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Alaskan Caver, Volume 25, No. 4, October 2005

Carlene Allred

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THE ALASKAN CAVER

A photograph of a deep, moss-covered cave entrance. The cave is filled with lush green moss and vegetation. A person is standing on the left side of the cave, providing a sense of scale. The cave is surrounded by steep, rocky cliffs. The title "THE ALASKAN CAVER" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the top of the image.

Volume 25, Number 4

October, 2005

THE ALASKAN CAVER

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Annual dues are \$15 per individual and \$20 per family or organization. *The Alaskan Caver* is included in the membership fee. For an additional \$8, six *The Alaskan Cavers* will be sent overseas via airmail. Send dues to the treasurer.

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LETTERS

Hello Carlene,

You might not have heard this yet but the Cascade Grotto will be hosting the 2006 NSS Convention in Bellingham, WA., the week of August 7-11. We are starting to try and put together Pre and Post convention trips and we were thinking that there might be some people interested in heading up to Alaska after the convention for some caving on Prince of Wales Island. Would there be anyone available to lead some trips the following week, August 12-18, 2006?

Obviously I don't need an answer immediately, we are just trying to get people started thinking about this.

Also, is there anyone that might be interested in coming down and presenting your latest findings at the US Exploration salon? Again, that's just something to think about.

Best Regards,
Mark Sherman, Cascade Grotto

(Letters continue on page 3)



Front cover: Ella Fish looks on from half way down as her husband, David Fish, descends into Starlight Cave, Prince of Wales Island. Photo by Carlene Allred.

Back cover: Cavern Lake Cave, Prince of Wales Island. Photo by George and Karen Fish

LETTERS.... continued from page 2

Dear Friends,

The following quotes from messages from Van Bergen of Cascade Grotto are forwarded for your information and action. I understand that Mark Sherman [Cascade Grotto] has already contacted Carlene about doing trips on Prince of Wales Island.

"We're furiously preparing for next year's NSS Convention, and one of the things we're doing is involving our Canadian neighbors in setting up and leading pre- and post-convention trips in Canada, writing guidebook articles about Canadian geology and caving history, etc."

"At a recent staff meeting, Michael McCormack (Convention Chair) suggesting involving Alaskan cavers too. There may be some visitors who would consider adding on a trip to Alaska, since Bellingham is already so far from home for them. Maybe they would appreciate some information about Alaskan caves/caving, or maybe even a pre- or post-convention camp and cave trip."

The dates of the convention are 7-11 August, 2006 in Bellingham, Washington.

Let me know if you are interested or you can respond directly to Van . <bergen@comcast.net> with a copy to me. I hope you can help.

As Ever, Dave...

[Editor's note: David Klinger, writer of the above letter, is our ever-faithful Northwest Caving Association representative.]

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Carlene,

I am glad to once again be receiving the Alaska Caver. I do offer some clarification on statements made pertaining to Zina Cave in the Alaskan Caver, Volume 24, No. 4 on Page 5. Under the "Introduction and Description" it is reported the "Zina Cave was discovered in the summer of 1997 by a Forest Service wildlife crew while walking a proposed "salvage sale" unit. The Area geologist had already investigated the unit and

signed it off as Moderate Vulnerability karst (which meant it could be clearcut) even though there were a multitude of 10 foot deep sinkholes throughout the unit which is covered by a healthy old growth forest." It is true that a "salvage sale" was proposed in 1997 to remove the windthrown timber from this leave strip on Twin Mountain. However, once the initial unit boundary was flagged, the Forest Geologist had inventoried the area removing much of it as high vulnerability. The presale foresters still looking for salvage opportunities expanded the unit to the east. In January 1998, forester Shane Ullery walked out a windthrown spruce while assessing the timber quality and looked down into the entrance of Zina. The Forest Geologist was immediately contacted and taken back to the site. Planning for the sale was stopped at that point. The Forest Geologist contacted Pete Smith to ask for his help in a preliminary survey of the cave. Pete and I entered the cave for the first time on January 18th, 1998. The Forest Service completed a preliminary tracer dye study on Twin Mountain's Scallop and Zina Cave systems in February 2005. Since the spring of 2004, a groundwater monitoring station has recorded pH, temp, stage, and conductivity of the waters flowing from Zina Spring. Two rain gauges are installed near the caves. Two Masters thesis projects have been proposed for this karst area. Nearly 70% of the eastern flank of Twin Mountain including the alpine recharge areas above Scallop and Zina down slope to the many springs that flow from this system have been identified as high vulnerability and removed from consideration of timber harvest. The full name for the cave was derived from the Aztec Bat God Tlcatzinacantli because of the evidence of bat usage in the cave. It was shortened to the center syllable, Zina.

