

August 1994

Alaskan Caver, Volume 14, No. 3, August 1994

Dalene T. Perrigo

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The **Alaskan Caver**

Volume 14 Number 4

August 1994



The Alaskan Caver

published by the
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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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August 1994

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Cover Photo: Pinnacle Karst, with its verticle orientation, as it appears on Dall Island. Photo Credit: Kevin Allred

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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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Jim Baichtal, geologist for the Ketchikan Area of Tongass National Forest, Joins cavers for summer exploration on Prince of Wales Island. Photo: C.Allred

CALENDAR

Nov. 1, 1994 Glacier Grotto tele-conference. Area vice presidents have details.

Nov. 3, 1994 "Southeast Caves and Karstlands" - illustrated talk by J. Rockwell, 7 p.m., Spenard Recreation Center, Anchorage. 276-4048

Nov. 4-11, 1994 7th International Symposium of Vulcanospeleology, LaPalma, Canary Islands, Spain FAX (34-22) 430392

Dall Island Adventure

by R.R. Knotts

The 80-pound pack cut into my shoulders as I struggled down the brush choked slope on Dall Island.

Steve Lewis, Kris Esteron, Dan Montieth and I completed the 1994 edition of the moon probe exploration and between us we carried a thousand feet of muddy, wet rope. Although it was only 1,100 vertical feet back to camp and all that down-hill, with the heavy packs and our worn-out bodies the distance seemed like 1,100 miles.

I didn't join the Dall Island expedition until July 22 when Amy Russell, Kent Carlson and Greg Bowles headed back to civilization. With their departure and my arrival the size of the camp totaled four.

Our primary obstacles were a distinct lack of cavers and accessibility to the caves. With only four people to do the work of 20, we had to choose our options carefully. During the last eight days of the expedition we mapped Moonprobe, Natsikena's Lair and Enigma, all of which had one common feature - a plethora of going leads.

Moonprobe was an obvious choice. Even though it was the farthest from camp

and the most difficult to access, it also had the biggest going lead, or so we thought at the time. The hike was a solid hour, more or less, from camp to the obscure little sinkhole which was the entrance. By the time everyone arrived at the top and geared up, two hours had elapsed. It was another hour before everyone got into the hole.

The first drop was a 45-meter pitch down a narrow fissure. There were actually two possible leads in the first pitch, but we opted to push the lower portion of the cave on this year's trip. At the bottom of the first pitch was a boulder choke which had to be traversed, and then a tight little squeeze on rope and another 30-meter drop. The bottom of the second pitch was mostly gravel and river rock. The walls were smooth and clean. Off in one corner

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcel LaPerriere

Another POWIE (Prince of Wales Island Expedition) has come and gone. My wife Connie and I could only attend two weeks of this year's POWIE, so we got to share only half the fun of those that stayed the month.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

was a contorted little crawl that disappeared beneath a large boulder and marked the opening for the third pitch.

What the third pitch lacked in size, it made up for in character. It started off like an hourglass gone crazy, with a thin fissure extending four or five meters out from the anchor, and then opening into a dihedral which dropped another 12 meters to the base, which was actually the start of yet another drop. We took a side lead from that point, a slimy little crawl we affectionately dubbed Piglets Spinctor. The crawl pinched off shortly and the only other egress was up a tight ramp which opened into a much larger fissure passage.

The fissure sloped downward at a -46 degrees and had the same hourglass qualities as the third pitch. As we inched down the slope soda straws and bacon became visible on the ceiling and beneath our backsides the fissure opened and closed in that same crazy fashion. It was like a passage made for Tiigers, and so we named it accordingly. Made for Tiigers ended at an intersection with another passage, a nicely decorated passage at that.

The team split up at that point, with Steve and Kris going downslope and Dan and myself going up. The up-route ended shortly: We had mapped less than a hundred feet of passage in that direction. There were two possible side leads, although one of them was marginal due to delicate formations

blocking the way. The second one was a fissure like drop that seemed to go and go and go. We named that passage Pooh's Picnic Passage in light of the decorations that filled it. The passages were interesting in the fact that they seemed to be fissures connected by Phreatic tubes.

While Steve and Kris followed their lead down a series of drops, Dan and I proceeded down yet another side lead. This one was a combination phreatic tube/fissure, that twisted and turned in every direction. Squeezes and Woosles which seemed an appropriate name, ended on the brink of what we named Hephallumps Abyss.

At first the abyss seemed infinite, but once we dropped the 11 meters down to its gravel choked floor we discovered that it did in fact have its limits. Still, it was huge. The other side lead we discovered off Pooh's Passage dumped into it, high above our anchors for the eleven meter drop. On our way out we found yet another lead that was choked with boulders, and mapped it the following day.

Our last day of caving took us to Enigma Cave. Steve and Kris brought along tripods and camera gear to initiate photo documentation of some wind erratic formations. Dan and I picked up where an earlier survey in Snow White's Passage left off.

It took us about an hour and a half to finish mapping the passage. That portion of the cave was tall and thin with a mushroom-like bell at the ceiling and hardly enough room to stand on

one foot at the base. At this point a small stream trickled through a series of pools. It apparently ended in a small chamber that changed abruptly from a narrow vertical crack to a thin horizontal space that sloped upward to a boulder choked pinch.

The passage appeared to end at that point but it was moving so much air we knew it had to go. A few judiciously manipulated boulders later, we had enlarged the pinch to expose another passage. And once again we split into two teams.

This time Dan and I took the down slope, and Kris and Steve took the high lead where the airflow seemed the strongest. Almost immediately we stumbled onto a pocket of fishbone infested sand.

As we mapped our passage new side leads popped up at every turn and it was all we could do to restrain ourselves. Major scooping abounded for the taking and our only restraint was time.

Before long Steve and Kris joined us in the lower passage. Their high lead had been moving so much air that both of them were nearly frozen.

The last couple of hours netted over 500 feet of mapped passage with several going leads to be explored during next year's DIE. The remoteness of the camp and the camaraderie of the group brings out the best in caving. Unexplored areas abound, and there are enough going leads in known caves to fill an empty schedule.

Until next year!

President's Corner

POWIE 94 reemphasized what it is about caving that we like the most -The People. Again this year, those who participated in POWIE made everything worth it, even the long days of hiking in the rain through thick brush and Devils Club, crawling into wet muddy holes, and spending a good part of the day shivering. Not that all the above mentioned wouldn't have been fun anyway, but meeting new people and sharing good times with old friends was the frosting on the cake.

One of the interesting things about cavers is that they cover all ages, education levels and vocations, yet with few exceptions every person I have ever met while caving is a true gem of a person.

Take Kevin Allred for example. He has probably done more caving than I could do in 100 years. He was the first person to drop the two deepest pits under the U.S. flag, caved in Lechuguilla, explored lava tubes in Hawaii, and probably mapped over 100 caves in Alaska. Still he acts as if every cave he enters is his first, and he is extremely modest about his caving accomplishments. I have never seen a more enthusiastic caver than Kevin.

Then there are cavers like Dave Klinger, a retired Army Colonel, who in his mid 60s can still out-hike and out-cave people half his age, and if there is some dirty job that needs doing Dave is always the first to volunteer.

Cavers like Pete Smith do super human feats, while making them look easy. I might mention that Pete is the master of understatement. Cavers like Steve Lewis, another diehard caver with incredible drive, also have undying enthusiasm. Then there are the quiet cavers like Greg Bowles and Darcie Ziel who can go forever in all kinds of miserable conditions, keep smiling and ask for more. I might mention that Darcie at 17 is one of the most remarkable young ladies I have ever met, as is Amy Russell, a new person to the scene with talents for caving.

Another newcomer, Eron Gissberg, quickly earned a reputation as the human-worm for his ability to get into places no one else could squeeze. In between caving exploits, he stimulated our minds with metaphysical thoughts. Caver Dave Love kept us all laughing with his great, but witty humor, and even my good

buddy Alan Murray with his endless insults is a great person with whom to spend time underground.

I could have gone on for several pages about the other wonderful people I have been fortunate enough to cave with, or could have mentioned more of the great attributes of the above mentioned people, but space is limited. However, I will mention some other people I haven't joined on caving expeditions or in some cases, haven't even met, but who put a lot of time into Alaskan caving. Julius Rockwell, Harvey Bowers, Michael Mouser, Dalene Perrigo, Rachel Mays, Gary Sonnenberg and many others work hard to keep this Grotto going.

If you haven't been fortunate enough to cave with one or more of the above mentioned people I would urge you to jump on any opportunity to do so. I think you too would agree that it's the people that are truly the frosting on the caving cake.



Julie Heaton gets a close up view on Prince of Wales Island. C.Allred

Survey Deemed Successful

by Marcel LaPerriere

On July 20th and 21st Kevin Allred and Connie and Marcel LaPerriere made a reconnaissance trip to another island in Southeast Alaska to check out rumors of large littoral caves. Rumors proved to be true. There were so many large cave openings, the trio had trouble deciding which caves to explore and map.

The first cave was named Thundering Sea Cave because of the sound the surf heard when standing in the entrance of the cave. A total of 101.8 feet of passage was surveyed. Five or six photographs were noted along with two distinct fire pits and the remains of a deer, shells and other bones. Cave coal was also abundant. Later, the trio found out that this cave has been conveyed to SeaAlaska.

The second cave was located in a cliff face approximately 300 feet above sea level. This cave appeared to have been formed by solution only. The cave was named

Warrior Lookout, because it overlooked the beach below and the sea. A total of 74.8 feet was surveyed. Many speleothems were noted along with rimstone, helectites and cave coral.

The third cave was named Puffin Grotto after a pair of Puffins observed nesting in the entrance. Primarily a littoral cave, it has two solution passages branching off from the main cave. A total of 812.6 feet of passage was surveyed. The entrance to this cave measured 85 feet across the opening with an estimated height of 50 feet. At the end of one of the passages a whale vertebrae was observed. Numerous fish and bird bones were noted along with two extremely large flow stone formations.

Terra Nova, the fourth and final cave surveyed, was named in honor of the boat that transported the trio to the Island. The cave had a total of 428.4 feet of passage, with the second survey shot being 226.6 feet. The cave's floor was covered with over 3-inches of fish and bird bones deposited over

the eons via otter droppings. Passage width averaged over 20 feet wide. Speculation on how many centuries it would take to build up an entire floor of fish bones to this depth, length and width was the topic of discussion during the process of surveying. Many conulite formations decorate the passage floor. It was Kevin's observation that the conulites in Terra Nova Cave were the biggest he had ever seen and where possibly the biggest conulites yet found in Alaska. The other interesting observation was that of Acorn Barnacles high on the walls of the cave. It was estimated that the barnacles were 30 feet above sea level, an indication that coastal uplifting has been much faster than sea level rising.

An estimate of around 100 cave entrances were seen on the island. The trio considered this reconnaissance trip a big success.

Because of the potential archaeological significance of the caves and the unique formations the locations should remain classified.

Additions to MEMBERSHIP LIST (more next edition)

Name	Address	Pd	NSS #	Home Phone	Work Phone
Fouts, T.D.	PO Box 5671, Ketchikan AK 99901	94		(907)247-2557	
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	
Wood, Dr. William R.	PO Box 74086, Fairbanks AK 99707	94			
Wood, Dorothy Jane	PO Box 74086, Fairbanks AK 99707	94			

Address or Telephone Number Changes

Bowles, Greg	1601 Lakeside Ave #803, Richmond VA 23228	94	38267RE		
Magness, Andy	CATE Center, Box 5126, Norman OK 73026	94N			
Magness, Jason	CATE Center, Box 5126, Norman OK 73026	94N			
Maselko, Jerzy	1545 Northview Dr #F7, Anchorage AK 99504	94		(907)338-6044	(907)786-4697
Pease, Maj C.R.	PO Box 10130, Prescott AZ 96304-0730	94N	4847FL	(602)778-3351	
Sempert, Craig	PO Box 5084, Ketchikan AK 99901	94	36563RE	(907)225-8968	(907)826-3481
Sonnenberg, Gary	1377 Pond Reef Road, Ketchikan AK 99901	94	33648RE	(907)247-1559	(907)225-3103
Vann, Cynthia G.	PO Box 10130, Prescott AZ 86304-0730	94N	14713FL	(602)778-3351	

NOMINATION OF SIGNIFICANT CAVES

The Federal Caves Resources Protection Act of 1988 requires that the secretaries of Agriculture and Interior maintain a list of all significant caves within their jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, the deadline for the initial list is approaching rapidly, also unfortunately none of us knew of this upcoming deadline until recently. This means if you know of a cave that should be nominated you need to respond ASAP, because the nominations **must** be in by Dec. 14, 1994.

Any cave located on federal land and under the direction of the following agencies is eligible for nomination: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National

Parks Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the Forest Service (FS)

Glacier Grotto in conjunction with the Tongass National Forest Service and Tongass Cave Project will submit the names of caves located in the Tongass National Forest.

All caves that are submitted will be considered for acceptance as a Significant Cave by an inter-agency team of cave specialists. In order for the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act to protect any given cave, however, the cave must be on the list of Significant Caves.

The cave locations will be kept

confidential by this team throughout the evaluation and listing process, and all material gathered for review will be kept in a secure location.

If you know of any caves that should be nominated, you can receive an application form and instructions from:

Cave Nomination Clearing
House
P.O. Box 10
Three Rivers, OR. 93271

If you have any questions regarding the nominating process please call one of the above named agencies or you can call any officer of the Glacier Grotto.

Signed,
Marcel LaPerriere, GG President

Lewis heads Conservation Committee

Steve Lewis recently became chairman of the Glacier Grotto Conservation Committee.

A dedicated and skilled caver, Lewis has intimate knowledge of Alaskan caves but particularly those in Southeast. He joined POWIE (Prince of Wales Island Expedition) in 1988 and has caved with the group each year. For the past three years he has served as cave exploration leader on Dall Island and in 1994 produced maps of the explored caves.

"The Grotto's biggest job is probably making sure the Forest Service follows through on their agreements to protect caves on Tongass National Forest land in Southeast," says Lewis. Part of that entails setting up rules for log-

ging in the Tongass and making sure the criteria are met.

"It will probably mean saying the logging companies can't log in certain areas and in others, they will be required to log in a certain way," Lewis continues. "But it also includes preserving sinkholes by not allowing them to be used as dumps for slash, and limiting the number of roads through the karst."

Of the 300 caves discovered in Southeast, some have been badly damaged or destroyed during road construction and/or logging activities, according to Lewis. He will join other members of Glacier Grotto as well as representatives of the Forest Service and Tongass Cave Project in



Steve Lewis participates in cave rescue practice. Photo credit: M.LaPerriere

submitting names for registration as Significant Caves under the Federal Resources Protection Act.

Currently Lewis is caving in Russia. After his mid-October return he plans to continue his pursuit of a doctorate degree through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Alaska's bats are under consideration as research subjects.

LETTERS

Anne Archie, District Ranger
Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

September 8, 1994

Dear Mrs. Archie,

This letter is to ask you several questions and to give you a belated thanks. I would like to thank the Thorne Bay Ranger District for their support during POWIE 94, and for all the support that has been given to Alaska Cave Rescue. I would especially like to thank Cat Woods for all the work she has put into POWIE and ACR. I would like to mention that it is a real pleasure working with Cat. I also would like to thank you for the productive meeting we had here in Ketchikan on the 16th of August.

Now onto the questions. First it has come to the attention of this Grotto that there is timber harvesting going on in karsted areas of the CPOW sale. We would like to know what the status of these cuts are. Would you please supply us with this information. The units in question are: (Marcel lists 18 units).

We are concerned some of these units may not have been adequately field-inspected. It is our concern that there might be caves hidden so well, that a good and thorough ground inspection would be required to find them prior to harvesting. A case in point would be Windgate, Pete's Moss and Field of Bees Caves. These caves by our understanding, fall within what appears to be nonsignificant karst, yet they are there. Without some one actually stumbling into Windgate, it is so well hidden I believe that unit would have been harvested.

We believe that Windgate Cave is in a unit that has been permanently deleted from future timber harvest, is this correct? Also, what is the other unit number that has been deleted next to the Windgate unit?

The last question that I have, pertains to the rumor that was circulating this summer that the remaining units within the Lab Bay area have all been deleted, is this true? I understand that there has been a timber harvest company laying out units in the Lab Bay Area, again is this the case? If so please keep us informed about any planned units that are on karsted areas.

As mentioned at the August meeting, the Grotto would like to help the USFS carry out mapping and surveying throughout the year. If you would prioritize the caves you would like us to work on and give us a month or so lead time, we would be happy to lend a hand.

Thank you for your time on these matters. Looking forward to hearing from your office soon.

Sincerely,

Marcel LaPerriere, President Glacier Grotto

Marcel LaPerriere
Glacier Grotto
Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901

September 18, 1994

Dear Marcel:

I received your letter of September 8, 1994. Timber harvest authorized through the Central Prince of Wales EIS is occurring on the Thorne Bay District. Timber harvest areas are carefully field checked to ensure protection to karsted areas. The karst vulnerability assessment rating is applied to these field checked areas to determine appropriate harvest methods to protect karst. In some cases, the unit is deferred from harvest at this time due to the level of karst vulnerability.

You requested information on several harvest units. Here is information on the harvest status:

Units (she lists 13) have not been released. These units are not in the offering areas scheduled for release in 1995. When these units are scheduled for layout, field-checking throughout the units will be done to determine the level of karst vulnerability. Our foresters spend 6 to 10 days walking through each unit looking for karst, caves, wildlife and fisheries concerns as well as logging systems and roading issues. Add to those days, several days spent by wildlife biologists and fisheries biologists in selected units. The Forest Geologist also spends time in units that are outlined as moderate to high karst vulnerability as well as responding to requests for karst/cave field checks from foresters.

Units 577-214 and 588-203 have been deferred from timber harvest due to high karst vulnerability. Unit 588-204 is adjacent to 588-203. This unit was not released for timber harvest since lay-out was not fully completed

for helicopter harvest. Helicopter harvest is planned for this unit due to low to moderate karst vulnerability. This unit will be released at a later date. Unit 588-259 was released for timber harvest. This unit was field-checked and found to be of low karst vulnerability. Timber will be directionally felled and partial suspension applied to protect the low vulnerability karst. A one-acre deferral was made for a sinkhole found in the unit.

Unit 588-260 was released for timber harvest. The unit contains karst of low vulnerability which was field-checked. Unit 588-261 was released for timber harvest. Field review was used to determine a moderate karst vulnerability and approximately six acres were deferred for timber harvest. The unit was released at approximately 2.5 acres in size.

You did not provide information regarding Pete's Moss and Field of Bees caves to adequately ascertain their location within harvest units. If you do not feel we have adequate maps to assist us would you please send maps. We will use them in our field-checking process.

The Lab Bay Timber Sale project is in the data collection and analysis phase at this time. As you know, Harza hired Ozark Underground Laboratories (Tom Aley) to complete field verification of the karst vulnerability assessment for Lab Bay Timber Sale. You will be able to

review this analysis as part of the planning record if you wish. You will also be able to review unit analysis and unit location when alternatives are displayed in the DEIS.

No layout of units for timber harvest has occurred as there is no analysis or even a decision as to which units would be included in the Lab Bay Timber Sale at this time. The contractors did put ribbon around each potential unit in the unit pool to provide the public an opportunity to view each unit on a site-specific basis and also to ensure that contracted specialists, engineers and logging systems foresters knew their location while completing field work within the units.

As we discussed at the meeting in Ketchikan on August 16, we are also interested in working with the Glacier Grotto to perform mapping and surveying work throughout the year. Jim Baichtal is on vacation and will be back on September 19. He is the contact for cave/karst work on Prince of Wales Island and will be working with you.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information on how we address karst/cave issues through our timber sale projects.

Sincerely,
Anne F. Archie
District Ranger

Anne Archie, District Ranger
Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, AK 99919

Sept. 18, 1994

copies of those surveys or I would imagine that Kevin Allred will include this information in the cave maps and inventory work he is currently working on.

Again thank you very much for your time.
Sincerely,

Marcel LaPerriere, President, Glacier Grotto

Dear Anne,

Thank you very much for your timely response in regards to my letter of September 8th. You have answered several questions that we were concerned about. I appreciate your time in compiling this information for us. I also appreciate the hard work that your field people put into assuring that timber harvest units are field-checked.

You mentioned that Units 577-214 and 588-203 have been deferred. By my definition this would mean that timber harvesting on these units has only been postponed. Is this correct or is the deferment only temporary until the unit can be permanently deleted?

For your information, I assumed that you knew that Field of Bees and Pete's Moss caves are nearly adjacent to Windgate Cave. Sorry. During this year's POWIE, overland surveys connecting those three caves were completed. The Thorne Bay District Office should have



BATS

The following proposals are scheduled for consideration by the Alaska Board of Game at its Fall 1994 meeting, Nov. 4-13 at the Baranof Hotel in Juneau. The board would like written comments by Oct. 24 and/or oral testimony (sign-up by 2 p.m. Nov. 5) on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

If you plan to **testify in person**, a written copy of your testimony would be helpful, but is not required. Bev Reaume (465-6095) has more information and a detailed agenda at the Support Section address.

Send written comments to - ATTN: Bog Comments, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau AK 99802-5526. Fax (907)465-6094. On 8 1/2x11 paper, place the proposal number and whether you favor or oppose the proposal before writing comments.

Proposal 29 - 5 AAC 85.070. HUNTING SEASON AND BAG LIMITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED GAME. Amend this regulation to close bat hunting season as follows:

I am writing to personally recommend closure of the hunting season for bats in Alaska. The current game regulations define bats as unclassified game (5AAC 84.070) and provide for a year-round open season for taking bats with no bag limits. There is no real subsistence or sport justification for hunting bats. They are not likely to be eaten nor are they likely to be considered trophy species. In contrast, bats perform a considerable service to Alaskans and Alaska visitors by eating thousands of mosquitoes each day. Furthermore, in many parts of the United States and Canada, bats are becoming rare and endangered.

Of the six species of bats that occur in Alaska (little brown bat, big brown bat, Keen's myotis, California myotis, long-legged myotis, silver-haired bat) only the little brown bat is common and widespread. The remaining species are rare within the state. The Keen's myotis is currently listed as a Red Species (potentially endangered) in British Columbia. It has been recorded only twice in Alaska and may be in equal jeopardy.

Hunters comprise a relatively small proportion of the American public, and sport hunting is strongly criticized by animal welfare and animal right groups. If hunters continue to allow the taking of unclassified "game" such as bats, they are likely to lose the support of nonhunters for other types of hunting. The public "image" of bats is rapidly changing (from unfounded fear to a widespread interest in, and conservation support for, bats) as people realize their tremendous economic and ecological value.

Bats are an intriguing and valuable part of Alaska's rich biological heritage. There is no reason for the state to continue to support any level of hunting of these species. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call or write.

Proposed by Ed West

Proposal 30 - 5AAC 85.070. HUNTING SEASON AND BAG LIMITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED GAME. Amend this regulation to close bat hunting season as follows:

[No season and bag limit of 0 for all bats.]

Resident

Nonresident

No open season

No open season

PROBLEM: There is an open season with no bag limit for bats; a group of species about which we know little in Alaska. These animals are not used for food thus regulation encourages target shooting with live animals as the target. The ecological equivalent of these species, swifts and swallows are protected.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We know nothing about the distribution

and populations of these animals thus we cannot evaluate the effect of the current regulation on these animals. The existence of the current regulation reflects poorly on the ethics of Alaskan hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All of us.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who have bats roosting in their buildings and who do not desire this can do two things: board up the openings or kill the animals under DLP regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Lewis

.....and there it was!

by Greg Bowles

There's a sort of bittersweet sense of victory when I realize that I was the very unwitting discoverer of the largest cave found during the 1993 POWIE expedition.

The best way to put it is that I discovered the cave in the same sense someone discovers the floor when they trip and fall on top of it. I wish I could say the discovery of Whirlwind was a feat of a brave woodsman traipsing through the dark jungles of an old growth forest. The facts are I was stabbing in the dark for another cave and didn't even know what I found when I discovered it.

My partner and I were on a search for a pit cave that my partner's husband had found when he did an overland survey of this particular area. She had been to the cave with him and thought she could remember the way but her husband gave me a hand-drawn map just in case.

