

# The Cascade Caver



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## CASCADE CAVER

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The CASCADE CAVER is published 10 times a year by the Cascade Grotto, a member of the National Speleological Society. All correspondence should be sent to: The Cascade Grotto, P.O. Box 75663, Seattle, WA 98125-0663.

Meetings: 7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, Room 6, in the basement of Johnson Hall.

Officers:

Chairman:	Jim Harp	(206) 745-1010
Vice Chairman:	Jeff Forbes	(206) 524-2443
Sec/Treasurer:	Larry McTigue	(206) 226-5357
Regional Rep:	Ben Tompkins	(206) 546-8025
Storekeeper:	Al Lundberg	(206) 365-7255
Librarian:	Larry McTigue	(206) 226-5357
Map Librarian:	Rod Crawford	(206) 543-9853
Editors:	Mark Sherman	(206) 524-8780
	Ben Tompkins	(206) 546-8025
Trip Coordinator	Mark Wilson	(206) 285-5724

Dues: Membership in the Cascade Grotto including subscription to the Cascade Caver is \$7.50 per year. Dues for additional family members is \$1.50. Subscription to the Cascade Caver only is \$7.50 per year.

Please note the date on your mailing label that indicates when your dues expire.

Overdue:	Due:	Coming up:
David Becker 1/87	Randy Vance 4/87	Bob Brown 5/87
Peter Carter 1/87	Mickey Hanson 4/87	Ed Crawford 6/87
Jim Harp 3/87		Rod Crawford 6/87
Maurice Magee 3/87		Jerome Gunsalus 6/87
		Larry McTigue 6/87
		J.P. van der Pas 6/87

New Members:

Bruce Donohue,	Seattle, WA.	(206) 448-0612,	NSS 25313
Shaun Larson,	Seattle, WA.	(206) 547-4844	
Richard Smith,	White Salmon, WA.		

Cover: Linda Heslop: Friend on Rope.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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May 1-3	Vancouver Island	(See Jeff Forbes)
May 15	Grotto meeting at the University of Washington.	
May 16	Vertical Practice	(See Jim Harp or Gerry Thompson)
May 22-25	Regional at Trout Lake	(See Mark Wilson)
June 12-14	Windy Creek with Oregon Grotto and VICEG.	
June 20	Grotto swap meet and BBQ party.	
July 3-5	Cody and Gardiner Caves	
July 4	Spirit Lake Pseudokarst (Mark Sherman has waiver form)	(See Bill Halliday)
July 18	Cave Ridge trip to set up rescue scenario	(See Jim Harp)
Aug 7-9	Cave Ridge practice rescue	
Aug 8-16	Bighorn Project work session #3.	(See Bob Brown or Mark Sherman)
Aug 22	Vertical practice	
Sept 4-7	Papoose Cave, Idaho	(See Bob Brown)
Sept 19 *	Windy Creek	
Oct 2-4 *	Falls Creek, 3 Sinks	
Oct 17 *	Black Mountain	(See Dick Garnick)
Nov 27-29	Pot of Gold, Idaho	(See Bob Brown)
Dec 5	Pre-Holiday party with Oregon Grotto and VICEG.	

\* Omitted or wrong date in March issue.

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## MARCH GROTTO MEETING

The March grotto meeting at the U. of W. began with 10 members and ended with 13, two non-members having joined.

An announcement was received from Bill Halliday about his planned July 4 trip to the Spirit Lake Pseudokarst. Mark Sherman became the custodian of the waiver form which must be signed by April 30 in order to get into the red zone.

Plans for the April 10 trip to Mt. St. Helens and April 18 trip to the Paradise Ice Caves were discussed. Shaun Larson reported on the trip to Senger's Talus Cave which found some rare sunshine and some lunch-mooching goats.

Bob Brown brought up the idea of printing a grotto newsletter as the regional newsletter twice a year. The issue was discussed, became a bit clearer to the rest of us, but no action was taken.

Rod Crawford presented a slide show by Merlin Tuttle called "Bats - Myth and Reality" which is part of the Burke Museum's current exhibits.

## SCHEDULE OF REGULAR FEATURES

Some features have reappeared at irregular intervals in the Cascade Caver and maybe it is time to define a regular a schedule. The following scheme will be followed, more or less, by the current editors. Any ideas for additions or changes are welcome.

