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Alaskan Caver

Newsletters and Periodicals

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January 1995

## Alaskan Caver Alaska Caver

Chuck Pease

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The

# Alaskan Caver

Volume 15 Number 1

February 1995



# The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover Photo: Photograph of cave in Southeast Alaska Photo credit: Kevin Allred

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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

**President:** Marcel LaPerriere  
P.O. Box 9062  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
hm: 225-4094 wk: 225-4094

### Vice Presidents:

**Northern:** Michael Mauser  
1466 Carr Avenue  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
hm: 456-6953 wk: 452-1414

**Southcentral:** Wm. Harvey Bowers  
305 S. Bartlett Circle  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
hm: 376-2294 wk: 376-2294

**Southeast:** Gary Sonnenberg  
1377 Pond Reef Road  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
hm: 247-1559 wk: 228-6323

**Secretary/treasurer:** Alan Murray  
312 Mission St.  
Ketchikan, AK 9999901  
hm: 225-7453 wk:225-2500

**Education:** Ward Serrill  
PO Box 9318  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
hm: 247-9663 wk: .....

**Conservation:** Steve Lewis  
P.O. Box 83715  
Fairbanks, AK 99708  
hm: 479-7257 wk: 479-7257

**Cave Rescue:** Marcel LaPerriere  
P.O. Box 9062  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
hm: 225-4094 wk: 225-4094

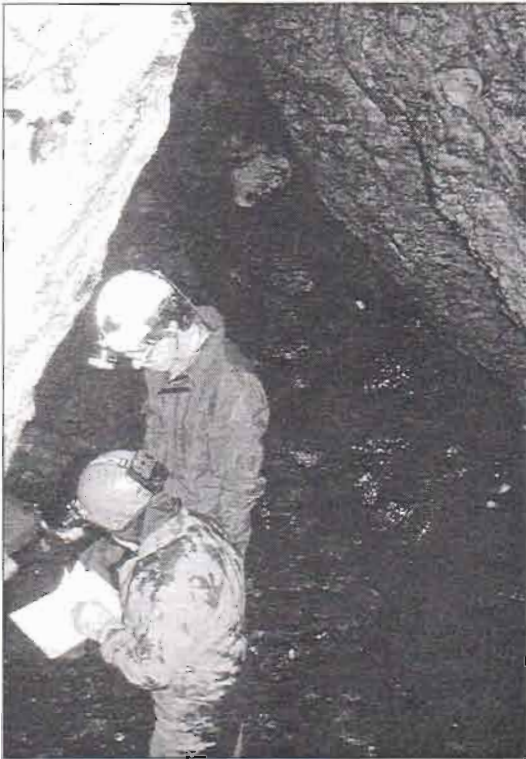
**NCA Representative:** Dave Klinger  
P.O. Box 537  
Leavenworth, WA 98826  
hm:509/548-5480 wk:509/548-5480

**The Alaskan Caver:** Dalene T. Perrigo  
1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
hm: 344-3290 wk: 522-1096

**Tongass Cave Project Director:**  
Pete Smith  
PO Box WWP  
Ketchikan, AK 99950-0280  
hm: 846-5223 wk: 846-5223

**Tongass Cave Project:**  
Kevin Allred  
P.O. Box 376  
Haines, AK 99827

Alaska prefix is 907



*Connie La Perriere and R.R. Knotts compare notes while caving/mapping at POWIE during the summer of 1994.*

## CALENDAR

- 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.
- September 11-15, 1995** 55th Anniversary of the Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba in Havana Telephone 22-50-25 Fax: (537)33-2985
- 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

## LET'S IMPROVE OUR SKETCHING

by Carlene Allred

Let me introduce myself. I am one of the Tongass Cave Project cartographers. Together my husband Kevin and I interpret the Tongass Cave Project field notes and create maps from them. In doing this we constantly become aware of our sketching problems and "get on" each other when our notes are bad. You other sketchers also need critique sessions since your notes have problems too. This article is intended to serve as that "critique".

Kevin and I are trying to keep you from making the same mistakes that we have made in over 20 years of cave mapping. Many of the first caves we surveyed are now being redone by cavers who are doing a much more thorough job. In our efforts to save the Tongass karstlands, you cavers don't have 20 years to learn.

Through inventory, we are trying to prove that there are extensive significant caves in our areas. Currently, the only way to prove this is to map them and document them professionally. There are no shortcuts in this process. If you take shortcuts the cave surveys will be inaccurate and incomplete. That means the caves will be short, with a dearth of scientific discoveries. We will run short on documented leads to guide us onward. The Forest Service will, unknowingly, be short on karst significance data. Very

important are accuracy, detail and redundancy.

For example, we know of three fairly short caves that were mapped in a hurry. Years later they were systematically remapped, an effort which resulted in one continuous cave with miles of virgin passage added.

I would like to quote George Dasher from the book *On Station*, (p.iii) published by the NSS (I highly recommend this book on cave surveying). "[In mapping a cave] we learn the entire cave, taking ample time to see and appreciate the cave as never before, possibly discovering the bones and artifacts of bygone ages. We have an inventory of exploration. We notice subtle geological and biological factors that hint where new passage can be found. We begin to view caves as wonderfully complex, multifaceted systems, not just passages to be quickly raced through and explored."

Only those of you project members who make the fin-

*Continued on page 2*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcel LaPerriere

As of the end of February I will no longer have a work phone number, so my only contact phone number will be the (907)225-4094 number. I am considering not having a phone conference call in March. I will be out of town the whole month of

*Continued on page 2*

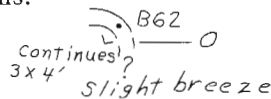
Continued from page 1

ished cave maps from other people's field notes know just what a challenge it can be, particularly for our twisty 3-D Tongass caves! If notes are unreadable or incomplete they are void. We cannot use them, and the map they go onto will show the area as unmapped. You have wasted not only your time in the cave, but also your teammates' time. Here are some areas where most of us can improve:

The "Thank God it ends syndrome" occurs when survey team members are cold, wet and tired and have been in a long tight passage for a long time. In a typical case the point person looks ahead and sees a deceptive-looking bend in the passage. "Finally it's ended!" he says jubilantly. The sketcher, who is blocked behind the compass person says, "What does it look like?" The point person says "It just ends". The sketcher then draws this in the book:

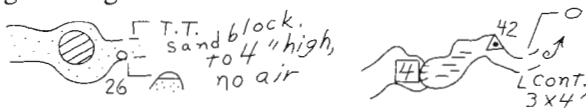


She should have drawn this:

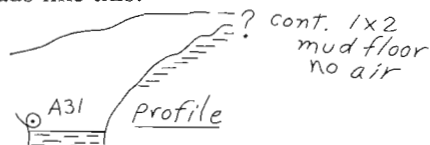


Various times our cavers have gone back to passages that supposedly "ended" and have found them wide open. The worse example I am aware of are two 9-foot high walking passages side by side in Carcass Cave where none were said to exist!

We need to describe the passage endings more clearly. What are the dimensions? What is too tight for a fat person may be easy for someone skinny. Is there air movement? From which direction, and how strong? Does it oscillate? The amount of passage beyond can often be deduced from this info. Could one get through by digging? Through what? Here is a proper sketch of two passage endings:



It is the surveyors' job to catch survey blunders. Sketch at the specified scale, both plan and profile views. All passages need profiles, even those not surveyed, such as sketched side leads like this:



We should consider surveying side passages if they are 20 feet or longer.

Data for a specific area should be together. That is, when your book is open, recorded information should be on the left facing page and sketches should begin on

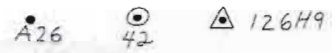
the right facing page and spill onto the left facing (data) page. Profiles (and plan views too) shouldn't be on some other page, but there with everything else. Label profiles as such so the cartographers don't get confused. Put a page number and a north arrow on each page.

Streams have beginnings and ends. (~~~~~>)

Always show where a stream disappears or sinks. Show where it comes from in both plan and profile. Is it a trickle or a torrent? High water or drought conditions?

You may want to use the slash method in recording your left, right, ceiling and floor dimensions. The figure 4/8 means four feet to the nearer wall below, and eight feet to final furthest wall.

Don't forget to label each station. Here are some examples:



If labels are long then they can be abbreviated to "M" instead of "R221M". However, on each page there should be a complete designation in case the pages should get mixed up.

