

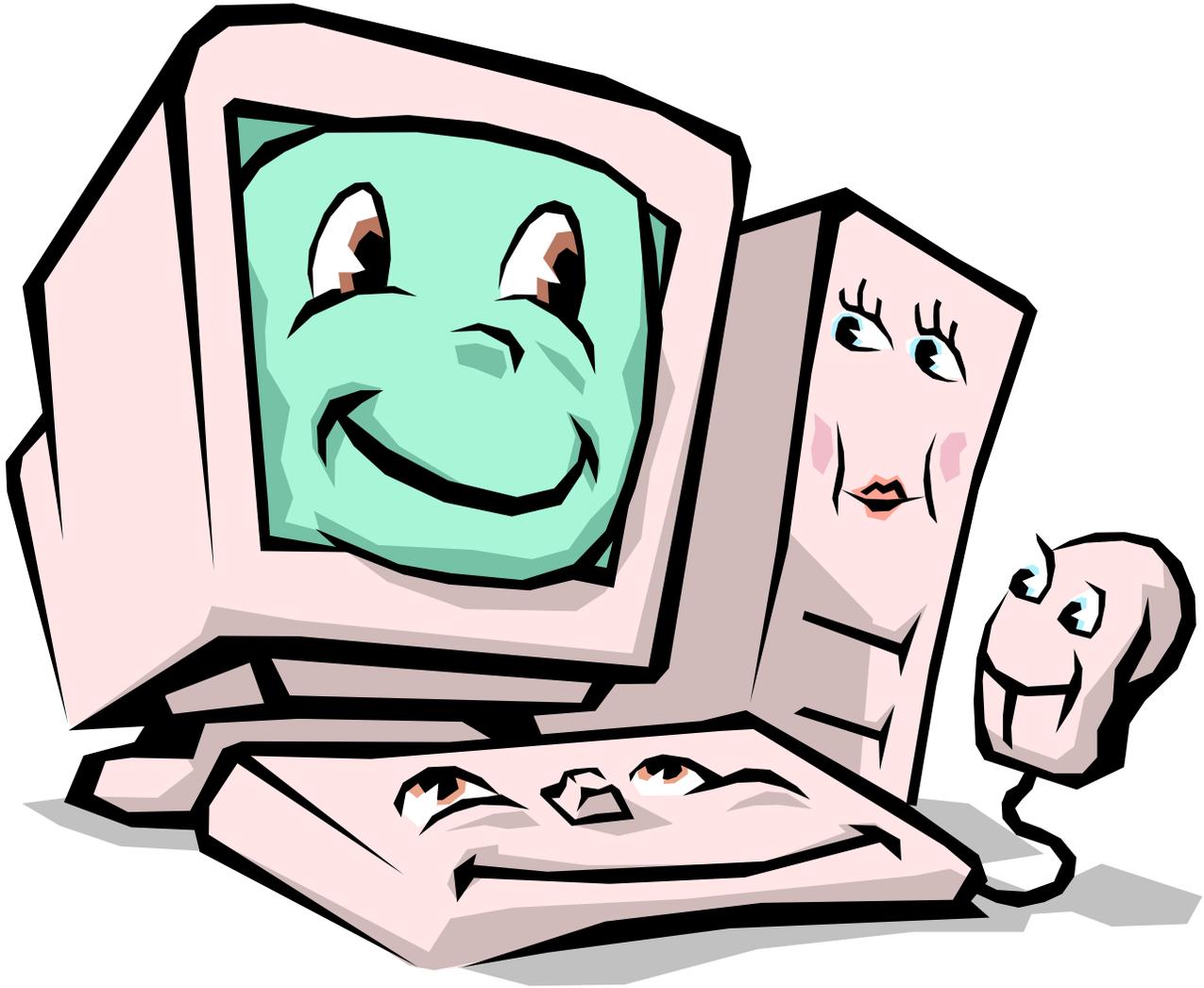


# The Month's Guano

February 2003

Kansas City Area Grotto

Volume 17, Issue 1-2



**February 2003 Vol. 17 Issue 1-2**

*The Month's Guano* is published on the last Wednesday of the month. Twelve issues annually. **Submit articles** to editor by the last Wednesday of the month. Guano subscription rate for nonmembers: \$ 6.00 annually. Electronic FREE

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Kansas City Area Grotto is affiliated with the National Speleological Society, The Missouri Speleological Survey, and a Founding Member of Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy.

