

I am interested in pursuing the open board position with the NSS-CDS in 2013. I became a scuba instructor in 1977 and was certified as a cave diver in 1978. I have witnessed the dramatic changes in many cave systems caused by diver interactions both in Florida and in Mexico. I have observed a drop in watermanship skills both in newly trained cave divers and their instructors.

My reason for wanting to be more involved with the CDS is simple. We need to be better stewards of our underwater/underground resources and many agencies ignore the need to develop a complete communication package. If successful, I would want to help the CDS become a world class training agency with state of the art training aids for our Instructors, students, and other interested parties who care about the underground environment. We need to be a resource for any diver, government agency, or educational outlet for the pursuit of conservation activities.

If elected I promise to bring sound business practices to the operation of the CDS to help grow membership, build a donation base, and to become an organization that cave divers and their instructors from around the world would want to be a part of.

I have a BS degree in marine zoology and was a MBA candidate in Marketing. I had over 25 successful years in Sales, Sales Management, and Marketing. I have been active in several not for profit organizations and know how to get people to donate their time for good causes. I would ask membership to support my candidacy for the board position at this time.

Personal references available on request.

Bert Wilcher