A photograph of a cave explorer standing in a dark cave. The explorer is wearing a black wetsuit, a headlamp, and a tool bag. The cave walls are covered in numerous stalactites and stalagmites, creating a complex and textured environment. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the explorer and the cave's features.

# The Cascade Caver

62.1

**Interplanetary Journal of Vulcanospeleology**



# *The Cascade Caver*

Interplanetary Journal of Vulcanospeleology  
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[Cover] **Photograph 1: Nic Lee at the Red Barron Beard, large calcified plant roots near the middle of the cave. Unless otherwise specified, the author assumes credit for the photography included here.** [Justen Despain]

# Upcoming Events

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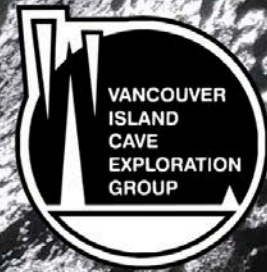
- **April 15 - Danger Cave** - Kenny Bennett - meet at the Commonwealth trailhead at 9am. Deep snow expected to vertical cave
- **April 29 - Lake and Ole's Cave Beginner's Trip** - Horizontal caves near Cougar, WA. Led by Lauren Kenyon and Frank Schaller
- **May 5-7 - Gordon River / Lake Cowichan Speleofest** - Vancouver Island, BC. Mostly small caves near the campsite, largely informal; some vertical caves available; suitable for beginners; WNS decon required. Contact [events@viceg.ca](mailto:events@viceg.ca) for more details
- **May 26-28 - BCCR Companion Rescue Workshop** - limited space, more info at [training.bccaverescue.ca](http://training.bccaverescue.ca)
- **June 3\*** - **Church Mountain Cave** - 1700 foot elevation gain to entrance, horizontal cave, activity includes scouting other sinks in the area; \*date tentative depending on snowpack levels. Led by Mark Garnick
- **June 26-30 - NSS Convention**, Elkins, WV - <https://caves.org/convention/2023-nss-convention/>
- **July - Wallowa Mountains Backpacking** - Look for cave entrances in the Wallowa Mountains. Caves not guaranteed. Info TBD. Led by Eric Jorgenson - see more info on page 23
- **August 3-6 - Poet's Crest Cave Exploration** - Backcountry project caving near Mt. Baker. Led by Mark Garnick

**Note:** See website at [cascadegrotto.org/events](http://cascadegrotto.org/events) for details. If you would like to attend any of these trips and do not have the leaders' contact info, please contact any officers who will connect you to the leaders. Officer information can be found on the Grotto Information Page at the end of this newsletter.

# GORDON RIVER SPELEOFEST

May 5th to 7th, 2023  
Friday to Sunday

Contact [events@viceg.ca](mailto:events@viceg.ca) for  
more details.



# Return to the Red Barron

Justen Despain

It was not the usual Wednesday for me. It was the Wednesday I wanted for me. I was in Utah for a family reunion. I was at a family reunion in Utah because I love my family, but maybe also because there are lots of caves in Utah. Utah is where I cut my teeth and learned what vertical alpine caving really was in the mountains surrounding Tony Grove. I love caving in Utah and you can cave

all year long and in many parts of the state. When I lived there the Grottos were...well...lacking. I spent most of my time caving with a small group of independent cavers and we went all over. Since I've left the Timpanogos Grotto has grown substantially, and anyone passing through might consider looking them up for a weekend trip. Although I had checked both Carlsbad and Mammoth Cave National Parks off my bucket list this same year, yea even on this same trip, this cave is one of my all-time favorites. It epitomizes the hate love relationship for me that is caving – the grueling approach to

a small delicate beauty, followed by the grueling return. In my head I thought I was ready for it. I wasn't. not even close, not physically at least. Although I said in the end I would never return to that cave, even now, only a few short months after the event, I sit retrospectively and I can feel it – I want to go back.

The night before, I sat on the couch of Swede, my longtime friend. Swede is the reason I cave. I was out on a grotto trip to the Tony Grove area with a guy named Rob who's car is made more of dirt than anything else. That night it rained and I was glad



*Photograph 2: Near where I developed altitude sickness looking towards the canyon entrance and Utah Lake. Beyond the mountains past the lake is the West Desert where the infamous Nutty Putty Cave is located. Directly in front of this image is a 200 ft sheer cliff. The peak on the right is Kyhv Peak (formerly Squaw Peak).*



*Photograph 3: Dingo by a set of straws and stalactites about halfway through the cave.*

to simply be dry in my tent. The next morning, I got out of my tent and there stood Swede, Nic and Peter. They asked if anyone wanted to help pull oxygen tanks out of the Main Drain Cave and I, being young and eager to please, agreed. We have been friends ever since. So, Swede, Nic and I sat and discussed the plan for the next day and chatted about various woodcarving or caving projects he was working on. I had agreed to take his husband Nic to the Red Barron many years ago before I left Utah for medical school. When I found out I was headed back to Utah, I made sure my wife understood that I needed to get underground, and she obliged. So, I called Nic and the grotto Key



*Photograph 4: Jamie in the first gallery. At the bottom are dry pools with dry pearls. At the far right is a stalactite that has just barely connected to its corresponding stalagmite.*

Master and set up the date. Two others from the Timpanogos Grotto joined us for our sortie up the canyon. Red Barron is not a particularly large cave, nor is it technically technical. The trail starts from a paved parking lot at the mouth of a popular climbing canyon, not even 15 minutes from Brigham Young University. The first portion of the hike is about a mile and a half and only 700 ft elevation gain. Then it turns off to one of those (insert favorite explicative here) poorly marked deer trails we all know so well. The trail ends after about a tenth of a mile into a deep couloir. From where one turns off the main trail, it's about 1000 ft vertical climb over a quarter mile of, no trail, steep grade, loose rock and bushes, brambles, stickers, and thorns. The kind of stuff you almost wish you brought pants and

gaiters for but didn't because it's also 100 degrees outside. Luckily, we started before the July sun could get to us.



*Photograph 5: Jamie at the entrance looking towards limestone folds on the opposite side of the canyon*

Red Barron also happened to be one of the first true wild caves I'd been to. I believe it was discovered in the 1980s by Utah cavers who saw what they thought was an entrance from the canyon floor. Soon after its discovery however, hooligans entered the cave and broke several soda straws and other formations, leading to its almost immediate protection and placement of a gate while the



*Photograph 6: Helectities and what I think are some kind of gypsum formations though I'm no geologist.*

caves location and name became something of a well-kept grotto secret, only to be shared by the initiated. The first time I went, most of the grotto members didn't look anyone in the eye as they hiked up the canyon (a popular place for bikers, rock climbers and runners), and seemed to do everything they could to minimize the fact that they had large amounts of ropes and several helmets attached to their bags. It is a shame that sometimes we have to be so secretive about such wonderful things. I'm reminded that a cave almost directly across the canyon from this one, a very nicely decorated one too, had its gate damaged by miscreants trying

to force open the gate, resulting in its malfunction. Now, as far as I know, no one can enter the cave. Thanks guys.

