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The Alaskan Caver

Volume 14 Number 6

December 1994



The Alaskan Caver

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1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B, Anchorage AK 99507

Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover Photo: Drawing by Carlene Allred looks at the world from inside a cave in Southeast Alaska.

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- 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

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El Capitan Cave on Prince of Wales Island has a variety of formations. Photo credit: Alan Murray

CALENDAR

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

April 29-30, 1995 Alaska Cave Rescue spring in-cave training session. 225-4094

June 30-July 28, 1995 POWIE 95. 247-1559

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

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

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

El Capitan Cave spring clean up, to be announced. Marcel. 225-4094

Boxes in Question

by Dalene Perrigo

The scenario seems to occur at irregular intervals. While searching through items sequestered in an out-of-the-way place, a priceless heirloom is found. Recent examples include a Bronte novel and a Beethoven sonata that were lost to fans for many years. Maybe 100 years from now, while exploring the corners of an attic, someone will discover a dusty box carefully taped and marked in faded script. Inside, all in numerical order, will be The Alaskan Cavers to the year 2000.

Few organizations have carefully-designed programs directed at the acquisition, use, storage and retrieval of data and information. Libraries, a bastion of collections, have become more selective as budgets shrink and space becomes a premium. Many libraries no longer keep specialized newsletters, such as those published by grottoes. Is it not, therefore, conceivable for someone to find work accomplished by members of the Glacier Grotto, as well as other grotto members across the country, stored in a box in the attic?

Even though, cavers have put extensive effort into defining conditions, recording information, making maps, and evaluating situations within caves, the existence and availability of data and information relating to Alaskan caves is limited. Currently, the Glacier Grotto's Alaskan Caver, with its running account of discoveries, exploration, maps

and narrative is the only regular coverage of speleology in Alaska. This journal is available for perusal at the Consortium Library, University of Alaska Anchorage (nearly a complete collection); the State Library in Juneau; and the National Speleological Library in Huntsville, Ala. The holdings of in-state libraries are listed on Lasercat, citation indexes listing the ISBN and LC holdings of libraries in the Western Library Network. Also found on Lasercat are Caver issues published 1970-1979, available in Anchorage Municipal Libraries, and 1979-1981 issues in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Library. The NSS holdings are limited to in-house library cards.

Most of the current cave information in Alaska comes from the explorations in Tongass National Forest. Other tidbits can be found in notebooks or in the memories of individuals who may or may not be grotto members and of specialists who know of or have investigated caves around

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcel LaPerriere

As many of you know over this past year, I have taken a fairly active role as President, working to protect the caves and karst of Southeast Alaska. I guess the reason I have written so many letters and attended several meetings with the

Continued on page 2

the state. This compounds the problems of obtaining baseline information over space and time.

Of the cave and karst information amassed by the USFS, some provokes scholarly questions concerning the paleontology, biology, botany, geology, and pre-history of Alaska. Evidence of man is strong but stronger is the evidence of animals, sea life and nature in its constant state of change.

"We are still in the process of judging what is significant, and we are finding that most of what we find is significant," said Jake Cebula, Supervisory Forester at Thorne Bay District headquarters of Tongass National Forest. "At this point none of the information is computerized."

As the general information from these reports is published in The Alaskan Caver, it is distributed to Glacier Grotto members across the United States, certain institutions, and NSS affiliates, and groups which exchange newsletters with the Grotto. At present the mailing list totals about 125. Of that number seven are sent to NSS associated individuals or groups. Specifically, two each go to Cave Files and the

Continued from page 1

USFS in Ketchikan and Prince of Wales Island is to protect the caves of this area. All this work has left me feeling a bit guilty. As a statewide grotto I have often wondered if I was only working to protect my immediate back yard while ignoring the rest of the state. Unfortunately, I haven't had the time to explore other areas within the state that should possibly be getting some attention from me. This is where you come in. If you know of any potential problem areas, or conservation efforts that the officers of the grotto should be working on, please let us know.

NSS Library and one each to NSS News, "Ray's Review," and Speleo-Digest Editor.

Every two months, Ray Hardcastle says he reads through a six-inch stack of newsletters, gleaning "interesting" items to use in his column "Ray's Review" published in NSS News.

"After I go through them, anything about accidents goes to Steve Knudson for American Cave Accidents," says Hardcastle, "and the rest goes to San Diego Grotto."

Glenda Dawson, NSS News Editor, takes ideas from newsletters.

"After use, I file them for a few years then dump them," Dawson says. "But of course, I'm dealing primarily with manuscripts."

Newsletters sent to the Speleo-Digest are scanned by the editor who selects articles for publication in the yearly volume of Speleo-Digest. It is available at the NSS bookstore.

Since grottoes are required to send two copies of newsletter edition to the NSS Library and there are approximately 250 grottoes, one of the largest collections of cave information in the United States is located in the headquarters building at Huntsville.

One effort we worked on this past year as a statewide grotto was the protection of bats. Fortunately, the Alaska Board of Game adopted regulations that will now protect bats from indiscriminate killing. Even though I'm sure we only had a very small part convincing the board to adopt these regulations, it was a victory, none the less. I would like to thank all of you who wrote letters to the Board asking for these protections. To me this victory shows that as individuals and as an organization, we can make a difference. Sometimes all it takes is just letting people know there is a problem.

"Currently, the library has about 100 books in the lending library and several thousand books and all the newsletters in the reference section," according to Sheila Moss, Administrative Secretary at the NSS office. "Newsletters sent to the library are grouped according to grotto and put in boxes on the shelves," she comments. "If a NSS member knows exactly what (s)he wants, the librarian will research the topic."

As the world moves into the 21st Century, one of the challenges facing NSS as well as society in general, is management of the staggering amount of data and information being produced yearly. Among cavers currently working on the problem are NSS Executive Vice President Fred Wefer and other officers (all volunteer) who are computerizing the NSS library cardfile.

"I favor the design of a robust library system at the national office; one that people can use, easily," Wefer says. However, this may be an issue for discussion at a forum later this year. Whatever the outcome, NSS members can expect to hear more about the acquisition, use, storage and retrieval of caving data and information. Hopefully, the end result will not be a box in the attic.

This brings me back to my original point. If we are going to save caves, karst, animals and etc. for our children and theirs, we have to get involved. Please let me or other officers of this grotto know if there is something with which we should be getting involved.

On another note. If you haven't seen Steve Lewis's slides from his recent trip to Russia, I would encourage you to make arrangements with him or your local Vice President to do so. Steve's 600 km wild river trip through Siberia visiting some very remote caves and villages shouldn't be missed.

Another View

by Jim Hathorn

By now you have read David Kesner's story (Baker's Hole Incident Alaskan Caver 14(5):5-7) about what happened and his ideas about how it happened and what to do to avoid it in the future. Now, I guess it's my turn.

Let me start at the top where I was, and work down to the pit in giving you my perspective about the things that went wrong and right.

First, even though there are deeper pits all over the world, the few pits we have in Idaho have some hazards that are unique to caving. These pits are generally cold and wet without great distances involved. For the most part even though we have difficult pits, they are short and relatively close to the entrance, making moderately dumb mistakes forgivable. This makes us somewhat oblivious to the dangers involved until something goes wrong as it did on this day. If this pit had been two days hike into the forest and one-half mile into a wet cave, we would have taken more precautions before attempting it. However, this was Baker's Hole - drive to the trail head, hike about three quarters of a mile and rig at the top to a great tree. What could go wrong? As you read, remember that this happened to people who have done a lot of caving and knew better, or at least should have.

First off, in this cave you need some sort of communication because yells made at the top cannot be heard at the bottom of the pit. We felt we had two good systems for communicating. Dave Russell had worked in a mine for 11 years and communicated using sound phones during that time. They work by connecting the phone to two wires between stations and simply talking. I, on the other hand, have had experience using FM headset radios that work very well outside the cave and are good for short distances. They could be operated in this cave by using the sound phones wire for an antenna. The problem was my headsets were old and on the blink. I planned to borrow my brother-in-law's

since they worked quite well. We planned to use the headsets as a means of communicating with the first guys down, then hook up the sound phones as the main form of communicating. Mike Allen suggested that we use rope pull signals as well. We listened but didn't practice because we thought we had enough back up with the headsets (the first mistake).

Before the trip, I did not have enough time to get my brother-in-law's headsets so I planned to use mine since they worked, just not as good as his (the second mistake). I figured we would be stopping a few times on the way to Salmon and I could buy batteries for them (the third mistake). On the way to Salmon, I forgot batteries but the ones in the headsets sounded strong so again I wasn't concerned (the fourth mistake).

When we got to the trail head, I didn't take my vertical gear because I didn't plan on going into the cave (the fifth mistake). We took a second 300-foot rope along to double rig the pit in case anything went wrong with or on the first rope (one of the good ideas). Charlie Wilkerson complained about untangling the two ropes when they piled up on a ledge and again on the floor of the cave.

When we got to the cave, I checked out the radios and phone. Dave assured me the phones were in working order, and we proceeded to install the ropes in the pit. We hooked the phone line to Charlie's pack so it would not tangle with the ropes. He took one of the phones in his pack and wore the headset around his neck with the switch in the voice-activated mode. All he had to do was talk without having to activate the push-to-talk button to communicate.

Charlie made it down to the bottom of the pit in about 20 minutes. The headsets were working pretty well, but he went ahead and hooked up the sound phones as Dave began his descent. However, as Dave was descending, he knocked off a rock that we think damaged one strand of the phone line going down, so the sound phones would not work but the headsets still did.

