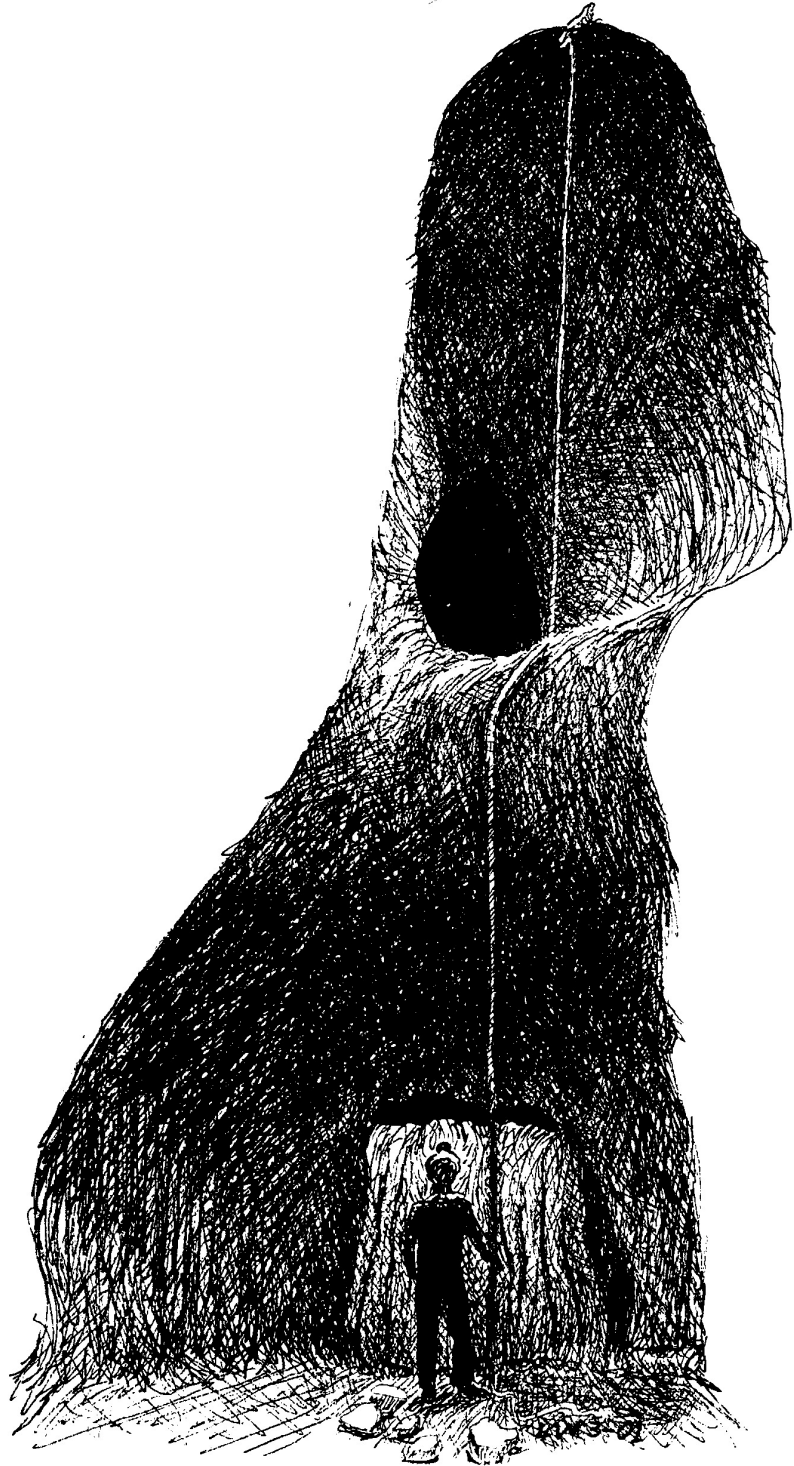


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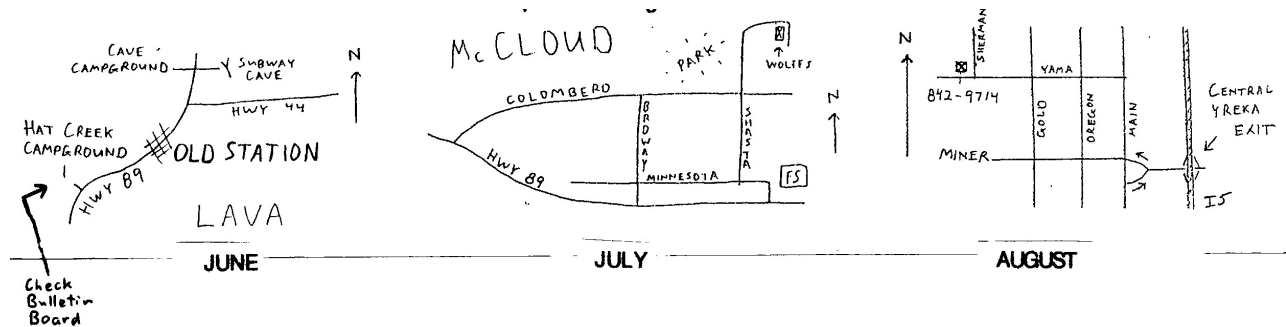


