

## **NSS-CDS BOD MEETING October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Quorum - Yes

**BOD Present-** Fred Stratton (FS), James Chandler (JC), Renee Power (RP), Jennifer Dillaman (JD), Steve Dalcher (SD), Joerg Hess (JH), Chris Brock (CB).

**BOD Absent-** None

**Members Present-** Adam Hughes (AH), Josh Dillaman (JD2), John Rutledge (JR), Bruce Gillingham (BG), Barbara Dwyer (BD), Shannon Perry (SP).

Meeting called to order by FS at 1931 hours.

FS made a motion to accept the minutes from September 15th, 2025. SD seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

### Secretary Report

- Completed September meeting minutes and sent out to BOD for approval.
- Reposted Flipper's video to Facebook for ICDC sponsorship.
- Created and sent WW26 raffle email.
- Worked on general photography needs and DEMA shirt photo with Shannon.
- Created email blast for UWS and reminders of other things.
- Created email blast for volunteers for Clear Cut Sink project.
- Created zoom meeting for BOD meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

*\*Report attached.*

- Cash in checking: \$40,123.41
- Training fund savings: \$6,925.29
- Meeting House fund savings: \$9,074.43
- Total cash in bank: \$56,123.13

### Manager's Report

*\*Full report attached.*

- Clarified confusion on what account the funds are coming out of for the Clear Cut Stair Project.
- Total attendees for WW26 is actually 25, not 27 as noted in the full report.
- Budget is going to get worked on between Renee and Adam in the next couple months to prepare it for the board to vote on. Aim is to have the BOD vote in January on new budget. Any requests for special funds or budget requests are to be emailed to Adam and/or Renee.

### Program Director 1 Report

*\*Full report attached.*

- JH is seeking clarification that he can purchase materials for Clear Cut Sink as soon as possible. RP was waiting for a finalized quote, but JH explains that there is not one because there is not a single location that we can purchase everything from. He will need to utilize multiple stores. The prices and availability keep shifting and changing by the day making a solid quote impossible to produce.

- FS confirms that as soon as JH is ready to purchase then he just needs to reach out to AH for the money.

-JH tells JD that the email blast seeking volunteers should be sent. The BOD thought in the email we could include that if volunteers cannot make it in person, they can donate funds or food to the project.

- Bryan Buescher asks that we can let members know about the meetings happening for Tara Development conservation efforts. The BOD agrees we are happy to do this.

- Kelly Jessop emailed JH asking the CDS to create a publication.

-AH explains that this has been brought up many times. And noted that we just rolled out the eLearning.

-FS recaps that he plans on calling and talking to Kelly Jessop in person to explain what the CDS is working on and have produced recently.

-RP reminds that in previous years the BOD voted to physically print once a year the 'best of' UWS. She also suggested that we could perhaps utilize the website a bit better for a knowledge repository.

## Program Director 2 Report

*\*Full report attached.*

- Ian Parrish has resigned from landowners relations chair. We need to find someone to take the position. SD will fill that spot in the interim.

- Potential NSS-CDS involvement for management of a new site near Lafayette Blue Springs. The property is for sale and currently under contract. The potential purchaser is interested in developing a working relationship with us to manage and utilize the springs. SD plans on diving some of the sites to evaluate if there is good potential for training and diving.

- Edward Sink contract is coming up for renewal. SD is working with Mr Dennis Martin to get a 5-year contract signed.

- Pending projects for the fall include Cow Springs steps, final boardwalk repair at Madison Blue Springs, the Wall of Honor, and Clear Cut project.

-FS reminds that we budgeted money for 2025 for maintenance of our own properties and that some remains that can be used for the Cow Springs stair repair.

## Recap of the 'Gulf of America' project.

-FS says that he thinks he is ready to propose that the NSS-CDS endorse this project.

- FS asks JC if our insurance would cover this project. JC turns the question to AH. AH clarifies that the insurance does not cover the CDS from being sued, only the BOD members personally. JC leans into that each diver should have DAN insurance to cover liability for injury. If there is a fatality that is where issues for the CDS liability could lie. JH

brings up the possibility of a waiver. SD and JC discuss that they would require waivers and DAN insurance before being on the boat.

