

THE CASCADE CAVER  
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Seattle, Washington

COMING EVENTS: (we're caught up!)

Monthly grotto meeting Monday November 14, 8 PM at Dr. Halliday's,  
1117 36th Ave. E. at Madison St., Seattle.

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1966 progress in Cave Ridge  
by Verne Frese

7-10-66: Newton Cave trip (Dave Mischke and myself). We found the cave to bottom out after an 80' pit which we named Blind Man's Blunder because waterfalls put out both our lamps. Lots of water but it seems like much less water there than at the 40' pit. Water soaks into the floor of a crevice indicating more cave below.

7-24-66: Danger Cave trip (same team with Dennis Frese). Seemed much less dangerous than before. Perhaps most of the loose rocks have been knocked over the edge of the pit so that there are fewer left to fall.

8-28-66: Newton Cave plus surface work (Dave Mischke, Rob Stitt and myself, plus Ted Lloyd and Mike Marshall who didn't go to the bottom of Newton Cave). We mapped in Newton from the bottom of the 83' pit to the bottom of the 40' pit (total depth around 500') and found an unmapped passage in the upper area. On the surface we ran a traverse from Hellhole to Danger Cave.

9-10-66: Newton Cave plus surface work (Dave Mischke, Rob Stitt, Cathy Mischke, Marilyn Frese and myself). We mapped the new passage in Newton and Rob Stitt discovered a new cave while picking up spilled huckleberries, a couple hundred feet south and slightly east of Red Cave on the hillside. It is small, not over 20' long and 10' deep. It looks like "Blind Man's Blunder" in Newton Cave might be down almost to the lake at the east end of the hanging valley. (Also we checked out Lookout Cave)

10-1-66: Newton Cave plus surface work (Dave Mischke, Bob Stewart Ferguson and myself). Besides a surface survey with Brunton and range finder, we explored in Newton Cave. We discovered a new passage over a shelf at the top of a chimney in the upper portion of the cave. It extends upward 50' or more in two branches. Also we partly explored a side passage in area of Virgin Passage, and explored the crevice at the bottom of Blind Man's Blunder about 60' southwest and downward about another 20'. It continues but is narrow and dangerous. There was enough water coming over Blind Man's Blunder to get real wet. We came down wet, cold and in the dark.

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NEXT MONTH: reports on some Vancouver Island work.

(cribbed from the Oregon Speleograph, V. 2 #5, May 1966)

DAVID'S DEN or Snowpatch Cave (Sawmill Cave), Wash.  
by George Long

Location:  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of the sawmill on the main highway entering Trout Lake, Wash. Go  $\frac{1}{8}$  mile E of the main road. You will run into three sinkholes running NW to SW in lightly forested area. The third sinkhole to the SW contains the main entrance to the cave.

Tape and compass survey by George Long, Jim Wilcox & Tom Wilcox.

Description: Snowpatch Cave is a typical Mt. Adams lava cave. What is, there is much breakdown throughout the first two-thirds.

The cave has two openings. The main entrance is an overhanging shelf in a sinkhole, measuring about 4' high and 18 feet wide. The second entrance measures two feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The first entrance is by far the best way into the cave. The second one is a crawlway, and you will have to pass under some large, loose rocks.

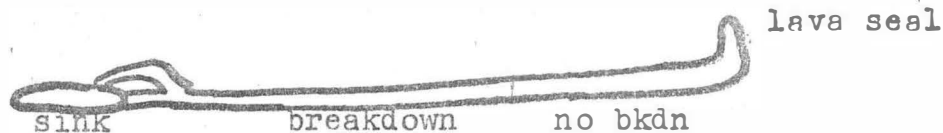
I have been in the cave twice this winter, and each time the first one-hundred feet or so was covered with quite a bit of ice. On the floor can be seen large icicles which make the first 100 feet hazardous travelling. I doubt, though, that there will be any ice left in the summer.

After you reach the angled T where the tube separates and the main tunnel goes toward the SW from the entrance and for about 750 feet, there is heavy breakdown and the floor can hardly be seen. All at once, the breakdown stops and the cave opens up into a large semi-circular tunnel until it ends at about 400 feet. The floor is rough lava, but clear of breakdown.