Jan-Feb	Books in library (yr/3 i.e. 1986) Newsletter list ( " + 1 i.e. 1987) Topo Map Index ( " + 2 i.e. 1988)
March	Trip plans for coming year (proposed regular feature)
April	Grotto Directory
May	Bylaws, Constitution, and Operating Policy
Nov-Dec	Cumulative index for year or last two years.

## REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

Ben Tompkins

From what I've seen, the regional newsletter has rarely been much to brag about. The few that I've seen have been good but publication tends to happen in spurts as new editors take over and then peter out. This is understandable. Most of us grotto editors are scrambling around trying to get material for our own newsletters and busy enough getting our own papers published. There is usually little material or energy left over for putting out a regional paper as well.

On the other hand, the regional paper could be produced most easily by an existing newsletter staff because they are already experienced and equipped. This is where Bob Brown's proposal starts to make more sense.

He suggests that one of the grottos volunteer to publish the regional paper on a permanent basis or for a set period of time. The regional paper would come out twice a year and take the place of the grotto's own newsletter for those two months. If the Cascade Grotto were to volunteer, for example, two issues of the Cascade Caver would be renamed as the Northwest Caver. Material would be solicited from throughout the region but if none came in then those issues would just be Cascade Cavers in disguise. The workload for the editors would be about the same either way.

Bob suggests that the grotto mailing list be used as is. Anyone wanting to subscribe would for \$7.50 (Cascade Grotto price) be guaranteed two issues a year of the regional newsletter and get 8 issues of the Cascade Caver thrown in free. Subscribers would be guaranteed something for their money as has not always been the case in the past. It would then be much easier to increase the regional content once the publication is known to be dependable.

The proposal might be amended to include a special subscription rate to get just the regional newsletter rather than all issues of the host grotto's newsletter. If the host newsletter's mailing list is on a computer it is usually a minimal job to add a field for

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the regional subscriptions and flag the regional subscribers in with the grotto subscribers when the two regional issues come out.

On the negative side, some people will resent "losing" two issues a year of the local newsletter. These will be people on the one extreme who are adamantly disinterested in what's happening elsewhere plus those who are very interested and are already paying hard-earned money to receive all of the local newsletters.

The Cascade Grotto would require a change in the bylaws to allow publishing fewer issues of the CC per year, probably with a clause to allow the reduction only if the grotto were producing the two regional issues.

Exchanges that are part of the host grotto's mailing list could just as well get the regional newsletter too. Most of them would probably be happy to get material from a broader area assuming, again, that they are not already exchanging with most of the grottos in the region. The various NSS functions on the grotto mailing list would probably want the regional, paper anyway.

#### **FLASH FROM THE PAST DEPT.**

Larry McTigue

Two names familiar to us here in the Northwest leaped out of a 1960 issue of COG SQUEAKS, official newsletter of the Central Ohio Grotto. The first was "Fred Dickey" and the other was "Cascade Cave". One of the two was coincidence, being located in Kentucky.

Did the cog really squeak 27 YEARS ago? Fred, we haven't seen you in a while. Why don't you drop by the next grotto meeting and say hello.

Then there is the following curious story which comes from a 1975 issue of the Rock River Spelunker.

February found a select group of us off to Elm Cave to test the use of polyacryamide as an erosion retardant. Elm Cave was chosen because the stream has such a high flow that erosion of floors and walls is serious.

Vadose trenching of the floor, undercut walls, and retreating waterfalls are common. Many of the waterfalls have crumpled to chutes or mere rapids under the constant water flow.

Polyacrylamide has been under study by Columbia University because of its ability to speed the flow of water. It has long multi-branched molecules that adhere to a solid and allow water to slide along the long threads with very little friction. Drag is reduced and flow speed is increased. The chemical has been used to coat the linings of fire hoses and small diameter water pipes.

We climbed to the waterfall at the upper end of Elm Cave in about the usual time. After eating and checking our lamps we added 540 grams of polyacrylamide to the plunge pool. We estimated that this would lubricate 2000 square feet of surface.

