



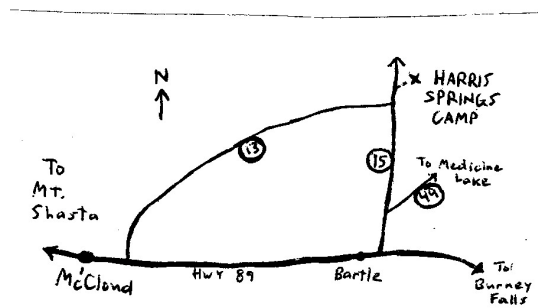
Bill Kenney and Jim Wolff at Goonies Cave entrance 4-28-01

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>>.

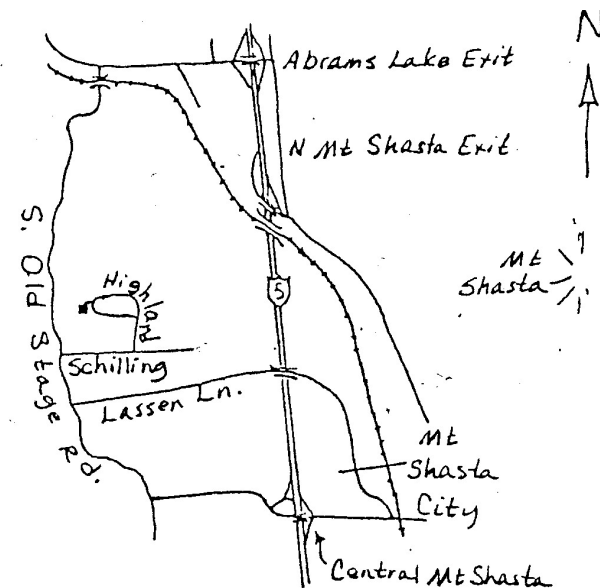
CAVERS CALENDAR 2001

- Aug 3-5 SAG meeting and cave camp at Harris Springs. Come help get things ready for OCR. Contact Wolffs at (530) 964-3123.
- Aug 10 CANCEL previously scheduled meeting in Yreka.
- Aug 18 Cave rescue training at Lava Beds National Monument. Contact Kelly Fuhrmann or Matt Reece at (530) 667-2282.
- Aug 24-26 Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) Harris Springs. See further for more information.
- Aug 31-? KMCTF Labor Day Speleocamp.
- Sept 14-16 Lava tube caving, contact Russ Yoder (541) 779-2474.
- Sept 14-16 Western Regional near Yosemite. See further.
- Sept 21 SAG meeting 7:30 p.m. at Ray Miller's in Mt. Shasta. Contact (530) 926-2440.

MAPS TO THE MEETINGS



August 3



Sep 21



Orientation to Cave Rescue

The Western Region Training Committee will be conducting an Orientation to Cave Rescue Course on August 25 and 26, 2001 at the Harris Springs Campground. (This was the site of the 1991 Western Region Meeting hosted by the Shasta Area Grotto).

Saturday features lectures during the morning and patient packaging and liter handling in the afternoon. On Sunday, students will get the chance to practice what they have learned during a cave rescue simulation. There is no vertical work required for this course. Course fee is \$30 and includes a continental breakfast on Saturday morning and packaged lunches on both Saturday and Sunday. A dinner will be available on Saturday evening for an additional fee of \$9. Students must bring their own personal caving gear (helmet, lights, gloves, boots, rugged clothing, canteen or water bottle, a small cave pack, and a personal first aid kit).

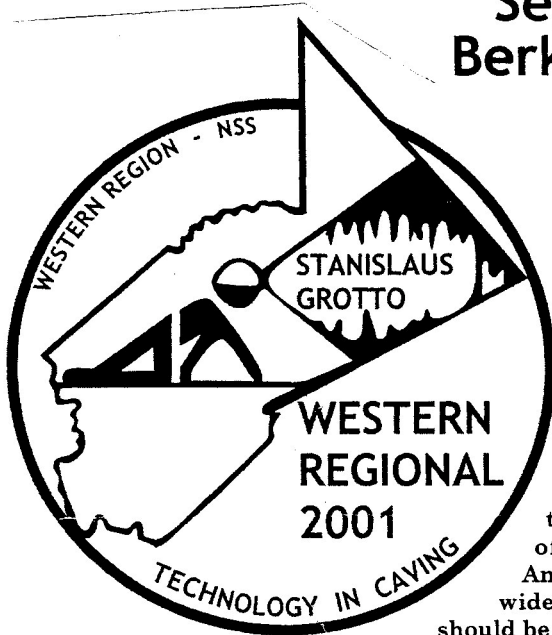
For additional information about the course or to obtain a registration form, contact Lynn Fielding at (310) 533-8627 or lvnn@wb6hqk.ampr.org.

Western Regional 2001

presented by the Stanislaus Grotto of the NSS / Western Region

**September 14-16, 2001
Berkeley Tuolumne Camp**

Groveland, California / Yosemite NP



The Stanislaus Grotto is pleased to host the 2001 NSS Western Regional this year at popular Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp near Yosemite National Park! "Technology in Caving" has been selected as this year's theme and many of our sessions at the regional will focus on this wide-ranging topic. Sessions and demonstrations will be presented on Saturday, with additional activities and cave trips on Friday and Sunday.

In addition to the annual business meeting, one of the highlights of the regional will be the presentation of MacGillivray Freeman Films' "The Making of Amazing Caves" which is now in IMAX theatres world wide. This behind-the-scenes look at the film's production should be of general interest to all cavers.

Western Regional 2001 (cont.)

Also, following our last turn at hosting the regional in 1992, the Stanislaus Grotto was pleased to see the creation of the Western Region Training Committee - the rescue branch of the region. Since our theme in 1992 was cave rescue, we're pleased to witness the WRTC's success. We'd like to invite you to join us Friday night at Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp for Marianne's Officially World Famous Schnapps Party & Social Hour! Your \$10 donation will be donated to the WRTC's operating funds for the benefit of us all.

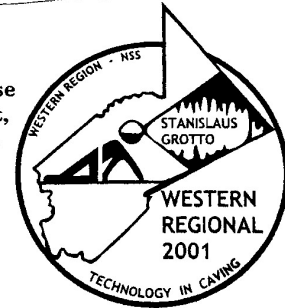
Don't forget the annual Cal Caver auction! If you're new to the region, the auction is something of an entertainment show all by itself. The Stanislaus Grotto is pleased to welcome back auctioneer extraordinaire, Charlie Festerson, to MC this year's fund-raiser! Bring your donation items & your wallet. Rumor has it there might be some *refreshments* served at the auction again this time around!

Located in the heart of the Sierra Nevada, Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp is only 45 minutes from world-famous Yosemite Valley. Cavers and guests at the regional will stay in rustic and cozy tent cabins with beds, dressers and a view of the surrounding Stanislaus National Forest. Some tents overlook the south fork of the Tuolumne River and fishing and swimming are always popular activities. Please help support the Western Region of the NSS by including the 2001 "Tech" Regional in your fall activity plans!

For questions related to camping, travel directions or dietary restrictions, please contact: Scott or Rosie Redenbaugh, Registration Coordinators, 410 High Street, Modesto, CA 95354 or call (209)522-2765 or e-mail registration@StanislausGrotto.org.

For questions related to program activities, please contact: Matt Bowers, Regional Chair, PO Box 1692, Modesto, CA 95353 or call (209)529-9000 or e-mail regional@StanislausGrotto.org.

Regional website: www.StanislausGrotto.org/regional/



What to Bring

All you will need to survive is bedding (or sleeping bags), a pillow, flashlight, bug repellent and clothing.

Depending on number of registered guests, some groups of cavers may be asked to double up with other groups to maximize cabin space. Cabin capacity ranges from 2 to 8 or more cavers. If you wish to share a tent cabin with other specific cavers, please make a note of it on the back of your registration form. We will accommodate all requests to the best of our ability.

