C a s c a d e



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.

Meetings:	7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, Room 6, in the
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basement	10	Johnson	Hall.

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Dues:	Membership in the Cascade Grotto including subscription to the Cascade Caver is \$7.50 per
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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.

Dropped:	Bruce Donohue	Thad Hahn	Randy Vance	
Overdue:	Mark Wilson	Diane Coburn	Ed Crawford	Mary Crawford
	Richard Smith	Randy Vance	Bob Brown	Dede Brown
	Peter Carter	Jan Roberts	Rob Stitt	Dick Garnick
	Mark Garnick			

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Due now:	Sue Brenner	Chris Burdge	Wayne Cebell	Fred Dickey
	Richard James	Mike O'Neal	Keith Schoonover	
Due in Nov:	John Day	Adriyah Hanum	Rob Harrison	Robert Jared
	Bob Martin	Mark Sherman	Art Tasker	Scott Williams
Due in Deer	John Clardy	Jarry Frahm	Dr W P Halliday	Dave Klinger

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Due in Dec:	John Clardy	Jerry Frahm	Dr. W.R. Halliday	Dave Klinger
	Steve Sprague	Ben Tompkins		

Cover:	Graham and Sarah Heslop negotiate the "Mister Twister" in Titan Cave, Wyoming. Drawing by
	Linda Heslop.

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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???	
December 198		
10	Grotto Christmas Party???	
15	Grotto Meeting.	
January 1989		

Grotto Meeting. Announcement of new officers.

20

August Meeting

The August Grotto meeting was chaired by Dick Garnick, who was filling in for Mark Wilson. There were 20 people in attendance. Since nobody had any business to bring up most of the meeting was spent discussing past and future trips. These trips included ones to the Monument 48 area, Porcupine Cave and Lewis and Clark Caverns in Montana, Gardener Cave, Newton Cave and Windy Creek.

Jim Harp demonstrated his new lighting system which used a Petzel head lamp and a maglight for a backup.

The program for the evening was from the NSS library. It was Scott Hollow in West Virginia. Afterwards Larry McTigue had some shots from his trip with Rob Lewis and Andrew Dayton to Porcupine Cave and Lewis and Clark. Andrew then had a partial survey of Lewis and Clark which he is looking to finish in the near future.

September Meeting

Mark Wilson was finally back in town for a meeting. The first topic of discussion was the surveys that were conducted several months ago. Mark will be having a meeting during the next month to go over these surveys and he will present a report at the October meeting (see page 51).

Bob Brown made a motion for the Grotto to try the trip report contest again. Hopefully a \$50 prize for the best trip report will encourage more people to send in their reports to the Caver. The motion passed and will go into effect in November. Next November, the two editors and the chairman will choose the best three trip reports and then the grotto will vote for their favorite at the same time as the grotto elections.

Mark Sherman mentioned that he had received information on the upcoming Volcanospeleological Seminar which will be held in Japan. If anyone is interested in going please contact Mark for more information.

Jim Harp brought up the topic of the Grotto's Cave Register program which has fallen into disrepair. People are needed to service the registers and to change the address on some of the signs. Jim will coordinate this effort and people are asked to bring all register material that they have, to the October meeting.

Larry McTigue heard some rumors of logging around the area of Dynamited Cave and wondered if anyone else has heard the same.

Dick Garnick finished the evening with slides of Mt. McGuire and the Marble Mountains in British Columbia as well as of Bighorn Caverns in Montana.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance, Jan 1988 INCOME Jan-Sept: Dues Interest on savings Other	251.50 12.39 2.17	587.51
Total Income	266.06	+266.06
Total Cash Assets		853.57
EXPENSES Jan-Sept:		
Slide shows and postage	33.00	
Cascade Caver	253.61	
Checks and checking fees	10.34	
Books and library supplies	25.27	
Total Expenses	322.22	-322.22
Cash Balance Sept 1988		531.35
COMMITMENTS:		
Grotto Store	85.00	
Trip report contest	<u>50.00</u> 135.00	-135.00
Operating funds	200.00	396.35
ESTIMATED INCOME:		
11 overdue reg. memb.	82.50	
3 overdue fam. memb.	4.50	
22 due by Dec.	_165.00	
	252.00	
ESTIMATED EXPENSES thro	ough Dec.	
Cascade Caver	50.00	
Slide Show & postage	6.50	
Acct Fees	3.00	
NCRI membership (*)	50.00	
	109.50	
(*) on vote of approval		

