

M I N U T E S  
2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
April 11, 2009  
Ginnie Springs Outdoors  
HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Present:

- \* Jeff Bauer - President, Instructor Director
- \* Rick Murcar – Vice-President, Director (phone)
- \* Bert Wilcher – Treasurer, Director
- \* Larry Green – Training Director, Instructor Director
- \* Richard Dreher – Instructor Director
- \* Tracy Grubbs – Director

\* = Voting BOD Members      QUORUM PRESENT

Debra Green - Operations Manager

Committee Chairs Present:

Coordinator – Tracy Grubbs      Journal – Jeff Bauer  
Safety – Richard Dreher      Publications – Debra Green

Members Present:

Don Syme

MEETING OPEN 6:12 PM

Approval of January 10, 2009 minutes - Approved.

President's Report – Jeff Bauer – NACD 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Seminar Dates – Nov 20-22<sup>nd</sup>  
Social at Ginnie Springs Outdoors on Friday evening November 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6PM  
Seminar at the Clarion Inn, Gainesville FL Saturday, November 21.  
NACD 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rebreather Summit on Sunday, November 22, location TBA.  
Reminder that the NACD has a presence on - Facebook, LinkedIn and the NACD Online Forum.  
Motion to move Bert Wilcher – Director to the Instructor Director seat open. NOTE: This seat is up for election the same time his current seat expires, 2009. Unanimous.

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

Treasurer's Report – Bert Wilcher – report submitted, attached.  
BOA General Fund - \$8,937.28, Sust. Cave Contributor Fund - \$15,556.02, Cert Deposit from Judy Bauer - \$10,674.16, Primerica Financial Account - \$29,914.00, Procter and Gamble - \$3,659.70, Total assets (not including inventory) - \$68,741.16.

Training Director's Report – Larry Green – report submitted, attached.

Certification totals for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2009:

Total 156. Full – 51, Apprentice –15, Intro to Cave – 14, Double Cylinder/Intro to Cave – 14, Cavern – 36, Specialties -26.

NACD US IEC dates: (Nov 10/11 – Cavern / Intro to Cave) -----( Nov 12/13 – Full Cave)

NACD Mexico IEC dates: (August 3/4 - Cavern / Intro to Cave) -----(August 5/6 – Full Cave)

August 7<sup>th</sup> – Mexico Membership/Candidate Graduation Party

New Hand Signals Book being finalized for print – Polish version.

Guidelines for Success book (accident analysis) being finalized for print in time for annual seminar.

Operations Manager – Debra Green – Busy quarter. Everything running smooth. Welcome to Ernie Rookey to the Public Relations committee – thanks to Ernie for all his help at Beneath the Sea with the NACD booth. Art of Safe Cave Diving book being wrapped up and ready for publication. Thanks to Bridget for all her work on the new 1<sup>st</sup> Q journal – looks fantastic. Great work Bridget!!!

General Manager – Sean Denney – The third journal archive is beginning to wrap up. Should be completed by the end of April.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Coordinator – Tracy Grubbs – Tank to Bank program is successful. Aluminum cylinders being donated, remove valves – clean – ebay. \$108.00 collected to date. Will continue with this project.

Accident Advisory – J. Bozanic – nothing new to report.

Conservation – Jason Ottinger – report submitted, attached.

\*\*\*As of the end of March 2009, there are over 100 Emerald Sink approved divers and Wakulla Springs Park has had approximately 135 dive reservations made between April 2007 and March 2009. Conditions at Emerald have not been as favorable to diving as we had expected this winter. There have been approximately five reservations made since the December 2008. Dive reports in January and February 2009 have reported 30 ft at best in either system.

\*\*\*Camp Indian Springs has been divable since November 2008. Dive reports just until recently have reported the visibility between 20 to 30 feet in the basin to the first 500ft. after which visibility improves to 70 to 80 ft in either system. As of last week-due to the excessive rain Tallahassee experienced, visibility increased to a 100 ft in the basin and cavern all the way upstream. The downstream has experienced low visibility due to drainage from Roberts Sink. The water level has risen at least 5ft. and there is a boil at the surface. Flow at the restriction is equivalent to most magnitude 1 spring.

