

October 1993

## Alaskan Caver, Volume 13, No. 4, October 1993

Dalene T. Perrigo

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# The **Alaskan Caver**

Volume 13 Number 4

October 1993



# The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover Photo: From Glacier Photo credit: Jay Rockwell

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Alaska prefix is 907

August 15, 1993



*Glacier cave in Byron Glacier dwarfs Mike Mauser, Cynthia Waldron and Dave Street. Photo credit: H. Bowers.*

## CALENDAR

- Oct. 24-26** Cave Conservation/Restoration Workshop. Carlsbad Caverns National Park. (303)370-6473.
- Nov. 2** Executive Council meeting at noon. 277-7150. All members welcome
- Nov. 5-7** Oregon Cave restoration. Mike Compton at (206)535-5144.
- Nov. 24-28** Hells Canyon, Idaho. Geology trip. J.Nieland at (206)231-4298.
- Dec. 4** Glacier Grotto potluck and party. 6 p.m. at Alaskan Agate Bed and Breakfast Community Room, 4725 Begich Circle, Wasilla. Phone 373-2290

## GLACIER CAVING PROVIDES BEAUTY AND CHALLENGES

by Harvey Bowers

It's nice to be able to give a cave location without worrying about what damage may befall the cave. With glacier caving we can freely disclose locations and publish photos of glacier caves that are unrivaled in their beauty. We need only stress the dangers in glacier caving.

Glacier caves can be defined as a cave within a glacier or snowfield which lasts from year to year. In early literature you might see "Glacieres or Freezing Caverns", referring to caves that remain below freezing or persistence of ice in caves.

Man has probably been interested in entering glacier caves about as long as he has entered caves. We know man explored for miles underground when severe conditions prevailed. The Tlingit Indians of Southeast Alaska have a legend that their canoes were blocked by a wall of ice and by following a raven they went through a tunnel and gained passage.

The first issue of the Alaska Caver, over 20 years ago, reported on Chuck Pease's 2,100

foot survey of Byron Glacier Cave near Portage. Byron Glacier caves have since become some of the most famous glacier caves in the world, probably due to their easy access from Anchorage more than any other reason. Byron Glacier is located in a steep walled valley that is very prone to both rock and snow avalanches. There are generally caves in the snow slides (avalanche shoots). Some years there is a tunnel in the main glacier, plus obstruction caves along the sides of the glacier. The caves have been on the cover of The Alaska Caver seven different times; won the Black and White NSS photo salon in 1973; were featured in Japanese magazines in the late 1970s, Gazeta de Manresa (Spain) in 1977,

**Continued on page 4**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Harvey Bowers

I think the primary function of a grotto should be to protect caves along with any investigations so that future generations might enjoy the same experiences that we do. The greatest danger to caves in Alaska is undoubtedly the clear cut-

**Continued on page 10**

Continued from page 3

Reports of the Kwansei  
Gakuin University in 1978  
and 1979 and We Alaskans Nov. 5, 1989,  
and covered through photos in  
Alaska Magazine.

The caves have also had their share of near tragedies. In the early 1970s I was involved in rescuing two people on different occasions when they got too close to the edge of large collapsed rooms and they slid into the ice fractures.

There have been numerous injuries from falls and falling ice. It is truly amazing that people have not been killed here because the area is heavily visited during the summer when the cave entrance is most unstable.

Generally, the best time to visit the caves is in the fall after freeze up but before there is enough snow for avalanche danger. Even in the fall the caves can be extremely dangerous due to ice fall.

A few years ago Curvin Metzler, Bob Hallinen and myself had a close call in a steep side passage. We heard a loud roar (avalanche?) then a crash. We looked up the passage and saw huge ice boulders coming at us. Luckily we were able to take shelter at the side of the passage.

Byron Glacier Cave has the distinction of possibly being the only location for sighting ice worms during the winter. Also, in the early 1970s in the main glacier stream passage we were

swarmed by snow fleas, almost equivalent to an Alaska mosquito swarm.

Probably all glaciers have at least a small glacier cave. Other notable Alaskan caves that have been explored extensively are the Lemon Glacier Cave on the Juneau Icefield and the Kicking Horse Glacier Cave near Haines. The National Park Service and National Geographic have also published some spectacular photos of caves in Glacier National Park.

This is the time to go glacier caving but please be careful and go with someone who has been there previously. The potential for accidents is great even if you do everything right, and YOU don't want to end up like the ice man.

## CAVERS VISIT CAVE LAKE CAVE

by Carlene Allred

Our assemblage of post-POWIE cavers and local cavers here in Haines, coupled with a record dry summer, could only mean a trip to our local cave to check the sump level. The 292 foot long Cave Lake Cave drains Cave (Herman) Lake and is located northeast of Haines in the Klehini River Drainage (see Alaskan Caver Vol.5#4,6#3,7#2).

August 10, 1993, was yet another warm sunny day and the roads were incredibly dusty. Steve Lewis and Darcy Zeil followed behind our great dust cloud until Steve's vehicle suddenly quit. Kevin (Allred) and Steve stayed to work on it while I drove Darcy and Ella, Soren, Flint and Forrest (Allred) to the lake. Parking above we descended the short, but steep trail down to the picturesque lakeshore. A large triangular cave entrance opens into the marble cliff that drops to the shoreline.

We found the cave temperature was unbelievably warm making it shirt sleeve weather. The water level was much lower than usual, revealing new

passages for us to explore. One, still ended in a sump but the other terminated in a deep pool with a definite air space. Apparently warm outside air was sucked into the cave, which is a good sign for sump pushers.

After initial investigation we returned outside to cool off by wading in the lake. While we ate our lunch the men arrived, having hot-wired the truck. Kevin went inside and collected some wiggly critters from the stream for Kent Carlson. While Kevin watched our three-year-old, Steve, Darci and I re-surveyed the main cave passages, adding profiles and the new areas. (An updated map is available) After donning drysuits and coveralls, we headed for the sump that was now an open pool. We swam through the ample airspace into a chamber beyond. Unfortunately, it ended in a sump. We had an enjoyable swim, though, and Ella looked on jealously, wishing that drysuits were available in her size.

Still wearing our drysuits, Darci, Steve and I went swimming in Cave Lake.

## Ice cave glory melting away



P-1

## Spectacle on Rainier all but gone

By Paul Shukovsky  
P-I Reporter

Mount Rainier's ice caves, at one time the most extensive known in the world, have all but disappeared with the retreat of the once-mighty Paradise and Stevens glaciers.

Thousands of visitors used to trek to the enormous caverns lit by an eerie blue glow as sunlight filtered through snow and ice. But on a sunny day last week, just a handful of hikers walked the 2.75 miles from Paradise to the glaciers' sad remnants.

Once honeycombed by at least 14 miles of caves with names like Suicide Passage and Paradise Lost, the remaining ice mass is about 30 feet thick at its highest point and just a few hundred yards long. Inside are a scant few passages.

The earliest written record of the caves was made around the turn of the century in books such as "The Mountain That was God." In the 1920s, a guide service provided popular tours into the Paradise Ice Caves. If necessary, the service would use dynamite to blow open entrances to the caves if they were covered by heavy snow.

A few openings that remain along the snout and flanks of the ice mass provide access to what's left of the caves. Inside, the beautiful stalactites, pillars and other ice formations are gone. All that is left are tunnels with bluish, scalloped walls and thin roofs that could collapse at any moment.

Intrepid cave explorer Charles Anderson Jr., in dozens of trips during the 1960s and 1970s, mapped the maze of tunnels. His report speaks of numerous streamlets that cut the caves through the ice — the same streams that converge to form the Paradise River and Stevens Creek.

To study the caves, Anderson braved the hazards of falling ice blocks weighing several tons and sudden tidal waves of ice water rushing through pitch black tunnels. In February 1968, Anderson, his wife Edith and another man were returning from the caves when they were caught by a blinding whiteout of snow. Edith, 22, died of hypothermia.

Anderson continued his explorations until 1975 and wrote a scientific report describing the cave system, saying it was the most extensive in the world.

Most of the Big Room, a virtual cathedral under the ice, caved in in 1969 and 1970. The two decades since have brought steady deterioration. In the fall of 1991, the ceiling of the last large cave finally collapsed, according to Tahoma, a National Park Service newsletter.

Today, hikers who make the relatively easy three-hour round trip trek to the remnant caves are rewarded by stunning vistas of the Tatoosh Range with Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens looming in the distance. Numerous wildflower species grace the sub-alpine meadows. And those who remain alert could well be rewarded by glimpses of black bear, elk, deer and marmot.

Signs are posted near the caves to warn the curious:

"Caution. Hazard near ice caves. Collapsing snow over caves and rivers. Falling rock. Changeable weather."

## Ice caves: A new vista — to the outside

Last week, two German tourists were not deterred by the danger. Burkhard Schicklang and Andrea Thiele had read a guide in Germany that described the sound of the winds "singing" through the caves.

"We didn't hear it," said Schicklang. But he was not disappointed by Mount Rainier.

"Moon country," he said as he shuffled along the trail of gray glacial till and looked out over the barren moraines.

"It is very beautiful."

ICE CAVE OF PARADISE GLACIER, RAINIER NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON

Reprinted courtesy of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer



# IGS TEAM REACHES DOME of MT. ST. HELENS (Wash.)

by Mark Lahrman

*Reprinted from Puget Sound Caver Vol. 2, No.9  
Sept. 1992. Edited with approval of D. Paasch*

As all of us in the Puget Sound Grotto know our beloved leader and chairman of the International Glaciocaveological Survey, Charles H. Anderson Jr., has an ongoing love affair with Mt. St. Helens and trying to reach the ice caves behind the dome.

