

NSS-CDS BOD MEETING March 16th, 2026

Quorum - Yes

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

BOD Absent- Renee Power (RP).

Members Present- Adam Hughes (AH), Josh Dillaman (JD2), Justin Reams (JR), John Rutledge (JR2), Shannon Perry (SP), Barbara Dwyer (BD).

Meeting called to order by FS at 1932 hours.

FS made a motion to accept the minutes from February 16th, 2026. SD seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Secretary Report

Finalized minutes from February meeting.

Oversaw communications.

Continued to support JR with Social Media where it was needed.

Plans to continue updating our email blast list.

Communications Update: Social Media

Winter workshop helped increase our followers and interactions. There has been a 425% increase of interactions on both Facebook and Instagram. A feature called 'collaboration' allows us to increase followers and interactions more easily by having both our audience and the 'collaborator's' audience seeing the shared media. JR is trying to utilize this to increase our social media presence. JR also has some ideas for content he is working on for future media and growth.

Treasurer's Report

**Report attached.*

Checking: \$47,706.27

Savings (Training Fund): \$6,936.48

Savings (Meeting House Fund): \$4,860.63

Total Cash-in-Bank: \$59,506.38

Manager's Report

**Full report attached*

WW26 performed as one of the most financially beneficial workshops we have ever had.

Logistically the WW also performed well. The cashless process was successful.

AH has been working closely with Kelly Jessop and Rod O'Connor for the election process. Our membership count is currently 954 members.

7 people have registered for the ICDC and a small amount of grand prize raffle tickets have sold despite official media release having happened yet.

The Midwest workshop has approximately 14 participants registered.

Program Director 1 Report

Clearcut sink status overview

JH has removed a tree that was on the platform and dove the site. He reports that it has a lot of potential for everything from open water through cave training. The steps have now been inspected by the county. They had 3 points that need attended to: no handrails, step risers, and some additional hangers. Park Manager Lance Kelly is appreciative of what the CDS has done and is taking care of these items. The visibility in the sink is conducive to diving right now. There is unfortunately no local support such as dive shops, fill stations or places for equipment rentals, but JH believes the system has a lot to offer.

Orange Grove sink has a large branch fallen on the fence and it needs repaired. JH believes that due to the low water at Orange Grove we may be able to support the steps better.

Suwannee river water management FL senate committee hearing.

Jacksonville water usage is dropping the ground water levels. To try and combat this Jacksonville is 'filtering' the water and pumping it back into the groundwater leading to pollution that we cannot properly clean out. The committee is presenting a 20/25 year plan that would actually clean the water to safe drinking levels. The bill was passed and the technology is being pursued. However, until this is put into effect the Suwannee and other affected waterways will suffer with 'forever' pollutants and nitrates etc. JH is asking the CDS to help raise awareness so that the members can support efforts to clean our water.

Program Director 2 Report

SD has completed mulching the pathway at Cow Springs. The remaining mulch cost \$107. There is a meeting planned with Dennis Martin to execute a 5 year management agreement.

SD has a meeting with Peacock Springs SP manager Nick Brown for the fence repair at Orange Sink. In regards to the stair repair at Orange Sink SD believes it would be a lot easier for the CDS to just purchase the materials vs waiting for the state park to get them. SD makes a motion to approve \$100 for materials for the stair reinforcement. JH seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

SD received an email from Sydney Ruetz about Edward's Sink. Sydney did much of the mapping of the site and has offered to dive with people at the site as a guide. Due to potential liability/instructor conflicts SD is unsure how to proceed with offering his services on our website. CB thinks there is no issue if he is just diving with people as a friend, but if

we advertise it there could be potential liability on the CDS due to his lack of professional insurance.

Training Director's Report

Report attached.

There are 20 certification year to date. There was a small issue with email in regard to certification cards going out which has since been rectified.

CB plans to go to Mexico and work on some instructor development and hopefully IT development.

Underwater Speleology Update

The next issue is underway and going to be a big issue. There are several planned articles on sumps. BD is considering changing the cost for ads in the publication.

WW26 Summary/Review

SP put out a survey for the workshop and feedback has been positive. The only area where we could improve based on feedback was a balance on free time vs speaker/presentation time.

Claire and Lanny Vogel also sent some WW26 feedback. Overall, the feedback was positive while they also provided some helpful constructive criticism. The largest being that we undervalued the ticket price.

