



# *Cascade Caver*

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

March 2004, Volume 43 No. 3

---



# Cascade Caver

ISSN 0008-7211

Copyright 2004 by the Cascade Grotto. All rights reserved

The *Cascade Caver* is published approximately 10 times a year by the Cascade Grotto, a local chapter of the National Speleological Society. Any material in this newsletter that is not copyrighted by an individual or another group may be copied or reprinted by internal organizations of the National Speleological Society provided that credit is given to the author and to the *Cascade Caver* and that a copy of the newsletter containing the material is sent to the Editor. Other organizations must contact the Editor.

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 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@flukenetworks.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

July 12-16	NSS Convention Marquette, MI
July 16	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
July 17	Boulder Cave Contact Dave Decker
July 17-18	Rotten Egg & Dopey Caves (Trout Lake) Contact Claude Koch at claudekoch@uswest.net
July 18	Cascade Cave Contact Hester Mallonee.
July 24	Iron Curtain Cave B.C. Contact Dick Garnick.
July 24-25	Deer Cave (Trout Lake) contact Claude Koch (see above)
August 7	Papoose Cave, Idaho. Contact Aaron Stavens.
August 20	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
September 17	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
August 2006	NSS Convention Bellingham, WA

**COVER:** Dave Decker took this picture of Josh Fedora's boots, squeezing through Bashful Cave, which is located in the Trout Lake area. Josh was attached to the boots at the time.

---

Cascade Grotto Balance Sheet  
June 30, 2004

**Assets:**

Current Assets  
  Checking/Savings  
    Checking           397.98  
    Saving            1771.48  
  Total Checking/Sa... 2169.46

Other Current Assets  
  Petty Cash           55.00  
  Total Other Curre... 55.00

Total Assets                   2224.46

**Liabilities & Equity:**

Equity  
  Opening Bal Equity   1592.82  
  Retained Earnings    987.67  
  Net Income           -356.03  
  Total Equity           2224.46

Total Liabilities & Equity   2224.46

---

June 2004 Meeting Minutes

By Marla A. Pelowski, Secretary-Treasurer

**ATTENDANCE:**

Garrett Coffman, Renato Dalle Mule, Dave Decker, Josh Fedora, Dick Garnick, Stuart Monson, Glennis Monson, Loran Payne, Marla A. Pelowski, Mark Sherman, Thomas Stit

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Convention.** A small contingent from the Cascade Grotto will be going to this year's NSS Convention in Michigan. We recently learned that the Florida grotto will be submitting their bid for the 2006 Convention at the 2004 Michigan Convention. It has been suggested that Michael McCormack, as grotto

Chair, attend the 2004 Convention in order to obtain support for the Cascade Grotto's 2006 Convention Bid. Michael McCormack has offered to donate his Convention fee, vacation time, hotel expense, and rental car expense, but would like reimbursement for airfare to attend. Mark Sherman moved to reimburse up to \$300. Dick Garnick seconded.

**Convention.** In order to help gain support for the Cascade Grotto's bid at the 2004 Convention, posters could be created and placed around Convention. Michael McCormack would like reimbursement for any such posters. Dick Garnick moved for reimbursement. After discussion by the grotto, which held that this could be viewed as overtly infringing on advertising for the 2005 Convention, the motion died for lack of a second.

**Convention.** Buttons were suggested instead of the posters. It was discussed that buttons would be a more subtle way of getting people to consider the grotto's 2006 Convention bid. Dick Garnick has a button making machine and offered to throw something together for a few people attending the 2004 Convention. Dick Garnick moved and Garrett Coffman seconded.

**Legal Releases.** A topic for discussion brought up at the meeting--Does the Cascade Grotto need parental waivers for underage members? For that matter, should we have releases for all members for every trip? Does it set us up for other potential liability? Discussion was tabled for further consideration and input.

**Ape Cave and Safe Caving.** Another topic for discussion--Should the Cascade Grotto become more active in promoting safe caving in conjunction with the Forest Service at Ape Cave? It is the opinion of a couple members that the safe caving signs at Ape Cave are considerably lacking and do not follow NSS

policy. Being such a high tourist area, we could attempt to promote safe caving accurately. Discussion tabled for further consideration and input.

