

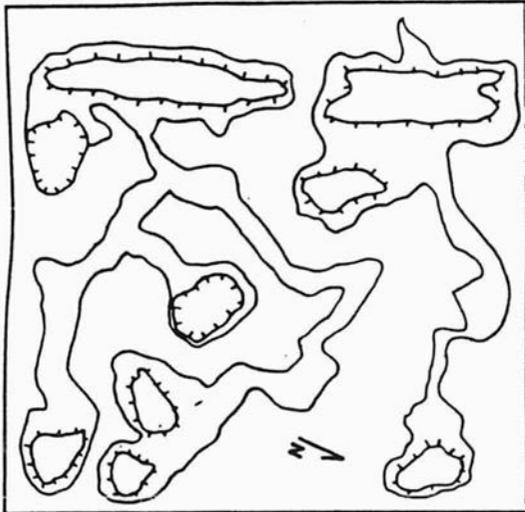


# Cascade Caver

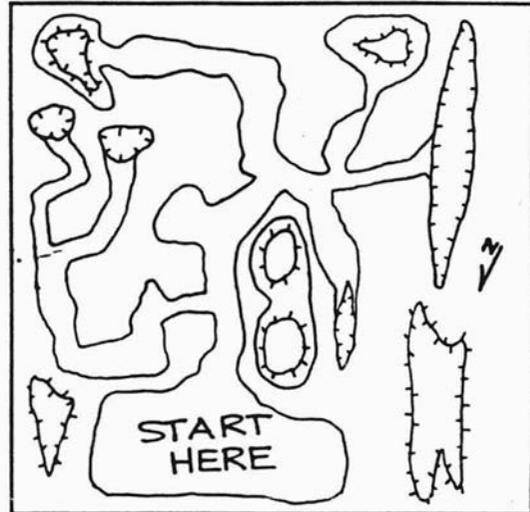
Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

May 1996, Volume 35 No. 5

## PITS 'N DOMES PUZZLE



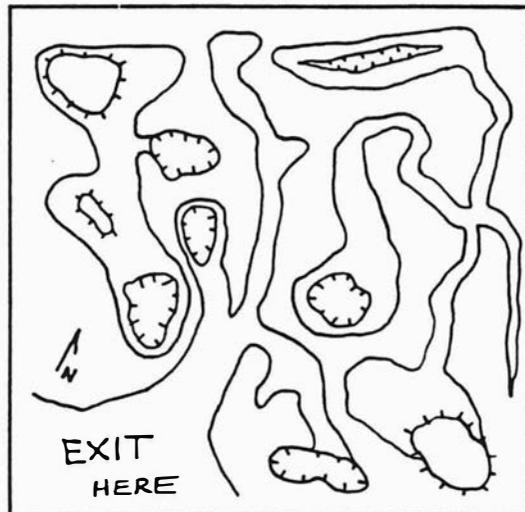
LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



LEVEL 3



LEVEL 4

PIT



DOME



PIT & DOME



How fast can you exit this cave? To get out you must chimney up domes and down pits from one level to another. All pits lead to a lower level, all domes to an upper level, but don't leave these four levels. Check your compass! You could get lost.

by Tim Kilby

# Cascade Caver

ISSN 0008-7211

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Opinions expressed in the *Cascade Caver* are not necessarily those of the Cascade Grotto, the editors, or the NSS. Unsigned articles may be attributed to one of the editors.

All material to be published, subscription requests, renewals, address changes, and exchange publications should be sent to the Grotto address.

## GROTTO MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Cascade Grotto is \$10.00 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is free to regular members. Membership for each additional family member is \$2.00 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is \$10.00 per year.

## GROTTO ADDRESS

Cascade Grotto; P.O. Box 75663; Seattle, WA 98125-0663. This post office box should be used for both the grotto and for the *Cascade Caver*.

## GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman	Paul Ostby	(206) 823-5107
Vice Chairman	Tom Strong	(206) 938-3957
Sec/Treasurer	Bruce Nagata	(206) 706-0339

## OTHER POSITIONS

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## MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, Room 6, in the basement of Johnson Hall. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17	Grotto Meeting	7:00
May 24-27	Hells Canyon	
	Contact: Tom Kline WVG	
	(503) 786-0592	
May 26-28	Memorial Day Weekend SpeleoCamp	
	Trout Lake county campground.	
	Contact: M. Compton (206) 535-5144	
June 1-2	Tubal Cain Mine - Olympic Nat.	
Forest		
	Contact: Scott Davis (206)862-1035	
June 8-9	Cave Ridge	9:00am
	Meet at the Alpentel parking lot.	
	Contact: Scott Davis (206) 862-1035.	
June 21	Grotto Meeting	7:00pm
July 19	Grotto Meeting	7:00pm
July 27-28	Vancouver Island Caves	
	Depart Port Angeles 7/26 at 9:30pm	
	Contact: Scott Davis (206)862-1035	
August 5-9	NSS Convention - Salida Colorado	
August 16	Grotto Meeting	7:00pm
August 23-25	Cave Ridge, depth push in Newton	
	Contact: Bill Bennet (206)255-1466	

**COVER:** This months cover is a three dimensional puzzle to test your map reading skills. (Or is it Johnson Hall?)

## Announcements

### Candidates for NCRC Regional Coordinator Positions Sought

During its summer meeting at the 1996 NSS Convention in Salida, CO, the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) Board of Regional Coordinators (BORC) will consider candidates for the positions of Rocky Mountain Region Coordinator (ID, MT, WY, UT, CO, ND, SD, NE) currently John Gookin, Western Region Coordinator (CA, NV) currently Bill Maher, Southwestern Region Coordinator (AZ, NM) currently Tom Faulkner, Northeastern Region Coordinator (ME, VT, RI, NH, NY, CT, MA) currently John Evans, South Central Region Coordinator (TX, OK, KS, LA, AR) currently Joe Ivy, and the Pacific Northwest Region Coordinator (WA, OR, AK) currently John Gookin.

Who will these persons be? It's up to you to make recommendations to the NCRC BORC and let them know who you would like to see in these positions. Based on your recommendations, qualified persons will be nominated by members of the NCRC BORC and voted on. The NCRC BORC will then recommend to the NSS Board of Governors (BOG) persons to be appointed as Coordinators for these regions. Generally, whomever the NCRC BORC recommends is appointed (the NSS BOG votes on all appointments to the NCRC BORC).

Ideally persons nominated as regional coordinators should have both caving and rescue experience and training. The regional coordinators provide two-way communication from the regions to the NCRC BORC and from the NCRC BORC to the regions. Matters of training and resources are the most popular topics. The regional coordinator needs to be in tune with regional needs so that they may be clearly presented to the NCRC BORC for action. Additionally, when requested, Regional Coordinators provide assistance in connecting cave rescue resources with those needing them. This can be done in both emergency and non-emergency situations. There are also many other duties which are unique to each region. It should be noted that neither the NCRC nor any of its regions are functional rescue units: the NCRC is a communications, training and diplomatic body. [For more information about NCRC, see page 18 of the Manual of U.S. Cave Rescue Techniques.]

How do you make a recommendation? Put something together in writing and mail it to the National Coordinator. You must also include some indication from the person you are recommending that they will accept being nominated and serve (work) if appointed. Preferably this will be a letter with their signature on it. Telephone recommendations will not be accepted. You may also send your recommendation via e-mail; however, as earlier stated, there must be a confirmation by the person you are recommending that they will accept being nominated and serve if appointed.

Is your input important? I think YES. I have always felt that if as much time was spent deciding on the leadership appointed to address caving issues (in this case Cave Rescue) as was spent complaining about the way it was done, caving (and in this case Cave Rescue) would be all the better for it. The NCRC is holding the sketchbook, send back some coordinates for us to use to map out our future!

If you have questions or would like to make a recommendation, please contact me at the indicated street or e-mail address. I must receive your input by July 10, 1996, for it to be considered.