Mike Allen descended rather uneventfully although no one checked his gear and he didn't use a self belay or ask for a

bottom belay (another error but not a factor today). Finally, after carefully checking his gear I gave David Kesner the OK and he began his descent. At that point the radios began to fail because of the cold in the pit, the old batteries, and leaving them in the voice-activated mode. The push-to-talk buttons were not functioning properly. After a lengthy time of silence, I thought we had lost the radios altogether and thought David must be down. I started to take apart the headset I had and look for obvious problems like broken wires, loose connections, etc. Just as I got the ear piece apart Charlie's voice came through the speaker saying that David was calling my name and shouting for help. I held the pieces to my ear and told him I couldn't hear David but I was going to the hole to listen. As I got to the hole I could hear David shouting but couldn't make out what he was saying. If I had brought my gear I could have gotten to him on the second rope but I would have showered him with debris on the rappel.

Dave was chosen to ascend the rope and find out what was wrong and assist if possible. In the meantime all I could do was wait. I figured David must have gotten his beard or hair caught in the rappel device and needed assistance getting free. I didn't consider equipment problems because I had checked his gear before the rappel. It seemed prudent to figure out what was wrong before going for further help. I figured if Dave started yelling for assistance then I would send Debbie Allen to a phone for help and I would return to the vehicles for my gear in case it was needed. Until then it was just wait and see.

I could hear anxious voices in the pit below but couldn't make out words, just the tone of the conversation. It slowly began to sound calmer so I relaxed a little. After the voices seemed to return to normal, I could hear the cowbell sounds of Gibbs ascenders and knew the cavers were on the way out. As soon as I could communicate by shouting I asked if David needed medical assistance and was greatly relieved to hear "No!"

As the story unfolded later, I was horrified to learn that two guys who teach this stuff made mistakes that came so close

to being a serious problem.

We all made some mistakes, each one bad enough to justify changing the trip from go to no, but we felt confidence in each other and our abilities. In other words, we got lackadaisical, lazy, careless, and ignorant. We ignored rules that we lived by for all these years because nothing had gone wrong, and they seemed redundant and wimp-like (non-macho). In essence, we were victims of the same trap that lots of people have been falling victim to lately.

When was the last time you were in Papoose and saw a pit rigged with only one rope because two were too much to carry? Or worse yet, have you seen a 50-foot pit rigged with a 150-foot rope and all the excess rope on the floor or at the top. All that was needed was to rig in the middle of the rope and send both ends down. When was the last time you saw someone go into a pit without wearing ascending gear, or even having it available without having to fish through the pack? How many of us still carry a rescue pulley on each trip to Papoose or any other vertical cave? These are all mistakes that no one thinks about when everything goes right. It only takes an instant a mishap that could take hours to rectify without the proper gear and only a few minutes to clear with the proper gear.

So at the risk of being called over-cautious, wimp-like, non-macho, overbearing, and a fraidy cat, here are a few of the rules that I have been taught and a few that I learned this weekend. Heed them if you will.....Die or cause the death of someone else eventually if you don't.

#1 - Don't go vertical caving unless you are proficient at the following exercises: rappelling with and without a self belay, changing from rappel to ascend and from ascend to rappel, passing a person while ascending, and changing from one rope to another while rappelling or ascending. You should also be able to rappel and ascend the distance you are anticipating without straining or using more than 20 percent of your strength at any one time. If you cannot, you need more practice or a different system. By the time you can do all of these things

you will be completely familiar with your system. You should also be proficient enough that you will not have to spend a lot of time figuring out how to do them in an emergency.

#2 - Always double rig each and every pit. In Papoose that means the Waterfall, Puberty Pit, Rotten Fifty, Dry Fifty, and yes, the 15-Foot Ladder Drop. Don't take the chance that nothing will go wrong and remember that if the first one down the rope or the last one up has a problem there is little anyone can do to get to them. You cannot rappel down a rope on which someone is suspended, and it is damn difficult to reach them by backing your ascenders down to the caver and absolutely impossible with some cave lips and edges. At that point, the person either fends for himself or you go to the nearest phone and call for assistance and hope the person doesn't die while you're gone.

#3 - Never, never, never rappel without a belay.

#4 - Keep a knife close at hand when doing vertical work. This does not mean putting it in your cave pack or in a pocket that is inaccessible when wearing your vertical gear.

#5 - Wear all your vertical gear on all but the simplest drops.

#6 - Always check the rigging before rappelling.

#7 - Check your partner's gear and have your partner check your gear before you rappel or ascend. Don't be afraid to speak up if you see something you don't understand on anchors or someone's system.

#8 - Send the most experienced first and last with the novices in between.

#9 - Do not wear a pack on your back on drops like Baker's Hole where the rappel or climb is 50 feet or more. The pack causes the climber to pull away from the rope thus expending more energy than normal to climb. The pack should be suspended far enough below the climber so as not to impede standing stoke on the rope but close enough to be manageable at ledges, etc.

#10 - Carry two long prussiks, a spare check sling (one inch tubular webbing), rescue pulley, and at least four extra locking carabiners in addition to the ones in your system. Keep this stuff handy at all times when on the rope.

#11 - Try to anticipate all of the things that can't possibly go wrong and then prepare for when they do.

#12 - Learn how to rescue a person from a rope and lower him/her to the ground without injury to yourself or expending great amounts of energy doing so.

#13 - Establish pull or whistle signals in addition to any radios so communications with each person on the rope are possible no matter what pit is being dropped.

#14 - Never try out a new or modified system in a cave. Always try it out in a controlled environment where you can survive your mistakes.

#15 - Finally: **Back up, Back up, Back up.**

Now, what could we have done if David had passed out on the rope?

#1 - Get help. Send for it immediately if you can. In this case, we lacked the ability to do so. Help was hours away and even though seconds count when a person is not breathing, we would not have been able to get help soon enough to make much difference. Since David was still breathing, I chose to wait until Dave arrived at David's position before making that decision.

#2 - Get the victim to a place where you can work to stabilize body function and monitor vital signs until help arrives. In this case, that would have been the bottom of the pit. Dave would have had two choices: 1) attach a short sling from himself to David, change to rappel, get as much slack out of the sling as possible, then tie off and brace for the weight. When he was ready he could have cut David's rope and rappelled down with both men on one system: 2) pull up the bottom of either rope, attach the end to David, climb above him and attach a rappel system to the free rope, run the rope David is attached to through the system, then tie off and brace for the weight. When he was ready he could have cut David's rope and lowered him to the floor. (If you haven't taken a first aid course or CPR maybe it is time)

This is part II of a vertical caving expedition to Baker's Hole (ID). It first appeared in the Gem Caver.

LETTERS

Anne Archie, District Ranger
Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99901

Dec. 8, 1994

Dear Anne,

This letter is basically a request, and I will make a few comments concerning the Lab Bay area EIS.

First the comments: Obviously as an individual and as the President of the Glacier Grotto, I am concerned that caves and karst be protected during any timber harvesting that will occur within the Lab Bay area. Your office with the help of Jim Baichtal, the Blue Ribbon Team, and others has made great strides in assessing karst vulnerability. For this, you and all others concerned should be applauded. But I am still concerned that some caves could be slipping through the cracks. A case in point might be Annie's Cave in 536.21. This cave is on the upper boundary of this unit and is only one of several cave features within this unit. As you know, 536.21 is shown as a unit that will be harvested in the Lab Bay Project Update newsletter. If this unit is harvested, harm will surely be done to these karst features.

Another concern that I have is the proposed 65 miles of additional roads that will be required to harvest the 85 million board feet of timber. With this much new road construction there will surely be some new road construction on karsted areas. Roads are sometimes more damaging to caves and karst than timber harvesting.

This brings me to my request. I would like to know in writing what the cost to the US taxpayers will be to build this 65 miles of road and how much it has and will cost the USFS to administer this sale. I would also like to know what the projected income of this sale will be. I realize this timber is going to LPK as part of the long term contract, but as a tax payer and as an elected officer of an organization that promotes conservation, the *bottom line* concerns me.

As always, thank you for your time. Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Marcel LaPerriere, President

Marcel La Perriere, President of the Glacier Grotto, writes a number of letters each month concerning cave issues in Southeast Alaska. Selected letters will be published on a space available basis.

Mr. Marcel LaPerriere
Glacier Grotto
Box 9062 Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dec. 19, 1994

Dear Marcel

This is in response to your letter of Dec. 8, 1994, concerning the miles of road construction proposed for the Lab Bay Timber Sale. Thank you for your comments. I will forward them to the contractors who are working on this timber sale. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be distributed to the public in late Spring of 1995. The DEIS will outline the costs of road construction for each alternative. I cannot give you the costs of road construction at this time since the costs are being developed for each alternative and the alternatives have a different mix of units and unit access.

If you made comments during the Lab Bay scoping you are probably on the list to receive a copy of the DEIS. I will send a note to the contractors along with your comments to remind Harza to mail a copy of the DEIS to Glacier Grotto. You will be able to see the road construction costs for each alternative and provide comments back for consideration for the final EIS.

Sincerely, Anne F. Archie, District Ranger

Anne Archie, District Ranger
Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99901

Dec. 23, 1994

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 19, in response to my earlier letter. I appreciate you sending my comments on to the contractor.

As for my earlier request. I will wait to see the Draft EIS for the cost of roads. At that time I will recontact your office to find out what the projected administrative cost of this sale is. I will also be interested at that time to hear what the projected income from that sale will be. Again, I believe the tax payers of this country have a right to know what the bottom line is.

Thank you for your time. Happy New Year to you, and everyone in the Thorne Bay Ranger District Office.

Sincerely, Marcel LaPerriere, President Glacier Grotto

Dave Luckins, President
National Speleological Society
3683 Oakleaf Drive
West Bloomfield, MI 48324-2545

December 14, 1994

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a complimentary copy of a video featuring the Caves of Southeast Alaska. Even an extremely well done 14-minute video doesn't do justice to the caves of this area. Recently the United States Forest Service in the Ketchikan area of the Tongass National Forest commissioned a study of the caves and karst of this area. This study was conducted by four world renowned karst experts, headed by Thomas Aley of Ozark Underground Laboratory. Other members included Catherine Aley, William Elliott and Peter Huntoon. This Blue Ribbon Team found that the caves of this area have eight attributes of international scale significance, and nine attributes of national scale significance.

