

1988 MEETING MINUTES

The 1988 meeting of the NSS Vertical Section was held Monday, June 27th, 1988 at the Hot Springs Civic Center. Executive Committee members present were Bill Bussey, Allen Padgett and Bruce Smith. E.C. chair Bill Cuddington was absent due to the death of his father. Scott Fee arrived late due to the NSS board meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Bussey chaired the meeting due to Bill Cuddington's absence. Bussey called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Bussey explained Cuddington's absence and urged all members to sign a condolence card which was circulating around the room.

Corrections to minutes: Membership approved change of two to three as the number of stopwatches donated by Marion Vittetoe last year (Sec's note: This was correctly published in Nylon Highway)

Sara Corrie and Roberta Swicegood were remembered for their personalities and contributions. They are missed...

Secretary's Report: 616 voting members in the Vertical Section.

Treasurer's Report: \$1980 is devoted to future years due to multi-year memberships. The NSS has repaid the Vertical Section for funds used in reimbursing Pandora Williams during her work with On Rope.

Editor's Note: Bruce says he was not pleased with Nylon Highway #26. Was pleased with Nylon Highway #25. Lots of neat ideas are being used or "in heads out there" which are not being published. Share it!

On Rope Report: Allen Padgett and Bruce Smith said On Rope was published last October. 5400 copies were sold out by May. 2nd Edition is now in print. On Rope is second only to membership dues as the biggest raiser of revenue the NSS has ever had. Successor to On Rope should be started now.

Vertical Session: Allen Padgett listed presentations to be given in session coming up after meeting.

Vertical Contest: Allen Padgett noted that existing rules will be enforced. Sign up and climb in order. No passing. (Sec's note: 151 climbs were completed - the most ever)

Amending the Constitution: Bull Bussey moved that Article III, Line 1 of the Constitution of the Vertical Section be ammended to add "an Editor," between "Secretary/Treasurer," and "and three Committee Members at Large." This would increase the size of the Executive Committee to six. After discussion, the amendment was voted on and passed with one abstention.

Bylaws: Bull Bussey stated that the Vertical Section has no written bylaws. A committee was created to go through old minutes of meetings to find and report any bylaws that exist or are assumed to exist in order to be placed in written bylaws. The committee will report to the E.C. before the next general Section meeting at Sewanee, TN. The committee consists of: Bill Bussey - chair, Shari Lydy, Gary Bush, Dick Desjardins and Bill Combs.

1988 Meeting Minutes

Vertical Techniques Workshop: David McClurg reports all set to go with 36 participants and 18 instructors.

Lesson Plan for Basic Vertical Course: Allen Padgett motioned:

"The Vertical Section establish a recommended standard written lesson plan for use in training novice ropework classes. An additional plan will be established for intermediate ropework classes. The Section directed the E.C. of the Section to appoint a project editor and project committee member. The committee will present the proposed lesson plan no later than the Section meeting at the 1989 NSS Convention.

Padgett noted that this was to give us an instrument to teach novice and intro level classes about vertical work with no degradation of knowledge through the generations. It would enhance the learning environment by giving training materials to groups. This detailed outline would be less than 10 Xeroxed pages and so would be of marginal expense to the Section.

After much discussion, a vote to establish a committee to look into this proposal passed with four opposed, rest in favor. After the meeting, the E.C. selected the following for the Vertical Training Committee: Jim Hall - Editor & Chair, Myrna Diaz, Bill Frantz, Dan Legnini, Allen Padgett, and Ed Sira.

Bruce Smith Announced:

1. NCRC Manual is out. Highly recommended.
2. Sewanee facilities are excellent. Be there in 1989

3. Discussed liability concerns. Even if you are a volunteer; if you set yourself up as a rescuer or expert in a rescue situation, and you screw up; you are liable. Homeowner's insurance policy riders often can cover this up to a certain point.

Caver Information Series: Shari Lydy questioned what had been done about updating old material in the Caver Information Series. Little done so far. A committee was appointed to look into this, suggest rewriting or writing articles, if needed. They will report to E.C. before the 1989 meeting. This committee is: Shari Lydy - Chair, Paul Smith, Jim Hall and Gary Bush.

The meeting concluded with elections. Those elected were:

Bill Bussey	Secretary/Treasurer
Bruce Smith	Editor
Scott Fee	Executive Committee
Sara Gayle	Executive Committee
Jim Hall	Executive Committee
Allen Padgett	Executive Committee

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 PM.

Later that day, the Executive Committee met and selected Allen Padgett as Chairman and convention liaison. Sara Gayle will host the Vertical Session at the 1989 Convention.

Respectfully Submitted

The Murphy System

1. A natural motion like walking (left foot & right arm, right foot & left arm).
2. By placing the seat Petzl sling behind my chest box, when I sit down I'm still held close to the rope.
3. When crossing lips, you can safely remove the upper Petzl Jammer, leaving two points on the rope. This Jammer can now be attached above the lip while the chest box maintains the upright position of the climber.
4. When you have the upper Petzl Jammer over the lip, you can remove your chest box from the rope, permitting a lot of elbow room to maneuver with three points of contact.
5. Crossing over knots or other people proves easy

There is a modification to this system that I am currently investigating. Instead of the foot Gibbs, Bill Bussey has been using a foot Petzl Croll. This allows the foot to also have the same ease of attachment/removal from the rope as all of your other gear. Either way, the foot unit combined with the knee, box and seat over the box proves to be a natural, easy and safe method to climb.

When Bill Bussey asked me what I called this system, fancy names crossed my head. Let's see, it was first used in Incredible Pit (the "Incredible System"? Naw, too corny...). It is a modification between the Mitchell and Rope Walking Gibbs system ("Mitchibb"?, "Gibbell"?, "Petzibb"?), it uses the crossover method that Cuddington

uses, without the sling wear ("Mitchibbing"?, "Gibbelling"?, "Petzibbing"?) and it provides a redundant system ("Mitchibb-ithing"?, "Gibbellithing"?, "Petzibb-ithing"?). Well, needless to say, none of the above.

I decided to name it after its true creator, Murphy. After all, it was Murphy's law that Dan would forget a vital piece of equipment at such a critical time when speed was necessary. It was Murphy that prompted me to bring that extra foot Gibbs "just in case". It was Murphy that allowed me to loan Dan my long sling, forcing me to reconstruct an impromptu climbing system. It was Murphy that caused me to change from my old-faithful climbing system to something relatively new to me at the last minute.

Thus, "The Murphy System" has been born. May it never live up its name.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

June 16, 1988

Number of Single Members	570
Number of Family Members	46
Number of Nylon Highway Subscribers	56
Number of Nylon Highways Gratis	7
Number of Nylon Highways Exchanged	24
Total number of Nylon Highways mailed	680
Members paid through 1988	269
Members paid through 1989	200
Members paid through 1990	106
Members paid through 1991	48
Members paid past 1991	26

Improving the Foot Gibbs

shell up the rope with your leg. This is easier on stiff or dirty rope. It can still be done with more limp rope, but is harder. With practice, it should be possible to self start most of the time without having to pick the rope up.

Down climbing is the same idea as self starting, only in reverse. The cam must be unlocked and kept unlocked while you move the shell. Keep the Gibbs unlocked by holding your foot in the correct tilted position and using your leg to guide the shell down the rope. This is also something that takes some practice, but could be well worth it.

I have found these modifications to my foot Gibbs very helpful over the years and hope that you will find them beneficial if you should decide to modify your foot Gibbs too. If you choose to try these modifications, you should be prepared to lose a shell or cam in the process. On your first try, there is always the chance of something going wrong. Also, I want to stress that AFTER ANY CHANGES such as these, please TRY THE GIBBS OUT ON A PRACTICE ROPE, and not on any "in-cave" drop. Better safe than sorry.

Some of the materials that you will need in modifying a Gibbs can be obtained from SMALL PARTS, INC.; P.O. BOX 381736; Miami, FL 33238. They carry small rollers, bushings and fasteners of all types and are willing to sell them in small quantities. □

TREASURER'S REPORT

NSS VERTICAL SECTION
June 16, 1988

Income:	
Memberships	\$2553.00
Subscriptions	131.00
Back Issue Sales	1399.20
Symbolic Item Sales	1602.24
Vertical Techniques Workshops	270.00
Bank Interest	89.35
Donations	29.00
Other	22.42
Total Income	\$6096.21

Expenses:	
Editor:	
Printing Nylon Highway #25	\$890.00
Mailing Nylon Highway #25	138.07
Printing Nylon Highway #26	806.00
Mailing Nylon Highway #26	126.87
Carry-over from 1987	138.68
Typesetting	16.09
Other Postage	97.39
Bulk Permit	50.00
Mailing Envelopes	197.08
Supplies	8.62
<u>On Rope</u> Gratis Copies	41.42
Total Editor Expenses	\$2510.22

Secretary/Treasurer:	
Postage	\$261.27
Supplies	120.70
Vertical Techniques Workshop Expense	72.44
Advertisements	60.00
Symbolic Items Cost	2151.28
Rebuild Contest Foot Cam	44.00
<u>On Rope</u> Drawings Reimbursement	75.00
PMI Rope Testing	250.00
Sara Corrie Fund Contribution	20.00
Bad Check Expense	9.00
Editor Surplus 6/18/88	60.78
Other	4.80
Total Secretary/Treasurer Expenses	\$3129.27

Total Expenses	\$5639.49
1987-88 Net Income (Expense)	\$456.72

Balance as of July 23, 1987	\$2108.61
1987-88 Net Income (Expense)	456.72
Accounts receivable NSS	1758.74
FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 16, 1988	\$4324.07

NYLON HIGHWAY NO. 27 DECEMBER 1988