

March 1982

Alaskan Caver, Volume 7, No. 2, March-April 1982

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Hall, Richard A., "Alaskan Caver, Volume 7, No. 2, March-April 1982" (1982). *Alaskan Caver*. 33.
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THE ALASKAN CAVER

Volume 7 Number 2

March-April 1982



Lava Tube Cave on Bogoslof Hill, St. Paul, Alaska

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 27 Glacier Grotto Meeting. Meetings are held in room 314 of Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University at 7:30 pm.
- June 17 Glacier Grotto Meeting. Meetings are held in room 314 of Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University at 7:30 pm. The program will be a slide show on Caves of Alaska.
- June 18-20 Weekend caving trip to Chitna; see back page and call Rich Hall for details at 333-2090H or 265-3377W.
- June 27-July 3 NSS Convention in Bend Oregon. Don't miss the Convention that is and will be the closest one to Alaska in years.
- July 15 Glacier Grotto Meeting. Meetings are held in room 314 of Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University at 7:30 pm.
- August 19 Glacier Grotto Meeting. Meetings are held in room 314 of Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University at 7:30 pm. The program will be an NSS slide show.
- Labor Day Possible caving trip to Chitistone Valley.

The ALASKAN CAVER is a periodic publication of the Glacier Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Subscriptions are free to members. Membership dues are \$5 per annum. Dues can be sent to Elizabeth Rockwell at 2944 Emory St, Anchorage, AK 99504. Copyright 1981 by Glacier Grotto. Material not copyrighted by individuals or other groups may be copied by other NSS publications provided credit is given to the ALASKAN CAVER and a copy of such publication is sent to the editor.

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The cover picture of a lava tube cave on Bogoslof Hill, St. Paul Island, Alaska was taken by Rick Robinson. See his article on page 4.

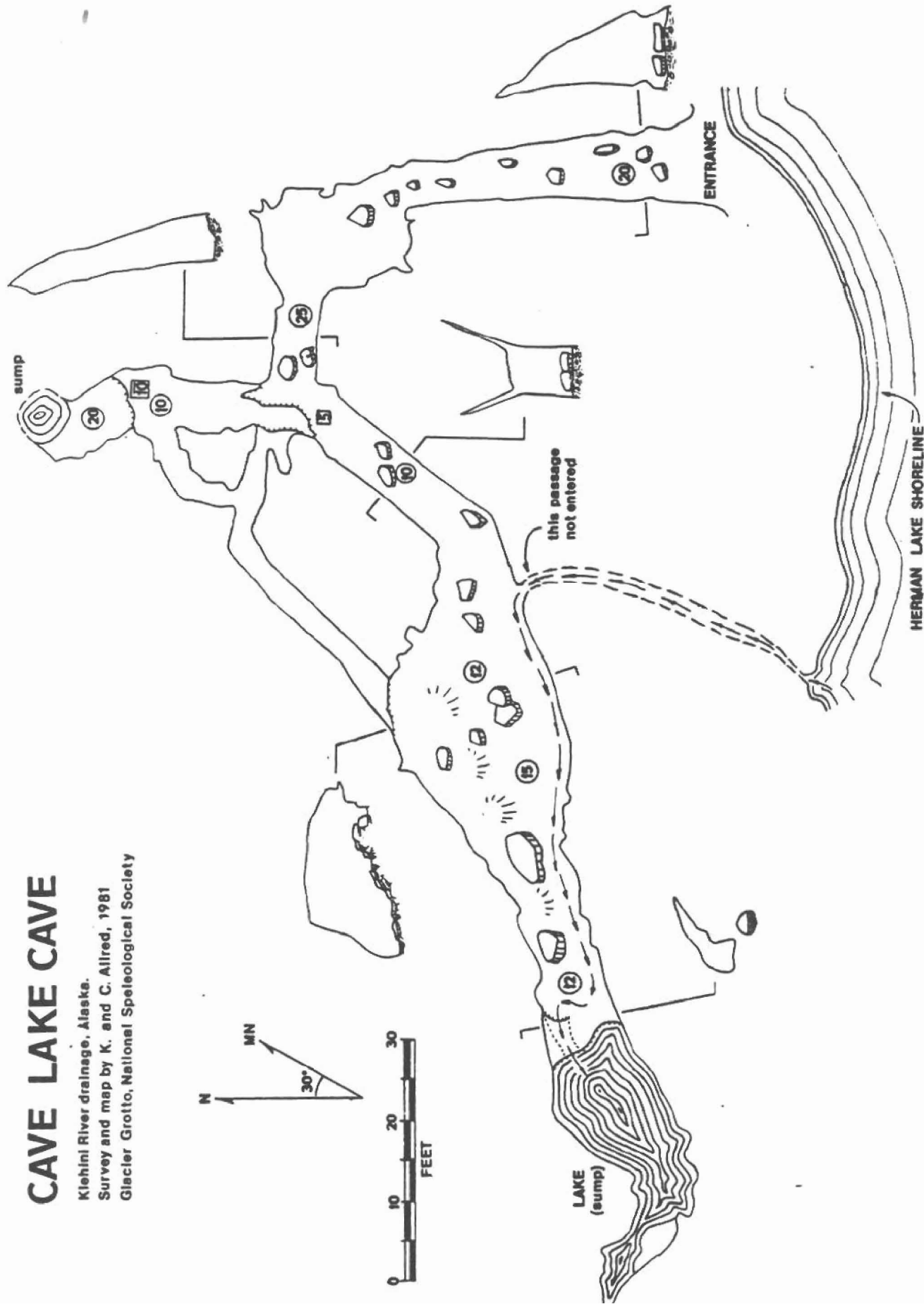
The beautiful map of Cave Lake Cave on the next page was sent in by Carlene and Kevin Allred. Their article about the cave appeared in the May 1981 Alaskan Caver.

