

SAG RAG

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The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. Original material not otherwise noted is copyright to the SAG RAG. Such material may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG. For use outside of the caving community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication any time to Bighorn Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadows Road, Yreka, CA 96097. Material intended for the next newsletter is due by the 10th of the even month.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Page 2 | Editor's notes and cover explanation |
| Pages 3, 6 | Calendar and notes from SAG meetings |
| Pages 4-5 | Popcorn Cave grotto trip report/map |
| Page 7 | Funny cartoon submitted by Liz Wolff |
| Page 8 | Grotto dues and RAG renewal notice |

Editor's Notes: Happy New Year to all the wonderful cavers. I wish many a fine cave trip to everyone, and don't forget to submit those trip reports and other items you would like to see printed in the newsletter. I have actually agreed to EDIT the SAG RAG for awhile, and Judy has agreed to be a helper. Thanks Judy.

Last issue I forgot to mention that Bill McGahey also attended the most recent cave management symposium in New Mexico. He was kind enough to send me a copy of the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988. As we interact more and more with Federal agencies with regard to cave management, I think it is important for us to be well informed about this bit of legislation. Thanks Bill.

Both Bill McGahey and Dick LaForge are planning to put in some high quality cave time in New Mexico. Am I jealous? Yes! Yet I wish them both well and will be interested to find out more about their experiences in that land of dream caves.

Meanwhile, back home here, I'm glad to present a map of Popcorn Cave. This cave is a good example of a generally known cave that may have been neglected by cavers. Thanks to Liz Wolff and Ben Rust for putting in the preliminary footwork that made the survey trip possible. I'm looking forward to the follow-up trip to nearby Big Cave.

Until next time I again wish you many good cave adventures.

BB

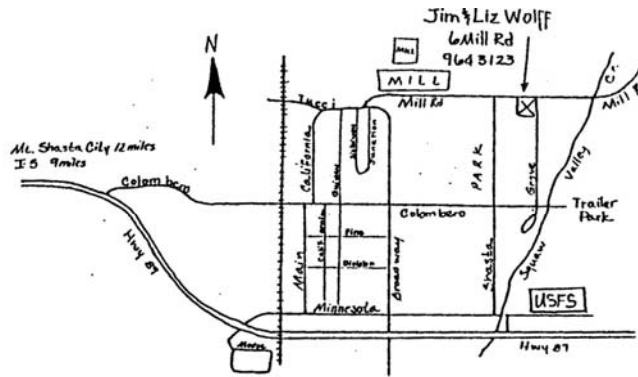
Cover Explanation: Christmas lovers will recognize the reference to the famous poem, "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement C. Moore. To quote "And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose." That has to be the best vertical system ever. Rudolph of course, does not appear in the poem, but he makes a nifty and bat friendly (red) primary light source for Santa. Old Claus may look a little chubby for caving, but have you ever checked out some of those chimneys? He must be compressible indeed!

Art work by Judy Broeckel.





Map to JANUARY 14 SAG Meeting



Map to FEBRUARY 11 SAG Meeting

CALENDAR

- January 14-15, 1994 SAG meeting at 7:30 PM Friday at Oregon Caves with restoration project work to follow.
- February 11, 1994 SAG meeting at Wolff's in McCloud
- June 20-24, 1994 NSS convention, Brackettville, TX
- July 17-21, 1995 NSS convention, Blacksburg, VA
- August 3-9, 1996 NSS convention, Salida, CO

NOTES: Regarding the Oregon Caves outing: We can only stay one night, with the NPS picking up our meals and lodging in the Chalet. We will "camp" in the top floor, sleeping in dorm type rooms with bunk beds. In return, we will perform various tasks inside the cave. Ideas are to do inventory in the Bone Room, rubble crew in Nieland's Passage, and maybe vertical exploration. Bring vertical gear if possible. Each group will be led by an approved group leader.

We are limited to 15 people, and all attending must be capable of working in the cave. The vertical activity appears to be optional. Reservations are made by calling Liz Wolff at (916) 964-3123, first come, first serve. SAG members, however, get first priority.

Please note: no meal will be served on Friday night.

MEETING NOTES: SAG meeting November 13, 1993 at home of Mark Fritzke. Present: Mark and Linda (hosting), Mark's sister Sue, John Bair, Julie Donovan, Jim & Bea Kottinger, Neils Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill & Cheryl Kenney and son Zane, Bill McGahey, Nathan Jones, Dick & Kathy LaForge, Dick's friend Rick, his wife, and others.

Chairman Jim Wolff called the meeting to order at 8:25 PM. The minutes from the October meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was not read.

