

Cascade Caver

The Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society



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 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is free to regular members. Membership for each additional family member is \$2 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is \$15 per year. Subscription via email is \$11 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 Cayer*.

GROTTO OFFICERS

| Chairman | Van Bergen | (360) 779-7837 |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Vice Chairman | Jim Harp | (425) 745-1010 |
| Sec/Treasurer | Aaron Stavens | (253) 946-3431 |

OTHER POSITIONS

| Trip Coordinator | Eve Proper | (206) 988-6237 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
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| | * Editor for the current issue | |

MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at the Shoreline Community Center, 18560 1st Ave NE. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Eve Proper of any upcoming trips. Contact Jennifer Dorman at idahocaver@gemstategrotto.com for any Gem State Grotto trips. Contact Claude Koch at claudekoch@uswest.net for any Willamette Valley Grotto trips.

| July 21 | Cave Ridge beginner trip into Cascade |
|-----------------|---|
| | Cave- Aaron Stavens |
| July 28 | 3 Mile Creek Digging Trip - Dick Garnick, |
| | rgarnick@nas.com |
| Aug. 3-4 | Papoose Cave, Gem State Grotto - |
| | Jennifer Dorman |
| Aug. 3-4 | Mt. Sheridan trip - WVG |
| Aug. 10 | TBA WVG trip |
| Aug. 16 | Grotto meeting |
| Aug. 24-25 | Saddle Butte trip (Bend area), WVG |
| Aug. 31-Sept. 2 | Cave Ridge Newton bottoming trip - |
| | Aaron Stavens |
| Sept. 7-8 | Windy Creek trip - Jerry Thompson, |
| | 360-653-7390 |
| Sept. 13-14 | Marsh Creek and Iron Curtain - Rob Wall, |
| | crvcaver@shaw.ca |
| Sept. 20 | Grotto meeting |
| Sept. 21 | Relocate VICEG cave - Jerry Thompson |
| | |

COVER

The view from the top of Cave Ridge. Photo by Xandon Frogget.

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Cascade Grotto June 21 Regular Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Aaron Stavens, Tish Korbly, Stuart Monson, Glennis Monson, Stuart Adler (new member), Jim Harp, Mark Sherman, Jerry Thompson, Eve Proper, Julie McGinnis, Jon McGinnis, Erin Robert, Cameron McGinnis, Anthony (Cameron's friend), Caleb Schaber, Lisa Danielski, Kristin Oogjen (new member), Sarah (Kristin's friend), Chris Wittenbrink, Katie Coughlin, Mike Wagner

Old Business:

- 1. Jim brought in the grotto tee shirts for distribution. They will also be available at the grotto's 50th at Trout Lake.
- 2. Mark Sherman and Aaron Stavens checked out the Shoreline Senior Center and the Shoreline Community Center as possible meeting locations. They were not impressed with the Senior Center, but like the Community Center. It is closer to Seattle, bigger than our current meeting room, plenty of parking, has a screen and overhead projector, and has a TV and VCR are available upon request. The room would cost \$28/meeting as compared to the current \$26/meeting in the current location. The only negative is finding parking during football season in September and October is very difficult. The grotto voted to move the grotto's meeting location to the Shoreline Community Center starting with the July meeting.
- Although the grotto voted to print 75 copies of "Caves of Washington," we will honor Dr. Halliday's wishes and only print 50 copies.
- Aaron Stavens has dropped the optional paper newsletter exchanges. He also sent notes to our exchange partners informing them of the change.

New Business:

- 1. The Monsons are looking for someone to run the raffle at the 50th. Jon McGinnis volunteered.
- 2. The grotto authorized an \$80 budget for raffle prizes.
- 3. The grotto authorized a \$50 budget for nails prizes.
- 4. Julie will be organizing and preparing two dinners for the 50th, one on Thursday and one on Friday. She will not be doing any breakfasts. She will be asking for donations to cover the costs of the supplies. The grotto voted to front money for the dinner as needed. A financial loss on the dinners is not expected.