For the most part our ascent was unremarkable. Then about 200ft below the cave (Photograph 2), on a flat piece of rock outcropping my body realized it had gone from Mississippi seal level to Utah 6800ft in less than 3 days, and most of that had happened over the last 1-2 days. Although altitude sickness is often seen above altitudes of 9000 ft, just about any rapid change in elevation can precipitate symptoms. Nausea, dizziness and shortness of breath on a near 60 degree slope of flat rock on one side and a cliff on the other was not what I'd had in mind for the day. My body politely reminded me how horrendously out of shape I was (learning medicine can do that to you, lots of sitting and studying, you see). I sat and rested, took in the cool mountain air and eventually recovered, and our party arrived at the cave shortly after.

Though it isn't a very large cave, it is easily the most uniquely decorated cave in Utah, and probably the region. Lehman cave, Spanish Moss and Chepeta Cave are probably the only ones I can think of that can match it, but they each very unique and I think therefor, equal. It's only about 300 ft long, has 4 or 5 side passages, one of which I have



*Photograph 7: Dingo at some bizarre stalactites with green (copper or nickel maybe) and yellow (sulfur or chromium) streaks.*

some photographs of from a prior visit (Photographs 9,10) but it is generally off limits to recreational visits and which we did not see this time. The entrance is a sits 15 ft off a 200 ft cliff where there is a large bored out entrance (Photograph 5) that provides an excellent view of the other side of the canyon. This slopes up to a small 4x2 ft hole that is gated. Yes, this cave naturally selects who is allowed to enter, and if I had gained any more weight during my studies I would have been selected against. The initial crawl is about 15 feet of chest tight passage, and I took my helmet off to traverse it. Its doppelganger in Washington is the birthing canal in Deadhorse cave, but with a substantially greater amount of dirt and rat droppings. As soon as the cool air from the entrance hit my face and the smell of eosmin and 2-methylisoborneol penetrated my nostrils - I was in heaven again. It had been much too long since I'd been underground and immediately, I had completely forgotten about the haul up the canyon and was focused on the old, familiar world I had crawled into.



*Photograph 9: Me on a trip in 2014 (evidenced by the excess of hair on my scalp) squeezing through some broken stalactites. Most of the last part of the cave is about this high.*

The crawl opens into a small rat nest, and from there into a fork where on one side is a good-sized gallery (Photograph 4). At the bottom of the gallery are some small, desiccated pools with dry cave



*Photograph 8: Nic and I resting and likely talking about the lovely weather we'd had on the way up. Photographic credit to Dingo.*

pearls in them and a stalagmite with a bone cemented half in the formation. I'm only somewhat ashamed to say that I picked up one of the pearls, and it immediately crumbled into dust. But now I know where cave pearls go when they die. One of the more interesting features of this cave are its helictites that grow in whatever direction they see fit. No one I know has so far been able to explain exactly how they perform such contortions, but they really are fascinating to look and wonder at (Photographs 6, 9 and 10).

As in all caves, at the fork between this room and the rest of the cave is a large formation in the shape of a heart. No, we did not stop to



shine a red light on it or take any photographs of it whatsoever, in fact I ignored it completely. Next, one moves into what is often regarded as one of the most striking features of the cave – the calcified roots with a yellow-red hue for which the cave is named – the Red Barron's Beard (Photograph 1 - cover of this issue). The floor around the beard is covered in dried out rimstone dams and dried pearls. All along the passage her are dozens of formations, many yellow and white. From here we entered a side passage with a low sparsely decorated with white formations with splotches of yellow, green and occasionally dark violet.

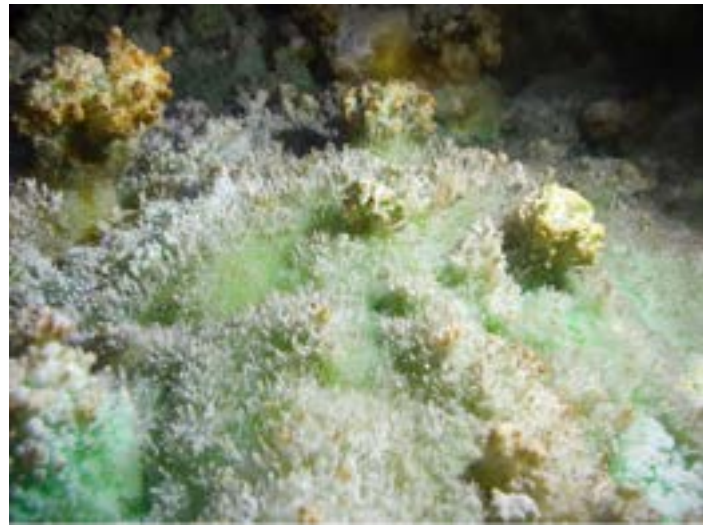
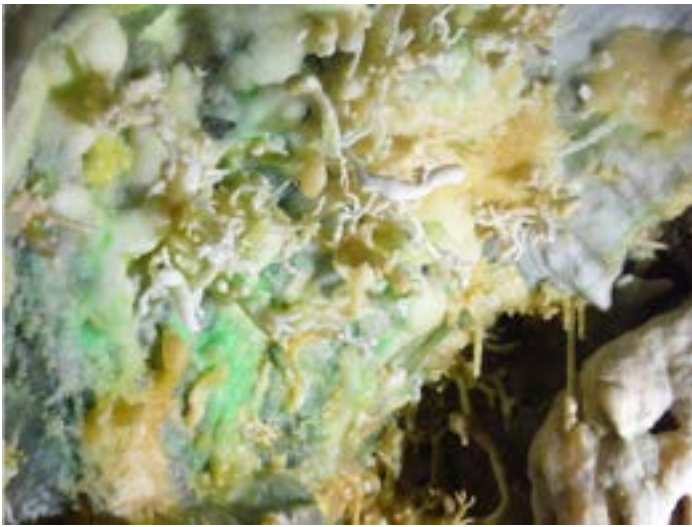
The passage slope declines until it reaches a 25 ft drop into another gallery with long bright yellow stalactites and small drapes that resemble yellow popsicles some of which are quite long (Photograph 11). This gallery has a dig in the bottom of it, though I'm not aware of anyone actively running up and down the mountain to dig in a cave that geographically can't really go that far. In one of the corners of the room, there is a small entrance to another well decorated gallery with these small beautiful helictite and crystal formations (Photograph 6) that I'd always thought resemble blueberry cobbler (here I go making food analogies like every other caver). Besides these the walls are covered with what look like crystals of gypsum and small bright white helictites growing every which way and a large unblemished flowstone formation.

