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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>>.

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### CAVERS CALENDAR 2001

- TBA Sand Cave gating project. Watch your e-mails.
- Sept 14-16 Western Regional near Yosemite. See previous issue for details.
- Sept 21 SAG meeting 7:30 p.m. at Ray Miller's in Mt. Shasta.  
Contact (530) 926-2440. Meet Peter Van Sustrin. (See map).
- Sept 22-23 Cave rescue training at California Caverns, sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Teachers will be Cindy Heazlit, Allen Hutchison, and Howard Hurtt. For more info, check the web site at <http://www.self-rescue.net/ocr> or call Cindy Heazlit at (408) 448-8857.
- Oct 2 Region 5 lava tube meeting re: Native American concerns – Alturas.
- Oct 3-4 Region 5 lava tube management meetings – LABE and McCloud (See below).
- Oct 5-8 KMCTF Columbus Day Speleocamp. Contact Jim Wolff (503) 964-3123.

### CHAIRMANS CORNER – REGION 5 LAVA TUBE MEETINGS By Liz Wolff

I received a call from Peter van Susterin, geologist, of the McCloud district forest service about the following:

What: Regional level meeting with USFS, NPS, tribes, cavers I don't know who else this may involve.

Where & When: Oct 2 in Alturas; Oct 3 @ Lava Beds; Oct 4 in McCloud.

Purpose: come up with a workable cave management plan that covers wildlife (bats), archaeology, native American and caver concerns before setting policy and writing management plans.

The meeting in Alturas is with the natives. The LBNM day is to see some caves and then tour (?) down thru the McCloud lavas to talk about McCloud caves specifically. Stopping at Jot Dean for archaeology, Bat for gates and bats and any other caves we think would be a good site to maybe let the public in on. McCloud on the 4th is to summarize all they learn and come up with a working plan. The 3rd and 4th are the days important to SAG. This is a policy making meeting. It is important to have a good showing if we can. I, personally, must be in school the afternoon of the 4th, so can't be there.

Peter would like the grotto's input in all of this. He would also like to make a presentation at the next grotto meeting, Sept 21, to the grotto about the plans for the regional meeting and our part (?) in all of this. His main concerns are safety, and doing what is right. He plans to bring Baers thesis map on the southern Medicine Lake highlands to talk about caves. He doesn't want to know where any caves are. He recommends that if we run into trouble at the district or forest level we contact the regional office.

Please arrange your calendars to be available the 3rd and 4th of October if you can. If you want to be included in the meetings the 3-4 Oct, please be at the grotto meeting the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**EDITOR'S NOTES** By B. Broeckel

So here goes another quick issue of the SAG RAG. There are some important items coming up, and we need to do what we can to promote these events. First, another chance to get some cave rescue training, this time with Cindy Heazlit, et al., at California Caverns in the great limestone of the Mother Lode. Cindy says "I encourage all to get rescue training. Go, go, go!"

