



Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

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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. Subscription via email is \$11.00 per year.

GROTTO ADDRESS

Cascade Grotto; P.O. Box 66623, Seattle, WA 98166. This post office box should be used for both the grotto and for the *Cascade Caver*.

GROTTO OFFICERS

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Sec/Treasurer	Aaron Stavens	(253) 946-3431

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	* Editor for the current issue.	

MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00 pm 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Mike Fraley at (425) 398-3799 of any upcoming trips.

November 16	Grotto Meeting. 7 p.m. Mountlake Terrace Library
December 1	Rappelling at Exit 38
December 8	Grotto Christmas Party Lake Stickney Community Center
New Year's	Gem State Grotto party/ski trip
January 5	Cave Ridge hiking trip

COVER: Danny Miller checks out a small hole in the Cave Ridge area. Photo by Van Bergen; see his trip report on page 7.

Editor's note: The April issue of the Caver listed the volume and issue incorrectly. It should be Volume 40, No. 1-4 not Volume 39 No. 11.

Cascade Grotto Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2001

By Aaron Stavens, Secretary-Treasurer

Attendance:

Jon McGinnis, Julie McGinnis, Cameron McGinnis, Chris Wittenbrink, Dana Poss, John Benson, Pamela Lehman, Rick Gould, Aaron Stavens, Kaylee Stavens, Jim Harp, Joan Harp, Ryan Harp, Dick Garnick, Rose Garnick, Joel Garnick, Jeff McClelland (new member), Mark Sherman, Larry Christian, Erin Robert, Steve Sprague, Danny Miller, Paul Lindgren, Eve Proper, Brian Adams, Van Bergen

Old Business:

1. Aaron passed around draft samples of the replacement cave signage. The new signage was approved.
2. Van, Jon, and Mark have been actively working with the IMAX Theater. The plans are coming together. The media preview will be on October 9th. The free showing for grotto members and their guests will be on the evening of October 14th. The main grotto event will be on October 20th. Another big event is tentatively scheduled for November 3rd and 4th. Jon still needs pictures for enlargement and display at the theater.

New Business:

1. Grotto officer elections are coming up. Nominations are in October and the vote is taken at the November meeting. The new officers will take office in January. Jon intends to step down as Chairman and pursue other projects.
2. Grotto memberships expire at the end of September. Aaron will be sending out dues notices in the near future.
3. We need to start planning the grotto Christmas party. Jim will reserve the Lake Stickney community center. The dates, in order of preference, are December 8th, 1st, and 15th. If Jim cannot get any of those dates, he will try for the proceeding Friday.
4. The grotto voted unanimously to reimburse IMAX speakers up to \$50 for travel expenses.

Upcoming Trips: Dick Garnick is hosting a trip to Iron Curtain cave tomorrow.

Special Presentation: Mark Sherman gave a slide show on this year's joint regional meet.

A special thanks to Jim and Joan for hosting this meeting in their home and for arranging to feed the crowd.

2001 Treasurer's Report

By Aaron Stavens, Secretary-Treasurer

October, 17, 2001

Summary Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2001

ASSETS	
Checking/Savings	1812.65
Other Current Assets	23.00
Total Current Assets	1835.65
TOTAL ASSETS	1835.65

New NSS Book: "On Call"

The NSS has just produced a new book that is designed to bring together under one cover the knowledge and experiences accumulated by cave rescuers during 50 years of rescue in the caves of Americas. It is intended to serve as a comprehensive reference of those interested in cave rescue. It may also be useful as a field guide for rescue squads and Search and Rescue personnel who are occasionally called upon to work within a cave. The book has ten subject-based sections:

- Introduction to Cave Rescue.
- Communications.
- Management Operations.
- Search Management.
- Medical.
- Vertical.
- Patient Packaging/Transport.
- Psychological Considerations.
- Special Problems.
- Wrap Up and Training.

The paperback is \$25 for members and \$27 for non-members. The hardback is \$28 for members and \$30 for non-members. Shipping is \$7.00 for either.

Order your copy from the NSS Bookstore, 2813 Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35810; call (256) 852-1300 Fax (256) 851-9241, or e-mail nss@caves.org.

Note: As of this writing, this book can not be purchased on line.

50 Years Ago In The Cascade Grotto

By Dr. William Halliday

Suddenly it's been 50 years! It seems like yesterday.

I started really caving in Virginia in 1946 and 1947, and found the NSS in Washington, D.C. in 1947. NSS founder Bill Stephenson took me under his wing. When I returned to the West Coast after graduation from med school in 1948, he instructed me "to spread the gospel of the NSS in the West". I tried.

