



UNDERWATER SPELEOLOGY

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY • CAVE DIVING SECTION

VOL 17 • NO 1

OPEN WATER SCUBA INSTRUCTORS



I WANT YOU!

*...to keep your cotton pickin'
students out of our caves!*

Where'd you guys go?

Well, we started down the main line...then we took the third jump to the left...then we took another jump and then *things got REALLY neat!*

Yeah, but *where* were you?

Hell, I dunno...

Don't Look Dumb. Get a Map.

Having NSS-CDS maps of Florida's most popular cave and cavern systems not only enables you to figure out "where you went," it also enhances the planning, safety and enjoyment of your dives. CDS maps are available in two formats: poster-size bluelines or convenient, laminated, note-

book-size models. They're available to all certified cave divers (certified cavern divers may order either of the two cavern maps). Just enclose a photocopy of your C-card with the convenient order form you'll find in the back of *Underwater Speleology*.

| Cave | Florida County | Blueline | Laminated |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|
| Blue Hole (Jug Hole) | Columbia | 70001 | 71001 |
| Blue Spring (Madison Blue) | Madison | 70002 | 71002 |
| Bonnet Spring | Suwannee | 70003 | 71003 |
| Cow Spring | Suwannee | 70004 | 71004 |
| Green Sink | Lafayette | 70005 | 71005 |
| Little River | Suwannee | 70006 | 71006 |
| Peacock/Orange Grove System | Suwannee | 70007 | 71007 |
| Rock Bluff | Suwannee | 70008 | 71008 |
| Twin Springs | Jackson | 70009 | 71009 |
| Cavern | Florida County | Blueline | Laminated |
| Ginnie Spring | Gilchrist | 75001 | 76001 |
| Morrison Spring | Walton | 75002 | 76002 |

Map Prices

| | Blueline | Laminated |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Non-member: any quantity | \$8.00 | \$10.00 |
| Member: single map per order | \$7.00 | \$9.00 |
| Member: 2-3 maps per order | \$6.00 | \$8.00 |
| Member: 4-5 maps per order | \$5.50 | \$7.50 |
| Member: 6 or more maps per order | \$5.00 | \$7.00 |

(Gosh, folks — it sure pays to belong to the CDS, doesn't it? If you'd like to get member prices on these maps, just complete the membership application on the back cover and include it and your membership fee along with your order.)

As you've already read, cave-system map orders must include a photocopy of your Cave Diver card (equivalent of Basic or Intro to Cave, or higher) or, for cavern maps, your Cavern Diver card. Additionally, cave-system maps may not be offered for resale by dive stores, instructors or other individuals or organizations. (Sorry, folks, but you know what happens if these things find their way into the wrong hands...)

UNDERWATER SPELEOLOGY

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Table of Contents

Editorial Page.....4

Messages from the old chairman and the new.

News.....5-7

- *CDS Contributes to DAN, URI*
- *Congratulations to CDS Cavern Instructors*
- *Rescue/Recovery Team Area Coordinators*
- *BOD Meeting Set for May 26*
- *Changes at Peacock/Orange Grove Park*
- *Abe Davis Awards Records Lost*
- *Mark Leonard Receives Sherwood Cave Diving Safety Award for 1989*
- *Sherwood CGA-Yoke-Style Manifolds and "Y" Valves Still in Production*

The Safety Line — Wendy Short.....7

Bad habits are hard to break; good ones are easy to keep.

Fight Back! — Harry Averill.....9

Tired of the shenanigans you see open-water instructors engage in at our dive sites? The CDS just made it easier than ever to turn the bastards in.

Beyond Maximum Stupid — Woody Jasper13

Borrowed or rented cave gear, traverse diving and the assumption of immortality common among 21-22 year old males.

Save \$5 on CDS Spring Workshop Registration

— See enrollment form on page 8 —

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The NSS and Cave Diving — Founded in 1941, the National Speleological Society joins together thousands of individuals dedicated to the safe study, exploration, and conservation of caves. The first cave-diving information ever published in the United States was in a 1947 *NSS Bulletin*. In 1948, NSS divers were responsible for the first cave dives in the United States using scuba. Prior to 1973, cave diving within the NSS was on a purely local level. That year saw the creation of the NSS Cave Diving Section to provide a vehicle for information exchange. Today, with over 500 members, the Cave Diving Section promotes safe cave diving through semi-annual workshops; cavern- and cave-diving training programs; warning-sign installation; search, rescue, and recovery through the National Cave Rescue Commission; cave exploration and mapping; several texts and publications on cave diving; and the bi-monthly publication, *Underwater Speleology*.

Membership — The National Speleological Society welcomes the interest of anyone who has a sincere concern in the safe study, exploration, and conservation of caves, wet or dry. You may join the NSS either by writing to the NSS main office directly (National Speleological Society, Inc., Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35810) or to the Cave Diving Section, using the form appearing on the back cover.

As a sub-organization or *section* of the NSS, the Cave Diving Section is subject to the by-laws and ethics of the NSS. Membership in the Cave Diving Section is open to anyone who is a member in good standing of the NSS.

Subscriptions — If you do not wish to join the Cave Diving Section, but would like to keep current on cave-diving events, exploration, and technology, you are invited to subscribe to *Underwater Speleology* for \$15.00 per year.

— See the Membership/Subscription Application on the back cover —

Messages From...

...the Old Chairman

I would like start by complimenting Kelly Brady and Henry Nicholson for the 1989 Winter Workshop. The quality of the presentations made this workshop one of the best ever. Those of you who skipped the workshop, because of weather reports, have learned by now that the temperatures were in the mid 70's. Short sleeve shirts were the uniform of the day during the fine lunch donated to the CDS by Chris Lewis of Steamboat and Gene Broome of Branford Dive Center. Again, thank you Kelly, Henry, Chris, Gene, the speakers, workers, and attendees.

As we enter into the final decade of this millennium, the CDS Board of Directors is making additional changes. One is the Editorship of *Underwater Speleology*. For over five years Valarie Grey undertook this assignment. She published at least 30 issues of *Underwater Speleology* and the first ever *Members' Manual*. Not once during her tenure did *Underwater Speleology* fail to make a deadline.

At the time Valarie took over, *Underwater Speleology* appeared sporadically and looked unprofessional. A typewriter — and an old one at that — was the production tool. Once she took over, however, each issue Valarie provided was better than the one before.

