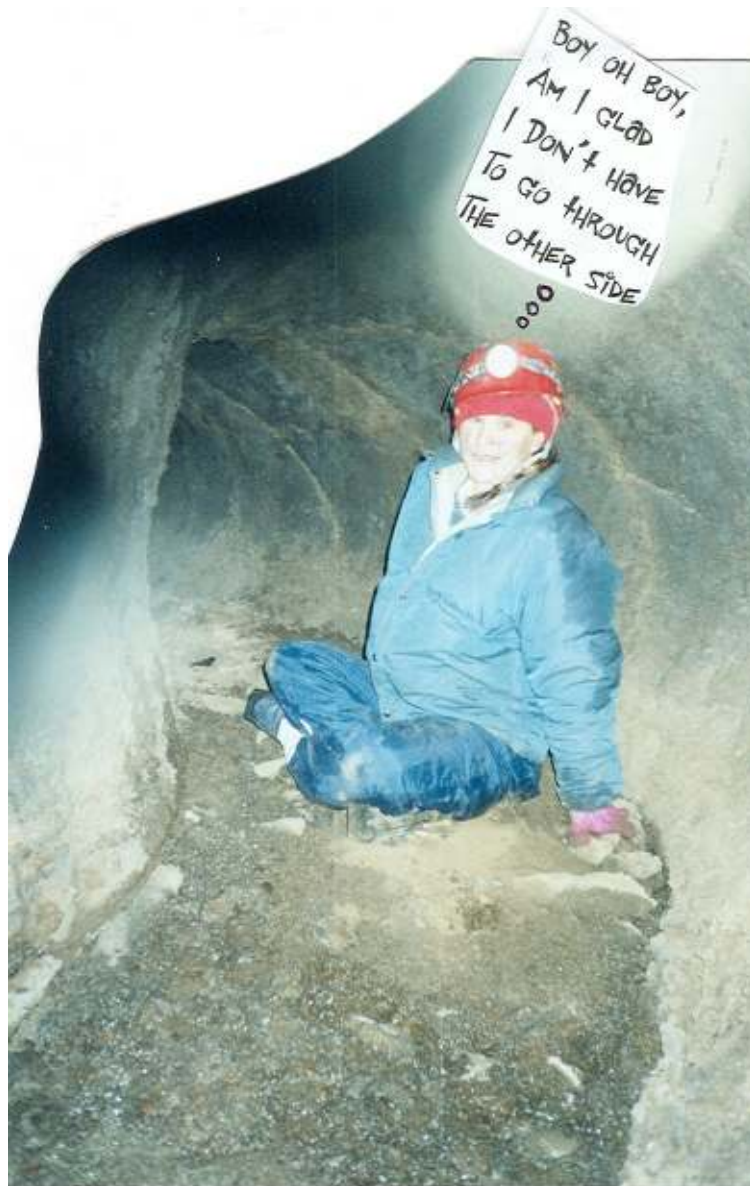


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July-August 2003



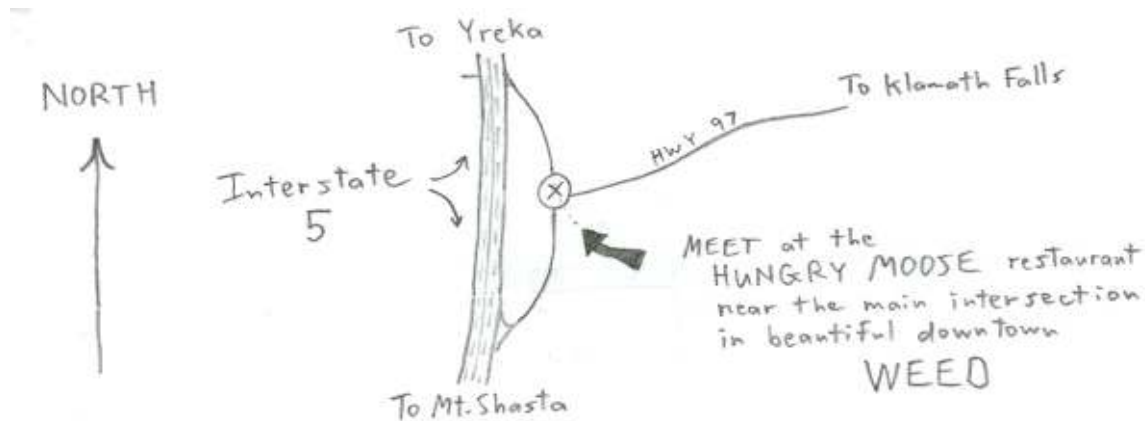
BECKY BROECKEL ON THE GOOD SIDE OF RED SHIRT CAV
12-29-02

