

World Records

**MENS CLASSIC 3-KNOT
400 FEET (120 METER)**

| AGE GROUP | TIME | NAME | YEAR SET |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 0 - 12 | | | |
| 13 - 16 | | | |
| 17 - 19 | 10:51.9 | JOHN BASSETT | 70 |
| 20 - 29 | 9:39.9 | TRICK HOWARD | 85 |
| 30 - 39 | 10:16.6 | MARION O. SMITH | 79 |
| 40 - 49 | 10:56.5 | MARION O. SMITH | 83 |
| 50 - 59 | | | |
| 60 - 69 | | | |
| 70 - 79 | | | |
| OVERALL | 9:39.2 | TRICK HOWARD | 85 |

**WOMENS CLASSIC 3-KNOT
400 FEET 120 METER)**

| AGE GROUP | TIME | NAME | YEAR SET |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 0 - 12 | | | |
| 13 - 16 | | | |
| 17 - 19 | | | |
| 20 - 29 | 24:10.4 | CYNDIE WALCK | 85 |
| 30 - 39 | 12:29.3 | MARTHA CLARK | 84 |
| 40 - 49 | | | |
| 50 - 59 | | | |
| 60 - 69 | | | |
| 70 - 79 | | | |
| OVERALL | 12:29.3 | MARTHA CLARK | 84 |

1987 MEETING MINUTES

The 1987 meeting of the NSS Vertical Section was held Monday, August 3rd, at Lake Superior State College in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Executive Committee members present were Bill Bussey, Bill Cuddington, and Allen Padgett. Miriam Cuddington substituted for Darrell Tomer, and Bruce Smith substituted for Shari Lydy, as neither could make it to the Convention.

Due to chairperson Shari Lydy's absence, Bill Bussey chaired the meeting. Bussey called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

Bussey read highlights of the Secretary's report. It is reprinted elsewhere in this issue. A special supplementary report detailing how many members from each state or country was highlighted.

Bussey then discussed the Treasurer's report. It too is printed elsewhere in this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Cuddington discussed: the climbing contest beginning the next day; Marion Vittetoe donating three stopwatches; Less than a 27.65 second climb

will break the 30M mechanical record. Gary Storrick offered discussion on this noting that old records on different lengths are old records. Cuddington concluded saying that children should be kept under control during the contest.

Bussey noted that several people had noticed and made mention of the stability of the contest since 1966 due to the Cuddingtons' efforts. There was a round of applause.

Karen Padgett showed the membership the proposed new logo. Membership was asked to decide whether the logo should feature cave formations. Storrick quipped, with formations, the BOG will gate the patch. Allen Padgett noted that a clean design of the logo without formations has a more universal appeal. A straw vote was taken. 17 for, 5 against. Discussion on prioritizing patch, sticker, or pin. Membership wants T-shirts. Scott Fee said he can get T-shirts made in small quantities which would avoid inventory problems. Patch, T-shirt, are both first priorities. Stickers seemed to have a high priority.

Minutes

Allen Padgett updated the progress of **On Rope**. Someone needed to drive the books from Michigan (Binder) to OTR (Old Timer's Reunion) or Huntsville to save on shipping. **On Rope** T-shirts are on sale for \$8.00 each. Bruce Smith expects a second printing withing 12 months. Padgett read the chapter titles.

David McClurg needs help in the Vertical Techniques Workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

Bruce Smith discussd the rehabilitation of PMI's rope testing dynameter used during the Aging Rope project. It would be considered Test Grant Money. Smith moved:

The Vertical Section give PMI \$250.00 with these (listed) stipulations for rehabilitation of their dynameter.

Scott Fee seconded.

Bob Thrun asked how his would affect the Section financially. We have \$2900 in total funds so we have the funds. Kirk MacGregor discussed proper terminology of the machine.

The vote was unanimous in support of the motion with Bruce Smith writing the letter of appreciation that would accompany the check.

Bill Bussey moved:

The Vertical Section of the NSS shall, as it sees fit, present an award to a person, persons, or group for outstanding contributions to the development of Vertical technology and/or techniques. The VS Executive Committee will decide the recipient of this award to be presented at the yearly NSS Convention awards banquet.

Allen Padgett seconded.

Discussion followed. A certificate along with a permanent plaque should be placed in the NSS office was mentioned as a possibility. The Section would do all it could to further the recipient's consideration for other awards in the society.

Vote was one against, rest for.

The next item of new business a motion by Bill Bussey that the editor of the **Nylon Highway** become a member of the Executive Committee. This would have added a 6th member to the E. C. Discussion followed. Gary Storricks noted that in argument for, its a person who does a lot for the Section and they are visible. The argument against is that an editor who writes articles should not be making policy decisions for the Section.

