

# THE MSS LIAISON

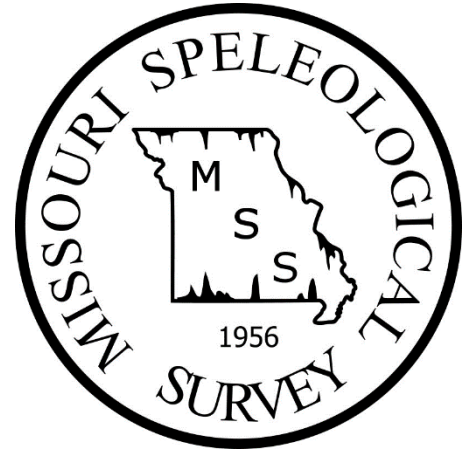
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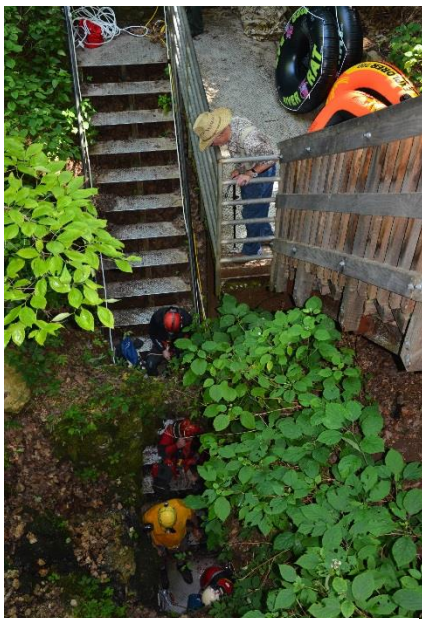
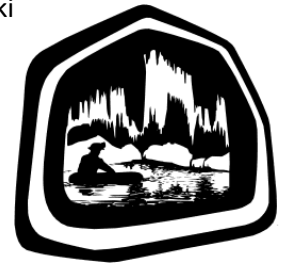
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## Missouri Speleological Survey - President's Message May 2017

The Missouri caving community has always been blessed with impressive personalities. It seems this was the case from the very beginning and unfortunately we're reminded of that by the recent passing of MSS co-founder Jerry Vineyard. I must admit I didn't know Jerry very well. Though one can't be much of a Missouri caver and not know of him. Jerry grew up in central Missouri amid the gargantuan caverns of Pulaski County. His interest in caves eventually led him to the fledgling National Speleological Society where as a young man he was able to connect with other cavers in Missouri, and soon thereafter in 1956 co-founded the Missouri Speleological Survey, a volunteer organization with a simple mission focused on documenting caves in Missouri. The MSS began in cooperation with the Missouri Geological Survey to expand upon the formative work *Caves of Missouri* by J Harlen Bretz. The book had been published by the Missouri Geological Survey serendipitously around the same time organized caving coalesced in



*Jerry Vineyard watches on as explorers suit up to enter Devils Well. Photo by Denise Vaughn*

Missouri and Vineyard was a pioneer in the process. Soon thereafter Jerry began his career at the Geologic Survey where among other notorieties he curated the Master Cave Files of the MSS. For over 40 years he was the face of the MSS and Missouri caves and throughout that time, from the stories I've been told to the accounts I've read Jerry warmed the lives of many through both humor and humility. The first time I met Jerry was at his home in Ozark in the early 2000s. This was after he had retired from DGLS and the MSS. I interviewed him for a paper I was writing at the time on the beginning of the MSS and the origins speleology. It was a great encounter. Jerry slowly spun thoughtful stories of cavers and caves. Most apparent was the appreciation he had for other cavers. I went to hear stories of his experiences and instead I heard his stories, which were inspired accounts of you and us, the MSS, discovery, advancement, Tex, springs, Rimbach and the dedication of Missouri caving community. He talked about a lot of different people and it was all in admiration.

Aside from a few encounters and perhaps a message exchange on occasion, my contact with Jerry was scant until 2015. That was when a small group of us who've been actively mapping many spring caves within the Current River valley had the fortune of entering Devils Well in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. It had been decades since anyone had entered. During the planning process it became evident that this was indeed to be a

significant trip, one marked by the presence of Jerry, who by that time was getting close to the end of his own journey, made his way across the Ozarks, along with his family, to see us off and be part of the spectacle. Even more touching was that much of his family had come from across the country to surprise him with their visit. Cave Spring and the associated Devils Well was the topic of Jerry's Masters Dissertation. Frail and diminutive in

size but ever large in stature Jerry did not want to be confined to the upper observation deck, he wanted to get down the stairs, into the sinkhole and as close to cave and action as he could to watch it all. As he made his way up the stairs after seeing us descend there stood his closest whom he hadn't seen in some time. In his own words "Somehow they all got wind of the Well caper and decided to surprise me. It worked." It was less than a year before that I had become president of the MSS. Between the links to newspaper articles on our trip to Devils Well or just notes of encouragement with where the MSS was as an organization and what we were doing with it I heard from Jerry for several months with some regularity. Later that year when the NSS News featured an article on Black Fathom Cave in Ste. Genevieve, Jerry read it and contacted us with exuberant appreciation. Having not been familiar with this major cave which had been found, explored and documented long after his departure from the caving scene Jerry connected with it and made sure to congratulate the cavers involved. The next issue of the *Liaison* will be dedicated to Jerry. If you knew him, at some point he probably told stories about the things that mattered which you did. I hope in return you can find the time to write something about him, who he was, what he meant to you and what he meant to us, the MSS and Missouri karst.

In other news, the Spring MSS Meeting is approaching. See description in this issue for site details and caving opportunities. One exciting feature of this meeting will be the presentation of awards to the dedicated individuals listed below. **J Harlen Bretz Award** for outstanding contributions to speleology in the state of Missouri: Michael Sutton and Sue Hagan, Paul Hauck. **Lang Brod Certificate of Recognition** for contributions to speleology in Missouri and in support of the goals of the MSS: Alberta Zumwalt, Don Dunham, Ken Grush, Tony Schmitt, Eric Hertzler, Chad McCain, Jim Cooley. **Tex Yokum Certificate of Appreciation** for supporting the goals of the MSS: Shauna Marquardt, US Fish and Wildlife; Brent Buerck, City of Perryville.

I hope to see you all at Onondaga in a few weeks to do some caving, celebrate the contributions of friends and experience what's sure to be a very unique meeting locale.--Dan Lamping

**REMEMBERING LON ODELL.** Lon Odell was a well-known caver who enjoyed caving with his sons and fellow cavers primarily in the 1960s and 1970s.

