

MINUTES OF FALL TSA BUSINESS MEETING, 12 October, 2008

(Convened at the Texas Cavers Reunion, October 10th thru the 12th, Paradise Canyon on the Medina River). Submitted by Mark Alman)

Officers Present: John Brooks, Chairman; Robert Bisset, Vice-chairman; Mark Alman, Secretary.

Officers Not Present: Darla Bishop, Treasurer

TSA Members and cavers in Attendance: Lee Jay Graves, Linda Palit, Don Arburn, Ann Scott, Joe Ranzau, Don Broussard, Carl Kunath, Kevin McGowan, George Veni, Ron Ralph, Jay Jorden, Mandy Holt, Fritz Holt, Jenny Holt, Allan Cobb.

Chairman's Report: (Brooks) Convened meeting at 10:30 AM. Thanked all for coming and those in attendance introduced themselves. John stated that he didn't have much to report, but it was a great TCR, location, weather, and turnout. John thanked all members for allowing him to serve the last three years and wished all of the new officers, whoever they may be, the best of luck.

Vice-Chairman's Report: (Bisset) Stated that the TSA Spring Convention will be held at the same site as last year (Kerrville-Schriener Park, same location as ICS). It will be mainly used as a dry run for ICS in July. Discussion also ensued as to location of the TSA Winter Meeting. Most likely will be held the second weekend of January at Colorado Bend State Park.

Secretary's Report: (Alman) Minutes from the Spring Meeting were unavailable, as Mark forgot to print off copies. After reviewing on John's I-Phone, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: (Bishop) Darla wasn't present, but John and Mark had copies of the Treasurers Report that were passed around.

Allan reported that \$1805 (70 single renewals and 15 Family renewals) will be sent to the TSA from proceeds of new memberships and renewals for the TSA during TCR. 314 total registered for TCR.

\$3835.98 in Checking; \$3670.99 in Savings; \$8261.85 in the Land Fund, for a total of \$15,768.82 (\$7506.97, not including the Land Fund).

Standing Committee Reports

TSA Projects—(Kennedy) Jim not present. CBSP continues to be our most popular, oldest, and best attended project.

Longhorn Caverns State Park project started up by Mark Alman to help TPWD dig out the Crownover Entrance Passageway to allow through trips during ICS next year. These will occur the first of every month.

TSA Website— Butch Fralia not present. Needs more content and is still generating a lot of traffic.

Safety and Techniques—Don Broussard reported that he has updated the Cave Emergency Contact information card and had copies of these for distribution at TCR registration. Will also run this in next issue of *The TEXAS CAVER*.

Membership and Conservation Committees — Chairs still vacant. Takers?

TSA Land Fund – Jay Jorden read the Motion below to members present:

Motion for TSA/BOG Spring 2008

Recommended and moved by the TSA Endowment Funds trustees: That the TSA Board of Governors terminate the land fund and transfer all its current proceeds for a cave conservation-related purpose under Section 8 of the trust agreement, as follows: To help pay off the note on the Punkin-Deep property purchased by the Texas Cave Management Association.

Trustees recommend that the TSA BOG publish this motion in the TEXAS CAVER and take it up at the Texas Cavers Reunion, either choosing to vote the motion up or down at its Fall meeting or submitting it to the general membership for a binding referendum.

Land fund trustees voted unanimously to recommend this action – Moved by Ted Lee and seconded by John Brooks, with trustee Jay Jorden abstaining due to his TCMA board membership.

At the Spring Convention, the TSA Constitution was reviewed concerning dispersing these funds and was agreed that all can be dispersed, minus the original \$500 seed money given by the NSS at the 1994 Convention.

Original intention was to use the funds in order to find a permanent location for TCR, but with soaring land prices, this has never materialized.

Motion made to bring the above motion to the floor to be voted on by members present. Seconded and issue was voted on by members present, with the exception of Linda Palit, Joe Ranzau, Allan Cobb, and Jay Jorden who cited conflict of interest issues, as they are board members of the TCMA.

Vote was unanimous with very little discussion and no conflicts ensuing. Motion carried to transfer proceeds of TSA Land Fund, minus \$500 seed money, to the TCMA to help pay off the Punkin-Deep property.

Discussion about continuing to collect \$2 fee from all attendees at TSA sponsored projects and depositing them into a “Project Fund” or some other type of fund, rather than the Land Fund. Motion to do this made by Jay Jorden and seconded by Jerry Atkinson and Mark Alman. Motion carried. Future uses for this fund was tabled and will be discussed at the TSA Winter Business Meeting in January.

Pursuit of a permanent location for TCR to still continue.

Elections – Linda Palit has solicited nominations for TSA officers before TCR and has a full slate. Ballots were printed out and brought to TCR. Members were able to vote at Registration and approximately 80 members voted. Allan Cobb suggested members that hadn't voted yet to request a ballot. Jerry Atkinson stated that the TSA Constitution required mailing ballots out. All agreed and ballots were sent out Wednesday, October 29th to those whom the records showed had not voted at TCR. Ron Ralph and Ann Scott to count ballots. Officers to take to take over after TCR, but before the Winter Meeting.

Publications — (Alman) Bulk mail permit is not as big of an issue as before, as a page count of 24 pages can be mailed with two First Class stamps. This has helped keep *The TEXAS CAVER* under budget. Other changes to font size, etc. have allowed a lot of material to be presented without affecting overall quality. Recommended shelving this issue. Issues mailed still around 225. Many exchange copies were dropped, as no real benefit for TSA members was realized from this added expense.

Extra copies of the TC and the TSA Cavers Directory were available for all at Registration.

TSA Store – (Graves) Lee Jay gave a status report. Bat design for stickers is now copyrighted by the NSS, but still OK to use. Don Arburn has a design that could be used with the Texas outline.

Sales at TCR were slow this year. He suggested improvements to the store, such as a separate shaded and enclosed structure, which he is willing to finance. Kudos to Lee Jay!

Emailing and shipping out orders has worked well and he will continue doing so. He reported sales from as far away as Italy and Spain.

TSA and TSA store was well represented and received at the NSS Convention in Florida this summer.

Old Business

2009 ICS Support –TSA has been made an official sponsor. George Veni stated and Travis Scott appealed for trip leaders. They are desperately needed to lead trips to various caves around the state for our paid visitors. Responsibilities include driving 15 passenger van during trips.

George passed out a flyer on the International Union of Speleology, which is the organization that runs the ICS and will be coming to Texas in 2009.

Honey Creek Project – Project was completed and participation was excellent. Cost for project was \$988.08.

Oztotl Stickers – Lee Jay has the die and there are new stickers available. Chris Vreeland and friends produced these and kudos to them for doing so! Lee Jay to look into producing more for the TSA Store, Spring Convention and ICS in 2009. Gill Ediger has more of the stock film.

Announcements

New TSS Map CD Available – A new CD is available with 50 additional caves added. Jerry Atkinson to modify ad and submit to TC for publication.

Longhorn Caverns State Park Dig – Started in October and led by Mark Alman. Aim is to work with the TPWD in helping to open up the Crownover Cave entrance that was silted in in order to facilitate through trips from Crownover to the tourist entrance during ICS.

First work weekend was well attended in October and will continue the first weekend of each month, weather permitting, until entrance is open and ready for caver use at ICS.

Motion made to conclude meeting at ~11:45. Seconded and motion carried.