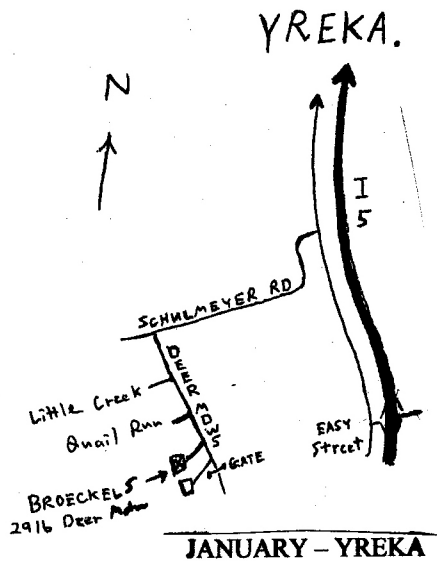


Ken Siegrist, Russ Yoder, and Jansen Cardy near cave entrances with Mt. Shasta in the distance during joint WVG/SAG trip in August 2005. Drawn by Liz Wolff.

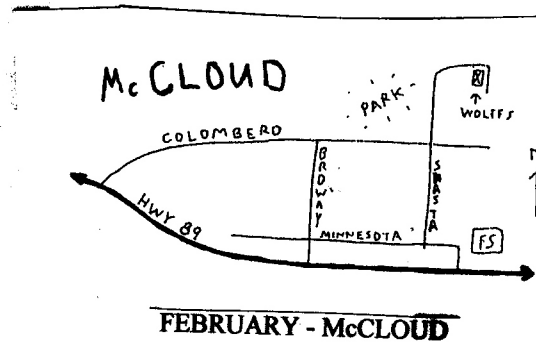
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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 2006

- January 13 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Broeckel's in Yreka (530) 842-3917.  
 February 18 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud (530) 964-3123.  
 July 3-8 International Symposium Vulcanospeleology, Tepoztlan, Mexico.  
 August 7-11 NSS Convention, Bellingham, Washington.



## Maps to Meetings



## SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Now we can catch up on some of the good trips from recent months. Claude Koch gives a WVG perspective on some of the local caves from Russ Yoder's joint Grotto trip last August. Personally, I regret missing this great trip, even more now after reading Claude's report. Liz Wolff provides the fine cover art drawing that illustrates the trip. She also gives a write-up on the Derrick Cave work weekend out in Oregon. My printer turned some photos from Jansen Cardy into mush, so one of them got pencil-rendered for illustration. Liz Wolff brings us some nice cave maps and descriptions from that trip, Buzzy Cave (277ft) and Circle Cave (602ft).

There are a few mundane items, but important just the same. Oregon Caves sends along a news release requesting input on a cave plan, deadline included. A final draft of the grotto Mission Statement appears prior to being set loose on the internet in a month or so. Any objections? Speak now or forever hold your peace. Finally, if you get ballot cards, the current officers would like you to vote and return them immediately, so the new officers can take over at the January meeting, if not sooner. The October SAR practice should show up in the next issue. That's it for now, hope to see you caving and writing in 2006.

BB

## NOVEMBER SAG MEETING By Liz Wolff

Hi guys. There was no meeting at the coast, no officers, no nominations, but a great slide show. Good weather Saturday, rain Sunday. Wonderful music Sunday morning, we could have played a lot longer but hunger won out in the end. Those attending the non-meeting: SAG members Niels Smith, Dick and Kathy LaForge, Mark Fritzke, David and Darlene Kuhnel, Jim and Liz Wolff. Guests were Chris (Dick's neighbor), John (kayaker) and Jean (recorder player).

LW

**NEWS RELEASE (re: Oregon Caves) U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service**

For immediate release. Contact John Roth at (541) 592-2100 extension 230. Public comment invited on an Environmental Assessment for a Subsurface Management Program at Oregon Caves. The National Park Service invites public comment on the Environmental Assessment for the draft Subsurface Management Plan at Oregon Caves National Monument. This plan was developed based on public input and subject matter expertise. Various alternatives were formulated, proposed, and evaluated as part of the Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment analyzes the impacts of these four alternatives.

Actions common to all alternatives include implementation of previous relevant environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, protection of the Oregon Caves Historical District, ongoing consultation with both cavers and non-cavers with subject matter expertise, and regional cooperation on various issues such as fire management, surface edge and fragmentation effects, and the effects of tourism.

