

The Cascade Caver

58.1

Interplanetary Journal of Vulcanospeleology



The Cascade Caver

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compiled by Daryl Greaser
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[Cover] **Member Miki Kanada is all smiles at the January SRT event.** [Caleb Lystad]

[Back Cover] **Swift Reservoir near Mt. St. Helens** [Chris Larson]

Update by Daryl Greaser

Hello cavers! I present: ***The Cascade Caver, Volume 58 Number 1***. Let's think about the fact that Cascade Grotto has been active for around 67 years! To pay homage to the history of the grotto, I styled the masthead as it appeared for the first time on the February 1971 cover. In that issue, the grotto planned a Memorial Day trip to Papoose Cave! (The more things change, the more they stay the same)

I now have about 3 newsletters' worth of material. To catch up, only 2019 activities are presented here, along with a reprint of a Mountaineers essay by Bill Halliday from 1959.

In the next couple issues, I will present Parts I and II of the 2018-year-end wrap up (we did a lot!), stories and professional photos from Papoose Cave, articles from Larry McTigue on caving near Junction City, Oregon, Mark Fritzke on discoveries in the Marbles, and more! We also expect to publish the Members list - **As this goes to press, we have 91 Members! Shall we have a prize for who becomes the 100th member?!**



Yours truly and the "S.S. Tippy" in Scapegoat.
-Brian Gindling

Grotto Announcements:

- Trips are ramping UP! Be sure to watch Facebook and cascadegrotto.org/events
- The National Speleological Society has approved an introductory membership for anyone under age 26! This is a regular electronic membership (no printed publications) and is 50% off regular price. Details to come, the NSS is at: caves.org (Remember, we are an Internal Organization of the NSS, and ask our members to consider joining.)
- The NSS has opened the "Slack" site to all members. It is basically a new version of a members' forum. Go to: nsscaves.slack.com to learn more!
- Grotto logo stickers (\$1) and magnets (\$2) are available. PayPal or Venmo the money to Daryl Greaser - contact dgreaser@gmail.com for usernames. Or come to a meeting and buy one there!

2019 Upcoming Events

Trips will be added continuously; check website for current listings:
cascadegrotto.org/events

June

6/17-21 –NSS Convention,
Cookeville, TN June 17-21, 2019
nss2019.subworks.com/

6/15-16 - “P’ap Wees” trip -
Papoose and Ta’c Wees Cave,
northern Idaho, (vertical,
intermediate/advanced), led by
Daryl Greaser, limited spots

6/21 – Grotto Meeting,
7-9pm @ Tukwila Community
Center, Tukwila, Washington

July

7/19 – Grotto Meeting,
7-9pm @ Tukwila Community
Center, Tukwila, Washington

? - **Cave Ridge trips**, mid-late
July, depends on snowmelt, to
be announced

? – late July, **Windy Creek
Cave**, recon trip, weekend will
depend on access to trailhead;
dates TBD – led by Daryl
Greaser and Eric Jorgenson.
Expect legions of bugs, Devil’s Club, suffering. Trips will ramp up in the fall once access
route is reconnoitered.

August

NO BUSINESS MEETING – GO CAVING!

Every weekend – **Cave Ridge**, trips to be announced

8/24-25 - Windy Creek Cave TBD



Formation Room, Papoose Cave
- Photo Copyright Justen Despain, 2018.

August, Continued

8/26-9/1 – Scapegoat Caving Expedition, Scapegoat Wilderness, Montana. Survey, exploration, booty, mapping and more. Pack trip – 13 mile approach to basecamp, pack animals utilized for food, caving and camping gear (we don't eat them, they haul our gear!). Led by Brian Gindling and Daryl Greaser. Contact Daryl for details at dgreaser@gmail.com

8/31-9/2 - 2019 NCA Western Regional Caving Event, Redmond, OR – Hosted by the Oregon Grotto and the Oregon High Desert Grotto, at Expo Center in Redmond, Oregon. We have several caving trips off the beaten path lined up, as well as presentations Saturday and Sunday evening. Good food, showers, a great building for dinners, meetings, presentations and rope work if desired and a place to sit and visit. Take a minute to preview the video for more information about Central Oregon's outdoor recreation and sign up today (go to cascadegrotto.org/events for sign-up info).

