

Bexar Grotto

Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2018

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Bexar Grotto was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 23, 2018, at Chester's Hamburgers.

Present:

25+ 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: Scott, Nick Stewart, Jesse Chadwick,

Birthdays: Jill Orr, Bennett Lee, Steve Gutting, Tom Rogers. Happy Birthday to y'all!!

Anniversaries/Special Events: Greg Mosier and his wife, Cheryl Mosier, are celebrating 24th wedding anniversary! Congrats to you guys...here's to many more!! Leia Hill got a job at Six Flags as a show/parade performer, actress!

Treasury Report

Final number: \$14,132.51 (see treasure Emily Thompson for more info, que.)

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

Organization Reports:

Texas Speleological Survey, (TSS): Marvin Miller, "TSS had a Director's Board Meeting on April 21, (location is the New Texas Speleology Center in Southwest Austin). There was a lot of talk about that. Not sure what else was discussed. TSS is an organization that collects cave and karst data for the State of Texas, so check out the TSS online or myself." 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, and they are glad they moved. They are looking for people to help repair the place. Looking for people in general to lead and help.

Texas Speleological Association, (TSA): Books for sale from TSS; other than that, no new news. Check out TSA website for more info or see Marvin Miller for more info.

Texas Cave Management Association-(TCMA):

Greg Mosier: We have a new preserve manager [thank goodness] for Deep and Punkin Nature Preserve out in Carta Valley, TX, and that is our own, Mr. Tom Rogers!

If you haven't been to Godwin Ranch, near Georgetown, TX, there's a Cricket Count happening, date is believed to be June 21. This is a neat property, mostly karst-featured land, fun to look around, Linda is going to double check and put it on the Bexar Grotto calendar or TCMA calendar. This is a great day

because you can get to see where the caves are. See Linda Palit for more info. Looking for squatters, properties, etc.,

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

NSS: NSS April Newsletter. There was a letter in there that was sent to the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture secretaries asking the federal government to readdress white nose syndrome policy, that was sent about 3 weeks ago, and we haven't heard anything back. There is a request for cavers to contact your representatives and to ask the secretaries to address the white nose policy on federal land and I encourage you'll to read the article, which was signed by me, Geary Schindel, and Peter Y., and Dr. Merlin Tuttle. This letter was mainly based and written by Merlin and is a spin off from his talk on how cavers are not responsible for spreading white nose syndrome, and the bats are doing a good job of spreading it themselves. 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 Bat Cave Preserve: *Bat Loco* is on August 14, 2018, from 6-9 pm. Camden St. Bridge, in San Antonio! According to Sue Schindel she looked at it on the San Antonio 300 website or something, and she found that it says August 14. Come to that! It's a free event and supports and talks about Bats. BCI (Bat Conservation International) will be there and Fran Hutchins is the director for the Bracken Cave Preserve. BTW: Bats are back. Vertical repelling is in session at Bracken under supervision of Geary Schindel and Fran Hutchins. Fran Hutchins is a busy man and needs help with chores out on the preserve and his 3,500 acres. Contact him to come out to do some needed chores out there. Or ask Rick Corbell.

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 Lindsey 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 :

From previous meetings this year: Bennett Lee 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). ??

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, (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?! : Gratitude, 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: 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!

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:

This Saturday, April 28, 2018, is Cave Fest, AKA, Cave Awareness Day, out at Cascade Caverns in Boerne, TX. (Back story...there’s a proposal to put a bypass route around Boerne, and one of the routes is tentative to cross over portions of Cascade Caverns property and sink. So several months ago, people put together this project day called cave fest or save the caves, raising money for the foundation. There will be various groups out there, including TSS and Bexar Grotto. Several people from TCMA/Bexar Grotto have offered to help Marvin Miller man a booth out there this Saturday to help sell books, and talk about Bexar Grotto, TSS, and TCMA, and the importance of caves and karst in our areas! IF YOU have already emailed or talked with Marvin Miller about helping him out this weekend, please be there by at least 9:15 am, or your scheduled specific time! Anyone is welcome to come out to help, and support Bexar Grotto, and talk with people. Garry White of Bexar Grotto is going to set up a rappelling demo, hopefully that works out! It starts at 11 am or so. See emails from Garry White and Marvin Miller. Actual Event is from 10 am-8 pm.

*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 are visit able. 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).

May 12, Saturday ONLY! 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@gvtc.com. This is a great place to go caving, ridge walking, karst searching, digging, surveying, hiking, and camping. Last trip to Gov. canyon until October

Geary wants to visit some caves up in Edwards County and try to do some dye tracing. Not sure on dates yet, but you must be vertically proficient and have wetsuits. See Geary Schindel for more info.

There is a small trip for dye tracing with a UTSA student at CWAN. Date is TBD, but he is going to talk with this student and CWAN to coordinate a date and time, more info. Small trip, only 3-5 people probably. (Leia wants to go)!

May 5, a dig trip at LaChance Sinkholes in Northeast New Braunfels. May meet a parking lot of Forum at 8:30 am to carpool and try to arrive by 9 am. Bennett will send out more information by email and at next grotto meeting. So stay tuned.

**Lindsey Adamoski 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 Adamoski 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!

Snookies Cave trip last weekend, set up by Trip Chair Jill Orr. Over 10 people came. Great caving trip and cave!

Leia is going to visit Antioch Cave in South Austin this coming week!

Meeting Adjournment 8:00 p.m

Tonight's Program: Ross Webb (Big Ross), member of Bexar Grotto, shares his adventures mining underground and construction tunnels and caves!

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

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