

The SAG RAG is published bi-monthly by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editors: Jim and Liz Wolff, PO Box 865, McCloud, Ca. 96057. Printing: Ray Miller. Grotto meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meeting places are announced in the newsletter. Membership dues (including newsletter) are \$6, due January 1, and prorated by quarter. Newsletter subscriptions are \$6/year, due January 1, and prorated by quarter.

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CALENDAR

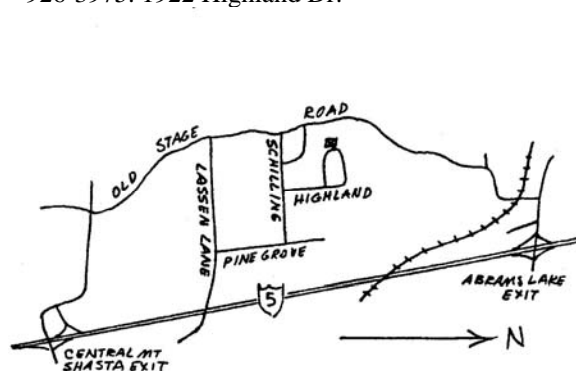
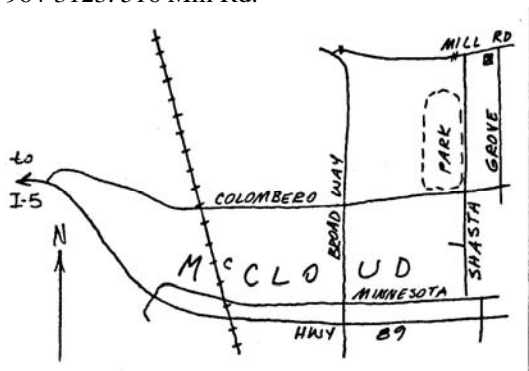
May 10 grotto meeting at Reels' in Weed.

May 24-27 Memorial Day Speleo-Ed Seminar, Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp in the Sierras.

September 27-29 Western Regional at Harris Springs Campground.

March 8 SAG meeting at Wolffs', McCloud.
964-3123. 516 Mill Rd.

April 12 SAG meeting, Kottingers, Mt Shasta.
926-3975. 1922 Highland Dr.



Shasta Area Grotto meeting January 11, 1991 held in McCloud. Present: Neils Smith, Jim Kottinger, Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff. Chairman Neils called the meeting to order, minutes accepted as read. Treasurer's report balance \$336.88. Two donations amounting to \$13 received.

Old Business: – Museum presentation well received, museum will buy paint and make enlargements. Jim K has a series of posters of volcanoes we can use.

– Election results: Chair, Neils; vice-chair, Jim K; secretary, Dorothy; treasurer, Ray.

– Regional: received a letter giving us special use permit for Harris Spr. Campground July 4 weekend. Regional officers protest date, it must be held on a "fall" weekend. Plan for port-a-potties, date, advertising, banquet, logo & badges, trips, auction, contests, demonstrations.

Correspondence: – exchange request from York Grotto. – letter for cave locations from Bill Halliday. – note from Hendersons about caving this summer.

New Business: – SAG RAG newsletter review – to be Dick LaForge. – Jim W made a cave information sheet, with no locations, for USFS/McCloud.

Shasta Area Grotto meeting February 8, 1991 held in Yreka. Present: Bill & Judy Broeckel, Jim & Bea Kottinger, Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller.

Vice Chairman Jim K called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved as read. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$333.73. Cal Caver monies have been sent.

Correspondence: – Liz sent thank you notes to the members who included contributions with their dues.

– Jim K received an NSS request for updates to the membership list.

Old Business: – Regional dates changed to Sept. 27-29. It was suggested that we have a brunch Sunday morning instead of a banquet, Ray will be in charge of it. Jim W still wants the theme of the regional to be cave rescue.

– Jack Jones and Adams Homestead Caves were suggested for registers.

