

SPECIAL BARNUM CAVE ISSUE

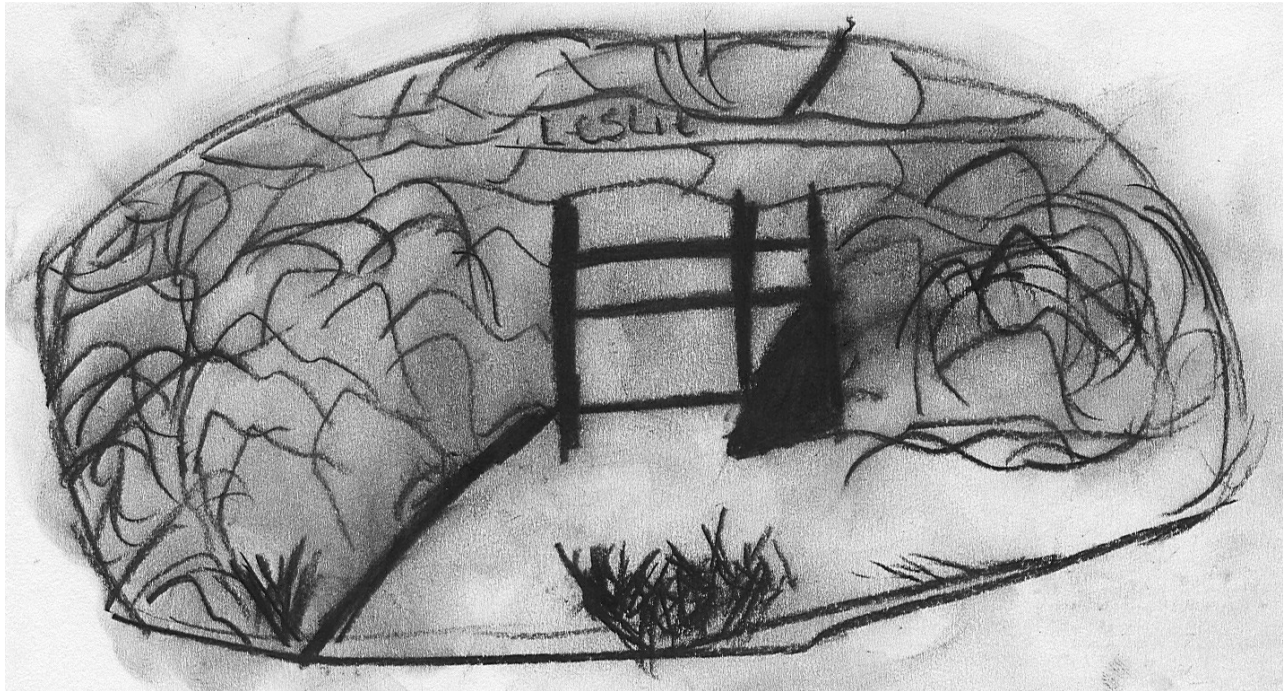


Illustration of newly gated Barnum Cave by Hayley Montgomery.

ALSO: BORNEO 2000 PREVIEW

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

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

People naturally like caving because they retain that part of their innocent childhood curiosity that draws them into the entrances and down the passages. Exploring closets and attics, climbing trees, making mud pies, watching bugs, getting really grubby, and wiggling into dark holes, its all part of a child's play life. Cavers may be scientific, or act serious, but what really happens when cavers go caving? Sometimes it looks a little like a bunch of neighborhood kids getting together to play in the back yards.

I was thrilled the first time I went into Barnum Cave back in 1988. Here was the cave I longed for as a child. It went in a long ways, got smaller, got bigger again, and came to a place where I could look down over an edge into a whole nother tube. Wow! This was great. I had to show this to somebody. Later my friend proved to me that we were looking down on the same tube we had already been in. He did this by tossing down a certain old beer can we had found, which we then found again on our way out.

Never mind, I was still thrilled, and Barnum has been my buddy cave ever since. Before I knew it was called Barnum, we called it the "Kids Cave", because it was so easy to visit with the sandy floor and walking passages. Over the years this has been the first cave considered for educational purposes, that is, taking actual children into a wild cave. All cavers have some responsibility in this area, to educate the masses about the place of caves in the natural scheme of things, and perhaps to inspire future cavers.