After a short rope climb out of the gallery, we moved onto walking passage, which was appreciated after so much crawling. After probably 100 ft (my distances are likely far from accurate) we encountered more large colored formations, round, predominantly white stalactites that were covered in small white crystals that made them almost look fuzzy like marshmallows and had splotches of yellow and green (Photograph 7). Near here were also some rimstone dams and a large piece of bacon which I neglected to photograph to my regret. The next bit of cave was a small winding twisting crawl through breakdown that led to the final chamber of the room. At the back was a 6x4 ft pool of water with rimstone. I'd been here twice before, and this was the first instance when I'd seen water in this pool. And from there we began our short exit from the cave. But its always shorted leaving than entering.

On an earlier trip, we took a turn onto a piece of flow stone that led into an upper part of the cave I've heard referred as the "restricted section." Up the flow stone to these tiny crawls where prior explorers had broken several small columns to push deeper into the cave (Photograph 9). Unlike the rest of the



*Photograph 12: Nic admiring one of the larger yellow stalagmites, and in this room there were several.*



*Photographs 10 and 11: from the top most chamber of the cave, a room not much larger than a dog house, but covered with these magnificent white, green, yellow, grey and dark blue formations, mostly helictites and aragonite I think as well as small columns and flow stone. I had a small trip pod and placed the camera in the room to take these images, rather than enter. Taken 2014.*

cave, this section kept heading up, and considering the cave's location and proximity to the surface at the start, we really started to wonder if we'd pop out of some before unknown entrance. We did not, but we were privileged to see some of the most delicate and colorful helictites probably in the United States (images) as well as these large patches of fine almost needle like crystals that resemble some kind of food, probably. Most of these passages were crawls that let so small maybe 5x5ft by 4 ft tall rooms, and we moved very slowly and deliberately to not disturb the formations (Photographs 10 and 11). Then out we went. As I was wriggling out of the birthing canal at the entrance, I was reminded that on a prior trip, we had brought along a rather stout fellow whose large chest couldn't quite make it through the canal. He opted to wiggle backwards towards the entrance, but since the door opened into the cave, as he backed out, he inadvertently closed the door with his feet. How he managed to get the door open again I never asked, but needless to say, I took care not to commit the same mistake.

After a short rest, we climbed back up the cliff and began our descent. Now my body summarily reminded me of my deconditioning. The July sun of course was no help. Off came the rose-colored glasses, the byproducts of *Streptomyces* metabolism vanished in the heat of the day. Down I hobbled, slowly, painfully, cursing the name of the cave for the approach amnesia it had produced. Of course, it was my own fault, I could have prepared more for the hike, but I did not. 1000 feet straight down the canyon wall and each one more and more painful. Finally, I rolled onto the wide gravel trail, fatally exhausted and realizing maybe this trip today wasn't the most intelligent decision, the cave was really a lot of fun, and frankly just what I needed. Nic stood there looking at me, and said, at my prompting, "Justen I hold your oath, fulfilled." It seemed proper at the time. Utah has many wonderful caves. Hopefully this will prompt some of you to stop on your way to wherever and go see some.

# Jackman Creek Cave Dig

Sarah Burgess

On Sunday February 26th, 2023, Sarah Burgess and Maurice Kirejczyk met at the Northgate Park and Ride at 8:30 am. SB ditched her Honda, hopped into MK's Subaru and the two headed to Concrete, WA. By 10:30 am they reached the gravel road that leads up to Jackman Creek Cave. Although there was no more than 4 inches of snow on the ground, chains were required to finish the drive. Even with the delay they reached the entrance by 11 am.

Weather conditions were good: the thermostat held around 32°F and occasional sunbeams broke blue through the gray. Despite the low temperature contrast the moss at the entrance was swaying gently in the mild cave air breeze.

The team quickly geared up and made their way to the dig lead armed with bucket and spade. MK directed a brief detour to the Shower Room where SB climbed up about 15 ft to examine an old bolt below where the water trickles in through the showerhead. Both admired the geology of the cave: the marble walls sported white stripes of calcite and black stripes of iron rich clays. There was positive airflow up the lead.



The dig itself is a small, fracture oriented, dry phreatic tube with 10 inches by 4 inches of air space on a foot and a half of sediment fill. The fill has a clear sediment boundary with clays on top of sandy gravels. 22 one gallon red buckets full of sediment were removed from the crawl and dumped in the staging area. Ideally they should be dumped in the Shower room (or removed from the cave!), but the team did their best with limited hands. More than 3 feet of progress was



made! Another 10 feet of similar dig can be seen ahead before the passage takes an apparent turn to the left. The crew left after just two hours. SB dragged behind a little bit and got lost in a side tube. Definitely some mazy joint controlled passages!

How many buckets do you think it'll take to reach the back wall? SB guesses 60 more gallon buckets! MK independently also guessed 60. Please count your buckets as you dig.



