

Cascade Caver

Volume 28, Nos. 4-5
April-May 1989



CASCADE CAVER

The Cascade Caver

Copyright 1989 by the Cascade Grotto. The Cascade Caver is published 10 times a year by the Cascade Grotto, a member of the National Speleological Society.

Editors

Mark Sherman
(206) 524-8780

Ben Tompkins
(206) 546-8025

All material to be published, subscription requests and renewals, and exchange publications should be sent to the grotto address: Cascade Grotto, P.O. Box 75663, Seattle, WA, 98125-0663. Note that all un-credited articles are by one of your editors. The editors reserve the right to edit or condense material received. Opinions expressed in the Cascade Caver are not necessarily those of the Cascade Grotto, the editors, or the NSS.

Cover

Drawing by Linda Heslop of a radio location crew in Jewel Cave, SD, in the hurry-up-and-wait phase. It is drawn from a photo by Scott Fee and shows Robin Elliot, a visitor from Austria, and Steve Cohen.

Subscriptions:

Subscription	\$7.50
Grotto membership and subscription	\$7.50
Additional family membership	\$1.50

The Cascade Grotto

Chairman:	Mark Wilson	(206) 285-5724
Vice Chairman:	Chuck Crandell	(206) 772-3271
Sec/Treasurer:	Ben Tompkins	(206) 546-8025
Regional Rep:	Ben Tompkins	(206) 546-8025
Storekeeper:	Bob Martin	(206) 878-7634
Librarian:	Larry McTigue	(206) 226-5357
Map Librarian:	Rod Crawford	(206) 543-9853
Program Coord:	Larry McTigue	(206) 226-5357
Trip Coordinator:	Jim Harp	(206) 745-1010

Grotto Mailing Address

Cascade Grotto, P.O. Box 75663, Seattle, WA 98125-0663.

Monthly Meetings

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, Room 6, in the basement of Johnson Hall.

Business meetings are held on the first Monday of even-numbered months at 7:00 p.m. The location varies so contact a grotto officer for specifics.

Members and subscribers please note the date on your mailing label that indicates when your dues expire.

Dropped:	John Clardy
Overdue:	Jerry Frahm, Dan McFeeley, Rob Lewis, Skip Murray, John Burns, Chuck Coughlin, Chuck Crandell, Shaun Larson, Mark Wilson, Richard Smith, Randy Vance.
Due:	Boyd Benson, Bob Brown, Dan Montoya
Due soon:	Rod Crawford, Jerome Gunsalus, Larry McTigue, Ed Tupper, John Dickson, Dr. Kiver

Contents

Grotto Notes.	31
Upcoming Events; April Business Meeting; April Grotto Meeting	
Speleofest 1989	33
Looking for a great trip?	33
by Bob Brown	
Ron's Secret Cave	34
by Jim Harp	
East Asia 1988.	34
by William R. Halliday, M.D.; Karstic Back Country of Guangxi	
Cave Cleaning in Oregon	39
Cascade Grotto Membership List	40
April, 1989	
Details on the Northwest Regional	43

Grotto Notes

Upcoming Events

Here is our current list of planned and proposed trips. Call the trip leader or Jim Harp, grotto trip coordinator, for more information. Anyone with other trip ideas is also welcome to contact Jim at 745-1010.

May

- 19 Grotto Meeting.
- 27.. Northwest Caving Association regional meet, scheduled for the Bend area in Oregon. More details as we get them. Have your vertical gear together for this one.

June

5 General Business Meeting

16 Grotto Meeting. We have scheduled a presentation by Phillip R. Woodhouse, local historian and author of a book called "Monte Cristo", about frontier and pioneer life in Washington and more specifically about the gold and silver mining that was done in this area.

17 Day trip to Ramsey and Jackman Creek Caves.
23.. Novice trip to Deadhorse Cave and Trout Lake area, led by Jim Harp. Leave Friday evening and return Sunday evening.

July

- 7.. A two-nighter to Cave Ridge to service registers. Climb the ridge on Friday evening and return Sunday afternoon.
 - 22.. NCRI Jewel Cave Work Session in South Dakota. Travel arrangements vary. Project is from July 22 to July 29. Contact Steve Sprague at 652-6489.
 - 21 Grotto Meeting.
 - 22 Day trip to Big Four Ice Caves
 - 31 NSS Convention in Tennessee
- Aug
- 5.. Vancouver Island Speleofest on the Clayoquot Plateau. See notice in this issue. Contact Ron Kozsan, (604) 477-0255.
- 1990 NSS Convention in Mt. Shasta, CA
 - 1991 NSS Convention in Cobleskill, NY

April Business Meeting

The April grotto business meeting was held at the home of Howard Hoyt on Monday April 3. There were three people in attendance; Mark Wilson, the Grotto Chairman, Howard Hoyt and Mark Sherman.

The first item of business concerned the Membership committee and the need to put together a program and slide show to bring to different outing clubs in order to recruit new grotto members. It was voted on and passed to have Mark Wilson put together the show and to have the Grotto pay for slide duplication. The next meeting of the Membership committee will be held at Mark Sherman's home on April 10 at 7:00.

The second item of business was the Grotto's Cave Register program. All of the signs that are located in the caves and the brochures need to be updated (they need to have the address changed). It was decided to have labels with the new address made up to place on the signs and to make up a new brochure. The brochure will not be placed in the registers any longer since we have trouble getting people to go service them. The registers will only contain the sign-in book and some pencils. The new brochures will be used to hand out to people making inquires about the grotto. Mark Wilson will appoint a chairman for the Register Program to update all register locations and to coordinate with the Trip Coordinator to field trips annually to service each register.

The next item brought up was the Grotto Store. The current storekeeper has not been able to make it to the grotto meetings on a regular basis and no one has

complained too much about not having access to the store so it was decided to just liquidate the store. It will be decided at the next business meeting what to do with all of the items currently in the store.