Most people are too persnickety to go caving. But once in awhile, somebody comes along who really loves caves, and these people need to be able to find a home grotto. When new people come around, the main thing I want to know is "do they love caves?" If so, then there are things that the grotto can and should do to accommodate them.

Anyway, the feature of this issue is Barnum Cave, the kids cave, and remember that one of our goals in caving is to be like kids and explore around for fun. So go in some caves, get in touch with your inner child, and have a good time with it.

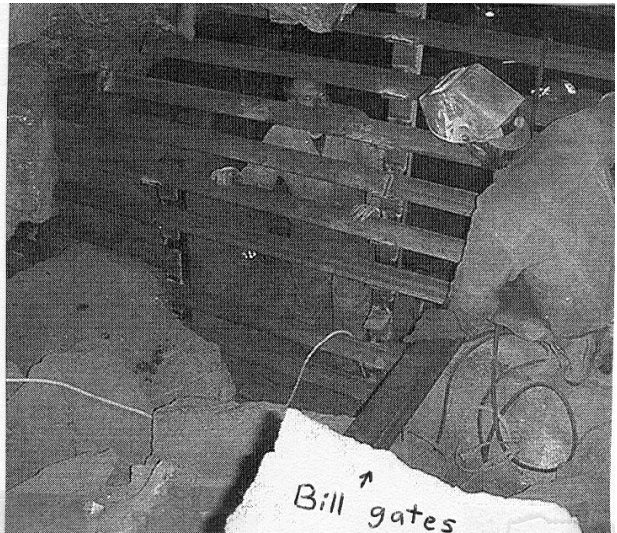
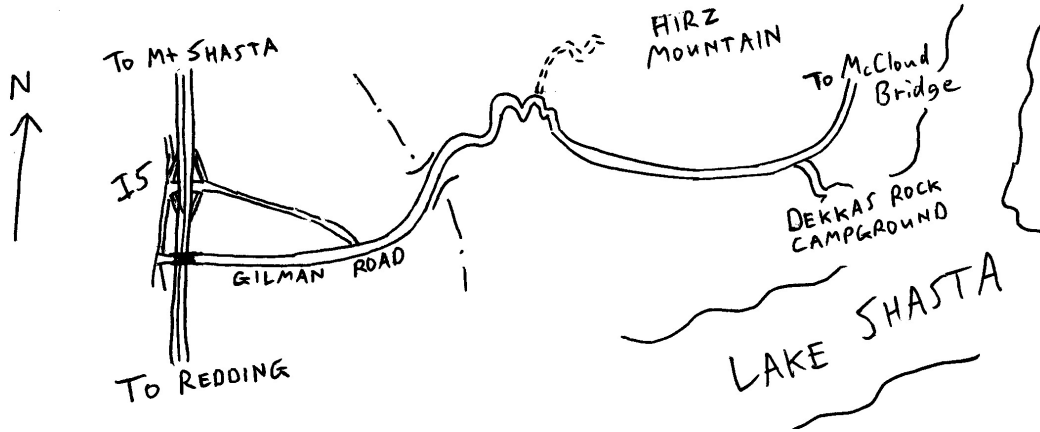
By the way, if you would like a copy of the Regional Guidebook entitled 50 CAVES OF HAT CREEK, with background material, maps, and descriptions of fifty lava caves, there are still a few copies left. Just send \$5 to Liz Wolff at POB 865, McCloud, CA 96057, and say it's for the Guidebook. If we are having a good day, we will send you a copy, or at least your money back if we run out.

BB

CAVERS CALENDAR

Mar. 11, 2000 (Sat) SAG meeting at Dekkas Rock Campground on the McCloud Arm of Lake Shasta. Meeting at 7:30 pm. Camp that night, and go caving on both Sat. and Sun. Call Bill Kenney (541) 883-2781.

