

Neils Smith ambulates in Bat Cave (2052 feet)

SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST LAVA CAVE ISSUE

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 2004-2005

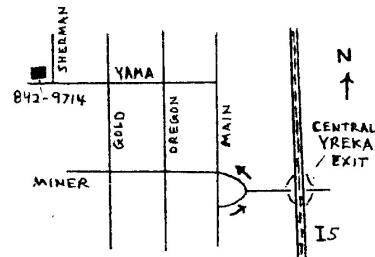
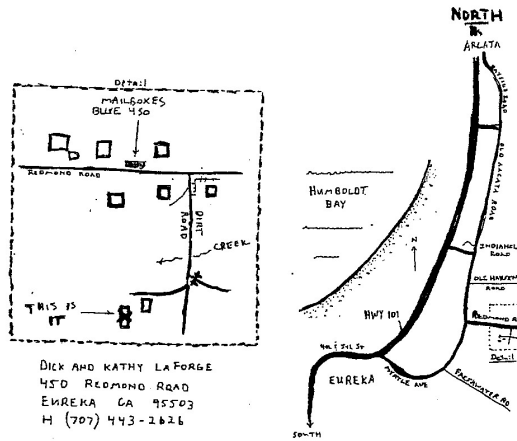
- November 13 SAG meeting/potluck at LaForges in Eureka (707) 443-2626.
- November 25-28 CRF at Lava Beds. Contact Bill Devereaux devereauxw@yahoo.com.
- December 10 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie Jacksons in Yreka (530) 842-9714.
- March 19 WVG Vertical practice at Troutdale, OR.

NEW SAG PATCHES ARE READY

Non Grotto members send \$4.50 to Liz Wolff at POB 865 McCloud CA 96057-0865. Free shipping. Grotto members are entitled to one free patch. Additional patches for Grotto members are \$2.00 hand delivered or \$2.00 + shipping if mailed. *Frugal Ed. Note: non members can save \$ by getting a Grotto member to buy the lovely blue/white SAG patches for them!*



Maps to the Meetings



LETTER TO EDITOR – CORRECTION PLEASE

Dear Editor,

It was very interesting to hear more about the Catacombs Cave. Again, I wish I'd had more info before entering this cave. It is even scarier than I imagined. I am so glad there are people like you and your cave buddies who have a passion for caving! I have a request. Although I know it makes your story longer, I have an aversion to being called Mary. Since I was born, I was known as Mary Beth, and later in life I've gone by Mary Elizabeth. My friends call me "M.E." – pronounced "Emmy". If you'd like to refer to me by my initials for brevity that's OK by me. Hope all is well in your life. **ME**

Reply: Oops, my bad. Here is my public apology to Mary Elizabeth Young. Sorry about that ME. Note – ME is the Mother of one of the two children lost in Catacombs last May. **BB**

[PDF Editor's note: M.E. is introduced as Mary Elizabeth ("Emmy") Young, afterwards Emmy Young, in the PDF version of issue 23:5.]

ENTRANCE PHOTOS FOR CAVES IN THIS SAG RAG



Neils Smith enters Roadside Complex (BB 7-10-04)



Dual entrances to Beebowl Cave (BB 9-11-04)



Between Cave – Note bald-faced hornet (BB 9-21-04)



Wolff at The Beestro skylight (BB 9-11-04)

SAG RAG SUMMARY (for convenience of CAL CAVER)

Here we have the inside scoop on the Bee Positive Caves. This was a time sensitive project for a Forest Service timber sale. The four caves described are The Beestro (507 ft), Beebowl Cave (125 ft), Between Cave (70 ft), and Neubee Cave (21 ft). The maps were drafted by Liz Wolff. A trip to two other Shasta-Trinity lava caves, Bat Cave and Roadside Complex, is also included. The cover photo by Bighorn (BB) shows Neils Smith caving on his new prosthetic leg.

BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTO OCTOBER 15, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:47 pm. at the Wolff's home in McCloud. Present were: Arley Kisling, Roy Miller, Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, and Bill Broeckel.

Treasurer's Report: The Balance in checking is \$376.24.

