

# THE MSS LIAISON

## VOLUME 59 NUMBER 1-2

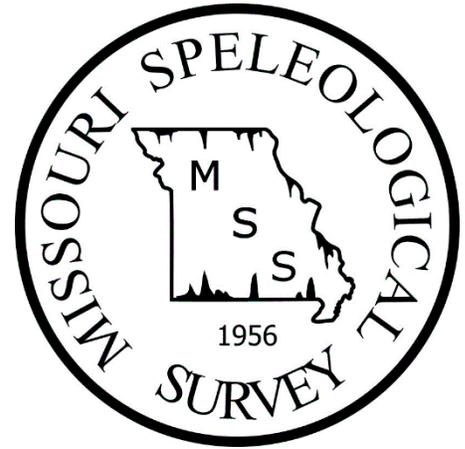
January – February 2019

### AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS:

CAIRN – CCC – CHOUTEAU – DAEDALUS – KCAG – LEG – LOG –  
MCKC – MMV – MSM – MVG – OHG – PEG – RBX – SEMO – SPG.

Distributed free on the MSS website: <http://www.mospeleo.org/>

Subscription rate for paper copies is \$10.00 per year. Send check or money order made out to the Missouri Speleological Survey to the Editor, Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. Telephone: 573-782-3560.



**Missouri Speleological Survey Files Report for March, 2019:** Remember if you have new information on any Missouri caves, my email address is [slagrush@gmail.com](mailto:slagrush@gmail.com). We need your help to improve the database and make it more complete. **Kirstin Alvey sent:** -Ten faunal records for recent activity at Allie Spring Cave in Pulaski County; see also Shawn Williams and Bill Gee's contributions for same trip. -After leaving Pulaski County, she traveled to McDonald County and collected 25 faunal records on several caves there: Kettle, Henson, Harmon and Wind Caves. -Continuing work brought in 22 more faunal records on six caves and entrance photos for Daylight, Twin Pit, and 2 new caves, Barrel and Shadow Canyon Caves. The other 2 caves were Polar Bear and Hobo Caves. -One more report on McDonald County netting 2 known caves, Flutestone and Rootstone, and one new cave, Quinn's Way Tunnel, found by a 6-year-old new caver! Eleven fauna records were added for these caves. -The new 45 faunal records from the annual count on Cloud 9 Ranch in Ozark County. The caves included: Bear, Bear #1, Cave Hole, Cold, Dani, Frank and Ship Rock Caves. **Matt Beeson sent:** -A trip report on activity in Barry County. They surveyed one shelter, located an essentially lost or under-reported Playboy Cave and met with local landowners for access to another shelter. -A resurvey of Spears Cave (279=SCL) in Morgan County, a long tunnel (with entrance on both ends). **Mark Brooks sent:** -Report on the survey of Onyx Cave in Howell County. Brooks, et al, surveyed the cave back in the 1980s or so, but wanted to resurvey to improve accuracy and quality (looked great then). The survey stands at 1750+ in a cave estimated to hit a mile in length. **Jim Cooley sent:** -A "cover" photo and a few interior shots for Waterfall Spring Cave in Stone County. Cooley is working with the landowner to protect and conserve the owner's caves. -Final map of Morgan Cave No. 1 (SCL=183, VR=16) aka Onaloga Cave in Texas County. There's a cluster of 3 Morgan Caves along this section of bluff. This area has several caves last reported on back in the 1960s, they are finally getting maps. As always Cooley also sent his Xara and Walls files for the archives. -A "final" map of Lagoon Cave in Oregon County, along with field survey book and Walls data. Cooley also makes B&W and color versions of the maps that he submits. He caught that the entrance photo in the database wasn't correct and sent the correct entrance photo for the "cover" page of the database. **Travis Driskill sent:** -Four photos of Richter Cave (aka Frohna Cave or Ball Park Cave) in Perry County, one will be used for the "cover" photo in the database. He also sent a GPS location. **Bill Gee sent:** -A trip report on recent activity at Allie Spring Cave in Pulaski County; see also Shawn Williams and Kirstin Alvey's contributions for same trip. -Supplied a montage of the 3 caves surrounding Allie Spring in Pulaski County; the other caves include Cascade Caverns, Shifty Rock Pit and Mill Creek Cave. Individual maps of these 3 other caves were also submitted as stand-alone maps. **Scott House sent:** -A map of Whiskey Cave (SCL=712) in Shannon County. -Four final maps on Twin Joint, Rimfire, Delta and Log Cabin Caves in Barry County. Some 50 cave maps have been submitted over the past year in Barry County. This is all part of a push to collect data in Barry for future issues of MoSpeleo, hopefully coming to you soon! **Mark Jones sent:** -While working together in Shannon County with other CRF cavers did the monitoring forms for seven caves, wrote reports on 4 of the caves, provided faunal records for the caves and then contributed his collection of over 300 photos of these caves. **Dan Lamping sent:** -A final map of Jacobs Cave (SCL=207, VR=16) in Jefferson County (see Schmitt submittal). This does provide a good example: for all the cavers in the St. Louis area, here's a cave almost at the owner's back door and it wasn't in our database. For all the great work that has been done, there are still lots of caves to be found across the state and many are in essence in our back yard too! Lamping later provided 3

