

Alaskan Caver

Newsletters and Periodicals

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October 1999

## Alaskan Caver Alaska Caver

Chuck Pease

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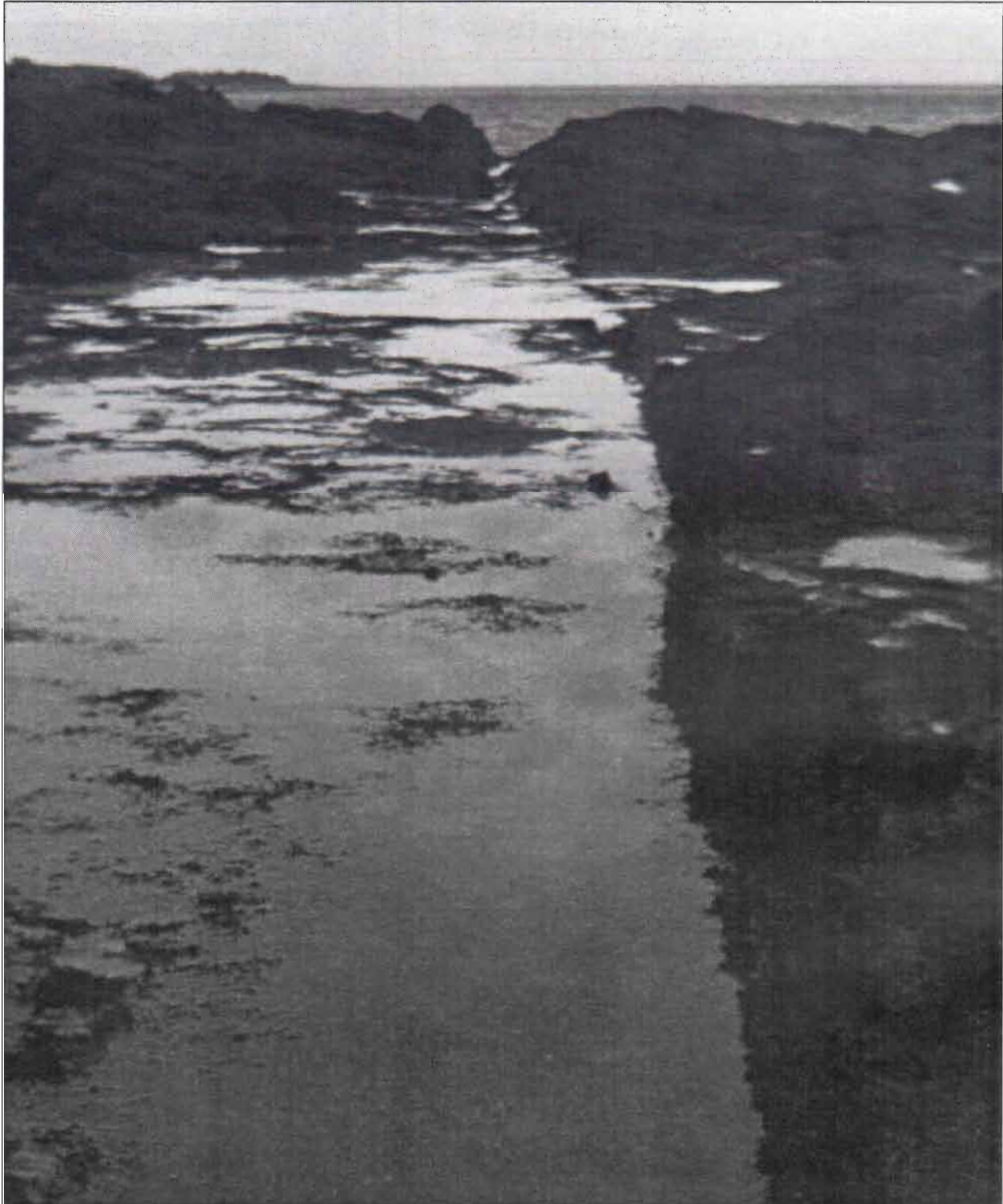
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# The **Alaskan Caver**

Volume 19 Number 5

October 1999



# The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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- Anchorage Meetings: Call Jay Rockwell, 277-7150 or e-mail Harvey Bowers at [agate@alaska.net](mailto:agate@alaska.net)
- Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.
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A caver begins to explore at the Pakalolo Entrance of Olaa Section of Kazumura Cave in Hawaii. Photo: Kevin Allred

## CALENDAR

**June 26-30, 2000.....**NSS Convention, Elkins, WV. Kelley L. Deem, 167 Blue Ridge Acres, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425. (304)725-9812 <deem@mammoth-geo.com>

**Ketchikan Area Grotto** meetings are the first Monday, at 7 pm at Ketchikan Public Health Center 3050 Fifth Ave. 907/247-1559 or kavesp@hotmail.com

**Alaska Cave Rescue** meets each Tuesday at 7 pm, at Kave Sports, Ketchikan. Frequent rope practice sessions. Sonnenberg 247-1559

**Southcentral Area** meetings or expeditions will be called by Jay Rockwell 277-7150 or Harvey Bowers at <agate@alaska.net>

Glacier Grotto web site:

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## THE GREATEST UNDERGROUND ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME

by Marcel LaPerriere

Installment VII

*(The following story is just that, a STORY. All the cavers in the story are real people, but the story is total BS. No attempt was made to change or alter names, and no harm was meant by using real names. The author is totally responsible for the story and in no way is the Glacier Grotto, the NSS, or members or officers responsible for the content. The intent of the story is to have some fun through total fantasy. Marcel)*

The time had passed too quickly and most of the cavers had to leave Heceta Island. For most of the crew further exploration of Arabic and the amazing underground labyrinth would have to wait. Bruce, had to get ready for School, Amy, was already taking too much time off from her work, Dan was about to start a new job at the University and he needed time to prepare, Pete had committed to a job falling some hazardous trees, Erin needed to get ready for the skiing season, and Alan who was saddest of all could no longer pawn running the store off on Sue. This left only Chris, who said he could spare another 10 days before he had to get back to Florida and school, Rob who seldom seems to have pressing commitments, and Sergey who said if he could call home to Russia that he too could spare another couple of weeks. It was agreed that everyone would head back to Prince of Wales Island (POW). Then after resupplying Chris, Rob and Sergey would return.

Each and every caver agreed that

1. They would tell no one of what they had found except

other potential cave explores, and

2. Even if they did they all knew no one would believe them anyway. It was also agreed that each and every caver would keep the others informed of any new exploration.

The crew broke camp and headed back to Camp Island. A few brave souls decided to take Rob up on his offer to transport them to Naukati and with a bit of good fortune Pete was able to call his good friend James via the VHF. James skips a fishing charter boat out of Naukati and he agreed that in the afternoon after he was done fishing he would make the run over to Heceta to transport the others

*Continued on page 2*

## President's Corner

by David Love

Twenty-foot diameter vertical shafts plunging into blackness. Unexplored sinks taking muskeg-sourced streams. Water falling through limestone conglomerates against a backdrop of Green Spleenwort, a "karstophilic" fern. These are but a few of the wonders of Kosciusko Island, Alaska that haunt my mind.

*Continued on page 3*

back to POW.

"Hello," I answered the phone trying not to sound like I had been sleeping.

"Did I wake you?" Alan asked, and before I could answer, he said, "Good!" with his usual gotcha chuckle.

"So, what's up, that you'd be calling me," I paused as I looked the clock on the bulkhead, "at half past midnight?"

"You wouldn't believe me if I told you," Alan answered.

"So what the heck did you call for then?" I asked.

"Just wanted to say, Hi!" Alan answered chuckling again.

I could tell by his excited voice that he really had something good to tell me, but he was savoring each and every second that he made me wait.

"I'm heading into Ketchikan in the morning, I'll catch the 6:15 am ferry," Alan finely said. "You have to meet me at the ferry." Alan paused then went on, "And if you have half a brain, which you don't, you will get your caving gear ready and head back over to POW on the afternoon ferry."

Then he laughed.

"Oh, by the way get your snowshoes ready too."

I was wondering if my foggy sleep-filled brain had heard Alan correctly

"Did you say snowshoes?"

"Yep!" he chuckled. "Just meet me when I drive off the ferry."

I told him that I would, hung up the phone, and then tired to get back to sleep. After laying awake for an hour wondering what had Alan so excited, I got up and started packing my caving gear. I finely crawled back into my bunk around 3:30, but was still too excited to sleep.

Later in the morning I met Alan at the ferry.

"Jump in!" he said as he opened the passenger door to his truck. "You can come with me, and I'll tell you all about the trip as I clean and put away my gear."

I was beginning to wonder if Alan had just had me meet him so I could help him clean all his muddy gear. But, then he started telling me the whole story starting with the near fatal boat ride. Knowing Alan as I do I knew he loves to play practical jokes, but he is not a BSer. As hard as it was for me to believe the story he was telling me, I knew Alan was telling the truth.

Like any sane person I did wonder about the validity of glowing water, butterflies underground, and underground plant life. I was about to ask Alan what mind altering drugs he and the group had been using when he started logically explaining his theories.

