

Kansas City Area Grotto January Regular Business Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 8th, 2012

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Cyle Riggs at 7:00 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, Pic Walenta, Jim Cooley, Rick Hines, Bill Gee, Elaine Gilleo, Sam Clippinger, Shelly Field, Gary Johnson, Tom Grant, and Bill Pfantz

The following guests were present: Lee and Jacob Krout, Heidi Fletcher, Andy Smith

Treasurer's Report

A balance of \$2,805.82 was reported for January. Brandy reminded everyone that 2012 membership dues are now due, and PayPal invoices have been sent to all members via email

Grotto gear Report

Jim Cooley has helmets and bash kits, Cyle has the projector

White Nose Syndrome (C. Riggs)

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 WNS

Old business

Novice Trips Committee

Brandy Riggs stated that the first quarter trip will be a restoration trip to Cleveland Cave on Feb 25th and 26th.

Grotto Apparel

Pic Walenta stated that we have no new fund raisers currently. We still have plenty of Grotto apparel and she said that she will set be selling Grotto apparel at the "Year of the Bat" gathering at Onondaga State Park in April.

The Guano

Bill Gee reports that the latest issue of the Guano was published two weeks ago. He can still use articles for the next issue.

New Business

Vertical workshop 2012

Cyle Riggs stated that the workshop will be held this spring or summer and possible locations include Swope Park or the cliffs at Truman Lake. Bill Gee stated that he would be willing to help organize and help. Sam Clippinger suggested that Monster Mountain (indoor climbing gym) or the climbing tower at the Girl Scout camp. Cyle said that he would rather target a location with rocks and trees in order to better simulate actual rigging conditions.

MCKC Cleanup of Goodwin sinkhole

Brandy Riggs stated that the MCKC needs cash donations to offset costs for the Goodwin Sinkhole cleanup that has just started. She said that she was making soup for the volunteers. Jim Cooley added that an 8-12' tall fence should be built on top of a berm around the sinkhole in order to prevent future trash dumping. Rick Hines made a motion that the Grotto donate \$100.00 to the MCKC to assist the Goodwin Sinkhole cleanup. Bill Gee seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Activity Reports

Scouting

Sam Clippinger said we now have approval from the HOAC to add KCAG / caving information to their website. Heidi Fletcher volunteered to draft a paragraph to insert into their website, and present it to the Grotto for our approval.

Hickory County Project

Gary Johnson reports that the Index (Hickory Co. newspaper) ran an article on the Hickory County Project in their November, 2011 issue. He passed around several copies for our review. Gary said he was pleased with the article. He gave a report on bushwhacking and surveying activities in December and January. He announced a landowner trip to Elkton Cave on April 7th, 2012.

Carroll Cave Conservancy Report

Bill Gee announced that he has submitted the 2011 stream flow reports and they appeared normal with no large flow events. He said the next annual meeting will be on 7/14/12.

Missouri Speleological Survey Report

Jim Cooley announced that he attended the Jan 24th MSS meeting in Rolla and presented four new MO Speleo issues. He reports there is much current activity in this group.

Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy

Jim Cooley spoke again on the Goodwin Sinkhole cleanup project and said there are no current plans for a fence around the sinkhole and that this would be a crucial part of the project.

Meeting Minutes

Cyle Riggs stated that if any subjects discussed at our Grotto meetings are confidential, then he and I (Matt Kuehnert) must be made aware so that information is not included in the published minutes.

State of KCAG website

Cyle expressed a desire to improve the current KCAG website. He has already added a calendar of events and plans to keep them updated. Brandy stated that the text / background colors should be changed in order to be more legible.

Trip reports

Tan Tara WNS group Meeting

Jim Cooley attended this meeting on 2/1/12 as a part of the Missouri DNR conference. Tony Elliot is now the lead biologist and will be heading up WNS efforts.

SPG/CRF February Caving weekend

Jim Cooley reported on the February 3-5th trip to Christian county. Six to seven new caves were found

Project Caving, ONSR/stay at PMRC.

Jim Cooley reported on the January 13-20, 2012 trip. Four new caves were found.

Flippen, Drummond cave surveys

Jim Cooley reported on the January 22-23, 2012 trip. Pic, Brandy, Heidi, and Andy also attended.

Misc new business

Bears!

Cyle Riggs reported that the latest issue of MDC's Conservationist Magazine reports that black bears are now being tracked in southern Missouri and that most are using caves to hibernate

New Members

Welcome to our new members who were voted in unanimously:

Brian Dexter

Heidi Fletcher

National Geographic Programs

Tom Grant reported that the Kauffman Center for the Performing arts is hosting several programs by National Geographic including a lecture on Caribbean cave diving.

Upcoming Trips

February 11-12, Goodwin Sinkhole Project - clean up of Goodwin Sinkhole and the entrance to Goodwin Pit Cave

February 16-22, 2012: Cloud 9 Ranch, cave survey and ridge walking. Improved-site camping.

March, 2012: Willow Springs Cave and Mines sump reduction, exploration and mapping, Linn Creek, MO.

April (?), 2012: Gating McCormick Cave, Newburg, MO (Phelps County, near Rolla).

Upcoming Events

“Year of the Bat” activities at Onondaga Cave State Park – April 20-21st. Contact Tara or Maria at 573)245-6576 (x227 for Tara and x221 for Maria)

MVOR, Perry County, MO April 26-29, 2012. SEMO hosting.

Karst-o-Rama, Greater Cincinnati Grotto, <http://karstorama.com>, July 20-22, 2012.

Summer, 2014: NSS National Convention, ROLLA, MO.

Presentation

Jim Cooley presented some excellent photos of his recent trips

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