

A photograph of a cave interior. The rock walls and floor are illuminated with various colors, including blue, green, yellow, and red. A person wearing a blue suit and a red helmet is crouching on a rock ledge in the upper left. The text "The Cascade Caver" is overlaid in white serif font on the right side, with "60.1" below it.

# The Cascade Caver

60.1

**Interplanetary Journal of Vulcanospeleology**





# *The Cascade Caver*

Interplanetary Journal of Vulcanospeleology  
Official Publication of the  
Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society  
cascadegrotto.org caves.org

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Volume 60: No. 1

Editor: Daryl Greaser

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## In This Issue

2021 Women's Caving Trip  
by Mariana Tomas-Savage  
Page 15

2021 Grotto Round-up:  
Page 20

Annual Ape Cave Clean-up:  
by Katt Greaser  
Page 22

Halloween Cave-In:  
by Daryl Greaser  
Page 31

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3	Update from the Chair	36	Treasurer's Report
6	2021 Grotto Presentations	37	Remembrance
8	Letters	38	Grotto Information

[Cover] **Ruth Stickney examining the lava flow.** [Mariana Tomas-Savage]

[Back Cover] **Handholds and...handholds?** [Daryl Greaser]

# Update by Daryl Greaser

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Hello cavers! I present: ***The Cascade Caver, Volume 60 Number 1.***

Hopefully you'll view this as a Grotto Holiday gift! This issue applies only to 2021 and I've attempted to summarize our activities this year, despite our initial high hopes (post-Covid!) followed by our reality (Delta variant!). SO, we didn't accomplish as much as we'd like to, but we still managed some significant events.

As this goes to press, I am resigning as your Chair after 3 years as it is time for a change! Elections will be held in January and members will receive info by email.



The last vestiges of my "Covid beard" (20 months' worth)

I intend to publish the newsletter, hopefully on a timely basis, as I will hand off all of the executive and secretarial duties!

As always, thank you so much for supporting the Cascade Grotto!

## **Grotto Announcements:**

Researcher Kathleen Wendt is looking for Cryogenic Cave Carbonates (CCCs) in Washington state. Information on how you can help is in **Letters**

Karl "Dusty" Goldsieder met the new "landowner", Brewster Wise, who controls access to Albright Cave in central WA. He has been in Albright and invites us to explore the cave next summer by accessing via his private property. Read how in **Letters**

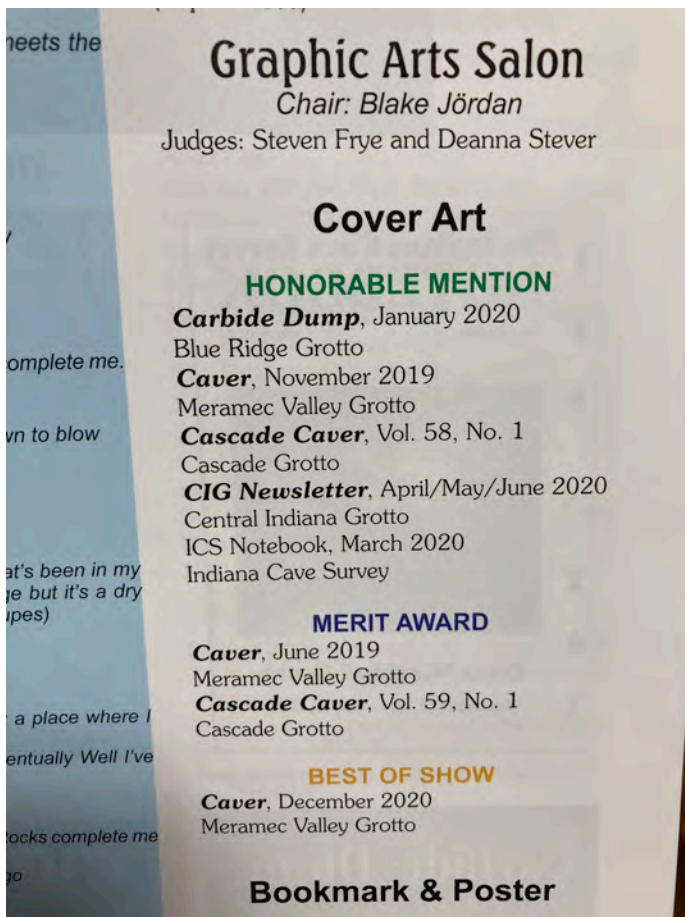
We have a new **YouTube** Channel! Search "Cascade Grotto" and be sure to subscribe! We will be uploading our Zoom presentations and other content. Please help us get to 100 subscribers so we can get a custom URL link! In the meantime, here's the awful URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJen31zg9TKruffy9AgQpcBg>

Tom Cunningham graciously accepted the position of Grotto Secretary for **2021**. Tom recently returned to Cascade Grotto after a long absence; Tom remembers getting dropped off for a Grotto meeting at co-founder Bill Halliday's house by his parents

## Update, continued

before he was old enough to drive! Tom has been at every meeting diligently taking notes and now he is ready to pass the torch for 2022! Thank you, Tom!!

One of the unfortunate losses to the pandemic was the canceling of the 2021 NSS National Convention scheduled to be held in Weed, California, in June, later July, 2021. Unfortunately the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic forced the NSS Board to compel the cancellation of the in-person event for the second year in a row. Despite the heroic efforts of Matt Bowers (Convention Chair) to convert the in-person event to a Western Regional Speleo-Ed at the same site, a paltry ~140 attendees confirmed this as another Covid casualty. (The Convention usually draws 600-1000) The *really* unfortunate part, however isn't the cancellation, which was a 50/50 risk for the NSS, it's the fact that it is unlikely that we'll see a Northern California Convention again anytime soon, as the process is a mostly thankless 2-3 \*years\* of planning and prep, and many of the would-be convention staff aren't likely to "blow" that much effort again in their lifetime. Personally, I feel shitty about it - it just sucks and that's all there is to it.



In happy news, I submitted a couple of covers from past *The Cascade Caver* issues to the NSS Graphic Arts Salon, and won an Honorable Mention and a Merit Award! Woot woot!

