

**MINUTES OF THE  
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO  
AUGUST 2019 BUSINESS MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>, 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: Kirsten Alvey-Mudd, Mike Banks, Jeff Bowman, Tierney Bowman, Kirsten Colston, Seth Colston, Abby Fletcher, Bill Gee, DJ Hall, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Jay Kennedy, Nick Kennedy, David Lilly, Jeff Page, Nicole Ridlen, Brandon VanDalsem, Pic Walenta, Megan Wheeler, Darla White, Joe Wynne, and Terri Wynne.

**Presentation:**

**Kirsten Alvey-Mudd and Nicole Ridlen, McDonald County Caves and Future MVOR Site**

The co-sponsored Fall 2020 MVOR is set for September 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Eagle's Nest Campground in Noel, MO. Nicole gave a brief outline of the geology of the area, which gives so many great caves there. Kirsten and Nicole then shared on some of the caves that will be available at MVOR.

The prominent geologic units in McDonald County are the Reeds Spring Formation (very cherty limestone), Pierson Limestone, Northview Shale, and Compton Limestone (less soluble than Pearson). Lots of vadose speleogenesis, with water coming in overhead rather than below water table. This gives quite a variety of experiences between huge fluted domes, tall and massive passages, wet lower spring crawls, long joint controlled passages, heavy decoration, on-rope opportunities, and stunning waterfalls.

There are 146 caves in McDonald County, 37 of which are under MoBat management. Many are very family friendly. These caves are teeming with wildlife—even buzzards! Bluff Dwellers, the cave Nicole manages, lies primarily in the Pearson limestone but does carve into all four layers. Discovered in 1925, it is an official archeological site. There is also a museum there (e.g., fossils, minerals, crystals, etc., and a blacklight room).

McDonald County has a problem with vandalism and trespassing. Daylight Cave and Hobo Cave have suffered greatly, however, Henson Cave is a significant example. It was heavily vandalized ~2015. A 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party left trash and graffiti, and abused endangered gray bats. Facebookers tracked them down from photos and videos! The offenders were prosecuted. Henson Cave is MODOT managed, we have the permit to use for MVOR.

Kettle Cave is fantastic with beautiful domes and waterfalls. The hardest part is the entrance, but it's doable. Cryptic Cave has more great passage, but some sketchy ropes to the upper level. Polar Bear Cave used to have a tavern in front; They used the water in the cave to keep kegs cool. Wind Cave is MODOT managed, it has significant structural damage due to blasting for the highway. Harmon Cave has two entrances: two on MODOT, one on private property; MoBat has access. Secret Garden Cave is along the highway and Elk River. Flutestone Cave has great formations.

There is a newly rediscovered cave, too. It's gated, has manmade steps and a hand laid rock wall, but no one has a record of it. There is supposed history of it being an Underground Railroad hiding spot.

Noel, MO has a beautiful stretch of bluffs and the Elk River. Spectacular views! Eagle's Nest Campground has great facilities, including restrooms, showers, and an outdoor cleaning area for gear. There are activities other than caving in the area, i.e. in town and nearby, for those wanting something different. Kirsten mentioned they are working on outside and corporate sponsorships, with a potential meat donation from the local Tyson chicken farm, donated buffalo meat, etc., to ease the financial needs in some things.

Some of the caves will need guides and trip leaders. Now that we are a year out, there will be opportunities this winter and through the next year to go down and visit these caves, so trip leaders can get familiar with their assignment. This will be a great event! To get involved or learn more, contact Pic Walenta, [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com).

## Officer Reports

**President:** Pic Walenta talked about DJ's scout trip the previous weekend doing Cleveland Cave and Youngers Bluff. It's amazing how much goes into it, from going to scout meetings, planning, teaching, getting it to all go smoothly. Thank you, DJ!

**Vice President:** Jeff Bowman shared that five or six weeks ago he and Tierney did a road trip for her birthday. They stopped at Blanchard Springs Caverns, it was awesome! The owner (the U.. Forest Service) was willing to coordinate with us on an overnight wild cave tour, so keep a lookout for that.

**Secretary:** The amended minutes from the July meeting were accepted. Laura Jaynes had no new report as Secretary.

**Treasurer:** Bill Gee shared on the trip to Mosby Cave from earlier that day (see Trip Reports), and on the CO<sub>2</sub> detector used for it. Bill's latest treasury report is detailed below.

July beginning balance = \$3669.31 (Commerce Bank)

Deposit = \$760.00

Checks = \$0.00

Debit card = \$23.99

Bank fee = \$5.00

End balance = \$4400.32

-----

Activity:

Income:

Bryon Carmony dues = \$22.50

T-shirt sold at picnic = \$15.00

T-Shirt sold at July meeting = \$20.00

From Bob Bateman for exploring and mapping Mosby Cave = \$760.00

Expenses:

Meet-Up = \$23.99

=====

July beginning balance = \$137.99 (PayPal)

No activity.

End balance = \$137.99

=====

July beginning balance = \$62.00 (petty cash)

No activity.

End balance = \$62.00

**Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC):** Rick Hines reported they've settled on a contractor to install a agate and a culvert, and grade and gravel an access road to the silo, hopefully by the landowner trip on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> is a workday. A plaque is being made in honor of Danuser and Fry for the efforts in getting the cave rights and land acquisition. Pic mentioned a potential art commission on the silo. Jack Peters has resigned from the VP position for CCC, so a position is open. MSS director for CCC also needs to be filled. Contact Rick Hines at [rickhines@aol.com](mailto:rickhines@aol.com) for more information and visit [www.carrollcave.org](http://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](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) for more information.

**Novice and Scout trips:** DJ Hall has a scout trip scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> at Cleveland Cave, help needed. Contact DJ at [dj.hall@rangerdj.com](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup>, as the trip for the 17<sup>th</sup> was rained out [The 24<sup>th</sup> was also called off due to rain, new trip scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup>... weather permitting!]. It is also getting to be that time of year to see about a landowner trip to Elkton. Contact Gary Johnson at [gary.johnson@imagesjournal.com](mailto:gary.johnson@imagesjournal.com).

**Stark Caverns Survey Project:** See Trip Reports. Survey trip scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact Bill Gee for additional information, [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net).

**Mosby Cave:** See Trip Reports. Another survey trip will be scheduled sometime likely after a hard freeze, when decomposition of organic debris is slowed, and hopefully fresher air makes it into the cave. The landowner intends to sell the property, likely to the City of Gladstone. Contact Pic Walenta, [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com).

**Old Spanish Cave Restoration Project:** The next Resto trip was set for the weekend of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more info contact Pic Walenta [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com).

**MVOR:** Eagles Nest, last weekend in September 2020. The theme is Mudstock. There is plenty to work on if interested! For more information, contact Pic Walenta, [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com).

**MeetUp:** We have ~270 members. Sign up to and show you will be attending meetings and events; visit <https://www.meetup.com/Kansas-City-Area-Grotto/>. Contact DJ Hall ([dj.hall@rangerdj.com](mailto:dj.hall@rangerdj.com)) for more information.

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

**Cave Spring Park Association:** No new update.

**Quartermaster:** We have purchased new lights to replace the ones that went missing (making 17 total lights, 22 helmets). There is now a new logbook system for their use, and they are all brightly numbered to prevent loss. Contact [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com) for more info.

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

**Fundraising:** Contact Pic at [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com) for more information. T-shirts, coffee mugs, beanies and patches are available for purchase. We are working on MVOR fundraising.

**Presentations:** Have an idea or topic for a presentation? Let Pic know! Can never plan too far ahead. See Upcoming Events for scheduled presentations.

## Trip Reports

**DJ Hall** headed up a trip to **Cleveland Cave** and **Younger's Bluff** the weekend of August 17<sup>th</sup> with three scout troops, in all over 40 people. They even had a blind kid do the cave and rappel! DJ took a moment to recognize great volunteers and those who helped with the trip. He also said Cleveland was the most treacherous he'd ever seen it, lots of water had gone through with summer flooding.

