

M I N U T E S
4th QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 10, 2009
Ginnie Springs Outdoors
HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Present:

- * Jeff Bauer - President, Instructor Director (speaker phone)
- * Rick Murcar – Vice-President, Director
- * Bert Wilcher – Treasurer, Instructor Director
- * Larry Green – Training Director, Instructor Director
- * Jacki Clark - Director
- * Tracy Grubbs – Director

Absent:

- * Richard Dreher – Instructor Director
- * = Voting BOD Members QUORUM PRESENT

Debra Green - Operations Manager
Elisha Gibson – General Manager

Committee Chairs Present:

Committee Coordinator – Tracy Grubbs
Publications – Debra Green
Exploration & Survey – Michael Poucher

Members Present:

Rick Robinson Corey Mearns Tony Toniolo
Bob Schulte Dali Mearns Bruce Wyrwitzke

MEETING OPEN 6:09 PM

Approval of July 11, 2009 minutes - Approved.

Nomination for BOD Election 2009 –

Motion – Bert Wilcher for the Instructor Director seat – 2nd, approved, unanimous.

Motion – Jacki Clark for the Director seat – 2nd, approved, unanimous.

President's Report – Jeff Bauer – The NACD is actively involved in many functions. We are still looking for museum donations for our corner spot at the Panama City – Man in the Sea museum. Thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time to help with the display. Michael Poucher (NACD Exploration/Survey Chairman) conducted a Survey workshop, the event was a huge success. Again, thanks to Mike and the many volunteers it took to put this together.

Vice-President's Report – Rick Murcar – Everything running smoothly. Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report – Bert Wilcher – report submitted, attached. Checking into an Advantage account for the NACD. Sust. Cave Contributor Fund - \$15,573.20, Cert Deposit from Judy Bauer - \$10,744.30, Primerica Financial Account - \$29,914.00, Procter and Gamble - \$3,659.70, Total asset s- \$85,016.09.

Training Director's Report – Larry Green – report submitted, attached. We held the NACD IEC in Mexico the first week of August. Many thanks to Jeff Bauer and Debra Green for their assistance with these programs. Congratulations to the new instructors for the NACD. We currently have 61 Active Instructors. Certification totals for 3rd Quarter, 2009: Full – 27, Apprentice –22, Intro to Cave – 20, Double Cylinder/Intro to Cave – 14, Cavern – 18, Specialties – 3, Total 104.

Operations Manager – Debra Green – Busy quarter. Thanks to Elisha Gibson, Bob Schulte and Larry Green for taking the time to help with the warehouse inventory, a huge task. The NACD Cave Bear is traveling again – the website has been updated and Art looks forward to seeing some warmer weather on his next trip. NACD Safety Brochure translated to Greek, Hand Signals book being translated into Polish, Russian and Dutch. After completing the Hand Signals book, we will begin the workbook translation. NACD website being translated to Mexican, the project is in the works and it will be a mirror reflection of the US site.

General Manager – Elisha Gibson – Complete inventory done (along with warehouse organization) and submitted to Bert Wilcher for the records. Been busy putting the final touches on the Art of Safe Cave Diving book, almost ready for print.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Coordinator – Tracy Grubbs – Everything running smoothly, all committees are very busy at this time.

Accident Advisory – J. Bozanic – absent, no report submitted.

Conservation – Ben Gillespie – present, report submitted, attached.

As for the fund I heard about an idea that one of our members had and think this may be something we would like to consider to increase our Cave fund. His recommendation was to have a raffle and the amount taken goes towards the fund. This may be something worth trying during the Seminar. I will also be working on an article on supporting the fund to be in the next journal. During the weekend of September 19, 2009 I had arranged to get a group of Divers together to clean the basin of Church sink. A total of 10 divers were present and did a fantastic job of cleaning the Sink though due to poor visibility the surface was cleaned and a small group planned to return when conditions improved and finish the job. Within 2 hours of work the team managed to fill 14 bags of garbage and remove a Ford F-100 front end from the area leaving the sink in a much better state than it has been. This sink is also up for sale, I would like to get some opinions on if the NACD may be interested in this site and maybe research the site some more.

There are a few other sites I have been working on to open to divers. One is Chips Hole, I have been told that they have given us a verbal “OK” to dive this site but I am going to do more homework on this site and try to get a written approval and also maybe establish a “gatekeeper” policy depending on owners wishes. There are a few sites in Wakulla county that have some potential and as of now I am seeking contact info on the owners and once a contact is established build a relationship with the landowner and educate them on our sport. The biggest problem I have had so far is that trespassers have aggravated them to a point where they don’t want to bother with it anymore and those “sneak dives” ended up costing us more that it may have been worth.

Talking to Jim Stevenson a retired biologist with the DEP he has planned a rally for spring’s awareness. This event will take place in Tallahassee early 2010 and the plan is to rally to protect Florida’s springs. He asked that we have as many of your members as possible attend the Rally at the Capital and as I get more information I will keep everyone up to date on this event.

This sums up my report for this quarter. I will be planning more clean-up days in the future and if anyone has a suggestion of a site don’t hesitate to say so. I have also found two sink’s that are taking a beating from local swimmers in the summer and I plan to find a way to reduce the damage to these sites and preserve them so there is plenty of opportunities in the near future.

