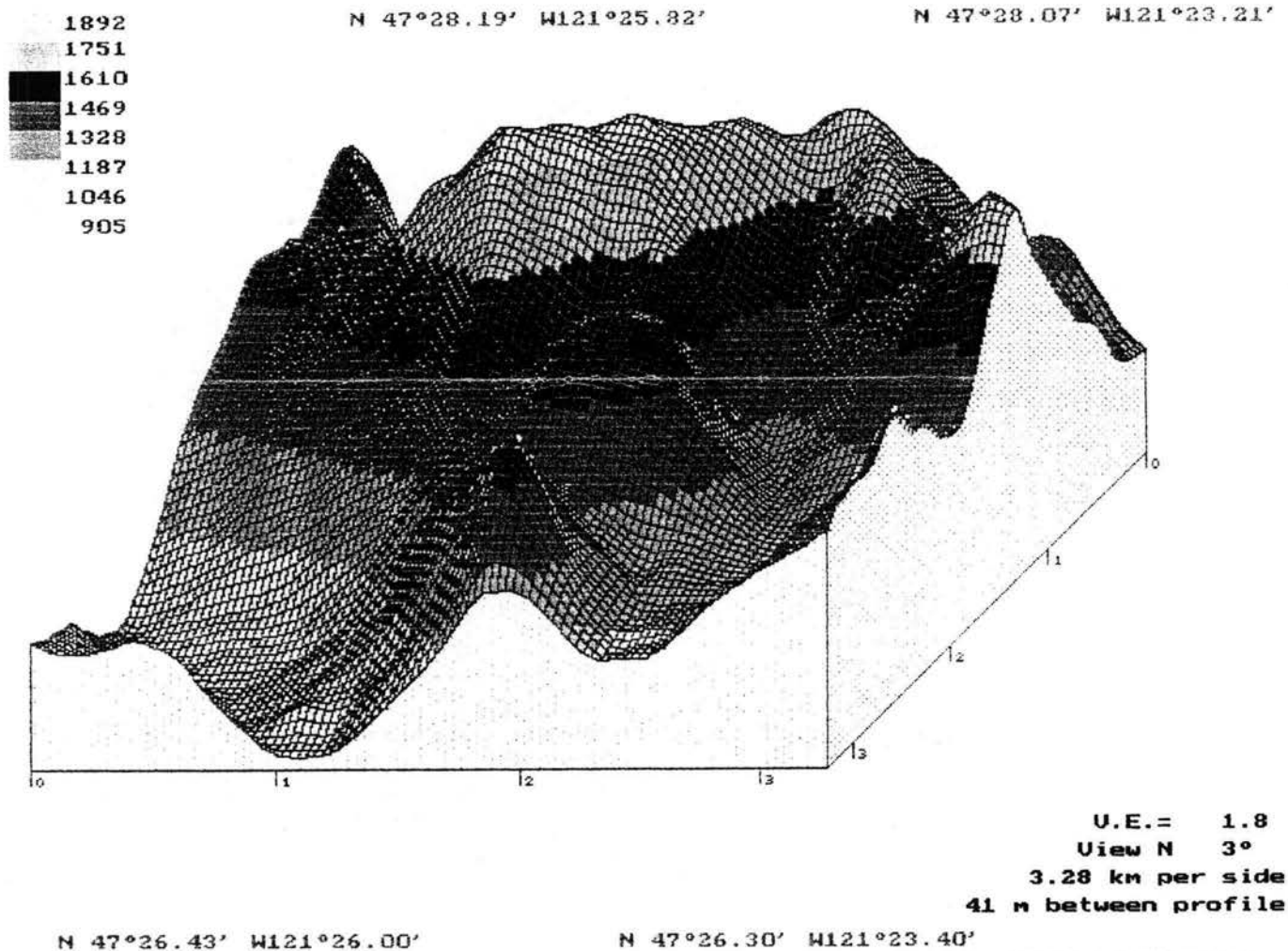




Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

April 1997, Volume 36 No. 4



Cascade Caver

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

GROTTO MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Cascade Grotto is \$15.00 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is free to regular members. Membership for each additional family member is \$2.00 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is \$15.00 per year.

GROTTO ADDRESS

Cascade Grotto; P.O. Box 75663; Seattle, WA 98125-0663. This post office box should be used for both the grotto and for the *Cascade Caver*.

WEB PAGE

<http://www.wingedseed.com/samara/cascade>

GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman	Mark Sherman	(206) 524-8780
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MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, Room 119, in Johnson Hall. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Jim Harp at (206) 745-1010 of any upcoming trips.

