

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
MARCH 2019 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 5TH, 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: Daniel Allenbaugh, Jeff Bowman, Tierney Bowman, Debbie Futts, Robin Gearheart, Bill Gee, Kirsten Colston, Seth Colston, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill, Kirsten Godfrey, Tom Grant, D.J. Hall, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Andrew Mason, Jeff Page, Shannon Robinson, Todd Sanders, Pic Walenta, Houmin Zhong.

Presentation: D.J.'s Great Adventure—A Sabbatical Journey: Exploring the world with heart, mind, and soul.

Fellow caver D.J. Hall brought a captivating presentation outlining his travels and experiences around the world following the passing of his wife, Freda, in 2015, and shared some info on cave diving. His wife wanted him to travel, so he set out on a great adventure. Already having diving experience, one of the first places D.J. went was Florida where he dove a prehistoric sinkhole called Devil's Den. He then visited Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where he learned high mountain snowmobiling and snowmobiled the Great Divide. He visited Devils Tower and Mount Rushmore, then spent two months in the Dominican Republic at Rick Hines' place where they did some neat caving (D.J. shared a couple videos).

After DR, he was in Kansas City for two days before he was off to Iceland! D.J. stayed with two missionary friends and saw a ton. Ice caves, lava tubes, Northern Lights; he even dove the gap between continents. Scotland was next, with abundant castles, countryside and history.

D.J. also took on a massive road trip, from KC he went to the Northeast edge of the U.S. and drove across Canada to Alaska, where he visited Cliff Gill. They went sailing for a couple weeks and befriended some great people with whom he had more adventures. From Alaska was Seattle, then Milwaukie to visit his sister's bed and breakfast, and Glacier National Park, all before returning to Florida. Once back in the Sunshine State, he worked/lived at the Dive Outpost in Live Oak, FL then Key Largo before hurricane Irma. D.J. had the goal of getting his advanced open water certification, and to be a dive instructor. He spent some time as a diving guide for a sunken ship, which was neat since he spent time on similar ships during his time in the Navy.

He brought and laid out his cave diving gear, which demands an extensive spread. All together he estimates it weighs about 80lbs. With cave diving, it's all about mitigating the risks since it can be quite dangerous. The main thing to keep in mind, you need 2 things: air to breath, and a way to get out. Everything else is just a problem to solve.

1st level cave diving is only in the light zone, and you use 1/6 tank going in, 1/6 going out. Using 1/3 in and out is full cave diving. Cave divers also get trained in nitrox decompression, how to wear dry suit, and more. It's crucial to conserve movement as much as possible, to extend air usage and prevent silting the water. Sometimes stirring sediment is

unavoidable, particularly in tight areas, which is why lines are so necessary. Many underwater caves have a gold line run through the main passage, with tangible triangle arrows placed so far apart indicating the quickest way to the exit. Separate lines are used for side passages, and there is a distance between them and the gold line; they are not connected. For caves without gold line, an exploration reel is used. Interestingly, many Florida caves are below water table vs other underwater caves in places such as Mexico that were once above water (If always underwater, you won't see decoration). D.J. showed a video of the gold line while cave diving.

D.J.'s adventures are numerous, certainly beyond what was able to be conveyed during his presentation. Even so, hearing of his travels is an inspiring reminder to be bold, and experience as much as you can.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta shared trip reports, and upcoming restoration projects.

Vice President: Pic Walenta shared that Jack Peters has stepped down from the VP office, and that the position needed to be filled. Jeff Bowman was nominated and voted into the office of Vice President.

Secretary: Laura Jaynes emailed out the January minutes; there were no objections and a motion was made and passed to accept them. There was no February meeting due to inclement weather.

Treasurer: Bill Gee shared the treasurers report, summarized below. If you have not paid your dues, you can pay via cash or check, or with PayPal through our website.

January beginning balance = \$2768.94 (Commerce Bank)

Activity:

2019 Dues - Zach Lavicky = \$22.50

2019 Dues - Rick Hines = \$15.00

2019 dues - Jeff Page = \$15.00

Donation - David Foran = \$500.00

2 Patches = \$10.00

Other deposit = \$77.50

Bank fee = \$5.00

January ending balance = \$3403.94

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January beginning balance = \$106.07 (PayPal)

2019 Dues - Kyle Lewis = \$17.50

2019 Dues - Laura Jaynes = \$17.50

2019 Dues - Cliff Gill = \$25.00

MSS annual donation = \$50.00

PayPal fees = \$2.23

End balance = \$113.84

February beginning balance = \$3403.94 (Commerce Bank)

Activity:

Dave Foran = \$12.47 (flat-pack first aid kit supplies)
Bank fee = \$5.00
January ending balance = \$3386.47

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February beginning balance = \$113.84 (PayPal)
PayPal fees = \$0.00
No activity
End balance = \$113.84

Quartermaster: Same as last reported, with the addition of new walkie talkies. Pic is looking to get the grotto some Disto X2's.