Butch Feldhaus, National Coordinator  
National Cave Rescue Commission  
614 North Valley Drive  
Chattanooga, TN 37415 USA  
e-mail: 72144.3326@compuserve.com

More Announcements.....

## New Meeting Night Proposed

During the April meeting, a proposal was made to change the meeting night and its location. Paul Ostby polled members on e-mail. Here's a summary of the 15 responses so far:

- 2 people prefer to continue meeting Friday nights.
- 10 people prefer Thursday nights.
- 3 people don't care which night.
- 4 people prefer the UW or a private room someplace.
- 7 people prefer to meet at the Pizza place.
- 4 people don't care about the meeting place.

Of those who preferred Fridays: Jeff Power said its too far for him to travel to meetings on Thursday nights; and Larry McTigue pointed out that it would be a burden for out-of-town speakers as well as out-of-town members.

Most of the people who preferred Thursday nights said it would be easier for them to get to meetings, traffic would be lighter, and it would avoid conflicts with weekend activities.

Seven people liked the idea of meeting at the pizza place. Mike Fraley pointed out that Gem State Grotto meets after dinner at the Round Table Pizza in Boise, and Mike thought it worked out well.

Those who didn't like the pizza idea brought up the following concerns: Jim Harp was concerned about mixing beer and Grotto meetings, and that we would have little control over those outside of our group; Larry thought the meetings might be disorganized; Ben Tompkins was concerned about excess noise; and Rod Crawford recalls when CG used to meet at a pizza joint that "the atmosphere was such that business was

impossible, and undesirables occasionally invaded the slide shows."

Ben also pointed out that the U.W. may no longer be the geographic center of our membership. It might be appropriate to consider other locations. Katrina Ostby liked Round Table Pizza, but pointed out that our new members are often U.W. students who might not have come to meetings if they were off campus.

Any other comments? Contact: Paul Ostby  
A ballot will be mailed with the next *Caver*.

## Grotto Program Schedule

The following is a list of proposed programs for Cascade Grotto meetings. There may be some shifting of dates to accommodate speakers. Any comments or suggestions should be forwarded to Steve Sprague, program coordinator. (360) 387-3162

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| May   | Survey workshop<br>Hands on surveying and data reduction.   |
| June  | Cartography workshop<br>Hands on data reduction and cave mapping  |
| July  | Searching for new caves workshop<br>Review of potential areas and techniques for finding promising areas.                             |
| Aug.  | The Global Positioning System<br>A hands on class, outside, with Grotto member's receivers and product literature on other receivers. |
| Sept. | Geology of the Puget Sound basin  |
| Oct.  | Cave conservation and gating<br>Pros and cons and their impacts on the cave.  |

### Other possible topics:

- Collecting cave location data and the Washington Cave list
- Cave photography, including photo monitoring.

Many of you might be interested in the following newspaper report. See how many historical and technical errors you can spot.

The Courier-Journal, Friday 1, March 1996

### 3 Plead Guilty to Destroying Crystal Cave in Theft Spree

By Cynthia Eagles  
Staff Writer

**MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK, Ky.** - The damage to the cave that was once the resting place of Floyd Collins is extensive: entire sheets of gypsum torn away, powdery piles of crushed gypsum crystals on the cave floor, and delicate, lacy helictites snapped clean from their roots and missing. And on an outer wall, in bold white paint sprayed in a corner: "Leon R." and "Tony H." Yesterday, Wendell Leon Reynolds, 18 of Mumfordsville, Anthony Wayne Hawkins, 33, of Radcliff, and Anthony Dale Stinson, 23, also of Mumfordsville, pleaded guilty to federal charges that they destroyed Crystal cave at Mammoth Cave National park when they stole cave formations from it last spring.

Reynolds and Hawkins now face maximum sentences of 35 years in federal prison, plus fines of \$750,000 each. In addition, Stinson admitted that he stole two clay masks of Collins and his brother, Homer. He could be sentenced to a total of 45 years in prison, plus a \$1 million fine. Sentencing was set for May 22.

The three admitted to U.S. District Judge Thomas B. Russell that from April to June they made repeated trips 'in the dead of night,' as the indictments charged, tunneled under an entrance gate and hauled out 800 pounds of 'cave rocks' in duffel bags. Baseball bats were their tools of choice.

'Some of them we broke, and some of them were loose,' Reynolds told the judge yesterday. 'We put the rocks inside duffel

bags and carried them out,' Stinson said in court.

In stealing formations, the vandals dragged the heavy rocks up and down steep cave paths, they got out by squeezing through a muddy hole no more than a foot wide and 2 feet deep. Then they lugged the heavy bags another mile to their vehicles.

The cave 'is trashed for eternity,' said Randy Ream, the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case. The National Park Service estimated they damaged roughly a mile in one passage, and ruined a quarter mile of another. A tour for reporters yesterday revealed that the vandals pulled away entire sheets of gypsum along some passages, and took whole sections of the lacy formations known as helictites. Related to stalactites and stalagmites, the familiar cave 'icicles,' helictites grow in curlicues and defy gravity and logic. Damage to the cave was put at \$270,000 by the government.

Ream said the trio peddled their cache to rock and souvenir dealers that line the entrance roads to the park. For all their efforts, they got less than \$1,000 or less, Ream said. Federal investigators confiscated the booty but did not arrest the shop owners. Ream said he couldn't prove that the shop owners knew the formations came from the park.

The vandalism enraged the executive director of the American Cave Conservation Association, David Foster, who criticized the National park for being slow to install a better gate at the cave, and the Mammoth Cave area rock shops, for ignoring a 1988 state law that bars the sale of 'speleotherms' (sic) as the cave formations are formerly known. However, Foster acknowledged that it's only a misdemeanor to sell the rocks, and has been a low priority to law enforcement. His criticism of the park service's protection of Crystal Cave was echoed by Crystal Collins, whose husband is a great-nephew to Floyd Collins. Vickie Carson, a National Park Service spokeswoman, responded that the park service

has a new cave gate-building program under way. She also said the park service runs surveillance on cave entrances, and also relies on tips from the neighbors.

In 1925, while trying to find a new entrance closer to the main highway, Floyd Collins died in what is now known as Sand Cave. Crystal cave became known as Floyd Collins' Crystal cave, and was a place tourists could see Collins' body in its casket. The cave closed in 1961 when the park service bought it, and Collins body was re-interred in another cemetery in the park.

## ARIZONA CAVES

By Bob Roel

Being new to caving and even newer to membership in the Cascade Grotto, I'd been looking forward to participating in some of the Grotto activities this year. That's why I was thoroughly disappointed when I found out that my job in the U.S. Border Patrol was going to require me leave Washington State and report to Nogales, Arizona for an extended period of time. However, as I was sitting around moping about this situation, it occurred to me that this coerced "voluntary" trip could open up some opportunities that I might not otherwise get to experience. I remembered from a previous similar "voluntary" trip to the area that there were caves down there. I'd even visited the commercial "Colossal Cave", near Tucson and the gated entrance to "Onyx Cave" on that trip. I'd also read about the recently discovered Kartchner Caverns in an Arizona Highways Magazine.

Well, I contacted the NSS national office in Alabama, and they sent me some names and phone numbers of some of the local cavers in southern Arizona. The first person was Sue King, who was the designated contact person for the Escabrosa Grotto in Tucson. The second person was Michael Bednorz of the

Mule Mountain Cave Club in Bisbee. After I arrived in Nogales on Friday March 15, I called Michael Bednorz. Understandably, he was a little hesitant to discuss caving with a strange sounding unknown person over the phone, but he did suggest a visit to Coronado Cave (he called it Geronimo Cave) which is located in the Coronado National Monument near Sierra Vista, Arizona, and Crystal Cave which is located in the Chiricahua Mountains northeast of the border town of Douglas.

I next called Sue King and asked about any activities the Grotto might be sponsoring. As luck would have it, she informed me that the Grotto, in conjunction with the Arizona Regional Association (ARA) was holding their annual Cave Fest the very next weekend, and it was being held in the Huachuca Mountains, about fifty miles east of Nogales where I was working. I guess she could tell I was excited because she invited me to come on up and join the group. I arrived at the campsite just after dark and hooked up with Sue and some other cavers who had arrived early. The grotto supplied the beer and we sat around the fire swapping yarns about caves. Besides our anticipation of exploring some exciting caves the next day, we were also treated to the view of a rare phenomenon with the spectacular arrival of the comet Hyakutake, which was glowing overhead in the clear desert night.

The next day, everyone converged on Sue's van where a table was set up with some trip sign-up sheets on it. Some of the nearby caves included Happy Jack, Cave Mine, Ida, S.P., and Van Horn. Since rope work was required for the Van Horn and S.P. trips, I instead elected to go on the first trip to Ida Cave. I hooked up with three Grotto members, all of whom were named John (never did get their last names) and accompanied them on their search for the cave. After some searching, we found the entrance about 3/4 of a mile from the campsite. The entrance was about four feet

around and dropped a few feet into a slight downward sloping, six foot wide walking corridor. At the back of this hallway was where the hands and knees, and belly-crawling began. A little further on, we slipped and slid down a slick clay slope into a nice room where there were lots of formations including stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, soda straws, and draperies. After exploring this room and looking in some of the side passages for about an hour, we retreated back to the surface and made our way back to camp.

After taking a break, we decided to tackle Happy Jack and Cave Mine Caves. They were located about the same distance from camp as Ida cave, but they were up another canyon in another direction from the camp. The entrance to Happy Jack was a little more spectacular than Ida, being about ten feet wide. Immediately upon entering the entrance room, the floor sloped downward toward the edge of what appeared to be an abyss. Approaching this, we found the way down further into a large cathedral like room with a large flowstone wall on the left side. Sort of in the middle of this lay a huge boulder or mound with some neat man sized formations on top of it. Right next to that, hanging on the wall was a spectacular parachute formation. Beyond this, the cave continued, although it was actually a continuation of the same large room. We explored and took some pictures in some of the side passages and chambers and decided to leave and look for Cave Mine cave. This cave was discovered when a mining operation busted into a natural cavity in the earth. It was a bit tricky to negotiate the right passage into it along side a two by four which had been placed over a drop off in order to facilitate entry. The cave had several rooms including one that had a lake in it, but there was also some mining activity and left over debris in there. We didn't stay long.

Back at the camp, we relaxed and I got to talk to some of the other cavers about more caves in the area. Some said they had found some new caves that day on the ridges up behind the campsite. They also gave me more information about visiting Coronado and Crystal caves. I also met another Grotto member named Bob Simmons who was from Tubac Arizona, which is just north of Nogales. He told me about Cave of the Bells and some other caves located in the Santa Rita mountains northeast of Nogales. After discussing it a while, we agreed to look at making a trip up to that area when I got a day off. After that, Bob left with the group who was going to explore S.P. cave. Bob later told me about that cave, saying it was one of the prettiest caves he had ever seen. The group members had drawn from a lottery for their chance to go, because the amount of people permitted in this cave is limited by the Forest Service. Groups entering the cave must be accompanied by personnel designated by the service. I understand there's a two year waiting list of people who want to visit the cave. Since it was already dark, I decided to. While saying adios to all my new friends, they invited me to their next Grotto meeting to be held in a few weeks.

The next week I had Friday off and I decided to visit Coronado Cave. I called Dale Nilson, one of my colleagues who was working in Naco, Arizona. Since he was working nights, and since the cave is located only a short drive from where he was staying, he agreed to accompany me on this trip. We arrived at the Coronado Monument visitor's center at about 10:30 that morning and secured the necessary permit required by the park service to visit the cave. A well maintained trail leaves from the visitor center parking lot and climbs up about five hundred feet in elevation for about 3/4 of a mile. Upon arriving at the area below the entrance, it appeared to be obscured behind a jumble of boulders. After climbing the boulders, the entrance opened up and led downward into a large room. The ceiling was

about twenty feet high and the room was about seventy feet wide. There was a side corridor which paralleled and re-emerged in the main room which I explored. The room continued this way and then narrowed a bit after about four hundred feet. In the back of the cave was another large room, in the back of which was a small, barred opening to the outside. There were some formations and small side chambers which we explored. After this, we headed out and stopped at the visitor center where we read about the history of the Coronado Expedition, which passed through this area in the year 1540.

