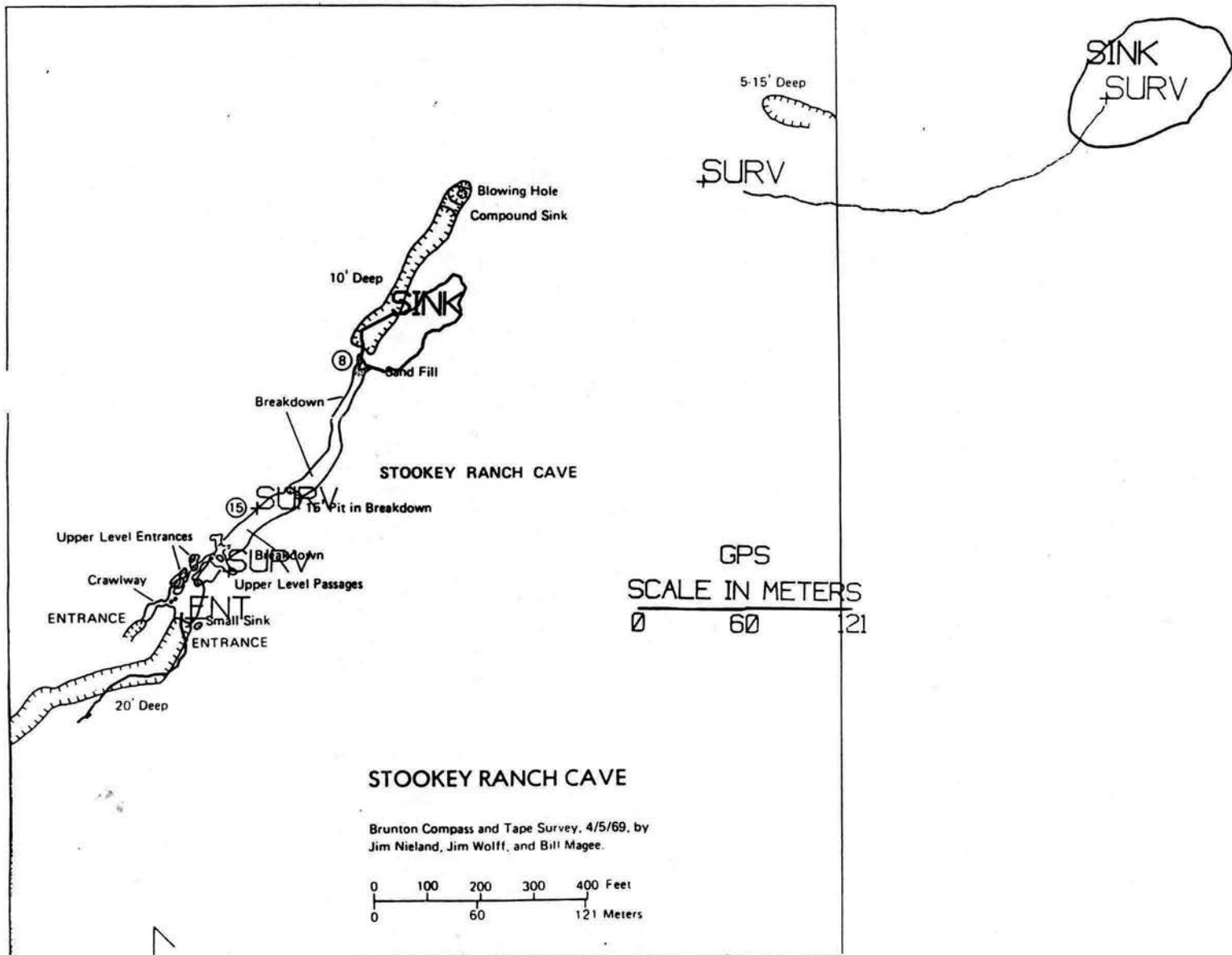




Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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Cascade Caver

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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*.

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REQUEST FOR ARTWORK

The Editors need cave surveys, cave related artwork, caving cartoons or photographs for the cover of the CAVER. Please contact one of the editors if you have something that you would like to be published on the cover.

