



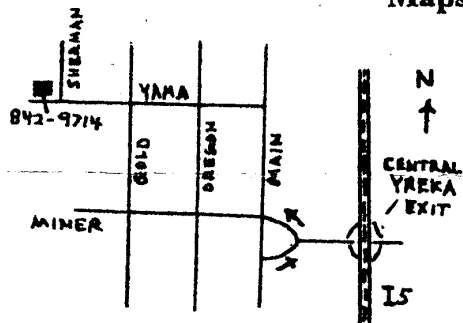
(L to R) Benyam Broeckel, Benjamin Broeckel, and Greg Torres arrive at the west entrance to Easy Street Cave and prepare to survey the cave on October 23, 2005.

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>>.

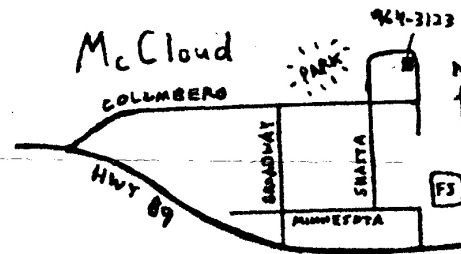
## CAVERS CALENDAR 2006

March 10	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie Jackson's in Yreka (530) 842-9714.
April 7	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud (530) 964-3123.
May 12-14	Speleo-Ed Conference 2006 at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.
June 9-11	SAG Hat Creek camp-out – more information later.
July 1-17	Join Russ Yoder and WVG to explore big Northwest lava tubes.
July 3-8	International Symposium Vulcanospeleology, Tepoztlan, Mexico.
August 7-11	NSS Convention, Bellingham, Washington.

### Maps to Meetings



MARCH – YREKA 7:30 pm.



APRIL - McCLOUD 7:30 pm.

New officers are Liz Wolff, Chair; Melanie Jackson, Vice-Chair; Jim Wolff, Sec-Treasurer.

### SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Here we start into Volume 25 of the SAG RAG, reminding us that the 25th anniversary of the grotto is coming right up already. It seems like we just had the 20th, but time sure flies, especially when you keep busy. This issue sticks to basics with a look at the rescue practice out at Three Level Ice Cave last fall. Multiple people contributed to this report, bringing different perspectives, and resulting in a well-rounded rendition of this important activity. With Three Level Ice thus thrown in the limelight, the next cave up the flow is added in for good measure. Here is a map of Easy Street Cave (length 211 feet) just to show that cave survey continues to expand horizons in the Shasta Area. I don't know what we have in store for the next issue, but somebody or something will go somewhere, it always happens. **BB**

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING** Feb 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm at the Wolff's home in McCloud. Present were Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Bill Broeckel, Dick & Kathy LaForge, Jim Kottinger, Bob Ireland, Melanie Jackson, Neils Smith, and guests Dave Smith and Pat Gilbert. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's report: Feb current bank balance \$691.52. Petty cash balance \$61.40. Total balance \$752.92. (Several members then paid their dues for '06, so that will be reported next month). SAG RAG report: Bill Broeckel notes that he has plenty of material for next issue, which will be about the mock cave rescue at 3-Level Ice Cave. He will have a map of Easy Street Cave too. WEBSITE report: (oops!) I forgot to mention that Robert Nixon had sent us an e-mail that day, announcing that he has put in several galleries of photographs in the website, and that we should check it out.

Correspondence - Western Region Speleo-Ed Seminar e-mail, advertising the following as features of the seminar: Invertebrate inventory methods, Archeology, Biology, and Geology, AND a "fun session" about dousing for caves. PLUS cave trips will be offered! This year is the Western Region's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Western Cave Conservancy has almost closed the deal on purchasing Rippled Cave. Jim Stout of the U.S. Forest Service, Klamath National Forest, has e-mailed us and he says that the land that Pluto's Cave is in, is for sale! They are in the comment period of the process. Arley Kisling CALLED us about his meeting with the F.S. law enforcement and Sheriff at the parking area at Pluto's Cave. Apparently, Arley also talked to a reporter of the Siskiyou Daily News and a representative of a conservation group out of Oregon, that came to see what the deal was with selling this cave. Arley said that the F.S. guy wanted to thank us for our cleaning up the cave, and wanted us to keep an eye out for illegal activities at the caves. Arley said that remnants of a backfiring fuze, the kind that is not generally available to the public, was found in the cave, as well as fireworks...! Discussion continued, with Ray, Pat, and Liz commenting on the bats of the cave, and the difficulty in gating the cave.

Old Business: New officers are Liz Wolff Chair, Melanie Jackson Vice-Chair, Jim Wolff Sec-Treasurer.

New Business: MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Klamath National Forest about Pluto's, Sand, and Barnum Caves was discussed, with paint removal problems including damage to cave's surface, distance to get equipment to the graffiti, and ecosystem sensitivity (timing for the biota). GATES – It is the F.S. responsibility to keep the caves closed as per our earlier verbal agreement with the Forest Service. Barnum Cave gate needs to be fixed as soon as possible! At this meeting with the F.S., Bill B. will be our spokesman, with Bill K. our welder, Liz and myself will be attending as well.