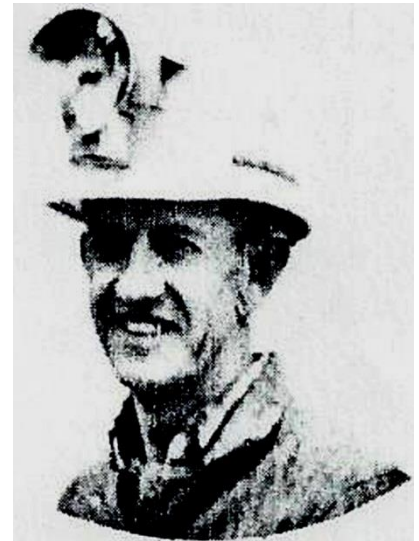
Lon was born on December 1, 1925 in an old homestead in Lockwood, Dade County, Missouri, the youngest of four siblings. The house was built in 1862, and today it is home to son Alan and his family. Lon had a serious childhood illness and, as he put it, was deaf in one ear and couldn't hear out of the other. While that put him at a disadvantage at times, it had its benefits: If he didn't like the conversation, he'd just turn off his hearing aid and sit contently.

Lon was a farmer, though it was not one of his great passions. When young, he raised cattle and one of his cattle was grand champion at the county fair.

Near the close of World War II, Lon enlisted in the Army and spent a brief time in Japan after Japan surrendered. Back then, lack of hearing was not enough to keep you out of the Army. Lon was a sharpshooter, a marksman, so he had a keen eye. After his stint with the Army, Lon became a master carpenter. Some of the things he made from wood were toys for his children including baseball bats made from hedge (Osage orange). Alan still has his, made in 1964. Another of Lon's creations was a rope ladder with wooden rungs that he and other cavers used to descend and ascend short pit drops.

Lon married in 1947 and had five children—Aaron, Leon, Alan, Teresa and Loren.

Lon not only went caving with his sons, but he also accompanied younger cavers from Heart of the Ozarks Grotto, the student grotto at what is now Missouri State University. There he met and caved with a number of legendary cavers such as Bob Taylor, Don Rimbach, Ken Thomson and others. He was a member of the group of cavers who discovered the New Maze in Fitton Cave, Arkansas in the early 1960s. He also participated in the initial documented discovery trips in long caves such as Holden Sink Cave in Howell County, Big Cave in Greene County, Layton Cave in Taney County and Avenue E of Ennis Cave in Stone County, Arkansas.



When Lon's caving days waned, he procured lapidary equipment and cut and polished rocks.

Lon passed away from a long bout with leukemia in October, 1983 at the age of 56.

Eighteen months later, a pit entrance suddenly opened near Clarence Hall's rural home in Lon's home county, Dade County. Tom Dunham, Lon's brother-in-law, and friend Steve Ortner used Lon's rope ladder to make the first descent of the pit and found large vaulted passages. But what intrigued them the most were prehistoric footprints in the clay floors and what appeared to be bits of charcoal from torches. Tom notified Dr. Ken Thomson, who dispatched Bob Taylor, Kathy Rapp and me. We saw the features and immediately proposed to the Odell Family the cave name Lon Odell Memorial Cave. Within a year of discovery, Randy Justice organized the effort to gate the cave.

Bob Taylor and I mapped almost 5,000 feet of cave altogether in the 1980s and 1990s, and several researchers have studied the archaeology in the cave. The torch remains were dated to 1410 and 1435 A.D. by a lab in Arizona and after the discovery of petroglyphs well within the dark zone of the cave, C.A.I.R.N. researchers spearheaded the making of a half-hour documentary of the cave entitled "Footsteps into the World Beneath." (use this link to access the video: <http://www.archaeologychannel.org/video-guide/video-guide-menu/video-guide-summary/242-footsteps-into-the-world-beneath>) One of the petroglyphs was identified by Dr. Carol Diaz-Granados as the "underground spirit," according to her, a relatively common motif found in Midwest rock art sites, including caves.

Today the cave is managed by SPG as a research site. –Jon Beard

**Cave Files Report for January 2017.** Busy as always with lots of contributions from all over. (Scott House initiated this report and then passed along to Ken Grush who is filling in for House during his recuperation. So if you were missed in this update, blame Grush...he didn't do it!) **Kirstin Alvey** sent over 270 cave reports on the fauna records for the 2016-2017 winter. This will take some time to incorporate. **Jon Beard** sent: Faunal and use monitoring records from Shannon and Texas Counties; Thirteen new cave reports from Barry County; Three new maps from USFS land in Barry County; Bunch of modified reports plus two new caves in Barry and Christian; Fifty-five more faunal records plus a pile of monitoring records; Two new maps, one in Barry County and one in Christian. **Michael Bradford** sent: Revised and new cave locations for thirty caves in the Paddy Creek area of MTNF; New LIDAR imagery of Berome Moore overlay via Chad McCain. **Josh Brewer** sent: Draft of Turnbull Cave, Douglas County. **Lang Brod** sent (posthumously, through Rolla Cave Files): A banker box of old survey notes, copies of his many cave reports (some of which aren't represented in the St Louis Cave Files that have been scanned); Box has been scanned and organized but awaits assimilation into Cave Archives and Rolla Cave Files. **Ana Cerro-Timpone** of MTNF sent: report on hibernation survey on several MTNF caves. **Shelly Colatskie** of MDC sent: Updated landowner contact information; Sent report on a rare Knox County cave, only 2 are known to exist; one lost in the wild. The report resurrected a 2011 Ed Klausner map that included the then landowner as part of the survey trip. Property now owned by his trust. **Jim Cooley** sent: Working map of Kings Onyx Cave in Camden County on MDC land; Faunal records from caves in several different counties; Nine cave reports from Shannon County including a pile of new ones; Revised reports from Barry County, along with numerous monitoring and faunal records; New cave from Benton County; Two new maps from the Sinks area of Shannon County; New faunal records and monitoring reports from a variety of caves; Eight new caves in Shannon, Oregon and St. Clair Counties; New map from an MDC's Whisper Cave in Ripley County. **Jeff Crews** sent: Interesting documentation on the Radium mines in Barry County; A new cave from MTNF in Oregon County; New shape files for entire state; New caves from Shannon, Dent, and Phelps Counties. **Don Dunham** sent: Location information to set up a new cave record for 1998 cave found by Tom Heitzer, John Bierman and Dunham. Don is on the hunt for other missing records! **Susan Farrington** of MDC sent: Report on Brown Cave, Douglas County. **Ken Grush** sent: 11 leads from SLO; 2 replacement records from SHN; New cave from Jefferson County; New maps records table; Faunal records, monitoring reports, and related records for a number of caves in Ozark Riverways, from a several day work trip. Along with Don Dunham, reports, faunal records, etc. from a cave in Jefferson County; New maps table. **Paul Hauck** sent: New cave location from Perry County; Photos, report, and

