

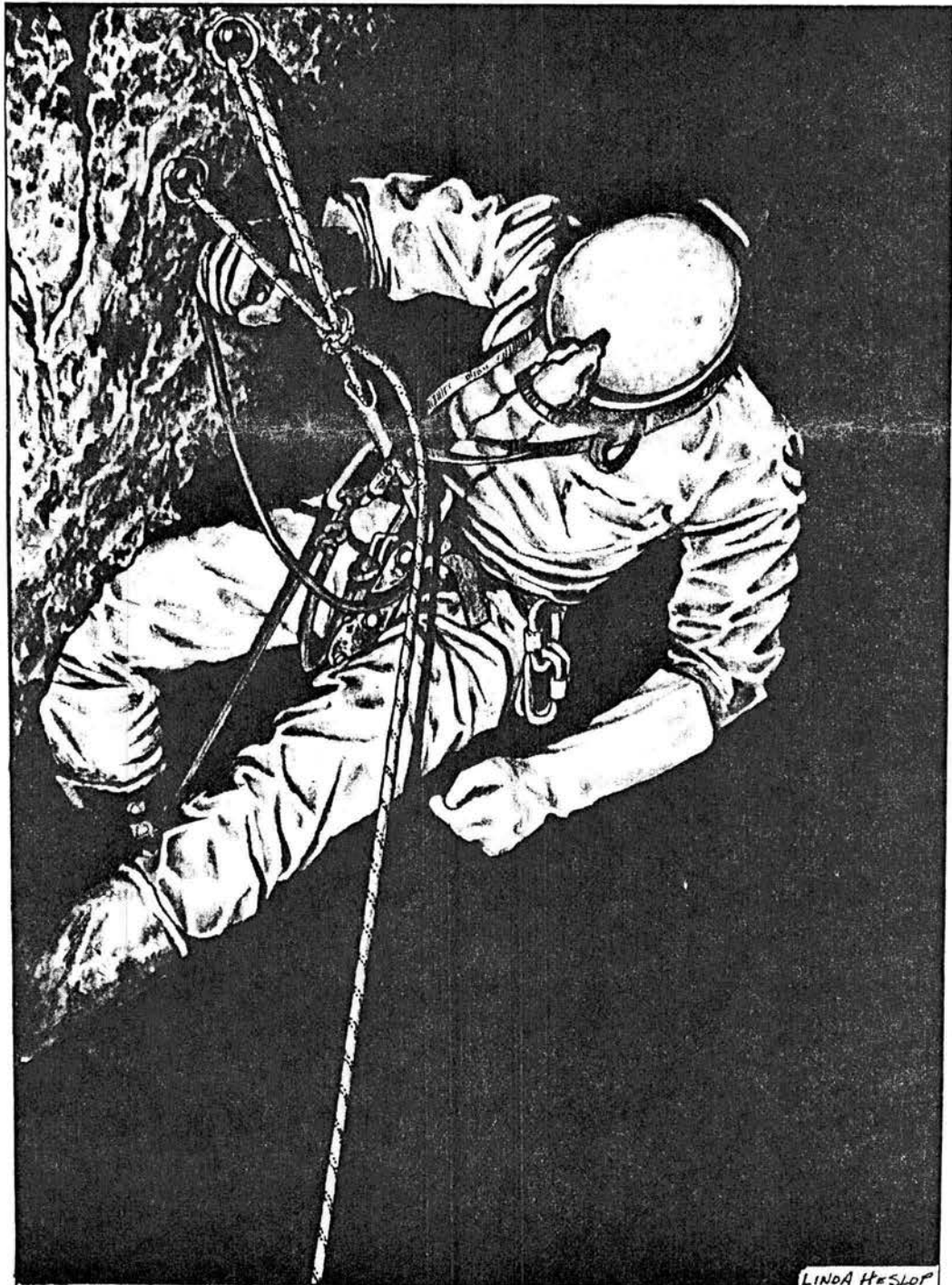
The Cascade Caver



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CASCADE CAVER

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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:
Brown, Bob 5/87	Stitt, Rob 8/87	Balsdon, Sheila 10/87
Crawford, Ed 6/87	Garnick, Dick 9/87	Brenner, Sue 10/87
Crawford, Mary 6/87	Garnick, Mark 9/87	Cebell, Wayne 10/87
Crawford, Rod 6/87	Hoyt, Howard 9/87	Dickey, Fred 10/87
Gunsalus, J. 6/87		James, Richard 10/87
Dr. E. Kiver 7/87		

