

Kansas City Area Grotto

January Regular Business Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2012

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Cyle Riggs at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting, compiled by Matt Kuehnert, previously sent out on e-mail, were accepted.

Attendance

The following members were present: VP/Treasurer Brandy Riggs, Secretary Matt Kuehnert, President Cyle Riggs, Rick Hines, David Mead, Bill Gee, Lee Krout, Jacob Krout, Gary Johnson, Nathan Taylor, Jim Cooley, and Pic Walenta.

The following guests were present: Kyle Lewis, Chas Perkins, Nathan Spriggs, Jennie Murphy, David Egelund

Treasurer's Report

A balance of \$2673.17 was reported for March. This number should be larger as there are a number of checks yet to be deposited.

Grotto gear Report

Cyle has helmets and Jim has the bash kits, Cyle has the projector. Cyle will be donating an HDMI cable for the projector. DJ has two sets of survey equipment and Jim has one-two 100-foot grotto survey tapes.

White Nose Syndrome (C. Riggs)

Jim mentioned the new "hot water" (122F) WNS gear decontamination procedures. Fish and Wildlife website should have details on this. Jim has heard that a standard wash machine will not work for this procedure.

Grotto has Lysol IC Concentrate for sale: \$.25 per fluid ounce (25 grams).
<http://www.caves.org/WNS/index.htm> -- the NSS data site for WN

Old business

Novice Trips Committee

David Mead mentioned that a survey trip to Cleveland may be a possibility in the near future.

Grotto Apparel

Pic reports that removing part of the logo will not reduce the price for the zip up hoodies. Order size is 24 for these hoodies. About seven people at the meeting were interested in buying one. Cost for black and gray would be \$29 and the orange would be \$35. Sell price would be \$40 and \$50 respectively.

Pic bought an awning (10' x 10') during the grotto foray at Onondaga Cave, where we supported the Lantern Tours. She ~~and~~ has asked for reimbursement, suggesting that this would be a handy piece of

grotto gear to have around. A motion was made and it was voted in unanimously. This will be used for picnics and events.

Fund Raising

No new report

The Guano

Bill Gee - no new report.

New Business

Scout Publication

Heidi says its done and she is ready for us to review.

Paint Ball tournament

DJ has invited the group to his house for a free paintball tournament.

Website

Cyle is halfway done and will be ready for us to review soon.

Grotto Christmas Party

Will be December 15th, at the Hines home. The group, starting at 6:00 p.m. Meat and drink are provided; please bring a dish to share.

Cyle and Brandy's Big News / Officer Elections

Cyle announced that he and Brandy will be moving to Seattle next January. Cyle has accepted a job with Amazon.com.

Cyle and Brandy are asking for commitments for their offices next year. DJ expressed interest in VP/Treasurer and Jim Cooley expressed interest in the office of President.

Official election for these two positions will be held at next meeting.

Activity Reports

Over the Edge

DJ reports that he and Cyle attended the "over the edge" event in downtown KC. The participants were allowed to rappel off a building in downtown KC (180' – 200'). Cyle was very impressed by their Terradaptor, and DJ reported that the event was done very professionally, with excellent gear.

Hickory County Project

Gary Johnson reports that he is talking with a landowner that claims to have the “biggest cave around”. Gary has approval to visit, Gary reminded us that Dave Egelund is a landowner in Hickory County and has been helping Gary with the project. Gary showed us the package of KCAG / MSS information that he hands out to landowners that may be cave owners. This includes liability information. This information helps answer questions and build confidence.

October 26th will be the next trip to Hickory County to visit some caves. On the 28th, Gary will meet ~~Christa-Krista~~ Bartell and help her start a new survey project. November 3rd will be a landowner trip to Elkton Cave. November 10th will be a potential float trip in Hickory County.

Carroll Cave Conservancy Report

Bill Gee reports there will be a landowner trip on October 27th, led by Rick Hines. There will also be a bat census trip on the same day led by Bill Gee, which will make the round trip from the ladder to the Mountain Room – more participants are needed. Rick Hines mentioned that the landowners Greg and Jennie Fry now run the Montreal store, which includes gas, beer. Rick encourages us to patronize them and tip well.

DJ will be putting together another restoration trip to Carroll – he will accept suggestions for dates.

Missouri Speleological Survey Report

Jim Cooley, the MSS Director who represents KCAG, reports he ~~has~~ presented some new Missouri Speleology Journals at the last meeting. (Jim is also the editor of this journal.) These journals are included in the price of MSS, and are pretty, well written, and informative. Jim has membership applications if anyone would like to join MSS.

Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy

Jim Cooley reports that the Goodwin Sinkhole project is ongoing. The MCKC now owns this property. The MCKC anniversary party is this weekend at Hahatonka. Bill Gee reports that the last trip to Goodwin was very productive and much debris is being removed.

DUES

Brandy is now accepting membership dues.

Trip reports / Open Discussions

Onondaga Lantern Tour

Pic Valenta reported that she attended the lantern tour / re-enactment last weekend. Rick Hines, Pic, Brandy, Shelly, Julianne Smoker, Heidi Fletcher, and DJ all took part as actors.

Cave Gatings

Jim Cooley reports that he ~~attended~~ led the a-regating effort at Lost Man Cave in ~~of~~ Carter Cave, on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways (in ONSR), which effort included Ken Grush, Mark Jones and George

Bilbrey. They removed the old gate and installed a new one. The ~~trip~~ project, funded by the National park Service, took five days and was a great success.

Jim also reported that he and Jim "Crash" Kennedy of Bat Conservation, International led a team to gate Bat Cave in Oregon County, ~~was also gated~~ a 14-day effort which ended yesterday. This cave has the largest gray bat maternity colony in Oregon County. Cavers Ken Grush, Mark Jones, Bill Gee, Mark Lankford, George Bilbrey, and Alicia Wallace assisted, as did MoDOT endangered species biologist Bree McMurray and MDC bat biologist Shelly Colatskie. Alicia was the head welder for the entire effort. An impressive "high line" hauling system was made for this project, which lifted ten tons of steel up to the two cave entrances in a cliff face. An AmeriCorps group from St. Louis also assisted with the project, along with several Forest Service employees. A chute gate design was used on one entrance, and a fly-over gate was built on the other, in order to accommodate the pregnant gray bat females that cannot navigate smaller openings in gates. The project concluded two-and-a-half days early, finished early, and the project was deemed a great success. Ken Grush discovered two

A Bat Conservation International representative was present for the trip. A Grotto Salamanders was discovered in Bat Cave. There is also a rumor that there may be blind cave fish in this cave.

Kings Canyon / Sequoia

Matt Kuehnert visited these two national parks. Many caves are in Sequoia.

Mesa Verde

Gary Johnson and his family visited Mesa Verde this summer.

Black Hills / Wind Cave

Cyle Riggs reported that they visited this area last month.

Upcoming Trips

Cloud Nine Ranch

10-27-12 and the following week

Jim Cooley says there may be another survey trip on this weekend.

Oregon County Thanksgiving trip.

Jim Cooley announced the annual trip. Ridge walking, floating and lead checking will be among the activities.

Spring, 2013 MVOR

Will be held in Dillard Mill, MO, h. Hosted by Alicia Wallace. Presentations will be emphasized rather than caving.

Camp Zoe

In recent news, the landowner of Ccamp Zoe was arrested on drug charges and the camp ~~might be~~ closed. The property was forfeited to the government in a plea bargain.

Presentation

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Participants gathered at Wornall Pizza for food, drink, and fellowship!

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Kuehnert, KCAG Secretary