

The background of the cover is a photograph of a cave interior. Two prominent, thick, light-colored stalactites hang vertically from the ceiling. The cave walls are a mix of brown and tan rock. In the upper right corner, there is a stylized logo for 'CASCADE Caver'. The word 'CASCADE' is in a large, serif font, with two mountain peaks integrated into the letters 'S' and 'D'. Below it, the word 'Caver' is in a smaller, similar font, with a small waterfall graphic integrated into the letter 'a'.

CASCADE Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto, National Speleological Society

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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. 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*.

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Chairman	Jon McGinnis	(???) 377-1978
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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 1st Ave NE in Shoreline. Please see the back cover for directions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
June 25	Albright Cave. Contact Van Bergan.
July 2-4	Trout Lake area. Trout Lake Campground.
July 4-8	NSS Convention, Huntsville, Alabama.
July 15	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
July 23-24	Trout Lake Party. Contact Jon McGinnis
August 19	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Shoreline Community Center
August 2006	NSS Convention Bellingham, WA

COVER

This month's cover photo, of ice formations in Spiderman Cave was taken by Michael McCormick.

Cascade Grotto May Meeting Minutes

By Marla A. Pelowski, Secretary-Treasurer

ATTENDANCE:

Van Bergen, Josh Fedora, Emily Ingram, Hester Mallonee, Julie & Jon McGinnis, Robert Mitchell, Loran Payne, Marla A. Pelowski, Mark Sherman, Steve Sprague and Aaron Stavens.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: There is a combined \$1957.66 in checking and savings as of April 30, 2005.

The minutes from the March 2005 meeting were incorrect as to Michael McCormack's proposal on Nalgene type bottles with the Cascade Grotto logo. It was stated that \$6 per bottle would be allowed up to \$75. The \$75 should have been 75 in quantity. To clarify, Michael will be allowed a maximum of \$450 to spend on the project. Marla A. Pelowski moved, Hester Mallonee seconded, and all approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Cascade Grotto needs a representative for the NCA Regional on June 10-12. Dave Decker was originally appointed but he may not be in the country. Marla A. Pelowski was volunteered as the representative. Jon McGinnis moved, Van Bergen seconded, and the majority in favor.

The Pacific Science Center has asked the Grotto to put on a performance for their RISK conference July 29, 2005. They want the Grotto strictly for entertainment purposes at a coat and tails dinner with approximately 800 guests. They would like us to rappel and climb for approximately 1 ½ hours. Full details are to be worked out, but preliminaries are: up to \$450 in expenses will be

reimbursed, dinner will be provided, the grotto needs to obtain a 1 million dollar insurance policy, two ropes will be used. Jon McGinnis will look into the insurance policy and try to see if we can get what was used the previous time. Contact Jon if you want to rappel.

TRIP REPORTS:

Mark Sherman went to Lake Cave on a Boy Scout troop trip.

Hester Mallonee went to Succor Creek and saw Fern Pit and got to see the infamous frogs. The pit is approximately 150' across from the inside. There was a Boy Scout troop climbing on knots. Since they didn't have any chest attachment points, they were mainly climbing on their own strength. The cavers had to assist a couple of the scouts with the climb and proper gear set up.

PROGRAM:

Mark Sherman gave a lesson on surveying with everyone practicing in the hallway.

Cascade Grotto June Meeting Minutes

By Marla A. Pelowski, Secretary-Treasurer

ATTENDANCE:

Van Bergen, Dan Crape, Paul Hill, Emily Ingram, Julie & Jon McGinnis, Robert Mitchell, Loran Payne, Marla A. Pelowski, and Steve Sprague.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: \$1990.66 combined savings, checking, and petty cash as of 5/31/05.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bruce Bannerman (runs slide shows at Convention) is trying to get people signed up for a Caver's Cruise in February 2006. Van will post a link on the list serve.

The Convention staff is looking for those going to Huntsville to help volunteer at the 2006 Convention booth. Contact Michael McCormack or Van Bergan.

Steve Sprague has been discussing grotto programs with Mark Sherman. They suggest doing the 2nd half of the cave survey training in a cave, perhaps Jackman Creek. They could possibly do it at Trout Lake also at the upcoming July party. They will keep us posted.

