

# sag rag

SHASTA AREA GROTTO NEWSLETTER  
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**EDITORIAL:** What a pleasant surprise, to find the road to Marble Mountains paved clear to the trailhead. This will make the long trip up there a little easier for the cavers. But the trailhead will now become even more popular in general. This makes the Klamath National Forest Cave Management Workshop held last summer even more timely. Agency cave management is long overdue in the Marbles. While many caves will fall under "no action", the scheme that comes out should better serve the caves in the long run.

In this Issue, Cynthia Ream brings us some words on new passages in Bigfoot Cave. This year's trips have expanded on the Kneegrinder, a new area that was first opened up last year.

Also In this Issue, Liz Wolff summarizes the workshop mentioned above, and Ernie Coffman's convention report adds some more material from last summer. Check out the schedule, which is a little vague, but gives some idea about future grotto events. And be sure to go caving and send some trip reports in to me for the RAG.

Cave Ho!

Bighorn Broeckel

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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.

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## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

August 14, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 PM at the Wolff's in McCloud. Present were George Reel, Ray Miller, Bill Broeckel, Russ Yoder, Bill Kenney, Jim & Liz Wolff, and Melanie Jackson. Minutes were accepted as amended. Treasurer's report: April 98 balance = \$373.75, August 98 balance = \$380.42.

Correspondence: KMCTF Newsletter received from Steve Knutson. 1988 SpeleoDigest editor needs material from California. Bill Broeckel to inform Bob Gulden, who keeps a long cave list on the internet, to remove Gaping Holes from the list, but to leave Catwalk Cave.

Old Business: James Boys Cave (AKA James Brothers) needs to be surveyed as we need the data.

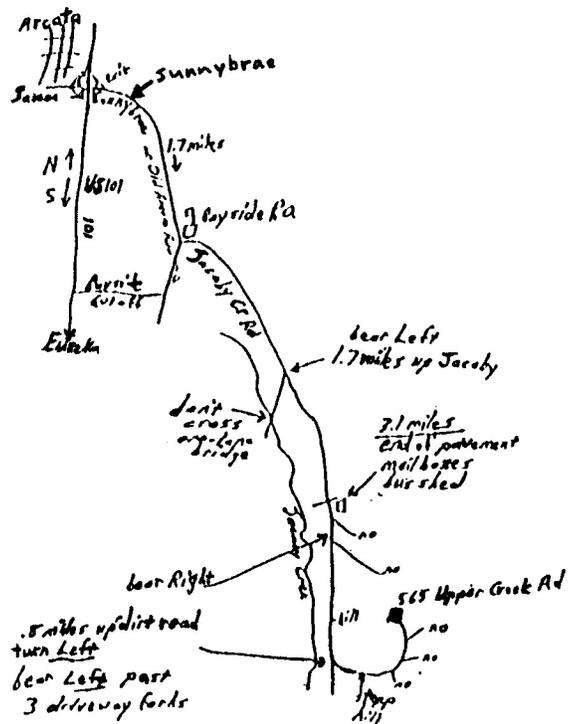
New Business: B. Broeckel thinks Beartooth and Astrotuff may be one and the same cave. The maps have many similarities, but different directional orientations. Jim Villegas approached Liz Wolff with the idea that cavers could be involved in hunting for caves along three proposed power line routes. The cavers would subcontract with the power line consultants to find and map the caves. How much time and distance would be covered and compensation received has yet to be discussed. Finding archeology sites or bat sites could extend the period. Nothing definite has been done regarding this yet. Cave Management Workshop results are not in yet. The "Northern Province" may include several National Forest areas. Jim Wolff will be taking the Forest Supervisor, Ken Showalter, and a few specialists out to see lava caves in the Shasta-Trinity on August 19, 1998. Bill Broeckel and Liz Wolff will also try to go.

Next Meetings: Sep 4, 1998 in the Marbles. Oct 2, 1998 in McCloud at the Wolffs. Nov 7, 1998 at the coast at Fritzke's (bring desserts, beverages, appetizers & things that don't go in the oven). Dec 11, 1998 Christmas Party?

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM. Respectfully submitted by Melanie Jackson  
**MJ**

**CAVE CALENDAR – 1998**

- Nov 7 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting – On the coast with Mark Fritzke and Linda Villatore. Bring desserts, beverages, and appetizers (non-oven stuff). New slides of Hurricane Crawl continue the coast tradition of great programs.
- Dec 11 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting – To be announced. Come to the next meeting and help decide where we meet and what might be done for Christmas besides nominations for officers.
- Jan 16-18 or Feb 13-15, 1999 Oregon Caves restoration work weekend. Hint: come to the next meeting in November to help decide if this will be on Martin Luther King’s weekend or President’s Day weekend.
- July 12-16, 1999 1999 NSS Convention, Twin Falls, Idaho. (Plan ahead.)



**THE KNEEGRINDER, OR DAVE'S LOST PASSAGE**

By Cynthia Ream

In July of 1997, a group of us were gathered around the Bigfoot maps in Marble Valley, having the usual morning discussion of where we should go for that day's cave trip. Should it be another trip to try to locate the illusive Trail Junction connection, a dig, or clean-up survey? Steve Knutson began to campaign heavily for a trip to check out a lead passed on to him several years before by Dave Cowan.

The story is, back about 15 years ago Steve took Dave and two other cavers out to explore and map in the outer reaches of the Wounded Knee. They split up the group, with Dave leading one party, and Steve the other. When Steve's partner began to feel ill, they headed out. At the designated rendezvous point Steve decided it was so late the other two must have headed out of the cave.

As it turned out, they were still in the cave, and had considerable trouble finding their way out of the maze of passages in that area. Dave was not too happy, and thus it was several years later, when he was preparing to move to West Virginia, that he decided to reveal to Steve that they had left a good lead in the area they'd mapped.

The lead sounded intriguing, but the catch was that Steve wanted us to "route find" our way out to it. He had a migraine headache that day, and didn't want to lead the trip himself. Rich Sundquist was ready to take the bait, but having been out in the Wounded Knee a couple times myself, I knew it would be next to impossible to pathfind our way to this particular lead. The area is like Swiss cheese, with all crawlways looking very much alike. Heck, we'd be lucky to just not get lost.

