

Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto ISSN 0008-7211

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Prince of Wales Island

Glacier Grotto, Alaska. The main 1991 expedition to Prince of Wales Island (POWIE V) is scheduled for July 15 through August 15, according to an announcement by Kevin Allred. The preliminary itinerary includes:

July 15-19: Calder Bay recon by boat targeting sub-alpine karst to the east and the flanks or Perue Peak.

July 19-28: El Capitan work camp targeting sub-alpine and alpine karst with helicopter support; Snow Hole, Blowing in the Wind, and other goodies; vertical cave north of Neck Lake and leads north of Twin Island Lake; an Exchange Cove cave; Checking any new reported caves; and lower-priority work in unfinished Slate Cave.

July 29-Aug 9: Flicker Ridge with wheeled transportation provided. Targets include major karst in sub-alpine and alpine mediums; Perue Peak or Mt.

Calder if time permits; Salmon Bay leads.

Aug 9-15: El Capitan work camp. Time left open for unfinished areas and karsted long-term logging units.

For more details contact Kevin Allred, expedition leader, at P.O. Box 376, Haines, Alaska, 99827. In Washington State contact Dave Klinger, P.O. Box 537, Leavenworth, Washington, 98826.

Crypt to Spires Trip

by Tom Kilroy

Those who joined the "urban caving" trip to St. James Cathedral after the February meeting saw a lot more than they bargained for. About 15 cavers arrived late in the evening at the darkened cathedral to be greeted by Howard Hoyt, resident organist for 16 years. Howard briskly shuttled us to the catacombs for a royal tour.

"Shhh, quiet," he said, and off we went under and all around pipes and ducts and crawlways that seemed perfect for dust to settle in the 1910 structure.

People were crawling around everywhere. Grunts were echoing from the end of one tight constriction apparently emitted by Vice Chairman, Tycho Knudson. Mike Wagner blared out

something about "asbestos crawl." If it ain't histo, it's something!

Poof! The dusty, sweaty cavers emerge into the main chamber of the church through a panel in the floor leaving trails of footprints flowering from the center of the room that would fool most trackers. We were off to the spires.

We clambered over forgotten banners and ornaments to gain access to the home of the hunchback: the bell tower. "On Ladder," Howard called, and started up the first of at least a half dozen infrequently used vertical ladders. People zipped one level at a time, stopping only to peek out at the city below and look down the old ladders. At the top of the bell tower there is no

bell but I had a great view and a case of the jitters. The very last ladder allowed me to touch the roof of the bell tower dome. "Time to go down!" It's shaky up here, thought.

We descended to the unlit church and were in for the biggest treat yet. Howard sat down at the

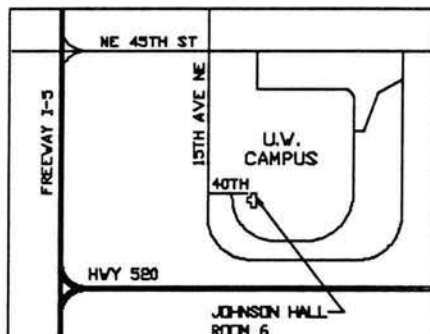
MARCH MEETING

March 15, 7pm

Dave Klinger will show slides and elaborate on the POWIE Five expedition.

Room 6 of Johnson Hall, University of Washington. See map below.

Grotto meeting place at U. of W.



main organ console, coveralls and headlamp intact, and played. We were presented with sounds that only someone who had played that instrument for years could make. It mimicked flutes and trumpets, filling the church with incredible sound. The organ pipes ranged in size from those smaller than a soda straw to ones almost as wide as my shoulders. Standing in the pipe room while the music was playing was a complete sensory enlightenment.

"There are more pipe organs down there," Howard explained, gesturing at the darkness towards the unseen end of the church. This type of open-ended statement is what brings cavers back to visit the same caves and find the "other rooms", the special formation that they missed. Thanks, Howard, for an offbeat trip to church.

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Tycho Knudson (206) 543-6820

Sec/Treasurer

Jim Harp (206) 745-1010

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 in odd-numbered months immediately following the regular grotto meeting for the month.

NCRI Ski-In Watch Out

by Ben Tompkins

On a Saturday morning in mid February, Steve and Jenny Sprague arrived with their neighbors Jeff and Karen to give me a ride to Mt. Rainier. There we planned to meet other members of the Northwest Cave Research Institute in a ski hut on a ridge at the end of a ski trail. In this nordic paradise we would spend two days skiing and planning for the summer work project in the Pryor Mountains of Montana.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Idaho, Matt Wilkin had decided to attend the meeting. He drove to eastern Washington to meet John Buchanan and together they continued west. Along the way Matt said,

"Hey, John, you remember how we hiked around the Pryors last summer with topo maps and altimeters? Just look at this new digital analog watch I got with an altimeter built right into it!"

