UIS BULLETIN

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

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IN THIS ISSUE:

13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst

Cave Rescue Training in Russia

UIS, Wikicaves and Grottocenter

Reports of Commissions

Important update regarding the 17th ICS

UIS France Habe Prize 2016

and more...

Contents

UIS BULLETIN
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Union Internationale de Spéléologie
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The UIS is a non-profit, non-governmental worldwide speleological organization that promotes the development of interaction between academic and technical speleologists of a wide range of nationalities to develop and coordinate international speleology in all of its scientific, technical, cultural and economic aspects.

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Table of Contents

Editorial: Expanding our ties with local cavers 3
Report of Informatics Commission 4
Publications Exchange Working Group of the Informatics Commission 5
UIS, Wikicaves and Grottocenter 7
World Caves Data - Letter of invitation 9
Report of Pseudokarst Commission 10
13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst 2015 13
Report of Commission on Cave Rescue 18
The 10th Balkan Caver's Camp 33
UIS France Habe Prize 2016 34
In memoriam - Charlie Self 37
Books 39
Calendar of Events 2016-2017 40
Important update regarding the 17th ICS, Australia 2017 41
UIS Bureau 2013/2017 43
Active Nation Members List 44
Annual Contributions and Bank Account 45
Guide for submitting and publishing articles in the UIS Bulletin 46
Editor's Disclosure 48

Before submitting articles for the UIS Bulletin, please refer to the guide on page 44 CLICK HERE!

Deadline for submissions for the next issue (Nº 58-2)
July 30, 2016

COVER
- Spectacular landscape element Čertův Stol (Devil Table) within the system of gravitational trenches near the ridge of Mt Čertův Mlyn (Czech Republic) - *Photo by Jan Urban*

Editorial

EXPANDING OUR TIES WITH LOCAL CAVERS

By Efraín MERCADO (Puerto Rico) - Editor in Chief
UIS Vice-President of Operations
emercado@caribe.net

No one is an island itself. Working in speleology demands an assurance that our passions, our science and our strength works toward the accomplishment of common goals with the people who lead the expanding knowledge: local cavers. As gregarious humans there is no more satisfaction than to see projects working, cavers engaged in protecting our natural underground wonders and the meticulous research, study and dissemination of the unfolded truth behind every discover. But this is not possible if we, as cavers, speleologist and scientists deny the opportunity to get together in this hard path.

Karst areas need to be protected, something that is repeated every time to satiety. Knowledge that is not shared has little or no value. The first in this row of knowledge should be our local cavers, through which it is possible to spread the word in communities, with people avid of learning and the best guardians of our underground wonders. Projects like the International Year of Speleology are just a hint of what we could accomplish as a group. Moreover, a solid team of cavers, speleologists and scientists is necessary to get the aims of a strong speleology, one that does not glorifies the work of one but the efforts of many.

The next UIS International Congress in Sydney, Australia, is another way to convey in a worldwide project to let our citizens know that karst areas exist, that they are strongly tied to our past, to our history, to our present and, why not, to our future. Knowledge is a challenge that has two path: alone, like an island or together, as a team. Each of us is responsible to extend our hands, our hearts, our strength and our knowledge in the benefit of a better protected karst areas, something to preserve for the future.

Rethink: karst protection is about expanding our ties to local cavers, to communities, to the real guardians of our caves; the people who live there. Not getting advantage of this simple ties with local cavers is a way to waste energy in high profile projects without taking into account those who work hard to keep the knowledge among our citizens. Let's be a team. Avoid being an island. Share and observe. Expanding our ties with local cavers is a priority, our speleology depend on it.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

INFORMATICS COMMISSION

By Peter Matthews (Australia), *President*
matthews@melbpc.org.au
http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org

Several of the Commission's working groups are making good progress as below, but other projects are languishing for lack of volunteers to help with the work.

If you would like to contribute to the progress of cave and karst documentation techniques, particularly that related to data fields, data exchange and the semantic web, please contact the president at the email address above.

And if you would like to contribute to any of the working groups below you would be very welcome - please email their leader directly. We are also still looking for a Vice-President to help run the Commission and its work.

MAPPING SYMBOLS FOR ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES

Leader: Philipp Häuselmann (Switzerland)
praezis@speleo.ch
Web: http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/wgsurmap.html#artificial

The UISIC Working Group for Survey and Mapping was requested by the UIS Commission on Artificial Cavities to investigate whether an additional symbol set for artificial cavities could be created, as a complement to the existing symbol set.

At the International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities, HYPOGEA, in March 2015 in Rome (Italy), the different symbol sets were proposed and first discussions held.

The next task will be a compilation of possible symbols on artificial cavities that could be part of an international symbol set, and discussion on these symbols within both commissions.

This task is expected in 2016.

T-LIDAR CAVE SCANNING

Leader: Donald McFarlane (USA)
DMcFarlane@kecksci.claremont.edu
Web: http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/wgsurmap-lidar.html

This working group has been established to examine the issues of T-LiDAR laser scanning/mapping of caves, and to produce recommended standards where needed. See the web page for more details.

A meeting of the several members of the working group was held in Deinze, Belgium, in July 2015. Provisional agreements were made on file formats, specifically:

Open Standard. Archiving will need three files for each project:

1. Point cloud file in generic format; x.y.z. binary.

2. Mesh in VRML format or STL format. Redundant scans should be removed.

3. Metadata file. To include tie-in to surface GPS location, or classic survey (which should be included in the metadata file). Summary data, e.g. number of scans, dates of scanning, team names. Angular resolution(s) used for the scans.

Further discussion was conducted on the issue of non-arbitrary definitions of chambers versus passages.

This is currently the subject of Doctoral research by Nico Schertler (Cave Research Group of the TU Dresden Institute for Cartography).

There may be a 3D scanning session at the UIS 18th Congress in Sydney, July 2017, which would be an appropriate venue to present the work of the group.

PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGE

Leader: Trevor Faulkner (United Kingdom)
trevor@marblecaves.org.uk
Web: http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/publexch

The Publications Exchange Working Group has been established to tackle the challenges and opportunities for the exchange, accessing, organisation, safe storage and archiving of world-wide published speleological and karstic information into the future. Trevor's full report of the working group's aims and progress can be found on the next page in this Bulletin.

UIS-WIKICAVES

Leader: Didier Borg (France)
dcborg@aol.com
Web: http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/wikicaves

The UIS and WikiCaves are collaborating via this Working Group to encourage and help with the responsible collecting and sharing of data about the world's caves and karst. The data is being stored in the publicly accessible GrottoCenter web-based database initiated by WikiCaves in 2008.

Because cave information can be a sensitive issue, UIS is writing to all countries to ascertain what level of locational precision they can accept, and whether they would help the project by supplying information about their caves.

The WG also plans to look into whether the data can be set up as Linked Data on the Semantic Web to make basic cave and karst information more accessible via the web.

More details about WikiCaves and its GrottoCenter web database can be found in the separate report on page 7 in this Bulletin.

CAVER'S MULTI-LINGUAL DICTIONARY

Leader: Mladen Garašič (Croatia)
mgarasic@public.carnet.hr; mgarasic@grad.hr
Web: http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/lexintro.html

The web-based Dictionary lists terms for over 300 speleological concepts in twenty-four languages, the latest being Russian and Ukrainian. The Group is currently working with our Turkish friends to have Turkish added also.

New languages or improvements to existing languages are always welcome, and important technical information on how best to go about this is available on the Working Group's web pages.

340:
en: cavernous
bg: порест (adj), шуплест (adj)
de: kavernös
es: cavernoso (adj)
fa: غارمانند؛ محل داراي غار
fr: caverneux, -se (adj)
gr: σπηλαιώδης
hr: šupljikav; kavernozan
hu: üreges
id: bergua
it: cavernoso/a (ag)
ja: 洞窟状の (dokutsujono); 洞窟のある (dokutsunoaru); 空洞性の (kudoseino)
ko: 동굴지대의
la: cum cavernis
lt: akytas (adj)
nl: grotachtig; grot-
pl: jaskiniowy
pt: cavernoso
ro: cavernos (adj)
ru: пещеристый
se: hålig
sl: votlikav
sr: шупљикав; кавернозан
uk: печеристий

Example of a page of the Caver's Multi-Lingual Dictionary

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP OF THE UIS INFORMATICS COMMISSION

By Trevor FAULKNER (United Kingdom), *Chairman*
trevor@marblecaves.org.uk
http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/publexch

The Publications Exchange Working Group of the UIS Informatics Commission has been established to tackle the challenges and opportunities for the exchange, accessing, organisation, safe storage and archiving of world-wide published speleological and karstic information into the future; it is believed that this literature has enormous historical and research value.

The information has been partly disseminated through journals and books published by international and national bodies and by local caving clubs. Since the 1950s, many of these organisations have made bilateral arrangements to exchange new publications amongst themselves, usually by post, in an ad hoc pattern that remained unknown internationally.

The documents exchanged are commonly hou-

sed in speleological libraries of various sizes and physical accessibility. Many are thus stored in relative safety and are available for study, at least to local members.

Three main issues now confront this beneficial exchange of information:

- the rising costs of postal delivery;

- the opportunities presented by electronic publication, electronic delivery and electronic storage;

- the intention of some Governments for all papers that report publicly-funded research to be freely available under an 'Open Access' policy.

The main aims of this Working Group are to:

1 - Promote the exchanges of previous and new paper journals and books that will be housed in physical libraries internationally;

2 - Publicise the extent of this international cooperation to help safeguard the preservation of important speleological information into the distant future, as a widely distributed 'archive';

3 - Examine the opportunities and problems related to the production, dissemination and long-term storage of information electronically, primarily to improve its international, searchable, 'access'.

The vision is that the Working Group will assist in the networking of over 100 existing speleological libraries internationally that will each hold and catalogue a good selection of published cave and karst literature.

The Working Group was formally established within the UIS Informatics Commission, with close liaison with the UIS Bibliography Commission, at the 16th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) held in Brno, Czech Republic, from 21–28 July 2013.

This action followed a meeting in Brno on 25 July about Journal Exchanges that was convened by the British Cave Research Association (BCRA) and attended by 19 Editors, Librarians and other interested people from 12 Countries.

That meeting discussed the BCRA experience in re-creating a British Caving Library (BCL) and in trying to re-establish contact with many overseas organisations with whom exchange agreements had lapsed.

This situation has now been corrected, with BCRA currently exchanging journals with about 45 overseas organisations.

The 'Publications Exchange' name of this Working Group indicates that books and other material can also be exchanged between speleological organisations.

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS AND COMMUNICATION

All attendees at the 25 July 2013 meeting in Brno, Editors and Librarians of other international speleological organisations known to the Chairman, and other people who have expressed an interest, are asked to regard themselves as part of this Working Group. These people are also asked to forward the Working Group's Terms of Reference and its Appendices to their other Exchange Partners and invite them to join, by sending a short email to the Chairman.

The Terms of Reference and the Appendices are held on the Working Group's web page at http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/publexch/. These will be publicly available, but will not necessarily be completely up to date.

The latest working versions of the Appendices will be distributed to the Working Group by the Chairman, from time to time, and placed on the web page when appropriate.

Formal meetings for the Working Group will be arranged at future international speleological meetings. These meetings will enable discussions about progress, the dissemination of exchange information, and the actual exchange of back issues of speleological journals and books. Suitable meetings identified at present are:

- The EuroSpeleo event to be held in Yorkshire, United Kingdom, from 13–20 August 2016.

- The 17th Internacional Congress of Speleology (ICS) to be held in Sydney, Australia, from 23–30 July 2017.

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AIMS OF THE WORKING GROUP

The aims will be achieved by the preparation and maintenance of various Recommendations and informational spreadsheets that are Appendices to the Terms of Reference.

The Appendices currently identified are:

Appendix 1: *Speleological libraries. File PEWG Appendix 1*

Appendix 2: *Paper publications. File PEWG Appendix 2*

Appendix 3: *Postal exchanges. File PEWG Appendix 3*

Appendix 4: *Digital scanning. File PEWG Appendix 4*

Appendix 5: *Electronic publications exchanges. File PEWG Appendix 5*

Appendix 6: *Working Party Contacts spread-*

sheet. File PEWG: Appendix 6 Contacts (Pages 1-5)

Appendix 7: *Journal Titles Published spreadsheet. File PEWG: Appendix 7 Titles (Pages 1-5)*

Appendix 8: *Publications Exchanges Status spreadsheet. File PEWG: Appendix 8 Status (Pages 1-9)*

Appendix 9: *Action Review: previous and outstanding actions for the Working Group. File PEWG Appendix 9*

PROGRESS TO DATE

The ToR and Appendices 1, 2, and 3 are now fairly stable, so that editors and librarians can consider the recommendations. Appendices 4 and 5 go beyond the recommendations for postal exchanges, and are being worked on by an expert team to address the issues regarding the electronic exchange of published information.

These draft Appendices record their various inputs, in advance of a more formal set of recommendations. Everyone is asked to provide new information and updates for Appendices 6, 7 and 8.

Peter Mattthews, the Chairman of the UIS Informatics Commission, is thanked for providing advice and guidance on the placing of the ToR and its Appendices on to the UISIC web page.

NEXT MEETING

A Publications Exchange Workshop will be convened within the EuroSpeleo event to be held in Yorkshire, UK, from 13–20 August 2016: http://eurospeleo.uk/. The workshop is for all Caving Librarians, Caving Editors and others interested in the exchange and safe archiving of speleological literature. The aims of the Workshop are:

1. To review the ToR;

2. To review progress in achieving the aims of the Working Group;

3. To provide an opportunity for networking and the physical exchange of publications amongst the attendees. Prior registration via EuroSpeleo 2016, nearer the time, is requested, so that a suitable agenda can be proposed, but is not essential for attendance.

Trevor Faulkner
20 February 2016
WFW 672

UIS, WIKICAVES AND GROTTOCENTER

By Didier Borg (France)
UIS-WikiCaves Working Group Leader
dcborg@aol.com
http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/wikicaves

GrottoCenter 2.1
The Wiki database made by cavers for cavers.

As announced at the UIS General Assembly in Brno, Czech Republic, July 2013, the UIS and WikiCaves are collaborating via a new Working Group within the UIS Informatics Commission to help with the responsible sharing of data about the world's caves and karst.

Because cave information can be a sensitive issue, UIS is writing to all countries to ascertain what level of locational precision they can accept, and whether they would help the project by supplying information about their caves.

The Working Group will also be looking into whether the data can be set up as 'Linked Data' on the 'Semantic Web'.

THE WIKICAVES & GROTTOCENTER PHILOSOPHY

As Europeans cavers realized they all faced the same difficulties when it came to finding and sharing cave related information and data, they knew there had to be a common tool in order to avoid the multiplication of numerous projects which required each team to invest so much time and efforts.

Yet, the context could be quite different depending on the countries. This is why working together seemed the obvious solution. That is how Wikicaves was created with Grottocenter, as its website and data base.

WORLD COVERAGE

Wikicaves and Grottocenter have since 2008, through a number of partnerships, collected and made data available for over 50,500 caves covering more than 86 countries with over 2,100 contributors around the world.

Data is entered either directly or by the Grottocenter team who then takes care of the digitalization and integration in the database.

