

CASCADE Caver

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Cascade Caver

Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

Volume 50, Issue 1

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January 2011

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COVER PHOTO: Lane Holdcroft photographs Mark Sherman and Marla Pelowski enjoying Prince Albert Cave. Photo by Ron Zuber

Bat Sign Installation – part 2 Trip Report

By Ron Zuber

Five of us cavers from the Cascade Grotto, Lane Holdcroft, Edd Keudell, Marla Pelowski, Mark Sherman, and Ron Zuber visited Mount Saint Helens on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 28, 2010. We went there to continue installing some of the new bat conservation and WNS education signs. We placed the first signs at the Ape and Lake Cave parking areas late last September. On this trip, before the day was done, we installed signs in the lower entrance of Bat Cave and in Prince Albert Cave. We made our way into all of the cave entrances to select the best sign sites but we did not penetrate deep into the caves. We wanted to avoid any possible bat disturbance. We observed no bats.



The installation volunteers. Photo by Ron Zuber.

Snow covered the ground but it wasn't deep enough to warrant snowshoes. So, after leaving the parking lot on foot Oley's Cave was our first stop. The snow was several inches deep and it obscured the trail that leads to Ole's. Since Ole's has multiple entrances we think the best sign location might be right along the main access trail as it is approached. We decided to defer sign placement there until next spring when we can clearly see the main route to the cave and determine the best sign location.

Normal for this time of year, we saw no other people on

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the lava flow and certainly nobody but us visited the caves. Since Dollar and A Dime and Gremlin's Cave are a bit more distant, and with little chance for visitation this winter, we deferred sign installation at those locations until next spring.



Ron Zuber in the lower entrance to Bat Cave. Photo by Edd Keudell using Ron's camera.

We hiked a total of 6.2 miles, according to Lane's GPS, in relatively good weather. It rained some, mostly intermittently, temperature was in the mid 30s, and we even had a few brief sun breaks that interrupted the low clouds and fog. When the sun light briefly penetrated the clouds it placed a wonderful light on the steep slopes of Green Mountain. Warmly lit tree trunks, dark green, moss covered vine maple, and everything - everything - dripping droplets of water that were rain drops only moments earlier. They sparkled in the ephemeral light illuminating, not only the scene, but our spirits as well.

We saw numerous animal tracks of different species in the snow, including bear tracks on the power line right of way, but we saw no other people or people tracks away from the parking area. What a beautiful and peaceful place this is at this time of year. Hiking over the snow covered lava flow was challenging but we had no mishaps or injuries. Actually, we all agreed that this was, indeed, a very good outing; good companions, good conversation, a worthy cause, and good exercise in the great outdoors.

I'd like to thank my companions Lane, Edd, Marla, and Mark for guiding me to the caves. My trip was extra special because of their companionship and for the information about the caves, lava flow, history, and geology that they shared with me from their considerable stores of knowledge gained from decades of study and experience.

Allbright's Cave Trip Report

April 15-17, 2010

By Edd Keudell and Jake Earl

Back in mid-April 2010 Jake Earl, Larry McTigue, and I drove up to Conconully area in the north central part of the state. I had never been to Albright's Cave and had always wanted to see it ever since I read about it in *Caves of Washington* (a couple of decades ago). Larry said he would take us to it in trade for helping him and Greg Hollenbeck on the survey of McLaughlin Canyon Caves.

After meeting Jake at Snoqualmie Pass on the way back from working in Yakima. We headed out and were on our way to Albright's Cave. The drive time is about 5 hours and fairly scenic, except for the portion of I-90 between Ellensburg and Moses Lake. It's so scenic that I let myself get carried away and "auto-piloted" behind the driver in front of me who got pulled over by a state patrol along with myself and a driver behind me. Fortunately, the officer was in a good mood gave us all a warning and sent us on our way.

We met Greg just outside of Omak and drove to Albright's. The cave is located in a place that you wouldn't think to look, at least after reading the *CoW* book. We left the paved road and drove along some dirt roads, taking the right if we came to a junction, and eventually parked several hundred feet up in elevation between two hills, steep hills. We grabbed out cave gear and started to hike up one of the hills. Larry said it was located on the top. We eventually reached the top and came upon the first sink hole. Yep, looked like the picture in the book. Then we walked over to the second sink (main entrance), and it too looked like the picture in the book. Jake and I decided to start our survey at the back-door entrance while Larry and Greg went in the main to do some site-seeing.