The average height is about 7', and the width is about 17' throughout the cave. The tube finally ends in a lava seal, where the floor meets the ceiling. The cave has a length of about 1,182 feet, including the side passage.

The cave is a small one, but interesting, and different from most of the caves in that area. It is located in the valley floor SW of Trout Lake about 3 miles, and has great possibilities for further cave exploration. The cave is worth going through, and only takes 30 to 45 minutes.

sketch- not to scale



DITCH CAVES, SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section 5, T5N, R11E, Willard Quadrangle. Elevation about 3270 feet.

This complex of two spacious but short caves and two large sinks is the westernmost currently known in the Mount Adams cave area. It is located about 1/3 mile northwest of Big Cave and southsouthwest of Dynamited Cave. There has been some speculation that the complex may represent a collapse-isolated portion of Dynamited Cave but current preliminary maps of the latter indicate a course several hundred feet farther east. Further mapping for verification is anticipated.

The northern sink is roughly circular; about 100 feet in diameter and about 20 feet deep. From its northern alcove two crawlways in breakdown lead to a sloping breakdown chamber about 125 feet long and 50 feet wide. From this point a climb over a breakdown pile leads to a smaller chamber to the northeast, also sloping downward to a narrow lava floor which terminates in a lava seal in a low extension. The flow features are rather indistinct but suggest flow out of the cavern at this point. This is the only original tube feature exposed in this system.

The upper end of the larger sink, or trench, is about 150 feet southeast of the sink just described. About 300 feet long, its southern portion is about 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep. The northern end is shallower and narrower; it appears to curve somewhat northeast and at its northeast end is a shallow breakdown grotto.

At the south end of this trench, a wide but hidden alcove is the antechamber of the larger cave of this system. A short descent through breakdown followed by a low horizontal route leads into the Rain Room, about 80 feet long and 40 feet wide. Beyond, a short descent extends to two smaller ascending chambers in breakdown. At the top of the slope, a small hole opens into the largest room in the cave, about 100 feet long and 60 feet wide, and notable for its colorful red rock. A large pad of lava is in the process of shelving breakdown over the entrance of this room. Beyond, a small hole permits crawling downward and onward into a maze of breakdown for only a few dozen feet.

These caves may have been discovered during the logging of the area some years ago, but are not known to have been entered until found by the Oregon Grotto in 1966 while searching for an extension of Dynamited Cave. The northern cave was termed "Slide Cave" because of the difficult slide into the chosen orifice (once inside an easier route was found); the southern was dubbed "Firecracker Cave".

The volume of the system as a whole strongly suggests that the segment where a lava floor is visible is only an inconsequential segment - perhaps an effluent or rudimentary upper level - and exploration to date may not even have penetrated to the original roof of the underlying main tube. Correlation with nearby Dynamited and Big Caves appears extremely important.