Rod Crawford has old gear he wants to donate – no vertical gear. Paul Hill suggested having it donated to the grotto and then auction it off. We will get a more detailed list as to what he has and go from there as to what to do with the gear.

PROGRAM:

Steve Sprague gave an informative, hands on lesson and tour of GPS units.

North Vancouver Island Recon Trip – Labor Day, 2004

By Van Bergen

There was supposed to be a grotto trip to the Island for Labor Day this year, but one by one the instigators dropped out. By the time I realized I had the weekend free, Larry McTigue was the only other Washingtonian who could go. Larry had been to the North Island before, but it was a long time ago and he wasn't sure he could find any caves. We exchanged e-mails about the likelihood of finding some Canadians to cave with at the last minute, of finding some caves if there were no Canadian guides available, and of going caving as a party of two in such a remote area. All doubts were overcome by the prospect of a scenic road trip, and the slim possibility that we'd end up on a memorable cave trip.

We left early Saturday morning in Larry's 4WD Toyota truck. Larry doesn't like to drive on long trips, so I ended up driving the whole way. That was fine by me; driving Larry's truck brought back fond memories of the Land Cruiser I owned many years ago in Colorado. We had been warned about long lines at the Tsawassen ferry terminal, but Larry said all the Canadians had probably made their crossing on Friday evening, and he was right. The ferry wasn't anywhere near full, and the voyage to Nanaimo was beautiful.

As we drove north from Nanaimo, we started calling Canadians. Larry had some phone numbers, and we looked up some others. Everyone we called had already made non-caving plans for the weekend. At the North End, Peter Curtis was taking some friends mountain climbing, and Rob Countess was taking some clients mushroom hunting. Rob and Margaret invited us to stay at their place outside Port Hardy, even though we'd be getting in late (it's a **long** ride up there!). And they promised maps and directions.

We finally found a number for Jack Tilsley, whom we had met caving at Tahsis last year. He said he'd leave his home in Courtenay the next morning at 6 and meet us at Countess's at 9. We found Countess's new house just in time for hellos and sleep. Next morning, we went for a walk on the beach while waiting for Jack. When we got back to the house, there was a message from him saying he couldn't make it after all. We were on our own again, but now we had maps and directions.

We decided to look for Resonance Cave, where Dangerous Dick and the Duckbusters made their first music together. In the same area, we hoped to find a new dig called Sparkling, the big Arch-Treasure system, and maybe more. At the North End, except for Port Hardy and Port McNeill and a few small resorts along the coast, there's very little except forest. Oh, yeah, and limestone! The only way to get to the limestone is on logging

roads. They're not signed and they all look the same. Margaret had told us to follow the blue flagging; unfortunately, someone else also decided to use blue flagging. At a key intersection where there actually was a sign, the sign was lying in the bush, and it had no arrow. So we had a long tour of the local logging roads, many of which were so overgrown they barely qualified as roads, and most of which required low-range 4WD.

We finally found the right road up to the cave area, and quickly found Sparkling, which is only a few feet off the road. It was a short little hole, slanting steeply down and full of rocks. The Canadians had urged us to dig on it. They must know suckers when they see them. I got out my folding army shovel and we dug a little, and Larry moved some rocks around, but with the steep slope everything just rolled back down to the dig face. I think we managed to remove about as much stuff as we kicked into the dig on the way in. There's no place to turn around at the dig face, the dirt is hard and full of rocks, and there's no air. The cave must go somewhere, but getting the debris out of the hole will be a major project. Definitely not a job for two.

The view outside the cave was spectacular, all the way to Port Hardy. Wait, all the way to Port Hardy? Cell-phone line of sight? Yes! We called Countesses for directions to Arch, and also to tell them we would not be coming down the mountain that evening as planned. Rob invited us to stay in his tent trailer, which was conveniently parked at the trailhead to Arch. We also got directions to Resonance, but decided that Arch was closer, so that's where we headed.