The Glacier Grotto has for many years realized the importance of these caves and has worked hard to protect them. After the Blue Ribbon team's findings, it made us realize how much more imperative it is to save these caves. Unfortunately, there is tremendous pressures by the forest product industry and many politicians to harvest millions of board feet of timber off the karsted areas of the Tongass. Unfortunately, many caves have already been severely impacted if not totally destroyed by timber extraction.

Grotto members and many people within the USFS feel the only way we are going to protect this extremely valuable resource is to educate the public. One step in this education was the production of the video, co-sponsored by the USFS Ketchikan Area and the University of Alaska Southeast. The cost of producing this video I believe, was a bargain at \$6,000. It has already reached many people with a positive impact. The next step in the education process is the production of an auditorium level multi-image slide production. This slide production is already underway and again will be produced by Woody Creek Productions under the direction of Ward Serrill. One of the university's main objectives of this slide presentation is to educate the educators. This presentation will be shown to all who want to see it, but we will often focus on school teachers. As is often the case funding is limited and there is a short fall in revenue to finish this production to the level that we would all like to see. This brings me to the point of this letter. Do you know of any way the NSS can be of assistance in financing this production? Does the NSS have any grant money available for help in this project? If so, how would we go about asking for this money?

A bit more about our caves. Already, many fields of science have been impacted by our caves. Fossil remains of animals found within the caves have been carbon dated to over 10 thousand years. This has blown away theories of glaciation in parts of the outer coast, as early theories placed mile thick ice over these caves 10,000 years ago. Other fossils have helped prove continental drift and have proven that some of the land mass is rising faster than sea level. I was personally on an expedition last summer where we found acorn barnacle shells embedded in the walls of a littoral cave an estimated 20 feet above sea level. Many unique invertebrates have been found, some entirely new species and some are range extensions. In one cave a unique formation was found that has been seen nowhere else in the world. Who knows how many more scientific wonders will be found.

These are just some of the reasons that members of this Grotto and others are so anxious to save these caves. We would appreciate any help the NSS could give us.

Another word on the video. A portion of the proceeds of this video are going to this grotto for cave conservation. If you know of anyone else that might like a copy please have them write me at Box 9062, Ketchikan, AK 99901. The cost is \$15 plus \$2 shipping. Make checks payable to the Glacier Grotto. Delivery should be two to four weeks.

Thank you very much for your time reading this and your consideration of our problem. I will be looking forward to hearing from you soon. Happy New Year.

Marcel LaPerriere, President Glacier Grotto

KIT 'N' KABOODLE CAVE

Dall Island, Alaska • Addendum to Report
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis
July 1994

DESCRIPTION: Further survey and exploration was done on 15 July, 1993, by Steve Lewis, Dave Smith, Bob Christensen, Don Aldridge and Rick Koehler. All known leads have now been pushed with the exception of several very-tight leads along bedding planes which seem to offer little potential for major extensions.

The cave is located on Dall Island. The main entrance is approximately 10 meters (32.8 feet) above mean high tide. Work in 1993 added 218.2 meters (715.8 feet) giving a total of 632.8 meters (2,075.9 feet) of surveyed passage. The cave has a depth of 36.58 meters (120 feet) (+30.32 meters, -6.26 meters). We also completed an additional 142.1 meters (466.2 feet) of overland survey to tie in the overflow resurgence.

The Chamber of Horrors appeared a little less fearsome in 1993 when the floor was not vibrating to the sound of running water. We entered and found that all leads were choked with breakdown.

A bypass to the tight "Steve Stuck" passage was located in 1993. It led down into a large passage which quickly shrank back to very tight bedding plane passage with a phreatic maze looping back up to the start. A very small and determined person might be able to push this lead as well as several leads past the eagle bones. Exploration in 1993 revealed a room leading off from the tight portions of the upper chamber, the BD survey. High leads led to several "too-tight" decorated passages with silvery-gray soda straws and stalactites. The "too-tight" passages leading off from this highest portion of the cave consisted of small phreatic tubes and more low bedding planes.

The BE survey followed the phreatic tubes ascending from near the eagle bones. The lower, western tube led us up between walls of beautiful pink brecciated marble with blue streaks. The eastern tube, was only sketched. It connects into the other tubes and is filled with numerous deep deposits of clean-washed pebbles. Otter sign was discovered in several side passages including one off the large joint controlled passage that is choked by breakdown. Continuing up along a small stream (trickle in 1993) one comes to a broad passage with large numbers of silver-gray stalactites. It is extremely difficult to travel through without damaging formations. All passages beyond this point quickly choke with major breakdown.

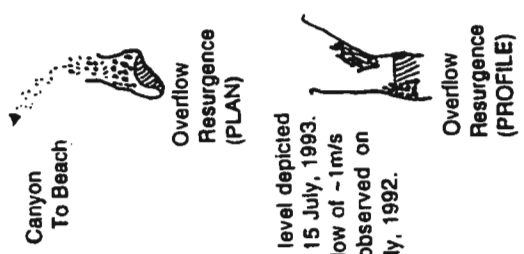
BIOLOGY/PALEONTOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY

See last year's report (#96) for descriptions of extensive shell and bone deposits and charcoal, in cave. This year's exploration revealed more fish and small mammal bones in a side passage of the BE survey. It appeared to be more evidence of otter usage. Kent Carlson is still in the process of identifying invertebrates collected from resurgences. He has positively identified Stigobromus quatsinensis, a troglobytic amphipod. This is the same species he collected on Hecata Island. These are dramatic range extensions for this species. There are numerous other species, especially some collembolans, awaiting final identification which appear to be troglobytic and perhaps new species. Kent's preliminary report should be finished before this summer.

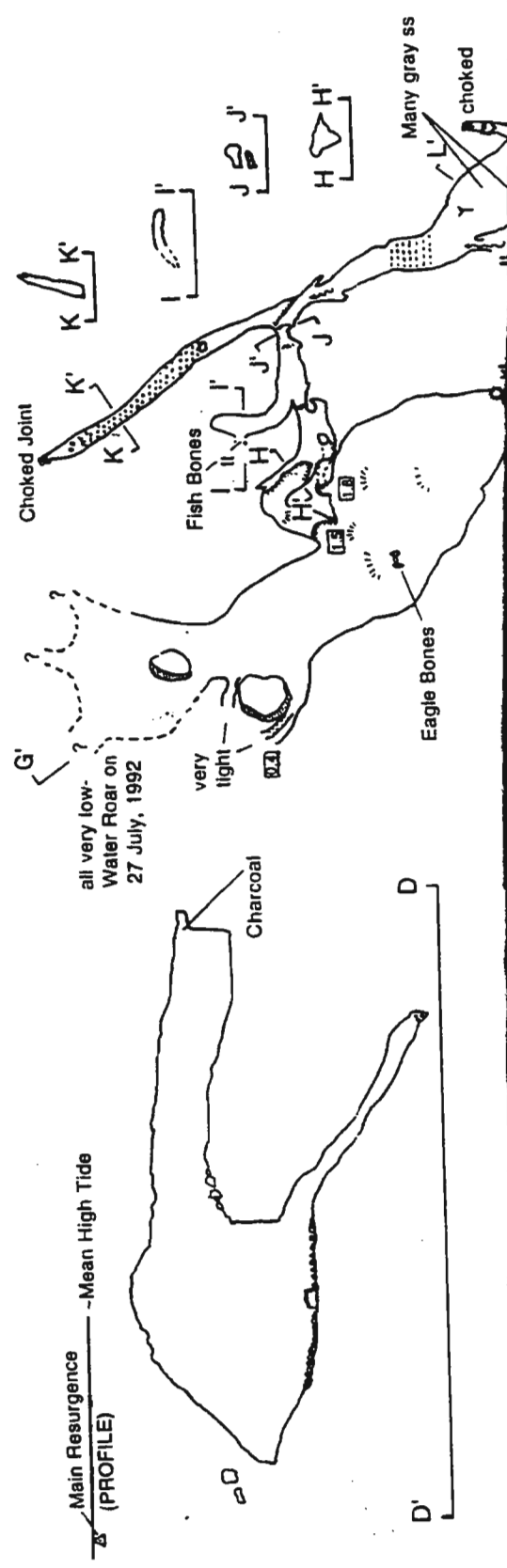
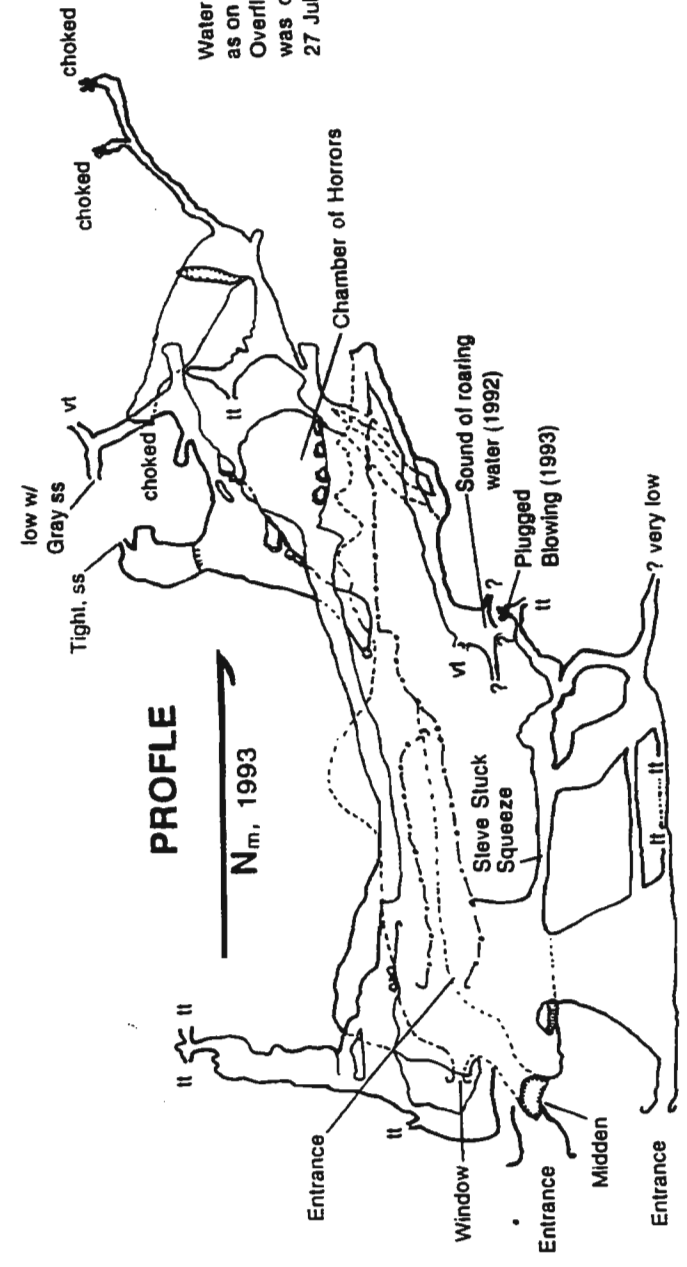
HYDROLOGY: In 1992, there appeared to be a high probability that a large resurgence exited from the cave along with several major but subhuman dimension resurgences draining the cave. We estimated that $\geq 1\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ of water was flowing out of the large resurgence in July of 1992. The large resurgence was not flowing during the extremely dry summer of 1993, although, it contained a pool preventing access to passage beyond without diving equipment. The sea level resurgence was still flowing and appears to be the main or permanent resurgence with the "large" resurgence overflowing only in periods of high water. It is quite likely that there are other sub-sealevel resurgences as well.

