

(Convened at the Colorado Bend State Park Conference Center). Submitted by Denise Prendergast

**Officers Present:** Mark Alman, Chairman; Robert Bisset, Vice-Chairman; Denise Prendergast, Secretary; Darla Bishop, Treasurer

**TSA Members and Cavers in Attendance:** Lee Jay Graves, George-Paul Richmann, Dale Barnard, Jay Jordan, Linda Palit, Allan Cobb, Ann Scott, Don Arburn, Jon Cradit, Lyndon Tiu, C Boss(sp?), Clint Ladd, Matt Turner, Aurelio Duque, Michelle Bryant, Terry Holsinger, Jim Kennedy, Patrick Wells, David Ochel, Ron Ralph, Evelyn Mitchell, Bill Russell, Joe Mitchell, Gary Franklin, Don Broussard, Joe Ranzau. R.D. Milhollin

**Chairman's Report:** (Alman) Convened meeting at 9:00 am. Thanked all for coming and for the large turnout at the CBSP project. Our goals are to increase membership and the number of TSA projects. We'll talk about funds today.

**Vice-Chairman's Report:** (Bisset) Stated that the TSA Spring Convention on April 25th will be held at the same site as last year (Kerrville-Schriener Park, same location as ICS). This will be his last year as Vice Chairman. We need volunteers for the Spring Convention to lead the map and photo salons.

**Secretary's Report:** (Prendergast) Minutes from the Fall Meeting were distributed. It was asked if any corrections were necessary, and no one said yes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Bishop) Darla passed around copies of the Treasurer's Report.

- o The ending balance for 2008 was \$7,939.89 (income was \$6563.86; expenses were \$9007.95; for a loss of \$2,444.09 for the year 2008). Major expenses in 2008 were \$988.08 as a donation to Honey Creek; \$5,201.05 to publish the TEXAS CAVER; and \$2,130.00 for Spring Convention.
- o The 2009 budget is tight; there is a possibility of losing money.
- o Membership is down, now at 180 members.
- o It costs \$26 annually per member for the TEXAS CAVER.
- o Discussed raising dues (\$5) and/or the option to receive an electronic (not hardcopy) of the TEXAS CAVER.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

TSA Projects—(Kennedy) Jim stated that CBSP is the only current TSA project. Leadership has recently changed from Rafal Kedzierski to Jim. There have been four monthly trips this year (skipped October due to TCR conflict), low attendance except for this one which has 70 yesterday +12 today participants.

- o Other TSA project is Government Canyon which is currently inactive because Marvin Miller is out of state. Alman suggested someone else take over, but Jim says Marvin wants to stay in charge, and that is best.
- o The TSA has four sets of survey gear (some just sent for refurbishing, and four of six had entirely new replacements sent back). Also there is restoration gear from the Bustamante project available for use, as well as lights, displays, etc. for conventions.
- o Alman brought up the possibility of Longhorn Caverns State Park becoming an official TSA project. There will be a work weekend the first weekend of February. Also, Camp Eagle in West Texas would be a good TSA project (Kurt Menking now in charge of that project). Kennedy will email Alman guidelines on proposing new TSA projects.
- o Rob Bissett asks about Devil's River and Lake Amistad, and Jim Kennedy says there's an MOU on Lake Amistad, and there's some interest there. Both areas may have lots of caves. Terry Holsinger says it's very far, so that makes it harder. Rob Bissett says maybe projects can be smaller scale, maybe meet only once per year. Jim Kennedy agrees and says private properties are an option too.
- o Alman stated that the \$1 fee per person should be continued to be collected for TSA projects as we need the money.

TSA Website— Butch Fralia not present. Alman says ICS registration is up and going, as is the raffle for the ICS registration (will go into the general fund). Send Butch any info needed to post on the web site.

Membership and Conservation Committees — Alman says chairs still vacant. Takers? No response. Alman and Bishop have sent out emails encouraging membership. Lee Jay Grimes asks what are the duties for the Membership Committee head? Alman says to encourage membership. Alman asks if we can eliminate these positions. Jim Kennedy looks it up on line and says these positions are in the constitution, so it will be a big deal to eliminate them. General agreement to leave as is. Denise Prendergast volunteers for Membership Committee as she is responsible for Membership Directory anyway.