At first nothing seemed to happen and we started back down the stream passage. There seemed to be less water in the stream but it was going faster. Then all hell broke loose! None of us could step in the water because we immediately lost our footing. It was terribly slippery and the further down we got the worse it was. We were finally reduced to sitting down and sliding along in the stream bed. Frequently we spread-eagled trying to slow down.

At the entrance the character of the flow had changed. A column of water the size of your wrist used to spout gently from the spring opening just below the entrance but now it was a jet the size of your thumb but coming out with such force that it sprayed the rocks on the other side of Elm Creek.

We came back the next week and it was still the same. It was impossible to climb inside the cave, like climbing on glass or glare ice. Vibram soles would not hold at all and the water speed was terrific.

In summary, I feel that we have significantly reduced friction in Elm Cave and hope that erosion will be retarded, prolonging the life of the cave. However, the long term effects of chemical treatment will need to be observed. Meanwhile, we have renamed it Slippery Elm Cave.

## SKAGIT COUNTY TRAIL GUIDE TO TALUS CAVE

John Clardy

It was evident to me during the March 1987 Grotto Field trip that grotto members would like to hear more about Chuckanut Mountain trail options.

To hike up the west side of Chuckanut Mountain please park your vehicles beside Chuckanut Drive, between the Oyster Creek Inn (766-6179) and the Oyster Bar Restaurant (766-6185), in two southbound lane turnouts. Do not enter the private road opposite the Oyster Bar Restaurant.

Cross the highway from the turnouts and climb the hillside until the dirt road appears. Turn left following the road to just past a metal roadgate where a distinct trail starts uphill on the right. Oyster Creek Trail is not posted as such but at least seven streambeds, several bogs, and two view overlook side paths are passed before arriving at the side trail leading to the talus cave.

Immediately beside the slide area an obscure path inside the treeline leads uphill to the rock cleft opening into the register grotto portion of the cave. Strong hikers may walk from the parking lot to the cave in sixty minutes.

Eastern Chuckanut trailheads require Alger Exit No. 240 from Interstate 5. Driving west, turning left onto Barrel Springs Road. Follow the posted Blanchard Hill Trail directional signs from this point. The gravel service road for Blanchard Hill Trail begins at the right off Barrel Springs Road. The service road will fork twice but simply follow the larger road uphill. The Blanchard Hill Springs (BHS) trailhead is posted on the left past the second fork. Ample parking is available along the road uphill from the trailhead. Strong hikers may walk from the parking lot to the talus cave within two hours. The BHS trail has easy grades, bridges two streams and a couple bogs, but equestrian traffic has mucked up other bits of the trail. The trail ends at the crest line at a posted junction with other trails. The rest of the route to the cave is covered later in the Incline Trail remarks.

If you continue driving uphill past the BHS trailhead there is a small quarry and then the Incline Trail sign appears at the left. Two roadside turnouts provide limited parking uphill from the trailhead. The northern turnout has an excellent overlook eastward.

The Incline Trail tends to follow a former narrow gauge railbed on the steep grade and is much less exhausting than the Oyster Creek Trail. Strong hikers may walk from parking to the cave within ninety minutes. Heaps of railroad ironware lie beside a switchback side path two thirds up the Incline Trail.

The trail ends at the junction with Lizard Lake Trail. WARNING - Lizard Lake is a horse crowd hangout so watch your step. Follow the Lily Lake signs to locate the trail connections with the talus cave. The next posted junction is the BHS Trail on the left.

Ahead on the right will appear Lily Lake marsh with campgrounds for horses and hikers. Both Lizard and Lily Lakes provide fishing. Beside the last Lily Lake sign before the end of the trail a smaller path marks a linkage with Oyster Creek Trail.

The Oyster Creek Trail heads for the steep western mountainside passing marsh, crossing a stream, and then forks at a junction with a rusty railroad rail across one downhill path. Avoiding the rail quickly leads to a stream ford and then up the hillside ending atop precipices overlooking the talus cave area. This is a fine location for vertical practice and view buffs. Returning to the last junction and walking down the trail leads to the path to the cave area.

