

August 1990

## Alaskan Caver, Volume 10, No. 4, August 1990

Curvin Metzler

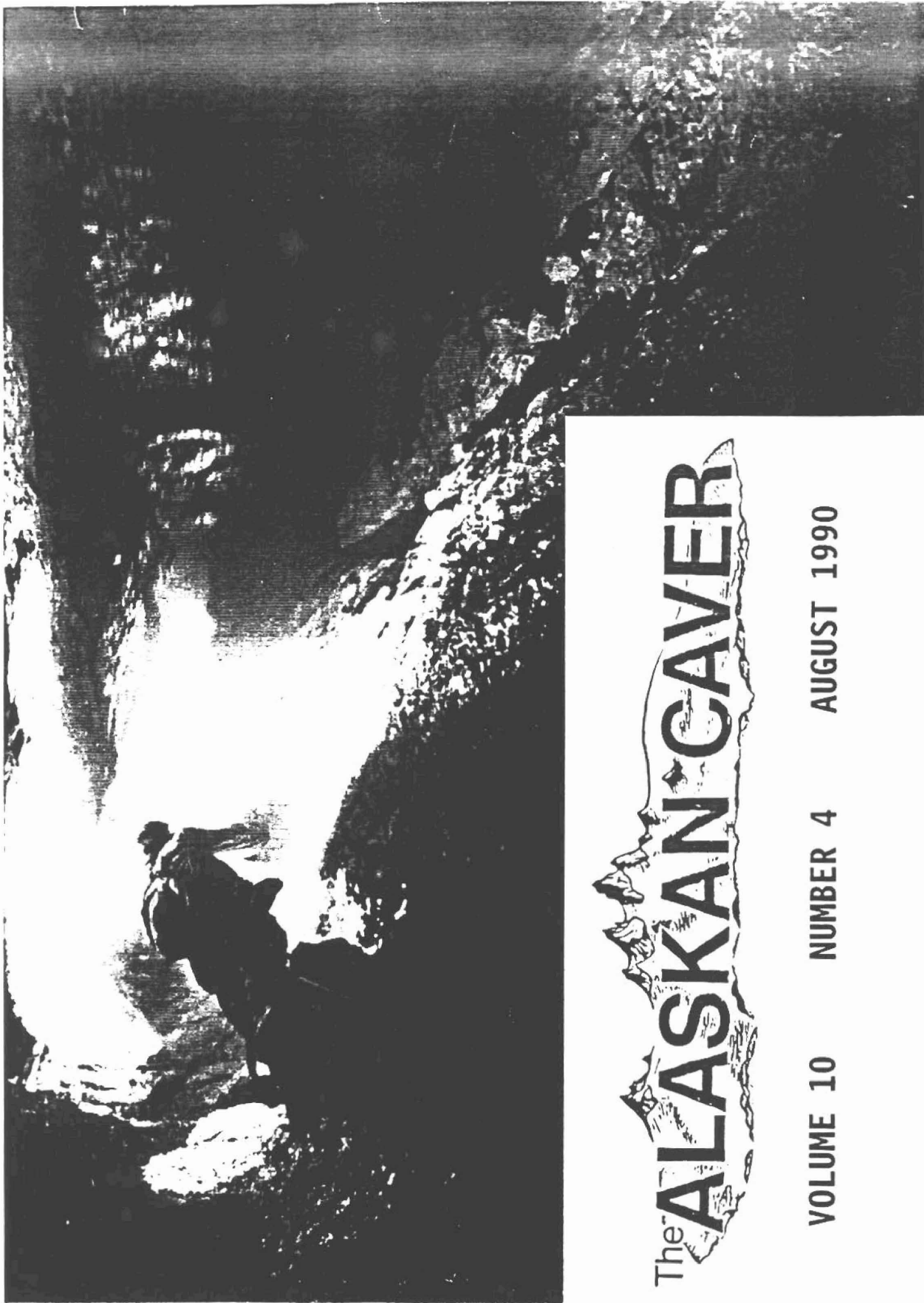
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# The ALASKAN CAVER

VOLUME 10      NUMBER 4      AUGUST 1990

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Membership is open to all interested in Alaskan cave discovery, exploration, description, survey, mapping, photography, hydrology, morphology, biology, geology, history, speleogenesis and other spelaeon processes, conservation, management, adventures, and the fellowship of Alaskan cavers. Dues are \$7.50 per year for the first member of a mailing address and \$1.00 for additional persons at the same address. Overseas air mail requires an additional \$10.00.

