WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter Meeting, Part II

Cave of the Winds
February 24, 2001 — 10:00 a.m.

A G E N D A

WELCOME
? This marks the first time in the Project's history that a meeting has been continued after a month's recess.

WCP INTERNET WEB SITE
Discussion: Mark Maslyn, Gerry Estes
The new Williams Canyon Project Internet web site, ColoradoCaves.org, is now operational. Joining the project at this new web site is the Colorado Cave Survey and the Taylor Park Project. Invitations have been given to the Fairy Caves and Wind Cave Projects. The Cave of the Winds and Westcliffe Publishers have agreed to purchase one year banner advertisements on the page to help pay for the web hosting fees.

What should be posted at the WCP web site? Should trip leaders be posted (perhaps with password protection)? What about trip reports?
? *Discussion*: Topics to be posted, update timeline.

CONSERVATION
Upside Down Staircase Restoration: Al Collier, Tom Dotter
Continuing discussion from the January meeting regarding the restoration of Breezeway Cave. In January, the project decided to temporarily close Breezeway Cave beyond the Enchanted Forest to allow restoration of muddied passages. Following completion of the restoration, the cave will be reopened. All Breezeway Cave trip leaders should spend at least one day helping with the restoration; other project cavers are encouraged to help out with the project.

How can cavers pass through the Upside Down Staircase in Hallowed Ground without tracking mud? Suggestions have included a ladder, changing to clean clothing, and adding some clean supports to the Staircase to allow cavers to keep away from the imbedded mud.
? *Discussion*: Project logistics.

CAVE PROJECTS
Narrows: Donald Davis
Chas Lindsey, Jon Barker and other cavers have been working in Narrows Cave since the first of January. About 275 feet of new passage have been discovered beyond the Sistene Chapel, including a small room "The Phone Booth." More cave may yet to be discovered.
? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Big Alcove: Fred Luiszer, Donald Davis
This last Thanksgiving, project cavers successfully completed a dig at the Big Alcove north of the Cave of the Winds. About 275 feet of passage was discovered in this new cave, including Glen Cove, a small chamber with very modest beaded helictites. Continued digging in December opened a connecting passage from Nevada Avenue in Big Alcove to the Northeast Extension in the Cave of the Winds. This connection allowed the cave's entrance to be collapsed. The integration of Big Alcove into the Cave of the Winds represents the first new cave to be added since Cliffhanger in 1986, and the fifth cave to comprise the system (Cave of the Winds, Manitou Grand Caverns, Middle Cave, Cliffhanger Cave and Big Alcove).
? *Discussion*: Dig logistics.

Isis: Gerry Estes, Fred Luiszer
Following the completion of the Big Alcove dig, cavers returned to the Temple of Isis north of Donahue's and Easter Dome caves. The dig, in an interesting gully that appears to be a collapsed cave passage, could lead to a significant new cave between Breezeway and Grieving Widow's. Given its close location to the Snider limestone quarry, the cave may be significantly damaged by major blasting operations in the quarry.

Recent digging in the cave since January suggest the passage may be too difficult to excavate. Another dig possibility, the Pinnalcove, has recently been found in the same area.
? *Discussion*: Dig logistics.

East Wall/The Big Dig: Rick Rhinehart
For several years, cavers have speculated that a major cave may be found behind the East Wall of lower Williams Canyon. This heavily fractured wall of limestone, just south of the Huccacove parking area, apparently is where the Williams Canyon stream sinks most of the year. Undoubtedly, the stream goes underground at this point, possibly pirated by a large stream passage leading east/southeast into the mountain.

With the 1999 April flood, the Williams Canyon road was destroyed in the lower canyon, providing an opportunity to dig at the wall where the road once lay. Walt Rubeck has obtained permission from Grant Carey to dig at this point, and at the "Dig of the Presidents" across from the closed pit entrance of Manitou Cave. What makes this dig unique is that it will involve heavy equipment.

In October of this year, Walt and his associates will spend a day rebuilding the Williams Canyon road to allow access by four wheel drive vehicles to at least the Narrows. During the weekend, they will use their backhoe and loader to dig debris away from these promising prospects. Cavers are invited to participate, as it is quite likely that the equipment will open one or more new caves.
? *Discussion*: Dig logistics.

COLORADO GROTTO 50TH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE

Discussion: Tom Dotter, Rick Rhinehart
The Colorado Grotto is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2001. Among the festivities planned for the year is the placing of a time capsule in the Cave of the Winds, to be opened by the officers of the grotto in 2051.

To be enclosed in cement, the time capsule would be installed this November in the Cave of the Winds system. One possibility is in Marble Hall, the former entrance chamber to the Grand Caverns. Though the ultimate decision must be made by the owners of the Cave of the Winds, the Project can provide a recommendation as to the appropriateness of such a feature in the cave.
? *Discussion*: Logistics.

WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT SURVEY SECTION

Update: Paul Burger, Tom Dotter
A new, updated map of the Cave of the Winds is expected soon. This map will include the new Big Alcove section and Cross'es Well, a complex region located north of Cascade Hall in the lower cave which was missed during the survey project. Paul is also working on re-releases of maps of several caves in the canyon.

This spring, Tom Dotter is planning on completing the plotting of the recent laser theodolite survey of Williams Canyon. The survey will allow caves of the canyon to be tied into an accurate grid, establishing firm relationships between the known caves.

Another new project underway is cave inventory. Paul has managed one training session to date (in November), with a second scheduled for the afternoon of this meeting. Project cavers are encouraged to participate and assist with inventorying the caves of the canyon.

? *Discussion*: Inventory training; available maps.

WCP NON-ACTIVE TRIP LEADER RECOGNITION

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

Many cavers who have been active in the project's past are currently unable to apply for trips into canyon caves as the active trip leaders are restricted in number. Some of these cavers have actively contributed in the past but for various reasons are unable to contribute as regularly at this time. This proposal will allow former trip leaders to apply for a single trip during a caving season (October through April) to a cave or cave area where they formerly were a trip leader in good standing. The Cave of the Winds management will determine if the trip will be allowed and may request proof of former trip leader status if the caver is not known to the current staff. An additional benefit is that a caver who is planning on only one trip during a season may choose to not fill a regular trip leader position, allowing that position to be filled by someone more active. The trip leader would be required to complete a special application prior to the day of the trip which will be kept on file.

? *Discussion*: Logistics.

MINIMUM MEETING ATTENDANCE FOR WCP DIRECTORS

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

Although Williams Canyon Project trip leaders are currently required to lead at least one trip per season, there is no requirement as to the number of project board meetings a director must attend. Should such an attendance requirement be set? Any director can miss one meeting during a season. If a second meeting of the scheduled three is missed, the Project could send the sponsoring grotto or the Cave of the Winds formal notification that their director has missed two meetings so they can decide if action should be taken. If a director misses a meeting, can a proxy be named by the missing director?

? *Discussion*: Logistics.

CAVE OF THE WINDS TOPICS

Discussion: Jeremy Stiles, Grant Carey

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

OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

? Topics from the Floor

? Upcoming Meeting – early May?