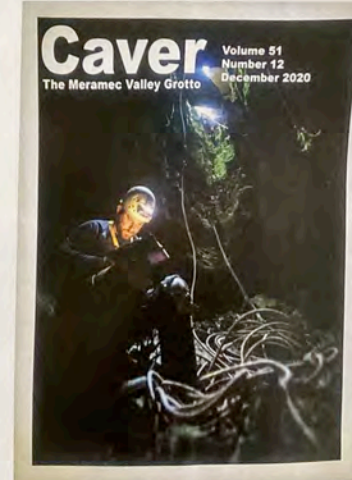
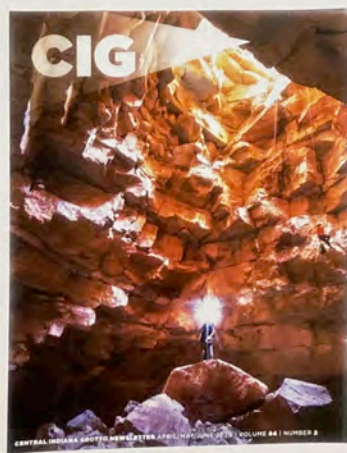
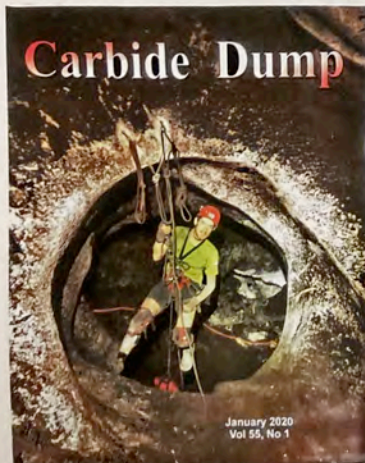
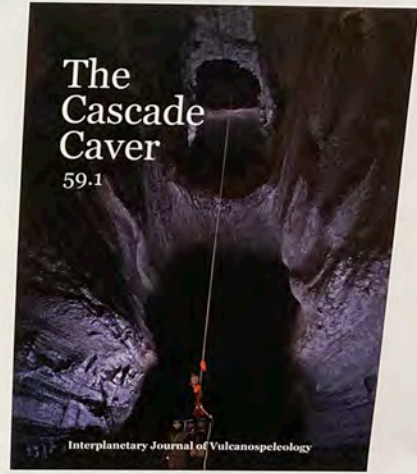
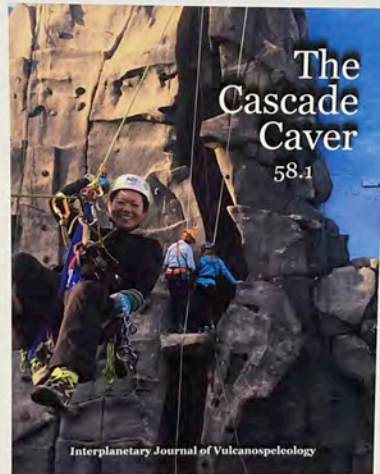
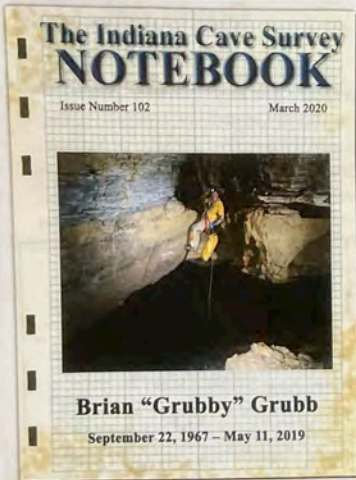
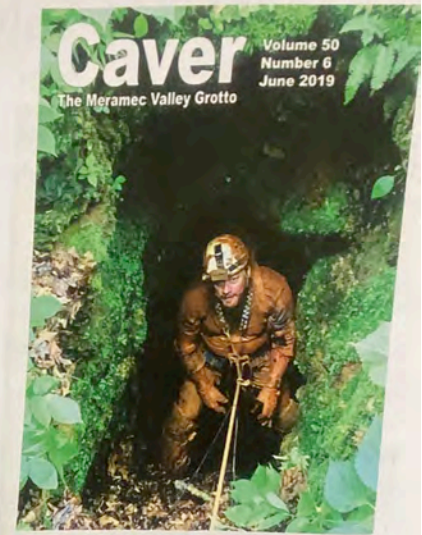
I can barely claim credit, as the real artists are the photographers that took the great photos! (Justen Despain for Vol 59, No 1, and Caleb Lystad for Vol 58, No 1)

I'd sign-off with some kind of farewell address, but I'm not going anywhere - I'm working on the Windy Creek Cave Special Issue for summer 2022, just in time for us to resume grotto trips to Washington's longest cave!

Have a safe and happy 2022!  
-Daryl Greaser



Cover Art Salon winners



10

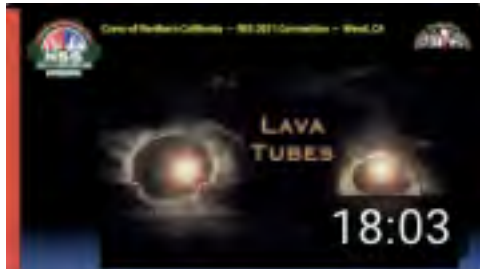
NSS NEWS, November 2021

2021 NSS Convention Cover Art Salon winners

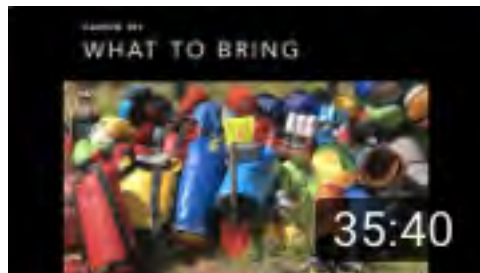
# 2021 Presentations

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Here's a list of presentations that were part of Cascade Grotto meetings in 2021:



**January: Caves of Northern California** by Matt Bowers, in anticipation of the in-person NSS Convention in Weed, CA. Due to Covid, the Convention was turned into a in-person event and Matt converted the Weed activities into a Western Region Speleo-Ed, that was poorly attended. 18 minutes <https://youtu.be/zxXXgF4viX8>



**March: Caving 101: What to Bring** by Daryl Greaser. Daryl presented an overview of beginner caving, head-to-toe gear considerations, ethics, conservation, and more. Currently being revised for brevity, targeting less than 20 minutes.

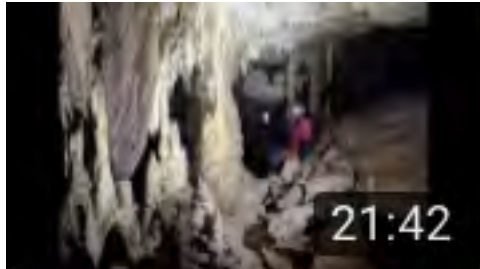


**April: Cryogenic Cave Carbonates (CCCs)**, presented by OSU researcher Kathleen Wendt, followed by Q&A. Katie is looking for these CCCs in Washington caves that were covered by the Late Glacial Maximum. 37 minutes <https://youtu.be/-ECToM3SoKg>



**June: Knots 101** by Eric Jorgenson and Daryl Greaser

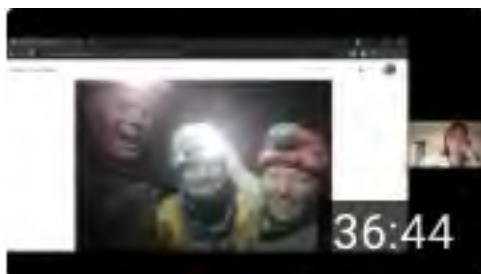
Eric started us off with the Figure 8, a Double Figure 8, and an Alpine Butterfly. Daryl followed with an alternate method of tying the Alpine Butterfly, the Bowline, the Double Fishermans, and ridiculously, the Trucker Hitch. Held at Seattle's Maple Leaf Park, this was our first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic!



