



The Cascade Caver

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CASCADE CAVER

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.

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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: Bruce Donohue 3/88 Thad Hahn 3/88, Mark Wilson 3/88
Randy Vance 4/88, Bob Brown 5/88, Dede Brown 5/88, Peter Carter 5/88,
Diane Coburn 6/88, Ed Crawford 6/88, Mary Crawford 6/88, Rod Crawford 6/88
Due: Robb Stitt 8/88
Coming Up: Dick Garnick 9/88, Howard Hoyt 9/88, Sue Brenner 10/88, Wayne Cebell 10/88,
Fred Dickey 10/88, Richard James 10/88, Mike O'Neal 10/88, Keith Schoonover 10/88

Cover: Drawing by Linda Heslop of Bill Farr in the south end of Systema Purificacion, Mexico. Drawn from a photograph by Terry Raines.

Upcoming Events

Current trip list, planned and proposed. Anyone with other trip ideas is welcome to contact Jim Harp, grotto trip coordinator.

August

- 19 Grotto Meeting.**
 20-21 Proposed trip to Cave Ridge. Some of us haven't been there in a while.
 27 Proposed day trip to caves in the Concrete area.

September

- 2-5 (Labor Day) Papoose Cave in Idaho, in conjunction with Gem State Grotto outing there. Experienced vertical cavers only. Contact Jim Harp or Jerry Thompson.
 2-5 Proposed trip to Gardiner Cave in the northeastern corner of Washington and to Cody Cave near Nelson, B.C. These are pretty but fairly easy caves for those not interested in Papoose.
 8-11 Bighorn Caverns now open. Call Mark Sherman or Bob Brown. This cave will require the ability and equipment to do a 60-ft free rappel and ascent.
16 Grotto Meeting.
 24-25 Overnighter to Monument 48 led by Dick Garnick.

October

- 1 Day trip to Windy Creek with special invite to Oregon Grotto members, organized by Jim Harp.
 14-16 Trout Lake area. Mark Wilson will lead a trip to Dynamited Cave in particular which will require vertical experience.
21 Grotto Meeting.
 22 Proposed day trip to Cave Ridge, weather permitting.
 29 Anyone for a grotto Halloween party?

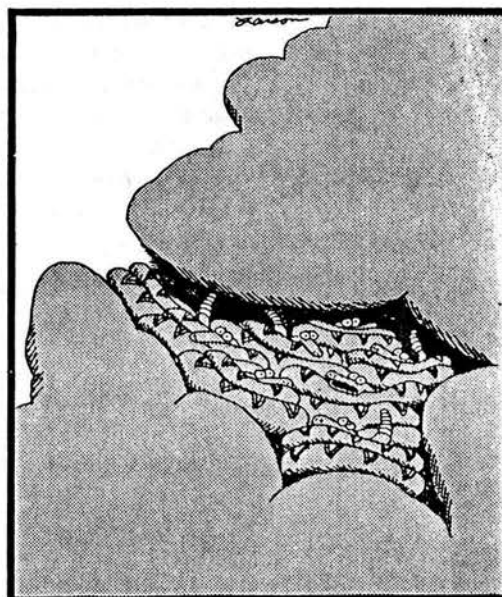
November

- 18 Grotto Meeting.** Nomination of 1989 officers.
 19 Day trip to Lizard Lake Talus Cave. Trip leader: Rod Crawford, 543-9853.
 24-27 Anybody interested in a Thanksgiving Holiday cave trip???

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The Early Days at Titan Cave by Gary Larson



"Hey, I feel someone moving! Dang, this place gives me the willies."

Meeting Notes

July

June

The June grotto meeting was conducted by Ben Tompkins with about 15 people attending.

Bob Martin would like to turn over the Grotto Store to someone who would be able to come to more of the grotto meetings.

Ben Tompkins made an appeal for written trip reports on all trips, even if just a paragraph on who, when, and where.

Jim Harp, Kay Willhight, and Rob Lewis all reported their impressions of the Regional meet on Vancouver Island.

Jerry Thompson described the recent trip to Dynamited Cave. (see written report in this issue.)

John Clardy related finding live military ordinance lying around in the woods on a cave trip in the Chilliwack area. This appears to be not uncommon because of military maneuvers nearby.

Howard Hoyt told of a trip with Rod Crawford to Beckly's Cave near LaConnor. Howard described it as a littoral cave in sandstone or shale. There was also a rock shelter nearby and the land owner implied that there were many other "Caves" in the vicinity.

