

1-2007

## Alaskan Caver, Volume 27, No. 1, January 2007

Carlene Allred

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan\\_caver](https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan_caver)

---

### Recommended Citation

Allred, Carlene, "Alaskan Caver, Volume 27, No. 1, January 2007" (2007). *Alaskan Caver*. 19.  
[https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan\\_caver/19](https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan_caver/19)

This Article 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](mailto:digitalcommons@usf.edu).

# THE ALASKAN CAVER



VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2007



## THE ALASKAN CAVER

EDITOR: Carlene Allred  
2525 Fourth Ave  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
hm: 907 225-1116  
carleneallred@kpunet.net

PRESIDENT: David Love  
6740 Marguerite  
Juneau, AK 99803

VICE PRESIDENT: David Valentine  
11976 N. Tongass Hwy  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
hm: 907 225-2289

SECRETARY/TREASURER:  
David Love  
6740 Marguerite  
Juneau, AK 99803

CONSERVATION: Steve Lewis  
Box 53  
Tenakee Spr., AK 99841  
tenakeetwo@yahoo.com

CAVE RESCUE: Gary Sonnenberg

TONGASS CAVE PROJECT:

Pete Smith  
PO Box WWF  
Ketchikan, AK 99950  
hm: 907 846-5223  
waleswood@starband.net

Steve Lewis  
Box 53  
Tenakee Spr. AK 99841  
tenakeetwo@yahoo.com

Kevin Allred  
2525 Fourth Ave  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
hm: 907 225-1116  
carleneallred@kpunet.net

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 \$2.50 each. Materials not copyrighted by individuals or by other groups may be used by NSS publications provided credit is given to the author and to *The Alaskan Caver*. Opinions are not necessarily that of *The Alaskan Caver*, the *Glacier Grotto* or the NSS. The editor welcomes contributions such as letters, trip reports, cave reports, photos, cartoons, stories, cave maps, etc.

Annual dues are \$15 per individual and \$20 per family or organization. *The Alaskan Caver* is included in the membership fee. For an additional \$8, six *The Alaskan Cavers* will be sent overseas via airmail. Send dues to the treasurer.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Corner .....	page 2
A Look at the Burren, by Carlene Allred .....	page 3
New Caving Club Started in Ketchikan .....	page 5
Map of Bayview Cave, Coronation Island .....	page 6
Map of Pete's Pissed Pit, Coronation Island .....	page 6
Map of Sinkside Cave, Coronation Island .....	page 6
Map of Improvisation Pit, Coronation Island .....	page 7
Membership List .....	page 8
Who's Who in Alaskan Caving, by Bruce White .....	page 9
Dr. Science .....	page 11
2006 Financial Statement .....	page 11



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings fellow cavers, and Happy New Year!

The Glacier Grotto has been active with meetings occurring this past year in both Juneau and Ketchikan, a late summer expedition to the Chitistone and establishment of the UAS Caving Club. Welcome to new members in both communities and welcome back to those members that are still active. Activities this past year in the Juneau area included several meetings at the climbing wall in the new UAS Recreation Center, slide shows and cartography presentation and a talk on caving ethics and conservation of karstlands in the Tongass by the Grotto conservation chair, Steve Lewis from Tenakee Springs. Southeastern Alaska's "first family" of caving, Kevin and Carlene Allred, also made a Grotto-sponsored trip by ferry to the Capitol City in April to present the use of Corel Draw for digital cave cartography, and to work with UAS Geologist and Grotto member Cathy Connor on a rock bolting project similar to that used on karst in other areas of the Tongass National Forest, that will hopefully provide baseline dissolution rate measurements at the Mendenhall Glacier and near to the UAS campus. In addition, a group of cavers lead by Kevin Allred made a trip to the Chitistone in Wrangell St-Elias to access and survey an unexplored cave that is part of a cave system that they have been working on in past years. Kevin Allred continues to explore the underbelly of Ketchikan town and has elicited additional interest from a group of locals to meet and possibly make a few trips to Carroll Inlet and other karst areas near to Ketchikan. For those of you in the Ketchikan and outlying communities, please contact Kevin Allred for meetings in the Ketchikan area. Also please join me in another round of applause and very heartfelt thanks to Carlene Allred for her hard work on the editing, compiling, organizing and mailing of the *Alaskan Caver*. Because of your dedication, Carlene, we all have an attractive, professional publication to look forward to reading. Thanks so much!

(continues on page 10)



*Front cover: Scene in a small cave on the northwest side of Bald Mountain, Heceta Island. Photo by Steve Lewis.*

*Back cover: Steve Lewis drops into a cave on Coronation Island, 2005. Photo by Nick Olmstead*

# A LOOK AT THE BURREN

October 2006, by Carlene Allred

The Burren is a large mass of exposed, multi-layered carboniferous limestone located in County Claire, Ireland. This landform extends for over 40 km from east to west, and 32 km from north to south. The name Burren is derived from *bhoirrann*, which means a stony place.