Dues are due on January 1 and are sent to the Treasurer (see below) with the application/renewal form. Those paying for the first time after October 1 will be considered paid up for the following year. The year through which each member is paid is indicated on the mailing label. Meetings are called to plan and report on trips or other special events; anyone wanting to have a meeting for any reason should notify the President, Vice President or a Member-at-Large.

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\* Messages may be announced to Kevin daily via radio station KHNS at (907) 766-2020

† The area code for Dave Klinger in Leavenworth, Washington is (509) (both numbers)

Cover: Mike Van Note ascending El Capitan Pit, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Photo by Carlene Allred, August 1989; see articles starting on page 4 and page 9.

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## President's Corner

Enclosed with this issue is the ballot for the election of officers and for the changes in the constitution and by-laws of the Glacier Grotto. Please make your choices and send them off to Sharon Dunaway (at her new address of 4330 W 86th Ave #8, Anchorage, AK 99502) as soon as possible (deadline October 20). Also check the address label on the envelope in which you received this newsletter. If it contains "89" instead of "90", you are in arrears--you will need to include your 1990 dues with the ballot to have it counted. The reasons for the by-laws changes are described in the following article. They are an attempt to encourage more participation by our far-flung

membership. Any suggestions on this score will be welcome.

Regarding the operation of POWIE III and IV, I have received a number of thoughtful letters with suggestions for improvement. These are much appreciated and will be answered in due time. Publicity and details for POWIE V will be forthcoming, hopefully starting in October. Modifications in this year's approach are expected. The realization of the agreement signed in May was a milestone and now we can move on to other practical areas which should make participation easier, less expensive, and less daunting. It is important that we do continue, as vandalism and other impacts are still major problems. □

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### Changes in the Constitution and By-Laws

During a number of Glacier Grotto meetings within the past year, two by-law changes were proposed and approved by those present. But a two-thirds vote of all members in good standing is necessary for adoption.

The raising of annual dues for a single member (or the first in a household) to \$7.50 from \$5.00 a year is required for the production and mailing of The Alaskan Caver. The \$1.00 dues for each additional household member will remain the same. Postal rates and other production costs continue to increase. Traditionally, the fee charged to libraries and other institutional members has been based on the cost per six-issue volume, rather than by the year. Hence, \$10.00 per volume is being asked of them.

The change from two Members-at-Large and one Vice President

to three regional Vice Presidents has already received support. The recent discovery of an extensive karst system in Southeast Alaska is attracting cavers from that area of the Grotto. It is hoped that this organizational change will facilitate the development of organized caving in Southeast Alaska, and the interior, and will even result in the formation of new grottos when the time comes.

The word ELECTED should be included in Article II's title to emphasize that only elected officers are being described therein and not appointed officers.

It is hoped these changes meet with everyone's approval; the candidates nominated should be willing to serve in either capacity. Please call the President immediately if you have any problems with these changes. The latest issue containing the

complete "Constitution and By-Laws" is The Alaskan Caver 3(2): 10-13, which is available as a back issue for \$1.00 per copy. Or a copy of the constitution and by-laws alone are available for \$0.25 return postage from the President.

The proposed changes follow; added portions are underscored and deleted portions are bracketed.

#### **Change #1 (Constitution)**

##### **ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

- a. The Glacier Grotto shall be governed by an Executive Council made up of the following (all N.S.S. members) elected annually by the members:

1. President
2. Vice-President for Northern Alaska
3. Vice-President for Southcentral Alaska
4. Vice-President for Southeast Alaska
5. [3.] Secretary
6. [4.] Treasurer
- [5. Two members at large]

#### **Change #2 (By-Laws)**

##### **ARTICLE II - ELECTED OFFICERS**

#### **Change #3 (By-Laws: Article II)**

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at [all] meetings of the Grotto and appoint such committees as he deems appropriate.

SECTION 2. In the absence of the President, or in case of his inability to act, the duties of the

President shall be performed by the senior Vice-President. The senior Vice-President is the Vice-President with the longest continuous membership in the Glacier Grotto. In the event of the resignation, removal, or permanent disability of the President, the senior Vice-President automatically becomes President for the balance of the President's term. He shall appoint an appropriate interim Vice-President to serve until the next election. [In that event, an election may be held to fill the office of Vice-President.]

Section 3. The three Vice-Presidents--for Northern Alaska, for Southcentral Alaska, for Southeast Alaska--shall govern each area as a sub-grotto, holding meetings in the absence of the President, appointing local committee chairs, and conducting local business. Each Vice-President will be the Grotto contact person for the area designated. All written correspondence with outside organizations should be copied to the President.