### WHATCOM IN WINTER

John Clardy

March 1, 1987, I left my vehicle at 11am opposite the entrance of Whatcom County Silver Lake Park and began hiking across the meadow to Sumas Mountain. My Danner Bible mentions a blowing hole in a limestone exposure above the park. In gentle rainfall I switchbacked up the trackless mountainside

passing the snow line about five hundred feet above the bottom.

Though Old Man Winter had happily denuded the underbrush I failed to find any limestone. My search area had been north of a prominent arroyo. Off the mountain and looking upward from the meadow I concluded Danner's limestone was probably up the watershed concourse.

At 3 pm I turned off Mount Baker Highway near mile marker 36 to collect a mattock found last summer in the abandoned Midas Copper Mine works. Enroute to a prospect hole I paused before adit #1(\*) and turned on my electric lamp. The tunnel has picturesque rotten timber, icy knee deep drainage problems, and

must be the original tourist trap.

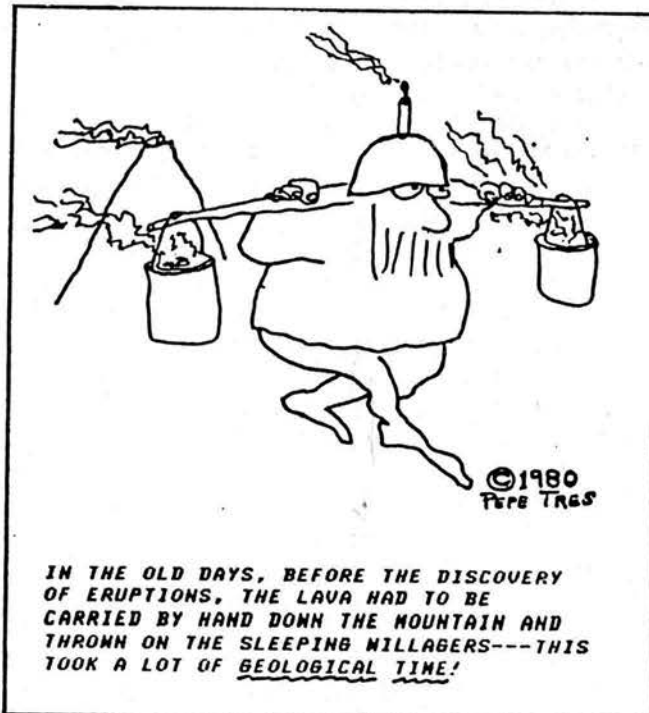
We may expect to hear more about the Midas Mines as the tunnels exhibit evidence of visitor traffic. Moving on, snow was falling at 4:30 as I turned off Mount Baker Highway onto Red Mountain Road. I had two digs to check atop a limestone knob. My front-wheel drive failed to advance up the icy roadbed about a half mile from the crest so I slithered backwards in slush until turnabout space was available. Does anyone want to give me a four-wheel drive vehicle?

(\* adit: Nearly horizontal passage from the entrance of a mine - Ed.)

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#### GEOLOGICAL NOTE

And now a brief geological note to enhance our appreciation of the lava tubes at the up-coming regional meet.



