

## **Bexar Grotto Meeting**

Date: March 14, 2016

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

64 attendees

First time at new Location

### **Visitors**

- Will - Meet up - here two weeks
- Rod - Geologist - here 8 months
- Mac
- Raul - moved here one month ago
- Jess & Sarah - word of mouth
- Jessica and husband
- Pam - visiting with friends

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

**Total            \$9,338.75**

**Tshirts have been purchased**

**Honey Creek Project**

**Edwards Aquifer**

**PESH Project**

**Checks**

**See My Shovel Project**

### **Organization Reports**

**TSS** - Meeting coming up on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Talk to Alan Cobb if you are interested. Alan explained the purpose of this organization due to the number of new members.

**TSA** - Rob Bissett spoke about the purpose of the organization. He needs articles for the Texas Caver. Please give articles to Rob Bissett or Jill Orr. Rob is also looking at putting together an article committee with people around the state to help gather articles. Spring Convention is coming up in Rock Springs on April 23, 2016. Various seminars will be provided during the day. Submit your caving photos as well to be entered into the competition. The entry guidelines are on line at the TSA website. They will be outreaching to landowners to come by and join us. Hoping to open up some property to us in the future.

**TCMA** - Give Pam Campbell auction items for the upcoming convention. Raising money to purchase and conserve caves.

**NSS** - Geary Schindel - convention in Nevada - registration is available on line. BOG meeting coming up in a week or so in Oregon. They will be discussing moving

the headquarters since the five year term is coming to an end. They will need to decide to refinance or pay it and then pay themselves back.

**Bracken** – Fran is out of town.

### **Old Business**

Aaron W. discussed landowners opening up their caves for us to explore. He then discussed Honey Creek and the situation with the roads. He explained the project since there are a lot of new members. We have had a prior work project but it did not really help and hunting season began. A few weeks ago one of our new cavers volunteered to donate his equipment and employees to help repair the road. Tim Ramon is the new member who volunteered his time equipment. We offered \$500 to start and other grottos volunteered as well. He got about \$2,100 from grottos and then got some individual donations. It would have been around \$15,000 to \$20,000 to repair without the volunteers and donations.

### **New Business**

- Rob Bissett wanted to remind everyone about one of our fundraisers is helping at Bamburger Ranch to cook for all of the volunteers. Saturday April 30 is the prep day and then Sunday is the Picnic day.
- March 24 – Organizers of Hydro Geo have a meeting
- Aggies came to Robber Barron and they helped fill 20 bags of weeds.
- We will need help for the Open House at Robber Barron – Contact Evelyn Mitchell for volunteer opportunities.
- April 2 - Susan Courage with the Edwards Aquifer needs help with boy scouts on Malderno Ranch near Hondo. Jess Buckles had received an email. We will ask them for batteries for the head lamps.

### **Upcoming trips**

- March 26 – Spring Creek trip. It is full at this time. Wait list available. Contact Aaron Wertheim
- April 2 & 3 – Government Canyon with Marvin Miller
- April 9 – Robber Barron open house – Contact Evelyn Mitchell. Fund raiser for TCMA. Need volunteers.
- April 15, 16 & 17 –Deep & Punkin trip. Contact Aaron Wertheim. They will be repelling into Punkin and check out the Mortuary Room.
- April 22 – Spring Convention
- April 30 – May 1 – Bamberger Fundraiser – generates at least \$1,000 for the grotto.
- TSA has an ongoing project at Colorado Bend State Park. It is the second weekend of every month but there are no trips in the summer. Contact Chris Pina or Joe Shaertl.

### **Trip reports**

- Kimberly Hartzog took a group from the Venture Crew with seven kids. The kids also filled in the base of the shower with rocks.
- March 10 & 11 - Zach took about 20 kids each day to Robber Barron. They moved dirt pile away from gate and Tom Brown hauled it away. Sold \$270 worth of t-shirts. They did other clean up items as well.
- Leia Hill went back to Lillehammer Cave. She has video from last year and she will give a presentation next meeting. She traversed to the bottom of the cave. It was a 10-foot pit. For more information about her trip, talk to her. It was very informative. Presentation to follow.
- Alan Cobb and Linda Palit have been in Hawaii. They went caving and lava tubing while they were there. They attended the Volcano Speleological Symposium.
- Richard Silver, Kimberly Hartzog and Geary Schindel went to look at a couple of caves in Uvalde. One cave had a pit that went down about 30 feet with frogs at the bottom. It was pretty easy to dig. Cleared dirt and busted up some rock to make it a little easier to get in. He feels there are some people here that could have gotten in Lickity Split. They saw eyes in the cave as well. Not a lot of formations.
- Aaron Wertheim had a trip to prepare for the upcoming Open House. They took several groups in to the cave.
- Richard Silver went to Government Canyon a couple of weeks ago. Marvin Miller wanted him to see if this cave goes anywhere. They found a passage next to another passage that had already been discovered.
- Amy Cantell did the See My Shovel Tank Haul - They cancelled the trip the second week due to low air. She helped haul some tanks in and they were able to connect some leads. Everybody got out safe and fast. It was a success.
- They had a work weekend at Deep and Punkin to fix the shower stall.

Meeting adjourned by Jess Buckles at 8:17 p.m.

Presentation by: Alan Montemayor presentation about Caves In Cuba