**September: Caves of TAG** by Eric Jorgenson. Eric traveled to TAG this year and this is his report. TAG is the cave-dense region of Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. 21 minutes. <https://youtu.be/n4lEHaolG1w>



**October: Windy Creek Cave** by Daryl Greaser. Daryl spent a week forging a new route to Windy Creek, just after Eric Jorgenson led the first successful trip to the cave in many years. See what it takes 25 minutes. [https://youtu.be/3\\_lqgYhWCDU](https://youtu.be/3_lqgYhWCDU)



**November: 2021 Silvertip Expedition** by Georgia Schneider. This presentation details the connection of a new cave in the Silvertip South Cirque, Daddy Croc, into Moonray Cave. ~20 minutes; 36 minutes total with extended Q&A. Please note, this presentation is *not* listed on our YouTube channel at the author's request, **you must use this link:** <https://youtu.be/rwyhqORnt54>

# Letters

Communication received by the Grotto

## **Albright Cave access:**

Hi Daryl & Cascade Grotto,

I recently met Brewster (Bruce) Wise during a confined space rescue training. I'd mentioned in introductions that I am a caver and had been a cave rescue instructor etc. Bruce brought up that he had purchased a piece of land near Conconully WA with a cave on it. It turns out that his land includes Cave Mountain and Albright Cave.

I told him the Cascade Grotto cavers would be very interested in making a trip, perhaps even re-surveying the cave - since the only survey we'd seen was from 'The Caves of Washington' book 1963.

Bruce is interested in us coming out in 2022 after the Hwy 20 re-opens after the winter/spring snowmelt (typically May).

I've added Brewster Wise to the Cascade Grotto Facebook group. I have his phone number for contact and will keep in touch and correspond with him regarding coordinating trip planning when it comes time.

Included here are 3 photos Brewster shared with me from their brief exploration of Albright- which was not extensive. He said there were old ladders going down deeper into the cave which he did not trust. I let him know we would bring appropriate rigging to safely explore when it comes time.

Karl Goldscheider [kgoldscheider@gmail.com](mailto:kgoldscheider@gmail.com)

Brewster Wise email: [Brewsterwise@yahoo.com](mailto:Brewsterwise@yahoo.com)



*The Cascade Caver*



Volume 60, Number 1



Page 8



## Letters, continued

### **The hunt for Cryogenic Cave Carbonates (CCCs)**

*(Researcher Kathleen Wendt responds to Bruce's offer: -ed)*

Hi Bruce,

As Jerry mentioned, I'm a researcher at OSU in Corvallis.

Here's my website: <https://kathleenwendt.yolasite.com/>

Speleothem layers, like tree rings, contain information about a region's climate history. I can determine their age via U-Th dating. I then analyze their oxygen isotopes to develop a record of past temps. I'm also on the lookout for Cryogenic Cave Carbonates (CCCs), which are a proxy for ancient permafrost. We would expect permafrost in NE Washington during the last ice age, but there's no scientific proof yet. Attached are some pictures of CCCs.

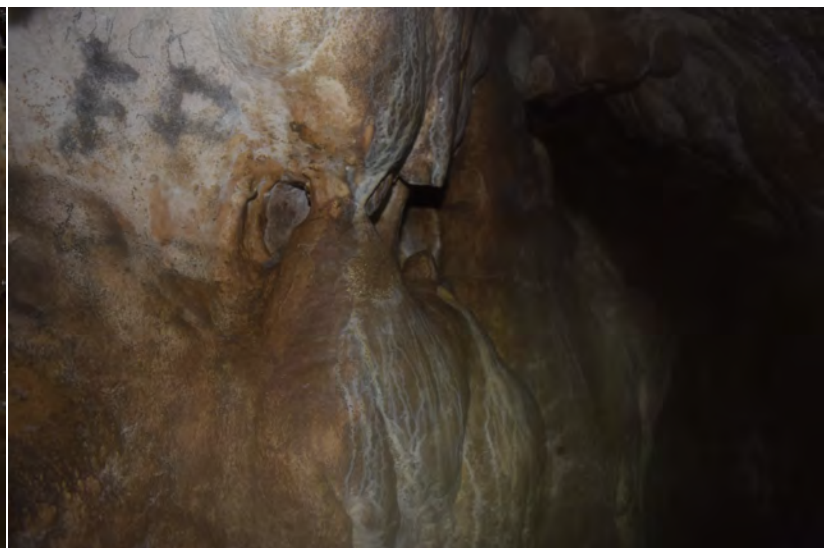
I recently cored some stalactites in Gardner Cave. I plan to determine their age at the U of Minnesota (my alma mater) this December. I use a minimally invasive coring technique (see below). I patch the holes with some wood putty to leave minimal visual impact on the cave. Some photos of this process from Gardner appear below.

If you've seen any stalactites or CCCs in Cave Mountain or Albright Cave, I'd be happy to know. With all the correct permits and permissions in place, I would use a little funding from the NSS to analyze the samples and share any scientific results with you.

Thanks,  
Kathleen  
wendt095@umn.edu



Core diameter is about 1.5 inches



Same stalactite, after patching

## Letters, continued



<https://youtu.be/pTv8MiW49V4>

### **NSS Vertical Training Commission:**

Dear caver,

Thank you for filling out the Vertical Learning Preferences survey in March. The questionnaire was completed by over 1,000 cavers, and provided important insights not only into learning preferences, but many aspects of vertical education (or lack thereof) in the US. In that questionnaire you provided your email address as being interested in additional vertical education information from the NSS. I therefore wanted to make you aware of a new initiative by the NSS, the Vertical Training Commission (VTC).

This past summer, an ad hoc committee was commissioned by the NSS President to look at vertical training in the US, prompted by a concern about the number of caving incidents in the US that could have been prevented with adequate training. That committee recommended the VTC as a training commission within the NSS.

As someone with prior vertical experience, there is an opportunity to become involved, whether as a trainer within your grotto, or within the organizational structure of the VTC itself. All levels of experience are invited, and if you are interested you can indicate your interest on the following website: <https://learnmore.caves.org/index.php/VTC/>

The website also includes a brief summary of the questionnaire results, although a much more extensive publication will (hopefully) be published next year.



Personally, I'd like to thank you for taking the time to fill out the questionnaire. It takes some of your time to do. Not only was the generated data really interesting, but the results could have profound and long-term benefits to US caving. And for that, the participation of so many cavers was crucial.

Kind regards,

Hazel Barton

Chair, NSS Safety and Techniques Committee

10/18/21 VTC Townhall (Charter) Meeting: <https://youtu.be/7iYO2PJaDGQ>

### Old Sacks Sought

Matt Skeels discovered this article from the *Spokesman Review* from October 21, 1971, p. 7: "YOUTH, NOW 67, SEEK TREASURE: OLD SACKS IN CAVE SOUGHT"

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?>

[id=4vtLAAAIBAJ&sjid=juwDAAAIBAJ&pg=7423%2C2095538](https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=4vtLAAAIBAJ&sjid=juwDAAAIBAJ&pg=7423%2C2095538)

**YOUTH, NOW 67, SEEK TREASURE**

## Old Sacks in Cave Sought

**BREWSTER, Wash. (AP) —** A half century ago, Emery Crandall kicked a pile of rotting sacks in a small cave near here. Years later he became convinced the sacks were filled with gold.

