

Tonight's Awards Banquet will be held in the large tent on the lower campground starting at 6:00 pm. Our featured speakers are Hazel Barton and Dick Mitchell. Come and enjoy the ceremonies.

Enjoy the Convention? You bet we did! Give the staff members and all volunteers a big thank you and a hug for all the hard work they did.

As this issue of the rag is pink, it must be Friday. We had good times, spent time with good friends, had things to learn, and lots to see and do. And now, it's time to start looking toward Mayacon 2012 in Lewisburg, West Virginia. See y'all there!

Program Additions and Changes

The Board of Governor's Open Meeting, today at 8:00 am will be held in room 1144 (not 1212).

The Video Critique starting at 9:00 am today will be held in room 1212 (not 1144).

Cartographic Salon critique is being moved to 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm today, not as printed in the Program schedule. This allows us to enjoy the International Exploration sessions. Come meet the judges and discuss the relative merits of each map. Also, the critique is being run by the cart salon coordinator, not Dave Bunnell, as printed in the Program.

Vertical Awards, today, 1:00 pm, room 1222. All climbers, please, be on time: certificates and some prizes. Less than an hour in length. Can't come? Check with Elaine Hackerman at the banquet to see if you have an award.

Lynn Fielding should have been listed in the Program as Co-coordinator of the Vertical Workshop with Terry Clark. Please add her name to your Convention Program.

Convention Announcements

Please be our second set of eyes. Ask anyone without a badge that you don't know:

- 1). To get one immediately, if at the school
- 2). To leave immediately, if at the campground.

Security is adding extra patrols. If you can help, you will get a special RED T-shirt. Talk with Mike Frazier or any security person... security can be reached at 970-279-1677. Police 911.

Arts and Letters Section Meeting 12:00 noon, bring your lunch to the comfy chairs in the Fine Arts Salon. On the agenda:

***Illuminations* magazine - deadlines for submission - types of articles and content**

Membership and Officers

JSS - Swimming at Glenwood Hot Springs – leaving from the banquet tent after dinner. Bring your swimsuit and towels to the banquet. Entrance is free.

We have a new, beautiful NSS membership/info brochure! Pick up a handful at the NSS Bookstore to take back to your grotto.

Cave Ballad Listening Session will be today, 11:00 am. – noon only! Do not show up before 11:00, no one will be there.

Today's Lunch Specials:

Hormone, antibiotic free, hamburger or grilled chicken burger
Cold sub sandwich veggie burger/ roasted sweet potatoes All entrees \$6.00

The Congress of Grottos wishes to express their appreciation to Gordon Birkheimer for activity regarding cave access relating to WNS and CBD in general during Convention. Bill Jackson, COG recording secretary.

It's Account Settlement time at Registration. Please check the list outside Registration to see if you have a refund coming or if you still owe some money. Registration is open until 3:00 pm

There are several folks who have not yet paid for their auction items. Please stop by the NSS Bookstore and pay for the items you purchased. The NSS Bookstore will close at noon today.

Lost something? Find it at the Registration desk. We have keys – phones – jewelry – etc.

The NSS membership committee wants your opinions! Please complete a survey available on the table by registration or at the coffee stand in the lower campground.

The Congress of Grottos expresses appreciation to Bert Ashbrook for representations in CBD WNS lawsuit. Bill Jackson, COG recording secretary

To all BOGers and Officers: Please provide a high-resolution, vertically oriented photograph to the 2012 Members Manual Editor. Thanks, Meredith Weberg, merecaver@yahoo.com.

The NSS WNS Rapid Response Fund needs your donations now! We do not have sufficient funding to meet all current research applications. An additional \$15,000 is needed to make a difference. Make a donation at the NSS Bookstore – cash, check or credit card. Designate on the memo line: NSS WNS RRF. Thank you!

Glenwood Gossip

Y'all come – the new pavilion at Old Timers Reunion in Daily/Elkins, West Virginia has been completed. The event runs from Sept 2 – 6. This year's theme is Halloween. So bring your costume for the Doo Dah Parade, your trebuchet for the Punkin' Chunkin' contest, and take a scary good tour of the Haunted House (trailer). Come enjoy the festivities. For more information check us out at www.otr.org/.

Roger Brown turns 69 TODAY! Not many 69 year olds running ecomarathons and caving. Way to go Roger!!

Have 2 banquet tickets we will not be using – will donate. See Registration and ask about 626 and 627

Need a ride to the noon East bound train? Meet Bob Stucklen at Registration at 11:00 am, Saturday.

To: Baaarb, Happy anniversary to my beautiful bride of 6 years on Saturday. Love, Baaab

Number 58 and 53: this is Will White's 58th consecutive convention and Bet's 53rd.

Thank you to the fellow caver who found and returned my phone to registration Monday. Not sure what I would do if I lost all my contact info.

Best Convention Moment – so far – watching Carol Fritz burst into tears of joy when her quilt sold for \$2000.00 at Wednesday's auction. Beautiful quilt – wonderful donation. Thanks Carol.

2011 Western Regional, sponsored by the Southern Nevada Grotto, will be held at Great Basin National Park over Labor Day weekend Sept 3 – 5. For more information and registration see www.caves.org/region/western/meeting.html.

Because of the International Exploration Session, The Association for Mexican Cave Studies sales in 1406 will be open very sporadically today. Lunchtime will be your best bet.

JSS –Some gear has been misplaced. PLEASE check your gear and return what is not yours to Ed Kehs. Thank you!

Happy Birthday to Jim Sherrell of MMV.

