

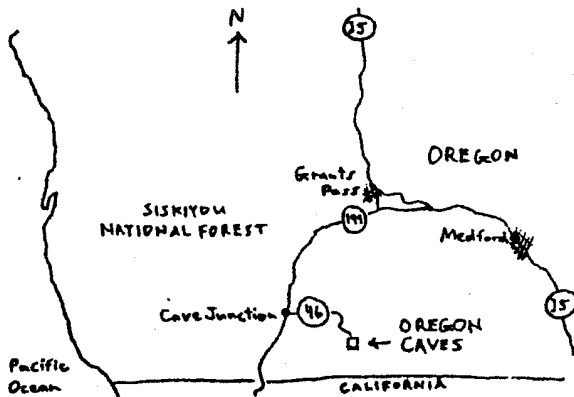
Entrance to cave in Siskiyou County Photo BB

2004 SISKIYOU COUNTY MARBLE CAVE REPORT

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>.

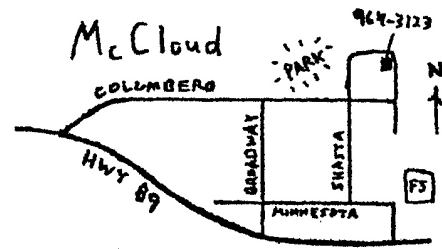
CAVERS CALENDAR 2005

- March 11-13 Oregon Caves Work Weekend. Contact Wolffs (530) 964-3123.
- March 19 WVG vertical practice Troutdale, OR. C/o Bob Johnson (503) 665-4449.
- April 8 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs in McCloud (530) 964-3123.
- April 16-17 Speleo-ed Seminar with Western Region in Three Rivers, CA.
- May 13-15 (tentative) Black Rock Desert campout.
- June 10-12 (tentative) Hat Creek campout.
- July 4-8, 2005 NSS Convention, Huntsville, Alabama.
- August 21-28, 2005 International Congress of Speleology, Athens, Greece.
- August 7-11, 2006 NSS Convention, Bellingham, Washington.



Bring sleeping bag and caving gear for trip.

MARCH



APRIL

SAG RAG SUMMARY (for convenience of CAL CAVER)

Every year since 1982, the SAG RAG has reported something on the activity of the KMCTF. The Jan-Feb 2005 issue reviews the 2004 KMCTF field season, and includes a newly drafted map of an old cave that goes back to the 1990 NSS convention in Yreka. Actually, Convention Cave is even older than that, but 1990 is when cavers seem to have taken notice. Liz Wolff also adds a blurb on Oregon Caves, with another work trip coming up there very soon. Robert Nixon updates us with plans for the grotto within the worldwide web.

BB

SAG Work Trips to Oregon Caves By Liz Wolff

The Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) began volunteering at Oregon Caves National Monument in 1986; the latest work trip was in 2004. On our first trip, and several subsequent trips, we removed construction debris – boards, metal conduit pipes, old wiring – blast rubble, cleaned flowstone and formations, and even reconstructed some broken formations. We were always amazed at what we found hiding in nooks and crannies, around corners, and in unknown pits and holes along the trail throughout the cave. Other trips we surveyed areas of the cave that had been left off of earlier maps or recently reopened, inventoried cave contents, “picked lint” and hung plastic sheets to catch future lint, mud and water. We always had a hot shower, and warm meal awaiting our return from the cave, with lively discussions both political and cavernous to fill our evenings ... that is, if we didn’t go back into the cave to explore the non-tourist regions!

Excerpts from an actual trip report published in the SAG RAG (SAG’s newsletter) give an example of just how varied a weekend could be:

“We worked under the [Spiral] Staircase removing rubble and dirt, and it was fun to see the physical changes our efforts made on the cave. Several passages were widened considerably, a small room was emptied of rubble, and an area of previous excavation was refilled. We dug, filled buckets, hauled, and dug some more until there were no more empty buckets ... so we each took our 40-50 pound buckets and hauled or dragged them in various manners through a stoop passageway back to the 110 entrance.

