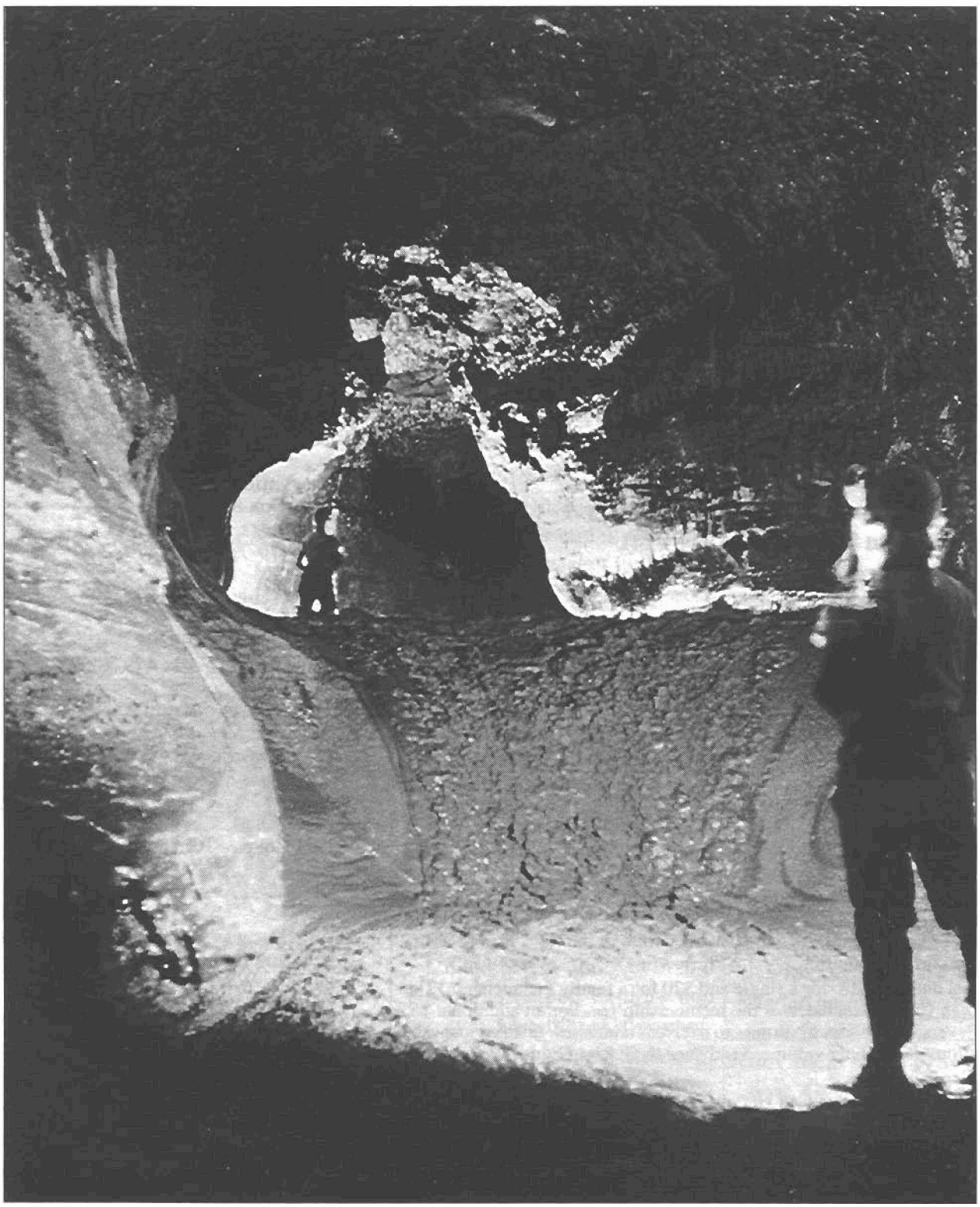
June 1994

Alaskan Caver, Volume 14, No. 3, June 1994

Dalene T. Perrigo

The Alaskan Caver

Volume 14 Number 3 June 1994



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

Volume 14 Number 3 June 1994

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Cover Photo: Carlene Allred stops near a lava fall in Kazumura Cave on the Island of Hawaii. Photo Credit: Kevin Allred

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

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 Harvey Bowers for details, (907)376-2294.
- Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.
- Fairbanks Meetings: Call Mike Mauser for details. (907)456-6953

GG OFFICIAL JOURNAL of the GLACIER GROTTO
The ALASKAN CAVER
June 1994

Carlene Allred records cave impressions with pen and ink.

CALENDAR

July 30-Aug. 14, 1994 Trout Lake Cave Project. (206)569-2724 after 7 p.m.

September 1994 GG Telephone Conference call. VPs have details.

Oct. 9-14, 1994 AMSAR Technical Rescue Seminars, Joshua Tree National Monument, CA (619)365-3114

Nov. 4-11, 1994 7th International Symposium of Vulcanospeleology, LaPalma, Canary Islands, Spain FAX (34-22) 430392

Pit Depth Record Belongs to Hawaii

by Carlene and Kevin Allred

The opening seemed miles away as Kevin Allred looked up from the bottom of the 862-foot pit on the island of Hawaii.

"It was a strange time to be climbing a rope," Kevin said quietly as if recreating the event in his mind. The crisp, clear, starry night was highlighted by a full moon but the blackness of the night blended with the sides of the pit as well as the tyroleon line that held him. Only the stars were visible from the end of the rope. Of the slow ascent to the surface, he says, " I had a very real illusion of climbing into the stars."

What had started as a Hawaiian vacation for Kevin and Carlene Allred and their four children of Haines, Alaska, became a five-month caving expedition on the Island of Hawaii. In that period, Kevin dropped into what is now the deepest known pit in the United States and Kevin and Carlene helped explore and survey Kazumura Cave, unofficially, the longest and deepest linear cave in the world.

After their arrival on the Big Island, they settled at Puna and enrolled the children in school. They popped in and out of several caves near South Point and on the way north to Kona while on their initial trip around the island. Later they made cave mapping trips to some of Bill Halliday's unfinished caves and discovered Moku (Boat) Cave.

Then one day in December, "We took an underground excursion that changed our whole purpose for being in Hawaii and drew us into an awesome and totally captivating project," the Allreds relate.

It started as a two-family trip into nearby "Sheldon's Cave" (Kazumura). "We randomly decided to head mauka (up tube) rather than makai (down tube)," they said. In pushing their guide beyond his explored terri-

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcel LaPerriere

Believe it or not it's already time to start thinking about elections. If you are interested in being on a nominating committee please let your local Vice President know. Or if you would like to nominate a friend or yourself for one of the offices

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tory, they recognized a beautiful entrance they had seen when in the cave years before with Bill. At the uppermost end of the cave, there was another entrance easily visible from the main passage, but one that had been damaged by a local cat driver who ripped up the lot while preparing the land for a lime orchard.

A local told them of another "puka" (hole) nearby.

In less than a week Mike Meyer and Kevin rappelled down the new puka to find that it "went" and was the uphill continuation of Kazumura. After considerable survey and deliberation, Mike and Kevin made visual connection between the two caves through a contraction crack. Kevin later enlarged the opening with hammer and chisel to allow ease of access into the uphill continuation (5 miles) of Kazumura. By this time the team of cavers numbered10.

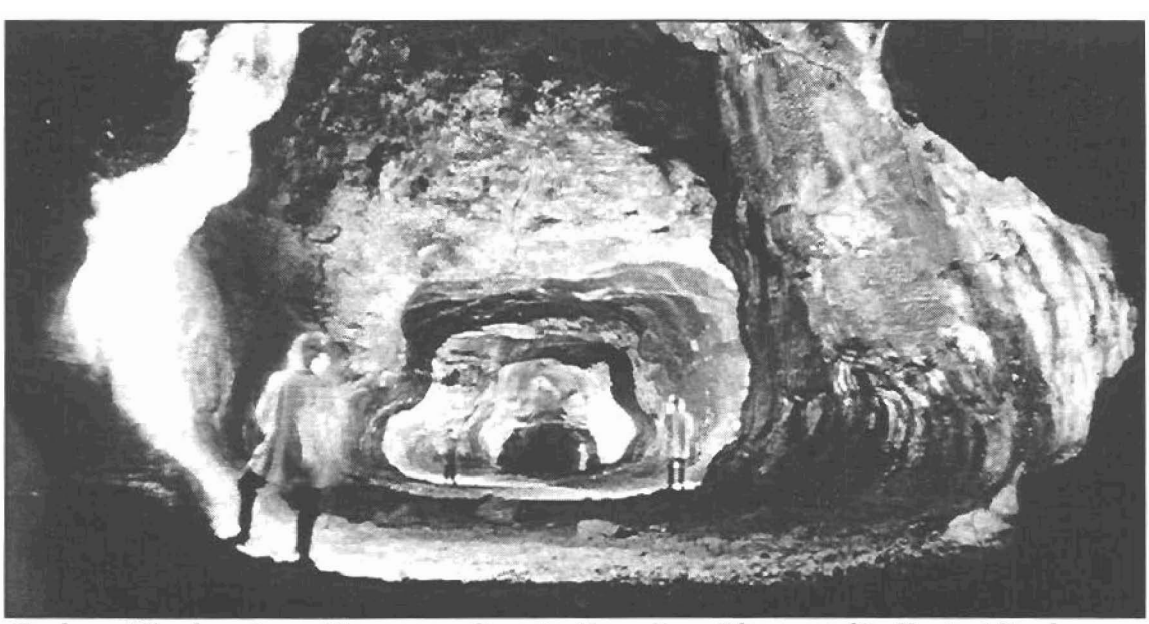
During another push in upper Kazumura cavers were stopped at a place where glassy textured billowy black lava had intruded through a former entrance, blocking the passage entirely. Meanwhile, it looked like there might be a chance at the lower end to get through the rock choke although teams had just pushed Paradise Park Cave up-tube and found no obvious way toward connection, and no air flow.

