

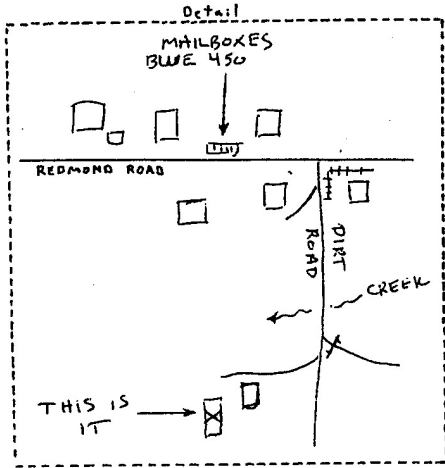
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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.

CAVERS CALENDAR 2000

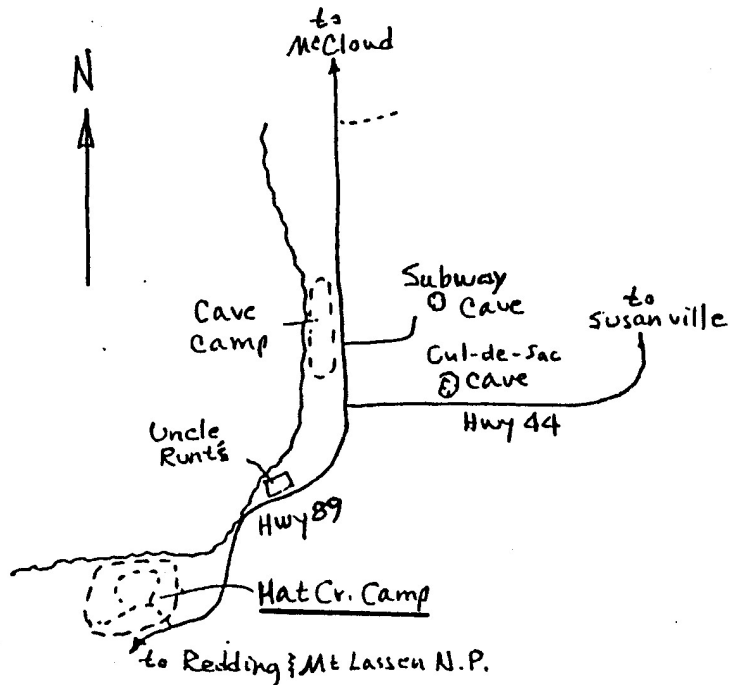
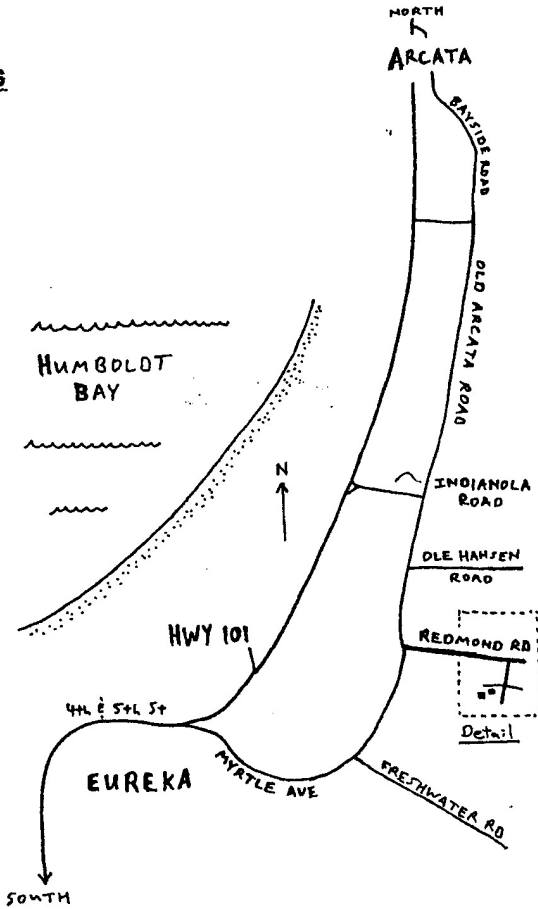
*Note: Thanks to Russ Yoder and the Oregon High Desert Grotto (OHDG), no one can complain about not enough cave trips. Call Russ Yoder at (541) 312-2948 if interested.

