



## **Bexar Grotto Minutes for the September 24, 2018 Meeting**

The September 24 meeting of the Bexar Grotto was held at Chester's Party Room which is located at 1006 NE Loop 410. The meeting was opened at 7:02 PM by President Mike Harris. Club members wished Linda Palit a very Happy Birthday.

**Visitors:** The club welcomed Joshua Zamarippa and Steven from Montana who were attending their first meeting.

**Treasurers Report:** Club Treasurer Emily Thompson reported our current balance.

### **Organizational Reports:**

**TCMA:** Linda Palit and Lindsey Adamoski reported that donations of cave related artwork (including sculpture, photography, needlework etc.) were needed for the upcoming auction at the Texas Cavers Reunion in October. The theme of TCR parade will be Space. Attendees are reminded to bring cash for on-site registration.

**NSS:** Geary Schindel reported that the 2019 NSS Convention will be held in Cookeville, Tenn. on June 17 through the 21. He also invited everyone to attend the NSS New Year's Bat Ball.

**BCI:** Rick Corbell said that the bats at Bracken are ready to return to Mexico. BCI has discovered White Nose in caves in the Texas Panhandle. Rick reported that the Grotto potluck dinner at Bracken was a success and that we will probably have this event again next summer.

**Committees:** Grotto Headlamps- David Adamkowski said that the grotto lights are on backorder.

### **Announcements:**

David Adamkowski – There will be a cave dig at Robber Baron Cave Wed. Sept. 26. at 6:30 PM. The objective is to dig and haul our dirt.

Linda Palit announced that there are 3 openings on the TCMA Board of Directors. The purpose of the TCMA is to preserve, maintain, and find new caves.

Linda Palit said that she will reserve 2 slots at the NCRC for grotto reps to attend and be trained in cave rescue.

Tom Brown announced that the Texas Cave Rescue Competition will be held on Saturday October 6 at Garner State Park.

Emily said that the Post Office box for Bexar Grotto needs to be paid for.

**Old Business:**

**NCRC Training:** Linda Palit announced the 4-day training course offered by NCRC in February 2019. There are gear and skill requirements that must be met if you want to participate. Anyone interested in scholarships to represent Bexar Grotto for this training is asked to contact Linda Palit or Mike Harris.

**New Business:**

**NSS Ad.** Tom Florer shared information that he had received from the NSS asking if our grotto would like to purchase an ad to be placed in the NSS Members Manual. Ad prices range from \$50 (small) to \$1,500 (back cover) and are to help defray publishing costs. A motion was made by Jill Orr for the grotto to purchase a \$50 ad. Jill offered to design the ad layout. Marvin Mitchell seconded the motion and discussion followed. The grotto voted to table this motion until we receive more information about the ad.

**Upcoming Trips:**

Jill Orr announced a trip to Government Canyon on November 4, 2018. The trip will be limited to 12 people and will survey Big Dome Cave. Contact Marvin Miller to reserve a spot.

Marvin Miller announced dates for the Government Canyon Karst Project. The first work trip will be on October 13 and 14, and the next one will take place on November 3 and 4. Camping is available for those wishing to stay overnight.

Mike Harris reminded members that the annual Texas Caver Reunion will take place at Paradise Canyon on October 19 through the 21.

**Trip Reports:**

Ross reported on a trip that he and members of his school took to Robber Baron. The cave was muddy, and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Mike Harris for leading the trip.

Marvin said that MJ, Bennett, Pam, and Aaron visited the Ostermeyer Ranch and checked out 3 caves. Surveying was limited because the caves were sumped.

Dr. Mio Kitano told us about a trip that she took to 09 Cave with the Houston Grotto. They rescued a large Coachwhip Snake from inside the cave and released it on the surface.

Geary went to Medina County and located a 75-foot pit but did not enter it.

Dr. George Veni and Tom Brown went to Robber Baron to check out the work completed 15 years ago. There is concern over erosion undercutting some of the large rocks placed around the upper edge of the sinkhole. The problem is being accelerated by drainage coming in from the road. It was suggested that a berm be built to prevent this. Geary suggested stabilizing the entrance pit first due to the difficulty in getting heavy equipment into the sinkhole. George suggested that the grotto explore grants and work with TCMA to address the problem of funding for repairs. Ross, Greg, and Mike will form a committee to look for solutions. George told us about his trip to the Eurospeleo Conference in Austria.

**Programs:**

- Oct. 8                      Leia Hill                      Aggitis (Maaras) River cave in Drama, Greece
- 22                      Annalisa Peace              Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
- Nov. 12 Members are asked to bring pictures that could be used for our Grotto Christmas card.

The motion to adjourn was made by Linda Palit and the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.