Other equipment you may wish to consider might include fishing gear, swimming suits, hiking boots, day packs and cameras. Several hiking trails are within a short distance of Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp and are easily accessible by foot or vehicle.

Organized cave trips and open vertical practice sessions are also planned during the regional. If you wish to participate, please bring appropriate gear.

Don't forget to bring your donations to the Cal Caver auction on Saturday night!

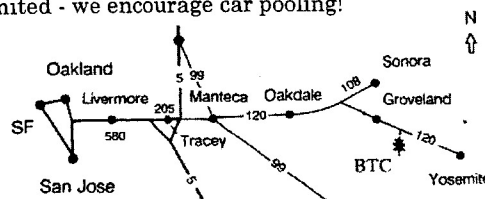
Directions

Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp is located just off Highway 120 approximately 7 miles west of the entrance to Yosemite National Park.

East of Groveland, turn right on Hardin Flat Road. You will pass Yosemite Lakes resort area before arriving at the camp entrance.

Watch for our road signs along the highway to point your way!

Parking at the camp is limited - we encourage car pooling!



Western Regional Event Schedule

Friday, September 14

- 6:00pm - 12:00am Registration open
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Dinner & announcements
- 8:00pm - 9:30pm Open slide show at amphitheatre area
- 9:00pm - ??? Marianne's Officially World-Famous Schnapps Party & Social Hour
(benefits the Western Region Training Committee - \$10 donation)

Saturday, September 15

- 6:30am - 12:00pm Registration open
- 7:30am - 8:30am Breakfast in Beckley Dining Hall
- 9:00am - 9:50am Tech Track: Remote Sensing in Cave Sciences
General Track: Basics of Cave Photography
- 10:00am - 10:50am Tech Track: Tech Tricks & Gadgets
General Track: Exploration Update - Around the Region
- 11:00am - 11:50am Tech Track: Bat Monitoring Systems
General Track: Convention 2003 Q & A
- 12:00pm - 6:00pm Vendor area open near the ball court at Beckley Dining Hall
- 12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch
- 2:00pm - 3:50pm WRTC Business Meeting
- 2:00pm - 2:50pm Tech Track: Computer Cartography
General Track: From the New World - Early Daze in Caving
(We're not sure what this is, but Bruce Rogers said it would be interesting! We're nervous, but we have faith.)
- 3:00pm - 3:50pm **Video Presentation: The Making of IMAX "Amazing Caves"!**
- 4:00pm - 5:50pm Western Region Business Meeting
Concurrent slide presentation TBA - Rhodes Activity Hall
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm Dinner
- 7:00pm - 7:30pm Stanislaus Grotto Raffle Drawing & Presentations - main amphitheatre
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm Annual Cal Caver Auction - main amphitheatre
- 10:00pm - ??? Campfire jam session - bring your musical instruments! Snacks available.

Sunday, September 16

- 7:30am - 8:30am Breakfast in Beckley Dining Hall
- 9:00am - 9:50am Western Region Business Meeting (continued if necessary)
Vertical systems practice
- 10:00am - 11:50am Convention 2003 planning meeting - Beckley Dining Hall
- 12:00pm (or earlier) Lunch

Regional schedule is subject to change. A complete schedule will be included in your registration package on site.

2001 Western "Tech" Regional - Registration

Please fill out the information below and send it with your registration fees to:
Regional 2001, 410 High Street, Modesto, CA 95354
Checks should be made payable to the Stanislaus Grotto

Participants:

Name	Grotto		Over 21?	Vegetarian?
	Number	\$/person	Yes / No	Yes / No
_____	_____	_____	Yes / No	Yes / No
_____	_____	_____	Yes / No	Yes / No
_____	_____	_____	Yes / No	Yes / No
_____	_____	_____	Yes / No	Yes / No
_____	_____	_____	Yes / No	Yes / No

Address: _____
Your Phone Number: _____ Emergency Contact: _____

	Adult (15+ years) Number \$/person	Youth (10-14 years) Number \$/person	Elementary (7-9 years) Number \$/person	Child (3-6 years) Number \$/person	Infant (no charge) Number \$/person	T-Shirt \$12 each Specify Qty.
Full Package 2 nights lodging, Sat. meals, Sun. breakfast & lunch	\$72. ⁰⁰	\$57. ⁰⁰	\$50. ⁰⁰	\$34. ⁰⁰	\$0	Sm
Friday Dinner	\$8. ⁰⁰	\$8. ⁰⁰	\$7. ⁰⁰	\$7. ⁰⁰	\$0	Med
Saturday Day-Use Only	\$14. ⁰⁰	\$12. ⁰⁰	\$10. ⁰⁰	\$10. ⁰⁰	\$0	Lg
Sunday Day-Use Only	\$14. ⁰⁰	\$12. ⁰⁰	\$10. ⁰⁰	\$10. ⁰⁰	\$0	XL
Total:						XXL

A \$5.00 late fee will be charged for persons registering at Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp on regional weekend. Extended stay-over dates and vegetarian meals are available by prior arrangement only. Please contact Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp at (209)962-7234 for concerns about additional special needs. Trailer, RV parking & off-site cooking is available at a nearby campground. Day use passes will be required at Berkeley-Tuolumne Camp during the regional.

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING
MAY 11, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm. at Wolff's in McCloud.

Present were: Russ Yoder, Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Robert Nixon.

Minutes: Accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: May balance \$ 771.46.

Correspondence: NCRC Seminar 2001 July 28- Aug. 3, Bedford, Indiana, Cave Rescue Operations & Management Seminar. Thank You Letter from Lava Beds for \$100.00 donation to research center. Membership request from Gordon Jones in Redding (long time caver) Liz made a reply back to him. Speleo Brazil 2001 July 15-22. Week long 2001 Cave Rescue Training Aug. 4-12 in West Virginia. SFBC Newsletter rec'd.

Old Business: Signs went into Sand Cave and they were immediately vandalized and the Forest Service replaced them. Barnum Cave is open for the summer. Bill has all the WVG missing newsletters and sent our SAG RAG issues to the WVG. The Grotto web page still needs pictures.

New Business: NONE.

Trip Reports: Under the Earth Weekend – Lots of Poison Oak. Robert Nixon found a 100' cave, but was only able to get 30' into a crack in the cave. Bill B. surveyed 4 little caves by the road. (Ground Zero, Razorback, Goonies, Mississippi) with Kenney. He had Jim Wolff's help also. Russ Yoder took Matt and a friend to caves near Bend, OR. They spent the day and part of the night and saw 21 caves. They really enjoyed the ice caves ice slide and ice falls. Peter & Ann Bosted Liz Wolff, and Russ Yoder along with 2 more SFBC cavers and 3 Aussies and one 6yr. old went and saw snow (first time ever for the Aussies). They went to the Freudian Complex for a photo shoot. They saw Island Ice Cave, 3 Level Ice Cave, Bobcat Cave and Roadside Cave. Also Shiner 4 and Shiner 11. Liz and Ray harassed bats also at Bent Skylight Cave. Chuck Frank VI, Lane Rau and Bill Kenney, and Bill Broeckel surveyed Old Trapper Cave.

Meetings

June 8-10 Hat Creek Camp out weekend – caves need mapping/

July 13, Wolff's in McCloud.

August 10 Melanie Jackson's in Yreka (ed., Cancel).

Sept. 14 Russ to host camp out in the lavas TBA

Don Boat invited Bill Broeckel to a Powwow camp out talk the weekend before July 4th at Indian Scotty Campground – their ceremonies are not awakened yet.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING MINUTES For JULY 13, 2001

Present were members: Robert Nixon, Russ Yoder, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel.
Guests: Kelly Fuhrman and Matt Reece.
The meeting was called to order at 7:58 pm. No minutes or treasurers reports were available.

Correspondence:

An Orientation to Cave Rescue flyer was received; Bill Broeckel sent a letter to Ron Kerbo protesting the categorical exclusion on the proposed wild cave tours in Oregon Caves, and one to the Bend, OR forest about the bolting decision in Hidden Forest Cave.

Old Business:

- Orientation to cave rescue: volunteers were appointed to positions of responsibility: Melanie to organize meals; Ernie Coffman and Russ to round up needed equipment; Jim to scout the perfect cave for the mock rescue.
- SAG website: Robert reports that it needs work, both more text and photos; Bill had written a page on cave ethics and handed it to him. Liz found a slide exhibiting some graffiti.
- Cavers Perspective on Federal cave management: Kelly was contacted by Peter van Susterin of the Shasta-Trinity NF for input on an interpretive cave tour and management plan for some of their caves. They have been sending people to the Lava Beds to see caves, but want to have their own tour route. Discussion followed on the Shasta-T and the experience SAG cavers have had with them. Kelly asked if they had contacted us, they haven't. Jim would like to see wording in any management plan they come up with about "potential caves" in the areas with caves. Kelly will keep it in mind, and contact SAG for input on likely caves for their proposed tour.

New Business:

- Twenty year anniversary coming up early next year. Jim would like to see the grotto throw a party. Bill wants to do an article for the RAG on grotto history.
- Next meetings: Aug 3 at Harris Springs, September 21 at Ray's in Mt Shasta, Oct/Nov at the coast - Liz to contact coastal people for dates.

Trip Reports:

- Russ - found an extension to Checkout Cave in the Water Caves lava flow; found some caves near Chimney Crater; mapped with Liz a new cave over 1000' long that is possibly in the Giant Crater flow, much more surface checking.
- Jim - caved in the Marbles with Roger Jones in a new cave called Ski Jump on Black Mtn karst; photo trip into Upstairs-Downstairs taking pictures every 15 feet.
- SAG - Elisha's Cave in the Hat Creek area with Lane Rau and his girlfriend Elisha, and Ray Miller; Jim & Liz and Bill B mapped Bittersweet Cave on the Spatter Cone Trail; connected the surveys of Bittersweet and Crazy Eight. Jim, Liz, and Bill surface mapped to Jay Feather Cave finding and checking four more entrances on the way.
- Kelly and Matt - Mapped north end of the Merrill/Skull trench over 1000 meters toward Fern Cave in the Lava Beds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.

LW

CHAIRMANS CRAWLWAY - SHASTA DAM

By Liz Wolff

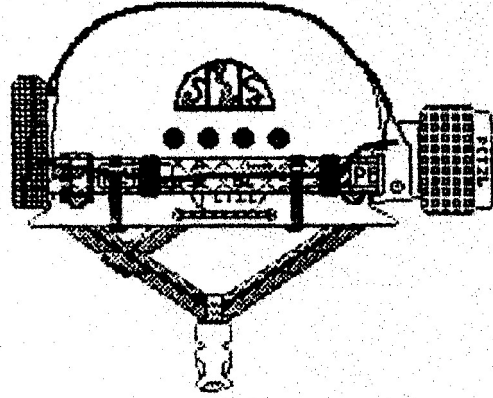
Hi all. "They" are at it again, trying to drown Lake Shasta caves. The plan is to raise Shasta Dam by 200', last I heard. Is there anything we can do to help Paul Uncapher out? (See his letter below).

Certain caves will be flooded if this goes through but not too many. The bottom of Potter Creek, possibly the bottom of Shasta Caverns, the pit in Samwel, Lakelevel, Dekkas Rock, to name a few. Some of the newer discoveries are quite high on the hills and shouldn't be impacted, except from increased visitation by easier access. Roads, bridges, and campgrounds will need to be replaced, as will the freeway bridges and the town of Lakehead. A lot of private land owners will be up in arms (or to their armpits in water) over the whole idea. I have heard, but don't know for sure, that there is already a problem with leakage around the dam. Is this true?

We have been here 22 years and the lake has been full maybe twice. My biggest question is "where is the water coming from?" The lake is rarely full now, how do they hope to retain about 400-500% or more water than there is now?

You have his address, him with anything you have pertinent to the question. Thanx.

Liz Wolff

**E-LETTER FROM PAUL UNCAPHER**

Good morning Liz and Jim, You may not remember me, but I was the geologist from Salmon River that was involved with (KMCTF) caves as well as liaison for the NSS convention in Yreka. After spending the last 11 years in Oregon, I am back in Redding working for a firm called NSR Inc. as an environmental consultant. We are evaluating the potential increase in Shasta Dam and I would like to pick your brain or others with local knowledge of Lower McCloud limestone features as to issues that should be addressed. I can think of a number that generally apply, but would like the benefit of grotto input. Please call me at (530) 222-5347 ext 25 at Your earliest convenience.

Paul Uncapher
uncapher@nsrnet.com

EDITORIAL

We have a special issue of the SAG RAG devoted to reporting on the Cavers' Holiday weekend last April. This involved an area we have known about for some time. However, not very much has been documented here before.

In the last issue, Chairman Liz Wolff offered perspectives on Forest Service cave management in Northern California. There were some comments so it should have been explained that this article was the written version

of a short spoken presentation that Liz was asked to deliver at the Region Five cave meeting the Forest conducted recently in Nevada City.

Ernie Coffman reminds me that low numbers should be written out as words so I will try to pay more attention to things like that. Unfortunately, my computer printer died, so for this RAG we will be returning to the old typewriter days. Think of it as a retro format for remembering past times.

By B. Broeckel

UNDER THE EARTH CAVER'S HOLIDAY - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EDITION

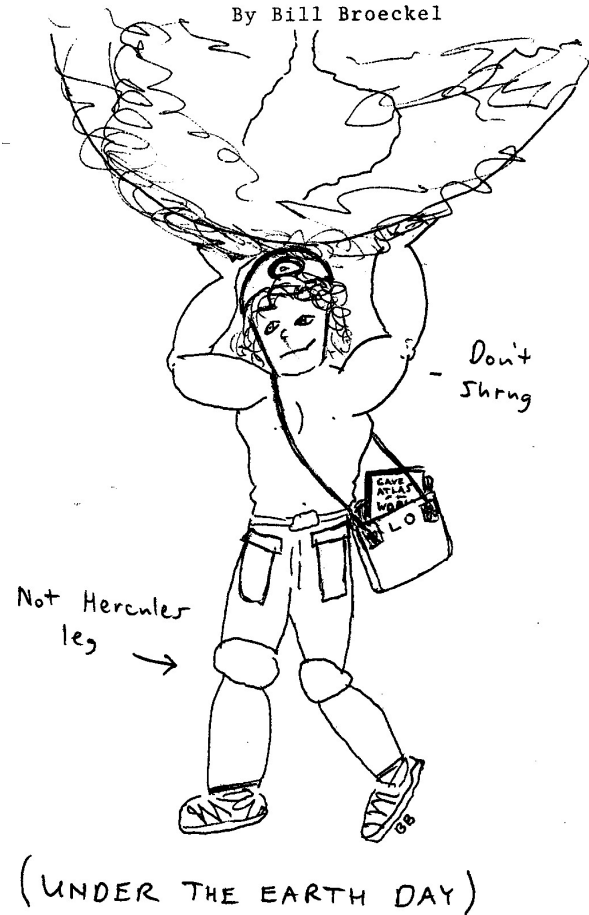
We can thank Larry O'Brien, of the San Diego Grotto, and currently the Vice Chair of the Western Region. It was his brain child to promote a special event on the last weekend of April during which different grottos could open a cave trip to cavers from other grottos.

In keeping with the concept, Bill Kenney and Jim Wolff went into camp early to make preparations. Kenney's canvas tent with the popular wood stove was erected over a picnic table. Substantial road work was done on the overgrown dirt road that led to the cave area.

Those attending were B. Broeckel, Chuck Frank IV, Dave Geeraerts, Terri Hoselton, Robert Nixon, and Lane Rau. Kenney and Wolff hosted the event on behalf of Southern Oregon Grotto and Shasta Area Grotto. In addition, on Sunday we ran into unaffiliated cavers Jim Rupp and Dave Lundstrom, and sons Brian and Mikey.



Limestone Buttness from "Road"



The cave area does have a bit of documentation from the old Shasta Speleological Society in the 1970s. More recently, Rau and Frank have been actively finding caves here and have been anxious for some of them to get surveyed. Wolff, Kenney, Fritzke, and others have also been looking in the area, sometimes hoping to locate a deep pit which has been elusive. Through all this, no cave surveys have been done.

So on a cool and sunny Saturday morning, we piled into the trucks, and bounced up the bad road, expecting to get some of these pesky caves mapped. As it was, Kenney, Wolff, and I were able to spend the better part of the day underground in this pursuit. Terri and Dave were back from ridgewalking in time to help survey Mississippi. The others used the day to explore or look for other caves.

GROUND ZERO CAVE

We parked on the road directly in front of a cave entrance. It was natural for this to be the first cave of the day. Everybody that comes down this road will find this cave. It has often been described verbally around the campfire, or at the grotto meetings.

Galen Wooden, Chuck Stewart, and Lizette Fisher prepared a report on the cave dated 12-20-73. The report is numbered #10021. "(Ground Zero Cave) is more of a crevasse than a cave. It extends approximately thirty feet within a limestone cliff, this is the lowest point above ground, thus, making this quite earthy and immature."

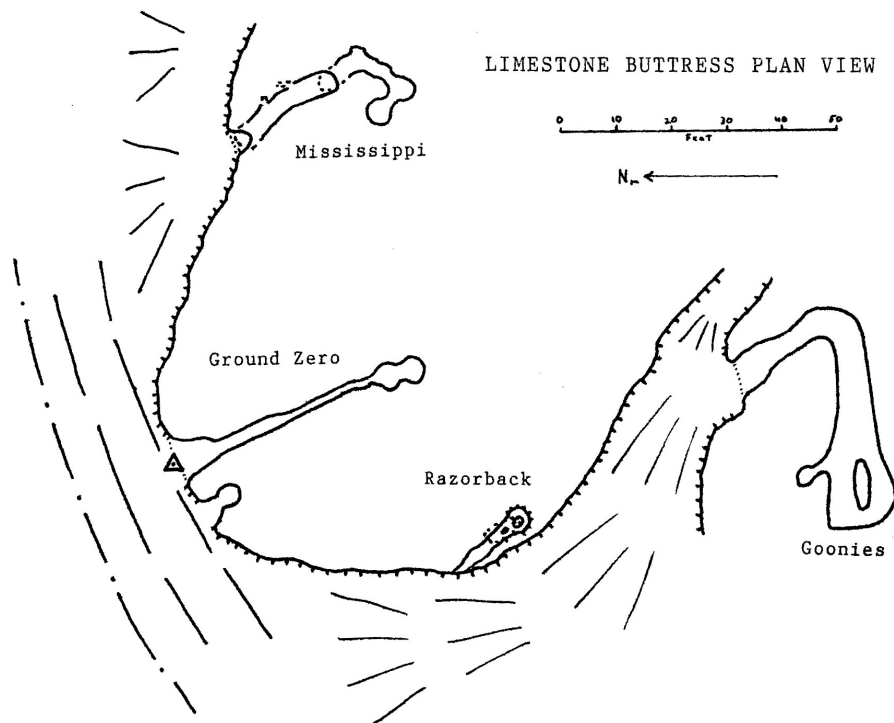
"The dimensions of this crevasse range from five feet in height to thirty feet in length. No more than three feet wide to six feet wide. And showing no more physiological aspects of a cavern, other than thin (1/16th") mud skirts. (The cave) shows no possibilities of another entrance or extension with any further chambers, and presently seems to be dormant and shows to have no further speleological interest at this time."

So we sent the end of the tape into Ground Zero, and did not expect the cave to go very far. Still, the spot is a wee bit famous, a landmark, and the first of what Jim Wolff likes to call "the traditional caves" of the area.

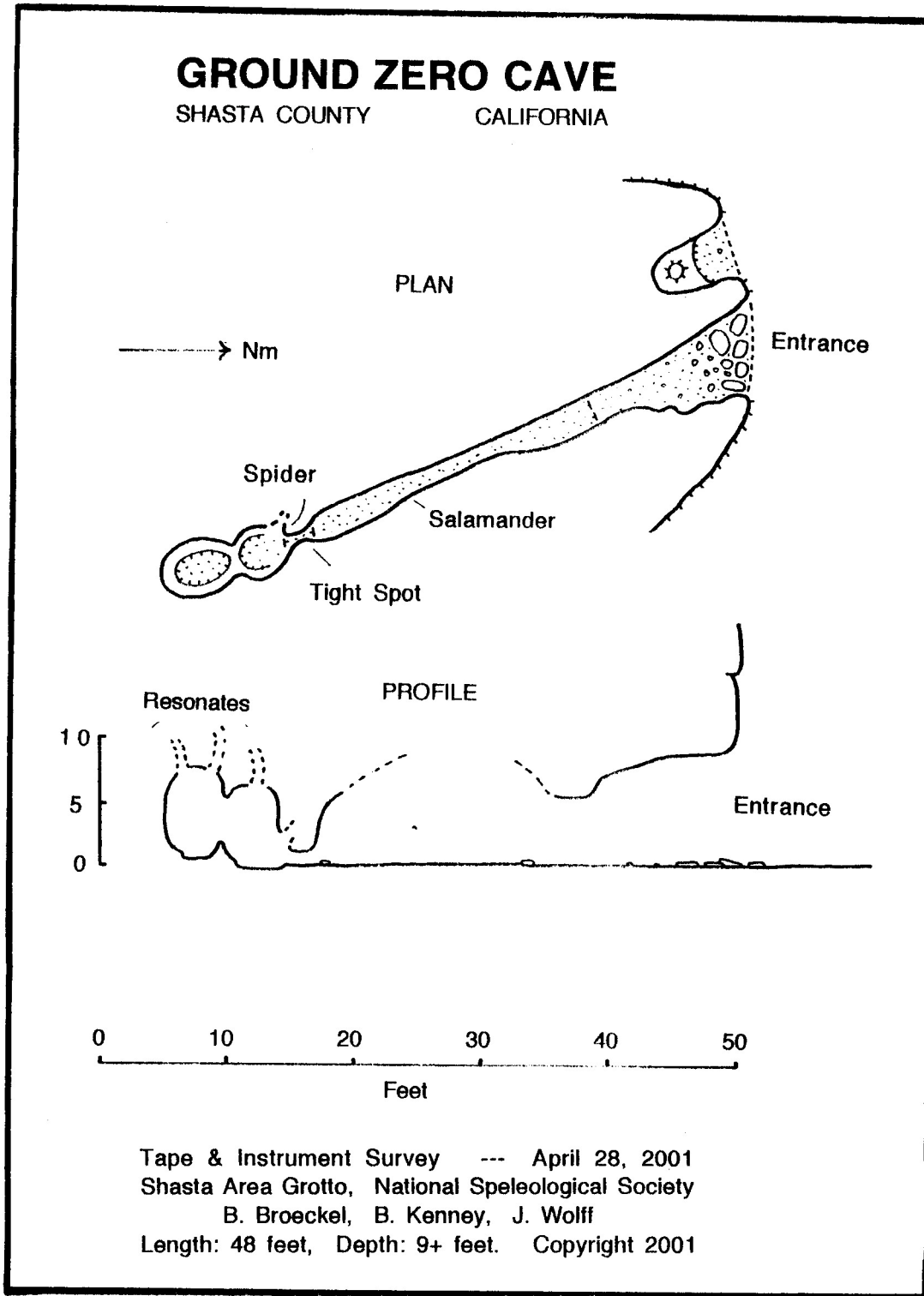
At ground level, a crack pierces the heart of a protruding limestone buttress. It becomes increasingly narrow, and after about thirty feet we were surprised to find the cave continued through a tight spot on the floor. This led into two small round rooms. Echoing leads went up from this area, but they were all too small. The total cave length was 48 feet.

We renamed the cave "Ground Zero" because the previous name assigned by the Shasta Speleological Society was too geographical. Anything falling off the front of the buttress above would end up near the entrance, thus Ground Zero. Also, the entrance served as a datum point for a surface survey that tied in four caves.

A mean looking spider was hanging out just beyond the tight spot. We also identified a Hydromantes shastae (Shasta salamander) on the left hand wall.



Map: Goonies Cave, Ground Zero Cave, Mississippi Cave, Razorback Cave



Map: Ground Zero Cave

GOONIES CAVE

We ran tape to the main objective, Goonies Cave, about 150 feet from Ground Zero. Lane Rau and Chuck Frank IV came across this nearly vertical cave several years ago. They have been excited about the corkscrew pit since then. Lane describes the discovery as follows:

"We were together going up the hill and he (Chuck Frank IV) had the better position."

In about 1999, the cave was named for the horror movie of the same title. Webster describes the original goon as a grotesque comic-strip character invented by E.C. Segar (1894-1935), hence an awkward person, stupid bodyguard, thug, or strike breaker.

Kenney and Wolff knew this cave from previous visits, but it was a new one for me. Kenney rigged the pit with three feet of rope to spare at the bottom. I have little experience with cave survey on rope, and so proceeded to make a mess of the survey. To make a long story shorter, suffice it to say that I arrived at the bottom of the pit unhurt, but without my vertical bag, and the survey data was incomplete.

Goonies Cave is a 60 foot pit, almost vertical, with a half twist to the right. Near the bottom, the pit divides, and the left side has a nice false floor. On the true floor, a low

passage connects the two sides of the divided pit. There is one short side passage blocked with flowstone. Good climbing leads are in the ceiling.

Interestingly, there is a small pile of charcoal near the end of the side passage. Moth wings near the entrance show that bats use Goonies Cave as a feeding station. Some graffiti has been scratched in the walls. Lane Rau lamented the texture changes he has seen in the cave in just a few years, and the loss of some "mud pearls."

Wolff was down at the bottom. Kenney stayed up at the top. I tied the end of the tape to Wolff. He ascended, and then stopped at the vertical station for the main shot in the pit. Then he dropped the tape so I could solo survey the side passage, which started just above the level of the false floor.

Of course, I had to exit the cave somehow. I was able to improvise what I had into a self-belay, and basically climbed out. My exact method is not to be recommended, especially on a static line as is normally used in caving.

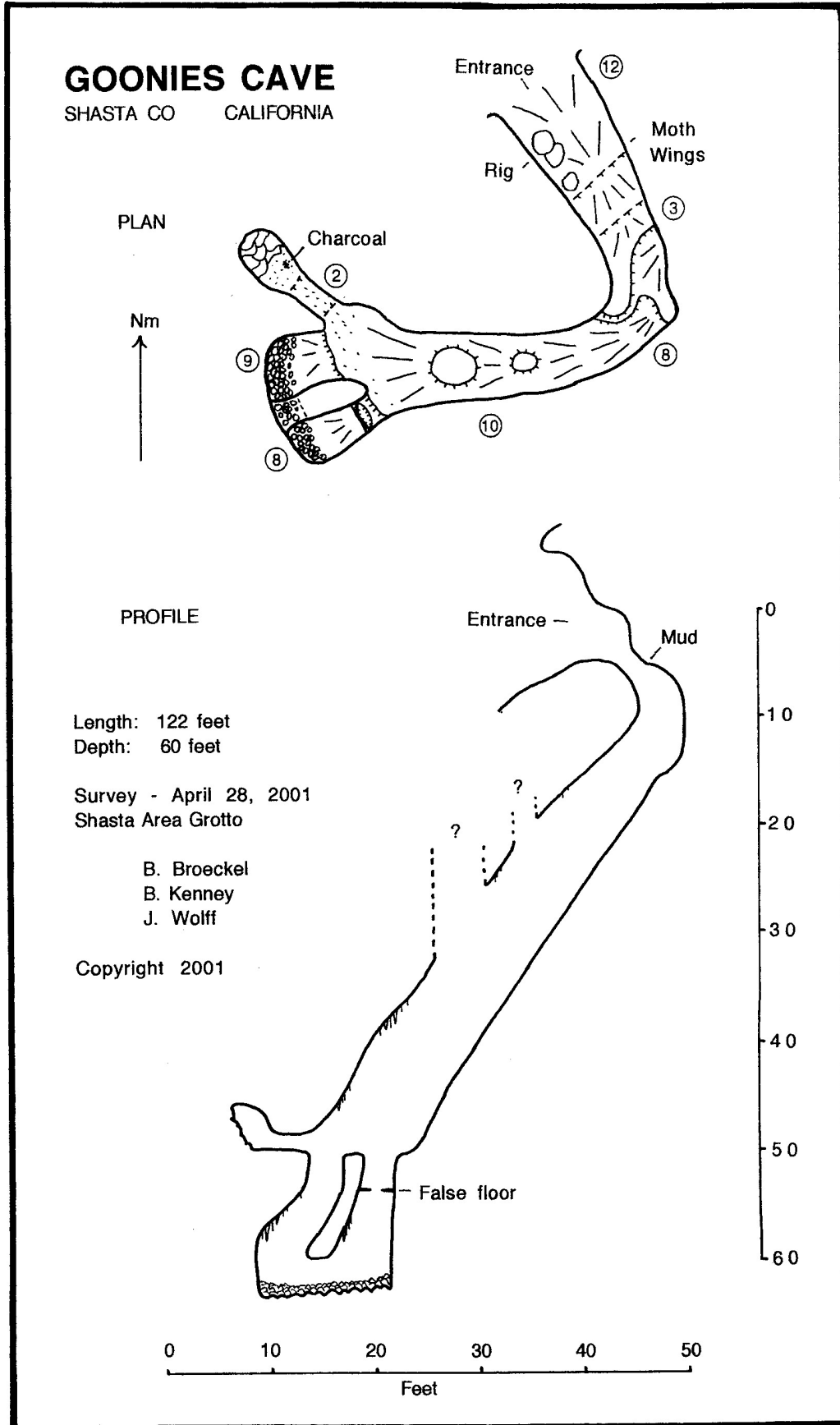
The survey distance for Goonies Cave is 121 feet, and the depth is 60 feet. There is only one entrance, with a nice flat area from which to stage the descent. The rope may be rigged to two large rocks on the right side.



Wolff gets ready to climb



Looking up at false floor



Map: Goonies Cave

RAZORBACK CAVE

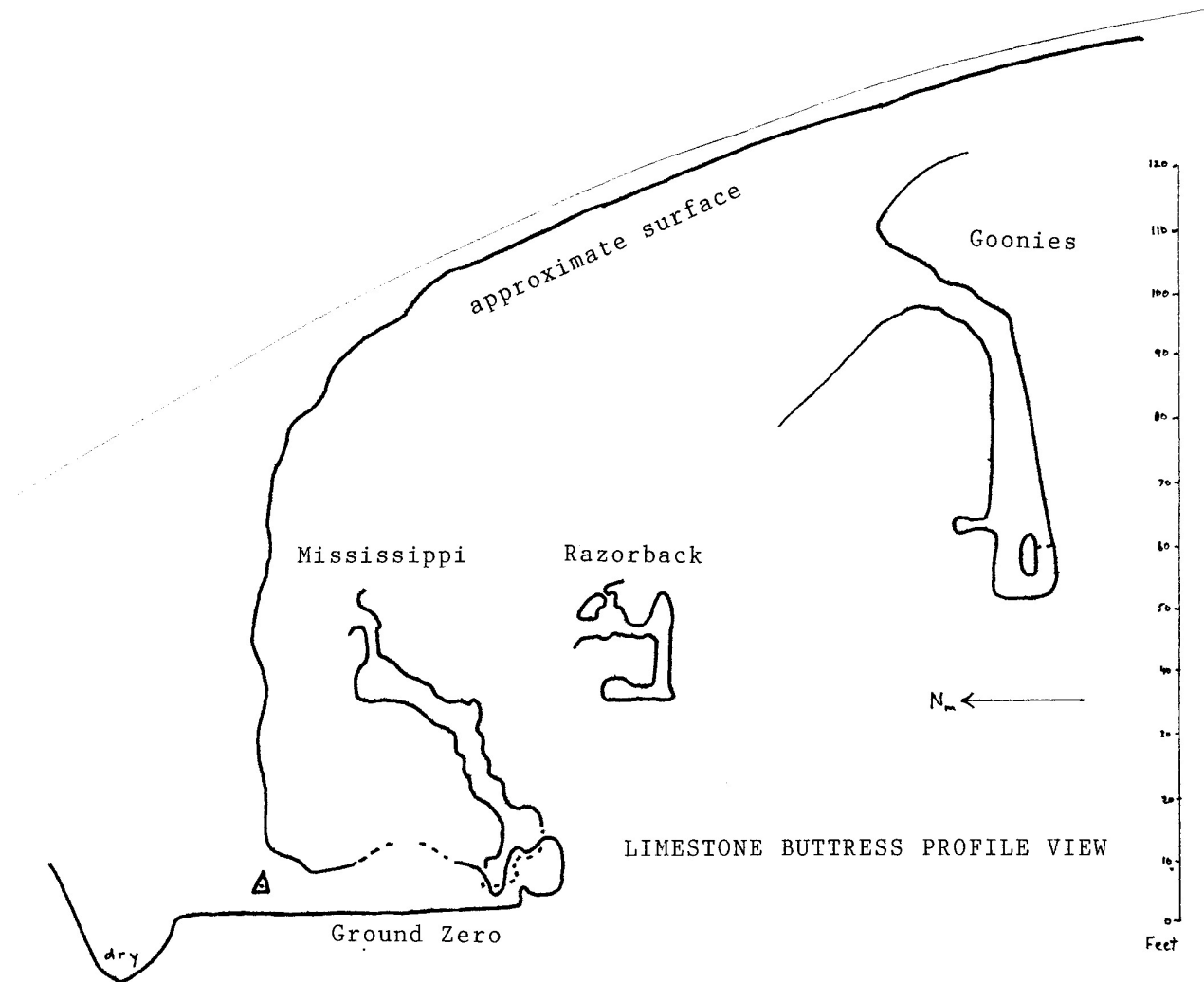
Now that Goonies was done, we turned our attention toward a small cave entrance that we had included on the surface survey up from Ground Zero. Rau and Frank knew this cave, and had described it to us, but they had not named it. A razorback is a southern hog with a ridged back, hence, a sharp, thin structure (Webster). Wolff named the cave for the blade of rock that divides the small pit in the back.

Everything about the cave is small. Wolff, Kenney, and I surveyed the 33 ft of passage in three shots. We found a candy wrapper and some moth wings near the entrance, and assumed that the cave had been visited by bats and non-cavers.

One side of the pit is large enough to slide down, with up close and personal views of a nasty spider. To proceed from the floor of the pit, one must kneel, then twist into a sitting position, and then slide into the lower level passage feet-first and face-up.

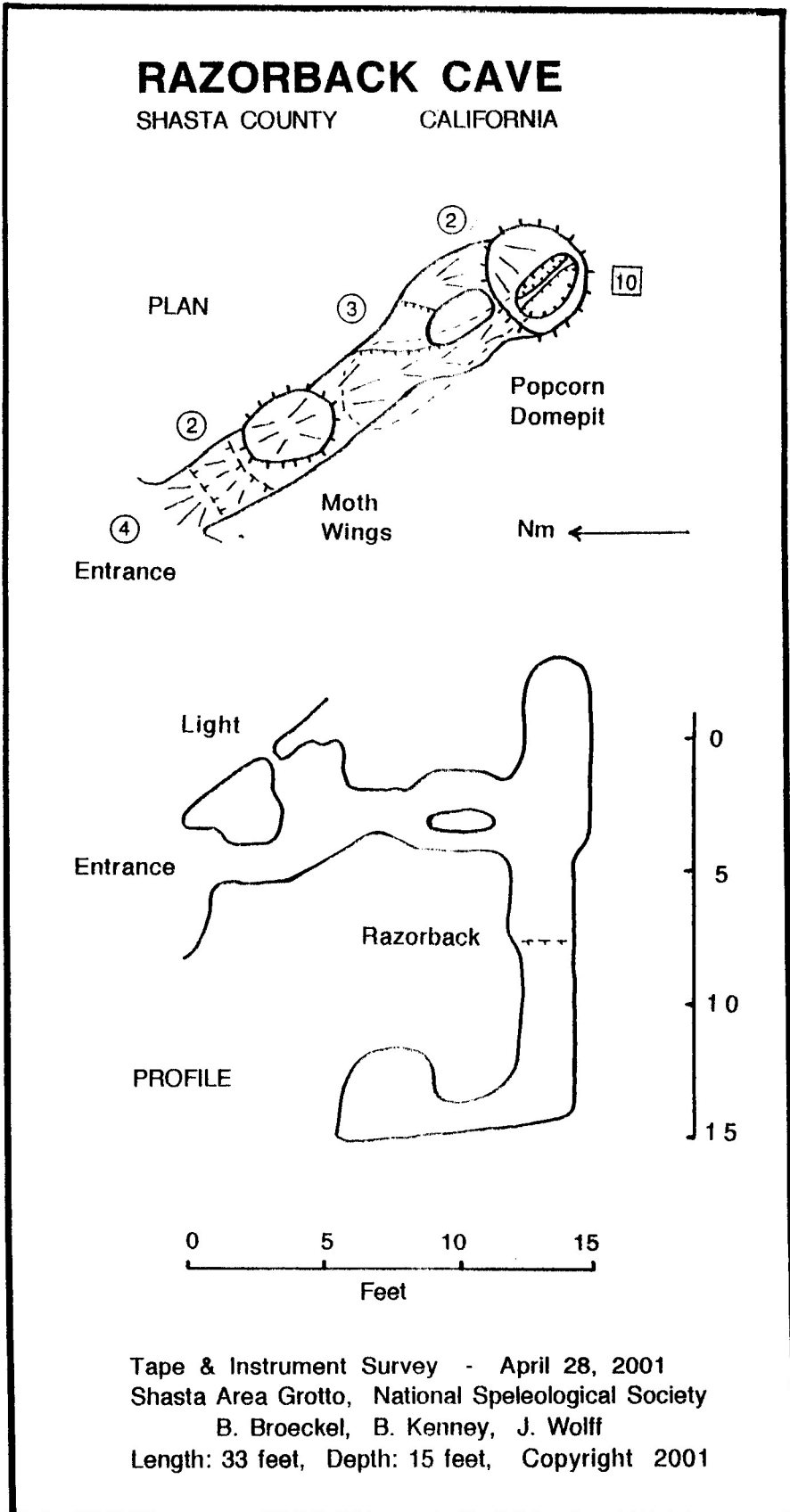
I could barely manage the "twist" part, but I figured if Chuck Frank made it through, then so would I. Later I found out that Chuck hadn't pushed this and considered it a lead! Well, it is amazing what courage and confidence may be imparted by even false information.

Anyway, the passage doesn't go very far, but there is a muddy little spot down there where you can sit up. It doubles back under the entrance and ends in a dirt fill.



Map: Goonies Cave, Ground Zero Cave, Mississippi Cave, Razorback Cave

This view shows the relative depths of the four caves mapped from Ground Zero.



Map: Razorback Cave

MISSISSIPPI CAVE

This fourth cave of the day was pretty cool, so Lane Rau made it a point to walk me to the entrance. We were thinking, from the descriptions, that the profile view would be interesting. According to some graffiti near the end of the cave, it was visited by a group of people from Mississippi in the 1960s. So we called it Mississippi Cave.

Lane Rau remembers when he first saw this cave, and the small vertical entrance that bells out to the floor about a dozen feet below. Well, he called "cave" and Fritzke arrives with a light. Apparently, without hesitation, Fritzke dove down the hole head first, and performed a swing through move to reach the floor.

Others have since found the climb back out of Mississippi problematic. So for this trip, Kenney rigged the entrance from a large, bomb-proof hexentric wedged above the narrow pit. Hoselton, Geeraerts and I entered, and Dave Geeraerts received a quick lesson in running lead tape.

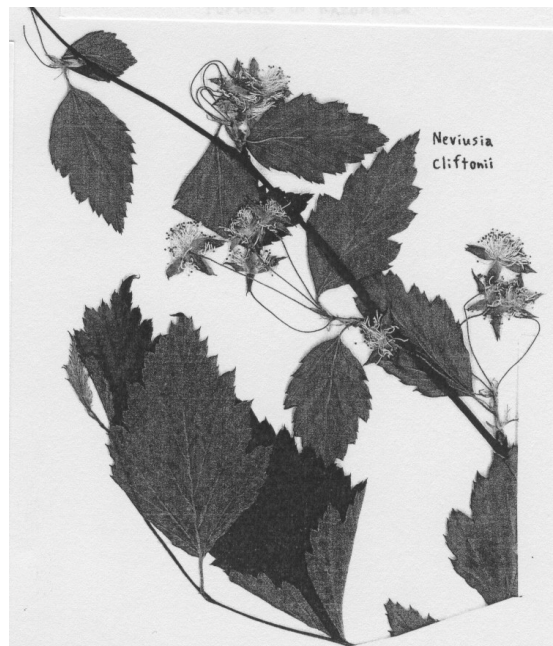
The interior pit is easily climbable and leads down to a round room. A short crawlway goes a little further to a dirt fill. Interestingly, the deepest point in Mississippi is on a level with ground Zero. The survey length was 60 feet, and the depth was 39 feet. The entrance was 65 feet away from Ground Zero. Hozelton found the toenail from a large cat, and Geeraerts identified a Wolf Spider in Mississippi Cave.

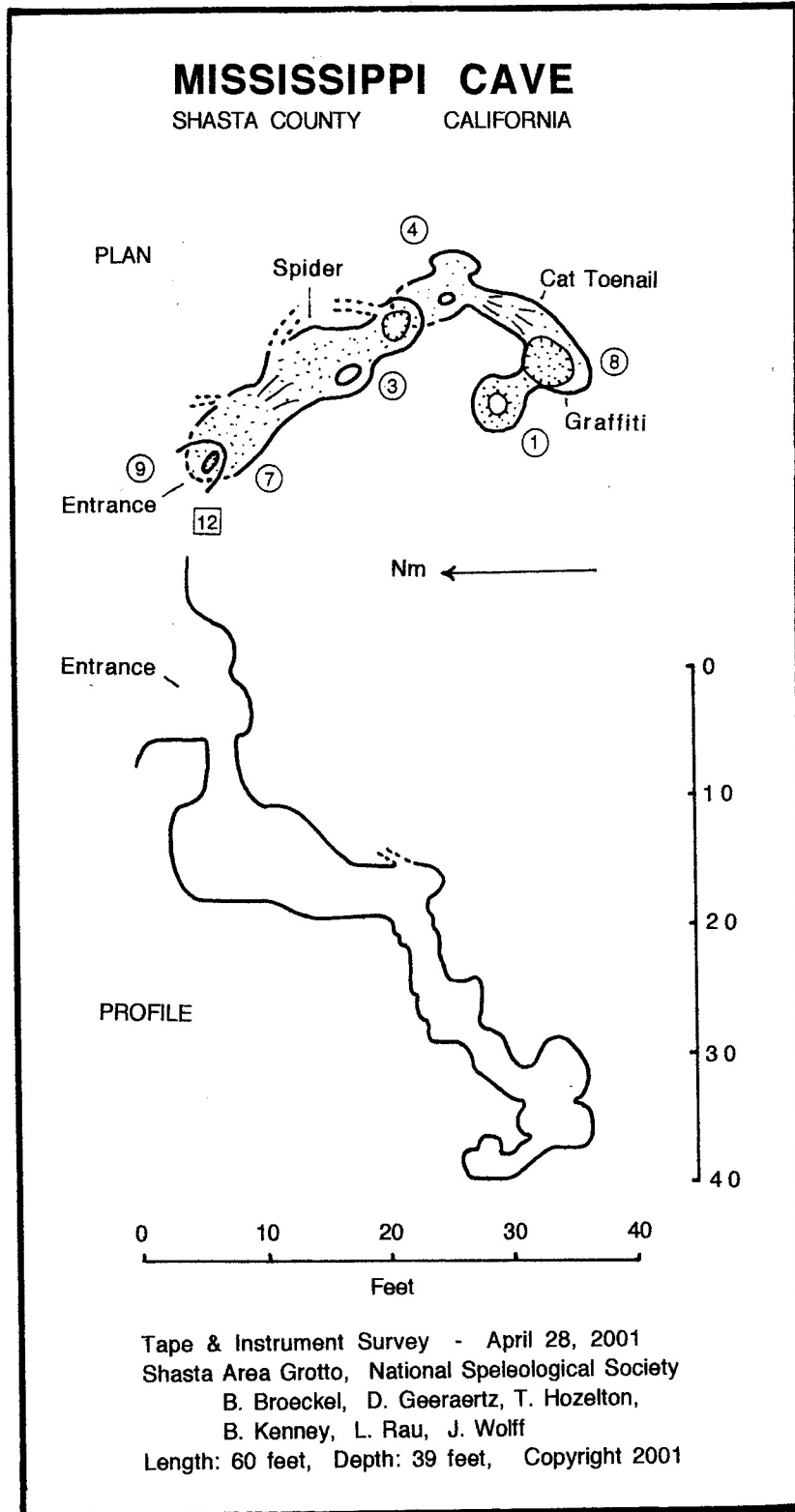


Popcorn in Razorback



Interior of Mississippi Cave





Map: Mississippi Cave

OLD TRAPPER CAVE

Sunday we returned to Ground Zero and hiked to a promising entrance Chuck Frank had found. Unfortunately, it didn't go very far. Robert Nixon had found a 30 foot + cave, but we didn't try to go there because to reach that spot, you had to "swim through poison oak." As it was, it took me a lot longer to hike while troubling to avoid the "rhus".

We also located a nice patch of blooming Shasta Snow-wreath, a plant associated with limestone soils. Neviusia cliftonii was first discovered by modern science in the early 1990s.

There were a few other small "traditional caves" awaiting survey in this area, but these will await another day. It was time for the group to disperse, so we went back to camp and packed it up. It was down to Frank, Wolff, Kenney, and I on our way back home, when we decided we should not be denied a cave this day. So Chuck Frank led us to one of his leads.

We hiked for quite a distance in the cool of the dusk. Chuck went ahead, following some directions he had from "an old trapper in the bar. The guy seemed really reliable." We

ran into a Native American couple. They didn't know of the cave, but didn't mind if we looked. The man said he used to work for Shasta-T., and always tried to steer people away from Samwel, which the Wintu consider sacred. I think he was just glad we were not going there.

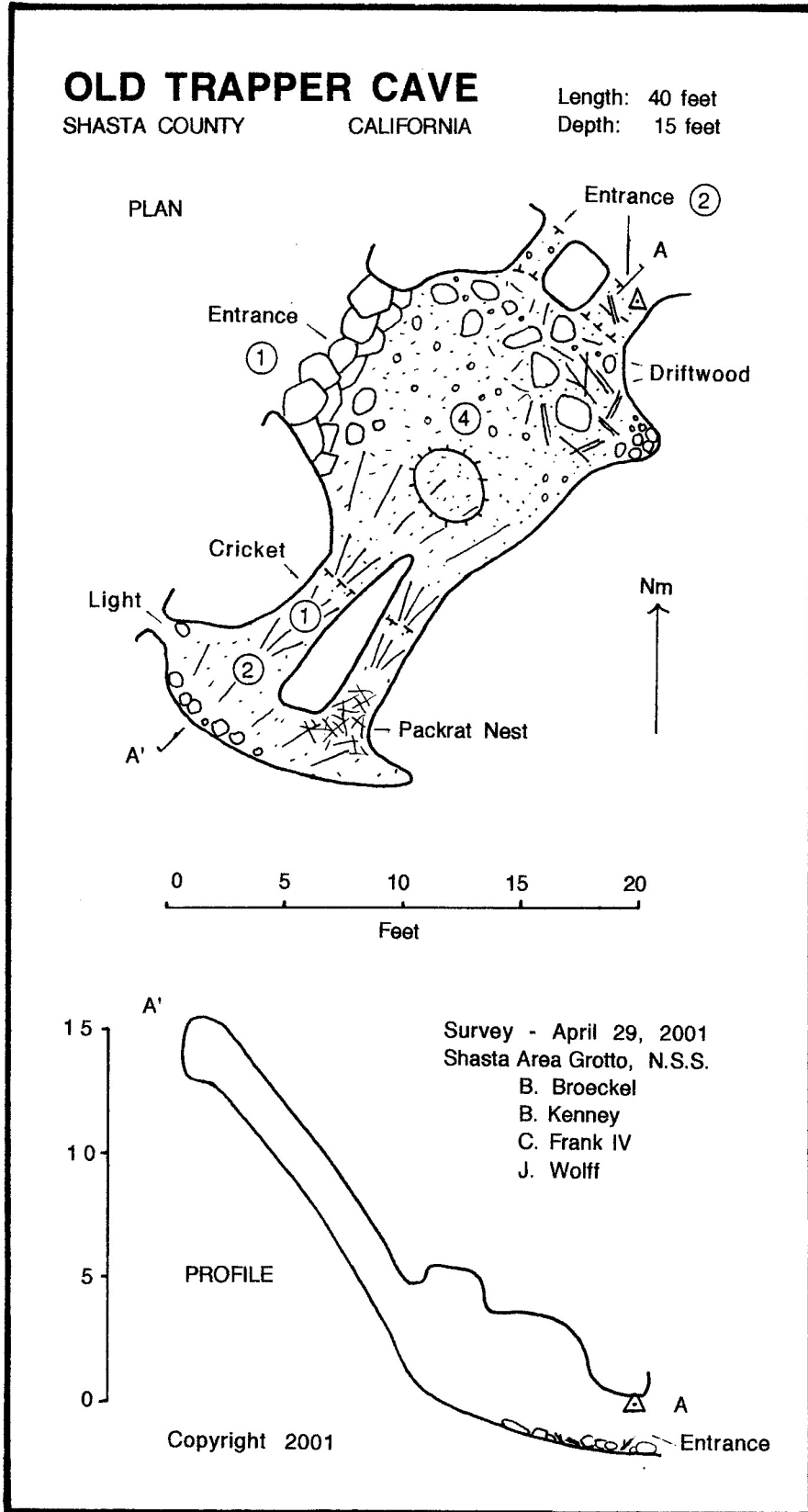
Well, we persisted on this wild goose chase, at one point sliding down steep slopes using small trees for hand lines. Chuck started hooting and it turned out the old trapper really was reliable. There was indeed a small cave right where he said. We named it Old Trapper Cave.

We quickly explored the full extent of the cave, which slopes up steeply. I decided it was too small to survey, then changed my mind when I realized it was now or never. We would probably never come back here. So we did the quick survey, and found that Old Trapper Cave has 40 ft of passage.

Luckily, we were able to find a nice easy way to hike back to the cars. So ends the SOG/SAG version of the Under Earth Cavers Holiday, and five new limestone cave maps to show for it. But wait, Liz Wolff has a report on the Cavers Holiday Weekend lava option.



Jim Wolff checks the entrance to Old Trapper Cave



Map: Old Trapper Cave

UNDER EARTH WEEKEND By Liz Wolff

I had told Ann Bosted on the phone that we could spend the weekend visiting caves they had never seen before. Some would no doubt have ice to photograph, but it had been a dry winter. The weekend started Thursday night with the arrival of Aussies Damian and Amanda Grindley and their six year old son Damon. Then shortly the Bosteds, Terry Silva, and past SAG member Brent Ort arrived.

Following a late and leisurely breakfast on Friday, we caravanned out to Hambone Island Ice Cave to take pictures. Lotsa gear made it through the brush to the cave and hours were spent in photographing the ice, most of it in deciding what to take pictures of and setting up the shots.

Then up the Double Hole Lava Flow to Sign Cave beside Porcupine Butte. Three of the four who braved this crawly cave made it through the grabby tight spot and caved across the fault line.

Our next objective was Bobcat Cave which none of them had ever seen, surprisingly. Our road was blocked by snow right at the turn-off to the cave, leaving us with about a mile hike to get to the cave. Snow was a new and novel experience for the Aussies, so some time was spent throwing snowballs and other cold wet

stuff before going out to the cave over the drifts.

Entering the main entrance of Bobcat after looking at the natural bridge of the Short Caves, we encountered luxuriant moss and a small snow pile under the skylight. Damon didn't like the breakdown (he wasn't alone in that) so the Grindleys left the cave at the next entrance. The rest of us trooped down to the end of the cave, taking pictures along the way and exiting the lower entrance.

We took in the sights of Lower Octopus, Many Names, and Rooty-Tooty Cave entrances. We joined back up with the Aussies and headed for the Roadside Caves, which they (SFBC people) had also not seen. An hour or so later we left these small caves with fantastic flow ledges, with many pictures.

Saturday we were joined by Russ Yoder and spent the entire day either digging our way out of snow drifts, or in the Freudian Complex. It was cold and spit snow all day, but the sun shown warmly the rest of the time: Spring, the undecided time of year. Many pictures were taken that day also. On the way back into McCloud, Peter couldn't pass up some guaranteed ice, so we made a stop at Three Level Ice Cave.

Sunday they left to visit the limestone jungle of Shasta Caverns. LW

SAG RAG

2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1	Goonies Cave photo – B. Broeckel
Page 2	Caver Calendar, maps to meetings
Page 3	OCR information
Page 3	Western Regional information
Page 6	SAG meeting notes: May – M. Jackson
Page 7	SAG meeting notes: July – Liz Wolff
Page 8	Raising Shasta Lake dam – Wolff, Uncapher
Page 8	Editorial – B. Broeckel
Page 9	Under the Earth: Limestone: – B. Broeckel
Page 11	Under the Earth: Lava – Liz Wolff

TO:

Remove Staple For Inspection