

February 1998

Alaskan Caver, Volume 18, No. 1&2, February & April 1998

Dalene T. Perrigo

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The **Alaskan Caver**

Volume 18 Number 1 & 2

February/April 1998



The Alaskan Caver

published by the
Glacier Grotto©

1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B, Anchorage AK 99507

Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Volume 18 Number 1 & 2 February and April 1998

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Cover Photo : Jay Rockwell and Kevin Allred

The ALASKAN CAVER (ISSN 0735-0481) is the periodic publication of the Glacier Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Back issues are available from the Glacier Grotto Secretary for \$2.50 each.

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The entry passage of El Capitan Cave has ample room for walking. Photo: D. Perrigo

CALENDAR

July 12.....NSS Convention, Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Filer, Idaho. David Kesner, Boise, ID (208)939-0979. email drdave@micron.net.

July 18.....Ketchicave '98 Kosciusko Island, AK. Kris Esterson (850)513-1938 e-mail kae7077@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

August 3-7.....National Convention, Sewanee, TN. Contact William Shrewsbury, PO Box 4444, Chatanooga TN 37405-0444 (423)886-3296; e-mail nss98@caves.org

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. Sonnenberg 247-1559

Southcentral Area meetings: Call Bob Hicks at 248-2830 hm or 272-8401 wk.

10 YEARS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

by Dr. Timothy Heaton

Alaskan cavers have helped to open a whole new window into the Ice Age colonization history of the Americas. Until the discovery of bear bones in El Capitan Cave in 1990, coastal Alaska had been dismissed as having no Pleistocene fossil record, and all animals were thought to be postglacial immigrants. Continental glaciers covering Canada were the major barrier separating the Old and New Worlds during the Ice Age, which made the region critically important but presumably impossible to study. Cave deposits on Prince of Wales and surrounding islands have opened an unexpected new world that has challenged the old orthodoxy. For example, fossil and genetic studies of brown bears not only demonstrate that they arrived in southeast Alaska at least 25,000 years earlier than previously thought, but suggest that they thrived there even during the height of glaciation. Fossils of many other long-gone mammals, such as red fox, caribou, saiga, marmot, and lemming, attest to alpine conditions that dominated the archipelago prior to the development of the rain forest. The cave fossils are allowing me and Fred Grady to reconstruct a detailed history of

colonizations and extinctions resulting from climatic changes. The idea that humans might have entered the Americas by a coastal route was dismissed as mere fancy prior to the 1990s. But new discoveries have now made this a very popular (even trendy) idea. If brown bears could survive the Ice Age in southeast Alaska, then why not seafaring humans? Word of the cave discoveries brought archaeologist Jim Dixon to the islands in search of Ice Age and early postglacial occupation sites. His suspicions were borne out when the caves produced the oldest human remains ever found in Alaska or Canada. This discovery demonstrates that early humans, while obtaining their food from the sea, ventured into upland areas and found resources in even the tightest and wettest of caves.

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By reading this issue of the Alaskan Caver, you will be able to go back and relive the history of organized cave exploration on Prince of Wales Island, as well as on a few neighboring islands. Not only will memories of past expeditions come back, but you will feel like you're there

None of these discoveries would have been possible without the enthusiasm and careful attention of the Alaska caving community. Our research has become highly diverse and interdisciplinary and has won significant funding from the National Science Foundation and National Geographic Society as well as continual support from Tongass National Forest. But we continue to rely heavily on cavers to make new discoveries and bring them to our attention. The Glacier Grotto has our heartfelt thanks for ten years of exceptional dedication.

Continued from President Corner page 1

on all the ones you may have missed. After reading most of the articles, there were several things that I noticed. The concerns and dedication of the earliest POWIE cavers have not diminished, even though most of the names are different today. Some of the major problems that were recognized in the early stages of exploration are still with us today, while others have been resolved. It's good to see that a sense of humor is a fundamental ingredient in all cavers, whether it is about the ever present "cave wind" or the shadowy touch of Skippy. The amount of work that has been collectively accomplished is almost overwhelming. Participants have gone from "local" to international. And yet, in spite of all this, we have only taken the first steps. The amount of work and the obstacles ahead have no end in sight. We will continue to shake hands and exchange punches among ourselves and with our partners. We will have to deal with triumph and disaster, with the freedom of long rappels and the dead weight of bureaucracy. The way we accomplish our goal is one trip report at a time. If the setbacks are less each year, then we are making progress. But we can't sit and wait for things to get better. Ten years of progress means just that – PROGRESS! Ten years of POWIE has and one goal in mind – the protection of karst. What we are actually celebrating are the protections that are in place. They are by no means complete, and even the definition of "protection" is being argued and challenged, but we have a start. It's something to be proud of. But more important, it's incentive to keep going until we reach our goal. The first 10 years were great, but let's make sure the next 10 years won't be too late!

TONGASS CAVE PROJECT REFLECTIONS...GOING, GOING, GONE

by Kevin Allred

This last summer was the 11th straight year of Prince of Wales Island Expedition (POWIE) or other caving expeditions to the Tongass Forest. I thought it might be worthwhile to look back and write some things about the early years. When our family first researched where we wanted to settle in Alaska, we found evidence of great caving potential in the carbonates of the panhandle. We read material from two caving pioneers - Robert Hackman (1949) and Bruce Rogers (1979) who did early exploration.

Finally, after seven years of getting established in Haines, we had our first caving expedition to Chichagof Island (Allred 1987). While on the expedition, I happened to visit with a Realtor in Sitka. When the subject of caving came up, he mentioned he knew a guy who liked to squeeze into those old caves. The guy's name was Dale Kanen, who worked for the United States Forest Service (USFS) in Sitka. We visited and he raved about cave potential in the areas of Heceta, Koskiusko, and Prince of Wales islands. This seemed an ideal opportunity to take the family out that way. Logging roads would allow us to drive into some of these areas on the island.

Thus began the first caving expedition to Prince of Wales Island. We talked with Haines resident, Mike Van Note, who had caved there several years before while working with the USFS. He had written the Grotto, trying to catch some interest, but nobody responded. Another fellow had talked with a Forest Service employee while on a surveying job near El Capital Work Camp. He learned there was a cave there that was 500 feet long. Our appetite whetted, we broke away and soon found ourselves zeroed in on "Cave Creek" near Hydaburg on Prince of Wales. Surely there must be at least one cave to go with the creek.

Alas, we found only small sinkholes. I remember one day after hiking logging roads and clambering through brush along Cave Creek, I emerged on a main road. A truck stopped to see if I was OK,

and I asked this skinny logger-type guy if there were any caves near Cave Creek. He looked at me like I was nuts, said no, and then went on his way.

Well, onto greener fields, so north to Thorne Bay we went. At the Forest Service office, Bruce Campbell of the "recreation shop" looked at aerial photographs with us. I recall in spite of having the flu, being excited enough to yell and babble about the incredible mother-lode of karst. Bruce, of course, thought we were crazies.

"Those holes are just a danger and nuisance to people in the wood" everyone seemed to think. But what was under those holes?

At this point, a team of wild horses could not stop us from driving to the heavily clear-cut karst around Cavern and Sinkhole lakes, where on the aerials we had spotted an awesome looking black hole in the clear-cut. We took turns baby-sitting to explore, and surveyed it in a few days. We named it Starlight Cave. Soon, however, we became alarmed for the children walking along the road berry picking, for a very deep shaft was about three feet from the road and only 100 feet from camp. The place must be honeycombed, we thought!

At one point, I was working on a car repair and told Carlene, "I wish I had a pair of vice grips to fix this thing with". Image my surprise when she returned from her turn in the depths with a pair of vice grips some logger had lost down one of the vertical entrances!

We next went to El Capitan Work Camp. We ended up setting up camp on a logging road and

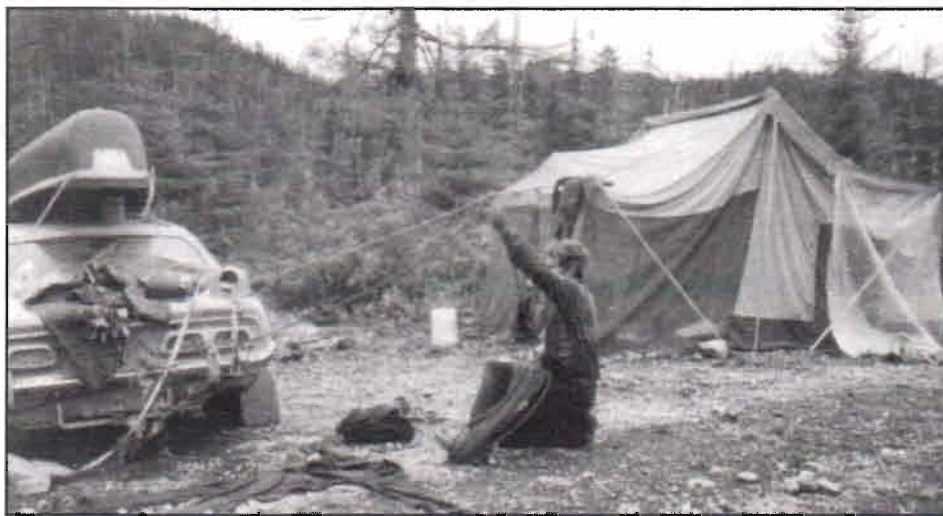
soon began surveying the cave there, which we named "El Capitan Cave". We still had lots of leads in a couple days of solo surveying before heading home.

Excited about the potential, we shot for the stars and started a caving project that would cover all southeast Alaska. Under the Glacier Grotto, it was called the Tongass Caves Project. In 1988 the expedition consisted of Mark Evans, Jay Rockwell, David Klinger, Harvey Bowers, Bob Bastasz, Kathy Tonnessen, Denise and Bryce Ward, and our family. We camped down the road from the El Capital Work Camp at the present site of a lodge. Across the road was a "borrow pit" (rock quarry with a shallow pond containing newts. The newts would clean our dirty pots and pans at night. The slope below El Capitan Cave had been clear-cut that year. Since then, wind-throw has taken trees down very close to the cave entrance. By now we started to realize the negative impacts of logging on karst.

We finally got to recon our first alpine karst. Forest Service geologist David Hadfield, Harvey and I gawked at the many pits and shafts atop El Capitan Peak. After traveling a short while, we all arrived at one particular opening at the same time. We sensed instantly this one was especially deep, and sounded it with rocks...16 seconds of ricocheting! Harvey, who had done some of the deep pits in TAG was sure this one may be as deep or deeper than any of them. Then the Forest Service provided us with the first support; a rope drop by helicopter. Bob, Kathy, and I went and Bob and I tied two ropes together

and explored a couple hundred feet down. It just kept going straight down, and looked like it was going to be really deep. We named it El Capitan Pit. On the way back, we accidentally caught Dave on a logging road down further on the mountain. He was bubbling about a shaft he had found nearby, but then after hearing of our find, named his "Be-littled Pit".

I remember that night Jay (nearly 70) and Carlene didn't



POWIE I. Kevin Allred at camp. Photo: C. Allred

Continued on page 4

show up at camp from a hike into a reportedly large resurgence and possible cave area (Almond). David and I went in his 4x4 along a logging road opposite the mountain side they were on.

"Hey, there's a light over there"!

Then suddenly, we drove off the edge of the road into the ditch because Dave was distracted. After getting back on the road and to camp, Harvey and I went to help the tardy hikers. They were just slow. Carlene says Jay kept trying to dig up caves like a dog after a bone, whenever they heard running water beneath them. After Harvey forced some food down Jay (Liz had insisted that we take care of her husband), we slowly made it out of the woods.

The next day it was my turn to baby sit, and Carlene and Bob found the Alaska Room in El Capitan Cave. They just looked into the overwhelming blackness, and left it for the next year!

