

NSS VERTICAL SECTION

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 9, 1990

The 1990 NSS Vertical Section meeting was held on Monday, July 9th, 1990 in the Poultry Barn at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds in Yreka, Ca. Executive Committee members present were Bill Cuddington, Gary Bush, Maureen Handler and Bill Bussey, who conducted the meeting. Vertical Section Chair Allen Padgett and Editor Bruce Smith could not make the meeting. Approximately 55 members were in attendance.

Bill Bussey opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. by introducing the Executive Committee.

Secretary's Report: We have 917 voting members. Would mail 1007 Nylon Highway's as of June 25th.

Treasurer's Report: Total Income \$6247.95. Total Expenses \$6622.42. Net loss \$374.45. Reasons for the loss included extra cost of printing and mailing membership poll. Nylon Highways 29 and 39 were both typeset costing extra.

Editor's Report: Bruce Smith is stepping down. Bruce was congratulated with a round of applause for the excellent job he has done of the years as editor.

Chairman's Report: Allen Padgett has been working very hard on the Soviet Exchange Program. Would like to be chairman again.

Vertical Session and Forum: Maureen Handler reported Kirk MacGregor, Bob Thrun, Paul Smith, Steve Knutson and Peter Ludwig would panel an open discussion on vertical caving and techniques immediately after the meeting. After this Vertical Forum will be a Show and Tell session.

Contest Chair Report: Bill Cuddington reported a waiver must be signed by all climbers. Climbers under 18 must have parent or guardian sign the waiver. climbers should try to provide their own rope puller. Sit/Stand Category being added with open age classes. Have an extra contest rope this year.

Vertical Techniques Workshop Report: David McClurg noted there will be two sessions because of the large demand. Frog System as well as Petzl bobbin instruction being added this year. Would like to build up sets of vertical equipment for Workshop use. This would eventually eliminate need for ruse of instructors equipment. Donations are welcome. Discussion on having ;a children's (ages 8-15) workshop.

Training Committee Report. Jim Hall reported they have come up with day long and semester long courses. Something on Day long course will be in Nylon Highway before next convention.

Membership Poll Committee Report: Gary Bush reported 41% return on poll. Summary in Nylon Highway #30. He hit on the highlights. There was some discussion on caving practicality of rigs uses in contests, as well as the vertical rebelay course. Gary Bush will chair a committee on the rebelay course.

Soviet Exchange Program Report: Bill Bussey reported \$2442.50 had been raised by Section. Soviets scheduled to arrive August 16th. Section responsible for them through August 31st.

Under Old Business, Bussey brought up that in its meeting, the Executive Committee decided to reverse last year's decision to replace existing Caver Information Series with bibliography of information sources on vertical techniques. Are now looking for writers to update or write new Caver Information articles. Also need someone to do an Index by subject of Nylon Highway's 1-30.

Nothing ever came of a motion at last years meeting to form a committee to prepare a list of considerations for changes in the contest pending the outcome of the membership poll. As this issue has already been addressed, this concern is now considered resolved.

There was discussion on the practicality of Vertical Section's Fiscal Year being the calendar year. Maureen Handler moved and Marlana Wall seconded that the Vertical Section's Fiscal year be changed from the present January 1 - December 31 year to June 1 - May 31st. Passed unanimously.

After discussion on having a rotating set of Executive Committee members, Gary Storricks moved and Gary Bush seconded that the Bylaws published in **Nylon Highway #30** and as amended earlier in this meeting, be accepted as the official set of Bylaws for the NSS Vertical Section. Passed unanimously.

Gary Storricks will check out the 1991 Convention facilities for both the Vertical Contests and Vertical Technique Workshop.

Under New Business the first reading of a change in the Vertical Section Constitution was presented. This will be voted on at the 1991 Vertical Section meeting Monday, July 1, 1991 in Cobleskill, NY. It reads:

Bill Cuddington moves that Section 3, Paragraph 1 be amended to read: "The Vertical Section shall be governed by an executive Committee made up of a Chairman, a Secretary-Treasurer, an Editor, a Contest Chair, a Vertical Techniques Workshop Chair and three Committee members At-Large.

This reading was followed by discussion on whether these added positions should be appointed or elected. It will be printed in **Nylon Highway** for overall membership review. In a straw vote, the membership overwhelmingly supported appointing the Contest and Vertical Technique Workshop Chair. If this passes at the next meeting, the bylaws affected by the amendment will also have to be changed

In other New Business, Ed Sira moved and Dick Desjardines seconded that: "The Vertical Section grant one year's membership or subscription to students participating in the Vertical Techniques Workshop." The measure carried with four voting against.

A straw vote was taken on whether to raise the registration fee for the Vertical Techniques Workshop. The overall majority supported raising the fee, however two voted against it.

David McClurg moved and Maureen Handler seconded that: "The Vertical Section set aside up to \$300 to buy vertical gear for the Vertical Techniques Workshop." It was recommended that Dave request donations from vendors and manufacturers. After discussion, the measure passed with one opposition.

