

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
MAY 2019 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, MAY 21ST, 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 by President Pic Walenta. The following members and guests were present: Jeff Bowman, Allen Bui, Kirsten Colston, Seth Colston, Alysa Darrenkamp, Kelly Ellston, David Foran, Cassandra Forte, Bill Gee, Kristen Godfrey, D.J. Hall, Erika Helton, Rick Hines, Paul Hutton, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Cagen Johnston, Jay Kennedy, Mindy Legg, Amelia Niles, Jeff Page, Shannon Robinson, John Tinsley, Pic Walenta, and Houmin Zhong.

Presentation: John Tinsley, Basalt of Mammoth Crater

USGS Geologist John Tinsley shared on the emplacement of the basalt of Mammoth Crater in Lava Beds National Monument on behalf of Julie Donnelly-Nolan, Duane Champion, and himself. John grew up in Columbia, MO, and was once a member of the Columbia Chouteau Grotto. He lives in California and is a long-time member of the Bay Area Chapter (Grotto). He does have a project in the Midwest, dating paleo earthquakes by studying damaged cave features.

Tinsley gave some background and info on the area near Mammoth Crater. Medicine Lake Volcano, in Lava Beds National Monument, has a shield shape and is often incorrectly thought to be a shield volcano. The shield shape is due to the volcano's various number of vents. Something to remember about the landscape out there, high topography is constructed, built up, rather than erosional like we are used to seeing here. Medicine Lake Volcano has had 9 eruptions, one of the most erupted in the Cascades. There is geologic shearing and extension going on across the area.

The Mammoth Crater Basalt is a very large flow containing many lava tubes, more than anywhere in the monument. Mammoth Crater itself is 300 feet deep and 100 meters across. In the research Tinsley spoke on, 70 cave and surface samples were collected for analysis. When plotted, nothing surprising was found between surface and subsurface samples, which was good.

John also shared some about the Giant Crater Lavas, which have 6 phases. Because these lava flows are highly magnetic, it messes up the compass when surveying. A sun compass can take care of the problem.

The samples collected for paleomagnetic analysis showed one field direction for Mammoth Crater vs some spread for Giant Crater. Lack of a paleomagnetic time signal and octopus like distribution of BMC tubes indicated little stratigraphic control. Emplacement of the BMC remained cryptic until Steamboat Frank Cave was discovered. John shared charts and aerial photos to show the sorting of flows and distribution of lava.

Samples were obtained using chisel/hammer, the park doesn't like mechanical drills (though there is some drilling going on for geothermal purposes). When finished with the project, the labeled samples will be given back to the park for archives.

For the most part, Lava Beds National Monument encourages exploration of the many lava tubes. There are a few caves/tubes they don't share much about intentionally. The monument is serious about WNS protocol, the fungus isn't out there yet but they are cautious. Lava tubes can have some decoration, in the monument there are tubes with stringy drips and such. There are over 800 known caves in the monument, some over 15k ft long, some real passage. There may be some tubes blocked, but statistical assumptions can be made.

When surveying lava tubes, though magnetism in the flows is an issue, they still use compasses. The rules on precision have to be relaxed a little, and a lot of floating stations are used (usually ~3 feet off rock, distortion is worse the closer to the rock), however, there are still some notoriously obnoxious stations. Sometimes the survey can be reverse engineered using known locations such as an entrance's GPS location.

If interested in more, there are survey opportunities, and an invitation to the grotto to visit the monument; contact Pic Walenta (picwalenta@aol.com) for information. More info about the basalt of Mammoth Crater and Lava Beds National Monument can be found at the USGS website.

BONUS mini presentation: Jeff Page, Devil's Icebox

After our main presentation, Jeff Page briefly shared on Devil's Icebox Cave in Columbia, MO at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park. This cave used to be open for wild cave tours, around 2009 was probably the last year of that. Throughout the more than 7 miles of mapped passage, there used to be tour options with different lengths, endurance levels, and difficulty. Now, there are typically only 2-3 trips a year there for research. The Missouri parks system is trying to train a new generation of cavers to become leaders and familiar with the cave, not necessarily to open to the public.

Reasons for a KC caver to get involved? It is hard to find a cave of this quality only ~2 hours from KC. This is not a first-come-first-serve arrangement, they are looking for best qualified people, and there is a set number of spots to fill (24). They are asking for a 3-year commitment of 3-days a year, with some training days. Jeff brought some printed applications to the meeting. The application deadline is July 6th. If interested, contact Jeff (pagejk@yahoo.com) for the application or more info.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta gave thanks to DJ Hall for all the new faces at the meeting from MeetUp!

