

GSP Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 2025 – virtually

Call to order: 7:09 pm

Committee Members *(crossed out names were not in attendance)*

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	Mike Thornton Wolf BGG Rep

Sub-Committee Members *(crossed out names were not in attendance)*

Kristen Harper Caretaker	Scott Pavey Equipment Technician	Meg Gaskin Social Events Coordinator	Darryl Marsh Scouts Coordinator
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Additional Attendees

Pete Stow	Gary Bush	Sean Cain	Gwen Tucker
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Announcements

- Fred Ball reminded all that the Masons made a request to use the Cave for another Cave Degree on October 10, 2026. This is on the calendar. Now Matthew Kirby, a York Rite Mason is requesting June 12, 2027. We will not be able to give an answer to that until the beginning of 2027 due to the scheduling of KOR 2027. Fred will pass this on.
- Fred also shared that most of the participants of the Caving & Camping trip last weekend with Troop 84 out of Westerville, Ohio came home sick. Internal discussions revealed that the only two scouts that did not get sick brought their own water with them from home. Everyone else got their water from the spigot outside the Showerhouse, thus they suspect some contamination from it. Fred will forward the email he received about this to Debi. Discussion ensued and Werner agreed to contact Rodney with Kentucky American Water to ask about testing our water. We are looking into it.
- The outside showers have been turned off by Werner Jud.
- Jerry Brandenburg disconnected the Scout Shelter rain barrel.
- An envelope with \$20 and marked “for personal use of dumpster” was found in the pay pipe. Kristen explained that the Georgiannas cajoled her to throw some of their trash away in our dumpster. Kristen insisted on receiving payment for that on behalf of GSP and made it clear to them that this will not happen again. They are not to contact her again.
- Jon Hagee, longtime BGG member and one of the very first GSP Committee members, emailed Mike Thornton to ask how to schedule hosting a tour of the Cave by 30-40 people who are part of the 1780’s Kentucky First Families heritage group. He further requested this happen in June of 2026. Mike responded that June is a busy month since KOR is usually then and takes precedence. Neena will respond to Jon and ask him to send in a group request form with plenty of details about this group event including food & Shelter use. She will further suggest the last weekend in June as that is a week before the NSS Convention. KOR tries to be scheduled farther away from Convention that two weeks. She will also encourage a donation. Mike is willing to be a secondary sponsor. If Jon accepts the last weekend of 2026, there were no objections to adding him to the calendar.

- A GCG member contacted Debi to borrow a cave key. She sent him to Jerry Brandenburg as the GCG key holder rep but also asked why he contacted her rather than Jerry. He explained that her name is the only one of the four GCG committee members listed in the Electric Caver. Debi has contacted the EC editor to get Jerry Brandenburg's name added as the GCG key holder rep.
- Debi has heard some comments and complaints about dogs at the Shelter. GSP has a Pet Policy in the Management Plan that states that pets are to be kept at a distance from the Shelter when people are eating and especially during events. (See Pg 6 of the updated 2025 Management Plan.) Debi will share the Pet Policy email from Werner that he first composed in 2016 with the rest of the committee. Once we agree on a refreshed message, Debi will send it to the Grottos Chairs and request inclusion in their newsletter. We could possibly add a post to the ggcavers facebook feed to this effect. Once we have an updated message, Gary Bush offered to add a blurb on our website as well.
- GCG is a caver's preserve. Guests of cavers are welcome, but unless they clearly are cavers or want to become cavers, we should not be telling guests that joining a Grotto will get them camping privileges. GCG and COG have certain requirements to join the grotto that include attending two meetings and going caving with members. (This does not affect the current members who are formerly active cavers but rarely go caving anymore.) Encouraging DUG & BGG to incorporate similar requirements for membership will also help filter out the non-cavers. We should also not mention the hot tub or sauna to guests, especially any locals. Continue to keep those items on the down low.

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

Expenses exceeded Income from October 1, 2025 to the date of the meeting. *Full Report available upon request.*

KOR – Pete Stow commented that since there was no treasurer for KOR, things fell on Pete to track in his Excel spreadsheet. Since Pete had no access to the KOR account, there were a few bills paid out of that account that were not in his spreadsheet and they are trying to reconcile that. The discrepancy is down to about \$150 now. He is hoping to get this settled very shortly. KOR has learned an important lesson that they must have a dedicated treasurer that has access to everything.

Neena Jud moved to accept the Treasurer's report as delivered. FB 2nd. No opposition.

Caretaker's Report

Kristen reports that the grounds were mowed and leaves cleaned up. She will get more fuel. Things are much warmer in the CR since the work was done in the crawlspace to seal up the insulation. On-site ice sales were attempted this year but will not be repeated. The freezers have been moved to her shed.

