Scuba Club Introduced

The USU Scuba Club would like to thank the College of Natural Resources’ Student Council for allowing us to join the ranks of clubs and organizations within the college. We are excited about the possibilities this association is capable of offering to all who are involved.

Ten to fifteen years ago the sport of Scuba diving began to grow in popularity around the country by leaps and bounds. A few students at USU became aware of this and decided to form a Scuba club to bring local divers together in a social environment and participate in Scuba diving activities.

Why it matters...an engineer’s perspective

Who am I?           By Justin Robinson
I’m a person that is
sick and tired of being underpaid in a world full of
money. I’m a human being who can no longer
stand to be unfulfilled by my current job. I’m a
person sick of seeing my fellow humans destroy
what’s left of our beautiful world. We live in a so-
ciety where the uneducated live at the will of the
educated; A society where the minority controls
the majority. I’m sick and tired of being on the
wrong side, the unheard side. I’m here to be edu-
cated and to be heard.

The “American Dream” is destroying this
country. With each passing day we push this poor
planet further and further towards it’s end. Some
say it’s too late, that the damage is already done.
Others say there’s nothing wrong with our Mother
Earth. I’m no fool. I’ve seen enough proof to
convince me that global warming is already affer-
ing our lives every day. By attending college I want
to not only educate myself but also educate those
around me. I want to compile so much evidence
about environmental issues that no man or women
could possibly argue the issue of our affects on
nature with me. For a long time I just wanted to
strangle all those who didn’t care about the en-
vironment. Then I realized this attitude would never
get me anywhere except prison. I’ve now taken a
different approach.

In conclusion, I’m here to defend all I
know and love. I’m here in an attempt to increase
my brain power and in turn my impact on the
world. I want to preserve all that is left of this
wonderful nation before it’s too late. This is my
planet too; it’s time I stood up for it.

Son and Daughter of Paul Competition

Do you think you can best represent
CNR? Do you think you know what its all about?
Well come compete for the Son and Daughter of
Paul Contest. The Daughter of Paul contest origi-
nated in 1937, as an actual beauty pageant. We’ve
evolved from those days of sexist competitions
where a woman is judged only by her physical mer-
its. Okay, so some haven’t, but the competition
has, and we’re even including the boys now. In
this year’s competition each department will be
represented by an event. Wildlife will be conduct-
ing a telemetry competition. You will be doing a
bug counting competition for Watershed science.
A traverse will be held to test your geography skills.
Forestry will be participating in logging sports.
Range isn’t set yet, but it will likely involve cow
chips. The contest will be held Saturday, February
3 from 9 am to noon. The winner will be crowned
at the Logger’s Ball and Game Dinner on February
9. The winner will receive a $25 book scholarship,
an 8X10, other prizes, and the dubious honour of
being named the Son and Daughter of Paul. For
more information or to sign up, see NR 212 or
email trfllnt@cc.usu.edu
Utah now has the highest amount of certified scuba divers per capita than any other state in the nation. The USUSC feels it is important to keep the sport of scuba diving, and all of its possibilities, alive by being an active club. To do this, we continue to offer a forum where divers from USU and the surrounding community can meet other divers with whom they can dive with and share their experiences from dives past. We, of course, participate in many fun diving activities, non-diving activities, and encourage a continuing education in scuba diving.

Our club is not, however, exclusive. Because a majority of those we have on our e-mail list aren’t certified, we offer non-diving, educational, and other entertaining activities for them. Once or twice each month we offer what’s called a Discover Scuba Dive. These dives are designed to educate non-divers about scuba diving and encourage further investigation in to becoming certified divers. We don’t want anyone to feel they need to be certified scuba divers to join our club.

Our membership and interested persons consists of more than 100 people. Throughout the years those associated with the USUSC have participated in many activities ranging from dive trips, to community service, and Homecoming events. Casual diving activities included short trips to sites in and around Utah such as Bonneville Seabase—a facility for divers by Toodle that was created to be a home for sealife, including three nurse sharks. Divers can swim with and feed the fish in the waters of Seabase.

