



# Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

March 1998, Volume 37 No. 3

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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 \$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*.

## GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman	Mark Sherman	(206) 524-8780
Vice Chairman	Bruce Frank	(425) 746-2928
Sec/Treasurer	Lane Holdcroft	(206) 783-6534

## OTHER POSITIONS

Trip Coord.	Jim Harp	(425) 745-1010
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\* Editor of current issue.

## 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.

Mar 20	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Mar 21	Danner Ridge Walk 2
	Search known limestone deposits (from Danner's book) for virgin caves.
	Steve Sprague (360) 387-3162
	ssprague@whidbey.net
Mar 28	Red Barn vertical practice, Enumclaw, about 10am. Great indoor site.
	Scott Davis (253) 862-1035
	SDavis@wdni.com
	Wendel Pound (253) 863-1649
	Wendel@ibm.net
Apr 17	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Apr 30 - May 2	Lint cleaning camp at Lehman Caves.
	Dale Green (801) 277-6417
	dajgreen@burgoyn.com
May 15	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jun 19	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jul 17	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Aug 3-7	NSS Convention, Sewanee, TN

## NOTICE - ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

We will send a final reminder in the next issue to those who have not paid for 1998. You may renew by sending a check to the grotto address, or by paying at a grotto meeting.

**COVER:** Larry McTigue exiting a small cave he dug open in a limestone area East of Arlington, WA. Another trip to this area to look for more caves is scheduled for March 21. See **UPCOMING EVENTS** above.

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## TRIP REPORTS

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### VANCOUVER ISLAND, AGAIN

Bob Roel

On Friday, August 29 last year, I made another trip up to the northern end of Vancouver Island. On this excursion my main plans were to recover my canoe, which I had left with local caver Mike Henwood. I had left the canoe with him back in July when we had been there caving. On that July trip I had been accompanied by my family, as well as cavers Tom Kline, Dave Ek, and Scott Davis. This time, I was just planning to spend the Labor Day weekend there, and then return home. Of course I brought my caving gear, but I really didn't have any plans or caving objectives to achieve on this trip. We were just going to camp out, and whatever opportunities came up would suffice.

After arriving at our campsite near Nimpkish lake that afternoon, I went to visit Mike and Linda Henwood at their nearby "cavers camp". As I've mentioned in other reports before, Mike has a tour business, and most of his business is orientated toward taking his clients to visit the local caves. He was making a trip to Minigill cave the next day, and he invited me to come along.

When I arrived at Mike's camp the next morning, I met local caver Pete Curtis there. I had caved with Pete and his partner Bill Nasby on previous occasions. Pete told me he was going to spend that day looking for an old, railroad locomotive that was supposedly abandoned in the woods nearby. He then invited me to accompany him and Bill the next day up to the Story Creek area, west of Nimpkish lake, to search for some caves. I agreed to meet him and Bill up there the next day. Today was going to be devoted to exploring Minigill cave.

Besides Mike and myself, our party that day included Tony, one of Mike's helpers. When we arrived at the 135 foot entrance shaft (you can drive almost right to it), it looked just as impressive as I remembered it from previous trips there. We dropped down in and landed on the gravel bar next to the underground river that was flowing through there. We went down stream a short ways toward where the river crashed over a waterfall, but the water was higher than usual, and we weren't able to get to close to the waterfall. Tony and Mike have been beyond the waterfall and they say it's not too difficult to negotiate when the water is lower.

We turned around and went upstream. As we passed through a large corridor, Mike pointed to an intersecting

passageway that was high up on our left side of this passage we were in. He told me that was where the nearby Deer Cave entrance passage met this main system. We continued on and explored more large chambers and passageways. We came to the chamber that had many formations and some drip stone. We also saw the cave pearl bed, which I had photographed before. After wandering around for about an hour and a half, we retreated to the entrance zone and climbed out.

The next day, I packed the wife and kids into the pickup and drove up to the Story Creek area which is about an hours drive from where we were camping. I found Pete's pickup parked on the side of the road along with a note giving me directions to where they were suppose to be. Pete's note indicated he and Bill would be in the area to the east of the road, so in order to find my way through and back from the thick forest that covered the area, I took my compass and followed a line eastward. While I was gone, my wife and kids would pick berries and mushrooms.

As I walked up and down through the forest and the gullies I noticed the landscape or the forest growth seemed to change. In some areas the ground bushes were thicker. I later learned from Pete, that the line between these different areas is referred to as the "contact" and that the areas where there is less growth indicates areas of karst. Pete had mentioned about looking for the "contact" in his note.

After about an hour and a half I was getting tired and frustrated at not finding Pete and Bill. In these thick woods, I knew it might be somewhat of a long shot anyway. The local cavers have a way of communicating with each other in the thick forest which actually is just a loud yell. I had practiced this technique when I had caved with Mike and Linda on previous occasions, and now I was trying it out again. After having hiked and yelled for about an hour, I was ready to turn around and go home, when I finally heard (or thought I heard) a single, distant faint reply. It was hard to ascertain which direction it came from, and I didn't get another response right away, but I moved in the direction I thought it might be. Finally I started getting more responses to my yells, and after a while I was able to hone in and make my way to where I found Bill and Pete exploring a pit.