At times, the size of *Underwater Speleology* rivaled that of the *NSS News*. Valarie spent countless hours preparing each issue with little or no direction from the Board. Yet, anytime anyone disagreed with its content Valarie was the first to hear. This forced her to not only gather news, write and type stories — but even to defend the content and character of each issue.

Far too often, to assure timely publication, Valarie was forced to choose between a cave-diving trip and staying home to work on *Underwater Speleology*. Time after time she chose *Underwater Speleo*.

With this as a background I can only offer Valarie the most sincere thanks and gratitude of everyone within the Section for a job well done. Five years is a long enough time for anyone to have to take a turn in this barrel. Even though she has repeatedly volunteered to continue on with her work, I relieved her of this responsibility, commencing with this issue.

Valarie is far too valuable an asset to cave diving to be allowed to burn out. Valarie is not relieved of *all* of her duties within the CDS, however. She is now concentrating on upgrading brochures published by the Section. This was one of her many odd jobs with the CDS while Editor of *Underwater Speleology*.

To replace Valarie, we have chosen Harry Averill. Harry has been involved in cave diving for some time but has not been living in Florida until just recently. Harry is a publishing professional by trade — as well as a career diving educator. In the past, Harry worked for NAUI, and then PADI Headquarters, editing their respective journals and writing training materials. Currently, Harry is Editor of *Selling Scuba*, the DEMA trade publication.

Harry is a CDS Cavern Diver Instructor, working on his upgrade to Cave Diver Instructor. It has taken someone very special to replace Valarie Grey, we believe we have found that person in Harry Averill. Welcome to the barrel, Harry.

— Safe Cavin',
Joe Prosser

...and the New

As we move into the 1990's, many things are either new or old. Our Board of Directors is new — Frank Howard, Lee Ann Hires, Joe Prosser, Jim Bowden, Peter Butt, Lamar Hires and myself. *Underwater Speleology* has a new look — as does cave diving in general. There are more of us — that's for certain!

High-tech equipment is everywhere. It seems every other team has a video camera. There is talk that mixed-gas rebreathers under \$15,000 are around the corner (order now to avoid the rush). And, let's not leave out one-atmosphere suits and dry subs for deep cave exploration.

Many old things are still with us, however. The call for conservation and land-owner relations echoes louder than ever. The attitude of *my way or not at all* is raising its ugly head — again.

So, with change — and, sometimes, resistance to change — being the only constants, where does the CDS stand?

While I'm Chairman, I want to work with all diverse interest groups within the Section so that, by the turn of the millennium, we *still* represent safety and exploration — along with enjoyment of the sport. I want to forge stronger ties with the NACD so that, together, we can do an even better job of making the open-water diving public aware of our joint efforts to promote safety.

If I could put all this into three words, it would be *Progress Through Cooperation* — moving forward to make our passion fun and safety.

Oh, yes — my door is always open. (Before 10:00 p.m. EST, that is...)

— Mark Leonard
Chairman

CDS Contributes to DAN, URI

The NSS-CDS Board of Directors recently voted to contribute \$250 each to the Diver's Alert Network (DAN) and the University of Rhode Island's National Underwater Accident Data Center (URI-NUADC).

DAN's contribution to the diving community needs no introduction to *Underwater Speleology* readers. As a potentially higher-risk group when it comes to decompression sickness, most of us depend on DAN "Prepared Member" insurance to help protect us against the financial catastrophe that recompression therapy might otherwise entail. But, even more importantly, DAN provides valuable services to the diving community as a whole, by gathering and disseminating information on diving-related injuries and diving safety, and by providing a vital link in the coordination of emergency medical services for injured divers.

Although not as visible as DAN, the URI-NUADC performs a valuable service to the diving community by gathering, analyzing and reporting statistics on diving fatalities. Not only does this help in identifying areas of manageable risk, it has also helped establish that, over the years, diving has indeed become safer. Being able to establish diving's improved safety record provides many benefits, including:

- Reducing the risk of government intervention
- Lowering insurance costs and, in so doing...
- ...making it practical and affordable for manufacturers to introduce newer and better equipment

It's interesting to note that, despite the Section's minuscule size compared to that of the "major" open-water training agencies, our contributions to DAN and URI are eclipsed only by that of DEMA and PADI. Let's face it — if someone our size can find it our means to contribute to these two public-service organizations, the larger agencies should be able to, too. ■



(Left to right, top row): Kelvin Questel, Robert "Chip" Harmon, Lynn Mims and (bottom row): Lamar Hires (Institute Evaluator), Terry DeRouin and Jamie Hempstead (Institute Coordinator).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for four new CDS Cavern Instructors: Kelvin Questel, Robert "Chip" Harmon, Lynn Mims, and Terry DeRouin. The instructors were certified during the mid-November, 1989 institute. Our thanks are offered to the staffs of

Ginnie Springs and Spring Systems Dive Center for the use of their facilities.

At least one Cavern Diver and one Cave Diver Instructor Institute is planned for this year. For more information, contact Training Chairman Joe Prosser. ■

Rescue/Recovery Team Area Coordinators

Rescue/Recovery Team members should immediately report any change of address or telephone to their Rescue/Recovery Team Area Coordinator.

United States

For areas outside those listed
Steve Ormeroid
629 West 4th St.
Marysville, OH 43040
(513) 642-7775 (day)
(513) 644-2559

Alabama

Joe Dabbs
1815 Inspiration Lane
Huntsville, AL 35801
(205) 534-8668 (day)
(205) 544-0623 (eve)

Arkansas

Cliff Rooker
Rt. 1 Box CC
Henderson, AR 72544
(501) 488-5144

Missouri

Florida — North

(Area One)

Lenny Kolczynski
1000 Broward Rd., #1106
Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 765-1940 (day)
(904) 771-6207 (eve)

Florida — Northwest

(Area Two)

G. E. O'Brien
5429 Hamilton Bridge Rd.
Milton, FL 32571
(904) 994-6082 (day)
(904) 994-4540 (eve)

Florida — Central

(Area Three)

Joe S. Harrell
8162 Darts St.
Brooksville, FL 34613
(904) 596-4395 (day)
(813) 847-8102 (eve)

Florida — South

(Area Four)

Caribbean
Joe Prosser
7400 N.W. 55th St.
Miami, FL 33166
(305) 966-0619 (day)
(305) 592-3146 (eve)

Georgia

John Crea
P.O. Box 1906
Bainbridge, GA 31717
(912) 246-9349 (day)
(912) 246-3500 (eve)

Texas

Jim Bowden
P.O. Box 164091
Austin, TX 78716
(512) 477-5043 (day)
(512) 441-3708 (eve)

To initiate a request for the NSS-CDS Rescue/Recovery Team, call the Jacksonville (Duval) County Sheriff's office at (904) 633-4159, and ask for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) operator.

