

Bexar Grotto

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2018, January 22, 2018

Opening

The regular meeting of the Bexar Grotto was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on January 22, 2018, in Chester's Hamburgers.

Present

? N/A, A lot!

New Members/Visitors

Brittney; Grace (new, reoccurring); Scott

Treasury Report

Final number: \$16,278.09

Organization Reports

TSS: Nothing new at the moment; N/A; if que. Ask Joe Mitchell.

TSA: TSA Spring Convention coming up March 23, 24, at Hill Country State Natural Area; nice, fairly-large camping area; earlier in the year so it's not so hot! (nice place to go hiking, hang out, camp, go caving possibly?)

TCMA: Budget meeting February 4, 2018; elected new directors, Ken Demarest, Gregg Mosier, Linda Palit; on Sunday; location not known or spoken of yet??

NSS: Encouraging people to join! The parent organization of the Bexar Grotto. You can join on caves.org; you can get an NSS Magazine; Check out the NSS newsletter; if you're serious about caving; NSS Convention in Montana in July 2018! Date:

Bracken: Rick Corbell spoke for BCI's Fran Hutchins, "Bat Conservation International (BCI) decided to do a Fiesta Medal this year, Fiesta Medal 2018 \$10.00 each special deal here. Or go to batcon.org; White Nose Syndrome Research continues in the Texas Panhandle caves; the research has expanded to do more than just the times of the year when the Bats are hibernating so we can get a better understanding of the fungus and what its doing to the bats and in general throughout the year and what kind of conservation ? it has." All proceeds go to BCI.

Open Issues: Leia will be recording (AUDIO) for meeting minutes! This recording is for notes use only! When talking about meeting or anything, please speak loud and clearly so I can hear what is being said and so I can type the meeting min up afterwards! I have talked to several people about recording and they are ok, if you are not ok with it, please talk to Leia Hill! Be kind and polite because the thoughts are being recorded!

Old Business

No. Grotto Phone/email list needs to be updated; new officers need to be added to list; who has the grotto list?!? Google Drive? From Bennett Lee.

New Business

Joe Mitchell announced: “Texas Speleology Center (located in South West Austin) now has a government board that is composed of two (2) TSS Directors, one (1) TCMA director, and two (2)-at-large-cavers, one from San Antonio, and one from Austin, and we will start to figure how to manage the facility, looking for someone to serve as Property Manager, helping make a move in the next few weeks out here, and then we can start looking at what repairs need to be done.”

Announcements: Something about TSC Texas Speleological Center in Austin, repair works;

New Bexar Grotto Officers are: Mike Harris, President/Chair; Gary White, Program Chair; Leia Hill, Secretary, and T-Shirts, Trip Chair, Jill Orr, Bexar Facts: Richard Silver; Treasure, Emily Thompson, website/master, Randy Baker,

Zack S. robber baron cave troop needed to help with robber baron, dates tbd (week before spring break) during

T-Shirts are on Sale! Short Sleeves: Sale \$10, Reg. \$15 ; Long Sleeves: Sale \$15, Reg. \$20 ; Hydro Geo Shirts: \$5 ; Patches: \$5 ; (This deal is going to be until the end of February 2018, and or when agreement with Grotto members is official?,) Please buy t-shirts! See Leia Hill at grotto meetings for shirts; or email her;

Books are for sale (TSS) from Marvin Miller at meeting, see him after meeting;

Girl Scout Cookies are being sold by Kayla Mitchell and are \$4.00 a box! Help support Kayla and her troop and the USO! IF you buy now or soon, the boxes will come in soon and Kayla and Evelynn will bring your order to the next grotto meeting in February!

Upcoming Trips:

Jill:

Colorado Bend State Park: NCRC training going on; January 20- 27, 2018

Government Canyon State Park Natural Area on Feb 3 and 4, karst surveying; ridge walking; looking for caves and karst features; great for newbies and old cavers alike. See Marvin Miller or contact him for details, directions, or questions.

Hill Country State Natural Area karst project on Feb 17 day see Rob Bissett. Email him or speak to him directly if you would like to go on the trip; similar to Gov. canyon; new;

CM Cave shovel tank haul this weekend Sat. 27, 28 (30 + cavers for two weekends tank haul)

March 3, and 4th Gov. Canyon state natural area project

March 23, 24, 25 TSA spring convention at hill country state natural area

Lindsey Admoski mentioned that she is willing to host a trip on a week night to beginner Robber Baron Cave located down the street in Alamo Heights. Leia Hill is also willing to help host a trip to Robber Baron Cave. See Leia Hill and Lindsey Admoski for more details! Usually we go about 6:30 p.m. one week night till about 9 or 9:30 p.m. This is a cave you should explore and work your way up in; only hazard is high CO2 sometimes, especially in the Summer.

