



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto May 2021 Business Meeting

Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 – 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Meeting Held at the outside Pavilion at Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, a Missouri Department of Conservation facility at 4750 Troost, Kansas City, and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by president Seth Colston. The following members and guests were present in person: Seth Colston, Jim Cooley, Julie Cottrell, David Foran, Bill Gee, Kristen Godfrey, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Nick and Jay P. Kennedy, Jesse Kovac, Matthew McKown and Bluebird Taylor, Nathan and Sam Taylor, and Joe and Terri Wynne. Attending via Zoom were Laura Jaynes, Zac Lavicky, Jeff Page, and Paige Stone.

Officer Reports:

President: Seth Colston asked if anyone wanted to take over the secretary's position, as Ginny Friedrich has moved out of town to pursue a PhD in Microbiology. There were no takers. Vice-President Jim Cooley offered to take the minutes for this meeting.

Seth then announced that this year the ANNUAL GROTTO PICNIC will be at Rick Hines house on August 14th. (See flyer below for details). Therefore, we WILL have regular business meetings on the third Tuesday of the month in June and July – June 15th and July 20th, to be exact. Meetings start at 6:30, and we anticipate that they will be held indoors at the Gorman Center.

Seth has new shirt designs for grotto apparel (t-shirts). He will pass them around after the meeting.

Pic Walenta's Celebration of Life will be held this Sunday, May 23rd. Anyone planning to attend Pic's celebration of life is encouraged to RSVP either to Seth (swcy92@gmail.com) or to the Facebook event. In addition, there is a GoFundMe set up for the Pic Walenta Campground at Carroll Cave.

Seth is planning to give an Introduction to Caving presentation to potential new members in June.

Vice President: Jim Cooley was busy taking the minutes and had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Bill Gee noted that essentially nothing happened in April, except we paid a \$5 bank fee. Ending balance is in the neighborhood of \$2753.87, plus \$67.00 in petty cash.

Secretary: The April meeting minutes were accepted as sent out by Ginny Friedrich. A BIG THANK YOU to Ginny for her excellent service as grotto secretary, and best wishes for an awesome graduate education.

Quartermaster: Seth Colston is acting quartermaster. He announced a link will be added to the web page that will show which equipment has been reserved, and when. Seth can be contacted about any equipment, and for reservations. **You will need to give Seth two weeks' notice to reserve grotto gear.**

Novice Trip Coordinator: Seth said he's trying to plan a novice trip for the end of June, weekend of June 25th-27th, but is not sure what caves to go to yet. Also, Zac Lavicky is leading a novice trip to Cleveland Cave June 12th, which would be a great time to get certified as a Cleveland Cave trip leader. Contact Zac at lavickyz@yahoo.com.

Fundraising: No updates. Contact Seth Colston (swcy92@gmail.com) or Bill Gee (bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

Presentations: KCAG is in need of presenters. Please contact Seth Colston at swcy92@gmail.com if you are interested in giving a meeting presentation or have a topic idea.

The Guano: No updates.

MVOR: The next (fall) MVOR will be hosted by Kirstin Alvey-Mudd of Missouri Bat Census, tentatively to be held in McDonald County, in far southwest Missouri.

MeetUp: There have been few events on MeetUp since there have been few recent open-invitation novice trips, but Seth (swcy92@gmail.com) can still be contacted for any trips to add to the MeetUp schedule.

White Nose Syndrome: See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of the spread of WNS. WNS has now been reported in New Mexico and Montana. Jim Cooley sent out an article from a scientific journal stating that 90% of tri-colored bats, northern long-eared bats, and little brown bats have now disappeared, thanks to WNS. There is no vaccine available for WNS, but if one is developed, the good news is that no bats have yet declined to be vaccinated for political reasons.

International Year of Caves and Karst (2021): Contact Seth Colston if you have ideas presentations or want to lead a trip in 2021.

Organization Updates:

NSS: The 2021 NSS Convention will be held remotely from July 25th to July 30th. The list of presentations will be available ahead of time, and anyone interested can log into any meetings. Jeff Page mentioned that there will ALSO be an NSS in-person event in Weed, California July 25th-30th, a “Speleo-Ed” sponsored by NSS’s Western Region. Jeff has provided the flyer (from the NSS website) which will be sent out along with these minutes.

Carroll Cave Conservancy: Jeff Page reported that a survey trip in May to the Mountain Room found 20-30 dead gray bats. Vona Kuczynska, our U.S. Fish and Wildlife contact, was notified. We have not heard back from her yet on the acoustic data gathered in Carroll Cave. The CCC meeting this summer will take place in the last weekend of July and will occur via Zoom.