BOD Meeting Set for May 26

The next NSS-CDS Board of Directors meetings takes place at 7:00 p.m., Saturday evening, May 26, at the Suwannee River Cove Restaurant, three miles south of Branford Florida, off US 27. May 26 is the first day of the CDS Spring Workshop in Branford.

All NSS-CDS members are invited to attend this meeting. A map of how to get to Suwannee Rive Cove and a Workshop application appears on page 8. ■

Changes at Peacock/Orange Grove Park

If you've not been to the Peacock/Orange Grove area recently, you'll notice these changes on your next visit:

- The sole entrance to the park is now the dirt road leading directly to Peacock. The long-standing turn-off from this road takes you to Olson and Orange Grove and is marked with a sign.
- The rangers lock the only gate to the park promptly at sundown. *Do not start any dives within an hour of sunset.*
- There is a new, combined parking area serving Peacock I, II and III. You'll walk farther to the springs after suiting up — the price for less long-term damage.
- A similar parking area is under construction at Orange Grove; it will probably be ready by the time you read this.
- Portable toilets have been installed in the parking areas at both sites.
- The fence surrounding the parking area at Peacock has been posted with signs reading, *Lights prohibited unless Cave or Cavern certified.* It is nearly impossible for open-water divers to miss these.
- The rangers are actively checking light-carrying divers for Cave or Cavern Diver cards. You can accurately tell open-water divers and instructors that they are subject to citations and fines if caught in violation of the "no-lights" rule by rangers. (Yippee!) ■

Abe Davis Award Records Lost

Some time ago, the records of the recipients of the Abe Davis Award were lost in a fire. The Board of Directors is currently attempting to reconstruct this list. This is important, as the data provided on the numbers of safe cave dives conducted is primarily tabulated from records such as these.

Below is an alphabetical listing of the current recipients we have on file. If you have received an Abe Davis Safe Cave Diving Award, but do not see your name on the list, please send the following information to the section: Your name, address, location and date of your 100th cave dive, and a copy of the certificate, if possible. Even if you do not have the complete in-

formation asked for, please send the information you do have, so that we may update our data base.

If you have met the requirements for the award, but have not yet applied for it, please do so. This recognition benefits not only the recipient, but the entire cave diving community, by providing valuable data. Send information to:

Abe Davis Award
NSS-CDS
P.O. Box 950,
Branford, FL 32008-0950

Thank you for your assistance.

— Jeffrey Bozanic

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Jeffery Addis | David Fisk | Richard Lirgirot | Ron Simmons |
| Walter Anderson | Frank Fogarty | James Lockwood | Linda Sirota |
| William Aydlett | Steve Forman | Don Loeder | Philip Sirota |
| Lloyd Bailey | Carl Fowler | Douglas MacDonald | Terri Skiles |
| Jack Banbury | Eric Freedman | Stephen Maegerlein | Wes Skiles |
| David Banks | Bob Friedman | Bill Main | Barbara Smith |
| Alan Barefoot | Sue Friedman | Dale Malloy | Courtland Smith |
| Batten Reginald | J. Friend | David Manor | Gordon Smith |
| Judith Bauer | Kenneth Fulghum | Jim Maranville | Paul Smith |
| George Benjamin | India Fuller | Harris Martin | William Smith |
| Mark Black | Pete Gaddy | Vaughan Maxwell | Gary Stamm |
| George Bortnyk | Bob Gibson | Mike McCaskell | Benjamin Stevens |
| Jeffrey Bozanic | Lee Gibson | Robert McGuire | Charles Stevens |
| Danny Brass | Tom Gilleland | Aubrey Melton | Jamie Stone |
| Larry Briel | Kim Gissendanner | Mary Melton | James Storey |
| George Brkich | Robert Gomez | Paul Meng | Steve Straatsma |
| Gene Broome | Robert Goodman | Roger Miller | Irwin Strickland |
| John Burge Jr. | Lawrance Green | Robert Millott | Charles Strother |
| Daniel Butler | Ed Hall | Gil Milner | Charles Sturdevant |
| Peter Butts | Tom Halliwell | Mario Mitchell | Kirby Sullivan |
| David Cameron | Eugene Hallwing | Terry More | James Sweeney |
| Brantley Carter | Stanley Hankins Jr. | Leon Morrison | Dale Sweet |
| William Cass | John Harper | Tom Mount | Eric Tasso |
| William Cate | Jeffrey Haupt | Zdenka Mount | Glenn Thayer |
| J.W. Chalkley III | Ruby Haupt | Millege Murphy | Lee Tighe |
| Douglas Chappell | Arthur Heard | James Nangle | Howard Tower Jr. |
| Mark Chesnutt | Arthur Hearl | Henry Nicholson | John Townes |
| Dori Churchill | Paul Heinerth | Michael O'Leary | Terry Turner |
| Gerry Churchill | Charles Heller | William Oigarden | Charles Vallance |
| Doug Clark | John Hendley | John Orlowski | Carol Vilece |
| Dustin Clesi | Ronald Hendley | Judy Ormeroid | William Walters |
| James Coke IV | Lewis Henkel | Stephen Ormeroid | Karen Wark |
| Larry Collins | Mark Hermerding | Tommie Padaline | Barry Warner |
| Mary Crea | Hilario Hilar | Lester Padgett | Bill Warner |
| John Crea III | Kenneth Hillier | Ozzie Parks | Gary Watkins |
| Bill Cronin | Lamar Hires | K. Penske | Pat Watson |
| Jerry Crosby | Dennis Holden | Sharee Pepper | Hal Watts |
| Joe Dabbs | Chuck Holzer | Stephen Poll | Dianne Weatherford |
| Dan Danciger | Jeffrey Houpt | David Porter | Wayne Weatherford |
| Tim Davidson | Ruby Houpt | Dan Posey | Roger Werner |
| Fred Davis | Frank Howard | James Joseph Prosser | David Whail |
| Darden Davis | Steve Hudson | Dale Purchase | Charles Williams |
| Johanna de Groot | Bill Hulet | Barbara Rayette Smith | Dennis Williams |
| Paul DeLoach | Akira Ikehara | John Reekie | Richard Williams |
| David Desautels | Wally Jenkins | Jack Rensch | Forrest Wilson |
| Roderick Dickens | Charles Jones | David Rhea | William Wingate |
| Sammy Diperna | Peter Jubb | Peter Rich | James Womack |
| Ed Dixon | Ed Kellar | Don Rimbach | John Woodberry |
| Daniel Doty | Barry Kerley | Robert Rodgers | Bob Woolf |
| Douglas Duerloo | John Kibler Jr. | William Royal | K. Work |
| Robert Duncan | Keith Kinard | George Ryschkewitsch | Rick Wright |
| William Dunn | Roger Kite | Wunhild Ryschkewitsch | Virgil Yoder |
| Mary Ellen Eckhoff | George Krasle | Dayton Saltsman | Thomas Young |
| David Engelbrecht | Randal Kwiatkowski | Dayton Saltsman Jr. | J. Billy Young |
| Jack Evans | Christopher Lampson | Buddy Sanders | India Young |
| Sheck Exley | Daniel Lenihan | Ralph Selfridge | Troy Young |
| Jack Faver | Mark Leonard | Col. William Shane | Joseph Youngblood |
| William Fehring | Howard Lilly | Norman Sheridan | Michael Ziemacki |
| Vince Ferris | Daniel Lins | Wendy Short | John Zumrick |