Special Presentation:

Jerry Thompson presented a method for fashioning a stretcher out of 50 meters of climbing rope. Thank you Jerry!

As is the custom, the meeting adjourned to Romeo's for pizza and refreshing beverages. V

2002 NCA Regional

By Jennifer Dorman, Gem State Grotto

This year's annual Regional Meeting for the Northwest Caving Association was hosted by the Gem State Grotto and the Silver Sage Grotto in Shoshone, Idaho. Wednesday night prior to the Memorial Day weekend, the British Columbia Cave Rescue team arrived to host a two day SRT Training in conjunction with the Regional.

There were 22 students that attended the training that started Wednesday night at Nola's house with a BBQ. We checked our gear and went over some basic knot tying techniques late into the night. Thursday we went to Tablerock to work on changeovers, pick-offs, pulley systems, and rigging. Friday we held a mock rescue session at Smith's Crack before driving to the Regional meeting in Shoshone. Chris Anderson from the Silver Sage Grotto and myself had split up the responsibilities for the Regional. He was in charge of the web page, facilities, and cave trips. I was in charge of registration, scheduling, and any other small details. The week prior to the get together, I only had about 40 people registered, which seemed like a low turnout. Throughout Friday evening, the registration increased to about 65 attendees from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, British Columbia, and Montana.

Friday night at the registration desk was quite busy. Along with selling T-shirts, guidebooks, pins, patches, and meals, time was spent catching up on news with people I hadn't seen since last year and meeting new people that had either never made it to a Regional or was new to caving. Chris Anderson arranged for a vendor named River Rats from the Twin Falls area to come in and set up a booth with their gear. They were just getting into climbing gear and were willing to order anything we needed at a 20 percent discount during the Regional. Kim Luper from the Oregon Grotto was there with his store, and Dale Green had a few misc. items that he was selling.

The Gem State Grotto's chuckwagon was there in full force and Saturday morning started with a breakfast hosted by Jim Hathorn. Not long after the breakfast had cleared, the campground was empty as everyone headed out to go caving. Some of the caves visited that day were Crystal Ice Cave, Pot O' Gold, Gypsum, Jawdropper, Spider, Owl, Johnson, Tee, and Maze. Saturday night was the NCA Dinner hosted by Dave Kesner. The annual NCA Raffle followed dinner and raised \$215 for the NCA. The game of Nails made a brief appearance before about 40 of the NCA attendees went out to Wild Rose Hot Springs for a midnight soak.

Jim Hathorn welcomed Sunday morning by another wonderful breakfast. Caving soon followed and the campground was empty once again. Most cavers got an early start so as to not miss Dave Kesner's Gourmet Dinner. After a FABULOUS meal, the NCA meeting commenced. The

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NSS National Convention in Camden, Maine

By Van Bergen

NSS Conventions have become the event of the year for me. I started attending in 1998 and so far only missed the Idaho Convention (and I'm still kicking myself for that, even though I lived in Ohio at the time). The 2002 Convention in Maine wasn't my favorite so far, but it was still a great time. The theme was "Where the Lobster Meets the Limestone" but that wasn't entirely accurate. There was plenty of lobster, but no limestone. I arrived on Friday evening and stopped in at the campground to say hi, then checked in to a rustic cabin about 10 miles away. It's generally a lot more fun to camp with everyone else - to party every night and not have to drive anywhere - but I flew in with a ton of caving and musical gear and the cabin was cheap. It was a family summer camp deal that opened early for Convention, but very few people stayed there. I had a 10-person cabin with shower and bathroom all to myself. It gets light in Maine at 4:30 am, and I went to bed when it was light out almost every night. You don't sleep much at Convention, but it's worth it.

On Saturday I helped out at Registration and with setting up the school. Convention sessions are always held at a local school and the parties are all at the campground, which this year was about 10 miles away. Not too bad. On Sunday, a couple of local cavers took me to the biggest cave in the area, Inman's Cave. I came back to the campground with stories of the big entrance drop, the huge waterfall, and the Lake Room. Actually, the entrance drop was easily free-climbable (but I made them take pictures of me rappelling in anyway), the waterfall was a drippy rock we had to squeeze by, and the "lake" was the size of a kitchen sink. It took longer to hike to the cave than to see it all, but it was fun & sporting anyway - and I couldn't fit through the final squeeze into the last room. The total surveyed length is 62 meters.