Meanwhile on Coronation Island, Steve Lewis was doing deer research, and found some caves on his own. He got in touch with us later, and joined the expedition the next year to eventually be the principle mover of the Project.

On Denise's way home, she was riding in a taxi in Ketchikan when the driver had a fatal heart attack, crashing the car into a pole. Denise, a nurse, couldn't revive him. Mark arrived home to find that he had pneumonia.

In 1989, leaking rumors of the deep pit and great potential attracted a dozen cavers from the Lower 48. They were headed by Rick Bridges who was spearheading the now defunct Lechuguilla Project. Rick coined the abbreviation "POWIE" (Prince of Wales Island Expedition) which has been used ever since. That year, we got even more support from the Forest Service, with food provided, and our gear and us transported by helicopter to the alpine karst.

We bottomed El Capitan Pit, to find that its depth made it the deepest pit in the United States. Snowhole and Blowing in the Wind caves were also discovered. Doug broke his ankle in a fall into a sinkhole, and a slingload of about \$10,000 worth of our gear plummeted some 1200 feet into the mountain side. Destroyed gear blew out the sides of packs like shrapnel.

1990 was our first successful effort at getting some cave protection. Small buffers were placed

around some caves, but the buffers soon blew down, probably causing more disturbances than if they had been logged.

About this time, the Tongass Caves project had a volunteer agreement with the Forest Service. The new Federal Cave Resource Protection Act was the tool the cavers used to convince the Forest Service that the caves needed consideration in forest management. There were many difficulties, some of which we had to live with, and others which could be resolved. Much was gained in both groups. An example: we had instituted a onetime rope fee of \$20. This was a way for the project to purchase rope to be used by all. However, one day the Forest Service informed us that we could not have a rope fee in our agreement because that made us "outfitters". We were perturbed, to say the least, with annoying regulations. The solution to that problem was that the Forest Service bought rope and other supplies and we used them. Meanwhile, the Project funds were getting channeled through the Grotto, and in order to gain independence, we decided to change status to an official Project of the NSS. We changed the name to the Tongass Cave Project. Eventually our volunteer agreements with the Forest Service were replaced by "cost share agreements".

Impressive discoveries have continued. Some are: fossil bones from long extinct animals, the oldest human remains in Alaska; new troglodytic species; undocumented and perhaps unique speleothems; great expanses of unique karst; and many miles of virgin passages. An added benefit has been the fun and companionship of folks from all over the globe.

In 1990, Jim Baichtal moved to Alaska, and replaced David Hadfield, our staunch supporting Area Forest Service geologist. Jim was very excited and intrigued about the caves from the very beginning, and eagerly absorbed the information on karst that we provided for him. Soon, Pete Smith joined the project, and many other concerned Alaskans followed.

Early on, we realized the direct correlation between the karst, its high volume timber, and intense preferential clear-cutting there. Caves were being infilled with slash and mud and extreme flooding was caused by the clear-cutting. In the last seven

years, we have been continually disappointed in the small ineffectual buffers around entrances and discrete karst features. The cave systems are integrally tied to the surface around them... not just tiny areas around their entrances. The karst has been preferentially logged and impacted. The small buffers around discrete karst features were never windfirm nor adequate to protect the karst ecosystems.

Karst "vulnerability ratings" were instituted, whereby areas of thinner soils would be harvested more carefully, or not at all. This process has so many loopholes, it is a farse. Tiny buffers around discrete features is still the norm and any acreage removed from logging is "deferred" (to be logged later).

We had been the cave experts, later we were the "army of volunteers", or "amateur cavers". Now the experts have PhDs. Many cavers have been locked out of El Capitan Cave except by special permission, and yet US Forest Service guides can take friends into the cave at will. I often feel that cavers and caves have been used as merely a publicity stunt to show how concerned and feeling the Forest Service is for resources other than logging.

Thus will begin the caving season of 1998. In 1987, Carlene and I were the only NSS members in Southeast Alaska. Now there are 23. Several hundred caves have been discovered and surveyed. In spite of mismanagement of karst in the Tongass, we should be grateful we are able to see virgin caves in virgin forest. Cavers will come and go as new interests and responsibilities call, but virgin caves will always be somewhere out there.

Ketchicave Expedition

July 18 - August 15

Kosciusko Island

Mr. Kris Esterson

446 Conradi St.#F205

Tallahassee, FL 32304

kae7077@garnet.acns.fsu.edu

Jim Baichtal

ThorneBay Ranger

StationThorne Bay, Alaska

jfbachtal@aol.com

POWIE 1 - 1987

Excerpts from Carlene Allred's Starlight Cave and El Capitan trip report The Alaskan Caver Vol. 8, No 6, April 1988.

On August 25 we began our two-week-long family caving vacation to Prince of Wales Island.... Our first check was Cavern Lake....The entrances on both ends contained about 3 feet of airspace. Not for me!

Our next stop was a karst area. We located a large sinkhole 25 feet from the road and set up camp near it. The area had been logged a while back so the brush was impenetrable and made worse by tangles of fallen thinned trees everywhere.... We later calculated that the sinkhole was 100 feet across and 100 feet deep.... Kevin rigged the 200-foot goldline and dropped down while I watched the kids at the camp above....

After several hours Kevin came back and reported "Lots of cave!"

The next day I was able to make one excursion into the cave, and I mapped the north western section, Mapping alone was a very slow process. I used a separate carbide lamp at the far end of each chain to sight to....There were chimneys to the surface at the far end. At the base of one of these chimneys I found Kevin a pair of vice grips. He had been looking for some the night before to do some repair work on the car....

Our next destination was a known cave that we called El Capitan Cave, located on the northern end of El Capitan Passage. After setting up camp Kevin babysat while I headed for the cave. ...The cave contained many branching passages, but the main trunk was of large proportions, branching passages, totally phreatic, with a cobble floor....there were no other signs of vadose stream action.

The next morning Kevin entered and mapped mainly the entrance areas with its "sponging" phreatic side passages. I went back later and mapped an area of side passages that ended in a peculiar room that I named the "Steam Room".

Kevin made one more excursion into the cave. After loosing two light sources, he says "The rule of three light sources would be very minimum in solo caving such as this".

In El Capitan the total surveyed was 1,887.2 feet in the entrance portions. It looks like the cave will "go and go" and we plan to return again next summer to continue the project. We hope that we can get help from other cavers as it's dangerous caving alone. We feel the vacation was a great success... We all went through the three-day flu, and it rained on and off, so camping was difficult at times.

POWIE II REVISITED - 1988

by David M. Klinger

The summer of 1998 will be the 10th Anniversary of the first formal involvement of Glacier Grotto in the Prince of Wales Island Expedition (POWIE II), which took place from 8 to 26 August, 1988.

In the summer of 1987 Kevin and Carlene Allred and their family left their home in Haines, Alaska, and traveled to Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska to see if they could find any of the caves which had been reported to exist on the Island. They found more than they had expected and details of what they found have been reported in the Alaskan Caver. This was the first Prince of Wales Island Expedition, known as POWIE I.

During the following winter Kevin and Carlene, along with Jay Rockwell, President of Glacier Grotto, recruited a total of nine cavers to come to Alaska in the summer of 1988 to take part in POWIE II and to help explore, map and survey the caves of Prince of Wales Island. In addition to myself, those who participated were Kevin and Carlene Allred of Alaska, Bob Bastasz of California, Harvey Bowers of Alaska, Mark Evans of Utah, Jay Rockwell of Alaska, Kathy Tonnessen of California and Denise Ward of Utah. The adults were assisted by four children, Bryce Ward of Utah, and Ella, Soren and Flint Allred of Alaska.

As a charter member of Glacier Grotto, I have continued to maintain my membership with the Grotto since I left Alaska for Washington State in 1979. In my various contacts with Jay Rockwell during the winter of 1987-88, he encouraged me to come to Prince of Wales Island for a summer of caving. I reluctantly agreed. I was not looking forward to the 1100 mile drive from Leavenworth, Washington, to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, Canada; then spend another day getting to Hollis on Prince of Wales Island via the Alaska Marine Highway. In addition I had sprained an ankle in June and it was to remain sore during the entire time in Alaska.

I left my home in Leavenworth on 8 August, 1988 and drove to Prince Rupert,

private campgrounds on the way. The provincial park campgrounds do not have showers. I arrived in Prince Rupert on the afternoon of 10 August.

I spent the night in a campground near the ferry terminal and boarded the Alaska Marine Highway's Motor Vessel Aurora early the next morning. We stopped at Ketchikan and arrived in Hollis just before dark. I off-loaded and after driving only a few miles on a paved road, I found a cleared area beside the road that was flat enough to pitch a tent and there I spent the night. I was to learn that good tent sites are difficult to find in the rain forest and clear cuts of Prince of Wales Island.

The next morning I packed just before the rain started and drove to Craig, which is the largest town on the Island, where I bought fresh fruit and vegetables. I returned to the town of Klawock, which I passed on my way to Craig, for gas and fresh water prior to heading north over almost 100 miles of gravel road. Kevin wrote to say that the Allred's would be camping on a spit of land on the north side of El Capitan Passage. At the spit a paper plate sign said drive 1/2 mile past the U.S. Forest Service El Capitan Work Camp to where the cavers camped. Just beyond the work camp the road was blocked by a logging truck being loaded. I settled down to wait when Kevin and Carlene walked up on their way to El Capitan Cave to do some caving. I was soon able to proceed and found the camp site without trouble. The rain slackened off and I spent the afternoon getting my tent



(L to R) Soren, Flint, Kevin, Carlene and Ella Allred; Denise and Bryce Ward; Harvey Bowers and Jay Rockwell. August 1988



Glacier Grotto Base Camp on El Capitan Passage. 1988. Photo: D.Klinger

and kitchen tarp set up and getting acquainted with the area. After dinner, I put my sea kayak in the water and paddled around El Capitan Passage. The Passage is a long narrow waterway between Prince of Wales Island and Kosciusko Island to the southeast. It serves as a sheltered waterway for marine traffic.

In addition to the Allreds, Denise Ward and her son Bryce, and Mark Evans were already in camp. Each of us planned to be totally self sufficient with our own food, shelter, clothing, equipment and caving gear. Rubber boots and waterproof rain gear were a must. The personnel at the Work Camp allowed us to draw drinking water from their water source. They gave Kevin a 55 gallon drum which he buried in the ground and covered with a box for a one-hole toilet. He was also able to make arrangements with the USFS personnel at the Work Camp for the cavers to take showers during off hours (8 a.m. to noon) and during the weekend. Otherwise we were completely on our own.

That evening Denise and Carlene drove Mark to Hollis so that he could catch the ferry to Ketchikan the next morning. Mark had not felt well when he left and when he got home he found that he had pneumonia. Meanwhile Kevin told me about events prior to my arrival.

Kevin, Carlene and the kids left Haines, on the 6th of August. On the 9th of August, they met Denise, Bryce and Mark at the Ketchikan Airport. They caught the ferry to Hollis. Somehow they managed to cram four children, four adults and a mountain of camping and cave gear into, on top of, and around Kevin's car, drive four hours to their camp site, losing a muffler on the way, and still get a couple of hours sleep before daylight. The next morning they moved the camp to its present location which is on a flat clear area overlooking El Capitan Passage. A pond in a quarry across the road provides non potable water for the cavers. Since their arrival most

of the time has been spent surveying in El Capital Cave, checking for new caves in the area, and chasing black bears from camp. For a more detailed account to their adventures before I arrived and after I left, see "The Alaskan Caver, Volume 9. Number 2, April 1989.

Saturday, 13 August, 1988

It was drizzling in the morning and the sky was overcast. I spent most of the day hiking on a karst bench above camp, which we called the Lower Bench, to check on many leads that Kevin had identified from aerial photographs. The clear-cuts were extremely difficult and hazardous to traverse due to chest high brush hiding logging-slash filled sinks and depressions. Great care had to be taken to part the bushes, which I did with my bamboo walking stick, to see where to place each foot. It takes a long time to cover a short distance in such terrain. I investigated numerous sinks without finding anything of importance.