There were only three of us making the trip June 27, 1992, Charlie, Doug Paasch and myself.

Shortly after 0800 hours Charlie unlocked the gate. The weather was looking good, except for a haze that would last all day. We made Lowitt Falls in about 1 1/2 hours, stopped for a break and began our ascent off the trail. It took us a good two hours to climb the rim and get to the point where we actually started down into the crater proper and let me tell you it was a very strenuous and difficult climb.

Once we reached the inner rim and looked out onto the crater the sight of the dome was dramatic. It didn't look it, but the dome was still over two hours away. It was past noon and the heat was a big factor in our progress, not to mention the rapid rate we were using our water.

The dome itself was very impressive even from this distance and it was venting gas fumes or steam which it continued to do in increasing amounts as the day progressed.

Off the rim and into the throat, the way is strewn with varying sizes of pumice, sometimes arranged to resemble stone walls. Doug named the major one, The Great Wall of China. We discovered four streams in the throat; two of which are hot.

Once you are within an hours walk of the dome you really become aware of the continuing avalanche activity coming off the three remaining crater walls. If you are one to get spooked easily I'd suggest you not go into the crater. The rock slides are noisy and nearly continuous. They often look like they are headed right for you but usually stop well short of being a real danger. There is the potential for disaster if someone were to lose their head and panic.

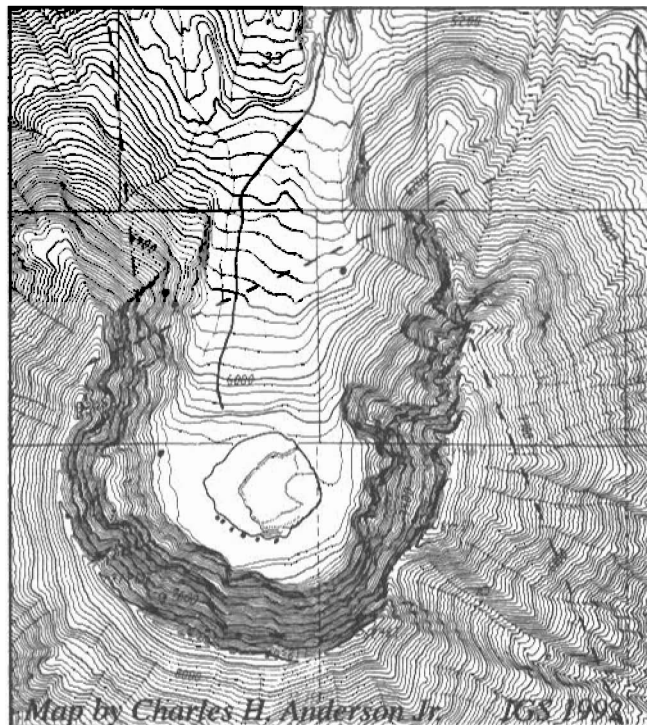
At the dome, we made a major find. Less than 300 yards on the west was a huge cave entrance. Charlie figured it was 40 feet wide and 30 feet tall. This was a rock cave and not a glacier cave. We wanted to check it out but there was too much slide activity around it to make it a reasonably safe venture this time of year.

By now it was going on five o'clock and while our objective was the ice caves on the south wall the decision was reached to head back down. One reason was that we were at least two hours from the south wall. Secondly, we had to pass a narrow gap between the dome and the west wall and the slide activity was making it a risky passage even in daylight. If we continued we would not

be out until dark, meaning we could not visually track slide activity.

Once back on Lowitt Trail we watched a lightning storm light up the crater and heard thunder roll off its massive walls. The ensuing light rain shower was a welcome relief.

.....  
*"We had more trips this summer (1993) and twice made it to the caves. The reports should be out this winter sometime." Doug Paasch, ed. PSC*





# GLACIER GROTTO OFFICERS

by Dalene Perrigo

President **Harvey Bowers** started caving 33 years ago in caves near the family's West Virginia farm. When he came to Alaska in 1971, he combined his love of caving with his geology studies at Alaska Methodist University, using Byron and Lemon Glacier caves as topics for college papers. With a geology degree (1973) in hand, he did hydrological studies for the US Geological Survey and NORTEC/Fluor Engineers.

During the 1970s he also spent a four month period caving in Europe and a few months exploring underground chambers in

Montana and Wyoming. Toward the end of the decade, he returned to Alaska caving and was on the initial cave trips to the Wrangell Mountains.

Bowers made two caving trips to Prince of Wales Island and one to the Pribilof Island of St. Paul during the 1980s, plus side trips to Texas and California, Australia and New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Among the wonders seen in the caverns and pits of the world, "The New Zealand glow worms are probably the most interesting



*Bowers at El Capitan Cave, Alaska*

things I have experienced in caving," he says when reminiscing

*Continued on col. 1, page 8*



*Rockwell explores El Capitan*

Secretary **Julius (Jay) Rockwell Jr.** went into his first cave, Howe Caverns, New York.

Treasurer **Rachael Mays** can hardly wait to get underground again.

"Actually the last caving I did was three years ago in New Zealand," she says almost apologetically. "I was pregnant at the time, and had difficulty getting through some of the crawl spaces."

A petroleum engineer with British Petroleum, Mays graduated from the Colorado School of Mines. She worked for BP in Texas before transferring to Alaska. While in Houston she

in the late 1920s or early 1930s. Brief visits to two wild caves in the Berkshire mountains set the hook. However, he became distracted by his studies in Phillips Andover, University of Michigan (BS in Zoology in 1940), World War II (six years in the Pacific), University of Washington (Ph.D. in Fisheries) and eight years in Research and Development in fisheries instrumentation in Seattle. At the end of that period, he discovered some small caves on Orcas Island in Washington's San Juan Islands. During eight years of oceanographic instrumentation

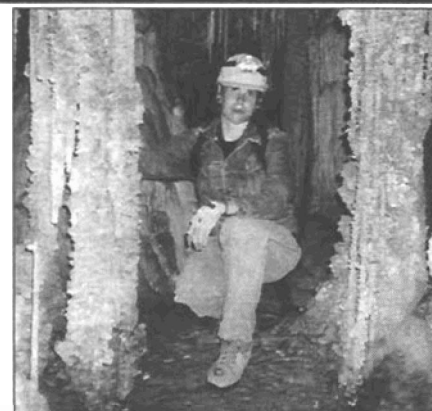
went spelunking for the first time, an introduction that developed into a popular leisure-time activity.

"It was much more informal (than in Alaska)," she says. "You could go on the spur of the moment and within 12 hours be in the caves north east of Monteray in Mexico or at Carlsbad, NM."

Once she discovered the challenges and joys of caving, she found excuses to go underground in the Guadalupe of New Mexico, to Nevada, Wind Cave in Colorado and Down Under.

and interagency coordination in Washington, D.C., Edwin Power introduced him to the caverns of West Virginia and much-needed adventures. Shortly after becoming an NSS member, he was transferred to Alaska (1970) to monitor pipeline construction. Dr. William Halliday and Jim Hedges recruited him to be chairman of the Alaska Cave Area Conservation Task Force. Charles Pease had already started The Alaska Caver before leaving the state so it was quite natural that the Task Force take it over.

*Continued on vol. 2, page 8*



*Mays rests after caving in Mexico*

"New Zealand has tourist caves that might well be labeled Tourist

*Continued in Col. 1, page 8*



**Bowers from page 7**  
about caving experiences.

"I think our greatest challenge in the Glacier Grotto, besides trying to act as an organized organization, is to try to explore Prince of Wales Island without damaging the caves or promoting them to the point they are destroyed," he says.

Bowers and his wife own Alaskan Agate Bed & Breakfast Inn in Wasilla and he is completing technical research that could develop into another business.

**Mays from page 7**  
Beware," she says. "A cave might be like a walk to class until the end where there is a huge rock with slimy water running over it or maybe a river to cross in order to get out."

But this mother of two young children is ready for a new caving challenge.

"I'm getting anxious to cave again, and hopefully on Prince of Wales Island," she adds.

## CAVE LEGISLATION IS ON HOLD

Senate Bill 1049, the Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act, is in limbo. The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests adjourned the hearings on the bill in mid June and currently "nothing is happening" according to Joan Humphrey in Senator Frank Murkowski's Anchorage office. The House Bill passed.

H.R. 698 is a bill to protect Lechuguilla Cave and other resources and values in and adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

As introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), the senate bill is substantially the same as the House Bill (HR-698) approved in May, with the exception of one sentence, says Albert A. Krause, NSS Chairman of the Conservation Committee. The Senate version includes the following sentence regarding the negotiation of agreements to terminate existing drilling leases: "The Secretary (of

**Rockwell from page 7**  
With the strong support of Col. David Klinger and Merry and Phil Duncan he was able to get the Glacier Grotto chartered in 1978 with Rich Hall as new editor. About that time Joe Head found the caves of the Chitistone, but it was not until 1984 that Rockwell got into Black Star Cave. This was his first "serious" vertical caving experience, and it seemed ironic that this would happen so late in life (when he was 66). Soon after this longest-cave-in-the-state record was set, Kevin and Carlene Allred started finding longer caves in Southeast Alaska. To help them he recruited more people, made arrangements with the Forest Service to provide some logistic support and embarked on what may be the major cave conservation effort in the country.

When was his best caving adventure? He says, "Probably before the year 2000."

the Interior) shall seek such agreement with due regard to the value of the oil and gas resources which the owners thereof will not be allowed to recover or produce."

Krause encourages cavers to write to "your" senators expressing support for the protection of Lechuguilla Cave and Senate Bill 1049. He suggests that a copy be sent to Jeff Bingaman, 110 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510.

