

# Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve Committee Meeting

September 13, 2015 – GSP Shelter

## Committee Members Present:

Jerry Brandenburg  
Fred Ball  
Tama Cassidy  
Neena Jud

Werner Jud  
Scott Pavey  
Dan Zubal

## Also attending:

Bill Carr  
Bob Dobbs  
Dennis Green  
Darlene Kisner  
David Lee

Ralph Mann  
Tammy Otten  
Debbie Pavey  
Brian Pitcher  
Mark Skinner

Bruce Soluski  
Mark Swelstad  
Mike Wuerth

Meeting started at 10:12 am.

## New Year:

At Saturday night's Grotto meeting, Jerry Brandenburg was appointed and accepted Chair of the Committee for another year. To start this meeting, Jerry asked all Committee members present if they were willing to continue serving. All agreed. Jerry will contact Pat Hutson since he was not at the meeting.

## Caretaker's Report:

The wi-fi system is still working, although we still need the new modem.

The coupling inside the four wheel drive assembly on the tractor is broken. The tractor can still be used to mow level areas, but cannot be used on hillsides until this is repaired. Bill tried to order the parts from Moon Tractor in Hillsboro, Ohio (D&D no longer handles Kioti parts).

He asks people to double check that everything is locked whenever they leave.

## Treasurer's Report:

*Income exceeded expenses. Complete Financial Report available upon request.*

Most of the income came from KOR. The majority of the expenses this month was for Special Projects. More funds were spent on this project in September.

The Utility expenses were typical. Werner also mentioned that the Water bill covered KOR, and was a very reasonable amount.

A question was raised about insurance – the bill usually arrives end of September or October.

## Old Business

Unlimited Long Distance & Wi-fi: One year ago the Committee agreed to cover this extra cost with the assistance of Sherry Johnson-Clements collecting donations while she does membership collections. She was going to work with representatives in the other grottos to collect donations from those groups. Sufficient donations from various

sources (including excess Scout tip money received by Darryl Marsh and Daiquiri Wacker profits from KOR) have been received to cover this cost through December 2015, although no monies have been received from Sherry since around March 2015. She may have some donations that have not been passed on to Werner.

For a number of personal reasons, Patrick Gibson is not able to help with the Wi-fi system at this time. Bill Carr will continue to maintain the current system. It is simple and the parts are affordable. He will get the new modem.

Sherry has resigned from the GCG Membership position, so will not be collecting donations to this fund. The list of authorized Wi-fi users (aka those who have contributed to the LD/Wi-fi fund) that Bill Carr has is rather short.

As a recap – June 2012 GSP added Wi-fi (only available bundled with unlimited Long Distance) so that vendors at KOR would be able to process their credit card transactions on-line. Other people also wanted to use Wi-fi service while at GSP and offered to donate to the cost. The GSP Committee agreed that Wi-fi is not integral to the natural outdoors experience at GSP, but is willing to continue the service if others cover the additional cost. The unlimited LD feature of this bundle has been heavily used. The previous phone package included only local phone calls, LD was paid by calling cards. In the first year, donations easily covered the extra cost. In the second year, Werner kept mentioning that the LD/Wi-fi fund only had enough money to cover another month or two. He got tired of shaking the trees, and people got tired of hearing the service would be cut off. So last year we established the current system of GSP committing to the service for a whole year and Sherry collecting donations.

It is time to determine whether we will continue with the current system, and if so find someone else to collect the donations. The method of collecting donations has been the biggest challenge. The annual additional cost is approximately \$600.

A number of suggestions and comments were voiced including:

- Asking GCG to cover the extra expense for the Long Distance and Wi-fi;
  - Variation: asking all four managing grottos to split the cost equally;
  - Variation: asking all four managing grottos to split the cost proportionally;
- Sell LD/Wi-fi passes with camping passes;
- Increase the amount for camping donations and camping passes and make the Wi-fi password available to anyone who makes a camping contribution.
  - Scout camping donations would not increase. They already donate \$7 a night. Scouts will not get the Wi-fi password, but Long Distance will be available.
  - Nightly camping donations could increase by one dollar to keep it in whole dollar amounts.
  - Annual camping passes could increase by maybe \$30 Family and \$20 individual (Camping Passes did not change at the last increase in January 2011).
- Make the system simple even if it is not completely fair.
- GCG has KOR as a way to raise money. BGG, DUG, and COG do not have income streams like that. They would be hard pressed to contribute.

