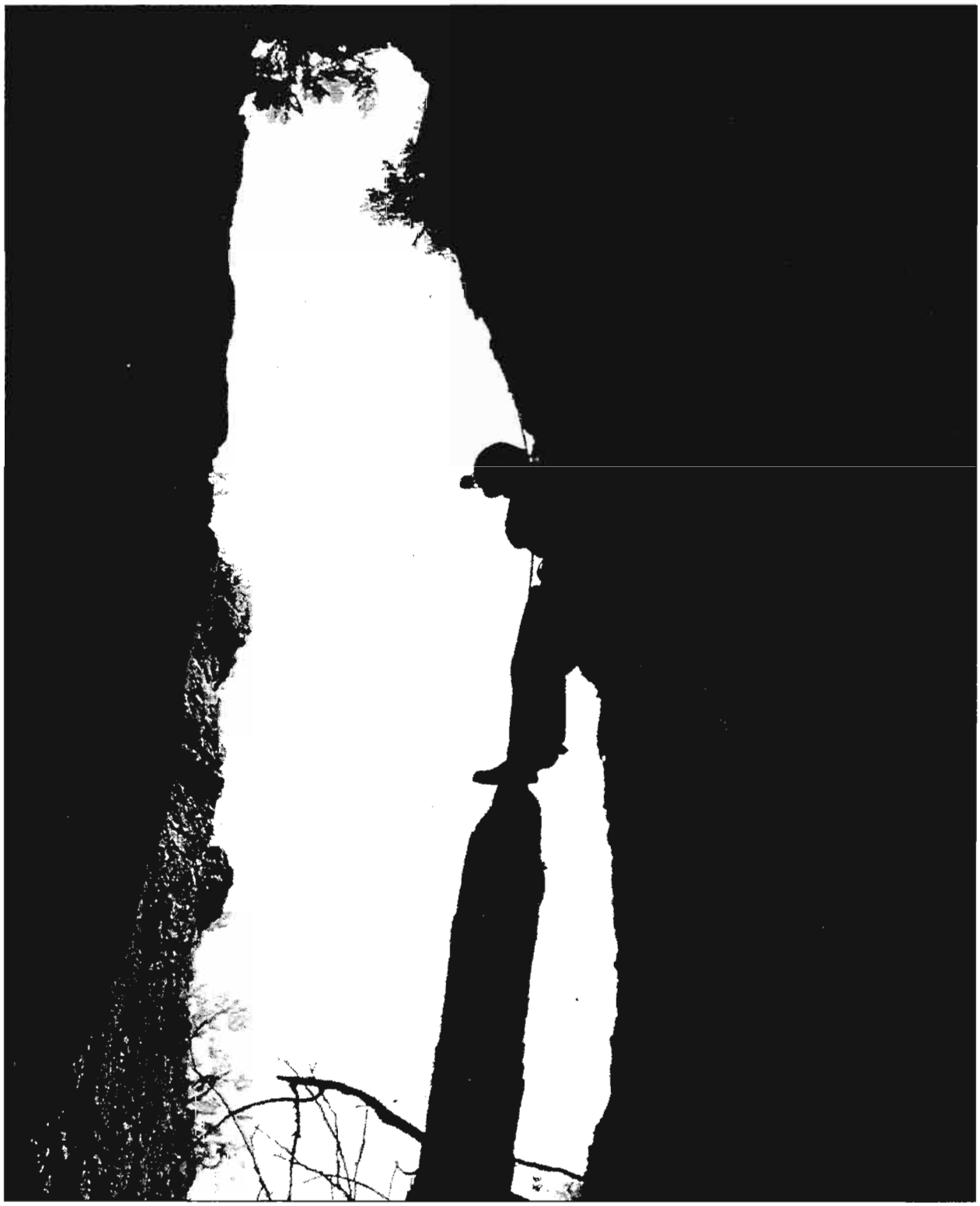
October 1994

Alaskan Caver Alaska Caver

Chuck Pease

The Alaskan Caver

Volume 14 Number 5 October 1994



The Alaskan Caver

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Cover Photo: Cave drops into a cave on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska
Photo Credit: Marcel LaPerriere

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Annual dues are $15 for a single and $20 for a family membership. The Alaskan Caver is included in the membership fee. For an additional $8, six Cavers will be sent by airmail to overseas addresses. Institutional subscriptions are $20 per volume. Send dues to Glacier Grotto Treasurer.

- Anchorage Meetings: Call Harvey Bowers for details. (907)376-2294.
- Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.
- Fairbanks Meetings: Call Mike Mauser for details. (907)456-6953

GG OFFICIAL JOURNAL of the GLACIER GROTTO
The ALASKAN CAVER
October 1994

Mother Nature continues to create inside a cave on Prince of Wales Island.
Photo: Steve Lewis

CALENDAR

Dec . 6, 1994 Glacier Grotto meeting teleconference. Area vice presidents have details. 7:15 p.m.

Feb. 17-21, 1995 Paleokarst:Macroscopic Dissolution Features in the Rock Record, Field Conference at Bahamian Field Stateion Bahamas. (601)325-8774.

July 17-21, 1995 NSS Convention, Blackburg, VA. (410)792-0742.

Oct. 25-28, 1995 XII National Cave Management Symposium, Mitchell, IN (317)882-5420.

Kushtaka Lives Here

by R.R. Knotts

The plan was to meet Dave Love at his skiff by noon. He would take us to his oyster farm and we would relax for the weekend.

Then the water pump went our on my pickup, and the parts store had nothing with which to replace it. By 10:30 a.m. it was obvious that the schedule had changed. Unfortunately, with Dave being far from any kind of telephone there was no way to inform him of that fact. Then, at the last minute I was able to borrow a rig and we were underway.

It was a perfect day. A hot sun filtered through the canopy of tree branches as we walked down the trail with our packs. Beneath our feet, the spongy moss was nearly dry from lack of rain. When we arrived at the mouth of the inlet, we found Dave trying to catch an elusive coho by casting spinners into the rapids.

In spite of our lateness there was still plenty of time for exploring, so my wife, Libby, an itinerant traveler named Rob and I, actually joined Dave for an hour or two of fishing. Afterwards we decided to check out a lead on a small cave in the area.

One of the kid's that worked at the Forest Service with Libby, told her about finding a cave the previous summer. We intended to look for it but the opportunity had never presented itself.

As we headed north, we skirted the shoreline in search of the cave. The instructions we'd received were vague at best, and the strongest lead we had was to look for a sandy beach. About 20 minutes into the ride we spotted a small sandy beach tucked back in a cove, so Dave cut the motor and we coasted to shore.

Just off the beach, in a tall, gangly stand of second-growth, we saw a limestone bluff. Dave and Rob took the southern route along the base of the cliffs, and Libby and I went north. Our route lead us directly to the top of the bluff, and just before topping out I saw a small opening in the northwest face of the rocks.

It wasn't the cave we hoped to find. That one was described as having a fairly large opening, and there was a big bird's nest right inside the entrance. This particular hole was an extremely small one and once inside the passage was choked with large chunks of

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcel LaPerriere

I was reading the October 9th edition of the Denver Post. In that edition there was an entire section on Alaska. Two of the articles were on the Tongass National Forest and the never ending debate of timber harvesting. These articles, written in a newspaper that has it's

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moonmilk-covered-breakdown. After about 15 feet, the passage pinched off too tight, and I was forced to crawl out backwards.

We named it Break Dance Cave, due to the contorted maneuvers I'd performed in extracting myself from the decorated breakdown on the floor. There was a steady flow of air moving through the tiny passage that may contribute to the abundant moonmilk. It also indicated that we were on the right track.

Meanwhile, Dave and Rob abandoned their search of the south end and joined us atop the band of cliffs. We once again split into two teams with Dave and I taking the lower portion and Libby and Rob staying high. About midway through the cliff band another opening was noted and as luck would have it, this was the right one.

The entrance was actually fairly small - 3 or 4 feet high , by the same width. Once inside the floor sloped down in a bed of river rock and turned the corner past our lights. Dave, Rob and I ventured inside and left Libby to guard the entrance.

With our mini-mags clutched in our teeth we crawled over the cobble and tried to keep our street clothes off the muddy floor. Once around the corner we found the bird's nest . And what a bird's nest it was. A very big bird no doubt.

The nest was located directly in front of a second entrance. The nest was 4 or 5 feet in diameter and made of moss and cedar boughs. The thought of meeting a bird, large enough for this nest, in that small space was rather unnerving.

Behind the nest, heading to the north, was another passageway. The three of us decided to investigate a little of the small tube... The floor was sandy and pools of water stood beneath a low, smooth ceiling.

Then Dave made a remarkable discovery. We had entered a small chamber that was large enough for the three of us to stand erect, and Rob was extolling the virtues of his first cave experience. Dave commented about a piece of bone embedded in the sand at our feet.

Having spent the biggest part of POWIE (Prince of Wales Island Expedition) as an assistant to Dr. Timothy Heaton, Dave was the closest thing to a paleontological expert in the group, and he quickly identified the bone as a bear's jaw. A closer examination revealed that the floor was littered with bone remnants.

The passage continued and even got a little larger, but we elected to cease our explorations in light of the possible significance of the cave.

The rest of our trip was equally enjoyable. Rob, as it turned out, was a chef extrodinaire, and every night would tempt our pallets with his artful creations of southeastern cuisine. Although we continued to look for caves during the weekend, the best we could manage was some high-quality sight-seeing.

Later , Libby did some investigating of her own and determined that the nest most likely was a hibernaculum for a black bear.

We thought the nest looked more appropriate for Bigfoot than a bird, so we named the cave after our furry hero. And since bigfoot is known as Kushtake in Southeast Alaska .....

"Well, now you know the rest of the story."

Pres. Corner continued from page 1

main circulation is hundreds of miles from Alaska, shows me that this issue is starting to be nationally recognized.

This brings me to the point of this President's Corner. As an organization that works to promote conservation of caves and associated resources, we should think nationally and internationally.

When possible, we should act locally as representatives of other citizens of this country. In other words, when we can, we should fight for conservation in our own back yards, while thinking on a national, or global scale.