In the July, 2005 Alaska Caver, Volume 25, No. 3, is Dave Love's recount of the Calamity Creek Karst Mapping Expedition. On July 26, 2001, while completing karst and cave resource inventory for the Licking Creek EIS, I encountered the band of marble and the karst features reported on. I came home excited of the find and in my resource report wrote; In all, I am sure there are 5 entrances into the large cave system and potentially many

(continues on page 14)

2003 PRINCE OF WALES EXPEDITION

By Kevin Casey

In addition to the expedition to Carroll inlet, the report of which appeared in a previous edition of the Caver, the summer of 2003 saw several other Forest Service sponsored projects concerning cave mapping and karst management on Prince of Wales Island. Included here are maps and brief reports on three of the caves that were discovered and surveyed that year. In addition to these caves, a large dye tracing project was executed with the assistance of Ozark Underground Laboratories on North Prince of Wales Island in conjunction with a preliminary report on the North Prince of Wales road project.

Constantine's Cave

Sarah Cervone and I discovered Constantine's Cave while walking a muskeg on the plateau above Cavern Lake. The several acre large muskeg drains through a single stream running east which enters an incised channel, goes under a small bridge, then flows into the entrance of Constantine's Cave. Our initial survey of the cave went smoothly. Several hundred feet of gently dipping vadose stream passage brought us to a room where two other entrances join in from the surface. These entrances are at the end of a dry collapse channel which runs back up to the muskeg. They appear to have been the original insurgence points for this cave. After this room the passage turns north and after a short while becomes predominantly vertical, falling down a series of waterfalls and cascades.

After the first day of surveying, we were a bit unsure about the rigging of the first drop and sought the advice and help of Pete Smith. After some cajoling, Pete agreed to help us rig the pitch, and with his Hilte in hand we returned to Constantine's that evening. Pete descended first and rigged one bolt rebelay after the first drop and we all continued down until running out of rope at a brief section of horizontal passage.

The next days survey brought us down the first pitches. It was a baptism by fire, of sorts, as it was my and Sarah's first vertical, wet survey. Fortunately, water was low at the time and there

were many ledges to step off on and the whole place was remarkably free of debris. After the brief horizontal passage, the cave continued down into another small room which again brought us the edge of a large drop. Out of rope and thoroughly wet and tired, we ascended out for the day.

The next time we returned we were lucky enough to have Marcel LaPerriere join us on the survey. As with Pete, it was great to have Marcel along as his experience and knowledge were a great asset. Unfortunately, Marcel had left his cave suit in Ketchikan, so I loaned him one of mine which was, obviously, a bit small. To add to Marcel's woes, Sarah and I both had dry suits. Not deterred, Marcel donned his rain gear to fend off the frigid waters, though by the end of the day the suit was more holes than suit and he was thoroughly soaked. So the three of us rigged the next drop and continued the survey until we found ourselves at the lip of a 100' pit, perched on a small ledge getting completely hosed by the falling water. We managed to rig off a large horn which conveniently allowed the rope to hang directly in the waterfall. First Sarah and then Marcel gave the pitch a go but found the rope hopelessly tangled and hanging directly in the water. Wet and exhausted again, we climbed out to return another day.

The next few days brought heavy rains. We returned to Constantine's but found way too much water for our likings. Unfortunately, Marcel had to return to Ketchikan so when we were again able to return, it was only Sarah and I. The water had dropped to a manageable level and we once again found ourselves perched over our little waterfall. I rigged the rope as best I could and got to lay as far from the center of the waterfall as possible and headed down. Fortunately I found that after the lip, the pit had two lobes, one of which took most of the water, the other of which I was able to lay the rope down and descend. Of course, after about 40' the water was everywhere anyways, but I'd missed the worst of it, at least. On we surveyed, down another brief horizontal passage, then down another short drop to where we found the sump.

Finding, exploring and surveying Constantine's was a unique experience for me.

(continues on page 10)

ADVENTURES UNDER KETCHIKAN

By Kevin Allred

I don't know exactly when it began, but then important discoveries are like that. Perhaps first while walking past a storm grate taking the abundant rainfall of Ketchikan. I finally realized that there were perhaps glorious and possibly even torturous caving adventures to be had right under our feet in Ketchikan!

A few months ago, I began to take a closer look in the gloom between the cast iron slats of storm drains near our home. It was only a matter of time before I was lured below. Carlene was with me on that first entry. She felt no inclination to join me, but stood near the grate watching to make sure the coast was clear. I did not want to attract undue attention and worry. Besides, the city would probably frown on the idea of idiots exploring their sewers. It was not raining, and this looked like a piece of cake. I was soon to change my mind though.

After crawling through a two foot diameter plastic culvert for a few hundred feet, I heard water ahead. Some small slugs in the passage inspired the name, "Slug crawl". Slithering through a shallow pool, I came to the brink of a drop of perhaps 15 feet. It was a cement well about seven feet in diameter with a skylight (grate) in the ceiling. Hey, this would make a neat free rappel! I could see a stream below issuing from a three foot diameter culvert, falling four or five feet, and disappearing into one of similar size in the opposite wall.

I spotted the rungs of a ladder imbedded in the wall some five feet away. With some difficulty, scary maneuvering allowed me to swing over to the ladder. I descended, peeked down the going stream passage at the bottom, and was hooked.