There were three amendments to the bylaws proposed at this meeting. These will go out with the next Caver and will be voted on at the August business meeting.

Article I Section 2

From: "Family members are relatives of a regular member, live at the same address, and have paid current dues. Family members receive no publications but those over 15 years of age are entitled to vote on all pertinent matters."

To: "Household members reside at the same address as a regular member, and have paid current dues. Household members receive no publications but those over 15 years of age are entitled to vote on all pertinent matters."

Article II

From: "All Grotto dues shall be paid at the time of beginning membership and shall be renewable one year later. Dues for regular and associate members shall be \$7.50 per year. Subscription rate for Grotto publications shall be \$7.50 for one year's issues. Dues for family members shall be \$1.00 per year."

To: "All Grotto dues shall be paid at the time of beginning membership and shall be renewable one year later. Dues for regular and associate members shall be \$7.50 per year. Subscription rate for Grotto publications shall be \$7.50 for one year's issues. Dues for household members shall be \$1.00 per year."

Article I Section 4

From: "... or other units of the Northwest Regional Association."

To: "... or other units of the Northwest Caving Association."

Article III

Add requirement at the request of the NSS:

From: "Nominations for Grotto officers shall be made at the November general meeting; such nominations must be made by a Grotto member with voting rights. The Secretary-Treasurer will mail to each member with voting rights a ballot prior to the 10th day of December. The ballot must be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than December 31st. The Secretary-Treasurer will tally the vote and notify both present and newly elected officers of the results. Newly

elected Grotto officers shall take office on the tenth day of January following the election."

To: "Nominations for Grotto officers shall be made at the November general meeting; such nominations must be made by a Grotto member with voting rights. All nominations for Grotto office must be current NSS members and if elected must maintain their active status with the NSS during their tenure. The Secretary-Treasurer will mail to each member with voting rights..."

April Grotto Meeting

Mark Wilson opened the April meeting with 18 people present. He announced that the Gardiner Cave work trip is now set for May 12. This is the same weekend as the previously scheduled Mt. St. Helens trip. Nobody expressed an interest in the Mt. St. Helens trip so it was cancelled and will be rescheduled later.

Information and application forms were received from the Oregon Grotto for the Regional being held Memorial Day weekend near Bend.

Kevin Greenwood described his trip to Trout Lake.

Jerry Thompson gave a program on knots. He passed out bits of rope to everyone and we practiced a number of knots commonly used in caving and climbing. An entertaining video was shown next. It showed an afternoon with the Outdoor Chef preparing his famous Road Kill Chili. While the pot was simmering the chef invited everyone to a regional caving gathering in California.

Jeff Forbes finished the evening showing slides of his cave diving experiences including a rescue in a sumped cave in Kentucky.

Speleofest 1989

This year's Speleofest, the annual gathering of our friends to the north, will be held on the Clayoquot Plateau, site of literally hundreds of potential caves to explore, starting on August 5 and returning August 12. (See the Jan 89 Cascade Caver for a report on this area.)

Access is primarily by helicopter and the cost per person should be about \$100 (Can) per person for airfare. Attempts to hike into the area are being discouraged unless you enjoy fording raging torrents,

scaling 100m cliffs and frolicking in forests of devil's club.

For more information contact Ron Kozsan, 4369 Fieldmont Place, Victoria BC V8N 4Z4. (604) 477-0225.

Looking for a great trip?

by Bob Brown

After twenty-seven days of rain, the sun came out, bringing with it thoughts of caving trips. This would be a good time to encourage both new and old grotto members to plan on a really neat cave trip this summer. But where?

A sunny location would be first priority after an endless winter of rain and snow. It would also be nice to find a place with caving opportunities for both the experienced and inexperienced caver plus attractions for their families as well. Being a grotto member for more years than I'd like to admit, I began to search my memory.

My first thought was central Oregon on the Memorial Day weekend. It is certainly a dry location with lots of caves and other items of interest. Besides the caves, there are the Lava Lands, Mt. Bachelor, and raft trips on the Deschutes River. But the Oregon Grotto is already planning the regional meet at that very time and place. Since it is a good camping place and lots of friendly cavers are sure to show up, I decided that most of the local cavers are already planning to attend. I needed a really big time idea, an event that many of our members would be unlikely to consider.

Next I considered Dave Klinger's presentation at the last Grotto meeting about the month-long trip to Prince of Wales Island in Alaska. It offers lots of limestone, new caves, rain, bears, bugs, and much more, but one criteria was not guaranteed, SUN.

Finally I hit upon it! Big caves, lots of sun, little chance of rain, great camping, many family-related activities; why not the Black Hills of South Dakota? Both Wind and Jewel Caves are there, world class caves containing more than 125 miles of passage. The weather during the summer is warm and dry with little chance of rain. Within a 50 by 80 mile rectangle of mountainous pine forest is great camping, lots of caves, Mt. Rushmore, Custer Wildlife Park, Hot Springs, rock

climbing, hiking trails, swimming holes, fishing, Crazy Horse mountain, Evans Plunge, and much more.

What is even better, there is already an organized trip planned to the area, the NCRI Jewel Cave Project, this July 22 through July 29. As part of the project cavers have access to wild portions of the cave (75 miles of passage), get to camp close to the cave, and can even deduct most of your project-related expenses from your income tax, how can you go wrong? It is even affordable! Only \$70 covers the campground, food, and other group expenses for the whole week.

It sounds like such a great idea that I've decided to go. If you are interested, give Steve Sprague a call at 652-6489. And hurry, before all the positions fill up.

Ron's Secret Cave by Jim Harp

Sometimes I get to play detective on my job as an appraiser for the County Assessor's office. When an aerial photo indicated a cluster of buildings in the middle of 40 acres of fir and cedar they needed to be placed on the tax rolls. The site was half way between Arlington and Darrington, in Snohomish Co., near the remote community of Oso.

