

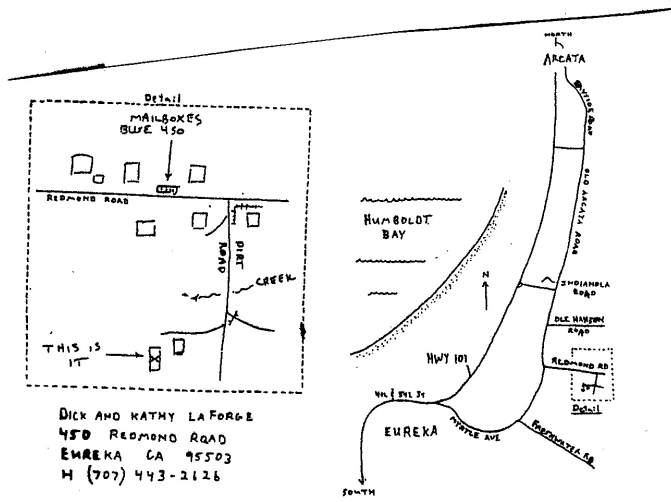


KMCTF ACTIVITY IN SISKIYOU COUNTY – 2005

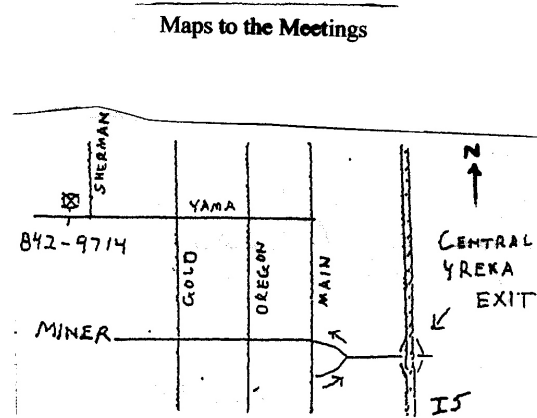
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**CAVERS CALENDAR 2005-2006**

- November 12 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Dick LaForge's in Eureka (707) 443-2626
- December 9 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie Jackson's in Yreka (530) 842-9714
- July 3-6, 2006 International Symposium Vulcanospeleology, Tepoztlan, Mexico.
- August 7-11, 2006 NSS Convention, Bellingham, Washington.



NOVEMBER – EUREKA



DECEMBER - YREKA

**SAG RAG SUMMARY** By Bighorn Broeckel

This issue is devoted to KMCTF caving in Siskiyou County this year. Really devoted. Other recent trip reports and meeting notes have been set aside, waiting to find some space in Vol. 6. I must apologize for monopolizing Vol. 5 in this way, but at least we are getting the KMCTF stuff out there earlier this time around. There have been some new faces at speleocamps lately, and lots of “familiarization trips”, which means you don’t have to find something to survey. Some of that also has to do Steve Knutson being busy with Peru, and when the cat is away the mice will play. Some little caves managed to get mapped anyway, and are included here as follows: Gate Lake Cave (143 feet), Missing Link Cave (227 feet), and Streambed Cave (34 feet).

**BB**

COVER: Can you spot the new USA bat stamp in this forest scene? Yes, the Postal Service slipped a bat into the Northeast Deciduous Forest sheet, seventh in the series on the Nature of America. Shown in the upper right hand corner is the Eastern Red Bat (*Lasiurus borealis*). According to the back of the sheet, “nocturnal red bats roost in dense foliage.”

**BB**

## KMCTF ACTIVITY IN SISKIYOU COUNTY – 2005

By Bill “Bighorn” Broeckel

### KMCTF

Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force (KMCTF) is coordinated under the Conservation Committee of the National Speleological Society (NSS). KMCTF is concerned with the study, exploration, and mapping of cave resources in Northern California and Southern Oregon. This voluntary work is done in cooperation with the appropriate governmental agencies. Each year, depending on local conditions, a number of trips (speleocamps) are scheduled allowing caving groups and participants join together and combine resources in pursuit of various objectives. KMCTF has operated this way for thirty years. This year, a number of Western Region Grottos were represented at three different speleocamps.

### July Speleocamp

Attendance was down, perhaps due in part to the concurrent NSS convention in Alabama (TAG country). I couldn't go to either event, but luckily Bruce White from the Bay Area filed a good report on the KMCTF e-mail group. The following information is gathered from Bruce White's report.

First, we have a list of at least some, if not all, the cavers attending.

David Campen	
Mark Fritzke	Bri White
David Kestell	Bruce White
Arley Kisling	Jim Wolff

Conditions were favorable, although snow was present in some, sinkholes, and on the peaks. Kestell saw a bear, apparently well-behaved.

### Cave Touring

Bigfoot Cave was first on the itinerary. On Saturday (July 2) Kestell and the Whites did a 6 hour tour. At the Discovery Entrance they had to scare off the big buck standing there, then rig the mud slope below the melting snow in the sink. They dropped the pit O.K., then found their way to Cave Junction and on to the Big Room. Lurking Fear looked too wet for PVC suits, so at this point they turned back, and the introduction trip was complete.

Sunday (July 3), the same three people and Arley Kisling entered Corkscrew Cave using the Backdoor entrance. I think Campen and Wolff were also scouting around on this trip, but didn't go down the drops. The vertical drops were 80, 25, 20, and 20 feet. The last one was a climb-down to reach base level.



Fern-bedecked cave entrance, probably Corkscrew Cave  
8-7-05

"We were into the main passage at the bottom which had a very nice sculpted marble floor. We explored about 300 feet of passage... which included a beautiful 10 foot wide by 3 foot deep pool with a waterfall pouring into it from a small hole in the overhung wall above." (White 2005)

### September Speleocamp

Once again the weather was settled and conditions were comfortable for the Labor Day weekend speleocamp. People were coming and going including a large group from the Mother Lode Grotto. Kip Baumann coordinated a pack train through Bryan and Shennan Pack Station. We had a chance to talk with Mike Bryan as he was loading the mules on Monday. He plans to "retire" but seems to think that someone else will probably take his



place running the mule train business at the current location. He has enjoyed the peaceful and quiet life, but it is getting harder to keep up with the pace of the work. He also had some great stories to tell about his times as a military scuba diver.

Here is a pretty good list of those people who were there for at least part of the weekend.

Rolf Aalbu	Tom Kline
Kip Baumann	Michael Landrum
Becky Broeckel	Arley Kisling
Bill Broeckel	Forrest Sundquist
Dave Campen	Midori Sundquist
Rich Collier	Rich Sundquist
Mark Fritzke	Walker Sundquist
Ric Gates	Karole Ward
Tom Grundy	Jim Wolff
Steve Hobson	



The great quote of the trip was from Tom Kline: "I am my own mule."



Michael Landrum emerges from the 400 ft crawl in Drystream Cave  
9-3-05

### More Cave Training

Sep. 2 (Friday) Rolf Aalbu, Ric Gates, and Tom Kline got started near camp with a look into Skunk Hollow. Later that evening, Becky and Bill Broeckel did the same, once again noticing that bats fly around in the big rooms at night. The really energetic cavers went checking leads in Upstairs/Downstairs. They were rewarded with a sunset view from the cliff entrance, and a night hike back to camp. Those in the Up/Down group were Kip Baumann, Tom Grundy, Forrest Sundquist, and Rich Sundquist.

### September 3 (Saturday)

Sep.3 (Saturday) there were two groups headed for Bigfoot Cave. Aalbu, Baumann, Gates, and Grundy did the Big Room tour trip, and Collier, Ward, and Kline visited Chthulu via the Hanging Rocks crossover.

The Sundquists did a family kids trip to Skunk Hollow, then later Forrest and Midori Sundquist teamed up with Bill Broeckel and Michael Landrum on a horizontal tour trip to Drystream Cave, including the 400 foot crawl. Michael Landrum is a new SAG member who has worked at some of the cave National Parks. This was his first KMCTF caving experience.

