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Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society



LINDA HESLOP

CASCADE CAVER

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Subscriptions, renewals and address changes should be sent to the Grotto Treasurer, Greg Hollenbeck, 21307 E. Lost Lk. Rd., Snohomish, WA. 98290.

Exchange publications, material for publication and other correspondence concerning the Cascade Caver should be sent to the Editor, Larry McTigue, 2713 Meadow Ave. N., Renton, WA. 98056.

CASCADE GROTTTO - Regular Grotto meetings are held at 7PM the third Friday of each month at the Univ. of Wash., Room 6, in the basement of Johnson Hall. Business meetings are held on odd-numbered months immediately following the regular meeting. Regular, Associate and Subscription memberships are \$10.00. Additional household members are \$2.00 each. Dues should be sent to the treasurer (see above). Other correspondence may be sent to P.O. Box 75663, Seattle, WA. 98125-0663.

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1992 PRYOR MOUNTAIN FIELD CAMP

The NORTHWEST CAVE RESEARCH INSTITUTE will be holding its third field camp in the Pryor Mountains of Montana from July 21 to July 31. This year, we will be concentrating our efforts on "Big Pryor Mountain". We will be mapping and inventorying the known caves and hopefully locating new ones. Space will be limited to the first 40 qualified cavers who apply.

The Pryor Mountains have enormous potential for discovery of new caves. The Mission Canyon Formation provides the cavernous unit for the Pryor's. This is a very large and complex area in which to search for caves. Field Camp participants will be working at elevations of 5,000 to 9,000 feet in rugged terrain with no established trail system.

This year the fees are: single adult or, first adult in the family- \$20 per day or, \$100 for the 10 day project. Spouses and all kids 14 years of age and older - \$20 per day or, \$60 for the entire project. Kids under 14 are free.

The fees cover food and base camp costs. For all people heading to the NSS Convention in Indiana, this will make an excellent pre-convention trip. For more information, please write:

NCRI
%Mark Sherman
9417-8th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Or call: Ben Tompkins
1-(206)546-8025

--This month's cover: Linda Heslop says it's a "million dot" pen and ink drawing of Kathy Minter climbing the waterfall in "Cataract Cave", Alabama. Thanks Linda!!

