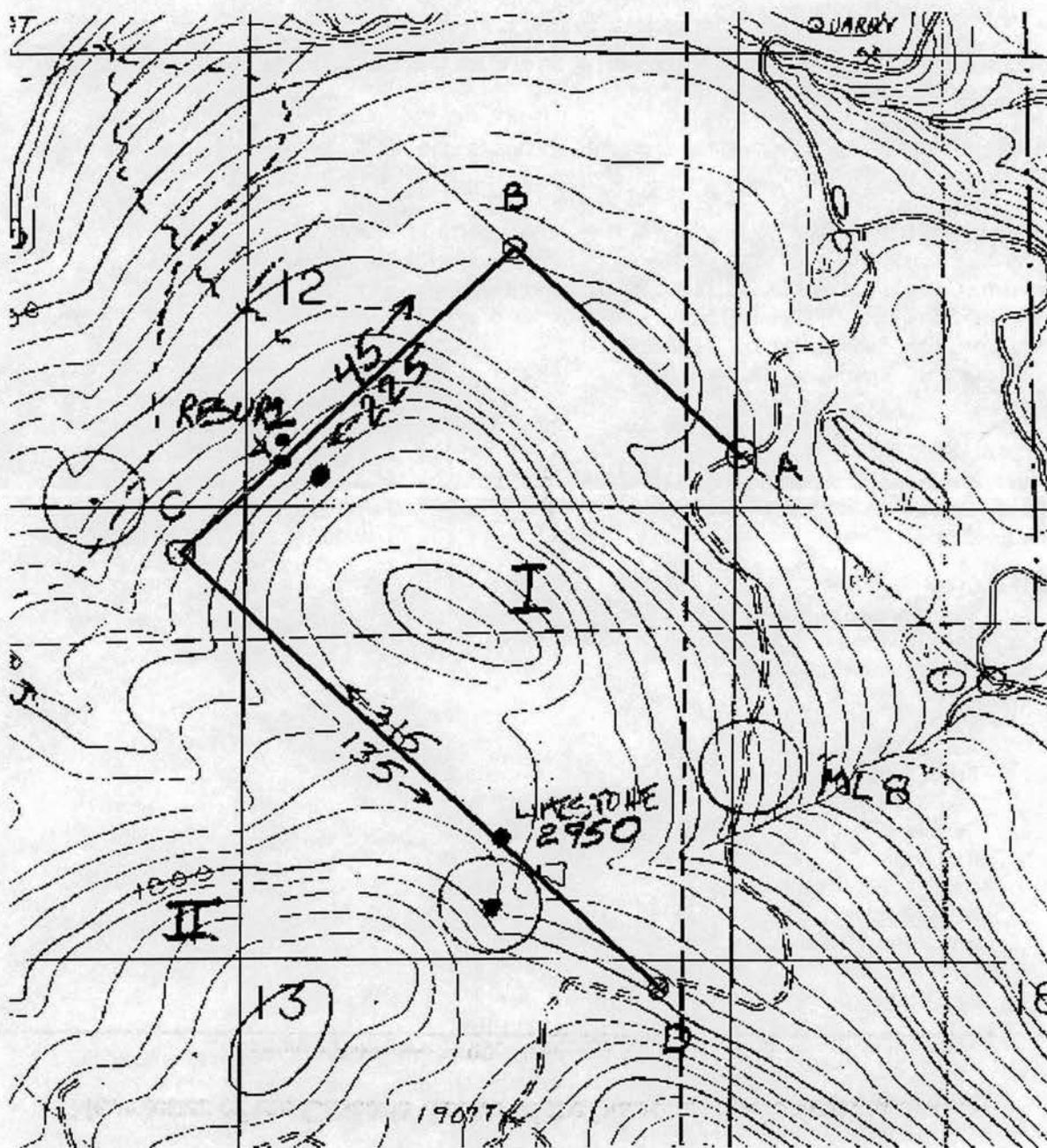




Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

January/February 1999, Volume 38 No. 1 & 2



Danner Ridge Walk #5

Cascade Caver

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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 \$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. Subscription via email is \$11.00 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

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* Editor of the current issue.

MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58th Ave. W. 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.

Feb. 19 Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
May 29-31 NCA will be hosting a NCRC rescue seminar at Peterson Prairie. It will feature a barbecue pork & chicken dinner as an NCA fund-raiser.
July 12-16 NSS Convention at Twin Falls County Fairgrounds - Filer, Idaho. Contact David Kesner at (208) 939-0979 or email at drdave@micron.net

COVER:

This month's cover is a map of the area covered during the "Danner Ridge Walk" on January 23 1999. See Mike Fraley's trip report starting on page 3.

The points labelled "RESUR1" and "LIMESTONE" mark outcrops of limestone that were discovered.

CONTEST!!!

\$25 Prize!

At the last grotto meeting, a motion was put forth that we have a contest. The reason is simple, we need more stuff to publish in the Cascade Caver. In order to entice you into giving us copies of your caving pictures, sketches, drawings, or other artwork, we are going to award a \$25 prize for the best one published in 1999. The decision will be made by a vote of the general membership at the January 2000 meeting.

Another Contest! Another \$25 Prize!

In addition to your artwork, we need your articles. Especially, we need trip reports, evaluations of hardware and rope rigging systems, comments about lighting systems, you name it. If it's related to caving, please share it with us. The author of each article published in the 1999 Cascade Caver will have his or her name entered in a drawing for the \$25 prize. If you submit multiple articles, you will get one chance in the drawing for each article that we publish.

TRIP REPORT

Danner Ridge Walk

By Mike Fraley

Steve Sprague is far too organized for his own good. After I arrived at the Denny's restaurant near Arlington the morning of January 23rd, I made my way inside to find Steve waiting at a corner table. As I sat down, Steve handed me some papers to look at. They were topographic maps of the general area where we would be hiking on this particular day, only thing out of the ordinary was that they were printed on waterproof paper. To make things better, Steve had taken his GPS up to the area earlier and had taken positions of a few places that might serve as good starting points for our searches for new limestone. Both on the map and on a separate piece of paper were the points themselves, their UTM coordinates, compass bearings, distances from one point to the next, even the local magnetic declination so we could adjust our compasses. It was a fine bit of work to behold, far more than I would have put into a similar

excursion if I were trip leader. My own tactics usually involve looking at a topographic map and saying "lets walk around this area". Steve took my own tactics one step further and incorporated the ability to actually figure out where we were once we got lost. (insert laughter here)

Eventually, Larry McTigue, Lane Holdcroft, and Paul Ostby wandered in and joined us. After breakfast, we proceeded up into the hills east of Arlington, an area with many small, previously discovered limestone deposits. Our objective for the day would be to search in an area where no limestone is currently known to exist; an area where no roads existed at the time when most of the limestone was originally discovered.

We arrived at point "A" after a relatively short drive from Denny's to find that the area had been clear cut fairly recently. Undeterred, we decided to start our hike at this point. Steve handed out a few two-way radios for us to use for communication while we were separated in the woods. Once we were all ready, we spread out and started walking along a compass direction toward point "B". Nothing was found along this line so we decided to hike cross-country toward point "C". While we were walking along this line, I noticed that we were bunched together and didn't stand much chance of finding any limestone. I walked a hundred feet or so uphill and started hiking parallel to the others below. Not long after, I found what looked like a resurgence, but there was no limestone visible anywhere and Larry noted that the top of the hill didn't look very far at all above me. With this in mind, we moved on thinking it was a false alarm, but not long after this Lane and Larry found a pod of limestone with a definite resurgence of water flowing from it's base. Steve was hiking up the hill to my location at this point when Larry put a call over the radios that he had found a resurgence and that we should come take a look. Steve and I milled around trying to decide if we should check more at our altitude or hike back down the hill to look at what Larry had, beyond any doubt in my mind, already started digging on. We figured we had nothing to lose so we started hiking down the hill. Soon, we too ran across limestone and a few sinkholes in what looked like an old streambed. We exchanged the information over the radios with the others and continued down the hill, only to find the others hiking up the hill toward us. Seeing Larry walking around and not digging after finding a resurgence was quite a shock to us both. Both groups passed by each other eagerly seeking out

what the other had found. The resurgence Larry had dug on didn't pan out, and Steve and I hadn't found anything more than surface features, so the group assembled once again and headed on.