PHOTO BY BILL BROECKEL

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

Aug 29-Sept 1 NCA Regional, Tahsis, Vancouver Island. Paul Whitfield (250) 372-5079.
 Aug 30-Sept ? Marbles Speleocamp. Bill Broeckel (530) 842-3917.
 Sept 12 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hungry Moose in Weed. Ray Miller (530) 926-2440.
 Sept 18-21 Western Regional, Little Fawn Campground, Elk Lake, 35 miles SW of Bend, OR.
 Search for regional web site under "WVG western regional".



SAG RAG SUMMARY (for convenience of CAL CAVER)

The June-July 2003 SAG RAG contains minutes from three grotto meetings. No October meeting is scheduled yet on the calendar, so there should be an extra newsletter in late September. This is no problem, because Liz Wolff submitted a file of excellent original materials we can all look forward to. Other business in this current issue includes an item on Oregon Caves. The consensus at the grotto meeting was to go ahead and print this in a spirit of openness, even though it wasn't exactly intended for the newsletter. Next there is a final draft of the grotto office descriptions, now up for approval by the membership by vote. Then finally, in an attempt to relieve all this serious grotto business stuff, a light article and map of Red Shirt Cave is offered. The tiny tubes of Hat Creek (pictured on the cover) strike again. **BB**

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING APRIL 11, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 pm. at Hirz Bay Group Campground.

Present were: Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill Kenney, Arley Kisling, Neils Smith, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel, Russ Yoder, James Newell, Deana De Wire, Anna Yoder, Dave Decker, Geoff MacNoughton, and Ben Reining.

Minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: April Balance \$554.40.

Web Site – No hits this month.

Correspondence: Bill Broeckel wrote a letter to the Shasta Tribe and sent a copy to the Karuk tribe describing the 2002 SAG caving activities. The Eastern Region NCRC is July 10-27 in Beverly, W. Virginia. The Congress of Grottos sent an agenda. There was a request for our Grotto Patch, but we don't have one.

Old Business: A list of the new proposed grotto officer job descriptions was sent around for comments and will be in the next SAG RAG for the membership to read. Washington Mutual bank OK'd that our free checking account will remain the same and checks will be accepted under the grotto's name per the bank manager due to the fact that we are a non-profit group.

New Business: B. Kenney asked if we have heard anything regarding a final meeting for SOG and for a request for SOG and SAG to merge. The NSS probably has a specific procedure for disbanding a grotto and dispersing its funds and equipment (in this case some rope and vertical gear). We asked Bill Kenney to check with the NSS regarding proper procedure.

Cave Trip Reports: Russ Yoder found a cave at Hat Creek just below the garbage or big junk sink. He found a plugged tube below the sink with a tube in a tube and a couple of levels of approximately 80 feet with good air flow (J Pan Cave J is for Junk). He also did a walk through at Wilcox Cave and went to Timbered Crater and found more caves – drained out lava collapse areas with 3 or 4 entrances that may or may not join. Bill Kenney went in some small sea caves on Governor's Island while in the Philippines. There are several advertised caves there where you can hire a local guide. Bill Broeckel was at Hat Creek with snow all around and found a small cave of 10-12 feet that he got out of as it was too tight to be doing a solo trip. There's dome fountain with more passage near J Feather. He also surveyed 5 caves in a row, but only 2 qualified with Tunnel Rat being 30 feet and East Farthing being 38 feet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Jim Wolff discussed the 4th Annual Under Earth Weekend Activities for the weekend after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING JUNE 14, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 pm. at Hat Creek Campground.

Present were: Matt Reece, Judy Broeckel, Arley & Sharon Kising, Niels Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Ray Miller, Russ Yoder, Robert Nixon, Deana Dewire, Chris Sawicki, Ben Reining, and Lane Rau.

Minutes: were accepted as read.