There are several caves in this particular area, and so we had driven over with another survey team. They split off from us to survey their pick of the day and we innocently strolled off towards our easy-to-find pit. We proceeded to get utterly lost. There are no trails except game trails amidst old growth, and no switchbacks to follow when you need to slog your way back up a hill. After an hour or two of crashing and thrashing through thick undergrowth, everything looked the same in every direction, and it was only with the help of my compass that we figured out how to get back to where we started.

I decided to leave my partner at our starting point while she took a lunch break. I traipsed off into the woods with my hand drawn map and within 10 minutes stumbled across an epic cave entrance.

Imagine a wide gash in the limestone stretching across the hillside. The entrance looked to me like it was well over 70 feet from one side to the other. The cave curved downward with a ceiling and floor that were some 30 feet apart from each other. A waterfall spilled down the other side from where I stood, and that sent out a boiling, misty haze.

I was awed. However, as I said, there were a lot of caves in this area. I thought this mighty abyss was one of them, and we still needed to find our little pit. After staring at that visionary entrance, and peering down into the dark beyond, I went on bushwhacking my way through the woods.

Finally, I found the little bugger. So I went back to give the good word to my partner. Of course, I hadn't brought any flagging tape with me, so when I led her up to my magnificent find, I had lost it. It took another half hour for me to retrace the steps I'd taken just 20 minutes before.

By then my partner was pretty well worn out. Dropping into a 60 or 70 foot pit seemed like a bit more exercise than she could handle after going back and forth and forth and back looking for the thing. So, I dropped down the rabbit hole by myself just to look around. The only problem was the rope we threw down was a bit short for the job. I got down some 30 feet and there was the knot in the end of the rope, gently swaying some 20 feet above the floor, sort of like a hangman's noose.

After I hastily ascended, my partner and I tried again. The only problem is that I'd never before tried to pass a knot while repelling on a figure 8. This was one case where on-the-job training didn't quite work. After many

grunts, groans and a few adrenaline rushes while unattached to various pieces of equipment, I gave up and climbed back out before I lost the strength to do so.

Waiting above was the other team of cavers, who finished their survey and found our cave - without even using the flagging we'd set up on our second hunt for the pit. Pete Smith was one of this other team and the first thing he said upon seeing a rather ragged-looking me was, "Why are you dinking around in this little thing when you passed right by that monster over there?"

The big entrance that I had merely oohed and aahed over was an undiscovered cave, and in fact turned out to be the biggest new cave found on this year's POWIE. I suppose I have credit for the find, but there's no sense that I deserve it, no grace in my non-existent method for finding it, no sense of "Eureka", no quotation of "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

I was lucky enough to go back later and survey part of this cave, now called Whirlwind, as well as a smaller cave connected to it that was named Whirligig. The caves are as different as night and day, and the days spent surveying them were just as different from each other as they were different from the day I "discovered" Whirlwind.

Every day on the POWIE project brought something new to learn, to see, and to do. Finding a cave while on my way to survey a pit cave is just one part of great month spent in one of the most fascinating places in Alaska - Prince of Wales Island.

This article by Greg Bowles originally appeared in The Prince of Wales Booty Scooper, Winter of 1993-1994. A map and additional information on the cave can be found on page 13.

SLATE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #151 Addendum to Reports #33 and #107 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Sept. 29, 1993

NEW EXPLORATION: A new passage was surveyed in Slate Cave on July 4 and 5, 1993, by Dave Smith, Don Aldridge, Kevin Allred, and Pete Smith. At "Troll's Bowling Alley" this steep streamway fissure extends approximately 130 feet upwards to end in a boulder choke. Two pitches on the route required rock climbing gear. Two difficult climbing leads along the way were not investigated. Total passage surveyed in Slate Cave is 1718 feet and the cave is still 386.6 feet deep.

HYDROLOGY: On July 4, 1993, Kevin Allred, Dave Smith and Don Aldridge dumped an un-

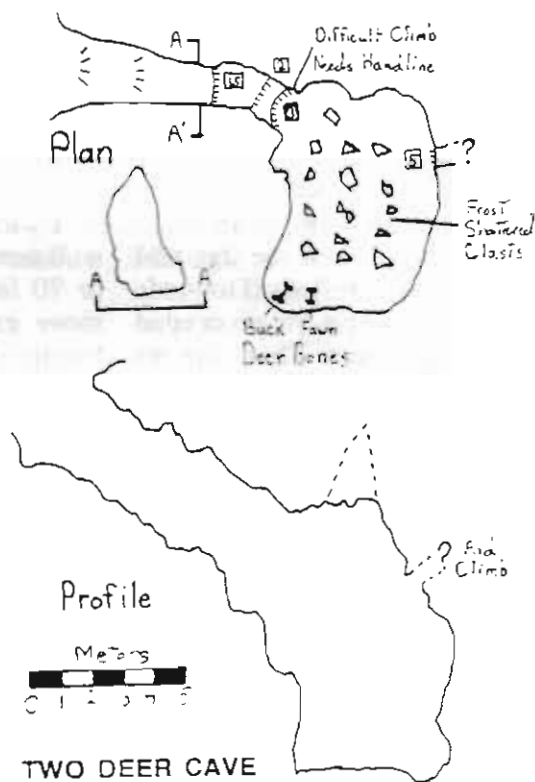
marked baby bottle of powdered water tracing dye into a trickle waterfall just upstream of the sump in Slate. The volume of water flowing was way down with this year's drought conditions, but the sump level was the same as in 1990. No visible color was noted in the El Capitan resurgence (draining Lower El Capitan Cave) during July. Tom Aley of Ozark Underground Laboratories detected a strong concentration of dye in a charcoal trap he had placed at the El Capitan resurgence. The trace travel was sometime less than three weeks. More controlled dye traces are needed in this system.

TWO DEER CAVE

Dall Island • Preliminary Report
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society
Steve Lewis July 10, 1993

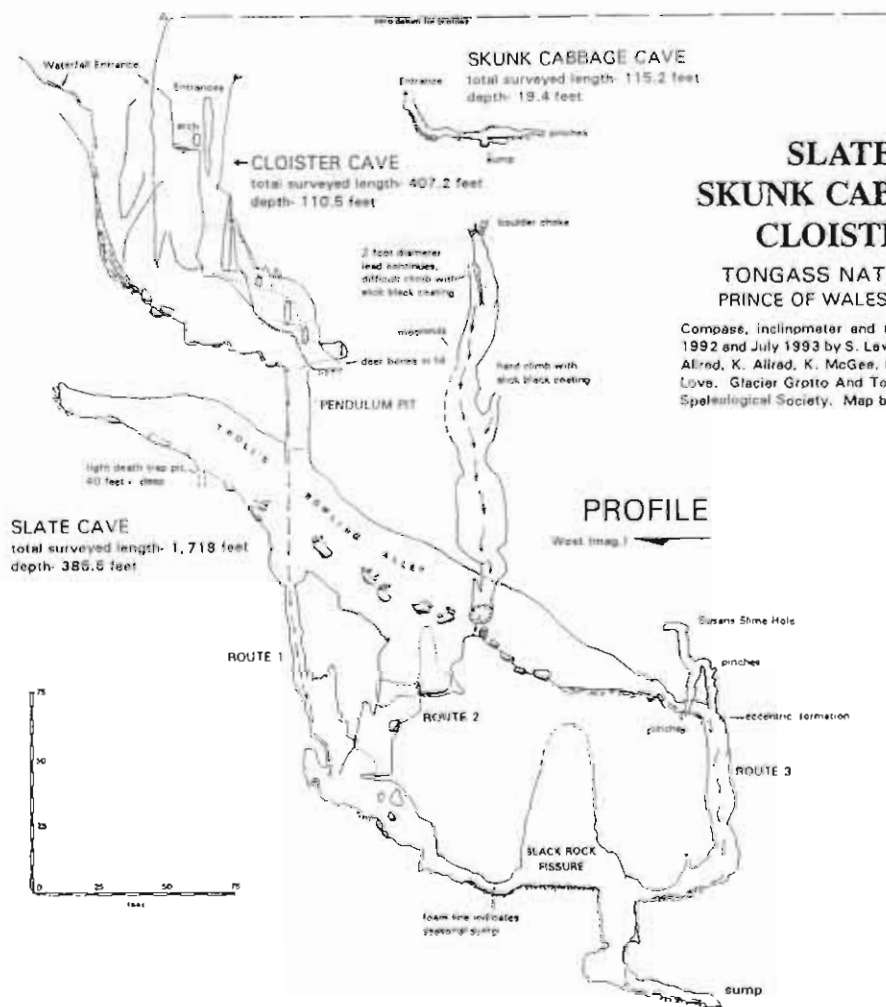
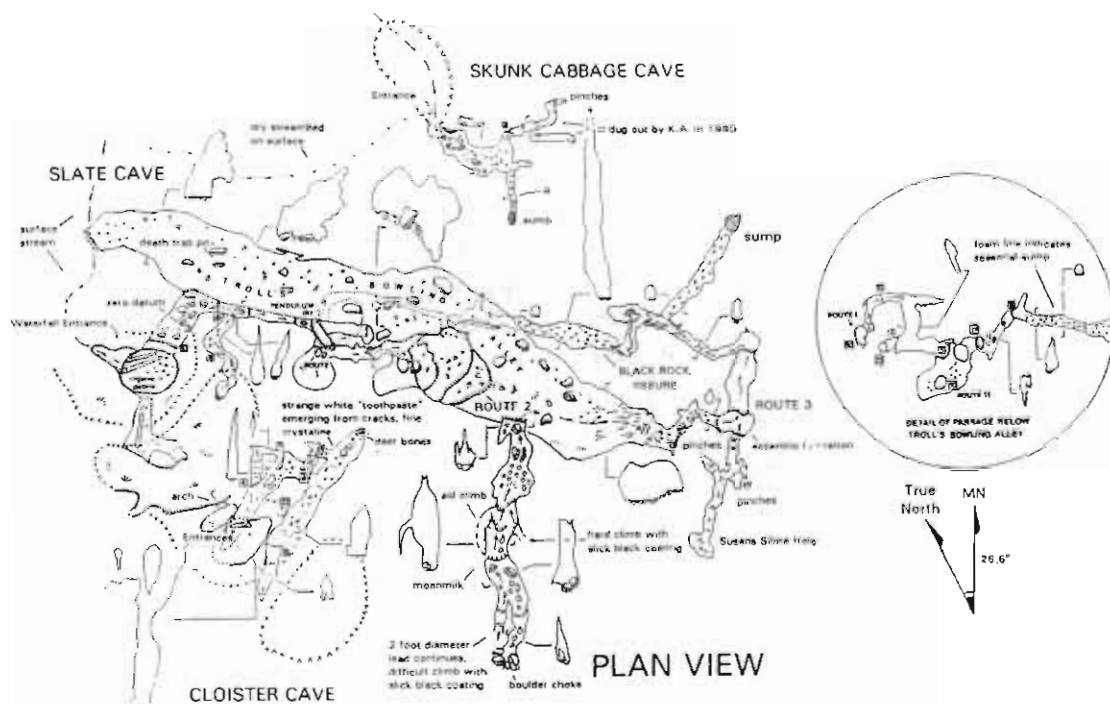
DESCRIPTION: Two Deer Cave is a large opening slot leading into a pit which is choked with breakdown. A high tube lead was not checked. The final drop can be climbed by tall people, but a handline is strongly recommended. The actual drop is only about 4 meters it may be necessary to tie off on a tree at the surface. No speleothems were noted. The cave takes surface water but no streams were noted. The entire slope above and below is heavily karsted with a high density of dolines and grikes. Full skeletal remains of a fawn and adult male deer were noted in the bottom of the pit.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: This cave is extremely difficult to locate and has no features that could be easily damaged. Further exploration and inventory of the area is essential. Exploration of Sealaska lands might clarify the hydrology and allow access to systems leading back under Forest Service lands. We recommend leaving USFS lands in a pristine state and developing contacts with private landholders to protect all significant systems wherever possible.



TWO DEER CAVE
Tongass National Forest
Dall Island, Alaska
Graec 1 Sketch by Steve Lewis
10 July, 1993
Tongass Cave Project, NSS

Map © Steve Lewis



SLATE CAVE SKUNK CABBAGE CAVE CLOISTER CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey July 1990, July 1992 and July 1993 by S. Lewis, S. DeLisa, J. Rockwell, C. Allred, K. Allred, K. McGee, D. Aldridge, D. Smith and D. Love. Glacier Grotto And Tongass Cave Project, National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Allred

LEGEND

- breakdown
- cobble fill
- mud or silt
- pool
- underlying passage
- soda straws
- stalactites
- slagmite
- rim of surface sinkhole
- survey point
- stream
- vertical drop
- depth of drop in feet
- chimney
- shaft connecting upper and lower levels

© 1993 by K. and C. Allred

METRIC MADNESS CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #148
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
SEPT. 28, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Metric Madness Cave is formed in Heceta Limestone and was discovered by Pete Smith, Don Aldridge, Dave Smith, Steve Lewis, and Kevin Allred on June 29, 1993, after following a large creek upstream to its source. The cave was surveyed on the same day and is 59.7 meters long and 26.5 meters deep.

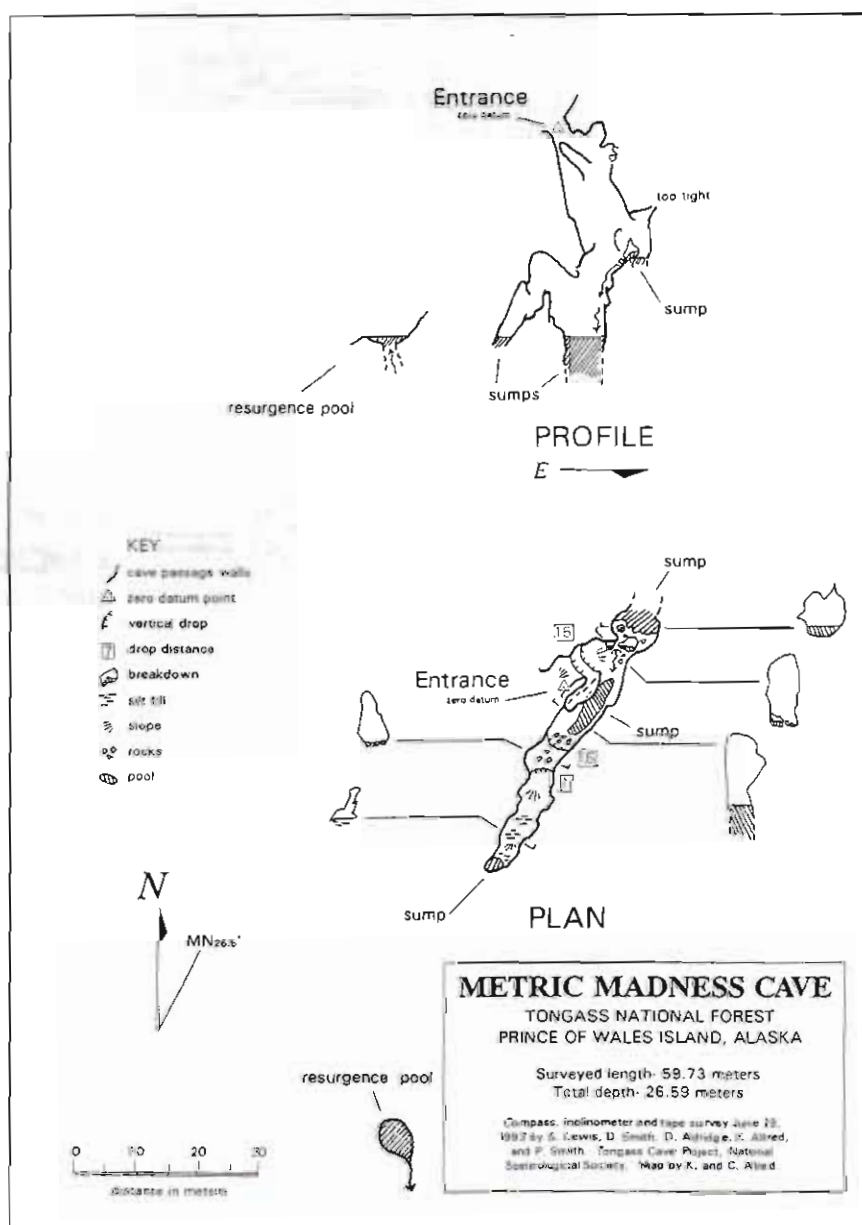
This cave begins as a 15-meter deep shaft in the slope of a ravine which leads down to a large base level resurgence welling from a deep pool in moss covered polymictic conglomerate boulders. The resurgence feeds a significant creek. Numerous shells have eroded from paleo-littoral deposits along the lower part of the stream course. The mossy resurgence pool coincides with the level of the two lower sumps in Metric Madness. A third, but upstream sump in the cave was pushed a body length by Pete and it continues underwater.

