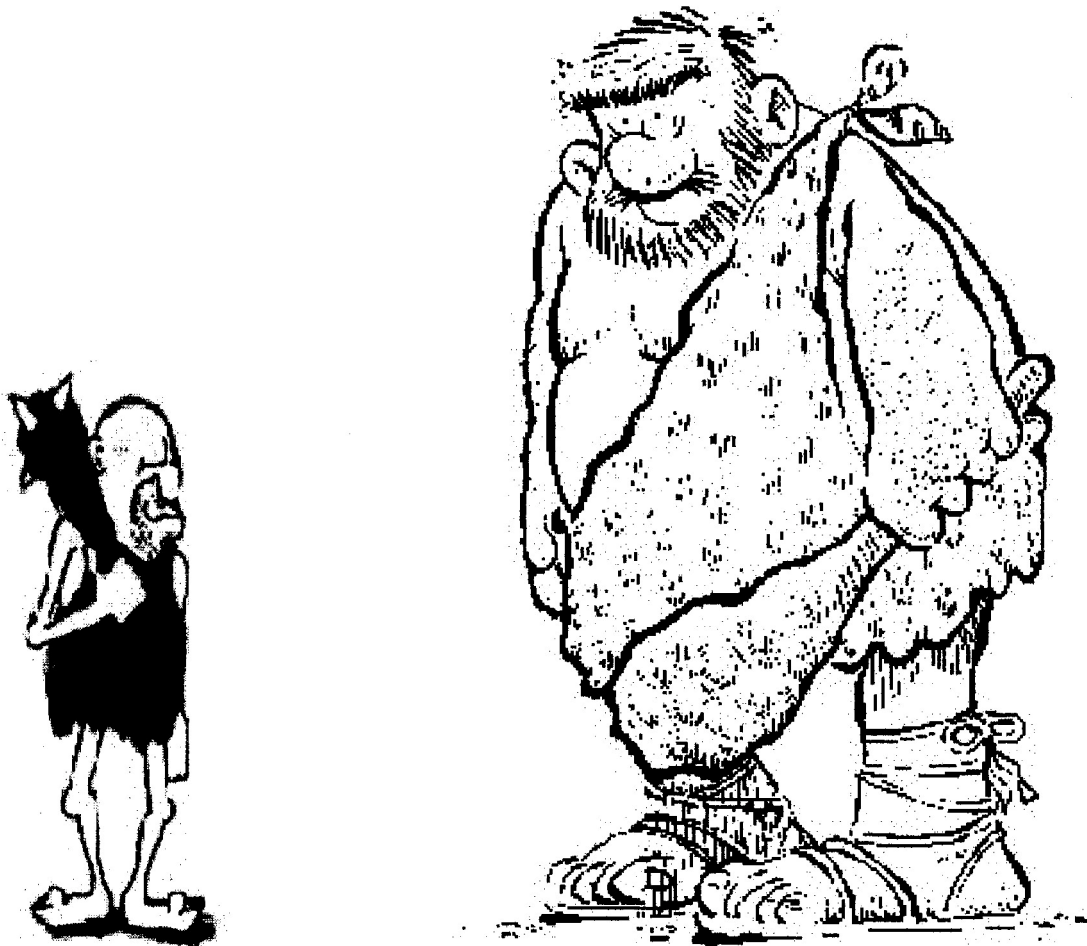


# sag rag

18:2

Mar-Apr 1999



'been cavin' long?

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.

