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Carlene Allred

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THE ALASKAN CAVER



Volume 26, Number 3

July, 2006

MY RETURN TO BEAVER FALLS

by Carlene Allred

It has been 14 years since the Tongass Cave Project explored and mapped the karst features of the Beaver Falls area on Prince of Wales Island. In the early 1990s Forest Service geologist Jim Baichtal located this area and requested the inventory project. There were various caves, sinks and pits discovered and mapped. My contributions included surveying in Beaver Falls Cave, Beaver Fell Pit, some overland survey, and lots of cartography.

Some years later the Forest Service provided public access to the Beaver Falls area by installing an elaborate boardwalk system that includes posted interpretative signs as well as nice benches to rest on. The place is advertized in the tourist brochures for Prince of Wales Island.

At has been a shock for the cavers who explored this wild area to see it so easily accessible now. On the other hand, whenever we have guests on the island we can't wait to share with them the Beaver Falls Karst Trail. It is a very beautiful walk along the boardwalks that span the acidic rainforest muskegs, which feed the karst (see cover photo). From the security of the trail one can look straight down into



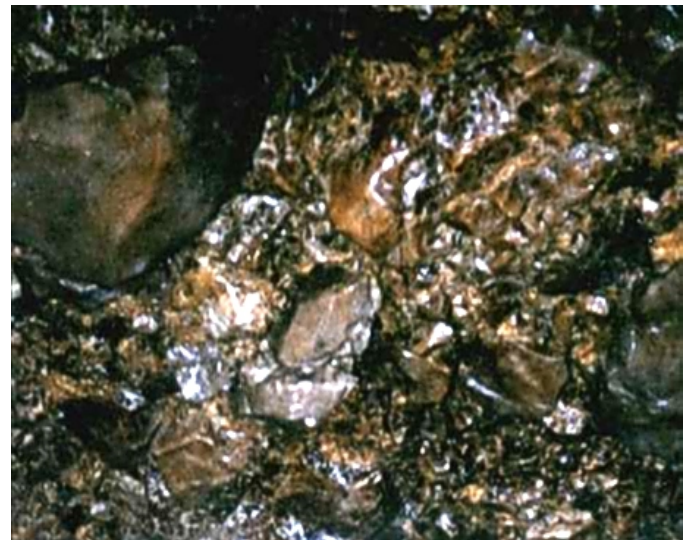
A view from the boardwalk: A karst stream flows down and disappears into the large sink that begins Beaver Falls Cave. Photo by Carlene Allred

awesome black abysses and hear the echoing of their subterranean streams.

This last spring (2006) our family enjoyed the stroll and I even brought along my oil paints and began a new painting. A pair of Canada geese shared the peace with us. Kevin went below ground and began some of his own preparations for the upcoming resurvey of Beaver Falls Cave. I was content to remain above ground and paint. 🎨



The Beaver Falls karst interpretive trail passes around and over various karst features. Photo by Carlene Allred



Beaver Falls Cave is known for its unique and variable breccia walls. Photo by Carlene Allred

ALLREDS... continued from page 2

cave mappers collecting data over a wide range of geographic locales including Alaska karst landscapes and Hawaiian Lava tubes. A copy DVD of the cartography workshop is available from the editor upon request.

In addition, numerous bolts were installed around the UAS Campus, Auke Bay area, and in the Mendenhall Glacier vicinity to monitor Juneau rock-weathering. Kevin has donated the measuring tool he created for his limestone dissolution study, to the Earth Science department. It is hoped that students in UAS Geomorphology classes will be able to collect northern panhandle data in order to compare them with Kevin's published measurements from southern Southeast Alaska. 📷



Carlene Allred looks on as Kevin Allred works with UAS Earth Science students on the ongoing rock weathering study.

Photo by Cathy Connor



NUPTIAL NEWS



Bruce and Char White, dressed in Scottish regalia, "jump the broom" at their wedding reception. The event took place during Ketchikan's Robert Burns Night celebration. Photo by Judith Anglin's daughter.

White ✨ DeVereHunt

Grotto members Bruce White and Char DeVereHunt were married last November (2005) 26th. The small ceremony took place at Ketchikan's Bar Harbor Restaurant. Magistrate Henry Keene joined them both for lunch and holy matrimony. Char's daughter, Samantha MacNeith, served as attendant and Jesse Kvale as best man.

