

February 2000

Alaskan Caver, Volume 20, No. 1, February 2000

Marcel LaPerriere

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The Alaskan Caver

Volume 20 Number 1

February 2000



IN THIS ISSUE

Walkabout Cave

Wiley Coyote Cave

Find Me Cave



The Alaskan Caver

published by the:
Glacier Grotto®

P.O. Box 9062, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Marcel LaPerriere - Editor

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Volume 20 Number 1

February 2000

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Cover Photo: Dan Monteith, Kris Esterson & Bruce White are ready to enter Zena Cave. / Back Photo: Connie LaPerriere joins the above mentioned after a day in Zena. Photos Courtesy: Randy Smestad

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• Anchorage Meetings: Call Jay Rockwell, 277-7150 or e-mail Harvey Bowers at agate@alaska.net

• Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by: David Love

"Love's Labors not Lost"

On October 10, 1999, NASA's Galileo spacecraft imaged the active Prometheus volcano on Io, one of the moons of Jupiter. Heat sensitive near-infrared spectrometer images showed white plumes of sulfur dioxide frost visible at the caldera and again about 60 miles distant where lavas appear to emerge from lava tubes. This volcano has been erupting for at least 20 years and is supposedly similar to another volcano here on earth: Kilauea in Hawaii. Following a trip to Hawaii with Kevin Allred in 1995 to continue exploration and

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CALENDAR

PLEASE PAY
YOUR 2000 DUES

Feb. 24 A cave and karst slide show will be presented by Marcel LaPerriere at the Tongass Conservation Society general membership meeting. The public is invited. Time and location is yet to be announced. Call 225-5404 days for an update.

June 26-30, 2000.....NSS Convention, Elkins WV. Kelley Deem (304)725-9812 <deem@mammoth-geo.com>

Sept. 17-27.....Karst 2000: International Symposium and Field Seminar, Marmaris, Turkey. <karst@eti.cc.hun.edu.tr>

Ketchikan Area Grotto meetings are the first Monday, at 7 pm at Ketchikan Public Health Center 3050 Fifth Ave. 907/247-1559 or marcel@alaskamade.com **OR** ajmurray@ktn.net

Southcentral Area meetings or expeditions will be called by Jay Rockwell 277-7150 or Harvey Bowers at <agate@alaska.net>

THE GREATEST UNDERGROUND
ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME

by Marcel LaPerriere

Installment IX

(The following story is just that, a STORY. All the cavers in the story are real people, but the story is total BS. No attempt was made to change or alter names, and no harm was meant by using real names. The author is totally responsible for the story and in no way is the Glacier Grotto, the NSS, or members or officers responsible for the content. The intent of the story is to have some fun through total fantasy. Marcel)

Since it was always light in the underground world there was nothing to truly distinguish night from day, but true to Coulanta's word he woke us early. The smell of coffee was in the air and I soon saw Rob brewing extra strong Raven's Brew Deadman's Reach. A primeval urge came over me and I was hoping I could sweet talk him out of a cup. I needn't have worried, "who all wants a cup of coffee?" Rob asked.

The first to speak was Coulanta "I have not had any coffee in all the years I have been in this new world." With that Rob handed a plastic cup of Coffee to Coulanta as we all watched. Coulanta took his first sip of coffee in over a hundred years. If ever a man had experienced Heaven on Earth it was obvious that Coulanta just had. "I have never tasted such good coffee!" he said. I could tell Rob was pleased, in his small way Rob was able to return a favor to Coulanta.

As we ate breakfast of gorp, granola bars, dried fruit and drank hot drinks Coulanta started telling us what he had on the agenda for us. "Today we will walk all day, tomorrow we will be with the others." Coulanta pointed in the opposite direction than we had come from and then said "I will show you my work as we go."

After eating and packing up 4 days of food we set off, leaving much of the caving gear behind. Coulanta had assured us that we would no longer have need of any ropes or vertical gear, and I must confess it didn't hurt my feelings that I could leave behind about 25 pounds of gear.

Coulanta lead us down a well worn path that meandered it's way through the waist high grass and around a few medium to large boulders. About 20 or 30 minutes after leaving the hut we could finally see the end

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mapping of Kazumura cave, we fantasized about exploring lava tubes on the Earth's own moon, possibly those in the western Mare Imbrium, holding the first informal meeting of what Kevin coined "the Intergalactic Speleological Society". Maybe these places will be the future's "Last Frontier". Hey, let's keep this within the state, why not launch from the new Kodiak rocket launch facility? Would you want to be the first to explore the lava tubes on the moon or on Io? What if you might not come back? Send me your applications and membership fees (expensive but I hear the former Soviet Union has got a space program for rent, or maybe we could book the Space Shuttle) I see that the World Trade Organization and China have been negotiating, maybe we could be the first payload in China's fledgling space program. Enough interplanetary speculation, what is the future of caving in Alaska? Not knowing all the causal factors necessary to make even an educated guess, allow me to don my sorcerer's robes and peer into the enchanted waters, drawing forth my own contorted version.

Once all of the human-body sized terrestrial cave entrances have been discovered and mapped, only the very small systems will remain. This is why cavers have children and why scientists have been training rats to run mazes. (How's that for a conspiracy theory!) How's this for just plain far-fetched: if cavers continue to be the interbred, hard-headed, extra-light forgetting, Russian-jumaring (i.e.-hand-over-hand) individuals eventually natural selection will produce a genetically mutant population of 3' cavers with large luminescent eyes, double-jointed knees and biomechanical thumbs that lock over 4 to 6 mm Maxiwear. (I hope I didn't offend anyone, sounds kinda like my own family and many of my current friends!) No cave with an entrance greater than 3" would be safe. Any excuse to get more cave passage. Maybe we could even truly map Dave's Cave on Tuxekan Island (hey, where did that map go anyway? That was a through trip!). It may be that those very small caves will be surveyed by some sort of micro-robotic fly or beetle equipped with laser distance measuring devices, LED light sources and light-enhancing video. Why not! Is this not the Electronics Age! Most likely, low budget geriatric pioneers of Alaskan caving will just resort to sending their kids or pet rats into the maze.

"C'mon, sunny drop that waterfall, too-tight mud squeeze! Why, when I was your age I ate those for breakfast! Had to cave uphill both ways!" For those of crazier persuasion, many future discoveries will likely be made off of our beautiful coast line, deep within the aquatic realm. If global warming truly sets in maybe this will be the only way to access caves along our southeastern coastline. Certainly, glacier-caving trips will be a lot shorter. Could you imagine a cave exploration trip via scuba into El Capitan Cave, complete with submarine scooters. Now that sounds like fun! Maybe we could finally get the sand crawl cleared out! Seriously though, the NSS webpage states: "Given the current rate of development in diving equipment and in our knowledge of diving physiology it is likely that techniques will be available by the turn of the century that will permit us to function at depths in the environs of 300 meters underwater for sustained periods."

Finally, we would be able to determine the source of the fluorescent waters reported to occasionally surface in Tenakee Inlet and truly determine whether the humpback whale found dead on the bottom there 2 years ago had gotten stuck in a exhale squeeze.

Many caving frontiers remain in Alaska, including the numerous active volcanoes along the Aleutian chain and the geothermal vents in places like the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes on the Alaska Peninsula. Here's another excerpt from the NSS webpage. Unlike most of this article the following is not fiction, people are actually contemplating doing these things! Do Not Try This At Home without proper supervision or at least blame it on someone else, if you do: "Cavers now routinely visit lava tubes in many parts of the world. Almost all of these tubes, however, are located on the slopes of the lava fields surrounding the volcanic cone. Relatively little attention has been paid to the possibility of descending vertical vents near the core, due to the presence of excessive residual heat and noxious gases. While the search to find promising open fissures in a suitable extinct volcano may prove timeconsuming, the techniques for effecting a safe exploration are apparent. Recent advances in environmental suits (essentially space suits) have allowed for routine work to be carried out under extreme

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 1 (Greatest UG Adventure)

of the lake and we could hear a waterfall. Soon we came to the outlet of the lake and to our surprise the water drained out of the lake and into a cave. "Wow" Kris said "a cave within a cave." And, that's exactly what it was.

For those of you that have been lucky enough to enter Bridal Veil Cave on POW Island during a storm you will have some idea of what it was like for us. The noise from the stream was once again deafening as we worked our way down a very steep passage, always in the spray of the stream, but never really in the stream. Other than the fact that we did not need head lamps for light the biggest difference between this decent and the decent into Bridal Veil was the fact that this decent was much longer. We kept going down and down for what must have been a half hour or more. Finally the slope become more and more gentle and then we emerged from our cave within a cave out into a lush forest of dwarf hemlock, spruce and cedar. When I say dwarf, that's exactly what I mean, no tree was more than 5 or 6 feet tall. One could see they were old, as they resembled the dwarf trees that can be seen in the Southeast Alaska alpine.

"Come" Coulanta said "I want to show you my work."

Coulanta led us down another path, weaving in and out of the trees until it came to a clearing that was again in a lush grass meadow much like we had seen along the lake. This time we weren't surprised to see another crudely built hut that was built from small diameter logs. What did surprise us was what we saw inside.

"Now you will see part of my work" Coulanta said as he pulled open the door. In the dim light inside the hut we could see neatly stacked piles of stuff organized into various categories. The first thing that caught my eye was a large stack of plastic bottles of every size and shape. Then there was a stack of cleanly washed metal cans, glass jars, and there was even a few unopened cans of beer that had Rob's mouth watering. As I looked to the other side of the room I could see stacks and stacks of magazines, books and news papers that were not in very good shape. "Look" Connie exclaimed as she reached into the pile and pulled out the February 1994 issue of the Alaskan Caver.

"And look again" Connie said as she showed us who it had been addressed to. We all clearly read the label:

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

"Coulanta" Kris said as he reached for the Alaskan Caver "You said yesterday you knew we were coming." He held the Caver up for Coulanta to look at then asked "Is this how you knew we were coming?"

Coulanta shook his head no then said "Myself and the others knew that someday surface people would come to our world. This magazine" he said as he took the Caver from Kris "is just one of the ways we know what is going on in your world." Coulanta picked up a News Week magazine "we even know about the craziness that goes on in your world."

We all clearly read the captions and saw the front cover of the magazine that broke the news about one of the too many school shootings. "My job is not always a good one" Coulanta said. "I not only sort all this junk that washes underground but it is my job to tell the others what goes on in the outer world."

For a few minutes we looked at the junk that was stacked in every corner of the little building. I was intrigued to see license plates from various states and even one of the oblong plates from Briton. As I picked up the British plate Coulanta reached behind a pile and handed me a plate from Georgia. "This is my favorite one" Coulanta said as I grabbed the plate. "I was born in Georgia" the one time slave said "this plate makes me think about how lucky I have been."

Kris asked again "how did you know we were coming?"

Coulanta reached into a pocket and pulled out a familiar sight to me but not to all of us. It was a medium sized white notebook with red lettering that read **ALASKA DIVER**. Neatly written on the cover was the name Alan Murray. (Alan later admitted he had laid the book down and forgotten to pick it back up, and he couldn't remember where he had left it.)

Coulanta handed the book over to Kris who

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opened up Alan's log. "The book washed into the lake a few days ago and when I read the words" Coulanta said "I knew someone had been down in our world. I then walked up stream and I saw foot prints, I knew it was only time before you came further in and discovered our world." Coulanta took Alan's book back "From reading this log book and reading the Alaskan Caver I knew you cavers were not to be feared. What has always frightened those of us that live here underground is that someday the takers will find our world."

Coulanta saw we were a bit confused by the word takers. "Have you not read the book Ishmael?" he asked.

We all shook our heads that we had, and we all then realized exactly what Coulanta's fears were. (For those of you that have not read Ishmael you should!)

"Come" Coulanta said "I have so much more to show you, and you will understand even more why we fear the takers.

Coulanta had lead us about a half mile further down his path when I noticed that the light was taking on an even brighter, deeper glow. Had we had them with us we would have surely put on sunglasses because the further we walked the brighter the light got. The light became bright to the point of being painful. I was lucky that I was wearing photo gray glasses that darkened and was wondering how the others could stand the bright light. To me it was like looking directly into a 100 watt light bulb, except the light had a golden hue to it. I did notice that everyone was squinting and trying to shield their eyes with their hands.

"Look" yelled Rob, "it's gold!"

Sure enough Rob was correct, the walls, the floor and what we could see of the ceiling was nearly pure gold. "No wonder it so bright" someone said.

There was gold for as far as we could see. The stream was even flowing over a bed of nearly pure gold cobbles. If ever there was the Mother Load of gold this was it.

"This is a cursed place" Coulanta said in he most serious tone any of us had yet heard from him. "I know the temptation to take some of this gold back to the surface with you will be great" he went on. "Do not, if you do, you and everyone you touch

will regret it. From this gold comes only pain, much as it pains our eyes now. Even here in the underworld I have watched men go crazy with greed. So crazy they would kill their own brother."

I'd like to say I wasn't tempted to load my pockets with the precious metal we found ourselves surrounded in, but I was. We all were.

Coulanta increased his pace and as he walked he told us how this was only one of many places that the inner world contained riches beyond any surface dwellers belief. He told us how the first time they had found a cavity of gold much like the one we were now walking through one of his own sons had killed another man over a small nugget when there was more gold than any of them could have packed out of there in a million years. "He went crazy with greed" Coulanta said referring to his son "his greed killed him". (The full story of Coulanta's son is too long and too painful to relate.)

Coulanta told us how after time the people of the underworld learned that it was the mentality of a taker that coveted more and more. "Take only what you need, and need only what you take" Coulanta said. "You can not eat gold, and it will not keep you warm. It will only cause you to want more and more" Coulanta said as if he was preaching to us. "I know as cavers you are more interested in preservation than extraction" Coulanta said as we walked back into another dwarfed forest. "This will be your ultimate test. If you take any gold or tell anyone of this gold you too will be a taker and possibly the destroyer of our world."

(To be Continued)



This oil filter sits atop HV Karst on Heceta Island along with a large oil spot where oil was drained directly onto the ground.

