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August 1996

### Alaskan Caver Alaska Caver

Chuck Pease

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The

# Alaskan Caver

Volume 16 Number 4

August 1996



# The Alaskan Caver

published by the  
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1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B, Anchorage AK 99507

Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Volume 16 Number 4

August 1996

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Cover Photo: Carlene Allred examines some of the formations in a cave on Prince of Wales Island. Photo: Kevin Allred

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- Anchorage Meetings: Call Jay Rockwell for details. (907)277-7150.
- 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 Steve Lewis for details. (907)479-7257

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Artifacts collected this summer on Prince of Wales Island include these shown by David Love. Photo: Carlene Allred

## CALENDAR

**May 23-25, 1997.....**1997 Annual Workshop ; of the NSS Cave Diving Section, at Branford School, Suwanee County, FL. Info: NSS-CDC Workshop, PO Box 950, Branford, FL 32008-0950.

**June 23-27, 1997.....**NSS Convention, Sullivan, MO. Contact: Pam Saberton, 3820 Juiata St., St. Louis, MO 63116 (314)772-6956, e-mail: PamS107326@aol.com.

**July 18-Aug. 15, 1997.....**Ketchicave Expedition. Info: Steve Lewis (907)479-7257. e-mail: ftswl@aurora.alaska.edu

**Ketchikan Area Grotto** meetings are the first Monday, at 7 pm at Ketchikan Public Health Center 3050 Fifth Ave. 247-1559

**Alaska Cave Rescue** meets each Tuesday at 7 pm, at 819 Forest Ave., Ketchikan. Frequent rope practice sessions. Marcel 225-4094

## THE PIRATES OF WHALE PASS

by Paul Hadfield

Their first target was Eagle's Roost. A place long thought to hold much ancient treasure, but where the search had long been abandoned by the common run of caverkind.

One, day when all the crew had assembled, they spent the day at their forge. Cutting steel, drilling, heating and bending the curious artifacts they manufactured. With a goodly supply of these items and aided by knowledge from an ancient map and their formidable companion, Mr. Hilti, they forced a bold diagonal climb across a featureless wall to a hidden passage. Following a strong, cold draft they dug through a rocky choke and descended through boulders to a perch high above the streamway.

On subsequent visits, with various members of their motley crew, teetering diagonal descents led back down to the streamway. Alternately, wading and climbing, they reached a point where the waters welled out of a low opening in the side wall of the underground canyon. A way on led up difficult greasy climbs above the water that were explored for some distance, and with considerable difficulty, but which finally repelled the crew

and sent them back to the surface, shivering with cold and covered with slime.

Only a short distance from their camp in Whale Pass, the Pirates found another cavern. Their first assault on it's secret was led by the smaller members of the party. The slow fat one was stopped at a constriction and could go no further. Undeterred, his companions pressed on and were stopped by a deep black pit that one crew member partly descended but could not climb out of until assisted by his companions. Next day, the pirates returned in force with formidable Mr. Hilti. In but the blink of an eye, with the simple application of some "smokeless powder" the constriction was removed,

*Continued on page 2*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcel LaPerriere

In this President's Corner I thought I would fill in the rest of the Glacier Grotto members on what's happening with cave rescue training. The Ketchikan members of Alaska Cave Rescue (ARC) have continued the Tuesday night training

*Continued on page 16*

Continued from "Pirates" page 1

and even the fat caver was able to get in! The black pit was descended and a beautiful little streamway discovered. Still in search of treasure the Pirates dashed off.

Yes, the treasure was there, not in the form of pieces of eight left by the original Spanish explorers of the archipelago, but as beautiful draperies, glistening stalactites and rimstone pools, with a dramatic



*Pete Smith and Paul Hadfield take a breather in Eagle's Roost, a cave on Prince of Wales Island. Photo: C. Allred*

Continued from President's Corner on page 1

sessions. We have been practicing both single- and double-rope rescue. Lately, we have been working with "pick-offs". If you want a challenge try picking someone off another rope while they are on ascenders, without cutting their rope - most especially if they are heavier than you.

ACR has also had some sessions with Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad (KVRS). KVRS is building a polished vertical rescue team that could be a big asset to ACR if we ever get into a big cave rescue.

chamber full of the roar of falling water arcing out of large passage 60 feet up near the roof.

These caverns fascinated the Pirates and they returned again and again. Finding old fossil passages that led on and on to a place full of mud that was not mud, that was really chocolate in disguise, with a draft coming up a 20-foot chocolate tube. At this point the Pirates had to leave; their parting shot, with the aid of Mr. Hilti, was a spectacular traverse across the wall of the chamber to the top of the waterfall into the large stream passage. The Chief Pirate went on alone until even he was stopped by difficulties of the passage, but he came back determined to return!

Nothing stops these Pirates in their pursuit of treasure. They hiked through the forests and found yet another cave that they entered. In here they found the "Crawl of Damocles" which they passed to reach cobbled floored passage that dipped down and down, and which had to be dug through in two places to enable them to continue. Open passage continued but time was against them and they had to leave.

Their departing act was a decadent feast held on one of the outlying islands, where the debauched characters met more of their ilk, ate massive amounts of the local marine fauna and built strange wooden structures, whilst others paddled round in meaningless circles in small boats.

You may wonder how it was we became aware of "Pirates" in Whale Pass? On more than one occasion two of the characters were seen wearing their Pirate uniforms complete with eye patches, and the ship's cat was brought ashore for his R&R, presumably to hone up his rodent catching skills. Add these facts to the unusual accents heard spoken by some of the crew, and the conclusion is inescapable.

Once again this summer members of the Grotto and ACR worked at the Ketchikan Salmon Derby to raise money. A total of \$1,600 was raised. It was the wish of those who did all the hard work to split the money equally between the Grotto and ACR. I would like to thank the following people for their hard, long hours of work: Gary Sonnenberg for making all the arrangements, Alan Murray, Deb and Parker Smith, Tom and Judy Fouts, Dave Valentine, Chuck Haberbusch, and Zach and Connie LaPerriere.

## SUMMARY REPORT OF POWIE '96

by Kevin Allred



*POWIE '95 cavers and their families congregate at Whale Pass on Prince of Wales Island. Photo Credit: Val White*

Although not advertized like the main Ketchicave and Chichagof Island expeditions, the 10th Annual Prince of Wales Island Expedition (POWIE) '96, of the Tongass Cave Project, was held mid June and well into July when folks finally trickled back to their homes.

One of the prime objectives this year was to support Dr. Timothy Heaton and Fred Grady on continued fossil bone excavations on Prince of Wales Island.

Also, as last year, the expedition was composed mostly of folks who desired a large degree of independence from the ongoing Forest Service cost-share agreement. For some of us with families, independence was a necessary thing, since the Forest Service cannot include children in its cost-share program. Thanks to the Smith family, we enjoyed housing at Whale Pass, got into some awesome virgin caves, and generally had a great time in spite of some rainy weather and eye injuries which Pete Smith and Paul Hadfield sustained outside caves.

Soren Allred got stranded briefly on a ledge in one cave until a rope was fetched for his rescue by the two mother trip-leaders. I was very proud of Soren for having such a wide margin of safety, rather than trying to do something even remotely dangerous and macho like climbing out without the rope.

Pete, Paul and I did some testing on a new boulder removing technique, and we constructed some bolt hangers to be used for high leads which Pete climbed with his new super Hilti drill (see Paul's ramblings). Val Smith started learning cartography from Carlene Allred by beginning to draft a new major cave. Meanwhile, the kids were helping to survey and explore some of the caves.

Although, things were very informal, six caves were surveyed in this expedition. Participants (of sorts) were: Tim and Julia Heaton; Fred Grady; Pete and Val Smith and children Jed and Kena; Kevin and Carlene Allred with children Ella, Soren, Flint and Forrest; Paul and

Julie Hadfield; David Love; David Klinger; several pets and three folks from Port Protection I did not have a chance to meet. We did not get into Blowing in the Wind Cave as hoped, but maybe next year!



*Flint Allred is ready to go caving.*

## NEWSBRIEFS

NSS NEWS (54)6 June 1996, p.160. "Bingaman Bill Would Create Cave Research Institute". From the bowels of New Mexico to the halls of Congress, plans for the nation's first federal cave research center are being mapped. "Most people think of caves as a natural oddity or curiosity that only has value if you light them and put in trails. But caves are essentially the storm drains of the earth. They're our plumbing. We need to pay attention to them," said Ronal Kerbo, who manages caves for the National Park Service.

Legislation has been introduced by Senator Jeff Bingaman, D-NM, to create a National Cave and Karst Research institute in the Carlsbad Caverns area. The institute, expected to cost \$5 million to build and about \$1.5 million annually to operate, would advance the science of caves, centralize information, promote interdisciplinary cooperation in research programs and promote environmentally sound ways to protect caves.

"The Unites States has failed until recently to appreciate or work to understand cave and karst systems and their importance," said Bingaman, But for the past few years, caves have become focal points for scientists.

At Lechuguilla Cave in Carlsbad, a team of NASA scientists are comparing microbes and other life forms to those on Mars. A group from the University of Massachusetts is looking at the same microbes for possible medical use. And several groups are looking at how ground water is held in caves and how it becomes contaminated. Lechuguilla, the deepest limestone cave in the United States at 1,567 feet, and currently 89.3 miles in length, contains more than 1,000 types of microbes.

"Cavers have a spirit of adventure and exploration. To go somewhere where no one has gone before is a pretty exciting experience. There's the beauty of it, and the scientific value of it; we're hoping to have both," said Frank Deckert, superintendent of Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Deckert said Carlsbad is an ideal location for the institute because there are a variety of types of undeveloped caves in the area.

The National Cave and Karst Research Institute would be jointly administered by the National Park Service and another public or private agency chosen by the Secretary of the Interior.

