

Kansas City Area Grotto
October Regular Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8th, 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 7:08 pm - present agenda
- 2) Recognize Visitors
 - a) Jennie Murphy
 - b) Austin Toler
- 3) Regular Members
 - a) Austen Peters
 - b) David Mead
 - c) DJ Hall
 - d) John McGuire
 - e) Pic Walenta
 - f) Rick Hines
 - g) Jack Peters
 - h) Jim Cooley
 - i) Gary Johnson
 - j) Andy Miller
 - k) Maddi Miller
 - l) Jake Keitel
- 4) Secretary - Motion made to accept the September minutes, which were accepted unanimously.
- 5) Reports:
 - a) President – DJ Hall reports: Went to MVOR Friday night. On the way down they got a flat tire on the trailer. The bonfire was a Viking ship with a squeeze box going through it.
 - b) Vice President Report – Jim Cooley reports: nothing to report of a vice-presidential nature.
 - c) Treasurer Report – Pic Walenta reports a balance of \$1,057.50. She has some cahs and checks to deposit which will make the balance \$1,167.50. Gave Cooley gas for the MSS Meeting and she bought polo shirts from the KCAG bank account.
 - d) Quarter Master Report –Pic Walenta reports: we have 15 new helmets that Jack has, along with the lights. Jim has the big cookstove and the free-standing dining fly, please some 100-foot survey tapes. Everything else Pic has.
 - e) MSS Report – Jim Cooley reports: There is a new president and new vice president. They are thinking about getting away from paid memberships, which funds the magazine. Cooley has resigned as the editor of that magazine.
 - f) CCC Report – Rick Hines reports: We have had a little bit of progress with the 501C3. The wheels are turning and in a few months the CCC should have a reinstated 501C3 status.

Caving Tip! Get involved and join a Caving organization in YOUR area!!!!

- 6) Committee reports
 - a) Novice Trip– possible novice trip tentatively scheduled for November 22nd. Cave TBA.

- b) Cleveland Cave Restoration – Dave Mead: There have been no recent trips since the last trip Dave Mead and Jim Cooley went on. If people show an interest Dave will entertain a trip for 25th or 26th.
- c) Hickory County – Gary Johnson Reports: Upcoming trips: November 1st there will be a survey trip to Clymer Cave. Signed up so far are Lori Schultz and Krista Bartel. It will probably take another 2 or 3 trips total. The cave should be over 1,000 feet after this next survey. On November 8th there will be a landowner trip into Elkton cave. We could use a few more people on this trip. Gary heard about a sinkhole that people heard water rushing through, and he looked into contacting the landowners. He obtained an address in Ohio but does not have a telephone number to contact them. Another property down there that we do have access to has a small cave that needs to be surveyed. It might connect to a sinkhole plain.
- d) Cloud Nine Project – Jim Cooley reports (for Lee Krout): We will be going to Cloud Nine this weekend and finishing the survey on Fogey Cave. A PhD candidate from Oklahoma will be coming up to collect DNA samples from grotto salamanders for his thesis on the range of *Eurycea speleae*. There is also more survey work to do in Cold Cave. This project's field work is coming to a close. There will probably be a late February, early March bat census trip.
- e) Caving in the news: Rescuers brought a 44-year-old man out of a cave in Peru, who had fractured two lumbar vertebrae.
- f) Fund Raising–Pic Walenta reports: Rick and Pic are working on the calendar. Pic has been going through the archives looking for tidbits to put in the calendar. Rick has found a website that has a number of different templates that you can download. The template is downloaded as a Photoshop document that involves a lot more work than Rick has time for. If someone else would like to volunteer to help with the calendar, Rick could provide you with all of the photos.
- g) Presentation – DJ Hall did two Scout presentations in the past two weeks. Boy Scout Troop 510 is going into Cleveland this weekend. DJ could use some more help this weekend for either the caving or the rappelling.
- h) Website – Sam Clippinger is not present. If anyone wants to help just speak up.
- i) Welcoming– Position open
- j) Publicity –Position open

Caving Tip! Beware of hazards!

