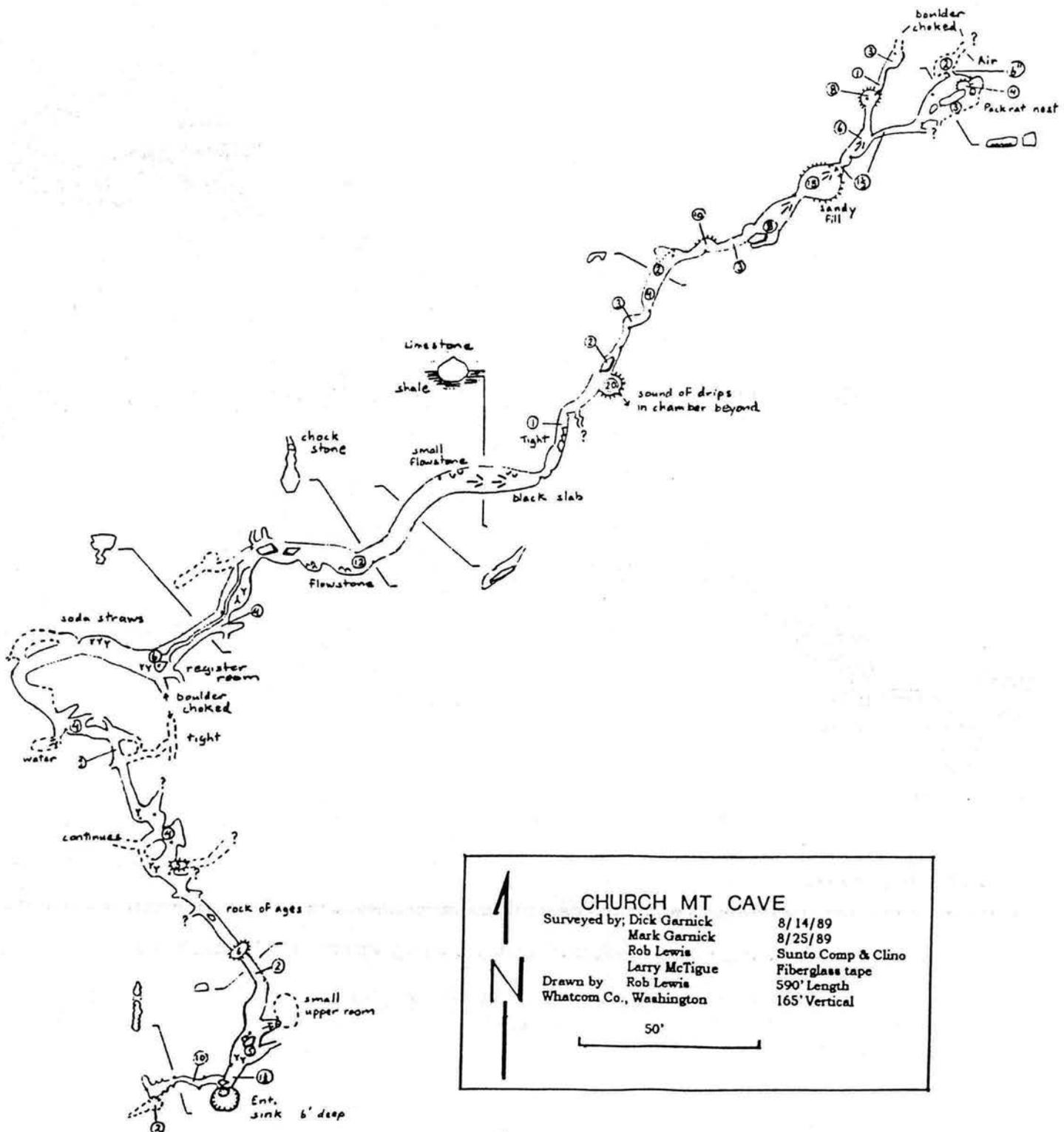


Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

Volume 33, No. 2

September 1994



Cascade Grotto

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00 PM on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, room 6 in the basement of Johnson Hall. Business meetings are held on odd numbered months immediately following the regular grotto meetings.

Cascade Grotto

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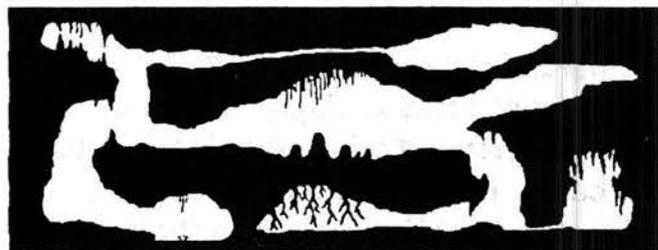
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Dues which include a subscription to the *Cascade Caver* are \$10.00 pr year. Additional members in the same house hold are \$2.00. Subscriptions only are also \$10.00.

All materials to be published and exchange publications should be sent to the Editor. Subscription requests and renewals should be sent to the grotto Treasure.

In This Issue

Trips & events.....	3
Cascade Grotto 43 years old.....	3
An Intorduction to Oregon Caves.....	4
Interesting People.....	6
It's your Club.....	6

Cover Church Mt Cave map drawn by Rob Lewis

Oct. 1-2, 1994 Dynamited Cave cleanup. Removal of debris from the 55 foot pit is one of the objectives of this trip. contact Steve Fogdall (206) 527-4741

October 21, 1994 Cascade Grotto goes **vertical**. We will meet at the Seattle Vertical Club at 6:30. Bring your vertical gear for a night of fun and practice

December 17 Joint Cascade Puget Sound Grottos Christmas party will be at Bill & Christine Bennett's home. 17460 E Lake Desier Dr. SE, Renton Wa. Call Bill or Christine for directions and details.

While some trips die for a lack of interest, many more successful trips happen on the spur of the moment without being announced in the caver. Please contact the trip coordinator regarding any trips that you would like to happen. Members and family of any recognized caving organization are encouraged to join us on our field trips. Nonaffiliated participants are by invitation only. For additional information call;

Jim Harp - Trip Coordinator

Home (206) 745-1010

work (206) 388-3585

work 800-562-4367 ext 3585 or 3436

The toll free number works only from limited areas in Washington

Cascade Groto, 43 years old

The CASCADE GROTTTO is the 26th grotto chartered by the NSS. Chartered in 1951 the grotto was active until 1954. Due to a lack of interest or a lack of reporting remained inactive until 1960. The Cascade Grotto has remained an active grotto since that 1960 reactivation. Yes **the CASCADE GROTTTO was chartered 43 years ago this year!!**

The 1994 caving season is almost over. Have you discovered a new cave this year? Did you visit a new cave this year? I have advertised trips to the Chilliwack BC area and caves every year for a number of years and so far only 5 cavers have made the 3 hour trip from Seattle.

Others have planned trips but they have been canceled due to a lack of interest. I am not suggesting gang caving, but I sometimes wonder if some grotto members go caving. Our Grotto meetings appear to be at a low level of enthusiasm. What can we do to spark more interest? Would you like a local cave project like a Cave Ridge Survey Project? What type of grotto programming would interest you? Let the grotto officers know your interest. Lets have some trips, trip reports, surveys, and articles so the Cascade Grotto and Caver will be here and grow for another 41 years!.

AN INTRODUCTION TO OREGON CAVES

By Jim Harp

Located amongst the beautifully forested Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon, near the cities of Grants Pass and Cave Junction, is Oregon Cave National Monument.

Oregon Cave is managed under joint stewardship of the National Park Service (NPS) with research management specialist John Roth as Superintendent and Oregon Cave Company (OCC) the concessionaire. OCC, a private organization, built and now leases back a number of unique rustic structures including a gift shop, employee residences and a very impressive six story log lodge or chalet with restaurant and guest rooms. OCC also leases the tour rights to the cave.

Credit for discovering the cave is given to Elijah Davidson and his dog, who are said to have chased a wounded bear into the cave back in 1874. The story continues that the pair (or trio if Mr. Bear followed!) promptly got lost and exited via a stream passage using matches as a light source.

Named Elijah's Cave by early visitors, who upon recognizing the unique natural beauty quickly spread the word, attracting the curious from far and wide. The marble halls soon rang with sounds of church picnics, pseudo-scientific explorations and drunken cavern parties. Visitors were encouraged to bring a bag for packing out souvenir cave decorations and also a pencil for recording names and dates

on wall or ceiling. One noted Professor from Oregon State University proclaimed that the formations would renew themselves annually, much the same as the icicles of winter! It seems apparent that the mold for some modern caving attitudes had already been cast and not much is new underground.

Eventually the Cave, along with 160 acres of surrounding timberland, was acquired by Walter Burch and Homer Harkness, a pair of miners and would-be entrepreneurs who opened up the cave for tourism in 1885. Unfortunately, the partners' hard work and advertising failed to bring in sufficient visitors or profit to justify their labors and in 1894 the cave was acquired by the Oregon Caves Improvement Company of California.

It did not take the new managers long to realize that drastic modifications would be necessary to allow their customers to be shown through to the highly decorated rooms beyond the entrance. A long-lasting pattern of destruction was soon initiated when laborers were employed to enlarge passages and build trails through to Paradise Lost and the Ghost Room areas. Flowstone and other formations along the route were covered up or removed and deposited along with unwanted debris into voids or side passages considered expendable. This did allow visitors easy access to previously restricted areas, but their success was short lived and in spite of their big dreams and hard work, the Company was unable to raise sufficient capital necessary for construct of the road needed to transport visitors to

cave and was forced to abandon their ambitious project.

From 1896 until 1909 the cave went relatively unnoticed until a group of western alpinists and conservationists succeeded in bringing the cave's natural wonders to the attention of those in Washington DC. In 1909 President William Taft signed the order adopting Oregon Cave as a National Monument.

The federal government's program for development and use of the new public showplace could have been taken right out of a book written by the Oregon Caves Improvement Company. Destruction of formations and filling in of passages persisted much the same as with the former management. Over the years blasting opened up many areas making the tour route including a 500 foot access tunnel to the outside. A road was finally constructed, tourist accommodations erected and the crowning glory, electricity and lights installed along the tour loop.

A visitor of the 1990's promenades the tourist trail along passageways which are sometimes artificial enlarged by contractors while viewing formations snapped off by early souvenir hunters or enthusiastic excavators. The tour guide points out a profusion of names and dates scribbled on the marble by early visitors, graffiti proclaimed to be of historical significance, destined to remain a permanent fixture. The path is illuminated by an electrician's nightmare, exposed cables running in various directions to light fixtures, which tend to shine in one's eyes as often as on the cave surfaces.

The genealogy of Oregon Cave reads much the same as most other

tourist caves around the world. All seem bound by a similar chain of events. Misunderstood and abused by early visitors, then developed and exploited by well-intentioned admirers, anxious to open and reveal Pandora's box of underground geological delights.

Those people who have entered and changed our underground environments simply follow basic instincts common to most mortals. To possess and control that which is precious and beautiful, often with little thought of future impact or consequences.

Present day managers' of our subterranean worlds find themselves possessed with a host of challenges. Responsible cave management is in its plebeian years with the book of restoration and conservation being written as work proceeds. Our new cave custodians find they must tread cautiously to avoid adding new sins to those of the past.

References: J. Roth, C. Larson, W Halliday.

INTERESTING PEOPLE

After a fine trip to Papoose Cave, Jim Harp and I drove to the Palouse Falls State park for an over night stay before returning to Seattle. We arrived and set up camp mid Sunday afternoon. Around dinner time a interesting man came by the table and was having a problem with the registration envelope. Jim began a conversation with the man and asked him where he was from. He told us he was from Alabama. Jim said there were lots of caves down there, and asked if he

had he ever been in any caves there? "Yes, that's all I do", he replied. Carl Craig, NSS 12044, is from Huntsville Alabama. Carl said he was 65 years old and had been caving in TAG country all his life. After dinner that night, breakfast the next morning and all the caving discussion this southern cave man packed his van and headed for California to meet his 4 children and climb Mt. Whitney.

It's your Club

By Bob Brown

One of the discussions at the August (1986) meeting started me thinking about the current state of the grotto. I have seen the grotto go through a number of up and down cycles since I joined in 1964. On the low side we had maybe one or two people at each meeting and on the high side we averaged twenty or so with several field trips each month. I think that the grotto is on the up-swing again.

We are all interested in caving and the grotto exists to promote caving. It was formed to enhance the goal of safe and conservation oriented caving. We all need to spend some of our caving energy on assuring the well being of the grotto as well as on our own caving pursuits. Here are some thoughts and discussion.

The first observation is that the bigger the grotto gets, the more caving trips we go on. Ways to promote a larger grotto include planning interesting trips, bringing revenant and interesting presentations to the meetings, and making the meetings easier to attend,

From year to year there are about 50 NSS members in the state of Washington and 30 of these live in the Puget Sound area. About half of this 30 live far enough from Seattle to make it inconvenient to attend meetings during the week. Of the 50 or so grotto members listed in the May, 86 Cascade Caver, most live in Seattle and most are not NSS members. Now for some suggestions:

1. Let's have the grotto meetings on Friday nights. The Oregon Grotto does this and they normally have more than 20 people attending even their smaller meetings. They go out for beer and pizza after their meetings to divide the meeting between business and socializing and give people more options about how long they stay. They have people who regularly drive a long way to attend.

2. We should arrange several months in advance for the presentations to be given at each meeting so that the schedule can be printed in the Cascade Caver. The NSS slide shows are not always wonderful but the increasing level of membership and caving activity should make more local material available.

3. Names and phone numbers of new members should be printed in the Cascade Caver so we can make them welcome and include them in our caving plane. The grotto membership list should be available at the meetings for handing out to new members.

4. Make sure dues notices and renewal forms are sent out well in advance of dropping members from the list.

5. Plan one or two gatherings per year where we make a special effort to draw

1 grotto members, former members, and all NSS members in the area. One could be a caving trip and one a party of some sort.

6. A few trips should be planned each year where grotto members are encouraged to attend. A field trip committee could be appointed to plan these events so that they attract as many grotto members as possible.

7. During the caving season we should plan at least one grotto field trip per month. Most of our trips begin with someone standing up at a meeting and announcing a trip they have planned and inviting anyone interested to give them a call. Lets have some official grotto trips that are planned in advance so that some of them are good for beginners, some for hard cavers, some close to home, some farther afield, etc.

8. Lets get the treasury back up. The things that we regularly spend money on including the Cascade Caver, the cave register program, and presentations at meetings are very important to the well being of the grotto and the local caving community. We have raised a good deal of money in the past with rummage sales and have had a good results with members hiring a group of grotto members to help with home improvement projects.

9. The Cascade Caver needs everybody's support. It is the glue that holds the grotto together by telling us about upcoming trips, past trips, events at our meetings, and much more. As a person who hates to write, I

can understand why more grotto members do not contribute articles but think about what you would like to see in the Caver and consider ways of encouraging the submission of that kind of material. Things that we don't see much of might be valuable to reprint, write yourself, or find a knowledgeable person to write about include trip reports, equipment evaluation, safety tips, and caving techniques. Remember that the people typing, editing, printing, and mailing the Caver are doing a great deal of work every issue so let's support them.

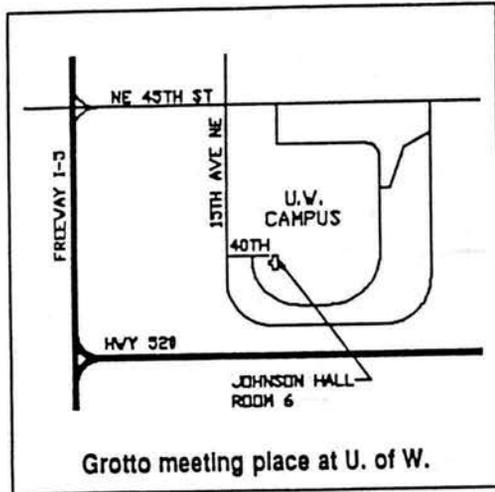
10. Lets also support the other grotto functions like the cave register program, grotto store, libraries, etc. All of these programs provide a service to the grotto and make it special. Let's see updates from those in charge of these functions printed in the Caver from time to time and let's see the rest of us helping them out.

So let's remember that the grotto is only as good as WE, meaning both YOU and I, are willing to make it. We all have our special caving projects and our groups of established friends but let's remember that the overall welfare of the grotto and its other members is also important.

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Ed. note, even though this is a reprint from 8 years ago it is still valid today. Some of the numbers have changed and we are now meeting on the third Friday of the month there is still plenty to think about here. Thanks Bob.

Cascade Caver



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