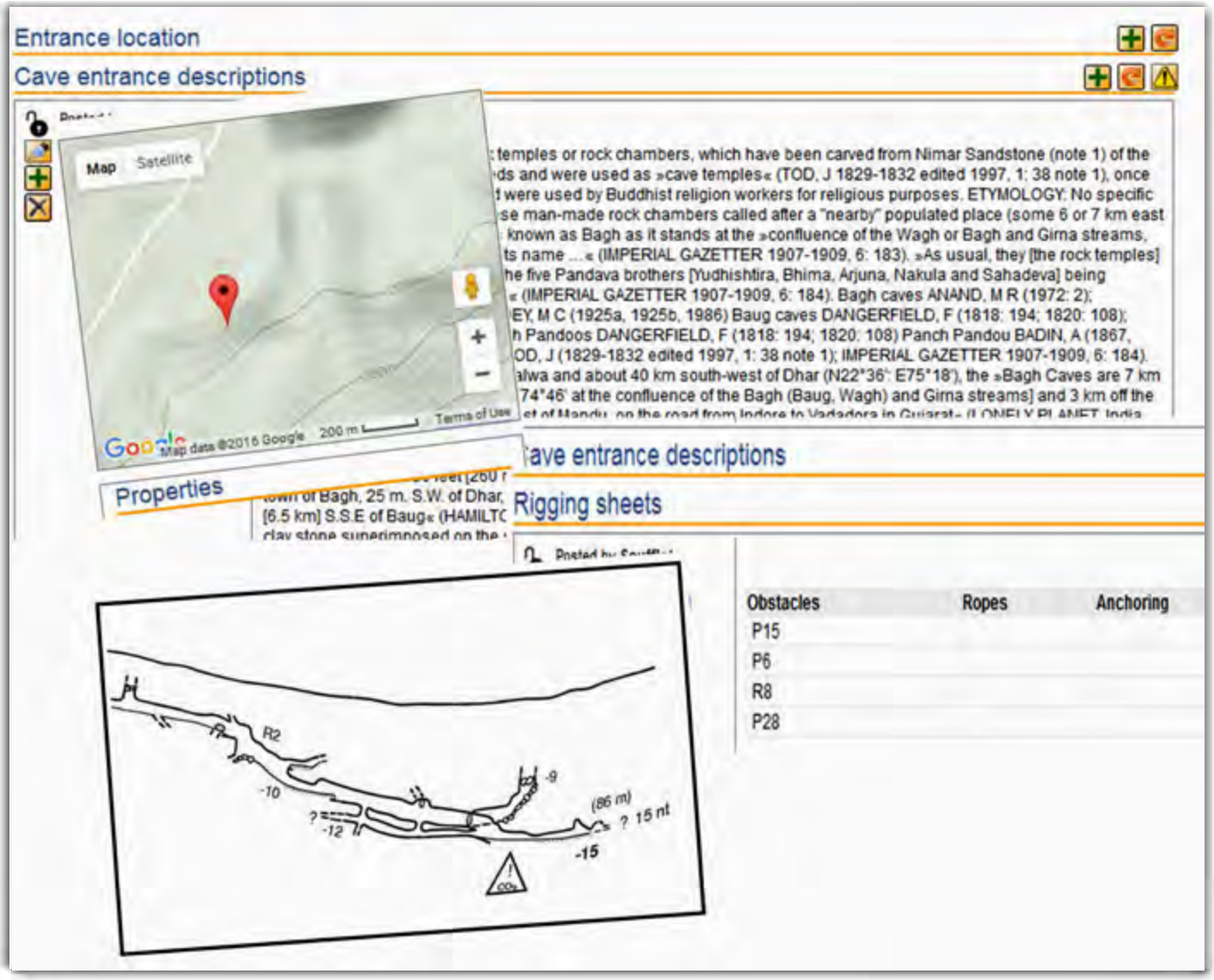
Grottocenter partners are regularly kept informed about additions and updates made in the database on caves in their countries - Including about additional data that might have been added by cavers from other areas of the world.

SHARING

The website also provides links and gives credit to the various partners and contributors and allows cavers to communicate in order to facilitate contacts.

LANGUAGE

To make access easier, the website is now available in 8 languages (the Arabic version is underway). Being a community-based project every caver may take part by adding data as well as in the decision making process. Wikicaves also is funded and supported by the FSE (European Speleological Federation).



Sharing almost everything cavers might need rigging sheets, topographies, contacts, cave data
(Source: Wikicaves /Grottocenter)

Union Internationale
de Spéléologie

16SG - Letter 41
April 2016

To: All National Speleological Organisations
CC: UIS Country Delegates

World Caves Data

On behalf of the International Union of Speleology (UIS) and WikiCaves, we are contacting you to introduce you to the GrottoCenter World Caves Database (*http://en.wikicaves.org/*) managed by WikiCaves (*http://www.grottocenter.org/*), and to invite you to join an international effort for the responsible sharing of data about the world's caves.

GrottoCenter has operated the World Caves Database on the web since 2008, and it currently contains details of over 50,500 entrances in over 86 countries and with over 2100 contributors.

As you may know, WikiCaves requested UIS collaboration to share cave data during the last International Congress at Brno (CZ) in 2013. UIS was very happy to agree, while still being aware that publication of locations and other sensitive information could be a problem in some countries.

The UIS therefore set up a Working Group (*http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/wikicaves*) under its Informatics Commission to handle this project. UIS required the Working Group to contact each country to ascertain the level of locational precision to be used when publishing data about any caves from that country, to conduct its business in English, and to have its leader appointed by WikiCaves.

So that we receive a single answer from each country even where there is more than one national organisation, we ask that you respond via your UIS Delegate, who should convey your country's consolidated wishes to the Working Group Leader. If we do not hear from you within six months, we will assume that you do not need any restriction on locational precision.

Your UIS Delegate can be found on the UIS website at *http://uis-speleo.org*.
Or if you do not have a delegate, please contact our Working Group Leader directly.

Please advise us by 31 July 2016:

· what level of locational precision we can use when listing caves from your country.

· whether you would be interested in helping this important data-sharing project by supplying information about the caves and karst from your country.

Your UIS Delegate should respond to:
Working Group Leader: Didier BORG <*dcborg@aol.com*>

Didier is of course happy to answer any questions you may have.
We are looking forward to your collaboration in order to promote the responsible sharing of speleological information among the global cave and karst community.

Frédéric Urien
President of the
Wikicaves Association

Fadi Nader
Secretary General
International Union of Speleology

UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE
Secretaire Général

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REPORT OF ACTIVITIES BETWEEN 2013 AND 2015

PSEUDOKARST COMMISSION

By Jan Urban (Poland), *President* - urban@iop.krakow.pl
Rudolf Pavuza (Austria), *Vice-President* - rudolf.pavuza@nhm-wien.ac.at
Ludovít Gaál (Slovakia), *Secretary* - gaal@ssj.sk
http://www.pseudokarst.de.vu/

FUNCTIONARIES OF THE COMMISSION

Jiří Kopecký *(Honorary President)*
István Eszterhás *(Honorary President)*
Jan Urban *(President)*
Rudolf Pavuza *(Vice-President)*
Ludovít Gaál *(Secretary)*

Members: Jiří Adamovič, Ahmad Afrasibian, Soraya Ayub, Pavel Bella, William R. Halliday, Erich Knust, Włodzimierz Margielewski, Jan Paul van der Pas, Juan Ramón Vidal Romani, Hartmut Simmert, Rabbe Sjöberg, Herman de Swart, George Szentes, Maurizio Tavagnutti, Tiberiu Tulucan, Marcos Vaqueiro Rodriguez, Marina Vdovets, Lukáš Vlček, Josef Wagner, Karel Žák.

ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMISSION

The assembly took place during the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno, 25th July 2013; in this meeting the report of the Commission activity in 2009-2013 was presented.

EVENTS (MEETINGS)

- The assembly taking place during the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno, 25th July 2013 and gathered 17 persons from 11th countries (3 continents), among which 11 persons were formal members of the Commission.

- During the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno three half-day scientific sessions were dedicated to the "Karst and caves in other rocks" i.e. widely understood pseudokarst. These sessions were perfectly prepared and conveyed by J. Adamovič. They included 21 presentations on non-karst, probably-karst, possibly-karst, partly-karst, more-or-less-karst as well as karst-like caves and cavities.

PUBLICATIONS

- Comprehensive abstracts, practically papers of the presentations given during the "pseudokarst sessions" of the Congress in Brno, 2013, were published in printed volume of the Congress materials.

The homepage of the database "List of non-karst caves of Hungary," which can be found at the internet address: http://nonkarstic.elte.hu/start.html

The first cover of the "Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter," N° 24, which can be found at the internet address: http://wwwpub.zih.tu-dresden.de/~simmert/pkarst/

- Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter has been issued one a year in two languages: English and German. Editors of the issues were: Jan Urban, Rudolf Pavuza and Christa Pfarr. The following numbers were published: no. 24 (February 2014) and no. 25 (February 2015). The Newsletter is distributed both in digital version by internet and in printed copies by mail among people preferring this form. The printed version was financially granted by UIS Bureau. Both issues, 24 and 25, include 12 scientific or popular-scientific papers as well as several short notices, event announcements and reports.

- Closely related to the Commission activity and prepared by its members, I. Eszterhás and G. Szentes, is "List of non-karst caves of Hungary" – digital database accessible via internet since December 2014. The database presents short descriptions (in two languages: Hungarian and English), selected literature, maps and photographs of caves.

- Partly related to the Commission activity and partly prepared by its members are also papers published in the "Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie", vol. 59 (2015), suppl. 1, containing the materials of the International Conference "Sandstone Landscapes III", Kudowa Zdrój, Poland 25-28.04.2012.

- Minutes of the Pseudokarst Commission assembly in Brno were published in the UIS Bulletin, no. 56, 1 (2014).

- The report on the "pseudokarst sessions" during the Congress in Brno, 2013, was published in the Pseudokarst Newsletter no. 24.

WEBPAGE

The webpage of the Pseudokarst Commission (edited by Hartmut Simmert) is permanently active. It presents all documents produced by the Commission assembly and executive group, issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletters as well as reports and announcements concerning meetings and other events. It also presents the members and functionaries of the Commission, history of the Commission as well as European clubs and scientific institutions exploring and/or studying non-karst caves. All activity providing new data and improving the informational level of the webpage is welcome.

CURRENT ACTIVENESS

- The most important event recently prepared and currently taking place is the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, held in Kunčice, in the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy, Czech Republic. The place of this Symposium was not set definitely during the last Commission assembly in Brno (2013), and the trials of its location were continued by the Commission executive. Therefore, we are the more grateful for our Hosts who have invited us to the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy. The institutional organizers of the 13th Symposium on

One of the maps in the database "List of non-karst caves of Hungary," which can be found at the internet address: http://nonkarstic.elte.hu/start.html

The first cover of the "Pseudokarst Commission Newsletter," N° 25, which can be found at the internet address: http://wwwpub.zih.tu-dresden.de/~simmert/pkarst/

Pseudokarst are: Speleological Group Orcus, Department of Physical Geography and Geoecology of the University of Ostrava and Founded Management of the Beskydy Protected Landscape Area. Personally, the main organisers of this Symposium are Jan Lenart and Josef Wagner. Observing their hard work and its results we all want to express our thanks to them and all other co-organisers.

- According to the decision made during the last assembly of the Commission, the Working Group on the Classification of Non-Karst Caves was to be organised and should preceed works on this problem. Unfortunately, the Working Group have not presented any results of its work, yet.

- During the Congress in Brno (2013) the Commission executive got contacts with members and executives of the Volcanic Cave Commission and the Artificial Cavites Commission. These contacts have been still kept.

- Owing to good work of the UIS Vice-President, George Veni, the information on events related to cave and karst exploration, study and management (meeting annoucements, publications atc.) has been efficiently distributed to the Commission executives and then redistributed to its members and friends.

FUTURE EVENTS AND PROSPECTS

- The most important aim of the Pseudokarst Commission activity is the organization of international pseudokarst symposia. Therefore, the crucial problem which should be solved during this assembly is the location of the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst. So far, the Commission executive has got no suggestion in this issue, therefore all proposals are welcome. We should also discuss the term of this event in the context of the 17th International Congress of Speleology which will be held in Australia in 2017.

- The Commission executive proposes to prolong the activity of the Working Group on the Classification of Non-Karst Caves under the leadership of P. Bella and L. Gaál. We hope that the conclusions of this group work will be presented during the 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst and, consequently, the final version of such classification will be consequently published in the most important speleological and geological journals.

- The persistent work of the Pseudokarst Commission executive will be continued. So the webpage will be updated and next issues of the Pseudokarst Newsletter are expected.

The UIS Bureau is no longer providing financial support to the commissions for the printing and distribution of newsletters in order to encourage greater digital distribution, which reaches more people and for less money. The Pseudokarst Commission appreciates the past financial support by the Bureau. The Commission will provide support for the printed version of the Newsletter until 2017 to meet the requirements of libraries still keeping printed records as well as some members of the Commission.

The homepage of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission, which can be found at the internet address: http://wwwpub.zih.tu-dresden.de/~simmert/pkarst/

Kunčice, 16.09.2015

Ludovít Gaál - *Secretary*
Rudof Pavuza - *Vice-President*
Jan Urban - *President*

13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst

16-19 September 2015 (Kunčice pod Ondřejnikem, Czech Republic)

By Jan Urban (Poland), *President* - urban@iop.krakow.pl
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The history of the International Pseudokarst Symposia reaches back to 1982 and includes thirteen meetings, mainly in Central Europe, therefore the regions in which they were held have started to repeat. The place of the last, 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in September 2015, is situated in the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy Mts., about ten kilometres from the Podolanky resort, where 25 years ago, in 1990, the 4th Symposium on Pseudokarst was held (Wagner 1990). For a few participants of both these Symposia (like the authors of this report) such context was an excellent opportunity for the comparison of what has changed during this quarter of a century. We could discuss the progress of research, development of study methods, enlargement of our knowledge. We also observed whether there was a change in the group of people attending the meetings – as always not only professionals: geologists, geomorphologists, biologists, climatologists, archaeologists conducting their studies in caves, but also hobbyists: cavers discovering, exploring and carefully documenting caves.

The results of such comparison are not unequivocal (just equivocal). We still have not formulated a strict definition of the term "pseudokarst" and the spectrum of problems included in this term as well as the boundary to karst *sensu stricto*. Nevertheless the term "pseudokarst" is still the symbol that connects scientists and cavers who examine and explore caves of non-karst genesis in general or such that origina-

Fig. 1 - *View toward the west from the terrace of the H-resort in Kunčice, where the Symposium was organized.*

ted at least partly owing to other than karst processes. Compared to the meeting held 25 years ago, this term lost its feature of novelty. Sometimes the term has been criticised – but nevertheless no "better" term was proposed, so far (e.g. Eberhard, Sharples 2013; Urban 2014). Since that time thousands of such caves have been discovered and described in various places of the Earth and even on Mars. Several fields/directions of scientific studies of such caves can be distinguished. New classifications of non-karst caves have been proposed (e.g. Halliday 2007; Bella, Gaál 2011, 2013; Urban, Margielewski 2013). New tools and methods of investigation of such caves (elaborated and developed within frames of other scientific disciplines as geophysics, mechanics or mineralogy-petrography) have been presented and research focusses more in processes involved than on a satisfying terminology.

During the scientific sessions of the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst the presentations concerning two fields of research predominated. The first was obviously related to the geological region where the Symposium was organised – the Outer Flysch Carpathians. In this region caves originated owing to the gravitational slope failures are very common and some of them are of considerable extent. Therefore, the lecture presenting the genesis and categorisation of these caves based on morphogenetic and geomechanic criteria was an introduction to this matter (authors: W. Margielewski, J Urban). Further, the genesis, shape, exploration and scientific features/values of these caves in the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy Mts. were shown in several lectures by our Czech hosts. They started their presentations from the general description of the geological and biological heritage of this region (presentations and movie by F. Jaskula, D. Kvita, J. Lenart, J. Wagner) and concluded with the characterisation of problems of cave exploration and examination (several presentations and posters by J. Kupka, J. Lenart, L. Šesták, P. Tabořik, J. Wagner). The important result of the study of caves in the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy Mts. is a genetic-morphological classification of cave passages published recently in "Geomorphology" (Lenart et al. 2014) and presented during the Symposium sessions (J. Lenart, J. Wagner). Apart from the geologic-geomorphologic problems, a very modern method of a microclimatic study in the caves in this region (M. Kašing) as well as the analysis of the occurrence of bats in these caves (V. Škarpich, J. Wagner) were presented. The results of cave exploration and studies in the Polish segments of the Outer Carpathians were introduced during these sessions by Polish authors. The following topics should be mentioned in this group:

- progress in exploration of caves in the Polish part of the Beskidy Mts. (in Polish: Beskidy or Beskid, not Beskydy),
- water in caves of the Beskidy Mts.,
- genetic differentiation of caves in the Homole Gorge, Pieniny Mts. and
- morphogenesis of the Mroczna Cave, Beskid Niski Mts. (several presentations and posters by P. Franczak, W. Gubała, G. Klassek, W. Margielewski,

Fig. 2 - *Gravitational trench near the ridge of Mt Čertův Mlyn (Devil Mill); above the trench the leader of the Organisational Committee, J. Lenart.*

Fig. 3 - *Spectacular landscape element Čertův Stol (Devil Table) within the system of gravitational trenches near the ridge of Mt Čertův Mlyn.*

T.,. Mleczek, J. Pukowski, C. Szura, J. Urban and M. Zatorski).

