



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
March 2022 Business Meeting
Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 – 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Meeting Held inside the auditorium at Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, a Missouri Department of Conservation facility at 4750 Troost, Kansas City, and via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Seth Colston. The following members and guests were present; Kohl Mitchell, John, Luke, Sara, Joseph, Seth Colson, Jim and Julie Cooley, Corey Ellis, Bill Gee, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Jay and Nick Kennedy, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, Joe Wynne, and Hou Zhong.

Officer Reports:

President: Seth Colston talked about the upcoming MVOR event. The dates and location are officially confirmed. Please see “Upcoming Trips and Events”

Vice President: Jim Cooley had no updates to present at this meeting.

Treasurer: Bill Gee had no updates to present at this meeting. The treasurer report was emailed. The ending balances for the month of February 2022 were \$2,758.84 (Commerce Bank), \$1,909.44 (PayPal), \$67.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$4,735.28. Commerce Bank Expenses were as follows: A \$5 bank fee. PayPal Expenses were as follows: Membership dues: \$30.00 and a fee of \$1.58

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates during this meeting. The previous meeting minutes, which were for February, were approved.

Quartermaster: No updates. As always, Seth can be contacted about any equipment.

Presentations: A presentation about the Pleasant Ridge Cave system in Tennessee (PRC) was presented by Corey Ellis, via Zoom. Corey talked about the history of the cave itself and his personal involvement around the cave. Pleasant Ridge Cave is the seventh largest cave located in Tennessee. With a current surveyed length of 13.95 Miles, this cave’s first survey was conducted during the 1970’s by David Parr. During an extreme drought in 2008, the water levels of a nearby cave called John Hollins cave were extremely low. During this time a connecting crawlway between the two caves was found. PRC also features methane producing Archaea microorganisms. Archaea’s of this nature are similar to those found in deep-sea hydrothermal vents. Corey also took the time to show a multitude of photographs of this cave’s rooms. Corey and his wife will be relocating to the Kansas City area soon, and he will be joining our grotto – if we can find enough interesting caves to keep him intrigued!

Please contact Seth Colston at swcy92@gmail.com if you are interested in giving a meeting presentation or have a topic idea. For online meetings, presentations should be in the half hour range rather than an hour long.

The Guano: No updates. Anyone interested in contributing a submission to the publication is encouraged to contact Julie Cooley (oragami_fold@yahoo.com) or Seth Colston (swcy92@gmail.com).

MeetUp: There have been few events on MeetUp since there have been no recent open-invitation novice trips, but Seth (swcy92@gmail.com) can still be contacted for any trips to add to the MeetUp schedule.

White Nose Syndrome: See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of the spread of WNS.

Organization Updates:

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Jim Cooley and Rick Hines surveyed the land for the placement of the shelter house. Rick Hines discussed with the locals about receiving lumber and gravel for the shelter.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley informed everyone that the annual MCKC & MSS business meeting had featured eight award recipients. These awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions in the field of speleology in the state Missouri.

Project Updates:

Hickory County: Gary Johnson was not present, so no updates were discussed.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill Gee talked about the survey that was done towards the end of February. The passages were reported to be very rugged, and the walls were very jagged.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley mentioned Lee Krout and Kirsten Alvey-Mudd went on a recent trip and found two new caves. There will also be a quality control check for the caves in this area. Dates are May 14,15 and 16th. Please contact Jim Cooley (CoolStoi@kc.rr.com)

Devil's Icebox: Seth Colston had no updates for this cave.

Geronimo Cave: Seth Colston along with Kohl Mitchell were able to get ten more survey points mapped out on the main passage of the cave.

Trip Reports and Other News:

Carroll Cave: In January Seth Colston along with Dan Lamping's crew, surveyed a multitude of leads inside the cave. This was Seth's first time camping overnight in the cave. He spent a total of 42 hours in the cave. They focused on areas WAY up DL7. The start of the survey is 8-9 hours from the entrance.

Cleveland Cave: Nathan Taylor led a group of nine participants through the cave. Everyone had a good time.

New Business: No new business.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business and the meeting was adjourned. Participants then had pizza at Minsky's Pizza at 51st and Main.

Upcoming Trips and Events

COVID-19 update: Check with the trip leader before you set out to attend any of these events. Many of the “stay at home” restrictions have been lifted. Restrictions or not, please make your own decision regarding your health. The caves are not going anywhere.

2022 March 19th – Carroll Cave. Service the Anabat Roost Logger in the Mountain Room. Change batteries and memory card. Contact Bill Gee bgee@campercaver.net. Currently this trip is full

2022 March 19th – Cleveland Cave Novice trip. Contact Hou Zhong for more information. human3721@gmail.com

2022 March 30th through April 10th: Cave gating project to protect a LARGE gray bat colony in western Camden County, Missouri. Contact Jim Cooley for more information. coolstoi@kc.rr.com

2022 April 29th through May 1st - MVOR. The location is Cry Baby Campground, hose address is 2 Highway D, Kaiser, MO. This is on the right bank of the Osage River about a mile downstream from Bagnell Dam. Contact bgee@campercaver.net for more information and a registration form.

2022 May 14th – Over The Edge urban rappel event. This is a fund raiser to benefit the KC Fringe Festival. The location will be in the mid-town area of Kansas City, Missouri. More information at <https://give.overtheedge.events/ote-kcfringe2022>

2022 June 13th through 17th – NSS National Convention in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Central States Fairground in Rapid City, South Dakota. Go to NSS 2022 Convention Website for more information.

2022 July 24th through 31st – 18th International Congress of Speleology. Savoie Technolac, 16 Avenue du Lac du Bourget, Le Bourget-du-Lac, France. <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>

2022 October 8th – Over The Edge urban rappel event. This is a fund raiser to benefit Restoration House of Greater Kansas City. The location is the Marriott Hotel at I-435 and Metcalf in Overland Park. More information at <https://give.overtheedge.events/oterh2022>

2022 October 15th – Bridge Day in West Virginia. <https://officialbridgeday.com/>

2022 October 15 – Over The Edge urban rappel event. This is a fund raiser to benefit Voices of Courage CAC. The location is downtown St. Joseph, Missouri. More information at <https://give.overtheedge.events/voicescac2022>

2023 – NSS National Convention in Elkton, West Virginia. This is a retry from the canceled/online 2020 event. Dates are not yet determined.