– Museum display on caves is progressing. Cave gear to outfit a pair of dummies is needed. Ask George to narrate the slide presentation. Photographs and slides needed.

1991 WESTERN REGION MEETING News by Jim Wolff

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the date for the Western Regional has been changed to Sept 27th-29th, 1991. In order to get a group-type camp with water, lots of shade, and eight trailer sites with hookups, we had to find a Fall weekend not in one of the hunting seasons. Here's hoping that we don't get shut out of the woods by some unusually high fire danger, or lack of water from the springs!

Even though we have no electricity, we will have portable generators for slide shows. Costs? Very little, as registration will cover the costs of soft drinks, ice, and a few other small items and have not yet been computed. Caves? Well, there are many known lava caves a few miles away. A cave lead list will be available, so you can go find yourself in some unchecked caves, or go on an organized trip.

"Deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there wondering, fearing" – Edgar Allan Poe

Caving Trips by SAG Members and Friends

- Cave Register checked at Roadside Complex on Feb. 16th. Last visitors had been in Jan 11th.
 - Al & Phylis Henderson went to a cave near Manton, CA a couple of times and explored part of one cave. There is supposed to be a larger cave close by, but they have been unable to find it. They'll give it another try when the weather warms and before the poison oak overpowers.
 - Freudian Complex was visited on Jan. 25th by Bill and Peri Frantz and son Ethan of the SFBC grotto, Liz and Jim Wolff. We did a quick tour with many photo stops along the way. Ice formations were plentiful and weirdly-shaped. Videos were also taken. Several bats, not all Plecotus, were noted in the Air Passage.
 - Photo monitoring at the Lava Beds NM on Jan. 26th. Discovered a possible new cave and made a sketch map of it. We later located Spider Cave, the one we were looking for originally, when we stumbled across the other cave.
 - Cave hunting trip on the limestone of Duzzel Rock was done on Feb. 9th by Ray Miller, Jim Kottinger, Bill Broeckel and Jim Wolff. Not much was found in the short time we were there but we did talk to some guys in a truck passing by; one said there was a cave on the other side of the mountain. Oh well, maybe next time!
 - George Reel visited Barnum Cave recently and found 30 bats.
 - Jim & Liz Wolff, and Neils Smith went to the upper end of the Double Hole Lava Flow Feb. 16 to continue the survey of ice caves in the area. The 'new' cave they visited is upflow from Deep Ice, contains seasonal ice, and has both horizontal and vertical complexity. They turned back at an unclimbable, overhung pit of about 15' depth. Most of the cave is at a continuous high angle of about 20 degrees. Jim called it aMazing Pits Cave. There was an old carbide dump at the top of the pit. Another cave was Throughway, near the road. It has 25 foot ceilings and 45' width. The Roadside Cave register was also checked.
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- A New book in the Grotto Library: "The Cave of Snores" by Dennis Haseley. (This is a delightful book for youngsters.) – donated by Bill Broeckel.
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Editorial by JW

This issue marks a new beginning in our attempts to bring to you more information as to what's happening in the Western Region. Dick LaForge is our new Newsletter Review Editor, where the many fine newsletters of the Region will be summarized. So, for those of you who come to the meetings and don't get a chance to thumb through each issue, you can still be on top of (or under) what's happening by reading Dick's column. The rest of the collection of the Region's newsletters of the past ten years resides at the Wolffs, so come and visit the library sometime.

"This is the first month that I am carrying out my new duty as reviewer of other newsletters. We will try to print one or two more-or-less complete articles, rather than summarize a lot of them. If an article is too long to print completely, however, I will tell what is in it and where to get a copy." – Dick LaForge

R E V I E W S**Incident at Sunbeam Cave** by Rich Sundquist, Mother Lode Grotto, Valley Caver

A passage collapse and near fatality in the Marbles gave renewed warning of rock fall hazard. The incident occurred in Sunbeam Cave during the Columbus Day Speleocamp. A group led by Mark Fritzke, including a novice caver, intended to re-open a previous year's dig. Their route included a long crawl, part of which was under a ceiling crevice filled with unstable-looking rocks. Ever since its discovery, this area had been recognized as a potential danger spot, and cavers had been careful not to touch the ceiling.

