

**MINUTES OF THE
KANSAS CITY AREA GROTTO
JANUARY 2020 BUSINESS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2020 – 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
ANITA B. GORMAN CONSERVATION DISCOVERY CENTER
4750 TROOST AVE, KCMO 641 10**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jeff Bowman. The following members and guests were present: Jenn Bell, Jeff Bowman, Kirsten Colston, Seth Colston, Jim Cooley, Julie Cottrell, Kellen Delk, Timothy Delk, David Fairbairn, Roberta Faulkner, Ginny Friedrich, Bill Gee, Kristen Godfrey, Thi Gorman, Tom Grant, DJ Hall, April Heim, Kay Hines, Laura Jaynes, Jay Kennedy, Nick Kennedy, Jesse Kovak, Chandra Mason, Holly McSpadden, Shannon Robinson, Melissa Shippy, Asa Tarrant, Nathan Taylor, Sam Taylor.

Presentation: Stone Age Cave Art, Tom Grant, PhD PE

Tom began with a basic statement: Humans are the only species that make art. This is scientifically agreed upon, right? This changes the more we learn. He showed pictures of the oldest art displayed in the Nelson-Atkins art museum here in KC, one was from 2500 BCE, another from 3500 BCE, etc. This art is mobile, or, portable. Parietal art is attached, cave art is parietal.

Art is certainly better preserved in the shelter of a cave. Open air petroglyphs on sandstone have approximately a taphonomic threshold of 8k years.

So, what is the oldest art?? (in years, BP= Before Present)	Open Environment	Cave/Rock Shelter
Petroglyphs	10k BP	72k BP
Pictographs	2-4k BP (varies)	64k BP
Mudglyphs/finger flutings	Not preserved	19k BP
Decorated Pottery	16.5k BP	17.5k BP
Sculpture	25k BP	38k BP

The first discovery of cave art was in 1879 in Altamira, Spain. Marcelino Sanz de Sautuola’s daughter, Maria, discovered animal drawings when they entered a cave. Sautuola tried to share this discovery but was disregarded and seen as a fake or hoax. Discreditors, especially French prehistorian Emile Cartailhac, claimed the art was “too sophisticated” or “too beautiful” to be ancient. Cartailhac attacked Sautuola for years, but in 1902 Cartailhac finally released a Mea Culpa d’un Sceptique-- Apology of a Skeptic, after more cave art was found in different caves, establishing Sautuola was not a liar. Unfortunately, Sautuola had passed away 14 years before. There were some valid questions skeptics had when dealing with the discovery of cave art. One being, why was there no soot on the ceiling? Turns out they were using oil lamps. Animal fat with moss for a wick, not super bright but low soot. The art at Altamira has been dated to 37k BP.

How many caves have stone age art? 402 in Europe... that we know of. There are others around the world, on every continent except Antarctica. There are probably ½ a million individual [cave] paintings world wide, and you could fit all of it in a 2ft x 2ft box.

Tom showed many fascinating images and examples of some of the oldest cave art. In the US there are over 60 “unnamed caves” with over 600 images, the oldest believed to be 6k BP.

The Australia problem-- they have the largest concentration of this art, but it is hard to date! Much is on sandstone, no speleothems, and the indigenous people are still making them, and even refreshing ones they feel are powerful or important, or they paint over them entirely. Some of the art in Australia is dated to 28k BP.

Sculptures-- some clay or carved

A variety of pigments were used, including black (charcoal, bone black, or MnO₂), red (red ochre), white, yellow, and brown. It is hard to date some, depends on composition. Beeswax can be dated, carbon pigments too.

Carbon dating has accelerated; much less sample is needed to date, only need ~1mg vs the 10mg that used to be needed. Some dating methods can be used for cave art include: C14 dating of Carbon pigment, other radiometric dating U/Th), radiometric dating of speleothems above/below art, C14 dating for artifacts in cave, extinct species in cave, and style/cultural comparisons. Extinct species is a vague method, because even knowing when some things became extinct is vague.

In Serra Da Capivara NP, Brazil, there is a dating controversy of whether some art is 25k BP, or if that is too old to be possible in that area. They did find a copperlite and dated it to 6k BP. LaPasiega Cave, Spain, 64k BP, had to be Neanderthals! Too old for humans to have migrated from Africa yet. So, Tom now edits his starting statement to be: Humans and their cousins are the only species that make art.