A reception for the newlyweds was held January 27, 2006 during Ketchikan's yearly Robert Burns celebration, which was held at Steamers Restaurant. Both Char and Bruce were dressed in kilts as they "jumped over the broom", as is the old Scottish custom after matrimony. Bruce had made the broom out of branches from bushes in their yard. The handle was from a

(continues on page 7)

THE DARK UNDERBELLY OF THE FIRST CITY,

by Kid Burfl/John Hunt

It was a dark and snowy night... Well, actually we were in town, under streetlights and the snow had stopped a few hours earlier. But Ketchikan had indeed received a dump of white stuff that stayed for about a week, a relatively uncommon occurrence in Alaska's First City.

Kevin had tried to persuade me into the storm drains last Hallowe'en, but I begged off. I've never been afraid of heights or crowds or enclosed spaces or loud noises or brown mustard; any of the typical phobias. Still, the thought of exploring the real underworld of Ktown seemed to hold some question in my mind. Perhaps it was "Why?" or maybe it was something else.

We walked away from the expansive Allred compound, somewherewithin a gated community near the Ketchikan High School, the exact location of which this reporter has promised not to reveal, towards the lauded and heralded 3rd Avenue Bypass, from whence our journey would begin. It's lauded by the fact that it cost more than the original Alaska Purchase, and heralded by the notion that it "saves time".

Kevin had mentioned that he'd been down under Ketchikan before, and that he "thought" we'd be able to make it from the Bypass to the Tongass Narrows within a 3- or 4-hour time frame. We reached the upper terminus, the gateway to fun (the man holecover) in just a few minutes and, after kicking some snow from the edges, then removing it, Kevin began lowering himself into the 30 degree (angle, not temp) pipe. As his massive arms took the weight of his manly frame, I noticed a Ktown police vehicle roll by. Fortunately, we were dressed in bright orange drysuits, so either the fuzz thought we were City workers or they just didn't notice us. Note: My drysuit was covered by a black sweatshirt and dark blue sweat pants, which one would think might attract the attentions of our city's finest, but I guess my headlight dispelled their concerns.

I dropped in, re-covered the opening, and started down the pipe. Next, I turned on my headlamp. This first length of pipe was about 42-inch stock, maybe 25 yards long, and ended at a dropoff into a fairly large nexus where drains from 3 or 4 directions met and joined a larger section of storm-drain. Kevin and some of his regular co-adventurers (sons?) had been here before, and he'd told me about the fact

that there is no easy egress from our first pipe into this nexus. Someone (K?) had drilled a hole and installed a rope, which aided greatly in getting across what might have otherwise been a dangerous jump with a half twist from our lofty perch to an iron ladder on an adjacent wall. It was just far enough away that one couldn't reach it without the rope. Even with the enhancement, there was still the tricky maneuver of easing one's body out of the first pipe head first, balancing your toes on the edge of the pipe, then turning around, grabbing the rope and finally swinging over to the ladder. All these steps were done approximately 10 feet above a hard concrete surface, with snowy water churning below. Well, OK: just bits of dripping water, but still a fairly unpleasant hole to fall into.

Kevin took the first photo here, which proved to be a difficult process. Opening the ziplock bag, and pulling out and powering up the camera were easy enough, but the steam emanating from our clothes and bodies tricked the digital camera into thinking we were either farther away or closer to the lens than in reality, so we got a lotta shots of mists, vapors, gases, and other silvery X-files-type evidence. Watch for that on SciFi Channel!



*John, amidst his foggy breath in the storm drain.
Photo by Kevin Allred*

From this point, we traveled down a 60-inch pipe, at about 40 degrees, with enough water under our bums to make butt-surfing an easy -and fun- option. From my many years of above-ground trekking I had
(continues on page 10)

IMPROVISATION PIT

CORONATION ISLAND, ALASKA

Compass, Inclinator and Tape Survey,

August 1, 2005 by D. Love.

