



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
April 2023 Business Meeting
Tuesday, April 18th, 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: Jim and Julie Cooley, Jackie Danger, Dianna Dawson, Corey Ellis, Rick Hines, Chelsea Gorsline, Dustin Schmidt, Alex Stump, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, Tristen Whetstine, Joe and Terri Wynne, and Hou Zhong.

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. Bill had no other updates to provide.

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

Treasurer: Jim Cooley informed everyone that the ending balances for the month of March were \$3,971.68 (Commerce Bank), \$76.11 (PayPal), \$169.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$4,216.79. Commerce Bank expenses were \$418.75 to purchase two Leica devices and \$55.33 for a DistoX battery repair. PayPal expenses were \$98.94 to Kristen for Meetup and \$50.00 to Alex Alterum for DistoX stuff. Petty cash gained an income of \$15 for Tristin Whetstine's grotto dues.

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

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

Novice Trips: Kristen Vogel had no updates for this meeting.

Presentations: Please contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercover.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 provided Part 2 (of 2) of his *EXCELLENT* Powerpoint presentation on the history of Blue Springs Cave. The slides made you feel like you were there yourself, and the narrative was well connected and interesting. 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.

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 to provide for this meeting. Our Meetup subscription has been renewed for an additional six months.

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 future work to install a masonry/metal fireplace box at the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelterhouse. There were also talks about adding a shed attachment to stow the camp lawn mower, to protect a mower from inclement weather.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley had no updates to provide for this meeting. See www.mospeleo.org and www.mocavesandkarst.org for more information straight from the horses's mouths.

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

Stark Caverns Survey Project: Bill Gee had no 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 tentatively in June/July,

Devil's Icebox: Kristen had no updates to provide for this meeting.

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:

Raccoon Requiem Cave: Bill Gee talked about the center-line line plot survey that was completed of the cave. Sketching will be conducted in June (see photo, upcoming events).

Jim Cooley talked about his recent trip to Buzzard Babies Cave to do a quality control survey check on the back of the cave. Jim and Julie also photographed a spring cavelet on a Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) conservation area that did not qualify as a cave. (The entrance may have collapsed since it was first reported in 1984.) Jim also talked about the final survey trip he and Matthew Miguel Hernandez made, that focused on the cross section/profile sketches in the gray bat maternity colony in Camden County that we have been surveying. Initial fieldwork is complete; the data is now ready to digitize and the drawing up of the map can begin.

New Business: Tristin Whetstine nominated Diana Dawson for grotto membership, since she has been on three trips and would like to join. An enthusiastic second was provided by Jim & Julie Cooley. Diana was voted into membership unanimously.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned. Several members then went for pizza & libations 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 21st-23rd: Spring MVOR – Waynesville, MO. The flyer is out. Contact grotto president Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2023 April 25th-29th: Jim & Julie Cooley will 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 April 30th - May 3rd: Jim & Julie Cooley will 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 starting May 18th, continuing for up to 14 days if you want! 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 17: Ozark Underground Labs tour, both above ground and in the cave. Contact John McGuire speleolympic@yahoo.com for more information

2023 June 23rd-25th: Bill Gee, Jim & Julie Cooley and the landowner will lead a KCAG expedition to continue the survey at Gladys’s Grotto and Raccoon Requiem Caves, privately owned caves near Climax Springs, Missouri. We will be primitive car camping, and sketching. Contact Jim at coolstoi@kc.rr.com or (816) 753-8111 (text OK) if interested. Special arrival & departure constraints will apply.

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.



First survey crew, Raccoon Requiem Cave, April 2nd, 2023