DATE

1992 UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 15 GROTTO MEETING/BUSINESS MEETING
(PROGRAM)--TALK ON "ROCKS & MINERALS" BY A LOCAL SEATTLE GEM SHOP OWNER
- MAY 22-25 NORTHWEST REGIONAL CAVING CONVENTION (NEAR SUN VALLEY, IDAHO)
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!)
HOSTED BY GEM STATE & MAGIC VALLEY GROTTO (SOUTH-CENTRAL, IDAHO)
HEART OF IDAHO CAVE COUNTRY (NEAR CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MON.)
FEATURING PERHAPS THE LONGEST LAVA TUBE IN THE CONTINENTAL U.S. AT
2½ MILES & STILL GOING!! ALSO, IDAHO'S FAMOUS "LIMESTONE" LAVA TUBE
FOR MORE INFORMATION & CAMPGROUND LOCATION, SEE "NEWS & NOTES" ON
PG. 25 OF THE JAN. '92 NSS NEWS (OR, CONTACT DAVE KESNER IN IDAHO)
- MAY 28 (TENTATIVE DATE) SPECIAL GROTTO MEETING/POTLUCK DINNER
JIM BAICHTAL, GEOLOGIST FOR THE KETCHIKAN AREA OF THE TONGASS NAT. FOR.
IN ALASKA WILL BE THE FEATURED SPEAKER. HE WILL TALK TO US ON THE
DISCOVERIES THE ALASKAN CAVERS HAVE MADE ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND IN
S.E. ALASKA INCLUDING EL CAPITAN PIT, THE DEEPEST PIT YET DISCOVERED
IN THE U.S. AT 598FT. (SEE BELOW) IT WILL BE AT CHUCK CRANDELL'S
HOUSE AT 7PM (12750 RENTON AVE. S., SEATTLE) UP THE HILL FROM RENTON.
STEVE SPRAGUE WILL SEND OUT POSTCARDS WITH THE FINAL DATE & TIME AND
ASSIGN DISHES FOR THE POTLUCK ALPHABETICALLY BY THE FIRST LETTER OF
YOUR LAST NAME. CHUCK CRANDELL'S PH.# IS (206)772-3271
- JUN 19 GROTTO MEETING
(PROGRAM)--TALK ON CAVING IN GREAT BRITAIN BY BRITISH CAVER, JOHN WADE
WHO RECENTLY MOVED HERE AND IS A NEW MEMBER OF OUR GROTTO.
- JUN 27 NEWTON CAVE RECON TRIP (TENTATIVE DATE)
SHAKEDOWN TRIP IN PREPARATION FOR THE MAIN DEEP PUSH/SURVEY/EXPLORATION
CASCADE GROTTO PROJECT PLANNED FOR JULY (NO DATE YET)
ROB LEWIS FOUND A DEEPER EXTENSION TO THE CAVE LAST OCTOBER AND A BIG
NEW DEEP PIT AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT AS WELL. SO, WE KNOW IT'S MORE THAN
500FT. DEEP NOW WHICH PUTS IT BACK ON THE LIST OF THE 50 DEEPEST CAVES
IN THE U.S. WE JUST NEED TO SURVEY IT. BUT, THAT'S NOT ALL. THERE'S
EVEN POTENTIAL FOR MORE DEPTH, BECAUSE ROB LEFT ANOTHER PIT UNCHECKED
IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BIG NEW ONE HE DROPPED!! WHO KNOWS, WE MAY EVEN
SURPASS APE CAVE AT 704FT. WHICH WOULD PUT NEWTON ON THE LIST OF THE
TOP 20 DEEPEST CAVES IN THE U.S.!!!
THE CLIMB UP TO THE TOP OF THE RIDGE WHERE THE CAVE IS LOCATED (A VERY
STRENUOUS 2000FT. ELEVATION GAIN) IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR ANYONE WHO
CANNOT CARRY A HEAVY FULL-SIZE PACK STUFFED WITH CLIMBING TACKLE AND/
OR VERTICAL CAVING GEAR SINCE ANYONE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT WILL BE
EXPECTED TO NOT ONLY CARRY HIS OWN GEAR BUT, ALSO SHARE IN HAULING
SOME OF THE ROPES AND OTHER RESCUE/FIRST-AID/AND VERTICAL RIGGING
GEAR WE WILL NEED IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT. YOU NEED TO BE IN VERY GOOD
TO EXCELLENT PHYSICAL CONDITION SO AS NOT TO BURN YOURSELF OUT BEFORE
YOU GET TO THE CAVE!!! IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN DO IT, PLEASE CONTACT
LARRY MCTIGUE AT (206)850-8614. LEAVE A MESSAGE, IF I'M NOT HOME AND
I WILL RETURN YOUR CALL. THANKS!!!
- JUL 1-31 POWIE VI (PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND EXPEDITION # 6) SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FEATURES EL CAPITAN PIT (DEEPEST IN U.S. AT 598FT)
ALSO "SNOWHOLE" WHICH RANKS 3RD IN THE U.S. AT 448FT
EL CAPITAN CAVE HAS 10,190FT OF SURVEYED PASSAGES & 96 NEW CAVES
WERE DISCOVERED IN A 6 MONTH PERIOD IN 1991!!
CONTACT KEVIN ALLRED AT PO BOX 376, HAINES, ALASKA 99827
OR, LOCALLY CONTACT DAVE KLINGER AT (509)548-5480 OR PO BOX 537,
LEAVENWORTH, WASH. 98826

DATE 1992 UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT'D)

JUL 17 GROTTO MEETING/BUSINESS MEETING

END OF JUL "CANCELLED" NCRI JEWEL CAVE PROJECT HAS BEEN CANCELLED BUT, NCRI PRYOR MTN. PROJECT IS STILL GOING

1ST WEEK AUG NCRI PRYOR MTNS PROJECT (MONTANA) CONTACT BEN TOMPKINS IN WASHINGTON STATE AT 1-(206)546-8025

AUG 3-7 NSS CONVENTION, SALEM, ~~OREGON~~ INDIANA

AUG 21 GROTTO MEETING

SEP 4-7 PAPOOSE CAVE ANNUAL RENDEZVOUS (RIGGINS, IDAHO) MINI--REGIONAL/LABOR DAY WEEKEND (MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!) CONTACT JIM HARP (WASHINGTON) AT (206)745-1010

1993 NSS CONVENTION

As most of you have heard by now, (unless you've been living in a cave) the 1993 NSS CONVENTION will be in Pendleton, Oregon and is being hosted by the Willamette Valley Grotto. Bill Devereaux of the WVG is the convention chair.

This will be a great opportunity for Northwest cavers to attend the National Convention. It will also be a challenge to host something this big. This is where we come in. Bill has asked for help to assure the convention comes off smoothly.

The following (see next page) is a list of jobs that need to be filled for Convention 93 to be a success. If you see something that interests you, let me know or, contact Bill directly. I am acting as the Grotto contact for the convention and will keep everyone posted as to developments in the coming months.

