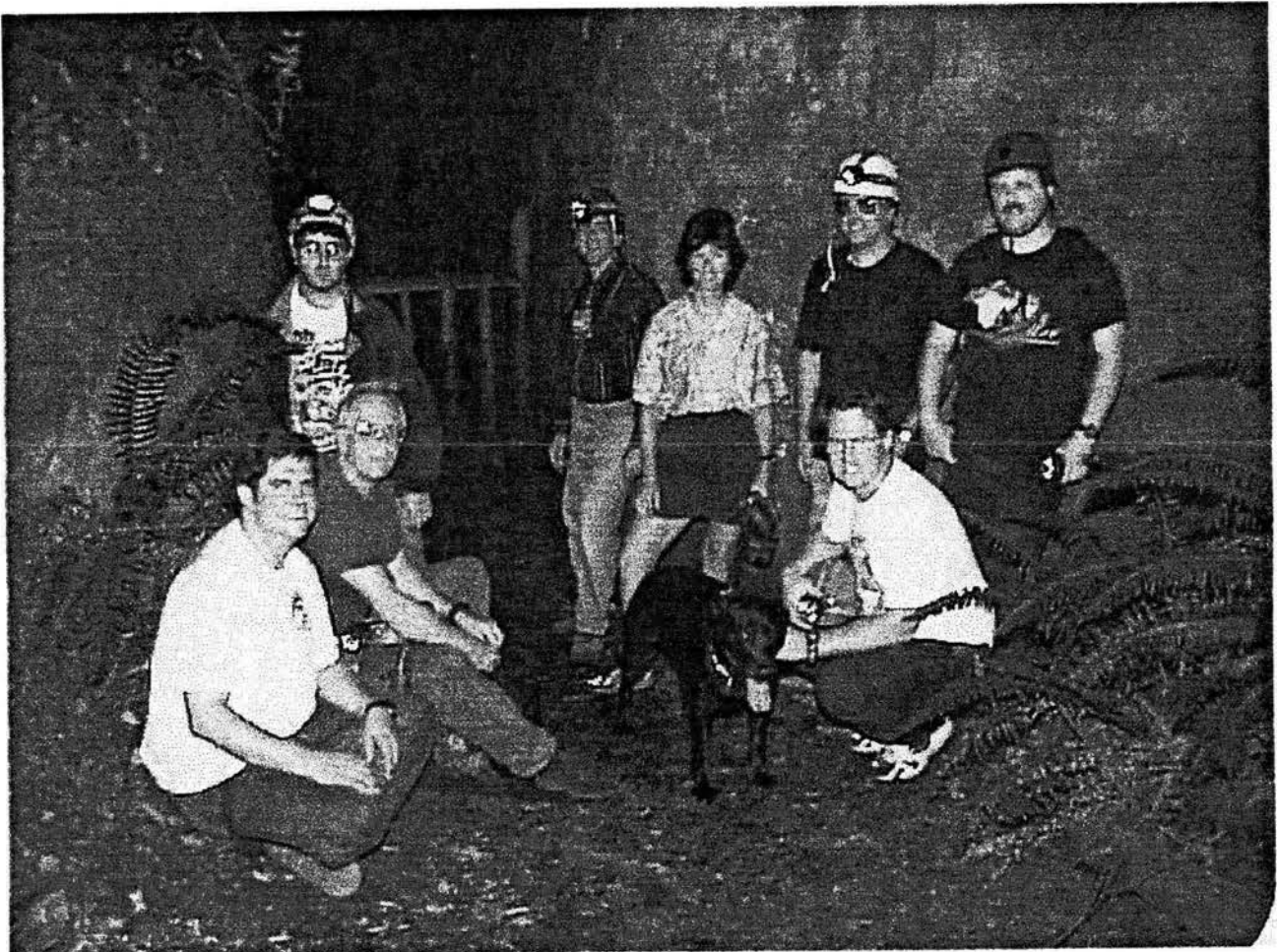




Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

September 1998, Volume 37 No. 9



Tiger Mountain Talus Caves - The August Cascade Grotto Meeting

Special Reminder

There will be a vote to change the bylaws at the September 18 regular grotto meeting.

More details inside.

Please attend this meeting if you possibly can.

Cascade Caver

ISSN 0008-7211

Copyright 1998 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.

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*.