Working to protect caves and karst in Alaska within a National Forest, is acting locally, while remembering that the National Forest belongs to all Americans. (Is it right for the tax payers of the USA to subsidize something that only profits a few, at a cost to all?)

Hopefully other members of other Grottos throughout this country are working to protect our interests in other parts of this great nation. By thinking on a larger scale we can make a difference nationally, and internationally while fighting the local battles.

After seeing many of the caves within this State severely impacted by logging and road building. Then realizing it took Mother nature centuries to do her work, and us only minutes to undo it, I feel it is becoming urgent that we act now, to save what is left.

The US Forest Service is under tremendous pressures by local interest groups, only interested in short term profits, with little regard for preservation. We need strong industries, and jobs, but not at the cost of the environment.

You too can make a difference. Please get involved. Write your elected representatives, expressing your wishes that they not be blinded by short sighted greed at the cost of generations to come.

TONGASS CAVE PROJECT

A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SUMMARY FOR 1994

by Kevin Allred

1994 has been a busy year for the Tongass Cave Project (TCP).

The group became incorporated and now has bylaws and dues. During the winter when the Allreds were out of state, the reins were taken by Steve Lewis and Pete Smith, and Nick Olmsted was added to the Board of Directors.

TCP continues to work with the USFS for cave and karst resource recognition and protection. It appears that some permanent protection is now given a number of previously unprotected cave and karst areas in the Ketchikan Area and things continue to progress in the Chatham Area on Chichagof Island. Molly Kemp and Nick led several trips scouting karst areas around Tenakee Springs. They also worked as volunteers for the USFS for two weeks to help the agency in their first attempts at protection of those cave and karst ecosystems from logging activities. Nick and Molly are busy planning further field activities for this winter and next summer.

Meanwhile in the Ketchikan Area, several Glacier Grotto and TCP members led by Marcel and Connie LaPerriere started a cave rescue group. The LaPerrieres also led a survey trip to Windgate Cave this spring.

A large group arrived in July for POWIE VIII (POWIE '94) and DALL '94. POWIE was led by Pete Smith and Dall '94 by Steve Lewis. TCP met at the beginning of POWIE before the Dall Island explorers left. Officers of TCP are Steve Lewis, president; Kevin Allred, vice president; and Pete Smith, sec./treasurer.

On Dall Island, there were exciting discoveries, some of which should not be shared in detail, other than to say, there are going caves, paleologic fossils (a bear, etc.), amazing geologic marvels, and archeological discoveries. Primary participants were Greg Bowles (HI), Kent Carlson (VA), Kris Esterson and Steve Lewis (AK, Fairbanks), Dan Montieth (AK, Ketchikan), and Amy Russell (AK, Thorne Bay).

POWIE '94 was a success as well, with 8,772 feet surveyed during the month-long expedition. Twenty-two new caves were surveyed, the longest being 1955.6 foot Windgate Cave. Blowing in the Wind Cave was extended 1048 feet further to some reportedly monster passage. In Snowhole a minor lead was pushed through an extremely tight, muddy canyon (the draughting lead remains). Dr. Timothy Heaton carried out paleological excavations in some caves and uncovered large fossil black bears, numerous rodent bones, and an otter, among other things. He was aided by David Love, Paul Hadfield, and USFS archaeologist Terry Fifield. Kent Carlson did more invertebrate collecting during his short time at POWIE. Primary participants were Peter Branson (AK, Wrangell), Kevin Allred (AK, Haines), David Ek (OR), Eron Gissburg and David Love (AK, Juneau), Paul Hadfield (Canada), Timothy Heaton (SD), Robert Knotts (AK,Craig), Marcel and Connie LaPerriere and Alan Murray (AK, Ketchikan), David Klinger (WA), Pete Smith and Val Smith (AK Whale Pass), and Darcie Ziel. (AK Tenakee Springs).

The most serious injuries were a wrenched knee and sore neck from a direct hit by a rock on the top of a helmet. Steve healed up pretty well from a long cedar splinter gouging into his eyelid.

The LaPerrieres led a TCP expedition to Noyes Island for exploration of littoral caves. Using their sailboat as a base, the group surveyed 1,417.6 feet in four caves. Significant geologic, archaeological and paleologic discoveries were made. It was a real riot even though everyone got a little seasick. Further exploration is planned for this area.

We thank the Forest Service for their support of the two week Chichagof trip, POWIE '94 and Dall '94. Thanks, also, to all the participants, many of whom incurred expensive travel costs and all who volunteered their valuable time and energy.

LETTER / EXCHANGES

Cave Conservationist 13(1) Feb. 1, 1994 contains the texts of :

1. Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (FCRPA).
2. FCRPA 1988 - Implementing Rule - U.S. Department of the Interior.
3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) - Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Speleological Society (NSS).
4. MOU between DOI - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and NSS.
5. MOU between DOI - National Park Service (NPS) and NSS.
6. MOU between The American Cave Conservation (ACC) Association and NSS.
7. NPS and NSS Announce Joint Cave Preservation Effort.

Copies have been sent to Grotto officers. Members desiring copies of individual items please send requests to the GG secretary.

The Explorer July 1994 shows two cover pictures taken by Gregg Delker in the glacier cave of the Mendenhall Glacier! He also showed slides of his trip to the Southern California Grotto on July 5.

Cave Conservationist 12(3) Nov. 1, 1993. contains the text of H.R. 698 - to Protect Lechuguilla Cave (pp. 3-5). republished (pp.15-16) stories, in 13(4) on (1) Ketchikan members' effort to assist the Forest Service in the management of El Capitan Cave, (2) Dorene Baichtal's bat studies, and (3) Harvey Bowers message on Alaska cave conservation.

Pholeos 13(2) August 1993, the Journal of the Wittenberg University Speleological Society, has a paper titled the *Formation and Biota of Inland and Oceanic Blue Holes* by Megan Porter. She includes a map of the Bahama Banks and salinity and temperature profiles.

Underground Post 5(1):12, April 1994. William R. Halliday in "Possibility of Railroad Cancels on the Monon Route in Indiana" suggests that research shows cave related stations along this 1925 route.

California Caver 42(4):81. "News Flash" credits Kevin Allred with connecting two segments into Hawaii's Kazumura Cave, which resulted in a cave 19.67 miles long and 2,302.8 feet deep, a new national depth record. Kazumura also has a linear distance (greatest expanse from one bound to another) of 13.1 miles, making it the longest linear cave in the world.

October 24, 1994

Ketchikan Pulp Company
Timber and Logging Manager
Box 6600, Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Sir,

As the President of an organization representing cavers throughout Alaska and affiliated with the National Speleological Society, I am writing to you in regards to the caves and karst in Southeast Alaska.

Recently I visited Wishbone Cave on Prince of Wales Island. Wishbone Cave lies in the middle of a clear-cut in the face of a small cliff. Prior to clear-cutting it would be extremely doubtful that this cave had ever been visited by humans, as it would have been in a very remote location and hidden from view. Unfortunately, Wishbone Cave has suffered some vandalism. It is my feeling that this vandalism was most likely committed by loggers. Calk boot marks where left on the floor of the cave as well as pieces of burned cloth that must have been used for light. Two large stalactites had been broken off and removed from the cave.

The damage done in Wishbone by careless humans is not a remote incident. I have visited other caves with similar signs of visitation by loggers. (The calked boot marks are a dead giveaway.) During the summer of 1993 we revisited a cave named Cataract Cave. Cataract Cave at that time was just a stones throw away from a privately owned piece of land that was being logged. Again, calked boot marks where seen and recent vandalism was observed.

I could give other examples of damage, probably done by loggers, and this wouldn't include all the caves I have visited that have been filled with slash.

The Glacier Grotto, understands the importance of the timber industry within Southeast Alaska. However, we question the rights of that industry to destroy what took Mother Nature thousands of years to create. The trees will eventually grow back, but how long does it take a stalactite to regenerate? How long does it take slash that has worked its way down underground stream passages, hundreds of feet into a cave, to decompose?

What we are requesting is an education program for the people within your employment to recognize that damage done to a cave is not repairable. We have nothing against your employees or contract employees visiting the inside of the caves. We would just ask them to take nothing, leave nothing and be extremely careful around delicate formations. We would further ask you to remind all those under your employment that it is illegal to destroy formations within a cave. The Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 and other Federal Laws were written to insure that future generations can enjoy the treasures that Mother Nature has left us.

Please consider a training program for your employees, in the conservation of natural resources, including caves. Members of the Glacier Grotto would be happy to assist your company or any others in cave conservation and caving safety issues. Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely, Marcel LaPerriere, President Glacier Grotto

INCIDENT AT BAKER'S HOLE

by David Kesner

> "I heard a yell and then the sound of something large and soft bouncing down the deep pit. A large green object hurtled out of the ceiling hole and landed with a dull thud on the rocky floor. From my vantage point 80 feet away, I saw what appeared to be the black Vibram soles associated with the now motionless green object. I sincerely thought Dave Kesner was dead....." Mike Allen

On Aug. 27, 1994, Mike and Debbie Allen, Jim Hathorn, David Kesner, Dave Russell and Charlie Wilkerson arrived at the base of Poison Peak near the town of Tendoy, Idaho, with the intent of dropping the 225-foot entrance shaft to Baker's Hole. Everyone, except Debbie, was an experienced vertical caver but only Jim and David had previously done this drop. Debbie and Jim decided to stay top- side to run communications and act as backup.

Two separate ropes were rigged with one being reserved for emergencies. Both ropes were new, never used, 300-foot PMI Maxi-Wear®. The main rope was marked at 75, 150, and 225 feet with a small wrap of duct tape. Two separate communication systems were set up. One was a mine-sound phone and the other, FM headsets.

Charlie was the first one on rope. His descending device was a five-bar rack with a safety prussik rigged below it. His ascending device was a rope walker system with Petzel Kroll® foot cams, a single Simmons® chest roller, and a handled Petzel® cam, which was attached to his seat harness and would be hooked onto the rope above his chest roller. This system was pre-rigged and ready to attach to the rope. He carried one of the sound phones in his pack and wore one of the headsets. A two-strand wire was tied to the top of his pack. This wire was to be used for the sound-phones and to act as an antenna for the headsets.