To get there required asking at the neighboring farm for permission to cross their land. The dilapidated farm house door as opened by two middle-aged women and three dirty-faced children. The ladies were quite cooperative and even offered me the use of a horse to get there.

The ladies explained that their neighbors were a bunch of weekend hippies from Seattle, people that drove too fast on the road, left the gates open so that the horses got out, and probably ran around in the woods naked. My interest in the neighboring property got postponed when one of the kids interrupted.

"I've got a secret cave," said the eleven year old red head.

"Well ... That's interesting... um ... a secret cave?" I had visions of a kid-sized hole under a root clump or a small void in a gravel pit wall.

"How big is this cave? Big enough for a person to walk into?"

"Yeah, real big."

"Big enough to drive a car into?"

"Yeah, and its got a stream running out of it."

I don't know if the kid was into fishing but he had just caught a whopper. Me. He said it was a

thirty minute hike to the cave and thirty minutes later we were standing on a creek bank admiring a car-sized cave entrance with a stream flowing forth. I followed the sandy floor into the twilight area and could plainly see that this cave deserved a closer look.

I returned to Ron's Secret Cave the following weekend with Bill Halliday and a couple of the farm kids. The entrance is very attractive with ferns hanging down in front of it. It is formed in a mineral containing shades of green, yellow, and brown, and is full of little holes similar to lava. It is not volcanic, Bill could only stand and scratch his head.

We were able to see all there is of the cave that day. The large entrance room branches into two trunks which grow smaller and smaller until you are forced to crawl in the stream and eventually stop. Bill sent a sample of the cave rock to the Washington State Dept. of Geology and in their opinion the cave had been formed in travertine, a mineral brought forth and deposited by spring waters, in this case a now defunct hot spring. The Department of Geology was quite interested in the find as now hot springs were known to have existed in the area. They were going to have us take a group in for further study but nothing ever materialized.

About a month later I returned to Ron's Secret Cave with a number of Cascade Grotto members. I didn't keep notes as to who went but I remember that Chuck Coughlin and I surveyed the cave. This report, like many cave leads, seems to end up with a lot less than what it started with. The cave is difficult to find and I doubt that I could find it again without a great deal of looking, if at all. (see also April 1982, v21 p18)

East Asia 1988 by William R. Halliday, M.D.

Copyright 1989 William R. Halliday.

Part 3: Karstic Back Country of Guangxi.

After the meeting in Guilin, 15 of us westerners and some delightful Chinese hosts began a special invitational 10-day hydrogeological excursion in the amazing karst back country of central Guangxi in southeast China. Canada's Derek Ford, president of the International Union of Speleology, publicly termed it the greatest karst and cave area in the world. I'm not going to argue with him; at 2500 caves, he's visited twice as many as I have.

Other western participants included Will and Bette White, Jim Quinlan, Peter and Vicky Huntoon, George Huppert, and Betty Wheeler from the U.S., Kevin Kiernan and Julia James from Australia, Stein-Eric Lauritzen from Norway, Sauro Ugo from Italy, Peter Milanovic from Yugoslavia, and Michel Bakalowicz from France. Principal organizers were Chen Wen-jun of Liuzhou and Song Lin Hua of Beijing and Kunming.

We began somewhat ostentatiously with a pleasant two and a half hour train trip ("soft class") from Guilin to Liuzhou. The first 15 minutes was through the extraordinary fenglin plain of Guilin. (Fenglins are finger-like limestone towers rising individually from a plain.) In the outskirts of town, two large caves were exposed in the walls of fenglins being quarried away rapidly. After pleasant views in a towerless river valley, more karstic hills greeted us as we neared Liuzhou, somewhat reminiscent of the Ratchaburi karst of Thailand.

Throughout central Guangxi, the fenglins and fengcong (multiple towers arising from a common base) are largely independent of the dip, which varies from moderate to horizontal. Only a few towers have one or more surfaces sloping down dip; an occasional one of these shows the scar of a recent rockslide down dip. To me it appeared that the massiveness of the formation and lack of small joints are important in their development. Their vertical walls appear to be formed along master joints, with sharp corners rounded by solution in this subtropical area. Thinner beds seem to produce conical hills rather than towers. A high percentage of dolomite in the limestone apparently changes the contours, but I never reached the accuracy of our hosts in distinguishing the type of rock by the tower shape.

The program of the first afternoon was a bus trip to Fish Peak (Yufeng Shan) 12 km southeast of Liuzhou. At its foot is a large karstic spring which forms Dalong Tuan Lake. The hills, lake, and nearby plain are incorporated into a pretty park that is said to contain 46 caves, four of them for tourists.

We visited three of them - the attractive Dou Le (or Dule) Caves which are part of a loop trail through two of the hills here. All are comparatively short segments of a truncated system much like those of Guilin, and are noted for discovery of fossils, including man. First is Sleeping Dragon (Fan Long) Cave. The dragon is artistically depicted in white plaster just outside the entrance. Winding through stalagmitic columns with occasional gours and shields, I thought of Nevada's Lehman Cave. Only a little of its ceiling is bare. Originally it had several hillside orifices but now,

all but the entrance and exit are bricked up. I noted one bat despite extensive tourism here.

Another cave in the same hill, Going to the Sky Cave (Ton Tian) is shorter but also very pretty. The name stems from a small skylight. Winding through the next hill is Water Cloud (Shui Yun) Cave, said to be in dolomite. Through what might be coincidence, it has draperies reminiscent of Luray Cavern, Virginia, which is also in dolomite. Its gours are also notable. From there we emerged to a wonderful view of misty towers silhouetted against the sunset.

