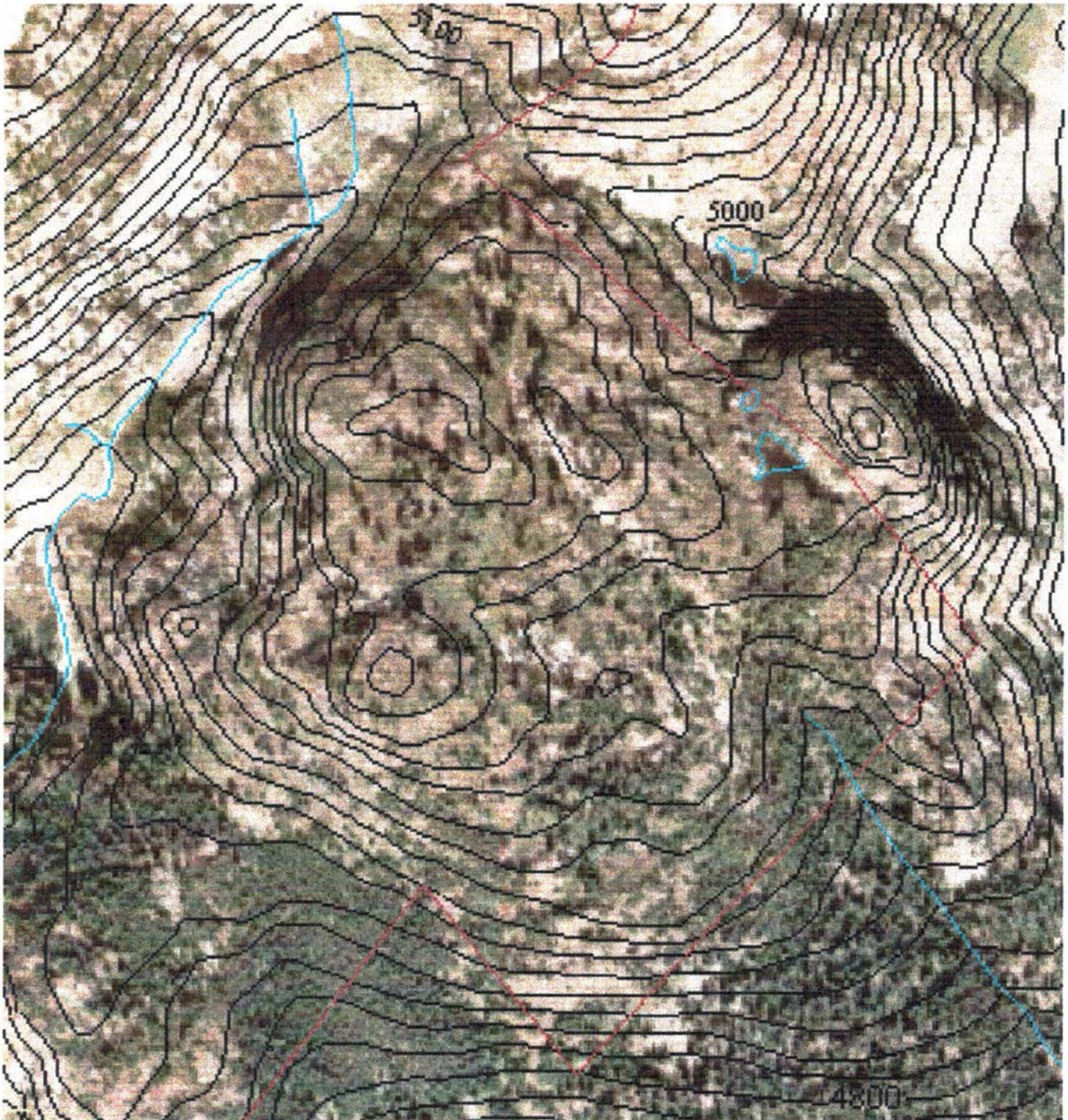




Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

August 1997, Volume 36 No. 7



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 \$15.00 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 \$15.00 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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MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, Room 119, in Johnson Hall. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Jim Harp at (425) 745-1010 of any upcoming trips.

