



N° 65

November 2012



Union International de Spéléology (UIS)  
Commission on Volcanic Caves

*e*-NEWSLETTER



# e-NEWSLETTER U.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

## No. 65 - November 2012

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<http://www.uis-speleo.org/>



<http://www.vulcanospeleology.org>

The Commission on Volcanic Caves Newsletter has been published quarterly since December 22, 1993. The Newsletter is available free of charge to all members of the commission, and to others who are interested in lava caves.

**e-NEWSLETTER**  
**U.I.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES**



**U.I.S. COMMISSION  
ON VOLCANIC CAVES**

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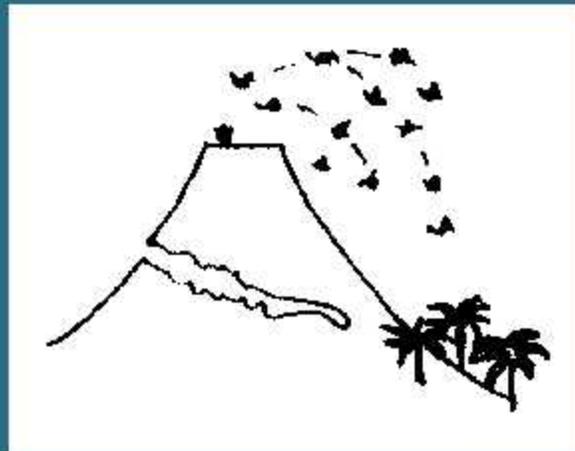
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The U.I.S. Commission on Volcanic Caves encourages exploration and scientific investigation of volcanic caves, and hosts the International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology about every two years.



**COVER PHOTO**

An active eruption during the 1969–1971 Mauna Ulu eruption of Kilauea Volcano, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i. Photo by J.B. Judd, October 21, 1970. Photo is courtesy of the U.S Geological Survey (U.S.G.S).

## THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



JAN PAUL VAN DER PAS

### So what's new about our Commission?

Far up in the sky our Honorary President Bill Halliday is working with NASA to suggest lava tubes and such features on far away objects, as Mars, for shelter places for astronauts. Presentations have taken place with video's made by Gerald Favre. One of the sessions was the Interplanetary Cave Workshop. A topic is e.g. whether astronaut suits are useable in caves.

Our Icelandic member, Árni Stefánsson, is still working on the project to turn the Thrinúkagígur hollow crater into a touristic feature. All is going well, but

officials have no idea what really is happening. This summer (2012) with an electric hauling system (just to raise money for the project) it was possible for tourists to have a look into this crater.

Our commission has also a living cave bear as member. Above mentioned Árni and his wife Gunnhildur have a project by circumstancing Iceland by kayak. They camp on beaches and in coves and caves. A rumor claimed a bear was sighted (bears drift sometimes on ice floes from the North Pole to Iceland, and are not very welcome due to diseases).

A hunt by helicopter started. No bear found, but his tracks found in a cove. However, when Árni saw this on TV he realized it were their own tracks. But since the tracks disappeared in the sea, no one believed them to be human. Now Árni has the name Árnibear.

Chairman Jan-Paul van der Pas  
[jpgvanderpas@helnet.nl](mailto:jpgvanderpas@helnet.nl)



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U.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

The IUS Commission on Volcanic Caves announces, by popular demand:

# 16<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

Galápago Islands, República del Ecuador

March 15–22, 2014

(Field trips March 10–15 and March 22–30)



Hosted by Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis, Ph.D.

Scientific Director

Galápagos Research of the Escuela Politécnica del Ejército

República del Ecuador

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## U.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES



From Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis:

"Let me tell you a bit about a magic (and relatively inexpensive) place called Galapagos!

"The Galapagos Islands in the same way as Hawaii have been generated by a hot spot and are therefore all volcanic. We have had various expeditions there in recent years, most of them with experienced U.S. cavers lead by Aaron Addison from Washington University in St. Louis Missouri besides my own Ecuadorian teams. The recent findings are spectacular including not only easily accessible lava tubes but also inner parts of volcanoes, one with an inner depth of 101m, besides others. The not yet published, volcanic, entomological and paleontological (among other research) results are also nothing less than spectacular.

"As being part of an Army University called ESPE close to Quito, we have many advantages other universities do not have like installations in the islands, cheap quality transport to the islands and at the islands, infrastructure, etc. We are right now in a transition time of becoming the most powerful university including aerial and naval infrastructure by incorporating the INOCAR (Ecuadorian Oceanographic Naval Institute)





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## U.I.S. COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

besides others in the soon new named University of the Armed Forces (Universidad de las Fuerzas Armadas). The Director of the university General Carlos Rodriguez has been the witness of honor in the foundation of the Ecuadorian Scientific Speleological Society and an amateur caver as well as a big fan of research activities in the Galapagos.