FS asks opinions on holding an international event once every 3 to 4 years. Some ideas for locations FS has is Belize, Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic.

International Cave Diving Conference Update

SP sent out concept and graphic ideas for the ICDC. Community is set to be our theme. JD, JR, and SP are going to start advertising with these graphics. SP also sent out 3 T-shirt design ideas. Within the next 3 days all BOD members need to give their T-shirt choice.

BD asks about having women fit T-shirts as well as quality 100% cotton shirts. SD mentions having the women's fit only for pre-registered attendees, so we don't have another run of sizes to manage.

Election Cycle Update and 2026 Recognition Awards

Nominee platform statements were due on the 14th of March to Kelly Jessop. March 28th will be the beginning of the voting period. May 17th will close the voting period.

FS asks if there should be any other recognition awards and if the board is satisfied with the criteria. If agreed, then the BOD will put out a call for nominations on March 21st. The BOD sees no issues with the 4 existing awards and criteria.

Next BOD meeting will be Monday April 20th 2026 at 7:00PM

FS makes motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:06. SD seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Managers Report
Adam Hughes
March 2026

The month of February was fairly busy from a logistical standpoint, primarily surrounding the recent workshop event. While I was not on site, I assisted remotely with setup for the store items—mainly the raffle items—since the event utilized a point-of-sale system and avoided cash transactions. This was our first fully cashless event, and overall it worked very well. Beyond simplifying the accounting side, it also streamlined the process for attendees. We learned several logistical lessons from this event that we plan to apply to the International Cave Diving Conference, which should help move people through the process more efficiently and likely increase revenue as a result.

I will leave the detailed discussion of the event itself to those who were on site, but below are the finalized financial results. You may have seen preliminary figures from Renee or me over the past few weeks; however, the numbers below are now reconciled and finalized.

Winter Workshop Income

Grand Prize Raffle - \$6,025.00
Door Prize Ticket Sales - \$1,252.00
Registration Income - \$5,850.00
Sponsor Income - \$1,500.00
Total Winter Workshop Income - \$14,627.00

Winter Workshop Expenses (paid)

Credit Card Fees - \$558.22
Food - \$2,592.55
Banner - \$43.65
Pastries, Coffee, Snacks, and Supplies - \$542.50
Event Materials - \$61.52
Shirts - \$860.65
Soda - \$133.30
Total WW26 Expenses (Paid) - \$4,792.39

Winter Workshop Expenses (NOT PAID)

Airfare allowance - \$1,000.00
Rental car allowance - \$400.00
Nitrox allowance - \$200.00
Two UWT T shirts (zero cost) - \$0
Six nights lodging - \$415.80
Guides - \$832.00
Cylinders - \$153.60
Total WW26 Expenses (NOT PAID) - \$3,001.40

WW25 Net Income (Profit): \$6,833.21

As you can see, the event performed extremely well financially. We still have over \$3,000 in remaining expenses yet to be paid, but those costs are already budgeted and should not present any issue once they come due.

This workshop originally began as a proof of concept, but it ultimately turned into one of the most profitable workshops we have hosted. Whether this becomes an annual event remains to be seen, but the results clearly demonstrate that the format can be very successful—not only in terms of membership engagement but also from a financial standpoint.

It is also worth noting that several attendees at the workshop were not previously members of the organization. This reinforces the idea that hosting events outside of our immediate Florida base can attract a broader demographic and introduce new people to the organization.

Training

During the month of February we recorded approximately 8–10 new student registrations.

Without stepping too far into Chris's area, I also wanted to highlight a data point I noticed while reviewing instructor records. Based on the numbers I ran recently, the number of active instructors on the roster is currently the highest it has been since before COVID. While student registrations have not yet returned to pre-COVID levels, instructor engagement appears to be trending upward.

Over the past three months, two or three previously inactive instructors have returned and renewed their status. One of those instructors had not been active since before COVID. While we did have a few instructors choose not to renew at the end of 2025, that decline has been more than offset by the number of new instructors who joined during 2025 along with those who recently reactivated.

Again, I do not work directly within the training program, so I cannot speak to the broader trends in detail, but from a backend administrative perspective there does appear to be an encouraging level of instructor engagement.

International Cave Diving Conference

There are currently 7 individuals registered for the International Cave Diving Conference scheduled for June.

Midwest Workshop

The venue has been paid and the associated expenses have been reimbursed back to KISS. At this time, I am not aware of any outstanding payments due to individuals.

