

November 1993

Alaskan Caver, Volume 13, No. 5, November 1993

Dalene T. Perrigo

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan_caver

Recommended Citation

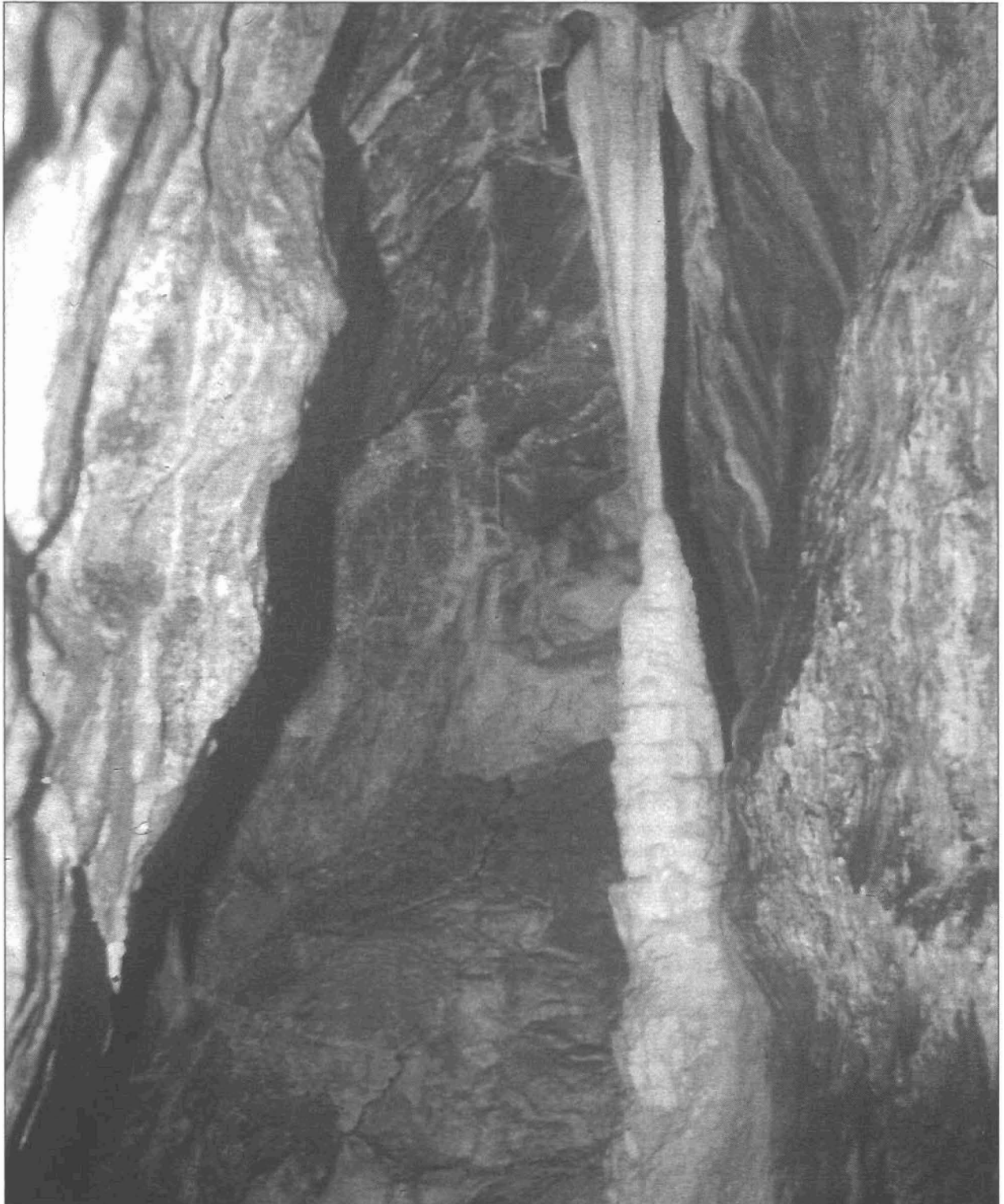
Perrigo, Dalene T., "Alaskan Caver, Volume 13, No. 5, November 1993" (1993). *Alaskan Caver*. 6.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan_caver/6

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alaskan Caver by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

The **Alaskan Caver**

Volume 13 Number 5

November 1993



The Alaskan Caver

published by the
Glacier Grotto®

1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B, Anchorage AK 99507

Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

© Copywrite 1993

Volume 13 Number 5

November 1993

Table of Contents

- 3.....POWIE VII Cavers Explore
- 3.....President's Corner
- 7.....Ketchikan Daily News
- 8.....Another Tale
- 9.....Newsbriefs
- 10.....NSS Convention
- 10.....Additions to Membership List
- 10.....Meeting Notes
- 11.....Wolves Lair Cave
- 12.....Cody's Cave
- 12.....Veta Bay Cave
- 13.....Bedded Bucks Cave
- 13.....Veta Bay Arch Cave
- 14.....Totem Pole Cave
- 14.....Toads Plunge Cave
- 15.....Rivers End Cave
- 15.....Short Bop Cave
- 16.....Thunder Falls Cave
- 18.....Wizard's Mission Cave
- 19.....Slate Cave
- 20.....Red Canyon Cave
- 22.....Editor's Notes

Cover Photo: Blue Marble Cave Photo credit: Pete Smith

The ALASKAN CAVER (ISSN 0735-0481) is the intermittent publication of the Glacier Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Back issues are available from the Glacier Grotto secretary for \$2 each.

Materials not copyrighted by individuals or by other groups may be used by NSS publications provided credit is given to the author and The Alaskan Caver. Send contributions to The Alaskan Caver, Editor, 1921 Congress Cir., Apt. B, Anchorage, AK 99507. Opinions are not necessarily those of The Alaskan Caver, the Glacier Grotto or the NSS. Proven errors will be corrected in print.

Annual dues are \$15 for a single and \$20 for a family membership. The Alaskan Caver is included in the membership fee. For an additional \$8, six Cavers will be sent by airmail to overseas addresses. Institutional subscriptions are \$20 per volume. Send dues to Glacier Grotto treasurer.

Anchorage meetings: Call Eric Rapport for details. (907)561-5700.

Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.

Fairbanks: Call Mike Mauser for details. (907)456-6953

President: Wm. Harvey Bowers
305 S. Bartlett Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
hm: 376-2294 wk: 373-2290

Vice Presidents:

Northern: Michael Mauser
1466 Carr Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709
hm: 456-6953 wk: 452-1414

Southcentral: Eric Rapport
4640 Business Park Blvd, Bldg.D
Anchorage, AK 99503
hm: wk: 561-5700

South East: Gary Sonnenberg
1377 Pond Reef Road
Ketchikan, AK 99901
hm: 247-1559 wk: 247-1559

Secretary: Julius Rockwell, Jr.
2944 Emory Street
Anchorage, AK 99508-4466
hm: 277-7150 wk: 277-7150

Treasurer: Rachael H. Mays
1813 Bannister Road
Anchorage, AK 99508
hm: 276-0138 wk: 564-5220

Conservation: Jim Ferguson
P.O. Box 20908
Juneau, AK 99802
hm: 463-2690 wk: 465-5365

Cave Rescue: Steve Lewis:
P.O. Box 83715
Fairbanks, AK 99708
hm: 479-7257 wk: 479-7257

NCA Representative: Dave Klinger
P.O. Box 537
Leavenworth, WA 98826
hm: 509/548-5480 wk: 509/548-5480

Program Chairman: John Jansen
7814 Raymar Circle
Anchorage, AK 99518
hm: 344-4402 wk: 344-4402

The Alaskan Caver: Dalene T. Perrigo
1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK 99507
hm: 344-3290 wk: 522-1096

Tongass Cave Project: Kevin Allred
P.O. Box 376
Haines, AK 99827

Alaska prefix is 907

November 1993



Dave Love examines colorful walls in Blue Marble Cave during POWIE VII. Photo credit: Pete Smith

CALENDAR

- 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
- Dec. 5** Rope Rescue practice, 9 a.m., Whitman Creek Bridge. Ketchikan. Phone, 247-1559.
- Dec. 7** Glacier Grotto Executive Council Meeting, noon, 2944 Emory Street, Anchorage. Teleconference hook-up. Phone, 277-7150.
- June 20-24, 1994** 1994 NSS Convention, Brackettville, Texas. (512) 441-0050.

POWIE VII CAVERS EXPLORE A CAVE OF BLUE MARBLE

by Kevin Allred

As the planned El Capitan alpine trip approached, Pete Smith and I felt that with the shortage of experienced cavers on POWIE VII (several other experienced folks were on Dall Island for most of the expedition), we should consider putting a few of our eggs in another basket.

Blue Marble Cave near Perue Peak was still going in a big way when the first team of three ran out of time a week earlier. We felt our remaining helicopter budget could best be used for further work in this planned timber harvest area encompassing at least three potential cutting units.

Our main challenge was deciding if both Pete and I could be spared for several days. The only other helicopter-trained caver who was available for the planned five-day trip was David Love. On the morning of the July 16th departure, Pete's wife, Val, showed up with the answer; Pete was sick in bed.

Early in the year, David prepared himself for this type of trip by purchasing the gear he needed, sewing harnesses, and

traveling to Haines for training with Mike VanNote and me. With about a month's supply of food for the two of us, we were ready.

In a short time we were transported to a remote, subalpine, muskeg meadow complete with a bubbling brook for washing and drinking water. At 1800 feet elevation, we had a fine view of nearby Mt. Calder to the West.

We spent the remainder of the first day hiking into a remote karst area. In a crawlway of one cave, we found bone fragments, and the further inside we went, the better it became. Around each corner appeared more huge bear leg bones, some of which had popcorn growing on them. Then we hit the cornucopia,

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In response to a request by the executive board, Jay Rockwell prepared the following information concerning the Glacier Grotto Library. Currently, the organization exchanges newsletters with 34 grottos. A mechanism for loaning copies is under consideration. Call 277-7150. Editor,

Continued on page 5

a low passage littered with skulls and a large bone pile that prevented further progress. We tried to imagine what it must have been like to actually see one of these huge bruins crawling around in the cave, who knows how many thousands of years ago. This site will definitely be important for paleontologists. We shot two rolls of film on it.