## CHAIRMAN'S CAVE CORNER

By Jim Wolff

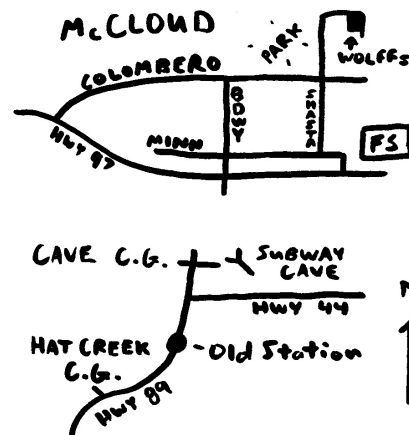
Dear Grotto and friends,

As the snow melts from our favorite caving areas, we should continue to look into the caving season with anticipation, and not forget that we are still preparing for that Regional! So, what I'm proposing here is that we should TRY and focus our field work in getting some potential cave trip leaders more familiar with the lavas near the Regional site. It wouldn't hurt to help us with the continuing survey work at Hat Creek too. I would like to see a lot of field work done this year, from all of you. Report any sightings of bats and other valuable resources to me, Ray Miller, or Chuck Frank III, so that proper follow-up trips, if needed, can be done in a timely fashion. We can also continue to train up lesser experienced cavers in vertical techniques too – heck, we all need to brush away the cobwebs off our gear, and go up and down ropes. You gotta use it, or lose it! Thanks.

JW

## CAVERS CALENDAR

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| May 14, 1999      | SAG meeting 7:30 pm. Wolff's in McCloud. Survey trip to Modoc NF. |
| June 11, 1999     | SAG meeting late at Hat Creek Campground. Survey more caves.      |
| July 3-9, 1999    | NCRC at Lava Beds.  |
| July 12-16, 1999  | NSS convention, Filer, ID.  |
| Sept. 24-26, 1999 | Western Regional at Hat Creek.                                    |



**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING**  
**March 12, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm at the home of Melanie Jackson in Yreka. The meeting adjourned at 9: 27 pm. Present were Ray Miller, Melanie Jackson, Russ Yoder, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Jim & Liz Wolff, and Bill Broeckel. Minutes accepted as read. Treasurer's report: current balance on \$458.14.

Correspondence: Correspondence: Juan de la Fuente announces a review of the earth, fish, and biology programs, with one day about caves, with the following Forest Service VIPs: Al Olson, Laurie Fenwood, John Chatoian, and Diana Craig, to be held April 20-21. Juan wants our input. Ray Miller suggested we respond to Juan as a grotto, not as individuals.

Old Business: Western Region dates have been changed to September 24-26. We have reserved Loop 1 & 2 at Hat Creek Campground. We have use of the amphitheater without a special use permit. Computer Den offered to put together the badges for 75 cents per button, with three week notice. Ray Miller will find out if we can use the Badge-a-Minute from the museum, so we could do it ourselves for less cost. Theme for the Regional is "Custom Cave Trips". Some types of trips proposed were: survey, clean-up, family, photo, inventory, lava or limestone, horizontal or vertical, and cave hunting. Meal plans will be offered by pre-registration only. The 6 meal plan is \$30 (2 dinners, 2 sack lunches, & 2 breakfasts). The 2 meal plan is \$15 (2 dinners). Individual meal prices are breakfast \$3.50, lunch \$4.00, and dinner \$7.50. Beverages and fruit snacks may also be on sale. Pre-registration due date is September 3, by postmark. Registration form to include name, NSS#, grotto, address, e-mail if any, phone, meal option, medical, & emergency contact. Reminders to bring cell phones, CB radios, and to carpool if possible.

New Business: Jim Wolff passed around a cave lead in the medicine Lake Highlands. A minor requested to come to a grotto meeting or to go caving with cavers. The bylaws say nothing about age. The grotto agreed that minors could come if accompanied by parent. Klamath National Forest Fiscal Monitoring and Evaluation Reports for 1997 are available on the internet.

Trip Reports: Broeckels surveyed 42 foot Pinchbug Cave, and had an all around miserable time. New caver Humberto Alaniz never wants to go caving again.

Next Meetings: April 9-11, Oregon Caves restoration project, and SAG meeting Friday. Confirm with Wolffs by April 1. May 14 at Wolffs in McCloud. June 11-13, Hat Creek Campground.

**MJ**

**INSKIP CAVE** By Jim & Liz Wolff

“... it was a dark and stormy night ...” and went downhill from there.

Inskip is a lava tube; one of the southern-most tubes in Northern California. I hadn't read Dave Cowan's description of the cave in the '90 NSS Convention Guidebook (1), but had heard that some of our grotto members had visited the cave on their own in the past (2) ...