Vice President: No new report from Jeff Bowman in capacity as VP.

Secretary: The emailed minutes from April's meeting were accepted. Laura Jaynes shared that the KCAG brochure has been updated for future printing, and the remaining old brochures were updated with a printed sticker covering the old meeting location.

Treasurer: Bill Gee shared the latest treasury report, detailed below.

April beginning balance = \$3428.47 (Commerce Bank)

Deposit = \$260.00

Checks = \$90.00
Debit card =
Bank fee = \$5.00
End balance = \$3509.44

Activity

Income:

Donations at Taste of the Wild = \$253.00
Apparel at Taste of the Wild = \$25.00
2019 Dues - Nicole Ridlen = \$15.00
2019 Dues - Max White = \$15.00
2019 Dues - Jacky Dalbey
2019 Dues - Hou Zhong
2019 Dues - Shannon Robinson
Two patches (Max White) = \$20.00
Donation (Max White) = \$5.00

Expenses:

Campsites at Taste of the Wild = \$90.00
Donation to MoBatCensus = \$53.00
Donation to Wander Woman = \$100.00
Paper plates, plastic silverware, trash bags etc. = \$159.43
Photocopying = \$14.60

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April beginning balance = \$113.84 (PayPal)

PayPal fees = \$0.00

End balance = \$113.84

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April beginning balance = \$42.00 (petty cash)

End balance = \$62.00

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Rick Hines reported on the Community Meeting last Saturday in Montreal; 7 or 8 CCC members presented to 1 landowner, not the best turnout but still a positive experience. The annual CCC meeting will be the last Saturday in July. The last Saturday in September will be a landowner trip. DJ has created a new brochure for the CCC, it looks great. 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 Ridlen was our proxy at the May 5th meeting, Bill Gee shared her report via email on May 22. MSS newsletters (i.e., "The Liaison") are available at <https://www.mospeleo.org/newsletter>. Contact Nicole Ridlen at nicoleridlen@gmail.com for more information.

Novice and Scout trips: See Trip Reports. Contact DJ Hall (dj.hall@rangerdj.com) for more information on upcoming novice opportunities.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson went to visit the new landowner of Elkton, was generally positive. The landowner wants to build a cabin near the cave entrance. There may be a landowner trip in the future. A survey trip to finish Vanderman Cave may be in the works.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: See Trip Report. Another survey trip will be happening soon. Contact Bill Gee for additional information bgee@campercaver.net.

Old Spanish Cave Restoration Project: See Trip Report. For more info contact Pic Walenta picwalenta@aol.com.

MVOR Sponsorship: We have decided on a site and time for the Fall 2020 MVOR—Eagles Nest, last weekend in September 2020. The theme is Mudstock. Looking for a bonfire team, tshirt designer, and more. Volunteers for committees are needed. For more information, contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com.

MeetUp: Please consider starting to use MeetUp to post and organize your cave trips, or even to show you are attending a grotto meeting. It has been very successful so far, let's keep it going. DJ Hall shared that we have 249 members in our group on MeetUp now.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout not present. Bill Gee shared on the recent QC trip.

Cave Spring Park Association: No new update.

Quartermaster: Same as last reported.

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

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

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.

Trip Reports and Other News

DJ Hall ran 3 MeetUp trips to **Perkins** in the last month and did a pre-cave meeting for Perkins the Monday before the meeting. He shared on the recent photo trip into **Carroll Cave**, they went to the water barrier and did the traditional visit to Thunder Falls. DJ also mentioned he did some scuba diving.

Pic Walenta shared that she and Rick Hines went to the **Ozark Underground Lab** at the end of April, Rick expounded that the event was in celebration of over 3500 acres accessed over the years, especially the last ~600 acres.

Pic Walenta also did another restoration trip to **Old Spanish Cave**, it went well.

Bill Gee surveyed at **Stark Caverns** with three others; the tourist section is just about finished. The next trip will be in July.

Jeff Page did bio-inventory at **Devil's Icebox** at the end of April.

Jeff Bowman recently participated in a **Missouri River Relief** project at the **Fort Osage Boat Ramp in Sibley, MO**. The weather wasn't the best, but a lot was accomplished, they even pulled a hot tub out.

Picnic Reminder: Our annual picnic will be June 29th at the home of Rick and Kaye Hines. Meat provided, bring a dish to share. Please RSVP, rickhines@aol.com.

