

Myotis evotis

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.

EDITOR'S NOTES

By B. Broeckel

Here is an item of urgent importance for our attention this fall. The long awaited Klamath National Forest Cave Management Plan (CMP) is now available in draft form for our review. Comments are due by Nov. 29. This covers most of the KMCTF territory including the Marble Mountains. It covers Scorpion Cave, and also some lava caves. Even more important, Klamath is adopting a lead role in cave management for the region. If you have not seen this draft CMP already, you may request a copy from Juan de la Fuente, Klamath National Forest, 1312 Fairlane Rd, Yreka, CA 96097-9549 or e-mail (see below).

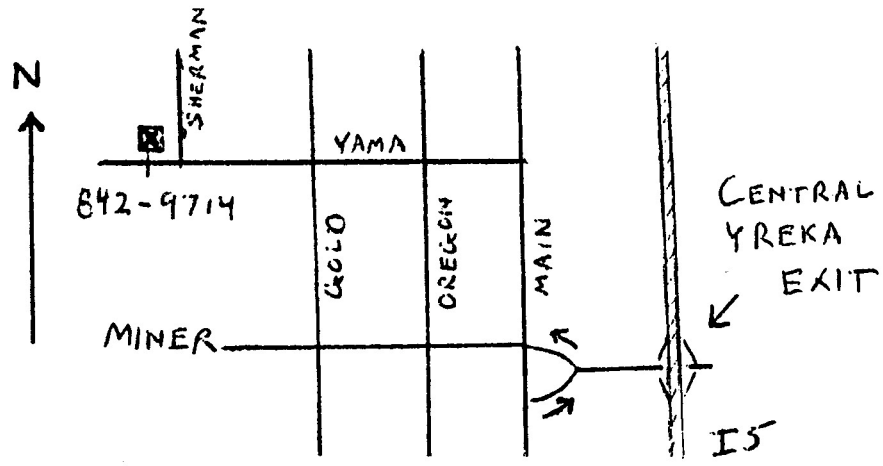
The document covers considerable ground, and contains potentially controversial concepts that will have effects on the future of caves, and our caving activities on this Forest, and beyond. Thanks to efforts by Steve Knutson, our opportunity to comment on this plan has been extended. But still our time is very short. If you have some comments to submit, please send a copy to the KMCTF Chairman Steve Knutson at 41811 SE Loudon Rd, Corbett, OR 97019-9302 or by e-mail.

E-mail addresses are as follows;

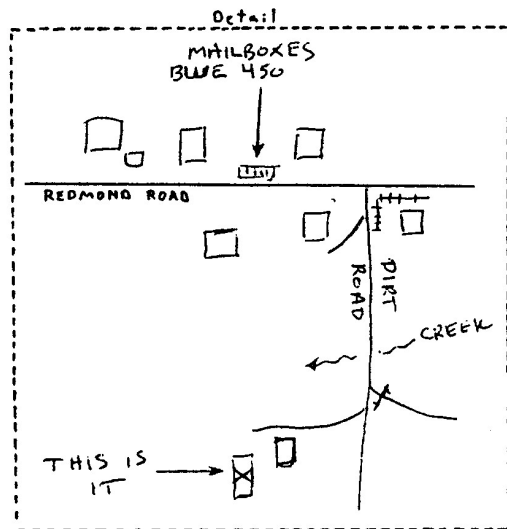
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BB**CAVERS CALENDAR**