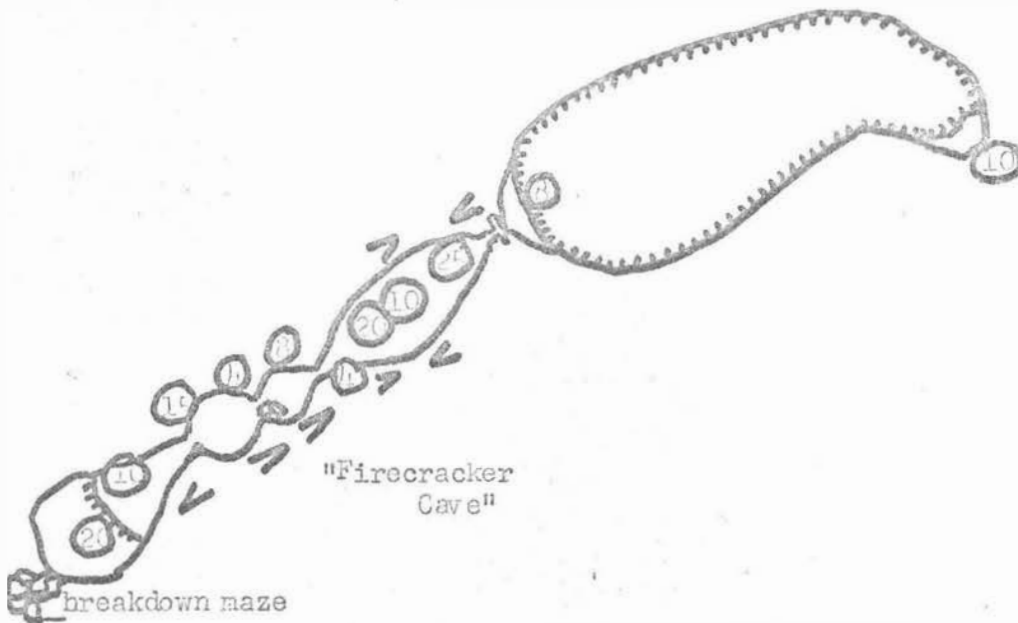
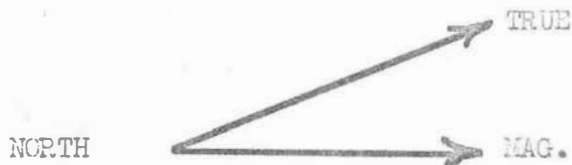
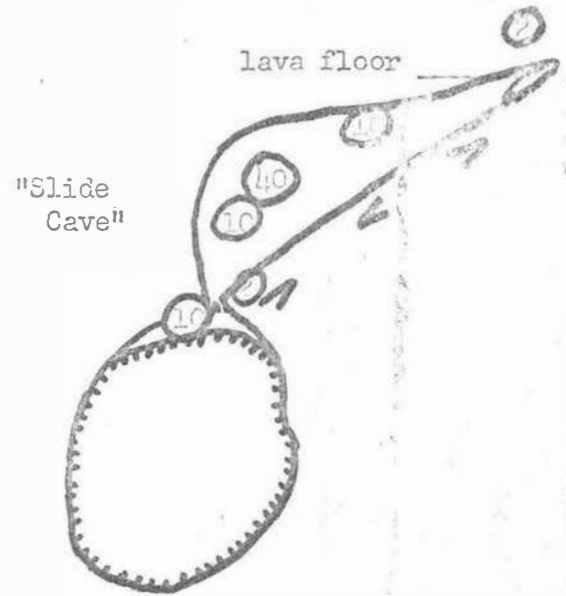
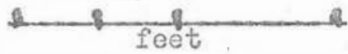
Total length of the complex is about 900 feet; that of Slide Cave is 225 feet; that of Firecracker Cave is 315 feet. (W. R. H.)

DITCH CAVES, SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

compass and tape survey 10-2-66 (uncorrected)

Scale: 1 inch equals 100 feet

0 50 100 200



THIS IS ONLY ONE OF THE ARIZONA CAVES WHICH WOULD BE DESTROYED BY THE NEWLY PROPOSED COLORADO RIVER POWER DAMS. BE READY TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN, IF YOU LIVE IN WASHINGTON STATE.

