

DEAR ALL THE ADULTS THAT HELPED US,

I WANT TO THANK MRS HILL FOR HELPING
US GETTING EVERYTHING FOR THE FIELD TRIP
I HAD SO MUCH FUN!!

I LIKE TO SPELLINKING IN THE CAVES AND
LEARNING ABOUT THE BATS. I WANT TO CLIMB
ALL THE WAY IN PLUTO'S CAVE AND I LIKE TOTAL
DARKNESS. I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR
HELPING US.

SINCERELY

JESSICA PHELPS

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

I took my family out to Hat Creek one last time this year. It was just last weekend. The Western Regional spurred us on to get a lot of cave description done out there this last year or two, one benefit of working on the Regional. Another result is that I am now left with more caves, leads, digs, and surveys to do than ever before. That's caving, the more you find out, the more you need to know.

We had clear winter weather. We completed a survey traverse of a ten cave sequence not included in the guidebook, about two thousand feet of passage. Yep, that comes out to about 200 feet per cave. The Hat Creek caves are not getting any bigger.

The next day I took my intuitive son Benyam out to survey a 30 foot looping surface tube. I'd been through twice before, and figured we could knock it off before breakfast. Well, Benyam is off setting the second station and says "Dad, I think it goes down over here." How did I miss that? You just turn your head the wrong way, and you miss stuff.

So now we were off on a survey exploration down the crawlway with our two minimags. After three shots I called it off. The 30 foot cave became 150 feet and two crawly leads, a major Hat Creek breakthrough. But now it was time for breakfast.

Later that day we got into another cave that went down pretty well past three stacked crawlway passages. The lowest was blowing cold air. Since when do we have blowing multi-level caves at Hat Creek? But be warned, these are small-scale passages, and it will be a tough buggger to survey. And so it goes. Maybe we can still go out to Hat Creek once in awhile, even though the Regional is all said and done.

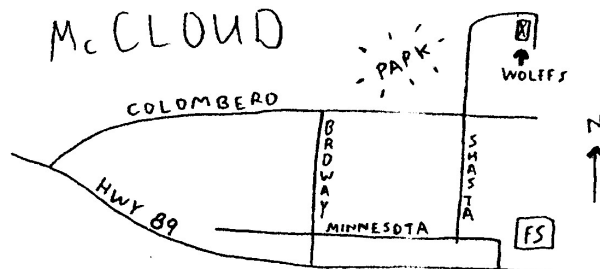
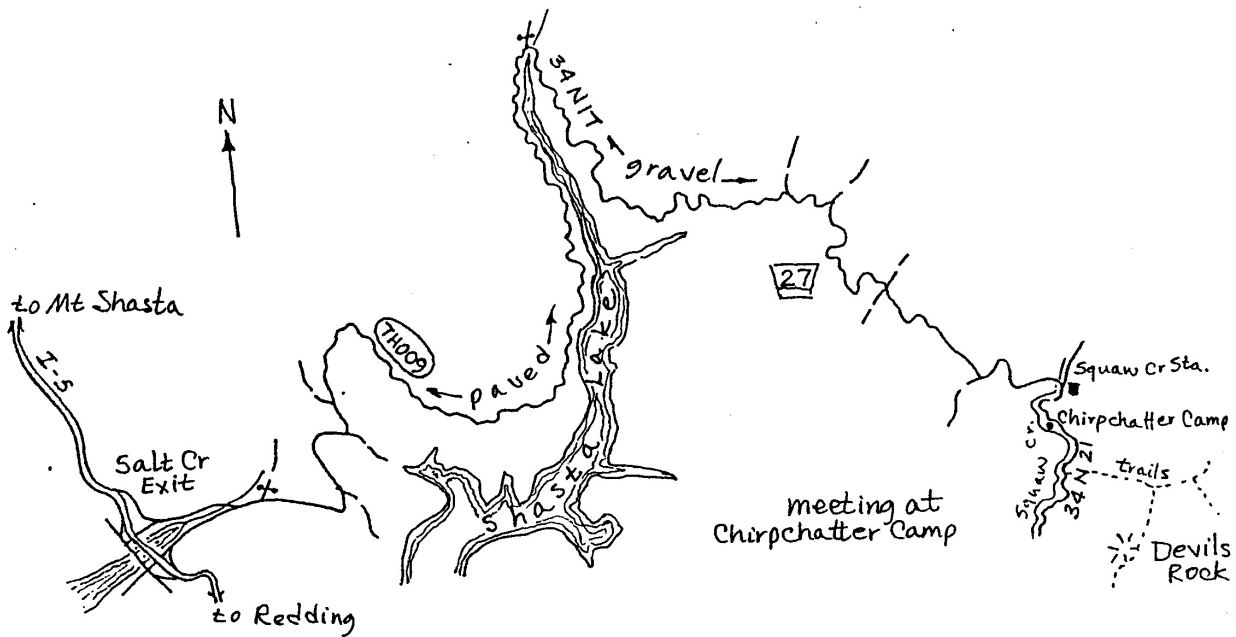
By the way, if you missed the Regional, and would like a copy of the Regional Guidebook *50 CAVES OF HAT CREEK*, with background material and maps and descriptions of fifty lava tubes, well, we happen to have a few copies left. Just send \$5 to Liz Wolff at POB 865, McCloud, CA 96057. Say it's for the Guidebook. If you're lucky, we'll send you your very own copy. If we run out, and you're still a little lucky, we'll send your money back.