First I found enough LA-area cavers to start the Southern California Grotto, when I was an intern in Pasadena and then in Long Beach during a year in the US Navy. Then I came home to Seattle for my first year of training in surgery.

At that time there was one NSS member in Portland but none in Seattle, and the list of caves known in Washington included Gardner Cave and not much more.

I asked around in The Mountaineers, and people interested in caves started turning up. Tony Sargent from the So Calif Grotto came to Reed College in Portland and started finding others in Oregon.

Within a few months we had a lot more information and enough members for a grotto, but there still were problems. In western Washington we had learned of some in the San Juan Islands and around Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams, but nothing sizeable where we could get to it – the logging roads still didn't amount to much in southwest Washington. And it took 5 hours just to drive to Portland on US 99.

Paradise Ice Caves? Everybody knew they didn't amount to anything.

Vancouver Island? Nope. Definitely no caves there. Everybody knew that.

But we went caving anyway. First was little Boulder (Boulder Creek) Cave over in Yakima County. I haven't been back since Aug. 19, 1950. But it was fun.

Then, on October 8, 1950 we tried to find Chelan Ice Cave. All we found was a slide of talus with cold air coming out the bottom. It since has been deleted, and properly so. So on 29 October we drove all the way around through Portland to Trout Lake Ice Cave. Finally we had a cave in Washington worth mapping! And it was fun.

During the winter of 1950-51 we organized the Cascade Grotto, perhaps with a touch of preposterous optimism. From the beginning we wrote that we looked forward to grottos in Seattle, Portland, Vancouver, Bend and even Spokane. Actually we missed on Spokane. But in the next 50 years, all the others eventually came to be. And instead of Spokane, one formed in nearby Cheney, even

though it didn't last very long.

On February 15, we got together and formally chartered the grotto. I became chairman and Del Neely was Secretary-treasurer. Other charter members were Henry Buehner (NSS # 513) in Portland, Warren Gibson (later chairman of the grotto) in Bellevue, Phil Gilhausen in Seattle, Gene Hanson in Vancouver, and Johnellis Jones, Peter McClellan, Bob Middleton and Del Neeley from Seattle, and Tony Sargent in Portland.

By March 4, 1951 the snow had melted enough for the Seattle contingent to visit Duke's Cave on Mount Issaquah. As talus caves go, it was fun, with a room 111 feet long. But we had dreams of something better. So on the weekend of April 28-29 we drove all the way to Bend, OR and enjoyed Skeleton Cave, Arnold Ice Cave (much freer of ice in those days), Wind Cave and South Ice Cave. Real caves, and a lot of fun. But discouragingly far away. Until the NSS had a convention in Bend years later, I don't think the grotto ever had another trip there.

So we tried eastern Washington. We found Albright Cave up on top of a limestone mountain, nowhere near where the directions said. After the climb, we really enjoyed its one spacious room. But I don't know that the grotto ever went back there, either. Anyhow, it was better than Mt. Olive Cave, which we found just big enough to turn around in.

Enthusiasm still was running high. On May 21, 1951 we published the grotto's first newsletter. It shows how scant were the known caving resources throughout the Pacific Northwest in those days. And almost at once we found the first limestone cave in western Washington: Jackman Creek Cave. Even though the cave was less than 100 feet long, on June 10, 1951 Cascade Cave Report was almost giddy with excitement. There ought to be more, and bigger! And there were, but it took a while -- and a rebirth of enthusiasm.

I moved on to Denver, then Salt Lake City for more training - and two more new NSS grottos for Bill Stephenson. Tony Sargent went to grad school at UC Berkeley where he quickly stood out as a brilliant young biophysicist. Then he met Timothy Leary and LSD and vanished without graduating. I don't know if he still is alive.

Unsurprisingly, it was difficult to maintain the original enthusiasm and optimism. Even the 1952 discovery of a way to get to Ole's Cave at Mount St. Helens no longer sparked appropriate excitement. Neither did Tom Steinburn's discovery of caves on Cave Ridge (the first one was only 15 feet long, and flooded most of the year). Nobody heard of Harry Reese and Ape Cave for years to come, and the last issue of Cascade Cave Report (#6) was 24 July 1953.

Actually, the grotto officially went inactive just before Pacific Northwest caving really took off, around 1957. For a while, the Washington Speleological Survey filled the place of the grotto. But the Cascade Caver began publication in December 1961. The grotto was officially reactivated, and we seemingly began to find caves everywhere. But that's a different story.

In the course of its subsequent ups and downs, the Cascade Grotto has truly amassed a great 50-year record in the face of impressive obstacles. I just wish I could be around to see the next 50.

