

**MINUTES OF THE  
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO  
MARCH, 2017 BUSINESS MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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 7:11 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. The following members were present: Josh Bookout, Jim Cooley, Jaclyn Dalbey, Bill Gee, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, and Jack Peters. Guests present: Kiley Bush and Carolyn McMahan.

**Presentation:** Bill Gee shared a Powerpoint showcasing a recent experiment he did on cave light runtimes. He measured lux output of various cave lights using a small light sensor, an old cooler for complete darkness, a Raspberry Pi, and a Python program to record data. All tests were done with Eneloop rechargeable batteries. His results were quite interesting; he sent out an email to the grotto sharing his presentation and data on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Secretary:** Minutes of the last meeting (February 8<sup>th</sup>) had been sent out via e-mail; it was asked if there were any corrections, changes or additions. There were none. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes. Laura Jaynes had nothing more to report as Secretary.

**Treasurer:** Pic Walenta was absent, but sent in a report of \$1016.50 in the treasury.

**Quartermaster:** Jack reviewed the equipment status, which is pretty much the same.

**Carroll Cave Conservancy:** The lease on the School House property is up this year, and it seems it the property may be for sale.

**MSS:** Jim Cooley did not have much new to report, other than a recent call he got from someone with a pit cave in Franklin County, Devil's Well, FRA-001. The landowners seem concerned with the cave's proximity to the road and potential liabilities. The next MSS meeting will be Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at Onondaga Cave State Park. Contact Jim if you have an interest in attending.

**Novice and Scout trips:** See trip reports and upcoming trips.

**Hickory County Project:** Things are moving! Gary Johnson shared some working maps of few caves; they are looking good. Krista Bartel and Kyle Lewis joined Gary over the weekend of March 4<sup>th</sup>, they also did some searching for caves in the area.

**White Nose Syndrome:** Update from Jim Cooley: It's everywhere. See <http://www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm>. Also note Jim's email on March 20<sup>th</sup> regarding WNS confirmation in Nebraska bats.

**Cloud 9 Ranch Project:** See trip reports.

**Upcoming Trips:** Please see section below minutes.

### **Trip Reports:**

Survey in Camden County, MO February 9-10: Jim Cooley, Kyle Lewis, and Laura Jaynes did a survey of King's Onyx Cave on the Fiery Fork Conservation Area for the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). They also did some bio inventory in Onyx Cave, and Kings Onyx Cave.

Whisper Cave, Ripley County, February 11<sup>th</sup>: Cooley led a CRF trip to survey an MDC cave that hosts a gray bat colony.

Cloud 9 Ranch Annual Bat Census February 16-19: The CRF trip went very well, all goals were met. Bat counts continue to decline.

Skaggs February 25<sup>th</sup>: Great time had by all.

Tickemyer Pit, February 25<sup>th</sup>: Cooley led a team of Bill Gee, Jerry Cindric and some OHG cavers to investigate a pit cave in Benton County at the behest of the landowner, prior to a land sale. The resulting map is attached.

Butler Hollow caving in Barry County on Mark Twain National Forest, March 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: Cooley led a multi-focus trip that Jay Bridgewater, Rita Worden, Nathan Taylor, and Dillon Freiburger participated in. Good trip, good weather, biological monitoring and planning for upcoming gating work.

Jack Peters verified there was no further old or new business. The meeting adjourned, whereupon Josh Bookout, Jim Cooley, Jaclyn Dalby, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, and Jack Peters repaired to Minsky's Pizza, 5105 Main Street, KCMO, for speleofellowship, libations and cheesy comestibles.

# # #

## **UPCOMING TRIPS**

**March 10-15, 2017:** Bat surveys and cave monitoring on the Mark Twain National Forest, Oregon County, MO.

**March 18<sup>th</sup>:** 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.

**March 25<sup>th</sup>:** Carroll Cave research trip, aiding in water sampling for interesting concept of eDNA. Bill Gee was looking for one more person to accompany the group. Contact Bill at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net).

**March 25-26:** Goodwin Sinkhole cleaning.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>:** MVOR, Licking, MO, sponsored by MSM Grotto. Bottomless beer cups, and bottomless pits. Cooley mentioned a possible private lands survey project near there during MVOR with some very interesting cave. Contact him at [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com).

**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** Breakdown Cave, Springfield, MO. Contact Jack Peters at (913)669-7179 or [jack@peters2000.com](mailto:jack@peters2000.com).

**April 28-30, 2017 (continuing through May 5<sup>th</sup>):** Cave gating project, Butler Hollow, Barry County. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if interested.