Cover: Untitled drawing by Linda Heslop. Doesn't look like he's expecting a dry cave!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Oct ? | Mark Wilson wants to set up a Vancouver Island caving trip sometime in October. Check with Mark for details. | this weekend, according to Bob Brown. Bob is planning to be there with the NCRI Chuckwagon. Check with Bob at 579-2724 for details. |
| Oct 3,4 | There will be a trip to Spirit Lake on one of these days. You must be already on the Mt. St. Helens Red Zone Permit to come along. Oct. 4th. Call Bill Halliday by Tuesday, Oct 29 if interested. | Nov ? Mark Wilson is looking into another trip to Vancouver Island some time in November. Call Mark if you are interested. |
| Oct 3-4 | Dick Garnick is thinking of a ridgewalk and sink hop on Mt. McGuire. Check with Dick at 671-1066 if interested. | Nov 20 GROTTO MEETING |
| Oct 10-11 | Rob Lewis, Gerry Thompson, and Dick Garnick are thinking of a deep trip in Newton Cave on Cave Ridge. Vertical experience required. | Nov 21 Pre-Holiday Potluck at Dr. Halliday's place. Oregon Grotto and VICEG are being invited. Contact Jim Harp to coordinate potluck dishes. |
| Oct 16 | GROTTO MEETING | Nov 27-29 Pot of Gold, Idaho. A bit of a drive but definitely a tube to see. Arrangements must be made in advance so call Mark Wilson immediately if interested. |
| Oct 17 | Black Mountain. See Dick Garnick. | |
| Oct 17-18 | Some Oregon Grotto folks are planning to visit Windy Creek Cave | |

GROTTO MEETINGS

Ben Tompkins

The August meeting was fairly short, I wasn't there and didn't receive any notes about it. Thirteen people attended the September meeting. I arrived late and left early but noted the following items.

The garage sale brought in \$165.

Money was allocated for a rubber stamp for the grotto library to mark its books.

Bill Halliday invited anyone already on the Mt. St. Helens Red Zone Permit to come along on a Spirit Lake trip on Oct. 3rd or Oct. 4th.

The winter banquet was chosen to be a potluck at Bill Halliday's on Sat., Nov. 21.

A motion was made to support the vote at the last regional on changing the abbreviation of the Northwest Caving Association from N.W.C.A. to N.C.A. but it was defeated 11-1.

NORTHWEST CAVING ASSOCIATION MEETING

Ben Tompkins

A board meeting of the Northwest Caving Association was held at the Regional last May and I just now realized that I never made an official report of it to the grotto.

The meeting was held May 22, 1987, at the Peterson Prairie Campground near Trout Lake, Washington. Board members present were Bob Brown, Chairman; Ben Tompkins, Cascade Grotto; Tom Currie, Gem State Grotto; David Klinger, Glacier Grotto; Laura Poulsen, Oregon Grotto; Dale Green, Salt Lake Grotto; and Graham Heslop, V.I.C.E.G. Wasatch Grotto was not represented.

Minutes of the August 31, 1986 meeting were quickly approved and there was no old business mentioned.

To begin the new business, secretary Dave Klinger suggested an administrative change to the bylaws to correct the abbreviation of the Northwest Caving Association from N.W.C.A to N.C.A.

The date and place of the next meeting was discussed and set for Memorial Day weekend (May 29-30, 1988) at Gordon River on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. VICEG will host the meeting.

Steve Sprague reported that the Northwest Cave Research Institute (NCRI) is negotiating with the National Park Service at Jewel Cave, SD, to conduct an inventory and cave radio location project in 1988.

Bob Brown outlined the progress of the NCRI Bighorn Project and encouraged everyone to support it.