Later, having a little more time, we hiked to the entrance of Mystery Drip Pit named for the sound of dripping water echoing from deep below. Discovered by Mark Fritzke last fall, this cave has a small entrance at the side of an insurgence sink/stream overflow channel. A good draft sucks in, but the last group had not attempted digging out some boulders blocking further entry at the top of a deep sounding spacious drop below. After some work, we got the last rock swiveled down thereby opening the top of a 4-5 foot diameter shaft belling out below. The next day promised to be exciting.

.....canyon had gorgeous,
white, scalloped marble including
a "shower" and "tub".

Day two: Pleased with the continuing dry conditions, we headed to Mystery Drip. The initial shaft was an impressive 65 feet. Dick sketched and I operated the survey equipment as we explored downwards through a low, broad, crawl. Ropes were needed for the Mystery Drop (entrance shaft) and a 15-20 foot pitch, but we down-climbed the remainder of the steep sections and waterfalls. A clean meandering canyon had gorgeous, white, scalloped, marble including a "shower" and "tub". We named it Porcelain Passage. Other areas were of white and blue banded marble with occasional dikes. Upon entering a big breakdown chamber containing several dikes, a name became obvious. It had to be "Ikes Dikes" Room.

Day three: A light, misty rain during the night made getting out of the tent a chore. We continued mapping in Mystery Drip and after two more rope

drops, came to a 115 foot deep pit which required tying two ropes together and swinging to a re-belay on a large ledge. Suddenly, David called out excitedly. He recognized a fin of rock called "The Haystack" from the previous team's survey. We were in Blue Marble Cave! With one shot, we extended the Blue Marble system significantly. A short jaunt to the lower resurgence entrance familiarized me with those beautifully scalloped canyons. We headed back towards Mystery Drip and started surveying some upstream fossil passages, but were unable to finish it in the remainder of the day. Some lively nematodes were collected in the pools of a streamlet.

Day Four: Finishing up in the Mystery Drip entrance area, we pushed a more complex fossil passage to a rock/boulder choke sealed with silt. Then we went into Blue Marble "Inhale Entrance" where the other team had accessed Blue Marble (another nearby cave connected hydrologically is still not surveyed). We surveyed a fantastic, large, meandering streamway called "Cadis Fly Creek" past a huge granitic boulder 3 by 4 feet in diameter and covered with glacial striations. It must have come in long ago through a nearby chimney, now choked. Here we turned around realizing we had only one day left and much to do.

Day Five: The weather had improved somewhat and we soon found ourselves back at Cadis Fly Creek to continue upstream. After another impressive canyon passage, we encountered a sump and with a bit of work, lowered the sump, but not enough for air space. Descending deeper into the system, we entered a large complex fossil phreatic area and began surveying up a spectacular passage. Half a dozen leads were left unexplored for another time. At present, the system is over 3000 feet long and several hundred feet deep.

Day Six: We woke up to rain and from sleeping bags watched two bears strolling "squish, squish, squishing" through the muskeg just above camp. Grunts from the second were quite audible. It was a fantastic trip and even with anticipation of hot showers and a dry camp, we were sad to leave our quiet green paradise perched in the mountains.

The approaching helicopter broke the spell.



The Glacier Grotto Library serves as one of the best resources in the organization. Within the covers of the 30+ publications, a reader can test foreign languages skills; wiggle, crawl, squeeze and rappel through the most unbelievable spots without leaving the comforts of home; and get a heady course in biology, geology or physics. Currently Glacier Grotto exchanges newsletters with the following:

E ALASKA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.	PO Box 101288	Anchorage AK 99510
E AMERICAN CAVES	PO Box 409	Horse Cave KY 42749
E ANDALUCIA SUTERRANEA	Federacion Andaluza De Espe Apartado De Correos, 227	18080 Granada Spain
E BC CAVER c/o S Grundy	6097 Timberdoodle Road	RR #1 Sooke BC V0S 1N0 Canada
E BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER	PO Box 55102	Birmingham AL 35255-0102
E BLOOMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER	PO Box 5283	Bloomington IN 47402
E CALIFORNIA CAVER c/o Carol A Vesely	817 Wildrose Avenue	Monrovia CA 91016-3033
E CASCADE CAVER	PO Box 75663	Seattle WA 98125-0663
E CAVE CONSERVATIONIST c/o Jay R. Jordan	1518 Devon Circle	Dallas TX 75217-1205
E CAVE CRICKET GAZETTE c/o Hilary L Hopper	1593 Deer Lake Drive	Lexington KY 40515-5317
E CIG NEWSLETTER c/o Central IN Grotto, Inc	PO Box 153	Indianapolis IN 46206-0153
E CLEVE O GROTTO NEWS	29242 Detroit Road	Westlake OH 44145
E COMMISSIONE GROTTA "Eugenio Boegan"	Via Machiavelli, 17	34132 Trieste Italy
E CRS NEWSLETTER c/o Micki Liska	Route 1 Box 59	Alum Bank PA 15521
E CURRENT TITLES in Speleology c/o B.C.R.A.	Downhead Cottage, Downhead Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4LG	Great Britain
E DC SPELEOGRAPH c/o E W Bradshaw	10826 Leavells Road	Fredericksburg VA 22407-1261
E DER FRANKISCHE HOLESPIEGEL	Rietterstrasse 69	W - 8508 Wendelstein Germany
E GEORGIA UNDERGROUND c/o John Stembel	2457 Drew Valley Road	Atlanta GA 30019
E NCRC NEWS LETTER c/o Greg Miller	8462 West Star Circle	Littleton CO 80123
E NIQROT ZURIM c/o ICRC	Ofra, D.N.	Mizrah Binyamin 90906, Israel
E PHOLEOS c/o H H Hobbs III, Dept. Biol	PO Box 720, Wittenberg University	Springfield OH 45501-0720
E PUGET SOUND CAVER	20614 114th St Apt B	Sumner WA 98390
E Slovenske Muzeum Ochranu Prirody A Jaskyniarstva	031 80 Liptovsky Mikulas	Skolska 4 Czecho-Slovakia
E. SER REC Unit USGS Library 18	12201 Sunrise Valley Drive	Reston VA 22092
E Social Science Section NSS	17139 Dalworth	Mt. Clemens MI 48044
E SPELEOGRAPH, Oregon Grotto Library	12178 Lewis River Road	Ariel WA 98603
E SPES Grupo de Espeleologos Granadinos	Apartado de Correos 581	18080 Granada Spain
E STALACTITE, Bibliotheque de la Societe Suisse de S	Rue du Progres 33	CH-2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland
E SVERIGES SPELEOLOGFORBUND	Box 16013	720 16 Vasteras Sweden
E The CHATTANOOGA TAGLINE	PO Box 11506	Chattanooga TN 37401-2506
E THE EXPLORER c/o S CA Grotto	PO Box 127	La Canada CA 91012
E THE OUTLAW c/o Hole in the Wall Grotto	PO Box 4074	Casper WY 82604
E WISCONSIN SPELEOLOGIST c/o Gary Phelps	226 High Avenue	Oshkosh WI 54901
E YORK GROTTO NEWSLETTER c/o J R Reich	P D 11 Box 237	York PA 17406

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

NSS COMMITTEES (addresses for convenience)

N American Caving Accidents c/o S. Knutson	505 Roosevelt Street	Oregon City, OR 97045
N GRAPHIC ARTS SALON c/o John Baz-Dresch	912 Highland Drive	Wenatchee WA 98801
N Membership c/o Gerald Zimmer	28387 S Needy Road	Canby OR 97013
N Safety & Technology Chairman c/o Bill Storage	7121 Blue Sales Drive	Huntington Beach CA 92647

REQUIRED NSS SUBMISSIONS

N Cave files (2) c/o R. Blenz	8070 W Eller Road	Bloomington IN 47401
N NSS Librarian (2) c/o Bill Torode	1 Cave Avenue	Huntsville AL 35810
N Speleo Digest Series Editor, Pat Kambesis	1026 S Candler Street	Decatur GA 30030

REQUESTED NSS SUBMISSIONS

N NSS News c/o Doug and Glenda Rhodes	PO Box 12334	Albuquerque NM 88195
N Ray's Review c/o Ray Hardcastle	701 Hillside Terrace #4	Vista CA 92084-5173

This list consists of those addresses other than individual, family and institutional members to which Cavers are sent. However, this is only a partial inventory of publications in the Grotto Library; some organizations with whom we have exchanged in the past have been dropped for various reasons.

Type E) These addresses are our bonafide exchanges. Those from whom we have not received an exchange recently were dropped. Since some organizations publish only one a year and are sometimes a year or two late, the definition of "recently" depends upon the organization.

(Type N) The NSS requires that we send two copies each to the cave files and to the NSS Library and one copy to the Speleo Digest series Editor. The NSS requests that we send one copy each to the editor of the NSS News and to Ray's Review and that we exchange with the USGS Library in Reston VA. This last is an area where we are way behind on the receiving end. For every copy we send them, we can receive a USGS publication in return. We have quite a backlog and suggestions for desired USGS publications are requested by Glacier Grotto.

It is interesting to note the differences in style of the publications. They range in size from two pages (one page, front and back) circulated once a year to monthly editions of 22 pages or more. Some have slick covers; most do not, but the bulk of the stories are caving adventures with accompanying maps. Apparently, many of the foreign caving organizations receive some governmental assistance, but most US Grottos collect dues which include a subscription to the grotto's publication.

Periodically, a common theme runs through several publications. In the January 1993 edition of the DC Speleograph, a listing of Rare Species in Virginia includes several bats. Just one month earlier, The Speleograph published by the Oregon Grotto included 40 caves to avoid in the winter. "The bats need them more than you do," the article admonishes. Still earlier in 1992, the Birmingham Grotto Newsletter (March) gives directions for building bat roost boxes, and names the bats known to use artificial roosts. Meanwhile citizens of London were questioning the furry creatures' right to roost in churches (The Speleograph, Dec. 1992). That battle still rages.

Ideas abound. In Casper, WY, sixth graders were taken to Hole In The Wall Cave in Outlaw Canyon as part of a class project. One of the student stories is published in The Outlaw. In The Explorer (Southern California Grotto) members are reminded to join an international toast of caving friends at midnight, July 4, 1992, Kiev time (1 p.m. in Los Angeles). Meanwhile CIG Newsletter (Central Indiana Grotto) says the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. is collecting slides for a show on caves, karst and conservation.

Other interesting exchanges include Current Titles in Speleology, published annually by the British Cave Research Association and International GlacEOSpeleological Survey Bulletin, a publication of the International GlacEOSpeleological Survey. The first has a list of the titles of worldwide caving literature while the second takes a scientific look at firm and glacial caves.