A comparatively large number of lectures given during the scientific sessions and concerning the second predominating scientific problem, was also induced by the high number of representatives of the country hosting the meeting. This scientific field was the study of morphogenesis of sandstone rock forms in the Bohemian Cretaceous Basin, carried out also in a context of the cave occurrence in these rocks. In contrast to the caves in the Outer Carpathians, the caves in sandstones of this Basin represent usually erosional-weathering or boulder caves. To this thematic group belong the conception of the development of orthogonal jointing in sandstones (J. Adamovič, M. Coubal) as well as the lectures and posters providing analyses of effects of loading stress (compaction) and lichen cover on spatial distribution and rate of erosion and – in consequence – stability of sandstone cliffs and cave ceilings (team: J. Schweigstillová, J. Bruthans, J. Řihošek, M. Slavík). The study of the influence of various factors, not sufficiently appreciated up to recent, on the stability of sandstone massifs, comparing field observations with results of unconventional laboratory analyses, conducted recently by the team of Czech scientists, has brought about very interesting conclusions, just published in international journals (Bruthans et al. 2014). A new field of research seems to be also the usage of geophysical methods (e.g. ERT) for the analysis of tectonic-structural constraints of the morphology of mesas in the Broumov Upland, Bohemian Cretaceous Basin (P. Tabořik, F. Hartwich, J. Stemberk, J. Kopecký, O. Jenka).

Among the other topics of the session lectures, the following should be mentioned:

- tectonic evidences in pseudokarst-caves of the Eastern Alps, some of them formerly regarded as karst ones (I. Baroň, L. Plan, B. Grasemann, I. Mitrović, G. Winkler),

- exploration of "pseudokarst" caves in calcareous spring tufa in Austria (R. Pavuza),

- reviews of volcanic caves and speleothems in non-karst caves of Hungary (G. Szentes, I. Eszterhás) as well as

- the history of exploration of the Ledove Sluje cave system in metamorphic schist of the Podyji National Park, Czech Republic (F. Kuda, J. Divišek).

During the field sessions we visited mountain massifs of the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy, situated close to the Symposium place *(Fig. 1)*. Among the sites shown to us were caves and surface landforms, which were the results of gravitational mass movements, as well as cultural-ethnographic objects. The most spectacular surface landforms we saw were the trenches crowning the ridge of Mt. Čertův Mlýn (1206 m a.s.l.), and the crags of a specific, picturesque shape, which were associated with these trenches *(Figs. 2, 3)*.

The cave tours included the largest, deepest and most interesting ones. The first was a maze system of passages of the longest cave, Cyrilka (535 m long and 16 m deep), in the light of a new classification (Urban, Margielewski 2013) representing most probably a dilatancy cave. The second was the deepest cave of the region, Kněhyňska Cave (280 m long and 57.5 m deep) representing, in turn, most probably the initial, dilational cave system. It is composed of a spacious and several dozen meters deep chasm (well), surrounded by a set of narrower (sub) vertical fissures – cave passages *(Figs. 4-6)*. Both these caves are located in the Mt. Radhošt (1106 m a.s.l.) and Mt. Smrk (1276 m a.s.l.) massif. However,

Fig. 4 - *Lower part of the main abyss of the Kněhyňska Cave, the deepest cave in the region*

Fig. 5 - *Difficult traverse in the Kněhyňska Cave*

Fig. 6 - *Typical, high and narrow passage of the Kněhyňska Cave*

the most interesting from the scientific point of view was the Velká Ondrášova Cave (217 m long and 35 m deep) in the Mt. Lysa Hora (1323 m a.s.l.) massif, the highest summit of the Silesian-Moravian Beskydy. The entrance of this cave is situated in the highest part of the gravitational ridge trench, while its passage system is very complex and comprises a maze set of crevices intersecting in various levels *(Figs. 7-10)*. However, the crevices-passages are clustered in two branches of orientation "supplementing" the system of surface trenches. In this cave the typical (induced by gravitation) movements of rock massif fragments producing cave passages were described (Lenart et al. 2014).

An important event during the Symposium was the assembly of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission, held on Thursday, 17th Sept. 2015, and gathering 11 members of this Commission. During this meeting the activity of the Commission between 2013 and 2015 was recapitulated. Among significant measures of the activity of the Commission and its members the following affairs were mentioned:

- the sessions dedicated to non-karst caves during the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno (Czech Rep. 2013),
- the publication of the "Pseudokarst Newsletter" nos. 24 and 25,
- the permanently active Commission webpage, as well as
- the digital database of non-karst caves in Hungary prepared by the members of the Commission (I. Eszterhas and G. Szentes).

The most important problem discussed during the meeting was the location of the next symposium, presumably in 2018 (as the 17th International Congress of Speleology in Australia makes another event in 2017 not reasonable). Several possibilities were considered, such as: Călimani and Gurghiu Mountains in central Romania, where numerous tree mould caves have been recently discovered, Leningrad Province in Russia with its caves in granites and Devonian sandstones, Austria with some pseudokarst caves in karst areas, abrasion and tectonic caves of Sweden; however, no final decision was made. New members were welcomed to the Commission.

The main institutional organisers of the 13th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, initiated – as usual – by the UIS Pseudokarst Commission, were: Department of Physical Geography and Geoecology of the University in Ostrava and Speleological Club Orcus in Bohumin. The Organisational Committee was led by J. Lenart and J. Wagner. All participants appreciated the good organisation of both the scientific and field sessions of the conference and all admired the scenic mountainous surroundings of the Symposium place *(Fig. 1)*. About 45 people from 9 countries (Austria, Czech Rep., Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden) attended the Symposium *(Fig. 11)*. One optimistic outlook might be the observation that apart from some older participants – veterans of the early days of the pseudokarst symposia – many young people attended the 13th Symposium, similar to the 4th Symposium held nearby a quarter of a century ago.

The symposium proceedings – well prepared by the organizers (Lenart 2015) – were published and are available for download from the Commission's homepage http://www.pseudokarst.de.vu/.

Fig. 7 - *Deep (high) and subvertical passage in the Velka Ondrášova Cave*

Fig. 8 - *Velka Ondrášova Cave fragment formed within a highly disintegrated part of the massif*

Fig. 9 - *Group visiting the Velka Ondrášova Cave at the end of this route, which is suggested by the state of cover-alls and humour of the participants*

Fig. 10 - *The entrance of the Velka Ondrášova Cave situated within the gravitational ridge trench.*

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Fig. 10 - *Participants of the 13th Symposium in Kunčice, 2015.*

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION

By Bernard Tourte (France)
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Formation Spéléo-Secours International

Du 3 au 12 Juillet 2015 - Dans l'Oural - Russia

SÉMINAIRES:

Equipier - Chef D'équipe

Assistance Victime

Plongée Secours

Photos © Spéléo Secours Français

Preambule

La session de formation qui s'est déroulée était envisagée depuis près de deux ans. C'est Jean-Michel Vallon qui a joué le rôle de coordinateur SSF pour sa mise en place, soit un important travail préparatoire, dont une reconnaissance sur le terrain en juillet 2014 afin de bien s'assurer de la faisabilité du projet.

CE SONT AU TOTAL TROIS STAGES QUI ONT ÉTÉ RÉALISÉS:

- Un stage E/CE coordonné par Bernard Tourte et Cherednichenko Filippe (responsable Russie des formations techniques secours). Cette session rassemblait trente-cinq participants.

- Un stage ASV, comprenant vingt-deux spéléologues, coordonné par Wim Cuivers et Rychagov Sergey (responsable Russie des formations ASV qui, en septembre 2014, a participé à une formation ASV à la chapelle en Vercors avec huit spéléologues russes.

- Un stage plongée secours qui a regroupé treize spéléo-plongeurs, encadré par Cédric Lacharmoise, Jean-Michel Vallon et Akimov Vladimir pour sa gestion organisationnelle russe.

Pour ces sessions, la quasi-totalité du matériel secours spéléo a été fournie pas les Russes, bouteilles de plongée comprises.Le seul matériel amené de France a été:

- Trois TPS.

- Deux ensembles de recherche en siphon (flasheurs, ardoise, cookies).

- Vingt mètres de fil d'Ariane avec l'âme électrique pour la communication.

Comme à chaque fois, des interprètes ont été mobilisés pour ce séminaire dont Aleksey Tereschenko, qui était une nouvelle fois de la partie vu qu'il était déjà présent lors du stage en Crimée qui s'est déroulé il y a deux ans. Au total, cinq interprètes sont venus épauler l'équipe d'encadrement.

Certains d'entre eux, non spéléologues, ont clairement été mis à rude épreuve, du matin au soir, pour que l'information transmise puisse être comprise par tous.

Le Deroule General

MERCREDI 1 JUILLET

Départ de France de quatre formateurs du SSF. Wim CUYVERS (SSF39), Cédric Lacharmoise (SSF69) et Jean-Michel Vallon (SSF01) s'envolent de Lyon Saint-Exupéry à 13h30 pour l'aéroport de Charles de Gaule.

Au même moment, Bernard Tourte (Président du SSF), décolle de Toulouse pour la même destination. Départ pour Moscou à 16h00 et arrivée à 20h40 heure locale. Nous rejoignons Ekaterina Medvedeva, traductrice et spéléologue du club de Kiev. Nous redécollons ensemble à 22h25 pour arriver à Ufa le 2 Juillet à 2h30 heure locale.

JEUDI 2 JUILLET

Amina Chanysheva et Vladimir AKIMOV nous récupèrent à l'aéroport. Quelques heures de repos nous permettront d'inhiber la fatigue du décalage horaire. L'après-midi, nous profitons d'avoir un peu de temps pour faire du tourisme. Nous visitons l'incontournable monument de Yulaev de Salvat (1752-1800).

Héros national bachkir et poète, il est l'un des leaders de la guerre paysanne de 1773-1775 en Russie et un compagnon de chasse d'Emelian Pougatchev. En 1774, il est arrêté, puni et envoyé aux travaux forcés en Estonie, où il meurt en 1880.

Sans oublier la station de ski d'Ufa… La ville est en pleine effervescence: la Russie accueille les chefs d'Etat des « Brics » (Brésil, Russie, Inde, Chine, Afrique du Sud), les membres du groupe de Shanghai, ainsi que l'Inde et le Pakistan, à Oufa, du 8 au 10 juillet. Leur objectif est de créer une véritable puissance économique et diplomatique régionale eurasiatique.

VENDREDI 3 JUILLET

Départ pour le plateau de Koutouk. Au petit matin, dans la banlieue d'UFA, nous faisons une halte dans un hypermarché, ouvert de manière continue, pour acheter de quoi survivre pendant le trajet.

Quatre heures de route nous permettent de rejoindre la ville de Meleuz qui se trouve à deux cent cinquante kilomètres au sud de la ville d'Ufa. De là, nous prenons une piste pour rejoindre le petit village de Nugush. Nous déposons nos bagages dans une clairière, lieu de rassemblement pour l'ensemble des spéléo conviés au séminaire. De là, part en forêt un chemin de terre sur trente-deux kilomètres pour le plateau de Koutouk.

Depuis plusieurs mois, la météo est très pluvieuse. Ce chemin est quasiment impraticable. La dé-

cision est prise: Les bagages partiront par le chemin, transportés par un tracteur et un ex camion militaire.

La quasi-totalité des spéléologues se rendra à pied au site de formation (soit trente-deux kilomètres de marche!).

L'encadrement, les interprètes et nous, les Français, repartons par la route pour rejoindre le barrage de la rivière de Belaya. De ce point, nous naviguons alors quarante minutes pour rejoindre les rives du plateau de Koutok. Il ne nous reste alors plus que cinq kilomètres dans les hautes herbes et les forêts denses de l'Oural pour rejoindre le lieu d'implantation du séminaire.

Nous arrivons au camp en fin de journée. Une équipe déjà sur site depuis plusieurs jours a monté les installations (tente matériel, tente cuisine, tentes formation…). Nous mangeons notre première soupe et profitons de sécher quelques heures au coin du feu dans l'attente de nos bagages.

À 21h00 a lieu la première réunion avec les organisateurs. Jean-Michel reprend les points évoqués lors des échanges de courriel pour la préparation de ce séminaire. Cette réunion sera toutefois très vite écourtée, Jean-Michel se retrouvant bloqué par une violente crise de coliques néphrétiques.

Il souffrira durant trois heures pour parvenir à évacuer un malheureux calcul de quatre millimètres de diamètre. La nuit est enfin tombée. Peu à peu, les

stagiaires arrivent au compte goutte après une fort longue marche sous une pluie battante et les pieds dans la boue.

Mais toujours pas les bagages ! Ils n'arriveront finalement que le lendemain…. Faute de duvets et de tentes, la nuit pour les autres cadres mis à part pour Jean Michel tout particulièrement bichonné, fut donc particulièrement spartiate et glaciale…!

Les Cavites

Plusieurs cavités, plus ou moins proches du camp (de quarante minutes à deux heures de marche), on été désignées exploitables pour les divers besoins des stages, il s'agit de:

SOUMGA

Qui, à la création du barrage de la rivière de Belaya, a subi une importante remontée des eaux du karst, ennoyant par la même une grande partie de son réseau.

Cette magnifique cavité, à l'histoire chargée, commence par un large puits de soixante-dix mètres de profondeur. A la base de ce puits, plusieurs galeries partent. Pour la suite, il faut continuer sur un énorme névé et descendre un puits de trente mètres. De là, une plage de galets donne accès au début des parties noyées.

KOUTOUK-2

Une grosse doline d'entrée permet d'accéder au réseau. Cent mètres environs de progression et deux branches amènent à deux réseaux noyés sans aucune difficulté particulière de progression.

Derrière le siphon de droite, un joli réseau est composé de gours et de voûtes mouillantes ainsi qu'une belle galerie concrétionnée.

KOUTOUK-4

Il s'agit d'un superbe effondrement pour lequel il convient d'emprunter une échelle de bois d'après guerre pour descendre dans la doline. Au fond, un névé qui s'engouffre dans un immense méandre de vingt à trente mètres de hauteur descend en pente douce.

Après une heure de progression sans aucune difficulté et un petit ressaut à désescalader «à la russe», le plafond s'abaisse. Le réseau se sépare en deux pour terminer devant deux siphons.

ZIG-ZAG

C'est une belle cavité composée d'une succession de petits puits, de passages méandriformes bien techniques et de portions de méandre ample tout

particulièrement adaptés à de la mise en situation pour de l'évacuation technique.

Des véhicules 4X4 auraient dû être présents sur place pour faciliter les transferts de matériel vers certaines de ces cavités accessibles par pistes. Mais malheureusement la mauvaise météo et le très mauvais état des pistes les a empêchés de venir.

La Formation

SAMEDI 4 JUILLET

Les stagiaires sont arrivés dans la nuit. Nous apprenons alors que tracteur et camion sont embourbés et que les bagages ont été débarqués pour alléger les véhicules…. Ca démarre fort!

Malgré cela, la formation s'organise.

Enfin du positif ! En fin de matinée, les bagages commencent à arriver… Peu à peu, chacun organise alors son petit campement.