After much discussion and arm twisting, all was decided. Steve would lead us out to Dave's lost passage with Roger Jones and Ben Barrett. The three of them would then exit the cave, while Rich and I explored. Like Hansel and Gretel, we left bits of flagging to mark our way back.

After a lot of crawling, and only one wrong turn, Steve got us to the entry to Dave's lost secret. I was very impressed that he could take us right there, since it is so complex, and it's been several years since Steve, or anyone for that matter, had been out this way.

Rich and I proceeded to slither up a belly crawl, and were pleasantly surprised to intersect a walking passage! The first one we'd seen in hours. We were also surprised to hear a little water running under the floor. This section of the cave is remarkably dry.

We immediately headed off to the left – the direction of the Wooley Creek valley. At this point the cave has already passed under the rim of Marble Valley, and is in the Wooley Creek drainage. We had grand illusions of popping out in a sinkhole somewhere far beyond the ridge.

What we found was a narrowing passage that led to a crawlway straight ahead, and a couple small holes in the floor. I immediately dove into the crawlway, and Rich began working on enlarging the holes. After moving some stone slabs out of my way, I managed to wriggle through the crawlway towards the darkness that beckoned me forward. The passage opened up alright, but I found myself about 25' above the floor of a dome. To get out, I'd have to move from a restricted crawl to bridging out over this pit. I begged off, and went to see what Rich had found.

He had made considerable progress with the hole, and wanted me to see if I could fit. Without too much trouble, I slid down to a parallel passage, about five feet below the crawlway I was just in. I was able to walk to the same place I had just seen, and from an upright position thought I could safely climb to the floor. I climbed down and looked around, finding a small crawlway leading off along the same trend from the bottom of the dome. I went back to report the continuation to Rich. He tried to squeeze on in, but the cave was not yielding to him. He was starting to get chilled from lack of movement, and didn't want to devote a lot more time to digging, if it wasn't going anywhere.

We discussed it, and agreed to that I would push on ahead to see if it would continue or pinch out. The dome was not very high, and it didn't look like a very promising lead. I pushed into the muddy crawlway. There was water running along the floor, and I could hear falling water ahead. After a few twists and turns things began to open up, and I was able to stand, then walk to the bottom of a very tall dome. This is where the water is coming from, and I couldn't tell if there was a climbing lead, or not. The passage continued along the

same trend, very tall, but was now pinched to six inches or less in width, too small to continue.

We left this area, estimating about 100' of new cave here, and headed towards the other end of the T-junction. Again, the main trend ended in a crawlway, which I began squeezing through. I managed to get my head around a bend, and was again looking down into virgin cave. There was a small room below me, but how to get down?

Meanwhile, Rich had crawled off to the right, and found another dig. I thought perhaps if that opened up, it would lead to the small room I was looking into. I crawled over to where he was, and before too long he had it open to where he thought I could fit. It was tight, but by moving some dirt and mud as I went, I managed to work my way down a small incline to where the passage leveled out. Here it picked up the small stream that started back at the domes, and was rather slimy. I crawled on up ahead, and things seemed to open up. When I got to a spot I could actually stand, I took it as a good sign and went back for Rich.

It was much easier to dig from below, and we soon had the crawlway big enough for Rich too. We excitedly began to crawl on ahead. It was getting very late, and we agreed we'd scoop a little, just enough to see if we really had a going passage or not. After ~60', we found ourselves standing at an intersection with two tubes, having noted a few other possible leads. We looked at each other, grinned, and agreed that we had something worth returning to.

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I was not at the September Speleocamp, and Rich was kind enough to wait until October to return to the new section of Wounded Knee. We entered the cave knowing it would be a very long trip. None the less, we stopped on the way to the Big Room to take some video, since Rich had brought the equipment up this trip. Then, on the way to the Illusion Rich insisted on stopping to dig open a lead he thought was hot, and I thought not. Still, even with these distractions, we found our way out to the lead without too much trouble.

We began mapping what we considered the main trend, leaving flagging with survey numbers at every major junction. It was mostly all hands and knees, except for a couple intriguing pits. One we were able to free climb half way down, then were unsure about the rest without a rope. The other we climbed down, but it did not continue in a downward direction.

We knew we had going cave here, and hoped we could map 1,000 feet of virgin cave in one trip, a rarity in the Marble Mts. in this era of exploration. We finally reached a point where the passage just pinched down to almost nothing. I squeezed into a flat out crawl that went to the right, and Rich doubled back to another lead to see if it would connect with a down-sloping body tube I was looking in. I heard him scampering around below me, but we never really connected.

When he returned, I realized I was getting really tired, and thought we should leave. We had mapped 800', in fifty survey stations, almost all crawlway, and were leaving about 40 unchecked leads behind. It took a long time to get out, and was broad daylight when we got to the surface. Perfect timing; the guys in camp were just starting to gather gear in case they had to come in and look for us, but were not too worried yet.

With Steve busy putting our data into his computer, we were able to have a printout of our new find to dream about over the winter months. The passage is headed straight back towards the Meatgrinder. Is that where the pit would take us? When July finally arrived we were more than ready to find some answers to our questions.

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My first day in camp, Steve, Midori Sundquist and I suited up for a trip to continue what had begun the year before. I had to set up my camp, so we started fairly late, and were made even later when I realized I had forgotten my gloves, and had to "dash" back to camp. They're a must for this trip. When Steve found out I was bringing two pairs of kneepads on the trip, he reconsidered his thought of leaving his behind.

We made good time to the new area, which I was now dubbing the Kneegrinder because of its location between the Wounded Knee and the Meatgrinder passages, and because of the lingering memory of how my knees felt after that first mapping trip with only

one, thin pair of kneepads on. My idea was to just start with the first leads we came to, and systematically knock them off as we proceeded into the passage. Surely, some of them wouldn't amount to much, would loop around or just pinch out, but since we hadn't checked any of them out, one never knows which one might be the one to go to glory.