Addresses for Alaska senators are as follows:

Senator Frank Murkowski  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0202

Senator Ted Stevens  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0201

Glacier Grotto secretary has a copy of HR-698 with map of the Cave Protection Area. His telephone number is (907) 277-7150.

## EDITORS NOTES

This space (plus the rest of the page) was reserved for the other Glacier Grotto officers - the three vice presidents. I didn't realize they were so bashful, but not one sent a picture. How about next month?

In a recent conversation with Janet Thorne, a member of the NSS Conservation Committee, she reiterated the NSS concern about the Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act.

"Because of critical conservation issues in California and other parts of the country,, this cave legislation is on the back burner," she says. "I don't know when it will be put on the agenda." Letters may help.

Don't forget the Executive Council meeting Nov. 2. Conference call arrangements make it possible for all Alaska Grotto Areas to participate. If you want to be included give Jay Rockwell a call at 277-7150.

## NEWSBRIEFS

Heat, steam and ice have created a natural scientific laboratory in a volcanic crater on Mt. St. Helens in Washington state.

Through a study sponsored by the International Glaciospeleological Survey, scientists are observing the changes in the crater firm caves located in the ice field behind the lava dome, inside the crater. By periodic observations and resurveys of cave passages, the changes in passage dimensions and locations will be noted. This will enable researchers to detect heat-flow and locations of volcanic emanation in the long term study of the ice field, according to an article in the Puget Sound Caver (Vol 2, No. 9, Sept. 1992).

Avalanches from the crater walls have resulted in an ice field about 100 feet thick. The size of the caves are a result of the balance between the presence of avalanches and geothermal heat release. Future changes in snow fall and thermal activity of the crater will cause corresponding changes in the cave passage dimensions, location and wall ablation features, the article states.

This ongoing study is designed for understanding the evolution of the crater firm caves of Mt. St. Helens. Secondly, trends and changes in volcanic activity will be noted through the study. Director of the International Glaciospeleological Survey is Charles H. Anderson. [Anderson's address - 547 SW 304th St., Federal Way, WA 98023. Phone: (206) 941-4101.]

\*\*\*\*\*

The Caver Editor received a copy of "How to Succeed in Caving and Marriage" by Neal R. Bullington. Please send a stamped, self addressed envelope if you would like a copy of this tongue-in-cheek article published in Salt Lake Grotto's Inner Mountain News. The article begins with the following paragraph:

*"If you are married to a caver, then you probably won't want to read this. But if you are in the other 99 percent then perhaps I can prepare you for some of the tribulations that undoubtedly lie ahead."*

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William R. Halliday's article, "Show Caves of South Bass Island, Ohio", was published in the January 1993 issue of Cascade Caver 32(1):7. Other recent publications by Halliday include a book containing descriptions of the Mineral King caves, cited on page 159 of the October 1990 issue of The Explorer, and "More Caves of Kilauea, Hawaii" in the April 1990 issue of Speleograph 26(4):37.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Ketchikan Area Glacier Grotto recently went on record as supporting the Forest Service's decision to place a gate at El Capitan Cave as long as the members of the Grotto still have access beyond the gate. Archaeological and speleological significance of the cave as well as safety factors for inexperienced cavers, were considered when making the decision. Members of the Grotto look at El Capitan as a good place to improve caving skills of members and train newcomers to caving but believe it can be done with negligible impact on the cave.

\*\*\*\*\*

Julius Rockwell requests ballots from members who have not voted on the proposed By-law changes. If you have not taken the time to stick the ballot into an envelope and address it to Jay, please do so as soon as possible. The ballot is page 18 of the July issue of The Alaskan Caver.

\*\*\*\*\*

Glacier Grotto member Doreen Baichtal spent her summer tracking bats, according to an article from the Anchorage Daily News, Sept. 19, 1993.

A graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Baichtal is currently analyzing data she collected on bats in Southeast. The objects of her study range from little brown bats to silver-haired bats, to Keen's bats and California bats. Some of these have not been noted in Southeast since 1897. She also checked for bats in El Capitan Cave.

The results of her field season will be published next year as a thesis.

ting occurring in Southeast Alaska karst areas. While this has received a lot of attention, maybe now is the time to consider selecting an area and determine what kind of effect logging has on a particular area and its caves. It seems likely that some caves will be greatly impacted and some not so much. Of course, we as a grotto need to concern ourselves on what impact we have on the cave. Also, the disclosure of a location to the wrong person can add the final blow to a cave.

One of my first jobs as President is to appoint a nominating committee for the 1994 election of officers. I know it seem like we just had the elections for 1993, but this one should put us back on schedule.

Every so often there have been discussions of starting a grotto in Fairbanks or Southeast Alaska. I personally would like to see those interested in running a grotto step forward and play an active role in the Glacier Grotto. Possibly someone in Fairbanks or Southeast would be interested in being our next President.

The following individuals have agreed to serve on the nominating committee. If you are interested in service, please contact one of the following:

Mike Mauser, Fairbanks.....456-6953 wk  
452-1414hm  
Jay Rockwell, Anchorage.....277-7150  
Marcel LaPerriere, Ketchikan..225-4094 wk  
225-4814 hm

## MEETING NOTES

### Southeast

Southeast Area Glacier Grotto will remain in the Glacier Grotto for at least one more year, according to minutes from the August meeting. The group has periodically discussed the possibility of forming a grotto, but wants a stronger membership base before taking the big step.

One of the biggest issues facing the Southeast Area is cave rescue. Training sessions will begin soon. There is strong support among the group for development of a well trained Grotto rescue team rather than depend solely on Alaska State Troopers in case of an emergency.

Members of Southeast Area GG purchased two books from NSS to donate to the local library.

### Executive Council

During an Executive Council meeting Oct. 6 in Anchorage, the election of officers was approved, and a report on By-Law changes was delayed until the Nov. 2 meeting. The meetings are open to all members, in person or by telephone.

Secretary Jay Rockwell reported four new members and gave reports for several committee heads. Jay agreed to prepare a list of the grottos with which we exchange newsletters. It will be printed in the November newsletter.

As Conservation Committee chairman, Dr. James Ferguson is in charge of education.

By consent of the Executive Council, The Alaskan Caver will continue to report on Alaskan caver activities and speleological related concerns, with limited space for Outside information.

## ADDITIONS to MEMBERSHIP LIST

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>Address</u>                    | <u>Pd</u> | <u>NSS#</u> | <u>Hm Tel</u> | <u>Wk Tel</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bowles, Greg   | PO Box 2352, Bethel AK 99559      | 93        |             | 907/543-5319  | 907/543-4570  |
| Esterson, Kris | PO Box 751725 Fairbanks AK 99775  | 94        | 32255AS     | 907/474-0369  |               |
| Zwick, David   | 615 Hill Road, Ketchikan AK 99901 | 93        |             | 907/225-5619  |               |
| Zwick, C.      | 615 Hill Road, Ketchikan AK 99901 | 93        |             | 907/225-5619  |               |

### Address or telephone changes\*\*\*\*\*

|                |   |     |         |              |              |
|----------------|---|-----|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Klimack, Bill  | 2155 Watertown Pl, Clarksville TN37043-2115 | 93N | 20786RL | 615/572-9282 |              |
| Klimack, Mary  | (same)                                      | 93N | 31790FR | 615/572-9282 |              |
| Sonnenberg, G. | 1377 Pond Reef Road, Ketchikan, Ak 99901    | 93  | 33648RE | 907/247-1557 | 907/247-1559 |

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

# ROARING ROAD CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

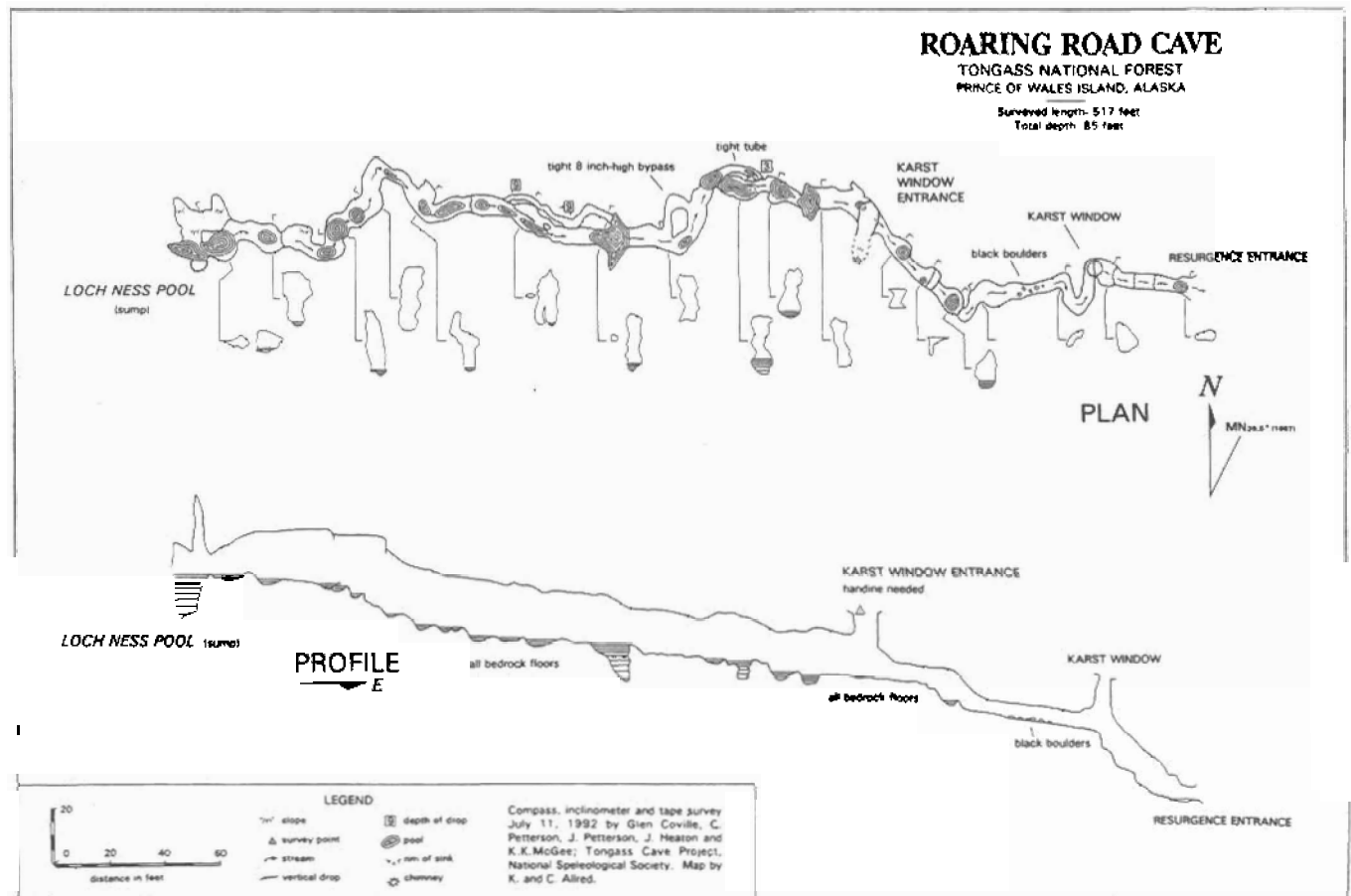
by Kevin Allred  
Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Roaring Road Cave was located by Jedediah Smith and further investigated and surveyed on July 11, 1992, by Glen Coville, Cody Petterson, John Petterson, Julie Heaton and Katherine McGee. The entrance is located next to a logging spur road and below an extensively logged benched area on the slopes of El Capitan Peak. The recharge area is probably a large portion of these logged areas.