LE STAGE ÉQUIPIER/CHEF D'ÉQUIPE

Sur l'ensemble de sa session de Formation, le stage Équipier / Chef d'équipe a passé trois journées en cavités et quatre journées en extérieur.

En extérieur, le site de pratique partiellement pré-équipé se présentait sous la forme d'une grande doline offrant plusieurs pans de falaises, aussi bien accessibles du haut que du bas. C'était sans aucun doute un lieu idéal pour travailler les techniques de secours, d'autant qu'il se trouvait localisé à cinq minutes du lieu de restauration et de campement du stage. Ces conditions optimales ont permis de réduire à zéro les pertes de temps liées à l'installation des cordes, aux prises de repas ou au déséquipement des cordes qui n'étaient pas nécessaires d'un jour sur l'autre.

Le niveau des stagiaires était majoritairement

homogène, tant par les techniques employées par chacun que par les niveaux individuels de connaissances ou de pratique. C'est un bon point qui a permis de gagner du temps sur les mises en places ou les mises en pratiques techniques, tout au cours du stage.

Chaque jour, après la phase de mise en pratique technique, que celle-ci se déroule en falaise ou en cavité, un temps conséquent était pris afin de débriefer en commun les situations et les problématiques vues dans la journée.

En supplément, un apport théorique journalier a pu permettre à chacun de compléter ses connaissance sur: les mises en pratique techniques, l'organisation des secours, le rôle de l'équipier et du chef d'équipe, les systèmes de communication….

Cette formation technique s'est déroulée en accord et suivant les standards établis par le Spéléo secours français.

Techniques et savoir faire portés à la connaissance des stagiaires :

L'intégralité des techniques développées dans le manuel du sauveteur de 2005,

L'application souterraine des techniques vues et travaillées en extérieur.

Ont également été revus au fil du stage diverses techniques liées à l'autonomie individuelle ou l'équipement de progression. Des techniques parfois mal comprises ou mal pratiquées des stagiaires, comme : les passages de nœuds, les conversions, les mises en place et passages de fractionnements, l'équipement de voies, la progression sur main courantes, sur tyroliennes horizontales et obliques.

Une demi-journée à également été consacrée à la mise en pratique de techniques d'auto-secours.

En matière de cavités, trois évacuations pratiques ont été réalisées en cavités durant la formation. La première s'est déroulée dans Zig-Zag (une cavité particulièrement bien adaptée au regard de sa configuration très technique). La seconde a eu lieu dans Soumga. Il s'agissait là également d'une cavité grandiose notamment par son puits d'entrée de soixante--dix mètres particulièrement aérien et bien adapté à notre attente. Enfin la troisième évacuation s'est faite dans Koutoug-2, une cavité moindre sur l'aspect technique, mais intéressante toutefois pour son côté aquatique et ses longues portions de portage.

STAGE ASSISTANCE VICTIME (ASV)

Coordinateurs:
Wim Cuyvers et Sergey Rychagov.

SAMEDI 4 JUILLET

Pendant toute la journée, des stagiaires arrivent, s'inscrivent et s'installent. Olga Baurshina, la jeune traductrice qui va être pendant toute la semaine avec l'équipe ASV, vient de nous joindre (elle aussi a fait la marche d'approche de trente-deux kilomètres à pied). Elle découvrira la spéléo au cours de la formation et finalement tombera fascinée par cette activité au point de s'inscrire au club d'Ufa.

Dans l'après-midi se déroule la première réunion avec les cinq stagiaires qui veulent devenir formateur en ASV pour les équipes russes: Sergey Rychagov et Grigoriy Sanevych (ils ont suivi la formation ASV dans le Vercors en novembre 2014) et Aleksandr Osintsev, Anastasiya Venskaya et Yuriy Karavashkov. Nous discutons le programme de la formation et décidons que les cinq futurs formateurs prendront un rôle important dans la formation, au quotidien. Wim va alors les aider et corriger au maximum leurs erreurs au fur et à mesure du déroulement.

Le soir, après le repas, les vingt-deux stagiaires sont réunis. Nous faisons la connaissance: nous parlons de leurs expériences, de l'endroit où ils habitent. L'un d'entre eux a parcouru 8000 km pour venir participer à cette formation! Dans l'équipe, il y a un médecin et un infirmier qui travaillent dans un département de service d'urgence. Presque tous les participants ont déjà suivi des formations équipier/chef d'équipe évacuation en Russie. Tous sont évidemment autonomes sur corde.

DIMANCHE 5 JUILLET

Le matin, les cinq futurs formateurs montrent le matériel type d'une équipe ASV. Plusieurs spéléologues russes avaient suivi le stage ASV dans le Vercors en novembre 2014. C'est à partir de là qu'ils ont décidé de constituer trois lots ASV complets. Les lots sont stockés à Moscou, St Petersburg et à Ufa. Les trois lots sont pratiquement complets: nourriture, médicaments, matériel pour le point chaud, attelles, Ked, (le matelas de Décathlon est un peu étroit et pas très confortable.

C'est un sujet de rigolade parce qu'ils avaient été surpris lorsqu'ils avaient trouvé un matelas de fabrication russe dans le lot ASV SSF pendant leur stage dans le Vercors. Ils ont donc voulu faire l'inverse et ont donc acheté des matelas fabriqués en France). Les sacs et les combinaisons iso-thermiques sont fabriqués par Grigoriy Sanevych, un des participants au stage. Dans la même journée, nous fabriquons trois points chauds préfabriqués à base d'un isolant mince

multicouche. Le matériau qu'ils ont trouvé en Russie est un peu plus lourd et plus encombrant que ce qu'utilise le SSF, mais prouvera toutefois, dans les journées suivantes, qu'il est parfaitement opérationnel. Dans l'après-midi, nous nous dépêchons à Kutuk 2. Nous y installons deux points chauds classiques (avec des couvertures de survie) et deux points chauds préfabriqués. Dans le même temps, nous revoyons les techniques et les différentes manières d'isoler une victime du froid et de l'humidité dès l'arrivée de l'équipe ASV. Les couvertures de survies que les Russes ont prévues pour les lots ASV sont trop petites.

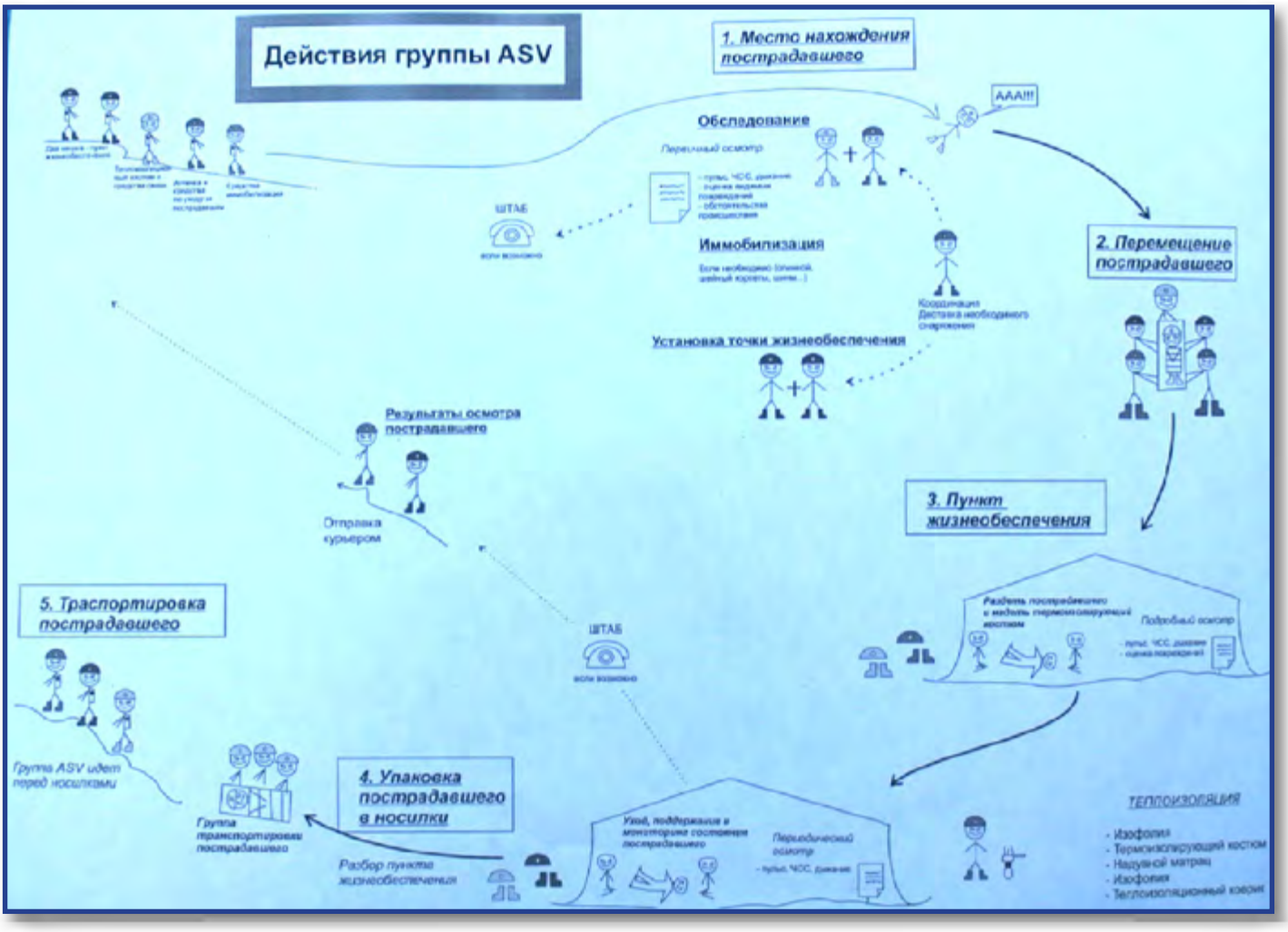
LUNDI 6 JUILLET

Le matin, nous travaillons sur les différentes techniques d'immobilisation : Ked et attelles (splints) et des techniques alternatives, de fortune, pour les différents cas de fracture (fracture d'un membre, fracture d'une articulation). Yuriy apporte les expériences de son travail dans les services d'urgence. Enfin, nous parlons du transport d'une victime vers le point chaud.

Dans l'après-midi, nous nous dirigeons vers Koutouk 4 pour travailler dans la première partie de la grotte. Les deux équipes descendent dans la grotte sans utiliser l'échelle en bois qui est très, très vieille et pourrie. En sortant, Grigoriy casse un des barreaux et échappe de justesse à la chute. Les immobilisations sont bien maîtrisées, les points chauds facilement et rapidement installés, mais l'attention pour la victime est trop faible. Une fois tout le monde sorti du trou, nous discutons longuement sur l'imprudence d'utiliser l'échelle d'entrée pourrie ; nous tombons tous d'accord pour dire que le pire sauveteur est un sauveteur qui devient victime. Nous décidons de revenir dans la semaine pour enlever définitivement cette échelle devenue dangereuse. Le soir, nous parlons du déroulement d'une opération de secours en France et nous essayons de nous imaginer les possibilités pour en adapter les techniques à la situation très atypique de la Russie.

MARDI 7 JUILLET

Dans la matinée, nous travaillons sur les bilans médicaux (les Russes ont déjà traduit et copié les fiches SSF) et les techniques de transmission. Les différentes techniques sont abordées: les messagers qui remontent, les Nicola, les combinés téléphoniques



(de récupération), fonctionnant sur une ligne alimentée depuis l'extérieur en douze volts et les SPL05. Les SPL05 sont bien connus par les Russes qui utilisent un modèle très similaire au modèle utilisé par le SSF. Cet équipement possède un interrupteur bien caché dans l'appareil, et beaucoup des sauveteurs ne le savaient pas! Les Russes sont très intéressés par les trois Nicola que nous avons apportés.

Ils en prennent des dizaines de photos et posent beaucoup de questions sur les Pimprenelles que les Russes aimeraient bien acheter. Dans l'après-midi, nous retournons au Koutouk 2 pour tester les différentes techniques de communication. Nous établissons un contact par Nicola et SPL05 entre le siphon «le Kremlin» et l'entrée. Les deux systèmes fonctionnent parfaitement et les protocoles de communication sont bien maîtrisés.

En soirée, un des futurs formateurs en ASV présente aux stagiaires de la formation secours plongée et du stage équipiers/chef d'équipe secours, les techniques et le matériel de l'équipe ASV.

MERCREDI 8 JUILLET

Aujourd'hui en Russie, tout le monde utilise la civière NEST de Petzl. Nous travaillons sur la mise en civière d'une victime avec et sans KED, sur la mise en civière et sur les principes de portage d'une civière. Nous travaillons également sur le STEF avec la mise en position horizontale et verticale de la civière. L'après-midi, nous travaillons dans la petite grotte tout près du camp sous les falaises, là où s'entraînent les stagiaires équipiers/chefs d'équipe évacuation.

Nous avons mis en place trois points chauds, dont un point chaud suspendu. Divers petits entraînements au portage sont également au programme. Les Russes organisent même une petite compétition (tradition oblige !) de portage d'une victime dans la petite grotte. Le soir, nous préparons le matériel ASV. Il servira aux autres équipes qui en auront besoin les jours suivants.

JEUDI 9 JUILLET

Nous passons une journée entière sous terre. Scénario: Il y a une victime au fond de Koutouk 4 (chute de trois mètres). Deux co-équipiers veulent sortir pour alerter mais le bois pourri de l'échelle casse sous le poids de l'un des deux : il y a donc une deuxième victime qui se trouve au fond du puits d'entrée.

Au programme: le rééquipement du puits d'entrée, aller à la recherche de la première victime qui se trouve après le laminoir mouillé, peu avant le siphon, installer un point chaud et conditionner la victime dans le point chaud, installer un point chaud dans le puits d'entrée, conditionner la victime dans le point chaud et aller prêter main forte à ceux du fond afin de sortir la première victime.

L'équipement du puits d'entrée prends beaucoup trop de temps. Finalement, là où nous n'avions besoin de rien deux jours avant, nous plantons maintenant un alignement de Spits en haut du puits. L'installation des deux points chauds est parfaite, comme l'installation de la ligne de téléphone pour les SPL05. Les bilans médicaux sont remplis sans aucun problème, mais les conversations au téléphone sont trop longues et fatiguent les victimes. Pendant les actions, Semyon Novozhilov reçoit un caillou dans le visage,. Il est blessé autour de l'œil. Il y a de la confusion. La plus part des stagiaires pensent que c'est un jeu, mais Semyon a mal et le sang coule. Tout à coup, il y a une vraie victime et la tension monte mais la situation est rapidement contrôlée.

La nouvelle victime est finalement prise en charge et soignée. Peu après, elle peut de nouveau participer à l'exercice. La remontée de la victime depuis le fond se passe très bien, mais l'évacuation dans le puits d'entrée n'est pas du tout fluide et rendue compliquée par le doublage avec une corde d'assurance inutile.

VENDREDI 10 JUILLET

Le début de la journée est consacré au nettoyage du matériel. Puis nous nous lançons dans une journée entière de débriefing et de théorie. Analyse les différentes actions, critique et suggestions sont de mise : des matériels qui manqueraient dans les sacs, que faire dans certains cas spécifique? PPourquoi pas prévoir plus de matériel? Que faire s'il y a plusieurs victimes? etc… Très souvent, la réponse se trouve dans la question !

Nous parlons longuement sur le fonctionnement du PC et le comportement des sauveteurs en général et de l'équipe ASV en particulier : nous parlons de la main courante, de l'inscription des sauveteurs dès l'arrivée sur site, des missions et des fiches de missions, du dépôt de matériel sur le site de l'accident, des différentes taches du personnel : le conseiller technique, les gestionnaires, du diagramme et du planning, de l'obligation de rapporter la sortie de la grotte et le départ du site et on parle de l'attente sur site. Puis sont abordés quelques points d'attention pour le comportement sous terre (par exemple : passages aux points téléphone, vérification de l'équipement etc.).

