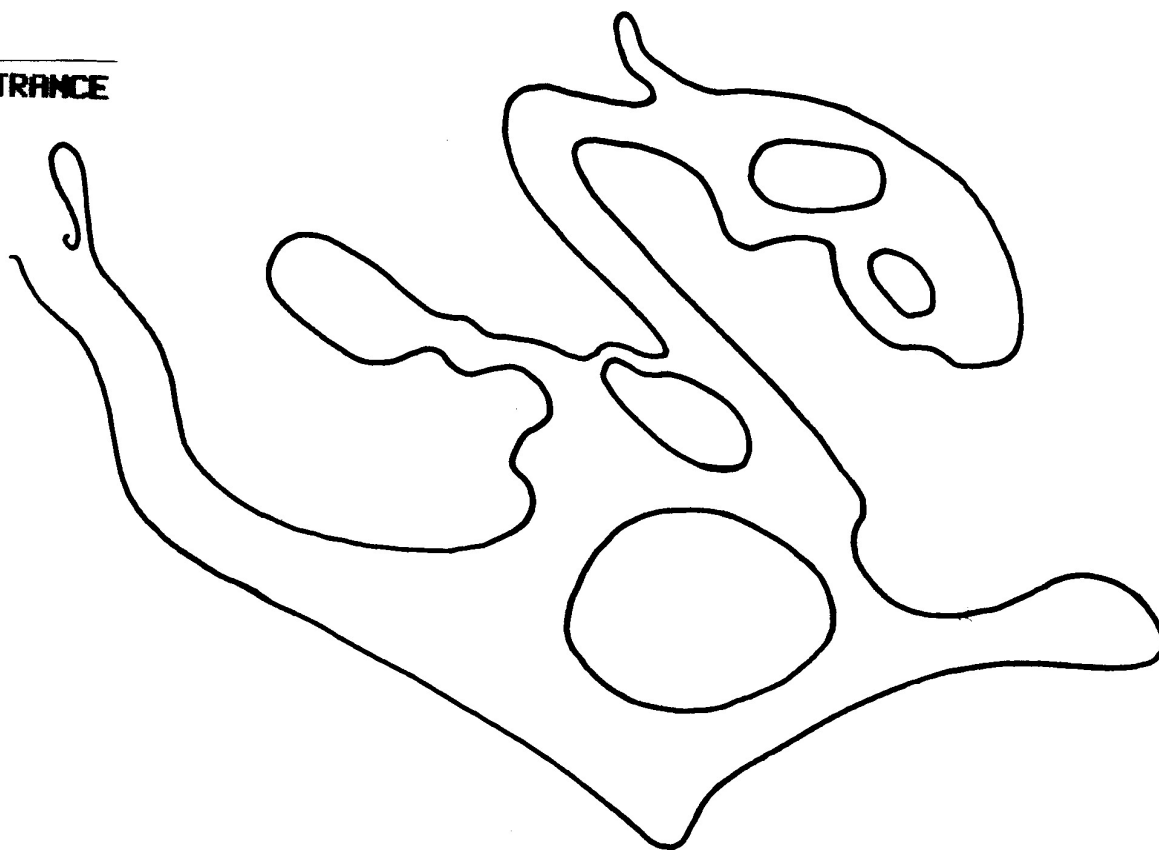


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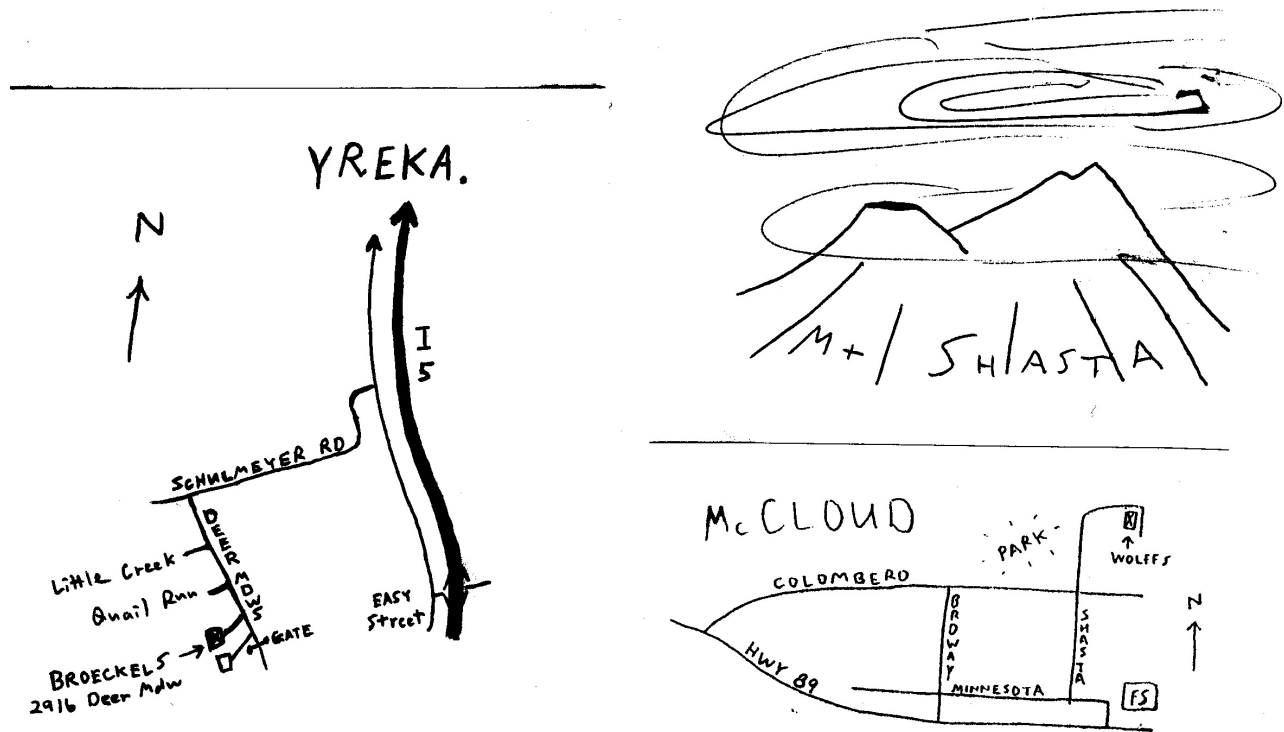
ENTRANCE



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 or <jbroeckel@snowcrest.net>. For more on SAG, check the web site at <<http://www.caves.org/grotto/sag>>.

CAVERS CALENDAR 2001

- Feb 17 Saturday SAG meeting 7:30 pm. Wolffs in McCloud. (530) 964-3123.
- Mar 9 Friday SAG meeting 7:30 pm. Broeckel's in Yreka. (530) 842-3917.
- Apr 13-15 Cave campout at Low Pass. Bill Kenney. (541) 883-2781.
- May 11 Friday SAG meeting 7:30 pm. Wolffs in McCloud. (530) 964-3123.
- June 8-10 Cave campout at Hat Creek. B. Broeckel. (530) 842-3917.
- July 23-27 NSS Convention, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cover: This simplified plan of Damons Cave makes the cover due to some abstract design qualities. A more detailed map is found deeper in this issue of the SAG RAG.

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM. in Yreka at Melanie Jackson's home.

Present were: Bill, Judy, & Benj. Broeckel, Ray Miller, Robert Nixon, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Bill Kenney and guests: Mary Carpelan, Don Boat, and Jim Prevatt.

The regular meeting format was suspended in favor of talking with our guests who are members of the Shasta Tribe. The cavers and the tribal members exchanged information about what the SAG does as far as caves are concerned and we agreed that we had many things in common regarding our objectives for cave protection. The tribe has concerns about the caves in the Marble Mountains. We have decided that we should exchange information with the tribe regarding the Marble caves especially if we should find anything of archeological significance. We would also be very willing to have an Indian monitor with us when caving in the Marbles when the tribe wishes to send someone for that purpose. It has been decided that when we notify the Forest Service or other authorities regarding archeological significant finds that we will also notify the Shasta Tribe by sending them a copy of our correspondence also. This way the Shasta can pursue the "106 Process."

The Shastas say that their lands cover areas from Jump Off Joe Creek, the Marble Mountains, Butte Valley, Medicine Lake and East of Wooley Creek. They informed us that in 1851 they put their ceremonies to sleep and are preparing for a reawakening in the seventh generation which is soon to come.