On June 14, 2005, Forrest Allred and I took survey gear to the system I had previously entered. [Editor's note: Kevin couldn't wait to try out his new compass/clino that he had just recieved in the mail.] We surveyed to the drop, but the last shot had severe magnetic interference, probably from the reinforcement of the cement. Forrest did not feel comfortable trying to make the tricky move to the ladder, so I went downstream to scoop ahead. Passing under various inlets and grates, I followed the smooth plastic stream culvert until it changed to a steel corrugated form. Immediately I was rewarded with the beauty of numerous odd-shaped stalactites of unknown composition. The first ones were up to at least four inches long, and very thin. Further along, there were

thicker stalactites, and other forms that resembled helictites. I realized that the things are actually made of tar, since the inside surfaces of the culvert were coated in it. I made a quick return to Forrest with tales of glory and determination to come back later and see if we could get all the way to the ocean.



Training session preceding our entry underground. Note the blocked entrance directly above the dome pit to be negotiated. Photo by Carlene Allred

On June 20, we invited some friends to go with us into the storm drain system. Participants were, Misty Williams, her sons Kenneth and Mike, Forrest and I. Carlene came along to the entrance, where she took



Misty enters the system at an open portal. Photo by Carlene Allred

Photos and watched to warn us of passersby. I had concerns that Misty might have trepidation getting over to the ladder, even with a handline. After a brief training session on how to put on a seat harness, we checked the

(continues on page 6)

ADVENTURES..., cont. from pg. 5

tide table in Carlene's palm pilot. It would be high tide at about the same time we got to sea level. At least we would not have an incoming tide and the danger of rising water in potentially marginal conditions. We entered the system at about 10:30 pm. I rigged a



Forrest negotiates the well that we rigged. Photo by Kevin Allred

traverse handline between the culvert and ladder. Misty ended up using the seat harness with a short safety line clipped onto the handline. Now was the time for the big scoop. We headed down using various techniques to keep from bumping our bare heads or breaking off the



Tar stalactites. Photo by Kevin Allred

abundant stalactites. Hardly any water was flowing down the passage, but it gradually increased as side culverts added their trickles.

I followed last.

After a long distance, the group bunched up at an obstacle; The culvert suddenly became very steep for perhaps 30 feet. Mike experimented with bridging downward, and then back up near the top. With confidence we could get back up, should we get trapped below, Forrest sat down and just let go. It was just like a water slide! People pay big bucks for this kind of fun, and here it was for free! We just had to watch our heads at the bottom. I would dearly love to do this at high water!

We continued, and speculated just where we might be in relation to the streets and businesses above our heads. Then things got grim. The gradient leveled off, and the culvert became mostly filled with rubble (*Cowabunga Crawl*). I led off, and after perhaps 50 feet, the water began getting deeper and deeper. Finally I was up to my neck in rather sickly looking brown water with feathers and cigarette butts floating in it. I popped into a cement dome with a manhole above. The way on was a larger culvert, but mostly filled with water. It looked definitely like a sump ahead. I climbed up to the culvert and peeped through the small finger hole. I could see a ceiling and hear car traffic nearby. With a good shove up it would not budge. Then realizing the work involved in getting all the way back up the system, I tried again. Bingo, it came loose, with a trickle of small stones and dirt down my neck. Cracking it open, I could see we were in some kind of parking lot.



Kenneth hesitantly makes his way through dirty tidewater towards the escape portal. Photo by Kevin Allred

Encouraging the others to come ahead, as there was a way out, I waited for them and listened to the groans and exclamations as the water got deeper. When everyone got under the manhole, Forrest lifted the lid and we made a break for it. Kenneth's pants were torn to shreds on his bottom from sliding too much.

(continues on page 7)

Soon we were all casually gathered on the now-wet parking lot like drowned rats trying to act normal. There were some people and traffic on both sides of us. Forrest and I slid the heavy manhole lid home. One pickup truck had been passing in the parking lot and those inside sat and watched us from a distance. They then drove closer and called out (obviously not believing their eyes), "Did you just come out of there?" When we replied in the affirmative, one young man asked "What were you doing down there??" "Just crawling around" was all I could think of saying. With some exclamations, they drove off. Forrest and Kenneth knew the guys.

The next day, Forrest was working in a nearby grocery store and the Williams' came through doing their shopping. Misty held out her bruised arms and said in part jest, "See what your dad did to me?" Her sons smirked.



FURTHER STORM DRAIN EPICS

by Kevin Allred

One day during some of the wettest periods of the year, I decided to try my dry suit out to test new gaskets. I had previously scouted out several drainage culverts above subdivisions to find access points. One in particular at Bailey Blvd looked promising. A good surface stream disappeared into a three foot diameter culvert.

When I entered during pouring rain, it soon became obvious this was a dumb time to enter an unknown system. The one foot deep water rushing down the steep culvert forcefully pushed me downstream. About 30 feet inside, I decided to ditch, and with some difficulty crawled back out.

