Kansas City Area Grotto
Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Jim Cooley at 7:05 p.m.

Attendance

The following members were in attendance: Cyle Riggs, Rick Hines, Matt Keuhnert, Terry DeFraties, Jim Cooley, Pic Walenta, Jerry Cindric, Bill Gee, Bill Pfantz, Rodney S., Sam Clippinger, Gary Johnson, Justace Clutter

The following guests were present: Brandy Rich, Cliff Nelson, Huan

Previous Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes online ahead of the meeting. No edits were requested.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Gee gave a treasurer's report as Pam Rader was absent. He reported no recent activity and a balance of $672.45.

Old Business

There was no old business to be addressed.

New Business

Memberships:
No new members were voted in.

Website Committee:
Jim Cooley announced the creation of a website committee for the grotto. This committee would decide what to do with the grotto website and how it would be used, in addition to documenting the processes for making website changes. Sam Clippinger offered to begin documenting processes. Members interested in being part of the website committee should contact Jim Cooley.

White Nose Syndrome:
Jim Cooley attended the MDC White Nose Planning Group luncheon at Tan-Tar-A on Feb. 12, 2010. He reports that there may be a new WNS working group created that the grotto could participate in. More news will come of this in June.

Hickory County Survey:
Gary Johnson reports that 36 caves are now known and reported to the MSS in Hickory County, 10 of which have been surveyed. Four survey projects are currently in progress, and 17 remain to be surveyed. The current focus of the project is on the Little Niangua region, five previously unregistered caves have been located there. Surveys have been started for Williams Cave and Starks Cave #1.

Grotto Gear:
As of the meeting Jim Cooley had the grotto helmets. Sam Clippinger would be taking them with him at the end of the meeting.

Grotto Pamphlets:
Bill Gee showed a pamphlet published by the SPG and suggested that the KCAG produce one as well for distribution to parties that the grotto works with. Gary Johnson though it could be useful in dealing with landowners. Sam Clippinger added that this could be useful to give to scout troop leaders that we interact with.

BSA / KCAG / Ozark Underground Labs Information Issue:
The problem material has been identified, thanks to astute detective work by grotto über-cyberwookie Cyle Riggs. Jim Cooley will be addressing this issue with the BSA to get the information up to date.

The Guano
Editor Bill Gee announced he expects to release a new edition of The Guano in March. More trip reports and pictures are always needed.

Trip Reports:

November 2009 Hickory County Trip:
Nov. 21, 2009 – Gary Johnon reported on a trip to Hickory County on Nov. 21, 2009. Better access was secured to some caves in the Little Niangua River area. Previously a slough of the river had to be crossed, but Gary now has secured access by land through a relationship with a nearby landowner.

December 2009 Hickory County Trip:
Dec. 19, 2009 – Gary Johnson reported on a trip to Hickory County on Dec. 19, 2009. Mike Smoker and Gary Johnson hiked in the Starks Creek area along a large section of private land in search of caves, following three cave leads, although no caves were found in this search. In addition the group followed a cave lead for a newly reported cave, Williams Cave (HKY-035), which is estimated at 500-700 feet of passage. Buzzard Cave was also found on this trip.

Carroll Cave Rescue Cache:
Jan. 16, 2010 – Bill Gee reported on a trip into Caroll Cave in which a group placed a rescue cache high in the round room. The cache is approximately 30 feet above the river in a location known not to flood during high water events. The group noted that a rescue attempt beyond the breakdown pile would be extremely difficult.

Carroll Cave Biology Trip:
Jan. 17, 2010 – Bill Gee reported on a biology trip into Caroll Cave with Dr. Ashley, Eric Hurtzler, Bill Gee, et. al. The group placed terra-cotta tiles in various locations to aid in future biology counts. The goal of the tiles is to make the biology counts more accurate. The tiles were placed in upstream Thunder River as well as other locations throughout the cave. On future trips more tile sets are planned to be placed.

