

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

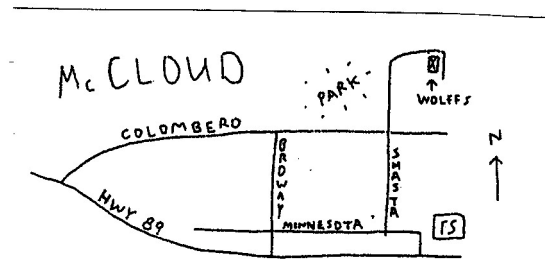
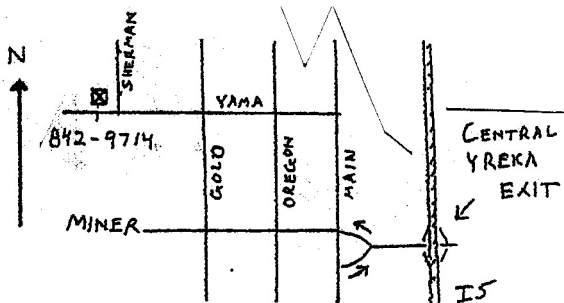


State of the art cave gating almost 2,000 years ago.

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 2003

- Jan 10, 2003 7:30 pm SAG meeting at Melanie Jackson home in Yreka. 530-842-0714.
 Jan 12, 2003 1:00 pm Western Cave Conservancy meeting at CA State University, Sacramento
 Room: Mendocino 1010. Contact Marianne Russo 916-663-2571 or mrusso@softcom.net.
 Refreshments provided so please RSVP.
 Feb 14, 2003 7:30 pm SAG meeting at Wolff home in McCloud. Presidents Day Weekend for cross-country ski touring and cave conservation to follow. 530-964-3123.
 Aug 4-8, 2003 NSS Convention in Porterville, CALIFORNIA. (408) 356-8506.



SAG RAG SUMMARY

(for convenience of CAL CAVER)

Benyam Broeckel draws the Roman cave guards on the cover. They represent a primitive cave gate. Inside, Bighorn elaborates on the tomb of Jesus in another round of Bible Passages for Cavers. Ray Miller provides an update on some local gated caves – Sand and Barnum. Liz Wolff summarizes the Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory project. Some cave scouting has been done and these are the findings so far. Bighorn worked up a profile view for Elisha, Daycrawler and Millertime Caves, which should have been in the last issue. Better late than never. A newspaper clipping about Mike Hupp, the new McCloud district ranger, is reprinted. He will be in charge of many caves. Speaking of which, SAG is proud to present a major grotto survey project with three pages of trip reports and a scaled down map of Leapin' Lizards Cave. This complex lava tube boasts 4190 feet of passage and is pretty much the grand finale of the Shasta Area Grotto 20th Anniversary. 2002 was a good year for the Saggars. 2003? Bring it on. **BB**

Shasta Area Grotto Meeting Nov. 16, 2002. At LaForges in Eureka, was a dinner/potluck and a stereo slide show of Hurricane Crawl Cave. No meeting. Present were: Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Dick LaForge, John & Julie Bair and children, and Mark Fritzke.

Shasta Area Grotto Meeting Dec. 13, 2002. The meeting was called to order at 7:49 pm at the Wolff s home in McCloud. Present were Jim & Liz Wolff, Arley & Manya Kisling, Niels Smith, Bill Broeckel, Robert Nixon, Melanie Jackson, and Brian Marshall (guest). Minutes accepted as read. Treasurer's Report not available. SAG RAG will have Leapin' Lizards Cave. Jan-Feb will have the Marble Mountains.

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Web Site: is up and running and still needs articles, thinking about adding a section for grotto members to post to as for example to the calendar. May have more pictures soon. Ray Miller has tried to get Mt. Shasta Chamber of Commerce to give us a link on their site. Robert will digitize some of the old SAG RAGS onto a CD to preserve them.

Correspondence: A Thank You from Matt Reece at Lava Beds for SAG's help with the Pluto Cave Inventory. He sent LB T-Shirts and a poster of a picture he took at the cave. Email from Peri Frantz regarding NSS Book Auction. Ray Miller contacted Jim Stout who responded that Barnum Cave gate will remain locked through the summer of 2003. Sand Cave will remain closed also and only be opened for clean up and school trips by special permission. Both are closed and may be so indefinitely. The report from the- grotto to the Radio Astronomy Observatory is available to reads – contact Liz Wolff. The EA is out, but not available as is being corrected at present time.

Old Business: Regarding cave restoration projects: Bill Hirt, a geology professor at College of the Siskiyous did not think we should paint over graffiti, but could sandblast it. This would be expensive and ruin the wall texture. J. Wolff says that J. Stout knows because they did a lava tube in Idaho last year. We will be contacting J. Stout and J. Nieland for more information on how to proceed.

Bill Broeckel has submitted two letterheads for the grotto to consider. One is humorous and one is serious. We decided to keep them both, but recommend reducing the size on the cartoon fun letterhead. Melanie Jackson will acquire the new Volunteer Disaster Worker forms that SAR uses and get our SAG members to fill them out so that we may use the South County SAR building for vertical rope practice with or without SAR people being at a training session. She will also try to get a date for a SAG/SAR practice session. The following nominations have been suggested for 2003 Grotto Officers: Chair Person – Liz Wolff, Vice Chair – Arley Kisling, Sec/Treas. – Jim Wolff or Melanie Jackson.

New Business: Ray Miller would like the grotto to place an advertisement in the Supersaver/Siskiyou Daily News/NPR Radio (State of Jefferson) etc. and maybe place a similar flyer at sports equipment shops that would advertise the grotto to reach out to the community and get more members. It would say something to the effect of CAVERS – SPELUNKERS and mention our association with the NSS and also that we are involved in conservation, cave mapping and survey and that we work with government agencies. It would list Ray Miller, Liz Wolff, and Melanie Jackson as contact persons. This is Ray's project and we would like to do this in the Spring – March 2003. There will be a new district ranger in McCloud who previously worked in Region 6. It was suggested that the grotto make an effort to introduce itself via a letter and make an appointment to meet in person later. After the holidays Liz Wolff will contact the FS., Peter VanSustren to find out how contact this new ranger. The FS. is making a handout map of three National Forests – Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, Modoc. Jim W. says it will have caves on the handout. Jim proposed some projects with the Shasta-Trinity in their area.

Trip Reports: Arley K. & Jim W. looked for Shovel Cave which they didn't find, but did find two other new caves. Arley k., Steve D., Jim W. and Melanie J. went to Wayne's World at the edge of the caldera and found Jim/Bob Cave. Sept. 14 Liz W., Ray M., Steve D, Russ Y., Kristina H., & Amber N. GPS'ed entrances in the S Canyon/Escaped Cave area which covers Intruded and Camilia's Cave also. They also looked at an archeological site that Ben Sutton found years ago. James Newell, Jennifer Pearson, Niels S, Jim W., Liz W. & Melanie J. had a vertical rope practice at Worthless Cave and Sunbeam Pit and scared one bat. There have been 5 trips to Hat Creek area doing karst walking for the Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory project. Liz W., Ray M. Niels S. Russ Y., Steve D. were involved in this project. Bill B. has been to Sugar Pine Butte Cave a couple of times. At the Oct. Speleo Camp in the Marbles an Arkansas caver, Steve Knutson, Mark F. Bill B. and Bill Kenney finished a 200 ft survey of October Pit. Mark F. broke thorough on Chicken Little Cave for another 150 ft., making that cave 300 ft total.

Judy and Bill B. went to the Western Regional at Joshua Tree Nat'l Park and caved. Saw boulder caves. Bill and Benj went to Leapin' Lizards 2x because they couldn't find it the first time. 50 ft. of survey was added after checking out all the lower leads: Judy and Bill went to Miller Time Cave.

Meetings: Jan. 10 Yreka at Melanie Jackson's 708 Yama St.

Feb. 14-15-16-17 President's Day weekend we will have conservation clean up of Pluto's Cave. This will be a McCloud weekend at the Wolff's.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson Sec/Treas.

THE CHAIR CREAKS – Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory Project

By Liz Wolff

Summary

Hat Creek Radio Astronomy Observatory is planning an expansion of their existing telescope array. Surveys for Federally endangered and California state listed species were undertaken. A buffer zone of 2,000 feet was established for the protection of any possible bat maternity colonies in the area. The buffer boundary was set on November 1, 2002 by the Lassen National Forest (FS) and a deadline of November 15, 2002 for the field work to be completed by the Shasta Area Grotto (SAG).

The bat species in this search is the *Corynorhinus Townsendii*, a species of special concern for the FS. Surveys were undertaken by SAG to find cave-like habitat suitable for maternity colony use. The characteristics of possible roost sites are: tall enough that bats can't easily be reached from the ground under the roost; deep (long) enough that the bats aren't visible from the entrance; warm and humid enough to sustain the pups through their first months; a large enough entrance that predation on exit or entrance is minimized.

No true lava tube caves were found, but hundreds of "flowerpots" – pit-like entrances four to eight feet deep into shelters and rooms of a few to 20 feet extent – and slumped edges of the lava ridges were discovered, with enough space behind the slabs of lava to provide shelter, some extensive and suitable for use as maternity roosts. Fourteen will need, indeed must, be checked for bat usage in the spring. Four of the possibilities are north of Bidwell Rd. Guano is rarely evident under a big-eared bat maternity roost; so there is no way to tell if a possible roost site is used as such. They must be checked in the spring. Maternity colonies begin to form as early as April.

Six SAG members participated in the cave search in the buffer area surrounding the proposed expansion to the observatory. Fifty six man-hours were spent in the search for habitat suitable for bat use. Three GPS units were used to keep track of the ground covered and to note precise locations of any possible sites found. We managed to cover about 35% of the buffer zone in five trips. Total round trip mileage to the area for all trips by all participants: 1,426. **LW**

SAND AND BARNUM CAVES STATUS By Ray Miller

Because of hibernating bats Barnum Cave is now off limits and the cave has been closed for the winter. The gate will remain locked through the summer of 2003, or at least until volunteers have time to remove the graffiti. The option of keeping the cave gate permanently locked to prevent entry by casual visitors is under consideration by the Forest Service.

The Sand Cave gate is not expected to be left unlocked this winter due to concerns about graffiti, and of course next summer the cave will be closed because of the bat nursery colony.

Winter visits to Sand Cave and summer visits to Barnum Cave will be allowed for clean-up, and to groups (including school classes) requesting entry. Entry to the caves can be made by prior arrangement with Liz Wolff (530-964-3123) or Ray Miller (530-926-2440) who have a key. The only other key is held by Jim Stout at the Goosenest Ranger District office. **RM**

IN THE (LOCAL) MEDIA

From: PIONEER PRESS 31:2 Wednesday 11-27-02

Lava Beds Cave Tours TULELAKE – Crystal Cave Tours at the Lava Beds National Monument, are Saturdays, December 1st through March 31st (9am-11:30am). Crystal Cave is a fragile, multi-level cave full of unique ice features such as frozen waterfalls, crystal footballs and hoar frost (twinkles in the dark). No one under twelve allowed, since it is a physically challenging cave. Must have gloves and good traction shoes. Reservations can be made up to 3 weeks in advance. For more info call 530-667-2282.

From: SISKIYOU DAILY NEWS Front Page Tuesday 12-24-02

Timber Manager New McCloud District Ranger By John Diehm, Daily News Staff Writer.

MOUNT SHASTA – Mike Hupp, from Oregon's Umpqua National Forest, begins Jan. 13 his position as the new district ranger of the Mt. Shasta-McCloud Management Unit of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Hupp, who is at home interacting with people living in rural communities and hiking and skiing in the mountains, said he is "looking forward to working with the communities and tribal interests associated with Mt. Shasta."

"I'm excited to be returning to a ranger district again," Hupp said. "It's an honor to follow a distinguished ranger like Bob Hammond. Exploring the backcountry on skis will be high on my agenda."

Hupp will be joined in May by his wife, Kathy, and son, Joel, who will be attending Mount Shasta High School in the fall. His daughter, Lisa, is a senior at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

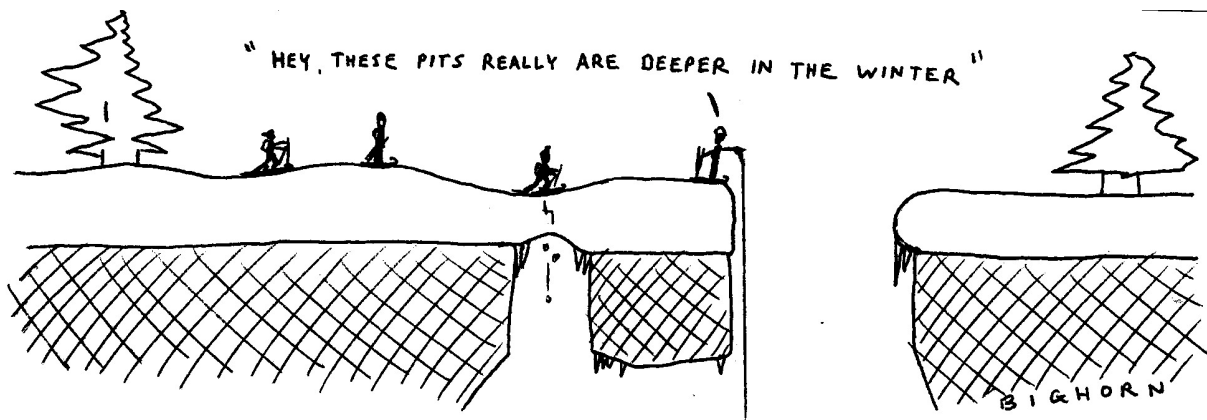
In 1974, Hupp became a wilderness ranger on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Oregon and quickly developed an appreciation of the mountains. He became "hooked on skiing just to see what the backcountry was like in the winter."

Hupp expanded his career to become a forester in 1979 on the Olympic National Forest in Forks, Wash. He developed broad forestry related experience there including timber sale preparation, administration, and fire and fuels management.

He returned to the Oregon mountains in 1986 as the timber manager on the Umpqua National Forest Diamond Lake Ranger District.

Five years later Hupp moved to the headquarters office in Roseburg as a forest planner and became the forest staff officer in planning and administration in 1998.

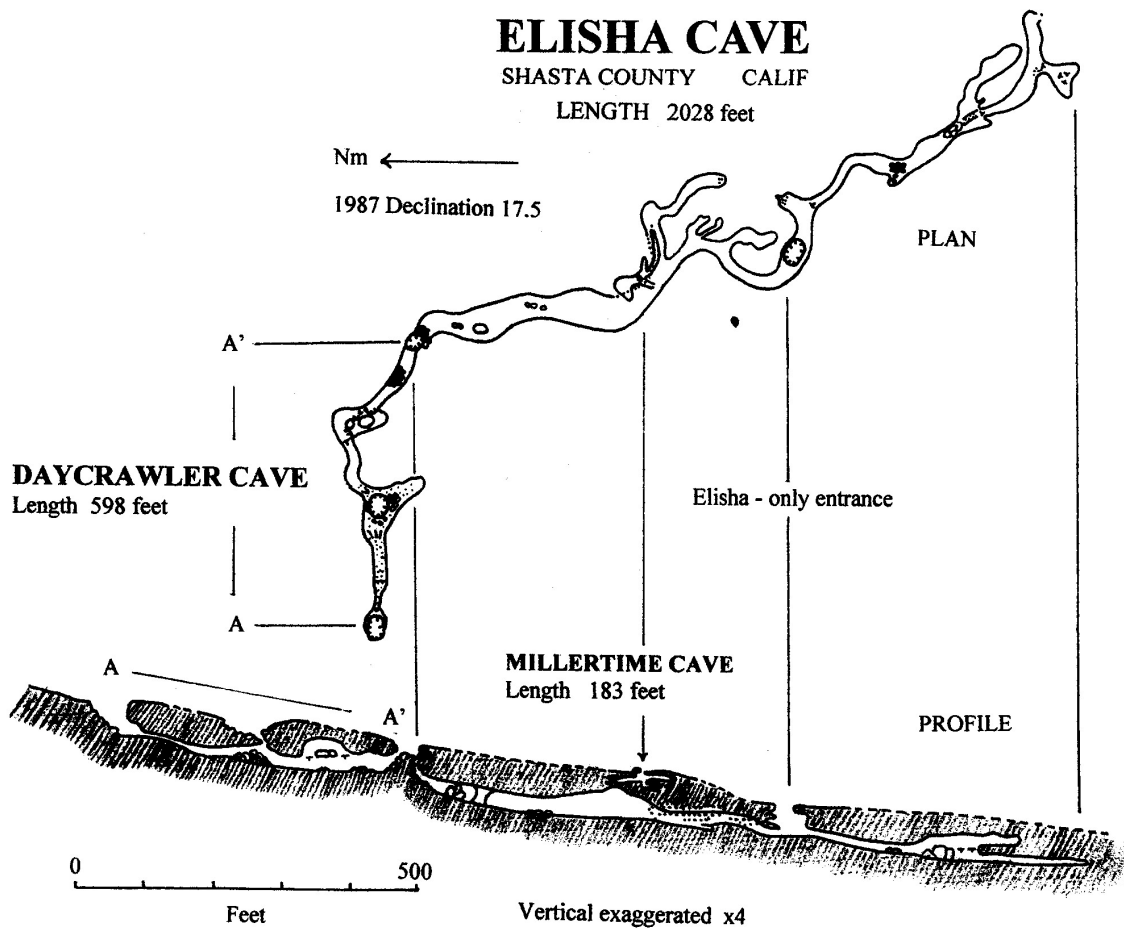
He was acting district ranger on the South Fork Management Unit in Hayfork in 1997.



Letter to the Editor

“Hi there Bill. Just wanted you to know that I enjoyed the latest SAG RAG, although I missed seeing the verticals on Elisha Cave and Daycrawler Cave, like you had for Millertime Cave. Faraway Ern (Ernie Coffman) in Oregon Territory.” **EC**

Ed. Hi Ernie, Yes, those profiles were not done, although I was doing plenty of bragging about the “vertical complexity” (see last issue). Anyway, here goes a try on the profiles, unfolded at the division point between the two caves, where a bit of angle occurs in the continuum. **BB**



Millerime Survey 10-17-02
Daycrawler Survey 6-23-02
Elisha Survey 6-9-01 & 6-22-02

Tape and instrument survey: B&J Broeckel, E. Hess, M Jackson, G. Jones, A. Kisling, R. Nixon, D Quinton, L Rau, J&L Wolff, and R Yoder. Copyright: Bill Broeckel 2002.

Map: Daycrawler Cave, Elisha Cave, Millertime Cave

BIBLE PASSAGES FOR CAVERS

By Bill Broeckel

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."
Ezekiel 36:26

Jesus Caves Part III

In Part I of this series, we considered the traditional view about Jesus being born in a cave. In Part II we speculated on the possibility that Jesus may have visited caves during his earthly lifetime, drawing texts such as Luke 9:28 "He ... went up on the mountain to pray." Now in Part III we will see about Jesus being buried in a cave.

Once again we turn to Anton Lubke from "The World of Caves", translated from German, and published in English in 1958. "It is an interesting fact that the New Testament story of the life of Christ begins and ends with a cave. Christ was born in an underground stable, and interred in a cavern after the Crucifixion."

All four of the Gospels (Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19) mention this cavern. The cave owner was a rich and influential man, Joseph of Arimathea. It was "his own new tomb" and he had "hewn it in the rock" (Matthew 27:60). We might call it man-made, or a mine, rather than a naturally occurring cave. The Bible uses the word "sepulchre" which means burial vault. It was closed with a great, rolling stone. About the stone, Mark says that "it was very large". Matthew also mentions a door to the tomb. The tomb had never been used before.

Joseph was a secret disciple of Jesus. When Jesus died, Joseph got permission, wrapped Jesus in white linen with spices, and laid him in the tomb. For the spices, Nicodemus brought about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes, mixed together. When everything was ready, the stone

was rolled into place. Thus Jesus received the best burial in the finest style available at the time, and all before the sun went down on Friday.

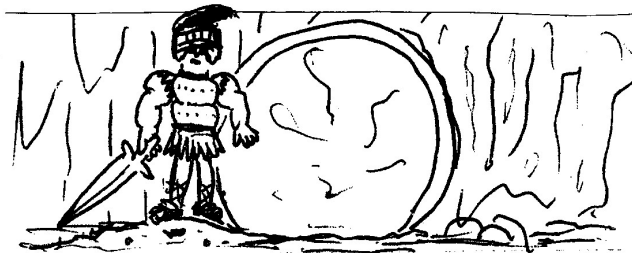
The next day the religious leaders, who had long plotted the death of Christ, were afraid His body might get stolen. They approached the Roman government, then "they went and made the sepulchre secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard" (Matthew 27:66). There is no mention of Joseph of Arimathea, so this story about an early cave gate is an example of bad relations with cave owners. Most property owners would want to know about gates and access changes to their caves.

In this way, the cave was totally closed to all access. It should also be pointed out that if the prophecy about rising after three days were to come true, Jesus would be effectively trapped inside the dark tomb behind the sealed and guarded stone. Not that this would be any problem for God, but the gaters didn't know that. When the time came, God sent angelic lightening and an earthquake. The guards passed out with fear. The sealed stone was rolled away, and Jesus was brought back to life. The greatest Christmas gift of them all was opened that day.

A great deal of theology arises from the resurrection of Jesus. A more personal lesson should not be overlooked. Jesus once called the hypocritical church leaders "whitewashed tombs" (Matthew 23:27), and so we are all like sepulchres, dead and empty inside unless Jesus comes alive in there. May God help each of us in breaking whatever seals and subduing whatever people are in the way, so that love may be resurrected and emerge from our stony hearts. So let's give it up, folks, and show a little love in 2003. How about it?

BB

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone, and give you a heart of flesh."
Ezekiel 36:26



You might keep people out for awhile, but when Jesus comes alive in there, what is the point? The love will emerge.

LEAPIN' LIZARDS!

By B. Broeckel and Jim & Liz Wolff

Discovery

Leave it to Russ Yoder to come up with another kilometer plus cave. The story goes something like this. A year or two ago, Russ was on one of his many walks, taking meticulous pace and compass notes. He gave us some copies of the very detailed surface maps so generated, now in the grotto archive. In this case, the lava flow was very wide. The lava was mostly broken aa with patches of pahoehoe. Russ was walking up and down, trying to pick up a trend. He believed there was some major underground drainage. He was sure of it, but couldn't find that elusive entrance.

Finally he was down to one last strip of flow. It didn't look promising, the lava was particularly broken. But that old Sherlock Holmes logic kicked in. When you have eliminated all the other possibilities, the remaining possibility, no matter how unlikely, must be the right one. With a flicker of hope yet unquenched, he set out one more time to at least complete the full survey before laying the flow to rest. This time he came upon an entrance right along the edge of the roughest aa lava. It went deep, he was in, and another great lava cave was thus discovered.

Russ started talking about this one really extensive cave with large passages up on the Medicine Lake Highlands. The group finally got around to doing the survey trips this last May and June, 2002. Jim and Liz Wolff take up the story with descriptions of the May trips.

BB**May 11, 2002**

Leapin' Lizards! There were three of them, dark gray with iridescent brown and blue speckles. One had lost the end of its tail. Shy, retiring, hiding out in the rocks ... NOT. Scampering over the rocks on the edge of the sink, even running over the shoes of anyone who would stand still long enough. It just popped into our heads as we discussed a name for the cave and prepared to survey.

It was an ideal day for a hike across the lava flow; not too hot with a light breeze. On the hike out to this cave, we had passed Lost Glove Cave, which has a lead that may be dug open to connect with Leapin' Lizards. Ray GPS'ed the entrances and one other as we hiked. We fielded two survey teams of two and set off into the cave. It goes four ways, so we had choices. Russ Yoder figured that there may be about a mile of cave total. Ray Miller GPS'ed entrances and went into the NE passage with Russ and I, while Bill Broeckel and Jim Wolff set off into the NW passage. The ice formations were very photogenic, while the ice covered rubble was treacherous under foot. Our NE passage soon came to a lava seal, so we exited the cave and prepared to enter a constricted entrance to the south.

It was tight, then the floor fell out from under the backside and it was nearly impossible to raise the head far enough to see how far down the floor might be. Russ had gone in head first, a seeming sensible precaution, and had to deal with the drop from the crawl entrance with his feet hanging up in the cave ceiling. Ray opted out of that cave since he doesn't really like tight, ragged cave. It was about four feet down to ice-covered breakdown. Following the passage south past skinny four-foot tall ice stalagmites the ice floored stoopway soon opened into a 40+ foot wide passage, four feet tall and breakdown floored. Then we were in intact tube with a divide ahead of us. We set a station on top of a rafted breakdown block with 12X18X4 foot dimensions, at least the part that wasn't covered by loose breakdown. Then went outside to get lunch in the sunshine. We had just finished when Bill and Jim crawled out of their passage. After lunch we agreed to meet at that entrance at 7pm, so we could get across the lava flow before dark.

Back in the south passage: its breakdown-free walking-size soon ducked under a drop in the ceiling height, looped around a pair of pillars and sealed. So we finished up our survey and exited the cave. Back on the surface, we began a survey between entrances, finishing about 6:30. Bill and Jim were just getting out of the cave as we hiked back to the entrance. We got back to the parking area before dark.

LW

LEAPIN' LIZARDS! continued May 11, 2002 Jim's Story

We figured that the entry to the passage seen from the surface of the sink needed to be done too, so we started our survey part way down the main entrance slope, using a station from the other teams' survey at the dripline. This way on was up and over some breakdown leaning on the hand wall, or under the blocks, and since both ways were going to be shots anyway – we chose over the top. Soon, there were many choices to go, this time to the right.

The passage started out as fairly roomy and we were getting pretty long shots. Soon we came to a skylight that had some leads off the east side that wiggled around under the breakdown. One lead though, after I did some digging, yielded some intact passage taking off as a tube, but getting to it would be real tough, and body-sized (literally!), but do-able. It remains as a lead.

Continuing on, the passage narrowed up a bit, but remained just walking-sized with some original floor, until reaching welded breakdown that almost filled the passage. A lead on the lower right carried on real low, with slight air movement, but there was another lead that was more inviting, and it appears to have been the one that went somewhere too, but it is a major dig, with limited working space ...