A local resident caver claimed to have placed a smoke bomb in the makai rock choke of Kazumura Cave and found smoke in Upper Paradise Park Cave. Mike and Kevin could not find the elusive breeze in the cave, but it seemed like they were looking into merely an upper level. It had no flow ledges and just overflow lava from the main tube, suspected buried under mountainous breakdown nearer the closest entrance.

At this location they eventually made visual contact, but it took removal of about 3 tons of rock to finally get through. To make it safe, an 8-foot piece of tough plastic culvert was slid/dropped into the hole, but the route in from the makai side is hidden under slabs to discourage heavy traffic into delicate portions of old Kazumura. "We hated to put in the culvert at all, but someone would eventually have gotten badly hurt or killed in the unstable dig," the Allred's add.

On the same day that the above dig breakthrough was made, Kevin and Mike opened another passage constriction downtube at the Paradise Park 28th Street entrance. After moving a few pieces of breakdown at floor level and along the north wall, the passage opened on an open tunnel that bypassed that entrance entirely.

Kevin and Carlene remapped "Old Kazumura" to get a complete set of data and a 1990s-style set for themselves. This took several weeks but turned out to be very rewarding in its own special ways. When finished, there was a total of almost 8 miles, rather than the original 7.2. Every passage was sketched in detail to scale, both plan and profile views, including numerous cross sections. Crawls were pushed to subhuman size when possible.



Carlene Allred explores Kazumura Cave in Hawaii. Photo credit: Kevin Allred

Continued from page 2

By this time the Allreds had established an excellent routine for solo surveying. This unconventional method went very quickly for solo, though still not as fast as with a team. They found that when alone underground their senses were sharper and abilities increased, because there were no distractions.

"When soloing, one loses track of time and indeed becomes "one" with the cave in a timeless communion that is intensely satisfying," Kevin and Carlene said. They agree that solo caving is the ultimate of underground enjoyment, but don't recommend it for anyone who is not familiar with the dangers. Carlene did a total of eight solo trips averaging 10 hours each, and often achieved a half mile of footage per trip. Kevin did about the same amount.

The day of the pit drop occurred during the explorations of Kazumura. Carlene grudgingly stayed behind as a babysitter while Kevin and the mainland gang of cavers in Hawaii took two 4x4s through the several locked gates on Hualalai volcano on the way to explore a pit. Bill Halliday had worked for some time to get permission from Bishop Estate personnel to explore the rugged crater-ridden landscape known as Hualalai Volcano.

On the first drop Don Coons descended into the 400 foot plus crater on ropes Bill had talked the cavers into bringing to the Island. When the team found the inner throat to continue deeper, much deeper than they could rig safely with the rope available, they all pitched money into a pot so David Doyle could air express his 600-foot rope to Hawaii.

When the day of the second pit drop arrived, Don Coons, Carol Vesely, Dave Bunnell, Dave Doyle and Kevin again traversed the long jeep road to Hualalai., Several times they stopped to gape at deep craters and the distant snow-capped summit of Mauna Kea. Most of the rest of the day was spent rigging a 500 foot tryoleon traverse across the crater to avoid loose walls.

Kevin, who was designated for the first drop, worked his way to the center of the traverse with the 1,100 feet of rope. The bag was cumbersome and very heavy, and the combined weight of Kevin and the rope was sufficient to stretch the traverse several feet downward at the center. Kevin was hanging above the center of the throat and fed out the rope while descending into the pit that was more than 600 feet deep, but how deep no one knew at that moment.

"I was scared," Kevin said. "You start looking at every possible flaw in the rope under those kinds of loads." After he came up Don Coons surveyed the belled out chamber at the bottom of the drop. In the awesome dark void of the crater, Don looked like a tiny spider bobbing around. There was no time for any of the others to descnd and they had just a few hours sleep after derigging in the wee hours in below freezing temperatures and gale force winds, before climbing on a plane and heading for the mainland. Tentatively called Pit 6083 until given a Hawaiian name by the Bishop Estate, the pit is the deepest known pit in the United States.

After completing the work in Kasumura and several smaller caves, the Allred's grand finale was a photo-trip through the cave, held a couple of days before their return trip. A babysitter was hired so that they could be together for this. It rained heavily that day creating numerous showers and waterspouts, which kept them drenched while traveling from top to bottom through the 16 or so miles of main passage. The trip took nearly 20 hours and the couple was staggering as they crawled out the makai-most entrance at about 3 a.m.

The Allred's suggest that persons desiring to explore Kazumura Cave contact the H.S.S. to learn of "touchy" parts of the cave and to avoid access problems.

The surveyed length of Kazumura Cave is currently 19.67 miles, making it the longest lava tube in the world. This figure does not include resurveys or segmented portions such as Dr. Bellou and Fern's Cave. Cave depth, based on surface control points is 2,111.8 feet: based on inclinations alone, it is 2,302 feet. The greatest linear distance (between one bound and another) is 13.1 miles. Average length of survey shots in Kazumura is 73.3 feet and the average incline of the cave is 1.75 degrees from top to bottom, based on control point depth. K & C Allred

Continued from page 1

please let an officer know. The nominating committee in Southeast is Gary Sonnenberg and Alan Murray. You can reach Gary at Home 247-1559 or work 225-3101 ext. 135 or Alan at work 225-2500.

A person doesn't need to be an officer to be a big help to the Grotto. If you would like to help with anything in the Grotto please let us know and we will find a niche for you. We could use help in all aspects of the Grotto. We need help writing letters, writing articles for The Caver, promoting conservation, promoting safety, surveying and mapping and the list could go on. Again if any of you would like to be of help please contact an officer.

Recently some of the Ketchikan members of the Grotto and a US Forest Service employee started mapping a magnificent cave on Prince of Wales Island. The interesting thing about this cave is that it is in a unit that was scheduled to be logged soon. Fortunately this cave, along with others, and the karst features in the area have been declared significant enough to stop all logging on this unit. The reason I bring this up is to point out that as an organization we are making an impact. I believe that without the Glacier Grotto, the Tongass Cave Project and dedicated cavers these caves would have been sacrificed to meet the contractual demands of timber to Ketchikan Pulp. I guess I shouldn't give all the credit for saving these truly magnificent caves to the caving community. We need to thank the local management and employees of the USFS for working toward a balance between timber extraction and preservation of natural resources. I am thankful that the USFS realizes the importance of protecting some of these "dark holes in the ground". However, I believe it is our job to continue to be a watchdog and to make sure the pressures of the long term contract for timber doesn't get in the way of preserving the caves of the Tongass.

I hope each and every member of this Grotto is having a great summer and is able to get away from your busy lives to enjoy this great state we live in.

Additions to MEMBERSHIP LIST (more next edition)

Name	Address	Pd	NSS #	Home Phone	Work Phone
Bice, John K.	1231 W. Northern Lights, Anchorage AK 99503	94	37131RE		(907)272-6444
Bowden, George	PO Box 72458, Fairbanks AK 99707	94			
Bucove, Michael A.	PO Box 8782, Ketchikan AK 99901	94		(907)225-7023	(907)225-5141
Christie,Mike SE Reg.EMS	207 Moller Dr. Room 113, Sitka AK 99835	94			(907)747-8005
Clark, Carl E.	PO Box 2725, Palmer AK 99645	94	11569	(907)355-6688	
Clark,Carl R.	PO Box 2725, Palmer AK 99645	94	31004	(907)355-6688	
Clark, Mary Rose	PO Box 2725, Palmer AK 99645	94	14043	(907)355-6688	(907)745-4813
Clark, Patrick W.	PO Box 2725, Palmer AK 99645	94	31002	(907)355-6688	
Conover, Mark D.	**10721 Wunderlich Dr, Cupertino CA 95014**	**94N**	**17338RE**	(408)996-9433	
Gissberg, Eron	8184 Erin St., Juneau AK 99801	94	38825AS		
Hannon, John M.	**PO Box 448, Craig AK 99921**	**94**		(907)826-3762	(907)826-3271
Knotts, Rob	PO Box 527, Craig AK 99921	95	38660RE	(907)826-3551	(907)826-3551
Lundberg, Michael F.	PO Box 5663, Ketchikan AK 99901	94		(907)225-0596	(907)228-7312
Myron, Rachel	202 Observatory St., Sitka AK 99835	94		(907)747-7471	
Parrott, John N.	303 S.Juniper Ct., Prineville OR 97754-2328	94		(503)447-3737	
Reid, CDR Leroy	1273 Annapolis Dr., Anchorage AK 99508	94		(907)272-5001	
Reid, Sabra	1273 Annapolis Dr., Anchorage AK 99508	94		(907)272-5001	
Rowan, John	PO Box 19106, Thorne Bay AK 99919	94		(907)828-3426	(907)828-3304
Russell, Amy	PO Box 19106, Thorne Bay AK 99919	94		(907)828-3426	(907)828-3304

Address or Telephone Number Changes ••••••••••

Bennett, John J. (Jeff)	19748 Chugach Park Dr.Chugiak AK 99567	94	30847	(907)688-6080	(907)257-2618
Carlson, Kent R.	1155 King St., Christiansburg VA 24073	94	30124RE	(703)382-3523	(703)231-4825
Eddy, Dave	PO Box 6217, Fort Hood TX 76544-6217	94N	11830RE	(817)699-6451	(817)287-9101
Harris, Ashley S.	PO Box 143303, Anchorage AK 99514	94		(907)561-4173	
Morrison, Dody	PO Box 5614, Ketchikan AK 99901	94	35906	(907)225-7042	(907)225-7650

NEWSBRIEFS

The Winter/Spring 1994 issue of American Caves 7(1) is almost entirely devoted to the Prince of Wales Island Caves. The front and back cover photos are of the entrance of Eagle's Roost Cave. The three feature articles, "Karstlands of Southeastern Alaska: Recognition, Exploration, and Appreciation," by Jim Baichtal, "Alaska's Forested Karstlands," by William R. Elliott, and "Archaeology and Paleontology in the Karst of Southeast Alaska," by Risa Carlson are excellent. An effort will be made to obtain the reports from which they were taken for later issues of the Caver.

