

April 1988

Alaskan Caver, Volume 8, No. 6, April 1988

Mike Mauser

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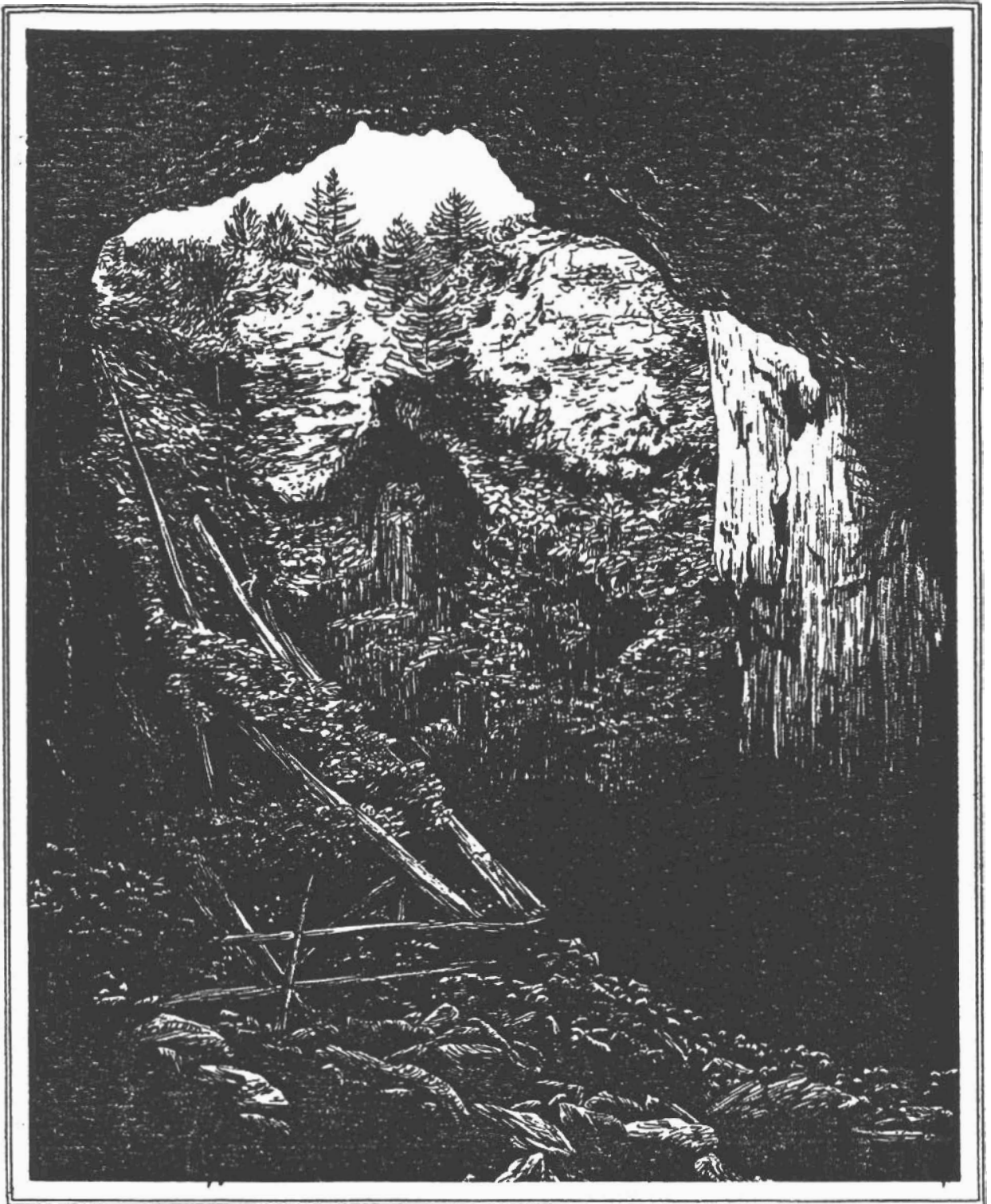
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The Alaskan Caver

Volume 8 Number 6

April 1988



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Membership is open to all interested in Alaskan cave discovery, exploration, description, survey, mapping, photography, hydrology, morphology, biology, geology, history, speleogenesis and other spelean processes, conservation, management, adventures, and the fellowship of other Alaskan cavers. Dues are \$5.00 per year for the first member of a mailing address and \$1.00 for other at that address. Those living overseas must pay \$2.00 per year more if they wish to receive The Alaskan Caver via air mail.

Dues are due January 1 and are sent to Sam Dunaway, Treas., 7301 Chad St. Anchorage, AK 99518. Those paying for the first time between October 1 and December 31 will be considered paid up for the following year. The year through which you are paid is indicated on your mailing label. Meetings are called to plan trips, and other special events; anyone desiring to have a meeting should notify the President.

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Work</u>
President	J. Rockwell, Jr	2944 Emory Street	Anchorage, AK 99508	(907) 277-7150	(907) 564-8267
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Secretary	Mike Mauser	6631 Teshler Drive	Anchorage, AK 99507	(907) 349-3026	(907) 271-4799
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Alt.NWRRep.	Jim Nicholls	149 Girard Ave.	Salt Lake City, UT 84103	(801) 364-5278	(801) 322-2400

This month's cover: A caver descends into Starlight Cave. (Person is at center left.) drawing by Carlene Allred from a photo by Kevin Allred.