Happy Y2Kaving to you, lets get on with it already.

BB

CAVERS CALENDAR

- Jan 14, 2000 (Fri.) SAG meeting cave camp at Chirpchatter. Bring vertical gear for caving the next day.
- Feb 18, 2000 (Fri.) SAG meeting, 7:30 pm, Jim & Liz Wolff's home in McCloud. Traditional "cave conservation" (skiing) weekend. Let Wolffs know ahead of time if you plan to stay over the weekend (530) 964-3123.



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

By Jim Wolff

Dear SAG members –

The grotto meeting at LaForge's was great, too bad if you missed it. All the grotto members from the coast showed up and Chuck Frank IV from Redding. Actually, the meeting was so-so (as usual), BUT THE MEAL WAS FANTASTIC!!! The same officers were nominated for another term...! The Klamath National Forest "Strategy for Cave Management" was discussed. Mark Fritzke showed a slide show about one of the recent Borneo expeditions. Awe inspiring! Dick and Mark will be going there in January 2000. Good Luck!!

More later,

Jimmmmmmmmmmm

JW

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 p.m. at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka.

Present were: Chuck Frank III, Bill Kenney, Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Bill, Judy, Becky, Benyam, Benjamin Broeckel, Melanie Jackson.

Minutes: accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of Dec. 10, \$930.05

\$300.00 donation has been sent to the Western Region. \$300.00 is still owed to the Wolffs.

Correspondence: The next SAG RAG will come out in Dec. and the officer ballots will be in it for NSS members that are allowed to vote.

Old Business: Barnum Cave was locked Nov. 30 and a bat count taken (119 bats). Next year the cave will be gated earlier.

Jim Wolff wrote to SFBC stating we would like to do electronic Newsletters. We will continue to send them SAG RAG hard copies. Bill Broeckel said he would be willing to take and store cave related materials. He will store the newsletters for the SAG Grotto Library. B. Broeckel said he commented on the KNForest Survey stating that he agreed with and backed what Steve Knutson had suggested, but didn't think the KNF was ready take over the Marble Mtns. Management yet. J. Wolff responded also. B. Broeckel attended the KNF Roadless Meeting. He said that it won't affect the KNF caves that much as they are already in road less areas. So what the president is calling for has already happened in our cave area. Bill also said there was a very negative hostile mood in the meeting room.

New Business: Chuck Frank III is now in charge of the cave register program. J. Wolff went with the engineer doing the realignment of the Powder Hill road. He followed B. Broeckel's suggestions. There are a few different options available for the parking etc., but at this time there is no \$ for this project. It is still waiting for funding. J. Wolff found that the Mt. Shasta Web page with the caving info names and phone #'s and spellings were incorrect. The web page now has the names corrected and phone #'s deleted and replaced with e-mail addresses and some pictures added. We give advice, but not guided tours.

Trip Reports: Future Oregon cave restoration trips should be planned with Ron Reed or Steve Knutson rather than with John Roth. Bill Broeckel and his 3 kids mapped Cotterpin Cave for 200 ft. and it is still going. He has also found more caves at the Lava Beds Nat'l Monument and needs more info on them. He will talk with LBNM people on President's Day. Bill feels that they are being neglected (by SAG). He has also found 2 caves near roads and surface tubes that have vertical dimensions (pit). One was found in a flow where there is not supposed to be tubes. We need a vertical trip. Bill Kenney was at Oregon Caves doing a precision survey trip using permanent stations and leveled them from beginning to end. Approx. 3,000 ft. Inside and 3,000 ft. Outside. At this time they have to determine if they are off by half a foot or 5 ½ feet. This trip was completed in two days approx. 20 hours.