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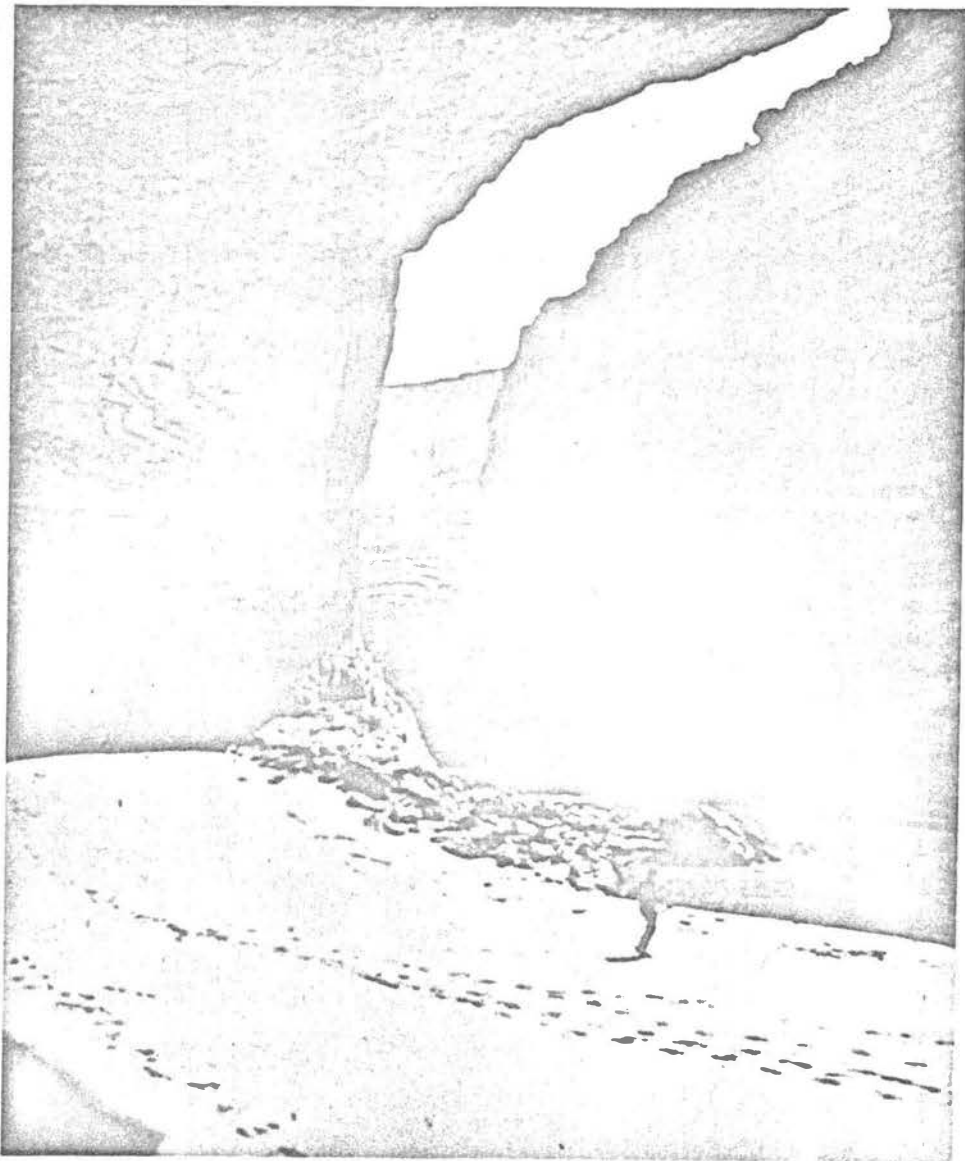


## SIERRA CLUB

Mills Tower, San Francisco 4

**REDWALL CAVERN, THREATENED BY MARBLE GORGE DAM**

Photo By PHILIP HYDE



America's most isolated Cave?

by Bill Halliday

The text of the Aiken Lake memoir of the Geological Survey of Canada mentions a limestone cavern in that "map-area", and its sinkhole entrance is shown on the accompanying map, together with at least one other nearby sinkhole. Probably not one but the reporting geologists have been into the cave. To reach the area, one travels by horse or paddles about 80 miles down the Parsnip River to McLeod Lake to Finley Forks (or 50 miles UP the Peade River from Gold Bar to the same point), thence up the Finley and Ingenika Rivers god only knows how many miles before bushwhacking across country a few miles. This may be America's most isolated cave; whoever reports on it in detail first is entitled to crow a bit. (and waiting for the proposed reservoir and using a motor boat is cheating)

The text is as follows:

"Sinkholes were observed in the limestone at the north end of Butler Range and on Lookout Mountain. The largest explored sinkhole, whose mouth is near the summit of Lookout Hill, leads to a series of small caverns and tortuous passages. The passages follow both joint systems and bedding planes".

- Roots, E.F. 1954. Geology and mineral deposits of Aiken Lake Map-area, B.C. Geol. Surv. of Canada Memoir 274, p. 62.