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## **CHAIRMAN'S CAVE CORNER**

By Jim Wolff

Dear SAG Cavers,

My opinion may not count for much, but I feel that some cavers actually pay attention to my mumblings now and then, and hopefully now, you will too! In the past I've emphasized knowing your limitations while caving. Now I want to talk about your attitudes and some of the resulting ethical implications.

Having a good attitude while caving means quite a bit. One needs to have the right attitude to make the right decisions while in the cave, as well as outside, before entering the cave. After all, it's your attitude to begin with that will get you into trouble, right?

**#1** Let's say you have a glorious objective, to push a groady cave past a sump in an active cave. It may be risky enough just to push the sump, but on this particular day, if you make it through, the cave might flood and trap you and all of your party . . . sooo, you wisely choose some other less threatening objective for the day. Then, you wait for drier weather to do that sump some other day. The cave can always wait a little longer to get explored.

Common sense, right? Can you just bite your lip, swallow your pride, and make the right decision for the sake of others, and your own skin? Your attitude will often determine your response, to make the hard push, or back off. You decide, but first take a look at your attitude.

**#2** Next scenario, I will use a fragile cave as an example. I'm sorry to use this scenario, but of course all caves are fragile, and I hope that we all share an attitude of care for the cave, right? We all try to minimize damage to the caves we explore. Well then, what about going into a cave that turns out to be virgin and heavily decorated besides!? Do you do a self evaluation of your ability to leave no trace?? Would you turn around and leave this one for someone more qualified to explore this cave, with the skills and finesse to do it right??? I must confess that I might try and explore that part of the cave, and with the least amount of disturbance, wouldn't you???? I'm not saying that it's wrong to explore virgin cave, that's a reason we go caving, right? Sure!

What I'm saying here is that the reason why we should back out of a situation, whether it be an entrance or in some part of a cave, depends on our motivations and attitudes. Who knows, maybe there is another way around that delicate or virgin area. Self-evaluation comes into play. Your decision may determine whether there is going to be a lasting evidence of your passing or not. Let's admit that there will always be some evidence of our passing. So it becomes a matter of degree, and we try real hard to leave no trace, no matter what the personal cost might be.

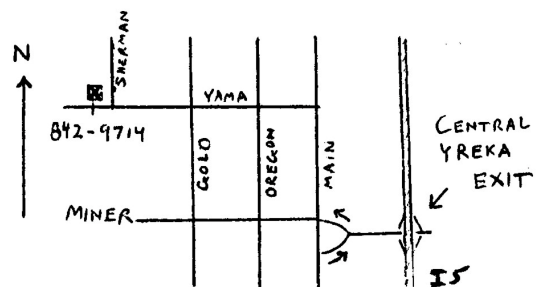
**#3** Here's another situation where that attitude comes into play. Say you're a die-hard carbide caver and get picked to join in on a restoration of a famous national park cave. Anyway, it is made known to him beforehand, that using carbide was forbidden in the cave... Well, he (it was really ME!) gets quite upset, thinks it's been implied that he can't use that light source in a responsible manner. The proper response is to acknowledge the need to protect the cave environment and the esthetics, and use the alternate light source. Attitude problem again. I learned without being told on this one! Anyway, the story goes on to where the fellow digs up another main source of electric light, and has a good time in spite of himself! Leave pride at home.

The purpose of this lecture is to help you be aware of your own limitations to be dealt with on a personal level while still caving all in one heartbeat! By letting me bring these three examples to the surface, maybe I can get you, my dear reader, to examine yourself, and see when you become caught between yourself and the right decision. For the cave's sake, you'll know what to do, and the resource will thank you for it. End of sermon.

Please note: There's a dandy brochure by the NSS titled "A Guide To Responsible Caving." I only have a dozen left, but can get more. I'll see that the NSS gets a few bucks for printing and postage. So just call or write me if you don't come to meetings. You are all entitled to one, and this subject of cave ethics is very important. Good stewardship to all. Thanks for listening. **JHW**

### CAVERS CALENDAR

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|------------------|--|
| Mar. 12, 1999    | SAG meeting 7:30 pm.<br>Melanie's in Yreka.                            |
| Apr. 9-11, 1999  | SAG meets at Oregon<br>Caves. Contact J. & L. Wolff<br>(530) 964-3123. |
| June 11-13, 1999 | Hat Creek Cave Camp.   |
| July 3-9, 1999   | NCRC at Lava Beds.   |
| July 12-16, 1999 | NSS Convention, Filer, ID.   |



**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING**  
**November 7, 1998**

First we all sat down to a perfect turkey dinner with great potluck fixings. The meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm and adjourned at 7:35 pm at Mark Fritzke's house in Bayside. The meeting was followed by dessert and slides of Hurricane Crawl. Present were Jim & Liz Wolff, Mark Fritzke & Linda Villatore, Kathy & Dick LaForge, Cherry LaForge, Ray Miller, Russ Yoder, Terri Hoselton, Melanie Jackson, Corrina Morin, Bill, Benj, & Benyam Broeckel, and John, Julie, & Salix Bair. Minutes were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's report: not available.

Correspondence: Memo 3-9-98 from Jerry Trout from the Coronado National Forest regarding removal of cave name locations from USGS topo maps.

Old Business: Old Business: Input was requested for making the meetings more enjoyable and for increasing attendance. Fritzke suggested we make them shorter and that we rent the video "Tag Your Pit" by Berry VonKramer. It's about Fantastic Pit.

– Regarding Bat Cave, it was noted that the Forest Closure Order is not done. The management plan needs to be completed and signs need to be posted about the reason for cave gating. A grotto letter was suggested to go to the McCloud District Ranger (Bob Hammond) to help get the project done. John & Julie Bair agreed to write the letter, if they can get the proper information.

New Business: Oregon Caves via John Roth invites SAG to do restoration work in the Ghost Room to remove rock. Of two available weekends, Jan 16-18 and Feb 13-15, we elected to take the January date (Ed. since postponed).

– The cave register at Jot Dean was vandalized one month ago. Plans are to discontinue the register in Jot Dean. Also, the back register in Bat Cave will be moved to Three Level Ice Cave in the ice river section, to get the people that don't go to the end of the cave. The bolt holes are to be filled with a bondo/crushed rock mix.

Trip Reports: Halloween caving: SAG did a re-survey of Hidden Ice. Liz Wolff and B. Broeckel did a surface survey in the snow. Wolffs and Russ Yoder mapped Double Tube, a nice cave near James Boys. Double Tube is 1,245 feet long. The re-survey of James Boys got pushed a little more into lower levels, and now measures over 4,000 feet, and only has one entrance. Another cave running parallel to James Boys got surveyed. Bill & Judy Broeckel have been mapping other smaller lava caves. (Check Fritzke's and Ream's SAG RAG articles for activity this fall in the Marbles.)

Next Meetings: Sunday 11-22-98, NCRC training day at Boyd Cave near Bend, Oregon. \$10 for 10 hour Intro to Cave Rescue session. SAG meets January at Oregon Caves (postponed). February meeting at Wolffs for President's Day Cave Conservation (ski) weekend.

**MJ**



### SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING December 11, 1998

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm at the home of Jim & Liz Wolff in McCloud. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. Chuck Frank 4 agreed to keep notes. Present were Bighorn Broeckel, Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, and Chuck Franks 3 & 4. There were no minutes or treasurers report. Dues are due Jan 1.

Correspondence: Cave Research Foundation and American Cave Conservation Association newsletters were passed around. Ray Miller received an e-mail on bear scat and how to tell if it was of grizzly or black bear origin. Ray also received an e-mail on a joint conservation effort in the Sierra area national forests that includes caves.

