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Cover Photo: Blue Marble Cave
Photo credit: Pete Smith

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Vol. 13 Number 5
POWIE VII CAVERS EXPLORE A CAVE OF BLUE MARBLE

by Kevin Allred

As the planned El Capitan alpine trip approached, Pete Smith and I felt that with the shortage of experienced cavers on POWIE VII (several other experienced folks were on Dall Island for most of the expedition), we should consider putting a few of our eggs in another basket.

Blue Marble Cave near Perue Peak was still going in a big way when the first team of three ran out of time a week earlier. We felt our remaining helicopter budget could best be used for further work in this planned timber harvest area encompassing at least three potential cutting units.

Our main challenge was deciding if both Pete and I could be spared for several days. The only other helicopter-trained caver who was available for the planned five-day trip was David Love. On the morning of the July 16th departure, Pete’s wife, Val, showed up with the answer; Pete was sick in bed.

Early in the year, David prepared himself for this type of trip by purchasing the gear he needed, sewing harnesses, and traveling to Haines for training with Mike VanNote and me. With about a month’s supply of food for the two of us, we were ready.

In a short time we were transported to a remote, subalpine, muskeg meadow complete with a bubbling brook for washing and drinking water. At 1800 feet elevation, we had a fine view of nearby Mt. Calder to the West.

We spent the remainder of the first day hiking into a remote karst area. In a crawly of one cave, we found bone fragments, and the further inside we went, the better it became. Around each corner appeared more huge bear leg bones, some of which had popcorn growing on them. Then we hit the cornucopia.

POWIE VII CAVERS EXPLORE A CAVE OF BLUE MARBLE

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

In response to a request by the executive board, Jay Rockwell prepared the following information concerning the Glacier Grotto Library. Currently, the organization exchanges newsletters with 34 grottos. A mechanism for loaning copies is under consideration. Call 277-7150. Editor.

Continued on page 5
Continued from page 3

a low passage littered with skulls and a large bone pile that prevented further progress. We tried to imagine what it must have been like to actually see one of these huge bruisers crawling around in the cave, who knows how many thousands of years ago. This site will definitely be important for paleo-ontologists. We shot two rolls of film on it.

Later, having a little more time, we hiked to the entrance of Mystery Drip Pit named for the sound of dripping water echoing from deep below. Discovered by Mark Fritzke last fall, this cave has a small entrance at the side of an resurgence sink/stream overflow channel. A good draft sucks in, but the last group had not attempted digging out some boulders blocking further entry at the top of a deep sounding spacious drop below. After some work, we got the last rock swiveled down thereby opening the top of a 4-5 foot diameter shaft belling out below. The next day promised to be exciting.

...........canyon had gorgeous, white, scalloped marble including a "shower" and "tub".

Day two: Pleased with the continuing dry conditions, we headed to Mystery Drip. The initial shaft was an impressive 65 feet. Dick sketched and I operated the survey equipment as we explored downwards through a low, broad, crawl. Ropes were needed for the Mystery Drop (entrance shaft) and a 15-20 foot pitch, but we down-climbed the remainder of the steep sections and waterfalls. A clean meandering canyon had gorgeous, white, scalloped, marble including a "shower" and "tub". We named it Porcelain Passage. Other areas were of white and blue banded marble with occasional dikes. Upon entering a big breakdown chamber containing several dikes, a name became obvious. It had to be "Ikes Dikes" Room.

Day three: A light, misty rain during the night made getting out of the tent a chore. We continued mapping in Mystery Drip and after two more rope drops, came to a 115 foot deep pit which required tying two ropes together and swinging to a re-be-lay on a large ledge. Suddenly, David called out excitedly. He recognized a fin of rock called "The Haystack" from the previous team's survey. We were in Blue Marble Cave! With one shot, we extended the Blue Marble system significantly. A short jaunt to the lower resurgence entrance familiarized me with those beautifully scalloped canyons. We headed back towards Mystery Drip and started surveying some upstream fossil passages, but were unable to finish it in the remainder of the day. Some lively nematodes were collected in the pools of a streamlet.

Day Four: Finishing up in the Mystery Drip entrance area, we pushed a more complex fossil passage to a rock/boulder choke sealed with silt. Then we went into Blue Marble "Inhale Entrance" where the other team had accessed Blue Marble (another nearby cave connected hydrologically is still not surveyed). We surveyed a fantastic, large, meandering streamway called "Cadis Fly Creek" past a huge granitic boulder 3 by 4 feet in diameter and covered with glacial striations. It must have come in long ago through a nearby chimney, now choked. Here we turned around realizing we had only one day left and much to do.

Day Five: The weather had improved somewhat and we soon found ourselves back at Cadis Fly Creek to continue upstream. After another impressive canyon passage, we encountered a sump and with a bit of work, lowered the sump, but not enough for air space. Descending deeper into the system, we entered a large complex fossil phreatic area and began surveying up a spectacular passage. Half a dozen leads were left unexplored for another time. At present, the system is over 3000 feet long and several hundred feet deep.

Day Six: We woke up to rain and from sleeping bags watched two bears strolling "squish, squish, squishing" through the muskeg just above camp. Grunts from the second were quite audible. It was a fantastic trip and even with anticipation of hot showers and a dry camp, we were sad to leave our quiet green paradise perched in the mountains.

The approaching helicopter broke the spell.
The Glacier Grotto Library serves as one of the best resources in the organization. Within the covers of the 30+ publications, a reader can test foreign languages skills; wiggle, crawl, squeeze and rappel through the most unbelievable spots without leaving the comforts of home; and get a heady course in biology, geology or physics. Currently Glacier Grotto exchanges newsletters with the following:

E ALASKA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC. PO Box 101288 Anchorage AK 99510
E AMERICAN CAVES PO Box 409 Horse Cave KY 42749
E ANDALUCIA SUTERRAINEA Federacion Andaluza De Espe Apartado De Correos, 227 18080 Granada Spain
E BC CAVER c/o S Grundy 6097 Timberdoodle Road RR #1 Sooke BC VOS 1N0 Canada
E BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER PO Box 55102 Birmingham AL 35255-0102
E BLOOMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER PO Box 5283 Bloomington IN 47402
E CALIFORNIA CAVER c/o Carol A Vesely 817 Wildrose Avenue Monrovia CA 91016-3033
E CASCADE CAVER PO Box 75663 Seattle WA 98125-0663
E CAVE CONSERVATIONIST c/o Jay R. Jordan 1518 Devon Circle Dallas TX 75217-1205
E CAVE CRICKET GAZETTE c/o Hilary L Hopper 1593 Deer Lake Drive Lexington KY 40515-5317
E CIG NEWSLETTER c/o Central IN Grotto, Inc. PO Box 153 Indianapolis IN 46206-0153
E CLEVE O GROTTO NEWS Via Machiavelli, 17 Westlake OH 44145 34132 Trieste e Italy
E COMMISSIONE GROTTE "Eugenio Boegan" Route 1 Box 59 Alum Bank PA 15521
E CR5 NEWSLETTER c/o Micki Liska
E CURRENT TITLES in Speleology c/o B.C.R.A. Downhead Cottage, Downhead Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 4LG Great Britain
E DC SPELEOGRAPH c/o E W Bradshaw 10826 Leavells Road Fredericksburg VA 22407-1261
E DER FRANKISCHE HOLENSPIEGEL Ricterstrasse 69 W - 85818 Wendelstein Germany
E GEORGIA UNDERGROUND c/o John Stembel 2457 Drew Valley Road Atlanta GA 30019
E NCRC NEWS LETTER c/o Greg Miller 8462 West Star Circle Littleton CO 80123
E NIQROT ZURIM c/o ICRC Ofra, D.N.
E PHOLEOS c/o H H Hobbs III, Dept. Biol PO Box 720, Wittenberg University 10826 Leavells Road Springfield OH 45501-0720
E PUGET SOUND CAVER Ricterstrasse 69 Summer WA 98390
E Slovenske Muzeum Ochrany Prirody A Jaskyniarstva 03180 Liptovsky Mikulas Reston VA 22092
E SER REC Unit USGS Library 18 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Mclemonts MI 49604
E Social Science Section NSS 17139 Dalworth Ariel WA 98603
E SPELEOGRAPH, Oregon Grotto Library 12178 Lewis River Road 18080 Granada Spain
E ESPES Grupo de Espeleologos Granadinos Apartado de Correos 581
E STALACTITE, Bibliothèque de la Societe Suisse de S Rue du Progres 33 CH-2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland
E SVENINGES SPELEOLOGFØRBUAND Box 16013 720 16 Vasteras Sweden
E The CHATTANOOGA TAGLINE PO Box 11506 Chattanooga TN 37401-2506
E THE EXPLORER c/o S CA Grotto PO Box 127 La Canada CA 91012
E THE OUTLAW c/o Hole in the Wall Grotto PO Box 4074 Casper WY 82604
E WISCONSIN SPELEOLOGIST c/o Gary Phelps 226 High Avenue Oshkosh WI 54901
E YORK GROTTO NEWSLETTER c/o J R Reich P 0 Box 237 York PA 17406

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N American Caving Accidents c/o S. Knutson 505 Roosevelt Street Oregon City, OR 97045
N GRAPHIC ARTS SALON c/o John Baz-Dresch 912 Highland Drive Wenatchee WA 98801
N Membership c/o Gerald Zimmer 28387 S Needy Road Canby OR 97013
N Safety & Technology Chairman c/o Bill Storage 7121 Blue Sales Drive Huntington Beach CA 92647

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N NSS Librarian (2) c/o Bill Torode 1 Cave Avenue Huntsville AL 35810
N Speleo Digest Series Editor, Pat Kambesis 1026 S Candler Street Decatur GA 30030

REQUESTED NSS SUBMISSIONS
N NSS News c/o Doug and Glenda Rhodes PO Box 12334 Albuquerque NM 88195
N Ray's Review c/o Ray Hardcastle 701 Hillside Terrace #4 Vista CA 92084-5173

This list consists of those addresses other than individual, family and institutional members to which Cavers are sent. However, this is only a partial inventory of publications in the Grotto Library; some organizations with whom we have exchanged in the past have been dropped for various reasons.

Type E) These addresses are our bonafide exchanges. Those from whom we have not received an exchange recently were dropped. Since some organizations publish only one a year and are sometimes a year or two late, the definition of "recently" depends upon the organization.

(Type N) The NSS requires that we send two copies each to the cave files and to the NSS Library and one copy to the Speleo Digest series Editor. The NSS requests that we send one copy each to the editor of the NSS News and to Ray's Review and that we exchange with the USGS Library in Reston VA. This last is an area where we are way behind on the receiving end. For every copy we send them, we can receive a USGS publication in return. We have quite a backlog and suggestions for desired USGS publications are requested by Glacier Grotto.

It is interesting to note the differences in style of the publications. They range in size from two pages (one page, front and back) circulated once a year to monthly editions of 22 pages or more. Some have slick covers; most do not, but the bulk of the stories are caving adventures with accompanying maps. Apparently, many of the foreign caving organizations receive some governmental assistance, but most US Grottos collect dues which include a subscription to the grotto's publication.

Periodically, a common theme runs through several publications. In the January 1993 edition of the DC Speleograph, a listing of Rare Species in Virginia includes several bats. Just one month earlier, The Speleograph published by the Oregon Grotto included 40 caves to avoid in the winter. "The bats need them more than you do," the article admonishes. Still earlier in 1992, the Birmingham Grotto Newsletter (March) gives directions for building bat roost boxes, and names the bats known to use artificial roosts. Meanwhile citizens of London were questioning the furry creatures' right to roost in churches (The Speleograph, Dec. 1992). That battle still rages.

Ideas abound. In Casper, WY, sixth graders were taken to Hole In The Wall Cave in Outlaw Canyon as part of a class project. One of the student stories is published in The Outlaw. In The Explorer (Southern California Grotto) members are reminded to join an international toast of caving friends at midnight, July 4, 1992, Kiev time (1 p.m. in Los Angeles). Meanwhile CIG Newsletter (Central Indiana Grotto) says the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc. is collecting slides for a show on caves, karst and conservation.

Other interesting exchanges include Current Titles in Speleology, published annually by the British Cave Research Association and International Glaciousspeleologcal Survey Bulletin, a publication of the International Glaciousspeleologcal Survey. The first has a list of the titles of worldwide caving literature while the second takes a scientific look at firm and glacial caves.

At the end of each year, most publications carry the same refrain. "Please pay your dues, now."

The Alaskan Caver Vol. 13 Number 5
By NIKKI MURRAY JONES
Daily News Staff Writer

Cave divers really are a little different than rest.

Caves
POW caverns might shed light on early man

By NIKKI MURRAY JONES
Daily News Staff Writer

Cave divers are a concern. The closest cave rescue team is on Vancouver Island, not in Alaska. We'd be lucky to get them here in 8 hours when they're called," the team said.

To improve rescue capability, Glacier Groton will practice cave rescue work this winter.

Part of overall study
Systematic caving began when Alredo moved to Haines from Utah. He had heard about caves on Prince of Wales Island and took his family on vacation there. People on Prince of Wales knew El Capitan cave existed, but it was Alfred and Forest Service geologist Jim Baichtal who recognized its potential, the Ketchikan cavers said.

Alredo began mapping the cave in 1989 as part of the Prince of Wales Island Expedition - POW - that has worked on the caves every year since then. He consults Baichtal to map out each season's plans. Things don't always go as planned...

"Once you're inside a cave, looking for something, you usually find something different," he said. The ground water table was so low this summer we could get hundreds of feet of passage that usually are under water.

Mapping El Capitan and other known POW and surrounding islands is part of the Tongass Cave Project, an overall plan to assess resources, said Baichtal.

The project has drawn a number of scientists, he said.

Also, a panel of scientists from the Cave Research Foundation, Ltd., Lubbock, TX, studied the karst this summer and gave a public report in Juneau and Ketchikan of the expedition.

Some of the scientists studied the caves last year, but none have come back this year.

The caves are a treasure trove of information, said Bobstalk, Scuba Diving, Ltd., Lubbock, TX, who organized the trip. "We've got a few cave divers, some who have heard about Prince of Wales Island and are curious about what's there."

The first few days were to teach the divers how to dive, and learn more about deep cave diving.

"Caves are very technical," Bobstalk said. They're the few places that teach it, he said.

The men dove in several spots in Prince of Wales caves. Their experience showed them there's more to learn.

"It's like being on the moon - no atmosphere," said Murray and Baichtal in September. "Open water diving skills, gear and planning don't work."

While diving inside, the men pushed their air tanks ahead of them through narrow passages, some as little as 8 inches across. At times, they were forced to make the most of tight quarters.

"We're meeting together the reservoir or under the protection of your ecosystems," Bobstalk said. "We need to know the extent and location of them, and the resources they need."

"We're trying to understand the dynamic interaction of these ecosystems," Baichtal said. "We need to know the extent and location of them, and the resources they need."

"We're trying to understand the dynamic interaction of these ecosystems," Baichtal said. "We need to know the extent and location of them, and the resources they need."

"We're trying to understand the dynamic interaction of these ecosystems," Baichtal said. ...
Dear Caver,

On Prince of Wales Island, caves of national and international significance have been discovered. Discovery of the caves has led to many requests for development of a cave or caves for public use. The concept of managing caves for public use is not new, but the principles of management have changed over the years. The fragile, non-renewable nature of cave formations requires considerable care and protection. Caves in the west were first managed for commercial or recreational purposes. In some cases improvements were added such as stair, trails, railings, lights and a guide provided to entertain visitors. and perhaps even share a bit of natural history.

In 1992, the Forest Service decided to develop El Capitan Cave located on north Prince of Wales Island for public use. Due to the remote area in which El Capitan Cave is located, and previous uncontrolled use of the cave, vandalism has become a problem. In addition, inadvertent trampling of floor features, littering, use of torches, smoking cigarettes inside the cave, and the taking of cave formations for souvenirs, all contribute to a general degrading of the cave resources.

During the summer of 1993 the Forest Service installed a gate approximately 150 feet within El Capitan Cave. The gate was installed to protect visitors from dangerous areas within the cave and to protect the pristine portions of the cave from vandalism. The analysis for the decision to place a gate within the cave, build a trail to the cave and develop interpretive signs was disclosed in an Environmental Report dated January 11, 1993. The trail is planned for completion in 1994.

The gate has been designed to allow bats safe entrance to the cave. Southeast Alaskan bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects and may eat up to 3,000 insects, including mosquitoes and no-see-ums, in a single night.

We request your assistance to determine how public use should be managed beyond the gate. El Capitan Cave belongs to everyone and we want to hear from you. Some considerations for managing use beyond the gate include:

- Allowing for a concessionaire who would charge a fee and guide groups beyond the gate.
- Allowing outrigger and guides to conduct tours beyond the gate.
- Hiring a volunteer to conduct tours beyond the gate.
- Determining who besides the Forest Service should hold a key to the gate.
- Establishing seasonal use. I.e. May through September, only.

Please send your comments to Thorne Bay Ranger District, P.O. Box 19001, Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919 no later than January 10, 1993. Public meetings will also be held at the following locations:

Ketchikan - December 13, 1993 at the U.A.S. campus - Paul Building in the Forum Room A & B - 7-8pm.

Whale Pass - December 14, 1993 at the school - 7-8pm.

Craig - December 20, 1993 at City Hall - Chambers Room - 7-8pm.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Anne F. Archibe
District Ranger
Kevin Allred and Jay Rockwell were mentioned in Bill Klimack's "In the Media" column on page 288 of the October 1993 issue of the NSS News 51 (10). Kevin's adventures on Prince of Wales Island were used in the Summer 1993 issue of Summit to illustrate that adventure was not dead. Jay's contributions of press clippings was acknowledged. Bill, a Glacier Grotto member, can always use magazine and newspaper articles about caves and caving for his NSS News feature.

William R. Halliday discusses "Turkey's Pamukkale Stamps of 1958" in the 1993 Speleo Stamp Collector No. 40 page 8. He found, during a recent visit to Turkey, the cave-like opening shown on the Turkish (Scott 1424-5) and Armenian (Scott 281) stamps were not really caves at all, but artistic and real glimpses through ancient artificial openings. The formations shown in the cancels were those of the magnificent travertine terraces of the hot springs at Pamukkale.

In the May 1992 issue of Speleo Stamp Collector, he describes the spelean postal history of caves in Kiwiland and the veracity thereof in the article "Speleophilately in New Zealand." In the same issue, pages 24 and 25, he discusses the ins and outs of acquiring speleophilatelic material in the article "Speleophilately in France and Italy 1991." Apparently interest in this aspect of caving is much higher in Europe than in the United States. An International Exhibition of Speleophilately has been proposed for the future in Rome.

In addition to his other activities, Halliday represented the NSS at the International Conference on Environmental Changes in Karst, September 1991 in Padova (Padura), Italy.

It is the newest edition to the Glacier Grotto library and an exciting one. Georgia Underground's latest edition features stories about caving adventures in the southeastern part of the United States, as well as "Ten Days Under the Earth," a recap of the explorations at Cueva del Tecomate, the third longest cave in Mexico, and "A Taste of China Caving, Part II: Caves of Guado."

Another highlight is an in-depth article titled "Incandescent Electric Headlight Systems for Long Duration Expeditionary Caving." Author Doug Strait, also a Glacier Grotto member, included a chart comparing electric headlamps. Contact Jay Rockwell (277-7150) about the newsletter.

The Karst Resources Panel completed a draft copy of the Karst and Cave Resource Significance Assessment Ketchikan Area, Tongass National Forest, Alaska.

This study and report, prepared by the Ozark Underground Laboratory, assesses the significance of the karst in 700 square miles of the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest. It includes an evaluation of the effectiveness of present strategies for protecting these karst resources, recommends changes as deemed appropriate and recommends focused resource evaluation goals and research for karst areas.

The karst areas of Southeast are anomalies in the world according to the report.

"The carbonate rocks that comprise these karst areas originated on tropical Pacific islands that were transported by plate tectonic movements to their current locations," states the report. "There is no other place in the world where tropical limestones have travelled so far, been involved in such an oblique collision with a continent and ended up emplaced in an archipelago setting at such high latitudes."

Within the karst area are numerous vertical shafts and caves. In one cave on Heceta island, a new species of troglobitic Styrbromus amphipod was discovered. Researchers are also finding archeological and paleontological deposits that could help in tracing the regional prehistory, effects of climatic changes and introduction of humans and animals.

The final draft is scheduled for completion later this year. Questions should be addressed to Jim Baichtal at (907) 225-3101.
The 1994 NSS Convention is June 20-24 at Brackettville, Texas.

"Cave the Republic" during the meetings at Fort Clark or while participating in the "Waltz Across Texas Field Trip" June 19. Headquarters for the convention is Fort Clark Springs, a private, secure community surrounded by a chain link fence. There is a large tent camping area, an auto camping area and RV parking with full hook-ups.

Several caves are within 150 miles of Brackettville. Green Cave, whose bat flight may be enjoyed each evening, is only 25 miles and Midnight Cave, known for its helictites, a few miles further. Texans and Mexicans also are hosting several pre- and post-convention caving trips to Mexico.

For further details contact Convention Central, PO Box 43747, Austin, TX 78745-0747. The telephone number is (512) 441-0050.

### ADDITIONS to MEMBERSHIP LIST

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<thead>
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<th>NSS#</th>
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KEY: Pd = year through which membership is paid   PdN = primary allegiance to another Grotto
NSS# = NSS membership number and NSS status indicated by letters.
WOLVES LAIR CAVE
Preliminary Report #118
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: Wolves Lair Cave consists of a gigantic room 130 feet wide, 345 feet long and 80 feet high, with an entrance 90 feet wide. This makes the room about 14 times greater than the floor in the state's former largest room, The Alaska Room in El Capitan Cave. The room's floor is covered by breakdown along with much ancient beach material including logs. Isostatic rebound has lifted the area 30 feet since the beach was at the entrance. It took surveyors six hours to survey the 1,028 feet around the room. Wolves Lair has apparently been used by wolves as a refuge, for there are many animal remains present. There is also evidence of prehistoric human activity judging from charcoal found under beach logs dating several thousand years. Some of these logs protrude from under breakdown debris and beach deposits. Further information on the archaeological findings should be on file at the U.S. Forest Service office in Ketchikan.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Due to the archaeological material found in the cave, the location should not be shared with the general public. Its remoteness will hopefully protect it from too much traffic impact or vandalism.
CODY’S CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #120
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

The main entrance of Cody’s Cave is a 25 foot deep sinkhole connected with a 14 foot long crawlway with two other small holes to the surface. At the bottom of the entrance drop is a low broad crawlway three feet high and 13 feet wide which leads to a dead end after 20 feet. There were no special features reported from this cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Indications are that this cave is not very significant, however, since the cave is only 30 feet west of Crystal Palace Cave, it would be protected in the same no-harvest area.

VETA BAY CAVE

Baker Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #116
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

It is unknown how long Veta Bay Cave has been known. The cave contains a fire pit area near the northwest wall and about 20 feet inside the entrance.

Veta Bay Cave consists mainly of one large room approximately 50 by 80 feet with a walk-in 30 foot long passage fish hooking to the south. The floor is primarily of sand with some breakdown. At the end of the hooked-around passage, the floor is 1.3 feet below the entrance floor. Total survey with splay shots is 249.3 feet. It was surveyed July 21, 1992.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of cultural remains, the cave location should be strictly confidential and available only to professional archaeologists. Further archaeological information might be available through the U.S. Forest Service.
BEDDED BUCKS CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #119
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Bedded Bucks Cave was first investigated by Jim Baichtal and Risa Carlson and later surveyed by them with the help of Katherine McGee and Steve Lewis on July 24, 1992. After several drops to the 97.8 feet level, the cave ends in a pool. Total survey for the cave is 44.7 feet. No other information is available at this time.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Although not a major cave, Bedded Bucks Cave appears to have at least hydrologic significance, and therefore, should be protected.

VETA BAY ARCH CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #117
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

Veta Bay Cave is a littoral sea cave and is still subject to regular tidal action through the 40 foot high arch which is seaward of the cave entrance about 100 feet. A sand-filled ravine follows the structural weakness and trend of the cave out to sea. From the debris present, it appears that high tides and storms still occasionally touch the back reaches of the cave.

Clastic debris is sand and rocks. Total surveyed length is 135.7 feet and its surveyed height is 14.6 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

No archeological sites are known in Veta Bay Arch Cave. However, the public should not be directed to the area. Veta Bay Arch Cave holds recreational value, but should be entered at lower tide levels.
TOTEM POLE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #114
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred and Steve Lewis
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: The entrance is located along the boundary of well-drained, karsted slopes and poorly drained glacial till on the flats. The 50 foot high by 30 foot wide entrance floored with steep breakdown, is accessed down a 15-20 foot deep solution channel running almost due northwest. A small alcove, chimney and skylight are accessible to the north in the twilight zone. The cave trends eastward under a proposed logging unit until after 104 feet it becomes too tight. A small lead near the bottom heads north, but becomes tight with rock fill. There is no air flow in the low parts of the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Totem Pole Cave contains geologic, hydrologic, recreational and possible biological significance. It, along with other nearby caves, should be protected from logging and road building impacts in order to sustain their stable hydrologic, atmospheric and biologic systems.

TOADS PLUNGE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #113
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: The cave has two entrances. The main entrance is a 15 foot deep sinkhole not needing a rope. However, a handline is needed for the next 15 foot drop beginning at a slot in the floor. At the bottom of this drop, a caver can see daylight coming from the adjacent entrance. A steep canyon leads downward to a third 15 foot drop (vertical gear needed) where a ledge is encountered. The last pit is 65 feet deep to a rubble floor. A trickle pouring into this pit disappears through a tiny hole in the fill.

BIOLOGY: A complete toad skeleton was found in an alcove on the bottom. Kent Carlson is checking the identities of a flying insect and a worm from the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Toads Plunge Cave has significant hydrologic, geologic and biologic values and should be isolated from logging or road building impacts.
RIVERS END CAVE
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #101
Addendum to Report #45
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

NEW DISCOVERIES
In 1992, project members discovered a new lead off the wide, broad passage just upstream from the stagnant sump at Yukon Pit. This extension still needs to be completely explored and surveyed. Near the entrance, a former, but now dry sump allowed access to a short passage which connects with a known part of the cave. The resurgence entrance was resurveyed and recorded on the map update.

Forestry Science Lab personnel from Juneau found whirligig beetles and amphipods in the stagnant sump. Later Kent Carlson collected some of the thousands of amphipods and noted at least one amphipod upstream from the cave entrance and in nearby Cataract Cave. Identification of the specimens is forthcoming.

SHORT BOP CAVE
Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #106
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: Short Bop Cave is located at the bottom of a sinkhole which is part of a long solution trench running along the subalpine hillside. The cave is considerably frost shattered from cold air settling during the winter months. One rough textured pocked wall inside has experienced extensive solution from snow contact; the most extreme the author has seen. The cave is only 37 feet long and 31 feet deep, but could continue below the rubble filled floor.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The solution speleogens should be protected for further study and therefore, protected from logging or road building impacts. The cave should be included in the area excluded from timber harvest above 1800 feet elevation; this entire area is covered with many large karst features and eight known caves.
DESCRIPTION: The sinkhole entrance to Thunder Falls Cave, the arch between it and neighboring Whispering Canyon Cave were first spotted by Jim Baichtal while travelling by helicopter over the area. On July 14, 1992, the initial exploration team consisting of Dave Herron, Katherine McGee, Julie Heaton and Carlene Allred, discovered the entrance to Whispering Canyon Cave, which is in the sink adjacent to and just west of Thunder Falls Cave.

The two caves, formed in Heceta (Silurian) limestone near Sinkhole Lake. The lake, which everyone had assumed was contained in its own closed basin, actually drains into Thunder Falls Cave. The insurge-rence creek is deeply entrenched, forming a very narrow canyon that is nearly undetectable from the surface. It enters the cave as a series of waterfalls that emerge from the wall of the sinkhole a fair distance down from the rim. In the bottom, which is 140 feet below the level of the karst plain, the white-water creek enters into a downward sloping passage that heads to the northeast for about 50 feet. It then takes a sharp turn to the northwest, and after another 40 feet through this joint controlled passage jammed with logs, the cave sumps. Fifty feet above the bottom of the sink there is an enormous chockstone jammed between the rock walls.

Whispering Canyon Cave is named for the faint rustling noise that can be heard from the vicinity of the cave. The sound actually comes from the roaring waterfalls deep inside nearby Thunder Falls Cave. The Whispering Canyon entrance is located in the northwest end of the 35 foot deep sinkhole just west of Thunder Falls. This vadose canyon-like cave follows fairly straight along a fault for about 400 feet, heading towards the northwest, and ends in a sump; Passage widths average five feet and ceilings are generally 25 feet above floor level. This horizontal cave contains a flat floor of mostly cobble fill through-out, but in the sump room the floor is covered with silt and humus.

In several places beautiful coralloid type calcite deposits are found growing on the generally clean walls. High up in the passage crevice near the ceiling level there are sparse amounts of small stalactites and soda straws scattered throughout the cave. The cave also contains tiny helictites and some flowstone. In several places a thin coating of a coal-black deposit, possibly manganese, forms areas of vertically running streaks down the walls.

Whispering Canyon Cave was originally formed under phreatic groundwater conditions, as evidenced by the rounded contours of some parts of the ceiling, and by the portion of the cave that contains a four-foot diameter tube atop the canyon passage. Over time the water level has been lowered by the formation of deeper corridors, causing less corrosion on the cave's walls and ceiling, and more corrosion/erosion in the floor.

Whispering Canyon Cave and the Thunder Falls sinkhole are formed along a fault trending from northwest to southeast. The stream from Sinkhole Lake also probably continues along this fault. In the south-east corner of the Thunder Falls Sink about 30 feet down from the rim an additional passage heads in that direction for 20 feet before becoming very narrow. This passage along with that of Whispering Canyon Cave from an abandoned stream level that is today high and dry. Judging from the bat guano and

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Continued from page 17

exist Thunder Falls Cave, and hazardous. Thunder Falls Cave is a vertical 94 foot sinkhole with the southeast end of the sink leading into Whispering Canyon Cave. The sink is the main drain for the entire region, and if it becomes plugged it could overflow, flooding the entire basin. I recommend that a minimum 200 foot radius buffer be retained around the two caves for this, and aesthetic reasons, and that a similar buffer exist along both sides of the entrenched surface stream all the way to Sinkhole Lake. The lake itself should be ringed with a 200 foot wide buffer to prevent unnecessary contamination by log and sediment debris. This was not done on nearby Cavern Lake and resulted in large amounts of logs and debris washing into its insurgence cave. Thunder Falls Cave is hazardous because of its vertical nature and dangerous waterfalls laced with fallen logs. Its location should not be shared with the general public. It should be entered only by those properly clothed, equipped and trained.

WIZARD'S MISSION CAVE

Prince of Wales Island AK • Preliminary Report #117
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION: Wizard's Mission Cave was discovered by Katherine McGee in the summer of 1992. It is located in the side of a Heceta limestone cliff 200 feet above the north shore of Twin Island Lake. An emergence pours from cracks 15 feet below the entrance and flows south into the lake. Wizard's Mission soon ends in a pool and sump. The area has been clear-cut. No biology or cultural evidence were noted in the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Even though the areas around and above the cave are clear-cut, there should not be any further surface activities which could further alter the hydrology and possible biology of this cave. The location can be shared with the general public.
SLATE CAVE
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #107 • Addendum to Report #33
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Nov. 23, 1992

DESCRIPTION

On July 22, 1992, Katherine McGee and Steve Lewis entered Slate Cave to investigate a lead which was not previously explored. The lead led to a shelf and ended.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

As before, the location of the cave entrance should be restricted from the general public. The forest areas around the cave which have been left after logging should be preserved, as the entire area is part of the drainage for El Capitan Cave and the El Capitan Work Camp water supply. There is no doubt that Slate Cave and surrounding karst plays a large role in the hydrology of discharge below, and must not be altered further.
INTRODUCTION

Red Canyon and White Canyon Cave begin at fault contacts and contain canyon style passages downcutting into underlying red matrix breccia with limestone clasts up to one foot in diameter. Five hundred feet north of the entrances to both caves is a resurgence thought to be from their respective streams. The insurgences at White Canyon Cave and above Red Canyon Cave are both at the limestone/conglomerate contact.

The caves were discovered in a proposed logging unit and first investigated in the fall of 1991 by Mark Fritzke, who placed a no-harvest buffer around them.

RED CANYON DESCRIPTION

Red Canyon Cave entrance is located about 100 feet west of White Canyon Cave. The Red Canyon entrance appears to be either an inactive resurgence sinkhole or blind canyon 35 feet deep. A second Red Canyon Cave entrance is a 40 foot deep sinkhole requiring an 80 foot rope, however, ropes are not needed if the access is from the upper entrance.

The upper, walk-in entrance has a floor of woody debris which soon becomes cobbles after a 20 foot drop. Following the canyon down past some side passages and loops, a spacious stream passage comes in from the west. One hundred and twenty feet upstream, it finally becomes too tight and wet. On the surface only 70 feet further is a swallow (insurgence) thought to be the origin of the active cave stream. Thirty feet downstream from the confluence of the canyon from the walk-in entrance is a loop passage containing the 40 foot sinkhole entrance. The active stream passage can be followed past some pools, maze passages and into "Moon Room", a large gallery with a floor of mud and some rocks and sticks. The stream enters a low muddy passage with an emerging draft. "Moonwalker Hall", 120-foot long, heads east from Moon Room.

BIOLOGY

Many bat droppings are present in the upper part of Red Canyon Cave. Also found in this cave was much organic debris, mayfly casts and a beetle. Deer bones were found in the terminal room.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The roofs in both White and Red Canyon caves appear to be relatively thin and subject to collapse with surface activities such as road building. The roof near the upper and lower ends of Red Canyon is formed of breakdown above solution channels. The caves also contain biologic resources. In addition, Moonwalker Hall is subject to flooding damage and corrosion from hydrologic changes. For these reasons, the areas overlaying the cave passages and around the resurgence and emergence should not have timer harvested, and no road building should occur. This no-harvest zone should extend at least 200 feet beyond the nearest underlying passages or significant karst features such as the emergence and resurgence for a wind-firm buffer. In addition, the drainage (recharge area) upstream of the buffer should not be logged and road building should not alter the recharge drainage or introduce any additional fine sediments into the streams.

Red Canyon Cave should be designated as a restricted cave and visited only for scientific purposes. Because of its proximity, the location of White Canyon Cave should also be withheld from the public.
Editor's notes:

It's party time! Cavers seem to be very busy people, operating their own businesses, working, raising families, traveling, making ends meet and participating in numerous other activities. The Christmas party gives everyone the opportunity to relax, share a few wild tales and compete.

Yes, compete. Rumor has it that President Harvey Bowers is the one to beat in a caving board game. There should also be time to see a few pictures of caving expeditions. Bring 35 mm slides of an adventure (but not more than 10 slides) and share them with the group. The pictures are not limited to a 1993 event.

Date.........December 4, 1993
Time.........6 p.m.
Place.........Alaskan Agate Bed & Breakfast
4725 Begich Circle, Wasilla
Bring.........Food (it is a potluck affair), your family (friends), and slides.

The Alaskan Caver
1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK  99507

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