SPELEOTHEMS: Soda straws formed above the upstream sump. Massive flowstone coats some walls below the 15-meter entrance drop.

BIOLOGY: A deer skeleton of unknown antiquity was found on a rocky ledge between the two downstream sumps. Either this deer or another scraped hoof marks into a silt covered boulder near the upstream sump pool before finally falling further into the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: This cave is obviously just a window into an extensive hydrologic system draining a very

large area. Clear-cutting has already occurred just east of the entrance. No other road building or Clear-cutting should occur in the recharge (upstream drainage) area of this system. Further up the ravine, graywacke occurs on the western side with limestone on the east. The cave location should not be shared with the general public because of the vertical nature, as well as paleontologic, hydrologic and possible biologic values.



WHIRLWIND CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #152
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Oct. 1, 1993

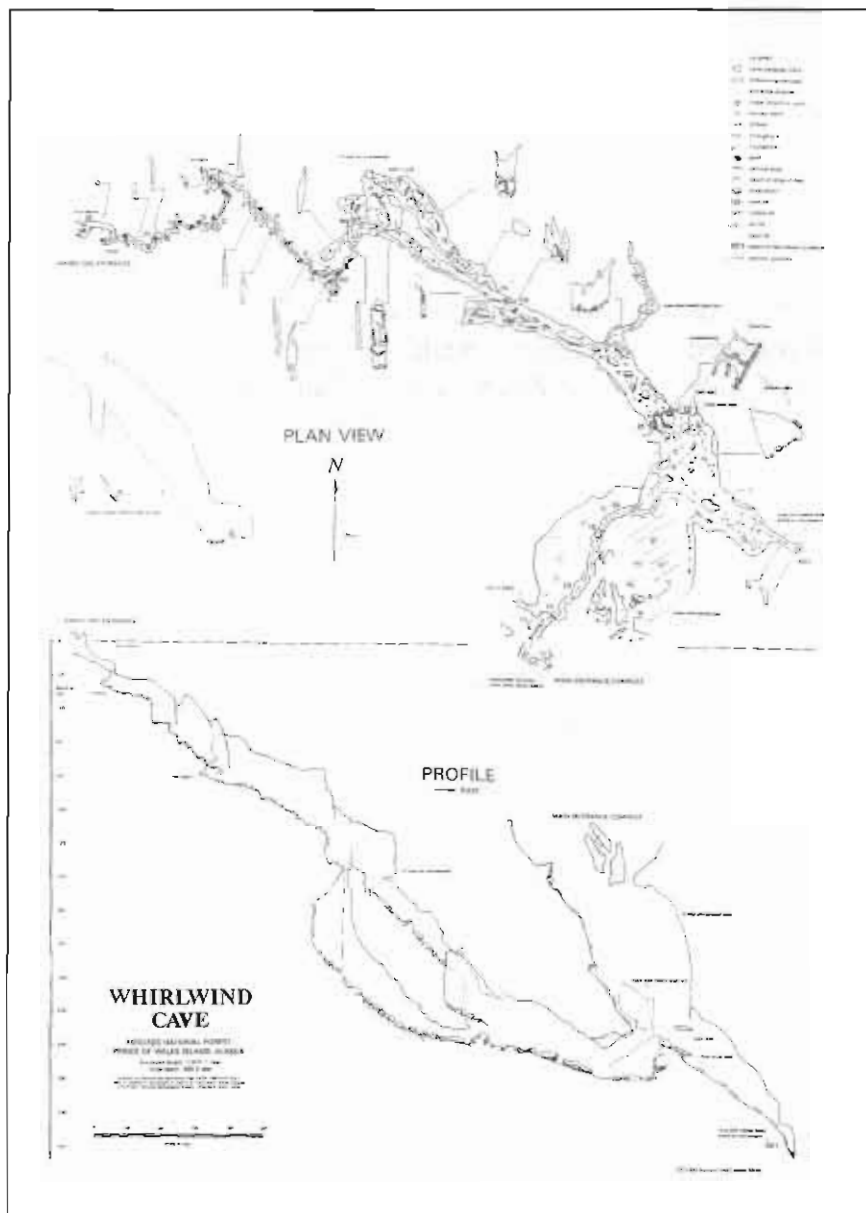
DESCRIPTION: Whirlwind Cave, named with the theme of marriage in mind (as in whirlwind courtship), is located northwest of Bridal Veil Cave at about the same level on the mountain side. The cave has a large main entrance complex and a second single entrance (Whirli-gig) 400 feet to the northwest. Entrances were originally found by Greg

Bowles and Dave and Deb Herron a week or so before the entrances were surveyed and connected underground July 24-26, 1993.

The main entrance complex (five entrances) connects into a huge, steeply dipping room with an active stream cascading down a windy, incised slot. The best descent route is down this slot which ends at a northwest to southeast trending borehole pas-

sage having a large dike in one wall. Downstream the stream soon disappears in a rubble choke, but the borehole continues northwest with a couple unexplored leads and one northward ending passage. The borehole continues smaller and divides into upper and lower branches. By climbing the upper branch, a sinuous, active stream canyon continues upwards ultimately to the Whirli-gig entrance. Exploring Whirlwind Cave is very impressive and an adventurous experience. Rope and/or handlines are recommended for both entrances. Total depth is 300.2 deep and the surveyed passage totals 1,571.1 feet. The resurgence is yet unknown.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The entire area contains several caves, some still unexplored. To protect the hydrological, biological, and recreational values of these caves, no further logging or road building should occur in this area (see reports #126 and #153). It would be wise to share the location only with those individuals prepared to handle the vertical caves of this area.



MOONPROBE

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

by Steve Lewis July 26, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Moonprobe is a steeply dropping cave. A ± 25 -meter pitch is the first portion of one of the going leads. The initial 45-meter pitch can be rigged completely free by using trees at the entrance. This is essential because of problems with loose rock and the fact that passages lead off at 16 meters and 30 meters down the pitch and require some acrobatic swinging for access. Passage at -16 meters is an easy dig and may drop into the passage at -30 meters which has been rigged. Passage appears to continue after a drop of approximately 25 meters. Rock in this passage is very friable and great care must be taken in choosing and backing up anchors.

At the bottom of the 45 meter pitch, two passages lead up. One is choked, the other is a slime climb that may require a bolt or other protection. Passage continues down through wedged breakdown to a 30-meter pitch. A tight and awkward squeeze leads to an awkward 12-meter pitch. Here one finds a small chamber. The final 50-meter pitch is rigged by threading natural protection in the small muddy passage to the north and then redirecting the rope from a sling around the horn above the left side of the pit. One then works around the right (west) side of the pit along a narrow ledge and ties off the rope for the final drop. A directional is possible midway down the drop but is very prone to pulling loose. First people down must go to the very bottom of the choked passage which offers a safe haven to avoid the significant rockfall hazard.

A passage leads off on the other side of the pit. One can use the main line as a belay for scrambling up here as 15-20 meters of rope would be required if one did not wish to drop the final pitch. This passage has two going leads. One is a steep right and muddy climb the other requires rigging a short drop under some huge and unstable breakdown blocks. Large passage continues sloping down. Rodent skeletons and guano were noted in the small tube leading to this passage. Passage thus far surveyed totals 214.35 meters (703.2 feet) with a depth of -136.7 meters (-448.5 feet) and potential for nearly 150 meters more depth.

GEOLOGY/SPELEOGENESIS: Most of the surveyed portions of Moonprobe appear to conform to patterns associated with invasion vadose caves or solution chimneys. Passages drop precipitously down a large joint. This joint widens in two places on the first pitch, permitting access to other deep and still unexplored segments of the cave. A clast-filled tube leading up at about -30 meters suggests the possibility of glacial infilling at some period although all clastic debris appeared to be of carbonate origin.

