

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

- 1) Called to order by DJ Hall at 7:00 pm- present agenda
- 2) Recognize Visitors
 - a) **Dave Walden
- 3) Regular Members
 - a) **DJ Hall
 - b) **Austen Peters
 - c) **Jack Peters
 - d) **Rick Hines
 - e) **Dave Mead
 - f) **Matt Keunart
 - g) **Bill Gee
 - h) **Cliff Gill
 - i) **Nathan Taylor
 - j) **Heidi Fletcher
 - k) **Pic Walenta
 - l) **Gary Johnson
 - m) **Shandra Mason
 - n) **Andrew Mason
 - o) **Caver in training Lincoln Mason!
- 4) Secretary - motion made and ** minutes were accepted unanimously - minutes accepted
- 5) Reports:
 - a) President – DJ Hall reports - not too much to report, but has some things to report later on. Welcome new secretary Austen Peters (all cheer).
 - b) Vice PresidentReport – Jim Cooley reports - Jim is currently getting an award, he flew to Denver this morning. The award is for a cave gate that he was involved with (bat cave?) from a national organization that recognizes conservation activities. The cave gate was built with a pulley system (zipline) which was used to get all of the material up to the cave. There were two openings that both needed a gate for the cave.
 - c) Treasurer Report – Pic Walenta reports a balance of \$1,651.97 in the KCAG bank account. There was a donation to the grotto from a guy who hired DJ to go check out land in Kansas City that he was interested in buying to see if there was a cave on the premises. The guy was from England, DJ contacted the realtor who said that he was welcome to check it out. DJ and Austen went out there and ridge walked at the property. The land was very heavy with brush. They found no cave, but did meet a very friendly local dog. A nearby landowner said that there was a cave back by the cemetery that had been filled in. DJ and Austen thoroughly checked the the land but found no cave. There was a motion to send the man who donated the money a patch - accepted.
 - d) Quarter MasterReport –Pic Walentareports - "Hell, I don't know where the stuff is!" - DJ has the projector, Cooley has the awning which was attacked by a bear. Andy has the helmets, Heidi needs them before Thursday morning to take down to Lewis. Apparel is out in the car if anyone wants to make a purchase, we are very limited on hoodies.
 - e) MSS Report – Jim Cooleyreports. - Not here.
 - f) CCC Report – Bill Geereports - Nothing new to report since last time.
- 6) Committee reports
 - a) Novice Trip– Possibility of Perkins cave for a novice trip.
 - b) Cleveland Cave Restoration – Dave Mead - No restoration information to report since last visit.

- c) Hickory County – Gary Johnson Reports - We are close to the end of the hickory county project. We have at least another year or so to go to tie up the loose ends. There are 53 caves total right now, and we will probably end up in the high 50's, maybe hit 60. There are still about a dozen caves to survey yet, none of substantial length except one that needs to be surveyed in the next month or so, but if it cannot be surveyed in that time we will have to wait till the fall due to the bat population. If he were to guess he would say there is maybe 300 feet of passage. Jim Cooley and Gary Johnson were recently invited by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Corps of Engineers to visit Blackwell cave on Truman Lake, a gated (fly-over gate) gray bat maternity colony. MDC indicates a desire to work with us and have us do what we are good at, namely cave survey, providing info on and monitoring of caves, and so on. It is possible we will be asked to survey Blackwell Cave for them. As it is a major gray bat maternity cave, we won't be surveying it in the summer.
 - d) Cloud Nine Project – Lee Krout reports - Not here.
 - e) Fund Raising–Pic Walenta reports - Nothing in the works at the moment. Cooley's hunting club just did a raffle. It raised a ton of money. That would be cool if we could find the right item to raffle.
 - f) Presentation – There is a presentation on May 5th with troop 494 and we are taking them on a trip on may 24th. Matt gives one to adventure scout group and is taking them to Perkins on April 5th, he could still use some help and is planning on bringing about 25 people.
 - g) Website – Sam Clippinger reports - Not here tonight - Jack peters has been nominated to help update pictures/calendar on the website. KCAG now has a facebook page, maybe Brandy Riggs started it and turned it over to DJ - Jack has also been nominated to work on the facebook page.
 - h) Welcoming– Heidi Fletcher reports - contacted 14 different colleges in the KC metro area. She is going to visit 4 next week during spring break. All 4 that she is planning on visiting offer majors that have something to do with caves. If she has time she will start hitting the other colleges. Appointments to meet with something or other. The 4 she is planning on visiting are UMKC, Park, KCKCC, KU.
 - i) Publicity –Heidi Fletcher reports - see above.
 - j) Out of state Trip –
 - k) MVOR –
 - l) Missouri White Nose – Jim Cooley reports - Jan 30, evidence of the fungus has been reported from at least 1 location in (Jackson county?), there is evidence to date that affected bat populations are not likely to stabilize. However, one man up in Maine may have found evidence to the contrary. Appropriated funding for research on WNS. Affected location in Jackson County. Visit White nose site on NSS website caves.org.
 - m) Guano – Megan Gruenbacher reports - Not here.
 - n) Party/Picnic – "We set a date, I just can't remember what it was." June 21st.
- 7) Member Cave Trip Reports
- a) ** reports **.
 - b) Jack Peters - Finley cave on Feb 15th, 6 go in, 6 came out. Of our group, 3 made it to the very of the back of the cave. This trip was much more successful than the previous Finley trip.
 - c) Bill Gee- On Feb. 15th there was a biology trip in Carroll that went to the far upstream of Thunder River. There were a lot of isopods, some of the biggest he's ever seen, and a lot of cave fish, with one or two bats, a couple of Salamanders and a few snails. There were unexpectedly very few isopods in the waterfall at the end. No attempt was made to get beyond the waterfall. Once you get through the breakdown pile (3 squeezes, 1 that broke cooley's rib) there was a hands and knees crawl, past which get in the stream and duck through rocks, and then another couple hundred feet of crawl. Overall it was a good trip,