As he descended he radioed that his safety prussik caught a little on the first piece of tape and a little worse on the second piece. He had to stop and untangle the ropes at this point. Once untangled he continued the rappel, encountering a little problem at the last piece of tape. When he was down and clear he radioed for the next person to start his descent.

Dave was the next to drop. His descending device was a six-bar rack with a safety prussik rigged below it. His ascending device was a frog system with a shorty CMI® cam on his chest, a shorty CMI cam with two leg loops and a tether to his seat-harness, and a safety prussik that attached to his seat harness and would be tied into the rope above his foot cam. This system was pre-rigged and ready to attach to the rope.

When he got to the first piece of tape his prussik caught and stopped. He was able to loosen it enough to pass over the tape. He yelled up that the tape was causing a problem. The same thing happened at the next piece of tape but was able to pass it also. He removed the last piece of tape from the rope and once down and clear, he signaled for the next person to drop.

At this point Jim asked that Dave hook up the sound phones. Dave, who worked in a mine for 11 years and was familiar with the phones, brought them for the cavers to use. Unfortunately, the phones would not work (see analysis for explanation). Dave had tested them prior to the trip and they were in proper working order. Since the headsets were operational, the cavers decided to continue.

Mike was the next to drop. His descending device was a six-bar rack. He was not using a safety prussik rigged below it. His ascending device was a rope walker system consisting of Petzel Kroll foot cams, a double Simmons chest roller, and a handled Petzel cam which was attached to his seat harness and would be hooked onto the rope above his chest roller. This system was pre-rigged and ready to attach to the rope. He descended without any problems, except the rack slowed down at the tape. After he was clear he had Charlie radio for the last person to start his descent.

David was the last to drop. His descending device was a five-bar rack with a safety prussik rigged below it. His ascending device was a rope walker system with Gibbs® foot cams, a Fritzke® chest box, and a Jumar® cam which was attached to his seat harness and would be hooked onto the rope above his chest box. This system was pre-rigged and ready to attach to the rope.

When he got to the first piece of tape his prussik caught and stopped. After a fair amount of struggling he was able to loosen the prussik enough to pass over the tape. He had the same problem at the next piece of tape, but this time the prussik tangled and could not be loosened with his weight on it. At this point he got out a long prussik and tied it above the rack and put one foot in it. He then stood up to take the weight off the safety prussik so it could be loosened. Because of the weight of the pack on his back and his poor upper body strength he was unable to hold himself up long enough to loosen the safety prussik. He tried this several more times before he was too tired to try again.

At this point he decided to change over to his ascending device and climb out. He hooked up his safety Jumar first which was secured to his seat-harness and ran through one side of the Fritzke Box and then clipped on the rope above the rack. He clipped in both foot Gibbs to the rope and stood up moving the safety Jumar up the rope. Then he sat down with his weight on the safety Jumar and off the rack. At this point the weight of his pack started pulling him backwards and caused the Fritzke Box to pull out from his chest. Because of the awkward balance he had to hold himself up with one arm

Continued from page 5

while he removed the rack with the other. Once the rack was removed he pulled himself close enough to the rope to run it through the other side of the Fritzke Box. As soon as this was done he let go of the rope and fell backwards causing the Fritzke Box to pull out further. In addition, part of the chest-harness was tightening in proportion to the Fritzke Box loosening (see analysis for explanation)

He was exhausted and having trouble breathing because of the chest harness tightening around his chest. First he called Jim for help. Jim had left his vertical gear in the vehicle a half mile away so radioed to the bottom of the shaft to have someone climb up and find out what the problem was.

Dave clipped into the backup rope and started the climb, not knowing what the problem might be. The group on the bottom speculated that David had caught his beard in his rack and this was the reason he was not saying what the problem was. This idea was further reinforced when David yelled "NO!" anytime Dave pulled or even touched the rope to which David was connected. Dave had taken his Leatherman Tool® out of his pack and put in his chest pocket in anticipation of having to cut David free. Just as Dave got out of sight of the group at the bottom the headsets started to fail. At this point the only method for communication was yelling, which was not very effective.

David continued to try to climb out. Each time he attempted to stand something would prevent it. Either the Fritzke Box would catch and not feed, or the chest harness would tighten constricting his breathing, or (most often) he wouldn't have the strength to pull himself to the rope. It finally got to the point where he did not have the strength to try any more and he collapsed on the rope unable to hold himself up and barely able to breathe.

As Dave got within vocal range all he could get out of David was "Hurry! I can't breathe!" Dave kept reassuring him that everything was going to be all right and just hold on. When Dave was about 20 feet below him David called out that he was about to "pass out". Dave thought he said he was about to "fall out" and prepared to try and catch him.

Upon reaching David, who by this time was balled up on the rope and pretty incoherent, Dave got behind him and pushed up and forward on the pack releasing some of the pressure on David's chest. This allowed David to regain some composure, and he told Dave his chest-harness was squeezing so tightly he couldn't breathe. Dave tried unsuccessfully to loosen the chest-harness.

At this point he decided to remove David's pack and drop it. The group at the bottom couldn't understand Dave when he yelled "Pack!" so were startled when this unknown object crashed to the ground. It dropped over 100 feet. Parties on the top and bottom had no idea what was happening as communication was nearly impossible.

With Dave holding David close to the rope, David explained what he though the problemwas and offered some suggestions. David was afraid that if the chest-harness were cut free, this would cause him to fall backwards and invert. After Dave convinced him that he would keep him upright, David opened the Fritzke Box and released both the safety Jumar line and the rope. With all pressure off the Fritzke Box, Dave was able to loosen the chest-harness allowing David to breathe fairly normally. With Dave climbing up beside and behind David, they were able to exit the cave. David was on the rope for approximately one hour from start to finish.

Jim used a three-pull tug on the rope to let the bottom party know the rope was clear, since verbal communication was impossible. Unfortunately, with all the movement on the rope and the amount of time that had elapsed, the bottom party wasn't sure it was a real signal. After several minutes of still rope and another three-tug signal Charlie and Mike ascended separate ropes with all packs.

Everyone was quite tired but otherwise fine and even joked about David's new self-tightening "Python Chest Harness".

ANALYSIS: There are lots of things that need to be explained about this incident. This is my (David Kesner) personal analysis and opinions. Other analyses are welcome.

Mike, Dave, Charlie, Jim and myself are all very experienced vertical cavers with hundreds of hours on rope both in cave and in practice sessions. This is not just rappelling and acsending but change overs, passing obstacles and self rescues. Mike recently returned from Mexico where he did a 600+ and 1300+ -foot rappel and ascent. All five have also been involved in several situations where they helped or rescued other cavers in "vertical trouble". They are extremely competent, safe and levelheaded and are able to handle emergency situations with ease.

1) Safety Prussik - Although the safety prussik was the factor that forced the situation, in no way was it the cause nor did it work improperly. There has been a lot of controversy lately about safety prussiks. Most, if not all, has been when the prussik is used above the rappel device, which is wrong. When it is placed below the rappel device it takes little pressure to hold the rappeller. The person is also able to keep a hand on it at all times. Using it in this way it is extremely safe and effective and I highly recommend it. This is especially true if you are either the first on rope or are not able to communicate with a belayer.

2) Tape - The rope was marked with small pieces of duct tape so the people who had never dropped this shaft could get an idea of how far they had descended. The first person passed over the tape fairly easily as it was flat. The second person had more problems as it started to roll up. When I reached the tape, it was completely rolled up and stopped my prussik. Yes, we could have left the tape off the rope and not had problems with the prussiks, but this had nothing to do with the situation.

3) Chest-harness/Fritzke Box - I always use a frog system as most of the drops I normally do are less that 150 feet and against walls or other obstacles. I had ascended this cave before using this system, and although I didn't have any problems, it was pretty exhaustive. I decided to use a rope walker this time to make it easier. I had a pair of Gibbs but no chest

roller. Initially, I set up the system using my chest Jumar as it is set up for my frog system. This very inefficient, so I borrowed a Fritzke Box from Mike. I practiced ascending, change overs and passing obstacles with this setup until I felt comfortable. The only problem was the harness. It was made out of two-inch flat webbing and was extremely uncomfortable. Not only did it cut into my sides, but there were sharp ends on the melted nylon. I decided to use my harness which was extremely comfortable. My harness is straight out of On Rope and is made of two-inch tubular webbing. It is a continuous loop that is doubled and secured with a Quick Link®. Unfortunately, the holes in the Fritzke Box are too small for both layers of the webbing to fit through, so I only put through one. In all appearances this seemed to be fine. I didn't try this system on rope before using it for the drop as I didn't see it as being any different from what I had used in practice. During the drop, when I put weight on the box it pulled one of the chest harness loops out causing the other to tighten around my chest. The other problem I encountered with the Fritzke Box was that if it is not perfectly flat against the chest and perpendicular to the rope it drags or doesn't feed at all, much like my Jumar Chest Cam does at times. With the box pulled out from my chest, this caused problems as I tried to ascend.

4) Pack - The pack I wore was not my cave pack, but a full backpack. It was loaded with my cave gear, tons of camera equipment, extra clothing, etc. The weight of the pack pulled on my shoulders and unbalanced me on the rope. Even as I rappelled I had to hold myself to the rope to keep from going over backwards. This wasn't that evident until I was off the wall and free. I should have suspended the pack below me. I can't explain why I didn't drop the pack sooner when I realized it was causing problems other than to say you never go anywhere without your pack. Although I had everything I needed to change over, I probably couldn't have gotten to my knife or anything else in my pack.

5) Communications - We had what we thought was a good setup. There were two separate systems in case one failed. Unfortunately, both failed. As we pulled up the wire for the sound phones we found a spot where one of the two wires was cut when hit by a falling rock. The phones need both wires to operate. The headsets needed only one of the wires to act as a transmission antenna. Had both wires been cut the headsets would not have worked, but we would have been able to detect and repair this situation had it occurred. The problem with the headsets was in faulty internal wiring and low battery life. The wiring problems came from heavy use in other situations while the battery problem was caused by lack of additional nine volt batteries.

