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Cave Talk

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Cave Association National

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CaveTalk

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

December 2000

KARTCHNER 2000

Many thanks to Ken Travous, AZ State Parks and his staff and to Linda Larsen, Moaning Cavern and her staff for the great job organizing this year's convention. The field trips to Kartchner Caverns, the Sonora Desert Museum and Old Tucson Studios were fun, the business sessions interesting and the company of the NCA family...priceless. Our thanks also to the Colossal Cave gang for their gracious hospitality and dinner. Another great time was had by all – did anyone get a picture of the saloon-singer at Old Tucson Studios doing something “pretty” with Max Evans' hair???



WEBSITES

- Grand Canyon Caverns in northern AZ invites NCA members to visit their new website at (www.gccaverns.com).
- The International Show Cave Assoc. website (designed and managed by Steve Fairchild) can be found at (www.I-S-C-A.com).

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

- DeSoto Caverns, AL will be running their annual light show through Jan. 2, 2001.
- Santa visited Howe Caverns, NY earlier this month. Also at Howe, a new tradition was begun – a carol sing followed by a special dinner. They also continued last year's Open Howes, offering discount tours and a commemorative certificate.

POSTAGE STAMPS

From David Summers, Crystal and Fantasy Caves, Bermuda...”It may have appeared that the sleepy guys from Bermuda were taking a nap at the convention when the subject of the US issuing postage stamps came up but...they weren't inspired by this discussion as they have already been successful in persuading the Bermuda Government to issue a commemorative set of postage stamps featuring Bermuda's caves. This set of stamps is scheduled to be issued in May 2002. The Bermuda NCA

members will meet with the stamp design committee in January 2001 to start the design process. This is a good example of a tidbit being picked up at the convention and quickly brought to fruition.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ITALY The International Show Caves Association invites cave owners from the US to Italy to attend its 2001 meeting to be held October 25-28. Field trips to show caves will be included. Subject of the convention will be "New Technology in Promotion and Management". ISCA encourages NCA members to submit any papers on this theme. Registration for presentation is due by January 31, 2001. Summaries of the papers will then be due by March 31, 2001. Barbara Munson will be happy to fax registration information to anyone interested. If there are enough US show cave owners interested, transportation can be arranged. If you might attend the meeting and would like to join ISCA, contact Jeanne Gurnee and she will send you the information (JGurneeNSS@aol.com). Address: 720 Flat Ridge Road, Goodlettsville, TN 37072) The cave trips and meetings in Italy dovetail with two events here in the US: the National Caves Association convention in Chattanooga, TN November 5-8; and the Smoky Mountain Gift Show, Gatlinburg TN November 10-15.

BRAZIL The congress of the International Union of Speleology will be held in Brasilia (Federal District), Brazil July 15-22, 2001, with pre- and post-congress wild and show cave trips. Meetings will include sessions on "tourist caves", "tourist cave management", and an International Symposium on the Protection and Management of Tourist Caves. Thanks to Jeanne Gurnee for the above info.

PUBLICATIONS

Jeanne Gurnee also tells us about an article in the Winter edition of Scientific American magazine "Explorations". The magazine is described as "science fun for your family". On page 35 is an article titled "Our Underground Science Adventures". It includes a map showing caves open to the public and the websites of NCA and NSS. The NCA assisted Tanya Mohn, author, in researching the article.

The booklet "Living with Karst, A Fragile Foundation" is available from National Speleology Society Publications. It will retail for \$10.00, with the booklet being offered to vendors at wholesale. Each copy will also include a poster. The front will be a mirror of the book cover and the back will contain a karst-related educational activity. Any combination of publications can be purchased to obtain the best discount price. Discounts are 2-4 copies 20%, 5-24 40%, 25-49 43%, 50-99 46% and 100+ 50%. Terms are net 30.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the NCA's newest member show cave, Glenwood Caverns, Glenwood Springs, Colorado, operated by Steve and Jeanne Beckley. Glenwood Caverns, previously known as Fairy Caves is perched high above Glenwood Springs. After two successful seasons this energetic couple is in the process on installing a gondola to transport visitors to the scenic mountainside cave opening. You can reach them at: Glenwood Caverns, 508 Pine Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, (970) 945-4CAV / (800) 530-1635 (www.glenwoodcaverns.com).



Accell Graphics is our newest Affiliate member. Many members already know and have done business with Ed Baxter, formerly with Dexter Colour Canada. Ed brings many years of expertise to Accell. No doubt he will also bring his attention to detail and excellent customer service that keep us coming back to him. Accell Graphics and Ed can be reached at 3551 White Oak Rd, London, Ontario CANADA N6E3A1. Welcome!

INNOVATIONS

Max Evans, Ohio Caverns OH, has found a new way to get Ohio Caverns mentioned. They have installed a weather station on the roof of their hospitality building and weather conditions are updated on their website every 30 minutes. The Columbus NBC affiliate checks the website and gives the weather "at Ohio Caverns". Manager Eric Evans says he is now working on the Dayton affiliate. Visit (www.cavern.com/ohiocaverns) and click weather icon.

