



Inside: January 2025 Minutes, Trip reports

The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at various sites or homes on the fourth Saturday of most months at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, subject to changes by email. Membership dues are \$5 per year, due at the first of the year, and include SAG RAG subscription. Send dues to treasurer Melanie Jackson at 708 Yama St., Yreka CA 96097. Original material submitted for the SAG RAG, unless otherwise noted, is copyright to the SAG RAG. Within the caving community, such may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG. For use outside the cave community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication, always welcome for consideration, to Dave Smith, 321 Mesa Verde Ct., Chico, CA 95973 or <theotherdavesmith@gmail.com>.

Tentative Cave Calendar 2025

All meetings begin at 7:00 pm on Saturdays unless otherwise noted

Mar 22	Wolff's
Apr 26	CJ & Kit McKinley's
May 17	LABE
June 26-28	Hat Creek
July 27-29	Dry Camp
Aug 27-Sept 3	Marbles, with packers

Directions to CJ & Kit's:

From McCloud take Hwy 89 east 3.6 mi to Pilgrim Creek and turn left.
Continue 3.2 mi to Winton Way and turn left again.
Continue 1.1 mi to Hotlum and turn right.
Continue 0.8 mi to Widow Springs and turn right again.
Continue 0.3 mi to Snowline Rd.
Turn left and continue 0.2 mi to 6056 Snowline Circle

SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Dave Smith and Dave Mundt

This month hasn't seen much (i.e., cave trip reports) that is new, so I've offered something old: ancient new discoveries. This months are 1983-84, back when a lot of us were 40+ years younger, and some of us caving in other states, like Texas. Then and now TX was in reach of good cave diving (FL), but way ahead of the Sunshine State on walk-in caves and (CA anyway) vertical. Enjoy.

DS, DM

SAG January 25, 2025, meeting minutes

January 25, 2025 - Present: CJ and Kit McKinley, Mike and Will Spiess, Barb and Mike Stufflebeam, Liz and Jim Wolff, Dave Smith (#1), Melanie Jackson, Steve Hobson

Called to order at 7:00 pm by Steve.

Board members are to remain the same this year as decided in December. They are:

Chair: Steve Hobson

Treasurer: Melanie Jackson

Vice Chair: Jim Wolff

Website: Mike Spiess

Secretary: CJ McKinley and Liz Wolff

Sag Rag: Dave Smith and Dave Mundt

December meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: December balance \$405.48, Deposits \$11, Donation to Sag \$150. The board approved to donate \$100 to Dave Mundt's medical costs from his recent fall. Balance \$466.48

The Medicine Lake highlands monument has been approved. Sattitla Highlands National Monument. Daniel Hewitt states that Modoc will take the lead on any plans. Since the federal government shutdown of any new hires or funds, this will probably be a moot point for some time. We should be able to continue to use the forest in the same manner. He will keep us updated

All the venues for the 2027 Western Regional to be held out of Lava Beds have been inadequate for our needs. Steve has proposed that we move the regional to the town of McCloud. There are multiple places that could accommodate us such as the Horsemen's Club, the legion, and the Dance Hall. The RV Park in town might be able to help with camping and RV use. Voted and approved to move forward with obtaining more information. Mike Spiess reports that the Western Cave Conservancy will agree to do a dinner. The plan is to look at the last two weekends in September for the dates. Looking at the viability of Speleo-ed type classes the Wednesday through Friday before regional. CJ would like to invite the Gauntlet to the regional and will follow up on the availability with them.

Liz is writing a history of SAG for the regional. Please read the email with it attached and forward suggestions to Liz. We will be publishing a book that could be for sale at the regional, and we might give it to Lava Beds and the NSS Bookstore. Kim Luper of Oregon Grotto will be helping.

Discussed Dave Mundt's recent accident and how it should remind us of the use of helmets above ground when ridge walking. A card was sent from the grotto along with the donation.

Cave trip from today. Kit and CJ met at Pluto cave with Jason early to practice vertical. Everyone else showed up at noon. Due to the number of people that hadn't seen the cave, Kit took a group through it for exploration only. Others got buckets and did a small clean up. The cave is reportedly fairly free of trash, but the graffiti has multiplied.

A stop at Sand Cave was unsuccessful due to not being able to open the gate. A pry bar is needed. A few people went into Barnum quietly to check to see if a hibernaculum was present. A cluster was encountered approximately 200 ft into the cave.