Missouri Speleological Survey (MSS) and Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy (MCKC): Jim Cooley, MSS director representing KCAG, reported that the MSS meeting will take place on Sunday, June 6th at the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. A special campground will be set up on the south side of the lake for participants. The objective of the weekend is to survey Ozark Caverns, a show cave at the state park; the project will be led by Scott House, who wants to produce a *Missouri Speleology* writeup on the cave. Jim intends to lead a QC trip via boat in the area, and any interested cavers are encouraged to contact him.

Project Updates:

Hickory County: Gary Johnson was not present. Seth reported that Gary had turned in two cave maps of new Mule Shoe Caves to the MSS, Mule Shoe Bend Cave and Mule Shoe Tunnel Cave,

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley intends to lead a QC trip to Cloud 9 in summer or early fall.

Devil’s Icebox : No report. The next trips to Devil’s Icebox will be in September.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill has scheduled a survey trip for June 12th. He and Seth will survey at **Geronimo Springs the day after**. Both trips involve small squeezes, and thus require small cavers, but Geronimo is much more difficult and quite chilly. The Stark Caverns trip will take place in tight areas off of the Grand Canyon region, with some additional survey in a stream crawl passage. They plan to camp Saturday night June 12th at Mule Shoe Conservation Area.

Devil's Icebox: The pink planarian count took place on the weekend prior to the meeting, but no KCAG members participated.

New Membership Nominations: None.

Trip Reports and Other News:

May 2nd: Jim Cooley and Julie Cottrell maintained the lock on Flippen Cave and monitored the cave back to the passage split, while turkey hunting on that landowner's property. There were no turkeys in Flippen Cave, but they did see two pretty orange cave salamanders.

May 15th: Nick and Jay Kennedy led a Scout troop to Perkins Cave. They spent three hours in the cave and got thoroughly slimed.

New Business: No new business.

Unfinished Business: None.

Meeting adjourned, after which folks hung out and chatted at the Pavilion until dark.

Upcoming Trips and Events

COVID-19 update: Check with the trip leader before you set out to attend any of these events. Please make your own decision regarding your health. The caves are not going anywhere.

2021 May 23 –Celebration of Life for Pic Walenta, 2pm to 5pm at The Legacy at Green Hills, 10243 North Green Hills Road, Kansas City, MO.

2021 May 28th: CAMPFIRE GET TOGETHER at Rick Hines house, 8:00 p.m. Contact Rick at rickhines@aol.com or watch for updates on the grotto e-mail feed. Bring a swimsuit and a towel for a midnight dip in the most amazing swimming pool you're likely to ever see in this lifetime...

2021_06_4-6: Survey at Lake of the Ozarks State Park, MSS meeting Sunday at 10:00. Contact Jim Cooley @ coolstoi@kc.rr.com if interested. Will be surveying a show cave for the park.

2021 June 12 – Zac Lavicky will be hosting a trip at Cleveland Cave. Contact Zac at lavickyz@yahoo.com. Camping will be Friday and Saturday nights.

2021 June 12 – Survey day at Stark Caverns, everyone welcome, prior survey experience not required. Contact bgee@campercaver.net. Will require cavers who can get into tight spots

2021 June 13 – Survey at Geronimo Spring Cave, The entrance to this cave is a water crawl 10 to 15 feet wide and about a foot high, for 120 feet. Small people only! Contact Seth Colston swcy92@gmail.com.

2021 July 10 – Carroll Cave. Data logger service trip. Contact bgee@campercaver.net Fairly easy trip, suitable for newbies to Carroll Cave.

2021 July 11 – Carroll Cave. Biology and rescue cache service trip to Upper Thunder River
Tough trip, not for newbie. Contact bgee@campercaver.net As of April 2021, this trip is full

2021 July 25-30 – NSS Western Region Speleo-Ed, in-person event in Weed, California. Details on NSS website.

2021 July 26 to 30 – NSS National Convention in Weed California. This will be a VIRTUAL convention!
<http://nss2021.caves.org/>

2021 July 23 to 29 – 18th International Congress of Speleology in Lyon, France.
<http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

2021 July 31 – Annual members meeting of Carroll Cave Conservancy. This will be a Zoom virtual meeting.

2021 August 4 through 8 – TAG trip. Tennessee, Alabama & Georgia -- Lots of **vertical** caving! Contact bgee@campercaver.net or swcy92@gmail.com We will drive on Wednesday, go caving Thu-Fri-Sat and return on Sunday. Bill has permits for Valhalla and Neversink, and is trying to line up more pits. So far, Seth, Becky Nelson, and Hou Zhong are going. This is room for more vertically competent folks.

2021 August 14th: Annual Grotto Picnic at Rick & Kay Hines's house, 16525 Orchard Lane, Stilwell, KS. 3:00 pm. to midnight. Cooking starts at 5:00, bring a covered dish to share. See flyer below for details, or contact Rick Hines rickhines@aol.com Be there or *be square*!

2021 Fall MVOR – To be determined.

2021 October. Date not yet determined. Cave gating project in western Camden County, Missouri. Contact Jim Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com for more information.

