A young child is climbing a large tree trunk. The child is wearing a white helmet, a dark jacket, and blue pants. They are secured with a red harness and a yellow helmet-shaped device. A green rope is attached to the child's harness. The tree is surrounded by lush green foliage, and the scene is brightly lit by sunlight.

# CASCADE Climber

December,  
2012

Volume 51,  
Issue 3

# Cascade Caver



Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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## About the Cover...

### "Tyrolean Jousting"

at Michael and Nikki

McCormick's 4th of July party.

Photo by Robert Mitchell.

See article and photo essay  
on pages 15-18.

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## From the Cascade Caver Co-Editors...

Winter is almost here, and with it, at last is another issue of the Cascade Caver for you to enjoy. Although it is later than planned due to family and computer issues, it is just in time to cozy up by the fire with your favorite beverage and reminisce about warmer caving days. **Robert Mitchell** sent in a fun photo essay about Tyrolean jousting--wish we had been there! Long-time member **Jerry Thompson** submitted not one but TWO well written articles, one co-authored by another long-time member, **Jim Harp**, involving some out-of-state caving projects. On the other end of the spectrum, first-time contributors **Scott Wilson** and **Makis Rubicon** take us once more into the mindset of beginners with some delightful insights and even funnier pictures. To round out this issue, we, your editors, managed to submit a few items as well.

So as you sit by that fire reading these fine articles, perhaps such thoughtful reflection will motivate some of you to send us an e-mail or give us a call to chat about the cave trips you've been on recently but for which you just haven't gotten around to writing that trip report. We know how it is; we both still have trip reports to write, too. From listening to the trip reports at the monthly meetings (summarized at the end of the Cascade Caver), I know there is plenty of material for another issue this winter, if you will just get it to us.

And as always, don't forget your camera when you go caving! or to caving events! or to frankfurter roasts or picnic or parties or marshmallows toasts! (wait, isn't that Dr. Seuss...?)

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Membership in the Cascade Grotto is \$20 per year (includes electronic copies of publications) or \$28 (includes printed copies of publication). Membership for each additional family member is \$5.00 per year. Non-member subscription to the Cascade Caver is \$15.00 per year. All fees due Oct. 1 of each year (or pro-rated to the nearest dollar to next October if joining mid-year).

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# Cascade Grotto at June "Orientation to Cave Rescue" at Oregon Caves National Monument



Rescue crews move an immobilized "patient" through the cave. Photo by James Mooreshire.

By James Mooreshire

On June 6th and 7th 2012, the National Cave Rescue Commission offered an Orientation to Cave Rescue training event (O.C.R.) which was hosted by Oregon Caves National Monument near Cave Junction, Oregon. Cascade Grotto members Aaron Stavens and Hester Mallonee, along with Douglas County Mountain Rescue specialist Cory Sipher, assisted NCRC Northwestern Region coordinator John Panches in the instruction. [The author attended as a student.]

Many thanks not only to the instructors, but also to the National Park Service and chief ranger Tammy Henderson who arranged for a two-day

event (twice as long as some past O.C.R.s) and opened the training to non-staff attendance.

National Park Service staff, community park volunteers, local search and rescue team members, and cavers alike benefited from the opportunity to learn both in a classroom setting and on multiple in-cave simulated scenarios. Simulations involved applying the skills learned in the classroom, and focused first on the main tour trail route and then the off-trail tour route.

Along the main tour simulation, patient packaging and moving was relatively unhindered as the paved route and stairways had been built to accommodate a rigid stretcher. With nearly

40,000 tour visitors a year, it is the most likely stretch for an accident or medical emergency.

The off-trail tour involves climbing up and down, squeezing through tight crawling passages, and navigating around large pieces of breakdown. Our off-trail tour patient had to be treated for simulated injuries, was located in a very awkward tight pinch, and had to be safely navigated through the aforementioned obstacles in a SKED-model collapsible stretcher.

All in attendance were challenged, and everyone learned quite a lot. Overall, it was a very successful event!

A video of part of the on-trail simulation is on YouTube: "NCRC Orientation to Cave Rescue - Basic litter handling practice - Oregon Caves 6/5/12."



A patient, packaged for transport, is glad his injuries were simulated. Photo by James Mooreshire.

# Lake, Ashcast and Ape Caves, July 7-8, 2012: Two Beginners' Perspectives on Caving



Most of the group (James, Jeff, Derek Ken, Ruth, Kat, Ryan, Makis, and Scott) prepares to enter Lake Cave. Photo by Talon

By Scott Wilson, Kathryn Wilson and Makis Rubicon

**Editor's Note:** *No matter how many times I go caving, I never get tired of experiencing a cave through the eyes of a beginner, even if it's in a cave I've been through dozens of times. Everyone has a unique perspective, and I love the delight and awe and even trepidation that one can feel when exploring a cave for the first time. I hope this report showcases that perspective. It was written mostly by beginning caver Scott Wilson. Kat Wilson (no relation) conducted a telephone interview with another beginner, Makis Rubicon, about the same trip, and integrated her comments below. Other than some minor editing for grammar and clarity, the report was left as much as possible in Scott and Makis's own words.*

On July 7, 2012, several members and guests of Cascade Grotto joined together for a day and a half of action-packed caving adventures through three caves near Mt. St. Helens, WA: **Lake Cave**, **Ashcast Cave**, and **Ape Cave**.

The group consisted of trip leader James Mooreshire of Seattle; Susan Seigler of Tacoma; Jeff, Kat & Derek Wilson of Gig Harbor; Makis Rubicon, Ryan Campbell and Amy Donlan of Seattle; Talon Swanson and Scott Wilson of Seattle; and by happy accident, Ken & Ruth Stickney from Vancouver, WA who had actually showed up hoping to

get in on some vertical caving trips with Oregon Grotto. Sadly for them, but lucky for us, those trips had been cancelled prior to their arrival, so they decided to join us on our trip. We all



Amy and Ryan experience their first lava tube: Lake Cave. Photo by Amy Donlan.

rendezvoused at 10 a.m. at a rest stop in Cougar, WA. We did brief introductions then headed for the Trail of Two Forests parking lot.

### (1) Our First Destination: Lake Cave

James gave a short briefing educating us about the geologic history of the area. Ken then helped lead the way with GPS unit in hand. A short hike and minutes later, we found Lake Cave.

“It was my first trip with the Cascade Grotto, and it was great to have some knowledgeable ambassadors sharing their expertise,” said Scott Wilson, who has been in only one or two caves previously.

Makis agreed. “It was just amazing. James is so open and friendly, and he just welcomes you right in.”

Makis had been interested in caving for a number of years, but has limited caving experience. She has been doing some reading on vertical work as well, and admits, “It’s definitely a passion.”

Her first caving trip was in California Caverns. Lake Cave was her first Washington caving trip.

“It was a completely different caving experience,”



Scott Wilson crawls through a low spot under the watchful eye of James Mooreshire. Photo by Talon Swanson.

said Makis. “I felt alive. I felt like a cave dweller. I could just live there. It was also Ryan’s (my fiancé’s) first trip. Now he wants to go with us wherever we go. He’s a little bit uncomfortable with the smaller passages, but was willing to jump in and see where it takes him.”

Speaking of smaller passages, Scott walked right past one just inside the entrance of Lake Cave.

“Upon entering I was concentrating on my footing so closely,” said Scott, “that I walked past a side passage without even noticing it, and



Kat Wilson and Ryan Campbell assist another caver with climbing down a short drop (left) while Ken and Ruth Stickney take the alternate hands-and-knee crawling route (right). Photos by Jeff Wilson.

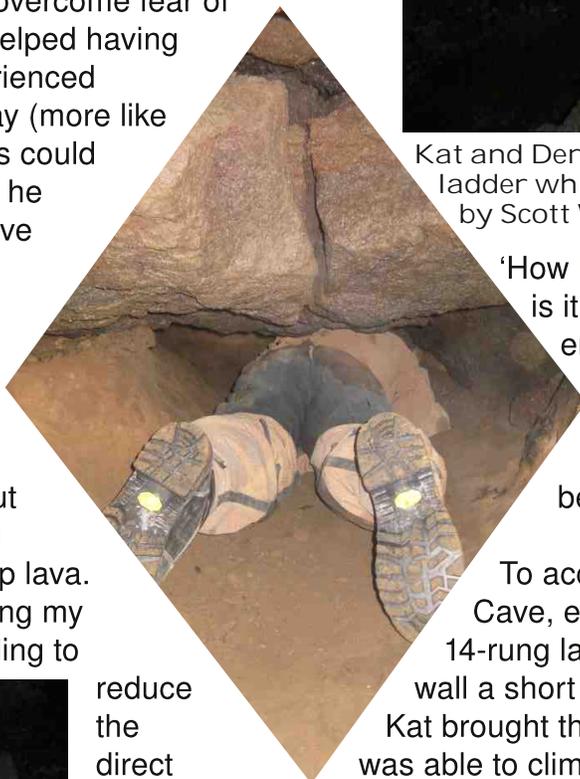
carried on to catch up with others. James caught up to us and took Talon and myself back where we met up with Ken & Ruth in the side passage.

