

sag rag

21:3

May-June 2002

Celebrating 20 years!

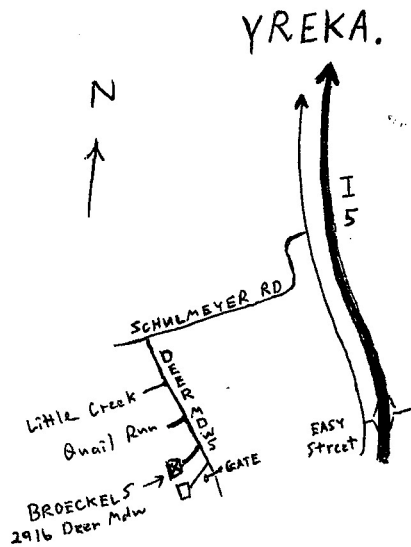


“So WHY is it called Handprint Cave?”

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

- July 12 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at the Wolffs in McCloud (530) 964-3123.
 Aug 3-4 WVG Sheridan Mountain. Contact Patti Williamson.
 Aug 9 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at the Broeckels in Yreka (530) 842-3917.
 Sept 9-15 10th International Symposium on Volcanospeleology, Reykjavik, Iceland.
 Oct 19-20 Western Regional c/o Desert Dog Troglodyte Grotto, near 29 Palms, CA.
 Aug 4-8, 2003 NSS Convention in Porterville, CALIFORNIA. (408) 356-8506.



SAG RAG SUMMARY

(for convenience of CAL CAVER)

There are so many local caves in the Shasta Area that the Grotto hardly ever actually goes anywhere. But in the May-June 2002 issue of the SAG RAG, we find one of those rare exceptions. Here is a trip report to the Black Rock Desert of Nevada. Other cavers and people have been to Handprint Cave, but those greedy cave mappers from Shasta came back with a cave survey. Liz Wolff renders a finished cartographic representation. Other Wolff maps fill up the issue with caves old and "new". These include Browns wHole Cave (230+ feet), and just a few of Russ Yoder's "new" lava finds at Sweet Sixteen (430 feet), Rattlecane (258 feet), and Big T (24x41 foot entrance chamber with lead in floor). Tough and cold, Browns wHole waited almost 20 years to get surveyed. Hey guys, it's about time! Bill Broeckel adds a 20 year history of the grotto newsletter, and hopes that the "RAG continues to SAG" for many more years to come. **BB**

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

April 12, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm in McCloud at the Wolff's home. Present were Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel, Jim Kottinger, and Bill & Cheryl Kenney. Minutes were accepted as read. Treasurer's report: April balance of \$795.87. Income \$50.00. Expense \$6.00 SAG RAG report: received an article from Bruce Rogers about Fleener Chimneys, but will need LBNM permission to print There is a SAG history article from Liz Wolff and Bill B. has not yet started on the RAG history (ed. see this issue)

Correspondence: Received from the FS: Shasta-T is getting ready to assess the roads status around the Forest. We are wondering about the criteria for closure of primary, secondary, and category 1 & 2 roads. Bill B. suggested all cave roads be well gated, maintained, and that SAG should have keys to all of them. Yeah, right. Received paper with responses to the closure of a ½ mile BLM cave road. Liz e-mailed FS to see how Cave Management Planning is going and hasn't had a reply back yet. Self rescue classes are coming up per e-mail from Cindy Heazlit.

Old Business: Yes, the Grotto is willing to help SAR with a rope practice, possibly May 18. We haven't heard anything more on our checking account with Washington Mutual Bank. Two weeks ago Ray Miller did an exit count at Sand Cave. The maternity colony was forming and he asked Jim Stout to close the cave gate for the season. Jim did close the gate and also opened Barnum Cave gate at the same time. Ray relocated a few bats in Barnum so they would be out of reach. Per Bill K. the Under Earth Weekend in Nevada's Black Rock Desert is on for April 26-28. He asks that we bring wood, water, and if it looks damp don't pull off the road as it is very slippery clay. Reunion: Jim W. hasn't reserved the campground yet. Ray M hasn't done anything about program presentation yet and won't until we are committed to a campground, and he knows who to contact. We have changed the weekend to June 21-23 at Hat Creek. Grotto letterhead can be printed on paper and envelopes at minimal cost, Bill B. will have this done.

New Business: Regarding Marble Mountain Quarry Cave. A letter was received from Leslie Welch saying that MMQC was having formations removed by the new owner. Ernie Coffman is checking into this allegation, and has found that Bryce is still the owner and only the official name has been changed to Campman Calcite which is the name of his business. They are taking commercial agricultural material from the lower area of the quarry, away from the cave. This is a business enterprise on private property so there is nothing for us to do but hope the cave(s) stay OK. There will be some visiting cavers from SFBC coming May 4-5 and the Memorial Day weekend the Columbia Grotto would like a vertical trip. We are considering which caves seem most suitable. They want to camp at Medicine Lake, but there may still be a lot of snow. Bill B. suggested that the Grotto should consider the purchase of its own GPS unit after we know our expenses from the Reunion Weekend. The Grotto might also get its own set of survey instruments.

Trip Reports: Ray M. and Liz W. selected and measured a site at Big Cave for possible gating and sent a letter to Jennifer Purvine the government biologist. Ray M. checked and relocated bats at Barnum Cave. Russ Y. looked around Timbered Crater and didn't find anything yet. He did find a new cave in another area. Bill B. went to Lava Beds three times in March.

Meetings: May 10th in Yreka at Melanie Jackson's. June 21-23 Reunion Weekend at Hat Creek.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm. Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

May 10, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 pm at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka. Present were Robert Nixon, Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel, and Arley Kisling. Minutes were accepted as read. Treasurer's report: May balance of \$802.07. SAG RAG report: we will go back to regular distribution numbers after last issue notices. Website report: still in progress with the site address at <shastagrotto.homeunix.net>.

Correspondence: Received a request to send money to save Rumbling Falls in Tennessee. Received a letter from Kathy Laforge with pictures from President's Day Weekend cleanup of Pluto's Cave. Received a response form Juan de la Fuente on 4-12-02 regarding the Forest Management Plan letter. He likes the idea of a temporary or halftime cave specialist and hopes to get funding for implementation. A request was sent for any issues we want brought up at the Congress of Grottos meeting at the Maine NSS Convention.

Old Business: Ernie Coffman has not heard from Bryce about the Marble Mountain Quarry Cave, even though he has left several messages for him. The May 18 SAG/SAR rope practice will be rescheduled. Ray Miller has not yet checked into GPS or survey instruments for the grotto. He did stop by the Forest Service Office while at Hat Creek and was informed that the amphitheater is ours to use on Sat. June 22 at 9:00 pm. The public will be invited and it will be advertised as such. He was also told that next time we want to reserve a campground loop we should contact Jim Barnhart and there is a possibility that we could get one for free. Bring something to sit on as there are splinters in the benches. Jim Wolff rented a loop for two nights for the reunion weekend of June 21-23. Liz is working on the letter and the old member invitation list. Melanie will send the letter to all present and past SAG members that we have addresses for. As far as caving at Hat Creek, Bill B. would like to do a survey of Elisha Cave. Memorial Day weekend is a vertical trip with Columbia Grotto.

New Business: Bill B. has opened communications with the Karuk Tribe. Harold Tripp is the natural resources person for the tribe, and he doesn't want to see any gates that keep animals out. He has agreed to meet with Bill to show him the ancestral map and to talk with him about caves in the area. Bill hopes to meet with him next month.

Trip Reports: Russ Yoder covered near Timbered Crater and didn't find any major caves. Bill B. took 22 kids from a church school that were on a 30 hour fast out to Pluto's Cave for 2-3 hours to do a cleanup and couldn't find much trash. Ray Miller finished and placed a sign in Sand Cave. Ray M. and Jim & Liz W. GPS'd 16 stations at Hat Creek. Ray M., Jim & Liz W., Bill B., and Russ went to see more of Russ Yoder's new caves. You may see more about it in the next SAG RAG (ed. See enclosed). These were Rattlecane, Sweet Sixteen, and Big T Caves. Coke Bottle, Browns wHole, and Tick City were other caves recently visited or surveyed.

Meetings: June 21-23 Hat Creek 20th Reunion Weekend, meeting Sat. night. July meeting TBA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING

June 21, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 pm at Hat Creek at the group camp loop. Present were Don Quinton, Robert Nixon, Liz & Jim Wolff, Ray Miller, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, and guests George & Janeal Tolentino from the Philippines. Minutes were accepted as read. Treasurer's report: June balance of \$747.87. Income (dues) \$24.00. Expenses \$149.00 campground reservation, \$27.20 postage (reunion). SAG RAG report not available. Website has been down for 1-1 ½ weeks due to hardware problems. Could use more pictures.

Correspondence: Those unable to attend (the reunion), but responded were Brent Ort, Dick & Kathy Laforge, The Hendersons, Ernie Coffman, Jay Swofford, and Steve Knutson.

Old Business: SAG/SAR rope practice will have to be arranged on a non-SAR training weekend with at least two weeks notice or more. We will talk with Dave Nicholson about arrangements and see if we can use the building for just SAG practice. As far as purchase of a GPS for the grotto, no real research has been done. Four people within the Grotto have their own. We will see what we want to do in regards to purchasing a GPS after the reunion expenses are paid and the need still exists for the grotto to purchase one.

New Business: Several grottos have contacted us saying that they want to trim expenses by sending their newsletters via e-mail. This topic tabled until the next meeting.

Trip Reports: The Broeckel family, Jim & Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, and Ray Miller have been surveying a lot. There have been three survey trips to Leaping Lizards Cave, found by Russ Yoder, with 4140 feet surveyed and one lead left to do. Upper and Lower Katealma Caves are estimated to have 2400 feet of passage. Russ Yoder and Liz Wolff surveyed ½ of Lower Katealma. Five or six other caves in the area have been scooped. A couple of others have drops of possibly 30 feet. We would like to have a vertical trip on the June 28th weekend. Ray Miller and Liz Wolff have been doing bat exit counts.

Meetings: July meeting will be at the Wolff's in McCloud.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson

MJ

SAGA OF THE SAG RAG By Bill Broeckel

With the Grotto celebrating 20 years, this history of the newsletter is offered for the convenience and enjoyment of the readers. This is probably the easiest aspect of Grotto history to study, since the archive of the SAG RAG is both the source and the subject considered. The archive currently contains a complete set of SAG RAGs, and even printing copy for some of the issues.

The first editor of the SAG RAG was Claude Smith. He took on this job in conjunction with his role as the founding Chairman of the Shasta Area Grotto in 1982. The combined task was unenviable, though Claude came to his editorship with previous experience. He had served as editor of the Valley Caver, the newsletter of the Mother Lode Grotto, in 1973. "He published his one and only issue: Volume 12 #1, which covered January/February of 1973, before leaving the grotto soon after to move to Redding." (Hardekar, Morley 2001, MLG History, internet version).

Claude also brought previous caving experience to the new grotto, and he wasn't the only one. The first trip report in the premier issue of the newsletter was Mark Fritzke's exploration of a new entrance to Upstream Cave and the discovery of another cave in the Marbles. Over 1,000 feet of new cave passage were surveyed. The other trip report in the first newsletter covers a survey trip to Powder Hill led by Claude and the Wolffs. They mapped four caves with a total length of nearly 2,000 feet, including 956 feet in the lava tube Jim Wolff discovered that day – Rooty Tooty Cave.

A standard and a pattern were set. After twenty years 'one of the main purposes of the SAG RAG and the grotto is still to record and document caves in the Shasta Area. The member list shows that the grotto grew from the 11 charter members (see last issue) to a total of 20. Included among those joining early were Glen Everest, Mark Fritzke, Tom Hesseldenz, Roger Jones, Dick Laforge, Don Quinton, and Neils Smith. The newsletter was typed and copied on a computer. The initial cover reproduction was by Ron Rogers.

The first cave mentioned in the newsletter is Patrick's Point Cave. The first cave map appeared on the cover of Vol. 2, No.1. It was a sketch of Melvin Cave. Many trip reports were from the front lines of cave exploration in remote locations. Reading these issues, it is clear that the Grotto was formed by cavers already operating at a high level in the Shasta Area.

Shasta Area Grotto Newsletter

Claude made it clear that he didn't want to continue being the editor for long. Never-the-less, he retained this position in 1982, 1983, and in the first part of 1984. He gave his wife Mary Belle credit for helping him with the production. Beginning with Volume 3 No.3, a new husband and wife team took over editing the SAG RAG: Jim and Liz Wolff.

The Sag Rag

The Wolffs started their tenure as "interim editors" with pleas for articles and for somebody else to take over as regular editor. After a couple issues, they gave up the "interim" modifier and accepted their role as full time permanent editors of the grotto newsletter. This term would continue until mid 1991 for a total of seven years. Ray Miller served as substitute editor on the Mar-Apr issue of 1990, when Jim and Liz were busy getting ready for the NSS Convention in Yreka. There were also a couple of issues in 1988 that Jim Wolff edited solo, when the electronic production system went south.



While the artistic efforts of Arley and Sharon Kisling appeared early on, it has been the artwork and map making of Liz Wolff which has flourished in the SAG RAG over the years. In addition to the normal flow of format and information, I think each editor brings some greater aspiration as well. Claude wanted documented exploration and some humorous written content. Liz brought in excellent graphic arts. Jim has a certain caver quality that adds a flavor of authenticity to the RAG. Ray Miller's editing efforts sprinkled in a pinch of dry wit and wisdom. Dick Laforge made his debut as Newsletter Review Editor in 1991, and added a wealth of cave related experience and insight.

CAVERS CALENDAR

So to this mix came Judy Broeckel in Sep-Oct 1991. She was different, in that she did not have so much previous caving experience. She was quite literate, however, and added sweet innocent charm to the paper. Bruce Rogers, who contributes to the SAG RAG from time to time, recognized her position and offered words of encouragement. Judy was the first Broeckel editor, but was too shy to embrace the title. So she considered herself the SAG RAG typist, with a one year term. I helped with the lay out.

Continued on page 12

BLACK ROCK DESERT – Another Under Earth Weekend

By Jim Wolff

I think we can safely say that “it’s Kenney’s fault” that we went at all! And thanks to him we had a successful adventure, plenty of fresh air and lots of exercise, and good limestone to check. We even mapped a cave while we were there! Here’s how it all went:

Liz and I went to Bill and Cheryl’s place Thursday evening for a good and early start Friday morning. The drive was uneventful, we viewed some amazing scenery, wildlife sightings (birds, antelope, a coyote and wild burros). The price of gas in Denio Junction, NV was \$2.07.9 / gallon. Upon arrival, the three of us set up the wall tent of Dave’s, (Bill’s brother) so we would have a warm shelter from the elements. Dave was to be there that night, so we thought the tent would make a good landmark, since nothing is higher than the (low) sagebrush out there! Besides, it had to be a better windbreak than the truck! And yes, it was! After setting up the tent, we went ridge walking. We went chasing after some obvious openings that we saw from camp. Didn’t find much, so it looked like we were going to have to go farther into the field to find caves.

Bill had thoughtfully brought some firewood along (I forgot to bring some like I said I would). Anyway, Dave showed up right on time and we soon found that the tent stood up well under EXTREME conditions by withstanding VERY strong winds and hailstones during a brief storm the next day! Finally, we all settled into the tent for the night eating, playing cards and swapping stories around the wood stove, while the wind wailed away at the tent. What comfort!

Saturday, we headed for our main objective, Handprint Cave. We had heard that the cave was written up in a trip report in one of our grotto newsletter exchanges, so we started to check out the cave description and sketch map. Everything seemed to check out well enough with the old trip report. We found the pot-hunter’s excavation holes that were shown on the sketch map in the article, plus two others the report hadn’t mentioned. I couldn’t find any trash from recent visitors, or any other traces of use – other than very old vandalism of the cave’s formations. We did find a tag that the Canadian archaeologists (Ruth Gruhn and Alan Bryan from University of Alberta, Edmonton did studies in 1987 and published in 1988.) The tag that they left behind, confirms that indeed, work was done in this cave a couple of decades ago ...

The cave is basically one big room with leads going up and into the hillside. Flowstone and rat guano covers most of the cave’s breakdown and walls. Droppings and stains indicate roost or colony sites of bats with the strong odor of Taderida bats. We didn’t see any of the animals. Further along on our survey, we stumbled across the articulated legs, hip and spine of maybe a coyote that was mentioned in the report. Anyway, we surveyed up a flowstone slope to a lead, a 50 degree slope. The lead had good potential, but according to the earlier report, it definitely didn’t go. It seems as though it was pushed, with a handline (we turned around for the lack of one ...), so it didn’t make me lose any sleep for not going up there! We were in the cave for 2 ½ hours.

The cave area is most intriguing. Solution holes dot the surface of the cliffs. We successfully visited about 30% of the openings, due to the lack of artificial aide and energy to reach some of them. Mostly, the case was we were turned back only after reaching the last handhold or foothold, just before the rather airy over-hung ledge of an entrance. Sometimes we could tell as we got near that they didn’t go, but most of the time we had to trudge up there, only to be discouraged – yet, we held on with hope that a big cave like Handprint would be over the next ledge, the next ridge. Getting up to the caves was a major chore with slopes at the angle of repose: 35 degrees.

The limestone is a very good quality, and does solution away rather well, too well in some places. There were places where ex-cave showed its pure white flowstone glory, in broad daylight. Funny to see cave formations on the surface! The dimensions of the limestone outcrop, by Kenney’s reckoning, is about 3 ½ miles long and varies in width from ½ to 1 ½ miles with a maximum height of 1800’.

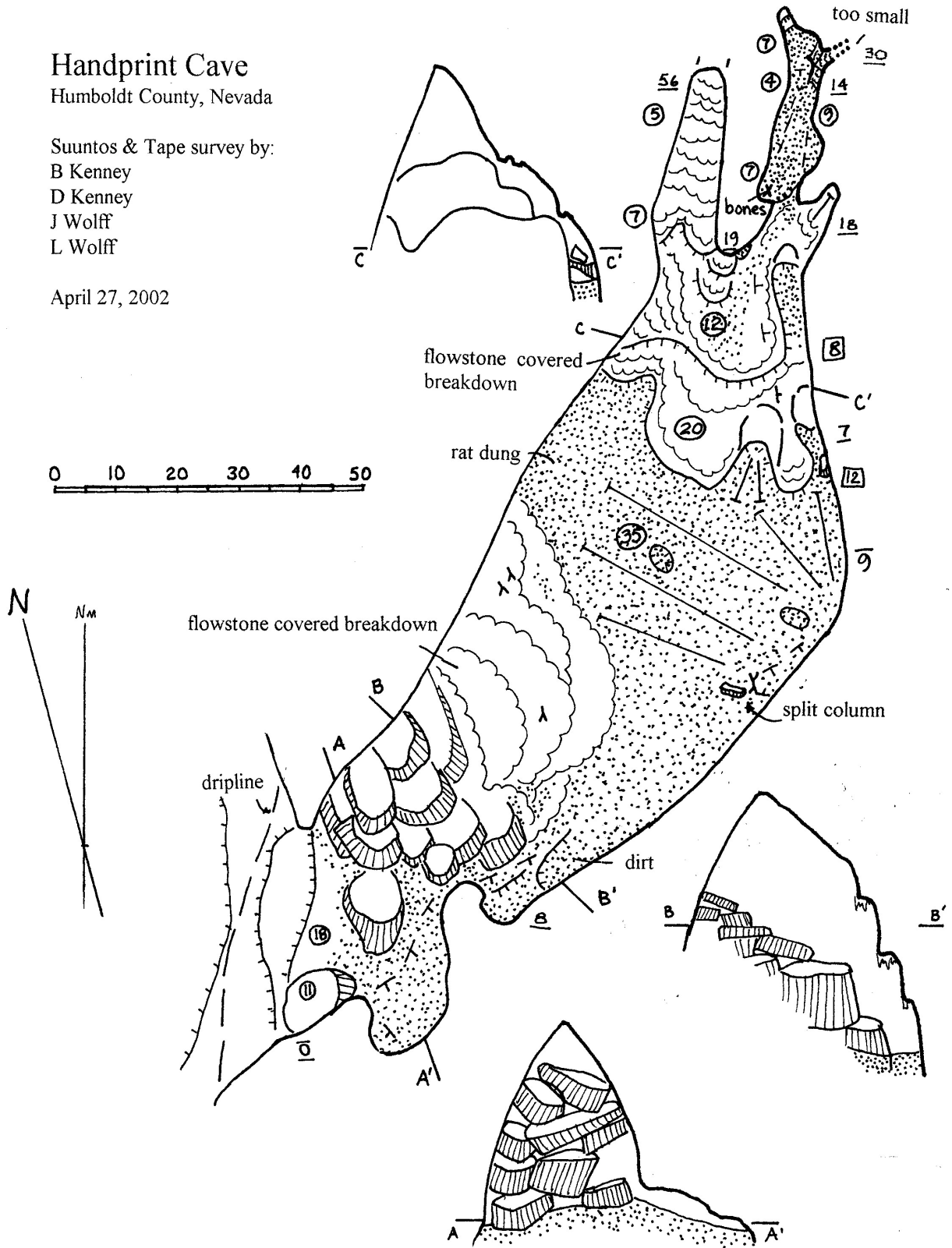
It is a shame that nobody had a camera to capture the beauty and the moods of the Black Rock Desert (it would take a LOT of film to do it!). Liz did some sketches of the cliffs and entrances. I think I’ll be back again, next time with more time, and a camera! **JW**

Handprint Cave

Humboldt County, Nevada

Suuntos & Tape survey by:
B Kenney
D Kenney
J Wolff
L Wolff

April 27, 2002



Map: Handprint Cave

Coke Bottle Cave, Browns wHole Cave, and Tick City Cave in ONE day By Jim Wolff**Coke Bottle Cave**

After the April SAG meeting five of us agreed to meet at our place at 9am Saturday morning. We hustled out there as fast as we could, considering the roads were overgrown in White Thorn and manzanita, and deeply rutted, we got to the caves successfully. Anyway, "we" (meaning, Bill Broeckel, Russ Yoder, Ray Miller, Jim and Liz Wolff) were able to first get to Coke Bottle Cave by clearing the roads (to each cave), with muscle and sharp axe.

Coke Bottle, as well as the other caves we saw that day are not lava tubes. They are lava caves that are a jumble of boulders along one side of a pressure ridge or a flow margin that trends north/south across the cave area in a moderately timbered brush field. My theory is that the caves are at a contact of two or more flows, and perhaps at one time one flow may have resided on top of a mudflow, perhaps. They are always wet and quite cold. Subsequently, like the day we saw these caves, you tend to get VERY muddy! Liz would like to remap Coke Bottle someday because several features were left out of the original survey (one of my first attempts at bookkeeping). Besides, Liz found us enough good-looking potential cave entrances in the immediate area, that we WILL be poking our noses into when we do go out there again! I was unable to relocate the old coke bottle fragment that the cave was named after, but I recall the bottle was made or bottled in Redding, CA in the early "teens" ...

Browns wHole Cave

After lunch we went into Brown's wHole Cave. We knew this one would get us really cold and muddy. (It did!) Surveying in, I went first, dragging the survey tape and describing to everyone and trying to prepare the safest route down a very steep and muddy incline. I had to set one station in a bad spot, in order to pick up the room under the slope above; the canyon-like passage to the south with its leads near the ceiling; AND the rest of the cave beyond the crawl where the stones (that acted like ball bearings), had the effect that they piled up under you, especially when you make a huge push (uphill) on your belly. Kinda pinned you up to the ceiling ... ! To make a long story short (er), we mapped the cave 239.6 feet in a little over two, very cold hours. We saw some calcite-like draperies being formed along a steep angled edge, on the underside of a huge boulder. It is an off-white beauty, that everyone should try to avoid touching. We saw white bugs in there, real millipede-like guys. I also saw moth wings too, indicating possible bat use in the cave.

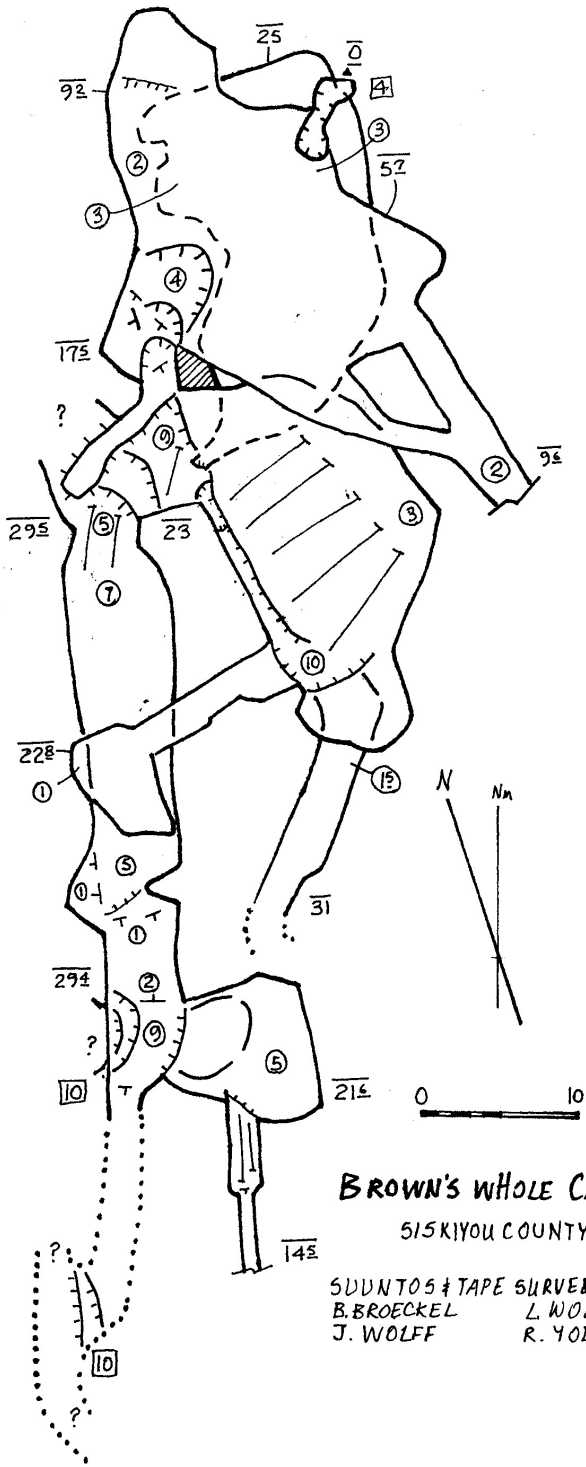
Tick City Cave

After finishing that cave, we decided to go try and find Tick City Cave. (Apparently, everyone was having so much fun that THEY [not I] wanted to go map the worst of the worst!) And all we had to do is follow a sketch map, which helped sort out which road to follow. With "roads" and abandoned ones, all overgrown in brush and spaced about a quarter mile apart, a guy could easily lose a cave or himself! So, after a bit of clearing the road of a fallen snag and a pole-sized green tree, we were able to drive to the cave. As I remember the cave, the two times I was in (a LONG time ago), is a very low cave, with little opportunity to turn around, until you reach the present end of the cave. This time Russ and Bill found ice in the crawl all their way to the point of return. The lead that remains is a dig, with slight air movement out of it. I don't think these guys will ever want to see THAT cave again!

NOT the end of the story, read on

(There is a timber sale in the immediate area of the caves, and we need to insure that any logging activity is minimized. Directional falling away from the caves, re-rerouting the skid roads and making sure they don't put a landing right over the top of the cave! I believe these caves have slipped through the cracks [so to speak], and were overlooked administratively in sale planning and layout. And all it should take to protect them is a letter to remind the FS that these caves have already been nominated for significance, and the originals are on file at the Shasta Trinity NF office in Redding ... Of course they've never been signed off making it official)

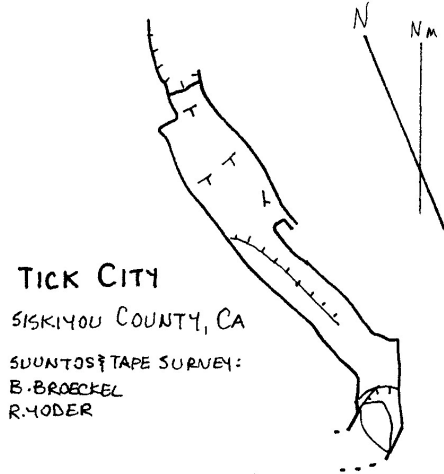
JW



BROWN'S WHOLE CAVE

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CA

SOUNDINGS & TAPE SURVEY BY:
B. BROECKEL L. WOLFF
J. WOLFF R. YODER

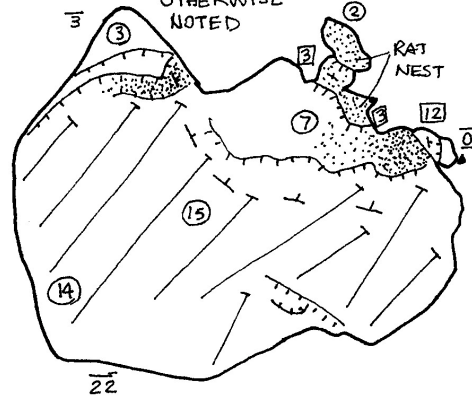


TICK CITY

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CA

SOUNDINGS & TAPE SURVEY:
B. BROECKEL
R. YODER

BREAKDOWN THROUGHOUT UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



BIG T CAVE

SHASTA COUNTY, CA

SURVEY BY
B. BROECKEL
L. WOLFF
R. YODER

Map: Big T Cave, Brown's Whole Cave, Tick City Cave

RUSS DIGS CAVES By Bill Broeckel**Big T Cave**

The next day (April 14, 2002) we were at it again. You see, Russ Yoder really likes lava caves, and was anxious to show us some more in Eastern Shasta County. Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff, and I caught up with Russ and we all hiked out through the bushes to a snug vertical entrance Russ had recently hit upon. We used a cable ladder and found ourselves in a curious chamber. It measured 24 by 41 feet, with a sloping breakdown floor, rounded ceiling, and a lead in the rocks part way down. We looked at the lead for awhile. Russ decided to name this cave "Big T". The "T" is for terror, from the vise-like vertical entrance and the loose rocks.

Rattlecane Cave

Russ knew about some other caves not far away, so we hiked off down the flow ½ mile or so. We were led to a nice looking lava sinkhole with some dry cane bushes that rattled as we pushed them aside to enter the cave. The survey was done as we explored the cave. The main passage came to a scenic groundswell of lava. Bodysurfing over the swell, we could go through two passages to reach a pooling area in the final chamber. The cave was mostly free of breakdown. Husks from seeds and nuts were found in the floor cracks, as if the cave was being used as a feeding station by small animals. One bat was seen flying around inside. The total survey length was 258.3 feet. Russ named this one "Rattlecane" for the brush in the entrance sinkhole.

Sweet Sixteen Cave

The last cave was the best of all. We kept rolling on the survey, in fact we did a surface traverse to the next three entrances. All three go into Sweet Sixteen Cave. Dirt banks were present at the entrances, but the remainder of the cave showed original unbroken surfaces. The first entrance was merely a small hole in the floor of a very short segment of surface tube. Daylight comes through, but the hole is too small for people.

The middle entrance is a duckunder into a sizable lava tube passage. A single bat was hanging from the ceiling. The passage goes over a hump and then down a body tube descent to reach a small sand banked room. A very low, flat passage continues. Instead of pushing this, we went back out and started in the third entrance. This also was a nice lava tube, with lots of secondary mineral decorative values. Near the lava seal at the extremity of this tube, we were able to extend a tape measure under a low spot and reach the station set at the end of the survey on the other side of the cave. We also found a hidden side passage, and all told we mapped 430 feet in Sweet Sixteen Cave. I don't know why the cave was named Sweet Sixteen, you will have to ask Russ.

BB

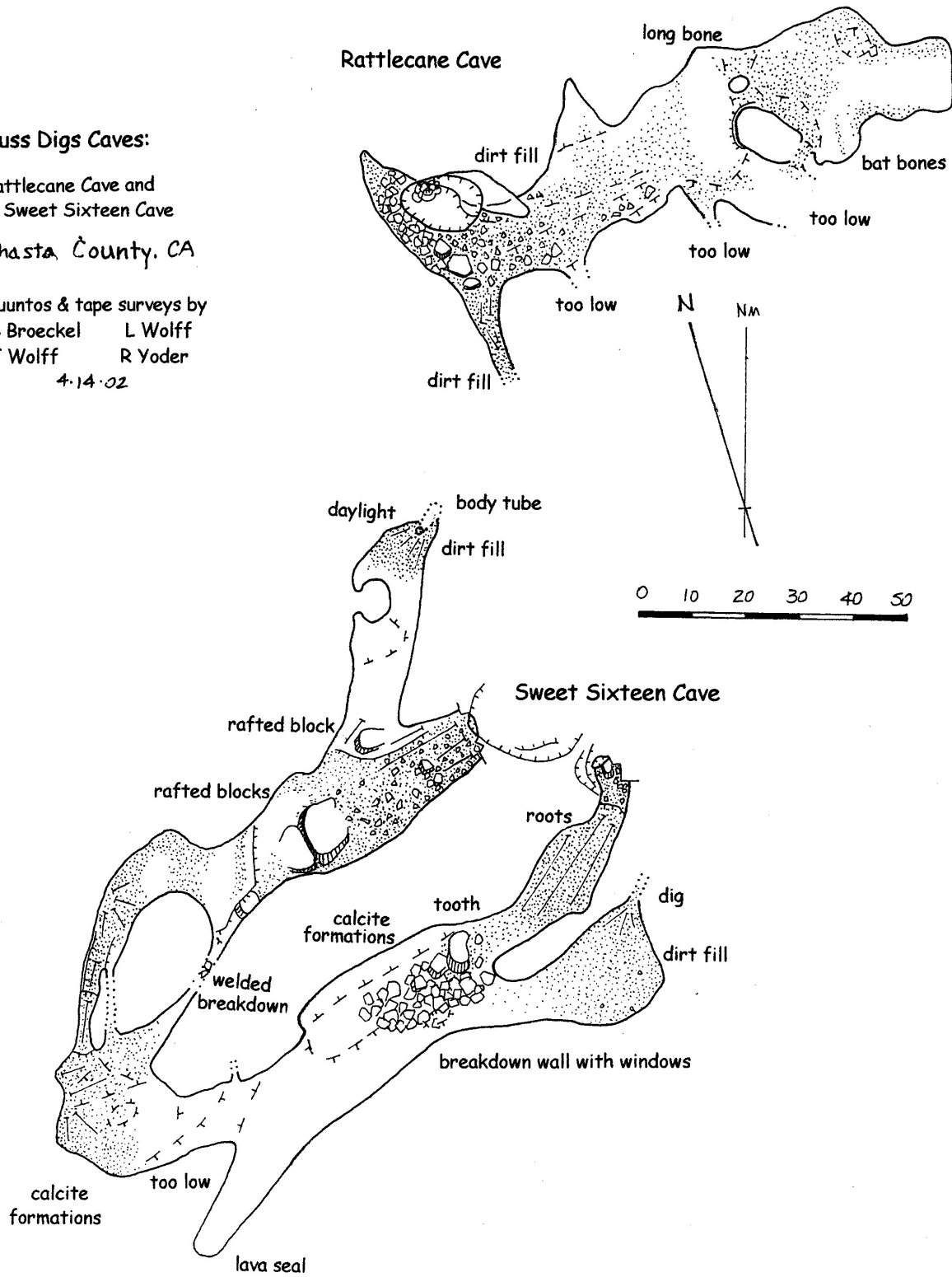
Liz Wolff at the entrance to Rattlecane Cave

Russ Digs Caves:

Rattlecane Cave and
Sweet Sixteen Cave

Shasta County, CA

Suuntos & tape surveys by
B Broeckel L Wolff
J Wolff R Yoder
4.14.02



Map: Rattlecane Cave, Sweet Sixteen Cave

Continued from page 5

There is a story about the printing of the first Judy Broeckel issue. Ray Miller had been doing the printing of the SAG RAG because he had access to equipment at the Sisson Museum. We were aware of that in a vague sort of way, so when the masters were ready, they were put into a big envelope and sent off to Ray for printing. Now Ray was off on an extended leave, I think it was Florida, so he was surprised when the envelope

caught up to him and he realized the situation. Luckily we had made some test copies, and were able to get the newsletter out from these. The enormity of the task was beginning to dawn.

Judy continued as "typist" for a year that stretched to 1 ½ years, then declared that her term was done, and turned the SAG RAG over to Ben Sutton. Ben took over

SAGRAG



the whole works in 1993, and was known for using large cartoons for cover art. At the end of the year, I became editor and have continued to the present time. However, Ray Miller was once again called in as Pinch-Editor at the end of 1994 when the Broeckels got too busy. I say "Broeckels" because even though I have been Editor, Judy continues to assist the process. Yes, this is another husband-wife editing team.

The newsletter has gone through changes over the years. When Claude started out, six 20 cent stamps would get you a mailed subscription, and most issues were handed out at the meetings. Now the cost is \$6 per year, and the copy number runs as high as 80 for certain issues. The RAG gets the news out to the Grotto members, and communicates our perspectives to the greater world as well. Issues are sent to the exchanges, the Region, the NSS, and even the government at times.

Many writers have submitted articles for publication over the years, some with one time contributions, others on a regular basis. The quality of the work fully depends on the flow of submissions from a variety of sources. All of the editors have appreciated these efforts from the beginning. Efforts have been made to keep costs down, and at \$6 per year, or one dollar per issue, the SAG RAG remains one of the great bargains of western caving. May the Rag continue to Sag for many years to come.

BB**sag rag**

Celebrating 20 years!
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| | |
|---------|--|
| Page 1 | Cover: Handprint Cave cartoon |
| Page 2 | Caver Calendar |
| Page 2 | Issue summary for Cal Caver |
| Page 2 | Maps to the SAG Meetings |
| Page 3 | Apr, May, & June Minutes – M. Jackson |
| Page 5 | Saga of the SAG RAG – B. Broeckel |
| Page 6 | Black Rock Desert – J. Wolff |
| Page 7 | Handprint Cave map – L. Wolff |
| Page 8 | Three caves in One Day – J. Wolff |
| Page 9 | Three cave maps – L. Wolff |
| Page 10 | Russ Digs Caves – B. Broeckel |
| Page 11 | Two more cave maps – L. Wolff |
| Page 12 | SAG RAG Saga (continued) – B. Broeckel |
| Page 12 | Table of Contents |

TO:

Remove Staple For Inspection