Most of the leads turned out to not be too grand, and Steve was really sad when we came to the pit and we didn't have a rope to push it. Rich had tried to encourage us to take one, but I confess, I didn't relish the idea of carrying a rope through all those crawls, and I talked the group out of it. In retrospect, it would have been a good idea to bring it. Even the leads we thought looked good weren't panning out. However, when we got to the second pit, Steve climbed down and pushed ahead to find that there was continuing passage. We mapped and pushed and continued to find virgin cave until we started to get cold and tired. It was time to leave, even though the cave kept going. We mapped 550' that day. The last passage seemed to parallel the one above it.

Towards the end of the week, my knees and I were rested enough to feel up to a return trip. Rich was feeling a little under the weather, but I was afraid if we waited until the last day the trip might not come off, and I was curious to see what we might find next.

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This time we had no video gear, and headed directly for our objective. We were carrying a rope and vertical gear for the pit. We also had a watch, something I usually don't allow on my trips. With just Midori as our backup, we didn't want to be too late, though, and worry her. The plan was, if we weren't back by noon the next day, she'd use the radio to call out for help.

When we got to the Kneegrinder, Rich's idea was to head towards the end of the October survey and start mapping in the lead he had checked out at the end of the trip. Somehow I had missed him telling me this, but he had scooped about 100' of passage, and it was going. We dropped the rope off at the pit, and continued on.

It turned out this was the true continuation of the trend we had been following. We had been sidetracked at the end of our first survey into a little overflow area. We surveyed on in a similar hands and knees crawl, with many side leads. Finally, as our passage got smaller, we intersected a "big" side lead. When I say big, it was still a crawl way, but much bigger than what we were in. It led up and down slope, and had good air coming from below. It was about 4' high and 5' wide, and going! Shortly thereafter, we encountered another one similar in makeup. We also saw a good sized crawl going off that was littered with schist, and found another pit! This one was pretty muddy, and at least 30' deep to start with, and after that we couldn't be sure. It seemed like it must go somewhere.

Towards the end of our survey, we lost the good airflow, and the passage started a slight uphill trend, getting progressively smaller, until it pinched off in an ugly mud and schist collapse. We had mapped ~600' of new cave, still heading in the same direction, towards Meatgrinder. In fact, we now figured we had passed over the Meatgrinder. We were slightly disappointed, as we were hoping to come upon an easier way out. We had left about 15 or 20 new leads for another time.

Since I had a watch, I decided to see how long each leg of this trip took. It was 5 hours to the lead, 6 hours of mapping and exploring, then 6 hours out of the cave. It took us 1 1/2 hours to pass through the Kneegrinder, and another 1 1/2 hours to get out of the Wounded Knee – 3 hours of crawling! One way!!! We needed to find another way into this area.

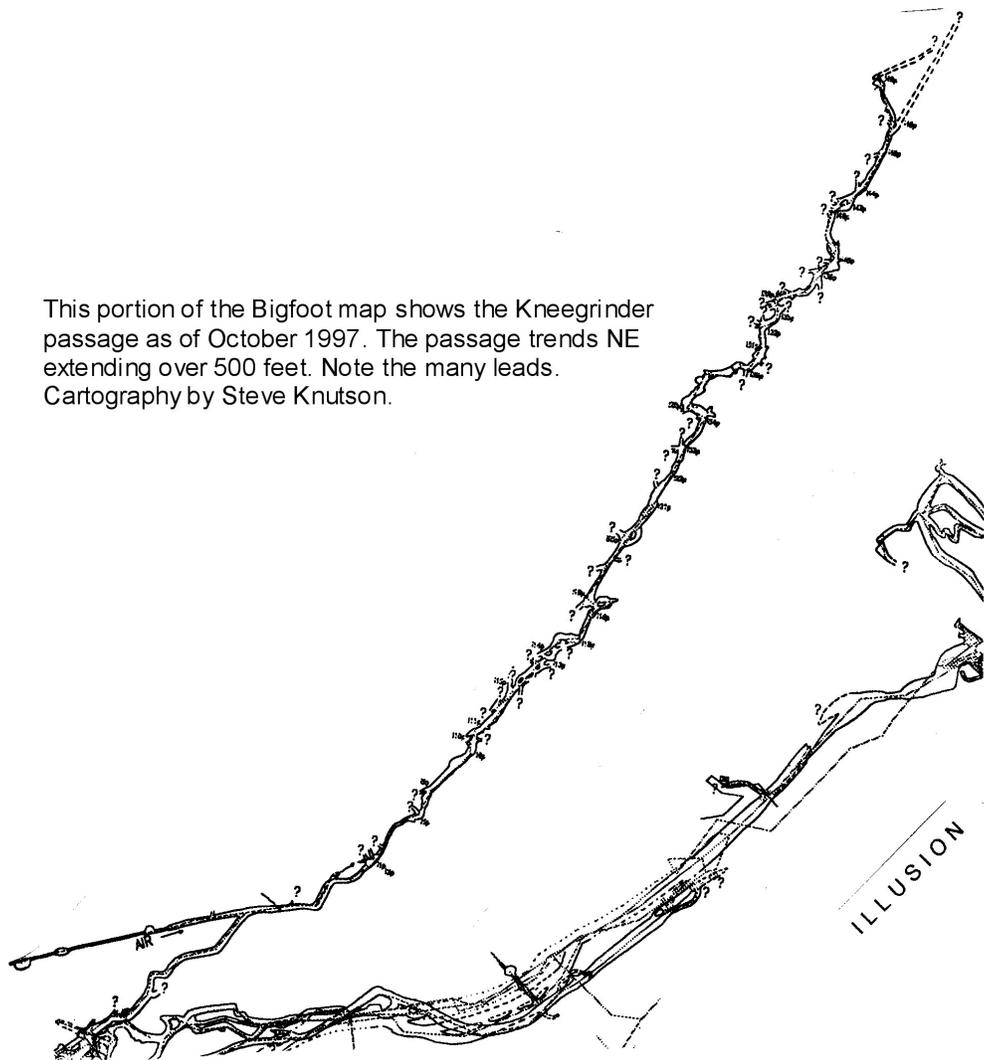
Midori Sundquist and I went in to the Illusion a couple days later, and tried, unsuccessfully, to find a connection from there. It was definitely worth a try. However, now that Steve has input the new information onto the database, he believes the connection will have to come from the Kneegrinder level. Since the passage has passed beyond the Meatgrinder and the Illusion of Original Goodness, he suggested we might need a new name for this new trend – perhaps Reality? Noooooooooo, we don't want this for our new reality.