faunal records for this new cave. -A study on the snail population at Cliff Cave in St. Louis County. The report is a collaborative effort between the authors: Bob Weck, Mick Sutton and Dan Lamping. -A preliminary map of Carroll Cave, the D2 plate. -A final map of Devils Run Pit (SCL=251, VR=34) in Carter County. -A dozen faunal records from a recent trip to Cliff Cave in St. Louis County. The group included representatives from the St. Louis County Parks Department, MDC and Bob Weck, biologist that we have worked with in Illinois. **Joe Light sent:** -4 historical documents on the City of St. Louis Caves, mostly on English Cave. English Cave is perhaps one of the more historical caves in that it was used early on in the history of the city, but its current location is still just speculation. -A detailed study of 37 historical (from topographic maps) sinkholes in Carondelet Park in the City of St. Louis. Many of these have been filled or flooded. We maintain a file of karst features in the archives. -An email that Cherokee Cave (our recent MoSpeleo subject) was broken into. -A report on the “discovery” that commemorative stones (hand size) were first noted in St. Louis County’s Cliff Cave. They are in memory of 4 boys and 2 counselors who drowned in July, 1993. Although appearing new, it is not known how long the stones have been in the cave, only recently being found (and photographed). They were left in place. **Alex Litsch sent:** - Updated map of Black Rock Cave (SCL=644) in Ste. Genevieve County. **Chad McCain sent:** -9 survey books (notes and sketches) for caves in SGE and PRY. Not getting enough time underground? Looking for a cave longer than the usual MO cave? Contact McCain. Regular trips are still going to Berome Moore, Perry County, the second longest cave in MO; and to Gegg Cave, Ste. Genevieve County, pushing close to 5 miles of survey. **Ben Miller sent:** -Maps of Fallen Giant Cave (SCL=47) and Mosquito Squadron Pit (SCD=44) in Barry County. Fallen Giant is another of Barry County shelters with little depth behind the dripline; nice shelter. However, the pit is an interesting story. It is a tricky descent to a 150 ft. depth or so, unless there’s been recent rains and the bottom 100 ft. is flooded on the day of your survey. Returned trips are planned for a dry spell! **Nicole Ridlen sent:** -A very detailed report on Flutestone Cave in McDonald County. She discusses lots of important cave topics like landowners, history, geology and problems with trespass. She is the cave manager and resident geologist for Bluffdwellers Cave, also in McDonald Co. She also gets to manage other caves on the property of Bluffdwellers. -Entrance photos for Flutestone Cave to provide a “cover” photo of the entrance for the database. -Reports on caves in McDonald County: Daylight, Harmon, Henson, Hobo, Kettle and Wind Caves. -Reports, faunal records and photos on 4 new caves in McDonald County: 59 Crawl Cave, Salamander Slide Cave, Cave of the Troll and Carnivore Cave. All new, all are on private property. **Stan Sides sent:** -145 original black and white photos which Patti House scanned. These are from circa 1961 and include Tom Moore, Crevice, MVOR, and other caves. Scott House did the labeling and adjusting some exposures. **Tony Schmitt sent:** -A report on either the last new cave of last year or the first new cave of the New Year. This is Jacobs Cave in Jefferson County. -A report on Perkins Cave in Camden County. -Trip report, descriptions and photos for a Dual Falls and Wet Shelter Caves in Shannon County. Both were surveyed on this trip, maps will be forthcoming. **Mick Sutton sent:** -A redraft of the Butler Hollow Mine map. Hopefully something we’ll all see soon in a MoSpeleo focused on this area in Barry County. A lot of CRF effort has been put into this area, with lots of new caves and new maps. -Final map of Bill Dyer Lead Mine Cave with Adobe Illustrator file. -Lots of faunal record modifications. **Aaron Thompson sent:** -A new cave entry for Beady Cave in Barry County, the cave is named for the beady eyes that stared him down during his visit! **Brandon Van Dalsem sent:** -Brief descriptions on 4 new caves that he found back in 2016; the caves are: Delta, Stepped Ceiling, Log Cabin and Uno Caves in Barry County. **Craig Williams sent:** -Monitoring form and 10 fauna records for Estes Cave in Washington County. **Shawn Williams sent:** -A trip report and 5 fauna records for recent activity at Allie Spring Cave in Pulaski County; see also Bill Gee and Kirstin Alvey’s contributions for same trip.—Ken Grush

**Springfield Plateau Grotto (SPG). Jan. 1st**--Cavers from SPG joined Cavers from around the Ozarks in Arkansas to participate in a Successful Cave Rescue. **Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>**—Sammy Wentz, Brandon Van Dalsem, Treavor Bussard, Matt Beeson and Jon Beard attempted to finish the survey of Shoal Creek Cave (Newton Co). Water levels were up in the side passage Brandon, Treavor and Sammy attempted to map, only getting half of the passage mapped before it was too wet. Jon and Matt mapped several short loops and side passages, however, there were two short side passages and the main stream passage remaining at the end of the day. More than 800 feet were mapped, bringing the total survey thus far to over 3,700 feet. Also--Dillon Freiburger, Bob Lerch, Ben Miller and Aaron Thompson continued the survey of Mosquito Squadron Pit Cave. The Survey was halted by

water 40' into the pit. **Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>**—Dillon Freiburger, Matt Bumgardner, Matt Beeson, Braden Farris and Jon Beard surveyed in Butler Hollow Cave (Barry Co) as part of CRF work in Mark Twain National Forest. While Beeson and Freiburger mapped, Bumgardner and Farris photographed and Jon removed some remaining spray paint graffiti in the entrance area and remove trash near the horizontal entrance. **Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>**-- Matt Beeson and Brandon Van Dalsem went to Butler Hollow Mine Cave (Barry Co) and finished the survey of the cave, bringing the survey footage close to half a mile. **Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>** --Matt Beeson and Brandon Van Dalsem went to Shoal Creek Cave (Newton Co) to continue the survey but were stopped by high water. **Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>**—Brandon Van Dalsem and Jon Beard attempted to open the lock on the Sarcoxie Cave gate (Jasper Co), but the lock was frozen, so Brandon will try later in warmer weather. The 900-foot cave consists of tight, awkward passages and isn't much to look at. However, it is home to the Ozark cavefish, Arkansas darter, bristly cave crayfish and grotto salamander. **Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard accompanied two MDC biologists to two Laclede County caves to bio monitor them. **Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>** -- Matt Bumgardner, Dillon Frieburger and Aaron Thompson started the survey of a new cave on private land in Arkansas. The Cave has yet to be named. **Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** --Dillon Freiburger and Aaron Thompson surveyed MacMerry Spring Cave to a length of 100'. Also—Jon Beard, Cheryl Paulson and Max White of SPG, Pic Walenta of KCAG and the owner and his sons visited Old Spanish Cave (Stone Co) to discuss restoration plans and pick up some trash. **Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** —Jon Beard resumed the detailed resurvey of the show cave section of Fantastic Caverns (Greene Co), a follow-up to his detailed cross section work of 2017. **Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** -- Ben Damgaard, Dillon Frieburger, Corey Maize and Aaron Thompson found and surveyed Portal Cave and Portal Pit (Buffalo National River Arkansas) **Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>** --Matt Beeson and Roman Thomas surveyed Bald Knobbers Cave (Christian Co.) Adding 155' to finish the survey. **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>** -- Dillon Frieburger and Aaron Thompson documented and started surveying a new pit on private land (Arkansas) yet to be named. **Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>** \_—Jon Beard and Treavor Bussard of SPG plus Hannah Sanders, Stephanie McCarty and Mark Collier conducted the annual bat count of the northern half of the Breakdown/Fitzpatrick Cave system. Just two years ago, 350 pips were counted. Last winter, 96. This year, 23—an example of how devastating WNS is to the pip population. This is a gated cave system that is closed from Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> of every year (since 2008).--Report by Max White. Material provided by Matt Beeson, Jonathan Beard, Dillon Frieburger

