



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
January 2024 Business Meeting
Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 – 7:30 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 7:30 p.m. by grotto president Bill Gee. The following members and guests were also present: Sam, Judah, Jim and Julie Cooley, Corey Ellis, Bill Gee, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor, Kristen Vogel, and Tristin Whetstone.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off by holding officer elections. See “New Business” section for more details.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt provided a trip report on Stark Caverns. See “Organization Updates” section for more details.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley informed everyone on the current balances across all accounts as of January 16th. \$3,298.80 (Commerce Bank), \$140.30 (PayPal), and \$249.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$3,688.10. Grotto member dues for the 2024 new year are also due. Jim will be contacting those who still need to pay.

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates to provide during the meeting. The previous meeting minutes for November which were provided by Jim Cooley were accepted.

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

Novice Trips: Kristen Vogel has no novice trip planned for the season yet. Jim Cooley has several trips that are upcoming. See “Novice/Scout Trips” section for more details.

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).

White Nose Syndrome: See <https://caves.org/WNS/> for the most current map of the spread of WNS.

Organization Updates:

Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC): Bill Gee talked about the remaining items that need to be completed on the pavilion, such as siding and windows among other things. There are also two tires for the mowers, which are currently being repaired.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley informed everyone about the Spring 2024 MSS board meeting, which will be held at the Missouri Geological Survey in Rolla on Sunday, April 14. The MSS board meeting is scheduled to begin at 11:00 AM with the MCKC meeting scheduled for 1:00 PM. The

weekend will be centered around field work at Paddy Creek Wilderness in Texas County to focus on mapping and inventorying caves in the Mark Twain National Forest. Likely, cave trips will begin on Friday, April 12 and continue Saturday, April 13.

Stark Caverns: Bill Gee talked about a trip to Stark Caverns. Bill, Mike and Candace Kovacs, and Dustin Schmidt all went ridge walking and found a new cave, named Sarah Cave. They also found a new sink hole, approximately 15ft wide by 7ft deep. They also visited the entrance to Flanders Cave adjacent to the Stark Caverns property.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley talked about an upcoming “Missouri Bat Census” trip led by Kirsten Alvey-Mudd on February 15th through 20th.

Devil’s Icebox: Kristen had no new updates to provide.

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 Data Logger Trip: Bill Gee talked about a recent trip where the data loggers were all serviced, and the data was retrieved. Bills full trip report can be seen at the following website. <https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/2024-january-6-data-logger-service-trip/>

Mammoth Cave: Corey talked about his recent trip to Mammoth Cave over the new year. This was the biggest expedition Mammoth Cave has had in 30 or so years. The team he was a part of was able to get a couple hundred feet of survey of overlaying passages over a bore hole. They also visited the Celestial Bore Hole area. The following day Kohl Mitchell and Corey went into Dan Lampings project quadrant area to survey together. They were able to survey a few hundred feet to close a big loop to an area called Northwest Passage.

Novice/Scout Trips:

Cleveland Cave: Jim Cooley mentioned there is a trip coming up in mid-March. Sarah Peterson will be the official trip guide with Tyler and Becca Marlin assisting. Mark Fletcher will be taking a Mormon boys’ group there in June.

Perkins Cave: Jim Cooley mentioned there two Scout trips coming up in February, and one in April.

Lewis Cave: Jim Cooley mentioned there is a scout trip upcoming mid-week in the middle of July, by a California Scout troop.

New Business:

Grotto Officers Positions: No changes in position holders since the previous year.

President: Bill Gee

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez

Quartermaster: Nathan Taylor

Novice Trips: Kristen Godfrey

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.

2024 February 20th: Monthly grotto meeting at the Gorman Discovery Center in Kansas City, MO. 6:30pm. Zoom details will be sent to the email list.

2024 February 24th: Upper Thunder River trip in Carroll Cave. This trip is full.

2024 March 19th: Monthly grotto meeting at the Gorman Discovery Center in Kansas City, MO. 6:30pm. Zoom details will be sent to the email list.

2024 March 23rd: UL2 trip in Carroll Cave. This trip is full.

2024 April 5th-8th: Cave survey and monitoring in southeast Missouri (Carter and Ripley County) with full solar eclipse viewing on Monday. Activities for 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 if interested.

2024 April 12th-14th: MSS and MCKC meetings in Rolla, cave survey on Paddy Creek Wilderness. Contact coolstoi@kc.rr.com for more information. Tristin Whetstine will serve as KCAG's representative to MSS on Sunday.

2024 April 19th-20th: MVOR at the Waynesville Shriner campground.

2024 July 1st-5th: NSS Convention in Sewanee, TN. <https://caves.org/convention/2024-nss-convention/> for more information.

2025: NSS Convention in upstate New York.

2026: NSS Convention in Corydon, Indiana.