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York Grotto News (36)2, June 1996, p.30. "The History of Duck Tape Tale of the Tape". For some background on duct tape, I turned to the largest supplier of duct tape in the United States, the Ohio based Manco, Inc., which

produces the cleverly names "Duck Tape" brand. "It was actually developed during World War II," Kevin Krueger, Manco's director of corporate communication said.

Duct Tape evolved from the efforts of the folks at Johnson and Johnson to develop a stronger, waterproof version of medical tape. When the GIs came home from the war, so did the new tape. Perfected in the early 1950s, it changed from military green to silver gray as heating and air conditioning installers found it could be just as effective as nuts and bolts in putting together duct systems during the postwar housing boom.

How popular is duct tape? Manco, which is just one manufacturer, produces 1.37 billion (yep, that's billion) linear feet of duct tape each year. To put that into a perspective that a duct tape aficionado can appreciate, Kevin says that's enough to reach to the top of Mount Everest 47,000 times! And that's probably the only thing duct tape hasn't been used for.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Cascade Caver (35)6, June 1996, p.42. Floyd Collins "Crystal Cave Sentencing". For those of you who took times to write letters to the judge in the Floyd Collins Crystal Cave vandalism case, you might be happy to know that they may have had a positive influence on the judge's sentencing decision.

Many people with Mammoth Cave National Park and the US attorneys Office worked long and hard to investigate and prosecute this case and they deserve the credit for pushing this cave vandalism case through to the end. I am sure your backing, provided by all of the letters you sent to the judge, added an important point of view for the judge to consider, i.e., this was a major crime and the citizens of the United States will not tolerate the type of mean-spirited destruction of resources within our national Parks that these crimes represented.

The sentences handed down by the judge were Perpetrator 1: 33 months in federal prison followed by 3 years probation and 550 hours of community service work. Perpetrators 2&3: 21 months each in federal prison followed by 3 years probation and 500 hours of community service work.

The sentences were much harsher than requested by the US Attorney's Office. In other words, the judge threw the proverbial book at them. His decision now stands as a legal precedent which will send a clear message to other courts across the country about how the federal court views this type of criminal activity.

# WHAT'S THE HOLDUP CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #206  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

## DESCRIPTION

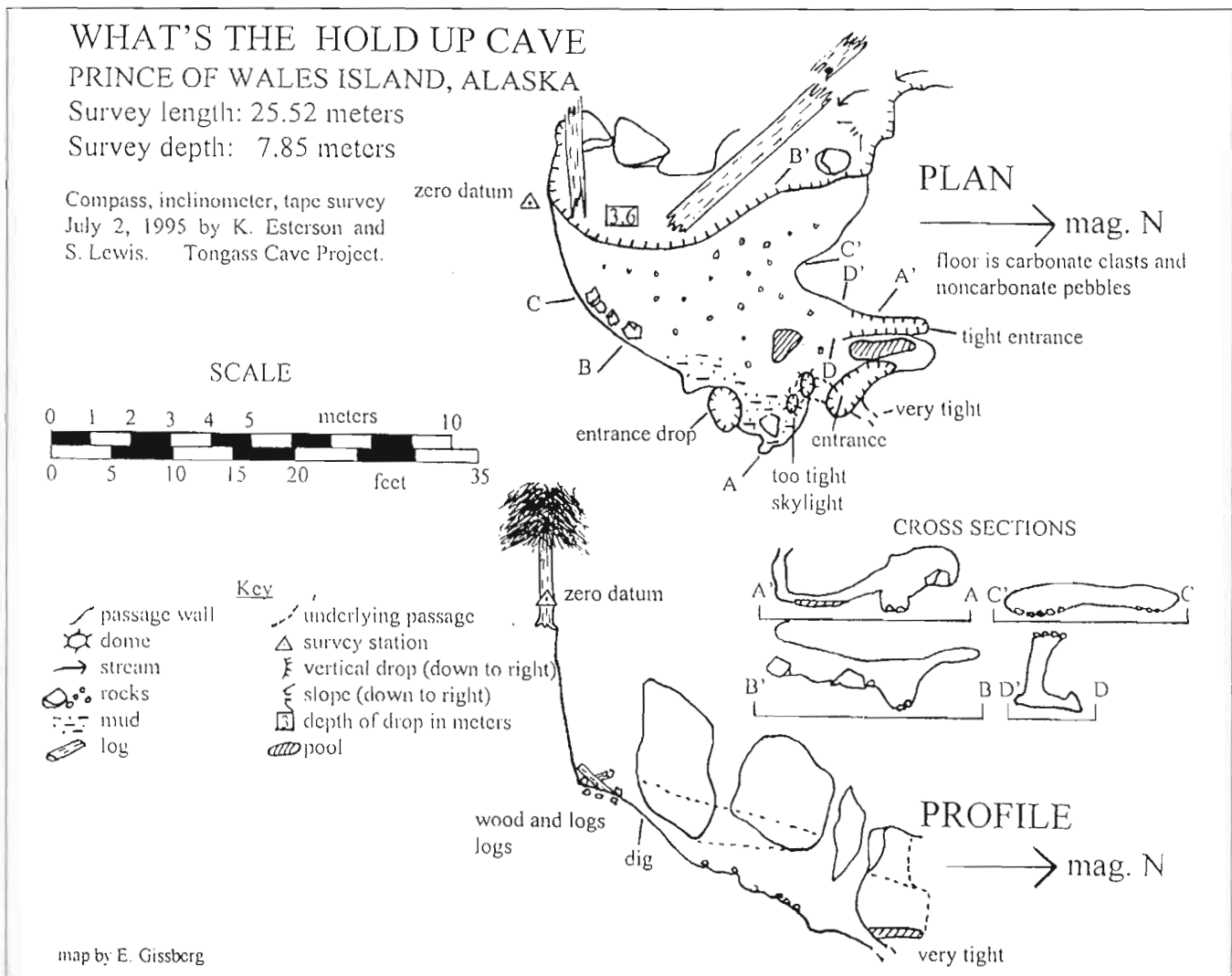
What's The Holdup Cave was discovered and surveyed on July 2, 1995, by Steve Lewis and Kris Esterson. It is located in an old growth forest and is close to a number of caves and is most likely hydrologically connected to them. The cave is located near a contact zone and many non-carbonate cobbles are found on the cave floor. The main entrance is an insurgence for a small stream and apparently floods during heavy rains. The entry to the cave disappears into breakdown near the entrance. It appears that the main entrance was once a large passage or room but has since collapsed to make a fairly tight entrance.

The cave has a little over 25 meters of mapped passage which is all low and horizontal with well devel-

oped sharp limestone making the passage walls. There are four separate entrances to this cave all of which are fairly tight. Towards the back of the cave is a thick bed of sediments. The cave contains several small pools and a single large one, these are all ideal habitat for a number of invertebrate aquatic organisms.

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A stratigraphic analysis of the sediments in What's the Holdup Cave could reveal much information about the glacial history of the region and could contain paleontological remains. There are significant sinkholes and karst features in the area around the cave. What's the Holdup is likely hydrologically connected to 45 and Capricorn caves. The forest surrounding these caves should not be logged to protect the hydrologic and biologic balance of the area. Because of its proximity to Capricorn Cave, its location should not be advertised.





# NBC #3 CAVE

## Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #212 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

### DESCRIPTION

NBC #3 Cave was discovered by Shunichiro Go and Eron Gissberg on July 3, 1995. It was the third "nice big crack" to be found in an area dense with grikes and lesser karst fissures. It was surveyed by the founders on the day of its discovery.

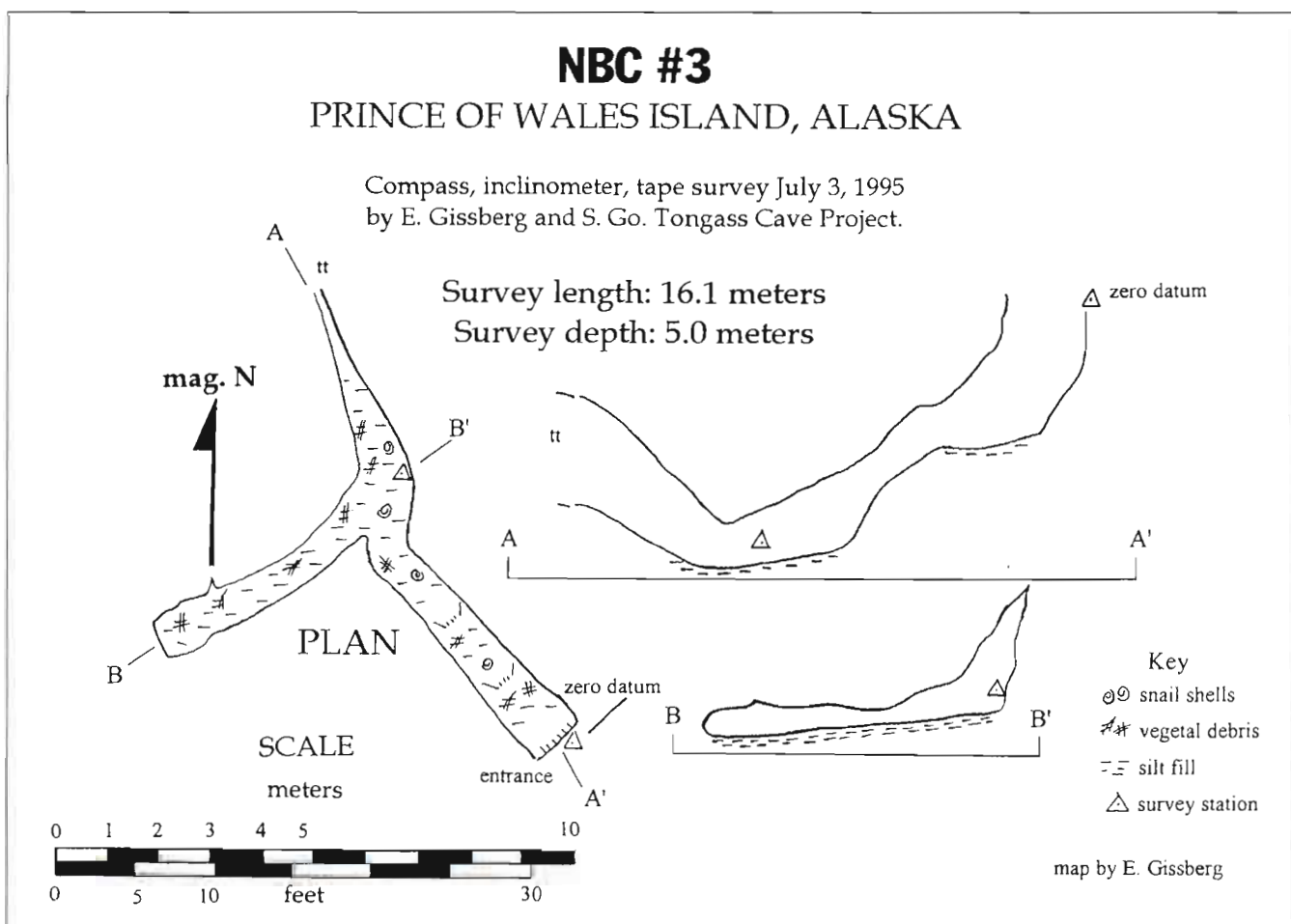
The cave is essentially a horizontal Y-shaped passage about 16 meters long. The lower areas of the cave appear to flood during heavy rains. The floor of the cave is rich organic debris with deposits of bleached and unbleached snail shells. A side passage to the west is low and muddy, it appears that it would continue but is clogged with mud and organic debris. As the main pas-