- May 8 OHDG trip to Arnold Caves. Meet at Wind Cave at 0900.
- May 12-16 OHDG trip to Trout Lake Caving Area
- May 20 (Sat.) SAG meeting at the LaForge home near Arcata. Bring potluck items for supper. Meeting follows supper, then slam dunk cave slides until midnight. Wolff writes "Dick LaForge is inviting the grotto over for the May meeting on the coast. He and Fritzke have returned from Borneo with lots of pictures after a 2 month odyssey and caving." Call LaForges at (707) 443-2626.
- May 20-21 Introduction to Cave Rescue class at New Melones Lake in the Motherlode area. Course coordinator Amanda Clark. More info at: www.thirdmedia.com/wrtc
- May 21-23 OHDG trip to Cracker Cave and Lava Beds Area.
- May 30-June 1 OHDG trip to Medicine Lake Highlands.
- June 5-6 OHDG trip to Derrick Caves Area.
- June 9-13 OHDG trip to Saddle Butte.
- June 16-18 SAG Hat Creek Cave Camp, and meeting on Saturday night after supper. Look for signs to the grotto campsites at Hat Creek Campground. Call Wolffs for details (530) 964-3123.
- June 19-20 OHDG trip to Derrick Caves Area again.
- June 23-27 OHDG trip to Medicine Lake Highlands.
- June 26-30 NSS Convention, Elkins, West Virginia.

Maps to the Meetings



DICK AND KATHY LA FORGE
 450 REDMOND ROAD
 EUREKA CA 95503
 H (707) 443-2626



**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
MARCH 11, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7: 56 pm. at the Dekkas Group Campground at Lake Shasta.

Present were: Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff, Chuck Frank IV, Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Blaine Silkwood, Bill Kenney, and from the Shascade Caving Society Sharon Pryor, Vincent Pezonella, and James Newell.

Minutes: were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Not Available.

Old Business: Zane Kenney is setting up a SAG Website, but we will need someone to volunteer to be the webmaster to maintain it. Members are asked to submit a list of what sort of things you want to be on this site. It was suggested that the material be factual and kept simple. Do not want any information to be too explicit. The Sand Cave Cleanup in Feb. was well attended and a lot of fun. Approximately 50 lbs. of trash was removed from the cave. Melanie e-mailed Dave Nicholson about SAG being able to help with a SAR training. He said he got it. Melanie will correspond with Dave further and try to get a date, time, and format. The when and where may be suggested by the grotto. Sand Cave will be gated in the fall as the road work will be done this summer. Ray Miller asked to have the car hood garbage out before the road work commences.

New Business: The S.W. Oregon No Name Cave Project. The cave is limestone and was acquired through a land exchange. It is a basically trashed recreational cave. Leslie Welch of the BLM wants SAG and SOG to help with the gating of the cave in April of 2000. The gating is to protect the Townsendii and any other bats that use the cave. The National Guard has a date set to haul in the materials the 750 feet from the road to the cave entrance. It was noted that they still need to make a cave management plan for the cave. Post project monitoring will determine the seasons of roost use and the types of bats etc. It was determined that there may be 3 or 4 days of construction. The nearby Lake Cave will also be gated at this time. Scheduled time is last weekend of April 28, 29.

April 1st KNF Cave management meeting TBA. Contact Juan de la Fuente at 530-841-4413.

Trip Reports: James Newell, Vinnie Pezonella, & Steve Hobson looked at 3 caves.

Future Meetings:

April 14, 2000 Melanie Jackson's house in Yreka.

May 20, 2000 Coast TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
APRIL 14, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:51 PM. at the Jackson home in Yreka.