"About Galapagos besides geology, I guess, there is no need to talk much about. It's amazing, it's extraordinary, it's unique. If you would like me to send to you pictures of myself and my students or friends swimming with sharks, dolphins, manta rays, playing with sea lions or sea turtles etc or having contact with hawks, blue footed boobies etc in cm distances just let me know!

"Many regards from Quito, Ecuador and Galápagos are waiting for you.

"Yours,  
Theo"



Galápagos Islands.  
Photo by Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis, Ph.D.



Galápagos Islands.  
Photo by Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis, Ph.D.



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Galápago Islands.  
Photo by Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis, Ph.D.



Galápago Islands.  
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Galápago Islands.  
All photos on this page by  
Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis, Ph.D.



## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN



**HARRY A. MARINAKIS**

First of all, I must thank John Brush for the great photo above, from a lava cave in Jordan!

Additionally, I must thank Dr. Theofilos Toulkeridis for agreeing to host the next (16th) symposium in the Galápago Islands. A dream come true! The details of the symposium are still being developed.

Our next big topic of discussion is future symposia – specifically the 17th and 18th symposia. We have numerous proposals on the table which the membership must review. I will start another e-mail discussion on this topic.

At the Commission meeting in Amman on March 17, 2012 we discussed the possibility of hosting a symposium every 3 years instead of every other year. This is still a possibility when we discuss dates for future symposia.

I have been in contact with numerous cavers from Hawai'i – Hazel Barton, Peter Bosted, Kenneth Ingham, Lisa King, Bob Richards, Steve Smith and the Hawai'i Speleological Survey, just to name a few. They have expressed interest in hosting the 17th symposium in Hawai'i in 2016. (Many of them have also expressed interest in attending the Galápago symposium in 2014.)

Personally I think that a symposium in Hawai'i would be fantastic and it would also be very well attended. I believe that our friends from Asia and Australia would likely attend in large numbers. We could probably also attract a good number of American cavers who have never attended any of these symposia. It is a much farther trip for our friends in Europe, unfortunately.

What do you think of holding the 17th symposium in Hawai'i in 2016 or 2017?



Kenneth Ingham has also suggested hosting the 2018 symposium in New Mexico.

Currently the caves in New Mexico are closed due to concerns about the spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS). But slowly caves in New Mexico are being re-opened, and it is hoped that by 2018 there will sufficient access to caves for a symposium.



Carlos Benedetto, director of the Federación Argentina de Espeleología (FAdeE), has also proposed hosting the 18th symposium in 2018 in the spectacular Payunia volcanic region of Malargüe, Mendoza, Argentina.

As you may recall from e-Newsletter #60, Malargüe is one of the largest and most important basaltic regions on the planet. There may be more than 600 volcanoes in the region.

Much of the volcanic activity in the region is Quaternary.

I vote Payunia in 2018! This place is fantastic!



La Payunia, Argentina  
All photos on this page by Pablo



Here are some web links of the Payunia for you to browse:

<http://www.skyscrapercity.com/showthread.php?t=540786>

<http://www.turismo54.com/reserva-provincial-la-payunia-mendoza-argentina/>

[http://www.losmejoresdestinos.com/destinos/mendoza/mendoza\\_malargue\\_reserva\\_la\\_payunia\\_volcanes.php](http://www.losmejoresdestinos.com/destinos/mendoza/mendoza_malargue_reserva_la_payunia_volcanes.php)