April 18	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
April 19	Lighting System Workshop Wendel Pound (206) 863-1649
April 26	Tubal-Cain Mine & B17 crash site Scott Davis (206) 862-1035
April 27	Dynamited Cave's new passages Edd Keudell (503) 233-4696
May 16	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
May 23-25	NCA Convention hosted by the Gem State Grotto at the Lincoln County fairgrounds in Shoshone, Idaho. Jennifer Dorman (208)-331-0279
May 24-26	Papoose Cave Project annual meeting, caving too. Tom Miller 208-736-4651
June 15	Big Four Ice Caves. Larry Mc Tigue (206) 850-8614
Aug 15-18	Eagle Cap Wilderness area. Searching the limestone in the Wallowa Mountains of Oregon for virgin caves. Jerry Thompson (360) 653-7390
October 7-10	1997 Karst and Cave Management Symposium Highlighting Forest Karst Ecosystems - Bellingham, WA Rob Stitt (206) 283-2283 Email: rstitt@halcyon.com

COVER: Cave Ridge is in the center of the diagram, Guye Peak is the small, dark patch in the foreground and Mt. Snoqualmie the highest point in the background. By Mike Fraley using the program *Microdem*, Freeware via FTP at <http://ftp.nadn.navy.mil/pub/oceano/microdem>

Upcoming Grotto Programs

- April** Greg Passmore will be showing slides of Caving in Mexico & Texas. Greg has been caving for many years, with trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, France, England, Germany, Switzerland and much of the US. He has recently moved to Seattle and write computer graphics software for a living.
- May** Survey Gear Check: A short course will be laid out on campus and accurately surveyed before the meeting. Bring your survey gear and check your accuracy. Other gear will be available to try out.
- June** Cave Mapping Workshop. This will be conducted with an eye to the planned work on Cave Ridge this summer.

In the Works:

- NSS member and stereo photography enthusiast Dick LaForge has been asked to loan his 3-D slide program on Lechugilla to the Puget Sound Stereo Photography Club so they can put on a presentation for the Grotto. This will be a "must see" if it materializes.
- Mines of Monte Cristo
- Workshops: Cave Photography, Dye Tracing, Ridge Walking Techniques

Please contact Steve Sprague if you have an idea for a program you would like to see.

Grotto Trip Reports

CHILLIWACK VALLEY TRIP

by Larry McTigue
Southern B.C., Canada
May 18, 1996

Participants:

Dick Garnick, Mike Fraley and Larry McTigue

Mike Fraley and I drove up to Dick's place in Bellingham on Friday night after the grotto meeting and spent the night there. The next day, we got up early and headed into Canada. As usual, the Chilliwack Valley was our destination.

Dick wanted to do some ridge-walking near Memorial Day Cave in hopes of finding yet more caves. On the way, Dick stopped at a spot on the logging road that

takes you to the turn off to the cave to show us some small sinks he had spotted on an earlier trip. At the time he had found them, they had snow in them and were easily visible from the road. Since they were filled with a good amount of sediment, we wasted no more time and drove on up the road to Memorial Day.

After arriving there, we began hiking around and came across some interesting solution fissures or "grikes", as they are known, that were filled with sediment but, no caves to speak of. Dick decided to take Mike into Memorial Day Cave. I had shown Mike the cave previously but, he had only seen part of it. He would get the full tour this time.

Sadly, they were to discover recent damage to some of the rimstone dams and other formations caused by the carelessness of other cavers who have found out about the cave. We are seriously considering gating this cave as a result of this situation. The B.C. Ministry of Forests had previously suggested a gate but, we declined since, we had not noted any damage up to that time. But apparently, controlled access is now necessary to preserve what is not already destroyed.

Not surprisingly, while they went off to explore the cave, I made plans to probe some of the deeper solution fissures with some digging tools in hopes of opening up yet another cave. As a matter of fact, although they were gone quite some time, I was still actively engaged in this pursuit when they came back out. I showed Dick half a dozen different spots I had been digging on and he pointed out other likely areas I had missed. He dug a little bit and then supervised while I dug a little more. But all was for naught, as we did not manage to break through on any of them.

Heading home, we crossed the border back into Washington. Arriving at Dick's, Mike and I thanked Dick for his hospitality and we drove south to Mt. Vernon where I dropped off Mike at his mom's. Then, it was on to Seattle and my own home where I would arrive rather late after a long day spent caving up in Canada.

