

Minutes of the 1994 NSS Vertical Section Meeting

June 22, 1994

by Bill Bussey

The 1994 NSS Vertical Section meeting and papers session was held Wednesday, June 22, 1994 at the Brackettville Civic Center in Brackettville, Texas. Executive Committee (EC) members present were Chairman Bruce Smith, *Nylon Highway* Editor Maureen, contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington, Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator David McClurg, Secretary/Treasurer Bill Bussey, Ed Sira, Miriam Cuddington and Allen Padgett. Approximately 70 Vertical Section members were in attendance.

Chairman Bruce Smith called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM by introducing the Executive Committee

Secretary's Report: We have 1129 members. We mailed 1285 *Nylon Highway* #37's in July. We had 107 members desiring representation in the NSS Congress of Grottos. Total membership in the section continues to be approximately 10% of total NSS membership.

Treasurer's Report: Total Income \$8,504.78. Total Expenses: \$6,381.66. Net Income \$2,123.12. We've not yet published *Nylon Highway* #38 so figures are inflated. Balance of \$8,976.77. We have \$1,011.77 for use for other purposes.

Editor's Report: *Nylon Highway* #37 is out. *Nylon Highway* #38 will be out by end of summer. Always need articles.

Rebelay Workshop Report: Matt Oliphant organized and ran an excellent Rebelay Workshop in place of Gary Bush who couldn't make it to convention.

Contest Chair Report: Bill Cuddington thanked everyone for helping with the Climbing Contest. From now on, contest awards will be presented at 6:30 or later immediately before the auction. We need to try and have an EMT on site at the contest in the future.

Vertical Techniques Workshop: Dave McClurg said we are running two Workshops this year, a Basic and Intermediate. We have 36 students signed up for Basic and 24 for Intermediate Workshops. Need held and racks for both Workshops. Bruce added that a workshop review committee will meet Friday to talk about how to proceed with future Workshops.

Symbolic Devices: Tray reported that sales have been steady, but slower than the year before. He is reducing prices on 20th Anniversary shirts to move them out. Also, will sell off crew neck sweatshirts and not reorder them as hooded sweats sell much better.

Contest Display Timer: Bill Bussey told about how contest attendees, staff and contestants really enjoyed having the rented display timer at last year's Convention. We've discussed purchasing one

for several years in order to add some “professionalism” to the contest. They cost \$1,395. Though expensive, we can do it now. There is also the possibility of someone in the Section being able to build one for less. There is a %500 anonymous donation toward a timer if/when we choose to purchase. Tom Faulkner questioned the return on such a purchase. Tray Murphy said it is not that large of an investment for the contest in which we have already invested a lot of time and money. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that: “The Vertical Section will allocate up to \$1,395 purchase a display timer in time for the 1995 NSS Convention. An effort will be made to have a Section member build a display timer if possible at a lower cost.” The majority of those members present voted to purchase a timer. Bill Bohle moved that: “Bill Bussey will be the contact person and organize fund raising activities to pay for the display timer.” The motion was passed unanimously.

On Rope II Update: Allen Padgett reported that due to legal problems with the previous illustrator, we can't use any of the illustration in On Rope. Another illustrator, who had been lined up to do illustrations in the new book, was not able to do it. So, Allen and Bruce are looking for an artist. Anyone interested should contact the authors directly. DO NOT copy drawings from On Rope for your grotto newsletter as the artist owns the legal right to them and will want compensation for their outside use.

Vertical Training at Spring '94 Vertical Camps: Bruce Smith distributed the outline of the Basic and Intermediate training guidelines to members in attendance. David McClurg ran an “exposure to multiple climbing systems camp” for 28 students in California this spring. This helped students determine what vertical rig they wanted to set up for themselves. David related how difficult and expensive it was to get the camp's Special Event insurance. The insurance alone cost over \$750 for the weekend.

Later in Chattanooga, Bruce led a “total immersion in one system camp” for those who knew what rig they wanted to use. Students here got to know their chosen system very well in an intensive 48 hour weekend, with ten hours of this being on rope. They repeatedly practiced change-overs, hair entrapment, knot crossing, rack usage and more. Training is repetition. Bruce showed some slides from the Chattanooga camp.

Current plans are for us to provide a Vertical Section sanctioned teacher's lesson plan to a grotto or whatever group chooses to locally run this training program. The Section will use the first few groups doing this to beta test the lesson plan, with one of the writers of the plan monitoring in order to fine tune it. The lesson plan is specific enough, with objectives and goals sufficiently spelled out on both the instructor lesson plans and student check sheets, that most should have no problem following it.

This is being done on the grotto level in order to reach caves on a local rather than regional levels because more can be trained locally than regionally or nationally. As the lesson plan is broken up into many units, it can be separated into two or more weekends.