The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription.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

- June 8-10 Cave campout at Hat Creek. B. Broeckel. (530) 842-3917.
- July 13 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs in McCloud. (530) 964-3123.
- July 23-27 NSS Convention, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky.
- Aug 10 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie Jacksons in Yreka. (530) 842-9714.
- Aug 24-26 Proposed weekend for WRTC OCR, Harris Springs (more detail later).
- Sept 14 SAG meeting lava cave camp c/o Russ Yoder (more details later).
- Oct 16-19 Cave & Karst Management Symposium, Tucson, Arizona.

MAPS TO THE MEETINGS



Cavers Perspective of Federal Cave Management in N. California

by Liz Wolff, chair, Shasta Area Grotto, NSS 11701F

Are federally owned caves being managed? Is it proactive or reactive? What does your Forests' management consist of? The Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988 requires you to determine which of your caves are significant and protect and then manage them appropriately. Do you know of caves on the Forest or district where you work? Do you, like some Forests, wish that the caves you do have were somewhere else? Has your Forest designated any significant caves? Do you have a full or part time person to manage caves and their contents? The law recommends that you make use of local caving groups to help you find, catalog, inventory, map and manage your caves. Do you do this? The law requires you to keep cave locations secret. Do you have cave location information locked and secure from casual perusal and dissemination? This secrecy protects caves and their contents, as well as the public from themselves. Cavers want answers to these questions before sharing information with you.

(continued)

Cavers Perspective of Federal Cave Management in N. California

by Liz Wolff, chair, Shasta Area Grotto, NSS 11701F

(continued)

Caves require management for different things. These cover a wide range: protection of water sources, formations, archaeological sites, maternity or hibernation sites of many species; protection of the public from hazardous situations, or to protect the caves from the illegal actions of unthinking and uncaring vandals. Cave dependent species might no longer exist without proper management. This world would be a poorer place for the lack of them; as a consequence several varieties of insects would become more of a nuisance than they are currently. Knowing your caves can benefit you. Knowledge of cave locations and their physical characteristics, can be used to protect workers in the woods, and caves from damage – such as heavy equipment breaking through the roof of a cave.

We cavers are aware that timber and recreation are more important to the forests (for the \$) than caves and their fauna; caves require different, individual management strategies than timberlands or campgrounds. The Forests that we try to work with on a fairly regular basis exhibit very different track records of cave management. One Forest has tried to be proactive with management at the SO level, but the districts with caves have behaved very differently toward cavers, with one district protecting caves, another wanting the cavers to leave. That district has a chance to really be proactive with cave management but doesn't appear to want the job. The other end of the spectrum is a Forest that has done nearly nothing, with the exception of 2 people on 2 districts who have tried to protect a limited number of caves. They have little support from their Rangers or SO person technically in charge of caves. This Forest has not proven trustworthy in their dealings with cavers, therefore we find it nearly impossible to trust them to manage sensitive information properly, or manage caves themselves. The other 2 Forests fall somewhere in between these 2 extremes. It seems that protection of bats is the motivating factor for the Forests to begin managing caves, yet it is geologists or others who get the ball rolling. And the interest of biologists as primary bat researchers seems to be lacking.

You allow known caves to be vandalized. Trash and spray paint can and does accumulate throughout your caves if left unmonitored. One Forest manages the key to a cave, but never checks on the cave itself. Cavers clean up caves, a few on a fairly regular basis without acknowledgement from you. Shasta Area Grotto cavers have tried to help the FS learn about their caves. We have taken FS people on "Show Me" trips; made presentations on specific caves and bats; given physical support in gating, inventory, and monitoring of cave condition, people and bat use; helped write management plans; shared cave maps and information with FS people. Conversely, one Forest took us to see caves their people had found, and asked certain guarantees of us. We have complied with their requests and continue to give information on their caves. We have made requested trips without reimbursement. It would be nice to have the same support and recognition as owl hooters. Also, you must realize that not all cavers will be interested in helping you. There are those out to get whatever they can without giving anything in return.

In conclusion, our experience with the Forest Service has been mixed: for the most part, if it weren't for the efforts of a few individuals on your Forests, there would be no cave management happening at all. If you don't want caves brought to your attention, then you violate the law in regards to your caves. If your actions and words are on opposite ends of the spectrum, we won't work with you at all. If you are fair and honest in your dealings with cavers, we are willing to work with you. Trust is a 2 way street, and we will try to keep lines of communication open and be worthy of your trust.