"You know the light sticks we use in diving?" Alan asked.

I nodded yes.

"Well, just like the light sticks, I think the light comes from a chemical action." He went on with the conversation as he scrubbed on his cave suit. "I think the water

has some chemical in it that reacts with something that is in the rock, thus making the light."

"What about the plants, and the butterflies?" I asked.

"I don't have the foggiest idea on the butterflies, but the plants are probably just hybrids of surface plants. The ferns we saw the most of are just a giant deer fern. I'd guess the spores just washed in and took root centuries ago." Alan hung up his suit to dry then went on. "The only reason that more seeds or spores don't grow underground is because there is no light.

"Well we sure found light deep within Arabica, in fact the light was so bright it was almost like being outside on an overcast day. Think about it, the ferns probably grow so big because the light never goes out down there," Alan said referring to the depths of Arabica.

Needless to say everything Alan was telling me had my blood flowing with excitement. I was even more excited knowing that I had already planned a two week vacation starting in two days. All I had to do was convince Connie that we go caving instead of sailing and that we leave a couple days early for what I knew would be an incredible adventure. I knew it wouldn't be hard to talk Connie into the caving part, but I was concerned that she would hesitate when it came to taking off work two days before her scheduled time.

All it took was a quick call to Connie's boss.

"Hello Dwight." I did my best to sound extra serious "You know, I think you should let Connie take off a couple days early for her vacation." When he started to make excuses why he shouldn't and couldn't I just added. "You know Connie has been talking about quitting. I bet a longer vacation just might change her mind."

"Did you say two days?" Dwight asked, knowing he had been beaten. After I replied, "Yes," he said, "No problem. I was just thinking how Connie needed a few extra days off."

I spent the rest of the day getting all our caving gear together, packed the truck and purchased a ticket for the 6:15 PM ferry. We were going caving!

Luckily Chris, Sergey, and Rob were still in Thorne Bay when we arrived on the island. We quickly made arrangements to meet them in Naukati for the trip back to Heceta. Yes, Connie and I decided that we would be brave and would trust the Karta Bay to get us to Camp Island.

The trip over to Camp Island was totally uneventful. Going into Arabica wasn't. Even though I'd rappelled into Arabica several times previous, leaning back on the rope on the edge of a 100-meter rappel had my heart beating several extra beats per minute. Then as I crossed to the lower side of the redirection and noticed I'd neglected to lock my carabiner that attached my stop to my harness my heart beat even faster. Heck, if I was this freaked out on this drop what was it going to be like on the lower drops?



Maybe it was just the fact that I hadn't trusted my life to an 7/16 diameter rope in a while but I found myself nearly hyperventilating. Fortunately 3/4 of the way down the main drop I relaxed and the fun of vertical caving replaced any fears. Then, possibly because I had been so overwhelmed by the rest of the cave the other drops went by without any worry at all.

Since Chris, Sergey, and Rob had all been into the deepest depths yet explored in Arabica, they let Connie and then me drop the final pit before they did. As I anxiously awaited my turn to make the drop I could hear Connie yelling with excitement.

"Off rope," she yelled, and seconds later I was over the edge dropping faster than I normally would.

Even though Alan, Rob, Chris, and Sergey had told me about the butterflies, I was still overwhelmed with the excitement of seeing something few people had ever seen before.

I now knew that Chris had hit the nail on the head when he had earlier said, "It's impossible to describe. You'll just have to see it for yourself."

After the drop when everyone was once again reunited we contemplated breaking into two groups, one to explore the upstream passage and the other group to explore the down stream passages. But, in the end no one wanted to go upstream, so we all started the other direction.

Like all the others before us Connie and I were overwhelmed by what we saw. Unlike the first group we now had the benefit of the snowshoes Alan had recommended that we bring. By walking on the ferns and occasionally walking in the stream, we quickly made it to the large room with the lake and as we had been told the ferns ended and lush grass grew right to the edge of the lake.

As I sit here trying to recount this adventure it's impossible for me to tell you the excitement we all felt. The beauty of the lake was beyond anything that any of us had ever seen. The water was a translucent turquoise that shimmered as the water from the stream invade the calms of the lake. The grass was greener than any manicured lawn that any of us had ever seen. But, possibly

more amazing than anything was the fact that we could not see the ceiling of the cave. When we looked up it was almost as if we were looking into the sky on one of those exceptionally calm and slightly overcast Southeast Alaska evenings just before sunset.

Directly overhead the color hues ran from a crystalline gray to a deep and dark blue off in the horizon. It was magnificent!

"Look!" Kris yelled in an excited voice as he pointed into the lake.

We all looked just in time to see what looked like a salmon swim by in the shallow water. This got us so excited we all ran to the edge of the lake and sure enough there were more fish. To my untrained eye I guess they were some type of sockeye salmon and everyone else agreed.

"Boy," I said. "I sure wish Dave Love was here. He'd know what type of salmon they were." (This statement latter proved to be wrong, no living scientist had ever seen this species of salmon.)

We walked along the edge of the lake, trying to absorb everything we saw, felt, smelled and heard, but it was still too overwhelming for all of us.

I think it was Connie who first noticed the air was taking on a new scent that was unlike anything any of us had ever smelt. The smell was sweet, but not overly strong. The scent soon over powered us as if we were under a magical spell. It was as if we were being drawn towards it almost like a person is drawn to the smell of fresh baked bread. We found ourselves following this pleasant smell and we were powerless to stop.

Finding the source of the scent became our prime mission and most everything else around us became less important.

I can't say that I have ever fainted, but the shock of seeing the origin of the smell nearly did make me pass out. All of us stood with our mouths agape looking at the source of the scent. No one spoke for several minutes, then Sergey with his Russian accent broke the silence.

"Impossible. It must be a dream."

We all agreed with him, but again no one spoke.

To be continued

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**Continued from President's Corner on page 1**

I've just spent the week of 10/11/99 on the southern end of Kosciusko Island observing and assisting the Bellevue, WA, environmental consultants Dames and Moore conduct evaluation of proposed timber units for karst. Hydrogeologist Tom Aley and his assistant NSS Director Philip Moss arrived in Edna Bay via floatplane approximately two hours after Jim Baichtal, USFS Geologist, and I arrived at our lodging, the 85 foot chartered vessel "Morning Star" operated by Stan and Bonnie Oaksmith. Thanks to USFS Cost Share

Agreement for housing and feeding me and for rountrip transportation from Ketchikan and the Tongass Cave Project for paying my way to and from Juneau.

This trip has helped to assuage some of my concerns, clarify some of my misunderstandings and raised some new questions. I feel that my proactive participation on the ground during this early evaluation process was productive and invaluable in monitoring the correct implementation of the Karst Standard and Guidelines (S&Gs). I suggest that direct involvement by the Grotto

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## LETTERS

Stephen J Kimball  
District Ranger, Thorne Bay Ranger District  
P.O. Box 19001  
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Dear Sir,

This letter relates to the Rumba Salvage Project proposed for Heceta Island.

As currently written, the project has several problems, about which we are concerned.

The scoping document indicates that there are no known karst features that might warrant a high vulnerability rating under the TLMP Standards and Guidelines for karst. However, our observations on Heceta Island made us dubious of this assertion. Derrumba Ridge is virtually all high vulnerability karst. In a phone conversation on 9/24/99 with Jim Baichtal, I was told that there are several sinks (at least 3) spanned by downed trees and surrounded by a larger area of blowdown within the proposed Rumba Salvage Sale Area.

Although, according to Jim, none of these sinks appeared to be taking surface streams, such sinks are specifically protected under the TLMP Karst Standards and Guidelines. Jim's position was that the disturbance to the area had already happened and the blown down trees away from the edge of the sinks could be removed by helicopter as long as the sink edges were not disturbed.

We contend that, whatever the case, the Forest Service would be in violation of its own rules if harvest occurs near these features. We are also concerned, based on our own experience, that any surveys for karst features in blowdown are very likely to miss important features. While we applaud Jim's additional effort in surveying this proposed unit, we are still concerned about potential for increased sedimentation subsurface due to further disturbance of destabilized soils beneath the downed trees.

Furthermore, Paul Griffiths' presentation of historical logging practices on British Columbia karst at the February, 1993 Ketchikan Karst Symposium, clearly demonstrated that harvest of wind-thrown trees adjacent to standing trees results in the eventual loss of the adjacent standing forest. We see the potential for this same pattern being once again demonstrated as the Thorne Bay Ranger District attempts to salvage wind-thrown timber. We believe it's time to admit that we made mistakes and let wind-throw go to "waste" rather than creating further wind-throw along the newly created edge, thus further damaging the karst resource.

We believe that the Rumba Salvage Sale Area should be designated high vulnerability, given the features already present there. The scoping document was blatantly incorrect in describing the area as having no known karst. We feel that, at a minimum, a buffer of 2 standard tree lengths should be implemented around all significant karst features. If the Forest Service decides to go ahead with the sale, a karst expert should be on the ground at all times during the harvest and yarding activities. If this occurs, we would like to see a representative of either the Glacier Grotto or Tongass Cave Project involved on the ground, before and after harvest and yarding take place. We believe that the Forest Service should provide, at a minimum, travel and living expenses to such an observer.