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

August 16	Grotto Meeting	7:00pm
August 23-25	Cave Ridge, depth push in Newton	
	Contact: Bill Bennet (206)255-1466	
Aug 30- Sept 2	Caving in the Marble Mountains	
	Contact: Tom Kline (503) 786-0592	
Aug 31- Sept 2	Northwest Caving Association	
	Regional, Ely, Nevada	
	Contact: Dale Green (801) 277-6417	
September 14	Windy Creek Cave	
	Contact: Jerry Thompson	
	(360) 653-7390	
September 20	Grotto Meeting	7:00pm
September 22	Clipper Copper Mine	
	A neat family trip, near Mt. Rainier.	
	Contact: Scott Davis (206) 862-1035	
October 17	Grotto Meeting	7:00pm
1997		
October 6-11	1997 Karst and Cave Management	
	Symposium Highlighting Forest	
Karst	Ecosystems - Bellingham, WA	
	Contact: Rob Stitt (206) 283-2283	
	Email: rstitt@halcyon.com	

COVER: This month's cover is a map of Stookey Ranch cave with an overlay of cave radio location points established by GPS on 20 May 1995. This month's program will be on GPS.

Falling Ice Injures Two Boys at Cave

From The Seattle Times, 7/26/96

Granite Falls, - Two boys, age 10 and 12, suffered minor injuries yesterday when they were struck by ice that fell during a YMCA outing at Big Four Ice Caves.

One boy had a gash on one leg and the other a scraped shoulder and leg. Both walked from the cave and met Snohomish County rescue crews in a parking lot. They were treated at Providence General Medical Center Pacific Campus in Everett and released.

The cave, a popular hiking destination, is the remnant of a glacier that once covered Big Four Mountain.

editorial coment: On Thursday 7/25, KING news in Seattle, mentioned that the boys were throwing rocks at the ceiling of the cave when it collapsed - not exactly a smart thing to be doing especially after a week of temperatures in the high 80s and 90s.

Cascade Grotto Web Page

Paul Ostby

Rob Stitt has graciously offered to construct a web page for the Cascade Grotto. The address is:
www.halcyon.com/samara/cascade

Please take a look at this web page if you get a chance. There are currently no links into this page from the outside. As soon as we approve it, Rob will add links to this page from his other NSS pages.

Rob describes the Page: "The pictures are fakes, obviously. I will get the map scanned this week and stick it in. We need a northwest cave picture or surface view for the main page, or the Grotto logo."

If any of you have your own web pages, please do not add a link to the Cascade web page until we approve it.

In the meantime, take a look and see if this page has the "flavor" we want.

CONCRETE AREA TRIPS

by Larry McTigue

April-June

April 27th - Razorblade Straddle Cave and Some Ridge-Walking

Participants: Steve Sprague, Mike Fraley and Larry McTigue

The purpose of this trip was to try and get an accurate GPS reading on the latitude and longitude of the entrance to Razorblade Straddle Cave using Steve's GPS unit. Later, he would obtain the time-correction data using his computer by downloading it from a base station whose exact geographic location was already known. Upon arriving at the entrance, Steve began several rather unsuccessful attempts at getting some useful data. But, due to signal scattering by nearby trees, we were unable to lock onto enough orbiting satellites to pin-point our location. (Editor's Note: It was later determined that the clock in the GPS had been reset to a default date and time, making the GPS unable to locate satellites. The person responsible for this has been drawn and quartered.)

Having no luck here, we hiked over to some limestone pits some distance away to try our luck there. No caves have been found here but, they are still prominent karst features worth noting. Again, due to trees, we were unable to make use of the GPS data.

Knowing that this wouldn't take much of our time, we also planned to do some ridge-walking that day. Since, there were three of us, we decided to spread out to cover as much territory as possible. We found some good-sized lapies trenches, fissures and filled sinkholes but, no new caves.

While Mike and Steve were examining the large lapies trench, I hiked up above it and discovered what at first appeared to be one of the many small animal holes dug in the thick soil of the surrounding forest floor. But, upon closer inspection, I discovered it to be quite deep. As I pulled back the grass and intertwined roots that concealed it, I could hear the dirt, rocks and other debris go rattling down the hole a good distance.

Excitedly, I jumped up and yelled to Mike and Steve that I had found a cave knowing full well that I was exaggerating, as I had no real proof as yet. I got the expected reaction from Steve as he groaned, thinking I had found one before him. I widened the hole enough and it was deep enough that all three of us were optimistic of its potential. Its depth was visible for at

least 20 feet with no end in sight and rocks and dirt still rattling down quite a ways.