LW

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
FRIDAY MARCH 9, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:51 pm. at the Broeckel's home in Yreka.

Present were: Russ Yoder, Robert Nixon, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill & Judy Broeckel, and Melanie Jackson.

Minutes: were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: The March Balance \$917.31.

Correspondence: Del Quick whose primary grotto is So. Cal. sent a letter saying he would like to join the SAG. He could be an affiliate member. There will be karst field studies at Mammoth Cave with summer sessions; for graduate studies. There is a logo contest for the 2003 NSS Convention go to their site to find out how to enter your input. Liana E. Scott works on protecting karst in the U.S. is trying to assess parks, forests, preserves, both public and private. The So. Cal. Grotto's Under the Earth weekend is the same date as ours, but has been changed to the Palm Canyon Campground. NCRC is Aug. 4-12 in West Virginia. The Willamette Valley Grotto newsletter had a small article and picture of the Stookey Ranch Cave Gating.

Old Business: Sand Cave Info. E-mail Jim Stout. He wants a date change. We will respond in the negative to the change as it will be a problem with the bats being present. Regarding the SAG Website, Robert Nixon hasn't been able to work on it for the last three weeks. Send general information and pictures to Robert when you have them. Under the Earth Weekend – Bill Kenney is in charge. We need to advertise it at the Western Regions Web Calendar. To be held April 27-29 at Shasta Lake and will primarily be ridge walking and some cave survey. A date needs to be advertised as to when registration will close to limit the number of extra people. Where will we camp and who will be guides needs to be decided. Everyone will be responsible for their own meals and to bring water. It was determined that we will have the following three trip leaders: Bill Kenney, Bill Broeckel, and Jim Wolff and that we would give Mark Fritzke a call to see if he was interested also.

New Business: Letters and e-mails have been received from Gail Beach and Cindy Heazlit regarding the Orientation to Cave Rescue to be held Aug. 24-26 at Hat Creek. They would like SAG to host/cook for this event. We would be expected to secure the campground and provide 5 meals between Fri. night and Sun. evening. There would be a maximum of 30 people coming counting students and 15-20 instructors. This all takes place a weekend before the Speleo Camp in the Marble Mtns. We feel that for us this is bad timing because of the hot weather and the timing of the Speleo Camp. Liz will e-mail them to see if they can change the dates or the place. Suggested places for the same date are: Harris Springs (no cost), Medicine Lake or Trout Creek. All of Vol. 19 of the SAG RAG have been sent to the NSS Library and the NSS Files (2 copies) have been sent at one time and saved us money. Next year we need to remember to send 2 copies to each (Library and Files). The April meeting will be held at Melanie's in Yreka on April 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
APRIL 13, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:44 PM. at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka, and adjourned at 8:29 PM. Present were Melanie Jackson, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Robert Nixon, and Kirsten Nixon (guest). Minutes were accepted as read. Treasurer's Report: Balance is \$891.06.

Correspondence: We received a request for grotto membership from Lakeport. Liz sent a letter informing him of grottos that are nearer to him and information on how to contact them. Bill B. has been communicating by e-mail with Jim McKeehan of Modoc National Forest. The 15th National Cave & Karst Management Symposium is Oct. 16-19 in Tucson, AZ. It will be hosted by the U. S. Forest Service and will be about desert caves and karst.

Old Business: Sand Cave gating has been postponed until the Fall. Jim Stouit plans to sign the cave as closed until further notice. We will need to check on the sign. Robert Nixon is still working on the grotto website and needs input. It could include a calendar with meetings and trips, listed by cave name and contact person only. Robert could use some pictures also. Under-the-Earth Day: we will be going down to do some clean-up and set up a picnic table and large tent. The rough number of anticipated people is approx. 12-14. Bill K. said the use of a GPS, cell phone, or walkie talkies for the weekend would be helpful.

New Business: At the Cave Management Work Shop, Liz Wolff gave a talk entitled "Cavers Perspective of Federal Cave Management in Northern California." It discussed ways caves were or were not being managed in regards to the Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988. Cavers are willing to work with the Forest Service if they are willing to be fair and honest in their dealings with us and actually manage the caves as prescribed by the law. The Workshop took place at the Regional Office in Vallejo. Different opinions were expressed in the course of discussion concerning information, access, responsibility for care of the caves, inner city perspectives, the balance of open and closed caves, the Freedom of Information Act, and the implications of sharing archeological information with Native Americans. Meanwhile, the grotto remains committed to dealing openly with the Shasta Tribe. Bill B. is in charge of informing the Shasta regarding the Under-The-Earth Day trip, and other plans for the upcoming field season. Bill Broeckel made a motion for SAG to donate \$100 for the research field house at lava Beds National Monument. It was carried and the money will be sent before the end of April deadline.