I did run across a black bear, the first of many I was to see on my stay on the island. He left as soon as he saw me. I was glad there were no grizzly bears on the island. I made a careful inspection of two very large adjacent sinks but I could not find any outlets nor was there any indication of moving air. A year later we were to learn that one of these sinks is right over the Alaska Room in El Capital Cave. I finished my hike by traversing the area from the sinks to a gully which ran down-slope past the entrance to El Capitan Cave. I found nothing new. After dinner I walked down the road past the camp to where it crossed a stream which was full of spawning salmon.

Sunday, 14 August, 1988

There was a low overcast but the day was mostly dry. I began the day by spending two hours paddling in El Capitan Passage. I tried to get close enough to a black bear feeding on the shore to get a picture, but he saw me, stood on his hind legs, took one whiff and was gone. After lunch we all went to El Capitan Cave and I saw it for the first of many times. I later wrote that "It is quite a cave, the best in Alaska".

With four young children in camp, one of the parents had to baby sit. Kevin, Carlene and Denise took turns doing this so that the others could cave or explore for new caves. During the day Jay and Harvey arrived in camp with a rented van. We now had three vehicles available for our use. I had not seen Harvey or Jay since I left Alaska nine years before. It was good to see them both.

Monday, 15 August, 1988

It was a clear, dry sunny day. In the morning we all dried gear and bedding and went to the El Capitan work

camp for a shower. It was then time to go exploring for new caves. Kevin, Harvey and David Hadfield, the USFS geologist who had arrived to spend the week in the work camp, decided that they would hike to the tip of El Capitan Mountain to check some karst areas and pits that Kevin had identified from aerial photographs. Rather than join them, I elected to go to an area called the upper bench to finish the task I started on Friday. We left in my pickup and I dropped them at a road junction part way up the mountain. I continued to the Upper Bench and spent the day checking pits in clear-cut areas without finding anything significant. At the end of the day as I was working my way back to the truck, I came across a nice open 35-foot pit which I could not drop since I did not have a rope with me. I was excited about the find.



The top of the Upper Bench also shows the clear-cut area. Photo: Klinger

As I drove slowly back down the mountain, I heard people yelling from the slope above me. It was Kevin, Harvey and David. During the ride to camp they told of the great finds they had made which included a very large, deep pit. This pit, named El Capitan Pit, turned out to be the deepest pit in the United States when it was dropped a year later.

By 6 p.m. that evening, Jay and Carlene had not returned from a trip along a marked trail that the USFS had put in to mark the location of a new logging road. We went looking for them. As it began to get dark, I drove up the main road which was on the opposite side of the valley from the proposed road. We could see lights as Jay and Carlene moved through the woods on their way to camp. We returned to the trail-head and Kevin and Harvey went to meet them. After a snack break, Kevin and Harvey guided them back.

It was 1 a.m. when we were safely at camp. We were thankful that the weather was clear and dry.

Tuesday, 16 August, 1988

The day was clear bright and sunny. I slept in and awoke to the sound of ravens talking to each other in the trees above. I did laundry, other camp chores and completed some notes. After lunch I loaded the kayak on the car and followed the main road to Labouchere Bay where Louisiana Pacific had a logging camp. Lab Bay, as it is called, is on the northwest coast of Prince of Wales Island. I stopped at the office and got permission to launch my kayak from their seaplane float. I then spent the next couple of hours exploring the bay and taking pictures until I ran out of film. In the evening we all sat around the camp fire and discussed the day's events.

Wednesday, 17 August, 1988

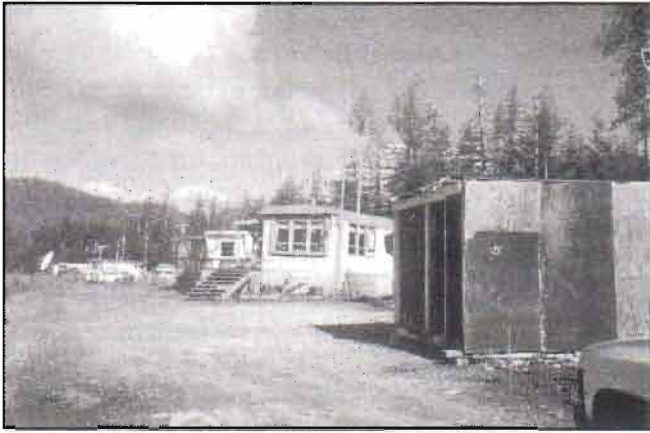
The day dawned clear, warm and dry with a medium level cloud deck moving in during the afternoon. I drove to the vicinity of the upper bench and hiked north along the east side of El Capitan Mountain, investigating some sinks with small caves as I went. I then headed up the slope to the top of El Capitan Mountain, arriving at around 1 p.m. After having lunch I went down the north slope to the junction between the non-carbonate cap and the adjacent karst area. I had assured Kevin that I would not enter the karst area since I was alone. Instead I followed a gully down the west slope and contoured back to my starting point. Back in camp it was very quiet since Kevin and Carlene, along with all of the kids, had driven Denise and Bryce to Hollis to catch the ferry. The Allreds did not return until long after I went to bed.

Thursday, 18 August, 1988

The sky was cloudy with intermittent rain. After cleaning up I studied the aerial photographs of the area I was in yesterday and of areas that I want to check during the next few days. Everyone got a late start and spent most of the afternoon photographing El Capitan Cave. That evening I drove to Whale Pass for gas, ice and 1/2 dozen eggs. For a change, I would have pancakes for breakfast in the morning. I also found the shack which passes for the town postal drop. People place their mail in a bag hanging inside the shack. Someone then takes it down to the seaplane float when the mail plane comes, which it does once or twice a week.

Friday, 19 August, 1988

I awoke to another rainy day but it did dry out later in the afternoon. After breakfast, I attended my first Glacier Grotto meeting in nine years. In the afternoon I hiked up to the upper bench and checked sinks as I worked my way to the lower bench and back to the camp. A year later I was to learn that, had I followed the next draw to the east I would have found a couple of major



This is the town of Whale Pass, Alaska. In the foreground is the shack that serves as a post office. August 1988. Photo: D. Klinger

caves. Harvey left while I was hiking so I did not have him take a letter for me. We now have four adults with a lot of work yet to do.

Saturday, 20 August, 1988

The sky is overcast with only short periods of drizzle. It is basically a dry day. I started the day by taking a series of compass readings to locate the entrance of El Capitan Cave on my map. I then took some altimeter readings of the entrance to El Capitan, Middle Cave and Kids Cave where I found Kevin completing a survey. Middle Cave and Kids Cave are two small caves located below the entrance to El Capitan Cave. Kevin and I entered El Capitan Cave, took some pictures and prepared to do some surveying around Hatfield's Pit at the rear of the cave. It was decided we needed a pad to protect the rope from the sharp edges of the pit so I went to get one. Kevin meanwhile became bored waiting for me and looked at a lead that he checked earlier. This time there was air blowing out of it so he began removing rocks and opened up a passage big enough to get through. We slid down over a lot of small rolling cobbles and named the passage "Ball Bearing Passage". The passage merged with another passage that Kevin and Harvey surveyed late on the night of August 18th. We surveyed our way back to Hatfield Pit and climbed out. That night it was clean up gear and enjoy a pleasant evening around the campfire while listening to salmon "splashing" in El Capitan Passage.

Sunday, 21 August, 1988.

It was another overcast day with occasional drizzle. For me it was a rest day. I did collect some firewood for the camp fire and check some sinks until the rain began

in the middle of the afternoon. After supper I worked on some reports for Carlene and Kevin so they can keep track of what we found. It was noted that the cave temperature continues to be about 40° F. Jay went to Hollis to get Bob Bastasz and Kathy Tonnessen who were arriving today. They are due in camp around 1 a.m.

Monday, 22 August, 1988.

This was a dry day which was cloudy in the morning and partly sunny in the afternoon. Jay returned with the fresh vegetables I requested so will have fresh salad for the rest of the time I am in camp. I had a hot shower and did some laundry and then I went to El Capitan Cave to take pictures. Carlene was giving Bob and Cathy a tour of El Capitan and when they finished Bob and Cathy returned to camp. Carlene and I started surveying to connected earlier leads around the Ball Bearing Passage. We then continued along the main passage on our hands and knees, surveying as we went. Our policy is to survey as you explore and not to scoop passage. This way everyone who is surveying is doing so in virgin passage.

We came to a large room which I named the Cathedral Room since it sounded like we were in a cathedral. To the right there was a 10-foot wall and above that a large passage continuing into the darkness. We were excited about this find. El Capitan Cave just keeps going.

Tuesday, 23 August, 1988

This was a warm dry partly cloudy day. I drove to Whale Pass for gas and ice. I noted that the one-room school was in operation. I put the kayak in the water and explored the area for a couple of hours. As I was loading my kayak back on to the truck, a float plane arrived with the visiting art teacher who informed me that she had a Klepper Kayak. These folding kayaks are quite popular in Alaska since they can be carried by small planes. I got to camp in time to say good-bye to Jay

After lunch I drove north to Red Creek, dragged the kayak some distance to the water since the tide was out, and spent the afternoon exploring Red Bay. The waters at the mouth of the bay were fairly quiet so I was able to paddle outside for a while before I caught the flood tide and tail-wind back to the head of the bay. It had been a great day on the water.

Wednesday, 24 August, 1988

Kevin drove to the Stanley Creek Area to meet the Recreation Specialist from the USFS Ranger District. This man came to El Capitan Work Camp on Saturday but could not find anyone since we all were caving or out looking for caves. Jay was going to meet him on Tuesday but did not get to Thorne Bay before the office closed for the day. Kevin soothed ruffled feathers, and coop-



*Harvey Bowers in El Capitan Cave, August 1988.
Photo: C.Allred*

eration with the Forest Service continued to be beneficial to both groups.

I spent the morning hiking along the base of a nearby cliff looking for sinks and caves. In the afternoon Kevin and I finished the survey of the Cathedral Room and took pictures. That evening was my last night in camp as planned to leave the following morning.

Thursday, 25 - Tuesday, 29 August, 1988

The weather was clear, sunny and warm. I dried and packed my gear. Kevin, Bob and Cathy headed for the karst area on top of El Capitan Mountain to drop the deep pit that Kevin, Harvey and Dave found. A USFS helicopter hauled the rope to the top of the mountain for them. As it turned out the rope was not long enough and after going down over 300 feet, Bob and Kevin returned to the top and exploration of El Capitan Pit would have to wait for the following year.

Later I learned that after I left, Kevin, Carlene and the children, and Bob and Cathy continued to push the survey in El Capitan Cave. They pushed the lead beyond the Cathedral Room which just kept going as big walking passage. The Prince of Wales Island Expedition of

1988 had been a great success.

The NSS I/O Annual Report for 1988 contained the following summary: Field portion of the Glacier Grotto's Prince of Wales Island Expedition II (August 8-26, 1988) comprised of nine Grotto members from five western states, including Alaska. A small portion of the recently recognized, significant, extensive and well-developed rain forest karst was examined. Five caves were discovered, surveyed, mapped and described. Survey of the largest cave stopped at 5560 feet for want of time. Exploration of the deepest entered pit stopped at -340 feet for want of more rope. Thus for the second year, the record length and depth of Alaska's longest and deepest caves have more than doubled. Salmon, signs of bats, and other forms of life have been found; no new species have been verified, but range extensions are expected. The Expedition was conducted in close cooperation with the rangers at Tongass National Forest.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Excerpts from NEWS AND NOTES, NSS NEWS, MARCH 1998

A joint meeting of Friends of Karst and The international Geological Correlation Program Project 379: "Karst Processes and the Global Carbon Cycle" will take place on Sept. 23, 24, and 25, 1998, at Bowling Green and Mammoth Cave, KY. The meeting will precede the XXVIII Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, scheduled for the following week in Las Vegas, NV. The organizers currently anticipate a program that will include two days of scientific presentations on all aspects of karst science and the role of atmosphere-landscape interactions in carbonate terrains. A third day is planned for field trips, which will be offered to a variety of sites in and around the Mammoth Cave System. At a current surveyed length of over 560 km, it is the world's most extensive known cave system. The region has over the years attracted many explorers and scientists and a significant body of karst science has evolved from studies there.

Understanding water-rock interactions that occur within carbonate rock terrains provides a common theme of interest for scientists interested in global carbon cycling as well as those who study development of karst landscapes and aquifers. Traditionally, however, there has been limited interaction between these groups. The purpose of this meeting

Continued on page 30

POWIE III - 1989

Excerpts from articles by Julius Rockwell, Jr. The Alaskan Caver Vol9, No4, Oct.1989

Lest we be accused of understatement the Grotto has had a stupendous summer! Not only have we found the deepest and third deepest known pits in the United States, but we have acquired other firsts as well.

The number of paid-up members has reached 100 for the first time in the history of the Grotto. This is also our 1st year to receive substantial support for any of our activities from an outside organization.

The deepest known natural pit in the United States has been found on the top of El Capitan Peak, on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska....The surveyed depth, 598 feet, exceeded that of any other natural free fall pit in a known U.S. cave. The establishment of a new record for the deepest pit in the United States is highly significant to the world caving community, especially as it focuses attention on an area little known from the speleological standpoint.

El Capitan has now been surveyed to over 9000 feet and many leads remain unexplored.

The Grotto joined with the Thorne Bay Ranger District of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, on July 25, 1989, in an Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services to facilitate the ongoing inventory and survey of the cave resources of the District. The purpose of the inventory is to assist the Forest Service in its implementation of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (PL 100-691). As Forest Service Volunteers, Grotto members are gathering data and turning it over to the Forest Service to assist in management decisions. In return, the Forest Service provides needed logistical support when and if it happens to be available to increase the efficiency and output of the Grotto's operation and safety.

Mr. Pete L. Johnson, District Ranger, Thorne Bay District of the U.S. Forest Service, wrote: "We are extremely please with the continued work of the Glacier Grotto for fiscal year 1989."



POWIE III. Dave Madisette, Patti Hecker, Soren Allred, Nield Nessler, Evan Gehring, Mike Van Note, Ann Strait, Kevin Allred, Buddy Lane, Rick Bridges, Hank Moon, Norm Thompson Photo: Carlene Allred

Announcement; Grotto meeting and slide show Nov. 11, 1989 at the home of Julius Rockwell, Jr.



Kevin Allred makes the first complete descent into El Capitan Pit. 1989. Photo: C. Allred

POWIE IV-1990

*Excerpts from the President's Corner The Alaskan Caver,
Vol. 10, No. 5, Oct. 1990*

We did well for our 152 person days. We found and surveyed 17 new caves, about 8900 feet (as against 9586 feet last year). We also spent four days helping Juneau's KTOO public TV crew document our work. It will appear in "Rain Country" in November.

Other items were: 1) a new second-longest cave, Dimple Cave, at 2715.1 feet, 2) a new most-beautiful cave, Captain Soup Cave, at 1152.7 feet, 3) a contender for the second largest room, Troll's Bowling Alley, was found in 1495.9-foot Slate Cave (260 feet long by 25 to 50 feet wide and 20 to 60 feet high), 4) the Slate Cave Complex (con-



Formations in El Capitan Cave. Photo: K Allred



POWIE IV. Kathy Tonnessen, Robert Bastasz, Carlene and Flint Allred, Julius Rockwell Jr and Ella Allred, David Klinger and Soren Allred and Kevin and Forest Allred

sisting of Slate Cave, Skunk Cabbage Cave, and Cloister Cave) may be the second most interesting cave... 5) El Capitan Cave was extended to 10,033.8 feet--and still has a dozen going leads (high water limited surveying), 6) Forest Service and other Island personnel are becoming involved--finding seven and four caves, respectively against our six, 7) no accidents or near misses, and 8) food, quarters, weather, and help provided by the Forest Service were great.

Last year the emphasis was on the alpine karst. This year it was on "caves at risk", a cave conservation project, because we found that the engineers and loggers were filling the cave entrances with slash and road material.

This year we had no helicopter time, and no in-depth backup, so we left the alpine karst for another year.

The agreement with the Forest Service, without the financial page and without the work plan, is still in effect. There will be a new work plan for POWIE V, and it will include provision for looking into the alpine karst areas, and our limited use of their vehicles.

The safety situation is more complicated. There are two quite different danger areas: the caves and the woods. Kevin held tailgate session one a week to tell cavers how to behave in the woods. We are responsible for our own medical insurance.

POWIE V - 1991

Excerpts from the J Rockwell report
12/1991

On the last night of POWIE V, Jim Baichtal and Steve Lewis took samples of two logs in the Alaska Room (El Capitan Cave). One near the sump was found to be 4120 years old and one near the hoodoos was found to be 6500 years old.

There is a well justified difference of opinion among cavers about the amount of information the public should be provided about caves and caving. On the one extreme are those who feel that all knowledge developed from the caving experience should be kept secret within the group, ... and on the other extreme are those who would publish all information developed and describe the location of each cave and its contents in enticing detail. ... in the interest of cave conservation, neither extreme should be followed and a careful, more central policy needs to be developed to assure that the resource is protected and, at the same time, used for the enjoyment and education of the public for the present and in the future.

The US Forest Service has recently realized that the caves should be saved. Steps are being taken to protect cave entrances by moving boundaries of units to be sold to logging companies, establishing buffer strips around cave entrances, and moving paths of new road away from caves.

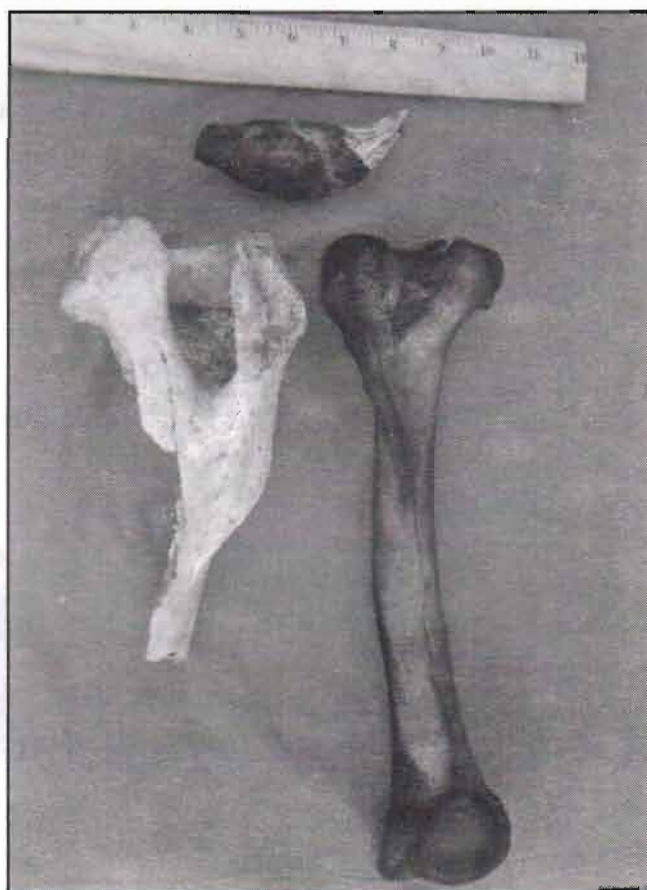
Glacier Grotto members are recommending buffer strips around all cave entrances. For caves over 1000 feet in length, larger buffer strips are being recommended, as well as buffer strips around drainages into karst features associated with them.

Other than the filling in of cave entrances with slash and road fill and the filling of cave passages with gravel carried in by erosion, the collection of speleothems by individuals is also a problem. This is being discouraged by the National Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 ... Also keeping cave locations secret until a management plan has been developed should help.

We have a major public education task to educate residents, tourists and many transient workers to respect the integrity of the caves.



(L -R) Curvin Metzler,, Steve, Tim and Juli Heaton, Mark Fritzke, Allred Family of Flint, Soren, Forest, Ella and Carlene, Steve Lewis, Jim Baichtal, Susan DeLisa, Kevin Allred and Doug Strait Photo: J. Rockwell



The bear tooth and bear bones were found in El Capitan Cave in 1991. Top: brown bear tooth. Left: brown bear bone. Right: black bear Bone. Photo:Rockwell



POWIE VI - 1992

Excerpts from the Cavers of 1992

The Tongass Cave Project had two expeditions, both July 1-31. POWIE VI was based at El Cap as usual and DIE II was on Dall Island in alpine karst. The Forest Service provided support to both expeditions. Dr. Timothy Heaton and Fred Grady organized a paleo dig on POWIE and spent a week on alpine in addition to surveying and exploring caves.

Currently, instate airfares are so low that it is actually cheaper to fly from Anchorage to POWIE than to take the ferry! The cost to fly (round trip) Anchorage to Ketchikan is \$175 plus \$12 Ketchikan-Hollis on the ferry. The cost for taking the ferry after driving 780 miles to Haines is \$172 round trip Haines-Hollis. These figures do not reflect the cost in time when taking the ferry instead of flying.

A Cave Protection Act (House Bill #576 was introduced on April 8, 1992. Grotto members are strongly encouraged to review and make comments.

Glacier Grotto is sponsoring a contest for best T-shirt design with a free T-shirt to the winner.

Another glacier caving season is already here, as winter has come early this year. The caves in the first snowfield are open and should be quite good. It will be interesting to see if the ice worms are still present in Iceworm Chamber. Anyone interested in joining in on a glacier caving expedition should contact Jay Rockwell. Ice worms were first noted inside glacier caves in 1989. These black, 3/4 inch long earthworms are about the size of a darning needle and are the only earthworms known to inhabit snow and ice. Scientists assume ice worms feed off algae growing on the snow, since the worms are normally found in areas of red algae.

The Alaskan Caver 11(3) earned an Honorable Mention in the 1992 NSS Graphic Arts Salon, Photographic Category, for the photograph by Jack Massie of a glacier cave in Byron Valley. This is the third consecutive year in which we have received Honorable Mention. Carlene Allred won two Honorable Mentions in the 1992 NSS Cartographic Salon for her 1991 maps of Dragon's Breath and El Capitan Pit. It was also announced in the 1992 NSS Members Manual that Carlene Allred, Kevin Allred, and Julius Rockwell Jr. were made Fellows of the National Speleological Society.

BAKER ISLAND EXPEDITION 1992

by David M. Klinger

"I'm getting dust all over me!" exclaimed Dave Herron as we bounced down the dusty U.S. Forest Service (U.S.F.S.) Highway heading south from the El Capitan Work Camp on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska.

"Dave," I replied, "this old truck has over 100,000 miles and that door is not as tight as it should be. We can clean up when we get to Craig and check into the U.S. Forest Service Bunk House". Thus began the Baker Island Expedition of July, 1992.

That spring Jim Baichtal, the U.S.F.S. Geologist with the Ketchikan Area Office, made arrangements with the Craig Ranger District to sponsor a three day expedition to survey and study caves on Baker Island, Alaska. Dave Herron and I were the cavers selected to do the survey.

The next morning we met the rest of the group. Risa Carlson, a U.S.F.S. Archeologist was the expedition leader. Other members were Jim Dixon, Curator of Archeology at the University of Alaska(UA) Museum in Fairbanks; Ed West, Zoologist with the Alaska Natural Heritage Program in Anchorage, Alaska; and Bob Sattler, a geologist with UA Fairbanks and a Glacier Grotto member.