SHERWOOD

Mark Leonard Receives Sherwood Cave Diving Safety Award for 1989

Mark D. Leonard (NSS 23292) recently received Sherwood's 1989 Cave Diving Safety Award. Since becoming a CDS Instructor in 1981, Mark has trained over 1,000 cave and cavern divers — more than any other instructor and nearly 15% of the CDS total to date.

Mark's influence on cave-diving safety is felt constantly throughout our community. According to the Sherwood Award, "In addition to his own direct involvement in teaching the sport, Mr. Leonard has consistently worked to with many training organizations in the development of training standards for cavern through cave diver."

"His efforts in the development of a

cavern-diver program has resulted in the current industry standard for this level of training. His continued involvement with students (both his own and others) has yielded one of the most popular presentations of the past several Cave Diver Workshops: *Emergency Procedures for Cave Diving*. Attendance at these presentations has consistently approached 100 during each yearly session. Mr. Leonard has also found time to consistently contribute material for of the current NSS training materials."

In short, we believe that Mark Leonard is just the type of individual that the Sherwood Safety Award is meant to identify. — Joe Prosser

Sherwood CGA-Yoke-Style Manifolds and "Y" Valves Still in Production

Recently, frequent *Underwater Speleology* correspondent Frank Lavalley of the Plant City/Brandon, Florida area, wrote to tell us his local dive store told him that the Sherwood CGA-yoke-style, dual-valve manifolds and Y (slingshot) valves were no longer in production. As dependent as cave divers are on these unique pieces of equipment — and especially, at the "Intro to Cave" level, on Y valves — you can imagine Frank's alarm. Fortunately, the dive store is in error.

According to Tim Pelozo of Sherwood, no Sherwood product ever goes out of production as long as there is demand for it. And, even though the demand for the older, CGA-yoke style valves has been greatly diminished by the introduction of

the DIN manifold, Sherwood continues to produce both of the older valves.

Tim did caution us, however, that reduced demand will mean smaller, more sporadic production runs. Our experience also indicates that smaller production runs usually translate into higher prices. Indeed, Sherwood's price on both these items has increased for 1990. Nevertheless, they remain in production — even though delivery times may be longer than they were in the past.

There are persistent rumors that Sherwood has commissioned drawings for a 300-bar, DIN Y valve. Judging by the response to the DIN manifold, if such a valve ever reaches production, demand will undoubtedly be high. ■

The Safety LINE

by Wendy Short, Safety Program Coordinator, South

Now would be a good time to reflect on the past year and do away with bad habits you acquired. Review your cave diving practices objectively and decide what improvements you should make. Here are some considerations:

- *Always* run a continuous guideline to open water
- Make sure your equipment is complete and in top working condition
- Practice safety drills, such as line following with lights out while sharing air
- Use equivalent air volumes when diving with buddies whose tanks have different air capacities
- Recognize your capabilities, limitations, and training and don't go beyond them

It is just as easy to develop good habits as bad ones. What is difficult is changing habits once they become established. Developing good safe habits should be your first consideration in cave diving.

Another consideration should be the cave itself. Caves are showing signs of stress and over-use. Hand prints now appear in ancient clay piles throughout many systems. Rocks are being kicked off the ceiling creating unnatural breakdown piles. Black goethite formations and walls are turning white from pulling along these structures.

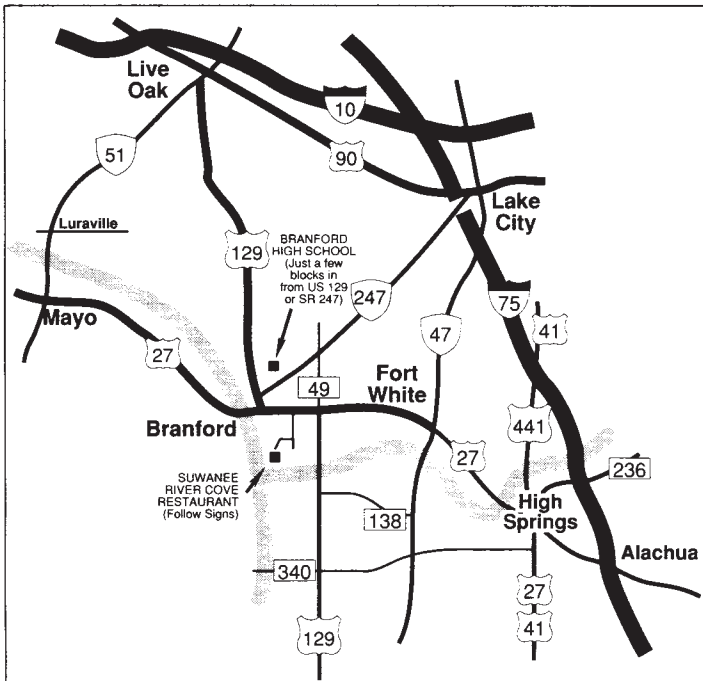
Make a resolution not to leave your mark. Be like our dry caving counterparts and "cave softly," preserving the systems for generations. Cave diving is a privilege and a responsibility — it should be treated as such. It's up to each of us to monitor our own practices and habits *before someone else does it for us*.