“... [W]e broke into two survey groups [and] mapped several small side passages while [some others] worked in another area. Jay [head guide at that time] led Team 1 to the start of Paradise Alley and pointed out a lead right beside the trail. ... We recharted ceiling heights in the main Paradise Alley passage since the efforts of other cave restorers had lowered the floor considerably ... exposed side passages as well, and I, being of sound mind (?) and good wind, ‘volunteered’ to crawl, squeeze, climb and otherwise force myself into all the holes [they] could talk me into exploring. ... After a couple hours relaxation in front of the fireplace... [we] went back into the cave to map ... a tight U-shaped passage, contain[ing] the most delicate soda straws I have had the pleasure of lying next to.

“The weekend was further enlivened with the presence of the only surviving member of the 1930 survey crew. He told of setting a fire in a ‘nearby’ cave and later smelling smoke in the Ghost Room. Discussion was lively and theories about which cave and where were propounded. The myth and the search goes on!

“It was a rare privilege for me, and a weekend of memories I will not forget. We did so much work, so fast, that the Monument wants us back. Who else will work hard for peanuts (or turkey and dressing) and enjoy it?” – Bill McGahey, 1989

LW

News from the Tangled Web(site) By Robert Nixon

Hello fellow cavers, I have news from the web site! First off I am glad to announce that we will be offering the SAG RAG in electronic PDF format. Secondly I have been in deep negotiations with our editor and have the "go" to be able to post highlights, which he will provide, from the newsletter to the web site. One more thing that I would like to mention is the search for a color scheme for the site. For those of you who don't know, our site's address is <http://shastagrotto.homeunix.net> and it is listed with the contact information in every issue.

The electronic newsletter has been requested by a number of people/groups and is becoming the trend in newsletter distribution. For some of you this may be a long overdue feature, for others this may not be for you. If you wish to receive the newsletter in PDF format please send an email to webmaster@shastagrotto.homeunix.net with "SAGRAG" in the subject line with your request for this delivery method. When a new newsletter is posted for download I will send an email out to all who choose this option and include a current password to be able to access the file. The password will change with each issue. Each issue will be released shortly after the hard copy is mailed. I will be scanning and compressing everything within a couple of days of receiving my copy. These files will require Adobe Acrobat OR other compatible reader to view them. I have no plans to use any other file format as this is the easiest and most widely compatible file format.

Now to the articles on the web. I think that this will help to keep the site fresh and get people coming back to see what the newest articles are. We are concerned about revealing cave information so any articles with information we don't want posted will obviously not be posted. Every month, as long as I have kept a little ahead, new articles will show up on the first of the month automatically.

I have been working on making the site more visually pleasing and would appreciate your input on the subject. Some test colors are available for viewing on the wishlist page. You can email me, tell me at a meeting, or post in the message board what you think of the colors. I feel that the current one is quite nice but that is just one person's opinion and I would like others.

Thoughts, ideas, complaints, suggestions, and criticism are all welcome. While I write the code for the site and maintain the data this is your site so please speak out if you have something to say.

RN, Webmaster

RN

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING JANUARY 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 pm. at the Jackson home in Yreka.

Present were: Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Arley Kisling, Ray Miller; Neils Smith, and Melanie Jackson.

Minutes: were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: January Balance is \$432.74.

SAG RAG Report: Seven issues with a total of 36 paid subscriptions were printed this year. Our circulation counting 18 freebie subscriptions totaled 54 for this past year. Two copies of the SAG RAG have been sent to the NSS Library and to the Cave Files. Bill filled out and sent a form to American Caving Accidents for the cave rescue that took place at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument in May of 2004.

Correspondence: Rec'd from Lica Ersek, a PhD student at Oregon State University a request for some stalactites from Northern California or Southern Oregon (carbonate caves) to analyze as paleoclimatic archives for reconstructions of past climate changes. Pieces would be returned so they could be returned to cave and glued back in place. This request will be forwarded to KMTCF and Shascade Grotto. On Jan. 23, 05 from 1- 3 pm. the Western Cave Conservancy will have a meeting in Modesto, CA. Rec'd from Deana DeWire at Oregon Caves the official OK to have a SAG work weekend March 12-13. The cave will be closed to the public at this time. Enclosed was a list of do's and don'ts for the monument. Bill Broeckel received and read to us a Christmas card addressed to SAG from Kyra Young, one of the two kids rescued from Catacomb Cave at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument.

Old Business: Ballots as of 1/14/05 meeting for officer nominations are:

Chairman – Russ Yoder
Vice Chair – Arley Kisling
Sec/Treas. – Melanie Jackson

We are sure to receive more ballots and will notify the membership if there is a change in the officers.

New Business: Deana DeWire of Oregon Caves sent a memo regarding an "Adopt-a-cave" program. This program would allow groups to choose a cave passage or area that they would be responsible for on going restoration or clean up. These would mainly help clean high lint areas (lint removal, trail clean up). They would maintain these areas annually or biannually as needed. Our grotto feels this is a good program for other groups that may wish to participate; however, SAG prefers not to "adopt-a-cave", but rather to continue working at Oregon Caves on a freelance basis doing work/restoration when/where/ and as needed, as we have always done in the past.

Cave Trips: The Kenney family (Bill, Cheryl, Zane, Joel & Felicia), went caving for fun Christmas Day at Lava Beds and took in the Labyrinth System. Liz and Jim Wolff, and Russ Yoder, found Dumb Luck Cave in the Adam's Homestead Area. Jim and Russ made a return trip to map it. Bill, Judy & Benj Broeckel mapped 150 feet of Mad Hatter Cave at Hat Creek. It has 630 feet of passage and is still going. There are 11 leads altogether.

The February meeting will be at Kisling's at Lake Shastina. Liz will contact the Klamath Nat'l Forest to let them know and to request garbage bags and invite them to join us in our clean up of Pluto's and Sand Caves.

Joe Oliphant has put out a new publication of Alpine Karst. Bill will tell you how you can order one in the next SAG RAG.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Jackson

MJ

MARBLE REPORT 2004

By Bill Broeckel

The usual sequence of KMCTF Speleocamps took place in 2004, except for October which was rained out. Participants continue to 'go caving' in the area, that in itself always a major endeavor. There were some significant achievements as well, as we shall review.

July Speleocamp

After a week of thunder & lightening, we enjoyed fair weather for the duration. Kip Bauman and Mark Scott kicked off the season arriving at camp in the wee hours on 7-2. Many people were sprawled around. It turned out that they were a wilderness experience group, mostly girls, and not cavers. They left, so KMCTF took over the site for the holiday.

Later on, Kip and Mark hiked around and found a good cave. They described a short down climb, stream passages, two streams, a series of rooms, leads, survey stations, and evidence of prior visitation. We were thinking it might be Streamway Cave.

While they were gone, the entire Broeckel family arrived and took a good tent site. The boys were sent on to camp by themselves at a nearby lake. I ridgewalked a few minutes & only found holes I couldn't get into. However, I did get to see a blond bear, presumed to be an albino Black Bear. Kip and Scott also saw a blond bear that day, probably the same one.

Next Jim Wolff and Arley Kisling showed up, then Scott Linn, then Geoff MacNoughton.

July 3, 2004 – Caving

Becky, Bill (Bighorn), and Judy Broeckel surveyed 185 ft in Convention Cave. Tom Kline arrived in camp. Everybody else followed Tom to help him with some good leads he found last year in an area that before, has always seemed to be choked with ice and snow. They surveyed Bizzerd Cave, 144 feet long and 57 feet deep. Tom published an article and map of this cave in a recent issue of the Underground Express, the newsletter of the Willamette Valley Grotto.

Kip Baumann sent some July 4 Speleocamp photos to the KMCTF e-mail group, after the trip. Here are some of the captions telling some of the Bizzerd Cave survey trip story. "Tom and Arley about to drop the pit in Tom's Bizzerd Cave. Arley is the first to check it out. Tom squeezes down into the lowest section at the bottom of the drop."

