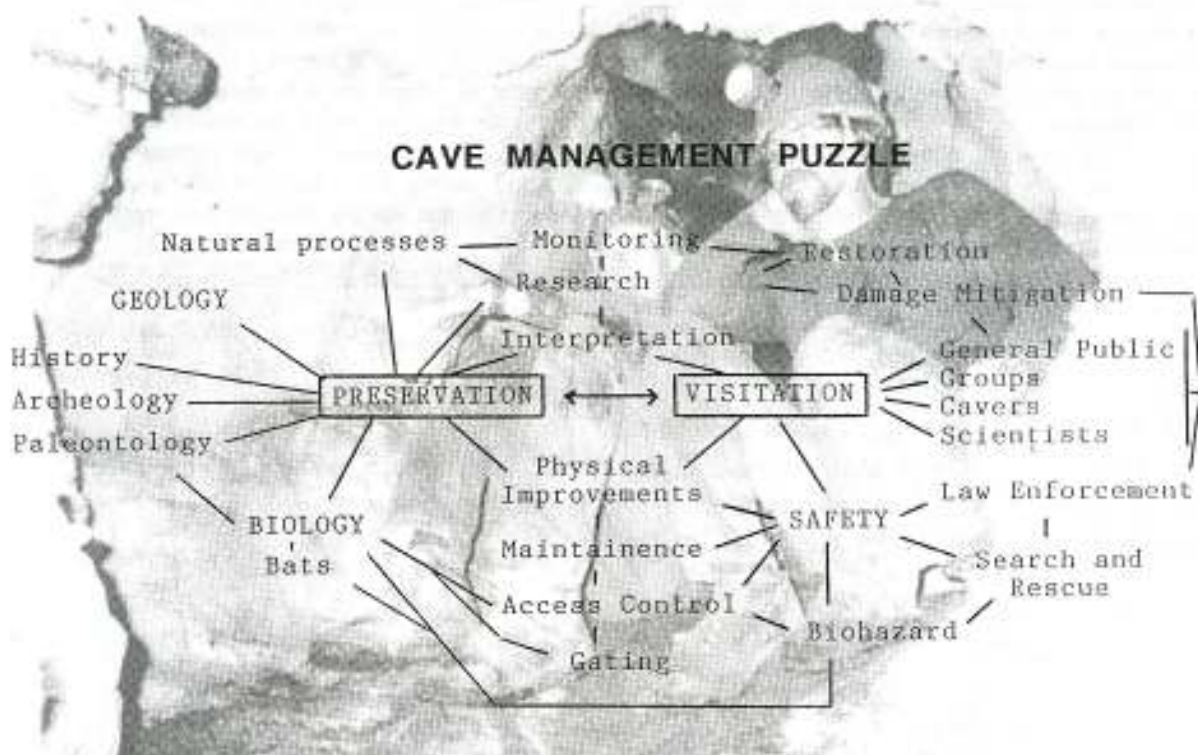


# SAGRAG

JULY-AUGUST 1997  
National Speleological Society

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 4  
Shasta Area Grotto



INSIDE: KLAMATH MOUNTAINS AREA CAVE CONSERVATION REVIEW

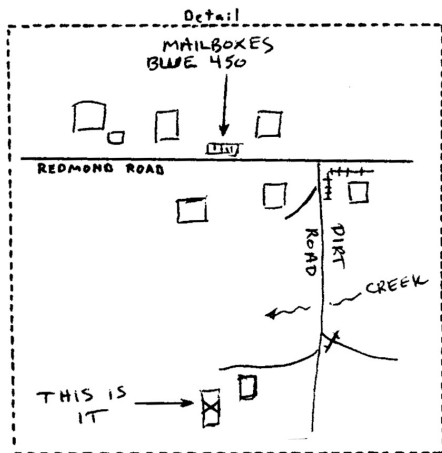
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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.