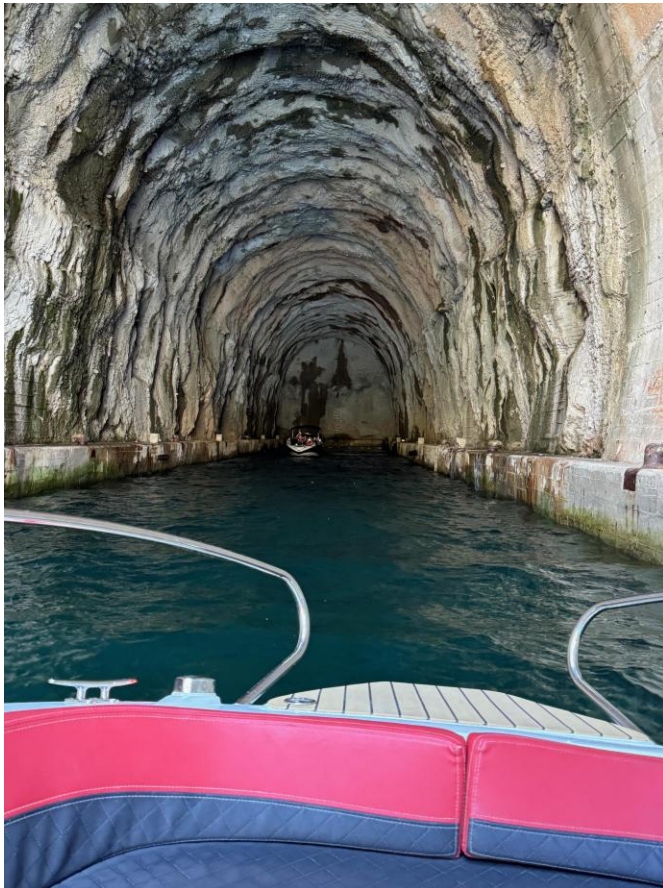
Next meeting will be February 22 at Steve's house. He will plan a cave trip.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

LW

Trip Reports

Blue Cave, Barbara Schiermeyer

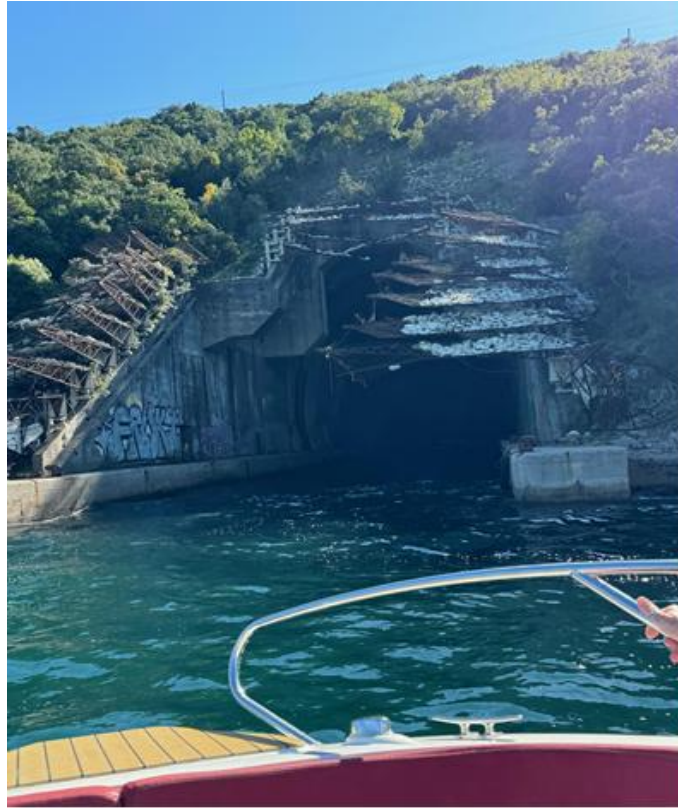


During our Mediterranean cruise last October, Mike, Steve, Melanie and I had the good fortune to visit the Blue Cave in Croatia. It was an unexpected excursion when we were in Kotor, Montenegro.

To arrive was a 25-minute boat ride across the Adriatic Sea. It is a small grotto known for its brilliant blue waters.

Though the cave itself is small with an even smaller opening, it did open into a good size room measuring 78 feet across, 39 feet deep with a ceiling height of 49 feet.

The Cave entrance measures 4x8. I didn't think our ski boat would fit - but it did! While enroute to the cave our guide showed us where Yugoslavia hid submarines during WWII: two manmade cliffside tunnels. All in all, a great day with gorgeous weather.



A Trip Report/Product Review, Jim Wolff

I had the opportunity to go caving in the Loop, while Liz spent time with the Resource Specialist at Lava Beds National Monument. An important time for her, as this was when she officially turned her CRF project in to the Park, after 20 years working on it - an important milestone, for sure...!

Anyway, I was off to the closest cave, as I had a ron-de-voo time with Liz in hour and half, but that gave me enough time to test out my new second source of light, a single-cell AA battery powered, versatile LED light, made by DURACELL....Check it out, and no, I'm not selling them!



There are two recessed rubber buttons to operate, one for power, the other is the mode button. The Mode will give you three levels of light, dimming down twice; with flashing light as well. It has a mount for belt of a bungee headband, and a ratcheting adjuster, to angle the light to where exactly its needed. Made of very tough aluminum

It provided lighting that has a yellow - tinged LED spot, giving better definition to the rocks, than my white light I use for main source of light.... There is a hot spot in the illumination - a plus in my book.

My findings are biased - I like the light! It's cheap, too! I think I paid less than \$15 I have no idea what the average battery life is...

I suppose you could perhaps choose to use it as your main source of light, but I'd keep it as good ol' #2...!!

Here is a link to chase info on this one!