Trip Reports: R. Miller, J & L Wolff, & R. Yoder surveyed Faulty Cave at 1908 feet. Same people plus M. Jackson also surveyed Meandering Cave at 1100 + feet and Snow Cave at 173 feet not completed yet May 3.

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$583.91.

SAG Report: Need location and dates for July and August SAG meeting to get RAG out on time.

Web Report: It's up and running and nothing new has been done.

Correspondence: Jennifer Ong is calling for more volunteers to help with the NSS Convention in Porterville so sign up if interested. Received an email from friends of NSS Library Petition requesting signatures against moving the library. Bill Broeckel made a nomination on May 15, to protect October Pit Cave in the Marbles. Gary Werner talked with Ray Miller about giving Elementary School Bat & Cave trips.

Old Business: This is the last chance to comment on officer descriptions. A ballot to vote on these will be in the next SAG RAG. Ray Miller placed a notice in the South County Newspapers and SuperSaver under the title of Cavers/Spelunkers to attract more interested people to SAG. Rec'd one phone call from Lillian in Dunsuir. SAG proposes that a SAG/SAR cave rescue training be done in a cave that is unknown to SAR (possibly in Amazatic Cave). Dates that have been suggested are Sept. 6, or 12, or Oct. 11. Melanie Jackson will contact Dave Nicholson regarding these dates. Oregon Caves is now in its Scoping Phase and welcomes input information from cavers on what they think should be included in the cave management plan by June 15. A draft of the management plan is to be presented at the NSS Convention in Porterville to receive further comments after that time This Internal Scoping addresses several topics. The Access policies would include: Administrative closures, use of other Monument caves, what can be brought in or out of the cave, training for park maintenance, rangers, and management staff, researcher, explorers, curriculum based education groups, security level and gate locations and monitoring of same, prioritization of day to day management actions, safety concerns, site-specific relationships and MODs, data management, and what types of activities should be prohibited or allowed in the cave. This is not an all inclusive list.

New Business: Flagging tape that is NOT Blue should be used for caving projects so as not to be confused with F.S. timber sale boundaries. June 28 Lower Charlie Cave (near Bend, OR.) will be gated. Kevin Keone is the contact person.

June 7 J.& L. Wolff, & R. Yoder surveyed Lava Falls Cave to 457 feet and also Ice Ribbon Cave. On June 10, J & L Wolff & R. Yoder went with Peter and Ann Bosted to help with a book they are publishing. It is Public Caves of California, 64 pg., and will include Pluto's Cave, 4 caves at Lava Beds National Monument, Subway Cave, and Shasta Caverns. Matt Reece made a 19 hour day trip of Fisher Ridge in. Kentucky and carried an 8 pound battery for a drill that was not used.

Meetings: July 11 Mt. Shasta Museum with a presentation of either a slide show of caving or equipment or mapping presentation. Ray Miller will check to see if we can get use of the Museum.

August meeting will be August 15 in McCloud at the Wolffs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING JULY 11, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:56 pm at the Sisson Museum in Mt. Shasta. Present were Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Jim Kottinger, Russ Yoder, Chris Knebel (guest), Melanie Jackson, and Bill Broeckel.

Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: \$577.91.

Correspondence: Shascade Caving Society contacted us about the poor shape that Samwel Cave is in and requested suggestions for better management of the cave. Cal Caver announces the Western Regional will be Sep. 18-21 hosted by the WVG (Willamette Valley Grotto) at a campground at Elk Lake 35 miles SW of Bend, OR. B. Broeckel received a letter from Deana DeWire at Oregon Caves asking if SAG members would volunteer to help at Oregon Caves with studies (paleo, archeo, bio, photo), restoration, clean up, or wild cave tours. E-mail from Ann Bosted requested information and history on Subway and Pluto's Cave. Dixie Pearson asked for help from Ray and Liz with the bats at Cottonwood Bridge over Cottonwood Creek.

Old Business: SAG ballots for the officer job descriptions are to be in the next SAG RAG. SAG/SAR still needs a date to meet together for cave rescue training. Melanie will continue to be in contact with Dave Nicholson on this. For location, Jack Jones Cave was considered. Liz Wolff has the NSS library petition and this was passed around for signatures from those who do not want the library moved from its current location. Regarding the Oregon Caves volunteer opportunity, some felt it was too soon to say, but maybe yes for restoration and studies, but no for helping with the wild cave tours.

