

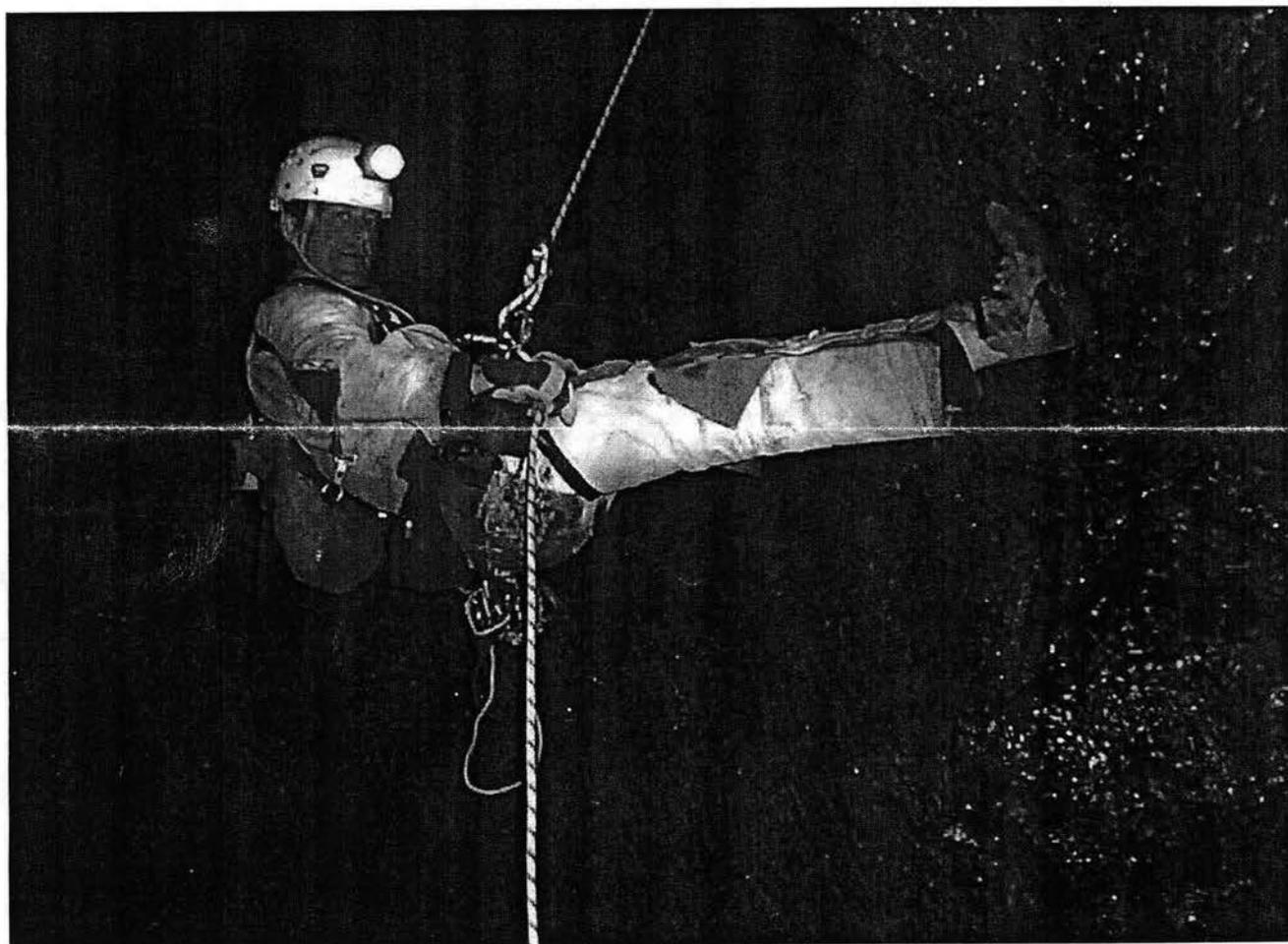


# *Cascade Caver*

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

January - May 2000, Volume 39 No. 1 - 5

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# Cascade Caver

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All material to be published, subscription requests, renewals, address changes, and exchange publications should be sent to the Grotto address.