Eventually, the group decided we had reached the general location of point "C". We had 3 GPS' on hand, and I think that between them they agreed on our location for the most part. We took our new compass bearing and off we went again, moving through the forest like a team of search and rescue personnel. Steve, Larry and I spread out and searched while Lane and Paul lagged behind talking about something that I couldn't make out. After a bit of walking and some lunch, Larry once again walked right onto some limestone. He had found a small pod of limestone rising vertically out of the ground maybe 15 feet high. Unfortunately, the pod was far too broken up to produce a cave, but exhibited some fine solution activity. I briefly walked uphill from this location to see if I could see any other limestone in the area, but to no avail.

By this time it was beginning to get late in the afternoon so when we hit the nearest road, we hiked back out to the trucks. The day didn't net any caves, but it did show us that a good organized search can, at least, turn up some previously unknown limestone. After the customary pizza, we all departed for home. It was a good day.

CONGRATULATIONS

Cascade Caver Articles Selected For 1998 Speleo Digest

By Katrina Ostby

A big congratulations to all those editors, authors and artists who helped make the 1998 Cascade Caver publications so successful. The Speleo Digest plans to reprint six of our articles and one piece of cover art.

Of course they chose the cover art from the December issue - the magical bat-drawn sleigh by Jenny Sprague.

The following authors and articles were also chosen:

"Accident In Canada"

By Larry McTigue. Jan/Feb 1998.

"Vancouver Island, Again"

By Robert Roel. March 1998.

"A Microcontroller-Driven Cave Radio"

By Paul Ostby. July 1998.

"Mt. Ranier Steam Caves"

By Jerry Thomson. October 1998.

"Vancouver Island Again"

By Robert Roel. October 1998.

"Electronic Format Topo Maps"

By Lane Holdcroft. October 1998.

MEETING NOTES

From the January 15 meeting.

By Katrina Ostby

Steve Sprague chaired the meeting, 10 members and 4 visitors were present.

Lane Holdcroft gave his final report as Treasurer, as of the end of the year, there was \$813 in savings and \$878 in checking for a total of \$1691.

The results of the 1998 elections were:

Chair	Steve Sprague
Vice Chair	Lane Holdcroft
Sec/Treas.	Katrina Ostby

There was an excellent rate of return on ballots. Providing stamps on the ballots seemed to make a difference. Some family members did not receive ballots. Next year we need to be more careful to insure that all voting members receive ballots.

TRIP REPORTS

There were no trip reports.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Steve Sprague invited the grotto and visitors to join him for a limestone outcropping search near Arlington, on Jan. 23, 1999. The only other upcoming trip is the Memorial Day Weekend at Trout Lake Campground, where John Panches will be providing a Cave Rescue Course under the auspices of the NW Caving Association.

OLD BUSINESS

Back in early 1997, we voted to award \$25 each for the best article and the best picture or artwork. The artwork prize was awarded, but the article prize was not. Lane Holdcroft agreed to go through the 1997 Cascade Cavers and to select 5 articles to nominate for this award. These articles will be presented at the Feb. 1999 meeting for the members to read and to vote on.

NEW BUSINESS

It was decided that we needed another incentive to get members to contribute artwork and articles. The following motion was put forward by Katrina Ostby, seconded by Jim Harp, and passed unanimously by the membership:

The grotto shall award a \$25 prize for the best cover, photograph, or artwork published in the Cascade Caver during 1999. The nominations and a vote of the general membership shall occur at the January 2000 meeting. Additionally, the grotto shall award a random \$25 prize for

articles. Each article published in the Cascade Caver during 1999 will be included in the drawing, which should occur at the January 2000 meeting. Reports of upcoming trips are not considered articles for the purposes of this contest.