**Kansas City Area Grotto (KCAG).** **Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>** - Pic Walenta and Shawn Williams had planned an Ozark Trail backpacking trip to Washington County near Potosi, Missouri. Weather aborted the backpack, so the dynamic duo did some ridge walking on private property, resulting in the location of eight cave entrances. A return trip will be required to get GPS locations, which will allow them to determine if these caves are new to the cave files database. **Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** - KCAG's John McGuire led a populous trip that included Pic Walenta, DJ Hall, Jeff Bowman, Becca Marlin and sister June, to the Three Creek Conservations Area, in Boone County. Chouteau members Rita Worden, Cris Corbett, Martin Carmichel, Kevin Feltz, Jeremy Morton and his son Timothy also joined the trip, as did John McGuire's two friends, Dennis Murphy and Todd Wiechens. The objective was to locate two caves McGuire discovered 25 years ago, to see if they needed to be added to the cave files database. A secondary objective was to verify and update GPS locations, entrance descriptions and entrance photographs of 15 other cave locations for cave data base. The team found McGuire's two caves, which were indeed already in database. They documented eight of the fifteen other locations, while enjoying great weather, a great hike, and great food afterwards. **Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>** - After twice rescheduling due to bad weather, Bill Gee led the annual Carroll Cave data logger service trip. Participants included Gee, Seth Colston, Kirsten Colston and Tyler Skaggs. The team entered the cave at 10 a.m., visited Carroll Passage and Convention Hall, and were all out of the cave by 3 p.m. They first went down the Carroll River passage toward the Rimstone Room, where Gee downloaded the logger, then went on to look at the rimstone formations. Back at the ladder around 11:30, they had lunch, then left for the second leg up to UL2. Thunder River was running about three inches higher than normal, not enough to cause any problems for travel in the cave. They observed about a dozen cave fish (*Typhlichthys eigenmanni*) in Upper Thunder River and UL2, including one that was among the biggest Gee have ever seen. It was a good 70mm long and really fat. After downloading the data logger, they went on to Convention Hall. After exiting UL2, they walked back downstream all the way to Thunder Falls, where Gee downloaded the data logger, while the others walked up to the base of the falls. Everyone climbed out without difficulty. The data collected over the full year shows only one major flood event at the end of February. There were other minor events, but none of

them caused a rise of more than a couple of feet at the ladder. A complete trip report and quantitative data logger data are available on the Carroll Cave Conservancy website. **Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>** - Several teams converged on Big Caverns Ranch (BCR) in Dixon to continue the survey of Allie Spring Cave, entering the cave from a newly discovered pit entrance. This trip was part of a weekend caving extravaganza organized by Shawn Williams, where sixteen cavers gathered for two and a half days of caving. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, Dennis Novicky, Shawn Williams, Dan Lamping, Nicole Ridlen, Joe Sikorski, and Jeff Bowman entered Allie Spring Cave through the new pit entrance at approximately 5 p.m. with the objective of transporting and rigging the new rope for the Texas Dome ascent and survey, possibly the touring base camp, and getting four new participants familiar with the basic layout of the cave for future trips. Going leads and the passage leading to the base camp were shown to people who had not been in the cave before. Travel time was longer than anticipated; the team reached the Texas Dome at approximately 8:30 pm. Due to the later-than-expected arrival at Texas Dome, it was decided not to rig the rope. After an arduous exit trip, the team exited the cave, thoroughly spent, at approx. 11:15 p.m. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, Bill Gee (trip leader), Rita Worden, and Shawn Williams surveyed the section of cave that forms a connection from the new pit entrance to the C-Survey in Allie Spring Cave. This entrance allows one to bypass the Bailout Passage, the 847-foot-long traditional wet and very low watercrawl entrance to Allie Spring Cave, which is wetsuit-mandatory. After a false start caused by some forgotten caving boots, it was well past 11 a.m. by the time the team entered the cave. The entrance pit was well-decorated with icicles! It was rather pretty. It took about 25 minutes of moderately hard caving to get to the start of the survey. After eating lunch and snacks, they started the survey a few minutes after 12 noon. It was tempting to call this the "Seventeen" passage, because over half of the shots were about 17 feet long. Eventually, they got to the Birth Canal, a very tight tube that goes downhill for about 10 feet and is the final bit of the connection to the C-Survey. Worden was running lead tape at that point. She grabbed a trowel and dug up several medium-size rocks from the Birth Canal. Her effort made it much easier to get through. (One of the people on the Saturday evening team had struggled for fifteen minutes to get back up through that hole.) After finishing the link-up to the C-survey, they returned to the starting point and surveyed three shots down a parallel passage, for a total day's survey of 207.2 feet. They finished about 5:30 p.m., right on plan. They got back to the parking area just as the last bits of the sunset were waning in the west. Changing out of caving gear went quickly, putting them back at the cabin by 6:30 p.m. The trail from the parking area back out to the road was very sloppy and muddy. Also, the BCR landowner, his niece Katie Culstring, Pic Walenta, Kirsten Alvey-Mudd and Kayla Heady did biological monitoring in other BCR caves, after the girls conducted some landowner relations by deploying a little "Girl Power" to move a recently purchased table saw to its new home. Entering Mill Creek Cave about 11 a.m., the group spread out across the borehole passage and walked side by side, looking for wildlife. They located seven tricolored bats, one sporting visible white nose fungus, a family of newly hatched salamanders, a variety of insects and worms, and a whole lot of fragrant raccoon scat. Walenta and Alvey-Mudd then made the way to the back of the cave, while the other three inventoried side passages. Everyone left the cave around 3:30 p.m. and enjoyed a tailgating snack of wonderful homemade cheeses and salamis. By 4 p.m. they were at a second, newly discovered and dug out cave, where the landowner dug the entrance out even more, making it large enough to accommodate all interested parties. This is the cave where the landowner's brother Don had been entrapped for four hours a year ago. The inventory here revealed four tricolored bats, four cave salamanders, one live opossum with a nest, and a dead opossum jaw bone without a nest. Everyone exited the cave and was headed back to cabin by 5 p.m. Also, Dennis Novicky led a survey team consisting of Brandon Van Dalsem (SPG) and Cliff Gill. The mission for the day was to survey the Texas Dome and determine if the upper passage continued past Novicky's original exploration of 60 feet, while replacing the hand line with a 100-foot-long climbing rope in the upper level of the dome room. When they arrived at their destination, Gill began to take photos for a 3D image of the Texas dome for the land owner. Brandon and Novicky climbed to the top of the dome using the hand line to begin securing the climbing rope. They cut a section of fire hose into three pieces in order to thread the climbing rope through it, to protect it from getting frayed on sharp contact points. Once the climbing rope was secure, Gill took the first survey shot to the upper level, while Van Dalsem began to set up forward stations. Then Gill put on a climbing harness and ascender to begin his ascent. The upper level had a 25-ft-wide by 18-ft-wide room with a 12-ft-tall ceiling. Heading into the passage was an eight ft. climb up into a 10-ft-wide hands-and-knees crawl for seven feet, then a belly crawl on hardened dirt that continued for an

