

MINUTES OF THE KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO AUGUST 2018 BUSINESS MEETING

HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 2018 – 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
ANITA B. GORMAN CONSERVATION DISCOVERY CENTER
4750 TROOST AVE, KCMO 64110

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. The following members and guests were present: Jackson Alley, Sterling Alley, Ava Bovard, Bella Bovard, Kathy Bovard, Kimberly Clifton, Kirsten Colton, Seth Colston, Heidi Fletcher, Joey Fletcher, David Foran, Bill Gee, D.J. Hall, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Jacob Krout, Lee Krout, Jackson Lavicky, Stephanie Lavicky, Zachary Levicky, Rebecca Marlin, Abe Mason, Andrew Mason, John McGuire, Kelly McKinley, Austen Peters, Jack Peters, Carl Sims, Ben Taylor, Nathan Taylor, Sam Taylor, Sara Taylor, Pic Walenta,

Presentation: This month featured our first “family” meeting: Bat House Build with John McGuire. John brought 25 ready to assemble bat house kits, with nearly all donated materials (thanks, Rick Hines!). This interactive project was enjoyed by participants of all ages. Some advice was given for once the bat houses were built and at home: it might be good to let them weather a while (6 months to a year), then painting with a medium color is okay (not black, not white). They should be placed in partial sun, not too low, but up to about 20 feet high. Note that even with proper placement, it may take up to a couple years for bats to inhabit a manmade habitat.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta got to attend the Iowa Grotto Annual Picnic, where there was caving and survey. Pic was nominated as the 9th member to the Iowa Grotto.

Vice President: Jack Peters shared a scout trip report, please see Trip Reports.

Secretary: Laura Jaynes had sent out July’s minutes via email, a motion was made and carried to accept the minutes.

Treasurer: Bill Gee reported the July beginning treasury balance as \$3277.15 (Commerce Bank). July activity included \$100.00 sent to PayPal, a \$5.00 bank fee, and \$2.00 Branch Withdrawal (for printing checks). The July ending treasury balance was \$3170.15. The beginning July Paypal balance was \$0.00, with transactions including \$100.00 received from Commerce Bank, and \$100.00 sent to CaveSim as our donation for their presence at the NSS Convention. August activity to the meeting date included \$100.00 to ALS Association in memory of Sue Cindric, \$125 for bat house plaques, and a payment to John McGuire for bat house materials.

Quartermaster: Remains the same; Pic has the stove, and plans to purchase a bag for it.

Fundraising: New t-shirts (\$20) and coffee mugs (\$15) are available for purchase. The mugs are also serving as New Member gifts. Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com for more information.

Presentations: Anyone interested in giving a meeting presentation, let Pic know! September's presentation will be done by members of the Cave Spring Park board. Please see Upcoming Events for other scheduled presentations and future meetings. We may have opportunities in the future for some of our presentations to be MDC approved at the Anita B Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, this could broaden our reach and interest.

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Thank you to Bill Gee for working (and continuing to work) on the CCC website, giving it some much needed overhaul. Check it out: www.carrollcave.org. At the annual Meeting in July, the following officers were voted in: President Rick Hines, Vice President Jack Peters, Secretary Bill Gee, and Treasurer Jeff Page.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) & Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): Ken Grush sat as proxy for Jim Cooley at the most recent MSS meeting over September 8-9th at Current River State Park. Jim sent out Ken's report via email on September 11th. 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: See Trip Reports. More novice trip leaders are needed, especially for large scout groups who want to rappel also. Please contact Jack Peters jack@peters2000.com.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson was not present.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout shared that survey at Cloud 9 is about 90% done, there will probably be a trip this coming February, at some point there will need to 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

Cleveland Cave: Jack Peters led a trip over August 18th for scout troop 323. There were 26 people! Good trip.

Noel, MO: Becca had a great time in Noel, MO, spending time with Nicole Ridlen and visiting a couple caves, including Piper Cave.

Symposium on Vulcanspeleology: David was able to attend the Symposium on Vulcanspeleology at Lava Beds in California. There was lots of caving, and approximately 80 people from all over internationally. The next symposium will be in Cecily.

New Meeting time and place: From now on, meetings will be held on the **3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm**, at the **Anita B Gorman Conservation Discovery Center (4750 Troost, Kansas City, MO 64110)** in the Lewis & Clark room.

New Member Nomination: Jacob Krout was nominated and accepted as a new member to the Grotto.