Grotto Survey Review Ben Tompkins

Five grotto members met October 8 to review the results of the questionnaire distributed earlier in the year. Three common themes appeared frequently in the responses. People want to have a club that attracts and can keep new members; Most thought that lengthy business sessions make the meetings dull, boring, and driving people away. Respondents would also like the grotto to have useful programs about caving skills, equipment, etc.

Based on these responses, the review committee made three recommendations which will be presented at the October 21 grotto meeting.

 Move all grotto business requiring membership discussion and voting to a separate business meeting. This meeting would be open to all members and constitute an additional regular grotto meeting. This business meeting should be held 4 or 6 times a year. An agenda for the business meeting should be assembled in advance and published in the Cascade Caver so that the membership can make plans to attend. Other business not on the agenda should also be accepted at these meetings.

- 2. The grotto should add an appointed office of Membership Chairman who will head a committee to: Seek ways to expand awareness of the grotto; attract new members and help integrate them into grotto functions; and develop an inventory of grotto members and their skills, interests, and available equipment and other resources.
- 3. The program segment of the regular grotto meetings should be expanded to include sessions that are both useful and interesting. Topics covered should improve caving skills of all members and especially provide good introductory skills for new members. The program chairman should be assisted by a committee which will plan these programs in advance and help develop them.

N.C.A. Board Meeting Mark Sherman

The annual meeting of the Northwest Caving Association was held at Camp Gordon, Vancouver Island, B.C. Canada. It was called to order at 7:30 PM, 28 May, 1988, by the Secretary, David M. Klinger who acted as chairman for the meeting.

Clubs represented: Cascade Grotto-Mark Sherman (Steve Sprague and Jim Harp present), Oregon Grotto-Sheri Smith (representing Chris Wiley), V.I.C.E.G.-Graham Heslop, and Glacier Grotto-David M. Klinger

Absent: Gem State Grotto, Salt Lake Grotto, Wasatch Grotto, Bob Brown-Chairman, Ben Tompkins-Vice Chm., Phil Whitfield-Treas.

The acting chairman began by thanking our hosts, Graham and Linda Heslop, for putting on this Regional Meet on behalf of V.I.C.E.G. and BCSF. He also thanked Steve Sprague and Mark Sherman of Cascade Grotto for operating the chuck wagon over the weekend.

The minutes of the 22 May, 1987 meeting had been mailed to the member grottos and officers.

Old Business: The acting chairman noted that the Constitution and By Laws were being revised to correct the abbreviation of Northwest Caving Association from NWCA to NCA.

Treasurer's Report: As of 31 December, 1987, there was a total of \$475.71 (Canadian) in the bank account.

New Business: A motion was made by Mark Sherman and seconded by Graham Heslop to donate \$100.00 (US) to the NCRI's 1988 Jewel Cave Project. The motion was approved.

The Secretary requested up to \$25.00 (US) to have the revised constitution and By Laws reproduced. Mark Sherman indicated that he could have it done at no cost to the organization. The request was withdrawn.

After some discussion it was agreed that the 1989 Regional Meet would be held at Bend Oregon on the Memorial Day Weekend. It will be sponsored by the Oregon Grotto. Their point of contact is Chris Wiley, 1701 S.W. Jefferson, Portland, OR. 97701. His phone number is (503) 243-2223.

Election of Officers: The following persons were elected for the 1988-1989 year: Chairman: Graham Heslop, Vice Chm: Linda Heslop, Secretary: Mark Sherman, and Treasurer: Phil Whitfield.

There was some discussion concerning starting up the NORTHWEST CAVER, a regional publication, but no action was taken.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the NCA should support the White Ridge-Strathcona Park issue in what ever form the island cavers should deem most appropriate.