## GROTTO MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Cascade Grotto is \$15.00 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is free to regular members. Membership for each additional family member is \$2.00 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is \$15.00 per year. Subscription via email is \$11.00 per year.

## GROTTO ADDRESS

Cascade Grotto; P.O. Box 345, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0345. This post office box should be used for both the grotto and for the *Cascade Caver*.

## GROTTO OFFICERS

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Sec/Treasurer Julie McGinnis (206) 246-7388

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## MEETINGS

Regular grotto meetings are held monthly at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Mike Fraley at (360) 424-7297 of any upcoming trips.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| June 16      | Grotto meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Mountlake Terrace Library                       |
| July 1-4     | Peterson Prairie Campground<br>NCA Regional<br>Aaron Stavens (253) 946-3431 |
| July 21      | Grotto meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Mountlake Terrace Library                       |
| August 12-20 | Cave Ridge<br>Jon & Julie McGinnis (206)246-7388<br>(See article below)     |
| August 18    | Grotto meeting 7:00 p.m.<br>Mountlake Terrace Library                       |

**COVER:** The cover photo is a picture of Sam Lair that was taken in Dynamited Cave by Jon McGinnis. Please see the article below.

## From The Chairman

I just wanted to write a note introducing Julie and myself.

We started caving three years ago and joined the Cascade Grotto after our first trip into Falls Creek Cave. We have found many wonderful new friends and have tried to be very active in the local caving community, but we are finding this to be a big challenge. It seems that for the most part people have a bad case of the "been there done that" blues. As the current Chairman, one of my main objectives is to try and generate a more active group of cavers.

I would like to encourage those of you who have not been to a meeting in a while to come and join us. See what's happening, get to know the new faces and see what they have to offer. We have several things planned for the summer and would like to invite you to join us. We would also encourage you to post trips and activities that you may have. If nothing else it's a good excuse to get out there and show the new guys "How it's done!"

Hope to see you out there!!  
Jon McGinnis, Chairman  
Julie McGinnis, Sec/Treasurer

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## Cave Ridge Trip

By: Jon McGinnis

August 12th through August 20th  
Contact Jon or Julie McGinnis 206-246-7388  
You are all invited to join Julie and I for a nine day trip up to Cave Ridge. We have several caving adventures planned for each weekend, as well as exploring the area. We will be doing both vertical and non-vertical caving so there is a little bit of something for everyone.

You are welcome to join us for the week, the weekend, or just a day trip. Several people have already confirmed that they will be flying in from out of state. We could use some volunteers to pick up the out of state cavers at the airport and get them to the trail head. Even if you can't make the trip it's a great way to get involved and tag up with fellow cavers from out of the area.

We hope to make this trip one of the highlights of the summer! As you know a Cave Ridge Trip involves some logistics so please confirm A.S.A.P.

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## Dynamited Trip Report

By Aaron Stavens

On March 18th & 19th, Jacqueline Bills, Scott Davis, Tish Korbly, Sam Lair, Jon McGinnis, Julie McGinnis, and Aaron Stavens (yours truly) did a trip to Dynamited Cave. Our goal was to bottom the cave. At the request of the Forest Service, a secondary goal was to check the cave for a hibernaculum. We accomplished both goals.

We stayed at the Trout Lake Grocery Friday and Saturday nights. The rooms were \$35 per room per night. An excellent deal in my opinion.

By 9:10 AM on Saturday we were at the trailhead and on our skis. The road to the cave is not plowed in the winter and we elected to use cross-country skis to travel the 5-6 miles to the cave. The weather was a rain/snow mix but everyone was prepared so away we went. The road to the cave is a gentle uphill climb. We arrived at the cave between 1 and 2 o'clock. After a quick snack, we entered the cave to change into our dry cave clothes and prepare for the in-cave portion of the trip. Tish decided that she would be too tired to ski out if she explored the cave. She elected to wait at the entrance.

Scott Davis graciously volunteered to leave the cave early and accompany Tish back to Trout Lake. That way, no one would be travelling alone. Thanks Scott!

In the cave, we rigged four drops. The first drop is a little 15' rappel/free climb. The second drop is an easy 40' rappel. To get to the 25' third drop we had to cross a 50' blind pit. Sam Lair free climbed the pit on belay, rappelled down the other side, and anchored the rope. The rope was then anchored on both sides and the rest of the group's members were able to cross the pit safely. Our final drop was at the top of the cave, in the back, off the lava bridges. If I'm reading the map right, the drop is 100'. It didn't seem like quite that much. Getting over the lip onto the rappel device is a bit of a rush. Once on rope, you rappel through two more levels of cave with several passages leading off. Once we did that rappel, we were done. People were getting tired and it was time to head out of the cave.

Getting back out of the cave was mostly uneventful. That last drop, before the entrance is a real bear to ascend on rope. The undercut lip at the top leaves practically no place to gain any purchase with your feet. This makes getting over the lip difficult to say the least.

We exited the cave at about 10 o'clock. The sky was partly cloudy, there was a full moon, and it was snowing lightly. It was a beautiful sight. I still felt great but some of the team members were tired and we still had to ski back to the sno-park. By the time we reached the sno-park we were all exhausted. We were back to the rooms by 12:20 AM. We all had a good time, but next time we're using snowmobiles.

Dynamited is an impressive cave. In places the ceiling is easily 100' high. At various points in the cave, there was a striking red sand/rock on the floor. At the bottom of the cave, a small stream disappears into a crack with a sucking

sound. Makes me wonder if there is more cave down there.

We did not visit all parts of the cave but in those parts we did visit we did not see any evidence of bats. I have reported this observation to Rolando Mendez at the Mt. Adams Ranger Station.

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## April Fools Trip!!

By Aaron Stavens

This past Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, a group of us attempted Cave Ridge. Trip attendees were Aaron Stavens, Kaylee Stavens (my 11 year old daughter), Wendel Pound, Jon McGinnis, Julie McGinnis, Cameron McGinnis (Jon's & Julie's 9 year old son), and Jacqui Bills. The purpose of the trip was to determine which caves are open in the winter, the condition of any registers in the open caves, and to get out and do some kind of activity.

We started fairly late at about 10:30 AM. Our plan was to go around the back of Guye Peak and follow the shallower slope between the first two streams coming down from Guye Peak and Cave Ridge. The weather started out partly cloudy and relatively warm. As the day wore on, the weather turned mostly sunny and generally beautiful. We started out following a trail. The trail was fairly well packed. Because of their low weight, the children were able to get along quite well without snowshoes. The adults, on the other hand, found the snowshoes quite useful. Eventually we had to cross a stream to get to the other side of the basin. There was somewhere between 8 and 10 feet of snow on the ground and the stream cut right through it. We were quite fortunate when we encountered a log/snow bridge crossing the stream.

We made it part way up the slope going up to the saddle between Guye Peak and Cave Ridge.



Jon, Jacqui, and Aaron, snowshoeing up to Cave Ridge.

It turned out to be steeper than I had anticipated but still climbable. The avalanche danger was forecasted to be moderate on Sunday. The fact that we were in the trees made me more comfortable with the slope. The vegetation provided natural anchors for the snow. At about 1:30 PM, I estimate we were about 1/3 of the way up the slope. We couldn't see the top and we did not have an altimeter so I cannot give a more accurate reading. At that point, the children were about done. Although we contemplated continuing with a smaller group, even if we reached the summit, we did not believe we would have any time to check any of the caves. With that in mind, we decided keep the group together and head down and then do a little rappelling.

We made it back to the cars around 4:30 PM. We then followed Wendel to a nearby bridge. I

don't know the name but it is off the Fire Training Academy exit between Northbend and Snoqualmie Pass. I think it might be part of the Iron Horse (bike) Trail. The area is apparently a popular rock climbing spot, as there were several people on various rock walls nearby. We rigged near the center of the bridge almost directly over the trail. If I am not mistaken, we used a 144' rope. After rigging, the rope reached the bottom with about 10 feet to spare. Therefore, the bridge must have been at least 100' off the ground. A nice little rappel. All except Wendel and the children did the rappel. Wendel just didn't feel right about it and the children are not yet trained for vertical. The highlight of the rappelling was when Julie used her chin to negotiate the lip at the top of the drop. The PMI E-Z Bend we used seems to be a fairly fast rope. I was using a Petzl Stop. Although the Stop's performance was

acceptable I would have liked a little more friction. I would like to see how the Stop performs on PMI Max Wear. I am also motivated to try a rack, as I understand it gives significantly more control over the applied friction.

All things considered, the children did extremely well on the trip. However, learning from this experience, I would not attempt to bring the children on a winter trip to Cave Ridge again unless the children were quite motivated. I believe the children could have made it to the top but they simply didn't have the desire to put in the necessary effort to reach the summit. That said, Kaylee and Cameron did a great job.

I would still like to do a winter trip to Cave Ridge but it looks like I'll have to wait until next year. I think an earlier start and no children would allow the group to attain the top with enough time to check out the caves. An overnight trip would give even more time to check out any open caves.

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## Lake Cave Clean-up Trip

By Aaron Stavens

On May 6th & 7th of 2000 the Puget Sound Grotto hosted a cleanup trip to Lake Cave. Jennifer Dorman (Gem State Grotto), Jon & Julie & Cameron McGinnis (Cascade Grotto), and Aaron Stavens (Puget Sound Grotto) participated. Tom Hauss of the Forest Service provided latex gloves and garbage bags for the clean up. The weather was sunny and warm and the cave was drippy and cool. A pretty good time in my opinion. We pulled about 40 lbs. of trash out of the cave. Beer cans and flashlights contributed to the volume, a good portion of the mass being broken glass from beer bottles and lanterns. There is still quite a bit of broken glass in the cave but it is very time consuming to pick up. Heavier trash bags would be desirable on

any subsequent trips. The lava tends to tear the plastic and the glass cuts it from the inside.

## Joint Cave Register Program Proposal by the Puget Sound Grotto and the Cascade Grotto

By: Aaron Stavens & Julie McGinnis (co-chairs)

### - PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the program is to identify and attract members of the caving community who are not already affiliated with a grotto. The secondary purpose is to gain some insight into who is visiting which caves and how often the caves are visited.

The caving community seems to disapprove of attracting new members from the general public. There is also concern that promoting caving to non-cavers would entail greater liability should one of these non-cavers be injured in a cave.

Recruiting via cave registers solves both of these problems nicely. Individuals visiting caves have already demonstrated an interest in caving and are already cavers.

### - TARGET CAVES

To keep the initial program manageable, we believe the number of caves included in the program should be kept small. However, at a minimum, these caves should be included in the program:

Cascade Cave      Newton Cave

These caves have the attributes that they are fairly well known and they are relatively close to members of both the PSG and the CG.

There are several other caves in the same area. The cost of adding them to the program would be incremental, we propose including the following caves as well:

Hell Hole Cave      Lookout Cave  
Red Cave              Danger Cave  
Exhalation Cave

The addition of more caves is constrained by manpower. Depending on the success of the program and the availability of volunteers, we will consider adding more caves to the program at a later date.

#### - REGISTER MAINTENANCE

To be useful the registers must be maintained regularly. The completed registration forms must be collected, fresh forms must be provided as needed, and those registrants requesting more information should be contacted.

Aaron Stavens, Julie McGinnis, and Jon McGinnis have volunteered to make the field trips to Cave Ridge. The projected frequency is once every one or two months. The winter months may not see any activity at all due to conditions and the expected lack of visitation. The exact frequency of visitation is expected to vary. The primary impetus for frequent visitation is to replace the register materials before the paper deteriorates too badly. We intend to use velum or some other water-resistant material. Hopefully, the problem will be solved or at least significantly ameliorated.

#### - REGISTER CONTAINERS

The register containers need to be inexpensive, fairly durable, and do a reasonable job at keeping the water out. Gerald Zimmer has provided us with samples of two different registers used by the NSS' Contemporary Cave Use Study (CCUS). We have chosen the register without the integrated cable attachment. The chosen register is constructed using 4" sewer pipe, 2 end caps, and a coupler. We are still working on how to anchor the registers in

the caves. Jon McGinnis has proposed attaching the registers directly to the NSS signs in the caves. We plan to make a trip to Cave Ridge to explore the attachment issue further. We will also determine which registers already in the caves are reusable.

The cost of each register container is expected to be under \$10. Jon McGinnis is able to purchase construction materials at wholesale so the register costs could be even less.

#### - REGISTERS

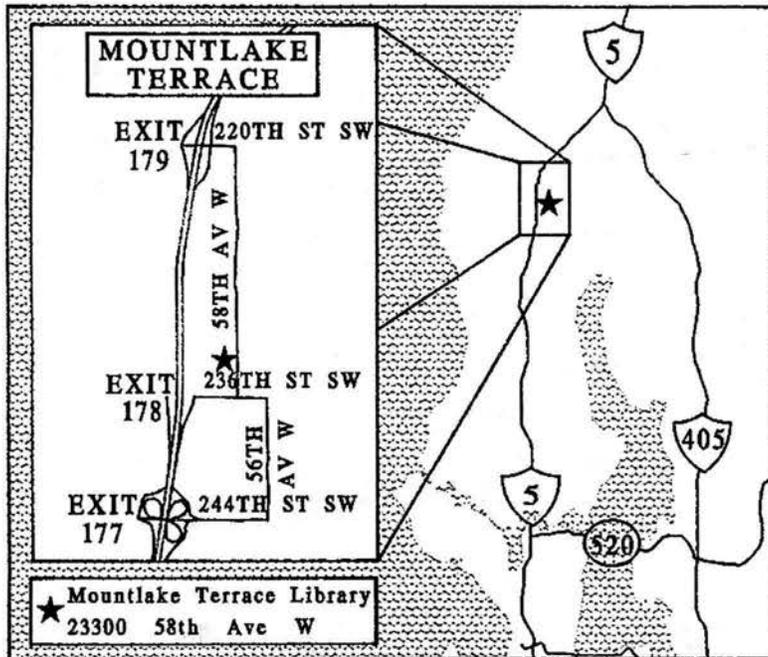
The CCUS forms have been criticized as requesting too much information and taking too long to fill out. Our intention is to avoid that pitfall. We propose collecting the following information:

1. Date
2. Name
3. Address
4. Phone Number
5. Email Address
6. NSS Member/Grotto Affiliation
7. How did hear about this cave?
8. Comments

Registrants who do not want to be contacted can be instructed to note that in the Comments section.

In addition to the register forms, we will include an instruction sheet (perhaps printed on the outside of the container?) and business/contact cards for the PSG and the CG. Visitors are expected to take the business cards with them, as desired.

We do not yet have cost information for the register forms or the business cards.



The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58<sup>th</sup> Ave. W.

To get to the Library from the Eastside, take Bothell Way to Ballinger Way. Head North on Ballinger and take a right on 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE (this turns into 56<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. at the county line). Turn left on 236<sup>th</sup> then right on 58<sup>th</sup> Ave. W. Go North 3 blocks.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

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 c/o Ralph Earlandson  
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