



Hi all!

Happy New Year! I hope everyone made it successfully through 2011 and is ready for a great 2012!

The FSCSP accomplished a great deal during 2011, and we are ready to look at 2012 and see what we might be able to do this upcoming year. Regarding our 2011 achievements, I am pleased to announce that the full resolution report for the last Fort Stanton trip in 2011, in late October, and is available on our website at <http://FSCSP.org/Private/docs/reports/index.html>. Everyone should check this report out for the detailed maps and photos of the new surveyed section of Snowy River, "Realm of the Floating Islands". I think you'll be impressed.

As I said, we did a lot in 2011, including securing another substantial donation to the organization. One of our board members, Ms. Lynda Sanchez, was able to convince another non-profit organization that was disbanding to donate a hefty \$2,500 to the FSCSP! We are all indebted to her for her efforts.

We are also in the process of applying for a \$5,000 grant through the National Environmental Education Foundation. This grant (if we get it!) will be used to print a brochure (which Pete Lindsley is busy designing) and an annual report. We will use these documents for capacity building, that is, trying to attract more investment from potential donors, and more qualified participants from several places, like existing cavers, college students, other environmentally oriented organizations, etc. (There are other grant applications in the works that have been mentioned previously.)

Other things are going on that will/may affect us. The BLM has completed the renovation of the Eddy Building on the Fort Stanton quad and anticipate moving their NCA operations to that building soon. We have been given unofficial notification that the current bunkhouse will continue to be available for our use, for at least a while. Given that if we can acquire the necessary funding, we will consider taking over the bunkhouse lease. For the moment, it is not within our financial capabilities.

Ron Lipinski is continuing to update the Caver Quest Snowy River simulation. The latest version is available for download on our website at <http://FSCSP.org/Private/CQ/index.html>. It is a large file, so make sure you have a fast connection if you wish to download it. (Note that it runs in a Windows environment. It is possible to get it to run on Mac computers, but it requires additional software. If you e-mail me I can let you know how you can do it.)

The FSCSP board spent a great deal of time in 2011 working on a strategic plan for the organization. It is still being revised. At some point, we want to make that document available to all for your inspection.

In a couple of days (literally!) on January 4th at 10 am, the FSCSP board will be having one of their quarterly board meetings at the bunkhouse. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. One of the agenda items for the board is to consider revisions to the Bylaws to allow (among other things) for

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two additional board members and bi-annual meetings vs. quarterly meetings.

The creativity of our participants continue to amaze me. Lee Skinner, whose caving story is intimately connected with Fort Stanton Cave, has written a poem that he has graciously allowed me to include in the newsletter. He warned me, however, that it's still a work in progress and he may revise it or add to it substantially. See if you can figure out the FSC references in his poem:

This Cave is Your Cave (to the tune of 'This Land is Your Land') by Lee Skinner

In the land of Lincoln there is a cavern,
Near old Fort Stanton, 'neath the Capitans,
In it I wander, never cease to wonder;
This cave was formed for you and me.

This cave is your cave, this cave is my cave
From Lincoln Caverns to Schwinge Hall,
From Snowflake Passage to Russell's Crawl;
This cave was formed for you and me.

I roamed and rambled upon my knee pads
Near the sparking tips of her gypsum needles;
I saw above me stalactites dripping;
This cave was formed for you and me.

The lure continues up Snowy River
Beyond Mount Airy and past the eggshells;
Her darkness beckons to realms unknown;
This cave was formed for you and me!

More will be found through the Hills of Engle,
Disappointment Dome will disappoint no more;
More cave awaits those who extend the trends;
This cave was formed for you and me.

Cave diggers mine blowing veins of wind
To break into the mother lode of void
Flowered with gypsum and velvet treasures;
This cave was formed for you and me.

As Apollo 14 landed on the moon
The lion roared from its rocky den;
On the day for love we wriggled in;
This cave was formed for you and me.

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Fools saw snowflakes that never fell,
And tiger tails that can never sway,
A muddy reptile guards the milky way,
This cave was formed for you and me.