**May 15-24, 2017:** Cave gating at Valles Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if interested.

**May 20<sup>th</sup>:** 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](mailto:jack@peters2000.com).

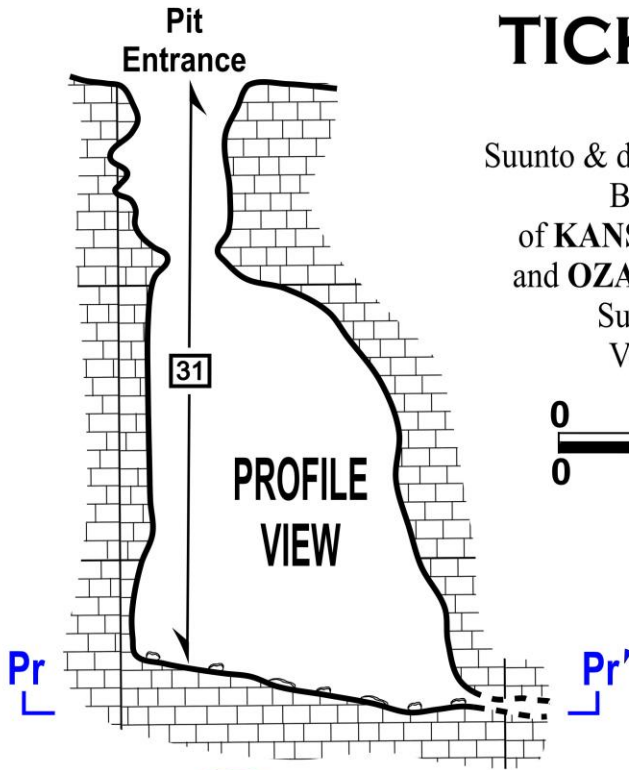
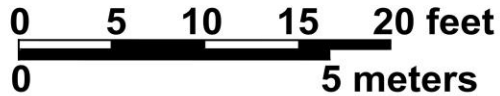
**July 5-14, 2017:** MORE cave gating at Valles Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Cooley (816) 753-8111 or [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if interested.

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

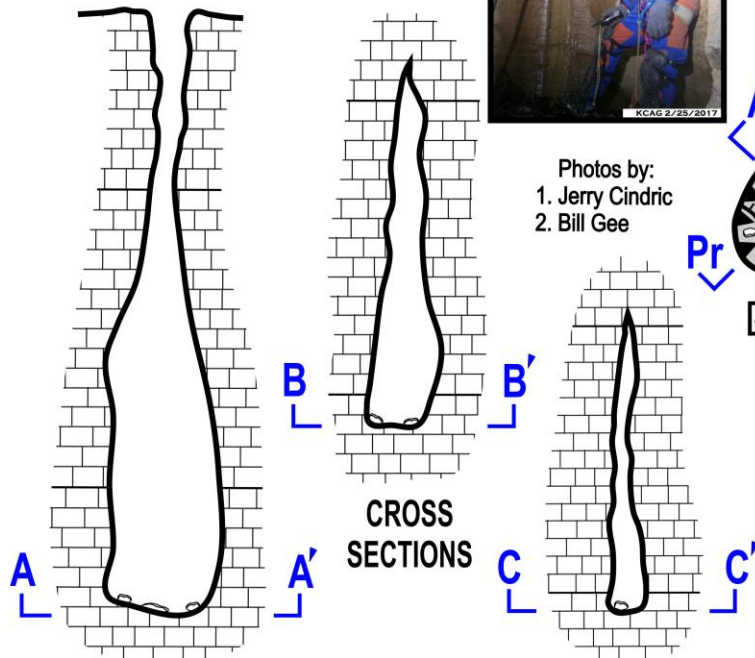
**October 20-22, 2017:** MORE cave gating at Valles Mines, near St. Louis. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if interested.

# TICKEMYER PIT (BEN-055)

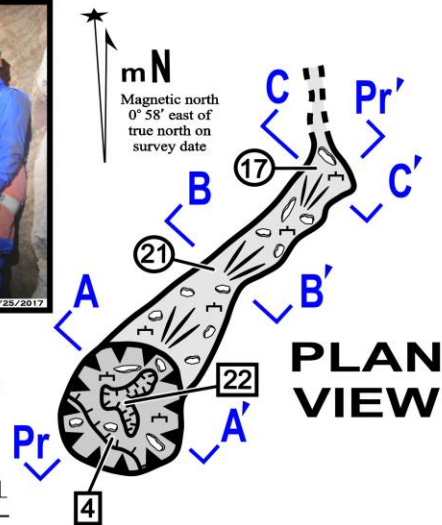
Suunto & disto survey February 25, 2017 by  
 Bill Gee<sup>1</sup> & Charley Rey<sup>2</sup>  
 of **KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO<sup>1</sup>**  
 and **OZARK HIGHLAND GROTTO<sup>2</sup>**  
 Surveyed length: 45.2 feet.  
 Vertical extent: 35.7 feet.



Pit Entrance



Photos by:  
 1. Jerry Cindric  
 2. Bill Gee



SYMBOL LEGEND			
	bedrock		floor ledge drop height
	floor		ceiling height over bedrock
	floor slope		pit entrance
	floor ledge (drop)		cobble
	limestone bedrock		

Map dimensions given in feet.

Cartography by Jim Cooley, March, 2017.

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