Correspondence: Matt Bower, the new Western Region chairman, sent a letter announcing a list server and email message board within the region. There will also be a cave archeology seminar Nov. 4 with Jerry Johnson. A new Cal Cover is on the press and this will be Lyn Fielding's last as editor. Merilee Proffit and Keith Johnson will be doing the next Cal Cover in a couple of months and there may be some changes. Joel DeSpain will be presenting a Speleo Education Seminar in early spring at Sequoia Kings Canyon. The 2005 Western Region will be at Berkley Tuolumne and be presented by the Mother Lode Grotto. We received notification of a job opening, full time, for a Cave Specialist/Cave Manager at Crystal Cave Sequoia Nat'l Park. Roy Miller and Liz Wolff both received letters giving them thanks for presenting talks at the Castle Crags State Park Campfire Program. Liz spoke on caves and Roy spoke on bats.

Old Business: Beestro, Bee Bowl, Beetween, and Neubee Cave survey maps have been finished and given to the Forest Service.

New Business: Liz read emails sent to her regarding Ernie Coffman's attendance at the Western Regional meeting. He told what went on and that he was allowed to represent SAG for any issues that required a vote. In this case it was for the new officers running for the region. We would like our members to be considering who among us they would like to be our grotto liaison with the Western Region. One of our grotto member's wives works at a realtor's office in the Lake Shastina area and notified her husband that there is a 40 acre parcel listed for sale that has a 30 yard long cave on it. The cave supposedly has a large entrance and is in the Yellow Butte area. The grotto has asked Bill Broeckel to find out who owns this cave (on private property) and find out if we could eventually survey it. We would like to determine if this is a new cave or one we already know about. Bill will get back to us with this information. Bill Broeckel received a call from Gary Soule requesting a grotto patch for his collection. He is willing to buy it and would like information about who designed the patch and who made it and who mailed it to him. Liz will take care of getting this patch to Gary. Ray Miller suggested the grotto sell patches to non-members for \$4.50 and we will pay the shipping. Members may purchase additional patches for \$2.00 and they pay the shipping if we have to mail it to them.

Trip Reports: Ray M., Jim & Liz W., Brian M. and his daughter Nicole looked for the 4 caves Francis Mangalis said he found on a timber sale unit. They were only able to find Neubee. After this search they all continued on to Harris Mountain Cave. Bill & Benj B. and Liz W. finished the Beestro Cave survey which has a two foot diameter (with 10 foot rappel) entrance. It came to approximately 507 feet. Beetween Cave was finished also and had 70 feet of survey. Bill later this same day ridgewalked some more of this area. Bill, Judy and Benj Broeckel also ridgewalked at Hat Creek on their way home from Page, AZ. on Oct. 11, 04

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTO SEPT. 17, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. at the Broeckel's home in Yreka. Present were: Ray Miller Bill Broeckel, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Ernie Coffman, Brian Marshall and his daughter Nicole.

Minutes: were accepted as read from the SAG RAG (Aug).

Treasurer's Report: Balance in checking \$483.74.

SAG Report: SAG RAG Status is that our circulation is at 58. The next issue is due out in October and will be about lava tubes.

Web Report: not available.

Correspondence: Bill Hirt sent a flyer about an available book called "The Encyclopedia of Caves." The Western Regional Application is now available for those who want to register to go. The Oregon Caves official notification of findings of no significant impact is available. Our grotto patches are ready to be sent. We sent the second installment payment and the patches should arrive soon. Steve Funk, the timber planner for McCloud/Trinity Forest found 2 caves in units that are up for sale. Roy and Liz had the UTM coordinates for both and found lots of bees in both. Francis Mangalis also called saying there are four caves in the same unit that has already gone to bid. The grotto will check it out on 9/18/04.

Old Business: SAG Grotto has asked Ernie Coffman to vote for SAG at the Western Regional Meeting. SAG is in favor of voting for new officers Matt Bowers (Stanislaus Grotto), Mark Scott (SFBC), Dan Snyder (Mother Lode Grotto) and Merilee Proffit for Cal Caver Editor.

