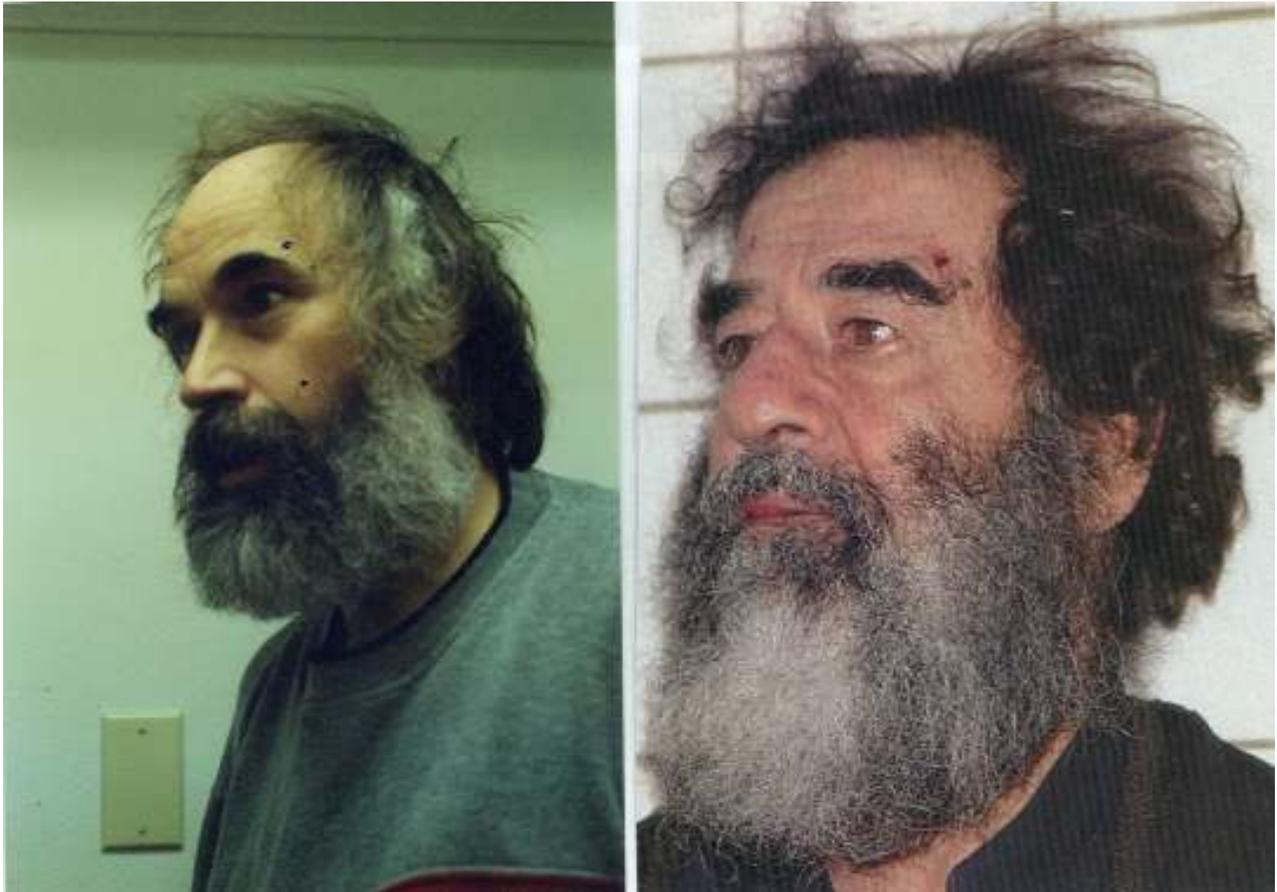


sag rag

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March-April 2004



SEPARATED AT BIRTH

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 2004

May 12-21	XI International Symposium Volcanospeleology, Azores.
May 14-16	SAG to Jackson Mountains, Nevada, contact Bill Kenney 541-883-2781.
June 4	-2.1 low tide at ~ 7:00 a.m.
June 11-13	SAG meeting and campout, details pending, contact Bill Broeckel.
June 12	Formal dedication of new Visitors Center and Research Facility at Lava Beds National Monument. All CRF JVs requested to attend. More details later.
June 18-20	NCA Regional — China Hat Campground near Bend, hosted by WVG.
July 3	-1.9 low tide at ~ 7:00 a.m.
July 12-16	NSS Convention, Marquette, Michigan. Contact Jean DeVries (616) 560-7955.
July 24-Aug 2	Speleofest in Alberta, Canada, hosted by ASS.