undetermined distance. Passage was only possible thanks to the water-carved channel in the ceiling that snaked throughout the passage, as the bulk of the passage was only ten inches high. Because of a late arrival into the cave, slow trek to the Texas Dome and concerns of exiting the cave before their out time, accomplishing all survey goals would prove impossible. So, Novicky decided to shorten the survey time, and cut the exploration time even more. Total survey length was 171 ft., although the actual new cave footage in the upper level would end up only being 115 ft. Novicky and Van Dalsem only had fifteen minutes to explore virgin passage, during which they traversed about 200 more feet past the last survey station in a southeasterly direction. The passage was extremely dry, sucking a lot of air, and showed no signs of ending, which compelled Novicky to continue 50 feet further than Van Dalsem before heading back to the dome room and beginning the lengthy exodus from the cave. The climbing rope was left secured for the next survey trip, along with the hand line at the base of the dome room. The original expedition plan had been to do some more caving on Monday, then return home on Tuesday. But the weather forecast for Monday was not good, with a strong cold front and associated freezing rain predicted to arrive late morning Monday. Everyone agreed that dealing with icy roads and severe cold was a bad idea, so Monday was the day that everyone drove home. Bill Gee has drafted a fine map of all these caves that includes all the current survey, well over two miles of passage. Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> - Pic Walenta (KCAG), Nicole Ridlen (KCAG, SPG), Brandon Van Dalsem (SPG) and Kirsten Alvey-Mudd (MO. Bat Census) did a MOBat winter bio-inventory of Kettle Cave in McDonald County, which they also scouted as potential MVOR cave for the KCAG/MOBat sponsored Fall, 2020 MVOR. They found an astonishing 175 tricolored bats, although seven were visibly WNS positive; one big brown; six salamanders and some insects and coon scat. This is a definite candidate cave for the Fall, 2020 MVOR. **Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>** - Pic Walenta (KCAG), Brandon Van Dalsem (SPG) and Kirsten Alvey-Mudd (MO. Bat Census) continued in McDonald County, with a bio-inventory of Hobo and Daylight Caves, and assessed graffiti damage of Hobo Cave, and scouted for potential MVOR caves. Here they found only seven tricolored bats, and cave crickets. After gating, they plan a restoration of Hobo Cave. Both caves are possibilities for the Fall, 2020 MVOR. **Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Pic Walenta (KCAG), Jon Beard (SPG), Max White (SPG), Cheryl Paulson (SPG), and the landowner visited a cave in Stone County, to put together a plan for KCAG to be involved in the restoration this heavily vandalized cave. A restoration project has been scheduled for Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>. **Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** - We started the KCAG annual bat census at Cloud 9 Ranch, under the direction of Kirsten Alvey-Mudd of the Missouri Bat Census. Alvey-Mudd, her husband Jim Mudd, Lee Krout (the KCAG member who is our Cloud 9 connection), Kyle Lewis, Jill Wilkinson, Jim Cooley, and Julie Cottrell conducted biological inventories in Frank and Dani Caves, AT'ing around the Ranch in a cold rain. **Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>** - Starting at 9 a.m., Krout and Cooley did a cave map quality control (QC) check in 615-ft-long Bear Cave (Cooley is the cartographer on all Cloud 9 maps), while Alvey-Mudd, Mudd, Lewis and Wilkinson conducted biological inventories in Cave Hole Cave and then Bear Cave. After returning to camp for lunch. Krout, Alvey-Mudd, Lewis and Wilkinson did biological inventories in Cloud 9 Bat Cave and Cold Cave, and Alvey-Mudd and Lewis did map QC for Cooley in the 1,572-ft-long Cold Cave. The team returned to camp around 9:30 p.m., pretty worn out. **Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>** - Alvey-Mudd, Mudd and Krout were joined by Tyler Skaggs and four MSM cavers, Ben Esker, Elizabeth Sutherland, Andrew Miller and Brandon

Schroeder for five hours of biological inventory and map QC check in 2,248-foot-long Fogey Cave. Most of this cave is low stream passage, where recent heavy rains had elevated the stream and created an ear dunk that had to be negotiated. Over 100 feet of unsurveyed passage was discovered in the back of this cave, sending the mapping effort back to the drawing board – or to the sketch pad, as the case may be. Again this year, only a very few tricolored bats were counted in any of the Cloud 9 caves, as opposed to hundreds seen a couple of years ago. Every cave visited had at least a few bats with obvious WNS infection. No other bat species besides tricolored were seen. **Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>** - Mark Jones led a President's Day CRF Mammoth Cave Expedition, with Pic Walenta (KCAG) and Krista Bartel (MSM) serving as camp managers. The expedition hosted 54 project cavers, 17 of whom were from Missouri. Walenta and Bartel fed