New Business: Ray Miller has a few caves with multiple names in his data base and proposes to the Western Region that they should be listed by the oldest known or most popular name and dropping the alternate names. You could still cross reference the cave with the alternate name. We will establish a minimum length of 30 feet for caves in the data base. Caves of less than 30 feet will have a name and UTM coordinates and a survey if one exists.

Ernie Coffman reported that he and Dan Snyder recently went into Marble Mtn. Quarry Cave. Upon inspection they found lots of trash and some stalagmite and drapery damage. Ernie picked up as much trash as possible. Ernie also mentioned that the Western Cave Conservancy is interested in purchasing this cave. If they get the sale then SAG may possibly be involved in helping with the management plan of the cave due to our previous time spent in cave clean up.

Trip Reports: Sat. Sept. 10 Liz W. and Ray M. and Bill B. surveyed Beestro Cave and Bee Bowl Cave. The caves had many nasty bald face hornets at the entrances. 125 feet of cave was surveyed. A couple of trips by Russ Y. and Liz W. were made to survey the Water Caves Complex. A just climbable entrance was found. There were old bottles (jars) and metal barrels. Jim W. and Arley K. went to the Labor Day Speleo Camp and had a good time. Brian Marshall solo caved North of Wilson Lake in Plumas County and found a small lava tube and hauled out trash from it. He also went to Inskips Cave and Inskip Mtn. He went in approx. 5-700 feet. There was lots of poison oak at the cave area.

Next Meetings: Oct. 15 in McCloud at Wolff's.

Nov. 12-13 the Coast at LaForges – possible caving at Patrick's Point.

Dec. 10 Yreka at Melanie Jackson's.

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Melanie Jackson **MJ**

SHASTA-T. LAVA CAVES

By Bighorn Broeckel

Shasta-Trinity National Forest (STNF) – many lava caves, limited management. Yet after 15 years, I can think of a few things.

Bat Cave got a bat protecting gate in 1997. That is the only gated lava cave on the Forest that I know of. The percentage of gated lava tubes is higher on Klamath National Forest, much higher at Lava Beds; and at Bat Cave there are still problems.

Then there was the special use permit for the cave register program. This involved four caves and ran for many years. Only recently was this mutually dismantled by the Grotto and the Forest.

STNF has lately been contracting specialists with Lava Beds experience, such as Kelly Fuhrman, Matt Reece, and Ben Miller. A few caves got looked at, including a new map for Jot Dean Ice Cave (220 feet), where melting ice has revealed a lower level area.

STNF has sought out SAG regarding projects with possible effects on caves, including the Chippy Spur timber sale and road widening at Stumpy Cave. Most recently SAG was asked to check cave entrances found by workers marking trees for timber sale. (See Bee Positive article by Liz Wolff.)

Meanwhile, SAG has kept busy with STNF caves over the years. Between Ray Miller, Liz Wolff, Russ Yoder, and a little bit that I have, there exists a sizable data base on STNF lava caves. This involves hundreds of caves and many thousands of feet of cave passage survey. Ray Miller has been collecting and organizing this on computer, a daunting and ongoing task. This data base has been underutilized in management, as the focus has been on specific caves so far.

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Neils Smith, Judy Broeckel, & Liz Wolff at entrance to Bat Cave (BB 7-10-04)



Neils and the warm glow of carbide inside Bat Cave (BB 7-10-04)

So it was on July 10, 2004, some of the grotto faithful set out to do some field discussion on two of the current hot topic STNF lava caves. In the group were Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Judy Broeckel, Bill Broeckel, and Neils Smith. Neils would be caving on his new prosthetic leg.

The first stop was Bat Cave. Neils maneuvered down the entry slope and gamely ambulated along the walking passage using a cane. Soon we turned back, due to a bat maternity colony discovered on our side of the gate. Crazy bats! As we have been saying, there are still some problems at Bat Cave.