Old Business: Bill McGahey presented Ray Miller's comments on the PLUTO CAVE land exchange. From the perspective of bat biology, Ray would like to see visitation to the cave discouraged. Ray has recently counted 65 Plecotus bats in Pluto Cave, and cites the experience of Lassen NF at Subway Cave, where all the Plecotus bats have left.

Cave register programs: KMCTF installed 3 registers in the Marble Mountains, two in BIGFOOT CAVE, and one in UPSTAIRS-DOWNSTAIRS. SAG maintains three Medicine Lake Highlands cave registers, and plans to install a fourth at JOT DEAN ICE CAVE.

POPCORN CAVE

Popcorn Cave is a lava cave located on BLM land not far from Fall River Mills in Shasta County, California. The name is derived from the coralloid speleothems (popcorn) found on some of the cave walls. This cave has been known for many years, and can be seen on many general and recreational maps of the local area. A short reference is found in the 1990 NSS Convention Guidebook, noting the popcorn and the presence of spatter cones on the floor.

Shasta Area Grotto has kept Popcorn Cave on a back burner for many years. That is, until last September, when Liz Wolff and Ben Rust put in a full day of cave hunting looking for the entrances on their own. They were rewarded at the end of the day at last finding the caves right in the spot where they belonged.

It didn't take long for a group of opportunistic grotto cave mappers to capitalize, and on October 16, 1993 Neils Smith, Melanie Jackson, Jim & Liz Wolff, and Bill Broeckel made the long drive out to Fall River Mills. The grey clouds that threatened to rain did not dampen our spirits. With high hopes we set out on foot to explore Popcorn Cave.

There were two sinkholes within 100 feet of each other. We entered the left hand, or southernmost sinkhole first. We entered and admired the large eastern room, and we also commented on the lack of breakdown within the room. Next we followed Jim Wolff down a narrow hallway that turned out to lead to the major part of the cave. The hallway soon opened into a segment of standard walking lava tube.

This led to a breakdown zone. With some contortions over and through the breakdown blocks, a smaller parallel passage was entered that doubles back to the main passage. Distally it reaches another breakdown area in which can be found a tiny bit of daylight. Passage continued as a short crawl to a 6 inch ceiling height with a diggable floor. Larger passage can be seen beyond the constriction. With a digging tool, it would only take about 20 minutes to clear a way through. We left this as a prize for the next bop to Popcorn Cave.

At this point we started the survey, and made a little loop before heading out to the entrance. But wait! Jim Wolff and Melanie checked a side lead from the main passage, and disappeared. It was low but it kept going. Melanie ended up leading a survey push 140' into this crawling passage. It took an hour and a half. This was a rough area that rips clothing and bruises bones, but it added some character to the cave. In one sit-up spot we found a cairn.

Outside we quick surveyed the east room, and then broke for lunch. Next we hauled vertical gear to rig the small pit at the other end of the sinkhole. It was 8' vertical. I had hopes for booming passage below, but it didn't go. So we picked up trash, and climbed out. All total, we bagged 12.25 lbs of trash.

Another small passage connects to the next sinkhole, about 65' away, but the opening is too tiny to go out. So we surface surveyed over there and into the large chamber at the far end. A high lead at the end of the room should be checked by a climber some day.

We looked at the entrance to Big Cave before driving home. The sinkhole was impressively deep, with cave passage heading out. Bats circled in the dusky sinkhole. A ledge system led down, but we turned away, leaving Big Cave for another day. In addition to the 12.25 lbs of trash, we came away with 839 feet of surveyed passage in Popcorn Cave and four pieces of firewood removed from the cave.