"I had done some 'public friendly' caving on boardwalks in the past and seen 'crawl & cave' on Youtube, but this was my first time to experience that for myself. I got my hands, knees and brand new coveralls dirty. I was expecting to have to work to overcome fear of closed spaces, but I think it helped having Ken, Ruth & James, as experienced cavers, calmly leading the way (more like contained excitement). James could not contain his excitement as he bounced from cave wall to cave wall; it was contagious.

"We took turns squeezing thru some tight openings and crawling hands, knees, and bellies through the passage. I had knee pads, but my thin gloves offered limited protection from the hard sharp lava. Ken showed me a trick: putting my flash light in hand while crawling to



James Moreshire overlooks the 14-rung ladder in Lake Cave. Photo by Kat Wilson.



reduce the direct pressure on sharp lava. "

Makis also enjoyed the side passage: "The one big passage on the right: that was so much fun. It was very cool being in there and thinking,



Kat and Derek Wilson descend down the ladder while Jeff Wilson belays. Photo by Scott Wilson.

'How long will it last? How narrow is it going to be?' She also enjoyed using different parts of her body.

" I felt like Spiderman, going belly flat again," said Makis.

To access the main portion of Lake Cave, explorers must climb down a 14-rung ladder which is bolted to the wall a short ways into the cave. Jeff and Kat brought their 2-year-old son Derek who was able to climb down the ladder with the security of a harness and a rope.

"I didn't get to see that," said Scott, "but I was pretty impressed with that. Jeff carried Derek on his shoulders quite often, yet I was exhausted trying to keep up with Jeff. He must have years of practice."

Because of the nature of Lake Cave (few dangers and unlikelihood of getting lost) and the ratio of experienced cavers to beginning cavers (5:7), James let the participants each explore the cave at their own pace which meant that not everyone saw everything at the same time. As a beginner, Makis appreciated this combination of freedom and safety, tempered with humor.

“James is so inspiring and challenging and passionate and pushes in all the right ways,” said Makis, “especially for the first time. I know Ryan thought he was a right crack up, but his leadership style is such that he lets you explore and do your thing. I liked the freedom to explore, and yet you know he was keeping track of you.”

The group continued on the rest of the trek through Lake Cave over, under, between and through gaps in lava rocks until just under a mile and well over an hour or two later, we reached the lake at the end of the cave: there's a reason it's called Lake Cave (though the small pool of water at the back is only there seasonally). James shared a lot of knowledge regarding tree molds, casts, etc. He also had a custom-made helmet light which illuminated the colors of the cave walls showing off its beauty.

Makis expressed her awe at being “beneath the lava in a burned-out forest and seeing remnants of charcoal. It was very primitive.”

After most of the group explored the side passage near the back of the cave, we headed back toward the entrance.

“The way back up after the offshoot felt so different,” said Makis. “It felt like we were climbing different rocks, a little bit like going through a different cave.”



Derek Wilson inside the main entrance to Ashcast Cave. Photo by Kat Wilson.

## (2) Ashcast Cave

After returning to the trailhead, we enjoyed a potluck lunch, cold drinks, some chatting and relax time before discussing whether or not



James Mooreshire grins at one of the three entrances to Ashcast Cave. Photo by Kat Wilson.

to head to Ashcast Cave. Makis and Ryan, who had been camping since the 4th of July, were exhausted and decided to head back to Seattle with Amy, but were glad to have gone caving.

“What I liked about being part of the group was that every one that attended was so open and friendly,” said Makis. “It was a really inspiring group. I really want to go again. It’s nice to have a home grotto that you can move forward with.”

Jeff and Kat contemplated heading back to their campsite, but Derek, who had had no nap that day and was fussing a bit on the way out of Lake Cave, perked up at the possibility of another cave, so the rest of the group decided to continue on to Ashcast Cave. After some walking and winding and bushwhacking and backtracking on that sweltering hot sunny day, we finally managed to find the cave.

“We were sure glad Ken had a GPS unit,” said Scott. “It was tough to find. I had never seen such small cave openings before. I always imagined openings being large above ground, but these were tiny holes in the ground barely big enough for one person to squeeze thru. We got some great pictures of people squeezing in, and my buddy Talon posted some on Facebook with ‘whack the mole’ captions.



Like pop-up moles in the arcade game of Whac-a-Mole, Ken (left), Susan (middle) and Talon (right) take turns entering and exiting Ashcast Cave. Thankfully, no one had a mallet. Photo by Kat Wilson.

There were several different openings, and the group tackled the largest of them first, which was not all that big. The smallest caver, Derek, was among the last to enter, and it took him at least three tries before he felt comfortable enough to crawl inside.

And we do mean crawl. There was no room for

adults to stand, and even 2-year-old Derek had to duck in places. It was significantly smaller than the previous cave, but just as rewarding, particularly for the formations that give the cave its name.

There were also enough side passages and tight crawls to challenge and enjoy, including at least one "tube-in-a-tube" formation. Ken and James

discovered a "challenge" crawl about 40 feet long with one really tight spot. James was able to squeeze through only after taking his helmet off and splaying his feet sideways because it was too tight for the length of his feet to squeeze thru upright.



Susan Seigler, James Mooreshire, & Ken and Ruth Stickney encourage Derek Wilson to venture further into Ashcast. Photo by Kat Wilson.

"After everyone had moved on," said Scott, "I crawled in 10 feet to get a better survey and decide if I could push myself. I heard James from the surface telling funny 'squeeze' stories, and me, being a bit thicker and a rookie, decided to back out for some coaching.

"James took me back through another opening in the cave and showed me the reverse route. When he wasn't looking, I tried it again working hard to calm myself each inch of the way. James came back to discover me halfway through and came over to coach me. When I reached the tight spot, I took my helmet off and was able to get my head thru but trying to squeeze my chest through was too difficult. I tried three times, then decided it was too tight for me. I didn't need to conquer everything on my very first trip. Thanks to James for showing me it is possible and for coaching me. I will try again next time!

"Ken lent me his forearm sleeves. They definitely made a difference during the belly crawls, so my caving gear wish list now includes elbow pads, forearm sleeves, better lights, better boots & better socks. I was glad to take Kat & James's gear advice. The helmet alone paid off the investment after whacking my head three times in the first 10 minutes."

After a long exhausting day of hiking through



Looking down a tree mold inside Ashcast Cave. Photo by Jeff Wilson.



Intricately preserved details of the trees that were engulfed by lava flow inside Ashcast Cave. Photo by Jeff Wilson.

hard lava trails and crawling through caves, the group parted ways. Ken and Ruth headed back to Vancouver while Susan and James who had been camping the night before at Swift Forest Camp decided to head back to Seattle. Talon and Scott found a campsite near Jeff, Kat and Derek (also at Swift Forest Camp) so we enjoyed a nice campfire chat, marshmallows and barbecue.

### **(3) Upper Ape Cave**

*(Editor's Note: The rest of this report was written entirely by Scott Wilson.)*

On Sunday morning Talon and I woke early and left before sleepy heads Jeff, Kat, and Derek woke. We headed to Ape Cave for another exciting spelunking adventure, although I was starting the day exhausted from the previous day.

At the bottom of the entrance stairs is a sign that reads "Lower Caves - EASY" and "Upper Caves - DIFFICULT." We did the upper caves, and

yes, it was DIFFICULT.

I must admit to not being as prepared as I should have. I expected to always be in a large group, so I got lazy and only brought AAA batteries for one of my head lamps which ended up being the dimmest of my lights. Talon assured me of enough backup AA batteries a few times, but I must admit to being a bit nervous as we started the 2.5 hour hike over big rocks, being careful not to twist an ankle. The lesson I learned is to be more prepared, and I'll feel more relaxed, confident and enjoy the experience more.