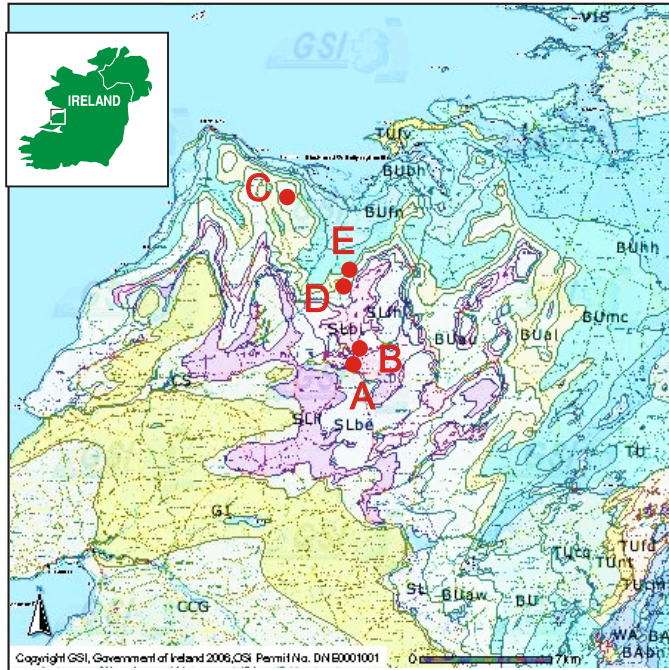


Figure 1. Geologic map of the Burren showing carboniferous areas and photo sites. Layering from younger to older- SLII; Lissylisheen Fm (purple), SLbe; Ballyelly member (pale blue), SLfh; Sahee North member (pale gray), SLbi; Balliny member (pale purple), Buau; Ailwee member (upper) (pale green), Bual; Ailwee member (lower) (pale tan).

A- Caherconnell area, see figure 2. B- Poul nabrone area, see figures 3 and 4. C- Ballyconry area, see figure 5. D- area south of Ballyallaban, see figure 6. E- Aillwee Cave, see figures 7 through 9.

What was I doing in Ireland during October? I was traveling with a Ketchikan folk band called *Paddys Leather Breeches*. We had been invited to compete in the 2006 *Seisiun Na H-Eireann Festival*, which is competition between Irish pubsessionhouse bands. We represented the Crow's Nest, Ketchikan's Coast Guard recreational facility, where we hold our dances and music sessions. I was the fiddler, one of eight musicians traveling to Ireland. This festival was held in the small picturesque town of Quin, in County Claire.

After the festival we did some touring. I had been wanting to see the Burren, so on October 3rd we drove out there. I had in mind to compare Ireland's karst with our own in Southeast Alaska. Both are at similar latitudes with similar weather conditions, and

both are on islands bordering the eastern edges of great oceans. One difference is that Alaska's is still heavily forested, while Ireland's is now nearly barren. According to pollen studies by W. A. Watts and K. Crabtree (see Add. Reading section at the end of this article), seven thousand years ago much of the Burren was forested with hazel, scots pine, yew, and oak, and has since undergone the process of man-induced deforestation over the past 6000 years. This deforestation was most likely caused by overgrazing and overuse. Presumably, once the forest canopy was gone, the open ground became subject to increased weathering, and the soils were lost down the numerous openings into the underground drainage systems below.

From our rented farmhouse near Ennis we drove north to road 480, which took us into the heart of the Burren. The pastoral green farmland country, so characteristic of Ireland, gave way to more barren



Figure 2. A farmstead at Caherconnell. Note the pasture land on karst pavement with exposed grikes (cracks) and clints (flat surfaces between cracks). Photo by Anita Hales.

rocky karst terrain. As we toured some old archeological sites I found myself fascinated with the karst landforms (see figures 2 through 4). The flatter land surfaces were textured with a pavement network of interlaced grikes and clints. The bedding plane is nearly horizontal and the terrain has been scraped by glacial action, thus the characteristic karst pavement. An interesting array of plants root in the numerous grikes and provide grazing for livestock. I have never seen karst pavement anything like this in Alaska.

From a distance the layered carbonate hills of the Burren appeared gently rounded and barren, (see figure 5). I would have liked to have had the opportunity to walk across one of them and I imagine there would be some very





Figure 3. Karst pavement with grikes and clints in the Poul nabrone area. Photo by Anita Hales.



Figure 6. A typical rocky hillside on the Burren in the area south of Ballyallaban . Photo by Carlene Allred.