Formed in heavily calcite veined Heceta Limestone, Roaring Road Cave contains a stream flowing throughout. Below the flood zone, the walls floor and ceiling are washed clean. The stream was reported to run an estimated 5 cubic meter/minute, which may be an exaggeration. Some small roots hang from the ceiling and there is much soil and mud near the back above the high water mark.

The cave can be entered using a handline from the upper of two karst windows, or from the resurgence entrance which empties into the creek. A rope is not needed in the cave, but plunge pools must be waded or climbed around. Upstream from the entrance, the cave extends approximately 300 feet to a deep sump called Loch Ness Pool. Pete Smith free dove to about 10 feet. Above the sump, a chimney goes up, but is too difficult to climb. Under high water conditions, this cave would probably not be safe, and in any case, a wet suit or dry suit would be helpful. Downstream from the handline entrance, the passage is much the same.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Considering the cold, wet nature of this cave, it would be best to restrict the location from the general public. However, the cave has excellent recreational potential for those who are prepared.



# ILLUSION PIT

## Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #95 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred  
Nov. 23, 1992

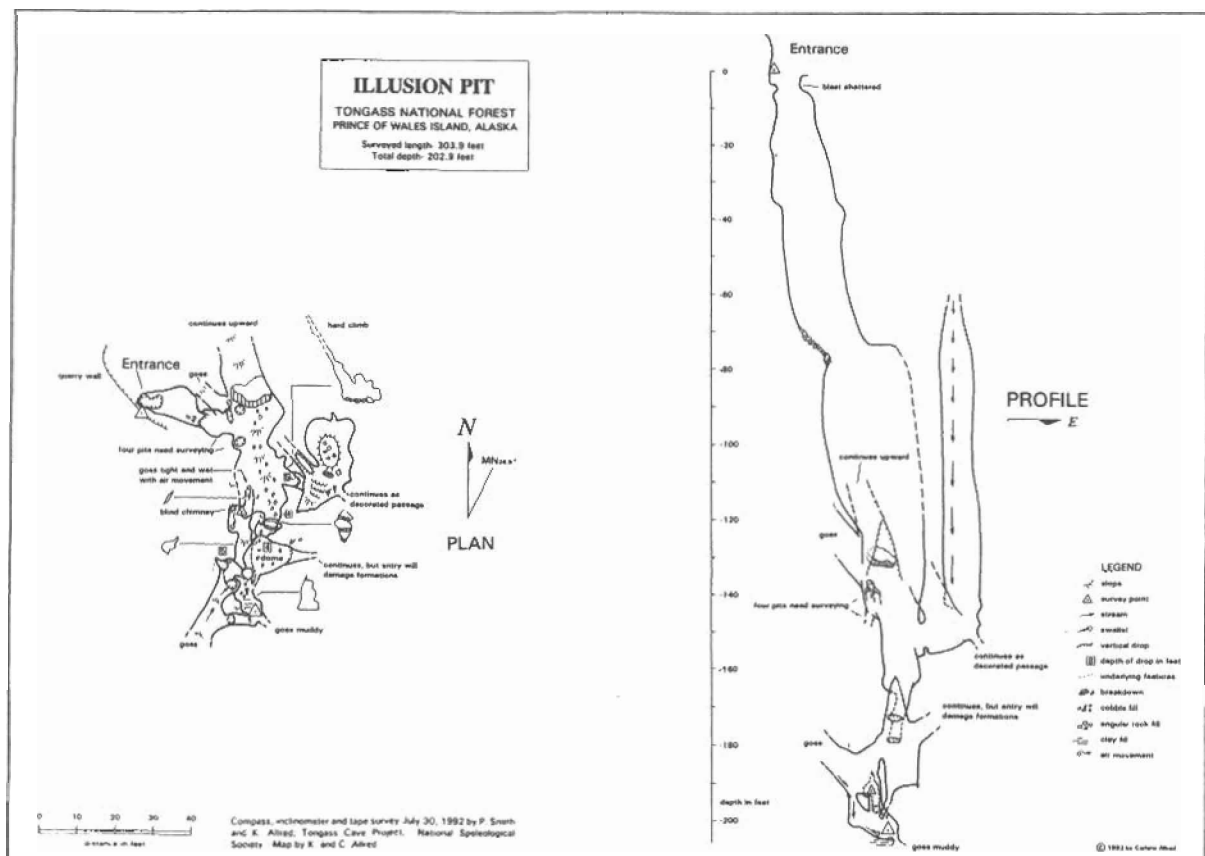
**DESCRIPTION:** The top of the initial 150 foot shaft is exposed at the headwall of a quarry, and a second small hole in the center of the quarry drops into another smaller cave not yet surveyed. Some flowstone is present on the walls of the shaft which ends in an inclined rubble strewn gallery. Descending further is possible by sliding through a constriction and using a handline to go down a few small drops in a canyon-like passage ending in a dome pit.

At the bottom of the entrance drop are several unsurveyed pits which appear to connect in a passage network below. Two steeply inclining canyons in the same area remain to be pushed and surveyed. Total depth of Illusion Pit is presently 202 feet and the surveyed length is 303 feet. More work needs to be done extending the known cave. It was surveyed July 30, 1992, by Pete Smith and Kevin Allred, with support of Leo Zak and Pavel Jirasek.

**BIOLOGY:** One bat bone was found in the dome.

**SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:** The main safety issue here, other than the vertical nature and coldness of the cave, is the first 10 feet of the entrance drop which is explosive shattered. Great care should be taken to avoid disturbing the walls.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Work in the quarry should be stopped. The loose piles of rock in the quarry should not be disturbed, as the quarry appears to overlay some yet unsurveyed high domes. The location of this pit should not be shared with the general public. Further exploration and studies of the cave should be undertaken before clear-cuts are planned up the mountain side.



# CONK CANYON CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project, Preliminary Report #84

National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

## DESCRIPTION

Formed in Heceta Limestone, Conk Canyon Cave begins in a swallow sinkhole discovered by Pete Smith and Jim Baichtal in July of 1992. The cave was named for a tree fungus above the clean, fluted, canyon-like entrance. A 60-70 foot rope is recommended for the first drops. After an initial 12 foot entrance drop, the passage meanders steeply down in a narrow vadose canyon with small plunge pools. At a small side passage which goes to the north, the canyon appears to become too narrow, but by staying high, one can continue to an enlargement where a trickle of water enters from above. A minimum of 100 feet of rope is needed at this point in order to drop the free 87 foot pit. The anchor is a pillar near the top of the pit. At the bottom of the pit, a tight, nearly plugged passage takes the streamlet to a sump at 166 feet below the entrance. Up on the wall, near the bottom, a horizontal tube becomes very tight after only 10 feet. Total surveyed passage is 305 feet.