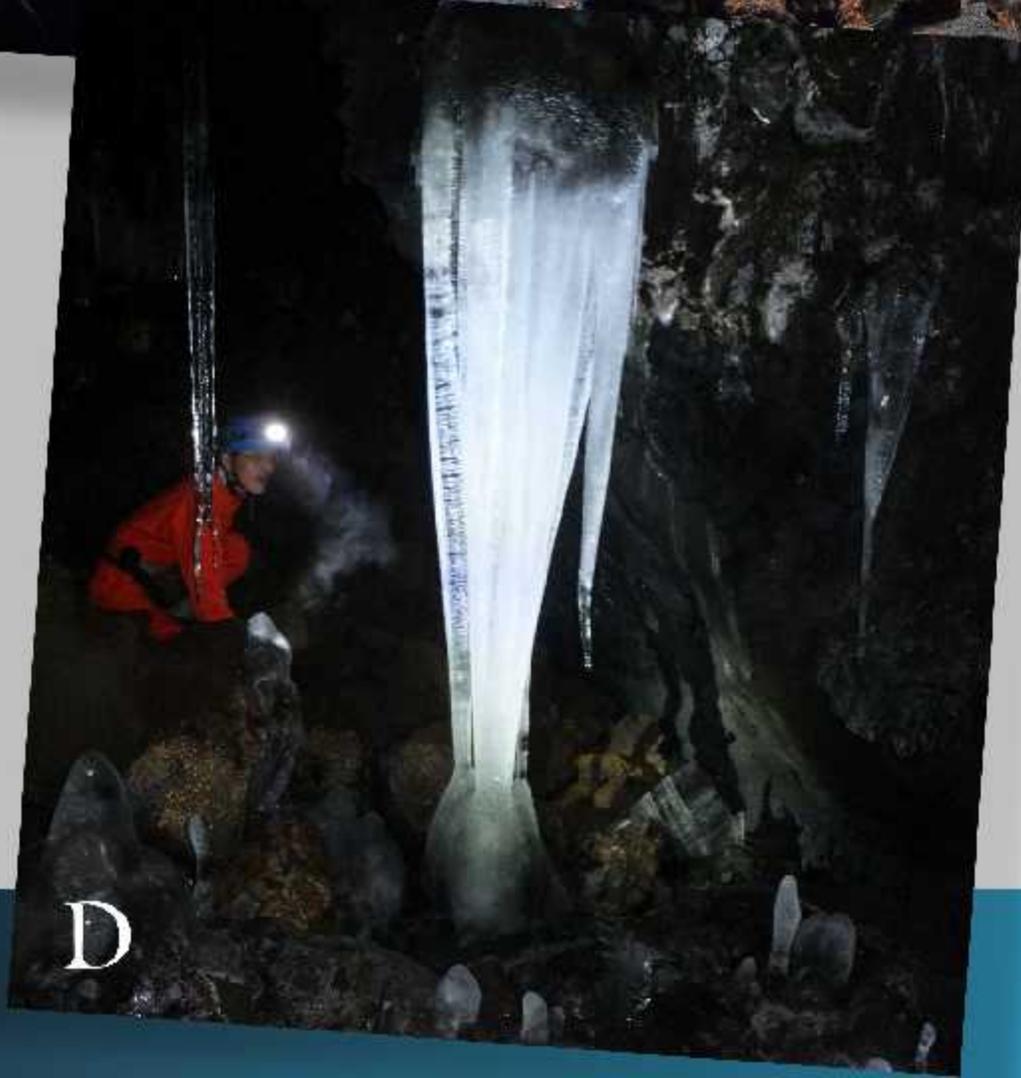
<http://www.buenosaires54.com/bloges/2010/02/volcanes-mendoza-argentina/>

We will be deciding the location of the 17th symposium (2016?) at the IUS 16th ICS in Brno.