Challenge yourself on each dive to improve your technique, become more aware, and use mature judgement — and make this one resolution you keep. Let's reel in 1990 by following the safety line to an accident-free year. ■



Save \$5/Person on Admission to the **NSS-CDS** Spring Workshop **REGISTER NOW**

Admission is \$15 at the door at Branford High School — but just \$10 if you register now!



Workshop Schedule

All activities take place at Branford High School unless otherwise indicated

Saturday

- 8:00-9:00** Registration
- 9:00-10:00** Geology and Cave Formation — Bill McDermitt
- 10:00-11:00** Panel Discussion on Safety and Accident Analysis — Hosted by Five Active CDS Instructors
- 11:00-12:00** Accident Management on Site — Lynn Samuels
- 12:00-12:30** Cave Study Experiments You Can Help Perform — Bill Wilson
- 12:30-1:30** Lunch — Catered by Suwannee River Cove Restaurant
- 2:00-5:00** Mini Workshops — Choose the One You Want
 - Basic Cave Photography
 - Basic Video Techniques
 - Cave Study Experiments
 - Dive Rite Manufacturing Repair Clinic
 - Intro to Mixed Gas
 - Poseiden Consumer Clinic
 - Side-mount Configurations
- 7:00** Board of Directors Meeting — Suwannee River Cove Restaurant

Sunday

- 9:00-5:00** Sherwood Repair Clinic
 - 9:00-5:00** Poseiden Repair Clinic
 - 9:00-5:00** Survey Workshop
 - 6:00** Instructor Meeting — Suwannee River Cove Restaurant
 - Plus:**
 - Guided Dives (Announced at Workshop)
 - Family Canoe Trip
 - Indianapolis 500 Race (BYOC)*
- *Bring Your Own Car

Enrollment Form

NSS-CDS Spring Workshop • May 26-27, 1990 • Branford, Florida

— Make duplicate copies of this form, if needed —

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send with a check or money order for \$10, made payable to *NSS-CDS*, to:

The National Speleological Society Cave Diving Section • P.O. Box 950 • Branford, FL 32008-0950

Enrollment forms must be received no later than Friday, May 18, 1990 to receive pre-enrollment discount

Tired of the shenanigans you see open-water instructors engage in at our dive sites?

Fight Back!

The NSS-CDS just made it easier than ever to turn the bastards in

by Harry Averill



Pity the poor open-water scuba instructors who live in the eastern United States. During the best of times, their local open-water dive sites are generally nothing to write home about. And during the winter, even these sites are no longer available. Thus, to conduct open-water training, eastern-U.S. instructors have few choices other than to travel south, seeking better conditions.

Ideally, they find their way to warm, Caribbean islands — or at least the ocean off the Florida coast. And, in so doing, they offer students the benefit of doing open-water training in real, *open* water.

Unfortunately, this is not always an option. Week-long Caribbean vacations are beyond the means of some students. And even weekend excursions to the Keys, Gold Coast or Panhandle may be haunted by the specter of bad weather.

Because these instructors cannot afford to gamble on anything less than perfect conditions, they end up taking students to northern Florida's freshwater dive sites. In most instances, this means Crystal River or Troy Spring — places that those of us in the cave-diving community seldom go. Once there, however, instructors and students are faced with horrendous overcrowding (often measured in divers-per-cubic-foot) and visibility that is reduced to inches by the onslaught of the ever-increasing hoard.

Given this nearly impossible situation, it's not surprising that many open-water instructors have decided to give *our*

dive sites a try. It's a rare weekend that any of us have been able to dive sites such as Orange Grove Sink without having to fend our way through van loads of open-water students and instructors. Yet, so long as these students, instructors — and the certified open-water divers that almost always accompany each group — confine their activities to the open-water basin, about the worst we have to contend with is diminished visibility at the cavern entrance and an uncomfortable barrage of inquisitive stares and silly questions.

*No open-water students
in caves or caverns.
Not now. Not ever.*

Unfortunately, things are seldom this ideal. In reality:

- A handful of open-water instructors still persist in taking students inside the cavern zone — despite the fact that this is a clear violation of virtually all training-agency standards.
- While the majority of open-water instructors are pretty good about keeping their *students* outside the cavern zone, they seem to have no difficulty in allowing certified open-water divers who may have accompanied the class to take lights into the cavern. Many instructors actually encourage this or lead such dives themselves.

- Because students and divers leave with the impression that it's "okay" to make limited penetrations without the benefit of formal training (if it was wrong, their hero the instructor would have said something, wouldn't he?), they return to these sites on their own, with the intention of "only going in a little bit."

The pages of *Underwater Speleology* and *NACD News* have been filled with the horror stories that result from this behavior. It's frustrating to have to waste time chasing open-water divers out of caves or lecturing them at the water's edge. Worse is having to waste a perfectly good afternoon or evening doing a body recovery. The good news is, *we don't have to*.

There are systems in place that, if used, can help us eliminate these situations — or at least significantly reduce them. All we have to do is know how to put them to work.

Playing Hardball

Even when open-water divers return to a cavern or cave on their own, it is usually because they were first introduced to the site by an instructor. If we successfully modify instructor behavior, we can greatly reduce the overall problem.

Fortunately, the open-water training organizations have given us a mechanism with which to do this. It's called *quality assurance*. Basically, when we see an open-water instructor do any of the things previously outlined, that instructor is guilty of violating his training agency's standards.

All we have to do is report this vio-

Fight Back!

...continued from page 1

lation, in writing, and the training agency will generally come down on the offender — hard. We may not hear about the outcome of such actions (agencies seldom violate their instructor members' right to privacy); nevertheless, there are few things for which open-water training organizations have less tolerance than instructors who misbehave in cave and cavern environments.

It's important to understand that, to be acted upon, such reports must be in writing. They must be based on violations that the individual making the report personally witnessed — not on hearsay or second-hand information. Further, what is reported must be based on an actual violation of the training agency's standards — not just a subjective impression that the instructor "wasn't doing a good job."

Accompanying this article is an official NSS-CDS *Open Water Instructor Overhead Environment Violation Report Form*. The form is simple and easy to use. The top of the form lists the names, addresses, phone and fax numbers of the five major training organizations. Remember that reports cannot be phoned in — although you may wish to call to obtain clarification on a particular standard prior to mailing or faxing a written report.