**EDITORIAL:** Why do we need a grotto anyway? Well, I guess there are many reasons, but most of all it is for cavers to get to talk and work and cave with other cavers. They talk a lot about cave secrecy, and it may have its place, I suppose, but usually cavers need SOMEONE to talk to about the latest new cave, or dig, or trip or whatever. It is part of the experience to be able to talk about it with someone who understands. We are blessed to have a lot of caves and relatively few people in our area. Few people mean less pressure, fewer potential cave vandals and the like. We do need a few people, though. Someone's got to do the instruments and someone's got to take lead tape and someone needs to do the book or we won't be able to map the cave. Solo cave mapping is a real drag. I guess we do need the grotto, after all. Don't forget to check out the Cave Calendar. As Bill says, it all looks good. He wants to do them all, even the overlapping events. Life may not allow all the caving he might hope for ... but time spent caving is quality time. It may be better to go caving than to talk about going caving, but I say the talking is important. Within the grotto, and among grottos. How many grottos do we need in this area anyway? Maybe Bill can tackle that question another time.

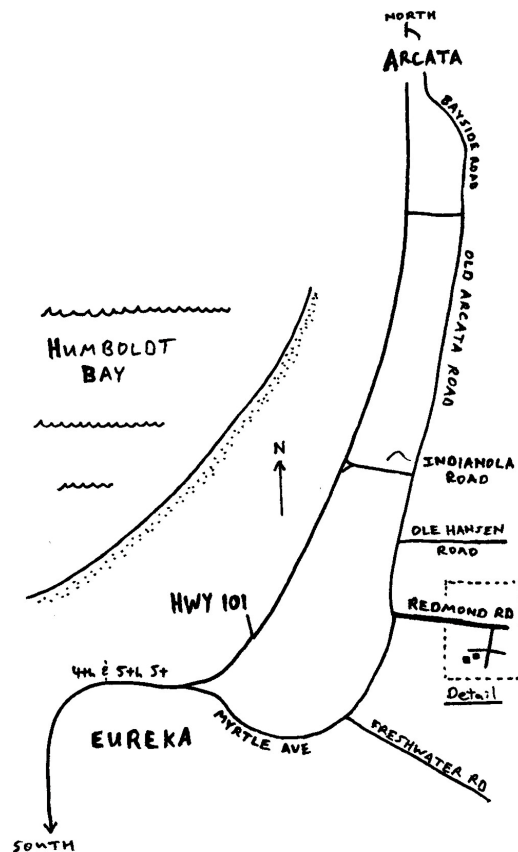
**JB** (ED: Or maybe not!)

**CAVE CALENDAR – 1997**

- Sept 1-7 Marble Mountains speleocamp with KMCTF.
- Sept 13 SAG meeting 7:30 PM LaForge home in Eureka.
- Sept 19-21 Lehman Caves Lint Camp.
- Oct 6-11 Cave Management Symposium, Bellingham, WA.
- Oct 10-13 SAG meets at Marble Mountains Speleocamp.
- Oct 24-26 Western Regional at Avery Ranch.



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**GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK**  
at Baker, Nevada, announces the  
**First Annual Lint and Restoration Camp**  
at Lehman Caves

Beautiful Lehman Cave, one of the feature attractions of Great Basin National Park, receives nearly 50,000 visitors each year. Unfortunately, each of them have left behind tiny reminders of their visit - lint, hair, dust, skin flakes, and other debris. One Cave Specialist considers the "lint-tites" hanging from stalactites in Lehman's entrance room as the worst he has seen in a Park system cave. Trail construction, maintenance, and unmonitored visitation before control by the Park Service have also left scars in the cave.

It is now time to begin a long clean-up and restoration process. Starting Friday, September 19, 1997, a 3-day camp will be held at the Park for this purpose. The total number of participants, including leaders, is limited to 12. A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 will be required to register. In return for payment of this fee, all of your meals, except for Sunday dinner, will be furnished and you will be given a T-shirt commemorating the occasion. Any unused deposit money over a few dollars will be refunded. In addition, the Park Service will pay you an \$8.00 stipend per day after completion of the task.

