

THE ???

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

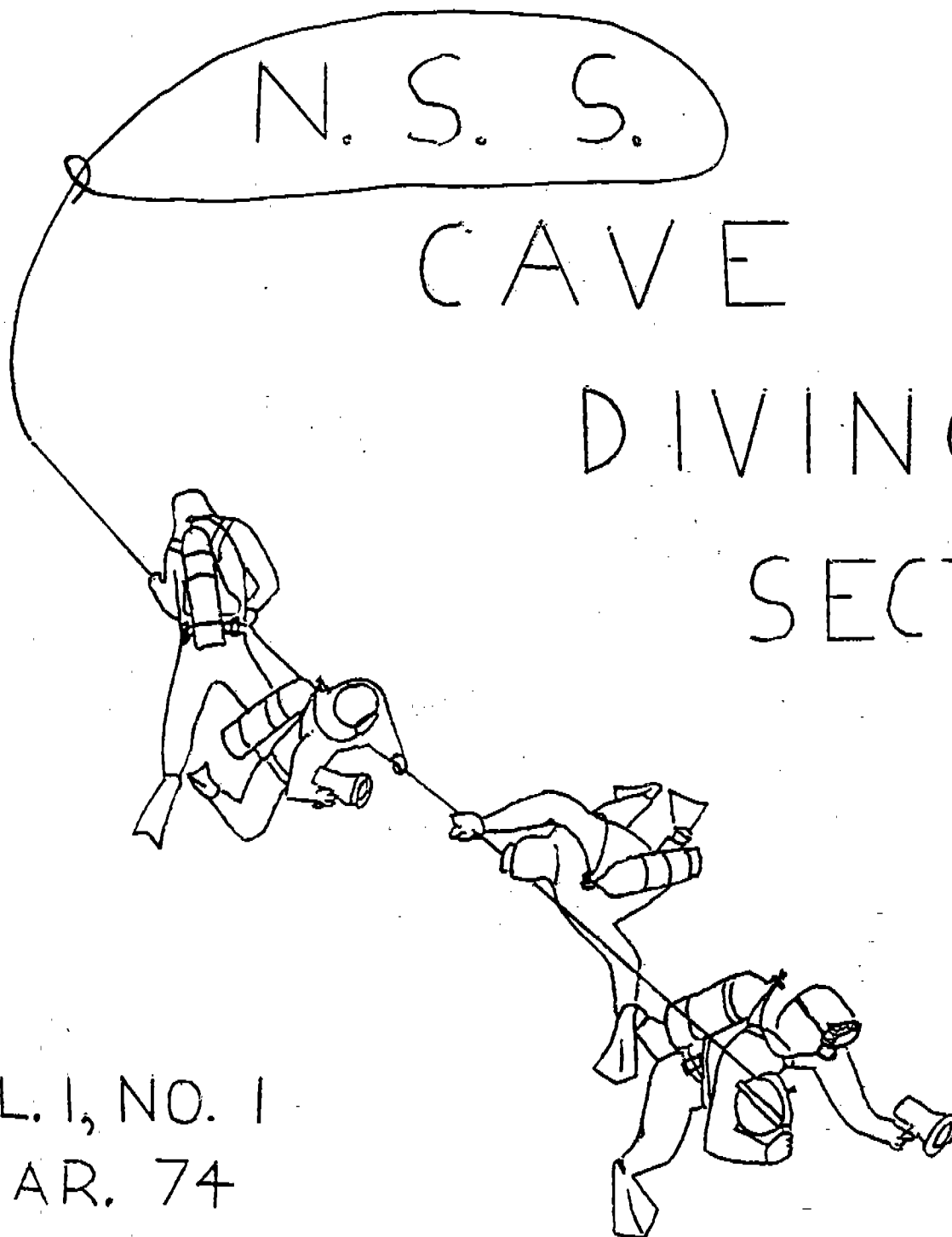
OF THE

N. S. S.

CAVE

DIVING

SECTION



VOL. I, NO. 1
MAR. 74

from the chairman...

NSS CAVE DIVING SECTION

IS BORN !

On Feb. 6, 1974, the NSS gave formal approval to our new section, SS-4. Our 21 members represent ten different states and virtually every region of the country, and collectively include a marvelously rich and varied cave diving experience. As more cavers join we can expect this experience to broaden considerably.

This newsletter will be our primary means of exchanging experiences and ideas between meetings. Unfortunately, the current energy crisis, combined with our widespread distribution of members, makes it virtually impossible for all of us to get together before the 1974 NSS Convention, where our annual meeting will be held. This means that the CDS Newsletter will be of paramount importance if we are to function successfully as a section.

