



THE CASCADE CAVER

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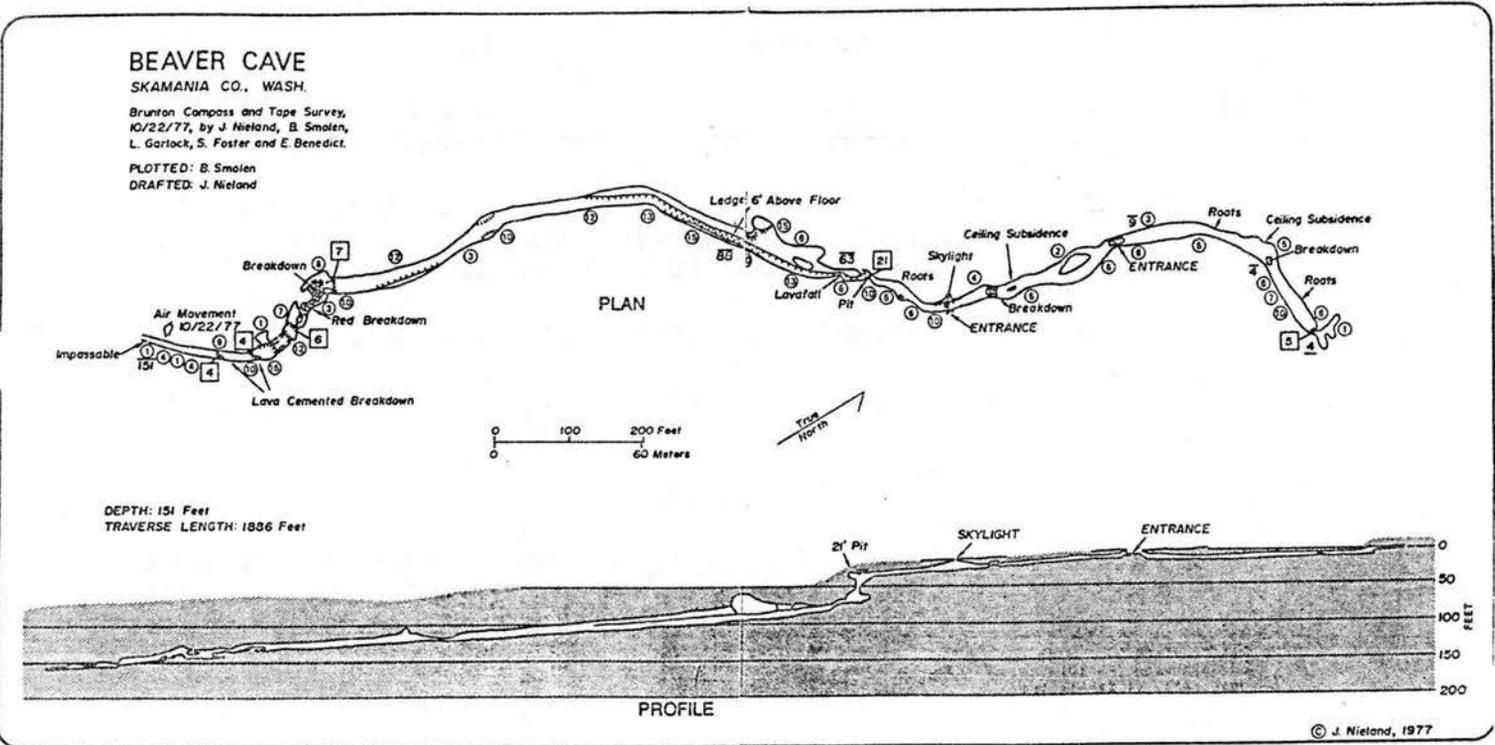
MARCH 1984

BEAVER CAVE

SKAMANIA CO., WASH.

Brunton Compass and Tape Survey,
10/22/77, by J. Nieland, B. Smolen,
L. Gartock, S. Foster and E. Benedict.