All cross sections should portray structure detail in two dimensions. A sketcher, who does not understand this, will make a drawing like this:



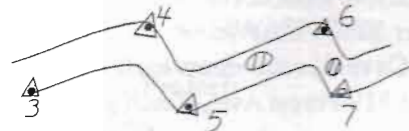
This cross section could mean this: or this: or this:



The above cross sections tell three entirely different stories. We need to know which. All three could be wrong. Don't forget to indicate water depth and floor type for pools on profiles and cross sects. Also, try to make your cross sections the same height and width as the drawn passages.

Some sketchers forget to do cross sections altogether. A map is lacking if there aren't cross sections, or if they are unevenly spaced. Draw lots of them, especially where passages are confusing or unusual.

Another problem is faceting. This passage was drawn faceted:



It should have been sketched like this:



Some forget to indicate, for **every** survey shot, whether the azimuth (az) or inclination (incl.) number is a backshot (BS) or a foreshot (FS). For example, a BS will be written next to an az., but not by its incl. in the next column, when a BS should be indicated. Later on, the data-plot person will assume the azimuth is a BS and its incl. a FS, resulting in plot error. A large amount of drafting work may be wasted before such blunders are discovered.

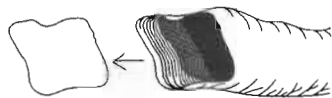
Even worse is when the profile view is missing, or so unclear that the situation is unresolvable. Sometimes a sketcher will erroneously label the first line only as a backshot, assuming that the data-plot person will automatically know that the rest of the page is also all backshots.

Some sketchers are having difficulty portraying three dimensional cave onto a two dimensional paper. Study some finished cave maps for techniques. A vertical drop or wall ledge simply looks like this.



Not like this:

A cross section is simply the outline of the cut as if the passage were sliced in two, like this:



Double check relayed survey measurements by calling out readings and getting a confirmation.

Don't forget to record what rigging is needed, such as "30-foot handline needed", or "140-foot rope needed, need bolt".

Also, a reminder, that we need to carefully portray an inclined cross section with a true projected plan view.

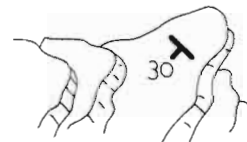
A person who does not understand this concept will erroneously draw the plan view like this:



when it should have been done like this:



Lastly, we have been forgetting to measure strikes and dips on our surveys. At least one per cave would be nice, more if the bedding changes. If there is no bedding at all, note this also. Read how to do it in any geology book. Here is an example.



Thanks for taking the time to read this. I urge all of you sketchers to survey a cave and draw up the map yourselves. This will provide you with your own personal self critique.

Good sketching!



## EXCHANGES

As the list of closed and restricted caves grows, the times of free and easy access to many classic caves is gone.

The following quotes are taken from the article titled "Obituary: Classic Caves of TAG" in the Georgia Underground Vol 31 No. 2,:

"Though there are situations beyond our control which result in cave closure (such as land acquisition and/or leasing by hunting clubs), many cavers attribute the trend toward cave closures to easy availability of information about caves and caving, to cave rescues, to increased media attention and to the antics of non-cavers. However,

the biggest contributing factors to getting caves closed are over-visitation and lack of consideration for landowners. What we need is a change in attitude. ...."

Some of the quotes in the story by Shirley Sotona:

"A caver ran over my dog!"

"A group of cavers came up here asking to do my cave and they were stinking of alcohol."

"They left my gate open and I spent half the night chasing down my horses. This is the third time cavers have done that!"

"Cavers tore boards off my barn for firewood!"

"Cavers poisoned my wife's chickens."



Continued from page 1

March and by eliminating one of our quarterly calls we can save some desperately needed money for the Grotto.

The video Caves of Southeast Alaska Caves is still available. Until elections are over I will be the contact for the video, so people can send me a check made out to the Glacier Grotto for \$15 plus \$2 for shipping. The address is Box 9062, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

Announcements of Tongass Cave Project in Alaska and Papoose Cave Project in Idaho have arrived. Applications are available for TCP from Steve Lewis, PO Box 83715, Fairbanks, AK 99708, phone (907)479-7157. For the PCP contact Charlie Wilkerson, 10650 Alliance, Boise, ID 83704, phone (208)376-5865.

Below are letters of interest to the membership:

\_\_\_\_\_  
January 30, 1995

Dear Mr. La Perriere:

Thank you for the complimentary copy of the video. I look forward to sitting down and viewing it in the near future. I find caves to be very interesting and believe I will learn a lot from the video.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,  
Tony Knowles  
Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
October 3, 1994

Dear Anne,

This letter is to let you know three members of the Glacier Grotto, Alan Murray, Amy Russell and John Rowan, have found another cave within your Ranger District. This cave is to be named Wishbone Cave.

It is my understanding that this cave has many nice decorations, some possibly rare and unique. There is evidence that a bear cub has recently visited the cave.

Members of the Grotto plan on surveying this cave within the next few months. When the surveying is completed we will share this information with your office.

Sincerely, Marcel LaPerriere

Dear Marcel,

January 26, 1995

I was delighted to receive your video featuring the Caves of Southeast Alaska. You, and the members of the Glacier Grotto are to be congratulated for your excellent work to understand and conserve this truly unique treasure.

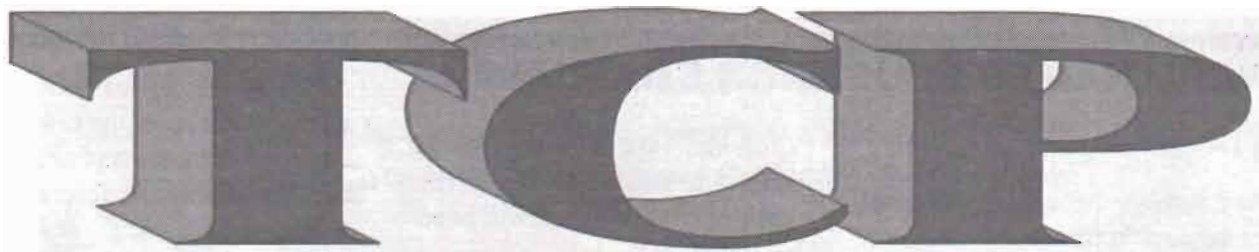
In my capacity as NSS President, I have the delightful pleasure of seeing the breadth and depth of the efforts of so many NSS members and grottos as they engage in various conservation projects. In your area and in some many areas of the United States, NSS cavers are actively working in the field and with government agencies to preserve, protect and restore the caves and karst lands we love so much. The efforts of the Glacier Grotto are especially noteworthy, and I applaud you.

Enclosed is a small donation to help defray the cost of your video efforts. I would suggest two things with respect to the video. First, you may wish to donate a copy (or two) to the NSS Audio Visual Library for circulation [contact Paul Stevens at 5964 Seabright, Springfield, VA 22152-1738 for details]. Second, a small note in the NSS NEWS announcing the availability of the video may promote some fund raising.

Now, to the question of your letter. There are several ways the NSS can help. First, we can agree to be a sponsoring organization. That will not provide any NSS money but it will help if you elect to seek outside grant funds. Naming the NSS as sponsoring organization is something I can grant. All I need is a description of the project so I can inform the Board of Governors. This will permit you to approach grant funders with a national organization as a supporter. Second, you may apply for an NSS Conservation grant. Check page 10 of your Members Manual for a description of what is available in that area. Page 37 tells who to contact (I would suggest that you send a copy to Al Krause and Dr. Fred Wefer (EVP) just to keep them in the loop). If you are close at that point and still are having trouble with money, you can approach the BOG and have a member (me for instance) place a motion on the agenda for a special donation from "The Save-The-Caves" fund. I would suggest that you hold that option until all other ends have been explored.

Please keep me informed on your progress and please extend my appreciation for your grotto's wonderful efforts.

Dave Luckins, President  
National Speleological Society



## TONGASS CAVE PROJECT

A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by Steve Lewis

The Tongass Cave Project's annual summer caving expedition offers adventure Alaskan style. For one month -June 30 to July 28- cavers will explore, map, climb, bushwhack, camp out and pioneer while trying to find caves and formulate information on karst areas in Southeast Alaska. Interested cavers must return the enclosed application by April 1, 1995.

Once again this expedition will be a cost-share arrangement with the Ketchikan Area of the US Forest Service.

The first week to two weeks will be spent mapping caves located within or adjacent to proposed timber harvest areas in the Craig District. The next week to two weeks is scheduled for Heceta Island. Several exciting leads seem likely to keep all the cavers busy. We will probably boat out to Heceta, set up a camp site, and rely on our feet for most transportation thereafter.

