

MINUTES OF THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO MAY 2018 BUSINESS MEETING

HELD WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH, 2018 – 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
ARTHUR MAG CONFERENCE CENTER – 4920 CHERRY ST, KCMO

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Pic Walenta. The following members were present: Jim Cooley, Jaclyn Dalby, David Foran, Bill Gee, Kristen Godfrey, Tom Grant, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Jack Peters, and Pic Walenta. Guests present: none.

Presentation: Rick Hines: A Blast from the Past

Rick began with a one-minute intro video, before starting with some general info on Carroll Cave. Carroll Cave is situated in Camden County, between Camdenton and Richland. It is in the Gasconade Formation (dolomite), making it about 450 million years old. Carroll Cave is known for spathites, boxwork, and colorful landowner relations. At 20.23 miles, it is the 3rd longest cave in Missouri; 36th longest in the U.S. The cave has 3 stream systems: the Carroll River, Thunder River, and Confusion Creek. Rick was instrumental in gaining access to this beautiful cave and shared some of the timeline and history.

The 1st reported trip into Carroll was with Dr. Oz Hawksley in 1955. Survey work from 1956-1963 produced 12 miles of mapped passage. In 1977, Carroll Cave was designated National Landmark, acknowledging its subsurface significance. During the 1990's landowner relations began to breakdown when the Pembertons became owners; the family had no interest in cavers.

With no cooperation from the owners of the only known natural entrance, in 1994, Rick decided to make a fact-finding trip to area. February 1995, Hines began collecting maps and data from the caving community. He digitized the 1960's maps and overlaid them with landowner maps, searching for a 2nd natural entrance. A hopeful solution had been found: November 1995 began a sinkhole dig in effort to reach the cave. The project was abandoned, however, after 5 years due to safety concerns. As the sinkhole kept wanting to cave in, they lined areas with large pieces of steel to prevent collapse, but it eventually proved too risky. Rick shared photos and some video from the sinkhole project.

In January 1995, the Carroll Cave Conservancy was formed. Efforts to gain access to the cave continued, and on November 10, 2000, the T-Junction dig began. Initially it began with jackhammering, but no luck as debris kept going in and obstructing progress. So, Rick began researching blasting. He found Dr. Paul Worsey, an explosives professor at Missouri S&T. Dr. Worsey was glad to help and able to provide most of the explosives materials needed to create the shaft down into the cave. The first blast occurred in October 2001. 61 blasts later, they were within 4 feet of the cave. The remaining portion was jackhammered. On July 28, 2002, they successfully broke through to the T-Junction, creating a back-door entrance to the cave; Rick was the first one through. He shared several quality video segments and photos from the journey. Throughout the process, an accelerometer was used to monitor the shock of the blasts to the cave; there was essentially no damage. The silo was later assembled around the blasted shaft.

As far as the future of Carroll Cave, Rick is working with Tom Loraine, Chris Danuser's attorney (Danuser being landowner of the back-door shaft), to arrange a 501c3 donation to secure the back-door entrance to Carroll Cave for the CCC. The details of the donation are not yet finalized but Loraine has said Danuser's will donate three acres of land, an access easement, and cave rights under 500+ acres of land over the cave. The CCC may purchase an additional three acres to own six acres in total around the back-door shaft.

Throughout the years, the Carroll Cave Conservancy has continued work to define, study, and protect the Carroll Cave watershed. For more information on the Carroll Cave and the Carroll Cave Conservancy, visit <http://carrollcave.org/>.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta mentioned that at Minsky's after last month's meeting, the age of the Grotto was talked about. It's been discovered we are 50 years old! Celebration of 50 years of Mud in our Blood was added to the festivities of the May 12th fundraiser.

Vice President: Jack Peters had nothing new to report.

Secretary: Laura Jaynes sent out last month's minutes via email. There were no objections with exception to the mention of one date correction; the Iowa City Grotto Annual Picnic and Cave trip is July 13th-15th, 2018, NOT July 27th. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes.

