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Dalene T. Perrigo

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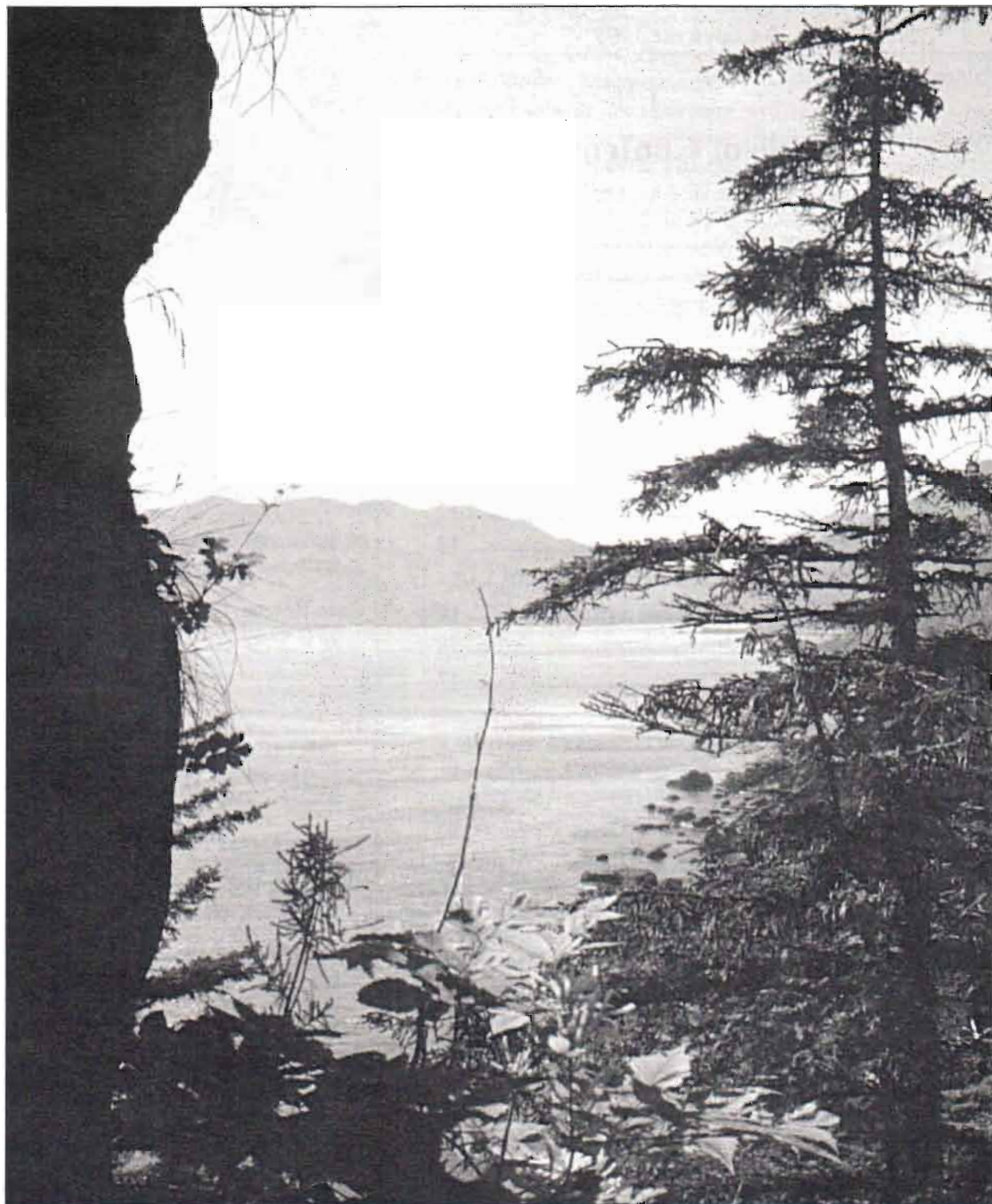
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The

Alaskan Caver

Volume 17 Number 1

February 1997



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover: A view from Warrior Lookout in Southeast Alaska.
Photo credit: Marcel LaPerriere

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- Anchorage Meetings: Call Bob Hicks for details. (907)248-2830.
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Connie LaPerriere sketches in Sparkplug #5 Cave in Southeast Alaska. Photo: Alan Murray

CALENDAR

May 23-25, 1997.....1997 Annual Workshop of the NSS Cave Diving Section, at Branford School, Suwanee County, FL. Info: NSS-CDC Workshop, PO Box 950, Branford, FL 32008-0950.

June 23-27, 1997.....NSS Convention, Sullivan, MO. Contact: Pam Saberton, 3820 Juniata St., St. Louis, MO 63116 (314)772-6956, e-mail: PamS107326@aol.com.

July 18-Aug. 15, 1997.....Ketchicave Expedition. Info: Steve Lewis, 212 Observatory St., Sitka, AK 99835

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 Kave Sports, Ketchikan. Frequent rope practice sessions.

A TALE OF TWO CAVES

by Marcel LaPerriere

Being stuck in a cave isn't something to be overly concerned about, usually it's just a matter of time, and you can wiggle your way free. However, if you are 40 feet underwater, with a finite amount of air strapped to your back the consequences can be fatal. That's exactly the predicament I found myself as I tried to extract myself from a tight place in Seal Cave on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska. All my diving partner Alan Murray could do was watch as I tried to get free. Fortunately my cave diving training came back to me, and I knew the answer to survival was - DON'T PANIC.

As I struggled to free myself, and keep calm, my mind drifted back more than 35 years to my first caving adventures. An experience that was just as life threatening, but I didn't know it at the time.

I envisioned myself as a six-year-old playing with my best friend, Jimmy Hughes. At that age the two of us were inseparable. Our friendship was even closer than the blood-brother bond we had initiated upon ourselves by pricking our fingers and commingling our blood. We often shared the same thoughts, which got us into trouble, and surely worried our parents to death.

Like most six-year-old boys growing up in the late fifties we were constantly building forts,

and playing war. However, we weren't satisfied with your run of the mill forts. No, we needed authenticity, and the endless war movies of that era were our models. We dug trenches as our Grandfathers had done in France during the 1st World War, and fox holes like our fathers dug during the 2nd World War. I guess it was just a natural progression that we would start digging caves.

Jimmy and I grew up in the middle of Colorado cattle ranching country so there was plenty of open land for us to do our digging. The place we chose for much of that digging, including the caves was a 20-foot deep wash about a half mile from Jimmy's house. The sand in that wash was the ideal consistency for digging deep and fast, two criteria that are important for young boys with little patience. With empty Campbell's tomato soup cans

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A New Year and a new slate of officers.

The next edition will feature these new officers. It is your opportunity to read about them (in their own words), see them in working (cave) attire and to ask them questions.

Please address any concerns to the Editor and they will be forwarded to the officers.

in hand we started digging caves about halfway up the embankment of the wash.

As cattle grazed 5 to 10 feet over our heads we dug parallel caves until they reached a length of 15 feet or so. Then we decided to connect the two caves with a large Head Quarters Room, just like we had seen in the movies. The inner room was big enough for us to stand upright, and included built-in seats molded from sand. Little natural light filtered in so our light was provided by candles sitting on dug-in shelves. Now we had a real fort, secure from any enemies. Surely it would protect us from any mock Nazi, or Jap invasions.

After our third or fourth full day of digging we decided just telling Jimmy's parents of our daily progress wasn't enough, we had to show them. That night we again went home and told Mr. and Mrs. Hughes of our day's work. As usual they complemented us saying,

"That's nice, so glad you boys are having fun, keep up the good work, etc."

But this time we also got Mr. Hughes to promise he would accompany us in the morning and inspect our handy work.

No two boys more anxiously awaited the morning than we did. We laid in bed excitedly talking about how amazed Jimmy's dad was going to be at our superior skills as cave diggers. We knew as a WW II veteran Mr. Hughes would be proud of the redoubt we had built.

The next morning after wolfing down our breakfast we held Mr. Hughes to his word. The good man that he was, Mr. Hughes enthusiastically hiked along with us. Soon we were talking about the great battles we would fight from the mouths of

our caves, and how we would ward off any invaders. Mr. Hughes played along encouraging us to use our imaginations.

Finally the caves were in sight. We both anxiously looked up the full length of Mr. Hughes' six-foot six-inch frame to receive his approval. To our surprise he started to tremble.

It took a few moments for him to exclaim,

"My God! You boys really did dig some caves"

Looking back on it Mr. Hughes just about passed out there on the spot. He and Mrs. Hughes had assumed that the caves we had been telling them about were like the caves we dug in Jimmy's front yard sand pile. Those caves were never more than our arms could fit into, and a collapse would have only buried a few plastic army men.

After a quick inspection of the caves, from the outside only, we went back to the Hughes house, where we retrieved three shovels, then we headed back to the caves. The three of us spent the rest of the day filling in the caves burying everything we had left inside. Mr. Hughes' concern that the sand caves would collapse kept us from even retrieving the candles and few goodies we had left within the bowels of our bunker.

Both Jimmy and I promised his parents we would never dig caves like that again. But that didn't stop us from doing many other things that were just as stupid and dangerous. Like rock climbing without protection, or digging into collapsed mine tunnels. I wonder, do young boys have guardian angels, or for that matter, adult cave divers?

As I struggled to free myself from the predicament into which I went so naively, I knocked my mask onto my forehead and pulled my regula-

tor most of the way out of my mouth. That was after I snagged my weight belt, and it had fallen off. Typically in Alaskan underwater caves, silt that collects on the ceiling, flakes off as the bubbles from the air regulator bounce against it. Therefore, With each breath I was getting about half saltwater, and I couldn't see. But at least I was making progress. After what seemed like hours, but could have only been a few minutes I was free. With Alan's help I got my diving gear all back in the proper places and we ascended to the surface.

The gentle waves rocked us as we floated 40 feet above the cave. The nightmare of being permanently stuck was now only a bad memory. True to form Alan made some ribbing wise crack, and I'm sure I rebutted with one. While we were analyzing my stupidity of entering a too-tight opening we both came to the conclusion that it was a good thing I didn't panic. Had I, it would have been certain death.

While swimming back to the boat I contemplated telling Alan my method of staying calm was to let my life flash before my eyes back to my earliest caving days, but I didn't. It was just too complicated to explain. I rolled over on my back and watched the clouds drift by. Again I let my imagination drift back and I saw Alan as a grubby little boy digging caves with Jimmy and me. Somehow, I knew, if Alan had grown up with us, he too would have been wielding a digging can. I even envisioned Alan teaching Jimmy and me how to place black powder charges deep within our sand caves. As I came back to reality there was no doubt in my mind, Alan was just as crazy as Jimmy or I had ever been.

What more could a guy want from a friend?

LETTERS

Jan. 15, 1997

Dear Editor,

In the August 1996 issue of the Alaskan Caver, on page 1, there is a photograph taken by me of David Love holding some animal bones recovered during the summer of 1995. The caption mistakenly indicates that they were collected last summer (1996) causing some to suppose that they are the human remains uncovered. Last summer I was not shown the human remains and I did not ask to see them. If I had viewed and photographed them I would not have submitted a photo for publishing to any editor without total cooperation from the archeologist involved.

I would like to thank Paul Hadfield for submitting the Pirates of Whale Pass article. Articles like this liven up an otherwise dry Grotto Newsletter. For those of you disturbed at his hint of a particular rock removal technique, let it be known that virtually all cave explorers move rocks out of their way as they pass through caves. However, they do not disturb speleothems, bones, or any other things of significance.

Sincerely,
Carlene Allred

January 25, 1997

Hello,

We have recently received the final EIS for the Lab Bay project area. At first we were pleased to see that there were improvements over the draft EIS. Apparently, however, the Lab Bay project area is still planned as a timber supply for industrial forestry. The contentious cutting units were only deferred, not removed from inventory. The forest will be degraded still more. And when that happens, a place that has suffered degradation becomes the target for still more degradation.

The EIS is still titled Ketchikan Pulp Company Long Term Timber Sale Contract, and still reflects the requirements of that contract. We need to have the final EIS deferred until alternatives that reflects the new realities are considered.

- Do you have any interests or concerns that you feel need to be addressed in light of the cancellation of the KPC contract?
- Did the final EIS address your concerns adequately?
- Do you feel that the EIS needs to be appealed?
- Do you have any general comments or suggestions.

One thing we would like to see included in a revised management plan is this: Any cutting in the Lab Bay Area should be part of a project producing certified forest products. One that strengthens and diversifies the local economy and helps to provide a place for our children, without destroying the very things that we cherish.

In general, certified forests must meet the following broad principles: 1) long term security for the forest, 2) maintenance of environmental functions, including watershed stability and biological conservation, 3) sustained yield forestry production, 4) positive impact on local communities, and 5) the existence of suitable forest management plans. ("We plant two seedlings for every 500-year-old tree we cut down.")

Who certifies? The most credible certification is that which meets the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council. The Forest Stewardship Council is introducing an international labeling scheme for forest products, which guarantees that the product comes from a well managed forest. There is a large and growing demand for certified wood products. There are various buyers groups around the globe which consist of well known companies who have committed to buying independently certified timber. The buyers group in the United Kingdom consists of 72 companies, or roughly one quarter of all the timber trade in the UK. There is a growing interest in North America.

Were the forests on north Prince of Wales Island to be managed this way, small wood products businesses using this wood would have a marketing advantage, and stand a greater chance of success.

Lance and Karen Howell, 7202 South Pass Road, Sumas, WA 98295
e-mail howell@nas.com phone (360)599-2729

EXCHANGES

NITTANY GROTTO NEWS (43)3, November 1996, pp. 18-19. "Bats Attack Audience During Horror Movie" Moviegoers watching a horror flick fled the theater screaming in terror when a covey of honest-to-goodness, real-life bats swooped down on them from out of the darkness. The skin-crawling invasion came 15 minutes into the chiller *Return of the Living Dead Part 2*, at the AMC Rockaway Theater in Bergen, New Jersey. A few minutes after the bats arrived, the film was stopped, the house lights came up and the terrified moviegoers were sent home with free passes. An exterminator later made the theater bat-free.

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DC Speleograph (52)12 December 1996, pp 5-7. "The Milling-around Theory of Speleogenesis" In the three pages of tongue-in-cheek examination of milling-around, author Arnie Weisbrot addresses many of the experiences cavers consider part of the ritual. One example follows: 2. Milling-around intensifies while the cavers try to decide which cars to take. This is usually very complex since it involves knowing who will be going on which trip, and which cars have room. The problem is that the "picking teams" stage of milling-around will happen much later, so of course no one knows which trip they will be on. Stage 2 milling-around sometimes includes mad dashes from one car to another when plans not yet made are changed before they form. Stage 2 also includes a unique automotive form of milling-around in that there is usually a traffic jam associated with the traffic exiting the narrow driveway. Getting on the road ends stage 2.

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THE HOLLOW EARTH NEWS (3)11 December 1996, pp 31-37. "A New Climbing System: The Roller Frog!" by Gary Phelps. "The roller frog system is the result of my long quest for a climbing rig which would be efficient and easy to use, comfortable on long drops and not too complicated in construction. I have used it to climb a drop of over 400 feet with a fairly heavy load and have concluded that it is better than anything else I have ever tried. The roller frog system was devised by the author in August of 1996 (if anyone else has come up with a similar system, I would be interested in hearing about it)."

This article explains the parts of the roller frog, its usage and limits.

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THE SPELEOGRAPH (32)11 November 1996, pp 115-116. "Cave Gating Down Under" Cave gating is becoming a contentious issue, not just here in the northwest, but elsewhere as well. The following editorial appeared in the August 1996 Nargun, 29-year-old newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Association - Editor. "Editorial"

Of all the cave management problems that crop up, cave gating seems to be the most troublesome. Usually the tendency is to put a gate on a cave you want to protect and then throw away the key (always keeping a copy for yourself, of course). This approach often has the opposite effect from that intended."

People are attracted to forbidden fruits and a cave with a gate on it must clearly have something worth seeing. Plus there are always people who cannot resist a challenge and a hefty-looking gate is a challenge.

This was exemplified earlier this year when the quite substantial gate on Cloggs Cave, an anthropological site at East Buchan, was forced by a person or persons unknown. The cave is very small and could not have provided much satisfaction to the culprits, but the lure of the gate proved irresistible. Peter Ackroyd

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Muddy Litter Letter 32 September/October 1996, p 2. "Considerations For Technical Rope Rescue and Introduction of TAC ROPE KIT" Kenneth Laidlaw, in part two of this series, gives the following warning: Rope rescue is a very dynamic experience and what may be considered safe today, may be determined inappropriate tomorrow. Check the date of your edition(s) of any paper with technical rope rescue information. If you have an earlier versions-DESTROY THEM.

Laidlaw discusses "Lowering the Load with a Brake Bar Rack" and "Belaying the Load" in this issue.

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The CLEVE-O-GROTTO NEWS (43)1 January 1997. "Impending Changes to USGS Topographic Maps" by George Dasher Originally printed in *West Virginia Caver*, December 1996 (14)6. "The U.S. Geological Survey is in the process of drastically changing the form and content of its 7.5-minute quadrangle topographic maps. The traditional paper topographic maps have the most detailed topographic map coverage anywhere in the world, and for many years they have been the recognized standard of excellence. The proposed changes

ROPE RETIREMENT

by Clyde Soles

CLEVE-O-GROTTO NEWS, Oct. 1996

"When should I retire my rope?"

The best answer is, when you don't feel comfortable on it. When you're out there on the sharp end pushing your limits, hands sweating, legs shaking, with big air below you, confidence in your lifeline is essential.

Keep tabs on the condition of your rope by inspecting it each time you belay and rappel. Feel for bumps, thin spots, or changes in stiffness; these indicate it has been severely stressed. Look for signs of heavy fuzzing (50 percent of sheath fibers are cut) and puffs or bulges of the white core material showing through the sheath. Any of these indicators means the rope should be retired.

Even if your rope appears to be in good shape, if it has held a long, severe fall (fall factor greater than one), there's reason for concern. Inspect the rope carefully for irregularities, and record the fall in your logbook.

