

Meeting Minutes for KCAG - Sep 15, 2026

Attendees – In person:

Bill Gee
Shane McCurdy
Jim Cooley
Julie Cooley
Ray Peterson
Bailey Martinez
Ethan Lenhardt
Cory Ellis

Will Sims
Allyssia Seymour
Dillon Bond
Kristen Vogel

Attendees – On MS Teams:

Rick Hines
Hou Zhong

6:38 pm – Called to order

6:39 pm – Dillon Bond gave a presentation on his multiple Kiesewetter Cave trips this year.

7:04 pm – The Business portion of the meeting began

7:07 pm – The Presidents update

- We are trying Microsoft Teams, instead of Zoom, for today's virtual connection
- Cave intrusion detectors were purchased from Bill Gee by the USF&W service by a pass-through transaction, using the KCAG Paypal account to issue an invoice to them, and then pay Bill. The Treasures Report does not currently show that activity.

7:12 pm – Vice President Report

No update, as he's away

7:12 pm – Treasures Report

Activity

- We made a \$100 donation to CaveSim
- We received \$25 in dues

Total KCAG Balance: \$4,045.19

During and after the meeting Jim Cooley received multiple cash payments as reimbursement for KCAG t-shirts and other grotto items sold without payment during the KCAG Summer Picnic.

7:14 pm – Secretary Report

No update

7:15 pm – Project updates and Committee Reports

Carroll Cave - Rick Hines, Bill Gee - The lock on the silo door needs to be replaced, and Bill Gee has been tasked by MCKC with replacing all the locks on property and updating the combination lock at the road with a new 4-digit code. Bill will handle that on his next cave trip out there.

MSS/MCKC - Jim Cooley - Last weekend was the MSS/MCKC meeting. Jim participated in the Dwyer Cave survey on Friday, where the focus was to teach cave survey to a few folks. Saturday there were three caves surveyed: Mays, Dwyer, & Lost Cave. Sunday was the official MSS/MCKC business meeting. Kohl Mitchell has officially taken over as president of the MCKC. The next meeting will take place at Kohl Mitchell's farm, same as the previous meeting.

Novice and Scout trips -

Dillon Bond is taking a scout trip to Cleveland Cave on Sept 19th and 20th.

Dillon Bond is looking at organizing a novice trip to Skaggs Cave, possibly on October 10th.

Cloud Nine Caves - no update

7:34 pm – Quartermaster Report

Nathan Taylor is not present

All the helmets are loaned out, and a brief discussion was had over who had which ones.

7:36 pm – Trip Reports

Perkins Cave - Dillon Bond led the trip. He reported that there were quite a number of people, and it wound up being too many to properly manage.

Shane McCurdy spoke about spending several weeks on the road, where he installed a bat gate in southwestern Missouri and later two more gates up in Massachusetts. While in Missouri, his crew gained access through a CRF connection to Henson Cave, just outside the town of Jane, for a recreational trip. On his travels he also spent time ridgewalking in Pennsylvania. He then headed to Mammoth Cave National Park for their Bat Day event, where he participated in their bat survey demonstration setup that evening at the Historic Entrance.

Jim Cooley spoke briefly about his ongoing survey projects in Shannon County, MO

Bill Gee returned to Cave Spring Cave, where he and Jack Rufener explored a small breakdown lead found by Shane McCurdy on a previous trip. It led to a small but well decorated room, that they named "McCurdy's Mansion", in honor of Shane McCurdy.

7:45 pm – Upcoming trips and events

2026 September 19: Jim Cooley is leading a survey trip to Bent Tree Harbor near Warsaw, Missouri to explore and survey a new cave at the private landowner's request (trip ticket is full).

2026 September 18-20 – Fall MVOR at Riverview Ranch. Registration is open at MVOR Square Site.

2026 September 22-26 – “The Hypogea 2026 International Congress will be at Tbilisi, Georgia (Europe) Sept 22-26 under the patronage of the Union International de Speleologie (UIS). For more information: <https://hypogea2026.com/> “

2026 September 25-27 – Jim Cooley Amphitheater Cave in the Irish Wilderness

2026 October 1-5 – Jim Cooley’s Shannon County MO survey projects

2026 October 17 – Bridge Day. <https://officialbridgeday.com/> for more information.

2026 October 31 – Annual bat census trip at Carroll Cave. Contact bgee@campercaver.net for more details.

2026 November 5-9 – International Technical Rescue Symposium in Golden, CO.
Co-sponsored by Pigeon Mountain Industries. More information at <https://itrsonline.org/>

2026 November 6-7 – Annual CRF meeting in Perryville, MO. Contact Chad McCain for more information

2026 November 1-13 – 22nd International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology. Held in the Canary Islands. Registration should open in May 2026. Contact Dave Foran for more information.

2026 December 12 – KCAG Holiday party. Details will be out around early November.

2027 January 11-25 – Expedition caving in Thailand. An exotic location! Contact Robert Keith Keith3001979@gmail.com

2027 March 19-21: Cave survey and MSS meeting at Kohl Mitchell’s farm in Ralls County, MO. Contact Jim Cooley or see MSS website (mospeleo.org) for details.

2027 April 29 to May 2 – Spring MVOR at Shriner’s Campground near Buckhorn, MO. Details will be out in mid-March.

2027 June 14-18 – NSS National Convention in Del Rio, Texas.

2028 dates not known yet – NSS Annual Convention in Washington State.

8:00 pm - New Business

We nominated and voted in three new members:

- Bailey Martinez
- Will Sims
- Allyssia Seymour

8:02 pm - Adjourned