We thank Mary, Don and Jim for coming to our meeting and asking questions and sharing the Shasta Tribe's cave concerns with us. We look forward to working together for the protection of the caves.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
JANURAY 12, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 PM. in Yreka at Melanie Jackson's home.

Present were: Bill Broeckel, Jim and Liz Wolff, Chuck Frank III, & IV, Robert Nixon, Melanie Jackson, guest Kevin Downing.

Minutes: were accepted as read from Nov. and Dec. meetings.
Treasurer's Report: Dec. Balance \$820.24, Jan. Balance \$867.59.

Correspondence: Jennifer Pervine, a wildlife biologist for the BLM wants to have the road to Popcorn and Big Caves closed to protect a major bat maternity colony that uses the caves. It is felt that closing the road would be better than trying to attempt a very large gating project or even gating the smaller constriction inside. Bill Broeckel replied that SAG would support that action and also suggested she contact Ray Miller. Ray has made a very detailed reply to Jennifer.

SAG RAG – Next issue will have an updated e-mail list and a re-application form for members with a note to pay their dues. Bill will be sending the SAG to the NSS Library and the Cave Files and a copy to Bill Devereaux and Janet Sowers also.

OLD BUSINESS: There has been no word from Jim Stout on Sand Cave Gating project yet. Timing is important because there is a maternity colony that uses the cave in the spring. The gating needs to be done this winter or we will have to wait another year. We need to design a sign for Bat Cave to inform the public about the reason for the gating and cave closure. We need to do it because the FS hasn't yet. Two will need to be done. The extra one being for the skylight entrance. The Western Regional referendum to limit Executives to a single position failed. UNDER THE EARTH WEEKEND is organized by Larry O'Brien the Western Region Vice Chair. He would like all the grottos to get involved. It will be the weekend of April 27-29. There are a number of options available for our grotto, from cave hunting to surveying and a camp out. Lake Shasta with a limited number of people or Hat Creek if there isn't too much snow. Those coming would have to provide their own food and lodging. The Medicine Lake Highlands Volcanic Area Handout still has some cave locations on it (Jot Dean, Ice Cave, Natural Bridges). We need to communicate to the Forest Service that this needs to be addressed and the information removed. It has been brought up that a Web Page for SAG is a good idea, but we need to design it and have a Webmaster. Robert Nixon said he might be willing to do a web page and maintain it for the grotto as he has experience from doing his own Web page. He maintains his own site. He was given some other cave web sites to look at to get ideas about content and pictures. Your input on what you want on a site of our own is requested.

NEW BUSINESS: The Western Region now has an unmoderated discussion list at nss.westernregion.discussion@altadena.net The WR also has a moderated list. We feel that SAG should become involved with CRF(Cave Research Foundation) at the LBNM. This is for serious project caving. Bill Devereaux who works at Crater Lake Nat'l Park and does the CRF projects can fill you in on what projects are in the works and what we can help do. CRF is at work in Mineral King, Sequoia Nat'l Park, Lilburn Cave and LBNM. The WR Training Committee (WRTC) has new officers: Chair – Ray Beach, Equipment Officer – Howard Hurtt, & Secretary – Cindy Heazlit. The WR has an on-line survey on information regarding the annual meeting. Here's your chance to input your ideas and needs on time, place, format etc. There are cave leads going toward the Medicine Lake area that need to be checked out. The new IMAX movie coming out in mid-March features caves. What impact for good or bad this has remains to be seen.

Trip Reports: Russ Y., Liz and Jim W. went to Cassel, and Russ stayed out for two days and found a skylight 40 ft. pit blowing warm air. There are some short convoluted caves. This is another area that needs to be hunted and surveyed (Jim W., Bill B., and Chuck Frank IV are going on Sun. Jan. 14.) The Broeckel family surveyed 3 caves at Christmas in the Bat Creek Area. They were Pie Crust Cave, Road House Cave, and Blister Cave.

Meetings:

Feb. Wolffs in McCloud the weekend of 16-19. It is the long weekend for some (Presidents Day) and several of the coast people may be here to ski and play. The day and date will be announced for the meeting.