Dave Bunnell, Editor
NSS News
P.O. Box 879
Angles Camp, CA 95222

December 14, 1999

Regarding: Tom Aley's Letter in the December 1999 issue.

In the December issue of the NSS News Tom Aley wrote a letter expressing his disappointment with the Karst Water Institute's (KWI) Top Ten List of Endangered Karst Ecosystems. In Mr. Aley's letter he states "Credibility is difficult to obtain and easy to lose." The majority of Alaskan cavers who have spent time underground on Kosciusko Island and other islands within the Tongass National Forest couldn't agree more with that one statement. It should be noted that Mr. Aley travels at government expense to Alaska and the Tongass National Forest to work for the Forest Service. I wonder, is Mr. Aley reluctant to bite the hand that feeds him. Or, has he placed blinders on his eyes when traveling through the Tongass. There are no forested karst areas within the Tongass National Forest that are not endangered. Those of who have been underground have seen caves filled with logging slash, discarded oil drums, logging cables, road building debris, eroded soils, and other assorted garbage. We have seen hundreds of caves impacted by timber extraction, including caves blown up by explosives during road construction. Many of these caves were damaged or destroyed after the 1988 Caves Resources Protection Act. If these are not signs of endangered karst I'd like to know what is. Even today we continue to face degradation of karst and caves due to poor forest management.

In defense of the Forest Service, they have made great strides forward in the last few years, but there is still a long way to go to protect caves and karst as they should be. I hope Mr. Aley reconsiders his letter and I hope he realizes it doesn't take a PHD to recognize endangered karst.

Sincerely,

Marcel LaPerriere, Past President of the Glacier Grotto

Alan Murray, Past President of the Glacier Grotto

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Continued from Page 2 (Pres. Corner)

variations in temperature. Minor adaptations to these suits should allow explorers to operate in temperatures approaching 200 degrees Celsius. Rather than using the bulky and heavy life support packs currently used by the astronauts, a liquid oxygen based rebreathing system could allow for assault durations in excess of 24 hours without the necessity of staging additional oxygen and carbon dioxide scrubbing packs. Nylon rope, of course, would not be suitable for vertical work under elevated temperatures. However, a vertical system based on using stainless steel aircraft cable, and specially designed descenders and ascenders has already been proposed in England as an alternative to SRT. Using such techniques, it may be possible to achieve a descent of several kilometers."

I love the painful obvious wording like: "Excessive residual heat" and "Nylon rope, of course, would not be suitable for vertical work". I know that most cavers are a bit daft, some more so than others. But I'm not sure that entering an active lava tube that is 200 degrees Celsius, would not qualify me for an all-expense paid trip to the nut house. Who needs light sources! Just watch one of your caving partners go up in smoke! I'll stick to science fiction. Hey, maybe we could get the kids to do it! Here's the NSS website if you'd like to read more: www.caves.org/section/hss/pu93v71.htm Talk with you all in this new millennium! Happy Caving!

You might be an Alaskan caver if_ by Kris "We don't need no stinkin' rope pads" Esterson

You might be an Alaskan Caver if_ You have ever been in a dark place with someone in a harness that tells you to "lick the instrument until you can use it again" You have anxiously waited for someone to finish the loaf of bread at dinner because you really needed the bag. You have ever woken up at night to hear huge boulders roll by your tent and then laughed it off as "just another night in the pit". You play with Barbie dolls, covet panty hose and assault weapons, and occasionally, just for fun, "head for the ocean". You don't mind the 400lb bear that rubs on your tent at night but a deceased rodent with super-natural mind control powers seems like a real threat. The gunpowder-like smell of exploding limestone brings back fond caving memories.



9 year old Samantha Rabey, the only Junior NSS member in Alaska.

Note

Hello from your new editor.

As I put my first issue of the Alaskan Caver together it become painfully obvious that we Alaskan cavers owe an extreme debt to Dalene Perrigo the past editor of this publication. Not only did Dalene do a great job putting the Caver together but she did it for 7 years! It's dedicated hard working volunteers like Dalene that help make the Glacier Grotto, and our two affiliates TCP & ACR successful. If you get a chance please send Dalene a thank you for her job well done. Her e-mail is: dtperigo@aol.com

On another note: I'm in need of photographs to print in the Caver. Please send prints if possible as they are the easiest to scan. All photos will be returned. Please see inside the front cover for the address to send them to. You can also e-mail any digital images that you might have. Thanks!

WALKABOUT CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Preliminary Report #203

By: Pete Smith

Tongass Cave Project

National SPELEOLOGICAL Society

July 12, 1999

Description

Walkabout Cave was discovered July 8, 1999 by Pete Smith and Bob Roe while investigating a drainage basin while on the POWIE '99. This basin was discovered to have carbonate walls on the two sides with the back wall noncarbonate and a muskeg bottom; excellent terrain for producing acidic water. The basin outlet was known to have no surface water and plenty of carbonate rock, so our only challenge was in finding the resurgence point. The timber in the recharge area of this cave is entirely intact, with some very nice spruce still standing, including some of the biggest sitka spruce this author has seen on POW Island. For this reason we feel that the prudent course to take is to withhold location information from the Forest Service.

Hydrology

The stream flowing through the basin had a flow of about 25 gpm after a week of dry weather. This water dropped underground soon after contacting the limestone at the lip of the basin. A resurgence was examined about 400 vertical feet lower down the mountain side that had a little more flow than than seen going into Walkabout Cave. It would be logical to assume that the resurgence is the bottom end of this system. No air space was seen at the resurgence and no air flow was noted in the cave, other than local flow near the waterfall.

Fossils

This cave is formed in the usual heceta Limestone of the area, however one feature that makes this cave unique is the abundance of coral fossils in the rock. Everywhere there is a clean surface to examine the interlaced bodies of coral fossil cover the rock. The bedding is very thin with 2 to 6 inches being the norm. The beds are separated by a band of impurities 1 to 2 inches thick. The roof of the cave is on average 12 feet high, with a dip followed closely by the stream.

