

Bexar Grotto

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2018

Opening

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

Present

50 + people

New Members/Visitors

4 new members/visitors

Treasury Report

Final number: \$16,134.87; 2017 taxes have been submitted;

Bexar Grotto Caving Membership: \$5.00/year per person; Family--\$7.00/year

Organization Reports

TSS: Texas Speleology Center (property in South West Austin we recently purchased for the headquarters), they had a meeting a couple of weekends ago, but moving forward there are repairs needed to be made on the house, moving things from the TSS office over to the new Texas Speleology Center, just in time because of a recent burst of a pipe for flood; nothing was ruined; glad they moved; looking for people to help repair the place; looking for people in general to lead and help.

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

TCMA: Budget meeting was this past Sunday on February 4, 2018; elected new directors, President is Joe Ranzau, (Ken Demarest, Gregg Mosier,) Linda Palit Vice President; members meeting coming up on March 24, at TSA Spring Convention, at Hill Country State Natural Area, at lunch time from Noon to 1 p.m., Rob brought a donation for the auction we are having to help support the funding and conservation of Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA). WE need anything valuable that

you may want to donate, for the live and silent auction! Please donate! Email Lindsay Admoski on the TCMA website or find her on FB. No recent or near future cave purchases yet due to getting the organization stuff to run more smoothly, but hopefully in the near future; we need money and support, too!

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: TBD

Bracken: Rick Corbell spoke for BCI's Fran Hutchins, "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". BCI Fiesta Medal; have a few left; they are \$10.00. 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. Update Leia Hill, Bennett Lee, about grotto list, etc.

New Business

Garry White: Made a proposal to the grotto regarding programs, "What I would like to do is when I send out letters to speakers, I conclude that they bring their own computer, but send their food bill over to the treasure, plus if they have traveled OUTSIDE of Bexar County areas, then we give them \$20 for gas. I would like this as a standard rule for programs. Mike motioned for the ability to pay for the guest speaker's meal and their gas; Discussion: if they travel from outside Bexar County; flat simple rule; and it was amended.

Joe Mitchell announced very last meeting on Jan. 22: "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." \$1,000 donation and 4,000 loan.??

Geary Schindel on the topic of Bathrooms for NSS:

He was at the NSS office in Huntsville, Alabama two weeks or so ago, for a committee meeting; there seems to be a problem; regarding a set of restrooms in the foyer that are important in the ball room rented, some of the contract work disappeared?, which has shut down any work on the thing. **Issue:** *NSS vs.*

Contracting company case (may have to file a lawsuit); need to raise about \$15,000 within the next 30 days, looking to see about getting some seed money. -----

Question: *Can Bexar Grotto help supply money to get the funding for the bathrooms? What money can we donate? The completion for construction of bathrooms is totaling: 15 K. Motion* was made by Jill to give a donation to the NSS for the completion of restroom project, totaling 5 k. It was **seconded**, and then there was discussion.

Discussion: *Lively discussion was going on, Look into a loan for the completion of the project; some money is included but not enough to complete the construction project; all for helping NSS most grotto members said and agree. Some disagreed that funds were not needed to donate for the project, was voted on, and majority said yes.*

Amended: *by Jill Orr, proposed the [Bexar] Grotto give \$1,000 + \$4,000 Loan {donation} that was made to motion to be paid back by December 31. 2018.*

Announcements: **The UT Grotto in Austin is having a Film Festival, submissions may be turned into Bryce Williams?, Film Festival is March 7, 2018 at 7:45 p.m. on the UT campus! They are looking for short films, maybe 5, 10, max 15 min films on caves and cave-related topics; Cave calendar for sale: \$20.00, benefit TCMA, and they are made by Bennett Lee.**

New Bexar Grotto Officers: 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,

Robber Baron Cave Announcements: Zack S. : ***“I want to try and take Lee High School students into Robber Baron Cave one last time, dates are: March 6, 7, and 8.*** If you can come and volunteer/help it would be really appreciated; this year they are going to try with about a 100 students; this is for the Lee High School kids to do some fun, cave slave work, service to open up one of the entrances again, then give them a tour afterwards; if you’re interested please let Zack S., know after the meeting or email him!

Geary Schindel on Vertical Training!: Vertical Training class—a lot of people are interested and have contacted Geary about it; so if you’re interested in getting some good vertical training, please see Geary Schindel after the meeting or email him at: gschindel@edwardsaquifer.org to confirm your interest or talk with him more about the training; see the Handout Geary printed about the Vertical training class, and requirements, dates, etc., get vertically trained and “certified” so you can go on cave trips that require vertical competence and knowledge; it doesn’t hurt to even get a refresher if you have some experience; really for new folks, and people who haven’t had any or much vertical training!

Mike Gibbons: a family who is part of the Bexar Grotto recently added a new member to the family—a new baby! Mike brought cards, so please kindly sign them and sincerely congratulate the family on the newest addition to the family and grotto! Let the big brother know he is welcomed and loved, too! Thank you Mike! The woman (wife) is from South America and apparently has land where caves are and has invited a few people to go next year hopefully to check them out; hopefully more will and can be invited; see Mike Gibbons for more info?,

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; PLEASE BUY! They are perfect gifts for friends, yourself, family, etc.

