

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
JANUARY 2019 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2019 – 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 6:30 p.m. by President Pic Walenta. The following members and guests were present: Gabby Bateman, Robert Bateman, Kirsten Colston, Seth Colston, David Foran, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill, Tom Grant, D.J. Hall, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Brendan Lavicky, Jackson Lavicky, Stephanie Lavicky, Zachary Lavicky, John McGuire, Jeff Page, Denise Sherman, Nathan Taylor, Sam Taylor, Pic Walenta, Jessica White, Shayle Williams, Houmin Zhong.

Presentation: David Foran, Pocket First Aid Kits: “Think Outside the Bag”

Fellow caver and long-time ski patrol member David Foran led an interactive presentation on pocket first aid for caving. Each participant was able to assemble and take home their own basic kit. The key is to not think of items as you normally would, and to take advantage of the multiple properties the contents can have.

The kits were comprised of the following materials: 2 zip lock bags, two pieces of small notepad sized paper, several notecards, two safety pins, 2-2” gauze pads, 2- 4” gauze pads, pencil, alcohol pads, and a strip of duct tape.

The zip locks are used as outer and inner layers, with a piece of paper between them serving as a moisture indicator. The inner bag holds an additional paper and the remaining contents. It’s helpful to know if your bag leaks so you can be proactive in replacing ruined items or preventing mildew. For the kit build, quart size bags were used. Gallon size bags may also be used and could stabilize a neck if partially inflated and taped with duct tape. They can also serve as impermeable bandages. Freezer bags tend to be a bit sturdier.

Having some notecards is valuable to relay important information in an emergency or rescue; memory alone is not reliable, especially in stressful situations. Notecards are sturdier than regular paper. Pencil is more dependable over pen, a small golf pencil will suffice, and the strip of duct tape can be wrapped around the pencil.

Duct tape and gauze make a great cave bandage, often holding up better than a typical bandage. It’s not crucial that the gauze be sterile. For cleaning wounds, the alcohol wipes are excellent, and even if they become dry over time, they are still useful in removing dirt and debris. Safety pins (large/heavier duty ones) can secure an injured arm to the chest, or punch holes in something.

There are a few optional items David discussed. If diabetic, small gel frosting tubes are a great single dose for a sugar low, and the bonuses are they aren’t likely to be choked on if someone passes out, and they pretty much never expire. Hard candy is also adequate to have on hand. Aspirin is also handy. David carries a small utility candle (tealight). If there’s a situation where you must stay put for an extended amount of time, cold can set in quickly in a cave and

warmth is a must. Sitting in a trash bag can also aid in warmth. A note about using supplies, if you have an injured caver, it's recommended to use their pack first.

Once the kits were assembled, David opened one of KCAG's BASH kits and talked about the usefulness of many of the contents. BASH kits contain additional first aid supplies that typically aren't carried in personal packs, mostly either because they are considerably bulky, or less likely needed. Being larger containers (KCAG's are in ammo cans), they are meant to be left at the cave entrance during a trip. A few of the items in the BASH kits include: a thermometer, gloves, SAM splint, small first aid guide, checklist for evaluating patient, blood pressure cuff, grocery sacks, scissors, alcohol wipes, gauze, antibiotic ointment, stethoscope, trash bags, and many more items.

David encouraged everyone to take a good first aid class, such as a day long course. Often basic first aid isn't enough when it comes to the knowledge needed for cave situations. Everyone's first aid kit may be a bit different as well, depending on the trip or personal needs. It's important to be intentional and thoughtful in putting a first aid kit together, considering how to get the most effective use out of items, and knowing what to do in various situations. These pocket first aid kits are a great start.

Elections: The incumbent officers all offered to maintain their positions for the 2019 year; they were unopposed and elected unanimously. The 2019 KCAG officers are as follows: President, Pic Walenta; Vice President, Jack Peters; Secretary, Laura Jaynes; Treasurer, Bill Gee; MSS Director, Jim Cooley.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta shared that KCAG will be partnering with Jessica White, founder of Wander Woman, on some projects in the future, starting with a family event April 13th. We'll also be working with/co-sponsoring some events with the Sierra Club, so keep an eye out for all we'll have going on in 2019!

Vice President: Jack Peters was not present.

Secretary: Bill Gee recorded and sent out November's meeting minutes in Laura Jaynes' absence. There were no objections, a motion was made and passed to accept the November minutes. There was no December meeting due to the Christmas Party.