Mark Wilson expressed concerns about several issues of importance to all NSS members including the closure of Trout Rock Caves in Virginia, excessive multiple terms for NSS Board members, and NSS support for the American Cave Conservation Association (ACCA) - some of whose members appear to be anti-NSS. All but the last of these issues have been well covered in the NSS News.

Bob Brown also spoke at length about these issues. He was especially concerned about the strong resistance by the ACCA to the Bighorn Project and the anti-NSS presentations given by the ACCA to government land owning agencies.

It was noted that the new Federal Cave Law has been introduced in Congress. More information can be found in the NSS News.

Bob also reminded us that the way that the membership can influence the operation of the NSS is through the Congress of Grottos. All NSS members should make sure that issues about which they feel strongly are presented and supported in the Congress of Grottos.

The final item of business was election of officers for the 1987-1988 year. Elected were Chairman Bob Brown; Vice Chairman Ben Tompkins; Secretary Dave Klinger; and Treasurer Phil Whitfield.

Thanks to Dave Klinger for minutes of the meeting.

1987 GRAPHICS ARTS SALON

Two of our Cascade Caver covers with drawings by Linda Heslop were submitted to the non-photographic category of this year's Graphics Arts Salon at the convention. These were the first two on the Honorable Mention list. Congratulations, Linda!

Medal Winner:

Desert Caver, Nov-86, Escabrosa Grotto

Merit Award:

Nylon Highway, #23, Vertical Section
The Explorer, Dec-86, S. California Grotto
The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter, Feb-86
The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter, Apr-86

Honorable Mention

Cascade Caver, Vol 25 No.10, Cascade Grotto
Cascade Caver, Vol 25 No.11-12, Cascade Grotto
... 11 others ...

CASCADE CAVER PRODUCTION COSTS

Mark Sherman

I've been editor now for a little over 5 years and nobody (except for the treasurers) has ever asked me how much it costs to put together the Caver. Since this is by far the largest expenditure the grotto has, it is probably time everyone sees where their money is going.

The numbers in the table below are for an average issue of the Caver which is 10 pages. I am also assuming an average of 65 issues mailed out per month.

Table 1
Cascade Caver Costs

Paper	\$ 4.00
Envelopes	\$ 1.54
Mailing Labels	\$ 0.60
Printer Ribbon	\$ 0.50
Printing Cost	\$ 0
Postage	\$26.42

Total Cost	\$33.06

Since there are suppose to be 10 issues per year that works out to about \$330 per year.

A FLYING TRIP TO CAVES IN BELGIUM

William R. Halliday, M.D.

The Frequent Flyer awards of the airlines are wonderful things. I cashed in 60,000 miles on my TWA Frequent Flyer account to attend the August, 1986 International Congress of Speleology in Spain. This gave me two free round-trip tickets to Europe or the Near East. I used one of these for the Barcelona trip so now what to do with the other before it expired. There are all kinds of delightful possibilities, some of which obviously requiring more time than I had free.

There are the intricately carved caves near Bombay - TWA goes there but it would have taken nearly a week. The wonderful salt cave in Israel? TWA goes there but it would have taken too long to make contact with Israeli speleologists and would have required a very long weekend. Same for the cave of

Antiparos, reached from Athens via hydrofoil then local boat. I had recently been to Italy and Spain while France, Britain, and Switzerland require more time. Belgium was a real possibility and Jan Paul van der Pas, the world's leading speleophilatelist, lives just across the border in southern Holland.

I called Jan Paul and he said, "Sure, come on. I'll take you caving and we'll have a party." So I did. I left Nashville at noon on a Friday in September, changed planes in New York and again unexpectedly in London (The pilot aborted the take-off twice so they had to find us another plane.) This made us a bit late getting to Brussels but Jan Paul was at the airport and the caves of the Ardennes were just 45 minutes away.

Because of the delay we didn't do much wild caving and saw only two commercial caves before the party that night at Jan Paul's home in Holland. The Grottoes de Han is a very nice commercial cave with a long boat trip at the exit complete with a small-bore cannon to bring forth the echoes. Lots of pretties and some large, impressive rooms. Nearby is a speleological museum, mostly exhibiting archeological material retrieved by cave diving in the exit stream - modern, old, Roman, prehistoric - it's all there.