From the May 1981 D C Speleograph:

CAVER BIBLIOPHILES: Missouri Speleology, Vols. 17-18 now available. Send \$12 for either volume to Missouri Speleology, Alberta Zumwalt, Lohman MO 65053. Vol. 17, 1-2, is on Reynolds and Shannon Counties; 3-4 is on Archaeological Investigations: Cave Exploration of the Ozark Region of Central Missouri by Gerard Fowke. Vol. 18 is Ozark Hydrology by Tom Aley.

CAVE LAKE CAVE

Klehini River drainage, Alaska.
Survey and map by K. and C. Allred, 1981
Glacier Grotto, National Speleological Society



EXPLORING LAVA TUBES

Although St. Paul Island is noted for its seal and bird rookeries, there are other activities that can occupy one's time, hiking and caving for example. St. Paul has a fairly extensive road system which can take one to a number of hiking areas. One in particular is a cross country hike of about two miles. I say cross country because of the terrain. Tundra covered rocks, high grasses and soft tundra are what one has to contend with. The destination is twin-peaked Bogoslof Hill. You will be hiking to Bogoslof from the south; this will bring you to a now-extinct explosion crater of which there are many around the island. This one in particular is located at the southern base of Bogoslof Hill. These craters range from 10-20 feet deep and 20-50 feet in diameter. The crater of interest was approximately 15 feet deep and 50 feet across.

Of particular interest is that this crater contained two lava tubes, both of which can be reached from inside the crater. One, however, can be reached from outside the crater perimeter by climbing down 20 feet by rope. This lava tube was approximately 20 feet from floor to ceiling, and 15-20 feet across and 40 feet long with an adjoining anteroom that lead to the exit into the crater. Color in the tube was basic rock gray. From the ceiling algae and tundra were dripping into the hole providing a brilliant green contrast to the drab rock background.

The other lava tube was not as spectacular (at least not for us non-cavers). It was reportedly several hundred feet long. Because of inadequate light we didn't venture far away from the entrance. The tube was about 20 feet wide and 7 feet high.

From the lava tubes we hiked up both peaks of Bogoslof and sighted several more craters. On our way back to the car we searched for tubes in the craters we had sighted, but found none.

Weather in St. Paul is unpredictable and one should be prepared with raingear, warm clothing and comfortable shoes.

Rick Robinson

[Rick Robinson is a sanitarian for the Alaska Area Native Health Service and is often sent to field locations to check on their water and sanitation facilities. He was in St. Paul (750 air miles from Anchorage) on such an occasion on September 20, 1981 when he took this hike. Ed.]

MAP & LOCATION OF ST. PAUL ISLAND



St. Paul Island

Arctic Ocean



M E E T I N G C H A N G E

Please note that the May Glacier Grotto meeting has been changed from Thursday May 20 to Thursday May 27.

WEEKEND CAVE TRIP TO CHITNA

JUNE 18-20, 1982

There's caves in them there hills and we're out to find them. Everyone is invited, especially those who always say they want a weekend trip. We'll be hunting north of Chitna in the Wrangell Mountains. There are good outcrops of the Chitistone and Nizina Limestones in the area and a road in. Hopefully the road will be passable; if not, we have alternative areas to visit. Call Rich Hall at 333-2090H or 265-3377W for further information.

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