CONCLUSIONS: I was at fault for using a system that had not been tried and tested in a controlled situation. If a caver makes modifications to a system it needs to be tested. This means - never make changes when underground unless it is an emergency. Just because a system works well for one person, it does not mean it will work well for someone else. KNOW YOUR SYSTEM!

There is always the chance someone on rope will need help. If you don't know how the system is rigged or how it works it makes it very difficult to assess a situation. Besides, how can you double check someone's system if you are not familiar with it? KNOW EVERYONE'S SYSTEM!

Always double rig a pit. It would have been extremely hard for Dave to help me had there been only one rope. This is especially true if the person in trouble has a part of their anatomy caught in a rappel or ascending device.

Have any and all equipment you may need readily accessible anytime you are on rope. That means wearing your ascending system every time you rappel and wearing your rappelling device every time you ascend. Have extra prussiks and slings where you can get to them fast and easily. Have a knife ready anytime you are on rope.

Finally, and I believe most important, be able to conduct a self rescue or rescue of your party. Cave rescue groups are wonderful and useful in certain situations, but if you are in trouble on rope there just isn't time to wait for an outside party. Everyone on a vertical cave trip should be able to rescue anyone in the party. This includes lowering an unconscious person.

All too often cavers are taught how to rappel and ascend and then sent out into the world. This is not enough. It is like teaching someone how to start, run and stop a car before sending the person into rush hour traffic. Most will do just fine until a situation arises for which they are not trained, and then it becomes serious or fatal.

Learn to change over from rappel to ascend and ascend to rappel, how to pass knots, how to get over lips, how to negotiate rebelays, how to pass a person, how to make repairs to broken system parts and how to self rescue and rescue others. If you are teaching others it is your responsibility to teach everything, and if you are learning it is your responsibility to learn everything.

YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!!!!!

Editor's Note: Part II of this two-part series will appear in the next issue of The Alaskan Caver. David Kesner, who lives in Boise, is chairman of the Gem State (ID)Grotto. These articles first appeared in the Gem Caver published by that organization.

DUES

Annual dues are $15 for singles
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1813 Bannister Road
Anchorage, AK 99508

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Extensive fossil shell deposits were found in parts of Scallop Cave. *Photo credit: Marcel LaPerriere*

SCALLOP CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #144
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Oct. 12, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Scallop Cave was named after the locally fossiliferous Heceta Limestone in the Staney Creek drainage. The cave was located in a recent clear-cut by Mark Fritzke in 1991, although the same entrance had apparently been entered in 1988 by a logger who claimed to have used a 200-foot rope to go exploring (personal communication).

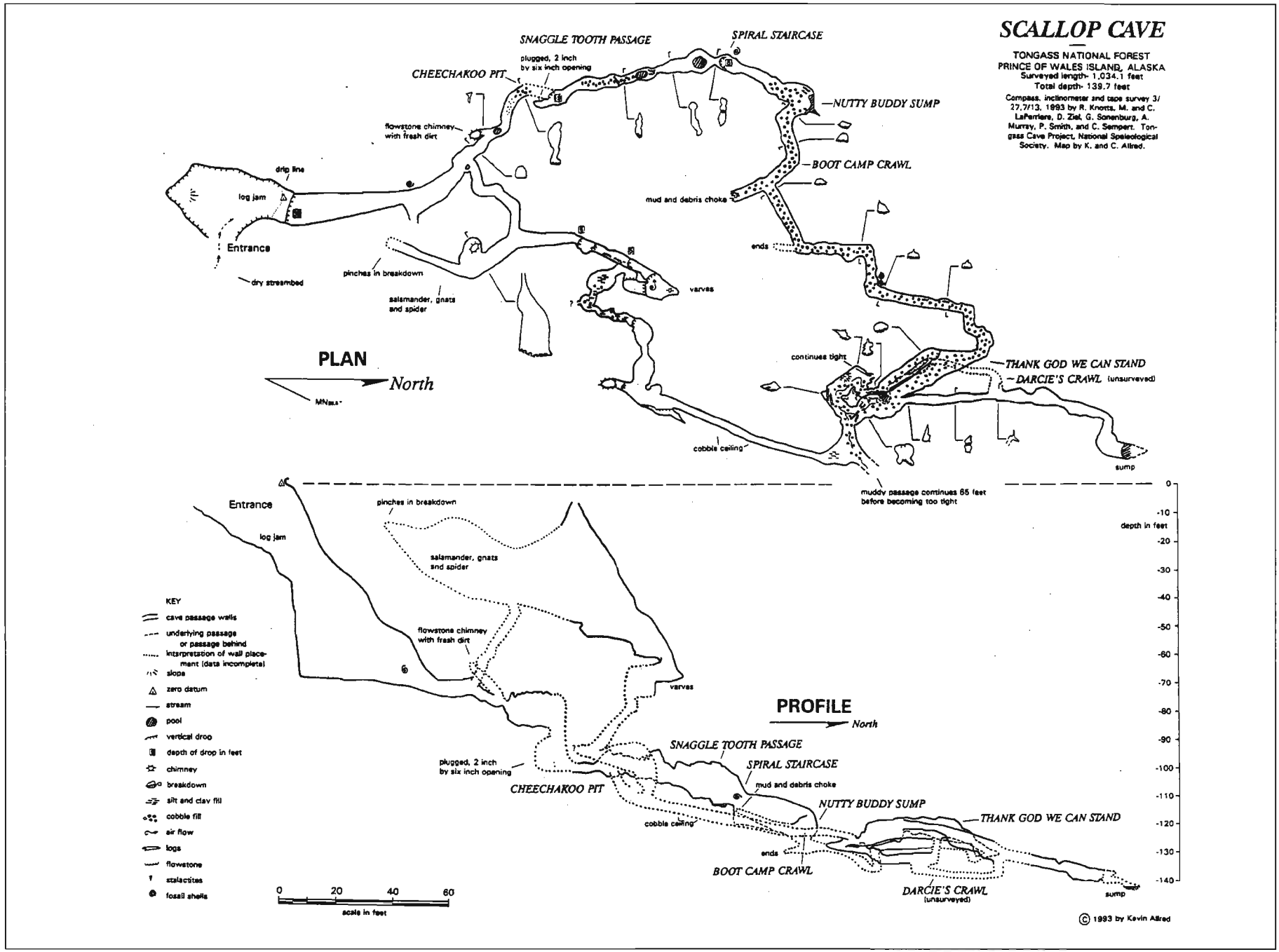
A seasonal overflow creek bed above the cave entrance sinkhole becomes a torrent in heavy rains. Logging slash inadvertently dumped into this gully is being washed into the cave and poses a serious threat due to plugging the often low passages. Cut branches are reported deep into the system. It is not known what future negative effects this will have on the cave. In a 1992 restoration project, the Forest Service spent several thousand collars in a cooperative effort with local Boy Scouts to remove some of the slash nearer to the entrance.

After a 38-foot entrance drop and a horizontal walkway, the cave divides into two main branches. The west branch contains minor side passages and becomes canyon-like. Soon "Cheechakoo Pit" (19 feet) is encountered. A cobble floored passage eventually passes 6-foot deep "Spiral Staircase", "Nutty Buddy Sump", and "Boot Camp Crawl". After several hundred feet, the crawlway rejoins the east branch of the cave. Flowstone and extensive fossil shell deposits were noted along this branch.

The eastern branch contains some short drops and more extensive side passage than the west side. Near the deep junction with the west branch is "Thank God We Can Stand" room. A low passage takes a streamlet which apparently disappears into the floor of "Darcie's Crawl" in some manner. Darcie's soon joins a higher passage which connects "Thank We Can Stand" with a sump at the bottom of the survey at minus 139.7 feet. Scallop Cave was surveyed on March 27 and July 13, 1993, by Gary Sonenburg, Pete Smith, Marcel and Connie LaPerriere, Darcie Ziel, Rob Knotts, Alan Murray, and Craig Sempert. Total passage surveyed is 1,034.7 feet.

BIOLOGY: A salamander, gnats and a spider were seen in a side passage off the beginning of the east branch.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Scallop Cave has already been seriously impacted by logging and road building activities at and above the cave. It is recommended that no further logging occur in the upstream drainage slopes to avoid further sedimentation of the system. The cave location can be shared with prepared and equipped people.


SCALLOP CAVE
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA
Surveyed length- 1,034.1 feet
Total depth- 139.7 feet
Compass, inclinometer and tape survey 3/27,7/13, 1993 by R. Knotts, M. and C. LaFerriere, D. Ziel, G. Sonenburg, A. Murray, P. Smith, and C. Sempert. Tongass Cave Project, National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Allred.
SNAGGLE TOOTH PASSAGE
SPIRAL STAIRCASE
plugged, 2 inch by six inch opening
CHEECHAKOO PIT
NUTTY BUDDY SUMP
flowstone chimney with fresh dirt
BOOT CAMP CRAWL
drip line
log jam
mud and debris choke
Entrance
ends
pinches in breakdown
dry streambed
varves
salamander, gnats and spider
PLAN
North
MN
continues tight
THANK GOD WE CAN STAND
DARCIE'S CRAWL (unsurveyed)
cobble ceiling
sump
muddy passage continues 65 feet before becoming too tight
PROFILE
depth in feet
KEY
cave passage walls
underlying passage or passage behind
interpretation of wall placement (data incomplete)
slope
zero datum
stream
pool
vertical drop
depth of drop in feet
chimney
breakdown
silt and clay fill
cobble fill
air flow
logs
flowstone
stalactites
fossil shells
0 20 40 60
scale in feet
© 1993 by Kevin Allred

