



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
February 2024 Business Meeting
Tuesday, February 20th, 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: Dan and Libby, Dave, Peter, Jim and Julie Cooley, Cahn Hamilton, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor. Peter Schnegelberger was present on Zoom.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off but had no updates to provide.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt had no updates to provide.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley informed everyone on the current balances across all accounts as of February 20th. \$3,521.30 (Commerce Bank), \$240.26 (PayPal), and \$99.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$3,860.56. Those who still have not paid their Grotto member dues for the 2024 new year should contact Jim.

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates to provide during the meeting. The previous meeting minutes for January 2024 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): Rick Hines has acquired a large steel tank to serve as a fireplace on the south end of the pavilion shelter. Rick has also sourced some pipe/collar material to construct the fireplaces corresponding chimney flue. The two front tires for the mower has been repaired (filled with foam, so no more flat tires).

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 and Dustin Schmidt had no major updates to provide other than discussing an upcoming survey to Sara Cave involving Bill, Mike & Candace Kovacs, and Dustin Schmidt.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley talked about the “Missouri Bat Census” trip led by Kirsten Alvey-Mudd which is to be completed on February 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:

Fiery Fork Conservation Area – Missouri Department Conservation: On February 9th, Jim Cooley and Nate Nesteruk met with the Missouri Department Conservation to conduct two map quality control checks of Waterfall and Buzzard Babies Tunnel. They also monitored six caves of the Fiery Fork Conservation Area. These six caves have not been surveyed.

Dominican Republic: Rick Hines talked about his January trip where him and his friends hired a local guide to see some various caves in the mine and a Marble/Limestone mine in the area.

Flippin Cave: On February 10th Jim Cooley and Nate Nesteruk did not see any bats in the cave during a monitoring.

Novice/Scout Trips:

Cleveland Cave: Jim Cooley mentioned there is a trip coming up in late 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 are 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: Peter Schnegelberger was nominated for membership by Jim Cooley, voted in and is now officially a member of the KCAG.

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

2024 March 19th: Monthly grotto meeting via Zoom. 6:30pm CDT. Zoom details will be sent to the email list.

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

2024 April 6th-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. THIS TRIP IS FULL.

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 16th: Monthly Grotto meeting at Gorman Discovery Center. 6:30pm CDT. The program is a presentation by Corey Ellis about a caving trip he did to New Mexico in January. There will be a Zoom conference as well, with details to be sent about a week ahead of time.

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.