Since then, Crandall, 67, has been fruitlessly searching for the cave despite being convinced he knows its exact location on property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hanford.

**Can See It in Memory**

"I can see it like it was yesterday," Crandall says. However, "It's changed. It's probably under 20 to 30 feet of rock today," he says.

The location, several miles north of here on the road to Paradise Hill, is at the bottom of a cliff from which rocks periodically crash down.

Crandall was 10 years old when he stumbled on the sacks while exploring during a Sunday school picnic. He remembers seeing the sacks, kicking the bags and watching a grainy dust spill out.

**Chinese Gold Miners**

The Brewster rancher believes the sacks may have been placed there by Chinese gold miners who were massacred by Indians near Chelan in the late 1800s.

Today neither the Hanfords nor Crandall have any great hope of uncovering the sacks themselves — although the Hanfords say they could use the money.

"I hope someone finds it," says Mrs. Hanford.



**On Trail of Gold**  
Crandall checks rocky site.

**Demo Urges Full-Time Legislators**

**FIRM APPEALS GAS HIKE BAN**

OLYMPIA (AP) — Washington Natural Gas Co. filed a petition in Thurston County superior court Wednesday seeking review of an order by the

MOSES LAKE, Wash. — The

## Letters, continued

### **TAG Caving, anyone?**

I just watched the Cascade Grotto video on TAG caving. I live on Nat Mountain in Jackson County, Alabama, among thousands of caves within easy driving distance, and I have been caving here and elsewhere for a long time. If you folks return to TAG, and if you would be interested in local, multi-drop wetsuit caves, look me up, and I would be glad to take you underground.

Cheers, B Stickney [voronja@gmail.com](mailto:voronja@gmail.com)

### **Member Robert W. Carroll Jr.**

While researching Witherle E-T cave and talus caves, an old newsletter from your grotto popped up on google. The newsletter is from 1984 specifically volume 23, number 3 and details the lengths of several talus caves in the NH, Maine, Vermont and Adirondack areas as reported by Robert W. Carroll Jr. I wouldn't mind if you asked some of your grotto's older members, might just be cool to learn more about him considering all the research it looks like he did. (Records show Carroll has passed away). Does anyone remember Robert? From Jake Lee in Massachusetts [jjjbrowning123@gmail.com](mailto:jjjbrowning123@gmail.com)

### **Northwest Cave Research Institute:**

There was a group invented by members of the Cascade Grotto for the purpose of obtaining access to some of the better caves away from the west coast of Washington State.. This group was the Northwest Cave Research institute of which I was a member. We spent most of our time at Jewell Cave, a little less at Wind Cave and a few other lesser known caves. Jerry Thompson and I went out there three times for a week each time to do work mostly at Jewell.

People that were active in our Grotto and in the NCRI were:

Bob Brown, Mark Sherman, Ben Thompkins, Steve Sprague, Jerry Thompson, Jim Harp and others whose names I dis-remember.

At that time Cascade Grotto was tight with the Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group (VICEG) and a lot of those folks came down to work with the NCRI. Vancouver Isle has a lot of limestone caves and Cascade Grotto members were out there a lot.

The first four names on my list are people I would start with and maybe ask them to attend a meeting north of Seattle to give a program about the NCRI.

From Jim Harp [JHarpJ@msn.com](mailto:JHarpJ@msn.com)

### **A trip down memory lane**

A trip down memory lane, I was a member of the Cascade Grotto for five years back in the 1980's, and had some great experiences. I went to **Windy Creek Cave** with 3 others and had an opportunity to explore a virgin passage, which was full of water. We used mud ridges on both walls and walked above the water for about 100 feet, very interesting. I also climbed Mt Rainier in 1980 with Dr Halliday and his daughter Patricia



(she was 23), and **we camped in the summit crater overnight and explored the steam caves.** (I was a graduate of the Seattle Mountaineers climbing school, which gave me an invitation to go with him :). We had six in our party. We also climbed with the same party to the top of Mt Baker to explore the steam caves under the Sherman Crater ice cap, back when there was a fumarole that shot 1,000' into the air from Sherman Crater. The caves were more extensive and more interesting than the ones on top of Mt Rainier. The fumarole stopped since and I suspect the caves are not there any more. I also was privileged to join Dr Halliday and a crew four months after Mt St Helens blew back in 1980, to go into the lava cave area near Cougar, and survey the 50 or so lava caves that are in the area. The only one we lost was fittingly named "**Hopeless Cave**" which was in an area soaked by mud flows. The cave was completely filled with mud. All the others came through pretty much unscathed :). We also saw Lava Canyon when it was still absolutely raw, an inverted triangle of lava rock with the dirt around scoured away by mud flows and a creek still running down the center of the top. Awesome! I suspect it is not nearly as awesome now, as I bet a ton of foliage has grown up all around it. But it is still an awesome thing. If Rod Crawford is still around, say hi for me :).

Best regards,  
Roger Matthews  
206-650-9341  
Maple Valley, WA  
[lovesmtns@gmail.com](mailto:lovesmtns@gmail.com)

*(Our Treasurer, Talon Swanson, replied to Roger's email with some basic info and updates. Roger's response:)*

Hi Talon,  
Thank you so much for getting back, and for the update :). Thanks for the booklet, we are all conservation minded, and I will forward it to them for sure. My nieces live in Pullman, so I don't know if there is a chapter over there. I had really good times with the grotto for about 5 years, and then discovered mountain climbing, and sorta switched. I know they call caving, "mountain climbing upside down in the dark", but the caving that is magnificent is in limestone country, and the glaciations pretty much wiped out any magnificent limestone caves we might have had in Washington. I know there are a few, but nothing on the scale of Carlsbad or Mammoth. So we settled on lava caves and had some wonderful family memories. And Dr Halliday took advantage of my mountain climbing to help him put together his steam cave trips. By the way, he contacted the scientists at Pullman who were examining the Mt Baker fumarole, and got their assurance that the air in the **steam caves** there was safe. As it was, thankfully :). So I climbed all the major volcanoes in the area, and a few elsewhere such as Mt Shasta, and had some great experiences. But caving was always my first love :) Good to hear the grotto is still going strong. Again great to hear from you.

