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Cave Talk

Cave Association National

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CaveTalk

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

National Caves Association - Susan Berdeaux, Coordinating Director
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Don't shoot, BRAD! ...no deer were harmed in the creation of this graphic - Editor.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

So as 2007 winds to a close and we all have a slight break in our businesses, it is a good time to look back at what we have done, what we have yet to do and what we intend to do for the future. As for what we have done...The NCA now has a first class website for the public and an easy to use tool for the members on the member's only side. If you have not had a chance, you should check it out at www.cavern.com. Over half of the members have completed their Alpha Radiation Plan...no small task in itself. That leads into what we have yet to do...complete the plan for the balance of the members. This plan is your Insurance policy if OSHA should pay you a visit...but it is only good if you pay the premium and complete your program. Your Regional Directors stand ready to help. All you have to do is ask. What is in the future...Your Board of Director's will be attending the Mid Winter Meeting in February to set some long-range plans into motion. Some of the ideas under consideration are a nationwide PR campaign, bulk purchasing for members, workman's comp insurance, permanent funding for the association from sources other than dues, nationwide Scout Badge program and next years' convention planning. Think of anything else...let us know. From myself, the Executive Committee and the entire Board of Director's we wish you a very Happy and a most Prosperous New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Thompson
President



NCA INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Insurance Committee for 2007/2008 will have a different look this coming year. Bob Holt the GM from Howe Caverns will be a new addition to the committee. The number of people on the Insurance Committee will be six this year, and it will have representation from two A caves, one B cave, two C caves and one C+ cave.

I would like to express our appreciation to those outgoing committee members. For many years they have dedicated their time and expense in an effort to make the NCA Insurance Program a benefit that is not only affordable for all caves, but also provides quality insurance with Markel, a very strong insurance company and our broker, Arthur J Gallagher and their representatives. We thank **Richard Bell** of Seneca Caverns, **Steve**

Rawlings of Mercer Caverns, **Seco Mayfield** of Caverns of Senora, and last but not least, **Steve Fairchild** of (So many caves we don't have enough space to name all of them). Thank you for your contributions to the NCA and the Insurance Committee!

Every cave that is a part of the NCA Insurance Program has a committee member assigned to help that cave with their insurance. We are here to try to answer any questions concerning your policy during renewal each year or give you any other help that you may need during the year. We want to be there when you have a need with your insurance. Although we may not be able to solve every problem or give an immediate answer to every question, **WE CAN AND WILL HELP YOU CONTACT THE PERSON WHO WILL BE ABLE TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEM OR ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER.** The Insurance Committee Members are here to help you, however, please remember that for us to be able to help you, we need to hear from you when you have a problem or a question.

Following is a list of Caves with their assigned Committee Member

STEVE RUNKLE

Cave Of The Winds
Colossal Cave
Forbidden Caverns
Raccoon Mt. Caverns
Cave Without A Name
Lost Sea
Ruby Falls

BRAD WUEST

Natural Bridge Caverns
Longhorn Caverns
Sequoyah Caverns

SUSAN BERDEAUX

NCA
Tuckaleechee Caverns
Cave Of The Mounds
Olentangy Indian Caverns
Seneca Caverns

GORDON SMITH

Marengo Cave
Diamond Caverns
Cumberland Caverns
Dixie Caverns
Bristol Caverns

JIM RICHARDS

Bluespring Caverns
Kentucky Down Under
Crystal Onyx Cave
ACCA

BOB HOLT

Howe Caverns
Niagara Cave
Crystal Cave, WI
Natural Stone Bridge & Caves

This NCA Insurance Program is **YOUR PROGRAM**. It is a benefit that we believe can offer your Cave the insurance coverage that you need. We need to know what you want and how we can help your Cave. The only way that can happen is if you tell us. The program will only grow and become stronger if more caves join the insurance program. When you have some spare time please take a look at the Program to see what it offers and if it fits your needs. If you have any questions regarding the program, please feel free to contact any insurance committee member and we'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have. It costs nothing to compare the NCA Insurance with your current coverage and in doing so you may discover that the NCA Program offers similar or better coverage at a competitive price and you may also discover that you may have some insurance needs not covered by your current policy.

The Insurance Committee is going to visit some caves at the Mid Winter meeting this year, which will take place at Springfield, MO. Committee members along with Michael & Mike, our Insurance representatives from Arthur J Gallagher and anyone else who wants to join us that is attending the Springfield meeting, will be on the road early Thursday morning. We plan to visit as many caves in the region as possible. We hope to have groups of three or four go in different directions and visit what appears to be the largest concentration of caves anywhere in the USA! We want to take advantage of this opportunity to see these NCA members in their own backyard in a more relaxed setting than at the NCA Convention which is very fast paced to say the least!