Editor's Post Script:

In a phone conversation Dick Garnick said that the Ministry of Forests now has funding for the gate and they are evaluating the need given the current use. Dick also stressed the importance of maintaining a good relationship with public land managers: There was plans to quarry away the rock in which Memorial Day Cave resides until the Ministry of Forests was informed about the cave. Those plans were canceled.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

From Caver's Digest:

Date: Thu, 27 Mar 1997 13:40:43 -0500
From: Minton@mail.utexas.edu (Mark A. Minton)
Subject: Deep Pits and Chupacabras

There is an amusing tale about a supposedly extremely deep (>80,000 feet based on fishing line lowered in with a rock tied on the end!) hole in Washington state east of Tacoma on Manastash Ridge that was a hot topic on a bizarre late-night radio program called the Art Bell show. I am not familiar with this program, but a friend gave me a tape of one of the shows concerning this hole (referred to simply as Mel's Hole, after the owner).

From what I could tell this program is a sort of "National Enquirer" style program based on the latest sensationalist pseudoscience. Anyway, the hole sounds interesting from a caver's perspective if indeed there is anything even remotely deep there. I do not know whether that area is even limestone. The hole is supposedly 9 feet in diameter. They claim that when heavy objects are dropped in like, say, a refrigerator, there is no sound heard from it ever hitting bottom. Don't plan to go anytime soon, though, as the last word from the show was that the government had confiscated the property and the owner had left the country! If you want to check this out, you can read synopses of the shows (aired February 21-27) and a Yakima newspaper article about it on the web site <http://www.artbell.com> (especially <http://www.artbell.com/melshole.txt>). They even have archives of the actual broadcasts that you can listen to with an appropriately tricked out web browser.

Art Bell's show first broke the "News" that there was a "Saturn Like Object" following comet Hale - Bopp. Following is the file "melshole.txt" from Art Bell's Web Page listed above:

From Wed. 2/26/97 Yakima Herald-Republic

The HOLE Truth?

"Mel's hole" along Manastash Ridge is 9 feet wide & 15 miles deep - if you believe everything you hear on the radio.

By Wendy Harris
of the Herald-Republic

Radio audiences nationwide were puzzled last weekend by the mystery of "Mel's hole," an alleged

bottomless pit, somewhere near Ellensburg, WA, that can swallow refrigerators without a sound & resurrect dead dogs.

When radio talk show personality Art Bell received a fax last week from a man purporting to have the world's deepest hole on his property, Bell took it to the airwaves.

"I have no idea whether his story is true or baloney," said Bell during a telephone interview Tuesday.

Bell, who hosts the nationally syndicated "Coast to Coast" program, that airs on 328 radio stations across North America, is no stranger to the bizarre. His program regularly features topics that delve into the fringe, whether it's alien abductions, asteroids or crop circles.

During Bell's Friday night show, a man identifying himself as "Mel Waters" recounted the story of a seemingly bottomless pit on his private property along Manastash Ridge, which runs south of Ellensburg.

He claimed that he, like previous property owners, had been dumping trash into the 9-foot-wide hole for years.

"People have been throwing their trash in the well for decades: furniture, household trash, dead cows, building debris, you name it," Mel told Bell. "The hole never filled up, so I got curious, actually obsessed, & began trying to measure the depth of the hole."

Using fishing line and a 1-pound weight, Mel claimed to have fed 80,000 feet of line - or 15 miles worth - into the hole & said he still didn't hit bottom. Because the fishing line only had the strength to hold 20 pounds, he said he couldn't go any deeper for fear of snapping the line, since its cumulative weight was at 17 pounds.

On Monday, Mel returned to Art Bell's program with an update: The military had seized his property Saturday, moved heavy equipment onto it and surrounded it with cement barriers.

"There were armed soldiers," he said.

Mel then wondered if he'd be able to fulfill his wish of having his body tossed into the well after he died. He said he had decided that's how he wanted to go after hearing the legend of the dead hunting dog that was dropped into the pit.

"The guy was out hunting one day & saw his old, departed dog," he said. "The story is the dog came back somehow."

Listeners called in with ideas to help explain Mel's anomaly. But perhaps the greater mystery is: "Who's Mel?"

Soap Lake resident Richard Dawe, who heard the broadcast, tried to track down Mel and his property. And, as the Yakima Herald-Republic confirmed, there is no telephone listing for a Mel Waters, nor do Kittitas County records show any such person owning property along Manastash Ridge or elsewhere in the county.

