

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
OCTOBER 2018 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 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: Jeff Beard-Shouse, Jeff Bowman, Kirsten Colton, Seth Colston, Richard Cindric, Jaclyn Dalby, David Foran, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill, Kristen Godfrey, Rick Godfrey, Rick Hines, Kathleen Holeman, Laura Jaynes, Sabrina Negron, Jack Peters, Steve Potter, Regan Youngman, Houmin Zhong.

Presentation: Richard Cindric, Rigging Ropes for Caving vs Rock Climbing

Richard came prepared with a visual presentation, bringing gear and a board with spaced nails to show various anchoring and knot techniques. He shared initially on the general types of rock climbing, and the variance in gear and setup commonly found between them, then elaborated on what rigging gear and methods are often used for caving.

There are three kinds of rock climbing where rope is needed: sport, top roping, and trad climbing. When sport climbing, you encounter hangers every 8 feet or so, bolted into the rock wall, and an anchor at the top. As you go up you hook onto the hangers for security. Richard showed belay devices, and Bill set up a rack that could be used for belaying. With a caving rack, you can add or remove bars to slow down or speed up.

Top roping is typically what you'd experience in gym climbing, though it can be done outdoors on real rock. The rope is pre-affixed to an anchor at the top. Richard showed how to complete an anchor, and set up a double rope rappel.

Trad climbing (traditional) is often done as multiple pitch climbs. Most etiquette/anchor setting procedures are set by trad climbing. A series of devices are used for protection, including nuts, hexes, and cams; they offer security by wedging them into cracks and crevices in the rock. Just like with hangers, these devices are used about every 8 feet. As the last person makes their way up, they must clean up all the protection. Sometimes a nut pick is needed to get nuts and other protection out of tight crevices. Richard showed some protection devices, and a sling to put gear on while climbing. Anchors are also important in trad climbing and can be made with slings. Richard showed how to make a clove hitch, which is easy to adjust and untie.

Some climbing doesn't require ropes, which would be bouldering. In bouldering, typically a spotter on the ground will follow your position with a thick mat as your form of protection.

It's important to note, different ropes are used for climbing and caving. Climbing ropes are dynamic and have usually ~7% stretch. Caving ropes are static, with little to no stretch. In either scenario, an important acronym to adhere to when rigging ropes is SERENE: strong, equalized, redundancy, efficient, no extension. If one hitch fails, there shouldn't be too much shock on the rest of the system. Each form of protection should be sharing the same load.

When rigging ropes for caving, often it's a situation where you'll secure to a tree to rappel in to pit. Richard showed the figure 8 method, a common knot. Another way is the bowline/bowline knot, which is secure and easy to untie. A tensionless wrap done 3x around a tree

is also quite useful; there are no knots, it's the strongest, and gives flexibility to do some rescue. Other methods put tension on knots, which mean weakened rope. The most bark friendly setup utilizes webbing wrapped 3 times around a tree, 2 of the loops secured with carabiners, and a water knot. No tension is on the knot, but in the friction around tree. When adjusting lengths, it's good practice to keep angles 60 degrees or less (goes for all climbing).

Not always are pits on surface, some are underground. If encountering a pit in a cave, sometimes previous cavers leave anchors for you. One still needs to follow SERENE when hooking onto anchors in caving. Richard showed some end-to-end/rope-to-rope connections. One example is overhand knot, which is surprisingly secure and valid. Figure 8 follow-through is another, as well as double or triple fisherman's knots. Richard also shared examples of what not to do, for example, the American Death Knot.

Many aspects of climbing aboveground can be applied to caving. It's important to be aware and educated before taking on any climbing venture. If you are interested in learning more about rock climbing, climbing and rope techniques for caving, rappelling, or safety, there are numerous reliable resources available on the internet and YouTube, or at a local climbing gym.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta was not present. She had a design made for new KCAG patches, which Jack showed the group. We are looking at purchasing 100 patches, which is agreed to seem the best deal.

Vice President: Jack Peters had no new vice to share. He enjoyed volunteering with an Over the Edge event last month.

Secretary: Laura Jaynes sent out the August and September's minutes via email, both were accepted.

Treasurer: Bill Gee reported the September beginning treasury balance as \$2984.18 (Commerce Bank). September activity included \$50.00 to Ken Grush for MSS meeting expenses and a \$5.00 bank fee. The September ending treasury balance was \$2929.18. The beginning and ending PayPal balances for September were \$0.00.

Quartermaster: D.J. has the helmets, Pic has just about everything else.

Fundraising: T-shirts, coffee mugs, beanies and patches are available for purchase. New patch design will be coming soon. The mugs are serving as our New Member gifts. Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com for more information.

Presentations: Anyone interested in giving a meeting presentation, let Pic know! Please see Upcoming Events for other scheduled presentations and future meetings.

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): On the landowner relations front, Rick Hines got a call from Chris Danuser's attorney, Tom Loraine, saying he wanted to get something done that month (there had been talks of a 501c3 donation to secure the back-door entrance for the CCC), but Rick had not heard from him since. Some properties adjacent to the shaft have sold, the shaft is still owned by Danuser. Fry has sold the School House property, according to county records.