So, after a planning meeting, when Russ Yoder said that he was going caving the next day, we went with him to Inskip – mainly because everything up here is full of sleeping bats or otherwise inaccessible. It was snowing pretty heavily when we left home the next day. Russ, Liz, and myself drove to Red Bluff, armed with a verbal description from Albert Henderson, and several area maps that Russ had bought in Redding. We wouldn't have found the cave without Al's description of the parking area for the trail that leads to the cave. The weather was now windy, very windy, with rain threatening.

Once at the cave, we went upslope into the shorter of the two main passages. None of us had been to the cave before, so we didn't know what to expect, save for the above mentioned guidebook description which, by the way, sat on my shelves at home. A lot of help there, eh?

The upper, southern end of the cave is filled with breakdown, sometimes lying in linear heaps, sheltering the floor from more debris. Right away we noticed that the cave was FULL of garbage! This is by far the most trashed out cave I've seen in all my years of caving! It was appalling! Evidence of partying (broken glass and cans, about 40 pieces per square meter, trash, spray paint and human waste. What were they thinking of?? One guy, named Rowley, had been to the cave nearly every year since 1966. It was painted on the walls throughout the cave. This place could use a major clean-up.

The cave is real neat otherwise, geologically. The northern and lower segment of the cave has upper level side passages, and as much trash and graffiti. One side passage went for several hundred feet, curving uphill to the south. The northern portion was also mostly breakdown floored, and predominantly walking sized. We saw 2 bats near a small skylight, the only one in the cave. The entrance area of the cave is a steeply sloping climb-down over breakdown. After the skylight, the cave levels out somewhat.

(1) See 1990 NSS Convention Guidebook, p.118.

(2) See SAG RAG 9:2, Mar-Apr 1990, p.10.



Continued on next page

**INSKIP CAVE** (continued) By Jim & Liz Wolff

The first of the upper levels is located only a few hundred feet beyond the skylight, and about 10-12 feet up the left hand wall. An easy climb brings you into walking passage without breakdown, that ends in a lava seal after about 50 feet. Disappointing. After an eon of breakdown, the second side passage is encountered on the left about 6 feet above the breakdown floor, where an arrow proclaims that the cave ends down tube, and another one proclaims the way out lies up the side passage. Ha! The side passage goes a few hundred feet and ends with a 4" high continuation, where a bolt has been placed in the low area, and a roomier space could be seen beyond. We had hoped that it would go into the other side passage so we wouldn't have to retrace our steps through all the breakdown. But no such luck.

The end of the cave came shortly after the last side passage. A breakdown choke with a dig in dirt that goes about a body length is the official end. Roots are visible in many areas of the cave, indicating that it isn't far to the surface. A map or survey notes would be useful to determine on the surface just where the cave ends, as there is a possibility that the cave could continue.

Upon leaving the cave it was raining and dark outside. Leaving the area, we chose to take a "short-cut" to Redding, where it was raining torrentially. Just about 4 miles from McCloud, we got stopped by a back-up of traffic. There were 8 trucks jack-knifed below Snowman's Summit. We waited there for one and a half hours until it was untangled. It was snowing pretty good by then. About 4 inches had fallen since we had left that morning. All in all, we had a great time. **JW & LW**

**SHASTA VALLEY CAVES UPDATE** By Jim Stout

Thought I would write a little update on what's been going on, this winter with our caves on the Goosenest (Ranger District) and ask for some help. As you know we completed the orders for occupancy and use of the Pluto's Cave complex and have been trying to enforce them. We also completed an information hand-out for Pluto's Cave. We installed a gate on the access road to Pluto's Cave entrance and will be placing rocks to close the roads that are not needed for access in the next few weeks. We replaced the bulletin board twice at the parking area. We identified the caves to be removed from the topo maps to the USGS. We have also secured funding to help gate Barnum Cave. I believe it is enough to cover supplies and materials. I was wondering if the club or Ernie Coffman and Bill Kenney offer to help install it was still good. Please let me know as I would like to get this done after the bats have left and before Sept 30. We also plan to gate Sand Cave but thought it would be best to wait until after the A12 Road project was complete. Thanks. **JS**