Dans l'après-midi, nous parlons de la médicalisation. Evgeniy Scherba, le médecin de l'équipe, contribue largement. Nous parlons des antidouleurs à prévoir dans le lot ASV, des désinfectants, des antibiotiques, des ferments. Nous évoquons également les luxations.

Le soir, nous discutons sur les perspectives de développement du spéléo secours en Russie, avec beaucoup d'attention pour l'équipe ASV qui pourrait devenir une équipe clé. En effet, comme les équipes d'évacuation risquent d'être très loin de la grotte. En effet, comme la plupart des spéléologues habitent dans les grandes villes, très loin des massifs, on peut imaginer des équipes ASV constituées de gens qui sont compétents et qui habitent près des massifs. On peut aussi très bien imaginer l'engagement d'équipes ASV dans les grandes expéditions. Assez tard dans la soirée, un nouveau scénario est joué: une équipe ASV est avertie qu'il y a un double accident dans Sumga, la plus longue grotte de l'Oural: ils doivent préparer les sacs et le matériel et nous nous donnons rendez-vous pour le lendemain à 9h00 à l'entrée de la grotte (qui est à vingt minutes du camp).

SAMEDI 11 JUILLET

Nous travaillons sur le scénario d'un double accident : un plongeur est en grave hypothermie à la sortie du siphon à moins cent dix mètres. Un autre spéléologue a fait une chute dans la galerie à deux cents mètres du puits d'entrée de soixante-dix mètres. Il a le dos cassé. Il se trouve à la base d'un petit ressaut de trois mètres.

Deux grandes équipes sont engagées :

- Une équipe va installer le matériel dans le puits de soixante-dix mètres, le téléphone dans le PC et entrer en contact avec la victime à moins soixante-dix mètres. Cette même équipe va ensuite immobiliser la victime dans le KED, installer un point chaud et assurer le portage de la victime vers le point chaud dans le KED. Enfin, cette même équipe va nourrir et donner à boire à la victime. Elle assurera également la médicalisation et le déséquipement du puits de soixante-dix mètres.

- L'équipe numéro 2 a comme mission d'équiper le puits de quarante mètres, d'installer le téléphone vers la deuxième victime, d'installer un point chaud, de la nourrir et de lui donner à boire. Elle doit enfin installer le téléphone filaire (SPL 05) et, à la fin de l'exercice, déséquiper le puits de quarante mètres.

L'entrée de la grotte est impressionnante : un puits de soixante-dix mètres, avec de la neige en bas. En surface, des panneaux rappellent deux accidents tragiques: deux jeunes scientifiques, décédés en 1967 par hypothermie dans l'eau de fonte et un plongeur décédé en 1988. Les équipes sont informées que la gestion du froid et des longues attentes sera essentielle pour cet exercice (et pour la pratique d'une équipe ASV en général).

Le PC est tenu par Sergey, Wim et Inessa, la femme de Sergey qui est venu nous rejoindre et Olga pour les traductions. Wim descend sous terre dans l'après-midi pour vérifier les actions. Le début de l'exercice se déroule d'une manière exemplaire: tout le monde vient s'inscrire au PC, les chefs d'équipes sont nommés, les fiches de mission sont faites. Les choses s'organisent. Salavat commence à équiper le puits de soixante-dix mètres. Tout se déroule dans le calme jusqu'au moment où Evgeniy, qui est dans la deuxième équipe, veut dépasser la première équipe et commencer à équiper une deuxième corde dans le puits d'entrée. Cette action met en danger la premiè-

re équipe (risque de chute de pierres et de glace) et se trouve en totale contradiction avec ce qui était demandé dans les fiches de missions. Une discussion se développe entre les stagiaires et c'est eux qui vont au final montrer à Evgeniy que son initiative est malheureuse. Le reste de l'exercice se déroule avec grande fluidité (tous les automatismes développés pendant la semaine y sont pour beaucoup). Vers 18h00, tout le monde est sorti du trou et nous sommes tous ensemble de retour au camp vers 19h00. La plus grande partie du matériel est nettoyée avant le repas.

Après le repas, il y a le débriefing sur l'exercice de la journée. Il devient alors évident que nous aurions dû installer le deuxième point chaud à l'abri de la glace qui aurait pu tomber dans le puits. Il y a également une sangle mal placée pour l'équipement du puits de soixante-dix mètres, l'initiative malheureuse d'Evgeniy et un portage pas assez sécurisé pour la victime dans la galerie vers moins soixante-dix mètres qui font partie des remarques négatives. Pour le reste, l'action a été exemplaire.

Les points chauds ont prouvé une fois de plus qu'ils fonctionnent très bien : les victimes étaient très confortablement installées malgré le froid dans la grotte. Nous avons tous l'impression que le stage a été plus qu'utile et que nous avons tous appris. Il reste maintenant à continuer les exercices pour ne pas perdre l'habitude et pour développer des nouvelles techniques.

STAGE PLONGÉE SECOURS

Une fois les bagages récupérés et les tentes montées, l'équipe se réunit. Cela permet à Jean-Michel de retrouver sept têtes déjà connues lors de la formation de Sudak-Crimée du 14 au 21 septembre 2013 et du congrès international de plongée souterraine en 2008.

Nous leurs présentons le planning de la semaine avec les différents cours théoriques et pratiques.

En fin d'après-midi, il leur est demandé d'enkiter leurs équipements de spéléo plongée pour le lendemain.

Vladimir fait part à Jean-Michel des avancées de la civière plongée. Les travaux n'ont guère avancé depuis septembre 2014, date à laquelle la civière avait été montrée en France chez Jean-Michel. Seule une prémisse de vêtement avait été faite. Compte tenu de cela, aucun essai en milieu naturel n'est envisageable. Assez déçu, il accepte cette décision sans rien dire…

La première plongée se fera dans la rivière de Belaya. Malgré les cinq kilomètres qui nous séparent

du camp, c'est un endroit idéal pour le secteur. Cela permet un contrôle des matériels et des techniques employées. Sur quatorze plongeurs, l'ensemble des techniques étaient représentées (Dir, EFPS, Simnonte…).

Ce premier exercice permet aussi de se connaître: certains plongeurs russes habitent à plus de six mille kilomètres les uns des autres. Un rappel des fondamentaux de la plongée souterraine est dispensé, comme la pose de fil d'Ariane, la gestion des gaz, des équipements, les redondances, le portage de charges Kit et/ou bouteilles etc.

Deux jours de plongées seront programmés à Soumgan. Une matinée est prévue pour amener le matériel au fond de la cavité. Pour gagner du temps, sur la deuxième journée, uniquement les bouteilles seront remontées pour le gonflage. Cette cavité a permis de mettre en pratique des cours théoriques.

Le cours théorique sur la recherche n'avait pas vraiment suscité un grand engouement. Des siphons sans visibilité et avec un objectif de recherche ont converti les plus septiques du groupe.

Un ensemble ASV a été mis au fond de Soumgan. Il a servi à réchauffer les plongeurs et notre pauvre interprète Aliya transie de froid. L'eau à 4° C. et l'air à 6 a bien mis en évidence l'intérêt d'un point chaud. Le transport des kits ASV a suscité pas mal de questions. La nécessaire création de sacs et bidons étanches a été mise en évidence.

Deux SPL05 et vingt mètres de fil ont permis de créer une communication. Le deuxième jour à Songa, Cédric a joué la victime.

Le scénario est le suivant: Un plongeur a des problèmes sur son matériel. Il se réfugie dans un inter siphon pour attendre les secours. Les moyens:

- Deux équipes de recherche sont mises en place pour le localiser.

- Un binôme se prépare pour amener l'ASV et créer un point chaud. Cédric sera alors bichonné par Kioseva Liliya…

- Deux autres plongeurs préparent leur matériel pour créer une communication entre l'entrée du siphon et Cédric.

- Deux SPL05 et vingt mètres de fil suffiront pour créer la communication.

- La gestion de l'opération a été menée par Sitnikov Gleb et Snetkov Evgeniy.

Depuis pas mal d'années, Snetkov Evgeniy est un référant plongée secours de Russie. Dès le deuxième jour, Snetkov Evgeniy et d'Akimov Vladimir sollicitent Jean-Michel pour connaître son avis sur un futur référent plongeur. Le nom de Sitnikov Gleb vient aussitôt à l'esprit. Connu depuis 2008 par JM, Gleb est une personne posée et très réfléchie. Il est à l'écoute des autres et reconnu par l'ensemble des plongeurs présents.

Entre cours et exercices, et sous l'impulsion de Samokhin Sergey, nos amis plongeurs russes s'activent autour de leur civière plongée. Sur le camp, Dina, fabricante des Hydrocostumes, s'affaire avec eux.

Le quatrième soir, alors que la journée était terminée, Jean-Michel est sollicité pour faire un tour dans la tente plongeur. Sur la table, un plongeur dans une civière, entièrement équipé et prêt pour franchir des siphons. Masque facial sur la figure, le vêtement est entièrement fini. Purge, inflateur et fermeture éclair posés. Le dialogue s'engage pour argumenter les choix de tel ou tel matériel, de tel ou tel positionnement. Seuls, des points de détails à améliorer dans le futur doivent être apportés.

Une fois le contrôle fait avec admiration et étonnement, la question est posée: «On plonge quand pour l'essayer?»….

La proposition sera la suivante: Les futures deux journées à Koutouk-2 seront condensées en une seule. Et le seul lieu pour faire ce premier test devra être la rivière Belaya. Jean Michel fait un tour de table pour connaître les avis. Il en résultera un oui unanime avec l'espoir du oui du Français.

Ensuite, une journée de formation évacuation sur corde a été programmée ainsi qu'une formation ASV. Ces deux cours sont dispensés par les chefs d'équipe russes de ces deux disciplines. Pendant ce même temps, Jean-Michel amène Cédric à Koutouk-2 pour lui montrer la cavité et imaginer un nouveau scénario.

Comme promis, les tests de la civière plongée sont menés. Une nouvelle translation camp/rivière s'organise pour cela avec tout le matériel nécessaire. L'ensemble de l'équipement civière/plongée est acheminé et nous optons pour une mutualisation des équipements plongeurs. Une première victime est désignée avec quatre premiers plongeurs pour la manipuler. Pour la première mise à l'eau, le contrôle et l'équilibrage de la civière est fait avec Jean-Michel.

Pour les autres équipes, seul le chef d'équipe précédent restera en aide. Pas mal de travail reste à faire pour l'optimiser, mais les bases d'une civière plongée de qualité sont dorénavant posées. Cette phase de test est pour l'équipe un élément très fédérateur. Toute la journée, équipes et victimes permutent. Très rapidement, l'encadrement français prend du recul afin de laisser les Russes eux même faire leurs propres apprentissages.

Koutouk-2 est la cavité pour un mini barnum. Celle-ci permet de mettre en application toutes les techniques vues lors de la session de formation plongée secours.

Le scénario de ce nouvel exercice est le suivant: un spéléologue est parti en exploration dans Koutouk-2. Depuis, plus de nouvelles. Toutes les parties exondées de l'entrée de la cavité sont minutieusement fouillées sans succès. Reste plus qu'à passer le siphon et à visiter la suite du réseau. Cédric fait la victime. Il attend d'être retrouvé car une fracture de

la cheville l'empêche de sortir. Entre lui et la sortie, pas mal d'obstacles sont à franchir comme un éboulis, un petit puits, une voûte mouillante et une laisse d'eau, un siphon de deux mètres de longueur, etc.

Sitnikov Gleb, coordinateur de cet exercice, est resté en surface avec Jean-Michel. Une fois la victime localisée et prise en charge par l'ASV et les communications en place, Gleb et Jean-Michel rejoignent l'ensemble les équipes pour évaluation.

L'évacuation de la victime se fait sans difficulté. Les ateliers sur corde permettent une évacuation sécurisée. Le brancardage ne pose pas de grandes difficultés, nous avons à faire à des personnes très physiques. Pour les zones aquatiques, une bouteille de 4 litres est fixée sur la civière.

En bouche un détendeur sécurise la victime. Zaitsev Mikhail et Jean-Michel prennent en charge le passage de la civière dans le siphon. Une fois dehors, une grande satisfaction se lit sur les visages de l'ensemble de l'équipe.

Au fil de la formation, l'équipe se soude, les compétentes grandissent. Malgré cela, Il s'avère que certains fondamentaux de la plongée souterraine ne sont pas vraiment acquis voir incompris.

Le Camp

Le camp, point commun aux trois sessions de formations, se trouve sur le plateau de Koutouk qui fait partie d'un parc naturel. Son lieu d'implantation est un endroit qui accueille chaque année des spéléologues. Les emplacements, les chemins dans le camp etc., tout cela avait été défini avec les autorités locales.

Le lieu de vie est installé sur une petite bute. Il s'agit d'une grande toile qui protège de la pluie les moments de repas. Le feu de bois est le seul moyen de cuisson. La forêt de bouleaux, avec ses bois morts, alimente en combustible les grosses gamelles de fonte. Le petit cours d'eau en contrebas permet une alimentation permanente en eau. Il sert aussi de salle de bain. Mais attention, il faut faire vite, les petites mouches et moustiques ne laissent pas de répit pendant le lavage.

Les repas sont élaborés et réalisés par Elena Mukhutdinova, une pro de l'alimentation traditionnelle russe à base de soupes… Matin, midi et soir, la soupe était au rendez-vous!

Deux emplacements ont été délimités pour l'implantation des campements. Les organisateurs, les interprètes et le SSF se trouvent dans la même zone. Le reste des spéléologues, dans un lieu plus vaste en contrebas.

Etat statistique sur l'origine des participants

État statistique des participants et formateurs provenant de Russie, Séminaire de Bashkortostan, Koutouck-Sumgan. 3-12 Juillet 2015

Ville	Nombre des participants et formateurs russes	formateurs russes
Ekaterinburg	6	1
Irkutsk	7	2
Kiev	1	0
Krasnoyarsk	3	0
Kumertau	1	1
Lukhovicy	1	0
Minsk	3	1
Moscou	12	4
Novosibirsk	3	1
Perm	3	1
Samara	3	0
Sankt-Peterbourg	6	4
Simferopol	5	2
Snezhinsk	2	0
Ufa	12	1
Chelyabinsk	1	0
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	1	0
TOTAL	**70**	**18**

Sauveteur professionnel	1
Médecins	3
Qui ont précédemment suivis des cours de secourisme	13
Qui ont déjà préalablement participé à des formations secours ou à des secours réels.	42

Bilan Et Conclusion

Le premier stage secours organisé sous l'égide du SSF dans ces contrées de l'ex-URSS était organisé par l'association ukrainienne de spéléologie en mai 2004. Organisé par Yura Kasian, il rassemblait une trentaine de techniciens essentiellement ukrainiens. Son programme, établi sur neuf jours suivant les valeurs promulguées par le Spéléo secours français, a comblé les participants.

En vue de poursuivre sur la lancée et afin de répondre à une demande ressentie comme grandissante, un nouveau stage technique, coordonné par Denis Provalow, qui rassemblait vingt-sept stagiaires aux origines des plus diverses, à Krasnoïarsk (Centre géographique de la Russie) eut lieu en 2006. Également encadré sous l'égide du SSF, celui-ci était alors une copie quasi conforme de la session dispensée en 2004 et adaptée au sol russe.

Comblé par l'intérêt porté à ce nouveau stage, le SSF s'est très rapidement vu de nouveau sollicité pour une nouvelle réédition de même type. Une opération qui n'a finalement pas tardé puisqu'elle a vu le jour en 2008 dans l'Oural. Une nouvelle formation, organisée par Yuriy Bazilevskiy, a permis la participation de trente sauveteurs supplémentaires.

