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Texas Cave Management Association

Newsletters and Periodicals

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## TCMA Activities Newsletter

Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA)

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# NOTICE

The annual membership meeting of the TEXAS CAVE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION will be held during the TEXAS CAVERS' REUNION weekend at the FLAT CREEK RANCH, next to Perdenales Falls State Park and near Johnson City, TX. The agenda items include election of three director positions on the TCMA Board for three-year terms from 1996 thru 1998, as well as choosing one director for a two-year term thru 1997 to replace Rune Burnett of Austin. Rune has resigned to take a park management job in Arizona.

Nominations have been received for three incumbents: Noble Stidham of Lubbock, William Russell of Austin, and Jay Jorden of Dallas. Also on the agenda are details of ROBBER BARON'S CAVE in San Antonio, which TCMA has acquired and is co-managing with the Bexar Grotto of San Antonio.

All members are invited to attend the meeting, which will be held at 8 AM, Saturday, October 21 at the San Antonio cavers' camp or near the main meeting pavilion, whichever is more convenient. A board meeting will be held, as needed, prior to the membership meeting or at 7:30 AM on Sunday at the San Antonio camp.

Please bring your lawn chairs, and portable shade may be advisable. Food and beverages will be available at the TCR site. Agenda items should be sent to the secretary: Carolyn Biegert, TCMA, P.O. Box 202853, Austin, TX 78720-2853. Carolyn's phone number is (512) 458-9606.

We hope that the entire TCMA membership will be able to attend. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Cave often and safely!

Caver directions: To get to the TCR and TCMA meeting sites, access from anywhere in the state is via U.S. 290 or U.S. 281. or both, and either Farm-to-Market Road 2766 from Johnson City or FM 3232 from the Blanco-Hays County line west of Dripping Springs. After nearing the state park, take County Road 201 and 'jus' foller tha dang signs!"

## MEETING NOTES

Texas Cave Management Association  
Saturday, 24 June 1995

On the eve of a work project at the Lost Oasis Cave Preserve in Austin, directors forming a quorum of Texas Cave Management Association met for a business session. They were Jay Jorden of Dallas, acting president; Bruce Anderson of Fort Worth, treasurer; Ron Ralph of Waco; Bill Russell of Austin; Jim Wolff of Austin; and Mike Warton of Cedar Park, vice president.

Absent with notice was Noble Stidham of Lubbock. Also absent

were Secretary Carolyn Biegert of Austin; Carl Ponebshek of San Antonio; and Bill Sawyer of Sonora.

The meeting convened shortly after 10 p.m.

M/Ralph, s/Anderson to approve the minutes from the May 21 meeting at Kendalia/Bergheim. The motion passed.

The treasurer presented the April financial statement with a balance of \$2,450.66. M/Anderson, s/Ralph to approve the statement was passed. Bruce said the general account balance for May was \$2,547.66. M/Anderson, s/Jorden to approve the statement was passed. Bruce's motion to pay Noble Stidham for \$43.11 in expenses for the latest TCMA Activities Newsletter was seconded by Mike Warton and approved. Jim Wolff said he had just about used up a \$200 advance for Whirlpool and Lost Oasis expenses and would document approximately \$170 in expenditures. Receipts were lost.

In highlights of president's report, Jay said the Richmond Area Speleological Society approved the TCMA plan to spend \$750 in trust funds on bat conservation posters available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Bat Conservation International. Jay also contacted Fidelity Investments to begin the process of opening an endowment fund following approval by the Texas Speleological Association board of governors in May. The forms have been sent to the TSA president, Cathy Winfrey, and other TSA officers for signing. The \$500 honorarium will be included with the completed form when it is sent back and the account will then be opened. Christa McLeland, the TSA treasurer, will cut another check with more donations from the organization to be added to the principal.