I hope that every one of you will enjoy those next 50 years as much as we did those first hopeful years.

And occasionally please pause and think of those of us who started it all, 50 years ago, when we even had to go find all the caves!

NPS and NSS Education Initiative: We Need Your Help

By Amy M. Bern

(Edited for the Northwest Region by Mark Sherman)

There is a need for cave education in all regions of the country and this is your chance to help. The National Park Service, specifically Mammoth Cave NP, is conducting a Challenge Cost Share Grant in conjunction with the NSS, Project Underground, and the American Cave Conservation Association. This program is not about telling students how to go caving, but sharing why we care about caves and why preservation, conservation, and management of cave areas are so important.

The goal of the NPS grant is to reach as many students as possible in five population centers. Each area will have a Project Underground and a Park Service representation heading the program for that area. The five population centers, the regional coordinators and their respective parks are:

- 1) VAR - Carol Zokaites, Shiloh and Cumberland Gap NP's
- 2) KY Region - Julie Gee (ACCA), Mammoth Cave NP
- 3) RMR - Amy Bern, Wind Cave NP
- 4) SWR - Peg Sorenson, Carlsbad Caverns NP
- 5) NWR - TBD, Oregon Caves NM (contact Roger Brandt @ Oregon Caves)

The key educational content of the program encompasses Geology, Biology, History, Conservation and Resource Management (including Landowner

Relations/Federal Agencies), and Safety/Exploration. Educational resources on these topics have been assembled into kits for each regional coordinator and NSS project participant. The great thing about these educational resources is that they will stay with the participating grottos for future educational needs. The Park Service is therefore helping individual regions start educational programs of their own.

Now is the time when your help is needed. Phases II and III of this program have yet to be implemented. These phases involve NSS volunteers from each region (you). Nationally, the goal is to have 100 volunteers, 20 – 25 in each region, to attend workshops (Phase II). These workshops will train volunteers to teach students about caves and provide hands-on activities and educational resources to use in the classroom. Following these workshops, Phase III will start. Each of the 100 NSS volunteers will go into classrooms to give presentations to the students. Each NSS participant is asked to do four classroom presentations. With this program, it is possible for us to educate over 10,000 students about caves and karst!

If you are interested in participating in the NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant, please contact your NSS representative. This is a great opportunity to share our enthusiasm about caves while helping the students of today make informed decisions about cave and karst areas in the future.

Note: I have contacted Roger Brandt at Oregon Caves and he will be conducting a training class for people that are interested in becoming volunteers, sometime in February or March. This class will probably be in the Seattle area. If you are interested please contact Mark Sherman at mark.sherman@flukenetworks.com or at (206) 365-5386.

October Cave Ridge Trip Report

By Dave McElmurry

At about 8:40 Sunday Oct 28, 3 suspicious characters (Rich Watson, Aaron Stavens, and yours truly – Dave McElmurry) were sighted in the parking lot at Alpentel.

Since avalanche conditions were low, we proceeded to head up the standard Cave Ridge trail. Although the recent snowfall had obscured even the lower portions of trail, we pooled our route-finding skills and were still able to detect and follow the route up to the boulder field. Footprints gouged into the snow by previous parties were a big help in this. At and above the boulder field, there was about 1-2 feet of new snow on the ground. Since everyone else had gone up the ridge of Snoqualmie, we now had to break trail. Finally,

after a mere 2.5-3 hours (total), we arrived at Lookout/Cascade cave.

Fortunately, the weather had done a complete about face in the last four days before the trip. Instead of near white out conditions, we ate lunch in the sun under bright blue skies and temps roughly in the 40's. Afterwards, at about 12:30, we split up with Aaron wandering off to do reconnaissance work, while Rich and I ducked into Cascade Cave.

We had to dig out the entrance a little, since snow was starting to fill it in. Inside, we dropped down the entrance climb and took the horizontal crawl out to the big room. From there, we spent a couple of hours exploring various passages. We skipped what I think was the main passage due to a very exposed step that must be crossed. (There were only two of us, and we had no safety rigged, so it seemed like the prudent thing to do.) We still had plenty of cave to keep us busy. I think we could have spent twice as long as we did and still not be bored. There are plenty of options and variations in Cascade, and it had been quite a while since I had been there last.

We returned to the surface around 2:30-3:00. Just in time (due to the time change) to pack up and hike out, getting back to the cars near sunset. Except for my oil pump seal, that was pretty much the end of the excitement for the day.