PLATY CAVE

Dall Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis
July 12, 1993

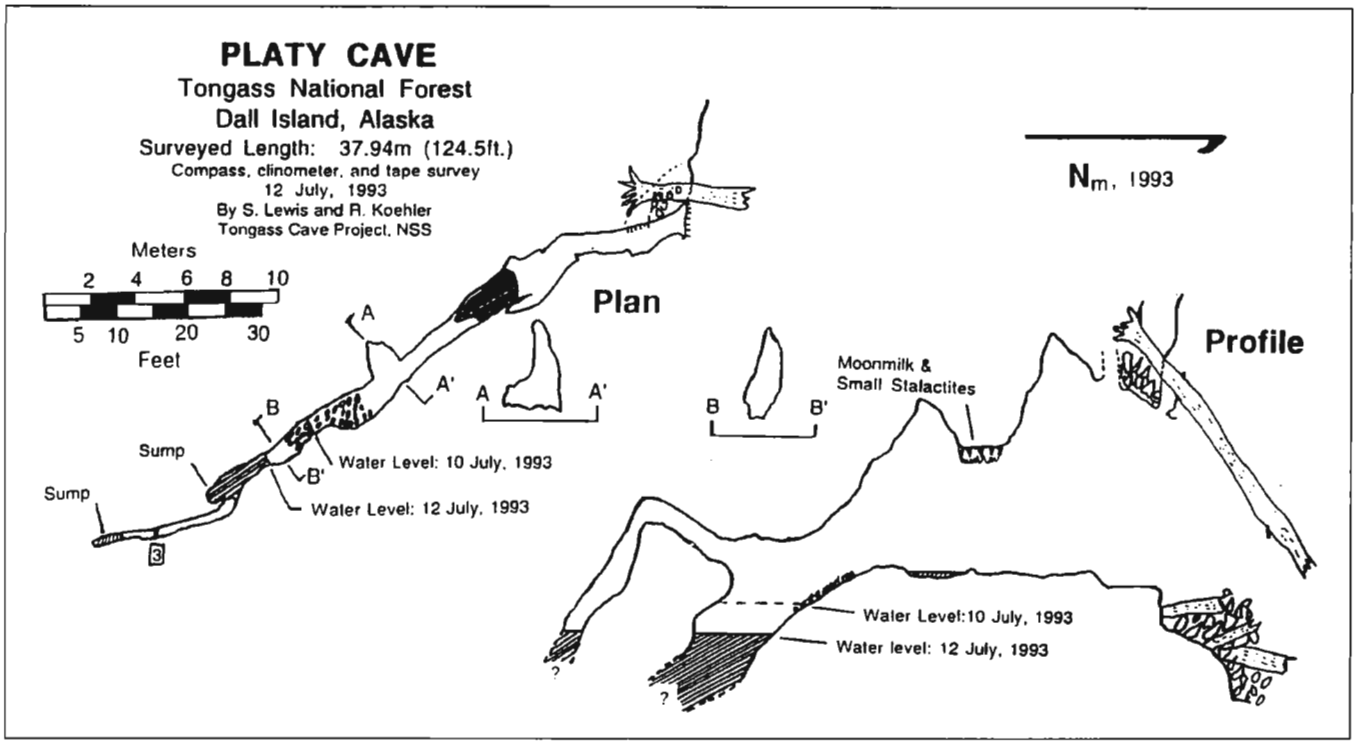
DESCRIPTION: Platy Cave is formed along a joint. Access to the cave is probably the most hazardous part of its exploration. One follows the creek up to one of many steep side channels. This is followed by a scramble over piles of unstable logs and boulders to the nearly hidden cave entrance. A steep moist canyon continues up to the right. Platy Cave is narrow with a high ceiling. Most of the passage has bare bedrock floor with pools. There is a sump at the end of the initial large passage. Water levels dropped rapidly during the time we were in the cave in 1993, but never revealed passage that could be negotiated without diving. The bypass loop is tight and difficult to enter. A boost is necessary. The muddy loop drops back down into another and final sump. Total surveyed length is 37.94 meters (124.5 feet) with approximately 4 meters depth.

HYDROLOGY: This cave appears to be extremely active hydrologically. Clean passage and the washed debris piles below the entrance suggested that the cave "blows" water out the entrance during wet periods. Rapid dropping of the water level during the drought of July 1993 suggest that there may be small drains developing below the entrance level. This system may be the drain for large portions of the well-developed karst plateau above.

BIOLOGY: See Kent Carlson report for results of his insect trapping in this cave. No evidence of use by any animals except invertebrates was noted.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: This cave contains no fragile formations. No special precautions need to be taken to protect it from casual exploration. Primary hazards are the loose logs and boulders that must be negotiated in reaching the cave. Entrapment by rising water is unlikely because the cave is so small.

As part of a large hydrologic system, and as part of the .... karst, the cave is important. Further exploration of the karst plateau above the cave is needed, and dye traces could provide interesting insights into the hydrology of the area.

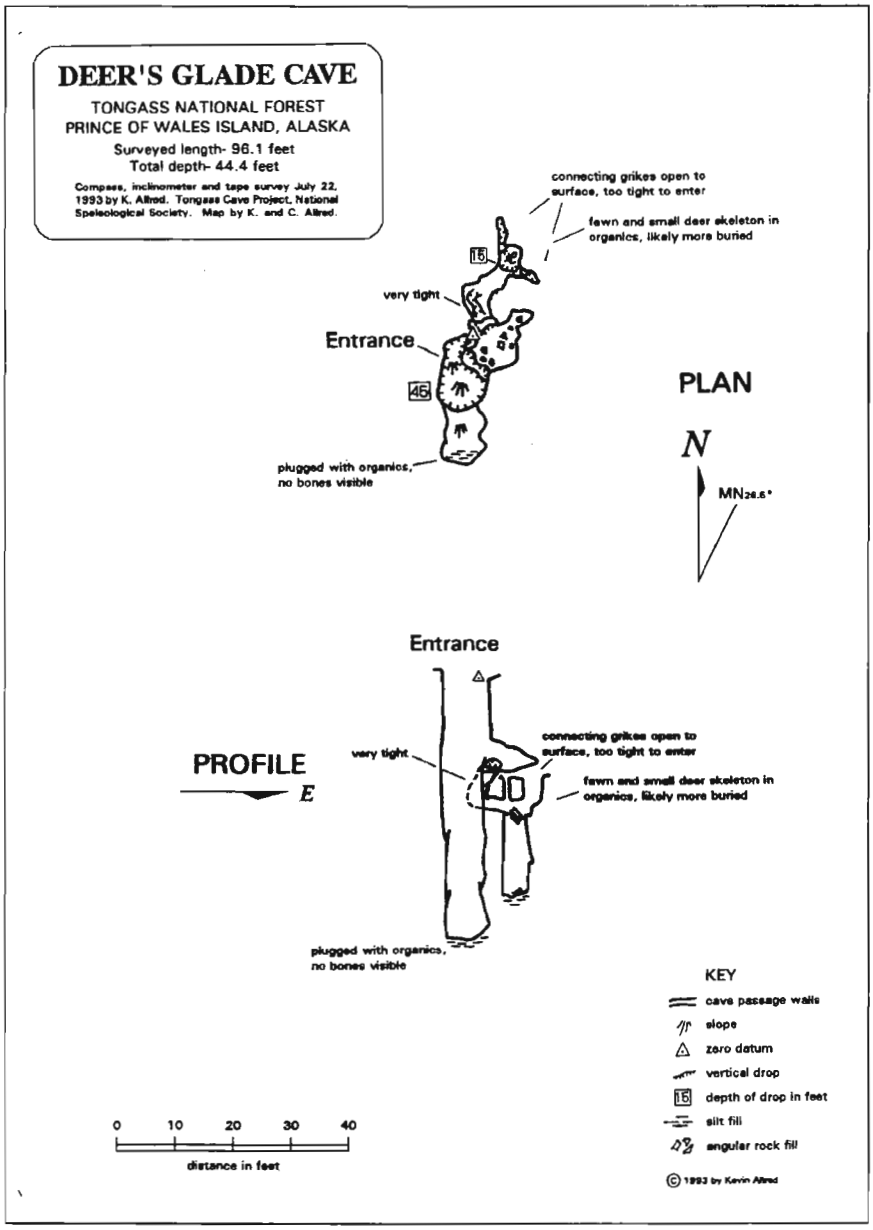


DEER'S GLADE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #154
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Sept. 29, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Deer's Glade Cave was discovered in 1991 by Kevin Allred and is located in a harvest unit in the Marble Creek drainage on a bench of Heceta Marble. The marble is a lens surrounded by igneous intrusive rock. The main entrance is a shaft 45 feet deep. The bottom is plugged with organic debris. No bones were seen on the surface of the debris, however 10 feet down the side of the shaft is an alcove with a tight crawlway leading to a second 15-foot shaft located below some narrow surface grikes. On the organic floor of this pit were fawn and small deer skeletons. More older bones are likely buried deeper here and in the entrance shaft. The cave holds excellent promise of important paleontological material, as it is likely that deer have long used the bench area for winter refuge with its larger growing trees (all of which have now been cut). A second cave (apparently an insurgence) was found by the loggers just outside the upper edge of the clear-cut higher on the hill. The boundary of the clear-cut was pulled away from this entrance by Mike North, the Forest Service Sales Administrator. There was insufficient time to investigate it while in the area, so it needs exploration.



MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The original buffer I had suggsted for this cave was inadequate, and would blow down. All the merchantable timber was cut to avoid windthrow and worse damage from uprooted trees rather than increase the buffer size or delete the unit. One tree was felled directly atop the grikes at the bone site and I suggested that this be left. I also suggested that the remaining large, still uncut trees be felled away from the buffered area. More disturbance from logging or road building should be avoided in the area of these caves. Isolated islands of trees around cave entrances or entrances near clear-cut areas should be avoided in the future. Because of likely paleontological resources, location of this cave should not be shared with the general public.

RIVER'S END CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #142
Addendum to Reports #45 and #101
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Sept. 30, 1993

FURTHER EXPLORATION:

Significant passages were discovered and surveyed during July of 1993 by Rob Knotts, Kevin Allred, Dave Herron, Deb Herron, Mark Sowa, Paul Dzwonowski, and Greg Bowles. Total length is now 1,790 feet and the depth, 170.9 feet.

On either side of the walk-in entrance two small caves were surveyed along with over 100 feet of new passage mapped just inside the entrance. A short section off the lowest part of the cave below "flush tube" was pushed to a too tight constriction opening up beyond.

