
WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT

THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter Meeting

The Cave of the Winds, Manitou Springs

January 27, 1996

9:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m.

D I S C U S S I O N T O P I C S

CAVE PROJECT UPDATES.

1. Narrows Cave Dig: Walt Rubeck + Dan Sullivan

An update on the current dig project in Narrows Cave. Recent discoveries in the middle level may provide access to the north (and a possible connection to the Cave of the Winds ...?) while excavation continues in the main passage leading south.

2. Manitou Cave Dig: Jon Barker + Chas Lindsey

Continuing work in Manitou Cave. Efforts this season have concentrated in the southern regions of the Deepwater Section with work at the Manta Raise, the Swim and beyond the Friday the 13th Room. Grant Carey has requested the completion of a loop at the far southern end of the Swim. Progress?

3. Hackleman's Dig: Tom Dotter

An update on the dig efforts at the Hackleman's Dig on the eastern wall above the Manitou Cave entrance. Some airflow is noted; digging has been through apparently virgin fill in the floor of the inner chamber.

4. Grand Caverns Pipeline Dig: Mike Frazier

A small team of cavers spent time working at the bottom of Anchorage Pit in the Manitou Grand Caverns excavating a crawlway leading north. Despite efforts, the passage appears to close down with little hope for extension.

5. Breezeway Cave Project: Rick Rhinehart, Randy Reck, Tom Dotter

Digs in Breezeway Cave this season have concentrated in four areas. At the southern end of Cowboy Heaven, digging has revealed a possible southern continuation if a rock squeeze can be enlarged. Further into the cave, a small team has worked in the Little Mountain Room, following a crawlway around the debris cone to the east and south. Digging has also progressed at two sites in the lower levels below Rattlesnake Canyon. Cavers have also spent time cleaning and restoring soiled flowstone and formations along the main trade route through the cave. Care is needed by all trip participants in keeping the cave pristine. There is no room for carelessness within Breezeway Cave. Status of new inventory project? Inventory forms available? Training?

6. Cave of the Winds Resurvey Project: Paul Burger + Steve Reames

Surveying this season has completed most of the Cave of the Winds system, with only a few areas needing to be cleaned up. The project directors believe the resurvey should be completed within the next month or so. When will working copies of the new map be available for project members? Final map availability? Will survey data be available?

Project Policies.

Tom Dotter + Paul Burger

Project cavers have met in committee and established a final draft of the proposed policies for project members. This final draft can be reviewed and approved following discussion. Copies of the project policies should be made available to all current project members and to any new participants (should members sign an agreement that they have read and understood the policies?). Also, an abbreviated version of the main policies of no more than one page should be prepared for reading and signature of all visitors to caves in the canyon. Who will pay for such copies?

WCP Project Reports.

Rick Rhinehart

Unlike in previous years, projects in canyon caves seldom are reported in area caving newsletters such as *Rocky Mountain Caving*. Although short statements are usually included in the official trip reports, it is suggested that each project designate an official reporter who can compile information on the projects and prepare a written report at the conclusion of the project or season for Cave of the Winds and WCP files. Such reports should be available to all Society cavers as this is an official project of the NSS.

1996 NSS Convention.

Rick Rhinehart + Mike Frazier

Update on Convention projects:

1. Post Convention Field Camp -- limited cave trips (preregistration only), camping at area commercial campgrounds, field trips (including walking geology tours), Saturday Night Bonfire and other activities.
2. WCP Guidebook/Report -- caves to be included, maps, history, etc. Budget?

Cave of the Winds Internet Web Page.

Gail Bedrowski

Grant Carey announces the Cave of the Winds now has an Internet Web page and invites the WCP to participate by providing news and information on project activities, discoveries, etc. What should the project submit? Material from RMC? Photographs? Original material?

Open Topics for Discussion.

1. Gates + Locks (Grand Caverns barrel gates, Narrows lock, etc.)
2. Report on Current Scientific Studies
3. Rescue Update: any practices for 1996? Rescue plan for Breezeway Cave? Rescue caches for Breezeway and other caves?
4. Cave of the Winds/Grand Caverns Cleanup: picking up old buckets, digging tools, caver materials from inactive and abandoned digs within the system.
5. Status of Laser Theodolite/Ground Probing Radar Project?
6. Topics from the floor.

Next Meeting Date?