Aug. 15	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m. At the Marymoor Park Climbing Rock
Aug. 15-18	Eagle Cap Wilderness area. Searching the limestone in the Wallowa Mountains of Oregon for virgin caves. Jerry Thompson (360) 653-7390
Aug. 15-17	Cave Ridge (overnight night camp optional) Scott Davis (252) 862-1035
Aug. 22-24	Cave Ridge Ditto
Sept. 13-14	Ape/ Lake Cave cleanup trip. Scott Davis(252) 862-1035
Sept. 19	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
October 7-10	1997 Karst and Cave Management Symposium Highlighting Forest Karst Ecosystems - Bellingham, WA Rob Stitt (206) 283-2283 Email: rstitt@halcyon.com
Oct. 17	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.

COVER: Cave Ridge. Overlaid on the photo are 20 foot contours, streams and ponds, and the boundary line (in red) from the USGS 7.5 min. quadrangle. To the east of the boundary is wilderness area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August Meeting to be Held at Marymoor Park

BRING YOUR VERTICAL GEAR

The last meeting at Marymoor Park was so much fun we decided to do it again! We had some simple vertical courses set up on the climbing rock to dust the cobwebs off our vertical gear. This time we will add a course with a rebelay or two for those that wish to practice going around obstructions. See enclosed map.

An Email *Cascade Caver*?

The editors would like to start distributing the *Cascade Caver* by email to those who wish it. This *Caver* will be the same one that you currently get by the postal system, only better for the following reasons:

- It won't be chewed up by the postal system. Sometimes the USPS's machinery mutilates the *Caver*.
- Quality. The photocopying process tends to degrade the copy to varying degrees. Photographs and artwork suffer the most. Images (like the cover) will be as good (or bad) as they appear on the editor's screen.
- Cost. It is much less expensive to publish by email. Each copy sent as an email attachment saves the cost of copying, postage, and addressing. **GROTTO DUES ARE NOT ENOUGH TO COVER THE COST OF PUBLISHING THE CAVER.** The editors would like to pass some of the savings along as lower dues to members that elect this option. This will require a change to the bylaws that needs to be voted on by the membership.

Requirements:

- A computer and modem.
- An email account and software that allows you to receive attachments to your email.
- The ability to read Microsoft Word 6.0 documents. (If you don't have MS Word, a free Word viewer can be sent to you that will allow you to see the *Caver* in all its glory.)

If you are interested, send an email to the editors listed on the previous page and we will try to answer any questions and put you on the list if you are interested.

A Nice Little Trip to Dock Butte

By Mike Fraley

Dock Butte has long stood as one of the only places I haven't been in Washington State that has any kind of karst present. For several summers I've wanted to go there but have never found the time with all the other more interesting and unexplored karst areas in the Chilliwack Valley B.C. needing to be checked. Finally, with good weather and a desire to drive less than 3 or 4 hours to get to the karst, we decided to make an assault on Dock Butte. Along with me on this day would be Larry McTigue and Steve Sprague.

Being only about 3 miles from Windy Creek Cave, our longest and certainly best limestone cave, the karst at Dock Butte sounds interesting. And on top of that, its listing in Danner's book, (now famous among us ridgewalkers) shows many sinkholes and lots of karst covering a large area. Now, how to get there? To my surprise, getting there was easier in theory than any other karst area I've been to. Naturally, and true to form, we managed to make it hard on ourselves. After parking at the end of the road, we started hiking up the nicely maintained Forest Service trail that winds all the way to the top of the Butte. Not long after we started, I noticed a sign off to the side saying something to the effect of Dock Butte trail 1.5 miles. I smiled, thinking that we were on the right trail. What I didn't know, was that the large bank of snow at this point was covering and concealing the correct trail, and we were inadvertently now hiking on the trail that goes DOWN to Blue Lake. I remember thinking that the trail was strangely level while we were walking, but never said anything since the others were happily engaged in talk about something or other. We finally emerged out of the trees with Blue Lake sprawling before our eyes, as we were wondering what had happened. The solution was obvious to me, we would yet again hone our unmatched skills of bush whacking. Leading, I crashed uphill through the miniature trees and plants and spider webs in an attempt to find the correct trail. It didn't take long before we were on it and on our way for real.

This trail was much harder. But, we did get a view of Mt. Baker to die for at least. Before I knew it, we had arrived in the karst area. Larry didn't tell me for some reason, but I saw the large depressions in the snow fields that marked the large sink holes. I got rather excited as I almost ran off checking every sinkhole to see if any were open in the snow. Steve got out his GPS and started taking positions of the sinks. I found a small fissure in some exposed limestone and started pulling rocks out of it. Larry saw some of my rocks flying through the air and exclaimed "Mike's digging already!" I wasn't

digging seriously, so I put my pack back on and ran off again to stay ahead of Larry who was coming on fast. I walked uphill and came upon a small resurgence coming out at the base of a limestone outcrop. There were animal feces and holes in the dirt around the resurgence. I've noticed this in quite a few areas. Whatever animals these are, they seem to like making their homes in and around cave water, interesting.