***"We can DO it!" – Girl Power in action at Big Caverns Ranch***

two meals a day for 54 cavers. Breakfast was ready for consumption at 7:30 a.m., while the evening hot meal started serving at 6:30 p.m. and continued to feed other teams coming in at all hours, the last of which arrived at 2:30 a.m. Their excellent adventure consumed 15 dozen eggs, 36 assorted peppers, 120 tortillas, 25 onions, ten pounds of potatoes, five various cakes and brownies, three tubs of Mark Jones's mom's cookies, six loaves of homemade bread, 16 quarts of tortilla soup, three quarts of Pic's homemade salsa, three pints of homemade kraut, three tubs of sour cream, 22 quarts of deer chili, two quarts of Butternut Squash Soup, 90 taco shells, 15 pounds of hamburger, 15 pounds of chicken breast, and 20 pounds of ham. The conclusion of the camp chefs was that after working long hours in the cave, cavers are *themselves* bottomless pits! **Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>** - Dennis and Austin Novicky entered Allie Spring Cave at 1 p.m. and arrived at the Texas Dome at 3 p.m. After a lunch break, Dennis grabbed the spare rope left behind from the last survey trip and proceeded to free climb, using the climbing rope as a hand line we secured last month. Once atop the dome he climbed up eight more feet to the second level and looped the spare rope through a hole in the ceiling, in order to create a safer climb for future trips. The team arrived at survey station ED7 at 4 p.m. and began the survey. Most of the ceiling height in the passage after ED7 was between six and eight inches, which forced the team to traverse the passage through a two-foot-high ceiling channel that snaked throughout the passage. They placed the survey stations in line of sight of each other under the eight-inch ceiling ledges, in order to avoid the many "S" turns that characterized the passage. By doing this, survey shots were in the 30-ft range, which simplified the daunting task of surveying 286.4 feet in a restricted space. At the first station the passage was 13 ft. wide; by the last station (TD10) it had grown to 30 ft. wide with a small area of 2.5-ft-tall ceiling. However, the continuing passage would require belly crawling. The passage was so low and wide it made it hard to determine which direction to traverse! So Dennis used a cigarette lighter in order to follow air flow, which led him another 40 feet before coming to a mud mound that would need to be altered in order to push forward. Even though the passage showed promising signs of continuing, lack of energy said it was time to head out of the cave. The team exited the cave at 1 a.m. The surveyors note that the trip to TD10 will require stamina, ability, and the flexibility of an experienced, qualified caver, plus good climbing skills if one chooses not to haul along mechanical climbing gear. **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Bill Gee led a survey trip to Stark Caverns, a recently reopened show cave seven miles north of Bagnell Dam in Miller County, to continue the re-survey effort there. KCAG participants included Kristen Godfrey, Hou Zhong, and Cliff Gill; Sasha Rhea (SPG) and Christen Easter (LOG) were also on the trip. They entered the cave at 9:15 a.m., and started the survey at a tourist trail intersection, with the goal of joining up to the survey started in late December. After an hour or so of training, they started pulling tape. They had one shot where the forward and backward compass readings are off by 20 degrees, undoubtedly due to one station being just one foot from a section of steel pipe rail. They also attempted at one point to use Zhong's telescoping tripod as a survey station, but it also did not work because the tripod has steel in it. The cave was raining pretty hard in several places. The Onyx Circle could not be circumnavigated because of a waterfall in the middle of the trail. The waterfalls in the main stream by the boardwalk were also making a lot of noise. At the end of the day's effort, they had about 230 ft. of new survey, which connected to the previous survey and also started a new leg toward the Onyx Circle. Gill mostly did photography for a 3D photogrammetry layout, while the others rotated between helping Gee and helping Gill. The team exited the cave at 3:15 p.m. There will be many more sessions in this cave; experienced surveyors should contact Bill Gee at [bgee@campercaver.net](mailto:bgee@campercaver.net) if you would be interested in participating in this survey.—Jim Cooley

**Roubidoux Grotto (RBX) – Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** - Karen Hood, Chairman attended the Newburg Children's Museum Spring Open House to man the Osage Cave - a scaled down full size, crawl-through cave built inside the Museum. The Osage Cave was a joint project and fabricated in 2017 by MSM Spelunkers and Roubidoux Grotto. In answer to Geary Schindel, president of NSS, request for local contact with Becky Carter of Cedar Camps in Lebanon, MO, the Roubidoux Grotto has done so. The Camp is considering taking trips to a cave on their property. Roubidoux has offered to help inventory the cave and assist with their caving possibilities. --Dan Slais

**Mississippi Valley Grotto (MVG). Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Don Dunham, Scott House & others Surveyed and monitored several caves on Forest Service Property and the National Scenic Riverways. **Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>** - Brian Biggs, Mark and Austin Brooks, and Jeremy Wehi visited Dorothy Taylor Cave. Brian Biggs and Mark Brooks ran the

sump survey about 200' further. Austin and Jeremy surveyed a 2 ft. by 2ft. tube. It should be noted that Dorthy Taylor Cave is under new ownership and it is no longer with the original family. **Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>** - Larry Abeln, Michelle Leicht, Jason and Ioana Hanewinkel visited Stephens Gap (pit). It is a drop down to a flat pedestal and then another drop down when you walk out of the cave. Stephens Gap is one of the "must do" caves of TAG. Then on New Year's Day, the same group visited Root Cave. It is a small opening in a sinkhole with lots of roots. It is located on the NSS property and was judged to be "not worth it." **Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>** - Dane Driskill checked out a couple of caves in Perry County. The first was an unknown cave near Frohna, MO. It is a small crawling cave and doesn't go very far. He found a softball inside the cave. He also checked out a Grotto/Shrine near the Old Appleton Church. There is flowing spring water and a possible cave here. **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Jeff Coleman and two others visited Spengler's Cave for the purpose of digging out a side passage. The cave is potentially threatened by MSD's Project Clear. **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Larry Abeln, Michelle Leicht and Jim Sherrell did five miles of ridge walking in the Valle Mines area. There was no reporting as to whether any discoveries were made. **Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>** - Jim Sherrell, Larry Abeln, Michelle Leicht, Eric Sutterlin and Jeff Coleman visited Valle Mines, specifically Rocky Diggs and Civil War Shaft. These are two new entrances that are a 1000 ft. door to door. Civil War Shaft is 140 ft. deep. The group was reported to be lost in the woods for hours. During the trip, the group found Bisch's Spring & Cave. **Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>** - Doug Leer, Darrol Gasawski, Don Dunham and Mike Joiner visited Davisville Natural Arch & Cave. It is a small arch on a very steep bank along Huzzah Creek near the National Forest campground. The cave is just a few yards downstream from the arch. The cave was not entered due to wet icy conditions. On the same day, the group visited Slaughter Sink which is the largest sinkhole in Missouri. The sink is massive with very tall bluff edges almost entirely encircling the sinkhole. At the time, due to wet conditions, there was a significant lake in about half of the bottom of the sink. Also visited in one part of the sink was a "cave like" structure with multiple openings but no penetrating passages. This sinkhole is worth visiting. Across the road is Conical Sink. This sink was not visited because it was questionable as to whether it was on public property or not.--Doug Leer