Next grotto meetings: Mar 10th at Mel's; Apr 7th at Wolff's; May 12th (Black Rock Desert?) contact Bill Kenney; June 9th campout at Hat Creek.

Trip Reports: Bill B. surveyed multiple caves recently. Dick LaForge did some canyoneering in Utah August '05 and inner tubing down Mexico's Rio La Venta, during December '05. Additional comments on the cave cleanup trip at Pluto's were that RECENT graffiti was noted in the cave today, plus about 40 lbs of trash was hauled out of the cave, including a bunch of firewood...! A guest of Dave Smith, Wayne Cedidla, helped us out (thanks!) WE DID GOOD!

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm – after meeting, Pat Gilbert had two live Mexican Free-tail bats for us to hold. She is a bat rehabilitator. Dick LaForge's trip to Mexico this winter, turned into a slide show on our PC, entertained the many who crowded around to see and hear Dick's description of each picture. Thanks go to you two for our post-meeting entertainment! A good time was had by ALL!

Respectfully submitted, Jim Wolff, secretary.

**JW**

**THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SHASTA AREA GROTTO**

**The Shasta Area Grotto is a conservation minded organization devoted to the protection and study of caves and their contents.**

**SAG / SISKIYOU SAR MOCK CAVE RESCUE** By Liz Wolff

On Saturday October 8, 2005, SAG members Jansen Cardy and Jim & Liz Wolff met beside Three Level Ice Cave to prepare the mock cave rescue scenario. The rest of the SAG members (Melanie Jackson, Dave Nicholson, and Steve Dagitz) were also part of the SAR team, and were coached not to ask leading questions about the cave and scenario. It would be up to them and the other SAR people to find and extricate our victim/patient. The injuries of the patient were a dislocated shoulder (left) and a sprained ankle. He was located beyond the squeeze in the lowest (and coldest) level of the cave.

SAR arrived before we had gone into the cave, but all was arranged and the victim – uh, patient – was disposed under his rock before they were ready to go in. Jim volunteered to be the patient, and Jansen was his “angel” – the one who does no more than watch out for the patient’s welfare. He wore his pink ribbon denoting his station. Liz was the hysterically distraught wife who gave all the particulars, descriptions, and directions to the SAR people so they could go find and rescue Jim – trying to be helpfully obstructive (she isn’t a very good actress).

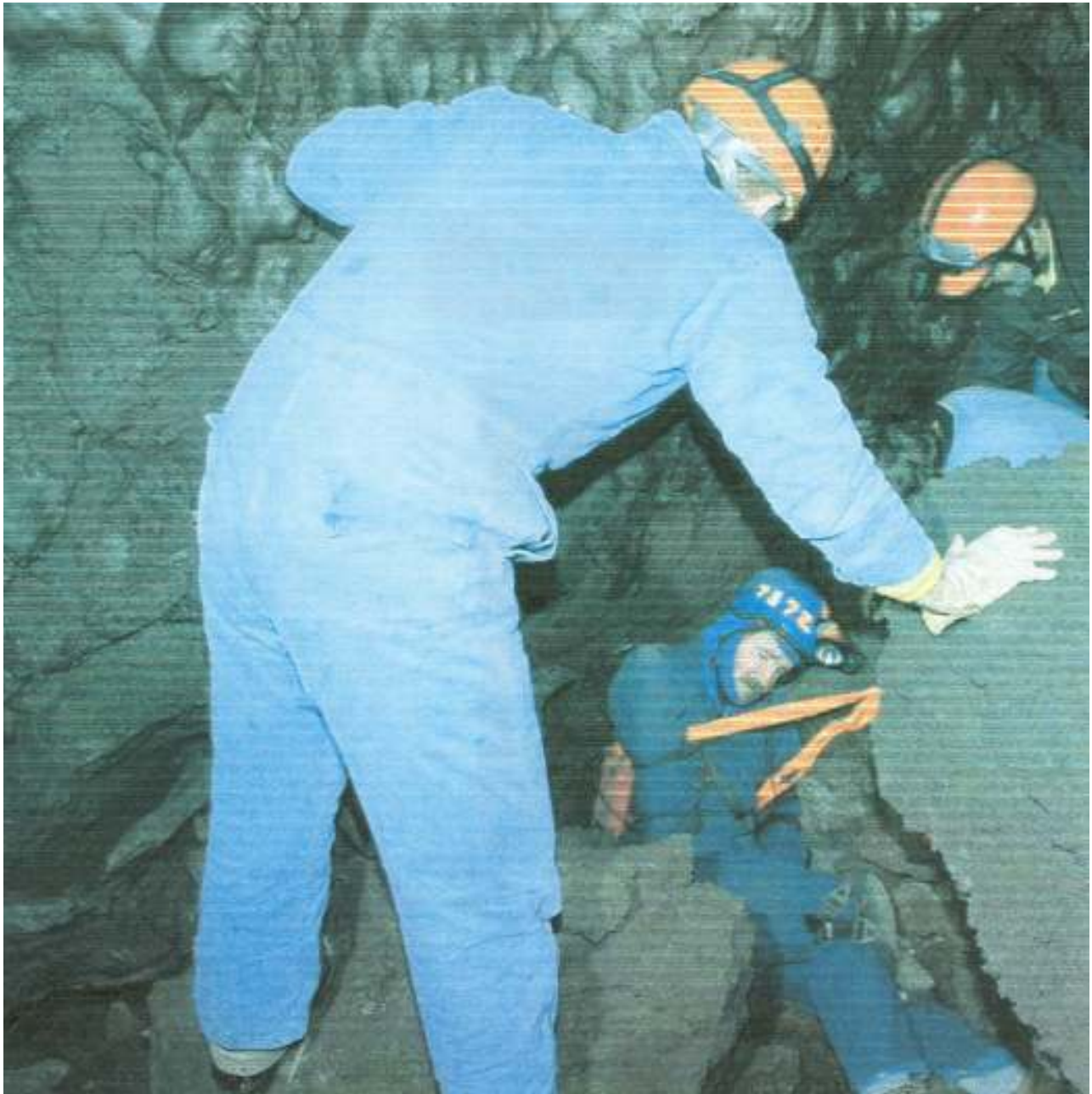
Someone did finally ask for a map of the cave, not just a description of it. After pointing out the areas Jim was most likely to go to, the first crew got lost and ended up where the second crew was supposed to go. They did manage to find him before the second crew anyway, so all was well. Nobody ended up checking one section of the cave until they were choosing an exit route.