Earth Day presents us with an opportunity to participate in efforts during that day to clean the environment around us. In the past we’ve gone up to Bear Lake to clean up the marina, which is usually filled with items such as propane tanks and lounge chairs that have either fallen or were thrown off the boats there. We simply bring these items to the surface and dispose of them appropriately. This is one activity we anticipate being an annual event.

The reason why we wanted the USUSC to meld into the CNR was that we felt your clubs and ours shared a common interest in enjoying the world around us. Your interests involve appreciation, exploration and studying the world on the land, and ours deals with the world below the water’s surface. We would like to invite you to explore the underwater world with us through our activities, as we would like to learn a little more about your studies through activities.

To learn a little more about the USU Scuba Club, check out the club’s website at www.usu.edu/scuba/scuba1.html. Or you can e-mail us at SLLT2@cc.usu.edu. We can answer any questions dealing with our activities or Scuba classes currently being offered.

Mike Logan – USU Scuba Club President

Once again, in what seems to be a tradition, the forestry club is attempting to establish an active, practicing logging sports team. We are extending an invitation to anyone interested in joining the logging sports team to mail or call us for information. We would like to establish a meeting to discuss future practices times and prepare for the upcoming AWFC conclave at University of Washington in Seattle. As part of our practices we will be splitting wood to sell for firewood, which we sell in cords, half-cords, and face-cords. We would also appreciate hearing from anyone with experience or equipment.

Anyone interested please contact;

Justin DeRose - rjustindeRose@hotmail.com 713-4966

Eston Jones - s14x8@cc.usu.edu 752-6012
A perennial theme of the CNR is the coexistence of a diversity of cultures and backgrounds. If America is the melting pot, the CNR is a rich stew. As with all things, diversity brings a tremendous strength to the CNR. I, for one, could not stand a CNR full of Jim Steitz (scary, huh?). And so, in the dubious tradition of stereotyping and classification, here is:

THE STEITZ FIELD GUIDE TO CNR STUDENTS

Ruralite/Academia Hybrids: Usually identified by their blue jeans and flannel shirt, but lacking the cowboy boots and belt buckle that marks the next category, and usually from a rural/small town background. They usually have conservationist-utilitarian views of natural resource issues, but gravitate toward a "compromise" or "balanced" resolution. I have found great debate with these folks, who usually have something up their sleeve in a debate that I can never anticipate, but also tend to be very friendly. Examples: Sean Hammond, Ben Ott, Preston Frischknecht.

Ranges: Easily identified by their flannel shirt, blue jeans that have been places, and western accents. The cowboy hat is the most the most distinctive feature, though some have merely very old ball caps. Look for a rodeo-affiliated emblem on the belt buckle. From strongly rural backgrounds, they bring experience and up-close views from the land-user side of natural resource issues, besides some great jokes. Far from merely an adversary for greens (see below), they have much wisdom that serves to keep greens in line. Examples: Ada Williamson, Joe Caudell, Bryce Griffiths

Undercover Greens: These people usually have an environmentalist worldview nearly as strong as the greens, but without the green ethos. Clothing and other outward appearances are non-distinctive, so look for a wide range of friends and associates, a non-stop social life, and a large involvement in extracurricular activities as well as an impeccable academic record. They would be brandished as radical environmentalists in a second in a public hearing; here, they're too busy with an NR club or schoolwork. Examples: Claudia Anderson, Sandra Keil, Riley Snow.

Non-Affiliated Thinkers: These are the generalists of the CNR, less committed to any one ideology as they are to learning about the issues. Although they typically have environmentalist values, they are less likely to subscribe to any pre-existing philosophy, viewpoint, or campaign slogan. There are no key external features, but will often ask questions in class, and will be members of clubs and extracurricular activities, but not as much as the next category. Examples: Barbara Webber, Rachel Ware, Jackie Badstubner.