Sport climbing is essentially hard on a rope. In the Blue Water test, a 10.5 Millimeter rope lost 32 percent of its tensile strength after 25 short falls (176-pound weight falling 5.2 feet on 8.2 feet of rope every minute), and the impact force climbed 25 percent. After 125 drops the rope lost 63 percent of its tensile strength. You're better off using a fat, heavy rope for working that crux and, occasionally, alternating ends of the rope to give the nylon a chance to recover. If you use your rope daily for heavy-duty functions such as guiding or sport climbing, manufacturers recommend retirement after three to six months. Weekend warriors who also take climbing holidays should expect one to two years of use. If you only get out occasionally, your rope should be good for two to four years. Ropes that have had no obvious abuse still wear out. (Ideally, ropes would come with a freshness label, like a carton of milk, but so far only PMI and Beal have taken this step.) We tested an 11-millimeter rope that was virtually unused and had been properly stored for about 20 years. To look at it, you'd think it was in great shape, and you probably wouldn't hesitate to climb on it. The rope for one fall. To be safe, a rope that's been shelved for five years should no longer be trusted for leading.

For those who are good record keepers, Edelrid has the following advice. Multiply the number of feet climbed by .33 and the number of feet rappelled, lowered,

and jamared by 1.66; keep a running tally of total usage. Retire a 10-millimeter rope when it has accumulated between 5,000 and 15,000 feet; a 10-millimeter rope, after 23,000-33,000 feet; and for an 11-millimeter rope, after 36,000 to 63,000 feet. Opt for the lower number if it receives hard falls or is lightweight.

Retirement does not have to mean the end of your rope's life. Unless it's really trashed, it would be fine for top roping and rappelling, activities that usually generate small impact forces. Just keep a close eye on the condition of the sheath. In fact, top roping and rappelling are so abusive to the sheath that, if you use a rope a lot for these activities, you probably should save it for these activities only. One test by the Drutscher Alpenverein (DAY) showed that after 200 rappels on thin ropes, strength was reduced by 70 percent.

When it's really dead, cut the rope up so that you or someone who doesn't know better are not tempted to use it. "The Ashley Book of Knots" illustrates way-cool floor mats you can weave from ropes.

Continued from page 4

will degrade the quality of these maps and have negative impact on the majority of individuals who use these maps."

Dasher addresses the proposed changes and explains how these differ from the USGS maps now available. His personal feeling is that "this is going to be a national dilemma." For persons wishing to comment, write directly to Gordon Easton, Director USGS National Center, Mail Stop 551, Reston, VA 22092.

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ATTI E MEMORIE della Commissione Grotte "Eugenio Boegan Vol XXX 1991. pp.37-52. "Diagram for the Calculation of Glacier Ablation and Ice Formation in Glacier Caves" by Adolfo Eraso (in Italian). Abstract: In the present work, we investigate the air circulation in intra and subglacial caves, we describe the existing thermodynamic conditions and we analyze the different cases which can appear in nature as well as their morphological repercussions.

We describe and develop an enthalpy-entropy diagramme which allows us to calculate both the glacier internal ablation and in its case, the new ice formation and the temperature drops which occurred during the process.

The quantitative calculation of the glacier internal ablation is a useful contribution to the knowledge of the polar shelves mass balance, tightly related to the global changes.

1999 NSS CONVENTION

by David W. Kesner, Cavers Digest #5393 with editing

Idaho has been chosen as the location of the **1999 NSS Convention**.

On November 2, 1996, the NSS Board of Governors unanimously voted to accept the Gem State Grotto's bid to host the 1999 NSS Convention. Cavers will meet July 12, 1999, at the Twin Falls County Fairgrounds in Filer, Idaho, for five days of sessions, camaraderie, sharing and fun. The closest major cities are Twin Falls, Idaho (eight miles to the north); Boise, Idaho (120 miles to the northwest); and Salt Lake City, Utah, (230 miles to the southeast).

The Fairgrounds is an 88 site with buildings and large grassy areas for camping. Those cavers who chose to camp at the convention site, will be able to park next to your camp. Some motels are cheap and close to the Fairgrounds with the average rate of \$40 a night, although it is possible to find lodging ranging from \$26 to \$250.

All of the sessions will be conducted at the Fairgrounds or at the Filer High School (a few thousand feet from the Fairgrounds). The only bussing will be for the Photo Salon unless an Expo Building at the Fairground is completed in time for the convention.

Caving will be in nearby lava tubes. Most are just one-half hour to two hours from the convention site. The farthest distance will be to Craters of the Moon National Monument which is 85 miles to the northeast.

These are not ordinary boring lava tubes, but highly decorated (both primary and secondary speleothems) and with extensive multiple levels, such as tubes in a tube. Several tubes are over a mile in length. All but one of the caves is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Because of the rules for visiting caves of this delicate nature and in the pristine environment of these caves the vast majority of the trips will be accompanied by a Resource Monitor. There will be a few open caves for those spur of the moment trips.

.....
The Gem State Grotto is also hosting the **1997 Northwest Caving Association Regional Meeting**. This meeting is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26 in Shoshone, Idaho, at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. Jennifer Dorman will be sending a registration form to each of the northwest grottos in the next couple months. If anyone would like to request information in advance or has any questions, you may contact her at:

Jennifer Dorman, NCA Regional Registration Chair
Sec. Gem State Grotto, 1999 NSS Registration Chair

2215 N Raymand, Boise, Idaho 83704

(208)331-0279 (evenings) Idaho Caver@aol.com

MALENSKIYA BOLSHIYA PESHEYRA

Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #000
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

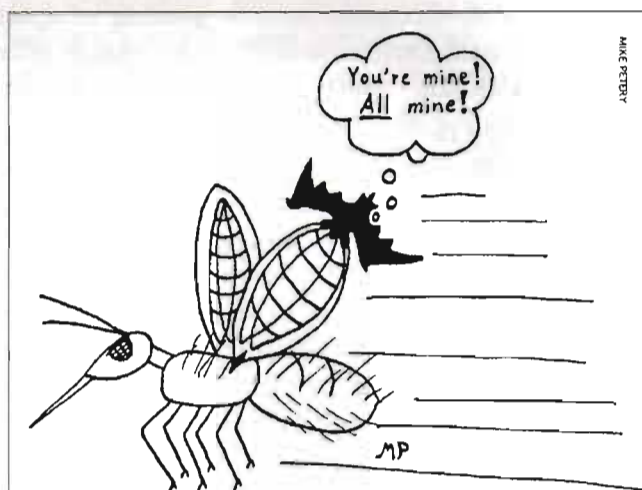
by R.R. Knotts
January 7, 1997

DESCRIPTION

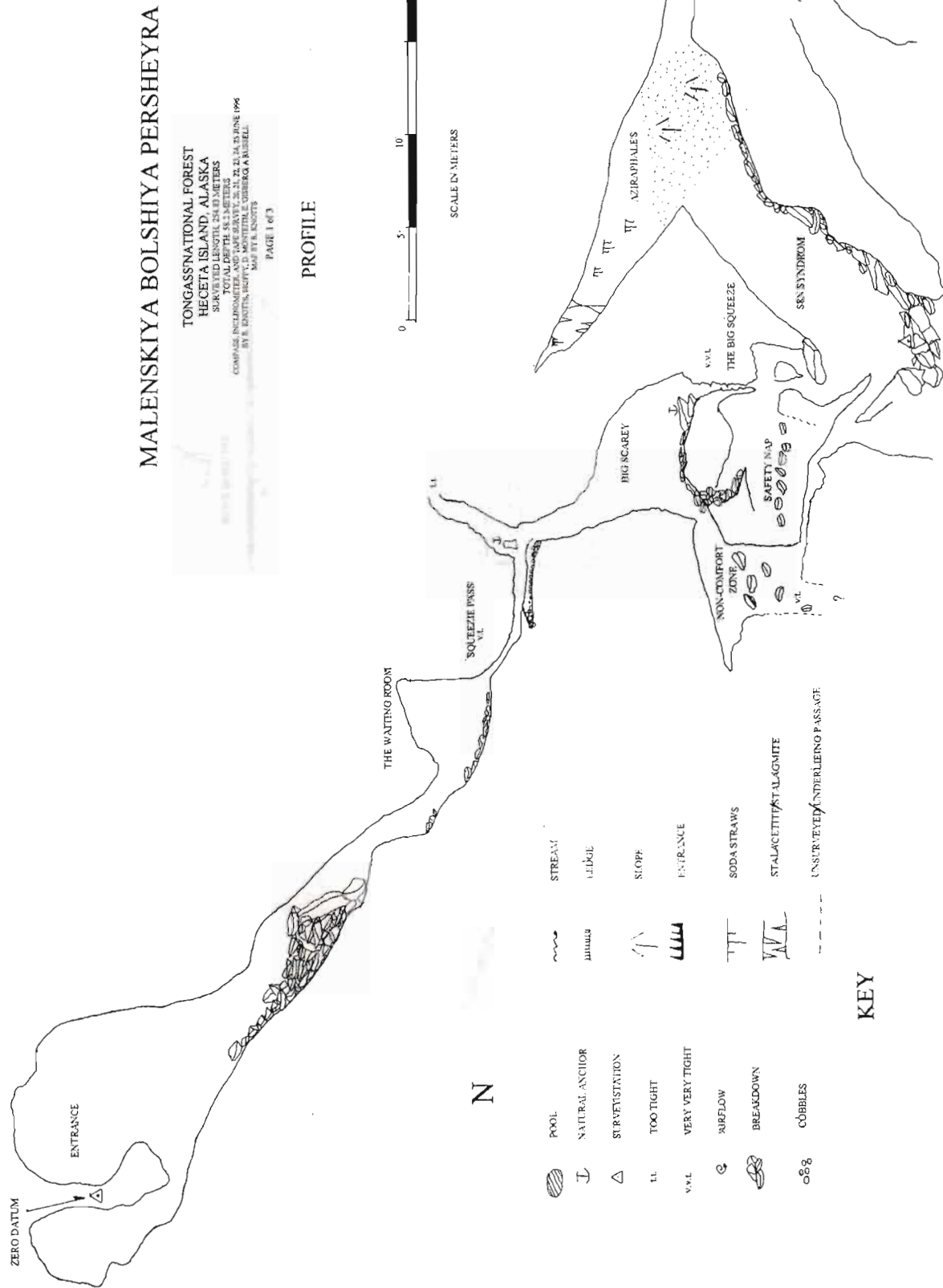
Malenskiya Bolshiya Pesheyra (Little Big Cave) was discovered on June 20, 1996, by Dan Monteith and Rob Knotts, a stone's throw from a landing in the clear-cut directly above Ketchi-cave base camp. The cave has a very impressive double entrance with twin sky lights just inside the main chamber, which is a large, multi-room space of phreatic origin. Overall the cave seems to be a series of very large rooms connected by extremely tight, and sometimes vertical, fissures. There is much loose rock and marginal anchors for rope-work. Two possible leads exist in the back regions of the cave, both blowing strong air and requiring extensive digging.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to its extremely tight vertical nature, and the inherent instability of the anchors, access should be limited to only those with a specific need to visit. Malenskiya...is hydrologically active and during rain events poses an even greater threat due to the constrictions of its passages. The location should not be shared with anyone other than the scientist responsible for its management.