The Camp is in dire need of community support this year due to economic hard times. Divers came out to help in February to contribute in building a new dive platform for the Summer Camp Program. Another workday will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> to have the platform placed onto the supporting floats. I want to personally thank all those that came out to assist with this Camp project, as well as, those that monetarily contributed. In March, the Camp held an Open House Guide Day where qualified divers came out to meet current CIS guides to dive and enjoy a Bradley Sausage in spite of the bad weather. Everyone had a great time for a great cause. All proceeds went to the Camp and some CIS Cave Map T-Shirts were presold. The shirts are another charity campaign guides are doing this year to raise money to support the Camp.

\*\*\* The NACD is 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 \$16,000 toward purchasing a cave site. I hope to continue this great progress and again a big thank you to all those who have contributed.

Equipment & Technology – Marius Clore – nothing submitted. We need volunteers to help out with this position.

Exploration & Survey – appointment of Michael Poucher as Chairman. Unanimous.

Journal – Bridget Gurtowsky - report submitted, attached.

I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the NACD journal re-design. Hopefully the new design format will enhance the wonderful stories and beautiful pictures that you, your members and others provide each quarter. They are worth telling, teaching and sharing. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this issue.

Membership & Nominating – Rick Murcar – Membership total is 988. Renewals for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Q already mailed out.

Public Relations – Craig Walters – report submitted, attached. The main focus during the last quarter was on the planning and organization of the “Spring Into Safe Cave Diving” event which will have happened earlier on the day of this BOD meeting. In spite of the widespread flooding, it appears that conditions at

Ginnie Springs will be optimal for the event. Planning for the event included working with Debra and BOD members to plan the agenda, speakers, food, t-shirts, etc... I announced and maintained information regarding the event on the online cave diving forums. I monitored the forums and responded to questions about the event.

Regarding the online forums, I make it a point to monitor the forums, daily, for anything related to NACD and pass it along to others as appropriate.

Publications – Debra Green - NACD Store running smoothly. Online store very successful.

Safety Officer – R. Dreher III – report submitted, attached.

The first quarter of 2009 has been productive with few incidents to report.

Greece Safety Officer, Argyris Argyriadis very active, was sent 3 stop signs and materials for “Safety Day, Greece”. Discussion of serving other organizations in this position.

If you would like to volunteer to promote cave diving safety in your area, or have interest in becoming a regional safety officer, please contact me at [safety@safecavediving.com](mailto:safety@safecavediving.com).

Tamara Thompson reports - A dig project at Illinois Mine in the Baraboo Range continues- slow and steady.... The mine diver group is still looking for divers interested in assisting in the removal of debris from the clogged vertical shaft at the Illinois Mine at depths to an estimated 400 feet to gain access to the cross-cut sections of the drifts. Divers interested must be good in confined space, low viz, cold temperatures and sidemount. A helmet is mandatory.

\*\*\*A sub-group of WSS studying the caves of the Wisconsin River at the Dells has suggested divers interested in locating, diving and mapping the caves which were inundated in the early 1900's above the dam at Wisconsin Dells organize for the spring/summer of 2009. The Wisconsin River is currently being diverted by Wisconsin DNR to re-fill Lake Delton - once ice bound parts of the river are freed the survey will commence. The Wisconsin River level above the dam will be low enough to locate some 8 plus caves using historic maps via canoes and small boats.

Skip Kendrick reports: I gave a talk to the MTSU Agriculture Department on Safe Cave Diving. I also placed the NACD stop sign in Guy James spring entrance, well inside the cavern zone, on edge of cave zone. I also laid 500 feet of gold line so far, with more planned (2000-3000 feet planned).

Rich Courtney reports: A Russian cave diver perished while diving solo in the Devil's cave system. At this time cause of death is unknown.

Science – Donald Kendrick – report submitted, attached.

Work on getting a Water Quality Kit made up for the Tallahassee area. Discussion – kit will run approx. \$900.00.

