

# **Bexar Grotto**

Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2018

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Bexar Grotto was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on March 26, 2018, at Chester's Hamburgers.

## **Present**

30 + people

## **New Members/Visitors**

66 Total Paid Members, please see Emily Thompson to pay your dues for this year for the Bexar Grotto!

Re-Occurring visitors and new visitors:

Michael M. (Environmental Consultant, Master Student and Geologist!); Ariana (Steve G.'s granddaughter), Jesse Chadwick; Grace; Cody and friend from Japan,

Birthdays: Gregg Mosier, Ariana (Steve G.'s granddaughter),

## **Treasury Report**

Final number: \$15,143.42 ; (see treasure Emily Thompson for more info, que.)

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

Update on the PESH Project from Mike Harris, see more info on the project/event below. "We did visit with Bill Steele this past weekend and he got us something we will be contributing our funds to, which is First Aid Medical Kits! SO with the \$1,000 we donated we are using some of that for Medical Aid Kits."

## **Organization Reports:**

TSS: [TSS has a Board Meeting on April 21, location TBD maybe Austin???, see Joe Mitchell for more info. There is a new publication, "Hypo-gene Karts of Texas".](#)

From last meeting notes: 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; N/A.

TSA: TSA had a Spring Convention this past weekend on March 23, 24, 25, at Hill Country State Natural Area outside Bandera, TX. It was a nice, fairly-large camping area; it was earlier this year so it was not so hot! (nice place to go hiking, hang out, camp, go caving possibly?) Great time had by all, great auction (silent and live), we raised close to \$6,000.00 for TCMA and they thank all who donated and helped to make this event and money! Thank you to all attendees, volunteers, organizers, and ALL! We are a caving family and community—we help each other and love each other—we rule! ☺

**Texas Cave Management Association-(TCMA):** *There was a 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). Made close to \$6K with auctions and donations! Thanks to Lindsey, Amy Morton, and all people who contributed to make the TSA Spring Convention a success!

Save the Caves Party Downtown Austin on June 16, @ 8 P.M. (No dinner, but just games and socializing) (assuming at Buffalo Billards); tickets online and at door tickets \$25.00. See Lindsey Admoski for more info. Check your grotto/Cave Tex emails!

Gregg Mosier: From this past weekend at TSA Convention, I've got the TCMA trailer at my house and has a load of chairs that were left sitting around the campfire, so if anyone is missing a chair (from this weekend) its at my house. See Gregg Mosier or email him if you think you've lost your chair!

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. Board of Governors meeting in Blacksburg, VA, weekend of March 17-18.

Bracken: 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. Continue down with trip reports with BCI and Fran Hutchins. THE BATS ARE BACK at Bracken!!! They've been back for about 2 weeks now. Fran wants the grotto to come out to have a meeting sometime, he also needs help out there with the lots of acres!! Ask Fran if you can help out with cedar clearing and other fun chores!  
FRAN HUTCHINS.

MJ had question on NCRC Scholarship: He (MJ) and Garry Donnom didn't get to participate in the NCRC this past year with the scholarship, and wondered if that rolled over to the next year? Mike Harris said that from what he understood, that it did roll over, and that the grotto paid for it. MJ said he thought he heard something like that, but wasn't for sure if it was in stone or not. Mike asked Lindsay about when she was secretary about if they discussed anything on this, and she said, "I don't think we discussed on if it would roll over or not." Everyone said they assumed it should roll over, Tom F., made a motion or so to roll it over, (MJ said that the problem was that by the time the scholarships were granted it was too late to sign up,) no one believed there needed to be a motion, because they voted to send him, they haven't sent him yet, he is still here, (Garry Donnom). MJ?

***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. Bennett said he doesn't know if the grotto needs it anymore but here is the old laptop he had for the grotto presentations. As a back up. He said it needs a charger, a Dell Charger, it has Microsoft Office 2010, which would work with office 2016. Steve said he will keep the laptop with the projector, and he will look for a charger, since he has several laptops/chargers. Needs to be a DELL charger, or compatible with

DELL. (FYI: If anyone uses PowerPoint, u can automatically save it to .pps which will play it on almost any device, media projector.

Bennett Lee: The NSS that's hosting our website for 12 dollars a year is not doing that anymore, something about a contract ending April 15, 2018, and we need to decide if we want to keep doing the website, and if we do we would need to move it to a new site. More info from Bennett, Geary, and Randy Baker next meeting. See IT Service Announcement email/attachment. Randy: The NSS is modifying their IT capabilities and they are not going to be hosting new grotto sites so I could possibly host it off my website, service. (See email attachment from Bexar Grotto on the NSS IT service, or email Randy Baker or Bennett Lee for more information). ??