Members in the News

In a letter dated April 9, 1988 Kevin Allred writes:

"Latest developments on the times of the Prince of Wales Island caving expeditions are:

"Tentative trip around the 24th to 28th of July from Hollis. Most of those on this trip are inexperienced in caving but seem excited about helping with the project. Visits to appropriate caves and hole checking and surveying.

"Tentative trip starting about August 9th in Hollis for a week and a half or so. These are experienced cavers with family (an infant and boy plus our three). Tentative addition of my family during this August 9th trip. These later people would be doing more difficult as well as easy caves and exchanging babysitting. I (hope to) hang around down on the Island from late July through late August to coordinate the activity and divvy out all those virgin caves for everyone. ... I will try to be there with a car ... for anyone who wants to plan on a trip in. Hopefully I could get word before hand of any arrivals as it may be difficult contacting me once there. I suppose one way would be through the Thorne Bay Ranger Station, but we don't know how cooperative they will be on the project yet."

From a previous letter Kevin advised :

"... people interested (can) write us or if urgent leave a message on KHNS Radio "listener personals" at 766-2020. Sometimes we don't get into town and the Post Office for a week or two."

Starlight Cave and El Capitan Cave Trip Report

by Carlene Allred

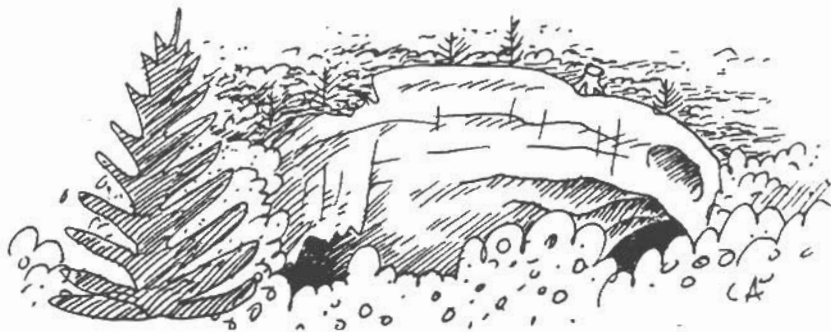
On August 25 we began our two week long family caving vacation to Prince of Wales Island. We had borrowed a large family tent and were set up for car camping along the thousand or so miles of logging roads that span the Island. Prince of Wales Island is accessible by ferry. While driving around we noticed a place on the map called Cave Creek, and stopped to check the area out. (This creek appears to be the same one described in a report by Bruce W. Rodgers, "This Is It!", The Alaskan Caver, May 1979, Vol. 4, No. 2) We found only impenetrable overgrown clear-cuts but the area was limestone. The first half on our trip was spent mainly in research to try and locate some likely caving areas. We received a lot of help from Bruce Campbell at the Thorne Bay Ranger Station, where we were able to locate several areas with sinkholes from studying aerial photos in stereo. We also contacted David Hatfield of the Geology Department, who was interested in supporting the continuing caving project.

Finally we had enough info to start caving! Our first check was Cavern Lake. The lake overflowed into a mostly flooded cave that went underground for a short ways before opening out again as a resurgence. The entrances on both ends contained about three feet of airspace. Perhaps the cave could be entered by a daring person inside a small boat, travelling along a rope that is tied above the upstream entrance. Not me!

Our next stop was a karst area. We located a large sinkhole 25 feet from the road and set up camp near it. The area had been logged a while back so the brush was impenetrable and made worse by tangles of fallen thinned trees everywhere. I had to chop a path to the edge of the sinkhole so that we could get near enough to it to look down. The view down into it was awesome and literally breath taking! I could not see the bottom, but could see two large horizontal openings below into its depths. We later calculated that the sinkhole was 100 feet across and 100 feet deep. Kevin rigged the 200 foot goldline and dropped down while I watched the kids at the camp above. While they were taking their naps I looked around and discovered that there were other deep sinkholes everywhere around and of all sizes. Their entrances were mostly hidden beneath the thick growth. It was not safe to travel anywhere off the road without a belay! Fortunately, the brush was so thick that the children were not able to wander off the road. In one place we did have to pile up brush in front of a pit that dropped down next to the road.

After several hours Keven came back up and reported Lots of Cave! He went back down again and spent several more hours mapping. He reported that an experienced caver had been inside previously, because of evidence from tracks found in extremely hard to get into places. He found a polyethylene rope left inside. At one point Kevin dug through a breakdown clogged passage and emerged into virgin cave that extended quite a ways further.