PLOTTED: B. Smolen
DRAFTED: J. Nieland



GROTTO EVENTS

- Early MAY McLaughlin Canyon, call Al Lundberg at 365-7255.
- MAY 15 Grotto Meeting 8:00, 1117 36th Ave. East, Seattle
- MAY 25-29 Memorial Day trip to Nevada. See Goshute and the beautiful Crystal Ball Cave plus several others. Contact Bob Brown at 569-2724 or Mark Sherman at 524-8780 for details.
- JUNE 19 Grotto Meeting 8:00, 1117 36th Ave. East, Seattle
- JUNE 25-29 NSS Convention at Sheridan Wyoming.
- JUNE 30-JULY 8 Post Convention trip to Horsethief Cave and the Black Hills. Contact Bob Brown or Mark Sherman for details.
- JULY 4-JULY 15 Jenolan and the Chillogoe caves in Australia. Call Bill Halliday at 324-7474 for more information. The airfare is \$600 ROUND TRIP from San Fransico.
- JULY 17 Grotto Meeting 8:00, 1117 36th Ave. East, Seattle
- SEPT. 1-3 NWCA meeting at Papoose Cave.

TRIP COORDINATOR

Jim Harp has volunteered to be the Grotto Trip Coordinator. In taking this position, he has retired from the position of being the Grotto Fund Raising Chairman (if anyone is interested in that position, please let one of the Grotto Officers know). If anyone is planning any trips, or is interested in going on any, give Jim a call at 745-1010.

The Sullivan Lake Ranger District in the Colville National Forest has just adopted a new cave management direction. It is almost identical to the Proposed Cave Management Direction for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest that was printed in the August/September 1982 Caver. We should thank Jay Rohrer, Supervisor of Forestry Technology and Charles Ernst the District Ranger for adopting this plan, and Grotto members Tad Riste and Ben Tompkins for their work with Jay Rohrer. If anyone would like a copy of this plan I would be glad to send you one.

The map of Beaver Cave, on this month's cover was drawn by Jim Nieland.

LETTER FROM THE EAST

By Robert W. Carroll, Jr.

The 1983 talus efforts here are beginning to "wind down", but it has been a busy and eventful year - and a long one, thanks to a relatively "snowless" March. Efforts to "hike-link" the Adirondacks have made much progress, now all eleven counties are "tied in", the twelfth (Washington) separated is separated by a pesky mile of rough water known as Lake George (some March or February, I'll "nail it down" with an ice walk. For the first time, I have walked over 1000 miles in a caving season. Adirondack results have been numerous but small, a remote 220-footer is the best so far this year, but New England has seen major advances. Vermont's Chiller is up to 1600 feet, and the area had additional leads and caves that could make for an exciting 1984. A recent trip to Maine added two 1000-plus footers to the talus list - one at Acadia National Park, the other a 1.5 miles from Maine's highest point in Baxter Park. I expect Maine will see many more interesting finds in the years ahead, but I don't get over that way very often.

Our largest talus caves by state now stands as follow:

NEW YORK - ADIRONDACKS ONLY

13050' - TSOD, anorthosite
 3350' - Spahgnum Ravine, anorthsite
 2500' - W.H. Lyman, anorthosite
 1800' - Eagle, gneiss tectonic
 1650' - Good Luck, gneiss
 1100' - Manitou Abode, anorthosite
 800' - East Spagnum, anorthosite
 700' - "W Mtn.", gneiss tectonic
 500' - Hawkeye Porkie Maze, gneiss
 460' - Henodoawda Gateway, anorth.
 440' - Mt. Marcy "Cavern", anorth.

VERMONT - WEST AND NORTH REGIONS

1600' - Chiller, gneiss
 1050' - Gargantua, gneiss
 1000' - Abenaki, granite
 900' - Stans-Drake, gneiss tectonic
 650' - Mt. Horrid, gneiss
 620' - Smugglers Notch Graffiti, sc.
 600' - Deer Leap, schist
 450' - Cow Hill, granite fault
 300' - Porkie Beans, gneiss
 300'? - Equinox, schist
 270' - Widened Fault, quartz fault

