

Kansas City Area Grotto
August Regular Business Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, August 14, 2013 – 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Arthur Mag Conference Center – 4920 Cherry, KCMO

- 1) Call to order - present agenda
- 2) Visitors were recognized:
 - a) Alex ??
 - b) Stevie Hendrix
 - c) Mark Fletcher
 - d) Nate Spriggs
 - e) Tom Clark
 - f) Karson Clark
 - g) Kelsie Clark
- 3) Regular members present:
 - a) DJ Hall
 - b) Pic Walenta
 - c) Rick Hines
 - d) Kyle Lewis
 - e) Jim Cooley
 - f) Bill Gee
 - g) Nathan Taylor
 - h) Heidi Fletcher
 - i) Austen Peters
 - j) Megan Gruenbacher
 - k) Mark Fletcher (just made a new member tonight)
- 4) Secretary – Matt Kuehnert was absent. Reading/accepting of minutes from last KCAG meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes made by Heidi, seconded by Bill.

- 5) Reports:
 - a) President / Vice President Report

NSS convention report - only 10 members from Missouri

Cave simulator - mimics the impact you have on a cave environment.

Photo salon winners presented throughout the evening in the power point.

NSS documents and brochures - guide to responsible caving

No trace principles reviewed.

Caver's motto: take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time.

Caving safety statistics were presented.

No accidents in the Missouri area during 2012 and we'd like to keep it that way.

- b) VP Report – Jim Cooley reports that we had \$39k of new cave gate requests this year and \$100k/year for the next three years.
 - i) Nothing to report

c) Treasurer Report – Pic Walenta

We have purchased our lights and it was \$629.50 - 11 lights, 10 for the grotto and one for Cooley (not included in above price), which brings our balance down to \$2,348.52. We also got a debit card for the grotto. As always, there is grotto gear for sale (fund raising).

d) Quarter Master Report - Pic Walenta

Helmets lights, not here yet received. With the new lights we are going to develop a procedure for checking them out and checking them back in. Pretty big expense and we need to keep track of them. Sign them out and back in, or sign them over to another member, so if they go missing the person who checked them out will be responsible for the cost of the light. There will be a box and each will be numbered etc.

e) MSS Report – Jim Cooley

Next mss meeting will be the 29th of September. MSS is the organization that does the survey of caves, we have a cave map database and it is published in a number of different venues, one comes out 6 times a year, MSS is about two years behind but slowly is catching up. Brochure and application are provided; feel free to pick one up.

f) CCC Report – Bill Gee

CCC had their annual meeting on July 20, turnout was lower than expected. Good news is that it was a short meeting, decided that we are going to participate in the 2015 NSS convention. Several Carroll trips coming up, some easy some hard, we will get into that later.

Caving tip, Missouri caves & karst conservancy, CRF has a mandate to monitor caves closed to the public - private nonprofit organization for surveying caves, MSS.

6) Jim Cooley Cave Trip Report

7) Committee reports.

a) Novice Trip

- i) Cleveland cave novice trip happened this last weekend at the KCAG cool camp ground setup by Vic Nickel. Caved a little Friday night, went through the first slot on Saturday night, and did the novice trip Sunday morning. The first water passage came up to mid chest. Saturday night, saw the moon set with Venus, successfully launched a couple of Chinese lanterns, and saw 25 Perseids meteors. It was beautiful and clear Saturday night, perfect weather for stargazing.
- ii) Cloud nine - don't have a trip scheduled but we are thinking about setting one up for sometime soon.

b) Cleveland Cave Restoration

- i) Restoration continues.