The 1999 NSS Convention is being hosted by the Gem State Grotto, July 12-16. At least six members of Cascade Grotto plan to attend. Steve Sprague agreed to contact Gem State Grotto and to find out if we could help out with setup, security, or cleanup. A list of job openings was also passed around.

There was discussion about amending the By-Laws to add the responsibility for providing programs to the job description of Vice Chair.

About 60% of the members from 1998 have paid their 1999 dues. A reminder will be included in the February newsletter.

An executive planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 1999, at 7 pm, at Jim Harp's home. Grotto finances will be discussed.

EXECUTIVE MEETING NOTES

From the January 26 meeting.

By Katrina Ostby and Steve Sprague

Steve Sprague chaired the meeting, Lane Holdcroft, Jim Harp, Paul Ostby, Katrina Ostby, and Mark Sherman were present.

Grotto finances...

Grotto finances are in good shape, unless we choose to support the NSS convention financially, we do not need to run any fund raising activities this year. Lane Holdcroft informed us of the expenses and income for 1998, and based on fixed expenses, we estimated that the Grotto will spend about \$500 for 1999. These expenses include \$120 for room rental, \$40 for P.O. Box, \$10 each for NSS slide shows, \$300-400 for Cascade Cavers, \$10 for web site.

Membership...

As only 60% of the 1998 members have paid their dues for 1999, Steve Sprague felt that it would be a good idea to contact those who haven't paid for 1999. We divided up the list, and each of those attending the meeting will contact 4 or 5 people, by telephone or by e-mail, and invite them to stay in the grotto. Katrina

will send e-mail to each of those present with a copy of the membership form and with a list of those to contact.

Web Site...

There was discussion of the NW Caving Association, and of whether or not they had a link to our current web site. Steve Sprague will contact Rob Stitt and see what the status is with our new web site. Our link at the NCA web site needs to be updated also. Steve will contact Brett Cook about this.

Grotto Address...

The Grotto P.O. Box is currently located in the Northgate area. Since there is a Post Office across the street from our current meeting location (23210 57th Ave W), it was decided that we should look into the possibility of getting a new box in Mountlake Terrace. Katrina agreed to check with that branch and see if there is a waiting list for boxes and what the boxes cost?

Grotto Library...

The Grotto library is currently in the hands of Bill Bennett. As he is no longer a member, and as he doesn't have space for the library, we need to find a new home for the library. Mark Sherman has agreed to house the books, but not the exchange newsletters. Katrina has agreed to pick up the books and to bring them to Mark at the February meeting. We still need to decide what to do with the exchange newsletters. We will see if there is any interest in the exchanges at the next meeting and then hold a vote to get rid of them if not.

Exchange Newsletters...

Since outgoing exchange newsletters account for a significant portion of our expenses, it was decided that we should evaluate which grottos we really need to exchange newsletters with. Look for a motion at the next grotto meeting to reduce the number of grottos we exchange newsletters with. Steve Sprague will write a letter to be inserted in the next Caver to the non NCA exchanges that don't pay and let them know that this is their last exchange. We will continue to exchange with western grottos. We should have a short discussion and vote at the next meeting about this.

Map Exchange...

Two copies of our exchange newsletters go to the USGS each month. Supposedly, we get a map or two every year in exchange for providing copies of our newsletters. Rod had been getting the maps. Steve will check with Rod to see if he is still getting maps. The maps are not used currently by grotto members. We will discontinue the exchange with the USGS, subject to discussion and approval at the next meeting.

Trip Coordinator...

We need a trip coordinator. After many years of service, Jim Harp has stepped down from this position. Steve will talk to John Wade, Mike Fraley, and Scott Davis and see if he can get one of them to take over this function.

By-Laws...

Since the Grotto store was dissolved years ago, it would probably be appropriate to amend the by-laws to get rid of references to the store and to the caving/grotto game. We probably need a by-laws committee. We also need to add a copy of the by-laws to the Sec/Treas. Box. Need to think about writing/publishing a Grotto Handbook. Mark Sherman may have this started already.