County emergency officials said they knew nothing about Mel's hole, except from what they'd learned from reporter's questions.

"If you're calling about a big hole in the Manastash Ridge & the big military takeover, we have absolutely no information about that," a nonchalant Kittitas County Sheriff's Office dispatcher said.

Even if Mel's hole does exist, it can't be as deep as he claims, said Steve Reidel, a Richland geologist who teaches at Yakima Valley Community College.

"Technologically, it's a feat beyond humans," he said. "No one has ever drilled a bore hole that deep. Geologically, it wouldn't stay open. The horizontal forces of the Earth are very strong & they would close it off."

Bell said he, too, may never know the truth about Mel's hole, but such is the nature of talk radio.

"You can view it as a whale of a tale or maybe it's true," he said. "That's what happens when you do spontaneous radio. It's fun stuff. What I'm trying to do with the program is something different than normal talk radio fare that is offered everywhere else."

Product Review

Maps on Disc™ Washington

By Dick Garnick

Recently I found a gem of a deal, Maps on Disc™. Maps on Disc™ is a CD-ROM packed full of topographic maps of the north half of the Cascade mountains and more. This disc has all the 7.5 topo maps from as far southeast as Ellensburg Washington to Bellingham Washington in the northwest and the Canadian border to the north. All together there are 256 topographic maps on a CD-ROM disc and its cost is \$40 US. That works out to .15 cents a map. I found the Maps on Disc™ at the REI store in Seattle.

From the help file:

"In the Maps on Disc™ program you can do the following and more:

- Display and print topo maps from the area supplied on the CD-ROM
- Measure distances
- Display the latitude and longitude coordinates at a mouse cursor location
- Display the UTM coordinates at a mouse cursor location
- Display the topo map that contains a given place name
- Go to the map that contains a given latitude or longitude
- Open topo maps by map name

- Display a regional map for the area covered on the CD-ROM
- Click on the regional map to open a topo map at that location
- Display a map legend that explains the map symbols
- Zoom in on a map to show less area
- Zoom out on a map to show more area in less detail
- Go to an adjacent map"

One thing that the Maps on Disc™ won't do is export to other programs. This can be taken care of by zooming in or out to the area you want to transfer. Use the edit and copy function. Paste the copy into your graphics program for use there.

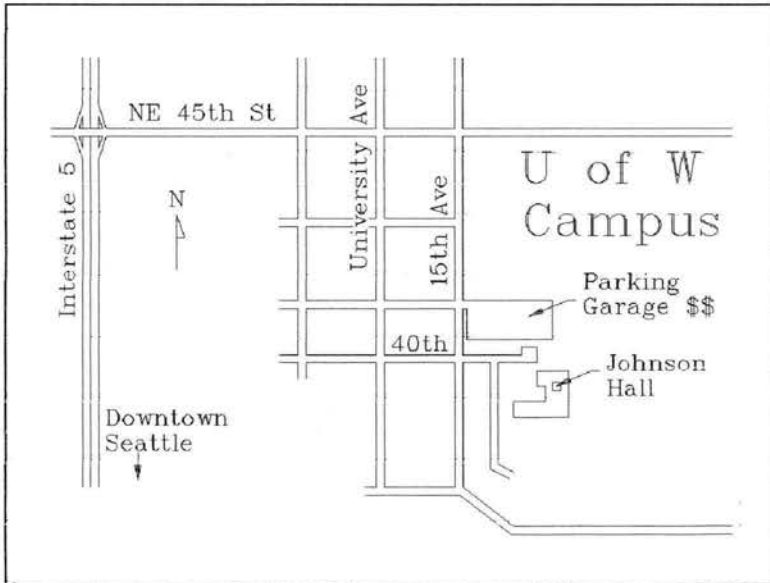
System requirements are WIN95, 486, Pentium or better, CD-ROM drive 10 MB free disk space.

I would highly recommend the program for any one who uses topographic maps and has the proper computer equipment.

You Know It's Springtime When...

From B.C. By Johnny Hart





The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00 pm on the third Friday of each month in room 119 in Johnson Hall on the University of Washington campus.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings



GROTTO MEETING THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 18.

Greg Passmore will talk and show slides on caving in Texas and Mexico.

Cascade Caver
 PO Box 75663
 Seattle, WA 98125-0663



Windy City Grotto
 c/o Ralph Earlandson
 802 S Highland Ave
 Oak Park, IL 60304-1529

