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Dalene T. Perrigo

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The

Alaskan Caver

Volume 13 Number 3

Aug 15, 1993



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene Perrigo - Editor

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Cover Photo: Formation in cave on Prince of Wales Island.
photo by Alan Murray

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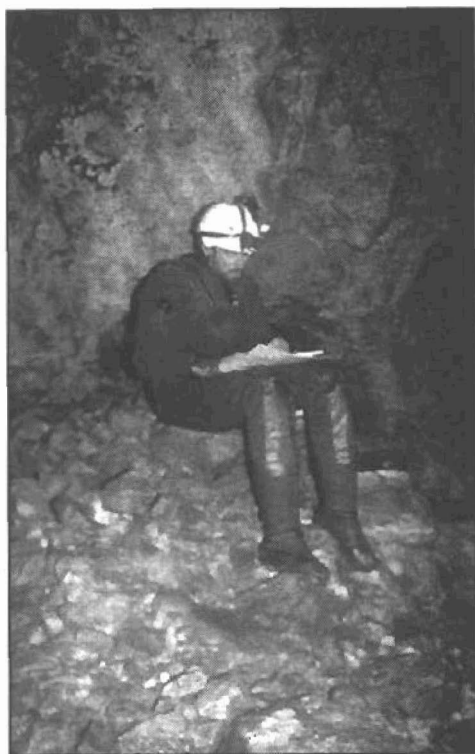
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Craig Sempert records survey data in Divers' Den on Prince of Wales Island Photo credit: A. Murray

CALENDAR

- Sept. 15-17** Ninth Annual Karst Encounters, North Vernon, IN. Brian Leavell (317)552-7619.
- Sept. 17-19** Cave Ridge. Western WA. Mike Wagner-(206)282-0985.
- Oct. 24-26** Cave Conservation/Restoration Workshop. Carlsbad Caverns National Park. (303)370-6473.
- Nov. 5-7** Oregon Cave restoration. Mike Compton at (206)535-5144.
- Nov. 24-28** Hells Canyon, Idaho. Geology trip. Jim Nieland at (206)231-4298.

POWIE VII Provides Caving Challenges

by Marcel LaPerriere

The night before our scheduled departure for Prince of Wales Island Expedition (POWIE VII) I couldn't sleep. So even though it is bad luck to leave on a Friday my wife Connie and I boarded our boat Terra Nova at 10:30 p.m. in Ketchikan. As we motored through the night we watched the radar and a fantastic display of lightning. Our eagerness to reach El Capitan Pass translated into a two day trip, instead of the three we had allotted.

After anchoring across from El Capitan Camp, we used the skiff to get to camp and meet the rest of the POWIE caving group. It didn't take long to realize that we were surrounded by a bunch of great people ranging in age from 16 to over 40 and in abilities from new cavers to professionals.

That night I could barely sleep. The excitement and anticipation of the two weeks ahead kept creeping into my dreams. When morning finally came, we hurried to camp. Our plans were to head for El Capitan Cave and check out the sump in preparation for a scheduled dive.

We were delayed a short time while I went over rope work with Dee and Darcie Ziel, who arrived the night before. They learned repelling and ascending very quickly so Connie, Dee, Darcie and I headed for the sump.

Even though I spent the better part of four days in El Capitan Cave last fall, I had never been to the sump room and Darcie and Dee had never been in El Capitan Cave. We were all overcome by its beauty. Remembering the reason for the stop, I quickly checked the sump to see if it was deep enough for a dive. When I came to the surface and let out a whoop and holler, it was obvious to all that the passage was big enough.

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President's Corner

by J. Rockwell Jr.

This is my last "President's Corner." It has been a long time. My first was in the "Chairman's Corner" in The Alaskan Caver 2(1) of January-June, 1975. In looking back at it I remember the paragraph: "Partly because of pressing

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Later that day Darcie and I accompanied Kevin Allred and Dave Klinger to Cataract Cave. Darcie and I rappelled the first drop and explored the stream passage. Then we rappelled the second drop, which we later learned was a "first" as it is usually filled with the stream. Kevin took us into El Capitan Cave to view some recent vandalism. It is hard to believe people will ruin work by Mother Nature.

The next two days were spent mapping Scallop Cave. When Connie, Darcie and I came out of the cave the first day after a 5-6 hours stint, I discovered I had left the lights on in the truck. Try as we might, we couldn't push the truck up a small hill that would allow us to coast for nearly two miles, so we started walking. Fortunately we had seen some campers early in the day that were only a 4 mile hike away. Unfortunately, their camper wouldn't climb the hill, but they knew a man with a four wheel drive vehicle and were willing to take us to his camp. After explaining our predicament to him, the old-timer (Chet) said he would help us if Connie and Darcie didn't mind lying down while riding in the back of his Dodge Power Wagon. In the Power Wagon's much earlier life, it was an ambulance and now the center aisle between the stretcher decks was full of junk. Chet did get our car started and when we arrived at camp (an hour late), it was much fun to start the story by telling our fellow-cavers that we had been for an ambulance ride.

A couple more days were spent caving and preparing for what would be the highlight of the trip for me—the cave diving.

Saturday the 17th of July dawned as had most of this summer - clear without the hint of any clouds in the sky. Alan Murray and I headed for El Capitan Cave followed an hour later by Craig Sempert and spectators. We were the show for the day. By the time we were suited up and ready to dive, Alan and I had been in El Capitan Cave for about four hours, but I was so excited, it seemed like only a few minutes. Craig, Alan and I went through the sump and mapped and explored the large room at the end. While surveying, we named it "Divers' Den" because we felt only divers will be lucky enough to go there.

The rest of the week was spent mapping and exploring caves. If I had to pick the nicest, it would be Bridal Veil where we mapped an 85 foot deep pit at the end of a passage. The most amusing would be Broken Bus Cave, found when construction workers blasted through a wall while quarrying rock for one of the endless logging roads on POW. Due to a lack of places to attach rigging, we decided to tie the rope to the back door hinges of the U.S. Forest Service Suburban we were driving. This brought up several possibilities for rapid ascent from the cave. We named the first drop Suburban Pit in honor of our rigging point and the second Crash Dummy Pit, in honor of ourselves. Only a dummy would

have gone down there after seeing all the loose rocks that were waiting to fall and all the rocks that had recently fallen.

On Saturday the 24th of July, Alan, Craig and I completed two more dives, before Craig returned to Ketchikan. Alan, Connie and I spent the next day caving. We were assigned the task of clearing a passage in Wash Room Cave, but first we had to find the cave. After 2 and 1/2 hours of searching through a clear cut, we went back to camp and got better instructions. We finally found the cave and were able to dig out the passage only to find another dig. Beyond the second one, the passage was too tight for a big guy like me.

A couple of days later several of us went back to Wash Room Cave, mapped it and named the passage Blow Dry because of the strong draft of air. We tried to push the tight passage, but decided to wait for skinny, experienced cavers.

For several days, my mind had been filled with the possibility of climbing one of the upper leads in Divers' Den. I knew it would take an extremely good climber. I wish I could describe the climb that Pete Smith made: Let me just say it was incredible! Rating it on the rock climbing scale, it was 5.7 to 5.8 which is tough enough any time, but Pete climbed it in rubber boots, a caving suit and in the light of his head light only. As I belayed Pete those two hours, he kept yelling down his progress. Things looked good and the pas-

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Underwater Passages Test Alaskan Cave Divers

by Alan Murray

On July 17th, 1993, three certified Alaskan cave divers entered a sump at El Capitan Cave on Prince of Wales Island. The event could well be the first time anyone has documented efforts to explore the underwater channels on the island. The preliminary work for this dive started in November 1992 when the three divers (along with a fourth, Mary Kowalczyk) took the critical training necessary to dive in caves. Without that training it would have been near suicidal to attempt this dive. Alan Murray

The excitement in the air was intense as Marcel LaPerriere, Craig Sempert and I prepared to dive in a sump at El Capitan Cave on Prince of Wales Island. To relieve the pressure and add a little humor, Marcel and Craig planted a dive flag on the edge of the sump (one used to alert boat traffic to a dive-in-progress).

As the three of us entered the sump, a loud cheer arose from the audience (almost everyone in camp turned out to watch the dive). One moment we were blinded by rapid-fire camera flashes, and the next moment we were following a thin nylon line, barely visible, yet only inches from our faces.

The sump that we entered was about 15 feet lower than usual due to the lack of rain. This enabled us to see a tight opening near the point of entry. Since Marcel had the larger tank, he checked the sump. It would be a mistake to get three of us in a place where we couldn't turn around, couldn't see more than an inch or two, and could find communicating nearly impossible.

Although the actual dive took less than one minute it brought us out in a large room measuring about 45 feet in diameter and 70 feet in height. We removed

our dive gear and walked up the rock and mud mound in the center. From that high point, we watched the changing shadows and highlights created as we moved our lamps.

Cave Diving isn't a question of "if", it's a fact of "when" it will be needed.

However, excitement of discovery soon overwhelmed us again and we began looking for an obvious continuation of the main dry passage. There didn't appear to be one, but a deep cut through the left side of the mound showed that the flow of water came from a small opening at the base of a steep slope of large, loose rock.

The sound of flowing water could be heard, so I carefully descended and crawled into a small area that contained a sump. Water was flowing rapidly across part of the sump. The right side was a quiet pool that was deep enough to stand up in. I called to Marcel to bring my mask so I could get a quick look into the sump. We realized that the flow of water through the Alaska Room sump wasn't the main route, but only the overflow from the sump in front of us.