Upon entering the cave we were affronted with the most pungent pack rat urine odor I've ever encountered. Fortunately, we never had to get lower than sitting upright during the survey of this section. After 10 shots we got into the large entrance chamber and marveled at its size and steep slope. We continued down-cave to the ladder and met up with Larry and Greg. They were both standing near a pack rat nest and

(Continued on page 7)

We got back to the cars just after dark, a little wet and a little tired, but feeling great. This trip probably concludes our Mount Saint Helens area sign installations for this year. We plan to start up again when the snow clears next spring. Consider joining this rewarding effort. The sign installation tools are again clean and dry and safely stored at my place.



The feature the cave is best known for. Photo by Marla Pelowski.

What's next? I'll most likely display a sign or two at Seattle's Northwest Flower and Garden Show this winter in the Bats Northwest booth. We have two signs to install this winter along the trails leading to Senger's Talus Cave. Are you up for a hike? Next year we'll head down to the Trout Lake area and a few other places to install signs.

I want to thank our two agency leads for their encouragement and support. Ella Rowan with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Mitch Wainwright with the US Forest Service; thank you!

Editor Note: The doubts proclaimed that we would not reach the caves because of the snow were unwarranted. The elevation is so low it would be a unique and rare year season to accumulate enough snow to prevent such a hike.

Allbright's Cave

Okanogan County, WA
A DistoX Survey

Surveyed: 4/17/2010

Surveyed by: Jake Earl, Edd Keudell

Surveyed Length = 488.2 Feet

Depth = 98.5 Feet

Plotted using WinKarst v12.5

Drafted using Adobe Illustrator CS4

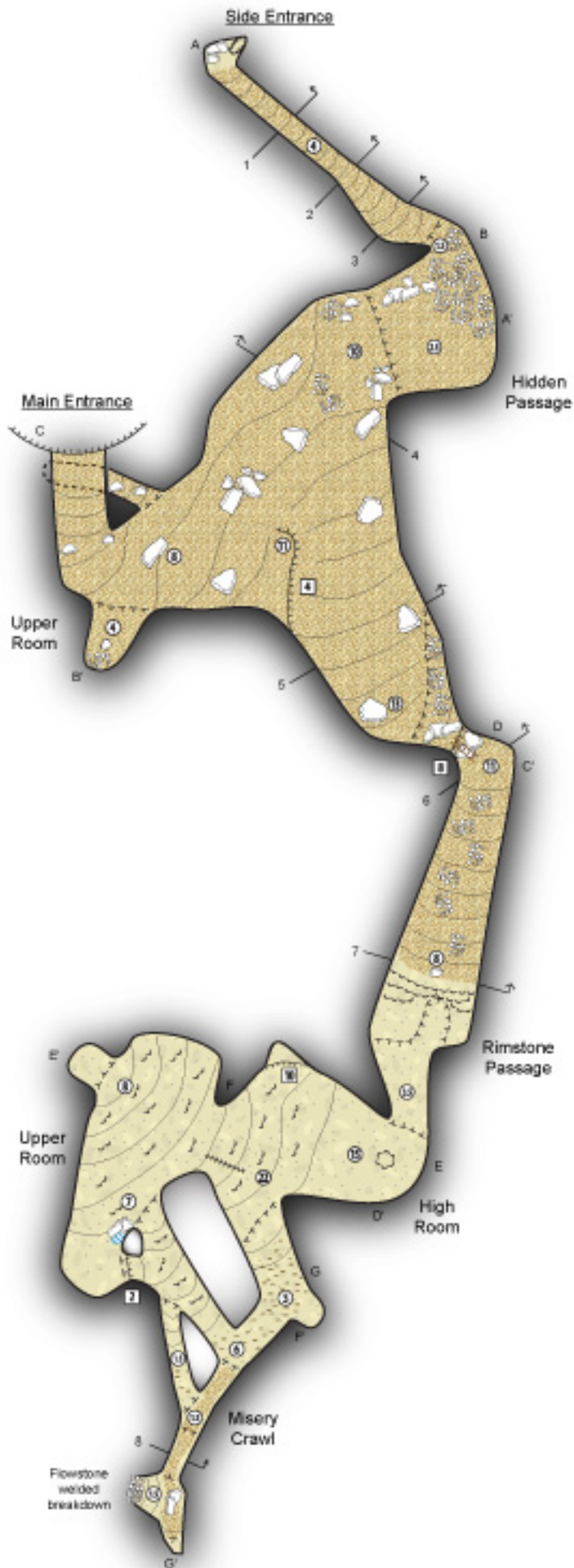
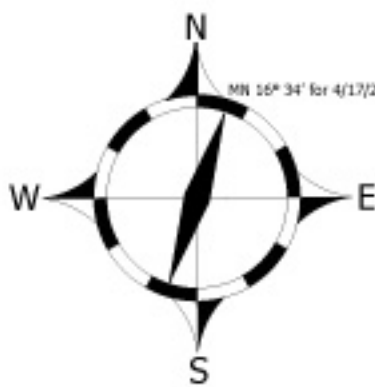
© 2010 Mapperhead (Edd Keudell)

