



On the Web at:
<http://southeast.ncrc.info>

THE
SOUTHEASTERN REGION
of the
National Cave Rescue Commission, NSS
presents
**A Regional Cave Rescue
Operations and Management Seminar**

June 16 – June 24, 2006

at
Union Hill School
Somerville, Alabama
(same location as the 2005 NCRC National Weeklong)

With the cooperation and assistance of:
The Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit, Inc. (HCRU)

About the Seminar

This seminar consists of extensive classroom and fieldwork in all phases of cave rescue including underground environment, vertical rescue, hauling systems, extrication techniques, medical management, communication systems, and the organization and management of cave rescue operations. Basic and advanced course material is presented for students who typically include cavers, emergency services personnel, and emergency managers.

The seminar provides approximately 100 hours of instruction over eight days. Its classes are physically strenuous and participants must be in good physical health. Students should be prepared to work in difficult situations, both above and below ground.

NCRC requires participants in its seminars to possess certain skills as prerequisites. Each student must demonstrate his or her ability to ascend (on rope), change over, rappel part way down, tie off their descender, then rappel safely to the ground as part of initial check-in skills. Students must also demonstrate proficiency with the basic knots and hitches used in cave rescue. Students in Levels 2 and 3 will additionally be required to demonstrate retention of key skills learned in previous levels as a prerequisite for participation in the next level. Those lacking the necessary skills will have the option to withdraw from the course or repeat a previous level. Information on specific prerequisites will be provided upon registration, or may be found on the NCRC website: www.ncrc.info.

Participants must review and sign a liability waiver at check-in registration. (Persons under the age of 18 may be permitted to participate in the course but must contact the registrar prior to registration concerning specific rules and restrictions.)

Courses Offered

LEVEL 1 teaches current cave rescue and emergency management techniques, and provides instruction in cave environment, medical considerations, basic rope work, litter rigging and transport, and incident command systems. It is specifically designed to meet the various needs of agency personnel with little or no cave-related experience, and cavers with little or no rescue or medical experience. Level 1 prepares students to function as cave rescue task force members.

LEVEL 2 prepares students to function as cave rescue task force leaders. ***Participants in Level 2 must have successfully completed an NCRC Level 1 course within the past four years, and must demonstrate retention of key Level 1 exit skills.*** Students are taught more advanced techniques in medical management, vertical and horizontal rescue, team leadership, and incident management. The course is heavily oriented toward vertical rescue in the cave environment.

LEVEL 3 is designed to challenge and fine-tune students' technical and management skills. ***Participants in Level 3 must have successfully completed an NCRC Level 2 course within the past four years, and will be expected to demonstrate retention of their skills as a condition of participation.*** Most sessions will be practical field exercises focused on crack and crevice rescue, technical rigging, water problems, and difficult litter handling situations - with an emphasis on small group scenarios and innovation. Classroom instruction will emphasize upper-level incident management. Throughout the week student teams will be presented with a variety of cave rescue problems and be expected to solve them with the assistance and supervision of the instructors.

VERTICAL SYSTEM WORKSHOP (Optional): This is your opportunity to practice SRT skills prior to entry testing, and to prepare yourself for a more productive NCRC experience. Build and adjust a safe, functional climbing system; fit and fine-tune your existing system; work on ascending techniques; and practice changeovers. ***This optional session is open to all registered students on Friday evening before the seminar.*** For more information contact Becky Jones at 325-247-5165 or beck@gonzoguanogear.com.

Personal Equipment Requirements

CLIMBING HELMET

UIAA or CE approved mountaineering style helmet with a three or four point suspension, and a non-elastic chinstrap

THREE SOURCES OF LIGHT

All must be capable of allowing you to exit the cave. At least two should be electric and two should be helmet-mountable.

BOOTS

Sturdy, rubber soled

RUGGED CLOTHING (see clothing note below)

SIX LOCKING CARABINERS

These must be independent of your ascending or descending systems

DESCENT DEVICE

Any of the following four devices are acceptable:

1. A standard rack
2. A three-bar Micro rack with a hyper-bar (4 bars total)
3. A bobbin-type descender with off-set or safety carabiner
4. A "Rescue Eight" with ears

SEWN SEAT HARNESS

All personal equipment must be in safe, usable condition and marked to identify the owner. Equipment deemed unsafe or unacceptable during check-in must be replaced prior to the student's continued participation in the course.

Students in Levels 1, 2 or 3 must arrive prior to the start of the seminar at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, 2006. Registration will be open on Friday evening and Saturday morning (details will be provided upon registration).

All students must either be current members of the National Speleological Society, or pay the Non-NSS fee in addition to their registration fees.

The optional Vertical System Workshop will occur on Friday evening, June 16, 2006, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Participants must be registered for the seminar.