A few miles away is the less developed Grotto de Rochefort, all developed along a single steeply dipping passage that leads down to a room with some pretties. Underground balloon ascents have been held for decades in this room for the amusement of visitors. The room is probably more than 50 feet high. The guide mentioned that there is another similar room nearby that only old-time local cavers ever get to see.

At the foot of the bluff below the Grotte de Rochefort, Jan Paul showed me one of their training caves. It is a swallet cave below the level of the nearby creek, which is known to disrupt caving plans when it rains. It has a very classical entrance which quickly narrows into muddy crawlways.

We drove on, through miles of rolling limestone reminiscent of the topography of the Ozarks but more densely populated and with the rock moderately to steeply tilted. Cave stories were much like those of the USA - cavers are pretty much the same all over. In the gathering dusk we made brief stops at one cave or another and crossed into Holland without stopping. There isn't even a customs post there any more. And then we arrived at Jan Paul's home for the fine party just as promised.

We got up at 6 a.m. for the quick 1-hour trip to the Brussels airport but dense fog had settled over all the lowlands. Instead of zooming in as Jan Paul normally does we crept to the airport to find it closed as expected. By noon the plane arrived from London and by 10 p.m. I was back in Nashville after plane changes in Washington D.C. and Atlanta.

Obviously this is not the best way to see the caves of the Ardennes but it was a great way to go when only having a 2 day weekend and faced with losing a free trip.

BOY SCOUTS AT ST. HELENS

Ben Tompkins

My son's Boy Scout Troop sounded interested in seeing some caves so I took the troop camping at Mt. St. Helens for the weekend of June 19-21. A lot of kids were gone for the summer so we ended up with 8 kids and 5 adults, including myself and Steve Sprague of the Cascade Grotto.

We set up camp Friday evening and drove to Ape Cave after breakfast the next morning. Most of the boys were young, having just entered the troop, and getting from one end of the easy walking cave to the other became an exercise in herd control.

There was a constant flow of high school-age kids coming and going while we were there, hiking up the trail to the upper entrance in the rain, dressed in t-shirts and jeans and carrying 3 or 4 flashlights per dozen. Some of the Scouts wanted to know why I had them all dressed up in warm clothes, hard hats, and helmet lights when everybody else was so casually dressed. They figured it out for themselves when we got to places that were smaller and wetter and they hit their heads on the ceiling.

Saturday afternoon I took four of the older boys and two of the adults to Little Red River Cave. The mud flow is continuing to revegetate and as usual I missed the cave but not by much. The blueberries and wild strawberries made up for the minor inconvenience.

Red River Ralph, the Decomposing Bunny, was now a few darkened bones around which someone had placed a ring of stones. At the bottom of the cave I pulled out a garbage bag and we started collecting trash, beginning with the champagne bottle, cork, and two candles sitting next to the lake. We ended

up with about a cubic foot of garbage in all and I managed to get that stupid bottle out in one piece.

At the top of the upper lava fall we found the ripe but otherwise intact remains another aspiring aviator. Red River Ralph II had survived his first flying lesson long enough to crawl considerably deeper in the cave than his predecessor.

Sunday morning I took the other four boys and two adults to the same cave. Campfire stories of rotting rabbits, gory red waters, and 50-ft vertical walls to climb had these kids well prepared for the adventure. We were hardly in the entrance before they wanted to know where the bunny was. I distracted them temporarily by suggesting that if they found any garbage that we missed on last night's trip they could have a good ha-ha on the older boys.

Again we failed to see the second bunny on the way down even though everybody was looking for it. But we did find two dozen or so spent .22 shells at the edge of the lake. Some searching around also turned up one mangled bullet.

Ralph II was easily spotted on the return trip and we stopped to make a circle of stones around him to match his predecessor.

When we got back to camp it was still too early to head home. After breaking camp and packing up, we drove back to the Lava Cast Picnic Area where we polished off the weekend with a watermelon feed, raced around the boardwalk, climbed down the ladders, and crawled through the lava casts.

YUCATAN CAVES, 1987 STYLE

William R. Halliday, M.D.