Taking a breath, I submerged and found myself looking upstream into a large, and probably the main, underwater passage. It was approximately 5 to 6 feet



Alan Murray waits by Cavern Lake Cave prior to diving at POWIE VII.
Photo credit: Connie LaPerriere.

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wide and 8-10 feet high. Even though the water was clear my underwater light did not reveal the end.

Next we checked the deeper part of the sump. Free diving to about 3 feet, I swam through an opening and gained access to a small chamber with two 10 foot waterfalls. One more free-dive put me in an area with only about a four inch air space, just enough to see I didn't want to stick around without my tanks. Marcel took a quick look at the waterfalls and then we went back to where Craig was to start our survey. Some of the vertical leads may join with the Alaska Room but it seems highly unlikely at this time that anyone but divers will ever enter this part of the cave.

The trip out of El Capitan Cave was uneventful until we reached the Cathedral Room. There we found ourselves looking down on a group of about eight children and one adult. All were dressed in street clothes, had no hard hats, and carried one flashlight apiece - the kind you buy in a drug store and have to bang against your hand to keep on. At the entrance to El Capitan Cave they were warned about their inadequate equipment, but went in anyway. We had words with them, and then removed all rigging to make sure they started out of the cave. Cave rescue isn't a question of "if", it's a fact of "when" it will be needed. We have intensified our resolve to learn and practice these necessary skills in the coming months.

One week later, Marcel, Craig and I hauled our gear to the sump

in a nearby cave. Earlier in the week the water was clear, but recent rain caused the sump to look like coffee. I managed to avoid cutting my hands on the sharp edges in this marble cave, but put two holes in my diving suit.

We expected the sump to be short and for the cave to continue its winding, upward path. What a surprise! The initial drop in the sump didn't provide a secondary tie-off until I reached a depth of 37 feet. My bubbles sent down a continuous shower of black mud, making extremely bad visibility even worse.

Around 55 feet the sump made a right turn and became an oval passage about 4 feet by 5 feet that started up at a very slight angle. I was hoping that we would finally start back up to the next dry passage. Instead, I soon found myself floating over a pit which had a rock bridge near the ceiling. I started down and was soon stopped when my reel reached the end of its line. The extra heavy line I was using limited me to only 150 feet, so I tied Craig's primary reel to mine and continued down. At a depth of 71 feet I noticed that my primary light was getting weak so I ascended to where Craig was to change to my backup primary. Craig signaled that he had reached his air turn-around and called the dive. Once we surfaced in the sump, Marcel took great pleasure in watching me shiver in my flooded dry suit.

We packed our dive gear to the vehicles and headed for Cavern Lake. Once again we expected a shallow sump dive, with possible air pockets along most of the route. Surprise again!

The sump starts off in a cavern with a large sloping ceiling that levels off a couple of feet above the water. This huge ceiling is supported in the center by a single, short pillar of rock. Well back into the cavern is a vertical opening that is the entrance to the under

Even with training these caves can be as scary as hell!

water passage. We reached the bottom of this wide crack at a depth of 52 feet and followed the upward slope to a tight spot formed by a submerged log. A short swim past this was another log, forming an even tighter spot.

We returned to the cavern and recomputed our air limits so we could reenter the deep part of the cave. We had seen large numbers of small trout in the cavern and near the cave entrance, and well into the cave there were a number of fresh water sculpins. We did enjoy the greatly improved visibility (about 8 feet), but the most welcome part was the 62 degree water temperature. For us it was like being in the tropics ... with bad visibility.

This winter will find some of us taking more advanced cave diving courses in preparation for next year. If you are an open water diver, don't even think of entering these caves for the purpose of diving. Even with training they can be as scary as hell! Standard open water equipment and set up, and dive planning, are neither safe nor acceptable for cave diving, much less for sump diving.

Forest Service Sponsors Karst Management Seminar

Report by Steve Lewis

A Karst Management Seminar was sponsored by the Ketchikan Area of the US Forest Service in cooperation with the American Cave Conservation Association and the National Speleological Society Feb. 16-18, 1993. While focussing on management needs and objectives of the Tongass National Forest in Southeastern Alaska, experts on karst processes, hydrology, cave biology, effects of timber harvest and cave management were summoned from throughout the US and Canada.

Dave Rittenhouse, forest supervisor of the Ketchikan Area, introduced the seminar by declaring the Area's commitment to protecting cave resources and challenged attendees to outline the three research projects that would be most effective in aiding the management of karst in conjunction with other forest resources.

Through slides, Jim Baichtal, Ketchikan Area forest geologist, and seminar facilitator, showed some of the karst terrain, caves, and speleothems while illustrating dangers to this resource through poorly thought-out timber harvest and road construction. Jim Nieland of Mt. St. Helens National Monument presented informative talks on the role of federal agencies in cave management, determining significance of caves and the role of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act in management planning. He noted that approximately 90 percent of cave resource management on federal lands is done by volunteers.

When Tom Aley (director of the Ozark Underground Laboratory in Missouri) discussed the geology of caves and the implications for cave management in areas of karst hydrology, Several salient points evolved: 1) land management and cave management are integrally related and 2) soil loss in karst areas is a potentially serious problem, especially in areas with significant topographic relief. Since the karst system of subsurface water transport must be considered when developing protection schemes for humanly traversable caves, management must be considered in three dimensions, not just the two dimensions usually consid-

ered in areas with surface drainage. Management difficulties are compounded because surface drainage patterns or surface projections from cave maps do not show areas which will be affected.



Since karst areas typically have shallow soils, soils can wash directly into the ground water when the protective canopy is removed, according to Aley. Soil loss may explain some of the regeneration problems foresters are facing on northern Prince of Wales Island. While karst areas may have originally produced some of the largest timber, they may not recover rapidly from current timber harvesting techniques. Some of Paul Griffith's slides from Vancouver Island show bare limestone with stumps in karst areas which were harvested and the slash burned.

The potential for unique troglobytic species in Alaskan karst seems high. Biologist Kent Carlson spoke of his findings in the Prince of Wales Island caves. No new species have been identified, but he is still in the process of sending unidentified critters to various taxonomic specialists.

Bill Elliot, a karst and cave biologist from Austin, TX, discussed new designs in cave gates that exclude humans but not bats or most other species that use caves; Doreen Baichtal, a masters degree student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks talked of her study of bats in southeastern Alaska; and Forest Service archaeologists Risa Carlson and

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sage was staying big and pointing towards the upper leads in a room close-by. All of a sudden Pete let out a yell of the unprintable type and exclaimed that the lead ended. He rappelled down and we both jumared back up surveying as we went. At just under 100 feet the passage became a dead end.

On the last official day of caving, the two professional cavers from New Zealand, Dave Smith and Don Aldridge, officiated over a mock cave rescue. The scenario went like this: Molly Kemp and her three inexperienced companions went into El Capitan Cave got lost and Molly slipped, breaking her femur as well as injuring her back.

The rescue started by finding Molly. The total time for the rescue was just over 6 hours with 4 1/2 hours required to get Molly out of the cave. We negotiated one 30 foot lift, one 30 foot rappel, and 1,200 feet of passage. The Kiwis, who have lots of experience at rescue work gave us high marks but still had many suggestions.

The day of departure arrived. Connie and I had made good friends and hated the thought of saying goodbye. Even worse was the thought of going back to work.

The hard part for me is waiting until next summer to check out more of the upper leads in Divers' Den. Until then my dreams will be full of caves, sump diving and upper leads.

John Autrey highlighted some of the recent archaeological and paleontological finds in southeaster Alaskan caves.

Current progress and activities in the karst area of Prince of Wales Island featured comments from Cat Woods, Recreation, Caves and Wilderness Specialist for the Thorne Bay Ranger District; Kevin Allred, volunteer leader of all the Prince of Wales Island Expeditions (POWIE); and Mike Barger, Thorne Bay Forester. Doug Swanston and Buck Bryand from the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Juneau discussed some of the research aimed at learning the interrelationship of geology and biology of Southeast Alaskan karst systems.

One of the highlights of the seminar was a slide lecture by Paul Griffiths from the British Columbia (Canada) Speleological Federation. Cavers in B.C. have documented the effects of logging on caves and karst over the past 25 years. Amazingly beautiful and horrifying photos from before and after logging above cave systems and failed efforts at mitigation illustrated the results

Several Prince of Wales Island residents gave moving testimony to the need to implement sustainable forestry practices that will allow continuance of the unique life-styles they and most POW residents have chosen. Roger Ziesak representing Ketchikan Pulp Company spoke of the importance of jobs provided by the forest industry while Ken Maas from the US Bureau of Mines briefly discussed the potential for development of medical and industrial grade limestone quarries with the exceedingly pure grade limestone found in the Tongass. Much of the infrastructure for such development already exists, he says.

The conference delegates developed strategies for future research and management. Consensus was reached on three major research priorities: 1) identify the geologic components controlling cave development, especially a) how do facies changes in limestone relate to purity and consequent potential for cave development and b) what geological structural aspects dominate cave development; 2) determine the karst hydrology and zone of influence; and 3) identify the important aspects of biospeleology. In addition, inventory of caves and karst areas will need to be continued at present or expanded levels.

The seminar was very productive in spreading information about caves and karst. A tremendous amount of energy was directed toward developing better methods of protecting that resource in a realistic manner.

Report shortened due to space limitations. Ed.