You are the boss! It's your newsletter, so tell us what you would like - a high-quality annual publication, a monthly publication like this one, or both. Articles on any aspect of cave diving are appreciated - equipment, techniques, biology, geology, humor, cave diving expeditions past, present, and future, etc. Of course, any comments regarding improvement of the newsletter are also welcome.

Finally, the newsletter needs a name. Suggestions should be sent to me, and will appear in a future issue to be voted on by our members.

Meanwhile, let us look forward to sharing in the task of making cave diving a safer and more respected means of underground research and recreation.

-- Sheek Exley (NSS 13146)
Chairman, NSS CD Section

SPRING CDS WORKSHOP:

TIBURON CAVE, CALIFORNIA

Tiburon Cave is one of the many underwater cave systems along the West Coast offering unique cave diving and photographic possibilities. The cave system is visited by sharks from which it gets its name, and the cave is the habitat for a complex variety of Pacific marine life. Kelp grows outside the cave mouth; eels, crabs, sponges, and shellfish cling to the cave sides or move across the black floor. A variety of fish use the cave as a place to hide and hunt smaller game. Brilliant colors flash across the black cave walls and unexplored passageways extend in every direction. The lava tubes apparently connect with a complex of dry caves above sea level. The underwater cave has only been explored for the first hundred feet and the dry cave system offers virgin passageway to anyone interested in exploring it. The exact extent and size of the cave system is unknown, but several lava tubes enter the sea in the area and may connect.

NSS Cave Diving Section members, or dry cavers interested in joining the Easter Group in exploring this cave system should write Bill Cate, 122 Collins St., San Francisco, CA 94118. The primary purpose of the trip is to test equipment for the Central American Expedition and to have a series of check out dives for Western cave divers planning on joining the expedition. The section dives and caving can be done independently of the expedition preparation. There will be no cost to individuals able to provide their own transportation, food, and equipment. Every participant on the trip is expected to keep the cave system's location secret. Failure to keep the location secret will eliminate the individual from future trips led by Bill Cate.

(NOTE: Detailed info on Summer Workshop, Florida, in next Newsletter.)
submitted by Bill Cate (NSS 4498)

I.S.U. CAVE DIVING

COMMISSION FORMED

From the Camp of Speleo-Diving and Rescue Work during the 6th International Congress of Speleology last Sept. has evolved the I.S.U. Cave Diving Commission.

The Camp of Cave Diving was the first attempt at an international cave diving seminar, and was quite successful. From Sept. 10 to Sept. 18 participants were treated to presentations and discussions of cave diving equipment, methods, techniques, training, physiology, psychology, documentations, cartography, etc. There were also practice dives in various sites along the 10-km-long underground route of the river Punkva in the Moravian Karst, as well as the warmer mineral waters of the mysterious Chasm of Hranice. An American team had planned a deep research dive in the 500-foot-deep Chasm, but were unable to attend the camp as planned.

The long-term contributions to cave diving by the commission are to be as follows:

- (1) Decision to publish a periodical publication under the title of Cave Diving Developments (published in Barcelona, Spain)
- (2) Decision to cooperate with CNAS (World Underwater Federation)
- (3) Arrangement with ISU rescue commission for cooperation in rescue
- (4) Decision to organize 2nd International Camp of Cave Diving and Rescue Work in Barcelona (Sept. 1975)

NSS CD Section members interested in contacting the ISU CD Commission may write Ing. Frantisek Tomas Fiskula, Chairman, n.m. SNP 19, 614 00 Brno, Czechoslovakia, or the United States Representative, William Cate, 437 Steeles, San Francisco, California 94112.

WEDDING CEREMONY IN

UNDERWATER CAVE

NSS members are used to accounts of cave weddings. However, two Florida cave divers recently added a new twist - a cave wedding underwater.

The ceremony was held on December 14, 1973 at Jenny Spring, Florida, well known as one of the state's most beautiful springs. Gene Melton and Mary Fahning exchanged vows while Rev. Roy Mercer read from a plasticized wedding ceremony. The Communications Sciences of the University of Florida lent a sophisticated underwater intercommunications system and a closed circuit TV to the cause for guests who did not want to get wet.

The only problem encountered in the unique ceremony was that the closed circuit TV was held upside down by the cameraman, making it necessary for the guests to stand on their heads in order to view the event properly.

CAVE DIVING SESSION PLANNED

FOR 1974 NSS CONVENTION

A cave diving session is planned for the 1974 NSS Convention in Decorah, Iowa, Aug. 10-18, 1974. Greg McCarty has lined up a pool for the practical side of the session. Persons with ideas for the convention are asked to contact the chairman of the session, Jim Storey, 3221 Valaire Drive, Decatur, GA 30033.

Abstracts of papers will be limited to 250 words, giving a precise condensation of the paper. Please include any audio-visual equipment needed.

CENTRAL AMERICA CD EXPEDITION

Cave divers are needed to explore cenotes (collapse sinks used as sacrificial wells). Contact Bill Cate.