new map of Weinrich Beer Cave in Perry County; Map and report on Wuzza Cave, Perry County; Map and report on Coffey Pot, Perry County; Map and report and photos on Echo Pit (Crevice Cave), Perry County. **Eric Hertzler** sent: Map of Rocky Top Cave in Christian County on MTNF land. **Scott House** added: Several hundred scanned photos; Maps of Spongework Cave and Spongework Shelter in Shannon. Dennis Novicky and Brenda Goodnight surveyed it, and Dennis' sketch is so good, basically all I have to do is trace; Map of Beast Cave, SHN666 by Dennis and House. **Susie Jansen and Craig Williams** of CAIRN sent: Cultural report on a MTNF cave; A bunch more cultural reports on MTNF and Ozark Riverways caves. Great work! **Gary Johnson** sent: Map and cave report on a new cave in Hickory County; New cave report from Hickory County; A pile of faunal records, monitoring records, and related reports for caves on MDC land in Hickory County, including sketch and initial map drafts on seven of them; A diggable cave lead in Hickory County. **Paul Johnson** (posthumously through Gary and Alberta Zumwalt) sent: A banker box full of cave files to be scanned and organized; A collection of rolled maps; A collection of topographic maps. **Mark Jones** sent: A couple of hundred cave photographs; Numerous reports on caves visited. **Dan Lamping** sent: 42 updated records for the main table, mostly from LAD Foundation lands; A long article on a Carroll Cave trip; Related records for the database on three caves; Working map of Mossy Springs Cave in Washington County, on MDC land; Use monitoring and faunal records from MVG, MSS, CRF work on Pioneer Forest lands; Monitoring and faunal records from a cave on Ozark Riverways. **Chris Lewis** sent: List of new high res LIDAR counties. **Joe Light** sent: Reports from Brod files, gone to Grush; Report on a new (gone) cave in the City of St. Louis; Report and photos on the "other" Indian Cave (not Cliff Cave's alias) in St. Louis County; Report and photos on Horneker Cave in St. Louis County; Report on Devine and Black Snake Cave in St. Louis County. The Snake has gone missing! Devine was surveyed on subsequent trip; Report on Wyman Cave recent found based on old Biffle topo maps. A survey was completed and conforms well with old map. **Alex Litsch** sent: Map of Bear Bed Cave on MTNF land in Pulaski County; Faunal records from Phelps County; Map of Burl Cave, Pulaski County on MTNF land; Bunch of new cave locations via Chad McCain; Faunal records and map of part of the Valle Mine Complex in St. Francois and Jefferson County. **Chad McCain** sent in: A pile of new caves from Ste. Genevieve County, helped by Alex Litsch; Map of Cottonwood Cave, Ste. Genevieve County; Draft map of Berome Moore Cave (Chad is now working on this); Trip reports with passage descriptions from Berome Moore; And another pile of new caves in cooperation with Alex Litsch. **Ben Miller** sent: Map of Reeves Cave #1 in Crawford County; Map of Roark Valley Cave in Taney County; Map of Harmon Cave in McDonald County; **Dennis Novicky and Brenda Goodnight** sent: Two map drafts which I finished up; Photos and reports on several caves; A new cave from Shannon County and draft map of same. **Bob Osburn** sent: A draft map of Marvel Hollow Pit on MDC land in Shannon County; A draft map of Banker Cave, Shannon County; Maps, reports, and locations of two caves in Bollinger County. **Tony Schmitt** sent: Trip report on Pleasant Valley Cave, Jefferson County. **Michael Schoenewies** of CAIRN sent: Photos of artifacts noted (but not collected) from a USFS cave. **Jim Sherrell** sent: Photos and snippets of information on caves in Cole and Miller Counties. **Stan Sides** sent: Photographs and directions to caves in Bollinger County; A box of newspaper clippings and other publications for scanning and transcription of cave reports (largely Perry County) into master database. **Dan Slais** (with Roubidoux Grotto) sent: Faunal records, monitoring forms and photos on 3 caves from Pulaski Co., including one new cave. **Mick Sutton** sent: Faunal records and use monitoring records from several caves; A revised species table now listing 1160 different cave-using critters; A biological report on Pleasant Valley Cave in Jefferson County; Report on a new MTNF cave in Howell County; New biology reports for Bat Cave, Oregon County, and several FS caves in Howell County. **Dwight Weaver** sent: A few notes on caves in Miller and Cole counties. **Alberta Zumwalt** sent: Photos of entrance to Arrow Point Cave, Miller County.--Scott House, Missouri Cave Database, 1606 Luce St., Cape Girardeau MO 63701. 573-651-3782 scott\_house@hotmail.com

**KCAG. Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Jim Cooley drove to Exeter, Missouri and retrieved manufactured piece parts for cave gates to be built in April/May in Barry County on the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF), then inventoried steel for this project at MTNF's Cassville Ranger District. Afterwards, he proceeded to Butler Hollow to set up camp for a CRF trip inventorying bats and doing gate checks and lock maintenance on gated, mined caves in Butler

