

**MINUTES OF THE  
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTA  
APRIL, 2017 BUSINESS MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12TH, 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 7:04 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. The following members were present: Jim Cooley, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, and Jack Peters. Guests present: Zachary Schmidt and Jenny Sung.

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

**Secretary** Laura Jaynes acknowledged a need to amend the minutes from the March meeting, with the correction to Bill Gee's email. There were no other objections; a motion was made and passed to accept the amended minutes.

**Treasurer:** Pic Walenta was absent, but sent in a report of \$1111.50 in the treasury.

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

**Carroll Cave Conservancy:** Bill Gee shared about the trip on March 25<sup>th</sup> for eDNA research, where six sampling sites were selected. With the interesting concept of eDNA, a couple liters of water are collected and sent off for DNA sequencing to identify any species present in the recent past. Additional sampling was to take place on April 15<sup>th</sup>, and again on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Rick Hines said he will be doing a Spring Trip with people from the Smithsonian Gem & Mineral Collection; no date yet. No new news on the CCC leased property or Schoolhouse.

**MSS and MCKC:** The next MSS meeting will be Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at Onondaga Cave State Park. Contact Jim Cooley if you have an interest in attending.

**Novice and Scout trips:** Look for reschedule of Breakdown cave. See trip reports.

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

**Additional Discussions:** Bill Gee recapped some information from his presentation last month on cave light battery life, then shared a few more graphs (a couple new since last time). This is a very fascinating ongoing project; there are still some results that look suspicious that he intends to redo. More to come!

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

**Trip Reports:**

March 18<sup>th</sup> Scout trip at Cleveland Cave: Great time as usual!

March 25<sup>th</sup> Carroll Cave sampling trip: Went well, see CCC report.

April 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> MVOR: Bill Gee reported beautiful weather, and a full campground with 301 people. Participants enjoyed Skaggs Cave, and lots of float trips.

Jim Cooley reported on his recent caving work in March-April:

On Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Cooley, Josh Bookout, and Joe Williams (MSM grotto) returned to Wolfe Cave (RRIP-014) and Whisper Cave (RIP-007) in Ripley County, this second cave a gray bat maternity site, to survey Wolfe and complete the survey of Whisper. This is part of the Cave Research Foundation's (CRF) new survey initiative with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). They had to ford a river that was "interestingly" high to get to these two adjacent caves. Wolfe Cave was short and easy, but they were still unable to complete the survey of Whisper Cave, with 60-80 feet of tight, low, wet passage requiring small surveyors. It was left for the fall, after the bats leave. Cooley has drafted a map of Wolfe, and a tentative draft of Whisper has been completed

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Cooley and Bookout attempted to inventory Falling Spring and Bartlett Spring Cave in Oregon County for the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF), but decided not to enter either due to long, low, tight, wet passages and no wetsuits. They instead ridgewalked in the area, and ended up doing monitoring and bio inventories of Corbett and White Cat Caves.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Cooley, Ken Grush, and district biologist Angie Trombley (MTNF) monitored and did bat counts in Camp Yarn Cave, Lower Camp Yarn Cave, and Buzzard Caves in Carter County.

On Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, Cooley and Grush monitored and did bat counts at Thrasher Ford Cave, which is WAY out in the woods in Oregon County on the MTNF, just above Thrasher Ford on the upper Eleven Point River. They found a surprisingly large number of gray bats home, and a few tricoloreds. En route, we also discovered two small new caves, which we named Northwest Thrasher Ford Chute Cave and Southeast Thrasher Ford Chute Cave. They'll need surveys, too.

On Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Cooley and Joe Williams visited the Valles Mines property, located 67 miles southwest of St. Louis on Highway 67, to assess four mine shafts for gating projects. Adam Marty, one of two principals who is surveying these mines, joined them to serve as a guide.

On Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, Cooley and Grush started work on a Truman Lake cave survey permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They monitored Thirteen Bridge Cave on Truman Lake in St. Clair County near Osceola, and after a rain-induced hiatus that was spent eating an early, leisurely and LARGE lunch at Sugarfoot Bar-Be-Que in Osceola, they got back out and surveyed Fly Caves #1 and #2, also on Truman Lake just north across the Osage River (arm) from Osceola. They were decisively rained out on Wednesday, during which time they hunkered

down in Cooley's "Makes Me Feel Good" cabin on the Lake of the Ozarks and drew cave maps and wrote reports. On Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, they got back after it, and put Cooley's boat in at Crowe's Crossing at Osceola, and surveyed River Road Cave just downstream. They then discovered and surveyed a small (27 foot long) cave just upstream from River Road Cave, Optimistic Beaver Cave, so named because it was full of beaver sticks but 25 feet above the normal pool of the lake. They then motored west under the Highway 13 bridge and located Climb Wire Cave, which was full of turkey buzzards and will require a rope to enter (the wire present in 1977 is gone). They also surveyed nearby Gar Skull and Windbreak Caves. They then motored further west up the river and explored the abandoned mines across from Osceola, and discovered yet another small new cave, which they named Surprise Dome Cave.

On Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, Cooley, Grush, Joe Williams and George Bilbrey visited Enloe Cave in Shannon County, hoping to continue that very interesting survey. Instead, they found the huge entrance room completely flooded. Joe Williams spent a couple of hours digging a trench to drain about a foot and a half of the huge lake that was inside, while the rest of the team provided moral support. They then monitored nearby Quarry Cave, a tunnel cave, and continued the survey of newly discovered Quarry Ballroom Cave. The next day, Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Cooley and Grush visited Enloe again, and tried unsuccessfully to expand and lengthen the trench (this is definitely work for younger men – or a backhoe). They then drove around ("ridge-driving") to take advantage of the last few days of real leaf-off, and promptly discovered four new caves. Rock Pool Spring Cave and Two Legged cave are just north of the private property that Enloe Cave is on, on MDC land along Barren Creek. Holey Shelter and Behind the Rock Cave are on the same landowner as Enloe. Rock Pool Spring Cave, low and wet, was explored for 170 feet with no signs of quitting. There are now 25 caves on a private property project in north Shannon County to survey. And they really haven't even scratched the surface yet of this 3,000 acre privately owned cave preserve – MUCH more ridgewalking to do!

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

# # #

## UPCOMING TRIPS

**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. Need help, will be repelling. 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.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>:** KCAG Picnic at Rick Hines' house.

**September 7<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** Tear out two substandard cave gates and build two cave gates at Meramec Caverns, a privately owned show cave in Stanton, Missouri. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if interested.

**September 22-24, 2017:** Fall MVOR at Green's Canoe Rental in Steelville, MO.

**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.

**November, 2017:** Fence-style cave gating project, Butler Hollow, Barry County. Contact Cooley (816)753-8111 or [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if interested.

