



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto**  
**March 2024 Business Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 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: Judah Banning, Jim and Julie Cooley, David Foran, Rick Hines, Kohl Mitchell, Dustin Schmidt, Kristen Vogel, Tristen Whetstine, Josh White and Hou Zhong.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Bill Gee started the meeting off by mentioning that MCKC is looking for a cave manager for Roubidoux Cave. Bill also mentioned that MMV is also hosting an eclipse party at Berome Moore Cave.

**Vice President:** Dustin Schmidt had no updates to provide.

**Treasurer:** Jim Cooley informed everyone that the current balances across all accounts as of March 30<sup>th</sup>. \$3,521.30 (Commerce Bank), \$240.26 (PayPal), and \$99.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$3,860.56.

**Secretary:** Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates to provide during the meeting. The previous meeting minutes for February 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.

**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:**

**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. Tristen Whetstine is going as Jim's proxy attendee.

**Stark Caverns:** Bill Gee talked about their recent trip on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with included Dustin Schmidt, Mike and Candace Kovacs, and the property manager. They visited an adjacent cave called Sara Cave. The team was able to do a survey and mapped 163ft of cave passage. The passage continues but it too tight to continue. During the survey they came across some salamanders/frogs and potentially a raccoon skull. The map has been completed and was provided to the property manager.

**Cloud 9 Ranch:** Jim Cooley mentioned that Peter Schnegelberger has found a new cave on the ranch. He also noted that the “Missouri Bat Census” trip led by Kirsten Alvey-Mudd in February was successful.

**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:** Bill Gee talked about his trip to the far upper end of Upper Thunder River, which was on February 24-25<sup>th</sup>. There was a full crew of eight in attendance. They also did a day of surface level safety training to cover items such as the safety cable/winch and who/when do you call, hypothermia, and various other topics. There is also a PDF copy of the topics discussed, if you would like a copy please contact Bill. Rick Hines presented some progress photos of the shelter pavilions firebox and its flu pipe being erected.

**Shannon County:** Jim Cooley talked about his recent trip to Shannon County, MO. Where they had about three crews rotating through some various caves on a private landowner’s property. They were able to install a telescoping ladder in one of the caves. They also completed a number of various surveys. Bill Gee mentioned one of the caves was gnarly to survey.

### **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 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:** There was a vote to donate \$100 to CaveSim to offset their travel expenses to the NSS Convention. You can view their program at the following link <https://www.cavesim.com/>.

**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 March 23<sup>rd</sup>:** UL2 trip in Carroll Cave. This trip is full.

**2024 April 6<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 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 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>:** MSS and MCKC meetings in Rolla, cave survey on Paddy Creek Wilderness. Contact [coolstoi@kc.rr.com](mailto:coolstoi@kc.rr.com) for more information. Tristin Whetstine will serve as KCAG's representative to MSS on Sunday.

**2024 April 16<sup>th</sup>:** 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 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** MVOR at the Waynesville Shriner campground.

**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.

**2025:** NSS Convention in upstate New York.

**2026:** NSS Convention in Corydon, Indiana.