With close to 2000' of survey already, and about 40 leads yet to be looked at, this new area holds forth some interesting potential. One never knows what might be beyond that next dig...

**CR**



Even Cynthia Ream shows some strain after the big Kneegrinder trip last October (1997).



Map: Kneegrinder passage, Bigfoot Cave

## **1998 COLUMBUS DAY SPELEOCAMP SUMMARY**

Marbles Speleocamp, October 10-18, 1998

By Mark Fritzke

Steve Knutson, Bill Kenney, Cynthia Ream, Bighorn Broeckel, Lynn Van Erden, and Regan Barry and I showed up for this year's Columbus Day Speleocamp.

### **Sunday**

#### Bigfoot Cave

Cynthia, Lynn and Regan cruised up the Upper Illusion passage to survey side leads. Since the Kneegrinder parallels this passage, Cynthia and Rich Sundquist had begun looking for a shortcut after a marathon 21-hour trip in September. The current route to the Kneegrinder takes 6 hours one-way, perhaps a record for 'remoteness' in an American alpine cave. The aspiring virgin cave surveyor must crawl through the Illusion Passage to the end of the Wounded Knee, then crawl and crawl through the endless Kneegrinder. Cynthia, Lynn and Regan surveyed about 400' and located some promising leads.

#### Drystream Cave

Bighorn Broeckel and I entered Drystream's lowest entrance to access the upstream terminus of the cave. Way back in 1977, Steve Knutson surveyed and crawled upstream until he triggered a collapse, blocking a lead that has tantalized cavers for 20 years. In 1995, I began surface digs in the dry streambed to access this 'missing segment' of the Bigfoot system. Last year, I dug open Blade Runner and Maple Leaf caves, hoping they would bypass the collapse and lead me to a 'grand junction' connecting Drystream to Sky High, Upstream and Sinking Stream caves. Alas, dreams are simpler than reality! Blade Runner drained to a 7" wide crack with a 90-degree bend. Maple Leaf dropped into a 50' long room and drained through a series of digs to within 35' of a side lead in Drystream. A connection here would circumvent a pool crawl near the end of Drystream. But, since we experience the lowest water flows in the caves in October, it was now time to push upstream. First, Bill and I tried to force a route around the pool through some partially collapsed ceiling blocks. Then I hammered a slab blocking the airspace over the pool. "Whoom!" – it collapsed to bridge across the pool. I promised Bill I'd "Be back soon", and dunked through the numbing cold water! Immediately, I ran into breakdown-filled passage with fresh scratches on multi-ton blocks; this area had collapsed since my last visit here in 1984. I probed anxiously onward, but after an hour the onset of hypothermia and Bill's singing drew me back. Finally, I slithered up a side lead to examine the dig toward Maple Leaf. Low and muddy, but how could I commit to a dig when I was so wet and cold?! We left the cave late in the night; Bill hiked out to get home to work the next day, while I stumbled back to camp, exhausted and depressed by the unexpected truncation of Drystream.

## **Monday**

### Ananias Spring

My spirits dampened with the cold fog of a brewing storm; I needed a breakout! Previous visitors to Ananias Spring had reported "It comes straight out of the schist." In 1994, I hiked over the hill and was surprised to discover the spring was actually a flooded cave. The walls were entirely made of schist, but I trenched the floor and found a thin band of marble. In October 1994, I lured my brother-in-law into helping me probe the spring. By donning a drysuit and taping a 10' extension onto a snorkel, I poked my head into a submerged 10' by 20' room plunging deeper into the mountain. On the hillside just West and above the spring, I located faint evidence (or was it wishful thinking) of a high-flow resurgence, and dug out a few blocks to help it open up.

The storm flood of January 1, 1997 had raged through the region's watersheds; perhaps it had also blown out the spring? So, I hiked over with a hoe and a flat bar to check it out. I dropped down a surface gully above the spring; and followed a right-fork to my dig, thinking "You dip; this is just a surface gully, not a cave resurgence!" Dropping off a ledge, I was suddenly greeted by a new cave entrance! Well, actually it was new 2' x 2' x 2' pocket under the ledge. Again, I thought "You dingleberry, the snowmelt run-off created this little pocket; it's NOT a cave!" But, the little dry plunge pool at the back drew my interest. I gingerly pried a rock out of the pool bottom, and beamed my headlight on a sandy floor, "You idiot, it's just a surface feature!" Again, I carefully pried out a rock and Oh Boy! I heard a faint trickle of sand going DOWN A CRACK!!! The gathering storm clouds and gloom of dusk spurred me to action. After half-an-hour, I had excavated a 2" wide crack that swallowed pebbles down a slope below a huge 4' x 2' slab. It was too big for me to move alone, but I was excited! This cave could penetrate through the mountain (to the sink above Little Marble Valley), becoming the 3rd cave system in the Marbles to cross a surface drainage divide!

Meanwhile, Steve Knutson, Cynthia and Bill K. dragged a rope to the Wounded Knee to set-up a rappel into the Illusion; potentially this will bypass some of the endless crawls leading to the Kneegrinder. They exited late at night to be greeted by driving sleet!

## **Tuesday**

The heavy rains dampened everyone's enthusiasm, so Steve, Bill K., Regan and Lynn opted to hike out. This left Cynthia and I determined to go underground and get out of the rain. After some negotiation, I cajoled her into pushing a crevice in Upstream Cave I had glimpsed way back in 1979. We rappelled into the 85' drop into the Bat Vault with a push rope and digging tools. After 7 hours, we had penetrated and surveyed 165' up a narrow canyon leading toward the gap between Brokedown Palace and Sinking Stream caves. We were stopped by a 7" squeeze between bedrock walls, but just short of a big echoing dome.

