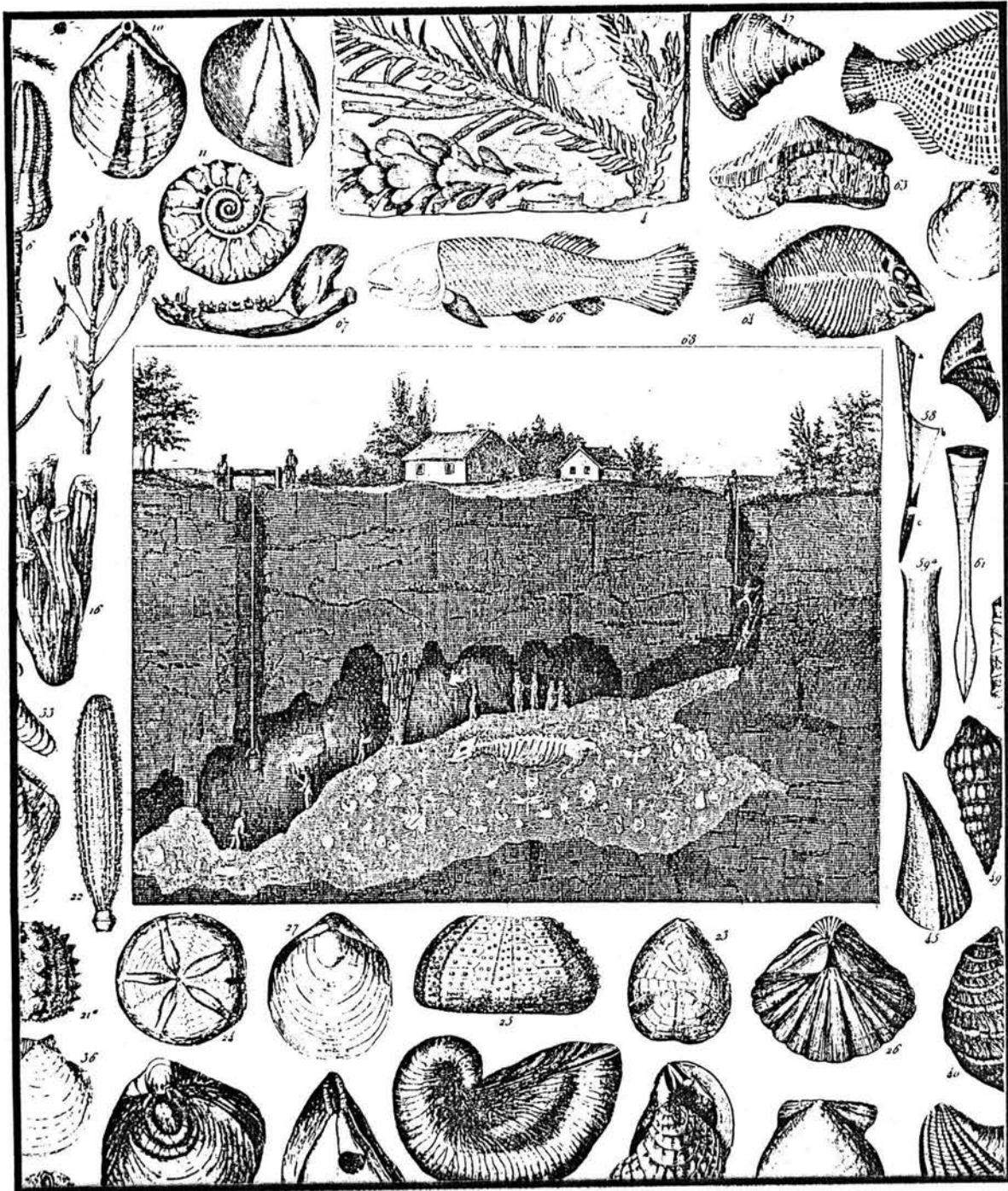


Cascade Caver

Volume 28, No. 11-12 November-December 1989



C a s c a d e C a v e r

Copyright 1989 by the Cascade Grotto. All rights reserved.

The *Cascade Caver* is published approximately 10 times a year by the Cascade Grotto, a local chapter of the National Speleological Society. Any material in this newsletter that is not copyrighted by an individual or another group may be copied or reprinted by internal organizations of the National Speleological Society provided that credit is given to the author and to the *Cascade Caver* and that a copy of the newsletter containing the material is sent to the Editor. Other organizations must contact the Editor. Opinions expressed in the *Cascade Caver* are not necessarily those of the Cascade Grotto, the editors, or the NSS. Unsigned articles may be attributed to one of the editors.