c) Hickory County

- i) No Report

- d) Fund Raising
 - i) Grotto apparel, patches hats, t-shirts, hoodies, zip up hoodies, calendars.
Proceeds go to things to make our cave trips go more smoothly. For instance, the owner of Cleveland Cave is a landowner who has been very good to us and his cave gate was violated, some of the fund raising will go to re-gating his cave, etc. We raise money to put in the bank account to fund special projects. We also have auctions periodically to raise money.
 - e) Presentation
 - i) Aug 20 - Tuesday: BSA troop 256 presentation: intro to caving
 - ii) Aug 28 Royal Rangers: Caving safely
 - iii) Sep 3 BSA troop 256 presentation: caving safely
 - iv) Sep 9 BSA troop 425 presentation: caving safely
 - v) If you would like to go to share your experience let DJ know.
 - f) Website
 - i) No report
 - g) Welcome
 - i) Heidi - most recent draft of the KCAG brochures. Hopefully we can vote on them and we can get them professionally printed on a heavier medium. She has put in all of the suggestions that cave members made. - Cooley moves that we accept it, and Austen seconds.
 - ii) Motion was made by DJ to print 500 of these pamphlets at \$107.80 + \$14.61 (tax) - total \$122.41 Seconded by Cooley. All in favor - motion passes.
 - h) Caving tip: if you feel you are about to lose your balance, do not grab out with your hands to grab onto something, instead immediately bend your knees and crouch, this lowers your center of gravity and gives you a shorter distance to fall.
 - i) Publicity
 - i) No Report
 - j) Out of state Trip
 - i) No Report
 - k) MVOR
 - i) Nothing to report, no plans to host an MVOR in the grotto. The one in July was beautiful and quieter than normal because it was a rescheduled event. MVORs are booked 2 years out.
 - l) Missouri White Nose
 - i) Invasive species of fungus that is spreading through the country and has been present in Missouri since 2012. Killing bats. Policy is to disinfect in between caves. We sell the disinfectant fluid. They have approved hot water 122 degrees F for 20 minutes will kill the white nose spores. **Our** policy is to disinfect in between caves. White nose does not affect humans, no need to protect yourself, just prevent spread among the bat population.
 - m) Guano
 - i) Magazine that KCAG puts out periodically, or a periodically, at random as the publisher and the editor gets around to it. Nothing to report. Is anybody interested in helping or taking over? Megan Volunteers to help. Most of the work is begging for stories, then editing, then going through the photos.
 - n) Party/Picnic
 - i) No Report
- 8) Member Cave Trip Reports

Anybody been caving lately? - Onondaga Cave State Park - prettiest show cave in Missouri. Lantern tour: people go through the cave with lanterns and the actors reenact incidents from the cave's history. Happens twice a year, but we may not do it in September. Later in the year mid October there will be a campsite decorating contest. The lantern tour is a benefit for

the park. On the way back we met Andy Free and hiked to a couple caves that need to be gated. 4-500 foot water crawl. Slowly ramping up the trips down there. The land likely has several undiscovered caves. South of Dixon. - cabin, atv, mile and a half hike to the cave (what isn't straight up is straight down). **Ken Grush** will be the project lead on those.

Visitor Tom Clark shared information about the Caves in Brazil, right where Argentina meets Brazil, Brazilians now consider it a vacation spot, Grotto Azul entrance could fit a diesel truck sideways through the entrance, aborigines used to use it. Steps go down to a luminescent pool 3/400 feet inside the cave. Divers in the 70s and 80s used to let you go swim and dive down there but they never could touch bottom, so they took a sub down to the bottom and found saber tooth tiger and mammoth bones.

We did some work while we were at Cleveland at Vic Nicol cave, which goes back 29 feet. Lee Krout and Kyle Lewis surveyed the cave on Saturday. SLUG CAVE - decent sized entrance, passage goes back 18 feet and that's it. Most likely man made. The cave could have been carved out. The rock is really soft sandstone. It has been said by locals that the cave was used to keep cattle. Right above cave entrance is the rock ledge. We found a bunch of slugs, a toad, some spiders, and decided to call it slug cave.

Bass pro has some soda straws growing on the rock over by the waterfall.

CAVING TIP - please clean & decontaminate your cave gear, if you have caving gear that has been used in a white nose state, the cave gear should not be moved or used out of that state even if it has been decontaminated.

9) Unfinished business

- a) KCAG Constitution and Bylaws discussion - No Craig to give report.

10) New Member nominations

- a) Austen nominates Mark Fletcher, DJ seconds, no discussion, all in favor - motion passes.