Articles of Incorporation: Bill Bussey explained that last year we were incorporated as a Non-Profit Corporation in the state of North Carolina. During the year, the state requested Articles of Incorporation in “legalese”. Gary Bush had earlier provided articles which Bill gave to the State. This is a different document than our Constitution and Bylaws, and thus we need to approve them.

They are printed elsewhere in this issue. Allen Padgett moved and Maureen Handler seconded that: "We adopt these Articles of Incorporation". The vote was unanimously in favor.

Guidelines for Vertical Section Testing Grants: Ed Sira moved and Tom Faulkner seconded that: the Guidelines for Vertical Section Testing Grants be accepted as Section policy". These guidelines are published elsewhere in this issue. The vote was a majority in favor.

New Business: Maureen Handler and Bill Bussey seconded that: "Any Vertical Section Executive Committee Member who does not fulfill the Bylaws required responsibility of writing or have an article produced for *Nylon Highway*, be ineligible for office the following year". After discussion, the motion failed.

Maureen Handler moved and Ed Sira seconded that: "The Bylaws requirement for Executive Committee members must write or produce an article for *Nylon Highway* yearly, be revoked". After little discussion, the motion passed with a majority in favor.

Papers Section: At this point, the meeting was turned over to Miriam Cuddington who hosted the Papers portion of the meeting. Papers included: Ed Sira showed a rack he designed and is selling featuring an emergency stop feature. Gustav Stibranyi from Czechoslovakia showed some Czech vertical gear and demonstrated rope pick-off techniques. Bruce Smith showed slides which graphically presented how the various climbing systems fail when one or more ascenders blow.

Elections: In elections, Gary Taylor was elected Secretary/Treasurer and Maureen Handler was elected Editor, both by acclamation. Bruce Smith, Bill Bohle, Allen Padgett and Miriam Cuddington were elected to the Executive Committee. Later that week, the Executive Committee met and selected Bruce Smith, Chair of the Vertical Section. ■

Guidelines for Vertical Section Testing Grants

Up to \$500.00 annually is available to individuals or groups for projects or testing on the subject of single rope techniques. Money amounts can not be accumulated from year to year. For money to be approved the following criteria must be met.

1. A request with a budget needs to be submitted before testing begins.
2. The person or group requesting the money should be a Vertical Section member or an NSS member.
3. The testing money can not be used to achieve personal financial gain.
4. An article discussing the results of the test must be submitted to the *Nylon Highway* before being submitted to any other publication.
5. A majority vote from the Executive Board of the Vertical Section of the NSS is necessary for fund approval. ■

Treasurer's Report, NSS Vertical Section

July 15, 1993 to May 31, 1994

Income:

Memberships	\$5813.00
Subscriptions	320.00
Back Issue Sales	769.00
Symbolic Item Sales	861.81
Vertical Techniques Workshop (93)	353.00
Advertisements in <i>Nylon Highway 37</i>	90.00
Bank Interest	289.97
Overpaid Postage from Dues Renewal	18.00
Total Income	8504.78

Expenses

Editor:

Mailing <i>Nylon Highway #36</i>	319.00
Mailbacks on <i>Nylon Highway #36</i>	13.55
Dues Renewal Mailing	75.00
Printing <i>Nylon Highway #37</i>	2245.95
Total mailing <i>Nylon Highway #37</i>	332.38
Halftones	65.00
Other Postage	43.69
Supplies	53.35
P.O. Box Rental	24.50
Bulk Permit & Permit Fee	150.00
Mailing Envelopes	83.95
Total Editors Expenses	3406.37

Secretary-Treasurer

Postage	401.56
Supplies	264.37
Vertical Techniques 93 Workshop Expenses	192.02
Rope Pads for Contest & Vertical Techniques Workshop (16 @ \$18.00)	288.00
Contest Prizes at 1993 Convention (Budget \$400)	255.00
Binding <i>Nylon Highway's 1-30</i> for Sale	43.85
Symbolic Items Cost	787.04
Symbolic Items Shipping	167.26
Symbolic Items Account Bank Charges	25.25
Ads (1993-94 <i>NSS News</i> and Member's Manual)	91.50
Reprint <i>NH #2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 18, 23, & 32</i>	224.00
Timer Rental & Shipping	122.56
Check Charge	15.13
Bank Charge	45.75
Incorporation Fee	40.00
Day Pass & Russian NSS Membership	38.00
Other	4.00
Total Secretary-Treasurer Expenses	\$2975.29
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6381.66
NET INCOME	\$2123.12
BALANCE AS OF JULY 14, 1993	\$6853.65
NET INCOME	\$2123.12
BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 1994	\$8976.77