To review the Environmental Assessment and the Draft Subsurface Management Plan, visit the Oregon Caves National Monument website at <http://www.nps.gov/orca> under "management documents". Hard copies of the documents are available upon request from the Monument and at the public libraries in Cave Junction and Grants Pass.

The public comment period extends 60 days from the date of this notice. Written comments on the proposed action described in the Environmental Assessment should be postmarked no later than February 1, 2006 and addressed to: Resource Management, Oregon Caves National Monument, 19000 Caves Highway, Cave Junction OR 97523, attn: Pat Fine. Comments may be submitted via e-mail at [ORCA\\_Environmental\\_Assessment@nps.gov](mailto:ORCA_Environmental_Assessment@nps.gov).

All submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. If commenters wish their name and/or address withheld, they must state this prominently at the beginning of their comments. Please contact us by e-mail or by regular mail to let us know if you do not wish to remain on the park's mailing list. If you wish to remain on the list, sending us your e-mail address via e-mail would help us reduce our mailing costs.



**SHASTA AREA GROTTTO. MEETING  
OCTOBER 14, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm. By Melanie (Sec/Treas) in the absence of the other officers at the Wolff's home in McCloud.

Present: Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Neils Smith, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Melanie Jackson, Jansen Cardy, Dick & Kathy LaForge (by phone), and guest Bob Ireland.

Minutes: Minutes of the July meeting accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Balance in checking is \$585.52.

No SAG RAG report.

No Web report; however, it is working according to Jansen.

Correspondence: email from Matt Reece regarding LABE cave specialist, Shane Fryer, who starts Nov. 27.

Old Business: The mission statement that Ray Miller wrote should go into the next SAG RAG. It will be on the web site and should be included with the grotto's constitution and by laws. Melanie sent a card to Jim Kottinger for the grotto. He is not really interested in having an obituary for Bea in the SAG RAG. Did the WVG show up at the meeting in Aug? One, Claude Koch, and Ken Siegrist (independent NSS). The Derrick Cave/National Public Lands Day was very successful with 41 people and 4 dogs in attendance. No one from SAG attended the Western Regional in Sept.

New Business: Ray Miller noted that the Forest Service opened Barnum Cave for the summer and there is a lot more graffiti. SAG thought we had a verbal agreement with the Forest Service that they have not followed. Ray has written a letter of protest, but would like someone else (SAG-Sec/Treas) to re-write it and make it more diplomatic. He would like some to the "kiddie grams" from the Dunsmuir school children to be included as some of them were appalled at the graffiti. The letters should go to the Klamath National Forest Supervisor, the Goosenest District Ranger, Jim Stout and also to Linda Angerer, Juan de la Fuente and Jon Chatoian at the regional office. The letters need to be from the grotto/cavers rather than Ray/bat people. Mel and Liz will draft something that needs to be out by February 2006 at the latest. Ray brought three packs of "kiddie grams" for anyone interested to look at. Jim called the LaForges during the meeting to see if they would be interested in hosting a Nov. meeting at their place. They called back before the end of the meeting and agreed to have SAG meet there on Sat. Nov. 12. Jansen inquired about whether or not Siskiyou SAR sends thank you letters to people who help with their trainings. Mel would send a personal thanks, but wasn't sure if SAR did that. Jim Wolff asks if SAR would have a vertical training with SAG this winter. Mel said yes, but would ask director Dave Nicholson if it could be arranged.

Trip Reports: Cheryl Kenny was in Ape Cave at Mt. St. Helens with the boys in August. Jim & Liz W. and Jansen Cardy went to Derrick Cave, Circle Cave, Buzzy, and Little Big Cave. Jansen helped with the LABE cave rescue training for the staff and YCC kids and the FS Fire team. This was not an NCRC training, but rather an independent training. It was the smoothest mock rescue he'd ever seen out of Catacombs Cave. At the Spatter Cone camp out Russ sketched a small cave near camp. Other caves were also done.

The Catacombs survey was finished on Labor Day Weekend with the help of Jansen, Liz W., Bill D., and Robert Pleszewski. Jansen went with Bill D., into Post Office to change the register. They also took temperature readings in Heppe Ice Cave. Ray and Liz took tow school groups into Barnum Cave. Siskiyou SAR and SAG had a mock rescue Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> on Jim Wolff's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Jim was the person being rescued, Jansen was the cave angel and Liz the reporting party. Jansen Cardy participated in a Pacific Northwest Cave rescue training in Trout Lake, WS. There were 13 students at a mock rescue in Deadhorse Cave.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Jackson

**MJ**

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MISSION STATEMENT

The Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) is a conservation minded organization devoted to the protection and study of caves and bats. We are an internal organization of the National Speleological Society <link> meeting monthly <link to calendar> and publishing a bi-monthly newsletter. <link to newsletter>

Education. Caves are fragile, and through lack of knowledge, may be easily damaged. SAG offers presentations on caves and bats in classrooms, and public or private gatherings. We will also lead field trips. If you would like to request either a presentation on caves or bats, or to schedule a field trip ... <link> Non-educational groups must have an attendance of 15 or more.

Assessing and Recording caves. There are caves in both lava and limestone in Northern California. SAG members actively seek new caves; surveys are done and maps produced showing the cave configuration, dimensions and orientation. Caves are evaluated to determine geology, archaeology, flora and fauna values. SAG maintains records for lava caves in Northern California outside of Lava Beds National Monument. We can be available to measure and assess any caves you are aware of that should be surveyed or evaluated ... <link> Damage to a cave is permanent. Due to potential vandalism cave locations and assets are kept in the strictest confidence. Information on publicly owned caves may be released case-by-case to researchers on a strictly need-to-know basis.

Volunteering. SAG members voluntarily cooperate with public and private land managers, scientists and other caving organizations. SAG members are prepared to assist Search and Rescue units if they request assistance when called to the underground environment.

Cave Management. The best cave management is to allow nature to continue as it has for thousands of years. When more active management is needed, SAG members may volunteer as consultants to land managers scheduling forest management work, logging or construction. SAG reviews its records to identify known caves in the area of concern. If necessary we'll search an area for cave entrances, evaluating any caves found to determine the geological, archaeological, floral or faunal assets. Significant items are reported to land managers, along with our recommendations for protective measures that may be indicated by our findings, or required by law.

Cave Maintenance. There is a segment of the population who purposefully or thoughtlessly vandalize caves although state and federal laws prohibit it. SAG periodically visits local caves receiving heavy visitor traffic to remove trash and lessen the impact of graffiti. We practice leave-no-trace caving.

Bats. Although bats are commonly associated with caves, most of the species in Northern California do not inhabit caves. Some SAG members have the ability to determine bat species and the potential harm that may be caused by proposed activities both in and outside of caves. We may be able to suggest more successful, less expensive or more compassionate solutions to bat problems. If you wish to discuss a bat problem or if you have a question ... <link>

**SISKIYOU COUNTY CAVING – August 18-21, 2005** By Claude Koch

*Here is a good report from the joint Willamette Valley Grotto/Shasta Area Grotto cave trip coordinated by SAG Chairman Russ Yoder last summer. This report may also appear in the Underground Express under a different title. The article is reproduced here thanks to Jansen Cardy, who obtained permission from the author.*

Ken Siegrist and I drove down to the Siskiyou County, CA area on Thursday. We drove into camp and visited with Jim and Liz Wolff. Russ Yoder then cruised into camp later on that evening. On Friday, we visited a cave that was fantastic. I'm not going to write anything about this cave because it was so special. After that we went to a couple of caves that were segmented. It started out as a nice tube that exited into another sink. We crossed over a deep crack that extended on each side of the sink. At the downhill end of the sink, we continued on and came to the end of the next cave at a skylight. It was a little too exposed of a climb for me so I turned around and went back through the cave and exited at the "crack that crosses the sink" entrance.

We then drove over to Irish Catwalk Cave. I took a break while Ken, Russ, Jim, and Liz visited the cave. All the caves visited on this day were big old walking caves. Even better than that, about half of the caves visited were either 2 or 3 level big old walking caves with passages stacked on top of each other. We then drove back towards camp and stopped off at (a short, but popular and well-known cave). Ken and I went to the back of the ice cave and were informed by Liz on the way that the ice had been receding over the years. Ken spotted a climb-up into an upper level room at the bottom of the main room. While spotting this lead, he left his digital camera near a nice clump of ice formations.