### **Wednesday**

The indecisive morning weather degenerated into another drizzly day. Undeterred, Cynthia and I probed side leads on the way to Fleetwood Dome. The new Autocad plots Steve created have greatly facilitated lead checking; if it ain't on the map, it ain't surveyed. Passing several leads not marked on the map, we arrived at the end of a blowing crawl just past Fleetwood Dome. Cynthia noticed the air didn't come from the flowstone coated crack overhead, but where else? Stuffing her face into the floor, she was greeted by a cold blast issuing from the wall? No, a tiny sediment-choked seam; time to dig! After half an hour of excavating oozing mud and gravel, she squeezed into a body-tight tube, through a corkscrew spin, and around a chest-crushing corner. Wielding our "Thor" hammer she knocked off a few protruding blades, so I could muscle through. The crawl opened up to a complex series of domes with beautifully sculpted marble pendants. For a while we entertained the idea that we might be climbing up to a new entrance, but eventually everything choked. Altogether, we netted another 300' of survey. At the entrance, I got off rope and began climbing up the chute, but my pack tether snagged under a 200-lb. chokestone. With a frustrated jerk I pulled my pack free. To my horror and surprise, the choke suddenly dropped to the frozen mud and rolled to the brink of the pit.

"Rock! Rock!" I yelled, as flakes rained down the pit. The block had pinned the rope; had it chopped the rope and stranded Cynthia?! After a struggle I managed to tilt the block and free the rope, which was miraculously undamaged. Cynthia climbed the rope while I made sure no more debris was triggered. After she had gotten by, I slid my legs under the block to give it a leg press while wiggling it up to a wider section of crack; "Don't get yourself stuck!" I cautioned myself. The sub-freezing wind blowing into the cave would quickly turn me into a pop-sickle. I barely managed to roll the block up the crack and over the brink, "Blam! Boom! Boom!" it ricocheted into the depths.

### **Thursday**

I was determined to finish my 7 year long quest to completely survey and push the Heaven and Hell caves. Promising Cynthia a short day with shallow, warm caves, we checked out a possible connection between a small cave I called Hades Gate and Ur-in-Hell. I looked at a hanging block that had previously intimidated me and tapped it. Hmmm, sounds loose! "Blam!" – it dropped and shattered on the floor; I was right about that! We made a "light connection", but gave up on the finishing the dig and surveyed to Ur-in-Hell and through to an upper entrance. But, the sub-freezing weather and numbing "reversed airflow" compelled us to quit early.

### **Friday**

The weather finally began warming up; we had been enduring cold nights with frozen ground and heavy frost the last 3 nights. We ate, basked in the sun, ate, repaired PVC suits, ate and ate. Finally, as the sun began to dip under the ridge, we rappelled down the Bigfoot drops one more time and headed for the Upper Illusion passage. I brought a bolt kit to secure one end of a safety line traversing

over a 20' pit. We methodically knocked off side leads located on Sunday's trip, until we split up to work on some digs. I looked at a blowing 1' x 1' lead. The

passage trended up, then down to the right followed by up to the left. I found a convenient blade of rock for digging and scooped sand out to bedrock walls and squeezed in. "Hmmm, tight!" If only I could lop 2" off my left shoulder. Dig, dig, dig. "Yeow! This hurts, but I'm just barely making it. I'm through!" I scooped ahead about 30' – it went – until my headlamp died. Cynthia and I surveyed 20 shots up a complex tube trending parallel to the Upper Illusion and tantalizingly close (50-80 feet?) to a cross-connection with the Kneegrinder. The cold gnawed away at our determination for hours, until neither of us could ignore the numbness creeping from our toes up to our knees. Finally, a series of small crawls failed to tempt us further, and we headed out. Cynthia climbed up the entrance ropes first. As I began the ascent, I saw a weird bluish glow above ... from Cynthia's light? Ha, No – it's daylight! A 16-hour trip to cap off the season.

### **Saturday**

After a groggy breakfast/dinner, we adjourned for a 4-hour nap, but got up in time to hike to Ananias Spring before the sun went down. We maneuvered the huge slab out of the way and dug down, until I had opened up a small passage diving under a solid schist ceiling. Hopefully, the snowmelt run-off next Spring will wash out more sediment, and next summer we'll have a new cave to explore!

23 years of caving in the Marbles, and I'm still overwhelmingly fascinated by all the untapped potential for virgin cave! **MF**



Mark Fritzke checks the "hanging column" in Drystream Cave.

**KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST CAVE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP REVIEW**

July 17-21, 1998

By Liz Wolff

The Klamath National Forest (KNF) sponsored a cave management workshop from July 17-21, 1998 in Yreka, CA and the caving areas in Siskiyou County. The objectives were for the local cavers to meet the KNF personnel that manage the caves, for them to meet us, and to see what the whole thing is about for the KNF people.

During the weekend of July 17-19 up to 28 SAG, KMCTF, and USFS personnel took part in the field trip portion of the workshop. Fourteen people were caving in the Marble Mountains; 4 went to the Happy Camp District on Friday; 14 people in the lava cave areas on Saturday; Sunday, 7 were in the limestone area on the Salmon River; and more went back out to the lava area on Tuesday. Mark Fritzke, Bill Broeckel, Bill Kenney, Melanie Jackson, Ray Miller, and Jim & Liz Wolff from SAG participated. All but one took part in the classroom portion of the proceedings on the 20-21<sup>st</sup>. Jim was there as official Shasta-Trinity (S/T) representative, Ray was there as bat expert, and Bill B., Liz, and Mark represented the grotto. Most of the USFS people were from KNF, one from Oregon Caves NM, 2 from Lava Beds NM, 1 from Fish & Wildlife, and 3 from S/T. Two cave specialists from other National Forest Regions attended and 2 from the Park Service, giving lots of good advice to the Klamath people.

The days spent caving were very productive in discussions of caves, cave environments, how to deal with public use problems in caves, cave wildlife, and how to correct past cave management or lack of it. Monday in the conference room was spent in presentations by cavers and cave managers. Tuesday was spent in round-table discussions covering specific cave areas: hazards, problems, opportunities, and management issues associated with each one. Past management activities were looked at and ways to institute more positive, proactive ones examined. Public use issues were discussed, as well as administrative issues, cave location confidentiality, research and monitoring, and the effects of land use on the cave resources.