It's a short hike downhill from the road to Arch, but it was late in the day and we didn't relish trying to stay on the trail in the dark on the way back up to camp, so we figured we'd have a short trip. And that we did. Arch has a pretty entrance, and the thick, smooth

limestone reminded me of a Kentucky cave, except it was headed downhill a lot steeper. It was a lot colder too, but that's why we wear these nylon suits and fleece undies in the Great Northwest, right?

The entrance passage came out in a big room with a stream coming in from the right and crashing down a booming passage to the left. There were big leads going off in several directions. First we headed down the main passage; it was beautiful, with high ceiling and sculpted walls and roaring stream. But before long, we came to a waterfall. It was rigged with a Dale Ladder (a rope ladder designed by Dale Chase, who lives up there and has installed ladders all over the Island), but the ladder went right down the waterfall. There was no other rig point.

Since I had my trusty nylon suit and fleece undies on, I popped right down. Unfortunately, Larry didn't have his nylon suit. He looked around for a climb-down without excessive exposure, but there was none. We both agreed that it would be unwise for him to get soaked by the ice-cold water. I took a quick look around the next corner, which revealed a short pitch with a rope already rigged. The stream continued down the booming passage into darkness. It felt huge.

We headed back up to the first room and checked out the leads. A couple got too tight right away, but the uphill slope continued on and on and turned into a phreatic tube, still going uphill. When it became a water crawl, we turned around. When the passage opened up, we could see the long soda straws that we had missed on the way in. Arch also has some nice flowstone.

Back outside, it was already getting dark, but Larry wanted to see if he could find another cave nearby called Double Vision. We thrashed around in the darkening woods and

found its twin entrances. Larry poked inside a little, while I rested and enjoyed the evening (as opposed to enjoying the steep climb down there and back up). Larry said it looked a lot like Arch. The stream in Arch probably comes from Double Vision, since it's right up the hill from Arch. I don't know how much the Canadians have tried to connect those two, but they have made many other connections in the area, including the connection of Arch and Treasure caves into one system.

By now it was dark, so we headed back to camp, called Countesses to report that we were out and safe, and Larry built a fire. It was clear and cold, the fire was warm, the stars were out in force, and there were no mosquitoes. Doesn't get any better. Next morning, we stopped in Port McNeill to have breakfast and visit Peter Curtis. Peter has an amazing collection of rocks in and around his place. This time we had daylight for the long drive on the highway, and Larry pointed out several obvious limestone areas in the mountains along the way to Nanaimo.

Limestone, forest, and hardly any people. Once again the ferry from Nanaimo wasn't crowded, although we missed one by just a few minutes. We spent a lot of time driving and not much time caving, but it was more than worth it. If someone wanted to go caving in a beautiful area, and had a week's vacation to spend, I can't think of a better place to spend it. The trip to Arch, though short, was memorable after all. I remember I need to go back there.

