

New River Valley Grotto

Meeting minutes for 2/21/2017

Members in attendance:

- Don Anderson
- Bob Barnes
- Daniel Crowder
- John Fox, Treasurer
- Tom Gerow, Vice Chair
- Eric Hahn
- Karen Kastning, Chair
- Jennifer Lemmer
- Dirk McComsey, Secretary
- Ken Meyers

At 7:02pm, Chair called the meeting to order

President's Report

The next meeting will be held at Dublin Library. Maps are on the web site. We will meet in the big meeting room. It is ok to bring food. We must take garbage. If library lights are off, just come to the meeting room.

VAR has a landowner appreciation award. Don started it for Buddy Pennly in 1992. The VAR would like to have nominations before meeting last weekend in April. There is a list of previous recipients on VAR

Outstanding Service to VA Region is given to someone who has gone out of their way to give to the VA region. For more information, visit the VAR web site.

Karen sent around a paper about not asking for directions to caves. It was written about 4 months ago. The same thing was said when the new guys started attending. The key takeaway is to try to be respectful.

Vice Chair Report

None

Treasurer' Report

Since we last met, we paid a renewal of \$15 to WV Cave Conservancy. We have \$118.32, which is the most we've had in 5 years. Membership is \$10 per year and \$5 for dependents.

Karen received email to renew SCCI membership. Don motioned to send \$20 – Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Karen beat up my minutes.

Web Site

We need some web site content.... Trip reports, etc.

Some people were added to NRVG mailing list. It was explained that the nrvg list is address unpublished and no one should receive unwanted messages through that address.

It was mentioned that a calendar exists on the web site. We may want to start newsletter to list events that are happening. How often do we want to publish a newsletter?

Shirts were discussed. Secretary will check on prices with Caudell Graphix.

New Business

We had email from web site. Another scout troop contacted us. Scouts were handled under BSA on James Cleanup. We should shy away from outsiders asking for trips.

We don't know what gear we have for non-members. If more than a few people request to go caving, we can send them to VPI. We can only handle a few people.

It was mentioned that we should check the gate and lock on Adams Cave. There is information that needs stricken from the previous minutes. Kids are getting in over the gate at Adams. Frank Taylor changed the lock on the gate. The city and state paid to protect the cave. There have been some nice to make efforts to preserve it. Don moved to make John head to set up time to investigate; Karen seconded. The motion was approved.

Don mentioned 2 other caves in Fairlawn which need investigated and mapping. Mr. Hubbard's on Rt 11 would be a good mapping project. There is another on 624 which would be more challenging

A VSS director is needed for Pulaski County. \$10 per year they meet once per year. The job is to hand in maps to VSS. The state talks to them regarding where caves are for power lines, etc.

Don called Starnes landowner and left a message on both phones. He would just like to know when someone is going in. He would like email.

Trip Reports

James – everyone except Eric was there. 31 people in total were there. 9 NRVG members, 1 VPI member (Dan), 12 scouts from 2 troops and Derek's daughter attended. 22 trash bags 2 tires and (2 .5 bags came out of sinkhole) were collected. Official county cleanup is when we can do it again. Tom will be contacted. One Scout got nervous in a tight crawl. John and his father took him back out.

New River Cave – We took Derek’s family and split into two groups. One waited for Jennifer and Arron. The group made it to the falls. The group ran into cadets with no gear. The cadets were coming up old trail. Tom explained to them to sign in at Kiosk and have proper gear next time. Dirk sent an email to the commandant. Trip report needs written up.

Brandon (Bob’s son) was studying CO2 levels from cavers in James. He took samples several spots twice; once with 11 people and once with 3 people. Caving is not a concern with a lot of airflow. In small sections CO2 builds up but not enough to be a concern.

Starnes was in December.

VPI - Tom and Dirk attended a VPI meeting and told them we were modernizing. The Boy Scout cleanup was mentioned. The new members are interested in their training.

Blue Ridge Grotto - We may want to decide on certain times of the month for trips. It is a good place to go to find out what’s going on with caving community as a whole. They have 40 or 50 members now. They meet on the 3rd Friday of the month.

The 24th annual Grand Caverns Restoration Camp (Conservation Cleanup) is on Easter weekend, April 14-16. You can camp on Friday. On Saturday at 8:30, be at parking lot ready to work. Lunch and supper will be provided, but let Meredith know - merecaver@yahoo.com.

Karen brought VAR registration form. It didn’t make it in the Region Record.

The club is going to have a place at VAR. Tom, John, Karen, Bill & girlfriend will be there.

Next month we’ll be at the library. Scott said they now have a TV. We can eat. Take debris. It is reserved for March, April, May.