For the sake of the karst resource, we sincerely hope you take our comments to heart.

Sincerely, Signed David C. Love, Glacier Grotto President

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October 1, 1999 Rumba Salvage Sale

Dear Mr. Love,

I am writing to thank you for your comments and concerns focusing on the associated karst and cave resources on Rumba Salvage Sale on Heceta Island. In light of your comments, I have decided to go out for public scoping on the project again with a modified proposed action and preliminary issue discussion. The harvest unit is completely underlain by carbonate bedrock into which a karst drainage system has developed. The soils are a mosaic of shallow residual and organic soils and deep residual soils and glacial till. There are karst features within the proposed harvest unit boundary which are of high vulnerability. As a result our inventories and your concerns I offer the following comments to your questions:



1. The scoping document did indicate that "There are no known karst features that indicate high vulnerability karst." This statement is in error. The proposed harvest unit contains at least three (3) sink holes and one vertical pit (approx. 25 feet in depth) has been found outside the harvest unit boundary. These features have been flagged to be excluded from the harvest unit as currently laid out. The harvest unit was designed to protect the known karst features but not permitting harvest within 40-50 feet of the edge of the collapse feature and that the timber would be helicoptered from the unit to minimize disturbance. Any trees that spanned a feature or were blown into a feature were to be left. This information was excluded from the Scoping Document. I have instructed Jim Baichtal, Forest Geologist to go back to the proposed harvest unit, to survey the location of the sinkholes, expand the no-harvest buffer to 100 feet, and reflag/remark unit boundary.

2. You have asked for a no-harvest buffer of at least "two-standard tree lengths." Current TLMP standards require no more than a 100-foot no harvest buffer. I feel that a buffer in excess of 100 feet is not warranted here for all the trees have been blown down. I will add however, that Jim Baichtal is in the process of writing a clarification statement for the karst and cave resource standards and guides found currently in TLMP which states, "No surface disturbing activity such as timber harvest, road construction, and/or quarry development shall occur within a minimum of 100 feet of the edge of a cave, sinkhole, collapse channel, doline field, or other collapse karst feature. Manage an appropriate distance beyond the no-harvest zone to provide for a reasonable assurance of windfirmness of that zone (pay special attention to the area within two site-potential tree height of the no-harvest zone)....." Though this direction is only proposed and has not been approved by the Tongass Plan Implementation Team (TPIT) I wanted you to know that our management goals and your recommendations are in line.

3. You have requested that, at our expense, a representative which meets your approval from the Glacier Grotto or Tongass Cave Project be onsite during layout, harvest, and post harvest monitoring. I would invite you to be involved in the layout and monitoring phase of our operations as a volunteer. You would have to make yourself available to work with our layout and resource crews when they are scheduled to be on site. Transportation to and from Throne Bay could be provided under the current Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the USFS, the Glacier Grotto and the Tongass Cave Project. Food and housing would be provided in the field if an overnight stay was required. This volunteer's role would be that of an observer.

As for the appropriateness of salvage of wind thrown timber, that is a land management plan issue. TLMP allows for salvage of wind-thrown timber within appropriate land use designations in conjunction with the standards and guidelines of the plan. In this Timber Production LUD it is appropriate to salvage wind-thrown timber under the current TLMP direction.

Again thank you for your letter focusing on our karst and cave resource management on Heceta Island. I apologize for our Scoping Document being incomplete and incorrect, you will find our next scoping document to fully describe the on-the-ground conditions and our management strategy.

Stephen J. Kimball, District Ranger, Alaska Region

Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay Ranger District, PO Box 19001, Thorne Bay, AK 99919

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**Continued from President's Corner on page 3**

or the Tongass Cave Project should be standard in future timber harvest planning on karsted lands on the Tongass. Although we have witnessed numerous violations of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act and USFS S&Gs during the past ten years I hope the USFS will conduct harvest in a manner commensurate with the quality of planning I saw in the field this past week. Many in the caving and environmental communities will be watching.

Before continuing let me clarify a misunderstanding I voiced in my last President's Corner. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposed timber harvest is not supplementary but will instead result in a new draft EIS for public comment, followed by a final EIS for timber harvest in the units remaining on Kosciusko. My apologies. Described as a "fatal flaw" assessment by Senior Geologist Rick

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## ROPE CUTTER

*The Rope Cutter is a place for cavers to voice their concerns, ideas or gripes. Please send your entries to PO Box 9062, Retchikan AK 99901 (oops! Make that Ketchikan). The answers and ideas in no way reflect any view of the Grotto as an entity, and may not even represent a sane viewpoint at all. We reserve the right to ignore, gloss over, edit or just plain plagiarize any entry.*



Dear Rope Cutter,

I wanted to know why mountain climbers get all the glory? Cavers probably suffer as much, exert as much effort and see things that can't be seen from any other vantage point, yet, who can name more than two people who are sort of famous. The famous cavers I refer to also are only immortalized because they died. I refer, of course, to Floyd Collins and Sheck Exley. I want to know why?

How can I encourage my kids to cave with no role models?

Sincerely,

(Signed) P. S.

Dear Publicity Seeker,

First, I want to know why you are looking for glory and recognition in caving? Everybody knows that cavers are crazy. This is the first reason that the general public can not bring itself to laud their exploits. I would recommend that you visit your local therapist, but beware.... If you manage to cure your dreams of recognition in caving you may have cured any desire to engage in a sport deemed crazy by the masses.

Linguistics (not to be confused with linguini) is another of the causes of the lack of respect given cavers. Look at the list of the following words associated with climbing: getting high, reaching the top, up, neverending vistas, air reconnaissance, thin air, etc..... Look at the following words associated with caving: descend, down, tight squeezes, breakdown, blackness, bad light, blowing passage, etc....

Now ask yourself how important words are to convey positive feelings? Would you rather be visited by an angel or the prince of darkness?

The real reason cavers are not recognized is that mountain climbers have altitude in their favor. Cavers only have negative altitude which is part of the negative attitude towards cavers. But the real true reason for nonexistent glory from the press is the fact that it is impossible to take a picture of a caver standing at the apex of his/her achievement with the sun setting behind them.

Yours as always,  
Phreda Preatic

Dear Rope Cutter,

I am new to caving and have heard a couple of cavers bad mouthing someone who was scoping a cave. I was wondering why they thought this was so bad. I got into caving so that I could explore, so what's the problem here?

(Signed) P.S.

Dear Pooper Scooper,

The reason cavers who are involved with any quality caving project object to scoping is because of the following scenario: Here you are dropping a new pit. At the bottom is this little mud encrusted tube with a blowing wind. It looks nasty but at the end of the tube you can see it opens up.

Wrong! It's the cave of your worst nightmares. The longest survey shot possible is an arm length and the slime is creeping up your pant leg and down your neck. It never gets better, just slimier. You scope the cave and that's it. No other caver will ever want to enter the cave again short of a cold day in hell.

If you survey as you go at least you had a reason for being there in the first place. Otherwise, all you are left with is bad memories and worse Karma from the caver who has to go after you to survey.

Why does someone have to go back to survey this? It turns out that this cave is close to a large system. If you had surveyed this slime hole in the first place, you would have discovered that the bottom is just 2 feet from breaking through to a large system that currently takes 10 hours one way to reach. Ten minutes of slime would be nothing to have a short cut to a magnificent cave.

The best cavers I know, survey as they go. It's an unwritten rule that only Slime Balls scope a cave!

Testily,  
Phreda Preatic

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# LETHAL INJECTION CAVE

Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #318

Cave #10-5-4-341

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis  
February 2, 1999

## Description:

Lethal Injection Cave (also referred to as Rethal Injection Cave because the cave notes were labeled as such by the sketcher, Shunichiro Go) is located on Derrumba Ridge. The surveyed passage measures 100.17 meters (328.64 feet) and the cave reached a depth of 67 meters (219.81 feet).

The cave is highly vertical, with a stream dropping into its opening. A large sink with a very tight lead neighbors the entrance pit to Lethal Injection. Rigging is fairly complex due to some moderately unstable boulders at the top, and awkward moves further into the cave. The pit is relatively large and clean until it pinches down and plugs with muck and cobbles at the bottom. This pattern was also noted in several other caves including Aquatic Verticality. Dye traces between Lethal Injection and the Warm Chuck resurgence were negative. It is unknown whether this implies that the systems are not integrated, whether the dye took longer to reach the resurgence than

the time the charcoal trap remained in the water, or whether water levels in the system were at inappropriate levels for the dye to reach the resurgence.

## Management Recommendations:

Lethal Injection Cave may be part of the karst system that has been connected by dye traces to much of the area around Timber Knob, Bald Mountain, and Derrumba Ridge. It is a highly significant cave on its own, and even more significant if it is part of this large and complex system. No further logging or road construction should take place near Lethal Injection, or within the watershed of the Timber Knob, Bald Mountain, Derrumba Ridge cave system, which drains the highest concentration of caves thus far discovered in Southeast Alaska. Further dye traces from Lethal Injection and other caves on Derrumba Ridge should be made to Warm Chuck and streams on the southwest side of Heceta Island.