Whirlpool Cave:

Jackie Young made an announcement for Bexar Grotto members to go to Whirlpool Cave in Austin, TX. The following weekends are scheduled for go: February 18, and weekend of February 25, 2018. The weekend of the 18th is full already according to Jackie, but there may still be a few spots left for the 25th, email Jackie Young on the Bexar Grotto email or Texas Cavers list to find out more. Or see Jill Orr after meeting or contact her to talk to Jackie.

Trip Reports:

Dr. George Veni talks about his research project and has been looking at caves around the area for the past few years and looking at different rock layers there are and cave locations and proximities. announces Robber baron cave mapping; Upper Austin Chalk rock formation; finding out that most of the caves are forming in the Upper Austin Chalk; some caves in the Cibolo Creek; working with someone on this project ; Niche Cave (1982 George Veni surveyed it, found it, it will full of trash), he recently went back last week and saw that there was hardly to no trash at all. For the first time, he could see the floor of the cave; he could see rocks all over the floor; IF the grotto is looking for a project, it might be good to go out there and dig out the rocks and see if any passage is found or uncovered. Robber Baron is at the very top of the Austin Chalk, but the caves out at Rolling Oaks Preserve on the west side, are in the Lower portion of the upper half (Austin Chalk). Interesting point: Robber Baron Cave is in the Upper Austin Chalk, however, the sinkhole isn't? The sinkhole walls look nothing like the inside of the cave, but according to geologic mapping there is Austin chalk, but the main of it is inside the cave where there are fossils and sediments.

Went out to Henderson Ranch in Spring Branch area to clean up some of the survey mess and geographic coordination location of caves; went with Marvin Miller and a few other peoples; went through files, maps;

Still has more clean up work to do out there, so he will get with Marvin to talk more about maybe setting a trip or two up there in the near future to Henderson Ranch and near CM Shovel Cave.

Survey trip to Deep Cave last weekend January 13. 14, about 230 meters was added to the cave; Teams talk about what they did in the cave. Gerry Geletske, Steve Gutting, Tom Florer, and myself were on a team but we divided into two teams to chase leads in Middle Earth. Gerry and I surveyed some loops and checked a few other leads that did not go very far. At the end of the day we surveyed into a lead at the end of the Diagonal Dance Hall that got too tight. But I saw a small hole that I stuck my head into and saw passage paralleling the tight passage. When I got into it I felt airflow and saw tracks. People had been there but had probably come from somewhere else. When we were putting the data into the computer later I had Joe Mitchell check to see if there was a surveyed passage there and there is not. That means we will need to go survey it and see where it goes. It should go up and connect somewhere near the entrance.

Gregg Williams and Ginger from Austin team – more leads too

Joe Schertl: Lead by a team with Amy Morton and Tom went back to Ghost room in the very back of cave, surveyed around the corner and found that a passage connected to another one and it was too delicate (formations)

Joe Mitchell, Lindsay, Dave, and Jill team—worked on a bunch of leads in the back of the cave; cleaned out an area, and then went down a passage which they shall never go back to again, then went to a pit that went back down to a few white rooms, and saw Tom Roger's pack. Jumper's Revenge? Room name. A room with some nice bacon. Cave 6485 meters. Warrior Label: Lindsay ripped her pants, but was super brave, never complained, and was a warrior during the brutal survey. Joe: after 12 hours after going up the entrance, joe took all packs and said dinner is calling! 😊

Deep Cave trip for beginners January 20-21, Geary Schindel and Eric Coleman put together this trip and brought a complex cave to life. Waiting to hear from people who went to hear their stories. Everyone was in awe of the cave and formations and climbing and afterimages. Geary is such a great person to go with and he speaks in geological terms and everyone was helping one another and making sure everyone was safe, lending a hand. So much fun this weekend. Grace Saw bats. Sharaum was very happy to go in the cave, and come back up and out alive! Jessie loved the cave and the experience.

Renee, Jessie, Lex, Bree,

Geary (leader) Sharaum; Mike Harris; Todd; Ross, Big Ross, Grace, Brunette haired guy (N/A) name.

Program Announcement: George Veni is presenting on the UIS Speleological topic and how the year 2021 is the year of cave! There is so much to do to help countries, cities, and economies all over the world (globally) expand the knowledge and importance of caves and karst in their area.

People are going to have to bring their own laptop when they present; Gary White is Program

George Veni is presenting tonight

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 p.m.