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 in the works. Please see Upcoming Events for scheduled presentations and future meetings.

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Keep an eye out for work weekend opportunities, contact Rick Hines at rickhines@aol.com for more information or visit www.carrollcave.org to stay up to date.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) & Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): Nicole Ridlin was our proxy at the last MSS meeting; Jim Cooley emailed out her report on February 11th. A magazine/publication the Lemp Brewery Caverns and Cherokee Cave was given to the KCAG President, Pic showed it at KCAG's March meeting. The next MSS meeting will be May 5th at Ozark Underground Laboratory in Protem, MO. MSS newsletters (i.e., "The Liaison") are available at <https://www.mospeleo.org/newsletter>. Contact Jim Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com for more information.

Novice and Scout trips: Jack Peters has stepped down from being Novice Trip Leader. D.J. Hall was nominated and voted in to fill the position. Please consider volunteering for these trips, help is always needed and welcome. There is a scout trip scheduled for August 17th.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson shared that a couple more trips are needed to wrap up Vanderman Cave. Elkton Cave has changed landowners and they seem uninterested.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout not present. There was the annual bioinventory trip in February, see the report in The Liaison.

Cave Spring Park Association: Pic Walenta shared that not a lot of "new" is happening currently.

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

Trip Reports and Other News

McDonald County: Pic Walenta enjoyed some MO Bat Census work in Noel, MO.

Old Spanish Cave: Pic shared on her visit to this cave and KCAG's upcoming restoration project for it March 29th. See Upcoming Trips & Events.

Bill Gee shared that he and Shawn Williams put reports in the MSS Liaison.

KCAG's reports from January and February can be found starting on page 3 of The Liaison, linked here: <http://mospeleo.org/sites/default/files/Liaisons/Lia-1-2-2019electronic.pdf>. This includes reports from the Carroll Cave data logger trip, Alley Spring, McDonald County, Stone County (Old Spanish Cave), Cloud 9, and Mammoth Cave.

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 now have someone managing this platform for KCAG and have upgraded our subscription and currently have 136 members. This is a great tool for organizing and communicating trips.

Unfinished Business:

Grant Money: Pic wants to get the Grotto some Disto X2's, there might be opportunities for grant money to help with this.

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.

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.

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

March 15th -17th -- St. Patrick's Day Mammoth Expedition
CRF Eastern Division, Hamilton Valley Research Center
9-hour drive, bunk house and meals provided
Must be a CRF member to attend. to join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>
If interested contact Dawn Ryan, dwn_ryan41@yahoo.com

March 22nd - 24th -- Cave Gating Project
Gating two caves, South of Springfield
Camping and Communal meals provided
If interested contact Jim Cooley, coolstoi@kc.rr.com, 816-753-8111

March 29th - March 31st -- Cave Restoration Project
Beginning and ongoing project of Old Spanish Resto project
3.5 hours, South of Springfield
Camping and Communal meals provided
If interested contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com, 816-665-5558, or Jeff Bowman, jpb3141@gmail.com

April 5th - 7th -- CRF Survey and Bio Inventory
Lower District of the Buffalo National River
Focus will be on biological and cartographic survey
If interested contact Kayla Sapkota, kayla.sapkota@gmail.com

April 6th -- Blue River Cleanup
29th Annual Project Blue River Rescue
Pick up trash, help plant trees, and remove invasive honeysuckle
Donuts for breakfast, hot dogs for lunch, participants receive t-shirt and gloves
Lakeside Nature Center
4701 E Gregory Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64132
For more information email vicki@healthyriverpartnership.com, 816-812-5166, or Larry at turtle5@aol.com, 816-6797772

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, picwalenta@aol.com, 816-665-5588

April 16th -- KCAG Monthly Meeting
"The Rise and Fall Dinosaurs"
Presenter - Tom Grant

6:30 PM - Anita B. Gorman Building
4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO. 64110