THE CHAIR CREAKS — SAG 2004 CAVE CONSERVATION WEEKEND

By Liz Wolff

The Shasta Area Grotto cleaned up Pluto's and Sand Caves on Saturday, Feb 14. We gathered about 30 pounds of mostly broken glass from Pluto's Cave. In the entrance pit of Sand Cave, we picked up about 15-20 pounds of mostly broken glass that had been tossed into the sink and smashed on the rocks around the entrance on the surface. Pluto's has more graffiti each time we enter the cave, and it extends further into the cave as well.

On a slightly different topic: has anyone found out about paint removers that will meet all the requirements for sanitizing Barnum Cave? The areas that we have touched up in the cave to remove obnoxious graffiti for the school groups are not noticeable, but maybe not the best method of removal since they simply hide it. We took three school groups and one college geology class into the cave last fall. A bat count will be done either later this month or early March.

LW

SAG RAG SUMMARY (for convenience of CAL CAVER)

The SAG RAG has seldom been much in terms of April Fools humor. An attempt is made in the April 2004 issue. The cover shows a remarkable likeness between the newsletter editor and a former leader of Iraq. If Homeland Security finds this out, the editor could be detained. To provide for this possibility, the thoughtful editor has created a generic cave trip report which could be used for any cave trip again and again for many future volumes of the SAG RAG. The rest of the issue is regular serious stuff except for the anally fixated April meeting minutes, reader's discretion is advised. Liz Wolff gives a brief report on continuing cave conservation issues in Shasta Valley. Jim Wolff gives us the real rest of the story on the dismantled SAG cave register program. Also, we get caught up with the Wolff's summary of a trip to the great Western Regional hosted by WVG and held near Bend, Oregon, last Fall. Finally, El Presidente Scott Fee's blurb on "Nature Preserves" is added. The only new cave map to be found in this SAG RAG is of the Generic Cave. Although it serves to illustrate any wild cave, it is somehow disappointing. We will try to make it up with a special May issue with the 2003 Marbles report, and to include details for the lava camp-out in June. See you out there.

BB

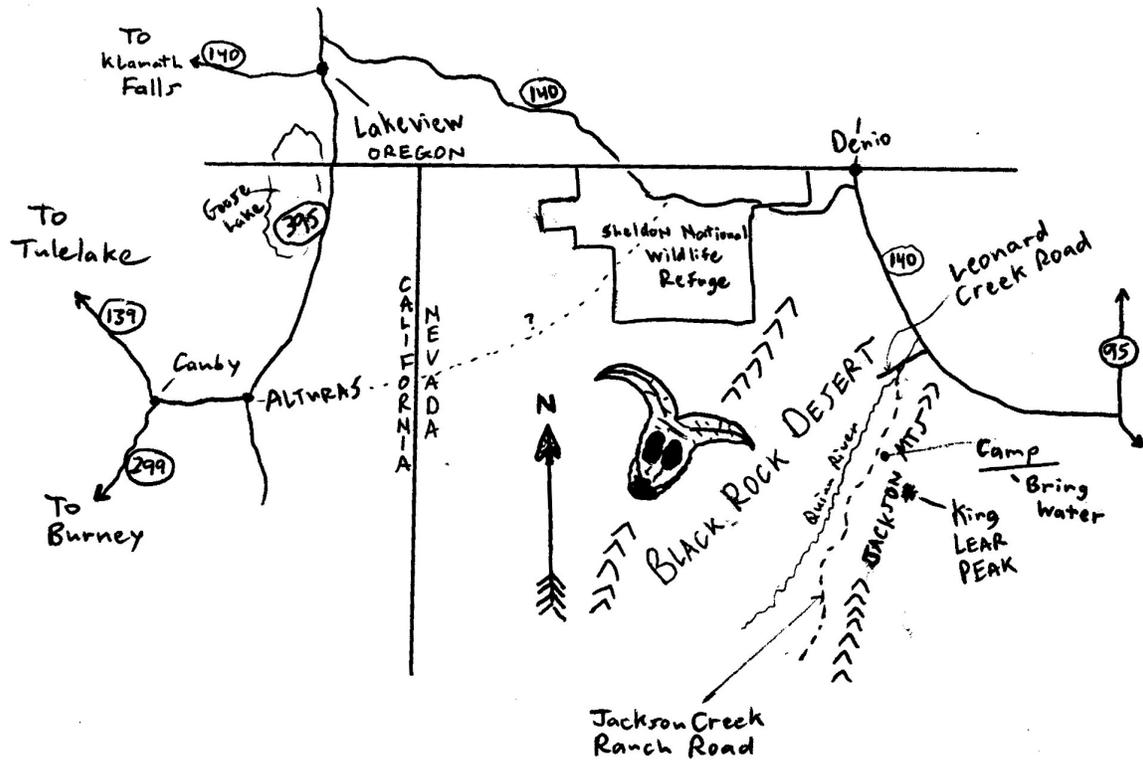
Subject: May trip directions

Bill,

you can put this together with other instructions that Liz sends for the trip to Jackson Mountains, May 13-15.