**Bill Gee** shared on the trip to **Mosby Cave** from earlier that day (Aug 20<sup>th</sup>). Himself, Brandon VanDalsem, and Laura Jaynes entered the cave, while Nicole Ridlen and Pic Walenta stayed on surface. The cave owner, Bob Bateman, also came out. There was intent to survey, but the DistoX was dead upon arrival to the last survey station due to dead batteries. Bill was able to run the GoPro throughout the cave. He had brought a CO<sub>2</sub> meter to evaluate the cave air quality since there is so much debris and organic matter washed in. At around 50 feet into the cave the meter read over 8,000 parts per million (ppm) of CO<sub>2</sub>. Further in, the meter maxed out at 9,999 ppm (that's 1% ambient CO<sub>2</sub>) and couldn't give a reading. The upper threshold of this meter is 9,999 ppm. Bill shared some on the safety guidelines for high CO<sub>2</sub> exposure. Since the initial cleanup trip, the cave entrance has changed significantly, with more organic debris and trash.

**Pic Walenta** mentioned the Cavern Tavern event in **Bluff Dwellers**.

**Bill Gee** reported on the **Stark Cavern's** survey trip from July 20<sup>th</sup>; they finished the tourist section! From now on survey will be through dirty wild cave.

**Zach Lavicky** and family and Jeff Harmon did the kids expedition at **Mammoth Cave**.

## **New Business:**

**DistoX2's:** Pic proposed upgrading our survey equipment and purchasing two DistoX2's. They may be around \$600 each. A motion was made and passed to make this purchase. Bill Gee is working on this.

**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.

# # #

## **UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>** - Old Spanish Restoration Trip  
Reeds Spring, MO. About 3.5 hours  
Camping, communal meals provided  
If interested contact Pic Walenta, [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com), 816-665-5588

**August 29<sup>th</sup> - September 2<sup>nd</sup>** - 70th Annual Old Timers Reunion  
Hosted by The Robertson Association, Dailey West Virginia  
For more information visit [www.OTR.org](http://www.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 30<sup>th</sup> - September 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Labor Day Weekend, Mammoth Cave Expedition  
CRF Eastern Division, Hamilton Valley Research Center  
Nine-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](mailto:osburn@levee.wust.edu)

**September 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** - 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.sapokta@gmail.com](mailto:kayla.sapokta@gmail.com)

**September 14<sup>th</sup> -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](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com)

**September 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>** - CRF Cave Gating Project  
Near Branson, MO. on Bull Shoals Lake. Help is needed.  
If interested contact Jim Cooley, [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com), 816-753-8111

**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

**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](mailto:dj.hall@rangerdj.com)

**September 27th - October 6th** - CRF HUGE Cave Gating Project  
Nixa, MO. on James River, well known Cobb Cave. Help is needed.  
We will build a chute gate a gray bat maternity colony (endangered species).  
MOBat will provide gourmet meals.  
If interested contact Jim Cooley, [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com), 816-753-8111

**September 28th** - "See the Best of Carroll Cave" Landowner Trip  
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](mailto:rickhines@aol.com)

**September 14th** -- Over the Edge Event  
Rappelling Fund Raiser  
St. Joseph, MO.  
If interested contact Bill Gee, [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto: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 MMG Grotto  
Perry County Fairgrounds  
Attenberg, MO.

**October 11th - 14th** - Columbus Day Expedition  
CRF Eastern Division, Hamilton Valley Research Center  
Nine-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](mailto:rickardolson16@gamil.com)

**October 15th** - KCAG Monthly Meeting  
DJ Hall presenter  
Expedition Backpacking  
630PM - Anita B Gorman Building  
4750 Troost Ave. KC MO. 64110

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mcthanksgiving@yahoo.com)

**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](mailto:kayla.sapkota@gmail.com)

**December 27th - 30th** - New Years 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](mailto:Klausnere@gmail.com)

**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 manager Pic Walenta, [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com), or Expedition leader Mark Jones, [speleok9@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com)

###