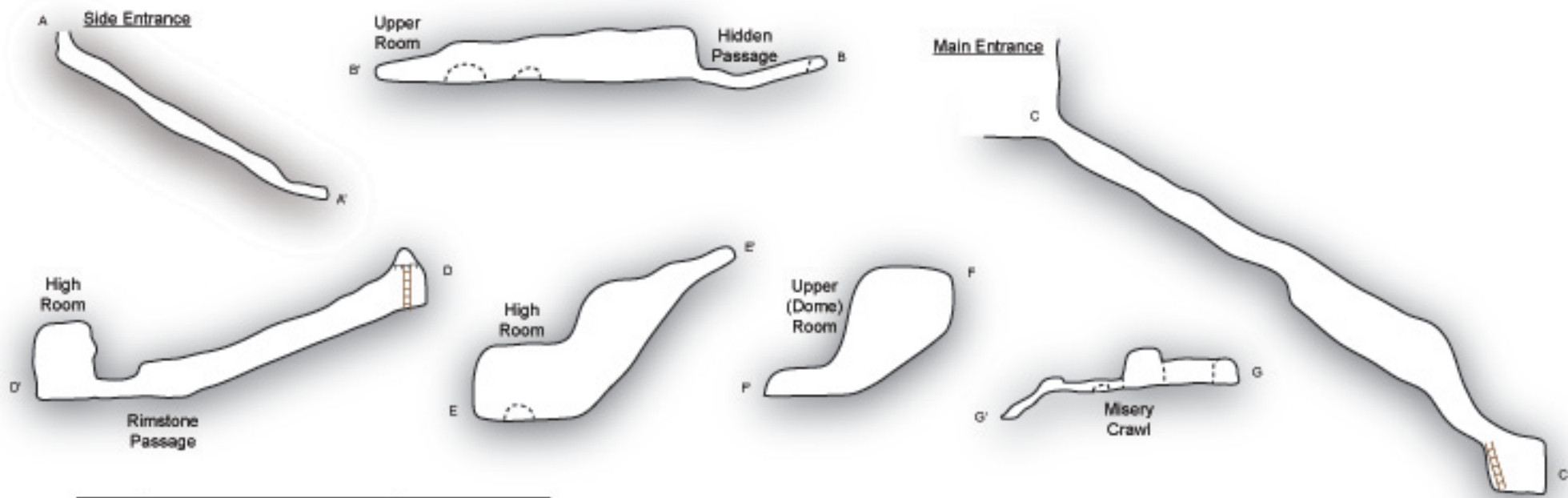
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	= Dirt		= Limestone
	= Floor channel		= Mud
	= Floor transition		= Rimstone pool
	= Flowstone		= Slope
	= Ladder		= Small breakdown
			= Water



Map from Caves of Washington,
Washington Dept. of Conservation,
Division of Mines and Geology,
Information Circular #40, 1963



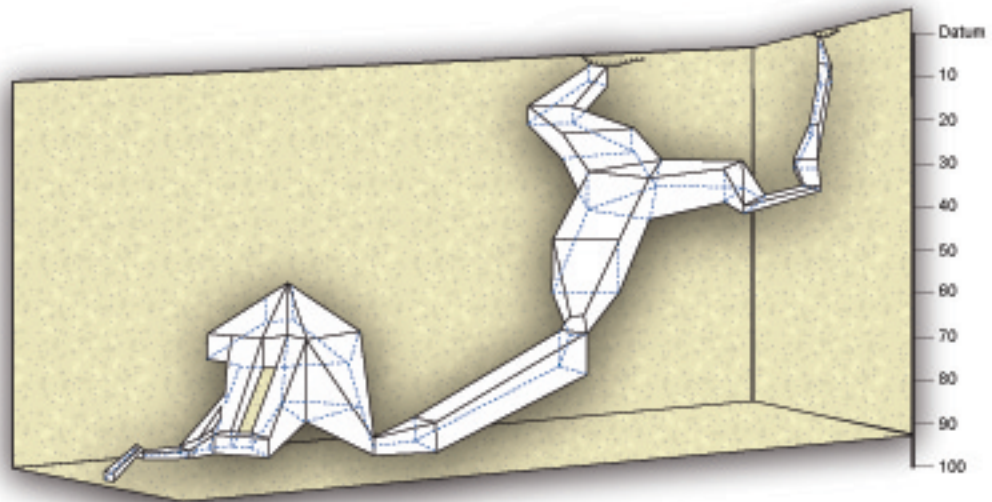
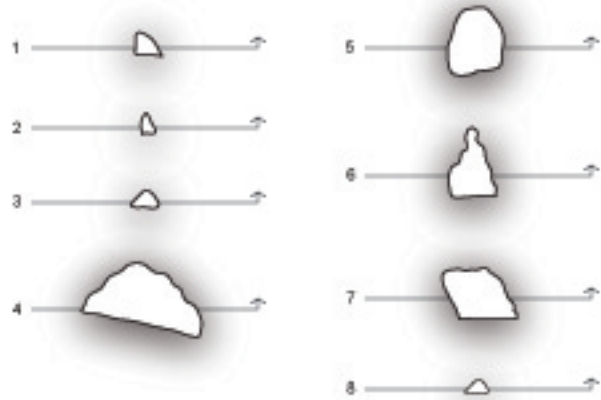