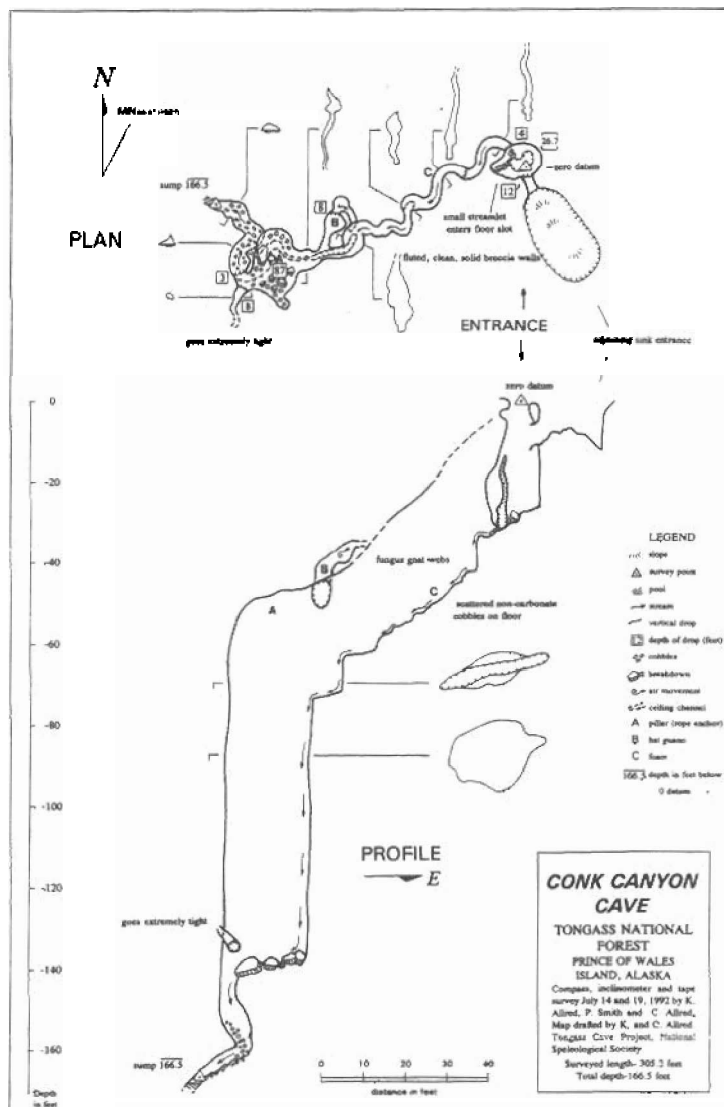
## BIOLOGY

Some Fungus Gnat webs were noted in the twilight portion of the cave.

**SPELEOTHEMS:** No speleothems were seen.

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the vertical, wet nature of this cave, its location should be withheld from the general public. However, this is a good cave to explore and study for those who are prepared. Surface disturbance such as logging or road building would introduce silts and debris into this hydrologic system and changes in the entrance portion of the cave. The entrance area and drainage should be protected from logging and road building impacts with a large, wind-firm buffer. This buffer should be included in the Beaver Falls Area buffer. Other significant karst features are known to exist in the same general area.



# DIVORCE CAVE

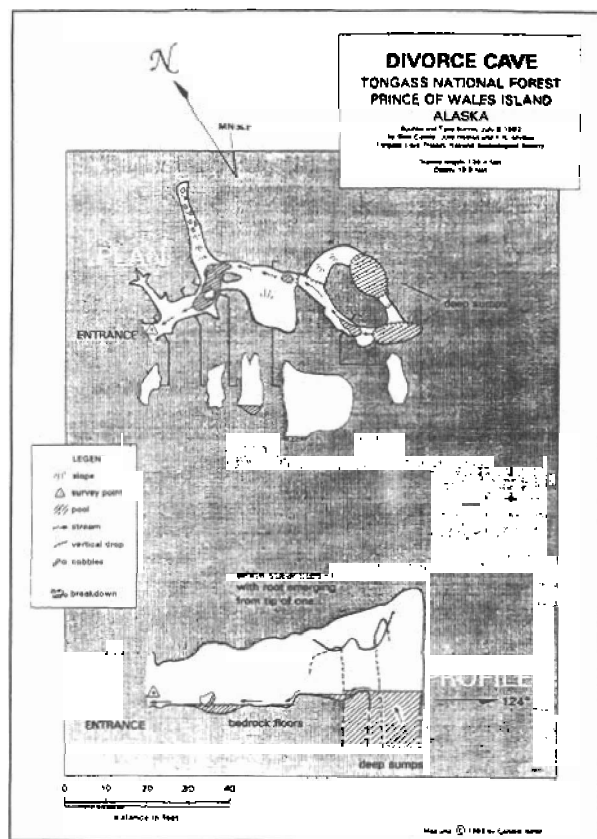
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #89  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Divorce Cave was discovered by Kevin Allred June 7, 1991 and was surveyed on July 8, 1992, by Glen Coville, Julie Heaton and KK McGee. Divorce is a large resurgence thought to enter the Dragons Breath and Bridal Veil Cave systems. The beautifully sculpted Heceta Limestone in Divorce Cave is a dark blue color containing white streaks of calcite fill. A stream wells from two deep sumps at the back of the cave and flows through several pools before pouring out the entrance. No rigging is necessary as it is all walking passage. Total surveyed length is 136 feet; total height is 19 feet.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** The entrance should be buffered by a large, possibly 300 foot) no-harvest zone including plenty of room for wind throw in order to protect the hydrology and climatic regimes for biologic resources within. The stream below the cave provides fish habitat. The cave location should be withheld from the public.



# LITTLE HELICTITE CAVE

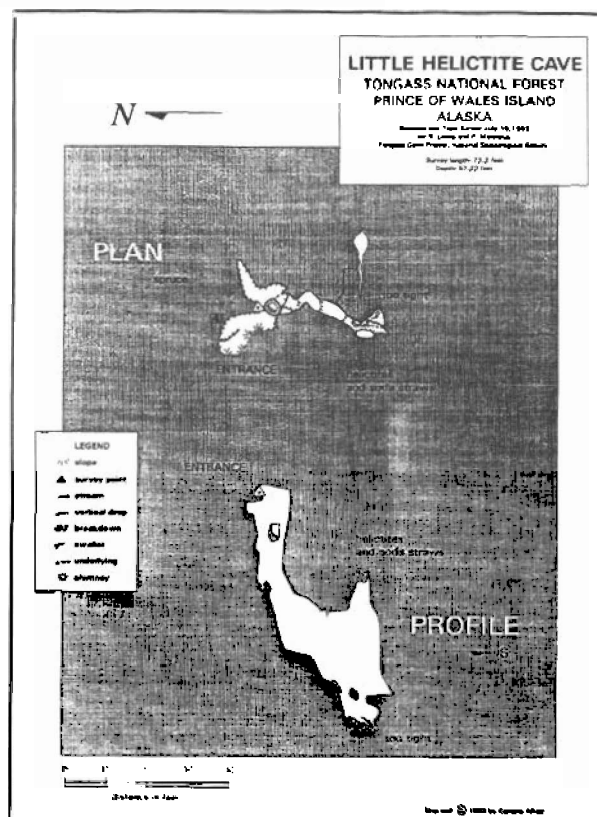
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #98  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Little Helictite Cave was investigated by Steve Lewis, Dottie Foskin, Kerry Foster, and Rob Lore on June 23, 1992. Little Helictite has a 30 foot deep pit leading to a chamber. Seventy-three feet were surveyed by Steve Lewis and Paul Matheus. The cave's depth is 57 feet. A streamlet flows into a too tight hole in the floor of the chamber.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Significant karst features are found within, north and south of logging units #550-214. Two other significant caves are located below the steep slopes on the south and west sides of the unit. Timber harvest and associated road construction would adversely affect these caves by damaging surface and hydrologic features. Due to its speleologic, hydrologic and possible biological interest, Little Helictite Cave should be protected. It is recommended that no timber harvest or road building occur on or adjacent to this unit. Please refer to reports #100, #111, and #114.



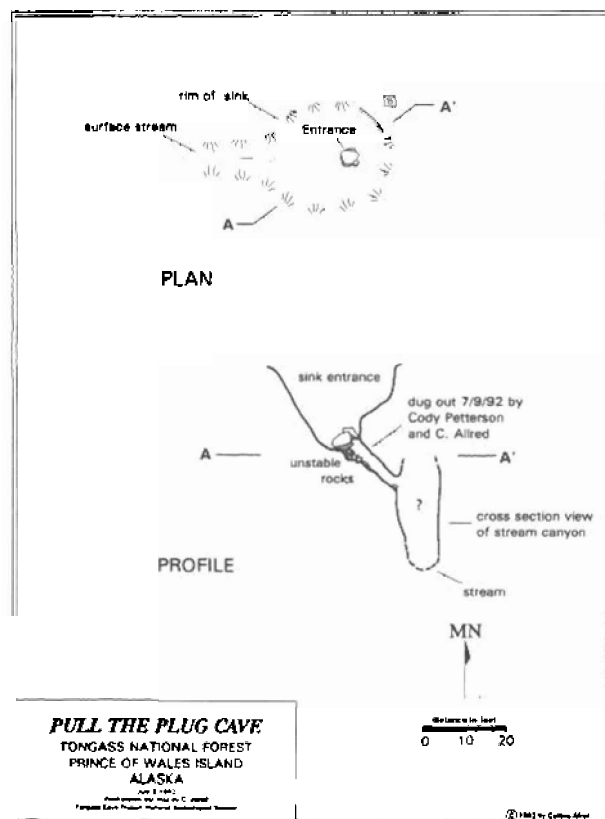


## PULL THE PLUG CAVE

**Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #100**  
**Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**  
 by Kevin Allred  
 Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Pull the Plug Cave was discovered June 23, 1992, by Dan Monteith, Paul Edmundson, Mark Fritzke and Pete Smith. The boulder and rock plugged resurgence entrance is in the bottom of a large 60-foot-diameter and 30-foot-deep sinkhole. Drainage from two acres of muskeg comes into the cave. An unstable rock plug was dug open by Carlene Allred and Cody Petterson on July 9, 1992. Beyond the former plug, a steep slope leads to a pit with a stream passage visible below.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Pull the Plug Cave has hydrologic significance and may prove to have other resources as well when it is fully investigated. It is, therefore, recommended that Proposed units #550-239 and #550-214 not be harvested to protect the hydrology of this and other nearby caves and their resources (see reports #98, #111 and #114). The location should be withheld from the general public because of the vertical pit.

