

Kansas City Area Grotto
MAY Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Arthur Mag Conference Center – 4920 Cherry, KCMO

- 1) Call to order by DJ Hall at 7:09 pm. Present agenda
- 2) Recognize Visitors:
 - a) **Kiley Bush, former MSM caver, just back from the Peace Corps in Zambia.
- 3) Regular Members
 - a) **Jim Cooley
 - b) **Bill Gee
 - c) **Thomas Grant
 - d) **DJ Hall
 - e) **Rick Hines
 - f) **Lee Krout
 - g) **Matt Kuehnert
 - h) **Jack Peters
 - i) **Austen Peters
 - j) **Nathan Taylor
 - k) **Pic Walenta
 - l) **Cliff Gill
 - m) **Andy Miller
- 4) Secretary - motion made and April's minutes were accepted unanimously.
- 5) Reports:
 - a) President – DJ Hall reports: First of all, DJ received in the mail a really cool issue of a speleological magazine from Italy, all full color, very well done. This also includes a map of all the cave locations in Italy. Apparently they aren't very secretive with their cave locations. The other thing is DJ spent the last weekend with a guy whose grotto found him too old to participate. He wants to mention that we welcome all ages, all types, all sizes, and all varieties of caver. If anyone is feeling like they're not included and not part of the group, we want to apologize and know how we can fix that. No one is excluded from our grotto.
 - b) Vice President Report – Jim Cooley reports: Nothing vice-presidential to report.
 - c) Treasurer Report – Pic Walenta reports a balance of \$1,796.20 in the KCAG bank account and \$45 in the bag to go in. With all her e-mails she has gotten everyone to pay their dues.
 - d) Quarter Master Report – Pic Walenta reports: Jack Peters has the canopy, Sam Clippinger has the helmets, DJ Hall has the projector, Cooley has everything else.
 - e) MSS Report – Jim Cooley reports: MSS met on May 4th at the Powder Mill Research Center. Cooley also help with a bio survey at Camp Zoe which has been seized by the state. Some project caving was done. There is now money to publish some more issues of Missouri Speleology. There will be county issues for caves coming out. Those will begin right away. The next MSS meeting will also be at Powder Mill September 7th. It will be a combination meeting and project caving event. There were over 40 people attending and 250 volunteer hours of work done on the Ozark National Scenic Riverways over the weekend.
 - f) CCC Report – Bill Gee reports: There is a trip going on the 2nd of June to be the annual David Ashley and cave ecology trip. DJ is going to also be taking Shelly Colatsky to take some photos of some cave fish. The annual members meeting will be on Saturday July 26th at the fire station in Camdenton.
- 6) Committee reports

- a) Novice Trip – Austen Peters reports: We haven't had a novice trip in the past month. There is one scheduled for June 7th in Springfield into caves that are managed by Jon Beard, Breakdown Cave and Fitzpatrick Cave. We will be meeting with Jon on Saturday at 10 a.m. to go caving. If anyone would like to camp the night before I am open to that as well. I will send out an e-mail about the trip to the grotto.
 - b) Cleveland Cave Restoration – Dave Mead - Not present.
 - c) Hickory County – Gary Johnson Reports - Not present
 - d) Cloud Nine Project – Lee Krout reports - Not present - Jim Cooley says there are no new finished maps at this time. There will be a trip down there at some time during the summer or early fall.
 - e) Fund Raising–Pic Walenta reports: We will be doing a new design on our t-shirts. We are having trouble filling some orders. We are considering doing some t-shirts with the KCAG logo small in the chest corner but will still have CAVER on the back. She has to order 24 at a time. There has also been talk of a polo style with the embroidered logo, those can be ordered one at a time. Those will be a little more expensive. Pic will go ahead and order 24 new t-shirts with the smaller logo. If anyone wants to go ahead and give Pic money she can order your size.
 - f) Presentation – There was a scouting presentation in Olathe on May 12. Jack Peters, Heidi Fletcher, and Bill Gee showed up. The next portion on safety is next Monday. We will be taking the scouts into Cleveland Cave on May 24th. If anyone is interested in helping with the presentations just speak up to make it a group effort. For the safety presentation we will put them in the helmets and set up a small obstacle course.
 - g) Website – Sam Clippinger reports - Not present.
 - h) Welcoming– Heidi Fletcher reports - Not present.
 - i) Publicity –Heidi Fletcher reports - Not present.
 - j) Out of state Trip – No mention.
 - k) MVOR – This weekend!
 - l) Missouri White Nose – Jim Cooley reports: White nose continues to spread across the state. It is usually found in March at the end of hibernation. Most Missouri counties sending in suspected samples are testing positive. We are expecting to see it continue to grow. It will probably put the tricolored bat (eastern pipistrelle) and the Northern long-eared bat on the endangered species list, if it doesn't force them to extinction. Decontaminate your gear accordingly. The NSS has a new brochure on white nose available for download on their website.
 - m) The Guano – The editor position is now open.
 - n) Party/Picnic – Scheduled for June 21st at the Hines' place in Stilwell. There have been a total of two RSVPs so far. Please sign up tonight! The picnic replaces the June meeting.
- 7) Member Cave Trip Reports
- a) Big Mouth Survey (Cooley) - Three survey teams assembled, and Cooley notified everyone that they were going to run into gray bats, but to quietly move beyond them, as they were not likely to be in the cave as far as the survey head. Mark Jones went in first with a couple of young MSM cavers and aborted the trip before even getting to the survey spot. We therefore missed the last chance to get the survey before the bats came back. Three or four other caves got surveyed. There are now 11 new caves found on the land, five of which were found that weekend. Apart from accomplishing none of the objectives for the weekend, it was a good trip. We will be going back for another survey in the September/October time frame.
 - b) SPG gated Fitzpatrick Cave in Christian County south of Springfield. Got there April 16th and finished in a day so went straight to Cleveland Cave and started Cleveland Cave a day early.
 - c) DJ reported that the paintball tournament was on April 26th at his house.
 - d) Cleveland Cave Gating - Vic Nickel tore out the old gate on his own with his tractor. By Friday morning we had already started laying down screen and clearing out dirt. Austen