The group expressed their appreciation and expressed their thanks for the service of the outgoing officers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Covers win awards

At the Graphic Arts Salon at this year's convention, the *Cascade Caver* picked up 4 honorable mentions for the best cover in the non-photographic category. About 99% of this is due to Linda Heslop's drawings. Bye the way, Linda's cover drawing for the Nylon Highway took the Gold Medal at this years convention.

Unfortunately the contest results do not mention the actual artist in any of these awards.

This year Ben and I are going to be playing around with the *Cascade Caver* cover design in an attempt to do justice to Linda's art work. If anyone has any comments or suggestions about the layout please let us know.

Watch out for cave critters Mark Sherman

In an article entitled "Lost World" in the June, 1988 OMNI magazine, Bill Lawrence describes a British scientific expedition, lead by zoologist Phil Chapman, to study the Ankarana nature preserve in northern Madagascar.

After establishing a camp in one of the canyons, the group set out to explore Ankarana's 60 miles of caves. In the center of the massif they found huge stalactite-filled caverns and a 30-foot-wide underground river, which the French had dubbed Styx, after the principal river of the underworld in Greek mythology. It was an apt name: The water was bright green, its source unknown, and it quickly drew the scientists and their inflatable boats into a darkness so total that without their cavers' lamps they would have been blind. "It was," Chapman says, "very, very mysterious, very spooky." Heightening the scientists' general nervousness was the presence of what Chapman calls "the world's only underground crocodiles." These crocs, some up to 13 feet long, spend the wet season living in the area's external rivers where they sometimes ambush and eat local cattle and even an occasional human being; then as the weather dries up, they seek shelter in the cool, wet darkness of the Ankarana caves. The darkness and closeness of the caves made the crocodiles seem that much more frightening. "Anyone sensible," Chapman says, "is going to be a little bit freaked by the thought of rounding a bend and running into a big crocodile in a confined space. It took me a while to get over my terror."

In the end, though, the crocs turned out to be shy and wary, slipping into the dark water as the scientists approached. Much bolder and more problematic were the eels big enough, myth has it, to feed a family. "They looked," says Chapman, "rather like morays: big mouths and nasty little steel-white, beady eyes. They'd come sliding out of the crevices and have a good look at you. If they thought you looked tasty, they'd have a good bite." When the scientists tried to capture one of the eels, the aggressive beast engaged in what expedition entomologist Simon Fowler calls a "prolonged battle," lunging ferociously as its would-be captors backed respectfully away. In the end, Fowler says, the eel "bit through everything we tried to catch it with," and finally escaped.

On vacation in Wisconsin Mark Sherman

This June my wife and I headed back to the Mid-West to visit relatives in Wisconsin and Michigan. While we were there we had two opportunities to get underground and avoid the heat (it was over 100 for most of the first week).

About an hour west of Madison, Wisconsin, is Cave of the Mounds. This was a real nice little commercial cave. The tour starts out with a 15 minute slide show of how the cave and the different formations developed and then talked a little about cave conservation. After the slides they take you into the cave for about 30 minutes. The cave has about 1/2 mile of passage, with the entrance in the middle. You make two loops from the entrance room (they had to dig out one portion to complete the second loop). The cave contains several pretty little pools and lots of nice formations. My favorite section was called the Narrows, this reminded

me a lot of Satori in Papoose Cave, as it snaked along with pretties on all sides of you.

The one thing that they could have left out was the area they called the "Surprise Cave", a little chamber filled with all kinds of smurfs and assorted plastic dinosaurs. I guess they feel they have to have something to entertain the small kids.

At Iron Mountain, which is in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, we went on a tour of an old iron mine. Everyone got dressed up in rain jackets and hard hats and rode a little train into the mine. Once we got back in the mine we walked down the tunnels to where they demonstrated some of the old power tools. The highlight was seeing a huge room they had mined out that was over 600 feet across and about 250 feet high. It was the largest room I've ever seen underground.

Webber Creek Caves Rob Lewis

I had only a glimpse of the limestone along Webber Creek, due to a steady drizzle, while on a short trip to Jackman Creek Cave with Larry McTigue. When Dick Garnick told me he had seen several interesting holes in the canyon walls, I decided to go back and take a look.