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Cave Conservationist 13(4) looks at Ketchikan members efforts to assist the Forest Service in the management of El Capitan Cave, reports on Dorene Baichtal's bat studies and shares Harvey Bowers message on Alaska cave conservation.

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Only three hundred of the thousands of caves in Southeast Alaska have been mapped said National Forest Service geologist Jim Baichtal at a presentation in Petersburg. Baichtal told of significant prehistoric remains and what may be "the first evidence that this area was not under the cover of an ice cap up to 10,000 years ago, as previously believed" says the article from the Petersburg Pilot. "It (the lack of the ice cap) could prove the key we need to prove that there were possible coastal corridors for early people migration," Baichtal said. Among major discoveries within the caves are wall paintings by prehistoric ancestors of the Tlingit Haida, bones of prehistoric animals, remnants of burned-out torches indicating exploration into the inner recesses of the caves about 3,400 years ago,middens, heretofore unknown rock formations, and signs that religious ceremonies and burials were carried out in some underground chambers. The Petersburg Pilot article by Don P. Adams was repeated in the Anchorage Daily News.

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Glacier Grotto appointed William Devereaux as the organization's representative at the 1994 Congress of Grottos.

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Steve Lewis has agreed to fill the role of Conservation Chair for the Glacier Grotto. The Alaskan Caver will focus on this ardent caver and the talents he brings to this position in the next edition of the Caver.

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Ann Stenford is developing plans for offering SCUBA diving adventure tours, in Prince of Wales Island waters according to Island News as cited in Anchorage Daily News of Tuesday, May 24, 1994, p.B5. Good Luck Ann! Please let us know when the tours begin!

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William R. Halliday, in the article "Jaggar's Cave in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Found Destroyed", November 1993 Cave Conservationist 12(3):5-6, citing Hawaii Grotto News 1(1) 1992 reports a sad discovery of what sounded like an attempt to "improve" a lava tube. Also in the same issue of CC pages 17-19 in "How (and why) to Inventory Cave Wilderness Values" he issues guidelines and criteria.

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Buddy Lane is listed as the "CHATTANOOGA SQUAD" on the Walker County, GA, Civil Defense Cave Rescue Squad card which was printed 9-1991 by the Dogwood City Grotto, and reproduced on the back of the March 1992 Birmingham Grotto Newsletter. Do we have any card-carrying Cave Rescue wanna-bes?

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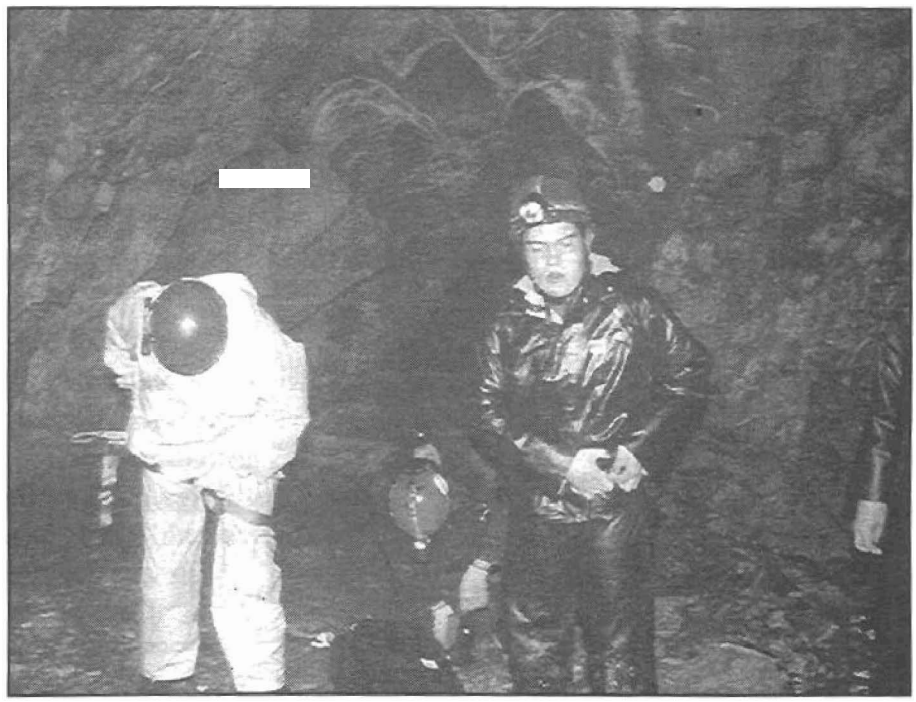
The monthly conference telephone calls, which serve as statewide meetings in Alaska, will resume in September. Area Vice Presidents will have information on time and place.

Boy Scouts of Troop 4 in Ketchikan Train With Glacier Grotto Cavers at Prince of Wales Island



Boy Scouts prepare for caving adventure at El Capitan Cave in Alaska.
Photo credit: M. LaPerriere

By Marcel LaPerriere

My wife Connie and I were a bit reluctant to train eight Boy Scouts for caving. In fact we had to think twice before accepting this challenge of working with teen-agers ages 14-18, especially teenage boys known categorically to be rowdy.

In retrospect, we should not have worried at all as these boys were an exceptionally great group of teen-agers.

We were asked to work with the older boys from Troop 4 of Ketchikan. Our goal was to prepare them for some vertical caving, with the ultimate goal of a weekend caving trip to Prince of Wales Island.

Along with the vertical rope work we decided that we would teach the boys safety, cave etiquette, map reading, dressing for Alaskan caving and knots. Alan Murray, Connie and I started by attending the weekly meetings of Troop 4 where we gave long lectures on caving. Connie and I also led field trips so the boys could practice their rope work.

I'm sure many of the scouts got bored with our talks, but they persevered knowing this was the price that they had to pay to go caving.

Finally the long awaited day came. Friday evening we boarded the ferry bound for Prince of Wales Island and El Capitan Cave. Luckily for Connie and me, our son Zach returned to Ketchikan for summer break at college. It was nice to have Zach's help as well as his company on this trip as he had grown up scouting and had become a keen caver.

After arriving at El Cap on Saturday, we divided the Scouts into four groups, two of the older boys we had been working with and two groups of the younger boys. Connie led the younger boys on a short trip through some of the walking passages pointing out formations and the vandalism that has been done to them.

She reported that the younger scouts had a great time and most

of them were very excited. The boys found the vandalism revolting and were very intrigued by the natural beauty of El Capitan Cave.

Zach and I led the older Scouts, four at a time, down Hatfield's Pit and on to the Cathedral Room. We had forewarned the boys of the tight squeeze, mud and cold, but once the scouts had entered the cave, I don't think wild horses could have kept them from reaching the Cathedral Room. I worried that at least one of them would get claustrophobic in the tight spots, but none of them showed any hesitation.

On Sunday we took all the scouts to Roaring Road Cave. The plan called for the older boys to body rappel in through the karst window then make their way up stream to the end of the cave, while the younger boys waited outside the cave.

Roaring Road Cave has two options. Cavers must either bridge most of the way up the cave or get wet in pools of water that are up to 6 feet deep. With a bit of help all eight of the older scouts made the trip to the end of the cave. Only one scout fell in and that was because he misjudged the distance needed to jump a pool. He took the freezing cold water in stride and decided to partially swim his way out of the rest of the cave.

When we had nearly returned to the entrance we were surprised to see a couple of the younger scouts in the cave. It seems watching the older scouts was more than they could stand so Connie and the scout leaders were giving the boys a quick lesson in body rappelling and they were coming down into the cave a couple at a time.

The younger boys were much too short to make the whole trip but they did get a chance to see the inside of Roaring Road Cave. I heard of the younger boys wishing they were a bit older and taller so they could go further.

All in all, the caving program with the scouts was a lot of fun, and the scouts learned much. Connie, Zach and I witnessed peer pressure working in a positive way with these boys, challenging them to do things they probably wouldn't have done on their own. We are looking forward to working with more scouts or other youth groups in the future, and we would recommend it to others in this grotto for a rewarding experience.

LETTER

Dear Julius:

Enclosed is a proposal for a change in game regulations that Steve Lewis and myself have written for inclusion in the proposal packet for the November 1994 Board of Game meeting which will be in Juneau this year. Currently there is a year-round season with no bag limit for bats in Alaska. We'd like for .....Grotto members to write in support of this proposal. Comments should go to:**ADF&G Board of Support P.O. Box 25526 Juneau, AK 99802-5526** beginning in September when the proposal book is published and available for ADF&G. Thank you. Anne K. Ruggles (907)474-3755.

•••The Glacier Grotto Board has not acted on this proposal.

Alaska Board of Fisheries and Alaska Board of Game

REGULATION PROPOSAL FORM P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

1. Alaska Administrative Code Number 5AAC 85.070(1) Regulation Book Page No. 812 Reg.# 127

2. What is the problem you would like the Board to address? There is an open season w/no bag limit for bats; a group of srp. about which we know little in Alaska. These animals are not used for food thus this regulation encourages target shooting with live animals as the target.

