

BEXAR FACTS

newsletter of the Bexar Grotto

Bexar Grotto Officers
2006

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Chairman

Joe Ranzau
joe@oztotl.com

Vice-Chair-Programs

Kurt Menking
kmenking@bcad.org

Vice-Chair-Trips

Rob Bisset
bissetr@zachry.com

Secretary

Sara DuBose
sissyweed@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Cindy Perez
cyperez@saisd.net

Bexar Facts Editor

Joann DeLuna
jbpdeluna@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Bracken: Bob Cowell

Gov.Canyon: Marvin Miller

I.C.S. Conv: George Veni

Punkin & Deep: Geary Schindel

Robber Baron: Joe Mitchell

T.C.M.A.: Linda Palit

T.S.A.: Joe Ranzau

T.S.S.: George Veni

The Bexar Grotto is dedicated to furthering the sport and science of caving through exploration, surveying, training in proper safety techniques, and encouraging cave preservation and conservation. We encourage fellowship for cavers and are a contact point for people that are interested in learning more about caves. We are an internal organization of the National Speleological Association and the Texas Speleological Association. Meetings are at 7 pm on the second and fourth Monday of the month at Chester's Hamburgers Party Room located at 16609 San Pedro on U.S. 281. The logo used for this newsletter was created by Joe Ivy.

Upcoming Grotto Activities

Bracken Work Night: September 29 (Fri.) We've had rain, so there will be lots of mowing to do. The grotto lock will go on the gate at 6 PM. Call Bob Cowell if you need info.

Logan's Cave: September 30 (Sat.) If it's not already maxed out, call Rob Bisset to go on this Grotto Trip with James Loftin. The trip is limited to 10.

TSA Vertical Training Workshop: September 29- October 1 (Fri.-Sun.) at Bear Creek Scout Reservation near Hunt. The long awaited, much anticipated training session will feature both Basic and Intermediate courses. You will need to bring 25 feet of 1 inch tubular climbing webbing (strong enough to hoist an elephant or two), 2 locking carabineers, leather gloves, caving or climbing helmet with chin strap, and boots. The cost is a mere \$20. Please sign up in advance as there are a limited number of slots available. Let Geary know that you're coming at gschindel@mindspring.com

Bracken Karst Survey Project: September 30 (Sat.) We will meet at Bracken at 8:30 A.M. and survey oak and cedar groves, sinkholes and caves. Contact Fran Hutchins at fhutchins@satx.rr.com or at 512-848-9404. Work will continue on Saturday November 4th and December 9th.

ICS Film Assistance October 1-4 (Sun.-Wed.) Help is needed for the promotional video for the International Congress of Speleology that will be held in Kerrville in 2009. Cavers are needed to assist as sherpas, models and guides. You'll also get to visit Deep, Punkin, Kickapoo and other West Texas caves. Contact Linda Palit at lkpalit@sbcglobal.net if you'd like to volunteer.

TCR Work trip: October 7 (Saturday) TCR Prep at Honeycreek Ranch. Work will continue on Cedar cutting as well as a variety of projects. Contact Alan Cobb for details.

Government Canyon Karst Project: October 8 (Sunday) 9 AM. There are caves to survey and several promising sinkhole and cave digs. Camping is available if you contact Marvin in advance. To get there: Go to the intersection of U.S. 16 and Loop 1604 in northwest Bexar County. Drive 2 miles north on U.S. 16 to the third traffic light and turn left onto FM 1560 (There's a Shell station on that corner). Follow 1560 for 3 miles to Galm Road. Turn right on Galm Road and drive 2 miles to the sharp turn in the road. The gate to GCSNA is straight ahead. Enter at the gate and then take the first right. There is an unlocked gate that will need to be opened and closed behind you. Continue to the ranch house where we will meet at 9 AM. If you need more information contact Marvin at mlmiller@gvtc.com

Bexar Grotto Meeting: October 9 (Mon.) Keep up with the latest in caving. The meeting starts at 7 PM in Chester's Party Room on 281 N.

Colorado Bend TSA Project: October 13-15 (Fri.-Sun.) Our goal is to locate, survey and map all caves on the 5,400+ acre property. There will be something for everyone, including surveying, ridgewalking and digging. For information e-mail Rafal at rafal_13@hotmail.com

29th Annual Texas Cavers' Reunion: October 20-22 (Fri.-Sun.) at Honeycreek. If you only go to one event this year make sure that this is it! Friday Night will feature the Fabulous Fish Fry and Food Frenzy sponsored by none other than us! (Want to volunteer? We need lots of help!) Saturday competitions will include the Speleolympics, Cable Ladder Climbing, and Rope Climbing. Remember to bring your eating utensils for the Great Feast and afterwards we'll dance to the ever popular Terminal Siphons. It's a weekend packed with fun-filled events, great speleovendors, and a chance to see friends from all over the state. Visit the website at www.oztotl.com/tcr for all of the details.