I had the seals on my oil pump replaced the Thursday before, and it appears that a bad o-ring was installed, which chose this particular night to fail (of course after Aaron drove off). With my car being badly in need of a drink, and suffering from oil withdraw, we barely managed to hobble to a convenience store just outside North Bend and buy oil. My car sucked down two quarts like it was nothing (I think it could have taken three!) and then it seemed ready to hit the road. We managed to get Rich back to his car at the P&R, and me home. If I had checked the oil level at this time, I would have known that my car was aching for a drink again. As it turned out, the following morning I found out. (The oil, once again, didn't register on the dip stick.) Not wanting to see my little truck suffer any more, I took the car back to the garage (AA, I mean, AAA approved) where they found the drinking problem and fixed it (only this time free). Now my car is just living one day at a time, and doing fine.

Oct. Cave Ridge Trip Report – Part II

By Aaron Stavens

This was one of those trips where a few things did not go quite as expected but the rest of the trip more than made up for it. Dave McElmurry had organized a Cave

Ridge trip for the last weekend in October. I had an experiment to start on Danger Cave before the snows became too deep to work in. Dave's trip complemented my plans perfectly.

There were only the three of us. Soon after I arrived, I discovered that during my hasty morning packing I had forgotten my raincoat. However, after a week of dreary, wet weather, the weather gods were smiling. The sun was shining, the temperature was comfortably cool, and there were hardly any clouds in the sky. I decided I would not die a slow, miserable death of hypothermia.

The snow cover was shallow but there was enough to weigh down the tree branches. Near the bottom, the usual trail was quite difficult to see. The bowed branches made it even more challenging. However, after a short search we located the trail and were able to follow it most of the way. We had to do a little cross-country work (i.e. we lost the trail) but we arrived at Lookout Cave about noon without any particular trouble. We set a rendezvous time of 2:30 p.m. With rapidly diminishing hopes of starting my experiment, I headed for Danger Cave.

I found Danger without any trouble and confirmed my suspicions. With between 2 and 3 feet of snow on the ground, the snow was too deep and the tools I had were inadequate for the task. The experiment would have to wait. Instead, I decided to check the other cave entrances, gather some GPS data, and enjoy the scenery. I found that all of the major caves I knew of were still open. Only the back entrance to Hell Hole would have required some digging to enter. When I approached the entrance to Red Cave to take my GPS reading, I unexpectedly found one leg buried all the way up to my waist. I decided I was "close enough" and took my reading.

I arrived back at Cascade right at 2:30 p.m. but Dave and Rich apparently were not yet out of the cave. So, I sat back, relaxed, had some lunch, and gazed out over the surrounding snowy peaks. What a beautiful day! About 10 minutes later, I heard voices and soon after out popped Dave and Rich with smiles on their faces. They were considerably muddier than I had last seen them. After a little rest and a little lunch we all packed up and headed down the hill.

As to the experiment, I'll tell you more about that in a different story.

August Cave Ridge Trip Report

By Van Bergen

"2000 feet in 2 miles? I haven't been backpacking in at least 12 years; I'm too old; I can't do that!" "Sure you can." "Well, I guess I need to see it at least once. OK."

Almost the proverbial famous last words; I thought I'd die. At least it was a nice day and there were plenty of yummy huckleberries to munch. I had driven up on this sunny Friday (Aug. 17) to meet Jon McGinnis, Larry Christian, and Danny Miller at the Alpentel parking lot. After my legs started failing about a quarter of the way up, I resorted to grabbing branches on the side of the trail to pull myself up. Danny was getting ready for a Mt. Baker climb, so he volunteered to run up the hill and dump his stuff, then come back and get mine. By the time we got to the boulder field, Danny was back down and he took my pack. I took his, which was about empty. What a deal! From then on, I could almost keep up.

We stopped at the top of the cliff above the boulder field to check out some sinkholes. One appeared to be blowing a little; Danny tried dragging some rocks out but didn't get very far. It's a promising area for an exploration and digging trip. Back on the trail again, we were soon atop Cave Ridge, where the view made up for the hike. I started unpacking and Jon said, "Come on, get your gear on, we're going caving." What? After that hike, I thought I'd get to rest. But Danny wasn't staying; he had a play to perform in that night, and a cave to see that afternoon.

We headed for Hellhole. We checked out the Front Door, where Jon related how hard it was to get through the tight squeeze on rope. Unfortunately, there is an equally tight squeeze in the horizontal passage that leads to the drop. Everybody who rappelled down the 50 foot drop said, "Wow" or "What's this blue stuff?" at the bottom. There was a huge piece of blue marble next to the landing zone, and it just got better from there. There weren't many traditional speleothem decorations, but there was plenty of color and deeply fluted marble. The features were more erosional than depositional. Oranges and reds were everywhere. We crawled and climbed around for a while, checking out all the rocks and colors and some little gypsum coral formations.