NEW HAMPSHIRE - WHITE MOUNTAINS

5300' - MBDATHS, granite
 1250' - Mt. Washington STM, gneiss
 1200' - Franconia Notch Slabs, gran.
 1150' - Franconia Notch Coral, gran.
 1150' - Mt. Adams Ravine, gneiss
 1050' - Ice Gulch Nightmare, granite
 750' - Franconia Notch Ponor, gran.
 750' - Lions Head, gneiss
 420' - Chemin Des Dames, gneiss

MAINE - MOUNTAINS AND COAST

1350' - Witherle E-T, granite
 1150' - Champlain, granite
 1100' - Saddleback Mt., granite
 1000' - Pathfinder, granite
 400' - North Basin-G, granite
 350' - Dorr Notch-2, granite
 300' - North Basin-E, granite
 250' - Avery Peak Foot-B, gneiss
 200'+ - W Billfish-4, rhyolite

(Several other Maine 200-plus-footers also exist.)

Witherle E-T is at a remarkable 3800 foot elevation and entails 4000 feet of total climbing to reach and return from - which has to be done in a day as camping is prohibited on the mountain. The "E-T" refers to a mystery I am trying to clear up about its original but independent discoverer. Meanwhile, I hope you have had a good year and turned up some new talus caves in your region.

"GOMEX" REVOLUTIONIZES WET CAVING

By Tom Miller

When was the last time you wore a heavy restrictive wetsuit because of a relatively short section of wet cave, waterfalls, or deep water in a much larger section of cave? Or had to wear wetsuit because of dampness or mud on a slow-moving surveying trip? Or had to backpack a wetsuit for a several day trip to a cave out West?

Well, for most "wetsuit" caves, the wetsuit is now obsolete. A French caving equipment firm, Gomex, for years offered a durable, yet extraordinarily pliable and lightweight, garment made of latex. The Gomex suits fits over long underwear, jeans or what-have-you, then under an outer set of coveralls. The Gomex looks like a latex Farmer John that forms a watertight barrier from the toes to the armpits. Two straps hold the suit up; the arms, shoulders, and head are the only body parts not covered.

I was readily converted to the Gomex during wet, cold caving on Vancouver Island by Paul Griffiths, Karen Bischoff, and Eric von Voorkampff. They and others of the B.C. Speleological Federation have used them for years. Imagine leaving a cave with chest-deep pools and waterfalls after a dozen or more hours; dry, warm, and comfortable. On a recent trip to 0 degrees C. Fossil Mtn. Ice Cave, Wyoming, my wet-suited companion agonized through aptly-named Crotch Lake, while I waded in comfort. Weight and cost are also favorable factors: the heavy-duty Gomex weighs about one kilo (2 lbs.), versus my 1/4-inch wetsuit weight of 3.5 kilos (8 lbs.) which includes booties but not head and gloves. The Gomex catalogue list price of April, 1982 quotes a cost of 260 Francs (about \$31 at today's exchange rate), not including postage. Compare this to a wetsuit price of \$80 - 200+ depending on whether you purchase it new or used.

Of course there are drawbacks:

1) Durability - a sturdy outer garment is essential to protect the Gomex from punctures and abrasion. All but the newest cotton coveralls are out; I use a French PVC-covered "Petzl" suit, but any coated nylon suit would be sufficient. I wear a pair of thin nylon socks over the Gomex feet to protect them from boot abrasion. It should go without saying that you don't wear boots with holes in the toes.

2) Perspiration - this is unavoidable with a completely impervious fabric such as latex, but because no moisture can enter, fewer clothes need to be worn to stay warm. I wear 1-2 pairs of polypropylene or wool-blend underwear to avoid over-heating and sweating, with maybe a light wool shirt extra on top. A wool Balaclava makes a light, compact addition on a slower-moving survey trip. One to two pairs of wool socks worn underneath are warmer than any wetsuit bootie. The amount of clothes worn will vary from caver to caver and needs to be determined by experimentation. I found that most of my problems in adjusting to the Gomex came from overdressing. The undergarments are usually only barely damp at the end of a trip. I sometimes roll the top down inside my coveralls to let them breathe when unneeded, or on longer, warm prusiks.