We had already learned why non-Chinese are not allowed to rent cars in China. The streets were dense with bicyclists plus hordes of battered trucks seemingly unsure of which side of the road is proper. Out of the towns on one lane roads, water buffalos and carts were among the obstacles. We had great drivers.

Monday, October 17, was an excellent full-day international symposium sponsored by the Liuzhou Speleological Association - one of several new cave organizations springing up in post-Cultural Revolution China. Papers were presented by Derek Ford (on Castleguard Karst), Milanovic (engineering aspects of The Karst), Kevin Kiernan (tower karst in Thailand), Julia James (Papua-Niu Gini karst, with logistics so hellacious that she doesn't want to return despite the immense potential), Quinlan (cave radio in central Kentucky), the Whites, and others. I co-chaired the evening session and showed slides of water resources in lava tube caves of the world, plus some of redder, hotter liquids in Hawaiian caves. China's lava tube caves in Hainan and far NE seem neglected to date.

Lodging was at the Five Rhombus Hotel / Guest House; simple but adequate; and the food was excellent as it was throughout the trip. So was discussion. Among other things, I learned that cassiterite pebbles are mined in a cave in Zhongshan County in east Guangxi, something I had thought limited to northern Malaysia.

We continued onward a dozen miles by bus the next morning to Beilian (Bailian) or White Lotus cave, famous for remains of prehistoric Liujiang man which are now commemorated by statues and dioramas built deep in the cave. With about a mile of tourist trails, ascents and descents amid a profusion of columns, and a fine throughway corridor farther on, it is also impressive to ordinary visitors. Normally it is a resurgence cave but only pools were present at this time, one having sizeable fish. A large colony of bats has deposited a considerable amount of guano near the exit and their number is said not to have diminished

despite nearly 1000 years of tourists and earlier millennia of habitation.

Then onward by bus, deeper into the karst, to Youngshui, the first of several small county seats we visited. In this back country, we stayed in rest houses with mosquito netting (not much needed at this time of year). All were clean and all a combination bathroom/shower for each room. The toilets were the squat type but we had hot water every night except one - luxury compared with some of the field camping every caver knows.

In much of the area, we were the first or second group of westerners in at least 40 years. Nowhere did we meet any hostility directed toward us, only wide-eyed stares or smiles. A surprising number of people called "Hello" to us in English. As we progressed further and further from paved roads, we found that many of the local people do not speak Chinese - the so-called non-Chinese "minority peoples" such as Zhuang, Mon, Yao, and Miao. Not all integrate well with the Chinese, one more problem in Guangxi speleology.

Wednesday dawned especially clear and we were off to Lau Yuing Cave containing a large factory built neatly into it producing motor bike parts. No photos were allowed here. Until recently it made munitions and the security regulations haven't changed yet. This is a river cave up to 100 m wide and 30m high, occupying most of a large hill. From the roof of the factory we looked down at ancient inscriptions of the Sung and Ming Dynasties, up to 1000 years old. One is said to be by Xiu Xiake, pronounced Shee ShaKUH, the world's first speleologist. Downstream from the main entrance is a gorge about 15m deep which is spanned by a bridge. Recent flood debris is about 10m above the top of the bridge and much of the factory also shows debris.

Onward again by bus through beautiful farm country to Longevity Cave (Tong Tsu, if my notes are in the right order). It was the day of a local festival and we joined a long line of happy local people, many of them elderly, in climbing to the auspicious shrine in a hillside grotto. The cave is only a short natural tunnel but affords a wonderful view of the town, farmlands, and towers.

In an adjoining grotto we found crystallized breccias, a paleokarst remnant genetically unrelated to today's caves. And as we started down, firecrackers announced the approach of a colorfully-garbed dragon complete with costumed outriders and a local orchestra with tin pan drum and cymbals. Not all of the folkways of ancient China have been stamped out.

At the bottom of the hill I poked around and found a cave opening almost at the water table. Ignoring the vigorous head shakes of a little old lady selling oranges, I checked it out. She was right, all there was inside was a muddy 100-foot passage to another entrance.

On we drove, through more and bigger towers, with various passengers intermittently demanding a stop for a photo. As we rounded one bend, the entire bus load shouted. Off to our right about 1 km away, was an elegant oval window in a thin hill, perhaps 60m high and 30m wide. At Nanxu, near the Lijiang River and off of our route, is a larger one.

Our next destination was White Dragon Cave (Bailung Tung), high on a limestone hillside and a popular site for Chinese tourists. At the entrance are numerous bas-relief Buddhist figures and one fine Buddha stands erect not far inside. Farther in is a comparatively recent Kuan Yin (Goddess of Mercy). Ancient inscriptions are prominent at the entrance. Again, one was said to be by Xiu Xiake, but again I could not learn which one. Dripstone is not as profuse here as in many other Guangxi caves but I noted some interestingly eroded shields. The dragon of this cave, incidentally, is a sinuous rimstone dam.

By this time we were running late and had a long way to go. It didn't help that the road was rough and that the ferry had broken down at the Hongshui River. But the engine was simple and it was fixed in less than an hour. In late afternoon shadows we enjoyed the 40-km limestone gorge of the Honghsiu. Obvious caves were few here but one partially walled one was conspicuous high on the far wall. Near the upper end of the gorge was a suspension hanging twisted and useless, more than 50m above the present river level, and the gorge was scoured even higher. Along its walls we spotted two or three blue water resurgences at the edge of the muddy river, but all were very small. It was a long day and not all of us stayed awake that evening during a great VHS tape about Duan County, its karst, and its people.

The next morning we were off from Duan to the Qibeilong (Region of Seven Hundred Depressions) - the heart of the Guangxi karst. Higher and higher we snaked into mountains of limestone towers, climbing up the wall of one huge sink and down into the next. Some were enormously elongated along major structural features. One great synclinal valley was especially impressive. Through small villages we sped on one-lane dirt roads, despite holes and speed bumps, seeing China in transition from mud bricks to cement blocks. Old wooden houses, some on stilts as in Malaysia, were still

common in remote locations. Here and there, rice and other grains were being dried on the road and chickens were enthusiastically getting their share. Already some new rice was being planted in irrigated plots.