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Continued from President's Corner on page 5

Langoodoon of Dames and Moore, this stage of Environmental Impact assessment aims at deleting the karsted timber units early in the planning stages. These units are being evaluated for karst vulnerability, slope stability, mass wasting and soil depth and type. This is why Dames and Moore started the evaluation of these units this fall rather than waiting to do them next summer during further EIS assessments for wildlife, fisheries, subsistence use, windthrow, socio-economic concerns, etc... However, I think Dames and Moore did not realize the extent of the karst in this area or the time required to walk units and catalog the numerous features they are finding. Many of the units appear to be on high vulnerability karst, although there are several that occur on noncarbonate siltstones and igneous conglomerates. It is not known if these areas are underlain or interbedded by carbonates and whether they contribute to subsurface waters. They will likely recommend that all roads proposed over karst be deleted and what trees remain be removed by helicopter.

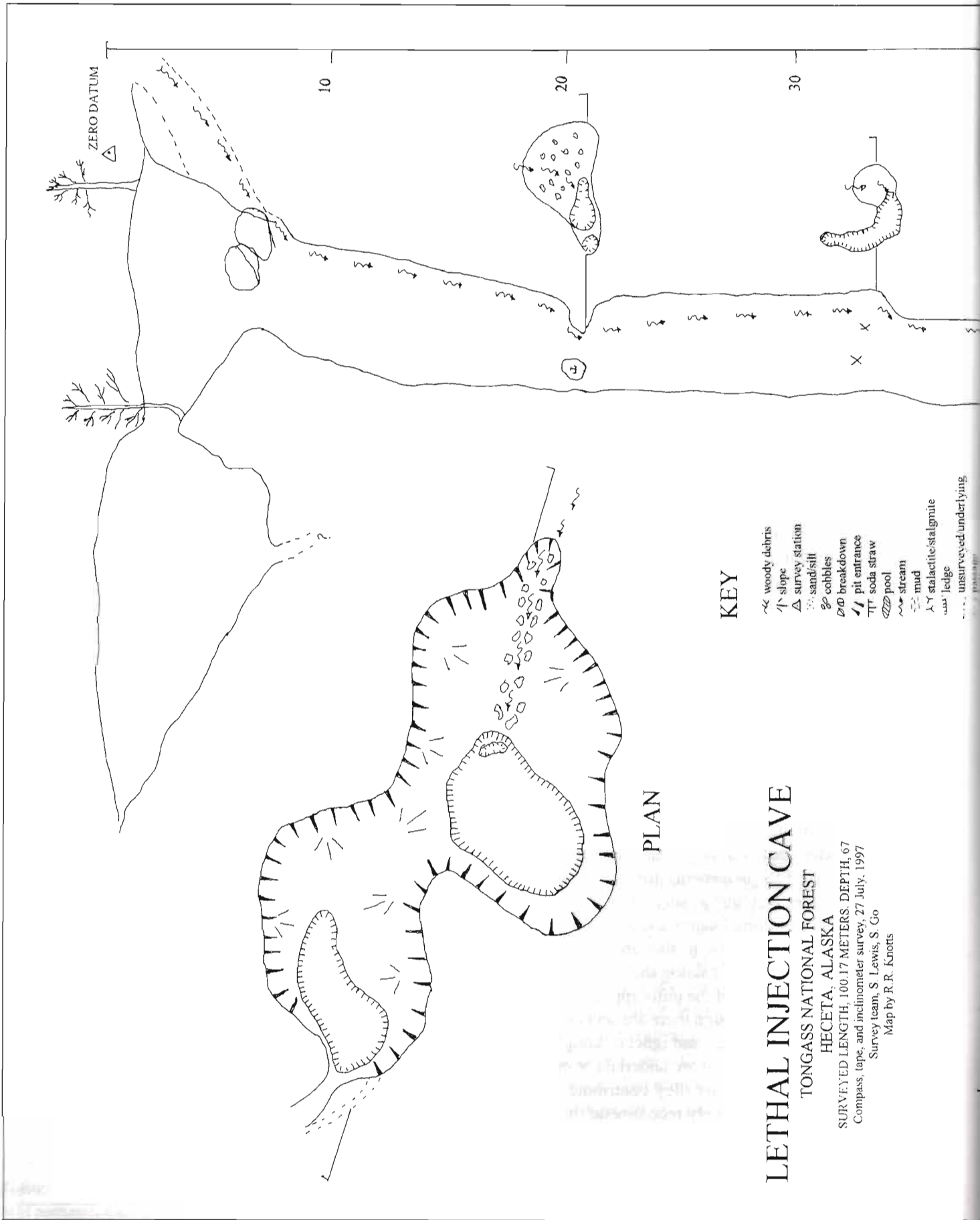
In general, I felt that the quality of survey conducted by the Dames and Moore crew was good. Based

on discussions with Rick Langoodoon and a unit survey I helped with, they have been flagging all high vulnerability features regardless of whether caves are present, and have applied a more rigorous classification system than required by the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP). Routes taken during initial unit survey and features observed and flagged have been noted and will be available upon completion of the EIS process. Initially, Dames and Moore had intended to be surveying units on Tuxekan Island by the end of October, however, because of the additional time needed on Kosciusko, evaluation for Tuxekan Island karst vulnerability has been postponed until next summer.

In response to comments made regarding current karst TLMP S&G's and past evidence of the ineffectiveness of cave buffers, damage to karst resources and problems with sedimentation in some caves, Jim Baichtal had begun writing revisions to the S&G's. These new standards are being applied to the karst on Kosciusko by the Dames and Moore crew. Jim has assured me that he will supply those interested in commenting on these new S&Gs with the draft document. I recommend you con-

Continued on page 14





**KEY**

- woody debris
- slope
- survey station
- sand/silt
- cobbles
- breakdown
- pit entrance
- soda straw
- pool
- stream
- mud
- stalactite/stalagmite
- ledge
- unsurveyed underlying

**PLAN**

**LETHAL INJECTION CAVE**

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST  
HECETA, ALASKA

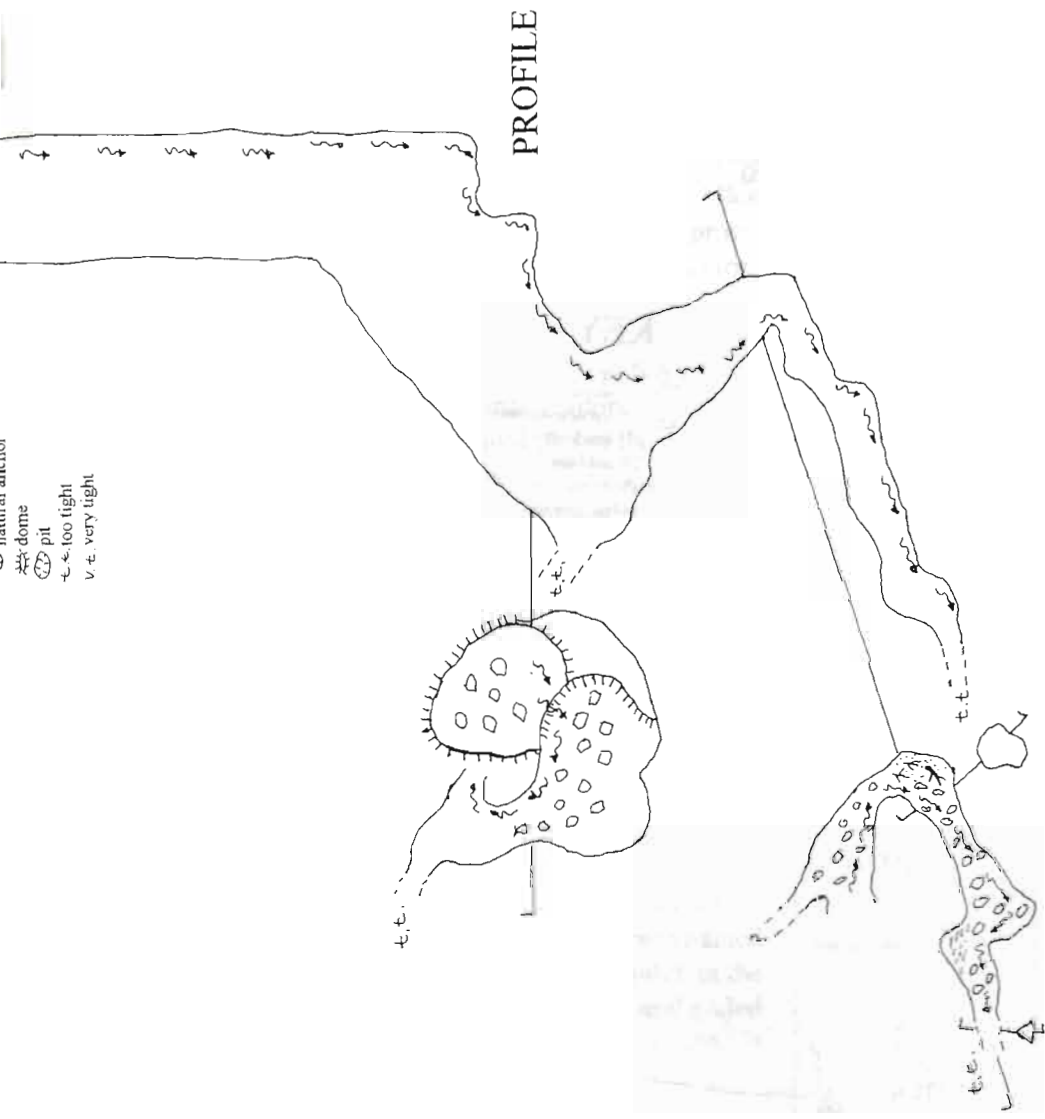
SURVEYED LENGTH, 100.17 METERS. DEPTH, 67