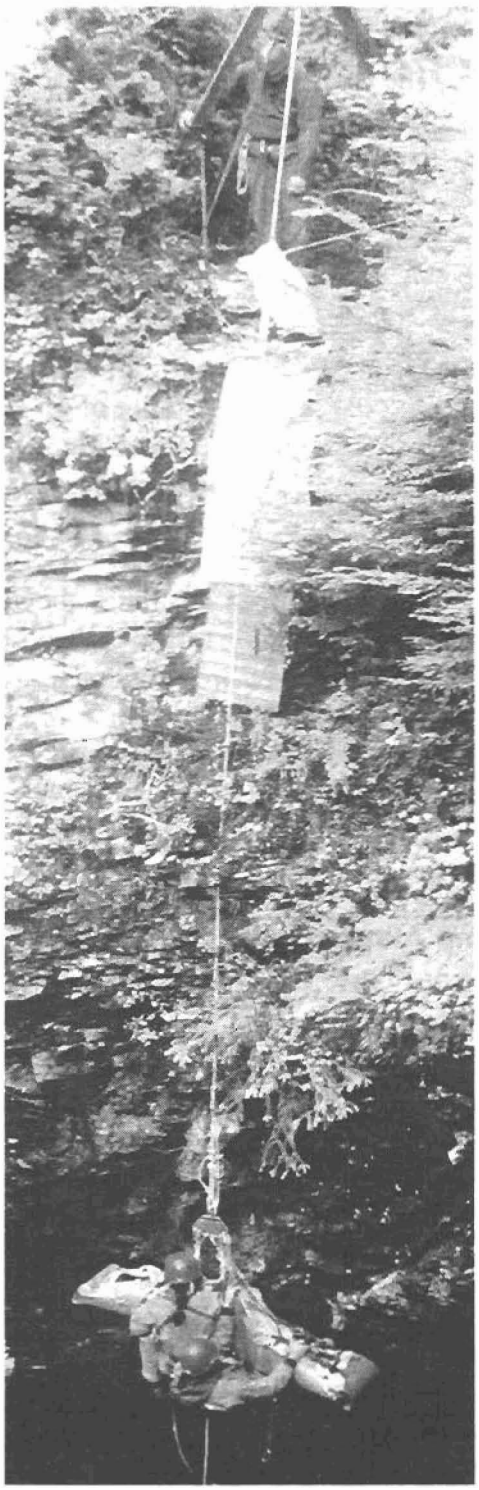
3. What will happen if this problem is not solved? We know nothing about the distribution and populations of these animals thus we cannot evaluate the effect of the current regulation on these animals. The existence of the current regulation reflects poorly on the ethics of Alaskan hunters.

4. What solution do you prefer? In other words, if the Board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say? No season and bag limit of 0 for all bats. Resident/non resident...no open season.

5. Solutions to difficult problems benefit some people and hurt others:
   A. Who is likely to benefit if your solution is adopted? All of us.
   B. Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted? People who have bats roosting in their buildings and who do not desire this can do two things: Board up openings or kill animals under DLP regulations.

6. List any other solutions you considered and why you rejected them. none

CAVE RESCUE



Alaska Cave Rescue members practice rescue techniques at Starlight Cave on Prince of Wales Island. Photo credit: M. LaPerriere

by R.R. Knotts, EMT II

As June 17th and the cave rescue class drew closer my intimidation level began to rise. The cause had nothing to do with vertical drops or hours in cold dark holes although those concerns would have been warranted. These were monsters of a different nature.

As expected, I found myself hard pressed at times to maintain a facade of value within the team.When the group assembled at El Capitan Cave for the cave rescue class, it was as professional and able-bodied as any group found anywhere in the U.S. of A. There were ologists of every degree, certified cave divers, high-angle rescue specialists and paid professionals from the US Forest Service. Suffice it to say that as a janitor, I felt my scope of knowledge was somewhat lacking comparatively, but being the only medical member helped a little. (Knotts has completed work for Emergency Medical Training II statis.)

The first scenario took place on Day Two at Hatfield Pit, with an extraction to the entrance. Numbers two and three occurred at the pit just before Moon Milk Passage, about 30 yards from the entrance. It was a short drop of about 15 feet, with a separate exit to the outside for easy access by the instructors.

Mike Christy of the Southeast Region Emergency Medical Council and Eric Mortensen of Northwest Cave Rescue used their combined knowledge and patience to inspire us to a peak performance.

One of the practices following each scenario was a critique session in which all rescuers took part. Each member of the team,

by Marcel LaPerriere

During four days in June, El Capitan Cave and Starlight Cave on Prince of Wales Island were the sites of numerous cave rescues. There were broken legs, spinal injuries and other less serious impairments. Fortunately, all the injuries were staged and just part of cave rescue training exercises. Under the direction of Mike and Sara Christie from Sitka, plus help from Eric Mortensen, Chairperson of North West Cave Rescue (NWCR) out of Portland, OR, nine members of Alaska Cave Rescue (ACR) and two US Forest Service employees went through a very thorough training session.

We were introduced to horizontal, medium and high angle cave rescue as well as how to search for a lost caver. We also learned how to package patients with different injuries for transport out of the cave. We learned the very basics of rigging a highline. It became apparent that we need many more training sessions to hone our skills.

Even though most of us have always looked at cave rescue as an overwhelming task we left with the feeling that we could perform the objective of ACR as an initial response team. Another thing that became very apparent to us was that cave rescue requires a lot of gear and a number of trained people. To do a

in turn, spoke for a minute or two on one positive and one negative aspect of the cycle. These sessions provided us with intimate details of one another and our relationship as a rescue team. In my opinion the critique gave as much insight as the actual operation.

Another of the practices followed at every session, was to circulate each member of the team through every position in the squad. By doing this even the medic had a working knowledge of the entire rescue system and was able to perform any required functions.

On Day Three we attacked Starlight Cave. This was the first attempt at a totally vertical extraction, and everyone was excited. Even the white-socks and no-see-ums turned out in mass to celebrate our advancement. The scheduled itinerary of seven cycles that day left little time for anything but packaging the patient and raising and lowering the litter. After about four cycles and many sore arms and stiff backs the group as a whole was beginning to lose focus. Our illustrious Grotto President, Marcel LaPerriere knew how to correct that situation.

As a chainsaw roared to life with a cloud of blue smoke and deafening sound, everyone became extremely focused, especially Darci Zeil, Steve Lewis and Amy Russell who were dangling midway while attending the litter. Fortunately the saw soon died but not until it had redirected everyone's attention. I guess you just had to be there, to appreciate the looks of concern on everyone's face.

Day Four dawned sunny and beautiful, a fitting finale to an excellent class. There was to be only one cycle that day, a full-blown mock rescue. By 8:30 a.m. the class members had been assigned their positions and were busy assembling the necessary anchors to perform the tasks. Once again we were at the Moon Milk Passage, only this time we headed out the skylight adjacent to the passage and down the face near the entrance.

The team performed like seasoned pros. The apprehensive movements of Day One had been replaced with an air of confidence and the team moved like a piece of well-oiled machinery. An observer might have been inclined to think it was rehearsed, but it was just the chemistry of a very compatible group, each member aware of his/her function and ready to assist at a moments notice.

I've participated in teams of similar persuasion in the Marine Corps and with climbing groups that had been a team for a considerably longer period of time but lacked the level of skill and proficiency that the Alaskan Cave Rescue Team possesses.

lower and raise out of the over 100-foot free vertical drop of Starlight Cave we used two 300-foot ropes, four 100-foot ropes, two Prusik Minding Pulleys (PMPs), two rescue pulleys, a half dozen Prusiks, around 50 carabiners and around 100 feet of 1-inch tubular webbing. This didn't include personal gear, the Sked litter, rope pads and first aid gear.

The only mishap during the training was when Rob Knots EMT II gave Cat Woods, USFS employee, a black eye by dropping a carabiner on her while she was tied up in the litter.

One of the more, amusing moments occurred when three people were being raised back out of Starlight. A small tree was in the way of the haul line crew and a chain saw was started to clear away this tree. You can imagine what was on the minds of the three people hanging free 50 feet above the cave floor. Another amusing moment occurred when I volunteered to be the first person across the highline we rigged from shore to the USFS dock at El Capitan Cave and got my "rear end" dunked in the bay because we couldn't get the line tight enough for a fat guy like me.

All of us that took the training were impressed with the instructors knowledge of rescue rigging and their patience in teaching us. We are also very grateful to the USFS for hosting the cave rescue training and giving us support.

Notes from Marcel

Excerpts from an open letter to out of town members by Alaska Cave Rescue Chairman Marcel LaPerriere

In the event of a cave rescue, ACR will function under the direction of Alaska State Troopers, which is responsible for all land-based Search And Rescue missions in this state with the exception of National Parks.

SAR's Standard of Care means that no matter where you are in this country the standard of care given to an individual is the same. If it isn't the participating organization opens itself up for liabilities. This boils down to TRAINING.

ACR would appreciate help in writing an Operations Manual, a preplan, training guides, Memorandum of Understanding and several more documents.

LAVA FLOW CAVE
BEAVER HO CRIB CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #138
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Sept. 27, 1993

LAVA FLOW CAVE

DESCRIPTION: Lava Flow Cave was discovered in the summer of 1992 by Mark Fritzke. This resurgence cave is formed in Heceta Limestone, with suspected major insurgences of Storm Drain and Dimple caves.

Lava Flow Cave has two entrances, one of which is a wet entrance. Devils Club and other weeds found floating at this entrance had been definitely chewed by beavers.

Inside, a deep lake can be followed 40-50 feet to a deep sump. Two side passages lead west. The first of these is a sandy floored corridor having beaver tracks which lead off "Bucky's Palace" and end after 50 feet. The second passage is 120 feet long and only accessible by swimming around the corner.