instructions from Klamath Falls, (should also be accessible from California via highway 299, but not sure if highway 299 is paved between the California state line and highway 140). Take highway 140 east from Klamath Falls to Lakeview, 140 takes a 5 mile jog north on 395 where 140 leaves 395 east to Denio Junction, Nevada, then 29 miles south of Denio on 140, turn right on Leonard Creek Road (paved), go 7.4 miles to intersection, go left on Jackson Creek Ranch Road (gravel then dirt) for 17.5 miles along mountain range on your left. The start of the limestone is obvious when the mountains-change color, I should be camped by friday night (may 14) on the left side of the road, just below the obvious large opening in the limestone just above the scree slope.

Make any corrections as needed.
kenney



SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING March 13, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at Oregon Caves National Monument. Present were Mark Fritzke, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Jim & Liz Wolff: Melanie Jackson, Vern & Linda Clift, Dick LaForge, Ben Reining, Chris Witt, and Arley Kisling. Minutes were accepted as corrected. Treasurer's Report: not available, but we have close to \$700.00. No SAG RAG or Website reports available.

Old Business: Discussion by members about "What do we see as the Grotto's role in the future regarding cave conservation and management. How can these ideas be implemented?" Ideas that were mentioned were documenting (survey and mapping), and discreet signage at caves. Continuing monitoring of what we already have and the use of law enforcement when necessary if people are vandalizing caves. Educating people, especially children in the schools which we already do, typically with the 3rd and 6th graders. A high school assembly, science club, and college outing clubs were suggested as places to find interested persons and take them into beginner caves and give them instruction about caves and safety, conservation etc. and see who's interested in joining SAG. Cavers need to be role models to teenagers (i.e. possible kids making film documentaries). Asking local people where caves are and if they know of any we can help preserve. Last idea, but not least is a Mark Fritzke special on flat rocking someone in the head in a cave and initiating a cave rescue with national media attention (good one, Mark but maybe a little too drastic).

New Business: Jim Wolff has been in contact with Tom Hesseldenz and they have been discussing going back to Ringtail Cave to finish mapping the lower level. Who is interested in making this trip happen? Contact Jim Wolff. This trip would be planned for September or October. Next meetings: April 10-11 at Big Bar, Vern and Linda Clift's home. Saturday caving, possible survey of Del Loma Cave. Possible potluck and cave meeting that evening. There is a free campground next to their property with water but no electricity. May 14-16 the Kenney's are in charge and would like to go back to the Black Rock Desert near the Jackson Mountains, to Handprint Cave and to look for others. June 11-13 the annual Hat Creek campout.

Trip Reports: Mark Fritzke told about his October 3, 2003 trip to Drystream Cave in the Marbles. He spent approximately six hours before he found a way through the collapse to the terminus where the water comes out of a hole in the ceiling. This is heading upstream and is still pushable.

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING April 9-10, 2004

I agreed to fill in for the grotto sexy treasure Melanie and record April's informal grotto get together at the home of relatively new SAG members Vern and Linda Clift, in Big Bar, California. I heard that they had been active in Bend with the Oregon High Desert Grotto, and I was anxious to meet them. Unfortunately I was in the E.R. at midnight on the night before the meeting with a nasty something called a "thrombosed hemorrhoid". This very sore water balloon thing-a-ma-jig suddenly appeared out of the blue at a most inconvenient location. If you don't know what I'm talking about, trust me, you want to stay clear of this.

The treatment involved stabbing it with a knife and fishing out blood clots, very painful and embarrassing, except that they gave me several drugs so I didn't feel a thing and was drunk enough that they called my wife to drive me home. One drug called "Verse Head" puts happy poetry in your mind, and you can't remember anything that happened even though you were awake the whole time. They gave me detailed discharge instructions, which I couldn't remember, so I had this bag of mysterious items that I had no idea how to use. I do distinctly recall the doc saying "sometimes these things bleed like stink" — so I stole some pads from my teenage daughter (that's a first), threw them in the bag, and took off for Big Bar the next day.

It was easy to find the Clift's place because they posted SAG signs along the way on paper plates. I came down a narrow gravel road between travel trailers thinking this was some kind of hippy colony. I reached the

mother ship, a double wide with patios, entries, and storage structures that effectively expand the living space of the spread. I walked in with the cave meeting underway around the dining table. What a grotto! Hosting the meeting were Vern and Linda Clift, and their lovely daughter Kristy. Other members present were Brian Marshall, Jim Wolff, Liz Wolff, and Russ Yoder. They figured out right away that there was something wrong with me, and offered me a soft chair. Brian gave us his new address. The meeting went pretty late, but was never formalized. Still, we did manage to accomplish a couple things.

