



This Newsletter is send free to members of the commission, and others who are interested in lava-tubes and volcanic caves.

It is not possible to subscribe – but news and information are always (very much!) appreciated.

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The commission logo is a design by Conny SPELBRINK, introduced for the symposium on the Canary Islands (1994). She gave the approval to use this for the commission.

### *Some notes by the editor & chairman*

Well, the U.I.S. Congress (Kerrville -July 2009) is behind us. A small report in this Newsletter, but every caving bulletin or magazine will certainly dedicate many pages on this event.

Also a small report about the Commission meeting there. A question was: how to become commission member? Easy: *Just show interest .....*

More in next issue .... Due to a new laptop and printer I have some problems, but just enough pages for this issue.

Heard from **Árni**(Iceland): ... a filmcrew wanted to ship tons of equipment to and into Þríhnúkagígur, including a 20.000 Watt generator ....

**Rámon** (Mexico) send a complete page with news, see in this issue. He couldn't come to Korea, but hopes to be in Australia.

New E-mail address for **Ken Grimes**:

< [ken.grimes@bigpond.com](mailto:ken.grimes@bigpond.com) >

Some new commission members (addresses in next N.L.):

Dave Bunnell, Penelope Boston, Mike Spilde.

In my opinion the best presentation about lava-tubes: The very last lectures of the congress (two combined in a double-session) by John Pint about Saudi Arabia. Exploration, adventure, and so much left for the future (The lava caves of Khaybar, Saudi Arabia and Umm Jirsan: Arabia's longest lava-tube system).

# I.C.S. 2009

## 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology Kerrville, Texas, U.S.A.

before ... 19-26 July 2009 and after ...

big ... bigger ... (too ?) BIG ...

*J.P. van der PAS*

Well, it was great. Some 1500 participants – and so called the best/biggest UIS congress ever. However, since it was combined with the NSS convention some 1000 cavers would have been there anyhow. Just + one UIS participant would have made it the biggest congress anyhow.

The amount of lectures & excursions: nearly endless. It took a lot of planning to find the 'best' to participate. However, due to the different locations, it did cost some time to find/listen to another one. As a Northern European I had to get used to the immense heat (outside) – did I know some 100 degrees is a lot .... Inside the buildings there was air-conditioning and amazing, even USA cavers used than extra clothes.

At arrival: I can not say just 'a crew', but whole legions of helpful persons helped you with transport, information and really everything you wanted/needed to know. Fantastic. A very needed case, with the Proceedings – 5 kgs (11 lbs) – and more information – was handed out. This proceedings – over 3000 pages – will force you to read at least 3 pages a day before the next Congress (Brno, 2013 in Czechia).

Concerning our commission (Volcanic Caves): the post-congress excursion (Hawaii) was cancelled. Not enough participants. Sorry for all the work Doug Medville must have put into this. But a whole day was dedicated to 'volcanic caves' lectures – perfectly led by Bill Halliday and Stephan Kempe. During the lunch period we had the Commission Meeting. (see separate report)

The huge amount of participants created some problems. When you met someone often the first question was: did you see so-and-so? where can I find him? where does he/she sleep? is so-and-so here anyhow? This question by a Mexican/American to find an Israeli was solved by using E-mail to this person (it worked ...).

At the opening ceremony, as well as the closing one, the commission had to report – and we are allowed to stay. (see separate commission report)

### COMMISSION REPORT (2005 - 2009)

- At both the opening and closing ceremony of the U.I.S. Congress the commissions have to report about previous and coming activities. And about decisions taken at the commission meeting during the congress. However, the Commission on Volcanic Caves has currently every second year a symposium, with in general more commission members than during the U.I.S. congress.

- The commission has an excellent website maintained by John Pint, and a printed Newsletter issued by the chairman, Jan-Paul van der Pas.

- Membership is open to all persons with sincere interest in volcanic caves. The commission has at the moment some 50 members from around 20 countries (from all continents).

- Since the U.I.S. congress in Greece two symposia were held: Mexico 2006 and Korea 2008, both very successful. 11 Newsletters were issued with nearly 200 pages of information. A monumental book was issued with the proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> symposia on vulcanospeleology, the work of Ramon Espiñasa-Perena and John Pint.

- Next symposium will be in Australia 2010, and proposal(s) for 2012 and 2014 are offered to the commission. See page about these in this newsletter.

	15 <sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology Kerrville, TX USA July 19-26, 2009	21+ 0286
<b>Jan-Paul van der Pas</b>		
UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves		
 Netherlands		
Dutch English, German		

## Future Symposia, Meetings and Congresses concerning the Commission on Volcanic Caves

2010, August

14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology  
Australia, Cairns (Undara). Wed. 4/ Tue 10 Aug.  
Post symposium excursion Wed. 11 Aug./Sun. 15 Aug. Victoria.  
All info: Greg Middleton  
ozspeleo@bigpond.net.au  
soon a website will be available

2012

Proposal for the 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcano-  
speleology by Jordan. Maybe to be combined with the III<sup>rd</sup>  
Middle-East Symposium. Also a proposal came from Argentina –  
but the person concerned was not present during the UIS-congress.  
As soon more info is available it will be announced.