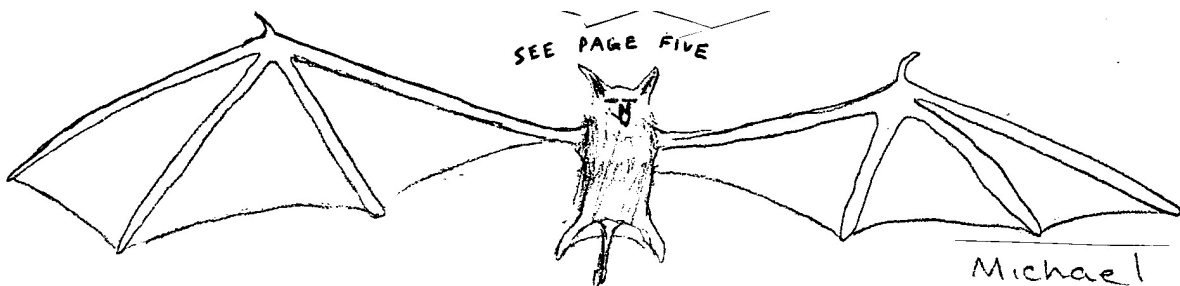
April meeting At coast or in Yreka at Melanie Jackson's house. Please call Jim & Liz Wolff for time and place (530) 964-3123.



From inside, looking out.

BARNUM CAVE

Welding the welder.



SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING Feb. 18, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM. at the Wolff's home in McCloud, and adjourned at 9:12 PM. Present were Melanie Jackson, Bill & Zane Kenney, Ray Miller, Niels Smith, Liz & Jim Wolff, Chuck Franks III & IV, Bill Broeckel, and guest Kevin Downing. Minutes were accepted as corrected. The treasurer reported a Feb. 18, 2000 balance of \$932.09.

Correspondence: Ray Miller received two e-mails from people wanting to know where the caves are. Ray asked the Chamber of Commerce to send them the usual info. The Cal Caver had articles about the Western Regional held at Hat Creek. The Willamette Valley Grotto has an e-mail group at onelist.com. New subscribers go through Scott Linn.

New Business: J. Wolff was contacted about the Sand Cave EA for Siskiyou County. He referred them to Ray Miller. Ray says the bats wouldn't be bothered by big equipment vibrations from trucks, but there should be no grinding or pneumatic tools within 100 feet of the cave. Paving is OK, but drainage water needs to be diverted away from the cave entrance, and no aerosols, oils, herbicides, or pesticides should be allowed near the cave. When gated, the cave should be locked May 15th to Aug 15th. Ray sends bat information to Jim Wolff, because he doesn't know who the bat contact person is for Klamath National Forest.

The BLM in Oregon is looking at portions of the Soda Mountain (Klamath Knot) area, including parts of Siskiyou County, but this should not affect caves. Melanie Jackson notified the grotto that Sgt. Dave Nicholson of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's office, who is in charge of SAR, would like the grotto to help with a field training session on caves. This could be a Wednesday night, or a weekend day trip. He wants SAR members to be introduced to the cave environment. He wants some background information on speleogenesis, history, biota, cave conservation, and why cave rescue would entail working closely with cavers. A bit of vertical practice would be welcome as well. Most members of SAR have never been in a wild cave and don't have a lot of cave rescue or vertical skill. The grotto agreed that maybe Ray and Liz could run a tour of Barnum, Sand or Pluto's Caves, and give instructions and answer questions like they do for the school groups. Melanie will contact Dave and see when a time could be arranged.

The gating of Sand Cave was discussed. Members were wondering when it would take place. We need Jim Stout and Jim Nieland to address this. Some think the road work should be done first. Some think only one gate is needed and some think 2 are needed. If the road work doesn't need to be done first, then we need to get started in the next three months or wait until the end of summer and do the gating.

The next SAG RAG will come out the end of Feb. featuring articles on Barnum Cave and Borneo. This weekend's schedule includes skiing on Friday with pizza supper, more skiing and pizza on Saturday or cave survey trip to Hat Creek. Sunday is road clearing at Pluto's Cave and clean-up in Sand Cave. Monday is more skiing, caving, resting, or going home.

Trip Reports: Only one person braved the January grotto camp-out, but had a good trip! Bill Broeckel took his boys caving at Hat Creek, and mapped three more small caves. Liz Wolff has been to Cracker Cave, Creature Cavern, and Pluto's Caves for bat counts. Chuck Frank IV found 12 new caves, including one with false floors and a 100 foot drop. These all need to be looked at some more and surveyed.

