Thursday, June 29, 2023
Elkins, WV

If you have an announcement you'd like us to consider for the newsletter, kindly submit it via our online submission portal: www.caves.org/convention/dailyrag/submissions/

Program Changes

Room Changes: See D&E TVs to verify locations!
Vertical Session business meeting (10:30) & climbing contest awards ceremony (11:30) moved to 402. Cartography class moved to 319. Cave Writers Workshop (10 AM to 4 PM) moved to Painting & Drawing Studio in Myles Basement. Speleophatelic Section lunch meeting (12-2 PM) moved to 412 (Commuter Lounge). Arts & Letters Salon lunch meeting (12-1 PM) moved to Painting & Drawing Studio in Myles Basement. Survey & Cartography Section lunch (1-2 PM) moved to 100. NSS Nature Preserves meeting (2-5 PM) moved to 413. Speleophatelic Section meeting (12-2 PM) moved to 412 (Commuter Lounge).

General Announcements

You're invited to the post-Banquet Campground Party!
Bring your dancing feet, for the grand finale, music by Muchos Garcias on stage at the pavillion.

Key Return Reminder for Dormers: Saturday, July 1st at Suite 330 in the Presidential Center
Please return your room keys to Suite 330 in the Presidential Center on Saturday, July 1st. The designated return hours are from 6AM to 11:59AM. We kindly request that you vacate the building by noon. If you need to return your key earlier, please contact Beth or Jane at 301-704-8131 or visit Suite 330.

Caver Coop Notice: Item Pickup and Payment Information
Cavers who contributed items for sale at the Caver Coop can retrieve their unsold items on Friday at noon. If your items were sold, checks will be available for pick up at the Coop desk after 2pm.
Attention Workshop Leaders!
Checks are available at Registration at Thursday noon. Thank you for assisting with convention!

Register for 2024 Convention for only $235!
Join us for the 2024 NSS Convention in Sewanee, TN for the best possible price! Register before Friday and NSS Members pay only $235 for the entire week. Come back to the heart of TAG in 2024 and experience one of the premier caving areas in the country. Register at: caves.org/2024/registration.

Important Notice: Fill Out Your Caver Alert Information Sheet (CAIS) for Cave Trips!
Convention Program recipients, please complete a Caver Alert Information Sheet (CAIS) and leave it with your Emergency Contact before embarking on a cave trip. Look for the CAIS insert in your Program, and additional copies are available at the Registration area, Cave Booth building in the Campground, and on bulletin boards. If the supply is low, kindly inform any Staff member for a refill.

Convenient Shuttle Services: Regular and Evening Buses for Easy Transportation
Regular Hourly Service Monday - Friday: Shuttle buses run every half hour between the campground and D&E between 8 AM and 6:30 PM. The last hourly bus leaves D&E for the Campground at 6:30. Return buses will pick up at Gainer Center at 8:30 PM.

Additional Evening Shuttle Services:
- Thursday: Buses will pick up at D&E at 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 10:00 PM, and 10:30 PM following the Photo Salons.
- Friday: Buses will pick up at the Campground for service to Gainer Center at 5:00 PM and 5:15 PM for the Banquet. Note: This overlaps with the daily hourly service. Confirm with the driver at the Campground where they are going.

Event Announcements

Join the Storytelling Contest!
Storytelling Contest 7:30 pm Thursday evening at the pavilion in the Campground. Come tell tall tales and cheer on others. Win a prize!

Uncover the Wonders: Big Pit Exploration Video Showing at Campground Storytelling Contest!
Don't miss the full video of the amazing exploration of the Big Pit in Oaxaca, Mexico, after the Storytelling Contest at the Campground Pavilion. Rob Spangler's innovative video technology brings this adventure to life. You might have caught a glimpse of the trailer on social media. It's a must-see!

Section Announcements

Greener Pastures: Free, New Cow's Tales at the Vertical Section
Do your cowstails need to be sent to greener pastures? The Vertical Training Commission has you covered! Come to the VTC table at Memorial Gym and we will cut you some new cowstails on dynamic rope donated by Sterling and PMI. Your choice of exciting colors, while supplies last!
Vendor Announcements

Meet Hazel Barton for a Book Signing of 'Lechuguilla' at the Vendor Area on Thursday!
Meet Hazel Barton at noon in the vendor area on Thursday where she will be autographing her book, _Lechuguilla_, until 12:45. Copies of this beautiful book available at many vendors.

