



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
April 2022 Business Meeting
Tuesday, April 19th, 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; Candace Kovacs, Brad, Jarrett, Luke Barnes, Arienne Barnes, Seth Colston, Jim and Julie Cooley, Brandon Fagen, David Fairbairn, Jeffrey Fouquet, Joseph Garten, Bill Gee, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Kohl Mitchell, Dustin Schmidt, Mary Spickelmier, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, and Joe and Terri Wynne.

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 discussed with everyone regarding the newly released liability form released by MCKC, which is a part of the permitting process for all their owned and managed caves.

Treasurer: Bill Gee informed everyone the ending balances for the month of March 2022 were \$2,684.90 (Commerce Bank), \$1,931.00 (PayPal), \$97.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$4,712.90. Commerce Bank Expenses were as follows: deposit of \$30.00, \$5 bank fee and transferred \$98.94 to PayPal. PayPal transactions were as follows: Membership dues: \$22.50, \$0.94 fee and a \$98.94 transfer from Commerce Bank to pay for six months of MeetUp. Petty cash transactions were as follows: Membership dues: \$30.

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

Quartermaster: Seth Colston can be contacted about any equipment. Additionally, there will be raffle in the future to win a kayak.

Presentations: Jim Cooley gave a Powerpoint presentation about the recent gating project at Toby Cave near Climax Springs in Camden County. Cooley talked about the reasons why this cave was selected to be gated and the processes involved during the project itself. This Priority 1 maternity colony is home to up to 115,000 maternal gray bats every summer, though this cave sees a lot of trespassing due to archeological looters, which is why the gate was needed. The gate was funded by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The gate was built by the following groups: Kansas City Area Grotto Member (KCAG), Cave Research Foundation (CRF), MDC, USFWS, and Missouri/Kansas Master Naturalists. Prior to the gate install date, a cattle gate had to be installed in the surrounding boundary fence, to simplify moving material. Additionally, widow-maker trees were cut from the walkway path and from where the generators would be placed. Two weeks prior to install date, MDC delivered the gating material to nearby pastureland and Jim and Julie delivered the remaining materials/tools/campsite material. The two days prior to the install date, the campsite was erected, and generators/welders were carried to the cave in the rain. Once work started, it never stopped. The cave was able to be gated in only four and a half days, not counting setup and takedown time. Once the gate was installed, the team verified that the work had not disturbed the few roosting bats that had already returned to the cave. They were not bothered by the construction effort.

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: MeetUp has been renewed till September 2022.

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

Organization Updates:

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Rick Hines talked about progress on the Pic Walenta Memorial shelter. Rick was able to get 27 2x6 pieces of used deck lumber from Terry DeFraities, which will be moved to the silo soon. Bill Gee informed everyone that the data loggers have been returned from the vendor with new batteries and the data loggers have been placed back in the cave.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley had no updates for MSS/MCKC.

Project Updates:

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

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill Gee talked about doing a survey in the cave on Thursday, April 28th. This cave is in proximity (20 miles) to MVOR. Contact Bill Gee bgee@campercaver.net.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley talked about an upcoming quality control trip for the several caves located on Cloud 9. This will be from May 11th through 15th. Contact Jim Cooley for more information. coolstoi@kc.rr.com

Devil's Icebox: Seth Colston informed everyone that there will be a trip on Saturday, May 7th. Please contact Seth Colston (swcy92@gmail.com). (Later cancelled due to rain.)

Geronimo Cave: Seth Colston stated there will be approximately two more trips in order to finish the remaining survey work. This will be tentatively scheduled within the next couple of months.

Trip Reports and Other News:

Perkins Cave: Kristen Vogel and Seth Colston led a novice trip of seven people to the cave.

Grotto Summer Picnic: Rick Hines will be hosting the picnic on Saturday, August 13th. Details will be updated when available.

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 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 9th – Introduction to Caving. This is a Zoom call starting at 6:30 CDT, 6:30pm CDT. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvcOmhrjorE9f9O_43gjK6hC65B3J1QLmT

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 May 22nd – Cleveland Cave Novice Trip. Contact Kristen Vogel for more information. vogel_kris@yahoo.com

2022 May 27th through 29th – Speleofest. This is a caver gathering in Kentucky. More information at the Speleofest web site. <http://speleofest.com/>

2022 June 4th – Carroll Cave Restoration Project. Contact Kristen Vogel for more information. vogel_kris@yahoo.com

2022 June 4th – Stark Caverns Survey Trip. Small people are needed as we will be traversing some tight passages. Contact bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2022 June 13th – Introduction to Caving. This is a Zoom call starting at 6:30 CDT, 6:30pm CDT. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd-qhqD0rGtPmhR32aNAGZQFJobzWHQJF>

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 June 26th – Perkins Cave Novice Trip. Contact Kristen Vogel for more information. vogel_kris@yahoo.com

2022 July 9th – Carroll Cave Data Logger Service Trip. This is a fairly easy trip. Membership in Carroll Cave Conservancy is required. Contact bgee@campercaver.net 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 September 22nd through 24th – Fall MVOR. The location is Perryville, Missouri. Sponsored by SEMO Grotto. More details and registration information should be out in early August.

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 15th – 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>

2022 October 29th – Carrol Cave Annual Bat Census Trip. This is a long and fairly difficult trip. Wetsuit recommended. Contact bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2022 November 4th-6th: National meeting of Cave Research Foundation in Perryville, MO. Cave survey and a Saturday meeting open to the public. Contact Jim Cooley for more details.

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