What had appeared in 1992 to be a major river passage connecting the cave to the overflow resurgence turned out to be a short section of big passage in a continuation of the low side bedding plane passage that predominates in the cave. No roar of water was heard in 1993. Perhaps the roar and vibration was generated by water under pressure being forced through bedding plane passage beyond where we were able to push in 1993. No evidence of a major stream passage was located in 1993.

Nevertheless, there is a lake above Kit 'n' Kaboodle Cave which drains into a large collapsed entrance. Little or no surface drainage was noted on the slopes above or below the lake, suggesting a potentially tremendous karst watershed which may drain into Kit 'n' Kaboodle's or other nearby resurgences. This lake was surprisingly warm in 1993, with surface waters being very comfortable for long swims. The lake bed drops steeply from the shore and appears to be very deep, although, there is an area of shallow gravels near the point where the lake drains into the collapsed cave entrance.



Water level depicted as on 15 July, 1993. Overflow of ~1m/s was observed on 27 July, 1992.



LEGEND

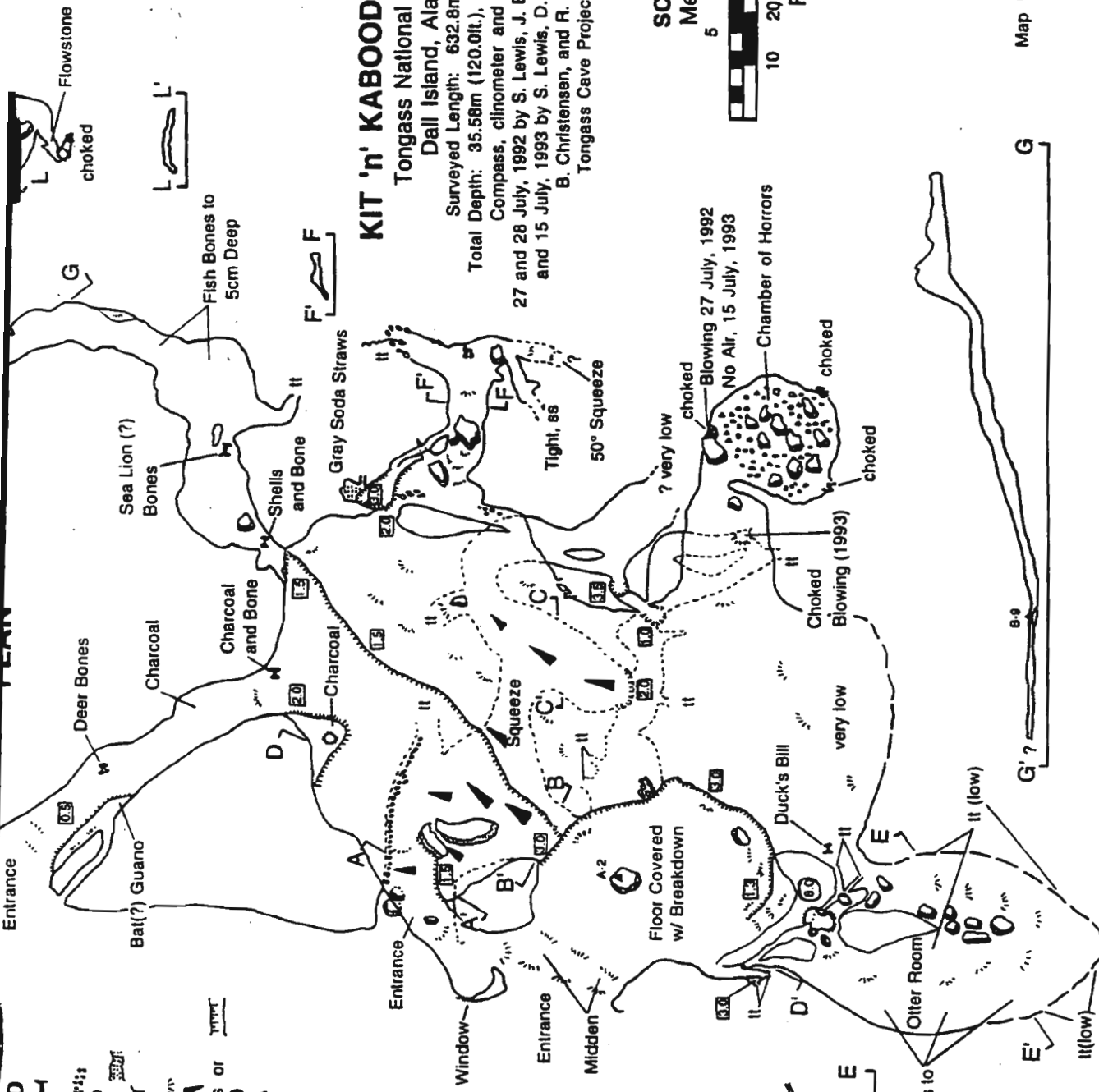
- Bones
- Breakdown:
 - small
 - large
- Sill
- Sialacite
- Slope:
 - upper level
 - lower level
- Soda Straws
- Pool
- Stream



Main Resurgence
(PLAN)



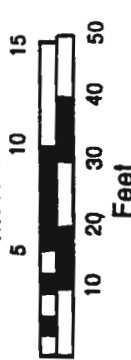
Fish bones to
5cm deep



KIT 'n' KABOODLE CAVE
Tongass National Forest

Dall Island, Alaska
 Surveyed Length: 632.8m (2075.9ft.)
 Total Depth: 35.58m (120.0ft.) (+30.32m, -6.26m)
 Compass, clinometer and tape survey
 27 and 28 July, 1992 by S. Lewis, J. Baichtal, and K. McGee
 and 15 July, 1993 by S. Lewis, D. Smith, D. Aldridge,
 B. Christensen, and R. Koehler.
 Tongass Cave Project, NSS

SCALE



Map © Steve Lewis

Continued from page 7

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The cave should remain protected with no further exploration until formal scientific studies begin. Further exploration of tight leads and low areas off known leads should wait until after archaeological work has been completed to avoid further disturbance of sites. Hydrologic connection between the resurgences and the collapsed cave entrance on the lake above should be established through dye traces. Connection between the small stream in the BE survey and the resurgences could also be verified by dye tracing.

It is extremely unlikely that humans used the tight passages remaining to be surveyed. However, paleontological or otter studies might require pushing these leads, especially, where signs of otter use are noted. Flagged routes through the midden were established in 1993 and should be used if any entry into the cave is required. Access through entrances other than the main entrance can avoid disturbing the midden at all in most cases. Under no circumstances should the upper reaches of the BE survey beyond the soda straws be reentered. The Tongass Cave Project would appreciate having input before study proposals are approved.

Initial reconnaissance of the slopes of the karst area revealed tremendous karst development although no major cave entrances were located. Although virtually unexplored for karst, the band of carbonate rock underlying Kit 'n' Kaboodle extends some distance. This entire unit is composed of massive to thick bedded marbles of Pre-middle Ordovician origin. It is common to see pure marble sections thicker than 100 meters.

The entire karst 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 and other karst areas on Dall island are highly significant on a national and international scale since they contain pristine areas of karst extending from alpine to sea level in a temperate rainforest. 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 rainforests worldwide, and for developing successful management techniques for other areas of karst in the Tongass.

SQUIRREL CAVE

**Etolin Island, AK • Preliminary Report #S-1
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**

by Kevin Allred
Oct. 2, 1993













DESCRIPTION: Etolin Island's Squirrel Cave was apparently discovered by Forest Service employees. It was named after a flying squirrel nesting tree next to the lower entrance and is formed in thinly banded marble of unknown depth. According to the limited geologic information we have, the marble is early Cretaceous to middle to late Jurassic in age. It has been metamorphosed by nearby Miocene and Oligocene granite intrusions.