There are currently 13 people registered for the Midwest Workshop.

ICDC Grand Prize Raffle Performance

Current raffle ticket sales are as follows:

Dive Rite Shopping Spree: \$395 in tickets sold

Seacraft Go! Grand Prize: \$100 in tickets sold

DEMA 2026

I have paid all remaining registration fees for DEMA 2026. Normally I spread these payments out over time, but I chose to go ahead and pay everything in advance. As a result, we are fully current with DEMA through the end of the year and all required expenses for the event later in the year have already been covered.

Closing

That's it from me!

Overall, February was a productive month. While the usual day-to-day operational maintenance continues, we are also steadily improving our infrastructure and processes behind the scenes. Between the workshop logistics, upcoming events, and ongoing administrative work, things are moving along well and the organization continues to build momentum.

Profit and Loss

CAVE DIVING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

January 1-February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Income	
Donations Income	100.00
E-Learning Revenue	200.00
Instructor Fees Income	400.00
International Conference Income	
Dive Rite Shopping Spree Raffle Sales	395.00
Event Registration	300.00
Seacraft GOI Raffle Sales	100.00
Total for International Conference Income	\$795.00
Membership Dues	5,265.00
Merchandise Sales	2,029.70
Midwest Workshop Income	
Midwest Workshop Registration Income	480.00
Total for Midwest Workshop Income	\$480.00
Student Registrations	275.00
Winter Workshop Income	
Winter Workshop Grand Prize Raffle	2,300.00
Winter Workshop Raffle Ticket Sales	1,252.00
Winter Workshop Registration Income	300.00
Winter Workshop Sponsor Income	500.00
Total for Winter Workshop Income	\$4,352.00
Total for Income	\$13,896.70
Gross Profit	
	\$13,896.70
Expenses	
Certification Card Printing Costs	
Card Printer Supplies	218.88
Total for Certification Card Printing Costs	\$218.88
DEMA Expense	
DEMA - Registration Fees	691.20
Total for DEMA Expense	\$691.20
Merchant Fees	570.08
Midwest Workshop Expenses	
Midwest Workshop - Venue	649.35
Total for Midwest Workshop Expenses	\$649.35
Office Administrator	2,000.00
Office Expense	
iContact Email Membership	94.63
Misc Supplies	613.25
Total for Office Expense	\$707.88
Postage & Shipping	294.80
Property Taxes	58.96

Profit and Loss

CAVE DIVING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

January 1-February 28, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Repairs & Maintenance	
Cow Porta Potty	395.00
Spypoint Camera Subscription	60.00
Total for Repairs & Maintenance	\$455.00
Report Filing Annual Expenses	61.25
Software Expense	
Checkstock	124.98
Microsoft 365	25.98
QuickBooks Online Fees	75.00
ZOOM Meeting Subscription	87.96
Total for Software Expense	\$313.92
UWS Expenses	
Adobe Publishing Software	139.96
Layout & Drafting Fees	600.00
Total for UWS Expenses	\$739.96
Website Expense	
Webmaster Fees	400.00
Website Design & Maintenance	174.25
WooCommerce Fees	199.00
Total for Website Expense	\$773.25
Winter Workshop Expenses	
Winter Workshop - Credit Card Fees	558.22
Winter Workshop - Food	2,592.55
Winter Workshop - Misc Supplies	647.67
Winter Workshop - Shirts	860.65
Winter Workshop - Soda	133.30
Total for Winter Workshop Expenses	\$4,792.39
Total for Expenses	\$12,326.92
Net Operating Income	\$1,569.78
Other Income	
Interest Income	6.73
Total for Other Income	\$6.73
Net Other Income	\$6.73
Net Income	\$1,576.51

Training Director Report
Chris Brock
March 2026

Certifications :

YTD – 21
2025 YTD – ?

YTD Courses with Certifications:

Apprentice Cave – 3
Cave Diver – 4
CCR Trimix – 2
DPV Cave Diver – 5
TecCavern – 2
Stage Cave – 4

Top Producing Instructors:

Chris Brock 4
Rob McGann 3
Cristina Zenato 3
Timmy Young 3
Paul Heinerth 2
Max Kuznetsov 2
Bryan Kakuk 1
Jennifer Dillaman 1
James Draker 1
Lanny Vogel 1

E-learning update:

No bugs to report this month

Certifications

Minor issue with certifications not populating into the database and transferring to email
– Howard corrected

Training Committee:

No Meeting this month