Mike Harris on behalf of the Bexar Grotto asks the Treasurer, Emily, regarding to the motion made last time to the NSS, did we send a check to the NSS? She said no one spoke to her about it, or followed up with her on it. (Mike Harris says that there were some letters from Dave Hahn, in regards to some of the communication that's happened, (some of the stuff discussed: "Has the NSS received the \$1,000? The office said no. Is the NSS going to accept the loan offer? Answer was NSS and I are very grateful for the Bexar Grotto stepping up to help out. At this time it appears we do not expect to need the loan, but would like to keep this option open for the next 30 days, if that's ok with the grotto?" "IF the NSS is going to accept the loan offer, the Bexar Grotto would like something in writing from the NSS to formalize the loan agreement," and they said yes they would put something in writing if needed. And the other question was, "what was the current status of the fundraising for the completion of the construction?" Answer was, "We appear to have cash flow to complete the project; legal has went after the contractor and I have talked with a couple of contractors to finish up the project." Que. "What was the total cost of the remodel and the fix?" Answer: "The total contract cost was \$29,150.00, how much was paid to contractor? Total was: \$23,700, and how much did the contractor do? "He claims 21,000, but no materials were ordered and all ground and underground completed medal studs installed, and part of ceiling drilled or brew in." "How much money is needed to complete the work?" "They said less than \$26,000," And last statement was: "If two through four did not add up, could you explain the discrepancy?" He said, "I would assume three things: first, he underbid the job; second, work completed was more than expected, cost wise; third, he's a poor manager." Issues on the toilet up there. So based on his [Dave's] communication, they're grateful for the \$1000.00, and as far as the loan, that's currently on hold; and Mike Harris says we can discuss that later if need be, but the NSS will get back with us within 30 days if they do want to accept the loan we voted on." 30 days, dated the

25<sup>th</sup>, (Feb. 25)? So we can go ahead and send the check for a \$1000.00, and loan we can discuss if and when that pops up.”

### **New Business**

Catherine Berkley-Jones: I would like to, on behalf of, 2018 [Proyecto Espeleológico Sistema Huautla](#) (PESH) project, I would like to request a donation from the Bexar Grotto the project. The expedition this year will be leaving April 1 and will be a month long, expecting over 40 people for the course of the expedition, including Bexar Grotto member, Amy Morton. (Biologists will be attending, archeologist, cavers from Austin will be attending, Fernando will be attending again.) The expedition expenses are extensive, all cavers who are coming pay their own way, including transportation, they are charged a fee of \$15 a day, but that pays for all of their meals, gear, rental fees, transportation there at system. Frugal project! It is a very worthy cause and last year the grotto donated \$1,200 to the expedition. “I would like to ask for a donation of a \$1,000. Catherine made a request, not a motion, yet. Was discussed. Questions asked. Motion was then made after some questions for \$1,000 unrestricted funds, for the PESH trip. Discussion: Some people in grotto felt a 1,000 was too much to ask for, they asked about 500 instead. There was a vote on the amendment. It was voted on, and was amended for \$1000 for the PESH trip). For more information, see or contact Catherine Berkley-Jones of the Bexar Grotto. Also check out: <http://www.peshcaving.org> (the PESH website is great info, too)!

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, (compatibility and familiarity) (familiarity—they know everything about their computer and how everything works and where everything is, but) Compatibility –the issue is if we (Bexar Grotto) have our own computer, and someone brings their computer, there is the risk that there will be compatibility issues with their software. BTW: Office 2019 is coming out soon, and PowerPoint Viewer is discontinued in April 2018, which is the reason why we stay safe, the presenter bringing his or her 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. (Garry White says that he will not accept nor request \$20 for gas for driving from San Marcos to make a presentation or for the grotto to pay my meal for the simple reason of conflict of interest. However, the policy is before the presentation is made,

I (Garry) will email the presenter and remind him or her that they need to bring their computer, the Grotto will pay for their meal, and if they're driving in from out of Bexar County, they get \$20 for gas, and their meal will be paid for). Are these words worth it?: **Gratuity, Appreciation, Courtesy, Public Relations, and Good Will.** (This grotto could very well use some Good Will right now)!

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.??

#### **From 2 Last Meeting Info on 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:**

Garry White: He got an email from the library in Uvalde –they are having an air and space STEM Expo for grades 5-8 (school) and they emailed me about our group possibly going out there to put up a table to display about caving and karst, etc., the only problem is that its on the same day as “Cave Fest” event at Cascade Caverns. Is there anyone interested in following up on that? April 28, 2018. See Garry White if you’re interested in helping out with the School Space Stem Expo in Uvalde.