Hand stencils (outlines created by blowing pigment around the hand)-- lots of left hands, indicating right handers! Hand stencil signatures are found near some pieces, many are found to be women, perhaps they were the painters.

There are a few examples of mobile stone age art from caves, such as Lion Man and Venus, 38k BP, and in Vogelherd Cave, Germany, 25k BP, a horse and mammoth (carved figures). The makers of these figures were observant-- they got the stride/posture of animals correct.

Reasons for the art? Some may have included: art simply for art sake, information exchange (1st written language), property rights, display hunt success.

Cave art is not on a flat canvas... some are quite high up, not easy conditions, perhaps they rigged a form of scaffolding or found a way to get up to the paintable surface. Effort was taken to create these images and figures!

Tom's conclusion: Stone age ancestors were capable of producing beautiful, sophisticated, and realistic art, and we know this because the art is preserved in caves.

Officer Elections: The following candidates were voted into their respective offices. President, Pic Walenta; Vice President, Seth Colston; Treasurer, Bil Gee; Secretary, Ginny Friedrich.

Officer Reports

President: Bill Gee shared the update on Pic Walenta as of the meeting, that she had a stroke due to a ruptured aneurysm and was then in a hospital in the Dominican Republic.

Vice President: Jeff Bowman had no new news in his capacity as VP.

Secretary: Laura Jaynes emailed out the November minutes (no December meeting); there were no objections and a motion was made and passed to accept them.

Treasurer: Bill Gee shared the treasurer's reports, summarized below (December and November). Bill mentioned an issue with PayPal access, currently the only access goes through Pic's phone. If you have not paid your dues, you can pay via cash or check, or with PayPal through our website.

January 2020 meeting - Treasurer's report

December beginning balance = \$3280.31 (Commerce Bank)

Deposit = \$

Checks = \$

Debit card = \$

Bank fee = \$5.00

End balance = \$3275.31

Activity:

Income:

Dues - Tom Grant = \$20.00

Expenses:

Bank fee = \$5.00

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December beginning balance = \$210.44 (PayPal)

Dues - Pic Walenta = \$17.50

Dues - Josh Bookout = \$17.50

Dues - Laura Jaynes = \$25.00

Dues - Kristen Godfrey = \$25.00

Dues - Nick Kennedy = \$17.50

PayPal fees = \$3.77

End balance = \$309.17

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December beginning balance = \$67.00 (petty cash)

End balance = \$67.00

December 2019 (no meeting) - Treasurer's report

November beginning balance = \$3180.31 (Commerce Bank)

Deposit = \$105.00

Checks = \$

Debit card = \$

Bank fee = \$5.00

End balance = \$3280.31

Activity:

Income:

Dues - Bruce Archambault = \$15.00

Bill Gee = \$15.00

Ginny Friedrich = \$15.00

Nathan Burton = \$25.00

Jim Cooley = \$15.00

Apparel = \$10.00

Expenses:

Bank fee = \$5.00

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November beginning balance = \$162.14 (Paypal)

Dues - Lee Kraut = \$25.00

Dues - Cliff Gill = \$25.00

PayPal fees = \$1.70

End balance = \$210.44

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November beginning balance = \$62.00 (petty cash)

Added \$5.00

End balance = \$67.00

Quartermaster: Same as last reported, as of the January meeting.

Fundraising: Contact Seth Colston, swcy92@gmail.com, or Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

Presentations: Please contact Seth Colston, swcy92@gmail.com, if you are interested in giving a meeting presentation or have a topic idea. See Upcoming Events for scheduled presentations and future meetings.

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Bill Gee shared he was planning 2 trips soon, one being on February 8th to finish the bat census. He also spoke of more new gravel along the road. Jim Cooley shared that the “sky crapper” is not yet functional, but it’s there! Jim also mentioned that the CCC has approved a camping policy; you don’t have to be on a trip to camp, and not all campers have to be CCC members. More information can be found on the CCC website, www.carrollcave.org, or contact Rick Hines at rickhines@aol.com.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) & Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): Jim Cooley gave some background on what MSS and MCKC do. MSS is primarily oriented for survey/cartography, and is closely aligned with the CRF. They meet 3 times a year, in January, May, and October. The most recent meeting was set for January 25th in Rolla. MCKC spun off from the MSS about 20-25 years ago, and is dedicated to the conservation of caves and karst. MCKC owns a few caves and manages some for private landowners. Jim manages 6, one being Cleveland Cave. MSS newsletters (i.e., “The Liaison”) are available at <https://www.mospeleo.org/newsletter>. Contact Jim Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com for more information.

