

# Minutes of the Fall 2016 VAR Meeting

Williamsburg, WV

## OCTOBER 1, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 9:00

### Reports

#### **The Secretary** - Carol Tiderman

A motion was made by Blue Ridge Grotto to accept the minutes as published in the Region Record. New River Grotto seconded. Motion passed.

#### **The Treasurer** - John Fox

Our funds are not doing well in the NSF

Janet has funds remaining for the sinkhole cleanup

Paid for 5 years of web hosting

Thanks to Tri-State for paying the VAR fees from the meet they hosted.

#### **The Vice Chair** - Judy Fisher

No report

#### **The Chairman** - Craig Hindman

Don Anderson was missed in the Chairman's Column he received a 60 year membership pin from the NSS. The column noted who received 50 and 60 year pins, fellowships and the Science Award. There was also a report on how the NSS borrowed funds to pay off the HQ.

Roswell Jones donated 20K to the NSS

There are 34 acres for sale in Wise County for 2k/acre.

#### **Conservation CO-Chair** - Meredith Hall Weberg

No report

#### **VAR Outstanding Service Award** - no report

Meredith Hall Weberg resigned from the committee

Karen Kastning volunteered to serve on the committee

#### **Landowner Recognition Awards** - Janet Tinkhan

No nominations received

#### **Landowner Legal Support Committee** - Bob Hoke

No report - No new is good news.

#### **Region Record** - Nikki Fox.

Doing a great job

**VAR List Server** - Phil Ballister

Up and running

**VAR Web site** - Jim McConkey

One of the primary functions of the VAR web site is to quickly disseminate information of Region-wide interest. Please make sure to contact me with any upcoming events: VAR meetings, conservation projects, cleanups, whatever. I strongly suggest you send in complete details of your event 3 months in advance, if at all possible, to ensure maximal exposure.

I previously reported that Jerry Bowen has compiled an index of Speleo Digest articles of interest to VAR cavers, and made it available on the the VAR web site. I am happy to report that it appears to be very popular, and is now in the top 5 most visited pages. The Limited Access Cave List is far and away #1. It is a shame that we are still having problems with cavers and non-cavers showing up at closed caves.

I occasionally get complaints that some grotto's contact information is not up-to-date. I only publish what information is sent to me. If your grotto changes officers, please have the new officers contact me with the updated information.

**Cave Bucks** - JC Fisher

Send them in

**VSS** - Rick Lambert

Meeting at Natural Bridge in two weeks

**WVASS** – George Dasher

Meeting on the first Saturday in May at Balfour's in Unus

Send in maps, pictures, etc.

5119 karst features

Mountain pipeline going through a better area

Dominion pipeline going South of Tygart Valley - not as good as we would like, but better than it was

**WVCC** - Carroll Bassett

Banquet 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in November - 12th

Flashlights for sale

Leftover steel is stored at Larry Lilly's

Please join

**SCCI** – Walt Pirie

No report

**Grand Caverns/Cave Hill** - Jim McConkey

The resurvey of Fountain Cave is almost complete, and there will be one more trip next weekend before the caved is closed for the winter due to bats. Several surface digs are in

progress, and we are always researching historic signatures. As soon as the leaves fall, it will be prime time for ridge walking again.

I have recently happened upon complete surveys of Weyers Cave (now Grand Caverns) and Fountain Cave, done in 1890 by the fledgling Grottoes Company. A heavy snowfall that December idled their land and road surveyors, so they ventured underground to continue working. The survey has its quirks, but would be recognizable to all of us, with fore and back sights and sketches. I am working on creating maps from this unique old survey data.

**Virginia Cave Board** – Karen Kastning

No quorum at the last meeting

**Cave Conservancy of the Virginia's -Dave Socky**

Board meeting will be held next weekend.at Natural Tunnel

Money is available for grants

**Spring Survey Project** - Joey Fagan

No report

**Youth Group Liaison** – Joey Fagan

No report

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Scout Day at Natural Bridge - Mary Sue Socky helping

Send scouts to commercial caves with wild tours

**New River Cave**

Kiosk has been built

**DOMINION PIPELINE**

Cocered in WVASS report

**HOST REPORT**

Around 90 people in Attendance.

**Old Business**

**VAR Hosts**

Spring 2017 -Tommy Carpenter hosting on the last weekend in April. Will need help with led trips

Fall 2017 -Pine Mountain grotto will host at the Mountain Institute on Spruce Knob. Party will be at the upper meadow - 4k feet - 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in September tentative date

**New Business**

- A. BCCS requested membership in VAR passed
- B. Doug Moore will be our rep at the Highlands Conservancy
- C. Ken Mays was interviewed for an article regarding caver education and bats.

**Grant Requests**

No requests submitted

**Elections**

The current slate was nominated by New River Grotto, Blue Ridge Grotto seconded- passed unan

**Announcements**

Marianne McConnell, Mary Sue and Dave Socky presented Murder Hole in Roanoke it was well received and filled the theater. Next showing Oct.17 in Salem and Oct.22 in Salem. Cavers have been very supportive.

**Adjournment**

WVASS moved to adjourn, DC Grotto. seconded. Meeting Adjourned at 10:07

Respectfully submitted:  
Carol Tiderman