
WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter Meeting

Cave of the Winds

January 27, 2001 — 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

WELCOME

? Any general announcements or news.

WCP PROJECT REPORT

Discussion: Mark Maslyn

Through the efforts of Rob Kolstad, Mark Maslyn, Rick Rhinehart and other members of the Williams Canyon Project, the long promised “Caves of Williams Canyon” book is nearly ready for printing. Printing bids have been received for the book by several area printers. Provided funding is secured, the book can go to press this spring.

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

WCP INTERNET WEB SITE

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart, Mark Maslyn, Gerry Estes

An Internet web site address, coloradocaves.org, has been reserved for use by the Williams Canyon Project. The web site might also host other Colorado cave projects, such as Doug Medville’s Taylor Park Project, as well as be the home for *Rocky Mountain Caving*. Gerry Estes has volunteered to serve as webmaster for the new site. What should be included in the site? Trip leader forms, waivers, trip logs and a listing of current trip leaders might be posted, as could meeting dates and times, important notices, etc. Anything else (trip reports, photographs)?

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

CAVE GATES

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart, Tom Dotter

Breezeway Cave: The lock to Breezeway Cave’s main gate has become difficult to use. Should a second identical lock be purchased, to allow the locks to be swapped out for maintenance?

Narrows Cave Gate: Earlier this season, the door to Narrows Cave was discovered to be damaged by vandals. This damage has since been repaired. What can be done to strengthen this gate?

? *Discussion:* Any additional gating projects?

CONSERVATION

Cave of the Winds Restoration: Jeremy Stiles, Al Collier

During the winter season, Al Collier is scheduling various overnight work trips to Cave of the Winds. Work trips include extensive cleaning and repair to speleothems along the commercial Discovery Tour route. Jeremy Stiles has prepared a list of work sites along the tour route.

? *Discussion:* Project logistics.

Formation Repair and Restoration: Al Collier

Al Collier and Tom Dotter continue restoration trips to caves in the canyon, including Breezeway and Huccacove. Project cavers are encouraged to participate in these trips, which have successfully repaired many broken formations, cleaned flowstone and placed trail tape.

? *Discussion:* Project logistics.

Upside Down Staircase Restoration: Al Collier, Tom Dotter

At the Autumn meeting of the Williams Canyon Project in September, a previous decision to install a rebar ladder at the Upside Down Staircase in Breezeway Cave was tabled. The project asked Al Collier to coordinate restoration of the climb in Hallowed Ground and provide recommendations on a permanent solution. If a ladder is not installed, what can be done to keep mud from plastering the climb and how can the stalactites at the top of the climb along the ledge be protected?

? *Discussion:* Project logistics.

Dig Restoration: Paul Burger, Tom Dotter

In the past, the Williams Canyon Project has asked that certain digs inside caves and on the surface be restored following completion of the dig project. Digs opening Deepwater Cave and Twinwalls Cave have been restored, as have several minor digs in both Breezeway Cave and the Cave of the Winds. Other digs, such as those in the Grand Concert Hall, have left large piles of debris for many years.

What digs need to be restored? Should selected activities such as technical climbs be restored (ie, the Rattlesnake Canyon climb in lower Breezeway). What about digs in “scenic” areas such as Breezeway’s Enchanted Forest? Do all dig proposals need to address restoration? (Should proposals be required or simply requested?) What if restoration is required but not implemented?

? *Discussion:* Dig restoration logistics; policy determination.

CAVE PROJECTS**Breezeway Cave: Tom Dotter, Randy Reck**

Digging has resumed in Breezeway Cave this autumn. The largest project currently underway is the Twin Tulip dig in the Celestial City, coordinated by Tom Dotter and Randy Reck. This dig may lead to additional passageway at a lower level – good airflow has been noted from the pit at the end of the dig. Curiously, the adjacent Vanity Fair has even stronger airflow.

Mike Frazier coordinated a preliminary dig at the east end of the Enchanted Forest. Digging proceeded south to small discoveries adjacent to the Peach Pit below Cowboy Heaven. Interest is also growing in returning to the lower level digs below Rattlesnake Canyon. No one has visited the dig since before the heavy rains in the spring of 1999. Is the sump still there? Should the “Dotter Totter” digging tray remain or be moved to another dig?

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Narrows: Rick Rhinehart

Chas Lindsey and Jon Barker have been working in Narrows Cave during the last month. Returning to the Inquisition Dome area, they successfully excavated the south end of the Sistene Chapel passage and discovered an extension of 50 to 100 feet. There is airflow in the new passage, which apparently ends in breakdown.

? *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 375 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.

? *Discussion:* Dig 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 – late April or early May?