What is believed to be the first cave-aged beer in the US in more than 100 years left its "home" in Howe Caverns NY, after an eight-and-a-half month underground stay. The Belgian-style Hennepin received rave reviews from the brewmaster at the Brewery Ommegang in Cooperstown NY and other experts. (John Sagendorf did NOT identify these "experts". Hmmmm....) Don Feinberg, Ommegang's owner, says the beer is the "smoothest, best-tasting Hennepin we've ever brewed."

KENTUCKY NEWS

Judy Austin, Kentucky Down Under/Kentucky Caverns has been appointed chairperson of the Caveland Marketing Association, with Gary Berdeaux, Diamond Caverns, serving as vice-chair. In existence since 1993, the organization was created to promote and market tourism in cave country, with emphasis on attracting more visitors to the area and enticing them to stay longer.

TIDBITS

Travis Wuest, Natural Bridge Caverns, TX, says they are using an Exit Survey designed with the help of Texas A&M....Gary Roberson, Marengo Cave, IN and Allen Mathis, DeSoto Caverns, AL are using a professional employee organization to handle all employee relations and taxes.....Gordon Smith, Marengo and Diamond Caverns, KY suggests using the term "trip" rather than "tour" for the Adventure (Wild Cave) experience. His thought was that "tour" implies a guided tour.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL THIS PART

Has your cave received a special designation, such as "National Natural Landmark?" Let us know, we'd like to include that info in the database.

UPCOMING

Carter Caves State Resort Park, KY will be hosting their 20th annual Crawlathon on January 26-28, 2001. For registration information contact John Tierney at Carter Caves 606-286-4411. It can also be downloaded from (www.crawlathon.com).

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The Travel Industry Association of America has planned their 19th annual Unity Dinner for Wednesday, March 7, 2001. at the Hilton Washington, Washington D.C. The event will provide an opportunity to preview the industry's future and meet with members of Congress and the new Administration. Registration can be done on-line at (www.tia.org) or call 202-408-8422.

CaveTalk - GOIN' DIGITAL

Many great ideas are born every year during our annual convention. Our latest great inspiration is E-CaveTalk! Yes you too can enjoy a bright colorful version of **CaveTalk** delivered hot, fresh, OnLine in a matter of minutes to you via e-mail. Unlike it's print parent, the e-version will be in COLOR!

We are incorporating this new technology to deliver the highest quality newsletter possible to you and your staff. Unlike the printed copy, it costs the association little to nothing to electronically deliver news via e-mail. One of the many benefits of the new format is that we can greatly expand delivery of **CaveTalk**. Simply e-mail: (Gary Berdeaux, gary@diamondcaverns.com) with the e-mail addresses of other members of your organization who would like to receive a copy. Now your partners, managers, staff etc. can benefit from the wealth of information provided through **CaveTalk**.

The goal is to gradually move the majority of **CaveTalk** delivery to the internet. This will save greatly on postage, printing and production. As Ben Franklin once said, "It's not what you make. It's what you save that counts.". Such cost-saving measures will help keep our membership dues as low as possible. No, you won't be FORCED to buy a computer and get online to receive **CaveTalk**. For those who would like to continue receiving the traditional printed version we will continue to send them via snail mail.

As illustrated in this issue of *CaveTalk*, we are now able to include photographs and graphics into the publication. Don't forget to send us good visual content in addition to your copy for *CaveTalk*.

CHANGES

New NCA Coordinator

As announced at our convention last month, Barbara Munson, our Coordinator of 25 years, would like to retire. Suggested by President Fairchild and accepted at the meeting, Susan Berdeaux, Diamond Caverns KY has been selected to replace her. We will be easing into this transition over the next year. Susan has already begun the process of opening the NCA office in KY. You can reach her at 270-749-2228 or toll-free at 866-55-CAVES (552-2837). Fax line is 270-749-2428. The address is P.O. Box 280, Park City KY 42160-0280. Shipping address 1904 Mammoth Cave Parkway, Park City KY 42160. Webmaster Tim Grissom will eventually set up an e-mail address through the NCA site, but reach her by e-mail at (susan@diamondcaverns.com).



Barbara's address, phone number, fax and e-mail will remain the same and will still be operational. We're sorry that, even with Steve Turner's assistance, Barbara's sight necessitated this change. We are grateful that she will be available as a consultant. After all, she has more information in her head than most of us have forgotten. Susan would like to express her appreciation to all those who have expressed support in her appointment. Since no one could be Barbara, she promises to be the best "Susan" she can.

Perry's Cave

As most of you know, Perry's Cave will be sold after the 1st of the year to another "island family" on Put-in-Bay, Ohio. It was great seeing all of you that came to Tucson for the convention. Tim and I have enjoyed every year going to the conventions and renewing friendships. What I wanted to say in Tucson, but couldn't, is thanks for being the nicest bunch of people we have ever met. Tim and I are going to miss seeing all of you each fall, but things are ever-changing. If ever any of you get to the island, please make sure the "cave"folks call us so we can see you. If you need to stay overnight on the island, we have an extra room. Just let us know..419-285-4763. And who knows, maybe you will see us visiting one of your caves some day now that we are free to roam the country in the summertime. Thanks again for being there and all the help everyone has given us over these last 13 years.

Love,
Tim and Jeanette Luecke
Perry's Cave, Inc.

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