



On the Horizon

Sunday - July 19, 2009

a publication of the National Speleological Society

Welcome to the combined 15th International Congress of Speleology and 2009 National Speleological Society Convention.

We are glad you are here, and we'll do all we can to make this an excellent week that you will always fondly remember. Use the Information room to find information not in your program. If you need more help, there will be people wearing bright yellow shirts with Staff on the back. If they don't have an answer, they will find someone who does.

Take some time to sit, unwind from your long trip and read your program. There is a powerpoint program near Registration that will give you information you may find useful. Go see the vendors for the items you just can't live without. See the signup sheets in Registration for trips you don't want to miss. And, most of all have a good time here at the combined Convention and Congress.

Program Additions and Changes

Watch this space for any program or activity changes.

Save Sister Winkie! Sister Winkie is usually burned at the end of NSS Conventions. The program this year mentions that if Sister Winkie is burned, she must be burned in the sauna fire. **That information is wrong.** The sauna fire has a special exemption from the Fire Marshall, and it's design will not accommodate Sister Winkie. Texas is in a major drought and the risk of an out-of-control fire is high. We are lucky to have

a sauna fire. Don't abuse that privilege. Sister Winkie must not burn!

Convention Announcements

You must wear your name tag every day and at all NSS/ICS functions

Registration will be open 24 hours until Monday just before the Howdy Party

On the Horizon, your daily newsletter, can be picked up in the information room and at the cafeteria on campus. It will also be posted as a PDF on the congress website: www.ics2009.us

Read your program for more information about *On the Horizon*. The editor retains the right to publish or not depending on space and content. If you need to see the editor, she can be found in 222 Cailloux Hall.

The James G. Mitchell Award may be made for the best scientific paper presented at any of the sessions of the annual convention by a member (or members) of the National Speleological Society, age 25 or younger. Eligible presenters should submit their name, NSS number, paper title with the scheduled session and time to Mike Backe. Please e-mail information to caver.backe@gmail.com or leave a note for the Mitchell Award at Registration.

Remember to make your caving trip reservations before Registration closes the day before the trip. Also remember that Texas caves are warm, about 20C



Sunday - July 19, 2009

(70F) so do not wear coveralls or cave suits. Blue jeans and T-shirts are fine for most caving trips in Texas.

We need van drivers! You must hold a valid, USA, Canadian, or Mexican driver's license and be 25 years old or older. Sign up at Registration.

Book signings - these are in Weir on the first floor outside the bookstores.
Monday: 11:00 am to 13:00 (1:00 pm)
Lois Manno "Visions Underground"

Menu from the Dining Hall for today:
deli bar salad bar hot dog bar
hamburgers french fries tuna noodle
casserole mixed vegetables
Also served in the Lion's Den and Dining Hall: Beef Stroganoff Fettuccini pasta
carrots rolls and butter.

Grant Money Available. The National Speleological Foundation offers grants for cave and karst related projects, including those for research, education, acquisitions, and exploration. Learn how to apply at the NSF meeting on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in room CH112. Increase your chances of a successful application by making a 5 minute presentation. Email or call to get on the agenda.
caving.ashbrook@comcast.net or (267) 968-1389. More information at www.speleofoundation.org.

Beyond the Horizon

A Texas sized thank you to everyone that gave 14 tons of sweat and blood (yes

it weighed that much) during the vendor move in at Weir on Friday! We would still be in the parking lot without you (the elevator is working now!) Come see the vendors in Weir or Moody, open all day Sunday and all week.

Speleo Projects sponsors 1 (one) daily drawing Monday - Friday, for a FREE 2010 Caving Calendar + a surprise gift from Europe. Come to Weir 110 to enter. Winners must collect their prizes in person.

All NSS Grottos who brought their publications for exchange with the Swiss Speleological Society should bring them to the Speleo Projects stand in Weir 110. Anyone else who wishes to make an exchange should come to see if the SSS Library needs your publication.

Don't miss "Speleobooks After Hours" in the sales tent in the campground. Great deals! Open most evenings.

Where is Starbucks? 4 miles West of campus on 17. 30 03.706N 099 10.267W 1651 ft.

Emily says - yes, it is chipped, and yes, it is the same knee. Thank you for asking! She is fine and off the crutches the day after Congress.

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Be sure to read the information on WNS



Sunday - July 19, 2009

decontamination on page 48 of your program. This is especially important if you plan to go caving.

Thoughts For Convention

The facts, though interesting, are irrelevant.

Never wrestle with a pig. You both get dirty and the pig likes it. (Don't cavers?)