Overflowing with Caves

By Garry Petrie

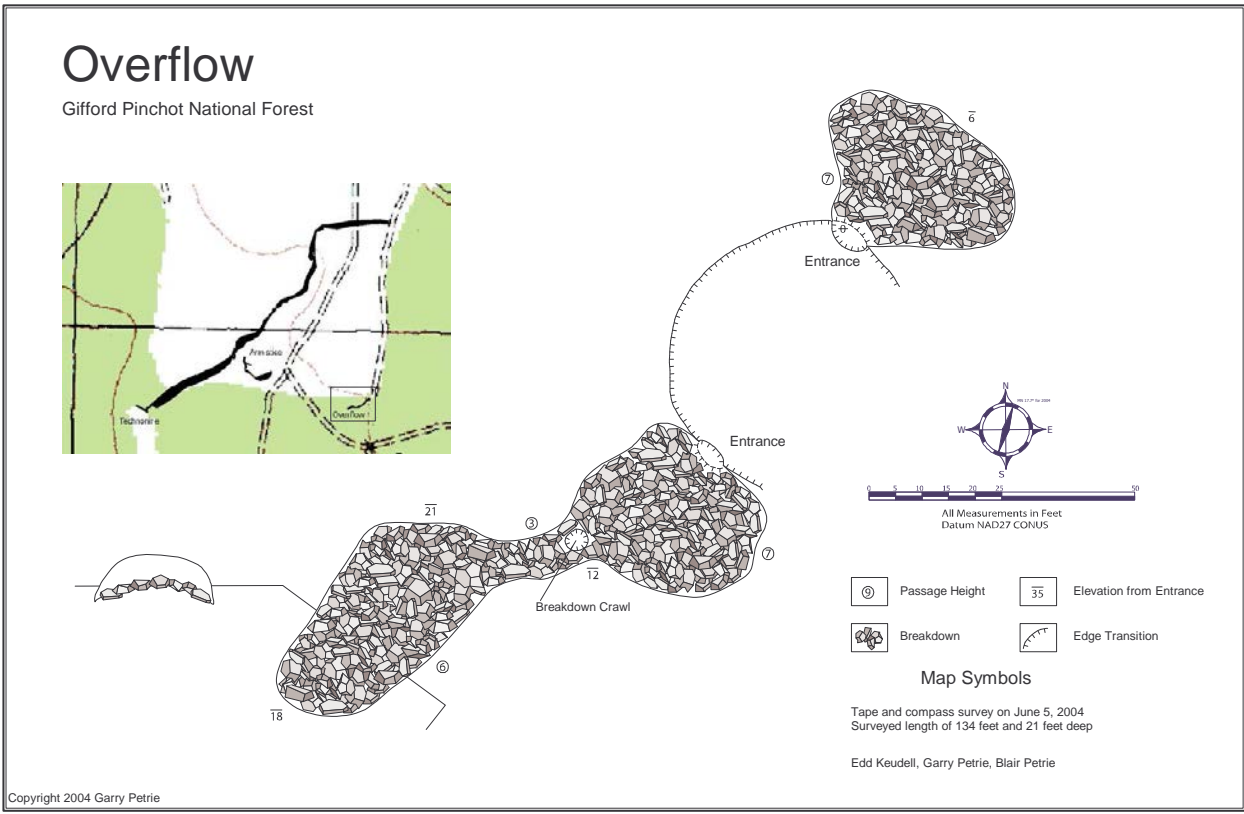
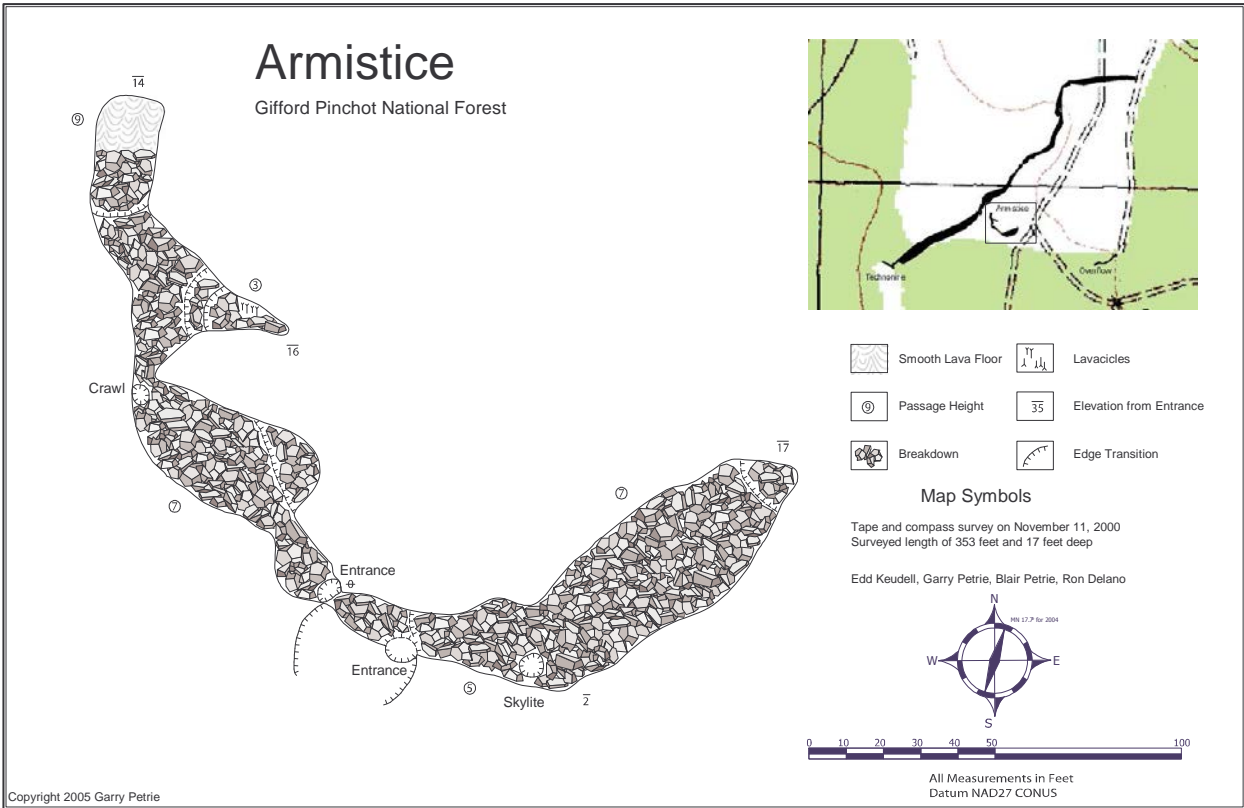
The description for Overflow Cave reads as, "This is a short cave segment discovered 7/4/74 by members of the Oregon Grotto while surveying the trench system which forms the southwest