Map from Caves of Washington, Washington Dept. of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Information Circular #40, 1963

Allbright's Cave Okanogan County, WA



Cross Sections



(Allbright's Cave Trip Report continued on page 7)

commenting about how cute it looked. It would run in and out of its den and look at us in curiosity as we surveyed past it. Jake took a picture of it, but couldn't find it for this report. There were also some formations, flowstone, and graffiti, or should we say modern day "petro glyphs" in this section. There are also signs that local kids party there and have fires down here in one of the domes in a dry rim stone pool.

After a few more shots we entered the High Room which was about as impressive as the entrance chamber. The slope leading up to the right was heavily flowstone covered. Larry said he hadn't been up to the domes, but he thought the other side might be easier to climb to get to them. After another few shots we were at the bottom of a steep chute leading to the other side of the High Room. I climbed up to where the room opened up and joined the area we had just come from. It was a bit hairy of a climb as it was just as smooth as the other area and no viable holds. It required wedging along the walls and making a committed move at the top to get into the upper room. It was worth it though as the cave has been heavily visited and has little in the way of formations, but I did find the beginning of some calcite rafting in a very small pool behind some flowstone welded breakdown. Jake followed me up and finished surveying the upper area. Once down again, we did a couple of shots to complete the Misery Crawl which wasn't very miserable.

We finished the survey shooting out from the entrance chamber to the second entrance and connecting into the start. We then hiked back to the cars and drove over to McLaughlin Canyon where we camped for the night. We got out camp set up just as the sun set. BBQ'd up some brats and drank a few beers before going to bed.

We met up with Larry and Greg in the morning at the parking spot to head up to McLaughlin canyon caves. It was a couple mile walk up to the top of the ridge. This area is quite interesting with all sorts of cracks on the ridge top. Some looked as if they were leading down deep and others just a shallow trench. We arrived at the big trench of McLaughlin Canyon cave, suited up and heading down to start surveying from where Larry and Greg had left on from their last visit. Edd and I used his Disto X and took off down a passageway as Larry and Greg went down another one. We met up a while later in a small room about 15x15 by 7 feet tall. We all

gather and followed down a passageway that kept on trending downward to a pit. We decided to stop here since we didn't have rope to descend the drop and it was too dangerous to free climb. We headed out and on our way up we were met by some spelunkers in the late teens exploring the cave. We had come out a different way and popped up to where we left our bags. We packed up our gear and decided to do a surface survey on the way down back to the truck.

We parted ways and Greg went back home just up the road, and we had a several hour drive back home to the west side.

On a later trip we plan to go and push the cave to its deepest part!

Unfortunately the pictures that I took were on my computer that crashed... Until next time I should have pictures!

Evans Camp Quarry Cave Trip Report

January 15, 2011

By Edd Keudell and Vince Rundhaug

This cave was identified after Vince had found an old copy of Rockhound's Guide to Washington, 1978 and read an article about a couple of guys who were collecting aragonite crystals from a cave near Evans. He did a bit more searching on the internet and found more info at the below link:

<http://www.amfed.org/nfms/nwnews/nw0909.pdf> (pg 9).

In the article the author mentioned visiting a couple of times over the years and noting how the sediment was being washed out and also of formations still in the back of the cave.

This got Vince pretty excited and prompted a call to me about when we could go check it out. He said there was no mention of it in the Caves of Washington, and I had not seen any reference in the Cascade Caver, so far from anything virgin it was at least some not know to the organized caving world. He said he was going to go try and locate the quarry prior to when we could go

survey it. We arranged to meet up on the long weekend in January.

We met up in Spokane on Saturday and drove up through Kettle Falls to a couple miles past Evans where we turned off onto a dirt road. The drive was fog shrouded when we got past Kettle Falls and started to drive along the river. Snow had fallen in the past two weeks and there was a small berm from the plowing we had to dig through to get to close walking distance of the quarry.