John only smiled. He pulled back his sleeve and showed Matt an identical digital analog altimeter watch.

They arrived at Mt. Rainier and spent the night with Bob Brown. At breakfast John said,

"Hey, Bob, have you seen these new digital analog altimeter watches? And the funny thing is, Matt showed up with the exact same watch."

Bob grinned and pulled back his sleeve to reveal yet another digital analog altimeter watch. Then began a weekend of "altitude checks", everybody poking their watches and calling out the altitude.

We met them at the fire station in Ashford and got the amazing story while waiting for Gene Smith from Oregon. Then

we motored as far as the snow would let us and parked the cars next to a snow cat that Bob had trucked there earlier. Bob and Gene took all of the food and gear up the mountain in the cat while the rest of us donned our cross-country skis and skied about four miles to the top of the mountain.

The snow was unreasonably sparse. I decided fairly soon that I'd rather wear the skis than carry them and the others soon joined me, except for John and Matt who strapped their skis on their packs and walked all the way up. It snowed lightly most of the trip and was very pretty in a snowy, foggy, alpine sort of way.

The cabin had accommodations for eight plus two more for ski patrol personnel. Not long after we got settled a ski patrol person named Joe arrived.

"Hey, Joe," Bob said after introducing us, "show the guys your watch." And sure enough, it was a digital analog altimeter watch. What could we say? "Altitude Check!"

By mid-afternoon the windows had fogged up to match the view so we got down to business, spending a number of hours talking plans, expenses, logistics, and responsibilities. The Pryor Mountains in southern Montana has a bed of the same Madison limestone that contains Bighorn Caverns, Horsethief Cave, and Natural Trap in the Bighorn Mountains. A number of caves in this area have been described in reports and publications but can't be found from the descriptions, the completeness of what few maps exist for these caves is unknown, and there seems to be lots of potential for finding new caves.

The NCRI spent a week in the Pryors last year and concentrated in the higher elevations with a base camp at 7600 feet. The project this year will start on July 27 at the same location but with short-term satellite camps in

remoter areas. Nobody wants to get very far from Gail Smith's cooking.

Some time after dark I bundled up to go out and trudge around to the plumbing facilities and discovered that it had cleared up momentarily. The stars were out and I could see down to the highway leading to Paradise. The lights of Ashford and Elbe were below in the foreground and Tacoma was a patch on the western horizon.

Morning came. The pause in the weather had apparently been brief and two inches of snow had accumulated over night. It wasn't much by local standards but it covered the bare spots, at least visually. By early afternoon we were getting cabin fever and the scenery showed hints of appearing. Two different couples had skied up from below to see what the cabin was like and it was the second couple that inadvertently hastened our departure. They used the cabin facilities to fix their lunch

and we were all sitting around talking when John instituted an altitude check. The fellow fixing lunch looked up, surprised, and pulled back his sleeve to reveal yet another digital analog altimeter watch. At that point I knew it was time to get out. Those of us who didn't have a three-day weekend were soon packed and on our way down the trail.

Disclaimer: I don't work for the digital analog altimeter watch company, I don't sell the things, I don't even own one, but if you want to know more about the Pryor Mountains Cave Survey contact the NCRI at 9417 Eighth Ave N.E, Seattle, WA, 98115, or John Buchanan at (509) 259-7493.

WANTED: Does anybody know where I can get custom-made rigs for vertical work? Need an unusual size. Call: 789-2404, leave a msg. Or days call Laura at 324-7777.

Meeting notes

The length of the notes from February 15 Grotto meeting certainly belie the length of the meeting. Jim Harp gave a report on the state of the Grotto treasury and Howard Hoyt confirmed the cave survey practice set for March 2 on Tiger Mountain.

The rest of the evening was devoted to the first half of Steve Sprague's cave survey workshop. The second half is scheduled for the April Grotto meeting.

Dues were raised at the January Business Meeting, for the first time in almost a decade. Regular, Associate, and Subscription rates are now \$10.00 per year and additional household members are \$2.00 each per year.

New Members

Eugene Chevalier - Auburn - Eugene is a USDA animal damage control specialist. His caving experience includes numerous caves in the Mt. Adams area. Hobbies besides caving include unusual books, animals, theater, films, woodworking, and photography. Recent endeavors include exploring a stone quarry and coke oven ruins. Eugene and friends have also built a iron melting furnace with the goal of casting the parts for a reflector telescope. (206) 939-4667.

Monte Curry - Edmonds - Monte is not new to the grotto but has resurfaced with an Edmonds address. (206) 455-6349.

*Take nothing but pictures,
leave nothing but footprints,
kill nothing but time.*

Northwest Regional Meet

The Northwest Caving Association and the Cascade Grotto invite all interested persons to attend the 1991 annual convention and Rendezvous of Cavers.

