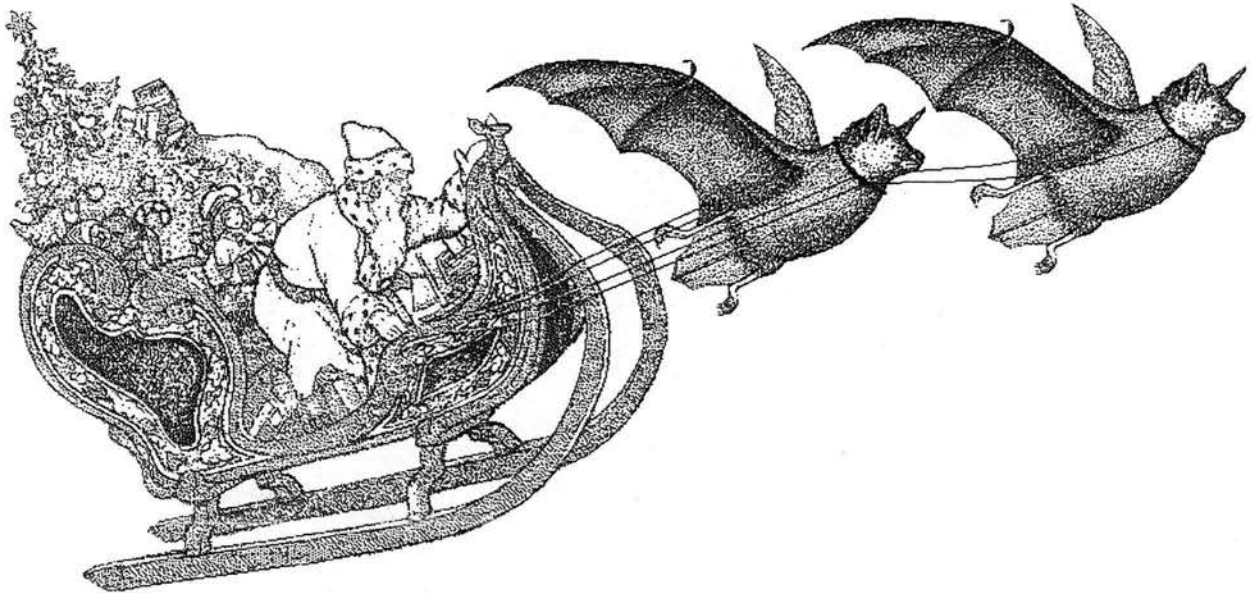




Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

November/December 1998, Volume 37 No. 11 & 12



Special Notice - Christmas Party!

The December meeting will be held at Paul and Katrina Ostby's house.

Date: Friday, December 18th

Time: Arrive after 5:30pm, Dinner at 7:00pm

See page 55 inside for directions and details.

See you there!

Cascade Caver

ISSN 0008-7211

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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. Subscription via email is \$12.00 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) 524-8780
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.	Dave Hopf	(206) 546-8025
Editors	Paul Ostby	(425) 823-5107
	email: psostby@iname.com	
	Mark Sherman	(206) 524-8780
	email: mas@tc.fluke.com	
*	Steve Sprague	(360) 387-3162
	email: sspague@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 Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58th Ave. W. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

CASCADE GROTTO ELECTION SLATE

Here are the nominations from the November meeting:

Chair: Cyril Colbeck

Steve Sprague

Vice Chair: Lane Holdcroft

Sec./Treas: Katrina Ostby

Ballots are included in this issue for voting members, if you receive your *Caver* by email the ballot will be mailed to you. Please return the ballot by the end of the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Jim Harp at (425) 745-1010 of any upcoming trips.

Dec. 18	Grotto Meeting 5:30 p.m. Christmas Party at the Ostby house. The next page has the details.
Jan. 15	Grotto Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 23	Ridge walking in the Arlington area. We will walk between two known limestone areas, looking for more outcrops. contact: Steve Sprague 360-387-3162
May 29-31	NCA will be hosting a NCRC rescue seminar at Peterson Prairie. It will feature a barbecue pork & chicken dinner as an NCA fund-raiser.
July 12-16	NSS Convention at Twin Falls County Fairgrounds - Filer, Idaho. Contact David Kesner at (208) 939-0979 or email at drdave@micron.net

COVER: Santa and his Reinbats! Hey, it makes more sense than flying deer! Portions of the graphic are from the book *The Wild Christmas Reindeer* by Jan Brett. The graphic was assembled by Jennifer Sprague.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The December meeting will be held at Paul and Katrina Ostby's house.

Date: Friday, December 18th

Time: Arrive after 5:30pm,

Dinner at 7:00pm

What to bring: Side dish or desert

(NO CHIPS!)

The Ostby's will cook a ham!

How to get there:

FROM THE NORTH:

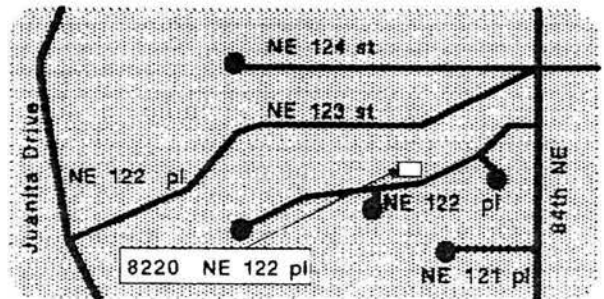
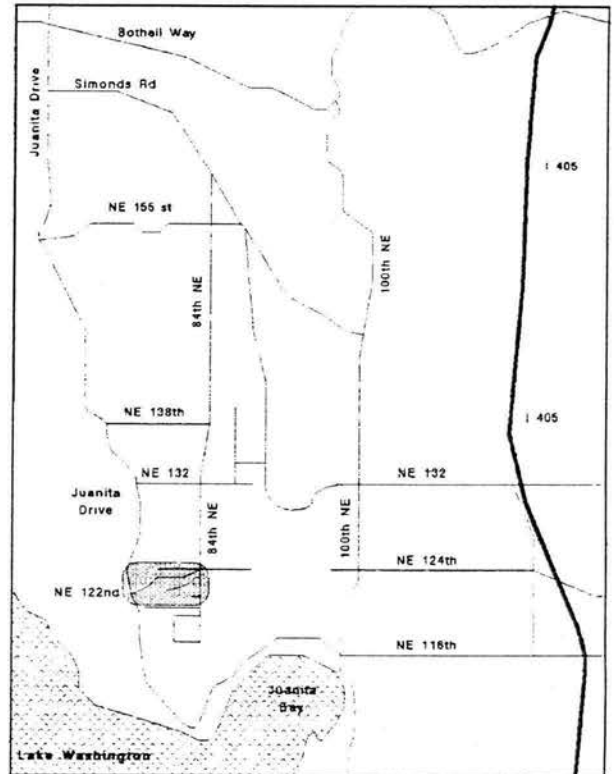
Head south on I405. Take exit 20, NE 124th St. Turn right (west) on 124th and go about 1.5 miles. At the bottom of the hill there is a traffic light. Turn left at this light onto 100th NE. Head south on 100th to the second traffic light. Turn right onto NE 116th / Juanita Drive. Follow Juanita Drive for about 2.3 miles to a flashing yellow light, then turn right onto NE 122nd Pl. Go up to the 5-way stop and turn a sharp right onto 84th NE. Take the first road on the right (NE 122nd Pl). Ours is the seventh house on the right.

FROM THE SOUTH:

Head north on I405. Take exit 20A, NE 116th St. (Past Kirkland but before Totem Lake). Turn left (west) on NE 116th. After about 1.5 miles there is a traffic light (at 98th NE) and 116th becomes Juanita Drive. Go straight through the light. Follow Juanita Drive for about 2.3 miles to a flashing yellow light, then turn right onto NE 122nd Pl. Go up to the 5-way stop and turn a sharp right onto 84th NE. Take the first road on the right (NE 122nd Pl). Ours is the seventh house on the right.

FROM NORTH SEATTLE / LAKE CITY / MOUNTLAKE TERRACE:

Head east on Lake City Way / Bothell Way until you reach Kenmore. Turn right onto 68th Ave NE. 68th becomes Juanita Drive. Follow Juanita Drive for about 5 miles to a flashing yellow light, then turn left onto NE 122nd Pl. Go up to the 5-way stop and turn a sharp right onto 84th NE. Take the first road on the right (NE 122nd Pl). Ours is the seventh house on the right.