Section 4. [3.] . . .

Section 5. [4.] . . .

#### **Change #4 (By-Laws: Article V)**

The annual dues for regular members shall be \$7.50 [\$5.00] per year. Members who are dependents need only pay \$1.00 in annual dues. Dues for institutional members shall be \$10.00 per volume.□

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#### **POWIE IV News (As of August 5, 1990)**

The second longest cave in Alaska, tentatively called Dimple Cave, has five entrances and was surveyed to 2715 feet. Slate Cave

has a room 450 feet long, 50 feet wide, and 30 or more feet high. Captain Soup Cave, at 1200 feet in length, is our most beautiful.□

## Down and Out in Alaska

by Miles Hecker

reprinted from

"The Outlaw of the Hole in the Wall Grotto"

Volume XIV, Number 1, pages 2 and 3

Somewhere in the back of my head the idea of seeing Alaska had been kicking around for almost twenty years. It didn't take too long to respond when Kevin and Carlene Allred extended an invitation to members of the Lechuquilla Cave Project to go caving on Prince of Wales Island. Two thousand paved miles, one hundred fifty nautical miles and one hundred logging road miles later the adventure was ready to begin.

The Hughes chopper touched down at the El Capitan work camp later than expected. After about five runs, five cavers and gear had been brought to what would be our base camp two thousand feet up El Capitan Peak. What wild country! Over three thousand feet of razor-sharp karst, close to three hundred inches of precipitation a year and an average temperature of 37 degrees Fahrenheit makes for an imposing arctic rain forest. Kevin, Jim Nicholls, Steve Meier and myself would carry one thousand feet of rope to our first objective, El Capitan Pit, and rig it. Kelly Kellstedt would defend base camp gear from the bear population and wait for Rick Bridges, Evan Gehring, Doug and Ann Strait and Win Wright to hack a trail up the Crack of Doom to our base camp. Chopper support was a luxury. Heavy rains might necessitate total manual transport of all camp gear off the mountain.

Several hours of hacking, sliding, stumbling and climbing later we arrived at our objective, El Capitan Pit. On the last POWIE expedition, Kevin had hung at the bottom of a three-hundred-foot rope with no bottom in sight. Even more impressive than this

rather nice-looking pit was the fact that on the hike over we had seen hundreds of interesting pits. Had they been checked? Kevin said we were probably the first people to see them on the hike up. We would check them out later in the week as best we could. After Kevin rigged the pit we headed back to the base camp flagging a "reasonable" trail as we went.

On arriving in base camp we were greeted by the rest of the crew. Kelly had successfully defended our base camp against two surprised black bears. The others had put in the trail up the Crack of Doom. How was it, I asked? Oh, just fine, it's at about a sixty-degree slope and slippery as snot. Just the sort of thing that's fun with an eighty-pound pack on the way down.

The next morning we formulated our course of action. Since I had the weather-proof video camera I would accompany the three Alaskans, Jim, Kevin and Steve, to drop and survey El Capitan Pit, recording the event for posterity. The rest of the crew would ridge-walk and locate leads for further exploration. We reached the pit in about an hour. After proper preparation the adventure began. Kevin would drop the pit first with a walkie-talkie on to give us progress reports. We lost contact with him at about -300 feet. After the rope went weightless, Steve followed. About thirty feet down, Steve encountered some gear problems. He decided to ascend and correct them rather than risk further difficulties. Since it had been a while, Jim suggested

I drop the pit and start surveying up with Kevin before he got cold.

Down I went; at about one hundred eighty feet down a small water spout entered the pit. Nothing serious, just a refreshing shower of icy water to keep the dust down. About two hundred thirty feet down a ten-foot-thick green igneous intrusion angled through the main body of the pit at an angle of thirty degrees. Quite a contrast to the grey marble of the walls. At what seemed like over four hundred feet down I swung over a ledge and could see Kevin's light. Soon I hit bottom and greeted Kevin. It seemed chilly; it later proved to be 34 degrees Fahrenheit. Kevin and I looked at the coil of rope at the bottom and wondered. How deep are we? Leaving the two thin leads at the bottom, we started surveying up. A three-hundred-foot tape allowed us to take long survey shots. The longest shot proved to be only one hundred thirty feet. One strange overhung offset bulge required two short shots to get around. Kevin would stop every fifty feet on the rope to get a good cross-sectional sketch. I tried to keep the book as dry as possible until we cleared the shower. As we approached the edge and Jim, I know we were close to six hundred feet. The last shot proved to be 96 feet. All shots were made to a solid wall to avoid the inaccuracy of rope stretch. A quick addition

of the data without correction (vertical angles varied between 85 and 90 degrees) yielded 602 feet. Later, refined calculations proved the depth to be 598.34 feet. Yahoo! Fog and rain greeted us along with Jim. Kevin followed me over the edge. Jim was excited and he rigged on to be the first tourist to yo-yo the deepest pit in America.