Grotto Meetings:

The January meeting will be held at Chirpchatter Campground. A long weekend Jan. 14 - 17. Details to be announced.

The February meeting will be held Feb. 18 at the Wolff's in McCloud. Also a long weekend 18 - 21 President's Day. Details of caving/ skiing etc. to be announced. Watch the newsletter for details

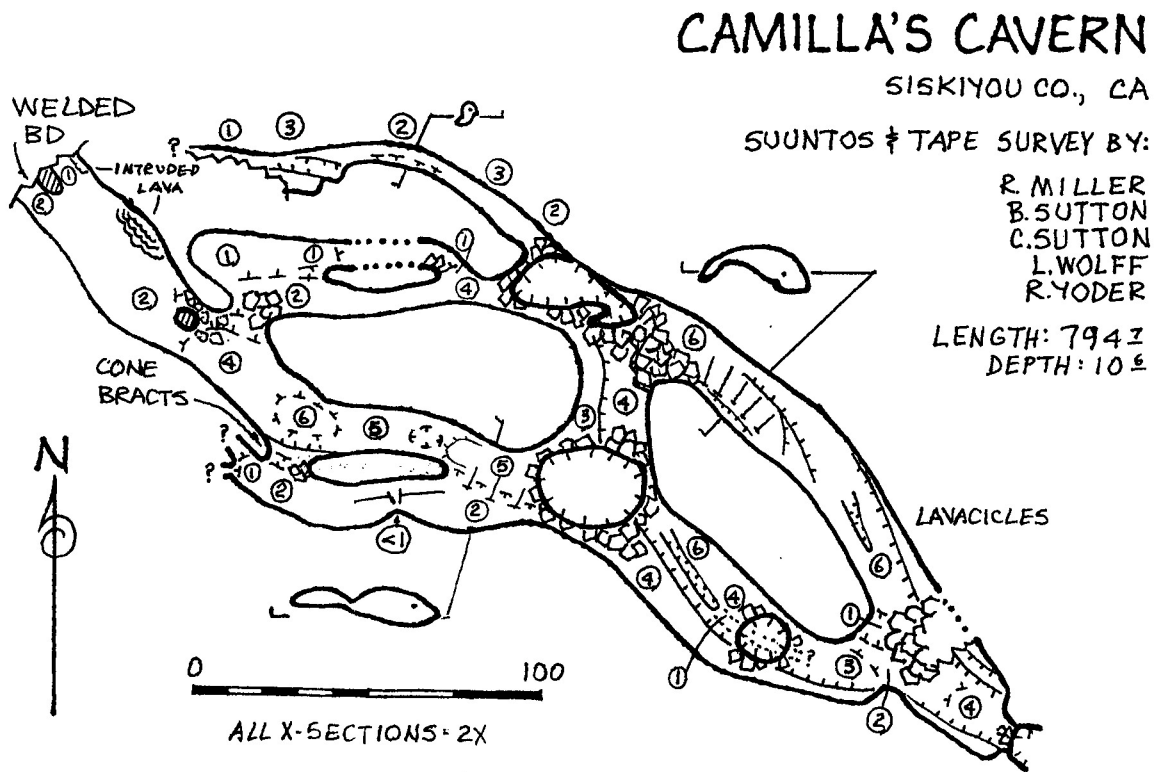
Respectfully submitted. Melanie Jackson, Sec.