The other stop was at Roadside Complex. Neils was able to make a through trip of the longest cave. This included a climb up to reach a perched side passage crawlway. We poked around and mulled over the possibilities for developments. We decided on wheelchair friendly elevator access down into the main cave, and via the new Shasta Area Grotto gift shop, featuring sales of our beautiful Grotto patches. Just kidding. Actually what we might see is a larger off-the-road parking area, financially tied in to the upcoming nearby timber sale. **BB**



Neils Smith geared up for the perched side passage (BB 7-10-04)



Neils Smith entering Roadside Complex (BB 7-10-04)

Going Caving can only Bee-natural

By Liz Wolff

Beebowl has two entrances 12 feet apart. One was loaded with hornets, and the other had only a few. When we, Bighorn Broeckel, Jim & Liz Wolff, entered the cave on Sept. 11th there were no bees in the "empty" entrance. The ceiling height is about three feet, the dry floor is mixed pumice/porcupine & rat dung/forest detritus, the tube intact. The cave is essentially three chambers connected by short crawls. The southern entrance (sans bees) is totally surrounded by its chamber. A short sealed crawl leads off to the south. Between the first and second chambers is a short crawl a foot and a half high, which ends on a ledge that drops in two steps four feet to a mud floor. A higher level cuts around an inclined pillar to the back of the second chamber. A low crawl extends to the east where a low wall defines a three foot drop to a dry floor like the one in the entrance chamber. An even lower crawl extends further east but will require digging to proceed. The survey netted 125 feet of passage.

The bees guarded the low entrance in this third chamber. We were the A-team, they were the Bee-team: the A-team surveyed, the Bee-team had a protection racket going on. After finishing the survey of Beebowl, a blister maze cave, we sat inside the entrance watching the hornets squabble, and finally make an opening to let us get out without contesting the way, or getting stung, a definite "0 Negative", if I've ever seen one.

After escaping them we ate lunch in the back of the pickup, with the screened windows open wide. Here we discussed what we should do until the bees went away for the night. Liz took a handful of paper out to the woods and found two more entrances. "Two bees, or Not two bees", was the entrance Bee-positive? Both were Bee-positive. We then headed north to look into the Wolfe Den, a fault crack type lava cave. Bighorn & Jim worked their way to the end of survey, where they found that, yep, it would take a rope to proceed. They checked out the Twin Crater caves as well. Then out to Arky the Cave, an archaeological site in an unexpected canyon. All those entrances were Bee-positive too.

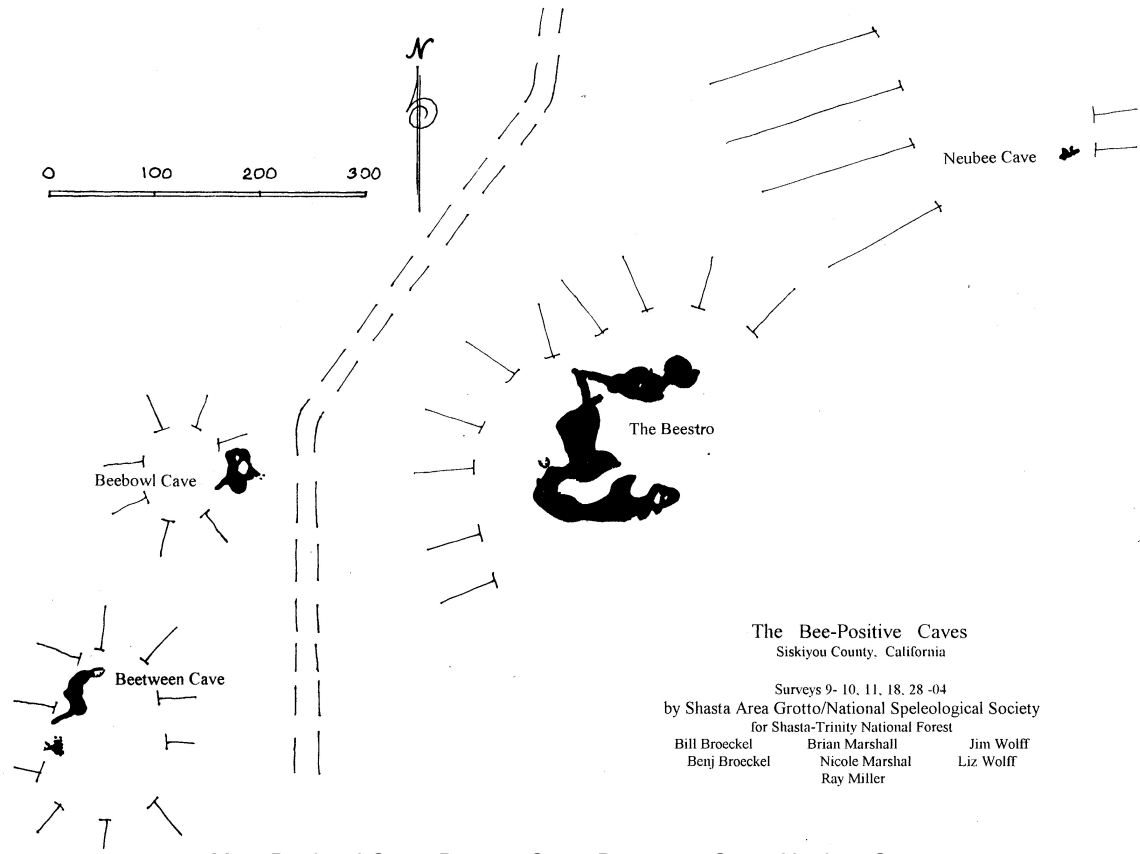
Face it, it's that time of year when the bald-faced hornets don't like anyone, including other bald-faced hornets. We were bee-dazzled, bee-nighted, bee-calmed and ambeevalent about the local ambeance. We'd bee happy to bee lucky, bee