At the end of each year, most publications carry the same refrain. "Please pay your dues, now."

Ketchikan Daily News

Ketchikan, Alaska, Monday, October 25, 1993

Caves POW caverns might shed light on early man

By NIKKI MURRAY JONES
Daily News Staff Writer

Outer space attracts some adventurers, but another group tackles inner space — caves. This summer cavers added another section of mapping to the 10,800 feet of El Capitan Cave they've covered in the past seven years.

The team, organized by the National Speleological Society and the U.S. Forest Service, has systematically explored the caves under the guidance of veteran caver Kevin Allred.

Most of the two-dozen-member team this summer were from Alaska. Other members were from Utah, California, Virginia, Washington state and New Zealand. The Alaska members belong to Glacier Grotto, a caving organization based in Anchorage.

Three team members talked recently about cave diving and measuring.

Alan Murray and Connie and Marcel LaPerriere spent time this summer mapping El Capitan. All three take cave measurements and Murray and Marcel LaPerriere also dive in cave waters.

Connie LaPerriere spends much of her time recording measurements. To measure the dry parts of the cave, cavers use a tape measure, a compass and a clinometer. The clinometer measures the angle of an incline and that's plugged into a formula for mapping.

To measure, the surveyor tries to get a straight line between two points, then measures the compass bearing between the points. Connie LaPerriere: The first point measured in the cave is A-1, and later points are numbered successively.

"At every point you get a measure of the left wall, the right wall, the ceiling and the floor," she said. That allows the measurements to be translated into a three-dimensional view of the cave or passageway.

"You sketch as you go," she said. "It's very living, very intense."

"The sketcher sets the pace," Marcel LaPerriere said. Usually there are three to a team — a sketcher, a chairman (carries the tape measure) and someone to read the instruments.

Of interest — and hazard — to mappers are pits (holes dropping down) and chimneys (holes reaching up) from passages.

"I thought I'd be claustrophobic being in a cave, but I got so intrigued," Connie LaPerriere said. "Panic is always a possible factor, but I control it."

Making certain of light is one way to keep the situation under control, she said. Cavers carry three sources: one mounted on a headlamp, a flashlight on a chain and a light in the back pack.

Just getting through caves is hard work. Passage walkways are uneven, cavers have to climb up an down, they have to squeeze through narrow passages, and they're always battling dirt.

Work starts early

A typical day of cave exploring is to rise by 5:30 a.m. and leave camp by 7:30 a.m. After spending the day mapping, team members return to camp by 7 or 8 p.m., eat dinner at 9 or 10 p.m. and go to bed by 11 p.m.

Exploring is vigorous work and the caves are cold and damp. Team members dress warmly for cave conditions.

"Hypothermia is a very serious hazard," Murray said. The caves are wet and muddy with dirt and sand throughout.

See Caves, page A-2



Connie LaPerriere works with rappelling equipment during a practice this summer at Whitman Creek with other members of a cave exploring group. LaPerriere and a group of others from Ketchikan, the nation and the world have been spending time on Prince of Wales Island exploring caves for the U.S. Forest Service.

Staff photo by Bill Anderson

Cave divers really are a little different than rest

By NIKKI MURRAY JONES
Daily News Staff Writer

"To look at them, you'd never think of them as 'guardians of the lunatic fringe.'"

But it's a title regular scuba divers give to cave divers, especially sump divers, said Alan Murray of Ketchikan.

Murray is one of four people in Ketchikan certified to dive in caves. The others are Marcel LaPerriere, Mary Kowalsky and Craig Semper. Sumps are overflows from underwater rivers. They are rubes that connect caves, said Murray. They're snappers something like the goose-neck pipe under a household sink.

Murray and Marcel LaPerriere spent time this summer with a team of cavers exploring El Capitan and other caves on Prince of Wales Island.

Caves are part of what is called karst — limestone that is riddled with caves, sinkholes and underground streams.

LaPerriere and Murray dived in lakes and sumps in the caves, as did Semper.

Murray and LaPerriere got their cave diving certification at Glencoe Springs, Fla. They and

Kowalsky go back this month for more training. The two men plan to get certified for sump diving and learn more about deep cave diving. Kowalsky will learn more about cave diving.

"Cave diving is very technical," Murray said. There are few places that teach it, he said.

The men dived in several sumps in Prince of Wales caves. Their experience showed them there's more to learn.

"It's like being on the moon — no communication," said Murray and LaPerriere in September. Open water diving skills, gear and planning don't work.

While diving sumps, the men pushed their air tanks ahead of them through narrow passages, some as little as 18 inches across.

In Florida, they will learn to dive with tanks are mounted on their thighs. Called the "side mount" technique, it allows sump divers to more easily negotiate narrow passages.

Murray said they also will have to learn to dive with weight distributed differently than for regular diving and to keep their bodies level to reduce stirring up sediment.

Continued from page A-1

Caves

Connie LaPerriere said she moves around a lot to stay warm.

Cave accidents are a concern. The nearest cave rescue team is on Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

"We'd be lucky to get them here in 24 hours after they're called," the team said.

To improve rescue capability, Glacier Grotto will practice cave rescue work this winter.

Part of overall study

Systematic cave exploring began when Allred moved to Haines from Utah. He had heard about caves on Prince of Wales Island and took his family on vacation there. People on Prince of Wales knew El Capitan cave existed, but it was Allred and Forest Service geologist Jim Baichtal who recognized its potential, the Ketchikan cavers said.

Allred began mapping the cave in 1986, and organized the Prince of Wales Island Expedition — POWIE — that has worked on the caves every year since then. He consults with Baichtal to map out each season's plan. Things don't always go as scheduled, though.

"Once you're inside a cave and looking for something, you usually find something else," Baichtal said. "The groundwater table was so low this summer we could get to hundreds of feet of passage that usually are under water."

Mapping El Capitan and other karst areas on POW and surrounding islands is part of the Tongass Cave Project, an overall plan to assess resources, said Baichtal.

The project has drawn a number of scientists, he said.

Those include Jim Dickson, curator of archaeology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; Owen Mason, an archaeologist and geomorphologist with UAF; Stephen Lewis, a biologist and plant specialist with UAF; Fred Grady, curator of mammals at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.; Tim Heaton, a vertebrate paleontologist from the University of South Dakota; Vermilion; Doug Swanson, a geologist from the Forestry Sciences Lab, the Forest Service's research arm; and Kent Carlson, a biogeographer under contract with FSL.

Also, a panel of scientists from the Ozark Underground Laboratory studied the karst this summer and recently gave a public report in Juneau and Ketchikan on its findings.

Some of the scientists studied the caves this year, and some have done their research in previous years.

The caves are a treasure trove of information, said Baichtal. Scientists have found a tiny shrimp-like creature that has adapted to cave dwelling. They've found remains of grizzly bear more than 12,000 years old and also remains of black bear dated at least 11,000 years old.

"We are piecing together the resources of the caves and the components of their environments," Baichtal said. "We need to know the extent and direction of caves and the resource values in them. That's where the map part comes in."

The caves on islands near POW also might contain information about early man's migration from Asia into North America, he said.

Studies show the POW limestone originated in the tropics as coral beds 400 million years ago. Through oceanic plate movement and geologic pressures, the tropical rock was crunched against the continental plate that is North America. It was deposited in a variety of places including what later became Southeast Alaska's Alexander Archipelago.

Reprinted Courtesy of the Ketchikan Daily News

Date: November 24, 1993

Dear Caver,

On Prince of Wales Island, caves of national and international significance have been discovered. Discovery of the caves has led to many requests for development of a cave or caves for public use. The concept of managing caves for public use is not new, but the principles of management have changed over the years. The fragile, non-renewable nature of cave formations require considerable care and protection. Caves in the west were first managed for commercial or recreational purposes. In some cases improvements were added such as stairs, trails, railings, lights and a guide provided to entertain visitors, and perhaps even share a bit of natural history.

In 1992, the Forest Service decided to develop El Capitan Cave located on north Prince of Wales Island for public use. Due to the remote area in which El Capitan Cave is located, and previous uncontrolled use of the cave, vandalism has become a problem. In addition, inadvertent trampling of floor features, littering, use of torches, smoking cigarettes inside the cave, and the taking of cave formations for souvenirs, all contribute to a general degrading of the cave resources.

During the summer of 1993 the Forest Service installed a gate approximately 150 feet within El Capitan Cave. The gate was installed to protect visitors from dangerous areas within the cave and to protect the pristine portions of the cave from vandalism. The analysis for the decision to place a gate within the cave, build a trail to the cave and develop interpretive signs was disclosed in an Environmental Report dated January 11, 1993. The trail is planned for completion in 1994.

The gate has been designed to allow bats safe entrance to the cave. Southeast Alaskan bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects and may eat up to 3,000 insects, including mosquitoes and no-see-ums, in a single night.

We request your assistance to determine how public use should be managed beyond the gate. El Capitan Cave belongs to everyone and we want to hear from you. Some considerations for managing use beyond the gate include:

- Allowing for a concessionaire who would charge a fee and guide groups beyond the gate
- Allowing outfitter and guides to conduct tours beyond the gate.
- Hiring a volunteer to conduct tours beyond the gate.
- Determining who besides the Forest Service should hold a key to the gate.
- Establishing seasonal use, i.e. May through September, only.

Please send your comments to Thorne Bay Ranger District, P.O. Box 19001, Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919 no later than January 10, 1993. Public meetings will also be held at the following locations:

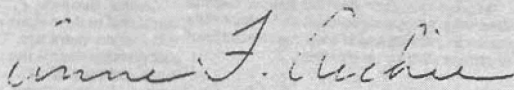
Ketchikan - December 13, 1993 at the U.A.S. campus - Paul Building in the Forum Room A & B - 7-8pm.

Whale Pass - December 14, 1993 at the school - 7-8pm.