Literary Adventure: John Mylroie, NSS Lumiere, Signs His Heart-Pounding Novels
John Mylroie will autograph his four thrillers at noon Thursday in the vendor area.

Legacy of Adventure: Mountaineering Books and Memorabilia from Horton "Beep" Hobbs III
All leftover items from the Hobbs collection will be free Friday am. Come before noon!

Award Announcements

Attention NSS Awardees: Please sit in the reserved seating area!
If you are getting an NSS award (and you should know it already), please sit in the front tables we have reserved for awardees. We want to keep this part of banquet to a minimum and don't want to wait for y'all to walk up from the back of the room. Thanks!

Attention 50 and 60 year NSS members: Pin Pickup:
Your recognition pin is at the NSS store in the vendor area. Swing by and pick it up. - Bill Steele (NSS 8072), NSS Awards Committee chair

RUN ROPE: Award Pickup
If you ran rope, you may have received an award! Please come to the Vertical Section Meeting and Awards Ceremony Thursday at 11:30. If you can not make it, please send a proxy. The Vertical Section cannot mail awards.

Other Announcements

THANK YOU RESCUE TEAM!
Rescue – Tony DeWitt, the rescuee, wants to thank everybody for the fantastic rescue job. He is doing well; no serious injuries. He hopes to be released either Thursday or Friday to go home. Because of the excellent job done by the rescuers, he hopes to take the next OCR (Orientation Cave Rescue) class, when he recovers. We need a volunteer driver to the Baltimore area, so we can drive his vehicle back to his house. See Buddy Hihn 410-218-7112 (call or text). Text preferred.

Donations: Convention Logo Wine Bottles Available!
Get an empty wine bottle from the Fellows and New Members Dessert Reception with the convention logo. Donations are gladly accepted. See Meredith, the co-chair, who has them in her car from the cleanup. It's a great way to remember the fun convention!
Sci-Fi Novella: Introducing Cordi, the Bad-Ass Exoplanetary Cave Explorer
Meet Cordi Akelarre, a tough exoplanetary cave explorer who may or may not be inspired by my wife. This novella was born after my experience at the NSS conference in Ely, and it even won an award! Join Cordi on her thrilling journey as she faces adversity and uncovers a groundbreaking discovery in a distant cave. I invite you to read this gripping novella for free! Simply click the link below (https://dl.bookfunnel.com/ml3bs8f5or) and share your thoughts with me. I hope you enjoy the adventure!

Lost, Please Find: Blue & Black Rain Coat
Blue and black raincoat, 2X size. please turn in to lost and found.

Black Tank Pump-Outs Now Available for RV Campers at Convention Campground - $50 Fee
The kind folks at The Outhouse LLC have officially offered the option of black tank pump outs for our RV campers at the convention campground. The price for this benefit is $50. Please get in touch with the Security Chair at your own convenience.

Cordial Invitation: Old Timer’s Reunion
Experience the largest gathering of cavers in the US at Old Timer's Reunion (OTR) in August! Enjoy live music, free beer, hot tubs, bonfires, camping, vendors, presentations, and cave exploration in West Virginia. OTR caters to all cavers, young and seasoned. Spot OTR t-shirt wearers for more info. Visit www.otr.org for event details!

Be Part of the Future of Vertical Training: Donate to Build Vertical Bill's Training Tower
Donate to the construction of Vertical Bill's Training Tower to be built at the NSS HQ in Huntsville. The NSS has a large matching fund campaign. Be a part of future vertical training. See Maureen Handler for more information.

Support The HQ: Buy a Brick!
Order forms are available at the NSS Bookstore. See the drone aerial photo of the existing Celebration Patio! The next engraved brick order will be placed in September with brick installation happening in December!

Last Chance to See: Gary Storrick's Vertical Museum
Thursday will be the LAST DAY to see Gary Storrick’s Vertical Museum, setup along the balcony of the vendor's area. This collection is a 2023 Convention EXCLUSIVE and will not be on display again in the foreseeable future. This is your LAST CHANCE to see the Vertical Museum in-person until [???

Having so much fun at the NSS Convention that you want to VOLUNTEER FOR THE NSS? We have hundreds of projects, committees and work that can use your help. Fill out an interest form at https://caves.org/volunteer/ and we will contact you with opportunities!

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