

# Great SaltPetre Cave Preserve

Management Committee Meeting September 11, 2011

10 AM at Great Saltpetre Preserve

## Committee Members Present:

Neena Jud

Richard Duncan

Werner Jud

Tim Hale

Fred Ball

Pat Hutson

Jerry Dixon

## Also Attending:

Bob Dobbs

Janice Gott

Howard Kalnitz

Dan Hedges

Lori Jones

Mike Wuerth

Chanda Ziegler

Shane Mullins

Ron Hager

Ralph Mann

Fred Ball's brother

Pat & Bob Yuellig

Pam Duncan

Bill Carr

James & Sherry Clements

Matt & Brittney Fille

Dave Zubal

Earl Desantis

## Announcements

Neena took a few moments to commemorate the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, ten years ago. She expressed her hopes for all of us to hold in our minds the need to work together for our common goals.

Events coming up at the Preserve include the Stephen Powell wedding in the cave on 10/1, school field trips on 10/14 & 10/28, and a GCG Halloween Party. The Halloween Party is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Secretary's Report

Minutes of 8/9/11 were read. **Motion** to accept the minutes (by acclaim).

## Treasurer's Report

People's bank donated \$100 towards the extra cost for latrines at MiM. Toyota also made a special donation of \$400.00 to the Green Latrine Fund. Wrapping up the last business of KOR 2011, GCG paid a flat \$3,000 to GSP for camping fees. This was less than anticipated in the GSP budget, and less than the previous agreement for camping fees per person-day, but was all GCG felt they could pay due to the smaller than anticipated turn-out and low net revenue this year. Music in the Mountain brought in \$971 in merchandise sales, and \$543.00 from the kitchen.

GSP paid the last amount to GCG for lease of equipment that GSP took over five years ago. The Lease Agreement states that the equipment will become the property of RKC. It was signed by Pete Stow of GCG and Bob Dobbs of GSP. No one on the RKC board signed the Agreement and all payments were made by GSP. The equipment will remain with the GSP Committee and may be used at any of the RKC Preserves. Money was spent on repairs were made to the tractor & trailer, and the portable generator donated by Bob Dobbs was renovated by Werner. Another Halide light was added to the cave. Sanitizing posts were set up by the latrines before MiM. Water from the decontamination station hose breech after KOR caused a huge water bill of more than \$300, instead of a normal \$120. Werner asked that GCG to consider helping out on that bill. With the KOR payment, GSP had a \$3,129 net profit for August. Werner & Brittney plan to meet at GSP to go over assets to be sure that GCG & GSP are not double-counting assets in their bookkeeping. **Motion** to accept the Treasurer's report (Fred, Tim, by acclaim)

### **Youth Group Coordinator Report**

Scout groups coming up on Oct 29 & Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> are in need of volunteers, since they are not on event weekends.

### **Caretaker's Report**

Bill Carr notes that scout troops are paying well to camp, and they should have a freshly mowed camping field. Volunteers are encouraged to help by mowing that field before scout dates. Bill notes that the mowing deck on the tractor should be raised over the gravel road, or it throws out gravel and can damages cars. It was

noted that not all scout groups are on the schedule, since members are allowed to bring scout groups down under their own responsibility. However, all groups of 12 or more are supposed to notify to management committee, and be posted on the Grotto calendar. There is a form on the GSP website for members who want to sponsor a group, which should be used. Matt has been posting Scout trips on the GCG website calendar. Neena has been trying to keep the Yahoo Group calendar in sync. When groups make camping donations, Werner will then be able to send them a thank you letter if he has their information. For instance, the girls American Heritage Group used the cave for a day trip and made a generous \$500 donation. **Motion** to accept the Caretaker's report (Richard, Tim, by acclaim).

### **KOR 2011**

Coming up Sept 20<sup>th</sup> is 2011 KOR denouement and 2012 KOR planning meeting, at Brittany's house.

### **Music in the Mountain**

Renfro Valley reported 395 tickets sold. Renfro Valley sent a check for \$3,772, for half of the ticket income. It was noted that they also received that amount plus the ticket fees, with minimal outlay. RKC had a lot more sunk costs in the event, thus more risk. They also had a lot of donated items and services for advertising flyers, signage, and the transport van, which improved their profit. It looks like RKC will make at least \$2,000 on the event after expenses. Lots of cavers volunteered. RKC will be earmarking this profit for their property acquisition fund. This upcoming Weds there will be a wrap-up meeting at Howard's house. Bob Dobbs was applauded for doing a wonderful job of management on this event.

### **"Hidden in the Bluegrass" Movie**

The movie producers have not responded back to GSP after we modified their contract and sent it back, noting that, as a conservation organization, we did not want to condone inappropriate cave behavior such as climbing on walls and touching historic signatures.

### **Green Latrine**

The Green Latrine is almost operational. Neena plans to share her learned experience in helping the Cincinnati Zoo with their green latrine in return for them helping Brittany with a herpetology museum design. More progress toward completion has been made.

Still to do:

Paint lower door frame

Install lower level hardware

Install lower roof hood

Complete the grading on both sides and "loading dock"

Assemble wood shavings and starter compost

Install TP shelves and signs

Prepare instructional material

### **Cave Signs**

RKC has asked the GSP committee to place an RKC identification sign on the property. The consensus on best placement has narrowed down to the Kiosk and Cave Entrance. The majority of attendees agreed that both locations should have a sign. RKC has an extra sign in reserve that could be used.

### **Cave Closings**

Hibernaculum caves will close for the winter on Sept 3rd Great Saltpetre Cave is not on the list of closures.

### **New Business**

#### **Scout Troop Suggested Donations**

Matt Fille brought up the issue that Scout Troops pay extra for camping, at \$7 instead of \$5 per night. The extra is supposed to help support the volunteers who sponsor, through waiving their camping fees and potentially providing pre-paid gas cards. However, the currently active volunteers already have annual camping passes and have not been asking for gas compensation, etc. As youth group coordinator, Matt would like to see the Scout fee lowered, since some groups have found this amount a strain. Howard noted that the \$7 is a suggested donation, and paying less is acceptable. For a group with a hardship, a lesser amount is acceptable. RD noted that during the committee's discussions of increasing camping revenues he contacted

his old scout master who told him that \$9-\$14 per night is normal for scouting events, and \$7 is quite reasonable. The current economy has taken a toll everywhere, however. Howard noted that our insurance is triple because we host scouting events. Bob Yuellig noted that there is a point of diminishing returns if the amount is set too high, making it unaffordable for some groups.

**Motion** (Tim, Fred) To table the topic and put revisiting the camping fee amount for scouting on the agenda at next month's meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next GSP Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. [Meeting location was later confirmed to be the Groesbeck Public Library on Galbraith near Colerain.]

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am (Werner, RD).