

TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF WINTER TSA BOG MEETING, 26 January 2003

(Convened at Bracken Bat Cave, Comal County, Texas)

Present: Terry Holsinger, Chairman; Christi Bennett, Vice-Chairman; Jerry Atkinson, Secretary; Joe Ranzau, Treasurer.

TSA Members in attendance: Linda Palit (BG); Logan McNatt (UTG); Jim Kennedy (UTG); Jay Jorden (DFWG); Bill Mixon (UTG); and Shannon Summers (ASS).

The meeting convened at Bracken Bat Cave from 10:45 AM to 1:00 PM. The minutes of the last TSA meeting were not read as Past-Secretary Ranzau did not bring them.

Past-Chairman's Report : (Kennedy) Kennedy has filed the TSA's IO report to the NSS and a copy is in the files. Kennedy will deposit miscellaneous TSA files with the Secretary for archiving.

Vice-Chairman's Report : (Bennett) Date and location of TSA Convention have been set. Will be located at Cascade Caverns on the first weekend in May. The Bexar Grotto is hosting the event and Bob Cowell has been responsible for most of the location logistics. The estimated costs have not been calculated but are expected to be low. Salon judges have not been selected yet but will be discussed at the next Bexar Grotto meeting. It was suggested that pre-registration be used with a mid-April deadline established. Kennedy volunteered to create a flyer which will be sent to the Texas Caver and posted on CaveTex.

Approximately 30 people attended the weekend's Bracken Bat Cave Cleanup.

Secretary's Report : (Atkinson) Atkinson has organized all the past TSA records by year and topic. All TSA minutes have been compiled into a single notebook that dates back to 1962. Kennedy suggested that a listing of all past and present TSA officers be posted on the TSA website.

Treasurer's Report : (Ranzau) Past financial statements of the organization are still being located and will be ordered from the Credit Union. The approximate \$800 balance remaining in the Credit Union will be closed out and deposited in the main account at Compass Bank.

As of October 2002, the TSA has a total of \$16,268.70 in cash assets, including \$2345.76 in the Land Trust. The Compass Bank accounts consist of \$6071.77 in checking, and \$7054.89 in savings. The Credit Union accounts consist of \$371.88 in checking, and \$423.40 in savings.

Recent activity included the movement of \$4220.00 to the Land Trust from the following sources: 1.) \$4000 from the Compass Bank savings account per the motion passed at the last TSA meeting 2.) \$101 from the Bustamante Project, and 3.) \$119 from the last year's budget directives.

A motion was made to purchase QUICKEN software in the TSA's name. The motion passed unanimously.

Travis Kinchen is setting up a membership information and online service page on the TSA website.

Committee Reports:

Publication : The Chair position is open.

TSA Bookstore : (McNatt) Sales from the last TCR totaled \$523.45 of which \$486 were deposited 16 January 2003. There is presently \$105 in petty cash. McNatt, *et al*, moved approximately 14,000 TSA publications from Bill Mixon's house to the TSS office for storage. It was noted that the Texas Caver editor needs to send (4) copies of the Texas Caver to the NSS, SpeleoDigest, and American Caving Accidents editors. Exchanges should be sent to the Secretary for filing.

(A short recess was called to remove various mongrels from the meeting tent)

Extra 2002 Texas Cavers will be sent to McNatt.

Ranzau made a motion to send the forthcoming 2003 January issue of the Texas Caver to all 200 members that were on the 2002 membership list. The motion passed by general consensus. We are presently down to about 100 mailings of the Texas Caver. It was suggested that the next issue contain a membership signup and editorial explaining the present Texas Caver situation. It was noted that this needs to happen quickly. Ranzau volunteered to expedite.

Texas Caver Report : (Holsinger reporting in Don Arburn's absence) Approximately ½ of the January issue is typeset and ready. Don has been busy with work.

Remaining 2001 Texas Caver Issues : (Kennedy) Becky reportedly has (1) issue typeset and Tim Stich has volunteered to help typeset the remaining issues. A short discussion ensued on the history of the 2001 editorship woes. It was decided to produce a combined 2001 issue of the Texas Caver that includes all unpublished material submitted to the publication for that year. If it is not possible to recover the material that Becky possesses, then a solicitation will be posted on CaveTex for all authors to resubmit their unpublished material to the TSA. Kennedy volunteered to compile and perform layout for the combined 2001 issue. It will be mailed to all current and past 2001 TSA members on record.