Trip Reports: Bill Broeckel has been working with CRF doing recon cards in or near lava Beds National Monument. Ray Miller, Liz Wolff, and Jennifer Pervine (BLM biologist) worked on the Cassel area caves including Big Cave and Popcorn Cave. Jim Wolff and Russ Yoder found 4-5 caves in the Cassel area and one had a 40-50 ft vertical entrance that opened into large passage.

Next Meeting: April 27-29 Under-The-Earth Day c/o Bill Kenney at Chirpchatter, May 11 at Wolff's in McCloud, June 8-10 Hat Creek Camp Out c/o Bill Broeckel, Aug. 24-26 Orientation to Cave Rescue at Harris Springs, and Oct. 16-19 National Cave Management Symposium at Tucson, Arizona c/o Jerry Trout.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

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.

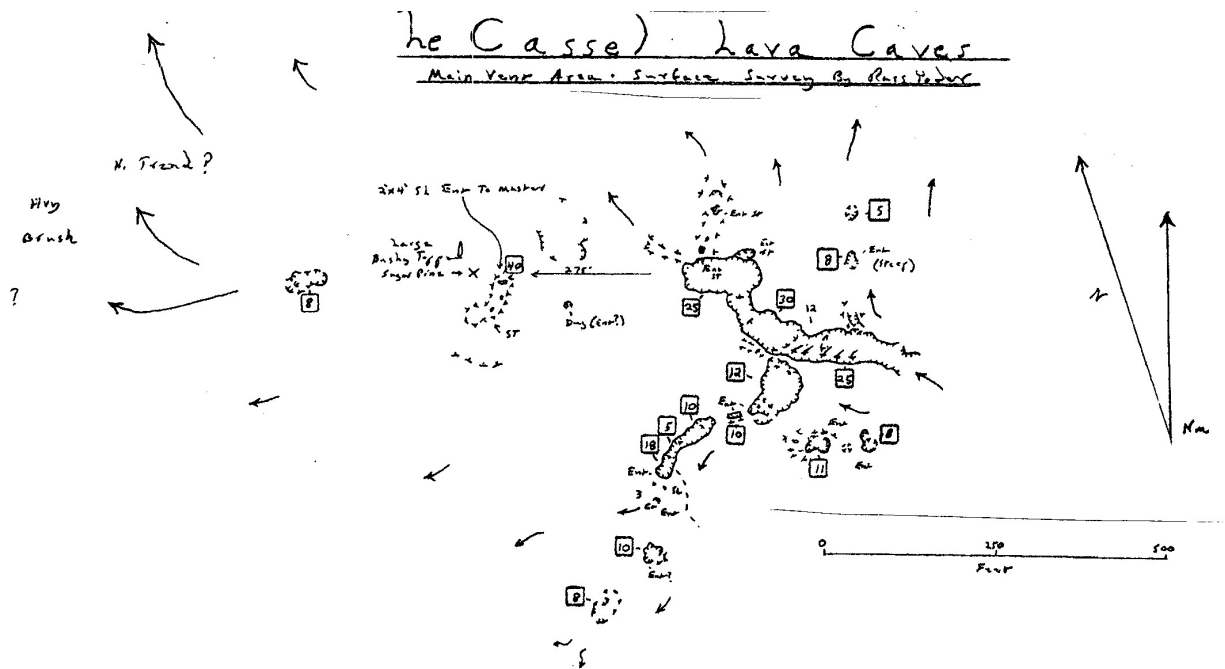
The drop in skylight sinks to the caves were twenty feet deep and look like really nice passages that had split off in two directions.

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**



CASSEL AGAIN By Liz Wolff

It was all Russ's fault, our being out in the snow and driving to Cassel. Russ had been bitten by the cabin fever bug and couldn't stand it any longer, so here we were on the brushy, snowy lava flow outside of Cassel, getting into some caves he had found on a previous trip. And camping! this was February, and finally winter to boot. But we drove into the swirling snow, passed through Fall River Mills, and headed down to the cave area anyway. As we drove down the icy road, the sun began to cut through the clouds and blind us, reflecting off the snow. Not much there, only an inch or so, compared with our 2 feet at home. At an urgently needed stop, the caravan from Bend caught up with us and we all took a bit of bush time. Now the party consisted of SAG members Jim & Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, and Oregon High Desert Grotto members Kathy Jackson and Vern Clift. Russ is their grotto chairman.

After parking in a camp area located a couple hundred feet from the entrance to the Cinder Pit cave, we headed out to Sunday Morning Coffee Cave. Russ had found it one Sunday morning while wandering in the brush, coffee cup in hand. He hadn't entered it, but had done more brush bashing and found sinks, trench and a pit entrance he estimated at 40'; that we reserved for the afternoon. (Jim, Ray Miller and I had found most of his sinks and trench on previous trips also, but hadn't followed them as far as Russ did. We had been chasing a reported 12' deep pit entrance further to the west; sinks and trench didn't fit the description, besides there were no openings obvious to us....)