All material to be published, subscription requests, renewals, address changes, and exchange publications should be sent to the Grotto address.

Subscription, 1 year	\$7.50
Grotto membership and subscription, 1 year	\$7.50
Additional family membership	\$1.50

Cover The cover this month is part of a plate entitled "Section of Wirksworth Cave and Fossils". It is taken from The Complete Encyclopedia of Illustration by J. G. Heck, which is a reprint of the 1851 edition of The Iconographic Encyclopaedia of Science, Literature, and Art.

C a s c a d e G r o t t o

Chairman	Mark Wilson	(206) 283-3369	Regional Rep	Ben Tompkins	(206) 546-8025
Vice Chairman	Chuck Crandell	(206) 772-3271	Book Librarian	open	
Sec/Treasurer	Ben Tompkins	(206) 546-8025	Map Librarian	Rod Crawford	(206) 543-9853
Editor	Mark Sherman	(206) 524-8780	Program Coord	open	
Editor	Ben Tompkins	(206) 546-8025	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 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.

Dues:

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

Dropped	Jerome Gunsalus	John Dickson	Kevin Bagley	Mark Bagley
Overdue:	Robert Stitt Marty Verbarendse	Howard Hoyt. Sue Brenner.	Richard James	Keith Schoonover
Due:	John Day John Benson	Robert Martin Phillip Erickson	Art Tasker Mike Wagner.	Scott Williams
Coming Up:	Alan Coakley Bill Holmes	Tina Coakley Rob Lewis	Jeff Forbes Karl Steinke	Bob and Chris Henderson Kay Wilhight
Reinstated:	Boyd Benson	Bob Brown		

Contents

Upcoming Events; October Grotto Meeting; November Grotto Meeting; December Business Meeting

Grotto Elections	66
by Ben Tompkins	
Christmas Party	67
by Mark Wilson	
Windy Creek	67
by Howard Hoyt	
Dynamited Cave Snow Trip	67
by Jim Harp	
New Exploration on Vancouver Island	68
by Jerry Thompson	
Gardiner Cave Project	68
by Mark Wilson	

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.

December, 1989

- 15 Grotto Christmas Party - No regular meeting this month. See notice and map in this issue.
- 31 Ballots for Grotto officers due.

January, 1990

- ? John Benson and Jim Harp are planning a Dynamited Cave snow trip (see article in this issue). Exact date has not been set yet. Contact John Benson at 851-7417.

19 GROTTO MEETING, University of Washington

February

- 5 Grotto business meeting, 7:00pm at Howard Hoyt's house.

16 GROTTO MEETING

March

16 GROTTO MEETING

April

- 1 Deadline for applications for the NCRI projects in the Pryor Mountains or at Jewel Cave. See below.

20 GROTTO MEETING, University of Washington

May

- 18 GROTTO MEETING, University of Washington

26-28 Northwest Caving Association (NCA) Regional gathering in Utah. There are some nice caves in this area and lots of other things to see on the way. It's a bit of a drive but plan ahead and carpool or caravan.

June

- 17-20 NCRI Pryor Mountains Project. Spend four days in the mountains of Montana looking for new caves, relocating previously-known caves, and surveying. In the Seattle area contact Ben Tompkins or contact the project coordinator John Buchanan at (509) 359-7493.

21 One-day work session at Bighorn Caverns in Montana as part of the Pryor Mountains project.

23-30 Third year of the NCRI Jewel Cave Project and final year on the existing contract. Eighty-some miles of mapped cave. Take part in inventory, writing route descriptions, reflagging trails, and radio location work. Contact Steve Sprague at (206) 652-6489.

July

9-13 NSS Convention in Yreka, California.

1991

NSS Convention in Cobleskill, NY; NCA Regional in Idaho (tentatively).

October Grotto Meeting

Chuck Crandell now has the Grotto Library temporarily, taking it from Larry McTigue who has moved to California. Chuck cannot keep the Library and looking for someone to take it off his hands. If nobody volunteers to take it, it will be dealt with at the December business meeting.

Nominations for next years Grotto officers will be held at the November Grotto meeting.

Mark Wilson discussed the Christmas party which will be held at Howard Hoyt's house. It will be a potluck. If anyone has any questions please contact Mark or Howard.