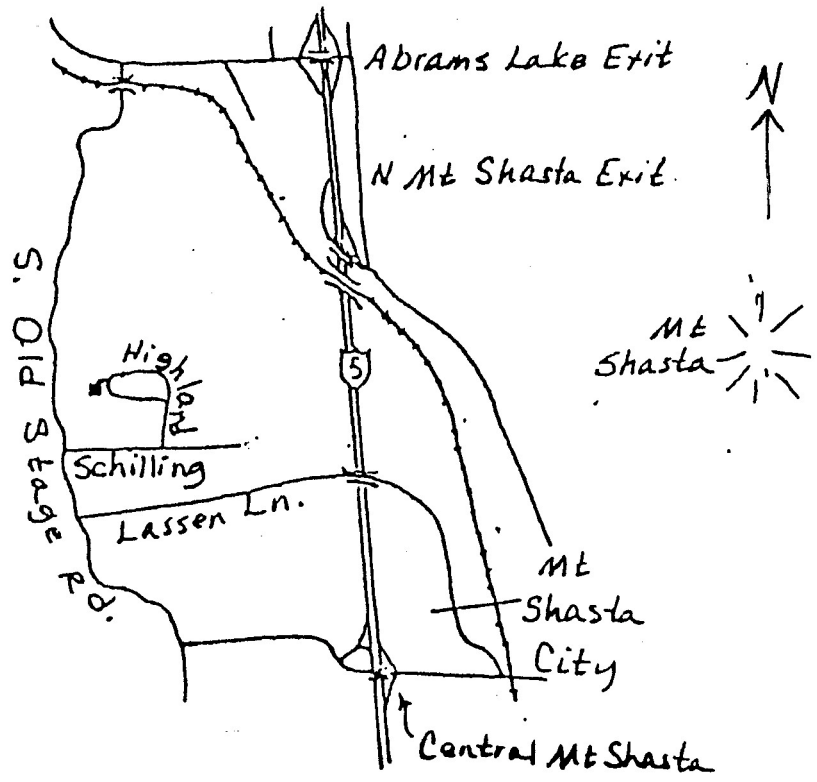
You probably heard already that the rescue training to be hosted by SAG at Harris Springs was a wash. Only a few people signed up, so it was cancelled. My sympathy goes to Mark Fritzke, who went out to Harris Springs unknowingly, and found nobody there!

Next we have these Region 5 meetings coming up in early October, and this needed to be announced far and wide. Also, the gating of Sand Cave is coming up soon. Stay posted so that SAG can make a good showing and help with this worthy project. Some continuity with this project will help the resource in Shasta Valley, and should carry over to some other areas in Klamath National Forest.

Lastly, we have a good and newsworthy article from Ernie Coffman about this year's NSS Convention in Kentucky. Ernie's primary affiliation is Southern Oregon Grotto, but his submission to the SAG RAG is appreciated. While we are thanking "Far Away Ern", we can also express appreciation for his erudite contributions to the local caving scene, and his willingness to represent SAG at the National Convention. Way to go Ernie!

Everybody keep up the good work, and send all your cave related items to the SAG RAG. These are important times in Northern California caving, and we are privileged to be a part of all these things that are happening. Happy Autumn.

**BB**



MAP TO THE MEETING Sept 21



**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING  
AUGUST 3, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm. at Harris Springs.

Present were: Russ Yoder, Robert Nixon, Jim & Liz Wolff, & Melanie Jackson.

Minutes: The May minutes were accepted as read. There were no minutes for June and July minutes were not available.

Treasurer's Report: The August Balance is \$785.46

Correspondence: None

Old Business: OCR (Orientation to Cave Rescue) Weekend. Ernie Coffman has shade tarps, and generator. We still need water jugs and other options. Liz has a phone call into the FS about the campground (permits etc.). We still need a head count and food budget allowance amount. There will be no more than 50 people. Friday the cave route needs to be flagged, but not on the road. Russ Yoder is in charge of making and placing the signs for getting here. (OCR with arrows) Wolff's have a screen, but possibly we could borrow Ray Miller's projector. Robert Nixon will be the victim and also bring a shade tarp. A grounds person will be needed to clean up and keep campers together, Bill Broeckel will be asked to do this.

New Business: Wild Cave tours in the South Room of Oregon Caves. Jay Swafford (friends of the Oregon caves) has e-mail papers about this. You can write to the National Park Service or Jay at the following e-mail addresses: J. Swafford – <http://www.oregoncaves.org>. The document can be found at <http://www2.nature.nps.gov/nps77/> NFS web page.

Trip reports: Robert Nixon found a possible cave or crack that he couldn't enter because of a really mean badger out at the Damon's area. He also hunted for caves between Medford and Klamath Falls near Fish Lake. Amazeattic Cave near Papoose was mapped by Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff and Russ Yoder. Halls of Santana at the other end of the Amazeattic was mapped the following weekend by Russ, Jim & Liz. Liz took family members in to Harris Mountain Cave. Red Tape Cave/Frog Leg Cave was mapped by Russ and Liz. Russ, Liz and Ray were at Greelys Pit and Ray has a picture of Russ coming out. Liz and Ray have been doing emergencies for all the bat maternity colonies. Russ has been doing his usual solo cave hunting – now if we could just get him to keep the book?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Meetings: Sept. 21 at Ray Miller's in Mt. Shasta  
Oct. – Coast?  
Nov. – Coast?

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson

**MJ**

## Convention Notes from the 2001 Cave Odyssey by Ernie Coffman

After another miserable flight with our “friendly skies” of United Airlines, I finally arrived in Cincinnati, Ohio, where I was to meet Morley Hardaker of the Mother Lode Grotto. Needless to say, he flew out of Sacramento after I left Medford, OR and he arrived on time with his Delta flight...and then had to wait around seven hours after all of my delays. It really makes one wonder, what with these small towns and their one airline business.

After a 2.5 hour drive down to Mt. Vernon, KY, we checked into our motel for the week, which was really centrally located-like halfway to the campground and to the high school, where all the sessions were held. We had several close-by restaurants to choose from and found even more, in other towns, thanks to the ingenuity of Gale Beach. More on that later.

Sunday, some woman rudely awakened us, after only 3.5 hours of sleep – I won't say “lady” – who was talking loudly right by our unit at 6 a.m. We only wanted another hour's sleep, for that's when we had a wake-up call for we were scheduled for the geology trip that was to be at 8:30 a.m. We rode in A/C busses and saw lots of roadside geology pointed out to us. Two of the highlights were a beautiful waterfall at a state park and going in one of several entrances in Sloan's Cave, where we were introduced to the humidity of the day. Going in was fine, but coming out, if one were wearing glasses, they were immediately fogged up and you had to stop and clean them off before advancing. That evening, we drove out to the campground to look around and find some of our long-lost friends who we haven't seen for a year. Finally, stopped by Gale & Ray Beach, Caroline & Roger Brown, and Ken Laidlaw, who were all intermingled together in one location...and right next to them was the trio of Bart Rowlett, Lynn Fielding, and “Little John” Woods, so we had good company to swap thoughts and ideas with for the rest of that day and the beginning of a new one, too!

Monday, the sessions began, along with the opening ceremony at the HS Auditorium. The usual format of BOG was there, also. Several of those, above, and myself were involved with rigging for the vertical rope contests and we were able to get those first climbers on rope an hour earlier than we scheduled them. The Howdy Party was held at the campground and then was moved on up to the Great Saltpeter Cave, where folks tried to say howdy to those around them, but were blasted out of their wits by the very loud music (?), put on by The Guano Brothers. This is where the beer flowed and flowed, and the music might have been good, except for the ear-splitting noise that made one wonder whether the ceiling was going to collapse on five hundred cavers. In fact, that was probably the number one question – concern – about an article in the local newspaper, “Five hundred cavers trapped in GSP Cave by huge ceiling collapse.” A good number of folks were enjoying themselves to the music, but that wasn't the only thing that howdy parties are known for. A good number of folks retreated to the outside of the cave, only to be drawn back in for another beer or soda, but quickly left the area, so as to communicate and think clearly – somewhat, anyway. Finally, Morley and I retreated to our hosts from California, once again, so as to finish off another great day in the Deep South of Kentucky.

Tuesday, was a similar day, with sessions and author signings going on near the Indoor Vendor's Row. Author Michael Ray Taylor for *Caves, Exploring Hidden Realms*; authors Nancy Holler Aulenbach and Hazel Barton for *Exploring Caves*; Richard Rhinehart for *Colorado Caves*; and James Borden and Roger Brucker for their *Beyond Mammoth Cave* were featured. Book sales appeared to be going quite well! I continued with the climbing contests, while Morley took in sessions and stopping to talk with folks. The Speleolympics was held at the campground, while John Cole conducted the Congress of Grottos, in the school auditorium. Most of the California grottos were represented and I signed in for Shasta Area Grotto, as well as Southern Oregon Grotto. Quite a discussion was held on a name change from COG to “Congress of Internal Organizations,” because of the idea that we're not just representing grottos, but sections, regions, and surveys. The other hot topic was the idea of COG opposing the construction of the Trimodal Transpark near Bowling Green, KY, supporting the BOG motion opposing the same. If you haven't voted on this issue, you might try bringing it up on the Internet and casting your No Vote. Other issues that were discussed, somewhat were on convention sections being arranged a little bit, so that folks can attend various sections that they might have responsibilities in. And, again, this year was the discussion of NSS members who didn't know where their primary allegiance was cast; thus, putting a lot of confusion on the NSS and the I/O Committee. One would think that folks could make an honest decision and indicate whether they belong to this or that grotto, wouldn't you? That evening, there was a birthday celebration for the NSS with a 60th Birthday cake celebration at the campground...and then it was to our “home away from our home (motel)” to visit our good friends, down from the Outdoor Vendor's Row.

On Wednesday, some of the great sessions on international exploring, NCRC Rescue Workshop, geology and geography sessions were going on, along with the Vertical Session and meeting. That evening, Deacon Deem did his usual great auctioning at the campground and brought in almost \$4600 for the NSS. There was a huge amount of paper donated this year, so that took up a great amount of time, and fewer good items were donated for some reason or another. Then another beer and soda pop celebration, along with The Terminal Siphons, up in the GSP cave. Dancing was going on, and people were trying to communicate – like on Monday – to no avail, so they headed out to the humid walkway, leading to the campground. I wonder how many folks will be deafened just because of this celebration, since it was so loud and in an enclosed area. Only one's audiologist will know in the long run, 'eh? What cha say?

Thursday, was the U. S. Exploration, and Spelean History sessions, along with more of the international explorations. John Woods, Lynn Fielding, Bart Rowlett, and I were working in the Vertical Workshop, from noon until a little after 5 p.m. Gale Beach was trying to get us all involved with a restaurant out of town, since the Photo Salon was going to begin at 7 p.m. at the auditorium in Renfro Valley, where all of these great singers and musicians hang out, during the year. She found a great Chinese restaurant and we were all supposed to meet up there – sixteen miles farther north – and then we could slip into the photo salon area without having to race to them because everyone else was eating at one of the local restaurants. Needless to say, it didn't work! Not only did others have the same idea...and found the same restaurant, but it also rained heavily that afternoon and night; thus, causing all kinds of chaos. Oh, well! It didn't flood, until after the convention, that is! The program was great as usual and the number of new photographers was enlightening to see.

On Friday, which tends to be an off day, unless you're into some of the things that are being offered, we had planned on doing some caving. After breakfast, we headed out to do our first cave at the campground – the GSP, which was open and one could explore through this once-commercial cave, where all of the parties were held. As we were driving the meandering, snake-like road, we came upon a serious automobile accident and had to make some decisions, for we didn't know how long we would be stopped before they let us pass. Several cars had turned around and one of them had Dave Cowan, Kathy and Paul Greaves, from the MLG, driving to another site. They stopped after we yelled to them and we conferenced as to where we might go instead of GSP. They suggested Pine Creek Cave, which was close to the motel area, so we turned around and headed down the road, past the many cavers who were stopped because of the accident. Thanks to their directions and pointing out the area, we suited up for a good cave trip into another huge cave, similar to GSP. This was a water cave; thus, we sloshed through the area to where we finally turned around after 3.5 hours, coming upon a group that had done a 130' rappel into the cave through another entrance. Our mission was to take out some trash, so we left one of the KY caves cleaner than when we first went in. Also, saw a box turtle at the entrance, but he had disappeared when we came out.

We then drove back toward GSP, finding the road was accessible, but the utility truck was there. The utility folks were putting in a new utility pole that was broken in two, where the car hit it that a.m. A fire truck was there, also! (Learned later on that the folks that were involved in the accident were O.K. but one of the passengers had a real ugly gouge in her arm. The three were mighty lucky, from the accident report that I read.) We made it to GSP, suited up again, and went in to this vast cave that was once a commercial cave. It is now managed along with 304 acres of prime KY land – with a number of caves – by three grottos, so this was an ideal place to have a campground for the convention. A typical, huge cave, similar to a giant lava tube in the west, although quite typical for KY caves. We wandered through the vastness of this cave, visiting where the Civil War hospital and gravesites were, along with viewing an area where they made salt peter for guns. Then, one of the exciting places that we located was a signature room, which took us back into the mid-1800s, and then wandered back into the stage area and out into the humidity of Kentucky. Needless to say, we had to push it to get cleaned up, for this was the Awards Banquet night, at the HS auditorium and we didn't want to miss that. By the time, we both showered and cleaned up, drove up to the HS, we saw nothing but lines and lines of people. Once they got moving, though, they got us through the lines fairly well. The balloons stashed at every table had the usual effect on cavers, so their creativeness sparked interest from one table to the next. I won't go into detail, but let you figure out some of the things they could do with a few hundred balloons, plastic forks, etc. As for the awards, we have the following:

**The following awards were presented on Friday, July 28, by the NSS**

**Honorary Member:** Dr. Paul Williams

**Outstanding Service:** David Jagnow

**Bicking Award:** Phil Lucas

**Conservation Award:** Jim Nieland

**Science Award:** James Reddell

**Spelean Arts and Letters:** Tom Rea

**Mitchell Award:** Molly Jean White

**NSS Fellows 2001:**

Stan Allison

Barbe Barker

John Benton

Sam Bono

Jeff Bray

John Lamar

Al Collier

Joe Douglas

Gary Fielden

Stephen Fleming

Dick Gamick

Bill Greenwald

Roger Haley

Andy Harris

Dave Haun

Jill Heinerth

Paul Heinerth

Al Hughes

Werner Jud

Jean Krejca

Dave Lester

Bill Meyer

Barbara Moss

Tom Moss

Andy Niekamp

Randy Paylor

Tom Pollock

Merrilee Proffitt

Julie Schenck

Cyndie Walck

Tim White

Jim Wilson

**Certificate of Merit:**

Scott Fee for Bringing the NSS Speleo Digest Series Up-to-Date

VPI Grotto – Field Support to Document Karst Resources in Southwest Virginia at the request of area landowners.

Randall Blackwood – Production of the Video “Caves, Critters, and Speleology”

And with this, we see the closing of another great NSS Convention. We were sorry that a lot of you weren't able to make it, but there's always next year if you're interested in attending the one in Maine, where the Lobster's Meet the Limestone. Hmmm? One thing for sure, though, is the fact that we'll need each and every one of you to help out on the 2003 Convention, in Porterville, California. Put that on your calendar, now, and get involved. It's a lot of work, but someone has to do it, right? There's also a lot to gain from the convention and a lot of great memories, as well.

As for a roundup on our flights, Morley had to be at the airport, first, and so that left me waiting for a short while, but then when I got to Chicago, another wait, and then in L.A. a long 'ole wait, and finally made it back to Medford. The nice thing, this year, is that my luggage wasn't lost, going or coming back, so...when you travel, think twice about those “friendly skies,” for you just might find your self in all kinds of hot water, rather than getting to your destination on time. Saw a good number of California cavers, especially from San Francisco and Diablo Grottos, so ask them for their opinion of what it was all about, also.

**EC**



**RUNNING THE "DUMB END" OF THE TAPE** By Jim Wolff

I'm writing this paper after my 1st attempt at being on the other end of the survey! Instead of being "shot", I was now the "shooter" – the instrument guy! And after many years as the "dumb end" of the tape, (I've finally gone up in life, eh?) I now feel necessary to impart a bit of wisdom to those who will pull THAT end of the tape in the future ....

Whether you realize it or not, there is a LOT of responsibility surrounding the duties of taking the lead tape (or the "Dumb-End") of a cave survey. So let's look at these responsibilities, shall we??

Basically you are charged with "setting stations". Well, that's fairly simple, you just take the tape down the passage until you run out of tape or the passage takes a bend and/or you can't see the last station. Is that all there is to it? Well, no, and here's why.

You are often moving down virgin passage and the footprints that you leave behind will be there for a very long time. So, you must choose your route well, and minimize the impacts that you will leave behind. After all, we do leave some trace of our passing, admit it!!

Sometimes you must make a very hard decision and choose not to proceed on, because of a sensitive cave species or other sane other reason for staying back, like fragile cave formations blocking the passage or a colony of bats. You gotta be very aware of what you are seeing up ahead, in order to avoid these kinds of things.

Knowing what you are seeing takes a trained eye, backed by experience in recognizing something odd or special. You must make mention of it to the next people, so they can avoid it too. Now, let's move down the passage shall we?

Ok, besides being sensitive to the cave, you gotta take care to calibrate your eyes, so your distance estimation is accurate enough, otherwise you are going to have to take measurements left and right of your station, which potentially equates to leaving more footprints .... so, use your eyeball as well as you can.

Spotting leads takin' off is important too, and setting stations at those points can facilitate future surveys to pick up those leads. In setting stations, it is important to have your light at a comfortable height, if possible, for the compass man. Describe well those turning points, as it may be awhile before you return, so you better leave a temporary station. A cairn of rocks works fine, as it can be dismantled.

A few other considerations are to leave the station height (your headlight) at a comfortable height for the compassman's sake! So, look to the next station, down cave, and see if you can see beyond, from that same height. Much appreciated!

Also, don't forget to use same common sense and direct the survey along a dryer, warmer path, and leave the sleazy, muddy, tight crawls until last! With any luck, the rest of the crew won't want to follow you where it goes ..., unless, of course they do, but that still means virgin (albeit, miserable) cave for you! Enjoy ....

**JW**

**SOUL SOUP FOR THE CHICKEN CAVER** By B. Broeckel

Once in a while I get to look for caves out in the lava lands to the east. Sometimes an actual cave shows up, but normally this turns out to be a short and crawly one. For example, on the list of 80 surveyed caves for Lassen National Forest, 26 of them are less than 100 feet long. Those are mostly the ones that I've found.

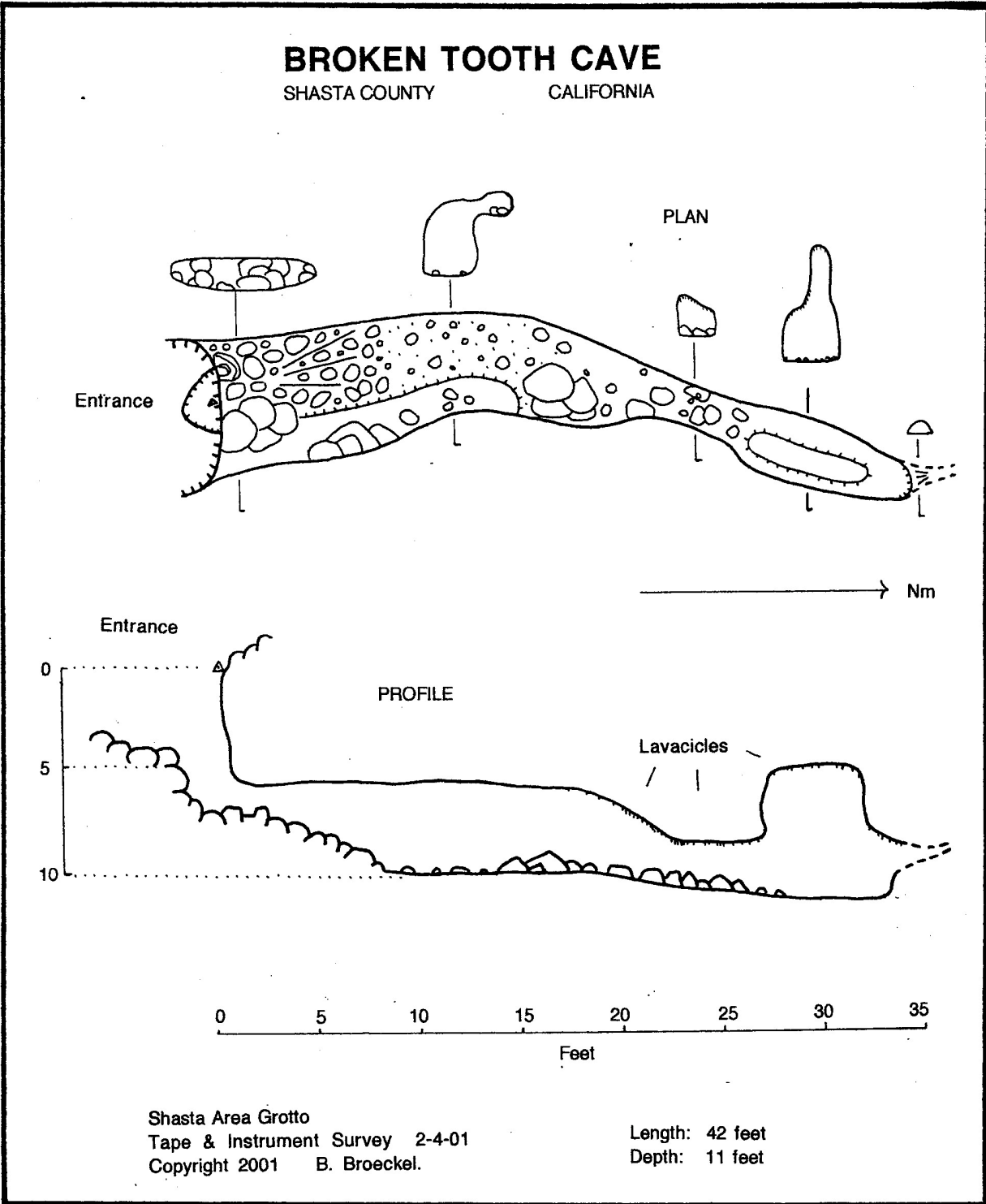
In order to find them, I have to poke my head and shoulders into a lot more holes that don't amount to caves at all. I have to scramble over lots of rocks and find ways through the bushes, so it is best to be highly mobile, dress light, and carry very little equipment. Then when I see a suspicious hole, I can just slap on my helmet, stick a mini mag in my mouth, and dive on in.

Now comes the cautionary tale, not really an accident report, but getting close. The helmet has two sources of light attached, a primary and a secondary. The mini mag is the third light. I go in with all lights blaring. If I am so lucky as to find a cave that actually gets dark, I can check it with confidence, and determine if it goes the arbitrary 30 feet to warrant a survey. But why does the mini mag go in the mouth?

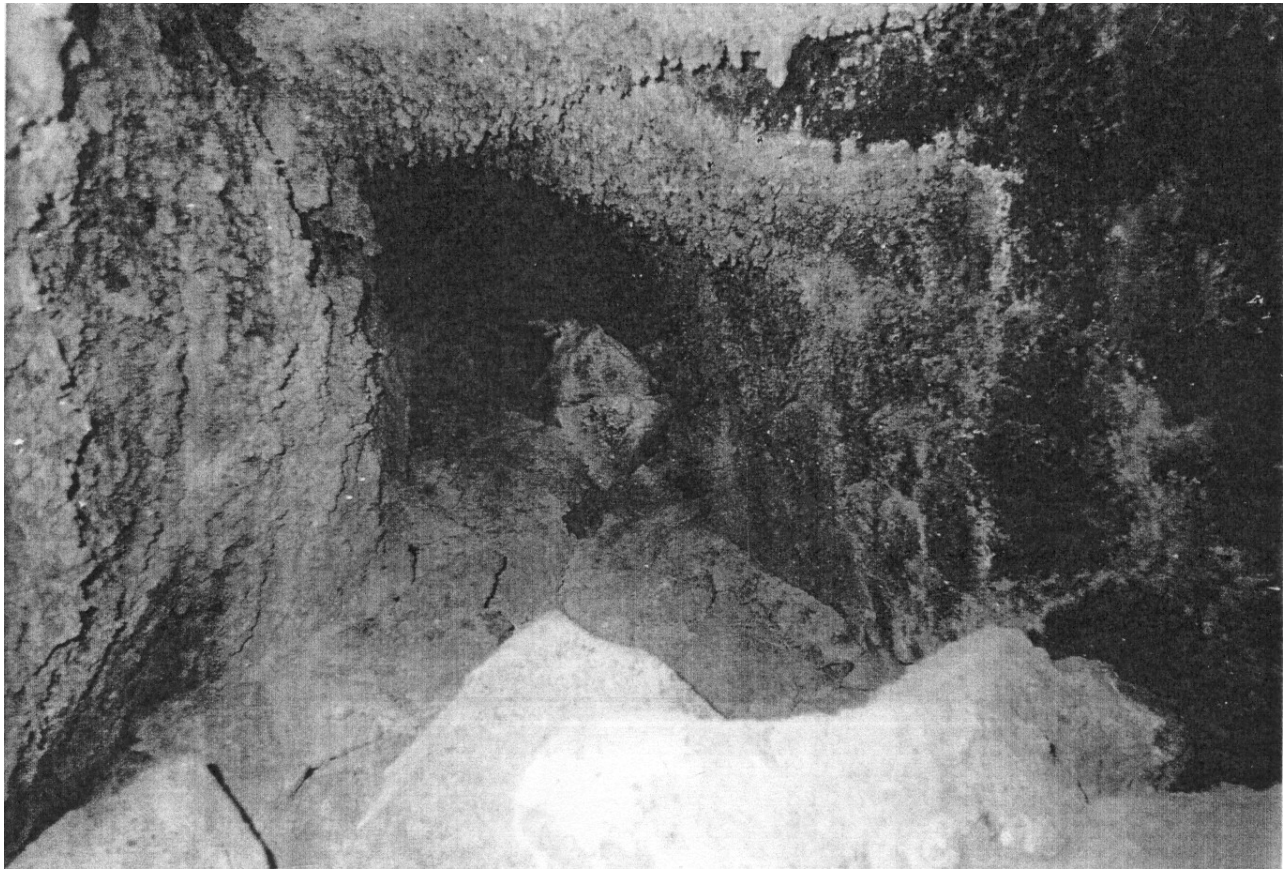
It is convenient. It keeps the hands free. It keeps bulk out of the pockets. It eliminates the need to haul in a cave pack. The teeth and the lips can direct the beam. There must be some sort of pacifier effect. Mostly I think it is just a bad habit, like smoking cigarettes, especially after what happened to me last winter.

Proceeding as above, I was on to a cave. A real tiger by the tail, it was, because the breakdown was sharp and loose. The downward angle was worrisome, but the floor of a larger passage could be seen. There was just enough room to slither gingerly, without shifting rocks or getting cut. I was moving my head around a lot, trying to keep track of things, when it happened. My mini mag unexpectedly ran into the cave wall, driving the butt end of the flashlight into my molar.

I knew right away the tooth was cracked, and I had to just lie there for awhile until the pain subsided. Having come this far, I went ahead and checked the cave, sore tooth and all. It was a cave, but not a friendly one. The survey was done later. The dentist was able to file down the sharp edges of the crack, which was really just a chip. But I learned that small caves can hurt you, and that mini mags can damage your teeth. So that's the tooth, the whole tooth, and nothing but the tooth. And sometimes the tooth hurts. **BB**



Map: Broken Tooth Cave



**Interior cavity of Broken Tooth Cave. Photo by B. Broeckel.**

**SAG RAG**  
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**STAMP**

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Remove Staple For Inspection