



**Minutes of the Kansas City Area Grotto
July 2024 Business Meeting
Tuesday, July 16th, 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: Steve, Dylan, Jim and Julie Cooley, Corey Ellis, Matthew M. Hernandez, Rick Hines, Mike and Candace Kovacs, Shane McCurdy, Dustin Schmidt, Nathan Taylor, and Kristen Vogel.

Officer Reports:

President: Bill Gee started the meeting off by talking about his recent trip to the NSS convention in Sewanee, Tennessee. See “Trip Report” section for details.

Vice President: Dustin Schmidt had no updates to provide.

Treasurer: Jim Cooley stated there have been no recent transactions in the past three weeks. The current balance across all accounts as of April 16th. \$3,401.30 (Commerce Bank), \$268.68 (PayPal), and \$109.00 (Petty Cash) for a total of \$3,778.98.

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 had no updates to provide. Jim Cooley mentioned there are three upcoming scout trips.

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: Bill Gee and Kristen Vogel talked about their recent trip to Carroll Cave on Saturday July 13th. The trip was a standard data logger service trip. Unfortunately, there was a half hour burst of inclement weather in the entire area. This caused an outage to the silo since a large branch hit the main power line. The storm also caused some participants to be delayed since there were downed trees and substantial water passing. They were unable to access two of the six data loggers due to the amount of water in the cave. Another trip has been planned for an upcoming weekend to retrieve those. The entirety of the trip report can be read here [“https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/2024-july-13-data-logger-service/”](https://www.mocavesandkarst.org/2024-july-13-data-logger-service/).

MSS/MCKC: Jim Cooley mentioned there is an upcoming meeting around mid-September at a vertical entrance cave nearby St. Louis, Missouri.

Cloud 9 Ranch: Jim Cooley had no new updates to provide.

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 had no new updates to provide.

Geronimo Cave: Bill Gee stated that Seth Colston is still interested in developing the map for the cave, but no developments have been made.

Trip Reports and Other News:

National Speleological Society (NSS) 2024 Convention: Bill Gee and Corey Ellis talked about their recent attendance to the NSS 2024 convention (July 1st to July 5th). In addition to them, fellow Grotto member Shane McCurty was also at the convention. Bill was able to participate in "The Gauntlet" ropework obstacle course as well as a visit to "Moses Tomb" cave. Corey was able to visit "Nunley Mountain Cave" on the way to the convention. During the convention, he led a trip to "Mirror Image Well". On the way out of the cave the access gate was mysteriously closed, ensuing a mild panic to get ahold of someone to open it up from the other side. Corey was invited to join a trip to a site called "The Sinkhole Cave", which he stated was a picturesque trip with all the sunrays entering into the top of the pit.

Turner Mill Spring/Pit: Jim Cooley led a CRF float trip to Turner Mill Pit on June 7th-11th, dubbed the "Vertical Float" trip. Participants included Andrew Erickson, Tristin Whetstine, Nathan Taylor, Kohl Mitchell and Peter Schnegelberger from KCAG, Jack Rufener from Chouteau Grotto, and Andrew Erickson, Jay Mrazek, and Preston Sheppard from Out of Bounds Grotto. The first day the team finished all the survey shots for Ravine Cave, on the Eleven Point River. Then Saturday they started the main float, from Greer Crossing to Turner Mill North, originally planned as a series of day floats. They were able to easily locate Cedar Bluff Cave, which required a rappel from the top of the cliff to enter, and performed a full cartographic survey on the small cave. Two other caves were discovered and mapped on Turner Mill Bluff, Turner Bluff Tunnel and Turner Bluff Slab Cave. There were four inches of rain in the area Saturday night, causing the Eleven Point River to jump from three feet to 11 feet overnight. So the next two days, it was not possible to float, but fortunately the caves could be reached on foot from the base camp. They also did some ridge walking and flagged some areas nearby to look at another day. The second and third days they went into and then back into Turner Mill Pit, which had three vertical pitches, and found some passage that wasn't identified on the map. The fourth day of the trip we got back on the river, monitoring Surprise Pit for the Mark Twain National Forest and checking on Horseshoe Bend Bluff Cave #2 during leaf-on. It was visible.

Novice/Scout Trips:

Cleveland Cave: Jim Cooley mentioned there is a scout's trip on the third weekend in August and another Scout's trip on the third weekend in September.

Lewis Cave: Jim Cooley mentioned there is a trip mid-week July 24th/25th for a California Scout troop.

New Business: Shane McCurty was voted in as a new KCAG member. There was some discussions regarding purchasing a Pro Zoom account at a cost of \$160 per year. This will allow online meetings to be held for a continuous time of 30 hours. There were also talks about purchasing a Google Business Starter account instead of Zoom for a cost of \$72 per year, which will allow for Google Meet and some Drive cloud storage.

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.

2024 September 19th through 22nd: SEMO Grotto is hosting the Fall MVOR (Mississippi Valley Ozark Region) in Perryville, Missouri. For additional details, please see “<https://mvor.org/sites/default/files/MVOR2024Flyer-compressed.pdf>”

2024 October 12th through 13th: Shane McCurty will be leading a trip to some gypsum selenite caves in Oklahoma. 15 to 20 minutes from Boiling Springs State Park. He can be contacted for additional information.

2025: NSS Convention in Schoharie County, New York.

2026: NSS Convention in Corydon, Indiana.