Below Yukon Pit is a previously extensive overlooked passage discovered by Dave Herron in 1992. This passage heads several hundred feet with side extensions and reconnects midway in a previously surveyed dome pit. Speleothems were found in this passage.

The "log block" passage (see map) was reported by Pete Smith as connecting in some way to the dome pit.

BIOLOGY:

Flying gnats were seen in the entrance portions of the cave.

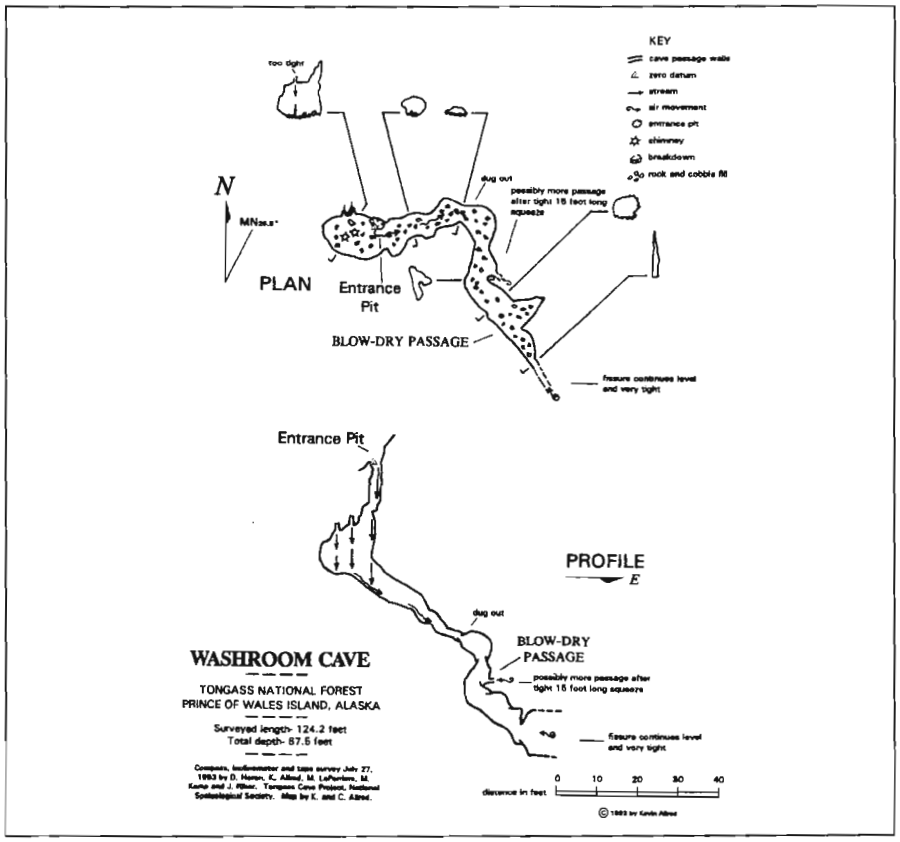
WASHROOM CAVE

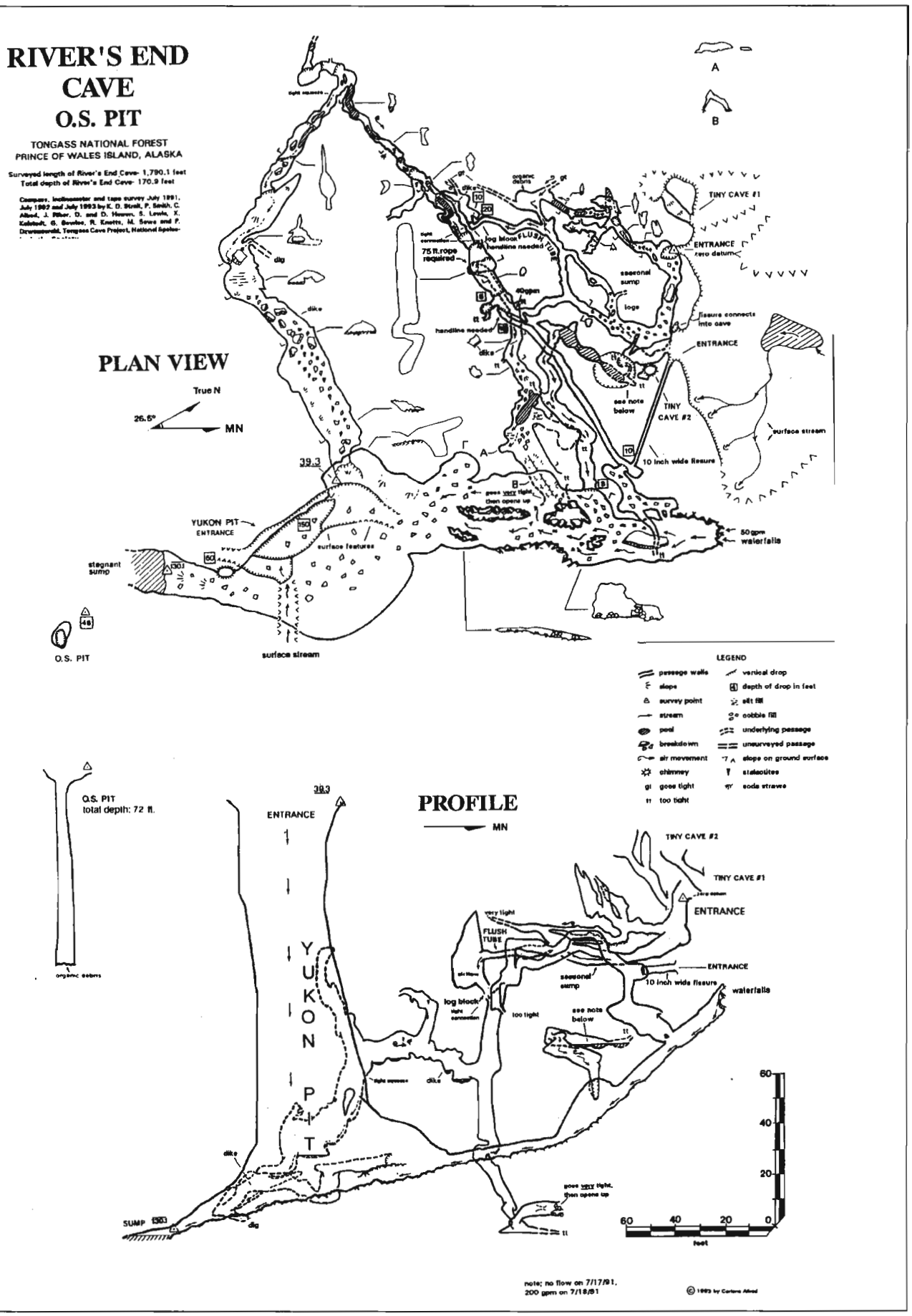
Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #146
Addendum to Report #77
Tongass Cave Project
National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Sept. 29, 1993

NEW EXPLORATION:

Marcel LaPerriere, Molly Kemp, and Julia Riber visited Washroom Cave on July 27, 1993, and after Marcel dug through two blowing constrictions, the team surveyed an additional 62.9 feet through "Blow Dry Passage" to a very narrow fissure blowing a strong draft. Efforts were halted at this point, as they felt more experienced small cavers were needed to continue safely. Total passage is now 124.2 feet and its depth, 67.5 feet.




RIVER'S END CAVE
O.S. PIT
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA
Surveyed length of River's End Cave- 1,790.1 feet
Total depth of River's End Cave- 170.9 feet
PLAN VIEW
True N
26.6°
MN
A
B
TINY CAVE #1
ENTRANCE
zero datum
seasonal sump
loge
fissure connects into cave
ENTRANCE
TINY CAVE #2
see note below
surface stream
10 inch wide fissure
50 gpm waterfalls
75 ft. rope required
log block
FLUSH TUBE
handline needed
dike
organic debris
YUKON PIT ENTRANCE
surface features
stagnant sump
O.S. PIT
surface stream
LEGEND
passage walls
vertical drop
slope
depth of drop in feet
survey point
silt fill
stream
cobble fill
pool
underlying passage
breakdown
unsurveyed passage
air movement
slope on ground surface
chimney
stalactites
goes tight
soda straws
too tight
O.S. PIT
total depth: 72 ft.
organic debris
PROFILE
MN
ENTRANCE
YUKON PIT
TINY CAVE #2
TINY CAVE #1
ENTRANCE
very tight
FLUSH TUBE
ENTRANCE
seasonal sump
10 inch wide fissure
waterfalls
log block
too tight
see note below
dike
SUMP
goes very tight, then opens up
60
40
20
0
feet
note; no flow on 7/17/91, 200 gpm on 7/18/91
© 1993 by Carlene Allred