Present were: Bill, Cheryl, & Zane Kenney, Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff, Chuck Frank III, Chuck Frank IV, Melanie Jackson, and Bill Broeckel.

Minutes: were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The April Balance is \$930.11

Old Business: Regarding the Sand Cave Bat Gate design: Linda Tatum the Bats resource person for this region and Greg Erickson of Cal Trans both want to have two vertical gates. When will the gates go in – has to be before the babies come or in the fall. Liz W. and Ray M. removed the cable from the cave, but the car hood is still there. The bat counts in Barnum Cave have been done and the cave is now open until fall. Oregon Caves still has inventory to do around 23 stations. Cavers are needed to get into these tight, cold, squeeze places. Talk to Ron Reed if you are interested. Melanie has not been able to get a commitment out of Dave Nicholson on Cave rescue etc. yet, but will keep on trying. SAR has a lot scheduled already. The gating of No Name and Lake Cave is scheduled for the end of April. There is also an area between the Lost Creek Reservoir and Butte Falls that has a cave with 350 Townsendii bats that needs more protection than No Name and Lake Cave. It is probably a nursery colony.

New Business: Results of the Big Meeting with Klamath National Forest on April 1st. The Indian population stated that in the Marble Mtns., All of the caves and springs etc. are more sacred than even Mt. Shasta. They don't think anyone should cave in them anymore. Another meeting is to be held to find time to finish the proposed agenda some time from mid to the end of May. Juan de la Fuente wanted the grotto's input as far as a time and a day. It was suggested that Juan work a time out with Steve Knutson and we, the grotto members will do our best to have a good attendance..

Trip Reports: Chuck Frank IV was at Shasta Lake for 3 days. The large hole approximately 150 feet up doesn't go anywhere, but has a good view. He visited 12 caves and one had a very high vertical area with 4-5 climbing leads going up a long way. Bill Broeckel went to Jake Bell cave to get cross sections and skylight locations. The whole cave was coated with ice and he found signs that say Jake Bell Caves 1 and 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

SANDMAN CAVE GETS LONGER

By B. Broeckel

The main entrance to Sandman Cave is five feet high and twenty feet wide. It was easy to find, and it was noted on my first ridgewalk to this area in 1993. In November, 1998, I came back with my boys. With a storm rolling in, we needed something quick and easy to do, so we surveyed the easy passages upflow and downflow from the main entrance. Downflow, the lava tube ended in an abrupt sand fill, as if someone dropped a load of sand, packed it in, and smoothed it over. That person would be the sandman, of course, and so we had the name for the cave. The same sort of sand pile blocks progress in several other caves in the nearby vicinity.

Upflow, a passage hugged the east wall. Where breakdown pressed into the wall, the passage was left as an unlikely crawlway through the rocks. A cave map resulted from this foray, and appeared in the guidebook for the 1999 Western Regional. The length of the cave was 164 feet.

On February 19, 2000, Shasta Area Grotto returned to survey another cave in the next sinkhole upflow from the main entrance to Sandman Cave. This was the southernmost entrance now shown on the new Sandman Cave map. We had walked by this less obvious entrance many times. It was finally checked on April 11, 1999. A small hole in the sinkhole drops down to a place where you have to crawl along the side of a rocking slab. This breaks into a room with several leads. So in February we came back to survey and explore.

