Kansas City Area Grotto
Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday, April 14, 2010
Arthur Mag Conference Center at Midwest Research Institute

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Jim Cooley at 7:05 p.m on Apr. 14, 2010.

Attendance

The following members were in attendance: Cyle Riggs, David Foran, Terry DeFraites, Lori Schultz, Andy Isbell, Michael Hartley, Bill Gee, Pam Raider, Sam Clippinger, Pic Walenta, Dale Curtis, Rick Hines, David Mead, Matt Keuhnert, Jeff Page, Gary Johnson, Jim Cooley

The following guests were present: Brandy Rich, Norman Ostensoe (NSS #23881), John Tamino

Previous Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pam Rader reported a bank balance of $919.45. A deposit of $267.00 was made.

Old Business

There was no old business to be addressed.

New Business

Memberships:
No new members were voted in.

White Nose Syndrome:
The following announcements were made:
The MDC has announced a four-tier plan for handling WNS. All MDC caves are now closed unless signed otherwise and USFWS-specified cleanup is required before entering any MDC cave. The USFS cave closure order was renewed for another year, again closing the caves in the MTNF to the general public. The CRF has an exception to the MTNF closure for April through September, 2010, for survey and research purposes.

BSA / KCAG / Ozark Underground Labs Information Issue:
Work is in progress to get the information updated on the scouting website.

Scout and Other Presentations
WNS will be part of the new presentation for scouts. This is expected to be used for the first time at the May 8th round table.

Scout Trip Request
A short term scout trip request was sent to the grotto, a notification was sent out on the grotto mailing list.

MVOR Committee
KCAG is sponsoring Ron Powell's upcoming MVOR trip. The intention is for Ron to get a feel for the MVOR experience in the event that we hold one on his property in the future. Ron is the owner of Perkins Cave.

Trip Reports:

Hickory County, March 13th
Bill Gee and Gary Johnson performed a field check of the Elkton Cave map. Photos were taken of the large room, in which major guano piles were found. Some minor work was done to finish up the survey in a short passage which had previously eluded survey. Another trip will need to be made for survey clean-up work. The surveyed length from after this trip stands at 2158 feet.

Hickory County, March 20th
Gary Johnson had a float trip planned on the Little Niangua River but it was cancelled due to weather.

Hickory County, March 27th
Heather Levy and Lori Schultz returned to finish the survey of Stark Cave #1. The survey of a tight difficult passage was completed and a high lead at the entrance was climbed and checked out.

Camden County - Little Niangua River Trip, April 10th
Mike Smoker, Lori Schultz, Eric Hertzler, and Gary Johnson met in Camden County. A new cave named Storie Cave on Mack's Creek was located. Six known caves on the Little Niangua River were GPS'd and photographed: Keyhole Cave, Mud Slope Cave, Three Column Cave, Mine Tunnel Cave, Upper Burnt Mill Cave, and Lower Burnt Mill Cave. Two new caves along the Little Niangua River in Camden County were located. Some of the known caves which were visited are reported to go on past the map's end and therefore may require a re-survey.

Andy Isbell and Lori Schultz in California
Andy Isbell and Lori Schultz made a recent trip to California to do some caving. They reported seeing nice caves and walking some long, steep hills.

Troop 188 Trip, March 27
Sam Clippinger and Matt Keuhnert took Troop 118 to Lowell Cave. The group was 20-25 people total.

Boy Scouts Perkins Trip
Sam Clippinger took his troop to Perkins Cave. The older boys explored Perkins, while the younger members took a tour of Bridal Cave.

AACS, March 27th
Jim Cooley attended the Arkansas Association for Cave Studies Lawrence Country trip in Arkansas.

Jack's Fork Bat Cave Repair,March 30
Jim Cooley and George Bilbrey and Joe Williams of CRF returned to complete the repair of the Jack's Fork Bat Cave gate.

Upper Current Float, April 1st
Jim Cooley and Joe Williams floated the Upper Current River from Baptist Camp to Cedar Grove, locating five new caves, one at over 100 feet, and one new shelter.

MTNF Oregon County Trip, April 2nd
Jim Cooley led a trip with Dave Mead and Pic Walenta to the MTNF in Oregon County. Jim and Pic visited Kelly Hollow Cave, while Dave joined Dave and BJ Seidel for a some ridgewalking which resulted in the finding of eight new caves in the Little Hurricane Creek area.

MTNF Oregon County Trip, April 3rd
Jim Cooley, Shawn Williams and BJ Seidel surveyed Dead Beetle and Dead Beetle Annex caves, Pic and Dave Mead accompanied Dave Seidel and Max White of SPG to check the possibility of surveying and doing bio-inventory of newly discovered Thanksgiving Cave. Thanksgiving Cave was found to be flooded.

Further up the ridge from Little Hurricane Creek Cave a new cave, Black Dagger Cave, was found along with a small shelter. Black Dagger appeared to have hibernating ***myotis*** in it.

MTNF Oregon County Trip, April 4th
Mick Sutton, Sue Hagan, Jim Cooley and Pic Walenta conducted a biological inventory at Little Hurricane Creek Cave, and started a survey.

Ennis Cave Photo Trip, March 11th - 16th
Rick Hines made a photo trip to Ennis Cave to get more photos for the owner's book. Also on this trip were Kay Hines, Jim Cooley, and Pic Walenta.

Upcoming Events:

Spring 2010 MVOR:
Apr. 30 - May 2 – Green's Canoe Rental near Steelville, MO

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

Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy
Sunday, May 16, 2010 – Meeting in Rolla

Missouri Speleological Survey
Sunday, May 16, 2010 – business meeting.

Ennis Cave 25th Anniversary Blow-Out
May 29 - May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day weekend.

Grotto Picnic:
June 5, 2010 – The grotto picnic will be held at the Hines residence in Stilwell, KS on June 5th. Guests are welcome to bring vertical gear and swimming clothing. This will replace the June business meeting.

SERA Cave Carnival:
Jun. 17 - 20, 2010 – Montaegle, Tennessee. http://www.caves.org/grotto/sewaneemountaingrotto

Indiana Cave Capers:
Jun. 25 - 27, 2010 – Delaney Creek Park near Salem, Indiana.

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

Black Hills Cave Restoration Camp:
Sep. 13 - 17 – Contact marc_ohms@nps.gov or call 605-745-1182 by Friday, July 30, 2010. Space is limited.

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

Upcoming Trips:

Little Niangua Hickory County Float
Apr. 17, 2010 – Gary Johnson is planning a float trip on the Little Niangua River in Hickory County.

High Guads Restoration Project:
Apr. 18 - 25, 2010 – 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. 24, 2010 – Saturday at Skaggs Cave, in Pulaski County. Camping will be available on the Mark Twain National Forest. 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.

MSS Meeting & Campout
Project caving, May 15, 2010 – In Rolla, MO. CRF Project Caving on the Mark Twain National Forest in addition to the MSS meeting on the 16th.

Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy
Saturday, May 16, 2010 – Meeting in Rolla

May Vertical Training:
May 22, 2010 – The grotto will be hosting another vertical training day in May which will be led by Terry DeFraites.

Kelly Hollow Cave Gating Project
TBD - Summer 2010, probably June: A bat gate will be installed on the largest cave in Oregon County.

Presentation

Due to time constraints the scheduled presentations were cancelled.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Afterward, several members convened at Waldo Pizza on Wornall.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyle Riggs
Grotto Secretary