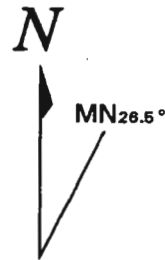
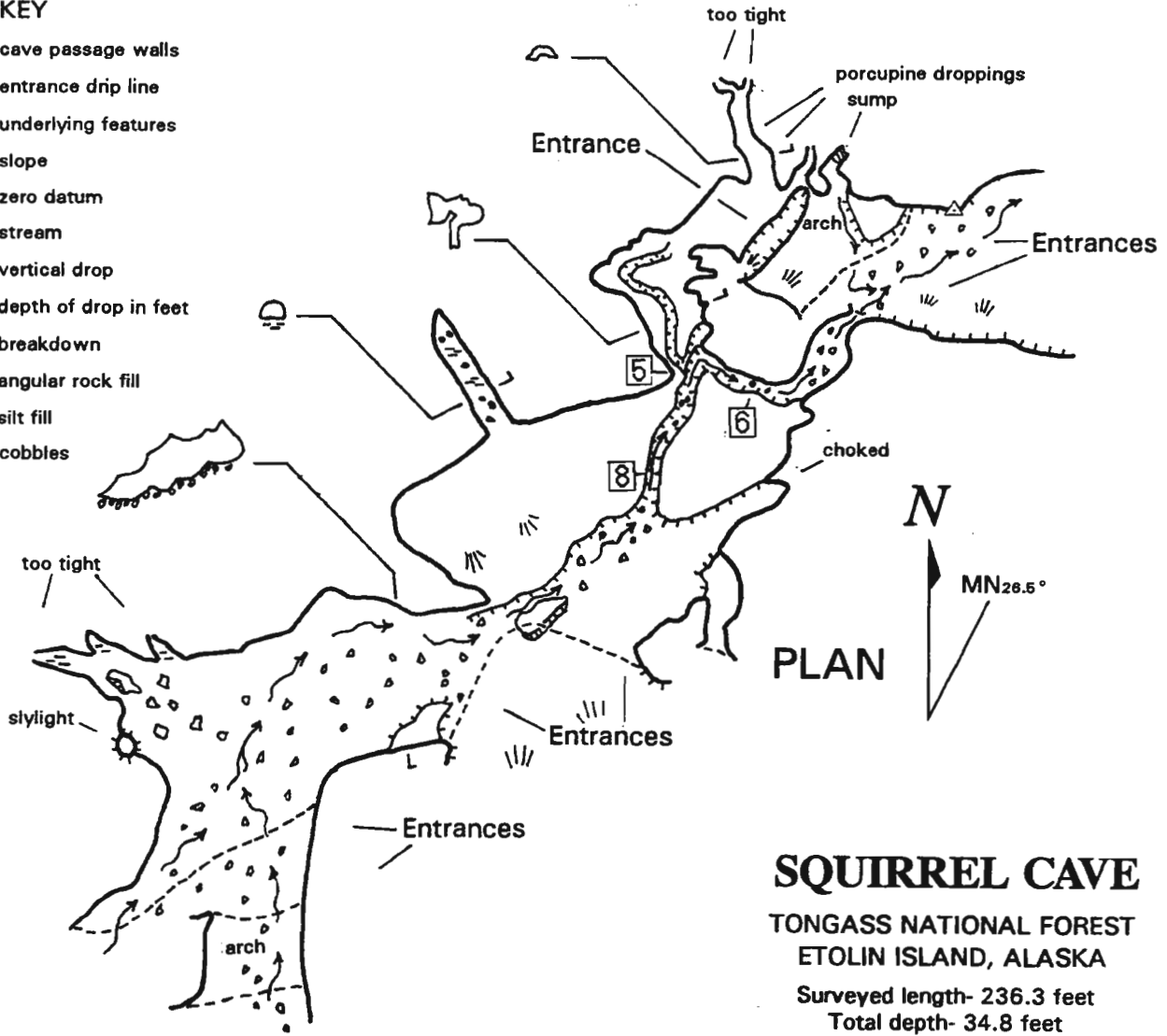
Two small surface streams feed into the upper entrance of Squirrel Cave. One of the streams flows under an arch just before the cave. Once inside, a skylight and 20-foot long passage lies to the north. Heading easterly, the cave is partially breached by a ceiling collapse after only some 30 feet. Further downstream, the stream has incised a slot which meanders through a broad gallery containing minor side passages. The stream exits from the lowest entrance. A connected complex of side passages to the north is a fossil resurgence entrance containing an older, now dry stream slot. This passage complex sports another collapsed entrance, a porcupine denning passage and a sump emergence of its own. The emergence drains outside to join the main cave stream. Total surveyed passage is 236.3 feet with a depth of 34.8 feet. The cave has a total of six entrances and one skylight; an extraordinary number for such a small cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fortunately a timber harvest unit boundary was pulled back a short distance (perhaps 75 feet) to avoid direct disturbance to the cave. Apparently, the unit was increased in size further down the hill to make up for the deficit timber volume. However, it is likely that the cave will be affected by windthrow commonly known to occur along clear-cut margins in southeast Alaska. We suggest that the drainage areas above the cave not be crossed with roads or logged to avoid introduction of sediments and slash into the system. The origin or recharge area of the stream emerging from near the lowest entrance is unknown. The cave should be checked by a cave biologist for cave adapted organisms. The location of the cave could be shared with the general public if heavy visitation would not seriously affect any cave organisms which might be present.

KEY

-  cave passage walls
-  entrance drip line
-  underlying features
-  slope
-  zero datum
-  stream
-  vertical drop
-  depth of drop in feet
-  breakdown
-  angular rock fill
-  silt fill
-  cobbles



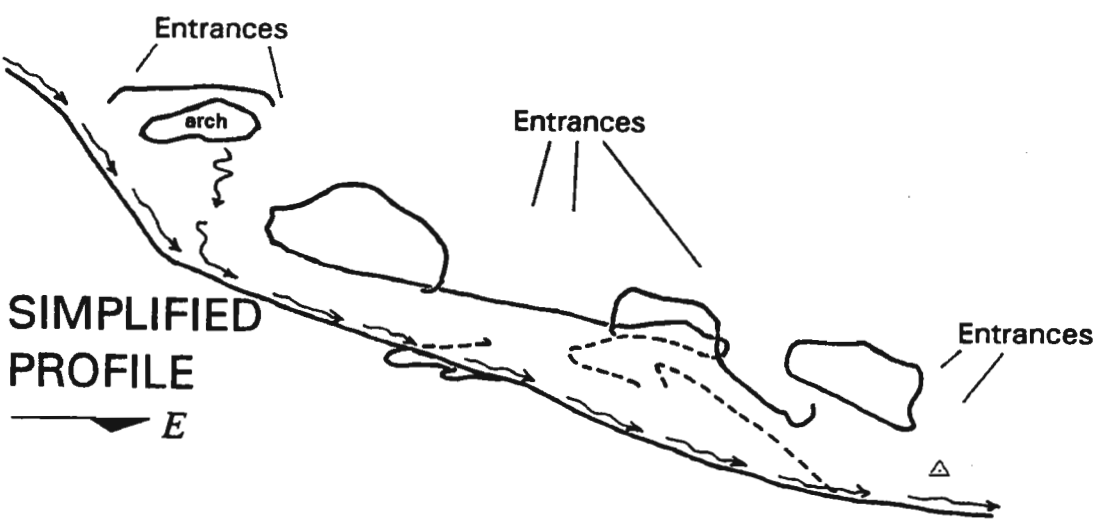
PLAN

SQUIRREL CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
ETOLIN ISLAND, ALASKA

Surveyed length- 236.3 feet
Total depth- 34.8 feet

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey August 1, 1993 by K. Allred, P. Smith, D. Ziel, S. Lewis and P. Dzwonowski. Tongass Cave Project. National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Allred.



SIMPLIFIED PROFILE



ENIGMA / SLIGHTLY ENIGMATIC

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

by Steve Lewis
September 1993

DESCRIPTION:

Enigma and Slightly Enigmatic were discovered by Don Aldridge on July 24, 1993. Initial exploration and survey was undertaken July 25, 1993. Enigma is one of the most decorated caves in Alaska.

Preferred routes through portions of the cave, where potential for damage is high, have been flagged and future survey parties should follow flagged routes at all times. This is especially true in gaining access to Sea Lord's Rest. No formations need be damaged and the route down is not the first or most obvious one. (See map). Thus far, no ropes are needed although some cavers might find a handline useful in Sea Lord's Rest.

Thus far, 198.5 meters (651.2 feet) of passage have been surveyed in Enigma, with a total depth of +31.2 meters (+102.4 Feet). Slightly Enigmatic contains 42.63 Meters (139.9 feet) of passage and rises nearly 12 meters from the entrance.

Two decorated leads with strong air movement remain to be explored in Enigma. Slightly Enigmatic has been completely explored and surveyed. Potential exists for a difficult dig which could connect to the Enigma system.

GEOLOGY / SPELEOGENESIS:

There is a large cliff above the main entrance. At least one passage is chopped off over 20 feet up this cliff. This and the proximity of the Slightly Enigmatic and Enigma entrances suggest that these two caves were part of the same system and connected before glacial action stripped away the northern portions of the cave, leaving the massive marble cliff intermittently perforated with fossil cave passages.

All passages thus far explored appear to be fossil passage with no significant flows of water. There is strong air movement in parts of the cave, with some stalactites (the Sickles) strongly deflected, suggesting a pattern of strong airflow in one direction over geologically significant periods of time. Passage appears to be generally of phreatic origin along bedding planes, with vadose slots and canyons, especially in and adjacent to the Sea Lord's Rest. These slots in Sea Lord's Rest are choked but may have provided a channel allowing development of lower levels and leaving Enigma dry.

