
Minutes of the 2021 GSS Annual Meeting

The 2021 Georgia Speleological Survey Annual Meeting was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 5th, 2021. The meeting was held at the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. Charles B. Henson Preserve at Johnsons Crook, Rising Fawn, Dade County Georgia. Fifty-three people were in attendance.

Attendees

Page Ashwell	Carson Majors
Brent Aulenbach	Kim Meier
Nancy Aulenbach	Richard Meier
Brad Barker	Tom Moltz
Dan Barnick	Gerald Moni
David Bechler	Peter M. Morgan
Joe Brown	Allen Padgett
Holly Bunch	Karen Padgett
Chuck Canfield	Ed Pratt
Andrew Davidson	Candy Reichert
Terre Davidson	Conrad Reichert
Kyle Davis	Jack Reichert
Steve Davis	Kaethe Reichert
Greg Eck	Ethan Reuter
Beth Elliott	Ian Reuter
Clint Garner	Jason Richards
Dane Garreau	Clair Sewell
Kris H. Green	Matt Sewell
Jeff Harris	Jim Smith
Rene Harris	Marion O. Smith
Judson Hartline	Doug Strait
Gwen Hatcher	Al Swain
Helen Hicks	Mendy Thomas-
Alan Johnson	Swain
Mary Ellen	Chris Whitlaw
Johnson	Greg Whittaker
Alex Lambie	Jon Zetterberg
Jim Lofton	

GSS Chair, Clint Garner, called meeting to order at 11:03 am.

Introductions of Leadership Team

Elected Officers

- Clint Garner—Chair
- Brent Aulenbach—Treasurer
- Jon Zetterberg—Vice Chair
- Kim Miles—Secretary (absent)

Appointed Positions

- Jon Zetterberg—GSS Data Liaison
- Brent and Nancy Aulenbach—Archivists
- Brent Aulenbach—Electronic Files and Webmaster
- Brent Aulenbach, Nancy Aulenbach, and Tom Moltz—Co-editors of the GSS Bulletin

Amendment to the 2019 Meeting Minutes

The 2019 meeting minutes were amended to include the motions for donations of \$250 to the NSS and \$200 to the SCCI. Motion was made by Nancy Aulenbach. Seconded by Allen Padgett. Motion passed to accept amendment with no objections.

Officer Reports

Jon Zetterberg—Vice Chair / GSS Data Liaison

- Georgia has a small number of caves but the highest percentage of mapped caves in TAG.
- GSS Data Liaison had two requests for GSS information. One request was from a grad student, the other from SCCI for confirmation of what caves are on the Johnsons Crook property. This will allow them to share information only on the SCCI caves.
- The GSS Caves are now incorporated into the Dade County 911 databases.

Brent Aulenbach—Treasurer

- Treasurer reports for 2019/2020 were circulated to attendees. 2020 did not have a membership or GSS Bulletin published due to COVID. Dues prepaid for 2020 carried to 2021.
- About \$1,300 in from membership dues.
- About \$640 from sales of map books, old GSS Bulletins, and other publications.
- \$1,939 in income. Two-thirds of income comes from memberships.
- \$1,256 in expenses: \$84 for postage; \$535 in donations; \$560 for GSS Bulletin printing; and \$76 for sales supplies.
- Starting balance in May 2019 \$2,977. Ending balance \$3,677. Ended up with \$17 more than accounted for. Someone probably gave money that was not recorded in a sales book. (Thank you!)
- See handout for details.
- Balance needed \$1,500 to keep from paying fees.
- Annual membership dues are \$15 to cover printing costs of GSS Bulletin, USB flash drives for data listing, and mailing memberships.
- Costs per member are approximately \$10 to \$11 each. \$15 covers the costs and a little margin. No need to increase dues.
- Question: Are there any expected expenses we should anticipate? None expected. Just usual costs.
- Missed question from someone up front. Answer: Up-front costs are needed for T-shirts and other promotional items. More cost-effective options in promotion items. The excess funds can be used as seed money for these projects.
- These funds could also be used for bolting projects, etc.