MVOR Sponsorship: KCAG will be sponsoring MVOR in Fall of 2020, in conjunction with Missouri Bat Census. Location will be Noel, MO with numerous privately-owned caves and the commercial Bluff Dweller's Cave. Volunteers for committees are needed.

501c3: The KCAG has officially achieved 501c3 status! A huge thank you goes out to Kristen Vogel Godfrey for making this happen!

Sierra Club: Pic is looking to get involved with some Sierra Club trips.

Community Classes: Pic mentioned wanting to look into what it would take to put on some adult education or community classes, perhaps through school districts. It could be an opportunity to reach more people, and add some financial boost for the Grotto.

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

September 18th: KCAG Monthly Meeting
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Anita B Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO, 64110
Lewis and Clark Room
Presentation- Cave Spring Park Project
Presenter- Cave Spring Park Board Members

September 28th-30th: MVOR
Sponsored by BATL Grotto. Come and learn how to sponsor a MVOR!
NRO Canoe Rental 171 NRO Rd. Lebanon, MO
If interested contact Pic Walenta, (816)665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com or Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net, or visit the MVOR web site <http://mvor.caves.org/>.

September 28th-30th: Berome Moore Cave Survey Trip, Perry County
Currently the 2nd longest cave in MO. Surveyed length 21.35 miles
If interested contact Chad McCain, chads93gt@hotmail.com

September 28th-October 5th: CRF Cave Gating Project, to build a cupola-style cave gate on a mine shaft into Radium Cave, in Barry County, Missouri. Volunteers needed for all or part of

project. This is for the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF). Call, text or e-mail Jim Cooley, (816)753-8111 for details, coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

October 6th-9th: Cave Gating: Volunteers needed for all or part of project. We'll gate Flutestone Cave in McDonald County, for our newest KCAG member, Nicole Ridlen, who is the manager of Bluff Dweller's Cave. Located in Noel, Missouri, this will be the site of our fall MVOR in 2020. Check it out, loads to do there. Beautiful area!
Call, text or e-mail Jim Cooley, (816)753-8111 for details, coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

October 12th-14th: CRF Buffalo River Work Trip
Cave monitoring and survey, Steel Creek Facility, meals provided.
If interested contact Kayla Sapokta, (479)970-0917, kayla.sapokta@gmail.com.

October 16th: KCAG Monthly Meeting
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Lewis and Clark Room
Anita B Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64119
Knots for Caving vs. Rock Climbing. Presenter: Richard Cindric.

October 20th: Chouteau Grotto Annual Picnic
Camping, Cave Restoration, fellowship, and GOOD food
Hosted by Rita Worden at her home, this also includes Pony Express Grotto
Meat is furnished, bring a side dish.
RSVP Required! Rita Worden, wordenrl2323@yahoo.com

October 27th: Carroll Cave Annual Bat Census Trip, Camden County.
Medium to difficult trip, wet suit recommended.
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.com

October 27th: Berome Moore Cave Survey, Perry County.
Currently the second longest cave in MO, surveyed at 21.35 miles
If interested contact Chad McCain, chads93gt@hotmail.com

November 3rd-4th - November 9th: CRF Cave Gating Project. Volunteers needed for all or part of the project; CRF project to build a fence style cave gate around the sinkhole entrance to Butler Hollow Cave, in Barry County, Missouri. Call, text or e-mail Jim Cooley, (816)753-8111 for details, coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

November 20th: KCAG Monthly Meeting
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Lewis and Clark Room, Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110
Studies of Ozark Cave Fish (*Amblyopsis Rosae*), Presenter- Matt Niemiller PH.D, Cave Biologist, assistant professor at the University of Alabama at Huntsville.

December 1st: Berome Moore Cave Survey, Perry County
Currently the second longest cave in MO, surveyed length, 21.35 miles

If interested contact, Chad McCain, chads93gt@hotmail.com

December 7th-10th: OT Back Pack Courtois Section III

No Caves, just Cavers and a few very fun other people

Harmon Springs to Hazel Creek Trail Head- Advanced (24 miles)

If interested contact Pic Walenta, (816)665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com

December 29th: Berome Moore Cave Survey, Perry County

Currently the second longest cave in MO, surveyed length, 21.35 miles

If interested contact, Chad McCain, chads93gt@hotmail.com

General, Scout Trips: Help is always welcome on novice and scout trips.

Contact Jack Peters, Vice President, Novice trip leader, (913)669-7179, jack@peters2000.com.