

M I N U T E S
3rd QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
July 12, 2008
Ginnie Springs Outdoors
HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Present:

- * Jeff Bauer - President, Instructor Director
- * Larry Green – Training Director, Instructor Director
- * Rick Murcar – Vice-President, Director
- * Richard Dreher – Secretary/Treasurer Interim, Instructor Director

Absent

- * Tracy Grubbs – Director
- * Horst Schmid – Director (no access to skype)
- * Bert Wilcher, Director

* = Voting BOD Members QUORUM PRESENT

Debra Green - Operations Manager
Sean Denney – General Manager (skype)

Committee Chairs Present:

Exploration/Survey – Alex Warren	Journal – Jeff Bauer
Membership – Rick Murcar	Publications – Debra Green
Safety – Richard Dreher	Science – Skip Kendrick

Members Present:

Stacy Dreher	Cheryl Courtney
Kaley Courtney	Raphael Tremblay
Rick Robinson	Bob Schultze

MEETING OPEN 6:18 PM

Approval of April 12, 2008 minutes - Approved.

President's Report – Jeff Bauer – present. Have all 7 BOD positions filled. NACD Forum – would like to see more activity from members on the forum. Jim Wyatt removed as member of the NACD according to by-laws.

General Membership Meeting – November 15, 2008 – Paramount Plaza Hotel, Gainesville.

NACD SEMINAR – “40 Years and Beyond” – Nov 15, 2008, Paramount Plaza.

NACD Social – Nov 14, 2008 – 6 PM – Ginnie Springs Outdoors

Vice-President's Report – Rick Murcar – Things are busy and everything is looking good.

Treasurer's Report – Richard Dreher (Interim Treasurer) – report submitted, attached. Financial status remains healthy. BOA General Fund - \$4,726.65, Sust. Cave Contributor Fund - \$13,907.67, Cert Deposit from Judy Bauer - \$10,549.89, Primerica Financial Account - \$29,914.00, Procter and Gamble - \$3,360.00, Total assets not including inventory - \$62,458.21.

Training Director's Report – Larry Green

Certification totals for 2nd Quarter, 2008, Total 110. Full – 36, Apprentice –11, Intro to Cave – 20, Cavern – 35, Spec. – 8. 53 Active Instructors. Flooding caused cave closings for the quarter.

NACD IEC dates are posted on website: Nov 10/11 – Cavern / Intro to Cave – Nov 12/13 – Full Cave

NACD 2nd Annual Rebreather Summit – November 16, 2008 at Camp Kalaqua where the NACD held their 1st Seminar 40 years ago.

Thanks to Joel and Jacki Clark, Corey Mearns and Stephen Kimball for the donation of the Ruth Springs Map.

Operations Manager – Debra Green – Busy quarter. Everything running smooth. Stacy Dreher and Cheryl Courtney volunteer to help with filing in warehouse. Ben Bright will be headed up the Chili Cook-Off contest at the NACD social November 14, 2008. NACD has very nice full page advertisement in Diving Adventure magazine.

General Manager – Sean Denney – report submitted. First 20 years of journals are at print and the third decade on the way soon. The redesign of the nacd catalog in the works.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Coordinator – Tracy Grubbs – busy quarter.

Accident Advisory – J. Bozanic – report submitted, attached, on file. Power point submitted for use on nacd website.

Conservation – Jason Ottinger – report submitted, attached.

As of the end of June 2008, there are just under 100 approved divers and Wakulla Springs park has had over 124 dive reservations made between April 2007 and June 2008. Conditions at Emerald are optimum at this time.

Camp Indian Springs is currently closed during summer camp season. It will reopen to guided cave diving in late August 2008.

Recent discussion about the possibility of a private owner near Promising and Go Between sinks in Crawfordville, Florida selling a five acre parcel of land, led the NACD to look in detail about a possibility of sale. I met with the owner, Bill Scott, to find out more. It was found that the land doesn't directly border the sinks. Furthermore, the parcel borders federal land on three sides. All adjacent sinks are on federal land. The owner currently has a permit to maintain a path leading from the border of his property (See attached property survey) to Promising and Go Between Sinks. Further discussion revealed that this permit is only valid for Mr. Scott and a new permit would need to be given if the land were to be sold. Mr. Scott is interested in leasing the land to the NACD with guaranteed access to Promising and Go Between sinks via a maintained road and walking path from the end of his property line to the sinks for an agreed upon monthly or yearly lease. I informed Mr. Scott I would present this information before the NACD Board in my report for their decision about entering into a lease.

With that said, we are still in search for a NACD cave site. According to Debra Green, our Operations Manager, I am happy to report that we have currently raised through the Sustaining Cave Program an approximate total of \$15,000 toward purchasing a cave site. I hope to continue this great progress and again a big thank you to all those who have contributed.

Discussion of NACD donation of regulators for Indian Springs. Prefer for donations be acquired through dive companies and manufacturers and not NACD for liability reasons.