This form *will* get results — even if such results are not publicized. In today's legal climate, no training agency would dare to ignore such reports. Filing a report is also easier than confronting an instructor in the presence of his students. With their reputation and credibility on the line, few instructors will readily concede guilt in their students' presence.

If you are worried about getting a basically good (though mis-informed) instructor in more trouble than he deserves, don't be. Except for instances in which the agencies perceive reckless and willful endangerment of students, they will generally be content to let first-time violators receive a stern warning. Repeat violations are the ones that result in suspension or expulsion. Agencies cannot know, however, that they are dealing with repeat offenders unless we report *every* violation we see.

Just What is Reportable?

Training standards vary from organization to organization. What may be a standards violation for a PADI Instructor, for example, may be a required part of the curriculum for NAUI Instructors. Fortunately, the types of violations we are likely to encounter are fairly clear cut and common to all agencies.

- First and foremost, *it is a violation of all open-water training organization standards to take students into a cave or cavern as part of their training*. Agencies may allow certified divers to be taken on cavern-orientation dives after all entry-level certification requirements have been met; however, virtually all agencies prohibit *training* dives — at any level — from taking place inside a cave or cavern. The notable exception is, of course, formal Cavern Diver courses.
- Some organizations may allow cavern-orientation dives to take place during Advanced Diver training. If so, the instructor conducting the dive is generally required to be a Cavern Instructor, and all normal cavern-diving procedures must be followed. Additionally, such dives may not violate established "no lights" rules at sites such as Manatee, Ichetucknee and Peacock/Orange Grove state parks and Devil's Eye/Ear.
- If an instructor wishes to conduct guided cavern dives for certified open-water divers as an activity taking place completely separate from training, he is most likely beyond his agency's jurisdiction. However, if the instructor leads or encourages such dives in the presence of students, he is guilty of violating his training organization's requirement that he abide by standard safe-diving practices while acting in a teaching or supervisory capacity.
- Generally speaking, if an instructor wishes to conduct guided cavern dives for certified divers in conjunction with open-water training excursions, one of two conditions must be met. Either the

instructor must, himself, be a certified Cave or Cavern Instructor, or the dive must take place at a site such as Ginnie — which is among the tiny handful of caverns deemed by the cave-diving community as being "okay" for non-cavern-certified divers.

- Instructor violations of the "no-lights" rule at Devil's Eye and Ear, and at Ichetucknee, Manatee and Peacock/Orange Grove state parks are grounds for quality-assurance actions if they take place in the presence of students. The same is true if the instructor allows or encourages certified divers who may be accompanying his class to violate these rules.
- Finally, no open-water instructor may conduct training in such a way that it jeopardizes the safety of cave and cavern divers. Such actions may include blocking exits to caves and caverns, disturbing guidelines and tie-offs, and causing visibility to drop to the point where divers who entered a cavern during good visibility can no longer see the exit.

Practically speaking, the only truly defensible way for an instructor to offer guided cavern dives is to become a Cavern Instructor — and to offer such dives only to individuals who themselves qualify for entry into a Cavern Diver course. This way, should anything ever happen during such a dive, the instructor has a defense: that the guided dive was, in essence, no different than the first dive of a Cavern Diver course — a course which the instructor was fully qualified to offer.

IDEALLY, EVERY INSTRUCTOR who brings students or divers to northern Florida should seek out the opportunity to become a Cavern Instructor. In so doing, the instructor not only increases his defensive-teaching posture, he also gains the knowledge and skills required to dive and teach in north Florida's freshwater dive sites responsibly — and to be a valuable part of the underwater speleological community. ■



The National Speleological Society • Cave Diving Section

P.O. Box 950 • Branford, FL 32008-0950

Open Water Instructor Overhead Environment Violation Report Form

NSS-CDS Members: Use this form to report Open Water Instructors who violate their agency's training standards to that training agency.

- To:**
- NASDS • P.O. Box 17067 • Long Beach, CA 90807 • (213) 595-5361/595-4916 (fax)
 - NAUI • P.O. Box 14650 • Montclair, CA 91763-1150 • (714) 621-5801/621-6405 (fax)
 - PADI • 1251 East Dyer Road, Suite 100 • Santa Ana, CA 92705 • (714) 540-7234/540-2609 (fax)
 - SSI • 2619 Canton Court • Fort Collins, CO 80525 • (303) 482-0883/482-6157 (fax)
 - YMCA • 6083A Oakbrook Parkway • Norcross, GA 30093 • (404) 662-5172/242-4059 (fax)
 - Other: _____

From:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phones Day: (____) _____ Eve: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Affiliation _____
(Training agency member number, dive store, etc.)

Violator:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phones Day: (____) _____ Eve: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Instructor No. _____

Date: Month/Day/Year _____ Time of day _____ AM PM

Location:

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Spring | Florida County | Spring | Florida County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grotto* | Levy | <input type="checkbox"/> King Spring (Crystal River)* | Citrus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Spring | Madison | <input type="checkbox"/> Little River Spring | Suwannee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cow Spring | Suwannee | <input type="checkbox"/> Morrison Spring | Walton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devil's Ear | Gilchrist | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Grove | Suwannee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devil's Eye | Gilchrist | <input type="checkbox"/> Peacock (I, II or III) | Suwannee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ginnie Spring* | Gilchrist | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Spring | Suwannee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jug Hole | Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Vortex Spring | Walton |

Other: _____

* Denotes site at which it **may** be considered "okay" to take non-cavern certified divers on guided cavern dives. However, it is **never** "okay" to take an entry-level student who has not completed all requirements for certification into an overhead environment. Most agencies prohibit any type of training except Cavern Diver courses from including cavern or other natural overhead environment dives.