**Grotto Minutes.** The Cascade Grotto minutes are now posted on the grotto web site at [www.cascadegrotto.org](http://www.cascadegrotto.org) in the members section area only.

**Cascade Caver.** The first issue of the *Cascade Caver* for 2004 is ready and will be emailed/mailed. If you didn't get your copy, let Mark Sherman know. It will also be posted to the grotto web site at [www.cascadegrotto.org](http://www.cascadegrotto.org). If you have articles to write, now is the time. Mark Sherman is looking for more articles for future issues of the *Cascade Caver*.

### **TRIP REPORTS:**

Many members from the grotto went to Senger's Talus cave with Carol Tideman, the NSS representative who was here on her site visit for the Cascade Grotto's 2006 Convention bid. Everyone had a good time.

Dave Decker went to a rescue weekend with the Canadian cavers (approximately 20 people), Phil Whitfield teaching. Caves visited during the training were Main Cave, Lower Main Cave, and River Bend. Of course, the simulated injury happened all the way at the back of the cave.

Dave Decker also went to Lake Lanore caves by Lower Grand Cooley. Mainly shelter caves, but interestingly formed. Supposedly, when a glacier dam broke loose, the water swirled round and round and dug out caves in the basalt.

Mark Sherman went to climb Mt. St. Helens with some Boy Scouts, but too wet that day so they went to Ape Cave instead.

Marla Pelowski and Loran Payne went to Ape Cave where it was raining more inside the cave than outside that day.

### **UPCOMING TRIPS:**

06/26/04 Trout Lake. Contact Dave Decker.

07/17/04 Boulder Cave. Contact Dave Decker.

07/24/04 Iron Curtain. Contact Dick Garnick. Undetermined. Three Mile Creek. Continued dig. Contact Dick Garnick if interested.

**PROGRAM:** Cavesafe Video, Series 3, Single Rope Technique and Advanced Rope Work

---

### National Park Cave Website

By Mark Sherman

As most people know the National Parks are an important part of this country's heritage. The Park Service protects and maintains some of the most beautiful natural resources in the world. There are 120 parks, almost one third of the total, that contain caves or have karst features and there are almost 4000 caves under the management of the Park Service.

For anyone who enjoys visiting our Parks or who is interested in keeping abreast of what is going on with caves in our National Parks and Monuments, you should take a look at: <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/geology/caves/newsletter.htm>.

This website lists the parks with cave tours, covers the federal acts and regulations pertaining to caves and has the usual photo gallery and caving links.

The part that I enjoy the most is the *Inside Earth* newsletter, which comes out three times per year. All of the issues dating back to 1998 are included at this site.

This newsletter usually has a feature article or two highlighting something going on in one of the parks. This latest issue, Spring 2004, in on "Temperature Fluctuations Caused by Lighting Systems in Wind Cave, South Dakota. After the feature article, it then has individual articles covering what's going on in a lot of the major parks (there is almost always something on Wind, Jewel, and Carlsbad as well as Oregon Caves and Sequoia).

---

### Newton Bottoming Trip, July 10, 2004

*(Based on a true story.)*

By Aaron Stavens

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of July in the year 2004, the courageous Sir Michael McCormack called forth a hardy band of adventurers to lay siege to the mighty Newton cave. Approaching 700 feet in depth with 5 rope drops, Newton is a formidable adversary. In addition to our brave leader, the adventurers included the lovely Lady Nikki McCormack, the trusty Squire Ben Sainsbury, and your humble bard Aaron Stavens.

Sir McCormack commanded our assembly at the Alpentel parking lot at the hour of seven. Demonstrating his deep understanding of Northwest cavers, Sir McCormack arrived twenty minutes after the appointed hour to ensure all others had arrived. Thus a speedy departure from the parking lot was effected.

The trek up to the cave was pleasantly cool and humid. Fortune smiled on us as the humidity made the dreaded black fly and that blood sucking vermin called the mosquito nearly non-existent. Our route through the hanging valley treated us to streams, waterfalls, and sweeping vistas. Near the tenth hour we reached the maw of Newton Cave. We were shortly suited up and the adventure began.

