

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025 – at Jerry Brandenburg's and virtually

Call to order: 7:07 pm

Committee Members

Debi Pavey Chair GCG Rep	Werner Jud Treasurer GCG Rep	Neena Jud Secretary GCG Rep	Jerry Brandenburg GCG Rep
Fred Ball DUG Rep	Kevin Lorms COG Rep	Mark Swelstad COG Rep	David Lindemuth BGG Rep

Sub-Committee Members

Kristen Harper Caretaker	Scott Pavey Equipment Technician	Meg Gaskin Social Events Coordinator	Darryl Marsh Scouts Coordinator (not in attendance)
-----------------------------	-------------------------------------	--	--

Additional Attendees

Andy Schofield	Kyle Kreutz	Matt Sumner	Pete Stow
Patrick Gibson	Jared Embree		

Announcements

Kyle Kreutz (GCG Chair) asked Debi Pavey if she would be interested in filling the GSP Committee Chair position for the 2025/2026 season. Debi accepted the role.

There will be an RKC meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2025, 2:00 pm at the Deer Park Library.

Secretary's Report

Jerry Brandenburg made a motion to accept the July meeting minutes. Kevin Lorms 2nd. No opposition.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses exceeded Income in the month of July. *Financial Report available upon request.*

NJ moved to approve the Treasurer's report as delivered. MS 2nd. No opposition.

Caretaker's Report

The Preserve mowing is completed, but Kristen will re-mow Scout Camp tomorrow.

She noted that there has been raccoon activity in the Shelter. Each night, the outside trash cans must either be emptied or be moved into the kitchen. *(this has been a problem for many years)*

Result of beaver activity is visible in the back field. One 6" tree and one 4" tree are down.

Kristen contacted the Trash Guy to get the price for a dumpster for us. He is working on it.

Lyla sponsored a Revival in the Cave on Thursday & Friday nights, August 7-8, 2025. If the gate is wide open, there is supposed to be someone at the gate verifying that the people coming in are attending the event or otherwise supposed to be at the Preserve. This time, the Lyla's gate monitors were typically in the upper parking lot – a problem for the security of the Preserve. Debi stated she will discuss this with Lyla during her next trip to the Preserve.

Sub-committee Reports

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms & Kelly McNamara

- Kevin reported that Kelly sent out a report for Open House 2025 after the meeting already started.

KOR – Pete Stow & Meg Gaskin

- Pete reported that there were 314 adult registrations, 13 youth and 27 kids at KOR. He worked through the numbers and recommended the GCG Treasurer to send \$10,440 to GSP for camping, electric sites, and facility fees for Port-O-Lets and dumpsters. This is close to what Werner heard and reported in last month's minutes.
- After all the monies that are promised or due to organizations are paid, there should be \$2992 profit for GSP.
- The question was asked – will KOR 2026 be a multi-grotto event as this one was? GCG has not made or announced the decision. That was leading to whether part of the profit from this event be set aside to be seed money for next year? Even though GCG had \$1,000 set aside, none of the seed money was touched. All expenses were paid out of the registration monies that came in. Part of the selling point for this year's multi-grotto event was that all the profit would go to GSP, and currently all the checks or fund transfers are being made by Adam Mathis, the treasurer for GCG. So it is not up to GSP.
- Kyle Kreutz reported that GCG is exploring how things are structured, the details including what happens when cash is needed up front. There will be some internal discussions, followed by reaching out to other grottos for input.
- Andy Schofield reminded all that TAG was cancelled this year. Part of the reason was a late selection of dates, which complicated finding a chair. Debi shared that there were other complications due to changing the location to someplace different resulting in regular volunteers stepping away.
- Matt Sumner was the co-chair this year and is ready to step up and lead the event for 2026. He has his team selected – pending the decision on the dates.

Caver Appreciation Weekend – Debi Pavey & Megan Gaskin

- Debi Pavey will be sending all the Grotto Chairs a request for nominations for Caver of the Year. She is currently reviewing this with Meg before sending this out. Then the GSP Committee will review the nominations and determine the awardee. She doesn't know what the award will be, but it will get figured out.

Status Reports

Action items

- Signs (Neena Jud) – branded boundary signs remain on the list. Neena has taken this over. She reached out to Adams Signs (two different companies – one in Ohio and the correct one in Kentucky) and will report back with pricing. It was suggested to add "No Trespassing" to the signs. The attorney agrees, commenting that this would mean less liability for us.
- Submeter for waterline to CR – The waterline valve & meter is still awaiting installation. Rodney is expected to arrive on Friday, but timing is unknown.
- Cameras & Wi-Fi– Patrick Gibson to prepare a system diagram with equipment listing of the security system remains on the list.
- David Lindemuth still needs kitchen training. He will be there this Saturday. Neena will be there and could train him since Scott and Werner will be there but not available.