Sloping up past a beaver's bed consisting of grass and hair, a high chimney called "Bucky's Garden" is encountered. Continuing onward, progress was halted at fragile speleothems barring the way. Total passage surveyed is 328.1 feet and the surveyed height is 38 feet.

BIOLOGY: Other than the signs of beavers, flying insects, spiders, and millipede looking creatures, none others were noted. Snail shells were seen at the end of the upper trending passage.

SPELEOTHEMS: Speleothems found in this cave were popcorn, helictites, soda straws and flowstone. Portions of the cave were very fragile.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Because of the fragile speleothems, biological importance and hydrologic significance, further logging or road building should not occur in the area of this cave or it's recharge (upstream drainage) area. The location should not be shared with the general public because of the speleothems and biological impacts.

BEAVER HO CRIB CAVE

DESCRIPTION: Beaver Ho Crib Cave is formed in Heceta Limestone and located only 20 feet east of the entrance of Lava Flow Cave. The cave ends in a sump after 60 feet and a 15 foot deep muddy pit. The sump is reported to be a good dive site.

Total surveyed passage of this cave is 70.5 feet and its height is 7.5 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Although not as significant as Lava Flow Cave, because of its proximity, the location should not be shared with the general public. The cave should be protected along with Lava Flow Cave.

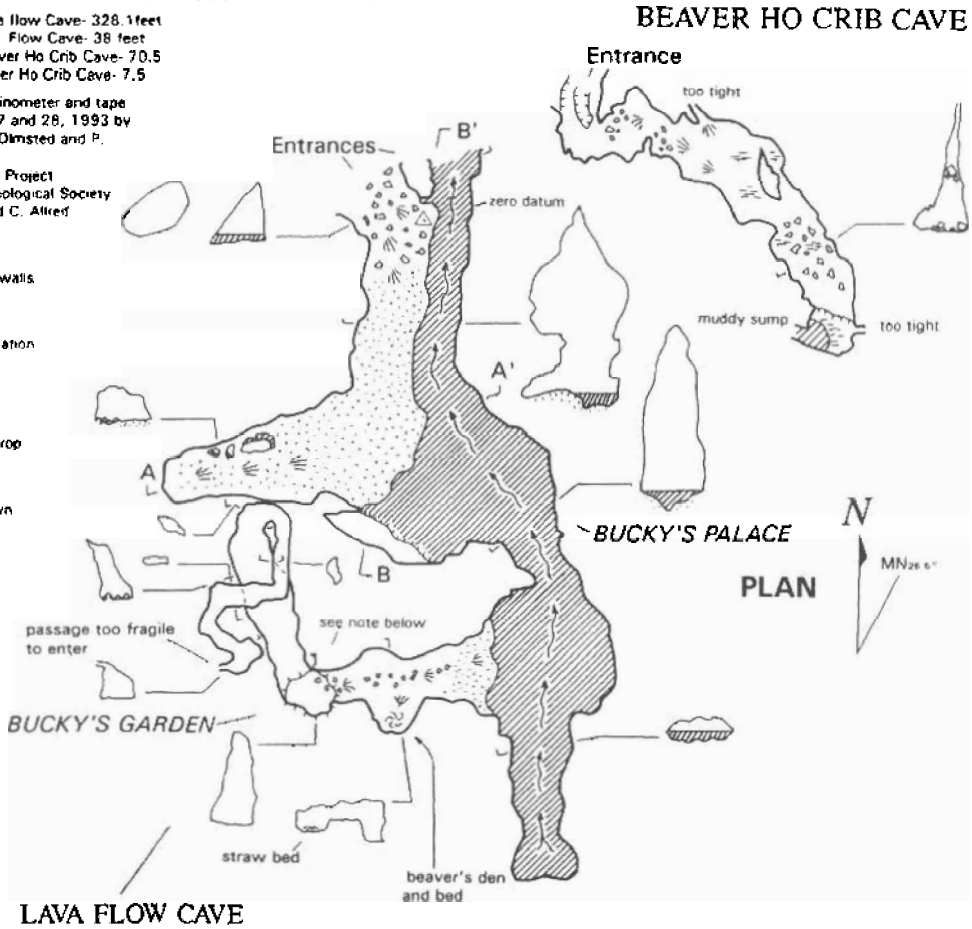
LAVA FLOW and BEAVER HO CRIB CAVES

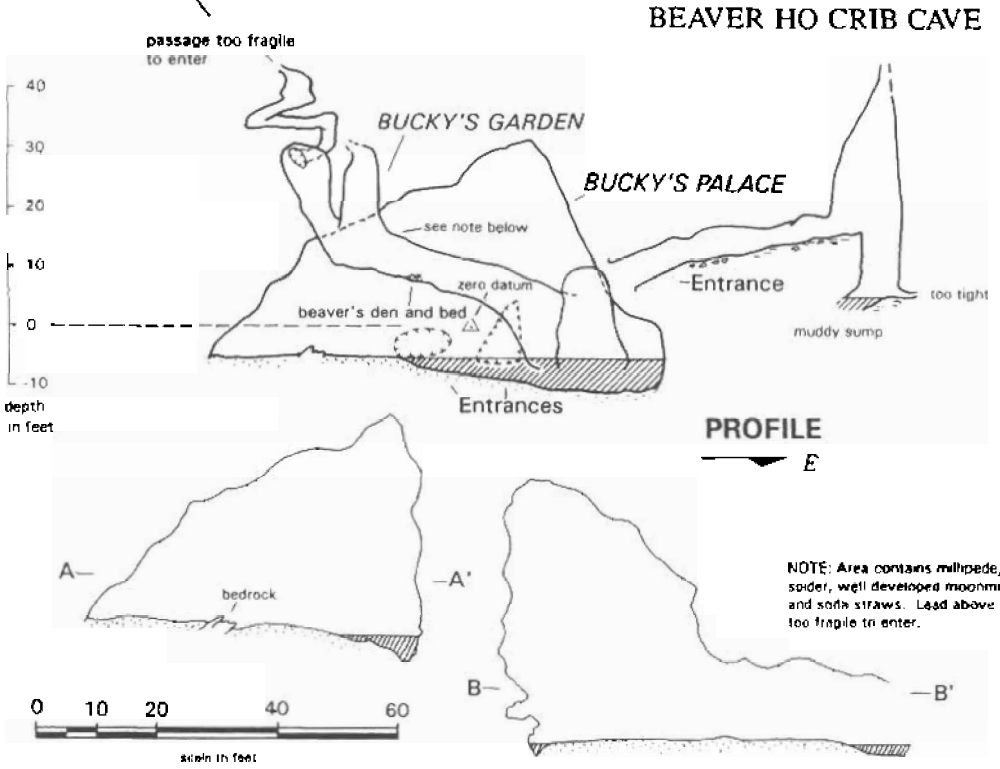
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Length of Lava flow Cave- 328.1feet
Depth of Lava Flow Cave- 38 feet
Length of Beaver Ho Crib Cave- 70.5
Depth of Beaver Ho Crib Cave- 7.5

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey July 27 and 28, 1993 by R. Knotts, N. Olmsted and P. Dzwonowski.
Tongass Cave Project
National Speleological Society
Map by K. and C. Allred

KEY
- passage walls
- slope
- survey station
- stream
- chimney
- vertical drop
- pool
- breakdown
- silt fill
- sand fill
- rock fill





NOTE: Area contains millipede, spider, well developed moonmilk and soda straws. Lead above too fragile to enter.

MARBLEOUS CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #139
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Oct. 12, 1993

DESCRIPTION:

Marbleous Cave was discovered August 20, 1992, by Mark Fritzke and Kevin Allred. This insurgence cave is located adjacent to an upstream muskeg draining into the Heceta Marble and igneous rock contact. The large sinkhole entrance is adjacent to a planned timber harvest unit.

