

# 1986 MINUTES

The 1986 meeting of the NSS Vertical Section was held Monday, June 23, in Tularosa, NM at Tularosa High School. Executive Committee Members present were Bill Cuddington, Kirk MacGregor, and D. C. Province. **Nylon Highway** Editor Bruce Smith substituted for Secretary/Treasurer, Bill Bussey, who was delayed.

Because Richard Schreiber could not make it to Convention, Kirk MacGregor chaired the meeting. MacGregor called the meeting to order at about 12:30 pm.

Old business was first on the agenda. Editor Bruce Smith discussed the appropriation of \$300.00 for a "Headliner" to aid in the production of **Nylon Highway**, made during last year's Section meeting. Smith said that he had not purchased a "Headliner" because he could get any necessary typesetting done far less expensively at a local print shop. Typesetting for **Nylon Highway #22** cost \$10.73. Thus he felt that the "Headliner" was not economically justified. Smith moved that the "Headliner" not be purchased. Allen Padgett seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Next, Kirk MacGregor opened discussion on the Job Descriptions as discussed at last year's meeting and printed in **Nylon Highway #21**. Bruce thought an addition to the Job Descriptions should be that someone or some board should make money making, or money spending decisions for the Section. Such spending questions have come about in the past year with the decision to reimburse the illustrator of **On Rope** with Section funds until the NSS reimburses the Section. Another was the decision to reprint several issues of **Nylon Highway**. Smith asked, "Who tells us its Okay to spend these funds?"

Allen Padgett noted that having a specified ceiling amount above which approval from the board was needed was a possible idea. Kirk MacGregor thought that a "controversial" expenditure provision was needed. Smith moved:

That the Vertical Section adopt the Job Descriptions proposal as printed in **Nylon Highway #21** with the addition of this amendment:

That any purchase of over \$100.00 or purchase that might be considered controversial in regard to Vertical Section activities, be approved by the Vertical Section Executive Committee.

Allen Padgett seconded.

Discussion then followed as to what would be considered "unusual" or "controversial".

After discussion, a vote was held on the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously. A vote to adopt the Job Descriptions as amended also passed unanimously.

Last year's motion that the Executive Committee look into a symbolic device for the Section was next discussed. Nothing had been done by the committee on this. Allen Padgett moved that:

The Section continue to search for a logo for Symbolic device use and appoint Karen Padgett as ad hoc committee chairperson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Bill Bussey, who had arrived at the meeting during the previous discussion, gave the Secretary's

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and Treasurer's Report. These can be found elsewhere in this issue. Bruce Smith noted that we are sustaining a high level of membership from year to year. Bussey noted that an unusual expenditure this year was reimbursement of Pandora Williams drawings for **On Rope**. Allen Padgett clarified that this would be reimbursed by the NSS when the book is ready to sell.

Kirk MacGregor wanted to know how much of the balance was committed or reserved due to multi-year memberships. The figure was \$723.00 reserved for future issues of **Nylon Highway**.

Bruce Smith and Allen Padgett then passed out outlines of their book, **On Rope** to members present. While this was going on, Smith commended publisher Terry Raines on his good job on printing **Nylon Highway** #'s 21 & 22. They also showed examples of the work of illustrator, Pandora Williams. Discussion followed on illustration costs, critique costs, proofreading, publishing cost and date. Padgett noted that they are expecting the book to be published in time for Christmas at a hardcover cost of around \$20.00.

Next, new business was discussed. Bill Cuddington asked for help during the Climbing Contest starting Tuesday. Cuddington thanked Delbert Province for fixing the contest pulley. Cuddington then brought up a change in the rules of the Classic 3 Knot climbing rig. These knots are normally each connected to a foot. The three knots will have to be moved one at a time just like most do in the field. Cuddington noted that Prusik knots are dangerous when moved two at a time. Cuddington said that he went on and made this change as contest coordinator.

Discussion followed on clarification of exactly what action the rule prohibited. One member asked for a

demonstration. Without the time or facilities for that, Bruce Smith asked for a vote on the rule change. Kirk MacGregor noted that this was not required as the contest coordinator is appointed by the Section and as such can make such rulings.

After this further New Business was discussed, Bruce Smith made the motion that:

The minutes of the Vertical Section meeting be typed up and distributed to the Executive Committee Members no later than thirty days after the official, annual meeting.

Gary Storrick seconded.

In discussion, Bruce noted that the primary issues or old business did not get done this past year because the minutes were not available to the Executive Committee Members, until two weeks before convention.

The vote on the motion passed unanimously.

Bill Bussey then asked the membership for a consensus on whether we should let **Nylon Highway** issues go out of print, or continue to reprint them as stock quantities dictate.

Discussion followed with majority opinion being that the Executive Committee should continue to reprint **Nylon Highway's** as needed for the foreseeable future.

