

# TEXAS SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF TSA BUSINESS MEETING

21 January 2006

(Convened at J.J. Pickle Research Center, Austin)

**Officers Present:** John Brooks, Chairman; Kara Ditmar, Vice-chairman; Andy Gluesenkamp, Secretary; Michael Cicherski, Treasurer.

**TSA Members in Attendance:** Jerry Atkinson (BG), Jan Campbell (WUSS), Terry Holsinger (UTG), Jay Jordan (DFWG), Bill Mixon (UTG), Bill Russell (UTG), Paul Unger (MCFK), George Veni (BG), Terri Whitfield (UTG).

The meeting convened from 10:30 AM to 14:15 PM. The minutes from the TSA Business meeting held on 16 October 2005 at the Texas Cavers' Reunion at Flat Creek Ranch were accepted as submitted by the outgoing Secretary.

**Chairman's Report:** (Brooks) John is happy to be a part of the new board and looks forward to making improvements.

**Vice-Chairman's Report:** (Ditmar) Kara voiced some concern about the current state of the TSA but is optimistic that things will improve.

**Secretary's Report:** (Gluesenkamp) Andy thanked Jerry Atkinson for handing over his copious files in both digital and paper formats and he is looking forward to serving as Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Cicherski) Michael submitted a written report on the financial status of the TSA as of 3 January 2006. The TSA has total cash assets of \$18,975.78 including \$8,275.28 in the Operating Account, \$3,642.01 in the Savings Account, and \$7,058.49 in the Land Fund. Year-to-date income was \$6,490.37 while expenses for the year were \$6340.15, resulting in a net income of \$320.36. Michael noted that the TSA Land Fund was growing at a very slow pace and urged those present to consider the following issues:

1. Alternative investment strategies should be explored for the TSA Land Fund. The TSA Land Fund trustees need to meet and review the current status of the account. Questions regarding various investment options need to be addressed.
2. Membership dropped by nearly 10% last year. A membership drive might bring those "lost" members back into the fold.
3. Two issues of the Texas Caver were published in 2005 at an average cost of \$1,232.42 per issue. Publication costs for 2006 are expected to increase given that more issues are planned for the coming year, in part to make up for recent shortfalls.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by acclamation.

### Standing Committee Reports:

**Conservation:** George Veni moved to accept the conservation statement drafted and edited by Jacqui Bills and that it be posted on the TSA website. Andy seconded the motion and it passed. John mentioned that Jacqui was interested in putting together a restoration workshop, possibly at Cave-Without-A-Name.

**Membership:** JB suggested that we send out dues notices to recently-lost members. Mike pointed out that the TSA has been without an official Membership Chair for some time (the last was Keith Dogan).

**Publications: *Texas Caver* report:** A lengthy discussion took place regarding the current and future status of the *Caver*. Kara and John suggested that as-yet-unpublished back issues be combined into a double or triple issue to save on shipping and handling costs. Andy speculated that the membership would just as soon have a large multi-issue than individual back issues, as long as the content was uncompromised. Bill Mixon pointed out that given that several libraries subscribe to the *Caver*, any double or quad issues should retain numbering conventions, i.e. 2006(1-2) or 2006(1-2-3-4). It was generally agreed that the best course of action would be to lessen the burden of catching up with previous volumes *and* publishing new issues by soliciting multiple (revolving) editors for the past/next several issues. Further discussion revealed that several individuals have already offered to take on various responsibilities relating to getting caught up and forging ahead with a reasonable publication schedule. John mentioned that Mark Alman has offered to edit quarterly issues of the *Caver* in 2006 and that Jim Kennedy, Chris Vreeland, and Don Auburn have all volunteered to help edit upcoming issues. Jerry will edit the February 2006 membership manual issue and he and Karl Kunath will be co-editing the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue. These issues will be bound together as a double issue and will, hopefully, be available by the TSA Spring Convention. Mike asserted that there are sufficient funds to push forward with this ambitious publication schedule. Kara suggested that deadlines be set so that new issues of the *Caver* will be available in time for TSA Convention and TCR since these events are potentially important membership-growing events. On that note, Andy indicated that a well-planned and successful TSA SpringCon could attract many new and returning members. George suggested that the TSA needs to actively invite potential new members to participate. In response to this suggestion, Kara volunteered to print brochures to be distributed at grotto meetings and other events. Andy pointed out that the planned double issues will likely appeal to the general membership and may entice some "lost" members to re-join the organization. of the Jerry to make up for the 2004-2005 deficit and that Jerry informed those present that Diana Tomchik had recently sent him all remaining 2004-2005 *Texas Caver* material, including files earmarked for the June-August issues. It was mentioned that it was unlikely that any more material would be recovered from Becky Jones.

John voiced his opinion that Jerry was doing an excellent job with the *TSA Activities Newsletter* and others heartily agreed.

**Safety and Techniques:** John reported that Don Broussard continues to work on a cave rescue phone number and/or information card. Terry provided some history and insight regarding the challenges of constructing an efficient and appropriate rescue response system, especially in rural areas. His final advice in case of accident was: "Call 911". It was mentioned that Geary Schindle will be leading a rescue training session at Pumpkin Cave.

#### **Temporary Committee Reports:**

**Project Reports/ TSA Projects:** Andy suggested soliciting project reports to be published in the *Texas Caver*.

**Land Fund:** Jay Jorden provided an extensive history of the Fund and produced a copy of the original document outlining the Fund's structure, purpose, and mechanics. He has written an article on the Fund to be published in an upcoming issue of the *Texas Caver*. It was generally agreed that something should be done with/about the Fund and that the TSA officers should decide \*what\* to do with it while the trustees decide \*how\* to manage it.

**TSA Webmaster:** JB opined that Bill Bentley has been doing a fine job to nods of agreement from the rest of the room.

**TSA Store:** Kara will solicit for an appropriate individual to take over managing the TSA store. An online store will not be pursued until/unless the right person comes along (i.e. talented and motivated to take on such a task).

#### **New Business:**

**15th International Congress of Speleology (ICS):** AGG volunteered to chair a TSA Trip Committee to plan, organize TSA-sponsored trip/s during the 2009 ICS.

**Announcements:** AGG announced the upcoming Espeleocoahuila 2006 to be held August 19-20. Bill Mixon offered the use of his new inkjet printer to anyone needing to print on CDs, etc. JJ announced that TCMA has copies of Butch Fralia's CD of Barb McCloud's cave ballad concert.

**Submitted by Andrew G. Gluesenkamp**