The next day I was able to make one excursion down into the cave, and I mapped the north western section. Mapping alone was a very slow process. I used a separate carbide lamp at the far end of each chain to sight to. The 400 foot long passage never reached total darkness because of the large size of the entrance, and also there were chimneys to the surface at the far end. At the

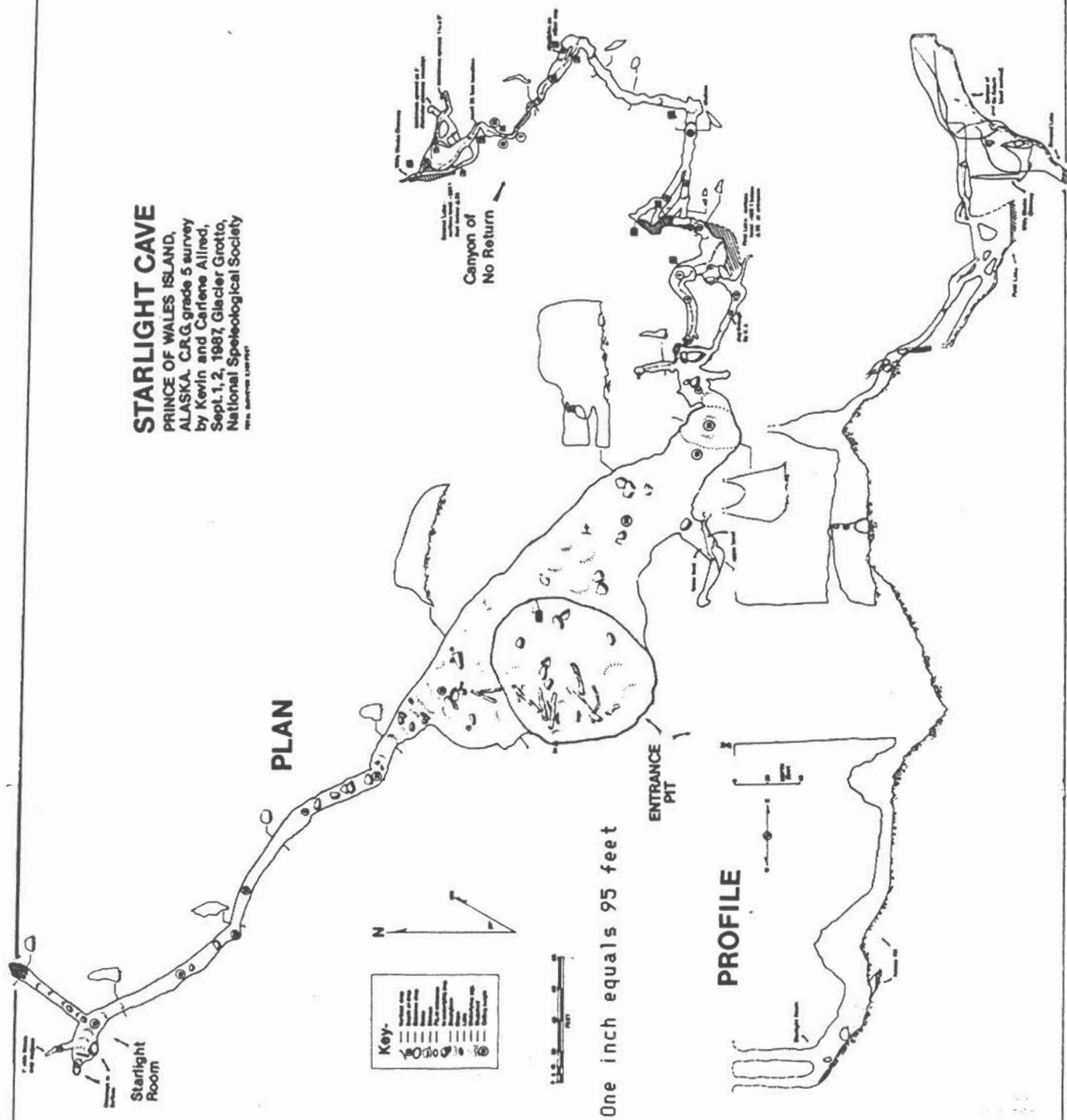


Entrance to Starlight Cave

STARLIGHT CAVE

**PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND,
ALASKA. C.R.G. grade 5 survey
by Kevin and Carlene Allred,
Sept. 1, 2, 1987, Glacier Grotto,
National Speleological Society**

www.pearson.com



base of one of these chimneys I found Kevin a pair of vice grips. He had been looking for some the night before to do some repair work on the car. The room with the chimneys we named the Starlight Room.

I had a hard time getting out of the cave for several reasons. I was overconfident from having done much vertical caving in the past, but I didn't take into consideration that it had been seven or so years since I had used a rope inside a cave, so I was out of practice. The first half on the 100 foot ascent was up a slope so I simply climbed up, dragging my three Gibbs ascenders along. When the actual steep part began I had much difficulty keeping an ascender loop on my right foot because the brush kept knocking it off. In addition, I was overdressed, and while ascending up to where the air was warmer, I became dangerously overheated and could not strip down because of my rigging. Right in the middle of the steepest part there was a knot in the rope. It had been tied by Kevin to mark a length along the rope. We had used it to measure the distance from the bottom of the sinkhole up to the rim. While removing one of my ascenders to move it above the knot, part of it fell away below because the connecting cord had broken. (My ascenders had been in good condition before the ascent, but must have snagged on a log or brush, breaking the cord.) Fortunately the part landed on a ledge not far below so I was able to recover it. Also, during the most difficult moment my chest ascender came off entirely because the carabiner was not locking. I had been too careless. After gratefully making it up the rope I rejoined the others. Kevin went down one more time and finished mapping the cave. He discovered three different stream passages in his new section that ended in lakes. One stream formed a muddy canyon that wound very steeply downward and dropped into a lake below. He needed a handline for this area. He named this the "Canyon of No Return". There was a very muddy chimney that he climbed up into and called "the Willy Wonka Chimney". Kevin reported a few speleothems in some areas. We named the cave "Starlight Cave". Our survey totaled 2,189 feet of passage, with a surveyed depth of 201.1 feet below the rim of the large entrance.