The current Continental Airlines coupons sold by Safeway are providing a marvelous opportunity to fly at very low rates to Mexico from the Pacific Northwest. So a couple of us took off for Yucatan on August 17 and found it a wonderful introduction to a wonderful region and its fascinating caves. The area is opening up fast, with new paved roads where only goat tracks existed recently. Commercial caves and cenotes are opening up especially rapidly as tourist attractions. One east of Holca has even opened and already closed, leaving only a sign on a bar to tell anyone of its existence.

We stopped at every cave we could find along the way but missed Cenote Dzitnup, a few km southwest of Valladolid. This cave is illustrated in the tourist map of Yucatan but there were no road signs for it.

The trip went very well. On August 17, we flew from Seattle to Houston to Cancun. Cancun was bulging at the seams with tourists but we got a room at a Best Western hotel. After a quick dip we took the rental car into town, bought supplies, and tried Yucatan-style food: marvelous. We recommend the Restaurant Uxmal but do not drive in the town of Cancun after dark if you can avoid it. Also don't forget to confirm your return ticket.

We were up early on the 18th and drove on to Chichen Itza via the famous Gruta de Balancanche (misspelled on the road sign). My biggest reason for flying to Yucatan was to photograph the Toltec offertory pot found in the cave in 1959 and I had heard that the previous ban on photography had been relaxed. But the cave was closed - new steps and trails were being installed.

Continuing on to the new museum at the ruins 3 km farther west, I learned that the only person who could give special permission was in Merida, nearly 100 miles away. As we toured part of the ruins I found that in one of the buildings a central shaft was supposed to lead down into a natural pit. It had been recently cleaned out to a depth of 20 feet or so but is all masonry. We stayed overnight at the famous old Hotel Mayaland, very inexpensive, no air conditioning but a fabulous garden and fantastic sunset view of the ruins.

On the 19th we toured more of the Chichen Itza area. I checked out a small phreatic cave near water level in Cenote Xtolok, the working cenote supplying water to the old village, not the sacred cenote where people were sometimes sacrificed to Chaak, the god of rain and caves. The phreatic tube went less than 50 feet although by climbing up a tight chimney into a bat roost area I might have gone farther.

Just west of Holca, a town between Libre Union and Kantonil that was not shown on the tourist map, was a sign directing visitors to Cenote Chiuán. So we checked it out. For 300 pesos (about 25 cents) visitors proceed down through a slippery little cave illuminated with bare wires and bulbs to a big room almost entirely filled with cool, crystal clear water. Swimming was permitted, in fact, encouraged. The water passage

extends beyond the lighted section and was said to extend more than 100 meters. Stalagmites, other dripstone, and flowstone extend below the present water level.

After that delightful surprise we continued toward Merida but soon came to the horrible realization that my passport, our tourist cards, and the airline tickets were still in the safe at the Hotel Mayaland. Back in Chichen Itza we spent the night at the Villas Arqueologistas which was air conditioned and more expensive than the Hotel Mayaland. But the room itself was still cheap by U.S. standards.

On the 20th we made it to Merida without incident. Downtown Merida is virtually gridlocked during business hours despite a system of one-way streets. We got through to the museum and found a nice, inexpensive hotel, called the Paseo de Montejo, across the street. We inquired at the museum for the authority we needed but the proper person was not there. He was at another building several miles away and although the directions we were given were more than a little shaky, we found it without difficulty.

We were received courteously with only a short delay while an interpreter was located, and the permission was generously given. When typed, it was a most impressive document. All of this took time and we never got to see the Los Tulipanes Restaurant and Bar, said to be located in a cave in the industrial section of the city.

It was a good road back to Gruta de Balancanche the next morning though signs insist that it is not a high velocity road. Proper connections were made and I was soon photographing the famous pots despite some briefly embarrassing strobe problems. The custodian was pleasant and helpful. He gave me the name of the local guide, Umberto Gomez Rodriguez, who had made the find. Rodriguez had wondered about the ancient masonry wall that halted the cave about 100 meters inside. On Sept. 9, 1959, he made an opening in the wall, crawled through, and made one of the most significant discoveries in all of Meso-American anthropology.

