
Minutes of the 2017 GSS Annual Meeting (Unapproved)

The 2017 Georgia Speleological Survey Annual Meeting was called to order by Chair Clint Garner at 10:48 am on May 13th 2017. The meeting was held at the SCCi Fricks Cave Preserve, Walker County Ga. [25 people were in attendance.]

Attendees

Page Ashwell	Branden Jackson
Brent Aulenbach	Jim Loftin
David L Bain	Kimberly McNutt
Terri L. Bain	Tom Moltz
Alan Camp	Charles Neiswenter
Walt Cochran	Shanon Neiswenter
Diane Cousineau	Natalie Pheasant
Alan Cressler	Richard Poss
Charity M. Etris	Conrad Reichert
Troy Fuqua	Verl Speer
Clint Garner	Andy Zellner
Dustin Humphrey	Jon Zetterberg
Jessica Humphrey	

Clint welcomed everyone, introduced the board members and expressed gratitude to E.T. Davis, the Preserve Manager, for graciously allowing the meeting to be held at Fricks Cave.

It was moved to approve the minutes from the 2016 meeting and Charles Neiswenter seconded the motion. The 2016 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Membership: 82 members. Largely due to a successful membership drive during the 2016 TAG Fall Cave-In where 20 new individuals signed up.

Officer's Reports

Treasurer – Brent Aulenbach: Income was \$1,649. Expenses were \$86 for postage, \$24 for hosting of website on NSS website (2 years), \$200 donation to the SCCi plus \$100 donation to the SCCi that was not sent in from a previous year, \$48 for blank CD's,



2017 GSS Meeting (Photo by Natalie Pheasant)

\$644 for printing the GSS Bulletin, \$580 for T-shirts, and \$97 for 200 stickers.

GSS Bulletin Editor – Brent Aulenbach (interim): Brian Williamson, the Bulletin editor passed away unexpectedly in November. He was very dedicated to the GSS, serving as a Bulletin editor for 20 years while also serving many years on the board as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Old Business

- *Facebook:* The GSS site on Facebook has been moved from a page to a group. This change allows all members to post messages. [The new group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1151792554884175/>.] It is a closed group and GSS administrators will approve you to join.
- We got T-shirts made! [S–XL, \$15; XXL & XXXL, \$17.]
- *Modification to year of the GSS Bulletin:* Previously, the year of the GSS Bulletin was the year prior to the year of publication—to indicate that it reflected publication of the previous year's GSS activities. As per the membership decision at the 2016 meeting, the year of the GSS Bulletin has been changed to reflect the year of

publication. As a result, this year's Bulletin is the 2017 GSS Bulletin and there is no 2016 GSS Bulletin.

New Business

- The current cave location files will be converted to GPX files in the next 12 months and be sent to all members. [Jon Zetterberg volunteered to do this.]
- Purchase of GSS patches was approved.
- A motion was made by Andy Zellner to donate \$200 to the SCCi for allowing the GSS to hold our meetings on a regular basis on their preserve, for doing such good work, and for keeping us all informed. The donation would be made in memory of Brian Williamson as a thank you for his service to the GSS. Diane Cousineau seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously approved. An SCCi honorary section of cave passage or bricks commemorating Brian would be decided later [with the assistance of Andy].
- Brent Aulenbach motioned that \$50.00 be donated to the American Juvenile Diabetes Foundation as a tribute to Brian Williamson. Andy Zellner seconded. The motion carried.
- Clint Garner suggested holding a campout for the 2018 GSS meeting. It could possibly include cave trips.
- There was discussion about expanding the way the GSS accepts payments. There have been several requests to use PayPal. At present we only accept cash and check. In the future we should explore other outlets such as PayPal and Vemo or a merchant service account.
- The Board discussed opening a non-profit bank account to possibly save on bank fees. [Currently we avoid the \$12 per month fee if we keep a balance of \$1,500, which we have recently been

able to do.] A 12-month time frame was set to implement this decision.

- The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has made a formal request to gain access to the GSS cave location database. We have unofficially shared this information with them in the past. [They have used the data to visit caves to perform biological inventories, often with assistance of GSS members.] DNR would also use the data to protect karst and caves in instances where roadways or residential areas are being developed near or above caves. [While the data should be exempt from a Freedom of Information request, as GSS would retain copyright of the data set, there was concern that the DNR might not appropriately protect the data from being distributed.] Given the current requirement of GSS membership to have access to the cave location data, Page Ashwell made a proposal that DNR only be given pertinent information on a need-to-know basis. Andy Zellner also recommended that only necessary information be shared. A motion was presented that in cases where data is considered to be released to outside entities, the elected GSS officers are directed to appoint a representative that would be a liaison between the GSS and the outside entity who would be responsible for determining if it is appropriate to allow them to use GSS cave data, what cave data is appropriate to share, and insure that the entity has appropriate safeguards to prevent dissemination of the data. 19 for, 2 opposed, 1 abstention, motion passed.

Elections

Charlie Neiswenter asked if the board was willing to stay on one more year. Marty Abercrombie was unavailable to ask if he wanted to continue as Vice Chair. Andy Zellner nominated Tom Moltz to be Vice Chair, but Tom declined. ET Davis nominated Andy Zellner to be Vice Chair, but Andy declined. Troy Fuqua nominated Alan Camp for Vice Chair and Alan accepted the nomination. Election results:

- Chair – Clint Garner
- Vice Chair – Alan Camp
- Treasurer – Brent Aulenbach
- Secretary – Shannon Neiswenter

[After the meeting there was a field trip to Lula Lake Land Trust where several sandstone caves were visited.]

– Shanon Neiswenter, GSS Secretary.
Additional notes and clarifications added by Brent Aulenbach are indicated in square brackets.