Compass, tape, and inclinometer survey, 27 July, 1997

Survey team, S. Lewis, S. Go

Map by R. R. Knotts

40 50 60 67



©1988 R. KNIGHTS



# CONSTRICTION CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #327

Cave #10-5-4-380

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis  
April 8, 1999

## Description:

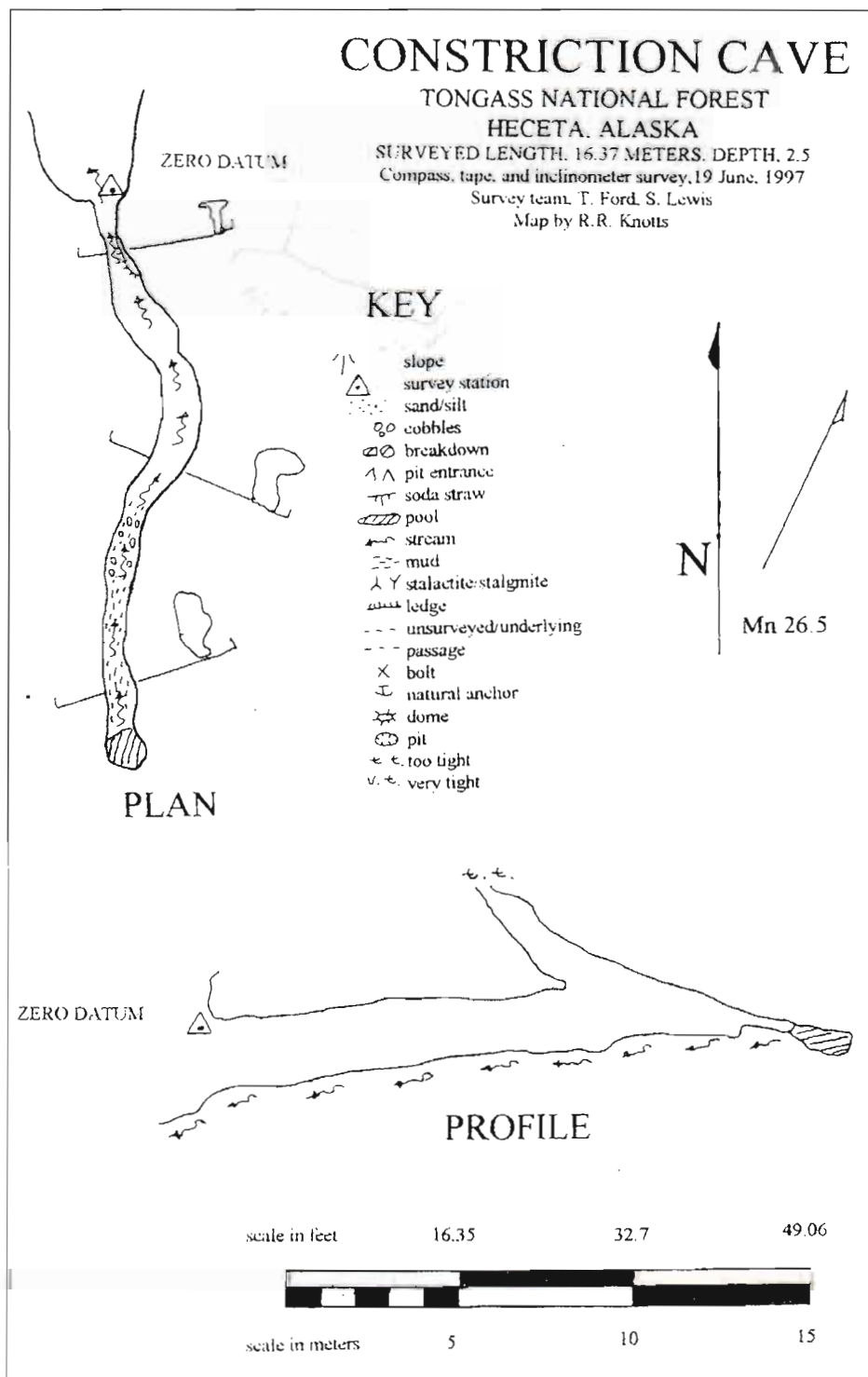
Constriction Cave was discovered by Tom Ford. The cave is a resurgence that drains the ridge above it. The slope above the cave is a narrow strip of well-developed karst, with a series of karst canyons and it sinks quite obviously. Surveyed passage totals 16.37 meters (53.71 feet), with a depth of 2.5 meters (8.2 feet).

The cave is well decorated with moonmilk and some small stalactites near the back. Blocks of blackish green mudstone were noted in the limestone, as were dikes of basalt just below the too tight high lead. The cave sumped in a room floored with mud and small cobbles.

No inventory was made, but the cave seems likely to host toglobytic aquatics.

## Management Recommendations

Constriction Cave is part of a relatively small karst area surrounded by non-carbonate terrain. This karst is high vulnerability but isolated. The drainage basin (mostly muskeg) should not be disturbed by road building. Adequate buffers should be developed taking into account the steep and unstable slopes to the west and patterns of wind within the area.



## SIMON SAYS OUCH CAVE

Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #291  
Cave #10-5-4-325

Tongass Cave Project • NSS

by Steve Lewis  
February 8, 1999

**Description:** Simon Says Ouch Cave is a pit. Dense blueberry bushes piton the steep sides of a sink surround the entrance. These bushes are so dense that one can't see the pit until nearly falling into it. The cave is 22 meters (72.18 feet) deep, with 28.29 meters (92.81 feet) of surveyed passage. Simon Dillon, Dan Monteith, and Jim Baichtal surveyed the cave. It is a pit with a possible dig at the bottom. One must guess that since Simon Dillon was on the survey team that the dig is not terrible promising. The deer whose bones were noted at the bottom did not push the dig either.

**Management Recommendations:** Simon Says Ouch Cave should be protected from further ground disturbing activities. It is assuredly an integral part of the Arabica/Warm Chuck Resurgence system. There appears to be no reason to limit access, although the hidden nature of the entrance makes this a potentially dangerous cave.

## DEER'S DEMISE CAVE

Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #262  
Cave #10-5-4-358

Tongass Cave Project • NSS

by Margaret Drummond and Steve Lewis  
February 2, 1999

**Descriptions:** Margaret Drummond, Simon Dillon, and Dan Monteith discovered and surveyed Deer's Demise Cave on 5 August, 1997. Deer's Demise Cave was named for the deer bones noted at the bottom of the pitch in the cave. The three cavers missed the cut block and ended up discovering this cave at the bottom of a large sink. It was the only cave noted in the near vicinity.

**Management Recommendations:** Deer's Demise Cave should, at a minimum, be buffered well beyond the minimum 100-foot requirement. Because harvest has already been heavy in area surrounding the cave, it would be better to cease harvesting in the area until the hydrology of these systems is determined. It is unlikely, but possible that this cave and its surrounding karst could be directly linked to the Arabica area. More likely it drains to the north of Timber Knob, or perhaps on our to the west side of the island.

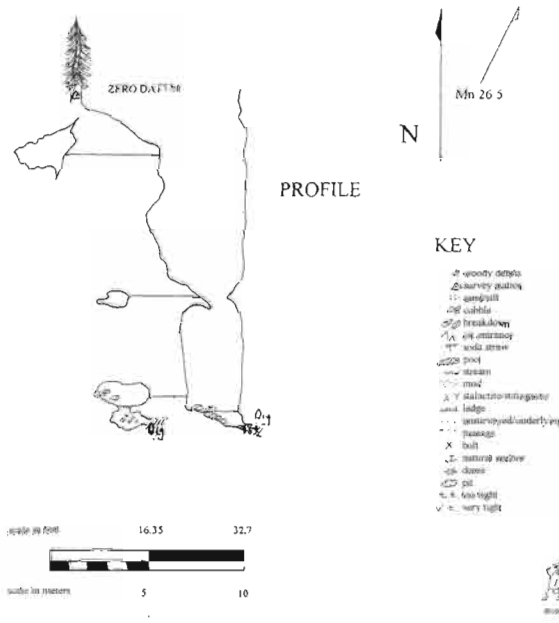
## SIMON SAYS OUCH CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST  
HECETA ISLAND ALASKA

SURVEYED LENGTH, 28.29 METERS. DEPTH 2.2

Compass, tape and inclinometer survey 10 July, 1996  
Survey team, S. Dillon, Dan Monteith, Jim Baichtal

Map by R.R. Knotts



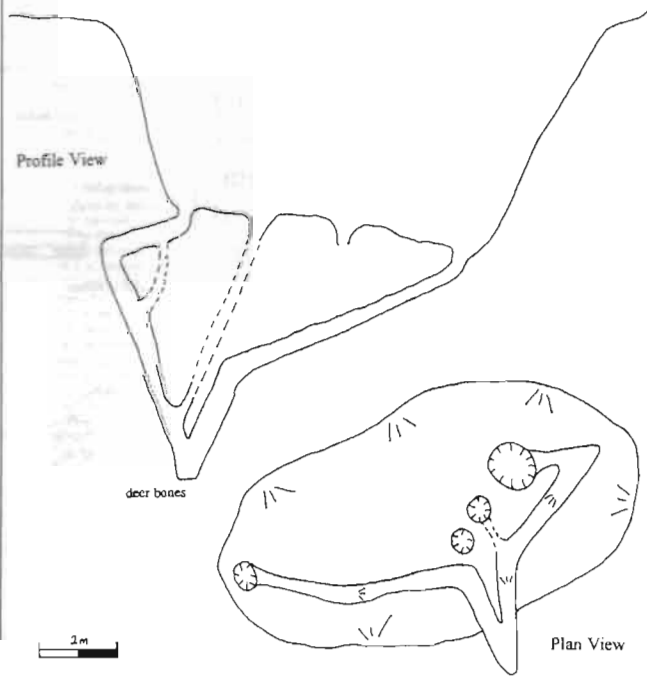
## DEER'S DEMISE CAVE

HECETA ISLAND ALASKA

SURVEYED LENGTH: 27.4 METERS:

DEPTH, 11.8 METERS

Surveyed by Simon Dillon, Margaret Drummond  
and Dan Monteith





# NAZDAROVYA CAVE

## Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #317

Cave #10-5-4-330

### Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis  
April 8, 1999

**Description:**

Nazdarovya Cave was discovered by Steve Lewis during reconnaissance for karst and caves in units laid out for the Heceta Sawfly Sale. Shunichiro Go and Steve Lewis surveyed the cave on 25 July, 1997.

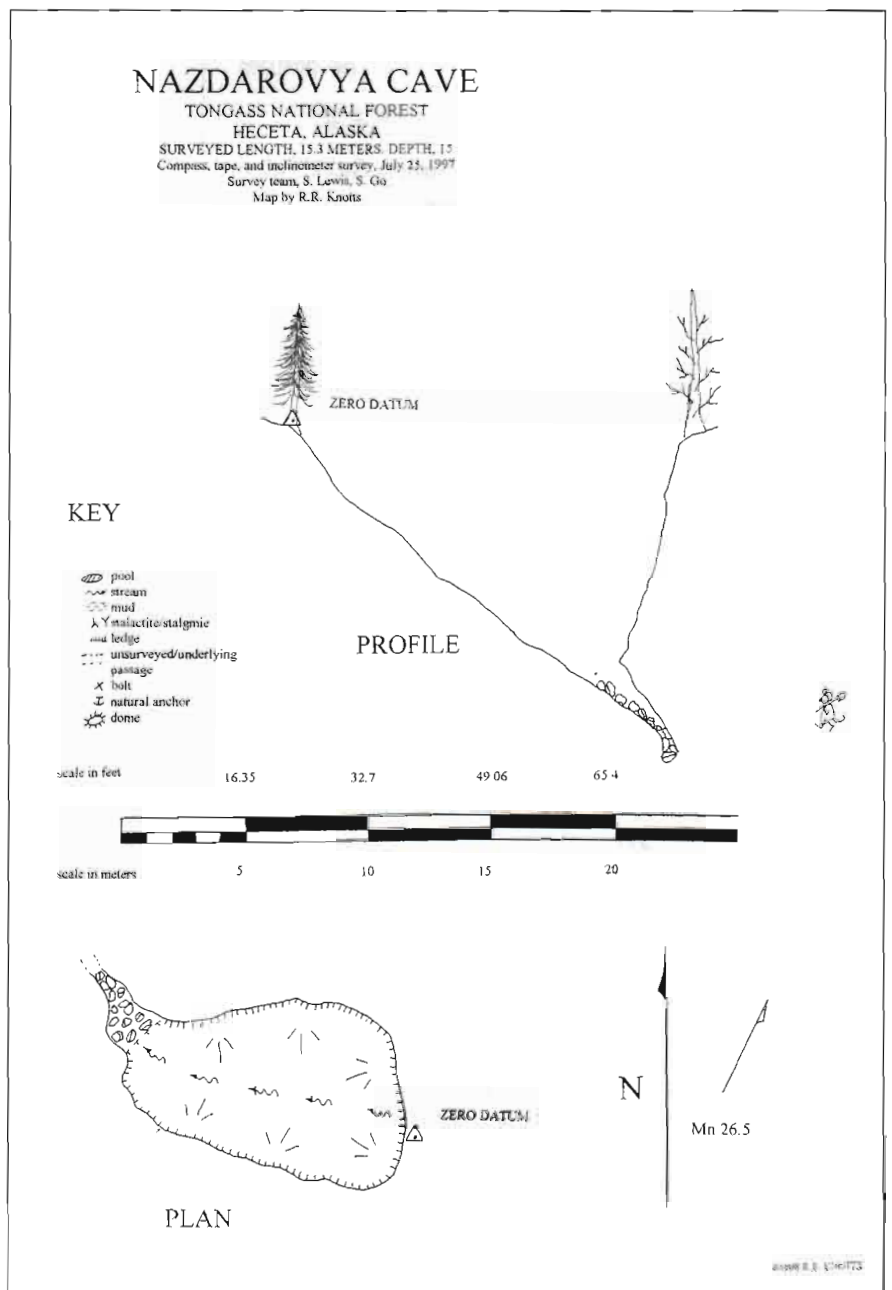
The cave got its name from the Russian expression used in toasting one's health and meaning 'as you please.' The cave is located in a very large sink at the outlet of a dry karst canyon. The cave continues beyond a dig at the limits of the current survey, with the sound of falling water audible far below. Further digging efforts will require moving one heavy boulder out of the passage. This slid in during our efforts to pass it. Surveyed passage totals 15.3 meters (50.19 feet), and the chockstone was 15.0 meters (49.21 feet) below the edge of the sink.

Nazdarovya Cave has great potential if the boulder can be moved. The sound of large amounts of moving water may be an illusion, but suggests that this cave may access the drainage system for the heavily karsted area surrounding it. At present, the cave is a very large sink and a boulder choked passage leading out of the sink. There is no evidence of a stream draining directly into the known entrance.

**Management Recommendations:**

Nazdarovya Cave and the surrounding caves and sinks should be protected from all surface-disturbing activities. The area is an integral part of the watershed draining along the

Arabica system and into Warm Chuck Inlet. Further exploration is highly recommended for this cave. Disturbance from digging efforts should be minimal, requiring only the removal of a large boulder that has slid into the downward trending passage.



# SPRUCE PIT

Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #320

Cave #10-5-4-329

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis  
April 8, 1999

## Description:

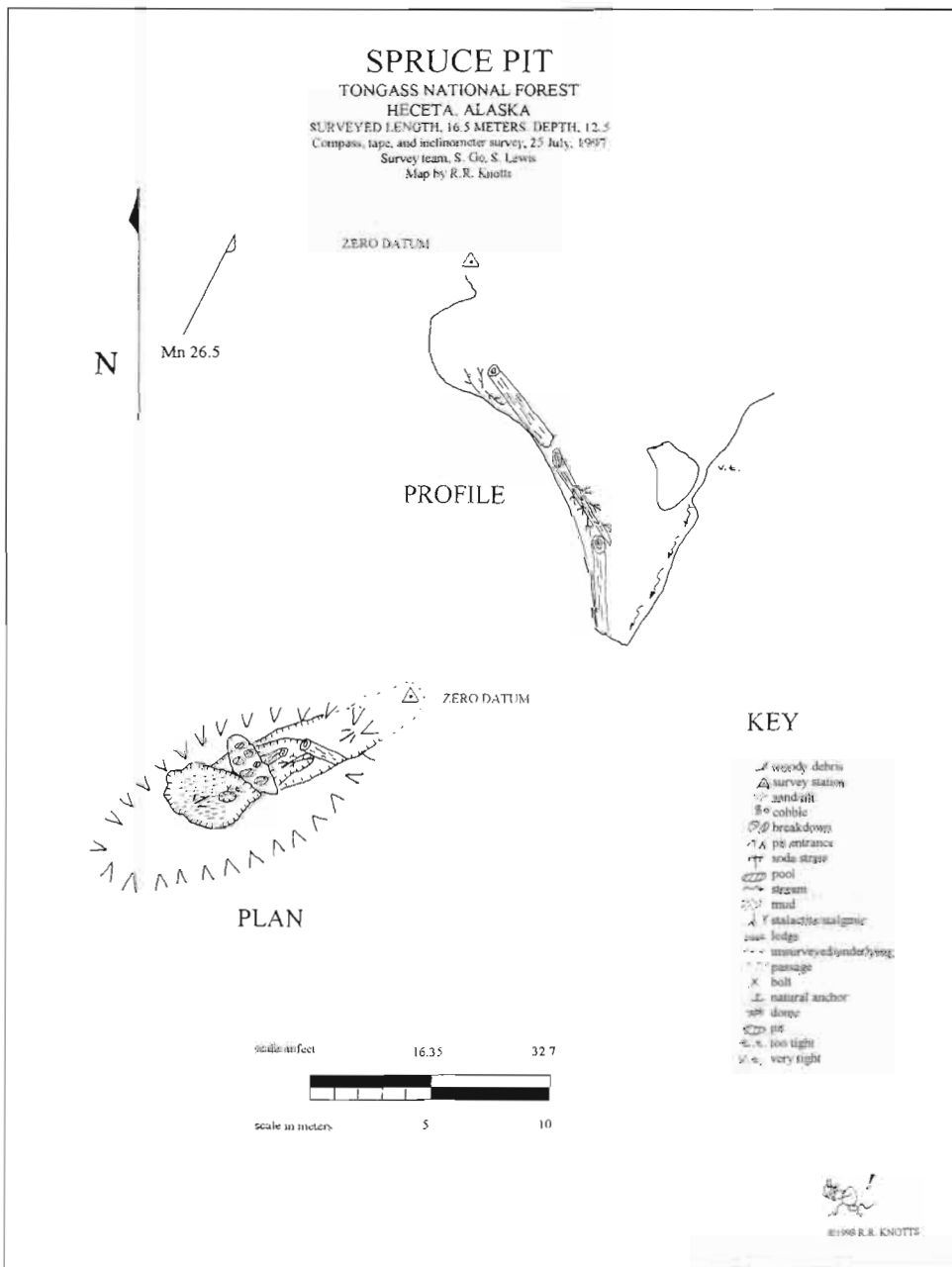
Spruce Pit was discovered by Mike North during layout for the Heceta Sawfly Sale. It was surveyed by Shunichiro Go and Steve Lewis on 25 July 1997. The cave gets its name from a large old spruce near the entrance.

Although a handline is nice, the cave does not require vertical gear and is free climbable. Surveyed passage totalled 16.5 meters (54.13 feet), and the pit bottomed at 12.5 meters (41.01 feet) below the surface.

Spruce Pit is essentially a dead end pit. A trickle enters the pit from the surface and finds its way out through the rubble at the bottom of the pit. Standing alone, Spruce Pit would be relatively unimportant, but it is part of the very highly developed karst lying between the road and unit through which the road is being built. Other sinks and pits appear to be present in the clear-cut above Spruce Pit, and numerous caves and sinks lie in the relatively narrow unharvested strip below.

## Management Recommendations:

Spruce Pit and the surrounding caves and sinks should be protected from all surface-disturbing activities. The area is certainly an integral part of the watershed draining along the Arabica system and into Warm Chuck Inlet. The cave contains no delicate features, but is very vulnerable to disturbance of its steep sides. Nevertheless, its small size and relatively uninteresting nature should protect it from excessive disturbance.





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# CARBIDE KNICKERS CAVE

## Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #260

Cave #10-5-4-350

### Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis  
April, 1999

#### **Description:**

Carbide Knickers Cave was discovered by Simon Dillon. He also surveyed the cave with Steve Lewis and Shunichiro Go on 29 July 1997. The cave is located high on the slopes of Bald Mountain. Surveyed passage totaled 51.7 meters (169.62 feet), with a depth of 36.0 meters (118.11 feet). There are several other caves and sinks in the vicinity, including Bikkuri (Surprise in Japanese) Cave.

The name derives from the British term Knicker, someone who steals something. Steve's carbide was replaced with limestone chunks from the road below, leading to his confusion and to the Carbide Knickers delight.

Carbide Knickers Cave drops vertically for about 10 meters. It is necessary to rappel into the entrance. Passing a large log, one works down a clast and organic muck covered slope to a relatively large chamber with several domes. Past this chamber, a passage leads south. A tight drop becomes too tight, but passing across this, one finds two very tight leads down and then a large and strongly blowing lead. Simon ascertained that this lead was too dangerous to follow without a hydraulic jack and bridging to hold back a huge piece of the wall that threatened to tip and block any return from the drop ahead.

Calcite crystals were noted along the wall beyond the drop that squeezed down. The rock in the lower cave was very friable yellow limestone, unlike anything we have seen in the area. It created a big danger of rockfall and provided very poor anchoring since even solid wall would break away.

This cave was tending toward Sinuous System and, with its strong updraft, could very well continue down to tie into one of the high leads in that cave, or some other undiscovered system downslope.

#### **Management Recommendations:**

Carbide Knickers Cave is a dramatic cave with great potential for continuing if proper safety concerns are met. A qualified team should push it. No surface disturbing activities should occur above or adjacent to the entrance which is virtually in the subalpine. No further harvest should occur on the steep carbonate slopes below the cave either.

Because nearby Sinuous System has already been dye traced to Warm Chuck, it is almost certain that this cave is part of the Arabica Warm Chuck hydrologic system. As such, it becomes even more significant.

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Continued from President's Corner on page 7

tact him directly if you are interested in commenting. He can be reached at Thorne Bay Ranger District. Additional Tongass National Forest Land and Resource Plan Implementation Policy Clarifications can be found at the following website: [www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass). On a larger scale, the extent of subsurface drainage must also be known to better avoid damage to this non-renewable resource and to plan intelligently for the activities within these watersheds. This is why Ozark Underground Laboratory personnel Tom Aley and Philip Moss began dye tracing experiments in the area this past week. Following the heavy rains of these last several weeks, southern Kosciusko Island appeared to be underlain by a giant underground irrigation system. We observed many resurgence and insurgence features, large and small, along the existant logging roads and many more undoubtedly

occur in the second growth beyond. My initial reaction: "My God, this is complex!" Dye tracing will hopefully clarify our understanding of the drainage patterns during high flows into Van Sante Creek to the east, Trout Creek to the north and Survey Creek to the west of Edna Bay. Most likely, I expect dye tracing this fall to answer some questions about the large accessible systems important to this area and better delineate sources for the water supply to the residents of Edna Bay. I would venture to guess that this work will not be definitive and many more additional questions will arise. "Expect the unexpected," Tom Aley kept saying. At low flows it may be that subsurface drainage runs in the opposite direction than during high flows. As yet, we just don't know. Maybe cavers could continue some of this initial work next summer during the Forest Service funded expedition when rainfall would theoretically be less. In the past,

Continued on page 18



# MARBLE TESTE CAVE

Heceta Island Alaska • Preliminary Report #314

Cave #10-5-4-328

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis  
February 2, 1999

## Description:

Marble Teste Cave was discovered and surveyed by Simon Dillon, Margaret Drummond and Clay Hunting in July 1997. The name came from the marble passage, the overall shape of the cave sketch, and a rather disenchanted group of mappers who also did not realize that the plural of testis is testes. The cave was discovered during a reconnaissance of Sawfly Sale Units by the cavers. The surveyors were quite disappointed to find a road planned through the extremely well developed and high vulnerability karst within which Marble Teste Cave lies.