*View of the fog shrouded Columbia River from mouth of the cave.
Photo by Edd Keudell using HTC Smartphone.*

We packed our gear and hiked up to the quarry where we explored the old rock crusher building. It had a rather interesting collection of junk and trash strewn about. At some point in the past someone had hauled in a car body and dismantled it to the point that, with some vivid imagination, could be considered furniture. A little further in, and around a corner, is a "pit" of about 20 feet in depth. It's a good idea to let your vision adjust before going too far inside lest you have a rude surprise upon rounding the corner.

After visiting the Crusher we hiked to the back of the quarry where the entrances to the cave(s) could be seen. Vince had checked them out on his first visit and determined one was actually a cave while the other would be a shelter "cave". Getting to either cave required a scramble up a steep slope that during drier months would not be much of a problem, but covered in about 8 inches of snow made the climb a bit sketchy. A slip and fall may not kill you, but it would hurt and may even leave mark. Previous visitors had rigged some manila/gold-line rope as a hand line to assist with climbing the slope. When we got up to the cave we rigged it to allow for easier descent than what was there.



Vince sits in front of the "main" passage at the back of the mouth of the cave. Photo by Edd Keudell using HTC Smartphone.

I was surprised at how steep the slope of the entrance area was and the passage leading into the cave. It was difficult to maintain a footing while trying to steady the DistoX for the survey. There were a couple of times Vince or I "surfed" down the slope to the drip-line only to have to scramble back to the station.

We took a shot to where he thought the end was and then climbed up the extremely muddy slope to a room where the floor flattened out and we could stand upright. I asked where the formations were that we had seen in one of the pictures from the rock hound article, but Vince thought they had gotten covered with mud.

Vince was about to leave when I noticed there was a "duck under" over near the left corner of the small room. I said we had at least one more shot and it looked like we might be able to crawl up ahead a ways. However, upon kneeling down and sticking my head in the passage I found there was just about enough room to stick $\frac{3}{4}$ of my body in before it narrowed down. Low and behold though there in the very back of the passage, at the end of the cave, were the formations. They were two small stalagmites of about 6 inches in length and a couple of very short soda straws.. We mused about why they had survived being collected because there was no way anybody could possibly reach getting them. I had been skeptical if it was a real cave or just a void as a result of the quarrying, but it was a real cave. We even found some remnants of aragonite in the lower room and some popcorn in the entrance area on a shelf.

We then left and Vince dropped me off in Newport to meet my wife where we drove to Sandpoint to go skiing the next day.



A view of the Columbia River, after the fog cleared, from the cave entrance. Photo by Edd Keudell using HTC Smartphone.



Looking into the second "cave". Photo by Vince Rundhaug.



Popcorn in the entrance area. Photo by Edd Keudell using HTC Smartphone.