Next Meetings: Mar. 11-12 at Dekkas Campground. April 14 at coast or Melanie Jackson's.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson

MJ

BARNUM CAVE REVIEW

By Jim Wolff, and most photography by Ray Miller
12/14/2000

Barnum Cave – a new chapter in the life of the cave
By Jim Wolf

*A Brief Summary of Barnum Cave's Historical Past
and Physical Description*

Barnum Cave has been known and used for many years. Since the cave has a sandy floor and the entrance faces southwest, I would venture to guess that for the native Americans the cave offered a friendly environment for a night's stay or to get out of the weather. The cave was named after an early rancher/pioneer family that settled in Shasta Valley. The Barnum family settled at the base of Sheep Rock about 1875 and used the cave as a storage place for various goods, since it is an unusually cold and dry place.

It has been an obvious party cave for many years, and graffiti covers the walls for most of the length of the cave's entrance passage. School groups have had educational field trips into the cave with local cavers. Anyway the cave is certainly a really good example of an over-used cave. The Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) mapped the cave in 1981, and again in 1994 as a training exercise. The length is about 800 feet and depth is 38 feet. The grotto has initiated many would-be cavers in Barnum.

Thoughtless visitors have littered the cave with everything under the sun such as cans, bottles, papers and human waste. I have been to the cave often enough to remember encountering a smoldering bonfire, well inside the cave! The smell of fresh paint too, was noticed on visits there. I wonder how the bats stood that kind of air pollution. Maybe there were fewer beer parties and "other activities" during the winter months? All that garbage has brought countless church groups, Boy Scout troops, cavers and even the Sierra Club to clean up the cave. If it weren't for the constant watchfulness of certain individuals, this cave would be a LOT worse off than it is now. Our hard hats are off to all of you, the unsung heroes of these caves.



This picture shows a marker at the Barnum plot at Little Shasta Cemetery. This marks the grave of Zachary Taylor Barnum, son of the original Barnum pioneer to the area, Eli Barnum. Eli is buried in Scott Valley at the town of Etna. This family named many of the boys after presidents, such as Millard Fillmore, Abraham Lincoln, and so on. Eli and Mary Ann Barnum lived in the area of Barnum Cave between 1875 and 1900. Eli died on April 5, 1915 at age 98, the oldest man in Siskiyou County. For more on the Barnums, see [The Eli Barnum Family](#) in the Big Springs issue of the Siskiyou Pioneer, V3, #4, 1961.

Next, let me tell you a little about the recent events leading up to this “new chapter”:

Barnum was one of three caves that the Klamath National Forest (KNF) acquired through a recent land exchange. The KNF also had recently started a cave management program, and had these caves on their “things to do list”. Barnum was one of the caves to be dealt with soon, to protect the bats. A year or two before acquiring the land that the caves are in, the KNF had begun discussions on the subject of managing the caves that were due to be acquired through a land exchange. After giving the grotto a list of their intentions, they asked for our help in managing them. To make the story shorter, the KNF did as we feared, they made the land exchange. Now SAG was committed, by default, to helping the FS manage the caves – mainly because no one else stepped in to help them!

Although the present management plan includes Recreation as an element to manage, the Biological values must be considered as well. There were unidentified cave-adapted insects seen hiding in the back of the cave, far from areas where parties are held. It is unknown what the bat populations were in the past, but bats have been seen even in the summer months, so it has year-round bat use.

The decision to gate Barnum Cave wasn't a hard one, as there is the population of hibernating bats, and year-round accessibility. This well known, much visited, party cave has gotten a new lease on life – it was gated to protect the winter hibernacula of Western Big Eared bats, in a joint effort with the Klamath National Forest (KNF), SAG and the Southern Oregon Grotto (SOG) on Sept. 14 and 15, 1999. At least “cave management” was happening on the Forest, and we'd be learning together what to do and what not to do! After all, participating in active cave management was not new to us, and we knew that we'd be using common sense and a conservative approach to things (for the sake of the caves' resources). Can't go too far wrong, eh?



