

Cave finally investigated after 44 years

The Underground Express

Volume 27, Number 1-4

Willamette Valley Grotto (CA)

Most of this issue is devoted to the story of **Cry Wolf Cave**, an unusual Washington lava tube whose discovery is credited to Claude Koch. The cave story actually begins 44 years earlier when Bill Halliday marked several blowing leads on a topo map, but never returned to investigate them further. Koch followed up on those leads, which took him to the area with Ken and Ruth Stickney, Scott Linn, and Dennis Glasby in early April. The first tube they found was called **Green Stream Cave**, a 150-foot long crawling tube filled with green, runny porcupine poop. Another nearby hole seemed more promising, and digging began. The final breakthrough occurred on April 14, when Stickney, Glasby, and Koch returned to work the site. The 4-foot deep dig shaft ultimately revealed an 8-foot long belly crawl which dropped into a huge room and booming tube.

The cave has numerous unusual and delicate features, including lava stalactites,

This short article appeared in the NSS News of July 2008.

Clearly it pays to read old reports. Bill can be proud someone did this.

helictites, crusts, and crystals in many of its passages. Two of the most unusual features are dubbed The Blob and the Alien. Both are composed of a strange, jelly-like substance which Penny Boston has tentatively identified as a microbial community living on root material from the surface. Further scientific investigation is planned.

The cave was surveyed by Koch, Chris Molyneux, Scott Linn, Ken and Ruth Stickney, Ethan and Lindsay Donahue, Ken Siegrist, Doug Marchant, Dennis Gladby, and Jerry Zimmer to a length of 2,125 feet. Delicate features were marked and flagged as they found them while surveying. When shown photos of the cave, the landowner immediately recognized its importance, and paid for the materials to construct a gate at its entrance.

International Union of Speleology

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Commission on Volcanic Caves



February 2009

54

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.

*Interesting information from Árni Stefánsson (Iceland)
and Dr. Tom Iliffe (U.S.A.)*

Árni Stefánsson – (after visiting both the Jeju Symposium and Kamchatka): One purpose of our trips was to see and get a first hand experience of many of the volcanic natural wonders on the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The conclusion is, that volcanism in Iceland is greater per unit of land than anywhere else, the land is an ocean ridge on the surface and pretty singular. Geomorphological variability is greater than anywhere we know, visibility of landforms, may of them unique, better, very visible effects of the glacial periods, very variegated (multiform) coastline, profuse marine birdlife, pretty singular fowling cliffs. The land is one of the most interesting and variable for its size there is. Few natural dangers, good accessibility, fantastic summers, few insect, no bugs, no poisonous creatures, no danger of diseases, winters, winter twilight, hot springs and tubs, northern lights, bad weathers, exiting. But in many places sensitive, we must be careful and considerate.

In this context we propose, even in full earnest, that **Iceland to be put on the UNESCO World Heritage List** and in the light of the recent financial history, its habitants too !

Dr. Tom Iliffe – has some remarks about the list of long and deep caves (<http://www.caverbob/lava.htm>) by Bob Gulden.

.... I note you don't have any Western Samoa lava tubes listed, such as the 3487 m long, 74 m deep Ana Peápeá at Salamumu, on Upolo Island, Western Samoa. This and a number of other long lava tubes there are listed in my paper at:

Iliffe, T.M., Juberthie P. Strinati and S. Sarbu (2001). Western Samoa (Iles Samoa Occidentales). Pp. 2219-2224 in: **Encyclopaedia Biospeologica**, Vol. 3, C. Juberthie and V. Decu, eds., Société internationale de Biospéologie, Moulis, France. PDF reprint available at:

<http://www.tamug.edu/cavebiology/reprints/Reprint-135.pdf>

New Book

Via Pedro Oromi (Canary Islands) a new book about volcanic caves on the Galápagos was reported.