--MIKE COMPTON
(206)535-5144

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LOCAL NEWS

Tom Kilroy & Sandy Kilroy (Major) got mentioned in the Feb.'92 "NSS NEWS" in the conservation column of (Ray's Review p. 53) for their article on cave vandalism and ways to stop it which was published in the May '91 "Cascade Caver."

Also mentioned in the "Cave Maps" section of Ray's Review in the same issue is the new map of "Deadhorse Cave" featuring the 1,500ft of additional passage found in the Masochist Maze area by the Willamette Valley Grotto. The map was used on the cover of one of the WVG's newsletters last year. The cave is a lava-tube in Skamania County, WASH.

NSS Convention 1993

Job Listings

P U B L I C A T I O N S -

This job will coordinate the production of all printed material before and during the Convention. This will include the Guidebook, the Program, the Newsletter, and copying during the Convention. We have a local business owner who has said if we need him to open up at 2am for copying, he'll do it.

CONVENTION GUIDEBOOK: The Editor and Staff do not need to come from the same Grotto or Region. The timelines are that it must be available for mailing by May 15, 1993. Where it is printed is not important, except that cost and the ability to have them available for mailing and the Convention are crucial. The Editor, Printer, Compiler, and Research aspects of the job do not need to be the same person; however, time, coordination, and control have a habit of slipping away if too many people, incompatible people, or great distances get embedded in the group.

PROGRAM HANDBOOK: This job publishes the handbook produced by the PROGRAM Chair.

NEWSLETTER: Or ConventionGram as it is sometimes known is to be produced daily during the Convention. Norma Peacock from Michigan has volunteered to do this. She needs help unless you want to talk her out of it and do it yourself.

P R O G R A M -

PUBLIC/PRESS RELATIONS: This again does not have to be the same person. There are essentially three jobs/time windows here. First, the twelve articles (minimum) for the NSS News beginning in August of 1992 and running through the August issue of 1993. Since the News has a two-month lead-time deadline it amounts to June'92-June'93. Second, before, during and after the '93 Convention there needs to be PSA's, features, and interviews of Convention Staff personnel and Pendleton people associated with us. Some releases will be 'factual' and some will be 'human interest'. Third, there needs to be the usual photo and text article written during the Convention for the NSS News to be given to Doug either at the end or REAL SOON after the Convention ends so that Doug can get it into the Sept or October NEWS issue. A lot of the material can be generated well before the deadlines and almost be a 'canned' type news release. I suggest that the person(s) involved agree on a computer/media/software system to be used so that nothing has to be produced twice or 'typed' into a computer more than once. The rest then is cut-and-paste and updating.

ADVERTISING: This job will entail local advertising, coupon specials for the attendees, NSS News inserts (working with the P/PR and Program committees) while staying within the protocols of the NSS directives on public exposure.

PROGRAM CHAIR: This job is the one that produces the Convention Program we

live by during the Convention. It determines who gets time and when/where they get it. It allocates space. It coordinates with all the various I/O Chairs, Section Chairs, BOG members, COG Chair, Convention Staff, various vendors, etc. to make sure that everyone connected with the Convention has the warm-fuzzy feeling that they are personally cared for. I recommend that two people who are VERY good friends and organizers do this job. One to handle the facility side, and one to handle the personal correspondence. This job will involve A LOT of phoning and letter writing until the Convention begins, and then a lot of sweating and pleading for people to be reasonable during the Convention. After the Convention, a nervous breakdown is permitted, but not until then. I recommend that the facility person be the one with the keys and a list of who in Pendleton is responsible for each room and facility, and expect to spend the Convention running around opening, closing, finding, and preparing things. The 'people' person needs to hang around the Convention HQ office a lot and deal with the poor souls who can't find their room/facility or want to change things agreed to months earlier.

FACILITIES -

Rochelle is going to be overall coordinator. These jobs will work directly with us before, during and after the Convention. Security, Registration, Campground, and Vendors Chairs will work directly with her.

SECURITY: This Convention will probably not require 'us' to staff the security of the campground and facilities. I have worked hard on this so far to get it that way. However, I need someone to be my Security Chief to talk with local authorities, our own Staff, and the people actually doing the security job so that things go smoothly. I need one of 'us' actually DIRECTING security operations.

REGISTRATION: Rochelle and I will take care of the database development and pre-registrations prior to the Convention. But a day or two prior and during the Convention we need the usual dedicated souls who will work their fannies off welcoming people to our little bash, handing out the packets, taking in money accurately (Ro gets really pissed if you don't), and operating our lost and found table. Whoever runs Registration is also encouraged to help Rochelle and me develop the forms, tracking and logging systems, and processing procedures so that the transition from Pre- to During-Convention operations go as smoothly as possible. Prior experience is not required, but common sense and a sense of humor is. The Registration area is the first impression that the road-numb arrivee gets of us and I want it to be a good one.