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Videotaped copies of the conference are available through the Forest Service, in care of Jim Baichtal, Forest Service Geologist, Ketchikan Area, Federal Building, Ketchikan, AK 99901. A very full loose leaf binder containing literature relevant to karst management in Alaska was also assembled. Baichtal has information on this topic also. Steve Lewis

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work load and the lack of danger to Alaska's little known caves, inactivity has been the best conservation policy until now. Caving has been inhibited by lack of knowledge of cave locations, by use of some caves by bears, by laws protecting archaeological sites, and by great distances and high travel costs. This inhibition has worked in favor and cave area protection." — Until now.

The situation is quite different, today, nearly 20 years later. Significant caves have been found in several widely separated parts of the state, although nearly all the publicity has been on the rich finds in Southeast Alaska. The fascination of the public is understandable. (I got a call from "Good Morning, America" yesterday.) Alaska has three of the 63 deepest caves in the United States: we may have more next year. Thanks to the help of the U.S. Forest Service in facilitating our work, we have been able to survey 15,000 to 18,000 feet a year for the past three years.

We need to remember that, with these heady discoveries and the enthusiasm and the excitement that goes with them, responsibility to protect these gifts to mankind, these "Tongass Treasures," also goes with the finding. We now learn that without our discoveries the wanton and inadvertent destruction of these caves was proceeding at a rapid rate. If we do not call attention to the attractiveness, beauty, and scientific value of these caves they will nearly all be destroyed. If we do call attention to them they may well be destroyed by well wishers. This is our dilemma. Only with broad-based education does an effective and broad cave protecting constituency get built. From this constituency, protective legislation becomes enacted, and competent management better informed, visitation increases and with it different conservation problems. The success of a happy solution depends on the quality of the education, the degree of skill available in cave management, and the determination and dedication of those concerned to do all that it takes to protect the caves. Forest Service employees have and are doing an outstanding job, but they need all the help they can get, especially outside of the Ketchikan Area.

We need to deepen Grotto leadership to meet this challenge, by developing more backup. During an Area meeting it was suggested that terms of Grotto officers be limited to one or two years. No one felt strongly enough about this to submit it as a Bylaw change (as spelled out in the bylaws); they expected someone else to do it. And when the call went out for nominations, they were strangely silent. In an Officer's' Mess in the Navy, one who complains about the food is often voted Mess Treasurer (in charge of buying and serving the meals). The last Nominating Committee was unable to find a list of candidates, until the Bylaws were changed. A new election is coming up in December, and a new Nominating Committee is being formed now. The executive Committee is in the process of changing (with membership concurrence) the Bylaws so that any Full Member can be President, Secretary, or Treasurer; the Vice Presidents should live in their Areas. These offices are recommended especially to young people, because the skills that need to be developed for them and the experience gained are very useful in nearly any career, and you will not have your pay reduced if you make a mistake! I quite agree that opportunity to serve as an officer in the Glacier Grotto should be shared with a larger number of members, but the NSS requires that our executives be NSS members, and we need to have more of you step forward and compete in the elections before placing arbitrary restrictions for doing so. Again, officership in this Grotto encourages a global outlook, and de-emphasizes parochial attitudes, changes we all need to develop in ourselves.

As the fate of Alaskan caves is in your hands, wherever you may live; what you do does make a difference. So be prudent, kind, helpful and firm in your resolve. The years have been kind to me, and, at 75, I may or may not have a few good ones left, and, now, I am passing the carbide light to you. Hold it high!

Thank you Jay! Our appreciation to you for helping establish the Glacier Grotto and promoting caving in Alaska.

NEWSBRIEFS

It is the policy of the Glacier Grotto not to allow cave diving except under the supervision of NSS certified cave divers. The four certified Alaskan cave divers trained last year in Florida are planning additional training this winter. Alan Murray says, "Ginnie Springs, where we attended, has regularly scheduled classes but the instructors also will arrange classes to meet the needs of the students." Since the training is so rigorous, each instructor has only two or three students at a time, he adds. Murray has details at hm: 907-225-7453 or wk: 907-225-2500.

William R. Halliday's article, "Greece, 1990", in the March-April 1990 Cascade Caver 29(3-4):11-13 and in the June 1990 Speleograph, 26(6):56-58, is an interesting account of a quick week's trip to Athens, environs, and Andiparos to a famous cave which had renown visitors including Alexander the Great, and a visit to Koutouki Cave, with the well-known Greek speleologist, Mme. Petrochilou.

While participating in POWIE VII, Darcie Ziel, 16, hit a virgin pit on her first drop into a vertical cave.

Mark Fritzke's Alpine Box (for vertical work) received special mention in "Safety and Techniques" of the October 1992 NSS News 50(10):266. Fritzke makes these commercially.

Notes of POWIE VII from Kevin Allred: Found two more hybernaculum and more marble caves on Calder Mountain and Dall Island. Members of POWIE mapped 20-30 new caves in the Thorne Bay Area for 15,000 feet and added another 3,000 at Dall Island. On Etolin Island in the Stikine Area, cavers mapped Squirrel Cave. Before POWIE VII Steve Lewis, Kevin Allred and Pete Smith found 6 caves in Basket Bay area.

Steve Lewis reports, Tom Aley found evidence of a hydraulic connection between Slate Cave and Lower El Capitan Cave. Apparently Kevin Allred put some fluorescence in Slate and Aley picked up some in a trap at the Lower El Capitan resurgence. These interesting finds indicate that the next observation should include a dye deposition in Slate, with traps in Divers' Den, Rumbling Pit (site of previous deposition), Lower El Capitan Cave and Roaring Road Cave. We are looking forward to receiving Aley's report.

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Pease, Maj. C.R.	PO Box 10130, Prescott, AZ 86304-0730	93	4847FL		
Rapport, Eric	4640 Business Park Blvd., Bldg. D, Anchorage	93	36811RE		907/561-5700
Sonnenberg, Gary	c/o OSI Statewide, PO Box 1221, Unalaska, AK	93	33648RE	907/581-1515	907/581-2523
Taylor, Bill	2007 Elk Ave., Eugene, OR 97401	93		503/746-0483	
Vann, Cynthia G	PO Box 10130, Prescott, AZ 86304-0730	93	14713FR		

KEY: Pd = year through which membership is paid PdN = primary allegiance to another Grotto
NSS# = NSS membership number and NSS status indicated by letters.

FAT MAN FILTER CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska
Tongass Cave Project
National Speleological Society
Preliminary Report #91

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Fat Man Filter Cave was discovered by Mark Fritzke in 1991. The entrance is a large, 40 foot deep insurgence sinkhole located at the contact with non-carbonates to the west and the host Heceta Limestone. A large uvala is just east of the sinkhole. On July 26, 1992, Mark Fritzke and Saki Leo Zak surveyed the entrance portion during a heavy rain storm. Past a very tight constriction (Fat Man Filter), the incoming stream follows the passage into a large room situated below the entrance sink above. Here, the two cavers were narrowly missed by a landslide caused by a poorly sorted bank collapsing and sliding down a slope. Exploration and the survey continued down to "Autolight Pool," where during low water the cave could continue. There is a draft coming out of this low, wet lead. There are some upstream leads as well, but the cave needs to be pushed at low water.

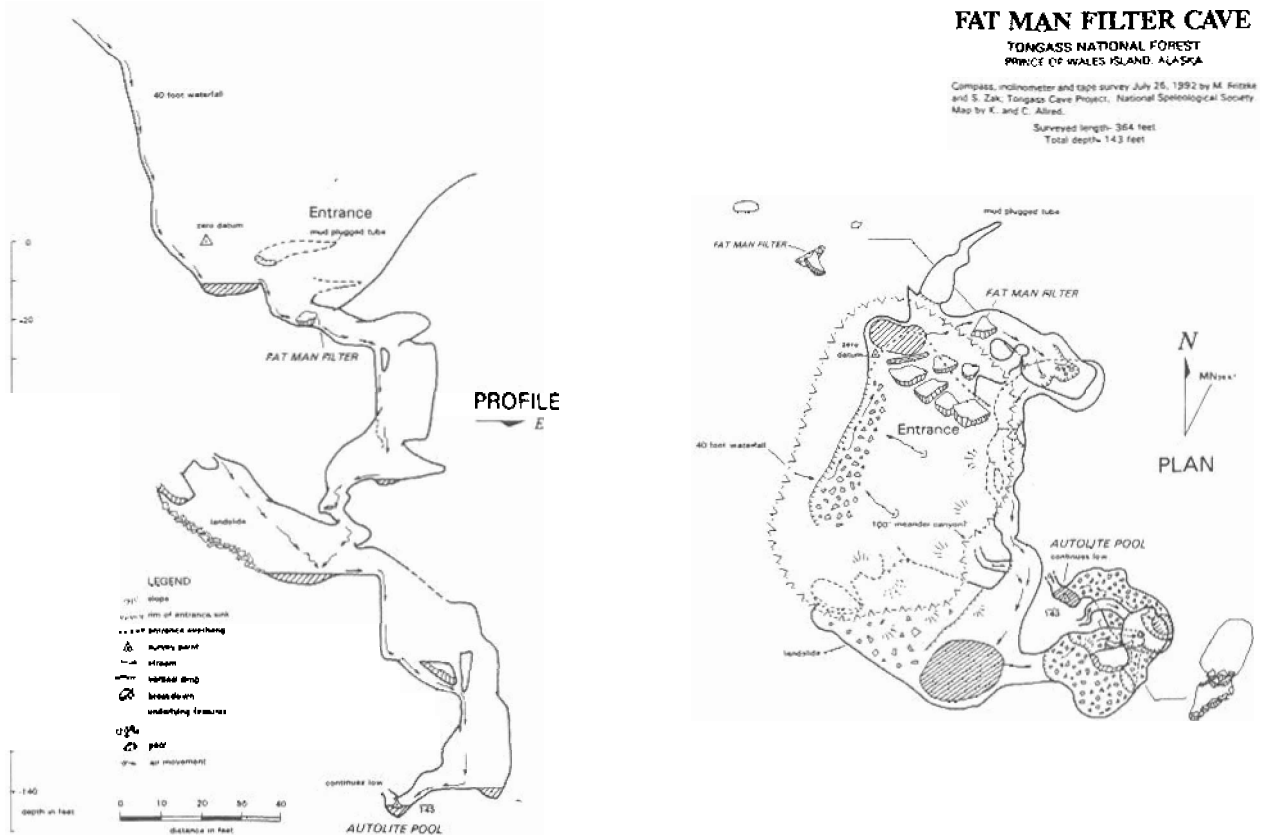
Mark reports the cave as located on a low angle thrust fault with altered siltstone and white marble at the entrance.

