
WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT, NSS

Winter Meeting

Cave of the Winds,
January 30, 1999
10:00 a.m.

A G E N D A

WELCOME

- ? Any general announcements or news.
- ? Welcome to the new WCP Board members.

1998-99 CAVE PROJECTS

Narrows Cave: Jon Barker

Continuation of digs within the cave system during the current season have used smaller dig crews. The dumping chute at the cave's entrance has not been reinstalled.

? *Discussion:* Latest efforts.

Breezeway Cave: Randy Reck and Mike Frasier

Two major dig projects are underway in Breezeway Cave this season. They include:

? **Rattlesnake Canyon Climb/Dig**

Evan Anderson reports:

Hazel, Doug Kent and I went to Breezeway last spring to install a WCP rope on the climb up to the Arch Fissure. We also hauled plastic sheeting to cover the formations below. We spent a few hours climbing up and down, positioning the plastic. I left it in a good condition but I was thinking it may need just a bit more plastic.

I had planed to return and survey up the dome in the Velvet underground. and at the same time, try and do a sound/scent/light connection between there and the dig in the arch fissure (a theoretical connection).

Mike Frasier has continued with the dig effort into recent months, reporting good air and the possibility of a breakthrough to continuing passage relatively soon.

? **Little Mountain Room Dig**

The Little Mountain Room has been a long-term dig under the direction of Randy Reck.

? *Discussion:* Dig logistics

Cave Conservation: Dan Sullivan and Al Collier

Dan Sullivan and Al Collier have also began extensive restoration of broken speleothems in Breezeway and Huccacove caves. To date, they have repaired many formations using innovative techniques.

? *Discussion:* Continued speleothem repair and conservation.

The Forgotten Projects: Rick Rhinehart and Fred Luiszer

Throughout the years, there have been many projects in Williams Canyon and area caves that begin but are quickly forgotten or dropped in favor of more "promising" leads. In the past, resumption of such forgotten projects have led to some big hits (i.e., Cave of the Winds' Southern Extensions) and some forgettable misses (i.e., the Grand Caverns' Dirty Deed). Currently, a review of forgotten projects has shed light on possible extensions to the Cave of the Winds system and to a possible new cave near Breezeway.

? *Discussion:* project logistics.

Three Hole Dig Project: Mike Frazier

During the fall of 1998, cavers returned to Three Hole Cave in upper Williams Canyon. Their efforts are presumably to continue the northwestern dig effort begun more than a decade ago.

? *Discussion:* project logistics.

WILLIAMS CANYON PROJECT SURVEY SECTION

Update: Paul Burger, Tom Dotter

Survey of minor canyon caves; Narrows Cave survey update; laser theodolite survey.

? *Discussion:* Current projects; available maps.

WCP ANNUAL REPORT

Discussion: Mark Maslyn

Continuing work on the Williams Canyon Project Annual Report. Deadline for materials is now upon the project. A new form has been developed to track information on each of the canyon caves.

? *Discussion:* Latest developments, project timeline. Report on special October meeting at Rob Kolstad's new house.

NARROWS CAVE GATE

The Narrows Cave gate was breached again by unknown visitors in October -- the second time in 1998. Jon Barker coordinated the latest repairs to the gate and installation of materials to discourage future breaches.

? *Discussion:* What's next?

WESTCLIFFE PUBLISHERS BOOK UPDATE

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

Discussions continue regarding the possible new Westcliffe Publishers coffee table book on selected Colorado caves. John Fielder, the owner, is very interested in such a book for the fall of 2000. The publishing house has been in contact with David Harris for photographs and Rick Rhinehart for text for the proposed book. If published, it will feature six Colorado caves: Cave of the Winds, Fairy (Glenwood), Breezeway, Fulford, Spring and Hubbard's. The projected retail price is in the \$40-45 range so it will probably be more of a Barnes & Nobles book than a Safeway book. No confirmation of this project yet.

? *Discussion:* Perhaps members of the project can help the photography efforts as David Harris will need to photograph these caves in detail during the summer of 1999.

GRAND CAVERN ENTRANCE PROJECT

Discussion: Rick Rhinehart

In early January, it was discovered that a large boulder had fallen from the long-sealed original entrance to the Grand Cavern. This boulder fell from the steep west wall that leads to the ceiling and rolled to the floor at the mouth of the old tunnel entrance. As the boulder fell, it knocked many other boulders down to the floor. It appears the rock had been cemented into place in 1885, when the original entrance was sealed by George Snider and the new tunnel entrance opened for tours. The cement finally failed, providing an opportunity to reopen the entrance for both caver access and commercial tours. The wall itself appears very unstable, though a surface examination suggests the cement cap is still solid but badly fractured.

? *Discussion:* Any assistance the cavers can provide to the Cave of the Winds for this project?

CAVE OF THE WINDS TOPICS

Discussion: Susan Berdeaux, 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?