CAMPGROUND: This job needs to be run by someone who has been to, and camped at, at least 5-10 Conventions. I recommend that this person come to Pendleton next year after the Indiana Convention and walk the ground with us to see what the problems and possibilities are for parking, camping and RV'ing. This person will layout the sites, answer questions by arrivees, answer directly to me, keep the location map of grottos up-to-date, and work with Facilities, Security, and Transportation as a super-committee. Ice and the Campfire are part of this job. The community has taken the Ice problem as a collective challenge and assured us that under no circumstances will there be an ice shortage. There will be a lot of stress the first two days of the Convention with this job.

FACILITIES: This job will be for the techno-whiz who knows all the rooms, where they are, what power, capacity, water, chairs, A/V, etc they contain, when they are available, and what they cost. This person will work with Rochelle very closely.

VENDORS: This job coordinates Indoor, Outdoor, and Consignment Vendors to include the NSS Bookstore.

TRANSPORTATION: Will coordinate trips, tours, shuttles etc., for anyone who has a legitimate need to go somewhere and doesn't want to use their own car. Will work with Program, Facilities and Special Events Chairs to get it done.

Day Care: We want to try some new things here. The person who takes this job will work with people in the Pendleton community to establish a Day Care program for the Convention. We hope to have trips, local involvement, meals, etc at a reasonable cost. We want to try and free up maximum time for the parents to enjoy the Convention. The person running this program should also try and come up with some 'family events' which the community wants to try as a part of the Oregon Trail 150th Anniversary celebration.

SPECIAL EVENTS: This job includes catering lunches, the Howdy Party, the Banquet, and evening entertainments. Also works with the Facilities people to put on the Speleo-Olympics and the Auction.

HOSPITALITY: This is to be a kiosk operation near/at Registration to orient people to the activities/tours/trips/sights/shopping/antiques etc in the Pendleton area and the Columbia Basin. We will have a local tourism person working with you.

TRAILER: There is a trailer which needs to be hauled from Indiana to Oregon next year at the close of the Convention. I need a volunteer to do this. I also need a volunteer to house it between Conventions. Some of the stuff needs to be accessible to us during the year. Some of it can wait for daylight during the Convention. The Willamette Valley is only one possibility. It or the Pendleton area make the most sense. Dry is good. Dry and warm is better.

MISCELLANEOUS STAFF: Before, during, and after the Convention, there are about 10-50 other jobs that rear up and need help. I have worked on about 10 Convention staffs doing odd jobs, Chair and Co-Chair jobs. Every one of them is vital to the success of the Convention. The Convention needs these people or it wouldn't ask. My goal is to use the minimum amount necessary, but I do need a stable of volunteers to help. I also believe in recognition of the people who do the work. If you do your job (or someone else's), you will get the credit.

NEW SPLENDOR IN CAVE OF THE WINDS, COLORADO

-- William R. Halliday, M.D.

The November 1991 NSS Board of Governors meeting was held in the Museum of Natural History in Denver. On the following day, attendees had the opportunity of a very special trip to Cave of the Winds, just west of nearby Colorado Springs. I was fortunate in having as guide, Donald Davis, notable Colorado cave historian and digger-extraordinary in some of the most unctuous cave mud, I have ever met. With him and a few others, (including Southeastern NSS Board members, Wayne Marshall and Bill Stringfellow) I had the privilege of visiting the undeveloped "Manitou Grand Caverns" part of the complex then, the amazing recent discovery called "Silent Splendor".

Along the way to these areas, our glimpses of parts of the show cave appeared so different from my last visit (in early 1952) that I took the whole show cave tour later (at half price, as a NSS member). Mostly for the better, it really has changed a lot from the dark, gloomy, dry speleothem-poor cave I remembered. Now it appears bright and clean, with new indirect lighting and no greenery around lights. New trails and trail surfaces, new waterfall pools, new historical guide patten (most of it accurate), maybe some newly placed stalagmites-- it's a brand-new, neat-looking show cave. The only really discordant notes are surprisingly unattractive use of colored lighting and retention of the ugly old pile of rusting hairpins. Even the wire mesh which separates the show cave's notable aragonite helictites from greedy tourist fingers has been upgraded.

As presently known, the Cave of the Winds system is comprised of four once-separate caves, inter-connected and enlarged by digging. (Canyon-bottom Pedro's and Huccacove Caves are not part of the system but, also have been enlarged by a modern generation of Colorado cave-diggers.)

First discovered was a small part of Cave of the Winds itself, publicized in 1880 by the Reverend R.T. Cross before George Snyder's breakthrough into the main part of the show cave. When he lost control of that show cave, Snyder briefly opened a competing cave nearby: Manitou Grand Caverns, with a chamber much larger and more impressive than anything in Cave of the Winds. Between was a small third cave eventually connecting both show caves. This third cave and Manitou Grand Caverns currently are the site of commercial wild cave tours.