Treasurer: Bill Gee reported \$2137.51 in the treasury at the end of April. There had been a lot of May activity to the date of the meeting, including: \$27.63 to Keeling Nursery, \$661.50 for t-shirts, \$1.00 to verify account with Square for credit card processing, and \$213.46 for the remaining balance of the stage rental (\$100 of which we get back). As of the May 11th meeting, there was approximately \$1200-1300 in the bank.

Quartermaster: Remains the same as last month.

Fundraising: The fundraiser concert and auction [was] May 12. This event also included celebration of our 50th birthday as a Grotto! During the meeting Pic went over current expenses, profit, and sales regarding the fundraiser. Other fundraising news, we now have new t-shirts available for purchase. Pic is also looking to order coffee mugs. Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com for more information.

Presentations: Anyone interested in giving a meeting presentation, let Pic know.

Carroll Cave Conservancy: Rick Hines is working with Tom Loraine, Chris Danuser's attorney, to arrange a 501c3 donation to secure the back-door entrance to Carroll Cave for the CCC. The details of the donation are not yet finalized but Loraine has said Danuser will donate three acres of land, an access easement, and cave rights under 500+ acres of land over the cave. The CCC may purchase an additional three acres to own six acres in total around the back-door shaft.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) & Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): The most recent MSS and MCKC meeting was held on Sunday, May 6th at Berome Moore Cave in Perry County, Missouri; Ken Grush served as proxy. Jim Cooley emailed Ken's notes from

the meeting on May 7th. The next MSS meeting will be September 8-9th at Current River State Park. MSS newsletters (i.e., “The Liaison”) are now available to everyone in the world on-line at <https://www.mospeleo.org/newsletter>. Contact Jim Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com for more information.

Novice and Scout trips: Tuesday, June 5th will be a trip to Cleveland with Heidi and a girls group. The June 16th Novice trip has been cancelled.

Hickory County: With permits extended for 2018, Gary shared of a survey trip to Vanderman Cave with Bill Gee and Nathan Taylor planned for May 19th.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout was absent. Jim Cooley is in the process of working up maps, after which will be a big QC trip.

White Nose Syndrome: See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of WNS’s reach.

Trip Reports and Other News

Cave Survey: Jim Cooley made a trip down in Shannon County to some private property over April 27th and 28th, which included Ken Grush, Dennis Novicky, Brenda Goodnight, Rita Worden, and George Bilbrey. Lots of survey work was done, including a bunch out of a canoe in a large, flooded tunnel, but much, MUCH more remains to be done. One of the newly discovered spring caves had wet, tight passage with several duck-unders. We are looking for more small, wet-suit-equipped cave surveyors to assist with this one. Three new maps were drawn up by Jim Cooley and turned in from the survey effort on this trip. Jim shared that one of the caves being surveyed tends to flood 12 feet deep and all the way across the 200-foot-wide entrance room. A canoe will also be required for that one, unless we get some major drought weather. This is a major on-going survey effort.

KCAG Archive Materials: Jim Cooley brought an external hard drive and flash drive containing KCAG newsletters, correspondence, etc., all digitized by Ken Grush. These documents were available to download onto laptops.

Unfinished Business

Meeting Place after 2018: We will no longer be able to meet at our current location upon the end of the year. We are in search of other viable options near the area, suggestions are welcome. An ideal location/goal meeting place is the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, which would be feasible once we attain 501c3 status.

501c3 Application: It has become apparent that becoming a 501c3 organization would be immensely beneficial to the Grotto. Kristen Godfrey volunteered to get the ball rolling, beginning with filing for the Article of Incorporation. Eventually achieving 501c3 status will help us with donations (such as fundraiser items), grants, and meeting locations.

New Business:

MVOR Sponsorship: Pic Walenta shared that we took the plunge to host a future MVOR in conjunction with MO Bat Census. This will be Fall 2020 in Noel, MO with numerous privately-owned caves and the commercial Bluff Dweller's Cave.

Pic Walenta verified there was no further unfinished business. The meeting adjourned, whereupon members repaired to Minsky's Pizza, 5105 Main Street, KCMO, for great food and even better company.

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UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS

May 11th-19th, 2018: NCRC week long training in Mentone, AL.

May 16th-18th, 2018: Field trip to Noel, MO. Recon for MVOR site and caves. Contact Pic Walenta at picwalenta@aol.com or (816)665-5588 for info.