# Letters and Briefs

Communications and brief updates

## Land for Sale - Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Will Jasper, 12/25/2022

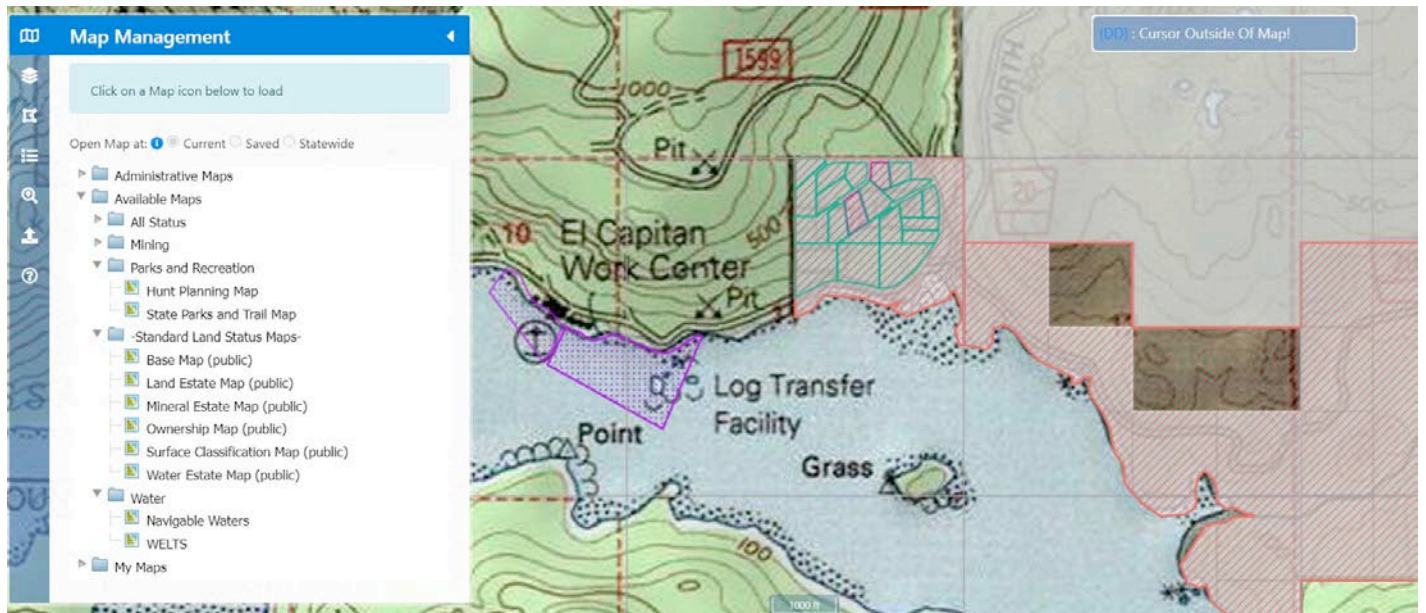
I don't know where all the caves are on POW, but they're leaning into the names with the proposed road names. In the image below, you can find current parcel data from the state mapping application (found here; green means unsold)

<https://mapper.dnr.alaska.gov/map#map=14.159126810316726/-14839498.65/7590728.42/0>

Grotto purchase? Our own personal chunk of Alaskan Land near caves?

Note that these sales are only open to AK residents.

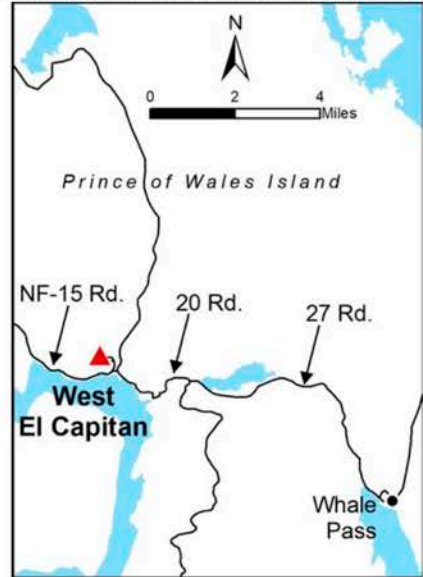
Check out pages 56 and 57 from this brochure on the following pages and the proposed street names!