In addition to taking the wild cave tour on our own, our small group was privileged to crawl through several barrel gates into newly excavated areas with pristine speleothems. In several areas are large clumps of intricately intertwined helictites. Unusual frost-crystal indentations in clay and strange unattached vermiform concretions in sand also are notable. But, Donald remarked that the helictite clumps here were nothing compared to those in "Silent Splendor" and he was correct.

The discovery of "Silent Splendor" was as extraordinary as its content. After "ordinary" horizontal digging out a type of wet clay that declines to leave shovels, buckets and crawlway walls and ceilings, they found a vertical lead. Digging upward, through the same miserable stuff, they went through about 30 feet of narrow chimney with only one or two small open spaces. Finally, they broke out into a spacious room with encouraging speleothems. At its upper end was the over-hanging void of a still-higher chamber: "Silent Splendor". Entering it required a combination of bolting and lassoing a convenient stalagmite.

"Silent Splendor" is only a short, sloping clay-floored corridor but, it contains patches of some of the world's most magnificent speleothems. Here are clumps of aragonite helictites more than a foot long and big nest-like clumps of calcite(?) helictites which by far surpass all those found elsewhere in the cave and are truly of world class. Also, giant complexes of aragonite needles (some sprouting from pure white calcite dripstone) and so much more that any speleomineralogist (and most any cave photographer) would want to spend days there. But, visitation is stringently controlled to protect the environment which produced and maintains these wonders.

Donald mentioned that "Silent Splendor" is only about 30 feet from a well-known chamber in the show cave and the management is considering a tunnel for tourist access. These extra-ordinary features appear highly vulnerable to even minor environmental change. Serious planning of any development of "Silent Splendor" should include study of state-of-the-art environmental control in Italy's, Grotta Grande del Vento de Frasassi and emplacement of a similar system here. Otherwise, the world -- and the management of Cave of the Winds -- is likely to be much the poorer.

(Editor's Note--Thanks Bill for this interesting article. I plan to use your Hawaii and New Zealand cave reports in the next issue.)

CHILLIWACK VALLEY, B.C., CANADA

--by Larry McTigue

On Sat. Feb. 29th, Dick Garnick, Greg Hollenbeck, Rob Lewis and myself decided to check out an area of limestone on the north side of the valley we hadn't been to before. (Gee that was the last trip I took too. I haven't been caving for quite awhile!) It was a stiff hike up to a flat bench where we suspected some sinkholes might be found. We were excited when we came across a rather large, deep sink in the forest but, it soon turned to disappointment when no cave entrance could be seen. Another steam-shovel cave as we like to call them. Most likely requiring an inordinate amount of digging. After extensively searching the woods on the level bench, we turned our attention to ascending the hill on the west side of the bench. We soon ran out of the limestone contact but, found an open meadow with a view. By now, everyone was hot and tired from walking around so, we plopped ourselves down on the ground to eat our lunch. Light rain and drizzle had been falling on us earlier so, we were delightfully surprized while eating to have the rain stop and see the sun peek out from behind some white puffy clouds. We even got to point out to Greg (this was his first trip to the Chilliwack) some of the snow-covered peaks, near patches of blue sky, where we've found caves on the south-side of the valley. Returning to the sinkhole, Dick followed a survey string, left most likely by a timber cruiser, right to the entrance of a small cave!

It's a tight crawlway-type cave but, it has some interesting speleothems. We all hiked around somemore hoping to find a bigger cave but, had no more luck that day. Rob did hike up the hill to the north onto another limestone bench higher up and reported having to turn back, because it was getting late, just when he spotted some interesting solution features. Dick, Rob and Greg have since been back and report finding a new limestone area on the south-side of the valley. It requires high-clearance or a 4x4 to get access to it.

WARTH'S CAVE TRIP REPORT

Participants: Mike Compton, Howard Hoyt, Steve Sprague, Jackie Harris & Charles Rogerson

(Editor's Note: Two articles on this trip were submitted to me. One was from Mike Compton and the other from Howard Hoyt. Both were nearly identical as to details so, to avoid repetition and in the interest of saving space, I decided to combine the two as best I could. I apologize to Mike and Howard for having had to do this.)

On Saturday March 7th, members of both Puget Sound Grotto and Cascade Grotto drove out toward Issaquah to visit Warth's Cave. They took Steve's 4x4 to see if they could get closer to the cave but, found a gate across the road they intended to use. Driving up another road, they found a trail to walk on but, it required a bit more of a hike to get to the cave.