Best regards,  
Roger Matthews

# Letters, continued

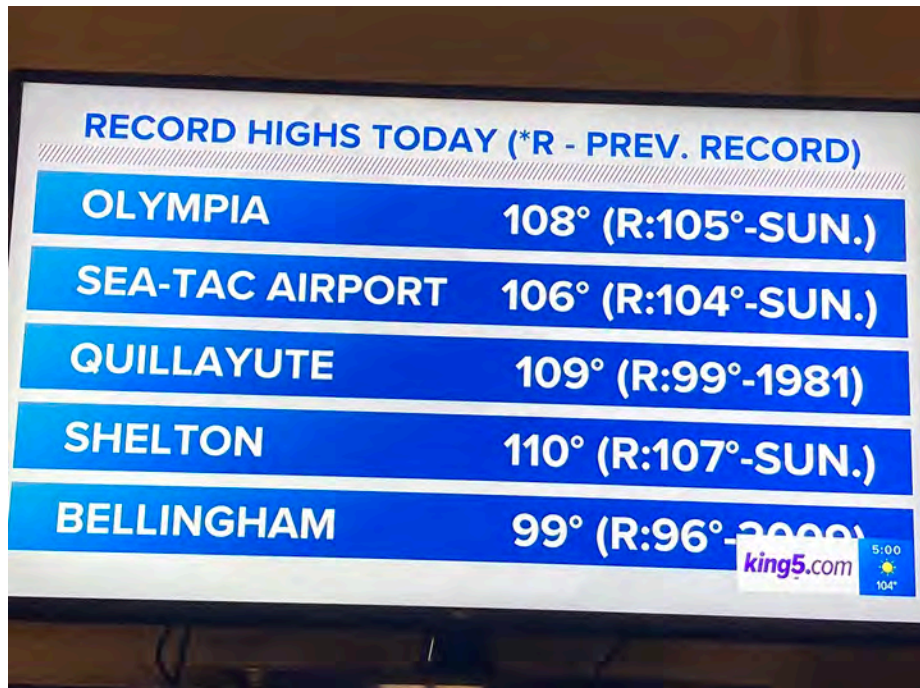
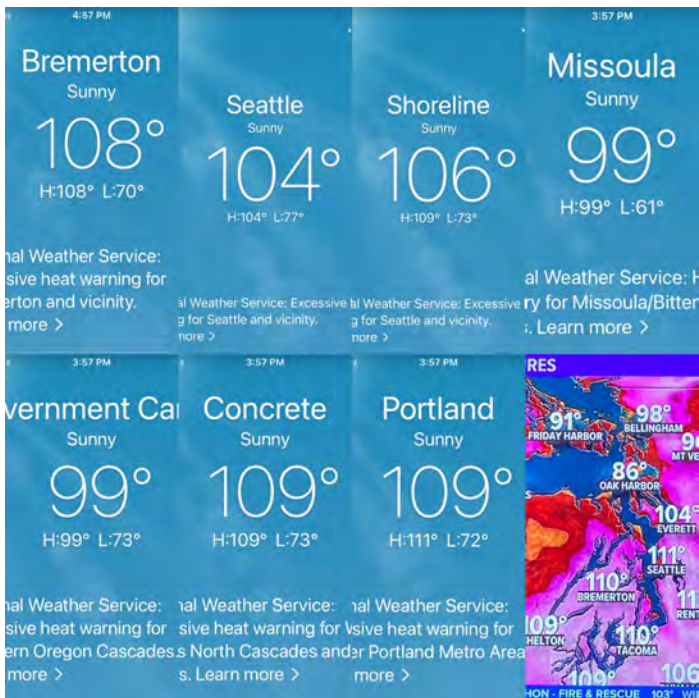
## New Member Introduction

Greetings! Apologies I'm e-mailing the group now after I joined today's meeting, I somehow never sent my introduction e-mail. I'm Garrett Jordan, a fairly new transplant to the Pacific Northwest from California and Tennessee. I've been caving for the past three-and-half-years, with the Mother Lode Grotto in Sacramento, CA, and the Upper Cumberland Grotto in Cookeville, TN. My interest in the Cascade Grotto is for the purposes of fellowship, exploring new caves, and participating in any speleo-biological research the Grotto may be part of, as I've done bat and cave microbe surveys previously. I'm interested in joining the Cascade Grotto based on recommendations of members of the Oregon Grotto (which I joined just last month). I don't have a FaceBook account, however, so this mailing list and the meetings will be my main way of contact until I've met some of your members in person.

Looking forward to spelunking and meeting with you!

Best,

Garrett Jordan [gmjc817@protonmail.com](mailto:gmjc817@protonmail.com)



**2021 was the hottest summer on record, the heat killing almost 200 in the Pacific Northwest alone.**



# 2021 Women's Caving Trip

by Mariana Tomas-Savage

On Saturday, September 25, 2021, Ruth Stickney of Oregon Grotto, and Mariana Tomas-Savage of Cascade Grotto led a women's trip to Chubby Bunny cave in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest / Mt Adams area. Ruth obtained the key to the cave from the Mt Adams Ranger Station the day before.

As in all good adventures, this cave trip included exploration, villains and heroes, big surprises, beautiful scenery, and a happy ending. So let us begin!

On a warm Saturday morning the four protagonists - who didn't get last-minute work assignments, didn't have their cars broken into, and didn't need to file any reports with the Police - embarked on the trip. Sometimes you have to be thankful for the things you didn't get - so in full awareness of our good fortune, all four of us - Alisa Koehn, Gretchen Gillbreath, Ruth Stickney, and Mariana Tomas-Savage took off from Stickney residence. Ruth drove through Trout Lake and parked along a wide spot in the gravel road. We donned cave gear and helmets while random people drove by, staring at the sight, probably thinking that we were about to reenact a Ghost Buster's scene. On the second thought, they were probably too young to even have heard of Ghost Busters, so who knows what they were thinking. Perhaps they thought we were going to do a Tik-Tok video? Your opinions are welcome!

We promptly started the traditional bushwhack to the cave as Ruth led us with the help of her GPS. Gretchen was right behind her, Alisa following, and Mariana at the end. But, Alisa was the first one to notice the villainous bees which attacked from their underground lair! As the bees attacked, Mariana and Alisa fled toward the road. There was a wild waving of the arms, crashing of branches, and we were back by the car in no time. Mariana got stung once on the nose and lost her glasses in the process, and



Ruth and Gretchen observing the sandcastle formations  
[Mariana Tomas-Savage]

Alisa suffered at least five stings. No problem for this woman, she never complained! Gretchen got stung in the forehead, and Ruth was the only one to come out unharmed. We got some ice pack and aloe action and regrouped. Time for the second attempt! No villainous bees are going to stop us!

This time, we strategically avoided the bee lair - they outnumbered us by far - and after some serious bushwhacking made it to the cave entrance. The expected vine maples were thick as ever, but the area seemed more difficult to navigate because of a number of trees that had been felled and left on the ground. After Ruth opened the lock, Alisa lifted the heavy gate and the group descended into the cave, Mariana going first.

The group descended further at a good pace, even with very consistent picture taking. The first sight of note was of course the bones of the unfortunate bunny that found his demise in the cave. The further we went, the more interesting the cave became. There were numerous formations of lava straws, sandcastles, colorful streaks in the otherwise



black rock, lava shelves, lava tracks, the chunk of breakdown known as “the radiator”, and so much more. On the way back, we stopped at Awesome Alley - the true star of the show. For those of you who have seen Awesome Alley, we don’t need to say much. But for those of you who have not - well - just go and see it. Ok, fine, we will tell you a little bit about it, but our words are not going to do it justice.

First off, Awesome Alley starts as a bear-walk, or a crawl, depending on how tall you are. The original floor is pahoehoe at first, but then it transitions into something in between pahoehoe and a’a. Not a great transition if you ask me! My hands are still hurting!