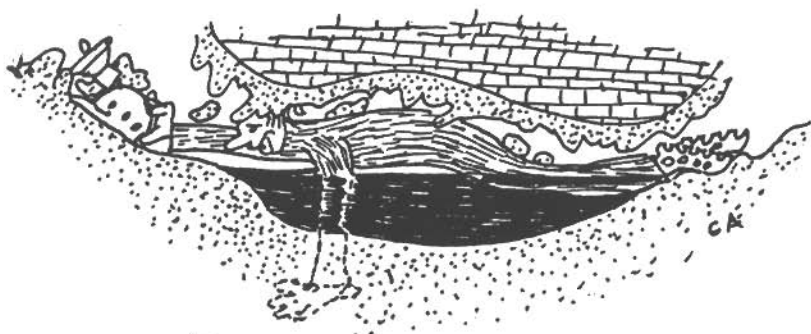
Our next destination was a known cave that we called El Capitan Cave, located on the northern end of El Capitan Passage. After setting up camp Kevin babysat while I headed for the cave. I found that it was easy to follow the route described to us previously. The cave contained many branching passages, but the main trunk was of large proportions, branching passages, totally phreatic (apparently), with a cobble floor. Many cobbles were football size or larger. The odd thing about it was that there were no other signs of vadose stream action; no scallops, stream slots, etc. I had forgotten the survey book so I simply explored, and also did some photography. I had difficulty with the old caving camera. The film would not advance, and the back kept popping open, so I will be lucky if I get a single good multiple flash picture. When I got back to camp I gave the camera to the kids!

The next morning Kevin entered and mapped mainly the entrance areas with its "sponging" phreatic side passages. I went back in later and mapped an area of side passages that ended in a peculiar room that I named the "Stream Room". Kevin made one more excursion inside and here he describes his experience:

"First of all, before this, I had only known others that have similar experiences with 'running out of light'. My first mistake of course was caving alone but that was necessary under the circumstances. I had just about

finished surveying down a few hundred feet of virgin side passage, and at the bottom of the very "last" branch of it was a small muddy room with a crawl-way half filled with water. I first intended ending the passage in dotted lines but felt a draft through the crawl-way. I groaned then because I knew the adventuresome part of me won out and I would have to go see what was on the other side. The first part was so tight I had to shove the helmet ahead of me through the mud, but that was okay because it plowed more room for me to slither through and slide through the one foot deep pool with a foot of airspace to the other side. I reached the other side quite wet and muddy and since decided the pool was worthy of a name: "Diarrhea Pool". About then my carbide lamp started getting dim which surprised me since I had just recharged not long before back at the main passage where I left most of the gear in the pack. On the other side of the pool was a large room with scuff marks in the mud. Ah! I thought - I'll just go back to the trunk passage and spare carbide, etc., via the route these cavers had taken. Surely it can't be as bad as "the pool". Well after wandering around trying to follow scuff marks with an ever diminishing light, I finally got turned around and lost. Every passage I followed soon either ended or continued as virgin passage. At one point I finally slipped down a muddy wall, peeled back one of my finger nails and the light finally went out. Out came the trusty penlight, which I pulled through my hand to get some of the mud off so I could find the switch. After a while I became so frustrated with the flickering light I broke my light stick and soon stumbled across the tape measure I had left at diarrhea pool. This time I gratefully slithered back through and became even more wet and muddy and by the time I got back to the main passage the tape was in three pieces and the survey notes wet and muddy. So I went out. The rule of three light sources would be very minimum in solo caving such as this. My fourth light was candles at the gear and my mistake was loosing track of time and getting too far from my extra carbide. A lesson learned."

In El Capitan the total surveyed was 1,887.2 feet in the entrance portions only. It looks like the cave will "go and go" and we plan to return again next summer to continue the project. We hope that we can get help from other cavers as its dangerous caving alone. Maybe some of you Far Northern Cavers can come along next July or August. We feel that the vacation was a great success and hope that our three children ages 1,3, and 4 had as much fun as we did beach combing, etc. We all went through the three day flu, and it rained on and off, so camping was difficult at times. Included with this report is a greatly reduced map of starlight cave. It will be a little while before we can get the full sized map copied.



Diarrhea Pool



Typical Passage in
El Capitan Cave

Activities. The epic survey, exploration, mapping, and description of Rust Creek Cave was a long-awaited event. The discovery and survey of Starlight Cave established Southeastern Alaska as the site of the State's longest and deepest cave.