RIGGING

Ropes needed for Fat Man Filter are: 40 feet for the first 30 foot drop (a one inch stopper for re-direction out of a waterfall), 70 feet for the second 25 foot drop (tie off in a big ceiling jug handle), and 60 feet for the third 30 foot drop. More drops are possible deeper into the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

There should be no logging or road building activities around the area of the cave and in the drainages above it. A logging clearcut already exists to the east. Location of the cave could be shared with those experienced and prepared for wet and vertical conditions present here.



CRYSTAL GRAVE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project, Preliminary Report #86

National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

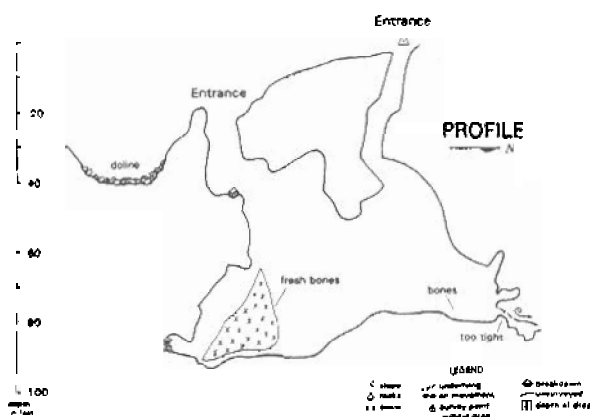
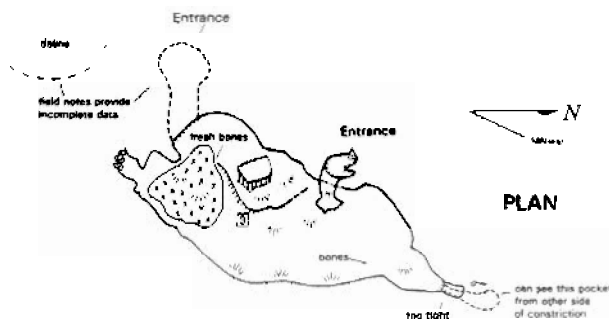
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Crystal Grave Cave was discovered on July 24, 1992, by Pete Smith, Paul Matheus, and Mark Fritzke. The cave has two pit entrances of 30 feet which drop another 50 feet into a large room. The southerly entrance has collected a large snow cone, which appears to be a cold trap. The room contained deer bones, some of them fresh. On the north end of the room is a tight constriction sucking air. A small room could be seen through this constriction.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of the high density of the known caves in this alpine karst, it should not be logged (report #85). More caves have been reported nearby on the ridge. It is not yet known where Flicker Ridge drainage resurges.



CASSADAY'S CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project, Preliminary Report #82

National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

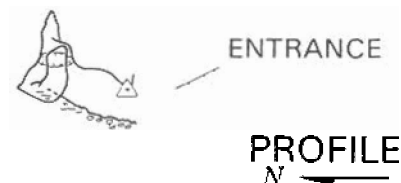
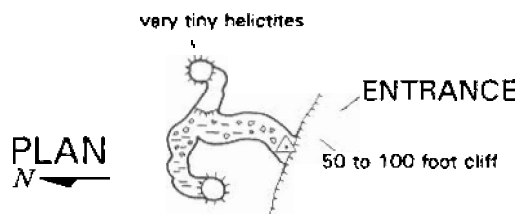
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Cassaday's Cave (named after an old dog) was discovered by JoAnn Metzler, a hydrologist. The cave is located in the base of a 100 foot Heceta Limestone cliff north of a proposed timber harvest unit on steep mountain side below Flicker Ridge. Although only 40 feet long, the cave is important biologically. Apparently it is used by bears, for bear hair was found on the ceiling and bat guano was noted on some walls. The floor is of mud and cobbles.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The cave is small, but contains biologic significance. It should be protected from logging impacts. There is no reason, however, to restrict its location from the general public. There would probably not be enough visitation to disturb hibernating bats or bears.



CRYSTAL TOOS CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project, Preliminary Report #85

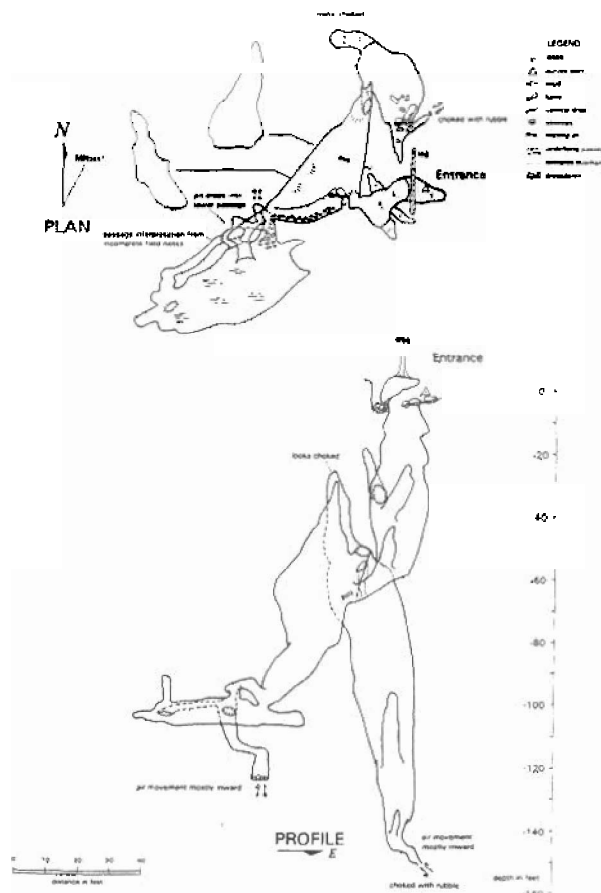
National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: Crystal Toos (pronounced "toes") Cave was discovered by Paul Matheus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The initial 110 foot drop ends in a large room with old deer bones. At the upper part of this room is another 100 foot drop to a rubble choked area with breathing constriction too tight to enter. The cave was surveyed by Pete Smith and Mark Fritzke on July 23, 24, 1992. The survey is a total of 425 feet with a depth of 150 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Because of the high density of caves and karst on this ridge, the entire area should not be logged or restricted to less than 1800 feet elevation, and not near known. The region should be studied further. The resurgences for Flicker Ridge are not known. It would be wise to share the location of Crystal Toos Cave only with experienced and prepared individuals. The cold temperatures and vertical nature create a sporting challenge.



CONFLICT CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project National Speleological Society

Preliminary Report #83, Addendum to Report #54

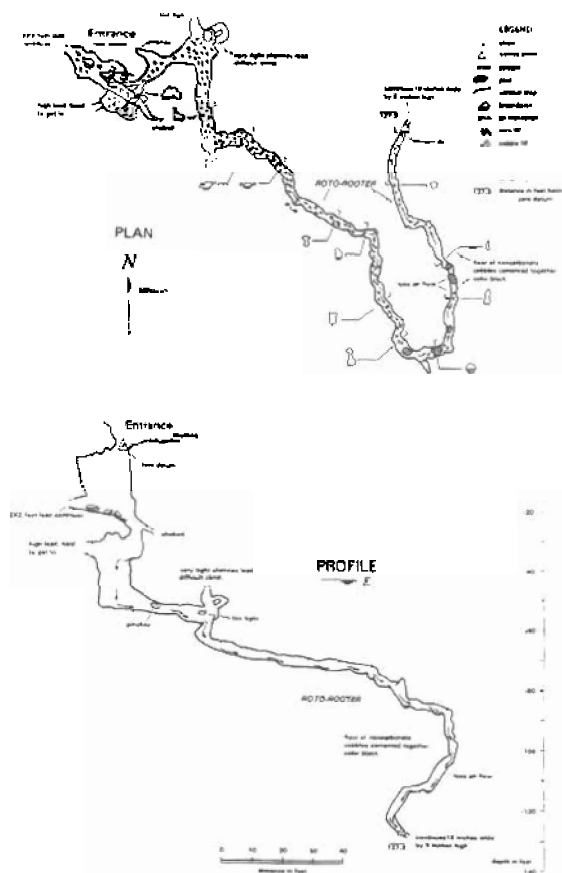
by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: During 1992 Tongass Cave Project Expedition, Mark Fritzke and Kevin Allred explored and surveyed over 200 feet of passage in Conflict Cave. Currently the cave measures 344 feet. The wet, tight drain called "Roto-Rooter", ends in a constriction 128 feet below the entrance. Part of the way through, the draft noticed at first, disappears.

