

Colorado Cave Survey Meeting
2pm October 11th, 2008
Glenwood Caverns

Meeting Agenda

CCS Google Group

A Google group has been created for making announcements and discussing CCS business. An email to the group automatically goes out to everyone subscribed. For those interested, this is the best way to keep apprised of what is going on with the CCS. A person can unsubscribe without assistance whenever he or she wishes. To subscribe, please email cbern5@juno.com.

Memorandum of Understanding with the White River National Forest

Kay Hopkins of the BLM served on temporary assignment with the WRNF this summer and we took advantage of that fact to advance the MOU between the CCS and WRNF. Now we have an MOU in hand, ready to be signed. The MOU will establish a more formal cooperative relationship between the CCS and the WRNF. Specific benefits of the agreement are that it requires the WRNF to designate a caves program coordinator, so we always have a specific point of contact on cave issues. It also officially requires the WRNF to inform the CCS of potential management actions that might affect caves.

There has been a lot of email discussion about this MOU in recent days. The language of the MOU is also being adjusted to reflect that information protected by the Cave Resources Protection Act is not subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. Cavers have also had questions about how the MOU would change the sharing of CCS data with the WRNF.

For these reasons, there will only be a discussion of the MOU at the meeting. A final vote to approve the MOU will be requested by email from the voting membership of the CCS in the weeks ahead.

Lost Mascot Cave

Concern has been expressed about increased traffic in this cave, as well as changes of environmental conditions within it. The concerns will be discussed. However, there are no plans underway to gate the cave. Such an action could be counterproductive by raising the Lost Mascot Cave's profile and making the cave a 'destination' for traffic that might otherwise ignore it.

CCS Website

Stuart Marlatt and Johnny Slumpff have established our primary website at www.coloradocavesurvey.org. The CCS page on coloradocaves.org is being maintained as a mirror.

CCS Committee Reports and Committee Business

See list of active committees below.

CCS Managed-Access Caves

Groaning Cave

Report on the past season of visitation. Dave Lester reports getting more requests this year from novices wanting to visit Groaning. Some changes have been made to the CCS website to clarify access requirements.

The waiver list continues to be maintained by Jim Wilson (jwkayman@earthlink.net). Jim reports that fewer waivers are coming in to him, and virtually none from the Western Slope.

Tonya LeMoine and Carl Bern have remarked some key survey stations or other locations along the trade routes. Flags were placed at:

J3 - a significant turn that takes you into the Js

JH1 and JH2 - one of these was mis-marked as a JK station. They are part of a subtle turn J11 (near JH6) - J11 is on the Pace map, JH6 is the nearest current station.

JH9

Spider's Den

At the location of a cairn just past Spider's Den

The guiding idea behind placing such markers is not to show an unfamiliar caver which way to go, but to help experienced Groaning cavers identify crucial junctions.

LaSunder Cave

6 trips have visited LaSunder so far this year (2 Timberline, 1 FRG, 1 CWSG, 1 NCG, 1 CG). No problems have arisen in the process. An annual report is being prepared for the BLM. The presence of LaSunder information on the CCS website is prompting inquiries from unaffiliated cavers, but the CCS only has authority to permit grotto trips.

Fly and Marble Caves

In early August it was discovered that vandals had sledge-hammered open a bypass to the gate on Fly Cave. The Red Canyon Grotto discussed the situation with landowners Larry and Mary Blackwell, repaired the breach and strengthened it with concrete, and planned to install a laminated sign to provide information on who to contact for access.

What has visitation been like lately? Is the landowner still happy, and what is the status of impacts on the parking area?

Topics from the floor?

Officers of the Colorado Cave Survey

Chair	Carl Bern	cbern5@juno.com
Vice-Chair	Stuart Marlatt	Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net

Active committees and projects of the CCS

Clear Creek Canyon Project

Goal: Develop a relationship with JeffCo Open Space regarding cave management and promote exploration and conservation in Clear Creek Canyon. New caves are being found and mapped. CJ's Crystal Cavern has been remapped and a photo documentation/monitoring project is being proposed

Project members:

Andrea Croskrey (co-chair)	quartzite13@hotmail.com
Dan Castellari (co-chair)	cavesr4all@yahoo.com
Dave Lambert	dlambert@ngs.org

Elephant Mountain Mines/Caves Bat Gate Advisory Committee

Goal: Monitor progress and advise as necessary as a bat gate is installed to protect Townsend's Big Eared bats.

Committee members:

Fred Luiszer (chair)	luiszer@spot.colorado.edu
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Cave Information System Committee

Goal: Plan a system for creating a comprehensive, centralized repository of cave and karst data for Colorado which will be actively supported and maintained for the foreseeable future. The database would be intended to promote preservation of cave and karst resources and to encourage science, exploration, and recreation. Support for the database would be encouraged by ensuring protection for sensitive information while providing reasonable access to non-sensitive data. Planning will be a multi-year project, and the system will have to be voted into existence by the CCS before becoming active.

A series of grotto programs explaining the how the system would work are planned for 2009.

Committee members:

Carl Bern (Chair)	cbern5@juno.com
Stuart Marlatt	Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net
Marty Morey	skiandcave@gmail.com
Steve Reames	spreames@diskdrive.com
Donna Rene	cavefish@fastmail.fm
Mike Frazier	Frazier22@msn.com

Current membership of the CCS

Colorado Grotto	Chair: Rick Speact	rick@perryandterry.com
	Survey Rep: Stuart Marlatt	Stuart_Marlatt@comcast.net
Front Range Grotto	Chair: Carl Bern	cbern5@juno.com
	Survey Rep: Dan Bryce	dbryce@HPD-online.com
Northern Colorado Grotto	Chair: Frank Leskinen	fleskinen@wmconnect.com
	Survey Rep: Jim Lawton	quinoa@verinet.com
Southern Colorado Mountain Grotto	Chair: Jonny Slumpff	jonny@answergurus.com
	Survey Rep: Jerry Elliot	jkelliott12@msn.com
Timberline Grotto	Chair: Ken Newton	knewton@rfsd.k12.co.us
	Survey Rep: Carey Hunter	mushmnc20@netzero.com
Western Slope Grotto	Chair: Harry Segelken	decicarson@aol.com
	Survey Rep: Dan Castellari	CavesR4All@yahoo.com
Red Canyon Grotto	Chair: Jason Conner	rcg@caving101.com?
	Survey Rep: ?	