The final week will be spent on Dall Island. In addition to two caves with major leads, there is an immense karst plateau and steep slopes awaiting an inventory. We will use a skiff to access some of the cave areas but walking will be the primary mode of transportation.

For about a week afterwards, cavers who participated in at least half the expedition, can join a small El Cap alpine expedition to push Blowing in the Wind Cave.

For this year's expedition, cavers will spend no more than a day practicing vertical and mapping skills, with emphasis on the latter. Thus, if you aren't up to snuff on your vertical skills, (everyone should be comfortable doing relatively tight drops of 200 feet in cold and wet conditions) and won't be by June 30, please don't apply for this year's expedition. The area is far more isolated than the El Cap base camp and accidents will be very difficult to accommodate.

Everyone accepted for the expedition will be sent a set of cave notes to draft into some semblance of a cave map. We'll discuss these the first day and no excuses will be accepted about why it has not been completed before arriving. Everyone should have thought about this and have the maps ready for the first day's work session.

There will probably be much less helicopter support for the expedition than in previous years. Thus, you can expect to do some serious bushwhacking with packs full of rope and vertical gear. So, please be in shape and ready to smile through the raindrops as we slog up game trails.

The expedition will be set up more or less along the lines of last year's Dall Island expedition. We'll be living out of boonie barns or mountaineering tents throughout the month. If you can bring your own tent, it will provide you with more privacy and comfort. Showers will probably be in stove heated water (the 2-gallon-is-it type) and infrequent.

Clothing for cold and wet conditions is essential for all participants. Drying can be difficult to impossible for days at a time, so clothing should be warm when wet, and easy to dry when the opportunity arrives. Rain gear and boots should be tough enough to take the abuse of caves and bushwhacking on a daily basis. Other required gear includes waterproof coveralls, two additional layers of insulating clothing such as pile and polypropylene, a balaclava or other hat for under the helmet (3-point suspension), high quality vertical gear, caving boots (such as Xtra-tuff rubber boots), a cave pack, water container, synthetic sleeping bag, personal effects and multiple light sources.

Food will be provided but there will be no canned or bottled drinks and little or no meat, depending on which part of the expedition you attend. Meals will be a group affair, with all cavers eating the same meal for breakfast and dinner.

Batteries and carbide will be supplied by the Forest Service and TCP again, but cavers should have a primary light source that uses D-cells or carbide so we can reduce battery consumption this year.

Persons interested in caving at Blowing in the Wind Cave should make this known on the application. Logistics are incomplete, but helicopter support may be available for transporting gear and people up the mountain.

I am looking forward to a great month of caving this summer.

Happy Caving, Steve Lewis (907)479-7257



## WARD NAMED EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

by Dalene Perrigo

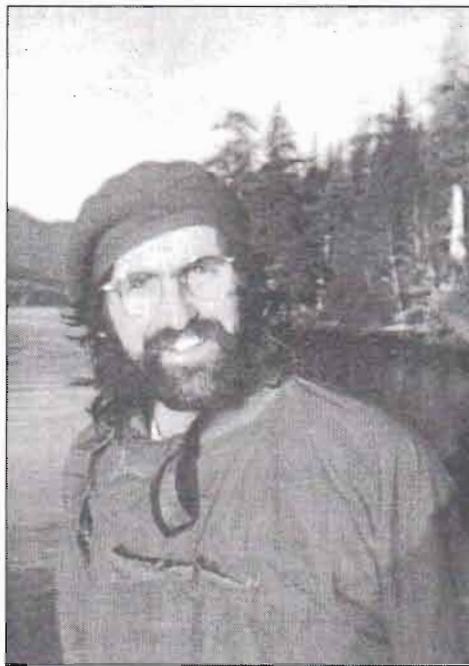
Ward Serrill is the most recent presidential appointment.

President Marcel LaPerriere named Serrill to the post of Education Chairperson for the Glacier Grotto with responsibilities to begin immediately. LaPerriere says the mission of the Grotto is to provide education for the general public in order to insure the preservation of caves and karst. Serrill now leads that endeavor.

Serrill recently produced a video on Southeast caves and is currently working on a large-screen multi-image slide production of the karst and caves for use in a public education program. Other responsibilities of this position include scheduling the slide show (sponsored by the University of Alaska Southeast, the US Forest Service and Glacier Grotto) and some fund-raising.

"The purpose of the show is not to promote the caves but to educate the public on the importance of the

caves and how to take care of them," Serrill says. By taking this message to the public, it will hope-



fully lessen the impact on the caves by satisfying public curiosity as to the beauty, danger, difficulty and cold of caving in the caves of Southeast Alaska.

"My goal is to develop the mystery and beauty of the caves by using original music, sights and natural sounds from underground and voices of the cavers", says Serrill. Caving at Tongass Cave Project this summer will provide an opportunity to interview cavers as they explore, map and measure. All of this will merge into a slideprogram with final sound track by composer John Luther Adams and his sound engineer at Fairbanks.

"By keeping the production to national standards, it could be shown in other parts of the country," Serrill adds.

Although a resident of Ketchikan for the past 13 years, Serrill is a newcomer to caving.

"I've done climbing, camping out, wilderness outings and kayaking but last summer was my initiation into caving," he says.

He welcomes ideas for fund-raising and suggestions for educational projects. He can be reached at (907)247-9663.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

La Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba tiene el gusto de informarle que, con motivo de celebrarse el 55 Aniversario de su fundacion tendra lugar el Ier Encuentro Iberoamericano de Espeleologia y el Congreso 55 Aniversario de la Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba que se realizara en la Villa Turistica "El Abra" perteneciente a CUBAMAR, situada en el litoral norte de la provincia de la Habana, Cuba, del 11 al 15 de Septiembre de 1995.

The 55th anniversary of the Speleological Society of Cuba will be celebrated Sept. 11-15, 1995, at the El Abra in Havana, Cuba. Abstracts of no more than 250 words- written in Spanish or English - are due June 15, 1995. Papers may be in the areas of General Speleology, Geology and Geomorphology of the karst, Biospeleology, Media coverage and Tourism, Hydrology of the karst, Ethnology, and Dangerous Speleology and Techniques of Exploration.

Pre and Post Congress excursions include • Gran Caverna de Santo Tomas • Sistema Cavernario Majaguas-Cantera • Buceo al Sistema Espeleolacustre de Zapata • Cuevas con Arte Rupestre • Cuevas y zonas carsicas de la provincia de Matanzas.

Registration is \$80 US for delegates and \$45 US for students.

All correspondence should be directed to  
Dr. Antonio Nunez Jimenez  
Presidente Sociedad Espeleologica de Cuba  
Presidente del Cosite Organizado  
Ave. 9na No. 8402 esq 84  
Playa, Ciudad de la Habana,  
CP 11300 CUBA  
Telephone 22-50-25 FAX: (537)33-2985  
CUBAMAR FAX: (537)33-3111

# BLACKSTONE CAVE

## Dall Island, AK • Preliminary Report #197 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis  
October 27, 1994

**DESCRIPTION:** Blackstone Cave is located in an area of very highly developed karst that, according to the geological map (Gehrels, 1991), should not be carbonate.

The cave was located aurally. The entrance is rather small and obscure but a stream emerges through breakdown in the floor just inside the cave and is quite audible from outside.