sage continues north the walls become cleaner and pinches off too tight.

The cave lies near several other significant caves and is most likely hydrologically connected.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

NBC #3 should be protected from logging activities due to its proximity to other significant caves and its possible hydrological connection to them. The cave is in an undisturbed, pristine state. This cave has easy access and simple safe passage that could provide recreational opportunities.



## FOSSIL PHREATIC CAVE

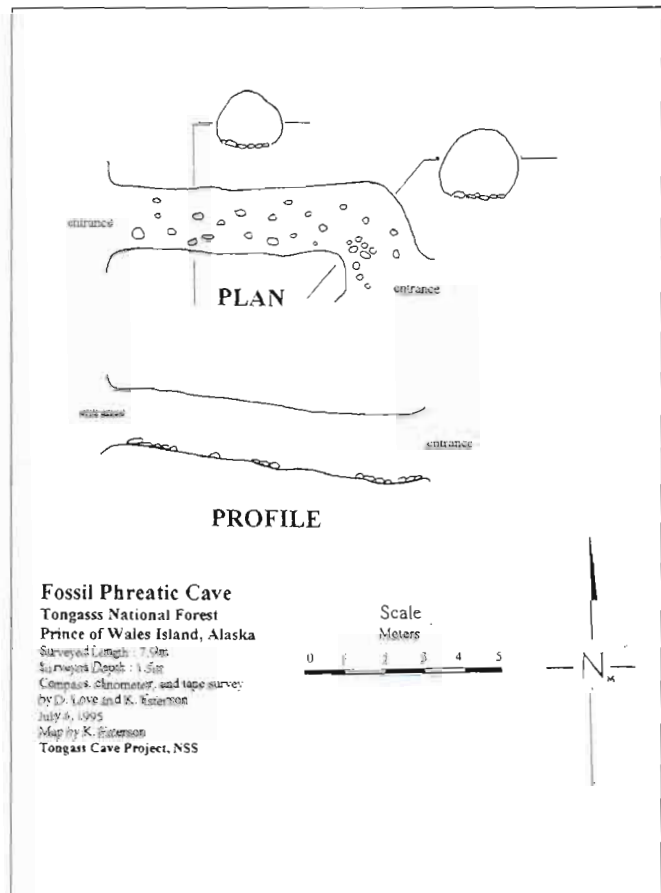
Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #215  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society  
by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1966

### DESCRIPTION

Fossil Phreatic Cave is a relatively short cave located near White Socks Hollow Cave. The cave is a fossil phreatic passage, a remnant feature of a karst system that is much older than the hydrologically active caves that are near it. It is an 8-meter long tube with a diameter of about 1-meter and an entrance at each end.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

This cave is part of a much larger karst system which is hydrologically significant. This cave might serve as an example of the rates of karst geomorphology if further studied. This cave is clean and undisturbed and provides an easily accessible recreational opportunity for cavers of all experience levels. This cave and the forest surrounding it should be protected for its proximity to several other hydrologically active caves and for its scenic values.



## WHITE SOCKS SUMP INSURGENCE

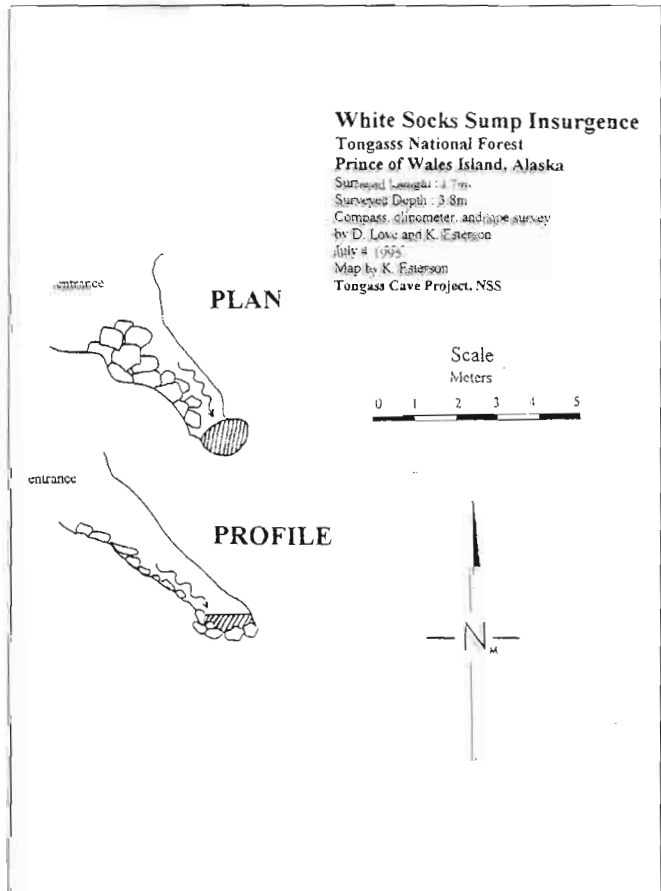
Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #216  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society  
by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

### DESCRIPTION:

White Socks Sump Insurgence was mapped by Dave Love and Kris Esterson on July 4, 1995. This cave is part of an active hydrologic system and is hydrologically connected to Kris' Krawl Insurgence and several smaller sinkholes nearby. The entrance is located at the base of a 10-meter diameter, 5-meter deep sinkhole. The passage goes about 8 meters through breakdown and terminates in a sump. The stream from Kris Krawl Insurgence Cave.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

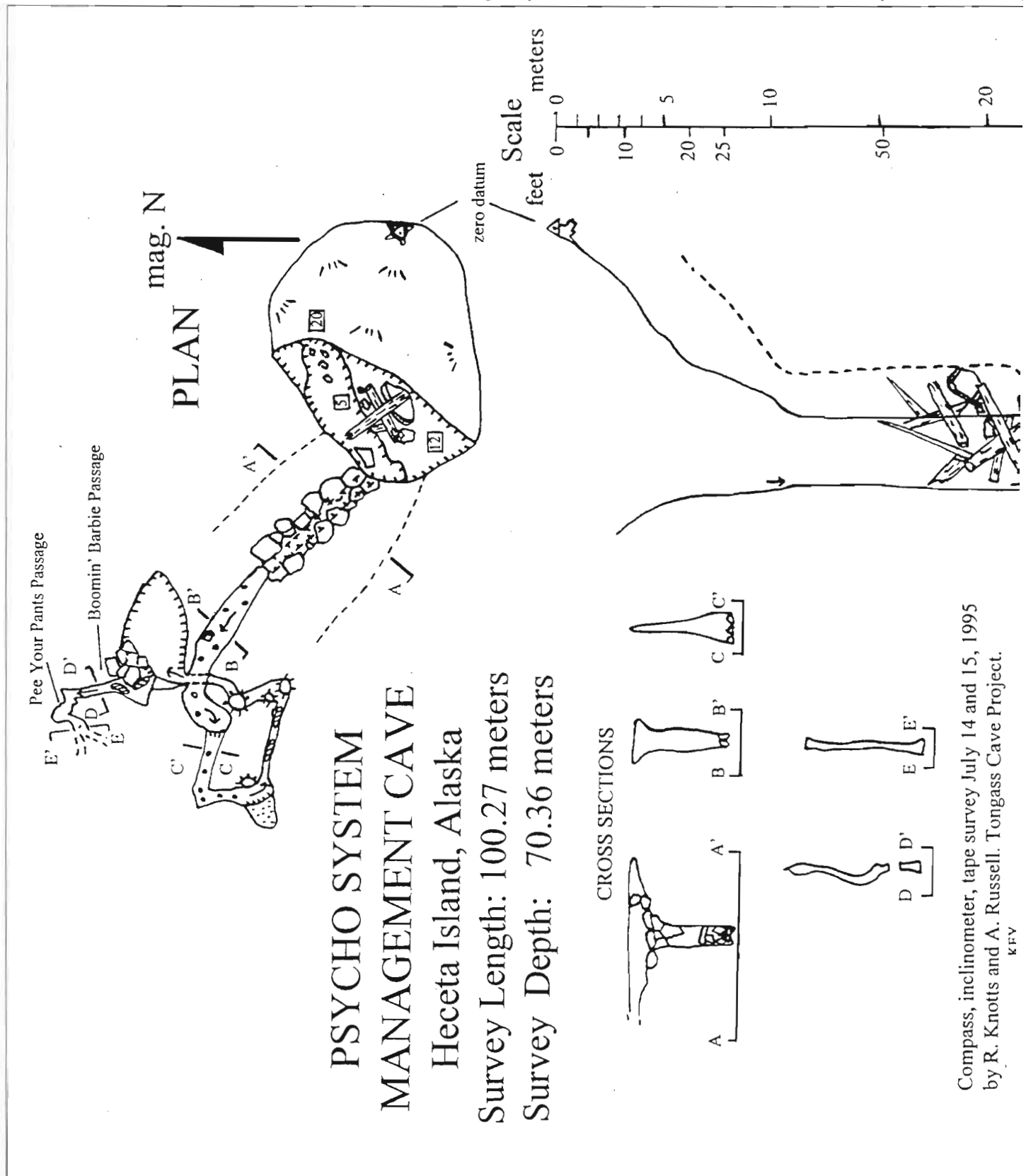
This cave is part of an active hydrological system and contains water which is important to the development of cave resources. The sump in the cave provides a good habitat for any organisms which may depend on the undisturbed hydrology. For these reasons White Socks Sump Insurgence and all nearby caves and sinkholes should be protected from any logging activities which may disturb its pristine state.