They told me they and another local caver, Dale Chase, had explored this area back in May and found several promising pits. At that time it was hard to tell if there were any caves in them because they were filled with snow. One pit had looked especially promising, so they named it "Oh Baby", which were Dale's first words when he saw it.

We found a couple of pits that looked interesting, and might have produced a cave entrance had we been willing to dig a bit, but neither of them was the "Oh Baby" pit we were looking for. After a bit more searching the area, we finally came on the pit which Bill recognized as the "Oh Baby" pit. Sure enough, there was a nice, large cave entrance down at the bottom. Although the sides were steep, it did not require any rope work to gain entry, but we did have to clear away a bit of old, rotting tree debris which was somewhat blocking the entrance. Once inside, we found ourselves walking, climbing, and circulating around through passages and large chambers. I got separated from my companions, but I continued to explore. I remember going up one passage, topping out, then sliding down into a large chamber which had some light shining on its floor from an entrance. I thought I had just gone around in circles and was at the original entrance, but when I climbed up and out of the entrance and the pit, I found that I had discovered an entirely different entrance. Not knowing where I was in the woods, I picked and headed in the direction I thought the other entrance might be. About fifty yards away I found the original entrance pit, as well as Bill and Pete getting their survey gear ready. I told them what I had found, and we agreed to survey our way through the cave in the direction of the new pit. We surveyed for about an hour, but since it was getting late, we decided to leave and come back and finish the job the next day.

The next morning, my 10 year old son Bobby Jr. and I met Pete and Bill on the logging road near where we wanted to enter the woods for our return to the cave. We came into the woods from a different route this time, and after about 20 minutes we came on the entrance I had discovered the day before.

After getting on our gear, we entered and continued surveying from where we had left off the day before. We found some upward going chambers, some of which were blocked off by loose sand and gravel. It looked like a little easy digging could reveal some new chambers. We didn't come prepared for digging this time so we continued on with finishing up the survey of the rest of the passages and chambers. After a few hours we had the work completed. I never did find out the exact total length of passage we surveyed, even though Bill later sent me a completed map.

When we left the area, we decided to do an overland survey in the direction of the Woodwind Cave system, which Pete and Bill had discovered and surveyed the year before. This system was about 250 yards from this new cave system. About half way through this overland survey, we noticed a small canyon to the right of our survey line, which we hadn't seen before. We could hear

a stream running in the bottom of it, so we sent Bobby over to check it out and maybe see if there might be a cave opening. After he got there, he yelled back that the stream was flowing into a cave. We all rushed over, and sure enough the stream was entering into a pretty cave entrance. Scoop fever gripped us all, as we scrambled to get gear on and be the first inside. Since I still had my helmet and lighting system on, I made it first inside. Pete had borrowed Bobby's helmet and light, and he followed me.

With rubber boots on, we splashed downstream through zig-zagging, marble lined cave passage. Sometimes we dropped down over small water falls. There were no large chambers, but the passage continued on and on. Finally, after what we guessed was about 100 meters, we came to a wide, low ceiling chamber where it appeared the water sumped out. We never did get around to surveying this cave, but for now we called it Zig-Zag cave, because of the shape of its passages. After that, we made our way out and over to the Woodwind cave system, which was about 100 meters away. On doing that, we made our way back to the vehicles and left the area. We've decided that we'll probably be back again this year. There's just too much up there not to get excited about. Maybe some of you all out there can join us!

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## A Trip to Viceg Cave

Bruce Frank

On or about Feb 28:

Larry McTigue, Mike Fraley, Mike Wagner and I took a drive out to Viceg Cave the weekend before last. It was mostly a driving trip because we discovered that the road to the cave was blocked some distance from the cave and we were too lazy to hike the rest of the way to the cave carrying vertical gear. Instead we hiked in just to have a look. When we got there, we saw that the short vertical drop at the entrance was rigged with an aluminum swimming pool ladder and a wooden ladder. Mike Wagner was the only one brave/foolish enough to trust the ladders. He spent about twenty minutes below ground -- enough time to see most of the cave.

I hope to see all of you on upcoming trips.

## Review

### Secrets of an Underground Photographer

Review by T K. Treadwell

When *Images Below - A Manual of Underground and Flash Photography* by Chris Howes arrived my wife began leafing through it, ooh-ing and aah-ing over the photos of caves. Two hours later she handed it to me and shook her head. "I don't know how he does it. Those photos are amazing."