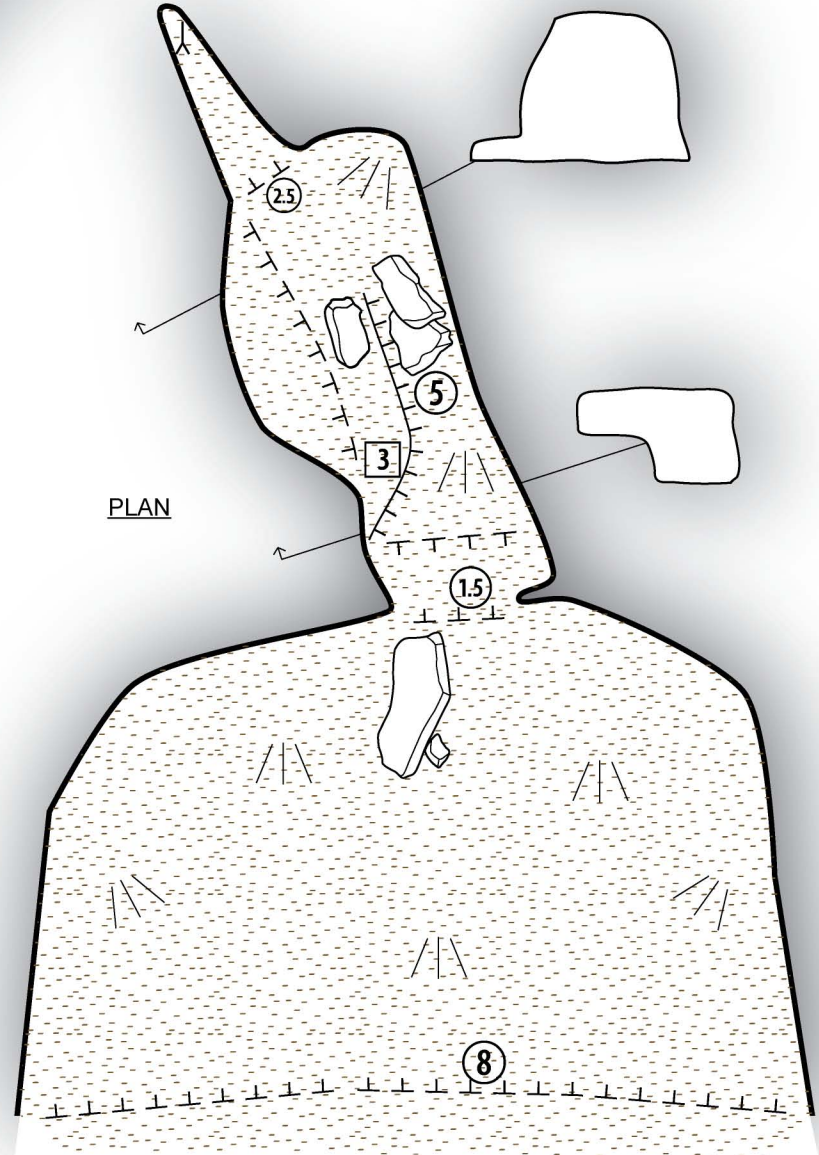
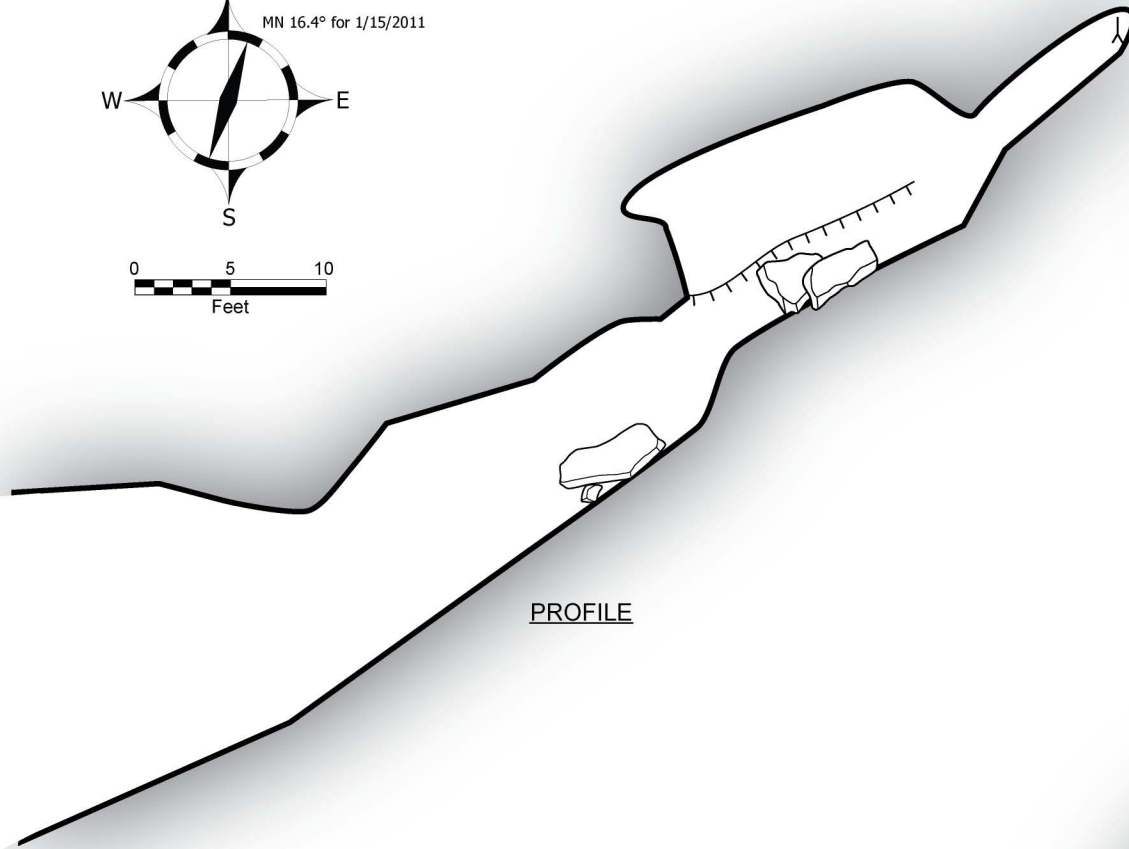
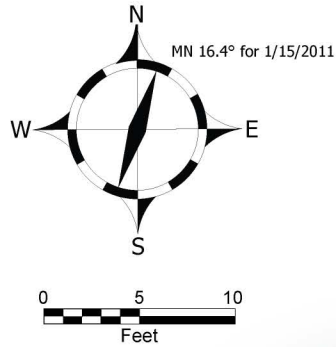
The Rock Crusher and Townhouse Suites building. Photo by Vince Rundhaug.