# PSYCHO SYSTEM MANAGEMENT CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #247  
 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society  
 by Eron Gissberg on July 22, 1996

DESCRIPTION: This Cave is located in a large clear-cut in an area of densely packed dolines. It is named for the logging practices which affect the area. The cave entrance and upper levels are filled with slash and marginally secure breakdown. After 100 meters of survey, the cave is mostl



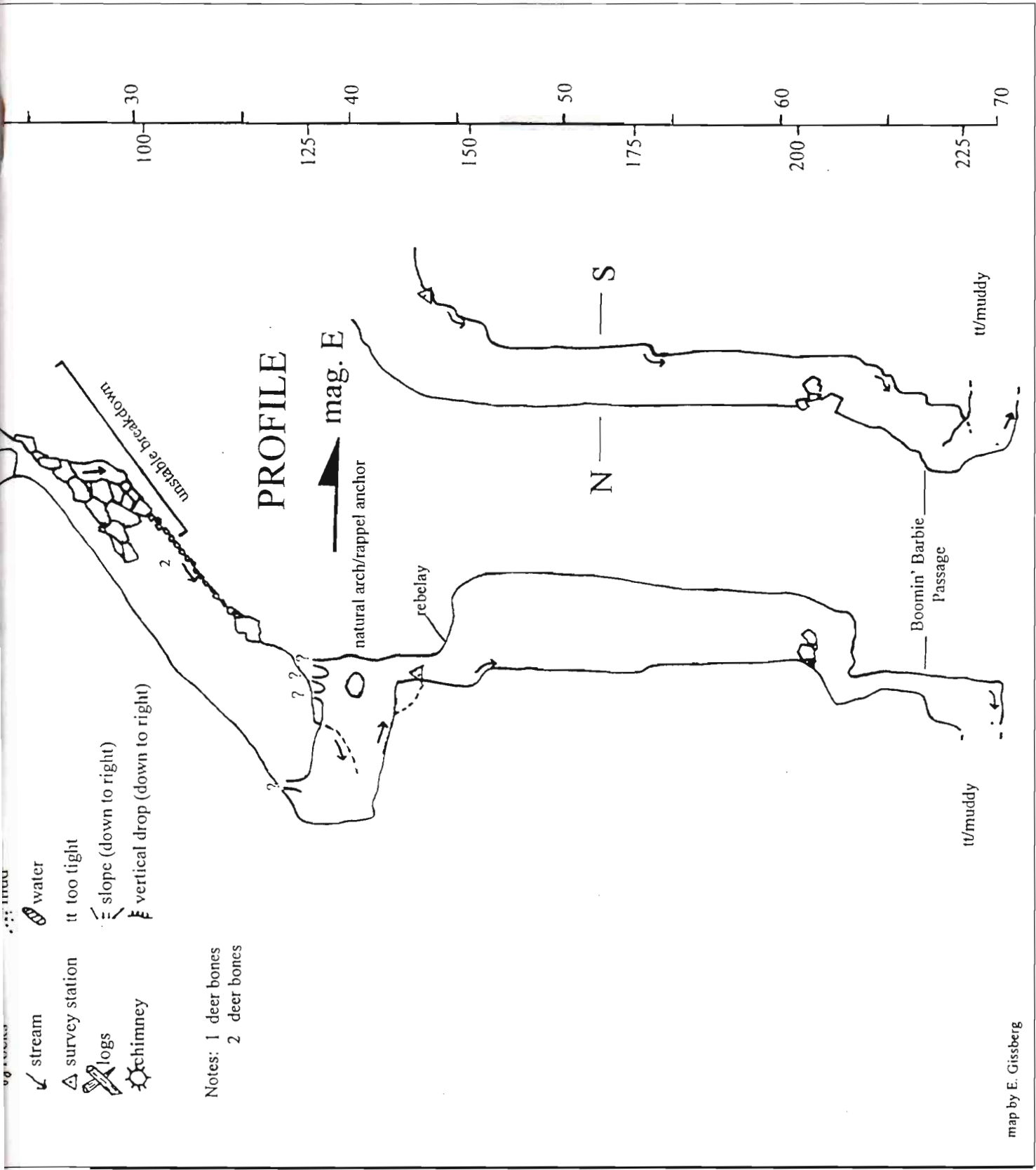
**PSYCHO SYSTEM  
 MANAGEMENT CAVE**  
 Heceta Island, Alaska  
 Survey Length: 100.27 meters  
 Survey Depth: 70.36 meters

Compass, inclinometer, tape survey July 14 and 15, 1995  
 by R. Knotts and A. Russell. Tongass Cave Project.  
 KFY

vertical, 68.42 meters deep requiring two 30-meter ropes for access to the bottom of the cave. The cave is highly active hydrologically and appears to be an important source for the Arabica/Ice Fate hydrology below. The lower areas of the cave seem to be good habitat for cave invertebrates.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The cave offers in-

sights into the hydrology of what is one of the best developed karst systems in Alaska. The water in the cave may be important to humans using downstream resurgences for fresh drinking water. Although the cave and much of the system is severely impacted visually by clear-cut harvest, what is left is still of great value. The location can be shared with educated and vertically prepared individuals.



# PLEASANT CAVE

## Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #210 Tongass Cave Project • National Speological Society

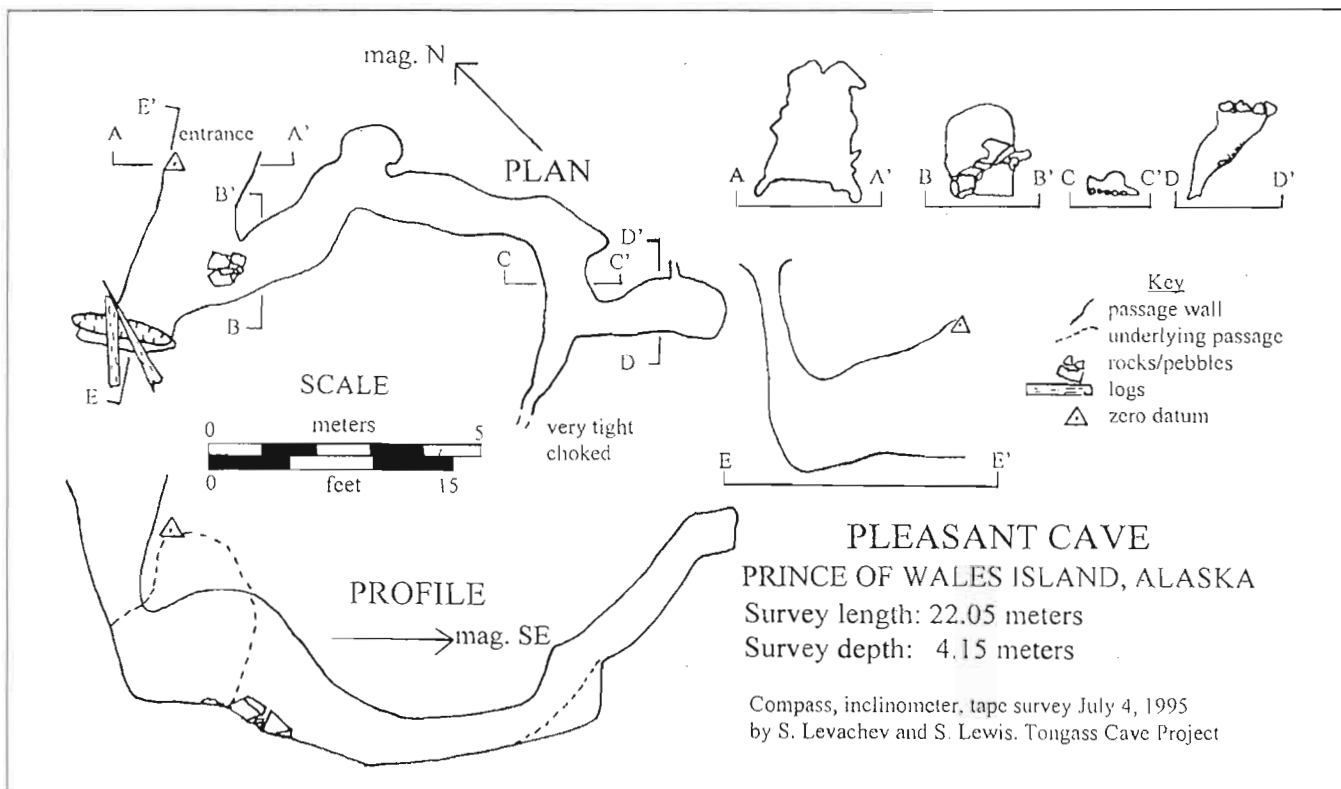
by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

### DESCRIPTION

Pleasant Cave is located in a medium volume old growth forest with well developed epikarstic features. The cave is near a lake and has much scenic value. The entrance is large and wide and offers easy access into the cave. Entering the cave there is a skylight to the west. It is possible to gain access into the cave from this skylight. To the east the cave continues about 10 meters through phreatic passage sloping gently uphill. The cave ends in a dirt and organic debris choke which at one time was most likely another entrance.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Pleasant Cave offers fun and easy caving in highly aesthetic surroundings. No rigging is required for this cave and it is considered safe for novice cavers. A difficult hike to the entrance may limit access for most people, however. Although no biology was noted at the time of the survey, it is good habitat for terrestrial organisms that may use the cave. Because of the cave's highly aesthetic value and recreational opportunities it offers, Pleasant Cave should be protected from any logging activities which may harm its significant properties.