Mark was well aware of the hazard, and as they headed into the cave he warned the others to stay low. They belly-crawled through the two and a half foot wide by two foot tall passage without incident. On exiting the cave the group became split when Jerry Davis stopped to re-carbide. Novice Andy Maxwell remained with Jerry while Mark went ahead to wait at the bottom of the entrance drop. After recharging his lamp, Jerry led Andy toward the entrance.

Andy was apparently unaware when they reached the unstable section, since he proceeded with a hand and knees crawl. With only a slight touch the ceiling collapsed. Andy was thrown forward with his knees pinned under his chest, his arms locked by his sides; only his helmetless head and shoulders protruded from beneath several hundred pounds of rock. He was completely immobile; his body so filled the small crawlway that none of the rocks could be removed.

Faulty communication caused an approximate fifteen minute delay in Mark reaching the collapse scene. Mark noted a small stream channel next to the collapsed passage. He succeeded in digging and trenching his way downstream and around the collapse, emerging near Andy's feet. From that position, at great risk to himself, Mark removed the debris. This was an especially touchy operation because each rock removed caused several others to tumble down from the crevice above him. After about fifteen minutes of digging, Andy was freed. He exited the cave under his own power, and was remarkably unhurt after being trapped for about 35 minutes.

Fortune was with this group. Mark reports that while Andy's hands and knees crawl caused the collapse, his position also may have saved him by allowing him to breathe. This incident could easily have turned tragic. As Mark said, "If the streambed hadn't been passable, Andy could still be there".

Bigfoot Cave Skunk Trace by Rich Sundquist, Mother Lode Grotto, Valley Caver

In an effort to extend the down-karst portion of Bigfoot, Mark Fritzke organized an air trace. His goal was to determine which of the caves and sinks in Little Marble Valley have an air connection to the bottom section of Bigfoot. He chose to use a mercaptan which is essentially skunk juice. [The chemical was skunk juice, provided by Humboldt State University; one ml (.03 oz) produced an aroma obvious for hundreds of feet – DL] In September, while Mark and several others scouted the surface for the telltale odor, Kick LaForge and I ferried the vial of skunk essence to the Little Toe. We released the scent, and just four minutes later, a positive trace was noticed at a huge blowing sink known as "The Big Dig". A positive trace also occurred at the entrance to Moon Clouds Cave, a newly discovered cave near trail Junction Cave. [The exact times were 3 min. 46 sec. to Big Dig and 23 min. 46 sec. to Moon Clouds, both caves are located more or less directly above the point of release – DL] Perhaps the most surprising results of all were the negative findings at Bossie's Blowhard and six other suspected locations.

Beware of Chain Stitched Webbing!

A note in the Jan 1991 SFBC News cautions its readers not to use chain-stitched tubular webbing. "There are two kinds of webbing, flat and tubular. Tubular webbing has two different types of weave, spiral and chain. The chain weave is essentially a flat piece of webbing stitched into a tube. It is considerably weaker than the spiral weave and has a tendency to unravel when abraded. It is difficult to tell the two weaves apart without close inspection. This is done by flattening the side of the webbing and looking for a seam along the edge. Many times flashy multi-colored webbing has a chain weave. Watch out!"

Caving Lights by Scott Linn, Willamette Valley Grotto, Underground Express

In Vol. 10, #1, Scott Linn writes a very interesting article on bulbs and batteries for headlamps. Too detailed to summarize, it adds to another very good article on electric headlamps by Mike Sims in Vol. 9, #4. Anyone wanting a seriously good and bright head lamp (especially for lava tubes) should read these. Write for copies to Scott Linn, 2185 Kinderman Pl., Corvallis OR 97330.

The SAG RAG

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