



Cascade Caver

The Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society



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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 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is free to regular members. Membership for each additional family member is \$2 per year. Subscription to the *Cascade Caver* is \$15 per year. Subscription via email is \$11 per year.

GROTTO ADDRESS

Cascade Grotto; P.O. Box 66623, Seattle, WA 98166. 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 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at the Shoreline Community Center in the Hamlin Room. The Community Center is at 18560 1st Ave. NE in Shoreline. Please see the map on the back cover of this issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please notify Chauncey Parker of any upcoming trips. Contact Jennifer Dorman at idahocaver@gemstategrotto.com for any Gem State Grotto trips. Contact Claude Koch at claudekoch@uswest.net for any Willamette Valley Grotto trips.

July 4-6	Papoose trip (Riggins, Idaho) - Aaron Stavens
July 11-13	WVG campout
July 18	Grotto meeting
July 19	Cave Ridge trip - Mike McCormack
Aug. 4-8	NSS Convention in Porterville, Calif.
Aug. 15	Grotto meeting
Aug. 30-Sept. 1	NCA regional on Vancouver Island
Sept. 19-22	Western Regional near Bend - Claude Koch

COVER

"Caving Girl" by Sarah Gould.

Cascade Grotto May 16 Meeting Minutes

By Aaron Stavens, Secretary-Treasurer

Attendance:

Xandon Frogget, Erin Robert, Aaron Stavens, Steve Sprague, Van Bergen, Jim Harp, Bill Petty, Robert Mitchell, Diane Pierce, Eve Proper, Mark Sherman, Jon Crouch, Mark Gunther, Andrea Gunther, Dick Garnick

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: As of March 31st the grotto accounts hold a total of \$2,706.57.

Old Business:

1. Steve Sprague passed around a grotto banner design and suggested black on light blue. He did some research into getting it done. A 2'x4' banner made with 10 oz fabric will cost \$50.44 for the banner plus \$25 for the art. A banner with 18 oz fabric will cost \$63 plus \$25 for the art. A motion was made and seconded to allow Steve a budget of up to \$100 to purchase a grotto banner. The motion passed.
2. Further discussion of a grotto shelter ensued. Opinions vary widely. Purchase of a shelter is still on hold.

New Business:

1. Eve Proper suggested some kind of group dinner would be nice to have at the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend get-together in Trout Lake. Jim Harp will check with Dave Hopf about putting together a meal. Costs will be covered by donation.

Upcoming Trips:

Van Bergen would like to do another Tubal Caine trip. He'd like to time it so the rhododendrons are in bloom. He's thinking sometime in June.

Dick Garnick will lead another Iron Curtain trip. He's currently looking at July 15th. Details will follow.

Presentations:

We watched *Cat Track Passage* filmed in Berome Moore Cave in Perryville, MO.

Cascade Grotto July 18 Meeting Minutes

By Aaron Stavens, Secretary-Treasurer

Attendance:

Marla Pelowski, Aaron Stavens, Michael McCormack, Nikki McCormack, Jon Crouch, Stuart Monson, Glennis Monson, Rita Monson, Steve Sprague, Mark Sherman, Hester Mallonée, George Ferro, Jeff Watts, Josh Fedora, Dick Garnick, Mike Fraley, Mark Gunther, Andrea Gunther, Van Bergen, Chauncey Parker

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: As of June 30th the grotto accounts hold a total of \$2,549.06.

Editors Report: Eve is working on the next *Cascade Caver* and needs material.

Vertical Committee: The grotto's mini-rack was given to Michael to hold. Dick Garnick has the cable ladder donated by Jim Harp.

Program Committee: Hester announced a ranger friend of hers from Oregon Caves will be at the September meeting to talk about the caves.

Old Business:

1. Michael McCormack reported that the store was out of the cheaper shelter. The next shelter up was \$10.00 more. He bought two shelters on the grotto's behalf in hopes the grotto would approve the extra expenditure. A motion to reimburse Michael for the extra \$20 + tax was made, seconded, and passed.
2. Chauncey Parker was appointed the new grotto trip coordinator.

New Business:

1. Andrea Gunther wondered if anyone else had heard of harness hang syndrome. A discussion of the issue and possible solutions, including pick-offs, ensued. A vertical practice to demonstrate pick-offs was suggested.