# TONGASS CAVE PROJECT

1997  
Ketchikan Caving Expedition  
July 18 - August 15, 1997

Details  
and application form  
next edition of The Caver

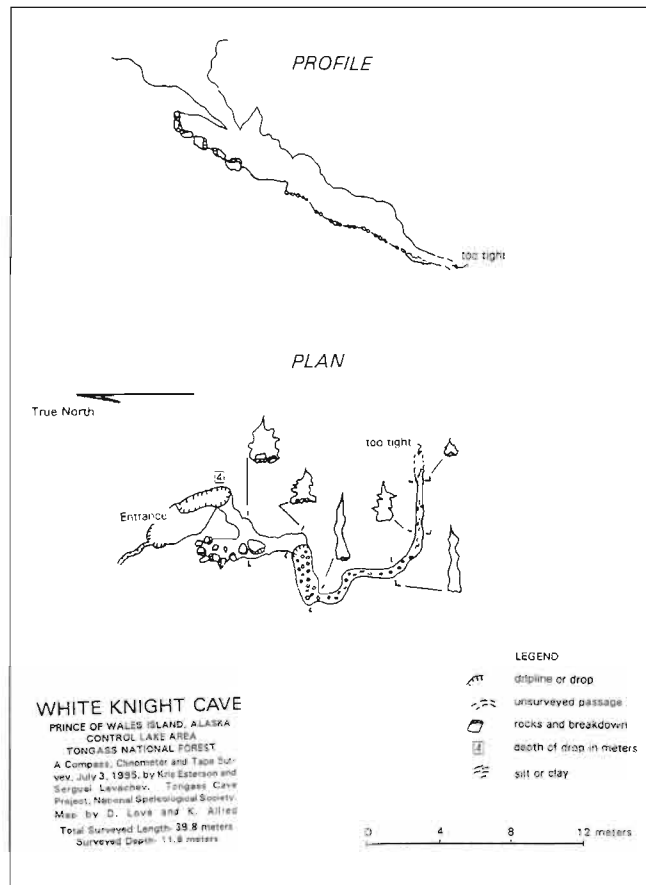
# WHITE KNIGHT CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Report #207  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

**DESCRIPTION:** White Knight Cave was surveyed on July 3, 1995, by Kris Esterson and Sergeui Lavachev. The entrance is at the bottom of a vertically-walled sink. A 4-meter drop down a steep climb enters a small room. A small stream enters on a side of the room and flows down a fissure on the far side. The passage continues downstream until it ends in a tight constriction about 28 meters from the entrance. The small low-energy stream is suitable habitat for invertebrate biota. White Knight Cave is surrounded by at least four other caves and many sinks. It is probably hydrologically connected to many of them.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Due to the pristine state of this cave and the high probability that it is part of a much larger hydrologic system White Knight Cave should be protected from logging activities. The location of this cave, in an undisturbed old growth forest, could be shared with the public to provide recreational opportunities.



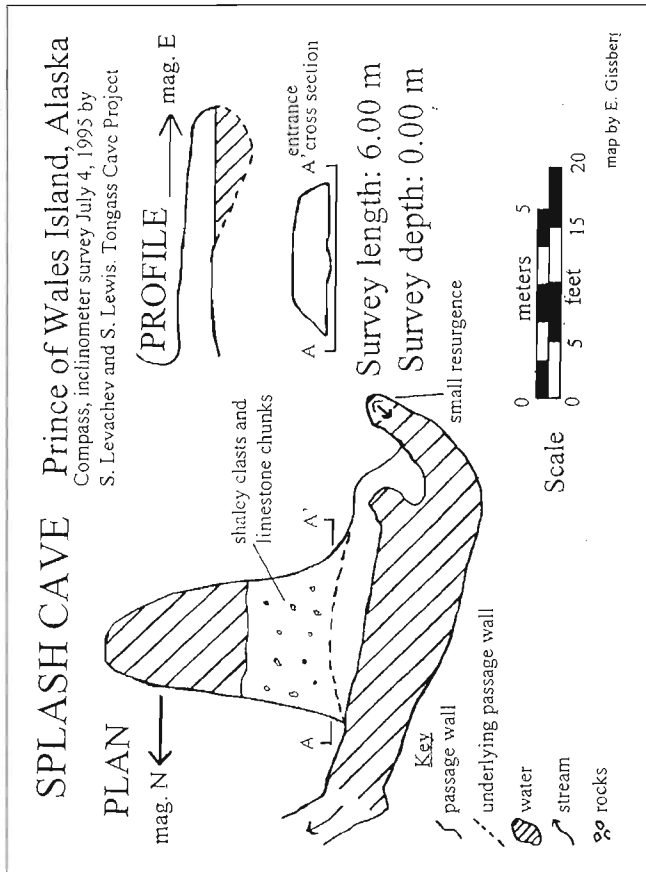
# SPLASH CAVE

Prince of Wales Island • Preliminary Report #211  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

**DESCRIPTION:** Splash Cave is a short insurgence cave located in an area with an interesting mix of highly developed karst interspersed with non-carbonate pockets. The cave consists of six meters of low passage almost entirely filled with a pool that connects to a stream which passes in front of the entrance. It is possible that further passage may be negotiable with dive gear. The floor of the cave consists of shale clasts and carbonate rocks.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Splash Cave is in an undisturbed state and is an integral part of an extremely aesthetic, karsted forest-setting. There is high potential for the cave to be a source of unique cave invertebrates. The hydrologic system associated with Splash Cave should not be jeopardized by any logging activities. It is important in the development of cave resources and further exploration. The interesting mix of rock types in the area of the cave should offer insights into how this geology affects the hydrology of the cave.



# FORTY FIVE CAVE

## Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #208 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

### DESCRIPTION

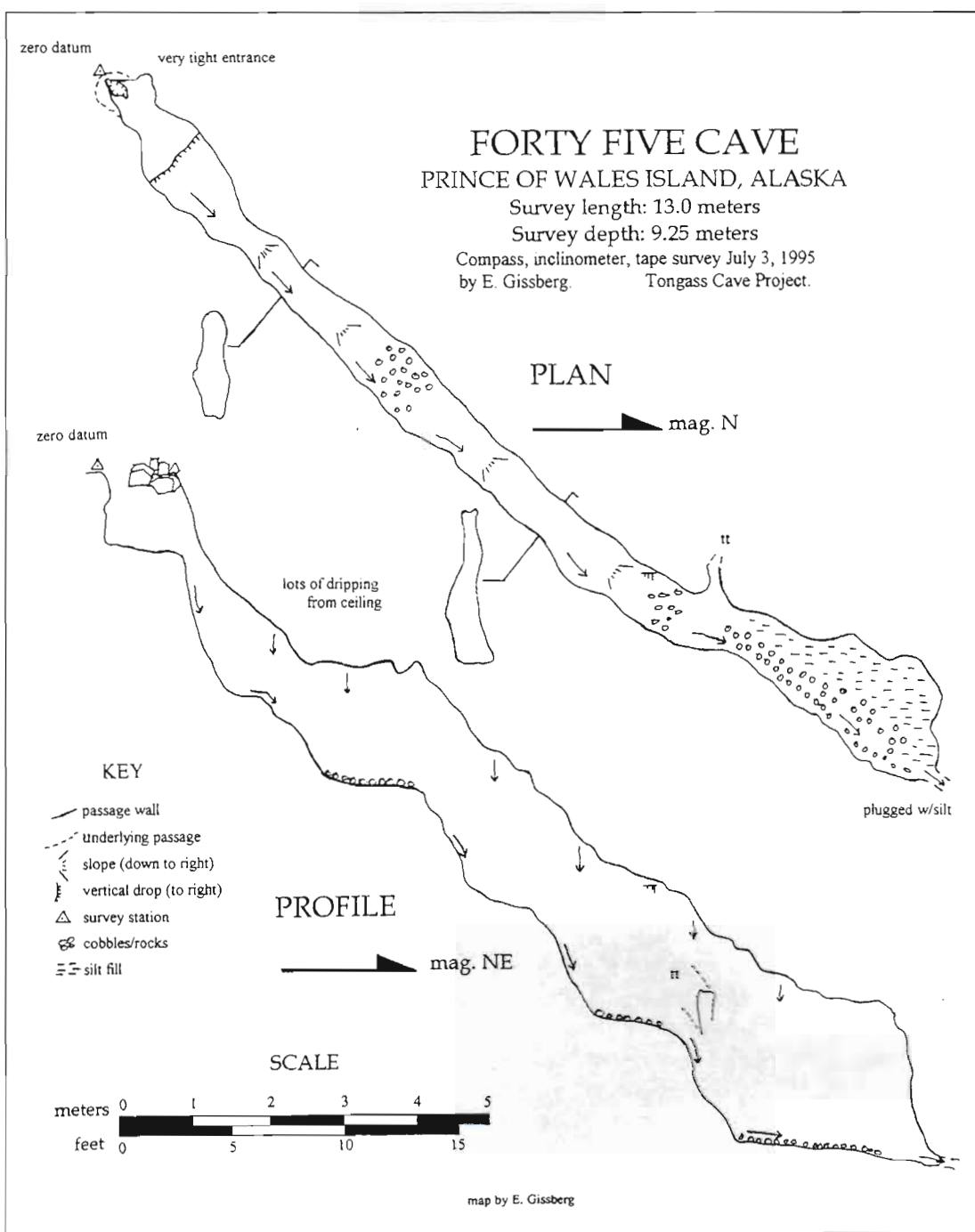
Forty Five Cave is located just upslope from Capricorn, White Knight, Knight Depository, and What's the Hold Up caves. 45 Cave was discovered by Steve Lewis on July 3, 1995. During the survey several measurements of 45 degrees and 4.5 meters were taken, hence the name.