[Left] Lava flow in Awesome Alley. [Right] Lava soda straws  
[Mariana Tomas-Savage]

But then, you are in a wonderland! The ceiling rises, and the floor becomes all sorts of colorful - deep red, yellow, and ochre. One feels like you stepped back in time, way back in time, when lava just cooled off and became solid. The colors are intense, and the formations are practically intact. Images below by Mariana Tomas-Savage. Left: Ruth Stickney examining the lava flow. Right: Alisa and Ruth take a break.

After exploring Awesome Alley, we take the trip back to the entrance, this time paying more attention to the formations as we go. An abundance of soda straws in lava is rare, but Chubby Bunny has a lot to offer.

Finally, we come back to the gate and it is time to open it. Both Ruth and Mariana try, but it is not until Alisa lifts it like it's a minor thing that we can get out safely. Gretchen remarks that everything looks more beautiful once you're out, and we have to agree. It was her first caving trip, and we hope she will be back for more.

[More photos from the trip on the next two pages by Mariana Tomas-Savage]









Author and Trip Leader Mariana Tomas-Savage!



# 2021 Round-up

## Here's a list of Grotto activities in 2021:

May 1st: **Annual Beginner's Trip** to Lake Cave, camping on Saturday night, shenanigans.

May 2nd: **Annual Ape Cave Clean Up**, before the cave opened to the public (it is fenced off due to Covid).

May 25th: **SRT practice** at Volunteer Park, Seattle, led by Eric Jorgenson.

June 11th: **First in-person meeting** since the pandemic at Maple Leaf Park. Eric and Daryl teach Knots 101, and afterwards a small crowd gathers at Last Drop Bottle Shop for beers and tall tales.

June 12th: **Basic SRT training** at the Mountaineers Program Center with instructors Daryl Greaser and Eric Jorgenson. NSS President Geary Schindel arrives and climbs the tower with his Ropewalker!

June 19th: **The second Beginner's Trip of the year to Lake Cave.** NSS President Geary Schindel and First Girl Aspen attend! Camp and campfire afterward with the first family of caving.

July 23rd: **2nd in-person meeting** held at Peddler Brewing, Ballard, hosted by Eric Jorgenson.

July: **Elderberry Cave** led by Mark Garnick

August 1st: **Cascade Cave trip** led by Eric Jorgenson to Cave Ridge

August 10th: **Vertical Practice** at Ravenna Park bridge by Eric Jorgenson

August 15th: **Newton Cave**, Cave Ridge, by Joe Sepiol

August 10th: **Vertical training**, Ravenna Park by Eric Jorgenson

August 19th: **Grotto hangout** at Big Time Brewery hosted by Tyrone Philips

August 20-22: **Fossil Mountain Ice Cave / Darby Wind Cave** led by Joe Keyes



2021 NSS President Geary Schindel climbs the tower at the Seattle Mountaineers Program Center at the Basic SRT Training. Note Geary is using a ropewalker system. [Daryl Greaser]





Rushil, Clara, Will, John, Aspen, Sue, Geary, Eric, Mike, and Daryl enjoy beers at Last Drop Bottle Shop and Tall Tales following the first in-person meeting in over 18 months!  
June 2021 [Daryl Greaser]

August 29th: **Cascade and Hellhole Caves**, Cave Ridge, hosted by Jennifer Jain

August: **Windy Creek Cave, 1st presumed caver visit in years** led by Eric Jorgenson, on a soggy weekend and the 6th-7th-8th(??) attempt since 2019 to visit this gem.

September 1-7: **Windy Creek Cave** - Daryl and Katt Greaser and Will Jasper. Hacked out a repeatable route through the Devil's Club and Vine Maple, and accessed the cave on the last day. A Windy Creek Cave Special Issue of the *Cascade Caver* is being drafted for next year, and grotto trips will resume in 2022!!

September 9th: **Vertical Practice** at Volunteer Park by Eric Jorgenson

September 19th: **Jackman Creek Cave trip** by Dusty Goldscheider and Laina Nichols

September 25th: **"Just Curious" hike** to leads past Lake Blanca by Joe Sepiol

September 25th: **Annual Women's Caving Trip** by Mariana Tomas-Savage

September 28th: **Casual caver social**, hosted by Tyrone Philips at The Octopus Bar

October 29-31st: **Halloween Cave In** weekend, Trout Lake, WA. A dozen or so cavers come to party and do a little caving. Turns out it is fun to drink with other people! Dynamited, Deadhorse, Stairwell system, SRT training, liquid nitrogen pumpkin-smashing. Shenanigans until the wee hours, 4-day weekend!

There were *many* other impromptu trips that are not listed here, as well as things I've certainly missed! -Daryl

# Ape Cave clean up weekend

May 1/2, 2021 by Katt Greaser

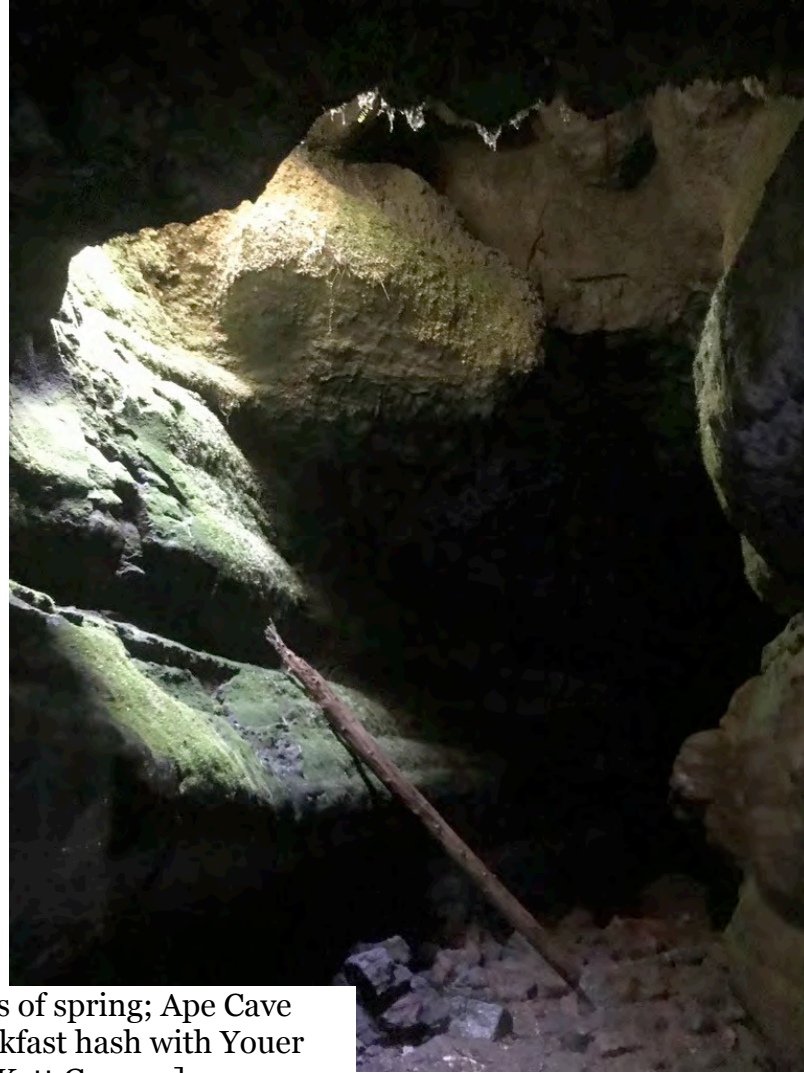
We had such a great weekend with the @cascadegrotto for our clean up trip to Ape Cave, helping the Forest Service get ready to open the cave again to the public. On Saturday we took a trip to Lake Cave. I'm looking forward to going back (with knee pads!) to explore the nooks and crannies. Sunday morning I made us a delicious breakfast hash (with @fullcirclefarms CSA potatoes!) (while rocking my favorite camp outfit, @shopyouer fleece leggings and a "vintage" Kind Apparel Fjord dress) before heading into Ape Cave. It's been so long since I've been around people. All but three of us on the trip were double dosed+two weeks (I'm double dosed, but not quite fully protected). Everyone wore masks while we were caving, with nary a complaint. I'm so thankful to live in a state, and recreate with people, who believe in science.