CAMILLA'S SECRET CAVERN

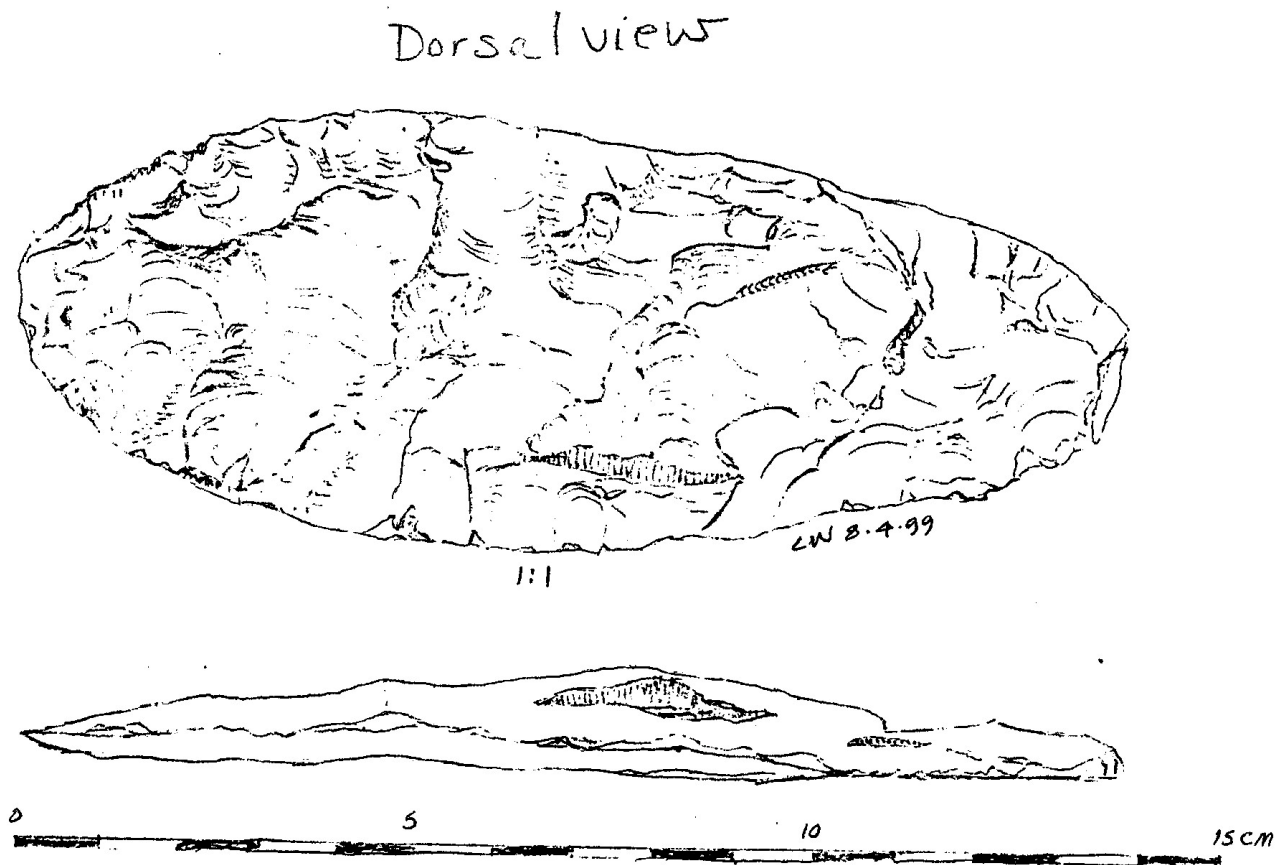
By Camilla Sutton

I am an 8 year old girl, who lives in Tuscan, AZ. My Dad has two friends, Liz and Ray, who have a friend named Russ. We went in a cave. I was a little worried. It was big then got small. And because I pointed it out they named it Camilla's Cavern. I thought it was one cave, but it was connected, I found out later in the day.

We were starting home, but we stopped at a cave. While we went in the cave my Dad stayed in the car playing with a clicker, then fell asleep and woke up by his snore. We were in the cave and looked up. Sometimes there are bats on the ceiling. There was a gate. The gate was there because there were baby bats. And if people just walked in, they could scare the mother bats, and sometimes scare them on purpose, because they don't like bats. If they scare the mother bats, they can let go of their babies. If the baby bat falls down on the floor the mother bats can't come down to pick them up, because they are not built to pick up stuff on the ground. **CS**



Map: Camilla's Cavern



Artifact found on 8-3-1999.

MORE ABOUT CAMILLA'S CAVERN

By Liz Wolff

Ray Miller and I were going to meet Russ Yoder on August 3rd, 1999, beside a hill we'd hiked from before to look for caves, south of Intruded Cave. Russ had done some more checking. I'd arranged a time and place to meet him since he was camped out there.

Ben Sutton called on Monday that he was in town and would like to go caving. So he and his daughter, Camilla, went out with Ray and I. We hiked from the hill to a cave he called Bend of the Skylight Cave – a name longer than the cave – with bats in it. On the hike out to the cave Ben and Ray found a scatter of obsidian with a large point or knife in it. (See illustration).

After checking the bats – they were Corys – we went on up to another cave. Camilla wanted to be the first one into the cave so she suited up and went in. It was walking sized for her and we began asking her about the cave. Her answers weren't very conclusive – "Does it go?" "I don't know" – to satisfy any of us so Ray went in where Camilla was and the rest of us started poking into the other entrances. We decided to survey it. After surveying, Camilla was tired, and Ben and Russ wanted to check out the "bigger" cave up by Intruded, so they headed up, and Ray and I and Camilla headed back to the cars.