everyone did well, and it went faster than imagined. Mountain house meals - bad. The trail past round room needs some restoration work, specifically the reflectors need work.

- d) Nathan - drove out to St. Claire county, where there were 2 sinkholes. They were not aware what they looked like till they got there. They turned out to be straight down shafts, once you get down there you can't go anywhere. It was a hunting property. They didn't even have to walk to the sinkholes, the property owners took them on atv's straight to the caves. The neighbor also wanted them to look at their sinkhole, so they went over there, there was a big metal cover to keep people out. It was 60 some feet to the bottom ledge and there was another drop with water below. None of the 3 locations were recorded.
 - e) Rick Hines - Went to Kershner in AZ, it was extremely well done state park cave tour. Considerably better than any other cave tour that he has been on, from the lighting to the trails to the guides to the visitor's center. As the cave goes, however, he was expecting something more spectacular than from what he had heard. There were half a dozen air locks before you get into the cave.
 - f) Dave Mead took trip to Cleveland cave on the 23rd. He could not get anyone to go with him after all of his effort. He counted 72 tri colored bats.
- 8) Upcoming Events
- a) NSS!!!
- 9) Upcoming Cave trips
- 10) March 14-16 We will be tearing out the old Lewis Cave gate. Helpers are welcome to visit this and other caves in the area. Lewis is a BIG, COOL old show cave.

- March 17 Steel Delivered to Lewis Cave
- March 18-19 Lewis Cave Survey
- March 21-23. We will be building a new, bat-friendly Lewis Cave gate. Helpers are welcome to visit this and other caves in the area. Lewis is a BIG, COOL old show cave
- April 11-14 Big Mouth Survey Oregon County
- April 15 Unload steel in Pulaski County
- April 16 Loading gating gear Powder Mill
- April 17-18 SPG will be gating Fitzpatrick Cave in Christian County south of Springfield All are welcome to come help build the gate, and to explore the cave.
- April 19-22 We will be regating CLEVELAND CAVE, near Osceola, MO. This will be a BIG KCAG grotto event. There'll be a wild catfish AND turkey fry. Big party!
- April 23-25 We will be gating Allie Spring cave in Pulaski County near Dixon, MO, Wednesday-Friday. This is a VERY cool cave, we are surveying it now.
- April 26-27 Gating Mill Creek Cave on Saturday and Sunday.
- May 3 Cave Monitoring Ozark National Scenic Riverways
- May 4 MSS Meeting & MCKC Meeting
- May 16 – 18 Willow Springs Cave MVOR

11) General Announcements – Finley cave. We were asked to limit trips to Finley as some users have become concerned regarding damage to the cave due to overuse.

12) Presentations

- a) Gary Johnson Ex-caves of Hickory County. They know where the caves are but access to the caves is no longer possible.

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

14)

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