



# Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

January & February 2004, Volume 43 No. 1 & 2



# 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. Subscription via email is \$11.00 per year.

## GROTTO ADDRESS

Cascade Grotto; P.O. Box 66623, Seattle, WA 98166. This post office box should be used for both the grotto and for the *Cascade Caver*.

## GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman	Michael McCormack	(425) 377-1978
Vice Chairman	David Decker	(360) 675-3791
Sec/Treasurer	Marla Pelowski	(253) 835-7404

## OTHER POSITIONS

Trip Coordinator	Chauncey Parker	(206) 937-5295
Librarian	Stuart Monsoon	(425) 271-2258
Regional Rep.	Van Bergen	(360) 779-7837
Program Chair	Dave Decker	(360) 675-3791
Conservation	Hester Mallonee	(253) 838-6464
Safety	Dave McElmurry	(253) 813-8740
Editor	Mark Sherman	(206) 365-5386
	Email:	
	mark.sherman@flukennetworks.com	

## MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month at the Shoreline Community Center in the Hamlin room. The Community Center is at 18560 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE in Shoreline. Please see the back cover for directions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
June 18-20	NCA Regional Bend, OR
July 12-16	NSS Convention, Marquette, MI.
July 16	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
July 24-Aug 2	International Speleofest Fernie B.C.
August 20	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center

**COVER:** Michael McCormack took this photo looking out towards the San Juan Islands from the trail to Senger's Talus Cave.

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## 2004 Cascade Grotto Officers

By Aaron Stavens

The votes are in and the results have been tallied. The grotto officers are (drum roll, please)

Chairman	Michael McCormack
Vice-Chairman	David Decker
Secretary-Treasurer	Marla Pelowski

For the numbers, 21 ballots were cast. 90.4% were via email and 9.6% were via paper mail. There were 20 votes for Michael McCormack and 1 write-in vote for Steve Sprague as Chairman. There were 20 votes for David Decker as Vice-Chairman. There were 20 votes for Marla Pelowski as Secretary-Treasurer.

A big thank you to last year's officers. Be sure to give your support to this year's officers. By the time you read this, they will have taken office.

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## Cascade Grotto Balance Sheet

December 31, 2003

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking	\$1,096.60
Saving	\$1,460.89
Petty Cash	\$ 23.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,580.49</b>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	\$1,592.82
Retained Earnings	\$ 797.34
Net Income	\$ 190.33
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$2,580.49</b>

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## January 2004 Meeting Minutes

By Marla A. Pelowski, Secretary-Treasurer

January 16, 2004

Attendance: Michael McCormack, Diane Pierce, Emily Ingram, Hester Mallonée, Van Bergen, Dave Decker, Dick Garnick, Marla A. Pelowski, Michael Pound, Leigh Hugdahl

*Treasurer's Report:* As of 12/31/03 the grotto accounts hold a total of \$2,557.49.

### Old Business:

1. Convention. Mark Sherman and Dick Garnick are working together on a list of caves sorted by county. It has been suggested that we begin checking the caves for use in the convention guidebook. Printed direction sheets should be used at Convention and no printed directions should appear in the guidebook.
2. Convention. March 20, 2004, is the BOG meeting in Vegas where we need to submit our bid for Convention. Once the bid is submitted, Carol Tiderman will do a site check and an official vote usually happens at next Convention.
3. Convention. Dick Garnick provided a list of positions that need to be filled ASAP for Convention planning.
4. Oregon Caves. Hester received a letter from Oregon Parks that releases us from all liability. Need to know ASAP if you will be going on the trip, but arrangements can be made if you need to make your decision last minute. Core dates are February 13-16.

### New Business:

1. Ballots were counted and new officers announced:  
Chairman: Michael McCormack  
Vice-Chairman: Dave Decker  
Secretary-Treasurer: Marla A. Pelowski
2. February 15, 2004, the Grotto is required

to submit to the NSS its I/O Report including membership list and updated by-laws and operating procedures.

#### Trip Reports:

Emily went to TAG country and visited a beautiful cave with a 60-80' pit, formations everywhere, and civil war signatures.

Dave Decker looked for Bat Caves but couldn't locate it due to several inches of snow on the ground.

Dave Decker, Dave Hopf, and Hester Mallonée visited Deception Pass and found six bats. Hester painted the entrance of the cave looking out.

#### Upcoming Trips:

Plan on a trip to Bat Caves January 24, 2004.

unorganized trips to help out at Oregon Caves are welcome with advance notice. Thanks also to Hester for organizing the trip!

2. Convention. A rough draft of the proposal is ready for your review. It will be submitted to the BOG Monday. If you want to volunteer for Convention, contact Michael McCormack.

#### New Business:

1. The upcoming March Grotto meeting conflicts with the BOG Convention bid proposal trip to Las Vegas. Marla A. Pelowski will run the meeting as Michael and Dave will be in Las Vegas.
2. Mark Sherman needs assistants to publish the *Cascade Caver*. Marla, Nikki, and Emily can assist. If you can too, please contact Mark Sherman or Michael McCormack.

#### Trip Reports:

Pictures of Grotto members in compromising positions and attire from the Oregon Caves clean up trip were viewed by some. Note; watch out for those cameras at Grotto events.