Trip Reports:

The membership has been active this summer. Windy Creek, searching for caves near Mt. Baker, Marble Range (Mt. Bowman), Big 4 Ice Cave, CRF cleanup in Carlsbad, NCRC in New Mexico, Papoose, Mt Rainier summit steam caves, summit attempt on Mt. St. Helens, and Cave Capers in Indiana. If you want to know more, encourage people to write up trip reports for the *Cascade Caver*!

Presentations:

Vertical/Caving Gear show & tell.

Trout Lake ice show, Feb. 7-9

By Van Bergen

After doing it two years ago, and knowing that it was done the year before that, I thought that a Grotto trip to see ice formations in the Trout Lake caves was an annual event. I guess it's only annual if the snow is good, because it almost didn't happen in this bad-snow year. Since I like cross-country skiing and snow play about as much as I like caving, I volunteered to lead the trip this year. I couldn't find the mystery ice cave last year, despite thrashing around in the snow and rain for the better part of an afternoon looking for it. So maybe the fact that I was "leading" helped reduce the turnout.

The fact that there was so little snow this year probably reduced the turnout too; at least I hope it wasn't all me. About a dozen people signed up, and I reserved all three rooms at the Trout Lake Grocery. Then, week by week, the meager December snowpack evaporated, the Sno-Park condition reports on the web got worse and worse, and people dropped off the list one by one.

Lucky for me, a couple of my Ohio friends had signed up, and bought their non-refundable plane tickets, before the trail reports turned totally depressing. Howard Kalnitz and Pam Duncan are some of the most active cavers I've ever met. They also went caving in Guatemala this year. Howard's name is on most of the Kentucky cave maps I saw when I lived in Ohio. But they'd never seen ice formations in a lava tube, and they're both avid cross-country skiers. Good snow is a rare treat in Ohio. Ironically, they had to leave extra early to catch their flight out of Cincinnati – because of a blizzard!

I'd already cancelled all but the downstairs room at the grocery store. We arrived Friday in time to check out the Pine Side Sno-Park, where I'd had a wonderful ski last year. This year the trail to Trout Lake Big Tree was just bare dirt and ice. So we drove on up to Smith Butte Sno-Park, where the snow was almost ski-able but the world was abuzz with snowmobiles. Hopes of skiing dashed, we retreated to dinner and beer and sleep.

At least it was a beautiful, sunny Saturday. We left the skis behind and put on hiking boots; there wasn't even enough snow to worry about post holing. It was perhaps two feet deep, but old and hard and crusty. Not bad to walk on.

We visited Ice Cave and found that, in addition to the usual slippery footing on the ice, we had to worry about breaking through the ice and soaking our feet. Last year, much of the cave had been choked off by ice; this year, it was all accessible and we exited through the back door. The formations were still beautiful, so my traveling friends weren't disappointed, and neither was I.

Then we followed trails through the woods to Road 041. The snow cover on the road, just before it goes uphill towards the Big Trench turnoff, had been scoured clear down to the asphalt by a flood. We continued on to Big Trench, where Howard poked around in a couple of dead-end holes while Pam and I took naps in the warm sunshine. Next we headed for the mystery ice cave on the other side of Road 041. I thought I knew where I had gone wrong last year, but I was wrong again, and we wandered around for at least an hour before we found it. The ice formations were nice but not as nice as two years ago. But this time I found a lot more passage in the back of the cave. Two separate tubes led up to a junction room with several leads. I didn't go very far because I wasn't sure if I was in a closed cave. Can't wait to get back there, see what's down those multiple tunnels, and see the brass cap so I know what cave I'm in.

On the way back to the Sno-Park, we checked out New Cave. A group of teenagers had just exited, and said they just came out of Deadhorse Cave. I let them believe it. They seemed like nice kids, even if they didn't have the prescribed number of lights. Back on the road to town, we stopped off at the Americorps camp behind the ranger station to look up Brian Gaas, a Texas caver who had contacted the grotto via e-mail. He's volunteering with Americorps on a salmon restoration project, and looking for people to cave with. He invited us to walk over to Cheese Cave with him in the dark, but we told him we'd go eat and then come back to get him.

The gas station cafe was already closed, so we ate at The Logs restaurant in BZ Corners. It was good, and it stays open late. Back in Trout Lake, Pam decided she'd had enough, so we dropped her off and went to pick up Brian. Howard and I had also had enough walking for one day, so we convinced Brian that we should drive to Cheese Cave. Needless to say, I got stuck on the icy back roads and we had to push the van out several times. Cheese Cave was cool, though, and Brian is a nice guy.