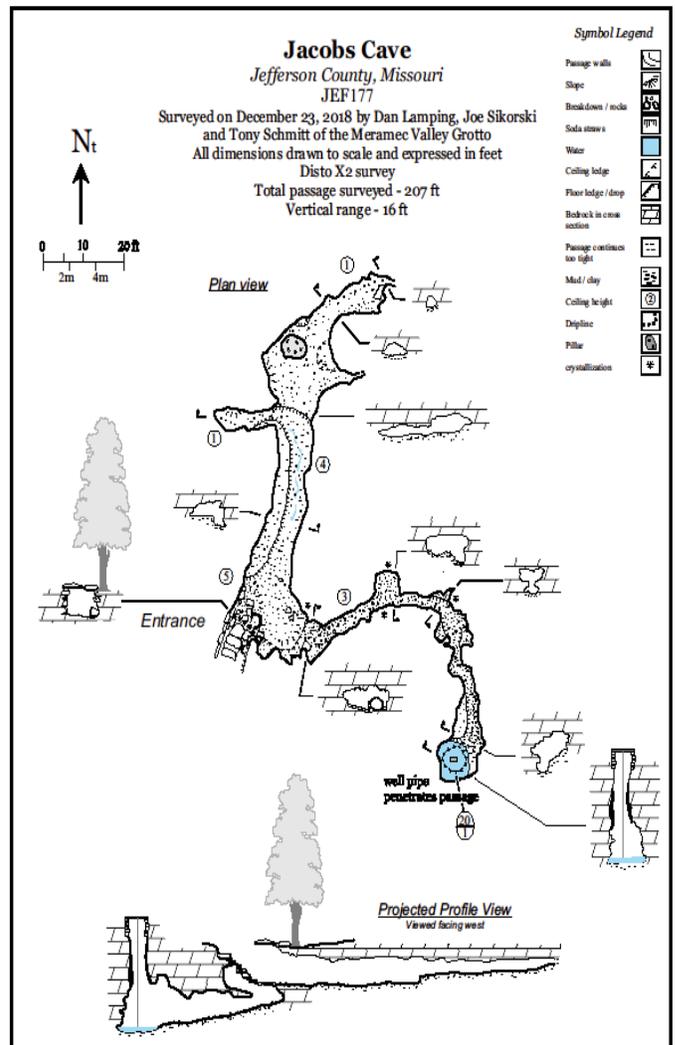
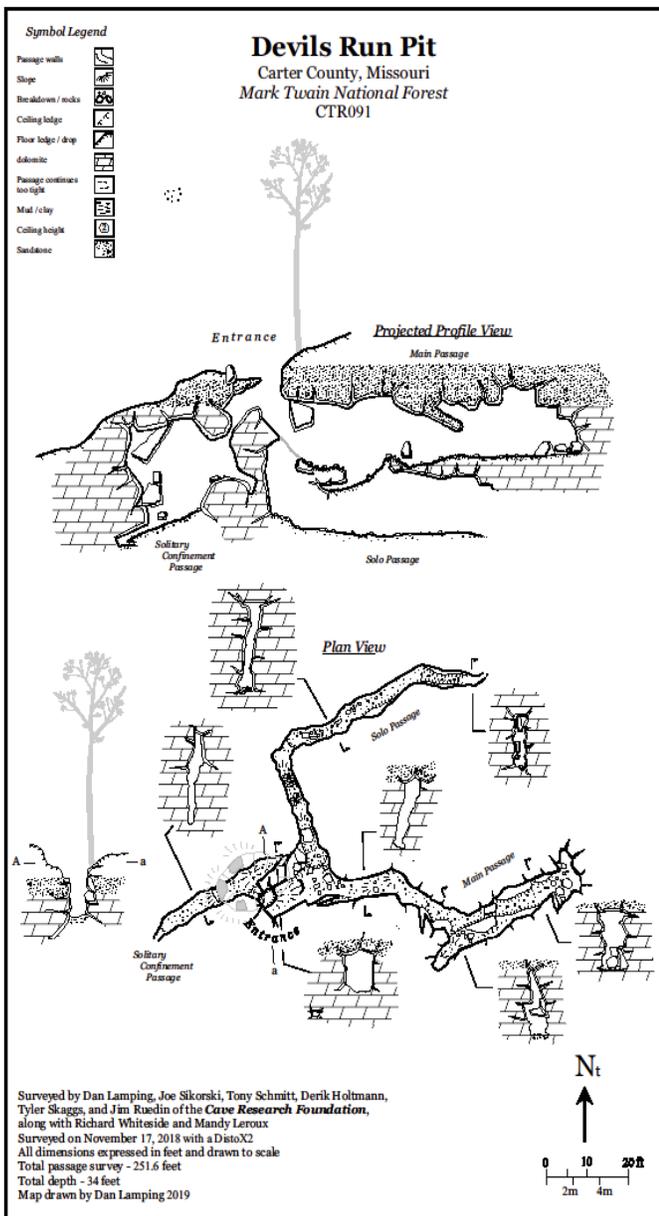
**Lake Ozarks Grotto (LOG). Feb.22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 – Ken Long, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt met at Kiesewetter Cave and looked at the layout of the land to determine the best place for access from the road and for a small campground. Christen Easter arrived and the project of the day was to work on putting in a new lock system at the gated cave which is now owned by the MCKC. Ken is the manager. He managed the cave for the landowner, long before the MCKC acquired the cave. The project took two hours but could not be completely finished because of a technicality. A small generator and lots of tools were carried to and from the cave, on a

snow-covered and slippery trail. The old lock could be difficult and this day was no different. **Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Christen Easter participated in a survey trip at Stark Caverns, a commercial cave at Eldon, MO. An interesting tidbit – Gary Zumwalt's Dad used to tell stories about when he was young and ran around in Stark Caverns..... **Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Ken Long and Klaus Leidenfrost met at Kiesewetter Cave to try to complete the work on the new lock system but ran into another snag. They also located the property markers and drove red steel posts in the ground to mark the boundary.—Alberta Zumwalt