All were asked to take these ideas back to their respective Grottos for their reactions and any other suggestions. These discussions should stress the value of the Unlimited Long Distance component of the bundle since that is so rarely talked about and is not usually mentioned as part of the name of the extra service.

Werner was asked to assess the expenses and camping donations and report back with recommendations of increased amounts which would cover this cost.

Werner was asked to call Windstream to see if the voice mail feature could be deleted with a cost savings.

Issue was tabled until October meeting.

Artifact case: No further developments.

COG: The next step in the process to become a full member of the Management Committee is to review this change with RKC at their next meeting in September.

Dan Zubal spoke with the COG Treasurer and they are ready to sell camping passes. Camping passes will not be printed until October, and a bundle will be given to Dan at that time.

Waiver: Modifications to the proposed revised waiver as suggested in the last meeting were made. The next step is to review this with RKC at their next meeting.

New suggestion: send the draft version out to the RKC Board and Managing Grotto Boards for review as well as those who receive the meeting minutes. If the Boards agree, we should be able to ratify the new waiver at the next meeting.

Water Heater in Showerhouse now has a new anode rod, installed by Werner Jud with Scott Pavey. Werner showed the old anode rod at the meeting. The sacrificial magnesium was almost gone and the core was clearly visible for the entire length. Werner also cleaned out the closet in the front of the Showerhouse. The two old water heaters are now gone. He added a light fixture.

Bill Carr will examine the condition of the element this winter when he drains the system.

Copperhead activity around the Shelter is much higher this year than previously. Many snakes have been collected and relocated to the back of Barton Field. The abundance of snakes is what prompted the Showerhouse closet cleaning, but none were found there.

The swampy zone repair near road in front of Showerhouse has been completed. At the end of August, Pat Hutson was joined by Bob Dobbs, Jerry Brandenburg, Shane Mullins, Ron Hager & Scott Pavey to install the French drain with three pipes for a 300' length to cover most of vendor row as well as in front of the Showerhouse. They cut a trench across the road and extended an outlet pipe to the creek. After they filled the trench with gravel (no fines), and backfilled the last 4-5 inches with topsoil, they mounded the dirt so that it looks like monster gopher tunnels to allow it to compact through the winter.

The total cost for this work was approximately \$2650, and we authorized a budget of \$3000.

The next weekend, Pat Hutson & Scott Pavey returned to refresh and extend the drainage at the electric sites. They installed 200' of drain pipe and gravel and connected to the catch basin and outlet pipe Pat and others installed a few years ago.

The cost for the additional work was approximately \$700.

The Committee decided to scrape off the dirt mounds sometime in March to allow time for grass to grow back before Open House and KOR. This topic will be revisited in February 2016 to plan work dates and acquire the seed.

Water Regulator repair project: Keith (Jerry's plumber friend) has a price list for the parts and wants to confirm the costs with Werner before placing the order. We will establish the work weekend around Keith's schedule, then we will ask for volunteer labor to help get it done.

### **New Business:**

Bruce Soluski expressed his appreciation for the temporary repair to the electric to the Point. It worked very well during KOR. Thanks to Werner Jud and Dan Zubal with a lot of assistance from others.

School Field Trips: Bob Dobbs has five field trips scheduled already. Thursday & Friday before the first & second weekends in October, and Friday before the third. Bob requested additional Port-O-Lets. Bill Carr will contact Loveless to get two more Port-O-Lets and ask him to service them weekly during October.

Deb Bledsoe passed away on September 4, 2015. There will be a service in Oxford, Ohio Tuesday evening September 15, 2015. The Committee decided to make a donation to Kentucky Heartwood in Deb's memory and send a small floral arrangement to the service. In Deb's obituary, the family requested donations to Kentucky Heartwood or Hospice of Cincinnati. Deb Bledsoe received the Stuart Butler Award from Kentucky Heartwood in November 2010 to recognize her as an environmental hero.

Neena & Werner Jud want to plant a Thornless Honey Locust in the campground somewhere in Deb's honor, since she first suggested that tree as a good shade tree that does not drop large leaves in the autumn. Jerry will facilitate getting the tree and getting it down to the Preserve.

### **Coming events**

RKC will have a member's weekend on September 25-27, 2015.

### **Special Mention**

Werner Jud commended Jerry Brandenburg for successfully navigating numerous challenges in his first year as Chair of the Committee.

Werner Jud moved to adjourn the meeting, Scott Pavey seconded. Meeting ended at 11:20 am.

**Next meeting will be:  
7:00 pm October 8, 2015 at Jerry Brandenburg's home.**