First, we voted on designs for the official grotto letterhead and patch. It turns out that grotto artists Liz Wolff and Sharon Kisling have collaborated and produced some very attractive options way better than good work done previously, yet building on some of the styles and themes traditional to SAG. It was really hard to decide, but Russ Yoder showed up with crucial tiebreaker votes. Some changes were attached. We will be going with the lined letterhead and the vertical format patch. These logos are looking really good.

The second item was a cave file lent to us by one of the Clift's dear neighbors. Linda was willing to make us some photocopies, so Jim Wolff very politely chose the Eagle Scout report which Linda went and copied on the spot. When I looked over the file, my eyes about popped out of my head. The bulk of the file was a blow by blow history of the early exploration of Paul Gibson Cave. It included San Joaquin Valley Grotto Chairman Mike Sims' skillfully written schmooze letters that got KMCTF involved in 1973, and on and on. I basically paperclipped the entire file, then handed it back to Linda with my best poker face. Bless her heart, she took the thick file without one word of complaint and came back like an hour later with the whole thing copied. There were even color copies of the photos! So now we have a pretty fine Paul Gibson record in the SAG archive thanks to Vern and Linda Clift and the good people of Big Bar.

Trip Reports: Neils Smith, the most recent grotto amputee, went caving with the Wolffs to Valentine and Sunshine Caves out at Lava Beds. Neils gets the die hard caver award this time. Brian Marshall has been to about a half dozen caves in the last year or so, not elaborating further, but I think he was talking about the Inskip Caves for one. Vern Clift and Kristy went up and looked at Del Lorna Cave. Bill Broeckel has been on some winter trips to Hat Creek and on the CRF project near Lava Beds. Russ Yoder said he hasn't been caving much lately, but nobody really believes that.

Special features for the meeting were tours of Linda's ceramics workshop and the hydroponic green house. Linda has many thousands of ceramics molds and the garden provides fresh produce year round. Vern also showed off his pride and joy working antique model steam engines. These are just a few of their hobbies and interests. The Clifts graciously put everybody up for the night. I must have taken a half dozen hot showers, pouring betadine down their drain pipes. In the morning Linda made large bowls of potatoes, eggs, and breakfast meats. I was trying to not eat much, on the less-in-less-out theory, but it was difficult to stay with that for long with Linda in the kitchen.

April 10, 2004, a perfect morning, it was time for the traditional cave trip on the day after the meeting. We had some options, and decided on Del Loma Cave. We did a round about approach to avoid confronting this guy who thinks he owns the cave. It was a pretty steep hike and I was glad we didn't pick one of the harder ones! At the entrance I pulled out survey gear selfishly hoping this would slow down the trip so I could make it through. Linda had stayed home to prepare the next meal. Liz and Kristy had gone painting. So it was Vern Clift, Jim Wolff, Brian Marshall, Russ Yoder and I who entered the cave and actually surveyed about 190 feet. The cave was a little small and difficult. I was surprised to learn how often I wanted to use my rear end as a point of contact with the cave. One sandwich slab pitch went down at a 45 degree angle, with footholds on the ceiling and a rotting knotted rope. Eventually we surveyed into a junction room which looked like the bottom of the cave. We ended the survey, realizing that there was enough complexity down there to keep us from finishing the whole cave that day. Later I calculated that the cave depth in this room was 68 feet. The thing that was best was the chance to see lava man Russ Yoder actually caving in a limestone cave.

We made it back to Big Bar O.K. and in time for a siesta and a lasagna dinner, complete with a fresh picked hydroponic salad. Now that's what I call a good grotto meeting, thanks to the hospitality of the Clifts. I know I was foolish getting out on this particular weak end, but I was glad I did, and I was able to fulfill a life long dream. I have always wanted to be a bad ass caver. See you on the Nevada trip? **BB**

SAG's Cave Register Program Comes to an End of Another Era... by Jim Wolff

The earliest that I can remember seeing a cave register in the McCloud area was in 1973, during a Western Regional, I believe, in Ice River Cave (a.k.a. "Three Level Ice Cave"). It was in a plastic mayonnaise jar with a tablet of paper and pencils, put in the end of the lowest level, by the Stanislaus Grotto. Ice River Cave had the canister, at the west end of the cave, just past the low duck-under, beyond the "Mummy Case". It was on a huge flat breakdown slab that was on a high angle slope, that allowed the canister to hang on its chain. Incidentally, there are still cave registers in Double Tube and James Brothers caves, put there and maintained (?) by that same grotto... .

Anyway, when the Wolff family moved to northern Calif. in '78 (1978, not 1878!), I felt that the grotto had the responsibility of maintaining or getting rid of the register in Ice River Cave. This cave IS (as it later proved to be) a very heavily-visited cave! We knew that the register was at least showing the visiting public that someone cared for the cave.

