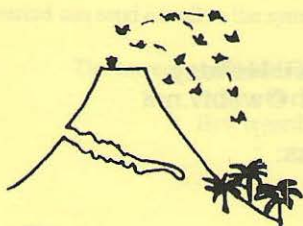


INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SPELEOLOGY
UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE

Commission on Volcanic Caves



Xth International Symposium on
Volcanospeleology

Iceland - Reykjavík
9 - 15 Sept. 2002

OCTOBER 2001

NEWSLETTER # 32

jpgvanderpas@hetnet.nl

This Newsletter is send free to all members of the Commission. It is not possible to subscribe - but will be send to all interested in lava tube caves. But news and info are always appreciated!

Honorary President: Dr. W.R. Halliday
bnawrh@webtv.net

Chairman & editorial address:

J.P. van der Pas
Vauwerhofweg 3
6333 CB Schimmert
Netherlands

jpgvanderpas@hetnet.nl

The Icelandic Speleological Society announces:

In September 2002 we will host the

Tenth International Symposium on Volcanospeleology

in Reykjavík, with excursions to nearby volcanic areas and field trips to various caves.

The date is from the 9th to the 15th of September 2002.

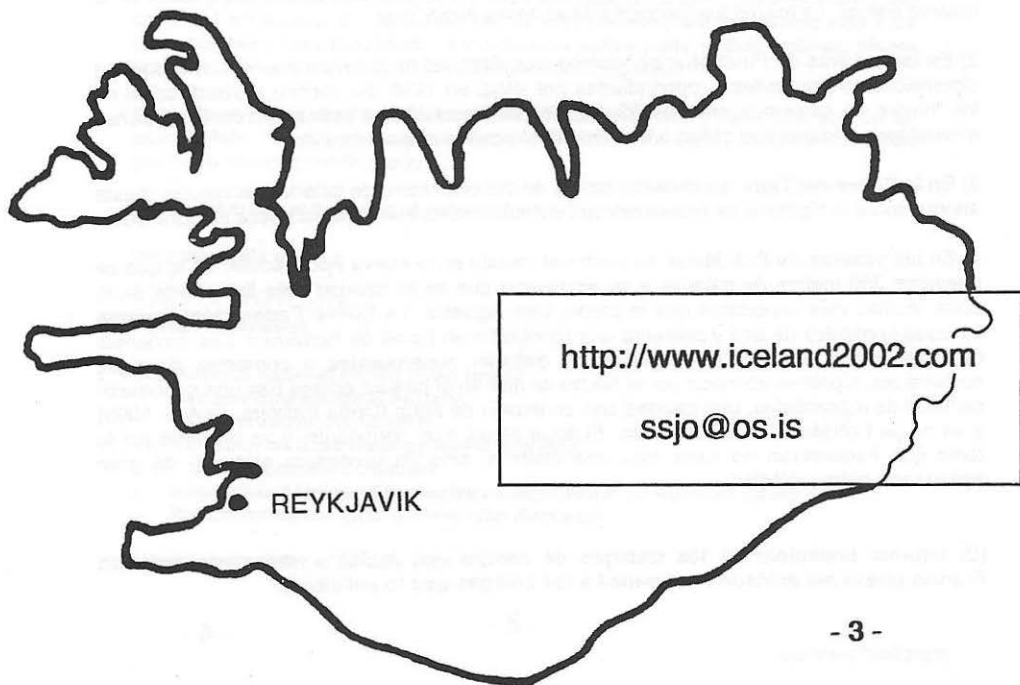
A preliminary program will soon be released.

Deadline for abstract submission is 3 months prior to the event.

Those interested can send e-mail to the symposium's organising committee, for further information.

The current e-mail address for correspondence is: ssjo@os.is

Best regards, Sigurdur S. Jónsson.



Information was send by "Boletin SPELAION" as having information about lava-caves and pseudo-karst. I do not speak any latin language, but a page from this information is reproduced here since I saw the word 'basáltic'.