There was one other trip on Saturday. Steve Hobson, Arley Kisling, and Jim Wolff went to Corkscrew Cave. Jim and Arley have been going to that cave so often the last few years, they must really have it wired by now.

### September 4 (Sunday)

Kip Baumann and Mark Fritzke went back to Drystream, but couldn't reach the area they were interested in because of water. The caves were not as dry as expected this September.

Rolf Aalbu, Ric Gates, and Tom Grundy bopped Stash Cave. Rich and Forrest Sundquist left them to that, and ridgewalked around, running into odd items such as Bruise Springstream and Traffic Jam Caves. Ward and Collier also did ridgewalking, to the Upper Karst. Midori and Walker Sundquist did a butterfly hike (Walker is this little preschooler guy).

There was another Bigfoot trip. Dave Campen, Rich Collier, and Steve Hobson saw the Big Room and went out into the Heinous Dome loops. Under Cauliflower Cave, they found a skeleton of an unidentified animal. A digital image was obtained, and we all tried to figure out what it was. It may have been a weasel.

For the sophisticated caver, this Sunday also featured an evening outing. Tom Grundy, Tom Kline, and Midori Sundquist dropped into Wahahshun Cave. I think Jim Wolff and Arley were interested in this trip, but they were also hiking out. Michael Landrum hiked out earlier.

Becky and Bill Broeckel went hiking and made a nice loop in the local watershed. They did stop in to check on Gate Lake Cave, and actually did a quick survey (length: 143 feet).

### September 5 (Labor Day)

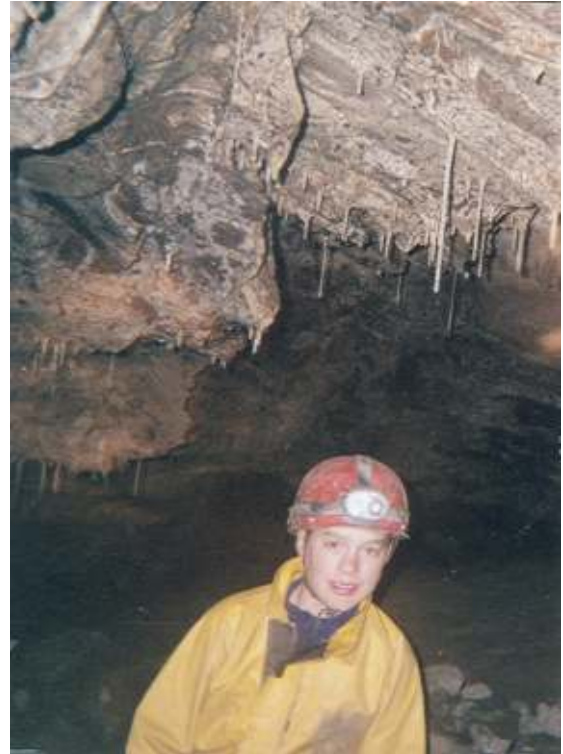
Rolf Aalbu, Kip Baumann, and Bill Broeckel went to GPS some reference points. Kip took this chance to show us a new cave he had found previously. We slipped in the small entrance and eased our way down a slope of loose rock to the edge of a vertical step. This would need to be rigged for further progress. The drop was probably about 15-20 feet, and the cave could be seen continuing down into the darkness at the limits of our lights.

Speleocamp was winding down. Everybody was packing up and going home. Rich Collier, Tom Kline, and Mark Fritzke were their own mules, and there were some other mulish ones. The rest simply started walking down the trail. Mike Bryan showed up with the hired animals and loaded them up with the canvas bags full of camping and caving gear.

