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Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

October 1991, Volume 30 No. 10

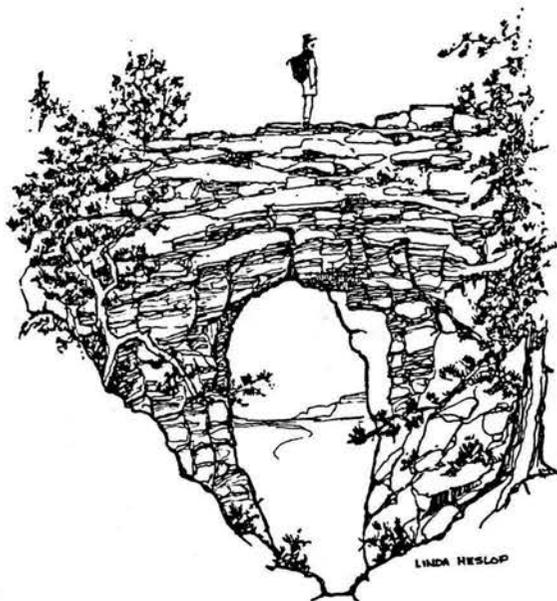


Upcoming Events

- Oct 18 — GROTTO MEETING
- Nov 2 — VICEG 21st Annual general meeting. Somewhere on Vancouver Island, I betcha. All cavers welcome. Contact Tim Penney (604) 337-8363.
- Nov 15 — GROTTO MEETING. Business meeting: Nominations for Grotto Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Sec/Treasurer.
- Nov 23-30 — Lava beds National Monument - Rod Crawford - Field research project.
- Dec 20 — GROTTO MEETING unless somebody plans a holiday party earlier in the month instead, hint, hint. With due announcement in the *Caver*, of course. Turn in ballots.
- Jan 17 — Grotto meeting: Announcement of 1992 officers. Business meeting.
- May 1992 — NCA Regional in Idaho. Hosted by Gem State Grotto and Magic Valley Grotto. Great caves near by. Easy drive to Sun Valley Resort and Craters of the Moon National Monument. Memorial Day Weekend. Mark your calendars!
- Jul 1992 — NCRI project at Jewel Cave, SD. Gene Smith, coordinator.
- Jul, Aug 1992 — POWIE V. (Prince of Wales Island Expedition #5). At least 35 new caves were discovered in Southeast Alaska this year, 14,900 feet of new passage surveyed and lots more to be done. Contact Kevin Allred, PO Box 376, Haines, AK 99827 or locally contact Dave Klinger, Leavenworth, WA.
- Aug 1992 — NCRI project in Pryor Mountains of Montana. Ben Tompkins, coordinator.
- Aug 1992 — NSS Convention, Salem, Indiana, Aug. 3-7.
- 1993 — NSS Convention, Pendleton, Oregon
- 1993 — NCA Regional in Oregon

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Cascade Caver

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Subscriptions, renewals, and address changes should be sent to the Grotto Treasurer: Jim Harp, 1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive; Lynnwood, WA 98037.

Exchange publications, material for publication, and other correspondence concerning the *Cascade Caver* should be sent to the Editor, *Cascade Caver*, c/o Ben Tompkins, 18002 First Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98177.

Cascade Grotto

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, Room 6, in the basement of Johnson Hall. Business meetings are held in odd-numbered months immediately following the regular grotto meeting for the month.

- | | | |
|------------|---|----------------|
| Chair | Sandra Major | (206) 324-4005 |
| Vice-Chair | | |
| Sec/Treas | Jim Harp | (206) 745-1010 |
| Editor | Ben Tompkins | (206) 546-8025 |
| Mail Addr | P.O. Box 75663; Seattle, WA 98125-0663. | |
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Grotto training session pays off

by Karl Steinke

On an ice field trip several months ago with an intermediate class of the Everett Mountaineers one of the students fell about twenty feet attempting a short under-protected vertical ice pitch. We were unable to diagnose the full extent of his injuries at the time but it was quickly apparent when we checked him over that he had at least one broken rib. He later showed shallow, difficult breathing and we suspected that he might also have a collapsed lung. He would not be walking out. We found out later that he had three broken ribs, a collapsed lung, and a cracked pelvis.

Water, uneven ground, and shade required that we move the patient to make him comfortable and to prevent hypothermia. Everyone was at a loss as to how to do this except me. Two people went for help, two people went back to camp for supplies, a few more began cutting a flat dry platform in the sun thirty or forty yards away. Others continued taking vital signs and stabilizing the victim. I enlisted two volunteers and made a rope litter as demonstrated by Jerry Thompson at one of our grotto meetings.