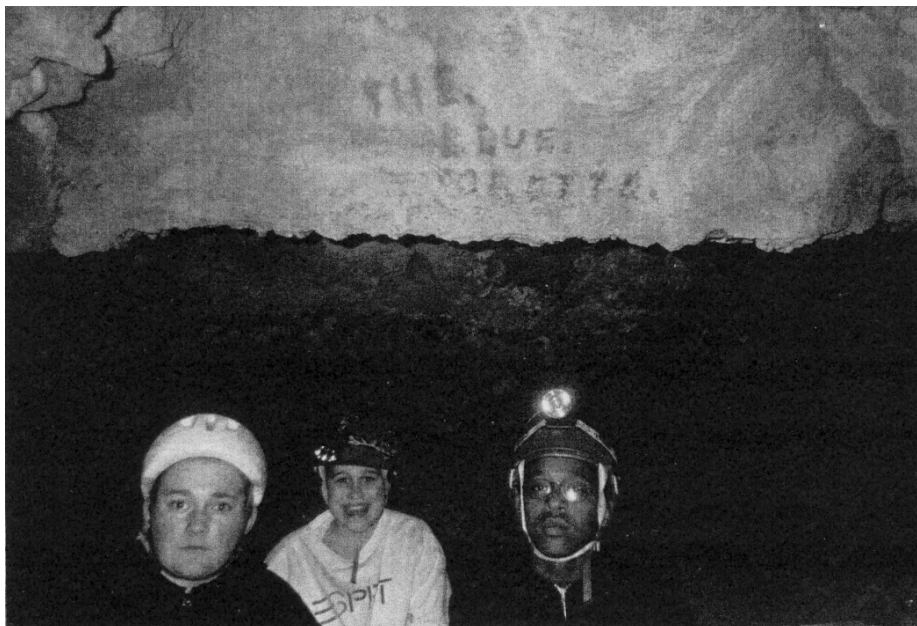
The meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

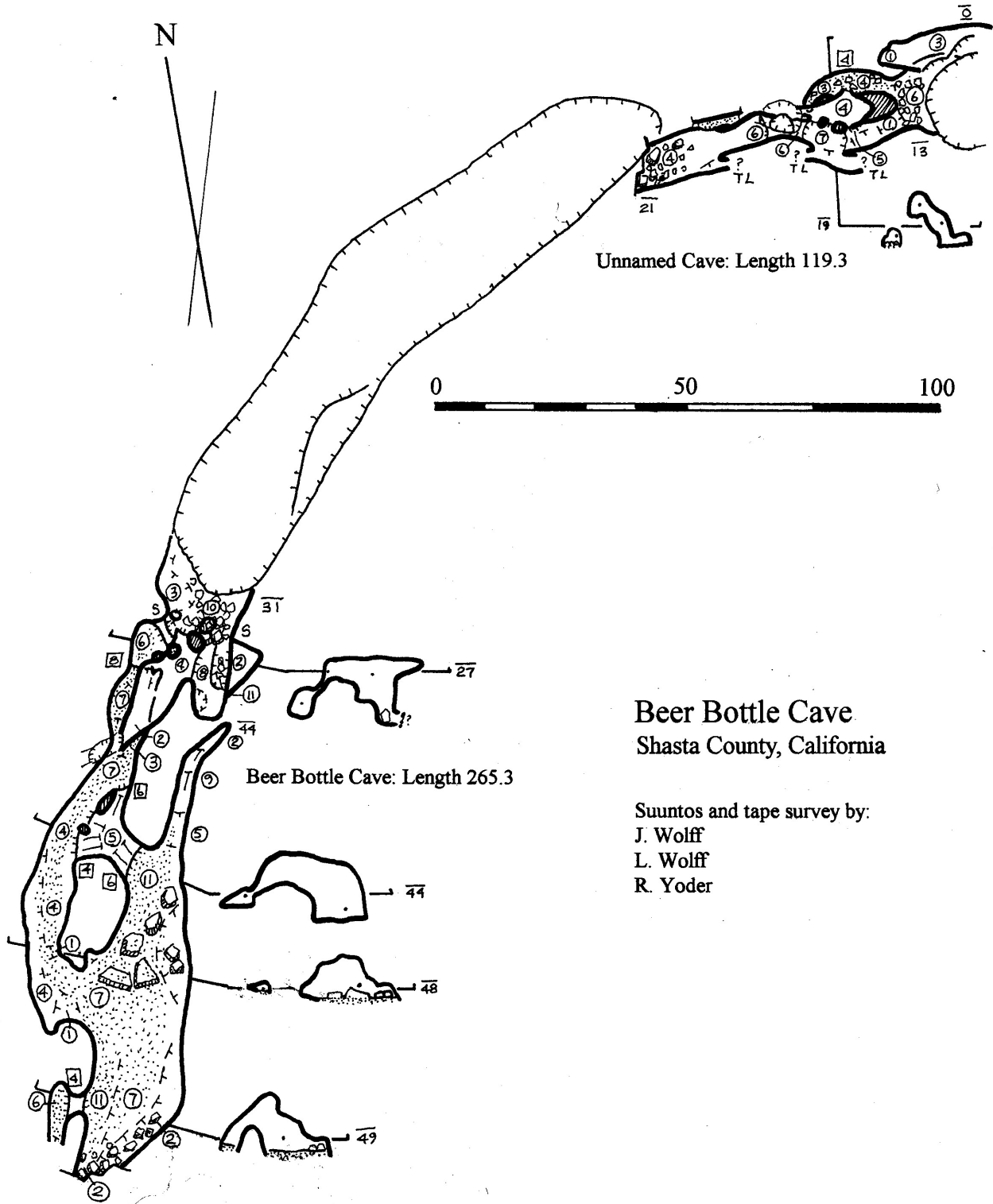
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Shasta Area Grotto E-mail Address List