Howard also suggested the Tiger Mountain Talus Caves as a good place to practice rescue and survey skills. They are close to Seattle and as far as he knows, never mapped.

Jim Harp reviewed the upcoming scheduled trips, especially the McLaughlin Canyon trip.

Larry McTigue brought up the subject of changes to the grotto operating policy, which had been discussed last year but the special meeting to work out the changes never happened. He made a motion that sections K and H be deleted and section N be revised. The motion was defeated. It was informally decided that both Howard Hoyt and Ben Tompkins would contact the grotto chairman and arrange a time for the special meeting, to be announced at the July meeting. The special meeting is to be held no later than the September grotto meeting.

Larry McTigue showed an NSS slide show about the Cave Research Foundation's 1986 clean-up efforts in Carlsbad Caverns.

John Clardy showed a one-reel summary of 25 years of caving, mostly in his boyhood New Mexico,

With Chairman Wilson up in Alaska, Dick Garnick lead the meeting with fourteen people in attendance.

Bob Brown and Chuck Crandall discussed the NSS Convention at Hot Springs S.D. Chuck, who was our Congress of Grottos representative, went over the issues discussed at the COG. These included keeping the Super Collider out of karst areas and making sure NSS members could get their NSS number back after renewing their dues once their membership had expired. One other bit of NSS news is that the NSS bylaws have changed and members of the NSS Board of Directors can only be on the Board for two consecutive terms. They must then sit out a year before running again.

During the trip reports, Steve Sprague talked about the NCRI Jewel Cave trip which was held just after the convention. They reflagged and inventoried about 7 miles of passage, and did some radio location work.

Dick Garnick along with Larry McTigue and Rob Lewis went up to Mt. McGuire near Chilliwack B.C. hunting for caves.

Chuck Crandall got into Horsethief and Titan caves in Wyoming after the NSS Convention.

Bob Brown and Mark Wilson hiked into Dock Butte but there was still about 5 feet of snow.

The program for the evening was given by Chuck Crandall. He had some beautiful slides of caving in the Southwest and also Mt. St. Helens. Afterwards Larry McTigue had a copy of the video "Otter Hole" from the Realm of Darkness series.

Windy Creek Cave

Jim Harp

We will have our second annual Cascade and Oregon Grotto Windy Creek Cave trip coming up on Saturday, October 1. Last year's trip was in June, early in the year, and the Seattle cavers spent about 6 man-hours digging out a snow drift which blocked the access to the trail head.

The cavers arrived at Grandy Lake campground at various times but were on their way by 8:30 the next morning. The trip from Grandy Lake includes about 30 minutes by car and 1.5 hours on foot along an old logging road and through pleasant evergreen forests. The hike ends at a steep hillside covered with brush,

scrub firs, and a few stray devil's club. This hillside is the most challenging part of the return trip after a hard day underground.

The cave was discovered in 1975 by Dave Walker and Jan Roberts of the Cascade Grotto. They had little doubt about their discovery on finding a brisk cold breeze emerging from a man-sized crack in the limestone. Subsequent exploration and survey has brought forth 3,057 feet of very interesting passages in early Pennsylvanian limestone. Three distinctly different areas are present. First is the dry, fissure-like entrance maze followed by a multi-level, vadose stream passage complete with stream still hard at work creating new cave, and finally, a three-dimensional complex of passages, domepits, cracks, and rooms. The cave is decorated in some areas with stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, and other speleothems. There is also evidence of damage to cave formations by careless cavers.

A trip to Windy Creek Cave requires a long hike, climbing, scrambling, and bridging. No vertical ropework, vertical gear, or advanced rock climbing skills are needed. The cave is cold and wet, with most cavers finding it a hard days work. The very wimpy and children under 12 should avoid this trip.

To get to Grandy Lake Campground, proceed north on I-5 past Mt. Vernon. Take Hwy 20 east to about 5 miles past Hamilton to the Baker Lake - Grandy Creek Road on the left. (If you get to Concrete you've gone too far.) Follow this about 5 miles to Grandy Lake Campground on the right. The trip to Windy Creek Cave will depart camp at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 1.

Vertical Practice at Ravenna Bridge

Mark Sherman

On May 15, the Grotto was going to have a vertical practice at Rattlesnake Ridge near North Bend. Since my neighbor, Mark Leven, and I were going to the Regional over Memorial Day, I thought this would be a good chance to brush-up. The weather forecast for the weekend was not very promising so the practice was moved to the covered area at Gas Works Park in Seattle. When I woke up Sunday morning the sun was shining and it would have been a beautiful to be up at Rattlesnake Ridge, oh well.