extension of the Big Trench System south of the Lava Bridges interpretive site. The cave has an entrance at each end." The length of the cave was recorded as 74 feet. In 1992 Technonine was discovered as the true extension of the Big Trench. In between Technonine and the Big Trench is a series of entrances to a shallow system that cross perpendicular to main flow.

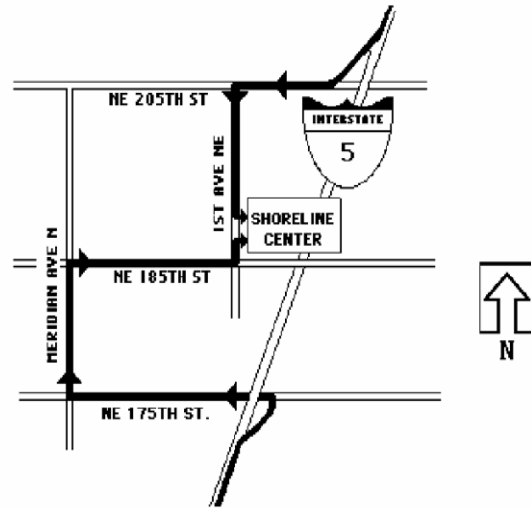
While exploring this area on November 11, 2000, Ron Delano, Blair Petrie, Edd Keudell and I came across a larger cave. We surveyed the cave to a length of 352 feet, but on exiting the cave discovered a brass cap with the number 28. How could this be Overflow? The cave we explored has two entrances in the sink with short breakdown crawls leading to large chambers in each direction. The right branch chamber has a skylight, while the left branch chamber has a tight crawl that leads to a third chamber with original floor and some lavacicles. We believe this cave not to be Overflow and I have named it Armistice Cave.

In between Armistice Cave and the Big Trench, next to the dirt road, is another pair of sinks. One of the sinks has two entrances to initial chambers at opposite ends. The western entrance contains a crawl that was opened up by moving loose rocks that leads to a nice extension of about 50 feet. Excluding the new extension, the length of the cave would be about 75 feet. Should the description read, "The cave has an entrance at each end of the sink?"

Recently, I was able to review Jim Nieland's original sketch of the Overflow System he did in 1974. The trend of the system he was trying to describe starts at the southern end of the Technonine Trench and heads NE towards the Big Trench. His map does not show any cave in the area of Armistice, but it is obviously not virgin since the entrance is marked with a brass cap. Still, Jim's map does not quite map what we think might be Overlook Cave. Work for another day will need to cover the ground south of Armistice as there appears to be more cave to be found.



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, 1st Ave NE in Shoreline. To get to the Community Center from Seattle, take Exit 176 on Interstate 5 (175th 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 185th St. N (the next light). Turn left on 1st 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.



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