

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
JULY 2019 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, JULY 16TH, 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: Mike Banks, Richard Cindric, David Foran, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill, Kristen Godfrey, DJ Hall, Rick Hines, Edie Jackson, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Jay Kennedy, Jeff Page, Bill Pfantz, Shannon Robinson, Kayla Sapkota, Pradeep Sapkota, Pic Walenta, Joe Wynne, Terri Wynne, Houmin Zhong.

Presentation: Kayla Sapkota—Buffalo National River

Kayla is the project leader for the Buffalo National River division of the Cave Research Foundation, Ozark Operations Area. She shared some info on the river, and about the projects and activities the CRF takes on in that area.

The Buffalo River is 153 miles long and in 1972 was established as the 1st national river. The CRF here does cave inventory and monitoring, biomonitoring/biosurvey, public use monitoring, cartography, survey, and give special attention to bat survey and WNS protection. They work under a Scientific Research Permit.

Kayla showed some pictures of cave life often found in the region, including salamanders, salamander eggs, bats, crickets, etc., even buzzards. Bioinventories are tracked in a database; their cave database is a very similar structure as the MO Cave database. They keep detailed trip reports, and value good documentation.

Mapping caves—51% of features (754 in total) and 63% of caves (525 in total) in this project area are mapped. Some of the work they do is to expand on previous surveys, whether by adding length or increasing detail, not necessarily to redo previous work. For instance, in Tom Barnes Cave, they added quite a bit beyond the 1979 map version, and in Back O' Beyond Cave they added detail/updated for Interpretive Rangers.

Some figures (2018)— total mileage: 43,908 miles traveled, total people days: 303 days, total survey: 17218.3ft, total trips: 100, new public use monitoring records: 177, new faunal records: 639, new maps completed: 57, new caves located: 27. A lot goes in to and gets accomplished on Buffalo Nat. River CRF ventures! Kayla shared that they do a lot of teaching and are always open to training others! There's always something to work on.

Ongoing training includes: general cave life identification, bat identification (and updates), surveying, cartography, and vertical ropework. In community and education, CRF works with various groups and individuals on projects, one being CAVES (Creative Adventures & Valuable Experiences through Spelunking)—a 7day/6night summer residential program that provides authentic immersion in science out of the classroom for gifted high school students. They have also worked with a Texas A&M Galveston biospeleology class—they came for a week 2 years in a row with 20-23 students and 3 faculty.

Outside of the Buffalo National River, there are several ongoing Ozark projects: Mark Twin National Forest, Ozark Scenic Riverways, MO Dept. of Conservation, Russell Preserve

(Oklahoma), and more! There are also other Operation Areas across the US, which include Eastern Operations, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns, and Lava Beds.

An organizations strength is it's people! People create the reputation, bring experience, build relationships, compile the data; that's what makes CRF so wonderful. The Buffalo National River is about 5hrs from KC, there are plenty of opportunities for participation. Want to know more? Get involved? Contact Kayla at kayla.sapkota@gmail.com, or visit www.cave-research.org.

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta thanked Rick and Kay Hines for putting on a wonderful picnic! There was a great turnout and lots of fun.

Vice President: Jeff Bowman was unable to attend.

Secretary: The minutes from May's meeting were accepted. There was no official meeting in June. Laura Jaynes had no new report as Secretary.

Treasurer: Bill Gee shared the latest treasury report, detailed below. Bill also shared that he got a Swaygo pack while at NSS convention, he really likes it!

June 2019

May beginning balance = \$3509.44 (Commerce Bank)

Deposit =

Checks = \$140.00

Debit card = \$0.00

Bank fee = \$5.00

End balance = \$3364.44

Activity:

Income:

Expenses:

MSS travel (Nicole Ridlen) = \$50.00

Campsites at Taste of the Wild = \$90.00

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May beginning balance = \$113.84 (Paypal)

PayPal fees = \$0.00

End balance = \$113.84

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May beginning balance = \$62.00 (petty cash)

End balance = \$62.00

July 2019

June beginning balance = \$3364.44 (Commerce Bank)

Deposit = \$500.00 (MVOR donation)

Checks = \$78.88

Debit card = \$11.25
Bank fee = \$5.00
To PayPal = \$100.00
End balance = \$3661.31

Activity:

Income:
\$500 from MVOR for cleanup expenses at Old Spanish Cave.