Après un répit de quelques années, une nouvelle équipe plus fédératrice se constitue, elle initie à son tour des formations (ces dirigeants sont des stagiaires issus des formations passées). Son but vise plus clairement encore qu'auparavant une organisation nationale des secours souterrains sur le territoire russe (quinze fois la France !). Une tache complexe qui ne démotive pas cette équipe qui sollicite de nouveau le SSF pour son appui. Une première session de formation secours techniques d'évacuation et de plongée secours rassemble en 2013 en Crimée près vingt-et-un sauveteurs venus de toute la Russie. Un bel élan duquel va finalement naître cette nouvelle édition 2015, la plus importante de toute cette collaboration qui aura rassemblé soixante-dix stagiaires.

A ce jour, ce sont près de cent quatre-vingt sauveteurs russes ou ukrainiens qui ont pu suivre des formations dispensées par un encadrement SSF…. Nous pouvons commencer à envisager sereinement, l'introduction de sessions de formation de cadres avec notamment la perspective d'un stage de gestionnaire d'opérations et de conseillers techniques secours prévisible sur le cours terme.

L'important travail collaboratif entrepris par l'équipe russe actuellement à la direction de cette organisation secours bénévole doit cependant redoubler de vivacité. Cela en vue de très rapidement permettre d'ouvrir des perspectives collaboratives officielles avec les services de secours étatiques russes afin que tout le travail mené jusqu'à ce jour donne rapidement lieu à une véritable reconnaissance et structuration impliquant alors tous les sauveteurs encore opérationnels, formés depuis 2004.

Fédération Française de Spéléologie

SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS

STAGE SPELEO SECOURS INTERNATIONAL 2016

Agree par UIS et FSE

- ***Organisateur:*** SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS
- ***Responsable de stage:*** *Bernard TOURTE. 25 rue Louis de Broglie 31100 TOULOUSE. FRANCE*
  Tel : +33.5.34.60.95.63. / Fax : +33.5.34.60.95.64. /
  Portable: +33.6.08.75.95.29. Email: btourte@wanadoo.fr
- ***Dates:*** *2th October (18 h) – 9th October 2016 (14 h).*
- ***Place:*** *East of France, Doubs.*
- ***Languages, translations:*** *Spanish, English, French*
- ***Price:*** *8 days x 166 € = 1328 € (negotiable following procedure or number of cavers coming from the same country - Price including food, sleeping, training and collective gear).*
- ***Inscriptions:*** *before the 10th September 2016.*

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE:

- *Technical's practices in cave with stretcher (4-5 days)*
- *Technical information about mechanicals tests carried out by S.S.F.*
- *Information about specific techniques:*
  - *Diving stretcher (video).*
  - *Blasting works (theory and practice).*
  - *Preparation of a victim (theory and practice)*
- *Different systems of caving's communications (theory and practice)*
  - *Phone*
  - *Radio*
  - *NICOLA (ground transmissions)*
- *Technical's information's about the French Cave Rescue Service, the direction, and how are organized the rescues in France.*
- *Participation at a rescue exercise (1 day).*

TO ASK INSCRIPTION: dodelinchristian@gmail.com
I ask inscription form for the international course in Doubs in October 2016.

*Name*_____*Surname*_____*Email:*_____

*Address*_____

*Country:*_____*Phone:*_____ *Mobile:*_____

OFFICIAL ACCORD of the Cave Rescue responsible in the country's national federation:

*Name:*_____ *Surname*_____

Signature: _____

Fédération Française de Spéléologie

SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS

STAGE DE FORMATION INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE VICTIME 2016

Agree par l'UIS et la FSE

- Organisateur: SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS

- Responsable: *Eric DAVID, 4 place du Pèse Lait, Montadroit, 39240 LEGNA - FRANCE*
Portable: +33.6.81.41.87.12 - Email: david.eric@wanadoo.fr

Dates: *du 6 octobre, au 9 octobre 2016*

Lieu: *Montrond-le-Château (25)*

Langues, traductions: *Espagnol, Anglais, Français*

Prix: *4 jours x 166 € = 664 € (ce prix peut faire l'objet d'une remise de 50% pour les stagiaires envoyés par leur fédération spéléologique nationale ou pour les stagiaires issus de pays non structurés sur le plan spéléologique) – Ce tarif comprend, la prise en charge de la nourriture, de l'hébergement, de l'encadrement ainsi que le prêt du matériel collectif.*

Inscriptions: *Avant le 10 septembre 2016.*

CONTENU DE LA FORMATION:

- Le principe de l'ASV.
- Le lot matériel ASV.
- La technique du point chaud et les moyens de lutte contre l'hypothermie.
- L'évaluation de l'état de la victime et la transmission des informations vers la surface.
- Les gestes de secourisme utilisables sous terre.
- La coordination ASV / Équipe médicale.
- Le conditionnement de la victime en vue de son évacuation.
- La surveillance et l'accompagnement.

DEMANDE DE DOSSIERS:

Je sollicite un dossier d'inscription pour le stage Assistance Victime International qui se déroulera du 6 au 9 octobre 2016.

*Nom:*_____ *Prénom:*_____

*Email:*_____

*Adresse:*_____

*Pays:*_____

ACCORD OFFICIEL du responsable secours national de la Fédération de Spéléologie du demandeur.

*Nom:*_____ *Prénom:*_____

Function _____

Signature: _____

(Send that part to Eric DAVID before 10th September 2016)

Fédération Française de Spéléologie

SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS

INTERNATIONAL CAVE RESCUE TRAINING COURSE 2016

Agree by UIS and FSE

Organiser: *French Cave Rescue Service:* SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS
Leader: *Eric DAVID, 4 place du Pèse Lait, Montadroit, 39240 LEGNA - FRANCE*
Portable: +33.6.81.41.87.12 Email: david.eric@wanadoo.fr
***Dates,* Fechas:** *6th october – 9th october 2016.*
***Lieu, Place,* Lugar:** *Montrond-le-Château (25)*
Languages, translations: *Spanish, English, French*
Price: *4 days x 166 € = 664 € (negotiable following procedure or number of cavers coming from the same country - Price including food, sleeping, training and collective gear).* – (negociables según los protocolos o el número de inscritos por país. Este precio tiene incluido, alojamento, comida, cursos y material colectivo)
Inscriptions: *Avant,* antes*, before 10th September 2016.*

INSCRIPTION :

Nom, Name, Nombre_____

*Prénom, Surname*_____

Date de naissance, birthday, fecha de nacimiento_____ /_____ /_____

Adresse, Dirección _____

Pays, Country, País:_____

Téléphone, Phone number, Teléfono: _____ *Fax:*_____

*Email:*_____

RESPONSABLE DU SPELEO-SECOURS

Leader of cave rescue of your country

*Nom:*_____ *Prénom:*_____

Function _____

Signature: _____

CANDIDAT

Signature: _____

(Send this Inscription to *david.eric@wanadoo.fr* before 10th September 2016)

THE 10th BALKAN CAVER'S CAMP

Vratsa, Bulgaria, 21-26 June, 2016

By Efraín MERCADO (Puerto Rico)
UIS Vice-President of Operations
mercado.efrain@gmail.com

Vratsa, Bulgaria – With more than 190 cavers from 14 countries, the 10th edition of the Balkan caver's camp was a complete success. Surrounded by a unique splendor of karst lands, in the top of the mountain, where lush green covered forests absorbs everything, cavers from the Balkan area and others coming from far away discovers the uniqueness of this camp. The site contains more than 500 caves, horizontal, vertical, with water, spacious or very tight, with enchanted views, fulfilling every cavers demand, thus making this an unforgettable experience.

The organizing committee, composed of highly experienced cavers from Bulgaria and other countries of the Balkans, make this a unique experience. The Vratsa city major, Mr. Kalin Kamenov was present, also the Natural Parks director, Mr. Nikolay Nenchev, the President of the Bulgarian Caving Society, Mr. Dr. Kamen Bonev and representatives from the Bulgarian Cave Rescue among the people and organizations attending the event. Such a great experience could not be possible without the wisdom and kindness of Mr. Alexey Zhalov, President of the Balkan Speleology Union and the expertise of the friendly staff.

Vratsa city lays down in a fresh valley surrounded by rivers and mountains. Full of history and totally walkable, the city offers everything for the visitor. Climbing walls, camping area, stunning scenic areas for photography, shopping, a great variety of restaurants and cafés, banks, ATM's, museums, historic monasteries, friendly people and moreover, impressive karst, full of everything a caver could ask for. Just a caver's paradise of comradeship. Vratsa is just 2 hours away from Sofia, Bulgaria's capitol city. In Vratsa culture is mingling in every street, every building and every breath. Spacious parks, avenues, and full of public spaces, Vratsa is a city of obliged stop for any tourist.

Cave rescue practice by the Bulgarian Cave Rescue.

Impressive karst, full of everything a caver could ask for. Just a caver's paradise.

In these terms the 10th Jubilee Balkan Cavers Camp was the perfect reason to visit and to see again old friends and share with them including getting new ones. The BSU caver's camp is an event for sharing experiences, equipment, techniques, and stories about their caving expeditions. Within the program, cavers are able to do whatever they want more: do caving every day, at different levels of expertise. There is enough space for presentations, movies of explorations, workshops and everything a caver needs for its personal development.

With a full arrange of events and opportunities it was great to share with outstanding cavers like Alexey Zhalov, Petar Delchev, Stanimira Deleva, Heliana Dundarova, Teodora Georgieva, Biljana Rimcheska, Zhorzh Vlaykov, Victoria Galbur, Trifon Daaliev, Sophia Nikolakaki, Lampros Makrostergios, María, Aleksandar Stojanovski, Vanyo Gyorev, Ilias Lampropoulos, Jordan Jordanov, Stela Kyuchukova, Vladimir Georgiev and so many others.

Next BSU caver's camp will be in September 2017 in Greece!

France HABE Prize 2016

By Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Belgium)
UIS Adjunct Secretary/President of the Department of Karst and Cave Protection of the UIS
jp.bartholeyns@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The France HABE Prize is awarded by the Department of Karst and Cave Protection of the International Union of Speleology (UIS).

The prize is named in memory and honor of Dr. France HABE (12/Oct/1999) from Slovenia (Yugoslavia), who among his other many accomplishments served as President of the UIS Protection Department (1973-1997).

Its purpose is to promote the protection of karst and caves for generations to come. Their natural legacy are proven sources of increasingly rich information about the history of our planet and humanity, enabling people to act more thoughtfully, efficiently, and sustainably for the future of our environment.

The Prize will be proposed every four years. It will be awarded, if a worthy candidate if nominated and accepted, at the International Congresses of Speleology (ICS) at the time of the second General Assembly of the UIS.

A description of the person or organization who receives the Prize, and the reasons for receiving it, will be published on the UIS website and in the UIS Bulletin. The Jury will be made up of at least three members of the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection.

Nominations of candidates for the Prize will be sent to the President of the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection three months before the date of the start of the ICS. The Jury will review the nominations and send their decision to the UIS Bureau.

The Jury is not required to award the Prize if the nominees are not considered worthy.

REGULATIONS OF THE FRANCE HABE PRIZE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF KARST AND CAVE PROTECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SPELEOLOGY

1. HISTORY

On September 30, 2012, the UIS Bureau granted the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection a budget of € 250 to create a Prize that will be awarded every 4 years at the ICS during the second General Assembly of the UIS. At its meeting, the UIS Bureau agreed that price is also awarded in 2016.

Dr. France HABE (Slovenia, 1909-1999)

2. SUBJECT

The France HABE Prize of the UIS Department of Karst and the Cave Protection aims to promote the protection of karst and caves. It will reward the best or most important action, concrete idea, or publication for the protection of a cave, karstic zone, or underground environment in general.

3. AWARD

The France HABE Prize is awarded no more than once every 4 years.

The amount of the Prize is currently fixed at € 250. It will be awarded for the first time in 2013. The UIS Bureau will determine the Prize amount for subsequent years. The France HABE Prize is open to any person, club, local federation, commission, or national federation, with preference given to those belonging to one of the member nations of the UIS.

The Prize will be awarded to only one person or organization for a specific action. Honorary Mentions and

congratulations to other deserving works could also be announced when the Prize is awarded.

4. PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION CONDITIONS

Participation in the contest is free to any person and/or association and implies acceptance, without any reservations, of these regulations, the purpose of this Prize, and the decisions made by the Jury.

Nominations must reach, by electronic means, the President of the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection. For the 2016 Prize, to Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (jp.bartholeyns@gmail.com) by July 20, 2016.

The work will be presented in English with a sufficiently explicit summary in English and in one of the other official languages of the UIS (French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian).

Illustrations must be sent in JPEG format and photographs with the name of the photographers.

The submitted proposals will be posterior the previous award of the France HABE Prize.

5. SUBMISSION OF WORKS

Nominators are solely responsible for delivering their nominations to the President of the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection by the designated deadline by e-mail. Large digital files should be sent via Drop Box (https://www.dropbox.com/) or other mutually agreeable means. The nominating materials should include at least the following:

Digital version of the work if available (for example, Word documents, photographs, illustrations, video, links to websites with other pertinent information);

Registration form completed and signed by the nominator;

Photograph of the nominated person or group; and

10 to 15 sentence description of the importance of the work.

The Department President will send an acknowledgement of nomination materials received.

6. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE JURY

The Jury is made up of at least three members: the President of the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection, and two members of the Scientific Committee of this Department. Each member of the Jury has a vote. The votes are done by simple majority. If necessary, the Jury can be advised by experts who do not have a vote.

Each Jury member has to rank all of the nominees. The President then adds all of the ranks and the nominee with the highest score wins. If the absence or the quality of work does not justify it, the Jury will not award the Prize and the amount remains part of the Prize.

The deliberations of the Jury are secret and no appeal is possible. The Department of Karst and Cave Protection will ensure there are sufficient jury members and they work within their deadlines. It will replace inefficient members or members who are not able to participate.

The members of the Jury will base their judgment on the originality, the dynamism, the active aspect or at least on the quality of the effort expended for this candidacy. They will be particularly attentive to the goals and objectives, with the ecological, “renewable and transferable” aspect, to the durability of the subject as well as its “communication” section (public concerned, message to be transferred, supports used), involvement of partners and cavers themselves.

7. PROCLAMATION

When the Jury gives its decision, the President of the Jury will promptly inform the UIS Bureau. The name of the Prize recipient will be proclaimed no later than August 30, 2016; deserving competitors will also be congratulated.

The Prize recipient will be informed personally, by email, by the President of the Jury promptly after the Jury’s decision. The recipient will be asked to keep the decision confidential until it is officially announced .

The Jury will publish the name of the Prize recipient, other worthy nominees and the congratulations on the UIS website and Bulletin.

The result of this contest will be widely circulated via the caving media.

8. INCOMPATIBILITY

No person or organization will receive the France HABE Prize twice consecutively.

The members of the Jury abstain from taking part in the contest.

9. EXPOSURE

The opening of each session of the contest will be extensively announced by the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection by any means of communication, including its website, with any organization or any person potentially interested in caves; this text will be available to everyone.

Once the Prize is awarded, the recipients commit themselves to clearly showing the logo of the UIS as well as mentioning the “France HABE Prize from the UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection of the International Union of Speleology” on all publications relating to the work for which the Prize was awarded.

10. FINAL PROVISIONS

The UIS Department of Karst and Cave Protection assures that it is entirely impartial to the participants as to the

progress of the contest. The contest organizers and their partners cannot be held responsible for any error or omission.

Once the call for nominations is announced for the Prize, no information relating to the Prize will be changed until the recipient is announced; Prize rules may be changed afterward and before the next call for nominations is announced.

No information relating this Prize will be exchanged, neither in writing, nor by phone. In the case of disagreement on the interpretation of the regulations, the text in the French language shall be definitive.