- k) Missouri White Nose – Jim Cooley reports - bat counts continue to fall in the state of Missouri. We are expecting another bad winter.
 - l) Guano – Jim Cooley reports: Jim will contact Bill for information. Jim has one article ready. If you would like to start filing trip reports with photographs Jim will be happy to publish them.
 - m) Caving in the news: Caver rescued in 10 hour ordeal overnight in Palmer, TN. It was a highly technical rescue.
 - n) Party/Picnic – Christmas Party is set for December 6th.
- 7) Member Cave Trip Reports

- a) DJ led a trip into Carroll Cave last weekend. Had a great time. They carried a truck battery back to the water barrier and hooked it up to a water pump to clean mud off of formations. They cleaned for 2 1/2 hours.
- b) There was an Over the Edge event in Lincoln, NE. We went off the Holiday Inn in Lincoln. It was a 15 story building. Several newspapers published articles about the event. The fundraiser was for Big Brothers Big Sisters and we raised over \$70,000.
- c) Paintball.
- d) Jim Cooley went to Fitton Cave on a CRF survey crew on September 16th.
- e) Federal agencies are gating all of their mines. Jim went and visited Bateman Mine in Taney County and several others. There are 13 gates to do there. One mined cave has six entrances to close.
- 8) New business: Jim Cooley moved that the Grotto fund the purchase of two low-end GPS systems. Motion was seconded and passed. One member volunteered to contribute \$50 toward the purchase, and it was decided to use our \$119 accumulated promotional bucks at Moosejaw. These two sources will fund most of the purchases. **Members note: KCAG members get a 15% discount at Moosejaw!**
- 9) Caving in the news: as we speak there is a search for a cave diver that went missing in Tennessee. The search is entering the fourth day and there are about 70 people involved.
- 10) New member nominations: Maddi Miller, welcome to the KCAG.
- 11) Upcoming Events
 - a) NCRC Course is tentatively scheduled. The course is \$40 for NSS Members and \$60 for non NSS members. Tentative date is May 16th and 17th. The training location and mock event cave location are still being debated. If you are interested in being on the NCRC planning committee let DJ know.
- 12) More new business: DJ wants to motion to conduct a short auction during each Grotto meeting to raise funds for the Grotto. Anyone can donate items to the auction each month.
- 13) More, more new business: Pic wants to let us know that KCAG will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in October of 2017. We are planning on doing a celebration of KCAG's 50th Anniversary.
- 14) Upcoming Events: Project EduBat October 29, 2014 <http://nctc.fws.gov/broadcasts>
- 15) Upcoming Cave trips
 - October 10-12 Cleveland Cave Scout Trip
 - October 9-12: Cloud 9 Ranch Survey. (trip closed on Monday)
 - October 18: Over the Edge Jefferson City MO
 - Allie Spring survey, Archambault Ranch, Pulaski County (trip full).
 - November 1: Clymore Cave Survey
 - November 8: Elkton Cave Landowner Trip
 - November 22 Possible Novice Trip is there is enough interest.
 - Thanksgiving weekend: Cooley MAY have a four-day backpack and possible float trip, probably on or around the Irish Wilderness, Eleven Point River. Objective will be cave survey. If you are SERIOUSLY interested, contact Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com.
- 16) General Announcements – none
- 17) Presentations

- a) Jim Cooley presented a 30-minute talk on recent project trips, including Bear Cave gating (TEX-061), a survey trip to Fitton Cave, and last week's ridgewalk/recon on the Piney Creek Wilderness Area (attended by Cooley, Pic Walenta and Jenny Bentz). He then previewed designs for two coming gating opportunities: Carrico Cave in Dade County (October 13-17) and Bateman Mine Closure in Taney County. Lastly, Cooley previewed two upcoming project caving opportunities: A CRF survey trip to Fitton Cave October 18th, and a trip to Garrison cave #2 (wetsuit mandatory) October 26th, sponsored by SPG. Contact Cooley at coolstoi@kc.rr.com for details on either project.

18) Meeting adjourned at 9:00 to Waldo's Pizza – 7433 Broadway - 75th and Wornall.

19)

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