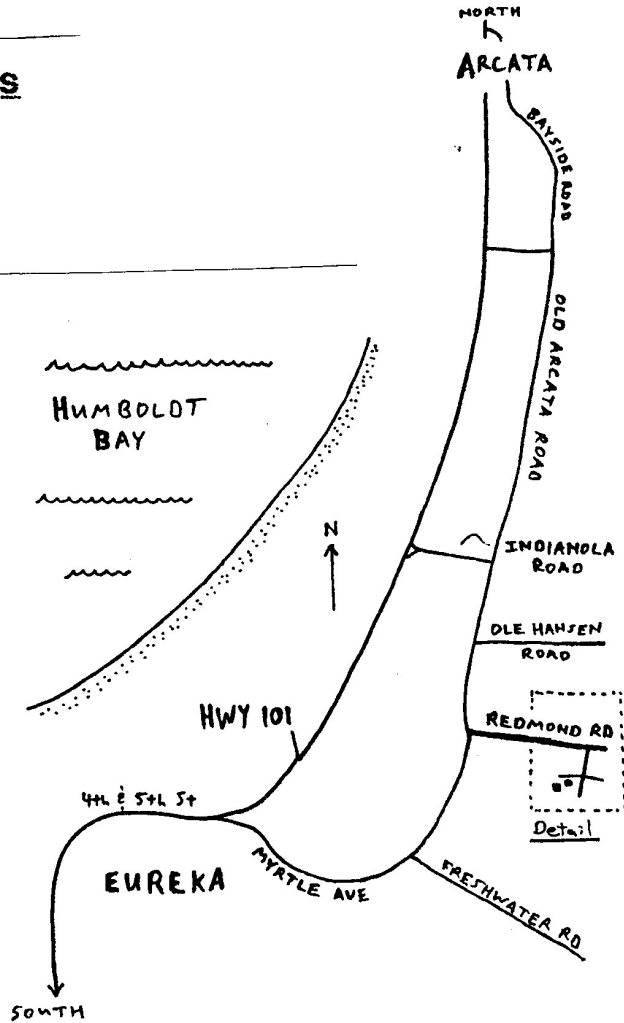
- Nov. 14, 1999 (Sat.) SAG meeting, 5:00 pm, LaForge's home near Eureka. Thanksgiving turkey provided, bring potluck for the rest of the meal. Call LaForges at (707) 443-2626.
- Dec. 10, 1999 (Fri.) SAG meeting, 7:30 pm, Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka. Call Melanie at (530) 842-9714.



Maps to the Meetings



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SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING Aug 13, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm at the Wolff's home in McCloud. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Present were Melanie Jackson, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, Bill Kenney, Ray Miller, and Jim Kottinger. Visiting from Klamath National Forest were Karen West, Juan de la Fuente, and Jim Stout from the Gooseneck Ranger District.

Klamath National Forest: Here is a summary of the pre-meeting talk with the visitors noted above. This was done first so they wouldn't have to stay through the whole meeting. According to Jim Stout, everything was ready for the gating of Barnum Cave except cement and locking bolts. The date was Sep. 14-16. Karen West talked about setting up a Cost Share Agreement so there could be reimbursement for materials, mileage, etc. It was decided that we would enter into a joint agreement (SAG/SOG) at this point since we have many functions together and share some members. This agreement can be rewritten or amended each year. At a future time independent agreements can be written for each grotto if desired. Ray Miller would like to write in the sharing of bat conservation information for monitoring bat populations and territory locations. It was agreed that we need biological monitoring. We need to obtain a Forest Service Benefit standardized worksheet for the gating volunteers. The Share Cost Agreement and the worksheets need to be completed before the cave gating takes place. It needs to be fairly specific regarding documentation, captured resources, surveys, mapping, bat data, and concerns. Karen West will work on this and get it to Jim Wolff. Juan de la Fuente handed out copies of a cave classification system. This system was designed by Juan de la Fuente, Steve Knutson, and Jay Powers for the Marbles. Pluto's, Barnum, Scorpion, and undiscovered caves were also talked about. Pluto's Cave still needs a seasonal closure sign, pending from Jim Nieland. Brass cave markers, GPS locations, and photo monitoring were also talked about.

Minutes: accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: current bal. \$910.92. Grotto owes Wolffs \$415.59 for the Regional. \$22.50 to B. Broeckel for paper for the Regional Guidebook. This is the first time the Grotto has received a service charge on our bank account and Liz Wolff will see what is going on.

Correspondence: Received letter from Ken Ferris with membership dues enclosed. He is joining the grotto and will be attending the Western Regional and the pre-Regional meeting. Also received dues from Steve Dagitz and Denise Willey. The last weekend of August there will be HCRC refresher courses for \$10 each at Peterson Prairie. Bill Kenney has the paperwork for anyone who is interested. Stacie Smith (Special Use Permit person) has talked with Ken Showalter, and he has agreed to put together a GIS and MOU for SAG later this year. There is a self rescue planning meeting Aug. 28 at Cindy Heazlits. Powder Hill Road will be widened. B. Broeckel and J. Wolff have flagged sensitive areas, and adjustments have been made. Scott Fee says the 94 Speleo Digest is now available.