On the way home we stopped at Bat Cave – didn't see any bats – to check the register. **LW**

LAVA BED FERNS

Oakland Museum Speleo Exhibit

The following is reprinted from the Oakland Museum Speleo Exhibit website as noted in December, 1999. It appears that this material is based on work initiated by the Cave Research Foundation at Lava Beds National Monument.

In California most large fern species prefer habitats that have low light, moderate temperatures, and even moisture supplies. Thus the most abundant fern gardens grow in the coastal rain forests such as the redwood groves.

Caves entrance microhabitats can provide growing conditions similar to redwood forests, even in harsh deserts. Under the auspices of the Cave Research Foundation, curators from the Oakland Museum of California and U.C. Berkeley found fern species typical of coastal regions growing in sagebrush desert near the Oregon and Nevada borders.

Here in the sagebrush desert, this steel gate guards the entrance to a cave lush with natural and cultural history. *(Picture shown of three cavers near the gated entrance to Fern Cave.)*

Just below the grate, previously unreported from more than five miles inland of the coast, this wood fern species thrives in the protection of the cave mouth. The Modoc Indians, valuing this unique spot centered their spiritual practice in this cave. *(Picture of ferns growing under the skylight entrance of Fern Cave.)*

Moist air escaping from this cave mouth is enough to support a different wood fern species out under the desert sun. *(Picture of ferns growing in a relatively shallow sinkhole/cave entrance.)*

In another nearby cave, this sword fern grows to a size seldom obtained in its usual habitats. *(Picture of a caver standing next to an impressively large sword fern, mostly surrounded with darkness, but with a patch of possible daylight illuminating some more fern plants in the background.)*



BIBLE PASSAGES FOR CAVERS – CAVE AT MAKKEDAH

By Bighorn Broeckel

Here is a cave story from Joshua, Chapter 10. God is helping the Children of Israel to conquer the land of Canaan. The Canaanites were on the run, and we will pick up at verse 16.

- 16 – “These five kings fled, and hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah.
17 – “And it was told Joshua, ‘The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah.’
18 – “And Joshua said, Roll great stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them;” “

So who were these five kings? Well, earlier in Chapter 10 we find that these were the kings of the Amorites, namely Adonizedek king of Jerusalem, Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhi king of Lacish, and Debir king of Eglon. Adonizedek organized the group for the purpose of making war against the Gibeonites, not the Children of Israel. The Gibeonites had made a deal with Israel. Adonizedek was smart enough to avoid attacking Israel directly. But Canaanite traitors, that was a different matter.

However, Israel came to the aid of Gibeon, with the blessing of God, and prevailed against the Amorites. This was the famous battle where God brought hailstones down on the enemy, and made the sun stay still “for about a whole day”. And the five kings ended up hiding in this cave, where at least they could find some darkness to hide in. The story returns to the cave entrance in verse 22.

- 22 – “Then Joshua said, ‘Open the mouth of the cave, and bring those five kings out to me from the cave.’ “

Joshua brings up his army and has his general put their feet on the necks of the kings. Joshua speaks to his men and says “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and of good courage; for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”

- 26 – “And afterward Joshua smote them and put them to death, and he hung them on five trees. And they hung upon the trees until evening;
27 – “but at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set great stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day.”

Now that’s a pretty good cave story, with lots of allusions to the death of Christ, who took on the sins of the world and hung on a tree to gain the salvation of man. Any lessons here? Well, you can only hide from the light of God temporarily. Also, if you ever use a cave to hide from your enemies, find one with a secret back entrance or connections to other caves.

BB

The time has come to renew your yearly SAG membership dues and newsletter subscriptions. The prices still remain the same as before! (A powerful antiinflationary trend!)

NAME: _____
NSS# _____ IS YOUR NSS MEMBERSHIP CURRENT? _____
IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? _____
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PHONE NUMBER _____
EMAIL ADDRESS _____ (OPTIONAL)

- _____ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family
Membership category (person or family) _____
- _____ I want to subscribe to the CAL CAVER too (That's another \$6.)
- _____ SAG RAG subscription only, without SAG membership. \$6.
- _____ TOTAL. Make checks payable to Shast Area Grotto, and send to Liz Wolff,
PO Box 865, McCloud, CA 96057.

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