

Andrew Pitkin



Most caves are formed by water, yet there seems to be a division between those cavers for whom the cave ends at the water and those for whom it starts. Cave divers form about 10% of the NSS membership, but there seems to be a large disconnect between them and the rest of the NSS. Some CDS members do not want to be members of the NSS, which is a viewpoint that I respect even though I do not agree with it.

I am running for the NSS-CDS Board of Directors to fulfil one primary function: to bridge the divide between dry cavers and cave divers. The NSS has significantly more resources and a huge amount of institutional knowledge that could be well employed to support the CDS and its goals. It appears that a large number of dry cavers have very little insight into some issues that are important to cave divers, but there is significant overlap: property access, exploration, and conservation are a few examples. To that end I am also running for the Board of Directors of the NSS, to act as a link between the two organizations.

If elected, I promise to fulfil the duties of an NSS-CDS Board member with integrity, humility and thoughtfulness. My first priority is to make cave divers' voices heard in the much larger community of dry cavers and work to make use of the many resources of the NSS to help the CDS achieve its and the NSS's goals, which are essentially the same. My second is to make sure

that the CDS Board makes decisions in the interests of its ordinary members and the caves that they love to dive in, something that has not always been the case in the past.