A float plane, chartered by the U.S.F.S., flew us to a sandy beach on the east coast of Baker Island where we changed to a helicopter and were ferried, two at a time, to a rocky beach about a half mile from a large sea cave known as the Wolf's Lair. We had hoped to land at low tide but we were late



Risa Carlson, and pilots Jerry and Chris at Baker Island. Photo: D. Klinger

and the rising tide threatened to cut off our route to the cave. In addition we had much more equipment than we needed. Our first action was to move everything above the high tide level but we left it out in the open since the weather forecast called for a clear night. As it turned out we had great weather during the entire time we were on the island.

We then gathered up what we thought we would need until the next day and walked up the beach, climbing over rocks and wading across inlets rapidly filling with water from the rising tide. An hour later we were at the cave. Dave and I immediately began surveying around the perimeter of the cave while the rest began looking for signs of human occupation, old bones and other signs of life. The cave is a single large room 130 feet wide, 345 feet long and approximately 80 feet high. The entrance is 90 feet wide.

Risa, with the help of the others put together a quick dinner. Dave and I ate quickly and returned to our survey, completing it about dark. Eventually we all found a place to bed down for the night. I found a small shelter cave in a rock wall which kept me out of the heavy dew.

I awoke early the next morning and hiked back to where the remainder of the equipment was stored and retrieved my breakfast. When I returned only a couple of people were stirring and the helicopter was due to arrive in a little over an hour to transport us to other locations. We gathered up equipment, broke camp and somehow made it to the landing area just as the helicopters arrived.

Dave went with Ed West to a Hot Springs site some distance down the coast to try to trap bats that evening while the remaining four of us were transported to the vicinity of Pictograph Cave. Risa helped me survey Bay and Arch Caves while Jim and Bob looked for likely signs of human habitation and photographed the many pictographs left by the natives who once lived in the area. After we finished surveying, Risa joined the others in studying the caves. Pictograph Cave is basically a one room cave 50 by 38 feet with a sand floor. Arch Cave is a littoral sea cave still subject to tidal action. It is 135 feet long and 14 feet high at the entrance.

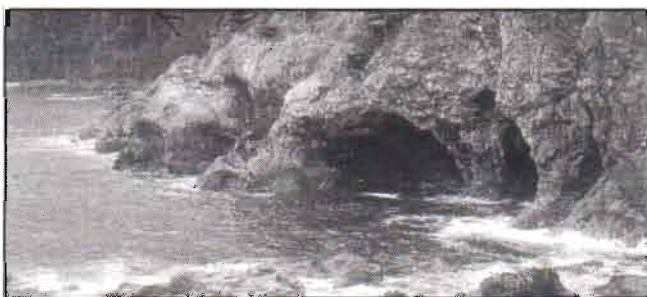
That evening wood was gathered, a large beach fire lit and Cornish Game Hens were cooked in tin-foil on the hot coals. It was quite a dinner.



One of the pictographs in Pictograph Cave on Baker Island. Photo: Klinger

The next morning took a short hike to look at Pillar Cave, which could not be entered due to high water inside the cave. It is only accessible during the very low water resulting from a spring tide. As I hiked up a draw, I saw a sea otter on its way up the same draw. I tried to get in position to take its picture but I made too much noise and the otter returned to the water. After breakfast, the helicopter arrived and I was transported to Dark Cave, another sea cave, before the pilots, Jerry and Chris, went south to pick up Ed and Dave. As soon as Dave arrived at Dark Cave, we started surveying and finished in a couple of hours. Dark Cave is a littoral cave located in black shale. It is 279 feet deep and approximately 30 feet high at the entrance. While waiting for the helicopter to pick us up, we checked the area for leads but found nothing. We rejoined the others and all of us were ferried back to the sand spit on the east coast of Baker Island. The float plane arrived and in a little over an hour we were in Craig.

It had been a great three days. We had surveyed four caves, numerous archeological sites were located and we realized that there was much more work to do on Baker Island.



Entrance to Pillar Cave depends on the tide. Photo: Klinger

POWIE VII - 1993

Excerpts from The Alaskan Caver issues for October, November & December

More Alaskans were involved in POWIE this year than in past years. The organizers tried to make room for all the Alaskans that wanted to be a part of the expedition, since the caves are in their back yard. Cavers from the Lower 48 and two from New Zealand also joined the 1993 team.

About 15,000 feet were surveyed this year with the longest new cave being Blue Marble at a little more than 3000 feet. The initial number of 54 caves increased to 69 because of new discoveries but there was time and manpower to survey only 40 of these. Some of the 40 are still not completely surveyed and explored.

Because of the concern about logging on karst, POWIE emphasis was placed on old growth forested areas, especially those scheduled for harvest. A team of four speleologists from the American Cave Conservation Association assessed the significance of the caves and karst of the Ketchikan Area and determined if the Forest Service standards and guidelines for cave resources was adequate.

A realistic cave rescue operation took place during POWIE. From contact until the patient was removed from El Camino Real in El Capital Cave it took five hours.

Meanwhile cavers on the Dall Island Expedition (DIE III) surveyed 10 caves for a total of 3000 feet. Before POWIE VII and DIE III several cavers explored Chichagof Island for caves, and after the official month of caving, five cavers surveyed a cave in the Stikine Area of Tongass Forest (Etolin Island).

Harvey Bowers reported, "It's nice to be able to give a cave location without worrying about what damage may befall the cave. With glacier caving we can freely disclose locations and publish photos of glacier caves that are unrivaled in their beauty. We need only stress the dangers in glacier caving."

Ketchikan cave divers, Mary Kowalczyk, Marcel LaPerriere and Alan Murray trained in Florida in preparation for diving in Alaskan sumps.

Senate Bill 1049, the Lechuguilla Cave Protection Act, is in limbo. Although the H.R. 698, a bill to protect Lechuguilla Cave and other resources and values in and adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns



The El Capitan Cave opening received a gate in 1993.

National Park. Caver has passed.

The three Glacier Grotto groups planned activities separately, but GG officers met by conference telephone call about once a month. The Southeast cavers organized three vertical rope training sessions monthly for members and conducted one special session for USDFS employees. GG Southeast acts as a contact to the caving community should cave rescue become a necessity. Training is underway for qualification as First Response participant in caving accidents. The group had one rescue session.

Southcentral and Southeast Cavers spoke to Boy Scout Troops about caving. In Southcentral, the Scouts were introduced to ice caving.

In the 1993 Cartographic Salon at the NSS Convention, Kevin and Carlene Allred received Honorable Mention for the map on Snow Hole, Alaska, and a Merit Award for the map of Blowing in the Wind Cave, Alaska.

Issues of The Alaskan Caver were exchanged with 34 grottos.

POWIE VIII – 1994

Excerpts from the Tongass Cave Project Summary for 1994 The Alaskan Caver Vol 14 No 5, October 1994 by K.Allred

1994 was a busy year for the Tongass Cave Project. In addition to incorporation, the group now has bylaws and dues.

TCP continues to work with the US Forest Service (USFS) for cave and karst resource recognition and protection. It appears that some permanent protection is now given a number of previously unprotected cave and karst area in the Ketchikan Area and progress continues in the Chatham Area of Chichagof Island.

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

A large group arrived in July for POWIE VIII and Dall Island Expedition (DIE 94). On Dall Island, there were exciting discoveries, some of which should not be shared in detail, other than to say, there are going caves, paleologic fossils, amazing geologic marvels and archeological discoveries.

POWIE 94 was a success as well, with 8,772 feet surveyed during the month-long expedition. Twenty-two new caves were surveyed, the longest being 1955.6 foot Windgate Cave. Blowing in the Wind Cave was extended 1048 feet farther to some reportedly monster passage. In Snowhole a minor lead was pushed through an extremely tight, muddy, canyon. Dr. Timothy Heaton carried out paleological excavations in some caves and uncovered large fossil black bears, numerous rodent bones, and an otter, among other things.

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

The LaPerrieres led a TCP expedition to Noyes Island for exploration of littoral caves. Using their sailboat as a base, the group surveyed 1417.6 feet in four caves. Significant geologic, archaeological and paleologic discoveries were made. It was a real riot even though everyone got a little seasick.

The Forest Service was thanked for support of the two week Chickagof trip, POWIE 94 and DIE 94.#



*This picture shows the pinnacle karst on Dall Island.
Photo: Kevin Allred*

Marcel and Connie LaPerriere introduced a troop of Ketchikan Boy Scouts to the joys and pitfalls of caving through a series of lectures and a caving experience. The teen-agers were not adversely affected by the tight squeezes, mud and cold and were determined to reach the Cathedral Room in El Capitan Cave. The next day they explored Roaring Road Cave.

As Marcel reported, "Zack, Connie and I witnessed peer pressure working in a positive way with these boys, challenging them to do things they probably wouldn't have done on their own."

El Capitan and Starlight caves were the sites of numerous cave rescues during four days in June. There were broken legs, spinal injuries and other less serious impairments, all staged as part of cave rescue training exercises. Mike and Sara Christie from Sitka introduced cavers to horizontal, medium and high angle cave rescue as well as techniques for finding injured cavers.

POWIE IX – 1995

Byron Valley 1995

Excerpts from report by Julius Rockwell, Jr. The Alaskan Caver Vol 15 No 5 October 1995

A cold dry fall which we have had in South Central Alaska in 1995 is conducive to good glacier caving. Safety rules for the Byron Valley, near Portage Lake are: Don't go in until after freeze-up and until the third day after it stops snowing on the mountain top. Of course, one must get in before avalanches cover entrances. Some years conditions preclude caving in this most attractive Anchorage area.

On Friday, Dec. 1, 1995, there had been no snow during the week and the temperatures had hovered around 0 degrees F. My son Tad and I lost no time in getting started.

No snow on the 50-mile road to Portage, only a dusting in the parking lot, and an easy quarter-mile trail made for pleasant trip. At the end of the trail we could see an opening in the northeast end of Middle Snow Field, and a smaller one immediately adjacent to it.

...The 6 meter wide by 2-meter high opening lead to a handsome passage with scalloped walls, 7 meters wide by 5 meters high. ...About 50 meters in there was a chimney to the surface and decorations. On the left a wide side passage rose steeply up mountain. At its upper end another skylight revealed a small patch of fresh snow in the cave. Continuing past the decorations the floor rose requiring hands and knees to advance and gradually turned to the left. ...Swinging farther to the left the new main passage went up-mountain about 60 meters and finally lead to the skylight seen at the top of the first side passage.....

We had lunch by the skylight looking down the first side-passage to the decorations.

Tad checked two more passages from this point.....We wanted to check other ice fields for caves so we headed out, down the first passage for the first time. It was the easier of the two.

Outside we continued along the edge of Middle Ice Field. As I was wondering what had become of the rest of the cave. ...Entering a horizontal crevice, Tad checked the cave. Eventually he was back with, "Dad, you've got to see this."

A brief crawl to the left, then 15-20 meters and the passage opened into a magnificent hall. ...a T-shaped room with the northeast leg of the top pointing to the first cave entrance. The shaft for the T was a side passage measured by 10.7 meters wide and at least half that high. It sloped up steeply for over 50 meters and turned out to be the other end of the unexplored lead of the lunch stop.

Out again, our time was nearly gone but Tad ran up to the Large Ice Field. It was in a collapsed phase. ...An avalanche had already covered one section, leaving one small hole into the darkness which he did not check.

...This is a great year for glacier caving.

1995 Ketchicave Expedition Wrap-up Report

excerpts from report by Steve Lewis,, The Alaskan Caver Vol 15 No 5 October 1995

Approximately 2,680 man hours were donated by members of the 1995 Ketchicave Expedition. Total cave passage surveyed was 4466.51 meters (14,653.73 feet or 2.78 miles). An additional 4,467.2 meters (14,655.99 feet or 2.78 miles) of overland survey was completed to tie cave entrances in heavily karsted areas together. The expedition surveyed 52 caves on four islands.