A starry night on a snowy river
Whence waters come from a great unknown,
Flowing crystal clear to be born to daylight;
This cave was formed for you and me.

They clawed a trench down five hundred inches
Of unforgiving solid rock and fill;
It's a new connection from the old to new,
This cave was formed for you and me.

The seventh dwarf lies in his burrow
A Babbling brook bores through railroad tracks;
An intrepid caver forever remembered
This cave was formed for you and me.

Lee says that if you don't understand the references you'll have to ask him!

The SWR members among us are aware that the next two SWR regionals will occur at Fort Stanton. The spring regional, scheduled for March 24-25, is a work regional. The region members will be helping out the Fort Stanton State Monument by working on rebuilding the deteriorating railing around the balcony of one of the historic buildings on the Fort. This work project is a special request from the Monument Manger as a way of helping out during tough economic times in exchange for allowing the Regional to be on site, with no charge to the organization. As most of us realize, the Fort has played a major role in the history of the area (including Fort Stanton Cave) since 1855. It is a worthy project and we are more than glad to assist. Anyone with carpentry skills is welcome to help!

At the SWR Memorial Day Regional (May 26-27), the Southwestern Region will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary, again at Fort Stanton. There will be lots of activities, including a dinner, slide shows of cavers and caving over the last 50 years and guest speakers. It will be an event that SWR members will not want to miss!

We are starting to make our plans for the upcoming year. We all understand that the WNS closure of Fort Stanton Cave is to continue for another year. However we also believe that the threat of WNS has not yet presented itself directly anywhere close by. So we will be pursuing permission for legitimate science and exploration activities in Fort Stanton Cave for the upcoming year. The discoveries made by Jim Goodbar's team in October beg for continuation as soon as possible! Our April expedition is scheduled for April 21 – 29. We hope to field at least two Snowy River exploration teams, one to continue upstream in Snowy River, and one to check out the high lead known as “High Hopes”.

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The FSCSP board has been working on a logo for the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project. The logo would be used for such things as bumper stickers and/or T-shirts. A couple of designs have been proposed, with various design options for each one.



At the right is one of the proposed logo designs. It is based upon the iconic Mimbres Bat. A Mimbres Bat is shown on the pot at left. The words in the circle in the center summarize the mission of the FSCSP. The quartered circle and dots are a

common Jornada-Mogollon (the prehistoric cultural group who inhabited the Fort Stanton area) theme. In this case, the dots represent the participants of the FSCSP, without which we would not be able to complete our mission.



The other proposed design is shown at the right of this paragraph. It also uses some of the same themes,



the quartered circle and dots. At left is a picture of this theme on a petroglyph from the Three Rivers Petroglyph site just west of Sierra Blanca.

There are several variations of these designs shown at

[\[http://fscsp.org/logo.html\]](http://fscsp.org/logo.html), if you'd like to look through them.



The board is interested in your thoughts regarding these designs. Do you prefer one over the other? Do you have suggestions for some other sort of design? Do you have suggestions for improving one of these designs? Could we possibly use both designs in some capacity? Or perhaps you think it's a waste of time to have a logo. Let us know what you think!

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One of our concerns is the potential for Snowy River to flood again this year. Consider the following data from <ftp://ftp.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/data/snow/update/nm.txt>.

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
As of SUNDAY: JANUARY 1 , 2012

BASIN	ELEV.	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
Data Site Name	(Ft)	Current	Average	%	Current	Average	%
RIO HONDO BASIN							
SIERRA BLANCA	10280	10.0	6.7	149	9.5	7.7	123
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Basin wide percent of average				149			123

What this is saying is that at the moment the snowpack on Sierra Blanca is almost 1.5 times the normal snowpack at this time of the year. If Sierra Blanca continues to get heavier than normal snow, we may see Snowy River flood during the snow melt.

We will, of course, be doing other things such as resistivity work, and continuing the digs that we started in 2011. If there are specific projects that you'd like to see us tackle in 2012, let me know!

Thanks again to all, for your support in the past, and for your continuing support in the future.

If you have any questions, let me know.

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