The floor mantle of these giant sinks seems to be remarkably thin. Small-scale stone forests jut upward here and there from the fields. Cave entrances are far less commonly seen than at lower elevations. Hillsides are comparatively barren. Their rounded slopes were often reminiscent of Scotland's Glen Coe, although half a world away and in limestone rather than granite. Vertical shafts in the sink floors are very uncommon but do occur.

Our first scheduled stop was our remotest point, a steep-walled sinkhole 400m deep that is home to about 100 Yao people despite a perennial lack of water. The current China regime tried moving its inhabitants to town but they sneaked back to their old homes. Our hosts posed us the question of how to get water to them. Runoff is vertical and the water table is said to be 150m below the floor of the sink. We had no immediate answer; no caves were evident; and the locals were blank-faced at the place where we turned around. The place was spectacular, however, with the highest towers rising 1000m above the sinkhole floor.

We returned then to Pao-an, a sizeable village at the bottom of another sinkhole. My notes seem to suggest that BaTu is an alternate name for the village. Here our hosts showed us an interesting irrigation system. One of the area's rare vertical shafts in the thin mantle of the sinkhole floor drops into a cave. About 45m below the surface is a domepit that drops another 40m. At the top of the domepit is a side passage that carries a sizeable stream and the bottom of the domepit is said to be nothing but water. At a cost of only about \$10,000 the present regime excavated a sloping walkway to the top of the domepit, built a small underground reservoir, and installed a pump which provides the first dependable water that village has ever had. The domepit occasionally floods all the way up to the sinkhole flat and I could not determine if it has ever been dived. This is a land of too much or too little water, and exploring it is potentially the key to the complex hydrogeology and speleology of the entire Qibeilong.

At our farthest point we were near the upper end of the Disu (Tisu) underground drainage basin. In the afternoon, we bussed to the other end, about 30 miles distant, at the beautiful bluewater resurgence called Qinsui (or Shinsui) Spring. This large resurgence is in a breakdown-studded cover over the Hongsui River, upstream from the gorge we had traversed earlier. Here

the topography was somewhat like that at Guilin. On the upper hillside across the river gaped a huge cave entrance. Smaller caves opened in towers along the road, one containing a small shrine. Sinks and small vertical shafts formed karst windows near the resurgence, 30m above normal river level, and one short sinuous trench marked the course of a collapsed shallow cave. Such features are absent in the low relief of the Guilin plain.

The next morning we left Duan County for the more developed region of Mashan, passing through more mountain tower karst. The first stop was Lengguo (Water Valley) Cave, a comparatively complex little cave with steps leading down to a pump site. In its sink also, waters seasonally rise dozens of meters to flood the sinkhole floor, partly funnelling into a normally dry gorge in alluvium that has several shafts along its length.

Next was the Shangpuo karst window, a widely gaping hole in the level floor of a broad polje (compound sink). Steep steps lead down about 25m to turbid green water said to be 50m deep pit not yet dived. On its surface floats a cement boat sometimes used as a pumping station. Intricate solution features along the stairway add interest. One seemingly plain grotto contains the bottom of a vertical shaft, and a little cave below it is a 3-dimensional maze clearly formed by descending water. Shangpuo is far from unique here; nearby are several other karst windows. Another with steps pumps water to the next polje through a tunnel.

On we went to Mashan through the towers, with caves common at ground level and above. As we neared Mashan, several entrances were walled up, with or without doors. Along the way we toured the impressive new Dahua dam and the hydroelectric plant on the Hongsui River. It is the first of a planned series of equally huge flood control and power projects that will greatly change the culture of central Guangxi. At Mashan we were much stared at and were told that we were the third party of foreigners to visit in modern times.

Sunday was scheduled to be the spelunker's special - an all-day tour of the 5-km undeveloped Jingling (or Jingleng or Jinlundong) Cave, with lunch to be ready for us at a second or third entrance. Well, it is almost undeveloped. At the main entrance is a beautiful shrine of the local folk, probably Taoist. A partly electrified tourist trail of sorts winds for a few hundred meters along the stream in the cave and up two forks of the cave into impressive chambers. There was also an underground bridge of bamboo, deteriorating but not so

high above the stream that its collapse would be catastrophic. The cave is little visited but we had the services of the cave guide who knew the tourist trails well. With us were several personages from Mashan in hard hats of woven fiber, using candles for illumination, and wearing thongs for footwear. Some brought their children.

There is a lot more to this cave, however, than the old tourist trails. Our trip began auspiciously. The resurgence entrance to the resurgence is beautifully framed in a cliff by three large-sized bamboo. Green water weeds add color.

In the airy entrance grotto we were told that the cave was named long ago for a local folk hero of the Zhuang people who was reading in the cave one day when a fairy (in the original sense of the word) chanced by. The cave has been honored since the Sung Dynasty.

The entrance room is spacious and has massive dripstone. We soon smelled and then saw a colony of bats as we strode onward in a wide, level passage. Then - "SNAKE", someone shouted, pointing upwards. Sure enough, an enterprising but starved-looking snake about 6 feet long was snuggled into irregularities of the nearly horizontal ceiling, some 20 feet up and a long way from the wall. It looked a bit like a long green garter snake with brown and red banding. It was poisonous, someone said, but only a little. It was clearly after bats, not us, so we strode on.