On the hike back to camp spirits were high. At one point Steve, who was right behind me, screamed out. I turned around and couldn't see him. A closer look revealed the top of a head down in a body-size hole. The false vegetative floor had given way and sucked him almost out of sight. Fortunately he wasn't hurt and we continued. Evan and Win were in base camp as we arrived at about 9 pm. They had a pained look on their faces. We hurriedly gave them the good news. Evan then said they had good news and bad news. Okay, lets have the good news first. They had found a nice cave entrance on the north side of El Capitan Peak taking a lot of air and started the survey of it. Next, let's have the bad news. Doug Strait's footing had given way causing him to fall and be crushed by a refrigerator-sized rock. His leg was broken and we would have to get him back to camp over several miles of horribly rugged terrain. This was going to be one long day in the land of long days. □

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### **El Capitan Pit--Its Discovery and Exploration** by Kevin Allred

There are hundreds of square miles of marble and limestone up to 13,000 feet thick hidden under glaciers, ocean water, and rain

forests in Southeast Alaska. With up to sixteen feet of precipitation annually, this area, the size of Kentucky, would be expected to

contain all sorts of caves...and with only a few cavers to explore this vast area, the caves would be discovered all over the place, right? Well, sort of...

Some of the first information on cave potential in Southeast Alaska began trickling in way back in 1949, when Robert Hackman wrote an article entitled Speleology in Southeastern Alaska (Hackman, 1949). Then, twenty years ago, Dr. William R. Halliday compiled much of what was then known of the caving potential of the area (Halliday, 1970). Since then, a few cavers employed by the U S Forest Service or U S Geological Survey came across small caves and others hinted of cave potential in their ramblings. Those of whom we are aware are Bruce Rogers (California), and Dale Kanen and Mike Van Note (Alaska). By far, most of the cave potential is located remotely.

#### POWIE I, 1987

In 1987, after years of becoming established in Alaska, my wife Carlene and I were the first known cavers to travel into some of the best limestone country in Southeast Alaska for the express purpose of caving. We zeroed in on the general area of Prince of Wales Island using research material and rumors from friends and acquaintances. In the little community of Thorne Bay, the local Forest Service office kindly let us view some stereoscopic aerial photographs. I was not prepared for the awesome karst features we beheld on that occasion...and we had first opportunity to explore it! Especially intriguing were uvala or polje features up to half a mile across, extensive concentrations of dolines, and what appeared to be pinnacle karst.

Thanks to hundreds of miles

of logging roads recently built on Prince of Wales Island, we were able to drive to a campsite where we could literally throw rocks into more than one sinkhole without moving. Indeed, we even had to pile brush next to the road to protect our berry picking three young children from falling into a forty-foot or fifty-foot shaft. The disadvantages of the logging clearcuts near the roads were the difficulty in travel and, of course, the unsightly devastation. In spite of having to solo cave on that historic two-week trip, we mapped and explored about 4000 feet of cave passage.

#### POWIE II, 1988

Living a largely subsistence lifestyle, and far from an easily accessible caving area, Carlene and I usually only cave once or twice a year. The second year on the Island, we cajoled seven other cavers and the Glacier Grotto to join in the explorations. This three-week expedition was the first opportunity to set foot on some of the alpine karst of the Island. It was on August 15, 1988, an infrequent hot and dry day, when Harvey Bowers, Forest Service geologist David Hatfield, and I first began our slow and difficult way across a portion of the El Capitan Peak karst. Travel was quite hard because of pitted, jagged, sub-alpine terrain. Various solution features were nearly everywhere ranging from dolines and shafts to grikes and rillenkarren. Most of the dolines were obviously plugged with muskeg or rubble. Many had vertical fluted walls and often contained sharp, serrated fins in the depths to flay anything careless enough to fall in. Occasional pits have deer skeletons at their bottoms.