Harry Marinakis  
Vice-Chairman

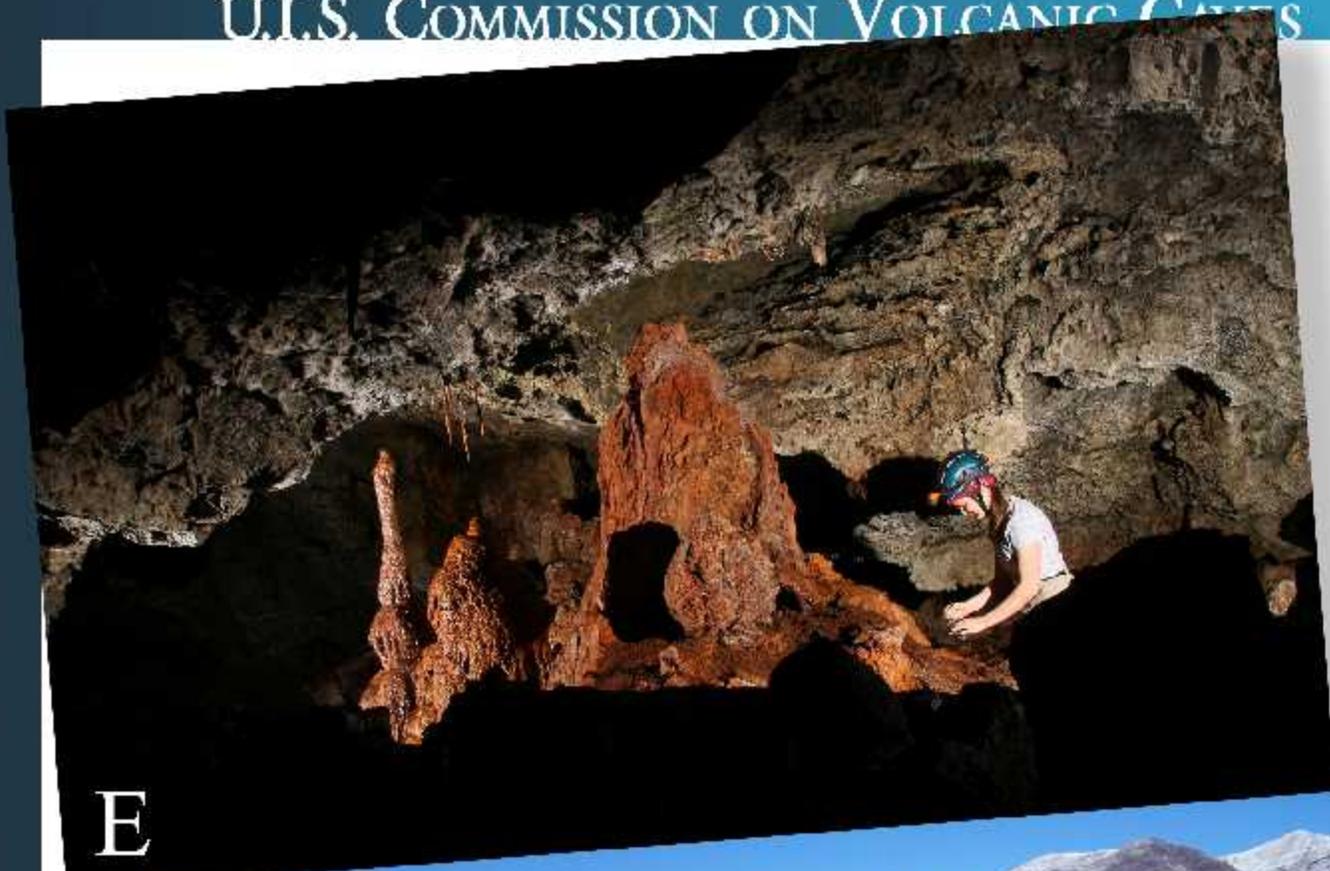
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