

Chouteau Grotto Minutes from May 4, 2005

Present:

President: Marck Schneider

Vice-President: Eugene Vale

Treasurer: Kevin Feltz

Secretary: Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire

Other Members: 7

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to at about 7 p.m.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT

March minutes are still untyped.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current: 1127.13. Represents an increase of \$15. Do we want to send decals to the MVOR and MS meetings? With the current promotion going on for the 6000th Cave patch, it may be a good sales opportunity. Don Dunn likely wont make it down with the MSS store. Ernie Bhend may take some decals to sell.

MSS LIASON REPORT:

Upcoming meeting: May 14, 2005, 1 p.m. in Rolla, Room 205 or 207 at the Habner Center. The city may have acquired a section of the highway and converted it to pedestrian-only traffic near campus. The road and some buildings may also be closed due to graduation weekend.

FORESIGHT REPORT:

Kirsten's computer has experienced a power surge. The computer is being rebuilt in New Jersey. Kirsten will be working on reports for MSS.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT:

One of the wayward lights came back. Nothing is currently checked out. Discussion: Should we rent lights out to non-members without members present? The group concluded no, a member must be present to ensure that the light is returned.

OLD BUSINESS

• GROTTO PICNIC

Mike will bring down smoker. Kirsten offered to cook. If we bring potluck, it could be quite a feast.

• MVOR: It will be May 19-20 at the Tick and Chigger Ranch west on Hwy 5 near Ava, MO. Fall MVOR is usually in October right before TAG. . The website for MVOR still doesn't list directions. Deadline for pre-registration was April 30. Marck has one copy of the MVOR flyer.

- **CLEAN WATER CONFERENCE:** 2nd annual conference, Oct. 7-8, at the St. Louis Science center. Perhaps the grotto could participate with a booth. Do a karst flow model or portable cave. Deadline for application: Sept. 16.

- **ALPINE SHOP GROTTO DISCOUNT / SOCIALIZING AFTE MEETING:** PAUL Lowry of the Alpine Shop wants to offer a 20 percent discount off of everything in the store to members of Chouteau Grotto one day. We discussed a few possible dates. Rita suggested he give out coupons to grotto members and let us go in when we feel like it. We decided to suggest to Paul to let us do the discount day after the June 1 grotto meeting, and then maybe go to the Pasta House afterwards instead of G&D's. Someone also suggested that in the summer it might be nice to socialize after the meetings on the upper patio of the Heidelberg instead of G&D's.

- **CAVE TRIP CANCELED:** Since Kirsten's ankle is hurting, the Bump Ridge Cave scheduled for this weekend has been cancelled.

- **CAVE STATE LICENSE PLATE UPDATE:**

MCA (Missouri Cave Association) in cooperation with MCKC (Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy) is sponsoring an initiative to get the State of Missouri, Dept. of Revenue, to produce cave-themed license plates. The plates would cost about \$25 and can be personalized for an additional fee. In order to complete the application, the two organizations need **at least 200 individual vehicle owners** to sign that they are willing to purchase such a plate if it became available. You do not pay at this time. After the application is approved by the Joint Transportation Committee, to acquire a plate you must donate \$25 or more to MCKC/MCA (the fee is split 50/50 between the two organizations). MCKC/MCA will then send two documents. One will be an application for a plate, the other will be an "Emblem Use Authorization Form" which is proof of the required contribution. If you wish to personalize your plate, the standard personalization fee will also need to be paid as well as any other standard Department of Revenue fees associated with getting new plates. For more information, contact Alicia Lewis at caversquirrel1@aol.com or 314-892-4351.

NEW BUSINESS

- **DEVIL'S ICEBOX STORY:** An article about Devil's Icebox will appear in VOX magazine June or July, 2005. Mariah Howell interviewed Marck Schneider for a few hours

- **END OF YEAR REPORTS:** Steve Taylor volunteered to keep track of trip reports throughout year to make the end of year report easier.

- **STREAM TEAM:** Amber Spohn was coordinating Stream Team for the Grotto. We need to reestablish one and work on Bass, Turkey, Gans and Bonne Femme creeks. The grotto is overdue for stream-team work. Maybe in July, Maybe also on Grindstone. Marck will talk to Amber to see if she will be available, but she's very busy.

- **GROTTO FLYERS:** We should have grotto flyers to hand out to participants on Devil's Icebox Wild cave Tours.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MSS Board Meeting**, Saturday, May 14, location TBA since it's graduation weekend.
- **26th Annual Karst Field Studies program: June 5-25, 2005** hosted by the Center for Cave and Karst Studies, Western Kentucky University and Mammoth Cave National Park's International Center for Teaching and Learning. Eight week-long classes are being offered this year in Bowling Green, Kentucky, Mammoth Cave National Park and San Antonio, TX. All classes can be taken for college credit, continuing education credits or simply as a workshop. For more information, contact Annie Croft at annie.croft@wku.edu

CAVE REPORTS

- **Boone County, Devil's Icebox Cave:** Marck Schneider, Jeff Roberts, Vince de Marco. Vince is a cave diver recently moved to the area from Florida. He is not used to caves with formations in them. March found a spatite, took a photo of it. It's on his webpage. The group was mostly all friends, very athletic.
- **California:** Ernie Bhend went to John Muir Woods along the coast of California. No real caves, but the tree cavities were cave-like.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

MEETING ADJOURNED:. 8 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire, 11/17/05