



NSS-CDS BOD Meeting – July 20, 2026

BOD Quorum (at least 4 directors): Yes

BOD Present: Fred Stratton (FS), Jennifer Dillaman (JD), Daniel Alix (DA), Shannon Perry (SP), Steve Dalcher (SD), John Rutledge (JR), Chris Brock (CB)

BOD Absent: None.

Members Present: Renee Power - Board Member Emerita (RP), Adam Hughes (AH), Chloe Marcum (CM), Barbara Dwyer (BD), Chad Dalton (CD)

Meeting Convened – FS

Meeting called to order by FS at 7:02 PM EST.

Minutes Approved – FS

FS made a motion to accept the minutes from June 15, 2026. SD seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Secretary Report – SP

- SP finalized minutes from June meeting. SP will post to website following this meeting.
- Created and sent eblast for UWS along with Save the Date information.
 - Will be working to create a separate eblast to go out on the Midwest Workshop.
- SP worked with CM to ensure access and permissions to Social Media channels.
 - SP is working to facilitate post-event marketing for the ICDC26, while CM works on main channels.
- News of Forrest Wilson's passing to be posted on social media and sent via eblast to the membership. BD will write a comprehensive article for the fall issue of UWS.

Social Media Update – CM

- CM is working with SP and Justin Reams to obtain logins for all social platforms; nearly complete. Still resolving Meta Business Suite permission issues.
- CM asked clarifying question if sharing others' YouTube videos counts as "promoting a channel" under the guidelines. Consensus: the rule targets self-promotion (own channel/business), not sharing relevant content. Videos should be treated like photos, fine if dive-related, not fine if advertising. The hard line is solicitation language ("follow this channel") vs. sharing ("here's a cool video"); posts leading with "follow" aren't allowed. Social media guidelines intended to prevent members from using NSS-CDS channels to promote personal/commercial YouTube channels, not to prohibit sharing individual cave diving videos.



- Facebook group has approximately 6,000–7,000 followers.
- CM shared examples by email of short-form video content (from her personal page and Brock Technical) similar to what she plans to produce for the CDS TikTok, describing the intended style (5–12 second clips).
- CM and SP created a shared document listing all social media platforms, usernames, passwords, and linked emails for continuity of operations.

Underwater Speleology – BD

- Latest issue is out and was posted to Facebook.
- Next issue is largely assembled; lead story is Guy Bryant's trip to Madagascar. Target release is mid-September; deadlines to be circulated later.
- Proposed a reader survey; past surveys under former editor Cheryl Doran received roughly a 20% response rate. Discussion of using a Google survey tool (SP to help lead through Google forms) versus MailChimp/iContact.
- A contributor's article (Chibibo) missed the deadline for the current issue but will run in the fall issue; FS to send it to BD this week.

Treasurer's Report – DA

**Report attached.*

Cash in Bank (as of June 11, 2026)

Checking: \$60,045.65

Savings (Training Fund): \$6,942.60

Savings (Meeting House Fund): \$4,864.92

Total Cash-in-Bank: \$71,853.17

- Cash position as of 12 July reviewed (noted above).
- Finished paying off the Seacraft Go! purchase.
- Made the deposit for the 2027 conference venue with Rembrandt Farms.
- MNEMO V2 surveying tool has been paid for and has arrived.

Operation Manager's Report – AH

**Report attached.*

- Quiet month; AH spent time onboarding DA on treasurer duties and access.
- Plans to restock the store within 1–2 weeks, ahead of the Midwest Workshop; will request merchandise designs from SP.
- Card printer failure: Training Director CB has already authorized purchase of a replacement printer (approximately \$1,200). FS confirmed to go ahead with the purchase, rather than a \$30 cleaning kit repair to try and fix the current one. No students currently waiting on cards.
- Underwater Speleology access-related emails increased sharply this issue (normally 1–2, this issue generated dozens), indicating increased UWS readership.

Program Director Reports – JR, SD

- SD noted that Edward Spring is currently undiveable, the flow is "reversed".



