

MINUTES OF WINTER TSA BUSINESS MEETING

10 January, 2010

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

Officers Present: Mark Alman, Chairman; Ellie Watson, Vice-Chairman; Denise Prendergast, Secretary; Darla Bishop, Treasurer

TSA Members and Cavers in Attendance: Lee Jay Graves, Don Arburn, Jim Kennedy, Joe Ranzau, Matt Turner, David Ochel, Ron Ralph, Linda Palit, Ann Scott, Allan Cobb, Johanna Kovarik, Dale Barnard, Chris Butschek, Mallory Mayeaux, George-Paul Richmann, Bill Russell, Heather Tucek, Jon Cradit, Ryan Monjaras, Gerald Atkinson, Aaron Wertheim

Welcome and Introductions/Chairman's Report: (Alman). Alman convened meeting at 9:07 am. Thanked all for coming, decent turn out despite cold weather.

Vice-Chairman's Report: (Watson). Watson introduced herself as new Vice Chair. She has been caving 1.5 years.

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 carried to accept the minutes.

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

- The year end 2009 balance is \$7,524.51 (\$3,850.66 in operating account and \$3,673.85 in the savings account).
- There are 184 current paid members with 44 receiving on line only versions of *The Texas Caver*.
- Mainly due to unbudgeted donations totaling \$2,800, we ended the year with a deficit of \$648.27 (however, it was later pointed out this amount does not include some cash from the TSA store which may make it about even).
- Publishing *The Texas Caver* cost \$697.49 in December.

Standing Committee Reports

TSA Projects—(Kennedy). Kennedy stated that Government Canyon project has resumed since Marvin Miller and family have moved back. The CBSP project this weekend had four teams out on Saturday. During the last four CBSP trips, approximately six new caves have been found and many mapped. William Russell stated that there is a Hays County project (waiting on signing of agreement). Kennedy stated that Jerry Atkinson is running the TSS Lake Amistad project. Another opportunity is the Eisenhower Ranch project run by Andy Gluesenkamp and Terry Holsinger. Alman said Leakey Ranch is a promising new area; Chris Vreeland is coordinating. Rob Bissett will work with Jim Kennedy to initiate caving projects at Hill Country State Natural Area and Devil's River.

TSA Website— Butch Fralia not present. Alman said Butch is doing better after health issues. Butch had provided a report which said there were 33,000 visits last year; the Mexico page and calendar were the most the popular pages. The TSA store Paypal section needs work.

Membership Committee — (Alman in absence of a Chair). A Chair is needed.

Conservation Committees – (Tiu absent). Alman said he will defer to Kennedy regarding WNS which will be discussed later during this meeting.

Safety and Techniques— (David Ochel). There will be an orientation to cave rescue at CBSP February 26-28, 2010. The \$50 fee includes meals.

Publications— (Alman). Alman said that TCR donated money for the ICS issue of *The Texas Caver* (which was 64 pages). Complete sets of old issues are available for purchase. Alman said he needs trip reports, funny stories, articles.

TSA Store – (Graves). Graves said he does not have a final report for the year, will have one at Spring Convention. He owes Bishop cash from the TSA store. He would like to get a more reliable source of caving gear at the Spring Convention and will look into getting Whole Earth or REI there (perhaps on a consignment basis). It was discussed that Don Arburn's redesign of the Texas bat sticker may not be different enough than the NSS version (which we cannot use). We need more stickers, may get Terry Raines to do them if price is good.

Old Business

WNS Update – Kennedy said there has been bad news from WNS researchers: new sites but no new states. It has been confirmed that the same fungus is in Europe. Decon is still necessary to prevent spreading it.

TSS/TSA/TCMA Trailer Committee Report – Bissett said they are looking for an enclosed trailer to keep/haul things like tents to conventions and TCR. TCMA is not interested and has backed out. TSS and TSA will coordinate to purchase one before Spring Convention. A motion was made and carried to set aside up to \$1500. This is in conjunction with TSS making the same commitment. The title will be under TSS, and Kennedy will register it. The best place to store it may be Pickle Research Center.

New Business

Two-Tiered TSA Membership - Alman broached the issue of a two-tiered membership based on hard copy versus on line only copy of *The Texas Caver*. Ranzau said Bill Bentley and Christy Bennett are both willing to pay more for hard copies. Kennedy suggested printing only in black and white to keep costs down. A motion was made and carried to create a two-tiered membership based on receiving a hard copy versus on line only copy of *The Texas Caver*.

Dues – There was discussion on changing dues for the two-tiered membership. A motion was made and carried to raise the dues \$5 (to \$25) for persons receiving a hard copy of *The Texas Caver* and lowering dues by \$5 (to \$15) for those receiving on line versions only. On line only members could still purchase a copy but would need to pay enough to cover printing and postage costs.

Putting *The Texas Caver* Free On Line – There was discussion on if and which issues of *The Texas Caver* should be made available free on line and to whom should they be available. A motion was made and carried to allow free access to all back issues of *The Texas Caver* on line after one year from publish date. It had been discussed that they would be available on the TSA website to anyone visiting the site, and they may be made available on the karst portal that George Veni had mentioned.

Atkinson said that there are 25 years (1974-1998) of *The Texas Caver* issues that had been scanned by Mike Moore. TSS has them. Alman will look into getting these on CD to sell.

Spring Convention – Watson said convention will be March 26-28 at TCC headquarters (in Cedar Park). Prices are \$15/person and \$40/family. Highlights include movies on Friday, the TCMA auction, a hot tub. Speakers are still needed; contact Bill Steele and Diana Tomchick.

Anything Else? – Russell said that the webmail forum in Mexico is much better than the on line TexasCavers email structure.

Announcements

None.

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