## **REPORT ON KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST CAVE MEETING**

By Wolff and Bighorn

On Monday and Tuesday (April 19-20, 1999) Klamath National Forest hosted a follow-up on last summer's cave management conference. This time the meeting took on a broader scope as an "Overview of Watershed, Caves, Fisheries, & Biology Programs." Monday was a kind of "get ready day", cavers meeting with Klamath Forest people. Cavers had a chance to recall and review what was accomplished at last July's meeting with the FS. (See Jim Stout's report).

Tuesday was the big cave meeting day, with people from other forests in Region 5 (Modoc, Lassen, Shasta-T), a contingent from the Regional office in San Francisco led by Laurie Fenwood and including Regional Geologist Jack Chatoian, and Jerry Trout, the National Forest Service Cave Coordinator. KMCTF was represented by Steve Knutson. The FS wanted us to speak our concerns and voice any additional items that needed to be addressed. Local cavers had the opportunity to join in the discussions and make some presentations. There was an appeal for Regional level support in cave management as an environmental program to implement the Federal Cave Resource Management Act (FCRPA) of 1988.

A field trip in the afternoon went to Pluto's and Barnum Caves. Gating of Barnum and Sand Caves will be a major focus this year. They have the money for materials, but are relying heavily on volunteer labor to complete the job this year. Also, they want to insure that there will be a permanent cave management program in place. Cave management on Klamath National Forest is considered a pilot program for the Region, with the thought that the concepts developed here could spread to other Forests in Region 5.

The cavers were needed to demonstrate the extent of the cave resources in Northern California. Our perspectives and past experiences were critical in order for the Forest Service to understand where they can improve on their dealings with us and the caves. We will be keeping our eyes and ears open as well as crossing our fingers as the Klamath National Forest continues to keep the ball rolling on cave management. Thanks to all the cavers who came to the meeting and other cavers helping in these efforts, even those with more hats than heads. Its time for everybody to work together on behalf of these caves. **JW & BB**

## **OREGON CAVES RESTORATION** By Jim & Liz Wolff

Oregon Caves National Monument hosted us again; this time it was a restoration work party weekend, over the 9th and 10th of April. As the "for sure I'm going" list dwindled, I was wondering if we were going to have enough cavers to do the work that Park Ranger John Roth had indicated was available, and needing to be done. Well, it turns out that there was just the right amount to do – just.

John Roth was unavailable, but another Park Service guy, Ron Reed (fellow worker in the Resources Dept, same as John Roth and Steve Knutson), would be with us in the cave Saturday, showing us just what needed to be done. Everyone showed up by 11pm Friday evening, including Melanie Jackson, Bill Kenney, a couple of new cavers from the coast – Troy Teets and his friend, Jim Reed (no relation to our ranger friend, Ron Reed), Terri Hoselton and, of course, Liz and myself.

(next page)

**OREGON CAVES RESTORATION** (continued)

After a casual start, we were in the cave by 10 am, heading towards the Ghost Room, with all the buckets we could find (the rest were buried under 4 feet of snow), some tools (picks, shovels, hammers), brushes and sponges. Once there we broke up into three groups; Troy, Jim and myself working on cleaning flowstone along the trail at the bottom of the Ghost Room. Another group, consisting of Liz, Terri, and Melanie, moved buckets of mud from one spot to another a few yards away. This later became the washing of two square yards of flowstone that they uncovered, and washing some nice white formations too. They also found some super fine sediments along the edge of that "new" flowstone, that might be of interest to the scientists.

The last group was Bill Kenney and Ron Reed breaking up cemented rock steps in Kinkaid's Dance Hall. Apparently, in the "olden days" (the 20's or before), along a now abandoned section of tour route, they had created a platform for a ladder, and it clearly can be seen why; there is a beautiful dome that goes up 30 feet, to some pretty white flowstone and dripstone. It looks like there might be some passage up there, too ....