Soon everyone left, except the Broeckels, who got to stay an extra night. That evening they checked Black Mountain Pit #4, and the next day, Horta's Den. Then they too hiked out, on Tuesday. Surprisingly, they ran into Ethan Donahue and two other cavers hiking in, planning to visit Trail Junction Cave, and maybe Skunk Hollow. And so it goes on.

**BB**

(More on page 12)



Forrest Sundquist in Drystream Cave 9-3-05

### MEMORIES OF SPELEOCAMP

By Jim Wolff

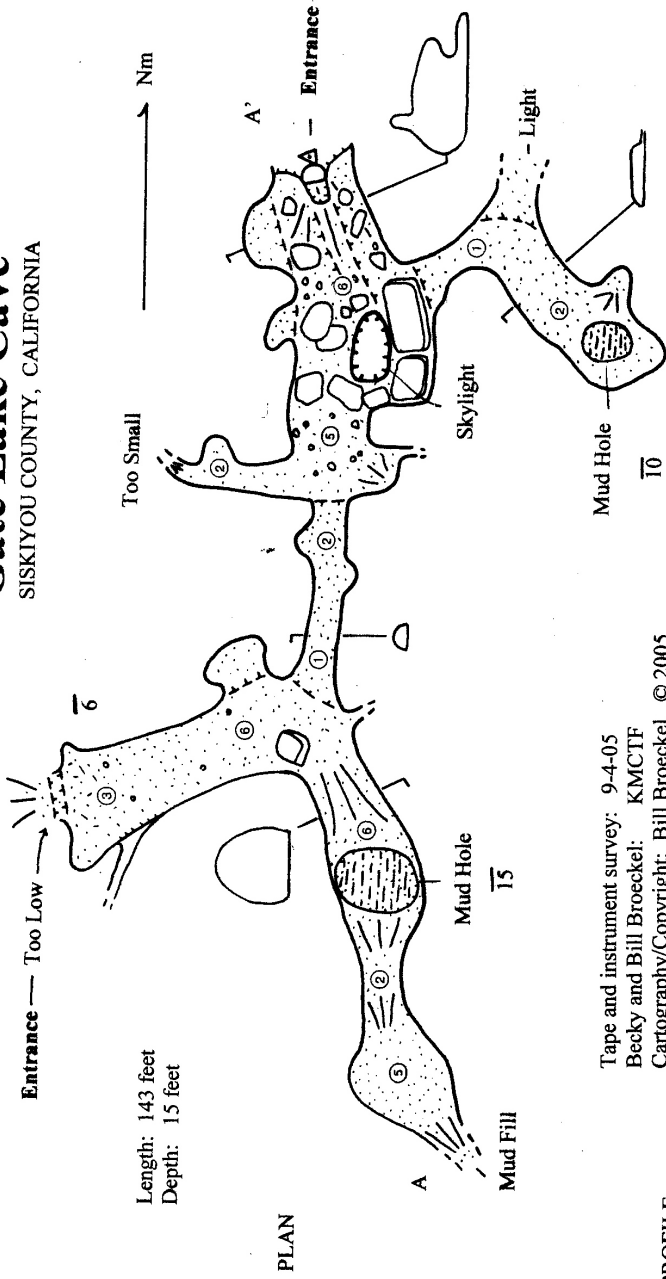
Here's more on Labor Day Speleocamp '05. Rich and Midori brought their family along, so it was good to see the four of them! AND their youngest, Walker, why I hadn't seen him since his birth. Forrest is very tall for his age. Rich plans on returning to caving up there again... Great! Mark Fritzke told us the story of his through trip in Great X Cave in Wyoming. He recalls the cave was an endurance trip – definitely an "absolute" cave the NSS is in the process of acquiring.

I didn't go into Corkscrew Cave this time because after looking at the entrance pit, I determined that I could get in, but would have problems with getting out. The pit was real tight, and with no footholds. Steve Hobson said he could get me out, using a simple 2:1 haul system by simply standing on the climbing rope that was suspended free of the rock, between the two of three rope pads we were using. That would give me about a foot of gain on rope, and likely give me opportunity to move my ascenders up some too. I always learn stuff when I'm in a crowd of cavers. There are always more experienced cavers than you are!

