



THE CASCADE CAVER

International Journal of
Vulcanospeleology



Published by the Cascade Grotto, N.S.S.

VOLUME 23 NO. 11&12

Editor: Mark Sherman

NOV. & DEC. 1984

Assistant Editor: Ben Tompkins



" I SEE YOUR LAMP IS WORKING WELL, "

THE CASCADE CAVER

The Cascade Caver is published 10 times a year by the Cascade Grotto which is a member of the National Speleological Society. Annual dues for the Cascade Grotto is \$7.50, which can be sent to the Grotto Treasurer:

Al Lundberg, 19221 38th Place NE, Seattle WA, 98155

GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman: Fred Dickey 644-2623
Vice Chairman: Rod Crawford 543-9853
Sec/Treas: Al Lundberg 365-7255
Regional Rep: Bob Brown 569-2724
Grotto Store: Mark Sherman 524-8780
Editor: Mark Sherman 524-8780

The Cascade Grotto meets at 8:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at: 1117 36th Ave. East Seattle. This is at the corner of 36th Avenue East, and East Madison.

GROTTO EVENTS

CONTENTS

JAN 15	Grotto Meeting 8:00	Minutes Form the Dec. Grotto Meeting	83
FEB 9	Cross Country Ski Trip to the Paradise Ice Caves Call Bob Brown at 569-2724	Cascade Grotto Register Program	83
FEB ??	Senger's Talus Cave Call Rod Crawford at 543-9853	Chris Erickson Reports On Skyline Ridge Talus Cave	85
FEB 15-17	Symposium on Cave Management, Science and Technology, hosted by the Salt Lake Grotto, in Salt Lake. Call Kirsten Stork (801) 583-1143.	Lava Toobers in the Gifford Pinchot	85
FEB 19	Grotto Meeting 8:00	Field Trip Report: Spirit Lake Pseudokarst, September 16, 1984	86
MAR 19	Grotto Meeting 8:00	Tennessee Caving In December	87
APR 16	Grotto Meeting 8:00	Kazumura Cave About 140 Meters longer	88
MAY 18-27	Bighorn Cave in Wyoming Call Bob Brown at 569-2724	Vulcanospeleological Absract	88

CASCADE GROTTO REGISTER PROGRAM

By Bob Brown

MINUTES FROM THE DEC. GROTTO MEETING

It was announced that former Grotto member Gary Sanders had died. No other details were provided. Jed Richardson was going to find out about it.

We talked about having Cascade Grotto "business cards" to hand out to people. These would have phone numbers to call and the time and place of the monthly meeting. Jed was looking into the cost of these also.

Mark Sherman finally heard back from the Post Office about a PO box. The Grotto's new address is:

Cascade Grotto
PO Box 463
Seattle WA 98125-0463

This is at the Northgate Post Office in Seattle.

Rod Crawford showed slides that he took for his work in the Mt. St. Helens Cave area. Mark Sherman also showed slides from his trip to Natural Bridge Cave in Texas. (Ed. note: his slides were very good.)

This month's cover cartoon was done by Jerry Thornton.

You may not realize that the Cascade Grotto has the most effective cave register and information sign program in the U.S. This program started with the installation of an information sign and register at Jackman Creek cave in February 1979. Registers and signs were placed at Senger's Talus and Albright caves in March and May 1979. These first three registers consisted of 12" x 18" photos, glued to sheet metal with clear fiberglass resin and large mouth plastic jugs with waterproof notebooks.

The next turn in the program came with a visit to Phil Whitfield's house in Nelson, B.C. in May, 1979. While at Phil's we showed him a sample of the type sign we had just placed at Albright cave. Phil liked the sign, but had a few ideas on wording, after a three hour session, several of us agreed on a new sign format. Phil also suggested that we print the sign on waterproof paper as VICEG had done for one of their signs, the cost of \$125 seemed insurmountable until Phil volunteered (cost out of his pocket) to deliver 100 such signs to the NWCA meet at Trout Lake on the July 4th weekend.

Also in early 1979 another part of today's register program was taking shape, Bill Halliday had volunteered to develop a grotto brochure. This brochure, the same then as now, contains information on: caving equipment, N.W. caving history, courtesy, contacts, etc. This new brochure was ready in early 1979 and photo copies have been a part of the register handout program since.