February 6-7 Hickory Country Trip:
Feb. 6 - 7, 2009 – Gary Johnson reported on a trip to Hickory County over the weekend in which Hickory County cave #36 was found and survey projects were continued by Heather Levy and Lori Shultz.

Benton County Trip:
Feb. 6 - 7, 2010 – Jim Cooley reported on a trip to Benton County in which he searched unsuccessfully for a cave lead from the MSS cave files in the area of Deer Creek. He also met with the landowner of Booger Allen cave (BEN-006), who is excited about the new map of his cave and gave enthusiastic permission for a survey team to return.

Upcoming Events:

Spring 2010 MVOR:
Apr. 3 - May 2 – Green's Canoe Rental near Steelville, MO

CCRN *2-day*:

Apr. 10 - 11, 2010 – Colorado Cave Rescue Network will hold a 2 day seminar.

2010 NCRC Weeklong:
May 15 - 22 in Mentone, AL.

Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy
Saturday, May 15, 2010 – Meeting in Rolla

Missouri Speleological Survey
May 15, 2010 – The next meeting is for the MSS is on May 15 in Rolla. There is potential for project caving opportunities as well on the same weekend.

Grotto Picnic:
June 5, 2010 – The grotto picnic will be held at the Hines residence. The date will be first Saturday in June.

2010 NSS National Convention:
Aug. 2 - 6 in Essex Junction, Vermont.

Fall 2010 MVOR:
October 2010 – Near Hannibal, MO. Dates are uncertain, but probably Oct. 16-18.

Upcoming Trips:

February Hickory Country Trip:
Feb. 20, 2010 – Gary Johnson will lead a trip to Hickory County. Lori Shultz and Heather will continue the Starks Cave #1 survey, Gary will be doing some bushwhacking in the Mule Shoe area.

CRF Project Caving, Ozark National Scenic Riverways:
Feb. 19th - 21st – Trip plans have changed slightly and the group will be camping instead of utilizing the Powder Mill Research Center.

Troop 683/50 Trip:
Sam Clippinger will lead a trip on March 5 - 7 for BSA troops 680 and 50 in the Meremac area.

Troop 118 March Trip:
Sam Clippinger announced he would be leading a trip for Troop 118 on the John Alva Fuson Conservation Area. Volunteers wanting to assist with the trip should contact him. There are expected to be approximately 25 participants.

Hickory County Float Trip:
March or April 2010 – Gary Johnson will host a float trip on the Little Niangua River from US-54 to Mule Shoe. The date will be March 20th. There will likely be a second float on the Pomme de Terre on April 17th.

Cooley's Spring Float Trip:
April – A three-day float trip, dates and rivers to be determined.

High Guads Restoration Project:
April 18 - 25 – Jerry Cindric is putting together a trip to the Fort Stanton area of New Mexico. The group will participate in the High Guads Restoration Project and also do some recreational caving. The trip has filled a one day permit, so if more are to join it would have to be enough to get a separate permit as no more people can be added to the current permit.

Sierra Club Novice Trip:

Apr. 24th, 2010 – Saturday at Skaggs Cave, in Pulaski County. Camping will be available on the Mark Twain National Forest. May need helpers or have slots available. The grotto helmets will be used.

KCAG Novice Trip:
Apr. 25, 2010 – Sunday at Skaggs Cave in Pulaski County, MO. Camping will be available on the Mark Twain National Forest.

May Vertical Training:
May 22, 2010 – The grotto will be hosting another verticla training day in May which will be led by Terry DeFraites. Training will be held at the cliffs on Truman lake.

Presentation

Using WALLS and Xara for Cave Mapping
by Jim Cooley

A presentation was given by Jim Cooley with an introduction to the various features of *WALLS* and *Xara* as they apply to cave mapping.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Afterward, several members convened at Waldo Pizza on Wornall.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyle Riggs
Grotto Secretary