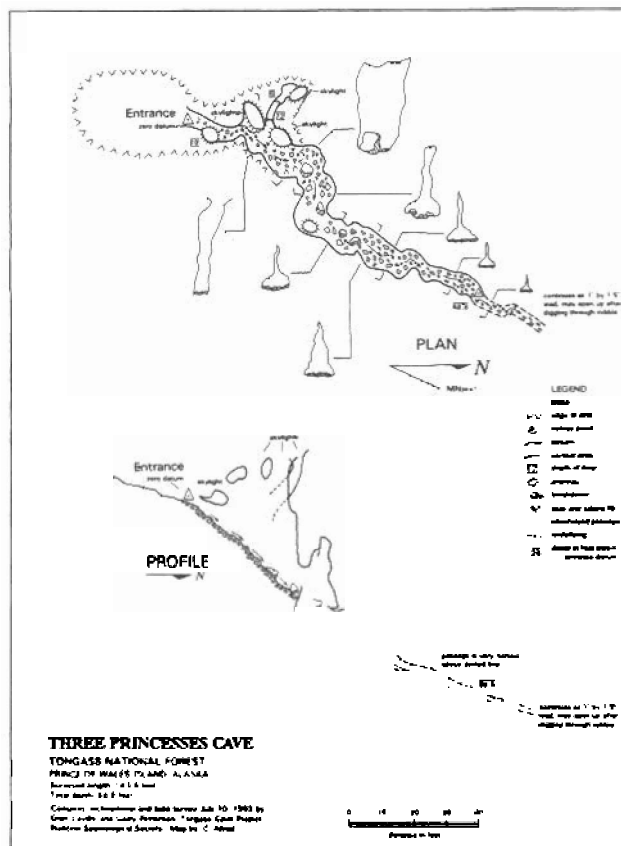


## THREE PRINCESSES CAVE

**Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #111**  
**Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**  
 by Kevin Allred  
 Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Three Princesses Cave was discovered by a team led by Jim Baichtal and investigated on June 23, 1992, by Steve Lewis and team. The cave is one of three located in the same area. The trend of this cave is northeast under a proposed logging unit with drainage into the cave entrance from a large muskeg deposit. The aesthetically pleasing walk-in entrance quickly constricts to a crawlway and pinches to a dig after 143 feet. The passage seems to be largely vadose modified. The cross sections are high, narrow fissures, belling out to a rubble-filled floor. The cave gradually constricts and continues a foot and a half in cross section. Total depth of the cave is 58 feet and was surveyed on July 10, 1992, by Glen Coville and Cody Petterson.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Considering the ecology of this and other nearby caves and karst features, logging on nearby units should not be allowed and there should be no road construction between or on the units.



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# SNOWHOLE

## Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society Preliminary Report #108, Addendum to Report #10

by Kevin Allred  
Nov. 23, 1992

### DESCRIPTION

In 1989, it was reported that the entrance drop of Snowhole was 448.5 feet deep. When Snowhole was entered in 1992, everyone on the survey trip declared that the depth of the initial pit was interrupted at -328 feet at a landing. Thus, the drop is no longer the third deepest in the United States. Since the original survey was incomplete, Snowhole was resurveyed on July 8, 9, 10 and 12, 1992, by Dave Herron, Mark Fritzke and Kevin Allred. The cave is much more extensive and complex than originally reported. The grike entrance is more shaft-like and a few snow covered ledges are passed. At -250 feet, there is a large rotating boulder and then a 15 foot pillar of rock, now broken in two places leans across the shaft. At the pillar is an offset room. Off the floor of this room, 150 foot deep Dole Pit ends at a large 20 foot high snow/ice cone with a rocky-floored perimeter. Dole Pit drains partly into a narrow slot which pinches about 20 feet down. Another passage leading from the snow cone also pinches. There is little or no air flow in these leads, and the snow cone is evidence that Dole Pit is a cold air trap.

Back at the leaning pillar, the entrance drop continues down past a side alcove called "Nowheresville", and finally to the -328 landing. Here, the south end of the landing leads to a 100 foot drop onto the same snow cone mentioned above. The north end of the landing leads to a fissure-like pit. Twenty-five feet down this fissure, a rebelay is recommended for the next 70 foot rappell. To the north of the rebelay is a streamlet emerging from an unexplored lead. From the bottom of the 70 foot rappell, a fissure constriction takes the streamlet, and a second rebelay is suggested here. Below the second rebelay is a wet, 30 foot drop. Impure limestone created another constriction called "The Stripper", which was taking a good draft. This fissure requires one to remove at least some vertical gear and helmet. Below, it opens up to a 30 foot drop with a draft issuing out of a crack. Midway, two horizontal phreatic tubes, intersect the drop. This horizontal passage appears to have formed along the lower surface of a dike. In at least some spots, there was a noticeable crack running along the middle of the dike ceiling middle of the dike ceiling. This is similar to a horizontal passage in nearby Blowing in the Wind Cave. At the south extension of the tube, there are "gargoyle" macrocrystalline quartz nodules protruding from the ceiling and walls. At the top of a 15 foot climb, an incoming chimney issues a draft, but the horizontal tube continues over impressive 12 inch deep mud cracks in glacial varves. Exploration ended where the slightly breathing passage intersects a huge dome pit. Although the floor could not be seen, it was plumbed at 72 feet. This needs to be explored. The northern extension of the horizontal tube passage sucks a wind and contains some speleothems in the first 60 feet. It soon turns to a belly crawl and at a 90 degree corner and in another 40 feet, explorations ended at a pit and side passages. The surveyed length of Snowhole is 1398 feet and the depth, 559 feet.

### RIGGING

A 500 foot rope is recommended for the first series of entrance drops. A second 70 foot rope can be anchored or rebelayed at The Stripper and allow plenty of slack for rigging and swinging into either side of the horizontal passage. A 100 foot rope plus other ropes for unknown pits is recommended for the south extension and could be used for the north extension as well.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The vertical and very cold nature of Snowhole makes it wise to withhold the entrance location from the general public. Although it possesses excellent recreational qualities, only well equipped and experienced individuals should attempt serious exploration in this cave. Explorers should take special care to avoid gypsum needles and stalactites. There should be further exploration and study of this interesting cave. At the present extent of exploration, Snowhole cannot be effected by logging operations.

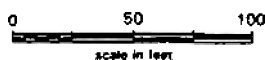
# **SNOW HOLE** TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA 1992

## **LEGEND**

- dike or sill
- slope
- clay
- breakdown
- cobbles
- snow
- stream
- air movement

- underlying passage
- unsurveyed passage
- survey point
- drop-vertical in plan, horizontal in profile

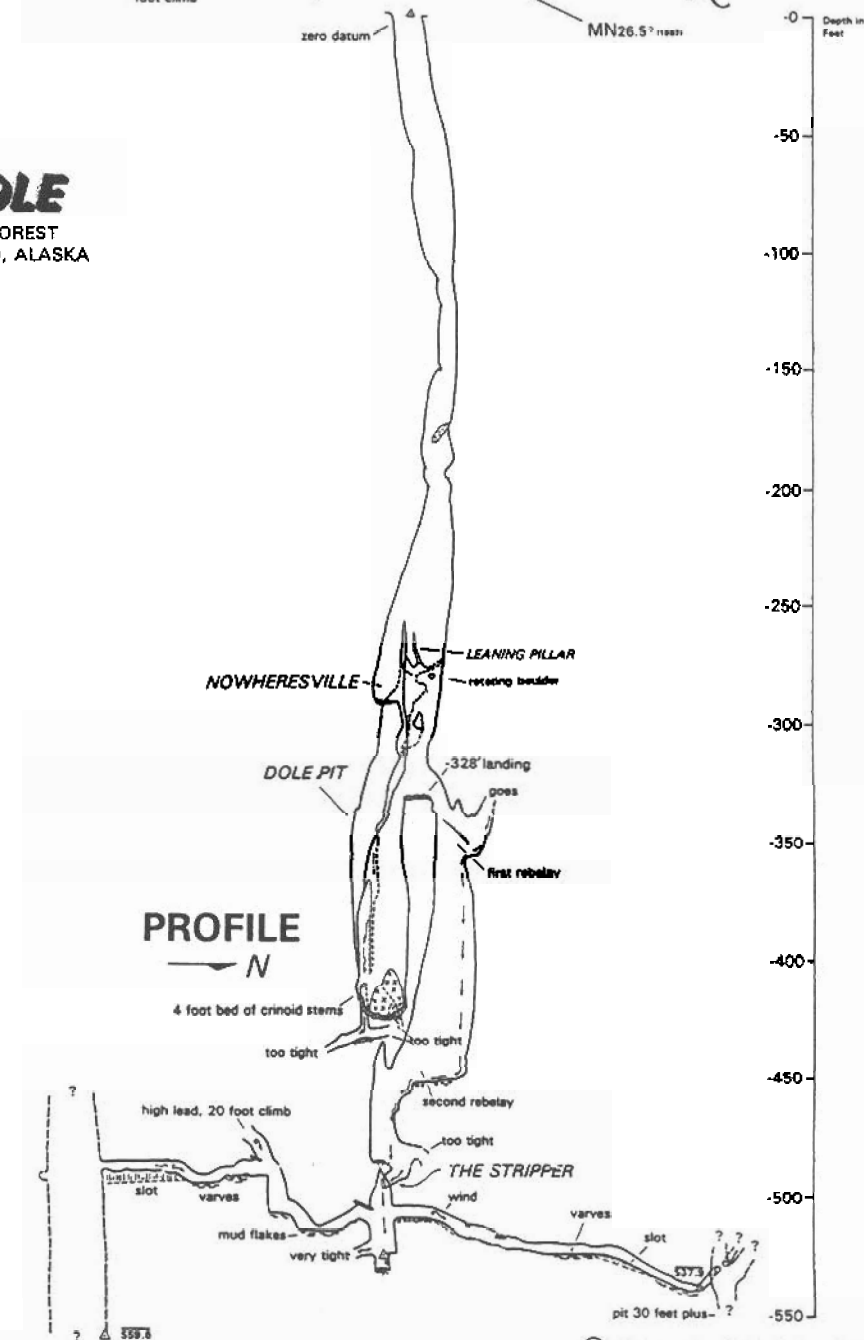
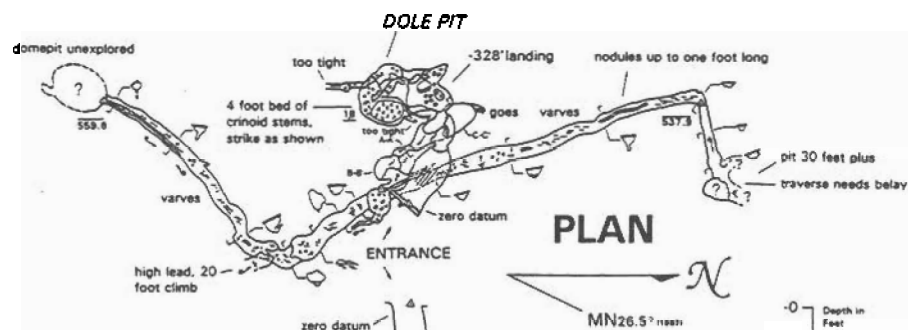
559.6 distance (feet) below zero datum