So, after some discussion and ideas for the register format, etc. Soon afterwards, we signed up our four caves with the NSS's Contemporary Cave Use Study (CCUS). We knew right from the start that it was going to be a huge commitment of time, and help was requested right away from the grotto membership, to maintain the registers. We were up to it!

The Special Use Permit idea was ours, and since we were doing the register program anyway, we thought we'd better be legal about it — we even authored the final act to mitigate the register program, after we felt that the program had come to a natural conclusion.

Anyway, after a time, we applied for a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service. We had by then, .four caves with registers canisters made by Jim Kottinger, in them. Incidentally, Jim K. was also deserved thanks for the canisters and parts for other cave registers in Siskiyou county — of which, were soon used up in some Marble Valley caves — with KMCTF member John Bair heading up that program.

Soon, Ice River Cave, Roadside Cave Complex, Jot Dean Ice Cave and Bat Cave were the lucky recipients for these registers! Later, when Bat Cave was determined to have a year-round population of bats, the cave was gated and the "old" register canister was pulled out of the back of the cave and re-installed at the gate — which is located 300 ft into the cave from the roadside entrance.

In the Roadside Complex, the register canister was located a few yards inside the cave, well within the twilight zone. There are some outstanding flow features and vertical complexity in this "naturally-lit" cave! Other sections of this complex offer total dark, but this entrance is too hard for even the dumbest tourist to miss, while driving by. So, the cave was a natural choice for a register!

Jot Dean Ice Cave had its problems. The cave seems to receive THE majority of visitors, and thus, the greatest possibility of vandalism! And that's what happened too! First, the booklet was stolen. The next one received the final blow, the canister was totally destroyed, being shot to shreds with a shotgun blast! Later, the well-ventilated booklet and the parts were delivered in pieces to my desk at work! Funny, to come back from a day in the field and find that! The register was located down the entrance slope, on the left, just under a ledge, so it was easy to spot from the top of the slope at the entrance. Jot Dean had enough data over the few years that the register was in there, to determine that the use of the cave was extremely heavy — so we stopped maintaining the register there.

I should mention here that most of the time I soloed into these caves to check register integrity and keep the canister updated with booklets and pencils. Usually at the end of the season, but other times, if I happened to be in the area.

I always sent in the filled or otherwise finished original booklets to the CCUS, and sometimes made copies of them (I still have these copies), to do what we want. Normally, we checked over the names and etc, to see if there were any potential cavers, but never got a new member that way!

In summary, the cave register program was useful in proving that these caves got enough visitation! After all, that wear and tear was visibly apparent in most of the caves! And we felt that the Forest Service-directed visitation to these caves was wrong, for the caves' sake! Hopefully, someday soon, the caves will get the respect they deserve!

JW

2003 Western Regional Report — Jim's Version

by Jim Wolff

Liz, Neils Smith and myself took off for the regional on Thursday, arriving late afternoon, to a camp already filling with arriving cavers. Good thing we went on that day, 'cause by Friday the camp was full!

The WVG hosted this well organized event that lists, in my opinion as the best I've seen — certainly one to measure against in the future! Why they had a Howdy party (with tons of food and drink) AND a great banquet meal as well. Two guest speakers, one on vulcanology and geology (complete with slide show presentation) and the other talk on survival skills in the woods.

There was a vertical demonstration and a few cavers went on rope for practice (and as a test for change-overs, before participating cavers went on a trip to Sheridan Mtn. Cave).

Cave trips were a-plenty! Let me review my two caving trips (maybe others will write up trip reports for their adventures too... – hint!)

I went with Dennis Glasby, co-chair for the event and cave trip coordinator. He and I were the only ones that weekend on a trip thru Bat Crack Cave.

The cave is a crawly cave, with wide, but low passage, with breakdown piles that you have to find your way thru to get to the end of the cave. We saw a bear skeleton (most of it is there) and some white millipede thingies, that were crawling around recent guano from rats. Bats are supposed to be using the cave, but very little evidence was seen, maybe because of the very rough floor. Anyway, Dennis and I got temporary turned-around (lost), while exiting the cave. It was he who said that, "hey, I've seen that breakdown block our right, on the way INTO the cave!" Many thanks to him for spending the time for just one caver — me! That evening, I said that I'd go caving with Russ Yoder and Geoff MacNaughton. Yoder trips are ALWAYS adventurous, so why not?

Russ and Geoff had planned on GPS-ing some of the caves up near Under the Lake Cave, so I followed along the best I could, as they wandered around on that steep timbered mountainside, looking for tagged (known and mapped) caves. The FS has tagged all caves west of highway 97, I think.