Thinking we might be here awhile hauling out any loose dirt or rock that might be blocking the bottom of the pit, Mike went to fetch a bucket loggers apparently left by the pits we had visited earlier. Steve took off in another direction to retrieve his pack that he had left near Elderberry Cave.

While they were gone, I continued to widen and stabilize the surface that surrounded the hole in preparation for entering it when they returned. Upon their return, I suited up and began to chimney the pit which sloped steeply down at an 80 degree incline. About the time I disappeared out of sight was also about the time I ran out of cave. It pinched down to a tight crack that I couldn't even get my feet past. Well, at least it had looked good!!! So much for that cave.

May 11th - Jackman Creek Area

Participants: Mike Fraley, Dick Garnick and Larry McTigue

We spent part of the day digging on some old leads near Jackman Creek but without getting into anything as a result. While I continued with one of the digs, Dick and Mike drove off looking for easier prey. All was for naught as they found the snow level still too low to access potential areas on some of the logging roads at higher elevation. It was getting late when they returned and since I had not progressed much either, we decided to save our luck for another day and headed for home.

June 15th - Jackman Creek Again

Participants: (same crew as before)

With the snow melted a bit more, we were able to reach one of the areas that was previously inaccessible. We located a small resurgence and began to hammer away at the tight fissure it came out of in hopes of breaking into a possible cave. I came loaded to the gills with digging tools as usual and we each carried our share of them. We had a sledge hammer, pick-axe, a garden claw, rock hammer, long-handled potato fork and a long-handled shovel.

We spent the better part of the day pounding away at the rocks with the sledge hammer. While Dick and Mike did most of the sledge hammer work, I dug out the loose dirt nearby. We cracked a lot of rock and moved lots of dirt but, the cave gods were not smiling on us this day either. No luck at all. The fissure became more difficult to work on and less inviting so, we finally gave up the struggle. It seemed fruitless to

continue. As before, while I continued to poke away at it, Mike and Dick took off on a hike looking for an easy walk-in entrance.

Later, they returned but had no new cave to report other than a vague description of a spot we might check on a future trip. They decided to drive around to the other side of the ridge and take a look there. While they were gone, I spent the time working some more on the resurgence then headed back to my truck to rest up and eat some food. Since they were gone for some time I decided to hike around the area to see what I could find.

I spotted some limestone poking up above the ground on a hillside in the middle of a clear-cut area. Walking up to it, I discovered a couple holes where a small stream was disappearing into the ground near the limestone. I returned to the truck for a shovel and soon was back at the spot. The flow of water was so small that as I dug into the deep soil, I lost track of where it was going. It appeared to simply be sinking into the logging slash rather than into any solid limestone.

About this time, I heard Dick and Mike honk their horn to let me know they had returned. So, I gave up and hiked back to meet them. I told them of the run of bad luck I was having and they said they hadn't fared much better. Finding no caves, we decided to go for pizza instead. In Sedro Woolley, we stopped at the Cascade Pizza Inn and stuffed ourselves with the locally famous pizza. Then, Mike and I said good-bye to Dick and we headed our separate ways for home.

June 25th - Attempted Windy Creek Trip

Participants: Larry McTigue with
Fourth Corner Grotto members (Dave Hopf, Ben ?,
and Paul Rohweder)

Hoping to get into Windy Creek Cave at least once this year, I had asked Dave Hopf of the Fourth Corner Grotto in Bellingham to let me know if his group planned any trips up that way. Some time later, Dave emailed to invite me on just such a trip. He made the arrangements and planned to meet me at the gate on the logging road early on the morning of the trip.

I arrived early so, stopped in at the Hamilton guard shack to see if Dave had been by to pick up the access permit yet. He had not and so to speed up the red tape, I asked for it myself. But, after driving all the way up from Seattle, I was disappointed to find out that we were denied entrance to the area.

A logging helicopter that was over-due had arrived unexpectedly the day after Dave had called to get permission for the trip. Both roads to the cave were blocked by logs the helicopter was dropping to be loaded onto waiting log trucks. I drove over to the main office and they radioed the logging crews and were told we couldn't drive by either of the two spots.

So, I drove back over to the guard shack and waited for Dave to arrive and tell him the bad news. When he got there, I asked if he had ever been to the Ramsey Cave area. They all said they had but, had never seen Elderberry, Jensen nor Razorblade Straddle Caves. There was nothing else to do so, this became our alternate plan for the day.