With the new wording on the information signs we had provided for a data sheet to be enclosed in the register container. This data sheet was also completed and printed prior

to the Trout Lake NWCA meet. The idea of the data sheet was to gather useful information from persons visiting the cave, anybody filling out a data sheet would receive a free Cascade Caver. They could either mail it to the address listed on the information sign or leave it in the register container to be picked up at a later date.

We were ready at the NWCA meet, we had a large quantity of wide mouth jugs, we had fiberglass sheets for sign backing material and fiberglass resin to glue the signs to the backing, and we had the needed hardware to install the signs and registers in the caves. When Phil arrived at the meet with the signs, all was set for a great weekend. The next day we spent several hours mixing and painting fiberglass resin, as well as getting the register container ready. The next day was Monday, before the day was out we placed six registers in Trout Lake area caves, all of these registers are still in place. Before the year was out two more installations were completed, including remote Windy Creek cave.

In August of 1981, Andrew Foord and Carolyn Cilek placed registers in all the major caves on Cave Ridge, excluding Danger Cave. This was not an easy undertaking since Cave Ridge is at the top of a mountain, 2500 vertical feet straight up! They had to haul concrete, signs, register containers, hardware plus their caving and vertical gear up the mountain.

In 1983 the grotto received funding to deal with the last problem facing the register program, it seems that many of the cave register containers had a problem with moisture entering the containers and ruining the contents. VICEG's Rennie/Clark Memorial Fund helped pay the cost of printing our data sheets and brochures on waterproof paper! With this improvement and the installation of more waterproof containers the program seems to be working very well.

We now have nineteen registers out, many since 1979. Only one has

received vandalism and had to be removed, the register at Lake Cave. The registers have been maintained each year and improvements have been made. I hope that this winter we will be able to take the data sheets we have received over the years and put this information into some useful form. You might ask what can I do to help or support the program? Maintenance is a big part of the program now, if you plan on visiting a cave that has a register, contact me, I will see that you get the needed supplies to do the maintenance work. Maybe you would like to see a register in a cave which at present doesn't have one, again contact me, I will get you the information and supplies so you can do the installation. If nothing else, a donation of money is always needed!

Caves with Registers Date Installed

1. Jackman Creek Cave	Feb. 1979
2. Senger's Talus Cave	Mar. 1979
3. Albright Cave	May 1979 **
4. Dynamited Cave	July 1979
5. Datus Perry Cave	July 1979
6. Folgers Cave	July 1979
7. Dry Creek Cave	July 1979
8. Poachers Cave	July 1979
9. Ramseys Cave	Aug. 1979
10. Windy Creek Cave	Sep. 1979
11. McLaughlin Canyon	Mar. 1981
12. Newton Cave	Aug. 1981
13. Cascade Cave	Aug. 1981
14. Red Cave	Aug. 1981
15. Lookout Cave	Aug. 1981
16. Hell Hole Cave	Aug. 1981
17. Falls Creek Cave	Sept. 1982
18. New Cave	Sept. 1982
19. Deadhorse Cave	May 1983

** The sign and register container need replacing.

CHRIS ERICKSON REPORTS ON
SKYLINE RIDGE TALUS CAVE

By William R. Halliday M.D.

It was good to see Chris Erickson again, at the October grotto meeting. After the meeting he told some of us about the talus glaciere he found near Stevens Pass a few years ago. Actually more than one talus cave may be present here. He reports a large ridgetop talus field with talus blocks up to 15 feet on a side, only about 1/4 mile west of Skyline Lake a short distance NW of Stevens Pass, a cat road leads all the way to the lake.

The talus field is on the south side of the ridge and Entrance #1 is on the north edge of the talus field, and consists of a 10 foot pit. Entrance #2 is near the center of the talus field near a conspicuous single freestanding rectangular block of talus 10 feet high. Besides the main cave, a smaller entrance near the east edge of the talus field opens into one large room. There is a trail to the area from the southwest side of the lake through meadows and the whole area sounds delightful for an early summer trip when the ice deposits should be maximum. Or for an autumn trip when the foliage should be spectacular and the cave most traversible. The cat road to the lake evidently is easy to locate; it goes right alongside the weather tower seen looking north from the pass.

LAVA TOOBERS IN THE GIFFORD PINCHOT

By Tom Miller

Starring :

Sheila Balsdon
Steve Grundy
Tom Miller
Olivia Whitwell
Mike Evans

On Friday, October 5, I drove to Kirkland to wait at Sheila's house for the three VICEG Canadian aliens to arrive from Vancouver Island at 9 P.M. They were actually on time, and we drove in two vehicles south to Randle, then on to camp at the Castle Rock campground.