Clearly a fine example of the typical mosquito at Woodward Cave during the Fall MAR. The bat and mosquito are both to correct scale. (Nittany Grotto News Vol. 43 No. 3) The mosquito is a little small for the Alaska bat/mosquito size ratio.



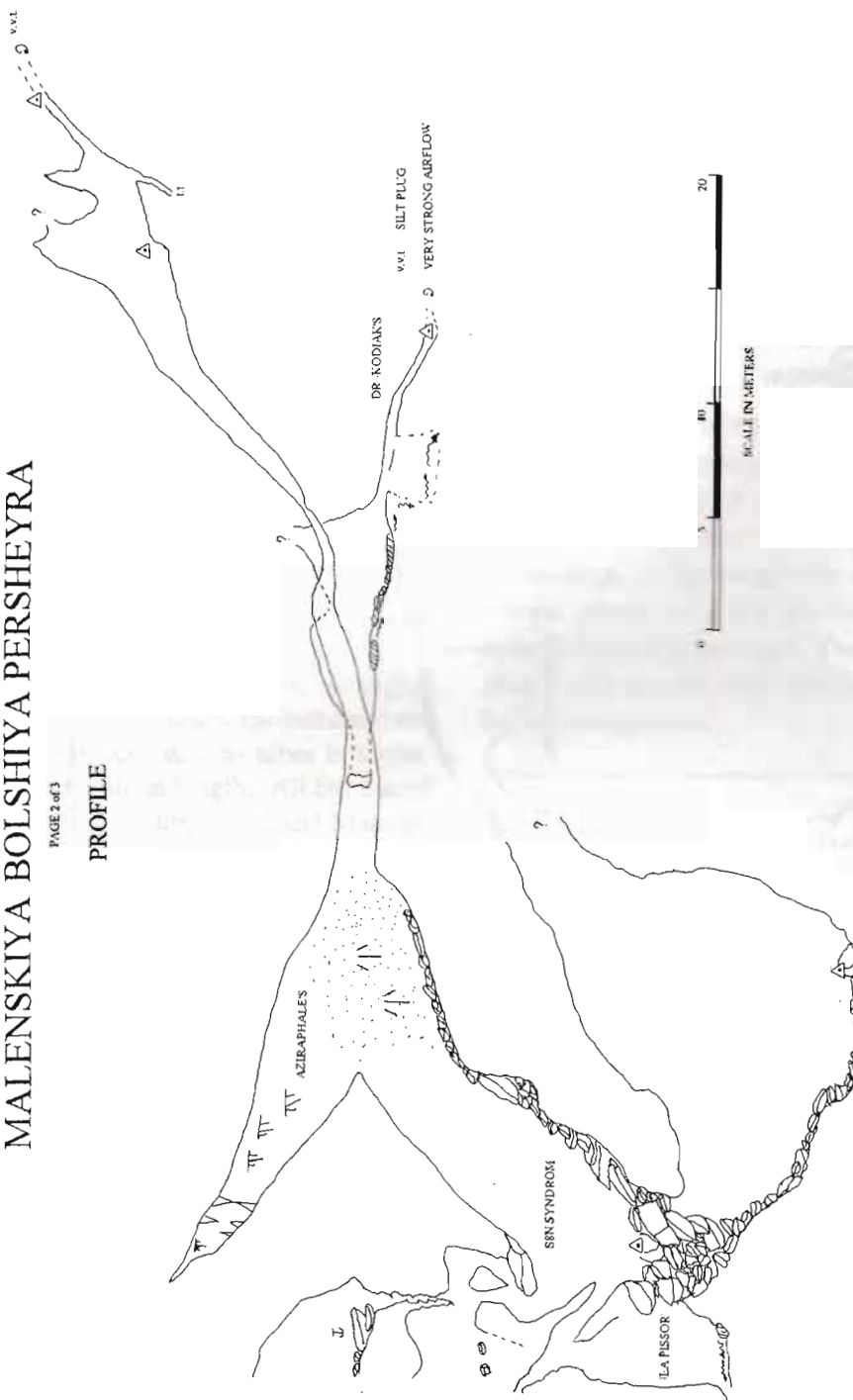


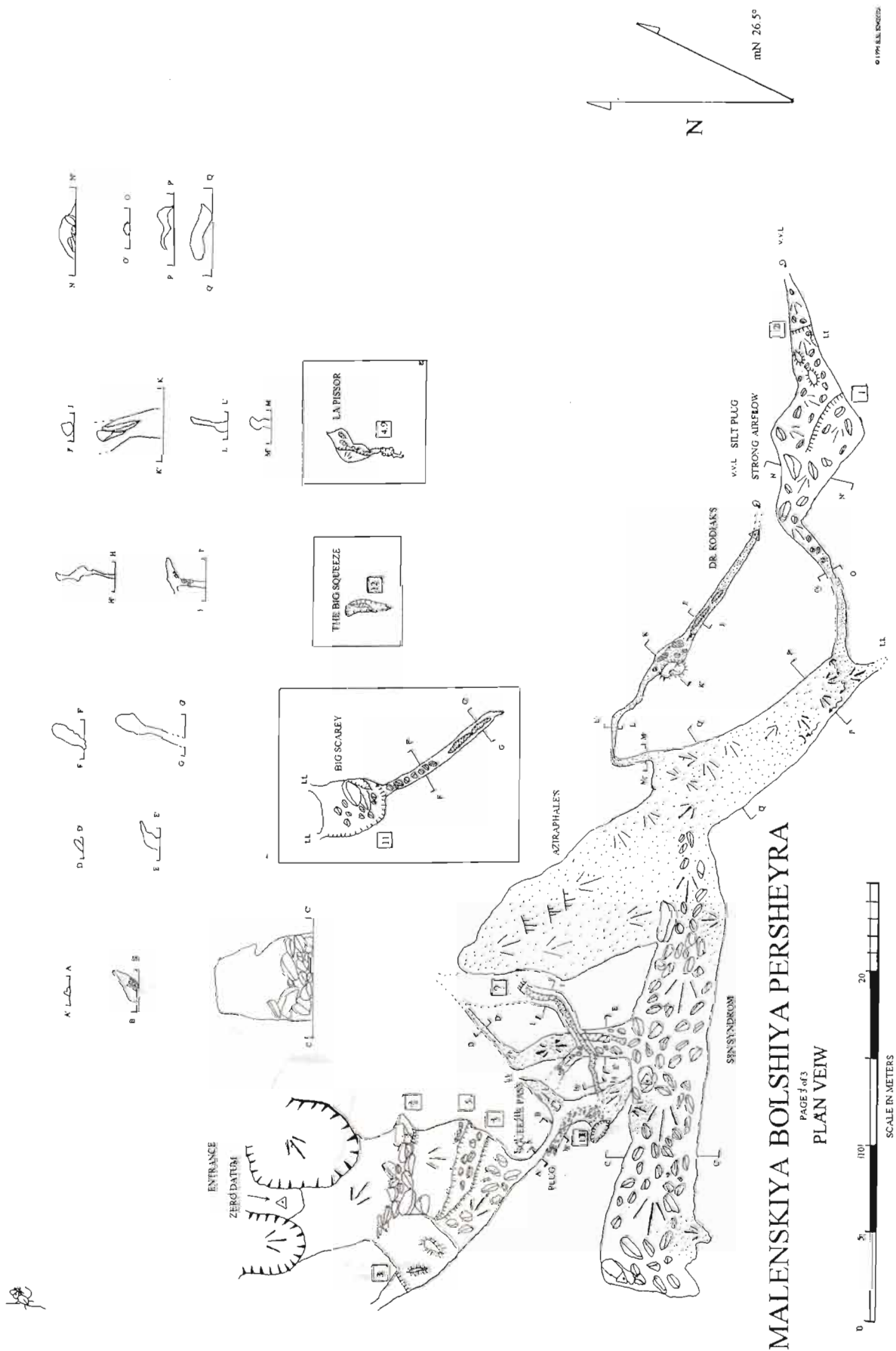
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MALENSKIYA BOLSHIYA PERSHEYRA

PAGE 2 of 3

PROFILE





SHA-WING CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #000

Tongass Cave Project • National Speological Society

by R.R. Knotts
January 6, 1997

DESCRIPTION

Sha-wing Cave was discovered on June 26 by Eron Gisbserg, Amy Russell, Dan Monteith, and Rob Knotts. This cave shares the same drainage as Amnesia Cave, which is directly up-slope, and appears to channel large amounts of water during rain events. The surrounding area is replete with grikes and other significant karst features.