There were massive, faceted columns and a few of them have fallen. Gours were notable, too. Across the shaky bamboo bridge the passage became very high and then narrowed. A strong breeze beckoned. We found ourselves emerging into a true mountain room with cascading flowstone and big dry gours. Tall stalagmites showed upward-angling drip excrescences like a few in Guilin. A side opening led into a large flat room that was comparatively bare but had fine stalagmites at the far right. A small hole then led to a ledge well above the floor of another room with more impressive stalagmites. The guide turned us around at this point, the candles of the Chinese bobbing impressively, flickering here and there in air currents.

We marched back down to the stream, along an overflow tube, then up through sparkling faceted breakdown to another Mountain Room. This time we could look some 100 meters up a breakdown slope to the light of a tower-top entrance. A spelean cloud drifted lazily at the summit.

The rock was loose, at least on the main slope, and pandemonium broke out as various climbers started it rolling. Nobody seemed to know the best way up.

Cantonese is a querulous tongue even without eight or ten people shouting in it at once. Pete Huntoon and somebody else found an easy way up the far wall and were soon at the upper entrance. But Derek Ford took charge, shouting everyone else down in tones befitting a president of the IUS. For safety reasons he turned the group back. Thus we missed seeing the prettiest part of the cave, said to be a high level lead between two upper entrances. We also missed the lunch that was waiting for us much further on, although it caught up with us about three hours later.

So we bussed back to Mashan and whiled away the rest of the afternoon climbing around on towers just behind the government compound where we were staying, noting ceremonial pots containing ashes of someone's ashes in a set of solution holes, a possible bone breccia in another, and a downward-sloping cave entrance 100m from the guest house that no one seemed interested in exploring. It was too bad about Jingling Cave. Next time, maybe.

We were nearing the end of our trip. On Monday, October 24, we drove past Jingling Cave to the Wuming Karst Basin, site of the beautiful Lingshui (Lengshui) clearwater springs which would be admired even among the karstic springs of Florida. Small boils are present at several of the subaqueous resurgences, and small blue fish play amid green water weeds in the clear water.

Then on to Iling (Yilin or Yiling) Cave on a paved road! Here we saw two strange-looking people with big noses and odd white faces. With a slight shock we realized that they were Americans. But nobody went over to say hello; we had become more comfortable with our Chinese hosts and the people of Guangxi than with fellow palefaces.

Despite excessive advertising of a rock formation that looks a little like a chicken, Iling Cave is a world-class show cave, in some ways even more impressive than the better-known show caves of Guilin. From a wide entrance amid massive dripstone, the visitor looks down into a big room. Then the cave gets bigger. At one point the vertical range is 37 meters. Gours and shields are very large; one big shield is double. Columns are outstanding even for Guangxi. The trail nearly makes a loop, with an enormous chamber just before the exit. Colored lights are present but not objectionable. Breakage is minimal; the cave was discovered in 1973 and quickly commercialized. It is easily visited from Nanning, a pleasant rail trip from Guilin.

Our hotel in Nanning was the pleasant Ming Yuan, a bit far from the center of town and from the Guangxi Nature Museum where our meeting was to be held the

next day, but I recommend it. The formal program the next morning as planned by the Guangxi Geological Society and the Geological Bureau was scrubbed in favor of nearly 3 hours of vigorous give-and-take about future technical cooperation and exchanges plus a tour of the admirable museum. The message was clear: opportunities are great but so are the obstacles. I think that all of us on the trip want to return and were thinking about how we could work best with the Chinese.

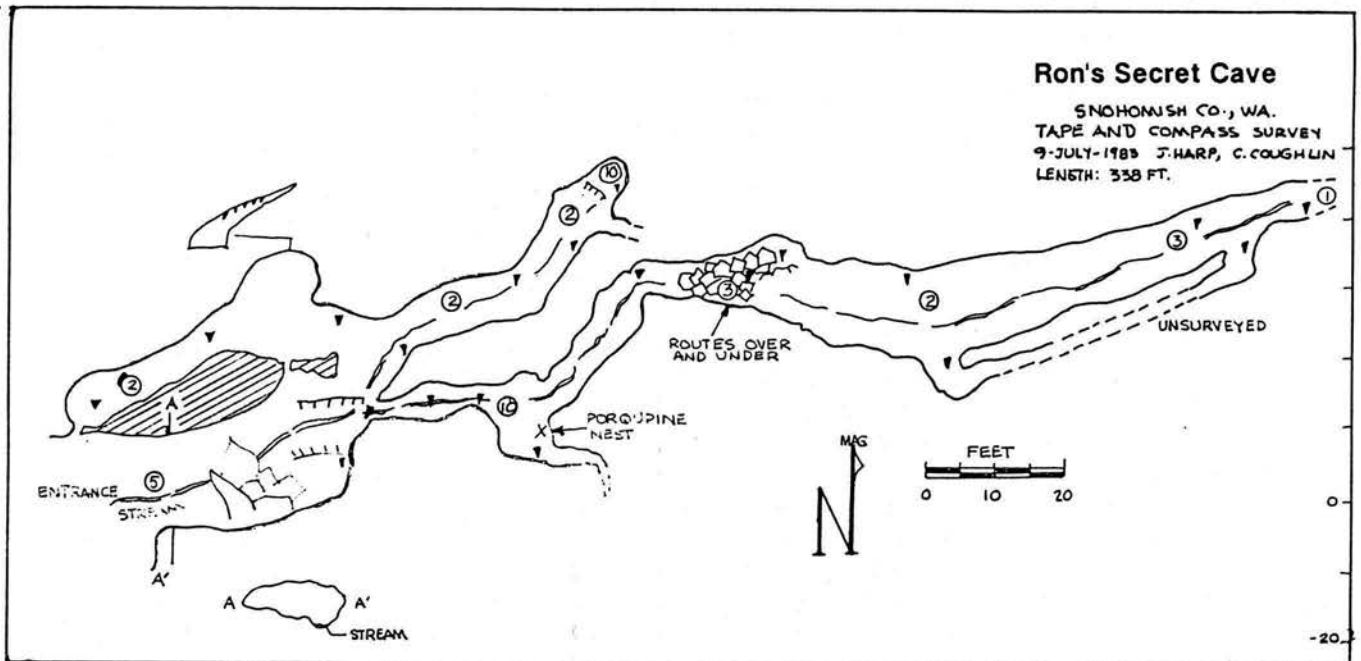
Then things got complicated. A look after lunch at downtown Nanning was all too brief. Barely 100 miles from the Viet Nam border, it looks like a great place for shopping. But people had to start leaving and it turned out that at least one plane on which some of us were ticketed no longer flew on Tuesdays. But our amazing hosts got it all worked out. I did it the easy way taking the train back to Guilin (7-1/2 hours), and resting up for a day at the Sheraton Mandarin Hotel on the river front. With a little forethought, Guilin is a lot cheaper than Hong Kong. Then by Dragonair to Hong Kong after fighting 750 people fighting to simultaneously board a Dragonair and two CACC planes in a tiny, unsigned airport building. But it all worked out fine, ending perhaps the most incredible 10 days of