2021 October 30 – Carroll Cave. Annual bat census trip to the Mountain Room Tough trip, wetsuit required. Contact bgee@campercaver.net.

2022 January 8 – Carroll Cave. Data logger service trip Contact bgee@campercaver.net.

2022 – NSS National Convention in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Probably June or July – The web site is not up yet.

2023 – NSS National Convention in Elkton, West Virginia. This is a retry from the canceled/online 2020 event. Dates are not yet determined.

KCAG Picnic

Saturday, August 14

3:00 PM

Start cooking at 5:00 PM

Meat & grill provided
Water and lemonade provided

Bring a dish to share

At the home of Rick and Kay Hines

16525 Orchard Lane

Stilwell, KS 66085

Activities

Vertical Rope Practice

Zip Line over pond

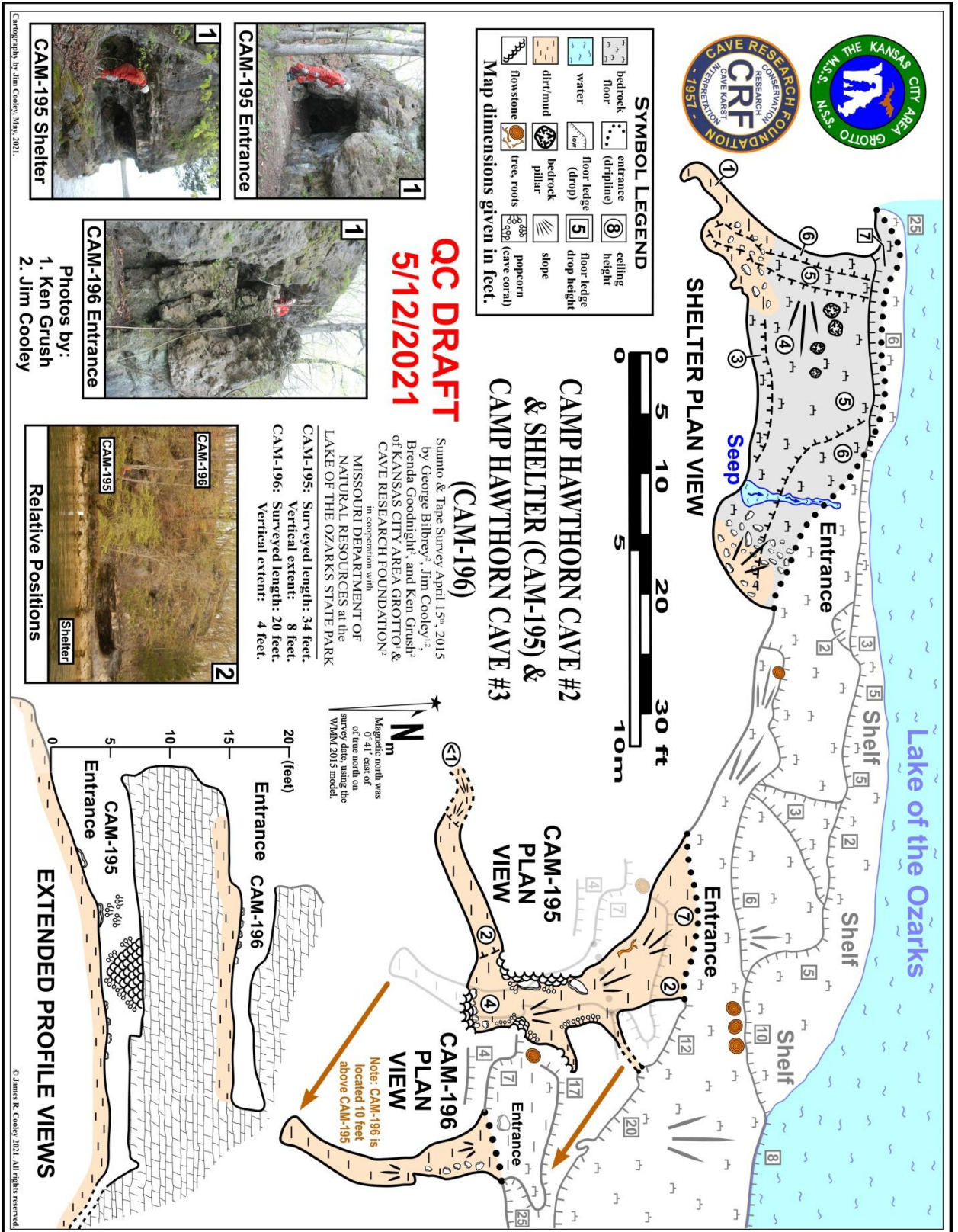
Swimming and boating

Bring a swimsuit and towel

**Bring your canoe, kayak,
tube, fishing poles, etc.**

Large Bonfire!





One of the maps to be checked at Lake of the Ozarks State Park