Old Business: Regarding the Regional: A movie screen for the slide show has been located. Ray Miller says he will try to rig a cordless mike and PA system. Niels Smith is loaning a 40' x 20' canvas tarp, so we will have two tarps. Jim Kottinger will let his trailer be used as an office, if needed. Chuck Frank III can supply ample wood for the bonfire. The Self Rescue Group will give a demo before dinner on Sat. Liz Wolff has the logo for the badges ready. Lassen National Forest provided masters for handouts to copy and give out. We need to find the power switch for the

amphitheater ahead of time. J. Wolff needs to call the Shasta County Sheriff, telephones in the local area need to be put on a map, and important phone numbers needed to be listed and available in the office. Flyers are to be sent prior to the Sep. 3 deadline. After the deadline, meal planning can begin. We will need 100 people to break even. J. Wolff hopes to reserve a key for Samwel Cave (so far one person has requested a limestone trip). We need to set a time for the slide show, and invite the Forest Service people at Hat Creek. B. Broeckel has the Guidebook essentially done, and is paring it down and putting it together. The cave descriptions will be three columns per page, with 50 caves mapped, and other stuff about the Hat Creek flow. It was suggested to make some extras for sale, and copies for Jim Barnhart and his supervisor (Lassen National Forest).

New Business: At the NSS Convention in Idaho, Ernie Coffman was the delegate for both SAG and SOD at the COG meeting. There was the usual amount of political talk. Our very own SAG member, B. Broeckel was awarded an NSS Fellowship. Congratulations! The grain shed in Marble Valley is collapsing. Jim Wolff talked with Ellen Nielson (Dave Pryor's widow). She said that Shevon Pryor and Vinnie (Vincent) have been continuing some of Dave's conservation work. Since Shascade is no longer an IO because it didn't have enough NSS members, they have invited SAG to help with some mapping, etc. Next SAG meeting will be Sep. 10, a dry run for the Western Regional at Hat Creek.

Trip Reports: Wolffs went to Bighorn Cavern in Wyoming after the NSS Convention. They hadn't been there since '69. Wolffs, B. Broeckel, and Melanie Jackson all visited Gypsum Cave at the Idaho Convention. It's approx. 13,000 ft. of lava tube. Late entry lava tube mapping at Hat Creek included Petticoat, Night Crawler, and Planetarium Caves. Wolffs and B. Broeckel mapped Overflow Cave, a 150' cave done at night. They got lost returning to the vehicle. Broeckel and his sons did trips to mark Stumpy Cave, and to some little caves upflow from Sign Cave. The ice in Jot Dean was almost completely melted. Russ Yoder found a string of caves south of Intruded Cave and also found a maternity colony of bats. Ray Miller, Liz Wolff, Ben and Camilla Sutton joined Russ Yoder in mapping Camilla's Cavern, a crawly maze. Ray Miller, Jim and Liz Wolff also mapped Creature Cavern, a Modoc lava cave which is not a lava tube.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

WILL THE REAL LABYRINTH CAVE PLEASE STAND UP?

By Bruce Rogers, Senior Caver

There has been some confusion in the past about just how long the Stygian Halls of the Labyrinth Cave System in Lava Beds National Monument are. The following is an update on just which caves are connected to each other and how long these segments are. Vertical drops were not counted, thus, these are conservative totals for the caves.

Starting at the uphill section of Cave Loop:

BLUE GROTTO – MITERTITE – UPPER LABYRINTH CAVE: 6,947.7 ft. or 2118.2 m. The passages encompassed in this area all connect. Granted, some of these connections are not pleasant, but one can traverse from one passage to the next without leaving too much skin behind.

GOLDEN DOME – HOPKINS CHOCOLATE CAVE: 3,889.9 ft. or 1187.2 m. Again, the passages included in these two adjacent caves are connected . . . if one doesn't mind leaving more skin and sharing the squeezeway with Wood Rats, cute little devils that they are.

MUSHPOT – LAVA BROOK – LOWER LABYRINTH – THUNDERBOLT CAVE: 2,9813.8 ft. or 888.4 m. These Lower Loop passages are connected by several survey-able squeezes that are not traversable by humans . . . unless you're Wood Rat size – even the esteemed and honorable Scotty (For a slight) Fee was defeated. However, survey tapes were pulled through the connections and visual and audible connections were made.

The above caves total 4,193.8 m., most of the Labyrinth System of 4,776.5 m. The balance of 583 m. of passage is made up of shorter segments of tube and the multitude of small caves and grottos in the Garden Bridges area.

And now you know.