careful, bee cool, and bee cheerful, and would bee glad for a bee bopper, but were happiest to get into the Beestro for the evening cave trip after only a couple hours of surveying in the Beebowl, some cave bopping and a lot of time killing during the day.

The Beestro is the reason we were there. It has a ten foot tree rappel through a two by three foot skylight that the Forest Service wasn't willing to try. They called us to look into it and let them know about the cave, as they have a timber sale, soon to bee sold, surrounding all four beeleaguered caves. The entrance is over grown by willow and fir trees. At seven pm, after the bees had retired, we rigged the drop and rappelled in. The first thing we saw in the spacious entrance chamber was a monolithic pedestal of lava, two feet square and three feet high, set into the floor to one side of the drop. It sits on the side of a ten foot drop down to the main cave level. In an alcove in the entrance chamber Bighorn found an old rusty can, and later a rubber boot heel in the main passage; Liz found a new pencil under the skylight. This cave has seen some visitation in the past.

On the ledge level, a low passage complete with an unlucky squirrel perfuming the air, leads into a room with a domed ceiling and mud floor with a scattering of fresh bat guano. The room has a low dirt-filled lead to the east. Four bats were seen flying around us. Back in the entrance chamber we surveyed down the main tube to the west, then south with good air flow. It was getting late, so at the point the cave turned due south, we bailed and vowed to come back some night to finish the cave. We had surveyed 184 feet, with 50 feet more looked at. There were no bees to greet us on the surface, which we were glad of, so we coiled the rope and stowed gear without beeing bugged.

LW



The Bee-Positive Caves
Siskiyou County, California

Surveys 9- 10, 11, 18, 28 -04
by Shasta Area Grotto/National Speleological Society
for Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Bill Broeckel	Brian Marshall	Jim Wolff
Benj Broeckel	Nicole Marshal	Liz Wolff
	Ray Miller	

Map: Beebowl Cave, Beestro Cave, Between Cave, Neubee Cave



Liz Wolff at the "Bee free" entrance to Beebowl Cave (BB 9-11-04)

BEE TRIP REPORT 9-18-04

By Jim Wolff

We, being Ray Miller, Liz and Jim Wolff, Brian Marshall and 11 year old daughter Nichole. When being Saturday 9-18-04. Where? Good question, only a few know where... so, that makes us all so SAD, but DON'T CRY, the yellow-jackets and Bald-faced hornets want your water... and your flesh!! The caves in this Forest Service timber sale we were looking at all had bees swarming at the entrances, where we had to be aware ...!

