



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
July 2022 Business Meeting
Tuesday, July 5th, 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 Bill Gee. The following members and guests were also present: Luke Burnes, Jim & Julie Cooley, Bill Gee, Matthew M. Hernandez, Jay & Nick Kennedy, Kohl Mitchell, John Nigro, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, Kandace Walker, Thomas Whitby, and Joe & Terri Wynne.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee talked about the upcoming Grotto Summer Picnic, scheduled for Saturday August 13th.

Vice President: Jim Cooley had no updates for this meeting.

Treasurer: Bill Gee informed everyone that the ending balances for the month of June 2022 were \$4,500.90 (Commerce Bank), \$28.91 (PayPal), \$97.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$4,626.81. Since there was no meeting in May, the detailed expenses are combined for May and June. Commerce Bank Expenses were as follows two \$5 bank fee's totaling \$10. Transfer of \$1931.00 from PayPal to Commerce Bank, with a \$100 transfer fee. PayPal donation of \$30, and fee of \$1.09.

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

Quartermaster: Nathan Taylor is the new Quartermaster; He can be contacted about any equipment. There were some discussions on digitally archiving a set of old slide photos. Additionally, there will be raffle at the summer picnic to win a kayak.

Presentations: 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: No updates, still getting strong activity/involvement.

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

Organization Updates:

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Bill Gee and Kristen Vogel informed us that as of July 1st CCC was officially transferred to MCKC. The current management group for Carroll Cave will now become the Carroll Cave Management Team (CCMT) under MCKC. The surface property and sub-surface will be known as Carroll Cave Preserve. The plans for the pavilion shelter are

continuing. With these changes there is hope that there will be new dialog between the owners of the natural entrance and MCKC, where hopefully there will be cooperation.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley presented the results of conversations with the landowners of Perkins, Cleveland and Lewis Caves, which he currently manages for the MCKC. MCKC has a new permitting requirement that mandates procuring signed, scanned liability waivers for all trip participants before issuing a cave permit. It does not appear that this process can be made to work for a large number of the groups that use these caves, namely Scouts and church groups, who need a permit well before knowing exactly who all will attend their trips. All three of these landowners agreed that this system cannot be made to work for many of the groups that want to visit their caves. Consequently, all three landowners have asked to have KCAG take over management of access to their caves under the same or a similar protocol to the current process, with Cooley continuing as their cave manager and trip permit issuer. Cooley wanted to know if the grotto was willing to take on this responsibility, which includes funding general upkeep of the caves and the gates that protect them. After some discussion, a motion was made and the grotto voted unanimously to take over management of these caves from MCKC. The grotto authorized Cooley to prepare documentation to effect the transfer. They also authorized Cooley to purchase materials for Perkins Cave (new locks, a tote, lubricant, cleaning supplies) and stuff for other caves (e.g., new signage, envelopes, postage, etc.) under what is essentially an open purchase order for cave management supplies.

Project Updates:

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

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill Gee talked about the survey Seth Colson and him did in the cave in the beginning of June. They focused on the rugged canyon area.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley had no major updates other than re-mentioning the cave map quality control trip he and Julie led with Lee Krout, Peter Schnegelberger, Candace and Mike Kovacs. This was included in the prior meeting minutes for the month of April. There will be another trip to Cloud 9 in September.

Devil's Icebox: No updates for Devil's Icebox.

Geronimo Cave: Bill Gee talked about the recent survey trip Seth Colston and him conducted on June 2nd and 3rd. The first day they focused on mapping out the centerline of the cave. The second day was focused on sketching the perimeters and profiles. The survey work is pretty much complete at this point, all except a small side passage.

Trip Reports and Other News:

NSS: Bill Gee and Jay Kennedy talked about their time attending the National Speleological Society convention in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Shannon County: Jim & Julie Cooley and Seth Colston continued survey work in several private caves in Shannon County, completing the fieldwork for two small caves, and reporting two new caves to the MSS.

Carroll Cave: Kristen Vogel talked about the restoration project that was done in Carroll Cave on June 4th. Time was spent flagging off certain areas in the cave as well as adding walkway markers.

Cleveland Cave: Kristen Vogel had a well-received trip where she led two groups into the cave.

Kiesewetter Cave: Kristen Vogel had a good trip despite that at the beginning of the day a key broke off in the lock, which then took four hours to open – actually, to bust off. But the trip went on!

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

New Business: No unfinished business.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business. 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 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 August 12th-13th – Folks interested in becoming Cleveland Cave authorized trip leaders are invited to come down Saturday night and camp at Cleveland Cave, to be trained either Friday night or Saturday morning. A Scout troop will be arriving Saturday morning and will camp Sunday night, but trip leader trainees will be done (if they wish to be) in time to make it back to Stilwell, Kansas for the grotto picnic at Rick Hines’s house on Saturday.

Saturday, 2022 August 13th - Annual KCAG summer picnic. Start at 3pm. Cooking begins at 5pm. The pond will be open, so bring a swimsuit and towel. A rope will be up for vertical practice. Bonfire in the evening. RSVP to rickhines@aol.com

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 – Carroll Cave Annual Bat Census. This trip down Carroll River passage to the mountain room, or close to it. This is a long and fairly difficult six-mile round trip. Wet-suit recommended. Contact (bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

2023 June 26th through 30th – NSS National Convention in Elkton, West Virginia. This is a retry from the canceled/online 2020 event. <https://nss2023.caves.org/>

KCAG Picnic 2022

Saturday, August 13
3:00 PM

Start cooking at 5:00 PM
Meat & grill provided
Water and lemonade provided
Bring a dish to share

At the home of Rick Hines
16525 Orchard Lane
Stilwell, KS 66085

Activities
Vertical Rope Practice
Zip Line over pond
Swimming and boating
Bring a swimsuit and towel
Bring your canoe, kayak,
tube, fishing poles, etc.
Large Bonfire!

The poster features a background of flames and several circular inset photos: a woman with glasses holding a lemon slice, a young girl in a striped swimsuit, a man in a green shirt with climbing gear, a woman in a pink shirt, a man in a blue shirt, a woman in a colorful patterned shirt, and a large group of people with a dog.