The horse/mule packer said he is quitting this year. So with none other to rely on in future camps, we will ALL have to pack it in ourselves. It was a large camp this year, and I hope to see them all there again. **JW**

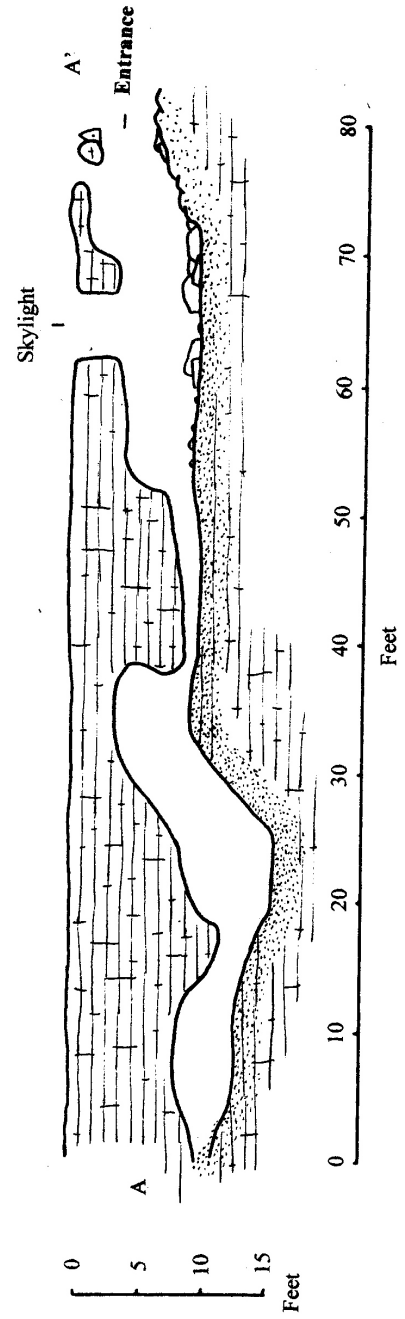
# Gate Lake Cave

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Tape and instrument survey: 9-4-05  
Becky and Bill Broeckel: KMCTF  
Cartography/Copyright: Bill Broeckel © 2005

## PROFILE



Map: Gate Lake Cave





Becky Broeckel at a trail shelter in KMCTF country 9-4-05

### GATE LAKE CAVE

By Bill Broeckel

Gate Lake Cave has two entrances. The main entrance is a walk-in and the other is a skylight. Both entrances access a short segment of walking gallery. Side passages are mostly filled up with muddy sediments. One goes as a belly crawl to a seasonal pool. Another crawlway at the end of the walking gallery extends the cave through a constriction to reach another walking passage.

The back half of the cave features a discharge point where spring flood waters issue forth from the cave. Daylight slides under the low ceiling, and it would be possible to dig your way out here if you needed to. The back half also has a seasonal pool/mud hole which is the lowest point in the entire cave.

The general style of the cave is phreatic maze, and there is some banded marble. Speleothems are at a bare minimum if

there are any at all. The total length is 143 feet, and depth is 15 feet. This is probably the most horizontal cave in the area. KMCTF references to Gate Lake Cave date all the way back to 1978. It was probably surveyed a long time ago, but no maps have been circulated. Surface traverse was done in 1993. This cave has not been frequently visited and remains in good shape. Moths, banana slugs, and spiders have been seen, but no bats.