The cave immediately began to work on our group with its humidity and cold. But we were fresh and undaunted. The rope drops flew by. The forty foot. The Water Well. The third drop. At each drop we checked the integrity of the ropes, as we did not know what might have come before. At the bottom of the third we rested and consumed some of our rations. Then off to the fourth drop and down. Hah! The meager waterfall was nothing! We were ready for whatever the cave might bring, but the cave had more in store.

The Colon Crawl is a rather daunting looking, horizontal, body-sized tube about 15-20' long. I, the bard, was the first to brave the peril. I entered into the Crawl in the proscribed position with my hands above my head pushing my pack before me. I had full body contact with the rock thus allowing it to work its full measure on my precious body heat. As I progressed, the crawl became tighter. My hips wedged! No, it was my harness. With a bit of wiggle and a lot of pulling, the cave released me and I was through. Next came the Lady McCormack and Squire Sainsbury. Both slid through like river otters. And finally our fearless leader, Sir McCormack made the attempt. As had I, so too did he become wedged at the exit to the Colon Crawl. With a mighty roar and a hefty pull from the Squire Sainsbury, Sir McCormack was free of his tiny prison. We were all through.

As the next barrier, the cave threw up the Lightning Passage. My first attempt at the entrance was thwarted by a poor body position. I retreated to regroup. Squire Sainsbury, eager to test his caving prowess, took the opportunity and made short work of the passage. By this time I had recovered and made my second attempt. I was through the initial bend. And the second. Too tight! I retreated to remove my harness and made it on the second try. Next came the lithe Lady McCormack and finally Sir McCormack. He experienced the same issues with his harness

as I, but soon we were all at the top of the fifth and final drop.

But alas! The perils proved to be too perilous. Lady McCormack is not as well, shall we say, insulated as some of us. The cave had relentlessly lowered her body temperature and she could bear no more. Newton Cave had beaten us back once again. But wait! So close to the prize, Squire Sainsbury was not to be deterred. He bounced the fifth without the benefit of the rebelay simply to make the bottom. The cave showed its final defense and he returned drenched from his excursion. We were done and on the retreat.

The Lightning Passage and the Colon Crawl proved no easier on exit than on entry. Upon Sir McCormack's exit from the Colon Crawl, the cave sprung its final trap. It dropped several large rocks on Sir McCormack's head. Fortunately, he was able to parry them to the side and avoid real injury. Thus began the long, slow climb out of the cave. At approximately half past the eighth hour the last of us emerged from the bowels of the earth into twilight. As we packed for the hike down, the cave made its final insult. It started to rain and continued until we staggered up to our cars.

## *Advice for the Prudent Newton Adventurer:*

- Warmth is of utmost importance. Dress for cold temperatures, high humidity, and cold water. Immersion is not necessary, but you will get wet.
- Eat! The cave will relentlessly steal your energy.
- Inspect the anchors, rigging, and ropes for soundness and damage before use. You never know what devilment the cave might have perpetrated in preparation for the next party. The next party will want to pay particular attention to the rope at the

fourth drop. Upon my arrival, a part of the ledge at the top of the drop collapsed and dropped a fair amount of rock. The rock fall might have struck the rope.

- Stout individuals would be wise to doff their vertical accoutrements before entering the Colon Crawl. Do not re-don until you have reached the fifth drop. The distance from the end of the Colon Crawl to the top of the fifth drop is short but tight.
- Enter the Lightning Passage headfirst on you back.
- Rig and use the rebelay on the 5<sup>th</sup> drop. It should hold the vertical wayfarer out of the waterfall.

Not content with the rigors of Newton, Squire Sainsbury will next be adventuring in Great X. The Lady McCormack? This enigmatic personage is beyond a lowly bard such as myself. As for Sir McCormack and myself, we have vowed to return as wiser and thinner men!

---

## **Cave Capers**

By Eve Proper

My Indiana caving has been quite limited, despite my nine months' residence in the state, so I jumped at the chance to attend what I was assured was *the* event of the year, Cave Capers.

Cave Capers is put on by the Central Indiana Grotto and serves as something of a regional for the state. The location changes from year to year, and this year, the 51<sup>st</sup>, it was held in Marengo in southern Indiana. Marengo is prime caving country; there are several commercial caves in the area in addition to the many wild caves. The event itself was being held at the 4H campground as a trial run for the Indiana 2007 convention bid location.

