business**

- We discussed repairing road at Honey Creek. Aaron W. mentioned the project. Tim has offered to help with equipment to repair the road. Ready to do work on March 5 & 6. Aaron has asked for \$500 - \$1,000 to help with the repairs. All equipment is being donated and the operators. Looking to cover cost of out of pocket money. He will also ask the other grottos to chip in as well. Bennet motioned to give \$501 - \$1,000 for road. Gregg Williams seconded. Aaron and Rob Bissett will call all of the grottos.

## **Upcoming trips**

- February 26 – Leader training at Robber Barron
- February 26 – See My Shovel tank haul starts this weekend for the next three weekends. If it rains it may be called off.
- March 5 & 6 – Government Canyon trip – see Marvin Miller
- March 11, 12 & 13 – Deep & Punkin work weekend. Contact Don Arburn
- April 2 & 3 – Government Canyon
- April 9 – Robber Barron open house – Joe Mitchell. Fund raiser for TCMA. Need volunteers.
- Mid to late March – Aaron W is trying to get a trip together at Spring Creek
- April 15, 16 & 17 – Deep & Punkin trip.
- April 22 – Spring Convention
- April 30 – May 1 – Bamberger Fundraiser – generates at least \$1,000 for the grotto.

## **Trip reports**

- Joe Mitchell – Deep and Punkin survey trip. Over 400 meters which is the best trip they have had. Sixth longest cave in Texas. Almost fifth longest. Passed Cave without a Name.
  - o Marvin, Victoria and Aaron were on a team. No tight spaces. Between Lost World and Forest of Columns.
  - o Bennett, Pam were on a team. They finished of a section that they have been working on. Then they went into a muddy room. Another room had white washed gravel and rodent bones and crickets. Above Lilly's Leisure area. Got three loop closures.
  - o Steve Gutting had a team with Ellie and Galen- surveyed eventful maze. There were some dangerous leads that they chose not to do. They were near Marvin's team but could not do a loop closure.
  - o Joe Mitchell, Tom Rogers and Amy Morton – they went into a small lead. Led to a few rooms. They then went to a room that was pure white. Followed up on another lead in a room with coral. Everything ended so that area may be wrapping up.
- Leia Hill – went to shovel mulch and cut down cactus. They let her go down into the cave. Ezell's Cave. She remembered the documentary and that is what guided her. This is the cave that made her what to join caving. In this cave you can actually get down to the Edwards Aquifer.
- The Bat Crew – going to a lot of TCMA caves. No bats but old guano in Ezell's. They then went to Deep & Punkin and swabbed 20 bats.
- Fran Hutchins and others went to a cave in the panhandle. They were all bat trips as opposed to a typical caving trip. Found four new caves. Primary function is to swab bats to check for white nose syndrome. In Oklahoma right now. It will move to Texas eventually. Their funding comes from license plate sales. Rob Bissett expanded on his bat research. Even though it was a bat mission he would start caving.
- Joe Shaertl did the CM Tank Haul. He went through the low air and it was less than half of what it used to be. They flagged it well but it could be confusing.

He worked in a team with Gary Donham. One would scout the flag and the other would wait. He took experienced cavers to do it. Very low air.

Meeting adjourned by Jess Buckles at 8:04

Presentation by: Marvin Miller