- Outside shower walls – The old pine tree is leaning, and sawdust is “raining in” from the tree. Jerry to join with Scott & Jared to take care of cutting down the dead tree – preferably soon!
- Bridge to the Point – Bruce Isaacs, Pat Hutson and Scott Pavey continue to look for a solution. Neena has the RKC Grant Committee looking for funding sources. It is just a matter of time before the current bridge fails completely, and we can’t get across it.
- Installation of rain barrels for the Green Latrine – Scott is currently at the Preserve and today constructed a platform to support one of the rain barrels.
- Locate & inspect the septic tank for the CR – Scott has his ground probe with him and plans to locate it tomorrow.
- Showerhouse murals (Nina Soluski) – in Nina’s court. Women’s side complete, Men’s side next. No GSP funds were budgeted for painting supplies for the murals.
- Long-term garbage collection- see Caretaker’s report above.
- Replacement wheelbarrow? – Kevin Lorms still plans to bring a spare one that he has the next time he visits the Preserve. – which will either be CAW, or possibly before.
- Flags – Kevin Lorms spoke with Gary Bush about the flags and reports that Gary has spoken with “the Flag Lady” and is still on it. He is looking for a stitched (embroidered) flag, not simply a silk screened on nylon, and “the Flag Lady” makes the better quality ones. Neena has been in email communication with Gary and understood that he has some pricing, but he is not in the meeting to report. Megan stated that she sees several companies available online that do embroidered flags. We will wait for Gary’s report.
- Maintenance Training save the date – Invitations were sent out for Sunday, Sept 21st at 9 am. Debi has steno pads & pens for the walk-about, which will include the Caretaker’s Residence as there are systems we need to check and maintain in there. This is not a property boundary walk, but a review of the infrastructure of the Preserve. A boundary walk is best done in late fall to early winter.

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Sauna Construction update (Jared Embree) In a couple of weeks Jared will be at the Preserve to insulate with spray foam underneath. He may get the interior insulation donated. It will be up and running for Caver Appreciation Weekend.
- Debris clean-up on Point – Jared will remove the stove & boiler during that visit. Patrick will retrieve the old stove during his next visit (probably CAW). The Blue barrels on the side of the equipment shed are for water filtration and are in use.
 - Regarding the camouflaging discussion last month, Sott has some green & black spray paint with him and could paint the barrels. Others commented that the spray paint will just peel off, so that idea was declined. Pete suggested that there might be some inexpensive camo netting available on-line that might be fun to try.

Miscellaneous Projects

- Committee Member position descriptions – (Debi Pavey)
 - A second draft of a “Treasurer Position” description was sent to Werner for final review.
 - She is creating other Committee Member Position descriptions, similar in format to the one she is creating for the Treasurer’s Position. There will be one for the Secretary’s

responsibilities as well as a general Committee Member. She would like to distribute these to all the Grottos before Caver Appreciation weekend.

- She will also ask the grottos formally for their representatives for the 2025-2026 year. This will be written communication to each of the grotto chairs individually. It is up to each of the Grottos to decide if they want to keep their representation as it is or change it. Right now, only Debi as Chair and Werner as Treasurer are committed for the next year. So she suggests each member of the Committee that wants to remain on, communicate your interest to your grotto chair. If not, thank you for your service.
- The Committee has been asked to help search for a new Treasurer – once the description of the responsibilities is finalized. This requires coordination with RKC.
- The Committee has also been asked to help search for an Educational Coordinator for the School Field Trips. This person would handle the communications and logistics of scheduling the Field Trips – reaching out to schools, responding to inquiries, adding them to the calendar, and lining up the volunteers. This person would not necessarily need to be at the Preserve to do the presentations or give tours since Neena is still available to do that. Debi will create a position description with Neena's input. This does not need to be a Committee member, just a member of one of the managing grottos.
- Promotional Communications (Debi Pavey/Meg Gaskin) – Debi sent out a “save the date” for Caver Appreciation and will continue to work on the schedule for this.
- MOU – Meg sent a revised draft to Patrick Gibson, Debi Pavey and Kyle Kreutz of GCG for review. Patrick and Debi responded, awaiting Kyle's input. She rearranged it to flow better. Once that is acceptable to all three parties, Debi will share it with the Committee members.
- Kentucky Colonels grant – The Grant Committee was expecting a letter from them formally denying our application and wondered if it was delivered to our GSP address. Kristen stated she might have seen something but thought it was an envelope with coupons from the Kentucky Fried Chicken colonel and discarded it without opening. We will request another copy be sent.
 - The RKC Grant Committee will continue looking for grant opportunities for this as well as other projects for other Preserves and for the Bridge to the Point.
- Management Plan – Gary Bush noticed that the Management Plan on the website still included the old camping rates. He requested an updated version to post. Werner will handle the update, including removing the Friends of GSP references, then send it to Gary for posting and to the Committee for their records.
 - A thorough review of the Management Plan can still be performed in conjunction with the revisions to the other documents.