Novice and Scout trips: A novice trip is scheduled for February 22nd at Perkins, contact Seth Colston, swcy92@gmail.com, for more info.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson not present, contact Gary at gary.johnson@imagesjournal.com for more info.

Cloud 9: Lee Krout not present. Jim Cooley spoke on the annual bat census and QC trip set in February; the trip was full as of the meeting.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: A trip was set for February 1st, Bill Gee shared that they are almost to 2000 feet, he expects at least about 2000 more. Contact Bill Gee for additional information bgee@campercaver.net.

Old Spanish Cave Restoration Project: Jeff Bowman shared that on the last trip there, he and the owner, and the owner's sons, hauled a propane tank out of a ditch. There's still an old Coke machine and an old stove in the ravine, still more to be done. Seth Colston shared that he took scouts inside the cave that day, and there was a family trip later. For more information, contact Seth Colston, swcy92@gmail.com.

Cave Spring Park Association: No new update.

White Nose Syndrome: See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of WNS's reach.

MVOR: This year's Spring MVOR is the first weekend in May. Planning is carrying on for our cosponsored MVOR this fall, the 3rd weekend in September. If Pic reached out to you about a role, or if you are wondering how you can help, contact Seth Colston at swcy92@gmail.com, Kirsten Alvey-Mudd at cavechef@gmail.com, or Nicole Ridlen at micoleridlen@gmail.com.

New Membership Nominations: Julie Cottrell was officially nominated and voted into membership with KCAG. Welcome, Julie!

MeetUp: If you are a trip leader and need access, let DJ know and he will help. We are at 323 members, let's keep utilizing this great tool!

Mosby Cave: Bill Gee tried to get a survey trip in on December 28th, but he never heard back from the owner.

Trip Reports and Other News

Jim Cooley talked about visiting **Joe Cave**, he and DJ Hall discovered a new passage in '08, they finally made it back down there.

Jim Cooley visited **Ground Hog Hole Cave**.

Jim Cooley found a rather major **archeological site**, sorry, no location to share!

Seth Colston and Shannon Robinson went down to Winona for CRF monitoring in Wind Cave.

April Heim shared on a **limestone mine** with a brown bat population, southwest of the stadiums. There are 6 entrances, she and Pic visited the site and only found one, they had made plans to

return. She has gotten a rough map from the city and was granted access for January 23rd, April was looking for someone to join her as Pic was unable. Jim Cooley shared about some of the recent bat counts at that location, he was there January 13th.

New Business:

PayPal Dues Amount: Nathan Taylor proposed we officially change the dues amount via PayPal to match the actual dues amount if one were paying cash, eliminating the upcharge to grotto members for using PayPal. A motion was made and was accepted by vote.

Unfinished Business: none

Jeff Bowman verified there was no further unfinished business. The meeting adjourned, whereupon members repaired to Minsky's Pizza, 5105 Main Street, KCMO, for great food and even better company.

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Upcoming Trips & Events

If you have trips you would like to add, ideas for trips that you would like to organize, please contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net, or Seth Colston, swcy92@gmail.com.

Meetup - Everyone is encouraged to get on board, participate, mention your trips and sign up for trips on our meetup page. <https://www.meetup.com/Kansas-City-Area-Grotto/>

February 13th - 17th - Mark Jones 60th Birthday President's Day Expedition

Mammoth Cave, CRF Eastern Division, Hamilton Valley Research Center

9 Hour drive, Bunk house, meals provided, fee attached

Must be a CRF member to attend. To join CRF <http://www.cave-research.org/membership/index.html>

If interested contact Mark Jones, speleok9@gmail.com

February 18th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter - Bill Gee

Topic- Bridge Day Rappelling

6:30 PM

Anita B Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO. 64110

New - February 19th - March 1 - CRF Ozark Region

Winter Cave monitoring and survey

Shannon County, Winona MO.