POPCORN CAVE

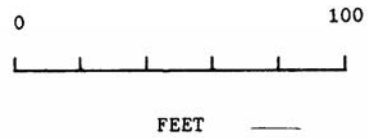
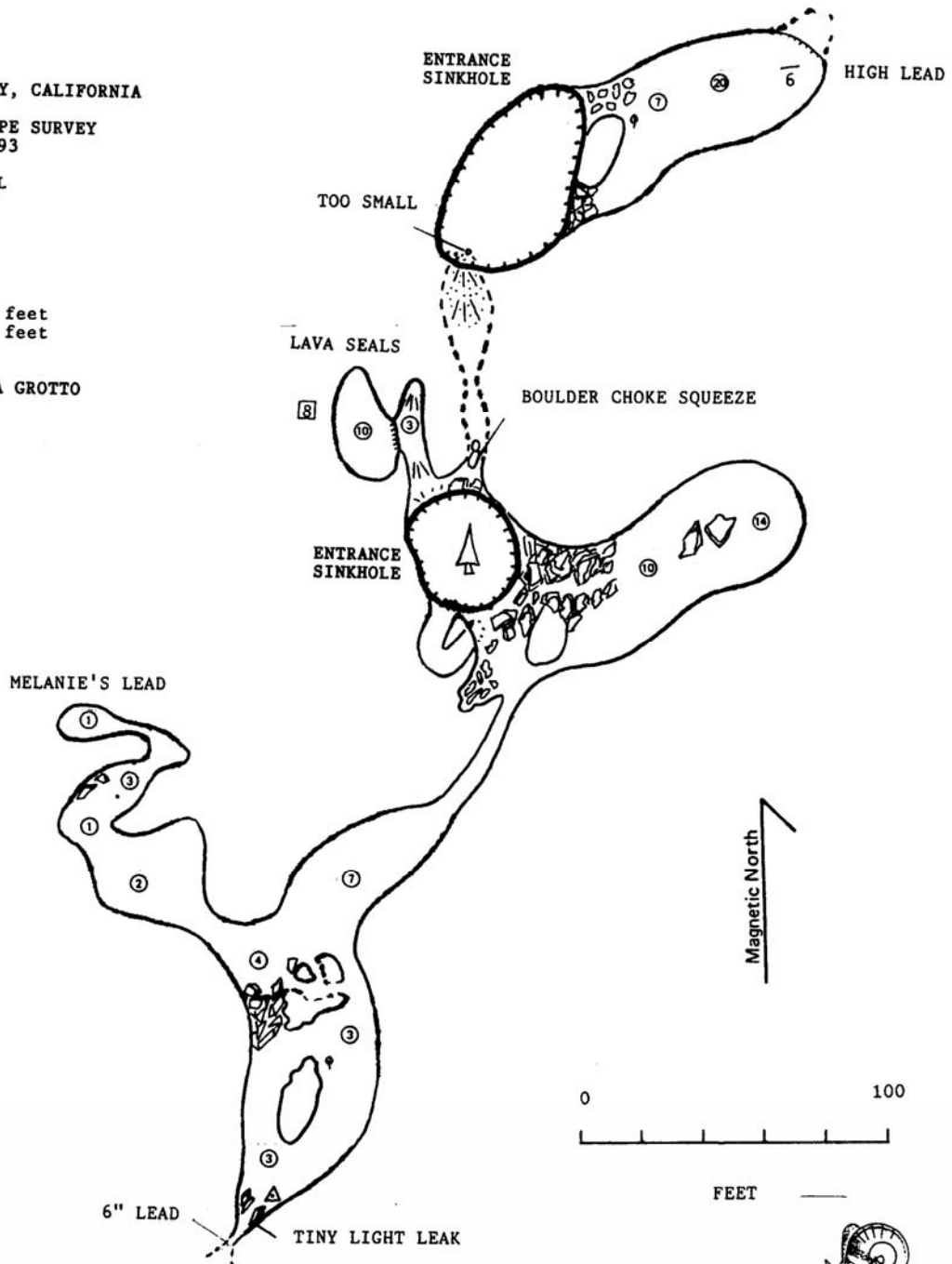
SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

SUUNTOS & TAPE SURVEY
10/16/93

B. BROECKEL
M. JACKSON
N. SMITH
J. WOLFF
L. WOLFF

LENGTH: 839 feet
DEPTH: 28 feet

SHASTA AREA GROTTOS
NSS



Map: Popcorn Cave

MEETING NOTES Nov. 13, 1993 meeting in Arcata (continued)

OREGON CAVES Restoration: Internal changes mandate that future restoration trips will be fewer in number, and limited to 15 workers per trip. Restrictions were discussed, and there may be more changes in the future. A trip was tentatively scheduled for January. (See p.3).

GROTTO LIBRARY: Recent cataloging has been done by Liz Wolff on her PC data base program. Much remains to be done. Some library items were passed around.

New Business: Cave trips and reports. PATRICK'S POINT CAVE was considered. Jim Wolff reported on progress in lava caves east of McCloud. Three weeks in the Guads! John B., Julie D., Mark F., and Dick LaForge plan a Guadalupe Thanksgiving, including LECHUGUILLA CAVE.

Shasta/Trinity National Forest: The draft Land Management Plan is out and public input is due by Jan. 6, 1994. Jim K. and Jim W. have copies. Jim Wolff has looked it over and reports that although several cave resources are identified one way or another, no mention was made as to the recreational potential offered by the caves.

The shortest meeting in recent history was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

MEETING NOTES SAG meeting December 3, 1993 at Lalos in Mt. Shasta. Present: Ray Miller, Neils Smith, Bill & Cheryl & Joel & Zane Kenney, Ben Sutton, Bill Broeckel, Jim & Liz Wolff, and Al & Phylis Henderson.