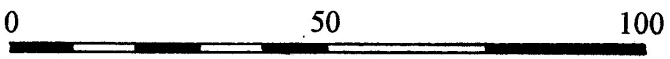
[The 2001 e-mail address list is omitted – pdf ed]



Josh Justice, Benj & Benyam Broeckel, at historical inscription.



Unnamed Cave: Length 119.3



Beer Bottle Cave: Length 265.3

Beer Bottle Cave Shasta County, California

Suuntos and tape survey by:
J. Wolff
L. Wolff
R. Yoder

Map: Beer Bottle Cave

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO CASSEL

By Russ Yoder

In early January of this year the weather had warmed up to a point that I had become restless enough to come out of my hibernation.

I called the Wolffs to see what was up for next weekend. Liz told me about a cave area by Cassel that they needed to do some surveys for.

So word was spread far and wide about this project. I thought, "What a wonderful opportunity here. There will probably be lots of people. We should be able to accomplish much."

For my part I was to show up at the Wolffs at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and would then follow them out to do some cave surveys that day. Then for the next two or three days camp out there and surface check the area for more.

When Friday night came, I was too excited to sleep. So I called the Kenneys in Klamath Falls and drove that far to visit. I had a nice time as usual and that Saturday morning they made me a really great breakfast.

I arrived at Wolffs and visited with Jim until Liz came back from a church function. We began to realize that nobody else was going to show up. So off we went to adventure!

We surveyed some really neat caves that day and afterwards I bought pizza in Burney. We had a very nice time.

After we said our farewells I then drove back to the area to camp for the night. Thank goodness I wrote down the mileage from road to road to get back in the dark.

Sunday was a great day to look for more caves. In less time than it takes to leisurely walk up a likely looking ridge that happened to be next to where I had parked that night, while sipping from a hot mug of coffee that morning, was very definitely another cave.

The drop in skylight sinks to the caves were twenty feet deep and look like really nice passages that had split off in two directions.

Since I had wanted a little more of a challenge in finding the next really big cave here I decided to look for the next really big cave. So I left Sunday Morning Coffee Cave (SMC Cave) to explore at a later time.

Well, in the next two "little winter" days I did manage to find time to find a lot more great looking cave entrances. One 2x4 foot remelt skylight drop has at least a 40 foot free rappel down two levels to the floor below. The wind blowing up from that entrance is very strong and this may be the cave's only entrance.

Monday afternoon I decided to leave this area's surface survey undone and head back for home since a cold snowy weather front was moving in.

I think I will definitely will come back though and get "The Rest of the Story." **RY**

DAMONS CAVE – JAN. 14, 2001

It was a "Plan B" sort-of-day
(The PG-rated version) By Jim Wolff

Trip participants: Bill (Bighorn) Broeckel, Jim Wolff, Chuck Frank IV, Robert Nixon.