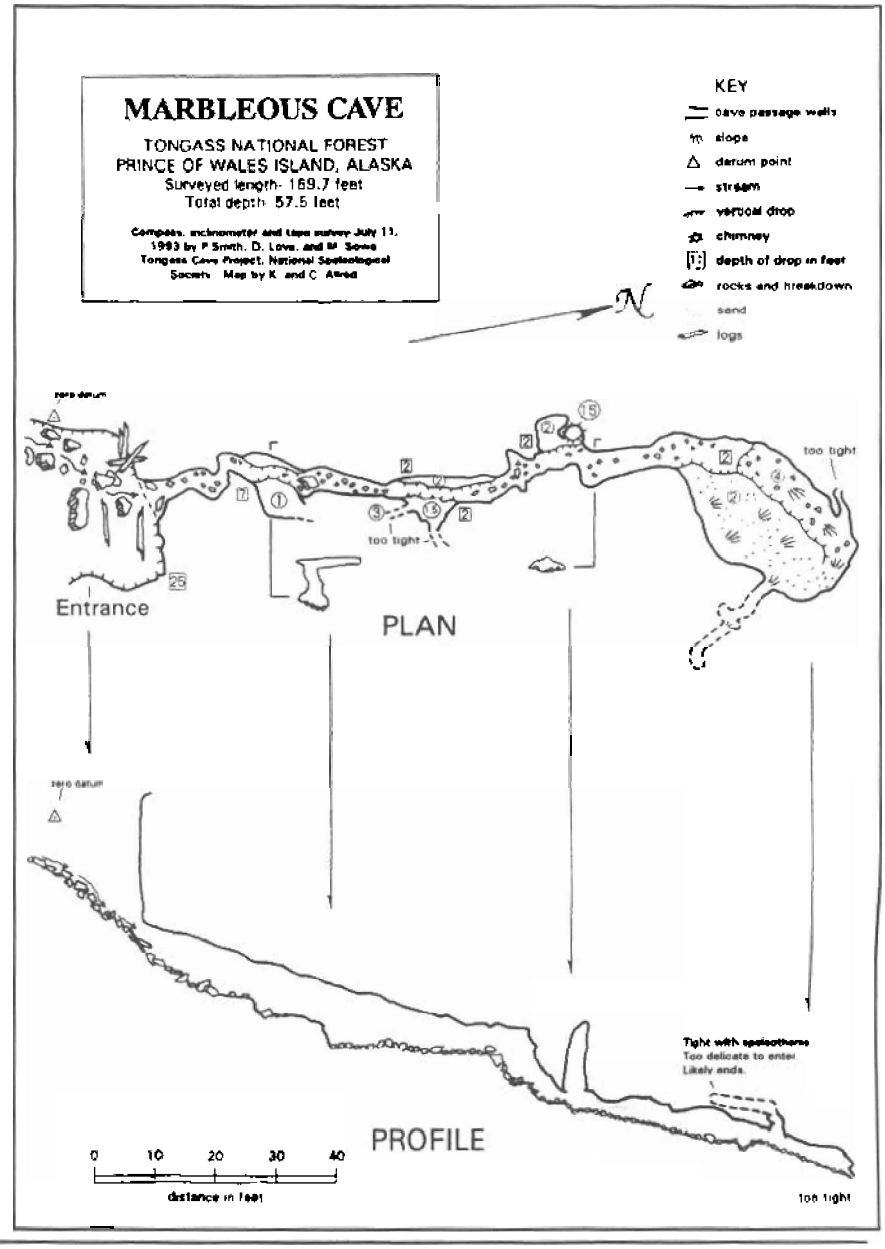
After entering the cave, cavers see a streamlet pouring down the rocky floor of a stoopway with a few too tight side passages to the east. A low, broad room at the end of the cave has a tight eastern crawlway judged too delicate (because of the speleothems) to enter, and the passage likely ends soon. Marbleous was surveyed by Mark Sowa, David Love and Pete Smith on July 11, 1993. Total survey is 169.7 feet with a total depth of 57.5 feet.

HYDROLOGY:

The resurgence for Marbleous Cave is unknown, but probably to the northwest. An overland survey and hydrologic study might be done with Blue Marble Cave to see if or how Spigot Creek might relate (see Report #124).

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Marbleous Cave is just one of several known caves on a well karsted sub-alpine ridge. To protect biological, hydrologic and recreational values of this cave and others nearby, the area should not be logged or subjected to more road building. The location should not be shared with the general public because of the speleothems.



GRIKE CAVE

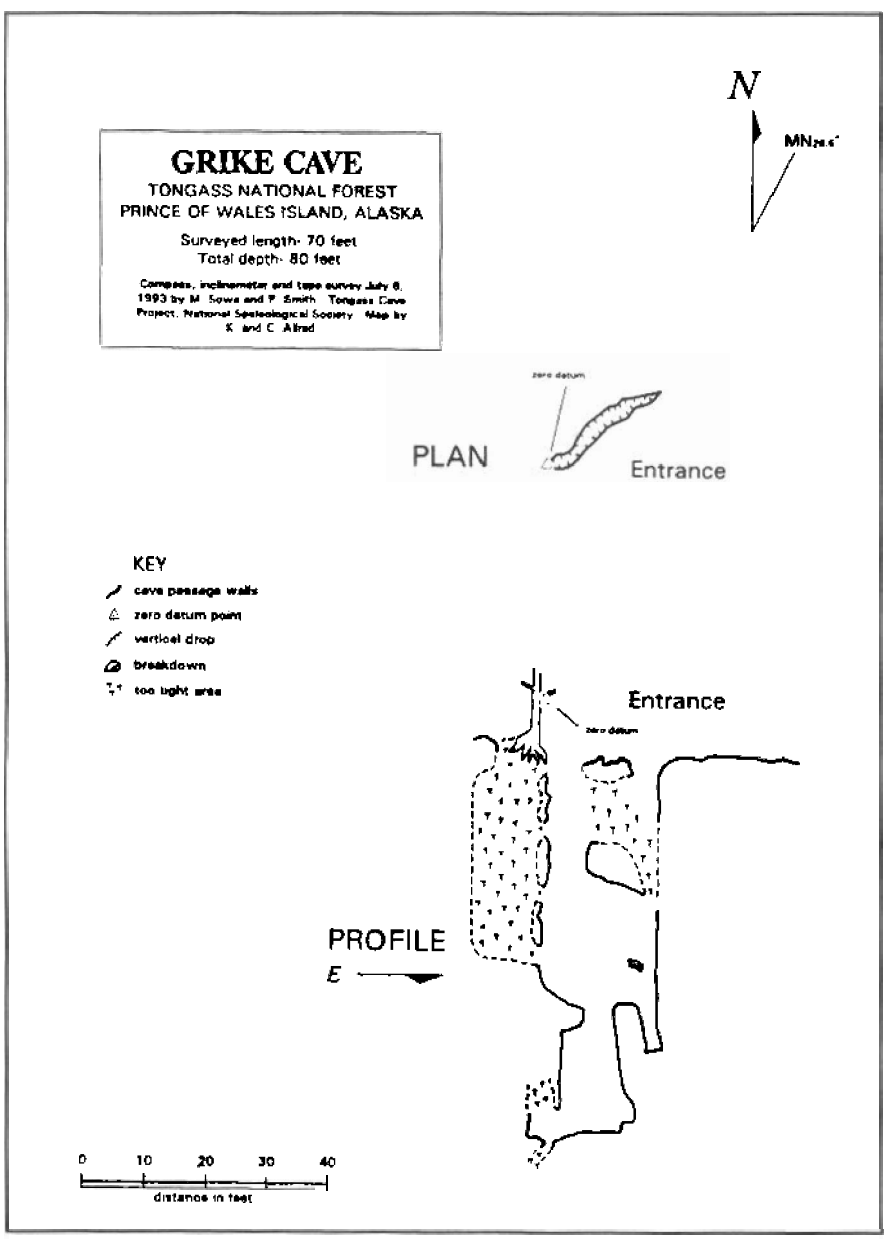
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #135
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Sept. 28, 1993

DESCRIPTION:

Grike Cave was discovered in August 1992 by Mark Fritzke and Kevin Allred. It is located in a proposed cutting unit planned by Harza Northwest Consulting Co. on a well-developed karst.

This cave is a narrow grike with many portions too tight to fit down. A rope secured to a tree is needed along with one foot ascender. Total depth of the cave is 70 feet with 80 feet surveyed on July 6, 1993 by Pete Smith and Mark Sowa. The fissure apparently contains multiple solution seams, presumably bedding planes. The way down finally becomes too tight. No speleothems were seen.



BIOLOGY:

Land snails, alive and the empty shell, were seen. There was much decaying organic debris in this cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because of the vertical and tight nature of Grike, the cave location should not be shared with the general public. The stand of old growth forest in the cave area contains well-developed karst containing numerous grikes and solution channels. The remaining forested area around the cave should not be logged or opened up for road building, in order to protect Grike Cave, as well as the other inaccessible caverns and the biologic and hydrologic systems below.