I yelled at Larry to come take a look, if anything so I could run off again and stay ahead. I began to walk to the east toward the cliffs above Blue Lake. I found the limestone contact near there, and to my surprise I found a long fissure right along the contact that had a rather large resurgence 20 feet below it. There was no way into the fissure that I could see, and I couldn't tell if it even led into limestone. I called the others over to look. Heh, threw them off once again! When they arrived, we all got real confused about what to do next and we all seemed to go off in different directions. I think Larry remained in this area and pulled rocks out of the fissure. I heard many boulders crashing down the hill so I assume that was him. (the boulders that is) Steve hiked back down the hill to get his pack which he left when he started to use his GPS. I walked uphill toward an interesting limestone outcrop. When I reached the top, I sat and gazed at the scene before my eyes. Sink holes and limestone outcrops mingling with snow fields. What could be a more perfect place to spend an afternoon!

When we all found one another again, we decided to hike to the summit to get a better idea of the whole area. Steve and myself, being wimps, dropped our packs on the way up and stashed them next to a rather nasty shear cliff. The summit was nice and cool when we arrived, being mostly bug free. The MASSIVE belts of limestone spanning the length of Washington Monument were easily visible. What struck me as being rather funny, was that the limestone pod that contains Windy Creek Cave was the smallest one I could see. All the other caves in all that limestone are tiny little holes, nothing at all like their big brother. Despite the fact that this area has been checked many times, I feel the need to go back and look there for myself. There is just too much limestone there to not have another big cave of the Windy Creek quality...or bigger!

On our way down from the summit, I was looking around at the peaks near Dock Butte. I noticed some rock outcroppings on the next ridge that looked like limestone. I also saw that one outcropping had an obvious stream running down the hill below it. I was excited with the prospects, and managed to rally Steve and Larry into hiking there. Man, were we in for it. Once we found a way down the cliffs on the south side of the butte, we had to hike across some nasty and steep

slopes. If they were not covered with small slippery weeds, they were gravel or larger rocks that gave way under foot. We hiked for some time before finally getting there. What made it worse, was that the rock wasn't limestone. And the stream that I was hoping was a resurgence was a large cascade of mostly snowmelt coming off the mountain. We ate lunch here with the bugs, and what is worse I think I probably ate a few bugs WITH my lunch. If my Mom were there, she would say something about protein I'm sure.

The hike back was even worse. Steve and Larry have a bad habit. They follow me when hiking. If they knew what was good for them, they would stop. I was hiking with the idea of getting as high as possible along the slopes on the way back. We found a nice deer trail, and it was going up, so I followed it. It took us right up to the cliffs, then disappeared. We sat around confused for a while, then started across the plant infested slope that was between us and the real karst. The going was tough. At a few points, we were literally crawling along on all fours hanging on to plants for our very lives. We all made it back, but it was a bad experience all around.

The day, to my surprise, wasn't over yet, so we decided to check out the caves in this karst. I followed the sound of water and eventually found the lower end of Resurgence Cave. A blast of literally freezing air greeted me as I approached. The entrance was bigger than I expected, it looked like you could easily crawl right on in. But, the 33 degree water rushing out told me just why no one has ever done a through trip in this cave. We didn't find the upper entrance, nor Twin Pits Cave, nor Dock Butte Cave #4 which were all buried in snow. We did some GPS work, using it to plot out the position of what looked like a trench in the snow. Thinking that we were done, we started to hike out. Larry had mentioned some other sinks in the trees along the trail, so I asked him about them and he bolted off for them. When we caught up to him, you guessed it, he was happily digging away in one of them. It was a nice sink though. I went down and saw that he wasn't digging on anything that looked like it was going anywhere. I looked just to his left, and there was a nice crawlway leading down at a steep angle into the limestone. It looked to be the place where a lot of the water going into the sink had gone. I retrieved my light and had a look. About 15 feet in, the crawlway dropped straight down! Larry didn't remember it doing that, so I considered going in.

I considered it for a long while. Unfortunately, I decided to go light and didn't bring any kind of coveralls. So, if I went in, I would be going in shorts and a tee-shirt, not exactly dedicated caver attire. I decided that if I didn't do it, I would feel real bad about not doing it, so I did it.