This will be a time when we can visit the caves and renew old friendships and let the people to whom this organization belongs have the opportunity to discuss anything they care to!

Your Insurance Committee is here to assist any and all members, we want and we need you, the NCA membership, to tell us what we can do to improve the program. If you have any questions or suggestions about the Insurance Program, please do not hesitate to email, fax or call me or any member of the committee.

We should not forget to thank our outgoing Chair, Brad Wuest, for his leadership in a period which will be very difficult to improve upon. The insurance program had the best cave participation and largest premium earned ever during his leadership. Thank you, Brad.

Steven Runkle
Chair, Insurance Committee

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PAST PRESIDENTS

NCA friends, I must say that it is a pleasure to address you now as a past President! But don't worry us old past Presidents are not "riding off into the sunset"! With Susan's help the Past Presidents Committee is compiling a list, with contact info, of all the NCA's past Presidents so that we can be an easily accessible resource for our current, and future, President, Board of Directors and Members. We can post this contact list on the NCA website.

Now for all you Past Presidents out there let this be your call to action. Give me a call or send an e-mail with ideas on what else us "has-beens" can do to help the NCA.

I wish all of you cave men and women out there a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Wuest".

Brad Wuest, Past President



BYLAWS COMMITTEE

A new NCA Bylaws Committee has recently been appointed to complete the task of drafting and presenting amendments to our Bylaws. Thanks to those of you who served on the previous committee, I really appreciate the tremendous time and effort put forth to get us to where we are now. And thanks to the new committee members for agreeing to serve and carry this very important task to completion.

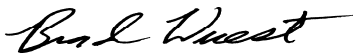
Your NCA Bylaws Committees official purpose is to take what input is provided into consideration, draft amendments to the Bylaws (to improve the NCA and benefit its members) and explain why the amendments are needed. Present the Committees recommendations to the Board of Directors and assist the Board in their presentation and recommendation to the Members for vote. The Committees task is complete after the vote is tallied. The Committee will be dissolved unless the President or Board requires further assistance.

The committee recently met via conference call to discuss the project and established a plan of action and timeline. The committee will present its recommended Amended & Restated Bylaws to the NCA Board of Directors at their Mid Winter meeting on February 5th & 6th. After Board approval the amendments will be presented to the NCA Membership for approval.

All NCA Member Caves received, via mail in September, a copy of the Draft Amended & Restated Bylaws which the Committee is working from. A cover letter was also included which identifies and explains the proposed amendments. Members please give us any input you have, it will be greatly appreciated! You can call or e-mail any of us on the Committee.

We are working together to make this wonderful Association even better for all Members.

Happy Holidays!



Brad Wuest, Bylaws Committee Chair

BYLAWS COMMITTEE CONTACT LIST

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MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Don't forget to post your monthly attendance report on the NCA website. This is real time data, not history! If you have forgotten how to participate, please refer back to the September 2007 issue of Cave Talk for instructions.



NCA 07 SAN ANTONIO

A big round of applause and thank you to Joye, Brad and Travis Wuest and the staff at Natural Bridge Caverns for their hospitality in hosting our annual meeting in October. Our usual "family reunion" had many highlights, one of them being the bat flight out at Bracken Cave – what an experience! Thanks also to the caves who welcomed us for the pre- and post-convention trips – Longhorn Caverns, Cave Without a Name, Inner Space Caverns and Caverns of Sonora. The Wuests also brought two new affiliate members to NCA – Activant, a point of sale system, and Clicknprint, an online ticket sales company, both of whom jumped right on board and sponsored meals at the meeting. And, of course, the time spent with other members continues to be the most valuable activity – what other association do you belong to that shares information so freely and willingly?! Steve Beckley from Glenwood Caverns said, "Coming to the convention this year after not attending for several years, I realized how important it is to attend. I learned so much". The NCA family.....priceless!!!



NCA 08 PENNSYLVANIA

Make plans now to attend next year's meeting, hosted by Lincoln Caverns. The dates are October 6-10, 2008. We will be headquartered at Lake Raystown Resort, a brand-new facility. Our hosts, Ann and Marion Dunlavy, will be sending more information in the near future so stay tuned for further details. We're sure you won't want to miss!



MIDWINTER MEETING

The executive committee, board of directors and insurance committee will be attending the midwinter meeting in Springfield, MO, February 5-7, 2008. If anyone has issues they would like the board or insurance committee to address, be sure to contact your regional director or Steve Runkle, insurance committee chair.



WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE NCA CAVE FAMILY

Congratulations to Matt and Amanda Doyle (Lake Shasta Caverns, CA) on the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Renee, born on October 24th 2007.



Happy New Year!