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

**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: [gshindel@edwardsaquifer.org](mailto:gshindel@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!

**T-Shirts:** See Leia for Bexar Grotto shirts!!! **Short Sleeves: \$15 ; Long Sleeves: \$20 ; Hydro Geo Shirts: \$2 ; Patches: \$5 ;)** 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. There was a discussion/motion for lowering HydroGeo Workshop t-shirts down from \$5 to \$2. Discussion about the shirts, amounts we had, and people agreed on brining hydrogeo shirts down from 5 to 2 dollars. It was motioned, discussed, amended and agreed on. Shirts motioned for 2 dollars hydro geo;

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

**Upcoming Trips:**

Jill Orr:

April 28 is Cave Awareness day Cave FEST @ cascade caverns (Marvin also posted this on an email a few weeks ago), regarding the awareness of caves and this project of “The Boerne Bypass” planning, which TX Dot plans to put a highway over/around

this area in Boerne which goes over quite a few caves and karst features. The TSS will have a table there, Bexar Grotto is going to help out, so we can represent Bexar Grotto. TCMA might be there! There will most likely be a repel/climbing demonstration later that afternoon, so contact Marvin Miller if you're interested in helping out on April 28, at cascade caverns for the cave fest cave awareness event!

\*JUNE 2: Trip has been confirmed. CM is a vertical cave so in order to get in that cave, you must be vertically trained. But there are several small, horizontal caves Trip to Joe Ezeinhauer Ranch. CM Shovel Cave and other caves can be visited. You must be vertically trained to go to CM Shovel, but Jill contacted Doris and Joe Ezeinhauer to work on a CM Shovel Cave day where it could be open to the whole Bexar Grotto, working on an overnight stay. Something about coming up Saturday morning, and possibly overnight trip, maybe. See Jill for more info. There are several caves on property we may be able to go into, but CM Shovel cave specifically is vertical and you MUST BE vertically trained and proficient to go in that specific cave, along with a wet suit. Jill doesn't have a date yet, she is working with Doris on that. She also told Joe that we would do a couple of hours of service work there, cleaning and clearing cedar trees. We would need to bring our own equipment and gear.

Jill: Also started another project where hopefully (NO promises not for sure yet) she talked to Joe Mitchell about getting into Natural Bridge Caverns, Joe has his lidar and we could maybe possibly do a trip with me and him, using the lidar, donating that to NBC and maybe opening some off-trail trips to the grotto?? No Promises! She is going to ask and find out. She proposed the idea to NBC? And they are supposed to get back to Jill. She will let us know. No dates yet. (Also depends on Joe with Lidar, but wants to try and ask for May if we do the trip with Joe Ezeinhauer in April).

Snookies Cave: Trying to do a cave trip around the second week of April. She is still in contact with Guy so there will be more info later. Probably around April 15.

Bennett: A couple years ago we explored some caves on Fraizer's Ranch, a couple miles north of CWAN), Fraizer has now found some more caves on his property and wants us to come take a look at them. None of the caves are huge, but there are a lot of them, including one which is really long in length and needs to be surveyed or is a good survey cave. **April 8, 2018. 9:15 AM --Fraizer Ranch**. He needs 2 sketchers . Trip is full; but people on wait list, Bennett will send out more details by email or so when the time gets closer and he finds out more info. Stay tuned! Email Bennett Lee for more info at: [Bennett@bennettlee.com](mailto:Bennett@bennettlee.com)

Lindsay: March 31, Robber Baron Cave Big Brothers and Big Sisters Trip (she is still talking to them and getting the details for that) but she does need a few volunteers to help with the kids, but she will send out more info later. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Lindsey

**April 7, 8 GOVERNMENT CANYON STATE NATURAL AREA: [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@gvnc.com](mailto:mlmiller@gvnc.com)** . This is a great place to go caving, ridge walking, karst searching, digging, surveying, hiking, and camping.

\*\*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.

### **Trip Reports:**

Robber Baron Cave has had a couple of trips and service projects there. More to come!

Rigging cave trip/workshop in Groundhog Cave out at Hill Country State Natural Area this past weekend. Vertical cave.

Notes written and recorded by: Leia Hill, Secretary of the Bexar Grotto, 2018,

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### **Meeting Adjournment 8:00 p.m**

**Presentation for tonight: Bennett Lee talks about vertical systems (training, frog system, Mitchell, Rope Walker, and Texas Systems).**