Membership. We closed out 1987 with 54 members, 32 of whom are paid-up NSS members. This puts us among the larger Grottos of the NSS. We are also unusual in other ways. Our members extend to West Germany on the east and to Kyoto, Japan, on the west, and north to Fairbanks, Alaska, and south to Hammond, Louisiana. It makes it difficult to get together. A membership list is on page 8 of this issue. Please check your name and data for accuracy and let us know of any errors.

Structure. The largest nuclei of Grotto members are in Fairbanks and Anchorage, but it is not necessary to be in one of these cities to participate. The NSS requires that the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer be NSS members. It does not require that of any other officer, so these positions are open to all members. Chairs (which most Grottos have) are needed for the following: Rescue Committee, Conservation Committee, Membership Committee, and Training Committee. A Librarian would be desirable. Recently the fourth Editor of The Alaskan Caver, Mike Mauser, learned he will be moving to Washington, D. C. This is probably the most important job in the Grotto. Anyone interested in following in the footsteps of Chuck Pease, Chuck and Alice Iliff, Rich Hall, and Mike, please let me know so we can start sending him/her material for Volume 9.

Elections. Normally, elections of Grotto officers are held in April. This year with our Secretary, Mike Mauser, leaving on rather short notice, we postpone them till a full slate can be presented. Anyone who knows anyone who would serve the Grotto as an officer, please let Mike Mauser, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, know. The continuation of the Glacier Grotto depends on having at least four or five officers who are NSS members. If elected, your President intends to serve only one more year; ten years is a long time.

Future. The future looks good. The Forest Service and the National Park Service both interested in cooperating with our explorations in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, respectively. These are two exciting cave areas. There are many unpublished trip reports in the hands of Alaskan cavers. There is opportunity to carry out our goals of cave discovery, celebration, exploration, documentation, protection, training, and fellowship. Let's go for it!

DUES ARE DUE -- FOR SOME FORMS ARE ENCLOSED

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the list of members as of December 31, 1987. This is an NSS requirement. Most categories are self-evident. The "Pd" column indicates the year through which dues have been paid. Those of us who are labeled "87" are in arrears; please remit as soon as possible. Note that many have paid several years in advance. (The "N" indicates the member belongs to another NSS Grotto and wishes to be counted there in Congress of Grotto votes.) Many of us have NSS numbers and those without letters behind their numbers have let their membership lapse. Although you do not have to be an NSS member to be a Glacier Grotto member, every member is urged to belong the NSS. Membership enables you to learn what other cavers are doing, to keep in touch with the National and International caving scenes, to learn about the latest in safety, equipment, and techniques, to keep abreast of the frontiers of speleology, and to influence the course of caving policy and activities beyond our state. For those who owe, a return envelope and form are enclosed with this issue. Dues are still \$5.00 per year, even though prices and postage for The Alaskan Caver keep going up.

File: GlacierGrotto2
 Report: Membership List
 Selection: Pd Member equals 87
 or Pd Member equals 88
 or Pd Member equals 89