It was snowing lightly as we climbed down into the first cave; it went both ways. We decided to start surveying in the lower end, which sealed off far too soon for the size of the passage. After 2 short segments of cave the passage divided with one intact tube headed to the west and another short segment headed east. East it turned out to be very short and exited into a shallow sink filled with brush, with another opening visible. This dropped steeply to one of the few pieces of intact tubes we found in that cave. Breakdown soon nearly filled the passage and we climbed up to where daylight was visible through the boulders. The cave effectively ended here. This section of cave contained lots of old, partially decomposed bat guano on the breakdown. In the western passage, we found 2 bats hanging out in the daylight portion, and shortly after that, a lava seal. The cave totaled

410.2 feet. Lunch was called for and then on to the 40' pit.

From the entrance to Beer Bottle Cave, Russ told us to look for a lone sugar pine, on a slight rise near it, is the entrance. It turned out to be a Digger pine, but all else was as he said. The entrance area fit the physical description given to Ray and I for the 12' pit, so it probably is the same one, just from a foggy memory. We had hauled rope and survey gear out there, so while the rope was being rigged for the drop, we measured the pitch, a free hanging 32 feet. total. It was 14 feet to a sloping ledge, and 18 to the floor. As we were setting up to enter, a group of 4 local spelunkers hiked out to the entrance. The group of 1 adult, 2 teens and a small child had rope, a pry bar and packs of gear. After asking them if the cave had a name, Vance Novo a local Jr. High teacher, told us none of the caves around did as far as he knew; he thought that named caves got trashed too much. He also told us the cave was only about a hundred yards long. We told him we were going to survey it and asked about their gear for climbing out of the cave, since there were no ascenders in evidence, only a couple of seat slings and one figure-8 to rappel with. The chilling reply was that they'd climb out hand over hand.... At least they had a light apiece.

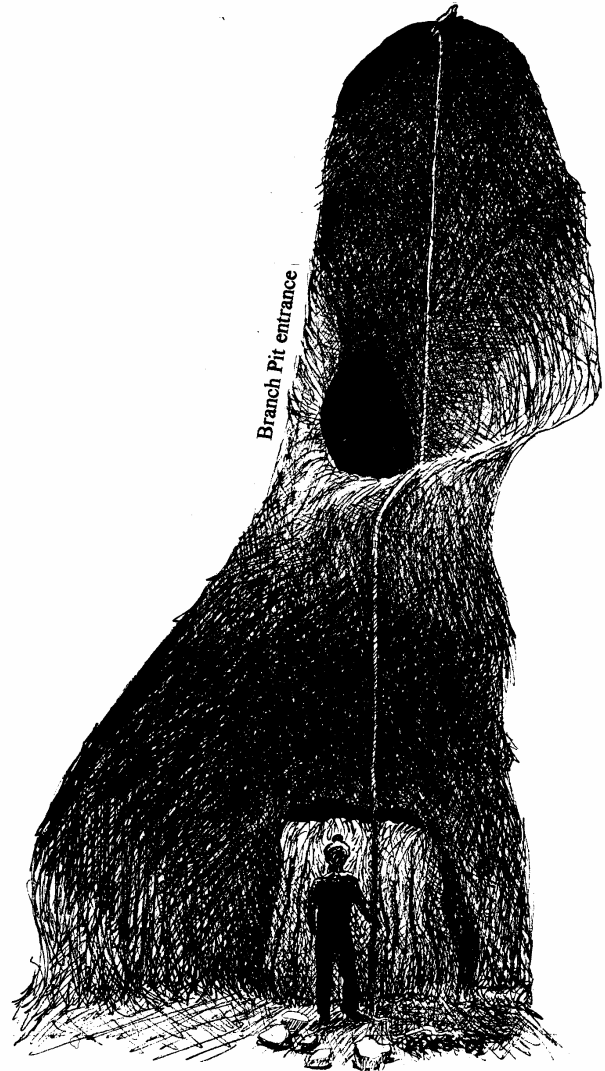
We descended into steamy Branch Pit cave, leaving Jim on the surface not feeling too well. Then the locals rappelled in on their own rope as we headed to the far end of the cave to begin the survey. As we surveyed, we got distracted from the main passage by a small side passage that went about 500'. It contained pillars and crawls, one so nasty we dubbed it the Full Body Armor crawl. As we reached the first pillar, 3 of the locals crawled out, one complaining that his flashlight was getting dim, and the passage was too small, and, and.... A flying bat entertained us for a short time. While we surveyed in the side passage, Kathy went back to the entrance to see if she could talk Jim into coming down. He was getting thoroughly chilled on the surface, and did rappel down. He was glad he did; it's much warmer in the cave.