Anyway, the platform was artificial, so Bill had to surgically remove it – with a sledge hammer! As he got closer to the natural feature, he used more subtle means, like g-pick and brushes. Earlier, Bill had found some possibly undiscovered historical graffiti, after washing up some tan flowstone that he had just uncovered. Very good find.

Meanwhile, us three guys, Troy, Jim, and myself were keeping busy, staying out of the way of the tours that were going through the cave. Each guide had to explain who we were and why we were there, much to the delight of the tourists. And since all the mud and water we were washing off the rocks next to the trail was making its way down to the stream below, creating even more mud in between the trail and the cave stream, we had to rock hop to keep our boots clean and avoid transferring mud to places unneeded. So, carrying buckets of cave water for the two cleaning crews became one of our main jobs as well.

After lunch, we put in a decent effort. The morning wasn't too productive, since we only had about two and a half hours to do anything before the noon meal was served. We worked another four hours in the afternoon, and accomplished a lot more, according to Ranger Ron. We did, but to the average Joe Tourist, it won't be noticeable, as most of the work was far away from sight of the tourist trail, and cleaning brown flowstone just looks a cleaner brown ...! At least the Monument folks were happy with our work, and we were able to be in those Marble Halls again.

**JW & LW**

**BIBLE PASSAGES FOR CAVERS** By Bighorn Broeckel

This passage is a follow-up on the Psalm from the Cave of Adullam. The people are the same (King Saul and David), and the action takes place in a cave. I think it is a different cave, Wildgoats Cave if you will, because afterward, David and his men went back to "the Stronghold". As we learned last time, the Cave of Adullam was referred to as the Stronghold.

This time our Bible passage is found in 1 Samuel 24.

- 2 "Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoat's Rocks.
- 3 And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave; and Saul went into relieve himself."

Most cavers will recognize immediately who is the bad guy in this story.

- 3 "Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave."

You may relate to this experience of sitting in the innermost parts of the cave with your friends. In this case I think David and his men were hiding out from King Saul and his men.

- 4 "And the men of David said to him, 'Here is the day of which the Lord said to you 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'"

So what do you think David is going to do? There is a little pressure here from his men. And Saul was more of a Bill Clinton type of leader, but he was still the king, anointed into the dignity of his office.

- 4 "Then David arose and stealthily cut off the skirt of Saul's robe."

Saul may have taken off his robe. Regardless, it is easy to imagine a number of different cave settings that would allow David to count coup in this manner, undetected. Also, by this time David's eyes were well adapted to the dark of the cave, while Saul's eyes were still adjusting.

- 5 "And afterward David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt.
- 6 "He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put forth my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed.'
- 7 "So David persuaded his men with these words, and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave, and went upon his way."

(next page)



You can read for yourself further in 1 Samuel 24, how David chases after Saul and confronts him with the truth of their situation. Saul repents and seems to make peace with David. At the end of the chapter, "Saul went home; but David and his men went up to the stronghold."