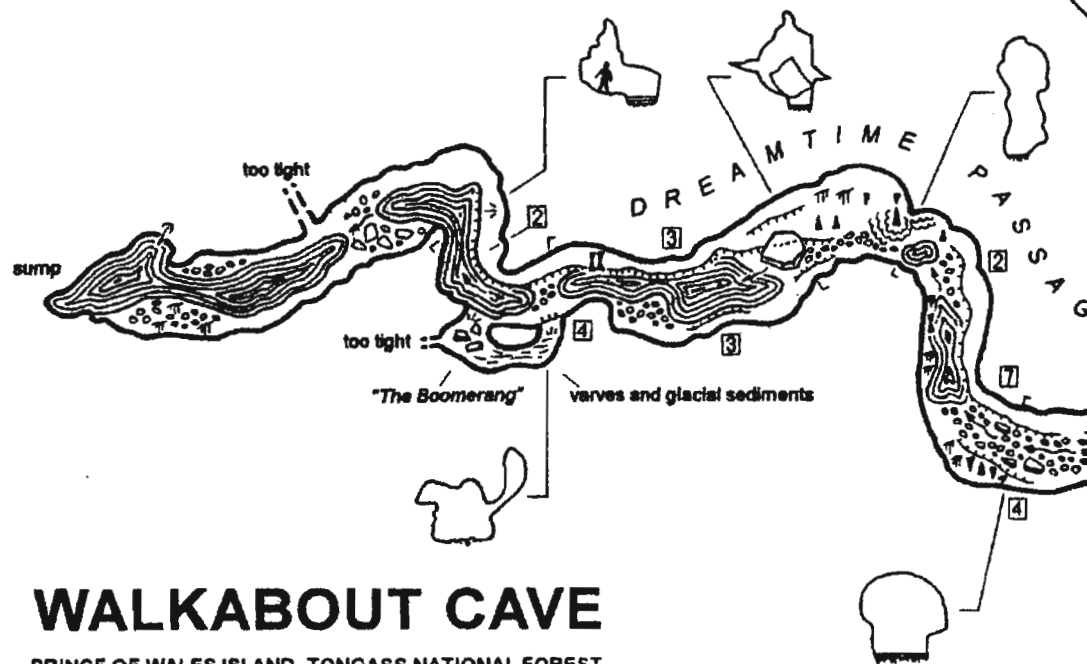
Caving

This is a very special cave. From the moment you enter, the pulsating tones of didgery-doo falls penetrate your awareness. Most likely the acoustics caused by the several holes at the base of the falls connecting to the downstream passage play a part in this. The low ceiling also must help containing the sounds and reverberating them throughout the cave. There are many spectacular formations in the cave including opaque draperies, helictites, soda straws, stalactites, stalagmites, columns and the tallest rimstone dams seen in Alaska at about 16". The falls require a rope about 60 feet long to rig on the big projection upstream and to be able to swing across the bottom of the falls. There is a permanent 3/8 bolt at the top of the falls located to keep the survey party out of the falling water. The survey was ended at the sump which will be pushed at a later date. We still need to locate Ayers Rock (Ulura) in the cave. (Following the Aussie theme). This sump does not show signs of backing up water at all, and therefore should be fairly shallow in nature. We have only penetrated approximately 1/4 of the system at this point.

Management

Due to the fragile nature of the cave the likelihood of adverse sedimentation in the surface is disturbed, we will protect this system from logging impacts. With the big, valuable trees in the area, there is no doubt that the Forest Service would be interested in "managing" this area. We believe the preferred management is no management. At this point we will withhold location from the general public to avoid unnecessary impact to the cave.

See Previous Page For Report



WALKABOUT CAVE

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
ALASKA

Compass, Inclinator and Tape Survey, July 9, 1999
by J. Solominsky, P. Smith, B. Roe and P. Hadfield.
Map by K. and C. Allred.

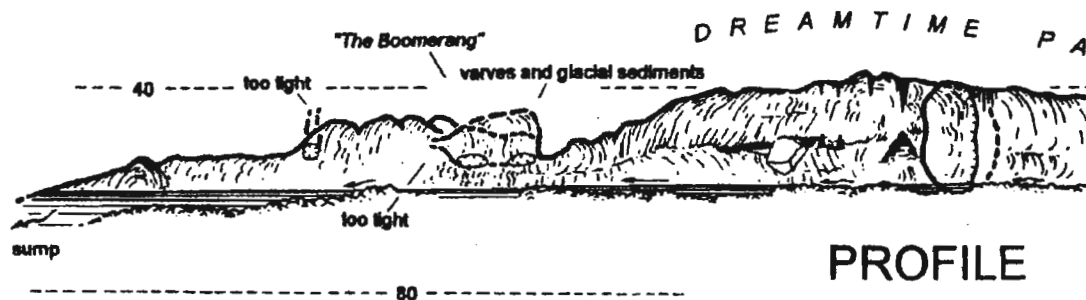
Survey length- 690 feet (210.2 meters)
Vertical extent- 54 feet (16.4 meters)

TONGASS CAVE PROJECT

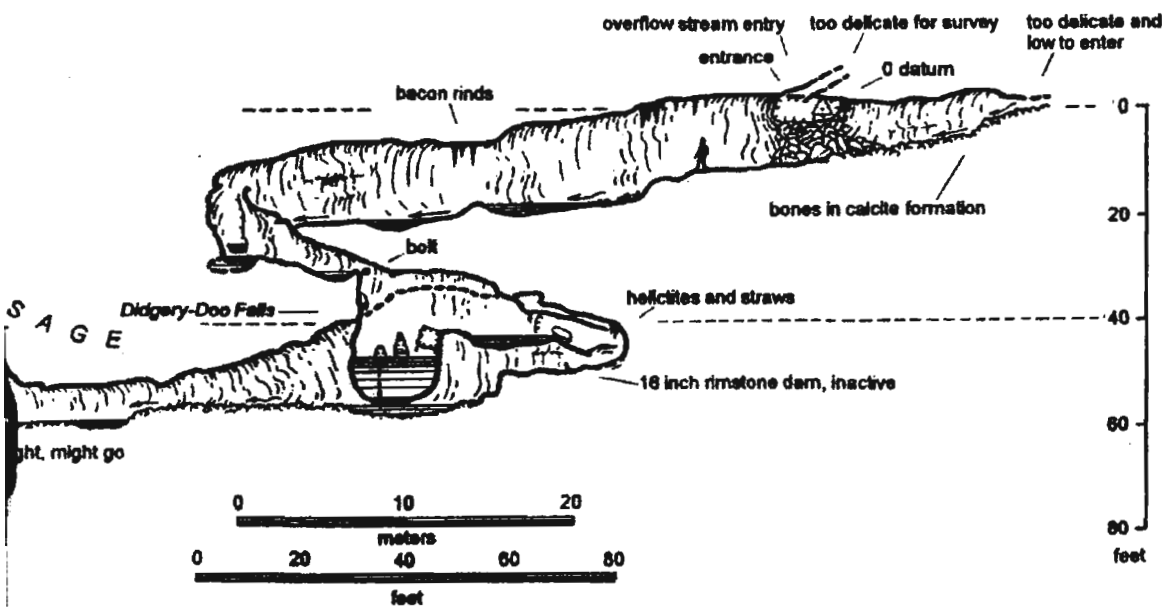
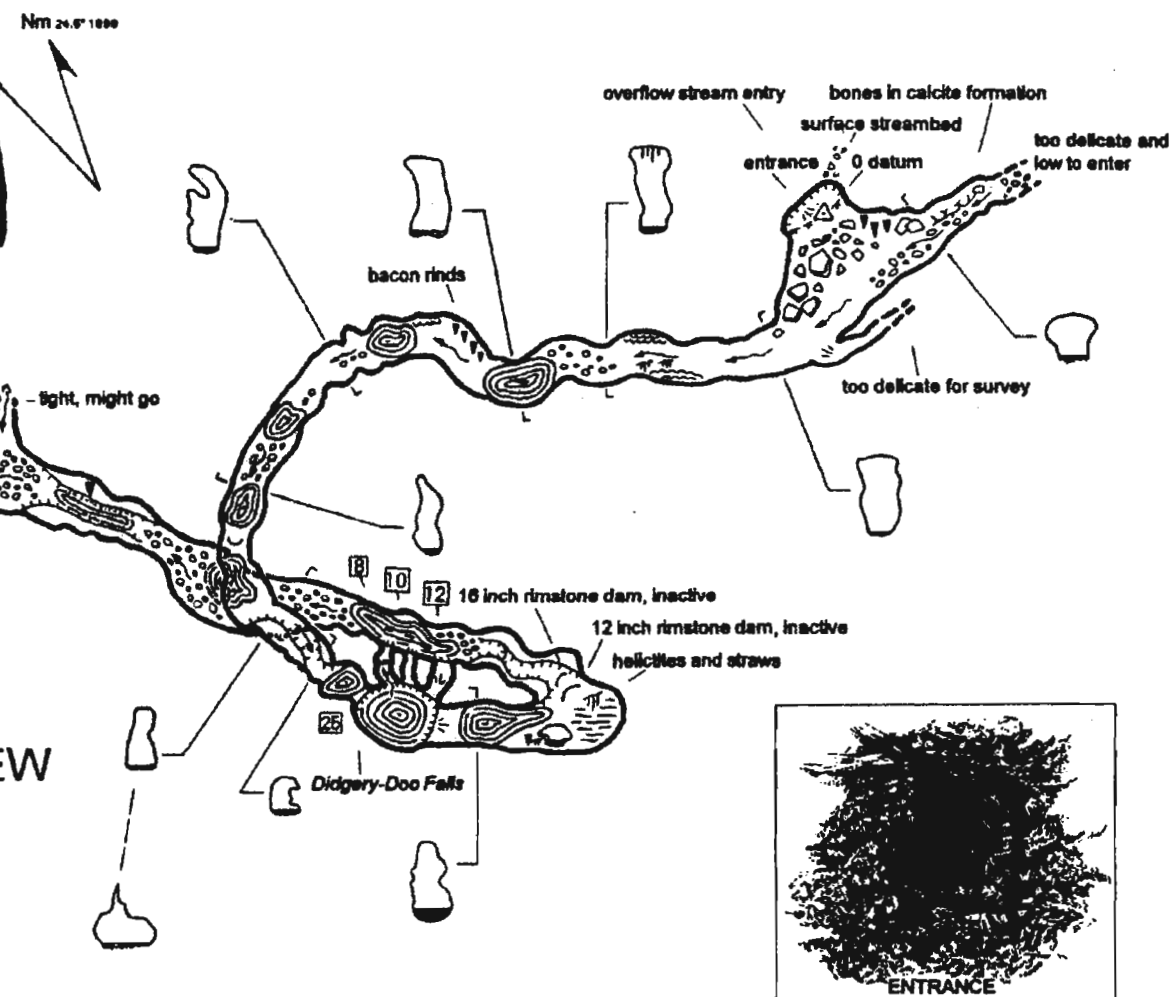
PLAN V