So . . . where does this put these tubes, you may ask (these are the best lengths over a km that I know of):

Mammoth Cave	2490 m
The Catacombs	2279 m
Labyrinth – Mitertite – Blue Grotto Cave	2118 m
Catwalk (Gaping Holes) Cave	2118 m
Post Office Cave.....	1671 m
Bobcat Cave	1567 m
Hercules Leg – Juniper Cave	1467 m
Freudian Complex (longest segment)	1356 m
Balcony – Boulevard-Sharks Mouth Cave	1306 m
Tichner – Berthas Cupboard Cave.....	1260 m
Sentinel Cave	1229 m
James Boys Cave.....	1228 m
Golden Dome – Hopkins Chocolate Cave	1187 m
Porcupine Butte Cave	1006 m

THE LONG-EARED MYOTIS (*myotis evotis*) By B. Broeckel

Shown on the cover is the outline of a roadkilled bat found on my drive-way last summer. It is drawn to scale, about three inches nose to tail. Ray Miller identified this bat specimen as a Long-Eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*). They can be as long as 5 ½ inches. The ears and tail on this specimen were sort of smushed into the rest of the body. These bats have long and black ears. The bodies are covered with fluffy, lighter brown fur.

Long-eared myotis bats live in the western forests. They hunt insects at night by echolocation, using frequencies and multiple harmonics that enable them to capture prey in the midst of tangled vegetation. They often roost in manmade structures. The *Myotis evotis* maternity colonies are small, and this species has not been highly studied. They may also use natural caves for night roosting, and the Long-eared Myotis is the most common bat in Oregon Caves in the summer. They tend to day roost in trees and buildings.

Myotis evotis is part of the family *Vespertilionidae*, that is, the Evening Bat Family, the largest of all the bat families. The *Myotis* genus alone has nearly 100 species. *Myotis* means "mouse ears". *Myotis evotis* have ears 22-25 mm (1 inch) long, the longest of any *Myotis*. But don't confuse these with Townsend's Big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) with ears 1 ¼ to 1 ½ inches long.

Alden, Peter. 1987. *Peterson First Guide to Mammals of North America*. Pages 16-17.

Hill, John E. and Smith, James D. 1984. *Bats, A Natural History*. Page 119.

Johnson, Victoria. 1990. Cave-related vertebrates of California. *NSS 1990 Convention Guidebook*. Pages 181-185.

Petrie, Garry. 1997. Common Northwest Bats. *The Underground Express* 17:2&3. Spring/Summer 1997. Pages 4-5.

YELLOWJACKET CAVE AND MORE By Jim and Liz Wolff

This from Bruce Rogers in 1998: "If you want to open up a new area (and you heard it first here!) . . . there is a very long, rather narrow finger of basalt. In it are extended areas of collapse trenches and caves (again, you heard it first here!). I know there's at least 7 caves out there, one called Yellowjacketed Mtn. Cave. I reserve the right to say 'I told you so' when your total cave mileage exceeds 4.7 kms. ... So ... to repeat the admonition, 'go out there and find cave ... or don't come back alive ...'"

O.K. so the trip out to the cave went well. The weather was good. We finished the cave. Here is a copy of the report we sent to Jim V. of the Forest Service. Enough to say that "Yellowjacket Cave" (yes, Yellowjacket) is a BIG CAVE and has LOTS of resources to protect. A submission of Significant Cave Nomination will soon follow. And to think Jim V. tried to talk us out of a perfectly good day of caving ... ! Much more needs to be done out there, but I don't think that we can make much of a dent in the potential out there in one caving season... !