New Business: SAG is looking for a centralized meeting place. The Hungry Moose Cafe at Weed is available at no charge, but they would prefer that we did some business while there as in order food to eat. It was suggested we give it a try in September and see if we like it. The meeting time would still be 7:30 pm, but people could come earlier to eat or eat during the meeting.

Trip Reports: Jim Wolff had a slow moving trip into Wahahshan Cave in Marble Valley with Arley Kisling and Bonnie Crystal. Russ Yoder has GPS data to caves he has found and also checked for bats and climate. He still has some to be surveyed. In Bonzai Cave he encountered a large rattlesnake which he attempted to chase off, but ended up leaving for later. Russ and Liz finished a survey of Old Snag Cave and Uncle Fester's (bed of nails) Cave which is really a nasty cave! Plastic Bag Cave and Alice Cave were surveyed by a large group of people at the annual SAG Hat Creek Weekend. On June 23 Bill and Becky Broeckel did a recheck and a surface survey on these caves. Another time Bill Broeckel solo surveyed Verna Cave. The cave is named at the request of a lady who works at the Forest Service visitors' center. Bill was also in the Marbles on the 4th of July and did a Bigfoot trip and helped to survey 78 feet under the Chthulu Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm. A slide program on caving safely followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

This is a final draft of the officer job descriptions. Since this is intended as an addition to the grotto bylaws, a membership vote is needed to approve the final draft. Grotto members should find a voting card enclosed in the newsletter. Please take a moment to indicate "yes" or "no" on the card, and drop it in the mail for Melanie. "Thanks!" from the grotto officers.

Proposed Job Descriptions for Shasta Area Grotto Officers:

DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

1. The Chairman shall be the chief executive officer of SAG and shall supervise and control its affairs.
2. The Chairman shall preside at all membership meetings.
3. The Chairman shall be responsible for preparing the Annual Report.
4. The Chairman shall ensure compliance with NSS conservation policy on grotto trips.

DUTIES OF VICE CHAIRMAN

1. The Vice Chairman shall be the chief training and safety officer for SAG and shall provide for a program of training activities as needed. Training may cover, but not be limited to: vertical and horizontal caving, survey, rescue, surface route-finding, inventory. Safety may include, but is not limited to: solo work, communications, trip waivers, vertical safety, physical training. Training in skills in which the vice chairman is not proficient may be delegated to members who are proficient in those skills.
2. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the duties of the Chairman.

DUTIES OF SECRETARY/TREASURER (S/T)

1. The S/T shall maintain a book of minutes of all SAG meetings and read the minutes at all official meetings.
2. The S/T shall maintain the membership roster.
3. The S/T shall be responsible for all grotto funds. And as such shall receive and give receipt for monies due and payable to SAG and shall disburse the funds of SAG as required.
4. The S/T shall present a monthly treasurer's report at each regular Membership meeting and prepare an annual balance of SAG funds for the annual report.
5. In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman the S/T shall chair meetings.

DUTIES OF EDITOR(S)

1. The Editor shall be responsible for producing and distributing a newsletter, titled the SAG RAG, which shall be the official instrument for communications between and among the officers and membership.
2. The SAG RAG shall include timely notice of all meetings of the Membership, schedules of activities, and the names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of all grotto Officers.
3. The Editor shall solicit and publish in the SAG RAG such material as may further the objectives and purposes of SAG and be of general interest to the membership.
4. The Editor may grant permission for material to be reprinted from the SAG RL4G, with the provision that credit is given to the authors and the SAG RAG.

SUBORDINATE OFFICERS

The executive officers may appoint such other officers as it may deem desirable, to have authority, and perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the executive officers. Such Officers may include, but are not limited to webmaster, conservation, government liaison, school/scout/church group/Native American liaison, librarian, equipment, membership, programs, and trip leaders.

Here is an informational item for SAG RAG readers, for open communication re: Oregon Caves.

Written transcript for prepared statement at 2003 NSS Convention Session on Oregon Caves – August 7, 2003
By Bill Broeckel – Shasta Area Grotto

Introduction

In 1998 the Oregon Caves General Management Plan eliminated the administration of cave tours by private concession. This was supported by local cavers, who then felt that the resource management would watch over the tours and all aspects of the National Monument to insure protection of the cave. All was peace and tranquility.

