



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
October 2024 Business Meeting
Tuesday, October 15th, 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: Jim and Julie Cooley, Gabriel, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor, and Josh White.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off talking about his new “Disto-X” he was able to create by salvaging the working parts from various other broken models. Bill also talked about his time attending the Chouteau Grotto Cookout in which Chouteau member Martin Carmichael brought his BRIC5. Bill was able to compare three devices to each other; Disto-X, BRIC5, and Suunto PM-5. Bill also mentioned he will be looking into 3D printing spare tail extension for the various Disto-X’s the grotto has available.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt had no updates to provide.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley informed everyone that the total balance across all accounts is (\$3,702.41). The balances for each account type are as follows. Bank account has \$3,324.73, PayPal has \$268.68, and Petty Cash is \$109.00.

Secretary: Matthew M. Hernandez had no updates to provide during the meeting.

Quartermaster: Nathan Taylor had no updates to provide. He can be contacted about borrowing any equipment.

Novice Trips: Kristen Vogel was not present and there are no upcoming novice trips planned.

Presentations: Please contact Bill Gee at bgee@campercover.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 are available.

The Guano: KCAG does not currently publish a newsletter. When we did, it was called *The Guano*. Back issues can be viewed on our website. If someone would like to resurrect this effort, please contact Bill Gee or Jim Cooley for details.

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

Organization Updates:

Carroll Cave: Rick Hines mentioned there will be an upcoming workday for a few of the remaining items regarding the Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter. The various tasks are a masonry wall for the firebox, board and batten siding, installation of a 46”x76” windowpane, various electrical items (lighting, outlets, and lawn mower charger.). There will be an email sent out from Rick detailing the dates/times. Dates are November 15th-17th and 22nd-24th. If interested contact Rick at rickhines@aol.com for details.

MSS/MCKC: Josh White attended the meeting for the KCAG Grotto. He and several other various grotto representatives teamed up to do some cleanup to Pleasant Valley Cave in Jefferson County, Missouri. There are plans to construct a 20' box cupola box gate, with a cost estimate of \$25,000. There will be a future discussion in November regarding donating some of our grotto funds to help with the gating effort.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley mentioned there will be a February Bat census trip on the property. Jim will be providing details as the month gets closer.

Stark Caverns: Bill Gee had no new updates to provide other than mentioning that a quality control check needs to be scheduled and performed on the cave map.

Devil's Icebox: Kristen was not present, so nothing was discussed.

Geronimo Cave: Bill Gee informed everyone that Seth Colston is going to let Bill develop the map. The survey data is being transferred to Bill currently.

Trip Reports and Other News:

Shannon County: Jim Cooley provided a status report on the progress on various privately owned caves we've been surveying in Shannon County. The current focus is 'Lost Silver Cave'.

Midco Cave Property: Jim Cooley was able to get access to some private property near the Midco Cave property in Carter County – 1,200 acres of it, to be exact. They have been finding caves left and right.

Novice/Scout Trips: No trips discussed.

New Business: Christmas Party to be on December 14th, see upcoming trips and events.

The grotto has purchased a non-profit organizational Zoom account, which means there will no longer be time limits. (This will auto renew every October.)

A motion was made for Josh White to be an official member of the KCAG Grotto. He was voted in.

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 October 19th: Bridge Day at New Rivers Gorge Bridge in West Virginia. For more information see <https://bridgedayrappel.com/>.

2024 October 26th: Illinois Caverns. Contact Alex Stump for more information. "ajstump1@gmail.com"

2024 October 26th: Carroll Cave Annual Base census trip. This trip is currently full. Contact Bill Gee for more information. bgee@campercaver.net

2024 November 15th through 17th: Carroll Cave property, Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter work detail. See above for details.

2024 November 22nd through 24th: Carroll Cave property, Pic Walenta Memorial Shelter work detail.
See above for details.

2024 December 14th: Kansas City Area Grotto Christmas Party, details listed below.

2025 January 4th: Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Contact Bill Gee for more information.
"bgee@campercaver.net"

2025 June 21st through 28th: NSS Convention in Cobleskill, New York. More information is available
on the NSS Convention website. "<https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/>"

2026: NSS Convention in Corydon, Indiana.



KCAG Christmas Party & Dinner

Saturday, December 14, 2024
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

After dinner plan to stay
for a fire on the deck and
a dip in the indoor heated pool

RSVP
rickhines@aol.com or 913 710 1063