Meetings held every second Wednesday at 7 p.m. (**alternate site in May**), Magg Hall, behind Spencer Laboratories, Volker Blvd. & Cherry, Kansas City, Missouri. Annual Dues: \$ 15 for Full Members (3 caving trips with KCAG, nomination and vote of membership required.)

**NCRC Callout number Emergency use only**

Central Region 502-564-7815. This number may be used for cave rescue emergencies in the states of, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, **Missouri**, Ohio and Wisconsin.

# KCAG meeting agenda February 12, 2003

7:00 P.M. Call to order

introduction of officers and members  
welcome to non-members  
pass sign-in sheet

Minutes of January meeting

Treasurer's report

Upcoming events

MSS report

CCC report

Old Business

New Business

cave maps

Trip reports

Upcoming trips

Adjourn business meeting

Program: Richard Cindric shares photos of recent trip to Frustration Cave, Arkansas

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb 12 Grotto Meeting Magg Hall 7:00 PM**

**contact Richard Cindric**

**Feb 15 CCC work weekend - contact Rick Hines**

**May 14 Grotto Meeting Magg Hall 7:00 pm**

**Mar 1 CCC work weekend - contact Rick Hines**

**May 17 MSS meeting location TBA**

**Mar 9 vertical training (prep for Guads trip)  
Feakes Peak contact Mike McKinney**

**Aug 4-8 NSS Convention Porterville, CA**

**Mar 12 Grotto Meeting Magg Hall 7:00 pm**

**Be Sure To Join the KCAG Mailing list to get the  
Guano and keep up on all the newest develop-  
ments**

**Mar 15 CCC work weekend - contact Rick Hines**

**Mar 27-30 vertical training (tentative dates) con-  
tact Mike McKinney**

**Our Grotto Website has changed to  
[www.kcgrotto.Org](http://www.kcgrotto.Org)**

**Apr 9 Grotto Meeting Magg Hall 7:00 pm**

**Apr 18-19 Speleology Session, MO Academy of  
Science, Warrensburg**

**Apr 25-17 MVOR Cat Rock Resort, Eldon, MO  
sponsored by PEG**

**May 2-10 Guads trip New Mexico, currently full -**

# MVOR prep and Bear Cave, Shannon County, AR; September 28, 2002

Trip Report by Jeff Page

Feeling an obligation to help MCKC with their preparations for the Fall 2002 MVOR after all the help they gave CCC with the spring event, Rick Hines and myself jetted off in Rick's van to Shannon County on Friday evening. It's a long drive from Kansas City and we opted to camp in a Rolla Super 8 rather than try to find the site in the dark. We arrived at The Sinks about 8:30 Saturday morning. The Sinks is a privately owned group campsite which appears to be in a state of refurbishment. Fortuitous for the upcoming event is the existence of potable water at an outside pump, also two flush toilets and one shower per gender. There is electricity which will be available to the vendors and band. One of the prime site features is a flooded tunnel cave on the creek below the campsite. This area was appointed as the tentative sauna area. The folks in the sauna will have a cold, deep creek to jump into when the heat drives them out. The landowners are adamant about people staying out of the tunnel, however, as they have had to deal with the drowning of an uninvited visitor and subsequent lawsuit many years ago.

