

Georgia Speleological Survey

Members Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2008 10 a.m. Eastern
Frick's Cave Entrance Area

Attendees:

Marty Abercrombie, Carl Anderson, Brent Aulenbach, Nancy Aulenbach, Rodney Bradford, Sharon Brewer, Steve Brewer, Obadiah Brooks, Eric Crisp, Jenny Crisp, Debra Guy, Lin Guy, Margie Haven, Dave Hughes, Tim Kamsay, Angelina Lee, John McMacken, Tom Moltz, Jonny Prouty, Jerry Wallace, Tom Whitehurst, Brian Williamson

Nancy Aulenbach called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Special thanks were extended to the SCCI and E.T. Davis for their support.

The Chair (Nancy Aulenbach), Vice Chair (Brian Williamson), Treasurer (Brent Aulenbach), and Secretary (Sharon Brewer) were introduced.

Members Meeting Minutes-last year

The minutes from the previous year were given to everyone present and to avoid reading out loud what everyone could read for themselves, we moved on to more pressing issues. Near the end of the meeting, Carl Anderson motioned to accept the minutes. Jenny Crisp seconded. The minutes were approved and accepted.

2007 Bulletin

Brian Williamson was commended for his excellent work on the 2007 Bulletin. It was a well done and kudos all round for Brian. He encouraged everyone to send in articles and photos for next year. Larry O. Blair helped with a monetary contribution to help offset printing costs. We also received a discount from Kinkos on the printing costs. We had 150 bulletins printed instead of the 100 because the price dropped considerable when we ordered 150. Errors and typos can easily be changed while the Bulletin is in the editing process, so if the author of articles finds a mistake before we got to print, it can easily be changed. We also were made aware of the fact that a copy needs to be mailed directly to Rays Reviews. We mailed one this year and will continue to do so in the future.

Archives and Electronic Archives

Archives are stored at the Aulenbach home and open to any member who would like to access them. Carl Anderson has scanned all of the archives into electronic format but the index has not been completed. Carl is in charge of the electronic data and does a wonderful job.

If anyone needs to turn in new caves, update locations, or send in entrance photos with dates, this can be done electronically to Carl Anderson. Six new caves were turned in this past year. Brent Aulenbach receives the Most Caves Turned In Award for 2007. The last four cave locations are blank on the print out but are visible on the disk. Carl is not sure why but they are not suppressed. The glitch just happened. When anyone turns in a new cave or updates a location, the format or datum format needs to be recorded as well. Carl will be adding an owner relation update form on the website. This information will be forwarded onto Jerry Wallace.

Cave Owner Relations

Jerry Wallace handles landowner relations. Cards to turn in Cave owner information are available.

-Glory Hole is undergoing changes in access. Tom Moltz is now the consultant on the cave.

There are three different people who can lead groups or grottos into Glory Hole. Liability issues have become a concern. Anyone who desires more information needs to contact Tom Moltz. It was also said that Glory Hole is beautiful but filling in with sediment rapidly.

-Hurricane Cave lower culvert entrance is closed. The upper entrance is very dangerous and rescue is not likely. Anyone who wishes to visit Hurricane Cave is advised not to do so. There are plenty of other caves to visit.

-Johnson's Crook is totally closed and off limits.

-Ulla Cave was thought to be open in 2006 but when Allen Padgett and Kris Green visited there, they were informed that they were trespassing.

The Georgia Department Of Transportation

Eric and Jenny Crisp mentioned that the DOT has expressed an interest in the idea of interfacing with cave groups to avoid planning difficulties. The G.S.S. responded with concerns related to releasing locations of caves with blank parameters. It was decided that we monitor the situation without releasing locations as a whole.

80's Bulletin Compilation

Jenny Crisp will be taking over where Holly Bunch left off. Holly has done quite a bit of work in the Word program and the completion difficulty will depend on how easily the conversion process progresses. If the typing can be scanned and reformatted it will be faster. If the typing is not sufficient, Optical Character Recognition will be the option. Brent has been trying to work on the graphics, but it can be tedious. Word to PDF will probably be the final format. Dave Hughes suggested that Photo Books in Atlanta could be useful. Once the 80's Bulletin Book is completed we plan to publish 150 copies. After the 150 books sell, we can post it on the website for viewing. The 70's Bulletin Book left descriptions but omitted locations. Acrobat does a wonderful job of allowing the smudging of numbers. Brent can help with that process if it is needed.