Matt Turner says he's been doing newbie trips in Austin and encouraging newbies to join TSA, and Allan Cobb says that publishing these trips in the TEXAS CAVER may encourage membership.

Safety and Techniques—Don Broussard was at first not present, but then showed up late. He distributed copies of the Cave Emergency Contact information card and said this information will change the week of ICS as most of the people will be involved in field trips. There will be many caving trips at ICS so safety is a concern.

TSA Store – (Graves) Lee Jay gave a status report. On line store has had few orders. Lee Jay will post his phone number in the TEXAS CAVER so people can order from him. We need a special ICS t-shirt. He and Chris Vreeland are designing something. Lee Jay will check if we can put “ICS” on TSA items for sale.

Joe Ranzau asked about income for store last year. Lee Jay said he doesn't have the exact numbers and apologized for not having a report and will have one for Spring Convention. He estimated he has about \$700-\$800 in cash. He has been keeping the money to pay for store expenses. It was the general consensus that he should always send money to the Treasurer and then get reimbursed for expenses. For large purchases, Darla could write him a check so it's not out of his pocket.

Lee Jay needs help at conventions for someone to assist in manning the table.

There was a discussion on saving money. Joe Ranzau suggested not printing out the members directory at TCR (Alman says this costs \$100), and having it available only electronically on the web site. Alman says postage costs have been reduced for the TEXAS CAVER, and it's down to only 24 pages. We could do only black and white issues, but folks like color. We've dropped exchanges with other states.

## **Old Business**

ICS Support - General consensus that this has been discussed enough.

TSA Land Fund Transfer – Jay Jordan says he wants to get together with the trustees to figure out how to get money transferred. \$8000 to go to TCMA. Alman says the CDs are laddered, so could end up being multiple payments to TCMA. Joe Ranzau knows a good investment advisor. Details to be worked out in committee.

## **New Business**

ICS Registration Raffle – Alman says the raffle is on line, and he has tickets available at this meeting. 400 people have registered for convention to date.

New ICS T-Shirts – Joe Ranzau says they will cost about \$5 each, so perhaps can sale for \$15 or something like that. General consensus that 500 might be a good number for ICS t-shirts. Lee Jay asked if we could sell Chris Vreeland's t-shirts at the TSA store if we get a cut; no real responses.

TSA Stickers – Lee Jay says bat design for stickers is now copyrighted by the NSS, so not OK to use for new stickers. Don Arburn has a design that is slightly different so might be OK. Will bump up the price to \$6 for the remaining bat stickers. Lee Jay says new oztotl stickers might be a possibility.

Additional copies of the TEXAS CAVER for Sale at ICS – Alman says he might sell them for \$4 each. Joe Ranzau has a bunch of stuff to bring for sale. Lee Jay says Mixon has gotten a room for AMCS to share with TSA and TCMA (will save costs and everyone can help watch each other's store).

Alman says Rob Bisset needs additional speakers for ICS.

The TSA Needs Money – Alman suggested raising dues \$5 per person and making it optional to receive the TEXAS CAVER only electronically (would save \$5 per issue). Joe Ranzau brought up that it is a bad time to raise dues with the current economy. We have \$7000 in the bank to cover another year in the red. Someone suggested printing less extra copies of the TEXAS CAVER to save costs. Alman says perhaps as an incentive the electronic copy could be longer than the hardcopy, but it was agreed this might complicate things. It was discussed that as an alternative to raising dues, we would try offering the TEXAS CAVER electronically instead of as a hardcopy to those who were interested. We could post a PDF version on the web site in a members-only section. Alman will check with Butch on how to do this. We will try this for a while (Linda Palit suggested for a year) and see what the response is. Alman says he will discuss this issue in the next TEXAS CAVER. It was agreed we do not need a vote on this.

Alman made the motion to conclude meeting at 10:15 am. Seconded and motion carried.