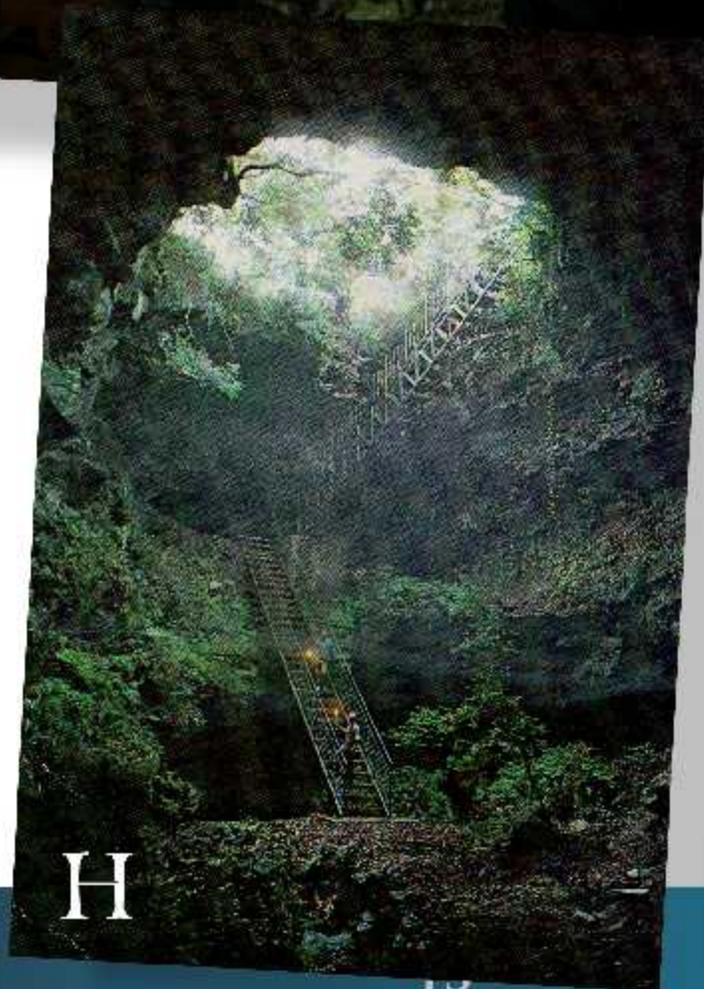
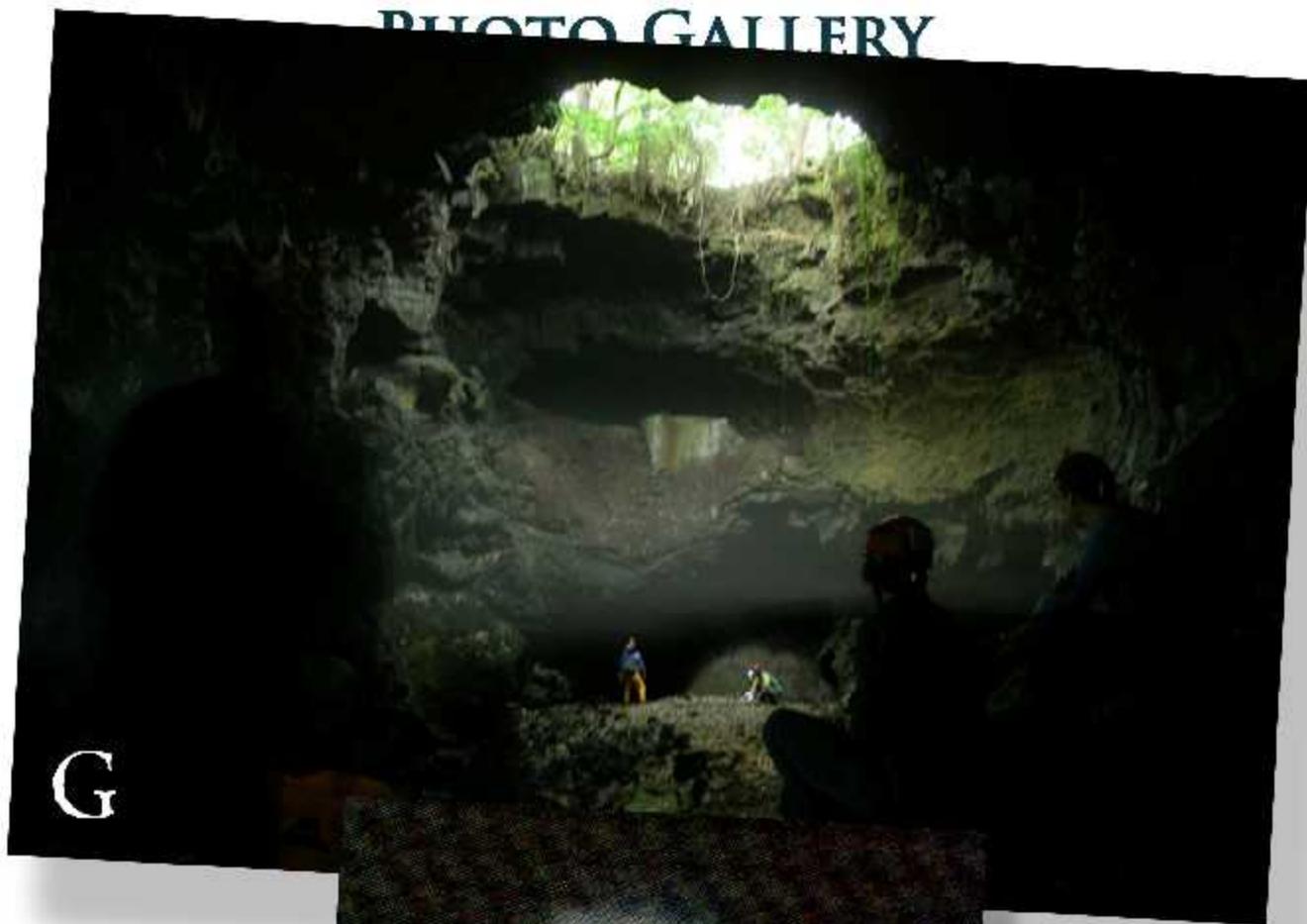