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 December 31, 1987

Name	Address	City	Country	Pd	NSS No.	Home Phone	Work Phone
Allred, Carlene B.	P. O. Box 376	Haines, AK 99827		88	16389FE	none	none
Allred, Kevin (at lg)	"	"		88	16730RE		
Bastasz, Bob	P.O. Box 2417	Livermore, CA 94550		88N	13696RE	(415)443-9624	(415)422-2013
Bennett, John J. (Jeff)	SR 2 Box 4499	Chugiak, AK 99567		87		(907)688-6080	(907)333-5361
Bowers, Wm. Harvey	305 South Bartlett Circle	Wasilla, AK 99687		89	12088	(907)376-2294	
Burger, Raymond A.	SR 2 Box 6690	Chugiak, AK 99567		87		(907)688-3835	(907)762-2285
Dunaway, Sam (treas)	7301 Chad St.	Anchorage, AK 99518		87	04837RE	(907)344-4037	(907)762-2171
Dunaway, Sharon				87			
Dunec, JoAnne L.	P. O. Box 100731	Anchorage, AK 99510		89		(907)277-7445	(907)277-0875
Hall, Elisabeth Schutzenbach	7040 Gibbs Hill Circle	Anchorage, AK 99504		89	16557FR	(907)333-2090	
Hall, Matthew Thomas				89	22131FA		
Hall, Michael Ian				89	24151FA		
Hall, Richard Allen				89	16556RE	(907)333-2090	(907)265-9377
Halliday, Dr. William R.	6530 Cornwall Court	Nashville, TN 37205		88N	812HFT	(206)324-7474	(615)377-3088
Hallinan, Dr. Thomas (at lrg)	1617 Wolverine Lane	Fairbanks, AK 99709		87	6329RE	(907)479-6064	(907)479-7454
Hallinan, Nancy C.				87	06367FR	(907)479-6064	
Hamilton, Tom	U.S.G.S. 4200 University Drive	Anchorage, AK 99508-4667		87			(907)786-7451
Hampton, Don	Box 82950	Fairbanks, AK 99708		88	27054RE	None	(907)474-7684
Jackson, Stephen P.	Route 2, Box 143, Roosevelt	Ketchikan, AK 99901		88		(907)225-3431	
Jenkins, Michael S.	P.O. Box 4-2917	Anchorage, AK 99509		87	19447FR	(907)274-1004	
Jenkins, Sydney F.				87	18195RE		(907)564-1755
Jennings, Bail	2700 Kobuk Court	Anchorage, AK 99508		87		(907)278-4841	(907)277-5605
Jennings, Tim				87			(907)561-2634
Klinger, Col. David M. (NMRrep)	P. O. Box 537	Leavenworth, WA 98826		88	10583RE	(509)548-5480	(509)548-5880
Koenck, Leon T.	P. O. Box 670163	Chugiak, AK 99567		87	23519RE	(907)688-5085	
Kraettli, Elisa M.	1225 3rd Avenue	Fairbanks, AK 99701		88	16380RE	(907) 452-271	
Mausser, Michael W. (sec)	6631 Teshler Drive	Anchorage, AK 99507		87	11135RE	(907)349-3026	(907)271-4799
Metzler, Curvin B.	1223 Page Street	San Francisco, CA 94117		87	23883RE	(415)431-3239	(415)549-4508
Moll, David M. (vicepres)	P. O. Box 82044	Fairbanks, AK 99708		87	10106RE	(907)455-6578	(907)474-6318
Morton, Bruce R., Jr.	Star Route Box 206	Eagle River, AK 99577		87	3202RL	(907)694-9112	
Nicholls, James R. (AltnMR)	149 Girard Avenue	Salt Lake City, UT 84103		89	15216RE	(801)364-5278	(801)322-2400
Nims, Norris G., Jr.	SRB 170	Copper Center, AK 99573		88		(907)822-3877	(907)822-5274
Ohshima, Dr. George	35 Yamadacho, Kitashirakawa	Sakyo, Kyoto	606 JAPAN	87		075-781-8054	0789-51-3521
Pease, Major C. R., Jr.	Box 547	APD, NY 09057	(W.GERMANY)	87	4847RL	149615282339	
Renele, James J.	8031 Nadine Street	Anchorage, AK 99507		87		(907)344-4395	(907)272-4495
Rockwell, Dr. Julius, Jr. (pres)	2944 Emory St.	Anchorage, AK 99508-4466		87	11308RE	(907)277-7150	(907)564-8267
Rockwell, Elizabeth A.				87	15232FR		(907)337-1583
Rockwell, Julius IV (Tad)	Hamilton, Box 60159 -- U. of	Eugene, OR 97403-6001		87	17856FR		
Roy, Charles (Skip)	1326 G Street	Anchorage, AK 99501		87	7209	(907)276-0711	(907)564-8207
Rubeck, Rusty L.	750 Sarah's Way #59	Wasilla, AK 99687		87	21537	(907)376-9083	(907)552-2660
Ruggles, Anne K.	Box 82950	Fairbanks, AK 99708		88	27053RE	none	(907)474-6117
Rutkowski, Nan	Box 44, 701 C Street	Anchorage, AK 99513		88N	20256RE	822-3877 (win)	(907)267-1403
Sandhofer, Paul F.	P. O. Box 4-1333	Anchorage, AK 99509		87		(907)344-3259	(907)249-1293
Sattler, Bob	P. O. Box 80466	College, AK 99708		87	27469RE	(907)479-3398	(907)474-7818
Seiser, Pam	1310 G Street	Anchorage, AK 99501		88		(907)277-3101	(907)786-3340
Smith, Dr. G. Warren	187 Northwood Drive	Hammond, LA 70401		87	5601RL	(504)549-2316	
Strucher, Dan	1671 Elcadore Dr. #1	Anchorage, AK 99507		88		(907)344-1981	(907)276-4115
Suter, Charles W.	P.O. Box 2416	Fairbanks, AK 99707		87	27476RE	(907)452-4669	(907)452-3203
Teel, Bruce	P. O. Box 100731	Anchorage, AK 99510		89		(907) 277-744	
Underwood, Aaron M.	431 East 17th	Idaho Falls, ID 83401		87		(907)455-6495	
Vining, Mike R.	6874 Kizer Drive	Fayetteville, NC 28304		87	16459RE	(919)864-0489	(919)396-8030
Weil, Henry T.	4800 Talus Dr.	Anchorage, AK 99516		87		(907)345-3361	
Weil, Remy				87			
Whitt, Dr. Horace	9227 Geese Circle	Eagle River, AK 99677		89	12951RE		(907)257-1515