8/29-9/5 - 19th International Vulcanospeleology Symposium 2019 – Italy
<http://www.19isvetna.com/>

September

8/31-9/2 (see **NCA Regional** above under August)

9/20 – Grotto Meeting, 7-9pm @ Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, Washington
? - **Vancouver Island, BC caves**, dates TBD
? - **Windy Creek Cave trips** TBD



Cave Ridge, June, by Cindy Wu

October

? - **Windy Creek Cave** trips TBD

? - **Dynamited Cave trips** TBD

10/18 – Grotto Meeting, 7-9pm @ Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, Washington

November

11/15 – Grotto Meeting, 7-9pm @ Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila, Washington

Thanksgiving - Papoose Cave trip ??? TBD

December

Annual Holidays Party, dates TBD

Remember, these dates and events are updated on a continuous basis - for current listings, please visit our website at: <http://cascadegrotto.org/events>

Letters

Northeast Washington cave lead musings, 2/23/2019:

Wow! The Cascade Caver has come a long way since the late 70's. I've often wondered about the Gardner Cave area, and like Matt (Skeels, referencing *Caver V57*), even tromped around the surrounding woods a bit. The forest is dense and tangled and not scouting-friendly, aside from Matt, I've never heard of anyone scouting the area. *(Has anyone scouted around in NE Washington for caves?? -ed)*



Another anecdote; I bought some guano years ago from some folks who gathered it from a "substantial cave" near "Keystone" in Stevens County, they assured me I would never find it even if they disclosed the location; I digressed. We helped some folks from the "Lime Belt" (near Riverside) who were burned out in the 2015 Okanogan Complex fire storm, I mentioned the Albright Cave which is just over the hill from them and asked about any other possible caves nearby, they said there are others. (I have their phone number) In the Kettle Range, our back yard, the west flank of Mt. Leona sports some substantial limestone and at least one large sink in the area of the old uranium prospects. Above the sink there is a reported limestone passage large enough for a friend's dog to disappear into but too tight for a person... being a miner, he suggested enlarging the opening. By the way... **have you or anyone from the grotto been to Mclaughlin Canyon caves near Tonasket?** It's unique by any measure.

-Cascade Grotto member **Dan Lutjemeier, Curlew WA**, via email.

Email Dan at dlutjemeier@gmail.com if you have information or want to look for caves!

Recent Events

January 24: Meet-Up at The Hangar at Kenmore Town Center by Daryl Greaser

January 26: SRT training at the Mountaineers Program Center by Dusty Goldscheider: Our first Cascade Grotto vertical training/practice of 2019 took place Saturday 1/26 at The Mountaineers Program Center in Seattle.

We had perfect weather and a nice group of participants -youngest ages 11 & 8, daughters of [Caleb Lystad](#) (photographer).

Laina McNichols & myself arrived @10am, unloaded gear and I began rigging ropes.

My hope was that few more vertical trained members would appear to assist with trainees, however the day proceeded with only Laina and myself instructing.

Much respect and praise for Laina's proficiency in training and coaching- while she herself began vertical training 3 years ago! Those 3 years have been full of experience...and I'm proud ;-)

As participants gradually arrived I began getting individuals set up with vertical kits & helmets. I soon had a line up that took a while to work my way through.

As I got persons rigged and ready, I sent them to Laina to begin intro to using the gear and when ready, getting people onto ropes.

Once my last set of gear was sent out, I joined

Laina in training the trainees in ascent, changeovers, descent, tying off descenders, knot passes and use of ("QAS" - Quick Attachment Safety) safety lanyards.

I had rigged a guideline for a guided rappel which only [Miki Kanada](#) used in descent - and then used tyrolean traverse techniques to ascend the well anchored guideline -with my oversight and coaching.