**Meramec Valley Grotto (MVG). Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>** - Alex Litsch, Chad McCain, Mark Brooks, Gary Resch, Brian Biggs, and company surveyed another connection from Tom Moore Cave to Berome Moore Cave totaling 944.8' of survey. 518'

of which was new. **Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>** - Jim Sherrell, Brett M., explored a cave in Monroe County, Illinois. 1000 ft. of 3 ft. tall, 15 ft. wide passage. Continues. **Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>** - Brian Biggs led "Kid's Caving" trip in Berome Cave. There was a good turnout. **Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>** - Dan Lamping, Joe Sikorski, Tyler Skaggs, Derik Holtmann, Tony Schmitt, and Jim Ruedin mapped a new pit on MTNF in Carter County. Small but new to the database. **Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** - Dan Lamping, Derik Holtmann, Joe Sikorski, Mark Alldrich, Corey Hart, Tom H., and Jeremy Weih surveyed in Love Cave. **Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>** - Alex Litsch, Jeremy Weih, and Nathan Durfee started virgin survey of a newly discovered Ste. Genevieve County Cave. 259 ft. surveyed, 7 hour trip. **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** - Joe Sikorski, Dan Lamping, and Tony Schmitt mapped Jacob's Cave in Jefferson County. A new cave near House Spring, MO. 220' of survey. **Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Alex Litsch, Gary Resch, Chad McCain, and Matt Bliss continued an upper level survey into virgin passage in a 4+ mile long cave. A long, muddy belly-crawl led to walking passage with a new active stream. 423.7' surveyed. Also- Tony Schmitt, Dan Lamping, Derik Holtmann, Kyle Holtmann, and Aaron Addison surveyed in Fogelpole Cave. Illinois. **Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>** - Michele Leicht and Larry Abeln visit Stephens Gap Cave in Huntsville, AL. **Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>** - Michele Leicht and Larry Abeln visit Root Cave and NSS HQ in Huntsville, AL. **Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>** - Alex Litsch and Jeremy Weih continued virgin survey of a Ste. Genevieve County cave. 331 feet was mapped and the connection to a long, already mapped cave was found. 9 hour trip. **Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Tony Schmitt, Craig Williams, Jess, Michael, and CAIRN checked out a cave in MTNF and found a new cave. **Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Mike DeBroeck, Bill Kranz, and Joe Light identified a new entrance to Tobias Spengler's original lager cellar for the Bremer

Brewery. We returned later with equipment to enter and document barrel vault #1. Returning soon. **Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>** - Tony Schmitt, Derik Holtmann, Joe Sikorski, and a bunch of MSM cavers worked at Carroll Cave Property and visited Pitman Cave to oil locks.—Alex Litsch



**MSS MINUTES.** The Winter 2019 Board meeting of the Missouri Speleological Survey was called to order by President Dan Lamping on January 26<sup>th</sup> at the DGLS Annex in Rolla, MO. **Introduction of Officers:** Dan Lamping, President; Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary. Absent were Scott House, Vice-President and Don Dunham, Treasurer. **Roll Call of Directors:** Jessica Self, MSM; Gary Zumwalt, LOG; Rita Worden, Chouteau; Craig Williams, CAIRN; Gary Resch, SEMO; Krista Bartel, CCC; Doug Leer, MMV; Alicia Wallace, MCKC; Max White, SPG; Bill Heim, OHG; Dan Slais, RBX; Al Quamen, LEG; Lorin O’Daniell, PEG; Nicole Ridlen (proxy for Jim Cooley), KCAG, Absent was: Alex Litsch, MVG. **Secretary’s report.** Alberta Zumwalt reported that the minutes of the Fall 2018 meeting were distributed after the meeting to the Directors and Officers and were printed in the Sept.-Oct. issue of *MSS Liaison*. The minutes were approved. **MSS Liaison.** Gary Zumwalt reported cash on hand of \$110.56; sending out 40 paper copies and the rest as electronic copies, the next deadline is Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>. **Treasurer’s Report.** Don Dunham had sent out the report electronically before the meeting and copies were distributed at the meeting. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 - ACCOUNTS: General fund \$10,080.08; Subscriptions *Missouri Speleology* \$5561.42; Research Fund \$12,724.78; Anne Johnson Data Fund \$19,484.73. Interest checking \$.10; Affiliation fees \$1550.00; Subscriptions *Liaison* \$671.00; Total \$50,072.11. ASSETS: Savings bonds \$2,000.00; Interest checking \$12,072.11; Certificates of deposit \$36,000.00; Total \$50,072.11. INCOME STATEMENT for the year ending December 31, 2018. INCOME: Individual membership dues/subscriptions \$2,190.00; Interest \$1.30; *Missouri Speleology* \$231.30; Organizational Affiliation fees \$425.00; Merchandise \$144.00; Total \$2,991.60. EXPENSES. *Missouri Speleology* \$1202.54; *Liaison* \$0.00; Anne Johnson Fund \$170.00; Bank fees \$96.00; Web Fees \$142.20; Total \$1610.74. Net Gain \$1380.86. BALANCE SHEET – for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. ENDING BALANCE 12/31/2018: Interest checking \$12,072.11; Savings bonds \$2,000.00; Certificates of deposit \$36,000.00. Total \$50,072.11. BEGINNING BALANCE 01/01/2018: Interest checking \$6,691.25; Savings bonds \$2,000.00; Certificates of Deposit \$40,000.00. Total \$48,691.25. Net Gain \$1,380.86. **Missouri Speleology.** Pres. Lamping reported that Vol. 58 – the Lemp Brewery Caverns and Cherokee Cave is available at this meeting. Cost for non-subscribers is \$15.00. Working on Jon Beard’s SW Missouri Cave Development issue. Don Dunham is looking at another printer in order to save on printing costs. Mick Sutton said the Butler Hollow issue may be out soon. Pres. Lamping said they need submissions for future issues. Chad McCain asked when is a cave done before information can be submitted for publication. Pres. Lamping said it is never done and to start writing. **No old business. New Business:** Pres. Lamping said that Daedalus Grotto has made a request to be an affiliate organization of the MSS. He explained what the requirements for affiliation are. Daedalus President, Jeff Fennell, talked about the grotto and why they wanted to be an MSS affiliate. Al Quamen made a motion that Daedalus Grotto be admitted to the MSS as an affiliate organization. Seconded by Gary Resch. Passed unanimously. Jeff Fennell was seated on the Board as the Daedalus Grotto Director at this time. **Cave Files and Database:** Ken Grush said to look at the *MSS Liaison* for details. He reported over 7600 records with 7400 caves; 34,000 faunal records; 18,000 digital files; 5600 map records with less than one half surveyed. **Mark Twain National Forest:** Mick Sutton said they are continuing field work. Pres. Lamping said they have agreements with MTNF and Ozark National Scenic Riverways. **Missouri Dept. of Conservation:** Pres. Lamping said they are applying for 2019 permits at this time which have to be by person, waiting on that now. If anyone is interested in working, see him. **State Parks:** Jeffrey Crews applied for a permit for Devil’s Icebox to survey. The survey in the 80’s and one done by divers a few years ago, need to be updated into map. Trips will be limited and will probably be toward the end of the year. Rita Worden will be working with Jeff. **MoDot:** Chad McCain is trying to get a permit to park on the interstate highway shoulder to work on a cave located next to the highway. **Carroll Cave:** Krista Bartel gave a report by Rick Hines. They have acquired 6 acres at the backdoor entrance for \$12,000. Construction is needed. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> will be a work day, electrician and/or helpers are needed. **Berome Moore Cave:** Chad McCain said they are trying to connect Dorothy Taylor Cave which is one mile long. Berome is now 21.5 miles long. Chad said he started on a cave 3 years ago and now it is 4 ½ miles later. **Public Outreach:** Pres. Lamping said he posted the meeting on Facebook. He said the website has been selling a lot of *Missouri Speleology* issues, with a lot of sales on the new issue available. **Next meeting** will be Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ozark Underground Laboratory in Protem, MO at 10 am. It was noted that the MCKC meeting will be May 18<sup>th</sup> in Waynesville. Meeting adjourned. – Respectfully submitted, Alberta Zumwalt, Secretary.