**General
Nature of
Violation**
*(check all
that apply)*

- The instructor took entry-level students who were still in training into a cavern or cave.
- The instructor, who did not possess Cavern Diver Instructor certification, took divers who were certified for open water — but not cavern diving — into a cavern or cave. This took place in the presence of entry-level students and thus conveyed that it was somehow “okay” to cavern dive without formal training.
- The instructor encouraged or allowed divers who were certified for open water — but not cavern diving — to dive in a cavern or cave. This took place in the presence of entry-level students and thus conveyed that it was somehow “okay” to cavern dive without formal training.
- The instructor used a site that was clearly unsuitable for open-water training (i.e., too small, too easy to accidentally enter cavern, significant natural hazards, etc.).
- The instructor conducted open-water training in such a way that the entrance to a cavern or cave was obstructed or visibility diminished, thus presenting a hazard to divers who might be attempting to exit.
- The instructor violated park or property rules regarding the use of lights in caves or caverns.
- The instructor allowed or encouraged students and/or divers in his group to violate park or property rules regarding the use of lights in caves or caverns.
- Other (describe below)

**Specific
Details of
Violation**

In the space below, please detail the pertinent facts regarding the violation. Such facts may include the number of individuals involved, student-to-instructor or instructor-to-diver ratios, assistants used (or not used), depths, equipment used (or not used — such as lights and reels), environmental conditions, etc. Use additional paper if necessary.

**Additional
Witness**
(if available)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

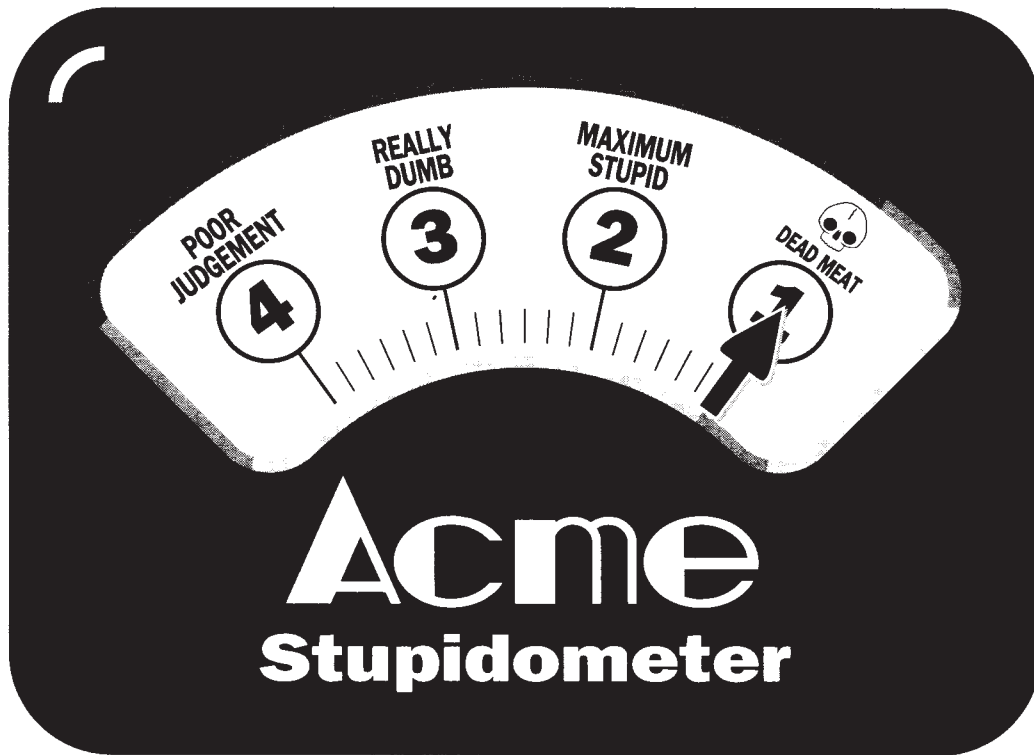
Phones Day: (____) _____ Eve: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Affiliation _____
(Training agency member number, dive store, etc.)

Signature The above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature Date

BEYOND



Maximum Stupid

by Woody Jasper

November 19, 1989 — On a scale of one to four, where:

- Four equals poor judgment
- Three equals really dumb
- And two equals *maximum stupid*

...tragically, the two divers in this story rate a combined score of *one*.

Diver *A* wore a single tank with an octopus-equipped regulator, fins, booties, wet suit, BC, mask, one light (rented), and a 3-pound weight in his pocket. He did not have an adequate primary light, back-up lights, reel, watch, depth gauge, or knife, but, compared to his buddy, diver *A* was well equipped. Diver *B* wore a hooded vest, mask, cold water gloves, booties, and a bathing suit with shot weights in his pocket. The list of things diver *B* should have had is left to the reader, but beginning

the dive without an air tank or fins is truly noteworthy.

The two were found dead a bit more than 200 feet upstream of a remote, little-known Suwannee County sink, on a jump line to the right. This T'd-in line took them through 25-30 feet of very low (pull and squirm) bedding plane then through two major restrictions, the second requiring a duck-under-type level change. They were the wrong side of the restrictions with no air in the tank they shared.

No one reported knowing their dive plan, but a speculation is that they may have been attempting to come out at the spring vent which was about 100 feet from the sink in the opposite direction from the divers. They went upstream while significant flow was going downstream from the sink to the spring. However, flow going in

the wrong direction may not have been sufficiently informative for this team.

This senseless tragedy brings to mind considerations regarding borrowed or rented cave dive gear, traverse diving, the assumption of immortality so common among 21-22 year old males, judgment and risk taking, and safe exploration.

If you gave a 10-year-old a loaded hand gun and explained, "don't pull the trigger and if you do, don't point it at anybody," you would be putting a lot of faith in someone without the judgment to exercise due care. If you loan a light to an open water diver in cave country, or rent them a reel, or give them detailed descriptions of the cave inside the spring, you have supplied a loaded gun to someone without the judgment or training to exercise due care. This specific sequence of `discovers cave...

Beyond Maximum Stupid...

...continued from page 1

borrows/rents gear...dies' is repeated in an amazing number of untrained-diver cave drownings.

Diving from one entrance to another (traverse) increases risk for both the trained as well as untrained cave diver. First, it creates an objective-oriented dive plan. This encourages people not to turn around when they should. Henry Nicholson tells of meeting a small dive team at Olson who were planning to dive to Peacock on single tanks. When he pointed out the air requirements and distance for this dive, they turned pale, and said, "you mean this isn't Pothole?" They promptly put their gear back in the car.

Two sets of cave-diving-configured double tanks were left in the woods at Challenge Sink: when the owners returned, they sheepishly admitted having planned a traverse in the other direction. Upon accidentally/fortunately coming up at Challenge, the divers had insufficient air to attempt returning under water. Trained divers have reported attempting to go from Orange Grove to Challenge on the old line

to have it end. They had no idea where Challenge was from that point, although it was only a few yards away. Cave divers *must* turn on thirds — or sooner — despite the fact (or fiction) that the traverse destination should be closer than the original entrance.