Hollow. **Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Cooley was joined by Cliff Gill and Jay Bridgewater, who assisted in cave monitoring and gate work on Butler Hollow Mine (gated June, 2016), Butler Hollow Cave (to be gated April, 2017), and the upper entrances of Carter Cave (gated June, 2016 due to extensive mining). Numerous sick and dead bats were seen in Butler Hollow Cave. **Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley, Gill and Bridgewater were joined by Nathan Taylor and Rita Worden (Chouteau grotto president), and the team monitored Radium Cave (gated November, 2015 due to extensive mining) and the lower level of Carter Cave (gated June, 2016 due to extensive mining). **Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley and Worden were joined by Dillon Freiburger and Kate McKalit in monitoring the gated Onyx Cave (gate repaired, November, 2015). **Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>** - Gary Johnson, Kyle Lewis, and Krista Bartel visited MDC's John F. Murphy Memorial State Forest and Wildlife Area. They visited three caves. Johnson led the team on a "horrible" route to Ladder Cave, "the most brutal half mile long hike that I've taken in a long while." But they ended up at Ladder Cave. They wrapped up the survey with a total length of 105 feet. They then proceeded to Vanderman Cave, where Johnson sketched a profile of the entrance passage and a plan view of the bluff at the entrance, including a very scenic balanced rock. Lewis and Bartel worked on resolving some issues with the survey. Additional survey work here could push the total length well over 500 feet. On the way off the property, they stopped at a third cave, Murphy Cave, which is just a little eight-foot-deep sinkhole with a few feet of passage at the bottom. **Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley, Josh Bookout, and Joe Williams (MSM grotto) returned to Wolfe Cave (RRIP-014) and Whisper Cave (RIP-007) in Ripley County, this second cave a gray bat maternity site, to survey Wolfe and complete the survey of Whisper. This is part of CRF's new survey initiative with the Missouri Department of Conservation. We had to ford the North Fork of the Black River, which was "interestingly" high, to get to these two adjacent caves. Wolfe Cave was short and easy, but we were still unable to complete the survey of Whisper Cave, with 60-80 feet of tight, low, wet passage still remaining that will require small, wet-suited surveyors. It was left for the fall, after the bats leave. A map has been drafted of Wolfe, and a tentative draft of Whisper has been completed. **Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley and Bookout attempted to inventory Falling Spring and Bartlett Spring Cave in Oregon County for the MTNF, but decided not to enter either due to long, low, tight, wet passages and no wetsuits. We instead ridgewalked in the area, and ended up doing monitoring and biological inventories of Corbett and White Cat Caves. **Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley, Ken Grush, and Angie Trombley (MTNF) monitored and did bat counts in Camp Yarn Cave, Lower Camp Yarn Cave, and Buzzard Caves in Carter County. **Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley and Grush monitored and did bat counts Thrasher Ford Cave, which is WAY out in the woods in Oregon County on the MTNF, just above Thrasher Ford on the upper Eleven Point River. We found a surprisingly large number of gray bats home, and a few tri-colored. Enroute, we also discovered two small new caves, which we named Northwest Thrasher Ford Chute Cave and Southeast Thrasher Ford Chute Cave. They will need to be surveyed, too. **Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley and Joe Williams visited the Valles Mines property, located 67 miles southwest of St. Louis on Highway 67, to assess four mine shafts for gating projects. Adam Marty, one of two principals (the other is Jim Sherrell) who is surveying these mines, joined us to serve as a guide. **Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>** - Bill Gee led the first of three trips into Carroll Cave to collect water samples for eDNA ("environmental" DNA) analysis. Participants were Gee, Dr. David Ashley, Dr. Shannon Brewer, Joshua Mouser (this work will be his master's project), Rita Worden (Chouteau) and Bill Kacerovskis (MCKC). The team established six sites in the cave, three each in Thunder and Carroll Rivers. At each site two liters of water are collected and run through special filters to capture whatever DNA was ambient in the stream water. The filters were saved in sterile vials, then will be analyzed in the lab. They are looking specifically for cave fish and cave crayfish DNA. Other DNA is likely present, but it will probably not be identified. **Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley and Grush started work on a Truman Lake cave survey permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They monitored Thirteen Bridge Cave on Truman Lake in St. Clair County near Osceola, and after a rain-induced hiatus that was spent eating an early, leisurely and LARGE lunch at Sugarfoot Bar-Be-Que in Osceola, we got back out and surveyed Fly Caves #1 and #2, also on Truman Lake just north across the Osage River (arm) from Osceola. **Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>** - Cooley and Grush put Cooley's boat in at Crowe's Crossing at Osceola, motored about half a mile downstream, and surveyed River Road Cave on the north bank. We then discovered and surveyed a small (27 foot long) cave just upstream, Optimistic Beaver Cave, so named because it was full of beaver sticks but 25 feet above the normal pool of the lake. We then

turned around, motored back west underneath the Highway 13 bridge, and located Climb Wire Cave, which was full of turkey buzzards and will require a rope to enter (the wire present in 1977 is gone). We then surveyed nearby Gar Skull and Windbreak Caves. We then continued to motor west and explored the abandoned mines across from Osceola, where we discovered yet another small new natural cave. We named this one Surprise Dome Cave – it looked like a dead end, but if you pushed a small lead, you were surprised by a 15-foot terminal dome room. **Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>**- Bill Gee led a second trip into Carroll to collect eDNA samples. Participants this time were Gee, Worden, Mouser, Zachary Schmidt and Alex Buzicky. This trip was basically a repeat of the March 25<sup>th</sup> trip (see above). They team revisited each of the six previously marked sites to collect and filter water samples. There will be a third and final eDNA sample collection trip on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Bill Gee if interested.-- Jim Cooley

**MVG. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>** - More work at Valle Mines. Chad McCain, Jim Sherrell, Larry Abeln dropped an 80' blind pit. **Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>** - More Valle Mines, this time a dye trace was performed on a sink in Joachim Creek, showed up at a resurgence 2000' away. Meanwhile, Alex Litch, Brian Biggs mapped in the Big Load Haul Shaft while Larry Abeln, Michele Leicht, and Adam Marty bopped around until 3am making a "Big Discovery." **Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>** - Chad McCain surveyed 50.5' off A8 in entrance passage of Berome Moore. **Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>** - Brian Biggs and Chad McCain surveyed 578.8 feet of leads off entrance passage in Berome. All of Chads survey efforts so far in 2017 is over 1300' of new passage. **Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>** - Tony Schmitt, Chad McCain, and Alicia Wallace (MVG), along with Mark Jones (Iowa Grotto), Scott House (CRF), George Bilbrey (CRF), Don Dunham (MVV and CRF) Bree McEndery (MODOT), Jon Beard (SPG and CRF), Ken Grush (CRF), Paul Hauck (SEMO) and two City of Perryville workers installed a new gate on the historic entrance of Crevice Cave. We even had a visit from the Mayor! **Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>** - Tony Schmitt along with Matt Bumgardner, Jon Beard, Mick Sutton, Sue Hagen, Mark Jones, and Jess Schaner (MDC) visit Still Spring Cave in Douglas County for a bat count. **Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>** - Tony Schmitt, Dan Lamping, Joe Sikorski, Mike Tennant, Derik Holtman, and Mark Jones attack BBSC on the upper Current to work on survey. 838' of hard won passage was surveyed in this mile plus long cave, with no end in sight. To get to EOS now involves 3000' of wet crawl. **Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>** - Joe Light and Mike Bennett visited several western St. Louis County caves. Updates and additions to the cave files were made. **Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>** - Assisting Tony Schmitt with his Greensfelder Park project, Joe Light searched for the elusive Wyman Cave, which was not found, but a cave report was created for the cave files for Indian Cave (SLO-036). **Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>**- Chad McCain, Gary Resch, and Chris Doerhoff bolt a traverse in Black Fathom, adding 160' of hard won footage. **Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>** - Many MVG members attended the MSM MVOR at Boiling Springs. The maps tent was up and running all weekend, featuring many of the regions newest cartographic endeavors. A good time was had by all, some more than others. During MVOR, Jim Sherrell, and David Best went to E-Ford Talus Cave, reported as two side by side slabs about 100' long. **Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>** - Joe Light attempted to locate Black Snake Pit in St. Louis County (SLO-061). The area has been heavily modified in the last couple of years because the owner of the land owns a bulldozer and he likes to use it. The cave is considered filled in. An updated report was generated for the cave files. The owner of Devine Cave (SLO-062) was contacted and the cave was located. An updated cave report with a better location was submitted to the files. A follow up trip is planned. **Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>** - Chad McCain, Mike Bradford, Jeremy Weih, and Brian Biggs surveyed 380' in Black Fathom Ste. Gen., Co. Black Fathom now stands at 7.1 miles. After reviewing a topo map of St. Louis County owned by Earl Biffle, Joe Light discovered a dot. The dot did not match up to any cave in the caves files. A field investigation revealed a new cave not listed in the files. A follow up trip for mapping and cave file writing is planned. Although St. Louis County has over 130 caves and a population of over a million residents, new cave discoveries are still being made! **Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>** - Survey work in Great Scott Cave continues. Four survey crews worked in the cave, we now have a modern survey line from the entrance to the old end room. 2023' of survey was accomplished, which should contribute greatly to a finished map. In attendance, Tony Schmitt, Dan Lamping, Mick Sutton, Bob Lerch, Alex Litch, Jeremy Weih, Chad McCain, Krista Bartel, Spike Crews, and Andrué Gasquez. **Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Joe Light, Mike Bennett, Rick and Michael Haley, Tony Schmitt, Jim Ruedin and Isaac Booth go to Devine Cave (SLO-062) to survey and inventory. Unfortunately the older portion of the crew could not fit