BIOLOGY: During the survey, many flatworms were seen in the stream. Some were collected and presented to Kent Carlson for identification.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Last year, the area above Conflict Cave was clear-cut. A select-cut buffer was placed around the ravine harboring Conflict Cave, and only the larger trees were to be harvested. Slash was left and slopes were disturbed when logs were pulled across the area. It appears that the best way to protect caves within logging units is to provide an extremely large wind-firm buffer rather than a select cut.



EL CAPITAN CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska...Tongass Cave Project...National Speleological Society Preliminary Report #90...Addendum to Reports #6, #23 and #75

by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

BIOLOGY UPDATE

From January 22 through February 27, 1992, the Forest Service conducted an expedition to Prince of Wales Island in search of hibernating bats. The expedition was led by Jim Baichtal, and included Cave Specialist, Jim Nieland, biologists Mike Brown and Joyce Whitney, and Cat Woods. Joe Cook, Curator of Mammals of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Paul Matheus, paleontologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, also attended. In El Capitan Cave, they discovered the remains of two skulls but no live bats were seen. A major archaeological site was discovered in the cave, and later a second site. These sites have since been fully excavated by Forest Service archaeologists. Some of the material may have been associated with denning otters and dates about 5000 years BP. Further details of these finds are on file at the Forest Service and will not be covered in this report. Large bear claw marks of unknown age were also discovered in clay near the Steam Room. On Dec. 12, 1991, during a snow storm, Doreen and Jim Baichtal found a bat roosting near the entrance to the Steam Room. This is probably the first recorded sighting of a live bat in the Alaskan cave. On Feb. 20, 1992 Pete Smith and Jim Baichtal discovered four roosting bats in El Capitan Cave. Again, it was well below freezing and snowing outside. Jim reports freezing to about the Steam Room passage. There were ice formations in the entrance. Fred Grady has identified two of the three bat skulls previously collected from the cave. They were from *Myotis californicus*, and the third was also a myotis, but too badly damaged to identify further. It does seem larger than the others and could be another species.

PALEONTOLOGY

This summer, paleontologists Dr. Timothy Heaton of the University of South Dakota and Fred Grady returned to El Capitan Cave, opened the long sealed former entrance to the hibernaculum, and conducted an excavation. More fragments of the large bear were found and identified as an extremely large brown bear. Brown bears are no longer found on Prince of Wales Island. Another smaller brown bear was also present, along with several black bears. At least one bone was found completely surrounded

by glacial clay. Whether this clay was re-deposited sometime after glaciation is not known, but probably it helped to preserve some of the bone. A mandible of a Fisher (no longer found on the island) was also uncovered. Further details and carbon dates will be reported when available.

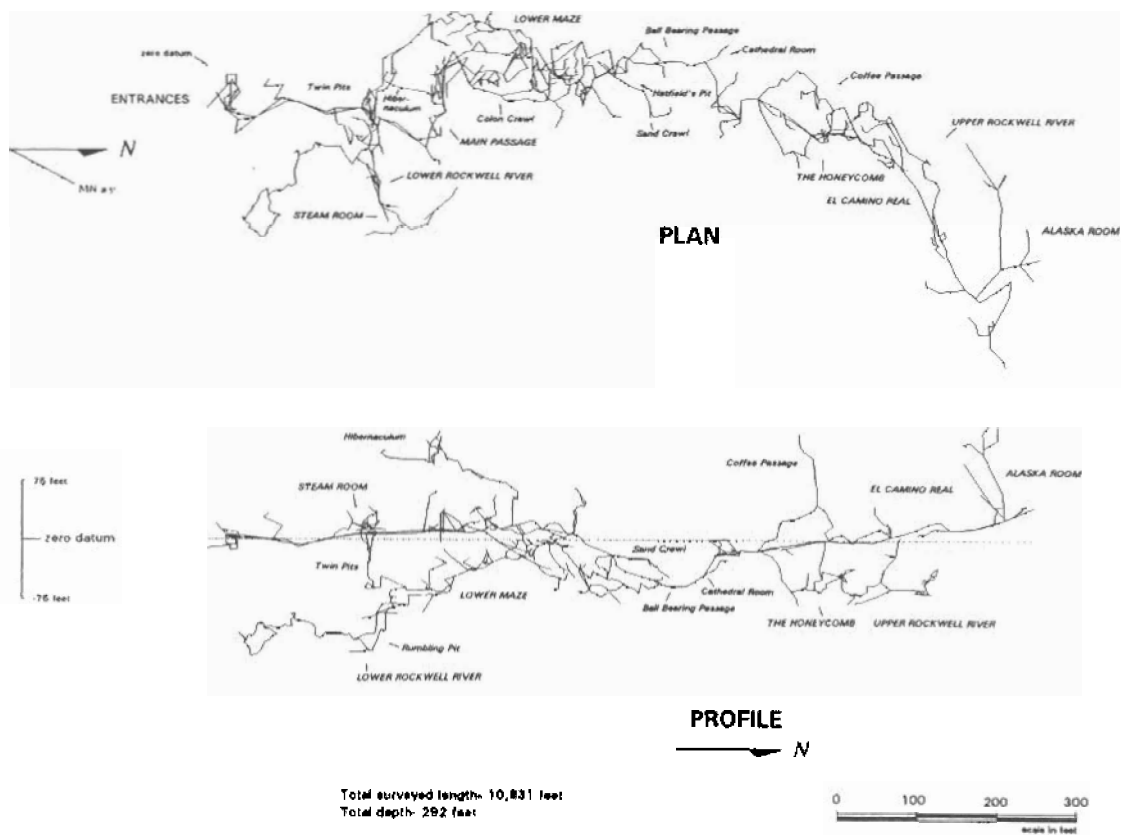
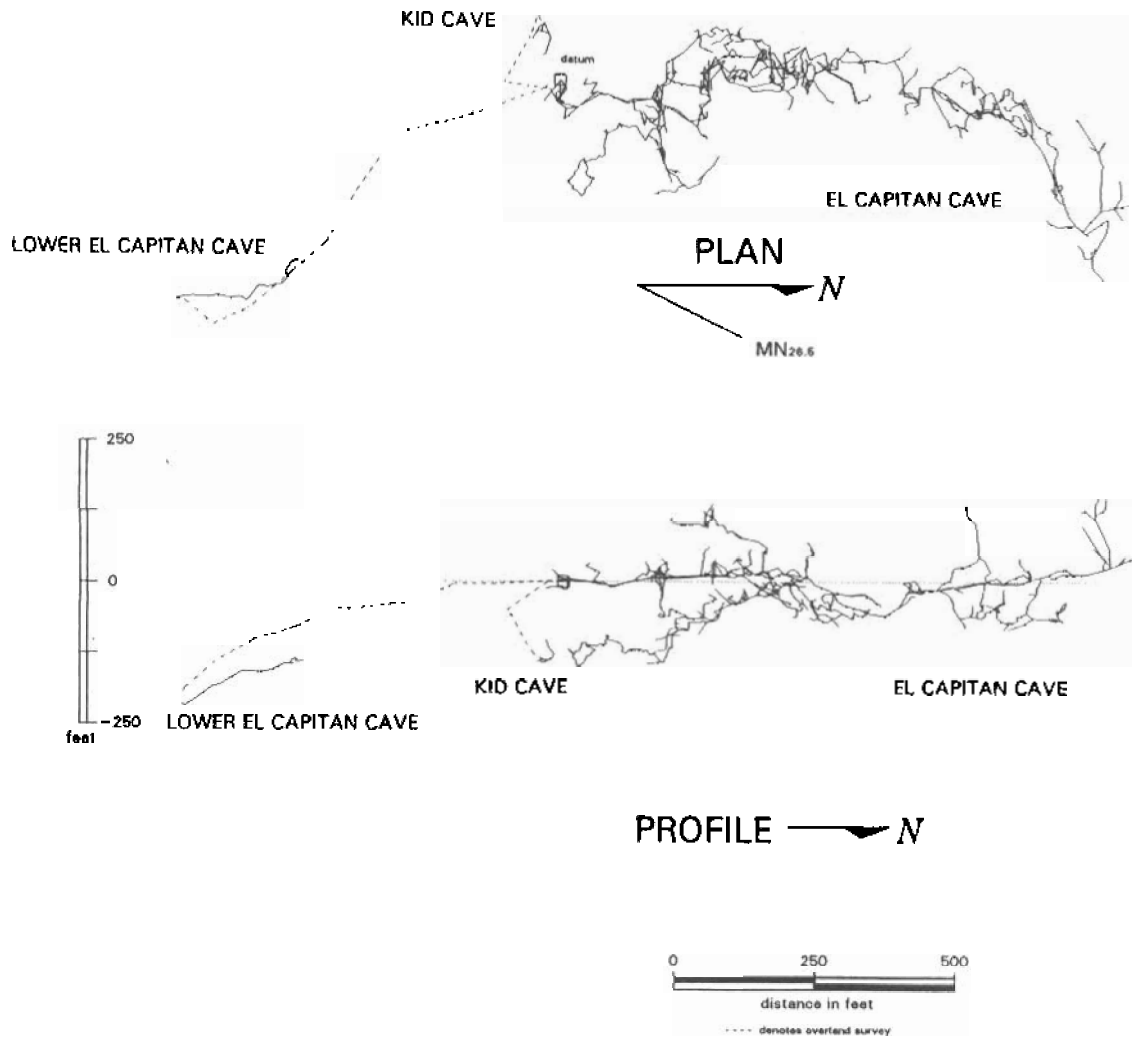
Kent Carlson collected many invertebrates from El Capitan Cave this year. Among these specimens were flies, collembolans, miscellaneous aerial invertebrates, flatworms, roundworms, nymphs, a spider, snails, beetles, and other miscellaneous invertebrates.