Equipment & Technology – Marius Clore – article submitted on dive computers and the new miflex hoses have been reviewed for NACD journal.

Exploration & Survey – Alex Warren – Thanks the NACD board for appointment to the Chair of Research and Exploration Committee. I will try to continue great work done by my predecessor James Hurley.

Some of the things I will focus on first:

1. Updating list of all existing committee members.
2. Encouraging new members to join.
3. Work on putting in place annual survey workshop.
4. Coordinating any relining request for popular caves.
5. Cave Map and Stick Map cataloging.

NACD is currently sponsoring one Exploration Project - 2008 Weeki Wachee Exploration Project. Weeki Wachee is one of the most challenging caves in West Florida and we would like to extend wishes of success the entire team in their endeavors.

Currently no new exploration funding requests have been made for 2009. Just a reminder, all funding applications must be submitted by December 31, 2008 to be considered for funding.

Journal - Jeff Bauer – Looking for articles and pictures for the next issue. Deadline August 15, 2008 for journal submissions.

Membership & Nominating – Rick Murcar – Membership total is 989.

Public Relations – Craig Walters – The following events/activities were undertaken during the 2nd quarter:

- 1) Halloween Social at Ginnie Springs for 9am til “late”, with a demo days from 9am to 2pm (OMS, Salvo, Santi, Golum Gear). Activities will include trick or treat diving, costume contest, gear demos and swap meet, campfire, ghost stories, food and drink.
- 2) Dog Days of August Social - Aug. 9 at Dive Outpost from 10am til 4 pm. will include a swap meet, cookout and possibly a DR demo. Cathy is providing food and beverages. This event is scheduled the day before the NSS meeting with the intention of getting some of the dry cavers to come and see what cave diving is about or at least eat some free food and socialize.
- 3) I made contact with the Gainesville Sun to determine what sort of notice and materials they would need to do an article about the NACD November seminar. The editor indicated that they should be contacted a week or two before and to provide them with a writeup of some sort. Also, we can put it on their calender just by going online and adding it. When the time is closer, we should pursue getting them to attend and do some interviews.

Publications – Debra Green - NACD Store running smoothly. Online store is very busy and an asset to the NACD. New products include line arrow keychains, line arrow necklaces, art of safe cave diving utility towels, Ruth Springs map, NACD Journal DVD and Polluting the Fountain of Youth DVD.

Safety Officer – R. Dreher III – report submitted. Here in Central Florida two deaths at the Devil’s Cave System have attracted a fair amount of attention. One incident involved a Swiss explorer who was laying new line in the back of the system and the other was a relatively inexperienced young woman who was found alone outside of the ear and revived, only to lose her struggle for life a few weeks later in a Florida hospital bed. Our heart goes out to the families and friends of both of these individuals. I would like to take this opportunity to touch on a subject that repeatedly stirs controversy amongst cave divers; and that topic is solo diving. The NACD does not encourage or discourage this practice; however, divers must be aware that cave diving is an inherently dangerous activity and doing it alone does not stack the odds in your favor. While solo diving does not cause cave diving accidents, having a team to watch your back and lend a hand when necessary can help you through a potentially disastrous situation. Divers must decide for themselves whether or not they are willing to accept the additional risks associated with solo diving.

Science – Donald Kendrick – Water Quality Testing -The NACD has recently purchased a second water quality test kit. This test kit, like the first, contains the nine basic water quality tests recognized by the EPA. The nine tests are components of the Water Quality Index (WQI), a single value representing overall water quality. Both kits are "self-teaching," meaning that any novice can read the instructions and conduct valid tests. Both kits are available for checkout by any NACD member, or any other entity or organization wishing to test water quality anywhere. Although the basic rules for who and where are not yet determined, it is basically understood that anyone or group willing to pay the expenses involved in getting the kit, will be permitted to "checkout" the kit.

Water quality workshops are planned to train those who desire training in how to conduct the tests. The second water quality training workshop took place July 12, 2008. Others are being planned. The kits have also been featured at various workshops, conferences, conventions on cave diving. The NACD web site now has a page dedicated to water quality reports based on the results of the tests.

Surveys - Two surveys of cave divers, one on gear configuration and one on attitudes about solo cave diving, have been completed. The results have not yet been analyzed. A report will be filed next quarter, and an article about the results will be completed for potential publication in the NACD journal.

Workshop held July 12, 2008 – 1 PM at Ginnie Springs. 9 members present, workshop very helpful and informative.

Webmaster – Shirley Kasser – Safecavediving.com continues to expand, providing valuable information for our membership, our instructors, and the general public. New content is being added on a regular basis. Suggestions, requests, and content are requested and appreciated. This is your website and sharing your thoughts on how to make it better is the best way to help it improve.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

DEMA – VEGAS – NACD will be at booth #3444.

NEW BUSINESS:

NACD Official Cave Bear – will be on the website soon and has started his travels around the world with nacd members.

The next quarterly meeting of the NACD BOD will be on Saturday, October 11, 2008, at Ginnie Springs Outdoors, 6 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:12 PM