

**MINUTES OF THE  
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO  
SEPTEMBER 2017 BUSINESS MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 – 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.  
ARTHUR MAG CONFERENCE CENTER – 4920 CHERRY ST, KCMO**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Vice-President Bill Gee, as President Jack Peters was unable to attend. The following members were present: Josh Bookout, Jim Cooley, Bill Gee, Kristen Godfrey, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, and Pic Walenta. Guests present: Antoine Baggett and Emma Overstreet.

**Presentation:** Jim Cooley showed a PowerPoint on his Labor Day weekend projects. That weekend was supposed to have been spent on the Mark Twain National Forest in Oregon County, on the Eleven Point Ranger District, but that didn't happen. Instead, work was done in Shannon County at Quarry Ballroom Cave and Upper Spring Cave. Quarry Ballroom Cave had some neat formations, and an aptly named Slimy Salamander Room where nine salamanders with eggs around them were found. The survey effort in this cave was completed. Upper Spring Cave required a canoe to access. Inside, an interesting find were large spinal column segments, one of which was underneath a stalagmite (see photo below). Coming up at the end of October in Valley Mines, MO is the last of a four-shaft closure project (See Upcoming Trips for more info).

Jim also shared that, starting October 2<sup>nd</sup>, residential and office space will be made available by the U.S. Forest Service for Cave Research Foundation (CRF) to use, at the Winona Ranger Station. This facility will replace the Powder Mill Research Center that was lost in the April flood, and will support both U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service projects.

**Officer reports:** President Jack Peters was not present, and Vice-President Bill Gee had nothing new to report.

**Secretary:** Jim Cooley had taken last month's minutes. One correction was made and the revised minutes were sent out via email. There were no other objections; a motion was made and passed to accept the amended minutes. Laura Jaynes had nothing new to report as Secretary.

**Treasurer:** Pic Walenta reported \$966 in the treasury. She paid the MSS dues from January and sold \$40 in apparel last month.

**Quartermaster:** Everyone pretty much has the same gear as last reported. The awning did not make it through the rain at Pic's eclipse viewing party; see New Business.

**Carroll Cave Conservancy:** Very little to report, unfortunately. Only two people attempted to attend the annual meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>, and they ended up missing each other; there are no minutes.

**MSS & MCKC:** MCKC is selling T-shirts commemorating the total eclipse for \$25. Contact Pic at [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com) if interested.

**Hickory County:** Gary Johnson shared photos from the August trip to Vanderman Cave. There are some interesting signatures, one reading "FISHER M" (possibly from John Fisher Murphy, the man who donated the land), and including a few dating back to 1897. Bill Gee and Laura Jaynes surveyed the lead Laura had previously found, adding another 170 feet and counting. A return trip is planned for October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Novice and Scout trips:** Jack led a trip to Cleveland Cave over September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. An off-trail trip to Cathedral Cave was mentioned for September 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Coud 9:** Lee Krout was not present.

**Fundraising:** Help is needed in researching and organizing the fundraising concert with Violet and the Undercurrents at Rick Hines' home. Areas where assistance is needed include, but are not limited to: deciding date and time (thinking April), ticket price (Pic suggested having a price plus donation), donations/items for the auction, a writer to make promos for Facebook and mailing list, setup and cleanup crew, food truck, event insurance, port-a-potties, etc. Jaclyn Dalby is designing a shirt for the event. If you would like to volunteer with any aspect of this event, please contact Pic at [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com). Apparel was available for purchase after the meeting.

**Trip Reports:** See Presentation and Hickory County sections. The get-together at Pic's for the eclipse went well.

**New Business:** The grotto's awning did not survive the rain at Pic's eclipse party. A motion was made and passed to purchase a new awning, for around \$100.

Bill Gee verified there was no further old or new business. The meeting adjourned, whereupon members repaired to Minsky's Pizza, 5105 Main Street, KCMO, for speleofellowship, libations and cheesy comestibles.

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## UPCOMING TRIPS

**September 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>:** Cleveland Cave with Jack Peters.

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>:** A "Dirt Bag MVOR" will be held by Krista Bartel at Green's Canoe Rental near Steelville, MO.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>:** Off-trail trip to Cathedral Cave (this is typically a show cave). Contact Pic Walenta at [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com).

**October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:** Pic Walenta will be leading a backpack trip on the Courtois section of the Ozark Trail, starting at Onondaga Cave State Park. As of the meeting, there was room for two more attendees. Contact Pic Walenta at [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com) for more details.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>:** Vanderman Cave survey continuation. See Hickory County report; contact Gary Johnson at [gary@imagesjournal.com](mailto:gary@imagesjournal.com) for more information.

**October 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>:** Jim Cooley will be leading a week-long survey effort on a private landowner in Shannon County. Two new caves have been rediscovered there, both of which require vertical ability to enter (both short drops, 15-20 feet). Another cave under survey recently revealed a long, going stream passage that shows no sign of ending, so this will be pursued as well. And a new spring cave requiring wetsuits will be started. High lads at yet another huge cave, requiring a 25-foot extension ladder, will also be pursued. On-site camping will be available. Contact Jim Cooley at [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if you would like to participate.

**October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>:** 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 Jim Cooley at [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if you can participate. **Caver help is desperately needed!**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>:** Campfire night at Pic's house in **Gladstone**. This social gathering may also serve as a planning meeting for the fund-raising concert. Contact [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com) for details.

**October 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>:** Pic Walenta will be leading another backpack trip on the Ozark Trail, this one is planned to be a 21 mile trail. As of the meeting, there were two slots left; contact Pic Walenta at [picwalenta@aol.com](mailto:picwalenta@aol.com) for more details.

**October 28<sup>th</sup>:** 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 Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net).

**October 29<sup>th</sup>:** 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 Bill Gee [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more details.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>:** Elkton Cave landowner trip (helping the family to the vertical to get in). Contact Gary Johnson at [gary@imagesjournal.com](mailto:gary@imagesjournal.com) for more information.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:** The landowner who owns the two MCKC-managed caves near **Dixon, MO**, Allie Spring Cave and Mill Creek Cave, has put his property up for sale, making it imperative

that we complete the survey of Allie Spring Cave. This weekend has been scheduled as a first push effort to get this done. Allie Spring has over 9,000 feet surveyed so far Mill Creek is done and needs a QC check. Car camping on site. Please contact Jim Cooley at [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if you can participate.

**Thanksgiving Weekend:** Pic Walenta will be leading a float trip and doing cave monitoring on the Big Piney River near Rolla, Missouri. Jim Cooley will be leading a survey effort in southeast Missouri as well.

**January 6<sup>th</sup>:** Bill Gee will be leading a datalogger servicing trip into Carroll Cave. This will be an easy trip, suitable for novices. Contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more details.

**February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** Basic and Intermediate survival training hosted by Hiking the Ozarks. The event is \$30 and is held from 9a.m.-4p.m. in Ozark, MO. Visit <http://hikingtheozarks.com/event/basic-and-intermediate-survival/> for more information and to reserve a spot.



Vertebra embedded in stalagmite



One new pit is highly decorated



Shannon County helicitites



Two-level massive flowstone choke that terminates Upper Spring Cave