For further information please see

<www.pettersen.com.ar/fade/inae.htm> and/or:

<inaefae@slatinos.com.ar>

PRIMERA EXPEDICION ARGENTINO-BRITANICA Malargüe, marzo de 2001

Entre el 20 y el 29 de marzo visitaron Malargüe los colegas británicos **Tim Francis, Richard Carey** y **Pete Bennett**, del **Mendip Caving Group**. Hubo muchos contratiempos (un accidente automovilístico cuando viajaban en auto entre San Rafael y Malargüe) y un temporal de lluvia que duró varios días luego de 5 meses de sequía. Pero finalmente pudimos organizar un plan de salidas al campo.

En la misma fecha estuvo en Malargüe Pedro Fernández y su esposa Teresa, con quien los más jóvenes de IN.A.E. compartieron prácticas de escalada y una charla sobre primeros auxilios. Pero Pedro no pudo participar de las salidas al campo estrictamente espeleológicas. Las mismas fueron realizadas por los tres colegas británicos junto a Gustavo Cerda, Rubén Cepeda, Diego Torres y Ariel Benedetto, y sobre ello informamos a continuación.

Se hicieron visitas a las formaciones basálticas, yesosas y calizas de Malargüe a lo largo de una semana. Y se llevaron a cabo las siguientes tareas:

1) **En las calizas de Bardas Blancas.** Se realizaron varias exploraciones epigeas y se descubrió una pequeña cavidad en cercanías de Caverna de Las Brujas, pero fuera de la reserva natural. La misma fue topografiada en forma expeditiva.

2) **En las yeseras de Pincheira:** se trató de una visita rápida a cavidades de muy reducidas dimensiones descubiertas y topografiadas por INAE en 1996. Se verificó la reactivación de los frentes de cantera a escasos 50 metros de las cavidades con mayores formaciones mineralógicas, lo que nos obliga a tomar contacto con la empresa minera

3) **En la Cueva del Tigre:** se iniciaron tareas de desobstrucción de galerías terminales (hasta ahora), sobre la hipótesis de que la cavidad es más extensa de lo hasta ahora topografiado.

4) **En las yeseras de Poti Malal:** se centró el trabajo en la cueva **Federación**, de la que se relevaron 350 metros de galerías y se estableció que es la cavidad más importante de la zona, incluso más importante que la propia **San Agustín**. La **Cueva Federación** presenta intensas corrientes de aire y presenta una topografía en forma de herradura. Las corrientes de aires hacen presumir la existencia de galerías superpuestas o corrientes de agua subterránea, hipótesis abonada por el hecho de que en el paisaje epigeo hay una importante cantidad de manantiales, una cavidad con un espejo de agua (**Doña Palmira**, IN.A.E. 1999) y un río (el Poti Malal) muy caudaloso. El agua es allí muy abundante, y se presume por lo tanto que **Federación** no sería sólo una caverna, sino un verdadero sistema, de gran importancia hidrogeológica.

(El informe preliminar de los trabajos de campo –en inglés – redactado por Tim Francis puede ser enviados por e-mail a los colegas que lo soliciten).

In previous issues of this newsletter several letters from and to Dr. W.R. Halliday have been published about the (non)entry to Mowich Cave. The story continues - here and on the next pages: More about Mowich Cave.

Address until 14 January 2002:
6530 Cornwall Court
Nashville, TN 37205

21 August 2001

Mr. John Ouimet, District Ranger
Diamond Lake Ranger District
2020 Toketee Ranger Station Road
Idlelyd Park, OR 97447

by Certified Mail

Dear Mr. Ouimet:

On 18 July 2001 I wrote to you, asking you to reconsider your adverse decision of July 11, 2001 regarding my request for a research permit for Mowich Cave during the interval between the maternity season and hibernaculum. This was because it makes no sense to deny it on the grounds of protecting the cave's bats, when my request was for a time when the bats are not present.

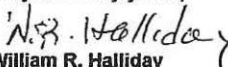
I have received no response to this request for reconsideration.

Possibly you sent a response to my field address in Hawaii. Unfortunately I had to cancel my August trip to Hawaii for medical reasons, and forwarding mail from there has been less than ideal. If you indeed sent a reply to that address, please immediately send me copy of it, at the above TN address.