This was a fissure cave in granite, where the face of a cliff had split away from the rest. We also visited a similar cave nearby. On the way back down the trail, they said they knew another cave across the valley so we started poking around over there. One of the guys yelled that he had found the cave, so I followed his feet as he slithered under a rock. It was just a big rock sitting on some smaller rocks, and it was broad daylight under there - but they insisted that by Maine rules it was actually a cave. I said, "When I lived in Kentucky and we looked for caves, we looked for limestone. In Washington, we look for lava. Here, you guys just look for a pile of rocks!" It really was fun and they were great guys, but I didn't attempt to go caving again in Maine.

As usual, there were more sessions than anyone has time for. Many people go just for the sessions, and don't plan to cave at all. I made it to U.S. Exploration, International Exploration (including a presentation by Dr. Halliday on the temple caves of Thailand - very cool.), the Rescue Section (where I learned some good stuff, and where one of my friends was elected Chair), and the Vertical Section. That last

one was a good one, with people demonstrating their favorite field-proven climbing rigs and special gear and tricks; it'll be at the top of my priority list next year. And I thought my Vertical Section dues were just for that newsletter....

Another highlight of Conventions is the presence of vendors. Lots of them. Bob & Bob, IMO, Howie's Harnesses, On Rope 1, Speleobooks, NSS Bookstore, Inner Realm Books, a couple of carbide lamp dealers, and more. I picked up "The Paradise Ice Caves" pamphlet by Halliday and Anderson (1972) for \$2 in the consignment shop. I also got to fondle a lot of hardware so I know what I want when it's time for another mail order. REI is great, but it only has a tiny fraction of all the cave-specific gear that's available. Got my eye on some big new CMI ascenders from Bob & Bob, a new LED headlamp and a new carbide caplamp from IMO, some 9mm Highline rope from Howie, and a great-looking new frog harness from On Rope 1 that's not even on their website yet.

Another highlight is seeing friends from other parts of the country - Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, West Virginia, Virginia, Indiana, Tennessee, even Michigan. Ran into some people from Boston whom I met last year in a cave in Kentucky. Saw Nancy & Hazel & Jim Olson too; Nancy's gonna have a baby. The usual Monday night Howdy Party was unusual this time. First we went to a state park for lobster and ride to the top of a mountain on a ski lift (500 drunk cavers on a chair lift - no injuries - miraculous). Then we returned to the campground for the free beer on tap. But in Maine, the beer area is surrounded by a fence and you can't bring your own beer in there and you can't take your justpoured beer out. It's fine to socialize for a while inside the fence, but if you want to wander around more you have to chug what's left and show Security your empty mug in order to get out. It was weird, but it had the effect of slowing beer consumption to the point that there was lots of *extra* beer to be served on subsequent nights.

A special treat this year was the sea cruise. You could choose either a motor cruise with 200 people and 2 full bars, or a 30-person schooner cruise under full sail. I did the motor cruise on Tuesday night because it was a party - but then I paid an extra \$20 and also did the sail on Thursday afternoon, and it was just beautiful. Other typical Convention highlights are the print salon and the slide & video salon. The prints are on display at the school all week; the slides & videos are shown in the auditorium on Thursday night. Fabulous work by the best cave photographers in the world. This year was no exception.

The Friday night banquet and closing ceremonies were in the gym, and the program was the producer of Journey Into Amazing Caves talking about how the movie was made. There was also an announcement of recognition for four grottos that celebrate their 50th anniversaries this year. I felt slighted until I remembered that our 50th was really

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last year (they didn't recognize us then either - maybe we're so far away they forgot about us).