**Cuevas Volcánicas y Otras Atracciones Espeleológicas /
Volcanic Caves and Other Speleological Attractions**

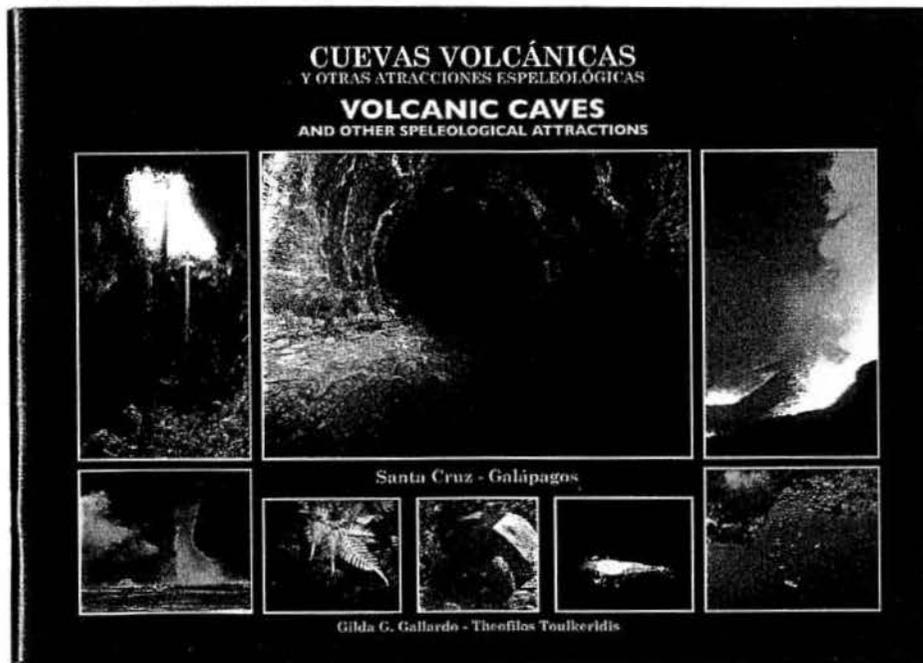
Santa Cruz – Galápagos

by Gilda G. Gallardo & Theofilos Toulkeridis

This book has 54 full coloured pages, bilingual text in spanish and english . It includes a geological introduction of the archipelago and the lava tubes, descriptions and survey of 14 caves from Santa Cruz island, how to reach them, a catalogue of the caves including their fauna, and many general things about the Galápagos Islands, plus a references list.

ISBN – 978 – 9942 – 01 – 675 – 1

Issued in 2008



No price known, all info at < ecolap@usfq.edu.ec >



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This review appeared in the HSS-Newsletter (Fall 2008 - #24). Bob is the editor of this publication. As editor of our Commission Newsletter I have not seen this book yet. Bob clearly states this book is based on Hawai'i and Western States (of the U.S.A.).

The advertisement in the NSS-News (Dec. 2008) states however "Inside America's Lava Tubes". America has also lava tubes in Chile and Mexico, which are probably not mentioned/shown.

However, all who have seen before pictures by Dave Bunnell..... it will be a fantastic book.

To order, visit < www.nssbookstore.org >

"Caves of Fire" – a Book Review

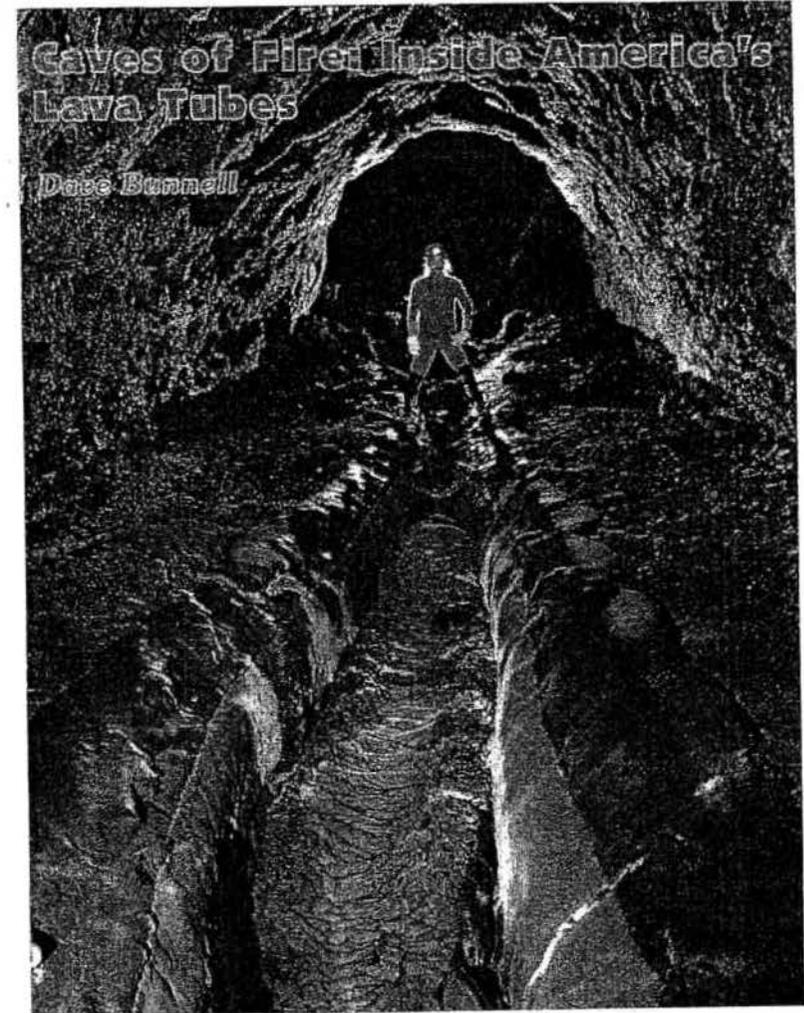
by Bob Richards

HSS member Dave Bunnell has just published a book on lava caves. This 124 page picture book is a color illustrated guide to lava tube features which the author has primarily focussed on Hawaiian lava tube caves. The book shows the most pronounced and spectacular versions of these features.