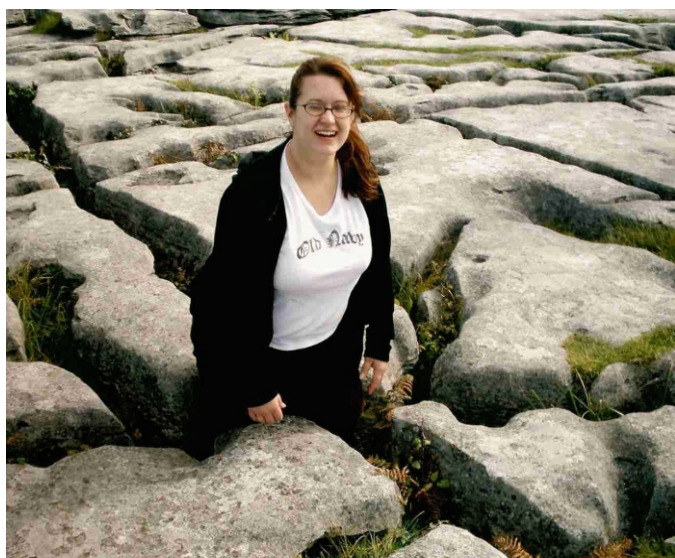


Figure 4. Vicky O'Brian standing in a grike amidst karst pavement in the Poul nabrone area. Photo by Carlene Allred

rough areas to cross (figure 6). Interestingly, even the roughest, most barren parts we saw were sparsely crisscrossed with old rock walls, indicating land use in even the most inhospitable areas.



Figure 7. Solution pockets texture a lower ceiling area in Aillwee Cave, indicating phreatic genesis. Photo by C. Allred.



Figure 5. Looking westwards towards carbonate uplands of the Ballyconry area. Photo by Carlene Allred.



Figure 8. A bear's bed in Ailwee Caverns. Depression diameter is estimated to be between 1.2 and 2 m. Photo by Anita Hales.



THE BURREN ... continued from page 4

passage (figure 7). The nicely developed tour path led us through a fairly spacious section of the cave, often traversing alongside the wall, well above a rocky floor.

Our tour guide pointed out a slightly bowl-shaped depression in the sediment floor that had been dug and used by brown bear, *Ursus arctos* (figure 8). I would have liked to examine it more closely and measure it, but we were constrained to our tour path. There were some old bear bones lying on the dirt floor nearby.

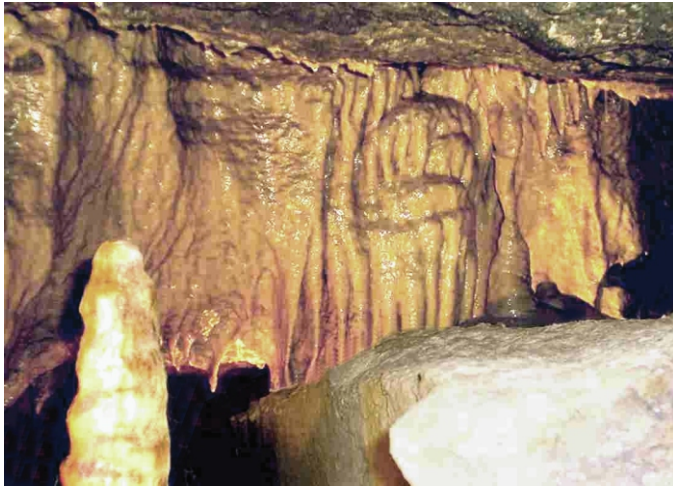


Figure 9. Flow and dripstone formations decorate Ailwee Caverns. Photo by Carlene Allred

The cave was sparsely decorated with drip and flowstone formations (figure 9). In one place our route passed by a waterfall that began far above our heads, and disappeared into the rocky floor below our perched pathway.

While touring the cave I could not help but imagine what it must have been like before commercial development. It bore some resemblance to our less vertical, primarily phreatic caves. One of the entrance passages resembles that of Dark Star Cave in the Saint Elias mountains. Our caves in Southeast Alaska tend to be more sinuous-natured as a result of intense vadose modification, resulting from downward flow of our highly acidic muskeg waters. And the Silurian limestone which bears our caves is highly tilted, and more massive. The phreatic (fossil) passage areas in upper sections of our caves tend to be more anastomitic. Actually, perhaps I should not attempt to analyze all Irish caves based on my one brief visit to a single commercial cave.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

D'Arcy, G., Hayward, J. (1992). The Natural History of The Burren, IMMEL Publishing Ltd, London, p. 7-20.

Korff, A., O'Connell, J. (1986). The Burren, a Ramblers guide & Map, Clodoiri Lurgan Teo,

The Geological Survey of Ireland, <http://www.gsi.ie>.

#### ADDITIONAL READING:

Crabtree, K (1982). Evidence for the Burren's Forest Cover (Archaeological Aspects of Woodland Ecology). *Symposia of the Association for Environmental Archeology No. 2*, British Archaeological Reports International Series 146, 105-113. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports.

Watts, W. A. (1984). The Holocene vegetation of the Burren, Western Ireland. *Lake Sediments and Environmental History: Studies in Paleolimnology*, Leicester University Press, Leicester, UK. ¶¶

!!