- JH says that this could be a good test run to develop SOP for other projects.
- RP asks JC if there were a fatality what kind of questions lawyers would be asking.
- JC answers that they may ask what the cause of death was. The best protection for us would be waivers, medicals, and prescreening of divers and participants.
- FS motions that the NSS-CDS board tentatively approve to move forward with the January 2026 Gulf of America Exploration project, pending a more complete plan for board approval. JC seconds. SD and JH abstain. JC yes, RP nay, JD yes, CB nay. Motion does not pass. Due to our by-laws, we must have 4 directors voting yes for the vote to pass.

- SD asks why the 'nay' votes.

- CB explains that he is not comfortable with voting yes until there is more of a concrete plan in place. CB also asks about clarification on the KUR vs CDS involvement and roles/responsibilities.

- SD tries to explain that he cannot give a more solid plan until there is board approval to even make this a project.

- CB says he needs time to think on it.

- JH says that there is an alternative. This is a privately funded project. He explains that the risks are being taken by individuals and not agencies such as NSS-CDS and KUR. JH does not want the CDS to miss a 'seat at the table'. JH and SD agree that the concerns are valid.

- FS invites JH and SD to bring back more information in the future for the BOD to revisit if they want to.

#### Training Director's Report

*\*Full report attached.*

- We are 35 certifications ahead of where we were last year.
- There are many instructors who are doing just a few certifications. This is encouraging as the more instructors we have doing something the better.
- eLearning is continuing to be a success. Fewer bugs are being reported.
- No training committee meeting this month.
- CB and RP will work on single tank cavern class standards.
- CB will be upgrading some ratings for various instructors and plans to do IT training while in Mexico in December 2025.
- NAUI has approached CB about co-branding the eLearning program. There is an approaching summit during which there are 3 individuals who want to cross over from NAUI to the CDS. CB and Terrence Tysall are in preliminary conversations about what this relationship would look like.

#### 2026 Winter Workshop Update

- As of today, there are 25 paid participants for the workshop. Compared to last year we are \$825 less than what registration generated. There are more people in the queue who say they are going to sign up.

- There are 5 attendees on the list who need contacted. The emails we sent to them bounced back.
- JC wants to know if there are events every single day of the conference. RP confirms that yes there is something every day.
- SD seeking donations. Dive Outpost is donating something. Extreme Exposure is donating \$250 gift card. Steve Dalcher is also giving his \$100 gift card that he won from the last conference for Extreme Exposure. Amigos is donating a \$1,000 gift certificate for gas. Cave Country Dive shop we are waiting to hear back from.
- BOD asked to share the social posts as much as possible.

#### DEMA 2025 Updates

- Nearly ready for the show. RP and FS need to get together with SP to review POS usage plan.
- JD provided a thumb drive of images to have playing at the show.

ICDC slowly being worked on. Dr. Greg Murphy has been recommended to speak as speaker #3. AH has reached out to Jason Richards to present as speaker #4.

- FS is working on grand prizes. Considering a DPV and/or an open circuit dive package since we have offered a CCR the last few years. FS invites any BOD with ideas to send them to him.

Webmaster Kevin is expressing that our website is in very poor condition on the operating side. The idea has been brought up that we build an entirely new website. The NSS has a far superior website to us. FS suggests using their themes and tailoring it to what we do. More information soon will be forthcoming.

FS recognizes that SP has been working incredibly hard with our designs and shirts. FS also asks Bruce from Amigos if he could have a conversation about involvement with the organization.

Next meeting will be Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 19:30.

FS makes motion to adjourn the meeting at 21:15. SD seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

CAVE DIVING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
INC.