Old Business: Nominations – Ray moved that the same officers as last year be elected. Bill Broeckel doesn't want to be on the executive committee for this year. Nominations for Vice-Chairman opened and Chuck Frank 3 was nominated.

New Business: Oregon Caves Management Plan: Jim Wolff received a copy of the recently enacted final management plan with all the comments and responses. The January 8, 1999 SAG meeting will be at Kenney's, and not at Oregon Caves, because of the management plan's provision for winter bat closure. We will try for a trip and meeting at Oregon Caves in April.

Trip Reports: Bill Kenney, Russ Yoder, and Matt Dunlap went to the NCRC one day cave rescue training at Boyd Cave near Bend on the weekend before Thanksgiving. Patient packaging and stretcher handling were covered. Kenney noted the distinctive odor of *Tadarida* bats in three places in the cave. Chuck Frank 4 went to Melvin Cave, and found another cave while ridgewalking. There were two small entrances that may connect together inside. He thinks someone had gone through, but he couldn't fit. Ray reported on Bat Cave, and a recent study trip. Broeckel went to Merrill Ice Cave and checked the hole in the ice. The hole is much bigger now, and it is easy to climb down into it. **CF**



**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING**  
**January 8, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm at Bill & Cheryl Kenney's house in Klamath Falls. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm. Present were Ray Miller, Melanie Jackson, Russ Yoder, Bill, Cheryl, & Zane Kenney, and Jim & Liz Wolff. Minutes not available.

Treasurer's report: balance on 10-2-98 was \$420.27. Balance for 12-98 was \$455.01.

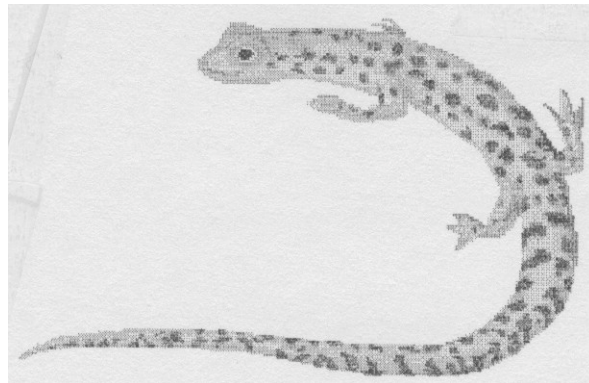
Old Business: Election ballots are to be mailed in the next newsletter, Melanie to do the ballots. Bill B. to mail them with stamps to those who don't regularly attend the meetings. Liz and Melanie did the grotto annual report on Jan 3, 1999 for the NSS. A cave nomination was completed recently by a Forest Service employee, Francis Mangels.

New Business: Jim Wolff had the NSS send us some pamphlets for responsible caving for new people interested in caving. Regarding winter caving and bats, if you see any bats, leave the cave and contact Ray Miller or Liz Wolff as to where they are. Russ Yoder did exactly this when he came upon a hibernaculum in Cracker Cave.

Trip Reports: Russ Yoder visited Cracker Cave. SAG rigged McCloud Reservoir Cave with a cable ladder after the last meeting. The group got very muddy, saw lots of guano, but only one bat. Broeckels went to Hat Creek and worked on Hard Luck and Pine Cone Caves. Also visited Coralloid Cave and Sleepy Coon Cave. The raccoon was not there this time.

Next Meetings: Feb. 12-15 at Wolffs in McCloud. Skiing or maybe a cave trip. Mar. 12 at Melanie's in Yreka. April 9 at Ray Miller's, or Oregon Caves (TBA). June 11-13 Hat Creek weekend.