The purpose of this book is two-fold. One, it is a reference book on lava tube formations. Secondly it's a resource for people who want to explore lava caves on their own, not only in Hawai'i but in the Western States. Dave Bunnell was careful about where one can visit such caves as he showcases lava tubes that have public access only.

This book was years in the making as the author has taken thousands of photos in lava tubes and only the best made the cut. HSS cavers over the years have assisted Dave as is represented throughout the pages.

The NSS is the publisher and the book was done completely on a digital press. Only 500 copies were printed on the first run. If you would like to get a copy before they sell out, order through the NSS bookstore (US\$ 35 to members).



Publication received

The Newsletter of "Hawai'i Speleological Survey", Fall 2008, #24. A 32 page issue, b/w, but available in color via full color PDF at 'bob@cavegraphics.com'. All you wanted to know about 'new' on Hawai'i. Also a report over Jeju-Korea. 10 articles, many maps and many pictures.

Soon to be published

During the symposium in Jeju (Korea) Lisa KING mentioned the enterprise of Harry SHICK on Hawai'i, and the fact he was going to publish a book.

Here some initial data: (all by Harry Shick, November 2008)

The book is titled "Understanding Lava Tubes and Lava Caves". It will be available through Trafford Publishing, in a couple of months.

I am not sure of the exact time frame. The book is 126 pages, and I believe the price will be US\$ 15.

Trafford is an on-demand publisher. They print exactly as many copies as they have orders for. This way I do not need to pay for, or find storage for, thousands of copies. When the book is available, the Kazamura Cave Tours website will be updated with a direct link to the book's webpage at Trafford. Or you can contact Trafford directly.

Their website is www.trafford.com. Phone 250.383.6864

Fax 250.383.6804

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WEBSITE AT: [WWW.
FORTUNECITY.COM/OASIS/ANGKOR/176/](http://WWW.FORTUNECITY.COM/OASIS/ANGKOR/176/)

About Harry Shick:

Those who visited the Azores Symposium in 2004 have met him there. He runs a 'Kazamura'-cave-tour. This is a low impact visitation successfully operating on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Tour size is limited to maximum of 7 people. Advertising is word of mouth, an international travel guide and a few cave-related web sites.

Recent Article

Les cavités françaises les plus méridionales

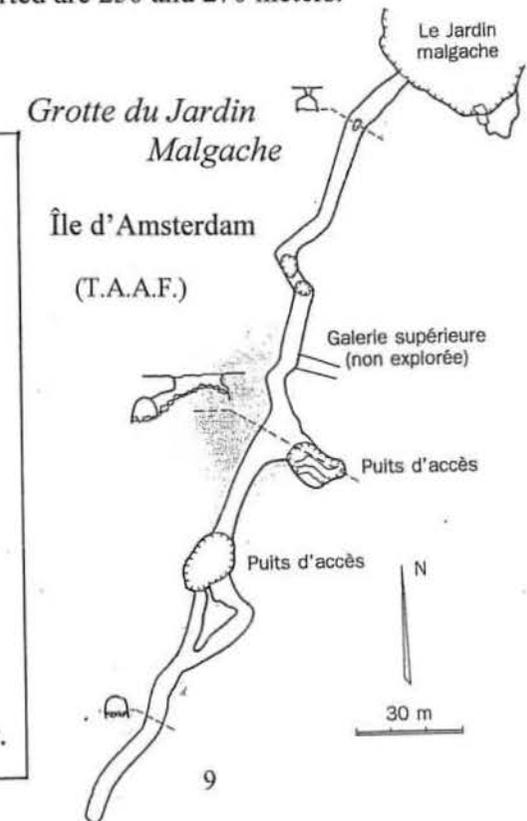
- the most southern French caves – by Paul COURBON

This is a fascinating article in the French publication *Spelunca*, # 111–Sept. 2008, page 17-24. Paul COURBON visited (& explored) the *Terres australes et antarctiques françaises (TAAF)*. This is a report of a short expedition to a group of very southern islands, which are not allowed for tourists – only researchers and scientists.