3) Varying Water Conditions - belly-crawls, duck-unders, and hands-and-knees stream passage will wet a Gomex user to some degree depending on the situation (at least hands and arms). Merely deep water is no great

problem since Gomex sold a suit (the "Gonflable") which had an inflatable chest, or the caver could use an inner tube. If you're quick, even short duck-unders pose no serious problem. Water-proof or repellent coveralls with a hood are suitable for most waterfalls.

4) Drying - sunlight is fatal to a Gomex, eventually causing disintegration. However, they drip-dry quickly, or can be patted dry. Baby powder or talc is useful to shake inside because it eliminates cling and facilitates putting the suit on.

5) Repairs - these are actually easier than for a wetsuit because the patch is simply glued on without nearly as much care necessary as to cut and fit for a wetsuit.

6) Availability - this is the major problem. You may have noticed some use of the past tense in this article. Griffiths and Bischoff reported after a June, 1983 trip to France, that Gomex had at least temporarily suspended manufacture of the suits. If permanent, this hitch could be surmounted by locating alternate sources of appropriately large and thick latex sheets in the U.S. or Canada, and constructing it yourself. This would not be particularly difficult as the pieces are easily glued together and no sewing is necessary.

Any inquiries as to the present and future of Gomex should be directed to:
Latex Gomex, 64560 Licq-Atherey, France Tele:(59)28.61.20

A display of sufficient interest could be enough to encourage resumption of manufacture.

Don't throw away your wetsuit, but I can't emphasize the Gomex enough as a tool that could in the future significantly extend the length, comfort, and effectiveness of cavers in cooler, high latitude or high altitude areas of the continent. Gomex obviously cannot completely replace wetsuits, but in a majority of wet caves, it is preferable.

VULCANOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACT

By Rod Crawford

Twain, Mark [Samuel Clemens], 1871. Roughin it. Harper and Row, New York, 287 plus 330 pp.

Chapters 30-35 of this classic narrate Mark Twain's tour of the island of Hawaii, and give some passing mention to lava tubes: p.243: "At four o'clock in the afternoon we were winding down a mountain of dreary and desolate lava to the sea, and closing our pleasant land journey. This lava is the accumulation of ages; one torrent of fire after another has rolled down here in old times, and built up the island structure higher and higher. Underneath, it is honeycombed with caves."

p. 262-3: "The object of our tramp was to visit a great natural curiosity at the base of the foothills - a congealed cascade of lava [location: a mile from the ancient ruins at Honaunau] ... We passed in behind the cascade... and found the bluff pierced by several cavernous tunnels, whose crooked courses we followed a long distance. Two of these winding tunnels stand as proof of nature's mining abilities. Their floors are level, they are seven feet wide, and their roofs are gently arched. Their height is not uniform, however, we

passed through one a hundred feet long, which leads through a spur of the hill and opens out well up in the sheer wall of a precipice whose foot rests in the waves of the sea. It is a commodious tunnel, except that there are occasional places in it where one must stoop to pass under. The roof is lava, of course, and is thickly studded with little lava-pointed icicles an inch long, which hardened as they dripped, they project as closely together as the iron teeth of a corn-sheller, and if one will stand up straight and walk any distance there, he can get his hair combed free of charge."

There is also a long and colorful description of the then state of the crater of Kilauea.

ABSTRACT

by Randy Vance

Hoare, J. M., Condon, W. H., Allan Cox, and Dalrymple, G. Brent, 1968, Geology, paleomagnetism, and potassium-argon ages of basalts from Nunivak Island, Alaska: in Geological Society of America Memoir 116, p. 377-413.

The paper discusses alternating episodes of tholeiitic and alkalic basalt flows, all of which are less than 6 million years old, the last is 0.3 million years old. A geologic map shows cinder cones, eruptive centers, craters and arrows indicating the inferred direction of flow of basalt, with a map scale of 1 inch = 5 miles. On p. 401, "but the tops of most of the young flows are extremely rough due to jagged piles of light-weight scoria, collapsed lava tubes, and rafted fragments of the cones." I don't recall any mention of sizes or extent of the lava tubes.

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Grotto Meeting: MAY 15 at 8:00