When Mark and I got to Gas Works, Jerry Thompson had three ropes already rigged up over the beams and people were jumping off of the balcony and

then climbing back up. There were about 13 or 14 people that turned out. Gas Works is an excellent place for this sort of thing, not only is it easy to rig, but we had several musicians playing for us.

After practicing there for about 2 hours most of us went over to the Ravenna Bridge as a "final exam" for the beginners. I was the only one of the group who had ever been off the bridge before and everyone was pleasantly surprised at how nice a place it is for vertical practice (after the initial shock of looking down, clenching the hand-rail, and screaming "You're crazy! I'm not going off of this!")

The Ravenna Bridge was deemed unsafe for cars so it is now restricted to bike and foot traffic. It has a beautiful setting, overlooking Ravenna Park's creek, trees and trails 90 feet below. Some people didn't want to start in the middle of the bridge so we rigged another rope on one end amongst the trees. This rope was psychologically easier although probably only 5 feet shorter.

During the next couple of hours everyone got in their fair share of practice and we only had one small mishap. One of the new people wanted to try a Figure-8 on his descent. We showed him how to use it and the last thing we said was make sure to watch your clothing so that it doesn't get sucked into the 8. You can probably guess what happened next. He got his brand new shirt plus part of his arm caught. He finally pulled hard enough and got himself out, minus part of his shirt and a big chunk of skin. When he got down and rejoined us on the bridge, he also discovered that a small ruby had fallen out of his ring. This was not a very good introduction for him into world of rappelling.

But when I left at 2:00 there were still 8 or 9 people on the bridge who hadn't had enough fun yet.

"New Big Room" of Dynamited Cave

Jerry Thompson

Rob Lewis, John Burns, Jim Harp, and Jerry Thompson left the Puget Sound Basin after work on Friday, June 10, 1988. They arrived at Dynamited Cave at 2:00 am, about five hours after a chinese dinner in Tacoma which received mixed reviews. The faithful and constant efforts of Father Jim had the group up the next morning at 7:00 a.m. and in the cave by 10:00 a.m.

The group took along a climbing pole designed and built by John Burns, which they left at the "bridge" at the 55-foot pit for later use in the Big Room or in the Grand Ball Room.

About eighty meters beyond the top of the breakdown mountain in the Big Room were two pitons fixed in the left wall. Jerry used these, a #7.5 Chouinard stopper, and a dynamic climbing rope to lead the pitch to the upper passage at the south terminus. The rope was fixed and the rest of the group quickly followed.

They found that the "Rain Area" about two-thirds of the way through this upper passage was aptly named. The final slope down to the New Big Room was very unstable, rotten rock. Each person chastised the person in front of him for dislodging all of the remaining hand holds. The lower blind leads were explored in short order and the group began their return trip, having reached this extensive region of the cave in about 3 hours.

The climbing pole was picked up on the way out and carried back to the Grand Ball Room where it was assembled and tested. It was made of four 5-foot sections of heavy gauge 5-inch aluminum pipe. Unfortunately, it proved to be about two sections short of comfortably reaching the passages above the Grand Ball Room. John vowed to extend the pole and it appears that a larger crew (perhaps 6 people) would be needed to carry the pole next time.

John, Rob, and Jim visited the sand castles while Jerry prepared for getting the packs and pole sections up the 15-foot drop. The group left the cave eight and a half hours after entering and the next morning, after breakfast at Bonnie's, returned home via Baby Shoe Pass.

Church Mountain Cave

Larry McTigue

John Clardy discovered Church Mountain Cave in 1986. As he tells the story, he was digging in a sink hole when it suddenly collapsed behind him, opening up into about a 100 feet of crawlway with a few small speleothems here and there.

John invited Dick Garnick to come look at it and Dick invited Rob Lewis and me. On August 14, 1987, in late afternoon (no one else filed a report on this trip so better late than never) Rob and I arrived at Dick's in Bellingham. Dick got off work early and we headed on up to the cave.

Rob and I thought it was a neat little cave but were not overly impressed, it was mostly tight crawlway. With nothing much to see or do we looked around for possible places to dig. I started digging at

the sand and gravel plug at the far end of the crawlway. Two hours later I broke through only to find another plug several feet farther. After a brief rest, I attacked the second plug and broke through after what seemed like another two hours. This time there were no more plugs.