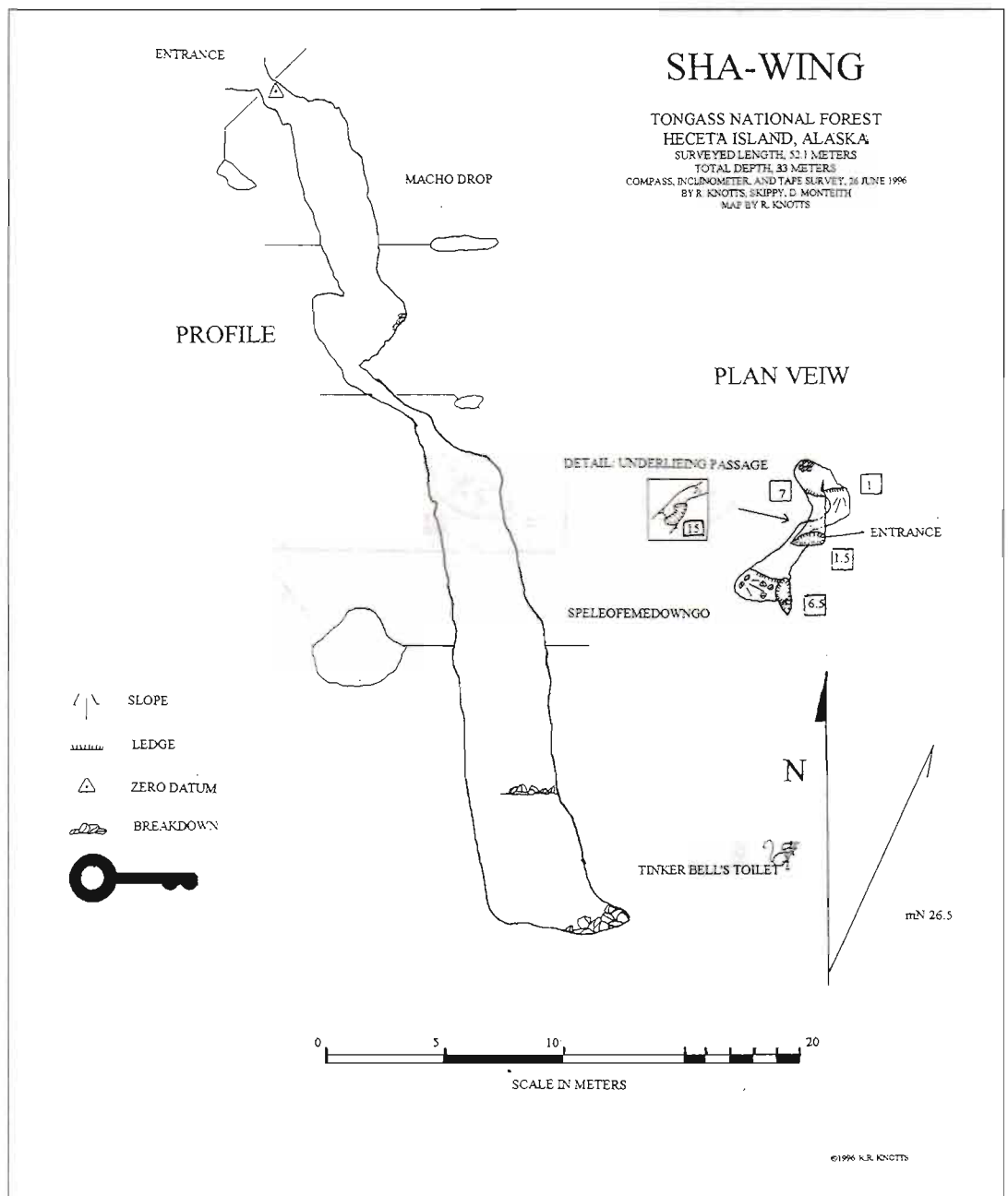
The single passage is basically a clean drop borehole with few obstructions, down a deep sculpted shaft. The speleogenesis follows the bedding plane. A minor insurgence seeps along one wall and possibly becomes more active during wetter periods. The passage ends in a plug of large boulders and may yield to further exploration given adequate motivation.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION

Sha-wing Cave, a hydrologically active karst feature, has been heavily impacted by logging in the surrounding area. Any further logging activities in the adjacent timber

stands could prove to be a serious detriment to water quality for the entire drainage.

Due to its extremely vertical nature access should be restricted to only those with extensive training in SRT.



SOM'TING CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Priliminary Report #000 Tongass Cave Project • National Spelological Society

by R.R. Knotts
January 6, 1997

DESCRIPTION

Som'ting Cave is located in a medium volume stand of old growth forest. A large number of grikes and dolines

are evident in the immediate vicinity, as well as several significant caves.

The entrance is a narrow slot at ground level in the face of a limestone outcrop, with a small intermittent stream running along one side. The cave branches off into two passages near the end, both of which pinch-off too tight after a meter or two.

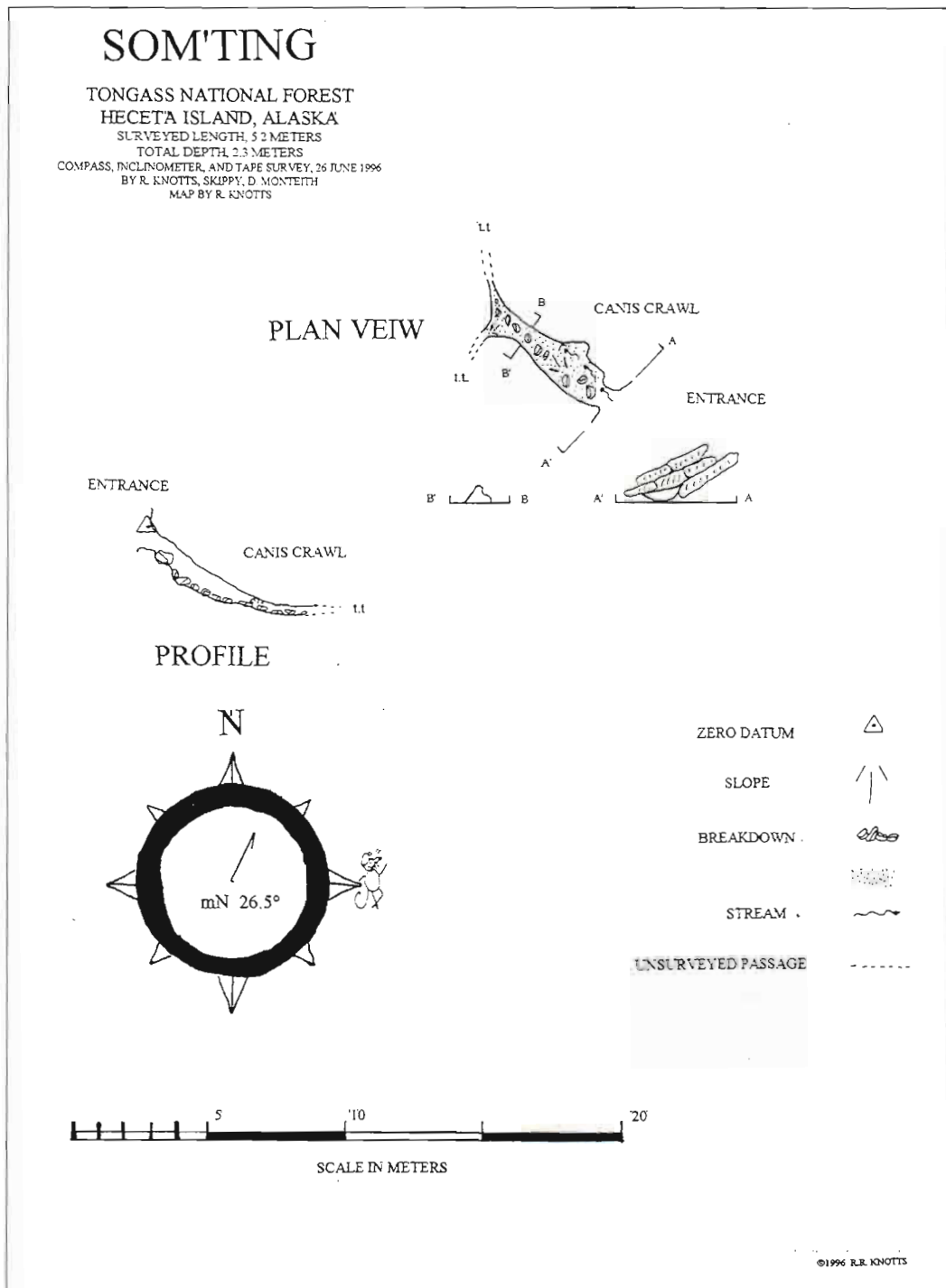
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Som'ting Cave appears to have received substantial use as a wolf den in recent history.

