



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
February 2023 Business Meeting
Tuesday, February 21st, 2023 – 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: Jim and Julie Cooley, Corey Ellis, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Gary Johnson, Mike & Candace Kovacs, Dustin Schmidt, Jennifer and Theodore, Kristen Vogel, Tristin Whetstine, Joe and Terri Wynne, and Hou Zhong.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off by discussing how earlier in the day they he added Jim Cooley to the Grotto's Commerce Bank account. They also were able to omit the reoccurring monthly \$5 service fee. In addition to the checking account, Bill is working to add Jim to the PayPal account. Bill Gee will remain on those accounts, but Jim will have primary responsibility.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt briefly talked about his recent trip to Toby Cave re-survey trip.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley informed everyone that the ending balances for the month of January were \$3,750.76 (Commerce Bank), \$712.33(PayPal), \$154.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$4,6217.09. Commerce Bank expenses were a \$5 bank fee and expense of \$614.32 to Jim Cooley to pay for the new signs at the caves the KCAG is now managing. PayPal expenses were a fee of \$4.40 and an income of \$97.50 from membership dues. The balance for petty cash increased by \$30 from membership dues.

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates during this meeting. The previous meeting minutes for January were approved. Bill Gee has posted those minutes to the KCAG website

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

Novice Trips: Kristen Vogel informed everyone that the next Cleveland Cave trip on March 18th. Jim Cooley also mentioned there will also be a Cleveland Cave trip on the third weekend in June.

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. 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).

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): Rick Hines talked about the upcoming work weekend for the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter. It is scheduled for the weekend of February 25th. The focus will be to install the roof trusses and metal roof sheeting up. There will also be some time dedicated to nail removal on some reclaimed 2x6 lumber.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley talked about the upcoming MCKS meeting. Which also coincide with the MSS meeting. The meeting will be on March 25th in Rolla, MO at the Missouri Geological Survey Building. Jim Cooley will be needing a proxy KCAG member to attend.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson talked about the bluffs located along Mule Shoe Conservation Area. The bluff has been partially scouted leading to some cave/den findings. Some of which were surveyed a few years ago. Gary is proposing a rappelling/vertical workshop at this location. Gary is also wanting to do some more scouting in the area prior to the seasonal vegetation springing up.

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill Gee had no major updates. The photography trip is tentatively being rescheduled. The date has not been set yet.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley talked about Lee Krout's recent visit alongside Missouri Bat Census to perform the annual winter hibernaculum bat survey.

Devil's Icebox: Kristen had no updates.

Geronimo Cave: Bill Gee had no updates for Geronimo Cave. Seth Colston is still developing the map for the cave.

Trip Reports and Other News:

Fiery Fork Conservation Area: Jim Cooley talked about a recent survey trip, which Bill Gee also went alongside Jim. They surveyed two caves. That makes all 6 known caves surveyed. The cartography is still being developed. They also followed up on a lead which required a ladder to access. The lead did not go anywhere significant, unlike the information provided in the Missouri Cave Database. There is a trip report posted on the KCAG website.

Toby Cave: Jim Cooley talked about the recent survey trip to the privately-owned gray bat maternity colony in Climax Springs. There was a gate installed at the entrance of the cave last spring. The previous survey stations were vandalized – in fact, devoured -- by Eastern woodrats (*Neotoma floridana*). They replanted those survey stations and continued where they survey left off. There is still some sketching needing to be done.

New Business: No new business.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned. Participants then went for 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.

2023 March 21st: Monthly KCAG meeting at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center, 4750 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri, and via Zoom. Please contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net if you would like to make a presentation!

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

2023 March 18 – Novice trip to Cleveland Cave. Contact Kristen Vogel for more information.

2023 April 28th – 30th – 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 May 20 – Vertical workshop at Mule Shoe Conservation Area in Missouri. Overnight camping is available. Contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2023 June 2 – Over The Edge event at Arrowhead Stadium. Benefits Salvation army. Contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

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

2023 July 8 – Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2023 Oct 7 – Over The Edge event at the Marriott Hotel, I-435 and Metcalf. Contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2023 Oct 28 – Carroll Cave annual bat census. Contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.