

**Kansas City Area Grotto**  
**February Regular Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2013 – 7:00pm to 9:00pm**  
**Arthur Mag Conference Center – 4920 Cherry, KCMO**

- 1) 7:09pm - Call to order by President DJ Hall
- 2) Membership roster was circulated for additions/corrections.
- 3) Recognize Visitors/Guests.
  - a) Bob Spuehler
  - b) Mike Modlin
  - c) Ann Webb
  - d) Paul Webb
  - e) Heidi Spuehler
  - f) Brittany Spuehler
  - g) Becky Johnson
  - h) Jack Peters
  - i) John McGuire
  - j) Michael Spuehler
  - k) Dave Walden
- 4) Regular members present: Rick Hines, DJ Hall, Jim Cooley, Matt Kuehnert, Pic Walenta, Bill Gee, Heidi Fletcher, Sam Clippinger, Craig Hines, Michael Smoker, Julianne Smoker, Krista Bartel, Kyle Lewis
- 5) Secretary – Matt Kuehnert. Minutes from last KCAG meeting were accepted
- 6) Reports:
  - a) President / Vice President
  - b) Treasurer Report – Pic Walenta, Current balance is \$2908.43. She recently wrote a check to Jim Cooley for gas reimbursement, for representing KCAG at the MSS. Some membership dues are still outstanding.
  - c) Quarter Master Report - Pic Walenta reports the helmets will be handed off to Sam Clippinger tonight.
    - i) DJ reports that he purchased survey bags and compasses, mapping paper, and compass. This was a donation by DJ to the Grotto – Thank you!
    - ii) Pic proposes that the Grotto purchase a 3 burner propane stove with tank. Approx. \$200 from Costco. Motion made and seconded, and approved unanimously
  - d) MSS Report - Krista Bartel reports that the next meeting will be in Rolla on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - e) CCC Report – Bill Gee reports there will be a summer meeting in Camdenton.
  - f) Committee reports.
    - i) Novice Trip – this position still open
    - ii) Cleveland Cave Restoration – no report
    - iii) Hickory County – No report
    - iv) Cloud Nine Ranch – no report.
    - v) Fund Raising – Pic Walenta reports that she and Rick Hines are working on Grotto calendars for fundraising. They will be printed and ready to sell at the May MVOR. When you order you can specify the 12mo period. Price will be Also, Rick Hines has provided 1200 lumen headlights available for purchase \$30.00. Jay Kennedy has also donated some caving books
    - vi) Presentations – Heidi Fletcher is new committee chairman
    - vii) Website – Mike Smoker is new committee chairman. DJ reminded everyone that we have a “listserve” email service.
    - viii) Publicity – Krista Bartel says everyone should wear cave gear for St. Patrick’s Day.

- ix) Welcoming – Heidi Fletcher showed a draft of the tri-fold brochure for KCAG. She is looking for suggestions on text, and needs more photos. It was met with positive response.
  - x) MVOR – no report
  - xi) Guano – Bill Gee has no report
  - xii) Party/picnic – no report
- 7) Member Cave Trip Reports
- a) Jim Cooley reports CRF just signed an agreement with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks (MoDNR) to survey caves on Missouri State Park property. Bill Gee reported on survey of the pit cave at Bothwell Lodge State Park. Kyle Lewis reported on the main cave, Stonyridge Cave – it was full of feces of either raccoons or opossums. Jim reports that they will suggest that the caves receive new, more bat-friendly cave gates.
  - b) Krista Bartel – reports on a February trip to the Rolla area including Finley Cave. She also visited Cold Cave, Bear Cave, and Cave Hole Cave at Cloud Nine Ranch.
  - c) DJ Hall – reported that he and Heidi Fletcher visited several caves in Hickory County
- 8) Unfinished business
- a) DJ Hall has a connection for PADI open water certification.
  - b) KCAG Constitution and Bylaws – DJ wants to form a committee to review and discuss any changes. We are not sure what is the official version of the constitution.
  - c) Krista Bartel – made another call for anyone interested in out-of-state trips. Possible trips: TAG, New Mexico, Cuba, South Dakota, and Kentucky.
- 9) New Member nominations
- a) Jack Peters was voted in unanimously
- 10) New business – John McGuire inquired about archived photos. Rick Hines said he had access
- 11) Upcoming Events

#### MVOR

spring 2013 – May 3-5 Meramec Valley Grotto - Dillard Mill

Fall 2013 - Chouteau/PEG - Northeast MO.

Spring 2014 - Ozark Highlands Grotto - Barry County, MO.