She gave a report on her dumpster investigations:

- Bee Garbage rents us an 8.5 cu. yd. dumpster at \$45/month rental and \$250/emptying. This runs us about \$2,000/year for six to seven services. Dimensions are 5'-6" wide x 7' high x 6' long
- Waste Connections out of London is offering a 10 cu. yd. dumpster for \$77/month (service and rental inclusive). This comes with a pick-up once a month for a total cost of \$924 per year They ask for a \$75.00 deposit on the dumpster in the first year, refundable when we stop using them. Dimensions are 5'-6" wide x 5' high x 9'-6" long.
- JJ&C Distributors out of Corbin are offering a 15.5 cu. yd. dumpster. Dimensions are 7' wide x 4' high x 15' long with lids. At five emptying's per year it would be \$2700/year.
- Big E disposal is non-responsive.
- Pick's Trash Service is out of business.

- Rumpke in Kentucky is not returning her calls.
- Southern Madison Sanitation is door to door only - not a viable option.

Kristen will write this out and send it to Debi, who will share with the Committee, then we can vote on it. The current dumpster is practically full. She will call for it to be emptied in the next two to three weeks.

Status Reports

Action items

- Signs (Neena Jud) – The completed signs were picked up by Werner and brought to the Preserve. See also “Property boundary walk” under Miscellaneous Property Maintenance.
- Showerhouse murals (Nina Soluski) – Kevin spoke with Nina and let her know we did not have any funds allocated for this. But if they want to find some folks to help them buy paint and continue their artistic efforts in the Men’s side, they are welcome to. They will also try to get the paint out of the Women’s side as soon as they can make it to GSP again.
- Locate & inspect the septic tank for the CR – Still on Scott’s list to confirm the location.
- Tractor barn culvert pricing – Werner Jud is waiting for the written proposal.
- Flags – Kevin Lorms / Gary Bush – We have all Winter to worry about this.
- Debris clean-up on Point – underway, not complete quite yet.
- Shelter Kitchen cleanliness & usage – Debi still will compose something and sent out to the grottos.
- CR crawlspace ductwork repairs – Werner & Scott sealed up the holes in the crawlspace on Halloween weekend.
- CR plumbing repairs – Werner took an inventory of all the components needed to finish the repairs. Once he has them and can get a crew of volunteers, he will get on it. Gary Bush offered to assist.
- Werner will shut down the water inside the Showerhouse in 2-3 weeks and will drain the Scout hose at the same time. He will let Debi know when so she can publish a message that it is closed.
- Kitchen – does not get shut down. Darryl turned the Sink shut-down procedures to the Winter side and ensured that the space heaters (running through the temperature sensors) were set to their maximum settings. It is imperative that anyone who leaves the kitchen during the winter make sure those heaters are in their standby mode, ready to turn on. That means they are plugged in, the switch is on, and they are standing upright on the small board to keep them above any water that seeps into the building during heavy rains.

Action Items not discussed:

- Status of property while Caretaker is away for 3-4 weeks in March.
- Cameras & Wi-Fi– Patrick Gibson - system diagram with equipment listing remains on the list.
- Entry Drive Repair grant search – no further progress to report.
- Bridge to the Point – Scott Pavey / Pat Hutson / Bruce Isaacs – no further progress to report. Mike Wolf has some ideas but wants to research and develop them further before discussing with Scott.
- Concealment of Sauna & Hot tub on the point – Tabled until someone can speak to it.

Sub-committee Reports

OPEN HOUSE – Kevin Lorms & Kelly McNamara

- On hold until January.

KOR – Pete Stow & Meg Gaskin/Matt Sumner

- See Pete’s comments under Treasurer’s Report.

Miscellaneous Projects

- Committee Member position descriptions – (Debi Pavey) – not discussed, on hold:
 - The Treasurer Position description – completed by Werner.
 - The Chair description and the general Committee Member Position description are on hold since the MOU and related documents may have an impact on them.
- MOU – Patrick Gibson / Meg Gaskin / Debi Pavey – this is being reviewed by the RKC Board and will probably be discussed at the next RKC meeting.

Miscellaneous Property Maintenance

- Property Boundary walk –

Werner led a team of eight people in addition to himself to hike the back section along the southeast property line. They installed eleven boundary signs and observed three items of concern. Property stakes were placed that do not align with our property description where we started the hike up the hill bordering Kristen’s former property – now owned by Elliot & Bee Malach.