This lead was an extension of the main crawlway. It only went another 100 feet but at least it was virgin! It contained some more small speleothems which made it worth the effort of digging it open.

Rob and Mike Lewis returned the next day to push a possible lead in a vertical slot near the ceiling at the end of the new extension. With a little digging they were able to push past a precariously perched boulder and continue upwards at a steep angle through tight squeezeways. They say it went quite a ways but no more formations were found.

Church Mountain Cave is not very big but it probably should still get mapped.

Moonmilk Cricket Cave

Larry McTigue

On Feb 17, 1988, Rob Lewis and I discovered our own little cave near Sumas, WA. Rob gets the credit for actually digging it open because I was probing another hole in the same sink when he broke through. The cave has a vertical entrance that is climbable. At the bottom was a short little cave with walls and ceiling completely covered with moonmilk. There were also Camel crickets crawling all over the moonmilk-covered walls, hence the name.

It happens sometimes. People just explode. ¹

John Clardy

On June 6, 1988, while walking along the Chilliwack River access road to Chipmunk caves I found a hand grenade. Canadian military police Warrant-Sergeant R. Harris advised me it is not uncommon to see expended or mislaid explosive ordnance in woodlands along both sides of Chilliwack Lake road, east of Slesse Creek bridge. Finders of any munitions are requested to not handle the found items but report the location to civil or military authorities as soon as possible.

1. Quote from "Repo Man", Edge City Productions.

NCA Regional Meet, May 1988

Linda and Graham Heslop

This year's regional got off to a very wet start on Friday evening but fortunately the weather turned nice come Saturday morning. Many of the better caves, however, were discovered to be flooded and only a few caves handled the forty or so cavers who showed up. Anyway those who did (from Washington, Oregon and of course British Columbia) made the best of it and had a very good time.

At 7:30 pm on Saturday, the NCA committee met and was attended by Dave Klinger (Glacier Grotto), Mark Sherman and Jim Harp (Cascade Grotto), Sherry ? (Oregon Grotto) and Graham Heslop (VICEG). Business of note included the continuing support of the NCRI (for the project at Jewel cave), next year's regional meet (to be hosted by the Oregon Grotto, probably the same weekend next year), the region's newsletter or lack of newsletter was discussed again. Then the election of officers took place. As seems to be customary, Phil Whitfield was an easy winner for the post of treasurer, Mark Sherman took over as secretary and Graham and Linda Heslop won the highly coveted posts of chairman and vice-chairman. As chairman, Graham then proposed that the NCA should support the White Ridge Strathcona Park issue in whatever form the Island cavers deem to be the most appropriate.

Sunday saw cavers going to the holes they'd missed on Saturday and preparing for departure either that evening or first thing Monday morning. The NCRI field kitchen trailer was there to provide breakfast and supper for those desiring not to cook and hopefully raised some funds in the process.

San Francisco sea cave revisited

Howard Hoyt

Clutching my March, 1988 Cascade Caver, I recently went out in pursuit of the sea cave described by Dr. Halliday in that issue. The entrance is exactly as he describes. However, I don't recommend getting to it from the beach. A much easier route is by climbing over the retaining wall just south of the cliff house and climbing down. A flashlight is not necessary unless the day is very cloudy.

Dr. Halliday describes a possible passage leading off the northeast corner of the room. He evidently didn't let his eyes adjust to the dark. Absolutely no such passage exists, but there is a small alcove at that point. The room itself is only 40 or 50 feet maximum and is walkable throughout, so couple this cave trip with a look at the Sutra Baths or other things in the area.

Incidentally, another cave is just north of this one but the surf was strong in it and it may be only accessible at very low tide. It appears, however, to be just an opening behind a pillar but still, you never know.

Cave needs to be rediscovered

Howard Hoyt

On the 4th of July a friend and I set out for Viceg Cave, one of a few that are close enough to Seattle to "do" in an afternoon. It is reached via Highway 26 out of Darrington and turning onto Highway 25 towards Gibson Falls. The scenery is beautiful but even though I think I found the place where it is supposed to be, we never did find the cave. Does anyone know for sure where this cave is? If so please call me at 782-4567. If not, does anyone want to get together with me and try to find it? It is a small limestone cave with some good mineral formations and I have supposedly good directions.