**MSS OFFICERS: Please note new address Dan Lamping**

**President** – Dan Lamping, 4501 Clarlane Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128 314-775-8584 daniellamping@att.net

**Vice-President** – Scott House, 1606 Luce St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 573-651-3782  
scott\_house@hotmail.com

**Treasurer** - Don Dunham, 147 Ron de Lee, Arnold, MO 63010. 402-203-3191 don\_g\_dunham@yahoo.com

**Secretary** - Alberta Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560 Gzumw@aol.com

**MSS DIRECTORS: Please note new Directors for SEMO and MCKC; Daedalus Director**

**CAIRN** – Craig Williams, 5454 Mardel, St. Louis, MO 63109. 314-695-1012 cwilliams@cairstl.org

**CCC** – Krista Bartel, P.O. Box 193, Versailles, MO 65084 816-812-5206 Kbartel1088@gmail.com

**Chouteau** – Rita Worden, 22762 Valley Dr., Jamestown, MO 65046. 573-673-3388 wordenrl2323@yahoo.com

**Daedalus** – Jeff Fennell, 3344 Dakota Hills Dr., Pacific, MO 63069 636-575-0669 kavman87@yahoo.com

**KCAG** – Jim Cooley, 819 West 39<sup>th</sup> Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64111-4001. 816-763-8111 coolstoi@kc.rr.com

**LOG** – Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560 Gzumw@aol.com

**LEG** – Al Quamen, P.O. Box 292, Carbondale, IL 62903. 618-549-2550 carbide@globaleyes.net

**MCKC** – Alicia Wallace, 600 Ellwine Dr., St. Louis, MO 63125 314-892-4351 caversquirrel1@aol.com

**MMV** – Doug Leer, 730 Lakeshore Meadow Dr., Wildwood, MO 63038. 636-207-8468 dogleer@gmail.com

**MSM** – Jessica Self, 6 Karen Ann, Sullivan, MO 63080 573-587-2794 Gneiss.self@yahoo.com

**MVG** – Alex Litsch, 2156 U.S. Hwy 61, Festus, MO 63028. 314-914-7010 alitsch6@gmail.com

**OHG** – Bill Heim, 2025 W. FR 178, Springfield, MO 65810. 417-889-0640(H) build\_it@juno.com

**PEG** – Lorin O’Daniell, 4515 Faraon-Apt. F, St. Joseph, MO 64506. 816-646-3240 lodaniell@yahoo.com

**RBD** - Dan Slais, 23646 Red Hawk Dr., Lebanon, MO 65536 573-619-2733 dnbslais@outlook.com

**SEMO** – Gary Resch, 6151 Farthing Rd., Odin, IL 62870 682-780-3799 giresch@gmail.com

**SPG** – Max White, 2748 W. Maplewood, Springfield, MO 65807. 417-880-8475 bildmwc@aol.com

**ADDRESSES:** **Missouri Speleology Circulation Manager-** Bill Pfantz – Wmpfantz@aol.com

**MSS Liaison Editor** - Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053. 573-782-3560 Gzumw@aol.com

**MSS store** - Don Dunham, 147 Ron de Lee, Arnold, MO 63010. 402-203-3191 don\_g\_dunham@yahoo.com

**Research committee** -Dr. Robert Lerch, Dr. Michael Sutton, Doug Gouzie and Jeffrey Crews

**Historian-** Dwight Weaver, 38 Village Marina Rd., Eldon, MO 65026. 573-365-1171 dwightweaver@charter.net

**Cave Files** – Ken Grush, 32 Circle View Dr, Fenton, MO 63026. 636-600-0369 slagrush@gmail.com

**MSS web site** –www.mospeleo.org **Carroll Cave Conservancy website** <http://www.carrollcave.org>

**Ozark Caving web site**– [www.ozarkcaving.com](http://www.ozarkcaving.com) **MCKC website** – <http://www.mocavesandkarst.org>

**Caves of Missouri Discussion Group** – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cavesofmo>

**Petroglyphs, inscriptions, & pictographs:** [rockartmo.com](http://rockartmo.com)

**The new MoCaves:** <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mocaves/info>

**CALENDAR:**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> – Next MSS Liaison Deadline**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> – Spring MSS meeting, 10 am, Tom Aley’s Underground Lab (Tumbling Creek Cave), Protem, MO.** Mapping in the cave on Saturday. Camping available. More details later.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> – MCKC meeting, Waynesville, MO.**

**Note: The MSS has Paul Johnson’s copies of the NSS News. If anyone is interested in them, please let us know. Email: Gzumw@aol.com or call 573-782-3560. Or if anyone has any ideas what to do with them, we would appreciate knowing that too.**