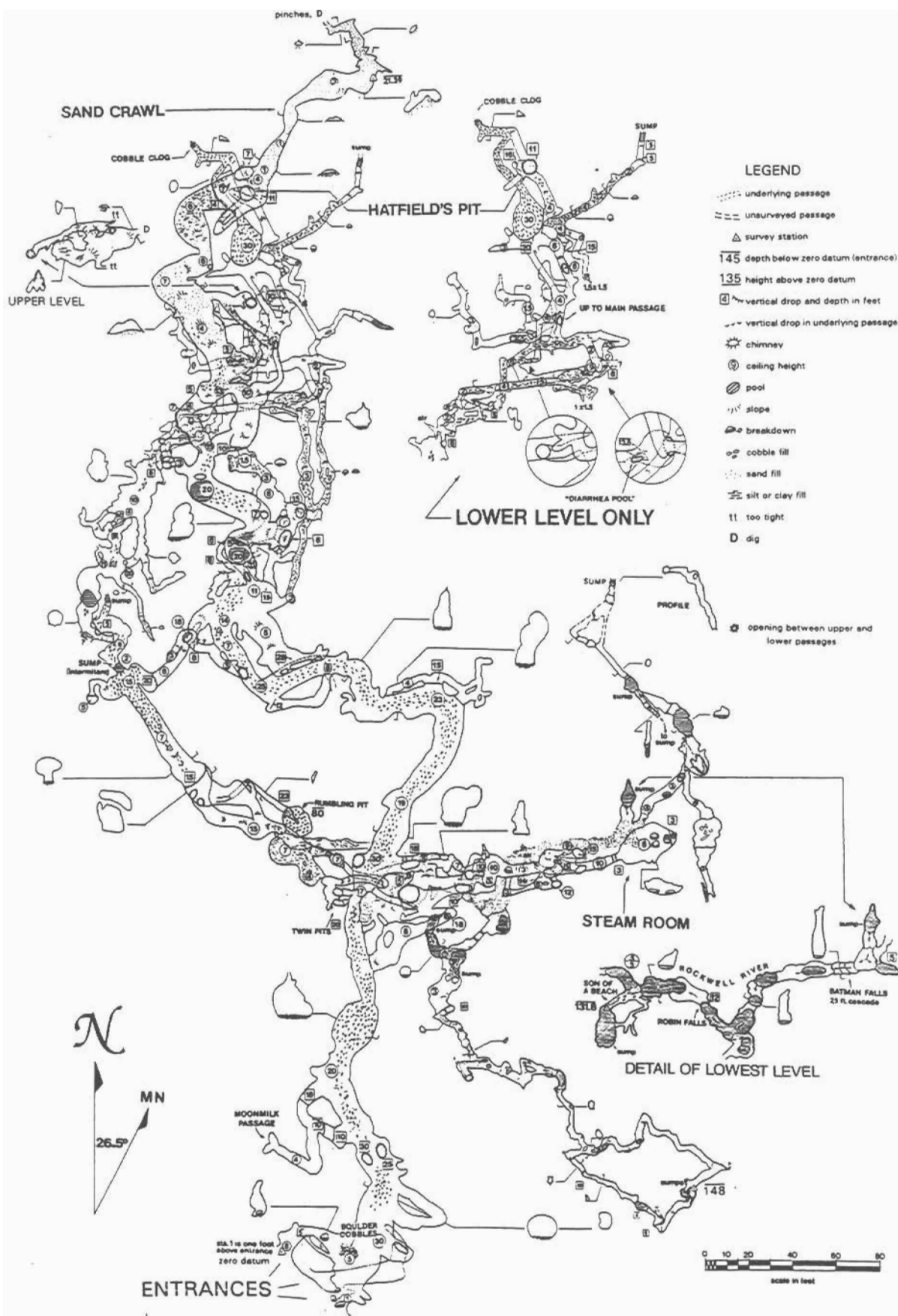
OTHER DISCOVERIES

Pete Smith discovered a previously overlooked passage which led to a pristine, beautifully decorated room. There are some rare conulites there. Unfortunately, someone has since entered this area and broken many of the delicate formations. News of ancient bear skeletons and the Alaska Room have, no doubt, caused increased, aggressive exploration from the general public. Pete also has led several trips into the Sand Crawl to dig out the end after flooding opened it up somewhat from previous exploration. This extension continues another 30 feet and was surveyed. Steve Lewis and Pete climbed with a scaling pole some 100 feet above the floor of the Alaska Room and have explored virgin ground there. It continues upwards and is now the best going lead in the cave. As usual, during heavy, long-duration rain periods, water collects in the cave sumps below the Cathedral Room.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forest Service is preparing to build a trail to El Capitan Cave and make it a direct-access cave. With the increased visitation will come more vandalism and accidents. Serious potential for entrapment exists before the Cathedral Room, and vandalism would effect more of the less-visited areas. There is a need for a strong gate either at the Cathedral Room or near the cave entrance. Last year two individuals used frayed clothesline to drop Hatfields Pit. With increased visitation through more publicity and better access, there are bound to be more serious incidents. Also to be considered is the water supply to El Capitan Work Camp which comes from the cave. Sewage from cave visitors could cause health problems, but so can excess chlorination.



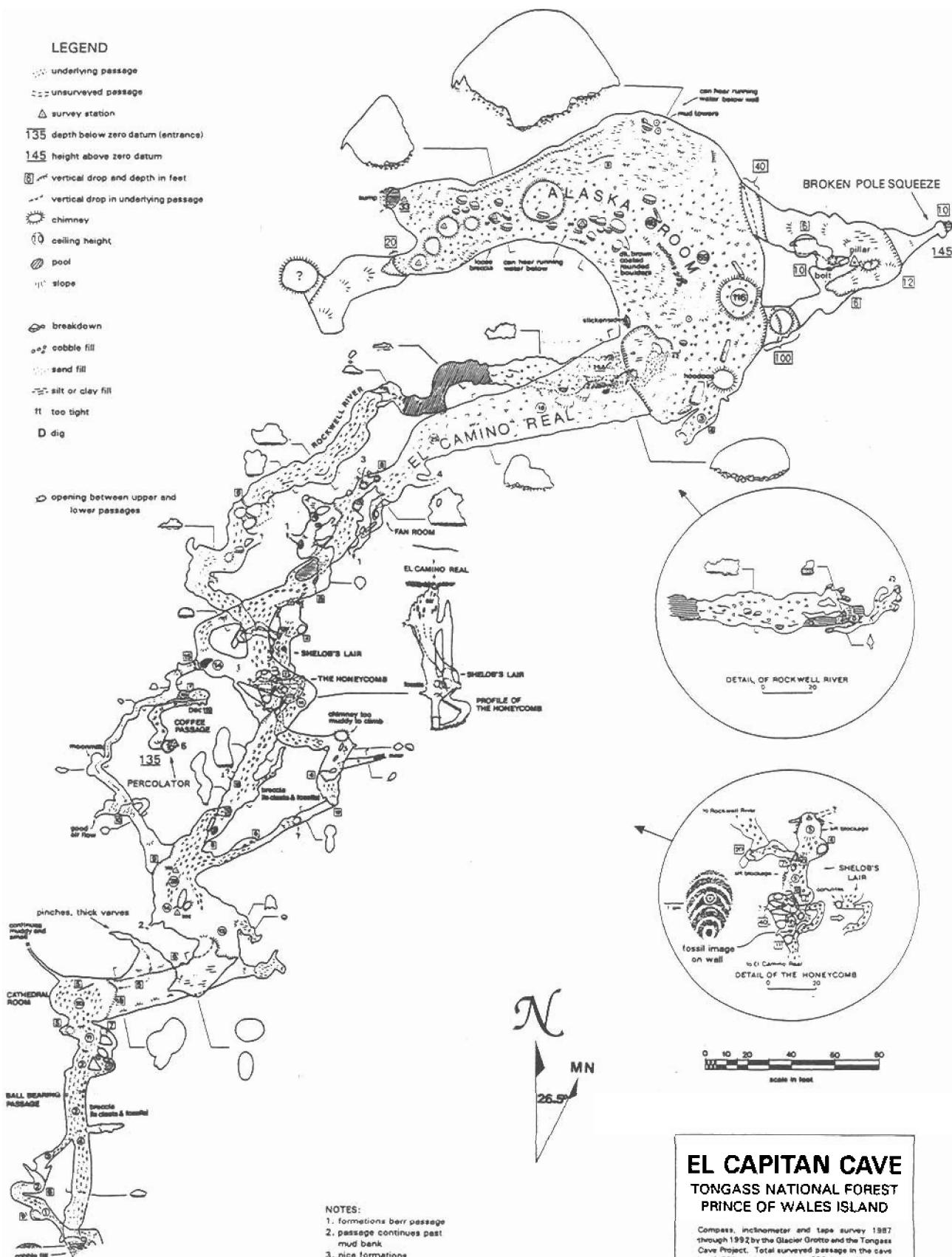


LEGEND

- underlying passage
- unsurveyed passage
- survey station
- 135** depth below zero datum (entrance)
- 145** height above zero datum
- vertical drop and depth in feet
- vertical drop in underlying passage
- chimney
- ceiling height
- pool
- slope

- breakdown
- cobble fill
- sand fill
- silt or clay fill
- too tight
- dig

opening between upper and lower passages



NOTES:

1. formations berr passage
2. passage continues past mud bank
3. nice formations
4. continuous, but must be dug out through colored gravel
5. passage continues beyond chimney, needs belay and protection

EL CAPITAN CAVE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey 1987 through 1992 by the Glacier Grotto and the Tongass Cave Project. Total surveyed passage in the cave is 10,831 feet, total depth 292 feet. This map includes the northern portion of the cave only.

