

AUGUST 9, 2017 KCAG BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES ARTHUR MAAG CONFERENCE CENTER

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Peters at 7:00 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves. Members: Alex Buzicky, Jim Cooley, Jaclyn Danger, Bill Gee, Gary Johnson, Jack Peters, Zach Schmidt, and Pic Walenta. Guests: Kristin Godfrey, Alex Parnell, and Daniel Wehrly.

Presentation: Jim Cooley gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Valles Mines mine closure project. Three of four mine shafts there have been closed, two in May, the big one in July. A chute gate will be built on the Gray Bat Shaft October 26th-November 3rd. He also gave a preview of some caves to be visited on a Labor Day trip (grotto members invited) to Oregon County. Bill Gee then gave a brief presentation on COOL new software supplementing the Therion cave mapping program, which allows caves to be viewed on a computer in three dimensions. Its capabilities can be seen at <https://aardgoose.github.io/CaveView.js/>. This site has a really cool sample map!

Meeting minutes were taken by Jim Cooley, as Laura Jaynes could not be present. July minutes, taken by Bill Gee and previously distributed via e-mail, were approved without corrections, by vote of the membership.

Jack Peters reported that that Troop 510 from Belton will be visiting Cleveland Cave on August 19th, and **he could use some help.** Subsequently, Troop 510 reported that they will be bringing 10 boys and five adult leaders.

Treasurer Pic Walenta reported that there is \$956 in the grotto bank account, and that she has some checks to deposit. Pic then reviewed the Quartermaster data. Same people have the same gear, except that Pic now has the dining fly. Gary Johnson has some survey equipment.

Bill Gee reported that the annual meeting of the Carroll Cave Conservancy will be held on Sunday, August 20th at the schoolhouse (campground by silo), NOT AT THE FIRE STATION WERE IT IS USUALLY HELD.

MSS report: Jim Cooley reported that the Fall MSS meeting will be held at Berome Moore cave on September 17th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Cave survey and camping will be available that weekend as well.

Pic Walenta reported that Onondaga Cave State Park is offering off-trail, “wild” Cathedral Cave tours.

Fund raising: Pic Walenta enthusiastically reported on an idea for a folk concert at Rick Hines’ house to raise funds for the grotto. During an August 6th grotto trip to Onondaga Cave State Park, the KCAG contingent (see below) saw a fund-raising concert on behalf of the park by Violet and the Undercurrents, and were very impressed. Pic approached Violet after the concert, and she is willing to do a concert for us. The concert, Pic said, would be sponsored by West Music of Iowa City, Iowa, whose CEO is Pic’s sister, Robin. West Music is a very large musical instrument supplier in the Midwest. Pic entertained some discussion of combining the event with the grotto picnic. Pic suggested that the grotto needed to decide when to do it, and also that funding might be available from the Missouri Arts Council. Jaelyn Danger volunteered to help organize the event. Pic said that we needed to decide how much to charge per ticket, an upper limit for ticket sales, accommodations for out-of-towners, so she needed some organizational help, including assistance with renting the port-a-potties. Website is: <http://www.violetandtheundercurrents.com>. Pic mentioned that Violet will be playing in St. Joseph August 25th at the Café Acoustic. (See website.)

Pic had grotto gear available for sale after meeting, t-shirts, hats, hoodies patches.

White Nose report - Jack showed a map of the current infected counties.

Cloud Nine Ranch report - Lee Krout was not present.

TRIP REPORTS

Jim Cooley discussed recent Valles Mines gating projects in the presentation.

On August 4th, Pic Walenta, Austen Peters, Jack Peters, Alex Parnell, Alex Buzicky, Jaelyn Danger, and Zach Schmidt camped at the lovely Lake of the Ozarks State Park, on a gorgeous night with a beautiful full moon. The next morning, the team picked up Kristen Godfrey in Camdenton for her first cave trip, and everyone went to Perkins Cave. They entered the cave at approximately 11:00

AM. One group went as far as the waterfall, the other explored multi-levels of cave. Everyone exited cave by approximately 3:00 PM. The crew had loads of fun and emerged covered with mud, but scrubbed up in the nearby creek. Then the group, excluding Kristen Godfrey, drove to Onondaga Cave State Park (in a torrential rain) to attend the "Music in the Cave" benefit concert for the park. They listened to an acoustic beauty of cool music inside the big room, featuring Violet Vonder Haar and the Undercurrents. This is unique group of folk artists with a touch of rock, jazz, country and jazz genres. They camped at Onondaga that night.

UPCOMING TRIPS (A BUSY FALL!)

August 19th: Gary Johnson, Laura Jaynes, Bill Gee and Krista Bartel are heading to **Vanderman Cave in Hickory County** to survey a lead Laura recently discovered.. Located at the base of a cliff, the cave has two small entrances, both of which are low, nasty crawls. The new passage that Laura found is an unmapped passage perhaps 40 or 50 feet long that pops up into a bigger room. This should make this cave the third longest surveyed cave in Hickory County. Contact Gary Johnson at gary@imagesjournal.com to find out more about this trip.

August 19th: Jack Peters will be leading ten scouts and five adults from Scout tropp 510 (Belton) to **Cleveland Cave**, and for rappelling on the Younger Lookout bluffs. **He could use some help from interested grotto members.** Please contact jack@peters2000.com to sign up!

September 2nd-4th, Labor Day weekend: Jim Cooley is planning three survey wrap-up trips and a bioinventory to some **cool, rarely visited caves in Oregon County** on and near the Eleven Point River. Illustrative (tantalizing?) photos of these caves were shown in his presentation. Some canoeing will be involved. Please contact Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com if you are interested.

September 22nd-24th: A "Dirt Bag MVOR" will be held at Green's Canoe Rental near Steelville. A flyer has been sent out to the grotto. Contact Krista Bartel at kbartell1088@gmail.com or call her at (816) 812-5206 for more details.

October 6th, 7th and 8th: Pic Walenta will be leading a **backpack trip on the Courtois section of the Ozark Trail**, starting at Onondaga Cave State Park. Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com for more details.

October 27th-29th: Jim Cooley will be leading a CRF effort to **gate a gray bat maternity colony at Valles Mines, Missouri**, near St. Louis. Volunteer cavers

are needed; this effort offers **numerous vertical opportunities** as well. (A little TAG trip in Missouri!) Please contact Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com if you can participate. **Caver help is desperately needed!**

October 27th, 28th & 29th: Pic Walenta will be leading another **backpack trip on the Ozark Trail**. Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com for more details.

October 28th: Bill Gee will be doing the **Mountain Room bat census in Carroll Cave**, a long and arduous bioinventory trip that assesses gray bat activity in Carroll Cave. At this time, Bill needs one more fit person for this trip, but could take two or three more. Contact Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more details.

October 29th: Bill Gee would like to do a **second trip** the subsequent day, another **bioinventory trip to the far upper end of Thunder River**. This too will be an arduous trip that will take cavers “beyond the breakdown pile.” At this time, Bill needs one more fit person for this trip (and the smaller the better – that breakdown pile squeeze is TIGHT!), but could accommodate two or three more. Contact Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more details.

January 6th: Bill Gee will be leading a **datalogger servicing trip into Carroll Cave**. This will be an easy trip, suitable for novices. Contact Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more details.

Unfinished business - None.

New Business - None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45, after which many of us repaired to Minsky’s Pizza on 51st for cheesy comestibles.

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Violet and the Undercurrents



The Mother of All Cupola Gates, Valles Mines, MO