GROTTO OFFICERS

Chairman Mark Sherman (206) 365-5386
Vice Chairman Bruce Frank (425) 746-2928
Sec/Treasurer Lane Holdcroft (206) 783-6534

OTHER POSITIONS

Trip Coord. Jim Harp (425) 745-1010
Librarian Bill & Christine Bennett (425) 255-1466
Regional Rep. Ben Tompkins (206) 546-8025
Editors * Paul Ostby (425) 823-5107
email: postby@iname.com
Mark Sherman (206) 365-5386
email: mas@tc.fluke.com
Steve Sprague (360) 387-3162
email: ssprague@whidbey.net

* Editor of the current issue.

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 (425) 745-1010 of any upcoming trips.

Sept 18	Grotto meeting 7:00 p.m.
Sept 19	Windy Creek Cave. Date subject to change depending on weather and access. Jerry Thompson 360-653-7390
Oct 2	Lava beds national monument. Richard Carlson HDG 503-389-5313
Oct 3-4	Cave Ridge on Sat & Sunday. There will be some vertical work Sat in Newton (party size will be limited), other Saturday caving will depend upon interest and turnout. Jon McGinnis has volunteered to show horizontal cavers around on Sunday. Dave McElmurry 253-813-8740 (hm)
Oct 9-11	Western Regional at Camp Marston hosted by the San Diego Grotto. Carl Diaz SDG 619-561-3815
Oct. 9-12	Columbus day weekend in the Marble Mountains. Steve Knutsen WVG 503-695-2659
Oct 9-14	Marble Mountains. Confirm this, as the weather can be iffy this time of year. Cynthia Ream WVG 503-284-3773
Oct 10-11	Cave ridge. Surveying or just having a good time caving. Beginners welcome. Scott Davis PSG 253-862-1035

COVER: This photo was taken at the August meeting, which was held at the Tiger Mountain Talus Caves. Photo by Steve Sprague.

SPECIAL REMINDER

There will be a vote to change the bylaws at the September 18, 1998 regular grotto meeting.

The September meeting will be held at the usual place: Room 119, Johnson Hall, UW campus. We will not meet at Marymoor Park as planned earlier.

The proposal is as follows:

Change the meeting location to the Mountlake Terrace Library, 23300 58th Ave W, Mountlake Terrace. Meeting time and date are to remain the same.

Discussion:

- Most grotto members live either North of downtown Seattle or on the East side.
- Traffic to downtown is bad, especially for people trying to get into downtown from the East side.
- This location should be easier to get to for the majority of grotto members.
- Free parking is difficult to find in the University District, it is available adjacent to the library.

Please attend this meeting if you possibly can.

NEW NCA WEB SITE

[The following notice was posted on the NWCavers email list. It was posted by Brett Cook, brett.cook@flir.com]

The NCA now has its own web page. The url is:

<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/gorge/7446>

Check it out and send me your feedback. There's also database that Nick Yost designed that needs to be fleshed out. It's not linked to the page yet, but you can check it out at:

<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/gorge/7446/database.htm>

As always, this page is meant to serve the caving community. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on how it might better meet that goal, please send them to me.

Brett Cook

TRIP REPORTS

Trip to Trout Lake July 2-5, 1998

By Roger Cole

Jim Harp and family, Leonard Slack and family and I checked into the lovely new Elk Meadows RV Park on Road 88 just outside Trout Lake on Thursday, July 2nd.

(Tentsites are just \$10 and the facilities are excellent with lots of natural screening between sites.) After dinner we walked over to Trout Lake, picking a variety of wildflowers for the picnic table.

Friday Leonard and kids and Jim and nephew visited Pickings Cave. Here is Leonard's report: "Pickings cave was interesting. We ran into a vast number of gnats for quite some distance (in the dark zone) into the cave. I swallowed several of them. We weren't sure which entrance that we started at but assumed that we were at the upper entrance. After working our way into the cave for a while we didn't really know where we were. We did run into some nice small speleothems but since we were at a junction and weren't sure where we were we decided to turn back. It didn't take long to get back out even though route finding going in was difficult."

After dinner we went back to Trout Lake for fishing and watching the sun set on Mt. Adams.

Saturday the entire group went into Cheese Cave followed by a visit to the natural bridges, where the kids crawled through a couple of tunnels. Saturday evening we drove down to the mouth of the White Salmon River to watch the fireworks show at Hood River.