**Peterson Prairie Campground, Trout Lake, Wash.
Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27, 1991**

Plans include:

- Guided trips for novices and pros.
- Vertical contest.
- Clinic on building "Bat-Houses" by Jim Nieland.
- Oregon Grotto store.
- Tailgate flea market - bring your unwanted caving, camping and other outdoor related items.
- A newly updated guide book of lava tube country with cave maps and directions. (\$8 or \$6 if paid in advance.
- Saturday Banquet dinner - hosted by NCRI (\$7, or \$5 if paid in advance)

Registration:

Adults: \$6 (\$4 if preregistered)
Children: \$0.25 per year of age

Registration fee includes campsite. Full refund available if cancellation is received by midnight, May 20th.

Information

For more information contact Jim Harp: 1731 So. Lake Stickney Dr., Lynnwood, Wash. 98037, ph. (206) 745 1010

Please register in advance
A registration form is included with this issue.

Upcoming Events

I'd like to hear about any trips being planned that are not listed here. Also, For the convenience of out of town members, the vertical clinics are scheduled for the day following a grotto meeting, you are welcome to camp at my place on Friday night. - Jim Harp (206) 745-1010 (H) or (206) 388-3585 (W)

Mar 15 — Grotto meeting. Prince of Wales Island projects by Dave Klinger. Business meeting after general meeting

Mar 16 — Vertical practice - Jim Harp - Single rope techniques, equipment supplied.

Mar 23 — Church Mt. Cave - Larry McTigue - Newest limestone cave in Western Washington

Apr 19 — Grotto meeting. Cave survey basics with hands-on

~~Apr 20~~ — Vertical practice - Jim Harp - In preparation for the May NCA regional.

Apr 27 — Chillawack karst area in British Columbia - Dick Garnick - Searching numerous leads for new caves

May 17 — Grotto meeting. Business meeting after general meeting

May 25 — Northwest Regional Meet (NCA), Trout Lake, WA, Memorial Day weekend hosted by

the Cascade Grotto.

Jun 21 — Grotto Meeting. Pre-Convention slide show

Jun 22 — Cave Ridge - Mark Wilson - Cave register program needs your help.

Jun 30 — NSS Convention in Cobleskill, NY

Jul 13 — Cave Ridge - Mike Wagner - Rappelling into Hellhole Cave.

Jul 19 — Grotto meeting.

Jul 20 — Rock climbing and SRT clinic - John Benson - Larabee State Park, on Chuckanut Dr.

Aug 5-11 — 6th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, Hilo, Hawaii. Contact W. R. Halliday, 6530 Cornwall Court; Nashville, TN 37205.

Aug 10 — Index Ice Caves - Karl Steinke - A fun hike with beautiful views.

Aug 25 — Windy Creek Cave - Jerry Thompson - Investigating the new Discovery room.

Aug 30-Sep 2 — Papoose Cave - Jim Harp - Labor day near Riggins Idaho - great formations.

Sep 14 — Cave Ridge - Mark Wilson - Rappelling into Newton Cave.

Oct 5 — Dynamited Cave - Alan Coakley - Goal is the seldom

visited New Big Room.

Nov 23-30 — Lava beds National Monument - Rod Crawford - Field research project.

1992 — NCA Regional in Idaho.

1992 — NSS Convention, Salem, Indiana, Aug. 3-7.



The *Cascade Caver* will gladly print your short ads for caving items for sale or wanted to buy.

Nothing to lose!

The ads are free and the *Cascade Caver* reaches a high percentage of the local caving community. The *Caver* can be your easy way to find what you need or sell what you don't!

Regular feature

Want ads will be a regular feature as long as there is interest. Write: *Cascade Caver Want Ads*, 7531 12th NW, Seattle, WA 98117. Or call Laura at 789-2404 (if no one answers, leave a message)

Cascade Caver

P.O BOX 75663

SEATTLE WA 98125-0663

REGISTRATION

Northwest Caving Association

1991 Convention

Peterson Prairie Campground
Trout Lake, Washington
May 24-27, 1991

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

Grotto or affiliation _____ NSS# _____

- NOTE:
- Guidebook quantities will be limited so registration is important.
 - No charge for children 4 and under.

Listed below are then names of participants in my family unit:

Name	Adult \$4.00	Child 0.25/yr	Barbecue \$5.00	Guidebook \$6.00	Total
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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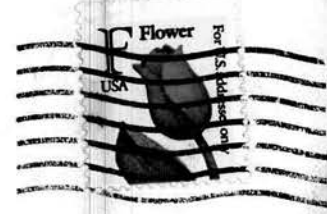
MAIL TO:

Jim Harp
1731 S. Lake Stickney Dr.
Lynnwood, WA 98037

Subtotal _____

Canadian money: x 0.20 _____

My total amount enclosed is: _____



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12/91
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