It all started out after we finally got to the Lava Beds Natl. Mon. Headquarters, where we met up with Robert and Park Volunteer, Bill Devereaux. Bighorn had news that Bill D. was going to be there that weekend of the SAG meeting, so naturally figured we would be able to fit into his schedule and get some work done for the CRF project up there in the process.

Anyway, he was busy with previously scheduled duties and wouldn't be available until about 2 p.m., so we had to go with "Plan B", and map Damons Cave, that was not too far from the

Park. We said we'd try to be back by 2 and help Bill D. out . . . Little did we know that we'd be spending the rest of the day in this "little" cave . . . !

Bighorn relocated the cave's entrance while we were getting ready to go caving. After he returned to us, he announced that he had indeed found the cave, so, we all piled into the warm cave, eager to get this little cave mapped, and be back to the park by 2.

The survey delegations were assigned thusly: Bighorn was the bookkeeper, I was to do the instruments, with Chuck and Robert doing the tape by taking turns at lead tape, every other station. In this way they were able to get experience at setting stations. They did real well. As for me, this was the first time to use (Suunto-like instruments) underground. I managed pretty well, with Bighorn shining the light onto the instruments for me. I learned you could insert your tongue into the

eyepiece of the instruments, to clean the window up, for better visibility, but BOY, they weren't tasty at all – kinda salty, for some reason.

A couple of 50ft. stations into the cave we were faced with a choice of directions to go. Choosing to take the left-hand passage, because it was taller, we set off again, making rather good headway. It was looking like we might make that 2 p.m. meeting at the Park Headquarters after all, so a couple more shots should do it!

After closing a few loops in rather complicated passage, Chuck said he had to go to the surface for something, since it looked like we were just finishing, and left us. So, the three of us trudged ahead towards what appeared to be our last few shots. So, up and over some breakdown that was near the ceiling, Robert noticed that it looked very appealing after a few feet of vertical squeeze and a slight duck around a large bulge in the wall – the cave GOES!

The cave continued in rather roomy passage, commonly in hands-and-knees crawl with occasional belly crawl, but most of the time, comfortable passage, with considerable mud covered floor. The cave looked virgin at this point. The floors were untracked, with no sign of anybody else, even in areas where you know this was the only way to pass.

The cave appears not always to be always damp, so the cave has a chance to grow some amazing fungi, mushroom-like forms: on anything organic in the cave. At one place in the cave, a huge 4-6 inch diameter tree root wanders across the floor of the passage. It crawls over a large mound of dirt, with its finer, more delicate roots, finding their way into the dirt and more moisture. I noted about two areas where the rock looked polished from the passage of many visitors, but this mystery was revealed to be the passing of many little feet, as the next room was a huge rat's nest!

The rat's nest and the roots of this tree create a large part of the cave's food chain. And you can imagine that there might be tiny cave critters there to take advantage of the cave's bountiful food source. Sure enough, we found a colorless centipede and a web of a spider in close proximity of all this. Remember that this cave has only one entrance and all this stuff is near the back end of the cave, hundreds of feet from daylight. Very special. Anyway, we were totally amazed with the new area we had found.

A surprising amount of decoration abounds in the cave – rather photogenic. Bighorn took several shots of just one formation in there (I hope it turns out), because it looked like Milton Berle, with his wife (well, that's what it looked like to me – and THAT certainly dates me, doesn't it!?)