Project List – listed here to track.

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Comments
Replace seal on Freezer			Werner Jud	This weekend
Stove pilot light artery replacement			Werner & Scott	This weekend
Quickbooks software upgrade	low		Werner Jud	After RKC's tax filing
Bridge (or Modify Spillway Access) to the Point	high		Scott Pavey Pat Hutson	They will come back when more information
Shower house roof vents install	low		James Clements	He is looking for time to do this
Leopold bench by Ellie's Plaque	low		Werner Jud	On hold (scout project?)
Entry drive repair		\$52,030	Neena Jud	Grant not awarded
Ticket house walls	next		Jerry B. & Scott Pavey	Re-use of wood not possible, needs material selection & funds budgeted.
Ticket house memorial plaques	low		Neena Jud	
Water line upgrade – Submeter & shut-off for CR		No cost	Werner Jud	Waiting on Rodney
CR Septic Tank inspection			Werner Jud	After Scott locates tank
Website redesign	Winter		Jared Embree	
Replace showerhouse walls		\$200	Scott & Jared	One wing wall remains
Atlas Pillar Electric panel replacement	lower		Werner Jud	
Kitchen electrical panel replacement	lower			All these items require a deep dive to attack; it will be intensive work
Kitchen exterior conduit repair	lower			
Repair and seal walls against rodents	lower			
Waterproofing kitchen walls	lower			

Preserve Calendar**Field Trips – Neena Jud**

- One field trip is scheduled for Friday, October 17, another will likely occur on Thursday, October 16.
- Neena also communicated with Lauren Ballou, an Assistant Professor of Biology at Berea College who will be teaching a “Cave Biology” Course this session. She has twelve students in the class, juniors & seniors and would like to arrange an educational visit to GSP on a Tuesday afternoon. In addition, it would be great to help her students get more experience underground in various environments on weekends. Some of the students are more experienced cavers and some are newbies. I suggested she reach out directly to Chelsea Parada so that BGG could consider assisting. They are working with her directly.

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh (not in attendance)

- Darryl keeps the Scout trips listed on the Calendar.
 - There is a Cub Scout Pack scheduled for CAW, which it would be helpful to re-schedule. Debi emailed Darryl to see if this is possible. No word back yet.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- August 21 – a Work Group (kids) – approx. 4 hours
- August 22 – a family cave tour – about an hour
- August 28 – another Work Group – approx. 4 hours.

Other Calendar items

- September 19-21, 2025 – Caver Appreciation Weekend
- September 21, 2025, 9 am – Maintenance Training Walk-about
- Halloween Weekend – October 31 – November 2, 2025

In addition to the above, the Calendar shows:

- Orientation to Cave Rescue is August 23-24, 2025
- After Caver Appreciation Weekend, the KSS annual meeting will be September 27-28, 2025
- Terry Wolfe & Hippie Mike Thornton will be married on October 4, 2025
- The CD Ward Masons will be in the Cave on October 11, 2025