**Rigging recommendations:**  
500 feet of rope for entrance to second rebelay; 100 feet from second rebelay to horizontal passage; 100+ feet for either unexplored pit.

Compass, clinometer and tape survey  
July 8-12, 1992 by Kevin Allred,  
Mark Fricke and Dave Hemm.  
Tongass Cave Project, National  
Speleological Society

Total Survey Length- 1,398 feet  
Total Depth- 559.62 feet



© and cartography, 1992 by Kevin and Carlene Allred

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# KIT 'N' KABOODLE CAVE

Dall Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #96

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis and Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

## DESCRIPTION

Kit 'n' Kaboodle Cave was discovered and surveyed between July 26 and 28, 1992, by Steve Lewis, Risa Carlson, Katherine McGee and Jim Baichtal. Total survey was 1,360.1 feet with 927.1 feet surveyed in the cave. Four entrances were located with high probability of a large resurgence entrance and several major but sub-human dimension resurgences being connected at least hydrologically to the cave. The smaller resurgences are shown on the attached cave map, and the large resurgence boils up further to the northwest. A number of tight leads have potential of adding significantly to the surveyed length and several major leads remain to be pushed. One of these is a very tight passage which was pushed nearly to its connection with a major stream passage, probably the largest yet discovered in Alaska.

Bedrock is View Cove Limestone metamorphosed to marble of Silurian and/or Devonian age. Most of the cave is in beautiful Brecciated marble, and some passages are through coarse yellowish crystalline marble. The entrance room is wide and high. The rest of the cave thus explored is either relatively spacious phreatic tubes or, more frequently, low, but very wide crawlway.

While the bulk of the cave appears to be solid, the Chamber of Horrors is a breakdown room with recently fallen blocks on the floor and huge jagged blocks barely suspended in the ceiling. While a passage appears to continue on and another down towards the river (which is loudly audible here) prudence dictated that this room not be entered.

## HYDROLOGY

Above Kit 'n' Kaboodle Cave, a lake drains into a large cave which has collapsed, blocking the entrance to exploration. Little or no surface drainage was noted on the slopes above or below the lake, suggesting a potentially tremendous watershed entering the yet unexplored Kit 'n' Kaboodle river passage.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

The main entrance to Kit 'n' Kaboodle Cave leads from a shelter bluff into a room about 30 to 45 feet. Evidence of human habitation was located throughout the room and in connecting passages and the upper extensions of the room. Risa Carlson and Katherine McGee excavated a small pit and Risa took extensive notes of archaeological finds including charcoal and apparently human placed small *Mytilus edulis* shells. The Forest Service should be contacted for further information on the archaeological significance of the cave.

## BIOLOGY and PALEONTOLOGY

The cave contains a tremendous deposit of bones. Fish bones cover many portions of the floor to a depth of an inch or more. An eagle skeleton was noted nearly 200 feet from the nearest entrance and duck remains were also located. Large bones which may be from sea lions or some other marine mammal were found in several locations within the cave as were skulls or jaws of some small carnivores. Much of this appears to be the result of extensive use of the cave by river otters.

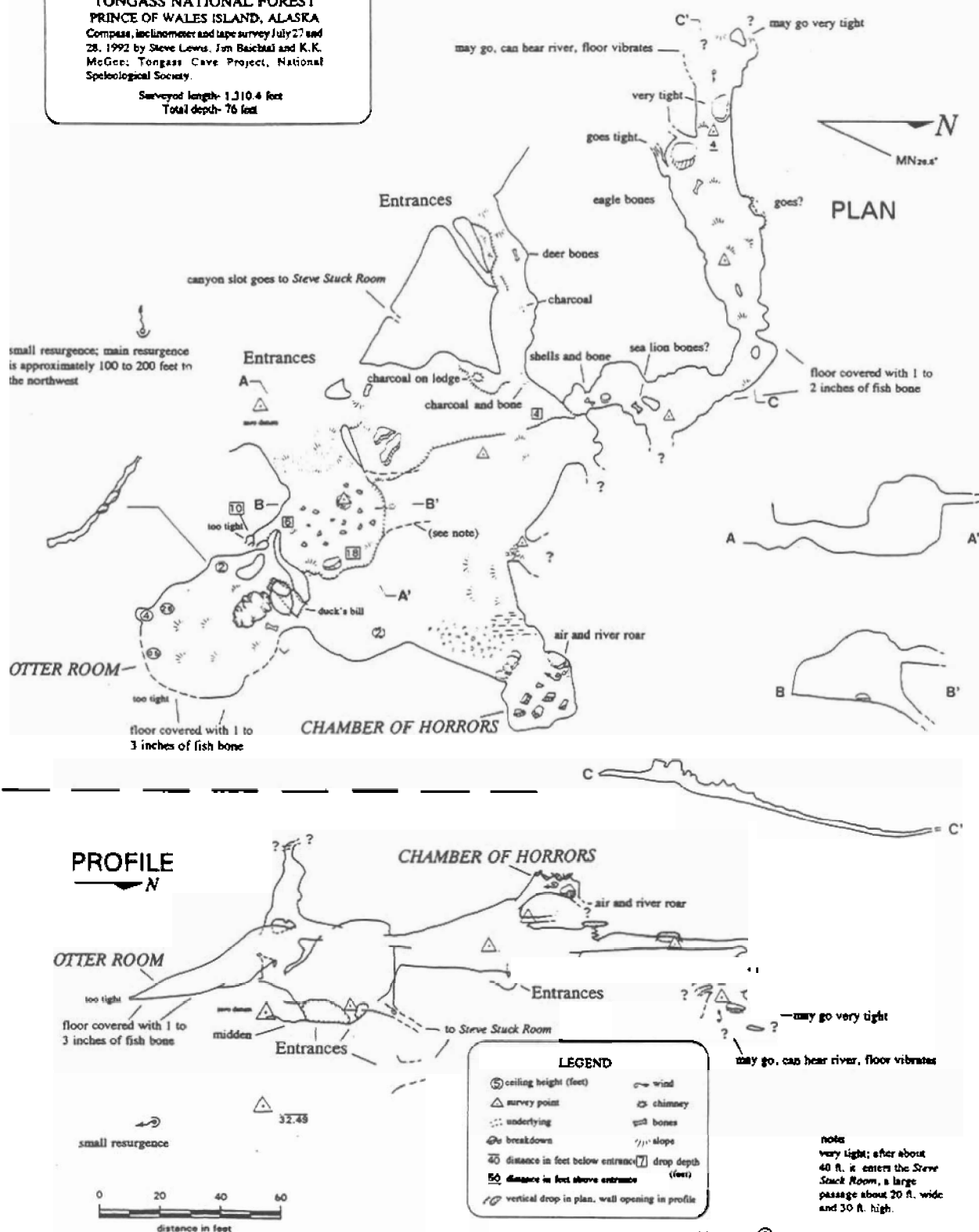
## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Kit 'n' Kaboodle Cave is aptly named. Not only is it of great interest to cave explorers, it has very significant hydrological, geological, archaeological, biological, paleological and perhaps ecological significance. It may provide insights into behavior of otters and should be searched for invertebrates. For these reasons it is extremely important that the location of this cave be protected from all but persons directly involved in research. Such research should be connected directly with the Tongass Cave Project or other responsible caving organization.

# KIT 'N' KABOODLE CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST  
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA  
Compass, inclinometer and tape survey July 27 and  
28, 1992 by Steve Lewis, Jim Baichtal and K.K.  
McGeer; Tongass Cave Project, National  
Speleological Society.