In I went, into the mud with my nice cloths on. It was awful! I could hear my cloths crying out in pain and agony! I went in feet first and on my rear end and proceeded to slide in up to about my chest. To my horror, I suddenly realized at that point that for the first time in my caving life, I was stuck! "How could this happen?" I was saying to myself. In actuality, I wasn't absolutely stuck. I had gotten my arms slightly pinned and the steepness of the crawlway combined with the mud wouldn't allow my feet to push off on anything. Maybe I should have gone down further, but I had had about enough, since the hole was already not much bigger than my body is wide. Steve and Larry made their little jokes, but finally pulled me out. I was cut all over from the limestone, and muddy as Hades, but at least in one piece. We looked at some more sinks in the area. Not finding much to talk about, we decided to call it a day. It was a good day, we hiked about 8 miles or so checking the karst and surrounding areas for caves. Sure we didn't find anything, but I'll be back again someday when the snow is gone. Who knows what I or my companions may find???

not needed to visit the undeveloped areas of the monument (i.e. where there are no bathrooms). When we were there on a conservation trip last month, they waived the fee for those of us that were going into Ape Cave to do cleanup work.

FYI: There will be another Ape/ Lake Cave cleanup trip September 13,14. There will also be other cave trips oriented for the beginning caver. We have rented the marble mtn. snow park cabin again and have reserved the key for Little Red River Cave. This trip is not sponsored by any grotto of the NSS and is open to new people who may not yet be grotto members. Our parking/cabin use fee is \$4.00 per vehicle and \$6.00 per person for the Saturday night barbecue chicken dinner. No overnight sleeping in the cabin.

User Fees are here!

By: Scott Davis

Starting July 12th Parking permits are required at major heavy use trailheads in National Forests. The cost is \$3.00 for a day or \$25.00 for a calendar year. This is separate from Sno-Park permits which are still required in the winter time. Motorcycles are currently exempt from these parking fees.

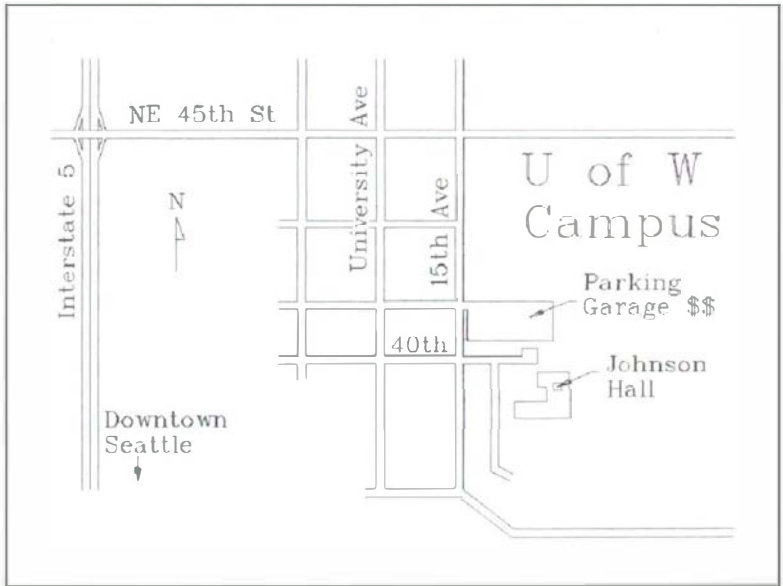
Permits can be purchase at any Forest Service office (they are closed on weekends now due to budget cuts) or REI or the Snoqualmie pass Visitor Center (across from the gas station). Permits are good at all Washington State Forest Service trailhead parking lots and also covers northern Oregon in a cooperative overlap. There are no fines being issued yet, just warnings.

Volunteers can receive a free day pass. If you volunteer for more than 2 days, a season pass can be obtained. To volunteer call:

Washington Trails Assoc. Hotline 206-517-7032
Volunteer Tailwork Coalition 206-464-1641
Iron Goat Trail 206-283-1440

In addition there is a user fee for the Mt. St. Helens Monument area. The fee is \$8.00 per person that covers all of the next 3 consecutive days. This is for use of "developed" areas within the monument. This includes Ape Cave and Lake Cave. As I understand it, the fee is





The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month in room 119 in Johnson Hall on the University of Washington campus.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings

GROTTO MEETING AT MARYMOOR PARK CLIMBING ROCK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 7:00 BRING YOUR VERTICAL GEAR.

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