On July 23, 05, I entered the same entrance at lower water. I explored excitedly downstream, passing misc. debris jammed here and there. Lots of interesting stuff was represented, such as garden hose, shovels, plywood, and someone's chainsaw bar that mysteriously came up missing. I took a cool rubber action figure home with me. The culvert eventually became larger and was broken in a couple places by open-air stream channels. I spotted some six inch long fish in the dark zones. The culvert of one area was rectangular in cross section, and composed of concrete. Of particular note were calcite soda straws up to five inches long. The lower end came out at a medium tide level at the Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminal. The through trip took one hour. π

"CAVING" TRIP PLANNED!

You all are invited to the

FIRST ANNUAL STORM DRAIN THROUGH TRIP.

It will be held on

HALLOWEEN,

Oct. 31, 2005

at 5:00 pm at Allreds house,
2525 4th Ave. Ketchikan.



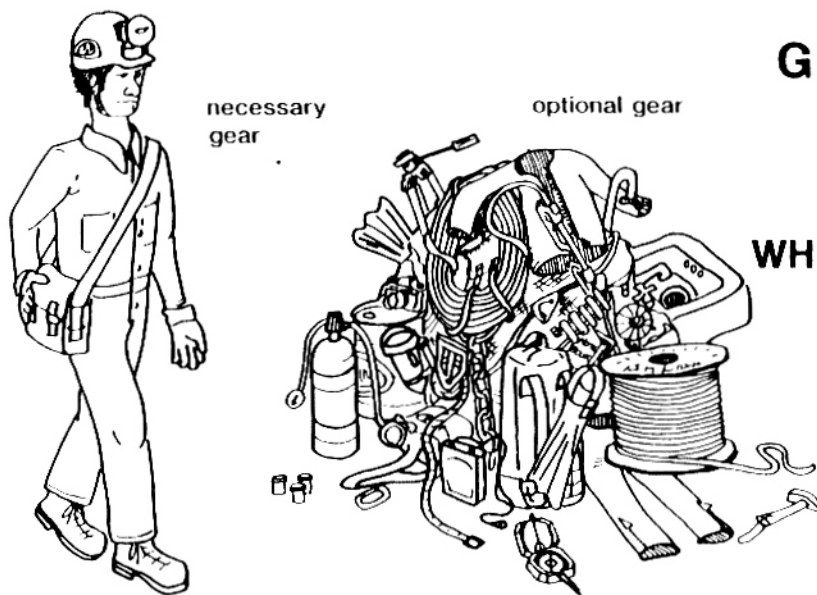
After some treats we will go on a fun
storm drain through trip at about
6:00 pm to avoid high tide.



Dress as in Southeastern Alaska caving
with lots of water expected.
Drysuits nice, but not required.
No vertical gear expected.



You can bring a Halloween costume
if you want, and maybe trick or treat
Along the way.



GENERAL EQUIPMENT FOR EACH CAVER

or

WHAT TO BRING ON A CAVE TRIP

Ed LaRock
NSS 14362

This section is designed to bring together other parts of the manual into one checklist or guide to what items to bring on a cave trip. As a result some items, such as lamps or cave packs, which have been detailed elsewhere, will need no explanation when mentioned here. Items to bring on a cave trip can be broken down into the "basic necessities" which **each caver should carry on every cave trip** and "optional items" that depend largely on the type of cave trip planned, some of which may be distributed among the cave party.

The basic necessities should be taken on even the "easiest two-hour" cave trip since unexpected events may lengthen your trip underground. The basics should be carried in a handy, easily reached place as they may be in frequent use.

The Basics

I. Primary Light Source and Helmet—should be helmet mounted to leave hands free and to always illuminate your line of vision. Helmet should have a good chin strap.

A) Carbide Lamp

1. Spare carbide and water for lamp—at least twice the amount you plan to use.
2. Container for spent carbide—never dump your spent carbide in the cave.
3. Spare parts such as an extra lamp bottom, tip, felt, gasket, wing nut and flints, along with a tip cleaner and even some electrician's tape for emergency bracket repair.

OR

B) Electric Headlamp

1. Spare batteries—again twice the amount you'll need.
2. Spare bulbs and any other spare electrical parts.

3. Electrician's tape for cord repair and emergency mounting.

4. Pocket knife for making repairs.

II. Extra Light Sources—at least two independent sources which can be used to exit the cave.

A) Most commonly a flashlight with wrist strap and some chemical lightsticks with aluminum foil for a makeshift reflector—many cavers carry a spare carbide lamp charged and ready to go in addition to a flashlight and chemical lightsticks.

1. Extra parts for your extra light sources.

B) Waterproof matches or a cigarette lighter are also very useful to carry.

C) Candles, mostly to be used during rest stops or while repairing items.

III. General items that everyone should have.

A) Small pair of pliers needed for lamp repairs, tightening rappel racks, etc.

B) Pocket knife to sharpen pencils, cut webbing, make repairs on lamps, open cans and so on.

C) Short lengths of string and wire can be very useful.

IV. Food and Emergency Gear

A) Food and drinking water.

1. Requirements will depend on length of trip and the individual.

2. Each person should at least carry some small emergency food item on any trip, i.e. candy bar, food sticks.

B) Space blanket (which may degrade with time if wet) or a large, heavy duty plastic bag—these are excellent emergency insulators that have prevented many cases of hypothermia and should always be carried.

C) A small pocket-sized first aid kit, a short length

of cord or webbing for use as pack strap repair, emergency lamp mounting, arm sling, handlines, or rigging points, and even a small whistle for signalling. These final three items may be considered optional but take up little space or weight and could be lifesavers.

V. Pencil and paper for leaving and/or taking notes.

VI. List of rescue phone numbers (could be left in the vehicle or at the entrance) and some coins for emergency phone calls.

Optional Gear

Optional caving gear will often depend on the type and length of cave trip planned such as a mapping trip and/or vertical cave trip.

I. General—useful items for someone on the trip to be carrying.

A) Some removable flagging tape for marking the way in a new or complex cave and for survey stations when mapping. Also can be used to mark off areas of delicate speleothems and trails.

B) A map of the cave (if available) in a plastic bag.

C) Compass.

D) Watch.

II. Survey or Mapping Gear—should be packed in a separate sack or baggie in a cave pack.

A) Compass with/and inclinometer.

B) Waterproof notebook—also useful for leaving notes for other parties, that is, if you also have pencils.

C) Measuring tape, 25- to 100-foot length.

III. Photography Gear

IV. Vertical Cave Trip—each person should carry his own complete set, possibly in a separate sack or pack for convenience.

A) Ascending/climbing gear.

B) Descending/rappelling gear, including gloves.

C) Seat and chest harness(es).

D) Rope—carrying shared by the cave party members.

V. Extra long trips or expedition—this belongs in a separate category beyond basic caving. However, extra food, lighting supplies, wet suits or exposure suits for wet caves, sleeping gear, and larger and specially designed packs should all be considered for long, strenuous trips underground.

Finally, items brought on a cave trip will have to be transported in some way, but more importantly they should be individually dirt resistant, waterproof and durable. Several hints on containers and “cave-proofing” will be summarized here.

All contents of the cave pack(s) can be placed and sealed inside a plastic trash bag for transport through wet caves or near sumps. This will also cause the pack to be bouyant.

Plastic containers, baby bottles, film canisters and double ziplock baggies are rugged and usually waterproof for carrying most anything.

Water containers with “flip-tops” are handy for filling carbide lamps.

Drinking water should be carried in a separate container since a caver may want to refill his lamp waterbottle with water from the cave.

It is wise to use a piece of plastic bag or wrap as a container. Seal to prevent leakage or contamination.

Collapsible plastic containers take up less space as the contents are used up and/or can be compressed and stowed away until needed.

In conclusion, the chance of a mishap or inconvenience while in a cave can be greatly reduced if every caver in the party is carrying his or her own basic cave necessities. Provisions for optional gear should be worked out with the trip leader before the trip.

The above article (beginning on page 8) was scanned from something we found in the Grotto files during our “Grotto files clean-up session” last August. I do not know what publication it was taken from. In the future you will see more of newly rediscovered items in the *Alaskan Caver*.

The “Grotto files clean-up session” mentioned above happened during August when a group of Grotto members was passing through Ketchikan on their return journey from Tim Heaton’s Coronation Island expedition. Bruce White and Dan Monteith had deposited the Grotto files in our garage [Allreds] for temporary keeping. In our living room we went through the several boxes of Grotto miscellaneous stuff that had accumulated over the years. Our clean-up crew consisted of Dan, Kevin Allred, Carlene Allred, David Love, Nick Olmstead and Steve Lewis.

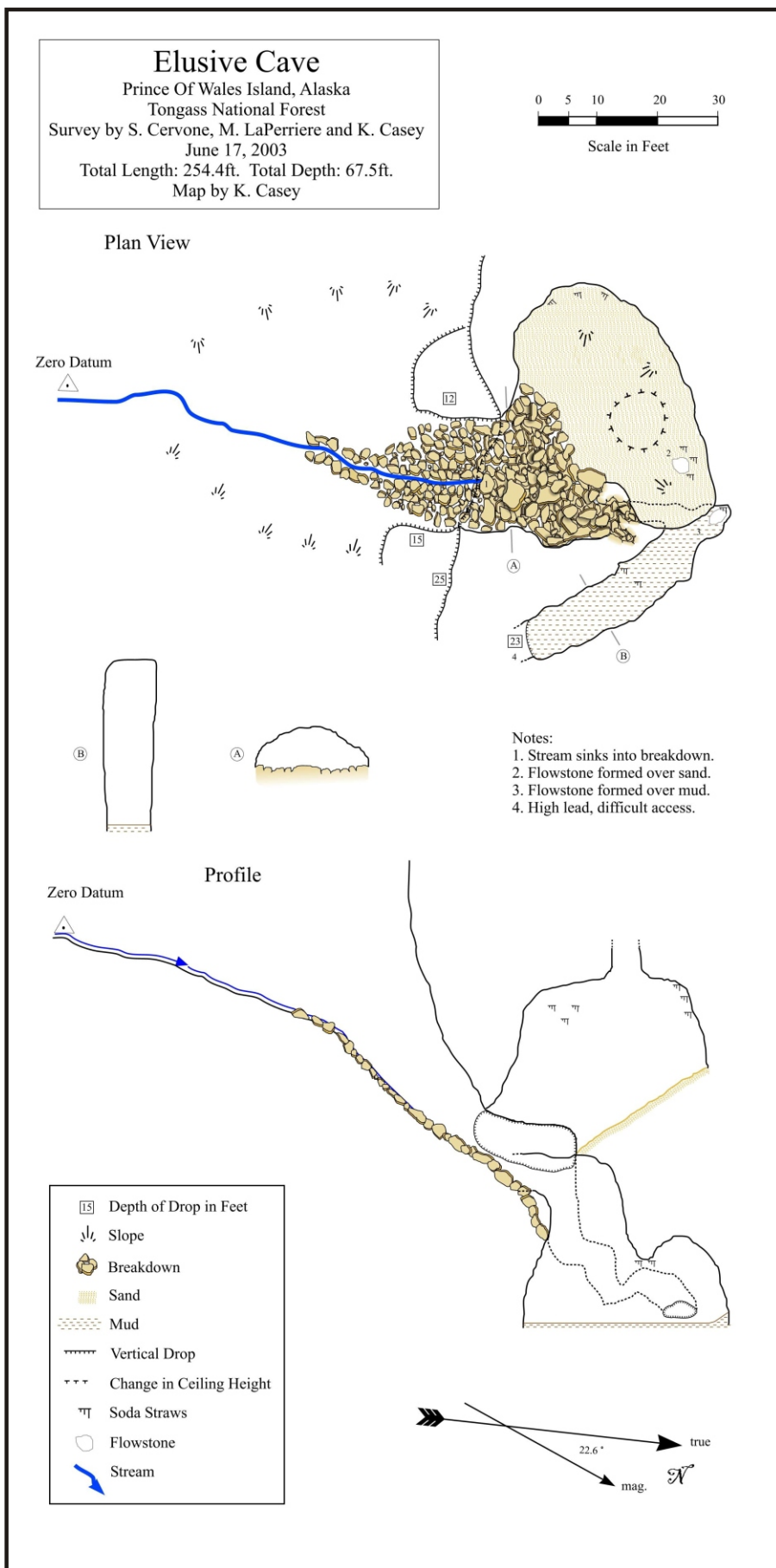
It was the first big cave I had discovered and surveyed, and later became the first big map I drew. There was certainly a big learning curve and am grateful to both Pete and Marcel as their experience and guidance were certainly indispensable. Looking back on it from two years later, the thought of Constantine still fills me with that indescribable suite of feelings that I've come to associate with Alaska caving, feelings of awe, exhilaration, humility and gratitude.

Elusive Cave

Elusive Cave's entrance is as impressive as it was elusive. Unfortunately, impressive entrances don't always lead to impressive caves. Elusive Cave is located on a heavily karsted sub-alpine plateau to the east of Calder Bay. This area has what appears to be some old and very well developed karst. The sinkhole in which Elusive is located is one of several 100+ deep sinks in the area with large, steep headwalls with large insurging streams. Jim Baichtal had spied this huge feature from the air and had sent several groups of cavers to try to locate it, but to no avail. So finally Jim decided to take matters into his own hands and showed Sarah, Marcel and myself to the spot.

Elusive's impressive headwall entrance leads to rapidly shrinking passage. After a duck under, the cave splits, rising to the left to a large room with a dome leading towards the surface. The right hand lead descends a breakdown pile. After negotiating a tight crawl though breakdown, the cave opens up into a mud floored room with some flow stone and soda straws and

(continues on page11)