On this trip to Bizzerd Cave, Geoff MacNoughton twisted his knee. This injury occurred on the surface, before he entered the cave. Jim Wolff stayed with Geoff, and he was able to limp back down to camp. Geoff is grateful to everyone who helped bring all his cave gear back down from the cave.

July 4 Self Rescue

The next morning, Geoff's left knee was sore and swollen. He appeared to have strained or torn his lateral collateral ligament. He felt he could hike on it, so he took off with trekking poles, a light pack, and a stiff-legged gait.

The Broeckel family was also

hiking out that day, so they divided up his remaining gear and followed him out to the cars. He made it to the parking lot before we caught up to him. He was able to drive home and has since made a good recovery. He later expressed appreciation to Jim Wolff and the others who assisted him, and he would like to return to the area and actually go caving.

Other Stuff

On Sunday (7-4), there was also a regular cave trip to check on the always interesting and dynamic entrance situation at Corkscrew Cave. Kip Baumann caught Scott Linn on film as he ascended Frozen Falls Cave. Scott, Kip, and Mark Scott helped clear Reisenheim Entrance. Later, Jim Wolff and Arley Kisling are shown with the other three "hanging around the fire on the 4 of July". It had to be a good day.

Other events at this Speleocamp I don't know, except Tom Kline wrote that he went ridgewalking on Monday (7-5) and saw two bears. He also met Mark Harder and Louisa Van Hooven coming up the trail as he was hiking out.

Also, I think Scott Linn led a trip to Jetstream, and they looked at a blowing lead that they were unable to get through.

David Cole, Matt Covington, Bonnie Crystal, and Steve Knutson were in Peru this July. I must say, looking at the NSS News article, they were in the Super-Marbles caving area, though they have yet to find the Bigfoot corollary.



Becky Broeckel on the cave trail Photo 7-04 BB

CAVING

(To the tune of "Over the River")

Over the mountains and through the earth
It's under the ground we go
My Dad knows the way, but sometimes we stray
The passage gets way to low – oh

Over the blockage and through the hole
The daylight fades away
I use my light to keep my sight
It's deeper and down we go

By Rebecca Broeckel



Rebecca Broeckel

Convention Cave Notes

The entrances are in a cliff. The larger entrance measures about 12 ft wide and 13 ft high. This is a rarity around here, such a big horizontal entrance to just walk right in. There are some others like that, but the general rule is that just getting there is more than half the fun.

The other entrance is nearby to the left, also in the cliff. Cavers with good balance can reach this smaller entrance by tiptoe out along a narrow ledge.

You might as well go in the main entrance. After a brief duck-under, walking passage extends toward a darker zone. A crawlway connects the other entrance into this twilight chamber.

In the back of the room, an old wooden torch is seen on the left. A muddy crawlway goes to a dome room, where another muddy crawl continues to another domed room. The first dome room is a climbing lead. The cave goes beyond the second dome for a short distance, but gets too low. More cave passage can be seen past the low point. Slight air flow is detected.

Convention Cave was named in relation to the NSS Convention of 1990, which was in Yreka and featured many caves of Siskiyou Co. and the surrounding areas.

Convention Cave was surveyed by Jerry Davis and his geology students from San Francisco State on Sept. 4, 1999. The Broeckel's survey data on July 3, 2005 was used to draft the map that appears here. I still have more trouble making maps of caves, unless I help with the survey. Besides, it made a

horizontal trip my family was up to. In 2005, the cave was mapped using 9 survey shots. It still needs to be GPS'ed or surface surveyed probably, into the Reference Point (RP) system.

September Speleocamp

Ten people get credit for attending this September: Mark Harder, Jason Hoom and two other students of Jerry Davis at San Francisco State University (both also named Davis), Arley Kisling, Steve Knutson, Scott Linn, Louisa Van Hooven and her son Dominick Van Hooven, and Jim Wolff.

Bigfoot

Steve Knutson reported on the camp. The three students "did a familiarization trip to the Terminal Room in Bigfoot, and put a new rope in the entrance, (a) Redding rope still there as well."