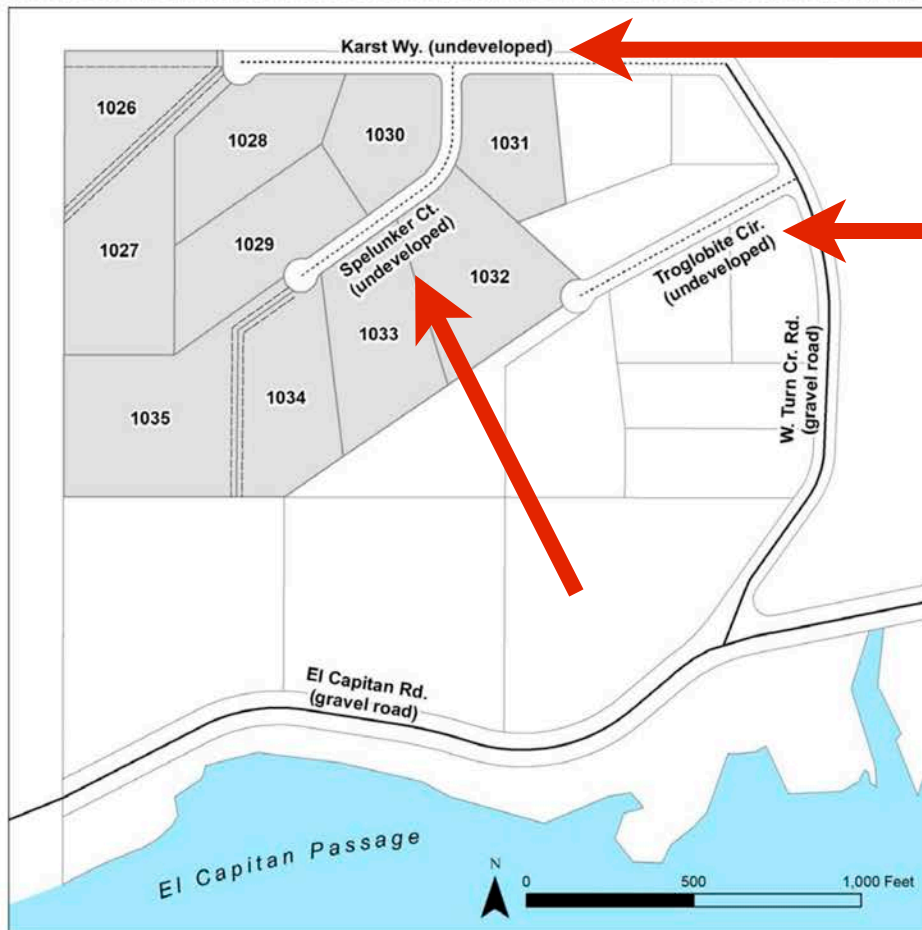
# WEST EL CAPITAN



**Why buy? Forested lots adjacent to the fjords of El Capitan Passage and Tongass National Forest**



Location	West El Capitan is located on the northern portion of Prince of Wales Island, approximately 7 miles northwest of Whale Pass at the north end of El Capitan Passage.
Access	The area is accessible primarily by North Island Road to NF-15 (El Capitan Rd). Additional access is available by float plane and small watercraft to El Capitan Passage. A primitive boat launch is located just west of the subdivision.
Utilities	There are no water supply or sewer systems (public or private) available in this subdivision. Check the plat notes and see “Sewer and Water” under the “Developing Your Land” section of this brochure. There are no utilities (electric, phone, internet, etc.) currently in this area.
Local Government	The subdivision is within the Unorganized Borough and is subject to the State of Alaska platting authority.
Notes	<p>Caves, sinkholes, and underground drainage systems are present in the region.</p> <p>El Capitan West Subdivision is bordered to the east by Southeast State Forest, a working forest that is subject to logging operations and other forest management activities.</p> <p>These parcels may contain wetlands. Purchasers must obtain permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before placing any dredged or fill material in wetlands.</p>
Fire	This area is in a Modified Management Option. See the “Fire and Burning Activities” section of this brochure for more details.
Restrictions	Easements affecting these parcels, as depicted on the plat, may include, but are not limited to, section line, driveway, utility, and public access easements. Information on restrictions, easements, reservations, and setbacks may be depicted on the plat, contained in the plat notes, or recorded separately. Parcels will be subject to a minimum 25-foot building setback adjacent to the public access easement along public or navigable water bodies, in accordance with the area plan.
Survey and MTRS	West El Capitan is survey ASLS No. 2019-05, located in Section 11, Township 66 South, Range 78 East, Copper River Meridian. The survey has been recorded as plat 2021-2 in the Petersburg Recording District.
Right-of-Way	The rights-of-way within this subdivision are undeveloped. Access to individual parcels will be from platted rights-of-way and/or easements reserved through subdivision design. Any lots accessing directly onto USFS roads may require driveway permits.



PARCEL #	AK DIVISION OF LANDS (ADL) #	LOT	ACRES	MINIMUM BID
1026	109160	1	2.91	\$18,900
1027	109161	2	4.53	\$22,800
1028	109162	3	3.32	\$20,600
1029	109164	5	3.67	\$19,300
1030	109163	4	2.52	\$19,100
1031	109169	10	2.60	\$19,300
1032	109168	9	4.22	\$20,200
1033	109167	8	3.68	\$19,300
1034	109166	7	3.65	\$21,700
1035	109165	6	5.50	\$25,200

*Note: Maps and photos included in this brochure are for graphic and visual representations only and are intended to be used as a guide. Please see "Land Records, Photos, Plats, and Maps" for details.*



*Upper room of Big Boy Cave*

## **Talus Caves**

January 2023

By Mark Garnick

Eric Jorgenson and I had some fun today. Found a few talus caves and mapped them. The area has potential for quite a few more; we spent most of the time mapping and did very little scouting. A fantastic place to scout and get some mapping practice during winter months as it's fairly low elevation. I will likely be planning another trip soon (with more notice this time).



*Upper entrance of Big Boy Cave*





## **Danger Cave**, Cave Ridge, March 2023

Eric Jorgenson and Maurice Kirejczyk went up to snow-covered Cave Ridge and confirmed that Danger Cave blows open in winter. Below photos ripped from our Cascade Grotto Facebook page.



# Mt. Erie SRT practice

Karl "Dusty" Goldscheider

March 18

Gear hauling, deviations, and rebelay combined with Richard Jack, Rebecca Barrett, Laina McNichols, and Will Raymond

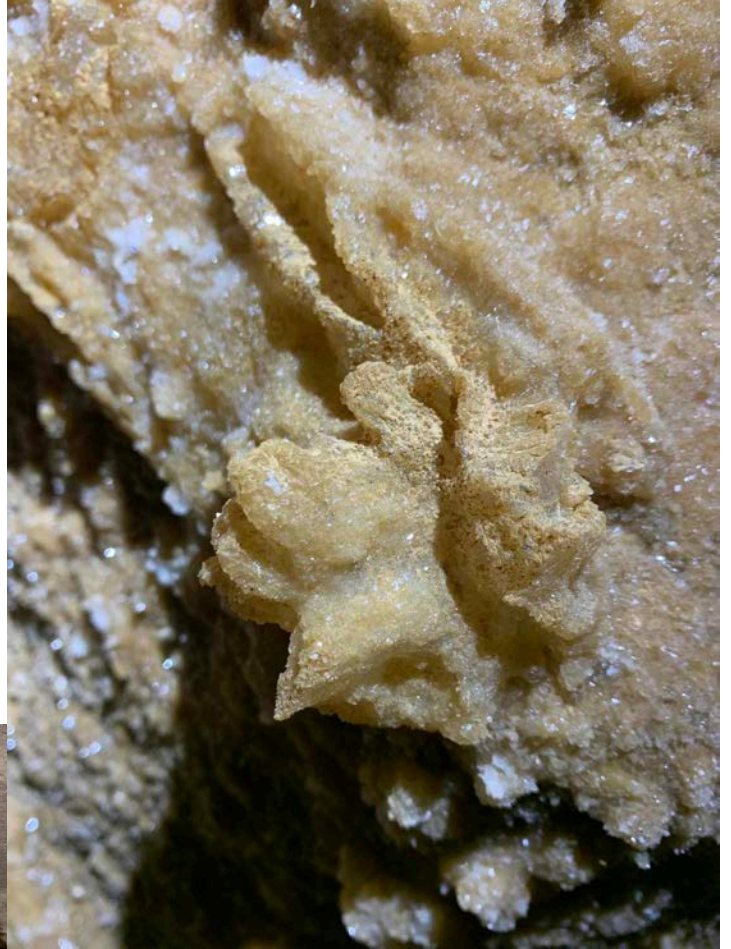


# Indiana Caving

Dan Veters

January 3 2023

Some pictures from an Indiana cave I got to visit Monday. It can be fun to see what caves are like in other areas. It was a dry cave with about 2 miles horizontal and 75 feet total vertical. Mostly phreatic passage, but lots of gypsum and a few formations at the back.