After a night of rain, and drizzle, we woke and continued our drive to White Salmon, and then to the parking lot for Dynamited Cave. As per my agreement with our friendly Alien Visitors, we were to visit no lava tube that I had ever seen before. Since they had never seen any, they were breathless with anticipation and ready to accept any limitation to view the basalt wonders of Washington State. Directions were kindly provided by Ben Tompkins, Bob Brown, etc.

DYNAMITED CAVE Time under: 7 hours

We entered about 14:30 (that's military talk for 2:30 P.M.) and proceeded rapidly to the 40' pit. After laddering and descent, we sauntered along to the 55-footer. Here, we ran into delays, uncertain of how best to attempt the pit crossing. Steve volunteered to descend on ladders to the pit bottom, and found a good-sized plank capable of being hauled up by the rest of us. With both Steve and plank topside, it fell to me as "guide" to cross the pit as an example to the others.

I was surprised to find only a short pit on the other side, descended, and was urged to see if the

passage beyond was worth visiting. There had been considerable resistance expressed by certain others (who shall remain unnamed, since they were everyone else) to follow me across. I duly reported amazing wonders on my side, and after considerable hesitation and moaning, the support team walked the plank.

We carried on over the breakdown, down the short climb to the stream section, then watched Grundy attempt to photograph the blackest rocks he'd ever seen in his life, with the smallest strobes I'd ever seen in mine.

When we began our exit, we hid the plank in some of the breakdown between the two pits, and woe to the person who flings it unthinkingly down the shaft after using it in the future. Grundy has sworn to haunt them down.

Before leaving, we made the mandatory trek to view the marvellous sand castle features in the lower tunnel. We signed out at 21:30, oddly enough, the same time that we left.

THE ICE CAVES, OCT 7
Time Under: 11.2 minutes

Our Alien Visitors had never seen an ice cave, and it was imperative to them that they make full use of those near to Dynamited.

Shortly after the initial impact, however, protest about the arctic conditions ensued, and we left abruptly for the sunshine outside. Even Castleguard Cave, it seems, holds less terror than these fearsome lava chasms of Washington State.

LITTLE RED RIVER CAVE
Time Under: 2 hours

Then, we were off to another "typical" lava tube. Using Rod Crawford's directions, we arrived without incident at the entrance, and headed inside.

Again, Steve and Olivia attempted to capture the stygian beauty of the Cascade underground in order to relieve the visual speleo-impoverish-

ment of their less fortunate Alien Home-Companions in far-away Britain and Canada. There was plenty to see: the frozen flow features of the cave were very impressive; and a lava tube with a running streamway ending at a sump is an enjoyable experience. We exited shortly before dark, meeting an Oregon Grotto member at the entrance.

Our Alien Guests were profoundly impressed by all they had seen of the once-fiery lava rivers. Yes, I told them, all these are typical examples. Why waste your time, I persisted, on cold limestone cave systems only 2000 feet deep, when our unique speleo-features here in the Evergreen State stretch to distances of over two miles?

As a final gesture, I told them of a remarkable 50m long cave recently pushed in the pyro-pseudo-glacie-speleo-clastic karst north of Mt. St. Helens. As Sheila and I drove away, it appeared to have left them dumbfounded. Only in Seattle did we learn they had just lost their only set of car keys.

#####

FIELD TRIP REPORT: SPIRIT LAKE
PSEUDOKARST SEPTEMBER 16, 1984

By William R. Halliday M.D.

On Sunday September 16, 1984 four members of the Oregon Grotto joined three members of the Cascade Grotto in the second 1984 reconnaissance in the Spirit Lake Pseudokarst. The trip was enlivened by a number of steam plumes from the volcanic dome looming above our study area, by perceptible changes in the contour of the dome during the afternoon, and by the Blocks' vehicle getting stuck in the big wash near the study area and having to be hauled out by the Skamania County Sheriff's 4 x 4 we had meet a few minutes earlier; it

seems lots of people are somehow getting past the gate. The deputy was very friendly and interested in caves and is likely to make a good member for the Oregon Grotto.