## NEW CAVING CLUB STARTED IN KETCHIKAN

On a Friday evening, December 6, five interested young men and women, mostly high school students, gathered together with the Allred family in a church gym, to receive instruction in

(continues on page 6)



Mira Wilhelm and Tristan Graham practice single rope techniques under the direction of Kevin Allred. Photo by C. Allred.



Tristan Graham practices changing from rappel to ascent. Photo by C. Allred.

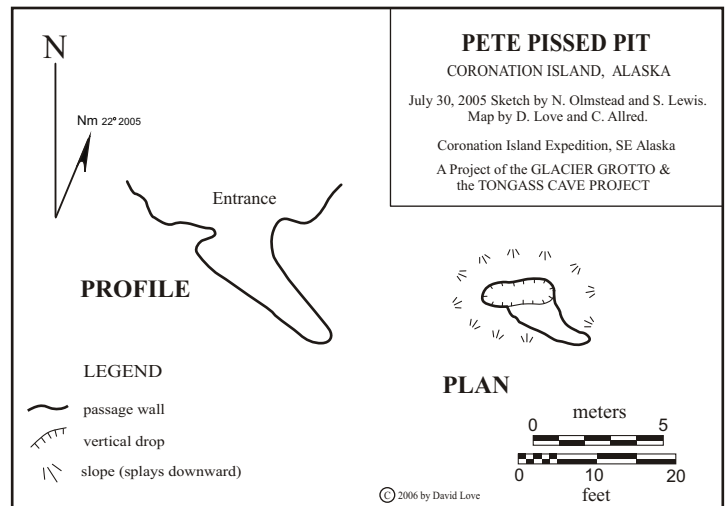
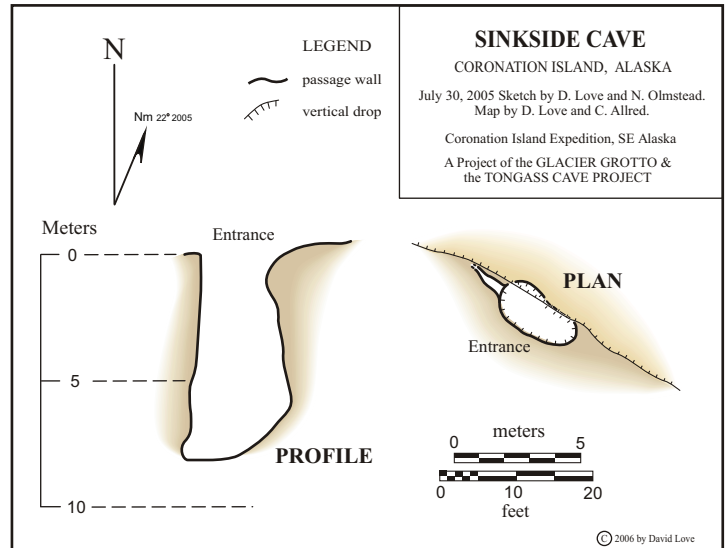
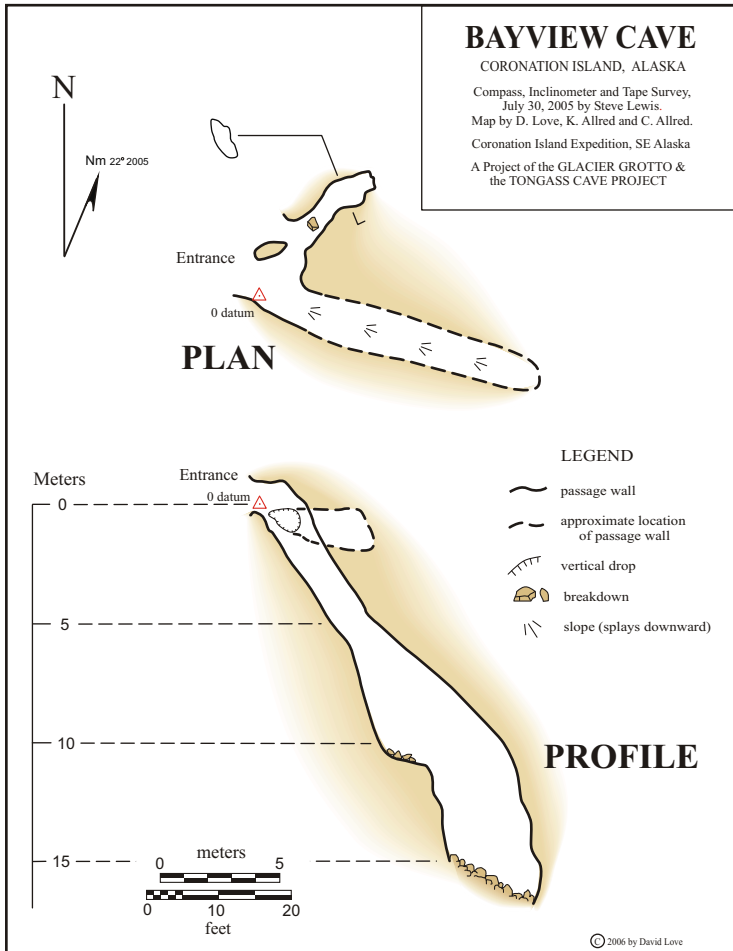
NEW CAVING CLUB.... continued from page 5