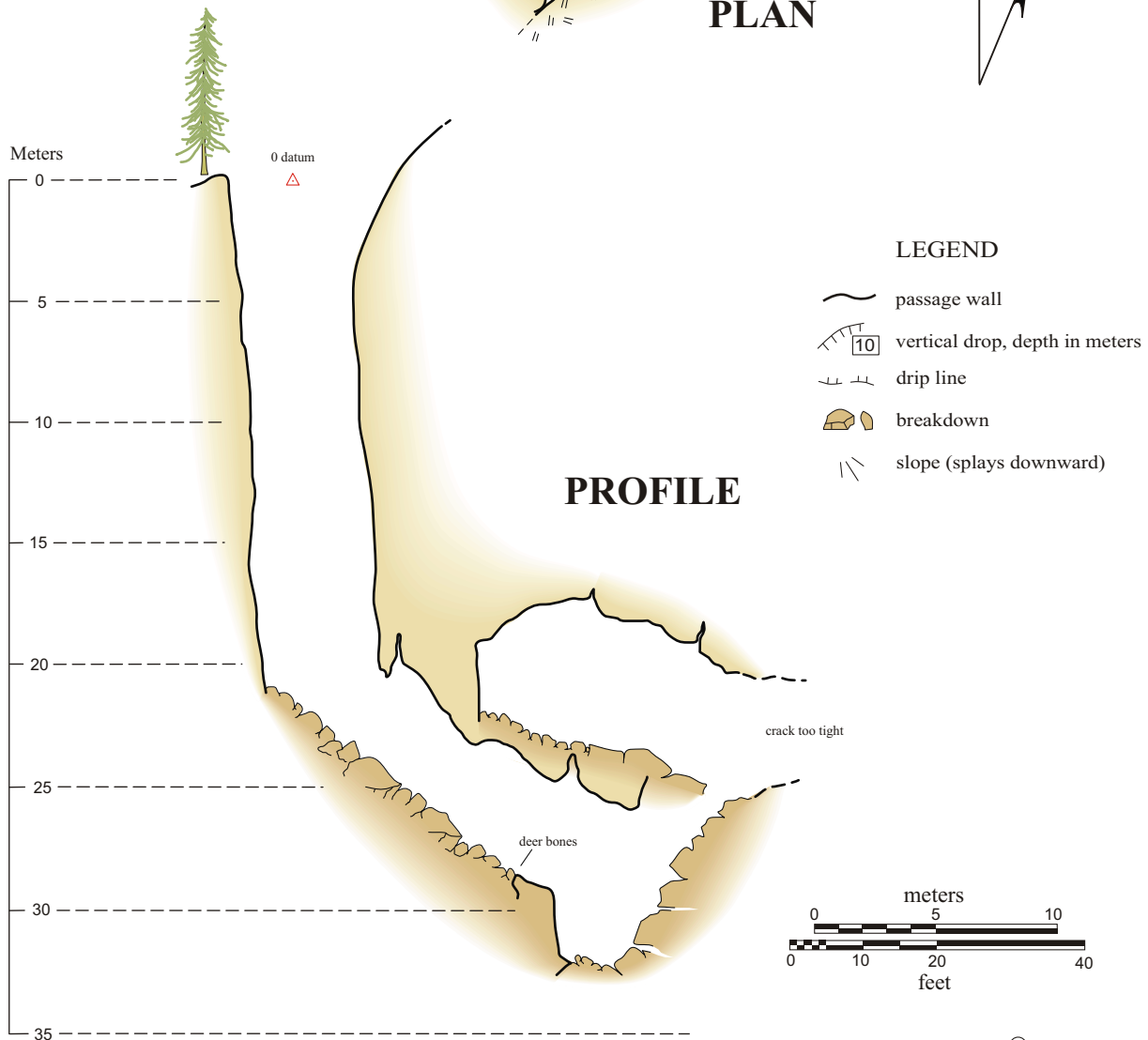
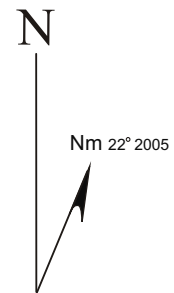
Map by D. Love, K. Allred and C. Allred.

Surveyed length: 60 meters

Vertical extent: 33.6 meters

Coronation Island Expedition, SE Alaska

A Project of the GLACIER GROTTO & the TONGASS CAVE PROJECT



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NUPTIAL NEWS, cont. from page 4

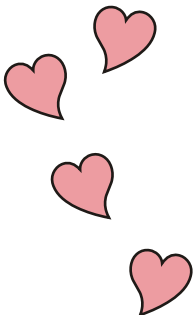
branch whittled smooth. In keeping with tradition they keep the broom by the front door to their home.