Chairman Jim Wolff called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM. 1994 NSS convention registration forms were distributed. The minutes were read and accepted as corrected. Treasurers report: \$678.92.

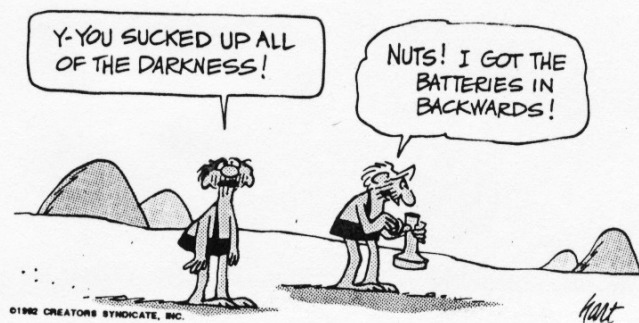
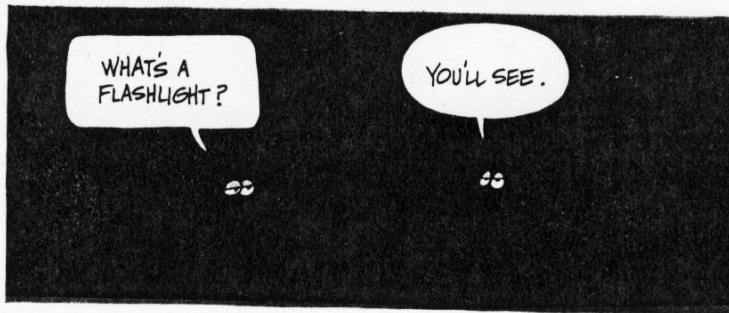
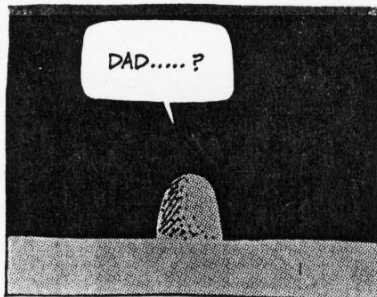
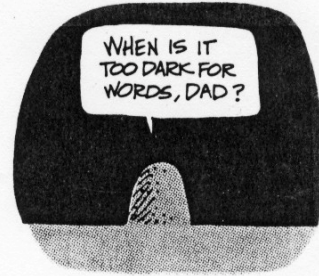
Correspondence: two phone calls came in from people in wood, CA, asking about the cavers. They were referred to the Caving Society in Redding. Bill B. wrote a letter to Klamath NF as an individual objecting to the PLUTO CAVE land trade.

Old Business: PLUTO CAVE: Neils moved that the grotto draft a letter to Klamath NF addressing the biological values of the cave and suggesting that they plan to limit visitation to the back half of the cave where the bats are. Al seconded the motion and it passed by acclamation. SAG RAG: Bill B. will do the next issue and would be happy to do 1994 as well. Articles, drawings, maps always are welcome. Ben still hasn't submitted bills for past SAG RAGs.

New Business: Nominations: Chairman – Jim K. and Jim W.; Vice chair – Liz Wolff; Secretary – Cheryl Kenney; Treasurer – Neils Smith. Nominations were closed. Meetings: Jan. 14 at Oregon Caves, Feb. 11 at the Wolffs'. Coming trips: Dec. 4 SAMWEL CAVE, Dec. 18-19 Lake Shasta Karst.

TRIP REPORTS Dec. 4 SAMWEL CAVE. The cave was relatively dry. This trip combined SAG with cavers from Jefferson State Grotto, and most went down the pit. Present were Jim & Liz Wolff, Neils Smith, Melanie Jackson, Bill Kenney, Ron Osborne, Warren and Tania Norberg, Jennifer Gould, and Bill McGahey. McGahey did the pit three times, to tune up for the Guads. There were lots of spiders by the Porcupine Entrance. Someone found a Buck knife. Pizza afterwards.

Dec. 19 trip postponed due to illnesses. I took Becky camping at Hat Creek instead with 1 foot of snow. We mapped a small cave very near the road and called it CUL DE SAC CAVE. **BB**



It is renewal time again. SAG membership dues and SAG RAG subscriptions are due Jan. 1. Same grotto, same RAG, same \$.

NAME: _____ NSS# _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ SAG dues (includes RAG). \$6 per person or family
Membership category (family or person)? _____

_____ I want the CAL CAVER too. Thats another \$6.

_____ SAG RAG subscription only without SAG membership. \$6.

_____ Total enclosed. Make checks payable to Shasta Area
Grotto. Send to Liz Wolff, POB 865,
McCloud, CA 96057.

SAG RAG
524 Annie Street
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TO:



Remove Staple For Inspection