Announcements

Wanted !!! A willing volunteer to serve as the Treasurer for T.S.A. If you want to run for office (Treasurer or other) contact Mark Alman as soon as possible to get your name on the ballot!

TSA is sponsoring a Design Contest for a **NEW TSA T-Shirt!!!** All designs must be submitted to Mark Alman by October 19th, and will be voted on at the TCR. Contact Mark at mark.alman@l-3com.com for details.

Bexar Grotto Meeting Minutes

Sept 11, 2006

By Sara DuBose

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at Chester's Party room.
There was no Treasurers Report

Committee Reports:

Bracken: Bob Cowell said that G.I.s from Polis Guest House at Fort Sam Houston and their families will be at Bracken on Sept 27th and Oct 10th. Bob invited grotto members to please come and help out by talking about the cave, answering questions and visiting with the G.Is. Bob needs a contact with a port-a-john company to possibly get a handicap toilet at Bracken for these dates. There will be cutting cedar this weekend and supervisors are needed. September dates include: Sept. 15th is a work night, Sept. 17th Grotto Volunteer Appreciation Party at the DeLuna's at 1:00 PM, Sept. 22nd is 4H club and volunteer fire department, Sept. 29th is work night, Sept. 30th is the Karst Survey. This project includes ridgewalking.

Honeycreek: There will be a cedar cutting trip on Sat, Sept 16th. Allan Cobb is starting to prepare things for TCR. There will be an additional work weekend on October 7th and 8th. Honeycreek Cave will be available after working if people are interested. Let Kurt or Linda know if you are planning to camp.

Government Canyon SNA: Marvin Miller announced that the next trip will be on Sunday Oct 8.

Deep and Punkin: Lots of bats and bees, TCMA authorized money to improve the property which will include a latrine and new floors.

TCMA: There was a board meeting on the Sept. 10th in Austin. TCMA is still looking for caves to buy. They are currently working on the Camp Bullis contract. 'Passages' will be coming out for TCMA's 20th birthday/anniversary. A Robber Baron work weekend is scheduled for Sept. 23rd beginning at 8 AM. The fence is completed and half of the second entrance is dug out. Joe Mitchell is scheduling trips for Robber Baron, and if you are willing to lead trips please notify him. The next work weekend will be the 28th of Oct. and a Trinity group will be coming. TCMA received \$7,000 to finish the project from LIP. Amazing Maze needs a new gate, and the weld at O'9 Well needs to be fixed.

TSS: George is traveling the world yet again.

TCMA: Needs someone to run for the office of Treasurer. If you are interested in running for the position please let them know ASAP.

ICS: The weekend of Sept 29th thru Oct 4th will be spent working on the ICS promotional video.

Old Business: Our webpage needs to be updated.

New Business: There will be cole slaw at the fish fly (it will not be fried).

Is anybody interested in going on the trip to Mexico over Thanksgiving? Please contact Linda Palit if you are interested in going to the Golondrinas area.

Vertical Training Sessions will be on the off Monday's and rotate between Linda, Joe and Evelyn, and Allan M's house.

Trip Reports:

Kurt -- took a small group of folks into Robber Baron this past weekend for a quick trip. The cave was very dry, and sediment was built up in spaces it had not been before. The air was not bad until the domed passage. Kurt also did a bit of cave diving in Honeycreek and saw a lot of salamanders.

Fran -- went into Well cave on Friday night, threw some folks into that wanted to come to TCR that weren't cavers, so now they can come.

Joe M. -- went glacier caving in Alaska, shaft pits that go down on the glacier, lowered in on a rope and then you climb back out using your ice picks and crampons. One was a 150 shaft with a waterfall in it. Also did a serpentine style ice cave.

Upcoming Trips:

October 8, Sunday only Government Canyon contact Marvin Miller for details.

Sept 30, trip to Logan's on Saturday. Contact Rob Bissett if interested, only 10 folks allowed. Other trips are possible out there as well.

Vertical Training Sessions at Linda's house, anytime after 5 PM. Linda will have the BBQ grill out, so you can bring stuff to eat. There will have be a sign up sheet to better organize locations at the next grotto meeting.

There will be a trip to Golandrinas, Mexico over Thanksgiving. Let Linda know if you are interested in going.

Program: Kurt Menking; slides from Randy Waters
Meeting adjourned: Rob Bissett