



University of South Florida

Digital Commons @ University of South Florida

Cave Talk

Newsletters and Periodicals

July 2012

Cave Talk

Cave Association National

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cave_talk

Recommended Citation

National, Cave Association, "Cave Talk" (2012). *Cave Talk*. 58.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cave_talk/58

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cave Talk by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.



CaveTalk

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

Diane Thompson, Coordinator

92 Hidden Drive, Camdenton, MO 65020 diane@cavern.com
573-836-2256



From the Desk of the NCA President

Hopefully you are in the middle of a great busy season treating many tourists to some fun time underground. Of course, not all fun has to be below the surface. Dee and I finally took a day off this summer and what did we do? We visited Howe Caverns and Secret Caverns. See the photo below of my nephew trying out the new "Air Jumper", part of the fun at Howe's Adventure Park, complete with zip lines, ropes course, climbing wall and soon to arrive – the H2OGO Ball.



The addition of fun above ground activities can increase revenue and increase attendance to your cave (unless you are too early ahead of the curve – > Gordon's zip line!). I can't wait to see the Soaring Eagle zip line at the convention. Please remember to bring info/photos/videos of any new attraction you have installed at your attraction so we can all learn from your success.

It is not always fun and games however, and remember the good times can disappear in a heartbeat. See the letter below describing the recent fires in Colorado. We will keep you posted on developments and Steve Runkle has agreed to share how they dealt with the issue as it unfolded. I'm sure they had one of the best, most thorough emergency preparation plans of NCA members and this is a reminder that all of us can benefit from planning for unimaginable disasters.

Have a great summer season and see everyone in South Dakota!

Best,

Greg Beckler
President, NCA
Natural Stone Bridge & Caves Park
535 Stone Bridge Rd.
Pottersville, NY 12860
518-494-2283

OFFICERS

President: Greg Beckler

Natural Stone Bridge & Cave, NY

Ph: 518-494-2283 gbeckler@frontiernet.net

Vice President: Steve Rawlings

Mercer Caverns, CA

Ph: 209-728-2101 stever@mercercaverns.com

Secretary Treasurer: Bob Holt

Howe Caverns, NY

Ph: 518-296-8900 roberth@howecaverns.com

Past President: Eric Evans

Ohio Caverns, OH

Ph: 937-465-4017 ercave@ctcn.net

Coordinator: Diane Thompson

Camdenton, MO

Ph: 573-836-2256 diane@cavern.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region One:

(CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)

Bob Holt - Howe Caverns, NY

roberth@howecaverns.com Ph: 518-296-8900

Region Two:

(MD, VA, WV, KY)

Rho Lansden – Lost River Cave & Valley, KY

rho@lostrivercave.com Ph: 540-743-6551

Region Three: (IL, IN, MI, OH)

Claudia Yundt - Squire Boone Caverns, IN

claudia@squireboone.com Ph: 812-732-4382

Region Four: (AR, IA, KS, MO, NE)

Steve Thompson - Bridal Cave, MO

steve@bridalcave.com Ph: 573-346-2676

Region Five: (MN, MT, ND, SD, WI)

Joe Klimczak - Cave of the Mounds, WI

joe@caveofthemounds.com Ph: 608-437-3038

Region Six: (CA, ID, NV, OR, WA, AK, HI,

Barbados, Bermuda)

Matt Doyle – Lake Shasta Caverns, CA

mduoye@lakeshastacaverns.com

Ph: 800-795-CAVE

Region Seven: (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY)

Steve Runkle - Cave of the Winds, CO

rsr@caveofthewinds.com Ph: 719-685-5444

Region Eight: (LA, OK, TX)

Ed Mayfield – Caverns of Sonora, TX

edmayfield@mac.com Ph: 325-387-3105

Region Nine: (AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN,)

Patty Perlaky – Raccoon Mt. Caverns, TN

caveperl@yahoo.com Ph: 423-821-9403



Colorado Fire and our NCA Family

Dear Friends:

I'm sure by now you have kept up with the news reports regarding the horrible wildfires taking place in Colorado. Many of you may not be aware that the Waldo Canyon Fire has been in the backyard of Cave of the Winds. This past week has been very intense one for Grant Carey, Steve Runkle and all of the cave employees. At one point they thought they were going to lose everything, but the diligent work of firefighters, the property was saved. At this point Cave of the Winds remains closed as is Highway 24 leading to the cave. There will be much clean-up and probably much smoke damage inside the building, however, we do not know for sure as no one has been allowed to survey the property.