Mark also discussed last years trip to Gardiner Cave to do some photomonitoring. Will he was over there the park rangers mentioned that they would like the cave gated to prevent any further vandalism. Mark will be planning two trips there next spring to put the gate in.

About forty additional feet of passage was dug open in Windy Creek cave.

The evening's program was provided by Robert Henderson who gave a slide presentation on caving on the island of Hawaii.

November Grotto Meeting

The December business meeting will be held on December 4th at 7:00 at Howard Hoyt's home. The main item on the agenda will be what to do with the Grotto Library since it has lost its home.

Nominations were held for next years officers. The following people were nominated: Chairman: Jim Harp; Vice Chairman: John Benson; Secretary/Treasurer: Ben Tompkins. Ballots must be returned by December 31.

Dick Garnick talked about his trip with Rob Lewis and Larry McTigue up to the Chilliwack B.C. area which discovered a small cave.

Mark Sherman discussed the NCRI project in the Pryor mountains which will be held next June.

Jerry Thompson talked about his attempt to get up to Cave Ridge at the end of October but never got to the caves because of all the snow.

James Baines gave the evening's program. He discussed his exploits in Jamaica while doing cave biology studies. Unfortunately he couldn't find any of his cave slides (he has just moved to the area and doesn't know which box they're packed in) but had some fascinating ones of Jamaican people.

December Business Meeting

The December 2nd regular business meeting was sparsely attended, partially due to the miserable weather and partially to the Seahawks being on Monday Night Football.

The largest piece of business was finding a home for the grotto book library, which turns out to be a large pile of boxes of much more than just books. It needs to be moved in a matter of days and Ben Tompkins was put in charge of moving it. The plan is to divide it up as it is being moved into maps, books and videos, Cascade Cavers and publications from northwest grottos, and all other publications. The recipient of each section is to display, bind, or archive as planned. Rod Crawford is to oversee the process and make sure the parts come back together again eventually. There are no plans to scrap any of the material at the present time, if ever.

\$100 was requested by Ben Tompkins for *Cascade Caver* costs beginning January, 1990. Unanimously approved.

Discussion of the Gardiner Cave gate project was tabled pending the appearance of the interested parties.

The next regular business meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 5, 7:00pm, at Howard Hoyt's house. The agenda will probably include the Gardiner Cave project, goals of various committees for the year, and the start of trip planning.

Grotto Elections

by Ben Tompkins,

Nominations for 1990 officers were made at the November meeting and ballots have been included with this issue for all grotto members.

Note that there is only one nomination for each position. This reflects the limited enthusiasm and forethought of those attending the November meeting and not an attempt to stack the deck with any one "party". I don't say this to attack the nominees, I'm one of them, but rather the ennui. Does this mean that the Cascade Grotto has no function, direction, or momentum significant enough to generate differences of opinion, let alone opposing candidates? Are we really nominating officers by the Three-Stooges method, all taking two steps backwards leaving someone out front, while many come to the November meeting specifically to decline if someone should nominate us?

Each office on the ballot has a space for a write-in candidate. Please use these spaces if you can locate any other Grotto members interested in the Grotto. The only other mandatory requirement is that the candidate be a current member of both the Cascade Grotto and of the National Speleological Society.

Ballots must be received by December 31 at the Grotto post office box or if waiting to the last minute, send them directly to me at 18002 - 1st Ave N.W., Seattle, WA, 98177. You can also hand them to me at the Christmas Party. Those of you in arrears are welcome to include a dues check with your ballot.

Christmas Party

by Mark Wilson

The grotto Christmas Party will be held at Howard Hoyt's house on December 15, beginning at 7:30pm. As usual it will be a potluck. The grotto will provide main courses of turkey, ham, and fixin's - you bring your beverage and your favorite side dish or snack.

There will be entertainment plus the ever-interesting crawl-box competition. We will also set aside an area for people to display any surplus caving gear and outdoor equipment that you might have to sell or swap.

I'd like to coordinate the side dishes a little bit so we don't wind up with 20 bags of Doritos. If you plan to come please give me a call at 283-3369 before December 11th and let me know what you want to bring. If nobody is home then confide your name and dish to the answering machine.

