

Present at meeting:

Marty Abercrombie  
Brian Williamson  
E.T. Davis  
Joel M Sneed  
Sharon Sneed  
Tom Whitehurst  
Jeff and Rene Harris  
Kelly Smallwood  
Jason Hardy  
Anita Evatt  
Lauren Hufstetler  
Eric Crisp  
Allen Padgett  
Paul Aughey  
Brent Aulenbach  
Tom Moltz  
Steve Stratton  
Stephen Brewer  
Doug Strait  
Shannon Glenn  
Kevin Glen  
Drew Fountain  
Karen Padgett  
Dakota Rowland  
Marissa Lasso  
Wade Waltman  
one illegible scribble

4-14-2012

Meeting called to order:

At 10:40 am Vice Chairman Marty Abercrombie brought the meeting to order. Twenty-eight total present for the meeting. Nancy Aulenbach was unable to attend due to family obligations.

Marty thanked the SCCi and E.T. Davis for allowing us to hold the meeting at the Fricks Cave Preserve.

Time was allotted for members to review the minutes from last years meeting. They were approved as presented.

Marty gave a huge thank-you for all that helped host the SERA Winter Business Meeting (WBM)last year.

Brent described what the function of SERA is about. The GSS hosted the SERA WBM He described some of the logistics and obstacles that GSS members had to overcome. Some examples are facility preparation, snacks, catered meal, arranging guest speakers, and cleanup afterwards. Problems arose when later in the day a wedding party showed up for their reception. It seems the facilities were inadvertently double booked. Brent thanked all those involved.

Treasurers report by Brent Aulenbach:

See treasurer report for details. Ending balance for last year was \$1808.59. The last map CD was published in 2009. We plan to start making a new map CD every

other year. One of the survey instruments broke. Marty bought the other one. The largest expense was the bulletin at \$702 for 130 copies and \$300 for postage. We hope to keep \$2000 in the bank in order to publish the 80's bulletin.

#### T-Shirts:

Stephen Brewer asked about the status of GSS T-Shirts. Brent said that the pattern to make them by had been lost. The pattern is a slimmed down version of the GSS logo art work. Brent said that Jerry Wallace would make a new one. ( secretary note: Jerry made the original art work).

#### Bulletin Report by Brian Williamson:

The meeting minutes are an attachment this year. Brian requested cavers sent him articles. He would like reports on your survey projects and even unfinished maps. Brent noted that minutes are on the GSS website.

#### Archives by Brent:

##### Paper Archives:

The paper archives are at the Aulenbach's. Paul Aughey has given all old south GA data and maps he had to the GSS. The archives contain these and Byers and Ellison's notes by Foxy Ferguson. All members are welcome to schedule an appointment to visit the archives.

##### Electronic Archives:

Carl Anderson was not present at the meeting. Brent said to turn in electronic form from the website if possible. He ill log the data and sent it on to Carl for further processing. Six caves were turned in last year. Brent requested cavers to turn in there stuff.

#### Eighties Bulletin by Brent:

The GSS started in 1966. The bulletins were first published in 1971. The GSS was abandoned and restarted. There is a nice book of the seventies bulletins. Now we want to put the eighties bulletins into a book. We are going to re-lay it out since it was originally typed up at the time. Things are starting to progress. We need help with layout and proof readers. We also need help highlighting what needs to go in the index. Let Brent know if you can volunteer.

#### New Business:

##### Donations:

Brent informed us that last year we donated \$125 to the SCCi. Then there was talk of donating a brick for the NSS headquarters. Steve Brewer explained what buy a brick donation program was about. Steve Brewer made a motion we buy a brick. Marty seconded the motion and it was voted approved.

Allen Padgett made a motion we donate \$100 to the SCCi. Brian Williamson seconded the motion and it was voted approved.

#### Web Site - Brent:

Brent is considering a new page for surveying information. Brent also said he gets a couple of membership request a month. People often join for one year just to get the data and don't renew their membership. This past year we had a membership of a 105 people. This is the most we have had in years.

Marty asked about Facebook and Twitter, which were discussed last year. The moderator, Kelly Smallwood reported that there was only one announcement.

**Electronic Survey Equipment:**

Brian Williamson asked if people had any experience with electronic survey gear. One person had used a 330 Elica Disto that takes range and inclo. He surveyed Doodle Bug with it and felt he had good success. Another person mentioned that the NSS Electronics Section had a lot of information on electronic survey gear that can be accessed on-line. A brief discussion took part on electronic survey equipment.

**SCCi Owned Caves Surveying Possibilities by Brent:**

There are 10,000 endangered Gray bats in Fricks Cave part of the year. There is no visitation except for one open house a year. It was about 2001 we got permission to survey Fircks Cave. We left it with going passage to survey. White Nose Syndrome shut down surveying possibilities. The SCCi is considering opening some caves. Brent brought up the possibility of continuing the survey in Fricks. If it did happen it would not be for beginners since there is some rough and near sumped passage.

Someone asked was there other possible projects. Marty said possibly we could get something going on the Byers Cave. Brent said a project like that would need a main organizer. He is tied up more than before. He could help but not run it.

Allen Padgett suggested it would be a good project.

The question came up about using Facebook or Yahoo for communications among GSS members.

Brian offered to set up a Yahoo User Group for email among members. Tom Moltz made a motion that Brian set up a Yahoo user group. The motion was seconded and voted in.

**Large Cave Maps:**

Jeff Harris asked if we are publishing large cave maps. Brent said that Carl does have a lot these but they would have to be on DVD. Jeff was talking about hard copies. What would the up front cost be and how many would need to be published to make it cost effective? Brent said we would need 100 copies. The question was asked about making an Ellison's map. Brent said it was not ready in a format for a large map. A discussion continued on possibilities without any motions.

**Trip Report on Lula Land Trust Caves by Brent:**

While finishing up the fifth cave some of the group found four more caves to map.

**Elections:**

Chairman	Marty Abercrombie
Vice Chairman	Brent Aulenbach
Secretary	Brian Williamson
Treasurer	Paul Aughey

Meeting adjourned at 11:50