Also, Steve and Shelley Runkle had a mandatory evacuation from their home. It was almost evident that they would lose their home as the fire came down the canyon. Shelley took a chilling photograph of a wall of fire behind the homes in the neighborhood as they drove away. We are pleased to report that after a couple days of not knowing if they had a home to return to or not, their home was spared. The wall of fire stopped on the street directly behind their house. As of this writing, they too have not been able to return, however, they expect to find much smoke damage, but thankfully by the grace of God, they have a home to return to.

Many of our NCA members have asked what they can do to help. At the moment we do not know the needs of the folks in Cave of the Winds. Grant and Steve will let us know once they are able to assess the situation. Your Executive Committee has decided that we need to start an Emergency Fund" drive so that we will have funds on hand to help our NCA members in a time of need. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to NCA Emergency Fund send your contribution to Susan Berdeaux; Diamond Caverns, PO Box 250, Park City KY 42160.

The NCA membership takes care of our family and we never know when we might be in a time of need. Thank you for considering helping out with this worthy cause.

NCA, Executive Committee



CONVENTION 2012 - SEPTEMBER 23 - 28

South Dakota, Here we come! After years and years of "wish we could have a meeting in the Black Hills", we are almost there. Registration packets are in the mail and if you haven't made your reservations at the Lodge at Deadwood, now is the time to do so. Our room block expires on Aug. 23 so if you want to be sure you get the convention rate, don't wait any longer. Call the lodge at 877-DWD-LODG. Not only is this our first Black Hills convention, it is the first meeting with NCA as the host. We had an enormous amount of help from Keith Dobrolinsky, who will be celebrating 20 years of providing insurance to the NCA this year. Keith has been working on this meeting for almost two years - our convention would have been far more difficult to plan had he not done the pre-planning and research that he has done. Thanks, Keith!!

As usual, the agenda is jam-packed. We have switched things around a little to fit everything in. Our vendors will be showing their wares on Monday afternoon while committees are meeting so you can plan to shop. A cracker barrel is scheduled for Monday night, right after the opening reception. Tuesday morning we jump right into business and keep going the rest of the week. We will be busy! Normally, free time is almost non-

existent but there will be a few hours of just that on Thursday afternoon. There is so much to see and do in the area and we will have worked so hard up to that point, we thought a few hours off would be appreciated. Plus, who knows what anyone will find out there - there is much to be learned from visiting other attractions, even if it's just toilet paper holders and ashtrays (thanks, Grant!!) Just don't be late for dinner - it's going to be a good one!

This year in particular it is really important everyone fills out the survey. NCA is going to be the primary meeting planner from now on, with help from our local member host. If you have anything you would like us to address at future conventions, please make your opinion known. We do read the surveys and wherever possible try to address the needs/wants of the membership. We know it's hard to please everyone but if you don't tell us what you want, you can be sure you won't get it!!!! Please participate in the survey or contact any member of the convention committee. The committee members are Mark Bishop, Denise Bell, Steve Rawlings, Claudia Yundt and Susan Berdeaux, chair.

See everyone in Deadwood!!

Susan Berdeaux
NCA Convention Committee, Chair



Travelling Exhibit from the Smithsonian

Hidden River Cave & American Cave Museum is presenting a travelling exhibit from the Smithsonian. July 16 - July 28. The exhibit provides insights into the on-going cultural process that has made America the birthplace of more music than any place on earth. You will enjoy top-tapping surprises from “Yankee Doodle Dandy” to the latest hip hop CD. <http://hiddenrivercave.com/Featuring.html>



Guide to American Show Caves

A new book called: “A Guide to American Show Caves” by Jeanne Gurnee is now available to all NCA Members. Jeanne took a year off to write and put together this book, many of our members have supplied information and photos for this book. The cost to members is \$10 per book, if interested please contact

Jeanne Gurnee
JGurneeNSS@aol.com
720 Flat Ridge Road
Goodlettsville, TN 37072





Administrative Notes

With the NCA Convention just around the corner, I will be referring to the NCA Website in order to produce the reports for the Convention Binder. With this in mind, please take a few minutes to go to the NCA Website at www.cavern.com and make sure the information listed on the ***“Profile”*** tab is correct. This is the area I will be using to produce the yearly reports. If you have problems logging on or need help updating your information please contact me.

Diane Thompson
NCA, Coordinator
diane@cavern.com
573-836-2256