[Joey Largent](#) arrived in the afternoon while all gear was in use but waiting paid off as I was able to get him geared up and worked through ascent, descent, changeovers and horizontal traverse before derigging and packing up.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and get something out of the experience.

We had lots of smiles and no injuries which equals a successful first vertical training.



If you're going to go, GO BIG! That's 1400 feet of rope for the SRT season starter! -Dusty Goldscheider



Smiles all around at the January SRT event. Look at the weather! -Photos by Caleb Lystad



Recent Events, continued

Feb 6: Science Night at Echo Lake Elementary, by Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire Wilson

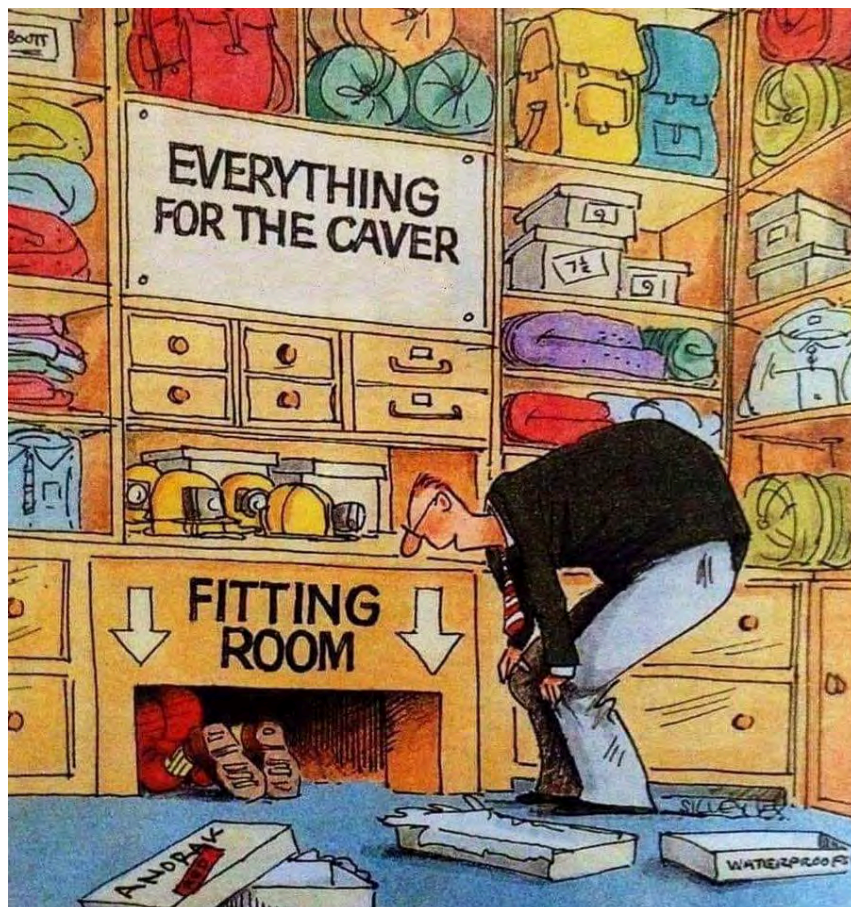
March 21: Meet Up at The Hangar at Kenmore Town Center with Daryl Greaser, Chris Wittenbrink, Cory Bantam, Gilly Elor, Sid Creutz, and Joseph Cruikshank in attendance. We relocated to Cairn Brewing around 7:30. Sad news, Sid is leaving Washington! Starting a career near TAG country!

March 23-24: SRT training weekend at Ravenna bridge by Dusty Goldscheider. A good-sized group was present on both Saturday and Sunday, and many thanks

to Dusty who made the drive home to Mt. Vernon and de-rigged the bridge in between! Also thanks to our Portland-area cavers who drove up just for the day! Impressive! Everyone was able to get on rope, and Dusty expertly demonstrated raising and lower techniques and variations. The Ravenna Swing Crew had a large swing set up on the south side of the bridge and provided a nice distraction.