Grotto members attending the reception included Samantha McNeith, Dan Monteith, Michael Jaynes, Barbara Morgan and Kevin and Carlene Allred. Burns Night festivities consisted of bagpipe music, Highland dancing, a proper Scottish dinner including lots of haggis, poetry readings and Scottish music by a local band which included Carlene on fiddle. 147 people attended the dual event.

Valentine Noland


On September 2, Grotto Vice President David Valentine will tie the knot with Rebecca Noland. Grotto members are invited to attend the brief ceremony which is to be held at 4:00 PM at Ketchikan's Lutheran Church. Please do not bring gifts.

Immediately after the ceremony a potluck dinner/dance celebrating the event will be held in the church's gym. There will be dancing to live folk music provided by *Paddy's Leather Breeches*. Dress will be casual. 



FAMILY REUNION UNDERGROUND

The editor has included the above tunnel photo because this particular issue of the *Caver* has other articles about tunnels, thus making it, perhaps, a special "tunnel" issue of the *Alaskan Caver*! (If you active cavers out there will send me real caving trip reports then hopefully the next issue will not be another "tunnel" issue.)

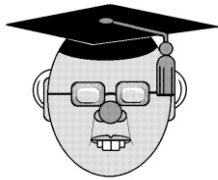
In the photo above some of the editor's extended family poses in the entrance of the North Bloomfield Drain Tunnel. This excavation was begun in 1872 and took 30 months to complete. It was built to drain a large area for hydraulic mining in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. This photo was taken by Ray Blackham during a family reunion in July of 2006. Kevin Allred, an in law, is standing on the right. The Allred sons Soren and Forrest are second and fourth from the left, on the bottom row. The editors brother and sister are to the left and right of both of the Allred sons. The remainder are nieces and nephews. 

GLACIER GROTTO MEMBERS, 2005 through 2006

A reminder: don't forget to pay your 2006 dues!

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Karen Morrissey & Arthur S. Eash	PO Box 240801	Anchorage	AK	USA	99524			
Terry & Cheryl Fifield	PO Box 1012	Craig	AK	USA	99921	907-755-2208		
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Dr. Thomas J. & Nancy Hallinan	1617 Wolverine Ln.	Fairbanks	AK	USA	99709-6628			6329RL & 6367FL
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Doug Sanvik & Martina Kallenberger	PO Box 21774	Juneau	AK	USA	99802			
Col. David, Klinger	PO Box 537	Leavenworth	WA	USA	98826	509-548-5480	dklinger@rightathome.com	10583RL
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Bruce & Samantha	White	192 Raspberry Ln. N.	Ketchikan	AK	USA	99901	whojigger@yahoo.com	46466RE
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council	419 Sixth St.	Juneau	AK	USA	99801		www.seacc.org	
Whale Pass Community Library	PO Box WWP	Ketchikan	AK	USA	99950			
Cave Conservationist	No mailing- send via email address pretzgirl@charter.net							

SPELEOTHEM DEVELOPMENT IN KETCHIKAN, ALASKA



DR. SCIENCE

Dr. K.A. Science

Mud Bay Institute, 8 Mile Mud Bay Road, Haines, Alaska 99901 USA

Abstract: Exceedently high precipitation rates of Ketchikan, Alaska USA account for several types of speleothems. A brief summary of them is made with modes of precipitation.

Ketchikan, Alaska, is located in the temperate rainforest of the Southeast part of the state. Yearly precipitation can exceed 381 centimeters (150 inches). Several types of speleothems have so far been identified.



Figure 1: flowstone deposits on a Post Office column. Characteristic ripples are a result of flow harmonics.

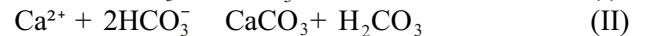


Figure 2: Soda straws precipitated from surface drainage of a Ketchikan Post office wall. Other occurrences have been noted in Ketchikan culverts. These are similar to those found on second world war concrete structures of Excursion Inlet. Author's hand is included for scale.