There had been talk about getting some new gear into the cache. Scott Linn arranged for donated rope from the Corvallis Mountain Rescue Unit. Scott writes that "These are 300 foot 11 mm low-stretch ropes used for rescue main and belay lines. They were hardly used and well-cared for. They won't be as abrasion resistant as PMI MaxiWear, but they ARE free ... I'm not carrying them up!"

Steve Knutson goes on to report "(Mark) Harder had 900 feet of new rope horse packed in. He could use donations to defray the packing cost."

Corkscrew

Knutson also describes some more investigation into the various entrances to Corkscrew

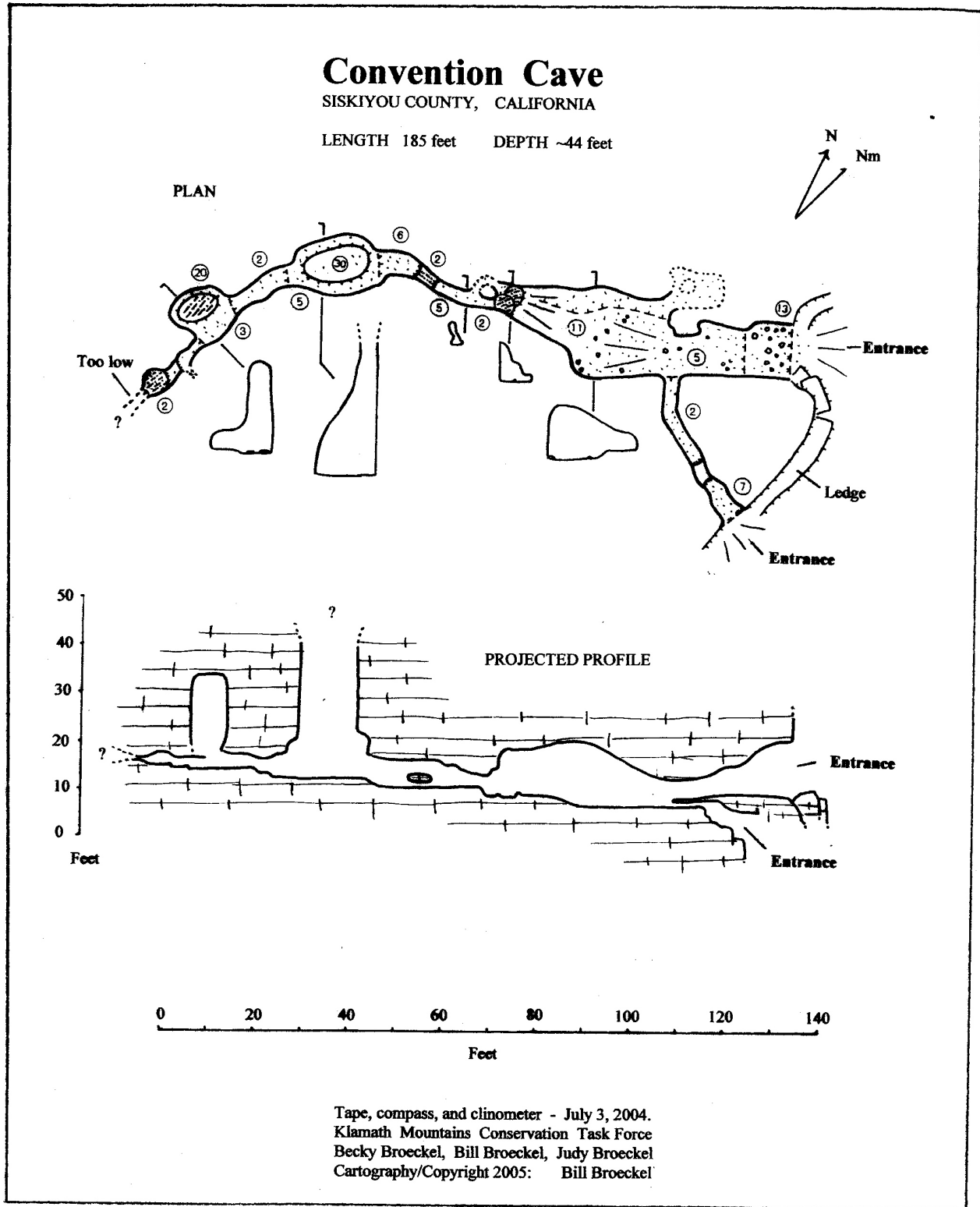
Cave. Hearing Arley Kisling talk about it, this year's Corkscrew trips were great, and he is looking forward to more in 2005. It seems that there is some new survey now that needs to be done to add to the cave, which is already over a mile in length.

Skunk Hollow

Steve had one more cave report from September 2004. "Another thing that happened was that Scott (Linn) and I, and then all the rest, headed into Skunk Hollow to get into the Sundquist/Ream extension. But the stream passage is now a belly crawl, and when I had to dig to proceed, I gave it up. I guess it has graveled in – filled in with gravel, and that extension may not be accessible now."

October Speleocamp didn't happen this year due to heavy weather over Columbus Day. However, Mark Fritzke and a friend named Mike made a breakthrough in Drystream Cave on the weekend of Sept. 25-26, 2004.

It is best to let Fritzke describe this in his own words. "We crawled through ... over 200 feet of clean, tubular marble passage!!! Best of all it is all stable! Most of the passage is flat and then heads downhill for the last 100 feet, where it 'fingers' into tributary tubes heading left ... I followed the largest tube to a sump, but we lost the air progressively over the last 50 feet. Two of the side tubes are big enough, but clogged by sand sumps. One is a small tubular dig, and one is a tight dig past a large block, but looks promising since it is the last one with air. We quit at the sump, and exited after 9 hours of caving at 4:45 a.m., and slept until noon."



Map: Convention Cave

The Lead Awaits

Busy schedules and the weather conspired so that we were unable to return to Drystream Cave in 2004, after this great breakthrough. Let me just say this is definitely Fritzke's lead, as he has been working on this very hope for over 30 years. For one thing, he knows the best way to get through an area of unstable breakdown to reach the lead. Regarding this area, Mark wrote "It ranks at the top of the most unstable piles of breakdown I've ever penetrated." Coming from Fritzke that says quite a bit right there. I for one would not try it without Mark.

So in 2004 we have some good things happening in Corkscrew and Drystream Caves. Both of these caves are already over a mile in surveyed length. With 100+ other caves in the area, as always we look forward to another season of good caving, exploration, and friends in 2005.

Some Research

In the early years of the KMCTF, cave biology was Cooperatively pursued through Pacific Union College, and mineralogy was done by the USGS under the direction of Bruce Rogers.

In later years, most of the earth science in the KMCTF area has been led by Jerry Davis of San Francisco State University. During this time, Davis has encouraged cooperation between his various programs and the KMCTF cavers. He currently writes that he has a grad student doing some more work on Bigfoot System hydrology.

Now Peter Clark of OSU (Oregon State University) has a PhD candidate working on speleothem climatology records. It appears that this may be directed at recently growing stalagmites, and thus lower elevation caves.

These research projects are of great interest, and contact with science helps cavers remember that we are indeed speleologists.

Alpine Karst

Popular in the 1970s, this caving publication has been resurrected by Joe and Tina Oliphant of Montana. The Alpine Karst 2004 issue looks great, and has three articles on the KMCTF area.

First, Tom Aley recalls his secret explorations of Bigfoot Cave back in the 1960s, before there was a KMCTF. Yours truly attempts to encapsulate the progress of the KMCTF since the last Alpine Karst was issued in 1978, which I now realize was quite an impossible task. Finally, Feride Serefiddin and Jerry Davis review the geology of the Bigfoot System and the surrounding karst.