If you have not replied to this request for reconsideration, I ask that you do so immediately. If I do not receive a response within two weeks, I will consider that you have decided not to reply.

Please let me hear from you at your very early convenience.

Very sincerely yours,


William R. Halliday

cc: Umpqua National Forest (Mike Hupp)
National Speleological Society
Conservation Committee
Section on Cave Geology and Geography
Federal Liaison Committee
International Union of Speleology Commission on Volcanic Caves
Bat Conservation International (Jim Kennedy)

attachment: letter of 18 July 2001

Address until 14 January 2002:
6530 Cornwall Court
Nashville, TN 37205

1 September 2001

John Ouimet, District Ranger
Diamond Lake Ranger Station
2020 Toketee Ranger Station Road
Idleld Park, OR 97447

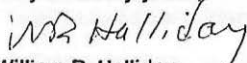
Dear Mr. Ouimet:

Yesterday I received your letter of 13 August, forwarded from Hawaii. I regret the problem arising from my having to cancel my August field work in Hawaii at the last moment.

I am requesting a meeting with Mr. Don Ostby, Supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest during the first week in October to discuss this decision.

In preparation for that meeting, please expedite to me photocopies of all your documentation of your meetings or correspondance with the District, Forest and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologists and others, that were relevant to your decision to deny my request. This includes transcripts of meetings, correspondance, formal or hand-written memos, hand-written notes, and the like. For this meeting, I will fly to Seattle on October 2 and drive from there.

Very sincerely yours,



William R. Halliday
Honorary President,
Commission on Volcanic Caves of the International Union of Speleology

cc: National Speleological Society
Veni, Werker, Hood, Larson, H. Medville
International Union of Speleology
Van der Pas
Bat Conservation International
Merlin Tuttle
U.S. Forest Service
Ostby, Trout

Address until 14 January 2002:
6530 Cornwall Court
Nashville, TN 37205

1 September 2001

Mr. Don Ostby, Supervisor
Umpqua National Forest
2900 Stewart Parkway
Roseburg, OR 97470

re: meeting in October

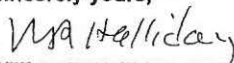
Dear Mr. Ostby:

Enclosed is a photocopy of my letter of today to Mr. John Quimet in response to his decision of 13 August, to deny my request to study the structural stability of Mowich Cave at a time when no significant number of bats is present.

I wish to make an appointment to meet with you to discuss this decision early in October, in your office. Please let me know a time and date that would be convenient for you. I am flying to Seattle on October 2 and will drive to Roseburg from Seattle arriving on October 3.

If you prefer to respond by e-mail, my address is bnawrh@webtv.net.

Sincerely yours,



William R. Halliday
Honorary President
Commission on Volcanic Caves of the International Union of Speleology

cc: National Speleological Society
Veni, Werker, Hood, Larson, H. Medville
International Union of Speleology
Van der Pas
Bat Conservation International
Merlin Tuttle
U.S. Forest Service
Quimet, Trout

continue next page

Address until 14 January 2002:
6530 Cornwall Court
Nashville, TN 37205

20 September 2001

Mr. Don Ostby, Supervisor
Umpqua National Forest
2900 Stewart Parkway
Roseburg, OR 97470

Dear Mr. Ostby:

re: meeting in October
by Certified Mail

On 1 September 2001 I wrote you requesting an appointment early in October 2001, in your office. A copy of this letter is enclosed for your easy reference.

I have received no response to this letter and time is running out.

As you may not have received it, I am sending this further request by Certified Mail. Please respond immediately by e-mail at bnawrh@webtv.net

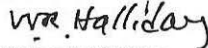
I will not be able to arrive in Roseburg until 4 October instead of 3 October as originally planned, but my schedule otherwise is unchanged. The afternoon of 5 October would be especially suitable for me if it is convenient for you.