Great Basin N.P. does not yet have housing facilities needed to accommodate all participants. However, we will have a private campground reserved for us for tents, campers, pickups, etc. There are also a few pads available for full-sized trailers with indoor plumbing. Stormy weather is rare in September but emergency indoor camping is available. Meals will be served in one of the Park's buildings. You will make your own breakfast and lunch from provided fixin's. Friday and Saturday dinners will be prepared for you.

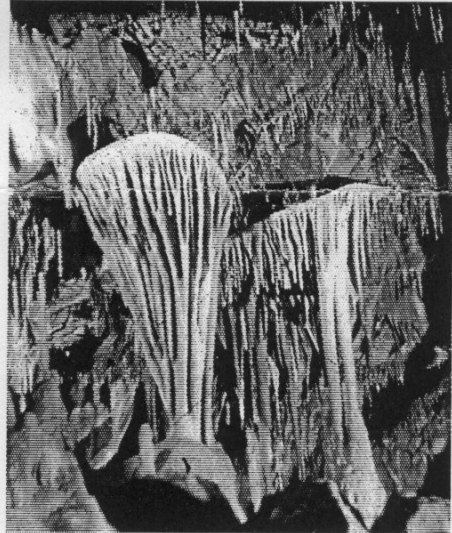
As a reward for your efforts, we are arranging for off-trail excursions after hours and/or plenty of time along the developed trail for photography with/without trail lighting in this spectacularly decorated cave.

If you are selected for participation in this camp, more details will be furnished. We are especially interested in those who have participated at other lint camps within the Park Service.

For more information contact:

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### SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

AUG 8, 1997, from 7:46 to 9:05 PM, Shasta Area Grotto met at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka. Present were Kyle Haines, Cheryl & Bill Kenney, Liz & Jim Wolff, Ray Miller, Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Bill Fitzpatrick, and Russ Yoder (guest).

Minutes were accepted as read. The treasurer reports a balance of \$562.53.

Correspondence: Pre-registration for Sewanee NSS convention.

Old Business: Re: Medicine Lake geothermal project. Dave Jagnow is expected to comment on bats. Ray Miller plans to speak up for bats at the upcoming public meeting. Some caves along the power line pathway need to be checked. B. Broeckel and Liz Wolff will try to follow up on this soon. SAG opposes fees for caving as proposed by the Forest Service in the Guadalupes, and SAG members present signed a petition to this effect.

New Business: Dave Pryor (Shascade Caving Society) passed away July 19, 1997. SAG approves a motion to send \$100.00 to the family with a card in Dave's memory. Ray Miller received a recognition plaque from the FS for work at Bat Cave. "Siskiyou Area Grotto" also received a certificate of appreciation. In 1998, bats will be counted before and after baby bats are born. This weekend, NCRC will be checking Lava Beds National Monument for future cave rescue practice sites. The Bird of Paradise was stolen from Oregon Caves. The Western Regional will be hosted by SFBC at Avery Ranch near Columbia, CA, Oct. 24-26. Caving trips are planned to Pinnacle Cave and others.

Trip Reports: Wolfe Den Cave: Jim & Liz Wolff mapped an 80' portion today, with 75' more to go and two leads. The crevice is steep and narrow. The cave was found by an USFS employee (Wolfe, not Wolff). Bilibeas Cave yielded a bat maternity colony. The Biology Report will give away the cave location to the nearest quarter mile township (9 sq. miles). Bill Kenney has been helping Steve Knutson at Oregon Caves multiple times this summer. Knutson will be leaving for Peru soon, with best wishes for deepest caves. Joe Molter with the BLM reports on a land exchange that includes a limestone outcrop with caves. Ray Miller and the Wolffs made a recent karst walk there and saw lots of openings, one with graffiti. Kenney reports on Scorpion Cave, now with only 11 photos left to go. Broeckel gives details on Jim Nieland's visit to Rogue River National Forest last June. **MJ**

**HYAMPOM CAVING/BATTING TRIP**  
**July 10-11 1997**

By Liz Wolff

Hyampom is a long way away from anywhere, but that is where bat researchers Dr Dixie Pierson and Dr Bill Rainey had us looking for bats. Thursday noon Mark Fritzke, Liz Wolff, Mellen Colberg and Bob (Hoke?) met at Big Slide Campground. They caravanned and hiked up to Butter Creek Cave. The poison oak was as pervasive as ever, as were fallen trees and other brush; our limestone caves are often protected in this way. After a hot uphill bushwhack we descended into Butter Creek, where we waded to the cliffs beneath the cave. A short climb brought us to the cave where the batty parts of the crew went into high gear. The ground was searched for signs of guano, and Mark was introduced to what bat guano looked like. He and Roger Jones had seen a clump of 30-35 bats in the cave several years ago.

During our search, Mark found a very interesting formation, which started all of us searching crannies and cracks where these formations were found. They are very delicate, pure white hanging bells that are about 1/2 inch long and 1/4-1/3 inch wide, with as many as 4 hanging in tiny cascades reminiscent of foxglove flowers. They are in small out-of-the-way places and were found while waiting for the rest of us to finish the guano search. Our search turned up quantities of guano, termite and moth wings throughout the cave. On the return hike, Indian Valley Creek Cave's location was pointed out to Mellen and Bob, who visited it Saturday and found a maternity colony of Western Big-Eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).



Friday Liz, Mellen and Bob headed for Natural Bridge Cave. Natural Bridge is about 100' long, 60' wide, and a popular picnic destination for the people of the town of Hayfork, evidenced by a few adults with a group of kids climbing all over the place. As they exited, we prepared to begin our search for guano and insect parts. The cave was cool and damp with a small stream flowing through. The creek had undoubtedly raged during the floods of the winter.

We searched high on the breakdown blocks as the most likely places to find guano. It was found on blocks with ceiling cavities above them. We shined bright lights into the cavities to see if any bats were in residence without finding any. This is most likely a night roost only. We began to find insect parts: large and small wings, spider legs, cricket and millipede bodies that are indicative of Pallid bats. High ledges also had guano, as well as the small alcoves on the sides of the cave. Near the north end of the cave we found a small concentration of tiny guano, indicative of Myotis, although it isn't a positive sign that Myotis were there. Just ask Ray Miller, he knows his guano.

Also in the north entrance we found 2 bolted climbing routes leading up to ledges with openings on them. They ran up beside prominent cracks that chocks or Friends could have been used in. Lots of hardware, carabiners and bolt hangers had been left out of reach that Bob, a rock climber, was thinking of removing, but the objective of the day set him back on a different course. He followed the cliff line around checking other openings that could be reached. After this Mellen and Bob headed back to Big Slide, while Liz headed for home.

## **KLAMATH MOUNTAIN AREA CAVE CONSERVATION REVIEW**

Compiled by B. Broeckel NSS #31702

With the localization of the federal cave nomination process, we find the various land management offices in Northern California in different stages of response to the requirements of cave management. The nomination forms are the same. The law is the same. However, the style and philosophy of each office may be different.

Cave management on the local office level can be seen as a developmental process. Cave data is collected in the form of the nominations. These nominations must be verified and determined significant. After the resource has been so defined, a cave management plan (CMP) can be formed. Ultimately, the objectives of the CMP can become part of the ongoing functions of the office. Integration of cave management into the activity of the office, including law enforcement, must be done in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the original data.

Cavers are in a unique position to influence the development of cave management. The initiation of the process by means of nomination is often caver dependent. Even more important, cavers offer knowledge and expertise needed for furthering the process. As we will see, cavers may promote cave conservation by using different strategies with different offices, depending on the response of that office. In all cases, the crucial step is in the formation of some level of trust between the involved parties.

