

Bexar Grotto Meeting

Date: September 12, 2016

42 Attendees

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

Visitors

- Mary Vega – Meet up
- Victoria – Mary's daughter
- Christi – Texas Master Naturalist – brought two students
- Bernard – student
- Victoria – student
- Ron Rutherford

Treasury report provided by Pam Campbell (given by Michelle Smith)

Total \$8,317.56

Organization Reports

TSS – Marvin Miller – Nothing new to report. Marvin explained TSS to newcomers.

TSA – Rob Bissett – Nothing new to report. Rob explained TSA to newcomers.

TCMA – Gregg Williams – shower houses are being built at Deep. They got a lot done during the work weekend. Gregg explained a little about TCMA for the newcomers. There will be an auction for TCMA at TCR in October.

NSS – Geary Schindel – Nothing to report.

Bracken – A few trips left open if you are a BCI member. October 12 – 13 is a giant NACA symposium where they discuss bat research, etc. We would like to have the Grotto out there for vertical training in the future. They have some clean up to do first. Contact Fran Hutchins for further information.

Old Business

- Jessica Buckles asked Wade if he has ordered shirts. He needs money to reorder. Wade was out this week so we will ask him at next meeting how much money he needs to order. On hold for now.
- Trailer – Official grotto trailer – it has been tossed around to buy one. Rob Bissett would be in charge of buying it. He would like to get options and then take it to committee to make the final decision. On hold for now.
- Bill Steel contacted Jess Buckles about a grant funded by the Bexar Grotto. It is a huge mapping project in Mexico. He would like to do an annual trip. He will give a presentation about the project in the next few meetings. Jess Buckles will forward the email to the Grotto list. It is called Huatua Cave

otherwise known as the PESH project. He would like \$1,200 to support the trip. This money would go towards ropes. Other organizations support the project. This grants was stated as a multi-year grant. Rob Bissett feels it is a little steep for one project. We have asked that we table until we see a presentation. Jess Buckles will get with Bill Steele for a presentation. Ron Rutherford has volunteered to do a presentation if we need him to.

New Business

No new business

Announcements

Bennett made a copy of the grotto list to update.

Upcoming trips

- September 16, 17 & 18th- NCRC Course - already full - will be held at Punkin/Deep.
- September 30 - October 2 - Hydro Geo weekend
- October 8 & 9th - Marvin Miller will start Government Canyon again. It will be once a month thereafter. They explore and survey the caves. They then report to the park. They have 60 caves. They also have lots of sinkholes and cave potential.
- October 13-16 - TCR Convention - Price is going up a little bit this year. The theme is Magical Forest Creatures. Don Arburn discussed the various events that will take place. No glass containers. There will be a new contest this year - change your clothes in a sack contest. There is also rope competition and survey competition.
- Aaron is working on a trip to CWAN
- He is working on a trip to Robber Barron around Halloween.
- Geary Schindel is looking for people who want to go to LaChance dig.

Trip Reports

- Joe Mitchell went caving in Canada near Vancouver Island. Went to Horn Lake caves. They are wild caves and you can rent gear and go in. The caves are cooler than Texas.
- We had 17 people came out for the Deep Survey. Steve Gutting got about 30 meters with his group. He closed a loop. Marvin Miller took a team back to a room they had started last trip. There were a lot of leads off of this room. They did a few connections as well. They went to a room called Diagonal Dance Hall to finish surveying. It was about a four meter shot. There was a lot of coral on the wall. They got 104 meters. Bennett took a group to a place that George Veni had started. They made a couple of connections as well. They surveyed one of the rooms and will go back to a couple of other ones later. Tom Rogers took a team in as well. They went to the far west area of the cave. Once they got into one of the rooms a lot of bats came out. They surveyed a single loop. Joe Mitchell's team went to the lower part of the KA Survey. They had several leaves. They connected into the G survey but

the flagging has been eaten by crickets. They then tied into the E survey. Total survey was 220 meters. It is the fifth longest cave in Texas.

- Mike and Lori Harris went to Kickapoo Cave during the weekend. He also took a group into Robber Barron for teambuilding. Leah helped Mike with the trip.
- Geary and Sue Schindel took his dad to the Old Timers Reunion. Lot of old cavers were in attendance.
- Geary Schindel's group at LaChance a couple of weeks ago was successful. They got a lot done. The owners served everyone lunch.
- Rob Bissett and some others were building the showers at Deep and right at dark they went over to Punkin to see what kind of wildlife was there at night. They saw over 20 cave scorpions in one area.

Program at next meeting will be to organize the volunteers for Hydro-Geo. Gary White made a motion to postpone normal presentation and Gregg Williams seconded that motion and it was all I's.

Program Announcement

Ron Rutherford will be giving presentation

Meeting adjourned by Jess Buckles at 8:03 p.m.