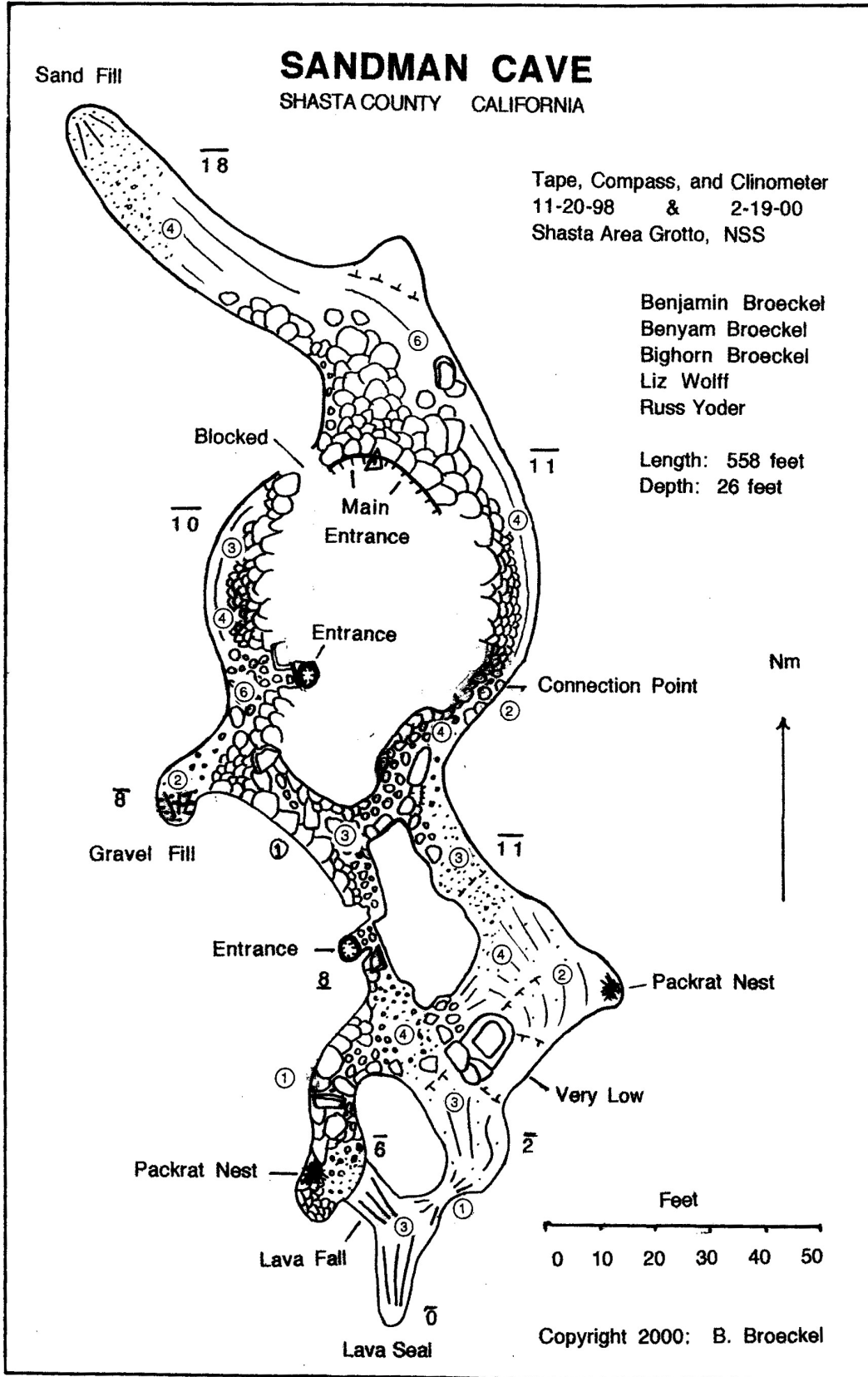
Russ Yoder took the lead tape, and Liz Wolff ran instruments. Russ first took us to the far end of the room, an area of original surface lava tube. Through a small aperture, we found an excellent lava fall. At the bottom of the falls, Russ managed to squirm through loose breakdown, and find a way back to the room where we started. So we completed a small survey loop that turned out to have an error of less than one foot, both horizontal and vertical. Good work there, Mrs. Wolff.

That left the downflow leads. This went down a very nice segment of tube and eventually broke out into the upflow end of our previous Sandman Cave. We went ahead and tied to the original datum point, and we were off the hook for thinking of a new cave name. Since we were on a roll, we went back in and surveyed more cave passage going west. Once again Russ was able to slide through a low spot, and bring a third entrance into the cave survey. This extension allows a caver to almost circumnavigate the entire sinkhole that holds the main entrance to Sandman Cave. Our final act was to attempt to reach the second entrance from this new area. A small and determined caver could get through here, but our work for the day was done.