Kirk MacGregor noted that the Bylaws have a provision for amending them. Without a copy of the Bylaws, it was impossible to accurately determine the legality of a motion making the editor a member of the board. Thus, discussion was moved, seconded, and voted to be tabled.

Bill Bussey then made the motion to have a chair and a vice chair whom could run the meeting when the chair could not be there. Discussion followed. It was determined that it was not necessary to formally designate an office of Vice Chair. This would be determined by the E.C. The motion was postponed indefinitely. The meeting concluded with elections. Those elected were:

- Bill Bussey Secretary/Treasurer.
- Bruce Smith Editor/Executive Committee.
- Bill Cuddington Executive Committee.
- Scott Fee Executive Committee.
- Allen Padgett Executive Committee.

Gary Storricks said that he would write Bruce's Executive Committee article in order to have five separate articles.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Later during the week, the Executive Committee met and selected Bill Cuddington as Chairman.

Respectively Submitted,



Rack and Spool

One of the most useful aspects of the upper brake bar is the opening which is located in the end closest to the individual (Fig. #1). This hole is sufficiently large to receive a carabiner and thus allows the caver to clip the carabiner, and thus the bar, onto a chest harness. On a long drop (300 feet or deeper) the value of this becomes quite clear because the caver does not have to hold him/herself to the rope and therefore the ride down is much less tiring.

There are potential drawbacks to using the brake bar modification, the most obvious being that it places one's body close to the rack, thus increasing the risk of clothing or hair being caught in the device. It also restricts movement since the individual is connected at two points to the rack, a possible problem when a constricted section of pit is encountered. Also, it is best to attach the rack to the chest harness after the lip of the pit has been negotiated. As with any new climbing/rappelling device, one simply must try it "on rope" in order to make an assessment of its usefulness and reliability. One modification that might be employed is to attach a length of Perlon rather than a carabiner to the opening in the upper bar (Figure #3). This will allow the individual to adjust the distance between the rack and him/herself.

On a recent (December 1986) pit trip to Alabama and Tennessee by six members of the Witenberg University Speleological Society, the modified bars were used by four of the six. Drops ranged from 60 feet (Great Saltpeter Chasm) to 404 feet (Surprise Pit-Fern Cave). The system was an extremely useful aid, particularly on the 404' free drop in Fern Cave.

For those interested in making their own spooled brake bars, material recommended is a 7000 series aircraft aluminum and the bars are shaped with a lathe. One might make the top double-spooled bar with a somewhat larger diameter than the design,

it is imperative that all edges be filed and polished.

The Rack and Brake Bars with Self-Belay Spool may not be something everyone will want to try but I strongly recommend the use of some attachment from the rack to the caver on long, free drops. Perhaps a top bar with an extended piece bearing an opening for a carabiner is quite adequate. Whatever the adjustment, staying comfortably upright makes for a much more enjoyable rappel! □

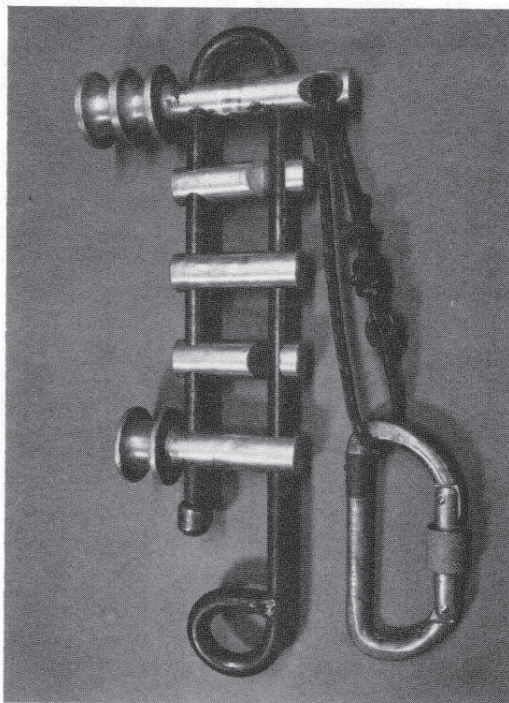


Fig. #3 Attachment to the chest harness can be adjusted using a piece of Perlon.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

July 22, 1987

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of Single Members | 454 |
| Number of Family Members (No. of people) | 24 |
| Number of Nylon Highway Subscribers | 32 |
| Number of Nylon Highway Gratis | 10 |
| Number of Nylon Highway Exchanged | 24 |
| Total Number of Nylon Highways mailed | 532 |
| Number paid through 1987 | 225 |
| Number paid through 1988 | 148 |
| Number paid through 1989 | 98 |
| Number paid beyond 1989 | 27 |