A small stream flows down from the entrance and significantly increases in volume due to heavy dripping from the ceiling throughout the cave. The stream continues downslope until it flows into a constriction plugged with mud and silt. There are several notable soda straws in the cave and many smaller speleothems which appear to be soda straws in the early stages of formation.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The cave is very near several other significant caves and is most likely hydrologically connected to them. The cave contains an interesting speleogenesis which exhibit formation processes

that may be useful for scientific studies. The cave is in an undisturbed state and is an excellent example of karst geomorphology. Forty Five Cave and all surrounding caves in the area should be protected from any timber harvest or road building activities.



# CAPRICORN CAVE

## Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #209 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

### DESCRIPTION

Capricorn Cave was discovered by Serguei Levachev on July 3, 1995, and surveyed by Shunichiro Go and Eron Gissberg on the same day. The entrance to Capricorn Cave is surrounded by the entrances of several other caves. The entrance is located in the bottom of a small flat bottomed, moss-covered sink. The cave entrance is a relatively tight, narrow fissure which drops 6 meters into a long, high, narrow room. The entrance can be downclimbed without a handline.

The north end of the cave has a large room with a talus covered floor. The 7-meter drop to the east requires a handline. The bottom of the drop is a cobble floor with larger rocks from the talus slope above. A north

lead at the talus slope leads to a densely decorated room. The floor here is covered with flowstone and moonmilk, unstained by organic acids. There are numerous stalactites and stalagmites up to 17 inches and over 40 soda straws up to 8 inches long. A small passage continues north but the room is much too delicate for any person to enter.

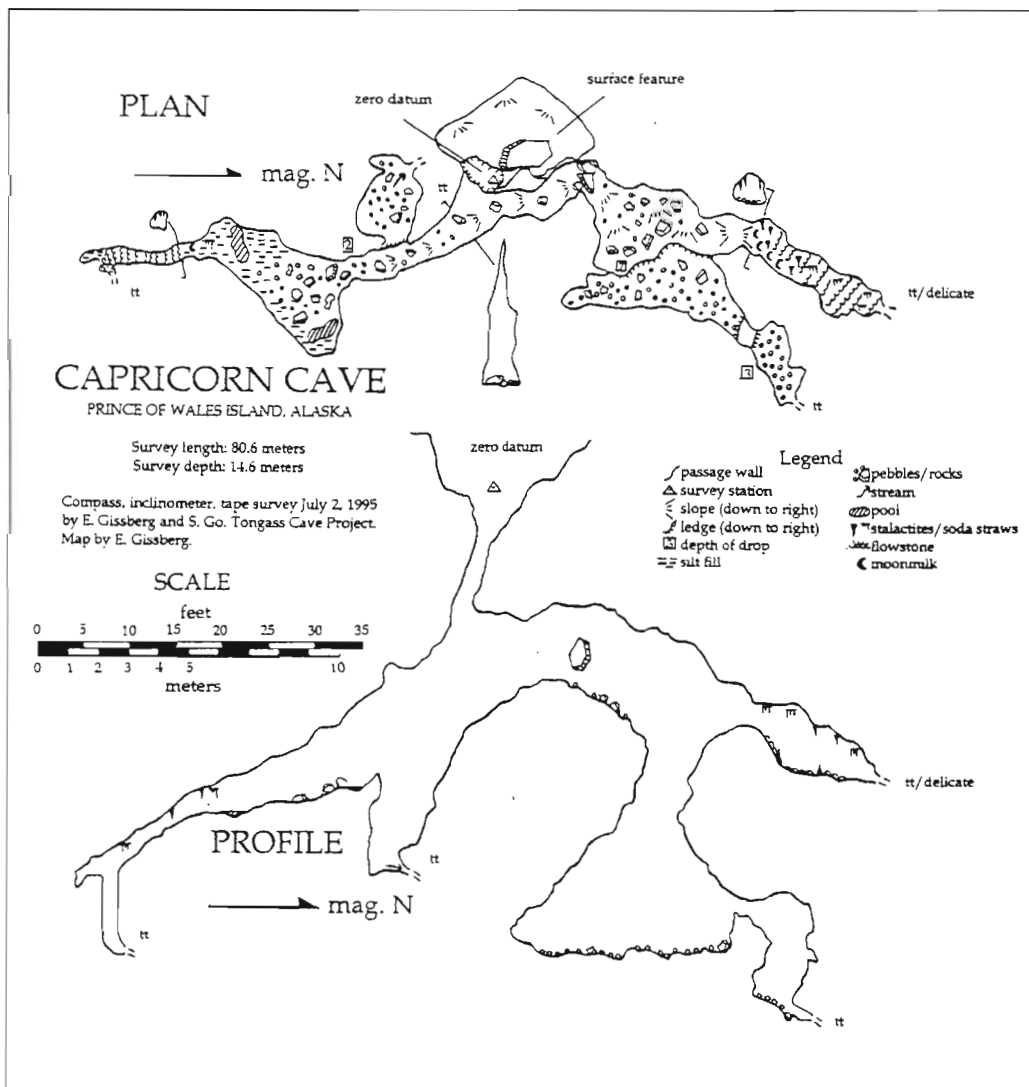
South from the bottom of the entrance drop the passage slopes down to a small habitat for troglotic organisms. Past the pool room the passage is filled with speleothems including draperies and helectites but becomes too delicate for further exploration.

A small room to the west has a 2-meter downclimb. There is a small stream and heavy dripping from the ceiling of this chamber. The stream continues northwest down a small hole.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Capricorn Cave is one of the most decorated caves in the region. It possesses abundant unique speleothems which are still actively being formed. The fragility of this cave makes it wise not to share its location with the general public. The old growth forest in the cave area contains well developed karst containing numerous grikes and solution channels. This cave is hydrologically active and close to several other caves to which it probably is hydrologically connected.

The forest surrounding Capricorn Cave should not be logged or roaded. The unique, fragile speleothems in the cave and hydrologic systems and inaccessible caverns below must be protected.



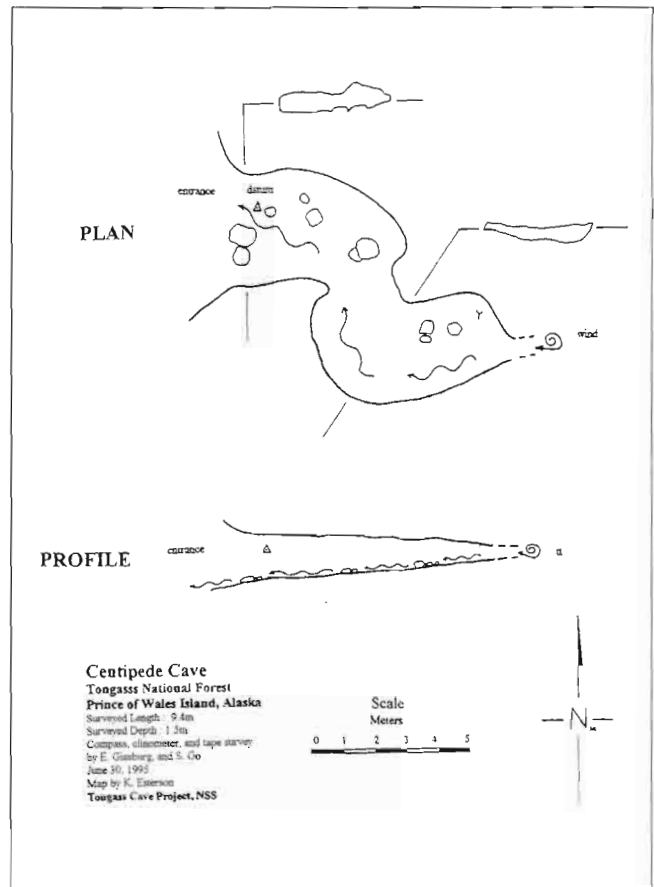


## CENTIPEDE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #221  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society  
by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

**DESCRIPTION:** Centipede Cave was discovered by Shunichiro Go. He and Eron Gissberg surveyed the cave on June 30, 1995. The cave was named due to its low nature and abundance of many-segmented arthropods near the entrance. The cave produces a small stream from a spring within. The passage is low and wide and terminates in a too tight restriction blowing air. The passage most likely continues much further past this restriction. Several small pools in the passage are ideal habitat for aquatic organisms. The spring flows out into a large stream at the entrance. Several speleothems are located in the rear of the cave.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Centipede Cave is in a pristine state and should be protected from any human activity, including timber harvest. The low passage makes it difficult for one not to disturb the pools, fine sediments and speleothems contained in the cave. It is important that the land above the cave be protected so that the hydrology and geomorphology remain unaffected.