One cave was named Dendrite Cave, apparently because of a mineral seen in the cave. The skylight entrance required a cable ladder to negotiate the free climb drop of say, 8 feet. The cave has some amazingly fragile "fuzzy stuff" on nearly all the cave's walls and ceilings. Apparently, it's the fine and delicately beautiful mineral coating that's on the tube's speleothems. A potentially wonderful micro-photo study in 3-D! (someone?)

While locating and getting fixes on several caves, somebody found a "new" cave. It had a skylight entrance with air rushing down the nuisance drop of 7ft. that required the ladder again. Russ and Geoff went into that one, but didn't go too far. The cave must be known by someone, as there was a cairn of rock at the entrance. Now, there is a UTM coordinate for this new find.

Anyway the cave, along with Under-the-Lake Cave has the strange "ability" to trap yellowjacket bees by sucking them back in, . Hundreds of dead bees were at the entrances, along with many more live ones desperately trying to escape the caves' very windy grip, so once the bees made the move to go out, they'd quickly realize that they were trapped! Fortunately, we were a bit bigger (and heavier!), and were able to leave when we wanted.

Finally, at Under-the-Lake Cave, Russ found some more passage he hadn't seen yet (this was his second trip to the cave) AND the additional passage that hasn't been mapped yet — "it still goes!" The lake in the cave was low enough to step on a few well-placed rocks and actually negotiate the lake without getting feet wet. I guess when Russ and Geoff were in the cave last time, they had to go thru knee-deep water to get past that spot. The cave is a very complex tube, both vert. and horiz., with multiple passages going every which way. Under-the-Lake looks very much like a limestone cave, by the nature of the cave's layout of steeply descending and sharply-turning, tube-shaped passages. I was very happy with the stuff I did those two days of caving.

Back at the Regional, there was "the meeting", which was the politics of the Region; there was "the auction", where old white elephant cave-related stuff was sold to the highest bidder, with the proceeds towards the Region's funds. There was the Speleo Survivor event that a couple of grottos fielded a team to where they went thru all kinds of weird shenanigans, at the fastest speed to win — you know, kinda like the stupid stuff on TV. The Oregon Grotto's store was there too, thankfully, because I forgot my knee pads!! I got a pair of rubber ones for \$5! (cheap!)

I saw folks that I hadn't seen since the 80's, and visited with more recent acquaintances too. We had a great time.

Those in attendance from SAG's rolls were: Geoff MacNaughton, Bill Kenney, Melanie Jackson, Liz and Jim Wolff, Russ Yoder, Neils Smith and Deana DeWire. **JW**

NSS "Nature Preserves"

by Scott (for a small) Fee

As our commitment to future generations, the NSS owns or manages 13 properties to protect the caves that lie beneath them and their environments. We also strive to protect the complete habitat within its properties. For nearly 40 years, these lands have been designated "Cave Preserves." However, attitudes, perceptions, and business environments evolve, and the NSS evolves as well.

To emphasize the goal of the Society to protect the total environment of our Preserves, the NSS Board of Governors voted in March, 2004, to use the word "Nature" to describe its Preserves. Our lands contain much more than caves, and our management plans include guidelines for conserving and protecting the surface resources in addition to those underground. The wealth of diverse flora and fauna and important watersheds on our lands enrich the fragile environment we protect underground. Through management plans, the Society endeavors to manage our Preserves to ensure the well being of their total environments, and the new "Nature Preserve" designation better reflects this. For example, we now have the Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve, the Wells Cave Nature Preserve, etc.

An additional factor: The NSS works with land trusts and other nature conservancy organizations, and we are beginning to apply to these organizations, foundations, and governments for grants to support our programs and projects. These groups understand, appreciate, and are used to dealing with "nature preserves." We believe that re-labeling our preserves will help emphasize to these groups that the NSS is a nature conservancy, albeit one in a special niche.

Furthermore, insurance companies better understand and are less fearful of "Nature Preserves" than a "cave preserve." The NSS had great difficulty renewing the Society's insurance policy, and last year incurred an additional \$17,000 expense to do so. This is a great financial strain. To maintain insurance coverage for the Society, for our properties, for our conventions, and for Internal Organizations (Grottos) who request a rider for their activities, we need to do what we can to be seen as the reasonable risk that we are. Perhaps being custodians of "nature" preserves will help us in this endeavor.

Scott Fee, NSS President

Permission is given to reproduce this message in any caving related forum.

SF

GENERIC WILD CAVE TRIP REPORT By Bighorn Broeckel

This trip report is perfectly suitable for everyday use with most non-solo cave trips, especially for those which actually involve going into a wild cave. Dear reader, you have our permission to reprint this report anywhere, anytime, for any reason. Being in a reckless state of mind, hey, I will even allow you to put in your own date, cave name, and author. It won't bother me at all. If you can't find someone to write a trip report — no problem! A timely and accurate write-up for any cave trip for any newsletter is now readily available. An update may be needed later, as we learn more about the generic cave. Without further ado, I give you "The Generic Cave Trip Report".

