



Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
May 2024 Business Meeting
Tuesday, May 21st, 2024 – 6:30 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 6:30 p.m. by grotto president Bill Gee. The following members and guests were also present: Josh White, Sam, Becca Marlin, Dillon, Ashley Adkins, Corey Ellis, Jeff Fouquet, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Shane McCurdy, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor, and Kristen Vogel.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off by introducing Ashley Adkins. She gave a presentation to the grotto on a her recent CRF biology monitoring trip on the Jacks Forks River. See below section for details.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt had no updates to provide.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley was not present but was able to provide Bill Gee with an update prior to the meeting. The current balances across all accounts as of April 16th. \$3,371.30 (Commerce Bank), \$240.26 (PayPal), and \$99.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$3,710.56. There is a \$50 deduct from the Commerce account from the last meeting. This deduct went to MSS for the grotto's annual organization fee.

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates to provide during the meeting. The previous meeting minutes for April 2024 were accepted.

Quartermaster: Nathan Taylor stated he will be implementing a checkout system for the caving helmets as well as an instructional. As usual he can be contacted about borrowing any equipment.

Novice Trips: Kristen Vogel is planning a trip to Cleveland Cave on Saturday, June 15th.

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.

Jacks Forks River Biology Cave Monitoring: Ashley Adkins gave the grotto a presentation about her recent trip to monitor a handful of caves alongside the Jacks Forks River for CRF Ozarks in March. The trip team included Corey Ellis, Alea Moore, and Jenny Tison. They spent four days floating and camping overnight. With the help of Jim and Julie Cooley the team was able to focus on working throughout the days while Jim and Jooley would relocate their non-caving supplies to the various campsites. There was a total of ten caves to monitor and one cave to survey. Throughout the presentation she showed various pictures of numerous biological species and a few points of interest they came across. She stated if they came across any trash or litter, they would remove and dispose of it. Overall, the team was able to find a total of; 245 Camel Crickets, 16 Isopods, 15 Grotto Salamanders, 15 Pickerel Frogs, one Southern Cavefish, 11 Millipedes, nine Tri-Colored Bats, one Big Brown Bat, 2 Indiana Bats, and four 1ft x 1ft clusters of Gray Bats throughout all the caves. This is not an exhaustive list of their entire

findings. The end of the presentation allowed for any grotto members/guests to ask specific questions they had about the trip.

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: Bill Gee informed everyone that there was a recent trip involving Mike and Candace Kovacs, Becca Marlin, and Tyler. They were there to perform a step-log, which is a written document describing the navigation of the cave using step/stride counts, time, and visual cues.

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley was not present, so no updates were discussed.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley was not present, so no updates were discussed.

Stark Caverns: Bill Gee mentioned the project is mostly completed, all that is needed is to perform a quality control check on the map.

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

Geronimo Cave: Bill Gee stated that Seth Colston is still interested in developing the map for the cave.

Trip Reports and Other News:

MVOR: Bill Gee talked about his recent attendance to MVOR in April. He went on a trip alongside Martin Carmichael to a cave near Roubidoux Cave. The cave was about 2,000ft and goes through an entire ridge and has an entrance on both sides, so you can walk throughout. The cave currently has an inadequate map. There will be a team assembled to do a re-map/survey of the cave.

Duncan Field - Oklahoma Cave: Corey Ellis and Shane McCurdy talked about their recent trip to the Duncan Field Cave in Oklahoma. This was Coreys first time caving in Oklahoma. The team were not able to complete their objective of surveying but were able to spend their time getting refamiliarized with the cave.

Novice/Scout Trips:

Cleveland Cave: Jim Cooley mentioned Mark Fletcher will be taking a Mormon boys' group to the cave in June. There will also be a trip led by Kristen Vogel on Saturday, June 15th. See upcoming trips and events.

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: 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.

2024 June 15th: Novice Trip to Cleveland Cave. Contact Kristen Vogel (Vogel_Kris@yahoo.com) for information.

2024 June 18th: Monthly Grotto meeting at Gorman Discovery Center. 6:30pm CDT. There will be a Zoom conference as well, with details to be sent about a week ahead of time.

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

2024 August 10th: KCAG Summer Picnic. Rick Hines will be hosting the grotto at his home. Please RSVP prior to attending (RickHines@aol.com). The picnic takes a substantial amount of work to prepare for, please contact Rick if you would like to help him set-up. There will be an official flyer sent out at a later date.

2025: NSS Convention in upstate New York.

2026: NSS Convention in Corydon, Indiana.