The round-table discussions were divided roughly into 3 areas: the Marble Mtns, the east side lavas, and the Klamath Mtn limestones. The Marble Mtn. group came up with concerns and recommendations for:

- 1) wilderness use and management direction in visitation, caving permits, signs in caves of risks, closures (gates), and digging;
- 2) unregulated public use of caves;
- 3) potential for damage to resources;
- 4) public safety and education through gates and registers;
- 5) MOU's between the USFS and the Sheriffs office for search and rescue;
- 6) cave classification and biological inventory;
- 7) Research Natural Area (RNA) status for the Marbles;
- 8) research;
- 9) release of cave data and confidentiality;
- 10) management plan;
- 11) cooperation of KNF, grottos, and KMCTF in training of USFS employees, drawing researchers, grazing and waste water management, and caver led neophyte trips with equipment and on-the-spot training;
- 12) photo monitoring.

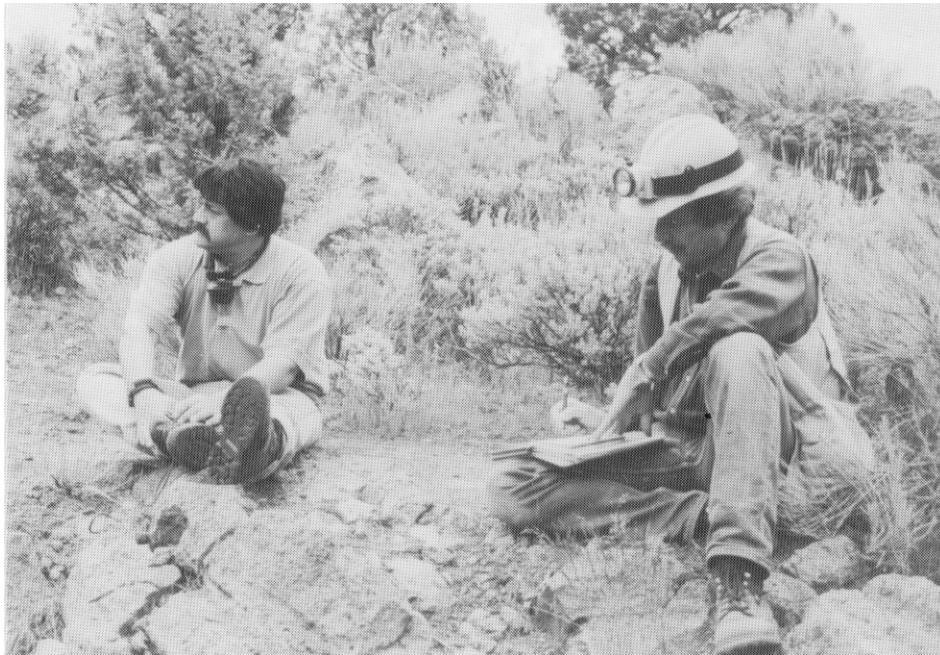
The east side lava group looked at issues, opportunities, and recommendations for each of the caves in areas of heavy human use. Issues included bat maternity/hibernaculum sites & invertebrates; uncontrolled public use (vandalism, digging, potential climbing sites), roads (drainage, spraying, access & parking); health & safety (vertical entry, human waste, disease); cultural resources; and extent of caves under private lands.

Opportunities included public education and interpretation; inventory/research/monitoring of human and wildlife use; protection of organisms by managing human use; identifying native & historical use/painting sites; development of cave classifications, management plans and criteria; recording cave names, locations, and cave content inventories.

Recommendations included coming up with management plans; monitoring public use with registers & counters or a system of permits; road closures, parking nearer county roads, access trails, patrolling; restricting activities with gates, regulatory signing, brochures, night and seasonal closures; restoration and graffiti removal; removing caves from forest maps; blocking road drainage from going into the caves; prohibiting food, drinking, smoking, and camping in the caves.

The limestone group was in 2 categories: near the state border and along the Salmon River. Near the state line, cattle grazing currently impacts an alpine karst area. Adjustments are needed through KNF, which controls the allotments, in order to protect the entire karst as a whole. Scorpion Cave needs a review of the existing management plan and necessary revisions made; a clearing house for reputable researchers needs to be established; a system of goal oriented trips instituted; casual spelunkers should be directed to Samwel Cave near Lake Shasta or referred to cavers for possible inclusion on supervised trips.

The Salmon River area is currently in the study phase to become a RNA. The RNA study and a management plan should be completed as soon as possible, and contain the spirit and ethic of the wilderness act. Bolt climbers currently have 4 routes placed near a vulnerable *Corynorhinus* maternity colony in a cave needing seasonal closures; other wildlife values need protection also. Digging, mining, bolt climbing in caves, and roadside parking were other issues addressed.

**LW**

LEFT: Biologist Sam Cuenca wrote the initial wildlife report for the Shasta Valley lava tubes. RIGHT: Geologist Juan de la Fuente was responsible for spearheading the entire cave management workshop.

**Reflections of the '98 NSS Convention** by Ernie Coffman

Great! Super! Colossal! Chairman Wm. Shrewsbury and the TAG folks put on the best convention ever. That's hard to envision, but true! Last year in Missouri, while waiting in line, William told me that they were planning on making the Sewanee Convention the best ever, and sure enough, it was!

The highest number of registered individuals ever! Seventeen hundred plus a few others that may have wandered in on Friday. The University of the South was fantastic, especially adding on new buildings since the '89 Convention, which included Fowler Center, where Registration, the Photo Salon, the Awards Banquet, Vertical Contests, Vertical Workshop, and even a number of showers for those who wanted peace and quiet from those out at the campground. We were also invited to participate in the huge swimming pool at the opposite end of Fowler Center, along with permission to use the workout equipment, which made a number of us drool, for these facilities were classy.

Not everything was perfect, but after the Geology and Civil War History trips got off to a late five hour waiting period, William was breathing a little better. Someone forgot to tell someone about the busses, it seems. Those who stuck out the long wait, had a splendid time, and those who threw in the towel will get their money back. Noting that there were over two hundred fifty waiting around, that seems reasonable. After Sunday, then, the opening ceremonies took place on Monday and most things started to click into position. What with a great staff and many, many volunteers, the Sewanee Convention was well on its way to being the best ever. Helping William through all of the trial and error was William's wife, Elizabeth, who was constantly assisting others and running here and yon, getting little credit, so for you Elizabeth, great job!