With no further new business, Kirk MacGregor called for elections. Before starting, MacGregor announced that he was resigning from the Executive Committee due to job demands. He noted that he originally got on the Executive Committee to try and change a trend of the Section becoming a closed group, setting certain standards and rules,

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saying things must be done in a certain way, and not being open to people from all parts of North America. He feels he has accomplished this change, as the Vertical Section is very much open, continually spotlights new ideas, moves forward with leading edge technology, and has a international interest.

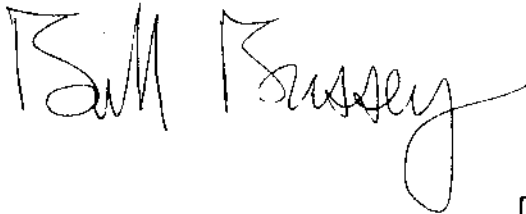
The meeting concluded with elections. Those elected were:

Bill Bussey	Secretary/Treasurer.
Bruce Smith	Editor <b>Nylon Highway</b> .
Bill Cuddington	Executive Committee Member.
Shari Lydy	Executive Committee Member.
Allon Padgett	Executive Committee Member.
Daryl Tomer	Executive Committee Member.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Later during the week, the Executive Committee met and selected Shari Lydy as Chairwoman.

Respectfully Submitted,



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**DEALERS and MANUFACTURERS** The **NYLON HIGHWAY** has always reserved space for any article about a piece of equipment that you may manufacture and/or sell at **NO CHARGE**. This is meant to be a one time offer for each piece of equipment. For example, Russ Anderson could write an article about his figure 8 in one issue and his pulley's in another issue, etc. until he covers every item in his catalog. The second time he wants

## Aging Rope

Your rope may be too old. That 1500' piece you used in 1975 to do El Sotano may have outlived its useful life. There is a lot of mystery surrounding aging nylon. What do we know about it? Not much. Nylon is a plastic of sorts. Does it last forever? Preliminary studies of some old rope samples indicate that the abrasion resistance has deteriorated and that the breaking strength may have diminished to 50-70% of its originally advertised strength. Furthermore, it appears as if repeated washing and drying, though recommended, adds to the shortening of rope life. It appears as if repeated drying tends to cause the tiny fibers to become somewhat brittle and prone to a condition similar to "dry-rot" (though no such thing supposedly exists with nylon products).

**HELP** make our study more complete by sending 10 feet off the end of each of your old ropes. Include the history of the rope. Important details to include would be the purchase date, storage (on the floor, on a hook, in a bag, in the trunk, etc.), type of usage (heavy cave, mud, cliff, clean, never used, etc.), washing methods, (soaps and frequency), and anything else that may be particularly interesting. **SEND TO**

Bruce Smith  
1822 Mountain Bay Drive  
Hixson, TN 37343

I have every intension of sending a report of the test results of each rope back to its contributor.

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something published about the same piece of equipment comes under the category of advertising. This free service is offered for obvious reasons, to inform the public as to attributes of various pieces of equipment. Very few dealers have taken advantage of this service which confuses the hell out of me. The Editor.

## Smart Loop

The new design consists of a much longer loop, approximately the length of the lower leg. For a knee ascender, the loop passes through the base of the sling connecting the foot loop and the ascender (figure #1).

To install the chicken loop, the foot loop is held above the ball of the foot while the chicken loop is passed behind the ankle (figure #2). The foot loop is then passed through the chicken loop (figure #3) and placed over the toe and onto the foot (figure #4).

The advantages of this new design are that it is always with the system and cannot be lost, and has no buckles or additional sewing. It has one clear advantage in that it may also be used as an extender when the ascender must be used in a non-standard way. For example, a knee ascender, using the chicken loop as an extender, can be used as a safety when working near a lip.

This chicken loop design (dubbed the "Smart Loop" by the Editor) can also be adapted for use with a foot Gibbs ascender. In this application the chicken loop passes forward through the eye of the Gibbs and back through the foot loop. The foot loop is placed on the foot with the chicken loop pulled straight back along the inside of the ankle. The chicken loop is then brought behind the ankle, forward on the outside of the ankle, over the instep, down over the Gibbs shell, and positioned under the eye of the Gibbs. When a climbing rope is installed in the Gibbs, the chicken loop cannot be removed without disassembling the shell.

Although this chicken loop was developed for a floating knee Jumar and foot mounted Gibbs, it should be easily adaptable to a variety of climbing systems.