into the snug entrance. We sent the kids in, Isaac and Michael, to give us a report. The cave appears to be about 50' with snug passages, but they did not scoop the whole thing. A return trip is planned with smaller surveyors. After the failed attempt on Devine, we headed across the highway to Greensfelder Park to check Joe's Earl Biffle lead. We found our way back to the cave, rigged a hand line and then surveyed it. After getting back home and checking my notes, it was discovered to be Wyman Cave (SLO-020). We have been looking for Wyman Cave for several years. The location in the file is off by about a mile. Another mystery solved, but not a new one for the files.--Tony Schmitt

**MMV. Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup>** - Don Dunham and many others participated in the cave gating of Crevice Cave in Perry County. **Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>** - Don Dunham and others spent the week at Powder Mill doing cave monitoring in the National Scenic Riverways region. **Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** - Don Dunham, Mark Jones and Scott House did cave mapping/monitoring in caves in the North Fork Basin. Johnson Cave, which is close to Blue Hole, was partially mapped. **Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>** - Don Dunham and Ken Grush visited Glauber Cave to do a Bio Inventory and get a more accurate cave location. Many cave and slimy salamanders were observed. **Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> & Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Don Dunham and John Biermann attempted to relocate the entrance to Konert Cave after construction in the area. The report that I received does not make it clear as to the success of the location attempt. **Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>** - Jim Sherrell, Bret Miesel, Larry Abeln and Michele Leicht visited Vallies Mine "Gandie" to further explore and confirm. According to the report, the area explored was very big and confusing. Mapping has started on this project. **Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>** - Laura Belarbi, Denise Hill, Susie Asmer-O'Guin, Sindupa DeSilva and Peggy Morrison visited Berome Moore with the purpose of doing water quality monitoring in Main Stream. This is the first underground site for Stream Team 5181. Sindupa (MDC) weighed and measured 4 Grotto Sculpin during the trip. A secondary trip was taken to Cat Track Passage for Peggy. **Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** - Jason Hanewinkel and Ioana Herte visited Venable, Patty Creek, Vista, Buzzard and Skaggs Caves during the MVOR weekend. Lots of hiking and exploring. **Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>** - Laura Belarbi, Chad McCain, Bob Vireg, Donna Scott, Anita Whaley and Rex Cooper visited Berome Moore with the purpose of doing water quality monitoring at three locations in Main Stream. Donna Scott slipped and fell, but completed the water survey in spite of what turned out to be a broken wrist.—Doug Leer

**LOG. Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>** – Ken Long and Klaus Leidenfrost met at Goodwin Sink at 7:30am. They started a fire to continue burning small brush above the sinkhole. Then they took some pictures at the bottom of the sink. The sump area was still very wet so they decided to continue in Amy's dig. Scouts showed up around 8:30am and Jon Beard (SPG) was there around 9am. Chuck Lahmeyer. (Jeff City) came out around 9:30am. In total there



were nine people. They started straightening up the area above the sink by removing brush and collecting tires that had been stored above the sink. Mud and debris had to be cleaned out of the tires so they could be taken to a recycling place. Chuck cut down some small trees and the brush was burned. Mid- morning the Scouts and Jon went into the sink and Klaus, Chuck and Ken stayed on top burning brush and cleaning tires. They stopped for lunch around 12:00pm and had grilled brats and hamburgers .Everyone enjoyed the meal! (On Goodwin work days, food is furnished for the volunteers.) Work continued until 3pm. A lot of progress was made in Amy's Dig and all

the tires on top were clean and ready to be hauled off.- info submitted by Ken Long. **Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>** – Gary & Alberta Zumwalt, along with Klaus Leidenfrost, worked at Goodwin, clearing brush and moving piles of wood and supplies. **Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Ken Long, Krista Bartel, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt, along with Klaus Leidenfrost, Chuck Lahmeyer, and Tom Fowler (SPG) worked at Goodwin. Krista worked on enlarging the crawlway to the tire blockage. Some logs were also removed. Ken used a hammer drill to enlarge an outside opening into another part of the cave. Maria Thompson came to help with lunch which was spent under a tarp as the rain started. After much dripping, we realized that the tarp had millions of small holes in it! Remember that old expression, it was leaking like a sieve..... All blamed Klaus who had picked that tarp out of the pile! **Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>** – At our grotto meeting: Our grotto voted to buy another game camera for use at Goodwin. We also voted to give a donation for Bob Liebman's medical expenses since he always supported our MVORs. Gary Braman reported on a visit to

Red Sink at Hahatonka. Dwight, Rosie & Karen Weaver made a one-day visit to MVOR. **Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Ken Long and Klaus Leidenfrost went to Goodwin to check on conditions after the rain and decided that the water probably did not get high enough to enter Amy’s Dig. **Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>** – Dwight, Rosie & Karen Weaver, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt attended the visitation and Celebration of Life Service in Ozark for Jerry Vineyard. We were glad to see quite a few cavers in attendance. An article of Jerry’s life written by his wife, Helen, was read. One of his daughters talked about growing up with Jerry as her Dad. Jon Beard talked about Jerry as a caver. It was all very humbling..... **Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>** – On the way back from Ozark, Gary & Alberta Zumwalt stopped by Goodwin, by way of Montreal, Hwy BB, and Lancaster Road. Lots of roads were impassable because of all the flooding. Goodwin Sink was full of water, within 2 feet of the gravel road, but the water appeared to be receding. Pictures were taken and sent to Klaus and Ken.—Alberta Zumwalt