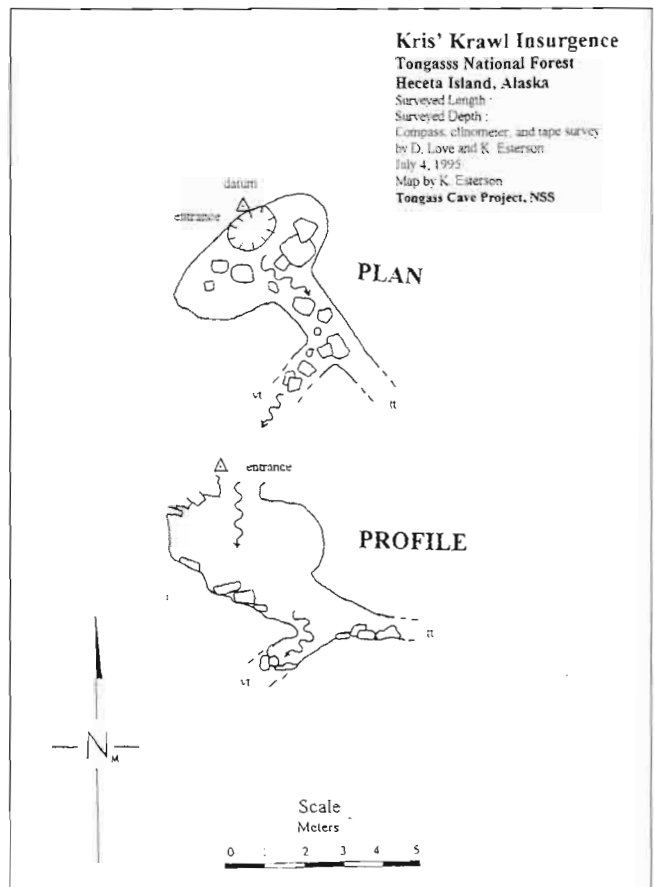
## KRIS' KRAWL INSURGENCE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #222  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society  
by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

**DESCRIPTION:** Kris' Krawl Insurgence Cave was discovered by Kris Esterson and subsequently surveyed by him and Dave Love. The cave is formed in marble along a contact. It is an active insurgence which takes a small stream from a nearby muskeg. Kris' Krawl is located next to White Socks Sump Insurgence. Parts of the same Rainier Beer can found in each cave are further evidence of the hydrological connection. During the survey unidentified white amphipods were present.

At the entrance the insurgence goes over a 3-meter drop into a small room. The stream continues through a tight passage and around a tight bend which is too small to enter without a very difficult dig.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** This cave is part of an active hydrological system and is still developing. The cave provides a habitat for troglobitic amphipods which depend on the undisturbed hydrology. For these reasons Kris' Krawl Insurgence and all nearby caves and sinkholes should be protected from any logging activities which may disturb its pristine state.



# THE GREAT ABYSS

## Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #235 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

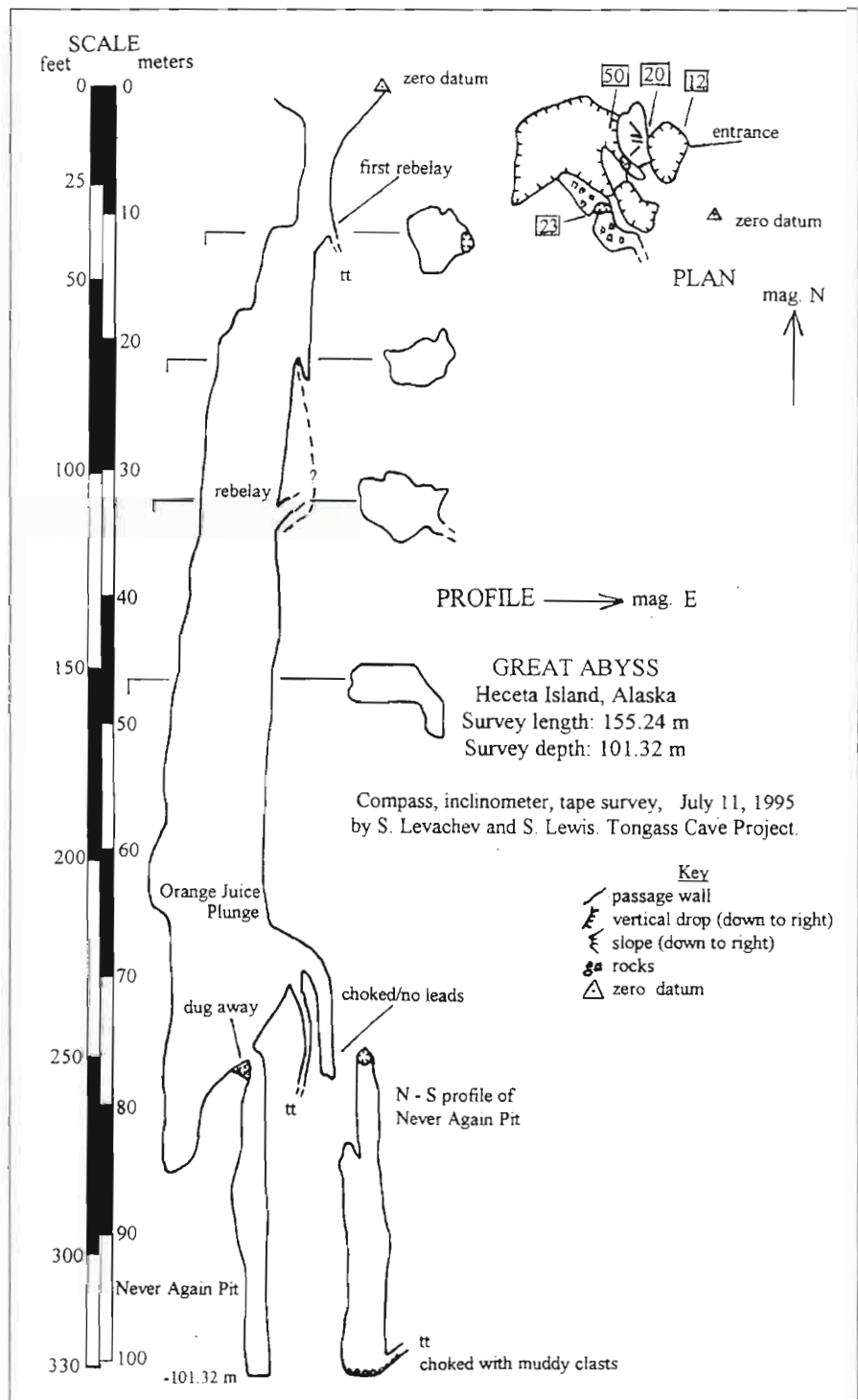
### DESCRIPTION

The Great Abyss was first entered by Steve Lewis on July 11, 1995. The cave was rigged with a tensionless tie off which proved to be very effective. The Great Abyss is aptly named. It is a huge gaping hole in the forest floor at the edge of a massive clear-cut. It is located in an area with many caves and sinks. A small stream enters the pit from a large muskeg. The initial drop into this large hole is 85.2 meters. Two redirectionals are necessary to keep the rope away from the wall. From the bottom of this spectacular drop light can still be seen through the apparently tiny entrance. A dig at the bottom of the first drop revealed another drop of 20 meters. There is much loose rock here and it is unlikely that anyone involved in the survey of this passage will ever return. The cave has a total depth of 101.32 meters with one lead which is a possible excavation site.

### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Great Abyss Cave is located in a pristine environment and is an integral part of a very significant karst system. The hydrology associated with this cave is important to the cave's development. The cave offers recreation for skilled vertical cavers prepared for its hazards. It is a very good example of the interaction between muskeg and limestone that is so essential to the formation of many Southeast Alaskan caves. Although the cave and much of the system is severely impacted visually by recent clear-cut harvest, what is left is still of great value. The remaining forest surrounding Great Abyss Cave should be protected from further logging activities so that the inaccessible passage below and its hydrology remain undisturbed and that no further

damage should occur to what is left of this significant system.



# MIST CAVE

## Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #218 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg  
July 22, 1996

