

## **Bexar Grotto Meeting**

Date: 7/24/17

Attendees: 41

Arron Wertheim called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

### **Visitors**

- Ross Webb and his son found out about us on the internet and wanted to tour some caves. He has spent a lot of time underground. He found us on the grotto website.
- Tim Allison and wife Alexa and their kids. They found us on the web. They haven't done any spelunking, just hiking.
- Jean Countryman is a master naturalist. She brought her daughter.
- Emily Thompson from Edward's Aquifer came. She shows up every few years.

### **Treasury report provided Pam:**

\$14,158.04 It's off sixteen cents from last meeting because she had a small error in the books.

### **Organization Reports**

**TSS** – No news. Marvin has books for sale.

**TSA** – No news.

**TCMA** – There's not much happening right now. We'll have a board meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> if you're interested. Let him know, it will be in Austin. We have a big fundraiser at Buffalo Billiards on 6<sup>th</sup> street in Austin. The fundraiser will be on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, we're going to have board member elections soon. We have quite a few seats open on the board. If you're interested, contact Gregg Williams.

**NSS** – Geary has brochures. Geary explained the NSS as the confederation of grottos and cavers. Arron passed around the NSS news. Over the past several years the NSS is shrinking. The organization is shrinking because the organization is aging and they're not doing much recruiting. Geary has to write a column about this. The Bexar Grotto is an example of growing the NSS membership.

**Bracken** – No news.

### **Old Business**

The Texas Hydrogeo workshop is coming together. The grotto is the organizer and sponsor of the Texas Hydrogeo workshop of about 350 interested college students. The location is at Cave Without A Name. There will be 35 concurrent modules being taught. There will be environmental scientists and geologists. It has been a good fundraiser for the NSS and for the grotto. If you would like to volunteer talk to Jordan, the volunteer coordinator. There will be camping, modules, and a keynote speaker.

Greg Mosier has been wrangling our gear. He has an update on what we have. Greg has copies of the gear lists. We had an update in the number of helmets (34) and 23 light systems. We have four frog systems that are owned by the grotto. We need three racks and at least one kroll. Arron mentioned that we have had a discussion about completing the missing frog sets. Mike said an upcoming Robber Baron trip may finance the missing frog equipment. We also have two rope walker systems that are partial sets. Both of the rope walker systems also need racks. We have a 15 foot cable ladder, two hand

ascenders, and assorted locking and non-locking carabiners. Marvin also has a list of survey equipment. Marvin has one Ascento tandem. Sue said there should be three more sets of survey gear. Marvin reported that there was one that had to be replaced. Marvin said that Linda Palit possibly has one. Alan thinks Linda has a lot of gear, but Linda is in Mexico right now.

Pam asked Geary if we have a receipt for the phones that have been ordered. We do not have a receipt because the phones are being tested. We don't have the wire to go with the phones.

### **New Business**

Geary reported that if the vertical gear is brought to his house, he will fill in the software (harnesses, etc). Bennett has it all. Greg said he's in possession of Rob Bissett's list.

### **Announcements:**

We have T-shirts for sale. \$5 for previous years' Hydrogeo T-shirts. We have patches and Bexar Grotto T-shirts.

Arron reported that they captured and verified a second rabid fox. There was a mention of the freetail bats transmitting the same type of rabies.

### **Upcoming Trips:**

Marvin will be hosting a trip on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>. They will be meeting at the intersection of Rittiman Road and Spring Branch Road at 9:00am.

August: The month of August is open. There will probably be a trip to Cave Without a Name in August. It would most likely be on a Saturday. If you want to go on that trip you will need a wetsuit and you will need to be able to swim.

September 15-17<sup>th</sup>: Hydrogeo Workshop at Cave Without a Name. Attendance is \$50.

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

October: The first full weekend in October (October 7<sup>th</sup>), the Government Canyon trips will start again. The trips are once a month and the goals are to walk the entire property to identify sinkholes and caves. We explore the caves, map them, collect bugs, and dig on sink holes. There are 62 identified caves at Government Canyon.

October 12-15<sup>th</sup>: Texas Caver's Reunion at Paradise Canyon. Parade Theme: Vikings.

November 3, 4, 5<sup>th</sup>: Recreational trip to Deep and Punkin. The trip is currently full but you can get on the waiting list.

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Robber Baron Open House; we will need lots of volunteers.

### **Trip Reports**

Emily from Edward's Aquifer went into a hole.

Lindsey reported on her trip to 0-9 Well. It was her first vertical trip outside of Punkin and the most strenuous caving trip she's ever been on. She ended up having to climb the last drop in her swimming suit and ended up getting rope burns.

Leia, Kori, and Austin went to the Deep and Punkin property. Saturday they went into Deep cave. Somebody had told Leia she would fall into a 200 feet deep pit at the entrance of the caves, but she realized this was not the case. Several grotto members reported that you could fall very far near the entrance, albeit not into a pit. She had to chimney her way down into the cave. They went through the Forest of Columns and then looked for the Crystal Waterfall. They couldn't find it. Everyone wanted to separate. Then they went to Punkin Cave.

**Program Announcement**

Our presentation will be the Texas Caver video.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.