They hiked about half a mile before meeting some other hikers who told them they were on the wrong trail. Mike said once they got on the correct trail, they hiked an easy 2 miles on an old railroad grade. Then, a tough $\frac{1}{2}$ mile uphill. This is probably where Howard said he was huffing and puffing along with some of the others. Another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile brought them to the top of the mountain where they watched hang-gliders launching in the distance. Fog moved in periodically, according to Mike but, they did get some views of Seattle and the surrounding area.

Finally, it was off to Warth's Cave. After searching for about 10 minutes, they found it right beside the trail just as the directions they were given said. According to Howard, the area is along a popular hiking trail and so, they had alot of curious onlookers, while they suited up to enter the cave. They even met someone who appeared interested in joining the Grotto.

Warth's is a fissure-type cave and was last visited about 18 years ago by the Cascade Grotto. The cave has a short 20ft side passage in one direction. The main route follows a floor of loose rock and sediment down a 45 degree slope for 25ft to a vertical drop of 10ft. At the bottom of the drop, the cave passage goes 10ft one way and 25ft the other, before choking with sediments. Width of the passage was only about 3ft.

Steve rigged a rope and he and Mike dropped the pit, while the rest watched from above. Howard noted that the cave does not presently look like the map shown in the July 1976 issue of the Cascade Caver on pg.68. The map showed an 11ft pit and then a 16ft pit after that. Perhaps in the last 15 or 20 years, the cave has had alot of sediment wash into it as indicated by Mike. Before Steve and Mike climbed back up, everyone shut off their lights so, Steve could show them his glow-in-th-dark ascenders. Steve joked that he uses them as his third light source. After exiting the cave, they hiked back down the mountain and then drove into Issaquah for pizza.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The remains of Chris Yeager, the caver who suffered a fatal fall in Sistema Cuicateca, Mexico last year were sucessfully removed by a large international team of U.S., Polish and Mexican cavers in February 1992. Tina Shirk, Chris' girlfriend helped organize the recovery. It took 2 weeks just to rig the cave!!(a truly herculean effort since his remains were left nearly 850 meters deep in the cave over a year ago and at the time of the accident it was considered too dangerous and difficult to recover the body.) Once the cave was rigged, it took an additional 39 hours to bring the body to the surface. A proper funeral and burial was held on Feb. 15th in Coatesville, Indiana. (see International News, Apr '92 "NSS NEWS"p104)

1992 NCA REGIONAL MEET

- WHEN:** May 22 - 25, 1992 (Friday - Monday)
- WHERE:** Stanton Crossing, Idaho (see map)
- WHAT:** More caving than you could ever do in one weekend
- COST:**
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Registration: | \$ 5.00 single |
| | \$10.00 family |
| Guide Book: | \$ 5.00 each |
| Banquet: | \$ 5.00 each |

DETAILS:

The site we have chosen for the Regional this year is on the banks of the Big Wood River just 19 miles south of Sun Valley, Idaho. With Craters of the Moon just 45 miles to the east, the Shoshone lava fields just 15-30 miles south, and the Gooding lava fields just 30-50 miles southwest this is in the heart of Idaho's lava tube country.

The campground itself is actually a Fish and Game Sportsman's Access called Stanton Crossing. The facilities consist of shaded grassy and dirt level areas suitable for tents as well as open level areas suitable for RV's. The campground itself will be divided into quiet and noisy areas. We are requesting that all pets be left at home if at all possible. There are two Handicapped Accessible pit toilets. There aren't any water faucets, but the BLM will provide a potable water tank for your drinking and cooking needs. The water in the Big Wood River would be fine for washing, but all water in Idaho should be considered contaminated with Giardia.

For those with a taste for more creature comforts, there is a KOA in Sun Valley, as well as several other RV parks. And if that is not enough, there are several good motels in the Sun Valley area as well as \$2,000.00 a night rooms and condos.

Now for the caving.....There will be caving available for all ages and skill levels. The Tee/Maze system is well suited for family caving. This was my son's first real cave trip at 2 1/2 years old. Pot-O-Gold Cave is a highly decorated and well known lava tube that will offer a fairly strenuous trek without having to squeeze or crawl. Gypsum Cave will give you the opportunity to get down and dirty and do some real squeezing. Craters of the Moon is a National Monument with a self guided tour of several caves. There is also a gated cave in the Monument that will be available to us. Two commercial caves will be open; one is Shoshone Indian Ice Cave and the other is Mammoth Cave. There are literally hundreds of other caves in the area for your enjoyment, including the chance to go cave hunting and find and explore a true 'Virgin' lava tube. To top off all these wonderful trips there is going to be a limited number of scientific or research trips to some very unusual lava tubes. More information on these special trips will be forthcoming. All of the trips will have 'trip