It's been a busy first quarter of 2009 for the Science Committee. Jackie and Joel Clark, and I conducted a Water Quality Workshop March 7th - They can report on that in person and on some other activities in collecting additional water quality data for posting on the web site. In addition to the water quality workshop, I conducted "BioTeam Training." This is a little used component of water quality testing that can also stand alone since it is counting animals and species in cave systems. Often cave life is the early warning signal for pollutants - well before consistent results show pollutants in water samples. Also, there is very little knowledge about cave life and simply knowing the seasonal changes in species and their numbers will contribute to our knowledge of submerged caves.

We trained 10 divers on how to count animals and species during a cave dive at the March training workshop. The same 10 also learned how to do the water quality testing. A separate short report was sent in for possible publication in the journal, including the names of the divers who participated. They are now on the NACD's BioTeam for collecting biodata. The plan is to add this data to the website for the membership and for all to see the trends over years.

Representing Science of the NACD, I gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Underwater Science. A slide show was created and presented and copies of the slide show were sent to Jeff Bauer and Debra Green. The AAUS also publishes proceedings of their meetings, so a paper was drafted and submitted (copies sent to Jeff and Debra).

I am currently working on the first draft of a Science Diving Safety Manual for the NACD. This is a required document needed before the NACD can be accepted as an organizational member of the AAUS. I am still doing some background work in just what it takes for the NACD to join the AAUS and plan to

have a formal proposal later this year to present to the BoD. At that time the BoD will then be able to decide whether or not to pursue membership in the AAUS.

I have also volunteered to conduct BioTeam Training and a Water Quality Workshop at the next Missouri Miniconference of the NSS/CDS to be held in September, 2009. The one last year (2008) was a great success and I've been asked to do it again this year (adding the bioteam training).

Finally, I attended an afternoon poster session of Geosciences research where several researchers presented results of studies of pollutants at several Florida River Basins (one in the panhandle near Pensacola, and one just south of the Suwannee river and East of St. Marks). These studies were determining the impact of paper mills on water quality. The more interesting aspects of their studies were the use of a core sampler to bring up sediment deposits from river bottoms for analysis of microscopic shellfish. They comprise a number of different species all with different tolerance to pollution and thus are excellent markers of water quality. If you find X species and not Y, then you have polluted water. By using core samples and identifying species from fossilized shell remains, the history of water quality is revealed. Pretty cool huh? I've arranged to borrow a core sampler and plan to take some samples from Florida Springs to bring in for analysis. In addition, the living species of these microscopic shellfish are easily identifiable under a low power microscope, so that counting their number and species in top-most sediment samples will reveal the current quality of the water. Do these species live in submerged cave sediments? Probably, they appear in nearly all waters, fresh, brackish and salt, but no one has looked in caves yet!

Webmaster – Shirley Kasser – Everything running smoothly. Nothing new to report.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. DEMA - motion for the NACD to provide 2 hotel rooms for volunteers. Approved, Unanimous.
2. NACD Seminar – “The Dark Realm” – discussion.
3. Man In The Sea Museum – Discussion about our plans to remodel the space and add cave diving history pieces, artwork for the museum.
4. Art of Safe Cave Diving Book – almost finished, again, many thanks to Richard Filsinger for all his work on this ongoing project.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. NACD Kiosk at Peacock Springs State Park - Discussion about our \$1,000 kiosk that was paid for many years ago. Will re-visit this topic at the July BOD meeting and ask for refund if we have not been updated about progression of this kiosk.
2. Man of the Sea Museum – Under new management. NACD will have a section in the museum. Green and Bauer attended Dec 23, 2009 and met with management for discussion.\
3. Discussion of a Scholarship program for cave divers – Bert Wilcher will look into this.
4. Mexico Training – Discussion of TD for Mexico – there have been no complaints from Mexico Instructors and all their needs are met. At this time, the BOD does not see a reason for a TD, Mexico.
5. Empty BOD seat – Discussion of interested parties – All have submitted resumes and BOD will review.
6. Akumal's Vital Ecology – Discussion of program.

The next quarterly meeting of the NACD BOD will be on Saturday, July 11, 2009, at Ginnie Springs Outdoors, 6 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:49M