April 25th: STEM Fair at Park Orchard in Kent by Kathryn Devany DiFoxfire Wilson

April 27: Annual Beginner's Trip - Lake Cave, Ole's Cave. Another successful weekend with 25 participants in total. Good weather for the weekend except for the hour when emerging from Lake Cave, which ran a bunch of people off instead of staying to camp. Laina et al located a bigger, better camp below the usual primitive site we use, however the 1-foot drop off the pavement and the truck-swallowing mud puddle discourages group use, so we set up in our usual spot just down the hill from the Ape Cave turn off. Later, the group went to Ole's Cave. Eric set up a sweat lodge which was very nice, if not a little hot to start!



Submitted by Bob Mitchell :)



March SRT practice - top photos by Sean Lewis; (bottom left) Dusty instructs the group by Daryl Greaser; (bottom right) Daryl explains important considerations in choosing a chest ascender -photos by Vandy Ælfgifu Hall.





(l)Participants practice SRT techniques under the Ravenna Park Bridge. (r) Dusty demonstrates raising and lowering techniques. Photos by Vandy Ælfifu Hall

April 28: Annual Ape Cave Clean-Up led by Daryl Greaser.

Notice I quit calling it the “2nd Annual” since others have pointed out that we’ve cleaned up Ape at other times in the past, too! Therefore, we’ll just call it the Annual Ape Cave Clean Up! Another great turnout this year of 9 cavers; we hiked up and entered the top entrance and made our way slowly downslope, picking up every piece of gum, trash, etc. I brought a “grabber” that was good for reaching trash and small items, but not good for lifting C-cell batteries or full water bottles, of which there were many. Sid came and retrieved Laina, Sophia, and I, as we lagging behind after 3 hours and hadn’t gone more than 1/5 of the way through the cave! Needless to say the upper cave received the best cleaning, and the lower, not so much. We managed to bring out an entire 30-gallon bag full of trash! I later contacted the Monument staff and they will be happy to provide trash bags and a dumpster for next year! This is the kind of “trail stewardship” I can get behind!



The Beginner's Trip participants at Lake Cave;
Diana's shoes disintegrate on Day 1, Chris is
serious about lighting for taking in-cave videos.
-Photos by Chris Larson





Lake Cave entrance, horsin' around, Lake Cave -by Vandy Ælfgifu Hall





(top) lava and a happy new caver by Brad Hutchinson (bottom) Brad climbs and interesting "formations," photos by Choice Meyer.





Ole's Cave and camp - photos by Chris Larson



Cave Clean Up Crew!: Sid, Diana, Jose, Laina, Sophia, Daryl, Kooper, Eric, and Judith! Diana models her shoes on Day 2 - lava caves are rough on shoes! Duct tape to the rescue! -Photos by Daryl Greaser



Grotto History

Submitted by Daryl Greaser

With explicit permission from Lowell Skoog, Historian for The Seattle Mountaineers, we reprint Dr. William Halliday's entire "*Inside the Mountains*" essay published in the 1959 Seattle Mountaineers Annual. The Annual was published in 1960 - that's the date on the cover.

Dr. Halliday, along with with several other Mountaineers members, founded the Cascade Grotto in 1951. Note that Dr. Halliday was a Trustee of the Mountaineers at the time of this article, and that as you read it, not much has changed! The were then as they are now - few and far between in the Puget Sound region! I think you will enjoy reading this piece of history.

I intend to regularly publish a "History" segment in the *Caver*, as there is a lot of information in the last 67+ years of Newsletters!! Is there something from the Grotto library that strikes your fancy? Send it along and we'll feature it in an upcoming issue!

INSIDE

THE MOUNTAINS

By DR. WILLIAM HALLIDAY

"Caves? In the Northwest? None around here. Of course, down in Oregon . . ."

A little exaggerated, perhaps, but this kind of response is usual in the Pacific Northwest. Until recent years, the few people who knew of a local cave or two assumed that they were merely exceptions that proved the rule.