Gate Lake Cave is located in an isolated body of marble that shows a high degree of solution. There are some other unconnected sediment filled holes in the near vicinity, such that one of the KMCTF references uses the plural "Gate Lakes Caves". (Knutson, 1993) I first saw the cave on 9-7-02 but didn't notice the back half. Becky came back with me to survey last September, and we scraped away some mud in order to get through the crawl. **BB**



Becky Broeckel resting in the shady Gate Lake Cave entrance 9-4-05





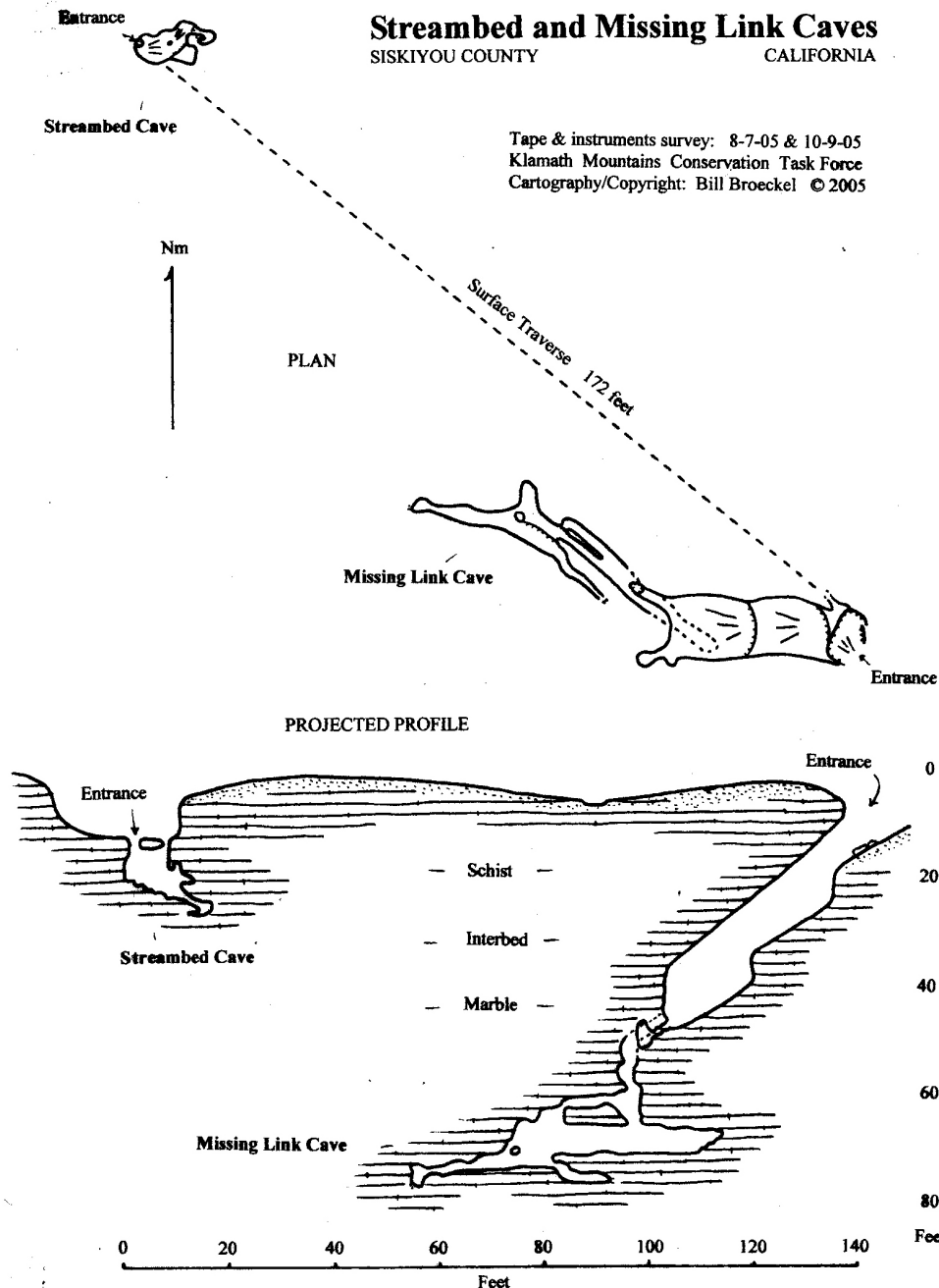
**MISSING LINK CAVE**

By Bill Broeckel

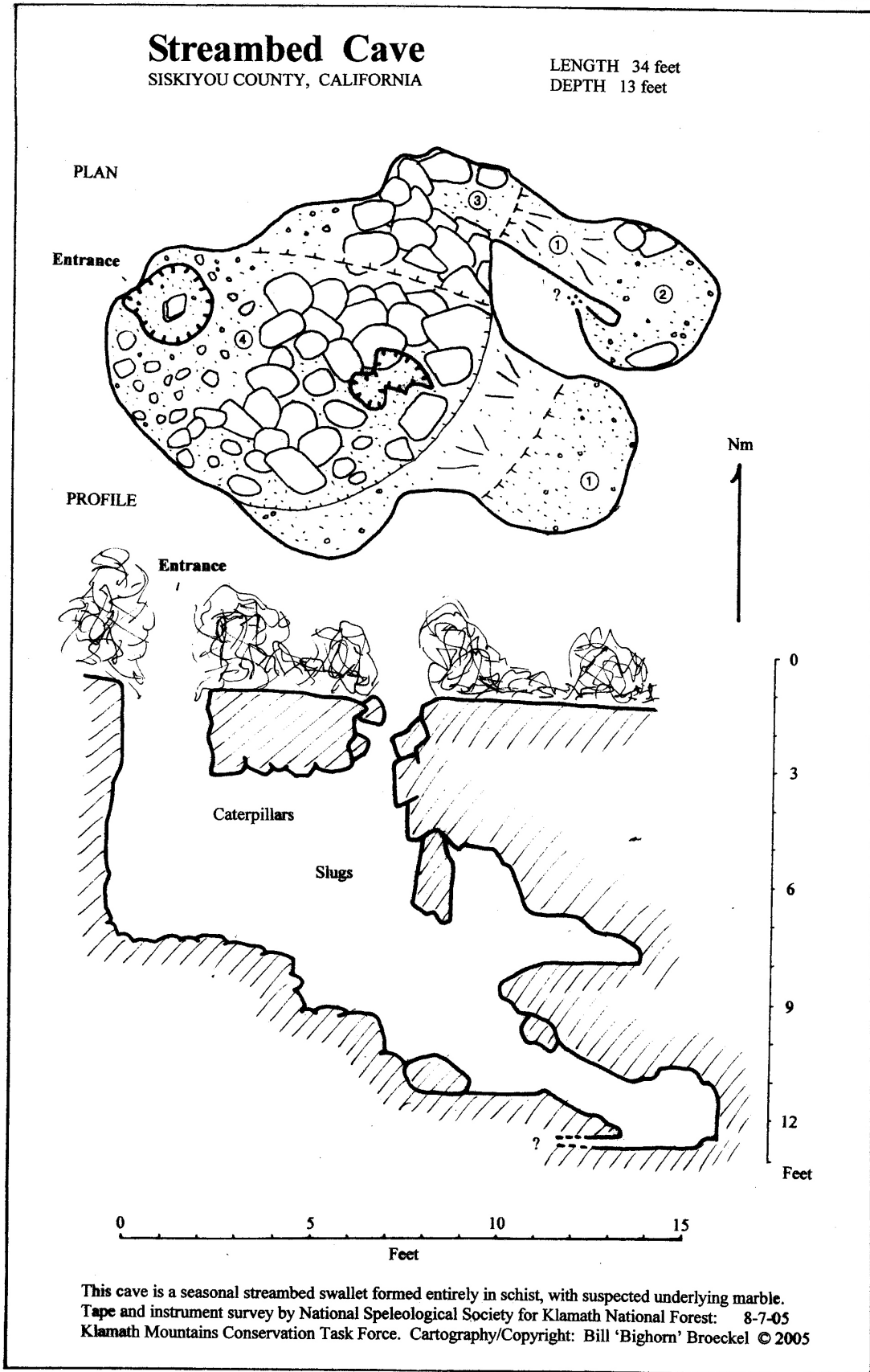
Although this minor 227 foot cave has a depth of 76 feet, it is considered horizontal. The whole cave can be explored without use of ropes. There is one entrance. There are two steps to climb down, plus a 20 foot drop through a narrow crevice, with little ledges in all the right places. Knutson recently wrote a good description of the cave.

