

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
OCTOBER 2019 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 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 6:30 by President Pic Walenta. The following members and guests were present: Mike Banks, Josh Bookout, Jeff Bowman, Tierney Bowman Seth Colston, David Foran, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Jay Kennedy, Nick Kennedy, Jeff Page, Shannon Robinson, Pic Walenta.

Presentation: Dr. Jay Kennedy on NCRC

Dr. Jay Kennedy brought some of his vast knowledge and information about the National Cave Rescue Commission, NCRC. NCRC started in the 1970's and has become a well known and respected aspect of the caving community. Training is serious, and there are certain skills you must know prior to the courses, as well as a required equipment list.

Jay shared on some of the equipment needed, some items being a given for caving, others more specific. Examples included: a good helmet, 2 extra lights, extra batteries, leather palm gloves with full fingers, (2) 20-foot sections of rope, first aid, a current NCRC book, a good notebook and pencil (he has a sharpener attached to pencil for easy access), sturdy cave pack, at least 2 liters of water, 6 locking carabiners not part of your vertical system (Jay recommends at least one big one), frog rig, and a 2nd sling with a locking carabiner. All equipment must be marked. Many exercises require a task be done within so much time, with specific equipment. Jay spoke on an experience in Puberty Pit in Montana, a melt water cave. He had 25 minutes to dump vertical gear, put on, ascend 25 meters, changeover, and go back down.

There are different NCRC levels: 1, 2, 3, and Instructor. Level 1 allows you to be a participant in a cave rescue situation. Level 2 qualifies you to be a taskforce leader. Level 3 prepares you for more involvement or leadership. Instructor training is not so much about caving as it is teaching. Skill checks must be passed for each level to move on. At any level, during a rescue you might not go into cave and instead be doing all surface work; there are many more facets to a rescue than getting underground. Only more recently are they starting to do certificates, up until now it's been more of a loose "eh, I'm trained as Level 2," etc.

Jay also shared about TOFE (Team Operations and Field Exercises) and SPAR (Small Party Assisted Rescue) courses. The 2020 National Weeklong Seminar is June 12-20, 2020 near Albany, New York. Courses and events happen all over the country! Dr. Jay did his Level 1 in Texas, Level 2 in Arkansas, Level 3 in Indiana, Instructor Certification in Alabama, and TOFE in New York. Courses are eight days long. OCR (Orientation to Cave Rescue) is another weeklong course, and there are other optional classes on topics such as knot tying.

During trainings, they run a lot of exercises and scenarios or mock rescues. Often the first couple days of a course are typically spent practicing patient packaging and getting graded on it;

the patient can only shift so much during transport. The exercises are challenging! You are physically doing a lot every day, moving in and out of a cave, and moving people.

In a rescue, the first thing is to establish entrance control. Partnering with local authorities (sheriff and such) is crucial, as they are really the ones in charge. Jay was involved in an actual rescue while at Virginia Tech; he worked the belay side. It is important to show up to a rescue prepared, and to be able to function independently as a rescuer, i.e., rope technique, changeovers, etc. If interested in working on rope, Dr. Jay can work with you, he has ropes in a tree at home.

Is there a need for NCRC training? Depends, you never know how many people you need in a situation... till you need it. You gain a lot of valuable knowledge through the courses that may be handy for caving and outdoor situations anyway.

Dr. Jay highly recommends NCRC training. You need to go! Great colleagues, and never a dull moment. Required equipment lists, preparation guides, schedules, additional resources and more can be found at www.ncrc.info.

Bonus Mini Presentation: Josh Bookout, Caves in Sweden

Josh was gracious enough to take time out of his brief visit back in the States to join our meeting and share a bit on caves in Sweden, and some valuable technology Garmin offers. Josh works for Garmin and moved to Sweden at the beginning of 2018 but has maintained membership with KCAG.

In Sweden, there are 3 typical types of caves: crack, block, and karst. Crack caves form from a rising land mass or through earthquakes. Block caves are formed through landslide or erosion, “blocks” end up on top of each other with enough room for a human to crawl around in some spaces. We are familiar with karst caves, of course, formed through dissolution of rock. Many mines in Sweden are flooded, but some are not and can be mistaken for caves. Many of their mines are in their cave database anyway.

Josh showed pictures of Block Cave, which he visited, and showed a couple of examples of flooded mines. Out in the mountains you find caves formed by glacial water; they have a very small window for survey when water is not an issue and have to cut through ice to get in. New technology has recently been used to track the caves underground.

Where the caves are: Gotland (Large Island)—karst, Sweden/Norway border mountains—karst, everywhere—crack and block.