11) New business

- a) Flagging tape for marking caves offered by Rick.
- b) Cave gating material purchase for Cleveland: we have to go measure it and design a gate, then we know how much material to buy and we will go from there. We should arrange a welding class for the grotto!
- c) We will be surveying down at Lewis cave in Ripley County. Lewis cave is the largest cave in Ripley County, but was gated with cinder blocks, which bats cannot get through. We are going to rip out the cinderblock gate and put a bat friendly gate. The landowner wants a swinging door rather than a removable bar which is our normal. For these projects we generally provide food and gas reimbursement, but these will be probono.

12) Upcoming Events

NSS August 17 volunteer work day in Alabama

MVOR

September 13-15: Fall 2013 MVOR is being hosted by Chouteau and Peg grottos

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

Rescue Technician: Cave Rescue I & II – Union Grove AL

August 22-25

OnRope1 Basic Vertical Class – Chattanooga, TN

Nov 1-3, 2013

OnRope1 Level I & II Technician Class Ft. Payne, AL

Sept 16-20, 2013 (Just Level I Sept 22-24)

National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (NCKMS) -

November 4-8 Hosted by NCKRI in Carlsbad, NM. - cave trip, prior member lives there, would put us up to do some caving, if you are interested, see DJ

KCAG Christmas Party

December 14, 2013

NSS Convention at the NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, AL

July 14-18, 2014

13) Upcoming Cave trips

August 17

Cleveland Cave Scout Troop 37 Novice Trip

Sep 14-15

Onondaga Lantern Tour - same weekend as MVOR - campground decorating contest, are people interested in doing it again? Does anyone have feedback, commitments? If you are interested let pic know.

Sep 14

Cleveland Cave Scout Troop 425 Novice Trip - DJ could use some help on that one

Sep 20-22

Ennis Cave “Camp, Cave & Conference”: trip and campout for Cooley’s friends from Alcoholics Anonymous (DNBYOB!); in conjunction with AA convention in Mountain View, Arkansas. - 5 mile long cave outside of Arkansas. Cooley is hosting a cave trip, refrain from alcohol on this trip.

Sep 24-26

Lewis Cave Survey – Ripley

Oct 5

Carroll Cave Conservancy Land Owners Trip - members of CCC, DJ could use some help, anyone who has land over the cave, this is their day to come and visit the cave.

Carroll Cave Conservancy School House work day. - Bill is hosting, trimming trees, and killing weeds around school house which is the land we camp on around Carroll.

Oct 26

Carroll Cave Conservancy Annual bat census. - pretty rough trip, be ready for wet, be ready for mud, 10-12 hours in the cave, 3 miles in 3 miles back in boot sucking mud

14) General Announcements - there is possibly a cave 10/15 miles east of Osceola that the landowner is eager to have us come out and take a look at. We did get a lead on a cave along the river, that we can only get to by boat that we are going to check out with Vic's boat sometime soon.

15) Presentation

a) Greg Stark

i) A Case Study of Site Characterization in Karst Topography

16) Adjournment. (Waldo Pizza – 7433 Broadway - 75th and Wornall)

Kansas City Area Grotto Committees

- 1) Novice Trips: Responsible for organizing trips for inexperienced cavers.
 - a) Chair :
- 2) Cleveland Cave Restoration : Responsible for the Restoration of Cleveland Cave
 - a) Project Manager : Dave Mead
- 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
- 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
- 6) Presentation: Responsible for organizing and presenting caving information to scout, youth and other organized groups.
 - a) Chair :
- 7) Website: Responsible for maintaining the KCAG website and list serv.
 - a) Lead: Sam Clippinger
- 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
- 9) Welcoming: Responsible for making guests and visitors welcome at all events.
 - a) Chair : Heidi Fletcher
- 10) Out of State Trip Organizer
 - a) Chair : Krista Bartel
- 11) 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 Isabell
 - b) Jeff Page
 - c) Bill Gee
 - d) Pic Walenta
- 12) 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) Pic Walenta
 - c) Dave Mead
- 13) Guano : KCAG's official magazine
 - a) Editor : Bill Gee
- 14) Party/Picnic
 - a) Chair : Rick & Kay Hines