Then in 2001, word spread that Oregon Caves was conducting wild cave tours into the back of the cave, and that a categorical exclusion had been written to allow this change. This was understandable, as wild cave tours have been popular at other show caves and at other National Park Service caves across America, and the categorical exclusion was an easy shortcut for avoiding a lot of paperwork.

However, experienced cavers with extensive knowledge of the cave objected to the wild cave tours and brought up some other broader issues. These cavers included former Chief Guide Jay Swofford, currently with friends of Oregon Caves, long time caver Steve Knutson, who worked at the Monument and completed a survey project of the cave, and William Halliday, the first modern speleologist to visit Oregon Caves, and who also completed an earlier cave mapping project at the Caves.

Oregon Caves was considered to be unique in that the extent of the cave was limited, yet it contained special resources of scientific interest, remote and isolated from anything else like it in the rain forest of the Pacific Northwest. More preliminary studies and paperwork were in fact called for. Resource management was seen as soft and permissive at Oregon Caves, and needed to be more strict. (Resource management at Lava Beds and at Oregon Caves was compared to various religions). Opposition was stirred up, and became focused on objections to the wild cave tour. This took the form of direct messages to the leadership at the monument, letters to the regional supervision, congressmen, and leaders in the National Speleological Society, threats of legal consultation and litigation, and appeals to Ron Kerbo, the cave specialist for the National Park Service.

Give the people at Oregon Caves some credit. Their response to all this was measured and they did not over-react. The cavers were not dismissed or ignored as an annoying special interest group. Local cavers would write something like “we think wild cave tours are an abuse of the resource.” In my case, for example, this was obviously pretty hypocritical since I frequently enter wild caves on federal lands and strive to survey them to the final inch. Yet Oregon Caves took our comments seriously and responded.

Keeping a professional distance, they accepted input, sent out a scope for more input, scheduled meetings, made some direct responses, and began to develop more paperwork. Cavers were hired at the Monument, the most recent example being Deana DeWire who has been able to function as a double agent (in a good sense) during this controversy. Some focused investigations were arranged such as the Werkers (conservation chairs for the National Speleological Society) to set up photo monitoring, and Bernie Szukalski on geographical information systems. Cavers were invited to these educational forums. The wild cave tours were reduced and then stopped entirely while these other things were happening. They seemed to be living up to the Secretary of the

Interior's three 'C's: cooperation, collaboration, and consternation (that last 'C' being a joke on my part).

At the same time, a new cave had been discovered near Oregon Caves that may serve as a scientific control for Oregon Caves, much like Hurricane Crawl is a control for Crystal Cave at Sequoia National Park. We understand that there is a possibility that Oregon Caves may be able to acquire this newly discovered cave.

With all this in mind, the following is offered as a wish list for what we would ask for at Oregon Caves, as local concerned cavers:

- * Tours routes, including proposed wild tour routes, to be clearly defined
- * These routes need to be delineated and shown on current maps
- * Sensitive areas need to be set aside as off limits, marked as such in some cases
- * Studies need to be completed prior to resuming wild cave tours. These would include initial photo monitoring, paleontology specific to the route, archeology, and biology to include invertebrates and bats. (The archeology, even a negative finding, would be helpful to me personally, as I have some contact with the Shasta and the Karuk.) Current tribal input is also to be taken in consideration
- * An environmental assessment or impact statement process for the wild cave tour, and for that matter, the regular tour route as well
- * Develop a cave management plan for Oregon Caves
- * Design bat friendly, secure, air lock gates that allow bears to enter the cave naturally (this was a joke, but actually each of these four issues regarding gating and access need to be addressed)
- * Improve security for the cave
- * Liaison with cavers at local, regional, and national levels, to keep cavers informed, educated, and involved at Oregon Caves
- * Hire qualified cavers to work at the monument and naturally facilitate the liaison
- * Add William Halliday to the mailing list, even if he is hard to track down
- * Impose a stricter resource management style
- * Continue winter rest for the entire cave
- * Incorporate and participate in modern, innovative concepts of cave management
- * Rebuild the Bird of Paradise (Ron Kerbo spoke against artificially restoring lost or stolen speleothems, I think, so in deference to Ron it is OK with me to strike this last item from the wish list)

Note: this is a (requested) written version of what I delivered orally on behalf of fellow-cavers at Porterville, and is now respectfully submitted by Bill Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadows Rd, Yreka CA 96097, (530) 842-3917, or e-mail jbroeckel@snowcrest.net **BB**

RED SHIRT CAVE By Bighorn Broeckel

At Thanksgiving time, my older brother would study the wishbone from the turkey for hours. Then he would bring it to me and have me make a wish. Of course, he had his side already picked out and firmly in his grasp. Every year my side would break off and I never did get a wish. My brother always claimed that I had poor technique. I don't know if my brother got his wishes or not, unless his wish was to make me feel very bad every Thanksgiving.