With that in mind, we will now review cave administration in the vaguely defined Klamath Mountain area. Keep in mind that this review is by no means exhaustive. It will become clear that the agencies need some help here. As more people become interested in caves, the energy needs to be funneled into cave conservation activity. Depending on how this review is received, it probably could be updated in a year or so.

### **SHASTA VALLEY**

Klamath National Forest (KNF) recently completed land swaps to gain control of the entrances to Pluto Cave, Barnum Cave, and Sand Cave. Bats have historically used at least two of these caves, and bat biologists have monitored them for a number of years. The main KNF office recently displayed a survey marker from near Pluto Cave that was heavily vandalized with bullet holes. These caves are the major party caves of Siskiyou County. Conservation trips are conducted regularly just to keep the trash picked up.

Some cavers advised KNF against the swap. The thinking was that these caves were big trouble and would soak up cave management money needed elsewhere. However, now that KNF has plunged into these damaged caves, the caving community needs to change gears and cooperate toward cave conservation at these sites. The trio of caves should benefit, and progress here may ultimately smooth the way for improved cave management at other KNF locations.

All three caves have already been mapped. Good nominations should be easy to produce, and need to be submitted. Forest biologists need to be advised regarding bat data and issues. If KNF is really serious about enforcing the intent of the Federal Cave Resource Protection Act (FCRPA) at these caves, then a major public education outreach will definitely be needed.

Dancehall Cave was not acquired by KNF. However, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's office investigated a transient habitation and possible underground marijuana farm inside the cave. A joint Grotto/Sheriff's clean-up trip was proposed, but cancelled because the cave is privately owned and provides bat habitat.

### TRINITY ALPS

These mountains are administered by both KNF and Shasta-Trinity National Forest, with caves under both jurisdictions. The area remains under project status of the Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force (KMCTF). Some caves are semi-protected by a proposed Research Natural Area (RNA) and a riparian reserve. Paperwork for formal RNA designation is pending. It has been suggested that letters to local, regional, and national offices in support of the general RNA process would be helpful at this time.

Regarding Insanity Culvert, be advised that wildlife biologists are watching this multi-level tangle of passages for bat habitat. (Map by Liz Wolff).

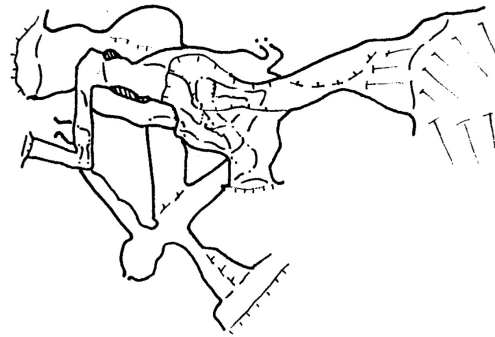
Some caves in the Trinity Alps are protected because they are located in remote wilderness settings. KMCTF currently handles administrative interactions with the National Forests. Project caving here often involves arduous bushwhacking and limited caving. The trips themselves may be limited in terms of frequency and openings. Interested cavers are best advised to contact KMCTF.

Bolted climbing routes have appeared near the entrance to Psycrawlogy Cave. Also regarding Psycrawlogy, Roger Jones found his notes and surveys from the 1980s and this cave was originally called U-Turn Cave. Psycrawlogy Cave was described in the last RAG.