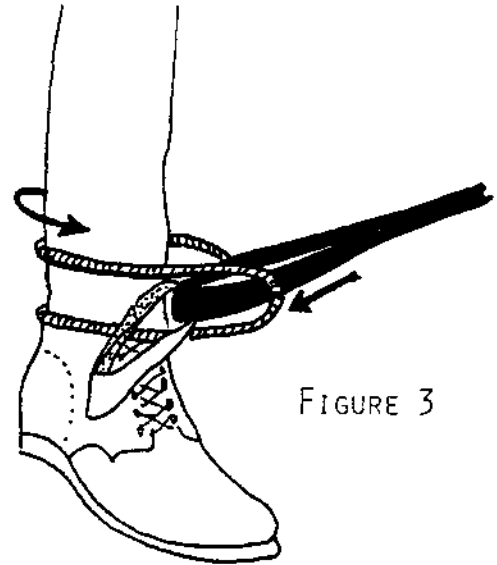


FIGURE 3

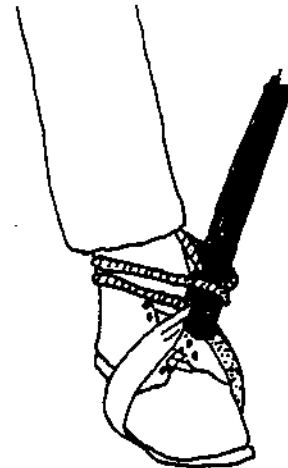


FIGURE 4

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### SECRETARY'S REPORT NSS VERTICAL SECTION June 19, 1986

Number of Single Members	288.
Number of Family Members (number of people)	10.
Number of Nylon Highway Subscribers	16.
Number of Nylon Highways sent free	8.
Number of Nylon Highways exchanged	24.
Total number of Nylon Highways mailed	346.

Number of Members/Subscribers paid thru 1986	167.
Number of Members/Subscribers paid thru 1987	63.
Number of Members/Subscribers paid thru 1988	74.
Number of Members/Subscribers paid after 1988	10.
Total paid Memberships/Subscriptions	314.

Total number of Vertical Section Members	298.
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# Administrative

# Treasurer's Report

June 19, 1986

**NYLON HIGHWAY:** is published by the NSS Vertical Section, and is available to Subscribers and Vertical Section Members for \$3.00 per year. For Delivery outside North America add \$4.00 to the subscription rate for postage.

For Spouse memberships add \$1.00. Please insure that these payments are in U.S. dollars. Frequency of the publication is based on the availability of material. All material that is submitted must be readable. The Editor is able to arrange, upon request relatively quality drawings explaining your topic. As many of the articles published in the **Nylon Highway** are experimental, the NSS, Vertical Section, the Editor as well as any and all authors whos names appear in the **Nylon Highway** absolve themselves of all responsibility. It should be understood by the reader that the responsibility lies with those who choose to experiment further with the information contained here. The **Nylon Highway** attempts to screen and publish reliable high quality material that in the Author's and Editor's best judgement appears to be sound in principle and is backed up with supportive testing or facts. The science of SRT is ever changing because cavers and climbers are constantly finding better safer and more efficient ways of acheiving our goals. Always experiment using good judgement and adequate caution. ...THE EDITOR

**NYLON HIGHWAY:** is published by the NSS Vertical Section, and available to Subscribers and Vertical Section members for \$3.00 per year. For Delivery outside North America add the following extra postage charges:

Air Mail.....\$4.00

## INCOME:

Memberships	\$1234.00
Subscriptions	56.00
Back Issue Sales	1133.40
Bank Interest	133.89
Vertical Techniques Workshop	160.00
Advertising	20.00
Other	10.75

**Total Income** **\$2748.04**

## EXPENSES:

Editor:	
Postage Permits	\$50.00
Mailing Nylon Highway #21	64.53
Printing Nylon Highway #21	363.50
Mailing Nylon Highway #22	96.37
Printing Nylon Highway #22 (projected)	500.00
Typesetting	10.73
Other Postage	48.19
Mailing Envelopes	80.33
Other Supplies and Materials	33.90
<b>Total Editor Expenses</b>	<b>\$1247.55</b>

## Secretary-Treasurer:

Postage	\$148.00
Vertical Contest Supplies	28.98
Vertical Techniques Workshop Supplies	38.43
Supplies	69.59
Advertisements	68.00
Reprinting Nylon Highway #13	213.18
Reprinting Nylon Highway #10	144.47
*Pandra Williams, Illustrator	424.51
<b>Total Secretary/Treasurer Expenses</b>	<b>\$1161.76</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2409.31</b>

Balance as of June 21, 1985	\$1859.73
Net Income	338.73
<b>Cash Balance as of June 19, 1986</b>	<b>2198.46</b>
Accounts receiveable *NSS On Rope	424.51

**Cash Position as 6-19-86** **\$2622.97**

For Spouse memberships add an additional dollar. Please insure that these payments are in U.S. dollars. Frequency of the publication is based on the availability of material. All material that is submitted must be readable. The editor is able to arrange, upon request, professional quality drawings explaining your topic. Checks made payable to the NSS Vertical Section.