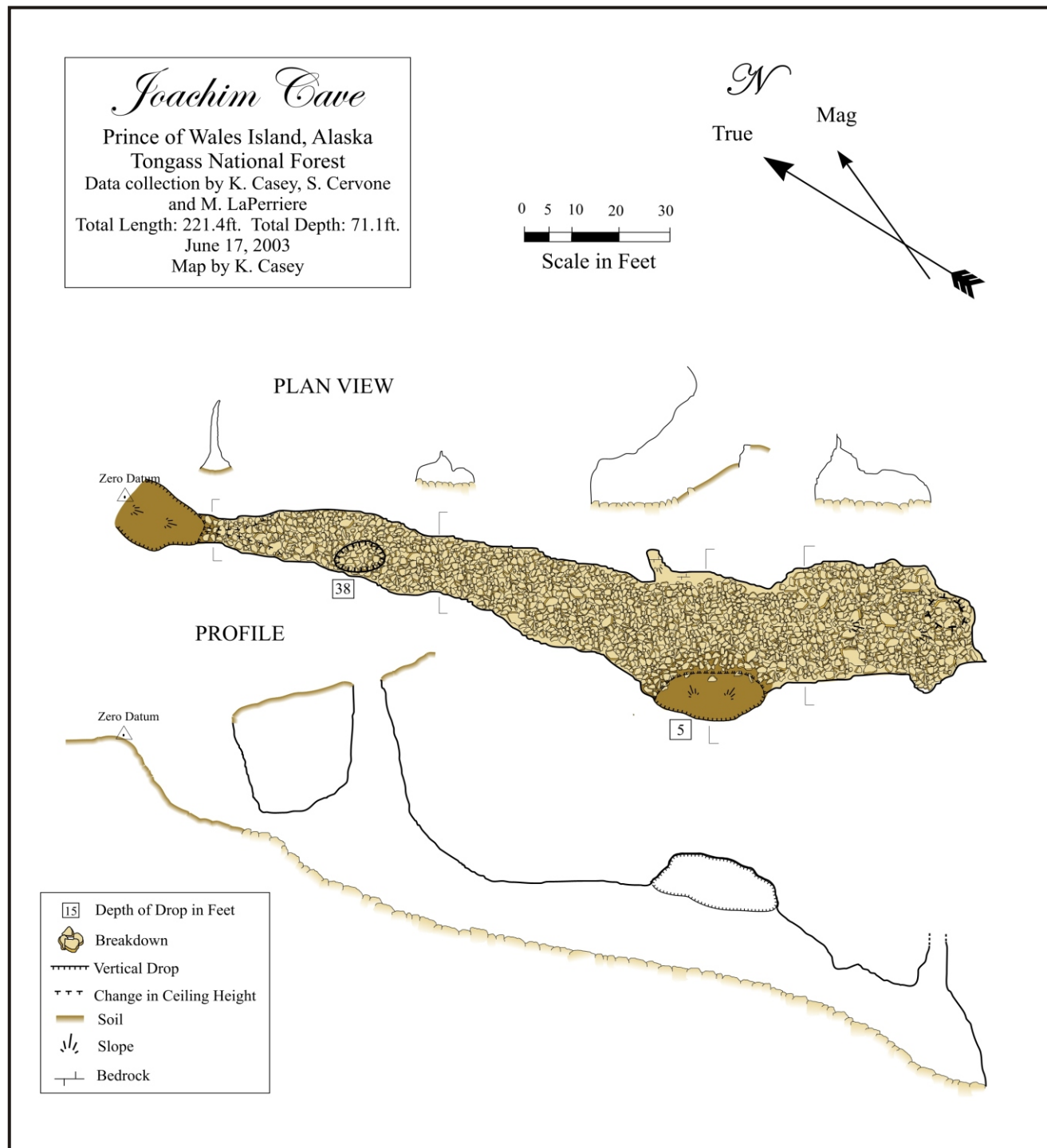
CALAMITY CREEK... continued from page 10

one high lead with difficult access. A prominent flood line was apparent about five feet off the floor.

Joachim Cave

While Sarah, Marcel and I surveyed Elusive cave, Jim ran a loop around the plateau and discovered the twin entrances to Joachim Cave. Again, impressive entrances didn't lead to much cave, though what was there was impressive in it's scale. Joachim appears to be an abandoned phreatic tube of quite large

dimensions. We dropped in though a large window about midway trough the cave and surveyed out through a slot entrance to the north. The limestone is highly fossiliferous with several excellent *Kirkchidium Alaskensis* brachiopods exposed in the walls. Continuing past the window entrance, the tube dives down and soon becomes plugged in breakdown. This plateau reminds me of other sub-alpine karst areas on Prince of Wales: highly developed karst with very deep features, large amounts of water going subsurface, but precious few cave entrances. ¶¶



CONSTANTINE'S CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Tongass National Forest, Alaska