LEGEND

entrance dripline	vertical drop	silt fill
passage wall	drop depth (feet)	rimstone dam
underlying passage wall	breakdown	stalactites
emergence and streamflow	cobble fill	stalagmites
slope, splay downward	pooled water	flowstone



PROFILE



bedrock of thinly bedded Silurian limestone containing coral fossils

©1999 by Carlene Allred

WILEY COYOTE CAVE

Revillagigedo Island, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

By: Alan Murray
Jan. 2000

DESCRIPTION:

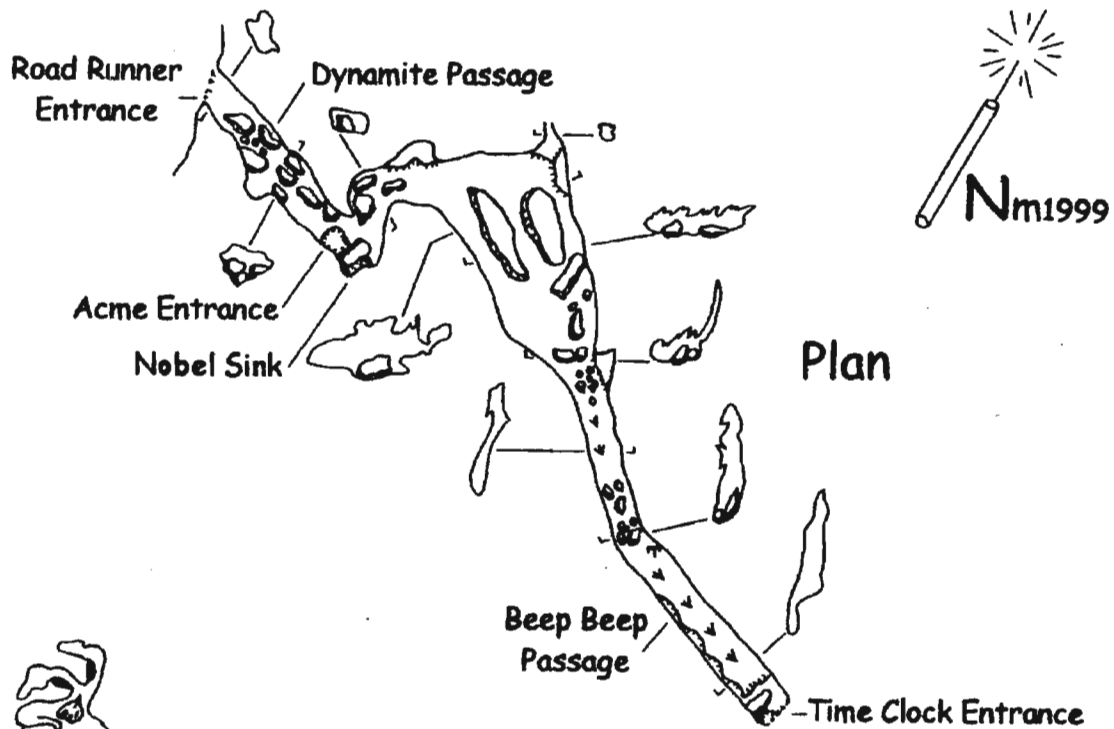
Wiley Coyote Cave is located on Revillagigedo Island in the Carroll Inlet area. It was discovered by Dan Monteith on July 24, 1999. The cave is located on the edge of a borrow pit and has a total survey length of 80' and depth of 19.4'. An unknown length of cave was dynamited away during road construction and marble extraction. This probably happened in either 1997 or 1998. The Time Clock entrance, located on the side of a knob approximately 12' above a stream, starts off as a tall, narrow, steeply descending passage. The second half of the cave is low, horizontal passage that turns from dry, granular dirt into rocky breakdown that is almost certainly the result of the dynamite. A few soda straws were seen in the cave, as well as some popcorn. Jim Baichtal, on a subsequent visit to the cave by Forest Service personnel, caught a glimpse of what could be a bone in a back corner of the cave. Another trip to the cave will be needed to identify the object. While there are no apparent dangers in the cave as a whole, the Dynamite Passage has loose rock in the ceiling. The wires used in blasting, still present outside the Road Runner entrance, are a little hint to this instability. Until such time as the cave has been checked for possible bones, its location should not be shared with the public.