Windy Creek

by Howard Hoyt

On September 30, Jim Harp and Jerry Thompson took me on my first trip to Windy Creek Cave. The first part of this adventure was getting lost in the suburban wastelands trying to find Jim's house at 6:30 am. Fortunately Jim came and rescued me from my pay phone and we were on our way to Jerry's. Without further incident we reached the parking place to go to the cave. The weather was iffy but it sprinkled just a tad and then seemed to be clearing up, which is a must for Windy Creek, or so I was told, along with horror stories of the exhausting hike and torturous cave trek. So with trepidation I left the comfort of Jerry's truck and clambered along after him and Jim through logging slash, forest, meadow, and vicious devil's club-infested slopes to reach the cave. The entrance alone is worth the trip. A perfect Robber Baron cave entrance - very well hidden behind tree boughs at the base of a cliff. The entrance is a slit, very tall and narrow.

The cave that followed confirmed my theory that "as the entrance, so is the cave". Predominantly crack-like. Aside from the truly awful mud, it was a very adventuresome cave with lots of beautiful and unusual (to me) rock and some wonderful formations. At the end I squeezed through into the new part and Jerry worked on digging from either end of the narrows until we were all getting too cold. Then we took a quick look at the two small rooms that are new. They are both quite unlike the mud tunnel on the other side of the crawl. Both are free of mud and covered with a lot of rocks on the floor. Unless there is more cave under the rocks, it seemed clear to me that there was no more passage to be dug and that the cave ends here. A large amount of wind comes through the squeeze, however, so the dome pit which you come into first in the new part may lead somewhere. I do think it gets too narrow to climb. Likewise, a humanly impenetrable passage leads off the dome pit at about eye level. There were no formations in these rooms but the rock walls were beautifully striated.

On the way out I was tested to lead. I don't think I would have gotten us out very efficiently without some prompting but we got out, pretty tired and cold, four hours after entering. Jim did the honors at the register and we were happy to egress into sunshine. The hike out was tiring but not impossible; I was happy to see the truck. Thanks Jim and Jerry for giving me my big cave trip of the year. I want to go back.

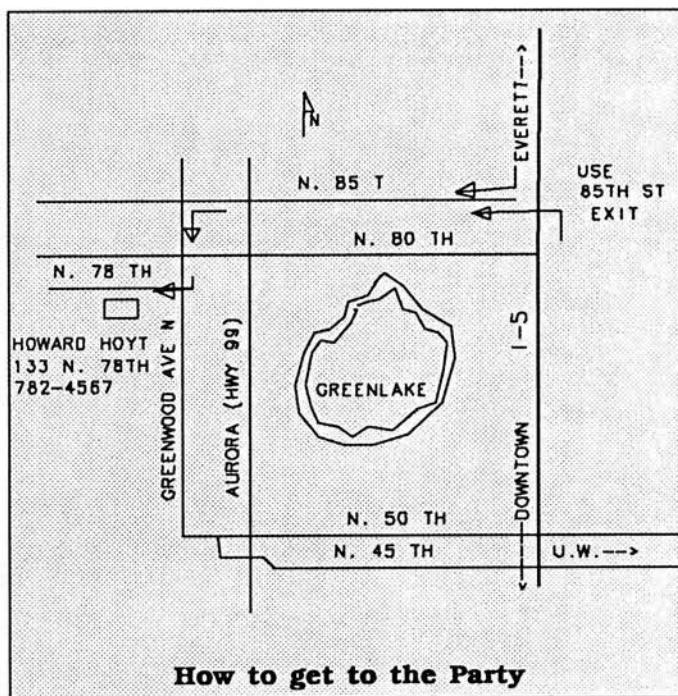
Dynamited Cave Snow Trip

by Jim Harp

Dynamited cave is situated within the boundaries of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, located beneath the flanks of Mt. Adams. This beautiful forest has yet to be discovered by the hoards of city dwellers who are so abundant along the trails of other recreational areas. A winter trek through the snow-covered forests of Gifford is a most enjoyable prelude to a day of exploring one of America's most unusual lava tubes.

My first snow trip into Dynamited started on Friday, Feb. 12th, 1988 when Jerry Thompson and I motored to Trout Lake, near Mt. Adams after work. The five hour drive ended at the Trout Lake grocery store which rented rooms to us and our companions, Bob Jared and Alan & Tina Coakley.