Red Shirt Cave, as my wife pointed out, is shaped like a wishbone. It even has a good side and a bad side. The good side is pretty good, and the bad side is really bad.

I found the upper entrance on the night of June 21, 2002. I was out ridgewalking when I should have been socializing with my fellow cavers at the SAG June campout. Cavers are always interesting people and fun to be around. It is just that I really have very few chances to actually go out and look for caves.

The upper entrance is at the base of the wishbone, hiding behind some small trees. I scooped the easy side, and was happy to have stumbled onto this cave in the dark. It was one that could have slipped by unnoticed. The old, tattered San Francisco 49ers shirt was at the start of the hard side. I didn't go in, but the cave had a name right from the beginning – Red Shirt Cave. It goes along with the discarded clothing theme that started with Pink Coat Cave, in the same flow.

The lower entrance was found on another trip, and then on December 29, 2002, my daughter Becky and I got back to survey the good side of the wishbone. The winter water in the cave was partially iced up and there was a freezing wind blowing through the cave, entrance to entrance. At the lower end we were surprised to find the passage blocked by a pool of water with a thin layer of ice. Luckily there was an upper level crawlway behind some pillars that bypassed the pool, and we took the survey to the end of the gallery without getting excessively wet.

Going back through the cave and avoiding the snow outside, I wanted to check the other passage before we went home. Becky found a spot out of the wind to wait and hold the tape. I took the dumb end and crawled down the hole, expecting the passage to stop soon. One hundred feet later I had been through two near sumps of mud, and the cave was getting a little better. Abandoning the tape, I scooped on ahead another hundred feet or so, cave getting low again and no end in sight.

When I left the tape, Becky lost connection with me and started to wonder what was going on. She

had actually come down the body sized passage looking for me, and we met up at one of the muddy places. I was pretty excited about what the cave was doing, because Hat Creek caves don't often take off like that. Bless my daughter's heart, she was able to say something like "Wow that's great Dad!" We managed to get Becky turned around in a slightly wider spot, and I took her out for dinner to celebrate our wonderful adventure.

I didn't want to press my luck with Becky, so next time (July 19, 2003) I bamboozled my wife on "an important and focused survey trip out to Hat Creek." Yessirree, we had ourselves here a real well-defined objective, those yoga classes had been doing well on the balance and coordination, and we really weren't so old that we couldn't take on some caving that was a little harder than usual. Yes, right now we needed something with a bit of challenge. I talked a good talk, so much so that by the time we got there, I at least had myself psyched up to survey the bad side of Red Shirt Cave.

We got a good rhythm going and surveyed 267 feet. The mud had turned dusty, but cool air was blowing up passage. That was curious. Quite a few cave crickets had nowhere to hide. They were in a panic. The passage was so small and free of breakdown, proximity with us passing cavers was unavoidable. We had to take care not to crush them.

The last shot went through an extended belly crawl with the rough lava surfaces keeping in body contact front and back. I went down feet first, and after a while my shirt was completely bunched up around my face. I made it through into a better place with some sand on the floor, where I could gather myself and pull my shirt back down. It would be no problem to turn around here. Ahead there was a tight spot I couldn't get through, but I could see into what looked like a junction area. Wow, a bonafide blowing cave lead at Hat Creek, just waiting for someone who can figure out how to get through the tight spot.

The survey total for Red Shirt Cave is 591 feet, and it is the 13th longest of the 98 caves surveyed so far at Hat Creek. This is one of the more interesting caves to turn up, and it seems odd that the bad little side passage would go deeper and longer compared to the main passage. If I had a wish, I would wish that the lead in the bad side would go into a complex and amazing extension.