My brother Mike and I visited Webber Creek on Friday July 15th. We spent some time looking up and down the canyon, which was quite impressive seeing it for the first time, then we went up stream to find a way to the top of the canyon walls. The brush did it's usual best at trying to stop us from finding a cave but predictably we found one when we least expected it. This cave is located in the north side of the canyon and at first appears to be only a rock shelter. In the back of the shelter is a small sloping pit which quickly narrows into a couple of tight squeezes. Beyond is a larger room with a couple of formations including a 3 inch high rimstone pool that is now dry. The passage

goes up steeply and seems to pinch out after about 25 feet

The following Friday we went back to Webber Creek with Larry on our way to Mt. McGuire in Canada. I showed Larry the new cave while Mike was wandering down by the creek. On our way back down to the creek, Larry and I came upon a small cave entrance. The cave is small but is still interesting. It consists of a small straight passage which requires a tight sideways crawl for about 30 feet. The passage then opens up large enough to fit 3 or 4 people uncomfortably then pinches out in dirt fill.

The holes that were mentioned by Dick were all able to lure us to them but cheated us when we met them face to face. In closing it is important to mention that walking on the slopes of the canyon to the caves does a lot of damage to the vegetation due to the loose soil and steep slope.

Bighorn Caverns, Sept 8-12 Bob Brown, Dick Garnick, Rob Lewis, Mark Sherman

After the NSS convention we decided to make one last trip to a large, warm, dry cave before the winter snows hit. At the August Grotto meeting we picked the date of Sept 7 to the 12th to visit Bighorn Caverns to continue some surveying and see Titan Cave. Andrew Dayton also brought up the possibility of getting off the commercial trail in Lewis and Clark Caverns for a day, so we thought we could squeeze that in on Sunday during the trip home.

Our original plan was for us to leave Wednesday night and stay with John Buchanan in Cheney. This would get us to Armpit Thursday night. We could then spend Friday and part of Saturday in Bighorn. Darrell Austin was to come down from Billings and get us into Titan on Saturday afternoon. On Sunday, Andrew would meet us at Lewis and Clark and along with one of the Park people take us through that cave. This would put us home Monday night.

As fate would have it Bob was out fighting fires and could not leave until Thursday morning. About 8:00 Wednesday night, Andrew called and told us that the governor of Montana had outlawed fun and closed down Lewis and Clark Caverns along with the rest of the state for ALL outdoor recreation. We had trouble with that ruling because we felt caving was an indoor sport but when we heard that some high school football games were cancelled we didn't feel so bad.

Thursday morning everyone arrived at Mark's house in Seattle about 10:00. We piled into Bob's Suburu wagon and off we went... clear up to REI so Bob could return his 5th pair of hiking boots. We finally made it out of Seattle by 11:00 (Bob had to make one more stop along the way, at REI in Spokane, the Seattle store didn't have something he was looking for).

Thursday night was spent at the home of Matt Wilkin in Butte where we talked late into the night about Montana caving and the forest fires in Yellowstone. Early the next morning we took off for Lovell Wyoming. The closer we got to Lovell, the thicker the smoke from Yellowstone was. It got to the point where the sun was nearly blocked out. We got to Lovell about 1:30 and immediately headed into the air-conditioned and smoke free office of Park Ranger Terry Peters. It turned out that Bighorn was also closed due to the governor's decree, but since we were working for the Park Service and not on a pleasure trip, Terry let us in.

We called Darrell from Terry's office and found out that his VW was dead and so he wouldn't be coming down. So much for visiting Titan Cave. After signing the permits and getting groceries we headed up Little Mountain to Armpit.

When we got to Armpit all Dick and Rob wanted was to see the caves. We convinced them that first we should set up camp and have some dinner then we could go take a look at Devils Canyon and make a quick trip to the gate in Horsethief Cave. Bob decided he would rig Bighorn's entrance drop and then rest a little. He was still recuperating after spending all week fire fighting.

After dinner we headed over to Devil's Canyon and as usual the 600+ foot drop had everyone carefully peering over the edge and drooling over all the holes in the canyon wall on the Crow Indian Reservation side (these are off limits to everyone). We then headed for Bighorn and Horsethief. While Bob rigged Bighorn the three of us spent about an hour in Horsethief poking around in all the little rooms between the entrance and the gate.