Craig - December 20, 1993 at City Hall - Chambers Room - 7-8pm.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



ANNE F. ARCHIE
District Ranger

NEWSBRIEFS

Kevin Allred and Jay Rockwell were mentioned in Bill Klimack's "In the Media" column on page 288 of the October 1993 issue of the NSS News 51 (10). Kevin's adventures on Prince of Wales Island were used in the Summer 1993 issue of Summit to illustrate that adventure was not dead. Jay's contributions of press clippings was acknowledged. Bill, a Glacier Grotto member, can always use magazine and newspaper articles about caves and caving for his NSS News feature

ooooo

William R. Halliday discusses "Turkey's Pamukkale Stamps of 1958" in the 1993 Speleo Stamp Collector No. 40 page 8. He found, during a recent visit to Turkey, the cave-like opening shown on the Turkish (Scott 1424-5) and Armenian (Scott 281) stamps were not really caves at all, but artistic and real glimpses through ancient artificial openings. The formations shown in the cancels were those of the magnificent travertine terraces of the hot springs at Pamukkale.

In the May 1992 issue of Speleo Stamp Collector, he describes the spelean postal history of caves in Kiwiland and the veracity thereof in the article "Speleophilately in New Zealand." In the same issue, pages 24 and 25, he discusses the ins and outs of acquiring speleophilatelic material in the article "Speleophilately in France and Italy 1991." Apparently interest in this aspect of caving is much higher in Europe than in the United States. An International Exhibition of Speleophilately has been proposed for the future in Rome.

In addition to his other activities, Halliday represented the NSS at the International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst, September 1991 in Padova (Padua), Italy.

ooooo

It is the newest edition to the Glacier Grotto library and an exciting one. Georgia Underground's latest edition features stories about caving adventures in the southeastern part of the United States,

as well as "Ten Days Under the Earth," a recap of the explorations at Cueva del Tecolote, the third longest cave in Mexico, and "A Taste of China Caving, Part II: Caves of Guado".

Another highlight is an in-depth article titled "Incandescent Electric Headlight Systems for Long Duration Expeditionary Caving". Author Doug Strait, also a Glacier Grotto member, included a chart comparing electric headlamps. Contact Jay Rockwell (277-7150) about the newsletter.

ooooo

The Karst Resources Panel completed a draft copy of the Karst and Cave Resource Significance Assessment Ketchikan Area, Tongass National Forest, Alaska.

This study and report, prepared by the Ozark Underground Laboratory, assesses the significance of the karst in 700 square miles of the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest. It includes an evaluation of the effectiveness of present strategies for protecting these karst resources, recommends changes as deemed appropriate and recommends focused resource evaluation goals and research for karst areas.

The karst areas of Southeast are anomalies in the world according to the report.

"The carbonate rocks that comprise these karst areas originated on tropical Pacific islands that were transported by plate tectonic movements to their current locations," states the report. "There is no other place in the world where tropical limestones have travelled so far, been involved in such an oblique collision with a continent and ended up emplaced in an archipelago setting at such high latitudes."

Within the karst area are numerous vertical shafts and caves. In one cave on Heceta island, a new species of troglobitic Stygobromus amphipod was discovered. Researchers are also finding archeological and paleontological deposits that could help in tracing the regional prehistory, effects of climatic changes and introduction of humans and animals.

The final draft is scheduled for completion later this year. Questions should be addressed to Jim Baichtal at (907) 225-3101.

NSS CONVENTION



The 1994 NSS Convention is June 20-24 at Brackettville, Texas.

"Cave the Republic" during the meetings at Fort Clark or while participating in the "Waltz Across Texas Field Trip" June 19. Headquarters for the convention is Fort Clark Springs, a private, secured community surrounded by a chain link fence. There is a large tent camping area, an auto camping area and RV parking with full hook-ups.

Several caves are within 150 miles of Brackettville. Green Cave, whose bat flight may be enjoyed each evening, is only 25 miles and Midnight Cave, known for its helectites, a few miles further. Texans and Mexicans also are hosting several pre- and post- convention caving trips to Mexico.

For further details contact Convention Central, PO Box 43747, Austin, TX 78745-0747. The telephone number is (512) 441-0050.

Meeting Notes

Southeast

The Ketchikan Group of the Glacier Grotto met Nov. 1 with 10 people present. Southeast chairman Gary Sonnenberg asked the group to identify items that need to be discussed at the Nov. 2 Glacier Grotto teleconference.

Marcel LaPerriere was contacted by a local Boy Scout leader concerning training for a scout cave trip in April. The cavers are interested in helping.

This was the group's first meeting devoted specifically to rescue. The purpose of the meeting was to bring up areas that need research and discuss pros and cons of getting into the rescue arena. EMT Rupert Henry from the Ketchikan Fire Department (KFD) discussed rescue from his and the KFD perspective.

Marcel will contact Cat Woods about USFS concerns/interest/support in Glacier Grotto participation in cave rescue, and exchange other information.

A practice session was scheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 5 at Whitman Creek Bridge. Rupert Henry will share his experience and show equipment used by the KFD Rope Rescue Unit.

Executive Council

The council will meet at noon December 7 in the home of Jay Rockwell. Conference call connections are planned for Fairbanks and Ketchikan. Please check with Area Vice Presidents for details or call Jay at 277-7150.

ADDITIONS to MEMBERSHIP LIST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Pd</u>	<u>NSS#</u>	<u>Hm Tel</u>	<u>Wk Tel</u>
King, Cameron	1813 Banister Road	Anchorage AK 99508	93	907/276-0138	
King, Roslynn	1813 Banister Road	Anchorage AK 99508	93	907/276-0138	
Mitchell, John	PO Box 1216	Valdez AK 99686	94 33182RE		
Address or telephone changes.....					
Sonnenberg, G.	1377 Pond Reef Road	Ketchikan AK 99901	93 33648RE	907/247-1559	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.

WOLVES LAIR CAVE

Preliminary Report #118

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

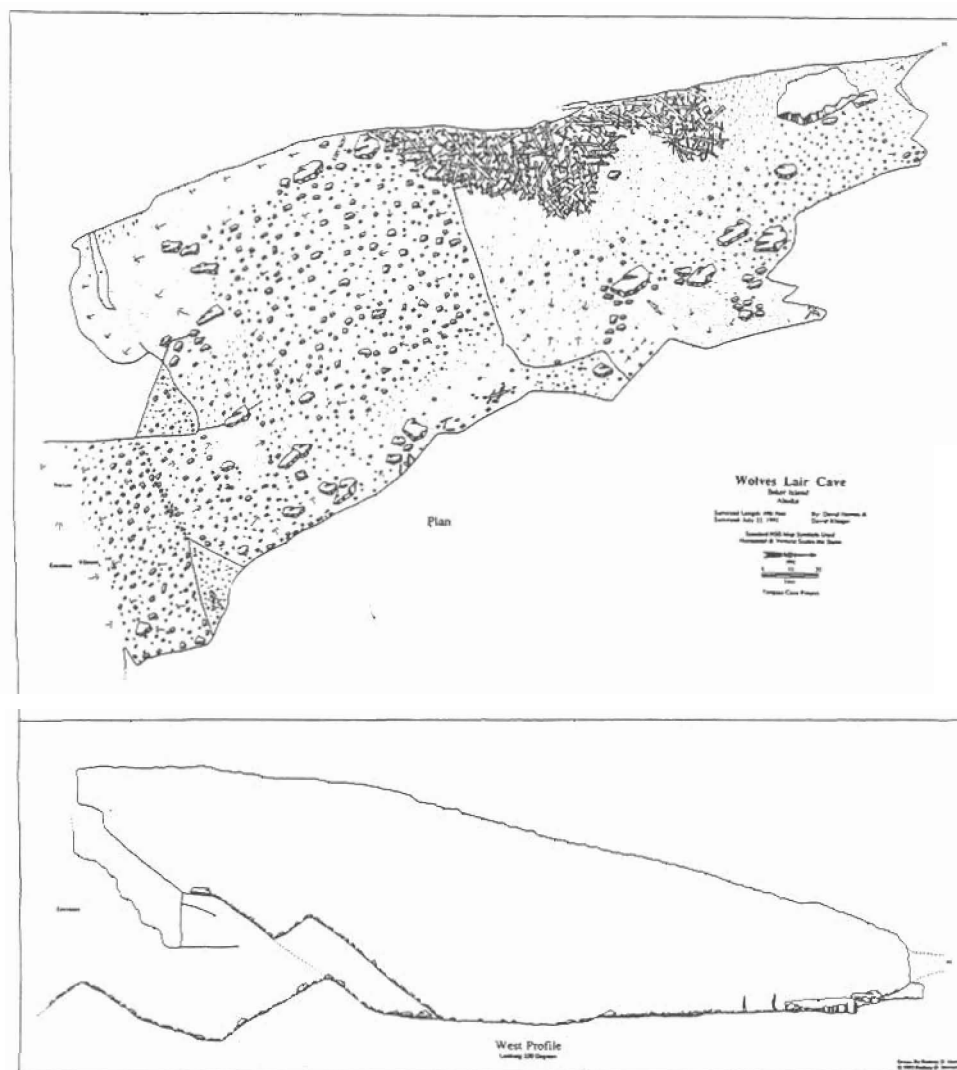
by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: Wolves Lair Cave consists of a gigantic room 130 feet wide, 345 feet long and 80 feet high, with an entrance 90 feet wide. This makes the room about 14 times greater than the floor in the state's former largest room, The Alaska Room in El Capitan Cave. The room's floor is covered by breakdown along with much ancient beach material including logs. Isostatic rebound has lifted the area 30 feet since the beach was at the entrance. It took surveyors six hours to survey the 1,028 feet around the room. Wolves Lair has apparently been used by wolves as a refuge, for there are many ani-

mal remains present. There is also evidence of prehistoric human activity judging from charcoal found under beach logs dating several thousand years. Some of these logs protrude from under breakdown debris and beach deposits. Further information on the archaeological findings should be on file at the U.S. Forest Service office in Ketchikan.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Due to the archaeological material found in the cave, the location should not be shared with the general public. Its remoteness will hopefully protect it from too much traffic impact or vandalism.