Ultra-Greens: These folks are straight from the radical environmentalist school of thought. Look for tattoos, bandanas, non-conventional piercings, and an always-handly water bottle, often labeled with environmental propaganda. They will put themselves on a par with Earth First or PETA if asked about a given topic, though they typically would rather be at an all-night party. If the Legacy Highway lawsuits fail, you can expect them on the front lines. Note: Don't serve meat at inviting any over for dinner. Examples: Greata Schen, Summer Allen, Myke Thompson.

The blending of these personalities and backgrounds in our college is not merely academic -- it is something that our "real-world" counterparts often fail to achieve. Far too often, the differences separating the factions amount to a bandana or belt buckle, a trivial difference that pales in comparison to what we share. Could our CNR be a sign of things to come?
Highlighted Professor:
Robert Schmidt

Does anyone want to get to know a professor that really likes students and wants to learn with you as well as teach you? I have your man. Dr. Robert Schmidt of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department. Professor Schmidt has a great history and will continue to make his mark in this college.

Dr. Schmidt received his bachelor's in Wildlife at the University of Nebraska, and Masters and PHD in biological ecology at the University of California-Davis. One suggestion that Dr. Schmidt gave is to look at your future five years in advance to help stay on the track and know where your individual track is going.

Professor Schmidt recently became the club advisor (at the request of the club) of the Scuba Club. This club was recently selected to be a club in the CNR. Dr. Schmidt is a rescue diver and is trying to stay involved with the diving community. The Scuba Club learns about aquatic ecosystems and will be a huge contribution to the CNR. Anyone interested in this new club can look at their website at http://www.usu.edu/scuba/scubamembers.html.

Professor Schmidt is involved with research and focuses on the human dimension of natural resources and wildlife. His latest graduate student collaboration is on the subject of therapeutic wildlife. You may have heard of people helping people heal and animals visiting the sick in hospitals, this is along those same lines.

Robert Schmidt has a long-term goal that is in my mind quite reasonable. I took his class, Living With Wildlife, and found it to be multi-dimensional, interactive and quite interesting! Politics, economics, social issues, and law were discussed concerning wildlife. Dr. Schmidt's goal is to have this class become "the most popular course on campus." He is currently trying to have his class reclassified as a life science breadth requirement. If this succeeds then anyone at the University level could take this class to satisfy this requirement. By the word of students and advisor's he hopes that this class would become very popular. It is his intention that non-NR students would take this class and gain an appreciation for wildlife and natural resource issues.

Currently, Dr. Schmidt offers a wolf management course. This graduate level course is, in his own words, an "experiment." He hopes to use a team approach to come up with a wolf management plan for the state of Utah. His goal is to have undergraduates and graduate student's work together, "with respect of colleagues." He thinks it important to have a class where undergraduates can become trained to become a colleague and where all students can make the student to professional transition. He thinks this class is a reflection of the "real world." Students learn biology, ecology, interdisciplinary teamwork, sociology, history, etc.

The CNR Almanac would like to thank Dr. Schmidt for his time and suggests that everyone become acquainted with Professor Schmidt.

Student of the Month:
Terry Liddick

The student of the month for January is Terry Liddick. He is majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife with a minor in biology. Terry has accomplished some outstanding items to receive this recognition. He recently received the Wildlife Leadership Award from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, he takes twenty credits per semester, yet has been on the dean's list the past two semesters. One of his most influential professors in our college has been Dr. Gilbert, a professor he believes is experienced, competent and knowledgeable. The reason Terry chose USU after being in the Air Force for twenty years is the reputation of the department and our professors. He has gained experience this past summer working as an intern with the BLM Partners in Science Internship. He worked down in Cedar City studying the declining mule deer herd population. In the future he plans to work in the wildlife field, preferrable for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Please congratulate Terry on his accomplishments and recognition as student of the month!
The Natural Resources Community and an Aldo Leopold Learning Community

Starting this upcoming fall semester, incoming CNR students will have an opportunity no previous students have had. Any current student has until now, missed out on an essential part of a fully successful education experience. This missing component I speak of is community. This is the effort of faculty, staff, and some of the CNR student body. This new community will be created by the Aldo Leopold Learning Community.