PROOF Volunteers- Dave Hughes, Jonny Prouty, Brian Williamson,
Obadiah Brooks, Stephen Brewer, Tim Kamsay,
Marty Abercrombie, Jerry Wallace, Brent Aulenbach (Nancy backup)

Treasurer's Report

Brent Aulenbach reviewed the financial statement that was printed and distributed to the members at the meeting. Itemized reports are available upon request. A few medium sized T-shirts remain. We also offer books for sale. We purchased a couple of different books for a wholesale rate of \$12 and resale at a minimal profit (\$16 to members and \$20 to non-members). Any donations are helpful and appreciated. The treasurer failed to follow through with the donation of \$100-\$150 to the Pettijohns brochures project but will do so in the near future.

Frick's Cave Report

Brent informed everyone that the latest numbers for Frick's Cave now extend to 2.65 miles. There is still going passage but some tight squeezes to get there. The map has the last part that was surveyed drawn in line plot. Details of the Frick's Cave project are in the Bulletin. Future teams will need wetsuits. Quiet and low lights are required when the team approaches the bat room area.

Byers Cave Report

Foxy Ferguson has given all the books she has on Byers Cave to the G.S.S. with the agreement that unless the cave is gated, the material will not be published nor distributed. Jonny Prouty has agreed to type in all the data for Byers. A new survey with technologically advanced instruments for Byers was discussed, and the members agreed that the project is too big for one person. Brian Williamson and Jonny Prouty discussed collaborating together with mapping programs such as SurveyX and the possibilities for incorporating the Byers Cave with the program. The programs will need consistent style on such a big project.

Bumper Stickers

Allen Padgett and Jerry Wallace are still working on the bumper stickers project.

Instruments

Marty Abercrombie has the G.S.S. survey instruments at this time. There is no tape, but the instruments are still there. Laser measuring instruments were discussed, and Eric Crisp encouraged everyone NOT to purchase the sonic instrument by mistake. The sonic version interferes with and confuses bats.

Apparel Opportunity

Nancy Aulenbach has agreed to handle orders and communication with an embroidery apparel company just down the road from her house. Eric Crisp motioned that we set it up as a markup fee and make the project a fundraiser to compensate the startup fee. Carl Anderson seconded. The members passed it. The catalog was passed around and several people signed a sheet of paper expressing interest. Jerry Wallace will put together a logo for the apparel company after May. The logo will be posted on the website for everyone to see what is offered.

Website maintenance

Brent and Carl work to keep the website up to date and user friendly. Jenny Crisp agreed to help them.

Activities Coordinator

Marty Abercrombie volunteered to take the position. As the meeting progressed and elections were held, the Activities Coordinator responsibilities were shifted to the Vice Chair responsibilities. Marty had no objections with the decision. One suggestion for an activity was a ridgewalk to Dean's Gulf in order to look for Hidden Rock Cave.

Cave Trip Reports or Projects

Eric Crisp mentioned a survey trip into Airport Cave and Parker Cave, a resurvey of Slygo Cave, being run off by hunters, and Richmond Gulf.

Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.

Kris Green was at the meeting representing the interests of the SCCi. He voiced appreciation for the care and conservation practices during the Frick's Cave project. He also thanked everyone for support and donations. The property taxes are always a concern. Nancy Aulenbach motioned that the G.S.S. donate \$200 to the SCCi. Jenny Crisp seconded the motion. The members voted and passed the motion.

Sera Karst Task Force

Sera Karst Task Force Clean-up days are supported and funded from a variety of sources. Sometimes owners and sometimes counties road department donate dumpsters and other necessities involved in the expenditures. Nancy Aulenbach motioned that the G.S.S. donate \$100 to the SKTF. Jerry Wallace seconded the motion. The members voted and passed the motion.

Elections

For Chair: The members voted for Nancy Aulenbach after her nomination by Brian Williamson.

For Vice Chair: The members voted for Jonny Prouty after his nomination by Brian Williamson.

For Secretary: The members voted for Margie Haven after her nomination by Sharon Brewer.

For Treasurer: The members voted for Brent Aulenbach after his nomination by Jerry Wallace.

Appointed Positions

Bulletin Editor: Brian Williamson

G.S.S. Archives: Brent Aulenbach

Electronic Archives and Files: Carl Anderson

80's Bulletin Book: Jenny Crisp

Landowner Relations: Jerry Wallace

Adjournment

Restaurant choices were briefly mentioned, and the meeting was officially closed at 12:27 p.m.