<https://duracelllights.com/product/150-lumens-compact-led-flashlight-headlamp/>

And now... a (non-volcanic) blast from the past! A few trip reports from long ago:

June 1983 THE SAG RAG Vol. 2 No. 3

PORCUPINE BUTTE LAVA TUBE REDISCOVERED by Jim Wolff

The cave that has eluded all searches in the past, has been found. On the 14th and 15th of May, five members of the SFBC Grotto came up to do mapping in Bat Cave and continue survey of Water Caves System. I dropped by to see how things were going and show them a hole I had found.

This major cave of the Double Hole Crater flow is found off the northern slopes of Porcupine Butte and most surely is part of the Bat/Hourglass Cave system. The cave is of large dimensions, has three levels and a fault line that truncates its end, just like in Hourglass Cave, but only more spectacular! It is estimated that 2,000 feet of passage exists. The cave is not mapped.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIP TO FRENCH CREEK

No formal trip report yet, but the following interesting comments from those involved:

Jim Wolff – “A comedy of errors”.

Sharon Kisling – “Arley would rather not talk about it.”

Don Quinton – “Never again!!”

October 1983 THE SAG RAG Vol. 2 No. 5

PLUTO CAVE MAPPED by Jim Wolff

During this year's Regional, a number of people went with Peter Bosted of the SFBC and mapped Pluto Cave, located just off highway 97, NE of Weed. Apparently the cave is several thousand feet long and has huge dimensions.

March-April 1985 THE SAG RAG Vol. 4 No. 2

LAVA TUBES IN A PORTION OF THE PLUTO CAVE LAVA FLOW, Shasta Valley, Siskiyou Co., CA. Ray Miller NSS 25724

WINDY (Wind) CAVE – From about 1900 to 1940 litter was deposited in the area from mining and railroad operations. The Yellow Butte Copper Mine, located some ½ mile south and on the NE side of Yellow Butte, utilized the constant wind from this cave to operate their blacksmith forge.¹ The cave entrance was sealed with sandbags and a natural crack in the cave ceiling¹ was reshaped. The basalt outer surface was chipped out to make a forge “nest”.¹

Toward the end of mining operations the mine consisted of 318 acres of patented land in the W½ of sec/25 assessed to the Lone Hill Mining Company.² In 1948 the shaft was caved 10' from the collar.² A 1935 report states an inclined shaft, about 300 feet deep, had been retimbered for 35 or 40 feet.³ No further mining activity has occurred. Yellow-Butte is a narrow horst bounded by faults of great throw which restricts the limits of practical mining. Production was limited to copper on a small scale, but pyrite, molybdenite, chalcopyrite and chrysocolla are also present in the tailings.

The Weed Lumber Company constructed a logging railroad from Weed to Grass Lake (in) 1903-05.⁴ This line passed the NW base of Yellow Butte. A camp was located in the vicinity and the predominately Italian construction and maintenance crews used the cave as a wine cellar. The rail line was sold to the California Northwestern Railway Company in 1905, and they opened the line to the public in 1906.⁴ The line ended at the Grass Lake Hotel And passengers transferred to stages for the trip to Klamath Falls via Butte Valley, Lairds Landing and barges over the Lower Klamath Lake. This line was bypassed when the Southern Pacific main line was constructed from Black Butte to Klamath Falls.

Wind Cave is in the Klamath National Forest. I could find no published map showing its location.

BARNUM (Wind) CAVE – This cave is commonly known as Wind Cave, but it does not fit the older description of Wind Cave as reported above and nowhere can a reference to this cave as Wind Cave be found when the above reported cave is also mentioned. I feel the location but not the name of Wind Cave was lost and the name was hung on this more noticeable cave half a mile away. This cave is described fully enough to leave no doubt that it is not Wind Cave.¹ This is also supported by artifacts in the area of the real Wind Cave. Although the name Barnum Cave is referred to as not “authentic”,¹ it is the only name L. Brown had ever heard of in referring to the cave, and the fact that Barnum is a pioneer name should carry weight in assigning a name.

SAND CAVE – This cave was discovered in the 1950's when road building equipment broke through into the cave. I may be in error as to the name of this cave. This was the name as I understood it, but the name Sand Cave is not very descriptive.⁶

TEETER ROCK CAVE – This is a large cave with 2 uphill entrances pointed out to Jim and Liz Wolff in early January 1985. The above name is suggested based on the great number of balanced slabs littering the floor.

References:

1. Brown, L. The Siskiyou PIONEER. Siskiyou County Historical Society Yearbook. Vol. 3, no. 4. Pages 43-44; 1960.
2. Williams, H. Geology of the Macdoel Quadrangle. Calif. Div. of Mines Bulletin 151. P.58; 1949.
3. Averill, C.V. Mines and Mineral Resources of Siskiyou County: Calif. Div. of Mines Report 31. Pp.255-338; 1935.
4. Lewis, F.E. The Siskiyou Pioneer. Siskiyou County Historical Society Yearbook. Vol. 3 no. 10. Pp 54-56; 1967.
5. Kottinger, Jim. Mount Shasta, CA. Personal communication; 1985.

SAG RAG

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TO:

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