Mike gave an updated report on the April 29-30 project at the Marigold Cave Preserve in Cedar Park. He said the clean-up was a big success, with about 20 people helping. The developer has installed a water tap at the preserve. Out of \$1,000 allotted for landscaping, receipts now total \$368.91. One of the trees died and was replaced with a cedar elm. The rest are American sycamore and cedar elm. Mike gave the 1995 renewal check to Bruce for the Marigold preserve. Mike is working out whether Lumberman's will pay the water bills at the preserve.

The preserve sites at Buttercup have a lawn mower. Mike is considering getting a small portable building for storage of lawn care equipment. More work projects are planned. Mike also gave an update on the Sun City development in Williamson County, mentioning that developer Del Webb is setting up its own in-house management of preserve sites on the roughly 5,000-acre subdivision. Mike said the developer would consult with him and James Reddell of Austin.

Jay mentioned that Noble Stidham, newsletter publisher and board member, is moving offices in Lubbock and could not attend, but he needs good color negatives and/or internegatives of cave slides to proceed with the updated TMCA brochure. He's also ready to upgrade letterhead with any staff changes. Several directors need new stationery.

Nico Hauwert, site manager at Whirlpool and Lost Oasis, said Lost Oasis needs brush clearing. Wood scraps and debris are already being burned. General cleanup is necessary. Whirlpool also needs mowing and a new trash can. The sign there has been vandalized and needs replacing. He said welding a metal sign to both sides of the posts would work. Jim said a Round Rock woman could letter a new sign. At least three-quarter inch

plywood is needed if wood is used again, Mike said. John **Spence** of Austin was also mentioned as a possible resource. Bill Russell said **rocks** would be placed along the front of Lost Oasis preserve to stop vehicles from driving on. A fence and gate could be necessary to prevent dumping, Mike said. **M/Warton, s/Russell** to set up a fund for Lost Oasis improvements, including security. Jim said a fence would help designate the property line. Grant writing could also help as well as **passing** the hat at **grotto**, TSA functions. Ron supported a Lost Oasis fund, adding that the closest neighbor wants to build a fence to keep the line straight. Motion approved.

Discussion followed on Nico possibly opening a low-cost bank account in Austin for handling Whirlpool and Lost Oasis expenses, including replacing locks, mowing expenses, **signage, etc.** Jim said he had access to a credit union that could be low-cost. **M/Anderson** to provide \$200 to \$300 to Nico for **opening** said local account, with the statements to be mailed to the treasurer and receipts also forwarded to him. He said good **financial records** are necessary to show accountability for grant applications.

Again, the subject of the riding mower and lawn mowers for **Whirlpool/Los** Oasis surfaced. Jim went over some information from the May meeting. He said the mower Ron donated needed repairs. Jim tried to **fix** the older riding mower, which needs \$400-500 in repairs. One other push mower currently works. Grass at Whirlpool needs cutting to prevent grass fires from

automobile catalytic converters. Bruce said a commercially rated mower could cost up to \$2,000. More discussion followed. Ron said the problem needs a solution - not talk. His mower cost \$500. Nico said he would take charge of the problem. Mike said a new machine would come with a warranty. Bruce said **rocky** terrain on **some** of the property **requires** a good machine. Other ideas: Checking with **companies** about donating a **mower**, brush hog or **Weedeater** to a nonprofit organization.

Rune **Burnett** has tendered his resignation to TCMA as a director because he's moving to **Arizona** for more than a year to manage a commercial cave project. Jay said he would contact Carl Ponebshek about candidates from San Antonio, where TCMA is acquiring Robber Baron Cave. Ron and Jay plan a meeting soon about a possible management project. As a result, for the next **board** meeting, Jay said the exact date would be left open at the president's call. The meeting adjourned shortly after **12:30** a.m.

For any additions or deletions to **these** meeting notes, please write the president or the secretary, Carolyn **Biegert** at TCMA, **P.O.** Box 202853, Austin, TX 78720-2853. Her telephone number is (512) 458-9606.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Jorden

**Join and Support the**  
**TEXAS CAVE**  
**MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**TCMA, P.O. Box 202853, Austin, TX 78720-2853**



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