CODY'S CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #120
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

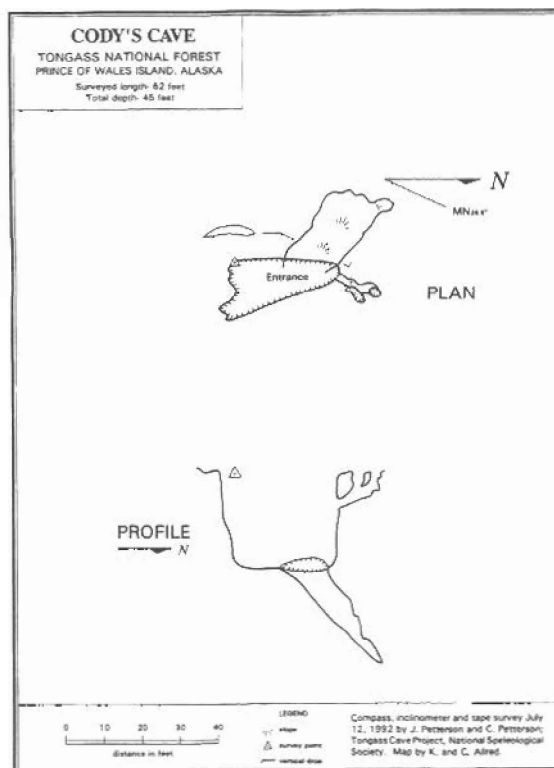
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

The main entrance of Cody's Cave is a 25 foot deep sinkhole connected with a 14 foot long crawlway with two other small holes to the surface. At the bottom of the entrance drop is a low broad crawlway three feet high and 13 feet wide which leads to a dead end after 20 feet. There were no special features reported from this cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Indications are that this cave is not very significant, however, since the cave is only 30 feet west of Crystal Palace Cave, it would be protected in the same no-harvest area.



VETA BAY CAVE

Baker Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #116
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Nov. 23, 1992

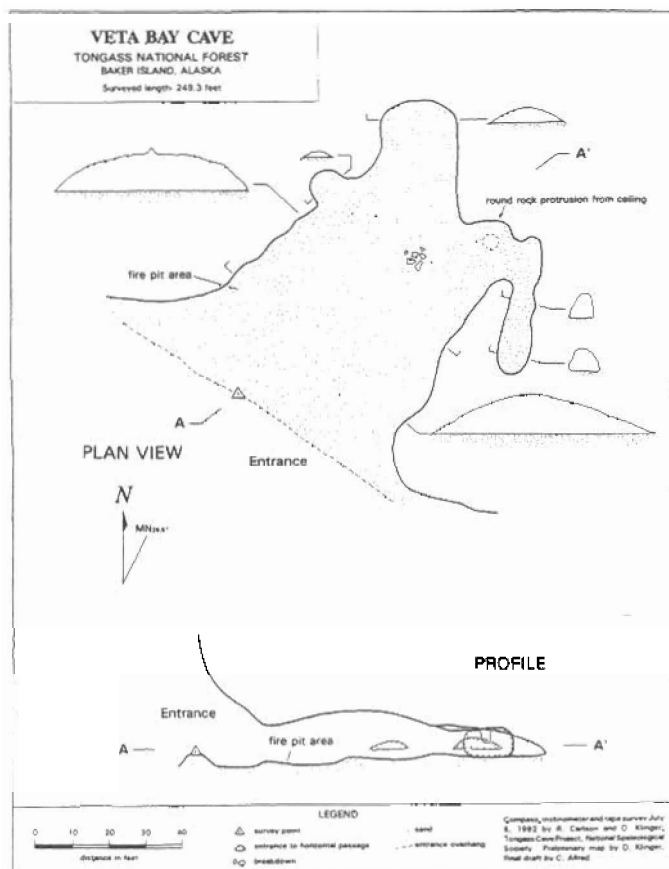
DESCRIPTION

It is unknown how long Veta Bay Cave has been known. The cave contains a fire pit area near the northwest wall and about 20 feet inside the entrance.

Veta Bay Cave consists mainly of one large room approximately 50 by 80 feet with a walk-in 30 foot long passage fish hooking to the south. The floor is primarily of sand with some breakdown. At the end of the hooked-around passage, the floor is 1.3 feet below the entrance floor. Total survey with splay shots is 249.3 feet. It was surveyed July 21, 1992.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of cultural remains, the cave location should be strictly confidential and available only to professional archaeologists. Further archaeological information might be available through the U.S. Forest Service.



BEDDED BUCKS CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #119
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

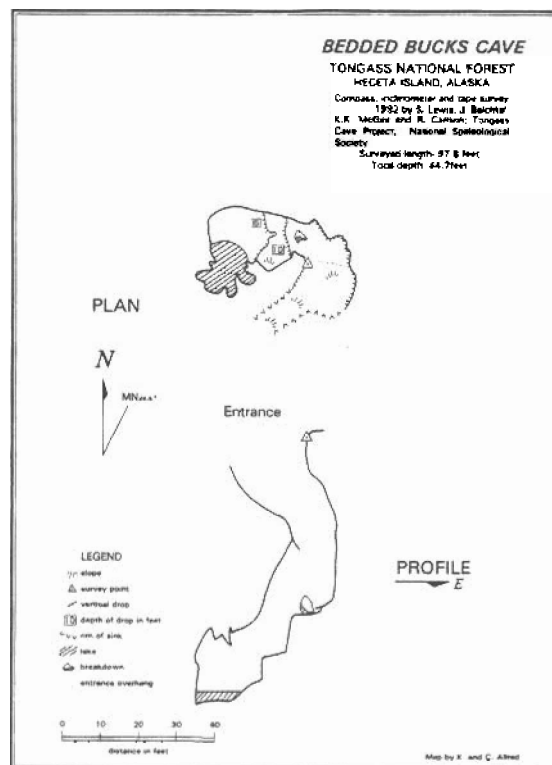
by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Bedded Bucks Cave was first investigated by Jim Baichtal and Risa Carlson and later surveyed by them with the help of Katherine McGee and Steve Lewis on July 24, 1992. After several drops to the 97.8 feet level, the cave ends in a pool. Total survey for the cave is 44.7 feet. No other information is available at this time.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Although not a major cave, Bedded Bucks Cave appears to have at least hydrologic significance, and therefore, should be protected.



VETA BAY ARCH CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #117
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

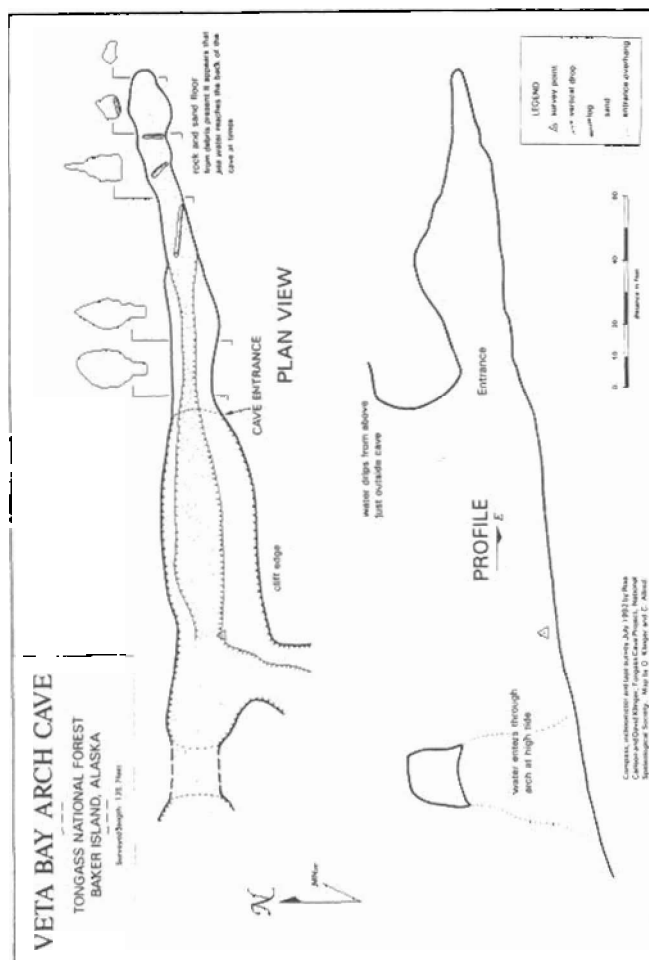
DESCRIPTION

Veta Bay Cave is a littoral sea cave and is still subject to regular tidal action through the 40 foot high arch which is seaward of the cave entrance about 100 feet. A sand-filled ravine follows the structural weakness and trend of the cave out to sea. From the debris present, it appears that high tides and storms still occasionally touch the back reaches of the cave.

Clastic debris is sand and rocks. Total surveyed length is 135.7 feet and its surveyed height is 14.6 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

No archeological sites are known in Veta Bay Arch Cave. However, the public should not be directed to the area. Veta Bay Arch Cave holds recreational value, but should be entered at lower tide levels.



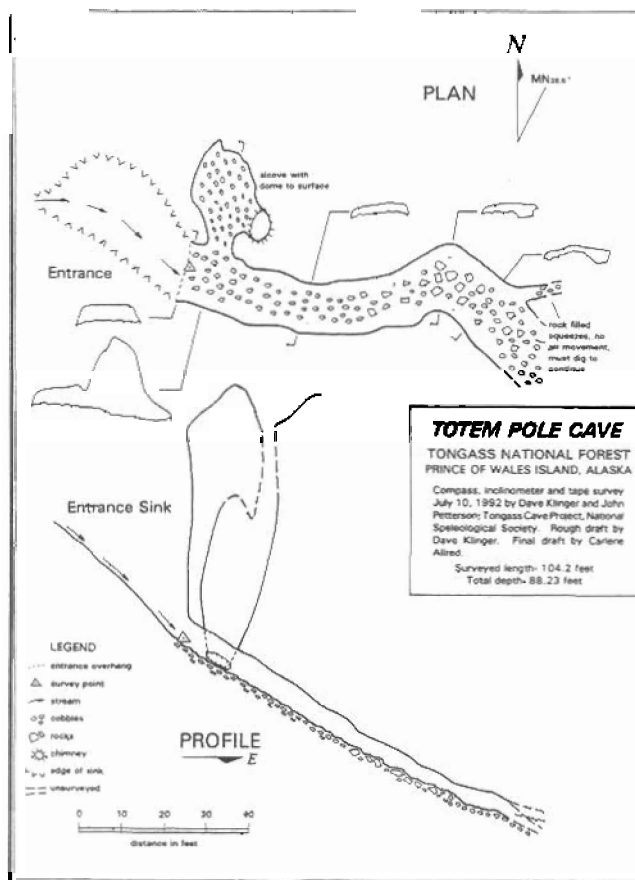
TOTEM POLE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #114
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred and Steve Lewis
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: The entrance is located along the boundary of well-drained, karsted slopes and poorly drained glacial till on the flats. The 50 foot high by 30 foot wide entrance floored with steep breakdown, is accessed down a 15-20 foot deep solution channel running almost due northwest. A small alcove, chimney and skylight are accessible to the north in the twilight zone. The cave trends eastward under a proposed logging unit until after 104 feet it becomes too tight. A small lead near the bottom heads north, but becomes tight with rock fill. There is no air flow in the low parts of the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Totem Pole Cave contains geologic, hydrologic, recreational and possible biological significance. It, along with other nearby caves, should be protected from logging and road building impacts in order to sustain their stable hydrologic, atmospheric and biologic systems.