Entrance to Barnum Cave

Now, we can start on the "... NEW CHAPTER in the life of the cave"

With a piddly amount of funding each year for cave management, the KNF and the cavers still had to forge ahead and try to get things done anyway. In order to make the budget dollar stretch, SAG and SOG signed a Challenge Cost-Share Agreement with the KNF on Sept 14, 1999. This meant that we were acknowledged as volunteers and protected under workman's compensation during the gating project. Keeping track of time and miles we drive to the projects, whatever they may be, helps justify the FS requests for increased cave management budgets each year.

September 14 and 15, 1999 the KNF and the two grottos, with the help of Jim Nieland, the USFS Region 6 Cave Specialist and several KNF employees, a bat-friendly gate was built inside the cave, less than 100 ft. from the entrance. The materials that were left over will be used on the Sand Cave gating project. Signs were placed outside and inside the cave, behind the gate explaining why the gate is there and when the cave will be open again. There is educational opportunity in the cave and the KNF has plans to produce a brochure for the public, giving them conservation and cave ethics education.

One can only estimate the number of hours that were spent on the project, not including follow-up visits to check the gate integrity by passer-by cavers. But that doesn't include the commitment by the FS to get the cave gated. There were 132 volunteer hours spent on the project and some of us spent more, on the phone or computer communicating with the various principles and other participants. Several hours were spent on gate design and placement as well.

At the time of this writing, Barnum Cave is temporarily (seasonally) closed; however, with nearby Sand Cave open at this time, there shouldn't be any public outcry or demand on the cave. In the future, bat research will continue at the cave and clean-ups too, but I think that all potential visitors will have a greater respect for the FS' attempt to right past wrongs and manage all the resources, not just trees! (...it's a possibility, after all!)

MANY THANKS to: Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Ray Miller, Bill Kenney, Chuck Frank III, (all of SAG); Ernie Coffman (SOG) and Jim Nieland, Jim Wolff, Jim Stout, Juan de la Fuente and others (USFS). **JW**



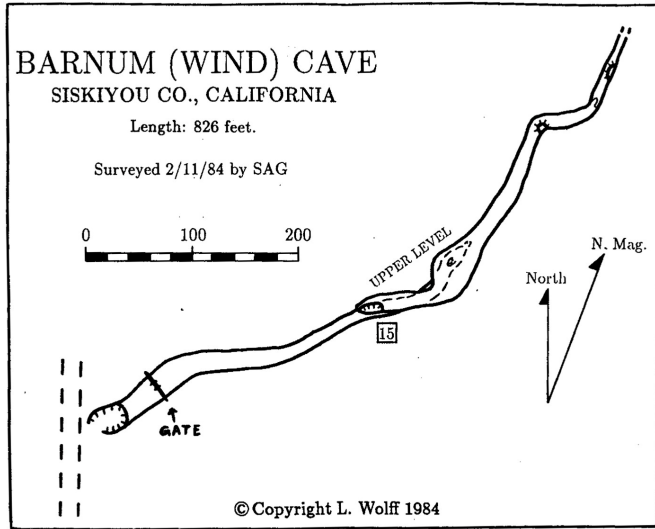
Jim Nieland



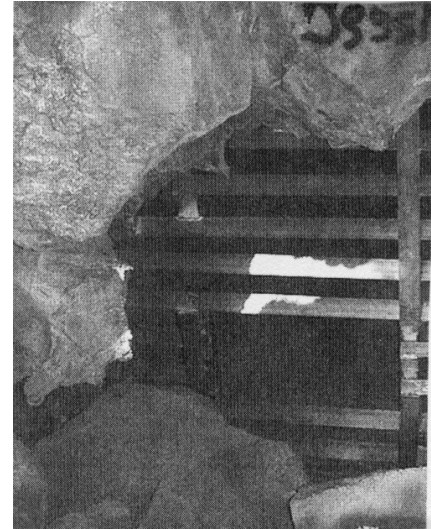
Wolff at south side of gate.

Barnum Cave was gated on September 14-15, 1999, but was not locked until early winter. Bill Kenney (welder) and Ernie Coffman (designer) camped at the cave the night of September 14. At dusk a few bats came by and seemed very playful and inquisitive about the structure in their cave. Later that night, Kenney and Coffman got bored so they just did some more work on the gate into the later hours.