We tested the litter using a volunteer so any flaws would not be found at the expense of the victim. The volunteer declared with some surprise and enthusiasm that it was quite comfortable.

The litter worked very well. With care we relocated the victim efficiently and securely, minimizing any additional pain and trauma. We left the litter in place, providing additional isolation from the snow and made it

easier to thermoregulate the patient. We were fortunate to get an air evacuation in only six hours and the victim is now fully recovered.

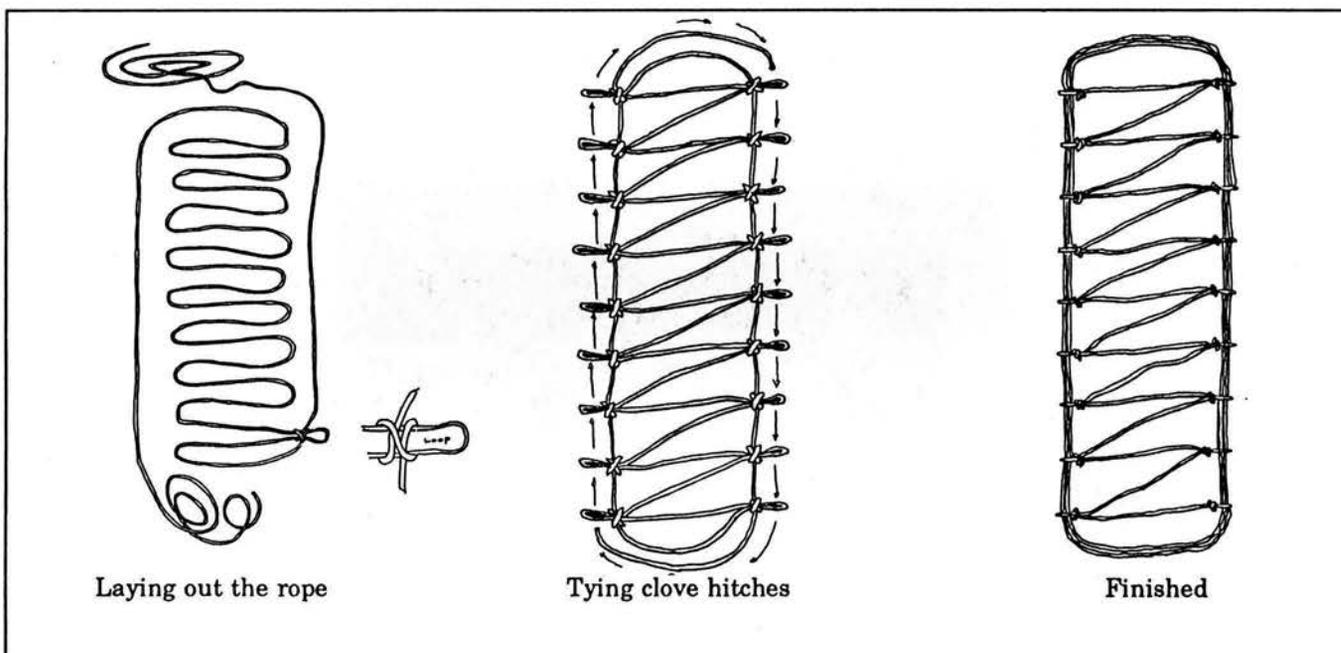
It was very instructive to see the creative and innovative uses for gear in solving rescue problems and I was impressed that everyone managed to make themselves useful and work cohesively. Everyone was impressed with the litter. Other members of the party were not familiar with it even though it is described in "Freedom of the Hills", mandatory reading for the climbing course. It is likely that I remembered it, at least in part, because we practiced it at the grotto meeting. I strongly advocate further skill, ability, and safety related seminars at the grotto meetings.

Building the Rope Litter

Jim Harp

Making an emergency litter out of climbing rope requires about 130 feet of rope and the ability to tie a clove hitch. Start with the middle of the rope and lay out loops of rope, as shown in the figures below, until there are 9 evenly-spaced loops on a side. The width of loops and the overall length of the stretcher should match the shoulder width and height of the person to be carried.

Bring the rope down opposite sides tying each loop with a clove hitch until all loops are captured. Then take the ends of the rope and continue around, feeding them through the loops until all excess is taken up. Finish by sliding all knots outward and tightening them up. Add a 10 or 20-ft tail to one end of the stretcher if it will be used in steep terrain.