2013

Commission Meeting during the 18<sup>th</sup> U.I.S. Congress in Brno  
(Czechia).

2014

Proposal for 16<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology  
by Dr. T. Toulkeridis to be held on Galápagos Island (Ecuador).  
Dr. Toulkeridis hopes to participate in the 2010 symposium in  
Australia.

## *New(s) from México*

**Ramón Espinasa Pereña**

Sociedad Mexicana de Exploraciones Subterráneas  
Club de Exploraciones de México

Recently cavers, from Club Exploraciones de México (Sección Veracruz), have continued exploration on several new lava tubes in the El Volcancillo lava flow (which was visited during the post-symposium field trip in 2006). This lava flow is the youngest prehistoric flow in México, less than 800 years old, and is over 80 km long.

The most recent find is Cueva de Tenampa, 1.153 meter long and with a lava drip stalagmite almost 5 meters high. Previous discoveries include:

Cueva del Volcancillo	640 meter,
Cueva de la Virgen	1390 meter,
Cueva de Los Cochinos	1388 meter,
Cueva de La Envidia	1379 meter,
Sistema del Falso	1358 meter,
Cueva de La Higuera (or del Tirantes)	1384 meter,
Hoyo del Becerro	1667 meter,

Cueva del Río Huichila – 1106 meter, is explored to a depth of 272 meter. This cave, still not finished, carries a large active spring which resurges at El Encanto spring, birthplace of the Actopan river, located at the front of the lava flow.

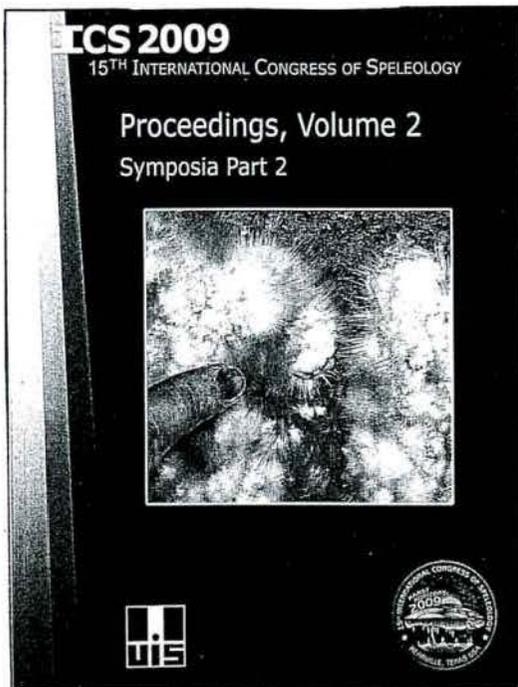
Photos and surveys of this caves can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.espeleoveracruzano.com/album/displayimage.php?album=74&pid=501&slideshow=5000>

<http://www.espeleoveracruzano.com/proyectos.php?idm=0&idt=29>

<http://www.oztotl.com/ps/reports/Jilotepec.pdf>

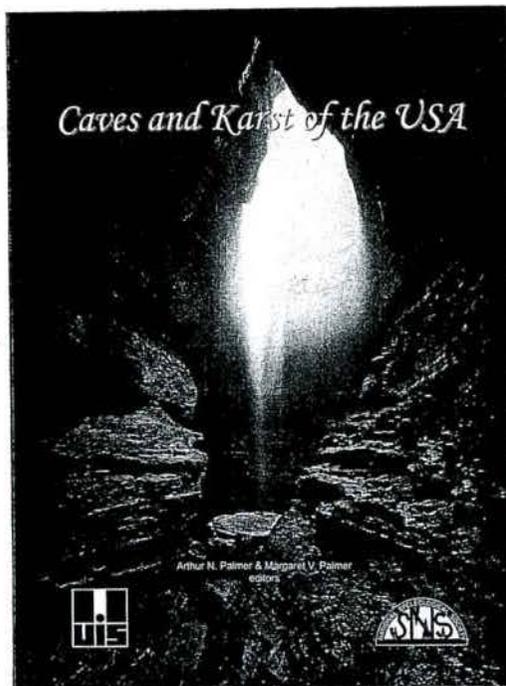
<http://espeleojarocho.blogspot.com/2007/07/proyecto-vulcano-espeleolgico-jilotepec.html>



Here some recent publications.

None is completely dedicated to caves of volcanic origin.

See next page for description.



### Proceedings of ICS 2009 (15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology)

Issued for the Congress, 3 volumes with over 2000 pages, weight some 5 kg's (11 lbs). Size B-4.

English language. A whole day was devoted to a Lava Caves Symposium.

Some 20 lectures. Published on page 621-730 of part 2.

ISBN 978-1-879961-34-0, available via NSS. Available via NSS

(www.caves.org), no price known.

### Caves and Karst of the USA (issued during the above congress)

Editors A. and M. Palmer. In English, 446 pages. Size B-4, weight 1,1 kg.