### INSANITY CULVERT CAVE

SISKIYOU CO, CA

G. EVEREST C. SMITH LENGTH: 300.6  
R. JONES J. WOLFF DEPTH: 41.8  
9-18-82



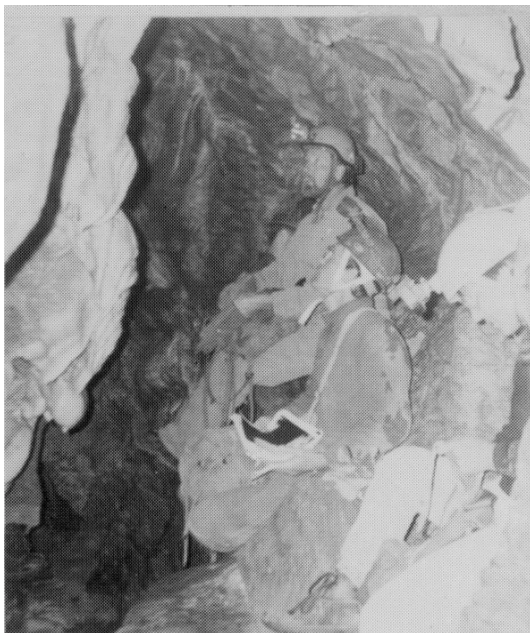
Map: Insanity Culvert Cave

### SCORPION CAVE

Access to Scorpion Cave is controlled by Klamath National Forest. Project trips only are allowed, with limits on the number of people entering the cave each year. Currently, Ron Osbourne with the Southern Oregon Grotto has been leading a series of photo monitoring trips to locate photo sites from pictures taken during the original survey.

On the last trip, 22 more photo sites were identified, and only 11 more are left to find. It has been interesting to compare the new pictures with the old. After the project is finished, some analysis and conclusions may be drawn from the data, and in another 20 years more pictures can be taken to monitor the effects project cavers may be having on the fragile, protected cave.

Pictured at left, Ron Osbourne in the far distance discusses a photo site with fellow cavers on a photo search project trip conducted last summer.



## **MARBLE MOUNTAINS**

The KMCTF continues the Marble Mountain project in the form of several speleocamps each year. These speleocamps are based at the equipment storage shed (grain shed) maintained within the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area under a special arrangement with the Forest Service. Attending a speleocamp involves backpacking, primitive camping, and preparation for technical caving in cold, wet alpine conditions. Measures to reduce caver impact on wilderness values have been implemented. Low profile project oriented caving has been encouraged, and in the last few years there has been an emphasis on rescue preparedness.

This year, general area visitation has been reduced because the main road to the trailhead was closed. A longer and rougher detour was used. The main road is now open again, and has been since August 22. The trail itself is in good condition. Progress on various cave surveys doggedly continues at a crawling pace. The project continues to attract a small but dedicated core of hearty cavers who are willing to put up with formidable logistics and focus on specific goals with the chance of limited results.

Cave nominations for all the caves were submitted originally through the central office in Three Rivers. These nominations have only recently moved out of an intermediate office in Nevada to arrive at the local level. The local office (KNF) will next need to verify and determine the nominations, and then form a cave management plan for the tremendous underground wilderness within the Marbles. Over twenty years of KMCTF speleocamps have resulted in a good description of the cave resource, upon which a good cave management plan can be built. Never-the-less, much work remains to be done. The nature of the caves is such that it is very difficult to say that any particular cave is completely explored or described.

Look for a wilderness cave management plan light on intervention. Some cave trips in the future may turn to needed inventory activity. As these caves attract more general visitation ill the future, it will become very important for a cave management plan to be in place. For this reason, it is now important for cavers to continue to offer encouragement and assistance toward the completion of a good CMP for the Marble Mountains.

## **OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT**

One result of Steve Knutson's work with Earthwatch at Oregon Caves is tightened security for the cave. Oregon cavers such as Bill Kenney have been helping Knutson with various investigations and gate constructions. The need for improved security was recently underlined by a tragic incident of vandalism resulting in the breaking off and theft of the famous Bird of Paradise formation. This bird-like speleothem previously highlighted the tour and delighted customers for many years.

John Roth reports that Oregon Caves enjoys a rare status as a Federal cave with inventory for cave related resources actually completed for all its known passages.



Pictured are Knutson (L) and Kenney (R).



### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – MEDFORD DISTRICT**

Bill Fitzpatrick reports on the status of BLM acquired No-Name and Lake Caves. A bat friendly gate for No-Name Cave has been planned, but this project has stalled due to a basic lack of manpower.