The loggers had the roads clear of snow to a point about one mile from the cave entrance, where we parked our vehicles and found the flat level topography ideal for skiing and snowshoeing to the cave entrance. Located at an elevation of 3,360 ft. the cave has about 4000+ ft. of expansive subway-like passageways, punctuated by a number of vertical pitches which require a full compliment of ropes, pads and gear. The first pitch is a 15 ft. intimidating downclimb which turns out to be rather easy after you've done it once, though many cavers feel more comfortable using a cable ladder or belay. About 1000 feet of breakdown has to be negotiated before arriving at the next drop which is located at the junction of three major routes. A 40 ft. rappel drops you into the grand ballroom.



Across from the top of this 40 ft. rappel one observes another major conduit which is not accessible from the top of the pitch. The most common way of gaining access to this area is by throwing a climbing rope over a chockstone, and then repelling the 40 ft. drop, ascending the second rope to the upper level via the chockstone. An aluminum ladder is required to continue along this route which has several unclimbable upward pitches.

Proceeding downtube from the bottom of the "40" about 650 ft. is a 55 ft. blind pit followed immediately by a 25 ft. pitch down to the last section of the cave. Beyond this is a few hundred feet of cave on two levels to where the cave pinches out.

Upon emerging from the cave we found the sun was long gone and the stars were shining down on us through a clear cloudless sky. Starlight reflected off the clean white snow and the quietness of our surroundings made the jaunt back to our cars seem an enchanted journey. That evening we sat around our room enjoying Tina's delicious homemade clam chowder which we washed down with a drop of wine, a terrific conclusion to a most memorable journey.

One year later found Jerry, myself, my daughter Amanda, John & Coreen Benson and their friend Lew back up at Mt. Adams. This time there was about 4 ft. of snow on the ground with the road open only as far as the snow park, too far for some of us to ski into the cave. We had arranged for guide John Simmonson to meet us at the snow park with his arctic snow cat to provide all necessary transportation. The cost of this was to be \$50 / person, which included two nights at a cabin in nearby Peterson Prairie campground, transportation to and from the cabin and Dynamited cave, and meals. What a deal! Unfortunately both of his snow cats died before we even left the cabin so we did not make our objective that weekend.

Jerry took John Benson and Lew on a cross-country snowshoe trip with a stop at JaR cave while the ladies and I snoozed. Another foot of snow fell that weekend and on Sunday John extricated us via dog sled and snowmobile. (He also adjusted our bill in consideration for not being able to get us to the cave.) Although we never accomplished our intended mission that weekend, the company was excellent and we all pronounced the trip a success.

Another snow trip to Dynamited is already in the works for the winter of 89-90. The date and other details are still on the drawing board. Cavers wishing further information should keep in touch.

New Exploration on Vancouver Island

by Jerry Thompson

Jim Harp, Mark Wilson, and Jerry Thompson joined VICEG cavers on October 13 for the second weekend of exploration of a new area on the island. The VICEG cavers had been contacted by the McMillan Blodell Logging Company to check out some large sinks in an area of old growth forest that was being surveyed for a new road. The area is about twenty-five miles south of Port Alberni.

Three caves were located and partially surveyed on the October 7th weekend and plans for the second weekend included finishing the surveys and continuing the surface exploration of the area.

The Cascade Grotto members spent all of their underground time in a wet, vertical cave called "The Right Stuff". It began with a 100-foot drop through a waterfall and then a tight passage through a fifteen-foot-high hole which led to a huge room thirty or forty feet wide, eighty to a hundred feet high, and over five hundred feet long. Voice contact was established with cavers in a nearby cave.

The logging company, after listening to the reports of the B.C. cavers, has suspended road building and logging activity in the area for at least two years.

Gardiner Cave Project

by Mark Wilson

Last spring a group of us went over to Gardiner Cave in northeastern Washington to re-establish photomonitoring points. It was evident on the trip that the "wild" part of the cave is seeing a lot more traffic than the rangers know about and the cave formations are suffering from it.

We talked with the ranger about the possibility of putting a gate at the entrance to the wild section but he felt that there would be too much "red tape" in the way of getting it accomplished. We left it at that but about a month later he called and said that he had talked to his superiors. They had given him the green light.

The project will involve designing and installing the gate, probably requiring two trips to the cave next spring. This would be a great conservation project for the grotto and would get us some good P.R. with the Parks department.

It will, however, require some commitment from some people within the grotto. I'm offering head up the project but I need to know if enough of the rest of the grotto is interested before I make a commitment to the state. Anyone interested in either the design or the installation phase please get in touch with me and we'll take it from there.