- Sand Hill Crane Scout Reservation is selling acreage that may include Diepolder; land is expected to become a housing development. Prior board negotiations to regain access stalled after previous Program Director departed. SD will reach out to reassess.
- Role split confirmed: SD continues on the Cave Access Committee; JR takes over the Safety Committee; both will jointly cover the Science Committee.
- SD said the section currently isn't doing meaningful science activity despite having committees on paper, and asked board members and others on the call to contribute ideas for the Science Committee.
- FS asked SD and JR to bring ideas to the next meeting on what NSS-CDS's involvement in science should look like, citing the Conservation subcommittee, which helped oppose a special exception permit near Mill Creek Sink, as the model of an active, effective subcommittee.
- Science subcommittees (geology, biology) are not currently reporting back to the board. People are doing related work, such as Dr. Patty Spellman at the University of South Florida, but as their own professional/day-job activity rather than as formal NSS-CDS committee work.
- JR proposed idea to obtain contact information for scientists doing relevant work so NSS-CDS can formally offer assistance on their projects, noting members don't need to be in the water, but could help with tasks like collecting water samples, which would let members feel more involved and demonstrate the section's engagement in science.
- JR to obtain a contact list of scientists previously held by former Program Director.
- Discussion of adding a regular science column to Underwater Speleology, fed by the four subcommittees, as a way to give members visibility into ongoing science and conservation work.
- Alachua Sink managers are required to submit a quarterly report to the board but have not been reporting for three years; SD to follow up.
- No formal reporting is received on School Sink beyond email notice when a dive permit is approved (approximately 4–5 applications in the last 6 months); SD to contact Bob Beckner to request outcome reporting.
- JR reported he is still in discussion with people at Jewel Sink but has not gone anywhere.

Training Director Report – CB

**Report attached.*

- Certifications are running about 13 behind the same point last year, attributed partly to the shift toward rebreather diving.
- About halfway finished writing updated standards for the Trimix program.
- Confirmed AH has the MNEMO V2 survey tool.

NSS-CDS Midwest Workshop Update – CD, AH

- CD raised interest in science/research diving in Missouri, where many caves require state research permits with organizational and scientific backing; will begin drafting plans. SD supportive; further discussion planned at the workshop.
- Secured a t-shirt vendor (using the board's existing vendor, within the \$15–\$18 price point) and additional giveaway sponsors (reels, lights, certificates).
- CD to pick up the event banner in Mexico (approximately \$40).



- Website needs a couple more speakers added and has outstanding graphics issues.
CD to email webdev@ (cc FS).
- CM and SP have graphics and will begin pushing social media content for the Workshop.

The 2027 Winter Workshop - Early Planning – FS

- Deposit paid in full for the High Springs Community Center for January 15th and 16th (setup day and workshop day).
- Detailed planning to begin within the next month.
- Standard format: 3–4 hands-on workshops in the afternoon; up to 3 presenters in the morning (50 minutes plus 10-minute Q&A each), with lunch between sessions.
- Last year's workshop, first held at High Springs Community Center after outgrowing Hart Springs, drew approximately 140–150 people; the same planning team structure will be reused.

The Year Ahead – FS

- Discussion of formally defining the Director Emeritus/Emerita role in the bylaws (currently undefined); RP and FS to circulate a proposal to the board by email.
- FS will email the board and staff asking each person for one or two ideas, something they would change about the organization, or something they believe should be done but currently isn't, pointing to the earlier discussion on inactive/non-reporting committees as an example of the kind of gap to surface.
- A few ideas discussed during the meeting:
 - NSS-CDS Foundation: proposed idea modeled on the NSS's bequest experience, to fund future initiatives.
 - Wall of Honor: model previously shown by SD at the January 2025 Winter Workshop; FS wants to pursue a fundraising campaign and suggested SD show the model to Bruce Gillingham of Amigos Dive Center, who has repeatedly offered to help, and discuss him possibly leading the campaign.
 - NSS relationship: per bylaws, the vice chair (Jenny) serves as liaison between the section and the NSS. FS has discussed strengthening this relationship.
 - Training and online presence: Updating training standards and improving the Section's online presence.
- Process: FS will send the idea-gathering email; the board will then prioritize the ideas collectively based on available resources (financial and time) to determine where to get the most benefit, forming the core of a strategic plan that will later be shared with the membership.