"We discovered or were first to survey in all but four of the caves and numerous caves were located but not surveyed" wrote Steve Lewis in his 1995 Ketchicave Expedition Wrap-up Report.

Most cavers stayed to participate in a two-day cave rescue workshop led by Mike Christie and planned to continue caving with members of the POWIE expedition on El Capitan Peak.

Cavers also worked with Ward Serrill, and Kathy Turco who were photographing and recording various activities during the expedition for inclusion in a multimedia production on the caves and karst of southeast Alaska.

Kazumura Cave Expedition, Fall 1995

from The Alaskan Caver Vol 15 No 5 October 1995

Kevin and Carlene Allred met other cavers on Hawaii to continue the work that hopefully would connect 5 Mile and Olass Caves with the 29-mile Kazumura Cave. After 15 man-days of digging, Kevin and Mike Shambaugh finally found a crack through which they had voice communication. Four man-days of work later, the two shook hands through a small opening and 15 minutes later the caves were united.

POWIE X – 1996

Glacier Grotto Southeast sponsored cave rescue training this year on Tuesday nights. Ketchikan members of Alaska Cave Rescue (ACR) practiced single- and double-rope rescues, a challenge if the other person was heavier than the rescuer. ACR also had some sessions with Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The 10th annual Prince of Wales Expedition (POWIE X) was mid June to mid July on Prince of Wales Island. One of the prime objectives this year was to support Dr. Timothy Heaton, Professor of Earth Sciences with the University of South Dakota in Vermilion, and Fred Grady, preparator with the Smithsonian Institute, on fossil bone excavations. During these investigations, Dr. Heaton and his team recovered evidence of animal and human use of the cave thousands of years ago.

The caving group at Whale Pass, composed of cavers with children, chose the POWIE Expedition because of the greater freedom. They gathered at the Smith residence at Whale Pass and enjoyed caving in six caves, part of them virgin caves. Some of the children helped survey and explore a few of the caves. Pete Smith, Paul Hadfield and Kevin Allred tested new boulder removing techniques and constructed some bolt hangers to be used for high leads.

Terence E. Fifield, Zone Archaeologist with Craig and Thorne Bay Districts of the Tongass National Forest, says "The cave investigations in and around On Your Knees Cave are part of a larger effort aimed at modeling the late Pleistocene/early Holocene environment (sea level change, glacial history, fauna, and cultural history) of Southeast Alaska. A multidisciplinary effort is being coordinated through the Denver Museum of Natural History, University of South Dakota at Vermillion, and the Ketchikan Area of Tongass National Forest."

In other news around the state, two Wasilla entrepreneurs, W. Harvey Bowers, and Lee Hilty were headlined in the January 13, 1997, issue of The Alaska Journal of Commerce. Bowers, a former president of Glacier Grotto, and Hilty developed a new fiber board suitable for cabinetry and furniture.



Dan Monteith maneuvers through Squeazy Pass in Heceta Island cave. Photo: Rob Knotts



Julie Heaton and Steve Lewis collect bags used for dye-tracing on Heceta Island. Photo: Rob Knotts



Connie LaPerriere, Steve Lewis, Simon Dillon, Doug Feakes, Sergey Levechev, Tarana Skadrina and Sasha Ossintsev

POWIE XI - 1997

by R.R. Knotts

"Hey guys we'll see ya in the A.M."

Dave practically skipped down the listing ramp to where the Karta Bay was tied to an old log float in Camp Island Inlet. Heceta Island Expedition '97 was drawing to a close and Dave, Josh, and I were making an emergency supply trip to Sylvia's General Store at Tokeen.

Tobacco was at the top of the shopping list. Those cavers partial to the evil weed had been rolling butts for two days, and eagerly financed this entire trip.

The weather was perfect; an easy swell rolled across the horizon like ripples on a farm pond, and the sun was so bright everyone had to wear shades. The Karta Bay cruised across Sea Otter Sound at a steady 12 knots, putting us at Tokeen in just under two hours.

Sylvia's was just as we remembered. A ramshackle row of decaying cannery buildings faced the water on questionable pilings, flanked by several newer buildings just upslope. Sylvia's house is a work in progress – two or three cottage-type cabins, and a relatively new chicken coop next to the smoker. Her three dogs met us at the head of the ramp in a chorus of intimidating barks and growls that should have sent us packing, had we not known they were mostly showing-off.

The store was located in the very back portion of the cannery. Entry took us down 100 yards of boardwalk, winding in and around the old compound; past the pesky bandy rooster; and finally through the 9-foot tall doorway into another era. Tins of food, books, fishing supplies, and various dry-goods gave the shelves an appearance of disarray, but just ask Sylvia where something is and she'll go right to it. We procured the tobacco forthwith, along with a 1/2 dozen limes and liquid refreshment to wash them down as well as a few other items not recommended by the USDA FS. The whole shopping trip was completed in 30 minutes, and we were out'a there, or so we thought.

The Karta Bay had other plans. She wanted more hydraulic fluid in her steering system, however, she didn't make this known until we had backed away from the dock. With the rudder stuck hard to

one side redocking was an interesting experience. Poor Josh had never been out on the Karta Bay before, and was unaccustomed to her peculiarities. Not Dave, he'd been expecting something like this since we'd left Camp Island.

We spent that night at Dave's old oyster farm on Tuxakan Island. By 7 am. we were motoring back across Sea Otter Sound. 8:30 put us back at Camp Island, waiting for the rest of the crew to arrive and shooting for a noon departure to Craig, four miles to the south.

The trip to town was highly controversial by that point. It had started with the two Brits expressing a desire to see more of Alaska than just Heceta Island.

I said, "Sure, come along with me, you'll see a bunch of cool stuff". Then one by one the rest of the crew voiced a similar interest. By the end of the expedition only three cavers were flying to town on the float plane and then only because the Karta Bay couldn't accommodate any more.

Our expedition leader was understandably nervous. The USDA, FS, is known for their adherence to extreme safety policies, and boating is one of their pet peeves. All water related activities must meet rigid safety criteria. The Karta Bay wasn't even close in that respect, maybe for commercial fishing, but certainly not for government standards. Suffice it to say there was a long discussion along those lines.

I had just started the boat to warm her up as the last float plane took off. Spirits were jubilant. The expedition was over and we were going to town where hot showers and cold beer awaited everyone.

Then the Karta Bay sputtered twice and died. We could still hear the plane droning in the distance and the echoes of a once hearty 6-71 Gray Marine Diesel reverberated in the air.

At first it was a light hearted affair. How bad could it be? Then we discovered the empty fuel tanks. Fifty miles from town and no fuel. It was ugly. A pair of loggers out deer hunting saved the day. They had a camp just around the corner, and a couple hours later delivered 40 gallons of fuel at a paltry \$2 per gallon. Life was good once again...except now the boat refused to run for more than a few seconds at a time.

Clay Hunting figured it out. If the fuel-tanks had been sucked dry, wouldn't the filters be plugged

with the dregs from the bottom? Well, duh. We changed all the filters and were once again jubilant, but not for long since the same ol' symptoms persisted. Once again Clay knew the score.

"How about the injectors"? he asked. Double duh.

We removed them one at a time and cleaned each one with air from a scuba tank and spare fuel, then bled the system and tried again. Still nothing. By this time it was after 7 pm and a surly mood swept the crew into a mutinous state of mind.

Clean filters, clean injectors and 40 gallons of fuel, what else could there be? We moved onto the fuel pump. Bingo, the pump barely moved any fuel at all. The extra strain of trying to pump 50 years of crud through the system had done it in. Now we were honestly and truly stranded.

Just when it seemed all was lost as ferry connections were going to be missed, float planes would have to be chartered, and the skipper would surly die at the hands of his crew, the skipper had a flash of insight. Maybe we could plumb the electric impulse pump for the stove into the system. Would that do it? It was worth a try and by golly it worked.

At 9pm we motored out of Camp Island Inlet a happy crew. Ten hours of problem solving had paid off. The celebratory mood was short lived. The fifth consecutive pot of coffee from the electric coffee maker drained the batteries and shut down the electrical system.

It was just becoming dark as we had reached the entrance of Karheen Passage. This winding channel is filled with rocks and there is a very specific course to follow. No electricity meant no sounder, no GPS, no spotlight, no nothing. We were doomed. All that work and we were going to die on the rocks in Karheen Pass. I made ready to drop the anchor and await our impending rescue, when a seiner blasted by and I jumped on his wake, following him through the pass.

We made it to Hollis by 2:45 am with a full hour to spare before the ferry departed. Of course, it was a trip none of the participants will forget, although I doubt they'll want to go again any time soon. Oh, and by the way, the electrical problem was one of basic stupidity by the installer, but we won't go into that right now.

LIMESTONED CAVE

Heceta Island AK • Preliminary Report #282

Cave #10-5-4-304

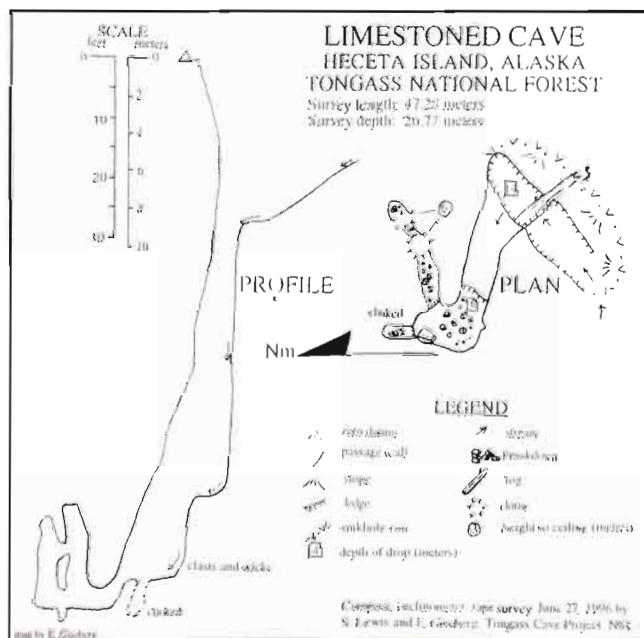
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

Description: The entrance to Limestoned Cave is located at the bottom of a large muskeg system. A dramatic sink takes a small stream which drops into a nice pit. Several large logs make entry from the stream side impractical. The upper lip looked relatively safe and Eron dropped it first, planning to name the cave Sublimestone Cave for its spectacular and aesthetically pleasing entrance. However, while cleaning the entrance pitch a large block detached from his level and slammed him against the wall. Exploration was cancelled for the day and the cave was rechristened "Limestoned".

Minor rigging adjustments and a new appreciation for the loose nature of the vertical wall allowed us to return and safely survey the cave. Sadly, it did not live up to hopes engendered by nearby Aquatic Verticality. Total survey amounted to just 47.28 meters (155.1 feet) with a depth of just 26.77 Meters (87.8 feet). At the bottom of the entrance pit two tight leads continue down. One quickly chokes, the other leads into a quite pretty little chamber with a dome with several leads pinching high.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: This cave is not recommended for further exploration. It is hazardous and the aesthetic and recreational values present do not warrant the risk to future explorers. However, it is in an area of intense karst development. It is virtually a certainty that Limestoned Cave drains into Warm Chuck resurgence, probably via the large drainage basin to the northeast.

No further timber harvest or other disruptive management activities should occur within this block of highly developed and highly vulnerable karst.



LONG AND DEEP CAVE STATISTICS, TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, 1998

compiled by Carlene Allred

According to a list Steve Lewis provided this spring, there are now 468 caves in the Tongass National Forest that have been documented, as of March 3, 1998. This list does not include undocumented caves. Because most pits were not measured with statistical depth in mind, I have determined the depths of most by measuring them on maps. To do this I measured from each lip's spill point down to the lowest part in the pit chamber below. There may be some caves and pits that I have missed and anyone is welcome to challenge this information, or point out errors.

