Meeting Minutes for KCAG - Nov 17, 2026

Attendees – In person:
Bill Gee
Shane McCurdy
Cory Ellis
Scott Hatcher
Jim Cooley
Julie Cooley
Kristen Vogel

Attendees – On MS Teams:
Rick Hines
Dillon Bond
Andrew Karum
Nathan Taylor
Allyssia Seymour
Will Sims
Tristin Wetstine

6:37 pm – Called to order

Newcomer Scott Hatcher introduced himself

6:39 pm – Bill Gee gave a photo presentation of his recent bat census trip in Carroll Cave. All photos were taken by Candace Kovacs. Kristen Vogel was also on the trip, and she added a little commentary. With the 20-ish bats, 100+ sculpins, and 100+ salamanders, the trip has been more focussed on non-bat critters as of late. Sarah Peterson brought in one of her ballroom gowns, and put it on once they arrived at the Mountain Room, where she gave a short solo opera performance. There was also footage taken of two intertwined grotto salamanders which appeared to be tussling, sparking a debate on whether this behavior was fighting or mating. It was later confirmed by multiple sources to be in line with typical mating behavior for this species.

7:06 pm – The President's update
- This will be the final meeting at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center.
- Our January meeting will be at Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, at 6:00pm (not 6:30pm), as we have reserved the 6:00pm to 8:00pm time slot for the time being. If this facility fits our needs, and seems like a good fit, then we will reserve the February slot. The Kauffman center only allows for reservations up to 90 days in advance, which is not ideal, so we may still be relocating to a more stable location if one can be found.

7:10 pm – Vice President Report
No update, as he's away

7:10 pm – Treasures Report

Activity

- We received Ray Peterson's dues, after being voted in last month

Total KCAG Balance: $4,434.79

7:12 pm – Secretary Report
No update

7:12 pm – Project updates and Committee Reports
- Carroll Cave - Bill did some groundskeeping while there, and there is more brush work required just West of the silo. Kristen is organizing a clean up event for Dec.
- MSS/MCKC - No updates, besides the spring meeting at Kohl Mitchell's farm in Ralls County, MO.
- Cloud Nine Caves - no update

7:15 pm – Novice and Scout trips
- Rattlesnake Cave trip coming up Dec 5th, led by Dillon Bond. The trip is beyond full.

7:16 pm – Quartermaster Report
- Josh has a DistoX. He is caving in Vietnam.

7:18: pm – Trip Reports
- Carroll Cave - Bill spoke about his experiment testing different ways to store lighters in the cache. The plastidip and wax sealed lighters still worked, but they were a pain to open to retrieve. All other ways to store the lighters failed.
- Dillon Bond spoke about his trip to Dream Cave, where Kristen Vogel saved the day and wound up driving all the way to Branson and back day-of to retrieve the gate key.
  Dillon also later experienced his first vertical training session with Shane McCurdy at Cliff Drive, where he learned the basics of rappelling and ascending.
  Dillon later visited Rutherford Cave with Jack Ruff, and reported seeing about 40 tricolored bats.

7:28 pm – Upcoming trips and events

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

2027 January 9 – Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Contact bgee@campercaver.net for more details. Vertical skills and equipment are required.

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.

7:32 pm - New Business

- Andrew Karum was voted in a new member

7:34 pm - Adjourned