**MJ**



**A CAVERS DAY IN THE MARBLES** By Cynthia Ream

The tent's pitched in the shade, so the sun won't force me out to early.  
I awaken to the gentle humming of insects stirring in the sun's warmth,  
or maybe some morning campfire talk

I stumble out to a disheveled group – hair sticking out every which way,  
tired eyes, several days' dirt accumulation, and I know I look the same.  
Get water from the creek, now a trickle in late summer, and heat some up for  
coffee – got to be gourmet, the one luxury I insist on.  
Granola or oatmeal for breakfast as we rehash the previous day's adventures.

“How was your trip?”  
“Where did you go?”  
“What did you find there?”  
“When did you get back?”

Next we lay out the wet gear in the sun, and maybe wash the stuff that's  
unrecognizable due to extreme mud crustation.  
Conversation turns to formulating a plan for this day.

Maps are pulled out, fingers trace passages, pause at the ?'s, signifying  
leads, then hopefully trace the path the imagination would like  
to see things continue.

People with projects start to sell their ideas to those who are looking for  
something to do. Used car salesmen could learn a thing or two.

All along, people continue to eat and drink,  
refueling after yesterday's depletion of energy,  
and camelling up for the day.

Yellow PUC suits are examined, and all rips, large and small, are patched, lest they  
snag and become a complete blowout.

'Round about 11 am or noon the trips have been decided,  
and gear gets stuffed into packs –

3 or 4 layers of clothes, rubber gloves with wool liners,  
kneepads, helmet, lights, fresh batteries or carbide,  
vertical gear, survey instruments, book, and tape,  
a hammer and flat bar for those too tight spots,  
and perhaps a rope or two.

Grab several candy or power bars, and keep drinking lots of water  
so you don't need to carry it with you.

Hike up the trail or across the karst to your cave entrance, then  
undress and begin to layer on the clothes in the hot, midday sun,  
for the frigid temperatures of the alpine caves

(~38 degrees,  
drippy,  
with a stiff wind)

By the time you're done, you're eager to enter the coolness of the sinkhole.

Every day the trip seems to start 1/2 hour later than the day before.  
We take turns going down the ropes, being careful not to drop  
a rock on our compatriots – a bad way to start a trip.

Once we're down, the sluggishness of the morning slips away, as  
we're energized by the cave environment, and prospects for new  
adventures, new mysteries to unfold.

We ramble off for another day of exploration. We always start out  
talkative, as we walk, scramble, climb, and crawl our way  
down the cave,

but by the time we decide to turn back, several hours later, we've grown  
to tired to speak, focusing all our efforts on –

negotiating the passage,  
staying on our feet,  
climbing safely.

As we retrace our footprints, the conversation of the way in replays in  
my mind. We stop periodically to cool down, to rest, maybe even  
to catnap, our goal now to just get out safely.

There's always the thrill of emerging from the underground into our natural,  
above-ground environment –

the welcome winking of the stars overhead,  
moonlight on the trees, or  
a warm sun lighting up the day.

March back to camp, occasionally frightening a trailside camper, footsteps  
passing in the wilderness wee hours. Campfire chats, hot food, tea or  
something stronger back in camp.

Hurry to bed before the sun finds us still up,  
grateful for another safe return.

**CR**



**CAVE OF ADULLAM** By B. Broeckel

This is the best "Bible Passages for Cavers" yet! But it will take a little longer to get through, just like a longer cave. Both Bible scholars and cavers like to make connections between passages. This time we will look at two connected Bible passages. One is from Hebrew history and the other is a poem. The first is found in 1 Samuel 22: 1-2.

- 1 "David departed from there (Gath) and escaped to the Cave of Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him."
- 2 "And every one who was in distress, and every one who was in debt, and every one who was discontented, gathered to him; and he became captain over them... "

This sounds like a fairly typical group of cavers. David was the grotto chairman. And like many grotto chairmen, he was also a fugitive on the run. David was keeping just a step ahead of his enemy, King Saul. He turned to the Cave of Adullam for a safe refuge and a hiding place, and it became a stronghold for him and his followers. In the Bible, caves were used for burials, shelters, hide-outs, and fortresses. Recreational caving is not really considered, until we look into our next passage which describes a recreational experience, at least in a spiritual sense.