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CRYSTAL PALACE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska Tongass Cave Project
National Speleological Society
Preliminary Report #87

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Crystal Palace Cave sports two shaft entrances discovered in the spring of 1991 by Kevin Allred. It was surveyed July 17 and 18, 1992 by Pete Smith, Steve Lewis and Allred. The cave is located in a planned logging unit in sub-alpine heather and scrubby, stunted trees. Some Pacific Silver Fir is also scattered in the area. The easternmost entrance, known as "Step-in Shaft", is 180 feet deep and was partly descended on July 12, 1992, by Glen Coville who did not have sufficient rope to reach the bottom. Only 50 feet to the west is the second entrance drop, known as "Subway Shaft". Subway drops free 340 feet to the top of a steep snow/ice cone in a huge gallery containing massive ice formations and cascades. Below the first drop of Step-in Shaft, an upward trending fissure was not climbed, but in the floor under a ledge of ice is a second 200 foot drop; an ice encrusted fissure flaring out into the huge room below Subway Shaft. Ropes used for the exploration of Step-in were 200, 150 and 100 footers. The eastern slope of the steep icy debris cone soon ends at a too tight fissure at 377 feet below the entrance to Subway Shaft. To the west, the cone (which soon turns to solid ice) leads steeply past some ice columns deformed and extruded by pressure from shafts above. At the lowest point of the large gallery, the icy floor nearly meets the ceiling, and was sucking a breeze. Pete and Steve used an ice axe to chop a way through which led to a cold chute into a large room containing more deformed ice formations. By following along one wall, the large room could be safely traversed past a trickle waterfall issuing from a shaft in the ceiling and finally to the end of the room which is actually a continuation of the Subway Shaft gallery and is largely ice filled. If the ice were not present, the depth of Subway Shaft would be 430 feet to where the rocky floor was exposed.

Just beyond the enlarged icy chute, a steep rubble slope leads to a huge dome called the "Crystal Ballroom". There is no ice, which indicates a fault zone. A steep climb heads west to a boulder choke, taking air.

Crystal Palace Cave is 1,213 feet long. A 500 foot rope is suggested for the Subway Shaft drop with another 40 feet attached for the chute. Rebelaying using small chocks are useful at the debris cone and chute.

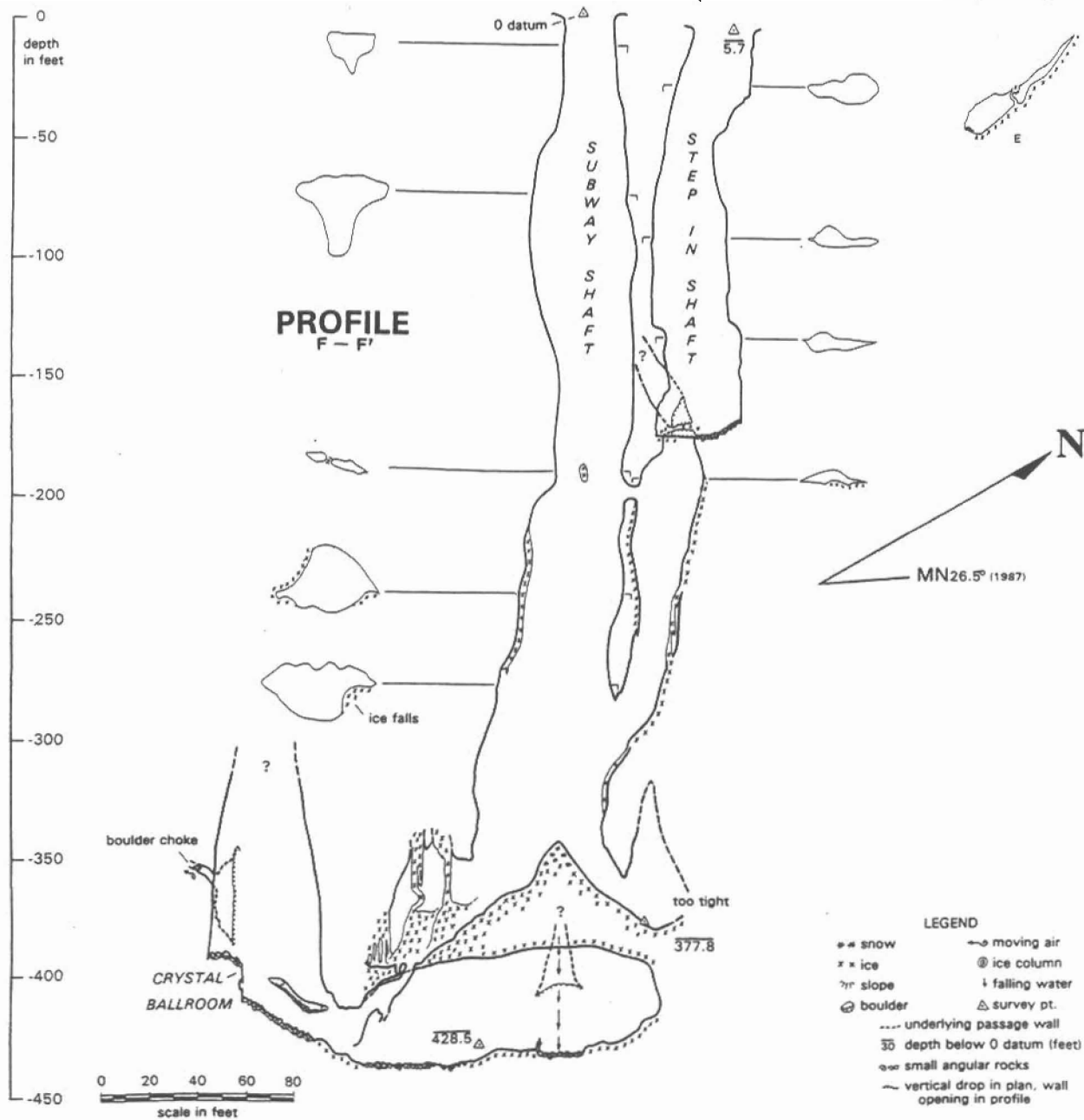
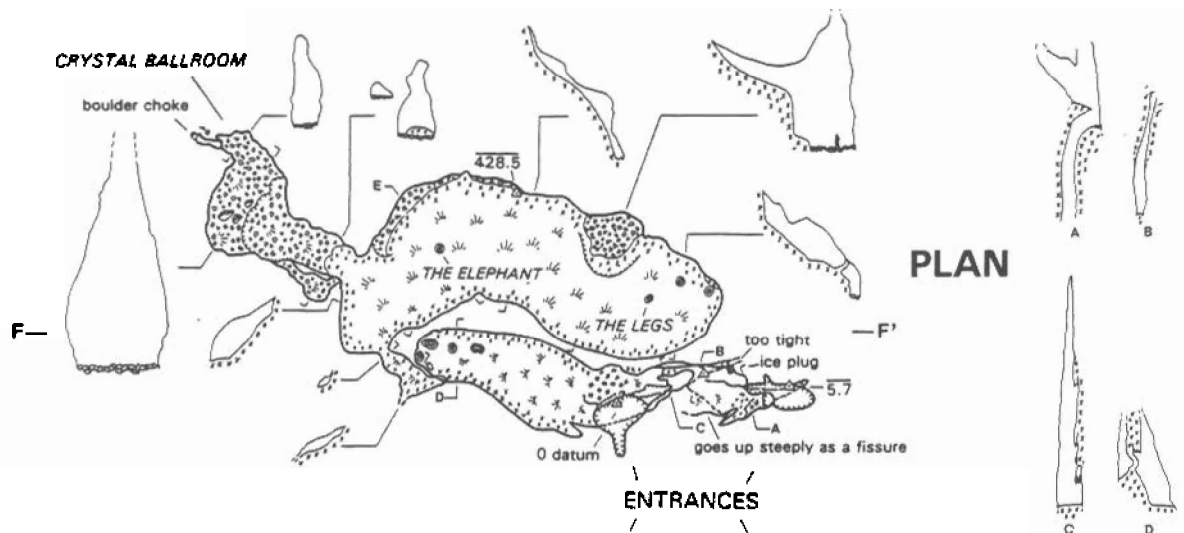
BIOLOGY

A single rib bone (probably from a deer) was found in the lowest section of the cave. A fragment of wood was also collected at the lowest part at the base of the ice and was dated at 560 years, BP.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Crystal Cave holds potential for study of climatic events that are preserved in the ice deposits. Any surface alterations would definitely effect the balance of temperature which has been preserved for thousands of years in this delicate sub-alpine environment. The cave also has tremendous recreational value with its deep pits and spectacular ice crystal formations. The area (including the other nearby caves) should not have roads or logging. If any logging occurs at all, it should not be above 1800 feet on this ridge. More unexplored caves have been reported along this ridge. The location of Crystal Palace Cave should only be shared with experienced and prepared individuals. Parts of the cave are below freezing.