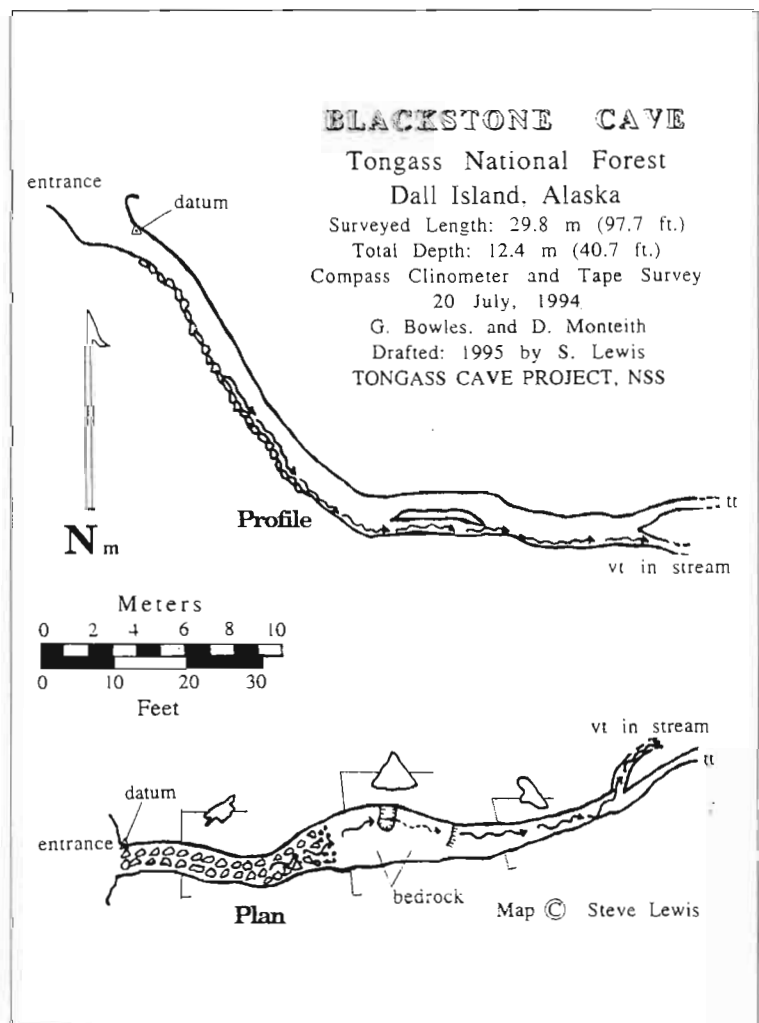
The cave is rather sporting. The initial passage is rather steep and low. A stream emerges up through the rubble floor which increases the decibel level and sportiness of the passage. The passage levels out and the stream follows a very tight lower level, reemerging in a few meters. Cavers prefer the upper level which is graced by several small soda straws. However, the stream drops into a very tight passage less than 5 meters and one comes later. During a period of dry weather this stream passage might be pushed by a very small and slightly daft caver. The other upper lead becomes too tight in short order. The cave requires no rigging and is very clean. The few small soda straws were the only speleothems noted. The cave is named after the very dark limestone in which it has developed. Surveyed passage totalled 27.2 meters (89 feet), with a total depth of 10.4 meters (34 feet).

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Blackstone Cave itself requires no special management. The cave is relatively immune to damage from cavers, and offers a safe short caving experience.

The karst of Waterfall Bay is highly developed and extends beyond the areas delineated on the Gehrels 1991 Geologic Map of Long

Island and Southern and Central Dall Island, Southeastern Alaska. Its unaltered state lends it an increased significance, especially since it extends from the alpine right down to sea level. The entire area needs extensive exploration to determine the true extent of the karst (the geological map appears to be trustworthy only at exposed coastal sites) and to locate, map, and inventory the caves.

Most karsted areas appear to range from high to very high vulnerability classifications per the 1994 Draft Karst and Cave Resource Management Forest-Wide Direction and Standards and Guidelines.



# BLOWING IN THE WIND CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #171, Addendum to reports #11, 76, 80  
Tongass Cave Project •NSS

by Kevin Allred  
November 16, 1994

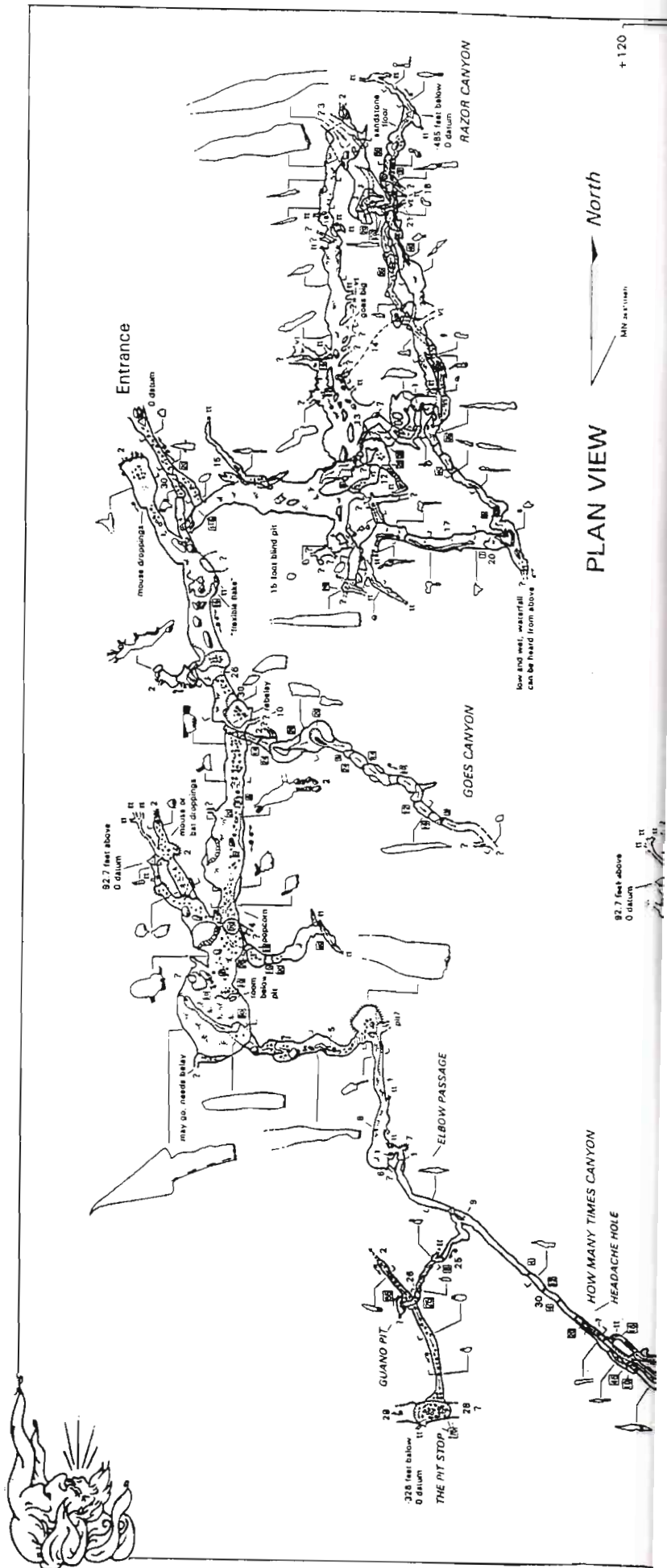
**CONTINUED EXPLORATION:** On July 21, 23, 24, 1994, survey teams continued exploration was in the How Many Times Canyon area of Blowing in the Wind Cave. In a spot where the canyon is bisected by some pits, penetration stopped at too tight or dead ends except a going passage which does continue above a 25-foot waterfall. Access would require climbing gear and skills. One drop in this area was named Headache Hole.

The continuation of How Many Times Canyon ends in a network of passages which become too tight or choked with breakdown. A side passage near Elbow Passage was pushed and after a few hundred feet including a short spur, until a 75-foot shaft (Pit Stop) is encountered. The bottom of this shaft becomes too tight to continue, but at the top, a huge canyon extends both directions with what appears to be at least one additional shaft adjacent to the Pit Stop. Bolts will be required to bypass the Pit Stop in either direction.

Total surveyed passage for Blowing in the Wind Cave is now 5663.3 feet, and the depth is 577.6 feet. Total surveyed in 1994 was 1046 feet.

**BIOLOGY:** Fresh bat guano was found off How Many Times Canyon.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Recommendations remain the same, with the suggestion that further exploration take place to better understand the nature and speleogenesis of this cave and the alpine karst development on El Capital Peak.





