
WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter Meeting

Cave of the Winds,
January 29, 2000 — 10:00 a.m.

Note: All efforts will be made to keep this meeting to 90 minutes or less.

A G E N D A

WELCOME

? Any general announcements or news.

FINAL REVIEW OF NEW TRUSTEES FOR 1999-2000 SEASON

? Any remaining Trustees to be approved

? Next approval at September meeting

? *Discussion:* Should NSS annual membership continue to be a requirement of Trustee status?

CONSERVATION

Discussion: Al Collier, Tom Dotter

Efforts are continuing for formation repair and restoration in Williams Canyon caves using a variety of innovative techniques. Unfortunately, there are ongoing problems with caver impact in the caves of the canyon, including a growing carelessness of cavers to fail to restore previously pristine areas after a dig or a climb. As a project, we must make the effort to follow-through with our promises and to complete a project before moving on to something else. Specific problems have been noted by cavers in Breezeway Cave this year related to recent projects, some of which are ongoing but others are apparently inactive.

? *Discussion:* Should any action be taken by the project when a cave dig or climb is left incomplete? Do we need additional project regulations to be certain cavers clean up after themselves?

Breezeway Entrance Crawl Repair Project: Dan Sullivan

The unprecedented heavy rains of April 1999 brought instability to the excavated entrance crawlway of Breezeway Cave. Several large rocks fell, partially blocking the crawl. In February, efforts will begin to remove this debris and restablize the passageway. All rocks will be carried to the surface for disposal. Assistance from cavers is requested to make this project a success.

? *Discussion:* project logistics.

Silent Splendor Gate Repair Project: Dan Sullivan

Careful investigations of the wooden false floor and environmental tire gate at the top of the chimney to the Whale's Belly show the late 1980's-era shoring and floor have significantly degraded in the last few years. Owing to the rotten wood, the entire structure must now be removed and replaced with the next generation environmental gate. Dan has designed a new system to protect Silent Splendor and retain moisture in this pristine passage. The new gate has been carried in to the Breakdown Room for installation somewhere in the crawl leading to the chimney (perhaps at the Four Fingers Junction, replacing the rusty ring gate which also will be removed). A new environmental gate could be installed at the bottom of the Whale's Belly chimney, leaving it open to the chamber above. Assistance will be needed this spring to remove the old materials and install the new gates.

? *Discussion:* project logistics, gate design.

WCP 1981-1999 PROJECT REPORT

Discussion: Mark Maslyn

Continuing efforts for a Williams Canyon Project book of history and project accomplishments since 1981. New stories have recently been submitted but will the book be published in 2000?

? *Discussion:* Latest developments, project timeline.

CAVE RESCUE SEMINAR UPDATE

Discussion: Dan Sullivan

The Cave Rescue Seminar originally scheduled for May 6-7 has been rescheduled to October 14-15. The rescue cache at the cave has been moved to a new location; Cave of the Winds is paying for a new roof for the storage area (this will be installed in early February).

? *Discussion:* Latest developments.

1999-2000 CAVE PROJECTS

Grandview Pit: Mike Frazier, Dan Sullivan

Digging efforts continued this last autumn to find new cave passageways in Grandview Pit. Digging has concentrated on following good airflow filtering up from presumed lower levels. Shoring may be a necessity to continue to follow the best of these prospect holes. Jon Barker arranged with Pioneer Sand and Gravel for a free "sewer" cover to serve as a gate for the cave.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics; shoring project.

Millenium Project: Rick Rhinehart

Interest from the management of the Cave of the Winds toward possible future commercialization of the Cliffhanger section of the cave has encouraged cavers to begin dig projects in this northeastern section. On January 1, a new dig in the NE Extension was begun, in an attempt to open the connection to Cliffhanger Hall. The first day of digging discovered a possible passage leading south along the Cobble Crawl joint, toward a feature known as "Bubble Up Dome." Geologist Fred Luiszer has examined this dome, and believes a fast-flowing stream once flowed through it from north to south. There is actually the possibility of several new passageways and chambers in this region of the system, which has been inadequately examined. On January 8, Donald Davis reopened the U-Sump passage leading to Cliffhanger Hall and his examination of the connection with the NE Extension indicates the passage is more complex than originally believed. Geologically, there may also be passages leading north from Lower Cave features such as Natural Bridges Hall and a short unnamed passage near the cave's original entrance. Fred suggests a major digging project here with wheelbarrows; such a project might be able to "drain" dirt and cobbles from passageways to the north, solving the problem of dirt storage.

? *Discussion:* project logistics.

Other Canyon Dig Projects

Cavers have been working in several Williams Canyon caves, including Manitou, Narrows, Three Hole and Manitou Centennial caves. However, though a dig prospectus is required for any digging efforts more than a day or two, none have been filed.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics, WCP requirements.

WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT SURVEY SECTION

Update: Paul Burger, Tom Dotter

Continuing surveys of minor canyon caves; Cave of the Winds additional surveying (i.e., Cross'es Well); laser theodolite survey.

? *Discussion:* Current projects; available maps.

HUCCACOVE CAVE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

This upcoming March is the 125th anniversary of the discovery and opening of Huccacove Cave (Mammoth Cave) as Colorado's first commercially-operated cave. At the project's last meeting in September, the board decided to celebrate this

anniversary with an open day of caving on the Sunday following the March 18 NSS Board of Governors Meeting in Denver (trip sign up could be held at the BOG meeting the previous day). Trips could be run to canyon caves, both recreational and photographic.

? *Discussion:* Logistics, ad hoc committee.

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 – late April?