The next week I had Tuesday off, and I had planned to visit Crystal Cave in the Chiricahua Mountains of Southeastern Arizona. In order to visit this cave you must secure permission from the Coronado National Forest office at Douglas. A \$50.00 check or money order deposit is required to obtain the key to the locked gate. The deposit is refunded upon return of the key. The cave is closed to visitation from April 15 to the end of August in order to protect the bats. The cave is pretty popular, and I was limited as to which days I could reserve it. The Forest Service only permits 1 group in per day, and the group size is limited to 3 people minimum, and 6 maximum. Luckily I was able to talk a couple of my colleagues from work, who happened to have the same days off, into accompanying me on this trip. As it turned out, one of them, Eldon Hurst, had a car, and better yet, he was interested in caves, since he had once visited some in the Carlsbad Caverns monument. Our other partner, George Kupihea, was happy just to go along for the ride.

The cave is about a three hour drive from Nogales, so we didn't arrive there until the early afternoon. Some of the local cavers I've talked to, said that this was their favorite cave, and the description handed out by the Forest Service described something similar to Mammoth or Luray caves back east, with lots

of sparkling crystals, and clear running streams. After entering the initial passage and descending the precipitous trail down into the main "King Solomon Temple" room, we came to a halt. The chamber's size was impressive enough, and in some of the side chambers I saw some of the beautiful crystal lined chambers for which the cave is named. I was a bit disappointed though because many of the formations were covered with dust, and all the side chambers I entered seemed to either dead end or return in a loop to the main chamber. We never did find any of the passages that lead farther and deeper into the cave. I guess it was just as well because my partners weren't exactly the demented, claustrophobia loving, belly-crawling, self torturing types required for successful caving. Later on, I talked to other cavers that had similar experiences in this particular cave. We only stayed about an hour, and then hiked back to the car. We then drove over the mountains and visited Chiricahua Monument. I didn't get to visit them, but from the road it appeared that there's lots of caves in this area too, although I suspect that these were all shallow rock shelters at most.

Cave of the Bells is located in the Santa Rita Mountains northeast of Nogales, and is also located near Onyx cave, which has been described as "world class". I would not get to visit Onyx on this trip. That cave is under the control of the Escabrosa Grotto and they didn't have any outings going on while I was there. I understand there's a bit of rope work involved also. The Bells is another cave that is gated and regulated by the Forest Service. In order to gain entry, you have to obtain the key from the Forest Service office in Nogales or Tucson. A \$25 refundable deposit is also required for the key. I had talked to Escabrosa Grotto member Bob Simmons about this cave and he had offered to accompany me on a trip there. This was to be my last full week on this trip to Arizona and I had Monday for my day off that week. On

