

Bexar Grotto Meeting

Date: APRIL 25, 2016

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

48 attendees, *it hailed at 6:50 p.m., may have impacted attendance*

Visitors

- Cori – Previous caver via Venture Crew 410
- James – second week, helping Bennet with Scouts
- Jeremy – with brother Stephen
- Atia – attended Robber Baron Open House
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Treasurer did not have a report to submit.

Organization Reports

TSS – Marvin Miller report: that there was no meeting at Spring Convention.

TSA – Robert Bissett report: there was a meeting Saturday night at Spring Convention. The past weekend's event provided many scientific and entertaining talks. Devil's Sinkhole drop was a success. Jim Kennedy made a few contacts and opened up a few ranches.

TCMA – Gregg Williams report: there was a Sunday meeting at Spring Convention. The fundraising efforts raised \pm \$3,500 over the weekend. Possible Avery Ranch Open House TBA.

NSS – Linda Palit report: mark your calendars for convention in Ely, NV July 19th <http://nss2016.caves.org/> and 17th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) <http://www.speleo2017.com/>

Bracken – Fran Hutchins report: bats have been back since early March. Bexar Grotto night at Bracken Bat Cave pot luck & bat flight July 11.

Old Business

Bamberger Annual Fundraiser head count \pm 350 . Saturday volunteers arrive at noon for food prep, Sunday volunteers arrive at 7AM to cook & set up, serving 11AM to 1PM.

New Business

Bennett Lee asked for anyone interested in helping with Scout troop exploring Deep at Deep & Punkin Preserve 4/29-30.

Jess Bucles looking for cave field trips for the attendees of South Central USA GSA to be in San Antonio March 13 & 14, 2017.

Rob Bissett approached Chester's 410 about purchasing and installing a larger screen in their meeting room. They are not open to making the purchase, but are happy to install a larger screen if the Grotto purchases.

Upcoming Trips

Pop-up trip to Robber Baron Wednesday 4/27 at 6:30 announced.

Government Canyon State Natural Area Karst Survey 5/21 & 22, last trip until October. Contact Marvin Miller.

Pals trip is full.

Medina Uvalde-Medina trips 5/21 and 5/22. Contact Geary Schindel.

Avery Cave for TCMA Members 5/21. Contact Bennett Lee.

Rolling Oaks TCMA work day followed by cave access 5/2/ 10AM. Contact Ellie Falgout.

Honey Creek Weekend 5/21, limited space for very experienced cavers. Contact Arron Wertheim.

Cave Trips

Alan Cobb & Linda Palit caving in Aruba. Flank Margin Caves-flat floor & ceiling with lots of formations, pictographs and graffiti from the 1800's.

Another cave was very walkable with five skylights and local legend.

Arron Wertheim led 25 cavers at Deep & Punkin Preserve. The group dropped Punkin, shimmied into the Mortuary Room to explore. Half of the group were led through the 'tourist route' by Gregg Williams. Arron noted that Punkin will close Memorial Day due to the return of the bats. Watch for upcoming Deep trip.

Fran Hutchins, Robert Bissett and Rick Corbell went to the Panhandle for a BCI WNS survey. They visited Collapse Cave and commented on the ongoing gypsum collapse. Boulder Cave was finally located and accessed after five years of searching and connected to nearby and previously known Walk-up Cave. Dropped in to Campsy Cave. Discussed WNS jump to WA State potentially resulting in state parks closing caves for public access.

Meeting adjourned by Jess Buckles at 8:04 p.m.

Presentation by: Reece Fletcher Tompson sharing his thesis work entitled "CO2 in Robber Baron Cave"