The 12-meter pitch drops down a vadose slot into a small chamber. It appears that this may have been a prior baselevel, approximately 90 meters below the present surface. A horizontal passage of apparent phreatic origin leads off to the south here and continues into a chamber whose origin is likely due to mixing corrosion. Unexplored passage continues down along what appears to be bedding plane.

BIOLOGY/ANIMAL REMAINS: Little evidence of biological activity was noted until the bottom of the 12-meter pitch, 90 meters below surface. From here on down, dead carabid beetles and gnats were noted on walls and floors. Live carabid beetles scuttled about in the lowest portions of the cave, 135 meters below the surface.

The phreatic tube at -90 meters contained skeletal remains of small rodents and feces which could have been from bats or small rodents.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The cave itself is very difficult to locate. The entrance is small and would be difficult to fall into accidentally. No one without good vertical skills should enter the cave, nor are they likely to. The karst is highly developed throughout the entire plateau with a very high density of large sinks and grikes. We feel that this development almost guarantees the existence of large cave systems although access to them may be difficult. The pristine nature and superb development of the karst around Moonprobe gives it international significance. Further exploration, inventory and study are necessary but at this stage it appears that the karst resource here warrants total protection from timber harvest, mineral extraction or road building.

HEMATOMA HOLE

Dall Island • Preliminary Report

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Dave Smith

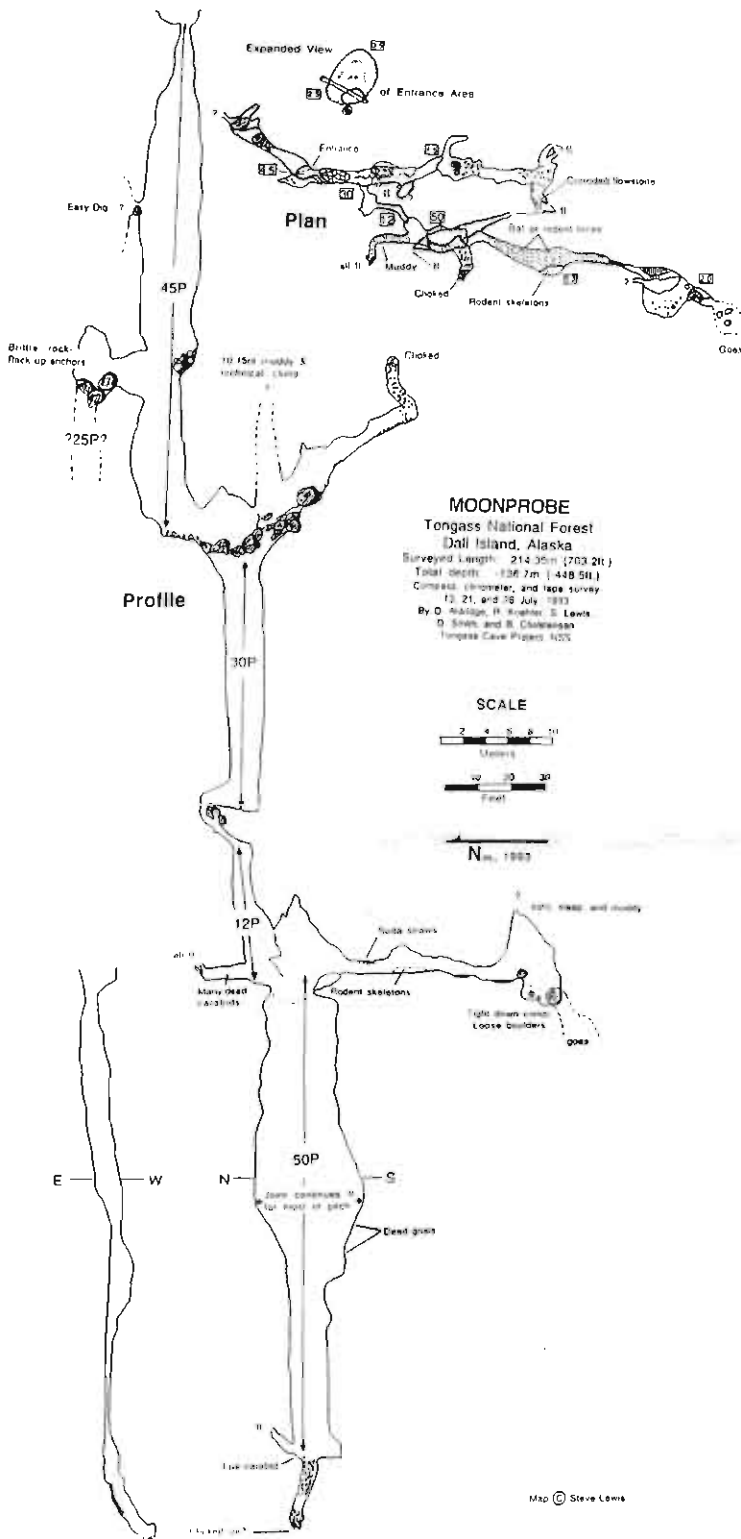
July 24, 1993

DESCRIPTION:

Hematoma Hole is a small cave remarkable only for having nearly as many entrances as meters of passage (three entrances and perhaps 10 meters of passage). Deer bones were noted in the upper chamber. Squeezes connect this chamber to the next two entrances. While no portion of the cave is large, it appears that it might have been formed as part of a larger system that has been torn away by glacial action. The cave was named for the huge bruise that Kent Carlson suffered when a rock fell on his foot while he traversed the cliffs along the coast just below the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

While not significant by itself, Hematoma Hole is part of the highly significant karst system along this part of the island. As such, this cave should be protected along with the entire system.



HEMATOMA HOLE

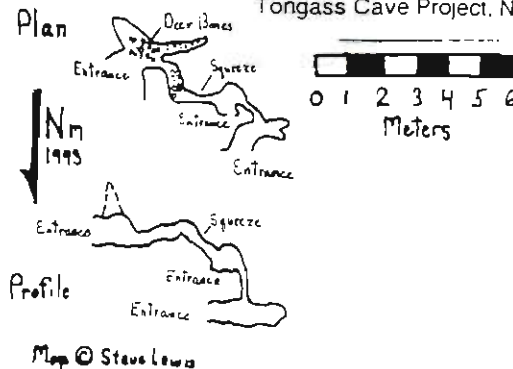
Tongass National Forest

Dall Island, Alaska

Grade 1 Sketch by Dave Smith

24 July, 1993

Tongass Cave Project, NSS



ISITA CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #149
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Sept. 30, 1993

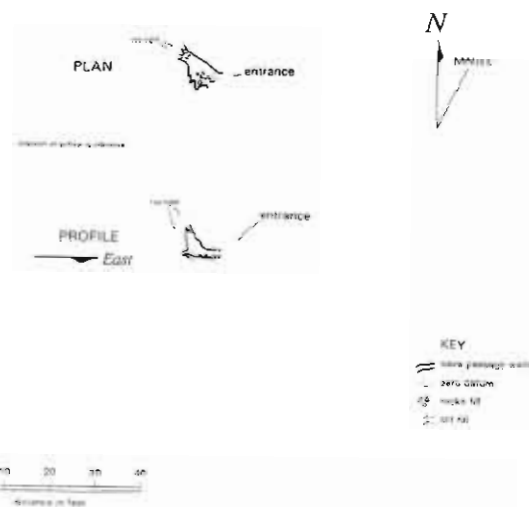
DESCRIPTION:

Isita Cave is located up the hill several hundred feet from Divorce Cave and is only 7 feet long. It does have a draft possibly indicating a more extensive system further beyond the too tight crack. It is not a significant cave alone but should be protected as one of many karst features above the hydrologic system of Divorce and Bridal Veil caves.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Isita is part of the significant karst drainage above Divorce Cave and the area should not again be logged or disturbed further by roads (please see report #142). The location should not be shared with the general public because of the close proximity of Divorce Cave.

ISITA CAVE
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA
Surveyed length: 7.4 feet
Total depth: 1.4 feet
Compiled, illustrated and cave survey July 15, 1993 by K. Allred and D. Bowles, Tongass Cave Project, National Speleological Society. Map by K. Allred.