On a Friday evening, December 6, five interested young men and women, mostly high school students, gathered together with the Allred family in a church gym, to receive instruction in vertical rope caving techniques. The group was organized by Tristan Graham. Kevin Allred directed the session with help from his wife, Carlene, and their son Forrest. All learned to use a ropewalker rig and climbed a rope that was hung from a high beam. This enthusiastic group of hope-to-be cavers would like to have caving instruction sessions held every week. The Allreds hope to lure them into the Grotto.

The group has continued to meet on subsequent Fridays or Saturdays. They have viewed caving videos, received instruction on caving ethics and techniques, and have attended additional

## More Maps From the 2005 Coronation Expedition

See Alaskan Caver Volume 26, number 2 for the trip report, by Steve Lewis



# IMPROVISATION PIT

CORONATION ISLAND, ALASKA

Compass, Inclinator and Tape Survey,

August 1, 2005 by D. Love.

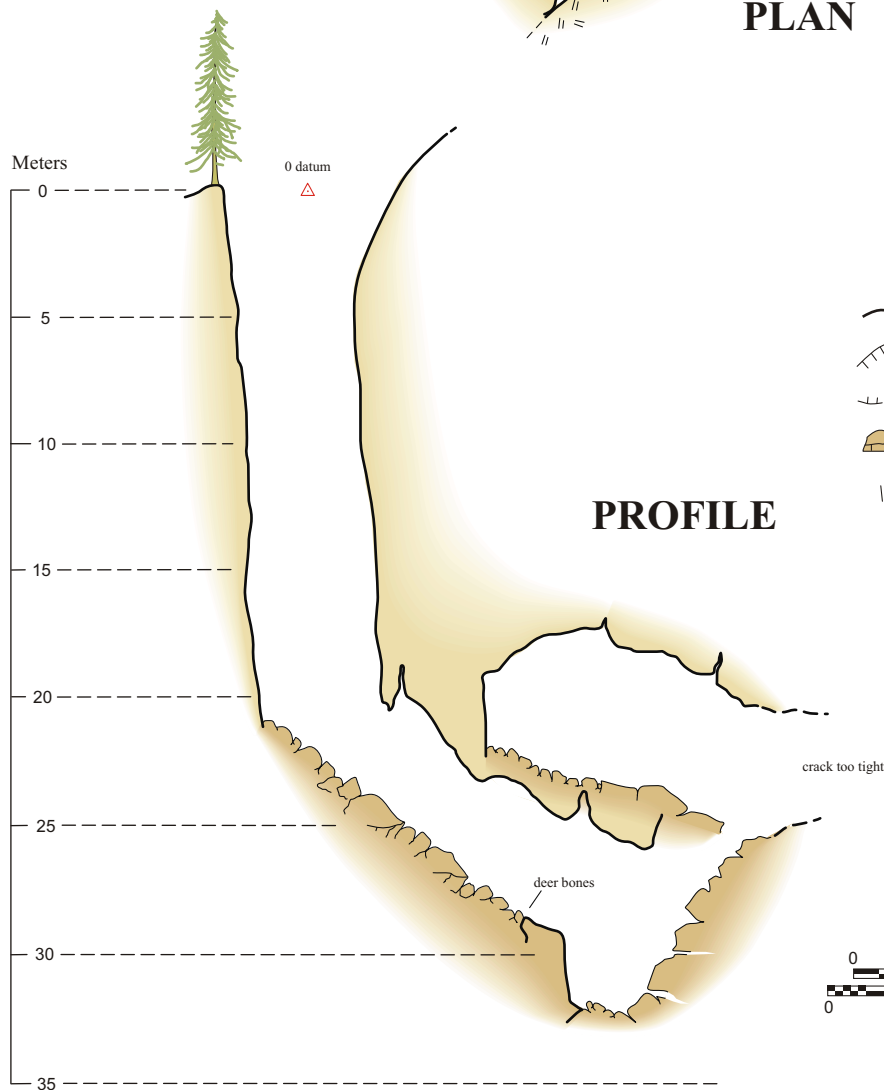
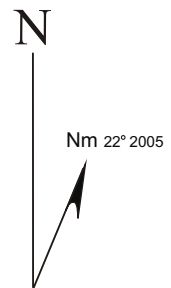
Map by D. Love, K. Allred and C. Allred.

