

The 2011 National Speleological Society Convention in Glenwood Springs, Colorado is officially open. Welcome to everyone! Not only are there all the usual events found at our wonderful conventions, just look around you at the scenery. The opportunities to sightsee that boggle the mind.

Our team is working hard to be sure 2011 will be your best convention ever. Just so you know: campgrounds will be pretty full, so please help us -

- just tents in the lower campgrounds – no cars after you drop your gear.
- Quiet camping – no alcohol or tobacco since we are on school grounds
- short tent stakes or use ours to protect the sprinkler system in the Quiet campground
- please, save school parking for “Motel Cavers”. Parking is available in 1. North Safeway lot – keep space clear for delivery trucks, 2. North lot of the recycle center and 3. North of the elementary school. Cars parking in neighborhoods will be ticketed. All parking lots have access to bike paths. This being said, let us know how we can make it an even better time for convention – The Cavers of Colorado.

Tonight’s main feature is the Howdy Party at Glenwood Caverns. There is information in this rag and at Registration concerning this event. Go early and enjoy the Alpine Coaster and the Canyon Swing. Enjoy the evening!

## Program Additions and Changes

**NEW NSS OFFICE PRESENTATION** Come join us at 3:30 – 5:00 pm, Tuesday in the band room 1222. It’s an exciting time! Learn about our future home. Get your questions answered.

**The 3:00 Howdy Party bus** will leave at 3:30 this afternoon.

**The final count for the Friday** night banquet goes in Tuesday. If you are planning on availing yourself of the vegetarian or gluten-free vegetarian menu, it must say so on your badge. If it does not show on your badge and you wish to partake of this opportunity you must get it taken care of at Registration before Tuesday noon.. **If your name is not on the Registration list for vegetarian or gluten-free vegetarian at serving time you will not be served at that table.**

**Caves of Grand Canyon National Park: Management Strategies, Difficulties, and Opportunities** by Steven E. Rice will be presented during the Conservation and Management Session today at 3:30 pm in room 114. (See abstract in Sunday’s newsletter.)

**New Members reception** will be held in the campground on Tuesday in conjunction with the Fellows reception under the party tent at **5:00 pm. (not 7:00).**

**The Vertical Contest** will run from noon until 5:00 pm today. Rigging starts at 9:00 am.

**Today’s Vertical Meeting** and Session has been moved to **Wednesday** following the Vertical Section Business Meeting in room 1222 from 2:00 – 3:00.

## Convention Announcements

**The Communications & Electronic Section** Lunch will have two large pizza pies provided for attendees. See Paul KE7HR for details.

**The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NSS** will be celebrated Tuesday night at 8:00 with a 70’s Dance Party, DJ’d by Colorado caver (now living in Alaska) Paul Burger. Bring your 60’s or 70’s garb and get ready to DANCE!

**Bring your ID and badge.** You will not be able to drink without a picture ID. Remember to bring a light and a jacket to the Howdy Party – it gets cold on top of Iron Mountain.

**Howdy Party Greeters Needed** at the bottom of the Tram. Show up at Tram at 1:30 pm, today. Greeters will check badges, check ID’s and give out wristbands.

### HOWDY PARTY SCHEDULE:

JSS can arrive as early as 12:00 – all other attendees can be at the base of the Tram as early as 2:00 (take the shuttle, walk or bike the 1.4 miles to the Tram – everything is free. Use your badge to claim your mug and get a wristband if you’re going to drink.

Rides: 2:00 – 8:00      Cave: 5:00 – 9:00

Laser tag and 4D theater: 2:00 -11:00

Dinner: 5:00 – 8:00      Band: 8:00 – 12:00

Wine available after 8:00. Beer is free with valid ID.

**Swoop into your Salons** throughout the week. Monday July 18 join Kristie Lindberg and Dave Bunnell for: *Get Down: Connecting with our Underground Resources!* – 10:30 am until noon. This is an introduction to cave arts and their connection with our understanding of speleological sciences.

A slide show by Dave Bunnell followed by instruction on composing artwork from photographs is \$5.00. Tuesday, July 19 join Carolina Shrewsbury and Kristie Lindberg for the annual Collaborative Workshop. \$10.00 for the whole day. 9:00 am until 11:30 sketching connection and group orientation: **MOZART COULDN’T PAINT!** 1:00 pm meeting to visit Glenwood Caverns art workshop – on site sketching

**WNS Decon is open** from 8:00 am to 10:30 am and from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Additional hours for late returning cave trips.