Perhaps I did not sufficiently indicate the potential importance of this meeting when I first requested it. Among the points we should discuss are the following:

- 1) apparently unlawful closure of this cave, i.e., without a closure notice, hearing, or EA/EIS.
- 2) gating this cave contrary to the sound recommendation of your consultant for a fence instead of a gate.
- 3) placement of the gate dangerously close to the maternity of colony of a species of bats "of concern".
- 4) failure to conduct or permit relevant studies of the cave's structural stability, even at times when no bats are present.
- 5) Mr. Ouimet's failure to provide requested documentation for our forthcoming meeting.
- 6) specific examples of bad faith and inappropriate concealment in this entire matter.

I trust that you will agree that these are sufficiently serious matters that my request for an appointment should not be simply ignored. If necessary because of prolonged absence, please designate some person authorized to take corrective action, to meet with me.

Very sincerely yours,



William R. Halliday
Honorary President
Commission on Volcanic Caves of the National Speleological Society

cc: National Speleological Society
Veni, Werker, Hood, Larson, H. Medville
International Union of Speleology
van der Pas
Bat Conservation International
Merlin Tuttle
U.S. Forest Service
D. Bosworth, J. Trout

Information received:

From: Michael Lyvers <Mike_Lyvers@bond.edu.au>

A few months ago I climbed the unusual volcano Ol Doinyo Lengai in the Rift Valley of northern Tanzania (near the famous Serengeti plain). This volcano frequently erupts streams of fast-flowing carbonatite lava, which comes out black and shiny but turns a crystalline white (and sometimes other colors) after a few days of exposure to the air. As I explored some of the vents in the crater, I was amazed to find that many of them had lava stalactites, soda straws and even helictites that looked just like those in limestone caves. Some of these formations were encrusted with colorful sulphur crystals.

I've seen lava formations before in lava tubes, but nothing like this. I assume the high fluidity and unusual mineral content of the carbonatite lava is the basis of these exceptional cave-like formations in a volcano.

Mike Lyvers

(received by courtesy
of Drs. Herman de Swart)

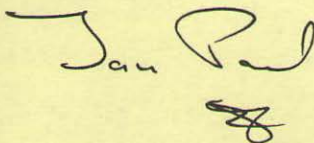
LETTER RECEIVED from HUNGARY

End August I received a letter from the president of UIS Commission on Pseudokarst, Mr. István Esterhás (Hungary). He reported that this year (summer 2001) they found 5 new 'consequence caves', some with extremely seldom (new?) insects.

Also 12 new pseudokarst caves were found, several with animal bones.

He further reported: I deviated from my pseudokarst interests, and participated in a limestone exploration, should never have done this. In a several 100 meters deep system made a fall which costed me some broken ribs and pelvis.

In name of our commission the very best wishes, and fast recovery, have been forwarded to him.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Paul", with a flourish underneath.

William R. Halliday	bnawrh@webtv.net
Chris Wood	cwood@bournemouth.ac.uk
Paolo Forti	forti@geomin.unibo.it
Greg Middleton	gregmi@dpiwe.tas.gov.au
	gregmidd@ozemail.com.au
	gregmi@delm.tas.gov.au
Siggi Jónsson	ssjo@os.is
Giuseppe M. Licitra	graycat@tiscalinet.it
Conny Spelbrink	active@arrakis.es
H.W. de Swart	swart38@zonnet.nl
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	montanheiros@mail.telepac.pt
Pavel Bosak	bosak@gli.cas.cz
	inst@gli.cas.cz
Eraso c/o	karmenka@gugu.usal.es
Ken Grimes	ken-grimes@h140.aone.net.au
Jan Urban	noalexan@cyf-kr.edu.pl
Yvo Weidmann	serbo@eawag.ch
& Cath. Perret	cath.yvo@bmf.ch
P.J.M. Barcelos	pbarcelos@dca.uac.pt
UIS Commission on	
Pseudokarst c/o	speleo.austria@netway.at

As you might have noted on the front page the editor of this newsletter has now also E-mail.

For the future I try now to make a list of the E-mails of 'all interested' in this newsletter. It is not complete, maybe also not valid (anymore).

If you think you are missing on this list, or know any of this addresses is wrong, or that someone should be added: please report.

editor: jpgvanderpas@hetnet.nl