Surveyed length: 60 meters

Vertical extent: 33.6 meters

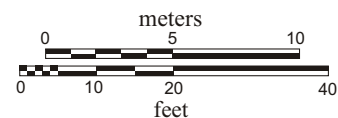
Coronation Island Expedition, SE Alaska

A Project of the GLACIER GROTTO &  
the TONGASS CAVE PROJECT



## LEGEND

- passage wall
- vertical drop, depth in meters
- drip line
- breakdown
- slope (splays downward)



© 2006 by David Love



# GLACIER GROTTO MEMBERSHIP LIST, JANUARY 2007

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Country	ZIP	NSS #
Kevin & Carlene	Allred	2525 Fourth Ave.	Ketchikan	AK	USA	99901	16730RE & 16389FR
Jim	Baichtal	PO Box 19515	Thorne Bay	AK	USA	99919	33277
William H.	Bowers	305 S. Bartlett Cir	Wasilla	AK	USA	99654	12088RL
Cathy	Carney	No mailing- send via email address					
Lorraine Landis &	Kent Carlson	4497 Jade Court	Middleton	MD	USA	21769	30124
Kevin	Casey	Association Libonaize d'Etudes Speleologiques	PO Box 31	Mangourieh, al-Metn	1253 2010	Lebanon	
John, "Opie"	Combs	2900 W. Northern Lights #4	Anchorage	AK	USA	99517	
Rod Flynn & Dr. Cathy	Connor	745 Fifth St.	Douglas	AK	USA	99824	
Simon	Dillon	14 Bodmin Crescent	Brinnington	Stockport	England	SK58A1	
Dan	Gaston	5870 Thane Rd	Juneau	AK	USA	99801	
Dr. William R.	Halliday	6530 Cornwall Ct	Nashville	TN	USA	37205	812HM
Dr. Thomas J. & Nancy	Hallinan	1617 Wolverine Ln.	Fairbanks	AK	USA	99709-6626	6329RL & 6367FL
Dr. Timothy & Julia	Heaton	216 Willow Street	Vermillion	SD	USA	57069	15753RE
Gwen	Herrewig	PO Box 655	Girdwood	AK	USA	99587	
Col. David, N.W Caving Representative	Klinger	PO Box 537	Leavenworth	WA	USA	98826	10583RL
Kurt & Christine	Kondzela	PO Box 210931	Auke Bay	AK	USA	99821	
William "Buddy" and family	Lane	40 Hidden Brook Ln	Signal Mountain	TN	USA	37377	
Marcel & Connie	LaPieriere	PO Box 645	Sitka	AK	USA	99835	
Aurah	Landau	145 1/2 Behrends	Juneau	AK	USA	99801	
Steve & Rachel Myron	Lewis	PO Box 53	Tenakee	AK	USA	99841	30022RE
David	Love	6740 Marguerite St.	Juneau	AK	USA	99801	38145RE
Kara & Eric	Lunde	PO Box 6057	Sitka	AK	USA	99835	
Dr. Daniel	Monteith	720 Fourth St.	Douglas	AK	USA	99824	42837RE
Barbara	Morgan	PO Box 19381	Thorne Bay	AK	USA	99919	
Nick & Molly	Olmstead	PO Box 571	Tenakee SpringsAK	AK	USA	99841	
Diane	Raab	830 N 9th Ave.	Tucson	AZ	USA	85705-7743	53101AS
Dr. Julius	Rockwell, Jr	4548 Reka Dr.	Anchorage	AK	USA	99508-3684	11308RE
Edward	Schoenfeld	319 B St	Douglas	AK	USA	99824	
E. Topaz	Shryock	No mailing- send via email address	PO Box 35896	Juneau, AK	USA	99803	
Pete	Smith	PO Box WW/P	Ketchikan	AK	USA	99950	33979RE
Dr. G. Warren	Smith	101 Ayyar Ct	Slippery Rock	PA	USA	16057-2647	5601Lite
Gary	Sonnenberg	PO Box 22555	Juneau	AK	USA	99802	33648RE
David	Valentine	11976 North Tongass Hwy.	Ketchikan	AK	USA	99901	
Bruce & Samantha	White	192 Raspberry Ln. N.	Ketchikan	AK	USA	99901	46466RE
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council		419 Sixth St.	Juneau	AK	USA	99801	
Whale Pass Community Library		PO Box WW/P	Ketchikan	AK	USA	99950	
Cave Concerationist		No mailing- send via email address					
UAS Caving Club	attn: Louis Hoock	4300 University Dr	Juneau	AK	USA	99801	
NSS Librarian		2813 Cave Ave.	Huntsville	AL	USA	35810	
Speleodigest		No mailing- send via email					
NSS CAVE Files Committee	Richard Blenz, chairman	8070 W. Ellen Rd.	Bloomington	IN	USA	47403	
Alaska State Library, Periodicals Desk		PO Box 110571	Juneau	AK	USA	99811-0571	



Photo by Diane Raab

# WHO'S WHO In Alaskan Caving

By Bruce White

## A UNION MADE TO LAST

I'm sure everyone knows by now that Dave Valentine (AKA Hard Core-Hard Hat) and Rebecca Noland have spliced their hearts together using a mating knot of Love. Its most fitting that a blood knot was used as there is no better knot to piece together two dissimilar lines, alluding to their wildly different personalities. Suffice it to say, one is like a fresh New England 10.5 mm static line and the other, an old ratty hemp hand line, too short to make a pitch.