The new length for Sandman Cave is now 558 feet, and the number of entrances increases from 1 to 3. The two new entrances are less conspicuous. The cave is arranged around two shallow sinkholes. It appears to be a mazy area that consolidates into a larger caliber lava tube that ends in the sand plug. In many ways this cave is comparable to Uncle Runts cave. Packrat nests were found, but no bats were seen using this cave, maybe because the passage heights are all low. Sandman Cave is currently the thirteenth longest cave in the Hat Creek Lava Flow.

So what about this sandman fellow? Well, not only does he help children to fall asleep, but he also hauls sand deep into caves and builds up big piles of sand that block off passages. We don't know why he does this. He also makes a small tear in his sand bag, leaving a thin trail of sand, so he can follow this on his way back out, and avoid getting lost in those complicated Hat Creek caves. Check the cover and see how this works. If anyone has more information on the sandman, let me know.

BB



Map: Sandman Cave

CORYNORHINUS TOWNSENDII

By Ray Miller and Liz Wolff

Interior northern California has one of the largest known Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) concentrations known. These bats are uncommon-to-rare in other regions, and they are listed as a species of special concern. In our area most of these bats are almost black. They are medium sized with a 12 inch wingspan. They have very large ears, but when in hibernation or sleeping these are often rolled up like a ram's horn and only small spikes stick out from their heads.



Alert Cory

Hibernating Cory

These bats are found on smooth walls and ceilings in caves near the twilight zone and fully exposed. In hibernation the bats are alone or in small groups. They depend on stored fat to see them through the winter, and disturbance causes extra expenditure of energy leading to starvation. It can take up to half an hour for bats to fully arouse, so if they show no noticeable movement it does not mean they have not been disturbed. Caves should not be visited when hibernating bats are present, and light should not be directed toward them. Be

as quiet as you can. Remember that bat hearing is most sensitive to high frequencies, so nylon clothing and whispers are extremely loud to them.



Nursery Colony

When not in hibernation males normally roost singly and the females form tightly packed nursery colonies. The nursery colonies are often found in shallow domes in the ceiling. Townsend's big-eared bats are very sensitive to human disturbance, especially the females. The first indications of a nursery colony are calls of annoyance which are soft, but within the range of most human hearing. Some of the bats will then swirl. If the intrusion continues the bats will then move to other parts of the cave. At this time pregnant bats can spontaneously abort, and the mothers may drop their pups and not retrieve them. Do not shine lights on the bats, and if you must pass the colony stay as far from under them as you can.

If a suspected nursery colony is located you should back out of the cave and inform Ray Miller or Liz Wolff. They will then determine the species and count the bats as they exit the cave to feed. Reports are then made to CDFG and other selected agencies with the cave location given no closer than a quarter township (9 square miles). Although the cave locations are held in confidence (hopefully) the locations might be acquired through biological data bases.

RM & LW

CENTRAL OREGON CAVES – USFS CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

By Larry King, from e-mail prepared for the WVG (Willamette Valley Grotto)

The Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District has released a draft environmental assessment for the upcoming Road 18 Caves Management Plan dealing with nine Central Oregon lava tubes including Boyd Cave, Arnold Ice Cave, Skeleton Cave, Charcoal Cave, Bidden Forest Cave, Wind Cave, Bat Cave, Deg Cave, and Charlie the Cave.

The EA scoping document can be seen at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/deschutes/desnf/manage/projects/cavesea/cavesletter.html>

Public comment may be received at any time during the process, but is most useful if received by May 12th. Contact Les Moscoso, Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE Third, Suite A-262, Bend, OR 97701.

The agency's proposed actions are intended to reduce recreational impact to these popular caves, and involve traffic control, information kiosks, procedures for special use permits, and a ban on glass containers and alcoholic beverages inside the caves.