Profit and Loss  
January - September, 2025

	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	
Donations Income	225.00
E-Learning Revenue	2,400.00
Instructor Fees Income	400.00
International Conference Income	
Choptima Raffle Sales	6,915.00
Divesoft Liberty Raffle Sales	14,005.00
Door Prize Raffle Sales	7,120.00
Event Registration	15,665.00
Knitwise Holiday Sweater Sales	422.01
SF Tech Raffle Sales	6,250.00
Sponsor Income	1,300.00
<b>Total International Conference Income</b>	<b>51,677.01</b>
Membership Dues	20,360.00
Merchandise Sales	10,936.55
Student Registrations	2,150.00
Winter Workshop Income	
Winter Workshop Grand Prize Raffle	1,000.00
Winter Workshop Merchandise Sales	981.00
Winter Workshop Raffle Ticket Sales	1,780.00
Winter Workshop Registration Income	4,575.00
Winter Workshop Sponsor Income	800.00
<b>Total Winter Workshop Income</b>	<b>9,136.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$97,284.56</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>	
BOD Polos	67.67
Books - Blueprint for Survival	295.47
COGS - Coffee Mugs	530.00
COGS - Cooling Towels	445.00
COGS - Grim Reaper Signs	909.45
COGS - Hats	532.25
COGS - Hoodies	1,287.20
COGS - Patches	288.15
COGS - Pods	300.00
COGS - Product Samples	24.53
COGS - T-shirts	1,500.00
COGS - Tumblers	660.53
COGS - Volunteer Shirts	220.55
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>\$7,060.80</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$90,223.76</b>

	TOTAL
Expenses	
Awards Expenses	187.00
Certification Card Printing Costs	
Card Printer Supplies	302.52
<b>Total Certification Card Printing Costs</b>	<b>302.52</b>
DEMA Expense	
DEMA - Cart Fee	176.50
DEMA - Electric	168.87
DEMA - Registration Fees	814.00
<b>Total DEMA Expense</b>	<b>1,159.37</b>
Event Display Materials	702.26
Insurance Expense	2,522.61
International Conference Costs	
Beer - Conference	179.74
Breakfast - Conference	229.57
Catering - Conference	4,500.00
Cavenger Shirts - Conference	471.50
Divesoft Liberty Cost	7,733.60
Drinks & Materials	499.92
Event Liability Insurance	119.92
Food - Social	1,215.00
Ice	75.14
Lunch for Volunteers - Social	68.51
Marketing Materials - Conference	614.52
Misc. Event Supplies	432.18
SF Tech Drysuit Cost	2,500.00
Shirts - Conference	2,418.02
Travel Costs - Conference	422.01
U-Haul Rental	219.09
Venue Cost & Cleaning Fees	3,750.00
<b>Total International Conference Costs</b>	<b>25,448.72</b>
Merchant Fees	4,466.91
Office Administrator	9,000.00
Office Expense	
Card Reader	79.99
iContact Email Membership	295.20
Misc Supplies	388.31
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>763.50</b>
PO Box Renewal	425.70
Postage & Shipping	2,317.58

Repairs & Maintenance	
Cow Porta Potty	1,240.00
Cow Repairs	153.22
Edwards Property Signage	74.18
Madison Project Costs	338.06
Repairs & Maintenance - Other	176.93
Spypoint Camera Subscription	270.00
<b>Total Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>2,252.39</b>
Report Filing Annual Expenses	1,485.22
Software Expense	
Microsoft 365	110.91
QuickBooks Online Fees	615.00
Voting Software	99.00
ZOOM Meeting Subscription	385.82
<b>Total Software Expense</b>	<b>1,210.73</b>
Taxes & Licenses	61.25
UWS Expenses	
Adobe Publishing Software	629.82
Layout & Drafting Fees	1,800.00
<b>Total UWS Expenses</b>	<b>2,429.82</b>
Website Expense	
Domain Renewal	220.15
E-Learning Layout Fees	2,098.15
Hosting Fees	201.84
Webmaster Fees	400.00
Website Design & Maintenance	684.42
WooCommerce Fees	736.00
<b>Total Website Expense</b>	<b>4,340.56</b>
Winter Workshop Expenses	
Winter Workshop - Coffee, Materials and Utensils	106.49
Winter Workshop - Credit Card Fees	323.60
Winter Workshop - Food	1,062.57
Winter Workshop - Merchandise Costs	490.50
Winter Workshop - Misc Supplies	69.13
Winter Workshop - Name Badges	53.05
Winter Workshop - Shirts	1,408.10
Winter Workshop - Soda	250.72
Winter Workshop - Tables	182.38
Winter Workshop - U-Haul Rental	121.26
	<b>TOTAL</b>
Winter Workshop - Venue	-150.00
<b>Total Winter Workshop Expenses</b>	<b>3,917.80</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$62,993.94</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$27,229.82</b>
Other Income	
Interest Income	45.85
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$45.85</b>
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$45.85</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$27,275.67</b>