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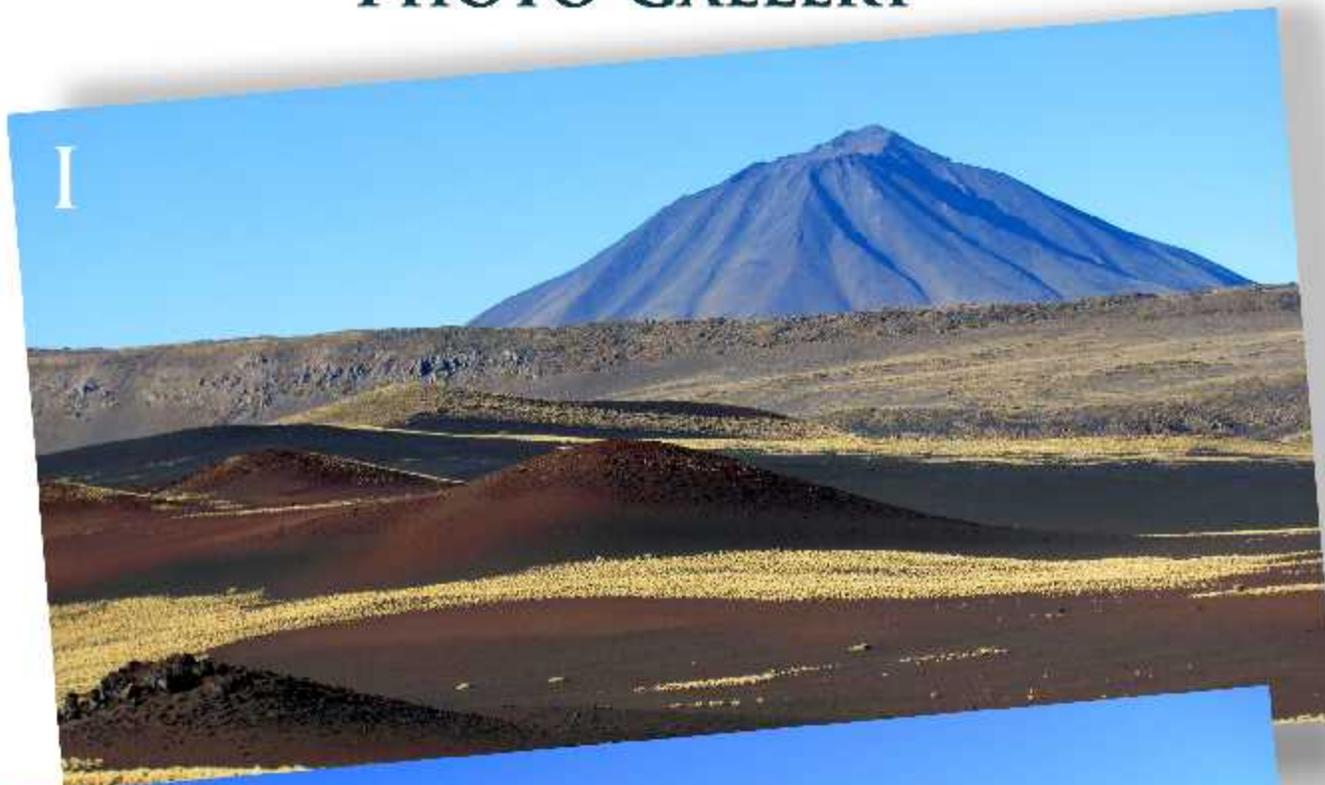
PHOTO GALLERY