Some of these dolines or shafts contained snow, indicating they are sealed off cold traps. After an hour on the karst, we all happened upon one particular hole which immediately looked extra deep. It began as a steeply-sloping funnel twenty by thirty feet with an overhang on one side, and narrowed down to a ten by twenty throat below. Rocks were tossed as usual, but they just kept on glancing off the walls, down, down, down for twelve to sixteen seconds. Being from the West (western U.S.) and having no long drop experience beyond 300 feet, I had never seen anything like it. I had expected deep multi-drop systems here, but nothing as awesome as this! Harvey, who had done some deep Georgia pits, could tell this one was exceptional and probably world class. He thought it sounded big below and could hear water falling.

Ten days later, three of us were back on another rare rainless day. Harvey and David had left the Island, and so Bob Bastasz (who had deep pit experience), Kathy Tonnessen, and I returned. Being increasingly interested in helping us in developing a cave inventory for the area, the Forest Service had helicoptered our vertical gear to the nearest possible landing site one-half mile away, and soon Bob's 190-foot bluewater was rigged on the sloping side of the pit entrance. This I rappelled on to the end using a figure eight descending ring, tied on a 200-foot goldline, and then continued down. At -320 feet on a wet, sloping ledge, with increasingly more water showering lightly down, soundings of from six to eight seconds hinted at another estimated 300 feet to the last heard glance. Here I had discovered that a rock my foot dislodged

from the wall had glanced against the goldline nearly severing it. It was as far as I dared go, so I tied a knot above the damaged portion. The void below seemed to go down endlessly into the very core of the mountain. After I used the gibbs ropewalker system to get back out, Bob jumared down 190 feet to the first knot, pulled up the rope, and got an eight-second sounding. He noted that in one spot the shaft had a cross-section forming two lobes, and felt that the total depth was at least 500 feet. After his return, and since we were virtually out of rope and expedition was nearly over, we immediately began developing a strategy for the next year's assault on this exceptional pit. We named it El Capitan Pit, not realizing that the next year it would stand as the captain of all U.S. pits and also a counterpart to the longest outside drop (vertical face) in the Lower 48, El Capitan in Yosemite. On the way back off the karst, there was a startled scream and I thought Kathy had fallen into a grike or shaft. She had fortunately only gone through a hole up to her knee and was unhurt. It was being apparent that safe travel on this ground required constant attention, and even then visibly solid ground is sometimes only a thin covering of mossy turf with a cavity below.

The next year was one in which to acquire improved gear, rope, and techniques. Carlene and I also carefully invited additional cavers to join the third expedition while on winter vacation in the "Lower 48". It was on a Lechuguilla expedition that someone finally became interested enough to plan on joining us. Rick Bridges sensed, in spite of our reluctance to share the actual depth details, that there was incredible potential on Prince

of Wales Island. He promised that he would be able to gather enough interested experienced vertical cavers and surveyors for our needs without the lid blowing off our little secret. Having been separated from the real caving world for so long (as many Alaskan cavers are) and not knowing many cavers we could trust, Rick was to play a major role in future discovery and leadership of the month-long Prince of Wales Island Expedition III (POWIE III).

### POWIE III, 1989

By the time POWIE III rolled around, the Glacier Grotto's newly-named project known as the Tongass Cave Project, had 34 members, many in the Lower 48 from the Lechuguilla Project. Some 3000 feet of new PMI rope would be on hand with other supplies such as flagging and survey materials. When we all met together at camp, excitement was intense. The cooperative cave inventory agreement with the Forest Service had progressed to where our project would receive aid in the form of helicopter and fixed-wing support, communications, subsistence, and other available facilities. Our contribution would be detailed cave information.

On the second day, everything was in readiness for the push to rig, explore, and survey El Capitan Pit. As the helicopter lifted off with the first of us, I noticed Jay Rockwell, long-time Glacier Grotto President, sitting on the hood of a car with this big grin on his face. After all these years of holding the Grotto together without any big cave discoveries, Alaska had finally made the grade. Unfortunately, Bob Bastasz would not have the opportunity to drop the pit, as he was nearly out of time on

the Island and busy leading explorations and dye tracing investigations in nearby El Capitan Cave.

With ten of us encamped in a beautiful doline meadow Rick had named "Karst Central", we were in a good position for explorations in several directions on the subalpine El Capitan Peak karst. We would function in two parties. One, headed by Rick, would begin reconnaissance, exploration and survey of new caves found, and the other group, which I was in, would rig, drop, and survey El Capitan Pit. After completing the survey within reasonable time, the roles would be reversed, with Rick's party pushing below the initial shaft and us working the karst. The rigging group was Miles Hecker, Jim Nicholls, Steve Meier, and myself.

The 1000-foot PMI was rigged to three stunted trees on the overhanging side of the pit, and already familiar with the upper 300 feet of the drop, I elected to go down with the rope to avoid any hangups below. By using a 200-foot-long tail rope, the others fed out the long end as I descended on a six-bar rack. After the entire 800 feet of rope was down, I switched over and rappelled to about -500 feet, freed a hangup, and saw that it went down quite a ways further. After ascending to the others, we left for Karst Central with all in readiness for drop and survey. All of the extra rope had been lowered to be used for drops further down. About halfway to camp I heard a yell and turned to see that Steve, who was behind me, had vanished! He had fallen into a seven-foot-deep shaft, which was concealed with brush. Luckily, it was not a deep one and he was only scratched and missing his watch, which was later found in the bottom. He

said the ground just seemed to open like a trap door!

The next day when we returned, the first bottoming of the Pit was finally realized, as I waited for the others to come down. Our handheld CB's proved ineffective below 200 to 300 feet, apparently because there is a slight corkscrew to the shaft. I dressed warmly and sealed up the dry suit for a long wait. One spot against a wall of the thirty- by forty-foot level, rocky floor was reasonably free of the general sprinkle of water from above, and being chilled in 34-degree temperature, I paced about. There was a shattered deer skeleton in the middle of the floor. The only leads were fissures on opposite sides of the room; one heading down diagonally and the other steeply upwards. Beyond pushing a short distance, I left them virgin for the other team.

After quite a while, Miles came drifting down with the news that both Steve and Jim had elected not to come at present because Steve had run into difficulty with his vertical setup at the lip and took fifteen to twenty minutes to retreat back over. We immediately began the two-hour survey of the shaft using lighted Sistecos and Rick's 300-foot tape. Miles was able to establish all the survey points on walls, since we were against or near the rock most of the time. Later, Jim dropped the pit. Upon arrival at rainy Karst Central that night, our elated spirits plummeted at the news of Doug Strait's broken ankle, but that is another story. His final contribution to the expedition was using his calculator in his sleeping bag to find the pit depth...598.3 feet. After Doug and his wife Ann were finally air-lifted out, our numbers were reduced twenty percent

and, with several heading to other new discoveries or resting, only Rick and Kelly Kellstedt were ready to push leads from the bottom of the shaft. While surveying the upper lead, Kelly began showing serious signs of hypothermia and they promptly got out.

It was not until later in the expedition that El Capitan Pit was further explored. Rick, with Ann, who had returned to the Island, surveyed the lower fissure, which soon pinched out, and then were photographed by Norm Thompson and Dave Modisette, who were to photo-document the pit. The volume of downpour had increased dramatically because of more rain, making it quite difficult for Dave and Norm, who spent three hours on rope. Later that night, after dragging into camp, Dave's wearied groaning could be heard from some distance. It probably kept the bears far away.

In the next few days, Hank Moon, Buddy Lane, Neeld Messler, Evan Gehring, Rick Bridges, Carlene Allred, Mike Van Note, and Dave participated in dropping, photographing, and de-rigging the pit.

What is really odd about the discovery of El Capitan Pit is that it was found so quickly with very little effort, but yet no other comparable or greater shafts were found in the miles of similar terrain covered on POWIE III. It must just be one of the mysteries of life.

#### References

- Hackman, Robert J. 1949. Speleology in Southeastern Alaska. NSS Bulletin 11:11-16, 72, 75.
- Halliday, William R. 1970. Caves and Potential Cave Areas of Alaska. The Alaskan Caver 1(2):2-14. □

**El Capitan Pit**  
Prince of Wales Island  
Technical Preliminary Report #8  
Addendum to Report #4  
by Kevin Allred  
November 13, 1989

Description

The shaft of El Capitan Pit was finally bottomed and surveyed on July 27, 1989, by Miles Hecker, of Casper, Wyoming, and Kevin Allred, of Haines, Alaska, as part of a large group of cavers working in cooperation with and with the support of the Forest Service for the Thorne Bay Ranger District cave inventory. A 1000-foot length of static PMI caving rope was used for this undertaking. The rope was anchored to three trees on the south overhanging lip of the drop to avoid abrasion problems which would occur on the northern sloping side.

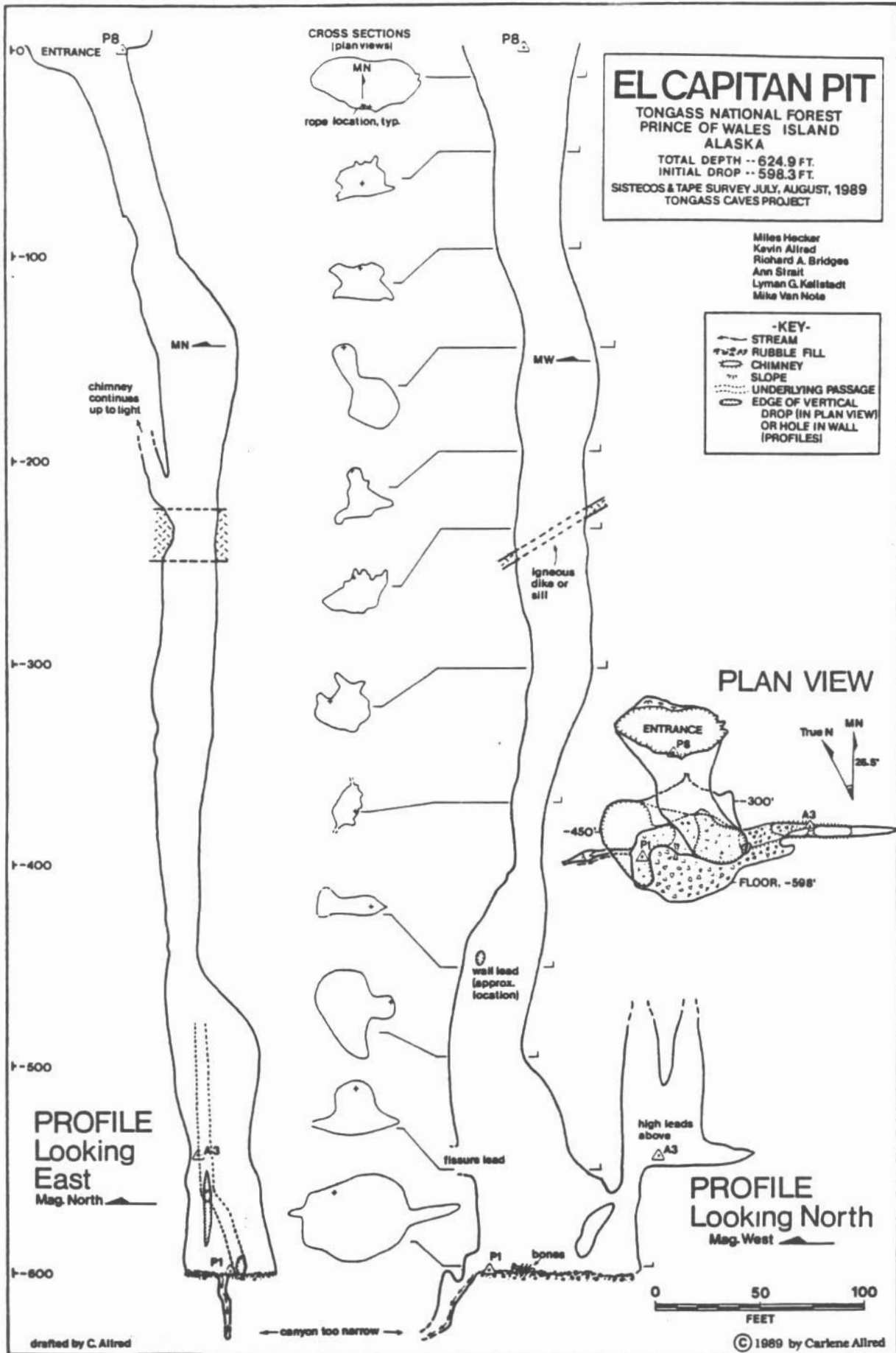
As realized in last year's first partial descent, warm clothing and specialized equipment with skill were needed for the safe descent and ascent of this remarkable shaft. The survey of the initial drop revealed that El Capitan Pit is now the deepest single cave drop in the United States, at -598 feet. The smallest part of the entrance was found to be ten by twenty feet rather than five by eight as stated in report #4. The dike (which may be a sill) was measured and found to dip to the west 35 degrees and strike 350 degrees to magnetic north at -240 feet. Another broken-up, smaller dike or sill was noted at about -100 feet, and appeared to have been shattered by localized faulting and frost wedging. At about -450 feet is an unexplored horizontal passage some four feet in diameter. Two fissures lead in opposite directions from the flat, rocky floor

of the initial 598-foot drop (see map). These fissures were subsequently explored and surveyed by Rick Bridges, of Boulder, Colorado, Kelly Kellstedt, of Sante Fe, New Mexico, Ann Strait, of Caswell Beach, North Carolina, and Mike Van Note, of Haines, Alaska. Overall depth of El Capitan Pit is 624.9 feet, including the sloping fissure at the bottom. The temperature at the bottom was found to be 34 degrees and ice and snow is probably present much of the year. Water from snow melt above showers down along with rain runoff in copious amounts. It is not known where this water drains to after passing through El Capitan Pit. Dye tracing was not possible in 1989 because of drought conditions.

Safety Recommendations

Warm clothing, such as pile, drysuits, and waterproof coveralls, to cope with the extreme wet and cold conditions, is required, along with the specialized equipment and training needed for drops of this length. Those interested in the exploration of this and other pits in the area should consider having a backup group skilled in rescue technique on the island in the event of an accident.

In rigging the pit, rope pads are suggested for the lip, -100 feet, and -500 feet. There was no close attachment point on the pit wall at the -500-foot level, but there appeared to be one some thirty or forty feet above the pad site.



The walls of the pit should be cleaned of loose rock before rigging it again; a few places required close attention to avoid knocking debris on those below and on the rope.

Three-watt hand-held CB radios were tried for communications this season, but failed to work beyond two or three hundred feet down, apparently because of the slight corkscrew configuration of shaft. An antenna wire lowered down the shaft for better reception is not recommended as it could become entangled in the rope. Communication by voice alone is not possible beyond -300 feet.

#### Biology

A well-broken deer skeleton

was discovered in the center of the floor area, along with a few branches of wood. An unidentified, partially-decomposed baby bird was found on a ledge at -80 feet. It is suspected that the entrance portion of the pit contains rodents of some kind, although no physical evidence was discovered other than just sounds from this area.

#### Management Recommendations

Locational information should be restricted from the general public because of safety considerations. Little impact on this pit is anticipated, as the pit is not in an area containing harvestable timber and it is too remote for much visitation pressure. □

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#### Members in the News (Contributions invited)

- William R. Halliday and others participated in a tour of Timpanogas Cave, sponsored for the BOG, as related by Dave Shurtz's article, "BOG--Timpanogas Cave", in the May 1989 issue of The Utah Caver 1(2):43.
- Miles Hecker's name appeared in Rich Kapp's article, "Lechuguilla!", in the September 1989 issue of Cleve-O-Grotto News 35(9): 5-6. Miles told the Cleveland group of his 42-hour (June) survey of 4200, part of which was in a 120-foot wide by 80-foot high passage. Is that a record, Miles?
- Jim Nicholls and Kevin Allred are thanked in Dave Shurtz's article, "Thanks given where thanks is due", in the May 1989 issue of The Utah Caver 1(2):47-48, for their help in the resurvey of Neffs Canyon Cave.
- Jim Nicholls' article, "A history of my personal speleocamping", in the July 1989 issue of The Utah Caver 1(3):60-63 describes, among other things, some original surveys of the Obey Gorge Caves (Tennessee) and an interesting attempt at cave conservation, both of which would not have been feasible without speleocamping.
- Jim Nicholls' name appears in Rod Horrocks' "Surveying at its best" in November



1989 issue of The Utah Caver 1(5):148, an account of the survey of Nielsons Well. Rod refers to the 1987 exploration of the cave in which Jim participated.

- Julius Rockwell, Jr., Curvin Metzler, Douglas O'Harra, and Robert Hallinen, and the uncertainty of getting into the Glacier caves of the Byron Valley, were the subject of George Bryson's editorial in the November 5, 1989, Anchorage Daily News, Section D ("We Alaskans" 11(45):3).
- Steve Sims was complimented for his map, "Mapping Twenty Pound Tick Cave", at the October 1989 Rocky Mountain Speleo-Seminar (December 1989 NSS News 47(12):308).

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• G r o t t o M e e t i n g •  
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at 7:30 pm  
on Thursday  
October 4

at the home of  
Julius Rockwell, Jr  
2944 Emory Street  
Anchorage, Alaska

brief business meeting  
(limited to half an hour)

Prince of Wales Island  
(POWIE IV) and Chitistone  
brief trip reports

video tape and slides  
from caves in Poland  
and Czechoslovakia

refreshments provided

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**Glacier Grotto**  
2944 Emory Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4466

Address Correction Requested

★  
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★ ★  
★ ★