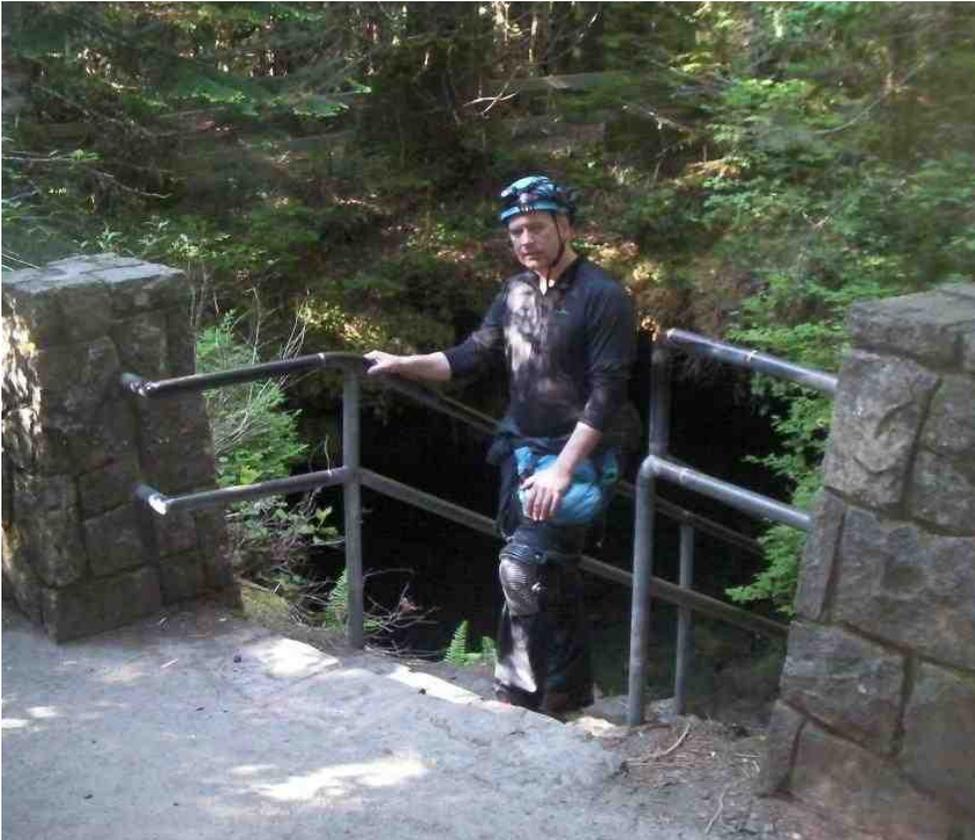


Paper thin surface buckling inside Ashcast Cave. Photo by Jeff Wilson.

Upper Ape Cave was hard work, but well worth the effort. It was a stunning and exciting adventure, and I look forward to doing it again. Along the way we saw three or four other groups going in the opposite direction. I was surprised that none of them had helmets, knee pads nor would I say were they properly dressed for

warmth, safety and comfort. I'm glad to be part of a grotto that mentors and leads groups in a safe and responsible way.

In one weekend I doubled the amount of caving I'd previously done and made some new friends. I'm now hooked and hope to join the grotto on many more trips in the months and years ahead. Talon suggested getting a caving log book so we can track trips, dates, people, time under ground and other details, so if anyone knows where to get one that would be great.



Scott Wilson at Ape Cave. Photo by Talon Swanson.

# Vertical Practice at Volunteer Park

By Kat DiFoxfire Wilson

James Mooreshire led a beginners' vertical clinic at Volunteer Park in Seattle in July, 2012. Despite wanting to set up a fancy system in the trees, a single rope in a single tree in a semi-



Top left:  
Scott  
Wilson (on  
rope) while  
Jeff, James,  
Dane and  
Jay look on,  
and Derek  
plays with a  
carbiner.

Top right:  
Dane  
Burke.

Bottom left:  
Josh  
Edwards.

Bottom  
right: Kat  
Wilson.



secluded area just off the main road through the park proved to be sufficient for those who attended.

Participants practiced knot tying (especially the useful Prusik knot) and ascending, descending and changeovers with the frog system, using Prusik knots first and then more mechanical gear such as Petzel ascenders and Petzel stops.

Participants included Jay Baez;; Dane Burke; Josh Edwards; Scott Wilson; and Jeff, Kat and Derek Wilson.

---

Left: Josh Edwards (on rope), Jay and Scott below.



Bottom left: Dane Burke (on rope) and James.

Bottom right: Scott Wilson ascends while James holds the rope.

All photos (both pages) by Kat or Jeff Wilson.

# Ridge Walking in Eagle Cap Wilderness

By Jerry Thompson

## First Views

A little over a year ago, as I wondered what was the inspiration for the naming of Marble Point on the ridge between the Lostine River and Frances Lake in northeast Oregon, I walked up the Frances Lake Trail in the Eagle Cap Wilderness for a little over four hours, hoping to answer this riddle. I topped out at a little over 8600 feet and was rewarded with views of a large exposure of Martin Bridge Marble.



The upper Lake Creek drainage area in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. The bumpy, bluff and bench area that crosses the center of the picture diagonally is where most of the trip's efforts were concentrated. Photo by Jerry Thompson.

At a switchback shortly before the high point, my hiking/climbing partner, Kim Dickey and I were close enough to Marble Point to see a mountain goat waltzing on the near-vertical cliffs on the northern extent of that ridge. After soaking up the views and wolfing down trail lunches, with no overnight gear we retreated to the Lostine River Valley and my car vowing to return and spend more time getting a closer look at the extensive exposure.

The Eagle Cap Wilderness in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is an area characterized by more than 50 alpine lakes, as well as bare granite peaks and ridges, U-shaped glacial valleys, and open meadows that attract elk, deer, bighorn sheep, coyote, black bear, and cougar. Thick timber is found in the lower valleys and scattered alpine timber on the upper slopes. Elevations range from 3,000-5000 feet in the lower valleys to 9,845 feet at the summit of Sacajawea Peak with 30 other summits exceeding 8,000 feet. The Francis Lake Trailhead is located about 14 miles south of Lostine off of State Highway 82.

Back at my apartment, on my computer, the Martin Bridge exposures in the area were very apparent on Google Earth <<http://g.co/maps/a8mpv>>. However, the rugged nature of the terrain and local relief are not adequately shown. I remembered the seven mile hike and the 3500 feet of elevation gain, but seemed to forget that an additional two or two and a half miles would be added to barely reach the exposures of marble in the headwaters of Lake Creek above Frances Lake.

## Grotto Trip Scheduling

While visiting with Robert Mitchell en route to Roger Cole's funeral last March, I resolved to schedule a grotto field trip back to this area for this season. I fancied this might be a several-day event that might fairly completely explore the marble exposures above Frances Lake. As I continued to explore the area on Google Earth

the target area came to seem far less rugged and easier to move around on than on REAL EARTH.

A few days later, I posted a Yahoo Group “feeler” that said, “This coming season, I would like to spend several days cave hunting in an exposure of the Martin Bridge Formation in the Wallow Mountains/ Eagle Cap Wilderness. This is the geologic unit that contains the Hells Canyon Caves and Papoose Cave.



I want to list this as a grotto activity and will have some pictures of the area and some more specific information at this Friday's grotto meeting. I would like to gauge interest and get an idea of when to schedule the trip.” I received three or four tepid responses to my “feeler.” I prepared a short presentation for the April 20, 2012 grotto meeting.

In the early summer, I scheduled the trip for August 26-30 and listed that in the Cascade Caver a month or so before the event. I emailed the folks who had responded to the “feeler.” As the event dates approached, I sent a cut-off date of August 15 so that I could plan on who might be attending and be sure the group size would be compliant with wilderness regulations. Things were really quiet, there were no responses to my emails, and no further interest shown.

### **Approach Details**

On Sunday, August 26th, I drove with my mountaineering friend, Kim Dickey to the Iron Dyke Campground on the Lostine River, very

A small resurgence alcove found in the area. Photo by Jerry Thompson.

near the Frances Lake/Bowman Trailhead Parking Lot. The next day, with packs loaded for several days of camping, we spent a little less than seven hours reaching the same high spot where we had taken in the views a year ago. An additional hour and fifty minutes put us at a meager but well sheltered high camp near the steam above the upper end of the lake.

### **The Day of Exploration and Beyond**

On August 28, we spent several hours exploring the bluffs and benches up the valley and below the ridge extending south of Marble Point. The rock was seemed to more heavily metamorphosized with larger crystals showing that I remember having seen in other similar exposures in the Wallowa Mountains. We hiked up and across the exposure to its western extent. We found no easy access to the crest of the ridge extending south from Marble Point. The eastern flank of this ridge is nearly vertical for its entire length.

Other than one small resurgence alcove, there were no obvious karst features found in the area we traversed. We noticed nothing in nearby basins that enticed us to search further. We packed up the next day and headed back to Washington.

### Conclusions

Section 16 T3NR44E was examined fairly thoroughly east of the crest of the ridge extending south of Marble Point. It would be nice to explore the crest of this ridge but access appears to involve pretty serious scrambling and possibly roped rock climbing.

Sections 29&30 T3NR44E contain significant exposures of marble and probably should

receive further attention. However, exploration there will involve more time and greater commitment. Here again, it would appear that serious scrambling or rock climbing may be involved.

