

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTA
FEBRUARY, 2017 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.
ARTHUR MAG CONFERENCE CENTER – 4920 CHERRY ST, KCMO**

President Jack Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. The following members were present: Jaclyn Dalbey, Jim Cooley, Heidi Fletcher, Bill Gee, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Lee Krout, Jacob Krout, Kyle Lewis, Kelly McKinley. Guests present: Alex Buzicky, Olivia Schmidt, Zachary Schmidt, Alexander Vavra.

Presentation: Lee Krout gave a Powerpoint presentation over Rats Nest Cave in Alberta, Canada, which he visited March 7, 2015. Rats Nest Cave tours are all-inclusive (all gear provided), and the cave has ample passages for people of different skills and abilities. Additional information can be found at www.canmorecavetours.com.

Lee also shared a photo time lapse from the Cleveland Cave gate build that took place April 18-20, 2014. The gate now in place is a bat friendly air flow gate, with an anti-digging screen.

Officer reports: President Jack Peters and Vice-President Bill Gee had nothing to report in their capacities as officers.

Secretary: This meeting marked Laura Jaynes' first official meeting as Secretary. Former Secretary Cooley stated that minutes of last meeting had been sent out via e-mail; he asked if there were any corrections, changes or additions. There were none. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes.

Treasurer: Pic Walenta was absent, but sent in a report of \$998.00 in the treasury. Dues are now due for 2017. Pic sent out an email on February 8th listing current paid members, and information on how to pay if you are not current.

Quartermaster: Jack reviewed the equipment status, which is pretty much the same. During the meeting, Lee Krout donated Jacob's former helmet which will be added to the grotto's equipment.

Carroll Cave Conservancy: Bill Gee reported that full year data from 2016 is up on the website. Heidi Fletcher reported that she is in the works with the fire department down there to update emergency response protocol, with a very tentative timeline of September for that to follow through. Additionally, the lease on the School House property is up this year.

MSS: Jim Cooley said the next meeting will be Sunday, May 21st, at Onondaga. Contact Jim if you have an interest in attending. Cooley also reported that the MSS and CRF have finally come to an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation regarding a cave permit system.

Novice and Scout trips: President Jack Peters announced he had requested a permit for Skaggs Cave, which at the time of the meeting he had not yet heard back about. Jack sent out an email

the next morning confirming the novice trip for Saturday, February 25th. Jack also mentioned an invite to Breakdown (Springfield, MO) for April 15th. There are also two Scout trips to Cleveland Cave scheduled for the third weekends in March and May. Jack asked the grotto for help with these trips (see Upcoming Trips).

Hickory County Project: Gary Johnson shared a new map and some photos of Lightfoot Cave. MDC has come through to do some mapping down there; his first trip is March 4th to visit a couple interesting caves. The permits from January didn't come through in time to go then.

White Nose Syndrome: Update from Jim Cooley: It's everywhere. See <http://www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm>.

Cloud 9 Ranch Project: February 16-19, 2017 is the scheduled trip to survey some caves and ridgework. Deadline to contact Jim with interest was February 12th.

Upcoming Trips: Please see section below minutes.

Trip Reports:

Cleveland Cave January 21st: Great time! Several Cleveland first-timers.

Carroll Cave January 28th: Successfully downloaded from the data loggers, and photographed the convention room. See official trip report on CCC website.

Coffin Cave (near Lebanon, MO): Recent count of 400,000 Indiana and Gray bats.

Lewis Cave January 18-20: Finished up map and did some QC.

Beefeater Pit (sinkhole): has successfully been plugged.

Other Topics: Jack Peters brought up the idea of potentially changing membership requirements for the grotto, to allow people to join more easily without a trip prerequisite. Current membership requires three cave trips with the grotto before nomination.

Jack Peters verified there was no further old or new business. The meeting adjourned, whereupon Alex B., Heidi, Jack, Jacob, Jaclyn, Jim, Laura, Lee, Olivia, and Zachary repaired to Minsky's Pizza, 5105 Main Street, KCMO, for speleofellowship, libations and cheesy comestibles.

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UPCOMING TRIPS

February 25th: Skaggs Cave Grotto Novice trip. Contact Jack Peters at (913)669-7179 or jack@peters2000.com.

March 3-5, 2017: Butler Hollow Caving, Barry County, MO. This is a reschedule of the trip that was cancelled in December. Contact Jim Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

March 10-14, 2017: Bat surveys on Mark Twain National Forest, Oregon County, MO. Contact Jim Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

March 18th: Scout Trip to Cleveland Cave, located in Monegaw Springs (St. Clair County, two hours from Kansas City), led by Jack Peters, Troop 2 from Jefferson City, MO. Contact Jack Peters at (913)669-7179 or jack@peters2000.com.

April 7th-9th: MVOR, Licking, MO, sponsored by MSM Grotto. Bottomless beer cups, and bottomless pits.

April 15th, 2017: Breakdown Cave, Springfield, MO. Contact Jack Peters at (913)669-7179 or jack@peters2000.com.

April 28-30, 2017: Cave gating project, Butler Hollow, Barry County. Contact Jim Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

May 19-21, 2017: Cave gating at Valle Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Jim Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

May 20th: Scout Trip to Cleveland Cave, located in Monegaw Springs (St. Clair County, two hours from Kansas City), led by Jack Peters, Troop 323. Contact Jack Peters at (913)669-7179 or jack@peters2000.com.

July 7-9, 2017: MORE cave gating at Valle Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Jim Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.

June 19-23, 2017: NSS Convention in Rio Rancho, New Mexico (very near Albuquerque, NM). Visit <http://nss2017.caves.org/> for more information.

October 20-22, 2017: MORE cave gating at Valle Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Jim Cooley (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested.