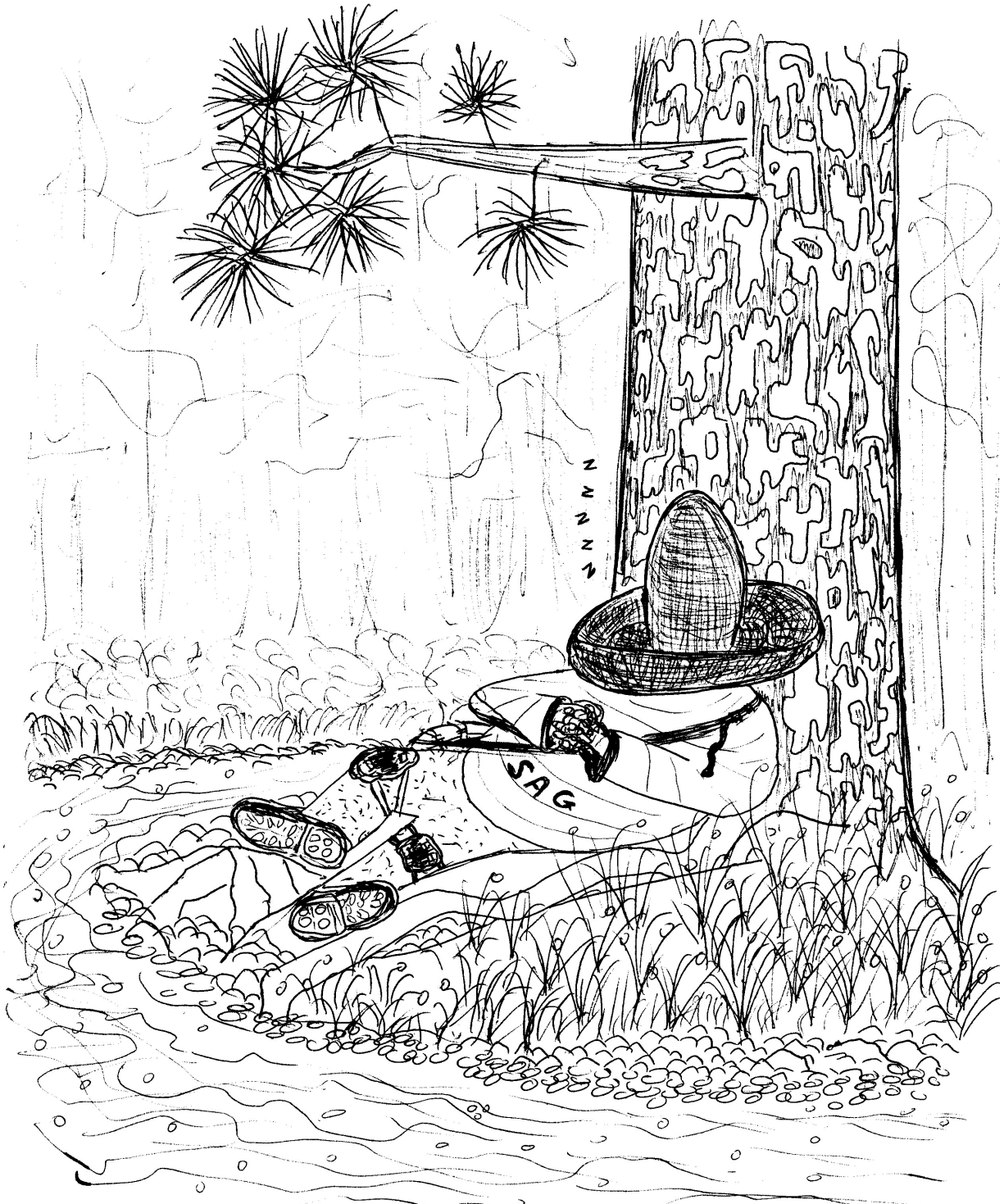


# sag rag

21:5

Sept-Oct 2002

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



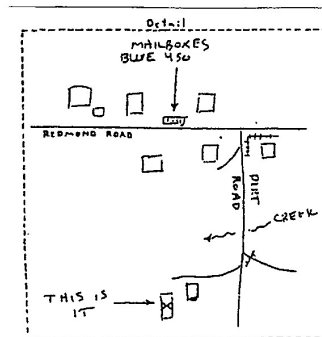
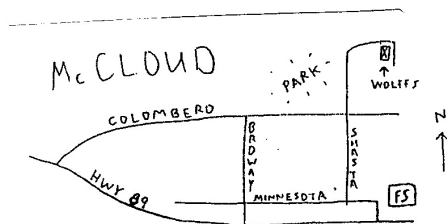
MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE PONDEROSA, "RIDGEWALKING" AT HAT CREEK

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>.

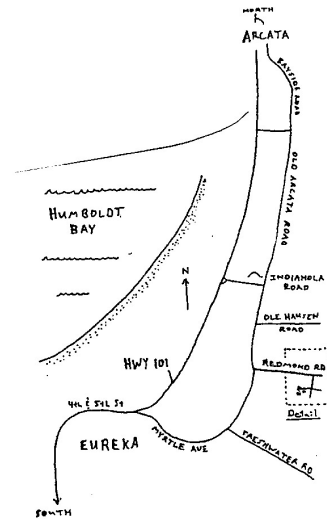
## CAVERS CALENDAR 2002

Nov 16, 2002 7:30 pm SAG meeting at LaForge home in Eureka to follow potluck supper.  
 Dec 13, 2002 7:30 pm SAG meeting at Wolff home in McCloud.  
 Aug 4-8, 2003 NSS Convention in Porterville, CALIFORNIA. (408) 356-8506.

### MAPS TO MEETINGS



DICK AND KATHY LA FORGE  
 450 REDMOND ROAD  
 EUREKA CA 95503  
 H (707) 443-2126



## THE CHAIR CREAKS – Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory By Liz Wolff

Hello grotto members.

The Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory finally has the protocols set by the FS for the search for caves and bat roosts. The boundaries are now set at 2000', somewhat less than the previous guess that it would be around 2km. The smaller area is offset by a deadline for field work of 2 weeks. They would like to have our results by the 15th Nov so that they can have their environmental review out by 2 Dec for comment.

Any entry we want to/through observatory property must be arranged in advance, especially for the weekend. They will reimburse mileage on request (I didn't think to ask Douglas Bock of the observatory how much per mile ...) Carpools are to be encouraged.

Soo-o-o, if you have any free days during the next 2 weeks, please let Ray or I know so we can set up field trips. Jim & I have Monday, Wed, Fri-Sat. We will camp (brrr ...) Friday nite. We plan to look for caves Monday, leaving at 9am and returning around 3pm. Similar on Wed and Friday. Anyone wanting to join us will be welcome.

I will make arrangements if there is anyone interested in a trip next weekend. I can provide directions to the area for anyone who doesn't know where we will be working.

Liz Wolff  
 SAG Chair

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

A tired SAG member falls asleep while ridge walking at Hat Creek, as depicted on the cover of the Sept-Oct SAG RAG. Inside Liz Wolff recruits help for the Radio Observatory cave hunting project near Hat Creek. Bill Broeckel wraps up the Shasta Area Grotto 20th anniversary reunion at Hat Creek with an article about the event, and three new cave maps. These show Elisha Cave (2,028 feet), Daycrawler Cave (598 feet), and Miller Time Cave (183 feet). Elisha was discovered by Lane Rau, and is currently the third longest cave in the Hat Creek area. Ray Miller found the small entrance to Miller Time Cave in 2001. Daycrawler was fully explored and mapped during the reunion. All three caves are closely related and are presented as a group. The issue thus stands as an interim report on the Hat Creek "project" now over five miles in mapped cave passage, thanks to Lane Rau and the reunion based surveys. Long live the SAG. **BB**

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING**

September 13, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka. Present were: Dave Nicholson, Steve Dagitz, Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Melanie Jackson, Russ Yoder, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Bill Broeckel, and guests Robert Turk-Bly, Kristina Howard, and Amber Neilson. Minutes were accepted as read. Treasurer's report: September balance is \$596.73. SAG RAG report: possible map of Elisha Cave if OK with those who discovered it.

Correspondence: Comments and letters from Liz Wolff and Ray Miller available regarding a meeting they attended for the Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory. The observatory wants to expand. Ray and Liz talked mainly about bats. As to whether or not there will be a problem regarding caves due to expansion of the observatory remains to be seen. It is unknown at this time. Bill Broeckel received a good letter from Lane Rau including SAG dues for two years.

Old Business: Juan de la Fuente is to present the proposed KMCTF revised MOD to Scott River Ranger District. KMCTF chairman Steve Knutson was also able to speak directly with Ray Haupt and Charlie Kraus. The November meeting at the coast will be moved to November 16 at the LaForge home in Eureka. SAG/SAR will have a vertical practice at the So. County SAR building in Mt. Shasta on Sat. Oct. 5th at 10:00 am. It will be training for beginners and help anyone who wants to adjust their equipment or just plain get some vertical rope practice. A second training will be held Oct. 26th at 10:00 am. in a cave the place to be announced before that date. (ed. The Oct. 5th practice was moved outdoors to Worthless and Sunbeam Pits. The Oct. 26 practice was postponed.)

New Business: Jim & Liz Wolff and Ray Miller visited Barnum Cave 9/13 in the afternoon to check on its condition which is very bad. Vandalism in the form of graffiti is extreme. Ray Miller suggests that the FS be asked to close the gate indefinitely until the cave can be cleaned up. How and when the clean up would be accomplished will be discussed further. The grotto passed a motion that we agree with Ray's suggestion and ask that he be the one to contact the Goosenest Ranger District about the temporary closure of Barnum Cave and to consider clean-up and management options. Ray said he will e-mail Jim Stout, Juan de la Fuente, Jon Chatoian, and Linda (?). Currently only two keys to the gate are available. Ray Miller and the Goosenest District have them. Cave restoration can only be accomplished during the summer. Bill Broeckel was told to continue working on a Grotto letterhead to include address.

Trip Reports: The following people have made trips to the Marbles at different times during the season so far: Jim Wolff, Steve Dagitz, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Bill & Benj Broeckel, Mark Fritzke, Steve Knutson, Ben Miller and party, Mark Harder, Louise & Dominick Hooven, Roger Jones, Bonnie Crystal, Midori Sundquist, Buster & Jonathon Klein, and Neil & Margaret Ross. There were also others, such as Tom Kline and party backpacking Wooley Creek. Ben Miller and Jim Wolff have located a promising new cave with a tight entrance and good airflow. Mark Fritzke found a new cave called Chicken Little. Bill & Benj Broeckel joined Mark on Sep. 1 to survey 157 feet in Chicken Little to a debris choke with airflow. The Klein/Ross group from Redding bopped several caves including Bigfoot. In the lava, Russ Yoder, Liz Wolff, and Melanie Jackson finished 1600' of survey in Lower Katelma Cave and left a hanging survey in Old Snag Cave.

Trips and Meetings: Oct. 11 Speleocamp in the Marbles, SAG non-meeting. Nov. 16, Saturday at the LaForge's in Eureka. Saturday 9/14 a lava trip led by Russ Yoder to S Canyon and Escapade to bop, GPS, and maybe some beginners survey.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson

**MJ**

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING**

Columbus Day Weekend in the Marbles

There was no formal grotto meeting. Many subjects were hashed around the campfire. KNF lifted the campfire restriction. Jack Herr and Charlie Kraus from the Scott River District completed repairs on the cabin foundation. Steve Knutson, Bill Kenney, Bill Broeckel, Mark Fritzke, and Arkansas caver Matt Covington attended speleocarnp. The people counter was removed from the Discovery entrance to Bigfoot Cave with outcomes pending analysis. Study and exploration trips were made into October Pit, Chicken Little, and Drystream with modest results.

**BB**

**SAG 20th REUNION** By Bill Broeckel**June 21-23, 2002 Hat Creek Group Camp**

Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a campout reunion at the Hat Creek Group Camp. This was the same campground that was used for the Western Regional in 1999. Special efforts were made to invite all SAG members, past and present, to the reunion. Friday evening, different people were arriving at different times. My family set up our camp, and greeted some friends. We had been planning this event for some time, but now that it was here, I felt like looking for caves. So I went off into the night.

The next day, most of us went to Elisha Cave, and the survey of this cave was completed. The survey had been started the previous June. Daycrawler was scouted, and then surveyed on Sunday by a group led by Liz Wolff. Miller Time Cave was ignored, but eventually got surveyed this Fall. There were 26 people at the reunion.

**June 22, 2002 Elisha Cave Survey**

Neils Smith, Jim Kottinger, and Ray Miller did not go to Elisha. We suspect that Kottinger has already been in all the caves. Neils wants to get caving again soon, but Ray was working on his chili, and thinking about his bat presentation scheduled for later.

Don Quinton came down from Junction City, OR. He caved with SAG in the 80s, including explorations at Hat Creek. On the weekend of the reunion, Don helped find the downflow entrance to Daycrawler Cave, to which Russ Yoder very nearly made a physical connection from Elisha.

Glen and Berneice Everest also went caving, and helped figure the entrances upflow from the main portal to Elisha. Thanks to Glen, Patrick Smith also heard of the Reunion and went caving. Patrick has caved at Hat Creek previously, for example when he made the unlikely push that led to the big room in Patricks Cave. He is the son of grotto founding Chairman Claude Smith. Patrick will activate in the Navy in October 2002.

Sara Wolff and Shannon Turner went caving. Sara was enjoying a reunion with SAG as well as a family reunion with her parents Jim and Liz. These reunions might just as well be combined, as SAG and the Wolff family are almost synonymous. Shannon is at the other end of the spectrum, as this was her first time caving. She may want to go again, and for the purposes of the reunion, she will serve to represent future SAG cavers.

I led the Elisha survey, and Judy Broeckel was a stalwart with the late crew. Benj and Benyam Broeckel functioned as scouts, while Becky opted to join the group that left Elisha and toured Subway Cave.

George and Janeal Tolentino traveled further than anyone else for this reunion. They came from the Philippines, and were visiting with the Kenneys. Janeal found that she was claustrophobic in the sand floored crawlway of Elisha Cave, and wanted out. Becky, George, and Cheryl Kenney opted to escort her. Bill Kenney went as far as the Bear Room, and then hurried out to catch up with the others. They all then proceeded

to take an alternative trip through Subway Cave.

A relatively small, but perfectly adequate group was left to begin the survey of the leads in the Bear Room. Gordon Jones helped run tape, and his son Brady helped push the low lead around the sand pile near the end of the cave. Russ Yoder was also involved in this effort. Robert Nixon was busy taking many pictures with his digital camera.

Back at the main entrance, a number of people headed back to camp. Some needed to start preparing dishes for the potluck. A residual crew remained and started the survey in the upflow passages. Melanie Jackson and Russ Yoder pitched in at this point, both highly experienced cave mappers. I was determined to finish the Elisha survey and we moved along the main trend, through the big room, and into the breakdown at the end. Then we turned back, thinking about the potluck. Our exit was delayed, because we kept stopping to pick up the side leads on the survey. To the advantage of time, the side leads kept getting shorter as we neared the entrance.

Judy and I were the last ones out of Elisha Cave, and we drove back to camp alone. Benj and Benyam caught rides with Jim Wolff, or somebody, and we were glad to see them safely back at the reunion. However, before we got too comfortable with our parenting style, they told us a story of their field adventure involving a rattlesnake. Potluck was well underway, but the Broeckels were glad to find plenty left for a nice warm meal, including a good portion of Ray Miller's fine chili.

A quick calculation showed that the survey total for Elisha Cave just exceeded 2,000 feet"

**Saturday Night Program**

After it got dark, the reunion made a venue change to the outdoor amphitheatre near the Forest Service visitors' center at Old Station. The program was open to the general public. Most of the cavers were there, so altogether there was a fairly large audience. Following the pre-arranged plan, the program opened with Ray Miller's bat slide show. This was well received, and questions were entertained from the general public.

An open projector allowed cavers to show some slides after the bat program. There were historic grotto slides from the Wolff's. By this time, the general public had dispersed and only the cavers were left. Glen Everest presented some slides from Nunns, Rodway, Paul Gibson Caves, and others.

**June 23, 2002 Daycrawler Survey**

Liz Wolff directed the survey of Daycrawler beginning at the new entrance discovered the previous day. This is a fine walking tube with an upper level side passage that reenters the main trend. There are three entrances to Daycrawler, all small. Two of them drop down through breakdown. The third is nearly filled to the ceiling with sand fill. Daycrawler represents the upflow precursor to Elisha, and shows some of the caliber and vertical complexities which are more fully developed in Elisha.

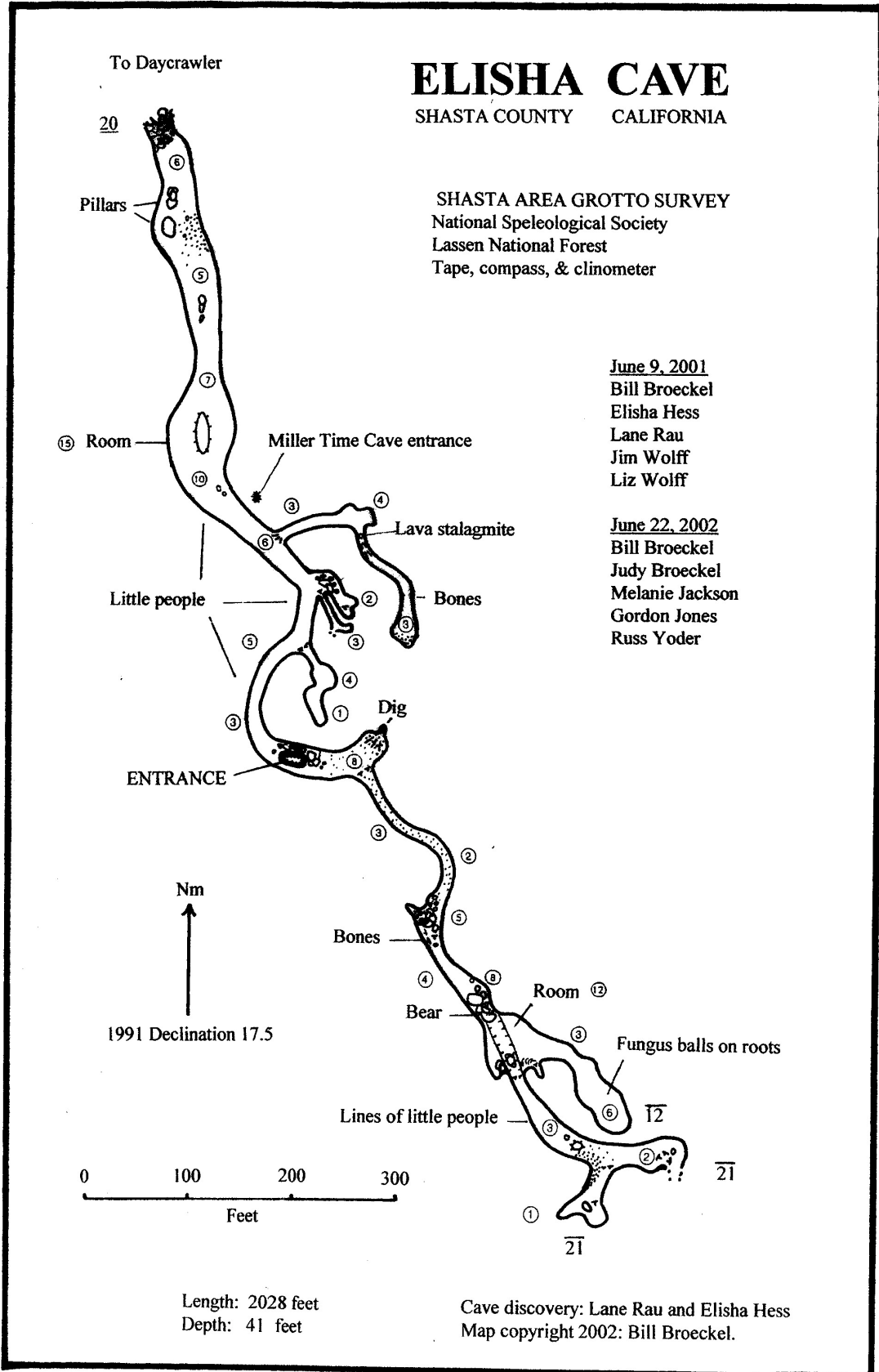
Continued on page 12

HAT CREEK CAVE LIST		Length in feet	CAVE LIST, contd.		Length in feet
1.	Subway Cave	2781	46.	Roadhouse Cave	127
2.	Rusty Cave	2714	47.	Coralloid Cave	122
3.	Elisha Cave	2028	48.	Night Crawler Cave	121
4.	Christmas Tree Cave	1987	49.	Hard Luck Cave	112
5.	Wilcox Cave	1175	50.	Sunny Delight Cave	112
6.	Arc Cave	850	51.	Double Deck Cave	109
7.	Jay Feather Cave	783	52.	Planetarium Cave	108
8.	Bat Mummy Cave	762	53.	Pie Crust Cave	106
9.	Christmas Tree North Cave	738	54.	Duckunder Cave	105
10.	Alien Space Cave	706	55.	Pecan Cave	102
11.	Nine Lives Cave	627	56.	Rat Palace Cave	100
12.	Daycrawler Cave	598	57.	Extraneous Cave	98
13.	Double Door Cave	590	58.	Corner Cave	97
14.	Split Rock Cave	572+	59.	Dirty Elbow Cave	87
15.	Uncle Runts Cave	567	60.	Pine Cone Cave	86
16.	Sandman Cave	558	61.	Pantheon Cave	83
17.	Pink Coat Cave	526	62.	Ebb & Flo Cave	75
18.	Easter Egg Cave	500	63.	Galaxy Cave	73
19.	Sleepy Coon Cave	431	64.	Coney Island Cave	69
20.	Edward Cave	412	65.	Grinch Cave #2	65
21.	Flashlight Cave	407	66.	Blister Cave	64
22.	Grinch Cave # 1	358	67.	Trilight Cave	62
23.	Grinch Cave #3	354	68.	Roman Gutter Cave	54
24.	Crazy Eight Cave	352	69.	Earth Star Cave	53+
25.	Lantern Glass Cave	343	70.	Frog Cave	53
26.	Fluted Ledges Cave	337	71.	Charlie Bone Cave	49
27.	Momba Cave	326+	72.	Little Pancake Cave	47
28.	Trail Cave	266	73.	Diddle Squat Cave	44
29.	Bittersweet Cave	238	74.	Mahogany Seed Cave	44
30.	Mothers Apron Cave	231	75.	Pinchbug Cave	42
31.	Tiny Tim Cave	220	76.	Broken Tooth Cave	42
32.	Cyclops Torch Cave	217	77.	Plain Jane Cave	41
33.	Cul-De-Sac Cave	210	78.	Grinch Cave #4	40+
34.	Double Door Annex Cave	183	79.	Manzanita Berry Cave	34
35.	Miller Time Cave	183	80.	Petticoat Cave	34
36.	Corrugated Cave	170	81.	Uncle Runts Annex Cave	34
37.	Catfish Cave	168	82.	Midlife Cave	33
38.	Pancake Cave	158	83.	Carbide Can Cave	33
39.	Millipede Cave	157	84.	Big Nothing Sink Cave	33
40.	Overflow Cave	154	85.	Beanie Cave	32
41.	Frogtown Cave	149			
42.	Faceplant Cave	147			
43.	Patricks Cave	142			
44.	Hush Puppy Cave	141			
45.	Rabbit Hole Cave	128			

Number of caves awaiting survey: 12+  
Total survey length: 28,469 feet (5.4 miles)

**ELISHA CAVE** Shasta County Lassen National Forest

- Location:** Elisha Cave is an important lava tube located in the Hat Creek Lava Flow of Lassen National Forest. It is closely related to Miller Time Cave, which overlies Elisha. Elisha Cave is also related to Daycrawler Cave, its immediate precursor.
- Description:** Look for a fairly deep sinkhole with steep sides. This skylight is the only entrance to Elisha Cave, and is easily climbed with a swing up or down on the north side. The skylight entrance is located approximately at the half-way point of a large surface tube with 2,028 feet of surveyed passage. Downflow from the entrance is a wide entrance chamber with a sand bank that may be blocking a side passage connection to one of the upflow side passages, also blocked with sand. From the twilight entrance chamber, a low sandy crawlway leads to a breakdown area, then further passage over an original lava floor goes to another breakdown at the portal to an impressive room. The room contains a decorated trench 6 feet deep, and broad ledges on the sides. One ledge has an upper level side passage, and a lava cascade comes out of a small hole and pours into the trench.
- From the bottom of the trench, a passage continues which is highly decorated with lavacicles, and row upon row of "little people" (lava stalagmites). The passage finally becomes too low to explore, but a short side passage leads off to the right, around a sand bank, and through a very low, possibly painful, crawlway.
- Upflow from the entrance, a lava tube passage curves back and forth as a hands and knees crawl. Here there are also many little people. Various leads to the right go short distances to low non-descript locations. The main passage reaches a room, among the largest of the rooms currently known in the Hat Creek Flow. The room is about 60 feet wide, 15 feet high under the central domed area, and extends over 100 feet in length. However, it is hard to say exactly where the lava tube passage ends and the room begins. Indeed, the "room" is really just a dilated portion of the lava tube which has somehow persisted all this time with very little breakdown.
- Beyond the room, the cave continues as a broad passage, with small accumulations of breakdown, some pillars, and a sand bank. The breakdown that terminates the cave can be penetrated, but without breakthrough so far. To the left, a climb leads up to a point where daylight can be seen seeping in between the loose rocks above. To the right, crawling through the breakdown becomes increasingly difficult. We feel certain, however, that this termination to Elisha corresponds with the lower entrance to Daycrawler Cave.
- History:** Lane Rau and company discovered and explored this cave prior to June, 2001. They started a short dig on the sand bank in the entrance chamber, but became discouraged when the ceiling began dipping. Lane named the cave for his girlfriend Elisha Hess, who helped with the exploration of the cave. Lane very kindly shared his discovery with the Grotto, and guided a trip to the cave on June 9, 2001. The cave was surveyed from the entrance to the downflow room. On June 22, 2002, Shasta Area Grotto returned and completed the survey of the cave.
- Geology:** Elisha Cave is part of an interesting radial distribution of lava tube caves. Elisha is a large surface tube that appears to have had intermittent blockages, for there is repeated evidence for upper level bypass development along this trend. The evidence lies in the side passages at offset levels, and in closely related caves such as Daycrawler and Miller Time. Elisha is one of the longest and most important caves at Hat Creek.
- Biology:** The extensive lava cave harbors cave adapted invertebrates. This cave also contains a rich paleontology with complete skeletons of several species located at different points in the cave, including a bear. Blobs of fungus hang from cave penetrating roots in one area.



Map: Elisha Cave



**DAYCRAWLER CAVE** Shasta County Lassen National Forest

- Location:** Daycrawler Cave is an interesting lava tube located in the Hat Creek Lava Flow of Lassen National Forest. Daycrawler is closely related to Elisha Cave, which extends downflow beyond the breakdown that divides the two caves.
- Description:** All three entrances are in separate sinkholes. The entrances are all small, but the main characteristic of the inner cave is easy walking passage. The uppermost entrance looks like a typical circumferential dome fountain sheltering a couple ponderosa pines. However, this time a low passage takes off and eventually drops into the cave. This entrance crawl is nearly filled to the ceiling with pine cones and sand. When this was checked in 2001, we scooped away sand to make room to slide our backs along the relatively smooth ceiling.
- The other two entrances involve climbing down through loose rocks in shallow sinkholes blocked up with breakdown. In 2002, these entrances were slightly enlarged and stabilized. One of these entrances is just a short distance from the sandy uppermost entrance. The third one is way down at the opposite end of the cave. Therefore, Daycrawler Cave is well suited for through trips. This is conducted via a borehole lava tube with curves, variable ceiling heights, modest decorations, floors ranging from fills to breakdown piles to original lava, and a fine side passage perched up on ledges divided by two large pillars. Total passage length is 598 feet, making Daycrawler one of the area's longer caves.
- History:** Lane Rau and company discovered and explored caves in this immediate area prior to June, 2001. Lane guided a SAG trip to nearby Elisha Cave on June 9, 2001. The next day SAG conducted a surface survey from Elisha to Jay Feather. Bill Broeckel, Jim Wolff, and Liz Wolff chanced upon the upper entrances in the course of the surface survey. The entrances were checked, but the cave was not explored. Due to the nature of the sand crawl, it was called Daycrawler, being found in the daytime as opposed to Nightcrawler Cave, which goes under the highway and was done at night. On June 22, 2002, Shasta Area Grotto returned to Daycrawler. The lower entrance was discovered by Don Quinton, Glen Everest, Gordon and Brady Jones, and others joined in to explore the cave. Liz Wolff led a survey team into the cave on the following day.
- Geology:** Daycrawler is part of a grand radiation of caves in this area, and is lined up in continuity with Elisha Cave. The two caves appear to be separated by a localized, but intense blockade of breakdown. Daycrawler sports a fine upper level meander, hinting at some of the vertical considerations seen downflow in Miller Time and Elisha Caves. Vertical complexity of any kind has been relatively uncommon at Hat Creek.
- Biology:** Squirrels are no doubt attracted to the pine cones found in Daycrawler. This larger lava tube is also expected to harbor cave adapted insects, etc.
- Trip Reports:**
- |    |               |  |
|----|---------------|--|
| #1 | June 10, 2001 | Upper entrances noted on surface survey.     |
| #2 | June 22, 2002 | Lower entrance discovered and cave explored. |
| #3 | June 23, 2002 | SAG survey trip.                             |

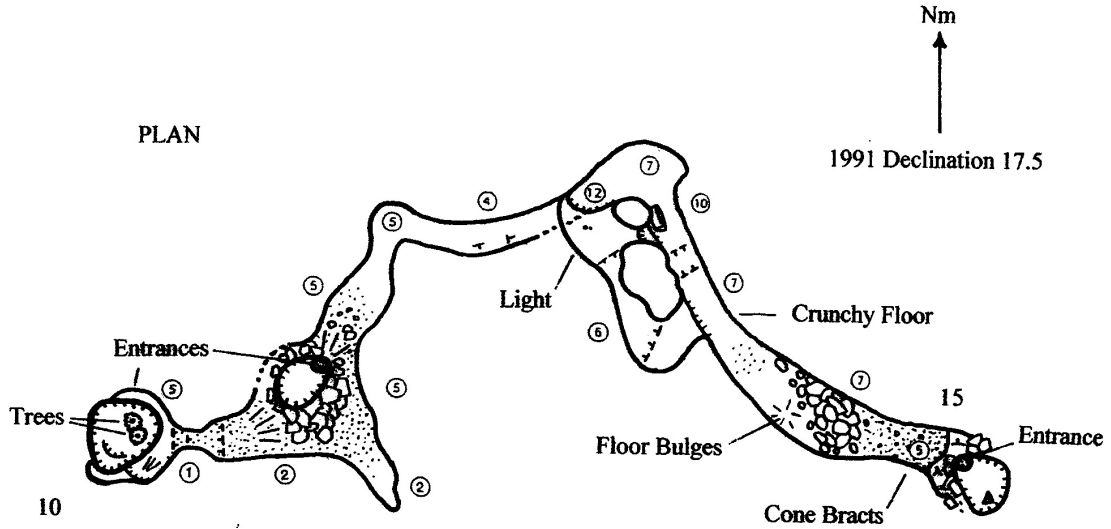


# DAYCRAWLER CAVE

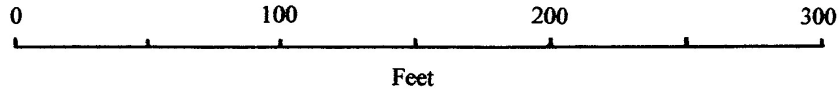
SHASTA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA

PLAN



Length: 598 feet  
Depth: 19 feet



Shasta Area Grotto, National Speleological Society  
Lassen National Forest, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
Tape, compass, and clinometer survey: 6-23-02

Bill Broeckel	Robert Nixon
Judy Broeckel	Don Quinton
Melanie Jackson	Liz Wolff
Arley Kisling	Russ Yoder

Copyright 2002: Bill Broeckel

Map: Daycrawler Cave

**MILLER TIME CAVE** Shasta County Lassen National Forest

**Location:** Miller Time Cave is a small scale, multi-level lava tube located in the Hat Creek Lava Flow of Lassen National Forest. As shown by survey, it rides over the top of Elisha Cave, though no formal caving connection with Elisha has been found so far.

**History:** Ray Miller found this entrance while ridge walking on the day we first surveyed in Elisha Cave, June 9, 2001. Liz Wolff managed to get in, followed by Bill Broeckel, but we only had time to note that there were some crawling leads. I don't think we went in on June 22, 2002, when the remainder of Elisha was surveyed. However, Judy and Bill Broeckel showed up on the evening of 10-17-02 and mapped Miller Time.

**Geology:** Miller Time Cave is a double level surface tube related in some way to Elisha Cave. It may be an overflow from the big room in Elisha, conducting lava back into Elisha somewhere along the most prominent Elisha side passage. It brings up the question about how many other superficial surface tubes have larger caves underneath.

**Biology:** The cave serves as a minor storehouse for squirrels, judging by the half eaten pine cones.

**Survey Trip:** On the evening of October 17, 2002, Judy and I were on our way to the Western Regional. We planned to make a stop at Hat Creek to map Miller Time Cave. It was dark by the time we set out on foot. But there was a big bright moon rising over the Hat Creek Rim and we fully expected to find the tiny entrance without trouble. It was a cool night, good for walking briskly. We located the plywood sinkhole, but then became lost in a confusion of logging tracks and skid trails. Eventually the Hat Creek Rim loomed high and we knew we had gone too far.

"Not to worry", I told Judy, "We can go south at the base of the Rim for a ways, then head west until we hit the jeep road, then follow the road north to the landing that will put us back on track." She did not look convinced, and on we trudged. Amazingly, the plan actually worked. It still took some time to pinpoint the tiny entrance. It is rectangular in shape, and measures 21 by 7 inches. Ordinarily, I am excluded by 7 inch filters. However, the upper edge of this particular opening is notched for a prominent sternum, and so I was just able to slide my triangular chest through the rectangular hole.

Entering feet first, on my back, I dropped awkwardly through the skylight. Luckily the ledge is only three feet down, so it really wasn't that bad. Three feet more brought us to the floor of a small oval shaped room covered with powdery dust. Hopes were that this cave would yield at least 30 feet of survey. Three shots upflow in a broad crawlway took care of that right away. On the far side of the oval entrance room, this passage continued downflow as an upper level crawlway. This route kept threatening to get too low, but kept going somehow until it finally did get too low. We were surprised to stretch tape for 80 feet in this passage.

Back at the oval office, we found that we couldn't get more than about twenty feet down the lower level crawls. They were very dusty places. I was doing the lead tape here, and came out thoroughly powdered, and afflicted with sneezing and wheezing. With relief I dragged myself out of the tiny hole, into the cool and clear night, where I could blow my nose. Ain't cavin' just grand?

Finding the car again was no problem, so we drove off into the night with a length of 183 feet for Miller Time Cave. Any time a Hat Creek Cave goes more than 100 feet, it seems like a great triumph. The next day I was still spitting dust, so we didn't bother to go caving again until we got to the Regional, and that, my friends, is another story.

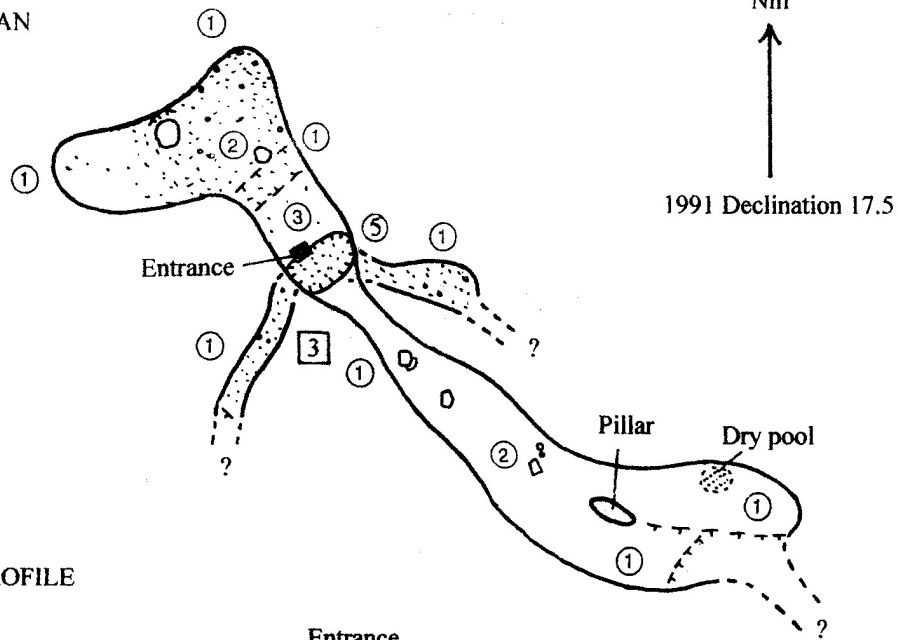
**BB**

# MILLER TIME CAVE

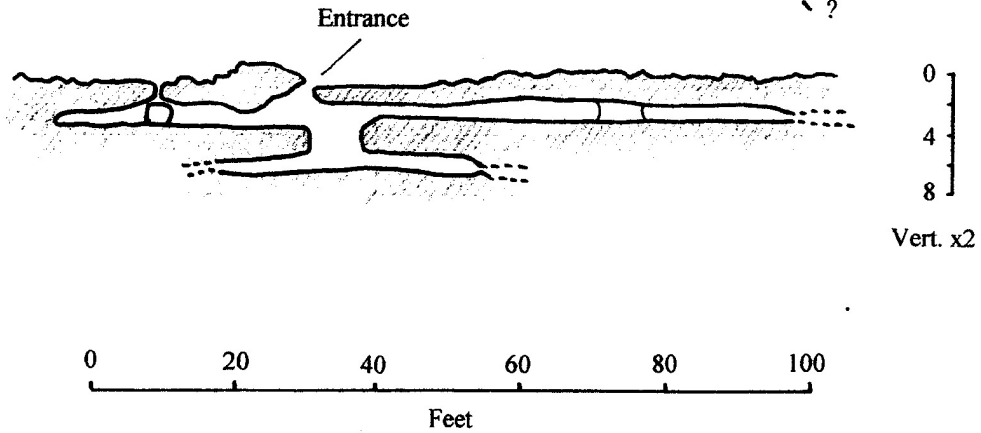
SHASTA COUNTY

CALIFORNIA

PLAN



PROFILE



Shasta Area Grotto, National Speleological Society, for Lassen National Forest.  
 Entrance discovered by Ray Miller and pushed by Liz Wolff on 6-9-01.  
 Cave length 183 feet, cave depth -7 feet, entrance measures 21x7 inches.  
 Tape, compass, & clinometer survey 10-17-02 by Bill and Judy Broeckel.  
 Map copyright 2002: Bill Broeckel.

Map: Miller Time Cave

Continued from page 4

While the Daycrawler crew was in action, Jim Wolff and I took off and gathered GPS data on other caves, some rather obscure ones. These were Ebb & Flo, Jay Feather, Planetarium, Arc, Rat Palace, Big Nothing, Alien Space, Sunny Delight, Earth Star, and Duckunder Caves, and other related or minor features.

I caught up to the Daycrawler team at one of the upper entrances. Arley Kisling and Judy Broeckel were there. SAG had checked the upper Daycrawler entrances the previous year, but did not scoop the cave. The entire Daycrawler survey was completed on Sunday 6-23-02, and it was something of a surprise when the new entrance just above Elisha was connected to these upper entrances. Daycrawler turns out to be a wonderful cave.

**Aftermath**

Back at camp people were mostly gone. The highly anticipated reunion was over. Many thanks to all of those who took time out from busy lives to touch base with the Grotto once again. New friends were made, and old friendships renewed. For the future, some may be seen active in the usual grotto routines. If not, then perhaps in another twenty years . . .

On Oct. 17, 2002, Judy and I got back on a night trip and surveyed Miller Time Cave. We felt that Miller Time was related to Elisha and deserved to be included. However, Lane Rau tells me that there is another small cave out there beyond Elisha. As often is the case with caves, the full story has not yet been told. Thanks to Lane Rau, the reunion weekend added a half mile of cave survey to the Hat Creek list. The surveyed cave count for Hat Creek currently stands at 85, and the passage total is 5.4 miles with more to go. See you out there sometime **BB**

**BAT QUESTIONS** (Ask) Ray Miller

Liz sez there were several questions about bats from SAG members that didn't get asked (or answered) at the presentation Saturday. (Please). . Solicit questions in the next RAG. I will do a "Dear Batty" article. Send questions to Ray Miller, POB 475, Mt. Shasta CA 96067 or e-mail to [rmbats@snowcrest.net](mailto:rmbats@snowcrest.net) **RM**

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**STAMP**

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