How many of us came into this college to nothing but distant stares and alienation from other students? Those same students could be our lifelines in classes and later in careers. It would seem wise and beneficial for CNR students to take advantage of the close proximity of so many like-minded people. Merriam-Webster dictionary states community as “a). a unified body of individuals, b). the people with common interests living in a particular area, …c). a group linked by a common policy…”

It is a point of fact that most of us, although on many sides of natural resources-related issues, have a common interest in natural resources and policies that surround them. I think we can also find points in which most, if not all of us, agree on. One irrefutable truth is that we are all linked by common policies in the CNR. Why do we not use these situations to our advantage? Ideally we should pool our resources and use them for the betterment of our student body as a whole.

Dr. Ray Dueser, Associate Dean for the CNR has been working in coalition with Steve Jenson of housing and food services to create the “Aldo Leopold Learning Community” as a part of this effort. The ALLC will be located in the first two floors of the Davis Hall and will be reserved solely for CNR students. These students will be treated to fireside chats, travelogues, slide shows, graduate and upper classmen presentations, seminars, academic advising, and informal meals as an integral part of their living experience.

Professors and students will be able to create relationships amongst one another, which can be beneficial to them for the remainder of their education. Dr. Dueser brings to this new program, experience, enthusiasm, and a vision of a strong, professional CNR. He defined a community as a place involving, “mutual respect, fundamental honesty, and mutual expectations.” Dr. Dueser also strongly believes having a community is essential because it “facilitates your ability to go in to the professional world and work with others, already tested and proven.”

Those of us who won’t have the opportunity to be involved with the CNR Aldo Leopold Learning Community as freshmen still have the opportunity to experience community in the CNR. We must create it though. Speak with the Dean’s Office, your advisor, other students and get involved and help make a change for a better educational experience. Submit ideas to the newsletter over issues and look to it as a forum for discussion, link to employment, and idea pooling.
Two Opposing Perspectives

Bill: A great number of my 20-something associates are apposed to the "Leavitt" Memorial Highway. Oh my dear myopic, narrow minded, naive, unrealistic friends, you are wrong! Now I am not saying we should build the highway as currently proposed, as there are several major design flaws in the proposal. We need this highway. I hear the cries of anguish among the minions, "Bill don't you know about mass transit, light rail, and various conservation techniques? Plus, we are running out of oil". Bus systems and light rail are both inconvenient, extremely expensive, and create egregious financial conditions for those the system is supposed to benefit the most. How so you ask? "Bill it only costs two dollars to go from one end of the Salt Lake valley to the other". This is true if you talk of out of pocket cost. Unfortunately these systems are highly subsidised, through taxes, whether we use it or not. Real costs are often five to ten times higher than through the door costs.

Take pencil and paper in hand and figure the real cost of operating your car. Compare this to the real cost of public transportation. I can drive my car from Logan to St. George for 35 cents per mile. Real costs: gas, oil, wear and tear, replacement costs and lunch. It comes out to be about $175.00 for my trip to St. George. You can not lay 40ft. of light rail for that amount. Motive power, cars, rails, infrastructure to run the system, hidden costs due to inconvenience and the cost associated with acquiring or condemning land must all be figured into the price of light rail, as well as the effect to the environment to mine the metals for rails, cars, and gravel for the road grade. Not to mention the cost of hydroelectric power or coal fired generating plants, which are the fuels for the entire system.

My point is that in our society, highway systems are the most cost effective, efficient transportation systems we have. The cost is primarily born by those of us who own automobiles and there are relatively few hidden costs. Overall highways are better for the environment than other transportation systems. Utah's growth has out-stripped the capacity of the highway system. The only place we have left to build the new system is the place proposed. I feel that because of the action taken by certain environmentalists who prefer to move their environmental damage out of sight and out of mind, we are stuck with public transportation systems that do not work and a highway system that is not as friendly to the environment as it could be.

