



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
March 2023 Business Meeting
Tuesday, March 21st, 2023 – 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

Meeting held 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 grotto president Bill Gee. The following members and guests were also present: Alex, Jim & Julie Cooley, Corey Ellis, Shar Hamilton, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Ashley Irons, Gary Johnson, Kohl Mitchell, Alea Moore, Dustin Schmidt, Ritchie Swadley, Kristen Vogel, Tristin Whetstine, Joshua White, and Joe and Terri Wynne.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off by introducing our presenter for the meeting, Corey Ellis. See below for details regarding the presentation. He had no updates to provide.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt had no updated to provide for this meeting.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley informed everyone that the ending balances for the month of February were \$4,445.76 (Commerce Bank), \$126.54 (PayPal), \$154.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$4,762.30. Commerce Bank expenses were a single \$5 bank fee and an income of \$600 from PayPal and \$100 from Boy Scouts Troop 395. PayPal expenses were a transfer of \$600 to Commerce Bank and an income of \$15.00 from membership dues. The balance for petty cash did not change from last month.

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

Blue Spring Cave: Corey Ellis gave a wonderful presentation on the history of Blue Springs Cave. This cave is in White County, Tennessee. White County has the most caves of any county in Tennessee (1,000+). Blue Springs Cave is by far the longest, with a current length of 40 miles, and still growing. Corey sourced a great deal of the history from a book called “Blue Spring Cave” by Larry Matthews and Bill Walter. Blue Springs Cave is under the TN Cumberland Plateau and passes 800 ft below a lake. Corey will be presenting part two of this cave in April’s meeting.

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 recent work that was done to the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter. Nathan Taylor and his family added four wall sections to the corners of the shelter. Bill Gee talked about his recent trip to Carroll Cave. The focus of the trip was to service the Bat Roost Logger. They changed out the memory card and batteries for the device. They also spent time viewing the other parts of the cave, specifically inside Thunder Falls.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley talked about the upcoming MCKS meeting, which also coincides with the MSS meeting. The meeting will be on March 25th in Rolla, MO at the Missouri Geological Survey Building.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson talked about the vertical workshop scheduled for May 20th. It will be located at Mule Shoe Conservation Area. He also recently did some hiking in the area, scouting for potential new caves while the leaves are still down before spring.

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 doing a quality control trip for the caves in mid-summer.

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:

Cleveland Cave: Kristen Vogel talked about her recent novice trip to Cleveland Cave totaling 16 people. The trip was well received. And the newcomers enjoyed themselves.

Cave Survey: Jim Cooley talked about his recent survey trip first weekend of March to a large bat cave near lake of the Ozarks that CRF gated for USFWS and MDC a year ago. They were able to finish the plan view surveys of the cave. All that is left to complete now are the cross sections and profile views.

New Business: No new business.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned. Several members 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 April 2nd (Sunday): Jim & Julie Cooley will lead a KCAG trip to survey a newly reported, privately owned cave in Camden County, near Climax Springs. Contact Jim at coolstoi@kc.rr.com or (816) 753-8111 (text OK) if interested. This will be small (limited) trip so as not to overwhelm our new landowner. Free camping accommodations will be available at the Deer Creek Sportsman’s Club.

2023 April 3rd (Monday): Jim & Julie Cooley will lead a KCAG trip to complete cross sections and profile views in the large, gated gray bat cave near Climax Springs. Contact Jim at coolstoi@kc.rr.com or (816) 753-8111 (text OK) if interested. Free camping accommodations will be available at the Deer Creek Sportsman’s Club.

2023 April 21st-23rd: Spring MVOR – Waynesville, MO. The flyer is out. Contact grotto president Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2023 April 21st-23rd: Jim & Julie Cooley lead a Cave Research Foundation (CRF) trip to survey caves on the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) in Oregon County, staying at the U.S. Forest Service’s Winona residence facility. Contact Jim at coolstoi@kc.rr.com or (816) 753-8111 (text OK) if interested.

2023 April 28th -30th: Jim & Julie Cooley continue leading the CRF expedition to survey MTNF caves in Oregon County, staying at Winona USFS residence facility. Contact Jim at coolstoi@kc.rr.com or (816) 753-8111 (text OK) if interested. We will be servicing one of Bill Gee’s intrusion loggers in one cave, and will also be installing new signage and doing cross-sections and profiles in privately owned Lewis Cave in Ripley County on Sunday. This is one of the caves managed for the landowner by KCAG.

2023 May 1st-7th: Jim & Julie Cooley lead a KCAG survey expedition to survey privately owned caves near Salem, Missouri. We will be car camping. Contact Jim at coolstoi@kc.rr.com or (816) 753-8111 (text OK) if interested.

2023 May 20: Vertical workshop at Mule Shoe Conservation Area in Hickory County, 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 16th-18th: Krista Bartel will be leading a trip for cavers to Cleveland Cave, a privately owned cave in St. Clair County (and the LONGEST cave in that county!). Access to Cleveland Cave is managed for the landowner by KCAG. Contact Kristal Bartel at kbartel1088@gmail.com or (816) 812-5206 (text OK) if interested. This would be a good trip for novices.

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

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