**Attention Cave Photography Workshop** participants: If you have registered for the Wednesday Cave Photography Workshop, please read this. Participants should come to the Decon station (outside the main entrance to the school) between 5:00 and 6:00 pm on Tuesday evening to decontaminate their camera gear and tripods. Decon will take only 10 minutes to complete. Participants should be at the base of the Tramway up to Glenwood Caverns (GC) by 8:30 am on Wednesday, the day of the workshop. We will try to arrange car-pooling on Tuesday evening at the decon station as parking space is extremely limited. Meet at the restaurant at GC at 9:00 am for the tour of the cave and the beginning of the workshop. Class lasts until 4:00 pm when you take the tram back down to the bottom. Bring lunch or dine at the restaurant. Class size has exceeded the limit of 12 participants, but we will accommodate all those who have signed up for the majority of the class. Off trail photo trips are limited to

those who signed up for the first 12 slots. For more info, see Peter Jones in room 1501 on Vendor's Row. [pjcaver@gwi.net](mailto:pjcaver@gwi.net) or 207-542-5228

**Do you have items for the auction** Wednesday night or for the NSS Museum? Drop them off at the NSS Bookstore.

**Come see what's going on at the JSS** in room 1702. Monday, Tuesday, and Friday there are planned cave trips. Wednesday there is vertical time in the gym and Thursday there is vertical work on a real live cliff. (you must take the class on Wednesday to go on the Thursday trip). Sign up for all the great activities being offered in room 1702.

**GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE** The National Speleological Foundation offers grants for cave and karst research, conservation, education, and exploration. Learn more at the N.S.F. meeting Thursday, 2:00 pm., room 2702, or E-mail Bert Ashbrook; [caving.ashbrook@comcast.net](mailto:caving.ashbrook@comcast.net), or visit [www.speleofoundation.org](http://www.speleofoundation.org).

**If you are** going on an outing during Convention, you can get a To-Go lunch. All To-Go orders must be placed by 8:30 the day of delivery. Forms will be available in the cafeteria as well as in classrooms. Participants need to pay for the To-Go meals at the time of placing the order. Any box lunches needed for sessions or Section lunches should be coordinated with Michelle at the cafeteria as soon as possible.

**Meals at Convention** both full meals (breakfast and lunch) and ala Carte can be purchased at the school cafeteria from 7-9 am for breakfast and 11-2 pm for lunch. You can purchase meal tickets for the week at a savings; the costs are posted at registration.

**The Mitchell Award** may be made for the best scientific paper presented at any of the sessions by a member (or members) of the NSS age 25 or younger. Eligible presenters should submit their name, NSS number, paper title with the scheduled session day and time to Mike Backe. Please E-mail the information to [caverbacke@gmail.com](mailto:caverbacke@gmail.com) or leave a note at registration.

**Campers - be sure to keep your** food in coolers or other secure containers. "Come for of lunch" temptations like this could prompt visits by bears and raccoons, which could be mighty unpleasant.

## Glenwood Gossip

**Need a dog sitter** during the Howdy Party this evening? Talon will look after Fido at the dog park for \$20.00 from 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Last pickup is 10:00 at the big tent in the campground. Call Talon for further details at 303-868-6252.

**Where were you April Fools Day, 1991?** If you were carrying my buns out of Lech, then join the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Emily's spring break gathering on Tuesday at 5:00 pm outside of Speleobooks

**Speleosoap's 2011 addition: Firefly** - your fourth source of light. Turn left coming out of Speleobooks and go to room1503.

**For the owner who has the "Sally" pet tag,** please return to registration for the appropriate "Sally" tag with the correct phone number.

**What former NSS president** was overheard saying "But it was just a small prick"?

**The Association for Mexican Cave Studies,** a project of the NSS, has over 70 publications on Mexican caves and caving in its sales room, 1406. Come see our poster display in the lunchroom.

**Hunters wanted.** Help budget shortfall. Looking for people with rifles or shotguns to hunt meat for our banquet. See Bob in the campground for details.

**If any doubt still exists,** I do have photographic evidence: Ken Laidlaw married the lovely Carol Nobel Laidlaw Sept. 2010. See Carolina Brown, So Cal Grotto.

**Thanks for the loaner bikes!** Bikes need some TLC, however. Air and some quick release seat adjusters would be great too!

**Batty glass jewelry** a fund raiser for Rock Castle Karst Conservancy.

**So glad to arrive safe and sound** in Co. for this NSS Convention 2011. See ya 'round. Bambi

**Welcome KFC members** to wonderful Colorado.

**Bill Papke, MLG,** is gong to miss the convention this year because of having a devil of a time with his body. He'll be here with all of his friends in thought though. Ernie Coffman

**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 (100) per day from 7-9 am, or purchase a cup for only \$1.00. Other beverages and snacks are also available for purchase.

**Adventure Paragliding** has a special discount for cavers. Call 970-274-1619. If you're lucky you might catch Pine Pienaar at the landing site by the campground. Talk to him about this great opportunity.

**Up Tha Creek Expeditions** is offering special Convention rates for some very exciting rafting trips. Check out their brochures in Registration.

**Thanks to Andy and Bonny Armstrong,** Jason Walz and Tami Motif for the Black Hills pre-camp. Oh my stars and garters, they did a great job! We had a blast.

**It's a real convention - rain!**

**Truths for Mature Humans:** There is a great need for a sarcasm font.