The entrance to the main cave as seen from the quarry below. Photo by Vince Rundhaug.



What would any cave be without an animal nest in it? Photo by Vince Rundhaug.



Evans Camp Quarry Cave
 Stevens County, WA
 A DistoX Survey

Surveyed: 1/15/2011
 Surveyed by: Edd Keudell, Vince Rundhaug

Surveyed Length = 74.8 Feet
 Depth = 48.1 Feet

Plotted using WinKarst v12.5
 Drafted using Adobe Illustrator CS4
 © 2011 Mapperhead (Edd Keudell)

Map Legend

- = Breakdown
- = Ceiling height
- = Ceiling transition
- = Floor transition
- = Ledge height
- = Stalagmite
- = Mud
- = Stalagmite
- = Slope

Cascade Grotto Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2010
By Marla A. Pelowski

Attendance:Jacob Earl, Lane Holdcroft, Paul Lindgren, Jon McGinnis, Marla A. Pelowski, LeAnn Poirier, Jerry Thompson, Ron Zuber

Treasurer's Report:Unknown

Old Business:

Nominations:

Chair: Marla A. Pelowski (Jerry Thompson nominated, Jacob Earl seconded)

Vice-Chair: Jacob Earl, Jon McGinnis nominated themselves; Marla A. Pelowski seconded for both.

Secretary/Treasurer: After the meeting Jerry Thompson and Lane Holdcroft both agreed to run.

Meeting Location: We should have January and February 2011 free due to the various lock outs we had this year. No action will be taken until then regarding renewing the contract.

Jerry Thompson discussed more about what the grotto should do regarding White Nose Syndrome, especially related to decontamination procedures. He would like to see the grotto require all decontamination procedures and possibly purchase the various disinfectants in bulk for sale to grotto members. He would also like to see future grotto programs regarding how to decontaminate your gear. Paul Lindgren will look into the various chemicals. Jerry will look into developing an action plan for proposal to the grotto.

List Serve: Marla A. Pelowski moves to overturn the October meeting vote to make the current list serve member only, thus leaving that list serve as is; but starting a new list serve for members only to discuss business of the Cascade Grotto. Jon McGinnis seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Grotto Computer: The decision to purchase a grotto computer has been tabled, due to the yearly loss of money the grotto incurs. Marla A. Pelowski did bring examples of three laptops ranging from \$306 to \$492.

New Business:

Holiday party will be held at Spiro's Pizza on the third Friday of December. Jacob Earl moved. Marla A. Pelowski seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Marla A. Pelowski moved that she be reimbursed for the funds advanced for *Cascade Caver* postage for the August, September, and October editions in the amount of \$16.21. Ron Zuber seconded. All in favor, none opposed

Marla A. Pelowski moved and Ron Zuber modified that Albert Meerscheidt and Hester Mallonee be reimbursed for the dump fees they paid for disposal of the Dynamited Cave cleanup trash. Paul Lindgren seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Lane Holdcroft will donate to the grotto a laptop computer cable to use with a projector for future programs.

There is still no evidence that grotto mail is being picked up regularly. If it has been, it has not been delivered to a grotto meeting since August. Paul Lindgren will try to get mailbox key from Kari Doller. His wife works with her on ski patrol.

Trip Reports:

None.

Upcoming Trips:

11/28/2010: Trip to Mt. St. Helen's area to install White Nose Syndrome bat signs. Contact Ron Zuber for info.

Program:

Ron Zuber gave a presentation regarding the possible installation of another bat gate at Boulder Caver, near Naches. The forest service will need \$4,000 in donations in order to proceed with the gate. If you want to donate, please contact Ron and he will put you in touch with the appropriate people.

Cascade Grotto Minutes

January 21, 2011

Call to order by Chairman Marla Pelowski at 7:06 PM.

Introductions were made around the room.

Attendees:

Dan Crape, Alicia Demetropolis, Jake Earl, Elliott, Lane Holdcroft, Hester Mallonee, Albert Meerscheidt, Jon McGinnis, Leanne Toirigr, Michael McCormack, Nikki McCormack, Julie McGinnis, Cameron McGinnis, Robert Mitchell, Erika O'Connor, Marla A. Pelowski, Wendel Pound, Michelle Spritke, Jerry Thompson, Ron Zuber

New officers for 2011:

Chair: Marla Pelowski
Vice-Chair: Jacob Earl
Sec/Treas: Lane Holdcroft

Treasurer's Report:

Total income for 2010 was \$2920.24
Total expenses for 2010 was \$638.81
Income less expenses for 2010 was \$2281.43

Old Business – Computer Grotto computer purchase was tabled.