Treasurer: Bill Gee reminded grotto members that dues are due! You can pay online via PayPal, cash, or check.

Treasurer's report:

December beginning balance = \$2744.44 (Commerce Bank)

Activity Summary:

Deposits = \$129.50 (\$120.00 in cash/checks, \$9.50 from Square)

Spent = \$100.00 (Donation to Suicide Prevention Hotline, in memory of Jaxon Peters)

Bank fee = \$5.00

December ending balance (Commerce Bank) = \$2768.94

December beginning PayPal balance = \$0.00
5 dues transactions (2 individual, 3 family) = \$110.00
PayPal fees = \$3.93
December end PayPal balance = \$106.07

December activity expanded:

2019 Dues = \$15.00
2019 Dues = \$15.00
2019 Dues = \$15.00
2019 Dues = \$22.50
2019 Dues = \$25.00
2019 Dues (PayPal) = \$25.00
6 Patches = \$61.00

January activity to date:

2019 dues (PayPal) = \$17.50

Mosby Cave: Bob and Gabby Bateman are the owners of Mosby Cave in Gladstone, the only cave in Clay County. They were guests at our meeting to share what they know about the cave, and perhaps learn some. Bob purchased the land with the cave years ago, from the founder of Gladstone. He says there are numerous sinkholes on the property. The entrance is silted in and would have to be dug out. There is a map from the 1970's, but there have been reports that the cave may go beyond what has been surveyed. The Bateman's are interested in having KCAG explore it.

Quartermaster: Same as last reported, with the addition of new walkie talkies.

Fundraising: T-shirts, coffee mugs, beanies and patches are available for purchase, including the new patch design! Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com for more information.

Presentations: Anyone interested in giving a meeting presentation or have a topic idea, let Pic know. We have exciting things lined up for the year ahead! Please see Upcoming Events for scheduled presentations and future meetings.

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): As of December 28, 2018, the CCC now owns 6 acres of land around the backdoor entrance, a 40-foot easement from the backdoor entrance to the road, and cave rights under 479 acres! Fry has sold the School House property. Visit www.carrollcave.org for more about this exciting development. February 9th will be a surface work weekend around the Silo, contact Rick Hines at rickhines@aol.com for more information.

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: Jack Peters and Kirsten Godfrey were not present.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson not present.

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

Stark Caverns: Bill Gee shared on the initial trip from December 29th, 74 feet were surveyed. February 16th is the next survey, sketchers are needed! Contact Bill at bgee@campercaver.net.

Ozark Trail: Pic did a New Year's Eve trip on the OT, got rained out and visited a winery. The winery said they had caves on their property and allowed Pic and company to investigate. They found 8 caves.

Three Creeks Conservation Area Ridgewalk: John McGuire shared that this was a good trip; they had the locations of 15 caves and were asked to find/verify the coordinates and take pictures/describe the entrances. The groups located 8 of the caves, another day trip will likely be set up.

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. Due to a conflict with the facility, **our March meeting will be Tuesday, March 5th, 2019** (the 1st Tuesday in March).

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

New Member Nominations: Seth and Kirsten Colston, and the Lavicky Family (Zachary, Stephanie, Brendan and Jackson), were nominated and accepted into KCAG membership. Welcome!

MeetUp: We now have someone managing this platform for KCAG, we need to purchase of another year to best utilize it and expand for more members. The exact cost of this will be researched.

Brochure: Pic shared that our brochure needs updating with our new meeting information, Laura Jaynes will take the project.

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

For 2019 -- We are working on more weekend cave expedition trips.
Caving, camping, cooking and camaraderie.

Future Dates will be announced for:

A Family/Kid Caving Trip (5 -14 years old trip)

Ennis Cave Photo Trip w/ Blanchard Spring Caverns

Back Packing/Ridge Walk -- Piney Creek Wilderness with members of Batl Grotto

Ozark Underground Laboratories Trip

Float/Cave Monitoring Big Piney River

Three Creeks Conservation Return Ridge Walk

McDonald County, Noel, MO. Survey Trips with Nicole Ridlen

Stark Caverns Camp in the Cave

Co-Sponsored Wander-Woman Events

Co-Sponsored Sierra Club Expeditions

If you have trips you would like to add, ideas for trips that you would like to organize, please contact Pic Walenta at picwalenta@aol.com or (816)665-5588.

January 26th - 28th -- Allie Springs/ Mill Creek Cave Survey Project

Pulaski County, near Dixon, MO. About 3.75 hours away

Easy to Difficult trip.

