

**National Speleological Society
Department of the Executive Vice President
Board of Governors Meeting
October 29, 2022
Golden, CO**

The Department of the Executive Vice President is composed of eight committees listed below. The contact information for each committee can be found below or www.caves.org.

Department of the Executive Vice President

American Cave Accident Committee
Exploration Committee International
Exploration Committee U.S.
Journal of Cave and Karst Studies Committee
Members Manual Committee
NSS News Committee
Research Advisory Committee
Special Publications Committee

This report contains the Executive Vice President's actions and activities followed by a summary of activities from each committee listed above.

**Report from the Executive Vice President
Scott Engel, NSS 32520 RL, FE**

The following bullet list highlights initiatives and activities that have been undertaken by the EVP department during this reporting period that do not fall within a specific EVP sponsored committee.

- I have finally found a volunteer to help work on developing electronic publications, Courtney Pierce. The last few months she has been helping research how to convert our current hard copy content to electronic and the best formats to use. We are currently waiting on feedback from the website team about the best way to store and distribute electronic content.
- At the time of this report, I am finalizing a decision on the replacement Editor for the NSS News with Dave Bunnell's pending retirement. I should have a final decision in place and a transition plan in process by the meeting date.
- At the same time, I am working on revisions to the NSS News roles and responsibilities section of the BOG Manual, which appears to have not been updated since 1997.
- We have had multiple changes to the ACA and Journal staff in the last few months and I am still looking for additional publications support volunteers.

Scott Engel
Executive Vice President
Prepared October 5, 2022

EVP Committees Activities Summary

AMERICAN CAVING ACCIDENTS COMMITTEE

Adia Sovie, Editor

adia.sovie@gmail.com

Committee Members: Andy Armstrong, George Dasher, Richard Breisch, Forrest Wilson, Rene Ohms, Christian Stenner, Yvonne Droms, Mark Minton, Stephen Mosberg, Brian Dickey

Progress

Following the retirement of Bonnie Armstrong as editor, two individuals that had previously agreed to take over the role resigned before they fully assumed the role. Adia Sovie has recently agreed to become the new editor and is in the process of getting started.

Plans

Onboarding Adia.

Problems

Need to get the website information updated. Adia did not get added before the transition to the new website.

INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION GRANTS COMMITTEE

Cyndie Walck, co-chair

karstgirl@yahoo.com

Pat Kambesis Co-chair

pat.kambesis@wku.edu

Committee Members: Carol Veseley, John Pollack, Ben Hutchins, Mike Ficco

Progress

Awards were given during this reporting period for the following projects:

Vishwanath Rajan, Cloudbase Submerged Cave Exploration Project

\$200

Explore and survey a submerged subterranean cave in the Khaddum region of Meghalaya, India.

Adam Haydock, Catanamatias Cave Project

\$550

The purpose of this expedition will be to explore and document Catanamatias Cave located in the Dominican Republic. This cave is likely the deepest cave in the Dominican Republic, and could become one of the deepest caves in all the Caribbean.

Kara Posso and Aubri Jensen, The Cueva del Arroyo Durmiente Project on the Ranches of Múzquiz Expedition

\$1350

Cueva del Arroyo Durmiente is a 263 m deep cave consisting of a series of vertical shafts that lead to a sump with continuing passage. In 2022, we plan to rig a fixed trade route to the sump to facilitate moving large numbers of people and gear in support of two divers, as well as survey and climbing teams searching for a potential sump bypass.

Plans

None

Problems

None

US EXPLORATION COMMITTEE

Jason Ballensky, Chair
email: Jason@ballensky.com

Committee Members: Stan Allison, Dave Black, Hans Bodenhamer, Nikki Fox, Jon Lillestolen

Progress

We awarded one new grant since the last report.

Reilly Blackwell and Corey Hackly, Maryland Karst Survey, \$997. Sliding Rock Cave, Bedford County, PA.

Plans

Waiting on new proposals

Problems

None

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Donald A. McFarlane, Chairman, 23523RE
Professor of Biology, W. M. Keck Science Center, the Claremont Colleges
925 North Mills Avenue,
Claremont, CA 91711-5916
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National Speleological Society Research Advisory Committee:
<http://www.caves.org/committee/rac/>

Committee Members: Joyce Lundberg, (Assoc. Prof, Carleton University), John Mylroie (Mississippi State Univ; emeritus), Keith Christenson

Progress

No new business has been conducted since the last report.