Paul & Katrina Ostby
8220 NE 122nd Place
Kirkland, WA 98034
425-823-5107

IN OTHER GROTTO NEWS

New VICEG Officers

NCA Chairman, Jim Harp, got the following election results from the Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group:

President - Rick Coles
Vice-President - Jim Jacek
Secretary - Ray Smith
Treasurer - Gerry Fowler

TRIP REPORTS

Halloween Trip

By Larry McTigue
Participants: Steve Sprague, Mike Fraley and Larry McTigue

On Sat. Oct. 31st, Steve, Mike and I set out for Sumas Mountain Cave in Whatcom County to do some digging. Actually (as usual), I was going to do the digging, while the others watched and lent their moral support.

Luckily, we brought our rain gear, since we had to put up with showers off and on all day, on the hike up to the cave and back down the mountain. We made a stop at Moonmilk Cricket Cave on the way up to show the entrances to Steve who was making his first trip to this area. He took some video footage of Mike and I at the uphill insurgence and got a GPS reading also. Then, we continued the hike up the ridge to Sumas Mountain Cave.

We were delighted upon arriving at the entrance to find that the cave (which is normally completely filled with water) was now dry. Winter rains apparently fill the cave and it has such a small drain that it takes all Summer and into the middle of Fall before the water level goes down enough to permit one to enter it. On most of the trips we've made up there, we've found the cave flooded shut.

Steve was a bit short on time (he had to get back home early to go trick or treating). So, while I commenced digging, Mike took him on a tour of the rest of the cave which he hadn't seen before. It's a small maze-type limestone cave with nicely fluted and dissolved walls and passageways but, it has no speleothems. Most likely this is due to the fact that the cave is filled with water most of the year. Any formations that do grow when the water

level is down, would quickly be dissolved, when it fills up again.

I dug by myself for quite awhile and then decided to take a break and go outside and take off the water-proof hip waders that I had worn into the cave in the event that we encountered deep water in the back of the cave where our dig was located. As it turned out, I didn't need them and they were now a bit uncomfortable to wear while digging.

Upon exiting the cave, I found Mike and Steve milling about in the rain. Steve had taken a GPS reading and was now preparing to hike back down the ridge and head for home. We said our good-byes and then Mike and I went back in to continue digging.

After some time had passed and little progress had been made, Mike took a break from his duties of pulling back the loose dirt I was digging out and piling up behind me. He went over to look at one of the few remaining deep pools of water in the cave which was located nearby and spotted some tiny white creatures floating on the surface and wriggling around. I took a look at them and they are most likely flatworms which Rod Crawford also found in a pool in Windy Creek Cave which was named the "Flatworm Pool". We also spotted some longer but thinner pink worms wriggling around in the mud below the surface of the water.

I went back to continue the dig while Mike took a nap. Progress was hampered by the low-ceiling in the crawlway which made the digging rather difficult. After awhile, Mike headed out of the cave once again, leaving me to fend for myself. I got my second wind and really started moving the dirt out of the crawl. Unfortunately, after moving a considerable amount of fill, the passageway got too tight and started heading up toward the surface of the ground above the cave. Most likely, it is just a small tube carved out by a seasonal in-feeder stream that enters the cave from above.

At this point, Mike returned only to be told the disappointing news. It was just as well though as it was getting darker outside as evening approached. So, we decided to pack up and hike back down the mountain. before it got completely dark. We had a good time nevertheless and I got in my quota of digging for the month.

CAVE CONSERVATION

SOUTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY ACQUIRES HISTORICAL CAVE PROPERTY

November 16, 1998

by: Mark Wolinsky, Acquisitions Chairman

The Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi) received its first cave preserve in West Virginia on October 27, 1998. The 29.5 acre preserve is home to the historically significant Lobelia Saltpeter Cave, named after the nearby community and saltpeter mining artifacts found in the cave that were likely used in mining operations during the Civil War. Though no artifacts remain, saltpeter mining is still evidenced by trenches cut into the dry clay floor of the cave.

A legacy of ownership by persons dedicated to the protection of caves continues. The land and cave were donated to the cave conservancy by Mr. Marshall Fausold, a long time caver who wanted the cave and the land above to be protected from development. Mr. Fausold purchased the property from another well known caver - Peter M. Hauer.

Lobelia Saltpeter Cave was explored and surveyed by the Pittsburgh Grotto of the National Speleological Society in 1992 and is over 1,075 meters in length. The upper levels of the cave are dry and contain the nitrate rich soils used in the making of Gunpowder. A sizable stream occupies the lower levels. The cave is located in a watershed known as the Upper Spring Creek Valley and plays a significant role in local karst hydrology. Future plans include an inventory of the cave flora and fauna and research into historical uses of the cave.