This has been a warm winter, and the bats have stayed restless. Nevertheless, over 100 bats were counted in Barnum this winter, a substantial increase compared to previous winter counts. Jim Nieland was also heavily involved with all aspects of this project, and his expertise was greatly appreciated. On each visit, Nieland was able to demonstrate cave adapted invertebrates present in Barnum Cave. This biotic diversity in the cave may be an indication of long term prior use by bats over time.

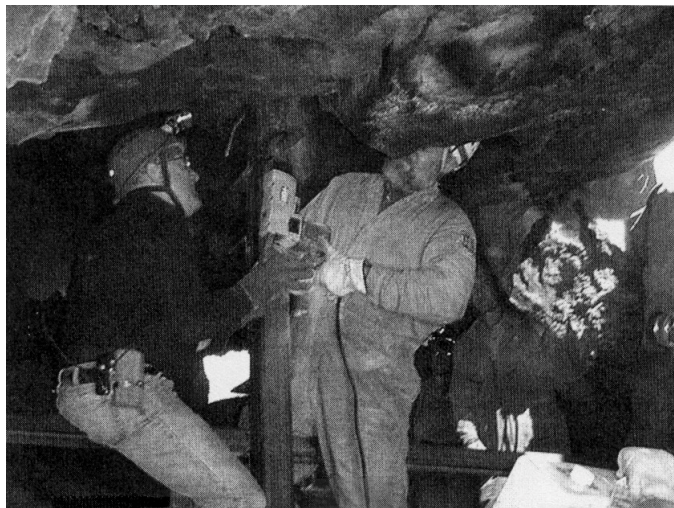


Map: Barnum Cave



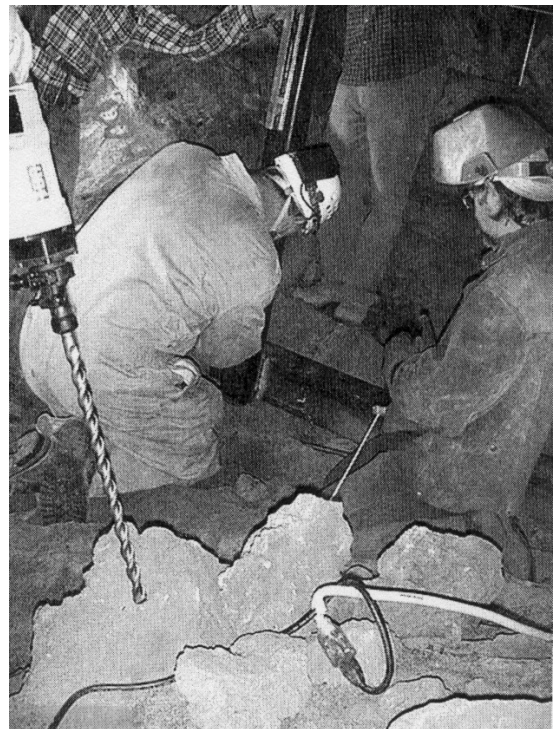
Shows gate with portal left open.

This map by Liz Wolff is reprinted from the CAL CAVER, V37, #3, 1987. This editor took the liberty of adding the gate to the map to show its position in the cave, which is 30 feet from the entrance dripline. This is the only known entrance to the cave, but airflow either in or out of the cave is almost always noticeable at the entrance. The gate is 25-26 feet wide and 9 feet high at the portal.



Coffman and Nieland on the upright.

Juan de la Fuente and Jim Stout of Klamath National Forest were especially instrumental in getting the Barnum Cave gating project completed.



Kenney and Nieland work from the ground up.

SOME WRITINGS ABOUT BARNUM CAVE

"The cave (Barnum) has graffiti from the 1950's to the present. The cave is described as a 'double decker cave; that is one cave above another.' In September 1999, the USFS installed a gate to protect the winter hibernaculum of Western Big Eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*). ... '[T]he drying up of Tule Lake and the gradual change of climate have changed the early water pattern of Grass Lake and assorted springs in Shasta Valley. The volume is less and the temperature is warmer. Many ice caves are no more, and many springs disappeared altogether.' (Siskiyou Pioneer, V3, #4, 1960). Barnum Cave may have been one of the ice caves."

From Human History of Selected Siskiyou County Caves, by Liz Wolff.

"The flow of the top layer is also in a northerly direction. This is the second largest of the lava caves. I never heard an authentic name for it, although I have heard it referred to as the Barnum Cave."

