I am running for the NSS-CDS Board of Directors. If elected, I promise to be fully transparent and put the interests of members first. During my tenure I will focus on three main initiatives.

First, I will work to strengthen the CDS’s relationship with the NSS. The greatest strength of the CDS, and what sets it apart from other cave diving organizations, is that it’s part of a much larger national organization. The CDS needs to leverage the power of the NSS and become an advocate for increased access for cave divers at publicly owned sites.

Second, I will work to ensure the guide systems at Mill Creek (Alachua) Sink and School Sink are maintained. To be clear, I am not a fan of guide systems despite my previous roles as the Diving Coordinator for Diepolder and as the Preserve Manager and head guide at Mill Creek Sink. Guide systems such as these are compromises designed to maintain access. In the case of Mill Creek Sink, the City of Alachua threatened to ban diving within the city limits and the guide system was put in place to preserve access. The guide systems at these CDS owned or managed sites are currently under scrutiny for open access like Cow Springs. I am not alone in my belief that this move would be short lived and ultimately be responsible for a permanent loss of access.

Third, I will work to develop a rescue and recovery group within the CDS that can respond and perform rescues and recoveries as needed but also be tasked with accident reporting and analysis. I believe the CDS is uniquely equipped to take on this responsibility.