My personal highlight of every Convention is playing with the Terminal Syphons at the Wednesday night campground party. This year was the best yet. We had two guests sit in for the whole gig: noted cave diver and author Bill Stone, and noted cave photographer Kevin Downey. In addition to their other talents, they're excellent guitar players. We also had another keyboard player, a local guy who donated most of the keyboard gear and about half the PA gear. He had his van packed with stuff, and made all our lives easier. He was a monster player too; he was in the nationallyknown Roomful of Blues but had recently been fired. I wondered why, since he was such a consummate pro player. We found out. With about an hour to go, he disappeared. After our obligatory 3 encores, he was still missing. All his gear was on stage. I found his tent, and found him in it, passed out cold. I thought he was dead and took his pulse.

He was just dead drunk. I tried shaking and yelling, but it was embarrassing because his little kids were in the next tent, and people in nearby tents were waking up and yelling at me to shut up. I went back to the stage and told the other guys that I stopped just short of groping through his pockets for his car keys. One of our female singers volunteered to grope him and came back with the keys. Our guitarist went to get the van so we could pack up the drunkard's gear. There were three rows of orange plastic "beer fence" in the way. I started walking toward them to take them down when the van came careening around the corner and took out all three fences on its way to the stage. The guitar player stepped out and said, "I always wanted to do that!" Wish I had a video of that scene....

Oh, yeah, for all you South Park fans: Mike Taylor is our bass player and his friend Ian Baren (China Caves Project, Met Grotto in NY) wanted to sing a couple of funny caver songs with us. The night before, Ian had been stumbling around drunk and stepped on a tent stake. We didn't know about his injury until we called him up to the stage and he came up in a *wheelchair* - and everyone started shouting TIMMY. The next day, Ian went to Registration and had his name badge changed to TIMMY.

On the last Saturday, I drove up to Acadia National Park with a couple of friends from Ohio. Our goal was to rent kayaks and explore some sea caves. We couldn't find a rental place on the water on the side of the island with the caves, but we had a great time paddling all day anyway. The next day, I hiked the shore on the other side at low tide and entered the largest of the sea "caves" - and like other Maine "caves" it wasn't even dark. It was pretty, but I don't feel like I missed anything by not paddling into it. Maine, and especially Acadia, is beautiful, but it's really a lot nicer here in the Puget Sound area. Really. It was a great week, but I was glad to be home. I encourage everyone to attend next year's Convention in Porterville, CA. It's guaranteed to be one of the best weeks a caver can spend. \vee

3 Mile Creek revisited

By Dick Garnick



Participants: Mike Fraley, Steve Sprague, DeAnn Wolf, Rose Garnick, Dick Garnick

After a few years of no visit to the 3 Mile Creek Cave area and two recon trips to the area we decided to do the research and relocate the cave.

On the two recon trips we found the loggers had relandscaped the area, making it more difficult to find the cave by remembered landmarks. Checking the roads it appeared the cave had been logged over and maybe disguised by logging slash.

In our trip planning we had GPSed the roads and checked the references for the location. We also planned for some logging slash material so chain saws were taken.

After all the planning and research, we located the road previously GPSed and proceeded the .7 of a mile to the location we plotted. Mike did a little scouting and we had passed the cave by 1/10th of a mile. To our collective relief the cave area had not been logged. It has been marked for thinning.

In the "Caves of Washington" the description states, "Even though partially blocked by dirt and rubble, the solution-sculptured, walk-in entrance is 6 feet high and 10 feet wide. The cave is not extensive, however. The single, roomy passage measures about 70 feet in maximum length, although rumor indicates that originally it was much longer. These reports claim that the cave was partially choked with mud and reduced to its presence size with in the memory of old-timers still living." "Caves of Washington" was printed in 1966.

This cave would be a good grotto cleanup and dig project.

Editor's Note: Be sure to take note of the dig Dick is leading July 28! He promises that there's a quarry right next door to dump dirt into, so it's as easy as digging gets.

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What I did on my summer vacation

By Eve Proper

When I was a little kid, my parents would send me off to summer camp. Now that I'm an adult, I have to send myself to camp. This year I went to "Lint Camp" at Wind and Jewel Caves in South Dakota, and let me tell you, it wasn't far different from summer camp.