Caves were found in the State of Washington during its earliest days of settlement. The first published news of a cave was in 1869—Ice Cave near Mount Adams—six years before discovery of the Oregon Cave. Interest was further stimulated by the discovery of permanent ice in one of the lava tubes between Mount Adams and the Columbia River Gorge. It was a marvel that ice existed only a few feet underground when midsummer temperatures on the surface ranged well into the nineties.

Other cold-trapping lava tubes in that area served the pioneer settlers of the White Salmon Valley for a variety of utilitarian purposes, as substantiated by the names which they still bear—Butter Cave and Meat Cave. Cheese Cave owes its name to a commercial venture of the 1950's but formerly was used for the storage of potatoes.

Through the years these lava caves south of Mount Adams have remained the best known caves of Washington but others have received flurries of publicity. An article in the 1903 volume of *The Mazama* describes part of a large lava tube south of Mount St. Helens, discovered eight years earlier and known today as Ole's Cave, named for Ole Peterson, its discoverer. Some fifty years passed before the estimate by the Mazamas was verified that the partially explored cavern was a mile long.

A big year in Washington cave history was the discovery of two caves in northeastern Washington in 1903. North of Metaline Falls, Ed Gardner found a large limestone cavern. The main passage of the

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1960

Seattle, Washington



The Mountaineers

THE PURPOSE: to explore and study the mountains, forest and water courses of the Northwest; to gather into permanent form the history and traditions of this region; to preserve by the encouragement of protective legislation or otherwise, the natural beauty of Northwest America; to make expeditions into these regions in fulfillment of the above purposes; to encourage a spirit of good fellowship among all lovers of outdoor life.

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1960

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Gardner Cave is 800 feet long, reaching a depth of more than 250 feet. The first few hundred feet are spacious and contain many massive and curious formations. Then the cave narrows down to a crawlway and when it opens again into another passage, it is muddy and barren. Gardner Cave is being operated by commercial interests and regular tours are available for the sightseeing tourist.

Coincidentally, members of the Albright family located the second largest limestone cave in Washington practically in their backyard near Conconully. Gardner's discovery received wide publicity while the Albright Cave was barely mentioned. This seems curious since the publicity could hardly have been advantageous for Ed Gardner's bootlegging business, but many things are curious about caves and their history. In later years other caves were discovered and recorded, but, being of lesser importance, they were soon forgotten by the general public.

The situation was somewhat different in Oregon. Almost since its discovery in 1875, vast publicity on the Oregon Cave has given the impression that the State of Oregon contains many great limestone caves. Nevertheless, the limestone caves of Oregon are limited to the triangle formed by United States Highway 99 and United States Highway 199, south of Grant's Pass, and none, except the Oregon Cave, is of much interest. The majority of the caves which are found in Oregon are lava tubes near Bend, although a few lava tubes are located northwest of Bend in the Cascade Mountains and several in the desert areas of southeastern Oregon. Malheur Cave is the best known of the latter.

During the 1940's, cave exploration as a sport and speleology (the study of caves and their contents) began a period of mushrooming growth throughout America. Initiated in eastern United States, interest in cave exploration reached the northwest in 1950. During that year, several Mountaineers and other northwesterners, aroused to the lure of the underground, organized the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society. This group located, explored and carried out preliminary studies of almost every major cave then known in Washington and several in Oregon. Unfortunately the cavers' enthusiasm exceeded the supply of caves known at that time and even though they succeeded in discovering additional caves, interest soon slackened.

Entered upon the scene a hero, as a classicist would say, in the person of a Mountaineer, Tom Steinburn, fresh from his conquest of Mount McKinley. Learning from Bob Clark that there was a tiny

cave in the saddle between Guye Peak and Mount Snoqualmie, Tom and his wife, Ann decided on an exploratory trip. Much to their amazement, sinkholes and cave entrances were scattered throughout an area ranging almost half a mile across. The more they searched, the more they found. None were really large, but at least three were more than they could safely tackle alone.