## **Managers Report**

The month of September was relatively uneventful in terms of major developments or issues. While it was busy on the day-to-day operations side, there were no unexpected challenges or significant disruptions. Overall, it was a relatively inexpensive month compared to the preceding months.

Most of my efforts during September were focused on ongoing maintenance and organization. We continued routine operational tasks, handled several small purchases that were all within budget, and stayed well within our financial parameters. We remain on a solid trajectory to finish the year strong.

A large portion of my time this month was spent reorganizing the store and working closely with Shannon on related items. Fred and I have also been coordinating logistics and supplies, making several trips between our houses to get the event materials in order. Much of this work is preparatory, with small, behind-the-scenes efforts that will make a big difference once we head into the 2026 events. The goal is to have everything dialed in ahead of time so we can hit the ground running and not worry about last-minute logistical details.

## **Winter Workshop 2026**

We have continued making progress toward the Winter Workshop 2026. Specific registration numbers and raffle proceeds are detailed below:

- Total attendees registered as of 10/14/25: 27
- Grand prize raffle revenue to date: \$1,000

## **Clear Cut Project – Fund Allocation**

I received an email from Joerg yesterday with the details regarding the supplies needed to install infrastructure at Clear Cut. At this point, I just need confirmation on which fund will be used for payment, either the general fund or the Meeting House fund.

There was prior discussion about allocating Meeting House funds for Clear Cut, but I could not recall the final decision. I have reached out to Renee to confirm before moving forward with the purchase for accounting purposes. I will defer to Joerg's report for progress updates and technical details, and am simply noting the logistical side here regarding

payment allocation.

### **Webmaster Services**

As a reminder, we continue to pay Kevin Stiegler \$200 per month for webmaster services. Payments have been sent regularly, and Kevin has confirmed receipt.

### **Expenses**

#### **Notable Expenses – September 2025**

- Sun shirts: Final invoice received, totaling approximately \$719.
- Event organization supplies: Purchase of bins and a TV stand for organizing event materials, totaling about \$200. Fred did an excellent job finding cost-effective options that stayed well within budget.
- Website development: Payment to Howard for work on the awards database infrastructure, totaling \$433.

#### **Upcoming and Pending Expenses**

- Polos: Currently in production, estimated cost \$1,800 (to be paid upon pickup).
- DEMA shirts: Order placed this week, pending artwork approval. Estimated cost \$1,600. Aesthetic Design has confirmed they will be completed before the end of the month.
- UWS quarterly payment: Upcoming payment to Barbara for the most recent issue, \$600.

### **DEMA Shirt Project**

As noted above, the DEMA shirt order is underway. I am working closely with Shannon on the logistics, and everything is on track. Once the artwork receives final approval, production will begin immediately. As of now, we are well positioned to have shirts in hand with ample lead time before next month's event.

### **Training Stats – September**

Students registered in September: 9

E-learning codes sold in September: 4

## **Summary**

In summary, September was a stable and productive month. While not marked by major developments, it was an important period of preparation and organization that sets us up for success as we move toward year-end and the 2026 events. Financially, we remain on solid footing, operating within budget and maintaining a clear path toward finishing the year strong.

