
WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring Meeting

Cave of the Winds

April 28, 2001 — 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

WELCOME

? Any general announcements or news.

WCP PROJECT REPORT

Discussion: Mark Maslyn

All expected articles and photographs have been submitted to Rob Kolstad and the design of the “Caves of Williams Canyon” is completed. Rob and Bob Cronk have been proofing the book prior to routing to Donald Davis for final proofing. Funding is finally in place, in part thanks to \$579.83 donated in February by the Cave of the Winds from their Canopy Hall wishing pool. Several cavers have submitted loans or committed to submitting loans for publishing the book, which should go to the printers in May. Rich Wolfert of Inner Realm Books reports that he will sell the book through his bookstore, including at the annual NSS Convention in July. Project directors will also be asked to participate in selling the book and gathering pre-orders. The project Internet site can also provide images from the book, a table of contents and perhaps an order form.

? *Discussion:* Latest developments, funding, updated project timeline.

WCP TREASURY REPORT

Discussion: Bob Stucklen

Bob Stucklen has coordinated establishing a bank account for the project as a part of the new Northern Colorado Grotto account. The project is splitting the banking fees with the Northern Colorado Grotto but will have complete authority over its funds. Caver loans for publishing the project report will be paid back equally over time.

? *Discussion:* Account specifics, loans submitted and loans yet to be received.

WCP INTERNET WEB SITE

Discussion: Mark Maslyn, Gerry Estes

Gerry Estes has upgraded the original web design posted at coloradocaves.org and will continue to expand and update the site as materials are submitted. As webmaster, Gerry is looking for photographs and trip reports to be posted to the web site. Mark Maslyn is serving as technical director for the site and will handle any technical problems.

Cave of the Winds, Glenwood Caverns and Westcliffe Publishers have committed to purchasing banner ads on the site for one year. The fees collected for the banner ads will pay for the monthly hosting fee.

The Colorado Cave Survey posted its page to the site in early April and materials from other invited groups will be posted according to their timelines.

? *Discussion:* Topics to be posted, project timeline.

CONSERVATION

Breezeway Cave Restoration: Al Collier, Tom Dotter

At the January 27 meeting of the Project, the Board, attending trip leaders and the Cave of the Winds management agreed to temporarily close Breezeway Cave to all regions beyond Happy Trails owing to continuing restoration of the trade route between the Enchanted Forest and Holy Waters.

Several trips were led into the cave during February and March to restore these passageways and clean mud tracked through the areas. Numerous cavers have helped in the project, successfully cleaning significant regions. However, there is much yet to be accomplished.

? *Discussion:* Project logistics, reopening of Breezeway timetable.

Cave of the Winds Restoration: Jeremy Stiles, Al Collier

Cleaning of flowstone and dripstone along the commercial tour routes in the Cave of the Winds continued through February and March. The Bridal Chamber in the Manitou Grand Caverns was also identified as a region needed cleaning.

In March, the Cave of the Winds added the Spider Web Valley to commercial tours, installing clear plexiglass in front of the alcove in the Old Curiosity Shoppe and spotlighting the slender helictites. This was the first new feature to be added to the tour since 1989.

? *Discussion:* Project logistics, timetable, other areas needing restoration.

CAVE PROJECTS

Narrows: Rick Rhinehart

Chas Lindsey and Jim Braswell have continued their digging in Narrows Cave, connecting the new passage leading from the Sistene Chapel to the Stratigraphic Pit. This provides a strategic new shortcut to that isolated section of the cave, reached previously only by climbing down the deep shaft. Digging continues, with a connection to the Spring Canyon area a possibility.

Project participants have also been helping clean the cave of trash left in Narrows during times when the cave's entrance gate was damaged and unable to be locked.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Babylon: Fred Luiszer

An interesting area near the Egyptian Temple in upper Williams Canyon past the Bridal Veil Falls was examined in late February. Numerous cave features in the area, including a large cliffside pit ("Vertical Admiration"), an arch and several interesting dig possibilities were examined. The most promising of these features, a previously nameless dig site later designated Babylon, leads into a short cave with perhaps 20 feet of excavated passage. Digging in this cavelet since February has failed to open a new cave., though there is reason to believe that continued excavation may lead to a significant cave. Only additional effort will reveal if the northern canyon holds cave north of the Grieving Widows complex.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT SURVEY SECTION

Update: Paul Burger, Tom Dotter

Paul Burger is completing new, revised maps of Cave of the Winds and Breezeway (the latter will be featured in an *NSS News* article about the cave this upcoming October). He has also been working with webmaster Gerry Estes to post survey standards and the inventory form on the Williams Canyon Project website. Paul plans to eventually prepare a surveying tutorial that can be posted for interested cavers to review prior to taking an actual survey course. Inventory training will continue to be scheduled throughout the winter season to teach more cavers inventory standards and practices.

The Project is still awaiting the final survey information from the laser theodolite survey of the canyon conducted over the last few years. Tom Dotter paid for the rental of the survey instruments and will convert the data to a format usable by Compass software.

? *Discussion:* Inventory training; available maps.

AUTUMN WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT MEETING

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

In previous years, the project considered holding training sessions at the autumn meeting to refresh project trip leaders as to their responsibilities and practices while on Cave of the Winds property. Should this autumn's meeting be required for all trip leaders? Though the project has strongly encouraged trip leaders and other interested cavers to attend the autumn meeting and submit that season's trip leader forms in person, a record number of cavers failed to attend the September 2000 meeting. Is it important that project trip leaders attend at least one meeting each year? Or, should it remain optional as in actual practice (if not policy)?

? *Discussion:* New policies, requirements of trip leaders.

CAVE OF THE WINDS TOPICS

Discussion: Jeremy Stiles

Jeremy Stiles of the Cave of the Winds may have some topics for review and consideration by the Board and Project Trustees.

OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

? Topics from the Floor

? Date for next meeting: last Saturday in September?