LONGER CAVE

Cave	Year	Island	Feet	Meters
Scallop Cave	1993	POW	1034	315.3
Siberian Sword Cave	1996	Heceta	1056	322
Enigma Cave	1995	Dall	1243	379
Moonprobe	1995	Dall	1293	394.4
River's End Cave	1993	POW	1790	546
Windgate Cave	1994	POW	1955	596.2
Eagle's Roost Cave	1996	POW	2419	738
Dimple Cave	1990	POW	2715	828
Icy Fate Cave	1996	Heceta	3289	1002.5
Blue Marble Cave	1994	POW	3472	1058.9
Beaver Falls Cave	1995	POW	3819	1164.7
Blowing in the Wind Cave	1998	POW	6041	1842
Arabica-Big Fatty Cave System	1997	Heceta	8195	2498.5
El Capitan Cave	1993	POW	11886	3625

DEEPER CAVES

Joint Venture Cave	1996	POW	219	66.8
Ledokol-E Cave	1996	Heceta	221	67.8
Celestine's Skylight Cave	1993	POW	270	82.3
Big Jump Cave	1996	Heceta	306	93.4
Macho Peek-A-Boo Cave	1989	POW	233	71.1
Russian Ski Jump Cave	1996	Heceta	324	98.8
Great Abyss	1995	Heceta	332	101.3
Aquatic Verticality	1996	Heceta	335	102.2
Slate Cave	1993	POW	387	117.9
Dragon's Breath Cave	1991	POW	388	118.3
Blue Marble Cave	1994	POW	392	119.5
Icy Fate Cave	1996	Heceta	399	121.6
Crystal Palace Cave	1992	POW	428.5	130.7
El Capitan Cave	1993	POW	439	130.8
Moonprobe	1995	Dall	493	150.4
Arabica-Big Fatty Cave System	1997	Heceta	493	150.4
Siberian Sword Cave	1996	Heceta	500.5	152.5
Blowing in the Wind Cave	1997	POW	577	176
El Capital Pit	1991	POW	625	190.6
Snowhole	1994	POW	649	197.9
Viva Silva Cave	1996	Heceta	797	243

DEEPER PITS

Pit and Caves	Other info	Island	Feet
Meters			
to Razor Can. Blowing in the Wind	pit #1	POW	120 36.6
to Razor Can. Blowing in the Wind	pit #2	POW	120 36.6
Haystack Pit Blue Marble Cave		POW	120 36.6
Frigidare Entrance, Icy Fate Cave		Heceta	125 38.1
Cold Cut Entrance, Icy Fate Cave		Heceta	140 42.7
Bear's Plunge	init drop	POW	145 44.2
Well of Souls, Blue Marble Cave		POW	145 44.2
Big Drop, Moonprobe		Dall	146 44.5
entrance pit, Moonprobe		Dall	148 45.1
Dole Pit, Snowhole		POW	150 45.7
Illusion Pit	int. drop	POW	150 45.7
entrance pit, Siberian Sword Cave		Heceta	151 46
lowest pit, Russian Ski Jump Cave		Heceta	154 47
Yukon Pit, River's End Cave		POW	160 48.8
Step-In Shaft, Crystal Palace Cave	upper part	POW	170 51.8
Dragon's Breath Cave	pit #2	POW	170 51.8
Huntoon's Plunge	entire cave	Heceta	183 56
entrance pit, Macho Peek-A-Boo	into ice pit	POW	185 56.4
shaft entrance, Bridal Veil Cave	sloping	POW	190 57.9
Monkey Hole entire Cave		POW	191 58.4
Step-in Shaft, Crystal Palace Cave	lower part	POW	205 62.5
Ledokol-E Cave (entire)	incl ledges	Heceta	211 67.3
Arabica Pit, Arabica Cave	incl ledges	Heceta	246 75
Great Abyss	init. drop	Heceta	279 85
Big Jump Cave (entire)	incl ledges	Heceta	306 93.4
entrance drop, Snowhole*	to ledge	POW	328 100
Aquatic Verticality Cave	incl ledges	Heceta	335 102.2
unnamed pit, Siberian Sword Cave		Heceta	348 106
Subway Shaft, Crystal Palace Cave		POW	378 115.3
entrance drop, Snowhole*	incl ledges	POW	485 147.9
El Capitan Pit	initial drop	POW	598 182.4

*Listed twice under two different depths (take your pick)

abbreviations:

init - initial

incl - including

BABES AND CAVING

by Connie LaPerriere

I have heard that the main reason guys go caving is "for the babes". This does puzzle me as the nearest thing to a babe on the expeditions I have been on is the Barbie doll that was repelling off a cliff and got pelted with rocks for her efforts. I apologize to the other women who are good looking that have been on the expeditions. I would still say they do not fit the description of babes as it is commonly used among the male of this species; i.e., blonde, of flawless proportions, helpless, drippingly doting and needful of the assistance of a Man. That describes someone like my 7th grade art teacher who went on to become Miss California Surfer. Somehow I can't help but sense that this kind of person would be out of place on a caving expedition.

First consider the powder room. How many babes would be comfortable with a privy that had no sides for privacy, and which had to be blown up periodically with spent carbide to continue its very existence. Would the view of bushes adorned with toilet paper be acceptable to a babe? Would a babe still be smiling when the next in line whipped around the corner, said "Oops," and then did some weird ritual dance while politely requesting that the babe hurry up. Meanwhile, she tries to perform that function that automatically goes into some weird time warp when stressed with cold air or time pressure.

Would a babe be happy having her dinner, usually gourmet beans, cooked by someone whose hands looked like they had not touched water for a year? Imagine her gag reflex, when a Russian Caver dug into an opened canned ham that had sat around unrefrigerated for two days. Would she be able to watch someone eat French toast covered with salsa? How much granola and yogurt could she consume?*

Then consider her in a cave, at a constriction, digging in the gloppy mud with her bare hands. Watch her hang onto her fellow caver's heels as he is lowered into the passage that has been widened by the bare handed digging. Would she be squeamish as the mud made a lovely sucking ssssoouupppp sound as the caver was hauled back out?

Would she be offended when a caver offered excess gas as he negotiated a squeeze? I do hate to break it to the guys, but if you go caving for the "babes" you will be sadly disappointed, despite any claims to the contrary. If through some convoluted error a "babe" ever made it to an expedition, she wouldn't be able to run away fast enough, especially in her high heels.

On the other side of the discussion are the guys who go caving "for the babes" meaning the guys go



Connie LaPerriere takes notes in the cool, wet, muddy confines of a cave. Photo: Alan Murray

caving thinking that when they arrive back in civilization that suddenly they will have women clinging like cave mud on their arms and necks and perhaps going into their bedrooms. This just goes to show how demented some guy cavers are.

Do they really think that any women (babes), with fingernails that actually have grown longer than the ends of their fingers, would hang around guys that torture mice, collect minuscule bugs, enjoy hanging around ropes, frequently assume other personalities, and freely enter places where there are bats? Any guy that thinks this needs to reexamine the kind of guys that do have babes draped through their lives.

Beautiful women are looking for someone who has the capability of taking care of their needs. This means someone with money. Once in a while Babes will throw good looks, or power into this equation. How many times have you ever read about a Christie Brinkley type hooking up with some poor bummer off the street.

Most caver dudes are looking for some way to scrape up ten bucks so that they can have gas money to get them to the next cave. Take a look around at your caving buddies. How many have gear that was purchased during this decade? What kind of vehicles are they driving? Do they even own a house?

So, once again I hate to be the one to break this news to all you caver dudes, but keep thinking that you go caving "for the babes". Keep this fantasy next to the giant walking passage fantasy. Somehow I think that the cave fantasy has more chance of seeing daylight than the one of having "babes" enter your life. Perhaps you should find a way of becoming a bodyguard, because caving will not net you a "babe". Geez, sometimes you guys really are in the dark.

TEN YEARS OF COOPERATIVE EXPLORATION, DISCOVERY, AND GROWTH

by James Baichtal, Thorne Bay Ranger District, Thorne Bay, Alaska.

1998 marks the 10th year that cavers and the US Forest Service have worked cooperatively together to inventory and survey the caves of southeastern Alaska. This cooperative program has led to fantastic discoveries, both in the physical characteristics of the underground passages and also in the paleontological, cultural, and biologic discoveries. The explorations have had many names: The Prince of Wales Island Expeditions (POWIE), the Tongass Cave Project (TCP), the Ketchicave Expeditions, the Dall, Heceta, Suemez, Coronation, Noyes and Baker Island Expeditions. Expeditions have explored the mainland east of Wrangell, as well as Etolin, Kuiu, Revillagigedo, and Chichagof Islands. Members of the Glacier Grotto and cavers from Southeast Alaska have formed a core of explorers who have teamed up with cavers and scientists from throughout the United States and around the globe.

We now know that as early as 9,300 years ago humans were seeking shelter within the caves of Southeast Alaska. By torchlight, natives explored El Capitan Cave 3,400 years ago. Early explorers, miners, fishermen, trappers, and loggers knew of the caves. In 1975, Dale Kanen a young USFS engineer explored some of the caves and tried to get the caves some measure of protection. In 1987, Dale shared his discoveries with Kevin Allred, and Kevin with his family came to Prince of Wales and mapped the first of many caves. The Thorne Bay RD working with the Glacier Grotto began to support the POWIE Expeditions in 1988. In that same year a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement was developed with the Glacier Grotto and later with the Tongass Cave Project. The expeditions have grown in size and complexity from those in 1987 and 1988. In 1992 the first Cave Search and Rescue Unit was formed, with the USFS establishing a large cache of equipment and supplies and supporting cave rescue training. The Forest Service has provided support in the form of housing, transportation, equipment, food, and logistics in return for the expertise of the cavers and their skills. The Forest Service

has transported mountains of equipment, provisions, and personal gear by helicopter, boat, and vehicle both to and from very remote sites. The Forest Service is currently preparing an updated Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with all the provisions of the past, this time including transportation for volunteers to and from Ketchikan based on the availability of funds. The new agreement will be between the TCP, the Glacier Grotto, and the USFS.

Parallel to the expeditions were the development and evolution of measures intended to protect the karst cave resources from the impacts of timber harvest and associated activities. 1991 saw the first protective measures surrounding Captain Soup Cave. Working with the cavers, the USFS developed interim standards and guidelines which were published in 1992, in the ongoing revision of the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP). Though they were a starting point, these standards fell short of system protection focusing instead on karst features and cave entrances. 1993 saw the Karst Management Symposium which resulted in the Karst Panel Assessment of the karst and cave resources on the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest. From this assessment the concept of karst and cave resource vulnerability was developed and the Forest was made aware of the significance of the resources both nationally and internationally. The re-write of TLMP, which resulted in a Forest Plan being published in 1997, identified the karst and cave resource issue as one of the five reasons that the revision was needed. Karst had risen from an unrecognized term in 1990 to one of the largest resource concerns across the Tongass. There are those who feel that the USFS has not gone far enough to protect the karst and cave resources across the Tongass, opinions range widely on the effectiveness of the standards. However, Alternative 11 in TLMP, the preferred alternative as it stands, shows 82.5% of the inventoried karstlands as not available for timber harvest. That is, of the 437,154 acres of karstlands inventoried on USFS lands on the Ton-

Continued on page 28

CAVING PLANS FOR 1998

by Kristopher Esterson

The Ketchicave caving expedition to Kosciusko Island is July 18 to August 15.

We are not likely to run out of caves out there and will probably spend the entire month on the island. Participants are encouraged to sign up for the entire month, but it may be possible to come for the two weeks at the beginning or the two toward the end. We will probably have spaces for 10-12 people.