One of these newly found caves was a slanting crack, too narrow for Tom. Ann squeezed into it feet first for several yards, but could not turn around to see what was ahead—or rather behind. To date no one else has done better. Another opening led downward a few feet to a broad, low chamber, partly choked with breakdown. At its far end was a deep, broad pit, extending deeper into the mountain and clearly no place for a novice. The third was most impressive of all. A depression, almost hidden in the heather, had a small hole at the bottom. It looked large enough for a person to wriggle through, but the beam of the flashlight indicated the hole opened straight down into the vault of a large, deep chamber. Rocks dropped into its maw floated downward until they shattered at the bottom far below.

Tom's discoveries on the flank of Mount Snoqualmie were not the only progress being made in caving. Tom teamed up with two cavers from the Southern California Grotto of the National Speleological Society for a caving and climbing trip to Glacier, British Columbia. Here they found that the Nakimu Caves are of great extent and considerable depth, a massive limestone formation which has been cut and shaped by underground streams.

A group of teen-agers calling themselves the Mount St. Helens Apes, in memory of a local legend, prowled the lava beds near Ole's Cave and found several other lava tubes, some being of considerable size. In Portland a small group known as the Northwest Explorers also became interested in cave exploration and began inquiry about other lava tubes in the Mount Adams area. Members of the Washington Speleological Survey, one of the newest units of the Western Speleological Survey, also began exploration in this area. It was rumored that Forest Service Personnel and some outdoor-minded local individuals had encountered quite a number of new caverns in the Mount Adams region. In addition, several small caves had turned up as a result of a study by the State Department of Geology of all the limestone deposits in the state. Things were looking better for cavers.

The experiences of the first competent party to visit the Snoqualmie Pass caves gives a good idea of what can be anticipated of cave exploration in the northwest. Loaded with packs bulging with ladders,

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rope and camera equipment, Tom Steinburn, Bob Clark, Bob Spring, Joan Webster and the writer made the long ascent on September 15, 1956, stopping first at Clark's Cave. With some difficulty, Bob Clark backed full length into the tiny cavern to pose for the party's photographers. These were historic photos for it was Bob's discovery of this tiny limestone cavern which led to the discovery of all the other caves in the immediate area.

After pacifying the photographers, the party continued along the hanging valley on the south side of Mount Snoqualmie and scrambled to the entrance of Prospector's Cave. Bob Spring took one look at the inches-wide slit of the opening and gave up all hope of getting more than the nose of his camera inside. As titular leader, I tried to force the entrance and found it less tight than it appeared. Most of the party succeeded in following, and we set about exploring each of a complex of narrow passages and crawlways, mapping each passage in detail. The result was the recording of the largest limestone cavern in western Washington, totaling approximately 200 feet of passages. But the rock was rotten and the roof crumbly near the rear. It was not at all a pretty cave.

At the upper end of the valley, Tom directed us towards the south and over the rim. Below us lay a tiny valley in the form of a trough between glacier-polished limestone outcrops with a number of sinkholes arranged in a row. At the bottom of one of the sinkholes was a narrow opening which slanted downward into a sizeable chamber. Red flowstone in an obscure chimney fostered the name "Red Cave." Fortunately, this particular cave opening was of sufficient breadth that Bob Spring could squeeze through and make up for lost time photographically. One of his photos later adorned the cover of the Seattle Times Pictorial.

At the south edge of this little amphitheatre, pitted with sinkholes and ribbed with long limestone outcrops, still another opening appeared—this cave soon to become known as "Danger Cave." Sliding beneath a chockstone and down a steep muddy slope, we arrived in a broad, low chamber which seemed stable in spite of the presence of considerable breakdown. At the far end was a pit. Two 35-foot lengths of rope ladder, lashed together and tied to a convenient rock, reached bottom with many feet to spare. Tom assumed a satisfactory belay position as I tied in. Then, just as I was about to reach for the ladder, someone called "Wait a minute!" As we clustered around the pit, we could see freshly gouged scratches on one of the jumbled

rocks at the top of the pit. It looked well wedged, but . . . we left. (A year later Tom Steinburn returned to Danger Cave. Ascertaining that the rocks had stabilized, his explorations proved that the pit continued into the mountain and led to a stream passage, beyond which was a chamber of considerable size.) Although it has not been mapped in detail, it appears that Danger Cave may surpass nearby Prospector's Cave as the largest limestone cave in western Washington.

