

**MINUTES OF THE  
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTA  
OCTOBER 2017 BUSINESS MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 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 President Jack Peters. The following members were present: Josh Bookout, Jaclyn Dalby, Cliff Gill, Kristen Godfrey, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Jack Peters, Zachary Schmidt, Pic Walenta, and Ian Wilson. Guests present: Eric Thiessen, John Thoennes, and Daniel Wehrly.

**Presentation:** Jack Peters shared photos and information about Over the Edge: a for-profit organization that does fundraising for non-profit organizations by hosting rappelling events across the country. He recently volunteered at an OTE event for the Special Olympics. Jack shared that on average, OTE raises \$117,000 at events; and in 2016, they raised over \$14million for non-profit organizations. Their events are easy to participate in; there are no age requirements, but weight must be 100-300 pounds. While some may find rappelling off the side of a sky-high building a scary feat, it is certainly safe. All OTE equipment is setup under OSHA standards. Rappelling is still allowed during reasonable rain, and wind not exceeding 20 mph. If you are interested in learning more about Over the Edge, visit <https://overtheedgeglobal.com/>.

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

**Secretary:** Laura Jaynes had sent out last month's minutes via email. There were no objections; a motion was made and passed to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer:** Pic Walenta reported \$828 in the treasury. She sold \$40 in apparel last month, and purchased a new awning as approved at last month's meeting.

**Quartermaster:** Everyone pretty much has the same gear as last reported, except Rick Hines has the projector, and Pic has the new awning.

**Carroll Cave Conservancy:** Rick is in discussions to try to permanently secure the cave rights to Carroll Cave. Chris Danuser owns the land around the backdoor entrance shaft. Tom Loraine, Chris Danuser's, attorney, asked Rick to organize a presentation highlighting why Carroll Cave should be protected and conserved. Tom would like to use the presentation to convince the state of Missouri to grant Chris a tax write-off in exchange for the cave rights Chris Danuser owns. Tom is working with Steve Bagwell, a personal friend of Missouri's Governor, Eric Greitens. The presentation was to be made to Steve Bagwell on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> in Osage Beach and if well received, it would later be made to others in the state government, possibly including the governor. Bill Gee, Jeff Page and Rick would make the presentation at Loraine's office in Osage Beach on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.

**MSS & MCKC:** Jim Cooley was not present.

**Hickory County:** Gary Johnson was not present, but sent out an update to the Grotto via email on October 16<sup>th</sup>. At least one return trip, maybe two, will be needed at Vanderman Cave.

**Novice and Scout trips:** Jack has nothing planned at the moment, but will look in to scheduling one soon. Cleveland Cave is out 'til December, Skaggs and Perkins should be pretty open. Suggestions were made to look into novice opportunities at Carroll Cave and Flippin Cave. The scout trip to Cleveland Cave in September went well; 20-25 people were expected for the trip on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**White Nose Syndrome:** It's everywhere. See <https://caves.org/WNS/>

**Fundraising:** Planning for the concert next Spring (likely April) is still underway. A fundraising meeting was set for Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> or Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Pic's home. Help continues to be needed. 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:**

**September 15<sup>th</sup>:** Cleveland trip went fine.

**October 6-8 backpack trip** on the Courtois section of the Ozark Trail: 5 miles the first day, 7 miles on the second. Lots of rain, Pic slipped and hurt her knee.

**MVOR:** 150 people attended (low compared to over 300 last time), it was a good time.

**October 8<sup>th</sup> Vanderman Cave:** Please see the email update sent by Gary Johnson to the Grotto on October 16<sup>th</sup> for full details. Bill Gee and Laura Jaynes continued the cave survey, adding 218 feet in the C passage. Gary Johnson pursued cave leads elsewhere in Hickory County. The next Vanderman trip will likely be a wetsuit trip as the stream gets deeper and the ceiling descends.

**New Business:** None.

Jack Peters verified there was no unfinished 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**

**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.

**October 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</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>:** 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 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. 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. Contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net).

**October 29<sup>th</sup>:** Bill Gee is doing 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." 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.

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Weekend):** Pic Walenta will be leading a float trip and doing cave monitoring on the Big Piney River near Rolla, Missouri.

**Also Thanksgiving Weekend:** Jim Cooley will be leading a survey effort in southeast Missouri.

**November 2017:** Fence style gating project at Butler Hollow. Contact Jim Cooley at [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com).

**December 16<sup>th</sup>:** Grotto Christmas Party at the home of Rick and Kay Hines.

**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.