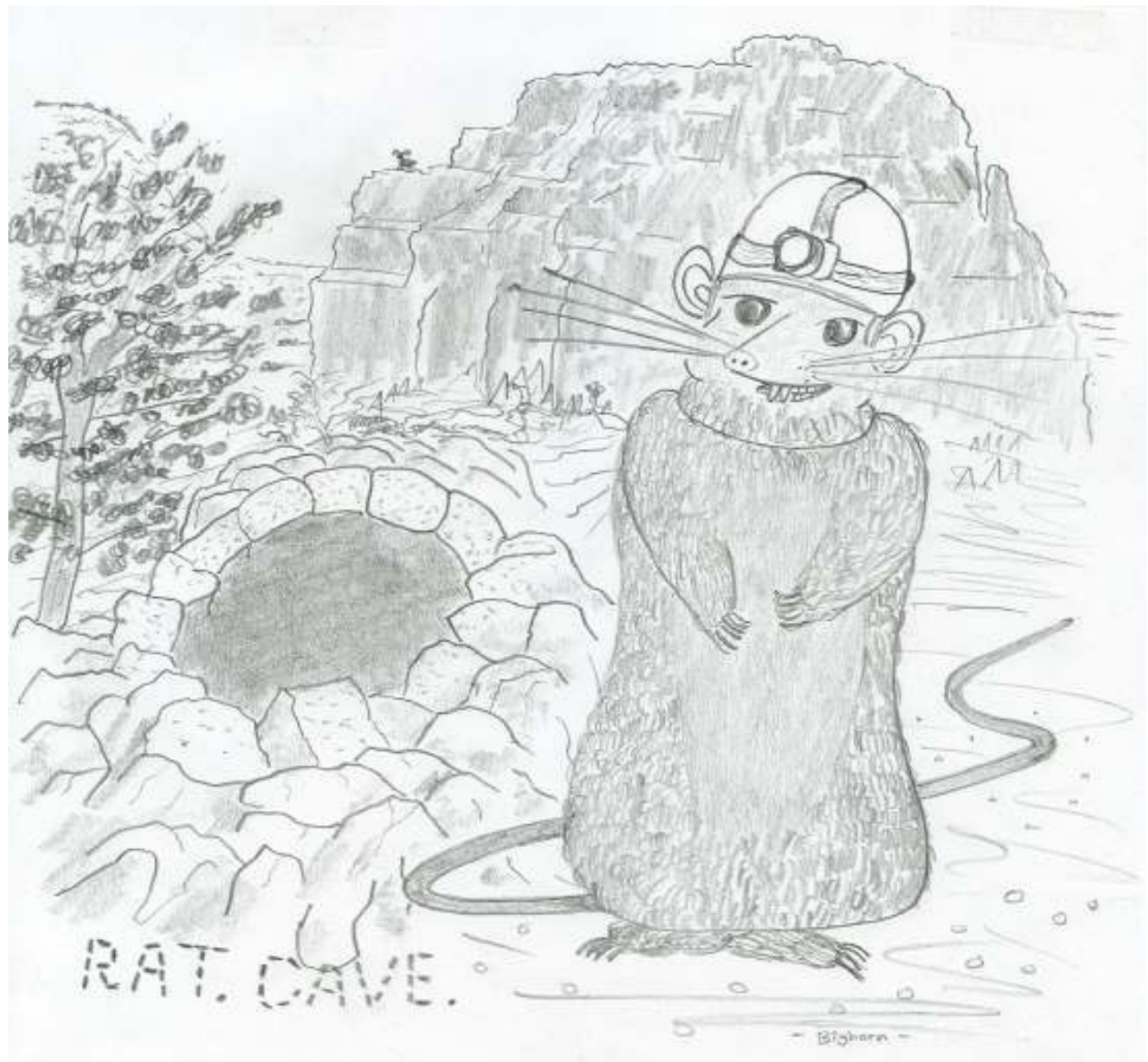


# sag rag

21:1

Jan-Feb 2002

Celebrating 20 years: cave advocates in the Shasta Area since 1982.



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>>.

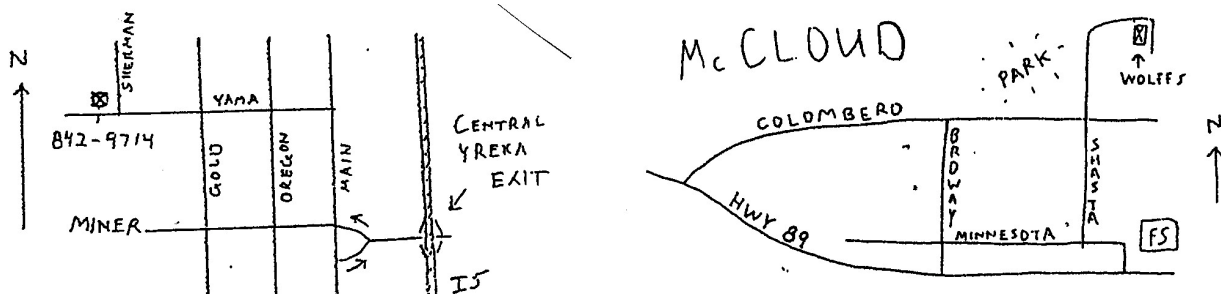
## CAVERS CALENDAR 2002

Mar 4-6	Bat Gate Forum, Austin, Texas. Contact Jim Kennedy (512) 327-9721.
Mar 8	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie Jackson's in Yreka. (530) 842-9714.
Apr 12	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud. (530) 964-3123.
Apr 26-28	Northwest Nevada trip c/o Bill Kenney. (541) 883-2781.
May 22-24	Single Rope Technique Training with BCCR in Boise or Shoshone, Idaho.
May 24-26	NCA Regional in Idaho.
June 14-16	SAG 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Campout at Hat Creek. (530) 964-3123.
June 24-28	NSS Convention, Camden, Maine.
Sept 9-15	10 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Volcanospeleology, Reykjavik, Iceland.
Oct 19-20	Western Regional c/o Desert Dog Troglodyte Grotto, near 29 Palms, CA.

## SAG RAG SUMMARY (for convenience of CAL CAVER)

This year the SAG RAG begins its 21st volume, as both the newsletter and the grotto celebrate a 20 year anniversary. Bighorn draws a cave rat near newly described Rat Cave for the Jan-Feb cover. Inside, Liz Wolff provides a good map and article about Rat Cave. The issue also includes a map and article about Burgermeister, a sad cave situation typical of the kind of cave conservation problems present in far Northern California. Pluto's Cave gets a clean up, and some other ranting and raving makes this an issue with a conservation theme. **BB**

### Maps to Meetings



**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING**

January 11, 2002

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Jackson

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM. at the Broeckel's home in Yreka, adjourned at 8:48 PM.

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

Minutes: were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: The Jan. Balance \$766.27.

Correspondence: Bill Kenney read 4 e-mails from Steve Knutson regarding the Management Plan for Oregon Caves. He feels that there really is none and what they have has no date and has had no public input. There is no longer any e-mail to the Dept. of the Interior per court order. Have to contact in writing.

Old Business: On Dec. 18, 2001 there was a cave meeting which was attended by Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel and Forest Service personnel Juan De La Fuente, and Jon Chatoian. Our input for a cave management plan of the lavas was well received by Jon. Bill and Liz also told them that they feel the Marble Mtn. caves should also be included in the plan.

It was noted that Gary Hathaway who at one time ran the Fern Cave tours at Lava. Beds Nat'l Monument died of cancer just before Christmas. The 20th Reunion. It was thought that the weekend could be changed to our regular June Hat Creek Camp out weekend of June 14, 15, 16 or to the weekend before (June 7, 8, 9) We should if possible send a questionnaire to the membership to get a consensus to see what the best time for the most people would be.

New Business: It has been suggested that at the Feb. Presidents Day meeting we should schedule a cave cleanup trip to Sand Cave and/or Pluto's Cave. The meeting would be Sat. night and the cleanup trip would be on Sun. The actual day of the cleanup will be announced depending on the when the skiing takes place and how many interested people we have available. The New Officers for 2002 based on returned ballots are as follows: Chairman – Liz Wolff, Vice-Chair – Dick LaForge, Sec/Treas. – Melanie Jackson. Ray and Liz noted that the Market in Big Springs has been sending people to see Barnum Cave. but that they can not get in during the winter as that is when it is closed. Jim Stout has said that a handout for the public will be made on Barnum & Sand Caves. We will get to comment on it before it is given out to businesses or the Chamber of Commerce or visitor information centers.

Trip Reports: Bill Broeckel and his children surveyed three caves at Hat Creek. They were: Coney Island Cave, Face Plant Cave, and Diddlely Squat Cave. The combined total was 250 feet. Ray and Liz made a winter bat count in Barnum Cave. The entrance of Wiatangey Cave has been GPS ed. Bill Broeckel was at Lava Beds 12/23/01.

After the meeting:

Kay Miller showed those present how much he has accomplished on his cave data base and how the program works. He gave all present a copy of the information and would like input from us for any information that we have that he hasn't included. This would include any caves he wasn't aware of or any locations, descriptions, maps etc. Notify Ray. This is for the lavas only.

**MJ**

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO 20 YEAR REUNION SET**

By Liz Wolff

The 20 year reunion of the Shasta Area Grotto will be held the weekend of June 14-16 at the Hat Creek Campground in the Old Station area. Hopefully we will have many past members to visit, get reacquainted, and cave with. The program currently will have very few pictures of past activities, but with the participation of everybody, we should have a convivial weekend. If this reaches your current address, and you know of the whereabouts of other past members, please contact the Grotto secretary, Melanie Jackson, so we can contact more past members. Those we don't have addresses for: Ron & Beth Rogers, Tamara & Bob Steelman, Don Gibson, Mark Dawson, Todd Sobol, Rick Boatwright, Nathan Jones, Kyle Haines, Patrick Downes, Tim & Yumi Rich, John Talley, Patrick Smith, Tom Tyler, Mary Belle (Smith) Supple. **LW**

**BAT GATE FORUM From Joel Laws**

Permission is given to circulate this message to cave and bat lists, newsletters, biologists, and resource managers.

- \* Symposium with more than 50 invited presentations covering all aspects of closure design for cave and mine protection-site assessment, project planning, design options, species considerations, construction, maintenance, and resource monitoring.
- \* Proceedings will provide definitive "gating manual" for designing bat friendly protection options.
- \* March 4-6, 2002 (optional field trip on Thursday, March 7  
Austin, Texas  
Red Lion Hotel, 6121 N I-35 & US Hwy 290.
- \* Registration for forum is \$160. Registration for post-conference field trip is \$35.
- \* Registration details and information available at: [www.batcom.org](http://www.batcom.org)
- \* Sponsors and hosts include: US DOI Fish & Wildlife Service, Bat Conservation International, US DOI of Surface Mining, National Speleological Society, National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, Lower Colorado River Authority, Indiana Karst Conservancy, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The Coal Research Center – Southern Illinois University at Carbondale will be printing the proceedings. Post-conference field trip hosted by Texas Cave Management Association and Texas Cave Conservancy.

This technical interactive forum on Bat Gate Design will detail the best techniques for protecting important caves and underground mines used by bats. Proceedings from the event will be available on CD and in hard copy.

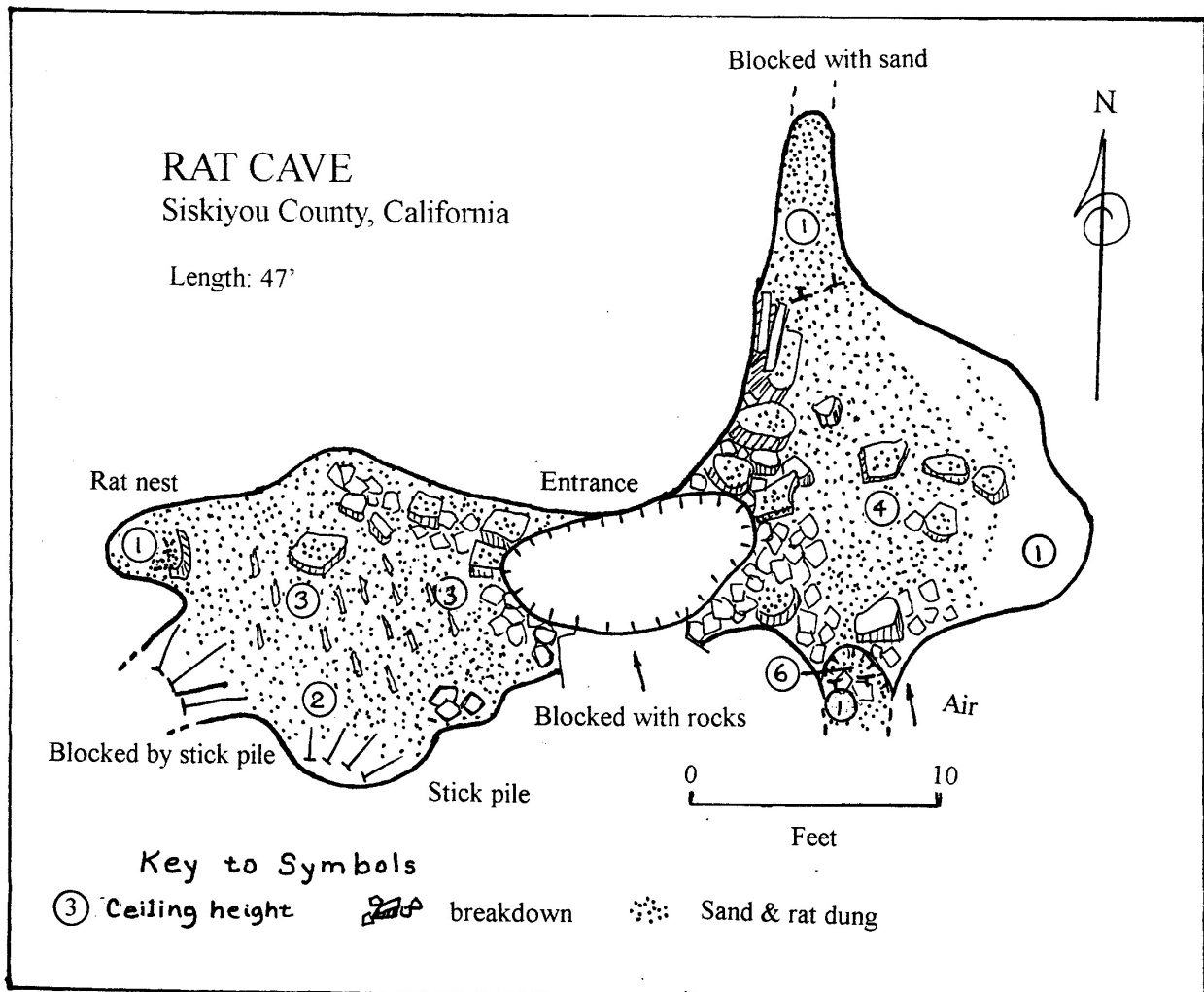
The proceedings will serve as a manual on building gates and other bat friendly closure devices. Major forum topics include: Why We Protect Mines and Caves; Project Planning; Closure Design; Construction Management; Monitoring and Maintenance, etc. Scheduling will allow participants to attend all talks and discussions. Knowledgeable speakers were carefully selected for each topic. More than fifty invited presentations are scheduled.

The Texas Cave Management Association and the Texas Cave Conservancy will co-host an optional field trip, on Thursday, March 7, following the conference. The tour will visit several gated caves in the Austin area. Purposes for these gates will be discussed: bat protection, endangered species protection, owner security, and protection from liability. Experienced cave managers will be on each site to answer questions and explain the construction, background, and history of the gates.

**RAT CAVE, SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA** By Liz Wolff

Late October, during the gating of Sand Cave, a Forest Service archaeologist who had found a cave was introduced to me. He said it was only a small cave (meaning ceiling height), but he hadn't gone into it so knew nothing about its extent. He led me up to it that afternoon, and I entered and told him it wasn't very long. It hadn't been named Rat Cave for nothing; both ends are carpeted with rat dung. The east end was mainly sand floored and the west, cobbles. We had hiked up to it, and walking back I followed on the maze of roads so I'd be able to return more easily.

A few weeks later I returned with Ray Miller to map the cave. It was a sunny afternoon in Shasta Valley and we were able to drive to within 25 feet of the cave. We made quick work of the survey leaving a blowing lead – a dig down into a lower level – for another day or digger. One sand-floored side passage could be dug open to possible cave beyond. The west end of the cave was decorated with three piles of sticks and the inevitable rat dung. The convoluted walls could hide a passage, but all were filled to the ceiling with the sticks. The average ceiling height throughout the mainly intact lava tube is between three and four feet, and there were no signs of any past use other than the rats. We were stumped for a location for the cave, thinking it to be farther east than it was. Ray had forgotten his GPS unit, so another visit was required to get a good location for the cave. **LW**



Map: Rat Cave

**PATRIOTISM, OR JUST PREACHING (AGAIN???)**

By Jim Wolff

Since I've retired from the USFS, I've had a (bit of) change of heart for "them", now that I used to be one of 'em. They have my sympathy, really, since they know very little about caves – let alone how to manage them! They REALLY need OUR help! Since I've dropped out of (got kicked out of) the chairmanship of the grotto, you can only take what I have to say from now on, about cave management, with a grain of salt .... But, I hope to be speaking for many of you out there, my readers.

Caves on Federal Lands are where we go caving, and the people (yes, that's what they are) that are managing "our" caves for us, can't really speak intelligently about the resource, caves. Sure, they have various resource specialists that COULD be interested, professionally, but haven't found the sources of data for local caves and what they contain. We can help fill in the blanks. In fact, WE ARE the source of data on the local caves. But why are we generally hesitant to give the FS the information? Because we have had some bad experiences in the past, even from the Rangers. But things are changing. The word has come from above (no, this is NOT another Christmas Story!) that they ARE to be managing caves, and they ARE to deal with us – the cavers! So, now they approach us with a simple plea for help, all kinds of it! This is very good, because we have always been available to help, but we met resistance only because we caught them with their hands in their pockets and flatfooted!

I have seen the grotto grow, mature in their thinking – of cave conservation, sure, but also in dealing with the Federal agencies too. Now, they come knocking on our doors in a very humble way, and assuming that WE are ready to hit the ground running, well, I don't see that! BUT, I do see us walking with little baby steps together, stumbling along way, but learning from each other, and growing more trusting in our professional relationships, with an understanding of where each person is coming from. We ALL want what's best for the cave, right? Then, let's GO FOR IT!

**JW****REGION FIVE CAVE MEETING 12-18-01**

I was asked to report on a meeting between SAG and the Forest Service that happened last December. We met in the Klamath National Forest HQ here in Yreka, my home town, which made it convenient for me. It seemed like an important meeting, and I felt nervous for no particular reason. The meeting was small and the format informal.

Present were Juan de la Fuente and John Chatoian, both geologists, for KNF and Region 5 respectively. Liz Wolff and I were from the Grotto. Jim Stout and Peter Van Susterin also came by. Jim Stout has an interest in caves on the Goosenest District, and Peter Van Susterin has been assigned to caves on the Shasta-T. Nobody came by from the Scott River Ranger District, or from some of the other cave bearing Forests and Districts.

The Grotto officially presented the input that we had been working on last Fall. This was condensed into about four pages. Two items were stressed. First, that the Marbles should not be left out of current cave management initiatives. Second, that people were needed at various levels of the system to be assigned to caves. We felt that a cave

management specialist for the entire "Northern California Province" would be ideal.

John Chatoian explained that there already existed a natural division of "Provinces" in Region 5, namely "Shasta-Cascade" (Plumas-Lassen-Modoc), and "Northern" (Klamath-Shasta T.-Six Rivers-Mendocino). John further asked for a review of issues specific to the Marbles, and some of the cavers concerns have been forwarded to him. Liz Wolff has also provided additional information on the possibility of a cave specialist position.

John Chatoian next had a long list of cave names from the Region 5 recreation maps. Liz and I had fun eliminating all the wild caves from the list. Our rule of thumb was to remove all caves, with the exception of commercial caves, or caves for which the government agencies currently encourage visitation in specific, such as at Subway Cave on Lassen National Forest.

The meeting was low key and did not result in any groundbreaking or astounding changes. But some small steps were taken, and it is good to know that several administrative levels are listening, are taking our input seriously, and are interested in improving cave management in the Shasta Area. **BB**

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO WEB PAGE**

By Robert Nixon

Virtual Caving?

No, not quite, but we do have a place on the web now. Our web site is up and running and after many hours of coding, all of which was enjoyed, we now have some cool features. The site is not there to be 'cool' or 'hip', but instead show what it is we do as a caving organization and the resource that we are attempting to preserve. A place for people to learn.

Some neat spiffy features that have been included are a Guest Book, a Web Message Board, a web based Form to email the grotto chair, webmaster, and rag editor. Also included is a page for you to submit pictures and word processing files for inclusion in the site. I have contacted various different people to have our site included as links (NSS & Western Region grotto pages as well as Cal-Caver).

Names and email addresses are not posted by me on the site, and only will be posted by you if you do so on the message board or the Guest book, both of those the email is optional.

Will the site be a hit?!?!? Will people respond to it?!?!? Will you help it grow?!?!?

Let's make this site work, and fulfill its intended purpose, to educate people about caves, and to help people interested in caving find us.

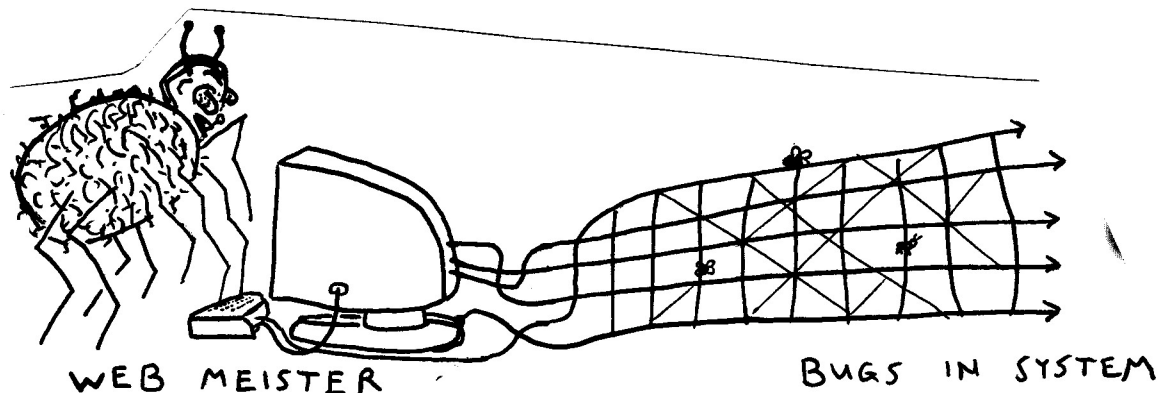
Any questions or comments about the site can be emailed to "Robert Nixon" [ralann@mac.com](mailto:ralann@mac.com)

I was wondering about possibly using some sag articles for the site, only ones that are appropriate though for the web. Also members with articles should be asked in my opinion if they are cool with that use of it and if they want their name appended to the article. **RN**

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT ON WEB PAGE**

By Liz Wolff

Why not publish the web address so people can see the job Robert has done so far? It may elicit some photos for the page. It is <http://sag.planetrobert.net>. The site needs our help. Robert has added a lot of general info to the various pages, but needs some pics. It would help and encourage him to get some more input. **LW**





## THE SAD CASE OF BURGERMEISTER

By B. Broeckel

We had one of the elite grotto survey teams out on the Medicine Lake Highlands last August. When we were finished scoping out the rescue practice site (for the rescue practice that ended up getting cancelled), there was time available for a cave survey. The cave Russ Yoder had suggested for the rescue practice came out of his considerable back log of "caves awaiting survey". This one was a real gem in the category of "problem caves". It looked like a cave, so we dove right in on survey.

Directions to the cave: After reaching the forest region, drive a long ways, eventually on some of the dustiest roads ever. These roads can be recognized, because the dust is so thick, it hides rocks up to the size of small watermelons. There are many confusing road junctions, with or without signs. It is not necessary to make correct choices, because the roads interconnect. One of the junctions with at least seven options was called "Dead Eyed Dog Junction", or something like that. When the route crosses the Goliath Volcano Lava Flow, and the Flow is very narrow, park the remains of the car. The cave is very close, definitely within a mile, within sight of some very distinctive trees . . .

We usually think that the Goliath Flow has been completely documented by great cavers, such as Bruce Rogers, in the last century. After all, they turned up some of the greatest Medicine Lake classics, with legendary names such as Catwalk, Gelsie, Sunbeam, and Balcony Pit. These were popular with the Gaping Holes Gang, who were the precursors to today's Shasta Area Grotto. The Goliath Flow is under 100 miles long, finite in extent, and Russ Yoder has been walking the length in segments and finding more caves in parts of the flow we have ignored more than explored. One of these we now call Burgermeister for the old beer cans. Yes, this is one sadly messed up cave.

Most of the trouble is at the entrance. The immediate surrounding use pattern is industrial in nature, cleared as a staging area for road building and tree harvesting operations. In fact, last summer some heavy equipment was parked on a dozed off spot directly over some of the main cave passages.

The sinkhole entrance itself was partially filled in with road gravel material and logging slash. But, this is mostly along one side of the sinkhole, so we were able to enter the cave without difficulty, and

carry on with the survey. It was just possible to crawl around under the near edge of the sinkhole, on the road fill and through the flies, ants, and spider webs. In this way, a human connection was made between the main cave and the next cave upflow. This next cave was just a bridge, so the whole combined enchilada became "Burgermeister Bridge Cave".

The survey went down the main passage first. Liz Wolff read instruments while Russ Yoder and Robert Nixon stretched tape. The passage had breakdown floors, steep walls, and some low crawlways off of high ledges, into which we would shine our light beams and shake our heads. We stuck to the big passage, mostly getting shots near the full length of the 50 foot tape. We passed an area with retrograde flow behind a blockade of lava slabs. There were some small pillars, and then the cave ended in a damp area characterized by strange red slime. This turned out to be quite close to a trench on the surface which we tied in by overland survey. This surface feature is shown at the bottom of the map that accompanies this article.

Moving over to the long parallel passage, we found surface tube features such as crescent shaped cross sections, lavacicles and very little breakdown. The general passage size was smaller, and we worried the cave would end too soon. We like to put Robert Nixon on lead tape, because he has a good luck record in making unexpected things happen on survey explorations. True to form, he was able to pull the dumb end through an extended one foot crawlway, adding a couple extra rooms, and reaching the deepest point in the cave. Total survey length for B.B.C. stands at 909 feet. A meticulous survey of the upper level crawlways would probably push the length out past 1,000 feet.

So to summarize. Here we have this 1,000 foot cave, unnoticed by local cavers until Russ Yoder happens to bring it to light in 2001. Meanwhile, it is getting beat up by field workers who clearly don't know any better, and are probably oblivious to the fact that these actions are in violation of state and federal law. Government officials are either unaware, unwilling, or looking the other way, already overburdened with other concerns, and hampered by budget cuts. Such is the state of cave conservation in the Shasta Area.

How many other Burgermeisters are out there, besides the ones we already know of? Quite a few, we suspect. But not without end, and not beyond count.

**BB**

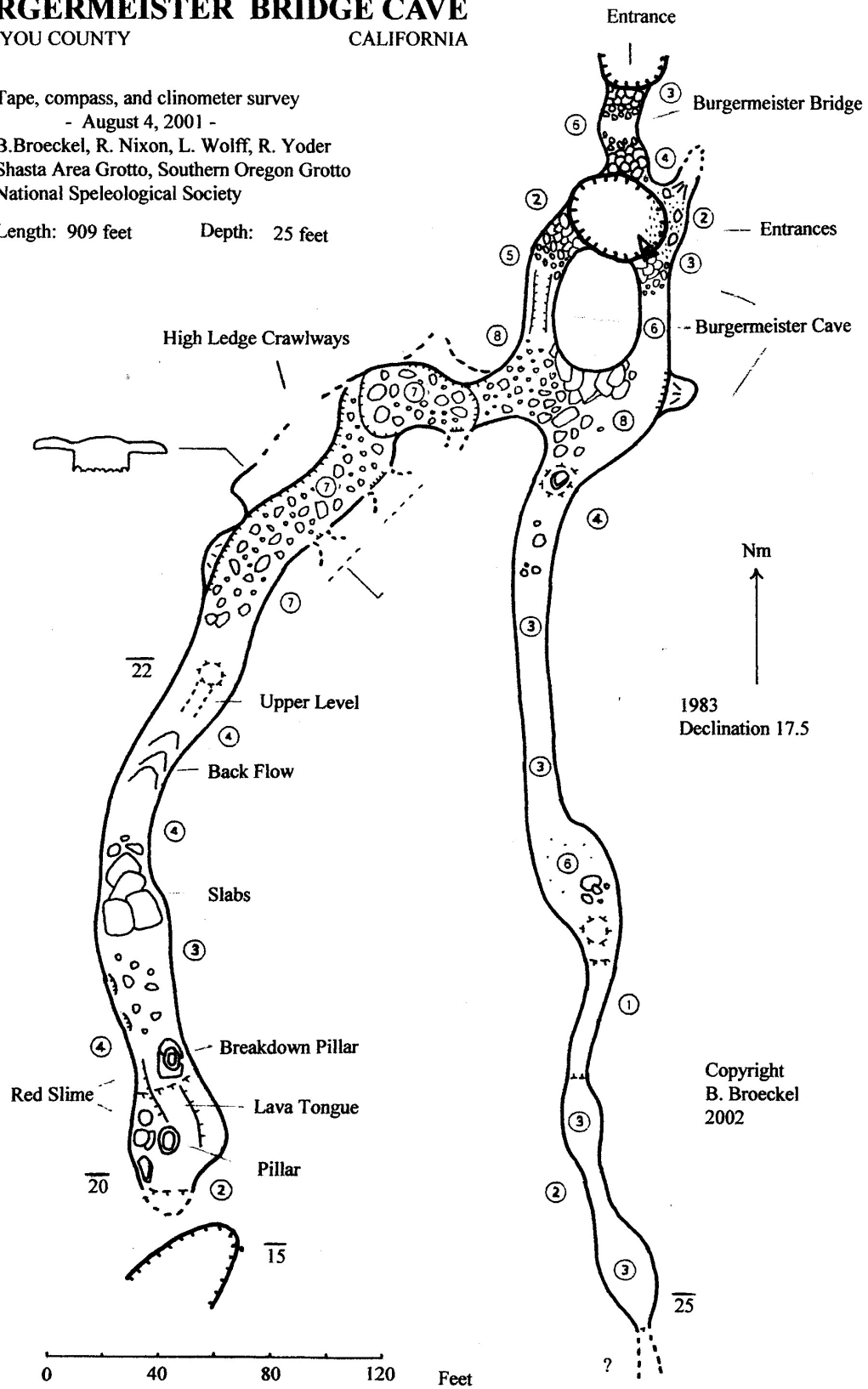


# BURGERMEISTER BRIDGE CAVE

SISKIYOU COUNTY CALIFORNIA

Tape, compass, and clinometer survey  
- August 4, 2001 -  
B. Broeckel, R. Nixon, L. Wolff, R. Yoder  
Shasta Area Grotto, Southern Oregon Grotto  
National Speleological Society

Length: 909 feet      Depth: 25 feet



## PLUTO'S CAVE CLEANUP

By Liz Wolff

Presidents Day Weekend saw seven SAG members and a visitor from the Syracuse University Outing Club of Syracuse NY donating 40 hours of time to pick up trash discarded in Pluto's Cave. We began work at 10:30 AM and finished up about 5:00 in the afternoon. The morning ended with a group of about 40-50 high schoolers from Grass Valley, some with flashlights, entering the cave. The adults among them commended us, while some of the kids thought we must surely be crazy to be picking up other peoples trash. "They wouldn't pick up trash, but wouldn't hesitate to throw it down?" I asked one boy, who replied he might or might not.

Robert Nixon made the big find of the day – a wheel rim – just minutes into the cleanup, and later in the day, the carcass of the car wrecked and stripped. The rest of the day was spent cramped into nooks and crannies, extending arms, legs, and sticks trying to get to cans and bottles just out of reach in the rubble. Oh, my aching back! Budweiser seemed to be a favorite of the bottled beer drinkers, with Coors in cans a close second. One intact and readable steel can dated 1933 was found. Two rusty quart-sized paint cans were fished out of a space under large boulders. Most of what we picked up was broken glass shards. Several unbroken bottles were found, and only one person reported getting cut by broken glass. Two hardy souls crawled into the cramped quarters of the last 200 feet of the cave with garbage bags in hand. About 50 pounds of trash was collected, excluding the wheel rim. Bats were counted on the last trip into the cave, coming up with 129 *Corynorhinus Townsendii*.

Participants: Melanie Jackson, Dick LaForge, Robert Nixon, Niels Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, and guest, Tim Schlegel of NY.

**LW**



SAG members in upper portions of Pluto's Cave.



Example of modern trash left in Pluto's Cave.



Example of historical graffiti found in Pluto's Cave.

If not already done, renew your yearly SAG memberships and newsletter subscriptions. No change in the prices.

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NSS#: \_\_\_\_\_ NSS# is current? \_\_\_\_\_

IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

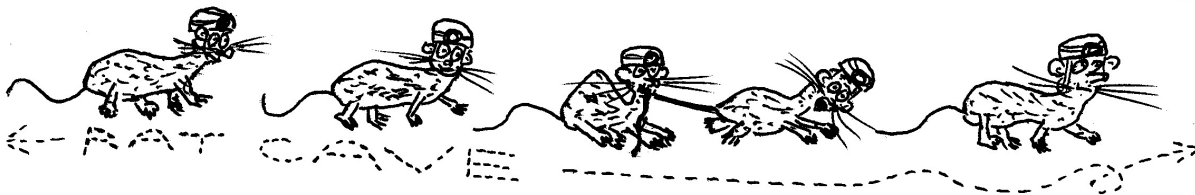
E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family (circle one).

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to subscribe to CAL CAVER too for another \$6.

\_\_\_\_\_ SAG RAG subscription only, without grotto membership. \$6.

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL. Make checks payable to "Shasta Area Grotto", (not "SAG") and send to Melanie Jackson 708 Yama Street, Yreka, CA 96097.



**SAG RAG**  
2916 Deer Mdws Rd  
Yreka CA 96097

**STAMP**

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