Another marriage. First it was the Jim Baichal, then Steve Lewis, Dr. Love, Michael Michael, Dr. Dan, then even the sorriest of the lot fell in line. Mr. White and now Dave. Who is next? I wonder. We have watched the flower of boomer cavers one by one take a fall for the team.

Now I want to remind you that many a young, beautiful cave babe have thrown out their doublewide sleeping bags as we were pulled off the "available" shelf as were roped solidly to a stainless steel anchor bolt called matrimony. We marvelous specimens of viral manhood with boundless measures of testosterone, now act and smile cordially in public. This is not an easy feat, but the partners who looked beyond our muddy exteriors saw something of real value deep down. They have worked tirelessly to develop us into well-behaved humans. We are better for it so don't cry for us Argentina; we're just lost in that tunnel of love.

I want to tell you the story of their courtship and marriage, but first I need to discuss the characters. Dave Valentine had a good run. Caved all over the world and pumped his body into one mean tunneling machine, but he wasn't always that way. He started out as a skinny gypsy logger. One day he found a cave out on POW and strapped on his scaling spikes descending a log jutting out of a pit. He had intended on setting a

choker to the log and selling it for salvage but when he looked around, he saw a world more beautiful than anything he'd ever seen. Right then and there he became a caver. His first ascending gear was a haul back skyline hooked to his red suspenders.

One day he was crawling through a tight passage in his newfound underground kingdom when he bumped into a warm wriggling ball of mud. He knew this was no ordinary inhabitant of his subterranean world by the wild cackling the mass made. He poked it with a stick, and it moved. He poked it harder and heard a strange female voice say "Holy \*&%\$#, Marcel," I think there's a bear trying to pass us. And that my friend is how a die-hard tree killer hooked up with Connie and Marcel LaPerriere. Dave immediately started hanging out with the Karst Cops of POW and his equipment improved.

At one of the Grotto meetings, Dave was assigned to bring the cookies. When he said he'd do it again for the next meeting, we made him President. His stature in the grotto has slipped a bit because he likes macaroons and we all like chocolate chip so he was demoted to Vice President, a title he jealously guards and defends to his dying breath. He told me just yesterday that his work load as Vice is so great, he just doesn't think any of us have the fortitude or intelligence to keep



Photo by Dave Valentine

things runningsmoothly.

Rebecca Noland came to Alaska on one of her trips to the ends of the earth. While growing up, her father worked for an undisclosed secret agency but it is rumored that it was His/Her Majesty's Forest Service. Her father's code name was TC (timber cruiser) 009 and each of his children earned a code name too. Rebecca's code name was "Cat Boss" but Dave would rather she forget all about that nefarious and clandestine past. She came to Ketchikan to lay a wreath at the old KPC mill that

(continues on page 14)



WHOS WHO... continued from pg. 13

pulped her brother. While placing a plug of tobacco and a bottle of whisky at the Shrine of the Passed Out Logger, she saw Dave pull up in his bobtail Mack to inspect a shaker table in the log yard. She wilted in abject awe at the sight of this rugged logger and knew she would be attending his church as soon as she figured out which one it was.

Now Steve and Grace Kenny were trolling for converts and new blood for the Community Choir by having a little get together at their place. Rebecca came to hear the good word, and Dave to try out for the lead alto. Dave sang a soulful rendition of Rock of Ages, and the whole group decided right then and there to go caroling to show off Dave's talent. Rebecca was smitten, but Dave only noticed her when she pulled on her corks as they left to fortify themselves at the Artic Bar against the harsh winds and rain. It was true love I'm told after the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> drink.

They courted through the winter going to all the high social events such as the Monthly Grind, Burn's Night, KRBD's Christmas Party and the Spring Membership Drive. By summer Dave knew his gypo days were done and he'd have to pack up his show and sign a union card.

Dave decided to wed Rebecca and reveal to her his secret world at the same time. He got the key to El Cap Cave and the wedding party congregated in the Alaska Room. Al Murray was the best man and Pete Smith stood in as the bride's maid. Jim Baichtal used a little known law that says a FS Geologist can perform a marriage as long as it was underground and in a federal forest. Sadly, Dave's few remaining friends never made it over to POW because Kevin Allred's boat, the "Black Brailer", sank at Pond Reef, and both of us had to swim back to Ketchikan.

They took an extended Honeymoon touring Haines and Skagway then over to Sitka to visit with the most western inhabitants of our caving community, the LaPerrieres. All through the honeymoon Dave and Rebecca visited caves and clear cuts of unusual beauty.