PS: French and Spanish versions are avaiable on the UIS Website at: *http://www.uis-speleo.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=79&Itemid=406*

France HABE Prize 2016

FORM TO BE RETURNED BY EMAIL TO

UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE
Department of Karst and Cave Protection
Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns
jp.bartholeyns@gmail.com

NAME AND GIVEN NAME OF PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION	
ADDRESS	
POSTAL CODE	
CITY	
COUNTRY	
TELEPHONE Nº	
CELL/MOBILE PHONE	
EMAIL	
NAME AND GIVEN NAME OF PERSON OR ORGANIZATION NOMINATED FOR THE FRANCE HABE PRIZE	
ADDRESS	
POSTAL CODE	
CITY	
COUNTRY	
TELEPHONE Nº	
CELL/MOBILE PHONE	
EMAIL	

The nominator certifies by signature below to being aware of the rules of the France HABE Prize and to accepting all of its conditions.

Signature of the nominator: _____

Date: _____/_____/_____

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLIE SELF

England, 1951-2016

by Graham MULLAN (England)

Font: file:///C:/A-UIS%202013-2017%20-%2018-04-15/A-UIS--Bulletin/N%C2%BA%2058-1/Obitu%C3%A1rio%20Charlie%20Self/bcra_cks127003.f.pdf

Charles Anthony Self was born in West Hartlepool. He was always proud of his roots in the northeast of England, and never forgot his early years there. Later, the family moved south and he earned a scholarship to Brentwood School in Essex. He hated it there, and that was perhaps the origin of his profound mistrust of, and antipathy towards, any kind of authority. He was nevertheless an able student and did well enough to gain a place at Bristol University to read Chemistry and Geology.

Caving became the defining activity of Charlie's life. Actually, speleology is the more precise and accurate term. Whereas most cavers regard exploring caves as a sport, for Charlie it was a vocation and one that extended to the science associated with caves, their formation and the minerals found within them.

In 1978, the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society (UBSS) decided that it was time to produce a new edition of Caves of County Clare, a guidebook to Ireland's best-known caving area. Charlie took on the role of Editor, a task he achieved with great pride, with publication of the volume in 1981. As well as writing significant parts of the book, he cajoled members of the Society and many other people into producing descriptions and surveys of the caves. With characteristic modesty he did not refer to himself as the Editor but as the compiler. Even so, his clear and lucid prose is to be found on every page. He also contributed new work, including a wholly new account of caves on the Aran Islands to the third edition of this book, which was published in 2003.

In 1989 Charlie met Vladimir Maltsev during the UIS Symposium in Budapest. Maltsev suggested that Charlie should join one of the expeditions that his group organised to Kap–Kutan, an invitation that Charlie, of course, accepted. He didn't bother thinking that a trip into a military zone on the border of Afghanistan, as well as to the country, where the "Iron Curtain" was just beginning to lift, might be dangerous. Everything went well. Charlie spent 15 days in an underground camp, a new experience for him. He found new friends and fell in love with a very beautiful cave.

Most importantly, Charlie became acquainted with the ontogeny of minerals from work by Maltsev, V I Stepanov and other Russian scientists. Maltsev and Charlie became close collaborators as Charlie tried to acquaint Western scientists with Russian developments in this field. Published results from this include a paper on the Kap–Kutan cave system, co-authored with Maltsev, which appeared in the UBSS Proceedings in 1992, two papers by Maltsev on crystal growth in caves, published by UBSS in 1996 and 1999, a translation of work by V I Stepanov published by UBSS in 1998 and Charlie's own work on "How speleothems grow: introduction to ontogeny of cave minerals" co-authored with Carol Hill and published in the National Speleological Society's Journal of Cave and Karst Studies.

Characteristic and instantly recognizable image of Charlie Self, photographed by his wife Galina Self, during an expedition to witness the celebrated "Severn Bore" in November 2015.

Charlie's other caving expeditions in the former USSR were to Promezhutochnaya in the summer of 1990, when the team found a long-searched-for connection between Kap-Kutan and Promezhutochnaya, and to Pinega near Archangel in the winter of 1991. A particular challenge of Pinega is that the caves are flooded all summer and can only be entered when the ground freezes in winter. To get there, he

had to don skis and walk many miles.

Charlie had a deep interest in caves. As well as cave mineralogy he studied pseudo-karst. It is testament to his enquiring mind that he sought to look at something a bit different, something out of the ordinary. This he did with aplomb in the Cotswold Hills of southern England, by studying landslip caves. Most cavers probably never understood his fascination with one particular small, insignificant, muddy hole in the Avon valley near Bath. But he knew that Sally's Rift was unusual and he became fascinated with the place and other similar 'gull-caves' in the Cotwolds.

The study of these landslip caves has provided some fascinating insights into the geological history of the Bath area, and revealed the capture of former River Thames headwaters by the River Avon. This work was written up in a series of publications in UBSS Proceedings and led on to broader works including the intriguingly titled "Redefining the Boundary Between Karst and Pseudokarst", co-authored with Graham Mullan and published in Cave and Karst Science in 1996.

More recently some of the stalagmites preserved in gull caves along the Cotswold escarpment have been dated isotopically. Much to Charlie's delight, some of these proved to be really old, older than 350,000 years in fact. The implications of this on the landscape history of the region were published, co-authored with Andrew Farrant, in the Journal of the Geological Society of London. Charlie continued to study these unusual but fascinating caves, and in autumn 2015 was mapping-out gull caves in Wiltshire's Box Mine.

In all, Charlie authored well over 50 scientific papers, including two papers at the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno during 2013. He was well known and respected in the international scientific community, and often received requests to peer review articles.

It was not just cave scientists who appreciated his work, however. John Cordingley has written: *"I never knowingly met Charlie but I had cause to be extremely grateful to him two years ago. I had become very unwell and knew this was more than just a routine illness. In 1987 he co-authored a paper on Leptospirosis, in BCRA Cave Science (Volume 14, no.3). He'd wanted to raise awareness among British cavers of the seriousness of this condition, also known as Weil's disease.*

I'd read this paper and always remembered it. It was largely because of this that I realised I'd caught the disease whilst caving in 2014 - and also persuaded my doctor that my self-diagnosis was right. As a result I was treated with the right antibiotics soon enough to prevent more serious complications and made a full recovery.

I always hoped that one day I'd have the chance to meet him, tell him my story and thank him for helping me understand the seriousness of the disease and the importance of getting treatment soon enough. He has passed away and now I have missed that chance. But it's something I will always be immensely grateful for."

Charlie Self was inspirational, and a genuine enthusiast. He has given us all many memorable moments, both underground and over-ground. He stayed true to his interests, and in this respect, he achieved much. We have lost a great character, a true friend, and a passionate scientist. A wonderful and loyal friend, he was completely honest and was the person who would quite literally go the extra mile. He will be missed enormously.

This all-too-brief appreciation of the life and work of Charlie Self has been lightly edited for inclusion in Cave and Karst Science, from an original valediction compiled and partially written by Graham Mullan, which includes material contributed by Galina Self, Andy Farrant, Clive Owen and John Cordingley. All these contributions are acknowledged with thanks, and are greatly appreciated.

By David Lowe and John Gunn
Font: http://bcra.org.uk/pub/docs/downloads.html?f=cks127002.f

Those who knew Charlie will, of course, have their own reasons to remember him, but specifically we must record our own indebtedness to him for having volunteered to produce his well-known series of layman's summaries of Cave and Karst Science papers and reports (Cave and Karst Science Explained), which were first trialled early in 2010.

Since the idea's rather tentative beginnings we have worked closely with Charlie to ensure that his syntheses were, to mimic the mantra of the UK Advertising Standards Authority, "legal, decent, honest and truthful".

It speaks volumes that during the five years of this liaison we needed to "discuss" only one draft comment about one Cave and Karst Science feature – and that turned out to be due to a simple misunderstanding.

No doubt Charlie enjoyed the challenge of getting to grips with the full spectrum of (commonly obscure or specialized) speleological aspects that he encountered. His dedication to the task was enormous, the width of his knowledge and understanding seemed limitless, and his altruism and integrity in translating pages of esoteric and jargon-rich results and ideas into lighter but still informative text was at once astonishing and admirable.

Like many others in Britain and around the world, we will miss Charlie, but remain happy to have known him and to have had the undeniable pleasure of working with him.

Books

CYPRUS CAVING HISTORY
APHRODITE'S HIDDEN CHARMS

Reports of expeditions in Cyprus in 2014 and 2015 with Bernard Chirol, Yves Contet, Pascal Dubreuil, Valérie Magnan, Théo Savoi et Sarah Wigmore. Historical synthesis of caving in Cyprus.

Author: Bernard Chirol and Théo Savoi

Description:
Since the late Prehistoric period Cyprus has been inhabited by mankind. At that time, dwarf fauna was living on the island and often Mediterranean caves were filled with animals bones of which Homer wrote about in the Odyssey.
During the Renaissance a few books were written about the caves. Since the 19th century and during the second half of the 20th century the island has been explored mostly by the English. In 2003 in the northern part of the island, Turkish cavers from Ankara led a survey on 42 caves on or close to the Kyrenian Range.
The Republic of Cyprus is currently concerned with the European project for Bat protection in caves near Akamas and the Cape Pyla regions. A French team recently conducted investigations on the whole of the island to determine the real karstic potential and an NGO was created in the north after that expedition in 2014.

Publisher: Comité Spéléologique Régional Rhône-Alpes (24 Jun. 2015)
Specifications: Colour printing - Glossy coated paper 115 g, 19.6 x 23.3 cm
Language: French and English
Price: 20 € + shipping
Order: contact Théo Savoi - *theo.savoi@gmail.com*

SPELEOLOGICAL HERITAGE IN IRON ORE: PROPOSALS FOR ITS CONSERVATION IN THE QUADRILATERO FERRIFERO OF MINAS GERAIS

Organizers: *Ursula de Azevedo Ruchkys, Luiz Eduardo Panisset Travassos, Marcelo Augusto Rasteiro, Luciano Emerich Faria.*

Description:
Caves in iron ore represent an important part of our speleological heritage, yet relatively little is known about them. They are, however, constantly threatened by the expansion of human activity, especially mining in regions such as the Quadrilátero Ferrífero of Brazil. Only with continuing research and the consequent advances in our knowledge about them will it be possible to manage these areas responsibly, considering not only economic and social development , but also the conservation of the environment and our cultural heritage.

With more than 340 richly illustrated pages, the book is divided into three parts: the first a contextualization of caves, speleology, the economic importance of minerals, and some possible conflicts; the second provides more specific knowledge of the speleological heritage in iron-bearing rock from the point of view of a variety of areas of science; the third presents proposals for the responsible management of the Quadrilátero Ferrífero in Brazil.

Publication: Campinas (Brazil), Sociedade Brasileira de Espeleologia (SBE), [Brazilian Speleological Society] 2015
Specifications: Colour printing, 349 pages, 22,5 x 31,5 cm, hard cover/e-book
Language: Portuguese

E-book available for free from: *http://www.cavernas.org.br/perferruginosas.asp*

Calendar of Events 2016 2017

- 2016 National Speleological Society (NSS) Convention
16-23 July 2016 (Ely, Nevada, USA)
More information: *http://nss2016.caves.org/*

- EuroSpeleo 2016: the 5th European Speleological Congress
13-20 August 2016 (Dalesbridge Centre in the Yorkshire Dales, England)
Organized by the British Caving Association (BCA) and the European Speleological Federation (FSE)
Contact: *http://www.eurospeleo.uk/*

- 4th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium *(as part of the 5th European Speleological Congress)*
15-16 August 2016 (Yorkshire Dales, Great Britain)
Organized by the European Cave Protection Commission of the European Speleological Federation
More information: *http://www.eurospeleo.uk/about/ecpc-symposium.php*

- EuroKarst 2016 - *The European bi-annual conference on the Hydrogeology of Karst and Carbonate Reservoirs*
5-7 September 2016 (Neuchâtel, Switzerland)
Organized by the Universities of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Besançon (France), and Malaga (Spain)
More information: *http://www.eurokarst.org/*

- 35th International Geological Congress
Symposium "The Quaternary System: Precision and Reliability in Global Correlation"
27 August - 4 September 2016 (Cape Town, South Africa)
More information: *http://www.35igc.org/Verso/211/Submit-an-Abstract*

- International Cave Rescue Trainings - *Cave Rescue Techniques, and Victim Assistance*
1-9 October 2016 (Jura, Doubs, France)
Organized by Speleo Secours Francais (French Cave Rescue Organization)
Contact: Christian Dodelin - *christian.dodelin@sfr.fr*
More information: see pages 30, 31 and 32 in this Bulletin

- Journées Nationales de Spéléologie
01-02 October 2016 (all Belgium)
Organized by Union Belge de Spéléologie
Contact: *jns@speleoubs.be*

- 2nd International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities HYPOGEA 2017
6-8 March 2017 (Cappadocia, Turkey)
Organized by HYPOGEA (Italy) and OBRUK Cave Research Group (Turkey), under the patronage of UIS, Balkan Speleological Union, Turkish Federation of Speleology, among others.
More information: *http://www.hypogea2017.com*

- 17th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) - *"Caves in an Ancient Land"*
23-30 July 2017 (Panthers Event Centre, suburb of Penrith, western Sydney, Australia)
Organized and hosted by the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF)
Contact Executive Board: *speleo2017@caves.org.au*
More information: *http://speleo2017.com* or Facebook page *https://www.facebook.com/Speleo2017*

17th International Congress of Speleology, Sydney 2017

Sydney, Australia, 23-30 July 2017

CAVES IN AN ANCIENT LAND

by Denis Marsh - *President, Speleo 2017 ICS Organising Commission*
(a commission of the Australian Speleological Federation)
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IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING THE 17th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY (17th ICS)

With the next world congress of the UIS just over twelve months away it is time to update cavers, cave managers, academics and speleologists around the globe about the 17th ICS, Speleo 2017, being organised and hosted in Australia in July 2017.

By the end of this June the ICS Organising Committee expects to have released the Second Circular containing many of the details about the Congress. Importantly the release of this Circular will include the call for submission of abstracts and papers, together with posters and contributions to the various salons being planned. Proposed presentations should relate to speleology but can be on scientific, technical, cultural or educational aspects. Session topics will be determined by the papers submitted.

If you are submitting a paper, full registration must be received at or before the 7 April 2017. Papers, and revised papers submitted after the deadline and/or not in the required format, will not be accepted. Details of the submission process and timing will be published shortly on the Congress website *https://www.speleo2017.com*.

The organising commission invites the various UIS Departments, Commissions and Working Groups, as well as national speleological associations planning to hold meetings or workshops, to contact them about their requirements to assist in the scheduling of these into the program. Other aspects of the program are currently being planned. Competitions related to the program will be provided shortly on the ICS website.

A large indoor vendor and exhibition area is being arranged. Vendors selling goods related to caving are invited to sell at the Congress. Contact the organisers soon to reserve your sales or exhibit space. Booths can be sized according to needs with sites sold on a first-pay system. UIS member organisations bidding to host the 2021 ICS will be provided with a free exhibit space.

An exciting program of field excursions, both pre and post conference, is being offered along with mid-week excursions and a partners program. A range of field excursions have been organised to visit a number of varied karst and cave localities around Australia and New Zealand. We have endeavoured to

provide a range of experiences to cater for the varied interests, budgets and styles of the people who we anticipate will be coming to the 17th ICS. Check the conference website for details. Bookings for the field trips must be received by 15 January 2017; after this date, participation cannot be guaranteed. Excursions and field camps may be cancelled for lack of participation and confirmation of ICS registration is not confirmation of excursion or field trip registration.

Travel insurance: The cost of medical treatment in Australia, including medical evacuation, is expensive. Anyone travelling to Australia from overseas is strongly advised to obtain travel insurance. Everyone registering for a pre or post-congress field excursion will need to show evidence of an Australian Medicare Card and ambulance cover or, for overseas registrants, travel insurance which includes ambulance cover.

White Nose Syndrome: Australia is free of this disease. There are guidelines in the Second Circular for the management of White Nose Syndrome in association with the 17th ICS. Excursion leaders will be given instructions for managing the risk of WNS and all people registering for excursions will be provided with details. Please ensure that you minimise this risk by being diligent in rigorously cleaning and decontaminating all caving clothing, boots and equipment before coming to Australia and complying with the specific WNS guidelines.