A Happy Surprise: Once in a blue moon the NSS officers came down from the mountain and share information of their internal doings with the lowland membership. And, lo! The New Office Committee's presentation, Tuesday afternoon was such an occasion. The NSS speakers were well informed and refreshingly honest. We, the unwashed, listened carefully and asked polite questions. This was a miracle of rare device.

A pleasure dome with cavers nice. Richard "Milo" Washington.

Mossy Guy – thanks for 15 wonderful conventions together! - Cavergirl

Many thanks to the Bubble Girls for their help this week! – Amber, Amy and Janeen!

Cave History Fans –free book by Jack Speece at Speleobooks. Pick one up!

Hey Sal, Nice camper top. Too bad it doesn't fit your truck. Hope you get your money back and 5 Star RV fixes the damage they caused.

Non-patch Collectors – Patch collector Richard Raber is looking for two convention patches to complete a collection of all NSS Conventions. If you have 1970 or 1976 would you please make contact. rkrraber@effingham.net.

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy thanks all the donors for Merlin's Cave, Columbia County, New York. We will be closing on the property in August. Bob Addis, President

Jeff, The most intense trips are the best, they make the best stories. Thanks for the story, Tammy

Thanks to all who purchased a raffle ticket at the campground party to win the cave pack filled with survey gear. The winning ticket, 595032, was claimed by Tim Williams. All funds collected go to the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy for land acquisition to buy and preserve caves in Kentucky. Thanks for your support! Stop by our booth near the cafeteria.

Speleosoap will be open until noon today. If we are holding your package, please don't forget to pick it up. All Nancy's purses/bags in Consignment Sales. \$5.00 off large bags, \$6.00 off small bags.

Free merchandise at Consignment Sales

Visit High Country Gems and Minerals at 311 8th St. before you leave! We wandered in and found a wonderful selection of rocks and minerals at very affordable prices. The owner, Patti, was very helpful and is offering a 10% discount to NSS Convntiongoers.

Yampah Vapor Caves, a massage, a Chocolate Bliss Body Wrap, and a foot treatment – definitely a caver's slice of heaven.

Sale!! All Nancy's purses/bags in Consignment Sales, \$5.00 off large bags, \$6.00 off small bags

Hard to find Staffordshire Colorado souvenir plates at Speleobooks.

Need a ride to Denver or Boulder Saturday morning. Will help with gas. Please call/text 703-350-9521. Thanks Ed.

I need a ride to the Denver Airport Sunday night or Monday morning. Thanks, Bob Cohen 646-281-7738

Petzl Raffle at On Rope 1 - purchase \$50 or more and enter a raffle to win a Tikka XP head lamp. Drawing at 11:00 am today. No need to be present.

Searching for a ride to Denver on Saturday the 23rd. I would contribute to gas expenses. agoupil@mac.com

Looking for a ride to Denver airport Sunday, 7/24. Call 317-260-8919. Will help with gas.

BIG Sale at Registration everything 20% off! Loved your Howdy Part mug? Want a complete set? These, along with other Convention goodies such as such as corkscrews and shot glasses, are available at Registration while supplies last. **Sale lasts from noon until 3**

Speleoart for sale at the Fine Arts Salon and Consignment Sales – hand painted glasses, paintings, painted cards and more...swoop on in!

Attention former COG chairs and vice-chairs (especially prior to 2002). Looking for COG minutes from COG meetings to fill in gaps in the history of the Congress. Contact 2012 COG chair Bill Stringfellow at COG@ropeguy.us.

Internet Café 2 open now! Room 2501, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm.

XMET 2012 planning meeting today, room 2604, noon to 2:00 pm. Meeting to discuss cave mapping projects in Belize as part of XMET 2012.

2011 Rocky Mountain Regional, hosted by Northern Colorado, Paha Sapa, and Hole in the Wall Grottos will be held on John and Pat Shelton's ranch, "Cavern Wells" over Labor Day weekend (Sept. 2 – 5), outside of Hot Springs, South Dakota. Please visit www.alpinecaver.com for more details and registration.

2011 Rocky Mountain Regional Planning meeting. Would members of the Northern Colorado, Paha Sapa, and Hole in the Wall Grottos that are interested in helping, meet in room 2601 between 9:30 and 11:00 am, or talk to Evan Gehring.

Fall VAR will be Oct. 14 – 16, 2011 at the RASS property in Bath County. VAR will be hosted by Tidewater Grotto and RASS.

Is your group interested in a copy of the Mayacon 2012 pre-convention movie? Sign up for a copy at our registration table.

Shorah from caver1 KI 89170 and caver1 KI 3463301 and cave woman KI 189029

Items "lost" at the Howdy Party Monday night, contact Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park at 970-945-4228 or 800-530-1635.

Want to write a caving book (science, exploration, history, photography, etc.)? Cave Books associate editor, Bill Steele will be at Convention today, Friday and Saturday morning if you would like to meet briefly and talk about it. E-mail speleosteele@aol.com or text or call 214-770-4712 and he will get back to you.

Got any good photos of the Terminal Syphons? I am compiling a visual history of the band. If you got any good shots last night, or have any from a Wednesday night 20 years ago, E-mail taylor@hsu.edu. Crowd shots welcome, too. Mike Taylor

Please submit to *Cave Chronicles*, the newest column in the NSS News. In 150 – 500 words, please tell us “what is the most lost you’ve ever been underground?” E-mail submissions to Philip Rykwaldler at livetocave@hotmail.com.

Free coffee in the campground! The NSS Membership Committee wants you have a great start to your day. Bring your own coffee mug for a free cup of java 7-9 am, or purchase a cup for only \$1.00. Other beverages and snacks are also available for purchase.

See everyone next year! NormaDee