Meanwhile, BLM acquisition of Marble Mountain Quarry Cave (MMQC) is back on the front burner. With over 1500 feet of decorated limestone passage, this cave is a major item. The cave owner is interested in trading the quarry for another property that could be more easily liquidated. The BLM has proposed some proprietary options for the cave owner to look over.

The Medford BLM office has been very receptive to Fitzpatrick and to cover perspectives in general, so we are very hopeful once again for MMQC to get some long term protection. Short term protection has been provided by about an hour's worth of heavy equipment work. A large pile of boulders now covers the only known entrance to the cave. This came in response to yet another attempt by unknown persons to burrow into the cave.

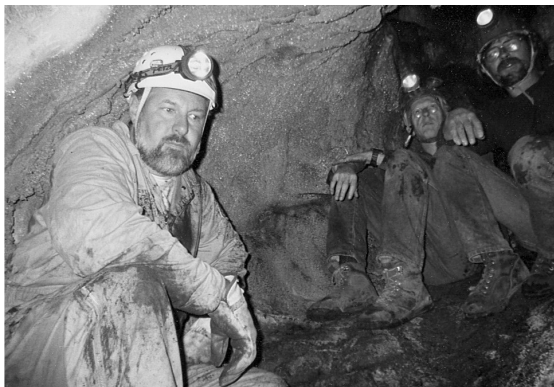
### **ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST**

Regional cave resource specialist Jim Nieland visited Rogue River National Forest (RRNF) last June for three days of field checking forest caves. Local Forest Service personnel and representatives from the local cave organizations were included on the field trips. Seven caves were nominated in preparation for this event. Others await description.

Nieland's visit should provide a shot in the arm for RRNF cave management. Look for this visit to expedite the determination process, to open new channels of communication, and to remove cattle grazing from the catchment zone of a sinking stream.

One cave conservation item of particular importance came out of this visit. Any caver contemplating a dig on RRNF needs to have a forest archeologist to field check the site first. Jeff LaLande has expressed an interest in providing this service himself. He has already been shown the various cave entrances and he can be trusted. The thought here is to avoid tearing into any good unexcavated archeology sites.

The field trip with the visiting regional cave specialist was so successful that similar arrangements should be made to jump start any area with cave related issues and with cave management in an early state of development.



Jim Nieland and others in Windy Cave.



Jeff LaLande checks RRNF cave entrance.

### **LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

The Cave Research Foundation (CRF) has assisted Lava Beds National Monument (LLNM) with cave description and planning since 1988. The result is some of the most highly developed cave management in the entire North State. LLNM recently adopted a new land management plan that included a cave resource specialist position. Some caves have been gated, and many other caves are in various stages of study including inventory and special projects. CRF regularly conducts project type caving at the Monument several times each year. Contact people have been Janet Sowers and Bill Devereaux.

### **MODOC NATIONAL FOREST**

This summer, Wildlife Biologist Jim Villegas invited cavers to check a cave entrance along the route of a proposed power line, with special regard to bats. Unfortunately, directions to the cave entrance were not forthcoming. Never-the-less, we were able to check two lava tubes for bats, and a third tube with hundreds of moth wings and hundreds of feet of dark passage still waiting for a detailed survey.

Three other sites with cave potential were visited and discussed in terms of caves and bats. Jim Villegas was not aware that any Modoc National Forest caves had been nominated. Again, here is an opportunity to promote cave management with the preparation of the cave nominations. Damons, Berthas Cupboard, Tichner, Mammoth, Coyote, "Powerline," and the new tube would be an excellent start.

### **MEDICINE LAKE HIGHLANDS**

This area is administered by multiple entities. Of the many lava tube caves in this area, only a relative handful have been formally nominated. These are (at least) Deep Ice, Jot Dean Ice, Water, Bat, Kathys, Porcupine, Three Level Ice, Roadside Complex, and Adams Homestead Caves. In a caver policy similar to that seen at Lassen National Forest, out of the way caves are being left un-nominated.

