

Minutes of the 2015 GSS Meeting

The 2015 meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Aulenbach at 10:32 a.m. on Saturday, May 17th, 2015. The meeting was held at the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi) Frick's Cave Preserve.

Attendees:

Brent Aulenbach	Kevin Leckenby
Nancy Aulenbach	Tripp Lichtefeld
Scout Aulenbach	John McMacken
Brad Barker	Tom Moltz
Alan Cressler	Mike Rose
E.T. Davis	Doug Strait

Nancy Aulenbach mentioned that the GSS archives are a great resource of information. They are housed at the Aulenbach residence. The archives can be perused by appointment.

Nancy Aulenbach thanked the SCCi and ET Davis for allowing the GSS to host the meeting at the Frick's Cave Preserve.

Officers Brian Williamson (Secretary) and Marty Abercrombie (Vice Chair) were not present for the meeting. Brad Barker volunteered to take minutes for the meeting.

Discussion of minutes of the 2014 GSS Meeting. Several errors and omissions were corrected to the 2014 minutes, including the year and date of the meeting, a couple of spelling and typographic errors, and the omission of last name of Doug Strait. The motion to nominate Nancy Aulenbach that was attributed to Marty Abercrombie was corrected to Roger Olmsted. Nancy Aulenbach made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion passed through acclamation.

Officer's Reports

Chair: Nancy Aulenbach reported the following:

- There were 63 members in 2014. Numbers were down because a table could not be set up at the TAG Fall Cave-In due to rain and the GSS could not use the SCCi booth because it was crowded.
- Carl Anderson is continuing to manage the GSS cave location files as he has been for the past 25 years.
- The mapbook was updated this year. The mapbook is currently updated every other year. Six maps and 11 entrance photos were added since the 2013 GSS Mapbook.
- Five new caves were turned in this year. Many locations were also updated. Brent Aulenbach noted that many of the older locations in the GSS were determined by plotting the location on a topographic map before the advent of GPS. Brent asked members to send in GPS locations when they visit caves to improve the locations of caves in the GSS data listing. Members should specify the datum when turning in cave locations - NAD27 or WGS84. Brent noted that in Georgia, these datums are only about 100 feet off, which is about one second of latitude or longitude.

- Nancy discussed how to turn in new caves. For updates on cave locations, these can be emailed to Brent and he will compile and give to Carl Anderson. Brad Barker asked about using Google forms for submitting caves.
- The GSS Bulletin wasn't printed because of confusion between Brian Williamson, (the GSS Bulletin editor), and the printer over making some last-minute corrections. The GSS Bulletin will be mailed out to members. Brent reported that Louis Towles, co-editor of the Dogwood City Grotto's (DCG) Georgia Underground publication, mentioned that the printer the DCG uses could print the GSS Bulletin at a substantially lower cost. Nancy Aulenbach would also look into whether caver Jim Whidby's printing company could print the GSS Bulletin at a lower cost.

Treasurer: Brent Aulenbach reported the following:

- Brent had not gotten around to transferring the bank account from previous treasurer Paul Aughey.
- Responding to a question about the GSS non-profit status, Brent explained that the GSS has a registered tax ID, but is not registered as a 501(c) tax exempt non-profit organization due to the cost of doing so.
- In response to bank checking account costs, Brad Barker suggested looking into changing the account to a local credit union.
- Brent presented the 2015 Treasurer's Report.
- Brent noted that he did not include an SCCi donation on the treasurer's report despite that a motion passed at the 2014 meeting to make a \$100 donation. He stated that past treasurer Paul Aughey thought it had been paid. Brent said he will follow up on making sure the donation to the SCCi for 2014 was paid.
- Brent noted that the account was off by about \$17 shortfall. He suggested that it could have been from missing expense receipts.
- Brent suggested in order to improve membership that past members be emailed to remind them to renew their memberships.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved as is.

Old Business

- The GSS previously had reprinted the 70's GSS Bulletins in a hardbound compilation format (sold out). The GSS would like to reprint 80's and 90's GSS Bulletins in compilations. Brent currently has 1 1/2 issues laid out and is in need of volunteers to proofread. Tripp Lichtefeld and Brad Barker volunteered to do proofreading.
- T-shirts: The simplified artwork of the GSS emblem designed by Jerry Wallace used for the t-shirts is missing. Need Jerry to remake the artwork. Would like to reprint on dark blue and purple shirt colors.
- Discussion of last year's proposal to create a wiki site similar to the Alabama Cave Survey (ACS). Andy Zellner presented the ACS wiki at last years GSS meeting. Benefits would be that people would be more willing to renewing their memberships to retain access to the information, it would be easier to update the data listing information, and it would provide more direct engagement with the information. The ACS is sharing their format, so the GSS just needs to populate

the wiki. Tripp Lichtefeld nominated Johnny Prouty, Will Urbanski and Marty Abercrombie to create the GSS wiki database. Unanimously approved. Tripp will contact the people above about the project.

- There was a discussion on distributing the data listing on USB drives as CDs were becoming obsolete. The cost of USB drives needs to be assessed.
- TAG Fall Cave-In TAG Survey booth: Nancy discussed combining the ACS, TCS, and GSS along with the Cave trip booth (Andy Zellner) to a single booth on vendors row. Alan Cressler feels that the ACS would not participate. Nancy will contact the Chairs/Board of the other groups. Groups can set specific times they will be present at the booth. Motion was made and seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Alabama-Georgia Cave Survey: Brent reported that several are currently working on a dome climb.
- GSS Frick's Cave Resurvey Project: Brent reported that there are still three going leads about 1 1/2 hours into the cave past a low airspace. Cave had been closed for White-nose syndrome. Have requested a permit from the SCCi. Have also been limited by wet winters that prevent access through the low airspace.
- GSS Byer's Cave Survey: Trip reported that they are close to three miles of resurvey. Waiting for better conditions for surveying areas above waterfall. Have been doing about a trip per month. Mapping near the front of the cave is about 20 minutes inside the entrance. Mapping upstream survey about two hours in, and downstream survey about 45 minutes in. There was some discussion regarding publishing a full map versus a tourist map to protect delicate areas.

New Business

- Brad reported interest in Cave Spring Cave by a historian.
- Tom Moltz reported that Georgia DNR acquired new land at end of Valley Head Church Road. This provides easy access to Hill Cave, Gilbreath Cave, and a newly found small cave named Worm Hole.
- Brad discussed notation of destroyed caves. Destroyed caves are noted on the data listing as record type D.
- Alan Cressler recommends adding tenths of a second to the data listing. Brent noted that Carl Anderson does keep track of GPS locations turned in to the tenth of a second so this is a possibility.

Elections

- Brad made a motion that all officers continue serving. Tom Moltz seconded the motion. All approved. The officers for 2015 are Nancy Aulenbach, Chair; Marty Abercrombie, Vice Chair; Brent Aulenbach, Treasurer; and Brian Williamson, Secretary.

To do

- Nancy will put volunteer opportunities on the website and Facebook pages. Mendy Thomas volunteered to help catalog digital archive pages.
- Add Brad Barker and new members to Yahoo group page.

- Add information regarding Yahoo group, GSS website, and Facebook page to GSS Bulletin.

Nancy moved to close the meeting. Tom seconded the motion. Meeting ended at 12:24 p.m.