Please check the Events Calendar. pw is niter1798

New Business

- NSS Convention in Indiana – July 6-10, 2026
 - Pre-Convention Camp – Meg Gaskin with Jared’s assistance offered to be the host over the Fourth of July weekend. We will offer camping, and if any of our cavers want to take a visiting caver on a cave trip, that’s great, but we are not scheduling specific trips at this time.
 - The Calendar listing is now firm (tentative removed, post-convention camp removed). This effectively blocks another event or scout troop from scheduling that weekend at GSP. It will only be for those attending or assisting with Pre-Convention Camp.
 - Scheduling this reinforces the urgency to get certain things done around the Preserve, such as the entry road repair. Unfortunately that cannot happen until we have the funds.
 - Decision to open the Preserve as early as Wednesday, July 1. Convention Campground will open on Sunday, July 5.
 - In order to do this, we need to provide a small blurb providing the dates, contact person, cost per night and something about the Preserve and what we are offering. Meg will assemble this.
- GSP Store on the Website – Neena will create a “store” in Zeffy and get that to Gary Bush for including on the website.
- Shelter Kitchen cleanliness/usage
 - Kristen is not the person who should be cleaning out the refrigerator and freezer.
 - Part of holding or borrowing a kitchen key is that you accept responsibility for what goes on in the kitchen while it is open under your watch. It must be cleaned up before you lock it. Anyone who brings food into the refrigerator or freezer must take it out at the end of the weekend. No bread products are to be left in the pots hanging from the ceiling.
 - Discussion arose about the small freezers outside the kitchen at the Shelter and selling ice from them. Kristen has purchased ten pound bags of ice for a dollar each and offered them for purchase for five dollars each. This requires the freezers to be operating round the clock, which Werner calculated at close to \$50/month electric usage.

- Kristen's thought was to save up the profit from the ice sales to use towards purchasing an ice trailer, which could then be pulled to the distributor to get loaded up and brought back to the Preserve. Beyond that any profit could be used for any of the various projects around the Preserve.
- The Preserve is a place for primitive camping. People should not be expecting freezer or refrigerator storage space. If people's ice melts, they are responsible for going out and getting more ice.
- GSP is a non-profit organization, not a commercial operation. If we get into selling ice, that steps into being a business. Having the freezers on all the time costs GSP money. At least one Committee member saw that the current honor system is not working.
- Werner thinks we do not need another chore, and Kristen doesn't need another chore.
- Patrick can see both sides. If Kristen wants to have the freezers at the CR, pay the electric bill for running the freezers, manage and sell the ice, then donate the surplus funds; then it is not a burden on the Preserve or the volunteers.
- Andy stated that some people were pleasantly surprised to see the freezers and ice during the recent event. They bought ice and were not expecting it. He thinks the demand is there – at least in the summer months. He realized it creates an additional task for someone to do, when there are many tasks that need to be done. He would be interested in the numbers, trying it for more than just a month.
- Meg is concerned about where the freezers will be placed. If we don't want people to be constantly approaching the Caretaker, then having it on the CR front porch may not be best. As a non-profit, we should not look like we are selling stuff. And lastly, the appearance of appliances on a front porch starts to look messy, cluttered.
- Neena suggests thinking long term about this issue. If we establish the expectation of having ice available on the preserve, then someone else will need to take this over when Kristen moves on to her next phase of life. Neena still thinks we should not be selling stuff, and she does not think that we want to have an ice trailer sitting somewhere on the Preserve.
- Fred acknowledges that the biggest burden on selling ice is on the person who is choosing to do it. In the short term, he does not see a reason to oppose having ice sales by Kristen at the CR if she is willing. This might relieve some of the challenges with kitchen usage. Admittedly there is the long-term to consider, but currently Fred is leaning towards approval.
- Kevin likes the idea of having ice available and at the Shelter. He suggested keeping it locked with a kitchen key so that the responsibility for ice is added to the remainder of the kitchen concerns. He thinks it adds value.
- Debi suggested that the chest freezers are there, but most people don't want to see an ice trailer at the Preserve full time. Also, GSP needs to be paid for the electric usage of the freezer(s) that is(are) on.
- The question was raised about the electric cost – was the calculation run at 100% operation or did it account for cycling on and off? Werner was not on the call just then and could not answer.
- The issue resolved to continue with the ice one more month to see what the demand is like, then revisit at Caver Appreciation weekend. We can poll the attendees to ask their

input and get payment for the two months of electric use. To date, GSP has not received any funds for ice sales, although GSP has paid for the electricity.

- A mowed path from the loop road down through the trees to the Showerhouse has been used for four-wheeling. Kristen observed this, called the guys out on it, got them to help set up a barricade fence and re-seed the grass. Kristen's concern was that it would erode if the usage continued and that area would become an eyesore.
 - The Committee was in full support of Kristen's actions here. And with it barricaded, the greenery will grow and in a month or so it will not be visible.

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Saturday evening of Caver Appreciation, after dinner and before the party – likely at the Shelter. September 20, 2025 actual time to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:36 pm

Dates to Remember (please check the calendar on the GSP website):

OCR class – 8/23-24/2025

Caver Appreciation Weekend – 9/19-21/2025

KSS annual meeting – 9/27-28/2025

Wolfe-Thornton Wedding – 10/4/2025

Mason Cave Degree Ceremony – 10/11/2025

Halloween Party - 10/31-11/2/2025