A sleeping bag or extra clothing can be used to pad and support the occupant, especially around the head and neck.

The drawings and description are my own, the idea and design are not. I first learned of the rope stretcher from grotto member Jerry Thompson who read about it in a Seattle Mountaineers publication.

Newton Cave trip

by Karl Steinke
Sept. 22

We got an early start Sunday morning, meeting at the trail head at 8 am. Newton Cave can make for a long day and an early start is an excellent idea to assure that there will be light for the return down the trail. Mark Wilson and Chuck Crandall were co-leaders of the trip. Chuck, who couldn't believe he'd gotten up so early, did duty as trip complainer. Mark and Chuck had done the cave before so they knew what equipment was required and the trip was well planned. The other participants besides myself were Greg Hollenbeck, Robert (hates to be called "Bob") DeWolf, and Mike Compton.

We did four drops, one of which was pre-rigged with goldline-type "tugboat" rope, and ended at the bottom of the appropriately-named "wet pitch". Overall, the cave was warmer and dryer than normal, according to our fearless leaders. There was some discussion of the accuracy of the pitch heights indicated on the map. The last drop seemed longer than 65 feet going down and it seemed like 200 feet going up. Chuck provided some gentle guidance on the correct route exiting. I managed to miss the passage to the corkscrew so several of us involuntarily got to see the Flute Room. Unfortunately Robert left his pack in the Flute Room and had to go back for it so he became "Bob" for the rest of the trip. I was impressed by Mark's rope handling prowess. He knows exactly when to let someone else carry the rope. I can now provide some useful tips on pushing a rope out of a cave (get someone else to do it). We hauled out some small quantities of garbage such as batteries and wrappers.

Those of us without ropewalkers definitely pondered the evil of our misspent lives when we reemerged after seven and a half hours. Two members of the group then exhibited hidden capacities which I was certain would give them notoriety as the first humans to have mineral rights claimed on them by El Paso Natural Gas. Ignoring the potential advantages as an emergency light source, I was grateful these hidden talents hadn't been demonstrated in the confines of the cave.

Nevertheless, the trip was an outstanding one with good weather, safe well-planned caving, and good companions. I would recommend a trip with any of the party.

Grotto Notes

September Grotto meeting

Sandy Major chaired the September meeting with a goodly number of people in attendance. For some reason I didn't make a count this month.

Sandy made another call for someone to serve as local contact with the NSS 93 Convention committee and then outlined the agenda for the September Business Meeting.

Karl Steinke waved some photos and described a cave diving trip somewhere.

Mark Wilson described his trip to Mt. St. Helens in search of the fabled Ole's Cave.

Jim Harp gave a dramatic description of being lost for quite a while in Horsethief Cave in Wyoming.

Larry McTigue related a visit with Dick Garnick and Phil Erickson to Elderberry Cave near Ramsey Cave and to Jensen Cave.

Sandy Major told of her first trip to Windy Creek Cave. Larry described digging efforts with Jerry Thompson in Hole-in-the-sky Cave on the same trip.

Mark Sherman described and passed a sign-up sheet for the upcoming Cave Ridge trip while Jim Harp passed a sheet for the Dynamited Cave trip.

September business meeting

The September business meeting convened in the rear of the room after the regular September meeting.

1. Howard Hoyt volunteered to be the grotto librarian.

2. Sandy Major asked about the Stores and Game certificates and whether the paragraph in the operating policy could just be removed. A motion was made to remove Paragraph H from the Operating Policy and it passed.

3. Jim Harp, Treasurer, made a motion that the Operating Policy be changed so that all membership dues be due in September instead of scattered throughout the year. New members would be charged for the portion of the year from joining through September. Motion passed after discussion. Jim and Ben Tompkins were appointed to work out the details.

4. Sandy asked about changing the election procedures in attempt to increase participation. Her idea was to have nominations a month earlier and have active voting at a meeting rather than entirely by mail-in ballot. No action was taken other than setting up a meeting to work on the ideas.

5. Howard Hoyt asked about the status of the *Cascade Caver*. Ben Tompkins will continue through December but nothing definite has been established for

after that. A meeting was scheduled for October 2 for further discussion.

6. Tom Strong asked if the grotto would be interested in hosting an NSS Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. This would involve a full weekend and require arranging for airport transportation, meeting place, housing arrangements, and probably a banquet one night. Bids should be submitted at the Indiana NSS Convention.