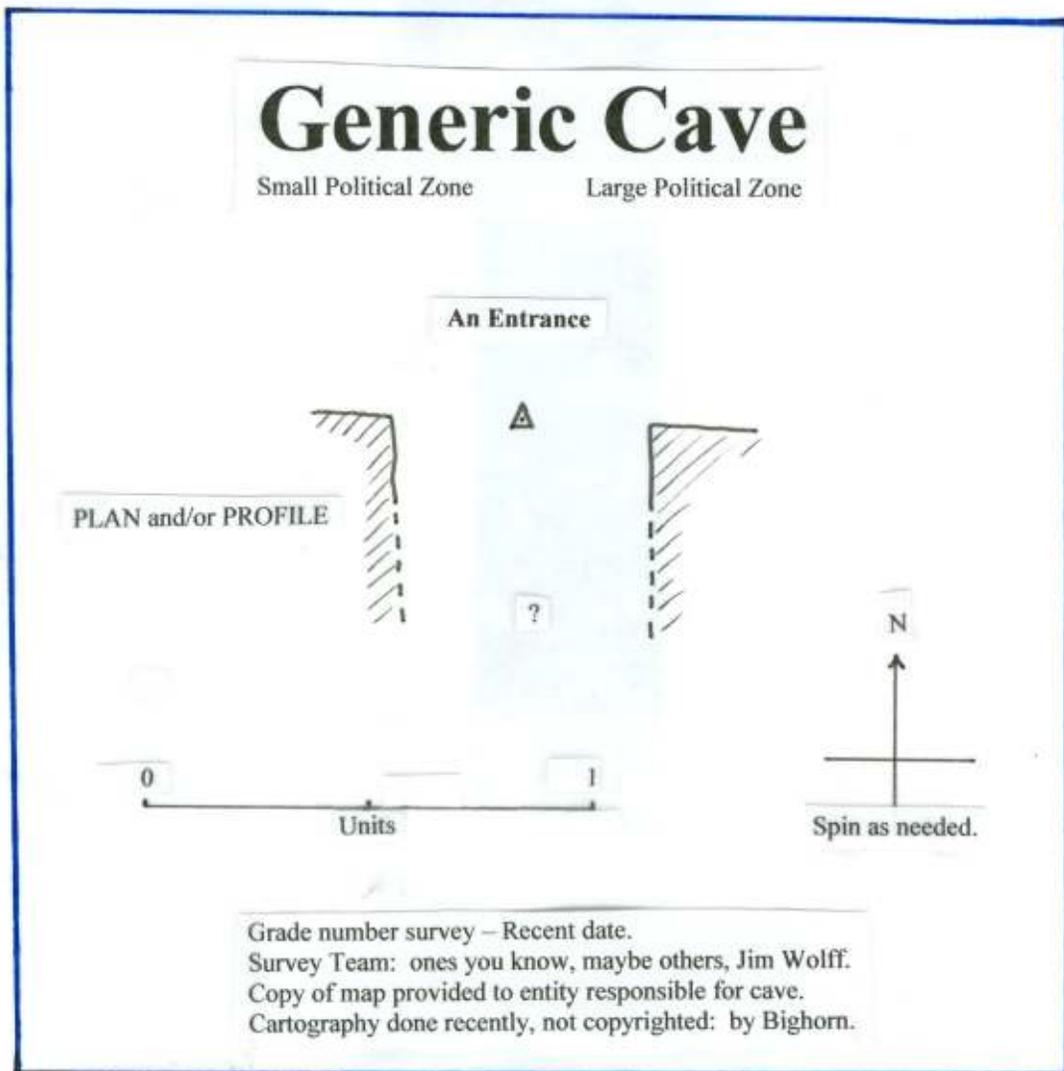
At a certain point in time, we became aware that this cave existed, and we desired to learn more about it. We even determined to experience the cave first hand for ourselves. All of the names of the people involved are ones that you recognize, or that you don't, or both, and Jim Wolff. All of them were real characters. The trip was planned and all needed permissions were obtained, more or less. It took some time to get started and there was some difficulty in reaching the right spot. After all this trouble, we found ourselves gazing into the hole with anticipation for our impending underground adventure.

The cave is located over yonder relative to a number of unmistakable landmarks. When you get close enough to the entrance, you will see it. This cave is found in a geologically significant substrate, and was originally formed at a time in the past by fascinating speleogenetic processes. The cave has temperature, humidity, and a number of microclimates. The biodiversity of the cave and its surrounding area are located at an important junction point with ecosystems to the north, south, east, and west of the cave.