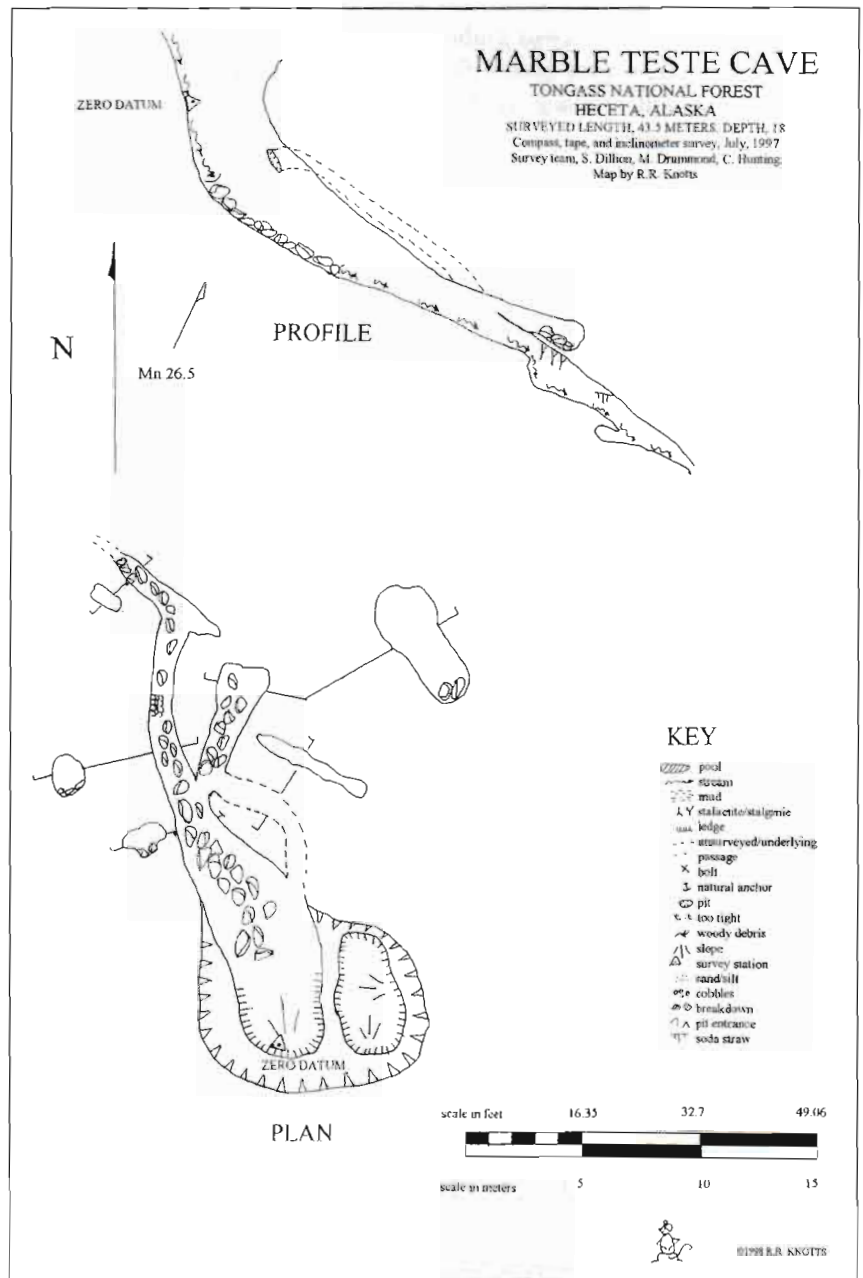
The cave entrance is at the bottom of a steeply sided sink that takes an intermittent stream. It is above a number of very large sinks. It is not a large cave with only 43.5 meters (141.72 feet) of surveyed passage and a total depth of 18 meters (59.05 feet). The cave requires no vertical work. Survey was stopped at a very tight wet constriction that showed no sign of opening.

The marble in the walls is beautifully patterned, and there are marble boulders along much of the floor. It is a clean cave. The lower section is well decorated with moonmilk and stalactites.

## Management Recommendations:

Marble Teste Cave and the surrounding caves and sinks should be protected from all surface-disturbing activities. The area is certainly an integral part of the watershed draining along the Arabica system and into

Warm Chuck Inlet. The road alignment was moved from the edge of Marble Teste so that the road is not over the actual cave. The cavers feel that there should be no road at all in this situation. Nevertheless, minimizing the size and impact of any road through the area is absolutely essential.





THE ADVENTURES OF

In our last episode a team of international cavers is trapped inside a flooding cave on Heceta Island - A logging road has been built over the entrance!



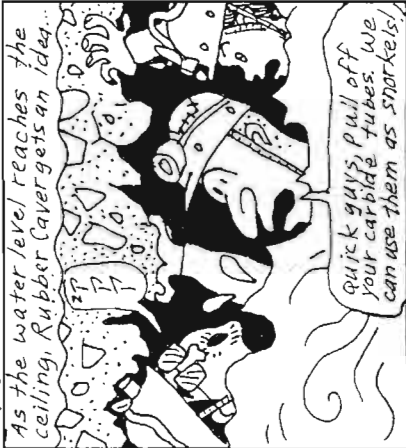
!HOMOMB!  
hang on! or the curtain will get us!



Suddenly the entire plug collapses onto our cavers!

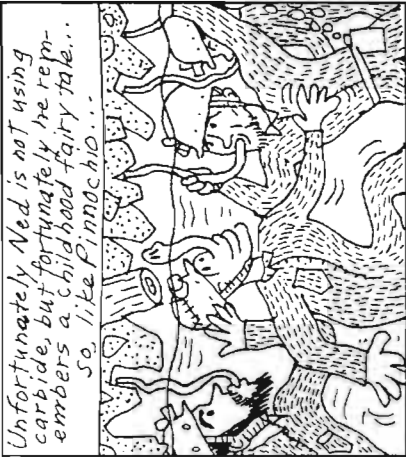
RUBBER CAVER

by K.E.C. Alred



As the water level reaches the ceiling, Rubber Caver gets an idea...

So, like Finnocchio... quick guys, pull off your carbide tubes. We can use them as snorkels!



Unfortunately, Ned is not using carbide, but fortunately he remembers a childhood fairy tale...

So, like Finnocchio...



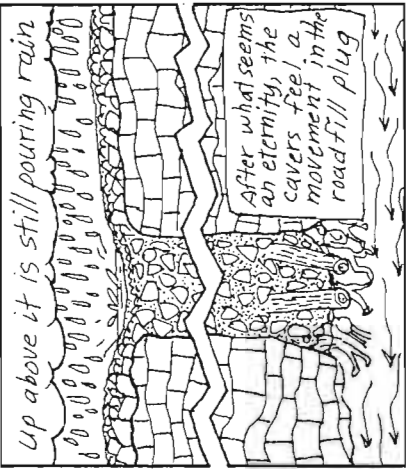
Before we mourn the fate of our valiant heroes, remember that anything can truly happen in a comic strip. All of them somehow grope to the surface. It's a miracle!

we were alive!



We leave the waterlogged fortunates to see what is happening in the Smith's garden back on Prince of Wales Island.

Service won't supply any of their rope since Carrot Pit is on private land and there are kids in the group. Oh well, Dan we will just have to tie all the T.C.P. ropes together.



Up above it is still pouring rain

After what seems an eternity, the cavers feel a movement in the roadfill plug



But, you guys - that means we will have to cross like 33 knots if it is really 2,000 feet deep.

Oh well, Julie



Okay! lets go down. Val and Kina, you two stay up here this time while the rest of us check it out.

Ohh, pop! can I go down too? Kina, you still need to make your bed go down too. Gee, can I go down too, Pop? If you do your weeding, Jed



After crossing all those knots it takes several hours for all five to descend the drop... 2000 feet down.

Gee Pop, there is hardly any rope left! I still can't believe it! Yeah, Jed, it is the deepest pit in the world! Hey you guys, there is a whole passage down this way...



Meanwhile at the surface, while Val and Kina go to check the mail... A bear wanders into the garden. A bear with a habit for chewing plastic and nylon!

Grunts, Um...

1- help!  
2- aah!  
3- how nice it is here

TO BE CONTINUED...

cavers associated with the Glacier Grotto and the Tongass Cave Project have had a very productive working relationship with the USFS in Southeast Alaska as evidenced by the numerous caves and features that we have discovered and the development of the Challenge Cost Share Agreement. Cave exploration has led to significant scientific understanding in southeastern Alaskan geology, paleontology, archeology and hydrology. Caves and karst, cavers, the USFS and the general public have benefited. Given the many inherent, demonstrated values of the karst and cave resource I feel that managers should err on the side of caution in any proposed management. The karst S&Gs are only a starting point. The fact is that much remains unknown about the subterranean systems underlying karst landscapes blithely classified by humans as "low," "moderate," or "high" vulnerability. An understanding of subsurface connectivity and monitoring of effects caused by activities such as logging is essential. This understanding is incomplete and much of what we believe we know is not well tested. Karst on multiple-use forest lands provides federal managers the opportunity to truly develop a systems approach to management.

On Kosciusko and Heceta Islands many in the Glacier Grotto would like to see karst areas set aside, possibly as Special Management or Special Interest Areas. The Forest Service provides administrative recognition of special scenic, cultural, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological or other special values by designating areas as special interest areas. For example, there are 221,700 acres in 129 special interest areas in the Pacific Southwest Region in the Sierra, Inyo, Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. Several Karst Special Areas (mostly alpine examples) have been proposed for the Tongass, including areas on northern POW, Dall Is-

land, all of El Capitan peak, Calder Mtn. and Perue peak. As stated in the "Blue Ribbon" Panel's Proposal to assess the significance of the Tongass karst, "...Another distinctly unique characteristic is the fact that Alaska units are covered by a dense conifer rain forest rather than tropical deciduous jungles. We know of no comparable climatic and vegetational karst setting on the planet..." In agreement with these respected scientists, many in the Grotto and TCP feel that more of the internationally unique forested karst lands and cave systems of the Tongass deserve Special Area recognition as well.

Ideally, the Glacier Grotto would also like to see moderate and high vulnerability karst as well as watersheds draining into moderate and high vulnerability karst removed from the timber base. In areas where timber harvest is to occur and the potential for impact to karst is possible, we feel that long term monitoring projects must be established and funded prior to, during and after harvest. We wish to see the USFS continue to approach management on karst at the systems level, and to better implement such an approach on the ground. We believe this to be essential for continued forest health and protection of the non-renewable karst resources underlying the forest.

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## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee recommends that the current officers retain their positions for another year. These are:

President: David Love

Vice president Northern:

Vice President Southcentral: J. Rockwell

Vice President Southeast: David Valentine

Sec./treas: Connie LaPerriere

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### The Alaskan Caver

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