# THINNER'S REVENGE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #194  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred  
November 17, 1994

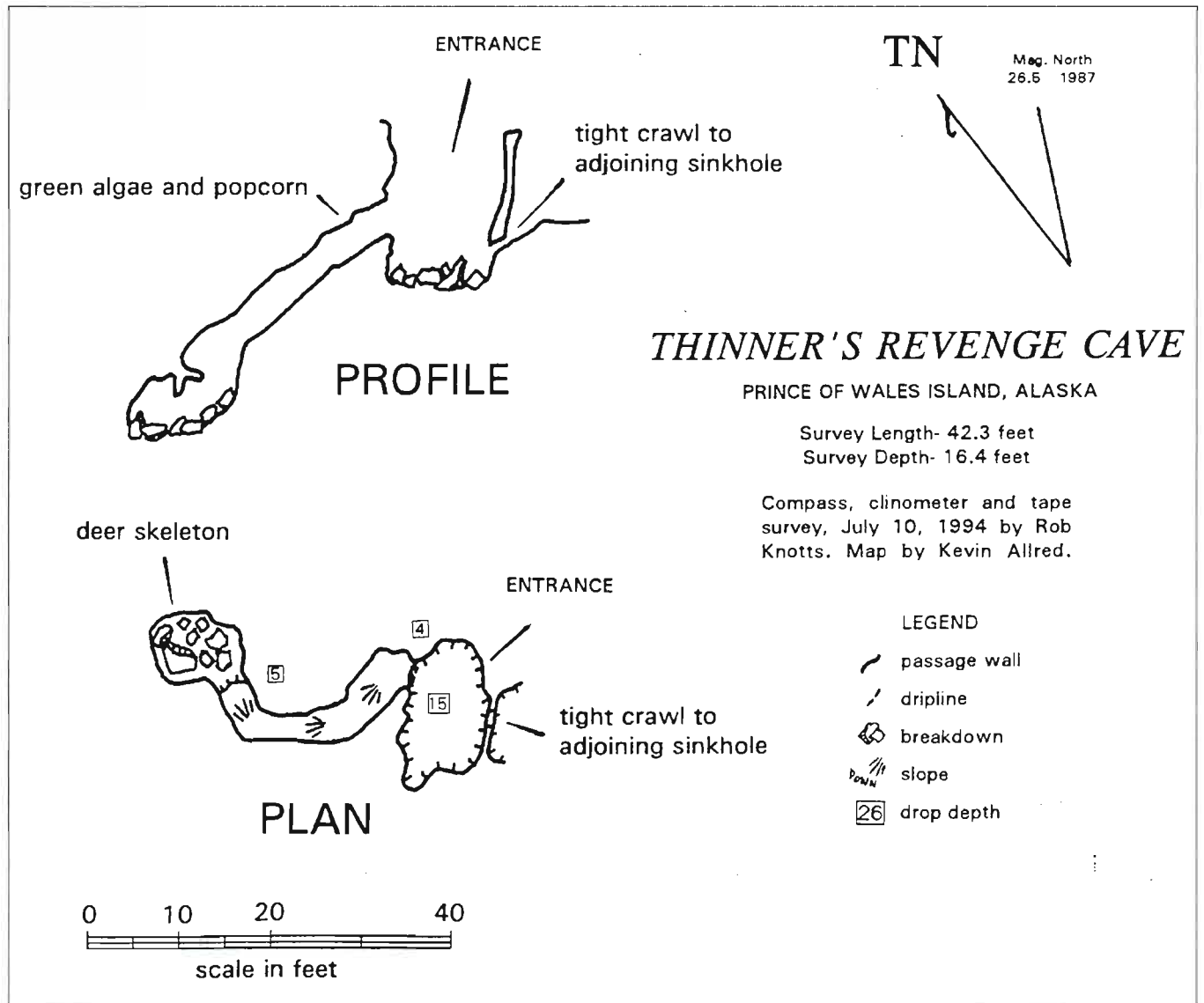
**DESCRIPTION:** Thinner's Revenge Cave was discovered by Mike McFadin. The entrance is situated in a 15-foot deep sinkhole with a tight crawl through a partition to a second adjoining sinkhole. Green algae covers popcorn in the twilight section and the popcorn covered passage ends after 40 feet in a room.

A four point buck deer skeleton lies among breakdown in the bottom. Total surveyed passage is 42.3

feet, with a depth of 16.4 feet.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Apparently, there has been a problem with tree thinning recently as entry is hindered by the accumulation of slash.

Since the area above the cave has already been logged off, there is no need to protect it from those further impacts. . . at least for many years.



# PUMPKIN PIT

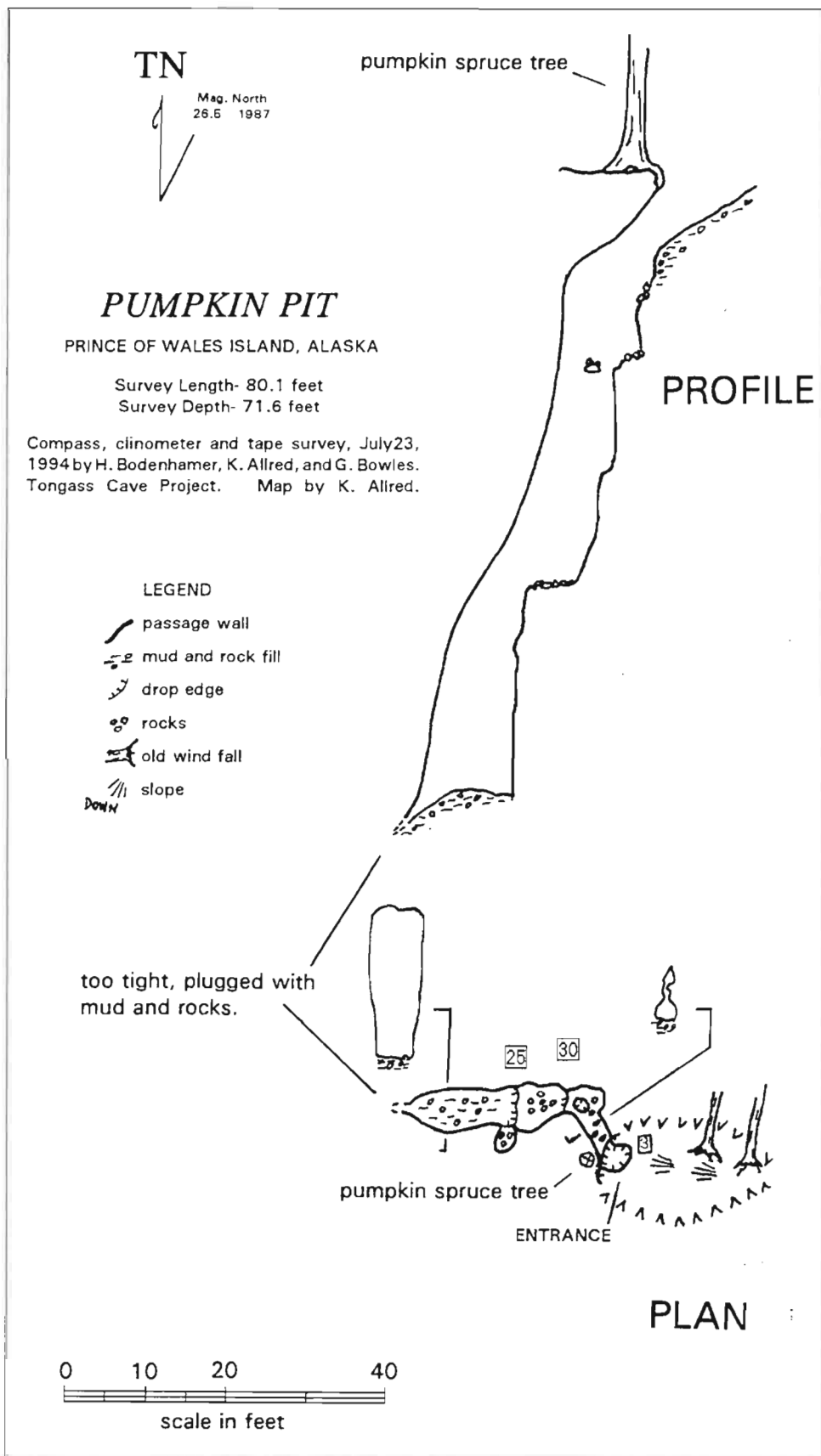
Prince of Wales Island, AK •  
 Preliminary Report #181 •  
 Tongass Cave Project •  
 Nat. Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred  
 November 17, 1994

**DESCRIPTION:** Pumpkin Pit was discovered by Greg Bowles and Kevin Allred and on July 23, 1994, they joined Hans Bodenhamer to survey it. The entrance is at the bottom of an insurgence sinkhole near extensive clear-cut from the early 1970s. Two large windfalls have been uprooted from glacial sediments within the sinkhole, causing increased erosion of these sediments into the cave system. It is unclear if the clear-cutting of forests some distance away triggered the windfalls. Nursery trees two feet or taller are now growing from the root wads, so the blow-down happened some time ago.

A rope of at least 100 feet is needed to rig the pit which drops in staircase fashion some 70 feet. The bottom of this cave is plugged with thick, unsorted and unconsolidated mud and rock debris, obviously recently washed in from the exposed sinkhole slope above.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** This cave is a good one to study as an example of the effects of erosion upon a typical vadose cave. Location should only be shared with those trained and equipped vertically.