On the way home Sunday, we got our cross-country ski fix on top of White Pass. Deep, soft snow; bright sunshine; stunning view of Rainier. It was well worth the side trip, and I'm sure it was prettier up there than in the (temporarily) snow-covered Ohio that my friends had left behind.

By the way, we took the roundabout route to White Pass via Yakima. What the heck, none of us had ever been that way before. On the back road from Trout Lake to Glenwood, we saw several sinkhole-like depressions on both sides of the road. We kept having to stop and hop the fences to look at them. None of them had holes in the bottom. Anyone know of any caves in that area? ❖

Deadhorse Cave trip, May 25

By Eve Proper

Deadhorse is one of the “must-see” caves in the Trout Lake area, particularly for the non-vertical set. Since I had been there once before, several of the new cavers thought I should take them there. Fortunately for everyone involved, Steve Sprague decided to come along and really lead the trip.

So on Sunday, May 25, Steve, Van Bergen, Rick and Sarah Gould, Mark and Andrea Gunther, Hester Mallonee and I set out for the upper entrance of Deadhorse. Dave Hopf had reported the previous night that the lower entrance still had 30 feet of water, which made a through trip questionable.

The first order of business was, of course, the rathole. For many cavers, it's a formidable obstacle – psychological as much as physical. With a little patience, though, our whole group eventually slithered through. The first downclimb was another challenge, primarily because the webbing hanging there for descent is not ideal. We concluded that an etrier would be a superb improvement as it would prevent us from getting our hands caught. It would really be a service for the Grotto to replace that thing.

Deadhorse is, as most of the grotto members know, is a pleasant cave with a mix of open spaces, crawling passages, breakdown and stream passage. If you avoid the maze, getting lost is difficult, but nevertheless we were glad to have a map that Rick had procured from the grocery store owner. As the cave goes on, it gets wetter, and then drier but crawlier, and some members of our group were ready to head back out. At this point the vanguard of our group was near the maze and the rear was closer to the stream passage.

Mark, Andrea and I elected to press on while the rest turned around. We weren't sure if we'd go through or turn around at the water.

Thanks for some fun caving

By Eve Proper

As I prepare to embark for Indiana, one of the sad things is having to say “farewell” to the Cascade Grotto. I'll still be a member, and I'm sure I'll run into many of you at future caving events, but it's just not the same as being here.

Sure, Indiana might have more caves and more limestone, and for that matter a lot more cavers, but Washington was where I learned to cave. It's been fun hanging out in lava tubes and learning to do vertical work. It's even been a kind

of fun serving as trip coordinator and your newsletter co-editor.

It turned out we were practically at the water anyway. Last time I had been there the cave had been dry. So none of us were sure what to expect. When we reached the pool, we could not see how far it stretched, although what we could see indicated 15 feet of length before a dog leg and our lights obscured the view. The map indicated a bend half way through the pool, which matched nicely Dave's 30-foot description.

The water didn't look deep, and we were all very tempted to continue. We weren't sure, though, if it would get deeper, or if the pool extended further than we thought. If we had to turn around, we did not relish the thought of the long trip out in wet clothing. Nevertheless we decided to brave the peril. The water was chilly, but no more than knee-deep, and we quickly found ourselves at the exit.

As someone said, though, in the amount of time we spent making up our minds, we could have made it out!

The three of us hiked back up to the upper entrance to change into dry clothing and wait. Sarah was the first to reappear; the rathole didn't pose too much of a challenge for her small frame, but it was a half hour before the rest of the gang joined her. Going up through the small tunnel without the aid of gravity is a bit more of a challenge.

Former New York stagers Mark and Andrea were particularly happy to have seen Deadhorse, as well as Dynamited the previous day. The only local caves they had experienced thus far were Elderberry and Jackman Creek, and they were starting to wonder whether Washington caves were worth it! Happily for them and some of our other relatively new cavers, Deadhorse proved to be sporting entertainment. ❖

If you're in Indiana, let me know. Hopefully I'll be caving with the Central Indiana Grotto and can find a hole in the ground or two to show you. I know, I know, they won't quite be the same as lava tubes, but not everyone can live in lava country. ❖

CRXP moves into its second season

By Aaron Stavens

The Cave Ridge Exploration Project (CRXP) is underway and is now moving into its second season. Last year's plans included stowing gear on the ridge to reduce the load each person must carry up the ridge, remapping Danger, and working the lead at the bottom of Newton.

We successfully stowed some gear on Cave Ridge. (A rather large contingent showed up to help move the 35 pounds of gear I wanted to move. Thanks to everyone who showed up.) The original plan was to stow the gear in a lock box to discourage the growth of legs on the gear. Unfortunately, the lock box took longer than anticipated to complete. The gear had to be stashed outdoors. However, with the help of Jon McGinnis, the lock box is nearing completion and should be ready for transport up Cave Ridge this year. Finding a suitable location for the lock box remains. It will also be interesting to see how the gear left over the winter fared.

Largely due to my schedule, the remapping of Danger was not started as planned last summer. Michael McCormack, Danny Miller, and I did make a winter trip to Danger with the intention of mapping. On the hike up it became obvious to us that we had set our goals too high. Starting the mapping would simply take more time than we had on that trip, so we turned our trip into an exploration of Danger cave. The high ceiling is particularly intriguing. As part of the mapping effort, we intend to include hands-on exploration of the ceiling, if our vertical skills are up to the task.

Working the lead at the bottom of Newton was started. Dave McElmurry, Scott Linn, and I made the journey. The trip down took longer than expected so Scott and I had very little time to work on the constriction before we had to head up again. We chipped a small amount of rock off the constriction, but did not make it through. Also, the tools I chose to bring turned out to be awkward to use. I'll be trying something different next time.

I am most excited by the approaching Cave Ridge season. The snowfall has been rather odd this year, so I don't know how soon it will start. However, as early as the beginning of June I'd like to be monitoring the snow pack. My goals for the coming CRXP season remain the same: stash gear in a lock box on Cave Ridge, remap Danger cave, and work the lead at the bottom of Newton. I hope you will join the effort! ❖

Exploring Happy Cave

By Evans Winner

Doug Marchant's e-mail made it sound like we would be going to a newly discovered cave – there would be surveying and maybe even some exploration. Being so new to organized caving, Kimberly Kanigel and I figured this was a rare chance to do something really cool. We had been told that we would meet at Trout Lake at 10 a.m. sharp. If we weren't there by 10:10, we would be left behind.

The night before, Friday, July 18, I got off work at around 11:30 p.m., drove home at breakneck speed and rushed through the last of the packing with Kim. We jumped in the Rodeo and drove the four or five hours to Trout Lake, switching off at the wheel every hour or so. It seemed more like eight hours, really. We arrived around 4:30 a.m. and were asleep soon after in the back of the car, my sleeping-bagged feet sticking out past the bumper. Luckily it didn't rain. We woke up groggy around nine and headed for the meeting site by way of a nutritious meal of pre-packaged tuna sandwiches and apple juice requisitioned from the one little general store in town.

10:10 came and went, but we found it in our hearts not to leave without the rest of the group. Not knowing where the cave was helped a bit with that decision. Everyone on the trip was from the Willamette Valley Grotto except myself and Kim. Doug Marchant and his son Damon arrived in the promised blue Voyager at around 10:15. Everyone else arrived within another 15 minutes, including Claude Koch, who had discovered the cave. It had been found some three years ago and then lost, and then re-found a week ago. Claude and the first exploration group last week had gone some distance into walking passage and had turned around with more continuing out of sight. Everyone was definitely excited. There were brief introductions. In addition to Doug, Claude and Damon were Dennis Glasby, Chris Molyneaux and Patrick Finney.

Suddenly Kim and I were running for the car, jumping in and speeding off to chase them down long, winding mountain roads at break-neck speeds. Since we're new, time was taken when we arrived to explain why we shouldn't make the location of the cave public. "If anyone asks I'll just tell them I don't know where it is," I said. "After that drive, it'll be the truth."

I asked the name of the cave. Doug hesitated a moment. "Big Mo' Fo'," he said. "That's what we're calling it right now." Doug described the kinds of tight, tiny, knee-grinding caves they usually found in the area. This one was different. It was actually walking passage! There was a brief meeting before

heading off. New names were discussed. The old hands were so happy to have found a new walking cave that quickly someone said, "How about 'Happy Cave'?" and that was it. Happy Cave.

We hiked off to the entrance. It was a low, unpromising belly crawl trending sharply downhill through dirt. We geared up and some attempt was made to teach me how to use the compass and clinometer properly. I was to be in the front-sighting team. Kim was to be back-sighting. Kim and Dennis headed in. When my turn came, I was to take readings from station zero on my belly, in the sunlight and dust, downhill, with almost no idea what I was doing. I tried a few times, not being able really to focus my eyes on the numbers in the compass. I ventured a few numbers (which turned out wrong) and decided that this was not the best place to learn this stuff. So I headed in and Chris took over. The dust was almost overpowering. The result of my own poor technique, I suspect. I'm starting to think dust masks might make a nice piece of standard kit for me.

Eventually everyone regrouped in the first little room. Kim helped survey for a while, but eventually Kim and I started to realize we were just in the way, so we went on a bit with Patrick, staying ahead of the survey team.

Maybe two hundred feet in we found what I thought was the best room in the cave. There were long chains of "microgours" (as Dennis called them) on the ceiling running from red to white. They looked like strange alien backbones imbedded in the rock. There were lavacicles and colored deposits of some sort. There were long bunches of roots hanging from the ceiling, sparkling with thousands of tiny water droplets. The effect was otherworldly. Patrick mused that the microgour/spines looked like something from the movie *Aliens*. We joked about this and started calling it the James Cameron room.

We went on, maybe another four hundred feet, poking into a lot of little holes, and found another major room with several offshoots. Kim tried to get into one without success. Eventually I found a way through one and into a little room. From there another very tight squeeze (for me, anyway) led

back to the main tunnel. I found Dennis there. He told me I was now a member of the Star Trek club. "Oh," I said. "Uh, great ... the what?"

Word had come forward that the main survey team was going to exit the cave for lunch. Dennis left, but Kim and I had driven eight - er, I mean five - hours to get here. Damned if we were going to just sit outside. We ate a quick lunch in the cave, then Patrick, Kim and I continued on.

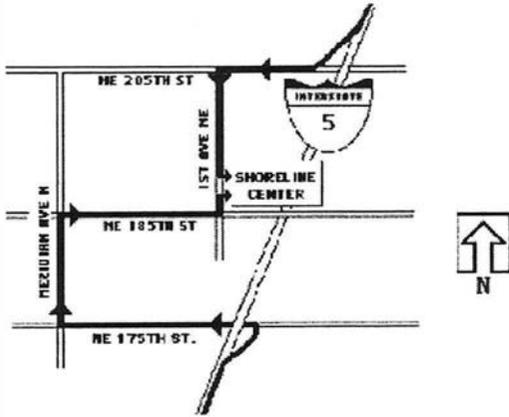
Patrick needed to be on the road early, so we set a turn around time of 3 p.m. and on we went. Another, say, two or three hundred feet of mostly walking passage led finally to what felt like the end of the line. And so it turned out to be. A last little squeeze and then a tiny room led to nothing but a "sub-human" passage continuing on.

We turned around and met the survey team near the junction area where we had left Dennis earlier. Patrick continued out with Kim following to keep him company, and I picked up with the surveyors and helped run tape and took a few readings (better this time), and generally tried to help and learn as much as I could all the way back to the end. The total for this first survey was 903 feet.

We poked around a bit on the way out, and Kim came back in to join us. Edd Keudell, who had arrived late and joined the main group during their lunch, stayed behind a bit hammering at a tiny hole, trying, ultimately unsuccessfully, to squeeze through.

Eventually we all ground our way out the entrance crawl and back into the hot sunlight and began talking almost immediately about when we would return. Other people who were on this trip have been in the same area weekend after weekend - some for years - tramping around the woods and squishing into inhuman little fissures. Kim and I made a lot of comments about our general unworthiness to have been along. A brand new cave, exploring new walking passage, surveying ... and this was only our second trip with an actual organized group of cavers. Kim and I now consider ourselves spoiled rotten - and hooked. Thanks to Doug and Dennis and Claude and Patrick and Edd and Chris and Damon! We'll be back! ❖

Meetings and Directions



The Cascade Grotto meets at 7 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at the Shoreline Community Center. The Community Center is located at 18560 1st Ave. NE in Shoreline. To get to the Community Center from Seattle, take Exit 176 on Interstate 5 (175th St. N) and turn left at the light at the bottom of the off ramp. At the next traffic light (Meridian Ave. N) turn right. Turn right at 185th St. N (the next light). Turn left on 1st NE, which again is the next light. Don't get confused with the Senior Center, which is on the end of the building. Enter the building on the southwest corner and find the Hamlin Room.

Please join us at our next meeting!

Cascade Caver
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