
WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring Meeting

Cave of the Winds

April 25, 2003 — 9:30 a.m.

A G E N D A

WELCOME

? Any general announcements or news.

WCP JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Discussion: Rene Neely

Minutes of the last meeting from our Project Secretary.

WCP TREASURY REPORT

Discussion: Bob Stucklen

Update on project finances from Treasurer Bob Stucklen.

GEORGE SNIDER GRAVESTONE

Discussion: Mark Maslyn

The Project has proposed to place a gravestone on the unmarked grave of George Snider, the discoverer of the Manitou Grand Caverns and commercial developer of the Cave of the Winds. Estimates for a granite marker with a photo of Snider are in the \$600-\$1000 range. Funding will be from the sale on E-Bay of photo equipment donated by the Cave of the Winds, donations from member grottos and individuals, with assistance from the Cave of the Winds. It is planned to place the marker on or about the anniversary of Snider's death, on June 26.

? *Discussion:* Ad hoc committee needed to coordinate project. Will need to design marker and have it prepared for placing. Also will need to coordinate donations. Publicity for placing of stone needed, as well as coordination with the Colorado Springs cemetery for installing the stone.

PARTNER TRIP LEADER CLASSIFICATION

Discussion: Jeremy Stiles

Jeremy Stiles and Rick Rhinehart have proposed the new "Partner" category of trip leaders. This new category was approved at the January board meeting, pending additional details and logistics from Jeremy.

? *Discussion:* Details of selection and nomination of cavers for the new category. Review of new trip leader application.

NEW DIG PROPOSAL FORM CONSIDERATION

Discussion: LP Lawrence, Rick Rhinehart

Upon request from the Board, LP Lawrence has prepared a new dig proposal form for consideration. Rick Rhinehart produced a modified version of LP's proposal, also presented for consideration. The new proposal form can be used for all new projects beginning with the 2003-04 season.

? *Discussion:* Introduction of the new form. Should it be placed on the WCP website for easy access by members?

NEW PROJECT RULES AND REGULATIONS CONSIDERATION

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

Last autumn, Dan Sullivan suggested to the Board that additional rules and regulations regarding caving in the canyon and project management be prepared and adapted. These new rules and regulations covered many topics, most of which were previously discussed by the board over the last decade but were undocumented. Project Chair Rick Rhinehart reviewed Dan's suggestions and prepared a detailed proposal for consideration by the Board and the Project membership at the Spring meeting.

In addition to additional rules regarding new projects and caving practices and guidelines, a new section detailing project management and membership is proposed. Ken Kreager suggests that this section be broken into a separate document, a formal charter for the Project. He also suggests that the Project's "Caving Practices and Guidelines" section be retitled "Rules and Regulations of the Williams Canyon Project" to emphasize importance.

? *Discussion:* Review of the new rules and regulations and acceptance by the Project.

PROJECT LEADERSHIP: VICE CHAIR POSITION NEEDED?

Discussion: Carl Bern

At the Board's January meeting, a proposal was made to add a new position of management for the Project, a Vice Chair position. This new position could be used by the Project to train individuals for the Chair position. Carl Bern was asked to determine the duties for the Vice Chair position. (The Project Rules and Regulations proposed above, also include this position, based upon discussion at the January meeting.)

? *Discussion:* Formalize the new Vice Chair position and confirm duties.

WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT SURVEY SECTION

Update: Paul Burger

Recent surveying and cave inventory activities in the canyon. Gerry Estes has surveyed Cave of the Swirling Mists in the upper canyon.

Donald Davis has undertaken a detailed investigation of Cave of the Winds property boundaries, particularly in regard to the ongoing dig project at Cave of the Swirling Mists at the Temple of Isis. In recent years, the Bureau of Land Management professionally resurveyed property boundaries of the federal Pike National Forest land to the north of the Cave of the Winds property. This resurvey corrected an old surveying error from the 19th century and squeezed Cave of the Winds and Castle Concrete Snider Quarry property. The new survey suggests to Donald that the entrance to Swirling Mists is on Cave of the Winds property and is under the direction of the Williams Canyon Project.

? *Discussion:* CD-Rom expected soon of Williams Canyon cave maps.

CONSERVATION

Cave Restoration: LP Lawrence

Work has continued in Breezeway Cave, cleaning mud in the north end of Stone River. Under the direction of LP Lawrence, much effort has been put into cleaning the area and placing a taped trail.

? *Discussion:* Should the north end of Stone River be opened for limited caver access, provided cavers take care and remove all muddy boots and clothing before entering?

Gating Projects: Dan Sullivan

Last year's discovery of unauthorized trips into Breezeway Cave has brought the suggestion by Dan Sullivan that a sturdy jack gate be placed in the "toilet bowl" climb immediately before the Heaven's Gate area. This gate would protect inner Breezeway from unauthorized visits, a growing concern of conservationists. Dan has prepared a formal proposal for the project board, which would be funded by the Cave of the Winds.

Also, Dan believes the stainless steel gate for Breezeway Cave, installed in October 1993, may need additional strengthening and security to avoid further violation. The electronic alarm system for the cave is currently undergoing revisions by John McLean, which will improve reliability and ease use by cavers.

In late March, Dan coordinated a sealing of the Middle Cave entrance to Cave of the Winds. The entrance was rediscovered and opened briefly in December 2001, before being buried and resealed. Unfortunately, unknown persons discovered the entrance and opened it for access to the Grand Caverns, possibly in the summer of 2002. Dan and a large group of Project volunteers installed a sturdy temporary gate to the entrance, which can be removed for a permanent gate, possibly for the proposed commercialization project.

? *Discussion:* Should an inner gate be installed in Breezeway? Is the toilet bowl chimney the correct location for the gate? Also, should electronic alarms be installed in Cave of the Winds to monitor the cave after hours?

CAVE PROJECTS

Cave of the Swirling Mists Dig: Gerry Estes

Continued digging in the Cave of the Swirling Mists, located near the Temple of Isis in upper Williams Canyon. The cave is approximately 160 feet long and continuing to lead east/northeast. Several dig possibilities have been found, including prospects leading southeast. Efforts will continue in hope of finding a major open extension.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Yukon Trail Dig: Rick Rhinehart

In the February through April 2003 period, several dig trips were taken to the Yukon Trail in the Manitou Grand Caverns. Two sites were excavated – Site A is a continuation of the main northeastern-leading joint from the Grand Concert Hall originally excavated in 1989. Site B is a shaft at the south end of the Yukon Trail. Neither site proved to be particularly promising and so the dig was closed for the season in mid-April.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Huccacove's Sand Castle Room Dig: Jon Barker

Continued digging in the Little Grand Canyon/Sand Castle Room area of Huccacove Cave.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Sandite Cave: Fred Luiszer, Donald Davis

This dig is on hiatus.

Breezeway Cave: Randy Reck, Tom Dotter, Dan Sullivan, Mike Frazier

Digs at the Little Mountain Room and the Celestial City have been on hiatus for several months.

Additional Digs

Other dig projects can be discussed.

CAVE OF THE WINDS TOPICS

Discussion: Cave of the Winds Management Representative

A management representative 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: September 27, 2003 (last Saturday)