Next BOD Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at 7:00 P.M. Eastern / 6:00 Central / 4:00 Pacific on Monday, 17 August 2026.

Meeting Adjourned – FS

FS make motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM. DA seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

NSS-CDS BOD Meeting Minutes



July 9, 2026 – Modifications to Cow Springs Process – Motion

Sent via email by Fred Stratton (FS)

FS proposed that we allocate up to \$1,135 to pay Howard Eisenberg to update the NSS-CDS website with the changes detailed in his formal proposal. These updates will correct a waiver submission issue, add an e-Signature step, limit access to four teams of up to three divers per team, and provide a reservation system.

Jennifer Dillaman seconded the motion.

Board approved this motion on July 10th with a 7-0 vote.



Operation Manager's Report – AH

Cash in Bank (as of July 12, 2026)

Checking: \$54,144.65
Savings (Training Fund): \$6,944.60
Savings (Meeting House Fund): \$4,866.32
Total Cash-in-Bank: \$65,955.57

Please note that these balances reflect activity in early July, as well as some activity from late June that was not included in my previous manager's report.

The last few weeks have been fairly expensive, as there were a number of payments that needed to be made immediately following the conference. Some of the larger expenses since my last report include:

- SeaCraft GO! payment: \$4,750
- Rembert venue deposit for the 2027 conference: \$1,250

Per board decision at the membership meeting, we also proceeded with ordering and purchasing a Nemo V2 surveying tool. The item was ordered in June and paid shortly thereafter. After international transfer fees and shipping, the total cost came to \$947.77.

I also restocked a few items that we were getting low on, which had been approved by the previous treasurer prior to the conference. I restocked our coffee mugs, which cost approximately \$541, and also purchased additional books for a few hundred dollars.

We also submitted payment for the flags. The total cost of the flags, which were produced by Dive Rite, was \$1,680.

While the last few weeks have been fairly expensive, the section remains in a very healthy financial position. In fact, this is probably the healthiest we've ever been financially following a conference, which is traditionally one of our more expense-heavy times of the year.

I would encourage the board to continue utilizing our revenues to enhance the member experience, such as investing in better website infrastructure like we are currently doing with the Cow Springs check-in process. These are great opportunities to reinvest in the section while continuing to further our mission.

Per recent board discussion, I am approved to pay Howard for services related to the modifications to the Cow Springs processes. It is worth mentioning that Howard rarely ends up charging what he initially quotes and usually comes in under budget. He has worked with us for a very long time, and I genuinely believe he gives the section a break on pricing. Comparatively speaking, his services are significantly more expensive elsewhere. In other words, the time he spends on CDS matters is more than worth it.



General Update

Outside of finances, things have been relatively sedate over the last few weeks, which is usually the case after conference season. I like to use this downtime to recuperate and recharge a bit.

Aside from processing store orders every few days, sending out certification cards, filing sales tax, responding to website inquiries, and making sure all of our state reporting is up to date, it has been relatively quiet outside of my day-to-day duties.

Upcoming Events

From what I can tell, the next major event on the calendar is the Midwest Workshop. I believe Fred is planning to attend, and I am hoping to make it as well.

I really wanted to attend the Mexico trip, but between four kids and a mother-in-law in the hospital, that just wasn't in the cards this year. Hopefully, I'll be able to make it to the Midwest Workshop with Fred.

Sponsorship Update

We have finally received the sponsorship check from DAN. I deposited it a few days ago, and it will be reflected on the July financials since it was deposited this month.

The total sponsorship amount was \$1,000.

Treasurer Transition

As far as treasurer duties go, Dan is now set up with the bank and is admin on everything financial related. In other words, Dan officially has the "keys to the kingdom".

