



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto September 20th, 2022 Business Meeting

Meeting held 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: Rick Hines, Julie & Jim Cooley, Kristin Vogel, Gary Johnson, Corey Ellis, John Nigro, Luke Barnes, Joe & Terri Wynne, David Foran, and John McGuire. Attending via Zoom were Hou Zhong & Brant Sims.

Gary Johnson, the Hickory County project manager, gave a presentation on LIDAR and GIS systems, until 6:55 p.m. He showed how to obtain landowner names on-line to request permission to visit private properties. Five minutes of discussion followed.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee ran the meeting in lieu of Seth Colston, who is in graduate school in Ames, Iowa, pursuing a PhD in meteorology.

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

Treasurer: Bill Gee reported that the grotto did really well with the silent auction at the summer picnic, August 13th. A big thanks to Rick Hines for hosting it! The treasurer's report was sent out before the meeting. It was approved by vote.

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez was not present. The previous meeting minutes, which were for July, were approved.

Quartermaster: Nathan Taylor is the Quartermaster; He can be contacted about any equipment. Bill Gee has the projector. Corey Ellis and Kohl Mitchell have the DistoXs.

Presentations: Please contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net 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).

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

Organization Updates:

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): The posts for the pavilion are on site, and Rick Hines and Jeff Page will be going down to seal the ends and take some more used wood down. Rick has finished the documents to transfer the property to MCKC, and they are at MCKC being reviewed. Rick said the current plan is to spend all the money we intend to use to upgrade the silo area and finish the pavilion, then transfer the balance to MCKC.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley stated that all three landowners of Cleveland, Perkins and Lewis caves have asked KCAG to 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. They have all three now terminated MCKC as the manager of their properties. Cooley has purchased and had delivered some new materials for Perkins Cave (new locks, a tote, lubricant, cleaning supplies) and will buy similar stuff for other caves (e.g., new signage, envelopes, postage, etc.) under what is essentially an open purchase order for cave management supplies. \$197 has been spent, mostly on Perkins, so far.

Project Updates:

Hickory County: Gary Johnson covered his progress on Vanderman Cave in Hickory County: The map has been finished and turned in to MSS and MDC. He still has several maps to draw up, but is wrapping up this project. Corey Ellis reported the discovery of Friendly Neighbor Cave in Hickory County.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill Gee reported a trip with Corey Ellis and Hou Zhong, where they finished the Stark Caverns survey. There is one section, though, that needs to be resketched.

Geronimo Cave: Everything has been surveyed, and outside of one tight squeeze, all has been sketched. Now the map needs to be drawn up.

MeetUp: The meetup subscription has been renewed for six months for \$100.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Lee Krout was not present. Jim Cooley had nothing to report.

Devil's Icebox: There will be trips in September and April. You have to be a member of the Devil's Icebox survey group to participate.

Trip Reports and Other News:

Carroll Cave: Corey Ellis reported on a survey trip to the Mountain Room, where Josh Hafner used a drone to check high leads.

Limb Line Cave (BEN-056): Jim Cooley reported that he and Julie have discovered a new cave near his cabin on the Lake of the Ozarks. Home to at least two beavers, it is 125-150 feet long – and wet.

Christmas Party: Rick Hines will be hosting the grotto Christmas Party on Saturday, December 10th.

New Business: None.

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 September 22nd through 24th – Fall MVOR. The location is Perryville, Missouri. Sponsored by SEMO Grotto.

Jim Cooley announced a trip to Slough Bottom Hollow Cave September 23rd & 24th, to retrieve and service an intrusion detector, and to work on the map. There will then follow a CRF to the Irish Wilderness and the Mark Twain National Forest September 25th through October 4th, where an intrusion detector will be installed at Secesh Cave (an Indiana bat hibernaculum), the “Managed by MCKC” sign in Lewis Cave will be removed, and several caves will be monitored and surveyed.

Bill Gee and Rick Hines announced a photo trip to Stark Caverns. They’ll be photographing the tourist sections, and NOT going off trail and getting muddy,

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.

Corey Ellis reports he may be leading a Carroll Cave trip soon, too.

Rick Hine said he may be doing another landowner trip to Carroll Cave – he’s had a request.

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/>