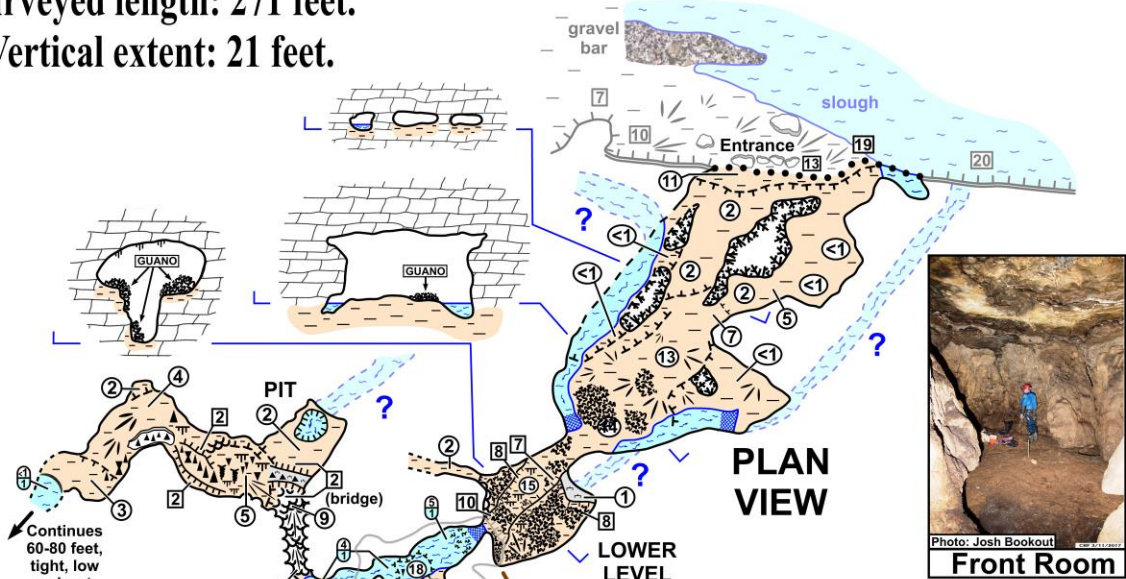


# WHISPER CAVE (RIP-007)

Suunto & Tape Survey February 11-March 11, 2017 by  
 Jim Cooley<sup>1,3</sup>, Ken Grush<sup>1,3</sup>, Rita Worden<sup>2</sup>,  
 Joe Williams<sup>4</sup>, and Josh Bookout<sup>3</sup> of  
 CAVE RESEARCH FOUNDATION<sup>1</sup>,  
 CHOUTEAU GROTTO<sup>2</sup>,  
 KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO<sup>3</sup>,  
 and MSM SPELUNKERS' CLUB<sup>4</sup>  
 in cooperation with the  
**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT  
 OF CONSERVATION**

**Nm**  
 Magnetic north  
 0° 53' west of  
 true north on  
 survey date  
 using the  
 WMM 2015  
 method

Surveyed length: 271 feet.  
 Vertical extent: 21 feet.

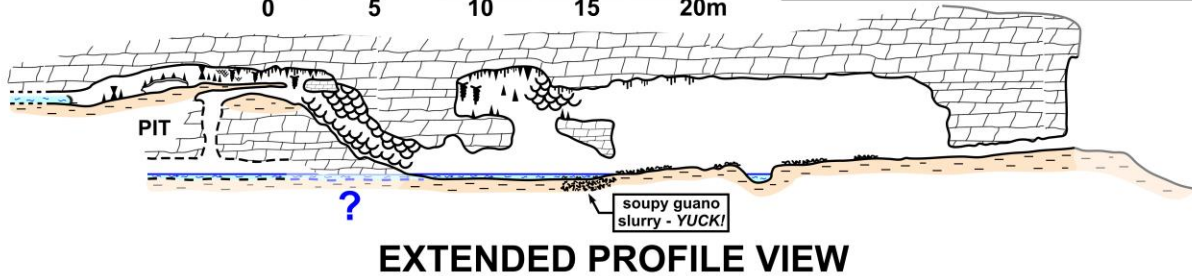
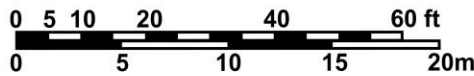


Continues  
 60-80 feet,  
 tight, low  
 and wet.

**SYMBOL LEGEND**

clay / mud	entrance (dripline)	slope
bedrock pillar	floor ledge (drop)	ceiling height (8)
rock	ceiling ledge	floor ledge (drop height) (5)
dolomite bedrock	guano	ceiling height/ water depth (3)
bedrock floor	soda straws	stream flow & direction
flowstone on floor	rock bridge	sump
column	stalactite/ stalagmite	pooled water
flowstone	rimstone dams	draperies

Map dimensions given in feet.



Cartography by Jim Cooley, April, 2017.

© James R. Cooley 2017. All rights reserved.





# WOLFE CAVE (RIP-014)

Suunto & Tape Survey March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by  
Jim Cooley<sup>1,2</sup>, Joe Williams<sup>3</sup> & Josh Bookout<sup>2</sup> of  
CAVE RESEARCH FOUNDATION<sup>1</sup>,  
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTOS<sup>2</sup>,  
and MSM SPELUNKERS' CLUB<sup>3</sup>  
in cooperation with the

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

**mN**  
Magnetic north  
0°53' west of  
true north on  
survey date  
using the  
WMM 2015  
method

