



Bexar Grotto Minutes for the October 8, 2018 Meeting

The October 8 meeting of the Bexar Grotto was held at Chester's Party Room located at 1006 NE Loop 410. The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by Grotto President Mike Harris. Club members wished Ken a Happy Birthday. There were no visitors or guests.

Treasurer's Report: (sent in by text) Grotto expenses were \$ 140 to pay for the post office mailbox.

Organizational Reports:

TSS: Marvin Miller has a variety of books for sale.

TSA: Rob Bisset reported that projects are being kicked off at Government Canyon, Colorado Bend, and Hill Country Natural Area. Anyone wishing to volunteer on the various projects can contact the Team Leaders. TSA is also looking for candidates for the upcoming Officer Elections.

TCMA: Candidates are needed to run for Board slots for the upcoming year. A meeting will be held at the Texas Caver Reunion at noon.

NSS: Geary Schindel reminded members that the NSS will be having its annual Bat Ball at the NSS headquarters in Huntsville Ala. On Dec. 31. Cost for the event is \$30.00 which covers food and drinks.

Announcements:

David Adamkowski updated members on progress in ordering 25 headlamps for the grotto. He directly contacted Petzl and the company gave him a good price. We should receive them in 4 weeks.

Alan Montemayor announced that he had batteries for sale.

Joann DeLuna announced that Grotto T-Shirts are for sale.

Old Business:

Tom Florer informed the Grotto about details on ads to be published in the upcoming NSS Members Manual.

This motion was tabled at the last meeting. The purpose of buying the ad would be to show support for the NSS and to help defray printing costs. Ads can be purchased in a variety of sizes and costs. There was discussion on what size would be best, and Jill Orr made a motion to spend \$125.00 on the NSS ad. Marvin Miller seconded the motion and Grotto members unanimously voted to accept the motion. Jill and Tom will work together on the ad.

The Chuck Steen Award will be presented at the upcoming Texas Caver Reunion. The award is to recognize outstanding new cavers. Mike Harris, Bennett Lee, Geary Schindel, and Alan Montemayor will meet at the conclusion of this meeting to decide on a nominee from Bexar Grotto. Kurt Menking suggested giving our nominee for the Chuck Steen Award a copy of the NSS book "Caving Basics".

New Business:

Alan Montemayor gave members information on the proposed Boerne Loop which will negatively impact natural areas, springs, sinkholes, and caves in the area. After much discussion it was decided that Alan will head a committee to keep members informed about progress of this project as well as to let us know times and dates of upcoming meetings. Individuals are encouraged to voice their private concerns voice over the environmental impact of this project.

New Business: (Cont)

Kurt Menking brought up concerns about a developer's planned high density subdivision which will be located near Honey Creek Cave. Plans are for treated sewage from the subdivision to be drained directly into Honey Creek. A public meeting about this project will be on October 17 at the GVTC Auditorium on 3151 and Hwy 46. Kurt volunteered to work with Alan to keep Grotto members updated on these projects.

New Business cont.

Geary Schindel made a motion that the Grotto pay for a year's membership in the NSS for the Bexar Grotto nominee for the Chuck Steen Award. Garry White seconded the motion. It was unanimously passed by Grotto members.

Upcoming Trips:

David Adamkowski announced that there would be a Robber Baron Dig this Wed. October 10 at 6:30 PM.

Jill Orr said that December 8 is the tentative date for the Spring Creek trip. She is also working on arranging a trip to Whirlpool during Thanksgiving week.

Marvin Miller reminded members that the Government Canyon Project dates were October 13 and 14.

Marvin also announced that on November 4 there would be a trip to Big Dome cave to survey and clean up the cave. The trip will be limited to 12 people.

Mio Kitano informed members about a Ladies Night Under which will take place this Friday October 12.

Sue Schindel announced that our Annual Christmas Party will be on Saturday December 15. It will be at Pot Luck Dinner and there will be a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Participants are asked to bring gifts in the \$25.00 range.

Mike Harris reminded members that the Texas Caver Reunion will be at Paradise Canyon on October 18- 21.

The TSA Project at Colorado Bend is scheduled for the second weekend of every month.

Trip Reports:

Rob Bisset reported on the scout trip to Deep and Punkin Cave. He expressed concern over Trip Leaders not emphasizing safety and not correctly monitoring activities in the caves. He will offer Trip Leader training to address these issues.

Jill Orr also expressed concern over participants on grotto trips not listening to the Trip Leaders and wanted more training on safety and cave preservation. Jill will work on a pamphlet addressing safety concerns.

Nigel Aung-Myint reported on the Hydro Geo Conference.

Geary schindel reported on finding a new cave and will organize a future trip to explore it.

Mike Harris reminded members to be careful where they park and to make sure that their vehicles are locked as George Veni's truck was burglarized during our last meeting.

Grotto Program:

Leia Hill presented "Cave of the Aggiti's River (Maaras) in Drama Greece"

October 22 Annalisa Peace of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance will present.

Members are reminded to bring their cave photos that could be used for the Grotto Christmas card to the November 12 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

Minutes submitted by Joann DeLuna: Bexar Grotto Secretary