1985 GLACIER GROTTO FINANCIAL REPORT

1986 GLACIER GROTTO FINANCIAL REPORT

	1985 Balance Sheet	1986 Anticipated Budget	1986 Balance Sheet	1987 Anticipated Budget
<u>Annual Income and Expenses</u>				
<u>Income</u>				
Membership Dues & Donations	\$ 33.98	\$179.00	\$179.00	\$200.00
Prepaid Dues	-0-	47.00	47.00	-0-
Other	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total Income	\$ 33.98	\$226.00	\$226.00	\$200.00
<u>Expenses</u>				
Postage	-0-	-0-	-0-	\$130.00
Secretarial Supplies	\$ 2.98	-0-	-0-	75.00
Bank Service Charge	-0-	\$ 10.20	-0-	15.00
Bad Checks	-0-	22.50	\$ 10.20	15.00
Total Expenses	\$ 2.98	\$ 32.70	22.50	-0-
Summary			\$ 32.70	\$235.00
Total Income	\$ 33.98	\$226.00	\$226.00	\$200.00
Total Expenses	2.98	32.70	32.70	235.00
NET OPERATING GAIN	\$ 31.00	\$193.30	\$193.30	(\$ 35.00)
<u>End of Year Assets</u>				
Checking Balance	\$363.83		\$557.13	
Cash and Checks on Hand	-0-		-0-	
Total Assets	\$363.83		\$557.13	
<u>Year End Balance</u>				
Liabilities	\$ -0-		\$ -0-	
Net Worth	\$332.83			
Assets Beginning of 1985	31.00		\$363.83	
1985 Operating Gain	\$363.83		193.30	
END OF YEAR NET WORTH			\$557.13	
				END OF YEAR NET WORTH

1987 GLACIER GROTTO FINANCIAL REPORT

	1987 Balance Sheet	1988 Anticipated Budget
<u>Annual Income and Expenses</u>		
Income		
Membership Dues & Donations	\$152.00	\$155.00
Prepaid Dues	-0-	-0-
Sale of Publications	57.50	65.00
Other	-0-	-0-
Total Income	<u>\$209.50</u>	<u>\$220.00</u>
Expenses		
Publications	\$ 88.88	\$100.00
Postage	44.00	40.00
Bank Service Charge	6.75	10.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$139.50</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
<u>Summary</u>		
Total Income	\$209.50	\$220.00
Total Expenses	<u>139.63</u>	<u>150.00</u>
NET OPERATING GAIN	<u>\$ 69.87</u>	<u>\$ 70.00</u>
End of Year Assets		
Checking Balance	\$698.88	
Cash & Checks on Hand	42.00	
Total Assets	<u>\$740.88</u>	
Year End Liabilities		
Expenses Payable	\$66.88	
Year End Balance		
Assets Beginning of 1987	\$557.13	
1987 Operating Gain	69.87	
less Liabilities	- 66.88	
END OF YEAR NET WORTH	<u>\$560.12</u>	

CONTACT KEVIN ALLRED FOR STARLIGHT CAVE EXPEDITION

Enthusiasm for the Prince of Wales Expedition continues to mount. Kevin Allred, Expedition Coordinator and Leader, mentions U. S. Forest Service may help. It is important to contact Kevin immediately if you plan to participate. There is room for more Grotto members, but ferry reservations for autos must be made soon; walk-ons should be no problem. He is trying to arrange transportation from Haines (for Alaskans) and from Ketchikan (for outsiders) and needs all the lead time he can get. Kevin says his cabin (in Haines) is open to cavers pooling down the Alcan, but it is necessary to contact him in advance. Quarters on Prince of Wales Island may be available in the cave area.

Kevin is planning at least two trips with or without Forest Service support. Carlene will be on at least one of them. Possibly, one group will come in late July. Jim Nicholls and Alyson Walker-Nicholls are coming from Utah, August 8 - 28. Denise Ward of Utah will arrive in Ketchikan from Utah, about August 16 for two weeks. Dr. William R. Halliday is interested in coming in August, probably by way of Ketchikan; Dave Klinger and Harvey Bowers have expressed interest but have not indicated the time. J. Rockwell and Mike Mauser are also interested in coming down in August.

Evelyn Bradshaw writes that Steven Lewis, a caver from Fairbanks, is planning a wildlife investigation from May thru July on Coronation Island which is not far from our expedition site; possibly, we can coordinate with him.

The following bibliography is what we have been able to find in the way of documentation on Southeastern Alaska's caves in limestone. We would be happy to hear from anyone knowing of any other references.

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On Saturday, September 12, 1987, Scott McGee, Keir Whitson, and I checked out the Byron Glacier Valley. Everything we looked for was open, and then some.

The Middle Snowfield, across the Creek which we did not cross, had an opening three to four feet high through which several passages could be seen. Characteristically, the passages of the cave in this frozen snowfield reach about 35 feet wide and 20 feet high in places. Some years we have found up to half a mile of passages in this one system.

In the Big Snowfield, extending clear across the valley, the stream entrance was blocked at the downstream end, but the upstream end was open, about 3 - 4 feet high across the whole width of the stream. Exploration should be easy after freezeup when the stream is down.

A small new cave was found in the northwest corner of the ice of the Big Snowfield. It is at ground level with a gravel floor, starting out in a low fissure which opens into a small room approximately 15 by 30 feet and 10 feet high. We did not use lights but forms could be made out because of the slight amount of blue light that came through the ceiling. We did not survey because of the need to continue our inventory.