At summer camp: You get to stay in a cabin for a week. The counselor yells at you when you stay up talking.

At lint camp: You get to stay in a cabin for a week. There isn't any counselor to yell at you when you stay up drinking beer.

At summer camp: You get to go swimming and hiking and you make lots of crafts.

At lint camp: You get to go hiking and caving, but you don't get to make any crafts.

At summer camp: You have to buy your own t-shirt.

At lint camp: They give you a free t-shirt.

At summer camp: You have cute, older counselors. They don't reciprocate your crushes, though, which is good because you are definitely underage.

At lint camp: You have cute interns, managers,

interpreters and rangers of various ages. They moon you.

At summer camp: There is the weird kid, the clown, the withdrawn kid and the clique that hangs out together.

At lint camp: There is the weird caver, the clown, the withdrawn caver and the clique that hangs out together. But they've gotten over being exclusive.

At summer camp: There is that kid nobody likes.
At lint camp: There are a couple of cavers who show up, pick wax for half a day and then disappear with Park Service gear. Nobody likes them either.

At summer camp: You eat boring camp food every day except for that one special night where you have a cookout or dance or something.

At lint camp: You eat the boring food you brought every day except for that one night when the staff puts on a cookout for you.

At summer camp: You make new friends and swear to keep in touch, except with that weird kid nobody likes.

At lint camp: You make new friends and swear to keep in touch, except with the cavers who ran off with the Park Service gear. _V



Jan Conn, Jewel Cave explorer, teaches us secret caving methods.

Seriously, folks, before you think that lint camp was just four days of frolicking, let me set the record straight. What we spent most of that time doing was scraping up wax from candlelight tours (and a little bit from the days when candles were high-tech cave exploration gear).

The problem with wax in a cave isn't so much that big quantities of it are unsightly – although they are – but that wax grows mold, and mold is not a natural or desirable feature of a cave. Candlelight tours might be a fun way to

spend your tourist dollars (I wouldn't know), but the NPS is working in Wind and Jewel to reduce the amount of wax dripped by using better candles and holders (Wind) and by replacing them with low-smoke oil lamps (Jewel). That's why now was the perfect time to remove the old wax.

The first challenge is distinguishing wax from moonmilk or natural colors in the rock. You don't want to scrape away the real cave. Fresh wax drops are shiny; old wax is easier to see because it grows furry green mold. Yum.

If the wax falls on dirt, you have it easy. You can just lift up the entire mass of waxy mold with a trowel. If it's on the rock, you have suffering ahead of you. A metal putty knife is a great tool for removal but not infallible. You may leave scrape marks on the

rock. You may accidentally flick the wax up into the air and away, never to be found again. You might spend an hour working on one stupid rock. You may close your eyes and night and find visions of mold and wax dancing in your head.

In addition to the trowel, a brush is also handy for sweeping the scraped wax up. You can also use it with the putty knife rather like chopsticks. And big tweezers are great for reliably picking up little flakes and reaching into cracks.

After picking up the messes, you have to haul the wax out of the cave. When you start filling five-gallon buckets with wax and mold and dirt, they get heavy. Bring a strong, stalwart sort of caver with you to sweet-talk into this job.

And dress warmly – you aren't moving briskly the way you are during exploration. It's like photography or surveying with even less action. I found a thermal top and bottom, fleece pants and jacket, and my cotton coveralls to be a good combination. I tend to run cold, though, so if you're-hot blooded you may be able to get away with less.

Congratulations! You know everything you need to about wax removal in caves. If the conservation opportunity should ever come up, sign right up, and sign me up, too. I'll take the strenuous duty of guarding everyone else's beer while you're waxing ecstatic. \checkmark

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Second quarter financial results

By Aaron Stavens

Summary

The grotto is showing a substantial loss for the second quarter. This is due to sizeable expenditures for the "Caves of Washington" reprints, the grotto tee shirts, and expenses associated with the grotto's 50th anniversary reunion. Income from the 50th and the Caves of Washington reprints will appear in the third quarter and is expected to more than offset the associated costs. We still have a good portion of the grotto tee shirts to sell and have not yet recovered the associated cost. The rate at which the tee shirts sell will determine when we recover those costs.