In a very short time he found and described lava-tubes and volcanic cavities. There are 20 pictures, 5 maps, 2 lists with an amount of 34 caves. The longest caves reported are 250 and 270 meters.

In the conclusion:
on 'Les Îles de Crozet' and
'Kerguelen' are probably
few big discoveries to
expect. But on the 'Island
of Amsterdam' there are
certainly possibilities. On
this island are 10 craters.
But, no tourism allowed ...
Unless you find a job for
6 months on these islands.

Photocopies of this
article (it is in French) -
8 pages – available from
the editor of the Newsletter.



.... old Publication

Here a not really new publication, probably unobtainable now, but too important not to be mentioned. It are the proceedings of a combined Portugese (3rd) National Speleological Congress and the 1th International Vulcanospeleological Meeting of the Atlantic Islands. It took place on the Azores.

Issued: Nov. 1994

Editors: Borges &
Silva

Contents: 15 vulcano-
speleological and 4
non-volcanic lectures

Size:
21x29.6 cm (A-4)
pages: 271
weight 800 gr.

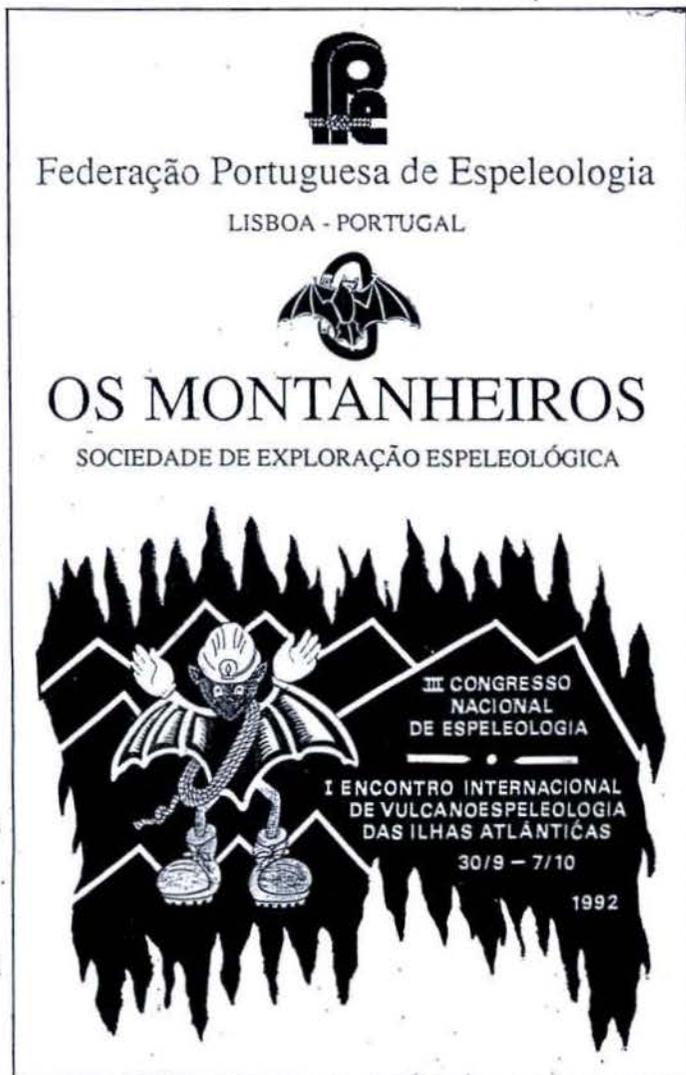
Few color pictures, some
maps, lists and diagrams
(total around 40)

No ISBN

Amount issued: 120

Note: from the 272 pages
226 are dedicated to
volcanic caves.

Language: Portugese and
English.



ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY BILL HALLIDAY

In the previous Newsletter (#53, page 11) Bill wondered about the proper cave name: **Thurston Lava Tube, or Nāhuka?**
Here the answer by the 'United States Board of Geographic Names'.

November 17, 2008

Mr. William Halliday
6530 Cornwall Court
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

Dear Mr. Halliday:

This is in response to your inquiry regarding the name of Thurston Lava Tube in Hawaii.

We can report that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which as you know is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal government, has not received any official proposals or other inquiries regarding the possibilities regarding the possibility of changing the name of Thurston Lava Tube. The name Nāhuku is listed in the GNIS entry as a variant name, having been brought to our attention by the National Park Service. GNIS also lists Keanakakina Cave as a variant, and based on the information provided in your letter, we have also added Ke Ana Kakina.

Thank you for sharing with us the results of your findings. If the board should receive a proposal to change the name of this geographic feature, we will let you know.

Sincerely

Lou Yost
Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
U.S. Board on Geographic Names