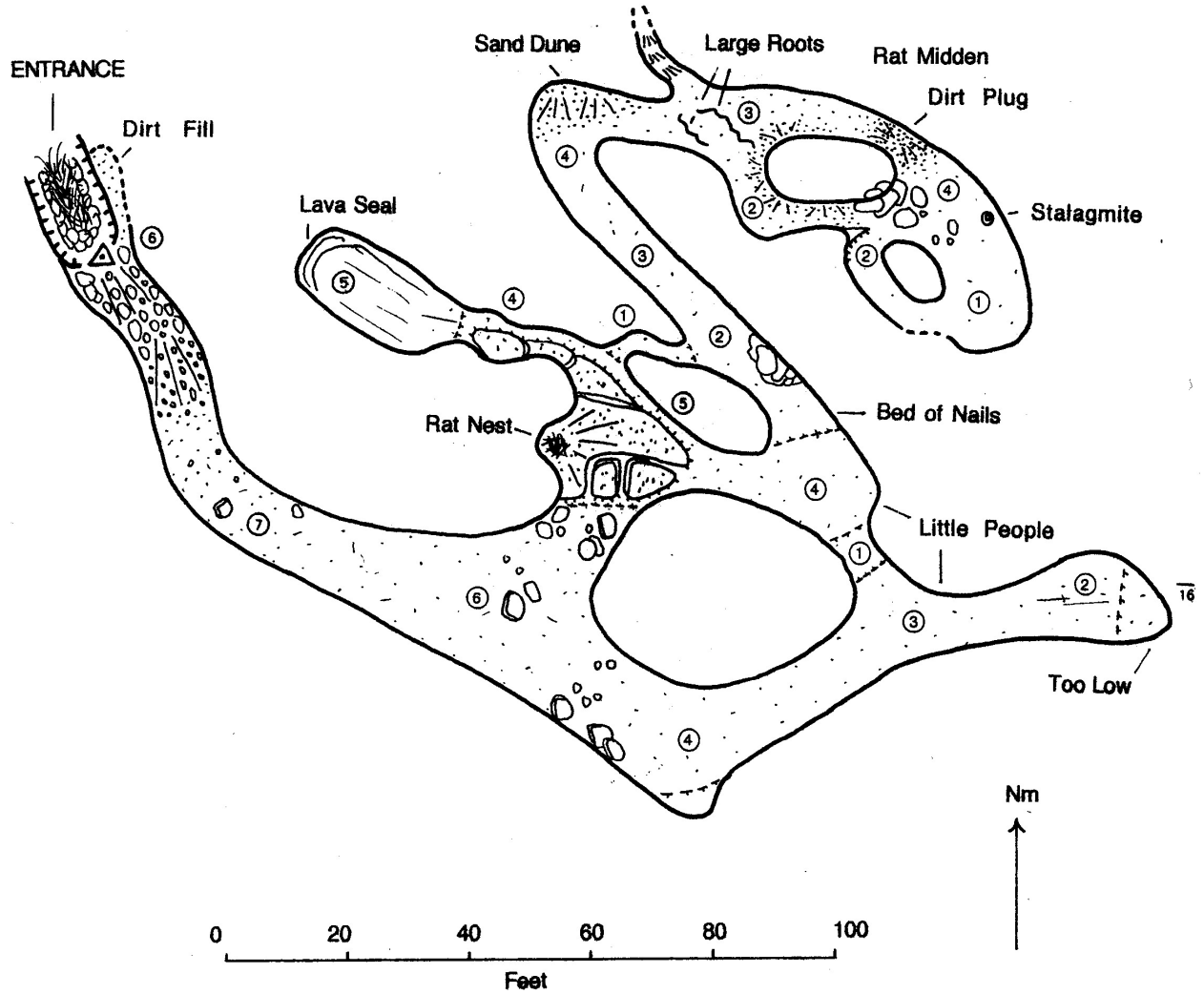
After what seemed like forever (I was getting famished!), we headed for the entrance and our fourth member of the party. Chuck met us there, at the twilight zone, where we were mopping up one last dinky loop on the map, the one that we passed by at the start, because it was a flat-out belly crawl. With that done, we had the whole cave mapped.

While we were mapping this major extension to the cave, Chuck was on the surface, looking for entrances. He didn't find anything new, which confirms the last time that Bighorn and another crew was in the area, and they too had scouted around, and found nothing new either. So, all in all, we had an excellent adventure! **JW**

DAMONS CAVE

MODOC COUNTY

CALIFORNIA



Compass, clinometer, and tape survey: January 14, 2001

- Bill Broeckel - book
- Chuck Frank IV - tape
- Robert Nixon - tape
- Jim Wolff - instruments

Shasta Area Grotto, National Speleological Society, for Modoc National Forest
 Length: 654 feet Depth: 16 feet Copyright B. Broeckel: 2001

Map: Damons Cave

WITH CRF AT LAVA BEDS By B. Broeckel

After making a number of independent trips to Lava Beds National Monument (LBE) over the years, I finally reached a point where I was actually advised to proceed under the direction of the Cave Research Foundation (CRF). CRF has been investigating caves in cooperation with the National Park Service at LBE for over ten years. Much has already been accomplished with the CRF application of organized project caving, compared to which my own efforts to know and understand the Lava Beds caves are small and feeble. So, in short, I set out to join forces with CRF at LBE.