Cascade Grotto Profit and Loss April through June 2002

Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2001

| ASSETS | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| Checking | 1026.00 |
| Savings | 496.50 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 1522.50 |
| Other Current Assets | |
| Petty Cash | 23.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 23.00 |
| Total Current Assets | 1545.50 |

Cascade Grotto

| ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE INCOME | | TOTALASSETS | 1545.50 |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------------------|---------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Contributions Income | | LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Unrestricted | 63.51 | Equity | |
| Total Contributions Income | 63.51 | Opening Bal Equity | 1592.82 |
| | | Retained Earnings | 347.76 |
| Membership Dues | 210.66 | Net Income | -395.08 |
| Miscellaneous Income | | Total Equity | 1545.50 |
| Grotto's 50th Anniversary | 295.00 | | |

295.00

| Total Income | 569.17 |
|--------------|--------|
| Total Income | 569.17 |

EXPENSE

Total Miscellaneoous Income

| Bank Service Charges | 5.00 |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Miscellaneous | |
| Grotto Tee Shirts | 585.09 |
| Miscellaneous - Other | 293.86 |
| Total Miscellaneous | 878.95 |
| | |
| Printing and Reproduction | 204.19 |

Total Expense 1088.14

| Net Ordinary Income | -518.97 |
|---------------------|---------|
| | |

Other Income/Expense Other Income Interest Income Total Other Income

Net Other Income 1.56

Net Income -517.41

Regional, continued

1545.50 V

TOTALLIABILITIES & EQUITY

following issues were discussed: the NCA web page, the NW Cavers Distribution list vs. a Yahoo group, amendments improperly voted upon last year, future sites for the NCA Regional, and the nomination and election of the new officers. Dixie Scales (Gem State) will be working on the web page with Dave Klinger (Glacier) volunteering to contact the prior webmaster. Dave Klinger will also working as a liaison between Larry McTigue (Cascade and current host of the NW Cavers distribution list) and Sam Lair (Gem State and current moderator of the NW Cavers Yahoo Group) to finalize a decision to which group to stay with. Jennifer Dorman (former NCA Secretary) will re-send the minutes from last years meeting to each of the grottos in order for the amendments to the by-laws to be voted upon at each respective grotto meeting.

The new officers for the NCA for 2002 are as follows: Jennifer Dorman (Gem State): Chair, Eric Zechmann (Gem State): Vice-Chair, Aaron Stavens (Cascade): Treasurer, Van Bergen (Cascade): Secretary. Phil Whitfield (VICEG) will look

continued on page 48

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1.56

1.56

Regional, continued from page 47

into hosting the 2003 NCA Regional on Vancouver Island and get back to the NCA Officers. Other Announcements: July 6-13 there will be a BCCR Rescue Training in Gold River, British Columbia. July 4-7 is the Cascade Grotto's 50th Anniversary get together at Trout Lake, Wash. Immediately following the NCA Meeting, Dave Kesner and Mike Choules of the Gem State Grotto hosted a 3-D slide show with pictures of caving throughout Idaho.

Monday morning everyone pitched in and helped pick up the Fairgrounds before heading home or out on final cave trips. It was a wonderful weekend spent with my closest family, CAVERS! I would like to thank everyone that helped make this event possible, especially Chris Anderson and the Silver Sage Grotto, and all the people that helped Jim and Dave with the meals. See you all next year in British Columbia! v

Cascade Caver P.O. Box 66623 Seattle, WA 98166 **Meetings and Directions**



Our meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Hamlin Room in the Shoreline Community Center. The Center is at 18560 1st Ave NE in Shoreline.

To get to the Center, take I-5 to Exit 176 (175th St. NE) and turn left at the light at the end of the off ramp. At the next light, turn right onto Meridian Ave. N. At the next light, turn right again onto 185th St. N. At the next light, turn left onto 1st Ave. NE. The Center is on the right. Don't get it confused with the Senior Center, which is at the end of the building. Enter the building at the southwest corner.

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