There was one more cavern to be visited. Not far away was Tom Steinburn's prize hole—opening into the top of a large chamber. We took turns being convinced, shining our flashlights into what seemed like an immense abyss, with the floor miles away. Rocks dropped, however, struck bottom in less than two seconds so we knew it was not beyond our grasp. "Hellhole Cave," we dubbed it.

Tom dragged up a log. Two sections of rope ladder were tied together and lashed to the log. As the ladder was lowered, we hoped it would reach the bottom. It did, with one rung to spare. Now to start the 68-foot descent on a flimsy, swinging ladder, entirely free of the walls of the cave. The narrowest part of the entrance was roughly triangular and about one foot wide on each side. Fortunately cavers are characteristically narrow of beam. I had to remove my pack and assume the position of minimum width—one arm at the side and the other arm pointed forward. I slipped through without much difficulty. The room widened around me as I climbed down the swaying ladder. The bottom was an ugly mass of great, unstable blocks of breakdown. I untied the nylon rope, called "Off belay," and gingerly started making my way around the room while I waited for Bob Spring to follow.

Time dragged on and on. Confused noises echoed from the top of the ladder. I guessed that Bob was having a tight squeeze. Then, finally, I could see the bulky body capped with a carbide light starting down the ladder. It was Tom, not Bob. Bob simply didn't fit. By the time Tom reached bottom it was so late that we had almost no time left for exploration. After emerging from the cave, we watched the sun cast pink hues on the eternal snows of distant Mount Rainier. Hurriedly we packed the gear and began the descent in dusk which soon gave way to nightfall. For cavers this is almost a normal situation and our headlamps served as well above the ground as below.

An excited scouting crew returned from Mount St. Helens with the news that they had paced the length of Ape Cave and thought

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it was nearly three miles long. Recalling that the longest lava tube known in the United States was about 6500 feet in length, I calculated a seemingly safe margin and volunteered to eat every foot of it over two miles. Then we measured it. Can anyone supply a good recipe for 655 feet of boiled, baked or fried lava tube? Its length is 11,215 feet. Ape Cave holds the American record at present, but other lava tubes nearby have proven much more interesting and studies by members of the Western Speleological Survey are still in progress. New concepts of the origin and development of lava tubes are evolving from these studies. It is expected that the results soon will merit publication in scientific journals.

To the casual visitor, Lake Cave is probably the most interesting of the lava caves. For those who do not care to traverse some 3500 feet of rough lava to see the small underground lake, from which the cave derives its name, the patterns of successive lava flows just inside the entrance will be rewarding. In a side passage close to the entrance, a brick-red lava floor is particularly spectacular. Help is needed to prevent litter and vandalism in this passage of pristine beauty.

Near Mount Adams the visitor will find access to lava tubes easier than in the cave area south of Mount St. Helens. The main entrance of Ice Cave, mentioned earlier in this article, is in the middle of Ice Cave Forest Campground. The floor is ice throughout most of the year and there are massive ice columns at the lower end of the cave. New Cave's entrance is only a few feet off a main logging road in the same area. The eastern part of New Cave is smooth, easy walking, but its western section is rugged and difficult and only two persons are known to have reached its western end.

Dry Creek Cave is right on the edge of the old Randle-Trout Lake road but this low and narrow cave, though scientifically fascinating, is too uncomfortable for most persons accustomed to the freedom of the mountains—and of the larger lava tubes. The other lava tubes of the Mount Adams area supply great variety and the newly reorganized Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society will be glad to provide information to anyone who wishes to look at them, or to look for others, for we have plenty of rumors to trace. There yet remains the chance that YOU may discover a cave of major proportions near Mount Adams!

Today we know that other regions in Washington have an abundance of caves yet to be explored and studied. The Western Speleological Survey has such a backlog that logistic difficulties have forced us far behind the schedule which we originally established.