- Make sure that the Bulletin editor and Treasurer have software needed.
- Using Word for editing. Not the greatest but effective.

Website—Brent Aulenbach

- NSS changed servers and the new credentials do not work. Communications have been ineffective to resolve.
- Facebook and email are used to disseminate information.
- Website hasn't been updated in two years.
- Goal was to make website more user friendly.
- Joe Brown will help out with the website. An official board position is not needed.

Membership Packages

- Data Listing needs additional information. Carl Anderson and Jon Zetterberg have provided GPS files for putting on the phones. We do not have all the updated information. Jon's items are on the flash drives. Other information will be sent via email. Additional information includes the tracked changes for auditing.

GSS Bulletin—Brent Aulenbach

- Completed in advance. Printer charges are much less if submitted two weeks in advance.
- This year's Bulletin is in full color at no extra cost.
- Two articles were omitted inadvertently. These will be included next year
- Paper copies of old GSS Bulletins are \$3 today only since there are no mailing costs.
- Two co-editors, Tom Moltz and Nancy Aulenbach.

Old Business

- Question by Mary Ellen Johnson: Is the DCG getting copies of the GSS Bulletin? The GSS Bulletins are not sent to DCG. Andy Zellner maintains the DCG library.
- **ACTION**—Clint Garner will make sure the DCG grotto library is up to date.
- Do Bulletins go to NSS Libraries? The Bulletins are sent to the NSS. Per the requirements they are sent three copies. Most sharing is now electronic.
- **T-Shirts**—\$15. GSS logo done by Jerry Wallace.
- Ellison's Cave map of entire cave is in year three of the drafting (Jeff Harris). May need one more year to complete. See first article in the 2021 GSS Bulletin.

New Business

- **New Logo Gear** (Clint Garner): **ACTION**—Clint Garner will pursue new shirts, in any color except white.
- **Technology** (Clint Garner): Jon Zetterberg has been instrumental in improving the state survey data. The GPX file is because of Jon. Moving Forward - The GSS needs cavers to share their knowledge and data. A short (or long) wiki from trip logs, memory or other sources should be shared so it can become part of the cave description. The information could be statistical, your experience of the cave, photos (especially of the entrance) or cave history that's been shared from the past. Send these to Clint directly. Even hand written notes can be photographed and send.
- Question by Clint Garner: Who uses GPX files in the field? Over half here use this information.
- Instead of using the GPX file, use the KMZ file. It is more agile.

- Question by Clint Garner: Who will volunteer to type in descriptions of caves for narratives. Allen to type in at least 5.
- Joe Brown and Steve Davis committed to help with digitizing the old report forms.

Archives

Should the archives be moved from the Auerbach's house to the NSS headquarters?

There were concerns noted about how to limit access to the archives to GSS members within the NSS headquarters. This may be accomplished by locked file cabinets, fire proof safe, or other secure storage within the library. There were also concerns with the level of response that would be available to fulfill requests for information as the NSS librarian is on site only once per month. It may also be a risk to have all files in one location without a backup or digital copy. It was discussed to have files digitized before moving to the NSS. Digitized files would be made available to members, however the details of how this would be hosted and controlled must be determined. **ACTION**—Clint Garner and executive committee to consider the options.

Marion O Smith's Shed

Marion O. Smith has a shed of survey information. The information may be unique to his files. **ACTION**—Clint Garner to start on a project with Marion to copy his files.

Motions

Donations of \$250 to the NSS and to the SCCI. (The SCCI amount will include the cost of the porta-johns for the 2021 meeting). Motion made by Jon Zetterberg, second by Jeff Harris. Motion carried with no objections.

Elections

- **Webmaster** (appointed position) Joe Brown
- **Chair** Clint Garner nominated. Voted by acclamation.
- **Vice Chair** Jon Zetterberg nominated by Al Swain. Second by ?. Voted by acclamation.
- **Treasurer** Jeff and Rene Harris to co-treasurer. No objections.
- **Secretary** Mendy Thomas-Swain. No objections.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.



2021 GSS Annual Meeting. Photos by Chuck Canfield