Equipment & Technology – Marius Clore – absent, report submitted, attached. Prepared an updated review of new Trimix computers. Another topic being considered is a short article on prescription masks.

Exploration & Survey – Michael Poucher – present, report submitted. Survey workshop conducted at Bat Cave. The event was very successful. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help make this possible, including Bob Schulte, Andrew Pitkin, Larry Green, Joel Clark, Debra Green and Jacki Clark. I’m looking at conducting another workshop the beginning of 2010.

Journal – Bill Lester - report submitted, attached. Always looking for submission of journal articles and pictures. The 3rd Quarter NACD Journal for 2009 has been completed and the reviews from several sources have been very good. I have personally been contacted by 5 different people to compliment the job that we did in producing this issue. The NACD 1TB hard drive is in a safe condition and all NACD data in my possession has been backed up on this off-line hard drive device.

Membership & Nominating – Rick Murcar – Membership total is 962. We are still very strong in this area, but looking for new ideas to give our membership a boost for 2010.

Public Relations – Craig Walters – report submitted, attached. On July 4 the Cave Divers Forum held their annual cookout at Luraville. We arranged for NACD to be represented and took a display to the CDF event. The event was well attended with approximately 20 people there most of the day. The NACD display was well-received and some maps and books were purchased. Planning has begun for the 2nd annual “Spring Into Safe Cave Diving” event which will be held at Ginnie Springs on April 10, 2010. We will be looking for new ideas of how to make the event even better and to increase attendance.

Publications – Debra Green - NACD Store running smoothly. New products: line arrow earrings in black, gold or red and dive flag earrings, “Coming soon” – new license plate designs are being submitted to the NACD. The Art of Safe Cave Diving tshirt will become a staple in our inventory.

Safety Officer – R. Dreher III – absent, no report submitted.

Science – Donald Kendrick – report submitted, attached. I conducted a water quality workshop and bio team training in Missouri last month (Sept) at the meeting of the NSS/CDS, and submitted a report on that earlier. In addition, I have located and purchased large (1 liter) sampling syringes to add to the water testing kit. These syringes will allow taking samples during cave dives, from anywhere cave divers can go. The plan is have 3 syringes for each kit. With the capability of taking samples at three locations during a dive, the changes in water quality, if any, can be tied to particular conduits and thus help identify source points. The sampling syringes are \$1.95 each and have already been purchased.

Webmaster – Shirley Kasser – absent, report submitted, attached.
 All is well in the digital world of the NACD website. Thanks to the dedication of our science volunteers, we’ve added several new dive site water quality test results, photos, and descriptions. The survey workshop page received a great deal of attention, and the annual workshop has been seeing regular updates as additional information becomes available.
 Some extraneous buttons were removed from the site, and more “clean-up” is to come as we strive to make safecavediving.com as useful as possible.

Site Statistics as of 09/30/09

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Sep 2009	5100	4113	652	258	3743	2360115	7740	19561	123418	153014
Aug 2009	5206	4239	634	239	3895	2883257	7412	19669	131436	161386
Jul 2009	5333	4286	656	233	3638	2576553	7242	20351	132877	165331

To give you an idea of what is bringing people to safecavediving.com, here are the top 10 pages browsed for the month of September:

1	3403	2.22%	53809	2.28%	/default.shtml
2	782	0.51%	27269	1.16%	/instructors.asp
3	626	0.41%	16550	0.70%	/store/
4	449	0.29%	8218	0.35%	/training.shtml
5	415	0.27%	5237	0.22%	/bod_committee.shtml
6	341	0.22%	4813	0.20%	/2009_annual_seminar.html
7	341	0.22%	3333	0.14%	/equipment.shtml
8	282	0.18%	3044	0.13%	/cave_science.shtml
9	280	0.18%	6830	0.29%	/safetyofficers.asp
10	279	0.18%	15240	0.65%	/membership.asp

The number one way users find us is by directly typing the URL into the browser (or by clicking their "favorites"). Google is the number two gateway, followed by several other search methods, then Yahoo.

The top ten search strings being used to find us are:

1	130	16.95%	nacd
2	60	7.82%	cave diving
3	20	2.61%	national association of cave divers
4	17	2.22%	national association for cave diving
5	16	2.09%	tennessee cave salamander
6	14	1.83%	nacd cave
7	13	1.69%	nacd cave diving
8	9	1.17%	photon torpedo dive light
9	7	0.91%	corey mearns
10	6	0.78%	cave salamander

Additional statistics are available, ad nauseam, so feel free to contact me for me information. Suggestions, requests, and content are welcome and appreciated. On second thought: suggestions, requests, and content are requested! This is your website and sharing your thoughts on how to make it better is the best way to help it improve.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. DEMA – working on final details, discussion.
2. NACD Seminar – “The Dark Realm” – still working on final details.
3. Man In The Sea Museum – need to set date for our first initial visit.
4. Art of Safe Cave Diving Book – finalizing book for reprint.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NACD Kiosk at Peacock Springs State Park – updates needed.
The next quarterly meeting of the NACD BOD will be on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at Ginnie Springs Outdoors, 6 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:43PM