Saturday morning was still extremely smokey. We grabbed our caving gear and headed down the 60 foot entrance crack into the smoke-free air of Bighorn. At the bottom of the pit was a rabbit who was a victim of improper vertical technique. We dumped our vertical gear and proceeded out the Keyhole to the W-line to remove flagging and take some pictures. Rob, who spends most of his time in wet caves was a little disappointed that there weren't any streams to crawl through. We pointed out one of the few pools in the cave and told him he should lie down in it so he would feel at home, but it wasn't deep enough for him.

Back at the beginning of the C-line we ate lunch and discussed where we would begin surveying. Sorting through our survey gear we discovered that no one had brought the survey tags or pencils. Oops!! We decided that we would do our surveying on Sunday since we weren't going to Lewis and Clark Caverns, and for the rest of the day see if Dick and Rob would find their way out to the Black Forest using the map. Right off the bat they started fighting over the direction to take. Rob finally won (two falls out of three) and for the next hour we worked our way through the cave.

We then headed out of the cave with a slight detour out to the Big Room on the A-line. On the way

there we found someone's cave pack which we brought out. Dick took pictures of the gypsum and aragonite and then back to the entrance.

As Rob was climbing out of the cave he thought he heard a truck driving around. It turned out to be the wind which had really picked up and was blowing all the smoke back at Yellowstone.

Before dinner we drove over to the Lisbon Mine, an old uranium mine, to look for crystals. Just as we got to the mine entrance we noticed lightning off in the distance. No one would accompany Rob into the mine so off he went. A short distance into the mine Rob encountered a sheet of black plastic which closed off the entire passage (this as it turns out was a radon gas barrier). He ducked behind the plastic half expecting to see a skeleton or some monster waiting for him. He wasn't far from wrong, the last several hundred feet of passage contained numerous rotting animals and didn't make for a very pleasant experience. He found some small crystals and came back with a glowing report.

While waiting for him, the storm came closer and when he finally returned it was pouring. We all hoped back into the car and slimed our way back across the clay roads to Armpit. Most of the way back was spent going sideways down the road.

After dinner we went off to the tent to sleep. With the wind blowing at the tent so hard, Mark decided to join the packrat and sleep in the cabin. About an hour later Dick and Rob came in dragging the tent with them. The wind had bent the tent poles so Dick and Rob kept getting hit in the face by the tent. Bob had sacked out in his car and was more or less rocked to sleep.

The next morning we awoke to a steady drizzle and colder temperatures. Now we had to make a decision - do we go caving and take a chance that the weather would improve or do we put our tails between our legs and get off the mountain. Realizing that if we were stranded all we would have to eat was 4 bagels, a watermelon and a can of hash that had been at Armpit for who knows how long we opted for heading down. The trip down was uneventful and by the time we got to John Blue Canyon we were questioning our decision. That didn't last long though, because as we headed into the canyon our car decided to start sliding sideways towards the edge. We all got out of the car and noticed that the tires had turned into racing slicks with about 2 inches of red gumbo coating them. The last two miles down the canyon were made with Rob and Mark pushing against the side of the car to keep it on the road and Dick running up in front moving rocks that were in the way. By this time the wind was blowing about 40 mph and it had started to snow.

Back at the ranger station we turned in the key and the cave pack we had found and then did a little sightseeing until Terry got home from church. We then showered at his house, went out to lunch with he and his wife and then headed off for Butte in the snow. We again stayed at Matt's house Sunday night and Monday made the 12 hour drive home. By the time we got to Vantage we had finished this trip report.

After having so much fun and not having done any surveying, we've decided to follow Terry's recommendation and come back in February. According to him it is not uncommon to reach the 70's in Lovell at that time of the year. Besides it couldn't possibly be as bad as this trip. Anyone interested?

Summer Caving Trips Howard Hoyt

August 26. I and my companion Tom started out on a hike to Boca Cave just north of Mt. Jefferson in Oregon and marked on the Deschutes National Forest map. The map of course has wrong road numbers and shows the trail starting slightly incorrectly. The trailhead itself does not mention Boca Cave, but it is less than two miles on a mostly level trail.

