

# Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

December 17, 2015 – Jerry Brandenburg’s house

## Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg  
Fred Ball (online)  
Neena Jud

Werner Jud  
Scott Pavey  
Dan Zubal (online)

## Also attending:

Gary Bush (online)  
Bill Carr (online)  
Sean Cain (online)  
Bob Dobbs

Patrick Gibson (online)  
Dennis Green (online)  
Darryl Marsh  
Amber Yuellig (online)

Meeting started at 7:04 pm.

## Caretaker’s Report:

The Port-O-Lets were cleaned today. The part for the tractor has been ordered. It should arrive in 2-3 weeks.

## Treasurer’s Report:

*Expenses exceeded Income this month. Financial Report available upon request.*

## Old Business

WiFi modem/router: nothing new on this issue.

Water Regulator repair project: Jerry & Keith have established Saturday January 9, 2016 as the day to get this done. Keith will get the parts. Whatever we don’t use, he will return. We are hoping for warmer weather. Many hands are requested to get this done quickly.

Hydrant in front of Showerhouse: (refer to April 17, 2014 meeting minutes) someone asked if Keith should also pick up a new hydrant (Woodford or maybe Murdock) to replace the old one if there is time on 1/9/16. There is more to this project than just replacing the hydrant. New valves and a larger box are also required. Decision to NOT add this to the work that weekend.

Kitchen Water Heater replacement: Werner finished the installation of the replacement instantaneous water heater. It went online Monday, 12/14/2015. He also replaced the “iron barb” piece that has been dripping where the water supply pipe comes through the block wall. The new piece is brass. He brought the old piece to show everyone. The steel was very corroded on the inside – like severe arteriosclerosis.

Gravel Road Flood Mitigation Project: no new information.

Management Plan: Werner updated the Management Plan to add COG, to reflect the increase in camping rates, and other small verbiage tweaks. All the changed text is in blue. This was sent around to the Committee by email for review and comment during the past month. Those comments were addressed in the discussion. Neena also updated the Committee Charter to add COG.

**Action item: Werner to submit these document to the GCG Executive Board.**

GoToMeeting: Dan Zubal & Gary Bush have been working on this with Dennis Green. The December GCG Executive Board Meeting was held using Skype. Werner, Neena and Gary joined the meeting remotely. Dennis thought it worked satisfactorily, but noted that Skype does not allow people to call in with a cell phone without extra charges. The Skype version Dennis used does require Office 365 to host a meeting, which not everyone has. Dennis & Gary agreed that GoToMeeting would be a better program for our caving community to use. People can join GoToMeeting by calling in with a cell phone, on a tablet or on a computer. Gary brought a proposal to the December RKC meeting to split the yearly cost for this program. RKC agreed.

Since it will be used for GCG Executive Board meetings, GSP meetings, and RKC meetings, Gary proposed a split of 12/12/3 for the cost. The cost will be \$20/month plus a \$12 administrative fee, payable yearly through TechSoup.

Dennis can coordinate the purchase and give the credentials to whomever will lead the meetings for the other groups. It will probably be first used at the January GCG Board Meeting. He will also let Werner know what GSP's portion of the cost will be.

**Action Item: Dennis to work with Howard (who is GCG's primary contact with TechSoup) to purchase GoToMeeting.**

Donations for GSP: Continuing from last month: Bob is talking about having a white collar dinner in the cave for wealthy folks from Richmond in the Spring. They would pay a hefty sum to attend (to cover the costs and bring in a little profit), but the main purpose would be to set the stage to ask for larger donations later (like for the Educational Center).

GSP Chores list: Bob Dobbs brought his list of General Chores to be done and small Scout assignments. It can be laminated and posted at the Shelter, Scout Shelter & kiosk. In addition, he brought notices to put in the Mondos (sleeping cabins). The Lower Mondo notice will state that it is considered an electric site, \$6 extra per night. Werner updated the notice at the kiosk with the new camping rates.