To celebrate our wonderful adventure, I took Judy out for supper. Did anyone notice I got to eat out twice on account of Red Shirt Cave? **BB**

Red Shirt Cave

SHASTA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

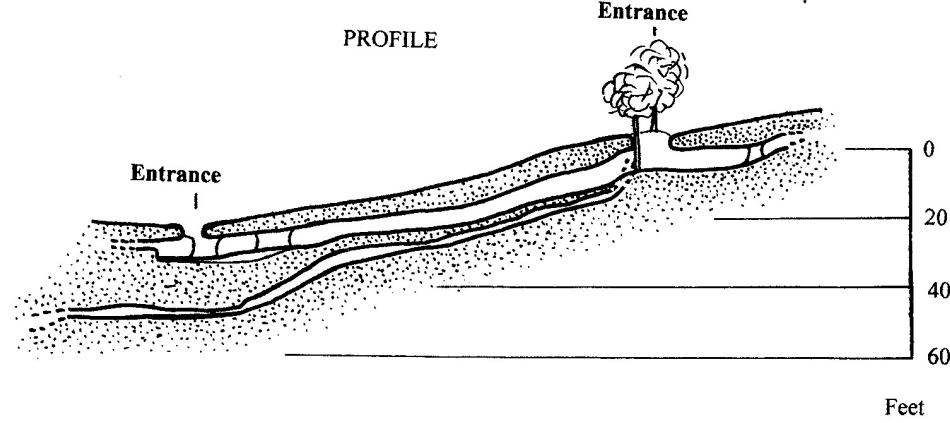
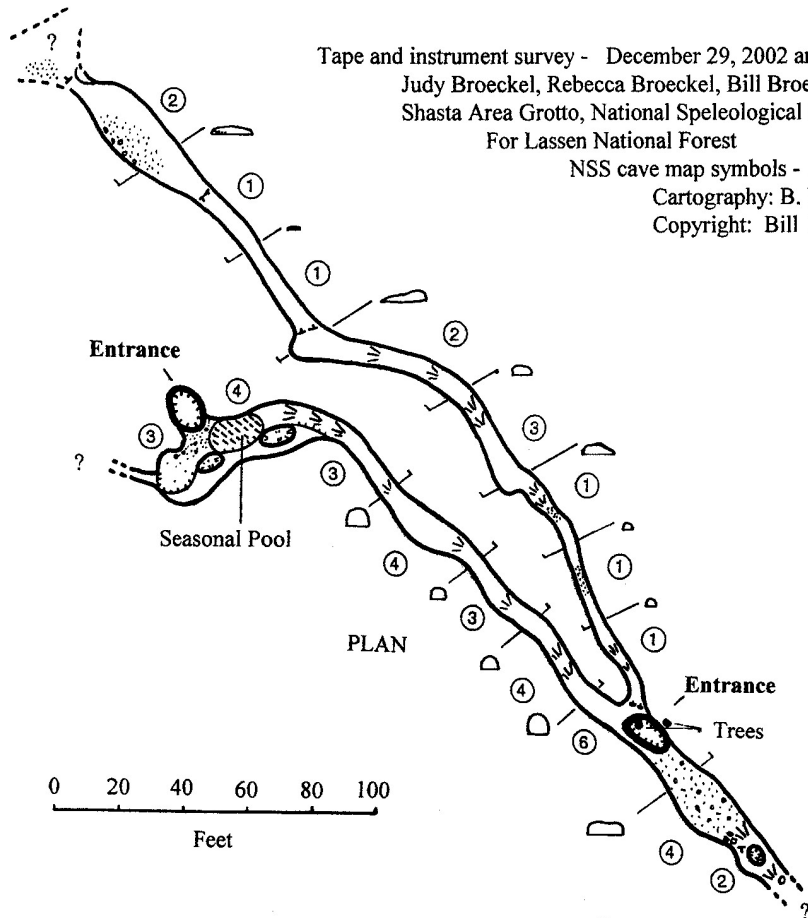
Length: 591 feet
Depth: 52.5 feet

Tape and instrument survey - December 29, 2002 and July 19, 2003.
Judy Broeckel, Rebecca Broeckel, Bill Broeckel
Shasta Area Grotto, National Speleological Society
For Lassen National Forest

NSS cave map symbols - April 1979

Cartography: B. Broeckel 2003

Copyright: Bill Broeckel 2003



Map: Red Shirt Cave

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

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