"The entrance sink, about 15 feet across, is in schist. The sink leads to a steeply descending, large passage, that is in the Bigfoot marble. That passage leads to a couple small drains. One of these...bells out below, but is climbable. Below that, small footprints were found, and apparently were those of juvenile wilderness goers. The small two-level complex below doesn't go far, ... with some air flow in the northwest end. That is the end that is headed toward Bigfoot." (Knutson, 2005)

Steve Knutson, Mark Fritzke, and Dave Walker discovered Missing Link Cave in October, 1985. The cave was positioned in a strategic spot between Corkscrew and Bigfoot Caves. Missing Link is another one that was probably surveyed some 20 years ago, but I wanted to see how it lined up with a newer cave nearby (Streambed Cave). So this year I surveyed the whole works. It does not line up with Streambed exactly, but close enough to be intriguing. **BB**



Map: Missing Link Cave, Streambed Cave



Map: Streambed Cave

**STREAMBED CAVE**

By Bill Broeckel

This is a really small cave, only 34 feet long and 13 feet deep. By local standards this would hardly qualify as a cave, except that it has some unique attributes. It is formed entirely in schist, and it opened recently, representing a dynamic change in the local hydrology.

Streambed Cave is a newly functional swallet.

The caving here is pretty limited. You drop 5 feet down a small hole to enter a 10 foot diameter room under the streambed. The cave goes down a short crawl where a tiny drain hole doubles back. There is a high ledge blocked with dirt. That's it.

All you see is schist, but there must be some collapsing marble deeper down. The earliest reference I have for Streambed is from an area map by Knutson in 1998, so this karst feature is at least 7 years old. There were a few opportunistic slugs and millipedes using the damp shade of the cave when it was mapped last summer. **BB**



Streambed Cave swallet 8-7-05



Looking out the Streambed Cave entrance 8-7-05



Somewhere in Siskiyou County 9-3-05

**October Speleocamp**

Matt Covington	Tom Kline
Mark Fritzke	Steve Knutson

This weekend trip was fast on the heels of an Autumn rain. The trail was pleasantly damp and many fungi were on display. The path was strewn with the giant yellow leaves of the Black Oak trees. October 8 (Saturday), Mark Fritzke and Matt Covington met at the trailhead and hiked to a campsite near Drystream Cave. They were subsequently able to reach to the new area in the cave.

Meanwhile, Tom Kline and Steve Knutson camped in the usual site, and made a long hike out to one of the more remote cave areas. They were pursuing a cave Tom's group had found previously. Tom and Steve were trying to make some progress when a rock fell on Tom's thumb. "The injury wasn't severe but caused us to call it

off" (Knutson, 2005). This cave has not yet been named, but they probably won't call it "Tom Thumb Cave". They also saw a bear.

A few days later, Tom wrote to say that "the swelling on my thumb and forefinger has gone down, but it still hurts. I tested it last night at the rock gym and it was OK, a little nervous about it because I'm headed to Joshua Tree for four days of rock climbing. It was a five pound rock that fell three feet after glancing off Steve's helmet. Gloves kept the skin from being broken." (Kline, 2005). They were using a safety rope which may have loosened the injurious rock.

I dayhiked up on Sunday, but didn't run into any cavers. I took the chance to finish up some details on a survey showing the relationship potential between Streambed and Missing Link Caves. So ends another KMCTF season, always something interesting, and once again I'm left wondering why we don't just stay up there the whole summer. **BB**

SAG RAG  
2916 Deer Mdws Rd  
Yreka CA 96097



STAMP

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