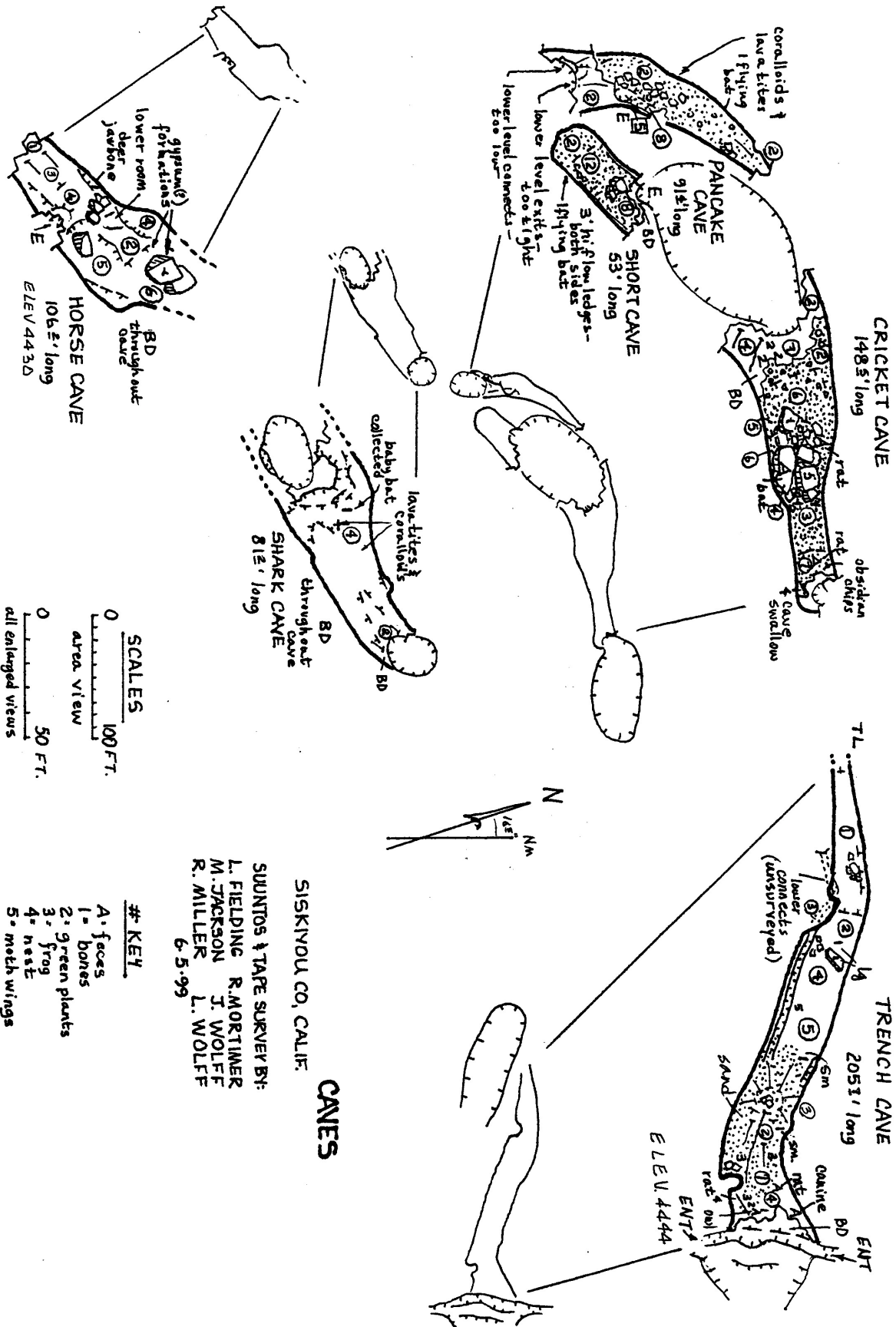
Yellowjacket is a lava tube 3252.7 ft. (991 m) in length. It is rich in avian fauna and bat habitat. At the time of mapping, the cave contained many hibernating(?) *Corynorhinus* bats. The first part of the cave is large dimension passage with mostly breakdown or dirt floor. The many skylights almost eliminate the need for a headlight. Owls, their roosts or pellets, were found as well as raven bonding sticks, nests and roosts. Many small animal bones abound underneath the owl roosts. Rocks placed on end or edge are aligned from one entrance to a skylight, and only two other rock stacks are found throughout the cave. The cave walls are coated in many places with caliche, and lava popcorn or coralloids are present in some places on the walls.

After about 2,600 ft., the last large entrance is encountered, and the nature of the cave changes. A short loop containing ice is on the west side of the last large sinkhole. It has some long lava helictites. From mostly unitary tube, there is a short section with parallel passages and a breakdown maze. The last section of cave is a single tube again, with deer teeth and some tiny bones, and ice formations. It ends in a lava seal or near seal with very slight air movement.

Yellowjacket was mapped in a series of trips in the spring of 1999. Then, on June 5, 1999, Lynn Fielding and Roger Mortimer joined the regular crew to survey some of the smaller caves in the area. Six new caves were named and mapped in one day. These were Cricket, Horse, Pancake, Shark, Short and Trench Caves. Trench Cave was the longest at 205.7 feet. Lynn and Roger had a field day, and showed lots of energy and willingness to help map those crawly little caves. Roger Mortimer wrote to say that he enjoyed surveying in lava, that it was fun to do things a little differently, that he learned from it, and hoped to do it again sometime. So that's the long and the short of it.