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PHOTO GALLERY

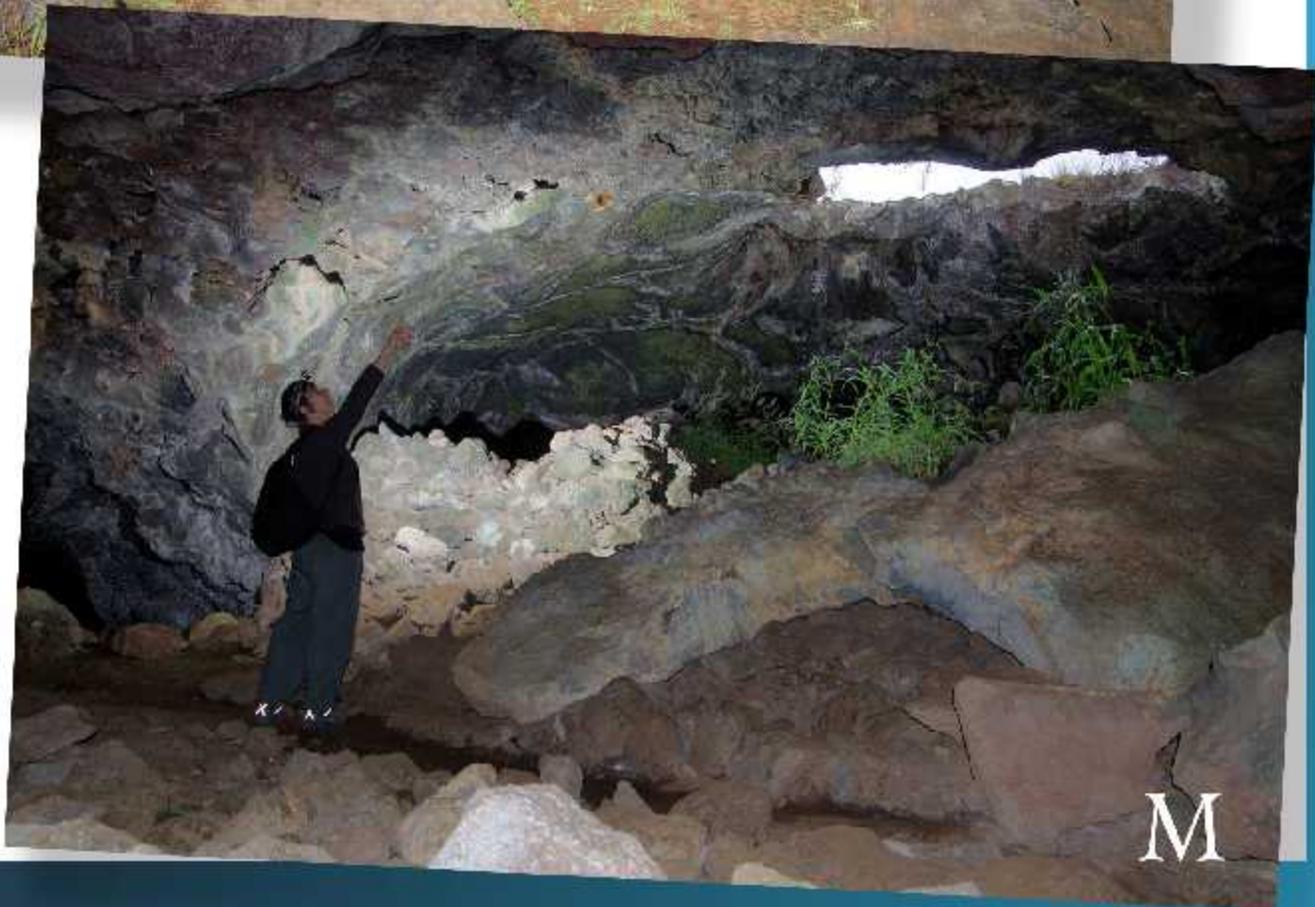
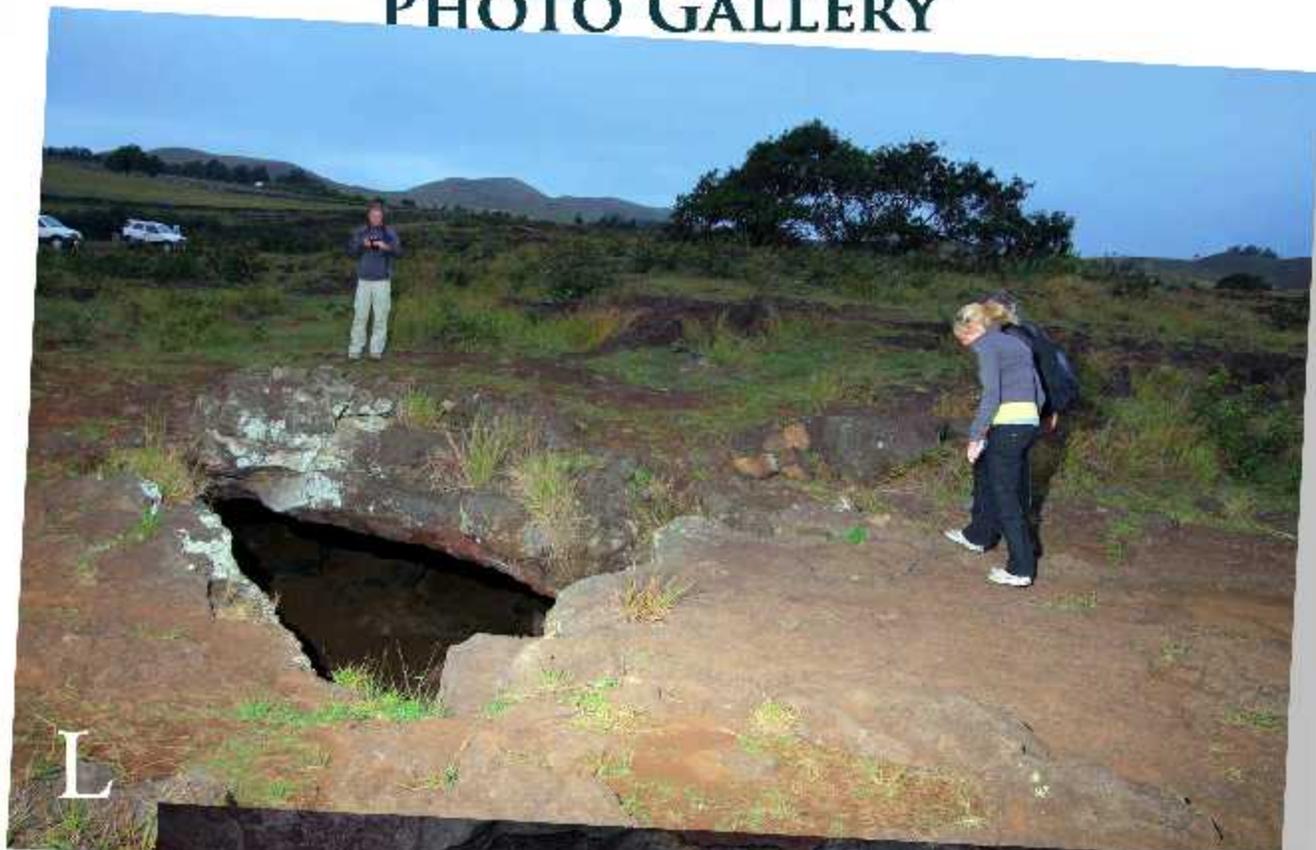




PHOTO LEGEND

A: Descending into Bamba-Ana Cave on the south side of Mount Fuji, May 12, 2012. Photos by Takayoshi Katsumata.

B: Descending into Bamba-Ana Cave on the south side of Mount Fuji, May 12, 2012. Photo by Takayoshi Katsumata.

