

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
NOVEMBER 2017 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 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, Jim Cooley, Bill Gee, Cliff Gill, Kristen Godfrey, Rick Hines, Laura Jaynes, Gary Johnson, Jacob Krout, Lee Krout, Jack Peters, Nathan Taylor, and Pic Walenta. Guests present: Daniel Wehrly.

Presentation: Jim Cooley shared a PowerPoint covering recent trips from September, October, and the first weekend in November:

From September 22nd through 25th, Ken Grush, Joe Williams, Rita Worden & Jim Cooley did private lands survey in Shannon County. This included checking an MDC high lead, ridgewalking, and surveys of: Cave Spring Cave, Holey Shelter (a new find from April), Behind the Rock Cave, Silver Cave, Beaver Lake Karst Window (associated with Upper Spring Cave), and Upper Spring Cave (again).

On September 30th, Cooley and Julie Cottrell did gray bat monitoring and lock maintenance at Flippin Cave in Benton County. They also visited Stark Caverns in Eldon, MO, a tour cave recently reopened by some friends of Cooley's back in July; the owners would like us to remap it.

From October 10th to 14th, Cooley & Grush were back in Shannon County. More ridgewalking to find Wagner Cave (there is no map of this cave), and Harrison Cave (has a very substandard map, and there is confusion between its name and Wagner). Cooley returned to Upper Spring Cave; survey was finished after reaching the backend where there is an enormous formation choke. He and Ken Grush also poked around the unmapped Lower Spring Cave. As beavers live in and around it, affecting the water level, a wetsuit is required. The last two days there were spent in Silver Cave. The last day Joe Williams joined the team.

October 25th through 29th was the final Valles Mines, MO gate project. Jay Bridgewater welded, while Laura Jaynes and Tyler Smith from KCAG assisted on this project. Kirsten Alvey-Mudd from Missouri Bat Census did a GREAT job on food. Joe Williams also welded, and Adam Marty assisted as well. There were initially four shafts to close on this heavily mined 4000-acre property. This final gate is a Gray Bat shaft, protecting a known gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) maternity colony (The gray bat is on the U.S. Endangered Species list). A high loader was used to clear and flatten out the area, eliminating the angled "cone" to the shaft entrance. This gate has a bit of a different construction; Cooley needed to use up some I-beams from a previous project, so this gate is basically suspended over the shaft on the I-beams.

The weekend of November 4th, a survey trip at Allie Spring Cave occurred. Lots of good work was done. The team added 800 feet of survey, and a nearby connection was pushed/checked out. Cavers included Ken Grush, Bill Gee, Dennis Novicky, Shawn Williams, Rita Worden, and Jim Cooley. Cooley and Grush explored a new pit cave.

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

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 \$822 in the treasury, with no new activity.

Quartermaster: Remains the same as last reported.

Carroll Cave Conservancy: Rick Hines reported that the Osage Beach meeting on October 19th was shorter than planned. Another meeting was scheduled for November 20th to share more about Carroll Cave.

MSS & MCKC: Jim Cooley reported the next MSS meeting will be in January. MKCK has a new president: Chad McCain.

Hickory County: Not much new to report. There will be a trip November 28th, and another before the end of the year. Bill and Laura will be surveying, trying to work around holes in the hunting calendar and rain. No landowner trip to Eldon Cave happened this year, there just wasn't enough interest from the family.

Novice and Scout trips: A Carroll Cave trip was scheduled for November 18th; Josh Bookout doing photography in the cave, and the lights going down the shaft will be replaced. A scout trip to Cleveland Cave is scheduled for the weekend of March 16th, 2018.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout reported that cleanup from the flooding this past Spring has been happening. The flooding has dramatically changed the exterior of Cold Cave. The surveying here is about done, now just lots of cartography.

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

Fundraising: The October fundraising planning meeting was canceled due to weather, it may be after the start of the year before another planning meeting can be scheduled. If you would like to volunteer with any aspect of the anticipated fundraising concert next spring, please contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com. Apparel was available for purchase after the meeting.

Trip Reports:

October 8th, Vanderman Cave: Gary Johnson shared hardcopy maps of the cave showing the progress of the survey so far. Bill Gee and Laura Jaynes added 218 feet in the C passage. Gary Johnson pursued cave leads elsewhere in Hickory County. The next Vanderman trip in November will be a wetsuit trip as the stream gets deeper and the ceiling descends.

October 28th, Annual bat census at Carroll Cave: about the same as last year, but still way down from 7/8 years ago. Six people joined, it was a good trip.

November 3rd/4th, Allie Spring Cave: Four people (see Presentation) went in and surveyed, 800 feet were added. The survey is getting gnarly, it is about 1- 1½ hours in to where the survey left off.

New Business: None.

Please Note: There will be no regular business meeting in December; all are welcomed and encouraged to attend the annual Christmas Party on December 16th (See details in Upcoming Trips).

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

November 18th: Carroll Cave photo trip.

November 22nd-26th (Thanksgiving Weekend): Pic Walenta will be leading a float trip and doing cave monitoring on the Big Piney River near Rolla, Missouri. Join all or part, there will be communal eating. Contact Pic at picwalenta@aol.com.

November 23rd-26th (and possibly longer): Jim Cooley will be leading a cave survey trip on private land in Shannon County. This is a large, on-going project, working on substantial, highly decorated caves. There are also several caves suitable for novice surveyors and training folks in how to sketch, so if you are interested and serious about cave survey, this would be a good trip for you. Jim sent an email to the Grotto with details on November 14th. If interested, you MUST contact Cooley by the end of Tuesday November 21st. Jim Cooley: (816)753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com.

November 28th: Vanderman Cave in Hickory County, continuing survey. Another survey trip is intended by the end of the year, TBD. Contact Gary Johnson at garyj@imagesjournal.com for more information.

December 11th-17th: Jim Cooley will lead a survey and biological monitoring trip to Oregon County. We will stay in U.S. Forest Service housing. If interested, contact Cooley at (816) 753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com.

December 16th: Grotto Christmas Party at the home of Rick and Kay Hines, 16525 Orchard Lane, Stilwell, KS 66085, 6 PM. Meat and soft drinks provided, bring a dish to share. Please RSVP to Rick at (913)897-4258 or rickhines@aol.com.

January 6th: 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 for more details.

January 13th: KCAG officer elections. If you are interested in a leadership position, let us know and it can be discussed at the Christmas Party.

February 17th, 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. For more information and to reserve a spot, visit <http://hikingtheozarks.com/event/basic-and-intermediate-survival/>.

April, 2018: We will build two horizontal cave gates on mined caves at Butler Hollow, in an area where we have already built ten mine closures, If interested, contact Cooley at (816) 753-8111 or coolstoi@kc.rr.com.



**BAT-FRIENDLY GRAY BAT MINE SHAFT ENCLOSURE
OCTOBER 29, 2017**