The area north of the cave is a large bench that contains epikarst and a large number of small sinks. It is bound on the west by a sizable marble cliff, and several resurgences were seen. After reporting our find and concerns to the Forest Service,

a follow-up visit by them resulted in a proposed section of road being moved off the karst. While, as reported to me, the Ketchikan District Forest Ranger has expressed his dissatisfaction to some of the personnel responsible for the "blunders" associated with this cave, and some steps are being taken to stop further damage in the area, I cannot help but notice an all too common thread that appears in every incident like this: a "person" in a position of responsibility has decided not to report the presence of karst, nor the destruction of a significant karst feature. Furthermore, the "person" is never reprimanded by anybody and if you ask who is responsible, nobody knows. Just so we all understand how this works, nobody walked through the area and saw the marble and sinkholes. Nobody laid out the route for the road nor placed the stakes through a field of sinkholes, including the stake dead center in the bottom of one sink. Nobody has ever seen marble before, nor noticed the dark rock suddenly turn pure white. Nobody who makes a living at blasting rock knows, nor needs to know, what type of rock they are blasting. Nobody saw the gaping holes in the rock while they scrambled over it to drill and string the wires, nor the new holes created after the blast by the exposure of the cave passage. It seems that not everybody in the Forest Service has heard of, or believes in, the 1988 Cave Resource Protection Act. Maybe it's time we find out who these people are and put their names in our reports. Let's shed a little light, and a lot of heat, on these people who don't exist.

Ode to the Allred's By: Steve Lewis

*There's a family of cavers named Allred,
that cave in cold karst with a big sled.
but, in much warmer climes,
Like Hawaii sublime
Push a surfboard through caves that once glow-ed.*



Wiley Coyote Cave

Revillagigedo Island, Alaska

Length 80 Feet

Depth 19.44 Feet

Scale

Feet

0 4' 8'

1/4 1/2 3/4

1/8 1/16 1/32

1/64 1/128 1/256

1/512 1/1024 1/2048

1/4096 1/8192 1/16384

1/32768 1/65536 1/131072

1/262144 1/524288 1/1048576

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Profile

© Map by Connie LaPerriere
Nss symbols used

Surveyors 1999:
Lead: Alan Murray
Instruments: Dan Monteith
Digger: Marcel LaPerriere
Sketch: Connie LaPerriere

FIND ME CAVE

Kosciusko, Alaska

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

By: Connie LaPerriere

Aug. 1999

DESCRIPTION:

Report on Find me Cave

Find me cave is a pit that drops 25 meters from a large sink. The first drop of 16.2 meters ends in a room that has a pleasant view of both openings and the devil's club above. This drop is probably very wet when the insurgence is running hard. The second drop is a nasty 9.3 meter drop in loose mud and rocks. This drop appears to be a debris and mud plug which the water has eroded. The walls on the bottom of the pit are composed of compacted woody debris and are very unstable.

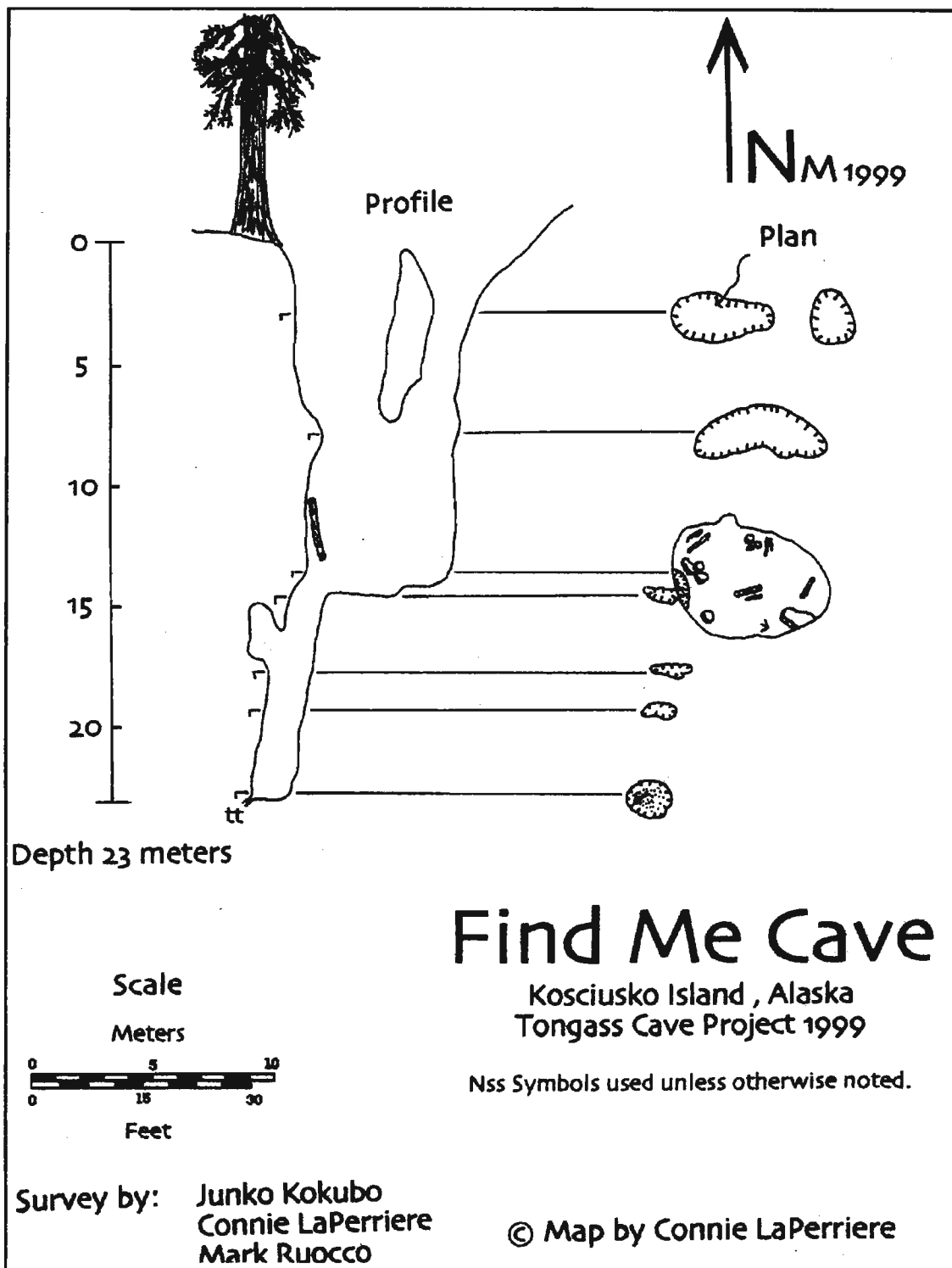
Hydrology: An insurgence that disappears into a gravel floor.

Management recommendations: Any surface disturbance would dramatically change the dynamics of this cave. The area above the cave that lies in non-carbonate should also be protected since it drains into the sink. It would be a good cave for recreation as long as exploration was confined to the first pit. The second drop rains mud, rocks and debris even with very careful rope placement.

Rigging: 50 meters of rope.



Connie LaPerriere stands outside Ash Cave during a Jan. 2000 overnight snowshoing trip.