A very complete overview of the caves of the U.S.A., but also neighbouring countries as Canada, Mexico and Caribbean islands.

In this book Hawaii on page 311-323, with of course lava caves.

Chapters by Bill Halliday, the Medville's, Don Coons, the Allred's, Dave Bunnell and others.

Bill Halliday describes the volcanic caves of Oregon and Idaho.

The complete book has nearly 1000 very interesting photographs, all in color.

ISBN 978-1-879961-28-9, available via NSS (www.caves.org), no price known.

### Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Pseudokarst

Gorizia (Italy), 29 April – 2 May 2009.

Mainly in English, some in Italian or German.

Size 24x17 cm, weight 470 gr., 175 pages with some 200 colour pictures, graphs and maps.

In this publication an article by Péter Gadányi (Hungary): Lava Tumulus Caves on Iceland. (p. 119 – 126). 13 Graphs and pictures.

Also a short report from Slovakia about a reported but "lost" lava tube (!)

No ISBN number, all info at: [seppenhofer@libero.it](mailto:seppenhofer@libero.it)



During the U.I.S. Congress (15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at Kalamos, Greece) the statutes of UIS were revised and translated in several languages. Here the part which deals with commissions (as ours).

### Article 6: Commissions, Working Groups and Committees

(a) The Commissions and Working Groups (scientific) and Committees (non scientific) are directed by the Bureau.

(b) The organisation of Working Groups, Commissions and Committees of the Union is as follows:

1. Departments should be in charge of protection, scientific research, exploration, documentation and education. A Department is directed by a President nominated by the President of the relevant Commission or Working Group after the latter is approved by the Union's General Assembly. The Department is responsible for sending the reports and the proposals of Commissions and Working Groups to the Union, for further transmittal to UNESCO.
2. Commissions should focus on specific problems during the four years between two ordinary general meetings of the General Assembly, and can be renewed by vote of the General Assembly.
3. The transformation of a Working Group into a Commission must be approved at the following ordinary general assembly.

(c) The Bureau makes the following recommendations for the functioning of Commissions and Working Groups:

1. The activity of Commissions, Committees and Working Groups must be organised as simply as possible.
2. In general, Commissions, Committees and Working Groups should not need a formal vote to function.
3. If a formal vote is deemed necessary, it should be based on one vote per member nation that is actively participating in the work of the Commission, Committee and Working Group.
4. If a Commission, Committee or Working Group wants to organise an activity in a member nation, it must inform the General Secretary of the Union, in order to obtain the agreement of the speleological organisation of the nation concerned via its titular delegate.

(d) The members of the Bureau are *ex officio* members of all the Commissions, Working Groups and Committees, but without any right of vote.



As mentioned on the previous page the UIS statutes are translated into several languages. Here in Arabic. Due to the fact a next symposium of our commission (2012) might take place in the far-east this might be convenient.

- المادة السادسة: اللجان والهيئات ومجموعات العمل
- أ- يدير المكتب اللجان ومجموعات العمل العلمية والهيئات (غير العلمية).
  - ب- إن هيكل مجموعات العمل واللجان والهيئات في الاتحاد هو التالي:
    - 1- أقسام ينبغي عليها الإهتمام بالحماية والبحث العلمي والاستكشاف والتوثيق والتربية. ويتألف كل قسم من رئيس يُسميه رؤساء مختلف اللجان ومجموعات العمل التابعة لهذا القسم، بعد موافقة الجمعية العمومية. ويكون القسم مسؤولاً عن إرسال التقرير والاقتراحات الصادرة عن اللجان ومجموعات العمل، إلى الاتحاد، لنقلها لاحقاً إلى اليونسكو.
    - 2- لجان تكلف بالمشاكل الخاصة لمدة أربع سنوات، قابلة للتجديد بالتصويت خلال الجمعية العمومية التالية.
    - 3- إن تحويل مجموعة عمل إلى لجنة يجب أن تُصدق عليه الجمعية العمومية التالية.
  - ج- لسير العمل في اللجان ومجموعات العمل، يعطي المكتب التوصيات التالية:
    - 1- يجب أن يكون نشاط اللجان والهيئات ومجموعات العمل منظمًا بأبسط ما يمكن.
    - 2- بشكل عام، لا يجب أن تحتاج اللجان والهيئات ومجموعات العمل إلى تصويت رسمي لتأمين سير عملها.
    - 3- إذا لزم تصويت رسمي، يجب أن يتم على أساس صوت واحد لكل بلد عضو يشترك بشكل ناشط في أعمال اللجنة والهيئة ومجموعة العمل.
    - 4- إذا كانت إحدى اللجان أو الهيئات أو مجموعات العمل ترغب في تنظيم نشاط ما في بلد عضو، عليها أن تُعلم بذلك أمين السر العام في الاتحاد بغية الحصول على موافقة منظمة استكشاف المغاور في البلد المعني، بواسطة مندوبه المحلي لدى الاتحاد.
  - د- إن أعضاء المكتب هم أعضاء فعليون في اللجان ومجموعات العمل والهيئات كافة لكن ليس لهم الحق في التصويت.