



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
June 2023 Business Meeting
Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 – 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.**

Meeting held virtually over 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: Seth Burks, Jim and Julie Cooley, Jackie Danger, Corey Ellis, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Gary Johnson, Jay Kennedy, Alex Litsch, and Kristen Vogel.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off by introducing our presenter for the meeting, Alex Litsch. Bill had no other updates to provide.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt was not present, so no updates were discussed.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley informed everyone that the ending balances for the month of April were \$3,802.22 (Commerce Bank), \$ 76.11 (PayPal), and \$ 199.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$ 4,077.33.

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

Big Lode Cave/Mine Survey: Alex Litsch provided a wonderful presentation on Big Lode Cave. Alex started his presentation by telling the history of the cave. Specifically what minerals the cave was mined for. Alex also showed various artifacts/imprints that were inside the cave, such as an old Brogan shoe that some miner left behind. There is also a wall covered with spade imprints, each one featuring the miners signature encased in clay. The mined cave currently has a surveyed length of 3.25 miles.

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.

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 had no major updates to provide other than discussing an upcoming work detail on July 15th and 16th.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley had no updates to provide for this meeting.

Hickory County: Gary Johnson talked about the report he provided to the Missouri Department of Conservation regarding the previous month's Vertical Workshop Day at Mule Shoe Conservation Area.

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 reported that Lee Krout has retired from the Gardner Police Department, and is now the chairman for the Board of Directors of Cloud 9 Ranch. Lee is interested in setting up an Orienteering Cave Rescue (OCR) through the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC). Jim is working on the maps for a publication for the ranch on its caves.

Devil's Icebox: Kristen had no updates to provide for the

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:

Ozark Underground Laboratories: Rick Hines talked about his trip to the Ozark Underground Laboratories. There was a total of 12 people in attendance. He talked about the number of expansions which have been made to the area since he last attended, including acreage purchases and building additions.

New Business: No new business.

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Trips and Events

Check with the trip leader before you set out to attend any of these events.

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 24th: Rock Bridge State Park outreach event. This involves short guided tours into Connor Cave. Contact Martin Carmichael martin@showmewebdesign.com 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 8th: Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercaver.net for more information.

2023 August 12th: KCAG annual summer picnic. All cavers are invited. Contact Rick Hines rickhines@aol.com for more information and to RSVP. There is a post on this site with some details.

2023 August 13th: Wieczorek Cave, Ralls County Survey Project. Wetsuit Required. Contact Kohl Mitchell kdm1913@gmail.com for more information.

2023 September 15-17th: Fall MVOR at Perryville, MO.

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

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