**SPG. Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>**—Jon and Alicia spent the day in Ozark County in search of possible Ozark big-eared bats (“the COTO project”). They checked the first 350 feet of Peter Cave to determine its potential as a COTO site, also recording the biology they found (five pips, one cave salamander, one ~22-year old female ornate box turtle, several heleomyzid flies and mosquitos). They also spent time knocking on doors, but acquired no new cave leads. Jon and Alicia returned to Ozark County on Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> and were shown a small new cave for the database, Gimlen Roadside Cave, but it floods completely and thus doesn’t appear to be a good habitat. They also received two additional leads to check on another day. **Also Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell conducted a bio inventory of Bear Crawl Cave (OK). **Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>**—Eric Hertzler and Jon Beard searched eastern Taney County for potential Ozark big-eared bat sites. After checking MDC’s Bear Mountain Cave for biology, they talked with residents of the Cedar Creek area, obtaining some leads that included long-known Cathedral Cave. Tentative plans with the landowner were made for that cave. One feature overlooking Bull Shoals Lake was seen, but too short to call a cave. **Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>**—Jake Colvin, Treavor Bussard, Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard conducted SPG’s annual bio transect of Sequiota Cave (Greene Co). The procedure is to drop a transect square in five random spots along a 100-foot course. Bats were counted in the main stream and in North Creek up to the transect course. Caecidotea isopods were found in the transects, and other biota seen elsewhere were noted, including several ringed crayfish. (North Creek is the pirated surface stream Galloway Creek.) Then the crew conducted the transect of East Creek, finding Caecidotea isopods. Four bristly crayfish were found, the most since the catastrophic silting event of Dec. 2006. **Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>**—Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard killed two birds with one stone by continuing the CRF Barry County Project while also continuing the CRF COTO Project. They had earlier obtained three cave leads from local outdoorsmen, all three having sink entrances. The first, Coincidence Cave, was named because of two identical UTM coordinate endings. They began to map the cave, believing it to be a short “one-shot wonder.” However, after 30 minutes, it was determined to be at least 200 feet in length with a number of short side passages and decided to map it later—there were other cave entrances to visit. Next, they hiked to Jodies Cave, a small slot just above a creekbed. Named for a young woman who was said to have discovered it (according to the local outdoorsmen). This they mapped. After a climbable 12-foot drop, they found themselves in a roughly circular room with no enterable leads. The third lead turned out to be a fairly impressive cave system with two vertical entrances and a resurgence. The main pit, Wallace Pit, was some 30 feet deep. Not having vertical equipment, they then hiked down the slope to a second, joint-determined slot they named Wallace Cave. Jon explored this some 50 feet. The resurgence is too low after just a few feet, but when it comes time to survey the system, both pits and resurgence should be shown on one map. Also—Kate McKalip, Dillon Freiburger monitored Onyx Cave (Barry Co) for fauna on behalf of the CRF in Mark Twain National Forest. **Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>**—Doug Gouzie, Jon Beard and MSU Geosciences Dept. Head Toby Dogwiler taped an education module of what will be a free online course on basic caving and caves, scheduled to be available in summer. Also—Cynthia and Clayton Russell conducted a bio inventory in Three Forks Cave (OK) owned by the Russells. Counts included 50 pips, some cave salamanders and some Oklahoma salamanders. **Mar. 9<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup>**—Jon and Alicia surveyed a series of detailed cross sections in Fantastic Caverns (Greene Co) as part of a project. It is hoped to resurvey the show cave section of the cave in the future to add additional detail not shown on the 1960s map. **Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>**—Max White and Jon Beard assisted Eric Hertzler in survey work in a Mark Twain National Forest cave in Christian County while also monitoring the cave for biology. Also—Kate McKalip and Dillon Freiburger mapped Bullseye Cave for the CRF at the Buffalo National River in Arkansas. **Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>**-



**17<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard assisted a group of 14 in the re-gating of Crevice Cave (Perry Co). **Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>**—Mick Sutton, Tony Schmitt, Jess Schaner, Mark Jones, Sue Hagan, Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard monitored much of Still Spring Cave (Douglas Co) on Mark Twain National Forest on behalf of the CRF. Photo documentation was also conducted. **Mar. 19<sup>th</sup>**—Max White, Cheryl Paulson, Dillon Freiburger, Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard were shown a short pit cave by owner John Hopkins. At first it was assumed the cave was in Taney County, MO, but it turned out to be just inside Boone County, AR. Dillon and Jon mapped the short crevice cave, naming it Hopkins Pit. It was free climbable, narrow and short. **Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell returned to Three Forks Cave (OK) to conduct a bio inventory and do some maintenance. **Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard acted as guide for CAIRN members Craig Williams, Stephanie Voss, Michael and Jessi Schoenewies in checking Spanish Cave (Barry Co) for historical markings. Biology was also recorded for the first 500 feet of the cave. Also —Dillon Freiburger, Jake Colvin and other CRF cavers surveyed Little Rimstone Cave (documented last year by Eric Hertzler) and Fire Pit Cave plus monitored Cracked Bluff, Queen Vic's and Bice Mined caves along the Buffalo National River in Arkansas. **Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>**—Casey Scarlet, Brian Moore and Jon Beard monitored biology Chimney Rock Cave (Barry Co), a Forest Service cave that receives periodic monitoring. Bats, salamanders and insects were recorded. Also—Dillon Freiburger, Jake Colvin and other CRF cavers monitored several caves along the Indian Rockhouse trail including Indian Rockhouse Cave at Buffalo National River in Arkansas. **Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>**—Jon and Alicia Beard and Bruce Herschend spent most of the day repairing two broken stalactites (3 pieces) in Marvel Cave (Stone Co) near the Gulf of Doom. The project was made difficult because the stalactites are encased in a cramped-quarters protective Plexiglas enclosure, and the calcite was recrystallized and deemed too fragile to drill and pin. Using off-white Magic-Smooth epoxy paste, the pieces were rejoined, held in place by one spring clamp, suspended wire girdles, electrical tape and two caps off of drinking water bottles. This ought to be interesting if ultimately successful. **Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>**—Bill Heim and Jon Beard met with Randy and Melanie Rosebrough and cave owner Clarents Brewer in examining the entrance to Brewer (Pfaff) Cave (Greene Co). They agreed it would be a bit of a wasted trip after lots of recent rains to enter as the cave has a low crawl just inside that might be sumped. Jon took GPS reading and photos for the database. Gating was discussed to prevent neighborhood kids from falling into the 60-foot pit. **Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>**—Chris Lewis assisted Jon Beard in the survey of Silent Salamander Cave (Christian Co) as part of CRF survey projects in Mark Twain National Forest. The promising cave ends abruptly at 20 feet due to a sudden and complete flowstone blockade. It is not even possible to see beyond the blockade. Afterwards, Chris and Jon hiked the short distance to gated Rattlesnake Cave to monitor it for biology. Several species of critters were recorded. **Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard guided two classes (separately, morning and afternoon) of Nixa High School geology students on an educational field trip through the main room and North Loop of Breakdown Cave (Christian Co). This is the tenth annual group of sessions for the Nixa students. After the second session, Jon checked the biota in adjacent Fitzpatrick Cave. Biota observed in both caves were recorded. **Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>**—On Breakdown Cave (Christian Co) field trips, Jon Beard guided two more separate classes of Nixa HS geology students plus a MDC-sponsored women's group to round out the day (three sessions). **Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>**—As part of CRF projects, Matt Bumgardner and Jon Beard assisted Dillon Freiburger in the survey of Wallace Pit (Barry Co), a national forest cave documented earlier by Matt and Jon. The short but very impressive cave is entered by way of a 26-foot pit (an unroofed segment of a genetic dome) into a large, well-decorated room with two smaller chambers. While Dillon sketched, Matt and Jon photographed features and some of the 14 species of fauna which were later entered into the state fauna database. **Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>**—Jon Beard guided a group of Missouri Master Naturalists sponsored by the Missouri Dept. of Conservation on an educational field trip through the Main Room of Breakdown Cave (Christian Co). Topics covered included the role of breakdown in the development of large cave rooms, bats and WNS, cave ecosystems and how, through careful observation, one can determine the chronology of events in a cave's history. Copies of "Caring for Your Karst" were handed out afterwards. **Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell took the Dripstone Tour in Blanchard Springs Caverns (Arkansas). This is a world class cave. **Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>**—Cynthia and Clayton Russell, Faith and Chris Lewis, Jake Colvin and Jon Beard (and another volunteer) conducted SPG's annual maintenance and repair on the tour trail in Round Spring Cave (Shannon Co), a most beautiful cave in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways that is utilized for educational tours in the summer. Over 100 "divots" in the trail were filled with gravel and clay/gravel steps were squared. **Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>**—Eric Hertzler and Jon Beard floated the Buffalo River (AR) between Pruitt and Gilbert checking various short caves along the way (bio monitoring and other