Meanwhile, some dynamic dialog between the local grotto and the McCloud Ranger District has yielded some interesting results. In this case, generalized cave management discussions seemed to somehow focus down on one particular cave situation at Bat Cave. Subsequently, a bat friendly gate has been placed to block the passage not far from the entrance. The purpose of the gate is to restore protected bat habitat. Already the bats appear to be coming back. Biological monitors have revealed solitary Townsend's Long Eared males using the front of the cave, and a small maternity colony further back. The initial response here looks favorable, and hopes are high as the cave continues to be monitored.

Other outcomes on the Highlands include the removal of most cave locations from the most current recreational forest maps. Cavers also receive mailings with chances to review general forest management activities. In some cases, comments have been made, and responses have been interesting, and not always as expected. Ridgewalking cavers recently stumbled on a new *Corynorhinus townsendii* maternity colony, and backed out with minimal disturbance. This colony is now under the scrutiny of bat biologists.

Shasta Area Grotto continues to make trips to this area where much more "work" needs to be done in finding and mapping/exploring the caves.

### **LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST**

Six caves have been nominated, with the paperwork sent to the local office. The names of the caves are Subway, Cul-de-sac, Flashlight, Pink Coat, Double Door, and Trail. These caves were chosen because they were mapped and they were identified as caves with current cave conservation issues that needed to be addressed. So far no receipts or determinations have been returned. However, letters have been sent from the District office thanking us for work done.

Jim Barnhart, a law enforcement officer, has been looking after Subway Cave. He is a good cave contact person for Lassen National Forest (LNF). Barnhart applied for cave management money for this last fiscal year, but the application was denied.

Caver strategy of nominating only those caves with clear conservation issues incurs the risk of agency underestimation of the cave resource. However, there are some advantages. The quality of the agency response can be gauged before the entire cave resource is submitted. Caves for which "no action" is anticipated are left in limbo. And cavers have more time to locate, explore, and survey the undescribed caves.

Shasta Area Grotto has conducted project type trips to the lava tubes of LNF about twice yearly through the 1990s. The area has the advantage of being open year round. The wild portion of Subway Cave is recurrently in need of trash clean-up activity. Last year we had a senior project student who helped us with this effort. Trail and Pink Coat Caves were mapped and subsequently nominated. On later grotto trips, Uncle Runts Cave and the Grinch Caves were surveyed. Interested cavers may contact B. Broeckel or Liz Wolff.

### **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – NORCAL DISTRICT**

Popcorn and Big Caves have been nominated. No acknowledgements or determinations have been returned.

In another location, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is completing a land swap involving a checkerboard pattern of public and private land. The area contains exposed limestone. Little information is available. It is quite possible that significant caves or bat habitat may be included. To properly ridgewalk, explore, and describe caves and their cave related resources would require a major effort in land owner relations and field work. Indeed, these very problems have led the BLM to find that consolidation is in the best interest of the public.

There is little time or opportunity for cavers in this instance. It would take a major find to alter the swap, which is now in its final stages. The future of any caves here will be dependent on the landowners. Caver access to the area, already dismal, will completely enter the realm of a private property situation.

### **LAKE SHASTA**

Here is another important cave area administered by Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The limestone caves remain under project status in care of the Shascade Caving Society and the Shascade Conservation Task Force. A great majority of the caves have been nominated, and mapping projects are currently in progress. Unfortunately, the project leader, Dave Pryor, unexpectedly passed away this summer. His fervor and leadership will be often missed as the project reorganizes in his absence. Although it will be impossible to replace Dave, it is hoped that some of his hopes and dreams for these caves can be realized as time goes on. What better memorial for Dave than a lasting legacy of effective cave management at Shasta Lake?



In loving memory of Dave Pryor.

**SAG RAG**  
524 Annie Street  
Yreka CA 96097

**STAMP**

**TO:**

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