



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto  
November 2022 Business Meeting  
Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6:30 to 7:30 P.M.**

**Meeting at the 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: Joshua, Jim and Julie Cooley, Corey Ellis, Joe Hamilton, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Laura Jones, Kohl Mitchell, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, and Joe Wynne.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** In absence of a President, Bill Gee started the meeting off by talking about the Treasurer update. See below section.

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

**Treasurer:** Bill Gee informed everyone that the ending balances for the month of October 2022 were \$4,700.53 (Commerce Bank), \$476.15 (PayPal), \$67.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$5,243.68. Commerce Bank expenses were a single \$5 bank fee and no income. PayPal expenses were a single fee of \$0.79 and an income of \$5 from membership dues. The balance for petty cash did not change.

**Secretary:** Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates during this meeting. The previous meeting minutes for October were approved.

**Quartermaster:** Nathan Taylor is the Quartermaster; He can be contacted about any equipment.

**Novice Trips:** Kristen Vogel informed everyone that she had not had a novice trip since August. The next novice trip is tentatively planned for January.

**Presentations:** Please contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto: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. For in-person meetings up to an hour is available.

**The Guano:** No updates. Anyone interested in contributing a submission to the publication is encouraged to contact Julie Cooley ([oragami\\_fold@yahoo.com](mailto:oragami_fold@yahoo.com)).

**MeetUp:** Kristen Vogel has no updates. Meetup is paid up through March 2023.

**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 talked about the pavilion/shelter project. There was 11 yards of concrete poured for the foundation. The eight 6"x6" framing posts were also erected. The next focus will be to install the roof trusses and the subsequent roof. Once that is completed the electrical breaker located in the silo will be relocated to the pavilion. Rick Hines informed everyone he will be scheduling a workday for the remaining work, Stay tuned for the dates. There will also be a public relations land owners trip, which will be November 19<sup>th</sup>. Bill Gee also

discussed the previous bat census trip. There were 8 people total. They updated the firmware for the bat roost detector. There was also a tag teamed survey trip going alongside the same day.

**MSS/MCKC:** Jim Cooley talked about the next upcoming MSS meeting which will be at the Missouri Geological Survey offices in Rolla, MO, sometime in March 2023. This meeting will feature lots of presentations.

**Hickory County:** Gary Johnson was not present, so no updates on his work were discussed. Corey Ellis was present and discussed his work in Hickey Country. Corey has been checking out potential leads he had gathered through Lidar. He has gone out twice so far. On his second trip he checked 25 leads and talked with nearby land owners. He has found three qualifying caves and mapped a cave he found previously. This was his first time mapping a cave solo. He also mapped one of the other three caves as well. Those maps have been submitted for feedback.

**Stark Caverns Survey Project:** Bill Gee talked about an upcoming photography trip scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>, with Rick Hines serving as head photographer, supported by an army of slaved flashes.

**Cloud 9 Ranch:** Lee Krout was not present and Jim Cooley informed everyone that there will be a Missouri Bat Census trip/bat counting trip in February.

**Devil's Icebox:** Kristen had no updated major updates. There will be a biology inventory trip in April. You have to be a member of the Devil's Icebox survey group to participate.

**Geronimo Cave:** Bill Gee had no major updates for Geronimo Cave. Seth Colston is still developing the map for the cave. Approximately half of the map is completed. Everything but a small squeeze passage has been surveyed.

### **Trip Reports and Other News:**

**Cleveland Cave Scout Trip:** Jim Cooley informed everyone of an upcoming scout trip to Cleveland Cave on the third weekend of February.

**Tennessee Trip:** Corey Ellis talked about a recent trip he was a part of in Tennessee. There were a total of four survey teams which were able to survey a total of 1.5 miles. Corey's specific team was able to survey a half mile.

**Archaeological Cave Gates:** Jim and Julie Cooley met up with two Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) archaeologists and visited three caves on the Houston-Rolla Ranger District, all of which are heavily looted archaeological sites and which are considered sacred by the Osage nation. Jim is designing cave gates for each one to protect the remaining archeological resources in each cave.

**Grotto Christmas Party:** Rick Hines will be hosting the Grotto Christmas Party potluck on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at his home at 16525 Orchard Lane, Stilwell, KS 66085. Please RSVP to Rick at your earliest convenience at rickhines@aol.com.

**New Business:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned. Participants then had pizza at Minsky's Pizza at 51<sup>st</sup> 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 December 10<sup>th</sup> – KCAG Christmas Party. All cavers are invited. Contact [rickhines@aol.com](mailto:rickhines@aol.com) for more information and to RSVP.

2022 December 17<sup>th</sup> – Stark Caverns Photography Trip, led by Bill Gee. This trip will have several teams working in various parts of the cave. Contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

2023 January 7<sup>th</sup> – Carroll Cave Data Logger Service Trip led by Bill Gee. We will download data from all of the data loggers in the cave. This is a fairly easy trip suitable for Carroll Cave first-timers. Contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) for more information.

2023 January 17<sup>th</sup>: **Monthly KCAG meeting** at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri, and via Zoom. This meeting will include election of officers for 2023. We are currently looking for a candidate to serve as Vice-President. Please contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) to be put on the ballot, or would like to offer to do a presentation.

2023 February 18<sup>th</sup> – Jim & Julie Cooley will be sponsoring a visit to Cleveland Cave by Scout Troop 395 of Leawood, KS, including a campout Saturday night. This is ALSO an opportunity for any cavers who wish to become vetted trip guides for Cleveland Cave to visit and get oriented to the cave, grounds and the responsibilities of an Authorized Trip Guide. Note: Interested cavers will NOT be required to camp with the Scouts on Saturday night, February 18<sup>th</sup>, although you are welcome to do so if you wish. Please contact [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) for more details.

2023 February 21<sup>st</sup>: **Monthly KCAG meeting** at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri, and via Zoom. Please contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) if you would like to make a presentation!

2023 March 18<sup>th</sup> – Carroll Cave Bat Roost Detector Service Trip, led by Bill Gee. Trip is currently full; Please contact [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) if you would like to be wait-listed. This will be a medium difficult trip.

2023 April 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – Spring MVOR – Waynesville, MO. The place and date are not 100% certain, so stay tuned just in case. The flyer should be out in early to mid March.

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

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