Once back in the horizontal passage, we had to get through the squeeze again; it took several tries and different approaches again, but I finally popped through. The three of us settled in for a campfire, dinner, and welcome sleeping bags. Tomorrow we were doing Newton, one of the larger caves on the ridge.

More cavers joined us for Newton on Saturday: Xandon Frogget, Ken and Ruth Stickney, and Alisa Koehn from Portland. Since the Stickneys and Alisa had to return all the way to Portland that evening, they were only

going as far as the first drop. Great, that meant I could go caving with them and come out way before Jon and Larry and Xandon. Jon suggested fleece undies for Newton, and that was just right. Newton is deep, difficult, cold, and wet.

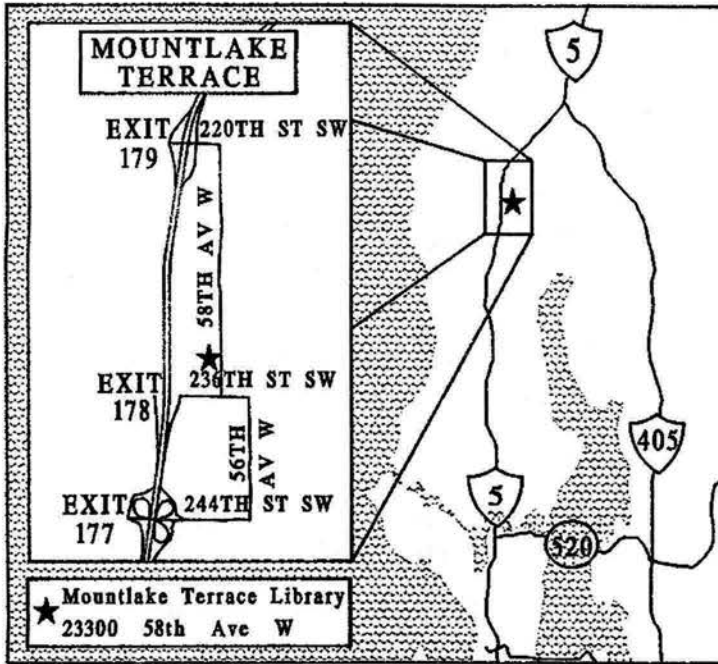
Jon, Larry and Xandon headed out early to mark the route and rig the drops. They were going to push as far as they could, including several rebelayed pitches and a 300-foot climb-down. The Portlanders and I followed the orange flagging tape to the first drop. Newton is full of twists and turns, and it would be easy to get off-route. The route to the first drop is like a giant corkscrew, pointed down. It was fun, but with tomorrow's climb in the back of my mind, I decided to wait at the top. I got some photos of the Portlanders going both ways, and I ate my lunch. Sitting in one spot for a while, I was thankful for the fleece undies.

We got a little off route on the way back out because there was some stray pink flagging tape that looked a little too much like Jon's orange. The tree-trunk ascent near the entrance was as much fun going out as it was coming in. It was mid-afternoon when we exited and the Portland crew headed down the hill.

The rest of the gang said they had a great trip. Xandon was heading out that evening, and he graciously volunteered to sherp some of the ropes down for us. After another relaxing dinner and campfire, punctuated by Jon's disposal of a can of white gas into the fire (probably visible for a hundred miles in every direction), I went to bed dreaming of nice caves and then of falling down the mountain.

We packed up and hiked out the next morning, and that almost killed me too. My legs felt like jelly. Jon and Larry were nice about the whole thing; I kept telling them to go on ahead and go home, but they insisted on making sure I got down OK. I did fall a couple times, but fortunately not on any boulders. In fact, I took extra long crossing the boulder field because I didn't want to break bones. At least the other guys got to take smoke breaks (Jon said, "Yeah, I got to smoke half a pack — we'll call you 'Half Pack Van'").

If I go back, I think I'll allow a full day for the hike up, then a rest day, then a day of caving, then another rest day, then another full day for the hike down. Five days of leisure caving on Cave Ridge! Or else I'll just day-trip it; without the backpack, it probably won't be so bad. But next time I'd like to hike alone or with another feeble person, so I won't make the rest of the group wait and wait for me to catch up.

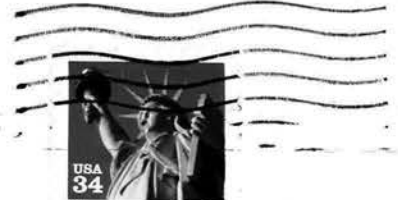


The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58th Ave. W.

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.

Cascade Cover
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