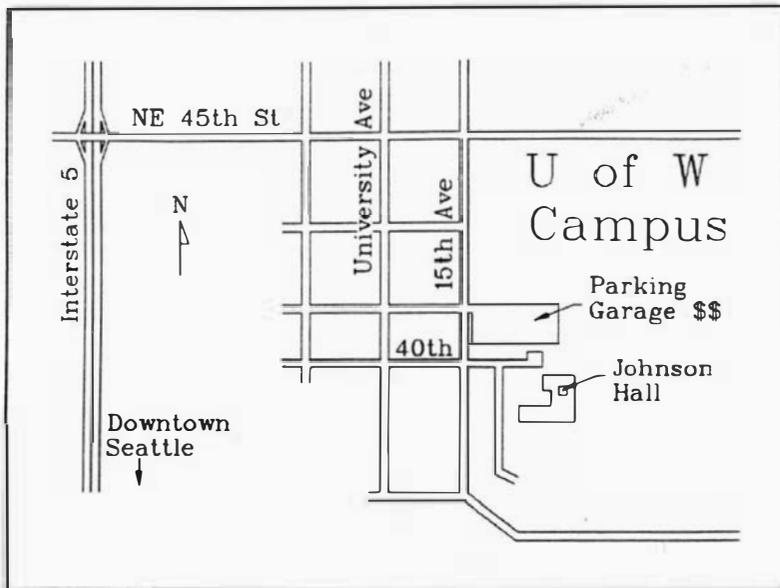
that morning, Bob picked me up at the motel where I was staying, and we drove up to the place where a trail to the cave begins. Along the way we passed several digs where other cavers had been searching and excavating for the next potential Lechuguilla cave. As it turned out, some had struck pay dirt when, several years ago, they opened up Hidden Cave. The entrance to this cave was next to the trail Bob and I were on, but we passed it by in our quest to arrive at our destination.

After we arrived at the entrance to Cave of the Bells, Bob explained how it had acquired its name. Back in the old days, guides used to tap on some of the formations which gave a sound like a bell chime. Bob had been in the cave on previous occasions, and we explored many different passages and chambers. There were plenty of formations, and lots of crawling and climbing. None of the areas we went to required any rope work. The cave is somewhat intricate and confusing and it seemed we were always getting confused about the directions from which we had come. Of course we had taken the precaution to leave some markers on our way in, so we really didn't have any trouble backtracking. For whatever reason, the air inside this cave was sultry and hot. We only spent about three hours exploring and then we retreated to the cool air blowing in from the entrance. I'm not sure how long or big the cave is, but I've heard you can travel in it all day long, and still not see all of it.

The next Friday night, I borrowed a car and picked up Bob Simmons for the ride to Tucson to attend the monthly Grotto meeting. While there I talked with Sue King about a trip to Hidden Cave. Even though I didn't have any more days off before I returned to Washington State, we still arranged for a trip on the following Sunday afternoon after I got off work. At 4 PM on Sunday I met Sue and a couple other Grotto members where the trail to the cave begins. After we arrived at the

cave entrance, we squeezed through a small, narrow passage that had been excavated by the original discoverers. Upon entering into a tall chamber, Sue showed us the way up into a side chamber called the "balcony room". Although there was no room to stand up, there was plenty of space for the four of us to crawl around in. The room was decorated with many beautiful formations and small grotto like side chambers with some delicate looking formations lining them. We crawled out and continued through some more passages, one of which continued for several yards twisting and turning and which had obviously been excavated to allow passage to the chambers beyond. There were no large formations in this cave that I remember, but there were many small, delicate looking ones which were very pretty to look at. We explored many side passages and chambers and even found a few plant fossils embedded in the walls. It also appeared that there were a lot of passages which were clogged by mudflows with possibly more potential cave beyond. After about two hours, we returned to the surface.

Since this was my last cave trip before I was to leave for home, I thanked Sue for all the help she had given me during my stay there. She and the other Escabrosa Grotto members had made an otherwise dreary work schedule into a memorable, exciting and productive time for me. More than just visiting some beautiful and exciting caves, with their help I picked up some valuable experience which I'm sure will serve me well in my future caving career. Before I left, Sue gave me permission to print her phone number so that anyone who wanted more info about the local caving scene could contact her at (520)883-2610. At any rate, the way things are going, whether I like it or not, I'm sure I'll be returning to Arizona. With all the neat caving opportunities still left uncompleted and all the neat people there, you can bet that I do like the idea and am looking forward to returning to those Arizona caves.



The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month in room 006 in the basement of Johnson Hall on the University of Washington campus.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings

Cascade Caver  
PO Box 75663  
Seattle, WA 98125-0663



Jim & Ryan Harp Dues paid thru 1996  
1731 S Lake Stickney Drive  
Lynnwood, WA 98037