The base camp at the south end of the rugged path on the western side of Frances Lake is an old horse camp. It contains one small but well protected tent site. Other nearby tent site areas are sloping. This campground is, however, very conveniently located for exploring the headwaters of Lake Creek above Frances Lake. There is a large flat, open, and less protected area at the north end of the lake that would be comfortable for a larger group in fair weather. There was a constant, substantial breeze from up-valley on and near the lake most of the time.

**WANTED:**

**Articles...Articles...Articles...**  
and *Photos!* and *Maps!*

We, the editors, know that many of you went caving on **Cave Ridge**, attended the **NCA Regional**, and went ***caving elsewhere....***

***If you want more issues,  
we need more material!***

# Tyrolean Jousting at the McCormicks'

By Robert Mitchell

What do ropes, trees and bright pink and yellow foam plastic swords and shields have in common? Well, when combined with a group of crazy cavers, it amounts to bouts of Tyrolean Jousts.

On every 4th of July, Aaron Stavens and Tom Evans set up a Tyrolean traverse at the party held by Michael and Nikki McCormack.

A Tyrolean traverse is a method of crossing through free space between two high points on a rope without a hanging cart or cart equivalent, often used by cavers, rock climbers, mountaineers, and in technical tree climbing, water crossings, and as ziplines.

Traveling across a Tyrolean traverse varies from purely using one's hands and legs to the use of prusiks, one-way pulleys, or ascenders.

In most modern situations, the traverser is secured to the line through some combination of climbing harness,



Aaron Stavens models the Tyrolean jousting weapons. Photo by Robert Mitchell.



The crowd watches a participant who is halfway across. Photo by Robert Mitchell.



webbing, carabiner, and/or pulleys.

The course at the McCormacks is always enjoyed by the kids (and a few adults, too) well into dusk and almost to the start of the fireworks show.

This year Stavens and Evans set up opposing lines and set up a jousting course using pool floats and foam noodles as weapons.

After the initial run, people on the ground would use the tow lines to set up several re-matches before participants were taken off rope.



Above: Weapons of minor destruction.

Left: An armed (and perhaps dangerous?) participant gets ready to take a turn at Tyrolean jousting.

Photos by Robert Mitchell.

Above and below. Two opponents ascend separate ladders on separate sides and prepare to joust. Photos by Robert Mitchell



Participants approach opponents (top right & left, and above) and collide (left). Photos by Robert Mitchell.



Left: Opponents are towed back to start for a re-match.

Bottom: The Tyrolean Jousting Course.

Photos by Robert Mitchell.



# Carlsbad Caverns Lint Camp, Sept., 2012

By Jim Harp and Jerry Thompson

## Carlsbad Caverns--A Brief History

Carlsbad Caverns is found within the Guadalupe Mountains, a 23-million-year-old limestone mountain range recognized as the best-preserved Permian-aged fossil reef in the world. It is located in south-eastern New Mexico, about 25 miles north of Texas. The cave was first entered by local rancher Jim White around 1898 who over the next several decades extensively explored and mapped the cave.

In the first quarter of the twentieth century Carlsbad Cave was mined for its guano resources, a commodity valued as fertilizer. In 1924 it was proclaimed Carlsbad National Monument by then-President Calvin Coolidge. In 1930 it achieved National Park status followed by becoming a World Heritage Site in 1995. Carlsbad Caverns is about 1000 feet deep and at last count contained more than 30 miles of surveyed passages.



Lint and lint collecting tools. Photo by Jim Harp.

## Lint Camps

In the mid-1980s, lint and other small introduced debris were found to be accumulating along the tourist trail. Pat Jablonsky and other interested cavers, including NPS Cave Specialist John Roth, began studying the lint accumulations found along the visitor trails.



Pat Jablonsky.  
Photo by Jim Harp.

Formal scientific research was conducted by Jablonsky, Bill Yett, and Sandy Kramer who analyzed the composition of the lint as well as its origins, distribution and movement within the cave. It was found that in addition to discoloring the formations, the lint drew moisture and produced organic acids that caused significant deterioration.

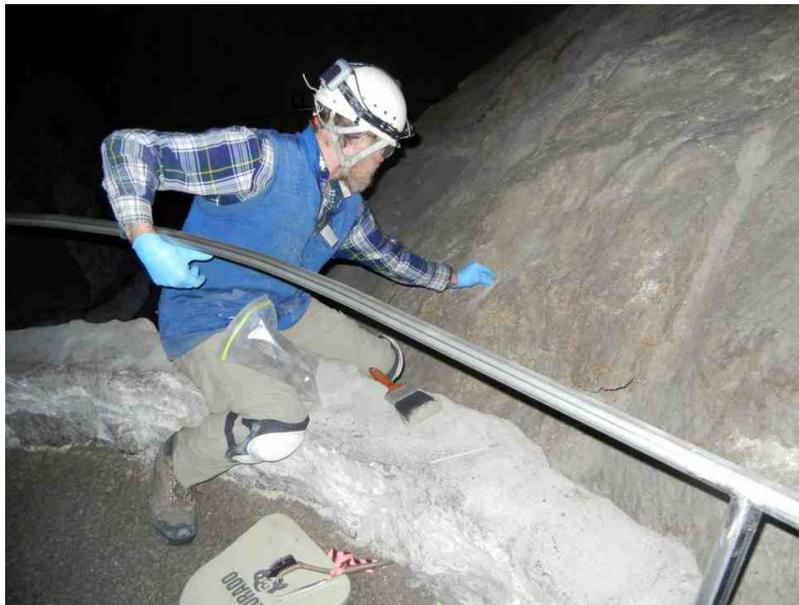
Formal, organized lint removal camps began in 1988. With the exceptions of 1999 and 2006, the lint camps have operated every year since 1988 with as many as twenty-five participants from all over the United States collecting up to fifty pounds of lint during each of the week-long camps. Currently the volunteer participants spend a

minimum of twenty hours working in the cave during the week-long camp. Monday, Tuesday and Friday are four-hour days. Thursday is an eight-hour day. No work is planned for Wednesday which is set aside for field trips to nearby points of interest.

In September, 2012, Cascade Grotto members Jim Harp and Jerry Thompson along with eleven other volunteers from Colorado, Maryland, Oregon and Pennsylvania arrived at the research huts to do battle with

the lint. Though this was only the second lint camp for Jim and Jerry, some of the veterans have been participants at the camp for many years. Only a few of the lint pickers are retired with most using their personal vacation time to work at the lint removal project.

This year, all of the collecting was done in the Big Room, also known as the Hall of the Giants. Carlsbad's Big Room is almost 4,000 feet long, 625 feet wide, and 255 feet high at the highest point. It is the third largest single cave chamber in North America and the seventh largest in the world. Lint from about a third of the visitor trail was collected this year with thirty-one and a half pounds of lint removed in the course of the week. While working the Big Room Jerry Thompson was pleased to have found a previously undocumented Mexican free-tailed bat skull possibly tens of thousands of years old.



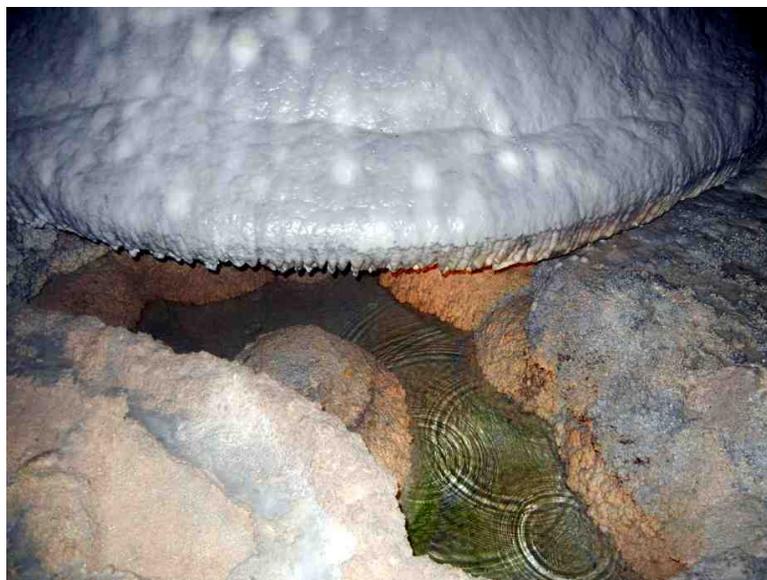
Jerry thompson picking lint. Photo by Jim Harp.

**Afternoon activities** this year included a hike up Mckittrick Canyon where evidence shows early inhabitants occupied the area over 12,000 years ago and more recently by the Mescalero Apaches who were driven off their land by US Calvary. Mckittrick Canyon is located approximately 40 miles southwest of Carlsbad and is contiguous with the Guadalupe Escarpment managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

Rattlesnake Springs which is a rare and unique desert wetland was also visited. Over the years its waters have been used by prehistoric people,

explorers, soldiers, travelers, settlers and is currently the source of water for the Carlsbad National Park complex.