Since working on Registration Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, I saw many individuals coming and going. Names that come to mind from Diablo, Mother Lode, San Francisco Bay Chapter, and Southern Cal are: Iris Heusler, Vivian Loftin, Janet and Dave McClurg, Merrilee Proffitt, Lori Schultz and friend (believe it was Walt?), Roger Mortimer, Marianne and Jerry Russo, Tom Inderkum and Karole Ward, Morley Hardaker, Paul and Kathy Greaves, Bill Papke, Norman ?, Dave and Sandy Cowan, Bill, Peri, and Ethan Frantz, Marjorie and Vance Nelson, Lynn Fielding, Ann and Peter Bosted, Richard Brisch, Dave Bunnell, Elizabeth Rousseau, Joel Despain, Cindy Heazlit, Bill Liebman, Gail McCoy, Bill Meyer, Bob Richards, Carol Vesely and son, Bart Rowlett, and others that I can't recall. Names that really stand out from the Western Region and who should be congratulated are Marianne Russo and Jim Lakner who received their Fellow Awards; Bill and Peri Frantz, along with Dave Bunnell, who received several photo awards, and as usual, the Photo Salon was a huge success, although the videos that were played, had some major problems. Getting out of the showing, after moving a few chairs back into their racks at midnight, attests to this.

The Cumberland Cave tours and dinner went off without a hitch. Everyone appeared to be quite content with what they saw and had for dinner. And, speaking of dinner, the University Staff outperformed themselves at Gailor Dining Hall for those of the conventioners who ate there. Many who didn't take advantage of the meal ticket, ate there, for everyone was talking about the wonderful meals that were being served, and what a wide variety of choices one had to partake of. Even

though the soft ice cream maker was on the fritz, they offered eight choices of real ice cream, after the first day's glitch.

The Vertical Contest went well, although the number who participated was way down, therefore next year it will be cut back to a half-day on Monday and all day on Tuesday, so if you're planning on entering, be sure and sign up early, practice, and get on rope. Who knows, what without so many caves to choose from, like this year, maybe they'll have to go back to the original schedule.

The BIG discussion at the Congress of Grottos, this year, was the ten grand – yes, that's right, \$10 grand – that the Missouri folks didn't give to the NSS. It seems that several of the staff felt that their expenses should come from the money that the Convention brought in. This was a first; thus, the COG has given the BOG some direction, and hopefully the Missouri folks will cough up this big package of money and we'll all be on our way to bigger and happier things in the caving world. Several who served on the '97 committee weren't aware of this until the COG meeting. Considering half of the BOG was at the COG meeting and there were three times the number of folks there, from last year's meeting, this was a major issue. Since I represented Diablo and Southern Oregon Grottos, along with the Mother Lode Grotto until Morley showed up, I trust that my voting was all right for the grotto.

The Awards Banquet was the most formal dinner that we've seen, what with cloth tablecloths and napkins, four liter jugs of wines at all of the tables, three serving lines that had everyone eating, almost at the same time, and a great time had by all who attended. And there was space for many more, for the gymnasium was huge. It was a beautiful way to end the convention, as folks were bidding their good byes, congratulating and hugging, pointing out that this truly was one of the best conventions ever, if not the best!

A few from the West, drove, but most of us flew into Nashville, Chattanooga, or even West Virginia, so some of the folks from the Mother-Lode Grotto will be post caving with the Cowans, near their almost completed abode – and it really looks neat and sturdy, from what the pictures displayed. For those of you who didn't make the convention this year, you missed a good one ... and that included a number of folks. Plan on next year's convention in Idaho where you can lava tube until you drop, but be sure and wear sturdy boots, for the lava will tear up your light weight boots and "tennies" are out of the question. **EC**

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The SOG LOG pages are devoted to the Southern Oregon Grotto of the National Speleological Society. This grotto meets at Bruno's Pizza on Roberts Road in Medford 7:00 PM on the 1st Tuesday each month. Chairman Bill Kenney may be contacted at (541) 883-2781.



**SAG CAVE CAMP – JUNE 6-7, 1998**

By B. Broeckel

Shasta Area Grotto held a cave camp and cave survey workshop last June. Attending were Chuck Frank III, Chuck Frank IV, Scott Frank, Ian Canaday, Jim & Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, and the Broeckels. Liz Wolff taught the survey class. Friday, the early arrivals did some caving in Subway Cave, and also Pecan Cave. The grotto meeting took place late around the campfire, after it finally got dark, and most had arrived.

Saturday, L. Wolff got the class going while J. Wolff and Bighorn went out to locate the cave intended for the class field work. The scout team was unable to locate the cave, but managed to take up a huge amount of time with the attempt. Salvaging the situation, the class was able to enter Hard Luck Cave, which was a sure thing just downflow from Sleepy Coon Cave. While the class was gone, one adult took the kids on their own survey trip to miniscule Pecan Cave. After lunch, the class continued and learned all the steps needed to actually draft a cave map, from data collection through to finished product. Liz Wolff deserves a lot of credit for planning and teaching this class, which covered a lot of substance in one day.

Some Saturday night cave trips went out to Rusty Cave and Christmas Tree Cave. This was the day that the back of Christmas Tree Cave got connected to another small cave. The connection was mapped by freshly trained cave mappers, and was duly shown on the map published in the last issue of the SAG RAG. Christmas Tree Cave now has a back entrance.

Sunday, more cave trips went back to Rusty Cave and Christmas Tree North for bopping and photos. We tried to connect the north end of Christmas Tree North with the south end of Grinch Caves. Both seem to pinch down in the same large pile of breakdown, but connection eluded us this time. Carbide Can Cave showed evidence of fresh breakdown, while Frog Cave, which doesn't even get dark, also got looked at.