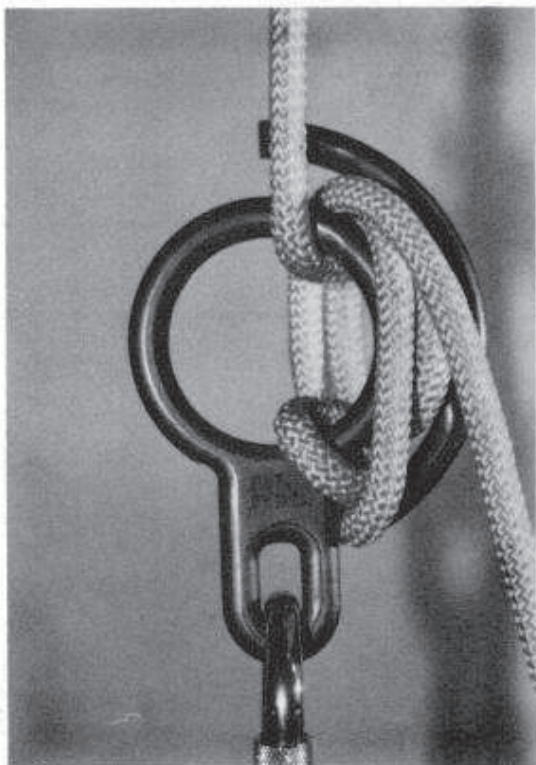


Figure #5

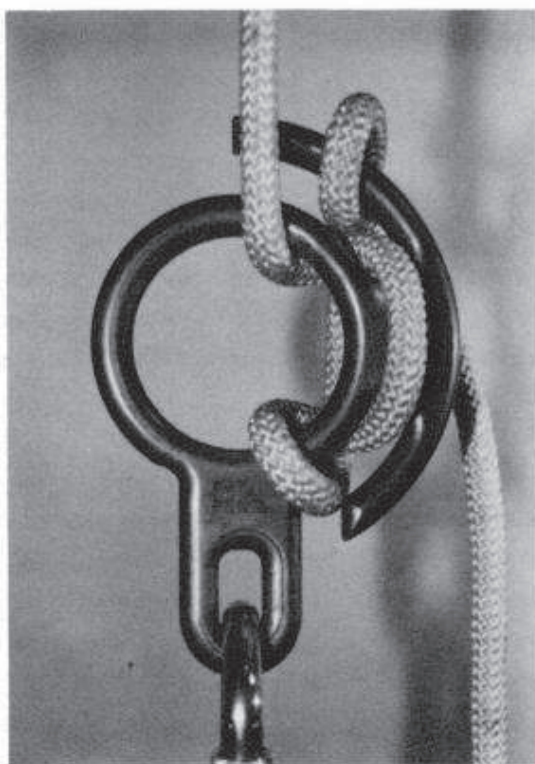


Figure #6

TREASURER'S REPORT

NSS VERTICAL SECTION
July 22, 1987

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| INCOME: | |
| Memberships | \$2027.00 |
| Subscriptions | 75.00 |
| Back Issue Sales | 1493.60 |
| Bank Interest | 116.41 |
| Vertical Techniques Workshop | 400.00 |
| Advertising | 60.00 |
| Other | 14.14 |
| Total Income | \$4186.15 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| EXPENSES: | |
| Editor: | |
| Printing Nylon Highway #23 | \$505.57 |
| Mailing Nylon Highway #23 | 79.11 |
| Printing Nylon Highway #24 | 571.39 |
| Mailing Nylon Highway #24 | 55.96 |
| Typesetting | 32.18 |
| Other Postage | 70.53 |
| Mailing Envelopes | 106.91 |
| Other Printing | 14.49 |
| Other Supplies and Materials | 39.53 |
| Total Editor Expenses | \$1475.67 |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Secretary-Treasurer: | |
| Postage | \$235.46 |
| Postage - Dues Renewal Letter | 44.00 |
| Vertical Techniques Workshop Expenses | 196.61 |
| Supplies | 38.25 |
| Copies (Membership Forms) | 28.62 |
| Advertisements | 53.00 |
| Reprinting Nylon Highways 1-8 | 603.33 |
| Reprinting Nylon Highways 15, 16 | 323.82 |
| Check order | 9.01 |
| Bad Check Expense | 9.00 |
| *Pandra Williams Illustrator | 1259.23 |
| Total Secretary/Treasurer Expenses | \$2800.33 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$4276.00 |
| 1986-87 NET INCOME (Expense) | (89.85) |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Balance as of June 19, 1986 | \$2198.46 |
| 1986-87 Net Income (expense) | (89.85) |
| Cash Balance in the bank as of 7-22-87 | 2108.61 |
| *Accounts receivable NSS | 1683.74 |
| FINANCIAL POSITION JULY 22, 1987 | \$3792.35 |