Another side passage we had noticed on our way in was surveyed on the way out. In a couple of shots we knew it fit the description of a typical LFAG (a lead best Left For Another Generation). Then it was on to the rope and the end of the survey, at 829.5'. A last shot into a small side passage that, according to the locals went only a short distance before getting too small with a hole

dropping into bigger passage, finished the survey. By the time Russ, Vern and I got to the rope, Kathy and Jim had climbed out and reset the pipe we were using to keep the rope off the rock. The locals had all made it out safely, but we had entertained some doubts.

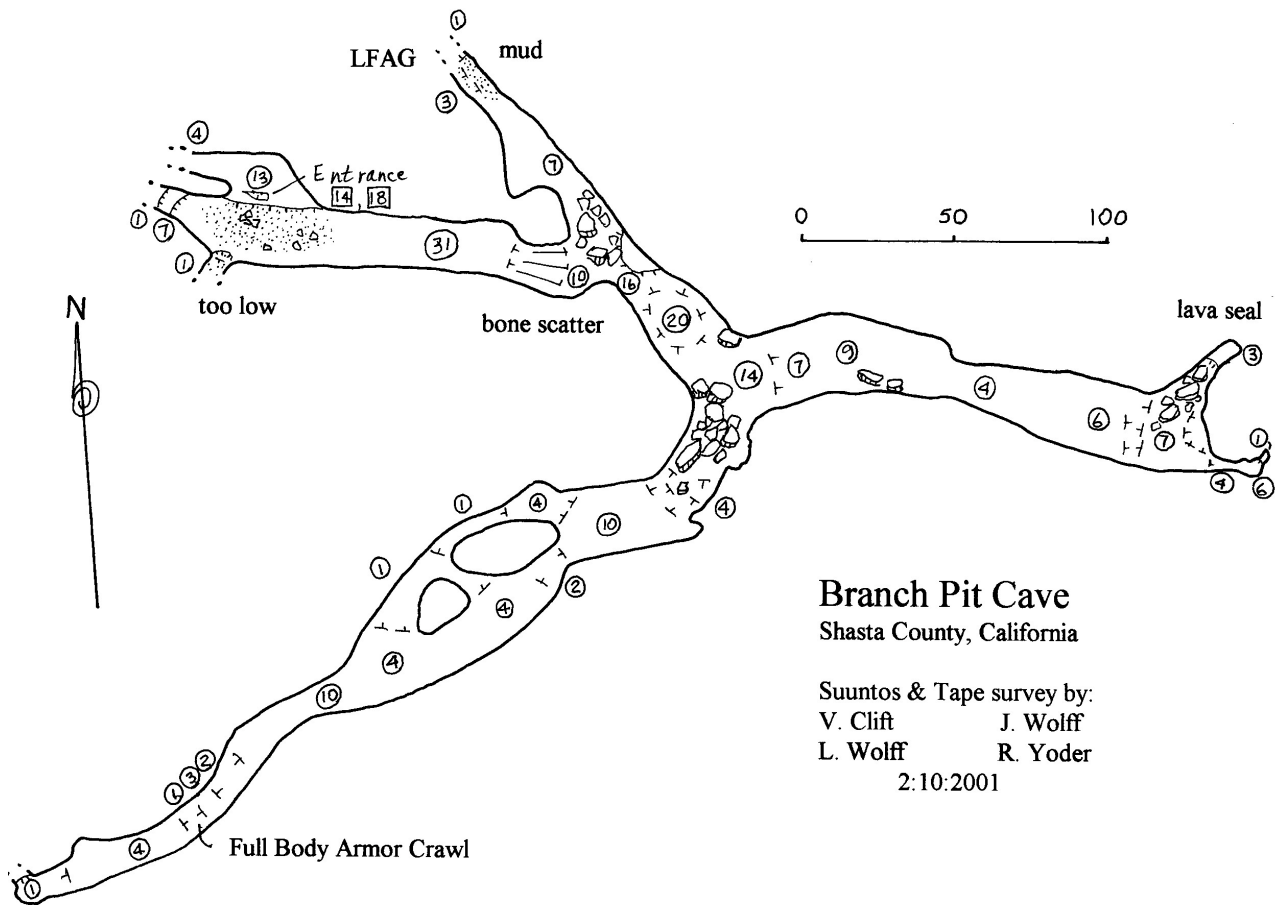
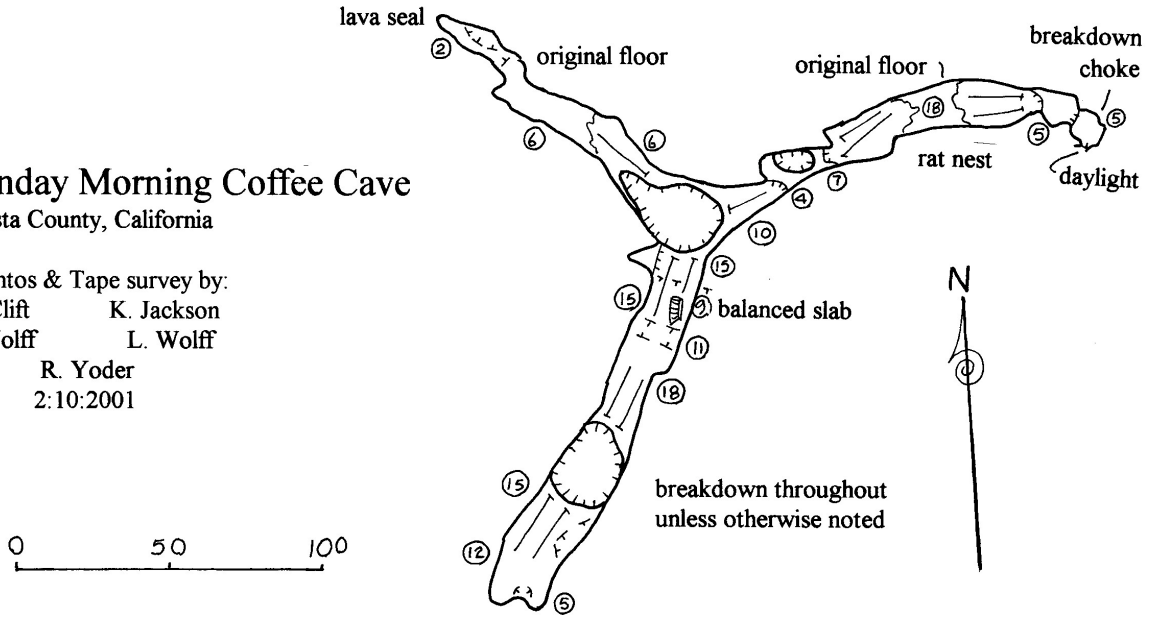
It was a moonless night, freezing cold, with steam billowing out of the cave and thousands of stars the only natural light out there as we coiled the rope and set off for our camp. Ice was forming on the lava as we hiked making footing insecure at best. The locals had been concerned about us hiking in the dark and getting lost. Kind of like hiking around in a cave, no? Around the campfire that finally got going we ate a late dinner and talked of the crazy people out at the cave, and what else might be out there hiding in the brush....