Numerous scat and bones were scattered throughout the passage and "wolflike" hairs were found snagged on the walls.

A second den was found only a few meters distant, beneath a hollowed-out root wad.

This cave and all others in its vicinity should be protected from any activities which might disturb its occupants.



RT'S EFFIN HOLE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #000 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by R.R. Knotts
January 7, 1997

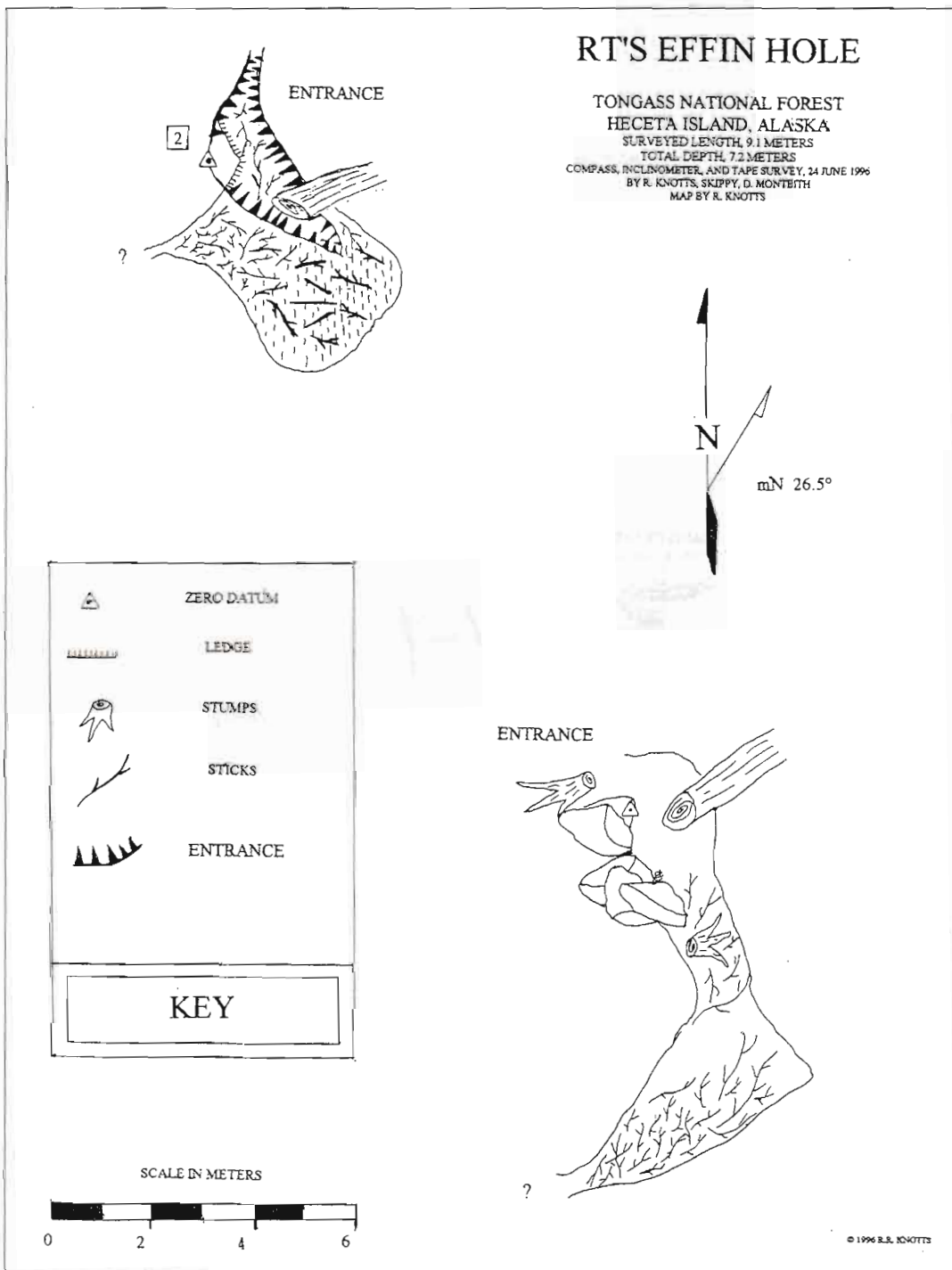
DESCRIPTION

RT's Effin Hole is located across the road and downslope from the much larger Malenskiya Bolshiya Pesheyra. It is a small sinkhole entrance which currently takes large amounts of water from the bar-ditch immediately adjacent. The geology of this cave, other than the fact that it is limestone, was impossible to ascertain without extensive restoration, due to the fact that it is totally occluded with logging slash and woody debris.

potential hazard, or some kind of restoration, to clear the entrance of its concealing slash.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

In its current state RT's Effin Hole poses an extreme threat to the safety of unaware hikers, forestry workers and any other individuals who may be walking in the area. It is nearly impossible to see the entrance, even when right above it, and the first pitch is a 5-meter drop that could prove quite hazardous if unnoticed. Precautionary measures should be taken to identify this



ALIEN ABDUCTION CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #000 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by R.R. Knotts
January 6, 1997

DESCRIPTION

Alien Abduction Cave was mapped by Dan Monteith and Rob Knotts on June 6, 1996. It is a relatively short

vadose canyon with a series of small drops that are easily protected with a single 30-meter rope. The anchor is a natural arch near station A-3.

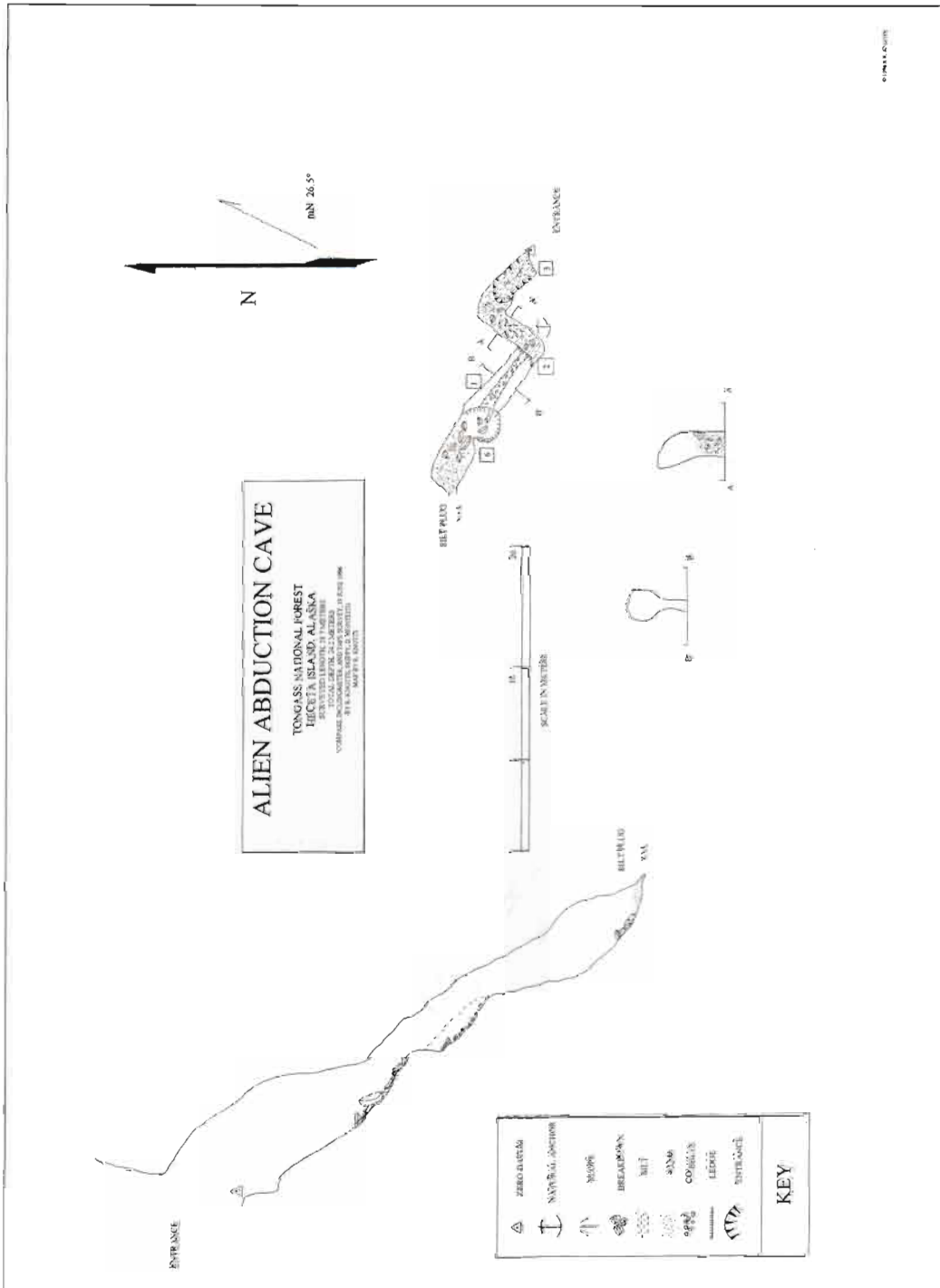
The entrance is a steeply sloping sink with one large

(~6 foot diameter) spruce directly above the passage. The interior walls are covered in calcite and organic material is spread along the floor to nearly midpoint. From there until the passage ends in a silt-plug cobbles cover the floor. While there was no moving water at the time of survey, recent high-water marks were evident on the passage walls.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon cursory examination Alien Abduction Cave itself does not appear to be a highly significant feature, however, with Viva Silva Cave immediately up-slope and Arabica Cave immediately downslope, a hydrological connection must exist.