CRYSTAL BALLROOM



HIDDEN ABYSS CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project

Nat. Speleological Society

Preliminary Report #94

by Kevin Allred

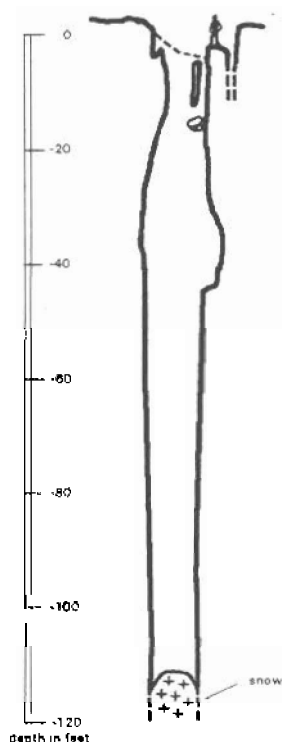
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Hidden Abyss Pit is a deep vertical shaft which ended at a snow plug at -115 feet. It was discovered and surveyed by Kelly Kellstedt and Dave Herron on July 10, 1992. The entrance is located in a small sink (approximately 8 by 15 feet) and about 4 feet deep. The local terrain is very similar to that of Snowhole; a small valley, mostly bedrock, with countless grikes but few large sinks. The entrance is not obvious from more than about 10 feet in any direction.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This pit is not likely to be affected by timber harvest. Because of its cold and vertical nature, the location should be shared with only those who are vertically competent.



PROFILE
(LOOKING NORTH)



PLAN



GOSHAWK CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, Tongass Cave Project

National Speleological Society

Preliminary Report #93

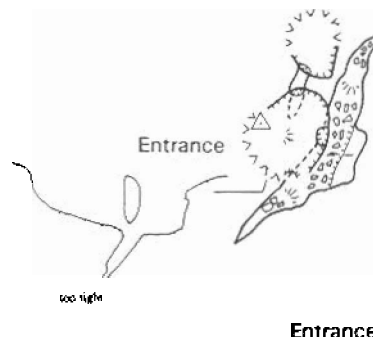
by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

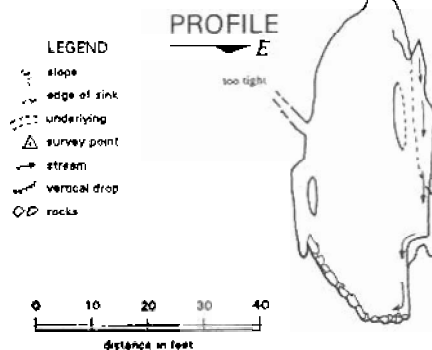
DESCRIPTION: Formed in Heceta Limestone, Goshawk Cave is located in a planned logging unit of a patch of remaining old growth timber largely surrounded by clear-cut. The entrance is a very tight slot in the bottom of a 10 foot deep sinkhole. It immediately bells out into a 60 foot free fall pit to the rubble strewn floor of a slot-like room which soon ends in both directions. A trickle waterfall drops out of an adjoining chimney into this room. No biology or speleothems were noted in the cave.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS: This cave should be entered by thin, vertically competent, and warmly dressed individuals. There is a real danger that even if able to ascend the 60 foot drop, a person might not be able to exit through the slot.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: In order to protect the hydrologic and possible biologic balance below, this area should be excluded from logging and road building activities. The location of the cave should be shared only with qualified people as described above.



PLAN



DARK CAVE

Baker Island, Alaska
Tongass Cave Project
National Speleological Society
Preliminary Report #88

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

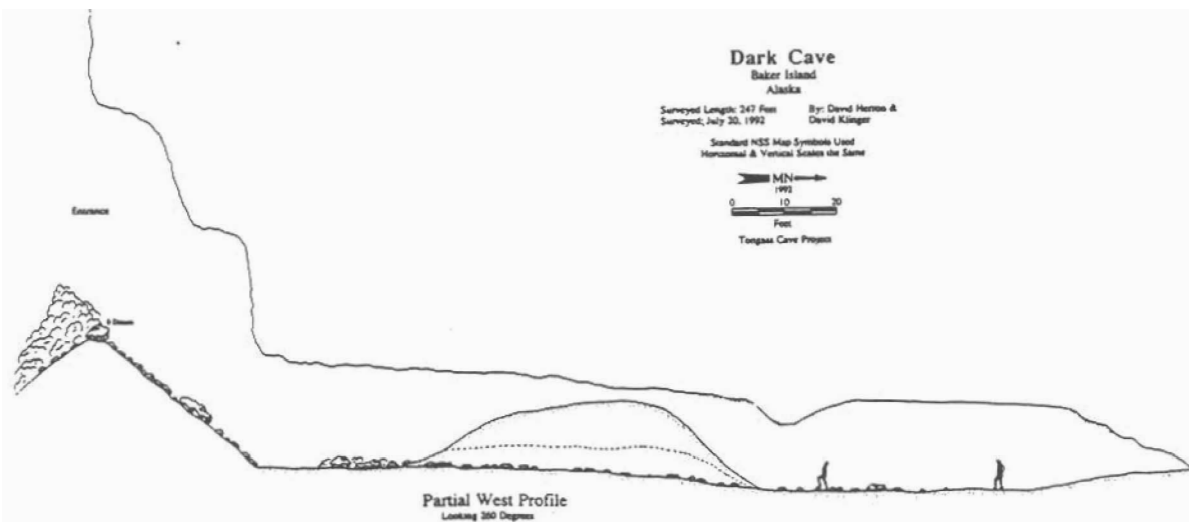
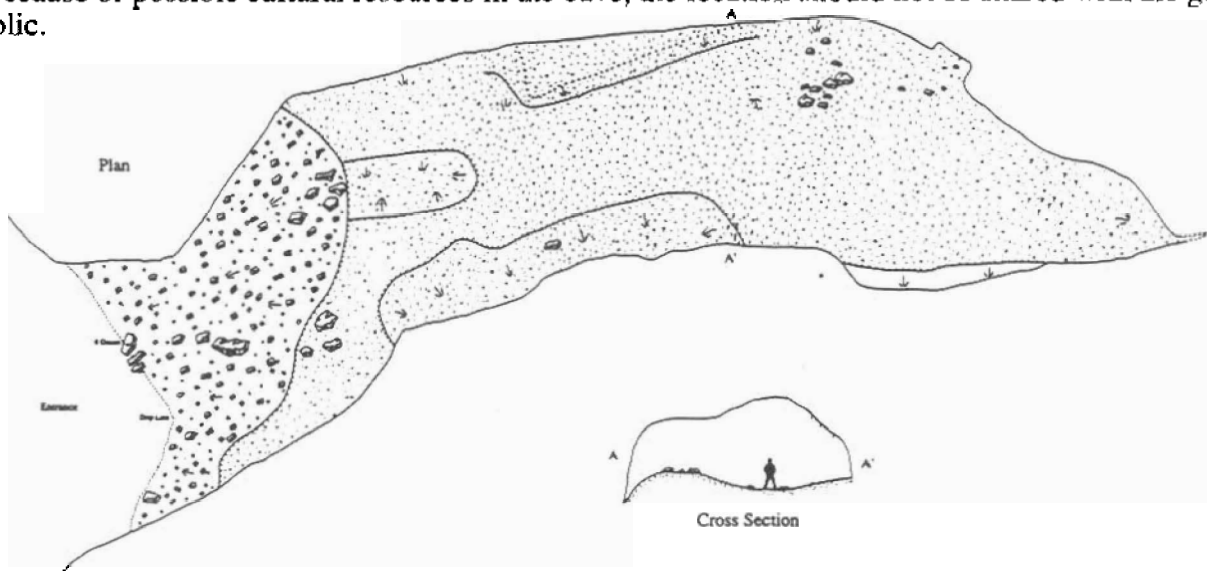
Dark Cave was first investigated by Jim Baichtal in 1991. It is a littoral cave located on the north shore of Veta Bay on Baker Island. The rock is a black shale, apparently with a slight carbonate content. The cave was formed by erosion and frost. David Klinger and Risa Carlson surveyed a total of 279 feet of passage on July 21, 1992. The floor is sandy with some breakdown.

ARCHAEOLOGY

A fire pit is located near the entrance. This and other parts of the cave should be studied for cultural resources.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of possible cultural resources in the cave, the location should not be shared with the general public.



ELECTION RESULTS

ELECTION-

Ballots were included in the last Alaskan Caver, 13(2), with a stated deadline of Aug. 15, 1993. In the election of officers a quorum of 20 percent of the Full Members is required. At the deadline, there were 60 Full Members, so 12 ballots were needed. Seventeen ballots were received for the election of officers and were tallied on August 19, 1993, by the Executive Committee (to allow enough time for those mailed on or before the 15th).

The results were:

President: Wm. Harvey Bowers.....17

Vice President for Southeast AK

Gary Sonnenberg.....16

Marcel LaPerriere.....1

Vice President for Southcentral AK:

Eric Rapport.....17

Vice President for Northern AK:

Michael W. Mauser.....17

Secretary: Julius Rockwell, Jr.....16

Treasurer: Rachael H. Mays.....17

The above will assume their new positions on the day this announcement is mailed, and the National Speleological Society will be so notified.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES-

A two-thirds vote is required for a Bylaw change. We did not have it. Although there is strong support for all the proposed Constitutional and Bylaw changes, we need at least 40 ballots to make them legal. Ballots are still coming in. The deadline for receiving the votes on the Constitutional and Bylaw changes is therefore extended until the necessary number of ballots is received.

Report of Executive Committee
by Julius Rockwell, Jr.

The Alaskan Caver

1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK 99507

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