The SCCi is a non profit 501 (c) 3 corporation focused on the preservation of significant caves and karst lands in the Southeastern United States. The conservancy owns or leases 26 caves on 13 cave preserves totaling 662 acres in six states. Management of these unique underground resources ranges from open access to experienced cavers, where that access does not harm threatened or endangered cave wildlife, to limited or no access where the cave has sensitive biological, historical, anthropological or geological conditions. Properties under management of the SCCi have access and management policies adopted by a board and may be obtained by writing the Office of the Secretary, 356 O'Brian Drive, Stone Mtn., GA 30088 or you may visit their informative web site at www.scci.org.

IN THE NEWS

The Herald - Tuesday, October 13, 1998

BATS' SONAR ABILITY HUMBLING, RESEARCHER FINDS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bat sonar is so much better than anything devised by human technology that the little creatures seem to enjoy rubbing it in.

"The bats were essentially turning to us and thumbing their noses," researcher James Simmons of Brown University said of tests aimed at challenging bats' sonar ability.

Simmons' experiments, reported in Monday's issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, are aimed at improving the Navy's sonar to help detect mines under water.

Sonar systems send out a sound and then listen for the echo to bounce back. The time it takes to return tells how far away something is and in which direction. A major factor is the ability to differentiate between two echoes that arrive at almost the same time.

At the wavelengths under study, electronic sonar can differentiate between echoes about 12 millionths of a second apart. With a lot of work, that can be cut to 6 millionths to 8 millionths of a second, Simmons said.

"Bats do 2 to 3 (millionths of a second) relatively easily," Simmons said. "That's the part that's little distressing."

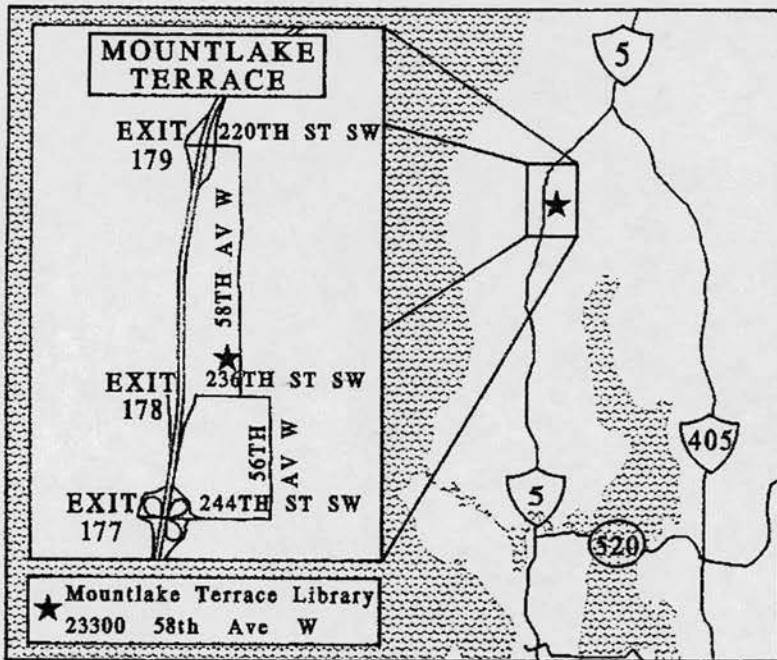
Being able to separate such sounds means the bats could tell the difference between objects just 3/10ths of a millimeter apart — about the width of a pen line on paper.

In the experiment, the bats were sitting on a platform in a familiar situation, he noted. They probably don't do as well at night, chasing insects through the trees.

To succeed in such chases, bats need to be able to differentiate sounds 10 millionths of a second apart, Simmons explained in a telephone interview. "We'd have to do a lot of work to match what they're doing so easily."

While they're still trying to determine why bats are so much better than human technology, they have begun experiments to record bats' brain cell activity as they process sounds.

And Simmons is working on tweaking naval sonars, to make them a bit more like bats.



The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58th Ave. W.

To get to the Library from the Eastside, take Bothell Way to Ballinger Way. Head North on Ballinger and take a right on 19th Ave. NE (this turns into 56th Ave. W. at the county line). Turn left on 236th then right on 58th Ave. W. Go North 3 blocks.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

This month the meeting will be at Paul and Katrina Ostby's house - see page 55 inside for more details.

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