TOADS PLUNGE CAVE

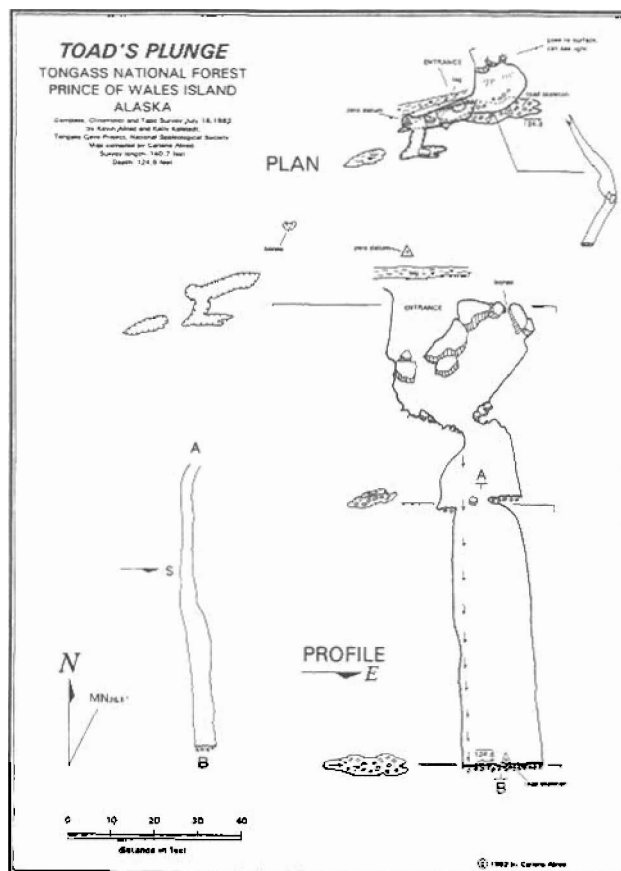
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #113
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: The cave has two entrances. The main entrance is a 15 foot deep sinkhole not needing a rope. However, a handline is needed for the next 15 foot drop beginning at a slot in the floor. At the bottom of this drop, a caver can see daylight coming from the adjacent entrance. A steep canyon leads downward to a third 15 foot drop (vertical gear needed) where a ledge is encountered. The last pit is 65 feet deep to a rubble floor. A trickle pouring into this pit disappears through a tiny hole in the fill.

BIOLOGY: A complete toad skeleton was found in an alcove on the bottom. Kent Carlson is checking the identities of a flying insect and a worm from the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Toads Plunge Cave has significant hydrologic, geologic and biologic values and should be isolated from logging or road building impacts.



RIVERS END CAVE

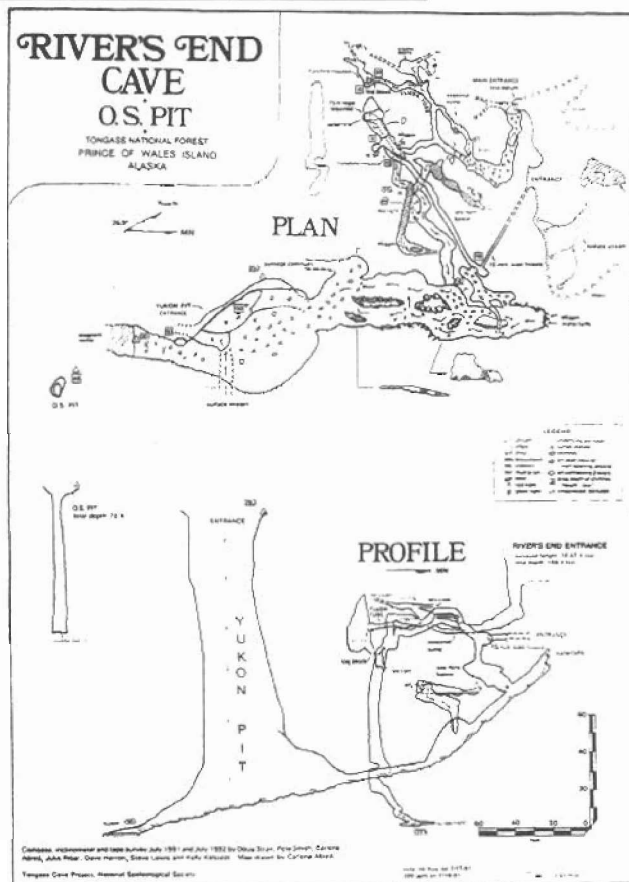
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #101
Addendum to Report #45
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

NEW DISCOVERIES

In 1992, project members discovered a new lead off the wide, broad passage just upstream from the stagnant sump at Yukon Pit. This extension still needs to be completely explored and surveyed. Near the entrance, a former, but now dry sump allowed access to a short passage which connects with a known part of the cave. The resurgence entrance was resurveyed and recorded on the map update.

Forestry Science Lab personnel from Juneau found whirly-gig beetles and amphipods in the stagnant sump. Later Kent Carlson collected some of the thousands of amphipods and noted at least one amphipod upstream from the cave entrance and in nearby Cataract Cave. Identification of the specimens is forthcoming.



SHORT BOP CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #106
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

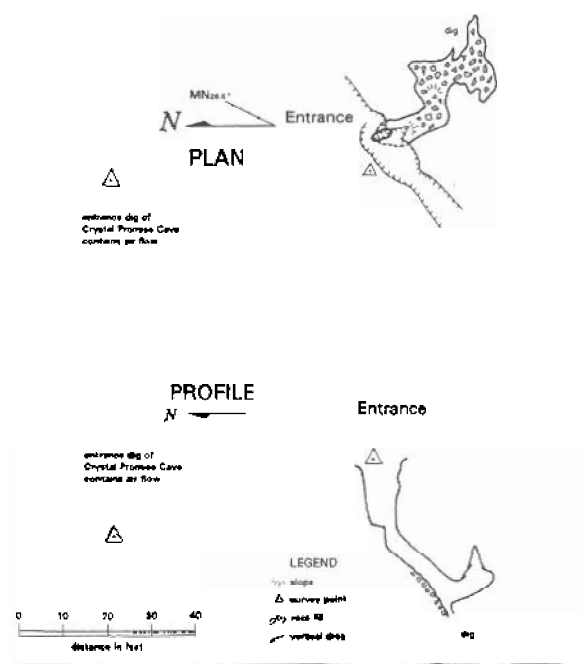
DESCRIPTION: Short Bop Cave is located at the bottom of a sinkhole which is part of a long solution trench running along the subalpine hillside. The cave is considerably frost shattered from cold air settling during the winter months. One rough textured pocked wall inside has experienced extensive solution from snow contact; the most extreme the author has seen. The cave is only 37 feet long and 31 feet deep, but could continue below the rubble filled floor.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The solution speleogens should be protected for further study and therefore, protected from logging or road building impacts. The cave should be included in the area excluded from timber harvest above 1800 feet elevation; this entire area is covered with many large karst features and eight known caves.

SHORT BOP CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Contour, inclinometer and tape survey July 23, 1992 by P. Smith and M. Pittsford. Tongass Cave Project. National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Allred.
Surveyed length: 37 feet
Total depth: 31.6 feet



THUNDER FALLS CAVE

and

WHISPERING CANYON CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #112 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Carlene Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: The sinkhole entrance to Thunder Falls Cave, the arch between it and neighboring Whispering Canyon Cave were first spotted by Jim Baichtal while travelling by helicopter over the area. On July 14, 1992, the initial exploration team consisting of Dave Herron, Katherine McGee, Julie Heaton and Carlene Allred, discovered the entrance to Whispering Canyon Cave, which is in the sink adjacent to and just west of Thunder Falls Cave.

The two caves, formed in Heceta (Silurian) limestone near Sinkhole Lake. The lake, which everyone had assumed was contained in its own closed basin, actually drains into Thunder Falls Cave. The insurge creek is deeply entrenched, forming a very narrow canyon that is nearly undetectable from the surface. It enters the cave as a series of waterfalls that emerge from the wall of the sinkhole a fair distance down from the rim. In the bottom, which is 140 feet below the level of the karst plain, the white-water creek enters into a downward sloping passage that heads to the northeast for about 50 feet. It then takes a sharp turn to the northwest, and after another 40 feet through this joint controlled passage jammed with logs, the cave sumps. Fifty feet above the bottom of the sink there is an enormous chockstone jammed between the rock walls.

Whispering Canyon Cave is named for the faint rustling noise that can be heard from the vicinity of the cave. The sound actually comes from the roaring waterfalls deep inside nearby Thunder Falls Cave. The Whispering Canyon entrance is located in the northwest end of the 35 foot deep sinkhole just west of Thunder Falls. This vadose canyon-like cave follows fairly straight along a fault for about 400 feet, heading towards the northwest, and ends in a sump; Passage widths average five feet and ceilings are generally 25 feet above floor level. This horizontal cave contains a flat floor of mostly cobble fill throughout, but in the sump room the floor is covered with silt and humus.

In several places beautiful coralloid type calcite deposits are found growing on the generally clean walls. High up in the passage crevice near the ceiling level there are sparse amounts of small stalactites and soda straws scattered throughout the cave. The cave also contains tiny helictites and some flowstone. In several places a thin coating of a coal-black deposit, possibly manganese, forms areas of vertically running streaks down the walls.

Whispering Canyon Cave was originally formed under phreatic groundwater conditions, as evidenced by the rounded contours of some parts of the ceiling, and by the portion of the cave that contains a four-foot diameter tube atop the canyon passage. Over time the water level has been lowered by the formation of deeper corridors, causing less corrosion on the cave's walls and ceiling, and more corrosion/erosion in the floor.