Returning to the station at the entrance, we started from there towards ever-bigger passage. The ceiling height and passage width was never like what we saw up until then! Our survey took us to a point where the cave went off in three directions – all huge passages too! My survey station across the big room was about 8 or 9 feet off the floor, on top of the breakdown pile, overlooking two big passages taking off below me. So, the passage that I chose to survey first brought us to good-sized passage with several side leads, low, but going.

The one that we took, was a crawl through a body-sized squeeze then back to original floor. Looked like it was the end, but as I was setting the last station, I looked up this blank wall and saw a huge black space above! Bill, being taller, tried getting up, but the dimensions were too small. He set up a few rocks above our station below, so if we got into that passage from another way, we'd recognize it. Soon, we were heading back to the big room, and looking at the neighboring passage, hoping to see our little cairn. Well, we found it. It is above a crack in an inflated floor. Maybe there is more to come under this floor, we noted several areas that needed checking, only it was time to go out.

On the way out, I noted a window in the wall of one passage, the one going lead that is 25-30ft in diameter. Bill, just HAD to see what was next, so he charged down the passage to see it had some potential, and left the cave. It was a good trip, and between the two survey teams we got 1500+ feet of survey!

JW**May 27, 2002**

This time it was Russ, Liz and I that could spend time in the cave, just one day – a late start for a holiday weekend. On the hike in Russ took us on a tour of a few more cave entrances that he knew of before coming to the entrance to Leapin' Lizards. Then we went into the west branch of the cave to continue the survey beyond the crack in the inflated floor, and pick up some of the other leads that Bill and I left behind.

The ceiling soon lowered and the floor dropped down, then the ceiling lowered again into tight grabby crawlway. A lead went to the east and one into the breakdown straight ahead of us. This turned out to be the easiest way to negotiate the breakdown maze. At the bottom of the breakdown maze was a low side passage into a walking passage, part of the survey of two weeks before. Nice, nearly breakdown free walking passage back up to the beginning of our day's survey. At the bottom of the breakdown a low, wide passage continues on unchecked.

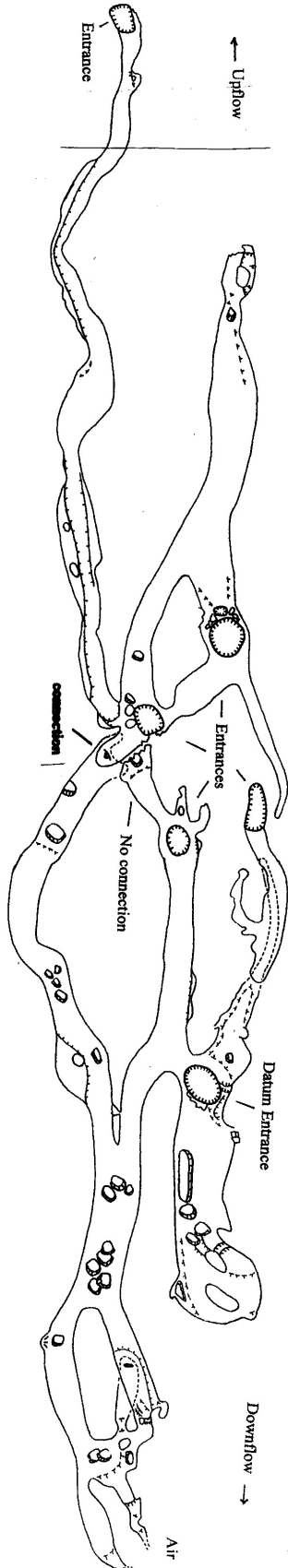
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LEAPIN' LIZARDS CAVE

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA LENGTH: 4190 FEET

PLAN

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNEX
No connection to Leapin' Lizards
Length: 192 feet



1987 Declination 17.5

Notes: Most of this cave is composed of wide, walking passages floored with breakdown.
Number of entrances: 5. Number of pillars: 10+. Total survey length: 4190 feet.

Dates of survey: 5-11-02, 5-27-02, 6-8-02 & 6-9-02.
Broeckel Family, R. Miller, J. & L. Wolf, R. Yoder.
Discovery: Russ Yoder. Pencil Draft: Liz Wolf.
Ink: Bill Broeckel. Copyright: Shasta Area Groto.