We also knew right away that this cave would have length and depth, as well as variability in passage width, height, and cross-section. We got our stuff ready to enter the cave. We were able to get into our chosen entrance, and then began to explore further into the cave. We used a variety of equipment to help us get through. Many interesting cave related details and resources were observed on the floor, walls, ceiling, and even in the various liquids or gases that filled the full extent of the cave. Some things were alive and some things were dead. Notations were made, mental or otherwise, and thus the basis for a cave map was formulated. Our activity in the cave would be generally considered rather odd to most people, but somehow the efforts brought us a strange sense of pride and accomplishment.

We have to admit, however, that there were a number of leads left un-entered. For the most part, these were little mouse-holes under the walls or behind rocks. Because of these remaining leads, this cave cannot be considered fully explored. There are probably many distances of incredible passages beyond what we saw, a lower level perhaps, or maybe even a connection with another cave. I go on record as saying so, just in case it happens to be proved true. After all, we found that this complete cave was entirely and totally contained under the surface of the earth, much like the other caves to which it may be related.

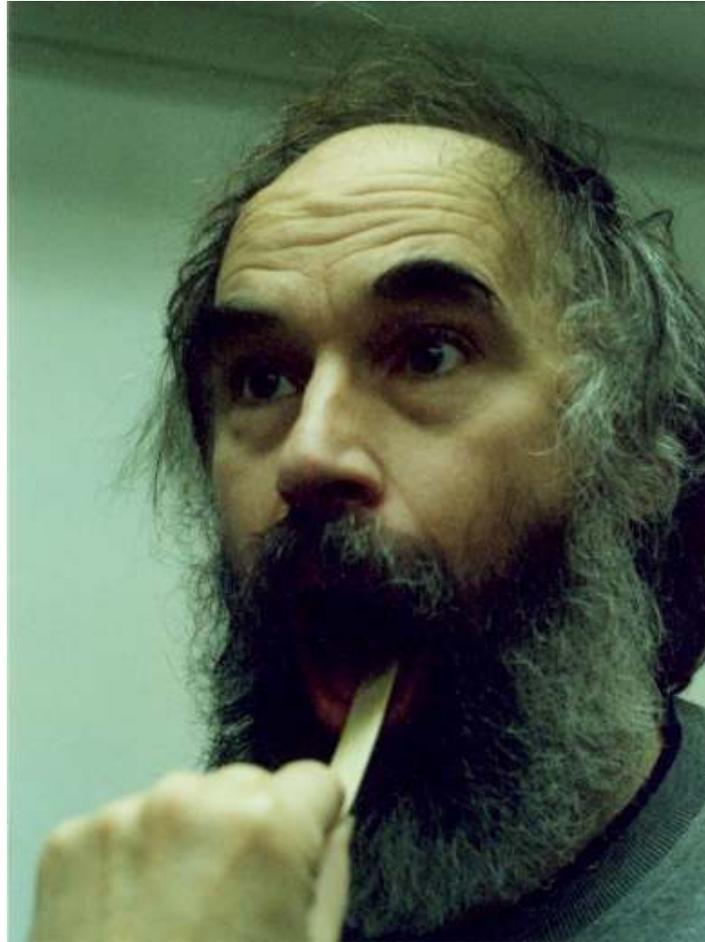
In the study of this cave, we have noted that it is darker inside than out. Also, environmental conditions are more stable in the interior, compared to what we see out on the surface. As the cave has yet to be completely described, and contains fragile contents as found only in caves, we have decided to keep this cave semi-secret. That way, other people besides us will be less likely to mess up the cave. There is a chance that we were not the first people to see the cave. In fact, those passages previously entered by others had all been explored before. This cave is special and unique in many ways, while at the same time holding much in common with other caves, especially those which are comparable. Still, it is the biggest, longest, and deepest cave, and extraordinarily significant in many other ways, within certain limited and unspecified designations. What a marvelous and wonderful place!



After we were done moving around inside the cave, resting at likely spots, laughing, chatting, dealing with minor or major tribulations, and the normal passing of time, we returned to the surface less energetic than when we started. Our emotions fell within a range from happy to sad, and possible feelings included, but were not limited to, surprise, joy, exhilaration, relief, fatigue, anger, fear, discomfort, hunger, and a need to shower and change clothes. It was really different to be in the cave, and a real change of pace from our ordinary lives. After mutually debriefing each other, we returned to our regular schedules, and we ate delicious food again at some point in this process. Our lives were enriched, but our stuff got more worn out.

Later on, when Ernie Coffman found out about our trip, he pointed out several aspects of our conduct that involved dangerous risks better avoided. But keep on caving, folks, it doesn't get any better than this. **BB**





This recent photo by Judy Broeckel proves that we live in a higher society where even caving newsletter editors are treated humanely and receive basic medical and dental examinations.

SAG RAG

2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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