CALCITE SPELEOTHEMS

Because concrete contains high concentrations of carbonate, percolating water can become over-saturated.

upon exposure to the atmosphere, calcite is precipitated out of solution. Plummer (et al, 1978) gives the following simple formula for this three-phase reaction:



Even though every spelunker should be intimately familiar with this formula, it should be stressed that actual precipitation rates depend on atmospheric pressure, humidity, temperature, and the "Dobler effect" (DE). This phenomena is a personal discovery of the author. I am presently working with several of my undergraduates at the Mud Bay institute to apply this formula world-wide. The sum of DE can be determined by the following formula: $\text{DE} = \text{dd}^3 (.5236 - \text{ev})$ [int. Cond./ex. cond.], where dd is the driblet diameter, ev is the evaporation rate, and int. cond./ext. cond. are the internal condensation and external condensation.

Using the Dobler effect calculations, I have proved beyond doubt that the speleothems in the so-called Ketchikan Tunnel [editor's note: see photo of Ketchikan Tunnel on back cover of this issue] are, in fact, approximately 88,000 years old. This vindicates my long-standing theory that this tunnel is actually a phreatic cave passage.



Figure 3: Ice drapery is superimposed on calcite bacon rind in the Ketchikan tunnel.

(continues on page10)

"TAR" STALACTITES

I am presently doing research to determine their exact composition, mode of precipitation, and rate of growth. Preliminary observation indicates these speleothems are very old, beginning growth at approximately 65,700 years BP. Therefore, at least some of the culverts beneath Ketchikan were intact long before the city was built.

better than 50%. They may also help detect and prevent the risk of gall stones and cholesterol in humans.

Hill, C.A., and P. Forti (1997). *Cave Minerals of the World*, 2nd ed. National Speleological Society, Huntsville, AL.

▼ ▼

learned to judge distance and direction fairly well. While the first section had been skirting the hillside, this larger pipe was going almost directly down-hill: woo-haw! Now, if you've been thinking 'sewers', think again: these are storm-drains, Bucko! Water run-off from streets, ditches, and the like. No funky smells, no large rodents defending their turf (luckily), and no Blue Tarp Murder evidence (more luck, eh?). Granted, we did smell beer when we got down under the Tongass Highway, but more on that later, kay? Kay.

OK, so the crawling WAS hard on my solar plexus muscles a coupla days after, but I didn't notice at the time. Nope, I don't have nightmares about this particular night, although I do have recurring scary dreams about playing in Paddy's Nether Reaches wifout my clothing when the Governor shows up and asks me to slow dance wif him.

[Editor's note: Yes, they did make it to the Tongass Narrows before the tide came in!] 🚤



Rope Cutter

Dear Phreada,

I was watching birds the other day and wondered why groups of birds have so many different names, for example an unkindness of ravens, or a parliament of owls? I didn't know who else to ask.

Dear Birdy,

I don't know why groups of birds have so many names, but perhaps it is because birds in groups act differently, just like people. I have compiled my list of different people just to give you a comparison:

A Cavern of Cavers
A gaggle of geologists
An anthem of Atheists
A gravity of rappellers
A clutch of climbers
An earful of Audiologists
An angel of ascenders
Anarchy of assemblymen
A gaggle of grannies
A grump of grandpas
A liar of lawyers
A round of rowers
A plunge of pilots
A specialty of spelunkers
A depth of divers
An apex of mountaineers
A drip of hydrologists
A round of rowers
A deliverance of doctors
A machination of machinists
A bankrupt of bankers

A division of mathematicians
A tube of chemists
A chaos of Physicists
An AK-47 round of Postal workers
And insecurity of insurance agents
An angle of engineers
A tender of nurses
A geek of computer programmers
A glut of CEOs
A crook of politicians
A cut up of surgeons
A glove of proctologists
A murder of detectives
A list of linguists
A hefty of garbage men
A quack of psychiatrists
A mountain of Muslims
A meditation of Buddhists
A cross of Christians
A pyrotechnic of vulcanologists
A cacophony of children
A tangle of teens
A pounding of carpenters
An uncle of relatives
An echo of speech teachers
A boredom of English teachers
A nap of history teachers
A stutter of drama coaches
A tango of dancing teachers
A sauti of chefs
A roundup of cowboys
A flock of shepherds

When you look at this list (of which I have just scratched the surface) it makes it easy to answer the question of why do cavers, cave? Just to get away!

The Alaskan Caver
2525 Fourth Ave.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Address Service Requested

