

## **Chouteau Grotto Minutes from February 1, 2006**

### **Present:**

*President:* Eugene Vale

*Vice-President:* Marck Schneider (absent)

*Treasurer:* Kevin Feltz

*Quartermaster:* Mike Morgan

*Secretary:* Vince DeMarco

Other Members or guests: Bret, Brian Dollar, Dave Webster, Dustin Stark, J.C. Seger\*, Joe, Kirsten Alvey, Matt Chasen, Matt Sparks\*, Mike Morgan, Morris, Rita Worden, Steve Taylor (\*new to grotto)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. Dave brought cookies. Thanks Dave!

## **REPORTS:**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Minutes for December, 2005 and January, 2006 are all current and posted as PDF files on the Yahoo groups website (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chouteau/files/Minutes/>). A motion to approve January minutes was passed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Current balance in the treasury is \$1216.13 A check was cut for \$100 and made out to Kirsten for a deposit on a cabin for the MSS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting. Another check for \$20 was made out to Lisa McCann for annual MSS dues for Chouteau grotto. *MSS Treasurer:* Lisa McCann, 8939 E Fm Rd 134, Strafford, MO. 65757, email: [budwisrr@aol.com](mailto:budwisrr@aol.com). If you want to join MSS contact Lisa.

### **MSS LIASON REPORT**

Rita and Kirsten attended the MSS meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Rita, Chouteau Grotto's MSS liason, reported the following:

- 1) Leonard Butts resigned
- 2) Joe Walsh is looking for an editor for MO Speology. He is hoping to find other organizations that can share the services of a single editor. Good luck with that. Rita said she is intrigued with the idea of serving as editor, but is unwilling to commit at this point.
- 3) Bob Lurch reports that Carroll Cave survey is progressing (<http://www.carrollcave.org/>).
- 4) Scott House urged everyone to get out there and find caves and send in reports.
- 5) No one made any motions.

*If like me, you don't know what any of this means or who these people are you can go to the MSS website (<http://www.mospeleo.org/index.php>) and figure some of this out.*

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

Dates and Location: June 24, 25 @ Meremac St Park

Lodging: Chouteau has reserved a 16 bed cabin and there are 10 beds still available.

Anyone wishing to reserve cabin space needs to do so by the next meeting. Approximate cost is \$20 per person for the weekend. You can contact Kirsten at [guard6887@aol.com](mailto:guard6887@aol.com) to make reservations for cabin space. Campsites are also available; don't wait too long to

make your reservations. Chouteau plans to provide housing expenses for several distinguished grotto members (and their spouses) and Kirsten will extend those invitations soon.

**FORSIGHT REPORT:** Kirsten predicts she will have time to work on the Forsight report in the next couple of weeks. Send your cave reports to Kirsten ([guard6887@aol.com](mailto:guard6887@aol.com)) so she can include them in her report.

**QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT:** Mike reports that all gear is available for loan on requests. Kirsten expressed an interest in borrowing cave surveying gear and will make arrangements with Mike.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

Two new cavers, J.C. Seger and Matt Sparks, attended the meeting. Matt is a Network Manager for a local bank and has been on a wild cave tour at Rockbridge State Park.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

The highly anticipated February trip to the Three Creeks Area, just south of Columbia, has been put off until March 12<sup>th</sup>. Let's have a big turnout for this local trip!

In its place, Kirsten and Kat will lead a trip on Sunday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> to FoxRun Cave. This is your big chance to get in on mapping this new cave. Should be great fun (and educational if you haven't surveyed a cave yet). We will meet somewhere at 11 am. More details will follow so check your Yahoo group email frequently.

On Sunday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Brian Dollar will lead a trip to a Pit near Rattlesnake Cave. Bring your climbing gear because you aren't going down this pit without ropes and know how. You will need to sign a waiver. The group meets at Brian's office on Rogers Street near Walt's Bike Shop.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Kirsten plans to lead a trip to check out the caves of Bump Ridge in Calloway Co.

MVOR will be held on May 5, 6, and 7 at Camp Zoe in Shannon County.  
MCKC annual picnic will be held at the Millcreek campsite on June 10<sup>th</sup>.  
The next NSS Convention is in Bellingham, Washington.

#### CAVE REPORTS

Meremac St Park Caves (Jan 10, 11 and 12)

Kirsten and Steve visited MSP caves to get GPS coordinates for upcoming MSS anniversary meeting.

#### Splinter Caves (Jan 14)

Dustin described the trip he led to a pair of caves located on the property near his parent's house in Morgan County. Juan, Julian, Rita, Grace, Mike and Vince attended. The entrance to Splinter cave#2 was completely hidden from view by a layer of leaves and an owner installed barrier. Everyone squeezed down a 2 and a half ft diameter hole into a sloping room that was about 40 ft in diameter. There was a waterfall along one wall that created a small run below which was captured by a small hole in the floor. Vince spotted a small salamander which Eugene suggests was a dark sided salamander. The cave has one small side passage about 10 ft long which the group explored. The cave had no formations and may be a recent collapse. The group did a little ridge and creek walking afterward, but didn't find anything new although the area looks promising. Dustin led the group to another cave, Splinter Cave#1, which had a large 10x15' opening at the base of a hill near a creek. The cave was about 200' long. There was a small room in the back of the cave big enough to fit the group. Off the room was a very small passage about 2 ft in diameter and 50 ft long that led to another small room. No other side passages were seen. Vince wrote up a report and will email it to Kirsten for inclusion into the Foresight report.

#### Winter Campout (Jan 20, 21)

Mike declared that the Winter Campout trip to Shannon County was a resounding success. On Friday afternoon we set up camp at the "Sawdust Pile" campsite. On Saturday morning Mike did a little excavating in an interesting hole in the hill while Bret, Dustin, Ernie and Vince went on to Little Blair Creek Cave. LBCC is a fantastic highly decorated cave. The cave features rimstone, large flowstone, draperies, soda straws, helectites, stalagmites and a small stream that dodges in and out of the main passage. The entrance is large and the main passageways are easy to negotiate. There are a few upper rooms we checked out by climbing up 10 ft tall mud slopes. There were plenty of bats and a couple of salamander larvae in the pools in the cavern zone. Although the cave is not that long (maybe 500 ft) we spent a long time in it just drooling at the cave features. Check out the pictures that Ernie posted on the Yahoo Groups website. This is a "must see" cave. The group also checked out the opening to Cookstove cave, an important Indiana bat hibernaculum, and explored little known George cave that had some very cool formations. Ernie volunteered to provide a trip and cave report and we look forward to seeing that soon.

#### FoxRun Cave.

This is a new Boone Co, Cave that Kat recently discovered. Kat recruited Kirsten to contact the landowner to get permission to explore this cave. The landowner agreed to let them check out the cave. A survey trip which Kat and Kirsten will lead is planned for Feb 19<sup>th</sup> (see above).

New Caves in Boone Co - Kat also found two other caves and she described these in recent email postings. Kirsten and Steve found a few more new caves running bluff lines. More to come on those.

Coffin Cave

Rita went with a group to survey bats in little known Coffin Cave. Coffin cave is fenced off and locked up and hasn't been visited in 20 years. They entered the cave on ropes and descended 70 to 80 ft to the bottom. They used minimal lighting so as not to disturb the bats. Some natural light from the entrance provided some light at the bottom of the pit. Infrared equipment was used to count hibernating bats.

OTHER BUSINESS

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:10 pm.