

NSS VERTICAL SECTION

MEETING MINUTES

by Bill Bussey

July 1, 1991

The 1991 NSS Vertical Section meeting was held on Monday, July 1st, 1991 in Bouck Hall at the State University of New York at Cobleskill, NY. Executive Committee members present were Gary Bush, Bill Cuddington, Maureen Handler and Ed Sira. Bill Bussey joined the meeting later. Chairman Allen Padgett could not make the meeting.

Gary Bush called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm by introducing the Executive Committee.

Maureen Handler read the **Secretary's Report**. We have 1015 members and would mail 1116 Nylon Highways as of May 31st.

Treasurer's Report: Total Income: \$6870.08. Expenses: \$7697.78. Net loss \$827.70. Current Balance \$4101.75. Reasons for loss included the postal increase which tripled the cost of mailing and increased printing costs. However, the Dec. 1, 1990 dues increase from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per year should help.

Chairman's Report: Allen Padgett will not run again for chairman.

Editor's Report: Maureen enjoys the job. Quality has gone up along with the cost of printing. The editor's IN box is empty and articles are needed for the next issue. Doing more editing, but trying to have more diversity in articles, including humor. Gary Bush asked for membership contributions.

Vertical Session Report: Ed Sira reported on the planned presentations and asked for more.

Contest Chair Report: Bill Cuddington noted PMI donated 1200 feet of rope including two lengths of NSS Golden Anniversary rope. Two ropes will be used for the contests one for 120 meter and one for 30 meter. Everyone must sign waivers. Be sure to warm up before climbing. Spectators should try and stay in bleachers.

Vertical Techniques Workshop Report: David McClurg reported that PMI donated 700 feet of rope, Gibbs Products donated some ascenders and Ron Simmons donated some rollers to the Workshop. These are going into 5 adjustable rigs for workshop use. The workshop can handle 36 participants with 6 students per station. David needs people to run the racked ropes for instructors. Gary Bush noted that costs for doing the workshop have gone up, especially with participants receiving a year of Nylon Highway. Dave McClurg moved to increase the amount charged for the Vertical Techniques Workshop to \$15. Seconded by Kirk

MacGregor. The majority of Section members voted for raising the fee which will go into effect at the 1992 NSS Convention.

Training Committee Report: Jim Hall reported that his committee has a suggested Beginner Level Training Outline ready for Executive Committee review. There was some discussion concerning the importance of, and pros and cons of formalized training. Gary asked for members to send to the Vertical Section Executive Committee any Beginner Level Vertical Training Outlines used by their local groups.

Rebelay Course Report: Gary Bush reported that a Rebelay course will be open Thursday afternoon. We are still learning how to set up these courses, so we need ideas and input.

Soviet Exchange Program Report: Maureen reported on the visit of six Soviet cavers to the US last August. She will give a slide show on the NSS caver visit to the USSR this past May as part of the Vertical Session.

Old Business: Bill Bussey asked for volunteers to update the present vertical related "How To" articles in the NSS Caver Information Series (CIS). The following volunteered to update or write CIS articles: Noel Sloan - Frog System, Snake Owen - Stop Bobbin, Peter Grant - anything, Bill Cuddington - Mitchell System, Bob Zimmerman - Knots, Dick DesJardins - Ropewalker System, Dave Hughes - Rappel Rack, Jim Gossett - gossett System. Various solutions to supplying artwork were discussed.

Noel Sloan volunteered to be the 1992 NSS Convention Coordinator. He will check out and describe the Contest and Vertical Techniques Workshop facilities at the 1992 Convention and report to the appropriate Chairs.

The following change in the Vertical Section Constitution was read for a second time: 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 Executive Committee members At-Large. This was moved last year by Bill Cuddington, seconded by Ed Sira and printed in Nylon Highway #31.

The question was called with the resulting vote being 44 to 4. Since this Constitution change passed with greater than a 2/3 majority, the motion carries.

New Business: Maureen Handler moved that the Vertical Section sponsor two years of both NSS and

Vertical Section membership for Valeriy Rogozhikov, Layosha Gavro Street 14, KV. 101, Kiev, Ukraine, 252211, who is the principal vertical instructor in Kiev and the surrounding region. Ed Sira seconded. Bob Zimmerman moved and Dick DesJardins seconded to amend one year membership instead of two years. The amendment failed 19 For with 26 Against. After more discussion, the motion passed with two voting in opposition.

Elections: Bill Bussey was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer. Maureen Handler was re-elected Editor of *Nylon Highway*. Gary Bush, Ed Sira, Mirian Cuddington, and Angela Morgan were elected At-Large Executive committee Members.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 PM.

Later that week, the Executive committee met and selected Gary Bush as Chair. Bill Cuddington was re-appointed Contest Chair and David McClurg was re-appointed Vertical Techniques Workshop Chair and both will serve on the Vertical Section Executive Committee. Angela Morgan, as the newest EC member, will organize and emcee the Vertical Session at the 1992 NSS Convention.

NEW EQUIPMENT

by Gibbs Products, Inc.

In keeping with the tradition of reliability and durability, Gibbs Products would like to introduce the new Gibbs Quick Ascender. The Gibbs Quick is the first hinged ascender to carry the quality features of the Gibbs line.

The hinging action of the Gibbs Quick permits easy installation and removal. With a little practice, this can be done with one hand for those tight spots and special situations.

The Gibbs Quick, like all Gibbs Ascenders, completely encloses the rope so it won't come off accidentally.

The shell of the Quick is injection molded with a special aluminum alloy to provide a maximum breaking strength of 2500 lbs.

The cam is the time tested cast cam available in previous models. It is hard anodized for long life and yes, this simple, high tech handful still holds well on iced and muddy ropes.

The Gibbs Quick is versatile. The Quick is shipped to you spring loaded, but the Quick's nylon spring cover has a removable set screw. With this screw removed, the Quick becomes free running in the tradition of the original Gibbs Ascender.

For more information contact any cave equipment vendor or Gibbs Products, Inc., 2608 East 3820 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109.