Job box for recycling: Scott, Jerry, Werner & Neena looked at the job box that Bill offered to house the recycling cans. It looked too tall for kids to be able to use it easily. The Committee declined Bill's offer, but agreed to build a can corral to contain the cans and make them difficult for critters to tip over.

### **New Business:**

Archaeology Project in GSP: Amber Yuellig would like permission for a few Ball State Archaeology students to do some non-destructive subsurface investigation in GSP using Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). Ball State recently received a grant for a new GPR unit, and they already have ETR equipment.

The GPR unit is a computer and antenna on a three wheeled platform that the operator pushes over a generally smooth surface. An acceptable surface can be gently undulating, but not rocky and rutted. The computer will generate two dimensional images (which can be later stitched together to form 3D images) showing differences in soil layers as well as archaeological items.

ETR uses ¼” diameter stakes inserted into the ground, which current is run through. The stakes would be set after the GPR has determined a location to be clear of artifacts. ETR can provide information about the shape of the stone passage below the sediment.

She identified four areas for this initial investigation including in Echo Auditorium, near the snake coffin and near the entrance to Booger Branch. Gary requested adding the soldier’s graveyard since so many visitors ask about the validity of that label.

Amber anticipates these preliminary studies would involve 4-6 students over a four day weekend. It would occur after May 1 and avoid Open House, looking hardest at Open House work weekend or in early June.

With the results from this investigation, they will be able to apply for more grants for other projects. There are very few caves in which this type of investigation has been documented to be performed. One is the Cave of the Letters in Israel. A white paper will be produced, which will be shared with cavers along with copies of the preliminary data obtained. There will be a presentation at an NSS Convention. GSP requested copies of finished papers that can be added to our archive on the website. If articles will be published in journals, there may be restrictions on posting them on the website or at least delays until the initial publication date.

Amber submitted a grant application to the Cleveland Science Fund to cover expenses for the students, but would appreciate it if the Committee would waive the camping fees for this project. The project will go forward whether or not the grant money is awarded.

The Committee approved the project proposal, and waived the camping fees.

Bank Accounts: Werner is transitioning to paperless statements for the GSP accounts. Our accounts have two signatories, typically the treasurer and the committee chair. But when Neena was chair, Tim Hale became the second signature. He still is, even though he is not on the committee. In order to get paperless statements at People’s Bank, we need to update the signatories. This issue was tabled until next meeting.

Outlets at Electric Sites: many do not work. Werner has some replacement receptacles. Dan Zubal & Scott Pavey will work to get them changed out, possibly Jan 9 weekend.

Keys: Jerry & Werner maintain a list of people who have keys to the Cave and keys to the buildings at the Preserve. 33 people have keys to the Cave, 30 have keys to the buildings (which are non-duplicable thanks to Fred Ball). Many of these people have the keys because they hold a position – either on the Committee, the GCG Board or the RKC Board. Whenever someone leaves a position, please give the keys to your successor.

Scouting: Darryl Marsh reported that 2015 had 25-30% less Scout visitation than 2014. He realizes that this brought less Scout donations, but he has been unable to get enough volunteers as guides or tailgunners to commit to more trips. He asked for ideas to recruit more volunteers. GCG should encourage members, especially new members, to participate as a way to go caving together. If other member grottos have scout or youth group caving programs, please coordinate with Darryl, who will be glad to keep the master list of all youth caving.

Scott Pavey distributed more flyers in Indiana. There will be a Scouting Roundtable in early January. We may get more requests shortly thereafter.

The online form for Scouts already has a number of black-out dates for 2016 (i.e. open House, Caver Appreciation, etc.).

The Scout Fund currently contains \$3,671.00, which can provide matching funds for eagle scout projects or similar projects.

Meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

**Next meeting will be:**

**7:00 pm January 14, 2016 at Jerry Brandenburg's home.**