Retired park ranger, Tom Bemis led the group



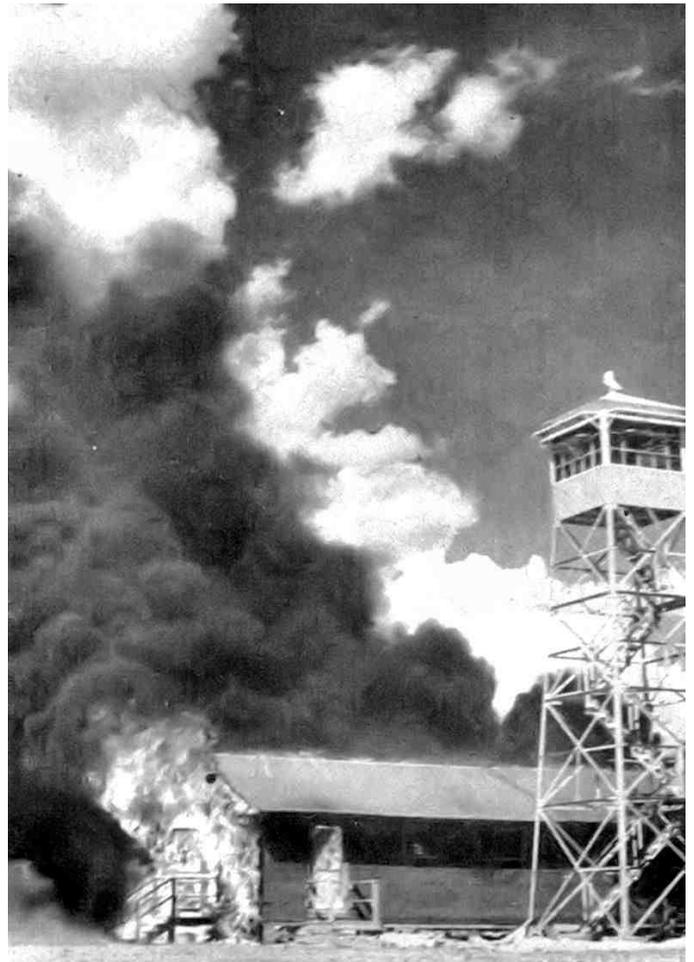
Drip stone formation in the Big Room, aka The Hall of Giants, in Carlsbad Caverns. Photo by Jim Harp.

into various areas of interest on our day off. The first of these was to a former World War II US Army Air Force practice bombing range used to train bombardiers including the late, great Tennessee Ernie Ford. There is a display at the Carlsbad airport dedicated to the bombardier training program that is worth visiting.

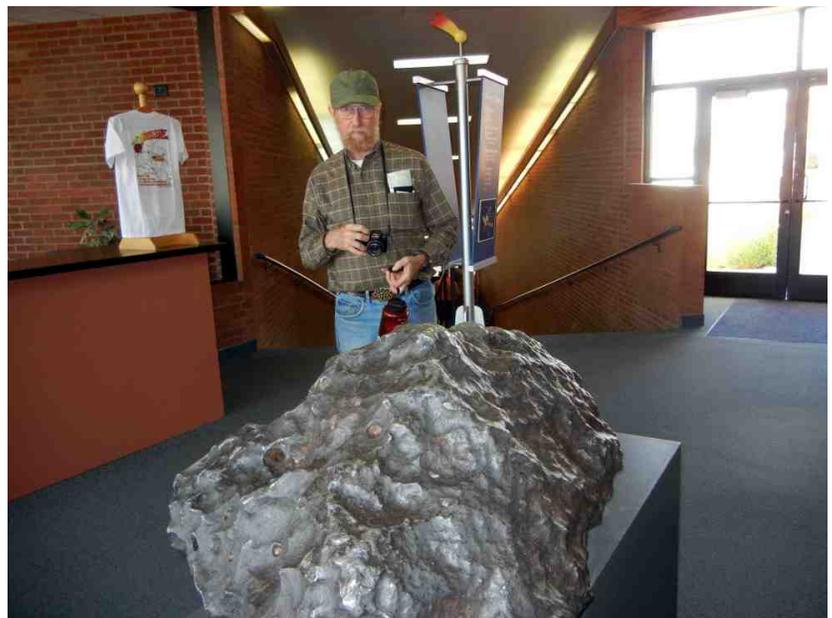
The group then visited the former Carlsbad Army Airfield used for World War II Project X-ray. Project X-ray was set up to have bats released over Japan carrying small packs of napalm to the largely wood and paper constructed buildings of the Japanese cities that were the weapons' intended targets. When an Army Air Force general from Washington, D.C. was brought out to view the project, the armed bats were released. This resulted in the bats setting fire to the airfield buildings and destroying not only the the air field, but the Bat Bomb Project as well.

Later Bemis led the group on a trip into Parks Ranch Cave which is reported to have over 20 entrances (or exits) and 14 miles of passages. While Carlsbad Caverns was formed primarily in limestone, Parks Ranch Cave system was formed in gypsum situated within the gypsum plain to the south of Carlsbad. Being forewarned that parts of this horizontal cave would contain one to two feet of water, some of our group brought along shorts and sandals as their caving uniform. Visitors to this cave should be aware it is subject to flash flooding.

Harp and Thompson also went on a "spelunker's" tour of the lower Carlsbad cave area located at the bottom of Bottomless Pit. Yes, you are reading this correctly: Bottomless Pit does have a bottom which can be viewed from a point in the Big Room 140 feet above the bottomless floor.



Batty Bomb burns airfield while Boss Brass look on. Photo by US Army Air Force.



Jerry Thompson. Photo by Jim Harp.

The visitor's access point used by tour groups only involves a 60-foot down climb using a hand line and ladders. The reward for the visitors' efforts is arriving at an area containing interesting speleothems including gypsum formations and cave pearls. This tour can be easily handled by most adult individuals having no serious physical limitations.

**After the end of each work day**, the lint pickers all enjoyed some great dinners cooked by the lint-picking hostess, Pat Jablonski. Evenings were spent at such activities as stargazing with a veteran participant's telescope and viewing the ever-popular evening bat flights from the natural entrance. Some time was spent late one night chasing a raccoon from the research hut shared by the male participants. On another night, a lazy rattlesnake was found snoozing



Research hut at Carlsbad Caverns. Photo by Jim Harp.

upon the threshold of the ladies research hut bunkhouse. (Eeek!)

**In conclusion** the authors came away from their lint removal experience with the knowledge that

Carlsbad Caverns is probably the most highly decorated tourist cave on our planet. The trails and lighting systems have all been placed in a very professional manner so as to facilitate viewing by the general public in a safe and friendly environment. The dedication and hard work of Pat Jablonski and the volunteers who come each year are a reason that Carlsbad will continue to be the best cave ever.



Group picture of the 2012 lint pickers. Photo by Greg Glazner.

# "The Bat Lady" Educates Grotto Members About Bats From WA & Around The World

By Kathryn DiFoxfire Wilson

Barbara Ogaard, nicknamed by some as "The Bat Lady," educated grotto members and guests about bats from all over the world at the September 21 grotto meeting. Ogaard is a long-time educator and researcher with the organization Bats Northwest. Bats Northwest is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1996 by scientists, educators, and interested lay people to help protect Pacific Northwest bat populations through education and research. Ogaard's presentation included a slide show, props, preserved bat specimens and also a showing of several live bats. Below is a synopsis of her talk.

## **Fruit Bats**

Many plants are pollinated by fruit bats including bananas (whose flowers only open at night), cashews, vanilla, sapodilla (which is used in making chewing gum), and agave cactus (the source of tequila). In addition, fruit bats are vital in rainforest reforestation efforts and human health; about 75 percent of our modern medicines are derived from rainforest plants. Also, since fruit bats tend to feed on overripe fruit, they do not hurt commercial fruit production efforts and instead, are a great benefactor of it.

## **Vampire Bats**

Though there are only three species of vampire bats among at least a thousand other species of bats, they are one of the most well-known and possibly the most feared type of bat, in large part due to negative portrayals in Hollywood films. All three species live in South or Central America. Most feed on animals such as chickens, pigs and cows.

Anti-vampire bat sentiment often produces

severe reactions. People who try to eradicate vampires sometimes destroy entire colonies of bats, including the "good bats" who cluster with the vampire bats.

Educators and bat researchers such as Merlin Tuttle, founder of Bats Conservation International (BCI), have offered more targeted solutions of vampire bat management. Because vampires tend to be somewhat proprietary, and prefer to feed off the same animal each night, some suggestions for protecting livestock include leaving one cow outside as a "sacrifice cow." By allowing vampires to feed off a single cow, it may offer better protection for the rest of the sheltered livestock. Of course, some families only have one cow and cannot spare it.