# LA CHERIE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #173  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred  
November 15, 1994

## DESCRIPTION:

La Cherie Cave was first reported by Bruce Campbell in about 1990 and it was not until several years later that Tongass Cave Project member Pete Smith investigated it. He later mapped the cave with Val Smith on July 13, 1994.

The cave entrance is located adjacent to a clearcut and logging access road. It was two skylights just inside the entrance and after a low crawl, opens up into a large room 30 by 50 feet. A short passage heads off the northern side of the chamber and on the south side is a potential dig. Some small speleothems decorate the ceiling. Also on the ceiling are many calcite crystals similar to those found in Prop Wash Palace, Macho Peek A Boo Cave, Captain Soup Cave, and Crystal Palace Cave.

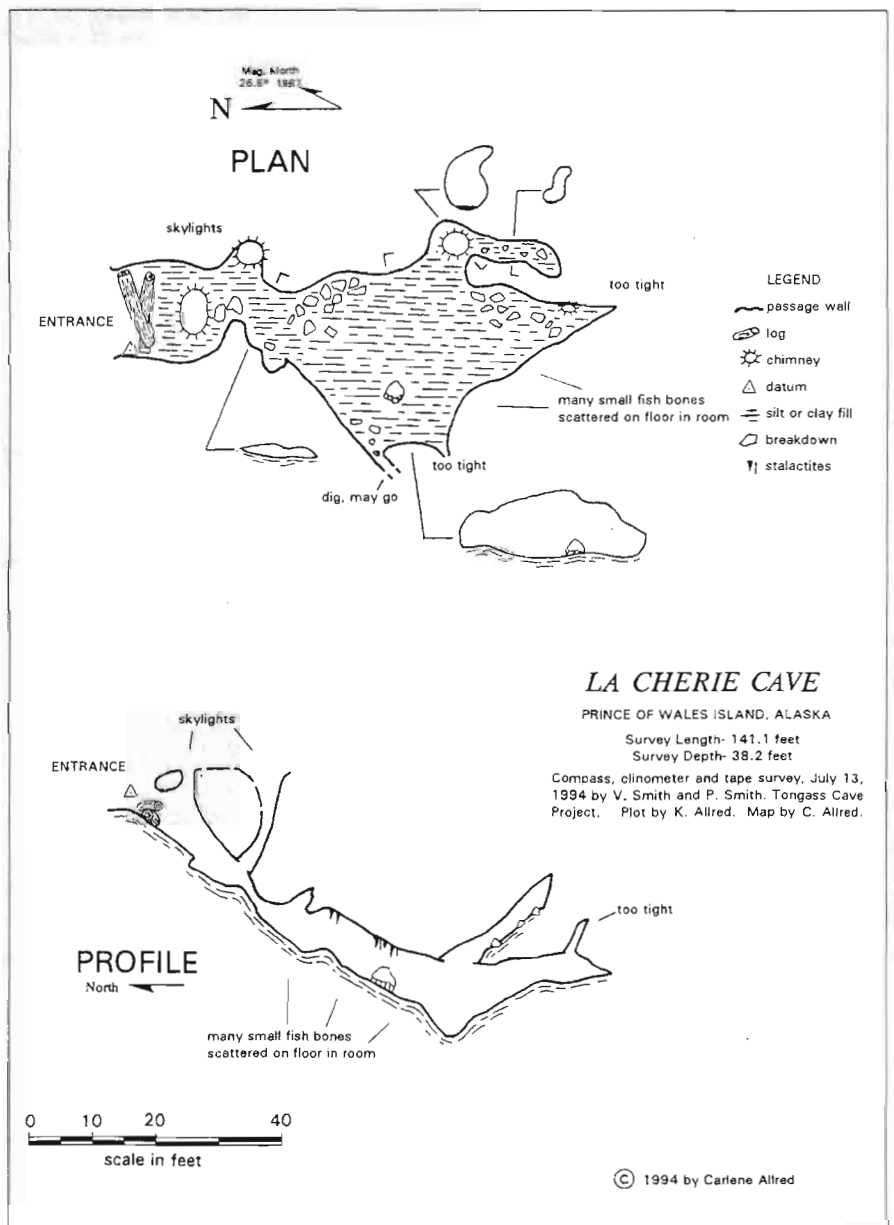
## BIOLOGY:

Scattered around on the silty floor are numerous small fish bones and limpet shells. This indicates that the chamber has been used as an otter den in the past. Amazingly, the cave sits at 600 feet of elevation and over one half mile from salt water.

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

La Cherie Cave should be investigated by a paleontologist because of its bone deposits. No further

nearby logging or road building should occur. The location should be withheld from the general public.



## PULL THE PLUG CAVE

Prince of Wales Island • Preliminary Report #169

Addendum to Report #100

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

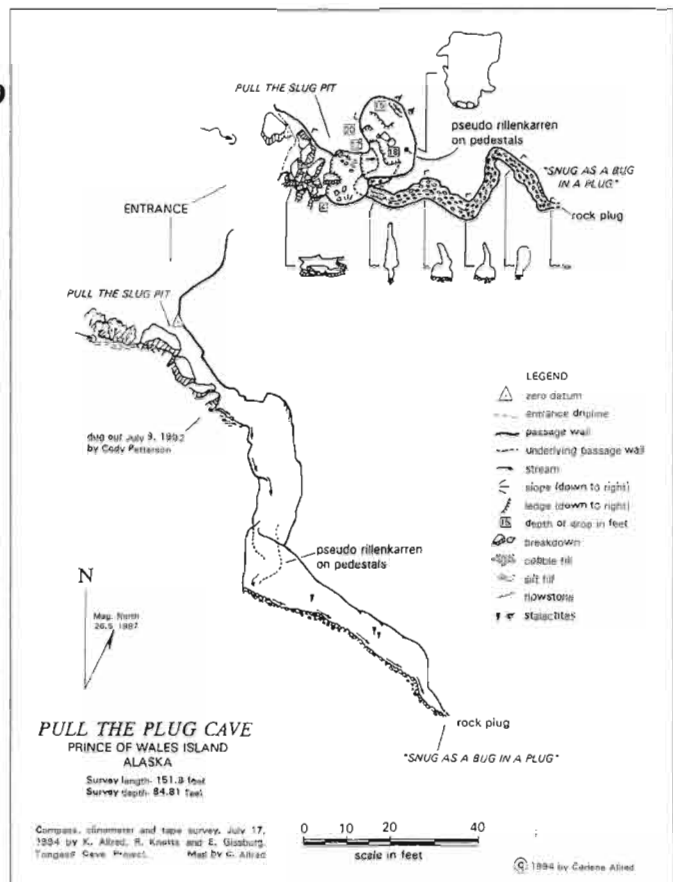
by Kevin Allred

Nov. 15, 1994

**DESCRIPTION:** Pull the Plug Cave contains interesting speleogens in the form of pseudo rillenkarren situated below and to the side of a 20-foot waterfall just below the entrance. In the same gallery (Pull the Slug Pit) are spectacular soda straws and flowstone on a high wall near the ceiling. After the initial waterfall drop, the stream follows a narrow, meandering vadose canyon nearly 100 feet to the cobble plugged end. The stream is swallowed here. A handline is recommended for Pull the Slug Pit. Total surveyed length is 151.9 feet and total depth is 84.8 feet.

**BIOLOGY:** A slug was found just inside the entrance. Other invertebrates probably exist, but were not noticed during the survey.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** These remain the same for Pull the Plug Cave.