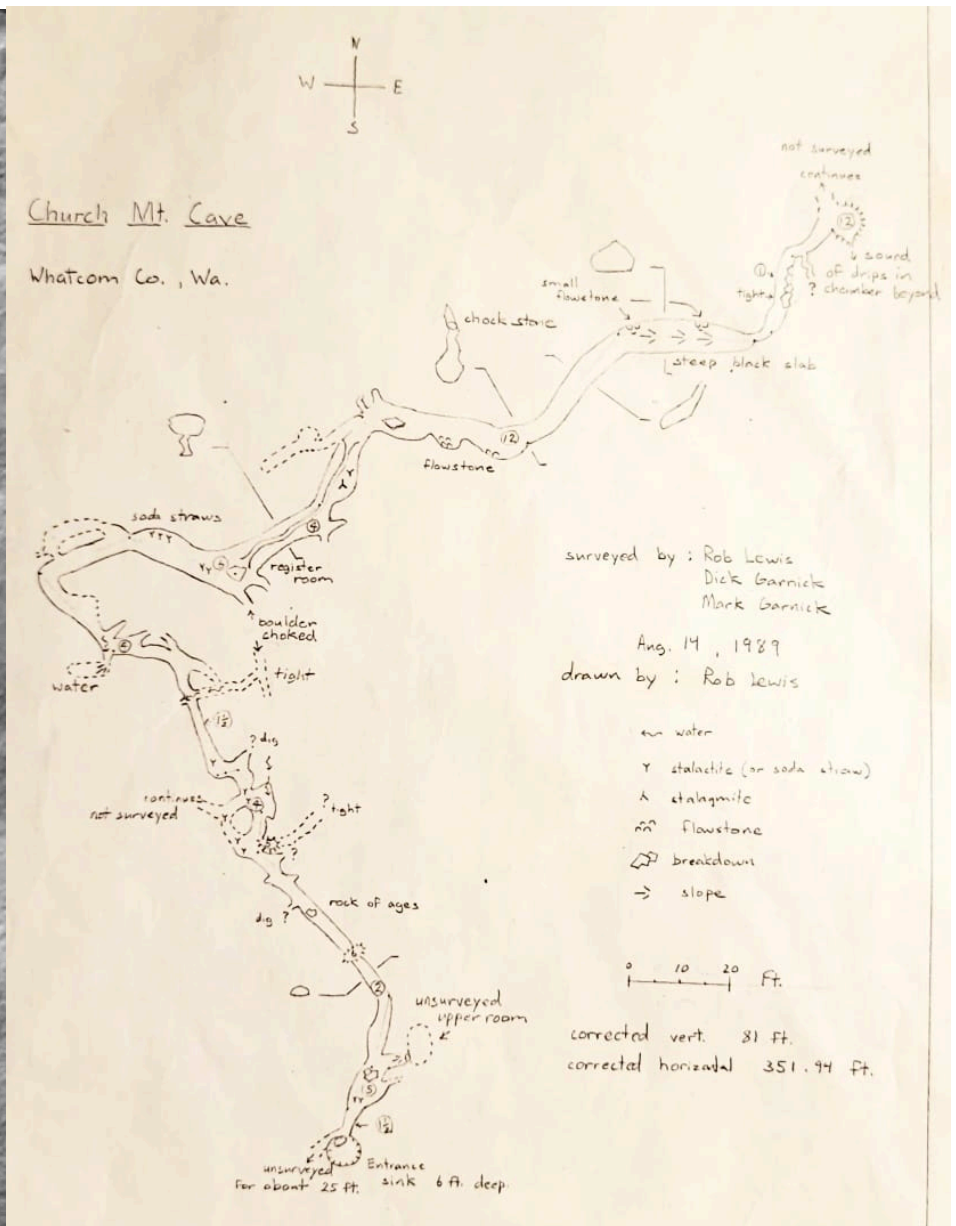




# Church Mountain Cave

Mark Garnick

Discovered before LIDAR - Church Mountain Cave sits in the bottom of a small, 6 foot diameter sink and was dug open by grotto member John Clardy. While almost no exposed limestone is in the area, this inconspicuous sink led to a beautiful and unique cave mapped to about 351 feet (with additional passage that hasn't been mapped). I would be surprised if 20 people have been in it, and no one since the early 90s. Also, those sinks uphill and to the right have never been checked. Who's game for a day trip this summer? Trip currently scheduled for June 3rd.