Bill Gee shared of the bat census trip happening at the end of October, and mentioned he sent out details for the annual data logger trip in January. Check out the revamped CCC website, Bill Gee has done a great job giving it a much-needed update: www.carrollcave.org.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) & Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): MSS newsletters (i.e., “The Liaison”) are available at <https://www.mospeleo.org/newsletter>. Contact Jim Cooley at coolstoj@kc.rr.com for more information.

Novice and Scout trips: On Sunday, November 18th, Godfrey is leading a trip to Perkins; this will be her first trip as novice leader. No upcoming scout trips at the moment.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson was not present, but Bill Gee shared that the trip scheduled for October 10th with Bill, Rita Warden, and Krista Bartel, was called off due to rain.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout not present.

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

Trip Reports and Other News

Cleveland Cave: Houmin Zhong shared on the trip to Perkins with D.J Hall last month, it was a much enjoyed trip!

Christmas Party: Saturday, December 8th, at the home of Rick and Kay Hines, 16525 Orchard Lane Stillwell, KS 66085. Meat and soft drinks provided, bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Rick at (913)897-4258 or rickhines@aol.com.

New Meeting Time and Place Reminder: Meetings are 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.

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. For more information, contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com.

New Business

MeetUp: We’re now on MeetUp. A volunteer is needed to manage use of this platform for the Grotto. If interested, contact Pic, picwalenta@aol.com. It was commented during the meeting that perhaps a well-made Instagram profile for the Grotto and creative use of hashtags could bring broader attention and benefit to KCAG for less cost. Also mentioned was the idea of running MeetUp for a while to gain some traction, stop for a year or two, then return to gain new interest.

Unfinished Business: None.

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

October 27th -- Berome Moore Cave Survey

Perry County, about a 5-hour drive

Currently the second longest cave in MO.

Surveyed at 21.35 miles

If interested contact Chad McCain, chads93gt@hotmail.com

October 27th -- Carroll Cave Annual Bat Census Trip

Fairly long and moderately difficult trip, wet suit highly recommended

Contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net, for information

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

If interested contact Jim Cooley, 816-753-8111, (text OK) for details, coolstoi@kc.rr.com

November 9th -12th -- CRF Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Hamilton Valley Research Center, Mammoth Cave

All CRF members, families, and friends are invited to attend, to become CRF member visit

<http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>

Caving, bunkhouse quarters, first come, camping and banquet.

If interested contact Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com or Kayla Sapokta, 479-970-0917, kayla.sapokta@gmail.com

Will send out the flyer on a separate email.

November 13th - 15th -- (AIM WILD), Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri Wilderness Stewardship Program

Shawnee National Forest, free admission

Learn specialized skills required for working in, managing and stewarding federally designated wilderness areas.

Currently, Pic is also on a waiting list for Wilderness First Aid course

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

November 16th - 18th -- Coldwater Cave Project

Coldwater Creek Conservation Area - Northeast Iowa - Approximate 6-hour drive

Iowa's longest cave, over 17 miles. Coldwater has some of the most beautiful impressive formations found

Wetsuit mandatory, 7mm recommended
Entrance to the cave is down 90' ladder
If interested contact Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com

November 18th -- Perkins Cave Novice Trip
Camden County, Privately owned cave
2000' long -- can be a very sporty cave with loads of mud
If interested contact Kristen Godfrey, 913-244-5512, [Vogel kris@yahoo.com](mailto:Vogel_kris@yahoo.com)

November 20th -- KCAG Monthly Meeting
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO 64110
Lewis and Clark Room
Studies of Ozark Cave Fish (Amblyopsis Rosae)
Presenter -- Matt Niemiller PH.D.
Cave Biologist at UAH
First "Go to Meeting" Program

November 23rd - 25th -- CRF Buffalo National River Work Trip (Upper District)
Ponoca, Arkansas
Cave monitoring, bio-inventory, survey
NPS Steel Creek Facility, meals provided
If you have vertical gear, bring it!
If interested contact Kayla Sapokta, 479-970-0917, kayla.sapokta@gmail.com

December 1st -- Berome Moore Cave Survey
Perry County, about a 5-hour drive
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 Trip (24 miles)
If interested contact Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com

December 19th - 23rd -- CRF Buffalo National River Work Trip (Upper District)
Ponoca, Arkansas
Cave monitoring, bio-inventory, survey
NPS Steel Creek Facility, meal provided
If interested contact Kayla Sapokta, 479-970-0917, kayla.sapokta@gmail.com

December 28th -- Novice Trip to Stark Caverns
Located near Lake of the Ozarks, Eldon, MO, about 2.5 hours
Charlie Star, cave manager, has invited KCAG to explore wild sections of the Caverns, at no charge. He is wanting to build relationships with area cavers. No Grotto has committed to

updating the map of 1962. He has offered this to KCAG, if anyone is interested in taking on this project.

If interested contact Jack Peters, 93-669-7179, jack@peters2000.com or Pic Walenta 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com

December 29th -- Berome Moore Cave Survey

Perry County, about a 5-hour drive

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

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