Expenses:
Missouri Dept. of State = \$11.25
To PayPal = \$100.00
Rick Hines - Projector lamp = \$78.8

Expenses:

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June beginning balance = \$113.84 (Paypal)
PayPal fees = \$0.85
Sent \$100 to CaveSim LLC - Donation for 2019 NSS Convention expenses.
Received \$25.00 - Seth Colston family membership.
End balance = \$137.99

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June beginning balance = \$62.00 (petty cash)
End balance = \$62.00

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): The annual meeting was July 27th in Camdenton, MO, with a Trip Leader training session in conjunction with the meeting. Rick Hines reported that the county appraised the 6 acres and cave rights that now belong to the CCC at about 194K, and they got a tax exemption. It was mentioned there was a recent survey trip that added quite a bit to DL7. Pic mentioned Shawn Williams wrote about Carroll Cave in the NSS publication, with some of Rick's photography.
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): See Upcoming Trips for opportunities with MSS/MCKC. 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: Contact DJ Hall has a scout trip on August 17th, he needs helpers! We also need a cave trip for 4 fellows looking to join a trip to Cleveland Cave. Contact DJ at dj.hall@rangerdj.com for more info. Also see Trip Reports.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson shared that there is a final survey trip scheduled for Vanderman Cave, August 17th. So far only Bill Gee is signed on for this... need another smaller caver with a wetsuit to help finish this survey. Contact Gary Johnson at gary.johnson@imagesjournal.com.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Another survey trip was scheduled for July 20th. Contact Bill Gee for additional information, bgee@campercaver.net. Kristen Godfrey shared that Stark Caverns has added an “escape room” attraction to the cave.

Mosby Cave: A cleanup trip was scheduled for Thursday July 25th, 8:30 at Pic’s house. The cave owner has offered a \$1000 donation to help explore this cave, and another \$200 for help in cleanup.

Old Spanish Cave Restoration Project: The next Resto trip will be the weekend of August 23rd. At the Sprummer MVOR, we received a \$500 donation earmarked for this project, we are needing to purchase gear/tools. For more info contact Pic Walenta picwalenta@aol.com.

MVOR: Fall 2020 MVOR is a work in progress! Eagles Nest, last weekend in September 2020. The theme is Mudstock. Laura Jaynes is working on donations: items, money, etc. Kristen Godfrey will be MVOR Treasurer, Gary Johnson will help with the publication. Volunteers for are needed. For more information, contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com.

MeetUp: We are up to 265 members! Quite a few MeetUp members came to the picnic. Sign up to and show you will be attending meetings and events. Contact DJ Hall (dj.hall@rangerdj.com) for more information, and visit <https://www.meetup.com/Kansas-City-Area-Grotto/> to join the group.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout not present, no new report.

Cave Spring Park Association: No new update.

Quartermaster: Rick has the projector; Kristen has 20 helmets and 8 headlamps... we are trying to lockdown the other 4 headlamps. **If you have a Grotto headlamp, please let Pic know** (picwalenta@aol.com).

White Nose Syndrome: There have been recent updates, see <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of WNS’s reach. While the map shows expansion, Rick Hines shared he’s seen a couple articles of recovery in some bats in the Northeast, hope.

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

Kristen Godfrey ran a novice trip to **Perkins** on June 8th (3 MeetUp attendees, 4 Grotto), good trip. She also went on Bill’s data logger trip in **Carroll** and attended **NSS Convention** where she visited a cool cave.

Pic Walenta shared about **Mammoth** (with Kirsten).

Dr. Jay Kennedy went to KY, did the historical tour at **Mammoth** with his son, went to **Laurel Caverns** (was spelunker central at the time) and **Horn Hollow**.

DJ Hall shared that **Seth Colston** led a trip to **Perkins** with an urban boys' group.

DJ Hall reported he spent a week in **Mexico**, did several cave dives and a couple water dives. His max depth was 102ft. He mentioned he could use help Saturdays August 17th and September 21st at **Cleveland Cave**.

Bill Gee shared that his report from his data logger trip in **Carroll Cave** is on the CCC website, visit www.carrollcave.org. Bill also emailed his **NSS Convention** report to the Grotto.

Kayla Sapkota shared of a recent trip to **Janus Pit**; they camped underground and enjoyed grilled cheese sandwiches and fresh bananas, not your usual cave food!

Pic Walenta mentioned her visit to the underground warehouses here in KC to a **mushroom farm**, a very neat experience! She also recently met up with Bob Bateman to discuss **Mosby Cave**.

New Business:

New Member: Nick Kennedy was nominated and accepted as an official member of the Grotto.