documentation). The trip was originally planned for additional days, but heavy rains and river flooding limited their choices both before and after the days actually floated. **Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>**—Many caving friends were among those who attended the Celebration of Jerry Vineyard’s life in Ozark, MO.—Max White

**MSM Spelunkers** – We have wrapped up another successful semester here in Rolla. Most weekends in February and March were spent at Boiling Spring’s Resort in preparation for the Spring MVOR. MVOR had a final turn out of 302 people, plus the staff working the event. The weather was beautiful and the river was perfect for floating. Thank you to all who came! **Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>** -Lukus Shoffner, Joey Castrilla, and Michael Rouleau gave a safety and rescue presentation to the grotto. **Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>** - Forest Service trips were taken to Pittman and Mayfield #1 and #2 caves in Pulaski County, followed by camping at Boiling Spring’s Resort. Garrett Wood and Joey Castrilla found 2 northern long ears and one Tricolor in Mayfield #1. **Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>** - Ridge walking and inventory was done at the Patty Creek Wilderness Area. **Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>** - The Speleobox was featured in the St. Pat’s Parade in Rolla. Joey Castrilla and Rebecca Shaffer were “repelling” off the sides of the speleobox as it was pulled through the parade. This was a big hit, and the talk of the parade. **Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>** -MVOR! We spent most of Spring break (Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>-Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>) finishing the final preparations for MVOR. This included building the log cabin bonfire and prepping the pool to become an indoor hot tub. Everything went very smooth and we couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful weekend for our event. **Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>** - Earth Day at Missouri S&T. The speleobox was brought to campus for grade-schoolers from around the Rolla area to climb through. Members were there with pictures and handouts to answer questions the children had about caving. **Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Craig Buschkoetter led a Vertical Workshop at Indian Hills Campground. **Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>** – Elections for next year’s officers was held at Alex’s Pizza in Rolla. Congratulations to our new officers! President - Jackson Eberle; V.P. - Michael Ferguson; Secretary - Ben Esker; Treasurer: Nathan Durfee. **Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Bat fest at Onondaga Cave State park was cancelled due to large amounts of rain predicted for the weekend. –Jessica Self

**NOTE:** Bob Liebman, NSS 12718 RL FE, of 'BOB & BOB' Caving Supply has been diagnosed with cancer and needs financial help. Bob helped cavers for over 35 years meet their caving needs. His motto "Cavers Serving Cavers" took him to hundreds of caving events over the years, traveling with his white cat 'Froggie', and often times at greater cost than his sales generated, but he went anyway to serve and meet and talk to his fellow cavers. He generously donated cave gear for contest and door prizes at hundreds of events over his career. He also generously supported cave expeditions and projects domestic and internationally with needed equipment. He was diagnosed with cancer in December, has begun chemotherapy treatments, spent three weeks in the hospital, and is now in a nursing rehab facility at this time to get stronger and continue chemo. A “GoFundMe” account has been set up but if you want to avoid the 8% that the account collects, you can send your donation directly to his brother: Bill Liebman, NSS11970, 3342 Back Mountain Rd., Cass WV 24927-9020. His email is: [caver2007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caver2007@sbcglobal.net) His phone number is: 304-456-3433.

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

**Research committee** - Jerry Vineyard (deceased); Other members – Oz Hawksley, Dwight Weaver, and David Ashley.

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

**Cave Files** - Scott House, 1606 Luce St., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. 573-651-3782 scott\_house@hotmail.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>

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## Missouri Speleological Survey

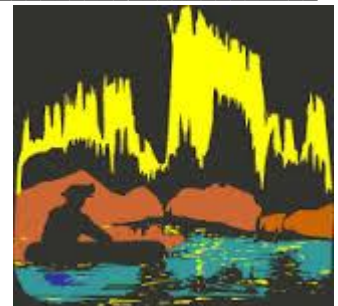
### Spring Board Meeting Agenda

**May 21, 2017**

*Onondaga Cave State Park*

*7556 Hwy H, Leasburg, MO 65535*

**Board meeting begins at 10:00 AM**



#### Administrative Business

- Roll call – Officers and Board
- Secretary’s Report and approval of last meeting’s minutes – Alberta Zumwalt
- Liaison – Gary Zumwalt
- Treasurer’s Report – Don Dunham
- *Missouri Speleology* – Don Dunham
- Affiliate Organizations – Vacant