From all accounts, this is a marriage made in heaven. They have taken up residence at Dave's mansion out north of Ketchikan, and smoke can be seen issuing forth from their home, along with the sounds of laughter and peaceful domesticity. Rebecca thinks it's wonderful to have all the modern conveniences, such as a real flush toilet and wheels under their home.

Now good reader, I hope you have enjoyed this written substitution for a Chivaree I created. I wasn't told of the wedding till way past the appropriate time to harass the bride and groom in traditional western fashion, so this

little spoof will have to do. Let this be a warning to those of you who don't keep us well informed!

The Whojigger

May the patron saint of all cavers bless and keep this union. You know who the patron saint is don't you? Why it's Jesus himself! He's the only person to enter a cave dead, and come out alive. ¶¶

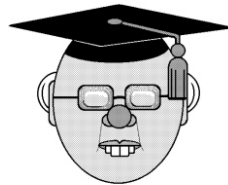


PRESIDENT'S CORNER, continued from page 1

Meanwhile in Juneau, I, along with UAS professors Dan Monteith and Cathy Connor, have also been busy providing guidance in the establishment of the new UAS Caving Club, which is envisioned to be a student organization subsidiary to the parent organization, the Glacier Grotto. There seems to be a growing interest among the student population at UAS in this activity, which is currently spearheaded by UAS student Louis Hooch. Welcome Louis to the Glacier Grotto! I expect we will all benefit from the skills, new ideas and excitement these young cavers will certainly bring to caving in Southeast Alaska. So far this year the UAS Caving club have had a few organizational meetings, developed their budget and bylaws and hopefully will make a few outings this spring to the Hoonah area on Chichagof Island or possibly to Glacier Bay to help with geological or anthropological research being conducted by Drs. Connor and Monteith. In addition, the UAS Caving Club has begun the process of scanning all previous non-electronic Alaskan Cavers for inclusion into a Glacier Grotto/UAS Caving Club website. Hopefully, with the help of these talented UAS students, progress on that project will also be made in 2007. This past year, UAS Caving Club members in conjunction with the Juneau Grotto membership have enjoyed several climbing wall sessions, the cartography workshop taught by Carlene Allred and Steve Lewis' presentation. Attending cavers made favorable comments after all sessions with additional meetings during 2007 to be held in Juneau during the subsequent months. Please contact David Love if you wish to be notified about upcoming meetings. Include your email contact information along with your 2007 dues if you wish to be contacted electronically. Finally, please be sure you all vote for the leadership of the Glacier Grotto using the ballots enclosed in this month's Caver. Hopefully this coming year will be as productive as 2006 and membership in the Grotto will continue to grow. All the best, David Love ¶¶

Dear Dr. Science

I was wondering why are slugs so hated? I know they are a necessary part of the ecology of SE Alaska. Why are there no slugs on Totem poles? Why are there no stories about slugs in native culture (that I have heard of)? Do slugs help caves to expand by slurping the limestone and sliming the walls for the water to run faster? attracted to excrement? These are just fascinating creatures. Could you please



DR. SCIENCE

And finally, why are slugs so a few questions I have about these let me know some of the answers?

Signed, Slugger

Dear Slugger,

Since I know more than you and want you to know it, here are the answers to your questions:

1. Q: Why are slugs so hated? A: Because they have rotten personalities...have you ever seen one as a household pet doing tricks? No, even though they are more intelligent than some dogs, they are too independent.

2. Q: Why are there no slugs on Totem Poles? A: I infer you are talking about family crests rather than the biological specimens. Actually, it is a little known fact that the totems with large blank areas are actually slugs.

3. Q: Why are there no stories about slugs in native culture? A: Aren't you aware of the story of "Brer Rabbit and the Slug Baby"?

4. Q: Do slugs help caves to expand by slurping the limestone and sliming the walls for water to run faster? A: I have already written about the Nannaslimphoria (Banana Slugs) burrowing out ash caves (Alaskan Caver Vol. 19, no. 4, page 5). Unfortunately, no research has yet been done in limestone. However, I should mention there are many possible uses of commercially harvested slime, such as hair lotion, axle grease, personal lubricant, and donut glazing.

5. Q: Why are slugs so attracted to excrement?  
A: Because it is kind of shaped the same as them, and they Think it's kin.

Glacier Grotto  
The Alaska Chapter of the National Speleological Society  
6740 Marguerite St., Juneau, AK 99801



## 2006 Financial Statement

### Account Summary

Glacier Grotto starting account balance \$2,847.44

### Income:

Dues \$ 693.00  
Back issues \$ 0.00  
Savings Account interest \$ 11.31

Total Received: \$ 704.31

### Expenses:

Alaska Caver publication/postage \$ 128.35  
Travel for cartographer and karst  
Scientist to Juneau for Grotto meeting 342.00  
Return item charge and return fee-  
Wells Fargo Bank \$ 25.00

Total Expenses: \$ 495.35

Ending Balance: (as of 12/31/06) \$ 3,056.40



The Alaskan Caver  
2525 Fourth Ave.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Address Service Requested