1999 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Starting Balance	\$1485.28	Expenses:	Cavers	\$757.21
Incomes:			Postage	\$279.02
Dues	\$840.00		Entertainment	\$ 92.00
Back Issues	\$ 25.00		Flowers	\$ 52.75
T-Shirts	\$ 48.00		Bank Charges	\$ 26.52
Total Received:	\$913.00	Total Spent:		\$1207.50

The 1999 B.C. Speleofest By Simon Dillon (UK).

After taking part in the 96 and 97 TCP and an independent caving trip on Chichagof in 98, I received an invite to the 99 B.C. Speleofest. I joined Clay Hunting on Vancouver Island and we made our way to Hisnit Ridge logging camp on the west coast of the island, to meet up with the team from the Island Underground Caving Club, consisting of cavers from Canada the U.S.A., Australia and Britain. The object of the trip is much the same as the TCP, to break off into groups search for caves and map them. The first day only turned up one small cave. Clay and myself rigged the cave followed up by the survey team. We were soon disappointed as we hit a sump 117m in, although the cave did have a few small pitches and some challenging tight spots. The next few days turned up no more caves so attention was shifted to a known system further North. We arrived at the clubs caving cabin on Thanksgiving Ridge on the 4th of August to meet with nine other cavers. Two teams were to enter Thanksgiving Cave, one to push a high lead at the bottom end of the cave, the other was to assist a diver with equipment, the object was to push a sump to hopefully connect to another system. Clay, myself and two other cavers headed off to rig for the diving team and to push the high lead, however when we arrived at the cave we were greeted by a snow plug at the entrance. After 7 meters or so of digging we were in. I have to say that I am greeted by the best cave system I have been in on the South East coast. I start to descend a large pitch of 50 meters, and down the side is a fine silt sediment from the top to the bottom showing you thousands of years of banding, and telling you at one time the whole of the pitch was plugged from top to bottom, and giving you the effect that the cave is made of sandstone. A very strong draft can be felt in the cave, giving an indication to it's size. It is also a cave that demands a lot of respect having already claimed one life and smashing Clay's collar bone some years earlier. We arrive at our lead in a few hours, but are unable to push it due to the loose nature of a pitch that we had to climb up. We start to head out and every small side lead we come to we push it, but all leads meet with a negative result. After some time we meet up with the diving team and are told the good news. Pat the diver had managed to push a 150 meter sump to connect with another known cave and was able to add a further 1km to Thanksgiving System. The following day Clay, Jim (one hell of a B.C caver) and two other cavers push towards the other known end of the Thanksgiving system, to an area called the Final Option, a foreboding part of the cave, with a large pitch heading up into the darkness. A radio location was done some years back showing that part of the cave was still 200m below surface. Jim was the only person who knew the very difficult route to the end of the cave, and he said he was passing the knowledge onto Clay as he thought it would be his last trip to that part of the cave (I was later to sample some of the route and it made the hair stand up on the back of my neck, many parts demand the utmost respect). Some 15 hours later they emerge 1 team member was unable to speak for an hour,

in shock or awe of the cave I can only guess! Jim tells of Clay's amazing caving skills, of how when they came to a climb up a waterfall pitch in full flood. Clay pushed up the pitch on his own, and went to the Final Option. Clay told that upon his arrival into a large chamber he was greeted by a large vertical pitch of which he was unable to see the top. He said he felt very uneasy in that part of the cave, and was unable to push on so he returned to



Simon Dillon in Thanksgiving Cave

the other team members. It seems that the best option now, is to locate an other entrance to this part of the system due to the difficulty of getting to the Final Option. With the Speleofest ending on the 6th of August it was time for us to head back to Clays house to sink lots of beer and dig a cave that Clay has in his garden. Many further trips were had throughout August notably one was near Port McNeil. An exchange trip was planned through Arch and Treasure Cave, a trip that had only been done once before. This was to turn out to be one of the best sporting trips I had done outside the Yorkshire area. Myself and three other cavers enter through Treasure cave, a great system with massive phreatic tubes and short pitches, this part of the system heads inwards into a large hillside. We soon arrive at an area called the Cannonball Crawl, a 45 degree slope with perfect cannonball size stones. At the bottom of the slope you have to dig your way through a tight slot, as you slip through the slot the stones slide in over you giving you the feeling of being buried alive, two of our team turned back at this point not liking the look of the slope. As you pass through the tight slot you arrive in Arch cave and after a short distance we meet with the other team and the start of our one thousand foot ascent out soon began. This part of the cave could not be anymore different from Treasure Cave. It was a difficult trip was had out as there were only two of us to de-rig and carry out all the rope. If you are ever in the area Arch/ Treasure Cave must be on your agenda. The hospitality of the Alaskan and Canadian Cavers is the best in the world, and I hope to have many more adventures caving in both areas.

ROPE CUTTER

The Rope Cutter is a place for cavers to voice their concerns, ideas or gripes. Please send your entries to PO Box 9062, Retchikan AK 99901 (oops! Make that Ketchikan). The answers and ideas in no way reflect any view of the Grotto as an entity, and may not even represent a sane viewpoint at all. We reserve the right to ignore, gloss over, edit or just plain plagiarize any entry.



Dear Rope Cutter,

I have been reading about the Tongass National Forest and a term keeps coming up that I don't understand. What does TLMP stand for?

Signed,
To Learn My Position.

Dear TLMP,

I am going to answer your question a la Cyrano de Bergerac. Do you remember the NOSE scene where Cyrano comes up with different responses on how to insult his nose with style & class? You pick your favorite.

Religious: Tibetan Lutheran Mormon Prayers

Romantic: To Love Most Pleasantly

Environmental: To Log Most Places

Childlike: Tigger Loves Milne's Pooh

Scientific: Tesla Liked Magnetic Poles

Chief Seattle: The Land must Parish

Zenaphobic: They Live Many Places

Rest Room Graffiti: Theodore Loves Mary Petoski

Bureaucratic: Tongass Land Management Plan

Microbial Phobic: Twisting Lurching Myopic Parasites

Zen: Truly Lovely Mystic Pursuits

NASA: The Last Moon Probe

Postal: They Loose Many Packages

IRS: Taxes Leave Multitudes Poor

Panhandler: To Leave Money, Pennies?

Drunk: Terribly Loud Messy Phisherman

Fisherman: Turbot's Love My Pole

National Enquirer: The Lost Martian Pharaoh

Star: The Last Messiah Prophecy

Toronto Times: Thieves Loose Mounted Police

Doomsday: Thousands Lament Millennium Problems

Dear Rope Cutter,

I have a question for you about photographers and caving. As you know, sometimes when a person is caving they get into kind of a tight squeeze. Why is it that this is always when the photographer on the trip decides to take pictures and of course wants you to stay still in whatever uncomfortable position you are in for hours? And then, is it okay to just, like, accidentally drop rocks on the photo guy

and/or his camera gear? It just gets, well, so annoying that I just want to get even. Is this OK? Or am I out of line here? Does anyone else out there have this problem?