my life. I'd certainly like to take a team of cavers and cave divers to follow up on things that we saw. Any one interested?

Cave Cleaning in Oregon

A clipping from the Vancouver WA Columbian for March 29, contains the following caption under a photograph taken in a cave:

"National Park Service employee Dennis Page emerges from a tunnel deep within the Oregon Caves National Monument recently, where workers are removing debris from past operations. The Park Service has promised an additional \$300,000 for work on the caves, assuring completion of a project to restore the caves to a more natural state. The project began in 1986, and research scientists with the Park Service have been so pleased with the work that funding has been increased to \$100,000 a year for three more years."



Cascade Grotto Membership List
April, 1989

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bagley, Kevin	[R] 9710 - 24th Avenue S.E., Everett, WA 98208	(206) 338-2484
Bagley, Mark	[R] 14612 N.E. 80th Place, Redmond, WA 98052	(206) 867-1487
Benson, Boyd E.	[R] 18020 - 4th Avenue N.W., Seattle, WA 98177	(206) 546-1410
Benson, Coreen	[F] 10619 - 82nd Ave N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98335	(206) 851-7417
Benson, John	[R] 10619 - 82nd Ave N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98335	(206) 851-7417
Bjornstedt, Anita	[F] North 21020 Highway 101, Shelton, WA 98584	(206) 877-5751
Bjornstedt, Walter	[R] North 21020 Highway 101, Shelton, WA 98584	(206) 877-5751
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
Burns, John	[R] 4511 - 35th Avenue S.W. #404, Seattle, WA 98126	(206) 937-2624
Cebell, Wayne	[R] 7026 Puget Beach Road, Olympia, WA 98506	(206) 491-6219
Coakley, Alan	[R] 4027 S.W. Barton, Seattle, WA 98136	(206) 932-7395
Coakley, Tina	[F] 4027 S.W. Barton, Seattle, WA 98136	(206) 932-7395
Cole, Roger	[R] 4003 Wauna Vista Drive, Vancouver, WA 98661	(206) 693-5968
Collins, John	[R] P.O. Box 687, Roslyn, WA 98941	(509) 649-3103
Coughlin, Chuck	[R] 6433 S. 127th Place, Seattle, WA 98178	(206) 772-1170
Crandell, Chuck	[R] 12750 Renton Ave S., Seattle, WA 98178	(206) 772-3271
Crawford, Rod	[R] Burke Museum (DB-10), U of W, Seattle, WA 98195	(206) 543-9853
Curry, Monte	[R] 14703 N.E. 39th #1028, Bellevue, WA 98007	(206) 881-0849
Daniel, Karen	[F] 14703 N.E. 39th #1028, Bellevue, WA 98007	(206) 881-0849
Dayton, Andrew	[R] 521 Burnett Ave South, Renton, WA 98055	(206) 255-6136
DeWolf, Robert	[R] P. O. Box 2374, Redmond, WA 98073-2374	(206) 823-3870
Dickey, Fredrick	[R] 15155 SE 41st Street, Bellevue, WA 98006	(206) 664-2623
Dickson, John	[R] 501 W. Olympic Place, Seattle, WA 98119	(206) 282-5861
Erickson, Phillip	[R] 2612 - 1st Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119	
Forbes, Jeff	[R] 1262 Eastlake Ave E. #2, Seattle, WA 98102	(206) 325-5064
Garnick, Dick	[R] 1101 N. Forest #104, Bellingham, WA 98225	(206) 671-1926
Garnick, Mark	[F] 1101 N. Forest #104, Bellingham, WA 98225	(206) 671-1066
Greenwood, Kevin	[R] 4535 - 17th N.E., Seattle, WA 98105	(206) 527-2550
Gregory, Steve	[F] 9025 Cyrus Avenue N.W., Seattle, WA 98117	(206) 784-7995
Gunsalus, Jerome	[R] 5720 - 51st Ave Ct. W., Tacoma, WA 98467	(206) 474-7907
Halliday, Dr. W. R.	[R] 6530 Cornwall Court, Nashville, TN 37205	(615) 352-9204
Harp, Amanda	[F] 1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive, Lynnwood, WA 98037	(206) 745-1010
Harp, Jim	[R] 1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive, Lynnwood, WA 98037	(206) 745-1010
Harp, Katrina	[F] 1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive, Lynnwood, WA 98037	(206) 745-1010
Harp, Ryan	[F] 1731 S. Lake Stickney Drive, Lynnwood, WA 98037	(206) 745-1010