#### Old Business

#### New Business

Research Council

#### Projects and Announcements

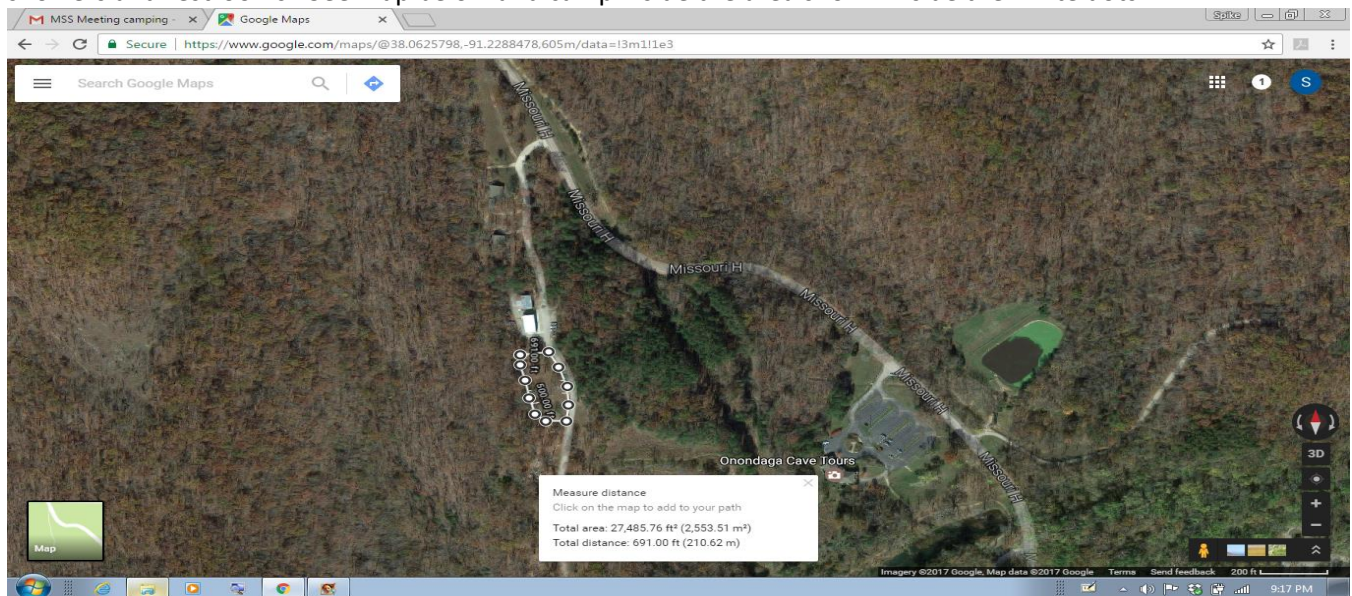
- Cave files / Database
- Agency Reports
  - *Mark Twain National Forest*
  - *Ozark National Scenic Riverways*
  - *Missouri Department of Conservation*
  - *State Parks*

- Others
- Affiliate Organizations Project Reports
  - Carroll Cave
  - Others
- Public Outreach
  - Facebook & Website
- Awards
  - Tex Yokum Certificate of Appreciation
  - Lang Brod Certificate of Recognition
  - J Harlen Bretz Award

## Next meeting & Adjournment

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**Spring 2017 MSS Meeting at Onondaga Cave – Camping:** Onondaga State Park is allowing us to camp in a cleared area just south of the maintenance buildings. To get to the camping area, as you enter the park from the north, make a right across the street from the ruins of the Missouri Caverns entrance to Onondaga Cave. Drive past the two seasonal workers' cabins and through the park gate. Go past the maintenance buildings and there is a clearing between the road and the woods. You can camp anywhere between the woods and the road outlined on the map. To save space for tents consider parking on the east side of the gravel lot by the maintenance buildings after setting up your spot. Do not camp on the east side of the road. That is towards the visitors center. The gate at the bottom of the hill should be open to allow folks to drive to the campground for showers and restrooms. See map below and camp inside the area shown inside the white dots.



**Meeting Site:** It's shaping up that the meeting site will be none other than inside of Onondaga Cave within the Missouri Caverns section which is further into the cave off of the traditional tourist trail. This means that you will need to bring headlamps and a camp chair and will have a bit of stroll down the tourist trail through spectacular Missouri cave passage. We'll meet Sunday morning at the Visitor's Center and likely enter into the cave as a group by 10:00 AM. Please plan to arrive a little earlier than that in case there are last minute plan changes or other logistical issues. We do have their pavilion reserved for us as well, if needed, but right now, the plan is to have the meeting in the cave. The MCKC meeting may also be in the cave. As of this writing they were still discussing the issue. If so, there may have to be some coordinated to take folks out after the MSS meeting and bring others in for the MCKC meeting. Likely we'll figure out the logistics that weekend. If you're only coming down for the meeting on Sunday the safest bet will be to arrive at the Visitor's Center in the morning with a head lamp, camp chair and open mind.

**Caving:** There will no doubt be some fine opportunities to go caving on Saturday including both monitoring and survey trips. Best to arrive Friday evening sometime if you're planning to cave on Saturday or let us know if you're planning to arrive Saturday morning so we know to plan for you. The earlier you get there, the less likely you are to miss a trip as some trips may leave before 10 AM. If you're arriving Saturday morning first check the camping area described above and then the Visitor's Center parking lot if you're looking to go caving. We're working out objectives within Onondaga State Park and in the Missouri Department of Conservation's Huzzah Wildlife Area. In both cases the caves are technically closed so we will only have access to specific, preapproved sites and it is expected that everyone follows USFW guidelines for gear decontamination to help minimize the human potential to spread WNS. In addition approved trip leaders with an MDC permit in hand will be needed on each trip to an MDC cave. All that said, there should be more than enough for us all to do.--Dan Lamping

**New MSS Shirts:** The new MSS shirts will be available at the next meeting for \$15 each, while supplies last.



**CALENDAR:**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> – Spring MSS Meeting**, 10 am, Onondaga Cave State Park, Leasburg, MO. Please be sure to read all the information about the weekend and meeting in this issue.

**July 1<sup>st</sup> – Next MSS Liaison deadline.**

**Annual Fees** – Organizations that still owe their \$25.00 fee are: CAIRN, CCC, Chouteau, KCAG, MCKC and SEMO. Fees should be sent or given to the MSS Treasurer, Don Dunham. The fees were due at the Winter meeting.

**Annual Reports** – Organizations that still need to submit their annual report are: Chouteau, LEG, MMV, MCKC, OHG, PEG, SPG and SEMO. Reports go to the MSS President, Dan Lamping.

The next *Liaison* will be a memorial to Jerry D. Vineyard. Dwight Weaver will be writing the "Remembering" article on Jerry. People are encouraged to send in short articles with special memories of Jerry. The deadline will be July 1<sup>st</sup>. Articles can be submitted in an email, attached to an email or even handwritten and sent by snail mail. Email: Gzumw@aol.com  
Snail mail: *MSS Liaison*, C/O Gary Zumwalt, 1681 State Route D, Lohman, MO 65053.