

NSS Vertical Section Annual Business Meeting (Draft 2)

June 20th, 2019

Cookeville High School, Cookeville TN

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:11am in room 222 of Cookeville High School. 22 people were present. There was a quorum.
2. **Announcements:** Ray Sira was late getting to the meeting so Mike Rusin took notes for the first 20 minutes.
3. **Officers Reports.**
 - A. **Chairman's Report:** Gene Harrison gave a summary of Sunday's Executive Committee meeting. (Minutes of this meeting will be available online). Gene thanked PMI for their donation of rope for the climbing contest and reported that he had sent PMI a letter this year requesting a donation of rope. A scaffolding design package has been created to be included in the NSS convention planning manual. It was noted that the cost of the scaffolding and lift for this year's convention cost \$1243.00. This cost was picked up by the convention as it has been in the past. The helmet waiver will be the only one required this year as all climbing participants will have signed a waiver at registration.
 - B. **Symbolic Items:** Christa Hay has taken over the symbolic items duties from Bill Boehle. Christ was unable to make the convention this year and was unable to arrange for someone to bring items to the convention but did provide a report of sales for the last year. Having one of the vendors handle distribution of the VS symbolic items is being considered
 - C. **Awards** – There has been no activity from the awards committee.
 - D. **Web Master** – Gary Bush reported the website is up and running and he is seeking input and articles for the website.
 - E. **Education Coordinator.** – Terry Mitchell announced this position is currently vacant. Terry say's the Training Committee is making slow but steady progress on updating and improving the Basic Vertical Training material. Tim White reported on the update of the existing material that he and Lee White have been working on. It was announced that there would be a presentation this afternoon at 1:00 "Intro to Alpine Vertical Caving".
 - F. **Secretary's Report:** Ray Sira reported we have 268 members although 119 of those memberships are due to expire. Ray will send notes out asking those people to please renew their membership. At the Executive Committee meeting Sunday a motion was passed to eliminate the option of paying to have the Nylon Highway mailed.
 - G. **Treasurer's Report:** Ray Sira - Total amount in the 3 VS accounts is \$10,225.38. The report will be posted online.
4. **Committee Reports.**

- A. **Climbing Contest:** Ray Sira reported we has 54 climbs by 37 individuals. Fewer than last year in Montana. We think everyone was caving this year. Bill and Miriam Cuddington were unable to attend this year's convention so the contest was run by committee. PMI donated the ropes used for the contest and William Shrewsbury of On Rope 1 delivered them to the convention.
 - B. **Rebelay Workshop:** Gary Bush reported there were 28 climbers, 14 on the basic course and 14 on the advanced course. Terry Mitchell and Bonnie Armstrong helped guiding people on the course while Gary Storricks assisted with tuning peoples gear.
 - C. **Vertical Techniques Workshop:** Terry Mitchell reported that Kurt Waldron's employer canceled his vacation this year and Terry volunteered to run the workshop with Mike Rusin assisting. 35 people preregistered but only 26 people were present at the start of the class. 1 person was added from the waiting list and a few people showed up late. Ray will contact the convention treasure to get reimbursed for the workshop. (\$875.00 was later collected).
 - D. **Equipment Committee:** Gary Bush reported that a database has been created of equipment with spaces for date acquired, inspection dates and condition. All ropes are marked with year acquired and length.
5. **Old Business.**
- A. Minutes from the August 2nd, 2018 meeting were posted on the Yahoo group page and available at the meeting. Gary Bush motioned for the minutes to be approve. Mike Rusin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent as published. *(Ed. The minutes are no longer available on the Yahoo Group page. A Google Group will be created to replace the Yahoo Group in the near future).*
6. **New Business.**
- A. Bill Boehle suggested the possibility of adding different events next year to spice up the climbing contest such as timing a climber from when they start to put their gear on.
7. **Elections**
- A. **Secretary-Treasurer (1 year Term):** Terry Mitchell 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):** Current executive committee members are Gene Harrison (Chairman), Mike Rusin (Vice Chairman), Bill Boehle (Member at large) and Gary Napper (Member at large). Bill and Gary's terms are expiring. Terry Mitchell nominated Bill Boehle and Bonny Armstrong was also nominated. There were no other nominations. Terry Mitchell's motion to suspend the rules was carried, and Bill Boehle and Bonny Armstrong were elected by unanimous consent. There are 9 positions on the Vertical Section Executive Committee. Editor and Education Coordinator are currently vacant.
8. **The VS Business Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.**
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Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting. A brief meeting was held by the executive committee at the end of the business meeting.

- A. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am.
 - B. **The Executive Committee** elected Gene Harrison as Chairman and Mike Rusin as Vice Chairman. Appointments made were Bill Cuddington - Contest Chair and Kurt Waldron - Workshop Coordinator. The Editor and Education Coordinator positions will remain unfilled for now. Mike Rusin has agreed to be the backup for Kurt Waldron. (At some point the position of Editor has been changed to Website Coordinator. I'm not sure when this happened.)
 - C. Terry Mitchell representing the Equipment Committee would like to have On-Rope1 make some new rigging slings and some chest harnesses for the knots systems. A \$400.00 budget was approved for purchasing 4 chest harnesses and up to 15 rigging slings.
 - D. **Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.**
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The Vertical Session:

- 1. Ed Devine presented A Discussion of the Design and Use of Legacy Vertical Aids; Scaling Poles and "Beam Chocks".
- 2. Carroll Bassett presented Some Experiments with 3 Bar Devices, Could Less be More?
- 3. Gene Harrison presented An Improved and Reliable Webbing Seat Harness.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ray Sira, Vertical Section Secretary-Treasurer July 6th, 2019.