The overall impression of our study area was that not much had changed in the two months since the first 1984 reconnaissance. The skylights in Pyroclastic Cave seemed a little larger and complete total darkness no longer was present in the crawlway, but this may have been a difference in lighting conditions outside. The big sink immediately south of Pyroclastic Cave was dry this time, but nearly as much water was present in Sinks 3458 and 3446 as in July; is the Corps of Engineers pipeline leaking, or is it merely that centrifugal inwash now has plugged the natural pipes of the pseudokarst? I have no way to differentiate this and I wonder if anyone else does.

In addition to the continued presence of numerous small vertical pipes near Pyroclastic Cave, this type of pseudokarstification was noted to be prominent only on the flats north of Sink 3458. A little was noted south of Sink 3458 but elsewhere it has disappeared almost entirely from the study area. In the Sink 3458 area, no horizontal caves were found to be enterable, and no one seems very interested in entering the vertical orifices in what amounts to little more than unconsolidated sand. Photo documentation again was extensive and comparative study may reveal additional changes from July 1984.

At the time of writing it has not been possible to organize a 1984 glaciospeleological expedition within the terms of the WSS permit. Hopefully it will be accomplished in 1985.

TENNESSEE CAVING IN DECEMBER

By William R. Halliday, M.D.

December caving in Tennessee begins the Christmas season properly: a Christmas party (this year on the 8th of December) for the first 450 cavers to make reservations, held inside Cumberland Caverns with a chicken dinner served under the immense crystal chandelier, a caroling choir (very good) and lots of good fellowship. Present NSS president Paul Stevens had to cancel due to illness, but past president Tom Rea and many others did make it and it was good to see lots of old friends like Bill and Miriam Cuddington, and make new ones. About half the registrants signed up for wild tours; I was able to get the Great Extension tour, with lots of beautiful gypsum even though the Crystal Palace and Pit were off limits -- just too much wear and tear, Roy Davis said. But such gems as the Sewing Room with foot-long gypsum needles were included.

At the party, commercial cave buff Gary Soule (from Wisconsin) mentioned that he was going into Lookout Mountain Cave the next day with a couple of well-known SE cavers who were doing some paleo and archeo work in the cave, and they were kind enough to take me along. This is the famous old cave below Ruby Falls Cave in Chattanooga, with innumerable inscriptions back far past Civil War days (as well as a great deal of train smoke from the railroad that cut through the outer end of the cave in the early 1900's). The railroad entrance has been closed for many years and the cave is entered only by way of the elevator that leads from the surface to Ruby Falls Cave and on down to Lookout Mountain Cave (Ruby Falls Cave was intersected accidentally when the shaft was being excavated to commercialize Lookout Mountain Cave; it has never had a natural entrance). In the Spring of

1984, this commercialization actually occurred for a time but not enough visitors were interested in seeing two caves and the effort was soon abandoned. We spent about 3 hours pleasantly checking inscriptions while others did further paleontological and archeological reconnaissance, with considerable success. (Actually, our stay was a bit longer -- the elevator quit working just before we were ready to come up.)

After the elevator was fixed, it came for us, and we cleaned up a bit and took the commercial tour of Ruby Falls Cave itself. The lighting has been improved in the years since I was there, and though the waterfall isn't nearly as high as advertised, it still is impressive and there are more pretties along the way than I had remembered.

Then on back to Nashville, through miles and miles of beautiful limestone roadcuts, with impressive cave entrances here and there. The weather was beautiful and the weekend was a great way to start my 1984-85 southeastern caving season.

KAZUMURA CAVE ABOUT 140 METERS LONGER

By William R. Halliday, M.D.

A sketch map sent by Takanori Ogawa indicates that the 1983 Japanese expedition to Hawaii lengthened Kazumura Cave about 140 meters. The extension is in the side passage leading west (to the right going down-cave) at the northeast end of the complex about 200 meters downslope from entrance 17, and continues along the general trend of the side passage. His note says "low roof part".

VULCANOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACT

By William R. Halliday, M.D.

(name untranslated). 1981. (Title untranslated -- in Chinese characters) Geog. Knowledge Vol. 1, pp. 14-15.

The Chin Puo lava caves near Mu Tan Chyan Su have a maximum length of about 500 meters, a width of 3 to 11 meters and a height of 1 to 4 meters. They contain fine lava ledges and broad flow marks high on the walls, some ropy floor, at least one lava cascade, small stalactites and other features. The inclination is 5°.

Thanks to Takanori Ogawa for a xerox of this article with a few words translated.

#####

Grotto Meeting: FEBRUARY 19 at 8:00

#####