New Business: none.

Unfinished Business:

Grant Money: Pic is working on a grant opportunity to help get the Grotto some Disto X2's.

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

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.

June 5th - Cleveland Cave and Rappel

Help needed to manage 20-25 girls caving and rappelling

If you can give a hand, contact Heidi Fletcher at heidi_a_fletcher@yahoo.com

New Dates - June 5th - June 6th - 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, brucearchambault@juno.com

June 8th - Perkins Cave Novice Trip

Near Camdeton, MO. About 2.5 hour drive

Sporty cave, full of mud and water

If interested contact Kristen Vogel-Godfrey, vogel_kris@yahoo.com

June 8th - Cathedral Cave Off Trail Tours

Off trail wild tour with park's experience Naturalist
Nearly one mile of not normally seen, five hours
Fee attached
If interested contact Robert Swain, 573-522-3760

June 6th - 9th -- Sprummer MVOR

Hosted by Club 69 - Get Your Polynesian On
Private property, Ottery Creek near Black, MO.
5.5 hour drive from KC
If interested contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com, 816-665-5588

June 18th - No Monthly Meeting

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 22nd - Cathedral Cave Night Tour

9:15 PM \$10 fee - good trip for kids
Support Onondaga Friends Association
If interested contact: <https://mostateparks.com/event/78886/cathedral-cave-night-tour>

June 23rd - Photo Tours of Cathedral and Onondaga Caves

10AM - 3PM, Fee attached, Photo opts to hone your cave photographer skills
Support Onondaga Friends Association
If interested contact: <https://mostateparks.com/event/78981/photo-tours-cathedral-cave-and-onondaga-cave>

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 6th - Carroll Cave Data Logger Trip

Fairly easy, good trip for first time cavers

5 to 6 hours

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

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 16th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

CRF Buffalo National River Project

Presenter: Kayla Sapkota, CRF Vice President and Buffalo River Project Manager

6:30 PM Anita B. Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO 64110

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 20th - Stark Caverns Survey Trip

Finishing Tourist side and starting on Wild Cave portions

Sketchers needed, Eldon, MO.

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

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

July 26th - 28th - CRF Mark Jones Oklahoma Survey Expedition

Gittin Down Mountain in Adair County

Cabin Camping on site, space is limited

If interested contact Mark Jones, speoleok9@gmail.com or Kayla Sapkota at
kayla.sapkota@gmail.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

Backbone State Park, Picnic is at North Flats Shelter

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

August 1st - 5th - Kid's Caving Expedition

CRF Eastern Operations, Hamilton Valley Research Center

9 hour drive, Bunk house and meals provided

This event was a huge success last year!

If interested contact Aaron Bird, ajbird72@gmail.com

August 17th - Vanderman Cave Survey

MDC property, near Wheatland, MO. 2.5 hours

Must be a smaller caver and have wetsuit

If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

August 17th -- Cleveland Cave Scout Novice Trip

Troop #1323, Lee's Summit

DJ Hall could use help leading this trip

If interested contact DJ Hall at dj.hall@rangerdj.com

August 23rd - 25th - Old Spanish Restoration Trip

Reeds Spring, MO. About 3.5 hours

Camping, communal meals provided
If interested contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com, 816-665-5588

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 28th - "See the Best of Carroll Cave"

Thunder Falls, Carroll Passage, Angel Pool Passage
Open to the Public, liability release and be able to climb a 100' ladder
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 7th - 11th - National Cave and Karst Management Symposium

Bristol, Virginia
Interested in cave and karst management
Variety of registrations available
If interested see their website at <https://www.sinkingcreekpottery.com/>

October 11th - 13th -- Fall MVOR

Sponsored by MVG Grotto
Perry County Fairgrounds
Attenberg, MO.
More details to follow

October 11th - 14th - Columbus Day 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 Rick Olson, rickardolson16@gamil.com

October 19th - New River Gorge Bridge Day Rappel

Longest free rappel that you can do in the world - 851'
New River Gorge Bridge - West Virginia
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

October 26th - Carroll Cave Bat Census Trip

Wet suit recommended

Difficult, 10 hours in cave
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

November 27th - Dec 1st - Thanksgiving 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 John DeLong, mcthanksgiving@yahoo.com

Decemeber 27th - 30th - New Year's 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 Ed Klausner, Klausnere@gmail.com

September 25th - 27th 2020 - OUR 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

Still working on:

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