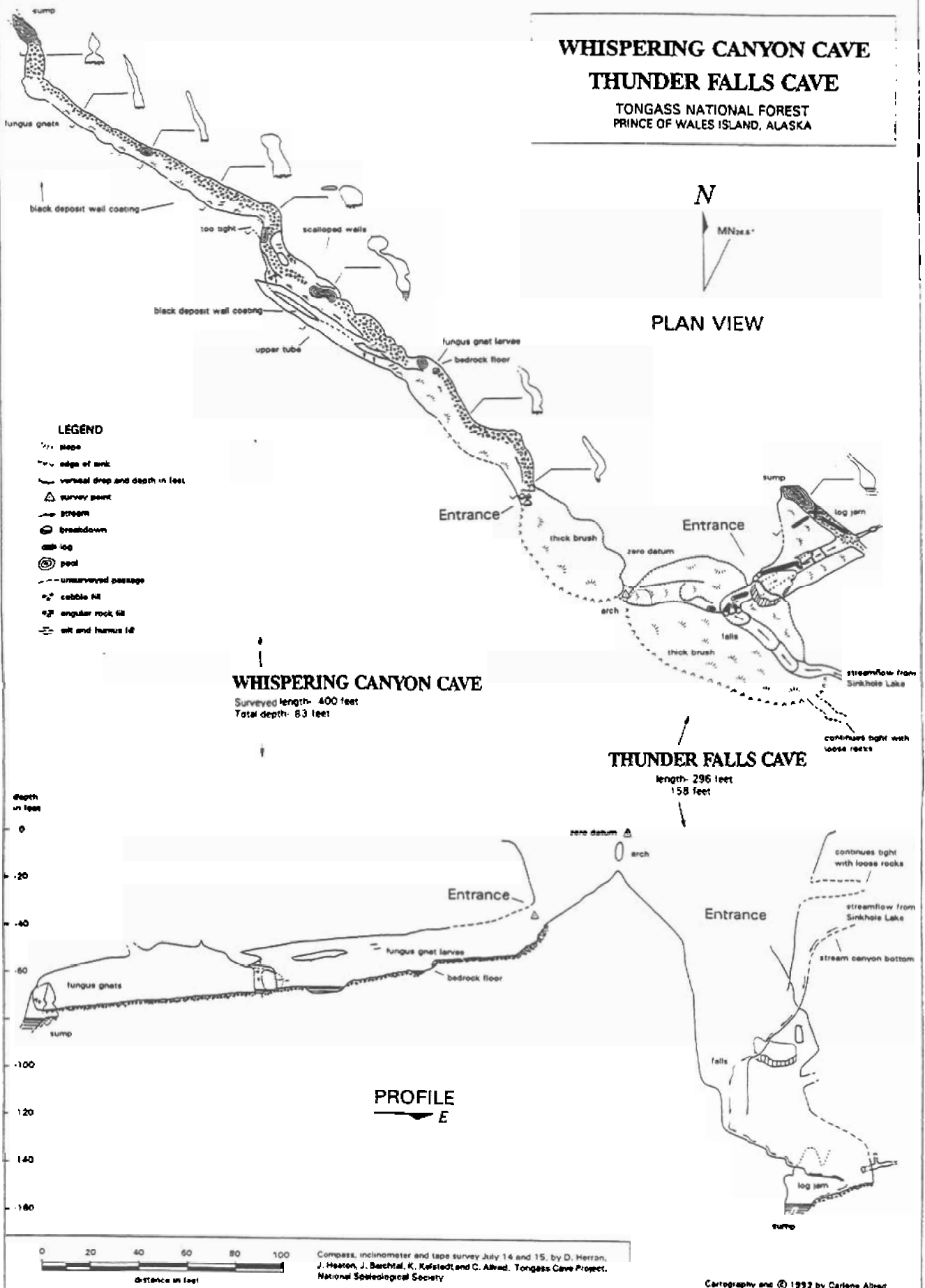
Whispering Canyon Cave and the Thunder Falls sinkhole are formed along a fault trending from northwest to southeast. The stream from Sinkhole Lake also probably continues along this fault. In the southeast corner of the Thunder Falls Sink about 30 feet down from the rim an additional passage heads in that direction for 20 feet before becoming very narrow. This passage along with that of Whispering Canyon Cave from an abandoned stream level that is today high and dry. Judging from the bat guano and

Continued on top of page 18

WHISPERING CANYON CAVE

THUNDER FALLS CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA



Continued from page 17

speleothems present inside Whispering Canyon Cave, I will assume that the Thunder Falls sinkhole seldom or never fills up completely with water to overflow into Whispering Canyon Cave.

BIOLOGY: Scattered bat guano has been found on ledges throughout Whispering Canyon cave and some fungus gnat larvae were seen in one area.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS: The southeast end of the sink leading into Whispering Canyon Cave can be easily descended by use of 50 feet of rope tied off to a tree above. Ascenders may be needed by some people to get back out. From this same rope anchorage, 150 feet of rope will take a person through the arch that forms a high window between the two sinks, and down to the stream cascading into Thunder Falls Cave. There are several logs jammed into the stream bed making travel along the stream at this level hazardous. Thunder Falls Cave can be best entered from the north rim in a shallow v-cut at the surface. It is a vertical 94 foot rappel down to the top of a 15 by 20 foot chockstone. From here it is another 50 feet to the stream bed level from which the cave can be safely negotiated. A 200 foot rope is recommended.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Because of the nearby presence of potentially hazardous Thunder Falls Cave, and the bat habitat, I would recommend the location of Whispering Canyon Cave not be given to the general public, even though it is such an easy, safe horizontal cave. Further studies on the bats should be made to determine when they are present, and what impact human visitation would make upon their population. Loggers in the vicinity should take special care to do nothing that would cause debris or soil to enter Thunder Falls Cave. The sink is the main drain for the entire region, and if it becomes plugged it could overflow, flooding the entire basin. I recommend that a minimum 200 foot radius buffer be retained around the two caves for this, and aesthetic reasons, and that a similar buffer exist along both sides of the entrenched surface stream all the way to Sinkhole Lake. The lake itself should be ringed with a 200 foot wide buffer to prevent unnecessary contamination by log and sediment debris. This was not done on nearby Cavern Lake and resulted in large amounts of logs and debris washing into its resurgence cave. Thunder Falls Cave is hazardous because of its vertical nature and dangerous waterfalls laced with fallen logs. Its location should not be shared with the general public. It should be entered only by those properly clothed, equipped and trained.

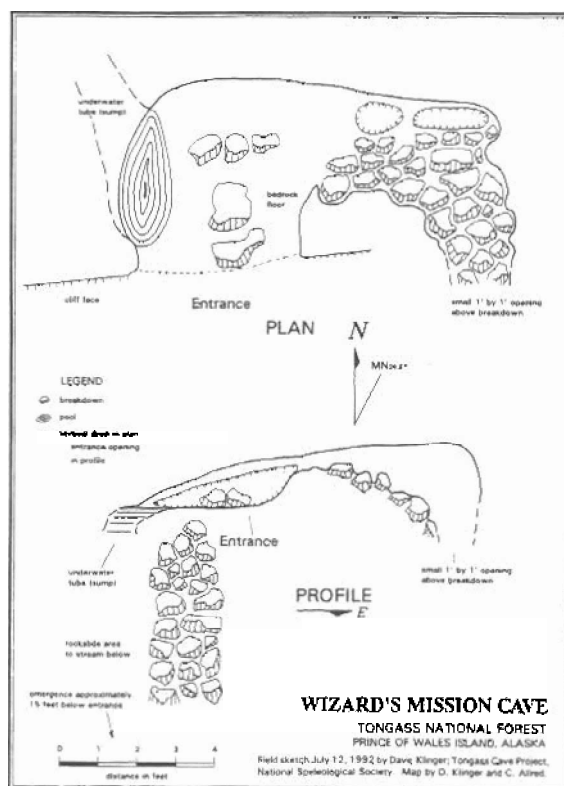
WIZARD'S MISSION CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #117
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: Wizard's Mission Cave was discovered by Katherine McGee in the summer of 1992. It is located in the side of a Heceta limestone cliff 200 feet above the north shore of Twin Island Lake. An emergence pours from cracks 15 feet below the entrance and flows south into the lake. Wizard's Mission soon ends in a pool and sump. The area has been clear-cut. No biology or cultural evidence were noted in the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Even though the areas around and above the cave are clear-cut, there should not be any further surface activities which could further alter the hydrology and possible biology of this cave. The location can be shared with the general public.



SLATE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #107 • Addendum to Report #33
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

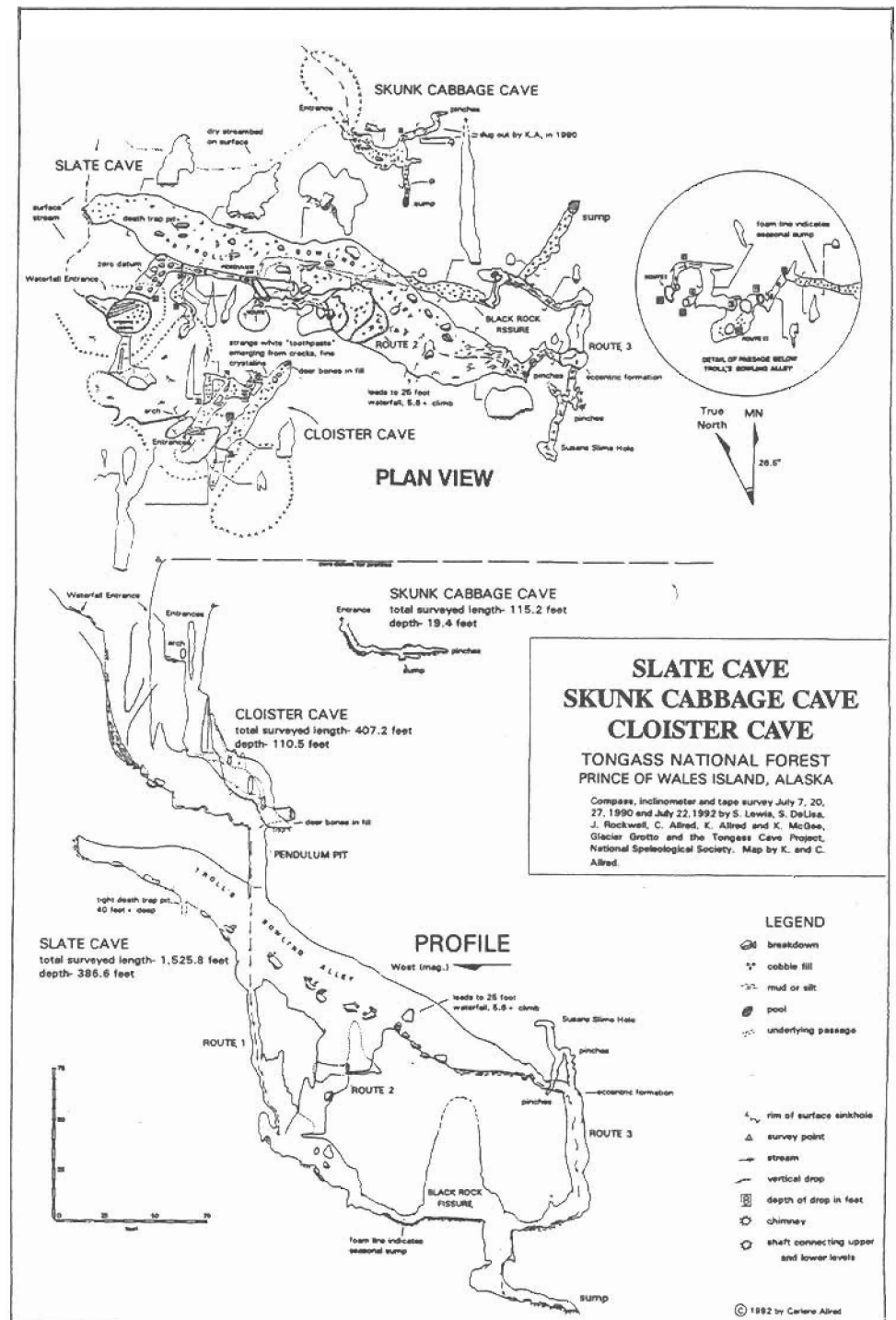
by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