It would therefore seem prudent to install similar protective measures for all three caves. Alien Abduction Cave is a good choice for directed access to knowledgeable cavers with appropriate vertical gear.



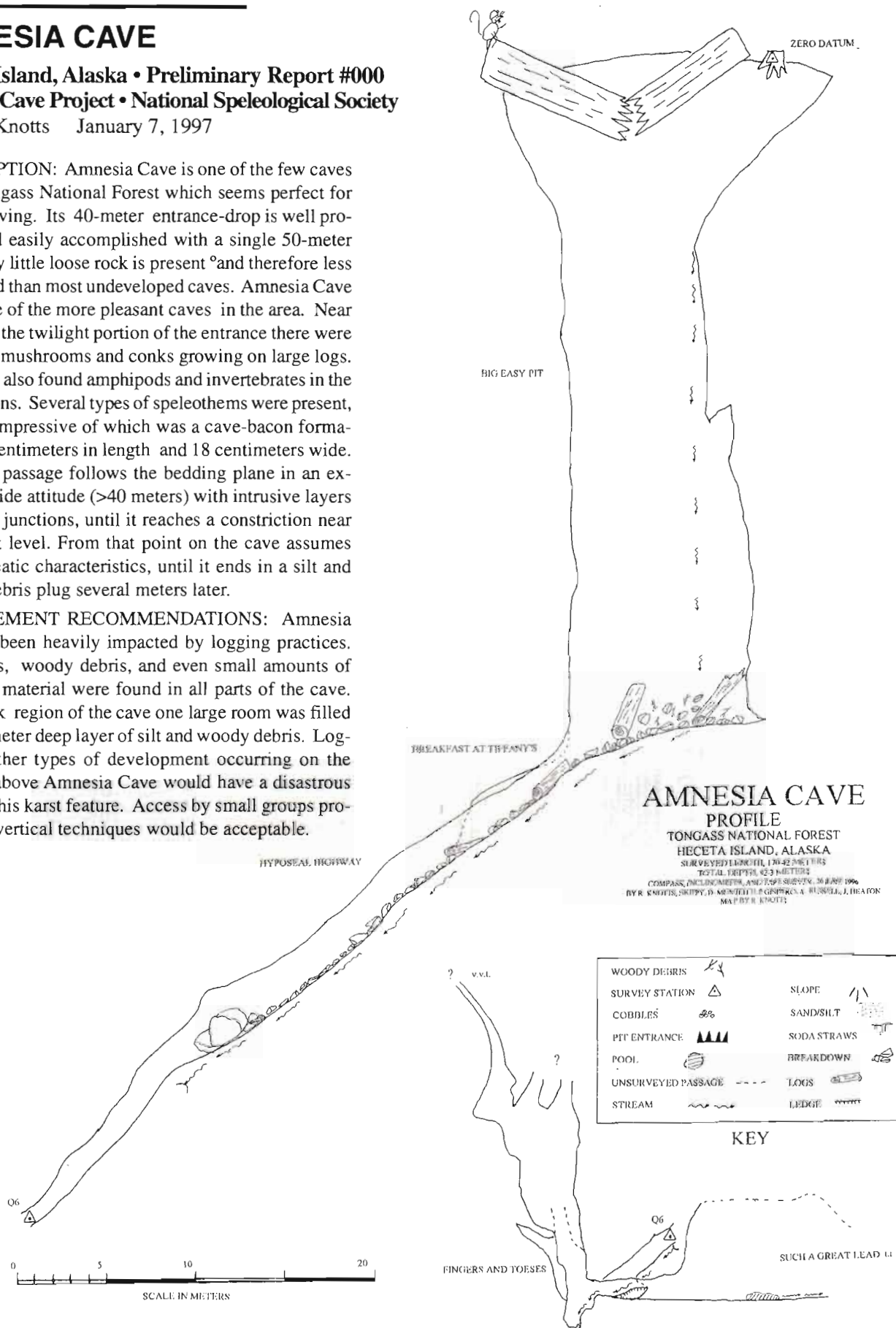
AMNESIA CAVE

Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #000
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by R.R. Knotts January 7, 1997

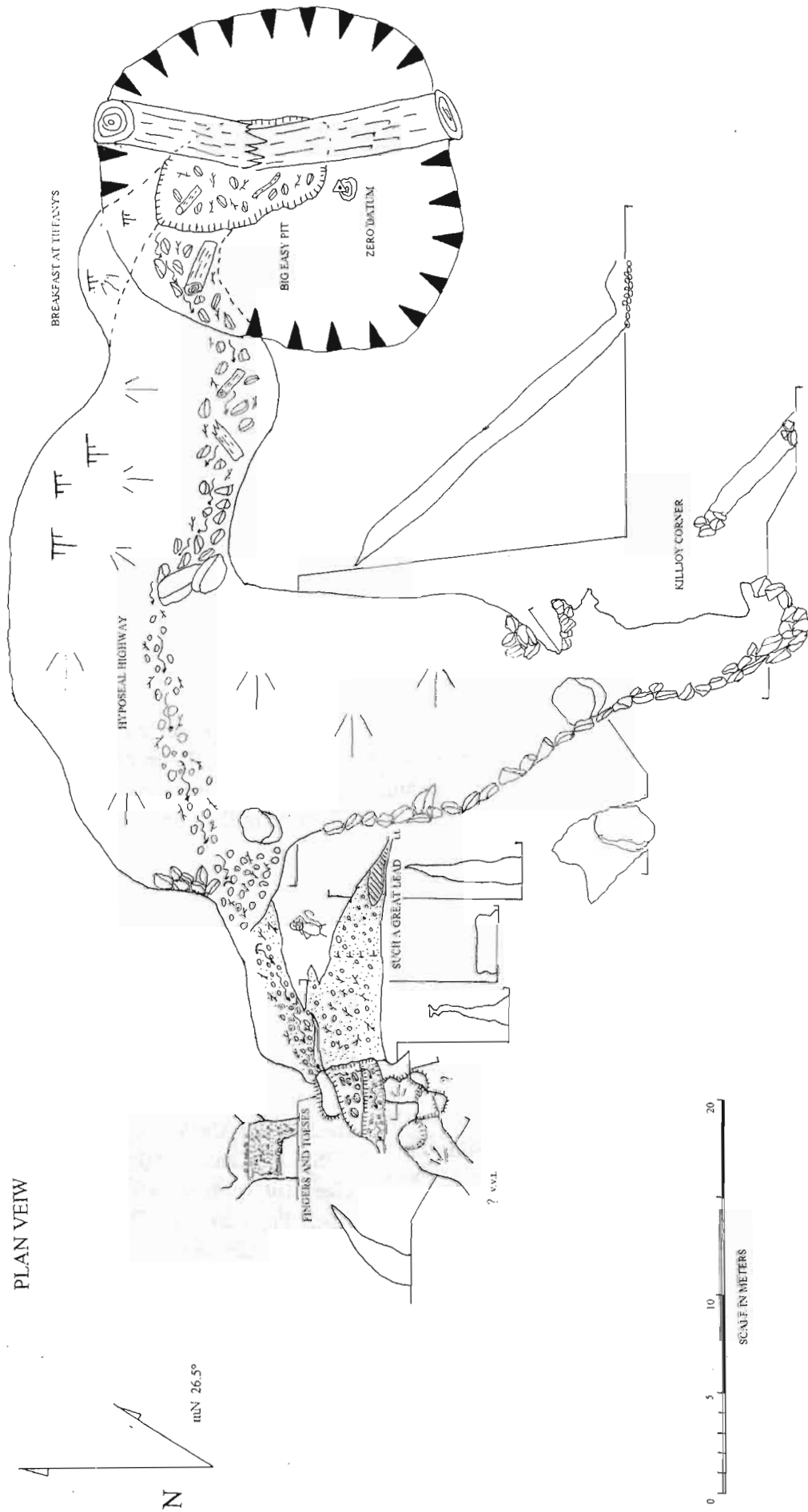
DESCRIPTION: Amnesia Cave is one of the few caves in the Tongass National Forest which seems perfect for "sport" caving. Its 40-meter entrance-drop is well protected and easily accomplished with a single 50-meter rope. Very little loose rock is present and therefore less of a hazard than most undeveloped caves. Amnesia Cave is also one of the more pleasant caves in the area. Near the end of the twilight portion of the entrance there were terrestrial mushrooms and conks growing on large logs. Surveyors also found amphipods and invertebrates in the back regions. Several types of speleothems were present, the most impressive of which was a cave-bacon formation 195 centimeters in length and 18 centimeters wide. The main passage follows the bedding plane in an extremely wide attitude (>40 meters) with intrusive layers at various junctions, until it reaches a constriction near the lowest level. From that point on the cave assumes more phreatic characteristics, until it ends in a silt and organic debris plug several meters later.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Amnesia Cave has been heavily impacted by logging practices. Large logs, woody debris, and even small amounts of road-base material were found in all parts of the cave. In the back region of the cave one large room was filled with a 2-meter deep layer of silt and woody debris. Logging or other types of development occurring on the drainage above Amnesia Cave would have a disastrous effect on this karst feature. Access by small groups proficient in vertical techniques would be acceptable.



