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AGM of the Norwegian Speleological Society (NGF) 2006

The meeting was held on August 12 in Beiarn with 29 members attending. Annual report and accounts were approved. S. Grundstrøm and A. Westlund were re-elected as leader and vice-leader.

Excerpts from annual report: 23 new members enrolled. During the 2005 Tjorve week two lower jaw skeleton remains were found, probably from an adult and a young bear. These have been dated to 65 BC - 120 AD and to 230-325 AD respectively. The jaws will probably end up in Rana Museum. NGF was represented at the 14th UIS conference in Hellas in August 2005. NGF has purchased 2 new Suunto compasses with light, and the old cave survey set has been repolished. Work is in progress to procure 10 compass modification sets in order to facilitate readings on slopes. Swedish SS has reacted positively to a suggestion for a joint meeting in Burfjell in 2008. During 2005 NGF has submitted comments on several protection issues. In January 2006 the Board issued a statement concerning the publishing of cave findings which are in need of protection: "Internet is a powerful medium for disseminating information – for better or worse. Information on caves should therefore not be placed on Internet in such a manner that it may guide vandals/souvenir hunters to objects which are easily accessible, vulnerable, and worthy of protection. The same applies to pieces on caves in TV, radio, and widely read newspapers and journals." With support from 6 municipalities, the County of Nordland, and Statskog Nordland the Board has produced and distributed a brochure "Grottenorge", 3000 copies. The intention is to direct the traffic to caves where serious guides with an understanding of cave protection are available. The brochure has been sent to all tourist offices in the country. Comments have been uniformly favourable. Cave security has been given much attention. In March 2006 the rescue manual was updated and distributed. In October 2005 a letter was received from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre dealing with the contribution of volunteers to the rescue services. The letter urges employers to give paid leave to volunteers, not only in real rescue situations but also for exercises.

The Board has decided that all articles printed in NGB shall be in Norwegian.