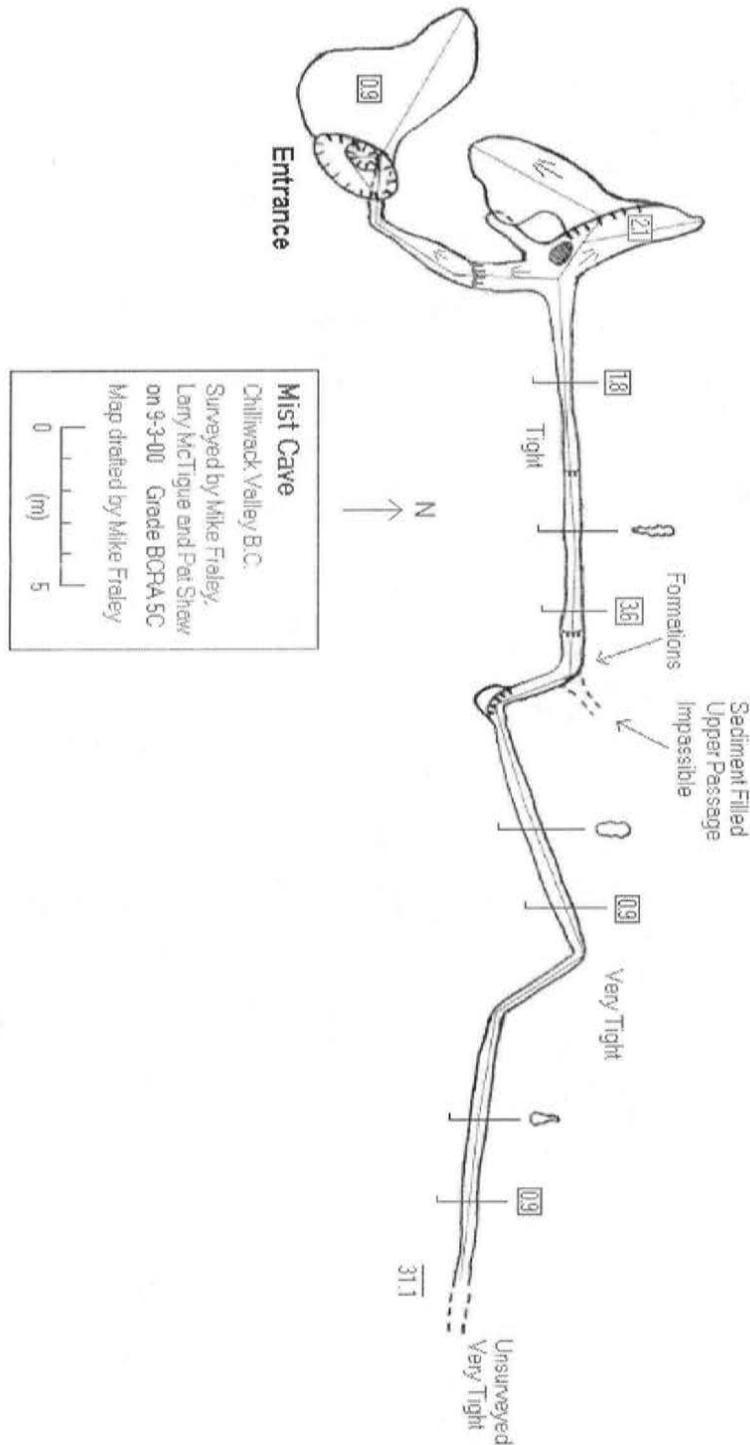




Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society

October 2000, Volume 39 No. 10



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*.

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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 58th Ave. W. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Mike Fraley at (425) 398-3799 of any upcoming trips.

October 20:	Grotto Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Mountlake Terrace Library
October 21:	Vertical Practice near Arlington Washington. Contact Steve Sprague at ssprague@whidbey.net or 360- 435-9405
November 17:	Grotto Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Mountlake Terrace Library
October 2001:	10 day caving trip to England, contact Jon McGinnis for information. mcginnis@quidnunc.net or 206-246- 7388

COVER: The cover photo is a map of newly discovered Mist Cave. See the related article inside.

Cascade Grotto Regular Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2000

Attendance:

Jon McGinnis, Julie McGinnis, Cameron McGinnis, Jim Harp, Paul Lindgren, Van Bergen (New member), Eileen Bergen (New member), Janet Lowe (New member), Rebecca Cowan (New member), Ean Hernandez (New member), Danny Miller (New member), Aaron Stavens, Mike Fraley, Stuart Monson

Old Business:

1. The cave registers are in progress. Aaron Stavens has contacted the Willamette Valley Grotto and the Oregon Grotto about updating the Cave Register signs in their areas. Aaron Stavens intends to have the actual cave registers ready to go for next spring.
2. Paul Lindgren will contact the University of Washington about a room for meetings next year.
3. Jon requests that grotto members send him all electronic, grotto-related information (such as logos and membership applications). Jon would like to upload this information to the grotto's eGroups site so it will be available to all members.
4. Julie McGinnis has stepped down as Secretary-Treasurer of the Cascade Grotto. Jon appointed Aaron Stavens as the interim Secretary-Treasurer for the remainder of the year.
5. Nominations for next year's officers:

Chairman	- Jon McGinnis
Vice Chairman	- Jim Harp
Secretary-Treasurer	- Aaron Stavens

Secretary's Note: According to the Cascade Grotto's by-laws, we have jumped the gun on nominations. Nominations should be made at the regular November meeting. I see no reason the current nominations should not stand however, nominations may still be made through the November meeting.

New Business:

1. Aaron and Julie will contact the library about a refund for tonight's meeting. We were not allowed access to our meeting room and we were not informed beforehand.
2. There is a trip to Trout Lake scheduled for next weekend (9/21-9/24). Several people will be camping in the Trout Lake Creek campground. Contact Jim Harp for more information.

3. The grotto needs volunteers to provide a location for the Cascade Grotto Christmas Party. Someone has yet to step forward.

4. The Cascade Grotto supports holding the next Regional in the Saddle Butte area. Jon will contact the Willamette Valley Grotto about co-hosting the event. Jon will also contact Larry McTigue to coordinate with the Northwest Caving Association.

5. Jon is attempting to organize a caving trip to England next year. Contact Jon McGinnis for more information.

Aaron Stavens
Secretary-Treasurer, Cascade Grotto

A Message from the Secretary

Hello from your new Secretary-Treasurer. What's that you say? There hasn't been an election. You are correct. At the September Cascade Grotto meeting, Julie McGinnis announced her resignation from the position. Jon McGinnis, your Chairman, appointed Aaron Stavens, that's me, as the interim Secretary-Treasurer until the next election.

Speaking of elections, it is already that time of year. Nominations for next year's officers were taken at the September meeting. They are as follows:

Chairman	- Jon McGinnis
Vice Chairman	- Jim Harp
Secretary-Treasurer	- Aaron Stavens

According to the club by-laws, nominations should be made at the November meeting. Therefore, we jumped the gun a little. I see no reason these nominations should not stand but nominations for next year's officers are still open. Make your nominations at the November meeting or send them to me via email (aarons@wrq.com). Ballots will go in the mail no later than the 9th day of December. To save mailing costs, members with email will receive their ballots electronically. I must receive your ballot no later than December 31st for it to be counted. Election results will be announced shortly thereafter.

It is also time for another bit of club business. Membership dues come due in October. If you do not beat me to the punch, you should be receiving an invoice in the mail in October.

That's all until next time.

Lava Tubes 101: Ape and Lake Caves Trip Report

By Trapper Robbins

As a new caver and new member of the Cascade Grotto, I figured I'd better check out these lava tubes I've been hearing about. I've only been on a dozen caving trips and none of them were in lava tubes. For you old timers, these bigger lava tubes are probably not that interesting. After all, they seem to generally go in only one direction (like a tube, eh?) and probably don't provide as much of that wet, grimy crawling stuff that you all seem to thrive on. (This is in contrast with the stories I've heard about the Deadhorse maze, for example.) Still, these big tubes are a pretty amazing and unexpected geologic feature and there are worse places to spend an afternoon.

On Friday August 4, I drove down to the volcanic debris on the south side of Mt. St. Helens. On previous trips, I've always zipped through this area on the way to various climber routes up what's left of the mountain. This time, though, I swung into the popular Ape Cave site.

Ape Cave is managed by Gifford Pinchot National Forest which maintains a staffed visitors center, rents lanterns, and runs ranger-guided tours (in Lower Cave). The cave is 12,810 feet long and is one of the longest intact lava tubes in the continental US. The main entrance is through a collapse in the middle of the cave. From the bottom of this hole, you can head down-slope into the easy Lower Cave or up-slope through the longer Upper Cave. Aside from the constructed stairway down, the cave is in a natural state.

The Lower portion of the tube runs $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile through a huge subway-sized dead-end tunnel. There are very few obstructions and quite a few people -- this is mostly wide open pleasant walking.

Upper Cave is more interesting. There are numerous big breakdowns and small drops, the tunnel varies considerably in size, and there is a noticeable cool wind. The cave runs $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles past one skylight to the upper exit where a ladder takes you up and out to the surface trail. At the entrance, I hooked up with Randy, an experienced caver from Tennessee. We had a great afternoon examining the various features of this cave formation -- the high narrow cross-section, the lateral striations on the wall, the dripping ceiling features, the periodic sandy floor deposits.

The next day (Saturday 8/5/00), Xandon Froggett and I explored Lake Cave. Xandon is also a new Cascade Grotto member with a lot of experience in lava tubes down in Modoc County, CA. Lake Cave is a damp $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile bus tunnel interrupted by periodic drops and scrambly breakdown. As with Ape Cave, there are no route finding issues -- just follow the tube. One notable

feature is a small stream passage hole that opens on the side of the tube wall. We crawled around that to several interesting tree stump lava casts and lots of charcoal (presumably, incompletely burned stump residue). In other places, baked red soil was evident behind missing pieces of the lava wall lining. This was a really fun afternoon and we had the cave to ourselves. (I assume that sandy puddle at the end is the "Lake", right?)

In sum, Ape Cave is very popular and rightly so. The Lower Cave, in particular, is totally suitable for young children, non-cavers, people in questionable athletic condition, etc. Both Upper Cave and Lake Cave can be safely explored by anyone in good condition and properly equipped. If you want to take non-caver friends underground in a safe, non-threatening environment, this is a great place to go.

[Trapper Robbins is an experienced mountaineer and long-distance wilderness traveler. He has recently discovered caving.]

The discovery of Mist Cave

By Mike Fraley

In the not too distant past a grotto trip was made to Iron Curtain Cave in British Columbia, Canada. In all about 6 members showed up and enjoyed the cave. Due to the long drive back to Seattle, most of the group decided to leave once we exited the cave around 3pm. This left Dick Garnick and myself time to explore a new area that had recently been made accessible due to logging. We knew that this area would hold good promise for new caves as no cavers in recent decades had visited there. Armed with the gate key, we blazed a path higher and higher into the mountains.

Dick and I drove around for a few hours, stopping here and there to make short hikes off the road to survey the terrain and look for sinkholes and caves. We drove to the current end of the road and parked at the base of 500+ foot tall cliffs of limestone. The cliffs were impressive, as was the intense folding of the limestone in places. Unfortunately, the limestone is horizontally bedded, so there is little hope of a deep cave on top. Someday, however, we might find a long one. We used binoculars to scan the cliffs for possible entrances. There were many interesting cracks, rock shelters and holes, but none were conclusive of an obvious entrance.

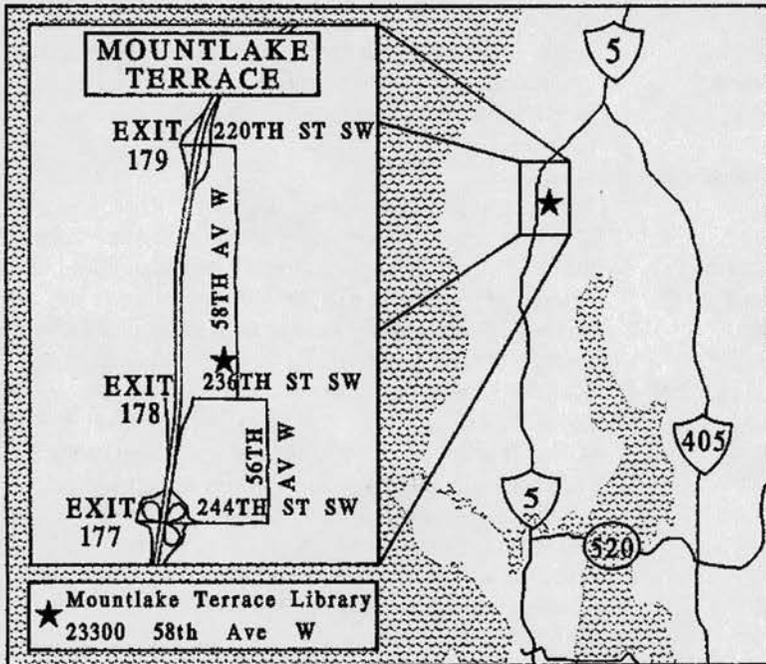
After some brief hiking at the cliffs, we drove back down the road to a spur road we had noticed. That road ended at a log landing built on a small limestone ridge. We hiked around in this area and found several sinkholes, one of which was taking water and appeared to be a good dig site. It was getting late, so we headed down out of the mountains with full intentions of coming back the next weekend.

As fate would have it, we did indeed find ourselves back in this area the very next Saturday, September 27, 2000. This time we came armed with a GPS and 3 additional people to help explore the area. Joining us on this trip was Dick's wife Rose, a local caver named Adam Palmer and Dave Hopf of the Cascade Grotto. We drove straight back to the log landing where we ended our odyssey the weekend before. Not long after we started hiking, everyone started digging on the sinkhole that was taking a small stream. I saw that no real progress on checking over the area was being made so I struck off solo. Not more than 10 minutes later I discovered a semi-deep vertical walled sinkhole that was full of logging debris. Another small stream was emptying into the sinkhole and I could hear it trickling down pretty deep. I yelled for the others to come see my find and started pulling logs out of the hole. Eventually, everyone arrived, and we went to work clearing more debris out of the sinkhole. Once a hole had been made in the debris, Adam retrieved his helmet from his backpack and climbed down. He was less than impressed, saying the sink didn't go anywhere. Dick Garnick made a comment to the effect of "why don't you turn around and look behind you?" Adam did, and exclaimed that there was a cave entrance there. A few seconds later, Adam had disappeared into the depths alone despite our shouts after him. Adam was still carrying a hand radio, and miraculously we could still communicate with him for several minutes as he continued into the cave. He said that he had going passage and a few side passages. We lost contact shortly after that. No one else had brought a helmet or headlamp on the hike. I had a mini Maglite so I climbed down and into the entrance to see what I could see. I was greeted by a nasty, tight, crumbly passage with flowing water. Fortunately Adam emerged about that time.

We exited back into the sun and bugs. Adam was covered head to toe in soaked, muddy clothes but happy. He said there was going passage and he hadn't seen the end of it. Excited, the team set out back to the vehicles to get our caving gear. We returned shortly with said gear, and suited up for entry. Shortly after entering the Cave, Dick and Rose decided it wasn't for them and went back out, leaving Dave, Adam and myself to explore the cave. We moved feet first down the passage at first, being very unstable, tight and nasty. Around a few corners, always heading down, we emerged into walking passage. A side passage was visible here, with 3 stacked entrances leading into a larger passage beyond. We continued down the main passage, through nasty tight spots and down drops. Not too far into the cave, at a right angle turn in the passage, was a small group of very nice formations. Flowstone emerged from a sediment-filled upper passage that looked to continue straight. The flowstone formed into and over stalactites, and down the wall to some small stalagmites next to what looked like very fledgling rimstone dams. After pause here, we continued on.

The passage rapidly started getting tighter and nastier. We continued less than 100 more feet before Adam told me to stop and wait for him. Apparently the passage at that point became only large enough for one person. Adam emerged after a few minutes and said the passage got too tight for him to continue with the gear he had with him. We decided to not push our luck and exited the cave.

The next weekend I returned with Dick, Rose, Larry McTigue and Pat Shaw with the intention of surveying the cave. Larry took point, Pat on instruments and me in the rear with the book. We took a few hours and surveyed the cave from the entrance to the point where Adam had turned around. Larry said the passage continued, but was slightly vertical and was very unstable. I didn't even make it to that point, being thwarted by a tight spot 50 feet back up the passage but close enough to hear the survey information. At that point, I was near the point of hypothermia, and my light was starting to run down after 3 weekends without recharging it, so I yelled down to Pat suggesting that we head out, really meaning that 'I' was going with or without them. We emerged with enough data to make a simple map, which was the goal. In total, we surveyed 69.1 meters in length and 31.1 in depth. The cave is small by most standards, but it's tight and makes you really work for every foot, and definitely seems longer when you are inside. The cave continues, but it's just too unsafe to push. I can't imagine going back to the cave except to take a few photos. The area is still there, beckoning us to search more. We'll be back.



The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00pm on the third Friday of each month at the Mountlake Terrace Public Library, 23300 58th 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 19th Ave. NE (this turns into 56th Ave. W. at the county line). Turn left on 236th then right on 58th Ave. W. Go North 3 blocks.

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



Cascade Caver
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 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0345



Windy City Grotto
 c/o Ralph Earlandson
 802 S Highland Ave
 Oak Park IL 60304-1529