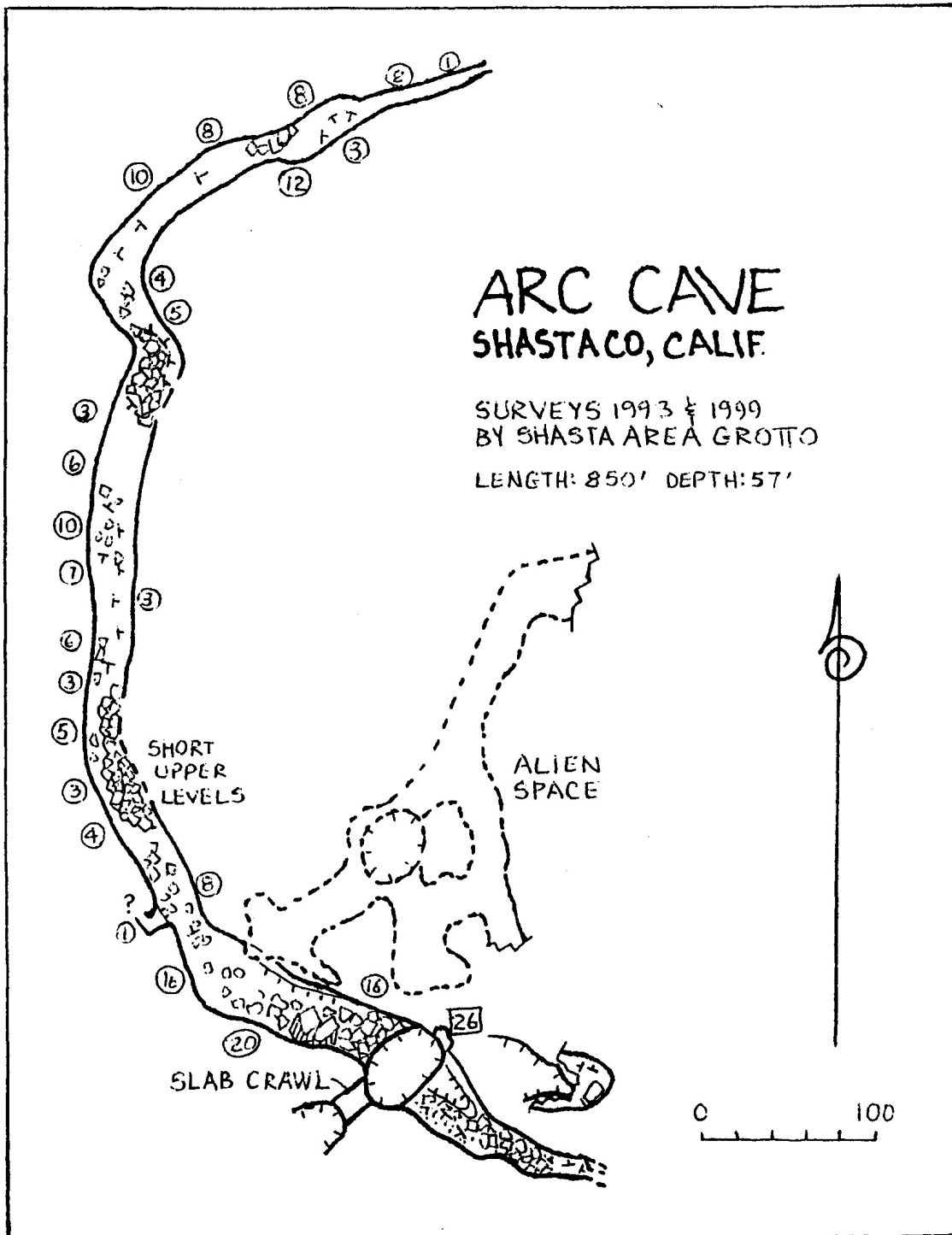
The events in the cave had a great effect on the over-all relationship between David and Saul. David is concerned with honoring God, and standing for the truth. His men tempt him to kill Saul, but he spares Saul's life in order to honor God. This act of mercy in the cave brings to mind the opening line in Psalm 57, the cave Psalm from last time, "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me." And so caves remain Biblically associated with the enduring love and mercy of God. **BB**

### **HAT CREEK CAVING**      By Liz Wolff

March 13, 1999 saw an invasion of cavers into the Hat Creek Valley caves. Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Russ Yoder, and Liz Wolff met Terri Hoselton (SOG) and Ken Ferris, a recently transplanted Tennessee caver, at Cave Campground. We headed for the cave of the day, Alien Space. As it turned out, we stopped at Sandman Cave, and then missed Alien Space by about 20 feet and went to Arc Cave instead. The brush is a little over-powering there. After successfully negotiating the ice formations, and exploring and re-mapping the cave, we met up with Bill & Judy Broeckel and went to Alien Space. Bill and Cheryl Kenney had a time limit and didn't get to see this really fine cave.