We woke up to 3 inches of new snow with more laden clouds on the way, and decided to beat a strategic retreat. We had a successful day of caving, although Russ wanted to spend another 2 days and map some other small caves. **LW**



Sunday Morning Coffee Cave Shasta County, California

Suuntos & Tape survey by:
V. Clift K. Jackson
J. Wolff L. Wolff
R. Yoder
2:10:2001



Branch Pit Cave Shasta County, California

Suuntos & Tape survey by:
V. Clift J. Wolff
L. Wolff R. Yoder
2:10:2001

Map: Branch Pit Cave, Sunday Morning Coffee Cave

WAITANGI CAVE By B. Broeckel

This cave was found in a part of the lava flow that I considered already checked. When I search lava flows for larger features, often the smaller entrances get missed. Waitangi Cave is a perfect example. After a quiet decade, this lava flow now has a ninth known cave.

A winter ridgewalk turned up the narrow crevice that drops six vertical feet to the top of accumulated volcanic ash. Shasta Area Grotto returned to explore & survey the new-to-us cave on Waitangi Day (Feb. 6) 2001. This explains the name we applied to the cave. Waitangi Day is celebrated in New Zealand in memory of Feb. 6, 1840, the day Captain William Hobson and the Maori leadership signed the so-called Treaty of Waitangi. This gave the British sovereignty over New Zealand, and the Maori gained certain rights and privileges, and became subjects of the Queen.

The survey team was Liz Wolff, my son Benj, and I. Liz did book and instruments, while Benj and I took turns at lead tape, and scouting the cave as carefully as we could. Benj's lead went the furthest, giving the cave some passage beyond the blob room partly filled with ash under the tiny skylight that is also the only entrance to the cave.

Benj's passage went over a short section of exposed original floor rock prickly with fine lava coral. Then the floor became covered with sand, which was coarser and cleaner than the fill material near the entrance. Finally this passage ends in a room partially filled with large dunes of this same sand. The ceiling shows some sparse displays of short, stubby lavacicles.

Another short side passage had a nice large lava stalagmite a foot or two high near the left wall. Another crawlway side passage was lined with fresh green pieces of vegetation recently dragged in from the outside world. It looked like a cave rodent was furnishing his house. Many tiny animal bones were found throughout the cave, as well as living beetles and translucent crickets. There were no bats seen, but the cave seems to have an interesting macroscopic ecosystem anyway.

