

## **Chouteau Grotto Minutes from January 4, 2006**

### **Present:**

*President:* Eugene Vale (absent)

*Vice-President:* Marck Schneider

*Treasurer:* Kevin Feltz

*Quartermaster:* Mike Morgan

*Secretary:* Vince DeMarco

Other Members or guests: Dustin, Dave, Kat, Mack, Mike, Rita, Beth and Dan from KC

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

## **REPORTS:**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Minutes for 2005 are all current and posted as PDF files on the Yahoo groups website (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chouteau/files/Minutes/>).

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Current balance in the treasury is \$1216.13

### **MSS LIASON REPORT**

The next Missouri Speleological Society (MSS) meeting is Jan 21, which conflicts with the scheduled Winter Campout.

*MSS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:*

Dates and Location

Kirsten Alvey is coordinating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the MSS. It is currently scheduled for June 23 – 25 at Meramac St Park.

Lodging

Information on lodging can be found in the December minutes. We hope to hear from Kirsten soon about reserving a cabin for those we sponsor. No one was sure about how to go about reserving lodging for themselves.

Caving

Information on caving trips can be found in the December minutes.

Other Events

Information on the bonfire, weenie roast, banquet, videotaped recordings of interviews of oldtimers, presentations at the amphitheater, geocaching competition, conference center displays and a recycling program can be found in the December minutes.

**FORSIGHT REPORT:** For the benefit of new members we talked briefly about the purpose of the Forsight report. The Forsight Report documents the Grotto's activity and is submitted to the NSS as part of an annual Internal Organization Report (or IO report). The expectation is that each grotto will submit quarterly activity reports (hence the name, Forsight Quarterly). The secretary will submit the IO report; however there is some uncertainty about whether there will be a Forsight Report included.

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT: Discussion centered around the clinometer and compass that Kirsten checked out a while back. Mike expressed some frustration at not being able to fulfill his responsibilities as quartermaster if borrowers did not return items on time, especially when the items are expensive pieces of equipment. It was suggested that the deposit for these items be raised to full replacement cost and limit check out times. It was agreed that the equipment should be returned promptly.

## OLD BUSINESS

Grotto Administration and Public Relations

Winter Campout- Shannon Co Caves: So far it appears that Mike, Marck, and Rita are planning to participate. Vince is on the fence.

## NEW BUSINESS

Dustin is organizing a trip to caves near Stover, MO (Morgan Co, MO). Dustin brought liability waivers for participants to sign. So far Dustin, Rita, Mike and Vince have committed to checking these caves out. Everyone is meeting at the Casey's in Stover between 9:30 and 10 am on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Dustin will post (email) directions on the Yahoo Group site.

Someone thought that Kirsten was planning a grotto caving trip to the Three Creeks Area in February (more to come on that at the next meeting).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The National Cave Management Symposium, hosted by the MCKC and Missouri Department of Conservation, will be held in Powder Mill, MO in 2007. Getting this meeting to Missouri was a real victory and we owe this success to the efforts of Bill and Jim. Marck and Dave will update us on this periodically.

## CAVE REPORTS

New Year's Day Trip - Check out some snapshots taken during the late afternoon/sunset NewYear's Day trip to Cole Co Caves. The photos really don't do justice to the scenic beauty of the Osage River Bluffs and bottomlands areas we visited. The unseasonably mild, cool weather conditions were ideal for climbing and descending the steep hills that housed Loudmouth, Crabtree, Arch and Crevice Caves. Thanks are due to Kirsten and Steve for coordinating an excellent trip and also to Kat,

Katherine, Dustin and Beth for their participation (and for posing for pictures). The group picked up quite a bit of trash, which unfortunately was common in this beautiful landscape. There was some discussion about the possibility of organizing a trash cleanup of the area below the Osage River bluffs.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Dan Allenbaugh drove all the way from Kansas City to attend and learn about Chouteau activities. Dan works for the Division of Youth Services in Kansas City and occasionally organizes caving trips for troubled kids. Dan hinted that he might be able to provide an energetic labor force for future cave cleanup projects.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 pm