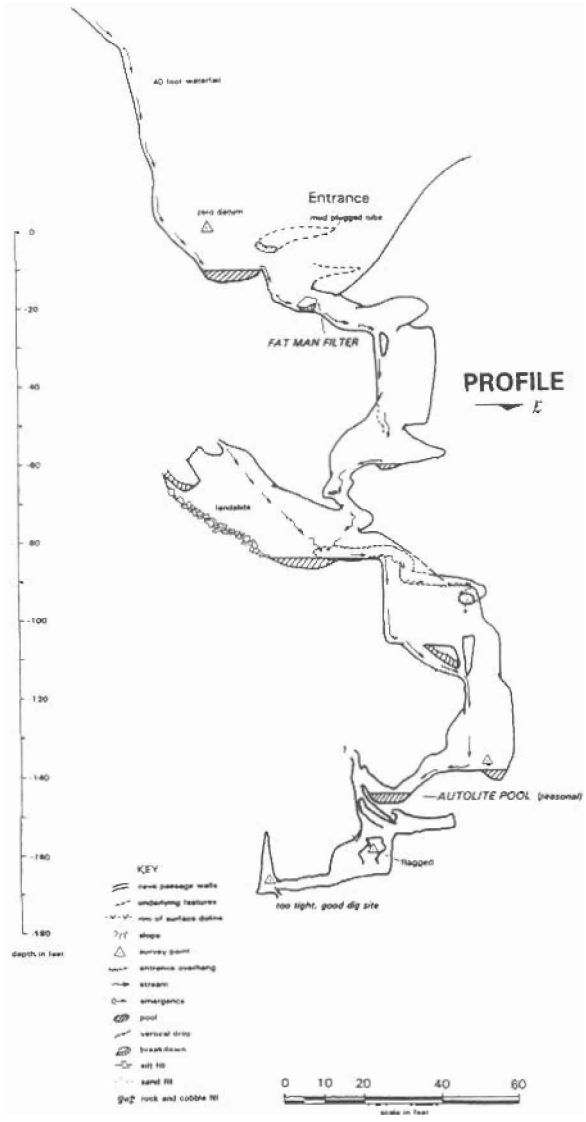
FAT MAN FILTER CAVE

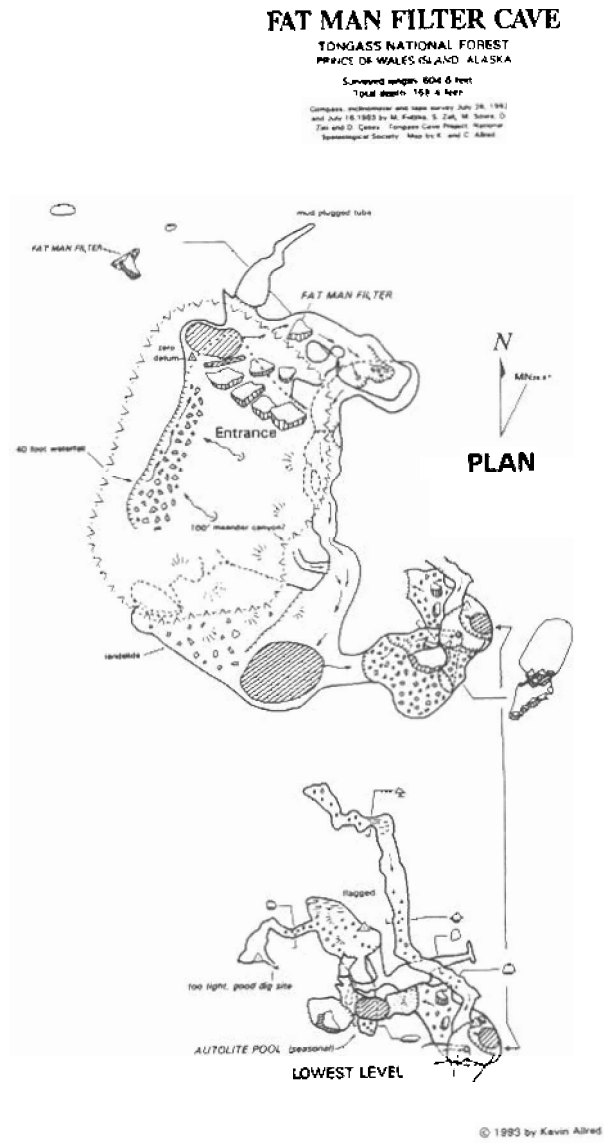
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #132 • Addendum to Report #91
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Oct. 1, 1993

Fat Man Filter Cave was pushed and surveyed further on July 16, 1993 by Darcie Ziel, Mark Sowa and Dee Casey. At the former "Auto Light Pool", dry with the summer's drought, the passage continued down with several side passages explored and surveyed. Across a handline drop of about 15 feet, the survey team left a flagged survey point at a 6-foot height. At the big room at the bottom of this drop is a good dig where the stream drains. There is also one, and possibly two, walking leads from the big room. Many other leads were not done and the cave exploration is far from finished. Total surveyed passage is now 604.6 feet, and the depth is 168.4 feet.

Midway down into the cave, a horizontal side stream passage was surveyed about 100 feet. Dry conditions of 1993 made exploration much more pleasant than in the past.





ON YOUR KNEES CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #141
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Oct. 2, 1993

DESCRIPTION

On Your Knees Cave was discovered by JoAnn Metzler. The cave is formed in Heceta limestone and located adjacent to a proposed logging road. Another cave entrance was later discovered (Ed's Dilemma) 60 feet to the east and was found to connect though a soda straw barred crawlway with On Your Knees Cave. The cave was surveyed on July 23, 1993 and is 222.8 feet long and 24.6 feet deep.

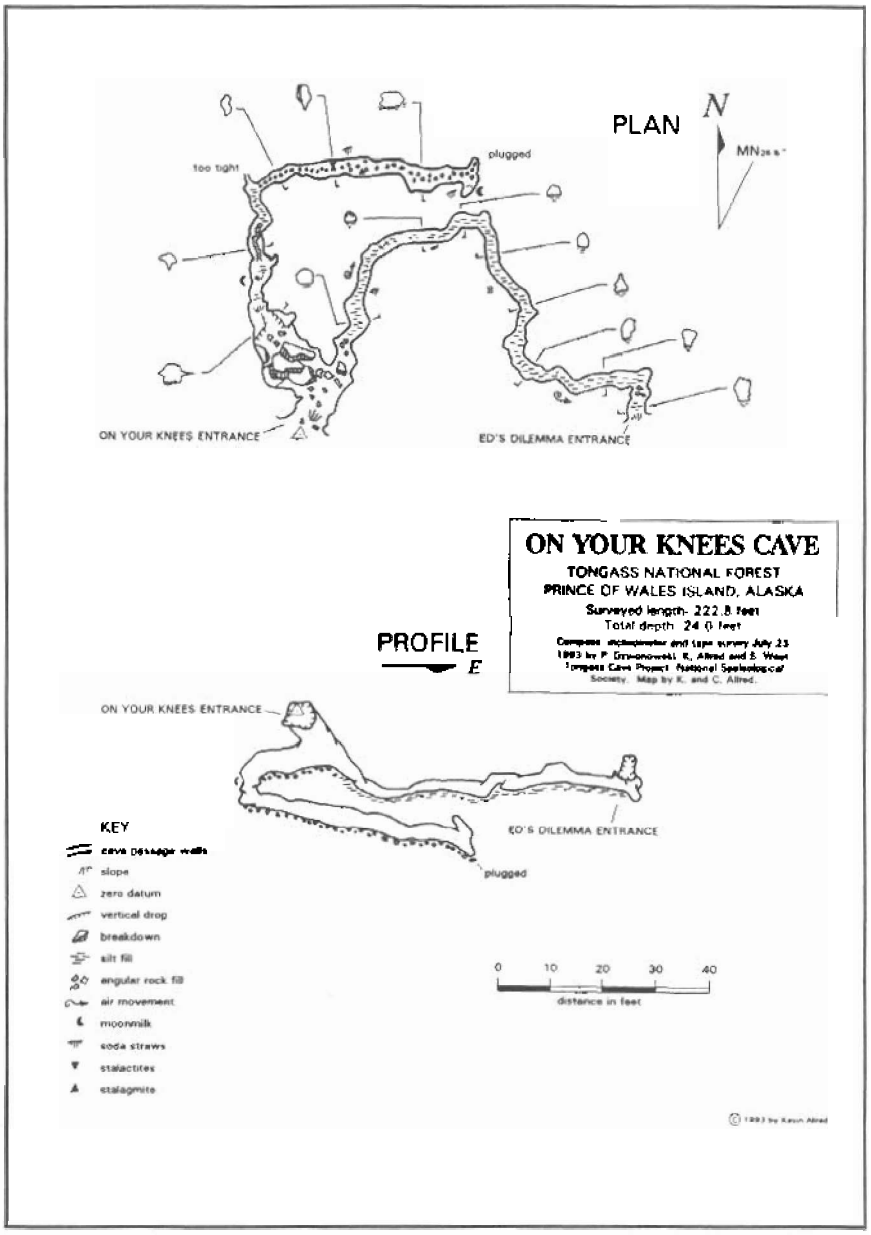
Upon entering On Your Knees Cave, the stoopway passage divides with the right branch quickly reduced to an "on your knees" crawlway, eventually joining with the lengthy Ed's Dilemma crawlway. The left branch of On your Knees constricts and heads 120 feet north and then east to finally become plugged with sediments. This passage is festooned with moon milk deposits, soda straws, a beautiful 18-inch column, stalactites, flowstone and stalagmites. It is recommended that this passage be entered only for a photo documentary trip and scientific research because of the proximity of the speleothems and bones.

PALEONTOLOGY

On Your Knees is an important paleontological site because of the numerous bones which are in evidence, beginning with small bone fragments in the entrance room. Fawn bones were found 20 feet into the left branch. What appears to be a bone is embedded in light blue glacial till. The till is unsorted, very hard (a fingernail could not scrape it away), and contains small particles of sand and tiny pebbles.

MANAGEMENTS RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of the delicate speleothems, no logging or road building should occur anywhere in the general area of this cave. The location should only be on a "need to know" basis.



FIRST PLUNGE

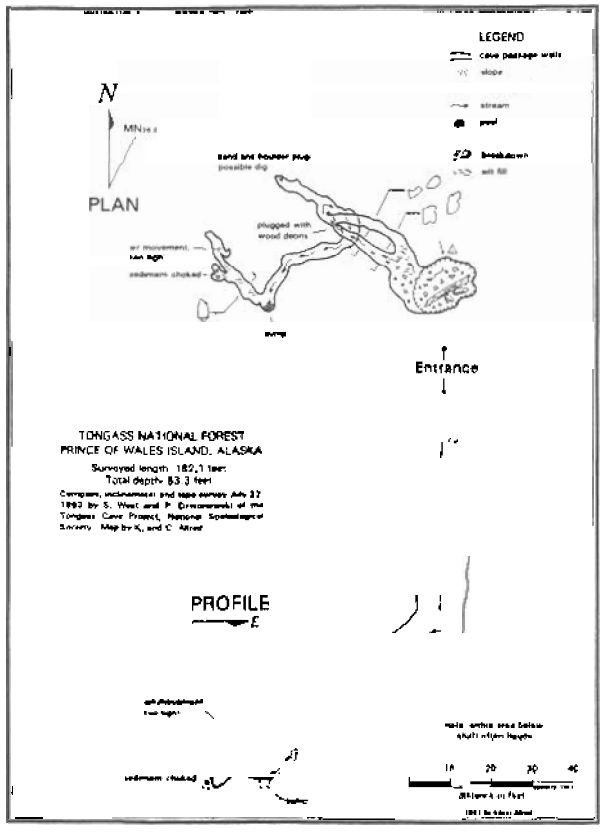
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #133
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Sept. 30, 1993

DESCRIPTION: First Plunge was apparently discovered by Mike Shafer several years ago and named by Pete Smith. Total survey is 182.1 feet and total depth is 83.3 feet.