Michael McCormack, Dave Decker, one of Dave's military buddies, and Hester Mallonée went to Singers Talus Cave. Dave's car died before the trailhead and was eventually towed by AAA. Dave Hopf gave the gang a ride back to Michael's car, which was not 4-wheel drive and had to be pushed up a hill. Once cave was achieved, they saw a small number of bats. Singers Talus Cave is a cool, complex, collapsed rubble cave. There was an incredible sunset.

#### Upcoming Trips:

2/22/4 – Vertical practice at Deception Pass. Dave Decker will rig a free line and tyrolian.

2/28/4 – Willamette Valley Grotto is having a vertical practice at Troutdale Community Center.

2/29/4 – Lower elevation trip to Concrete caves: Elderberry, Razorblade Straddle, and others. Dave Decker will lead.

3/20/4-BOG Convention Proposal trip.  
Pinnacles Friday, Gypsum Sunday.

NCRC Cave Rescue 6/17-6/26 in Indiana.

Wendel is willing to lead a trip to Bighorn and Horse Thief in Wyoming, early June if possible. Need eight people to commit.

Special Presentation:  
Video on Huautla Mexican Cave.

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### Senger's Talus Cave – 24 January 2004

By Dave Decker

**Hot Donuts Now!** flashed at Charlie Hubbard and I as we pulled into the parking lot at Krispy-Kreme Donuts in Burlington. Hester Mallonée was sitting in a booth next to the window sorting through her new cave painting kit, so Charlie and I invited her to join us for a free donut hot off the press. Minutes later Michael McCormack joined us and we waited until 10:30 for anybody else to show, all the while munching on warm, melt-in-your-mouth pastries and sucking down coffee.

When the signified time rolled around and nobody else had showed, we all piled into my truck and headed off toward the cave. As we drove north on the interstate my Montero, which had been showing signs of a failing clutch, finally decided to call it quits. We limped into the Shell station in Alger, where we made a flurry of phone calls to get a tow truck, change our callouts, arrange other transportation and finally, thanks to Dave Hopf who lived nearby, a ride back to Burlington to get another car! As luck would have it, Dave and the tow-truck pulled up one after the other so no one had to wait around and the delay in getting back on the road was

kept to a mere two hours.

As we headed back to Alger, which was our original exit from the freeway, it started to snow. Big, heavy flakes the size of quarters were whizzing past the window as we dashed past car after car to make up for lost time. Pulling off I-5 at exit 240, there was an inch of snow on the ground where two hours earlier there had been none! This time we were in Michael's car, which had traction control but not four-wheel drive. It didn't become a problem until about three miles from the cave when we turned onto a gravel road and started climbing up the side of Blanchard Hill, at which point I think we all wished we were back in my truck with four-wheel drive.

As we spun our way up the hill, the snow kept falling and the road kept getting more treacherous. At one point, all three passengers had to get out and push to get the car up one particularly steep section! Once we reached the crest, we decided not to chance it any further and pulled over at the first place we could find to park. We changed clothes and hiked the short distance to the trailhead along the road then through the beautiful Douglas fir and western hemlock forest to the cave. On route, there were several stream crossings and



one notable outcrop of 160 million year old Greenstone<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> "Hiking Washington's Geology", Babcock and Carson, 2000

The talus piles where the caves are located were extremely treacherous. Covered with snow, the rocks were very slick with holes everywhere. We took our time making our way over and between the rocks looking for an entrance. We found one particularly beautiful piece of graffiti; someone had painted an arctic tundra scene with wooly mammoths trudging through the snow. It wasn't hard to imagine them coming to life with the large fluffy flakes falling all around us as we marveled at the delicacy of the painting. Within minutes we found one of the entrances and after a short lunch break made our way into the caves at 3:00.

Inside the rock pile was like being inside a house of cards. Boulder piled on top of boulder, all looking like they could fall at any moment. We carefully made our way past an overhanging rock into a small room with a passage leading down to the left into a larger room. This first room had some "cave-shine" on the walls and several moths hanging from the ceiling. The larger room below had several leads, so after a quick group photo on the rock in the center of the room, we all split up to check different leads. Charlie's lead pinched out, as did Hester's. Mike's kept going and so did mine, so we just picked one and followed it, making sure we knew where we had come from. It would be too easy to get lost in this cave, where every turn looks nearly identical to the last. This passage led deeper into the rock pile and eventually we came to another room. In this one we found several bats that seemed to be hibernating so we quietly backtracked and left them in peace.

We didn't want to be wandering about on top of the boulder pile after dark since it was so slippery, so we decided it was a good time to turn around and exit the cave. Back at the entrance, it was snowing harder than ever. We couldn't even see the top of the cliff 200 feet above and the light was like dusk. We had only been in the cave for 45 minutes, but a good inch-and-a-half of snow had fallen

while we were inside covering up most of our tracks!

It took us an hour to hike back to the car, and on the way back we were treated to one of the most beautiful sunsets I've ever seen. Imagine a scene where the mountains rising out of the sea are a muted, soft purple, the sky above is a darkish blue with a pale orange sun beating through the icy clouds and the water, which covers the whole of the mid-ground, is a garish, brassy gold reflecting the meager light of the waning sun. Just incredible! Once we got back to the car, Michael checked the outside temperature to see just how cold it was; it read a rather comfortable 32 degrees F.

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## GROTTO T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Cascade Grotto T-shirts

\$15.00 each

Sizes available: Adult XL, L, M, S

Limited quantities are available.

Contact Marla Pelowski if you are interested in a shirt.