A basalt (?) dike runs between the two lower entrances of Enigma and large numbers of stalactites up to 0.5 meters or more occur along the interface between it and the marble. Some of the longest columns yet found in Alaska (≥ 1 meter) are located in Enigma.

Slightly Enigmatic has minimal calcite deposition on walls and ceiling and has suffered much frost shattering with large breakdown blocks piled in places. The strong airflows noted in Enigma were not present in Slightly Enigmatic.

BIOLOGY / PALEONTOLOGY:

Both Enigma and Slightly Enigmatic contain abundant bat sign (by Alaskan standards). Spots of guano are noted frequently on walls and floor. Insects are also frequently noted. Most of these appear to be of terrestrial origin but no detailed analysis has been made yet.

Enigma has signs of otter use with fish bones piled in a few spots. Sea Lord's Rest contains bones of a carnivore, probably an otter.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

These caves are not easily located from the water. However, their location should be kept strictly confidential due to the extreme fragility and beauty of the formations. Exploration and survey should continue and the hillside above and below the cave should be searched thoroughly for other entrances to the system.

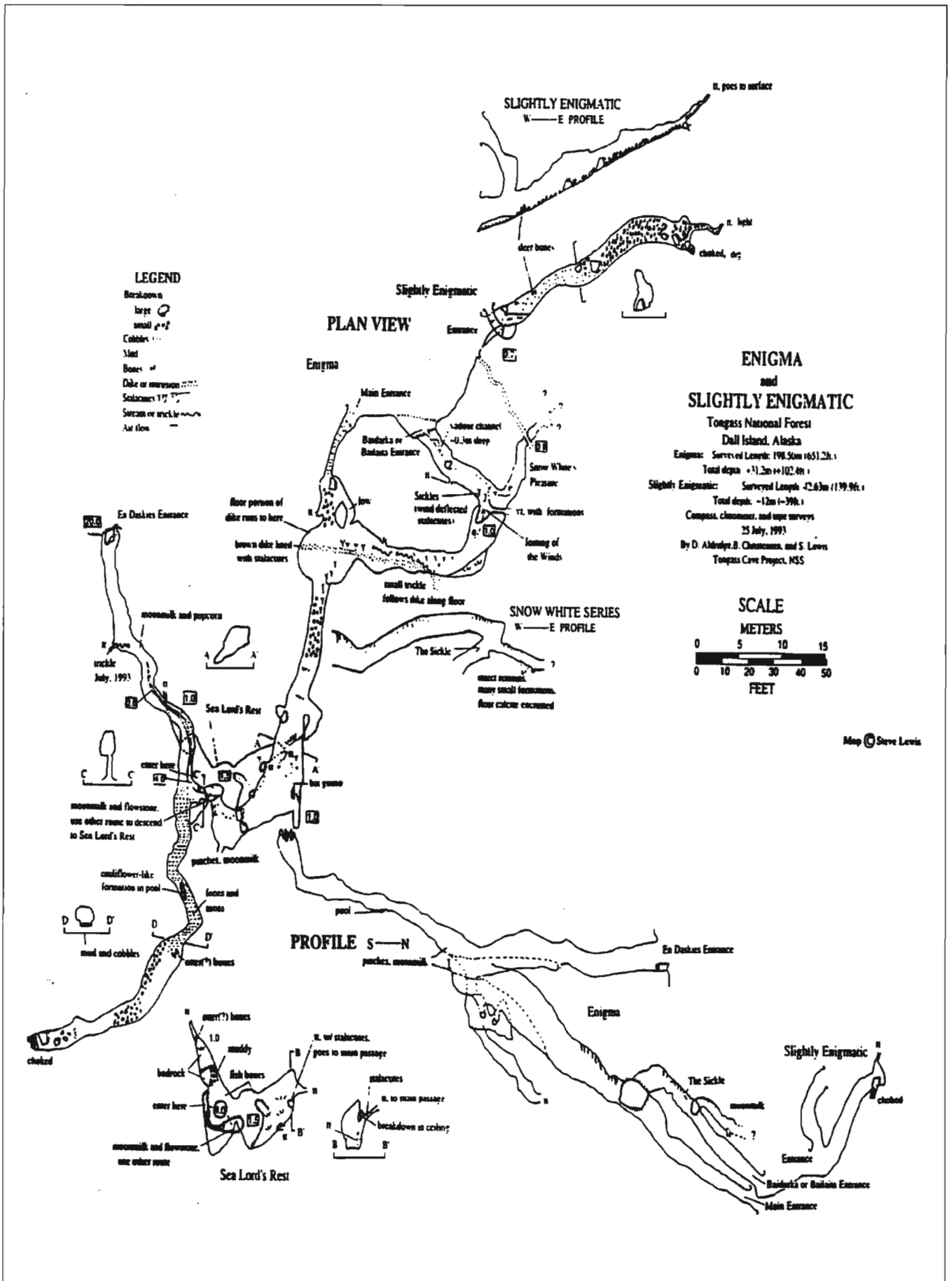
VOTE

Ballots are included with this edition of
The Alaskan Caver

If you have not paid the Glacier Grotto
dues for 1995, PLEASE include a check
for the proper amount with your ballot(s)

\$15 individual

\$20 family



DIE HARDY MAN HOLE

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

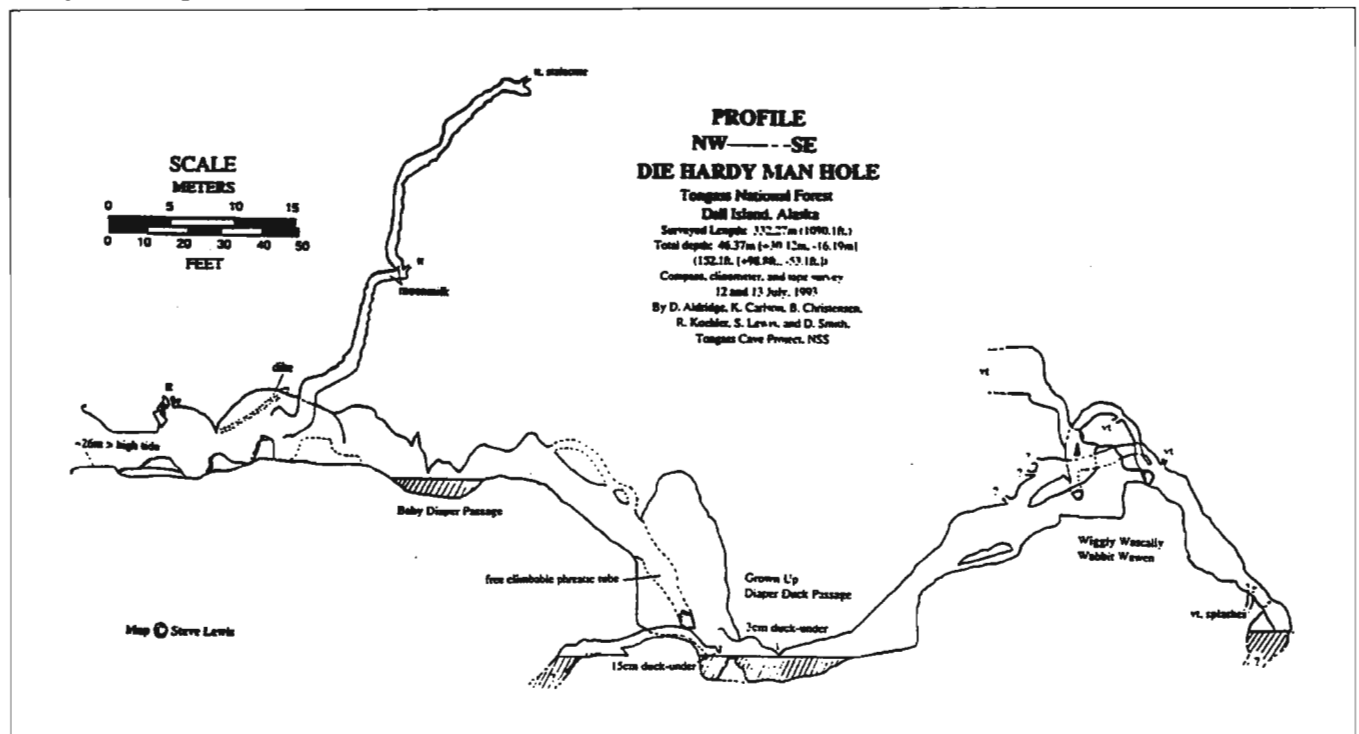
by Steve Lewis September 1993

DESCRIPTION: DIE Hardy Man Hole is a mix of prominent joint-controlled passage with sections of phreatic maze. Although it did not respond rapidly to heavy rain after the lengthy dry spell of much of July, 1993, it appears that portions of the cave, beyond the initial swim, are probably sumped for much or all of most years. No rigging was used in the cave with the exception of a 15 Meter pitch descending into the terminal sump. Natural anchors were used for rigging. Handlines would be useful in the steeply ascending paleo-inlet near the entrance. The climb beyond the Grown Up Diaper Duck would be easier, especially on the down-climb, with a handline as would the steep and muddy phreatic loop near the terminal sump pitch. Several swimming passages make dry-suits a near must with water temperatures of ~4 C. The Grown Up Diaper Duck swim included a duck-under with just 3 centimeters of air space at the water levels encountered in July 1993. The prominent dry creek descending from the entrance suggests that significant amounts of water may overflow out the entrance at wetter times of the year. Leads remaining include several tight phreatic tubes which probably loop back as oxbows. Diving of the terminal sump is a distinct possibility. A tight joint passage leads off the phreatic maze but is too tight to push with drysuits on. No air movement was noted in any of these potential leads. Surveyed passage totalled

332.27 Meters (1,090.1 feet) with a total depth of 46.31 meters (+30.12 meters, -16.19 meters) or 151.9 feet. An additional 69.46 meters of overland survey was used to determine that the entrance is 28.15 meters (92.4 feet) above the high tide mark.

