Kansas City Area Grotto
Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Bill Gee at 7:05 p.m on Jan. 13, 2010.

Attendance

The following members were in attendance: Cyle Riggs, Rick Hines, David Mead, Matt Keuhnert, Terry DeFraties, David Foran, Jim Cooley, Pic Walenta, Jerry Cindric, Lori Shultz, Mike Hartley, Bill Gee

The following guests were present: Dave Turney, Tim Castille

Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were not available for reading at the time of this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported no recent activity and a balance of $672.45. It was announced that 2010 membership fees are due. Individual memberships are $15, please remit to: Pam Rader, KCAG Treasurer, 8342 Travis Lane, Overland Park, KS 66212

Old Business

There was no old business to be addressed.

New Business

Memberships:
No new members were voted in.

Elections:
Bill Gee announced that he intended to step down as president. Pic Walenta announced a nomination of Jim Cooley for the position. A vote was taken by hand and Jim Cooley was elected as president.

Bill Gee announced that Craig Hines intended to step down from the position of secretary. Bill Gee announced a nomination of Cyle Riggs for the position. A vote was taken by hand and Cyle Riggs was elected as secretary.

Bill Gee announced that Pam Raider intended to continue to serve as treasurer. With no dispute it was determined she would continue to serve as treasurer.

Jim Cooley raised the issue of whether an election was to be held for the grotto's MSS representative. Bill Gee determined that this was a volunteer position, not an elected position. Jim Cooley stated that he intended to continue serving as the grotto's representative to the MSS.

White Nose Syndrome:
Bill Gee announced that the new USFWS recommendations are to close all caves except for the purposes of white nose syndrome research. Jim Cooley announced that while the NPS and USFS were likely to follow this guideline the CRF would soon hold a meeting with USFS to determine their intentions. Jim Cooley also announced that Smittle Cave is closed for the year of 2010.

MVOR Committee:
The MVOR committee reports that based on the current MVOR schedule there would likely not be any activity in planning for another year.

Hickory County Survey:
Gary Johnson submitted a list of the known and discovered caves in Hickory County which still needed to be surveyed, many requiring smaller cavers. Volunteers are still needed.

Carroll Cave Conservancy:
Rick Hines reported that 2010 CCC membership dues are due.

Grotto Gear:
As of the meeting the helmets were with Jim Cooley.

Troop 118 March Trip:
Guests Dave Turner and Tim Castille announced themselves as representatives of Boy Scout Troop 118. According to Mr. Turner Troop 118 had a caving trip planned in March of 2009 which had to be canceled to due poor weather. The troop would like to plan another caving trip in late March and Mr. Turner asked the grotto to assist with planning and leading the trip. The grotto in return offered to help.

NSS Newsletters:
Terry DeFraites proposed that NSS newsletters not be sent to the grotto P.O. box as now multiple copies are arriving at the address. Rick Hines suggested that as long as extra copies continue to show up they be brought to meetings to be distributed.

Trip Reports:

Thanksgiving Trip:
Nov. 24 - Nov. 29, 2009. Jim Cooley and Pic Walenta led a Cave Research Foundation (CRF) expedition (trip) with Craig Hines, Cyle Riggs, Shawn Williams, Ken Grush, Mike Smoker, Chad Hines and Rengin Firat to Eleven Point Ranger District of the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF), in Oregon County. The group car-camped on the Forest (MTNF calls this “dispersed camping”), in a deer-carcass-littered hunters’ camp northwest of Alton. On Thanksgiving Day, the group discovered a new cave near Little Hurricane Creek, dubbed Thanksgiving Cave (ORE-163). They also visited some new caves for the Mark Twain National Forest, including Dead Beetle Cave (ORE-155), Middle Cave (ORE-156), and Canyon Cave (ORE-157), verifying that a suspect connection between these last two caves did in fact exist. The group also discovered a second new cave (Dead Beetle Cave Annex (ORE-164) near Dead Beetle Cave. The group explored the recently located Little Hurricane Creek Cave (ORE-011), and via an MTNF-sanction excavation determined that Van Winkle Cave’s suspected (sealed) entrance (ORE-013) was not where it was thought to be.

New Year's Trip:
Dec. 31, 2009 - Jan. 3, 2010. Jim Cooley and Pic Walenta led another CRF expedition including Jerry Cindric, Kim Stroeh, Mike Smoker, and Colt Forney, again to the Eleven Point Ranger District, camping in the same remote location as we had over Thanksgiving. Most of the deer carcasses were gone. The group searched Bat Cave Hollow and discovered a new cave dubbed "Hobo Home Cave". The group inventoried Bat Cave (ORE-001) for hibernating endangered *myotis* with no success. Cooley said a search should be done again in the fall during bat swarming to find a reported *myotis* hibernaculum in Bat Cave Hollow. Horseshoe Bend Bluff Cave #2 (ORE-052), which had not been visited by MTNF or CRF

personnel, was rappelled into and explored on Horseshoe Bend Bluff, by Jerry Cindric. The team also visited Panther Cave (ORE-060), Lower Panther Cave (ORE-076), Root Cellar Cave (ORE-098), and Sunset Cave (ORE-132), getting good GPS locations and verifying that no endangered *myotis* were hibernating in these caves.

Upcoming Events:

Caves In Crisis:
Jan. 21 at 7:00 PM at Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. An educational photo exhibit. Bill Elliot will present a lecture followed by a tour and discussion of the photos.

Colorado Cave Rescue Network 2-day:
Apr. 10 - 11, 2010

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Trips:

High Guads Restoration Project:
Around April 24-25. Jerry Cindric is putting together a trip to the Fort Stanton area of New Mexico. Restoration projects area planned, other caving opportunities are possible.

Carroll Cave Rescue Cache Maintenance:
A rescue cache will be placed in Carroll Cave on Jan 16.

Carroll Bio Trip:
Eric Hertzler will lead the trip on Jan. 17.

CRF ONSR Project Caving:
January 15th-18th. Project Caving on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The group will be staying at the Powder Mill Research Center.

MSS Meeting:
Saturday, January 23rd in Rolla. Everyone is welcome.

CRF Project Caving in Pulaski County:
Sunday, January 24th near Rolla.

CRF Project Caving, Ozark National Scenic Riverways:
February 20th-21st. Staying at Powder Mill Research Center.

Spring Float Trip:
To be held in March or April. A three-day float trip, dates and rivers to be determined.

Sierra Club Novice Trip:
Saturday, April 24th 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:
Sunday, April 25th at Skaggs Cave in Pulaski County, MO. Camping will be available on the Mark Twain National Forest.

Presentation

Using Therion for Cave Survey
by Bill Gee

A presentation was given by Bill Gee with an introduction to the various features of the open source cave cartography software *Therion.* See http://therion.speleo.sk/ for more information.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Afterward, several members convened at Waldo Pizza on Wornall.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyle Riggs
Grotto Secretary