Grant Money: Pic is working on grant money to purchase 2 DistoX's for the Grotto.

Old Spanish Cave Resto Equipment: With the recent donation, we can purchase the necessary equipment for this restoration project. If you would like to assist in the purchase of items, contact Pic, picwalenta@aol.com.

REI Partnership: Jeff Page is in communication with REI on doing caving classes; taking about winter as summer slots have booked up. The space for classes at REI is fluid depending on what's going on in the store, still working on details.

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

August 2nd - 4th - Iowa Grotto Annual Picnic

Cave Survey and loads of other fun activities

Backbone State Park, Picnic is at North Flats Shelter

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

August 3rd - Hot Night Cool Cave Music

Onondaga Cave, Leasburg MO.

6:30PM to 10PM Refreshments and appetizers served

Acoustic Elements performs, a Latin vibe

Fee attached, if interested visit web site <https://mostateparks.com/park/onondaga-cave-state-park>

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 2nd - 4th CRF Buffalo National River (Upper District)

Survey and Inventory of caves and karsts features

Work out of the NPS Steel Creek Facility

If interested contact Kayla Sapkota at kayla.sapkota@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 20th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

McDonald County, Noel Missouri, learn about our future MVOR location

Presenters - Nicole Ridlen, Geologist and GM of Bluff Dwellers Cave

Kirsten Alvey-Mudd, Director of Missouri Bat Census and Foodie Forager

630 PM - Anita B Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave. KC MO. 64110

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

New - August 23rd - 25th or September 13th -15th - CRF Cave Gating Project

Near Branson, MO. on Bull Shoals Lake

Dates are in flux due to flooding

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

August 29th - September 2nd - 70th Annual Old Timers Reunion

Hosted by The Robertson Association, Dailey West Virginia

For more information visit OTR.org. Possible road trip for those who are interested

(Pic has applied for Grant money from this organization, if we are awarded, we need to be present to collect)

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

New - September 6th - 8th - CRF Survey and Monitoring Lower Buffalo National River

Survey and monitoring of cave and karst features

Working out of the Taney Bend Facility, meals provided

If interested contact Kayla Sapkota, kayla.sapkota@gmail.com

September 14th -15 - MSS/ MCKC Meeting

Fall Survey Weekend

Berome Moore Cave, Perryville, MO.

If interested contact KCAG's MSS Director, Jim Cooley, coolstoi@kc.rr.com

September 17th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Krista Bartel presenting on her many caving experiences

Khammouane Province, Laos Cave Survey

630PM - Anita B Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave. KC MO. 64110

New - September 21st - Exploring Roots Cleveland Cave Trip

Exploring Roots Boy's Novice trip - DJ could use help with this trip

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

New - September 27th - October 6th - CRF HUGE Cave Gating Project

Nixa, MO. on James River, well known Cobb Cave

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

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 web site at <https://www.sinkingcreekpottery.com/>

October 10th - 13th Annual TAG (Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia) Fall In Caving and Rappelling

2477 Old Stone RD.

Menio, Georgia 30731

If interested see <https://dogwoodatygrotto.org/registration>

October 11th - 13th -- Fall MVOR (appears to be a well-organized event)

Sponsored by MVG Grotto

Perry County Fairgrounds

Attenberg, MO.

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 15th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

DJ Hall presenter

Expedition Backpacking

630PM - Anita B Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave. KC MO. 64110

New - October 18th - 20th CRF Survey and Monitoring on National Buffalo River

Lower District, survey and monitoring cave and karst features

Working out of Taney Bend Facility, meals provided

If interested contact Kayla Sapkota, kayla.spaokta@gmail.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

New - November 28th - Dec. 1 - CRF Survey and Monitoring on the Buffalo National River

Upper District, monitor and survey cave and karst features

Working out of the Steel Creek facility, meals provided

If interested contact Kayla Sapkota, kayla.sapkota@gmail.com

December 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

New - February 14th - 17th, 2020 - Mark Jones 60th Birthday President Day Mammoth Cave Expedition

CRF Eastern Division, Hamilton Valley Research Center

9 hour drive, Bunk house and meals provided, fee attached

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

If interested contact camp mgr. Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com or Expedition leader Mark Jones, speleok9@gmail.com

September 25th - 27th 2020 - OUR MVOR

Hosted by KCAG and Missouri Bat Census

McDonald County Noel, MO.

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

If you have trips you would like to add, ideas for trips that you would like to organize and share with our members, please contact Pic Walenta, 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