JIMAGINATION PITS

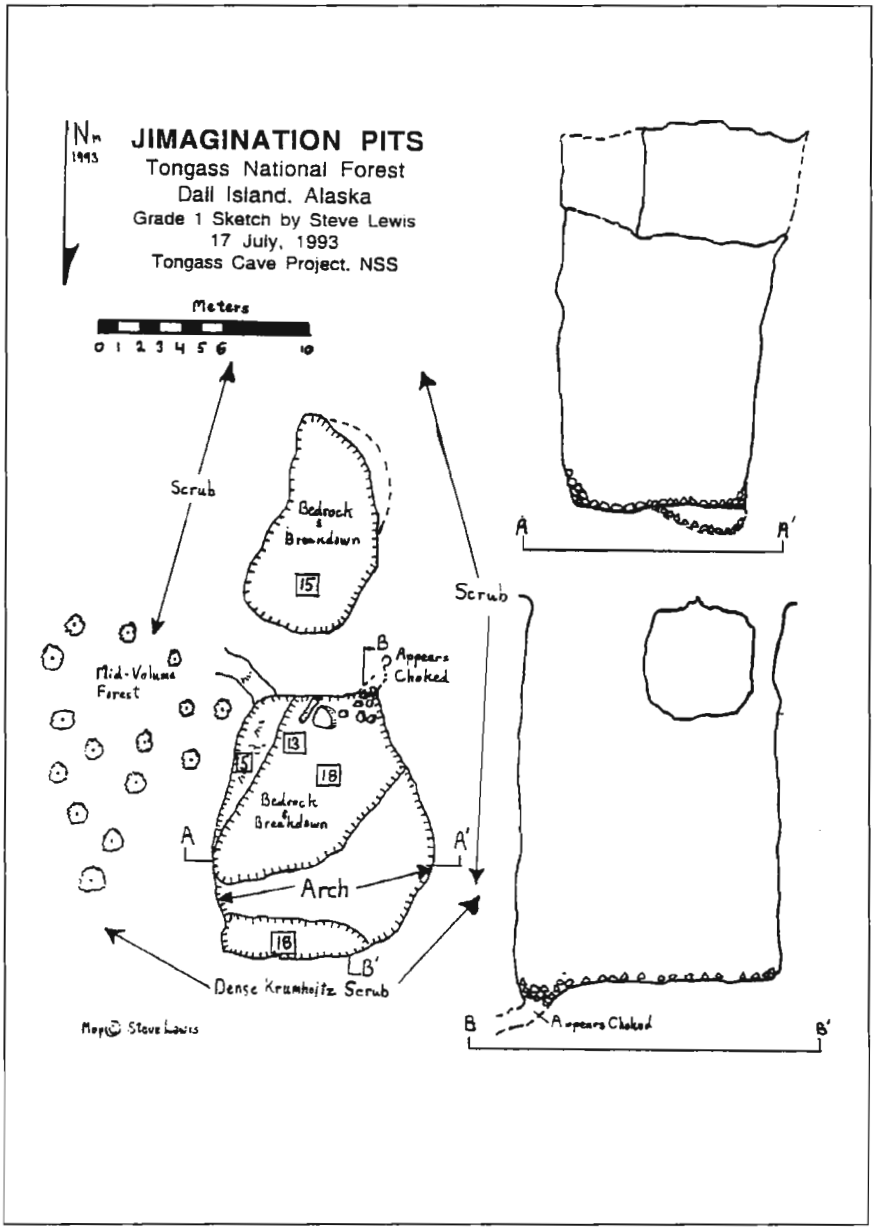
DALL Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis July 17, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Jimagination Pits were located by Dave Smith, Steve Lewis and Don Aldridge on July 17, 1993, when the cavers followed a north bound ridge. This route entailed many detours around karst features and travel through blowdown and dense, deep Krummholz (the snow-stunted, wind-trimmed trees found between the timberline and treeline on mountains). Routes through the forest to the east require traveling through at least some alienated lands and may be equally difficult. Forested areas below the steep ridge to the south of the pits show highly developed karst with large numbers of deep dolines (sinks) and grikes. No surface streams were observed.

Jimagination Pits are three large pits oriented south to north, with a high steep cliff on the south end, and the largest pit on the north end. The two most northerly features are quite dramatic, the northern pit consisting of a shaft approximately 18 meters deep and 12 meters in diameter with a scrub covered arch spanning much of the north end. Due to the difficult terrain and because we had expected a horizontal passage, minimal survey gear and no rope was carried on this exploratory trip. Thus, only rough sketches were made of the two deep pits, with a 15 meter tape extended down to estimate depths. The bottoms of the pits were all full of breakdown which appeared to block any potential leads. To verify this and provide improved maps, future explorers in the area should drop and survey these pits. Verification of the location of the pits with a GPS would be useful since they are very near the boundary of Forest Service land.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Due to the extremely sensitive nature of Kit 'n Kaboodle Cave, and the fact that access to Jimagination Pits will require travel near that cave, it is recommended



Continued from page 14

that location of these pits and the surrounding karst be kept confidential until scientific studies have been completed in Kit 'n Kaboodle Cave. Once scientific studies are completed, and if further exploration confirms that Jimagination Pits do not have easily damaged qualities, their vertical nature and the difficult nature of all approaches suggest that their location be given only to people willing to assume the hazards implicit in travel through highly developed and vegetation-covered epikarst. Vertical caving experience will be necessary to gain access to the bottoms of two of the three pits.

The pits are surrounded by heavily karsted lands, with high potential for caves throughout. Forested areas below the pits need to be inventoried thoroughly and the Krummholz and alpine areas deserve a thorough exploration. During a helicopter overflight, Ketchikan Area geologist Jim Baichtal and the "blue ribbon karst panel" believed they saw a tremendous pit with snow nearby. We observed no such hole but an intensive search of the alpine seems in order.

Initial reconnaissance of the slopes revealed tremendous karst development although no major cave entrances were located. Although virtually unexplored for karst, a band of carbonate rock underlies the area. This entire area requires further exploration to determine the extent of karst and cave development. Large amounts of blowdown and highly developed epikarst make travel and exploration difficult and potentially hazardous. Those of us involved in the initial explorations feel that this area and other karst areas on Dall Island may be highly significant on a national and international scale because they contain relatively pristine areas of karst extending from alpine to sea level in a temperate zone rain forest. The two New Zealand cavers involved in initial reconnaissance knew of no such areas in their country. While there are no doubt differences between karst ecosystems on different islands or even between carbonate blocks, such untouched areas will be very important in developing an understanding of karst systems in temperate zone rain forests worldwide, and for developing successful management techniques for other areas of karst in the Tongass National Forest.

SURPRISE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #145
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleogical Society

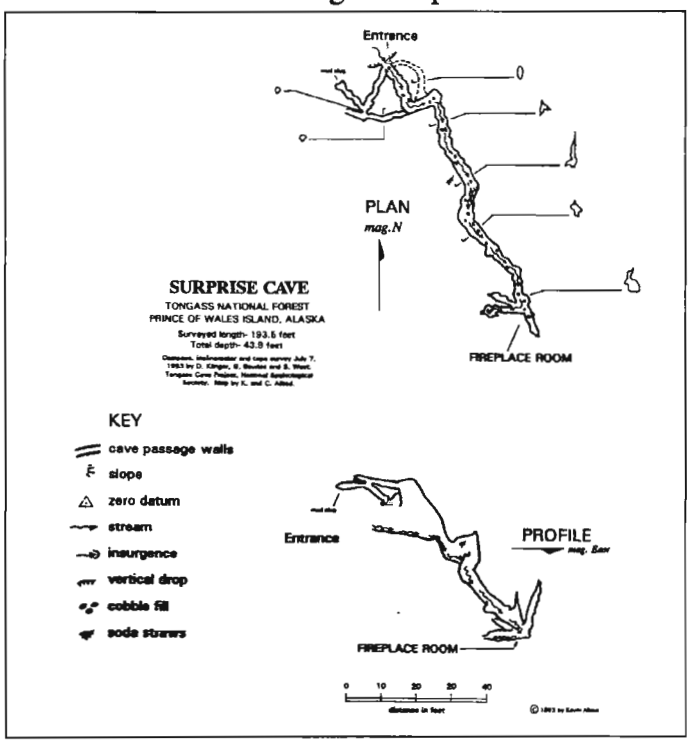
by Kevin Allred Sept. 28, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Surprise Cave is formed from a small stream originating from a bog and which cuts through a band of Heceta Limestone, to then resurge in an impregnable spring down-slope to the south. Another stream just to the east completely bisects the same limestone band and this could have been precipitated by glacial action. Cave runoff appears heavy in the spring.

The cave follows cracks and joints and contains phreatic originated fossil tubeways near the entrance in higher portions. The majority of the cave has been enlarged by vadose action and the canyon-like passage become too tight and sumps, probably due to non-carbonate fill, 130 feet from the entrance. No unexplored leads remain and no vertical rigging is needed.

SPELEOTHEMS: There are short soda straws in a right hand alcove and calcite growth in a high crack at the end of the cave. Chocolate covered flowstones were noted at several points.

MANAGEMENTS RECOMMENDATIONS: To protect the hydrologic and biologic balances and speleothems, the cave region and upstream drainage area should not be disturbed either by logging or road building. A buffer around the cave itself would not be satisfactory or wind-firm. The cave location could be shared with the educated general public.



STORM DRAIN CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #147
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Sept. 28, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Storm Drain Cave is formed in Heceta Limestone and was discovered by Dave Herron in June 1993. The entrance is located northwest of Dimple Cave in a large insurgence sink having a 40-foot high headwall. Road construction debris and logging slash has nearly plugged the entrance. Further damage to the cave is unknown.

The Storm Drain insurgence and Dimple Cave insurgence probably resurge from Lava Flow Cave about one half mile to the north. After passing through the entrance debris plug, a gallery with low ceiling is traversed to the first 35-foot drop into Recover Room with a ceiling estimated at 80 feet high. A lead takes to the north 10 feet above the floor. Another heads back under the drop and is also above the floor.