With everything now going well we drove back through Merida to Uxmal where we got a nice hotel called The Mission Inn Uxmal. After checking in we drove to the Gruta de Loltun, now reached by paved roads and having electric lights - most of the time. The lights were off when we arrived so I got out an extra carbide lamp for the guide, who became entranced by the old Justrite. It was

an extremely impressive cave, not so much for the beauty of the speleothems as advertised for the tourists, but for the hugeness of most of the cave and for the impressive skylights and the abundant evidence of human use. One alcove several hundred feet into the cave is heavily smoked and contains several metates. Paintings and carvings run the gamut from stick figures in primitive red ocher to highly sophisticated Mayan carvings. Not far inside is a jaguar painted in black dots, high above the cave floor. Stone haltunes, basins to catch water, are so densely coated with calcite gours as to be almost unrecognizable. What a time for more strobe problems!

Perhaps the most fascinating of all to a Northwestern speleologist, was the sign below a prominently displayed carved head and shoulders. It stated that the carvings were found far beyond the tourist area by Jack Grant and Bill Dailey, former members of the Oregon Grotto and the old Northwest Explorers, when they were making the first map of the cave many years ago.

Along the road back to the hotel are three more excavated ruins and several mounds projecting obvious bits of Mayan architecture. This is the Puuc Archeological Zone, a real wonderland to an archeologist but most of the sites close at 5 pm. We arrived back at the hotel just in time to see the light show at the ruins of Uxmal from our balcony.

Our start the next morning was less early than usual and we make a quick visit to the ruins of Uxmal before heading on to the Gruta de Xtacumbilxunan across the Campeche state line in Bolonchen. This cave was the water source for the village 3 km away. As late as the 1840's the village people descended nearly 50 meters on woven ladders to bring up water in pottery jars. There was no remnant of the ladder but the huge main chamber with two skylights made the side trip worthwhile. The cave is newly commercialized with one guide and a good graded road from the main highway. The electricity in this cave worked but the rental car did not. Two young German visitors helped push it to get it started and we drove it all the way back to Merida to trade it in. In a different car we returned to Uxmal where the hotel was so pleasant and cheap that we had already booked a second night.

The next morning we checked out the entrance chambers of the Grutas Calcehtok, 3 km south of the town of the same name. The entrance chamber was very impressive with two

skylights supporting a small grove of bananas nearly 100 feet below the surface. Again there was a haltun deeply coated with dripstone and rimstone. This cave has no guide and no electricity but the access road is good. Nearby I talked to a licensed guide who goes caving every year with a Pennsylvania caver and it sounds like they are doing very well.

Time was beginning to run out. Roads continued to be good although being in the rainy season there were some tremendous thunder showers. We travelled back into the state of Quintana Roo and continued north along the Caribbean to the ruins of Tulum where I had noted that one of the old buildings was supposed to have been built over a cenote. It was, but a very disappointing one, just a grotto with a shallow pool in near-daylight.

The Yucatan Peninsula is larger than a lot of people think, no time to stop at Xel-ha for cave diving or even snorkeling. We arrived in Cancun at dark and the only lodging we could find was at the Sheraton, costing about as much as all the non-Cancun hotels on the trip combined. Plus its beach closes at dark. The water was beautiful the next morning on our way to catch our plane.

Yucatan is really opening up. Even cave diving tours are being advertised locally. With the current low-cost coupons there will probably never be a better time to go than now. But a one-week trip as we did can only skim the surface. I want to go back for a much longer time and certainly with a new strobe!

DOCK BUTTE TRIP REPORT

Larry McTigue

On Friday, August 28, I picked up Rob and Mike Lewis in Tacoma and we drove to the Grandy Lake Picnic Area to camp for the night. On the way to the trail head early the next morning we passed some bear hunters with their dogs and heard high-powered rifles going off all day long.

We loaded our packs with digging utensils, caving paraphernalia, and food. We planned to go down into Resurgence Cave and Twin Pits Cave so we brought the only rope we had, a 200 foot PMI, which I got to carry because I was the only one with a frame pack. The extra weight gave me a good workout on the hike up the trail. Luckily, the morning was cool and over-cast for the trip in but it

cleared off and warmed up pretty good in the afternoon.