This ended up being a fair amount of work, as Renee had accumulated access to quite a few systems over the last eight years. In addition to being added as a primary signatory on our bank accounts, Dan has received a debit card, and our new checks should be arriving any day now.

Board Polos

I have finally received and paid for the polos for the new Board of Directors.

If any board member would like a replacement polo, please let me know. I believe some of the polos still floating around are a couple of years old, and we should replace them for active board members if needed.

Also, please let me know if any of the new board members have not yet received theirs.

Card Printer Update

One thing I mentioned to the previous treasurer, and something I want everyone to keep in mind, is our card printer.



Our current printer is a few years old and has long exceeded its warranty period. Card printers are surprisingly mechanical devices and generally have a much shorter lifespan than most people realize.

Fortunately, replacement printers are significantly cheaper than they used to be. The first printer I purchased for the section was around \$6,000. Today, a comparable model is somewhere between \$1,200 and \$1,500.

The current printer has also been acting a little "funny" over the last 12 months, and I suspect it may decide to retire itself at any moment.

As these printers get older, the supplies become more expensive and increasingly difficult to find. I recently purchased ribbon and cardstock, and both were noticeably more expensive than they used to be. A ribbon that once cost around \$50 is now closer to \$150.

This is something we already budget for each year just in case, but I wanted to keep it on everyone's radar that there is a reasonable chance we may need to replace the card printer sometime within the next 12 months. I've discussed this with the Training Director, and everyone is aware of the volatility of these machines.

Once it finally gives up, everyone is more than welcome to come over for the ceremonial burial. There are currently five former card printers buried in my backyard, all with proper markers for remembrance.

Closing

That's it from me!

Overall, the last month has been relatively quiet and enjoyable. I've used the downtime to organize store inventory, make sure our filings are up to date, and get everything restocked following the conference.

Things will start ramping up again soon with upcoming events such as the Midwest Workshop, DEMA, and the Winter Workshop.



Training Director's Report – CB

Training Report July 2026

Certifications :

YTD – 58

2025 YTD – 71

YTD Courses with Certifications:

Apprentice Cave – 17

Cave Diver – 12

CCR Trimix – 2

Cave Trimix - 1

CCR Cave – 1

Cave Survey - 1

DPV Cave Diver – 6

Tec Cavern – 4

Stage Cave - 10

Top Producing Instructors:

Ricardo Castillo 5

Chris Brock 5

Timmy Young 5

Rob McGann 3

Cristina Zenato 4

Ken Sallot 3

Rob McGann 3

Paul Heinerth 3

Steve Dalcher 3

Max Kuznetsov 6

Joerg Hess 3

Brian Kakuk 4

Training Committee:

MNemo is at Adam's house

No meeting as I am traveling and will be back in Florida in two weeks

NSS-CDS BOD Meeting Minutes



Treasurer's Report - DA

CAVE DIVING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Statement of Activity YTD Comparison

June 1-30, 2026

	TOTAL	
	JUN 2026	JAN 1 - JUN 30 2026 (YTD)
Revenue		
Donations Income		100.00
E-Learning Revenue	150.00	1,400.00
Instructor Fees Income		400.00
International Conference Income		
Dive Rite Shopping Spree Raffle Sales	1,875.00	4,725.00
Door Prize Raffle Sales	8,665.00	8,665.00
Event Registration	2,740.00	11,900.00
Seacraft GO! Raffle Sales	1,740.00	7,310.00
Sponsor Income	500.00	500.00
Total for International Conference Income	\$15,520.00	\$33,100.00
Membership Dues	1,285.00	13,880.00
Merchandise Sales	1,210.80	6,344.26
Midwest Workshop Income		
Midwest Workshop Registration Income		680.00
Total for Midwest Workshop Income		\$680.00
Student Registrations	25.00	650.00
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 Revenue	\$18,190.80	\$60,906.26
Cost of Goods Sold		
BOD Polos	94.02	94.02
Books - Blueprint for Survival		389.08
COGS - Books		825.86
COGS - Flags	1,680.00	1,680.00
COGS - Pods		310.00
Stickers - Logo/Round		540.39
Total for Cost of Goods Sold	\$1,774.02	\$3,839.35
Gross Profit	\$16,416.78	\$57,066.91
Expenditures		
Awards Expenses	363.81	363.81
Certification Card Printing Costs		
Card Printer Supplies	153.71	372.59
Total for Certification Card Printing Costs	\$153.71	\$372.59