From The Caves, by Leo Brown, Siskiyou Pioneer Big Springs Edition, V3, #4, 1961.

"Barnum Cave (Shastina Lava Caves) is 804 feet long. It has one entrance with sand floors extending nearly half its length. A short climb up through breakdown leads to an upper level. This is the local party cave, so it has broken glass, cans, and spray paint. There is an inaccessible lead in the balcony or ceiling near the end of the upper level."

From 1990 NSS Convention Guidebook, page 72.

"Barnum Cave – this cave is commonly known as Wind Cave, but it does not fit the older descriptions of Wind Cave as reported below. ... Although the name Barnum Cave is referred to as not 'authentic', it is the only name that L. Brown had heard of in referring to the cave, and the fact that Barnum is a pioneer name should carry weight in assigning a name."

From The Caves of Pluto's Lava Flow, by Ray Miller, CAL CAVER V37, #3, 1987.

"Wind Cave (Ice Cave) ... One of the Pluto's Cave group, this may be the old "breathing well" near Sheep Rock (anon. 1894)."

From Caves of California, by William Halliday, 1962.
(Note: Halliday doesn't mention any 'Barnum Caves' by name).

The cave nomination paperwork for Barnum Cave was submitted to Klamath National Forest in Nov. 1997.



Cave crew hauling heavy metal.

BORNEO 2000 CAVING EXPEDITION

By Dick LaForge

**THE YEAR 2000 GUNUNG BUDA PROJECT
JOINT MALAYSIAN AND AMERICAN CAVE EXPLORATION EXPEDITION**

January 22 to March 10, 2000, Fifth Forest District, Sarawak, Malaysia

BRITISH BACKGROUND

As part of the continuing British effort to explore and document the caves of the Melinau limestone of Sarawak Malaysia, In 1980, four British cave explorers visited Gunung Buda. At the time reaching Buda required an adventurous trek through virgin jungle. While their discoveries at Buda were not as significant as the cave discoveries further south beneath Gunung Benerat and Gunung Api, a number of interesting caves were discovered. These included Turtle Cave, Beachcomber Cave, The Big Feature, and Compendium Cave, most of which lie along Buda's western flank.

MALAYSIA – AMERICA #1A

In 1994, a small group of Americans and Malaysians visited Buda in preparation for a joint Malaysian-American caving expedition to Sarawak. By this time, roads had been built into Gunung Buda in the area north of recently created Gunung Mulu National Park, which encompassed Gunung Benerat and Gunung Api. A number of cave entrances were located in the mountain's southern cliffs. It was determined that with government approval, this area would be the focus of the upcoming expedition.

MALAYSIA – AMERICA #1

A total of 17 Americans and more than 30 Malaysians explored, photographed, and mapped caves within Buda from December 29, 1994 until February 17, 1995. More than a dozen new caves were discovered, and a total of 30 kilometers of cave passages were surveyed.

Significant finds included the deepest single drop in Southeast Asia, in Monkeys In The Mist Cave, the deepest cave in Southeast Asia, in Snail Shell Cave, and an eleven-kilometer-long system, Green Cathedral-Beachcomber. Many large going passages and gaping cave entrances in the area were left unexplored, however.

MALAYSIA – AMERICA #2

In 1996 another joint Malaysian and American Expedition returned to Gunung Buda. This group focused on Snail Shell Cave, the north Buda area and the preparation of an article for National Geographic Magazine. About seven kilometers of new survey were produced by the group.

MALAYSIA – AMERICA #3

Between January 31 and March 7, 1997 a third joint American and Malaysian Expedition, organized by the Gunung Buda Project, traveled to Buda. This group successfully photographed and surveyed 25 kilometers of cave passages. Two of the longer known caves, Green Cathedral and the Turtle System, were connected creating a 21-kilometer long cave that is more than 300 meters deep. Other significant caves were discovered including Thunder Cave with its huge room, the Limbang Chamber; Hornbill Cave with the largest passages in Gunung Buda, and huge Deliverence Cave in Gunung Benerat.

MALAYSIA – AMERICA GUNUNG BUDA PROJECT CAVE EXPEDITION 2000

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

It is proposed that another joint exploration expedition to this fascinating corner of Malaysia take place. In general the objectives of the expedition would be to document through survey and photography more of the currently unexplored caves of Gunung Buda.