Sub chairs for 2011:

Vertical	Aaron Stavens
Conservation	Hester Mallonee
Library	Michael McCormack
Webmaster	Erika O'Connor (appointed this evening)
Trip Coordinator	[looking for volunteers]

Michael McCormack reported on a trip in which he (and Jacob & Erika) led a writer to the top of Cave Ridge resulting in the very nice Nov 2010 Seattle Met article which also discussed safety and WNS.

Discussion of WNS Decon Action Plan:

Jerry Thompson moved to adopt the proposed action plan.
Michael McCormack seconded the motion.
Discussion occurred and the action plan was slightly modified.
Marla Pelowski moved to adopt the proposed action plan.

Cascade Grotto WNS Decontamination Action Plan

The Cascade Grotto shall regularly present and revise a manageable decontamination procedure for use (a) between caving trips, (b) between caving areas, and (c) between caves in specific areas.

The Cascade Grotto shall develop a program to teach and encourage the use of recommended decontamination procedures to grotto members and field trip participants.

The Cascade Grotto shall establish, under the direction of the conservation chair, recommended WNS policies.

The Cascade Grotto shall work with sister grottos to develop consistent procedures to be used with shared caving areas.

The Cascade Grotto shall facilitate the use of a decontamination procedure at any regional cave meetings it may host. The may include providing a pressure cleaner, decontamination agent(s,) soaking bins, a rinse bin as well as providing safe disposal of the decontamination agent.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the action plan.

The NCA Regional was discussed.

Michael McCormack moved to have the regional in the Concrete area.

Marla Pelowski seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

It was moved to have the regional in September on Labor Day weekend assuming campsites were available at Razor State Park or another excellent nearby park. Otherwise a new date would be selected.

The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Volunteers for the regional:

Marla Pelowski will collect money.

Alicia Dermetropolis (Chair)

Committee members are:

Michael McCormack, Edd Keudell, Jacob Earl, Lane Holdcroft, Hester Mallonee, Robert Mitchell.

Jerry Thompson moved and Albert Meerscheidt seconded that Alicia Demetropolis be appointed Cascade Grotto's Viceg Ambassador.

The motion passed.

Alicia discussed issues about Vancouver Island caving.

New Business:

Marla Pelowski moved and Robert Mitchell seconded that Ron Zuber be reimbursed \$69 for expenses incurred at a recent Hamilton Middle School presentation.

Meeting Location was discussed– Marla Pelowski moved that roving meetings begin in March.

Ron Zuber seconded the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

Marla Pelowski moved and Michael McCormack seconded to move the meetings to Mercer Island starting in March 2011.
The motion passed!!!

Hester Mallonee announced Oregon Cave cleanup on February 18-21, 2011
She assessed interest and asked who planned to attend.

Discussion on Member/Nonmember use of the library.

Ron Zuber made a report on the Hamilton Middle School presentation.
Ron announced the University of Scouting event was cancelled.

Jon McGinnis offered to develop a list of cave trips at the next meeting.

Upcoming trips:

Red Barn Practice no date
Ice Cave Trout Lake no date

Other discussion items:

Bat Ambassador Training by Bats Northwest (happening very shortly but must be pre-registered)
Mexican Caving Report RZ
RM Dues change (think about it for the next meeting)
List Server announcements

Adjourned 8:59

Notes by Gerry Thompson, appended by Lane Holdcroft.

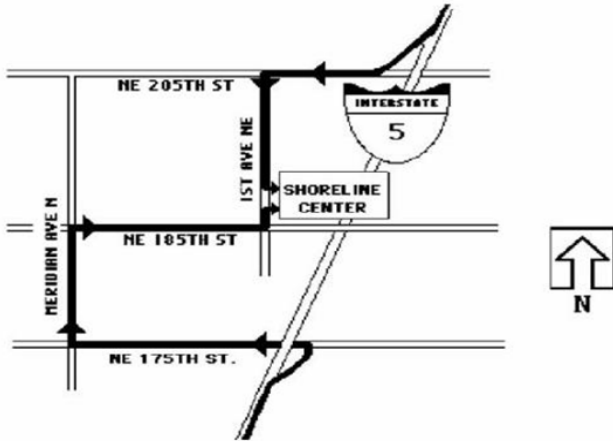
MEETINGS:

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00 pm on the third Friday at the Shoreline Community Center, Hamlin room. 18560 1st Ave NE in Shoreline.

To get to the Community Center from Seattle:

Take Exit 176 on Interstate 5 (175th St. N) and turn left at the light. At the next traffic light (Meridian Ave. N) turn right. Turn right at 185th St. N (the next light). Turn left on 1st NE, which again is the next light.

The Community Center is on the right. Enter the building on the southwest corner and find the Hamlin Room.



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