#caving #ladycaver #curvystoke #apecave #caver #lavatube



Katt climbs the ladder in Lake (left) [Daryl Greaser]; the seasonal "Lake" in the namesake cave in early May [Katt Greaser]





Clockwise from top left: Signs of spring; Ape Cave Skylight [Sirius Strebe]; breakfast hash with Youer gear; Riley, Daryl and Katt; [Katt Greaser]







The clean-up crew on a large talus pile, cave benchmark, and a gate around the Ape Cave entrance, still closed due to the global pandemic. [Daryl Greaser]





Above: Sirius shows off a lava fall;  
Below: Lighting is everything! [Dan Vettters]







**The 2021 Ape Cave Clean-up Crew!** from left: Katt Greaser, Jeff Walston, Thomas Cunningham, Aly Cunningham, Dan Veters, Sirius Strebe, Ben Withey [Daryl Greaser]

The Mt St Helens National Volcanic Monument donated gloves, trash bags, and a large dump truck for the Grotto to use for the clean up, which has resurfaced in the last few years as an annual event. This year it required submitting a Covid risk assessment and Volunteer Service Agreement, and all participants were vaccinated and masked. We would like to thank the Monument for working with us cooperatively to be stewards of the cave!

Ape Cave was closed to the public in 2020 and opened on May 18, 2021. The Grotto clean-up trip this year was unique because there was a fence all the way around the entrance and the road was closed beyond the Trail of Two Forests. Something new, and perhaps long overdue, is timed-entry tickets for Ape, which will \*not be for sale\* at the cave, and are “free,” as long as you pay the processing fee at recreation.gov - so, it’s not actually free, and ultimately this process discriminates against the poor and unbanked. But, it’s an improvement nonetheless. - Daryl Greaser





Cascade Cavers at the ladder in Lake Cave [Daryl Greaser]





From the June 19th Beginner's Trip: (back) Rushil, Aspen, Clara, Tony Ray, NSS President Geary Schindel. (front) Vicki, Kyle, Cora, Katt, Vice Chair Eric Jorgenson. [Daryl Greaser]



Lake Cave [Daryl Greaser]





[Left] SRT practice at the Mountaineers Program Center [Daryl Greaser]; SRT practice in Volunteer Park [Eric Jorgenson]; Elderberry Cave entrance [Mark Garnick]







Will Jasper ascends out of “The Other Way” in Newton Cave.  
[Eric Jorgenson]



# Halloween Cave-in

Halloween Weekend 2021 by Daryl Greaser

We sort-of planned a Halloween weekend gathering at the Trout Lake Creek Campground. I say “sort of” since we only had a laundry list of what *could* happen (pumpkin contest, jack-o-lanterns, spooky stories, structured cave trips), but we never laid out an itinerary of what *should* happen. Since most of us hadn’t been in the company of this many cavers or friends for some time due to the ongoing pandemic, we over-reacted a *bit* and did a ton of socializing and drinking, but not much caving, all things considered.

First, a shout out to Kyle Wheeler, who got to Trout Lake and our first camp idea earlier than everyone else, and drove around and scouted campgrounds, finally securing a site at the Trout Lake Creek Campground, which turned out to be excellent - no gate, good bathrooms and sites, next to the creek, spread out, and best - free at this time of year! I think it makes a great base for future trips, and according to long-time member Van Bergen, it was a regular site for Cascade Grotto gatherings - including, according to Van, building a Zip line across the road!

Second, a BIG shout out to Robert Mitchell who drove all the way down from Enumclaw on Friday, just to hang out for a few hours and deliver a couple plates of chocolate chip cookies and a *delicious* homemade cheesecake that we absolutely devoured! What a guy! Thanks so much Bob!!



Bob’s cheesecake was no match for hungry cavers



On Friday, a group went to a nearby cave and didn't return until 2:30 am. On Saturday, a caver arrived, expecting to meet Dusty (who was camped at Dynamited) at our camp. As a result of shenanigans and the late night, none of the folks from our camp were conscious enough at 8am to head to Dynamited, so he left and Dusty ended up leading a trip of 5 cavers (when he expected 10-15 total). Oops!

Later on Saturday, Trout Lake veteran Brad Hutchinson took a group on a quick through-trip of Deadhorse Cave, while Eric Jorgenson led another group to the Stairwell Cave system and others west of Trout Lake. Eventually, the groups combined, all exiting a section together (see photos) on a beautiful fall day. Back at the campfire, Eric Jorgenson prepared an excellent feast of a chicken soup for the group, which was readily consumed. On Saturday late night, all the stops came out - there was a LOT of drinking and shenanigans including the shattering of a nitrogen-frozen pumpkin, the passing out of "raver" cyalume sticks, tall tales and lots of hoots and hollering. Nobody got hurt, nobody drove, and nobody died. Zero fatalities! What a night!

