

Bexar Grotto Meeting

Date: 8/14/17

Attendees: 41

Greg Mosier called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Visitors

Lelia K, Sean, and Liz came. Their mother Annette heard about the meeting. They're looking for volunteer opportunities.

Laurel learned about Bexar Grotto from UTSA and working with Geary. Chris also went to UTSA. He went to a meeting at UTSA.

Nora is the newest Bexar grotto member. She is 2.5 months old.

Whitney is a grad student at UTSA.

Treasury report provided Pam:

\$14,440.04 in account

Organization Reports

TSS – There will be a board meeting in Austin on August 26th at their office. They will be there all day if you're interested in looking through cave files. Things are moving forward with the joint facility with TCMA. Things will be happening possibly in a matter of months.

TSA – Starting in September, a number of volunteer projects will begin again. Hill Country, Colorado Bend, and Government Canyon will have numerous projects and caving opportunities.

TCMA – We have elections coming up very soon. We're looking for new board members. Let Gregg know if you'd like to run for the board. We have about six or seven spots coming open. It will be a good year with a lot of fun stuff going on.

NSS – No representative.

Bracken – No representative.

Old Business

No update on the Bexar Grotto inventory list. We purchased some equipment recently but this was not put on the list.

New Business

Kayla's birthday is today. She is eight.

Joe Mitchell: There is an ongoing issue at Robber Baron that continues to get more serious. The homeless man has been frequenting the area for almost a year now. The issue recently escalated. Cheryl was there last week to water the plants and she spent the entire time picking up trash. Mike also spent time picking up trash. There are beer cans all over the place. The cave was also broken into. This was the second break in since the beginning of the year. There are also minor issues such as people not turning in release forms. There is a slew of issues on the property. Mike and Joe have been talking about ways to

address this. They've also been talking about possibly adding a lock box to the property or some other solution for allowing people to come to the property. They've discussed putting a monitoring system on the property that would send real time camera images to people in the event that someone was trying to get into the cave. We could also have volunteers going by the cave on certain days of the week. He would like to get a group of people who would be willing to help out and implement ideas for this problem. Joe will send out a grotto email.

MJ Gibbons said that we could buy a sound system for a 100x100 room for around \$200 for the Hydrogeo workshop. He also reported that the people who do Bamberger's are burnt out. He thinks it's one of the more worthwhile causes. If they're going to resign, perhaps they'd be convinced to stay if more people will volunteer. MJ is thinking of taking on the volunteer opportunity if he can have some other volunteers help out. Nick Spyker said he would let the grotto use his sound system. Sue said that Joe Ranzau is more than willing to help the new people who are involved. He would help them through the first phase of it.

Announcements:

Sue: the long sleeved T-shirts are \$20, the short sleeve shirts are \$15, and the old Hydrogeo workshop shirts are \$5 unless you become a member tonight, and then they're free tonight.

Upcoming Trips:

September 15-17th: Hydrogeo Workshop at Cave Without a Name. Attendance is \$50. Harmon's BBQ will do the catering. They will do all the work. Talk to Jordan and Stephanie about volunteer opportunities.

September 23-30th: International Association of Hydrogeologists in Croatia

September 30th: TCMA Fundraiser at Buffalo Billiard's in Austin

October: The first full weekend in October (October 7th), 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. This is a great volunteer opportunity. Talk to Marvin.

October 12-15th: 39th Annual Texas Caver's Reunion at Paradise Canyon on the Medina River. Parade Theme: Vikings.

October 13th, 14th, 15th: Colorado Bend's 30th Anniversary; a number of caves will be open. If you want to participate at Colorado Bend you need to contact one of the trip leaders. Go to the TSA website for more details or contact Chris Pena or Will Quast via the website. There will also be volunteer opportunities opening up in the fall at the caves and property.

November 3, 4, 5th: Recreational trip to Deep and Punkin. The trip is currently full but you can get on the waiting list. See Greg Mosier.

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

Trip Reports

Greg: "We had a trip at CWAN and were able to get past the double sump. I was amazed at how much cave was beyond that."

Leia: There were four firefighters. We went into the cave, jumped in the water, and it was really nice. A bunch of people went ahead first. We went under the siphon. It was pretty creepy. I was told to go to the Winter Retreat room with pure white formations. Nobody had been farther upstream, so we went up there. We went to the dye point where you need scuba gear to go underneath. We smelled hydrogen sulfide in the cave. They said it could have been Geary. I think there were high levels of CO2 in the cave. We had a train and were pulled down the cave stream. Everybody had a great time.”

Joe: “We went to New Zealand and Australia and went in a few caves. It will be at the next meeting.”

Program Announcement

009 James Bond in a Cave movie

Greg concluded the meeting at 7:33pm.