Proceeding to the right as one looks at the creek's resurgence at the snout of Byron Glacier, along what appears to be the edge of the Glacier, we found Burger's Cave, discovered by Raymond A. Burger two years ago. Some of the roof had collapsed, separating it into Upper Burger's Cave and Lower Burger's Cave. The downstream end of the upper cave started at the distinctive right-angle turn (to the right as you go upstream), the only sharp right-angle turn noticed by Skip Roy and myself during our visit about a month after its discovery. The lower end continued, Alph-like, down into the depths of the main Byron Glacier. It seemed quite different from the way it was at our previous visit, almost as if the terminus of the Glacier had advanced. The collapsed section between these two entrances was not a simple open stream, having apparently many side passages through the snow and rocks which had avalanched down after our previous visit. It was a treacherous collapse area, better to visit after freezeup has firmed things and diminished or dried up the torrential stream in the cave passage. Earlier the cave had averaged 20 to 30 feet wide, 8 to 20 feet high and was possibly over 1000 feet long. This cave is certainly worth a survey and photo trip when the water is lower. It has never been completely explored.

We were not able to get a good look at the Creek's resurgence from Byron Glacier itself. The arrangement of ice blocks about this entrance required more time to see around the corners than we had to spend. From what we did see it appeared the passage has opened up again after all these years, possibly by air from Lower Burger's Cave, or elsewhere.

From there we went on up the main glacier about half a mile, -- over the portion covered with gravel -- it seemed much steeper than it had been several years ago; the rocks knocked loose would roll further. Higher up we could see what appeared to be a buildup of new ice, much higher than two years before. In some systems this would be the harbinger of a surge a few years from now. We were impressed by the moolins in many stages of development. Some were in canyons or sinkholes full of rocks into which the streamlets ran, while others were vertical shafts that appeared to go all the way to the bottom of the glacier. Our best estimates, based on listening to dropped rocks, were depths of 60 to 100 feet. The larger of these moolins were certainly penetrable, being 3 or 4 feet across. There were quite a number of them, and anyone interested in such a penetration should make a reconnaissance before snowfall and flag a trail and hazards. It would be quite easy for the snow to drift across some of the smaller ones and make mantraps.

We continued on up to the end of the talus portion, nearly to the 1500 foot elevation level, put on our crampons, and went out on the ice. This glacier flows northwest from its origin, then turns north towards Portage Lake. The longitudinal half of the glacier on the outside (west) of this bend is completely clear of rock fragments to a much lower elevation than the half toward the inside of the bend. It was much easier walking on the ice with crampons than on the rocks. There were many moolins there also, but the variety was richer, possibly because they were easier to see. Some apparently had been formed in the normal way, closed off at the bottom, and then filled with water. We looked down into a water-filled manhole-sized shaft that shaded from azure to blackness, and wondered how it would look when frozen with a quarter inch of ice and covered with six inches of snow. The axis of one water-filled shaft was 45 degrees to the vertical as though its holding glacier had deformed since the last freezing. From the bottom of the deeper moolins, into which small streamlets were falling we heard the rumble of a larger stream. It seems altogether possible that with a number of these moolins contributing, enough air could come down these collective shafts to melt out a passage along the streamway such as the 1500-foot one that Chuck Pease described in 1969 (Pease, 1969, and Bowers, 1975).

We turned back before getting to Crescent Cave (Matsuzaki, et al, 1980) as our time had run out; we did not look for Newby's Cave (Hall, 1981). With the cooperation of the weather (a cold, dry fall), there are plenty of caves to explore in the Byron Valley. None of these has been adequately surveyed in the last several years. If you do go in, be sure to check in and out with the Forest Service at the Visitors' Center as a matter of good safety practice, landowner relations, courtesy, and because they are interested in our researches.

The appearance that the Glacier is in the process of advancing needs to be subjected to quantitative measurements before we can accept or reject my contention that it is.

The situation now is different and we will have to wait till next Fall to find these caves again; then, right after freezeup and before the avalanches begin, when it has not snowed for two days.

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- Matsuzaki, Hiroshi, Kazup Ikuta, Manichiro Iwao, Yoshiaki Takamoto, Toshiki Kitano, Toyohiro Okuda, and Syuzo Kondo.
1980. Japanese team explores Alaskan glaciers. *The Alaskan Caver* 5(1):4-6.
- Pease, Chuck
1969. Byron Glacier caves. *The Alaskan Caver* 1(1):2.

KAYAK ISLAND CAVE

A photograph of Kayak Island Cave and part of Sea Cave Rock appears in:

- Frost, O.W.
1985. George Steller, first naturalist in Alaska. *Alaska Fish and Game* 18(6):6-9, 20.

COMING EVENTS --

May 27, 28, 29, 30, 1988 Speleofest 1988 - Cedar Hill Campground, Park City, KY
Write Don Shofstall, 5004 Bassett Ave., Evansville, IN 47715

May 28 and 29, 1988 - Northwest Caving Association - Regional Meet - Camp Gordon,
Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island, BC -- Call Linda and Graham Helslop (604)
595-3259.

June 11-18, 1988 - Karst Field Studies at Mammoth Cave - five courses - Call Nicholas
Crawford, (502)-843-4979.

June 27 - July 1, 1988 NSS Convention, P. O. Box 7872, Rapid City, SD 57709

July -- August, 1988, GLACIER GROTTTO Prince of Wales Expedition. (See pages 2 and 10
of this issue.)

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Chuck Pease's caving trips in Turkey have been covered in the NSS News and The
Explorer.

Kevin Allred's "Rust Creek Cave - Finally" received a full page review in the
February issue (44(2):10) of D. C. Speleograph.

THE ALASKAN CAVER

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