Perhaps some of the cream of the excitement is gone with the commercial development of Gardner Cave, our largest and most beautiful cave in limestone, but there is still much to be done, and we can use plenty of help. For example, in precisely the same area which Tom Steinburn had searched almost inch by inch, Maurice Magee found a new and sizeable cave in August, 1959. On the other end of the ledger we have made three unsuccessful trips to the limestone deposit near Soda Springs on the little Wenatchee River, vainly seeking a rumored cave and a fissure of which we have a photograph.

Many isolated outcrops of limestone occur in the northern Cascade Mountains which have not been searched for the possibility of caves. The help of every Mountaineer could be of great value in the search. Around Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens perhaps a brand new lava tube may be discovered, but in the Northern Cascades the geomorphology is such that this region might contain the deepest cave in the United States. It is my personal opinion that the chances of this are not as good as they are in Montana or New Mexico, but they seem much better than in Utah, which now has the deepest cave now known in the United States—Neff Canyon Cave, 1176 feet deep. Good hunting!

Caution is necessary when exploring a cave. Equipment includes a helmet, headlamp, spare flashlight, candle (or other third light source) as well as waterproof matches and additional gear which cannot be predicted in advance. A flashlight will be a part of the ten essentials. If finding a natural opening in limestone, or a new lava tube, one should take a look inside with the flashlight to be sure it goes somewhere. Look first at rocks over the entrance to see if there will still be an entrance for retreat. But even if there happens to be the cavers' minimum of four persons in the party and, by some miracle, the necessary gear is at hand, don't succumb to the lure of the unknown around the next corner before obtaining the services of someone who has had enough experience underground to be able to recognize subtle, potential danger. Please don't take the risk of being trapped inside a cave known to no one else. The Mountain Rescue Council is kept busy rescuing people from above ground. Let's not cause them trouble underground.

In the early days of American caving, there were so few experienced spelunkers that it was necessary to write out detailed suggestions for those who wished to take part in exploration of the underground. This was done to some extent on pages 38 to 41 of the 1951 issue of *The Mountaineer*. This article is still of considerable value

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to persons interested in caving. Just as in mountaineering, however, the best way to learn safe techniques is by taking part in expeditions guided by and composed of competent cavers. The local group, consisting largely of Mountaineers, plans about one trip each month throughout the year. Anyone interested in spelunking (the sport) or speleology (the science) will be welcome. After all, someone is needed to carry the gear!

Reprinted from the 1960 Mountaineer Annual with permission of "The Mountaineers."



In June 2018 Cindy Wu and Renato Dalle Mulle (seen here) visited Bill Halliday who recently relocated to Sequim, Washington from out-of-state. Bill co-founded the Cascade Grotto in 1951 with a few members of The Mountaineers. Bill turns 93 this year and is in good spirits and still writing every day!

Cascade Grotto Information

2019 Grotto Officers:

Chair: Daryl Greaser - Seattle

Vice Chair: Eric Jorgensen - Seattle

Secretary: Chi Tran - Tacoma

Treasurer: Talon Swanson - Renton

Stay Connected!

All Grotto Events Here: <http://cascadegrotto.org/events/>

Facebook Page (public) <http://facebook.com/cascadegrotto>

Facebook Group (request to join at:) <http://facebook.com/group/cascadegrotto>

Yahoo Groups emails: request access via cascade_grotto@caves.org

Meetings

We host **meetings** *most* months of the year, typically on the 3rd Friday of the month at 7pm at: Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave S, Seattle, WA 98168 . Meetings are also held at other places and times; go here for current listings:

<http://cascadegrotto.org/meetings>

Meetings are open to the public and typically consist of a business segment from 7-8pm, and a program from 8-9 pm. Following the meeting from ~9:15 to ~11pm we usually meet at Azteca (Tex-Mex restaurant) in South Center for food, drinks, and tall tales! Join us!

Events

ALL grotto events are published at: <http://cascadegrotto.org/events>

Questions?

Email us at cascade_grotto@caves.org (all officers receive the email)

Newsletter Submissions

Please send all photos, maps, and trip reports to dgreaser@gmail.com



Cascade Grotto

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