A very large old growth black oak tree which is a critical benchmark for three property owners – Georgiana, GSP and Malach was cut down and the top left over the stump. This was an old growth tree and part of the legal description for an undisputed boundary marker. It was obviously taken for logging, a real tragedy and criminal. Werner would like to see a task force formed – two or three people to contact the Forestry Department on RKC’s & GSP’s behalf about this cutting. Some action needs to be taken. We cannot just allow this to go unchallenged.

There was a permanent deer stand, a deer feeder, and a wildlife camera about 100 feet inside our property along the Slusher’s boundary. The stand and feeder were seen in Early Spring 2023 (*date corrected*) when Werner & Neena walked the line with Josh. Kristen said that once we have a boundary sign in that area, and it is posted in the newspaper – which we did earlier, we can then call the Game Warden and he warn the Slushers to remove their stuff or can put out warrants for their arrest.

Regarding the tree, Kristen suggests contacting Scott Shouse with Sourwood Forestry through the Kentucky Forestry Department who was with Kristen when she had her dispute with the Georgianna’s. He saw that tree still standing at that time. He can verify that that is the same tree and write a report. From there we can try to figure out who cut it down and who to go after. Mike Wolf offered to be the lead contacting these folks, if Werner would send him all the information in a single email – he will be glad to handle it. Kristen is willing to assist.

Werner will bring this to the attention of RKC. He will encourage them to compose a letter about this to the adjacent property owners.

Project List – listed here to track.

Task	Priority	Budget	Assigned To	Comments
Culvert pipe at Tractor barn road	high		Werner Jud	Awaiting proposal
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	Searching for grants
Ticket house walls	next		Jerry B. & Scott Pavey	\$500 for glass faced gypsum board
Ticket house memorial plaques	low		Neena Jud	
CR Septic Tank inspection			Werner Jud	After Scott locates tank
Website redesign	Winter		Jared Embree	
Outside shower enclosure walls		\$75	Scott & Jared	Paint after one year
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			

New Business

- Gwen Tucker was invited to virtually attend this meeting by Darryl Marsh to pose an idea for a hybrid camping, caving and music event at GSP, potentially in Spring of 2026 that they have been discussing. It would run from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon with 200-250 people maximum, including volunteers. Dinner and maybe lunch on Friday & Saturday would be included, breakfast would be on their own. Musicians in the Cave would be performing primarily ambient music (elevator adjacent to electronic with minimal equipment). Gwen came into caving through "Let's Go Caving" almost ten years ago and has volunteered with outreach trips to a lesser and greater degree in the succeeding years. Darryl shared via email that they have musicians & event planning folks on tap, and the event would benefit GSP. Debi Pavey cautioned that additional sponsors will be required for an event of this size, one or more will be needed to oversee the kitchen. Gary Bush cautioned that GSP as a non-profit, is not allowed to do anything that resembles a commercial operation – which includes someone financially profiting from the event. Mike Wolf also cautioned that there's a lot of legal stuff that goes along with an event like this, including a liability policy for this specific event and being sure that all the health department regulations are followed and things like sufficient Port-O-Lets are in place. The discussion concluded with Gwen understanding that she should send a detailed write-up about the whole event to Debi, and that Darryl can give her Debi's contact info.
- Werner sent out a proposed budget today for Committee members to review. It is in Excel, and if anyone needs this in a pdf form, please let Neena know. We did not really discuss it, rather Werner requests all to review this document over the month and raise questions. For example, consider what kind of budget for the Halloween event and similar things. But to address the question of whether we need to raise camping rates again – Werner sees no need. We can go over this at the next meeting.

Preserve Calendar

Field Trips – Neena Jud/Mark Swelstad

- Done for the year. Will resume in April 2026

Scouts and Outreach – Darryl Marsh (not in attendance)

- Darryl keeps the Scout trips listed on the Calendar.
 - Darryl will soon send out descriptions of youth group coordinator positions(s) to obtain support.

Lyla Requests – Debi Pavey

- None at the moment and nothing expected until spring.

Dates to Remember

- RKC Meeting – December 7, 2025 @ 2:00 pm at the Reading Library
- CIG New Year's event – December 30 - January 4, 2026, Angie Rhodes, sponsor with Darryl Marsh
- DUG/BGG Wormfest Weekend (WaterWorm) - March 20-22, 2026
- Open House Work Weekend – May 2-3, 2026
- Open House – May 16-17, 2026
- Pre-Convention Camp – July 3-5, 2026, Meg Gaskin sponsor
- NSS Convention – July 6-10, 2026 in Corydon, Indiana
- Masons Cave Degree Ceremony – October 10, 2026, Fred Ball sponsor

Please check the Events Calendar. pw is niter1798

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 7 pm, virtually.

Motion to adjourn: Mike Wolf, Second: Mark Swelstad

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 pm