

gdstorrick@comcast.net

From: Jolene Creighton <jcreighton@caves.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 13:53
To: gdstorrick@comcast.net
Subject: Re: A Formal Request

Hey, Gary

First, apologies on the long delay here. We discussed it as a team, but then it took a bit of time to track down the necessary contracts to verify that there isn't anything preventing us from giving you the necessary permissions.

Second, while we typically restrict free access to NSS publications to NSS members, we appreciate the work that you are doing and think that it is very much a worthwhile effort. As such, we are happy to give you permission to include a scanned copy of *Prusiking* on your website. This email serves as the necessary approval. Please be sure to save it for your records to verify your permission.

When making it available, please include somewhere "Reproduced with permission from the National Speleological Society. © 1973 National Speleological Society. Unauthorized reproduction is prohibited."

We are also uploading it on the NSS website for members under the Publications page. Thanks so much for bringing this up and for your patience here.

Best

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 6:21 AM gdstorrick via ec@caves.org <ec@caves.org> wrote:

Friends,

Please let me first introduce myself. I am an NSS member (NSS 12967FE,CM), a collector of vertical caving equipment (some of which I displayed at the 2023 NSS Convention), and creator of the Vertical Museum website <http://www.verticalmuseum.com/> that has been online since 1999, with more than half a million views.

In 1971 Robert Thrun (NSS 8979) wrote ***Prusiking***, one of the first books on vertical caving techniques. The NSS Published ***Prusiking*** in 1973 as an NSS Special Publication. For those of you who don't remember this work, I've scanned it and attached a .pdf to refresh your memories.

Although some of the contents of ***Prusiking*** are dated, I view ***Prusiking*** as an important historical work. I mention ***Prusiking*** in numerous places on my web site. I would like to provide a link to ***Prusiking***, but to my knowledge it is not available online.

For many, many years I have been trying to convince the NSS to make **Prusiking** available on the NSS web site, much like the Society does with the News, Bulletin/Journal, and Speleo Digests. I was recently informed by a former NSS Board member that including **Prusiking** on the NSS Web Site was impossible because **Prusiking** is copyrighted. Not being an attorney, let alone an attorney specializing in copyright law, I do not understand why the NSS cannot put a work copyrighted by the NSS online, but it is what it is.

Consequently, I have a request. I would greatly appreciate it if the NSS would grant me permission to include scanned copy of **Prusiking** on my web site <http://www.verticalmuseum.com/> so that my audience, which includes both NSS members and non-members can have access to this important historical work.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in negotiating the NSS Bureaucracy to secure this permission for me.

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<http://www.verticalmuseum.com/>