The only real controversy may arise from plans to remove hundreds of fixed anchors installed by rock climbers, and repair the bolt scars with a mixture of epoxy resin and sand. The cave most affected by this plan is Bidden Forest, where climbers originally installed 158 bolted anchors. Currently there are about 130 bolts remaining in a 50 ft. by 80 ft. area near the cave's entrance. Other Central Oregon caves that were developed for climbing have since been closed to all visitation to protect bats and/or cultural resources.

A cover story in the Bend Bulletin on April 19 describes the Forest Service plans, and touches on the climbing impact issue. According to writer Jim Witty of the Bulletin, trash and vandalism is an ongoing concern, and many in the Forest Service view the impact of climbing as part of the problem. One employee says, "If you drill a hole in a rock, it's damage. These are caves, not climbing gyms or party rooms."

Climber Carol Simpson argues, "Climbers as a group are way more meticulous about litter and environmental concerns than the average person. Bolts aren't to mar the rock. They're there for safety." Simpson said she believes climbers would be willing to climb without chalk if the anchors could stay in place.

Chalk hand drying agents have been banned in the caves since 1996, and a moratorium on the placement of bolted climbing anchors has been in effect in all Deschutes National Forest caves since 1994.

A great deal of documentation and hard work by USFS cave managers, cavers and rock art specialists has gone into the Road 18 Caves EA, and it is expected that the final plan will reflect the unique management concerns of these caves.

Members of the Willamette Valley Grotto (WVG) have twice requested permission to remove the climbing hardware installed in these caves. On both occasions lack of a management plan was cited as the reason for denial of the request. In the draft EA just released, the Ranger District treats bolted sport climbing routes as a damage and defacement issue under the FCRPA.

A motion will be placed before the members at the next WVG meeting proposing that a letter of endorsement be written to the Ranger District supporting the USFS' s list of proposed actions for the Road 18 Caves.

Larry King

LK

REPRINT FROM 1999 CRF INTERNET REPORT (With author's permission)

IN MEMORY OF PAUL TRAVIS By William Devereaux

We at Lava Beds lost a dedicated JV (Joint Venturer) on January 5, 1999. Paul Travis of Ashland, Oregon, died that Tuesday evening of complications from cancer. Paul started working with us in 1989, to help in the bat counts and general cave inventory projects of CRF at Lava Beds National Monument. He also helped Bill Devereaux, Mike Sims, Janet Sowers, Chris Roundtree and others in ice level monitoring, cave mapping, cave reconnaissance, and GPS/brass monument installation projects. Paul served in the U.S. Army in WWII. He had degrees in Physics and Geology. He was an avid 'birder'. After he had retired from government service, he often acted as a volunteer for the Tule Lake Wildlife Refuge. There he worked behind the counter at the Visitor's Center and led trips into the Refuge.

Eventually, he wandered up the hill to Lava Beds National Monument. He worked as a frequent volunteer at the Visitor's Center. His interest in flying critters led him to become involved in bat counts. He worked with Steve Cross, Kim Strassburg, Chris Roundtree, Gary Hathaway, Sarah Nichols, and Michelle Moore. In retirement, Paul was a wanderer who planned his year around field trips, seminars, and volunteer assignments that interested him. Some weeks it was helping CRF at Lava Beds, other times joining the Klamath bird count, taking a field seminar in southwestern archeology, sitting in on classes at Southern Oregon State University, or hanging with the Friends of the Pleistocene in the Nevada desert. He never stopped learning.

We walked in sunlight.

We walked by starlight.

We walked up Lyon's Trail by moonlight alone

Listening to the Coyote's song.

We walked in foot deep snow to take ice levels in November.

We walked in the rain and listened to the chee of the towhee.

We got lost in the woods together looking for Craig Cave,
Spider Cave, and caves which we still believe exist, but may not.

His laugh would sometimes annoy, but more often would
lighten our burden and make the trip seem shorter.

He knew rocks.

He knew trees.

He knew birds and flowers and bugs and the wind.

He was my friend and I will miss him sorely.

BD



Corys

SAG RAG

2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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