leaders' that know the cave. We will also divide the trips into appropriate categories such as photo trips, slow sightseeing trips, and physically and mentally rigorous trips. The average temperature in these caves is 40 to 50 degrees and most are fairly dry. The only vertical caves in the area consist of single drops at the entrance of 15 to 50 feet. Proper caving gear will be required for all persons on all trips. Everyone knows what proper gear is, but just to make it clear minimum gear should include helmet, helmet mounted main light source and two back up light sources with repair kits and enough power / carbide for twice the estimated trip length, clothing suitable for the environment, non-skid footwear (no cowboy boots or high heels), food and water, and an emergency hypothermia kit (two large plastic trash bags). If you are going on a vertical trip other gear will also be necessary.

Now for the non-caving.....There will be wide range of activities available for the non-cavers in the group although they won't necessarily be pre-planned or lead. There is hiking and mountain biking, and horseback riding in the Sawtooth's; there are scenic drives through the Sawtooth's, the Haggerman Valley, the Big Wood Valley, and of course Craters of the Moon; there is rafting down the Snake and Salmon Rivers; there is world class catch and release fly fishing on Silver Creek; if the drought isn't too bad again this year there will be water sports at Magic Reservoir; there is shopping in Sun Valley and all the activities that support a resort community. If you are interested in anything specific let us know and we will get you any information we can.

The banquet will be on Saturday night and will be a spaghetti and salad feed. The sauce will be meatless for the vegetarians in the group. We are trying to get a guest speaker, (? John Jarvis at Craters of the Moon), to give a presentation during the meal. More on this later. The Magic Valley Grotto has also lined up a live band for Saturday night, but the time and place are not yet determined. No, it will not be in camp.

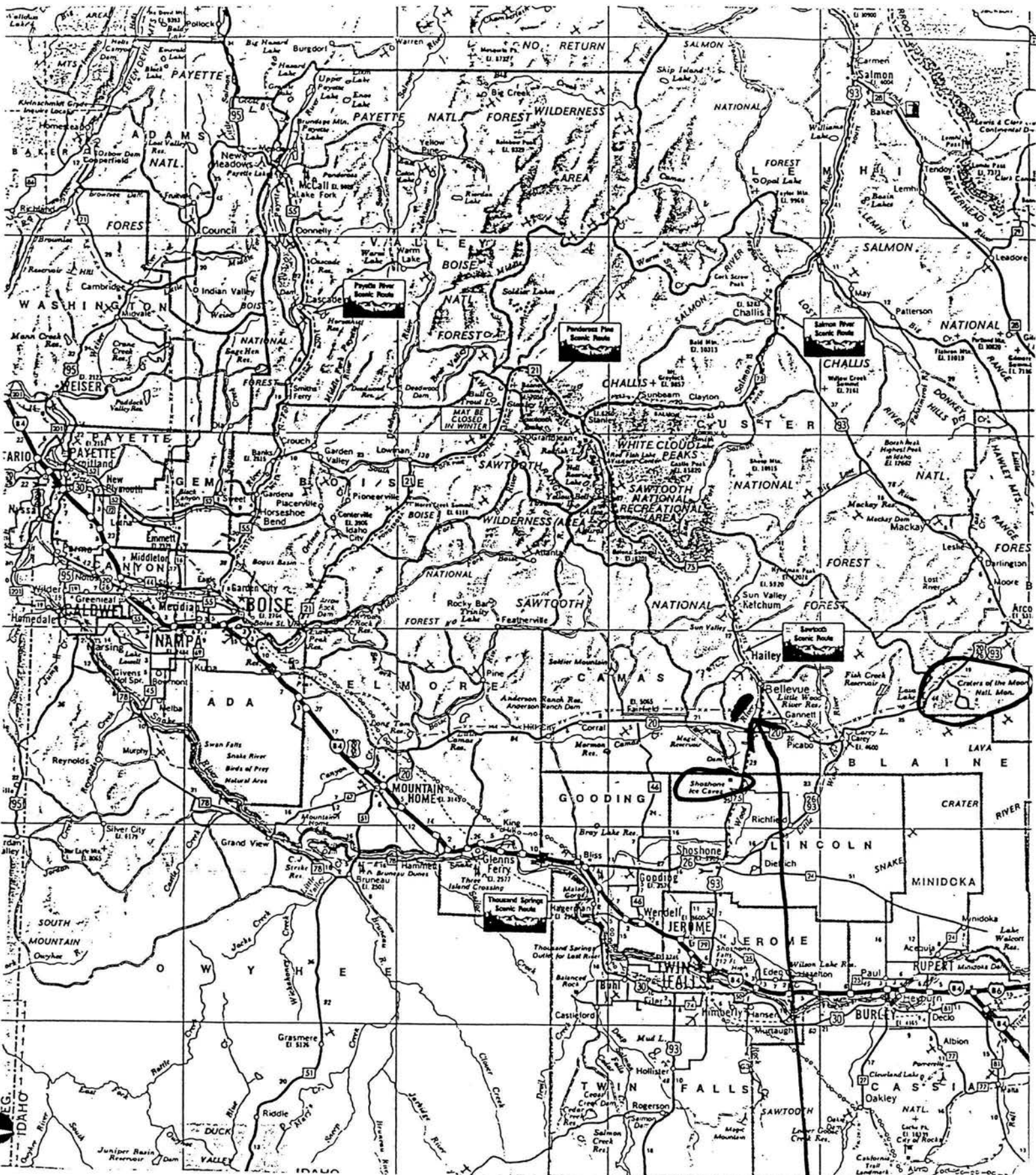
The Shoshone District BLM has been extremely helpful and generous in the planning and execution of this Regional. In addition to providing the water tank and registration tent, they are also providing some transportation to and from the cave areas. A lot of these areas require good ground clearance vehicles but not four wheel drive, unless it rains. They are also helping with administration costs such as the printing of the Guide Book.