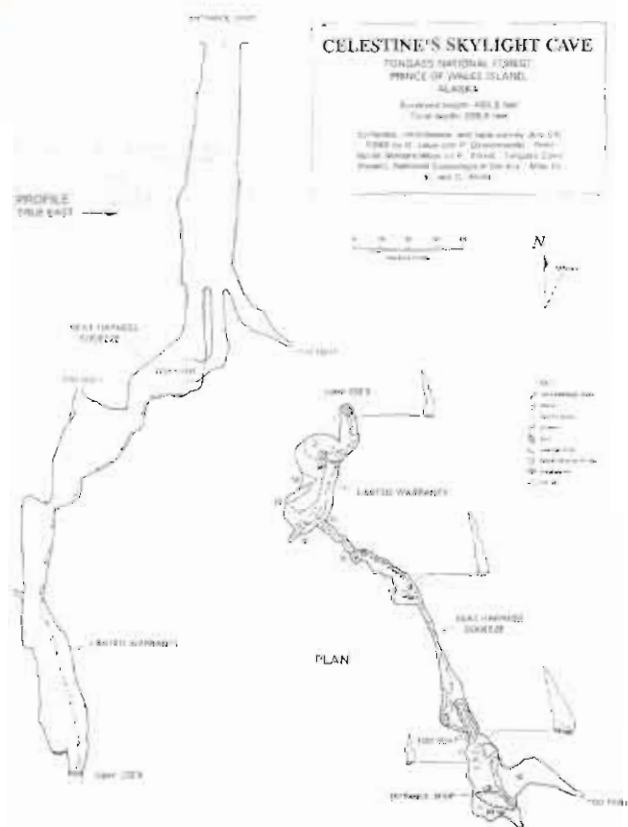
CELESTINE'S SKYLIGHT CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #150
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Oct. 1, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Celestine's Skylight Cave was discovered and named by Greg Bowles in July 1993. This cave is a vertical fissure, in places too narrow to negotiate. The entrance drops 80 feet to a division room containing fissures in the floor. Two blind leads drop down and pinch off, but a third fissure continues downward past a 30-foot drop, a pool and resurgence stream, and then "Seat Harness Squeeze". The way down then follows a sinuous canyon to a room called "Limited Warranty". The cave ends at a sump. It is 269.9 feet deep and 460.3 feet long.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The cave is on a mountain side of concentrated karst and other caves. Because of extensive subsurface hydrology and biologic values, this cave warrants protection with no further logging or road building in the area. The vertical nature of the cave dictates that the location be withheld from the unprepared public.



ST. PETER'S PRIVY CHAMBER

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

by Steve Lewis July 24, 1993

DESCRIPTION:

St. Peter's Privy Chamber is a littoral cave that has been raised by isostatic rebound or tectonic processes to over 13 meters above the mean high tide level. One must climb over a 2.5 meter high mound of vegetation covered logs, soil, and clastic debris to a high but narrow chamber. A too tight passage continues after a small chamber with some moonmilk deposits. This cave shows little sign of connection to a hydrologic system that was responsible for its formation. Sea action was the major force in its genesis. Nevertheless, there were steady drips from the ceiling at the rear of the cave, even during the extremely dry period when we mapped it. These were significant enough that we used them as our prime source for drinking water. Surveyed length of the cave is 56.53 meters (185.5 feet). An overland survey of 84.17 meters determined the entrance to be 13.8 meters (45.3 feet) above high tide mark.

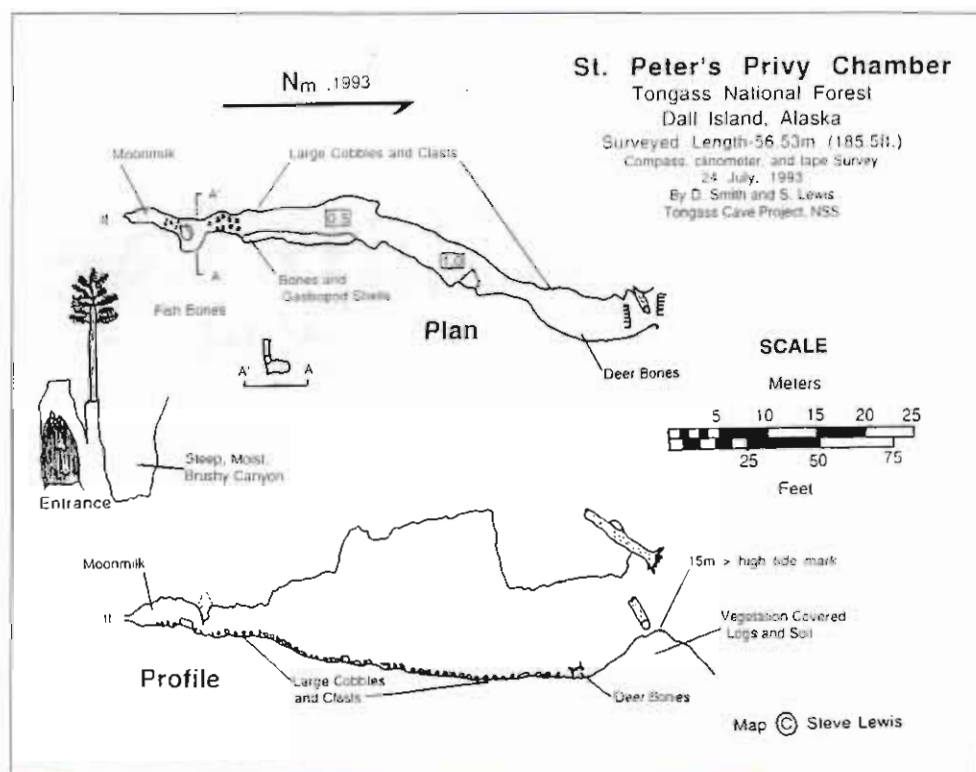
GEOLOGY AND SPELEOGENESIS:

This cave is one of a number of raised littoral caves in this area. These are unique among the islands I have visited in southeastern Alaska. Littoral caves on Coronation Island are generally less than 5 meters above sea level and most appear to have had dissolution as a major component of their genesis. I have seen no such littoral caves on Prince of Wales, Hecata or

Chichagof Islands. The rillenkarren and other surface karst features on the exposed coast across the peninsula are the finest examples I have seen or heard of in low elevation karst, and rival even the most superb alpine karst surface features in southeastern Alaska.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

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



MEETING NOTES

Caves in the Craig Ranger District were discussed at the July 11 meeting of the **Ketchikan Area Grotto**.

Ward Serrill discussed the upcoming video and slide shows he is putting together for the USFS and the University of Southeast. Both productions will concentrate on the ecosystem of the caves and karst as well as safety and conservation. The video is 15 minutes long. The hour-long slide show (ready on one year) will require three projectors and has a sound track of music and talking cavers.

The meeting was adjourned and slides from Windgate Cave and from the June Rescue Training were shown.

At the August meeting of the **Southeast Area Glacier Grotto**, Gary Sonnenberg addressed concerns about the planned displays for the USFS Southeast Alaska Visitors Center. The Center is scheduled to open in the summer of 1995 with one small corner dedicated to Southeast caves.

Marcel and Connie LaPerriere told of some accomplishments at POWIE 94 and some of the short falls during a discussion of Alaska's annual premier caving event.

Nomination of Significant Caves was discussed. There are two sheets of questions to fill out for each of the caves placed in nomination. At this time, 350 caves are located in the Tongass National Forest. The preliminary list must be completed by mid December.

FOR SALE

With Christmas just around the corner, now is the time to think of those special, unusual gifts that give pleasure for years to come.

For just \$15, you can purchase a video featuring caves and karst of Southeast Alaska. The production features the picturesque landscape of the Tongass National Forest, with its rugged topography, as well as underground passages, rooms and sumps. While emphasizing the beauty and natural wonders of the area, the importance of safety and conservation are also addressed.

This very informative video was created by the USFS, in conjunction with the University of Alaska Southeast.

Fifteen dollars will also buy a membership in the Glacier Grotto. Add another \$5 for a family membership but get The Alaskan Caver with either membership.

The colorful Glacier Grotto patch is still available for only \$5. This small masterpiece shows the mountains, a bear, a caver and the green wilderness.

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