We got back to camp with just enough daylight to comfortably make dinner. Ray Miller and a friend of his were at camp waiting for us when we arrived but had to leave soon thereafter. Jansen Cardy cruised into camp later on that evening. He is a caver from New Zealand and the current editor of the Central Connecticut Grotto's newsletter called the Underground Movement. He had re-located to Klamath Falls three months earlier and was about to become a Shasta Grotto member.

On Saturday, we were on our way to visit the S Canyon Cave complex. But first Ken had to retrieve his camera before the tourists found it that morning. He found it where he left it, just as a couple of cars pulled into the parking lot. While we were there, I helped Ken climb up into the virgin tight slot by letting him stand on my shoulders. He reported back to us that the cave ended in a 10 foot high by 25 foot diameter upper level room. We exited the cave and made our way down the road to the parking area that takes us to the S Canyon Caves. This cave is huge and was first reported by Jim and Liz somewhere around 1996 (SAG RAG 15:1, Jan-Feb 1996). Russ had refound it a year later when he had first joined the Grotto. Since then, they have mapped it at over 3,000 feet. We came to a sink that segmented the cave and continued on into another cave that escaped my attention span. When we made it to another sink, we exited instead of continuing down the huge passage that is Intruded Cave.

We then decided to drive 40 miles to McCloud to fill up our water bottles and get ice. We had forgotten to fill our water containers in Lava Beds on our way to the Siskiyou County cave area. We had driven up to the entrance booth, where the ranger on duty wanted us to spend 10 bucks just to cruise through the Monument. We declined this foolish expenditure and had to drive back to the highway and go on a different way.

The following day was to be spent visiting a couple of outstanding ice caves. But first, Jansen was going to try pushing down into the virgin vertical passage at the bottom of one of the eight vents of (a nearby) crater. He made it part way down the 20 foot virgin hole but couldn't rappel the rest of the way down the throat of the vent because of his size. Jansen decided to forego the ice caves trip that day and later wished that he would have gone with

us after hearing of our adventures. The caves that we had visited up to that point had been exceptional. I was thinking that what we had seen already would be hard to beat. Boy, was I wrong!

Russ, Ken, and I first went into an ice cave that Russ had dug open. This cave had only had five other cavers visit it since he had discovered it. It looked just like any other big, non-descript passage at first. At the bottom of the entrance slope, a tight squeeze led into a large passage that went back under the breakdown slope. An ice river was soon reached and we made our way along the edge of it. A little bit later we came to a frozen waterfall that dropped over the lip of the passage. It formed about a 15 foot curtain down to the third level of the cave. Standing along the shelf ledge, we were able to look back at it and it was breathtaking to say the least.

Russ found a Kong ascender that had been left behind by a caver on this ledge. The ice river consumed all of the lower level floor, where Russ told us that the cave ended just around the next corner. This cave was definitely worth the price of admission in itself, but we weren't done yet. After exiting the cave, we continued on down the flow. We came to the other "known" ice cave in the area. This cave had been previously surveyed at 450 feet long. It also had an ice river in it. Part way down the ice slide into the first room, the river fell off to the side and looked to go down into a lower level. None of us wanted to get too close to see what was down there as it could have been a long vertical trip. Russ told us that the ice river continuation had not been mapped as it had been plugged during the initial survey. It didn't look plugged now as the ice has been receding in all of the ice caves in (this Siskiyou County cave area). The main passage continued and we had to slip and slide up a chute in order to continue. Lots of ice formations were seen all the way to the end of the cave. Now, I've been on the tour route in Crystal Ice Cave in Lava Beds before, but this cave was equally impressive.

The next cave further down the flow was a cave that held a small pond of water in it. You could see that the water line in the large room had greatly receded over the years. This cave was archeologically significant and was used as a watering hole in an area that is devoid of any running streams. We continued on down the flow and made it to the longest cave in the area. It was surveyed at around 4,000 feet and was the most complex cave visited during the whole trip. We walked, crawled, and walked some more. Near the end, the cave turned a hard left and gave the impression it was going back uphill, but in a continuing downhill direction. We then came to a skylight exit and climbed up and out of it. I needed a little help as my climbing skills leave a little bit to be desired. We then walked back up to the upper entrance and started working on a dig that Russ thought would lead into the missing uphill segment of the cave.