If there is anything I have not covered or you want more details on, please feel free to call or write.

David W. Kesner
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Boise, Idaho 83704

Home (208) 939-0979
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AREA MAP OF NW CAVING REGIONAL MEET

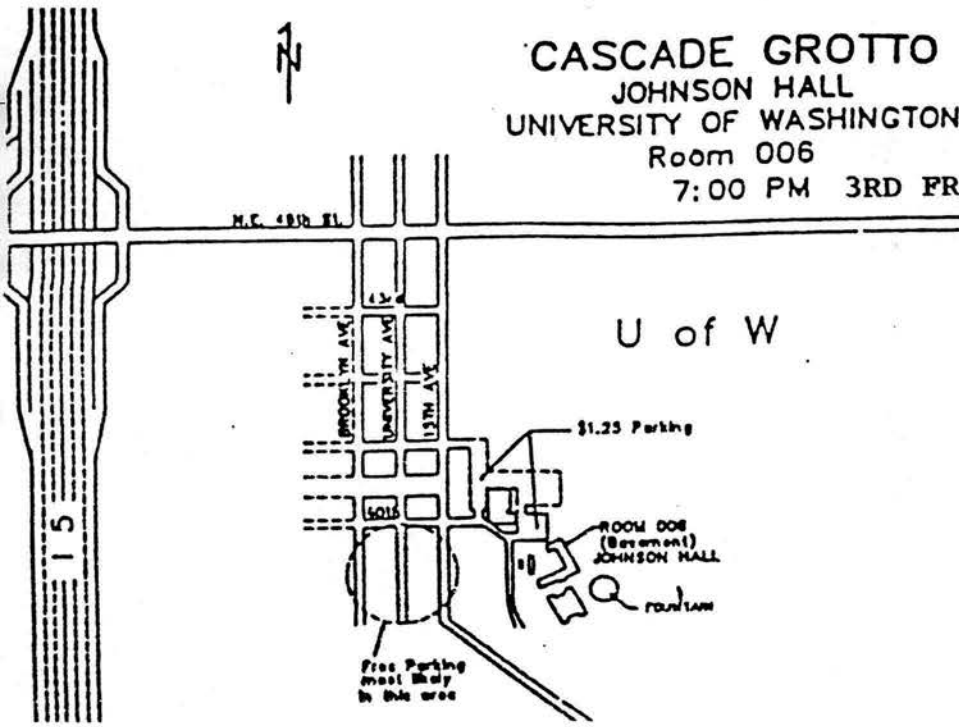


CAVING

(29)

CAMP

CASCADE GROTTO
JOHNSON HALL
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Room 006
7:00 PM 3RD FRIDAY



Cascade Caver
P.O BOX 75663
SEATTLE WA 98125-0663

1992 NCA REGIONAL MEET REGISTRATION FORM

Registration: (make checks payable to: Gem State Grotto)

- Single \$ 5.00
- Family \$10.00
- Guide Book \$ 5.00 each (indicate how many)
- Banquet \$ 5.00 each (indicate how many)
- Total \$

Name of primary Registrant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

NSS #: _____

Grotto affiliation: _____

Names of family members: _____

Camping preferences

- Quiet camp (no noise after 10:00 pm)
- Noisy camp (no complaints about noise)
- Tent space
- RV space
- Group or Grotto area

Comments or questions: _____

Mail to: Gem State Grotto
P.O. Box 1334
Boise, Idaho 83701