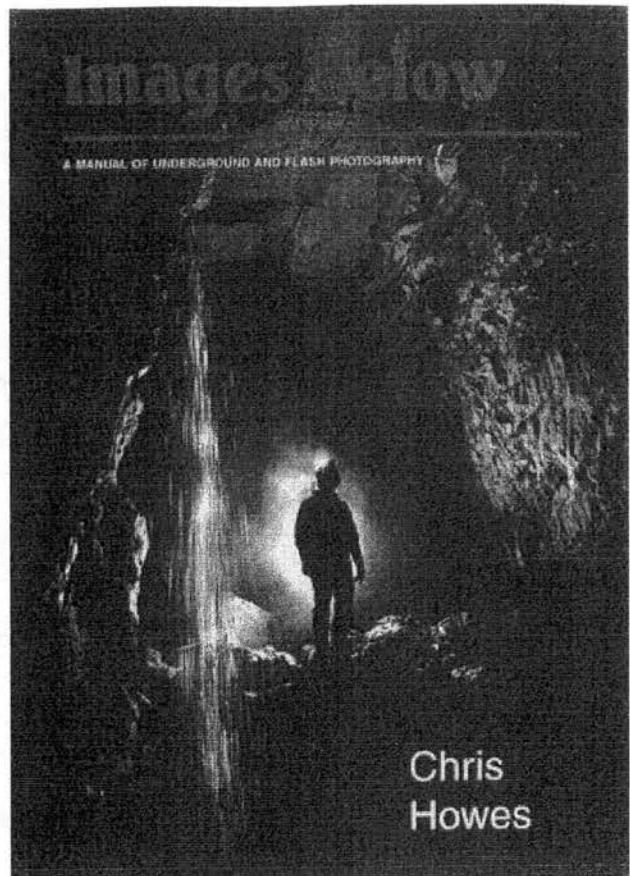
"How he does it" is the subject of this magnificent volume, and the crisply-written, beautifully-organized text coupled with copious examples (all taken by the author) should make it the final word on the subject. For those of us who enjoyed his earlier *To Photograph Darkness*, the history of underground and flash photography, this comes as no surprise. Howes knows his subject, and just as importantly, knows how to put it across in a form that's not only readable but usable.

Two points should be emphasized: First, while this book uses cave photos as examples, it's also an excellent general text on the use of flash. Second, though he does start with the absolute basics needed by an amateur, the book is so complete and thorough as to be useful to even the most advanced worker. Beginning with selection of equipment (cameras, lenses, flash and accessories) he then outlines the basics of working with flash of all types in every conceivable situation. This is followed by discussions of specialized techniques such as close-ups, underwater, video and *stereo photography*. Finally, he deals with artistic composition, the touch which can transform a dreary documentary photo into an esthetically memorable image, and nobody is better qualified than Chris Howes to write on this topic.

If you have aspirations of progressing beyond the point-and shoot camera with built-in flash, buy this book. It'll not only make you a better photographer, but also give you immense visual pleasure in the process.

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Reprinted from *Stereo World*, a publication of the National Stereoscopic Association, Inc. It covers both historical and modern stereoscopic photography. Membership information is available via a SASE to the National Stereoscopic Association, Box 14801, Columbus, OH 43214.



*Images Below - A Manual of Underground Flash Photography* by Chris Howes; 268 pp, approximately 500 illustrations, hard-bound 4to. Available in the U.S. from Speleobooks, Box 10, Schoharie, NY 12157, \$45.00 including shipping.

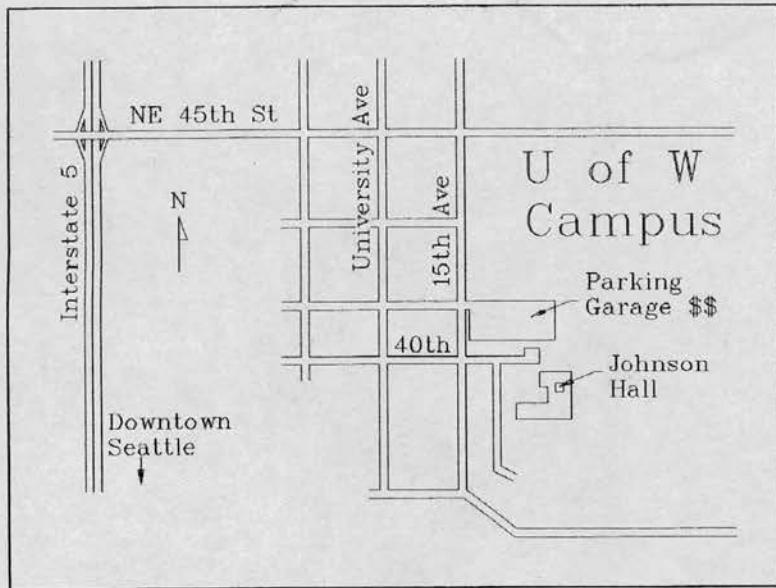
### We Need Your Help

In order to publish a *Cascade Caver* the editors need material to put in it. Articles, trip reports and graphics are in short supply. If you have a caving related project that you are doing, or have gone on a cave trip, please write about it and submit it to one of the editors.

If you spot a caving related article in the non caving press that would be of interest to the membership, please pass it along. We will contact the publisher for permission to reprint it.

There is a real shortage of graphics. We can copy your photographs or slides and return them to you, or you can submit them to us on a diskette or via email. Any artwork would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all who have submitted material in the past!



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

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