Another management solution takes advantage of the fact that vampires are very social animals, even taking care of orphans. Because they often groom each other's fur, poisoning their fur while they sleep targets primarily the vampires and not the other bat species.

Despite the negative attitudes that limit their chances for survival, vampire bats are well-equipped anatomically for their evolutionary niche. Unlike insect-eating bats, who catch most of their food while flying, vampire bats prey close to the ground. Evolution has thus rewarded them with being the only bats who can walk upright on the ground; and unlike other bats, who need to climb to some height before taking flight, vampire bats can take off directly from the ground (which is a good thing, if one is about to be kicked by a cow). They also have heat sensors on their nose to help them find their prey. About eight drops of blood constitutes a full meal.

To aid in their feeding, vampire bat saliva contains an enzyme known as desmoteplase or DSPA, which causes blood to flow more regularly. This enzyme is also a key factor in some medical research. Researchers have used the enzyme to develop an anti-coagulant medicine which they have dubbed *draculin* (after Count Dracula). They are currently testing its effectiveness to reduce blood clots in stroke patients.

### **Bats of the World**

Bats hold a lot of world records. They are the longest-living mammal for their size; they can live 30 or more years. They are the slowest reproducers for their size, maturing at age two or three, and usually having only one pup per year. Male bats are also best well-endowed of all the mammals, proportionally speaking. Mating usually occurs in September. Females go into hibernation carrying viable sperm, and only ovulate after reawakening in the spring. The offspring is about 1/4 to 1/3 of the mother's weight, resulting in bats having the largest baby for their size as well.

### **Slideshow**

Ogaard also showed some slides of many unique and unusual-looking bats. It included the wrinkled faced bat, which looks like an exposed brain; the bulldog bat which contrary to its name is actually a fishing bat; a nose-leaf bat that can break a brazil nut with its jaws (that's a bat that's best left to the grad-students to handle); and even a bat-eating bat known as the ghost bat.

### **Washington State Bats**

About 15 species of bats live in Washington state, including several myotis species that can be difficult to tell apart from one another. They live in small colonies, usually far less than 200 bats per colony.

The largest native bat is the hoary bat, which has silver-colored fur (hoary means "frosted"), and is one of the few species known to have

twins. They tend to hibernate in southern California or Mexico, but live in Washington during the summer. However, researchers are finding more and more that don't migrate (possibly due to climate change?).

The second largest species in the state is the big brown bat. Others include the pallid bat (which lives in Eastern Washington and dines on scorpions) and the spotted bat (another Eastern Washington resident). Unlike most echolocating bats, whose echolocation sounds are ultrasonic, the spotted bat makes clicks at a level we can hear. Townsend big-eared bats can be found on Woodby Island.

### **Live Bats**

Ogaard also brought several live bats including Robato, a big brown bat. Quite fastidious, he spends about 30 percent of his waking time grooming or flossing his teeth with his thumb. She also shows the group, Cleopatra, a rather shy long-eared myotis who eats about 35 mealworms per day.

### **Contact Information**

Ogaard can be contacted at [batlady4bats@comcast.net](mailto:batlady4bats@comcast.net) or through Bats Northwest at [www.batsnorthwest.org](http://www.batsnorthwest.org).

# Upcoming Meetings, Cave Trips and Events

## MONTHLY CASCADE GROTTO MEETINGS

Third Fridays of the month at 7 p.m.  
See page 26 for driving directions and details.

December 8	No meeting: Holiday Party, hosted by Marla Pelowski in Puyallup, WA
Jan 19	Shoreline Community Ctr.
Feb. 15*	Milton Tavern
Mar. 15	Shoreline Community Ctr.
Apr. 19	Milton Tavern
May 17	Shoreline Community Ctr.

\* Same weekend as grotto event; see below.

## LOCAL & REGIONAL EVENTS

**February 15-18, 2013**

### **Oregon Caves Conservation Weekend--OR**

Oregon Caves National Monument, Cave Junction, Oregon. Participants will remove lint and other debris and conduct other restoration work. This will be the 10th annual Oregon Caves restoration event. Lodging and meal plan included. Fee estimated at \$35/person.

*Trip Leader:* Hester Mallonée

*Contact:* hestermallonee@yahoo.com

**August 30, 2013 - September 02, 2013**

### **NCA and Western Regionals--WA**

The Willamette Valley Grotto will host the Northwestern Caving Association (NCA) AND the Western Regional in 2013. This will be a combined event at the Trailhead Bed and Breakfast in Trout Lake, Washington, during Labor Day weekend.

*Trip Leader:* Willamette Valley Grotto

*Contact:* <http://www.caves.org/grotto/wvg/> or grotto chair Chris Wiley at 503-380-7740.

## NATIONAL EVENTS

**May 24-27, 2013**

### **Kentucky Speleofest--KY**

Bonnieville, KY. We will have a food vendor, On Rope 1, camping, warm showers, howdy party with DJ, banquet, band, hiking, caving social, and all caving will be on the newest information from the KY Fish and Wildlife.

*Hosted by:* The Louisville Grotto

*Contact:* Judyaw50@yahoo.com

**July 6-13, 2013**

### **NCRC Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar--NY**

Schoharie, NY. Classroom and fieldwork instruction in all phases of cave rescue including vertical rescue, hauling systems, extrication techniques, medical, communication, and the management of cave rescue operations.

*Contact:*

[www.caves.org/commission/ncrc/national](http://www.caves.org/commission/ncrc/national) or by emailing Seminar2013@ncrc.info.

**August 5-9, 2013**

### **NSS Convention--PA**

The annual National Speleological Society convention will be at Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA in the beautiful Cumberland Valley of Southcentral Pennsylvania near the famous Gettysburg Battlefields.

*Contact:* NSS2013.com or Gordon Birkhimer (birkhimer@cox.net, 703-573-4653) or Craig Hindman (CraigHindman@verizon.net, 410-792-0742)

**Summer, 2016** (yes, you read that correctly)

### **NSS Convention--Ely, Nevada**

(Cascade Grotto member Marla Pelowski is the treasurer for this event).

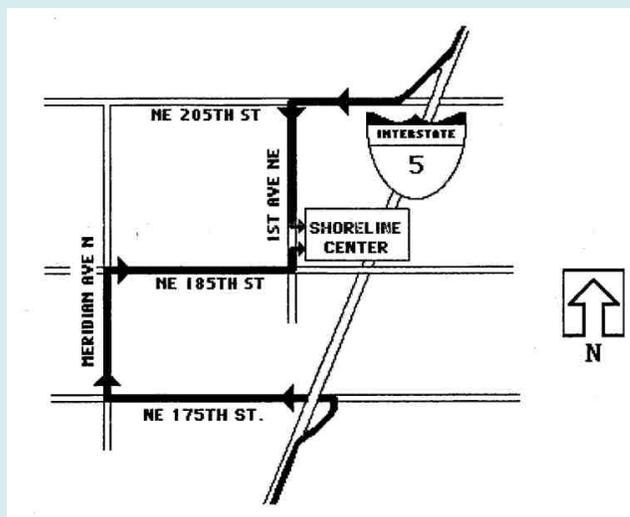
# Cascade Grotto Monthly Meetings

The Cascade Grotto meets at 7 p.m. on the third Friday of each month (except December) alternating between the Shoreline Community Center north of Seattle, WA and the Milton Tavern south of Federal Way. Meetings consist of grotto business, followed by trip reports and scheduling of future cave trips. Some meetings also contain a program. After meetings in Shoreline, we usually drive to Spiro's Pizza for food, drinks and socializing. At the Milton Tavern, we can consume food and drinks during or after the meeting and stay at the Tavern for socializing afterwards. Meetings are open to all members of the public except that the Milton Tavern does not permit kids in the bar area after 4 p.m.

## DIRECTIONS:

The **Shoreline Community Center** is located at 18560, 1st Ave NE in Shoreline. It's a large quiet conference room with easy access, free parking and full AV capability. See also <http://www.shorelinecenter.com>.

*Directions from Seattle:* Take Interstate 5 north to Exit 176 (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.



The **Milton Tavern** is located at 7320 Pacific Highway East Milton, WA 98354, 253-922-3340. We meet in the upstairs meeting room. It's smaller and noisier than Shoreline, with no AV capabilities, but the tavern has great food and a wide selection of adult beverages. See <http://www.themiltontavern.com/> for menu. We encourage members and guest to support the tavern since they are supporting us by providing a free meeting room.

*Directions from Seattle or Federal Way:*

Take I-5 South. Take exit 142B. Merge onto S 348TH ST / WA-18 W. Cross over 16th Avenue S (Enchanted Pkwy). Get into left turn lane, onto Hwy 99. Go 2.9 miles (thru one traffic light). Turn left at the traffic light onto Porter Way, and make an immediate right into the parking lot.

