
WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter Meeting

Cave of the Winds

January 26, 2002 — 10:00 a.m.

Note: Inclement weather may result in a change in the meeting location or postponement.

A G E N D A

WELCOME

? Any general announcements or news.

WCP TREASURY REPORT

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

Update on project finances from Treasurer Bob Stucklen (who is out of the country on a trip to Mexico). Regarding the loan for printing the Williams Canyon Project book, Bob reports one payment has been made already and a second payment is anticipated sometime this spring.

? *Discussion:* Account specifics, repayment plans.

WCP INTERNET WEB SITE

Discussion: Mark Maslyn

Gerry Estes has completed his temporary job assignment in Memphis and is seeking to return to Colorado this Spring (he is actively seeking a full time position in the Denver/Colorado Springs area). Despite his move to Tennessee, he has continued his duties in maintaining and updating the WCP web site, www.coloradocaves.org. Anyone who has information or other project materials to be posted to the site should contact Gerry by e-mail. His e-mail is gerryestes@email.msn.com

? *Discussion:* What else can be added to the web site?

CONSERVATION

Huccacove Cave Repairs: Al Collier, Tom Dotter

In October and November, Dan Sullivan coordinated a major repair of the cement wall surrounding the Huccacove Cave gate. Al Collier, LP Lawrence, Pat Malone and others documented the new damage to both the Historic Section and to the Mammoth Extension, noting graffiti locations and type. Al has developed a technique to remove painted graffiti and has successfully experimented on removal near the cave's entrance. Plans are to not only remove the new graffiti from September, but also older painted graffiti. Historic graffiti (pre organized caving pencil, pen and candle), will be preserved.

The Cave of the Winds has contacted local police authorities regarding the damage and in December worked with local media in publicizing the search for the vandals.

? *Discussion:* Time table for restoration efforts in Huccacove.

Breezeway Cave Restoration: Al Collier, Tom Dotter

Restoration efforts have been temporarily suspended until the installation of the new Hallowed Ground ladder. Dan Sullivan is coordinating the design and construction of the ladder, which should be installed this spring. Once the ladder is installed, restoration teams will clean and restore the ledge at the top of the Upside Down Staircase.

? *Discussion:* With restoration on hold for now, should the cave be reopened for limited exploration trips?

Cave of the Winds Restoration: Jeremy Stiles, Al Collier

Restoration continues in the Cave of the Winds, coordinated by Al Collier and Tom Dotter. Cavers are welcome to participate in the efforts, which includes removing of bolts and hardware used for old lighting systems.

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

CAVE PROJECTS

The Big Dig: Rick Rhinehart

Walt Rubeck coordinated “The Big Dig” in lower Williams Canyon in late October. Following a day of repairs to the flood-ravaged Williams Canyon road, Walt directed the excavator to digs at the East Wall near the old Huccacove parking area, to the “Dig of the Presidents” across from the Manitou Cave pit entrance and to the Twin Wall Cave area. Unfortunately, no promising leads were discovered except the rediscovery of the lost George White Tunnel adjacent to Twin Wall Cave. The Tunnel, originally a visitor attraction in 1910, apparently was an effort by White to find natural cave passage. The effort failed and White sold his property to the developers of Manitou Cave across the Williams Canyon Road. Following its rediscovery in October, the Tunnel was surveyed, photographed and carefully probed for further extensions before sealing.

? *Discussion:* Should the Tunnel be permanently sealed or a gate installed for later visitation?

Huccacove Suicide Dig: Fred Luiszer + Rick Rhinehart

Above the Funnel Pit in the Historic Section, the Suicide dig may provide access to a theorized parallel to the cave’s main north/south passageway. The dig, in dry clay, follows the same joint the Stove Pipe is developed on. Leading north, the excavated crawlway should intersect major northeast/southwest joints, which may connect to open passageways leading north and east of the known cave. The name comes from a historic 1916 suicide of a 21-year-old man in the adjacent passage.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Middle Cave Dig: Fred Luiszer + Rick Rhinehart

In preparation for the proposed improvements to the Manitou Grand Caverns, project cavers in December relocated the lost Middle Cave entrance. Sealed in 1929, the entrance will provide direct access to the Spider’s Den in the Middle Cave section of the Cave of the Winds. Eventually, the entrance may serve as the exit for a redeveloped Grand Caverns Lantern Tour. Once the entrance is secured with a locked steel door, digging will resume. Plans are to excavate the Windy Passage in hope of finding buried side leads.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Narrows Cave Dig: Rick Rhinehart

Chas Lindsey and Jim Braswell have been working in the Spring Canyon area of southern Narrows Cave, following a possible continuation to the south and west.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics.

Additional Digs

Other dig projects for the season can be discussed.

WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT SURVEY SECTION

Update: Paul Burger, Tom Dotter

Interest remains in the project to resume mineralogical and feature inventorying of the caves of Williams Canyon. Training sessions may be scheduled for this spring.

Additional surveying is needed in the Cave of the Winds, specifically in the upper level of Cross'es Well. More surveying may also be needed in Narrows Cave.

? *Discussion:* Inventory training; available maps.

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: April 27 (last Saturday)