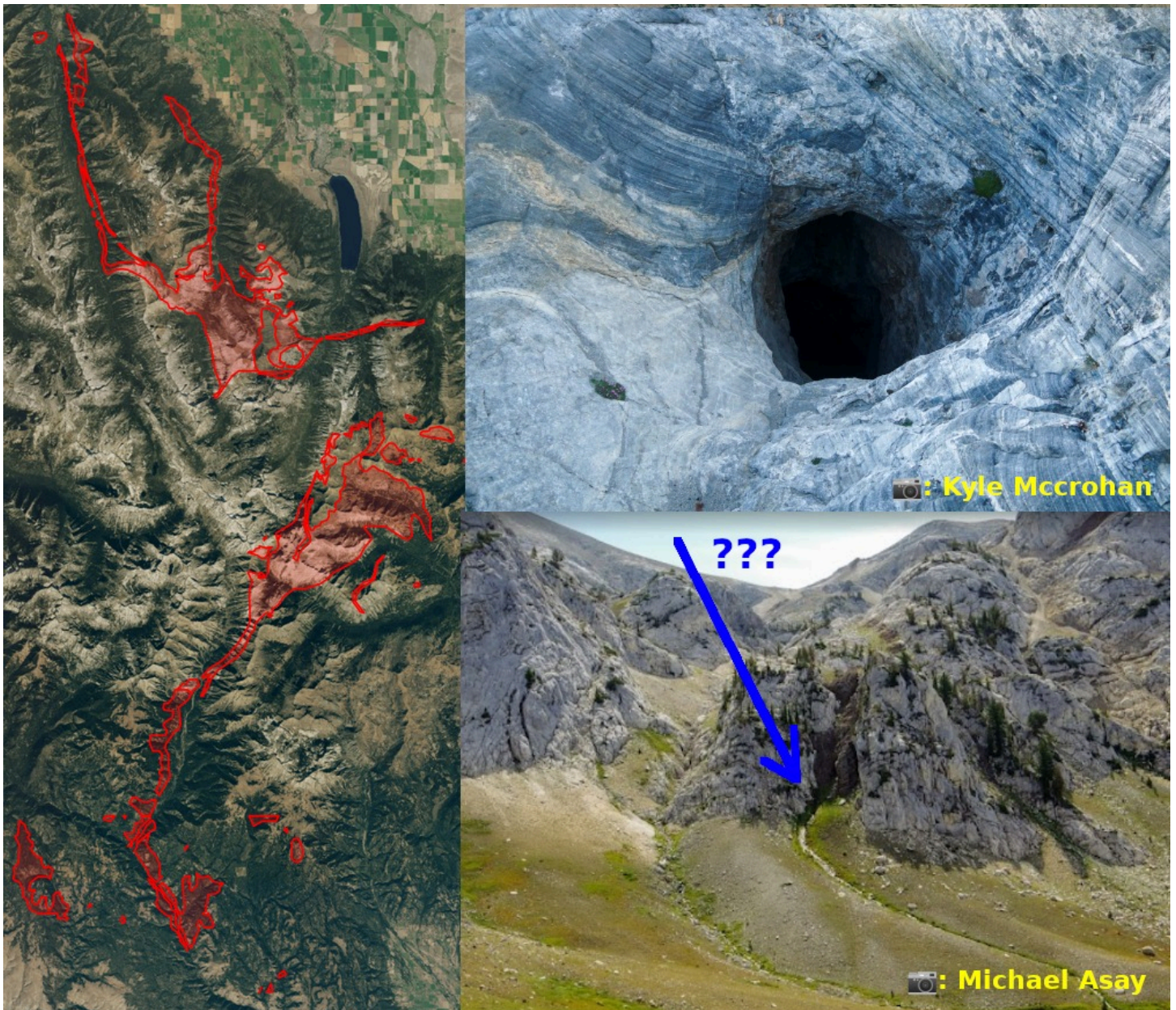
# Wallowas Backpack Trip Info

Eric Jorgenson

Look at this map of more than 30 square miles of exposed Martin-Bridge Limestone in the Wallowa Mountains of northeastern Oregon! Only been lightly explored for caves thus far. I'd like to organize a backpacking trip there this summer to scout for entrances.

There are a handful of small caves known in the area, but the part of the Martin-Bridge formation in Idaho has Papoose Cave, the crown jewel of northwest caving. It is good rock. You can see a number of springs under the cliffs by satellite.

A trip can't happen till late summer or autumn, but I'd like to start gardening interest and doing research now. To that end, I'll host a meetup to scour aerial photos and documents for leads and to start planning a route. Also, this meetup can double as the 2023 cascade grotto library office hours.



# Meeting Minutes February 16 2023

February 18, 2023 by Maurice Kirejczyk  
Cascade Grotto Meeting (business-only)  
Online-only (Zoom)

## Yearly elections

Elections for officers concluded earlier this month. The results:

Chair

- 13 votes for Eric
- 1 vote for empty

Vice-chair

- 14 votes for Lauren

Secretary

- 14 votes for Maurice

Treasurer

- 13 votes for Talon
- 1 vote with a bad joke

Purchase SPAR book for library

Proposed:

- Purchase \$80 book on small-party assisted rescue from NSS website to add to the library
- Lauren proposed, Maurice seconded

Result: passed

- 8 for
- 2 against
- 1 abstain

## Trip reports

Oasis cave (Austin, TX)

- Eric was part of group of 12
- Was mostly digging: hauled 60 sacks of dirt

Little Red River cave

- Sarah went with some people from the Oregon grotto
- Is said to be open/reachable in the winter
- Can get a permit monument headquarters to get key to get into the cave
- Trip unsuccessful:
- Camped out at St Helens (very snowy)
- Tried to hike out in the morning to cave entrance but couldn't find it
- Found another sinkhole though uninteresting
- Went to lake cave instead

Sanger's Talus cave

- Eric & Mark went mostly to search for other Talus caves nearby
- Found a few caves but none were longer than 100 ft; some good survey practice
- Was a reasonable winter caving destination as easily accessible



## **Upcoming trips:**

### Lake cave annual beginner trip

- Likely last week in April
- Contact Frank or Lauren to help out with scheduling
- Can use assistance as we've been overwhelmed with interest before

### Wolf cave beginner vertical trip

- Likely soon after Lake cave trip
- May have some SRT practice at Alex creek bridge
- Dusty organizing; contact him for more info

### Jackman creek cave

- Going digging there in late Feb/early March
- Short-ish cave by Concrete, WA
- Contact Maurice for more info

### Possible future trips

#### Oregon grotto trip to St Helens

- Weekend of June 3rd (big weekend planned)

#### Trout lake

- Brad & co usually planning a few during the year

#### Poet's crest

- Mark leading trips in August

#### Cave ridge

- Annual trip tentatively scheduled for mid-July

#### Vancouver island

- Lots of caves there
- Will coordinating with Canadians to get us involved in mid-summer

#### Other Canadian caving

- Richard willing to offer information as he has contacts

#### Wallowas in Oregon

- Tom Kline has some information about it
- Have ~15 caves from Kim Lauper from Oregon

#### Marble Mountains in California

- Trip planned there, Ethan Donahue organizing

## **Business**

### Discussion for best practices with vertical practice

- Should we have liability waivers?
- Should we limit # of people involved?
- Policies on buying gear/storing it
- Contact Eric if you wish to be involved

### Survey Practice

- Reading instruments, making sketches, etc
- Format may depend on size of group involved (i.e. 10+ people makes it complicated)
- Lots of people have ideas:
- Daryl looking to do practical small in-cave trips
- Lee is interested in doing a very manual format to get a good understanding of the process
- Richard willing to do presentation on surveying underwater
- Sarah is interested to show how to calibrate disto/bric etc
- Contact Daryl and/or Lee if you wish to be involved

Canadian small party rescue training:

- May be open/available for us in WA
- Will be planning to go to 28-30
- website: <https://cancaver.ca/bccr/train.htm>

SPAR scholarship:

- Do we want to fund this?
- Will vote on it next meeting

Updated Spar book:

- Should we buy it?
- Voted yes

Large-format Windy Creek Map:

- Amy has this map, hoping to get it scanned and digitized

Caver education

- Amy raised question if we have specific goals for caver education?
- How do we get people from being competent to becoming leaders?
- Is it to make caves be independent/competent
- Give people milestones/paths to become leaders
- Sarah mentioned this is a common NSS problem
- This is a good sub-discussion for our vertical strategy chat (see above)
- Consider using NCRC skills test
- Vertical commission lead by Hazel Barton, addresses deficiencies in SRT learning techniques (train the trainers models)
- We should get involved on this (our vertical strategy chat may be involved)

Library:

- We currently lack a digitized catalog or online checkout system
- Goal: have library catalog on the website
- Would be good to have a google form or spreadsheet to track who has what books
- Contact Maurice if interested to be involved

Officer Term lengths:

- Daryl raised if we should have longer terms
- Should we have 2 year terms and not 1 year terms?
- Does it take too much time to deal w/ elections presently?
- Could be tough to recruit a new person to be an officer
- See: <https://cascadegrotto.org/constitution-bylaws-operating-procedure/>
- Can we have a 5th person officer? (e.g. member at large)
- How about staggering terms? i.e. half of positions voted for every other year
- Tabled for now

Newsletter:

- Daryl making new newsletter
- Please send trip reports to him
- Thank Laina for regularly offering trip reports
- Daryl will upload old digitized newsletters to website
- Can use assistance in posting old digitized library contents to website, too

Spring Party

- Eric trying to organize something, vaguely caving themed

# Treasurer's Report

By Talon Swanson, Grotto Treasurer

With inflation on everyone's mind these days, it's good to know that one thing has remained the same: the cost of a year's membership in the Cascade Grotto! Still capped at only \$20 per individual (+\$5 per household member), these membership dues are what allow the grotto to carry out its missions of skills building, camaraderie, and recreation through underground exploration.