May 12th, 2018: KCAG Fundraiser Concert and Auction. At the home of Rick & Kay Hines, 16535 Orchard Lane, Stillwell, KS. Featuring Violet and The Undercurrents and Tacos' Food Truck.

May 18th-20th, 2018: Cloud Nine Ranch Educational Trip. Lee and Jacob Krout, Pic Walenta; This trip has no openings.

May 19th, 2018: Vanderman Cave Survey, Gary Johnson, Bill Gee, and Nathan Taylor. Contact Gary Johnson at gary.johnson@imagesjournal.com for more information.

May 19th-20th, 2018: CRF Buffalo River Work Trip, Survey, and Monitoring. Steel Creek Facility. Meals provided. Contact Kayla Sapkota at (417)970-0197 or kayla.sapkota@gmail.com.

May 24th-May 31st: Cave survey and monitoring on the Mark Twain National Forest in Oregon County, led by Jim Cooley. Contact Jim Cooley at (816) 753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com for more information.

May 25th-28th, 2018: Speleofest hosted by the Louisville Grotto in Booneville, KY, near Cave City. Visit <http://louisville.caves.org/speleofest.shtml> for more information.

May 25th-28th, 2018: Memorial Day Expedition, CRF Easter Division, cave survey, Mammoth Cave, Cave City, KY.

June 2nd, 2018: Over the Edge event, Omaha, NE. Contact Jack Peters at jack@peters2000.com.

June 5th, 2018: Adventure Girls trip to Cleveland Cave and rappelling off bluffs. Contact Heidi at heidi_a_fletcher@yahoo.com or (913)515-3533.

June 16th, 2018: Annual Grotto Picnic at the home of Rick and Kaye Hines, 16535 Orchard Lane, Stillwell, KS. Please rsvp to Rick, rickhines@aol.com.

June 23rd, 2018: Over the Edge Event, Arrowhead Stadium. If interested, contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net, or Jack Peters at jack@peters2000.com.

June 29th-July 8th, 2018: Independence Day Expedition, CRF Eastern Division, cave survey, Mammoth Cave. If interested, contact Dave West at d270@bellatlantic.net.

July 14th, 2018: Historical Lantern Tour, Onondaga Cave. Good family fun! If interested, contact Pic Walenta at picwalenta@aol.com or (816) 665-5588.

July 13th-15th, 2018: Iowa City Grotto Annual Picnic. Mystery Cave, caving and camping; border of Iowa and Minnesota. If interested, contact Pic Walenta, (816)665-5588 or picwalenta@aol.com.

July 20th-28th. 2018: 18th International Vulcanspeleology Symposium. Winema Lodge, Lava Beds National Park, Tulelake, CA. Contact David Foran at caver_skier@hotmail.com if interested.

July 21st-22nd, 2018: CRF Buffalo River Work Trip, cave monitoring and survey. Steel Creek Facility, meals provided. If interested, contact Kayla Sapkota, (417)970-0197, kayla.sapkota@gmail.com.

July 28th, 2018: Carroll Cave Conservancy meeting, Camdenton, Missouri. Contact Rick Hines or Jeff Page if interested.

July 30th-August 3rd, 2018: NSS convention, Helena, Montana, see NSS web page.

August 2rd-5th, 2018: Friendship Day Expedition, CRF Eastern Division, cave survey, Mammoth Cave. Contact Bob Lodge at lodge54@gmail.com if interested.

August 4th, 2018: Hot August Night—Cool Cave, Music in the Cave. Onondaga Cave. If interested, contact Pic Walenta at picwalenta@aol.com or (816) 665-5588.

August 4th-5th, 2018: CRF Buffalo River Work Trip, cave survey and monitoring. Steel Creek Facility, meals provided. If interested, contact Kayla Sapkota at kayla.sapkota@gmail.com or (417)970-0197.

August 17th, 2018: Kids Caving Expedition, Mammoth Cave, Cave City, KY. Sponsored by CRF Eastern Division. If interested, contact Aaron Bird, wvcaveman@gmail.com.

September 7th-9th, 2018: MSS Meeting, Current River State Park. Contact Jim Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com or (816)753-8111 for more information.