

## **Bexar Grotto Meeting**

Date: 5/8/17

Attendees: 31

Arron Wertheim called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

### **Visitors**

The LaChances are here tonight and their lawyer.

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

\$13,571.35 plus \$1000 from Bamberger that has not yet been deposited.

### **Organization Reports**

**TSS** - Joe Mitchell reported that TSS is working with TCMA to acquire a place for a joint caver headquarters facility. TSS has been in the office of the Pickle Research Center for many years for free. It's an old building and UT has been looking to build new facilities and parking lots. The department that formerly managed the building has transitioned away, so the location is no longer managed. The building could be taken at any time. They've been looking into building and renting options. Then they received a generous donation from William Russell near Inner Space Caverns. They had the idea of building a facility, but because the location was far from major caving centers, this was decided against. The property does have a lot of value. TSS began to talk with TCMA and agreed to move forward together. The two groups are looking around to find a site that everyone can use. They kicked off a fundraiser to purchase this. Bill Russell offered to donate another \$25,000 to match if we can raise that much. Joe reported that there is a very promising property. Joe then explained the mission and purpose of TSS to the guests (see website). The promising property does not have a cave on it, but it does have a facility that is highly suitable for TSS's needs. They had the board meeting on Saturday and discussed this among other issues. Things should start happening fairly soon. The property is closer to Austin, but south. The site can hold all of the TSS files, equipment, and there could even be a convention there. Also, it is more accessible than the Pickle center is. Developers contact TSS regularly asking for information about caves on their property. The information is never given away without the consent of the owner, but it does need to be accessed by appropriate individuals easily. Marvin added that some groups may want to know about caves in a certain area. They will not get the exact location. Many times if the developer is asking, they already own the cave. It's well worth having a place to save this information.

**TSA** - Linda reported that the next meeting will be at TCR. There will be an election if anyone is interested in running. The convention was successful and all costs were covered. It was a nice venue. The project at Hill Country State Natural Area is going to happen, but Linda advises to wait until fall to start. Watch for that.

**TCMA** - We had a members' meeting on Sunday at the TSA convention. We had a fantastic auction organized by Pam. TCMA raised a little under \$4000. We are going to have a strategic planning meeting the weekend after next at Dolan Falls. Linda

announced that the acquisitions committee is still looking for property. If you see something, let Allan know. He is the new acquisitions chair.

**NSS** – No representative.

**Bracken** – No representative.

### **Old Business**

Bob sent us some stuff in response to our donation. Joe Ranzau asked if we needed a motion to dispose of it or to save it for the next auction. We will store it in Mosier's closet until we've decided. The motion was seconded. Joe R. said that he could store the objects in the TCMA trailer. Now it will be in the TCMA trailer in Joe's front yard.

Robber Baron Update. Mike Harris had a trip there Saturday. The homeless man is now living across the street. Gregg stopped there on his way to the meeting. He was on the property, so Gregg had the police run him off again. The police officer said he would have given him a trespassing ticket had he known it was the one we'd been having problems with. The officer went after the man. When Arron and Joe Mitchell stopped by, he was gone. Last Thursday Linda and Cheryl picked up a bunch of beer cans, but he wasn't there. Leia was there last Wednesday. Somebody was shining a flashlight into "Fat Man's Misery." Ranzau was wondering if we always lock the gate. There were mixed responses, as some people lock the gate and others close it but leave something on it to know if it has been tampered with.

Linda hasn't done anything with the by-laws since the last meeting. If anyone else feels compelled to be on the committee, contact her.

### **New Business**

There is property (66.5 acres) near Joe's house that was intended to be mitigation for Vista Ridge pipeline. They then said that it was a typo. This land may be a new cave preserve, we think. Ranzau said that this would be against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regulations.

Bennett passed around the grotto member list for edits and updates. We also have a light crowd, so order more beer.

### **Announcements:**

Leia: She is going storm-chasing next week in Oklahoma.

Joe R.: Honeycreek landowner asked if we would help out this fall with some projects. He has eased her into something easy, which is fixing some of the gates. He needs someone that can weld. We will probably also do some caving. We are still re-building the relationship since it rained and the roads were damaged.

Mike Harris: Bamberger's had a lot of people. Allan and Mike were chicken slingers/masters. We made \$1000 from it. Joe R. said that the core group would like to re-arrange organization for next year in terms of getting new help. We also need to buy new gear and this is something we need to figure out. The two stoves overcook everything and are in need of repairs. Our storage facility is inadequate. We need to decide if we want to invest in doing this.

Bennett: He has a cave on Rolling Oaks preserve. He needs to have it surveyed. It's called Obvious Cave.

### **Upcoming Trips:**

May 10<sup>th</sup>: Open house at Robber Baron.

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Deep and Punkin Work Day (last big work weekend) and Don's birthday bash. There will also be a Government Canyon weekend.

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Last Government Canyon trip of the year.

June 12<sup>th</sup>: Grotto meeting at Bracken. There will be a potluck and bat flight viewing. Make sure to bring a lid for your food and an ice chest for perishable items. There is no electricity and no running water.

Things to look out for: Bexar Grotto has been invited back to Cave Without a Name and the trip should be scheduled soon. It might be in August.

June 19<sup>th</sup>: NSS Convention in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Consider getting a hotel because camping in New Mexico in June in a parking lot is not comfortable. Go to the website.

September 15-17<sup>th</sup>: Hydrogeo Workshop at Cave Without a Name.

September 23-30<sup>th</sup>: International Association of Hydrogeologists in Croatia

October 12-15<sup>th</sup>: Texas Caver's Reunion. We need people to help cook. Stefan has given up. If we don't get volunteers then we might have to do catering or fend for ourselves. Theme: Vikings.

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Robber Baron Open House

### **Trip Reports**

Arron: Went into cave at the Hill Country State Natural Area. It was called the "Bob Clark cave." It's a fissure passage that cuts through old oyster bed with a pit leading to a lower section. It's fairly substantial for that area.

Joe: Led his sketching class to Skull Cap cave at HCSNA. In the past it had some interesting archaeological remains.

Leia: She helped Joe survey with the Cave-A-Tron. She would like to do more of that. She had a good time at Bamberger's. She tripped on the stairs several times and was cut-off from Coke.

### **Program Announcement**

La Chance Sinkhole presentation