AMNESIA CAVE

PLAN VIEW



1997 KARST AND CAVE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

13th NATIONAL CAVE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

October 7-10, 1997 • Bellingham, Washington

The Organizing Committee of the 1997 Karst and Cave Management Symposium (13th National Cave Management Symposium) invites you to Bellingham, Washington. Bellingham is located in the central part of a vast area of temperate coastal rain forest extending from northern California through southeast Alaska. Although the State of Washington is not generally known for its limestone caves, southeast Alaska and British Columbia have extensive karst development.

The Bellingham location provides a unique opportunity to add an international flavor to the National Cave Management Symposium. Both United States and Canadian individuals and agencies are actively involved in the Planning Committee, and we are encouraging international participation. The primary theme for this Symposium will be "Management of Karst Resources and Caves in Temperate Coastal Rain Forests." The rain forest ecosystem is not limited by international boundaries, and we do not want to limit the Symposium by any artificial constraints. The primary impacts on karst resources in this region result from timber harvesting with associated road construction. Other pressures include recreational caving and commercial caving tours. In this Symposium, we hope to review past activities and their impacts and look ahead to different management techniques based on increased knowledge of the fragile nature of these resources. The United States Chairman of the Symposium is Rob Stitt (1417 Ninth Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98119, USA, phone (206)283-2283, e-mail rstitt@wingedseed.com), and the Canadian chairman is Paul Griffiths (544) Springbok Road, Campbell River, BC V9W 8A2 Canada, phone (250)923-1311, e-mail pgriff@island.net).

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be arranged to provide participants with an opportunity to see firsthand some of the karst resources of the Pacific Northwest. Field trips will be conducted on Thursday Oct. 9, during a scheduled break in the symposium. Field trip participants will not be forced to choose between going on a field trip or attending paper sessions.

Field trip costs are not included in the basic registration fee because of the great difference in transportation

costs between the field trip locations. Among those planned are: Vancouver Island and Chilliwack Field trips in Canada, Prince of Wales Island in Alaska, and Mt. St. Helens in Washington. For reservations:

- Vancouver Island - phone (360)671-1926, e-mail rgarnick@nas.com
- Chilliwack - phone (360)671-1926, e-mail rgarnick@nas.com.
- Alaska - Jim Baichtal phone (907)826-3271, e-mail /s=j.baichtal/
oul=r10f05d04a@mhs.fswa.attmail.com.
- Mt. St. Helens - Jim and Libby Nieland phone (360)231-4298 e-mail jnieland@worldaccess.com.

HOTEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Headquarters for the Symposium will be at the Best Western Lakeway Inn (714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226). Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-528-1234. Rooms are also available at other hotels in the area. Questions about local facilities should be directed to Dick Garnick P.O. Box 28310, Bellingham, WA 98228-0310, phone (360)671-1926, e-mail rgarnick@nas.com.

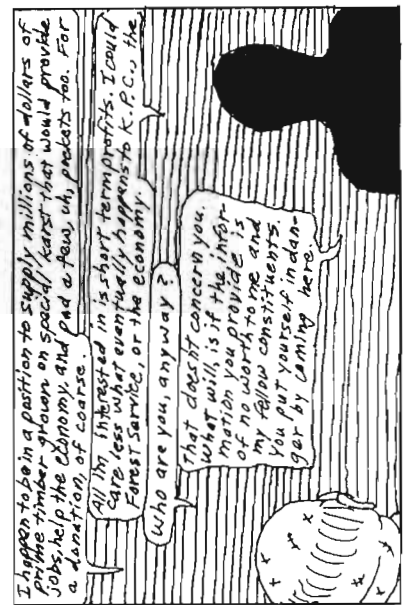
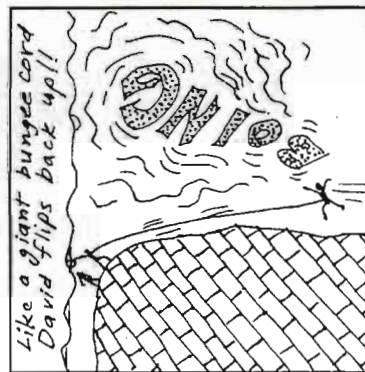
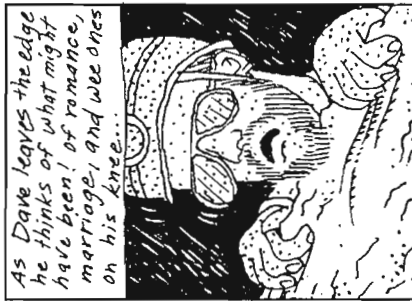
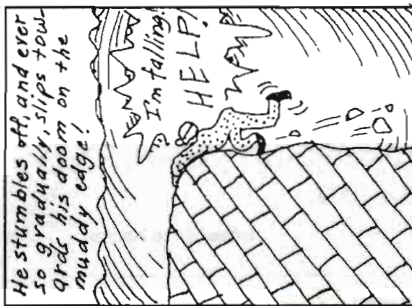
Bellingham has an international airport with service by several commuter airlines, including Horizon Air and United Air Express. The usual rental car agencies are available at the airport. It might be cheaper to fly into Seattle or Vancouver and drive from there.

REGISTRATION

The standard registration fee for this symposium will be US\$100 (Can\$130) if paid before June 30, 1997, and US\$125 (Can\$162.50) after that date. The registration fees for students will be US\$75 (Can\$97.50), not including banquet. The standard registration fee will include reception, banquet, field trip guidebook, and symposium proceedings. Field trip costs are not included. Daily registrations will be available for US\$40 (Can\$52) per day, and will not include reception, guidebook, banquet or proceedings. Hotel reservations must be made separately. Registration forms and checks (payable to National Cave Management Symposium in US Dollars) should be directed to the 1997 Karst and Cave Management Symposium, P.O. Box 28310, Bellingham, WA 98228-0310, USA

The Adventures of

RUBBER CAVER by K. and C. Allred



Will Fatman really destroy the caves and karst? Will Rubber Caver too him? And, how is the Earth really hollow? Stay tuned to find out in the next episode of...
RUBBER CAVER!!!

MISCELLANEOUS

At the 1997 NSS Convention in Sullivan, MO, the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) Board of Regional Coordinators (BORC) will consider candidates for the positions of Central Region Coordinator, Eastern Region Coordinator, Pacific Northwest Coordinator and Diving Coordinator.

Recommendations must be made in writing to the NCRC BORC by June 6, 1997.

Is your input important? Butch Feldhaus says,

"I have always felt that if as much time was spent deciding on the leadership appointed to address caving issues (in this case Cave Rescue) as was spent complaining about the way it was done, caving (and in this case Cave Rescue) would be all the better for it."

Based on recommendations from the membership, qualified persons will be nominated by members of the NCRC BORC and voted on. The NCRC BORC will then recommend to the NSS President persons to be appointed as Coordinators for these regions. Generally, whomever the NCRC BORC recommends is appointed. Finally, the NSS Board of Governors will vote to confirm the appointment of the candidates to the NCRC BORC.

Ideally, persons nominated as regional coordinators should have both caving and rescue experience and training. The regional coordinators provide two-way communication from the regions to the NCRC BORC and from the NCRC BORC to the regions. Matters of training and cave rescue resources are the most popular topics. The regional coordinator needs to be in-tune with regional needs so that they may be clearly presented to the NCRC BORC for action.

Additionally, when requested, Regional Coordinators provide assistance in connecting cave rescue resources with those needing them. This can be done in both emergency and non-emergency situations;. There are also other duties which are unique to each regional. It should be noted that neither the NCRC nor any of its regions are functional rescue units: The NCRC is a communications, training and diplomatic body.

To make a recommendation, put the nomination in writing and mail it to Butch Feldhaus, 5416 Hunter Village Drive, Ooltewah, Tennessee 37363-7004 or e-mail 72144.3326@compuserve.com. There must be a confirmation by the person being recommended indicating a willingness accept the nomination and serve (work) if appointed. Preferably this will be a letter with the nominee's signature on it. Telephone recommendations will not be accepted.

Feldhaus says,

"The NCRC is holding the sketchbook, send back some coordinates for us to use to map our future!"

Questions should be addressed to Feldhaus at (423)238-7009.

Edited from National Cave Rescue Commission

The Alaska Cave Rescue group continues to meet each month at Kave Sports in Ketchikan. Currently, the group is involved in a long-range project that will culminate with a complete set of cave rescue training videos. To date, the videos on knotting, carabiners and care of rope are ready for new members to show and study. Chairman Gary Sonnenberg has details of Alaska Cave Rescue at 1377 Pond Reef Road, Ketchikan AK 99901. His phone number is 247-1559 hm and 228-6323 wk

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