For instance, on an earlier trip to Beestro Cave with Bighorn and Liz, where we partly mapped it, we had to wait until after dark, when we could safely rappel and ascend on rope out of that 2.5 ft diameter

skylight...! But THAT is another story ..., I'm rambling, sorry.

This trip, however, starts out when Liz got news (again) from the Forest Service, that there were more caves in the same area to be looked at ASAP, you know. The first one we go to find is about five by two feet. It is easy to find and has about 24 feet of passage if you count the shot across the width and a subhuman upper level. We named it Neubee Cave.

After that there are three more. We go out to find this 6 foot deep hole between Beebowl and the road – no can find. We went to look for a three foot diameter shallow sink with about 6 feet of loose needles 30 feet from the parking area – no can find. We went to look for another of similar description 300-400 ft from the Beestro entrance – no can find.

SO, back to what we do know, two holes south of the Beebowl. The first finally got called Beetween Cave because it is in fact between Beebowl and another one we had to dig open. Brian and Nichole worked on this entrance while Ray and Liz did the surface trail between all the stuff we had looked at in our two trips to the area.

The cave, and we know it is a cave because they could see passage taking off, was between 3 and 4 feet wide and real low. No air movement, but the mud sump at the end of Beetween Cave lines up nicely with the end of this dig, so when we actually enter the new cave, we will likely meet a similar ending to the north.

At lunch we ate inside our vehicles because of the flying pests. It has been a bad bee season up here. **JW**

**BEE POSITIVE**

By B. Broeckel

I was so late for the 9-18 trip that everyone else had moved on already. So I set out on that most dangerous of caving activities – solo ridge-walking – and found two micro caves southwest of The Beestro. They were 8 and 12 feet in length.

By sundown I was done hiking, the bees were gone, and I couldn't keep myself from taking a quick look in Beetween Cave. This cave was found by Liz Wolff on 9-11-04. An entry belly crawl slopes down gently to reach a roomy surface tube passage which goes for 70 feet, ending in a dry mud fill. I found 3 survey stations, so I figured that the others had been there, and had done the survey. From the looks of things, I would guess that the survey trip was

the original exploration. This is a very nice little lava cave and remains in good shape.

9-21-04 I went out again and looked north, finding some hornitos, but no caves. I took a morning photo of the entrance to Beetween Cave.

9-28-04 my son Benj and I met Liz after school in McCloud. We picked up quick hamburgers for supper and headed out for The Beestro. On the 9-11 trip, the Wolffs and I had surveyed ~ 185 ft before we ran out of time. We had left a fine, going lead at the survey's end, and now we were anxious to see where it went before winter.

The ground was damp from rain and the bees were gone. We did the ten foot drop, scurried down cave to the next room, and sent Benj over the breakdown crawl with high hopes and the end of the tape.

Benj broke into a third room with an interesting balcony

ledge. At the far end of the room, a very low crawlway continued underneath the wall. Luckily this had a loose floor so we were able to wiggle through without much trouble.

Beyond the crawlway we found small domes and a dune of gravel, pumice, and organic debris, all drifted in through the small corresponding sinkhole on the surface. Once again Benj took up the tape and went into the passage that opened up to the left. Thus we discovered a fourth room.