This is a resurgence sinkhole formed in Heceta Limestone in the "Snoose Creek" drainage. Below the 50 feet entrance shaft, the remaining 130 feet of surveyed passage shows evidence of frequent flooding.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Further logging and/or road building should be avoided around the cave entrance, updrainage and atop the downstream underground water course. A dye trace and hydrology study is needed to determine the downstream direction. Location of First Plunge should not be shared with the unprepared public because of the potential vertical dangers.



FISSURE CAVE

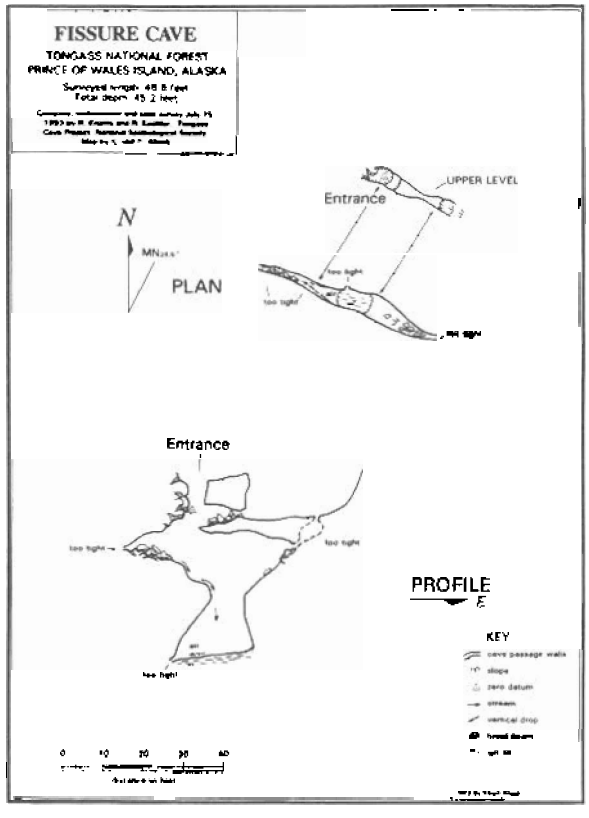
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #134
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Oct. 2, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Fissure Cave was discovered in August of 1992 by Mark Fritzke and Kevin Allred and later re-discovered. The cave is formed in Heceta Limestone and located in a karsted old growth forest.

Fissure Cave has a too tight entrance to the east, but it can be entered at a 45-foot deep entrance pit. A small trickle enters the pit partway down and the way finally becomes too tight. Total surveyed length is 46.6 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: This area has been laid out for logging and is also part of the upstream drainage of Rivers End Cave. The area is also well developed in karst features. To protect the hydrologic and biologic balances of these cave systems no logging or road building should occur in this region.



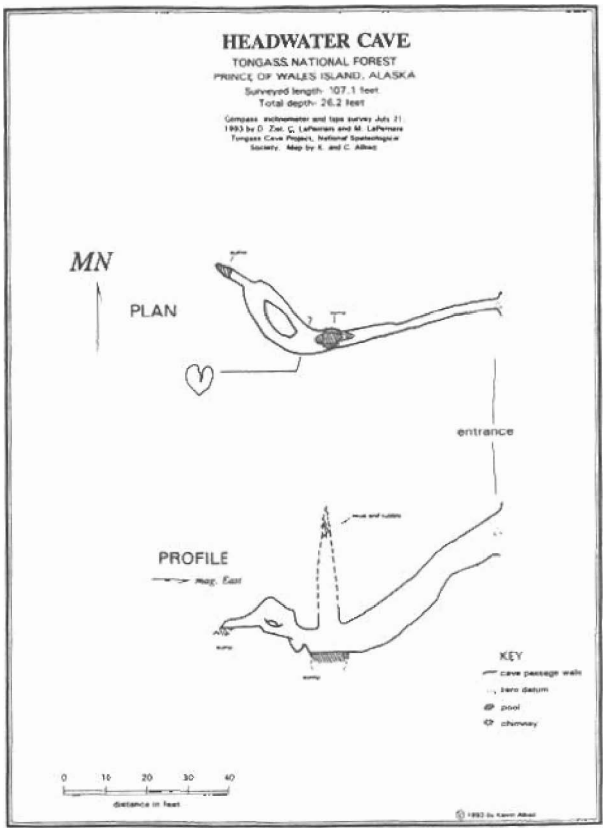
HEADWATER CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #136
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Oct. 2, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Formed in Heceta Limestone Headwater Cave was first reported by Pete Smith who later explored it by setting two bolts in one wall of the cave to aid in crossing the large sump within. This cave is an overflow feature for a large resurgence which is the main source of "Snoose Creek" drainage into Whale Passage. The entrance is a vertical slot accessible at the west end of a long collapsed area covering the resurgence stream. There is no running water in the cave which is quite muddy. The cave is 26.2 feet in depth and has 107.1 feet of surveyed passages.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Because of the tricky climb over the first sump, the location of the cave should be reserved for the experienced cavers. It is recommended that the remaining old growth forest in the area be left as protection of the hydrologic and biologic balance of this karst area. The forest also appears important as above ground biologic habitat, with two bear dens noted.



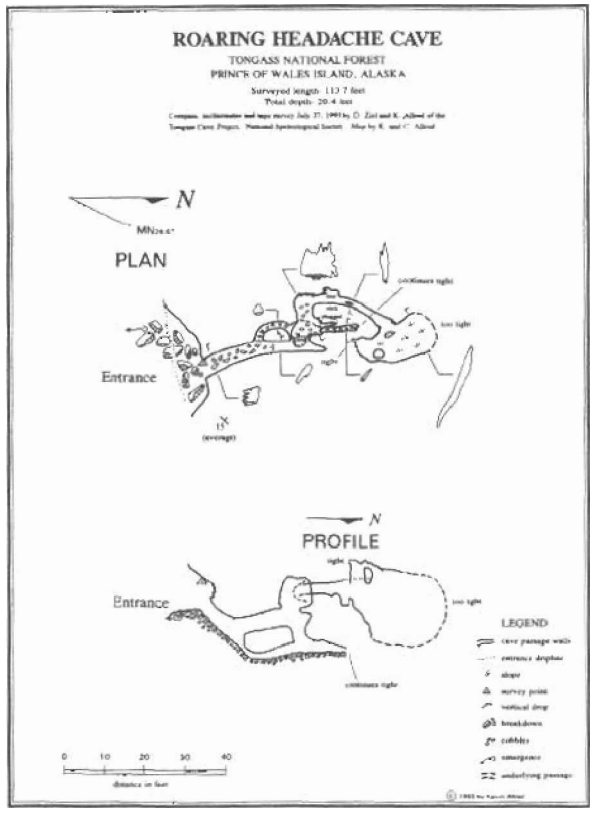
ROARING HEADACHE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #143
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Sept. 30, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Roaring Headache Cave is a resurgence discovered by Mark Fritzke in 1992. He named it after a rock came loose over the entrance and struck him in the forehead. The dry entrance is in a slightly folded, nearly level, thinly bedded Heceta Limestone. The resurgence issues from rocks and boulders 25 feet away from the entrance which shows signs of occasionally overflowing. The stream could not be accessed, but was audible. One passage appears to continue as a very tight, tortuous fissure and likely will not permit further progress except by a child (see map). The remainder of the cave passage either ends or becomes very tight or too tight. Total length is 113.7 feet and the depth is 20.4 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: A dye trace and hydrologic study should occur before logging or road building occurs on the mountain above this cave to assure that the hydrology is not affected.. The cave location can be shared with the public.



EXCHANGES

A former Alaska logging-camp cook, now spends her time gardening, substituting at a nearby elementary school cafeteria and caving three times a month. Ava VanSwearingen, 65, caves in a hot pink jumpsuit and matching hard-hat. Read about her in the Birmingham Grotto Newsletter July 1993.

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The rugged Anacapas consist of three rocky islets strung out in a 5-mile chain off the coast of California. In Catacombs Cave on East Anacapa, seven faults or fractures intersect to allow the formation of a cave with maze-like patterns. This and 11 of the other largest caves in the Anacapas are highlighted in the California Caver Vol 42 #4. They come complete with cave maps.

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Jake Shanky of Boy Scout Troop 16 organized the clean-up of Ape Cave Lava Tube on Mt. St. Helens (WA) as his Eagle Service Project. On a specific day in May, 18 Scouts and their dads, Oregon Grotto members, and US Forest Service personnel divided into three crews for the all-day activity. Details of Jake's climb to Eagle Scout Rank and the Clean-up of Ape Cave are included in The Speleograph,30(4), April 1994.

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You can get killed in a cave! Any cave!! Especially pit caves according to a story in the D.C. Speleopgraph, December 1993.

Deep pit caver and inventor Doug Strait has developed a new lighting system for cavers. He explains the workings of his invention, in "Incandescent Electric Headlight Systems for Long Duration Expeditionary Caving - Parts I and II" which were printed in Georgia Underground 30(1&2).The "carry three sources of light" maxim is too simpleminded, he says. He recommends ways to assemble a good headlight system that provide two levels of intensity and extends the life of a battery. This system makes a quantum leap in to the future. If reprints by other caving journals/newsletters are any indication of merit, this is a "must read" article (probably several times).

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There is more to the Southeastern Cave Conservancy than cave clean-ups and recycling efforts. This organization is dedicated to the acquisition of caves through agreements, easements, rentals or outright purchases to insure their availability for use now and in the future. In An Introduction to the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, CIG Newsletter, June 1994, addresses the methods by which SCC acquires and manages caves for scientific study, education of persons interested in speleology and conservation of caves.

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Color photographs, a slick cover and booklike appearance identify Progressione 25,publication of Sezione di Trieste del Club Alpino Italiano.

The Alaskan Caver
1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK 99507