*Directions from Tacoma or Olympia:*

Take I-5 North. Take exit 137 toward FIFE / WA-99 N / MILTON. Take the 54 Ave. E. North ramp toward FIFE / WA-99 N / MILTON. At the corner of 54th & Hwy-99 turn right, heading north. Go 1.3 miles (thru two traffic lights). At the traffic light at Porter Way, turn right, & make an immediate right into the parking lot.

## Quick Tip:

How To Remember Where to Meet Which Month?

SHORELINE has an ODD number of letters.

MILTON (and TAVERN) has an EVEN number of letters.

Thus, in odd-numbered months we meet at Shoreline,  
in even-numbered months, we meet in Milton.

# Meeting Minutes: July - November, 2012

*Editors' Note:* Due to the length of the meeting minutes, and the cost of printing, official minutes are posted on the Cascade Grotto's Member's-Only YahooGroups electronic forum, and are not included in the printed version of the Cascade Caver. However, highlights of each meeting are listed below. Official minutes are also available by request. In addition, when appropriate, items below are compiled by topic rather than by date as many of the same issues were discussed at more than one meeting.

## **ATTENDANCE**

**July (Shoreline) and August (Milton):** Three members and 2-3 guests both months including Kat Wilson, Lane Holdcroft, Marla Pelowski (August only), and others. No official business was conducted due to the low attendance, so the time was spent discussing caving in general, caving equipment, techniques, experiences, and similar topics of interest to beginning cavers.

### **September (Shoreline):**

*8 Members:* Dane Burke, Lane Holdcroft, Hester Mallonée, Robert Mitchell, James Mooreshire, Mark Sherman, Jeff and Kat Wilson  
*4 Guests:* John Darby (1st meeting), Gretchen (1st meeting), Army Irvin (2nd meeting), Thomas Stitch (1st meeting, caver and recent transplant from TX)

### **October (Milton Tavern):**

*9 members:* Dane Burke, Josh Edwards, Hester Mallonée, Albert Meerscheidt, Robert Mitchell, James Mooreshire, Marla Pelowski,, Aaron Stavens, and Jeff and Kat Wilson  
*3 Guests:* all with little to no caving experience: Ben (climber), Eric (fairly new transplant from Missouri) and Chad (hiker, climber)

### **November (Shoreline):**

*9 members:* Van Bergen, Dane Burke, Josh Edwards, Lane Holdcroft, Robert Mitchell, Marla Pelowski, Talon Swanson, Kat Wilson, and Ron Zuber  
*0 guests.*

## **REPORTS**

### **Treasurer's report:**

• **September 21:** Aug. 29 checking balance of \$658.00 plus 181.95 in dues received at the meeting or via mail. Current totals:

*Checking = 839.95\**

*Savings = 5057.55 (as of Aug. 31)*

• **October 19:** Sept. 21 checking balance of \$839.95 in checking plus \$263.00 in dues received at meeting or via mail minus \$75 donation to NSS (\$25 of that via Western Region). Current totals:

*Checking: 1027.95\**

*Savings: 5057.59 (as of Sept, 28)*

• **November:** Oct. 19 checking balance of 1027.95 Paid out \$94 for grotto P.O. Box annual fee; received \$80 in dues at Nov. meeting. Current totals:

*Checking: 1013.95\**

*Savings: 5057.63 (as of Oct. 31).*

Also, still owe Tom Evans \$36 for Cave Ridge work (awaiting cave report first). \*Outstanding check written of \$12 written on 9/21/12 for overpayment of dues not yet cashed as of 11/15/12.

See page 32 for End-of-Year Treasurer's Report.

Cascade Caver. Delayed due to family and computer issues, but have enough material for at least one more issue before the end of the year. Ron Zuber asked at the November

meeting if Tom Evans was planning to publish his Cave Ridge reports in the Cascade Caver in exchange for the funding he has received from us.

**NCA Report:** The annual meeting of the Northwest Caving Association took place Saturday, Sept. 1 at the NCA Regional at Mt. St. Helens. Jeff Wilson gave a summary of the NCA meeting minutes at the Sept. 15 grotto meeting:

- It was noted that only four grottos were represented at the regional meeting, with six needed for a quorum. The bylaws are confusing as to what happens when there is not a quorum. There was also diverse discussion on how to get more grottos to show up.
- A proposal was approved to split profits from NCA regionals 50/50 with half going to the NCA and half to the hosting grotto.
- Hester Kate Mallonée, of Gem State Grotto, was nominated for president for 2013.
- The NCA and the Western Region have decided to host a combined regional event in 2013 at Trout Lake, WA over Labor Day Weekend (Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2013). It will be hosted by Willamette Valley Grotto (WVG) with Gem State Grotto as an alternative host. This combined event was announced at the September grotto meeting as a tentative proposal, confirmed at the October meeting, and reiterated at the November meeting).

## **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

### **NSS Headquarters Donation:**

*Background:* The NSS recently purchased a new headquarters building and asked members to contribute to help pay off the building loan.

*Decision:* In June 2012, Cascade Grotto had agreed to donate \$50 to the NSS to help pay off the loan on their new headquarters building. It was decided that we donate at least \$50 in order

to get name recognition (i.e., a block would be designated as Cascade Grotto's block).

Soon after this decision, the Western Region offered to match such donations sent to the NSS, so Kat Wilson held off writing a check until the matter could be discussed further at the next official business meeting, which turned out to be September. (There was no official business conducted at either the July or August meetings due to low attendance).

Since it was unclear whether Cascade Grotto would still receive name recognition if we made a donation via the Western Region, Kat Wilson proposed at the September meeting to send \$50 directly to the NSS, thus ensuring name recognition, and another \$25 to the Western Region in hopes that the Western Region would match some or all of our \$75 donation to the NSS. Mark Sherman seconded, and the motion passed.

In return, the NSS sent Cascade Grotto a certificate designating "Block 46" as Cascade Grotto's block. The certificate was circulated at the October and November meetings. The Western Region cashed our \$25 check in late October, but we still do not know how much of our donation they matched.

Ron Zuber mentioned at the November meeting that the NSS has a history of pulling out of debt and paying off loans in a timely manner in large part to member donations.

### **Officer nominations for 2013::**

Despite frequent requests, no one filled the President's office in 2012. Current Vice President Robert Mitchell, nicknamed "VP for Life," announced numerous times that he will NOT be running for re-election in 2013 due to outside obligations. Robert proposed via an e-mail to the Yahoo group site, and again at the October meeting that if a slate of officers cannot be elected due to lack of volunteers then the

current officers would stay in their position just long enough to dissolve the organization and turn over any assets to the NSS as stated in our by-laws.

Nominations at the October meeting included Michael McCormick for President (as per his email to the Yahoo group), James Mooreshire for VP; and Kat Wilson for Secretary Treasurer. It was also noted that Kat and James are also the Cascade Caver co-editors, James is also the trip coordinator, and Michael is also our current librarian. No further nominations were received via e-mail or at the November meeting.

### **Memberships / Dues**

Membership dues for fiscal year 2012 expired Sept. 30, 2012. Dues were received by postal mail and in person at the September, October and November meetings. Membership is again down from the previous year. We have a current total of 26 regular (voting) members); 4 associate (non-voting) members (including three life members) and five household members. That's 35 total.

New and returning members include the following: **Jon L. Bennett; Eileen and Van Bergen; Dane Burke; Josh Edwards; Thomas Evans; Jim Harp; Lane Holdcroft; Ben McClure; Yugula Meier; Robert Mitchell; James Mooreshire; Stuart Monson; Mark Nuetzman; Marla Pelowski; Gary Petrie; Charles Renneberg; Joe Shaughnessy; Susan Seigler; Leonard Slack; Ira Small; Aaron Stavens; Chad Straub; Talon Swanson; Jacqui Thomas; Jerry Thompson, Kathryn, Jeff and Derek Wilson; Scott Wilson; Jeffrey Wright; and Ron Zuber. Dr. William Halliday, Larry King, and Phil Whitfield** are life members.

Members from 2012 who have not yet renewed for 2013 include the following: Devlin Bentley, Eric Benton, Robert Brown, Jeremy Ehrlich, Diedra Ericson, Elliott R. Haddon, Emily Ingram,

David Klinger, Dean Lambert, Hester Mallonée, Michael McCormack, Nikki McCormack, David McElmurry, Albert Meerscheidt, Karen Milfeld, Danny Miller, Glennis Monson, Michael Montgomery, John Nestor, Anah Shah, Shital Shah, Paul Sherman, Sarah Sherman, and Mark Sherman.