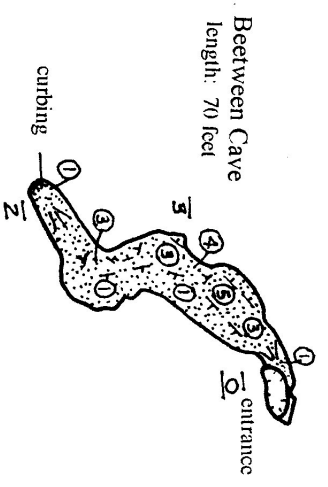
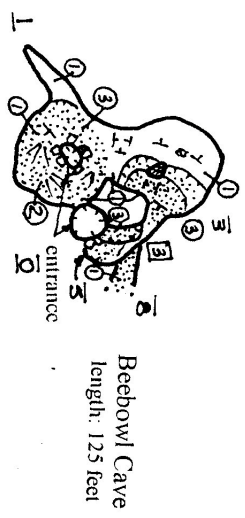
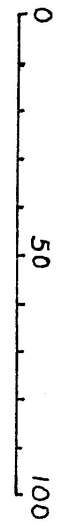
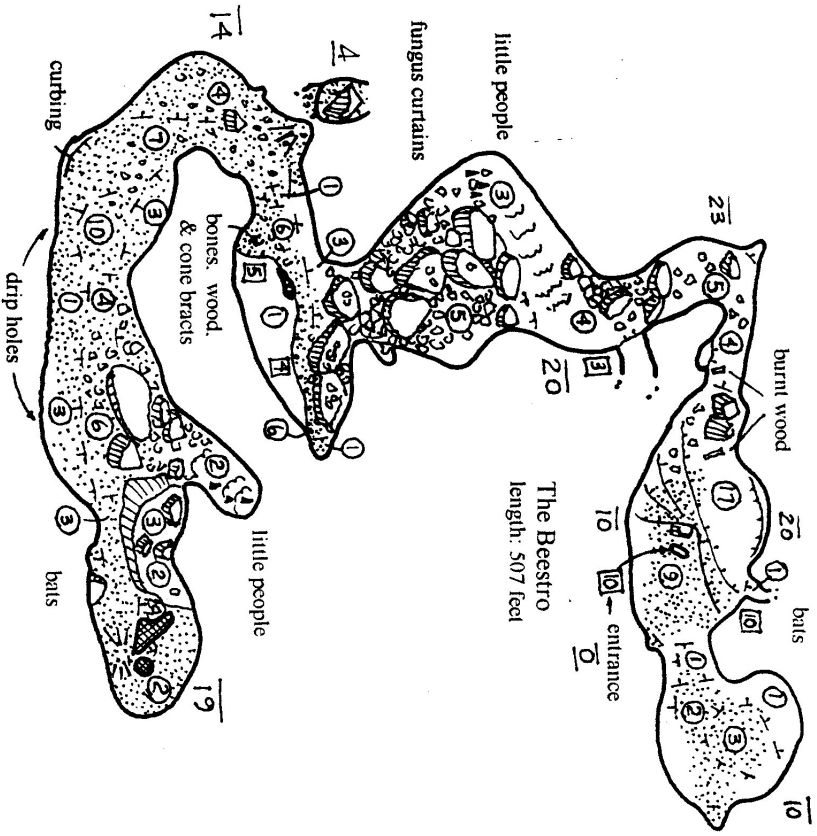
The back half of this room was clogged with breakdown, but we were able to trace the walls around most of it. With the weird turns and dead level floors in this cave, it was hard to figure what it was trying to do. With 507 feet surveyed and the single small skylight vertical entrance, The Beestro is the prize plum cave in this area so far, a great find.

(Last Page)

The Bee-Positive Caves

Surveys 9-10, 11, 18, 28-04
by Shasta Area Grotto/National Speleological Society
for Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Bill Broeckel
Benj Broeckel
Brian Marshall
Nicole Marshall
Ray Miller
Jim Wolf
Liz Wolf



Key to Symbols Used

- ceiling height (feet) 6 bedrock pillar
- ceiling height change U little people
- ledge/height (feet) 6 slope
- breakdown large/small dirt/rodent dung/sticks

Map: Beebowl Cave, Beestro Cave, Between Cave, Neubee Cave

Here is a theory about the formation of the unusual and scenic pedestal found in the entrance chamber. Superheated gases melted a plug out of the ceiling, which then plopped down on a slowly moving lobe of hot lava. Heat escaped through the skylight and the cave rapidly cooled, but not before the plug had been carried several feet downflow from the skylight. That is why the pedestal is not directly under the skylight. It still served as a convenient survey station.

Our evening survey more than doubled the length of the cave. It went far enough to be exciting, but not so far as to keep us up all night. After all, this was a school night. Both survey trips into The Beestro were night trips, and on both occasions we were escorted around the cave by a few friendly bats. The cave also contained mice and frogs, interesting night life in The Beestro. **BB**



Pedestal near the entrance to the Beestro (BB 9-11-04)

SAG RAG
2916 Beer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TO:



Sign found near Bee Positive Caves (BB 9-11-04)

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