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 Orr:

The trip to Deep and Punkin Cave this weekend (Feb. 17/18) is ***officially cancelled!***

Bennett Lee needs some help out at O-9 Well [preserve] this weekend (Sat. Feb. 17) Needs help with making sure the pipe to the windmill is placed correctly down in the cave, after they drill, and maybe do some fun caving after. Note: O-9 Well is vertical, so you must have vertical compatanace, and gear. You need a wetsuit—it's a water cave! If you're interested see Bennett Lee after the meeting or email him at: Bennett@bennettlee.com. Time is TBD, but we may go out late Friday night. Email Bennett for more info.

March 4—Rehmer's Cave at 9 a.m.; room for 14 cavers; New Braunfels, TX, email Jill Orr if you're interested: jorr333@gmail.com. (need to carpool). Talk to Evelynn Mitchell as well!

(Near Bandera)--Hill Country State Natural Area karst project on Saturday, Feb. 17; ongoing ; Co-coordinators are: Dave Custard, Mark Hall ?, (he will put the names and numbers for these people on the Bexar Grotto Facebook Page soon, so check that! Its on the Facebook TSA page; In order to show up this weekend, you need to let at least one of those two gentlemen know you are going to come so they can wait for you in the parking lot or tell you what assignments you'll be given.) A number of new caves have been found on the property, some exisiting ones need surveying or resurveying, through advertisements on Bexar Grotto Facebook Page! Rob Bissett. Email him or speak to him directly if you would like to go on the trip; similar to Gov. canyon; new; this weekend enter the park and go straight to the Headquarters Center

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

March 10 and 11th (On the 2nd weekend of the month this time). Meet at 9 a.m. at the volunteer headquarters station. Gov. Canyon state natural area project. See Marvin Miller for more info on where to go and park. His email is: ***mlmiller@gvtc.com*** .

This is a great place to go caving, ridge walking, karst searching, digging, surveying, hiking, and camping.

March 23, 24, 25 TSA Spring Convention at Hill Country State Natural Area near Bandera TX; one day of scientific presentations and workshops, maybe a workshop on Sunday. (Anything from Photography, surveying, to sketching, to rigging, field excursions (presentations). This is a catered event. Camping is included in the registration! \$20 if you pre-register /per person; \$25 at gate/ per person. Bandera, TX. To find out more see Robb Bissett, or go onto the TSA Facebook Page, TSA Website, or check your emails for the Texas Cavers list. There is pre-registration through online service (ask the treasure). Important: The Convention is at the **Chapas Group Area**, if you see a lot of people there, you're probably there! There is a map too somewhere to find the area. Go to the Chapas Group area, there will be a big building there, that's where the registration will be, the presentations will be there, you can sign up for the workshops there, either Friday night or Saturday Morning! When you get into the park, just keep hanging a left, don't go in the main part of the park on the right, keep going to the far left road of park!

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.

Sue Schindel is having her BD on Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. at her house. She sent an email invitation out to the grotto, so come celebrate her BD and celebrate the

wonderful lady she is. Feb. 24, 6 p.m. Schindel House, bring drinks or dessert, but food will be kindly provided! Happy BD Sue! Check the grotto email.

Trip Reports:

Robber Baron Cave has had a couple of trips and service projects there. Mike Harris dropped by and said that there were 20 scouts there, cleaned out the natural entrance for air flow. Steve Gutting did a new member survey class in the cave recently?

Lindsay Admoski did CM Shovel Cave for the first time ever last weekend and she had a blast. This was the tank haul weekend, but she was lucky and didn't have to carry any tanks to the sumps! She highly recommends you get vertically trained and get on a trip like that next year. There was an OMG Crawl, short, muddy and cold, but fun. Water cave. CM Shovel Cave was surveyed and extended 600 feet further than before. Airspace was great.

Rob Bissett attended the National Cave Rescue Commission seminar training for eight days out at Colorado Bend State Natural Area in Texas, and he said, "I was seriously over-matched in terms of stamina by a lot of the agency fire fighters, but it was great." Lots of people and students there. He did level one. He went into caves everyday and hauled out live bodies (simulation of a cave rescue). He encourages anyone to attend because its fun, you'll learn a lot, and its important to know cave safety and rescue.

This past weekend Rob Bissett also took in around 50 scouts to Robber Baron Cave to continue digging out the natural entrance to increase airflow.

Leia Hill was invited by Geary Schindel and SA Fire Department last week to Genesis Cave to be the patient of a real-life cave rescue scenario. There were A, B, C, shifts everyday for these fire men to work with the grotto to better understand caves, how to rescue someone in a cave, and the proper techniques.

Kevin Pride made a trip report about the Austin Cave Festival this past weekend out at LadyBird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. He had a blast, learned even more about caves, and mentioned it was a really great opportunity to bring caves to the public. He helped out with some vertical training out there at the cave.

Meeting Adjournment 8:00 p.m

Presentation for tonight: Alan Montemeyor and wife, Cheryl, talked about their caving trips in Cuba recently, with a memorable cave with mushroom like formations.