

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

- June 10 Grotto meeting.
At Jim and Liz Wolff's, 6 Mill Rd, McCloud 964-3123. Bring any color T-shirts for silk-screening grotto logo. Ink is black or white.
- June 11 Powder Hill cave system.
Trip to Rooty Tooty and Bobcat to check for damage from recent logging in area. See letters this issue.
- July 8 Grotto meeting.
At Jim and Liz Wolff's, 6 Mill Rd, McCloud 964-3123.
- July ?? Marbles.
Check with Jim Wolff for trip(s) dates.
- August 12 Grotto meeting.
At Don and Audra Quinton's, 15 Manzanita, Title 9, Herlong 827-2610. Map will be in August Sag Rag. Bring steak for barbeque Friday night.
- August 13 Morning – Kloppenburg Cave.
Need vertical gear for 100' drop. Will be short trip.
Afternoon – Picnic and swimming at Sardine Lake. This will definitely be a family outing, so bring your spouse and kids.
- Sept 2-5 Regional at Shasta Lake.
- Sept 6-11 Marbles Speleo-camp?
- Sept 9 Grotto meeting.
Tentatively in Marbles.

DUES ARE DUE

Dues are \$4.00/year per individual, or \$6.00/year per family. Dues covers subscription and postage for the SAG RAG. The following members' dues are past due:

Gwen Everest Dick LaForge Chris Meyer
Mark Fritzke Glen Malliet

This will be the last newsletter for the members listed above.

PUERTO RICAN CAVER VISITS WOLFFS

Luis Hernandez from El Cortijo Bayamon, Puerto Rico stopped by to talk about caves. He stopped somewhere in McCloud, asked about caves and the person Luis was talking to recommended that he talk to Jim Wolff. He doesn't belong to the NSS or any other organized caving club, but does have some friends he goes with, that have the same interests. Said a small hole opened up right in their home town street, and the cave is quite large. If anyone would like to write to him, Jim has his full address.

PORCUPINE BUTTE LAVA TUBE REDISCOVERED by Jim Wolff

The cave that has eluded all searches in the past, has been found. On the 14th and 15th of May, five members of the SFBC Grotto came up to do mapping in Bat Cave and continue survey of Water Caves System. I dropped by to see how things were going and show them a hole I had found.

This major cave of the Double Hole Crater flow is found off the northern slopes of Porcupine Butte and most surely is part of the Bat/Hourglass Cave system. The cave is of large dimensions, has three levels and a fault line that truncates its end, just like in Hourglass Cave, but only more spectacular! It is estimated that 2,000 feet of passage exists. The cave is not mapped.

LATEST NEWS FROM GLEN EVEREST

Have been busy this past winter. Now that summer is here, I have been told that my days off are Wednesdays and Thursdays till October. I'm the engine operator for Ti Bar Station. During fire season it will be almost impossible to get time off.

I sure would like to go Memorial Day on that trip, but I can't get off. Also I would like to go to Paul Gibson Cave this year.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIP TO FRENCH CREEK

No formal trip report yet, but the following interesting comments from those involved:

Jim Wolff – "A comedy of errors".

Sharon Kisling – "Arley would rather not talk about it."

Don Quinton – "Never again!!"

CAVE LEADS

Jim reports that he has two dozen cave leads to check out and needs some volunteers.

GROTTO LETTER TO FOREST SERVICE

Mr. John Nelson
District Ranger
McCloud, CA 96057

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The Shasta Area Grotto of the national Speleological Society, among other individuals and clubs in California, have been studying the caves of the Powder Hill Cave System for the past three years. Only recently, however, in October 1981, the northern-most portion of this cave system, the Bobcat Cave Complex was discovered.

The following cave inventory and resource description are the results of many hours underground in one of California's most unique lava caves. Our recommendations and comments will complete this report.

Bobcat Cave itself is not just an ordinary run-of-the-mill lave tube. It is presently mapped at 4786.3 feet and is currently ranked ninth among California's longest caves. And Bobcat is one of ten caves that make up an aggregate total footage of 10,588.3 feet in what we call the Powder Hill Cave System. Bobcat Cave, being the longest segment so far discovered in the system is also known for its vertical complexity. As many as five passage levels are superimposed upon each other in places within the main cave, and additional levels above the cave have been found, but not mapped. The mapping of these "surface tubes" and an above-the-ground survey over the cave (to determine exactly the overburden of the cave passages below), will more or less finalize our preliminary work there. And although there have been some biological studies done elsewhere in the Bobcat Cave Complex, future plans involve study of an unusual cave mineral and cave adapted fauna in newly discovered Rooty Tooty Cave (a 900 foot segment of Bobcat Cave). Therein lies our problem

The entire length of Rooty Tooty Cave and parts of Bobcat lie under cutting units 34 and 35 of your Deep Timber Sale. The trees marked for cutting take root in the cave passages below, providing an important energy source for the unique cave life there. Rooty Tooty is our wettest, most unique, and yet the most vulnerable of all. The cave needs further study of its speleogenesis, or sequential geological history, and although it is clearly part of Bobcat Cave, it lies closest to the surface.

In order to objectively address the problems involved with any radical vegetative and/or soil changes over any cave, the land manager must consider the possible effects upon the cave environment (for example the temperatures, water movement, the cave life and its food chain). Also what must be considered is the very real and potential problem with mechanical damage due to falling trees and skidding logs over the cave. If any logging will be done, the inevitable slash disposal activities must be considered. Will there be tractor piling involved? A resource of this type cannot be repaired or replaced. Our recommendations are that in order to protect against the likelihood of damage to any or all of the above mentioned threatened cave resource elements, we suggest not logging over the caves at this time, in order to allow further survey work and geological interpretation, biological and mineralogical inventories to continue, so that a complete cave resource evaluation can be made in the future.

The Shasta Area Grotto offers its expertise in regards to cave management and the cave sciences. We are willing to supply you with maps and the manpower to flag the lava tubes on the surface to avoid damage. Please feel free to contact our chairman, Jim Wolff, who is employed by the McCloud District, or us directly through the above address. A copy of this letter has been sent to Mr. Barney Coster, Forest Supervisor.

REPLY FROM THE FOREST SERVICE

On May 19, 1983, we conducted a survey of Rooty Tooty and Bobcat Cave Systems which you have brought to our attention in your letter of May 12, 1983. With the help of Jim Wolff, we determined the above-ground location of the described cave system. Although the entrance to Rooty Tooty is close to unit 34 of the Deep Timber Sale, the remaining portions are away from any planned cutting. The approximate location has been flagged with red and white flagging to help prevent damage to the cave system. Felling and skidding operations will be conducted in a manner to reduce the risk of damage to this cave.

Because of the above, I therefore, see no impact on the cave system from logging. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
JOHN A. NELSON
District Ranger

According to Jim, they flagged a wide buffer through an area that was scheduled to be clear cut harvested that day! The buffer was 30' – 60' from the center line of an over-the-cave survey that they did to determine where the cave passages were in relation to the surface.

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