#### 2013 NSS Convention

August 5-9, 2013 at Shippensburg University, PA

#### KCAG Summer Picnic

June 8, 2013

#### KCAG Christmas Party

December 14, 2013

#### 12) Upcoming Cave trips

Mar 8-10

Cloud 9 Survey Ken Grush No openings

Mar 9/10

Hickory County projects DJ Hall

Mar 23-26

Rattlesnake Cave Gating - Jim Cooley

Mar 23

Paintball at DJs

Mar 30/31

Onondaga Cave Boat Dock Entrance re-gating

Apr 1-7

Cathedral Cave Natural Entrance re-gating

Apr 5-7

Cathedral Cave Weekend Crew

Apr 6/7

Ozark Underground Lab John McGuire – reports that Tom Aley, a world-renowned hydrologist, owns the cave. Cost is \$20 per person plus extra if you stay in the field house that night. Four people on the trip so far. Contact John at [speleolympic@yahoo.com](mailto:speleolympic@yahoo.com)

Apr 19-21

Cleveland Cave Family Campout

May 3-5

MVOR

May 17-19

Willow Springs Survey – Jim Cooley / DJ Hall

May 19

MSS Meeting

Jun 8

Grotto Picnic

June 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>

Cleveland Cave youth trip – two people needed.

Jun 14-17

Current River or Jacks Fork Float Trip Cave monitoring. Jim Cooley

July 12-14

Eleven Point Float Trip – Cave Monitoring. Jim Cooley

Jul 20 – 21

Onondaga Lantern Tour

Aug 9-11

Cave Trip Somewhere

Sep 14-15

Onondaga Lantern Tour

13) Presentations

- a) Michael Spuehler spoke about his father Bob Spuehler's past history with the Kansas City Caving Club, some 50 years ago. Bob is suffering from a terminal illness and his family brought him here tonight to reconnect with a group and a sport that he loves. He only spent 1.5 years caving, but has fond memories from that period. Bob said they used to have a pamphlet with cave locations. Many were reluctant to share locations since the caves had whiskey stills. He remembered cleaning out a sinkhole near Montrose, MO and saw a historic signature. In one cave they saw panther tracks. He banded bats with Dr. Oz Hawksley. They used 6V lanterns and carbide lights. DJ Hall presented Bob with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Grotto.
- b) Jim Cooley gave a presentation on Cave Survey Opportunities in Missouri Wilderness areas.

14) Adjournment. (Waldo Pizza – 7433 Broadway - 75<sup>th</sup> and Wornall)

## **Kansas City Area Grotto Committees**

- 1) Novice Trips: Responsible for organizing trips for inexperienced cavers.
  - a) Chair :
  - b)
- 2) Cleveland Cave Restoration : Responsible for the Restoration of Cleveland Cave
  - a) Project Manager : Dave Mead
  - b)
- 3) Hickory County: Responsible for the discovery, documentation and survey of caves in Hickory County, MO.
  - a) Project Manager : Gary Johnson
  - b) Lori Schultz
  - c) DJ Hall
  - d)
- 4) Quarter Master: Responsible for keeping track of all physical assets of the KCAG.
  - a) Pic Walenta
- 5) Fund Raising: Responsible for the fund raising efforts of the KCAG.
  - a) Chair : Pic Walenta
  - b) Andy Isbell
  - c)
- 6) Presentation: Responsible for organizing and presenting caving information to scout, youth and other organized groups.
  - a) Chair: Heidi Fletcher
  - b)
- 7) Website: Responsible for maintaining the KCAG website and list serv.
  - a) Lead: Mike Smoker
  - b)
- 8) Publicity: Responsible for promoting the KCAG through printed material and publicity efforts not limited to campuses flyers, earth day outreaches, and visitor welcome packet.
  - a) Chair : Krista Bartel
  - b)
- 9) Welcoming: Responsible for making guests and visitors welcome at all events.
  - a) Chair : Heidi Fletcher
  - b)
- 10) MVOR: Representative to the Mississippi Valley Ozark Region. The purpose of the MVOR is to promote fellowship, exploration, and safety among cavers in the MVOR area.
  - a) Chair : Andy Isbell
  - b) Jeff Page
  - c) Bill Gee
  - d) Pic Walenta
  - e)
- 11) Missouri White Nose working group: Dedicated to the conservation of bats and their habitats and works to address bat-related issues with a regional approach.
  - a) Chair : Jim Cooley
  - b) Jenny Bentz
  - c) Pic Walenta
  - d) Dave Mead
- 12) Guano : KCAG's official magazine
  - a) Editor : Bill Gee
  - b)
- 13) Party/Picnic
  - a) Chair : Rick & Kay Hines