Program Coordinator...

We again need a program coordinator. Subject to grotto approval, we will amend the bylaws so that a duty of the vice chair is to arrange meeting programs. Mark Sherman is interim Program Coordinator. Larry McTigue has lots of slides and videos and could probably be called on for back-up programs. Cyril has a small TV with integral VCR that he would be willing to bring to meetings. Lane will ask the library staff about the possibility of borrowing a TV or monitor and VCR.

Goals for 1999...

Some of the goals for 1999 include going caving, having good meetings, and supporting the Gem State Grotto in their efforts to put on the NSS Convention. We discussed possible trips to places like Tiger Mountain, Sangers Talus Caves, Lake Cave, McLaughlin Cave, Gardner Cave, and Cody Cave. Cody Cave sounded promising, hot springs close by, and we need to contact:

Bob Brown and Tom Strong about slides,
Phil Whitfield about keys and access to the provincial park,
Richard Walters about...

Meeting Structure...

As we broke up we discussed the desirability to keep our business meetings short. Steve would like to try a 1/2 hour time frame, from 7:00 to 7:30. We should hold off formal introductions and the trip reports until after the business meeting is completed since they really are more social in nature. The business portion should consist of reading the minutes of the last meeting, a treasurers report, any announcements, old business and new business.

Steve will ask the membership at the next meeting if they would like this format and get comments.

SPACE AVAILABLE

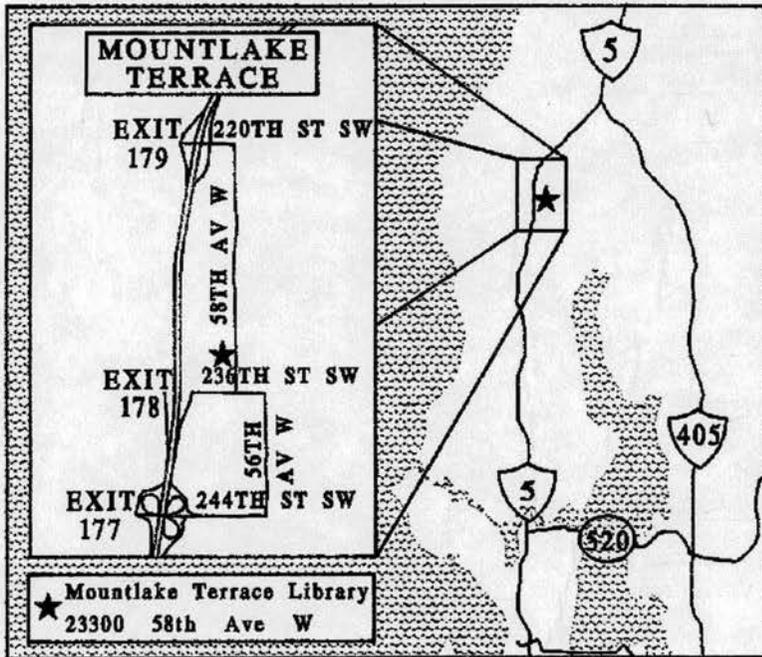
Your Article Could Go Here

We need articles and cover photos or artwork for upcoming Cascade Caver newsletters.

Been on any good cave trips lately? Type up a quick report and send it in! We are always happy to accept trip reports, book reviews, accident reports, letters to the editors, tutorials or informative articles. Just about anything related to caving.

Photos too! You don't need to scan them. We can scan most photographs. (But not slides yet.)

And any article, photo or artwork that you submit could win you that \$25 prize!



The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58th Ave. W.

To get to the Library from the Eastside, take Bothell Way to Ballinger Way. Head North on Ballinger and take a right on 19th Ave. NE (this turns into 56th Ave. W. at the county line). Turn left on 236th then right on 58th Ave. W. Go North 3 blocks.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

Cascade Cover
 PO Box 75663
 Seattle, WA 98125-0663



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