

Kansas City Area Grotto
February Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Arthur Mag Conference Center – 4920 Cherry, KCMO

- 1) Call to order by DJ Hall at 7:05 pm- present agenda
- 2) Recognize Visitors
 - a) Paul Webb
 - b) Dave Walden
 - c) Shannon Ellis
 - d) Danny Lane
 - e) Anna
- 3) Regular Members
 - a) DJ Hall
 - b) Jim Cooley
 - c) Matt Kuehnert
 - d) Bill Gee
 - e) Jack Peters
 - f) Austen Peters
 - g) Kyle Lewis
 - h) Heidi Fletcher
 - i) Mark Fletcher
 - j) Dave Mead
 - k) Lee Krout
 - l) Pic Walenta
 - m) Andy Smith
 - n) Andy Miller
 - o) Jake Keitel
 - p) Cliff Gill
- 4) Secretary - motion made and the January minutes were accepted unanimously
- 5) Reports:
 - a) President – DJ Hall asked everyone to pay dues.
 - b) Vice President Report – Jim Cooley no report
 - c) Treasurer Report – Pic Walenta reports a balance of \$1446.00 in the KCAG bank account. She has collected \$178 in dues. She recently wrote a check for \$1000 for cave gating donation that was voted on last meeting.
 - d) Quarter Master Report – Pic Walenta reports Jack has the helmets and lights Jim Cooley has banner, stove, DJ has survey gear and projector.
 - e) MSS Report – Jim Cooley reports next meeting will be at Powder Mill Research Center on ONSR.
 - f) CCC Report – Bill Gee reports a data logger trip in January. They now have all water level data for 2013. Annual meeting will be July 26th at the Camdenton Fire Station.
- 6) Committee reports
 - a) Novice Trip – Austen Peters reports a novice trip to Finley cave will occur this Saturday. The last trip was quite a sporty trip full of chimneys and crawls.
 - b) Cleveland Cave Restoration – Dave Mead reports no trips in January. He is planning a trip on Feb. 23rd to do a bat survey before the new gate is installed on April 18-22nd of April.
 - c) Hickory County – Gary Johnson not present. Jim Cooley said that we have added 20 known caves to the county
 - d) Cloud Nine Project – Lee Krout reports the yearly bat census has been complete and was successful

- e) Fund Raising – Pic Walenta reports she has all the Grotto apparel at tonight's meeting. She is still working on the Grotto calendar project with Rick Hines. This is targeted for 2015
 - f) Presentation – DJ Hall will be presenting Troop 494, from Olathe, KS and taking them to Cleveland Cave on May 24th.
 - g) Website – Sam Clippinger not present
 - h) Publicity & Welcoming– Heidi Fletcher reports she has a plan for taking Grotto printed material to local colleges. Heidi and Austen Peters plan on getting together on this project.
 - i) Missouri White Nose – Jim Cooley reports that they visited a mine in Jackson County and confirmed WNS. Tony Elliot also confirmed that Dallas County is also positive for WNS. More bats may soon be up for endangered status as well.
 - j) Guano – Megan Gruenbacher not present.
 - k) Party/Picnic – Rick Hines not present. No date for Grotto picnic yet.
- 7) Member Cave Trip Reports
- a) Jim Cooley made a presentation: Panther Springs Ranch Ridge walking and Cave survey project. This property contains several known caves and has great potential for more caves. One cave has a large active colony of gray bats. The property may soon be sold, so the goal is to survey the caves very soon and try to get MDC, Fish 7 Wildlife, or TNC to purchase the major cave area to protect them. Trips will be coming up soon and will be a six-hour drive from KC.
 - b) Jim Cooley reports that they did a week's worth of monitoring on the ONSR area in January.
- 8) Unfinished Business
- a) Officer Elections
 - i) Jim Cooley and Jack Peters formed a nominating committee and nominated DJ Hall -President, Jim Cooley – VP, Pic Walenta – Treasurer, and Austen Peters – Secretary. A motion was made and all were voted in unanimously. Congratulations to Austen as the new officer!
 - ii) DJ Hall made a call for more trip leaders this year since he will not have as much time as usual to lead trips. See DJ if you wish to get involved and he will be glad to help.
 - b) Andy Smith has been nominated for Grotto membership. He was voted in unanimously. Welcome Andy!
 - c) Cliff Gill has been nominated for Grotto membership. He was voted in unanimously. Welcome Cliff!
 - d) Jim Cooley reports that he is starting to plan for the Cleveland Cave gate. He recently visited Vick Nickel and surveyed the area.
- 9) Upcoming Cave trips
- a) NSS webinars: one occurred yesterday and a new one will occur. Check the website for details.
 - b) Carroll Cave biology trip on February 15th. Bill Gee says the trip is full.
 - c) Finley Cave – Feb 15th led by Austen Peters
 - d) Big Mouth Cave – Feb 15th led by Jim Cooley
 - e) ONSR cave monitoring weekend with Jim Cooley February 21-23, staying at PMRC. Limited trip ticket, so sign up early – we will be visiting some VERY interesting caves!
 - f) Feb 22nd and 23rd, DJ Hall will be taking a group of Royal Rangers into Perkins Feb 22nd.
 - g) Jim Cooley We will be at ONSR and tearing out the old Lewis Cave gate during March 14-23. Helpers are welcome to visit this and other caves in the area. Lewis is a BIG, COOL old show cave. After the gate is complete, it will be managed by MCKC.
 - h) Jim Cooley We will be building a new, bat-friendly Lewis Cave gate on the weekend of March 21-23. Helpers are welcome to visit this and other caves in the area. Lewis is a BIG, COOL old show cave.

- i) SPG will be gating Fitzpatrick Cave in Christian County south of Springfield, April 17-18th. All are welcome to come help build the gate, and to explore the cave.
- j) We will be re-gating CLEVELAND CAVE April 19-22, near Osceola, MO. This will be a BIG KCAG grotto event. There'll be a wild catfish AND turkey fry. Big party!
- k) We will be gating Allie Spring cave in Pulaski County near Dixon, MO, Wednesday-Friday, April 23-25. This is a VERY cool cave, we are surveying it now. It starts with a serious water crawl. Immediately afterward, we'll gate the nearby Mill Creek Cave, April 26-27.
- l) NSS Convention July 14-18th, Huntsville, AL
- m) Jim Cooley mentioned that he would like to plan a trip this May to Willow Springs Cave.

10) General Announcements

- a) Recent news includes a sinkhole that opened up under the Corvette museum in Bowling Green, KY
- b) Danny Lane said that when he was teaching he enjoyed taking students caving. He has a good friend who is a high school teacher that is interested in a caving trip for the students that is within a day's drive of KC. Austen Peters and Dave Mead expressed interest in helping set up a trip.

11) Presentations

- a) Lee Krout made a presentation on the recent survey work at the Cloud Nine Ranch

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

13)

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 Isbell
 - 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