### CASCADE GROTTO MEMBERSHIP LIST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Balsdon, Sheila	[R] 259 NE 43rd ,Seattle,WA 98105	
Becker, David	[R] 1042 N.E. 94th ,Seattle,WA 98115	(206) 524-0557
Brenner, Sue	[R] 3801 N.E. 77th Street, #303 ,Seattle,WA 98115	(206) 523-0418
Brown, Robert	[R] P.O. Box 2 ,Elbe,WA 98330	(206) 569-2724
Brown, Dede	[F] P.O. Box 2 ,Elbe,WA 98330	(206) 569-2724
Carter, Peter	[R] P.O. Box 7462 ,Olympia,WA 98507	(206) 866-3959
Cebell, Wayne	[R] 7026 Puget Beach Road ,Olympia,WA 98506	(206) 491-6219
Clardy, John	[R] 1903 Lakeway Drive ,Bellingham,WA 98226	
Cole, Roger	[R] 206 Lilly Road NE #B-9 ,Olympia,WA 98506	(206) 456-2356
Collins, John	[R] P.O. Box 687 ,Roslyn,WA 98941	(509) 649-3103
Crawford, Ed	[R] 5521 36th Ave NE ,Seattle,WA 98105	(206) 522-1203
Crawford, Mary	[F] 5521 36th Ave NE ,Seattle,WA 98105	(206) 522-1203
Crawford, Rod	[R] Burke Museum (DB-10) U of W,Seattle,WA 98195	(206) 543-9853
DeFreitas, Teresa	[F] 2321 - 47th Ave. S.W. ,Seattle,WA 98116	
Dickey, Fredrick	[R] 15155 SE 41st Street ,Bellevue,WA 98006	(206) 664-2623
Donohue, Bruce	[R] 320 Cedar Street #36 ,Seattle,WA 98121	(206) 448-0612
Forbes, Jeff	[R] 7007 Ravenna Avenue N.E. ,Seattle,WA 98115	(206) 524-2443
Garnick, Richard	[R] 1101 N. Forest #104 ,Bellingham,WA 98225	(206) 671-1066
Gunsalus, Jerome	[R] 5720 - 51st Ave Ct. W. ,Tacoma,WA 98467	(206) 474-7907
Hahn, Thad	[R] 128 Van Geisen ,Richland,WA 99352	(509) 943-8653
Halliday, Dr. Wm. R.	[R] 201 Acklen Park Dr. #22 ,Nashville,TN 37203	
Hanson, Mickey	[R] 129 Baker Street #3 ,McMinnville,OR 97128	
Harp, Jim	[R] 1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive ,Lynnwood,WA 98026	(206) 745-1010
Harp, Amanda, Katrina, Ryan	[F] 1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive ,Lynnwood,WA 98026	(206) 745-1010
Hoyt, Howard	[R] 133 N. 78th ,Seattle,WA 98103	(206) 732-4567
Hymes, Frank	[R] 234 SE 107th Ave Apt B ,Bellevue,WA 98004	(206) 451-9021
James, Richard	[R] 6206 N.E. 70th ,Vancouver,WA 98661	(206) 694-7113
Larson, Shaun	[R] 5423 Kirkwood Place North ,Seattle,WA 98103	(206) 547-4844
Lundberg, Alan	[R] 19221 - 38th Place NE ,Seattle,WA 98155	(206) 365-7255
Martin, Robert H.	[R] 20836 Occidental Avenue South ,Seattle,WA 98148	(206) 878-7634
McFeely, Dan	[R] 2321 - 47th Ave. S.W. ,Seattle,WA 98116	
McTigue, Larry	[R] 962 Sunset Blvd. NE Apt B-5 ,Renton,WA 98056	(206) 226-5357
Miller, Tom	[R] Dept of Geology/Geography Indiana State University, Terre Haute,IN 47809	(812) 533-2381
Ogawa, Dr. Takanori	[A] 1-11-21 Kita-Otsuka Toshima-Ku,Tokyo, 170	
Schmidt, Eckart	[R] 55 - 151st Place NE ,Bellevue,WA 98007	(206) 747-5249
Schmidt, Wolfie	[F] 55 - 151st Place NE ,Bellevue,WA 98007	(206) 747-5249
Sherman, Mark	[R] 9417 8th Ave NE ,Seattle,WA 98115	(206) 524-8780
Smith, Richard	[R] Rt. 3, Box 195, White Salmon, WA 98672	
Sprague, Steve	[R] P. O. Box 456 ,Arlington,WA 98223	(206) 435-9756
Stitt, Robert	[R] 1417 - 9th Ave West ,Seattle,WA 98119	(206) 283-2283
Tasker, Art	[R] 23823 S.E. 472nd ,Enumclaw,WA 98022	(206) 825-1714
Thompson, Gerald	[R] 6111 - 88th S.W. ,Mukilteo,WA 98215	(206) 355-4900
Tompkins, Ben	[R] 18002 - 1st Ave N.W. ,Seattle,WA 98177	(206) 546-8025
Walter, Richard	[R] Box 571 ,Porthill,ID 83853	(604) 428-2495
Whitfield, Phillip R.	[A] 2067 Valley View Drive ,Kamloops B.C., V2C 4C3	(604) 372-5079
Wilson, Mark M.	[R] 1910 - 12th Avenue West #103 ,Seattle,WA 98119	(206) 285-5724