

# Minutes of the 2014 GSS Meeting

The 2014 meeting was called to order by Chairman Marty Abercrombie at 10:30 A.M. on the Saturday May 3. Marty welcomed all guest in addition to giving a thank you to E.T. Davis (caretaker of Fricks Cave) and the Southeastern Cave Conservancy.

## Old Business

A Fricks Cave resurvey update was given by Brent Aulenbach. Brent indicated the survey was on hold because of rains; however, he indicated a dry summer was hoped for so the survey work and push might continue. As described to the members, all known cave was surveyed with a breakout hoped for.

The Byers Cave resurvey continues. An update was given by Marty Abercrombie. Marty indicated trips are routinely running 24 to 30 hours. The cave has been re-surveyed as far as you can generally go to the west. There will be shorter trips mopping up leads, etc during 2014. Dry weather may present further opportunities.

A discussion of the dome climb push in Alabama-Georgia Cave ensued. Shane Synder was leading the climb. The climb is estimated as 80 feet plus or minus. (Secretary's note) It was not stated when the push would continue.

In regards to the printing of the Bulletin, Brian Williamson asked all members to consider submitted material for publication including not only articles, completed maps, etc. but also exploration logs and surveys that may not be 100% complete. There was also discussion regarding the Archives of the GSS. The Archives are currently housed with Brent and Nancy Aulenbach at their residence. It was noted that each known cave has a file. The members were encouraged to take advantage of the Archives by contacting the Aulenbach's to schedule a time to review the material their material of interest.

With regards to the GSS T-shirt, there was some general discussion that a less complex version of the artwork might be developed to make the screen printing less costly and easier to reproduce. Daniel Briedis indicated that he would be glad to assist such an effort through local providers.

The electronic archives were briefly discussed. Carl Anderson (not present) with assistance from Brent Aulenbach is still in charge of the electronic files. Brent indicated that we still need updated GPS locations of entrances. Brent encouraged members to submit same using the form and application on the GSS website. You can also email the information to Brent at the address in the Bulletin. Brent mentioned that we had our first sandstone talus cave submitted from near Covington, Georgia.

## New Business

Paul Aughey gave the Treasurer's report. Paul reported \$385 in ending balance for May 2014 following income of \$1,168, expenses of \$1,628, plus \$274 in cash on hand for a grand total of \$659 currently. There was a motion to donate \$100 to the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, which passed unanimously. Marty asked for a received a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was approved.

Marty asked that the 2013 minutes be considered. Following consideration, a motion was made to adopt the 2013 minutes. The motion was approved.

A discussion ensued with regards to the timing of the annual membership. In order to maintain consistency, Paul Aughey made a motion to move the membership period from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. A discussion continued as to how the TAG Fall Cave-In memberships would be handled. The discussion generally revolved around the membership being credited to the current year and Bulletin. It was noted the period would be several months old by that time; however, the annual membership from the date of the official meeting discussed with general agreement. A vote was held on Paul's motion, which passed.

As a prelude to a presentation by Andy Zellner of a web-based system the Alabama Cave Survey (ACS) uses, a discussion ensued regarding the virtues (and downside) of a combining state surveys. The discussion ranged over several topics including the need for good security should data become web based, the efficiencies of combining surveys' efforts, the fact there could still be separate surveys while combining some efforts. Andy proceeded to give a laptop based demonstration of the ACS systems and procedures.

The discussion of the preceding paragraph continued. It was discussed as to whether a motion to combine efforts would be timely. A motion was made by Doug Strait. Much discussion took place. It was the general consensus that such a combination was intriguing; however, the motion may be premature with more discussion needed between the surveys. Action on the motion was suspended through an amendment to the original motion offered by Nancy Aulenbach. The amendment to suspend was passed by voice vote.

The election of new officers was considered next. Roger Olmstead made a motion for Nancy Aulenbach to serve as the new Chair. The motion for Nancy as Chairwoman was seconded then passed through acclamation. Nancy Aulenbach made a motion for Marty Abercrombie to be Vice-Chair. The motion for Marty as Vice-Chair was seconded and passed through acclamation. A motion was made for Brent Aulenbach to be Treasurer. The motion for Brent to be Treasurer was seconded then passed through acclamation. Finally, a motion was made for Brian Williamson to be Secretary. The motion for Brian Williamson to be Secretary was seconded and passed through acclamation.

New business was closed.

For a meeting after the meeting, the members were invited to visit the Lula Land Trust. A short discussion ensued on the visit, area and Land Trust rules.

Being no further questions or discussion the meeting was adjourned.