Surveyed length- 1,310.4 feet  
Total depth- 76 feet



Map and © 1992 by Kevin and Carlene Alfred

# SAVAGE SHAFT

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #105  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

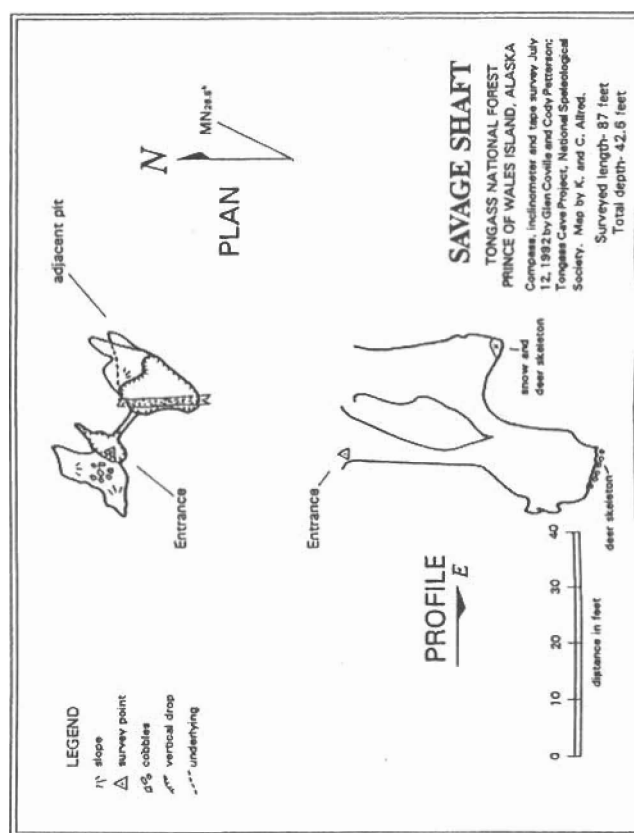
by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Savage Shaft was discovered by Kevin Allred in 1991. Formed in Heceta limestone, the walls of this 40 foot deep pit are fluted near the entrance. An adjoining 30 foot deep sinkhole was filled with snow in 1991, but when surveyed on July 12, 1992, most of the snow had melted. The second pit connects midway down with Savage drop.

**BIOLOGY:** Deer skeletons were found at the bottom of both drops.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Because of the vertical nature of this cave, the location should be kept from the general public. Any change in the hydrologic or atmospheric environs of Savage is already occurring from the clear-cut. We recommend no further disturbance. Terrain above 1800 feet elevation should not be harvested to protect the many caves and significant karst features.



# LAKEVIEW CAVE

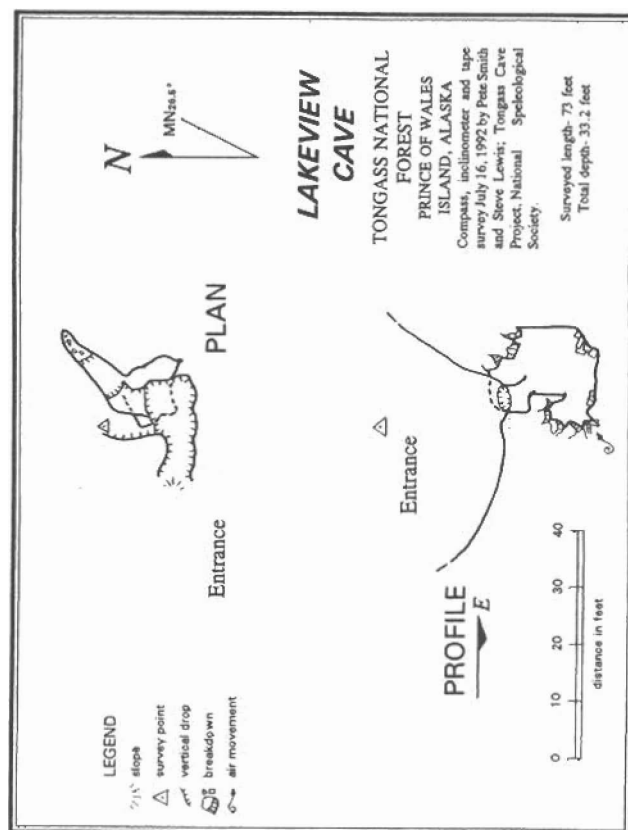
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #97  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Located in Heceta limestone, Lakeview Cave is 73 feet long and 33 feet deep. It was discovered by Steve Lewis and Pete Smith in the summer of 1992. They surveyed it July 17, 1992. The entrance is located in an "L" shaped sinkhole and a draft issues from rubble at the bottom.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION:** Although not a long cave, Lakeview has some potential for being more significant, given a bit of digging in the bottom. Because of the significance of nearby Toads Plunge Cave and some blowing leads, all within this proposed timber harvest unit, it is recommended that this unit not be harvested. There are also other karst features within the unit.



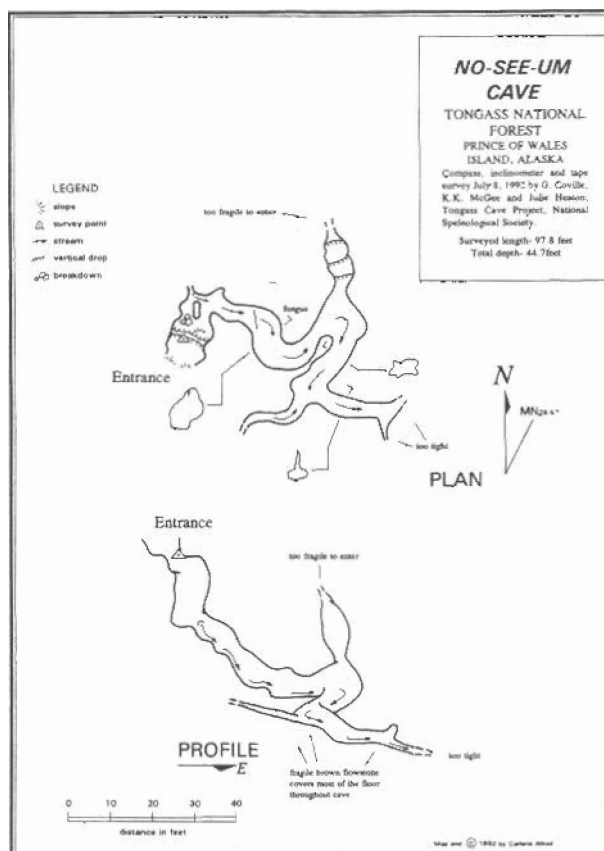
# NO-SEE-UM CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #99  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred  
Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** No-See-Um Cave was investigated by Glen Coville, Katherine McGee and Julie Eaton when they surveyed it July 8, 1992. Formed in brecciated Heceta marble, the cave has extensive dark brown organic deposits coming in from two sources. The ceiling is low except for one spot which has walls too delicate to climb. The passage become too tight after 97 feet and 44 feet in depth.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Because of the fragile nature of this cave, the road route should be moved downhill (if no more caves are encountered there), preserving the brush and small trees which now obscure the entrance. Since No-See-Um extends 50 feet downhill from the entrance, the edge of the road construction should be moved at least that far.



# GOOSE CHASE CAVE

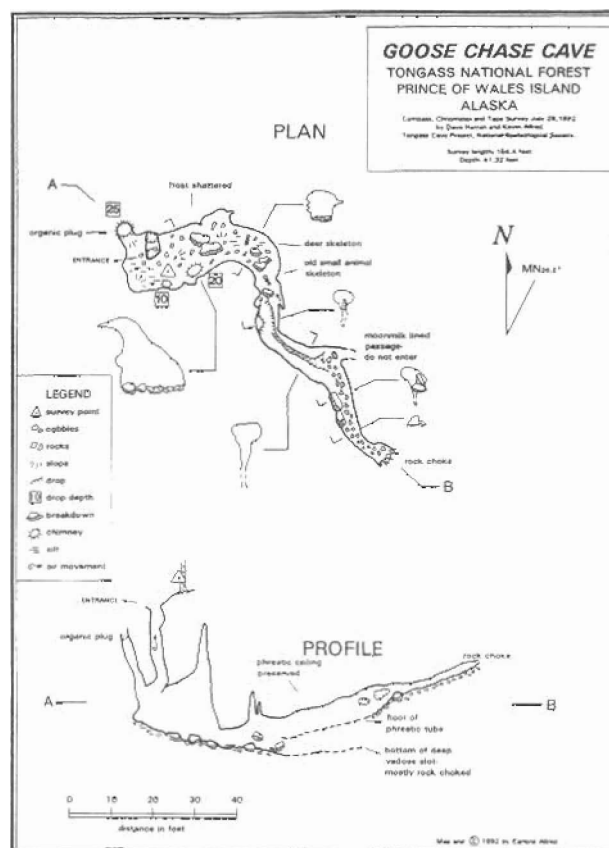
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #92  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred  
Nov. 23, 1992

**DESCRIPTION:** Goose Chase Cave was discovered and surveyed on July 28, 1992 by Leo Zak, Pavel Jirasek, Kevin Allred and Dave Herron. A minimum of a handline is needed for the 25-foot entrance drop. At the bottom of the drop is a frost shattered room 12 feet wide and 30 feet long. A phreatic crawlway has been vadose modified and ascends 35 feet at a 30 degree angle to the southeast and a crawlway trending east. The main crawlway continues another 35 feet to a rock choke probably quite close to the surface.

**BIOLOGY:** There was a deer skeleton in the large room and a deer fawn skeleton under some breakdown. No invertebrates were seen.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Goose Chase Cave should be excluded from logging and road building activities in order to preserve the hydrologic and atmospheric balance. The location could be shared with experienced and prepared individuals.





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MANAGEMENT ARE SOLICITED**

**Banquet Speaker:** Tom Aley, Director of the Ozark Underground Laboratory

**Guest Speaker:** Meriin Tuttle, Founder and Director of Bat Conservation International

For more information please contact one of the following:

Jim Goodbar  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 1778  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221  
(505) 887-6544

Dale Pate  
Carlsbad Caverns National Park  
3225 National Parks Highway  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220  
(505) 785-2104

Richard Carlson/Ransom Turner  
U.S. Forest Service  
Federal Building, Room 159  
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