

Minutes of the
2013 NSS Vertical Section Meeting
August 7, 2013

The 2013 NSS Vertical Section meeting was held Wednesday, August 7, 2013 at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, PA. Executive Board members present were Chair Terry Mitchell, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Boehle, At-Large Executive Members Miriam Cuddington, Ray Sira (Vice Chairman), and Mike Rusin, Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator Terry Clark, Education/Training Coordinator Bruce Smith, and Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington. Nylon Highway Editor Tim White could not attend the convention. Approximately 22 additional Vertical Section members were in attendance.

I. Meeting opened at 1:03 PM by Chair Terry Mitchell.

A. Announcements - Welcome to everyone who came. Agenda, minutes, and other information available in packet. Membership/Attendance roster circulated. Introduced EC members present.

II. Minutes of the Last Meeting - Minutes of the 2012 VS business meeting were published on the website and there were no amendments or changes. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were accepted as published.

III. Officer's Reports:

A. Chairman's Report - Terry Mitchell. The Executive Committee has been busy since last years convention. Geary Schindel (NSS AVP) requested that the section draft safety requirements for the JSS. This was done and approved by the EC. Geary also asked that the section put into writing the safety procedures for all our other activities at convention. The NSS legal advisors recommended that these be developed to provide some protection in the event of any accidents resulting in a lawsuit. This was begun in March and after six revisions was finalized in late July just before convention. These procedures were used this week and seemed to work out okay. As part of this activity, we also updated our liability waivers, making them stronger. This also included a separate new liability waiver for those climbing contest participants who choose not to wear a helmet while climbing. An issue that was clarified during all of this process was that all I/O's, while chartered by the NSS, are independent organizations. We probably haven't heard the end of this yet.

B. Secretary's Report - Bill Boehle. See attached. Our membership numbers have continued to slowly grow, but we hope to do better. Efforts to grow the membership will be continue to be addressed by the new Outreach Committee. Accepted as presented.

C. Treasurer's Report - Bill Boehle. See attached. No further discussion. Accepted as presented.

D. VS Symbolic Items - Bill Boehle. See Treasurer's Report for sales numbers. We restocked our clothing items produced a new section pin. Both of these will were a major expense that will show on next years report. It was also pointed out that we finally raised prices on some items as of this convention since the cost of restocking those items has increased.

E. Nylon Highway Editor's Report - Tim White could not attend convention and no report was submitted. Tim is in need of more articles for the Nylon Highway.

Bill Boehle stated that even if you feel that you can't write an article, chase down articles from friends on subjects that interest you.

IV. Committee Reports:

A. Contest Committee - Bill Cuddington. Thanks to the convention and the college for the nice facilities for this year's contest. Thanks to PMI for the ropes and all who helped during the vertical contest. We appreciate any help from section members and others with timing, pulling rope, running the rack, etc. Regarding the use of helmets during the climbing contest, it was noted that they have been recommended, but optional. The availability of the lightweight helmets worked out well. Mike Rusin was our onsite medic during most of the events.

B. Vertical Workshop - Terry Clark. Last year we had 24 students. This year we have 17 people signed up with another 2 who cancelled because they didn't have the minimum gear required. Terry can still use some additional instructor help. Terry noted we retired a lot of the ropes that the workshop had for some time. We are continuing to cut up the contest ropes for use in the workshop and Bill Cuddington donated some of his personal ropes to the workshop.

C. Training/Education - Bruce Smith. Bruce stated that this has been a quiet year. People are downloading the training material and using it.

D. Re-Belay Course / "Dial In Your Gear" Session - Gary Bush, Terry Mitchell and John Woods. This year was a busy day for the rebelay training. Gary reported that there were 12 climbers doing the "basic" rope setup with another 8 doing the "intermediate" setup. It worked well using three instructors and was well received by all who participated. John spent most of the time with people setting up and adjusting their systems. This continues to be a very educational and productive session. In accordance with the new safety guidelines, the course ropes were rigged with a lowering system which provided a means to lower anyone on rope who might get into trouble.

E. Awards Committee - Bruce Smith. Bruce presented a Past Chairman's Award to Dick Mitchell for his service from 2008 to 2012. A loud standing ovation followed the presentation.

F. Bylaws Committee - Bill Boehle and Terry Mitchell. Terry Mitchell reported that there were no new changes this year. There are a few minor housekeeping items that may be addressed next year.

G. Web Page - Gary Bush webmaster. Gary reported that Nylon Highway #58 has been posted. We add content throughout the year as we receive it. The website could use some new content and people should submit material to him or make suggestions for what they would like to see.

H. Outreach Committee - Jon Schow. Terry Mitchell reported that Marty Reames had to step down as committee chair due to personal reasons. She was replaced by Jon Schow who was on the committee and did the development of the section Facebook page. Jon reported that the Facebook page has 219 followers and could use more people submitting content. Any material would be welcome.

V. Old Business:

A. None.

VI. New Business:

A. Dick Mitchell reported that Geary Schindel requested that the Section do an educational webinar on vertical activities, rebelay, etc. Bruce Smith expressed some concerns about this. Dick expressed that maybe the message should be "what you need to know" and "where to get the training" rather than "how to do it".

B. Dick Mitchell reported that Geary Schindel requested that Bill Cuddington consider being a luminary speaker at the 2014 NSS Convention.

C. It was pointed out by Terry Mitchell that Bill Boehle is not running for Secretary/Treasurer this year, but that he will be staying on as Symbolic Devices Chairman. Terry asked if Ray Sira would be willing to do the job. Ray stated that he was willing provided he could get some assistance with the minutes, which is an area he feels he is not too good at. Terry said something could be done to assist there, perhaps appointing a Recording Secretary to assist with the minutes.

VII. Elections:

A. Secretary/Treasurer (1 year term) - Ray Sira was nominated and elected by acclamation.

B. At-Large Board Members (2 year term, 2 to be elected) - Miriam Cuddington and Bill Boehle were the only persons nominated and were elected by acclamation. [Note: Current At-Large members Terry Mitchell and Mike Rusin have 1 year remaining in their terms.]

VIII. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn was made and carried. Time of adjournment was approximately 2:20 PM.

[Additional note: Subsequent to the Meeting, the Board Members elected Terry Mitchell as Chair and Miriam Cuddington as Vice Chair. The four appointed members were re-appointed to serve for another year. They are:

- * Contest Committee - Bill Cuddington
- * Vertical Techniques Workshop Committee - Terry Clark
- * Education Committee - Bruce Smith
- * Nylon Highway Editor - Tim White

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Boehle

(Rev. 0)

To be approved at 2014 Convention meeting