He was right. An hour later, we dropped down over a shelf and into a 10 foot high and 20 foot wide room. The passage sealed in the downhill direction. Russ and I went about 50 feet up the original floored passage and came to an apparent end in breakdown. Russ spotted a hole in the ceiling of the breakdown filled passage and climbed up into the void. After a few minutes, I was able to join him and look for a continuation. He was looking in the direction that he thought would continue but when I got up there, I spotted another way on but it looked kind of sketchy with the breakdown rocks precariously perched above the crawl. We decided that the lead wasn't worth pushing at the time and headed on out of Russ's virgin cave. We barely made it back to camp for dinner as Russ and I had stopped and worked on another dig that he knew about along the way.

The next day was Monday and we all drove over to (another) Ice Cave. This was an interesting cave in itself. The downhill edge of the (nearby) lava flow had reached within inches of filling in the existing cave. Another amazing thing was the age of the (nearby) lava flow. They told me that it was only 190 years old. I had no idea that the continental U.S. had such a new lava flow. The amazing thing to Jansen was looking down the 60 foot drop down the ice river at the back of the entrance room.

We parted ways with Liz and Jim and thanked them for inviting us on this fantastic trip. Russ, Jansen, Ken and I then continued our way towards home. Russ had told me of a cave that he had dug into a few years earlier. This was in an area that I had thought years ago would have more caves in it than the two known and named caves. It was a very old cave and had two tight crawls that led to a walking passage. The cave was about 700 feet long and was a very nice cave. It consisted of an all sand floor with many drip holes, ceiling pendants, soda straws, and a few small lavacicles thrown in for good measure. Russ told me that he has found a few other caves in the area, so my initial thinking 20 years ago of more caves to be found had proven to be right on the money

Ken and I thanked Russ for inviting us on this special trip to some of the nicer caves that the cavers of the Shasta Area Grotto visit. Now I'll have to take them to some of our nicer caves the next time that they visit us up north. This was one of the best caving trip weekends that I've ever been a part of and can't wait to do it again next year. A grand time was had by all!