Jim: Bill, you exceed your own standard of myopia and circular logic. The Legacy Highway is fundamentally flawed in concept, not merely in this or that alignment. It is a powerful, proactive influence on the future of the Wasatch Front, and will worsen the traffic congestion it was designed to relieve, by spawning a new wave of suburban sprawl along the west side of the I-15 corridor. This is a government subsidy for sprawl, at a far greater price tag than a modest light rail or commuter rail system.

I count no less than 5 major legal violations between UDOT (consider all reasonable alternatives, use best available science, project indirect and cumulative impacts), EPA (veto any EIS that does not meet these criteria), and the Corps of Engineers (choose the option least damaging to wetlands) – this is government pork barrel in the best tradition of government utility and transportation agencies.

Instead of continuing the endless treadmill model of government planning, in which we continually build more highways to accommodate uncontrolled, unplanned growth, let us draw a line in the sand against this cycle. Let us wait to at least assess the effect of the quarter-cent sales tax recently passed by Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber Counties for light rail. Let us recognize that the alternative transportation options that you describe as "more expensive" will be such only as long as we allow the unchecked development that makes it so. Highways spawn low-density development, which creates demand for highways. Until we escape the sprawl paradigm and recognize transportation decisions as part of a larger system of growth planning, we will be building many more Legacy Highways and breathing polluted air, while staring out into the oceans of asphalt and traffic gridlock, for a very long time. Take a hard, long look down this road, Bill – I don’t want to wind up there.
59th Annual
LOGGER'S BALL and
GAME DINNER

February 9, 2001
Dinner 6:00 pm    Dancing 8:30 pm
Dinner & Dance $8    Dance only $4
Live Music
Bullen Center
See NR 212 or email
ttflint@cc.usu.edu
What is an Ombudsman?

An Ombudsman is one that investigates reported complaints (as from students or consumers), reports findings, and helps to achieve equitable settlements. At USU, the Ombudsman is the Student Advocate VP. The Ombudsman takes complaints or situations that are perceived to be unfair to students and tries to resolve them in a fair and equitable manner. Can this be done all the time? No. If the student didn’t go to class, did no assignments, or gets an F and is unhappy because this grade will affect their ability to get into medical school, not much can be done. However, if someone complains about the aggressive squirrels, we can look into it to make sure we are not dealing with “mad” squirrels or just starving squirrels. We can ask the ground crew to rake up all the middens. In the past, the Ombudsman has helped students get tuition refunds due to extenuating circumstances not covered under existing policies. For example, the Ombudsman committee has worked to get better lighting in the CNR parking lot, they have talked with instructors about class content, context and the need for particular classes. If you have a problem, concern, complaint or question, take it to the Ombudsman. Bill Bower is the Ombudsman committee representative for the CNR. They may be able to help. The World is too happy, Complain! Ombudsman@cc.usu.edu

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THE CNR ALMANAC IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
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Call for Papers:
To those that took the time and contributed to this issue, we thank you and invite you to continue doing so.

The spring issues of the CNR Almanac (formally Paul’s Word) are to be a new collaboration between the editors and the CNR faculty, students, administrators and council. We need to focus on the linkages between faculty, administration and students.

These linkages potentially exist on many levels. What do our administrators decide and discuss that may affect and interest the rest of the college? What input do the administrators need in order to represent the college’s needs? What are our professors researching that could potentially guide our community’s future or individual students’ futures? Are students fully aware of their opportunities? If not, what steps need to be taken to help us to take advantage of them?

The newsletter editors wish to develop a forum for discussion, a point of reference, and most of all, something that all of us “must” read to know what is going on in our small “community.” Our hope is that the CNR Almanac will help us to work coherently together to make the college a competitive community of natural resource stewards.

Proposals for papers, comments, suggestions for possible authors, suggestions for resources (web, paper, CD-ROM, etc) to be included throughout the semester are welcome from each and every one of you. Take this opportunity to communicate with your colleagues, and your ultimate resource, the students. Please send your suggestions to the CNR Almanac’s editor:

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