We jumped in our vehicles and drove over to Concrete. We hiked up past Ramsey Cave and on into the woods on our way to Elderberry. Immediately, we ran into a jungle of stinging nettles covering the entire forest floor that had grown 7-8 feet tall since the last trip I made here at the end of April. We got stung pretty good, even though we tried our best to avoid them.

Dave, Ben and Paul were duly impressed with Elderberry and even allowed me to do some digging while there. So as not to bore them too much with my digging, I promised to show them Jensen and Razorblade as well. They had an equally enjoyable time at these caves and agreed that the name I had given to Razorblade Straddle was appropriate after having seen it for themselves.

The weather was great but, we were all still a bit disappointed at not having been able to get into Windy Creek Cave. We returned home feeling the day hadn't been completely wasted. And I got to do a little digging as well.

June 30th - Jackman Creek One More Time

Participants: Mike Fraley and Larry McTigue

Mike and I returned to investigate another small resurgence he and Dick had found while hiking around on the last trip we had made to this area. But first, he wanted to show me the back side of the ridge where they had found some filled trenches and sinks. It looked intriguing but, no caves were encountered.

Back-tracking, we drove back around the ridge and on to our original goal. But, upon reaching that point, he suggested we drive up the road a bit beyond there to check the snow level. On the previous trip, the snow had stopped us at the corner where the road rounds the north side of the west end of the same ridge.

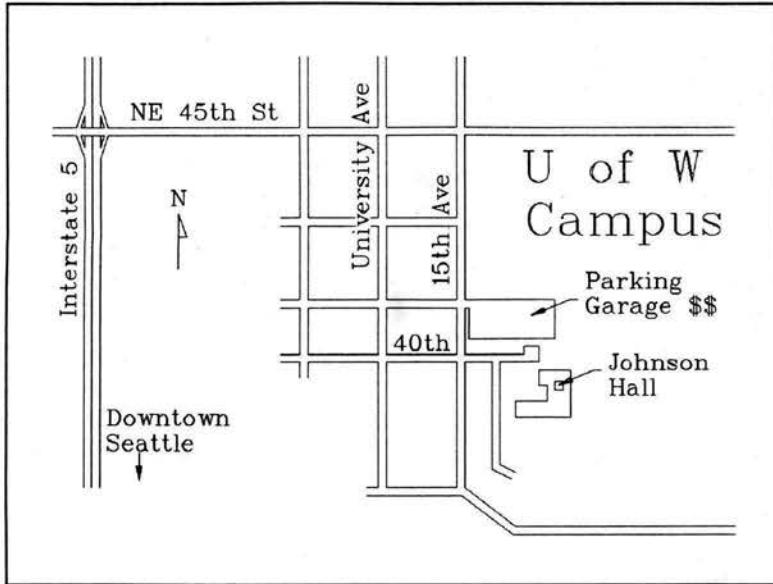
As before, this is where we found the snow. It had melted substantially from the last time but, still not enough to be passable for more than a short distance. Mike recalled that it was near here that he thought he saw some sinkholes while looking at aerial photos of the area. So, we parked the truck and hiked up the road. We soon discovered that even if the snow had melted completely, the road would still not have been open. Large trees and boulders had fallen on the road further up, blocking the way.

We left the road and hiked downhill toward some flat bench areas Mike had seen on the photos. But, rather than sinks, we found large circular patches of vegetation in swampy meadows. Apparently, Mike had mistaken these for what he thought could be possible sinkholes. Oh well, better luck next time we hope.

Returning to the truck, we drove back down the road to where we would hike up to the small resurgence mentioned earlier. With digging tools in hand, we began our trek to the designated spot. Upon arriving, I surveyed the situation. Although a bit more interesting in appearance, this trickle of water was certainly no larger than the one we had expended so much energy on previously.

Mike set to work on the best looking spot, while I chose a more unlikely area to dig on. We both moved a good amount of dirt but, as before, without turning up much. My dig ended in fairly solid shale and Mike's got too small for a human to squeeze into. Not willing to give up so easily, I turned my attention and efforts to another equally unlikely spot and exerted myself until fatigue overcame my enthusiasm and bad judgment.

We had hiked quite a good amount that day and on the trip back down the ridge to the truck, my knees let me know it. It was a slow painful walk but eventually I made it back. We hopped in the truck and drove over to Jackman Creek Cave where we visited for a while and signed the register book. Then, it was off for home, as it was getting quite late now.



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

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c/o Ralph Earlandson
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