Cabin accommodations available first come, camping on property

If interested contact Shawn Williams, 314-583-7039, sosifr@yahoo.com

January 26th, 1:00 PM -- Winter MSS/MCKC Meeting

DGLS Annex Building, 111 Fairgrounds Rd. Rolla, MO.

Never been in the Cave files? Come to this meeting and check them out.

If interested contact MSS Director, Jim Cooley, 816-753-8111, coolstoi@kc.rr.com

February 9th -- Carroll Cave Surface Workday

Preparing property for installation of fence by April 1, 2019

Various tasks will include cutting brush piles into firewood

Organized by Tony Schmitt, MVG Grotto

February 15th -16th -- CRF Survey and Bio Inventory

Upper District of the Buffalo National River

Focus will be on biological and cartographic survey
Accommodations provided -- NPS Steel Creek Facility
If interested contact Kayla Sapkota, kayla.sapkota@gmail.com

February 16th -- Stark Caverns Survey Trip
Miller County, Eldon, MO. about 2.5-hour drive
A GREAT new KCAG survey project
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

February 16th -- Carroll Cave Photo trip
Camden County, about a 3-hour drive
Plan is to travel to DL7 -- wetsuit required
If interest contact Terry Sherman, trawcaver@yahoo.com

February 15th - 17th -- Cloud 9 Ranch Cave Trip
Caulfield, MO. About 5-hour drive
Member owned camping and ATV Resort w/ approx. 30 caves
Bio and Bat Monitoring
Camping free, Fema Trailers available for small fee
If interested contact Lee Krout, krout.lee@gmail.com

February 15th - 17th -- Mammoth Cave Expeditions
180 Hamilton Valley Rd. Cave City, Kentucky
9-hour drive - camping and bunk houses
Survey and Bio trips
Hosted by Mark Jones, Camp Manager, Pic Walenta and Krista Bartell
Must be a CRF member to attend. To join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>
If interested contact Mark Jones, spelok9@gmail or Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588,
picwalenta@aol.com

February 19th -- KCAG Monthly Meeting
Khammouane Province, Laos Cave Survey Trip
Krista Bartell -- Presenter
6:30 PM - Anita B. Gorman Building
4750 Troost Ave
Kansas City, MO. 64110

Note: Meeting Date Change!

March 5th -- Rescheduled KCAG Monthly Meeting
Cave Diving and other Adventures with DJ
DJ Hall -- Presenter
6:30 PM - Anita B Gorman Building
4750 Troost Ave.
Kansas City, MO. 64110

March 8th - 9th -- CRF Survey and Bio Inventory

Upper District of the Buffalo National River
Focus will be on biological and cartographic survey
Accommodations provided -- NPS Steel Creek Facility
If interested contact Kayla Sapkota, kayla.sapkota@gmail.com

April 13th -- "Taste of the Wild Side" Event
Co-Sponsored Wander-Woman family event
Truman Lake Cliffs
Rappel workshop, campout and Wild De-Lish Dinner
If interested contact Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com

May 24th - 27th -- Mammoth Cave Expeditions
180 Hamilton Valley Rd. Cave City, Kentucky
Survey and Bio trips
9-hour drive - camping and bunk houses
Hosted by a past KCAGer, Heather Levy, Camp Manager, Pic Walenta
Must be a CRF member to attend. to join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>
If interested contact Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com
or Heather Levy, levy_h@yahoo.com

June 1st -- Over the Edge Event
Rappelling Fund Raiser
Lawrence, KS.
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

June 7th - 9th -- Spring/Summer MVOR
Hosted by Club 69
Black, MO.
More details to follow

June 17th - 21st -- NSS Convention 2019
Cookeville, TN.
Cookeville is the centroid of Tennessee's 10,000+ cave locations
If interested, registration and more information can be found -- <http://nss2019.subworks.com>

June 29th -- Over the Edge Event
Rappelling Fund Raiser
Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, MO.
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

June 29th - 30th -- Wilderness Frist Aid
Shawnee Mission Medical Center - Fee attached
Sierra Club Event
Instructor Tom Burroughs, Julie Greene Coordinator
If you're interested, mark your calendar. There will be a flyer soon.

September 14th -- Over the Edge Event

Rappelling Fund Raiser

St. Joseph, MO.

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

Fall 2020 - MVOR

Hosted by KCAG and Missouri Bat Census

Noel, MO.

If interested on serving on a committee, contact Pic Walenta, 816-665-5588, picwalenta@aol.com