**CK**

### **DERRICK CAVE WEEKEND – Sept. 24, 2005** By Liz Wolff

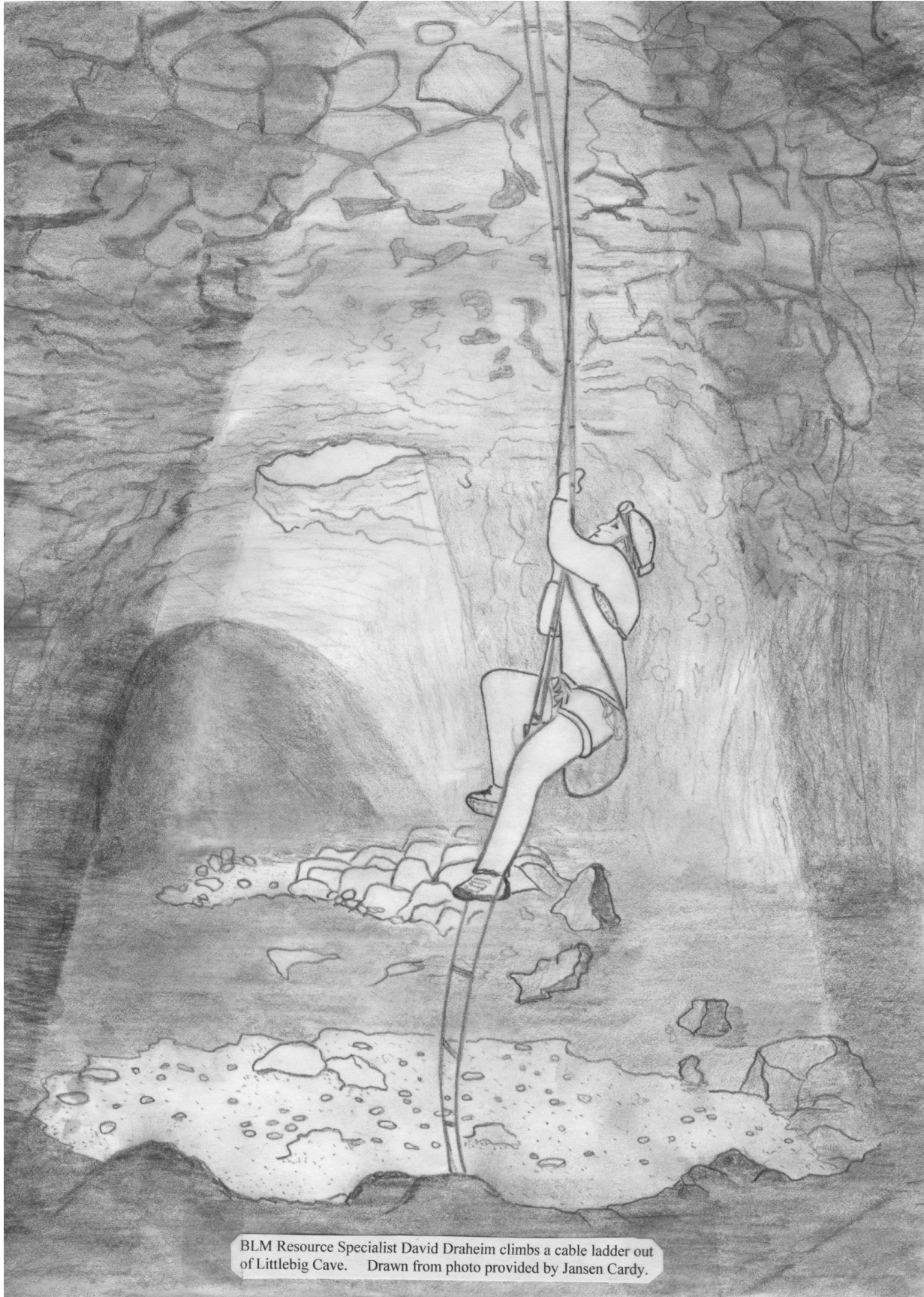
This National Public Lands Day Derrick Cave report is by yours truly (Liz Wolff). Forty-one people (and four dogs), cavers, BLM people & families, and a few honest-to-goodness volunteers, met at the Blow-outs a mile or so south of the Derrick Cave road in central Oregon. Included were SAG members Jansen Cardy, Geoff MacNaughton, and Jim & Liz Wolff. The oldest person there was an 82 year old lady who wanted to see Derrick, and did. The major objectives for the weekend were to build a wall blocking the track into Derrick Cave, creating a parking lot and trail to the cave.

At the road, a sign-in table with a bunch of freebies was the first stop, then to work. A huge pile of rocks met us there Saturday morning... Jim worked with the wall crew, impressing several that a one-arm man could lift and carry the small boulders. At the end of our work day, about an hour before a BLM sponsored barbeque in Fort Rock, the pile had been reduced by better than 3/4s. Jansen and Liz picked up Jett Lemon from the Willamette Valley Grotto and were pointed to Circle Cave to survey. Geoff had another guy from Oregon High Desert Grotto and surveyed Cross-Section and Hot Chocolate Caves. Two other teams surveyed 3 more caves.

Sunday morning after most of the BLM people left, the cavers were trying to figure out what to do. The majority went out to (Littlebig?) Cave with a 45 foot entrance drop, most equipped with vertical gear, but two were going to climb a cable ladder. The trip was supervised by Jansen and led by the Oregon cavers who knew where the cave was located. The rest of us, Ken Siegrist, Claude Koch, Jim & I, went to finish the survey in Circle from Saturday and map another small entertaining cave named Buzzy for its location beside a high-tension powerline that did indeed buzz. Monday morning we began the packing and left for home, but not before Jim managed to thoroughly misplace his keys.