Map: Leapin' Lizards Cave, Little Orphan Annex

(continued from page 9)

We wanted larger passage, so headed back up to the divide. On the left side of the breakdown pile a large walking passage led upflow over a lava fall and around a pillar. The other side of the window that was only one foot wide on the east side, was about 8 feet wide on the west side. By the pillar I found a grylloblatid (white bug) on the ledge. The passage, that further on contained a large hanging block, continued into a breakdown room that seemed to end the cave. On a ledge 9' above the floor a hole led straight up through wedged breakdown into a room by another sink. From this room a passage led down to the left around the sink and a low breakdown crawl led back to the southeast, toward passage we'd surveyed already. It would have to be dug open to get through, although it would circumnavigate the sink in true cave passage ... **LW**

June 8 & 9, 2002

Late Friday night, the Broeckels joined Russ Yoder at "Camp Leapin' Lizards", an old forgotten log landing. The next morning the Wolffs showed up and we once again fielded two survey teams. Liz, Judy, Benyam Broeckel, and Yoder surveyed about 1,000 feet in the long passage that goes upflow to the uppermost entrance. Russ says this was the discovery entrance.

Meanwhile the B team, Jim Wolff and the rest of the Broeckels, cleaned up leads. There were two nuisance passages off the A-survey sinkhole. Then a pair of 100 foot leads at the lower end of the cave. One crawled over a red cinder collapse pile, then re-entered going intact lava tube that just got too small. The other lead ended in a low crawl with a loose ceiling. Both leads were definitely taking significant air! The total survey for the day was near 1350 feet, and there was a flurry of June snow to liven up the afternoon.

The next day everybody went home, but Russ and I stayed on and were able to essentially finish the cave survey. We extended the D survey down a blind tube with ice formations, then completed a loop over to the next entrance. We also completed the survey of a separate cave that is shown on the Leapin' Lizards map. This cave has a neat side passage. We were hoping to connect with the bigger cave, but instead the side passage ended conclusively at a lava seal. The length of the extra cave is 192 feet. We had trouble thinking of a name, but at a grotto meeting later on, I think it was Liz who came up with Little Orphan Annex, a clever name which fits in with the general scheme of Leapin' Lizards.

Nov 17, 2002

There were some details that bothered me, so I returned on a daytrip with Benj. I am embarrassed to say that we were unable to locate the cave, and we suddenly found ourselves about 5 miles away from the car on a cold and late November afternoon. We followed the sure way back, and went home feeling oxymoronic, like defeated losers.

Amazingly, the weather held and we returned ten days later. This time we walked right up to the datum entrance without any problems. This entrance is interesting because the last aa flow came so close to the sinkhole that it actually spilled into it and nearly filled it to the brim. There are just a few little spots around the sink with enough clearance to allow entry. You drop down a steep lava slope 40 or 50 vertical feet. It must have been an awesome skylight entrance before the vertical cylinder was 99% filled in. Much of the cave is under the aa flow.

All the seasonal ice we saw last spring was gone, but the cave was still deep and cold. We checked the bothersome details which didn't add more than 50 feet to the survey. We called it done and went home settled and ready to prepare these reports. Of course there are still some possibilities in a cave of this scale, but for now enough is enough. When you think of LLC, think of wide walking passages. One spot was measured to be 77 feet wide. Think of deep lava boreholes that make lots of seasonal ice, and harbor cave adapted creatures. Leaping Lizards! – a seldom seen, but a superlative and exclamatory lava tube cave. Thank-you Russ Yoder. **BB**

If not already done, renew your yearly SAG memberships and newsletter subscriptions.

NAME(S): _____

NSS#: _____ NSS# is current? _____

IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? _____

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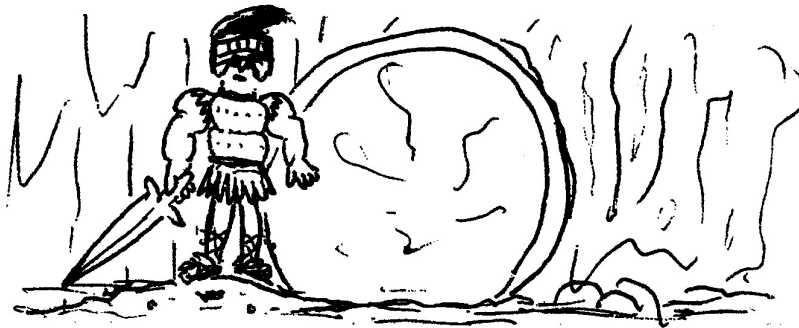
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_____ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family (circle one).

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