



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto  
November 2023 Business Meeting  
Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – 6:40 to 7:30 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 in the Lewis and Clark Room at 6:40 p.m. by grotto president Bill Gee. The following members and guests were also present: Jim and Julie Cooley, Rick Hines, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, and guest Shane McCurdy. Shane is the president of the Tulsa Grotto, and will be moving to Overland Park shortly. He was given a warm KCAG welcome!

There was no presentation for this meeting.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Bill Gee had no report.

**Vice President:** Dustin Schmidt reported that he has come up with a better way to identify cave leads using high-resolution, publicly available LIDAR photos. Exciting!

**Treasurer:** Jim Cooley reported the current balances across all accounts as of November 21<sup>st</sup>: \$3,251.50 (Commerce Bank), \$104.53 (PayPal), and \$199.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$3,555.03.

**Secretary:** Matthew M. Hernandez was not present. Jim Cooley took the minutes. The previous meeting minutes for October 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. The decision was made to elevate the position of Quartermaster to officer status.

**Novice Trips:** Kristen Vogel: Currently no novice trips scheduled.

**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)).

**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 November 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> work detail at the silo. Lots of folks showed up, and a great deal got done, including placement of a 20-foot shipping container on the property for storage of the new Cub Cadet 46-inch electric lawn mower.

**MSS/MCKC:** Jim Cooley had no major updates to provide.

**Stark Caverns Survey Project:** Bill Gee talked about his survey trip October 29<sup>th</sup>. It was a photography trip and a small lead push. The map for the cave is pretty much done. There are only a few minor touch-ups left.

**Cloud 9 Ranch:** Jim Cooley reported he needs to get the maps done.

**Devil's Icebox:** Kristen Vogel had no updates to provide. Bill Gee said there have been several trips going on since September.

**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:**

**Carroll Cave:** Bill Gee reported on his bat census trip October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Stark Caverns Survey Project:** Bill Gee talked about his survey trip October 29<sup>th</sup>

**Ozark Underground Labs:** Rick Hines reported on his photo trip to Tumbling Creek Cave with Jay Kennedy, Sarah Peterson (Springfield Plateau Grotto), and DJ Hall and his new wife Donna.

**Ennis Cave:** Rick Hines said that the long-awaited book of photos had finally been published, and a copy would be available for perusal at the grotto Christmas Party December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Carroll Cave:** Rick Hines described the November 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> work detail at the silo.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Unfinished Business:** No unfinished business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

## **Upcoming Trips and Events**

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

**2023 December 9<sup>th</sup>:** KCAG Holiday party at 6:00 p.m. Setup and cleanup help is needed. Contact Rick Hines for more information. [rickhines@aol.com](mailto:rickhines@aol.com)

**2024 January 6<sup>th</sup>:** Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Contact Bill Gee for more information. [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net)

**2024 April 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:** Cave survey and monitoring in southeast Missouri (Carter and Ripley County) with full solar eclipse viewing on Monday. Activities on the weekend will include a tour of a famous local historical site on private property, the Midco Steel Works – an abandoned steel mill dating from World War One, of all things! We will camp dead in the middle of Monday's full eclipse path on private land in Ripley County. Contact Jim Cooley at [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) if interested.

**2024 April:** MVOR will be held in Waynesville in April; dates are yet to be determined.

**2024 July 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:** NSS Convention in Sewanee, TN. <https://caves.org/convention/2024-nss-convention/> for more information. Bill Gee will *probably* be going.

# KCAG Christmas Party & Dinner

Saturday, December 9, 2023

6:00 PM

At the home of Rick Hines  
16525 Orchard Lane  
Stilwell, KS 66085

Meat and hot apple cider provided  
Bring a dish to share

Socialize around a fire on the deck  
and soak in the hot pool.

There's plenty of room for overnight guests.  
Waffles Sunday morning!

RSVP  
Rick at 913 710 1063  
or  
[rickhines@aol.com](mailto:rickhines@aol.com)





**Nathan Taylor floating down the Eleven Point River after cave survey and monitoring on the Irish Wilderness, over Thanksgiving weekend.**



**Some of the participants at the Carroll Cave work detail (L to R): John McGuire, Kevin Feltz (Chouteau Grotto), Rick Hines, Tristin Whetstine, Candace & Mike Kovacs, and Bill Gee – and a fine new piece of furniture (center) designed by Candace.**