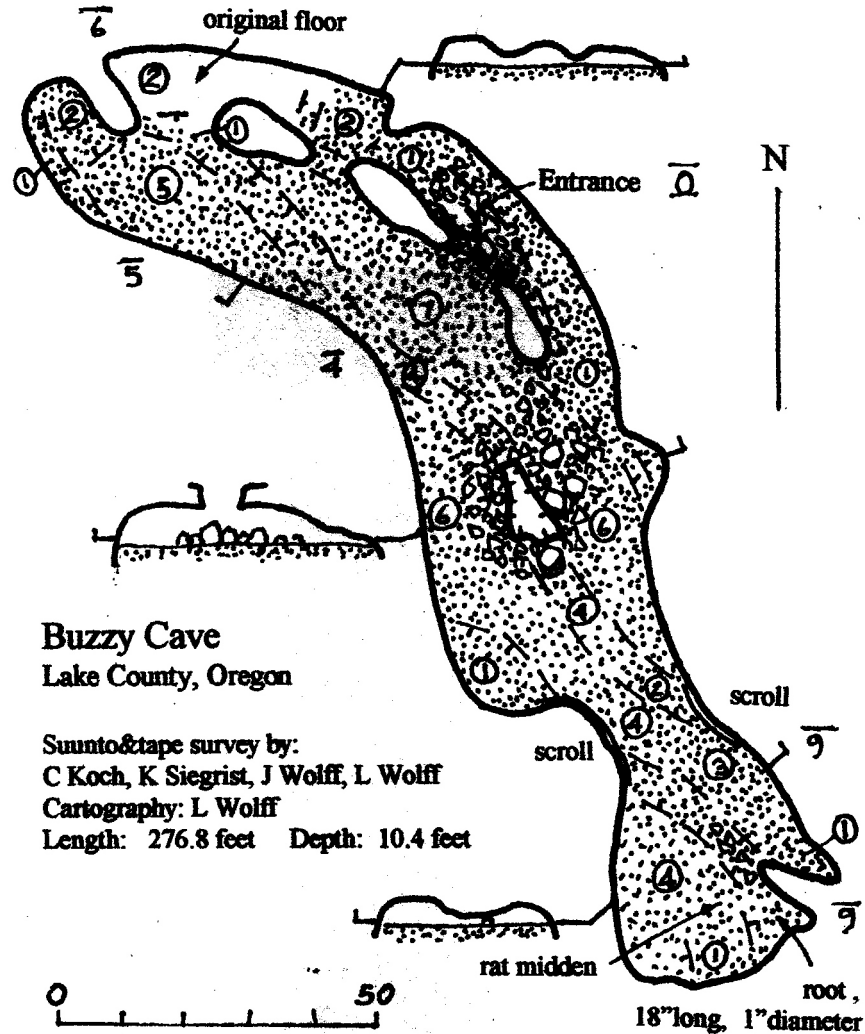
**LW**





BLM Resource Specialist David Draheim climbs a cable ladder out of Littlebig Cave. Drawn from photo provided by Jansen Cardy.

David Draheim in Littlebig Cave. From a photo by Jansen Cardy.