Sincerely, The Rocky Caver

Dear Rocky,

You are not alone. Photographers are definitely the most annoying companions to have as cavers. I once had to lay on a sheet of ice, in my blue jeans, for hours, just to hold a light for a photographer. Luckily he wasn't taking my picture or the photo lab would have tried to correct my blue color since they wouldn't have thought it natural. Still, it is wrong to try and get revenge for all the pain they cause by dropping rocks on their gear. As a Diver once said "before rescuing another diver, first assess the value of his gear." As for hitting the photographer, that is another issue. Can you get away with his demise with no one the wiser? Will you then take his gear which will then take possession of your brain and cause you to become the photographer from hell? Yes, photographers are the worst companions in any endeavor-- ask rock climbers, divers, and Princess Diana.

Actually I have the best advice for you. Take revenge like I do. We'll lure the unsuspecting photographer into a spectacular but cold cave, ask him to take my picture, I'll volunteer to pose in any ridiculous position. I'll keep him in there until hell freezes over, or until the air and his fingers are blue from the trouble he is having taking pictures. And then secretly laugh, knowing that all the trouble he went to will be in vain. Since I am in all the pictures there is no way that a single one will ever be published. Not in his annual Christmas letter much less the NSS. This is a fact, ask anyone who has ever photographed me! Let me know when you want to go caving with your photographer friend and I'll get out my long
u n d e r w e a r .

Yours as Always,

Preda Phreatic

Editors Note: Several people have recently written in asking what the wise Preda looks like. Preda sent us this photo shortly after returning from a caving trip to the catacombs of the Ketchikan sewer system.



By-Laws of the Glacier Grotto

Article I. Membership

Section 1. Full membership is limited to Regular or higher members of the NSS and Regular-Dependent members 17 years and older.

Section 2. Associate membership shall be open to any persons interested in speleology and cave conservation.

Section 3. All members present at the adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grotto are Charter Members.

Section 4. Applicants for membership shall file their application with the secretary accompanied by membership dues.

Article II. Elected Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at meetings of the Grotto and appoint such committees as he or she deems appropriate. The President also shall appoint elected officers in the event of incumbent's resignation or incapacitation.

Section 2. In the absence of the President, or in case of his or her inability to act, the duties of the President shall be performed by the senior Vice-President. The senior Vice-President is the vice-president with the longest continuous membership in the Glacier Grotto. In the event of the resignation, removal or permanent disability of the President, the senior Vice-President automatically becomes President for the balance of the President's term. He or she shall appoint an appropriate interim Vice-President to serve until the next election.

Section 3. The three Vice-Presidents -- for Northern Alaska, for Southcentral Alaska, for Southeast Alaska -- shall govern each Area as a sub-grotto, holding meetings, appointing local committee chairs and conducting local business. Each Vice-President will be the Grotto contact person for the Area designated. All written correspondence with outside organizations should be copied to the President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall have custody of the records of the Grotto and be in charge of receiving and responding to all Grotto correspondence. The Secretary shall also perform those other duties that are generally performed by secretaries of like organizations and that may be assigned by the President or the Executive Council.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall collect the dues, send out notices of delinquency of dues, have custody of all funds belonging to the Grotto and shall keep the necessary financial records. The Grotto's financial records shall be audited annually by a member or person qualified other than the incumbent Treasurer.

Article III. Executive Council

Section 1. The Executive Council shall have complete power to manage the business, to formulate By-Laws, to raise funds in any manner consistent with the policies of the NSS and to perform all other necessary functions.

Section 2. Decisions or actions of the Executive Council may be overruled by a two-thirds majority vote of full members.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Council shall be held at such times and places as are determined by the Council.

Article IV. Meetings and Elections.

Section 1. Grotto meetings shall be held at the time and place designated by the President, with the approval of the Grotto members. Special meetings may be held at the time and place the President or a majority of the members or the Executive Council may designate.

Section 2. A quorum for the transaction of business at a Grotto meeting consists of 20 percent of the full members.

Section 3. A petition signed by two-thirds of the membership shall be mandatory upon the Executive Council to call a special meeting for the purpose stated in the petition.

Section 4. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President by August and the committee shall publish its nominations to the membership in October. Nominations from membership may be submitted to the Nominating Committee for inclusion on the December Ballot. Both the Nominating Committee and members making nominations shall give assurance that the person nominated will accept the office if elected. Ballots will be counted by the Executive Council and election results shall be published in February. Elected officers will assume responsibility on the publication date.

Section 5. Area meetings shall be held at the time and place designated by the appropriate Vice-President with the approval of the Area members. Copies of minutes of Area meetings should be forwarded in abbreviated form, to the Editor of The Alaskan Caver for timely publication, with a copy to the President.

Article V. Dues

The dues for regular and institutional members shall be set by the Executive Council at a level which will cover the cost of publication and distribution of the The Alaskan Caver and other incidental expenses. The Executive Council is thus required to raise and lower dues and subscription rates and to observe the dictates of prudent financial management. The time of implementation of this change will be retroactive to May 20, 1991.

Article VI. Censure, Suspension or Termination of Membership

Section 1. Membership may be terminated by a) voluntary resignation; b) failure to pay dues; c) exclusion for unethical, dishonest or other improper conduct.

Section 2. A member may be censured, or a member's membership may be suspended, for conduct unbecoming a member with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members in good standing present at a regular meeting. Suspending of membership privileges may occur only on recommendation of the Executive Council and then only for a time certain.

Section 3. Termination of membership occurs only on recommendation of the Executive Council with the concurrence of three-fourths of the members in good standing. At least fifteen days notice in writing shall be given to the individual concerned. The individual charged with conduct unbecoming a member and whose membership privileges have been proposed for suspension or whose membership is proposed be terminated has the right to respond orally or in writing before the Executive Council before the vote is taken on the proposal to suspend or terminate membership at a regular meeting.

Article VII. The Alaskan Caver

Section 1. The Alaskan Caver is the major periodical publication of the Glacier Grotto and serves as the principal communications link among Grotto members. As such, it shall contain synopses of the Annual Report, information from minutes of Area meetings, a list of coming events, communications from Grotto officers and committee chairs, and letters to the Editor. News about members, information from other grotto newsletters, and other material may be included.

Section 2. The Alaskan Caver shall also provide a record of Alaskan caves, including descriptions, or references to information about all known caves. Precise cave locations and locations of speleothems therein shall not be published except for those caves and features that are not considered to be at risk. Complete records of caves shall be maintained in Grotto files. Authors are expected to remove sensitive material before submitting articles to the Editor.

Section 3. The Alaskan Caver shall be published every two months by the Publication Committee. The Committee is chaired by the Editor of The Alaskan Caver, who serves at the pleasure of the President and the Executive Council, and is responsible for the overall production, punctuality, quality, taste and appearance of each issue. The Editor should assure that a committee member can meet the schedule in the event of his or her absence.

Article VIII. Amendments

Proposed amendments to the By-Laws shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary, who shall refer the proposed amendments to the Executive Council for its consideration and recommendation. A two-thirds vote of the Full Members in good standing shall be necessary to adopt any amendment to the By-Laws.

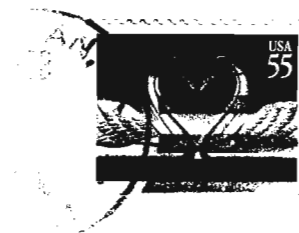
(Revised December 1993)



THE ALASKAN CAVER

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