

NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting

December 3rd, 2025

Held on Zoom

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 21:20 EST.

Present: John Bowling (Sec/Treas), Carl Heitmeyer (Chair), Amy M Bern (MaL), Gary Bush (Website Coordinator), Emily Hannigan (Vice Chair), Peter Welles (MaL), Mark Skove (Contest Coordinator), Mark Chai (Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator)

There was a quorum present.

Absent exec comm: Jessica Van Ord (Education Coordinator)

2. Review Previous Minutes and Action Items

- Aug 2025: VS trailer is in possession of: Bambi Dunlap, who will deliver it to Indiana. Get in touch, offer reimbursement for mileage. **Carl talked to Bambi: she towed the trailer 797 mi.**
- Aug 2025: Convention liaison: need to appoint liaison in tri-state area (IN/KY/OH). **No action.**
- Aug 2025: Secretary/Treasurer handoff meeting to be scheduled between **John Bowling** and John DeRoo.
- Aug 2025: Discuss with On Rope recovering VS' Symbolic Items.
- ~~Aug 2025: Schedule quarterly meetings and what responsibilities do we have (meeting agendas). Carl H.~~
- Aug 2025: Split Website Coordinator role into Webmaster/Social Media/Nylon Highway.
- ~~Aug 2025: Review/revise Convention Manual/communication. Carl did this. Pending review by others.~~
- Aug 2025: VS to discuss w/ The Gauntlet - MOU/relationship of some kind?
- ~~Convention liaison: need to appoint liaison in tri-state area (IN/KY/OH). Reilly Blackwell~~
John B to contact. **Gary Bush** will take the role temporarily until someone closer to site is found.
- Sept 2025: **John B** Discuss with William, Bill Boehle and On Rope recovering VS' Symbolic Items.
- ~~Sept 2025: Carl talk with Bill Boehle re: NSS News summary article of 2025 Convention climbing contest Done~~
- ~~Carl to reach out to Tor Steinke re: JSS Done~~
- **Gary** to reach out to Rachel Saker re: Nylon Highway editor.
- ~~Gary to find suitable Word award certificate template.~~
- **John B** to complete the membership update: invite expired members to continue, add 2025 Convention participants.

4. Discussion

- Tabled actions:
 - Split Website Coordinator role into Webmaster/Social Media/Nylon Highway (Bylaws amendment).
 - Review/revise Convention Manual/communication.
 - VS to discuss w/ The Gauntlet - MOU/relationship of some kind?
 - Schedule open membership meeting, perhaps in January?
- Carl wants to do introduce Monthly Vertical Videos (Vault?)- resharing content via webpage/Google Group as a way to keep up w/ members (monthly newsletter?)
- Lydia Hernandez is the liaison from 2027 Convention to VS (via email to Carl).
- Carl, others want to have a VS General membership Zoom meeting. Goal: 2-3 months before Convention. Before this: hold our Q1 EC meeting and firm up schedule and volunteer needs.
- Want to ask Rachel to chair Vertical Presentations Session.
- Planned schedule for 2026 Convention activities:

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM		setup rigging	climbing contest	Discover Vertical Caving session 2	Presentations	OFF - go caving?
Lunch					Meeting	
PM	setup + EC and volunteer meeting	climbing contest	Discover Vertical Caving session 1	de-rig and pack-out	Meeting. Awards recognition	

(All present approved of schedule)

5. New Business

- None discussed.

7. Action Items

- **Amy B** and **Mark S** are going to meet early June (1-18), 2026 to setup Vertical Contest signup, certificates, record-keeping
- **John B** to complete Sec/Treas handoff from John DeRoo
- **John B** to reimburse Bambi Dunlop, Carl Heitmeyer, and Peter W for expenses from last year's Convention.

- **John B** to complete the membership update: invite expired members to continue, add 2025 Convention participants.
- **Carl H** to talk to Bill Boehle re: nssverticalsection@gmail.com email account access.
- **Gary B** (+ Mark S?) will discuss with Convention: manlift (do we need an operator?), balcony (do we need scaffolding?), anchor availability (overhead and floor level), classroom at/near gym, how can gym be secured?, how to get trailer near/into gym?, catering for lunch meeting

8. Next EC Meeting

TBD in March 2026, To be scheduled Zoom.

9. Adjourn

The VS Business Meeting was adjourned at 23:02 EST.