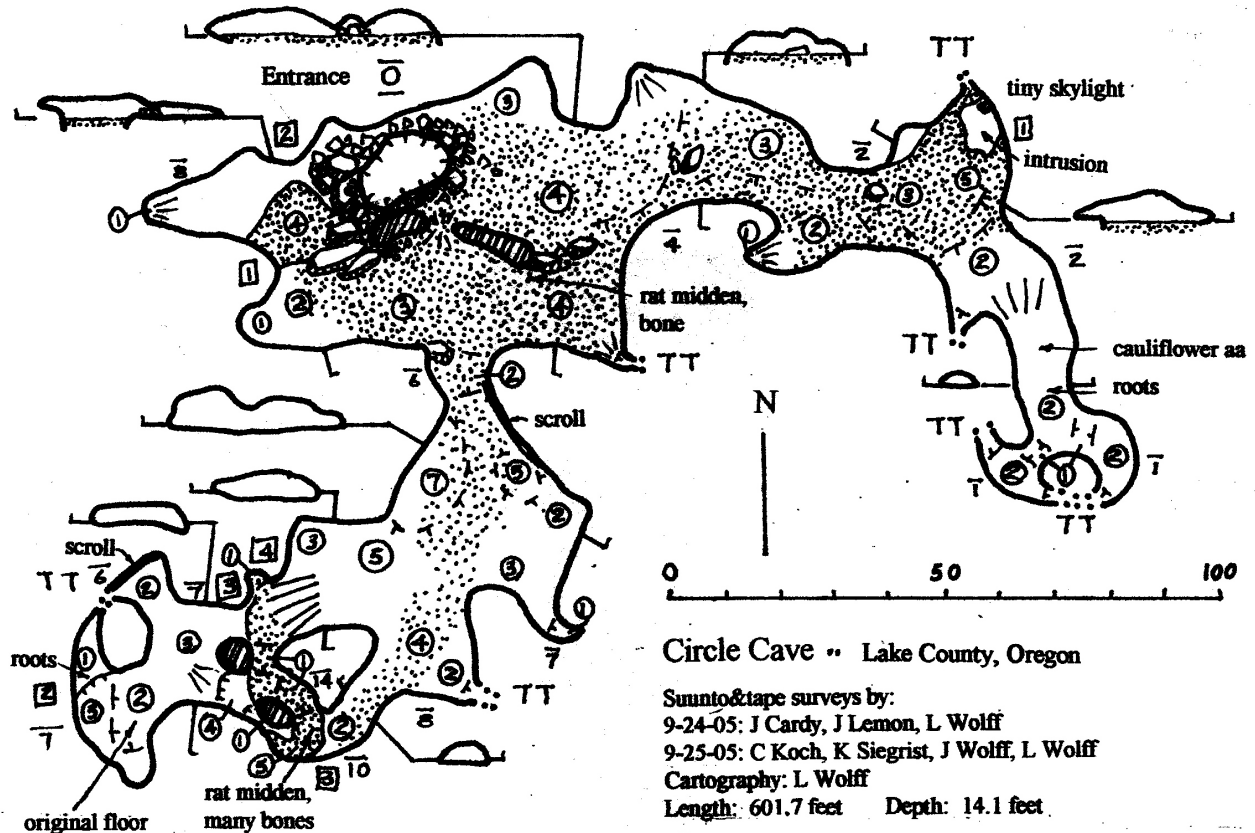


### Buzzy Cave – Lake County Oregon

**Description:** Buzzy Cave is a lava tube with two ceiling bulges that snake through the length of the entire cave creating parallel passages. Entrance to Buzzy Cave is through a very small collapse feature on one side of the tube onto breakdown that nearly fills that portion of the cave: After crawling through a low connection between the two sides of the cave one stands in a spacious room that leads to a skylight. The skylight is formed where several blocks fell from the ceiling bulge. Breakdown surrounds the skylight. Nearly the entire cave is sand, or volcanic ash, floored to an unknown depth. The walls are smooth and show very little formation development. Original floor is found in the low northwestern end of the cave.

**Biology:** A small rat midden is found in the southern end of the cave. A large root, 18" long by an inch thick comes out of the sand then goes back down into the ground. Flying insects followed us through the cave as we surveyed on September 25, 2005. No bats were found that day.

LW



Map: Circle Cave

### Circle Cave, Lake County, Oregon

**Description:** Circle Cave is an overflow conduit from the main lava distributary, indicated by the irregular shape of the cave. There are several loops, or circles, in the cave, thus the name. Entrance is through a collapse skylight near the side of the largest room. Nearly all the breakdown blocks in the cave are located around the entrance. Most of the floors are covered with volcanic ash, or sand, of unknown depth. A roof rib that touches the sand divides the cave into two channels in the entrance area. Cauliflower aa, a rough and lumpy surface, covers the floor in the east end of the cave where the sand ends at a small lava fall. A smooth original floor is located in the west end of the cave above the sand and midden floored drain channel. There are few lava formations on the walls and ceiling. Most of the cave is very dry, but the extreme ends, east and west, were damp at the time of the survey.

**Biology:** Rat middens of shredded sticks, pine needles and droppings, are located in two areas of the cave. Many bones of various sizes are found in the western midden, and a few small white fungi. The midden located near the entrance contained one large bone. Three bats were seen in various areas of the cave, all *Corynorhinus townsendii*, Townsends Big-eared bats. Spider webs and moss covered a few of the rocks in the entrance area. Small flies followed us through the cave as we surveyed. Roots were observed in both the extreme ends of the cave.

LW

### Time to Renew Memberships and Subscriptions

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NSS#: \_\_\_\_\_ NSS# is current? \_\_\_\_\_

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 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



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO:

Page 1 Cover: drawing by Liz Wolff  
 Page 2 Caver Calendar, Maps to Meetings  
 Page 2 Issue summary for Cal Caver  
 Page 2 November "meeting" – Liz Wolff  
 Page 3 ORCA News Release  
 Page 4 SAG October minutes – M. Jackson  
 Page 5 SAG Mission Statement  
 Page 6 August SAG/WVG trip – C. Koch  
 Page 7 Derrick Cave – Liz Wolff  
 Page 10 Buzzy Cave map – Liz Wolff  
 Page 11 Circle Cave map – Liz Wolff  
 Page 12 Time to renew subscriptions