Many other interesting higher karst landscapes are covered. I think copies of Alpine Karst 2004 should still be available for \$16 check or money order to:

Alpine Karst Foundation
3290 Canyon Mill Road
Roman, MT 59864

BB



Tiger Lilies Photo 7-04 BB

**SHAST AREA GROTTA
DECEMBER 10, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. at the Jackson home in Yreka.

Present were: Jim & Liz Wolff, Arley Kisling, Ray Miller, Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Neils Smith and guest Elaine Smith.

Minutes: accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$432.74.

Correspondence: Scott Fee informed us that the 2001 Speleo Digest is now available for \$23.00. Grotto 10 reports are now due. (Deadline is Feb. 28, 05). Matt Bowers the Western Region chairman informed us that we have an opportunity to suggest a new name for the Cal Caver before 1/27/05. Dan Snyder has reworked the Western Region membership list and financial structure so that those who have paid for, but not received any or only 1 issue of the Cal Caver will get it. I, (SAG Sec/Treas) have sent all membership information to Dan Snyder. The Western Region rewriting of their Constitution and By laws has been delayed until the afore mentioned business is finished. There will be a Speleo Education Seminar by Joel DeSpain in the Spring of 2005. It will focus on cave inventory systems, biological evaluation, and there will be cave trips. No date has been set yet, but Easter time is being considered. Liz Wolff passed around a Thank You letter and two pictures taken of her and Ray Miller at the cave tour they conducted for the 5th & 6th grade combined classes from Etna Elementary School. Umpqua National Forest requests SAG's comments on their Forest Cave Management Handbook. Liz will respond to this letter. Arley Kisling rec'd a letter from Oregon Caves requesting public comments on the new environmental assessment that addresses fire management and fuel reduction plans for the, Monument. Three alternatives were listed. It was recommended and approved by the grotto that Arley be designated our grotto liaison to comment on the EA due to his experience with fire management and his interest. Melanie will request a hard copy of the EA from the Monument for Arley and the grotto to review. When the content of the EA has been digested and presented to us by Arley then SAG will respond to the ORCA management resources people with our public comment.

Old Business: Discussed the Cave Data Base. What's in it? Who has it? Who can access it. What will we do with it ultimately? The Cave Data Base has lava tubes of Siskiyou County, not Lava Beds or KMTCF or controlled caves outside Lava Beds Monument. It contains copies of any cave maps, pencil drawings, survey notes, topo maps, UTM coordinates, photos, explicit directions, cave name(s), bat usage, presence of water and biological significance and a secure index. It is available to SAG members and selected scientific community members on a need to know basis. It is not available to the McCloud Forest Service. Ray Miller and Liz Wolff have this information. Nominations for 2004 SAG officers will be in the next SAG RAG for the meeting in Jan. 05. Regarding the restoration of Barnum and Sand Caves: Jim Wolff says he hasn't tried the environmentally friendly stuff (called RAM) that Russ Yoder found. We think the grotto should experiment with it first at Pluto's Cave at this winter's cave conservation weekend in February before using it in Barnum or Sand Caves.

New Business: Does the grotto want to have an Oregon Caves work trip in March during the regular grotto meeting weekend? Russ Yoder also asked about a trip to the Black Rock Desert

Meetings:

Jan. 14, 05 Melanie's in Yreka

Feb. 19-21, 05 Conservation Weekend Kislings/Wolff's/TBA

March 11-13, 05 Oregon Caves work trip

April 8, 05 Wolff's in McCloud

May 13, 05 Black Rock Desert, NV. Kenney/Yoder

June 10-12, 05 Hat Creek Camp Out

Trip Reports: J. & L Wolff and B. Broeckel mapped BLM Cave to 151 feet Nov. 30, 04 and Badger Cave to 148 feet Dec. 3, 04. Both caves are lava tubes with sand floors.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Melanie Jackson

MJ

Time to Renew Memberships and Subscriptions

NAME(S): _____

NSS#: _____ NSS# is current? _____

IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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

_____ I want to subscribe to CAL CAVER too for another \$10.

_____ SAG RAG subscription only, without grotto membership. \$6.

_____ TOTAL. Make checks payable to "Shasta Area Grotto", (not "SAG") and send to Steve Hobson 2433 California St. Redding CA 96001

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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