Kosciusko has outstanding potential for discoveries with over 20 square kilometers of karstified limestone. I expect we will look at a range of areas from near sea level to the top of Mt. Francis (an old-growth reserve about 800 meters high). A large portion of the island has rather low relief and averages less than 100 meters above sea level. Most of that area is underlain by the famous cave-riddled Heceta Limestone and there is actually some potential for horizontal caves in this area. The systems descending from Mt. Francis are likely to be very vertical and very deep. Because the coast is so close we could see systems of well over 500 meters in depth coming down from the alpine. Earlier recon by Steve Lewis and Jim Baichtal have already revealed some huge entrances on the mountain. There is definitely potential for the Big One on this island.

I hate to disappoint those of you who grew to like drinking the microbe-infested ditch water of Heceta Island, but we will camp along an actual stream this year (Trout Creek).

We are inviting new participants to come on this year's expedition as well. Here is some information to give you an idea of what the expedition is like and what you will need. The caves in Southeastern Alaska are frequently wet, always cold (about 0-8 C), and often vertical. Vertical skills are essential with drops of 20 meters to 60 meters and depths of 100 meters or more. Participants need to be comfortable with advanced SRT as we use a combination of American and European rigging techniques. Rebelays and re-directionals are commonly used.

Climbing systems such as frog and Texas or other similar systems have worked well in the past.

Rope walkers have been used with varying degrees of success.

Warm synthetic clothing and durable (water resistant) coveralls are a must. Fleece suits and balaclavas are frequently used and many of us have kayaking-type drysuits for the really wet stuff. You will need good rain gear, rubber boots, a strong tent, and a sleeping bag good to about freezing temperature. A large internal frame pack or drybag-type pack will work well for dragging your stuff around on the surface through wet underbrush and up steep slopes. A typical day consists of eating breakfast with everyone, preparing gear, breaking into small teams, hiking around to find a cave, rigging it if necessary, exploring and surveying it, returning to camp, cleaning gear, eating again, etc.

Ten to 12 cavers will be working out of a set camp on Kosciusko Island this year. Our camp will have a Weatherproof community tent, gear storage tents, and a cook tent. Personal tents surround the community tents and allow for some much needed privacy. The expedition will leave from Prince of Wales Island so most of you need to fly into the city of Ketchikan a day before the expedition starts and they take the ferry to Hollis on Prince of Wales Island. The ferry costs about \$20 each way and takes about four hours. Alaska Airlines is the primary airline serving Ketchikan and the ticket prices and schedules are available on their website.

The expedition is a cooperative effort between the United States Forest Service Thorne Bay Ranger District and the Tongass Cave Project, which is an official project of the National Speleological Society. The objective of the expedition is to provide the USFS with maps of caves and descriptions of the features within them so that informed and sound land management decision can be made. For applications and addition information contact:

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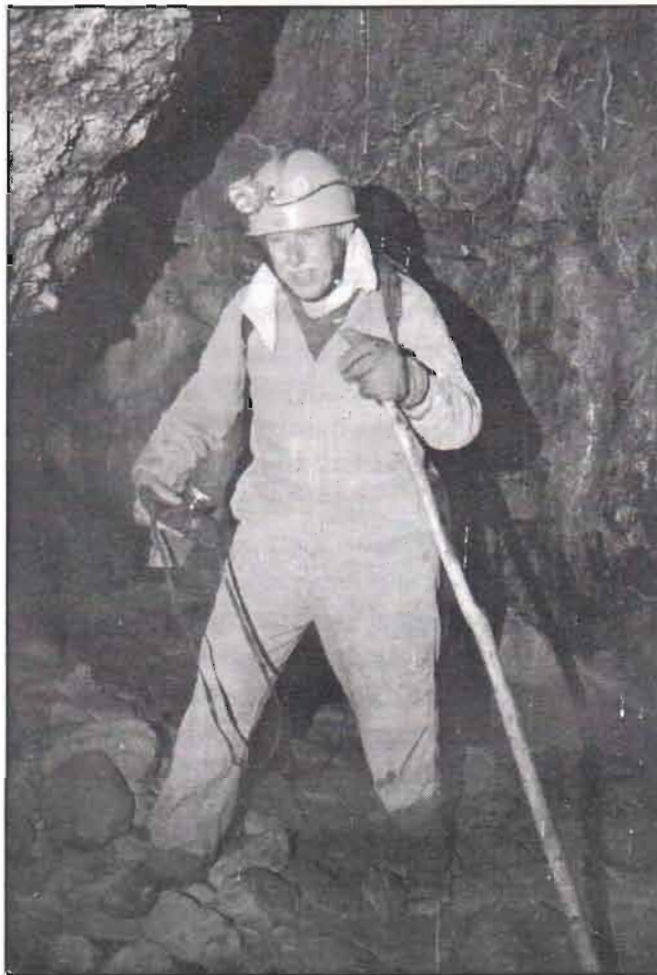
phone: (907)828-3309

JAY ROCKWELL'S NEARLY 3 DECADES OF ALASKA CAVE SERVICE

by Harvey Bowers, former Glacier Grotto President

The first issue of the Alaskan Caver dates to April 1970 and was edited by Chuck Pease. The organizer of the group that would become the Glacier Grotto was Dr. Jay Rockwell. I first met Jay in the fall of 1972. Jay was trying to organize the Alcave Task Force for the NSS Conservation Committee. Even in those days we realized Alaska had lots of "Cave Potential" but very few cavers who had unlimited access to cave areas. Over the years we have had many people who were active cavers come and go, many with government service or military transfers. Jay was always the glue that kept cavers together and organized. Jay has spent countless hours writing letters for the Grotto. Jay kept the far flung Alaska cavers together, trips organized, publications printed, NSS reports sent and government agency's informed

Jay is not only the founder of the Glacier Grotto but his persistence kept the organization going as most of us moved to other issues and interests. Jay and Liz also acted as an international caving hostel when cavers were in Anchorage. In the late 1970s when the Rockwells still had kids living at home they hosted some very large caving groups from Japan, and also cavers from nearly every corner of the world. I would like to thank Jay and Liz for all their hard work and for always being there for caves and cavers.



Jay Rockwell explores El Captian Cave in 1988.

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gass, 360,652 acres are within land use designations which do not allow for timber harvest. These include alpine and sub-alpine karstlands, steep karst slopes, Wildernesses, National Monuments, Special Areas, and many of the other land uses. Included is an estimate for high vulnerability karst found on lands not yet inventoried. The caving community, researchers, scientists and the USFS worked together to develop these standards and guides, the most protective of their kind across the country. We should all be proud of this achievement.

The various expeditions made discoveries which led to the development of the standards and guides discussed above. They also made discover-

ies which have gone a long way to writing the pre-history and paleoecology of southern Southeast Alaska. These discoveries have resulted in partnerships with the University of South Dakota, Denver Museum of Natural History, University of Oregon, University of Alaska Southeast, Anchorage, and Fairbanks, the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Science Foundation, the NSS, and a myriad of others. The discoveries led to biological surveys identifying for the first time the insects which inhabit the caves, descriptions of new species of insects, and a better understanding of the diversity and abundance of the bats of Southeast. Much of this research is still on-

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CAVE DIVING IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

by Marcel LaPerriere

Prior to the summer of 1993 there were only rumors of cave diving in Alaska. I had heard stories of a diver who had dove the connection through Cavern Lake, but after Alan Murray, Craig Sempert and I made that dive in July of 1993 I talked to that diver. It was obvious after our conversation that this diver had only dove this cave in his imagination. I think it can be safely assumed that the three of us most likely made the first fresh water cave dive in Alaska. There is no doubt that we did the first sump dive in Alaska when the three of us dove the sump in the El Capitan, Alaska Room.

During that dive the three of us found and mapped Diver's Den.

During July of 93 Craig, Alan and I also dove the sump in Roaring Road Cave. We put all our sump diving skills to the test in zero visibility conditions during that dive. A few days after our sump dives in El Cap and Roaring Road, Pete Smith and I again dove the El Cap sump. Pete's and my goal was to climb one of the upper leads looking for an upper connection to the Alaska Room from Diver's Den. Pete did an incredible underground climb, unfortunately only to find the lead ended around a bend that was out of view.

During the summer of 94 Alan and I again dove the sump in Roaring Road Cave. During that dive we found another side passage that I still believe has potential to go back to air. Other than a couple of short cave dives in saltwater there was no other dives done that year.

During the summer of 95 a team of four divers lead by Bob Hicks again dove the Roaring Road sump, the entrance sump of Cascade Cave, and a couple of other sumps. Alan, Craig and I along with many other divers made many dives in the cavern area of Seal Cave, a salt water cave near Craig, AK that Craig Sempert had found in 1994.

The summer of 96 brought an international team of cave divers to Prince Of Wales lead by Andrew and Liz White of Australia. They filmed a documentary that was produced by Quest Australia. During the filming they dove Roaring Road Cave and Cavern Lake Cave. No other fresh water cave dives were done that year.



Marcel LaPerriere considered cave diving at the Alaska Room Sump in El Capitan Cave. Photo: Alan Murray

No fresh water cave diving was done during the summer of '97.

There are still hundreds of caves to dive in Alaska. They are just waiting for the right team of divers with the right skills.

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going. The karst and cave resources annually draw writers, filmmakers, and visitors from around the globe. Our neighbors to the south in British Columbia look to us to see how our karst and cave program has evolved. It is still evolving.

The strength of the program has always been in the cooperation between the caving community, scientists, and the Forest Service. It has not always been a path easy to walk. Disagreements on management and a tangle of other issues have tended to strain the cooperative relationship from time to time. The Forest Service is dedicated to protection of the karst and cave resources and continuing to support the expeditions, exploration, and research programs. As experience and understanding grows and new information becomes available, the Forest Service plans to continue to promote and foster the evolution of the karst and cave management strategy. We have come along way together, hopefully the spirit of cooperation that has gotten us here will continue.

MISCELLANEOUS

The 10th Anniversary of the Prince of Wales Island Expeditions (POWIE) is the subject of this edition. It is a compilation of the stories, notes and articles gathered from cavers and from past issues of The Alaskan Caver.

To all those who freely gave of their time to write articles, look through slides for needed photos, find those diaries of the early days, and share reminiscences, a special thank you. Very few people said "no" when asked to contribute to this issue. Many said "yes" but said give me a day or two. One individual sent an article by fax the day after being asked. Thanks to all of you.

Many thanks to the cavers who loaned photos, slides and drawings for this endeavor. Some of these items have been in my possession for several years, and it is with heartfelt thanks that I return them to you. It will also be a great relief to have them in your hands again.

In a project of this kind, there are always topics that

did not receive proper coverage and in some cases no coverage at all. I know that this is true of this issue as some key players needed more space than I could provide in this issue. Also one was out of country, and some just were not contacted due to logistics problems. Plans call for the publication of the more lengthy articles in a later issue.

As the reader will note there is some disagreement as to whether this summer will be the 10th anniversary of POWIE or whether it was last year or the year previous. The answer to that question I leave with you.

It is with great pleasure that I present pictures and stories of the past. Please enjoy this look into the history of the Glacier Grotto and POWIE and make a promise to yourself. "I will keep a notebook of adventures and slides that can be used for the 25th anniversary of POWIE.

The Editor

ELECTION RESULTS

Results of the election for 1998-1999 Glacier Grotto officers were recently announced by the elections committee. They are as follows:

President	Alan Murray
Vice President	
North	
Southcentral	Julius Rockwell
Southeast	David Valentine
Secretary/Treasurer	Connie LaPerriere

These officers are officially elected and currently are performing the duties associated with their offices. Details about meetings in the areas will be announced in The Caver.

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is to bring together scientists from a variety of disciplines, to share ideas and insights developed through a variety of experiences and research paths.

A variety of accommodations will be available, including both hotels and camping.

Sessions will be held at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

For details contact Joe Meiman, Division of Science and Resource Management, Mammoth Cave National Park, Mammoth Cave, KY 42259 (502)749-2508 or visit the webpage at www2.wku.edu/~grovecg

The Alaskan Caver

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