We mapped the cave with the help of Bill & Judy's boys, Benj and Benyam, who were impressed with the ice and snow in the entrance. This cave has three ways going out from the sink. The western arm is an intact lava passage with no breakdown, just lots of ice, that divides after a short distance and ends in lava seals. The other passage saw us trying to not break too many icicles and legs on the ice covered breakdown. A sand floor was soon reached and the survey continued more comfortably. A sand floored crawl is even acceptable when it's dry. This longer leg also ended in a lava seal.

Somewhere there was supposed to be a side passage, that we hadn't recognized when we went by it, but we had set a conveniently placed station to survey into the breakdown crawl. After looking at the seemingly closed passage, we slithered and contorted our way through the breakdown to get there before Ken Ferris, who had opted to go out of the cave and re-enter the side passage another way. We surveyed to another lava seal before going out to the entrance passage, that ended in a breakdown choke. It was getting dark when we exited the cave and still had a quarter mile of nearly impenetrable brush to negotiate to get to the cars. After following several false leads through the brush, we found the place to cross the barbed wire, and got to the cars just at full dark. **LW**



Map: Arc Cave, Alien Space Cave

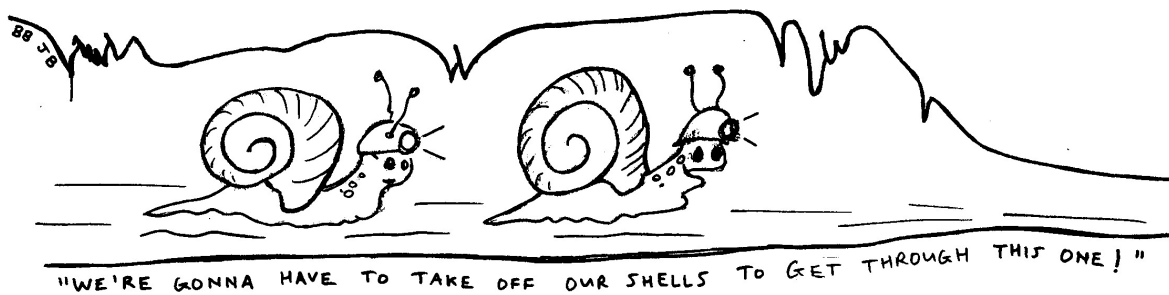
**HAT CREEK CAVING NOTES** By Bighorn Broeckel

Arc Cave was first surveyed by SAG on 3-24-93 on a grotto trip that included Jim Kottinger, Niels Smith, Melanie Jackson, Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, & the Broeckels. I was calling it Dogleg at the time, but really had no basis for that. Dogleg is an old cave name for Hat Creek, and we don't really know which cave it applies to. So Arc Cave is a great improvement, especially when you look at the shape of the cave on the map. Any Dogleg references you might find in old SAG RAGs over the last decade pertain to Arc Cave, and the map is now published for the first time in this issue, with the improved name.

After the survey of Arc Cave in 1993, we scooped Alien Space, Sandman, Dirty Elbow, and Rabbit Hole caves. These caves all got surveyed about six years later, and an outline of the best one (Alien Space) appears on the map.

The day after the 1999 Arc Cave survey, Russ Yoder, who can be a very determined caver, managed to get into a new one called Split Rock Cave due to a narrow crack in the ceiling of a room. The crack allowed the cave to be discovered, and Russ Yoder's determination allowed entry through a shallow sinkhole not far from the crack. Russ came out admitting that there was "a little passage" beyond the room. Well, that day we surveyed 488 feet, but there is still a little more mop-up survey to do to make a complete map.

And that's not all, folks. The next grotto trip to Modoc National Forest in May should involve hundreds, even thousands of feet of previously undescribed, large-scale lava tube caves. And the Hat Creek weekend in June will be about our last chance to add caves for the Regional this fall. Come on out and get your name on a map. We have one long, easy cave to do that may displace Arc Cave as the fourth longest cave in Hat Creek, and some other fine caves as well that still need to be done. These are great times, so "be not frail, beloved snail, but come and join the dance."  
**BB**



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All graphics courtesy of Bucketheads Cyber Grotto of caving clip art