Henderson, Chris	[F] 14918 63rd Ave West, Edmonds, WA 98020	(206) 742-8922
Henderson, Robert	[A] 14918 63rd Ave West, Edmonds, WA 98020	(206) 742-8922
Henry, Peter	[R] 4222 Thackeray Place N.E., Seattle, WA 98105	(206) 632-4356
Hoyt, Howard	[R] 133 N. 78th, Seattle, WA 98103	(206) 782-4567
James, Richard	[R] 6206 N.E. 70th, Vancouver, WA 98661	(206) 694-7113
Kiver, Dr. Eugene	[R] Rt 3, Box 266, Cheney, WA 99004	(509) 235-6448
Larson, Shaun	[R] 5423 Kirkwood Place North, Seattle, WA 98103	(206) 547-4844
Lewis, Rob	[R] 1407 S. Ferdinand Drive, Tacoma, WA 98405	(206) 759-4861
Lundberg, Alan	[R] 19221 - 38th Place N.E., Seattle, WA 98155	(206) 365-7255
Martin, Robert H.	[R] 20836 Occidental Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98198	(206) 878-7634
McBride, Molly	[R] 9007 Shorewood Drive #535, Mercer Island, WA 98040	(206) 236-5686
McFeeley, Dan	[R] 2321 - 47th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98116	(206) 938-0495
McTigue, Larry	[R] 962 Sunset Blvd. NE Apt B-5, Renton, WA 98056	(206) 226-5357
Montoya, Dan	[R] 7533 South Lakeridge Drive, Seattle, WA 98178	(206) 772-0273
Murray, Skip	[R] 16807 425th Avenue S.E., North Bend, WA 98045	(206) 888-3839
Ogawa, Dr. Takanori	[A] 1-11-21 Kita-Otsuka, Toshima-Ku, Tokyo, 170, JAPAN	(03) 915-0560
Petersen, Michael	[R] 16721 Larch Way North, Lynnwood, WA 98037	
Rockwood, Kris	[F] 9007 Shorewood Drive #535, Mercer Island, WA 98040	
Schoonover, Keith	[R] 11905 - 93rd Ave NE #204, Kirkland, WA 98034	(206) 821-9897
Sherman, Mark	[R] 9417 8th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115	(206) 524-8780
Smith, Richard Alan	[R] Route 3, Box 195, White Salmon, WA 98672	(509) 493-3897
Sprague, Steve	[R] 15220 - 39th Ave N.W., Stanwood, WA 98292	(206) 652-6489
Steinke, Karl	[R] 13125 S.E. 149th Street, Renton, WA 98058	(206) 271-1260
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
Tupper, Ed	[R] 6241 - 34th Ave N.E., Seattle, WA 98115	(206) 522-3579
Verbarendse, Marty	[R] 3628 - 24th Place West #105, Seattle, WA 98199	(206) 285-6175
Wagner, Mike	[R] 2770 Westlake N., Seattle, WA 98109	(206) 282-0985
Walter, Richard	[R] Box 571, Porthill, ID 83853	(604) 428-2495
Whitfield, Phillip R.	[A] 2067 Valley View Drive, Kamloops B.C., V2C 4C3, CANADA	(604) 372-5079
Willhight, Kay A.	[R] 9025 Cyrus Avenue N.W., Seattle, WA 98117	(206) 784-7995
Williams, Scott V.	[R] 5401 Alki Road, Vancouver, WA 98663	(206) 696-4704
Wilson, Mark M.	[R] 2542 -2nd Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119	(206) 283-3369

**NORTHWEST CAVING ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEET
BEND, OREGON
MAY 27, 28, 29, 1989**

On Saturday, May 27, 1989 through Monday, May 29, 1989, the Oregon Grotto will host the annual meeting of the Northwest Caving Association at Dillon Falls near Bend, Oregon. This will a great opportunity to bring Northwest cavers together to share a good caving experience, and hold our annual regional meet.

Special arrangements have been made with the U.S. Forest Service, Deschutes District, to allow several "small" trips into Lavacicle Cave. Due to the sensitive formations in the cave, groups will be limited. Be sure to sign up early for the trips to Lavacicle Cave.

A large camping area will be reserved at Dillon Falls which is located on the banks of the Deschutes River. It is a dry camp, so plan on bringing plenty of water. Pit toilets are provided. From Bend, follow the Cascade Lakes Highway (#46) southwest toward Mt. Bachelor for 6 miles. Approximately 1/4 to 1/2 mile past Inn of the 7th Mountain, turn left (south) on Road #41 (it's a good dirt road). Travel approximately 2-1/2 miles, turn left, follow the signs approximately 1 mile downhill to Dillon Falls. Dillon Falls is located on the Deschutes National Forest Map in case you lose your directions. Deschutes National Forest maps can be purchased for \$1 at the U.S. Forest Service office in Bend, or at Lava Lands Visitor's Center which is 10 miles south of Bend, Oregon on Highway 97. Plan on spending at least an hour at this very informative geologic exhibit and gift shop. Also plan on visiting Oregon's High Desert Museum also on Highway 97, not far from Lava Lands Visitor's Center.

Bob Brown of the Cascade Grotto will be bringing the "Chuckwagon." Only breakfast and dinner will be available on Saturday and Sunday since most people will be caving during the lunch hour anyway.

There are cliffs near the campground for vertical practice. A guidebook to local caves will be sold separately for those who don't already have one. (You should have one if you attended the 1982 NSS Convention in Bend.) There will be informal trips to some area caves, "bushwacking" to look for new caves, and trips to Siah Butte (weather permitting), to name just a few of the planned activities.

Saturday evening will be reserved for the regional meeting, followed by slide shows of various caving areas. If you have a special slide show contact Mary White, (206) 695-1359, or write 6907 N.W. Anderson Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98665. She will be glad to arrange time for your show. Saturday evening's activities will include liquid refreshments and treats supplied by The Oregon Grotto. There will also be time for exchanging caving stories.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mary White, 6907 N.W. Anderson Avenue, Vancouver, Washington 98665, (206) 695-1359.