Mark Andrich had taken on the bulk of the planning for this work session but was not able to attend due to the death of his father. Hal Baker and other MCKC officers did a fine job filling the void and managed to get some important work done. This weekend was intended to focus on getting volunteer trip leaders familiarized with some of the local caves. After a brief business meeting and attempts at sauna placement and firewood hauling, we managed to make a trip in the late afternoon to Bear Cave. Located on the property, Bear is considered one of the premier caves to be offered at MVOR. We learned at the meeting that Shannon County has a great number of caves, but they tend to be short ones. Many on the prospective list were more properly described as shelters. This led us to believe that caving at this MVOR may not be as attractive as other activities such as canoeing, for which the area is famous. There are also some serious insurance issues to work out with the landowners before we can be certain all the caves will be available for the event.

Nonetheless, Bear Cave was worth bringing the cave gear. Bear has a nice entrance at creek level and is a short walk from the spot where we parked (4wheel drive necessary). At about 2000 feet of stream passage, with very few side passages, it was not technically difficult except for having to negotiate our way through many brittle soda straws. No one on the trip brought a camera. The cave does not appear to get much traffic. The landowners do not generally allow caving on their property. Our group's mission was to check the cave for sensitive areas that could be damaged by visitors. We concluded that it could be a self guided trip, except for the need to make sure the group is small and does not move so fast as to cause damage. There are a few short crawls to get one to the next upright passage. Wildlife does not appear to be a big concern. We encountered around a dozen solitary bats and a few stream critters. Our trip ended in a large dome room with some climbing possible. The cave report written by Hal in the 70s said the cave was mostly crawling from that point on. Our total trip time was about two hours. I would recommend Bear to MVOR cavers. Other important caves on the list include Lost Silver and Round Springs Cavern.

The following day, we helped haul used mushroom logs to the bonfire site, before heading home. The owners operate a mushroom farm and grow their crops on logs about three feet long by six inches thick. When the logs are depleted of nutrients, they are used for firewood. There is a seemingly endless supply of these logs for the MVOR. We both thought it a good trip and look forward to a fine MVOR on Oct 18-20. Hope to see you there.

The Tunnel

Photos by Rick Hines



Erecting the sauna by the creek.



# KCAG Mailing Lists

KCAG hosts two mailing lists for communication amongst its members and for distribution of *The Monthly Guano*, KCAG's newsletter.

## Important Note

You should only subscribe to one of these two lists. If you are a KCAG member, please only subscribe to the **kcgrotto** list. When a message is sent to the **kcgrotto-guano** list, it is automatically sent to the **kcgrotto** list as well. If you sign up to both lists, you'll receive two copies of *The Monthly Guano*, which is probably not what you want.

## The kcgrotto-guano List

The **kcgrotto-guano** list is for the distribution of KCAG's newsletter, *The Monthly Guano*. List membership is open to the public -- anyone may join. Only *The Guano*'s editor may send messages to the list, which means this list is very low-traffic, only receiving messages at most once per month.

- If you would like to subscribe to this mailing list to receive *The Monthly Guano* or you would like to unsubscribe, [click here](#).
- If you would like to browse the list archives, [click here](#).
- If you would like to read past issues of *The Guano*, more archives are available directly from this site -- [click here](#).

## The kcgrotto List

The **kcgrotto** list is for KCAG members only. Only list subscribers may send messages to the list.

- To subscribe or unsubscribe from the **kcgrotto** mailing list, [click here](#).
- If you are already subscribed to the list, you can reach the other members of KCAG by sending email to [kcgrotto@kcgrotto.org](mailto:kcgrotto@kcgrotto.org).
- If you are subscribed to the list and would like to browse the list archives, [click here](#).

**Note: the above links do not work you must visit the [Kcgrotto.org](http://Kcgrotto.org) site to activate your subscription**

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Kansas City, Kansas 66104-1009



Your  
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## Editor's Corner

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Be sure To visit KCAG's Website.

[http://www. KCGROTTO.ORG](http://www.KCGROTTO.ORG)

To download the Acrobat viewer to read the online version of the *Guano* go to:

[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)