## Program Director 1 Report

October 2025

On the most pressing matter of the steps at Clearcut sink, I am still awaiting clarification on when I can purchase the materials. The last email exchange I was included in, there seemed to be uncertainty about what account the funds are to be drawn from. I identified three different potential sources for building material, none of which by themselves appears to carry everything we need. The supplier usually contracted by the park, gave me a quote for the pressure treated wood that came in higher than expected. Additional fees for "forklift" and "transport" push it several hundred dollars over what we can get from Home Depot, and they needed several weeks lead time. Home Depot shows minor daily variation on price, but availability fluctuates greatly. A local supplier, Gulf Coast Lumber, is overall a bit pricier than Home Depot, but not by much. Again, pricing and availability fluctuates, daily. Additionally to the three sources named above, Ace Hardware might help out in a pinch, but they charge a premium.

The original estimate by Sidney Ruetz came in at about \$4k. He overlooked costs associated with setting the underwater posts. IF I can get all the additional building supplies (pouring tubes and concrete additives), setting the underwater posts may raise the price by about \$200. Again, due to variation in price and availability, these can be only estimates. As our previous projects have demonstrated, there will always be unexpected issues that require a run to the hardware store. I believe the two-weekend-approach that we proposed is the best way forward, with the land-portion, especially the posts, to be set first. Learning from RB (NFSA), this is a slow process. I will go over the plans again with Steve prior to the project, to make certain we both have a good understanding of what we are doing. I personally have no experience setting posts under water, and have sought input from whoever I can think of. Apparently, it is not that hard to do, or so I am told. I will follow up this week with Lance Kelly, Wakulla Springs Park manager to make sure we are still on track. He is in the process of clearing access.

We currently have 8 volunteers signed up for the first weekend, which I think is an ideal number, even if not everyone is able to make it on the day. Unfortunately, Sidney himself is not available on the dates for the build.

We can most certainly expect the unexpected, but so far we are still on track.

On the science part, after reaching out into the community, I identified a CDS member who makes his living as an environmental scientist, with experience in grant writing and organisational matters. We are facilitating a meeting, which I expect to be productive in terms policy and procedures. Unfortunately, middle of December was the earliest available time slot, to be held in Gainesville.

With regards to conservation efforts, Bryan Buescher is aware of the CDS' stance on litigation regarding Alachua. I ran into him yesterday at a dive site. In a brief discussion, he asked if we would consider a notice for all CDS members about public meetings held in Alachua, with the hope of attendance of some members, to show support. I asked him to write up his request, and await his message.

The following is an abbreviated message sent to me by Kelly Jessop, which I hereby forward to the board, I am just the messenger. I omitted portions irrelevant to the topic:

"I see the CDS is very active, but one question, when will the CDS release a publication? The CDS wants to be the premiere organization for cave diving, but the last real publication is Cave Diving Articles and Opinions, which dates way back when I was chair. The other publications by Sheck, have historical context, but there hasn't been a Cave Diving Manual, the publication the CDS was known for, for decades. To me if the CDS wants to be looked as the leader in cave diving, conservation, education etc, it really is critical that you have a current publication that is current to present cave diving technology. Any thoughts about having a product representative of the organization?

It is a challenging project to do, but not hard. Find an editor, even your UWS editor would perfect if agreeable. Determine subjects that need to be in the book, which one of the old Cave Divers Manuals is a great blue print. Collect chapters from different people in the industry on all the subjects. Have the editor edit each and format, and then print. We did it and it wasn't hard. There was a push a few years ago, to re-do it, but a feud with Gene Melton and the board killed it. I ended up donating my chapters on cave conservation to IANTD because they were doing Dao of cave diving and the CDS was still feuding with Gene. When I sat on the board we saw our publications were embarrassingly out of date, and we had become a t-shirt/novelty boutique, and in order to project being the leader in cave diving, up to date publications were needed. Just my \$.02 worth

The board needs to look to its sister organization the NSS to see that it has up to date publications, and projects its image worldwide of excellence and being a leader. This is something the CDS needs to do. Where individual board members may shy away from a project of this scale, it doesn't hide the fact the CDS is out dated and at risk of irrelevance. The board doesn't have to take on the project, just find an editor to go forward. In our case Bill Oigarden and Jill Heinerth did the project, we just approved the final version for print. I have been a CDS member since 1996, and haven't seen the CDS go this long without relevant publications."