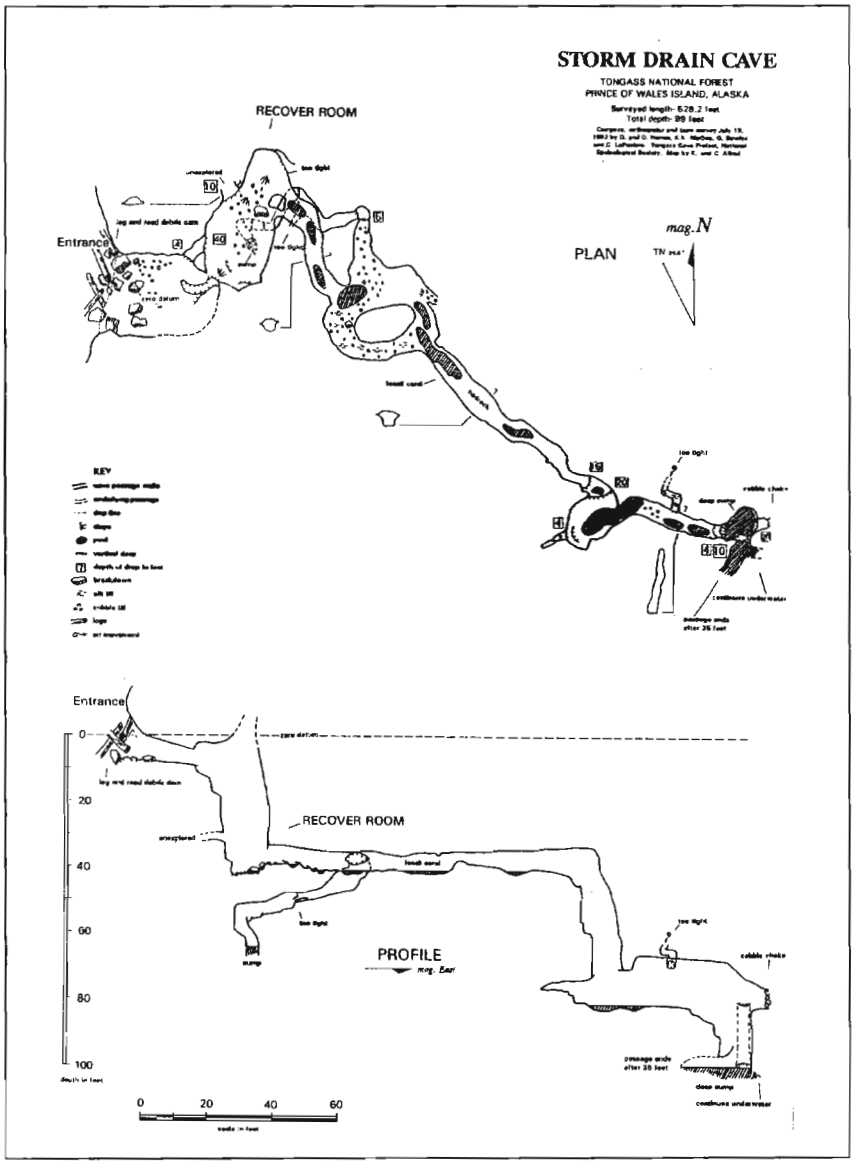
From Recovery Room the cave continues as a tube horizontally along what appears to be a bedding plane. A side passage heads off to a final sump. Dave Herron reports awesome reef talus rock consisting of massive light grey mottled algae limestone breccia. Some impressive coral fossils were noted in the horizontal tube portion. The horizontal passage ends at a 35-foot drop to a canyon with a small, too tight tube in the ceiling sucking a good air flow. After 60 feet of canyon, a deep sump is encountered. This was swum and ends at an unmeasured dry passage which ends after 35 feet. The sump is reported as a good dive site. Total passage surveyed is 528.2 feet with a total depth of 99 feet. Two ropes (100 and 150 feet) are needed to rig the cave. The second drop has a rig point on a ceiling flake 50 feet before the pitch.

BIOLOGY: Insects were present in this cave. A millipede was collected.

SPELEOTHEMS: A few speleo- thems and some flowstone were found.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Storm Drain has already had quite a bit of logging slash dumped into it and the road runs atop it as well. Further road building, quarrying or logging should not occur in the cave area or its upstream drainage area.

The entrance would be an excellent site to invest some restoration work by pulling out the logging slash so more of this material is not washed into the system. Location of the entrance should be withheld from the untrained general public because of the vertical nature of the cave.



TE ANA RAWERE

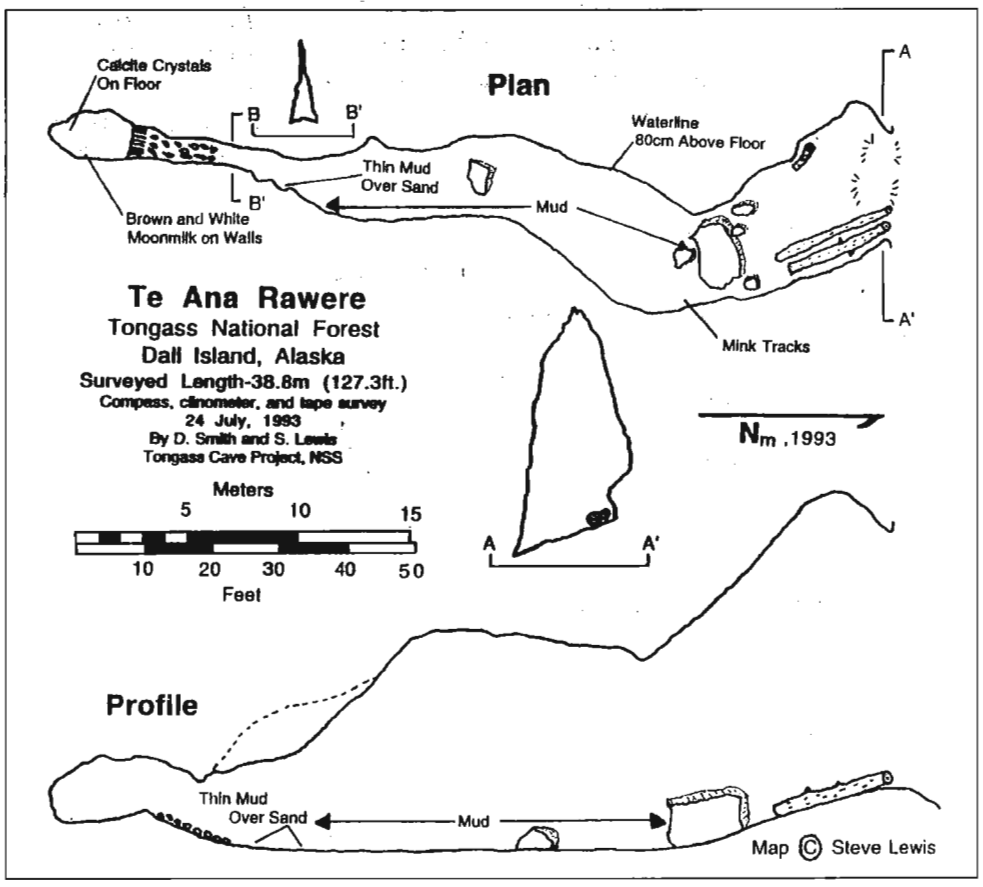
Dall Island • Preliminary Report
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis July 24, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Te Ana Rawere is a littoral cave which, through isostatic rebound or tectonic processes, has been lifted to approximately 15 meters above sea level. The entrance is dramatic, approximately 12 meter high and 5 meters wide. One scrambles down a 3 meter high mound of clastic and organic debris deposited across the entrance into spacious passage which shrinks rapidly as one follows it back for nearly 40 meters. A mud over sand floor is likely pooled with water during wetter years as evidenced by a water line 80 centimeters above the floor. Mink tracks were noted in the mud. The small chamber at the rear of the cave was lined with brownish moonmilk and the floor was littered with broken calcite crystals. Te Ana Rawere was named by one of the New Zealand cavers and, to the best of our knowledge is Maori for Dave's Cave.

GEOLOGY/SPELEOGENESIS: Te Ana Rawere is one of a number of raised littoral caves on the peninsula. These are unique among the islands I have visited in southeastern Alaska. Littoral caves on Coronation are generally less than 5 meters above sea level and most appear to have had dissolution as a major component of their genesis. I have seen no such littoral caves on Prince of Wales, Hecata or Chichagof islands. The rillenkarren and other surface karst features on the exposed coast across the peninsula are the finest examples I have seen or heard of in low elevation karst, and rival even the most superb alpine karst surface features in all of southeastern Alaska. The outer extremities of the peninsula are also dissected by karst canyons which appear to be of littoral origin. These are similar to the canyons found just above sea level along Windy Bay on Coronation Island.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: While we saw no evidence of human occupation or use of these cave, further archaeological examination is recommended. The unique and dramatic features of the outer end of the peninsula make it essential that this area be protected for its highly significant karst and cave features, even though they are not likely to be tied into any hydrologically significant system. At least one more similar cave remains to be mapped on the peninsula. It is likely that further exploration will reveal numerous caves.



MEETINGS

GLACIER GROTTO

Due to the high cost of teleconferencing the December 6 meeting will be kept to a maximum of 30 minutes. Please review this agenda and be ready to make comments. If you have any questions, or would like to add anything please feel free to call Marcel before the conference.

Agenda: Nomination of Significant Caves, Nomination of Grotto Officers, Past and future POWIEs, Alaska Board of Fish and Game regulations regarding bats,, UAS video, Grotto finances, recruitment of new members and revenue generation.

NORTHWEST CAVING ASSOCIATION

Chairman David Klinger presided at the annual meeting of the Northwest Caving Association May 29, 1994 at Marble Mountain Sno Park,WA

Ben Tompkins agreed to check on status of the 1997 Cave Management Symposium, and Tom Kline, The Northwest Caver.

Three new Grottos applied for membership in the NCA: Bremerton (WA) Caving Society, Palouse Grotto (ID) and Idaho Cave Survey.

NCA voted to donate $100 to the NSS Contemporary Cave Use Study and the Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission.

Representatives were asked to take the information from reports on "climbers and bolting in caves" back to their grottos for discussion/debate.

All current officers were reelected.

GG Nominating Committee Report

Gary Sonnenberg, chairman of the nominating Committee, presents the following slate of candidates for 1995 Glacier Grotto officers:

President---------- Marcel LaPerriere

VP North ---------- Michael Mauser

VP Southcentral ---- Wm. Harvey Bowers

VP Southeast-------- Gary Sonnenberg

Secretary ---------- Alan Murray

Treasurer ---------- Alan Murray

Ballots will be included with the next Journal.

Alaska Cave Rescue

The most recent training session (early November at Thorne Bay) began with a presentation about the legal implications of search and rescue by Alaskan State Trooper Paul Burke followed by Alan Murray's paper on the recognition and management of stress in the cave environment.

According to an NSS report on incidents and accidents, Dec. 1993, the three leading causes of medical intervention for cavers, are falls, equipment failure and falling rock. In Alaska all but one accident resulted from falling rocks.

Marcel LaPerriere led a discussion on the seven steps to survival and then everyone retired to a rock pit for "rope work" - recognize the problem, inventory resources, find shelter,water and food, signal and keep up morale.Then the group retired to a rock-pit for rope work.

from report by R.R. Knotts

The Alaskan Caver
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