There is absolutely a Swedish caving community. Sveriges Speleologförbund, their version of a national speleological society, runs the cave database (maps, trip reports, directions, coordinates, etc.) and is open to anyone (about a \$30/year membership). Stockholm Grottklubb is the local Stockholm grotto where you can get together with trip leaders, find events, etc. Their meetings are similar in size to KCAG.

Database info and cave locations are much less restricted than the US. There aren't many “no trespassing” signs, many hiking trails go in and out of private land, and it's perfectly acceptable to do that. There is a very different attitude toward accessibility and restrictiveness, compared to the United States.

Josh then shared on InReach from Garmin, satellite communication devices. The InReach Mini is about \$300 and GPSMAP 66i is about \$600. These devices have two-way communication, SOS button for simple emergency, 24/7 global emergency services, and cost

\$14 for one month, non-subscription. It is nice to have an option to only pay for it when you're going to use it, and it gives a little extra peace of mind while you're out in the boonies. InReach devices utilize 66 Iridium Satellites that orbit once every 100 minutes and provide the world nearly 100% coverage. Josh gave two to KCAG, we might use one for the Grotto and the other for a fundraiser. Thank you, Josh!

Officer Reports

President: Pic Walenta is working on lining up presentations for future meetings. She is also always thinking of places for guest presenters to stay. So if anyone is interested in hosting guests as the need arises, please let her know!

Vice President: Jeff Bowman had no new news to report.

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

Treasurer: Bill Gee was not present, Pic shared Bill's latest treasury report, which is detailed below. We now have all the parts for the DistoX2's, his goal is to have them usable by the next Stark Cavern Survey Trip.

September beginning balance = \$4542.67 (Commerce Bank)

Deposit = \$0.00

Checks = \$427.24

Debit card = \$535.18

Bank fee = \$5.00

End balance = \$3575.25

Activity:

Income: None

Expenses:

MeetUp six months fee = \$98.94

Bill Gee - for DistoX2 parts = \$377.24

Nicole Ridlen - MSS Expenses = \$50.00

Cleaning supplies for Old Spanish Cave project = \$436.24

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September beginning balance = \$137.99 (Paypal)

Donation from Shannon Robinson = \$25.00

Transaction fee = \$0.85

End balance = \$162.14

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September beginning balance = \$62.00 (petty cash)

No activity.

End balance = \$62.00

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Rick Hines shared on the recent landowner trip, there were about 33 people, mainly cavers, but some landowners. The trip report is on the CCC website.

There is a new entrance to the silo! Now only one gate to go through, and a straight shot to the silo from the road. It's great. Contact Rick at rickhines@aol.com for more information and visit www.carrollcave.org to stay up to date.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) & Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): The next meeting will be in January. 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: Seth Colston had a scout trip set for October 19th. Contact DJ at dj.hall@rangerdj.com for more info.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson shared the landowner trip to Elkton was set for November 2nd. There is some graffiti on the bluff entrance. The landowner would like it removed if we would be interested in the project (and seeing the rest of the cave, too). Contact Gary Johnson at gary.johnson@imagesjournal.com.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Another survey was set for November 2nd. Contact Bill Gee for additional information, bgee@campercaver.net.

Mosby Cave: Owner Bob Bateman is having the property appraised and is selling to the City of Gladstone. Contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com.

Old Spanish Cave Restoration Project: The next trip is over November 22nd, on Saturday November 23rd there will be a short children's/family trip at 10 a.m. For more info contact Pic Walenta picwalenta@aol.com.

MVOR: We need to get serious about committees. There has also been a slight date change, it will now be the weekend of September 18th, 2020 at Eagles Nest Campground. The theme is Mudstock. There is plenty to work on! For more information, contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com.

MeetUp: 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) for more information.

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

Cave Spring Park Association: Pic recently talked with Iz Groceman, they've hit a wall with funding. Things seem to be on pause for the time being.

Devil's Icebox: See Trip Reports.

Quartermaster: Contact picwalenta@aol.com for more info on who-has-what. The new logging system for our helmets/lights seems to be working well!

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: 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

Jeff Bowman shared that he and Tierney helped gate Cobb Cave, lots of work but fun.

Seth Colston spoke on the recent resto trip to **Old Spanish Cave**. Pic, Kristen Godfrey, Jon Beard, Shannon Robinson, and the landowner and family worked on Rebecca's Well. Some visited other caves on the property too.

Seth also did two trips to **Devil's Icebox** for bioinventory.

Jeff Page and Spike did two map trips at **Devil's Icebox**. There was a good number of surveyors on one trip, sometimes more people than equipment to work with. The next was a little more selective. Years of survey still lie ahead, difficult because it can only be done in a short window of the year.

Dr. **Jay Kennedy** went to **MVOR** but didn't get in on any trips. He did provide some medical attention.