7. Michael Compton volunteered to be the grotto contact for 1993 NSS convention work.

Bylaws Meeting

A meeting was held September 28 at Ben Tompkins' house to continue discussions about deleting portions of the operating policy and changing the election procedures.

Ben Tompkins located notes from years ago listing holders of certificates that are mentioned in the Grotto operating policy. Jim Harp agreed to contact as many of the remaining certificate holders as possible about redeeming the certificates prior to January 1, 1992.

Nothing was decided about changes to the voting procedures.

Changes to the Operating Policy were discussed to implement the new dues schedule passed at the September Business Meeting. Note that Paragraph F was shown as vacant in the March 1991 *Caver* but Article II of the Bylaws was moved to Paragraph F of the Operating Policy at the May business meeting. Paragraph F now reads:

F. All grotto dues shall be paid at the time of beginning membership and shall be due on September 30 of each year thereafter.

a. Dues for new members shall be \$1.00 per each month from the time of joining through the following September, not counting December or January.

b. Yearly dues thereafter shall be: Regular and Associate members \$10.00, Household members each \$2.00, and Subscriptions \$10.00.

c. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* ends with the September issue.

Cascade Caver Meeting

Another meeting was held on October 2nd to discuss the pending need for a new editor. Discussions covered the most important functions that the *Caver* should serve, ways to meet these needs while reducing the effort required, and the potential resources available. Present were Sandy Major, Rod Crawford, Mark Sherman, and Ben Tompkins.

Conservation Committee

by Mark Sherman

The first meeting of the grotto Cave Conservation Committee was held to discuss what kinds of things the grotto could or should get involved in to promote cave conservation in this state. Those present were Rod Crawford, Greg Hollenbeck, Sandy Major, Mark and Paul Sherman (I had to babysit) and Rob Stitt.

Some of the potential projects that were discussed were:

- 1) The restoration of various caves in the area such as Ape, Tiger Mtn, Deadhorse and Dynamited.
- 2) Placing a gate on the entrance to the Gardner Annex which had previously been discussed with the Park Service at Crawford State Park.
- 3) Working up a brochure on cave conservation which could be provided to new members and others requesting information on caving in Washington.
- 4) Having programs at the monthly grotto meetings dealing in cave conservation.
- 5) Working with the Issaquah Alps people to help protect the Tiger Mtn Talus caves.
- 6) One of these years the Federal Cave Protection law will be implemented. At that time we should have ready a list of significant caves in the state which we could then provide to the Forest Service. Work is being done right now to assemble a list of all the known caves in the state. This is being done by Rod Crawford, Howard Hoyt, and Ben Tompkins. Once this is complete the significant ones can be identified.

If anyone would like to work any of these things or has other projects in mind please contact Sandy.

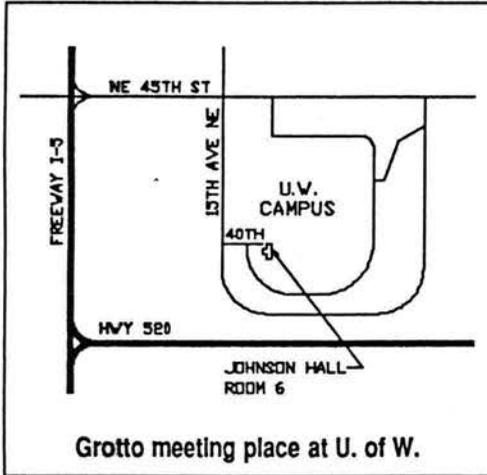
Regional Notes

Most of the notes from David Klinger, Chairman of the Northwest Caving Association, went directly into the Upcoming Events section.

Cave Search - W.V.G members have been checking out a number of cave leads in the greater Pendleton area. Who knows what will turn up.

Cave Register Program - Each of you have at least a few special caves that you visit on a regular basis. Have thought of placing a register in each of these caves? John Wilson of the NSS Contemporary Cave Use Study has registration books and containers available free of charge. I can provide order forms. The only requirement is that if you put the registers out, you must service them.

Cascade Caver



OCTOBER MEETING

October 18

See you there!

Room 6 of Johnson Hall, University of Washington.

Cascade Caver

P.O BOX 75663
SEATTLE WA 98125-0663



12/91

Windy City Speleoneers
c/o Ralph Earlandson
5457 S. Ingleside Ave. Apt. 2W
Chicago, IL 60615

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