Despite holding steady on our membership dues rate, the money the grotto collects in has continued to be more than enough to meet our operating expenses. Thanks in large part to our occasional virtual meeting (an annual Zoom subscription is cheaper than three in-person meetings), the amount of money in the grotto's accounts has only continued to grow:

	Cash	Checking	Savings	PayPal	Total
1/1/2022 Ledger	\$344.65	\$1,835.14	\$5,103.46	\$230.55	\$7,513.80
1/1/2023 Ledger	\$344.65	\$2,282.12	\$5,111.54	\$37.62	<b>\$7,775.93</b>
Net Gain / (Loss)					\$262.13

Padding up the "income" side of the equation has been the 42 members who are fully paid up (as of 4/2/23) on their membership dues. Compare this to the 110 members who have paid for membership at some point in the past 3 years and you can see that we're a little behind in collections. As we don't have an official membership "year" anymore (membership runs from date-of-payment for 1 year), this is as good of a time as any to remind everyone to please pay your membership dues. If you're not sure where you're at in terms of payment, just shoot an email to us at [cascade\\_grotto@caves.org](mailto:cascade_grotto@caves.org) and I'll get back to you with the info.

Looking forward to 2023, I think the Grotto can expect expenses to increase as we continue to return to in-person meetings and in-person activities. That said, we've got plenty of financial buffer to take on some expenses, and activities are what help drive increased membership, so I think the grotto is excellently positioned to get out there to do some serious cave exploring!

Here's to another great year for the Cascade Grotto!

# Cascade Grotto Information

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## 2023 Grotto Officers:

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

**Vice Chair:** Lauren Kenyon - [laurenkenyon2017@gmail.com](mailto:laurenkenyon2017@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Maurice Kirejczyk - [kirejm@gmail.com](mailto:kirejm@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Talon Swanson - [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: <https://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 Thursday or Friday of the month at 7pm via Zoom and/or in person. 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

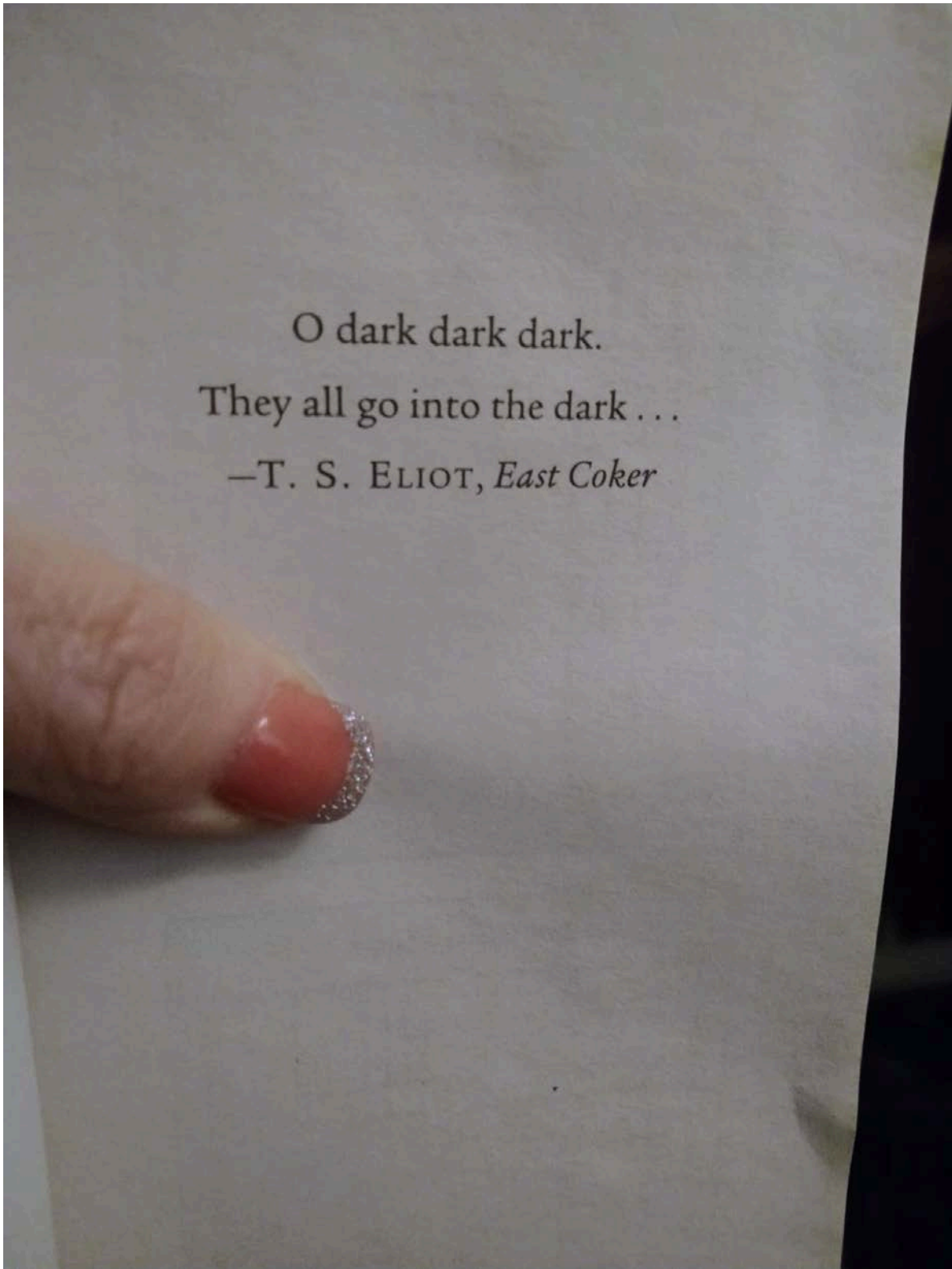
All grotto events are published at: <https://cascadegrotto.org/events>

## 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 Daryl Greaser: [dgreaser@gmail.com](mailto:dgreaser@gmail.com)



*Posted by member Choice Meyer*