

Minutes of the  
NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee E-Meetings  
July 2012 to July 2013

The NSS Vertical Section Executive Committee held a series of E-meetings on a variety of issues during the period from July 2012 to July 29, 2013. Executive Board members participated in the meetings via email, telephone and regular mail.

January 23-28, 2013 - Approval of minutes from VSEC regular and E-meetings

The minutes from 2011-2012 E-meetings Part 2 (covering May and June 2012), and from the Sunday June 24, 2012 VSEC meeting were approved by unanimous consent of the VSEC as of the close of the E-meeting on January 28, 2013.

October 2, 2012 to February 21, 2013 - Development of Recommended Minimum Safety Guidelines for JSS Vertical Activities

At the 2012 NSS Convention Vertical Section business meeting, Geary Schindel who is the Administrative Vice President (AVP) of the NSS stated that he wants the help of the Section to address a couple of issues that he is concerned about. He requested that the NSS would like for the Vertical Section to come up with a safety plan for JSS vertical activities. Jim Wade and Ken Alwin volunteered to work with the VSEC and in compiling existing information and guidance into a safety plan for JSS vertical activities.

Discussion carried on over the winter and a first draft of proposed Vertical Safety Guidelines for use by the JSS was circulated on January 31, 2013. Much discussion and editing followed, with version 2 distributed on February 7, 2013 and version 3 on February 13, 2013. Following a flurry of last minute comments and edits, an e-meeting of the Vertical Section Executive Committee to approve the VS Recommended Vertical Safety Guidelines (Version 4) for the Junior Speleological Society was called on February 18, 2013. The meeting was called to order on February 20, 2013, and the following motion was made by Terry Mitchell: "I move that Version 4.1 of the NSS Vertical Section Recommended Vertical Safety Guidelines for the Junior Speleological Society be approved and forwarded to the NSS Administrative Vice President, Geary Schindel." The motion was seconded by Bill Boehle. Next, Terry Mitchell moved to Suspend the Rules that require a 5-day discussion period for motions during e-meetings. The motion to Suspend the Rules was seconded by Mike Rusin. There being no objections to approval of this motion by Unanimous Consent, the motion to Suspend the Rules was approved by Unanimous Consent. We then proceeded to vote on the main motion. Eight votes were received in favor of the motion, with no vote received from Tim White. The motion passed and the e-meeting was adjourned on February 21, 2013.

April 14, 2013 to July 29, 2013 - Development of Safety Manual for NSS Convention Vertical Activities

AVP Geary Schindel, having oversight responsibility for the NSS conventions, asked the VS to create a written "safety manual" for our convention vertical events. On April 14, 2013 Version 1 of the proposed "Safety Manual" was circulated. It was proposed to spend several weeks critiquing and improving the

draft until we have consensus and then to formally convene an e-meeting to vote on the final document. Much discussion followed, particularly concerning the use of "shoulds" versus "shalls" and the acceptability and use of "homemade" equipment. Version 2 was circulated on May 15, 2013. Discussion continued and Version 3 was circulated on June 15, 2013. Much discussion followed concerning NSS BOG legal issues and misconceptions and their position that these should be "procedures" rather than "guidelines". Version 4 was circulated on July 10, 2013. After more heated discussions with the NSS, Version 5 was circulated on July 12, 2013. In a turnaround following NSS legal review, IO autonomy issues were resolved and much of our problematic language was removed from the document. Protective headgear will be required by all minors under the age of 19. Helmets are encouraged but not required for others in the climbing contest. Version 5.1 was circulated on July 17, 2013 incorporating all the latest changes.

An e-meeting of the Vertical Section Executive Committee was called on July 20, 2013 to approve Version 6 the "Vertical Safety Procedures for Vertical Section Activities during NSS Conventions". It was requested that we expedite the process by Suspending the Rules through the use of Unanimous Consent. A quorum reported "present" and the e-meeting was called to order on July 25, 2013, and the following motion was made by Terry Mitchell: "I move that Version 6 (Final) dated 7-20-13 of the "Vertical Safety Procedures for Vertical Section Activities during NSS Conventions" be approved". The motion was seconded by Bill Boehle. Next, Terry Mitchell moved to Suspend the Rules that require a 5-day discussion period for motions during e-meetings. The motion to Suspend the Rules was seconded by Bill Boehle. There being no objections to approval of this motion by Unanimous Consent, the motion to Suspend the Rules was approved by Unanimous Consent. We then proceeded to vote on the main motion. Seven votes were received in favor of the motion, one abstention (Bruce Smith), with no vote received from Tim White. The motion passed and the e-meeting was adjourned on July 29, 2013.

NOTE: There were other discussions on various topics between Executive Committee members throughout this period. None of these are recorded in these minutes since no motions were made or voted on and they did not constitute E-meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Boehle

(Rev.1)  
Approved by EC e-meeting 11/27/2013