May 4th - 5th -- Spring MSS Meeting
Ozark Underground Lab
1572 Aley Ln. Protem, MO.
Saturday - Resurvey Tumbling Creek Cave Survey
Sunday - Board meeting, camping available
If interested contact Jim Cooley, coolstoi@kc.rr.com

May 11th – 18th -- NCRC
Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar
Camp Riverdale, Mitchell, Indiana
If interested visit, <https://ncrc.regfox.com/ncrc-2019-national-seminar>

May 24th - 27th -- Memorial Day, Mammoth Cave Expeditions
CRF Eastern Operations Expedition
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, picwalenta@aol.com, 816-665-5588
or Heather Levy, levy_h@yahoo.com

May 24th - 27th - Speleofest
Lonestar Preserve, Booneville, Kentucky
49th Caving Event
Includes Caves, kayaking, Mammoth National Park, vendors, banquets, bon-fire
Kids are welcome
If interested <http://louisville.caves.org/speleoregistration.shtml>

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

June 6th - June 7th - Bruce Archambault's Mill Creek Campout
Camp in a cave, with Bruce and his two grandsons at Jesse James Camp
Bio-inventory of Cascade Caverns
Room for two caver/campers
If interested contact Bruce Archambault, acrchambault@juno.com

June 7th - 9th -- Spring/Summer MVOR
Hosted by Club 69
Turtle Ranch, Edgehill, 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 - KCAG Annual Picnic

A fun gathering at the home of Rick and Kay Hines

Bring a side dish, meat provided, bon-fire

RSVP to Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com

June 28 and 29th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Bat Academy

McDonald County Noel, MO. 10:30 AM

MOBat Census will be teaching you everything you need to know about a bat and more

If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

June 28th - July 7th - Independence Day Mammoth Cave Expedition

CRF Eastern Operations, Hamilton Valley Research Center

9-hour drive, Bunk house and meals provided

Must be a CRF member to attend. to join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>

If interested contact Dave West, d270@bellatlantic.net

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 First 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.

July 12th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Cavern Tavern Event

Noel, MO. McDonald County 6 to 9 PM

Tour Bluff Dwellers Cave and learn how caves have been used historically to brew beer

At end of tour, Indian Springs Brewing Co, will be serving up their beers

If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

July 19th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Cavern Taverns Event

Noel, MO. McDonald County 6 to 9 PM

Tour Bluff Dwellers Cave and learn about how caves have been used historically to brew beer.

At the end of the tour, Whistling Springs Brewing Co. will be serving up their beers

If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

July 26th -- Bluff Dwellers Cave, Cavern Taverns Event

Noel, MO. McDonald County, 6 to 9 PM

Tour Bluff Dwellers Cave and learn how caves have been used historically to brew beer

At the end of tour, Flag City Brewing Co. will be serving up their beers

If interested contact Nicole Ridlen, cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

July 27th - Carroll Cave Conservancy Annual Meeting

Meeting held at Mid-County Fire Protection District Station

Camdenton, MO.

If interested contact Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com

August 1st - 5th -- Rick Hines Ennis Cave Photo Trip

Including a trip to Blanchard Spring Commercial Cave

Stone County, Arkansas about 13 miles east of Mountain View

5.5-hour drive

Camping at the cave provide, communal meals optional

Come for all or part of the trip

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

or Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com, 913-710-1063

August 2nd - 4th - Iowa Grotto Annual Picnic

Details to follow

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

August 17th -- Cleveland Cave Scout Novice Trip

Troop #1323, Lee's Summit

Jack Peters could use help leading this trip

If interested contact Jack Peters, jack@peters2000.com, 913-669-7179

August 30th - September 2nd - Labor Day Weekend, Mammoth Cave Expedition

CRF Eastern Division, Hamilton Valley Research Center

9-hour drive, Bunk house and meals provided

Missouri Cavers will have good showing

Must be a CRF member to attend. to join CRF - <http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php>

If interested contact Bob Osborn, osburn@levee.wust.edu

September 7th - Carroll Cave Landowner Trip

Carroll Cave, Camdenton County

Introducing new landowners to Carroll

If interested contact Rick Hines, rickhines@aol.com

September 14th -- Over the Edge Event

Rappelling Fund Raiser

St. Joseph, MO.

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

October 11th - 13th -- Fall MVOR

Perry County Fairgrounds

Attenberg, MO.

More details to follow

Fall 2020 -- MVOR

Hosted by KCAG and Missouri Bat Census

Noel, MO.

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

Future Dates will be announced for:

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