Sunday, Jim and company left for home while Leonard and kids and I went to Resurrection Cave. After doing the right hand passage the youngest boy needed a potty break and we came out and wimped out of the rest of the cave. From there we searched unsuccessfully for Peterson Prairie Cave and then for Spear Point Cave. We found an entrance and the kids crawled around a little bit but couldn't seem to find much and came back out. Apparently we were not at Spear Point.

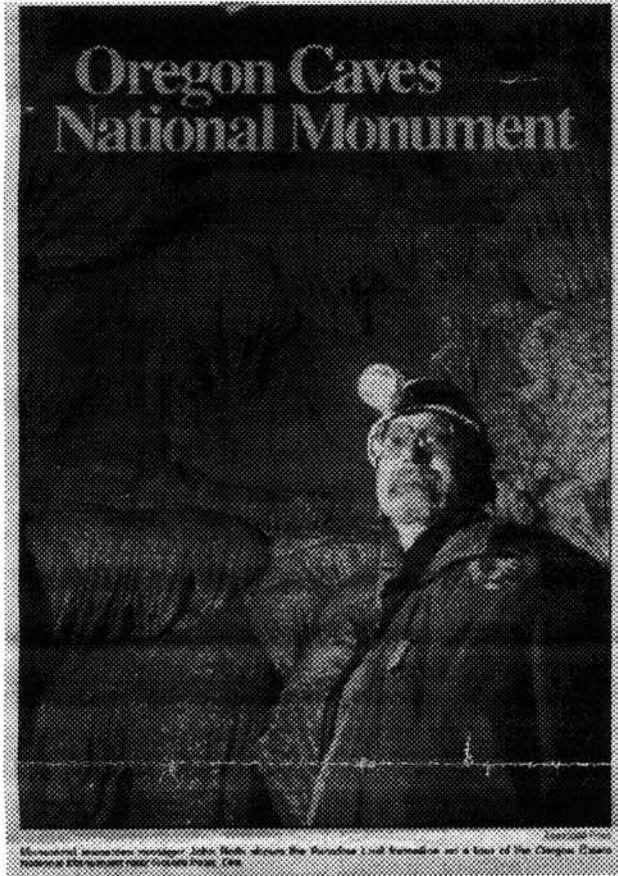
That was it for me. I headed home. Leonard's family was to stay over Sunday night.

We had perfect weather and enjoyed taking it easy for the benefit of the kids.

IN THE NEWS

9-12-98 Everett Herald

Oregon Caves National Monument



Restoration brings back cave as it was 100 years ago

By BARBARA HAHN
Grants Pass Daily Courier

After a decade of work, the Oregon Caves National Monument is sporting a new look.

Actually, it's really more of an old look — one the first cave visitors saw more than 100 years ago when the extensive cavern in the Siskiyou Mountains east of Cave Junction in southern Oregon was discovered.

"This cave now gives you a better cave experience than any other cave," said John Roth, resources manager for the national monument.

Most dramatically, though, the Oregon Caves have been restored to look much more "cave-like." Crevices that had been stuffed with rocks and debris over the years by cave developers seeking to ease passage have been reopened. New lighting highlights unusual rock

formations, and new displays enhance the natural history of the cavern by showing the remains of early cave inhabitants.

Gone are the colored lights once used to spice up rock formations that seem to ooze from the floors and ceilings. Passages appear to fall off and darken into the distance.

The National Park Service spent about \$1.2 million for the entire project and volunteers provided thousands of hours of labor to haul out rubble and clean algae from cave formations as well as inventory cave structures.

Pioneer Elijah Davidson discovered the cave entrance in 1874 when he followed his dog Bruno into a mossy crevice in the side of a mountain. Bruno was after a bear, and oddly enough, a bear is what visitors will now find deep inside the cave.

A new display inside the cave contains the bones of a black bear that were discovered by cave restorers in March.

"This is the only prehistoric-bone exhibit in a show cave," Roth explained.

Maintenance staff members David Hodges and Don Young discovered the bones as they were removing broken flowstone beneath the trail. While neither the bones nor the overlaying flowstone have been dated, the date of other flowstone nearby has been established at upward of 10,000 years old, Roth said.

In the rebuilding of the area, the trail was routed around the discovery site and a special lighted box was built to display the bones in the same place they were discovered.

The restoration project also has brought to light a wealth of discoveries that show the importance of the Oregon in preserving mammal bones of ancient times.