Accommodations and Travel

Union Hill School is located on Union Hill Rd., approximately 20 minutes south of Huntsville, Alabama, and two and a half hours north of Birmingham, Alabama. (A map is available on the seminar web site.) The nearest airport is in Huntsville. Other airport options include Birmingham, and Nashville, Tennessee. Students are encouraged to arrange their own transportation to and from the airport. Contact the registrar well in advance if you want help with transportation.

Meal Plan

A meal plan is included with the seminar registration. It will offer three hearty meals per day, beginning with breakfast on Saturday the 17th and concluding with breakfast on Saturday the 24th. Spouses and/or other traveling companions may purchase the meal plan separately. If you have special dietary needs (vegetarian, diabetic, etc.) please note these on your registration form.

Lodging

Camping (on the school grounds, no power hook-ups) is included in the seminar registration fee. Camping for accompanying non-students is available at a modest fee. Bathrooms and showers will be available. Persons who prefer a motel must make their own arrangements. A list of nearby motels (5-30 miles) is available on the seminar Web site.

Environment/Area/Caves/Clothing

Daily high temperatures in Alabama can be expected to average 80 to 90° F. Relative humidity will be 60 to 80 percent. The elevation for the area is 1100 feet above sea level. Be prepared to hike to caves through heavily vegetated areas with poison ivy, ticks, and mosquitoes. Long pants, short sleeve shirts, hats, sunscreen, sturdy boots, and plenty of water are recommended for comfort and safety during outdoor activities.

Area caves average 55 degrees in temperature and are frequently wet and muddy. Rugged clothing (caving coveralls or caving pants), kneepads, sturdy boots, and leather gloves are recommended.

If you have questions about the seminar or need more information please contact:

Kevin Smith, Registrar
Phone: 256-653-2588
e-mail: ksmith@dyerandsmith.com

Tim White, Southeast Regional Coordinator
Phone: 256-508-1908
e-mail: southeast@ncrc.info

Jeff Burns, Site Coordinator
Phone: 256-656-2693 (cell), 256-498-3807(h)
e-mail: colbyb@otelco.net

ASCENDING SYSTEM

Must be a complete working system with at least two points of gripping attachment connected to the user's seat harness

1. An additional mechanical ascender or prusik must be available for crossing knots, etc.
2. One of the system's mechanical ascenders must be functional as a Quick Attachment Safety (QAS)

GLOVES

Must have leather palms and full fingers

WET SUIT & PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE

Required for Level 3, optional for Levels 1 and 2

WATER BOTTLES

Two quarts recommended

SMALL, PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT

Optional, but recommended

SMALL, HEAVY-DUTY PACK

Used to carry personal gear around underground

2 – 20 FT PIECES OF 1-INCH TUBULAR WEBBIN

2006 Southeastern Regional Registration

Please type or print legibly – Use one form per person – Detach and mail with payment

Name: _____ National Speleological Society Member # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

e-mail address: _____ Agency/Grotto/Org. Affiliation: _____ How Long? _____

List any dietary or health considerations we should know about: _____

How many non-students in your party? _____

- Level you are registering for: Level 1
(check one)
- Level 2 (When & where did you complete Level 1) _____
- Level 3 (When & where did you complete Level 2) _____
- Vertical Workshop (free). What type of climbing system do you use? _____

Remember – if you are not 18 years old you must contact the registrar before registering.

REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION (includes meals and camping)	\$375.00	_____
NON-NSS FEE (required for students not current members of Nat. Speleological Society)	\$ 35.00	_____
LATE REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked after May 10, 2006)	\$ 50.00	_____
EXTRA MEAL PLAN (non-students) Number of Extra Meal Plans _____	\$150.00/ea	_____
ADDITIONAL CAMPING (non-students)	\$ 20.00/ea.	_____
2006 EVENT T-SHIRT (Please indicate quantity and size below)	\$ 12.00/ea	_____
____ Small ____ Medium ____ Large ____ X-Large ____ XX-Large (add \$1.00 per XXL shirt)		

TOTAL REGISTRATION & FEES DUE _____

Mail Registration & Fees To:

J. Kevin Smith, CPA, CGFM
Dyer & Smith, LLC
Certified Public Accountants
112 Southside Square, Ste. F
Huntsville, AL 35801

25% cancellation fee after May 10, 2006. No refunds after June 4, 2006.

Make checks for TOTAL (above) payable to: SE-NCRC

No personal checks accepted after June 4, 2006.

Credit Card Payments Accepted.

Card number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Total Credit Card Amount = Reg & Fees \$ _____ . _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____ Which card? (circle):

Master Card



Discover



VISA



Printed Name on Card: _____ Authorized Signature: _____



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