### **Meeting Location**

- *September 21*: Reminder that we will soon have to decide whether or not to renew the contract with Shoreline.
- *October 19*: Tukwila has a nice center, just off I-5, and is willing to charge monthly about what we would pay per month at Shoreline, but it's still more than we can afford. It was suggested that the information be put on the list serve to stimulate discussion. Burien also has a conference center. If either city would be acceptable, Kat Wilson is willing to look for lower cost meeting locations in those places. However, some people like the rotating meetings. If we continue to meet every other month as we currently are doing, Albert Meerscheidt has offered vertical practice at his house before the meetings (even months only). It was also observed that most south-enders who attend meetings make it some of the northern meetings, but not as many the other way around.
- *November 15*: Marla Pelowski motioned to keep current meeting as is (alternating between Shoreline and Milton); Kat seconded. Motion passed. Scott Wilson later posted online that the Phinney Ridge Community Center (near Woodland Park Zoo) has a nice facility, costs only \$40 for two hours (cheaper than the Shoreline's \$58/month), is further off I-5 but has adequate parking and restaurant nearby.

### **Loaner Gear Funding**

James noted at the September and October grotto meetings that he is working a write up detailing the type and quantity of loaner gear we

would like to have available, with helmets and lights being the priority. Kat suggested a silent auction at the holiday party to raise some money to buy gear. Hester Mallonée offered to donate some prints of her paintings for the auction.

### **White Nose Syndrome (WNS) Updates**

- Ron Zuber reported in November that the Washington WNS sign installation project is now complete with several dozen signs posted mostly in the western and northeastern regions of WA. A report will be published soon. Zuber also said that the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife is trying to get funding to do bat counts in NE Washington.

### **Oregon Caves Restoration Weekend**

Hester Mallonée reminded people at September and October meetings of the upcoming Oregon Caves Restoration weekend. This will be the 10th annual such weekend, and in celebration, participants may wear animal print outfits. Some off-trail cleanup may be included. Lodging and meal plan will be provided.

At the November meeting, Dane Burke mentioned he could contact some vendors about getting good deals on fruit and veggie items for the meal plan. The meal plan includes dinner Friday night, three meals each on Saturday and Sunday, breakfast and a sack lunch on Monday.

### **Outreach Programs**

Hamilton International Middle School (located at 45th and Wallingford in Seattle) is looking for presenters to present a program on caves during a weekday or weeknight at end of January. Ron Zuber, Robert Mitchell and Kat Wilson expressed interest.

Ron Zuber suggested grotto members check out the following website which pairs adventurers with scientists for conservation:  
<http://www.adventureandscience.org/>

## **TRIP AND PROJECT REPORTS:**

### **Reported September 21, 2012:**

- James Mooreshire visited Cave Ridge six times in August, carrying vertical gear, caving gear, camping gear, and extra rope in case current ropes were bad. He was accompanied at various times by Josh Edwards, Tom Evans, Dane Burke, and another couple whose names he could not remember. Mooreshire and Burke saw the entire length of **Danger Cave**.

Mooreshire visited more than 10 caves in three weekends. He met lots of hikers who knew the area was called Cave Ridge. For our newer cavers and guests present he explained that these are alpine caves, and the snow in the region is only melted out in August generally. Cave Ridge has 17 caves and some other holes that aren't long enough to qualify. They are also marble caves; it is estimated that less than 2 percent of caves are set in marble. They are erosional cave with not a lot of deposits but lots of carved and fluted surfaces, Mooreshire also spent about 10 hours in **Newton Cave**, and got halfway down.

- At the NCA Regional, Robert Mitchell went with Claude Kock to **Breakdown Cave** and a few blowing holes in Utterstrom area. Mitchell also visited **Pillars of Hercules**.

- At the NCA Regional, Lane Holdcroft visited **Little Red River, Pillars of Hercules, and Kim's Cave**, all for the first time, He also said the NCS guidebook was "fantastic."

- Hester Mallonée visited **Lake Cave** during the NCA Regional and reported that the annex off to the right before one gets to the ladder has three sections that are broken. She also visited Flow Cave and painted some of the "crazy red lava." She also reminded the group that any flow that scrolls up off the side may be fragile and porous and may not carry your weight.

- Kat Wilson reported that she, husband Jeff and son Derek visited **Little Red River Cave, Flow**

**Cave** and **Little People's Cave** during the NCA Regional.

**Reported October 19, 2012:**

• Albert Meerscheit, James Mooreshire, Talon Swanson and Stuart Monson visited **Cascade, Newton and Red Caves** on Cave Ridge the weekend after the September grotto meeting. They climbed up and back in the same day. Three of them poked a bit in Cascade but without any serious rope work, woke up their above-grounds safety person then stuck heads into Newton and did just the first of multiple drops. They identified location of some of the Hanging Valley caves. Meerscheit described Red Cave as a pretty little cave with nice marble formations with amazing erosion and a squeeze into an area with some red mineral. Red Cave is mentioned in the book "Cave Minerals of the World." The group explored an upper attic area and straddled a piece with a three-foot drop on one side and a 30-foot drop in the other. Mooreshire offered to sherpa Hester Mallonée's painting gear if she wanted to paint in Red Cave.

**Reported November 15, 2012:**

• Ron Zuber replied to an online posting by several Western Washington students who are doing a small study on carbonate caves. They had already been to **Jackman Cave**. If snow level is still above **Three Mile Cave**, he'll take them to that one. They asked about **Ramses** and **Elderberry Caves**; Zuber may also take them to **Church Mountain Cave**.

Ron Zuber noted that a new **Boulder Cave** gate is completed. The first gate was proven to be successful in protecting bigger bats so a second gate was installed. Neither gate is at the cave entrance; instead they protect select areas within the cave. No Cascade Grotto members participated in the project

• Dane Burke expressed an interest in setting up some winter cave trips. Ron Zuber expressed concern that winter caving endangers

hibernaculums. Further discussion included the following: **Deadhorse Cave** is available if you don't mind skiing or snowshoeing; **Dynamited's** upper entrance may be reached in January.

• Dane Burke reported on his recent trip to south-central Missouri. Since Missouri is one of the states affected by White Nose Syndrome, he borrowed caving gear from Kat and Jeff Wilson to comply with WNS caving protocols. (WNS protocols state that gear used in a WNS-affected region should not be used outside of that region. Since Kat and Jaff have gear from Missouri which they kept solely for use in WNS "quarantine areas," they loaned it to Dane so that he could avoid contaminating any gear from Washington).

Unfortunately, though Kat had set Dane up with a caving contact in Missouri, his itinerary did coincide enough with hers to join in on any wild caving. He did, however, manage to visit a commercial cave known as **Jacob's Cave** which has been in operation as a show cave since 1932. Jacob's Cave is a limestone cave with a mile-long tour route. Some of its features include soda straws, flowstone, helectites, stalactiflats and fossilized bones mammoth, bear and peccary (wild pig). Dane showed a slideshow of some of these features at the meeting. More information can be found at [www.jacobscave.com](http://www.jacobscave.com).

# End-Of-Year Treasurer's Report

<u>INCOME</u> (items in blue/cyan are estimates)	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>FY 2013</u>
Dues		
Membership--reweables/new in Oct	639.00	557.00
Memberships--Partial year	155.97	0.00
Donations--miscellaneous	13.04	0.00
<u>Donations for Cascade Caver*</u>	<u>137.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>928.01</b>	<b>637.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Meeting space rental	348.00	348.00
P.O. Box	76.00	94.00
Websace for IOs	12.00	12.00
Go Daddy Web Domain fee**	(8.20)	(8.20)
Cascade Caver printing (one issue)*	120.00	45.00
Cascade Caver mailing (one issue)*	17.50	20.00
*Thomas Evans mapping project	72.00	36.00
Donations for NSS Headquarters	75.00	0.00
Honorarium for laptop	100.00	0.00
Misc		
Analsis Service fee	7.00	0.00
<u>Holiday party</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>827.50</b>	<b>605.00</b>
<b>Income Minus Expenses =</b>	<b>100.51</b>	<b>32.00</b>

Each additional issue of Cascade Caver     45.00 to 187.50 to print\*

\*Only one issue of the Cascade Caver was printed and mailed for FY 2012 as the July, 2012 issue has not yet been printed or mailed. Note that without the \$137.50 donation for the full-color printing and mailing, we would have been in the red for FY 2012. Full-color printing at 25 cents per page and 30-50 pages per issue equals \$7.50 to \$12.50. Black-and-white printing, estimating 10 cents per page, costs \$3-\$5 per copy. We need to print and mail about 15 copies per issue mostly to NSS Affiliates. Thus one issue (30-50 pages, 15 copies) would be about \$45-\$75 to print (no color), \$55.50 - \$92.50 (color only to members who paid for printed copies), and \$112.50 - \$187.50 (full color) to print.

**Conclusions: We either need to increase income or reduce expenses if we want more than one issue of the Cascade Caver per year. Additional memberships are vital.**

\*\*The GoDaddy web fee is paid every five years (last payment was made in 2010) so this amount is not included in the total expenses for FY 2012 and FY 2013.