An unmarked trail takes off to the right and switchbacks up Triangulation Peak taking you over the top to get to the cave. Unfortunately I didn't figure that out until I had climbed up the rock slides and cliffs directly below the cave to get to it, and that only after hiking well beyond and then turning around and seeing this enormous gaping hole at the base of a cliff just below the top of the mountain. So I risked my life - literally - crawling up to it just because I was too lazy to go back to the other side of the mountain and take the real trail up and over (although it looked like it got risky toward the end) just to finally reach this enormous rock shelter.

The entrance is about 40 feet high and the single room is about 80' by 100' by 80' tall with a steep red

gravel floor, a tent spot (with a perfect view of Mt. Jefferson) and a fire pit. Good for a camp spot but not much else. So if you go to it, take the real trail, and it's worth the little hike.

August 28. Jerry Thompson and I went seeking VICEG Cave, one of the few caves that's not too far from Seattle. We found it without difficulty. I had my first "vertical" experience going down the entrance pit in Jerry's harness (kinda kinky), although I think a simple rope to hang on would have sufficed. Unfortunately I forgot to wear a belt to fasten my battery pack to, so I had to put it in my cave pack which, along with the harness, got caught on every rock and tight spot. And let me tell you the cave is nothing but tight spot.

First of all, it is just a series of cracks with very steeply pitched slopes, no "floor" so one is always climbing up and down or hanging on for dear life. Not a cave for those over 150 lbs!

Also difficult to find your way around in although I always chose the larger hole to crawl through when presented with a choice. There are two "rooms" of pure white moonmilk. Very pretty. Unfortunately someone had played tic-tac-toe in it in the far reaches of the cave.

Jerry explored one small section that I didn't go to and both of us had a little trouble determining the way out. It really looks like there's no exit down there. Jerry free-climbed out and then belayed me out, also a new experience. I really appreciated his patience and his teaching. This cave is sort of worth seeing once, but I was really exhausted after it.

September 3. We met Grotto member Richard Walters at Gardiner Cave. Richard served as our (me and two friends) guide for the area. He had arrived a few hours before us and had already taken the tour three times just to escape the heat. So we caught the 4:00 tour along with 65 others. Our ranger guide was so overwhelmed by all the people that he sort of whisked us in and out in twenty minutes. And of course they only show you 500' of over 2500' of cave.

Never-the-less, it is really beautiful and it had been over 15 years since I'd last seen a limestone cavern. They have it very nicely prepared for visitors and well-lit.

Great rimstone pools (that they keep filled by a garden hose - not everything can be romantic) and of course the wonderful column which I'm surprised hasn't been ruined by the visitors.

We left for Canada and camped on a dammed portion of the Pend Oreille River. I went swimming and nearly drowned. Fortunately I was rescued by my friends but went into shock for about four hours and then couldn't sleep that night. I knew I didn't like water.

The next day Richard took us to Cody Cave which is marvelous and I'm sure would not be public if it were in the United States. All kinds of unequipped not-knowing-what-they-were-getting-into flashlight cavers were there and one only hopes that they had the sense to not venture too far before maiming or killing themselves. (Memorable line from an older fat lady, who was sausaged into coveralls and helmet that the guides provide, at coming to a little cliff with a waterfall that she had to climb - Fat Lady: But I don't want to. Guide: Just come up here. Fat Lady: But I don't want to.) I'm sure she wasn't the only one. Incidentally, the guides charge \$5 per hour per person! What a racket. I was so glad we had Richard with us.

If you haven't been to this cave, go. It has very nice formations and beautiful rock including cave coral. Two waterfalls in the open part (over half is gated off) and lovely stream passage. Lots of side passages to explore and I would have gone farther but my friends were getting cold. It's a horizontal cave but there are some very steep climbs if you want, a chimney that goes straight up out of the ceiling (Richard didn't know if it went anywhere) and a couple of drops with ladders. We were underground for about 2 hours. Richard was a wonderful guide and a very amiable camp partner and I really have to thank him again for taking us around. I'd like to go back to both of these caves when it isn't a holiday.