

The Sag Rag

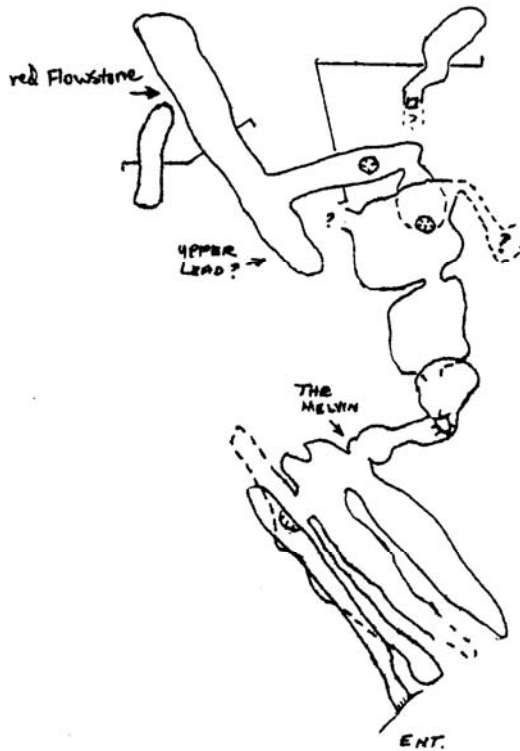
FEBRUARY, 1983 VOLUME 2, No. 1

MELVIN CAVE (SKETCH ONLY)

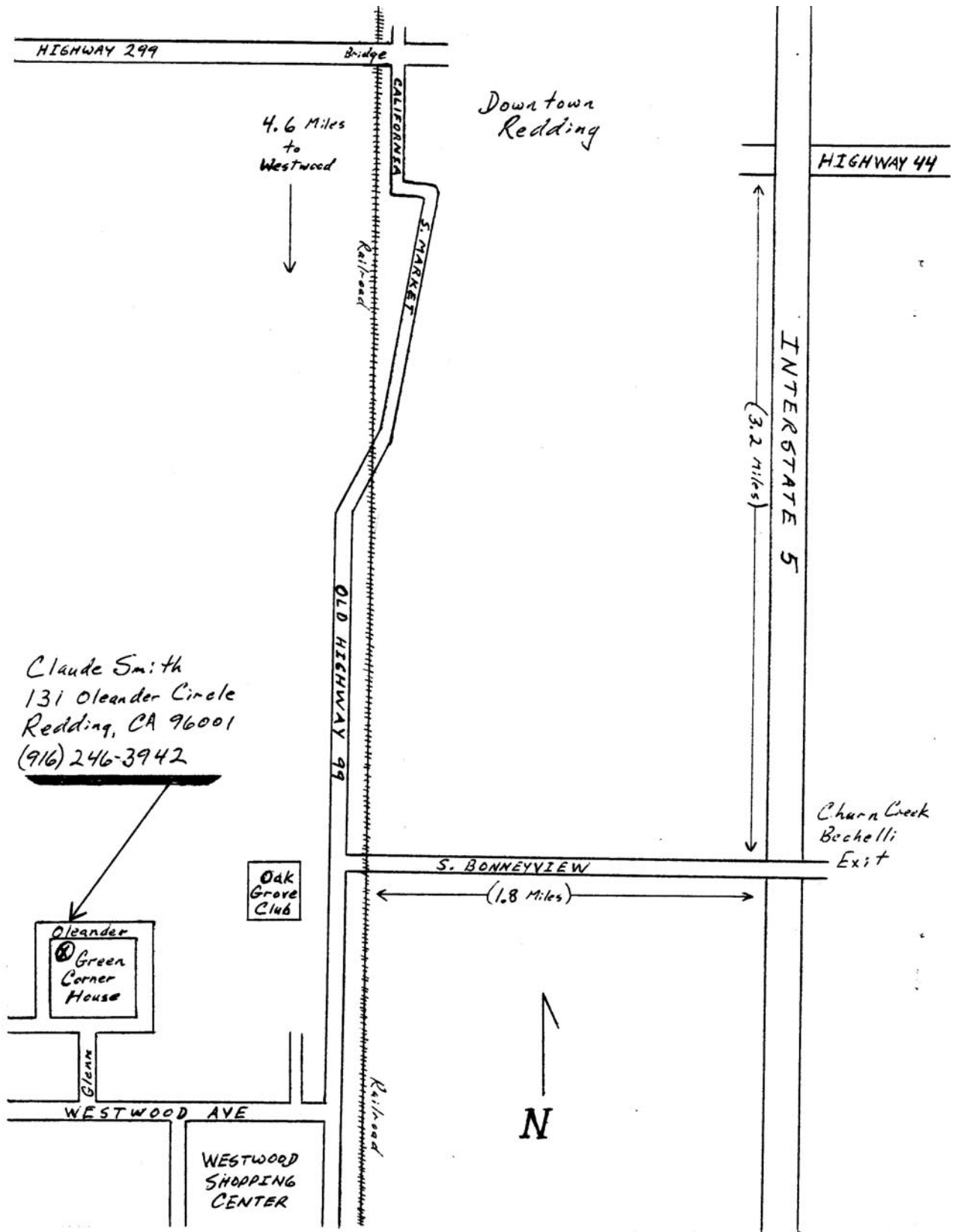
N (approx.)



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Map: Melvin Cave



Published bi-monthly beginning in February by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editor is Claude A. Smith, at 131 Oleander Circle, Redding, CA. 96001. Subscription rate is \$3.00/year. No exchanges.

Shasta Area Grotto meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Meeting places are announced in this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

- March 11 Grotto meeting.
At Claude and Mary Belle Smith's, 131 Oleander Circle, Redding 246-3942. Please submit ideas and/or drawings for the grotto logo to Kislings or Wolffs, so that we can get this matter resolved.
- March 12-13 Field trips.
Melvin. – Jim Wolff and Don Quinton will be finishing mapping and exploration.
Rope practice. – Weather permitting. Bring your vertical gear. We'll try out the virgin grotto rope.
Samwel. – Claude will be surveying to determine the cave elevation in relation to Shasta Lake. Also pit will be rigged for those interested.
- April Shasta lake enlargement study.
Dave Cowan from the Mother Lode grotto will be taking Bureau of Reclamation people on a tour of Samwel and possibly Potter Creek. Probably the first part of April. See Claude for details.
- April 8 Grotto meeting.
At Jim and Liz Wolff's, 6 Mill Road, McCloud 964-2569.
- May 28-30 French Creek area.
Caving, mapping, exploration, camping, backpacking, ridge-walking, etc. with Roger Jones in the Trinity Alps.
- June Guadalupes.
Smiths will be vacationing and caving in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Grotto members are welcome to join them.

DUES ARE DUE

The following people did not renew in February:

Don Bryant Shirley Bryant Steve Knutsen

This will be the last newsletter for those people.

NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Fuller 471-220 Wingfield Road, Susanville 257-4345
Neils Smith Star Route 3, Standish 254-6764

MELVIN CAVE Trip report of 1-15-83 by Jim Wolff

The day after the January SAG meeting, Claude Smith, Joe Molter, Neils Smith, Don Quinton, and I set off on a cave hunting and cave mapping adventure. Claude and Joe wanted to “cave hunt” amongst the poison oak and brush, and Neils, Don and I (being the more sensible of the five), decided to map Melvin cave. But, after seeing some of the tight places one has to pass through, like “The Melvin”, Neils opted to return to the surface and practice cave conservation, as the cave had shrunk to dimensions much too small for his longish frame.

Melvin cave was discovered by Claude Smith and Dan Bryant in the summer of ‘80. Upon discovery it was just a blowing hole under an overhanging rock, until, that is, the rock was removed by a county road crew as it was a hazard to motorists. The entrance is located in a road cut. Claude and Dan spent the next Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 PM to 12 PM exploring virgin cave, while sometimes moving and/or shoring up the passage as they went – two things did get better

The cave starts as a canyon or enlarged joint, and is climbable, barely. After the entrance series of paralleling passages, one has to pass through “The Melvin”, The Melvin is so named because Dan, upon backing through this point, exclaimed that the cave gave him a “Melvin” (which to some means like a “Brownie” to others). After passing that obstacle you have to pass under a real shaky breakdown plug. We normally shore up the rocks with wooden timbers before passing under and through to the passage beyond.

The next two rooms are low, but not confining. The third, and the roomiest room, offers three possible routes beyond. One is a breakdown filled shelf that looks like it could go, with some work. Another one is a steep inclined tight tube that leads towards more roomy passage. However, it is really a struggle to get to. A possibility here for more cave. The last choice of route one has, is a hole in the floor of the main room, that leads to a muddy canyon in which the caver is forced to stay near the ceiling where a ledge is. The dimensions are such that the little canyon could be pushed to a greater depth with a little work as well.

The next passage becomes canyon-like again, and this one has some reddish-colored flowstone on the walls at one end, and the other end of the passage has, maybe, a lead near its top. We couldn’t quite reach the spot with our lights where we stood.

Well, it was time to map on out of the cave. We recharged our lamps and started our survey. It would have to be another day, another trip, to have a closer look at those leads ..., oh well, at least we got 158.3 ft. out of the cave. And after all, it is only a beginning ..., or is it?

GROTTO CONSTITUTION (Adopted 2/5/82)

- I. The name of this organization shall be the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society.
- II. The purposes of this organization shall be the same as those of the National Speleological Society, with the additional purpose of organizing NSS members in the Northern California area to better promote the objectives of the NSS.
- III.
 - A. This grotto shall be governed by an Executive Committee made up of the following officers elected annually by the full membership:
 - (1) Chairman
 - (2) Vice-Chairman
 - (3) Secretary
 - (4) Treasurer
 - B. The Executive Committee shall have complete power to manage the business, to raise funds in any manner not inconsistent with the policies of the NSS and to perform all other necessary functions.
 - C. Decisions or actions of the Executive Committee may be over-ruled by a two-thirds majority vote of the full membership.
 - D. The first Executive Committee shall consist of the officers elected at the Grotto Charter meeting of February 5, 1982.
- IV.
 - A. Executive Committee and general meetings shall be held at such times and places as are determined by the committee.
 - B. A petition signed by two-thirds of the full members shall be mandatory upon the Executive Committee to call a special meeting for the purposes stated in the petition.
- V.
 - A. Full membership is limited to voting members of the NSS residing in Northern California.
 - B. Associate members of the NSS are to be known as Associate members of the Grotto and are entitled to all the rights of full members except voting and holding office.
 - C. Grotto members who are not members of the NSS after one year of such status will become affiliate members.
 - D. Affiliate members are members of the Grotto who are not members of the NSS, may not hold office and may not vote.
- VI. The Constitution and By-laws of the NSS shall be binding on the Shasta Area Grotto. Any action inconsistent therewith shall be null and void.
- VII. Expulsion of members:
 - A. Members may be dropped or expelled from the Grotto for the following reasons:
 - (1) Non-payment of dues.

- (2) Willful misuse of the Grotto property.
 - (3) Willful disregard of his own or the safety of others on NSS or Grotto-sponsored trips.
 - (4) Conduct detrimental to the Grotto.
- B. Any member subject to expulsion may demand and will be granted a personal hearing before the full membership.
- VIII. Any NSS property shall revert to the NSS in the event of dissolution.
- IX. Amendments to this constitution shall be made by two-thirds vote of the full membership present at any meeting of the grotto called by the Executive Committee expressly for the purpose, or by written consent of over one-half of the full membership.

GROTTO BY-LAWS

- I. Requirements for membership (Adopted 5/14/82):
- A. Attend one SAG meeting.
 - B. Participation in two SAG caving trips.
 - C. Unanimous approval by executive committee.
 - D. Payment of membership dues.
- II. Election of officers (Adopted 10/8/82).
- A. Nominations for officers of the following year must be presented before the close of the December grotto meeting.
 - B. People may be nominated by two other voting members, either at a meeting or by correspondence to the Grotto mailing address.
 - C. Ballots will be enclosed in the December grotto newsletter.
 - D. Deadline for returning ballots is the January meeting. Ties will be resolved at the January meeting.
 - E. New officers will take over at the February meeting.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1	Map of Melvin Cave
Page 2	Map to meeting
Page 3	Coming events; Dues are due; New members
Page 4	Melvin Cave trip report – by J. Wolff
Pages 5-6	Grotto Constitution and By-laws