Specifically the expedition will focus on a variety of goals. Of primary concern will be connecting the Green Cathedral-Turtle System to Snail Shell Cave and tying Loris Cave and Lower Turtle into the same unified system. Many other significant leads also exist in these caves. Great potential lies in the southern sections of Green Cathedral-Beachcomber, the eastern and southern sections of Upper Turtle, and in several locations in Snail Shell.

Deliverance was one of the great surprises of the 1997 expedition. This cave still holds great potential, though the leads are all climbs that will require bolting.

The northern areas of Buda are very likely to still contain a great deal of virgin cave. Pepper Leaf and Biocyclone Caves both contain many promising leads and strong airflow in several sections. The main trend in Pepper Leaf is particularly promising.

Biocyclone's leads may provide access to other entrances to the cave including a spectacular, huge entrance seen by expedition members from across the Senap River Valley. Hornbills Secret Cave found in 1997 has many large leads that may provide access to a large north Buda system.

SCIENCE ON THE 2000 EXPEDITION

Members of the Gunung Buda Project are planning on a more concerted effort to scientifically examine the caves and their geology and biology on the next expedition. Initial biological work on Gua Ulat Cincin in 1997 revealed the complex nature of the cave biotic communities at Gunung Buda. We hope to expand on this work through the participation of two biologists (Jean Krecja and Christopher Richard) in 2000 who will further our earlier efforts at inventory and begin a taxonomic investigation of the area. In addition inventory work for bat species both in and out of the caves will be conducted by Mary Wenzal on the expedition. We also hope to build upon the 1997 geologic work of expedition participant Andrea Futtrell and Dr. Ira Sasowsky (from the University of Akron, Akron Ohio) through a proposed grant to the National Geographic Society. It is hoped that other prominent cave geologists will also participate in the expedition.

For the Educational Project Home Page:

<http://www.northcoast.com/~rchilds/>

For a newspaper article about Robert Childs and the project (warning: this takes a long time to load:

<http://www.times-standard.com/indepth/indepth.html>

For the Gunung Buda Home Page:

<http://www.pwpconsult.com/buda.site/index.html>

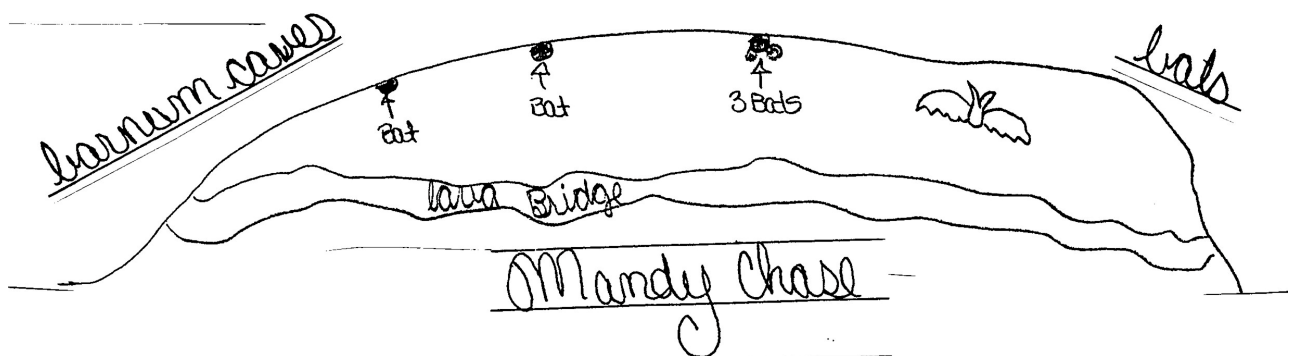
DL

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? _____
ADDRESS _____

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.



SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO:

Page 1	Cover: Barnum Cave
Page 2	Editorial – B. Broeckel
Page 3	Cave Calendar
Page 3	Map to the SAG meeting
Page 4	December meeting notes – M. Jackson
Page 5	Barnum Cave Review – Jim Wolff
Page 10	Borneo 2000 Preview – Dick LaForge
Page 12	Dues and subscriptions form

Remove Staple For Inspection