"The Oregon Caves likely is already the most important paleontologic cave site in Oregon or Washington and one of the most important such sites in the Pacific Northwest," Roth said. "Oregon Caves has the oldest known grizzly in the Americas and has an extensive, although partly destroyed, area of scratch marks and a few prints."

The grizzly bones have now been dated to be more than 50,000 years old. Other ice age fossils found include the bones of two jaguars, two other bears, a bobcat, a mountain beaver, bats, moles, voles, wood rats and squirrels.

"We think now that bears hibernated in the caves over a millennium," Roth said.

Restoration work began in 1986 when monument personnel realized that changes made to the caves, over the past years were actually harming the cave. The old asphalt trail leached oil into the cavern; florescent lights and lint from the clothes of visitors promoted the growth of algae; and an unnatural airflow caused formation-damaging ice to form during the winter. Additionally, heavy doors at cave entrances blocked bats and possibly other animals from their natural habitat.

Now, all the lights have been converted to incandescent fixtures, with the exception of one new light, a black light, which is focused on a cave formation known as Angel Falls. This light was added as an educational tool to show visitors the luminescence of some cave features. The lighting also helps show climate changes over thousands of years, by highlighting growth patterns of calcite structures — much like growth rings indicate the age of a tree.

The new incandescent lighting has already made a dramatic impact on slowing the growth of algae within the cavern, Roth said,

New doors to the cavern also allow for bats to use the cave.

"Once we replaced the gates, it took a few years for the bats to start using the cave again," Roth said. Now, the cave is again home to big-eared Townsend's bats, a rare species that hibernates in the cave during the winter months.

Finally, the walking surface within the cave has been replaced with a special cement that provides better traction as well as eliminates oil leaching into the cave. Rusting metal railings also have been replaced with Fiberglas railings, which are warmer to the touch and so may be better used by visitors, Roth said.

The cave wasn't restored to absolute pristine conditions, though. Purposely left is a patch of historical graffiti penciled into flowstone by visitors in the 1800s. Names of these early explorers, including a class of geology students, are still visible.

"In 1917 the Forest Service tried to erase these but calcite had already formed over it and they couldn't get rid of it," Roth said. Also left as is are the rock staircases built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The stairs are still needed and it was questionable whether removing them would damage the cave.

In huge caves, such as Carlsbad Caverns of New Mexico, "you don't get a sense of the intimacy of the cave," Roth said. The Oregon Caves, by contrast, give visitors a close-up look at formations.

While tours, run by the private company that also operates food and lodging services at the monument, are the only way to view the cave formations, the experience now more closely mimics the experience of the early cave explorers.

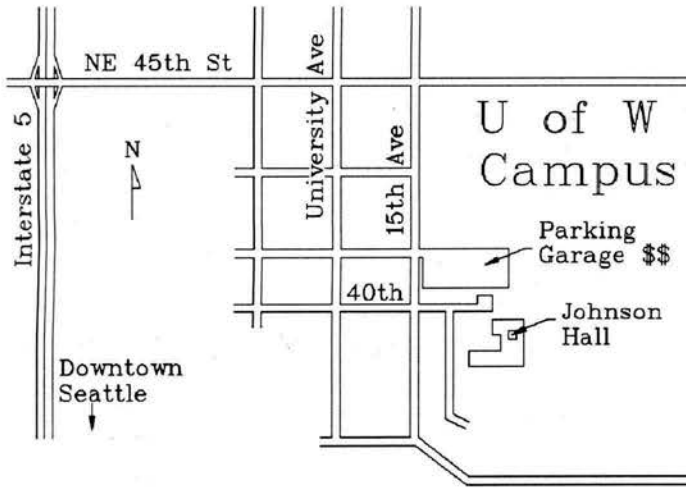
As Roth explained, "You still have to stoop down, and bend sideways."

IF YOU GO: The caves are located in the southwestern part of Oregon. From I-5 south take the Grants Pass exit, follow Highway 199 toward the coast to Cave Junction. From Cave Junction, take Highway 42 about 20 miles to the caves.

Cave tours are offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Sept. 28; starting Sept. 29 tours are offered five times a daily. The caves close Nov. 30 and reopen in March.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-11. Children younger than 6 must be 41 inches tall and pass a safety and ability test.

Information: 541-592-3400.



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

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