Psalms 57 is The Cave Psalm, and it appears to be connected to the previous text in 1st Samuel. We think this Psalm was written by the same David who was the "grotto chairman" at the Cave of Adullam. And then there is the title to Psalm 57. My Revised Standard Version gives the title this way:

"To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave."

You can find other sources that actually identify this cave as the Cave of Adullam. I saw a cave conservation message in that "Do Not Destroy", but it was really an instruction in the songbook. This song poetry needed to be saved. The Book of Psalms, of course, is a book of songs and poems. A Miktam was known as a jewel, or a golden poem. It's interesting that The Cave Psalm would get this special designation. So David took refuge in the Cave of Adullam, and this is the miktam that he wrote about his cave experience. Let's start with the first verse.

- 1 "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in Thee my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of Thy wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by."

Clearly the cave is a symbol of God. David takes refuge in the soft shadows of God's "wings" (the cave), and the dangers outside move along like passing storms.

- 2 "I cry to God Most High, to God who fulfills His purpose for me.  
 3 "He will send from heaven and save me. He will put to shame those who trample upon me. Selah. God will send forth His steadfast love and His faithfulness!"

David is pretty upset. He cries out and appeals to God for help in his time of trouble. He trusts that God is able and willing to help him. Somehow the security of the cave gives David some hope and confidence in God.

- 4 "I lie in the midst of lions that greedily devour the sons of men; their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongues sharp swords."

Psalms are poems translated from Hebrew, and the translation of poetry is always difficult. Nevertheless, some of the cave related imagery comes through. Most cavers will understand what it means to "lie in the midst of lions", David probably also slept in the cave. The sharp things in the cave reminded him of his troubles.

- 5 "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Thy glory be over all the earth!"

Here is another mood change, like in verse 3. The sharp stalactites lose their fearsome quality, and become admirable in the peaceful quiet of the cave. Now David takes in the beauty of the cave, and breaks forth in praise to God. Such is the power of the cave experience.

- 6 "They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves."

More cave things are reminding David of his troubles. He's still worried about his enemies. He has to be careful, watch his step, and avoid falling into traps or pits. At the same time, perhaps he is dealing with the objective hazards in the cave.

- 7 "My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!  
 8 "Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.  
 9 "I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the peoples;  
 10 "for Thy steadfast love is great to the heavens, Thy faithfulness to the clouds." (compare with last line of verse 3)

Now a complete transformation has taken place. The cave has worked an effect that cavers might recognize. David has entered the cave with a worried and troubled heart. He comes out singing songs, praising God, thanking Him, and feeling sure of God's faithfulness and love.

- 11 "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Thy glory be over all the earth!"

This is verse 5 all over again. Most cavers relish the secret beauty found in the caves. Some will see it as a glory to God the Creator, and will look forward to that day when all the world will be made new and beautiful.

David sought refuge in the cave, but found much more. In spiritual terms Psalms 57 describes a recreational caving experience. We leave our troubles at the entrance to the cave, and return there later, tired but refreshed, and surely blessed. More than anything, it is this spiritual cave therapy that is the great value of caving.

**BB**

“One thing have I asked  
of the Lord,  
that I will seek after;

that I may dwell in the house  
of the Lord  
all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty  
of the Lord,  
and to inquire in His temple.”

Psalms 27: 4

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The time has come to renew our yearly SAG membership dues and newsletter subscriptions. The prices still remain the same as before!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NSS# \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family.  
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\_\_\_\_\_ I want to subscribe to CAL CAUER too. Thats another \$6.

\_\_\_\_\_ SAG RAG subscription only, without SAG membership. \$6.

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL. Make checks payable to Shasta Area Grotto, and send to Liz Wolff, POB 865, McCloud, CA 96057.

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