In elections, Bill Bussey was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer. Maureen Handler was elected as the new **Nylon Highway** Editor. Gary Bush, Bill Cuddington, Allen Padgett and Ed Sira were elected at large Executive Committee Members.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Later that day, the Executive Committee met and selected Allen Padgett as Chair. Ed Sira, as the newest EC member, will organize and emcee the Vertical session at the 1991 NSS Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Bussey

TREASURER'S REPORT

NSS VERTICAL SECTION

FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 21, 1898 TO JUNE 25, 1990

INCOME:

Memberships.....	\$3309.00
Subscriptions.....	148.00
Back Issue Sales.....	742.60
Symbolic Item Sales.....	1351.75
Vertical Techniques Workshop (89).....	239.84
Bank Interest.....	332.36
Interest on CD's to date.....	124.40
Total Income.....	6,247.95

EXPENSES

Editor:

Printing Nylon Highway #29.....	1150.00
Typesetting Nylon Highway #29.....	450.00
Mailing Nylon Highway #29 International.....	114.45
Domestic.....	95.61
Resends.....	5.50
	215.56
Printing Nylon Highway #30.....	1200.00
Typesetting Nylon Highway #30.....	495.00
Mailing Nylon Highway #30 International.....	96.15
Domestic.....	102.33
Resends.....	8.33
	206.81
Printing Membership Questionnaire.....	293.00
Mailing Membership Questionnaire.....	78.26
Resend Questionnaire.....	25.87
Bulk Permit.....	60.00
Mailing Envelopes.....	185.89
Supplies.....	17.00
Total Editor Expenses.....	4,377.39

Secretary/Treasurer:

Postage.....	\$445.17
Supplies Dues Renewal Notice.....	\$41.21
Envelopes.....	35.63
Cash Box.....	23.57
Membership Forms.....	26.78
Other.....	40.15
	167.34
Vertical Techniques 89 Workshop Expenses.....	75.84
Advance for Vertical Techniques Workshop 90.....	200.00
Advertisements.....	112.87
Symbolic Items Cost.....	1143.81
Cave Register Project Donation.....	25.00
Gift to Czechs.....	19.00
Reimbursement to VAR for Patches sold at 89 Conv.....	18.00
Returned Checks & Service Charge.....	38.00
Total Secretary-Treasurer Expenses.....	\$2,245.03

TOTAL EXPENSES.....	6,622.42
NET LOSS.....	(374.47)
BALANCE AS OF JULY 21, 1989.....	5303.92
Net Loss.....	(374.47)
Balance as of June 25, 1990.....	\$4929.45

Soviet Exchange Program Contributions to date.....	2442.50
Cash Position as of June 25, 1990.....	\$7371.95

this style, on occasion, to hand a rope so that it misses a waterfall or other obstacle.

This style also allows the ascent of a multi-anchored pitch by several cavers at the same time. In some situations this would save time and keep the party together. Rocks dislodged by a caver above would be an additional hazard, however. In the low- probability case of rope failure, of course, the whole party might be jeopardized.

The American style saves greatly on time spent rigging, equipment used rigging, time spent each time the pitch is descended and, in some cases, time spent ascending. It is also inherently safer, since each re-anchor and re-directional that is passed in the European style, is a point where you can err and be at risk. With American caving rope, at least, and in sizes down to 9mm, there is quite obviously no need to re-anchor a rope just because it runs over a lip or hits a ledge. Quite often, such points show no appreciable abrasion. With American caving rope, there have been, to my knowledge, no rope failures due to abrasion. Dangerous spots are signaled by obvious wear and fraying and the situation is corrected.

One seems forced to the conclusion that the utility for the European style is the following:

- a) Project or expedition caving where rope replacement is impracticable.
- b) Where you can't get good quality caving rope.
- c) Where you want to go to very small rope sizes - say 5-7 mm.

2) Personal Rigs

The Ropewalker is easily the fastest and most efficient style, followed by the Mitchell and way behind, the Frog,

for ascent of a free drop. In a European style rigged pitch, the Frog becomes quite handy, but obviously wastes energy between re-anchor points. Passing a re-anchor is easy for the Frog, with both ascenders above the waist, but it is almost as easy for the Mitchell. Obviously, a chest box like the Simmons double roller or Fritzke Alpine box is best, in that one can get the mail line out while leaving the upper ascender in. The Ropewalker is not recommended for anything but free ascents since the foot ascender is hard to get at for passing re-anchors.

The frog is very good for hauling loads, since both legs are used in the move that hoists the load. It also seems to be the lightest and most compact rig. Europeans claim that they have may pits that are very narrow and the Frog is good for this, but I can't see why it would be better than anything else, unless the pit is so narrow that a chest box would get in your way.

My personal conclusions are these: With American caving rope of 9 mm and up, a re-anchoring of the rope is seldom necessary. A mitchell is quite usable in European rigging and superior to the Frog on any free pitch or portion, but you must be able to covert to a Frog to have equality in hauling loads. A Ropewalker is not advisable in many technical situations. A Frog must be convertible to a Ropewalker to gain parity with the Mitchell. A Frog is not advisable on American-rigged pitches since it is impossible for it to pass some breakovers.

In general, remember this: Whatever your personal preference, if you get around much at all, you had better be ready to deal with European rigging. There is an obvious utility for it and it is now part of the American Scene.

SECRETARY'S REPORT--NSS VERTICAL SECTION

JUNE 25, 1990

Number of Single Members.....	851
Number of Family Members (number of people).....	66
Total Number of Vertical Section Voting Members.....	917
Number of Nylon Highway Subscribers.....	87
Number of Nylon Highways Sent Free (ex. libraries).....	10
Number of Nylon Highways Exchanged.....	26
Total Number of Nylon Highways To Be Mailed.....	1007
Number of Members or Subscribers Paid Through 1990.....	346
(This number of 1990 members or subscribers have NOT YET renewed)	
Number of Members or Subscribers Paid Through 1991.....	338
Number of Members or Subscribers Paid Through 1992.....	191
Number of Members or Subscribers Paid Through 1993.....	59
Number of Members or Subscribers Paid After 1993.....	25
Number of Members who desire the Vertical Section to represent them at the NSS Congress of Grottos meeting.....	131