JOURNAL OF CAVE AND KARST STUDIES COMMITTEE

Malcolm Field, Editor-in-Chief, 26915FE
Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (8623R)
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001
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Scott Engel (Production Editor)
Knoxville, Tennessee
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Associate Editors (Changes in red):

Paul Burger (Exploration)
Kathy Lavoie (Microbiology - Deceased)
Sarah Keenan (Microbiology)
Julian Lewis (Life Sciences/Conservation)
Salisa Lewis (Life Sciences/Conservation)
Greg McDonald (Paleontology)
Arthur N. Palmer & Margaret V. Palmer (Book Reviews)
George M. Crothers (Anthropology & Social Sciences)
Benjamin Schwartz (Earth Sciences)
Mario Parise (Earth Sciences)
Carol Wicks (Earth Sciences)
Yongli Gao (Earth Sciences)
Bert Ashbrook (Copyeditor)

Progress

The summer 2022 issue of the *Journal* went out on time with some very good papers. We still having difficulties getting all our manuscripts copyedited. Kathy Lavoie was doing double duty as copyeditor but with her unexpected loss, we have had to make adjustments. Bert Ashbrook has volunteered to become our full-time copyeditor. Bert is excellent but is new to the position so there has been some delay as he learns on the job after only having had minimal instruction from Kathy Lavoie. As a result of Kathy Lavoie's passing, the September issue of the *Journal* will likely have fewer articles than normal or desired (2).

Sarah Keenan has agreed to serve in the Microbiology Associate Editor position.

We are continuing to receive high-quality manuscripts for consideration for publication in the *Journal* from throughout the world. Publishing four times a year is a significant plus for the *Journal*. No other karst journal publishes as often as the *Journal* is published. We also continue to receive numerous poor-quality manuscripts that are rejected, often without review by external reviewers. These poor-quality manuscript submissions also reflect positively on the *Journal* because it indicates that many researchers want to be published in the *Journal*. In addition, our rejection of these poor-quality manuscripts shows that we continue to maintain very high standards. It must also be noted that some manuscripts are also rejected outright because they lack adequate focus

on karst-specific issues. These manuscripts also suggest that many researchers want to be published in the *Journal*.

We still have several manuscripts working their way through the system. Our backlog appears never ending, which is not necessarily a bad thing. We continue to reject approximately half or more submissions that we receive and some manuscripts that are eventually accepted have to be revised two and even three times before they are accepted if we are to maintain our high standards (note each review and revision often take several months of time).

I routinely receive praise for the quality of the *Journal*, especially from foreign authors. This is a testament to the hard work our staff of AEs, our copyeditor, and our production editor put into each manuscript we receive.

Permissions: Permission was granted to Javier Gómez Castaño representing Biblioteca Universit aria to “deposit a copy of the postprint of the following article in the Repository of Research Group from the University of Alicante.

Briestenský, M., Ambrosino, F., Smetanova, I., Thinova, L., Šebela, S., Stemberk, J., Pristašova, L., Pla, C., and Benavente, D., 2022, Radon in dead-end caves in Europe: *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*, v. 84, no. 2, p. 41–50. <https://doi.org/10.4311/2021ES0101>

Plans

Continue to onboard our news editors and work through backlog.

Problems

We continue to work through the unexpected loss of Kathy Lavoie and train our new staff. Jerry Lewis had recent surgery and has taken a leave of absence from his duties. Art and Peggy Palmer have indicated that they will likely retire from their role as Book Review Editors in the not too distant future.

NSS NEWS COMMITTEE

Dave Bunnell, Editor
davebunnell@comcast.net

Committee Members:

Ian Reuter-Newsletter Review
Philip Rykwaldner-Caver Chronicles
Val Hildreth-Werker-Conservation Editor

Progress

We’ve now got a pretty good supply of material for the next several issues. We have a new prospective columnist for spotlight interviews, April Gocha. Her first will be in November or December.

Plans

Sometime this year will be an issue devoted to WVA's Great Savannah cave system coordinated by Nikki Fox. It is to coincide with them reaching 50 miles of survey, which has

happened recently. Upcoming articles on Cueva Cheve, Gourneck Cave, and the NSS Philippines expedition.

EVP is finalizing selection of a replacement editor.

Problems

None.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Dave Bunnell, Chair
davebunnell@comcast.net
Elizabeth Rousseau-layout and design

Progress

There have been no changes since the last report.

Plans

We have received inquiries about the possibility for publishing two books – both would be revisions to existing books.

--- End of EVP Report ---