

It's that time again. Cavers are congregating from all over to find out what's new in their fields of interest, compete in contests, see the latest in caver creativity in the Fine Arts Salon, party, and in general enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of like-minded individuals. So here we are in the great setting of Glenwood Springs, Colorado for a "Caver's Slice of Heaven".

Join us in the High School Atrium at 8:15 tomorrow morning for the opening ceremony.

Program Additions and Changes

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

Speleo-olympics have been moved to Thursday. Watch for further updates.

New Members reception will be held in the campground on Tuesday in conjunction with the Fellows reception under the party tent at 7:00 pm.

The Vertical Contest will run from noon until 5:00 pm Monday. Rigging starts at 9:00 am. Lynn Fielding is 2nd in command in charge of the Vertical Workshop.

Monday'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

Please be sure to wear your badge at all times. This is your ticket to the entire goings on at Convention.

Heavenly Glenwood Gazette, your daily newsletter, can be picked up at Registration.

Submission sheets are available at the table in Registration. The editor retains the right to publish (or not) depending on space and

content. All submissions must be in by 2:00 pm the day before they are to be published. If you need to see the editor, she is in room 1707.

Newsletters will be available starting at 7:00 am each morning. Sorry no tent delivery.

Howdy Party attendees! You received a ticket for the bus to a tram ride. The tram is open to the cave at 2:00 pm. Come up early – ride the Alpine Coaster and the Canyon Swing. Parking is available at the tram ride or you can walk the 1.4 mile bike path. Directions are available in your packet or at Registration. Please do not attempt to drive to the top of the mountain. If you are planning to have an alcoholic beverage while at the Howdy Party you will need picture ID as well as your convention badge.

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.

The Convention staff is making available communications for amateur radio operators this year. We will have a dedicated repeater set up on Iron Mountain high above the City of Glenwood Springs and the Roaring Fork Valley. Tune your HTs to 146.835 MHz with a PL tone of 141.3 Hz. Repeater offset is 600KHz. The Convention staff will do their best to monitor this frequency during event hours to answer any questions that may come up. If you have no idea what we're talking about, that's ok. We're using ham radio communications (fancy walkie talkies) to organize activities and safety during Convention.

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 or leave a note at registration.

Volunteers are needed at the Howdy Party to check wristbands. Also needed people to serve alcoholic beverages. To do this you must take a short on-line course. Computers for taking the course can be found in the Internet Café. Directions on how to do the training are posted in the room. The Colorado Cavers report the class takes anywhere from 1-3 hours. Call Andrea at 303-882-1115 for help. The cost is \$40.00 that the Convention will reimburse. The Certificate of Achievement (suitable for framing) will allow you to serve at all the rest of the Convention functions (i.e., the campground party, 70th anniversary dance, and the banquet.)

Wildlife in GW Springs Smaller bears and raccoons wander through the area continually. Please try to keep and campground food in coolers or other containers in order to avoid tempting the critters into our housing area.

Glenwood Gossip

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.

Kelli where are you? We miss you!

Special abstract

Caves of Grand Canyon National Park: Management Strategies, Difficulties, and Opportunities

Steven E. Rice, National Park Service, Grand Canyon National Park, Flagstaff, AZ 86001 USA

Grand Canyon (GRCA) is one of the planet's most iconic geologic landscapes, yet most people do not realize that it also contains substantial and nationally significant cave resources. The cave and karst resource staff at GRCA is in the process of developing management strategies for what may account for a larger inventory of caves than all other National Park Service units combined. Strategies include the development of a cave management plan addressing recreational cave access, research permitting, and inventory and survey protocols for speleological, paleontological, archeological, and biological resources within caves. Several difficulties inhibit a successful cave program however. The expansive size and difficult backcountry terrain of GRCA makes inventory and survey a daunting task; cave resource conditions and trends are not fully known. Unpermitted visitation and data secrecy increase impacts, and vandalism and unintentional damage are difficult to quantify and manage due to a lack of baseline data. These difficulties aside, there are great opportunities for the development of a comprehensive and adaptable program, learning from and collaborating with other land management agencies and cave organizations to produce one of the most progressive cave research and management plans in the country. With the

discovery of some of the largest caves in the southwest, rare and spectacular formations, and well-preserved archeological and paleontological discoveries, GRCA will provide cavers and researchers great opportunities for research and exploration. Establishing working relations within the caving community and with stakeholders will be imperative to fully document and protect such an extraordinary resource.

Truths for Mature Humans: I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger