I would like to remind Grotto members that the Alaskan Caver is available digitally, and comes in color this way. As of now, only the issues which I have put out are digital, but there has been talk of digitizing all the previous Cavers too. I hope this happens.

If any of you members desire digital Alaskan Cavers from Vols. 24, #2 through the present, I can burn you a cd. You will have to pay for the shipping and any back issues if you weren’t a member during past issuances. Future digital Alaskan Cavers are available through email. Just let me know if you want them this way instead of, or in addition to the regular hard copy method. Emailing newsletters instead of sending out hard copies can save the Grotto some $. In the May 2006 issue of the Alaskan Caver there was an error. The photo on the right hand side of page 5 is of David Love rappelling into The Funnel, not Steve Lewis as indicated. The editor would like to apologize for this mistake.

ALLREDS PRESENT CAVE MAPPING WORKSHOP FOR JUNEAU GROTTO MEMBERS

March 31, 2006
by Cathy Connor, UAS Environmental Science Program

Juneau cave enthusiasts were treated to a northern panhandle meeting of the Glacier Grotto and an interesting workshop led by Dave Love, Carlene and Kevin Allred at the UAS Juneau Campus, March 31, 2006.

Carlene took us through the step by step process she painstakingly follows to produce the numerous cave maps she and Kevin have created and published over the years. They also showed us wonderful photos of

(continues on page 4)
MY RETURN TO BEAVER FALLS
by Carlene Allred

It has been 14 years since the Tongass Cave Project explored and mapped the karst features of the Beaver Falls area on Prince of Wales Island. In the early 1990s Forest Service geologist Jim Baichtal located this area and requested the inventory project. There were various caves, sinks and pits discovered and mapped. My contributions included surveying in Beaver Falls Cave, Beaver Fell Pit, some overland survey, and lots of cartography.

Some years later the Forest Service provided public access to the Beaver Falls area by installing an elaborate boardwalk system that includes posted interpretative signs as well as nice benches to rest on. The place is advertised in the tourist brochures for Prince of Wales Island.

At has been a shock for the cavers who explored this wild area to see it so easily accessible now. On the other hand, whenever we have guests on the island we can’t wait to share with them the Beaver Falls Karst Trail. It is a very beautiful walk along the boardwalks that span the acidic rainforest muskegs, which feed the karst (see cover photo). From the security of the trail one can look straight down into awesome black abysses and hear the echoing of their subterranean streams.

This last spring (2006) our family enjoyed the stroll and I even brought along my oil paints and began a new painting. A pair of Canada geese shared the peace with us. Kevin went below ground and began some of his own preparations for the upcoming resurvey of Beaver Falls Cave. I was content to remain above ground and paint.

A view from the boardwalk: A karst stream flows down and disappears into the large sink that begins Beaver Falls Cave. Photo by Carlene Allred

The Beaver Falls karst interpretive trail passes around and over various karst features. Photo by Carlene Allred

Beaver Falls Cave is known for its unique and variable breccia walls. Photo by Carlene Allred
cave mappers collecting data over a wide range of geographic locales including Alaska karst landscapes and Hawaiian Lava tubes. A copy DVD of the cartography workshop is available from the editor upon request.

In addition, numerous bolts were installed around the UAS Campus, Auke Bay area, and in the Mendenhall Glacier vicinity to monitor Juneau rock-weathering. Kevin has donated the measuring tool he created for his limestone dissolution study, to the Earth Science department. It is hoped that students in UAS Geomorphology classes will be able to collect northern panhandle data in order to compare them with Kevin’s published measurements from southern Southeast Alaska.

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**Nuptial News**

**White ♦ DeVereHunt**

Grotto members Bruce White and Char DeVereHunt were married last November (2005) 26th. The small ceremony took place at Ketchikan’s Bar Harbor Restaurant. Magistrate Henry Keene joined them both for lunch and holy matrimony. Char’s daughter, Samantha MacNeith, served as attendant and Jesse Kvale as best man.

A reception for the newlyweds was held January 27, 2006 during Ketchikan’s yearly Robert Burns celebration, which was held at Steamers Restaurant. Both Char and Bruce were dressed in kilts as they “jumped over the broom”, as is the old Scottish custom after matrimony. Bruce had made the broom out of branches from bushes in their yard. The handle was from a

(continues on page 7)
THE DARK UNDERBELLY OF THE FIRST CITY,
by Kid Burfl/John Hunt

It was a dark and snowy night... Well, actually we were in town, under streetlights and the snow had stopped a few hours earlier. But Ketchikan had indeed received a dump of white stuff that stayed for about a week, a relatively uncommon occurrence in Alaska's First City.

Kevin had tried to persuade me into the storm drains last Hallowe'en, but I begged off. I've never been afraid of heights or crowds or enclosed spaces or loud noises or brown mustard; any of the typical phobias. Still, the thought of exploring the real underworld of Ktown seemed to hold some question in my mind. Perhaps it was "Why?" or maybe it was something else.

We walked away from the expansive Allied compound, somewherewithin a gated community near the Ketchikan High School, the exact location of which this reporter has promised not to reveal, towards the lauded and heralded 3rd Avenue Bypass, from whence our journey would begin. It's lauded by the fact that it cost more than the original Alaska Purchase, and heralded by the notion that it "saves time".

Kevin had mentioned that he'd been down under Ketchikan before, and that he "thought" we'd be able to make it from the Bypass to the Tongass Narrows within a 3- or 4-hour time frame. We reached the upper terminus, the gateway to fun (the man holecover) in just a few minutes and, after kicking some snow from the edges, then removing it, Kevin began lowering himself into the 30 degree (angle, not temp) pipe. As his massive arms took the weight of his manly frame, I noticed a Ktown police vehicle roll by. Fortunately, we were dressed in bright orange drysuits, so either the fuzz thought we were City workers or they just didn't notice us. Note: My drysuit was covered by a black sweatshirt and dark blue sweat pants, which one would think might attract the attentions of our city's finest, but I guess my headlight dispelled their concerns.

I dropped in, re-covered the opening, and started down the pipe. Next, I turned on my headlamp. This first length of pipe was about 42-inch stock, maybe 25 yards long, and ended at a dropoff into a fairly large nexus where drains from 3 or 4 directions met and joined a larger section of storm-drain. Kevin and some of his regular co-adventurers (sons?) had been here before, and he'd told me about the fact that there is no easy egress from our first pipe into this nexus. Someone (K?) had drilled a hole and installed a rope, which aided greatly in getting across what might have otherwise been a dangerous jump with a half twist from our lofty perch to an iron ladder on an adjacent wall. It was just far enough away that one couldn't reach it without the rope. Even with the enhancement, there was still the tricky maneuver of easing one's body out of the first pipe head first, balancing your toes on the edge of the pipe, then turning around, grabbing the rope and finally swinging over to the ladder. All these steps were done approximately 10 feet above a hard concrete surface, with snowy water churning below. Well, OK: just bits of dripping water, but still a fairly unpleasant hole to fall into.

Kevin took the first photo here, which proved to be a difficult process. Opening the ziplock bag, and pulling out and powering up the camera were easy enough, but the steam emanating from our clothes and bodies tricked the digital camera into thinking we were either farther away or closer to the lens than in reality, so we got a lotta shots of mists, vapors, gases, and other silvery X-files-type evidence. Watch for that on SciFi Channel!

From this point, we traveled down a 60-inch pipe, at about 40 degrees, with enough water under our bums to make butt-surfing an easy-and-fun-option. From my many years of above-ground trekking I had (continues on page 10)
Coronation Island, Alaska

Surveyed length: 60 meters
Vertical extent: 33.6 meters

A Project of the Glacier Grotto &
the Tongass Cave Project

Compass, Inclinometer and Tape Survey,
August 1, 2005 by D. Love
Map by D. Love, K. Allred and C. Allred.
NUPTIAL NEWS, cont. from page 4

branch whittled smooth. In keeping with tradition they keep the broom by the front door to their home.

Grotto members attending the reception included Samantha McNeil, Dan Monteith, Michael Jaynes, Barbara Morgan and Kevin and Carlene Allred. Burns Night festivities consisted of bagpipe music, Highland dancing, a proper Scottish dinner including lots of haggus, poetry readings and Scottish music by a local band which included Carlene on fiddle. 147 people attended the dual event.

Valentine & Noland

On September 2, Grotto Vice President David Valentine will tie the knot with Rebecca Noland. Grotto members are invited to attend the brief ceremony which is to be held at 4:00 PM at Ketchikan’s Lutheran Church. Please do not bring gifts.

Immediately after the ceremony a potluck dinner/dance celebrating the event will be held in the church’s gym. There will be dancing to live folk music provided by Paddy’s Leather Breeches. Dress will be casual.

FAMILY REUNION UNDERGROUND

The editor has included the above tunnel photo because this particular issue of the Caver has other articles about tunnels, thus making it, perhaps, a special “tunnel” issue of the Alaskan Caver! (If you active cavers out there will send me real caving trip reports then hopefully the next issue will not be another “tunnel” issue.)

In the photo above some of the editor’s extended family poses in the entrance of the North Bloomfield Drain Tunnel. This excavation was begun in 1872 and took 30 months to complete. It was built to drain a large area for hydraulic mining in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. This photo was taken by Ray Blackham during a family reunion in July of 2006. Kevin Allred, an in law, is standing on the right. The Allred sons Soren and Forrest are second and fourth from the left, on the bottom row. The editors brother and sister are to the left and right of both of the Allred sons. The remainder are nieces and nephews.
GLACIER GROTTO MEMBERS, 2005 through 2006

A reminder: don't forget to pay your 2006 dues!

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Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
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Whale Pass Community Library
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Cave Convectionist
No mailing- send via email address  pretzlgirl@charter.net
Ketchikan, Alaska, is located in the temperate rainforest of the Southeast part of the state. Yearly precipitation can exceed 381 centimeters (150 inches). Several types of speleothems have so far been identified.

Even though every spelunker should be intimately familiar with this formula, it should be stressed that actual precipitation rates depend on atmospheric pressure, humidity, temperature, and the "Dobler effect" (DE). This phenomena is a personal discovery of the author. I am presently working with several of my undergraduates at the Mud Bay institute to apply this formula world-wide. The sum of DE can be determined by the following formula: 

$$DE = dd^3 \left( \frac{0.5236 - ev}{int.\,cond./ex.\,cond.} \right)$$

where $dd$ is the driblet diameter, $ev$ is the evaporation rate, and int. cond./ext. cond. are the internal condensation and external condensation.

Using the Dobler effect calculations, I have proved beyond doubt that the speleothems in the so-called Ketchikan Tunnel [editor’s note: see photo of Ketchikan Tunnel on back cover of this issue] are, in fact, approximately 88,000 years old. This vindicates my long-standing theory that this tunnel is actually a phreatic cave passage.
THE DARK UNDERBELLY... continued from page 5

I learned to judge distance and direction fairly well. While the first section had been skirting the hillside, this larger pipe was going almost directly down-hill: woo-haw! Now, if you've been thinking 'sewers', think again: these are storm-drains, Bucko! Water run-off from streets, ditches, and the like. No funky smells, no large rodents defending their turf (luckily), and no Blue Tarp Murder evidence (more luck, eh?). Granted, we did smell beer when we got down under the Tongass Highway, but more on that later, kay? Kay.

When we reached the bottom of this second shaft... Kevin: HELP! This is also the site of our next photo, I believe. Kevin wanted to get some shots of the stalactites, which were the smallest examples I had ever seen.

OK, so the crawling WAS hard on my solar plexus muscles a coupla days after, but I didn't notice at the time. Nope, I don't have nightmares about this particular night, although I do have recurring scary dreams about playing in Paddy's Nether Reaches wifout my clothing when the Governor shows up and asks me to slow dance wif him.

Kevin, this was one of the three best times I had in Ktown in 18 months of living there, so don't try to... Wow, have I forgotten ANOTHER steep part? Tell me more! I thought the 'butt-surfing' section was it! These, verily! are exactly the thoughts, the memories, the kinda responses I sent this plea for help to youz guys FOR: bring it on, baby!

[Editor's note: Yes, they did make it to the Tongass Narrows before the tide came in!] 🧌

better than 50%. They may also help detect and prevent the risk of gall stones and cholesterol in humans.

References:


Plummer, L.N., T.L.M. Wigley, and D.L. Parkhurst (1978) The Kinetics of Calcite Dissolution in CO2-water systems at 5°C and 0.0 to 1.0 atm CO2 📊

The Alaskan Caver, Volume 26 No. 3      page 10
Dear Phreada,

I was watching birds the other day and wondered why groups of birds have so many different names, for example an unkindness of ravens, or a parliament of owls? I didn't know who else to ask.

Dear Birdy,

I don't know why groups of birds have so many names, but perhaps it is because birds in groups act differently, just like people. I have compiled my list of different people just to give you a comparison:

A Cavern of Cavers
A gaggle of geologists
An anthem of Atheists
A gravity of rappellers
A clutch of climbers
An earful of Audiologists
An angel of ascenders
Anarchy of assemblymen
A gaggle of grannies
A grump of grandpas
A liar of lawyers
A round of rowers
A plunge of pilots
A specialty of spelunkers
A depth of divers
An apex of mountaineers
A drip of hydrologists
A round of rowers
A deliverance of doctors
A machination of machinists
A bankrupt of bankers

A division of mathematicians
A tube of chemists
A chaos of Physicists
An AK-47 round of Postal workers
And insecurity of insurance agents
An angle of engineers
A tender of nurses
A geek of computer programmers
A glut of CEOs
A crook of politicians
A cut up of surgeons
A glove of proctologists
A murder of detectives
A list of linguists
A hefty of garbage men
A quack of psychiatrists
A mountain of Muslims
A meditation of Buddhists
A cross of Christians
A pyrotechnic of vulcanologists
A cacophony of children
A tangle of teens
A pounding of carpenters
An uncle of relatives
An echo of speech teachers
A boredom of English teachers
A nap of history teachers
A stutter of drama coaches
A tango of dancing teachers
A sauti of chefs
A roundup of cowboys
A flock of shepherds

When you look at this list (of which I have just scratched the surface) it makes it easy to answer the question of why do cavers, cave? Just to get away!