Mike Banks went caving with the Missouri Geologists at **Stark Caverns**.

Kristen Godfrey attended the **Carroll Cave** landowner trip. They ran four trips in the cave, having camped the night before. She got some trip leader training with the wench.

New Business: none.

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

CRF Ozark Region - Is needing volunteers to come to Southern Missouri/Shannon County and do cave work in December!

They have the Winona facility booked for 3 weeks (Dec. 2nd through 22nd) with the hopes of getting LOTS of work accomplished, including some winter bat surveys, bio-inventorying and

mapping of several caves. Winona is located at the junction of Highways 19 and 60 which is conveniently between Current and Jacks Fork Rivers and Alley Springs and Big Springs State Parks - also Peck Ranch Wildlife Area and Rocky Falls Park.

The weather should be great for being outside in the woods. This area is beautiful country! If Interested contact Scott House at scott_house@hotmail.com to RSVP- (this will help with headcounts for food and objectives).

This fall/winter we are putting together some expeditions, cooperatively with MOBat's bio inventories for introducing potential trip leaders to McDonald County. Any interest in being a trip leader for our MVOR? This would be an opportune time to learn more about McDonald County.

November 19th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter Dr. David Ashley

"Missouri Cave Wild Life"

630 PM - Anita B. Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave. KC MO. 64110

November 22nd - Old Spanish Youth Resto Trip

3.5 hour drive. Stone County, Reeds Springs MO.

Camping and meals provided

If interested contact Pic Walenta at picwalenta@aol.com

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-](http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php)

[research.org/MembershipInfo.php](http://www.cave-research.org/MembershipInfo.php)

If interested contact John DeLong, mcthanksgiving@yahoo.com

November 28th - December 1st - 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

New - November 28th - December 1st - Irish Wilderness Survey Trip

About a six hour drive, Oregon County

Survey Amphitheater Cave, short canoe trip and backpack

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

December 2nd - 22nd CRF Ozark Region Work Detail

Bio-inventorying, bat surveys and mapping survey

Southern Missouri/Shannon County

Bunks and meals provided

If interested contact Scott House at scott_house@hotmail.com

December 14th - Annual KCAG Christmas Dinner Party

No Monthly Meeting
Home of Rick and Kay Hines
BYOB and a dish to share
RSVP to Rick Hines at rickhines@aol.com

December 18th - 22nd - Winter Monitoring and Mapping BNR
Buffalo National River - Steel Creek Facility
Ponca, Arkansas
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

January 11th - Annual Carroll Cave Data Logger Trip
Camdenton County, Easy trip
If interested contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net

January 25th - KCAG Monthly Meeting
Presenter Tom Grant
"Prehistoric Cave Art"
630 PM - Anita B. Gorman Building
4750 Troost Kansas City, MO. 64110

New - January 25th - Stark Caverns Survey Trip
Eldon, MO. 2.75 hours away
Continued re-survey of commercial cave
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

January 25th - MSS/MCKC Meeting
10 AM
Rolla, MO.
If interested contact MSS Director Jim Cooley coolstoi@kc.rr.com
or MCKC Board member, Nicole Ridlen at cavingsiberians@yahoo.com

February 8th - Winery at Bluff Dwellers Cave with MoBat Census Bio Trips
163 Cave Rd. Noel, MO. Mc Donald County
More details to follow
If interested contact Nicole Ridlen at cavingsiberians@yahoo.com,
or Kirsten Alvey-Mudd at cavechef@gmail.com

New - February 8th - Carroll Cave Bat Census Trip
Wet suit required. Long difficult trip
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

New Extended dates - February 13th - 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

February 18th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter Bill Gee

"Longest Rappel in the World"

630 PM Anita B. Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave Kansas City, MO. 64110

March 17th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter Craig Williams

"C.A.I.R.N. - Cave Archaeology Investigations and Research Network"

630 PM Anita B. Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave Kansas City, MO. 64110

New - April 3rd - 5th - Boone County Novice Trip

Co-sponsored with Chouteau Grotto

Camping and communal meals provided

More details to follow

If interested contact Pic Walenta, picwalenta@aol.com

New - April 17th - 19th - Food Foraging for Wild Edibles

Boone County, close to Columbia

This is a pre-collecting hike for our Wild Edibles presentation at the April monthly meeting

Camping provided, communal meals

If interested contact picwalenta@aol.com

April 21st - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter Kirsten Alvey-Mudd

"Wild Edibles - Cooking and Eating"

630 PM Anita B. Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave.

Kansas City, MO. 64110

New - July 27th - July 31st - NSS Convention

Elkins, West Virginia

If interested <https://caves.regfox.com/nss-convention-2020>

Date Change - September 18th - 20th 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 directly, picwalenta@aol.com.