Our first objective was to dig at some leads on the left of the trail when you reach the level plateau at the top. Rob dug in a crawlway that I had excavated last year, while I tried digging in a sink uphill and a few hundred feet to the south west. Rob dug and hammered at a constriction until he and Mike were able to squeeze past it. They dropped into a tight fissure which connected to a small, mud-floored room. There was an impassable squeeze at right angles to the entrance crawl and that was it. A short, tight cave.

I wasn't having much luck either. I moved several hundred pounds of dirt and rock only to find a hole that was too small to enter. Maybe it will wash out someday. Ha!

Next we headed down to Resurgence Cave and the sinks along the cliff to the north west. We checked a few sinks to the west of there then entered what I believe is Dock Butte Cave #4. The cave itself is not in limestone but in a very brittle and dangerous non-carbonate rock. It is formed along a steep bedding plane above limestone that is dissolving out from under it causing it to collapse but the ceiling and floor are only a few feet apart. One handhold came loose as I was descending and a 25 pound chunk of rock nearly fell on top of me. At that point I had had enough of the cave and headed over to Resurgence Cave to dig in the entrance sink for a while. With little success there, we all headed over to the resurgence stream at the base of the cliff.

Rob dug on the resurgence for a while but had little success so he and Mike climbed up the cliff to drop into the cave while I took my turn digging. I moved a lot of rock and dirt and soon noticed that the cold air blowing out of the cave wasn't coming from the stream passage but from a nearly-blocked crawlway to the left of the stream. I began digging in this crawlway in earnest, believing

from the strong breeze that big passage awaited. The crawlway was tight and I gave up to rest several times, thinking that my chances of getting through were not good. Eventually the crawl started upwards and there was another plugged crawl branching to the right, back toward the resurgence pool.

After a retreat to rest in the sunshine I returned to the dig and realized that the cold air was not coming from straight ahead but from the passage to the right which was plugged nearly to the ceiling. I began digging to the right with renewed vigor knowing that there was still a lot of fill to move before I could get through.

About this time Mike and Rob returned from exploring the upper end of the cave and said they enjoyed it thoroughly. Rob helped me dig until I could finally squeeze through. The lead took me around to the other side of the sump and I was able to crawl, nearly swimming, upstream in the icy water. After climbing an 8-foot waterfall I came to where an upper crawl in nicely fluted limestone divides from the lower stream crawl. Becoming hypothermic and having only one light source I turned around at this point. Rob and Mike went in and confirmed that it connected to the upper part of the cave that they had been in. Rob explored the dry upper crawl which needs to be surveyed and added to the current map. We also found other leads that need checking so the cave hasn't ended yet.

We climbed back to the top of the cliff to dry our wet clothes and pack for the trip out. On the way down, just below the big plateau, Rob and Mike took a look at some really big sinkholes in the woods down-slope towards Blue Lake to the south east. They appear to be good future digging prospects and I would encourage anyone interested in digging to head up there. Someone is bound to find a good-sized cave on Dock Butte eventually.

HIDDEN CAVE PUZZLE

Hidden in the array of letters below are the names of the following 25 Washington State caves:

Allbright	Dynamited	Jackman Creek	Peterson Prairie
Ape	Falls Creek	Lake	Prospector's
Cheese	Folgers	Little Red River	Red
Danger	Gardiner	Lookout	Sengers Talus
Deadhorse	Hellhole	Newton	Three Sinks
Dry Creek	Ice	Ole's	Windy Creek

These names may appear diagonally, horizontally, or vertically and may occur forwards or backwards.

Caves of Washington

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N C R E W K I C E S D S E L O Q
W O K E V I N D K L Q A M E E D
U A Y R V E N N R R O J N I C J
L S E N W I I D E Y A H R G P I
E D U T A S R N Y C C I L R E H
T Q O L E C I D K C A R O L S R
R N D E A D N M E R R S E A E K
I E R Y R T A I P R P E L E E H
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L X E K R H O I I G S U L T S I
D E M E O R D G T L N G A E I R
K A T N S O H A L E E E E L V L
L E P C E T L A E R D H S J C C
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