C: Exploring Aokigahara, the Sea of Trees, at the foot of Mt. Fuji on April 21, 2012. Photo by Takayoshi Katsumata.

D: Ice cave in Aokigahara, April 21, 2012. Photo by Takayoshi Katsumata.

E: Gruta dos Burcacos, Azores. Photos by Kenneth Ingham.

F: Dola Otilia cave entrance, Payunia volcanic region of Malargüe, Mendoza, Argentina. Photo by Carlos Benedetto.

G: One of the entrances to Manjang Cave, showing the old concrete blocks from an old staircase. Photo by Philip Collett.

H: An old postcard showing the staircase that used to descend into Manjang Cave. Martin Mills writes: "By means of magic, amongst all my accumulated cave material I came across a commercial postcard of the staircase in use. The postcard was sent to me by my friend Ray Mansfield who visited the cave in mid January 1983."

I: Payunia volcanic region of Malargüe, Mendoza, Argentina. Photo by Carlos Benedetto.

PHOTO LEGEND

J: Payunia volcanic region of Malargüe, Mendoza, Argentina. Photo by Carlos Benedetto.

K: Lava "blades," Hawai'i. Photo by Dave Bunnell.

L: Easter Island. Photos by John Brush and Marjorie Coggan.

M: Easter Island. Photos by John Brush and Marjorie Coggan.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

ISSN 1852-7647

FAdE FEDERACION ARGENTINA DE ESPELEOLOGIA

ARGENTINA SUBTERRÁNEA

Publicación semestral de la Federación Argentina de Espeleología - FAdE  
 Edición Electrónica: www.fadep.org.ar - fadep@fadep.org.ar  
 Año 12 - N° 12 - octubre de 2012  
 Director: Carlos Benedetto

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CONGRESO NACIONAL MEXICANO DE ESPELEOLOGÍA

Un la conciencia argentina del "Atacama" Ciencia - Exploración - Cultura  
 2º al 8 de febrero de 2013, Mérida, Yucatán

Fuimos invitados al Congreso de la U.M.A.E. y F.E.A.L.C. en Yucatán

Programa de capacitación Espeleorrescate Mendoza 2012-2013

Toda la información sobre la Unión Latinoamericana de Espeleología (ULE)

Fauna troglóbica en Payunia?

Dataciones paleoclimáticas en cuevas de las provincias de Neuquén y Salta

Espeleología "solidaria"

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

**Mega-caves of Mars Revisited; Speleological Information Systems in Planetary Science and Technology**

by William Halliday

I think that all of you are aware of my concept of this report as something of a sequel to our highly successful poster at the 43<sup>rd</sup> LPRC in March 2012 which corrected the misapprehension that there are lava tube mega-caves at the bottom of pit craters.

I also would like to tie it somehow to Ron Greeley's published abandonment of his original idea that lunar rilles are collapsed lava tubes. I foresee this present report as demonstrating that lava tube caves of Mars and the Moon are approximately of the same order of magnitude as those of Earth rather than mega-caves, together with the scientific

rationale for this concept.

In response to the NASA/LPI call for papers for a June 2012 workshop on Concepts and Approaches for Mars Exploration, I submitted an abstract reflecting the tentative content of our November 2012 paper, titling the abstract "Mega-caves of Mars Revisited; Speleological Information Systems in Planetary Science and Technology".

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/marsconcepts2012/pdf/4061.pdf>





## Volcanic Galápagos Volcánico

By Theofilos Toulkeridis, Ph.D.

364 pages

2011

Bilingual Spanish-English

Large-format hardcover

A detailed book with many photographs that explains the volcanic geology, human history, flora, fauna, conservation and climate of the Galápagos Islands.



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SPELEO CALENDAR  
2013

SPELEO CALENDAR  
2014

**16th INTERNATIONAL  
CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY**



WHERE HISTORY MEETS FUTURE

July 21-28, 2013

<http://www.speleo2013.com>

**16th INTERNATIONAL**

**SYMPOSIUM ON VULCANOSPELEOLOGY**

Galápagos Islands

República del Ecuador

**Pre-Symposium Field Trips:**

Scuba diving Tour March 10-15, 2014

Cave Tour March 10-15, 2014

**Symposium**

March 15-22, 2014

**Post-Symposium Field Trip**

Cave Tour March 23-30, 2014



Jordan, 2012  
Photo by Paul Zehnder

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1972 U.S.A.

1975 CATANIA

1982 U.S.A.

1983 CATANIA

1986 JAPAN

1991 U.S.A.

1994 CANARY IS.

1998 KENYA

1999 CATANIA

2002 ICELAND

2004 AZORES

2006 MEXICO

2008 KOREA

2010 AUSTRALIA

2012 JORDAN

2014 ECUADOR



VULCANOSPELEOLOGY  
SYMPOSIA