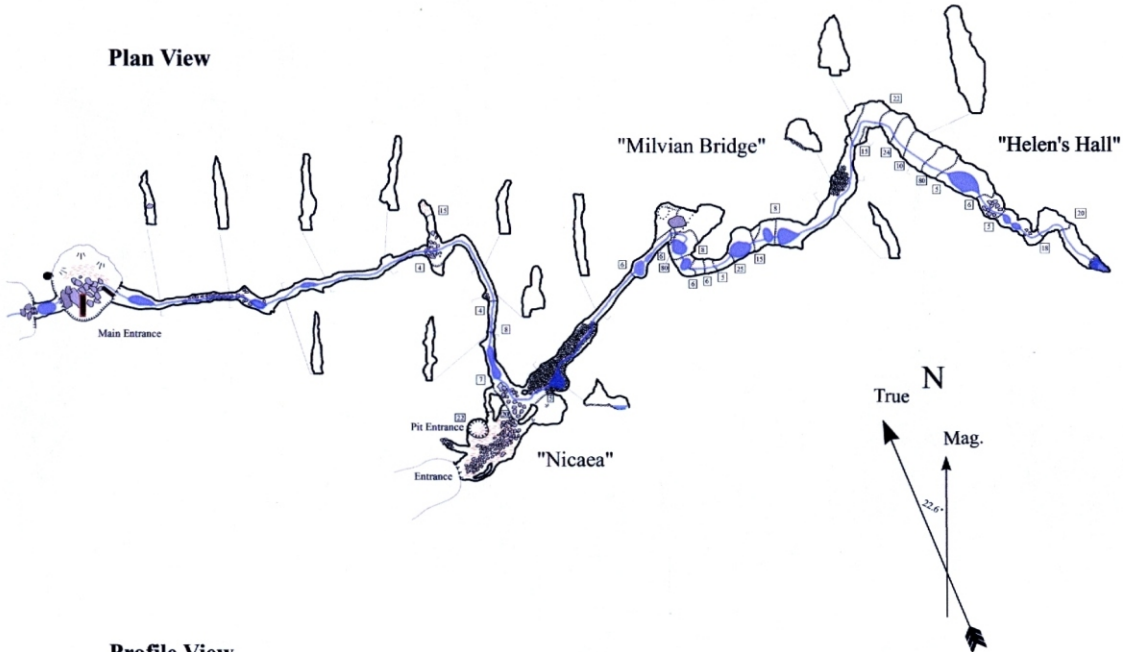
N 56°08'45.4159" W-133° 11'23.34145"

Total surveyed length: 1,234ft. Total depth: 423.7ft.

Suunto and Tape survey by K. Casey, S. Cervone, J. Kovarik
and M. LaPerriere, June 10th-18th, 2003.

Cartography by K. Casey

Plan View



NSS CONSERVATION POLICY

From the NSS website at www.caves.org

The National Speleological Society believes:

- Caves have unique scientific, recreational, and scenic values
- These values are endangered by both carelessness and intentional vandalism
- These values, once gone, cannot be recovered
- The responsibility for protecting caves must be formed by those who study and enjoy them.

Accordingly, the intention of the Society is to work for the preservation of caves with a realistic policy supported by effective programs for: the encouragement of self-discipline among cavers; education and research concerning the causes and prevention of cave damage; and special projects, including cooperation with other groups similarly dedicated to the conservation of natural areas. Specifically:

All contents of a cave -- formations, life, and loose deposits -- are significant for their enjoyment and interpretation. Therefore, caving parties should leave a cave as they find it. They should provide means for the removal of waste; limit marking to a few, small, and removable signs as are needed for surveys; and, especially, exercise extreme care not to accidentally break or soil formations, disturb life forms or unnecessarily increase the number of disfiguring paths through an area.

Scientific collection is professional, selective, and minimal. The collecting of mineral or biological material for display purposes, including previously broken or dead

specimens, is never justified, as it encourages others to collect and destroy the interest of the cave.

The Society encourages projects such as:

- Establishing cave preserves
- Placing entrance gates where appropriate
- Opposing the sale of speleothems
- Supporting effective protective measures
- Cleaning and restoring over-used caves
- Cooperating with private cave owners by providing them knowledge about their cave and assisting them in protecting their cave and property from damage during cave visits
- Encouraging commercial cave owners to make use of their opportunity to aid the public in understanding caves and the importance of their conservation.

Where there is reason to believe that publication of cave locations will lead to vandalism before adequate protection can be established, the Society will oppose such publication.

It is the duty of every Society member to: Take personal responsibility for spreading a consciousness of the cave conservation problem to each potential user of caves. Without this, the beauty and value of our caves will not long remain with us.

For more information on cave conservation, check out the [The NSS Cave Conservation and Management Section WWW Page](#).NSS Conservation Policy



In order to answer your question I need to know some more information, although I am a little reluctant to open this Pandoras box. What were you planning on doing in the cave? Were you going to use the cave as a base for your primitive hunting expeditions? Are you an artist that likes to paint ala Lascaux cave in France? Did you want a party cave? How many are in your "party"? Are you looking for a cave to climb in? Did you want to practice your surveying skills on the cave, something or someone? Do you collect spelothems, cave adapted life, bats, rocks, or darkness? Get lost and burn your clothes to keep warm? Did you want to practice your vertical techniques (what ever they are)? Were you planning on pulling a Floyd Collins? Need a dark place to assemble your nuclear bomb? Want to get lost? Start an Al Qaeda cell? Hide from Bruno? Stash the cash or cache? Start a dig? I can think of different caves in different parts of the world where each of the above can be achieved, but to be truthful, I never really heard of a cave for rent. Most of us go caving for much different reasons, that are not usually as illegal, immoral or unethical, as most of the above activities are. Caves are not Motel 6, and nobody's going to leave the light on for you. I know you could probably rent a cave for pretty cheap in Afghanistan (no stars), but since I dont know of any here in the US, I shall just ask my extensive

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