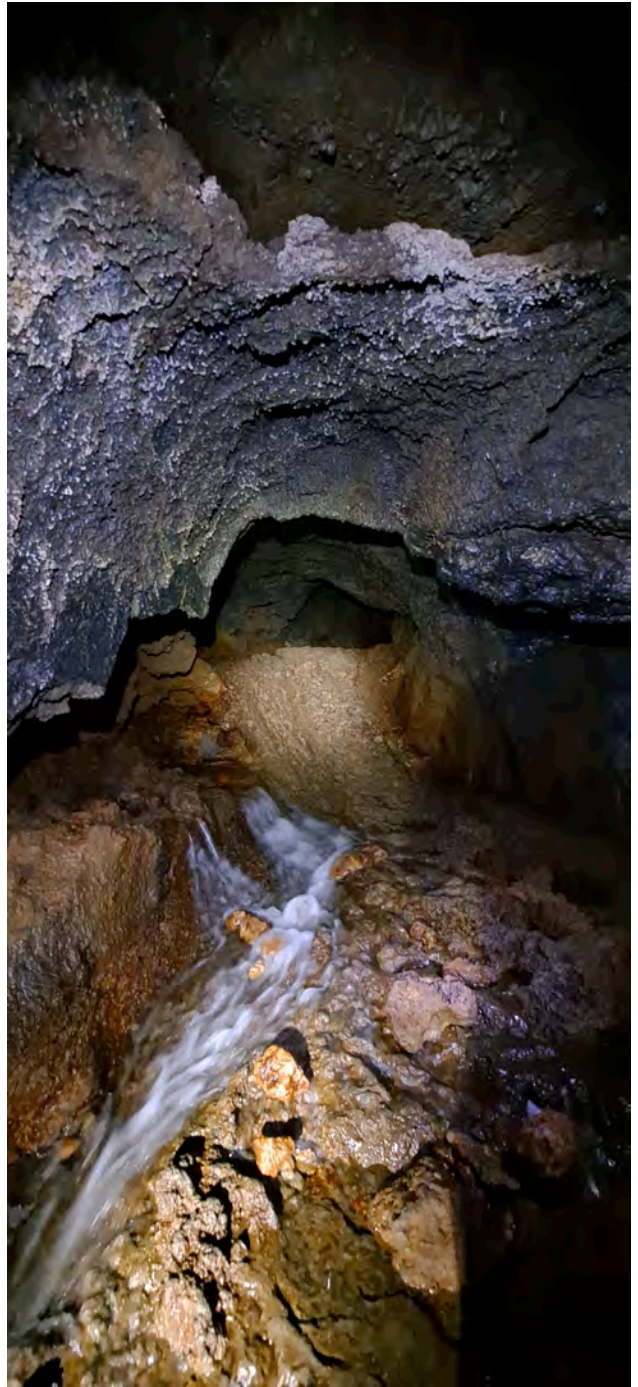
On Sunday, extremely late starts limited caving, although a short SRT basic session was conducted in a tree at camp by Chris, Vandy, and others, and then later by Daryl at a nearby roadside rock face. Others went caving or home.

Many people made a four-day weekend out of the event, driving back home on Monday. Katt and I drove the Randal Road for the first time, and although it is slow, it's a *huge* time savings over going via Portland/Hood River/Trout Lake, and best, you barely have to drive on I-5! Although a lot more happened, I didn't take notes or write this up until now!



Basic SRT sesh close to the campground  
[Will Jasper]





Some scenes from Deadhorse during the Halloween Cave-in. Maurice wins best dressed!  
[Will Jasper]







Two post-cave photos [Daryl Greaser]









# 2020 Treasurer's Report

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Following a year of uncertainties, I'm happy to report that at least one thing that the Cascade Grotto does not have to worry about in 2021 is its financials. Our current balance sheet highlights this fact and can be fully broken down as follows:

	Cash	Checking	Savings	PayPal	Total
1/1/2020 Ledger	\$342.65	\$1,493.82	\$5,101.01	\$0.00	\$6,937.48
1/1/2021 Ledger	\$344.65	\$1,508.03	\$5,102.42	\$138.69	\$7,093.79
Net Gain / (Loss)					\$156.31

Note that this is the first time that the Grotto's fiscal year follows the calendar year; the Grotto had previously used a fiscal year running from October 1st through September 30th, but now that people are paying their dues at all times of the year instead of just in the fall, it made sense to simplify things by switching to the calendar year.

Looking at the income/expense side of things, the Grotto brought in \$508.87 in revenues from membership dues and an additional \$2.00 from merchandise sales, making for a net income of \$510.87. This is appreciably down from last year's income of \$1,335.64, but a lot of this is likely due to the fact that membership dues collections were not strictly enforced since our meetings were primarily online and our expenses, therefore, were substantially lower. To wit, the expenses for the year amounted to only \$356.22, significantly down from the \$782.00 in expenses seen in the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Of the 2020 expenses, they mostly went towards ensuring a strong pandemic-era virtual presence with website registration (\$116.44) and the Zoom account (\$202.43) taking up the lions share. The only other expense in 2020 was \$37.35 in gas reimbursements for one of our instructors.

Looking forward to 2021, I think the Grotto can expect expenses to increase as we slowly return to in-person meetings and in-person activities. In light of this, we're going to have to be much more diligent about collecting membership dues, but given our current strong financial state, even this enforcement can be brought back gradually and with lenient consideration.

Here's to another great year for the Cascade Grotto!  
Talon Swanson, Cascade Grotto Treasurer



# Remembrance

By Jennifer Migaud

I wanted to post an update regarding my father's passing who was a lifetime member of the NSS for over 40 years.

Charles H. Anderson Jr, 79, passed away in Renton, WA on June 28th, 2021. Father of Jennifer Migaud and Michael Anderson. Born on March 24th 1942, Charlie was the former Director of the International Glaciocave Survey (IGS), an organization he established in 1972 to explore, study, and publish information about glacial caves internationally. He coined the name "glaciocaveology" itself. Since 1966 he explored glacial caves as far as Canada, Iceland, Switzerland, France, Germany and the US. From 1967 until 1991, he headed studies and mapping of glacial ice caves in Paradise and Stevens Glaciers on Mt. Rainier in Washington. Though,



Charlie was most closely associated with Mount St. Helens, having begun studying its glacial caves in 1967. Following the eruption in 1980, he conducted field studies of the glacier inside the crater. He has made over 144 descents into the St. Helen's crater. The first time he entered a cave was when he was at the age of 10 years old on a Cub Scout camp trip in Missouri and fell in love with caves and mountains ever since. Charlie was the recipient of the Vancouver Award, presented by the Explorers Club. He also received a gold medal in the NSS Photo Salon and many other awards and honorable mentions. He received degrees in Geology from the Colorado School of Mines and in photography from the New York Institute of Photography. He is also the winner of many other awards for cave photography and has published articles in journals and popular media. A celebration of life will be held in Tacoma, WA on August 7th



# Cascade Grotto Information

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## 2021 Grotto Officers:

Chair: Daryl Greaser - Seattle - [dgreaser@gmail.com](mailto:dgreaser@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Eric Jorgensen - Seattle - [ejorgenson@live.com](mailto:ejorgenson@live.com)

Secretary: Thomas Cunningham - Snohomish -  
[goatmastertommy@gmail.com](mailto:goatmastertommy@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Talon Swanson - Renton - [ecotalon@gmail.com](mailto:ecotalon@gmail.com)

## Stay Connected!

GoogleGroup: Cascade Cavers <https://groups.google.com/g/cascadecavers>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJen31zg9TKruffy9AgQpcBg>

All Grotto Events Here: <http://cascadegrotto.org/events/>

Facebook Page (public) <http://facebook.com/cascadegrotto>

Facebook Group (request to join at:) <http://facebook.com/group/cascadegrotto>

## Meetings

We host **meetings** \*most\* months of the year, typically on the 3rd Thursday or Friday of the month at 7pm via Zoom and/or in person. As we emerge from the pandemic, we are slowly returning to in-person meetings! Check the website for current dates:

<https://cascadegrotto.org/events>

**Meetings are open to the public** and typically consist of a program or learning, introductions, reports of recent trips and plans for future events.

## Events

ALL grotto events are published at: <http://cascadegrotto.org/events>

## Questions?

Email us at [cascade\\_grotto@caves.org](mailto:cascade_grotto@caves.org) (all officers receive the email)

## Newsletter Submissions

Please send all photos, maps, and trip reports to [dgreaser@gmail.com](mailto:dgreaser@gmail.com)