Also if anyone wants them, I have the new directions to Bechley's Cave, a small one-time sea cave near LaConner.

Return to Cave Ridge

Ben Tompkins

On July 23rd Jerry Thompson Silas Studley, and I climbed up to Cave Ridge and spent about three hours in Cascade Cave.

This was Jerry's first visit to the ridge, Silas' second, and my first in four years. We reached the top in two hours and although someone told me last year that the trail had been reamed out and improved, it looked the same to me except for an inappropriately-straightened switchback in the woods. There was also a new sign on a tree at the bottom of the scree field below the waterfall. It indicated trails to Snow Lakes, Snoqualmie Mountain, and Guye Peak. With the help of

the new sign I immediately lost the trail but headed towards where I knew we had to go and we soon regained the trail with the help of a cairn.

We had to stop for a bit where the trail crosses the stream below the falls, the place was just too pretty. These trips early in the season have lots of bugs and no huckleberries but make up for that with a profusion of wildflowers.

We met a couple camped in Lookout flats and after talking with them for a while, headed into Cascade Cave. There have been a few changes in Cascade, too. At the turn-off a couple of chambers below the register room the route used to go level for a bit then straight up through a hole into a long, descending hallway. At the end of the hallway was a duck-under into a tall, circular, dead-end room. Now instead of going up into easy walking passage, the predominate route seems to continue straight ahead through a series of wiggles over some pointy rocks, turning and descending to come out in the circular room. The old way was certainly faster and more pleasant, in my opinion, plus the new route has a lot of very thin, delicate boxwork and one embryonic stalactite, all of which are very vulnerable with cavers contorting their way through the passage. I'd like to see it made to look like the old way is the preferred route.

I spent some time on this trip trying to rationalize reality with my memories and the freehand sketch my caving buddies and I had made back in 1981. I finally got it all to make sense and Jerry and I pushed a few areas marked with question marks on the sketch.

We were back in the sunshine 3 hours after entering. We were the first to sign the register since a group in mid November, which had left some complaints about the trip being wet, cold, and windy.

The folks in the meadow informed us that a group had come by headed for Danger Cave and so after lunch we dropped our packs near Red Cave and proceeded down to the Sinkhole Amphitheater. We met the three men emerging from Danger Cave and talked with them a while, walking back to their camp near Newton. They were there for a 4-day stay and had done all of the larger caves except Cascade.

The entrance sink at Newton Cave was still full of snow with less than a one-foot gap between the rock wall and the snow to provide access to the entrance. For some reason I was very tired at that point and we decided not to bother getting wet in the entrance to Newton, although later I was a bit disappointed at not having done more caving after having gone to the trouble of getting up there.

The beauty of the place and the surrounding views, especially on such clear days, was certainly a compensation.

On Sunday, July 31, Alan Coakley and I climbed to the ridge again and were soon joined at the top by Jerry Thompson and Jim Harp.

There was an amazing change in water levels in just one week. The falls and the pools above and below it were bone dry, not even showing seepage. Lookout Flats had only a small patch below Cascade Cave and a one-gallon berg in the Lookout entrance sink. The snow in the entrance sink of Newton Cave had shrunk to a quarter of its previous size and pulled well away from the entrance.

This was Alan's first trip to the ridge and Jim's first in a long time so we dropped our packs near Red Cave, just like last week, and took ourselves a tour of the Sinkhole Amphitheater and east end cave entrances.

Back at Newton we checked the camp site on top of the cave that the group had been using the week before. We found a disappointing amount of garbage including discarded clothing in the fire pit. I'm not sure how much difference it would make in these caves but I guess in general I'd rather not see people camping directly over caves.

In Newton Cave we spent two hours seeing almost all of it that lies above the first rope pitch. The little room that I call the "Rusty Iron Bucket Room", just before the Flute Room, was a big hit.

I thought the log that has been placed in the entrance drop was an intrusion, standing in just the right place to hinder the use of the hand and foot holds that have always worked just as well. Nobody else seemed to mind it though.

Climbing out we met a group of three sitting around the entrance pit. They had started in and wisely decided that they were not prepared for what they were finding. We chatted for a while, invited them to the next grotto meeting, and then headed back across the ridge to Cascade Cave.

We went to the bottom of the western side of Cascade simply because I hadn't gone down there since my very first time in Cascade. This visit should be sufficient for another 8 years because the eastern side of the cave is much more interesting.

We did part of the eastern side before heading out. We spent about 2 hours underground in each cave.