I landed in Indianapolis late on a Friday night and was picked up at the airport by Adam

Manship of the CIG. As an exec board member, he had arrived on the premises Thursday night and helped set up camp. Since I didn't get down to camp until after midnight, I was glad to not have to be fumbling with a tent at that hour, especially since there weren't many sober people awake.

I was told that Thursday had been quite hot. Local weather had been odd, however; a tornado had swept through Marengo two weeks earlier and done enough damage that FEMA had been called out. This should have been a sign that that heat and humidity wouldn't last. At least we didn't see any more tornadoes – but Saturday morning we woke up to rain, not mild-mannered Washington rain but severe thunderstorms. A literal damper was put on the joy of camping, and flood threats kept most people out of the area caves. Adam and I elected the relative safety of a commercial tour of Wyandotte Cave.

That was about all we had time for, since Adam was in charge of the evening's barbecue for nearly 200 people. Cave Capers is a big event, and this was the first year they had elected to prepare it themselves rather than having it catered. Traditionally, the dinner is followed by door prizes, a speaker, and music. While Adam was cooking, I took the opportunity to check out the vendors. Sales were down because of the miserable weather, unfortunately. I was quite tempted by a leopard-fur trimmed B&C suit until I remembered that full-on cave suits aren't practical in Indiana.

The dinner went quite well. I caught up with a lot of CIG cavers I hadn't seen in a month or two. Then there was a lull. Last year, the door prizes were given away by a team of attractive women. This year's women required a bit more prep time, though, because under most circumstances they were men. Four of the CIG's braver men, including Adam, were in drag. Let's just say that none of them would

give Ru Paul a run for his money.

Marion O. Smith gave a talk on his caving exploits, and afterwards the Terminal Siphons played. The band did not, regrettably, include Van Bergen. The audience thinned out fast – you didn't have to be in the pavilion to hear the music, and a lot of people went back to their own tents for the rest of the evening.

Sunday morning was just as soggy. People packed out awfully early in order to beat the rain. The campsite was a sodden mess at that point. Even pickup trucks were being towed out of the mud. In case you're considering convention 2007, the campground is currently undergoing improvements, and there should be paved roads in place by that time. (Also, that much rain is totally unseasonable!)

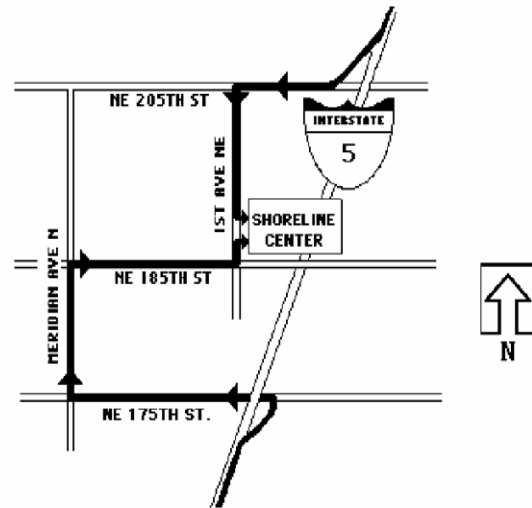
A group of us headed over to Marengo Cave and took two different commercial tours. Of the two caves we visited, Marengo was much prettier. I'm used to caves under government management, though, and was constantly surprised by the number of formations right next to or even on the trail. The guides' admonitions not to touch anything were clearly frequently unheeded.

It was disappointing not to be able to get any real caving in over the weekend, but flood danger is real in that part of the country. You don't want to be trapped underground with rising waters. As consolation, of course, I have at least a year and a half of caving left in Indiana while I'm working on my degree, so I'll undoubtedly get back down to that area again.

---

The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Shoreline Community Center. The Community Center is located at 18560, 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE in Shoreline. To get to the Community Center from Seattle, take Exit 176 on Interstate 5 (175<sup>th</sup> St. N) and turn left at the light at the bottom of the off ramp. At the next traffic light (Meridian Ave. N) turn right. Turn right at 185<sup>th</sup> St. N (the next light). Turn left on 1<sup>st</sup> NE, which again is the next light. The Community Center is on the right. Don't get confused with the Senior Center, which is on the end of the building. Enter the building on the southwest corner and find the Hamlin Room.

---



Cascade Caver  
P.O. Box 66623  
Seattle, WA 98166