learned how to cut steel that weekend and ended up cutting roughly 65% of the steel that went into the gate. We finished up Sunday morning with a few more odds and ends. Sunday afternoon we went over to the bluffs and did some rappelling. Vic is willing to sell three acres that includes the cave. Cooley is trying to get MCKC interested in purchasing the property, but so far MCKC has not been terribly enthusiastic about the idea because it does not have great biodiversity or a lot of formations.

- e) After leaving Cleveland Cave Cooley reported that the some of the gaters headed down to Pulaski County where they gated Allie Spring and Mill Creek Caves. These are not going to be a high access caves and no one will really be allowed to go to the back until the cave is surveyed. There will be a survey trip July 11th-14th but it will have a limited trip ticket, probably two or three teams of surveyors. Most of the money for this gating effort and the Cleveland project has been spent.
 - f) Over the Edge was last weekend in Wichita. We raised money for Boy Scouts of America. We went out on Friday and trained and got everything set up and the volunteers got to do the rappel. The event was on Saturday, media showed up, radio showed up and people got to request the songs they wanted to rappel to. Everyone who signed up went over the edge and \$50,000 was raised for the Boy Scouts of America.
 - g) April 26th - Matt and Nathan went back out to St. Clair county mainly to get GPS information. Land owner is pretty sensitive and concerned about who goes in the cave. We are going to need divers to go in but we will have to take it one step at a time due to the concerns of the landowner.
 - h) Cooley got called into Onyx Cave because the gate was breached. Sunday after the MSS meeting Cooley, Max White and Joe Williams welded up the outside of the gate to make the holes much smaller, while a group including Mark Jones, Krista Bartel, Kiley Bush, Dennis Novicky and Brenda Goodnight went to the back of the cave to make sure that no one was back there that was going to get locked in.
 - i) On the Friday before the MSS meeting Cooley and a group carried a ladder through the woods to High Canyon Cave (ORE-170) for a survey trip. The ladder was needed for a high lead. Pic Walenta and Cooley discovered a cave below that that they got confused with another cave, which led to the discovery of this cave by the survey team. There are a lot of survey trips on the Mark Twain and Ripley County that need to be done.
 - j) Andy took his daughter, brother and nephew into Perkins Cave in Camden County and got all the way to the end. DJ had warned that it was going to be very muddy but for the most part all of the mud was frozen. A good time was had by all.
 - k) Jim Cooley received an international bat conservation award from Wings Across the Americas, a committee of the U.S. Forest Service, for the gating project he did at Bat Cave in Oregon County. Congratulations, Cooley! Cooley showed off the little Oscar he was presented with in Denver by the Forest Service.
- 8) Upcoming Events
- a) None.
- 9) Upcoming Cave trips
- May 24th Troop 494 Scout Cleveland Novice Trip
 - May 31st Scout troop 444 Cleveland cave trip
 - June 2nd Carroll Cave Photo Trip
 - June 3rd LDS Girls Summer Camp Cleveland Cave and Rappel
 - June 7th Novice Trip Breakdown & Fitzpatrick Caves
 - July 14th – 19th NSS Convention
 - July 19th Onondaga Lantern Tour – see Pic Walenta
 - September 12th-15th Gating Texas County Bear Cave on the ONSR
 - September 19th – 21st Gating Wallace Cave on the ONSR
 - November 1st – 2nd Gating old mine entrances at the Silver Mines Recreational Area (U.S. Forest Service) in Fredrickton, MO (MTNF) featuring High Line Rescue Training

10) General Announcements – The Venture crew that Matt took caving decided to donate the extra money they raised for food to our organization! Matt would like to earmark the money for some new helmets. Cooley suggests that we add a couple hundred more to that amount and replace about half of the helmets. Several members volunteered to make donations to help purchase new helmets, including DJ Hall for \$100, Rick Hines for \$100, and Andy Miller for \$100.

11) Presentations

a) DJ Hall quickly went over the balance of the Scout Caving Safely presentation.

12) Adjournment. Several people went to Waldo Pizza, at 7433 Broadway (75th and Wornall). High point of the evening was when Cliff Gill's wife showed up and joined us! Welcome!

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