## **Program Director 2**

Steve Dalcher

October 2025 Report

### Land Owner Relations:

Ian Parrish has resigned as the Landowner Relations Chair. I will be filling in as interim until a new Chair can be installed. If we could have the website updated ASAP it would be great.

We have the potential opportunity to access another site located adjacent to Lafayette Blue Springs. The land is currently in contract for sale. It reportedly has 6 Karst windows on the property consisting of 28 acres. I conducted a range walk this morning and was able to locate 5 sinks. 4 of the 5 appear to be very promising. One in particular has visible cave from the surface.

The pending purchaser has expressed interest in our usage and management of the Karst features. I intend to conduct preliminary dives this week to gain a better understanding of the sinks and their viability for recreational diving and/or instruction. It has been reported that Dive Talk laid 1500 feet of line in this particular system. I have not been able to verify that and am hesitant in contacting them regarding this as I don't wish to clutter the playing field with other folks chiming in at the last moment and causing the contract not to complete. It is also reported the Wes Skiles initially did some exploration in these caves, though I have no way to verify this. The pending owner wishes to pursue a long-term relationship with us. More to follow.

The contract with the owner of Edward's Sink is coming up for renewal, I will be actively pursuing a new contract with a 5 year lease.

### Other Items for Program Director 2:

Nothing Significant to report

### Pending actions:

Replacement of Cow Spring Step this Fall

Completion of the final bit of boardwalk at Madison Blue

Fundraising and construction of Wall of Honor at Cow Spring

Clearcut Sink step construction in tandem with Joerg Hess

## Training Report October 2025

### **Certifications :**

YTD – 117

2024 YTD – 82

### **YTD Courses with Certifications:**

Advanced Cave - 9

Advanced Sidemount - 2

Apprentice Cave – 25

Cave Diver – 26

Cavern Tec – 6

CCR Cave – 18

CCR Trimix – 2

DPV Cave – 10

Nitrox Diver – 1

Single Tank Cavern – 11

Stage Cave – 7

### **Top Producing Instructors:**

Chris Brock 21

Ken Sallot 12

Max Kuznetsov 11

Jim Wyatt 10

Stave Dalcher 7

Jeff Loflin, Elena Kryzhanovskaya 6

Lamar Hires, Josh Dillaman, Paul Heinerth, Timmy Young 5

Joerg Hess, Bryan Kakuk 4

### **E-learning update:**

Platform continues to function well and no bugs were reported last month. Some instructors are certifying students without purchasing an e-learning code, which is a standards violation. Fred assisted by drafting an email for stating that as of Jan 1, 2026 the indoctrination period of using the platform would be over and all Tec Cavern, Apprentice, Cave, and Advanced Cave students will be required to use the platform.

### **Training Committee:**

Committee did not meet this month.

Single Tank Cavern students to complete the e-learning program as it is too much information for their level of training. Renee and Chris to edit the current course for Single

Tank Cavern students. Renee has jumped on this and is making progress, I have not had time to work with her at the time of drafting this document.

Josh Dillaman and I will be going to Mexico to upgrade specialty instructor ratings for Lanny Vogel and others the first week of December. Per section 5.4 of our standards, I will also begin IT training for Josh Dillaman, Lanny Vogel and certain candidates in Mexico who are ready according to standards for the upgrade. Training Committee approval via video evidence of proper skills performance will be the initial step in the process. While we want growth in the instructor base, we also want to ensure our candidates are qualified for the ratings that they are requesting. Even though Standards allow for the Training Chairman to grant these ratings unilaterally, I have not, and will not grant a specialty rating without Training Committee consultation and approval.

**Standards Updates:**

Aside from Single Tank Cavern updates, standards updates were not addressed this month.