THE DIVE LOG:

CD SECTION NEWS

(Note: This will hopefully become a regular feature of the CDS Newsletter.)

Chuck Heller is trying to foster interest in two 16 mm cave diving films, having all the necessary equipment except a camera housing and lighting. Anyone interested in helping please contact Chuck.

William R. Owens is now a full member of the Section, and writes of cave diving experience in Minnesota (BRRR!!).

Bob Woolf is chairman of the Planning Committee for the 7th Annual Seminar of Cave Diving, sponsored by the National Association for Cave Diving, to be held in Jacksonville, Fla., June 15th and 16th.

Charlie Sturdivant recently got married. Hope it doesn't slow down his caving... Congratulations to Charlie!

Many thanks to Steve Meegerlein for his generous donation to the Section. Steve is currently busily checking out Indiana cave diving sites.

Sneek Exley and his fiancée, Karen Pribble, discovered the first vadose speleothems to be found underwater in the Exuma Islands last December. The stalactites and stalagmites were found at a depth of 50 feet in a salt water cave.

Bill Gate was recently invited to take time out from organizing the forthcoming Central America Expedition to travel to Czechoslovakia for cave diving.

Dana Turner recently discovered six promising new collapse sinks in central Florida... secret, of course(!!!)...

Rick Rigg, an NSS Director, is also the author of the new addition to the Cavers' Information Series on cave diving.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

NSS CD SECTION CONSTITUTION

The following three amendments have been proposed for consideration by the Section membership as changes to the constitution (see copy, page 5):

IV.(2)- Dave Jagnow

NOW READS: "Executive committee and general meetings..."

AMEND TO: "Executive committee meetings and general meetings..."

IV.(3)- Bob Woolf

NOW READS: "A petition signed by 2/3 of the membership..."

AMEND TO: "A petition signed by a majority of the membership..."

VIII.- Dave Jagnow

NOW READS: "...at any meeting called by the Executive Committee..."

AMEND TO: "...at any meeting where a quorum is present, called by the Executive Committee..."

These three changes and others will be considered by the NSS CD Section at their annual meeting during the 1974 NSS Convention in Decorah, Iowa.

FOUR DIVERS PERISH

IN AUSTRALIAN CAVE

One of the worst cave diving tragedies in history occurred last summer when four young Australian divers disappeared in the famous flooded sinkhole known as "The Shaft." At least three of the divers were experienced and two of the, a brother and sister, were recognized scuba instructors certified by FAUI (Fed. of Australian U/W Instructors). Their father said that they were aware of the special risks of "underground cave-diving."

A safety diver followed the four down to 200 feet and "was most surprised to see the lower group continuing down." It is believed that the divers were overcome by narcosis at depths below 250 feet. The bodies were not recovered.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CAVE DIVING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

I. The name of this organization shall be the Cave Diving Section of the National Speleological Society.

II. The purposes of this organization shall be the same as those of the National Speleological Society with the additional purpose of organizing NSS members who are interested in cave diving so that they may better promote the objectives of the NSS.

III. (1) The Cave Diving Section shall be governed by an Executive Committee made up of the following officers (all NSS members) elected by the members at the annual meeting during the NSS Convention.

- a. Chairman
- b. Vice-Chairman
- c. Secretary-Treasurer

(2) The Executive Committee shall have complete power to manage the business, to formulate by-laws, to raise funds in any manner not inconsistent with the policies of the NSS, and to perform all other necessary functions.

(3) Decisions or actions of the Executive Committee may be overruled by a 2/3 majority vote of the members.

IV. (1) The life of the Cave Diving Section of the NSS shall be perpetual or until terminated by a majority vote of the membership upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

(2) Executive Committee and general meetings shall be held at such times and places as are determined by the Committee with the exception of the annual meeting, which will always be held during the NSS Convention for the purpose of electing the Executive Committee.

(3) A petition signed by 2/3 of the membership shall be mandatory upon the Executive Committee to call a special meeting for the purpose stated in the petition.

V. Full membership is limited to members of the NSS.

VI. The first Executive Committee shall consist of the temporary organizing officers selected by interested NSS members during June, 1973. The first Executive Committee shall serve until the first annual meeting of the Section unless nomination is made and seconded by the membership to the chairman. In the latter case election by mail will be held and ballots will be accepted until 30 days after the ballots were initially mailed out by the Executive Committee.

VII. (1) The Constitution and By-Laws of the NSS shall be binding on the Cave Diving Section. Any action inconsistent therewith shall be null and void.

(2) Any NSS property shall revert to the NSS in the event of dissolution.

VIII. Amendments to this constitution shall be made by 2/3 favorable vote of those present at any meeting called by the Executive Committee expressly for the purpose, or by written consent, of one-half the total membership.