## TWO POINT CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #172  
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

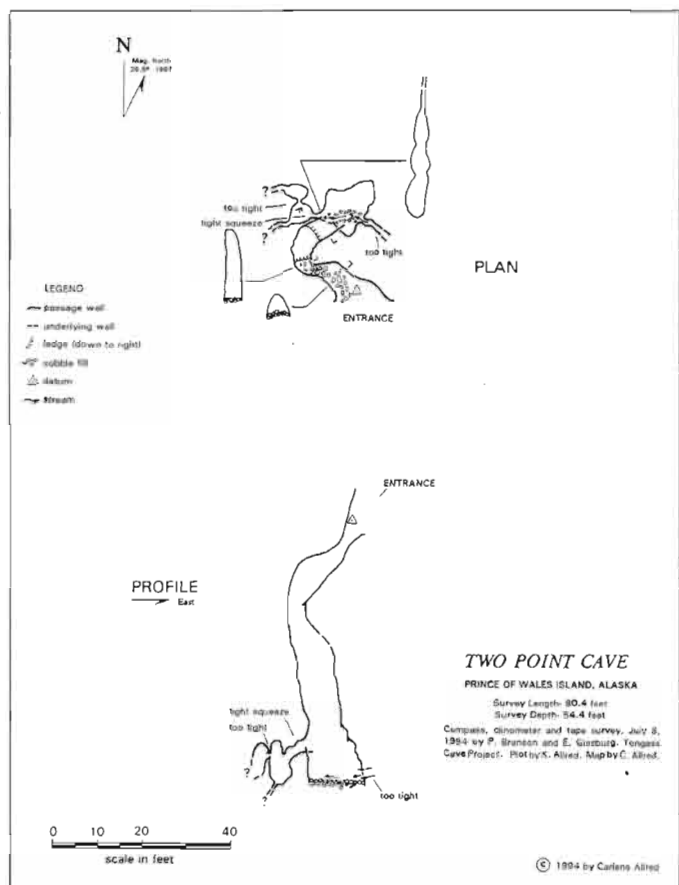
by Kevin Allred

November 15, 1994

**DESCRIPTION:** Developed in Heceta Limestone it drains nearby muskeg, Two Point Cave was discovered by Pete Smith several years ago as he hunted deer. The survey, made by Peter Branson and Eron Gissburg July 8, 1994, shows a total length is 80.4 feet, and the total depth of 54.4 feet. A rope is needed for the drops and near the bottom is a tight squeeze into a small room which soon becomes too tight.

**BIOLOGY:** Biological resources are unknown at this time.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Two Point Cave is significant geologically, hydrologically, and recreationally and should be protected from logging and road building activities.





# DIRECTORY OF GLACIER GROTTO MEMBERSHIP

as of December 31, 1994

Please notify the President of any errors in address or telephone numbers and changes when they occur.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Pd</u>	<u>NSS#</u>	<u>Home Tel.</u>	<u>Work Tel</u>
Allred, Carlene B.	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	94	16389FE		
Allred, Ella	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	94			
Allred, Flint	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	94			
Allred, Forest	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	94			
Allred, Kevin	PO Box 376, Haines, AK 99827	94	16730FE		
Allred, Soren	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	94			
Baichtal, Bessie M.	131 Lakeview Dr., Silver Lake WA 98645	95		(206)274-6971	
Baichtal, J.B.	131 Lakeview Dr., Silver Lake, WA 98645	95		(206)274-6971	
Baichtal, James F.	PO Box 1222, Craig AK 99921	94	33277RE	(907)826-CAVE	(907)225-3101
Baker, Robin	PO Box 32523, Juneau AK 99803	94		(907)780-6559	(907)586-4161
Bastasz, Bob	PO Box 2417, Livermore CA 94551-2417	94	13696RE	(510)443-9624	(510)294-2013
Bennett, John J. (Jeff)	19748 Chugach Park Dr, Chugiak AK 99567	94	30847	(907)688-6080	(907)257-2618
Bice, John K.	1231 W Northern Lights, Anchorage AK 99503	94	37131RE	(907)272-6444	
Bowden, George	PO BOX 72458, Fairbanks AK 99707	94			
Bowers, Wm. Harvey	305 S. Bartlett Cir, Wasilla AK 99654	94	12088RE	(907)376-2294	(907)373-2294
Bowles, Greg	1054 Kalo Pl #204-D, Honolulu HI 96826	94	38267RE	(808)956-4491	
Brakel, Judy	PO Box 94, Gustavus AK 99826	94		(907)697-2287	(907)697-2287
Branson, Peter	PO Box 2073, Wrangell AK 99929	94	36514RE	Message =	(907)874-3291
Brewer, Karen	3927 Bryant Ridge Pl #1, Anchorage AK 99504	95		(907)337-7501	(907)562-2992
Bucove, Michael A.	PO Box 8782, Ketchikan AK 99901	95		(907)225-7023	(907)225-5141
Bundtzen, Thomas	PO Box 81505, College Sta. Fairbanks AK 99708	94		(907)455-6269	(907)474-7147
Burger, Raymond A.	PO Box 672349, Chugiak AK 99567	94	30656RE	(907)688-3835	
Carlson, Kent R.	1155 King St, Christiansburg VA 24073	94	30124RE	(703)382-3523	(703)231-4825
Clark, Carl E.	PO Box 2725, Palmer AK 99645	94	11569RE	(907)355-6688	
Clark, Carl R.	PO Box 2725, Palmer AK 99645	94	31004FA	(907)355-6688	
Clark, Mary Rose	PO Box 2725, Palmer, AK 99645	94	14043FR	(907)355-6688	(907)745-4813
Clark, Patrick W.	PO Box 2725, Palmer AK 99645	94	31002FR	(907)355-6688	
Clark, Robert C.	338 Toledo Vader Rd, Toledo WA 98591-9710	94		(206)864-2055	
Clark, Stephen E.	2440 E Tudor, Apt. 121, Anchorage AK 99507	94	10355RE	(907)338-6719	
Conover, Mark D.	10721 Wunderlick Dr, Cupertino CA 95014	94N	17338	(408)996-9433	
Dunaway, Samuel M.	3234 Lake Park Cir, Anchorage AK 99517	94	04837RE	(907)248-4037	(907)762-2149
Eddy, Dave	PO Box 6217, Fort Hood TX 76544-6217	95N	11830RE	(817)699-6451	(817)287-9101
Esterson, Kris	PO Box 75125, Fairbanks AK 99775	94N	32255AS	(907)474-0369	
Ferguson, Dr. Jim	PO Box 20908, Juneau AK 99802	94	15023RE	(907)463-2690	(907)465-5365
Fosse, Earl L.	301 Bawden St. Ketchikan AK 99901-6502	94	33707	(907)225-4480	
Fouts, T.D.	PO Box 5671, Ketchikan AK 99901	94		(907)247-7557	
Fouts, Judy	PO Box 5671, Ketchikan AK 99901	94		(907)247-7557	
Fouts, Tom Jr.	PO Box 5671, Ketchikan AK 99901	94		(907)247-7557	
Fritzke, Mark	565 Upper Creek Rd, Bayside CA 95524	94N	16064RE	(707)822-8566	(707)822-8566
Gianutsos, Rosamond	38-25 52nd St, Sunnyside, NY 11104-1027	94		(718)335-3403	(718)457-7483
Gissberg, Eron	8184 Erin St, Juneau AK 99801	94	38825AS	(907)789-6924	(907)463-4633
Hall, Elisabeth S.	7040 Gibbs Hill Cir, Anchorage AK 99504	94	16557FR	(907)333-2090	
Hall, James Allen	7040 Gibbs Hill Cir, Anchorage AK 99504	94	29632FA	(907)333-2090	
Hall, Matthew Thomas	7040 Gibbs Hill Cir, Anchorage AK 99504	94	22131FA	(907)333-2090	
Hall, Michael Ian	7040 Gibbs Hill Cir, Anchorage AK 99504	94	24151FA	(907)333-2090	
Hall, Richard Allen	7040 Gibbs Hill Cir, Anchorage AK 99504	94	16556RE	(907)333-2090	(907)257-1377
Halliday, Dr. William R.	6530 Cornwall Ct, Nashville TN 37205	94N	812LHCF	(615)352-9204	(703)430-4826
Hallinan, Dr. Thomas J.	1617 Wolverine Ln, Fairbanks AK 99709-6628	94	06329RL	(907)479-6064	(907)474-7454
Hallinan, Nancy C	1617 Wolverine Ln, Fairbanks AK 99709-6628	94	6367FL	(907)479-6064	
Hallinan, Peter	1617 Wolverine Ln, Fairbanks AK 99709-6628	94		(907)479-6064	