GEOLOGY AND SPELEOGENESIS: DIE Hardy Man Hole appears to be predominantly composed of joint controlled passage. The entrance is an obvious joint. The Grown Up Diaper Duck and Terminal sump sections of the cave also appear to be formed along joints running parallel to the entrance joint. Phreatic tubes, some with vadose modifications connect these passages. Speleothems were noted in the steeply ascending fossil passage near the entrance, where several beautiful deposits of moonmilk were encountered along with some small stalagmites. Several small soda straws were noted in the upper swimming passage (Baby Diaper). Flowstone and stalagmites were also present in the highest portions of the steep and muddy phreatic loop ascending from near the final sump.

HYDROLOGY: The majority of this cave appears to still be part of an active phreatic system. Normal to high water levels still appear to flood most of the explored portions of the cave, with the exception of the fossil tube near the entrance and perhaps the highest portions of loops further into the cave, where speleothems have developed. No resurgences were located below the main entrance,

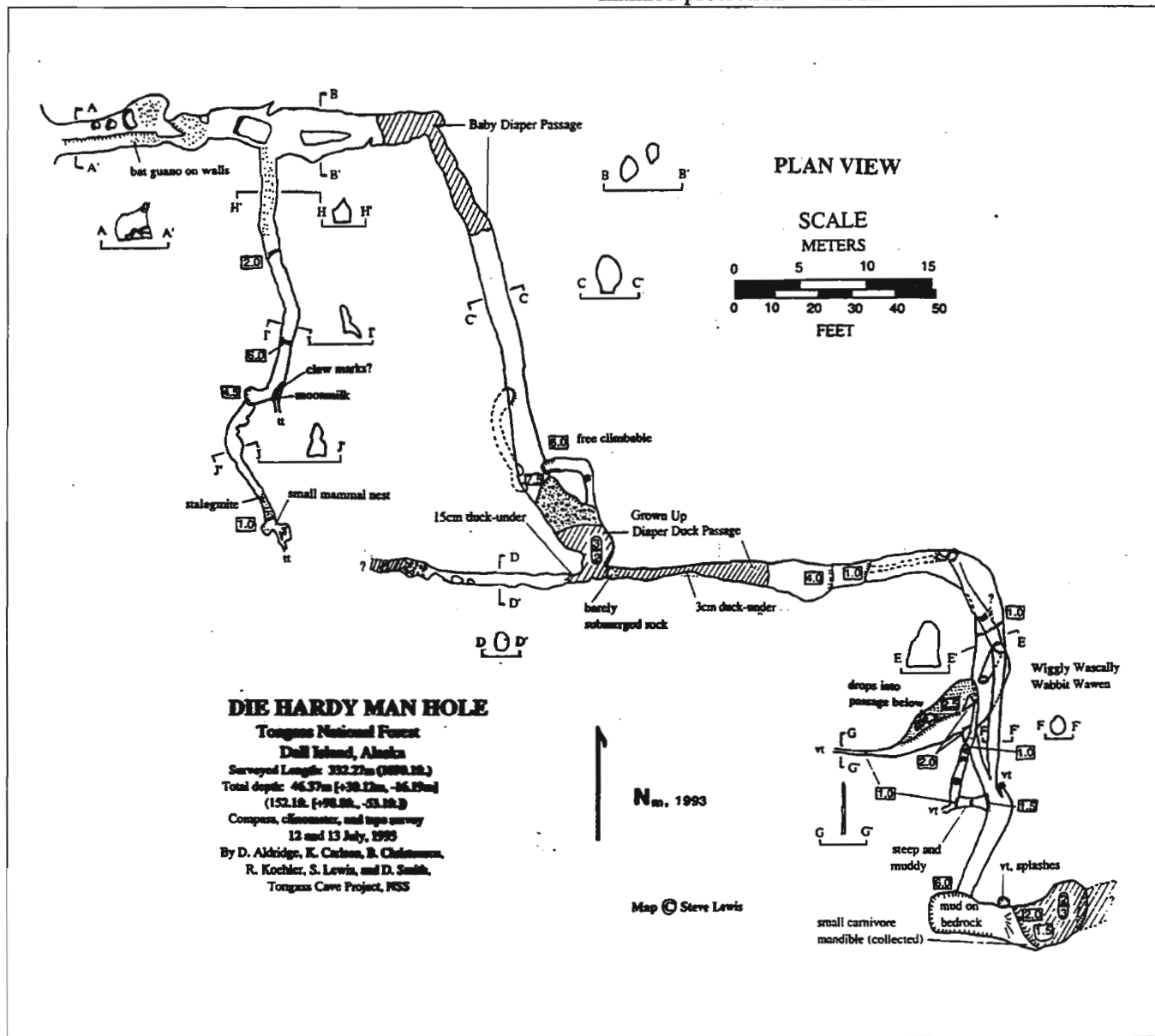


but it is quite possible that such resurgences rise below the low tide mark. Water levels in the final sump and the duck under passage were quite similar and may represent a dry weather piezometric surface. The final sump appears to be spacious enough to warrant diving at some future time, although winding through the silt covered walls of the phreatic maze or Wiggly Wascally Wabbit Wawen suggest that diving during a dry period would be most productive.

BIOLOGY / PALEONTOLOGY: A nest of some sort of small mammal was noted in the upper reaches of the ascending fossil passage. Composed of mosses and grasses, it contained the remains of a tiny skull. Tubular trails wound through the nest. A too tight crack, 10 centimeters by 5 centimeters was drafting nearby, and was a possible year-round dry surface connection for the former inhabitants of the nest. What appeared to be claw marks were noted in moonmilk about 10 meters down the pas-

sage from this nest. Large amounts (for Alaska) of bat guano and numerous invertebrates were noted near the entrance. See Kent Carlson's report for the results of his insect trapping in the cave. The mandible of a small carnivorous mammal was collected from the mud near water level in the terminal sump.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The cave itself should have limited access to preserve the moonmilk deposits found in the ascending fossil passage. Potential for entrapment in rising water is high but since the duck under section is a cogent reminder, properly equipped cavers should be able to safely explore the cave. Diving the "terminal" sump has high potential for clarifying the hydrology and morphology of the cave, along with dye traces both above the cave and perhaps from the cave to determine location of resurgences. This cave is part of a unique and still untrammled karst system. As such, it is of special significance. Further study and perhaps formalized protection of this karst area is recommended.



THREE STOOGES CAVE AREA

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #153 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Sept. 30, 1993

INTRODUCTION:

Three caves, all associated with a large resurgence, are located on Maggie Mountain. The host rock is Heceta Limestone. The site was first reported to and investigated in 1991 by Kevin Allred.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The buffer I recommended in June 1991, was inadequate to protect the hydrological, biological and aesthetic values of these caves and did nothing to prevent sedimentation entering the hydrologic system under the new clear-cut. The survey team reports "pits (Larry and Moe) are filling very rapidly; and sedimentation could cause plugging in immediate future".

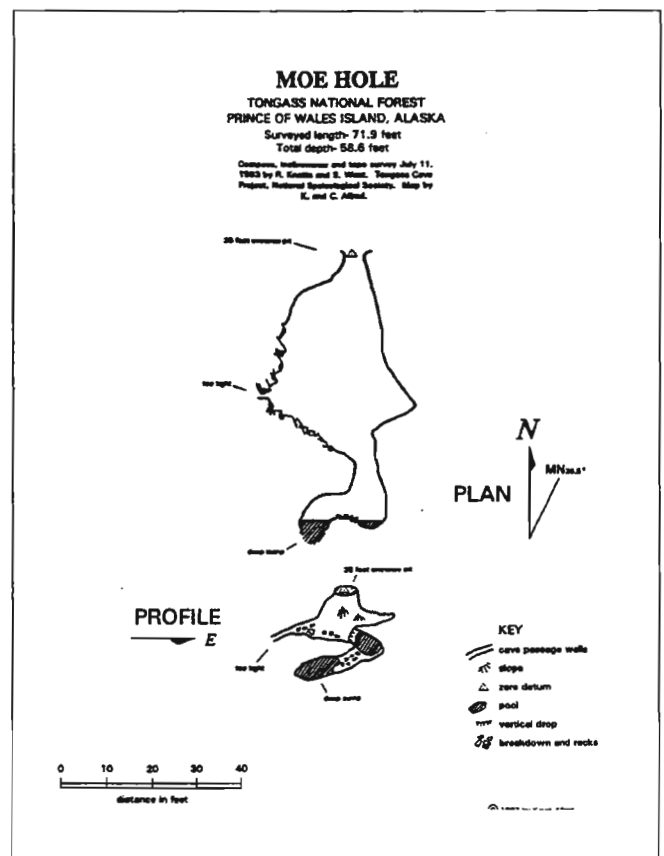
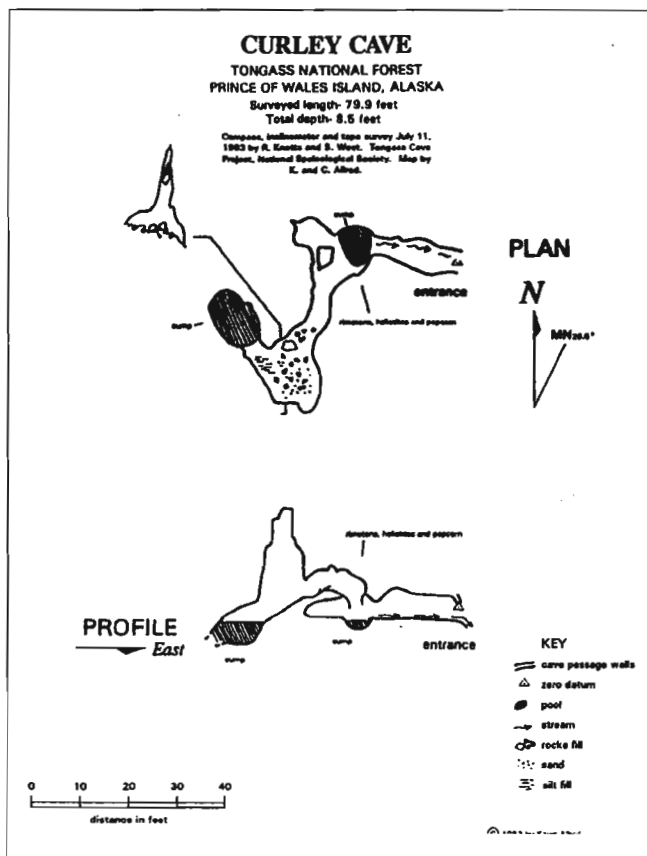
Continued on page 17

MOE HOLE

Moe Hole is a 35 foot deep pit ending in a pool and deep sump. A fissure midway down the pit soon pinches off. The cave is obviously connected hydrologically with Curley and Larry.