There were no signs of modern visits and no cultural materials were seen. I would call this cave a surface tube, and a crawlway for the most part, but with comfortable dimensions for a crawlway. The air in the cave felt warm and humid compared to the winter air outside. Survey length was 367 feet and the depth was 14.5 feet. The lava flow here appears to have been subjected to mud flows bearing water and sand, followed by ash falls. **BB**



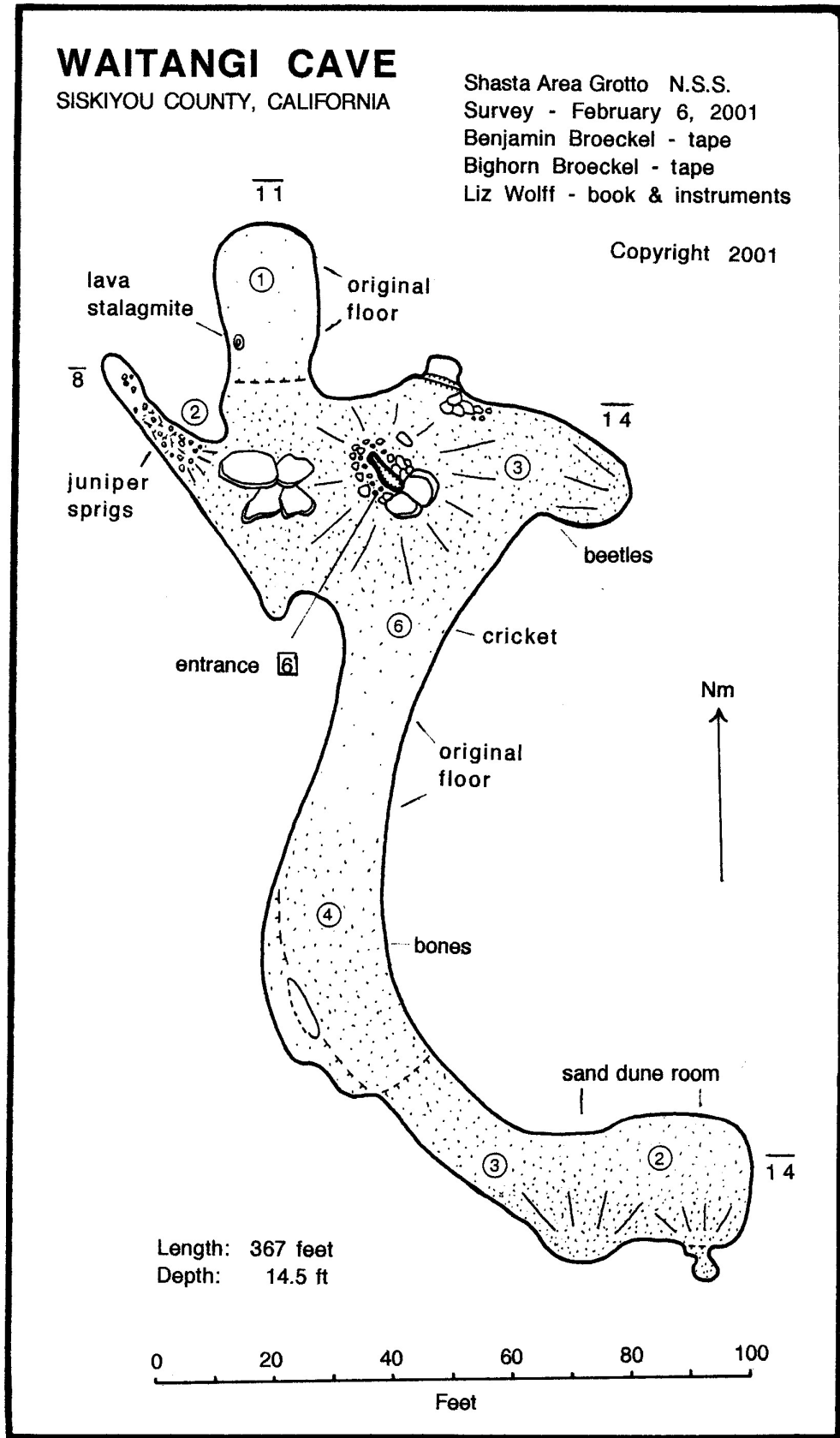
Benj Broeckel at Waitangi Cave entrance.

WAITANGI CAVE

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Shasta Area Grotto N.S.S.
Survey - February 6, 2001
Benjamin Broeckel - tape
Bighorn Broeckel - tape
Liz Wolff - book & instruments

Copyright 2001



Map: Waitangi Cave

If you would like to join Shasta Area Grotto, or subscribe to the newsletter, just fill out this form, write a check, and send it all in to the address given below. If you are already signed up for this year, then don't worry about the form, just send in your caving trip reports. Thanks!

NAME: _____
NSS# _____ IS YOUR NSS MEMBERSHIP CURRENT? _____
IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTTO? _____
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- _____ 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

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* Russ's Article is reprinted from SAG RAG 20/1 because it leads in well. This time a sample of his extensive surface survey work is included.

Remove Staple For Inspection