Hampton, Don	PO Box 82950, Fairbanks AK 99708	94	27054RE	(907)474-3755	(907)474-7741
Hancock, Jeff	PO Box 1181, Dutch Harbor AK 99692	95	37086RE		(907)581-1200
Hannon, John M.	PO Box 448, Craig AK 99921	94		(907)826-3762	(907)826-3271
Harris, Ashley S.	PO Box 143303, Anchorage AK 99514	94			
Hastings, Mary	PO Box 5893, Ketchikan AK 99901-0893	94	34437RE	(907)225-4264	
Hertert, Mary	3052 North Circle, Anchorage, Ak 99507	94		(907)344-9081	(907)762-9155
Hulbert, Ward	5226 Strawberry, Anchorage AK 99502	94		(907)243-7236	(907)248-0022
Johnston, Eric	PO Box 19107, Thorne Bay AK 99919	94		(907)828-3433	
Kemp, Molly	PO Box 571, Tenakee Springs AK 99841	94	38273FR	(907)736-2234	
King, Cameron	1813 Bannister Rd, Anchorage AK 99508	94		(907)276-0138	
King, Philip T.	1813 Bannister Rd, Anchorage AK 99508	94	29943	(907)276-0138	(907)561-5700
King, Roslynn	1813 Bannister Rd, Anchorage AK 99508	94		(907)276-0138	
Klinger, Col. David M.	PO Box 537, Leavenworth, WA 98826	95	10583RE	(509)548-5480	(509)548-5480
Knotts, Rob	PO Box 527, Craig AK 99921	95	38660RE	(907)826-3551	(907)826-3551
Kowalczyk, Mary	PO Box 9367, Ketchikan AK 99901	94	37166RE	(907)225-0131	(907)247-8574
Lane, Doranne M.	40 Hidden Brook Ln Signal Mt. TN 37377-2063	94N	17389RE	(615)886-6219	
Lane, Kelsey M.	40 Midden Brook Ln Signal Mt. TN 37377-2063	94N	35816FA	(615)886-6219	
Lane, Micha M.	40 Hidden Brook Ln Signal Mt. TN 37377-2063	94N	32392FA	(615)886-6219	
Lane, Wm.C. "Buddy"	40 Hidden Brook Ln Signal Mt. TN 37377-2063	94N	12054LF	(615)886-6219	(615)867-2846
LaPerriere, Connie	PO Box 9062, Ketchikan AK 99901-4062	95	37712FR	(907)225-4094	(907)225-4814
LaPerriere, Marcel	PO Box 9062, Ketchikan AK 99901-4062	95	36057RE	(907)225-4094	(907)225-4814
LaPerriere, Zach	PO Box 9062, Ketchikan AK 99901-4062	95		(907)225-4094	
Lewis, Steve	Box 83715, Fairbanks AK 99708	95	30022RE	(907)479-7257	(907)479-7257
Lord, Victoria A.	PO Box 7342, Ketchikan AK 99901	95			
Love, David	PO Box 210745, Auke Bay AK 99821	94	38145RE		(907)789-6603
Lundberg, Michael F.	PO Box 5663, Ketchikan AK 99901	94		(907)225-0596	(907)228-7312
Magness, Andy	CATE CENTER Box 5126, Norman OK 73026	94			
Magness, Jason	CATE CENTER Box 5126, Norman OK 73026	94			
Maselko, Jerzy	1545 Northview Dr #F7, Anchorage AK 99504	94		(907)338-6044	(907)786-4697
Mauser, Mike	1466 Carr Ave, Fairbanks AK 99709	94	11135RE	(907)456-6953	(907)452-1414
Maves, Shelton	PO Box 117, Craig AK 99921	94	38608RE	(907)826-3052	
Mays, Rachael H.	1813 Bannister Rd, Anchorage AK 99508	94	29942RE	(907)276-0138	(907)564-5220
Micola, Steve	891 Kazarian St Tulare CA 93274	94	33726RE	(209)688-7333	(209)688-7333
Mitchell, John W.	PO Box 1216, Valdez AK 99686	94	33182RE	(( )& )835-2819	
Morrison, Dody	PO Box 5614, Ketchikan, AK 99901	94	35906RE	(907)225-7042	(907)225-7680
Morton, Bruce R., Jr.	HC83 Box206 EagleRivRd.Eagle River AK 99577	94	3202RL	(907)694-9112	(907)694-9112
Moyer, Tom	2047 Amy Dyan Rd, Fairbanks AK 99712	94		(907)488-3444	(907)452-5688
Murray, Alan J.	312 Mission St, Ketchikan, AK 99901	94	37330RE	(907)225-7453	(907)225-2500
Myron, Rachel	202 Observatory St, Sitka AK 99835	94		(907)747-7471	
Olmsted, Nick	PO Box 571, Tenakee Springs AK 99841	94	38272RE	(907)736-2234	
Olson, Dr. Wallace M.	PO Box 210961, Auke Bay AK 99821-0961	94		(907)789-3311	(907)789-4420
Olson, Marie M.	PO Box 210961, Auke Bay AK 99821-0961	94		(907)789-3311	
Oman, Eleanor	PO Box 8402, Ketchikan AK 99901	94	33729	(907)0225-0897	(907)225-3101
Parker, Doreen S.	482 Forest Park Dr, Ketchikan AK 99901	94			
Parrott, John N.	303 S. Juniper Ct, Prineville OR 97754-2328	94		(503)447-3737	
Pease, Maj. C.R.	POBox 10130, Prescott AZ 86304-0730	94N	4847FL	(602)778-3351	
Perrigo, Dalene T.	1921 Congress Ci r #B, Anchorage AK 99507	94	39613RE	(907)344-3290	(907)522-1096
Perrigo, Lyle D.	1921 Congress Ci r #B, Anchorage AK 99507	94	39514FR	(907)344-3290	(907)522-1096
Petterson, Dr. John	2160 Ave de la Playa Ste A, LaJolla, CA 92037	94	36415FR	(619)456-0278	(619)459-0142
Petterson, Cody	2160 Ave de la Playa Ste A, LaJolla, CA 92037	94	36414RE	(619)456-0278	
Petterson, Ryan	2160 Ave de la Playa Ste A, LaJolla, CA 92037	94	36416FA	(619)456-0278	(619)459-0142
Reid, Dr Leroy	1273 Annapolis Dr, Anchorage AK 99508	94		(907)272-5001	
Reid, Dr Sabra	1273 Annapolis Dr, Anchorage, AK 99508	94		(907)272-5001	
Reynolds, Cayman	19630 N Mitkof Lp, Eagle River AK 99577	94		(907)696-1205	
Reynolds, Rhonda L.	19630 N Mitkof Lp, Eagle River AK 99577	94		(907)696-1205	
Reynolds, Tony L.	19630 N Mitkof Lp, Eagle River AK 99577	94		(907)696-1205	(907)271-3273

Continued on page 16

## MISCELLANEOUS

Caver Julius Rockwell presented a collection of slides and a short video on the Prince of Wales caves of Tongass National Forest on Nov. 3, 1994, at the Spenard Recreation Center in Anchorage. Over 200 people attended the presentation titled "Karst Lands and Caves: Underground streams and caverns of Southeast Alaska". In addition to the discoveries, he highlighted exploration and environmental significance of the caves that are located on the northern part of the island. It was also a chance to caution would-be cavers of the dangers associated with caving in this area.

The pre history of Alaska may be rewritten. In an article in The Anchorage Daily News, paleontologist Dr. Timothy Heaton tells of discoveries on Prince of Wales Island that enhance speculation of coastal habitation and a migration route for bears and possibly humans during breaks in the Ice Age. The most recent bones from a Prince of Wales Island Cave come from a 35,000-year-old bear. Other fossils from black and grizzly bears found in the same area, date at 9,000 to 12,000 years ago while marmot teeth are older than radiocarbon dating could determine so are more than 44,500 years old, according to the article.

The last glacial period is believed to have begun 60,000 to 70,000 years ago and to have reached its glacial maximum 17,000 to 20,000 years ago.

## Northwest Caving Association

Meeting minutes. Papoose Cave Project: Formed on Dec. 4, 1994, at Riggins, ID, the project is designed to assist the Salmon River District USFS in exploration, survey, inventory, scientific study, cataloging, monitoring, conservation and related matters to the cave. The Project Chair is Tom Miller at (509)459-0775.

NCA Executive Board Meeting: The meeting will occur during Speleo Camp Mt. Adams May 28-30 in the Peterson Prairie area.

Joint Regional-NCA and Western Region: The Joint Regional meeting is scheduled for Columbus Day weekend Oct. 7-9, 1995, at the Lava Beds National Monument, CA. Willamette Valley Grotto has details.

Tongass Cave Project: Interested cavers should contact Steve Lewis at (907)479-7257.

Election: Anyone interested in serving as an officer, please contact David Klinger, (509)548-5480.

## ***CAVES of SOUTHEAST ALASKA***

A 14-minute video on the caves at Prince of Wales Island is available from

Marcel LaPerriere  
PO Box 9062  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Send \$15 plus \$2 for shipping to the Glacier Grotto in care of Marcel.

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