We were surprised to find a Redding museum group of flashlight cavers in the area. They were looking for Christmas Tree Cave, but found Grinch Caves instead and went through some of those lava tube segments. After our late lunch, we were still hoping to get some actual cave survey done this day, having so recently been trained in the virtues as well as the techniques of this activity. Jim Wolff suggested that we should hike out to Plywood Cave, which we did, but we were not impressed with the size of the entrance, or the nature of the sinkhole, which looked like a superficial surface tube feature. But it could be a great cave!

Now some ridgewalking began in earnest, survey gear on the ready. Wouldn't you know it, we found a new cave. Russ Yoder and Bighorn climbed down into the skylight entrance, while Jim and Liz Wolff tossed down the survey gear. It was 4:00 PM on cave camp Sunday, right about time for a new cave to show up. Well, this time we were up for it, and surveyed the whole 783 feet of Jay Feather Cave, and still got back to Yreka in time for Carl's Jrs. Meanwhile the Wolffs somehow managed to survey 80' Ebb & Flo Cave without survey gear. Yes, you read that correctly, and I dare anybody to go out and check the survey. Liz Wolff is some kind of zen master when it comes to cave survey.



Liz Wolff teaches a Cave Survey Class at the SAG Cave Camp last June.

### PECAN CAVE

Everybody seems to find by this cave independently. The entrance sinkhole is nearly filled with its own breakdown rocks, but two major breeches readily allow entry into a chamber with an intact far wall. Although the fire pit appears modern, the cave provides shelter and the loose floor material could be test-sifted by an archeologist. The cave name does not refer to the nuts used to make pies, and it has nothing to do with the old Pepsi can found in the cave. The actual derivation will be left to the reader's imagination, with the exact spelling rendered at the cartographer's discretion.

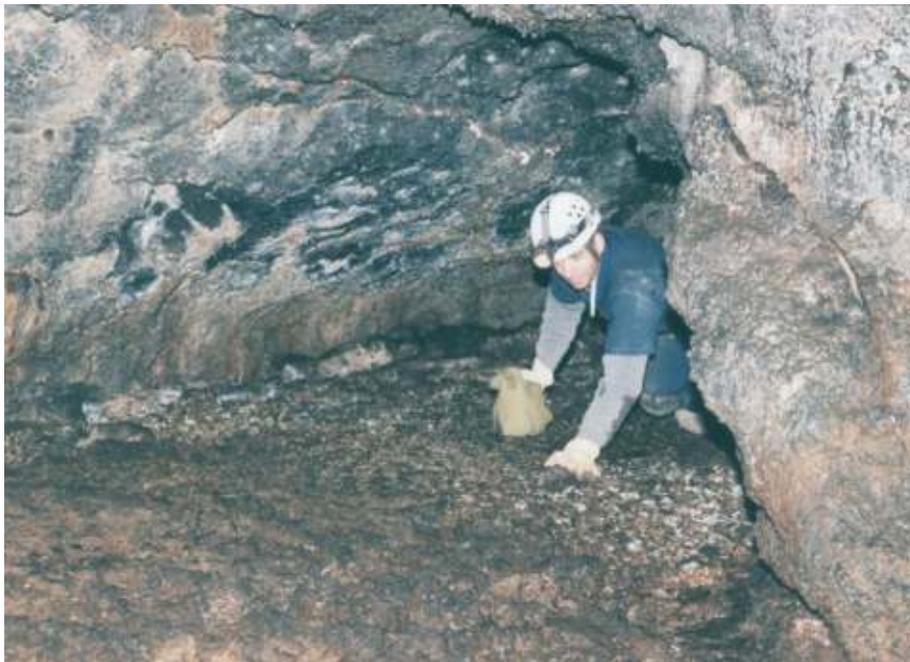
My kids all helped with the survey. This gave them something to do at "Dad's Cave Camp". They took turns setting stations. Benyam was the one who took the end of the tape down the 2.5 x 2.5 foot "sewer pipe" that extends 40 feet and gives the cave some passage length and character. This mini lava tube ends at a packrat nest.

The lead to the northwest is blocked with rocks. It goes upflow toward a small spattercone on the side of a much larger hill. This appears to be the volcanic vent that gave Pecan Cave its own unique lava source, different from the rest of the caves in the area.

### JAY FEATHER CAVE

A Mountain Mahogany bush grows in the Skylight Entrance. The cave was named for a scattering of Blue Jay feathers found under the Mountain Mahogany on the day we found the cave. The Chicken Entrance passage starts in a surface tube bubble chamber, then drops as a crawl over loose rocks and packrat midden to reach base level in the deeper tube. The north passage ends as a lava seal in a room with a very level rock floor (lava pool). South from the Skylight Entrance, the cave goes down a dirt slope to a large passage junction area.

A right turn leads to some breakdown, a near miss skylight, some nice lava stalagmites, and a length of walking lava tube that suddenly ends in a sand fill. A dig here stands a reasonable chance of yielding more passage, but the surface should be checked first before getting real involved in this dig.



Russ Yoder emerging from a Hat Creek lava tube passage.

A left turn passes through a whole congregation of "little people" lava stalagmites and some root curtains, and continues down the longest passage of the cave. The caliber of the tube diminishes as the gradient gets steeper. Near the end of the cave, the main tube and the side passage are both cracked through, but not displaced. Some sand invades through the crack in the main passage.

The cave ends in a dirt fill at the lowest point in the cave. This is an interesting point, because it shows that the direction of lava flow in this cave is southeast, while the main trend of the entire lava flow is north. As more caves get surveyed and the master map of the area gets filled in more completely, we will be able to make better judgments about the sequence of the eruptions, the sources of the lava, and the lay of the original surfaces.

### **EBB & FLO CAVE**

This one was discovered, named, and sketched by Jim & Liz Wolff. The surface tube features a small skylight and a packrat nest. So many of the caves in this area seem to have the piled sticks, chewed up pine cones, droppings, and odd items that indicate packrat habitat. This cave also appears to have the nonconforming southern direction of flow. **BB**



Becky Broeckel provides scale for the entrance to Pecan Cave.

**SAG RAG**  
 524 Annie Street  
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**STAMP**

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Cover: Shows photo of tavern window in Yreka

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 If the lions don't get you, the fleas will, by Ray Miller

Remove Staple For Inspection