CURLEY CAVE

Curley Cave drains a sizable resurgence and is now visible from the new logging road just down-slope. Total passage surveyed is 79.9 feet, and the height of the cave is 8.5 feet. The cave contains two sumps, the furthest back being a possible dive site. Speleothems noted were rimstone, helictites, and popcorn. Flying insects were also seen in the cave.

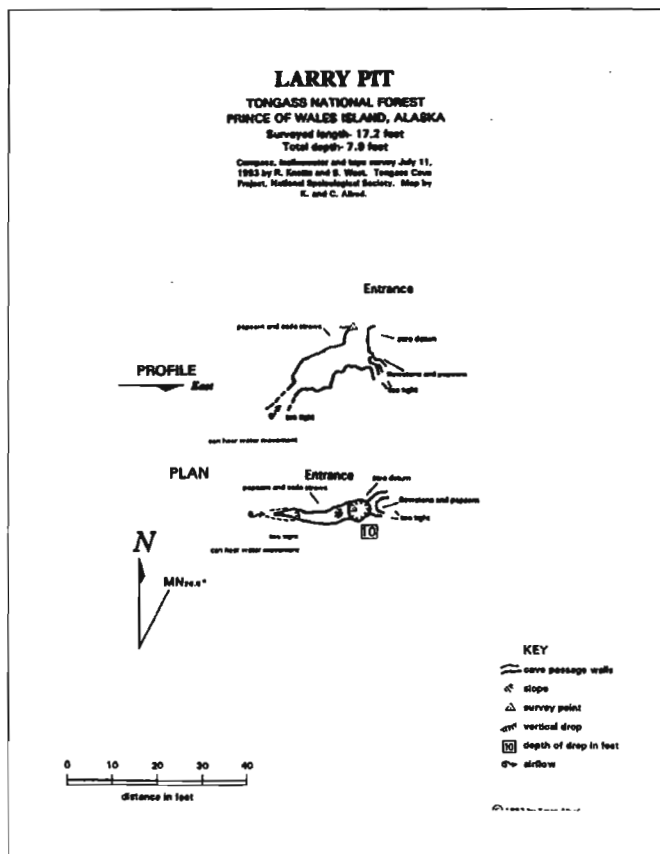


There is only one tree left in the buffer big enough to anchor a rope for the 35-foot drop. Trash such as beer cans and oil jugs are reported to be near the entrances of the caves.

At this point, not much more can be done to "manage" these three caves other than not sharing the locations with the general public so as to protect the unprepared from the potential dangers of the Moe Hole drop and preserve the speleothems.

LARRY PIT

Larry Pit is 10 feet deep. It is located approximately 100 feet southwest of Curley and 50 feet from the nearest passage in Curley. At first glance, this cave appears insignificant, but it is in line with one of the passages in Curley and even though it becomes a too-tight crack, a good draft blows out and thundering water can be heard below. The chances are excellent that extensive upstream cave could be accessible through diving in the sump(s) of Curley or digging a bit in Larry.



NEWSBRIEFS

"For three weeks in October 1994, several Glacier Grotto members continued exploration and survey of awesome Kazumura Cave on the Big Island of Hawaii. Paul Dzwonowski, David Love and I (Kevin Allred) were joined by Greg Bowles, who is currently in school at Honolulu.

"We generally had a great time, and got more than one strange look for acting so silly. Paul took his Dobro Guitar, and David lugged his banjo along, so we were not short on music during our stay. For breaks from caving, we did a few touristy things that included attending a street concert. The Pizza Hut 'all you can eat' was sorry to see us.

"Local participant, Mike Shambaugh, kindly let us use his shower and laundry facilities.

"We managed to survey nine miles of passage, extending Kazumura to 29.3 miles and 2912 feet deep. At the end, our clothes were shredded and so were we. I don't know about the others, but it took a few weeks for me to finally heal completely." K. Allred

Applications for the cave projects are arriving.

Copies of the National Speleological Society Paopose Cave Project applications may be requested from Charlie Wilkerson, 10650 Alliance, Boise, ID 83704. Please call him on (208) 376-5865.

The National Speleological Society Tongass Cave Project, June 30-July 28, has a one-page application that must be filled out and returned by April 1, 1995. Send requests to Steve Lewis, Tongass Cave Project, PO Box 83715, Fairbanks, AK 99708. His phone number is (907) 479-7157.

Alan Murray waxed enthusiastic about the underwater scenic grandeur off Mountain point and other places south of Ketchikan, AK, in The Anchorage Daily News, Sunday, April 3, 1994, p.B2

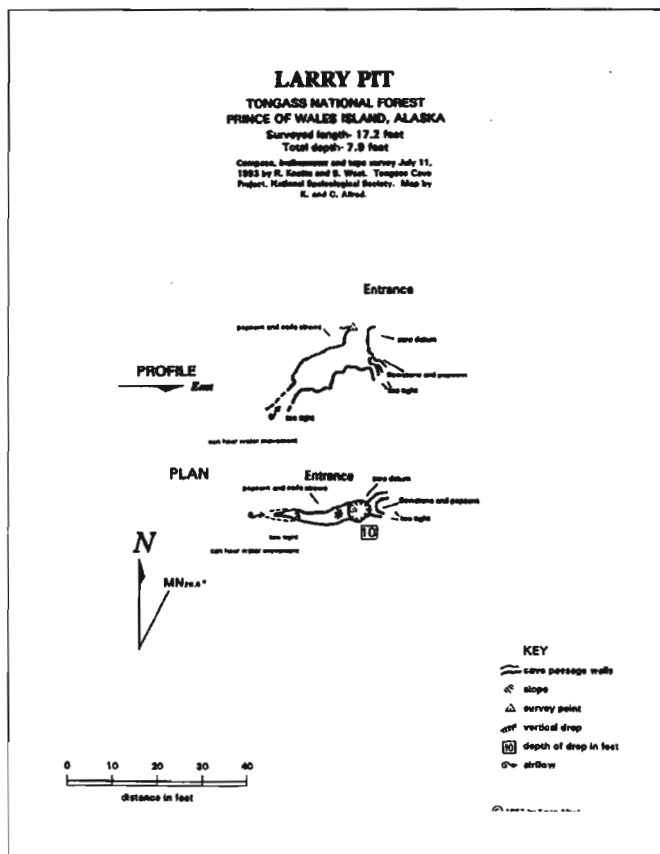
Doranne Lane is Caving Trip Chair for The Chattanooga Grotto according to the April 1994 issue of The Chattanooga Grotto Tagline 6(4):1. She coordinates multi-grotto caving trips as well as leading some of them

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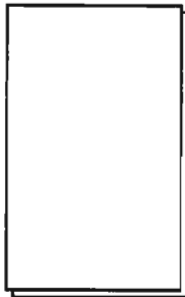
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MISCELLANEOUS

Jim Baichtal is scheduled for a public presentation on the Caves of Southeast Alaska at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at Ballroom No.3, Centennial Hall in Juneau. This is part of the Lecture Series presented by the US Forest Service. For information contact Cindy Garrison at 1-907-586-8806.

Cat Woods, the Forest Service liaison for Glacier Grotto, is recovering from surgery in California. Send getwell cards to:

Cat Woods
in care of Mary Ellen Woods
544 Mt. Holyoke
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272



CAVES

OF

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

Send \$15 plus \$2 for shipping to:

Marcel LaPerriere
P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901

A portion of the proceeds from sale of this 14-minute video is designated for cave conservation. Allow two weeks for delivery. (907) 225-4094

Glacier Grotto

The Dec. 6 teleconference brought together members from Ketchikan, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

President Marcel LaPerriere reported that the video on Alaskan Caves is selling well. More have been ordered and will be available from Marcel at Box 9062, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

One of the primary discussions involved the GG budget. Work is progressing on non-profit status but is still some time off. Advertising in The Caver may be an option as well as trimming the exchange list.

Alan J. Murray has become a Life Member of NSS. Communications with the National Forest Service continue to keep GG concerns in the open.

Jay Rockwell is scheduled to speak to the Sierra Club.

Northwest Caving Association

Chairman David M. Klinger thanked members for significant cave nominations at the NCA meeting Nov. 26.

The 1995 Joint Regional Meeting - NCA and Western Region - will be hosted by Willamette Valley Grotto Oct. 7, 8 and 9 (tentatively) at Lava Beds National Monument in Northern California. Bill Devereaux has details at (503) 363-3831.

Planning is in progress for the Papoose Cave Project and the Tongass Cave Project. To become a member of the PCP group contact D. Klinger at (509) 548-5480 or Pete Smith for TCP at (907) 846-5223.

Nominations are needed for the NSS Board of Governors. Call Ted Keyes at (804) 272-4310.

Jefferson State Grotto has changed its name to Southern Oregon Grotto. Bill Fitzpatrick has details at (503) 779-1201.

The Alaskan Caver

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