

## 2017 Vertical Section Business Meeting

June 21, 2017

UNM West, Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

**Call to Order:** VS Chairman Terry Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:05 am in room 1226. The number of members present was 14.

**Approval of minutes** from last year's meeting - July 22, 2016. They were approved by unanimous consent as published.

**Announcements**—The Chairman said he would try to hold the business meeting to under one hour. After a 15 minute recess during which the Executive Committee would meet, the Vertical Session should begin about 10:15 am. He also explained that this year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Climbing Contest being held during an NSS convention, and that is the topic of the Vertical Session following this business meeting.

### 1) Officer Reports.

- a) **Chairman's Report:** Terry Mitchell. Terry said that if he is selected to continue as Chairman for the next year, it will be his last one. He has decided to step down at the end of six years in the office.
- b) **Treasurer's Report:** Ray Sira. An error was noted on the treasurer's report presented at the meeting. This has since been corrected and a revised report has been published. Total amount in the 3 VS accounts is \$13015.48. A full report will be published in the Nylon Highway.
- c) **Secretary's Report:** Ray Sira reported we have 257 members. Emails were sent out to people whose membership was due to run out. 7 were dropped due to no response. The Nylon Highway needs to be mailed to 4 subscribers.
- d) **Editor's Report:** Tim White was not present but is willing to continue as editor until a new one is found.

### 2) Committee Reports.

- a) **Climbing Contest:** Terry Mitchell reported that Bill & Miriam Cuddington were not able to attend this year's convention and are unlikely to attend next year's convention. Bill will continue to be the Contest Chairman but we are looking for someone to act as on site coordinator. Peter Hertl was asked but was unable to attend this year's convention and does not know if he will be able to attend next year. A volunteer was asked for but there was no response. There were 38 individual climbs by 28 people. That is about half of last year's number, but it is a small convention. Doug Warner (2018 Convention Chair) is working with us on coordinating facilities for the 2018 convention. It was suggested that a notice be put in the daily newsletter for people to check the bulletin board at registration for a list of names of those who will be receiving certificates at the climbing contest awards ceremony on Friday. Later in the meeting Terry read a note from Miriam Cuddington thanking us for all that we do. Terry also gave special recognition to Gary Napper for running the rack both days, for all 38 climbs with no relief.
- b) **Rebelay Workshop:** Gary Bush. We could not set up the course the way we wanted but we made it work. There were only 5 climbers this year. Gary Storricks and Terry Mitchell assisted people all day with gear tuning.
- c) **Vertical Techniques Workshop:** Kurt Waldron. 14 people have registered for the workshop with a couple of more who may attend. We are accepting walk-ins. With the small group size we may use fewer ropes.
- d) **Education:** Terry Mitchell. Terry is heading a Vertical Training Committee of 7 people. We have a list of goals and objectives to be approved by the committee at a meeting to be held at 11:00 after this

meeting. In February the Boy Scouts of America voted to use the Vertical Section's Intermediate Vertical course as one way to qualify vertical cave trip leaders. The NCRC is having problems with level 1 students showing up without the proper vertical knowledge needed for the course. Terry has written up a program of instruction (POI) in coordination with the NCRC that would fill the necessary requirements. It can be conducted over a weekend before attending an NCRC class.

- e) **Awards:** Chairman Ken Alwin was not present but Terry Mitchell reported there were no recommendations for awards.
- f) **Bylaws:** Terry Mitchell. No Bylaw changes were considered this year. Terry has a few minor changes he may look at in the coming year.
- g) **Symbolic Items:** Bill Boehle's report is included in the Treasurer's report. We had a total of \$418.60 in sales income this past year and \$10.80 in expenses. We need to restock some t-shirts and sweatshirt sizes. He will not be restocking medium sizes. It was asked if we should look into an online service for t-shirt and sweatshirt printing and ordering.
- h) **Web Page:** Gary Bush reported that the website is functional but has not had any redesign done to it. Gary Storricks ask about the Nylon Highway being hard to find. Gary Bush can put an announcement on the main page when a new issue is available. The American Caving Accidents page was hit by a web bot. Gary needs to make some changes to our web site to protect it against any similar attacks. The membership page needs to be updated. Ray will send Gary a current list after the convention
- i) **Out Reach Committee:** Terry Mitchell reported this committee was formed in 2013. So far the only thing to come out of it is the Vertical Section Facebook page. Jon Schow is the only member of the committee and has not been to a convention in a few years. He did send Terry a report stating that the Facebook page has 889 likes and he would like to start sharing stories and experiences on the page.

3) **Old Business:** None

4) **New Business:**

- a) Nigel Dyson-Hudson motioned for the Vertical Section to buy a brick at the NSS headquarters in the name of Dick Mitchell. Seconded by Jim Hall. Motion was approved unanimously.
- b) Gary Storricks motioned for the Vertical Section to buy a brick at the NSS headquarters in the name of Bob Thrun. Seconded by Bill Boehle. Motion was approved unanimously.
- c) Vance Nelson motioned that the Vertical Section nominate Mike Russin to be a fellow of the NSS. Approved with 1 abstention.
- d) Vance Nelson motioned that the Vertical Section nominate Jenny Clark to be a fellow of the NSS. Jenny declined the nomination.

5) **Elections:**

- a) **Secretary-Treasurer (1-year term):** Gary Bush nominated Ray Sira for another term. There were no other nominations. A motion was made and carried to suspend the rules, and Ray Sira was elected by unanimous consent.
- b) **Two "At-Large" Executive Committee Members (2-year terms):** Bill Boehle's and Miriam Cuddington's terms are expiring. Miriam does not wish to be nominated for another term. Gary Storricks nominated Bill Boehle. Gary Bush nominated Nigel Dyson-Hudson. Bill Boehle nominated Gary Napper. Bill Boehle and Gary Napper were elected.

c) **The Executive Committee** met briefly and reelected Terry Mitchell as Chairman. Bill Boehle was elected as Vice Chairman. Appointments made were Bill Cuddington Contest Chair, Kurt Waldron Workshop Coordinator and Tim White Editor. The Education Coordinator position will remain unfilled for now.

6) **The VS Business Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.**

**The Vertical Session:** Terry Mitchell presented a paper by Bill Cuddington on the 50-year history of the vertical contest. Following that, several members shared stories about the contest from past conventions. A video was made of the talk and may be put online at a later date.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Sira, Vertical Section Secretary-Treasurer June 2, 2018.

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### **Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting**

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A brief meeting was held by the executive committee at the end of the business meeting.

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:22 AM
2. **Elections:** Terry Mitchell was elected Chairman. Bill Boehle was elected Vice Chairman. Appointments made were Bill Cuddington - Contest Chair, Kurt Waldron - Workshop Coordinator and Tim White - Editor. The Education Coordinator position will remain unfilled for now.
3. **Trailer:** Terry has looked into purchasing a box trailer for hauling the Vertical Sections gear to conventions. The committee elected to have Terry Mitchell and Gary Bush spend up to \$2000 for a trailer and accessories. The committee will meet again after the awards ceremony on Thursday to discuss their findings.
4. **Meeting was adjourned at 10:37.**

June 22, 2017

A trailer was subsequently purchased for \$1691.75.

Registration and additional accessories were purchased by Gary Bush and Ray Sira for \$382.92.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Sira, Vertical Section Secretary-Treasurer June 2, 2018.