My first move was to contact the project leaders by e-mail, and subsequently I was able to attend the last part of the Thanksgiving 2000 CRF expedition to Lava Beds. On Friday, I arrived in time to help eat the traditional Thanksgiving potluck attended by both CRF and Monument people. This was a nice beginning. I met some of the people, and still had time to walk out to the Cave Loop after dinner. I knew my assignment already, and was able to look over the surface features of the area we would be working on.

In the morning, we had a general meeting, met the Monument Supervisor, and did a site visit at the location for the new research facility. The fundraising is getting pretty close to the amount needed for the building.

Groups departed for field work, and I joined a team assigned to do some surface survey. A group of cave entrances needed more precise measurements. We used meter sticks for stations, and improvised a 200 ft. survey tape by tying two 100-footers together. Two sets of instruments were used to obtain front and back readings for each shot. We completed most of the assignment, as far as we could identify the field locations. We had some extra time, so we checked several of the regular loop caves for roosting bats.

That evening, there was a special science trip going into Merrill Ice Cave. This touring cave has recently been closed and gated because some radical changes are taking place in the perennial ice floor of the lower level. A large amount of the ice has disappeared, apparently by sublimation. Having been down there before, I was anxious to see what the ice was doing, and asked if I could come along.

I was happy to be allowed, but once in the area, I had some awkward moments on a slope of large rocks loosened and set free by the disappearing ice matrix. The idea here was to minimize our disturbance of the natural process, while at the same time, observing the effects on the ice. After I got clued in on the concept, I was able to help measure and survey the enlarging hole in the ice floor.



CRF LBE co-leader Bill Devereaux and "The Dolphin" in Crystal Ice Cave.

It was fun to speculate about the ice in Merrill, and sobering to realize that the Monument is depending on the scientific expertise of CRF to explain these things.

Sunday we cleaned up, did some paperwork, and headed home. My next CRF LABE trip occurred in December. One of the CRF project leaders was there doing off-expedition background work, and I had arranged to meet him there for a cave day. He had a good plan for the day, and we started with Crystal Ice. Someone from the Monument is required on all trips to this, cave, and on this visit, Michael Allen was our guide. He was up for leading some of the Crystal Ice tours, which can be scheduled through the Visitors Center.

We viewed the major ice masses on the tour route and discussed many aspects of this multi-level cave. I tried to take some pictures, but there was a film-winding problem, and only a few came out.

Next we hiked out to a cave with historical values, and repaired the cave register container. All the pencils were gone, but we discovered that they had fallen through a small hole in the breakdown. Bill Devereaux was able to reach his arm through to retrieve some of the pencils.

We still had some time, so we moved to another area, and did field locations on several small caves. I really enjoyed this part, because I love to wander around looking for caves. Eventually, many of the Monument caves will have small markers near the entrances, allowing caves to be positively identified in the field.

My last trip in January was a mapping trip to a small cave I had previously found that turned out to be already named and known to CRF. Since it wasn't mapped, I was making good on an offer to perform this task. One of the best things I can offer CRF is a willingness to produce maps of small, short, unlikely caves. This one turned out to be 67 feet of rodent infested crawlway. Later I was able to turn in the map, and a completed reconnaissance card, which will become part of the Monument cave file.

CRF caving may not be for everyone. There are rules and protocols to follow, hierarchy, accountability, attention to detail, paperwork, and a need for cooperative teamwork. There is a definite emphasis on cave research and science. General caving takes a backseat to project completion and collecting data. Most important is the prime directive on care for the integrity of the resource.

Working together in a planned and organized fashion produces a base of knowledge with greater scope, scale, and value. There is a chance to meet and work with famous cavers and scientists. Participants become part of a greater legacy, a CRF tradition that goes back multiple decades to the old days of investigations at Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. And there are even opportunities to go into interesting caves.

As time and schedule allows, I'm looking forward to doing some more trips with CRF at Lava Beds. **BB**



Historical J.D. Howard lettering in Crystal Ice Cave.

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 GROTTTO? _____
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 Melanie Jackson, 708 Yama Street, CA 96097.



SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

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