The *it's-not-going-to-happen-to-me* syndrome has cost people their lives since time began. Mountaineering, diving, driving, or walking across the street are much more hazardous if you feel you are immortal. It really is a greater problem for young people. It really is a greater problem for males. An old guideline for "diver in a cave" risk assessment was the 25/25 consideration, that is, a male with less than 25 dives and less than 25 years old. The attitude of *it's-not-going-to-happen-to-me* destroys proper risk assessment. The environment creates risk. The training, judgment, and equipment we use reduces risk, therefore, appropriate risk assessment is mandatory.

The explorations of the 1980's have, in many cases, been beyond the technolog-

ical safety limits of the 60's and 70's. There is a belief authored by a few that these "push" dives are routinely in violation of basic rules including air planning. This is not true. As the environmental challenge of the cave increases, the last thing that modern explorers do is allow controllable risks, like air planning, to stack up against them. Multi-stage, scooter-powered, long, restrictive, cold and reduced-visibility dives require planning. Appropriate risk assessment dictates serious safety margins. If you think that the explorers must be violating rules to get to the end of the caves, you are mistaken.

Lastly, take others in consideration when you do your risk assessment: your dive buddies, parents, children, husbands and wives. Dives that are not safe for you today may be tomorrow. Dives that are not safe with 1980's technology may be in the 90's. One of the greatest things about cave diving is that it is such a developmental craft. Grow at a pace that brings you the maximum comfort and pleasure.

Live long and prosper. ■

Important Information for Underwater Speleology Contributors

Underwater Speleology continues to seek the input of active CDS members. To maximize the resources available in putting *Underwater Speleo* together:

- Submit articles, letters and want ads on computer disk. We can read files from all popular word-processing programs, in Mac and 5-1/4" MS-DOS formats.
- As an alternative to disk submissions, use our Compuserve account number: 76164,1444.
- Accompany disk and Compuserve submissions by double-spaced hard copy.

So we can include a greater variety of material from more CDS members in each issue:

- Keep articles to 1,500 words or less.
- Limit "Letters to the Editor" to two-three short paragraphs.

- Submit want ads for personal equipment for sale in a format similar to that found in newspapers (short!).

To maximize the likelihood of your article appearing in print:

- Call the Editor's office at (904) 454-4585, prior to writing your article. Be prepared to discuss your story idea and its execution.
- Edit your first drafts vigorously, until you have said twice as much in half the space. Then repeat the process.

The address for *Underwater Speleo* submissions is P.O. Box 873, High Springs, FL 32643.

Direct requests for change of address to the Section's post-office box in Branford. The *Underwater Speleo* office does not handle this. ■

WANTED: Map Requests

CDS Vice Chairman and Map Program Coordinator, Frank Howard, has asked Section members to forward their requests for "the three maps you'd most like to see added to the Section's inventory."

You can send your list directly to Frank at 334 Portico Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017.



Join the NSS-CDS and Get:

- Twelve issues of *NSS News*
- Six issues of *Underwater Speleology*
- Two issues of the annual *NSS Technical Bulletin*
- Discounts on publications and materials
- Full voting privileges and more!

— Membership in the NSS-CDS is open to any interested individual —

NSS-CDS Membership Application and Subscription Form

NSS Policy on Conservation (Please Read and Sign at Bottom)

The National Speleological Society believes: that caves have unique scientific, recreational value; that these values are endangered by both carelessness and intentional vandalism; the these values, once gone, cannot be recovered; and that the responsibility for protecting caves must be assumed by those who study and enjoy them.

Accordingly, the intention of the Society is to work for the preservation of caves with a realistic policy supported by effective programs for: the encouragement of self-discipline among cavers; education and research concerning the causes and prevention of cave damage; and special projects, including cooperation with other groups similarly dedicated to the conservation of natural areas. Specifically:

All contents of a cave — formations, life and loose deposits — are significant for its enjoyment and interpretation. Therefore, caving parties should leave the cave as the find it. They should provide means for the removal of waste; limit marking to a few, small, removable signs as are needed for surveys; and, especially, exercise extreme care not to break or soil formations, disturb life forms or unnecessarily increase the number of paths through an area.

Scientific collection is professional, selective and minimal. The collecting of mineral or biological material for display purposes, including previously broken or dead specimens, is never justified, as it encourages others to collect and destroys the interest of the cave.

The Society encourages projects such as: establishing cave preserves; placing entrance gates where appropriate; opposing the sale of speleotherms; supporting effective protective measures; cleaning and restoring over-used caves; cooperating with private cave owners by providing knowledge about their caves and assisting them in protecting their cave and property from damage during cave visits; and encouraging commercial cave owners to make use of their property to aid the public in understanding caves and the importance of their conservation.

Where there is reason to believe that publication of cave locations will lead to vandalism beyond adequate protection can be established, the Society will oppose such publication.

It is the duty of every Society member to take personal responsibility for spreading a consciousness of the cave conservation problem to each potential user of caves. Without this, the beauty and value of our caves will no longer remain with us.

Check One: NSS-CDS (Annual) NSS-CDS (Lifetime) CDS Only (Annual) CDS Only (Lifetime) U/W Speleo Subscription Only

Please note: NSS membership is a pre-requisite for CDS membership. If you are not a current member of the NSS, pay the "NSS-CDS" fees to join both. If you are a current NSS member, list your membership number and expiration date where indicated below and pay just the "CDS Only" fees to add on CDS section membership.

| | Name (please print clearly) | Date of Birth | Fee | Amount Paid |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
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| | | | NSS-CDS (Lifetime) \$550.00 | |
| | | | CDS Only (Annual) \$5.00 | |
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| | |
|--|--|
| Street Address or P.O. Box Number | |
| City, State and Zip | |
| Phone Number | |

Are You a Current NSS Member?

If so, please give us the following information:

NSS Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Is (or will) your first affiliation be with: The Cave Diving Section (CDS)? Another Grotto or Internal Organization?

Sub-total

Add US\$10 for foreign air mail if outside USA

Total

Carry over to other side if also placing a material order

I am familiar with the purpose of the NSS and the NSS-CDS and their policy on cave conservation and, in support thereof, I hereby apply for membership:

Signature: _____

Make checks or money orders payable in US funds to the NSS-CDS • P.O. Box 950 • Branford, FL 32008-0950 • USA

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