Three cheers for Modoc caves, big and small.

J&LW



Map: Cricket Cave, Horse Cave, Pancake Cave, Shark Cave, Short Cave, Trench Cave

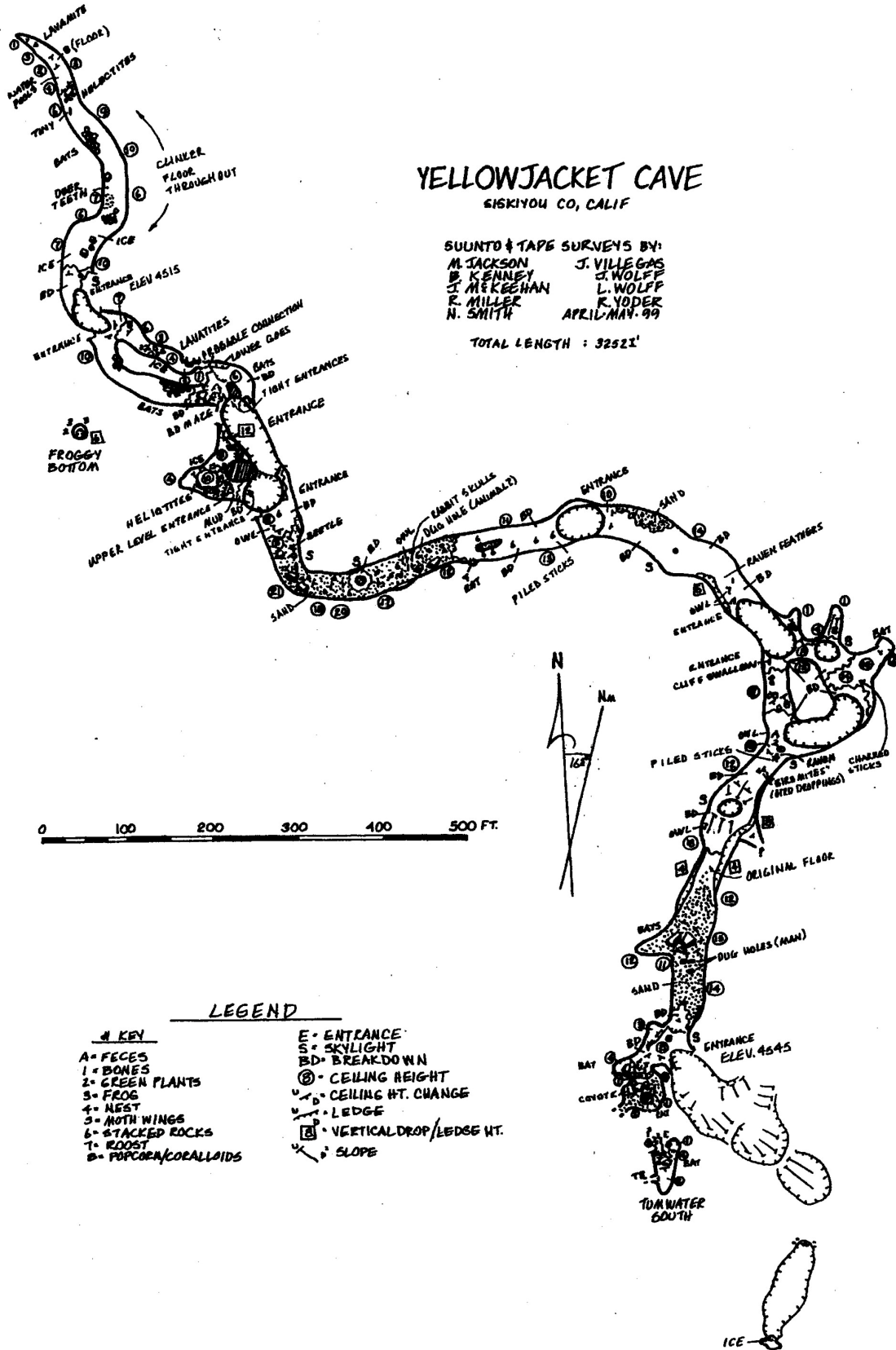
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- # KEY**
- 1 = faces
 - 2 = bones
 - 3 = green plants
 - 4 = nest
 - 5 = moth wings

SCALES

0 100 FT.
 area view

0 50 FT.
 all enlarged views



Map: Yellowjacket Cave



SAG RAG
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TO:

Remove Staple For Inspection