On July 22, 1992, Katherine McGee and Steve Lewis entered Slate Cave to investigate a lead which was not previously explored. The lead led to a shelf and ended.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

As before, the location of the cave entrance should be restricted from the general public. The forest areas around the cave which have been left after logging should be preserved, as the entire area is part of the drainage for El Capitan Cave and the El Capitan Work Camp water supply. There is no doubt that Slate Cave and surrounding karst plays a large role in the hydrology of discharge below, and must not be altered further.



RED CANYON CAVE

and

WHITE CANYON CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #102
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

INTRODUCTION

Red Canyon and White Canyon Cave begin at fault contacts and contain canyon style passages downcutting into underlying red matrix breccia with limestone clasts up to one foot in diameter. Five hundred feet north of the entrances to both caves is a resurgence thought to be from their respective streams. The insurgences at White Canyon Cave and above Red Canyon Cave are both at the limestone/conglomerate contact.

The caves were discovered in a proposed logging unit and first investigated in the fall of 1991 by Mark Fritzke, who placed a no-harvest buffer around them.

RED CANYON DESCRIPTION

Red Canyon Cave entrance is located about 100 feet west of White Canyon Cave. The Red Canyon entrance appears to be either an inactive resurgence sinkhole or blind canyon 35 feet deep. A second Red Canyon Cave entrance is a 40 foot deep sinkhole requiring an 80 foot rope, however, ropes are not needed if the access is from the upper entrance.

The upper, walk-in entrance has a floor of woody debris which soon becomes cobbles after a 20 foot drop. Following the canyon down past some side passages and loops, a spacious stream passage comes in from the west. One hundred and twenty feet upstream, it finally becomes too tight and wet. On the surface only 70 feet further is a swallet (insurgence) thought to be the origin of the active cave stream. Thirty feet downstream from the confluence of the canyon from the walk-in entrance is a loop passage containing the 40 foot sinkhole entrance. The active stream passage can be followed past some pools, maze passages and into "Moon Room", a large gallery with a floor of mud and some rocks and sticks. The stream enters a low muddy passage with an emerging draft. "Moonwalker Hall", 120-foot long, heads east from Moon Room.

BIOLOGY

Many bat droppings are present in the upper part of Red Canyon Cave. Also found in this cave was much organic debris, mayfly casts and a beetle. Deer bones were found in the terminal room.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The roofs in both White and Red Canyon caves appear to be relatively thin and subject to collapse with surface activities such as road building. The roof near the upper and lower ends of Red Canyon is formed of breakdown above solution channels. The caves also contain biologic resources. In addition, Moonwalker Hall is subject to flooding damage and corrosion from hydrologic changes. For these reasons, the areas overlaying the cave passages and around the resurgence and emergence should not have timber harvested, and no road building should occur. This no-harvest zone should extend at least 200 feet beyond the nearest underlying passages or significant karst features such as the emergence and resurgence for a wind-firm buffer. In addition, the drainage (recharge area) upstream of the buffer should not be logged and road building should not alter the recharge drainage or introduce any additional fine sediments into the streams.

Red Canyon Cave should be designated as a restricted cave and visited only for scientific purposes. Because of its proximity, the location of White Canyon Cave should also be withheld from the public.

RED CANYON CAVE WHITE CANYON CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

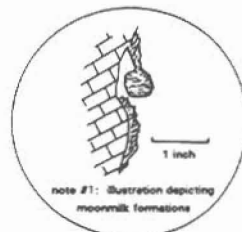
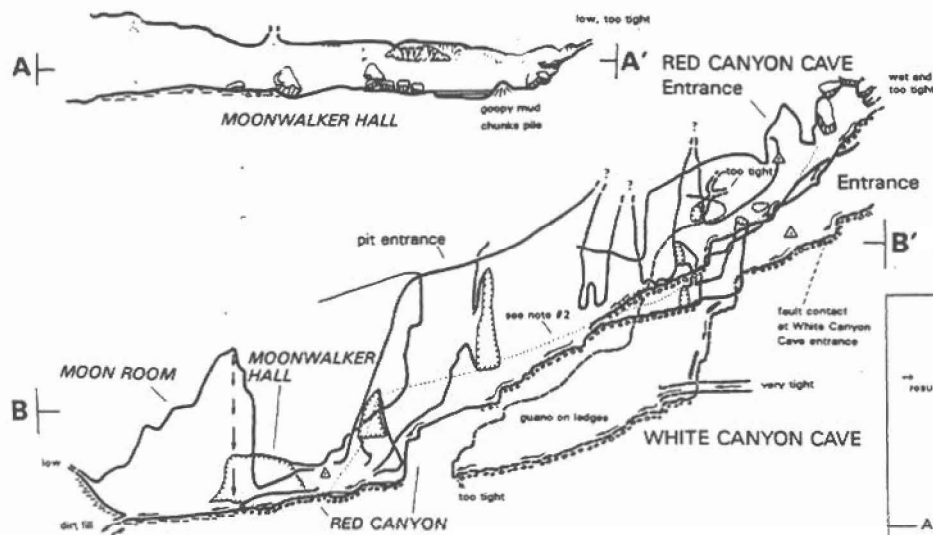
WHITE CANYON CAVE
Surveyed length- 140 feet
Depth- 73 feet
Entrance

PLAN

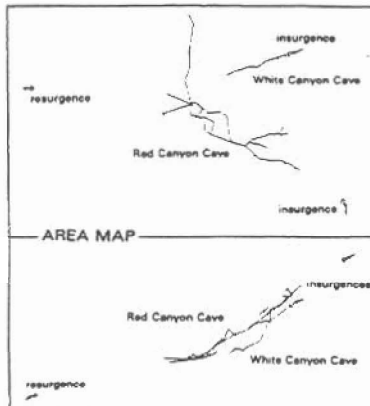
RED CANYON CAVE
Surveyed length- 950 feet
Depth- 108 feet
Entrance

LEGEND

- 1% slope
- survey point
- stream
- pool
- cobble fill
- breakdown
- chimney
- vertical drop (stair, wall opening (profile))
- depth of drop in feet
- abrupt change in ceiling height
- underlying passage
- air movement
- all fill
- passage walls of White Canyon Cave



note #2: dotted line indicates contact between limestone (above) and red colored limestone-breccia (below)



MODIFIED PROFILE

Compass, measurements and tape survey July 16 and 17 1992 by Dave
Harron, Mark Enzette and Paul Mathews. Tongass Cave Project
Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Alfred

© 1992 by Carleton Alfred

Editor's notes:

It's party time! Cavers seem to be very busy people, operating their own businesses, working, raising families, traveling, making ends meet and participating in numerous other activities. The Christmas party gives everyone the opportunity to relax, share a few wild tales and compete.

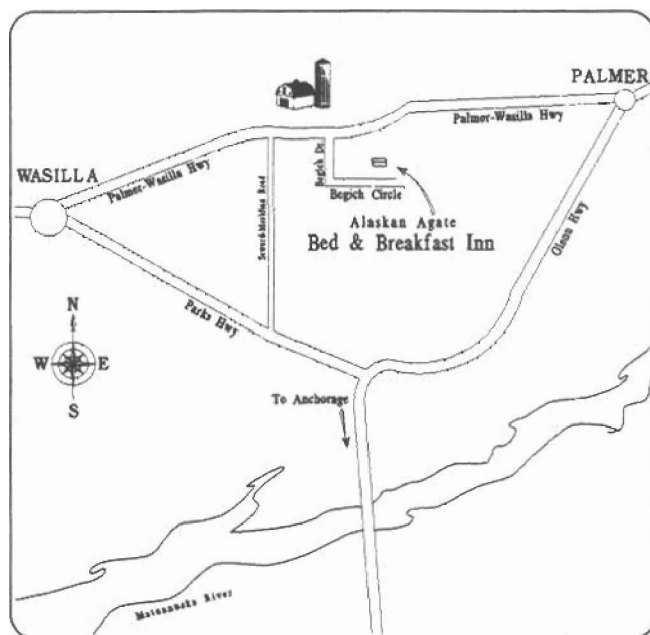
Yes, compete. Rumor has it that President Harvey Bowers is the one to beat in a caving board game. There should also be time to see a few pictures of caving expeditions. Bring 35 mm slides of an adventure (but not more than 10 slides) and share them with the group. The pictures are not limited to a 1993 event.

Date.....December 4, 1993

Time.....6 p.m.

Place.....Alaskan Agate Bed & Breakfast
4725 Begich Circle, Wasilla

Bring.....Food (it is a potluck affair), your family (friends), and slides.



Across from the silo on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, turn near our sign onto Begich Drive, then left onto Begich Circle. Our grey house is the second on the left.

The Alaskan Caver

1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK 99507

Forwarding and Return

Postage guaranteed

Address Correction Requested