Finally and most importantly, on-line registrations are scheduled to open on 1 August, 2016 and close on 1 June 2017. Please note, all registrations will be on-line via the ICS website at *https://www.speleo2017.com*. Mark your diaries now and start planning your trip to Australia for the 17th International Congress of Speleology, 23-29 July, 2017.

Why not stay informed about the Congress and get alerts when new information becomes available and is posted to the website. Go to the ICS website and subscribe for email updates and alerts at *https://www.speleo2017.com/Subscribe.html* .

Help us to promote this world premier speleological event, convened on behalf of the UIS by the Australian Speleological Federation Inc., to all your contacts. Like and share us on Facebook at *https://www.facebook.com/speleo2017*. If you have any questions or require more information the organising committee can be contacted at *info@speleo2017.com*.

Hope to see you all in Sydney, Australia at the 17th ICS, July 2017.

Penrith Panthers Conference Centre on the western outskirts of Sydney, an ideal venue for the 17th ICS. The centre is located on the 80 hectare (198 acre) site in the picturesque Penrith Valley, at the foot of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park and in relatively close proximity to Jenolan Caves, a national treasure of awe-inspiring beauty and scale. Photos © *http://penrith.panthers.com.au*

UIS BUREAU 2013/2017

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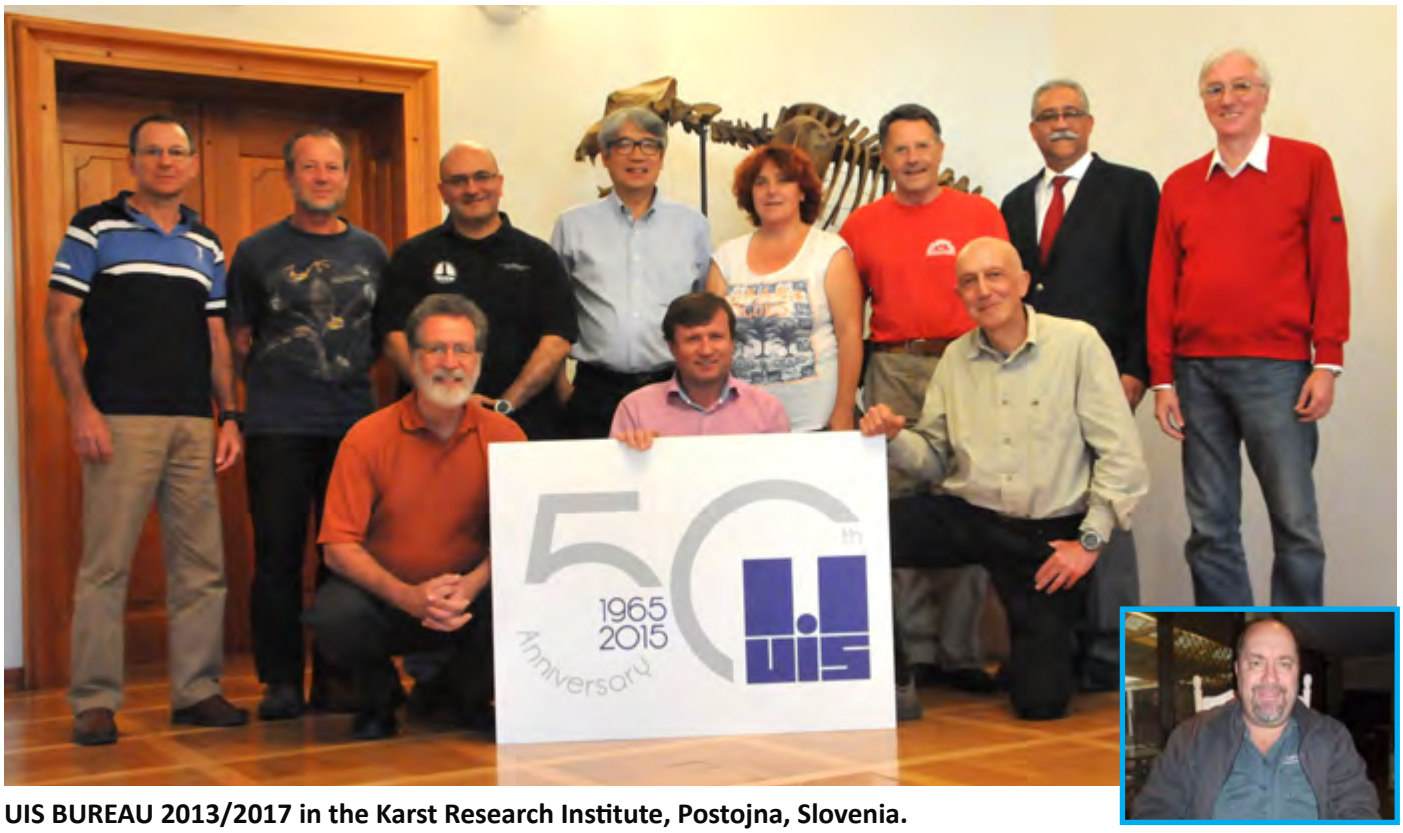

UIS BUREAU 2013/2017 in the Karst Research Institute, Postojna, Slovenia.

Left to right, standing: Nivaldo COLZATO *(Adjunct Secretary/Brazil);* Christian DODELIN *(Adjunct Secretary/France);* Fadi NADER *(Secretary General/Lebanon);* Kyung Sik WOO *(President/Rep. of Korea);* Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA *(Adjunct Secretary and Treasurer/Slovenia);* Jean Pierre BARTHOLEYNS *(Adjunct Secretary/Belgium);* Efraín MERCADO *(Vice--President for Operations/Puerto Rico);* Mladen GARASIC *(Adjunct Secretary/Croatia).*

Left to right, in front: George VENI *(Vice-President for Administration/USA);* Zdeněk MOTYČKA *(Adjunct Secretary/Czech Rep.);* Giovanni BADINO *(Adjunct Secretary/Italy).*

Inset photo: *John CUGLEY (Adjunct Secretary/Australia).*

Photo by José Ayrton LABEGALINI *(UIS Past President) - June 2015*

Union Internationale
de Spéléologie
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ACTIVE NATION MEMBERS LIST
as reported by UIS Treasurer

54 Active Member Nation in June 2016
*(with debts for 2 or more years marked with *)*

Algeria*
Argentina*
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia & Hercegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia*
Cuba*
Czech Republic
France
Germany
Greece
Honduras*
Hungary
Indonesia
Islamic Republic of Iran
Israel*
Italy
Jamaica*
Japan
Lebanon*
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Mexico
Mongolia*
Norway
The Netherlands
New Zealand
Paraguay*
Poland
Portugal
Puerto Rico
Romania
Russia*
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain*
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America*
Venezuela*
Vietnam*

Some of the countries have paid the annual fees up to 2022; some didn't for last 2 years or even more!

Please be aware to do the agreement about WHO is paying for your country - especially if there are two or more speleological associations in one country; UIS Bureau can't select payer for your country and we don't return money!!!

If you have new treasurer or responsible person for payments, please send the new name and e-mail address on zupan@zrc-sazu.si; in some countries I have problem to get the proper connection or I have no address.

Have not found your country in this list?

Ask the UIS Treasurer

PAYMENT VIA UIS WEBSITE

We are working to provide the payment of the annual fees directly via UIS Web Page through PayPal service. This service will be available soon and will be announced in the UIS Website.

UPDATE your status now!

CONTACT UIS

UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE
Titov trg 2, 6230 Postona, Slovenia
www.uis-speleo.org

FINANCE

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

By: Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA, UIS Treasurer/UIS Adjunct Secretary (Slovenia) - zupan@zrc-sazu.si

Prof. Dr. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia) in United Arab Emirates

Each UIS member country has the free choice of the category in accordance with its own financial possibilities and with the number of speleologists or speleological societies/ associations/ federations/ clubs/ institutions.

The UIS Bureau authorized to reduce or to remit the contributions, if the UIS member-country makes a respectively written demand. If the UIS Bureau requires, the UIS member country has to give reasons for the difficulties of a payment.

The authorization of the UIS Bureau to reduce or remit the contributions confirms that the impossibility of a payment by actual political problems or difficulties will not be an argument to exclude any member country from the international collaboration within the structure of the UIS.

Headquarters of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenia, where the offices of the UIS are located. In the detail, the bronze plaque with the emblem of the UIS affixed below the name of the institute.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The UIS General Assembly at the 15th ICS decided to change the annual contributions of the UIS member-countries to Euro currency, while keeping the same rates as those since 1994. The annual contributions will be as follows, starting from January 2010:

Category A - 300 Euros
Category B - 200 Euros
Category C - 50 Euros

UIS BANK ACCOUNT

Account name
Mednarodna speleološka zveza-UIS
Titov trg 2
6230 Postojna - Slovenia

Account No.
IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520

SWIFT Code: BAKOSI2X

Bank (name and address)
Banka Koper d.d.
Traška 2
6230 Postojna - Slovenia

Accepted Currencies:
USD (United States Dollars)
EUR (Euros)

STATE OF UIS BANK ACCOUNT ON JUNE 1ST, 2016

6440.20 EUR
+ 18000.00 EUR DEPOSIT
+ 5.9 EUR/MONTH INTEREST

11559.43 USD
+ 35000.00 USD DEPOSIT
+ 12.91 USD/MONTH INTEREST

Deposits in EUR and USD bring interest to cover various bank and account charges.

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GUIDE FOR SUBMITTING AND PUBLISHING ARTICLES IN THE UIS BULLETIN

ENGLISH VERSION

1 – INTRODUCTION

This guide describes the specific format for the articles sent for publication in the UIS Bulletin.

The main objective is to bring UIS Bulletin recipients, a high quality content that respects the principles of publication.

By publishing correct and precise information that clarifies any arousing doubts, the readers will get a much better understanding.

2 – ARTICLE PRODUCTION

***2.a** – While making an article or report for the UIS Bulletin, the author is responsible to answer the following main questions:*

Who?
What?
When?
Where?
How?
Why?

***2.b** – All papers and articles submitted to UIS Bulletin should be preferably in English language.*

If the author is not able to do that, the author will use any of the UIS Official Languages. Exceptionally, we accept the submitance of articles in the author's language (review case by case).

The UIS Official Languages as per the Statutes are:
French
German
Spanish
Italian
Russian

***2.c** – All papers and articles submitted to UIS Bulletin for publication in a different language, other than UIS Official Languages, as per stated, will have a short and precise abstract (summary) in English.*

The photos and figures included with the article must have subtitles in the original language and in English.

***2.d** – It is recommended to the authors to review the articles thoroughly before submission. Linguistic experts could help in this task. Any correction have to be sent on time, according our recommended submitance due date, to avoid delays in the publication.*

Editors are not responsible for misspellings or incorrect information even though editors should make their best effort to keep articles as close to the original version as possible.

***2.e** – While referring to an institution name in the article, please use the complete official name first, followed by the institution acronym in parenthesis. Example: Unión Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS); International Council for Science (ICSU). Once the complete name of the institution is used, then on you can use only the acronym.*

***2.f** – Dates must be written in the following format:*
MM/DD/YYYY (Month/Day/Year)

***2.g** – When feasible, units referred in article should be written using the International Standards System (SI).*

***2.h** – All bibliographical references used must be included in alphabetical order at the end of the article.*

The use of a general accepted bibliographical system as American Psychological Association (APA) or similar is recommended.

3 - FORMAT

***3.a** – When available, the text of the article should be written using Microsoft Word or Open Office (which is an open source office suite), in vertical A4 size format, single column, automatic character spacing and single line spacing.*

***3.b** – It is recommended for font type and size used in the article, Times New Roman, 11 points. The editors has reserved the right to modify the final document in order to fit it adequately to the Bulletin model used and space.*

***3.c** – Authors should avoid the overuse of the following font types and styles: bold, underlined, italics, and d o u b l e space between words.*

***3.d** – it is recommended a manual change of line when starting a new paragraph.*

3.e – *it is recommended an appropriate and consistent form of numbering throughout the document. Please take in to account the avoidance of complex systems. In the case of title and subtitle numbering, please, deactivate the "automatic numbering" mode. Do it manually.*

3.f – *Save your document or article in* ***.doc*** *or* ***.docx*** *(MS Word) or* ***.odf*** *(Open Office) format whenever possible.*

4 – IMAGES

4.a – *Images should be inserted immediately after its mention in the article, with its proper subtitle (photos, figures, graphics, maps, logos, etc.)*

4.b – *In case you are sending photos, it is recommended to send an additional archive with them, including other images or graphic, in* ***.JPG***, ***.JPEG***, ***.PNG*** *or* ***.TIFF*** *format.*

The minimum resolution should be of ***300 dpi*** *or 1.024 x 768 pixels, using* ***RGB*** *color standard.*

4.c – *In case of figures, graphics, maps and logos, send also a separate archive of the original art in Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft Excel, or similar.*

4.d – *All images shall be accompanied by the authors full name and brief title or subtitle.*

By subtitle it is understood a short and concise text that describes the image. A good title or subtitle clarifies any doubt that an image could present. It should emphasize in relevant aspects and any other important information that the author wish to present.

The information brings additional facts or the context of the image. It should not merely describe what the reader could see by him/herself.

Subtitle shall identify, whenever feasible the people and the place presented in the image. Example: "George Zimmerman (right)", "From left to right: Mario, Yaneth, Helen and Carol" or "Elizabeth (in green T-shirt)".

4.e – *If the image was already published in other bulletin, site, book, magazine or similar publication, the source shall be mentioned and the permit for reproduction of the image (usually special markings like: ©)*

5 – SUBMISSION

5.a – *Each article, paper or material shall be submitted to the editors of the UIS Bulletin by means of electronic source, like email. In case of using regular mail we suggest the use of couriers or express mail (expedite mail through country Postal Office, although it is expensive).*

Take into account that usually it could take from weeks to months in order to reach its final destination.

Send it in advance and calculate well. UIS Bulletin have specific due dates for receiving and processing the information. Once finished, editors deliver a copy of the UIS Bulletin to the article author and collaborators, to the email provided.

Please send your full name, title, profile photo, academic title (if you wish), main field of expertise or profession, nationality (or country), main email and alternate email. Please, use the following addresses to submit your article:

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emercado@caribe.net
mercado.efrain@gmail.com

Nivaldo COLZATO (Brazil)
Graphic Editor
nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br
ncolzato@gmail.com

6 – PUBLICATION POLICIES

6.a – *Viewpoints and opinions (personal or from the represented institutions) expressed in articles are only responsibility of its authors and do not represent, necessarily, in any way, that of the UIS official policies, or reflects that of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie or its Bureau members, unless specifically stated.*

6.b – *The editors reserve the right to make suggestions and to modify the articles before its publication for reasons of space, internal regulations differences, unprofessional matters, wrongful citations or any other event that do not reflect UIS Bulletin intention of a clear, healthy and reasonable information. This includes any suspicion of plagiarism or discrimination.*

6.c – *The editors reserve the right to accept or to refuse any article that does not comply with the rules, guidelines and criteria of the UIS.*

7 – NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY OF THE UIS BULLETIN

7.a – *The UIS prohibits discrimination against its member nations, volunteers and providers, on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familiar or parental status, or sexual orientation.*

7.b – *Any questions should be submitted in write to the UIS Secretary General, Dr. Fadi NADER, at: fadi.nader@gmail.com*

EDITOR'S DISCLOSURE

UIS Bulletin, nor its editors are responsible for:

· misspellings
· wrongly written names
· incorrect articles
· typographical mistakes

Every effort possible has been made to keep all articles as close to the original version. In some cases, the editors review the structure in order to present the article in a clear and consistent manner and obvious errors are corrected if found.
We appreciate your understanding.
Should you have any comments, please send them to:

Efraín MERCADO
Editor in Chief
emercado@caribe.net

Nivaldo COLZATO
Graphic Edition
nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br

UIS BULLETIN

Union Internationale de Spéléologie