CAVE DIVING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Statement of Activity YTD Comparison

June 1-30, 2026

	TOTAL	
	JUN 2026	JAN 1 - JUN 30 2026 (YTD)
DEMA Expense		
DEMA - Cart Fee		-88.25
DEMA - Registration Fees		691.20
Total for DEMA Expense		\$602.95
FDACS Reporting		61.25
International Conference Costs		
Beer - Conference	712.25	712.25
Breakfast - Conference	229.36	229.36
Catering - Conference	3,100.58	3,100.58
Cavenger Shirts - Conference		127.00
Coffee & Dining Supplies	160.18	160.18
Drinks & Materials	672.57	672.57
Event Liability Insurance		121.92
Food - Social	1,198.55	1,198.55
Ice	94.39	94.39
Misc. Event Supplies	303.15	372.95
Seacraft GO! Cost	4,750.00	4,750.00
Shirts - Conference		2,910.00
U-Haul Rental	247.95	247.95
Venue Cost & Cleaning Fees	1,250.00	2,500.00
Total for International Conference Costs	\$12,718.98	\$17,197.70
JMCo Annual Filing Expense		3,500.00
Midwest Workshop Expenses		
Midwest Workshop - Venue		649.35
Total for Midwest Workshop Expenses		\$649.35
Office Administrator	1,000.00	6,000.00
Office expenses		
iContact Email Membership	58.40	328.23
Merchant (Credit Card) Fees	470.03	1,945.43
Misc Supplies		662.68
Printer Toner		135.48
Small Equipment - Mnemo Survey Tool	947.77	947.77
Total for Office expenses	\$1,476.20	\$4,019.59
PA Equipment		1,253.46
Postage & Shipping	209.79	993.05
Property Taxes		58.96
Repairs & maintenance		
Clearcut Construction		1,104.15
Cow Porta Potty		536.75
Cow Repairs		107.00
Edwards Construction		657.73
Total for Repairs & maintenance		\$2,405.63

CAVE DIVING SECTION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Statement of Activity YTD Comparison

June 1-30, 2026

	TOTAL	
	JUN 2026	JAN 1 - JUN 30 2026 (YTD)
Software Expense		
Checkstock		124.98
Microsoft 365	12.99	77.94
QuickBooks Online Fees	37.50	541.50
Voting Software		99.00
ZOOM Meeting Subscription	43.98	263.88
Total for Software Expense	\$94.47	\$1,107.30
UWS Expenses		
Adobe Publishing Software	69.98	419.88
Layout & Drafting Fees		1,200.00
Total for UWS Expenses	\$69.98	\$1,619.88
Website Expense		
Hosting Fees		276.00
Webmaster Fees		1,000.00
Website Design & Maintenance		595.03
WooCommerce Fees	279.00	587.00
Total for Website Expense	\$279.00	\$2,458.03
Winter Workshop Expenses		
Winter Workshop - Credit Card Fees		558.22
Winter Workshop - Food		2,592.55
Winter Workshop - Grand Prize Raffle Cost		1,400.00
Winter Workshop - Misc Supplies		647.67
Winter Workshop - Shirts		860.65
Winter Workshop - Soda		133.30
Total for Winter Workshop Expenses		\$6,192.39
Total for Expenditures	\$16,365.94	\$48,855.94
Net Operating Revenue	\$50.84	\$8,210.97
Other Revenue		
Interest Income	3.40	20.54
Total for Other Revenue	\$3.40	\$20.54
Net Other Revenue	\$3.40	\$20.54
Net Revenue	\$54.24	\$8,231.51