Meals and bunk house provided
If interested contact Scott House, scott_house@hotmail.com

New - February 22 - Novice trip to Perkins Cave

Camden County, MO.

If interested contact Seth Colston, swcy92@gmail.com

New - March 13-29 (Weekends only)

National Cave Rescue Commission Eastern Regional

http://ncrc.info/News/Additional%20Files/ERNCRC_2020_Flyer.pdf

New - March 14 and 15 - HCRU SRT (Single Rope Technique) Training

Union Grove, Alabama

<http://www.hcru.org/rescueclass>

March 17th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter - Craig Williams

Topic - C.A.I.R.N. - Cave Archaeology Investigation and Research Network

6:30 PM

Anita B. Gorman Building

4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO. 64110

New - March 20 and 21 - Camden County, Flippen/Toby/Fiery Fork Caves

Novice - Primitive camping available Friday and Saturday night. Will visit at least two caves on Saturday. Join us for one or both. Very manageable, easy caves less than 800 feet long, 2.5 hour drive from Kansas City. Contact Seth Colston swcy92@gmail.com.

March 20th - 22nd - Potosi Cave Survey Weekend

Survey 6 newly discovered caves

Small trip ticket (4 people)

Washington County, 4.5 hour drive

Accommodations at Edg-Cliff Winery AirBNB, fee attached

If interested contact Shawn Williams, sosifrky@yahoo.com

New - March 21 - Stark Caverns Survey.

Contact Bill gee bgee@campercaver.net

April 3rd - 5th - Boone County Family/Youth Novice Trip

Co-sponsored with Chouteau Grotto

Camping and communal meals provided

If interested contact Martin Carmichael martin@showmewebdesign.com

April 17th -19th - Wild Edibles Food Foraging

Boone County

Pre-collecting hike for our April Meeting Wild Edibles presentation

Communal meals and camping provided

Contact Kirsten Alvey-Mudd cavechef@gmail.com

April 21st - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter - Kirsten Alvey-Mudd
Topic- Wild Edibles, Cooking and Eating
6:30 PM

Anita B Gorman Building
4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO. 64110

May 1st - 3rd - Spring MVOR

St. Clair Missouri
Lost Hill Resort on the Meramec River
Sponsored by Jessica Tygett-Self and others
More Details to follow

May 19th - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter - Mark Jones
Topic - Craters of the Lost Moon Project
6:30 PM

Anita B Gorman Building
4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO. 64110

New - June, exact date not yet set - KCAG summer picnic

All cavers and guests are welcome to our annual summer picnic. The date and place are not yet set, but it will be some Saturday in June.

June 12-20 - NCRC Cave Rescue Operations Seminar

New York state just outside of Albany.
<http://ncrc.info/News/Additional%20Files/NCRC%202020%20National%20Weeklong%20Brochure%20-%20mailer%20-%20home%20print.pdf> for more information.

July 11 - Carroll Cave data logger service trip

A fairly easy trip for Carroll Cave. 5 or 6 hours in the cave.
If interested contact Bill Gee, bgee@campercaver.net

July 21st - KCAG Monthly Meeting

Presenter - Not set yet
6:30 PM
Anita B Gorman Building
4750 Troost Ave. Kansas City, MO. 64110

July 24th - Iowa Grotto Picnic

Camping, Caving, Survey and auction fundraiser
Fayette County, Iowa
Contact klausnere@gmail.com for more information.

July 27th - July 31st - NSS Convention

Elkins, West Virginia

If interested <http://nsscon2020.org/>

July 30 - Aug 2 - HCRU Cave Rescue class

Union Grove, Alabama

<http://www.hcru.org/rescueclass>

August 29th - September 5th - 19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

Catania, on the island of Sicily Italy

<http://www.19isvetna.com/>

If interested contact David Foran, caver_skier@hotmail.com

September 18th - 20th MVOR

Hosted by MOBat Census and KCAG

McDonald County - Noel, MO.

If interested in serving on a committee contact Kirsten Alvey-Mudd, cavechef@gmail.com or

Nicole Ridlen nicoleridlen@gmail.com