### DESCRIPTION:

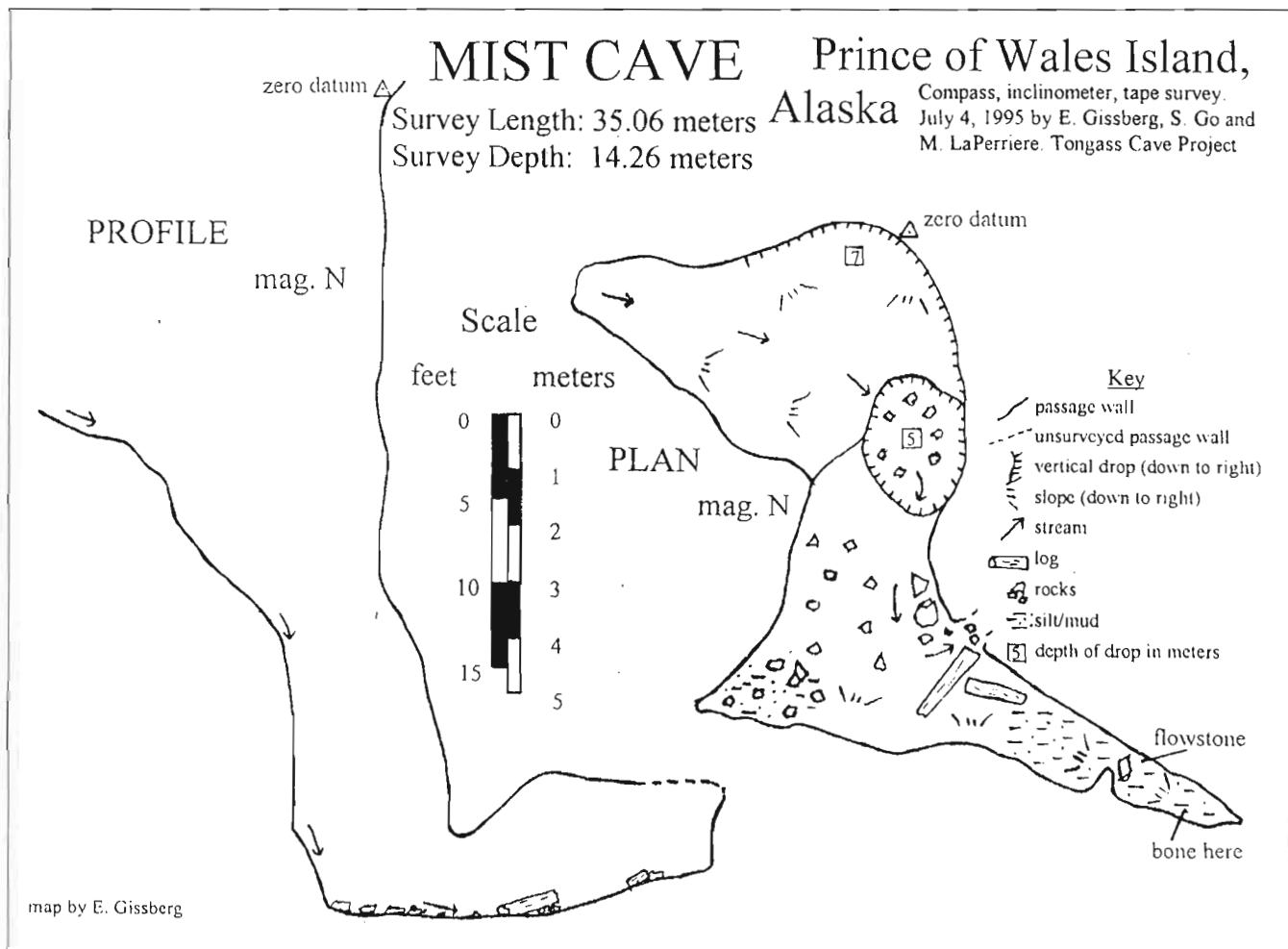
Mist Cave lies within old growth near the edge of a second growth forest. The cave has a large, scenic pit like entrance which is thickly vegetated with uncommon flora. A 15-meter passage leads off from the bottom of the pit. The cave is part of a larger hydrologic system and with an active resurgence that is obscured by a large collapsed area. The stream passage is obscured by a log and rocks. As the far end of the cave a bone fragment, possibly from a deer, was found. A rope or handline of 50 feet is recommended for the entrance pitch.

The cave was named so due to numerous attempts to locate it and the ethereal qualities of the spectacular entrance area. The cave was surveyed by Marcel LaPerriere, Shunichiro Go and Eron Gissberg in July 1995.

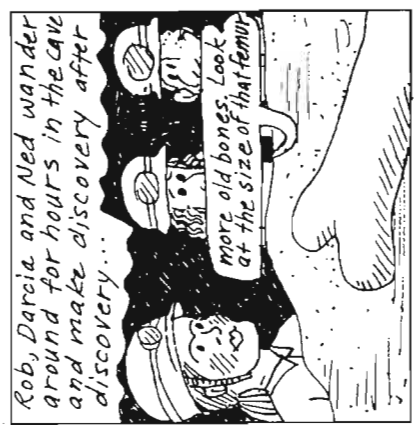
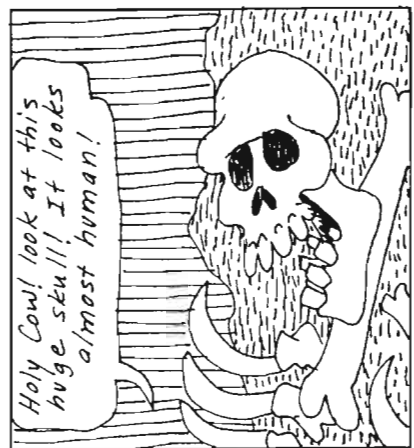
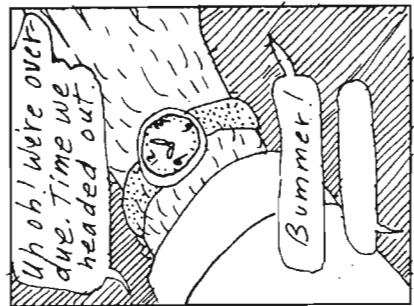
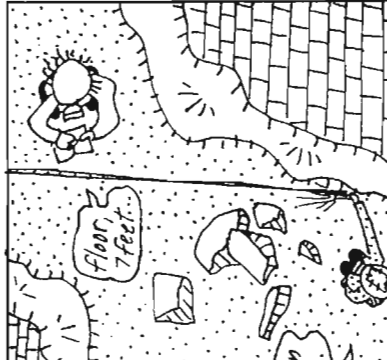
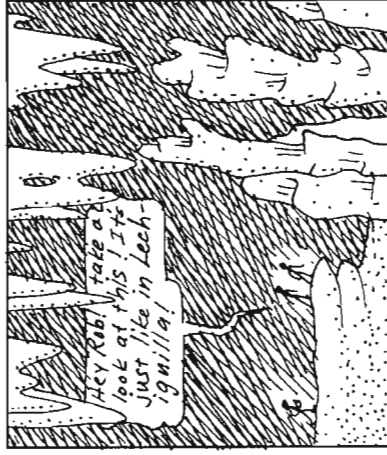
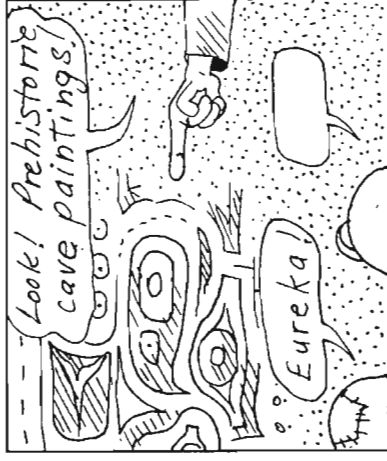
### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mist Cave is located in a unit which is scheduled to be harvested in 1996. The entrance of the cave provides year long habitat for uncommon plants which are highly sensitive to disturbance. The associated resurgence is also important for any organisms which may use the cave. Until dye tracing is done to ascertain the hydrology of the cave, it should be protected from harvesting and surface disturbances. Mist Cave should be protected from any logging activities due to its unusual, exceptionally scenic entrance.

The cave is in a highly pristine state and may provide scientific and recreational opportunities. Any surface disturbances would certainly have a negative affect on the cave's scenic and hydrological values.



# The Adventures of ROBER CAVER by K. & C. Allred



To be continued...

## MISCELLANEOUS

CAVING in 1860 by Dory Hudspeth

On June 23, 1860, Harvey Eades wrote, "Discovery-Sulphur Spring, between here (South Union, KY) and Cannon. Brethren discover a cave. Upon exploration they found in it a Sulphur Spring."

As part of his responsibilities as a Shaker Elder, Harvey L. Eades kept a journal to record the business, weather, and happenings within and around the Shaker community of South Union, KY. Much of the value today of the journals the Shakers kept is not in the differences it shows from the outside community, but in the attitudes and experiences the Shakers held in common with the "World's people" of that time. Except for matters of religion, and communal living, the Shakers were the same as the people living around them.

The cave they later call Sulphur Cave was 1/4 mile from the railroad depot they were building at the time. Within a few days of discovering the cave they went back to explore and recorded that they had gone in about 1300 feet and "Found nothing remarkable". This did not stop their curiosity about what may be within the cave. On Aug. 4, 1860, it was noted they returned and explored 725 yards of cave./

Cave exploring was considered a way of entertaining visiting guests. Five years later when the South Union Shakers were hosting a visit from Shakers of other communities they went caving. Harvey L. Eades recorded in Oct. 1865, "Br. Israel Trotter went in company with Elder Asa Ware, Br. Jno Perryman, and Wm. Booker to Stanley Cave, went in 130 yards and came out at another place. They also visited Sulphur and McCulchen Cave."

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NSS NEWS June 1996. p. 162

### The Alaskan Caver

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## NCRC NEWS and NOTES

The following nominations for Region Coordinators were made by the NCRC BORC, with NSS president Dave Luckins appointing them and the NSS BOG confirming the nominations: John Panches - Pacific Northwest , John Gookin - Rocky Mountain, John Evans - Northeastern , John Green - South Central , and Bill Maher - Western.

The position of Southwestern Region Coordinator, formerly filled by Tom Faulkner, is vacant as no nomination was forwarded by the NCRC BORC.

Regional Coordinator terms which expire next year are: Eastern - John Appleby , Central - Mike Summers, and Pacific Northwest - John Panches. Also open will be Diving - Henry Nicholson.

The 1997 NCRC Winter Business meeting of the Board of Regional Coordinators is tentatively set for Jan. 25-26, 1997, at the Walker County (GA) Civic Center. The 1997 National Weeklong Seminar was approved for Mount Vernon, KY, the week of June 14-21, the week before the NSS Convention in Sullivan, MO (June 23-27). Mike Summers is Course Coordinator.

During the "forum" part of the meeting Cindy Heazlit made a presentation concerning "The Western Region Self-Rescue Course," and Butch Feldhaus did one on "NCRC: Recent Accomplishments and Future Plans". Two issues were brought up by the NSS membership. The membership would like to have a training seminar, similar to the National Weeklong, which would be for cavers who do not want to do vertical work. Norma Peacock will write a proposal for NCRC to consider. A proposal will also be presented for updating the current instructor base. Muddy Litter Letter "July/August" 1996

**WORDS OF WISDOM:** Take time to pass on what's in your head - specifically your wisdom.



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