Web Editor : (Mikelski not present) The BraveNet account has been closed. The TSA is receiving approximately \$60 per quarter from the Café Express online store sales, and about \$4 per quarter from the Amazon.com site sales. The TSA website has been moved and is presently hosted from England. The TSA pays \$90 per year for host server costs. It was noted that the TSA owns the TSA website. It was also noted that the website design needs to be changed.

Member's Manual : (Bennett) Plan to compile the manual after the 1QTR membership drive. It was suggested that the deadline for inclusion in the manual be set for convention time in May. The Membership Committee, consisting of the Treasurer, Secretary, Editor, and Travis Kinchen, are responsible for the compilation of the manual. A June 2003 publication target is planned.

Conservation : (vacant) No report.

Safety and Rescue : (vacant) No activity or report. Chair position is open.

Constitution : Articles of Incorporation were drafted by Terri Whitfield in July of 2002. Consensus of the Board was that the TSA is not ready, nor necessarily needs to incorporate as a non-profit organization in the near-term. It was noted that the TSA may find it advantageous to incorporate at some future time.

Potential Amendment : (Holsinger) Holsinger made a proposed Bylaw amendment for staggered 2 year terms for the officers. Ensuing discussion noted that such long terms could pose a significant burnout potential. It was suggested that only the Chairman and Treasurer positions be changed to 2 year terms. It was noted that the amendment would aide in preserving leadership continuity. It was decided to discuss the proposed amendment before the next BOG meeting where it would be formally proposed. It was noted that all Bylaw motions require at least 30 days prior written notice to the membership before a vote can be called. The March issue of the Texas Caver was targeted for publishing of the amendment proposal. Holsinger will expedite.

Research Grant Committee : (new ad hoc committee) Holsinger proposed that a new committee be established to research grant and fund monies available for caving related activities.

Committee not populated and enthusiasm was low.

Project Committee : Consensus of the Board was to disband the committee.

Internal Organization Reports :

ASS : New officers recently elected : Alan Blevins, Chairman; Amy Spaulding, Secretary; Jenni Hrobar, Treasurer. Only about 10 members at present due to graduation.

Bexar : Meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Michael Cunningham, Chairman; Christina Vail, Secretary; Cindy Perez, Treasurer. Approximately 50 members.

Central Texas Grotto : Reportedly nearly defunct after Pat Copeland's untimely death.

DFWG : Meets the 4th Wednesday of the month. Published the Oztotl newsletter bimonthly. Approximately 50 members.

Galveston : An ephemeral group based out of Tom Illiffe's biospeleology class at TAMU in Galveston. Some activity at Spring Creek Cave by group during last year.

GHG : Has a new website and recently elected new officers : Kevin McGowan, Chairman; Jessica Snyder; Vice-Chairman; Emily McGowan, Secretary-Treasurer and Editor.

LAG : No report. Grotto is alive and well based on the reports posted on their website

Maverick : New officers elected recently. Grotto is alive and well. Publishes a regular newsletter called the *Maverick Bull*.

NTSS : Still active. The group no longer publishes a newsletter. 14 members at present.

PBSS : No report. Assumed to be alive and well.

SWTOCC : Meets every Monday of the month. Large membership at present.

UTG : Meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month. No recent publications. Approximately 50 dues paid members.

Projects :

Bustamante : Requested an accounting of the Land Fund.

CBSP : Still going strong. Present emphasis is on data entry. Trips scheduled for 2nd Saturday of the month.

Kimble/Uvalde : Inactive.

Powell's Cave : Marvin Miller is drafting portions of the map.

Proposed Kickapoo State Natural Area Project : Travis Scott and Kurt Menking are proposing to resurrect the old Kickapoo Project.

Affiliated Organizations :

AMCS : Is peddling publications at the meeting.

TCC : No report.

TCMA : Robber Baron Cave work weekend scheduled for 1st weekend of every month until work is complete. Presently clearing trees in preparation for removing and replacing the entrance bunker. Plan to excavate the entrance area down to the old natural entrance.

TCR : No report.

TSS : Board meeting postponed to 15 February 2003 due to conflict with Winter TSA BOG meeting.

Submitted by Gerald L. Atkinson.