During the debriefing afterwards, everyone had their say about how they thought it went and what could have been different or better. Jansen, an NCRC instructor, had the most to say. He was favorably impressed with the SAR performance as a team, and gave them pointers on how they could have done a few things better, and some other technical suggestions. All in all, it was a good day and a successful one.

**LW**

*Comment from Jim Wolff:* Many thanks to Jansen for being my angel! We all learned from this experience. I wasn’t entirely honest with the crew during the debriefing – I should have mentioned that one fellow used my (injured) left shoulder as a handhold as he crawled over the top of me, but that was a minor thing – he didn’t do it deliberately. Besides, if I was really traumatized and hypothermic and drugged with morphine, I wouldn’t have cared less. Since the ride out was smooth, I might have slept, if it wasn’t for the fact that I knew that the later stage of hypothermia was death.

**JW**



Rescue team members finding ways to lift patient from crevice. Photo by Jansen Cardy.

**A MOCK CAVE RESCUE PATIENT'S POINT OF VIEW** By Jim Wolff

On October 8th, 2005 the Siskiyou County SAR and SAG had a mock cave rescue at Three Level Ice Cave, and I was the one who volunteered to be the "patient". Well, since I was the patient in our last mock rescue at Barnum Cave a few years ago, I thought it would be fun to do it again!

Once we met up with Jansen Cardy, he and I suited up to go into the cave while we talked with Liz and figured out a good scenario for the mock rescue. She was the hysterical housewife (what else?) after I had been missing at least 12 hours. I was checking on the cave register (solo!), didn't show up when I was supposed to, and could be in any part of the cave. So just about the time the first of the SAR team started to show up, we went into the cave. Once we were down near the lower, southern end of the cave, the accident scenario "fell" into place.

I had supposedly climbed up one wall of breakdown before I slipped and tried to catch myself, dislocating my arm and twisting my ankle on the way down the steep slope. I came to rest in a heap down in some boulders, underneath a tippy-looking slab. It could be easy to imagine this spot as a real accident site. Once we heard the approaching rescuers calling out for me, I got into my position. Jansen was my "angel", and wasn't to be "seen" as part of the mock rescue. Since he's an NCRC instructor he gave pointers on occasion when he deemed necessary, but mainly he watched and took loads of pictures of the rescue. Along the way, Jansen also pointed out fragile and potentially hazardous parts of the cave to the SAR team.

The first rescuers to arrive started their assessment of my injuries, and planned how to lift me out of the tiny hole that I was found in. They needed to get me to a roomier place where they could start packaging me up. They threaded tubular webbing under my legs and chest, so they could lift me about three feet vertically into a sitting position. I was asked if I could help with this, so I cooperated and used my good, "uninjured leg", but they did most of the work. Anyway, once the spine splint and blanket were on and around me, they strapped me into the flexible SKED stretcher.

Now they had to get me out of the cave. Less than half of the SAR team was with me on my side of a tight crawlway, and they started carrying and sliding me out. As we went through the crawl, the SKED was placed slightly on the side to fit me through the largest spot. One rescuer had to play human fender to keep me out of a tight slot. Gloved hands protected me when the cave wall and my face almost met!

About halfway through the rescue I was getting really hypothermic, so they had to partially re-package me – this time, with a sleeping bag around my upper body as well as the blanket. I had thermal johns on, with wool shirt, cotton coveralls and a balaclava. But that wasn't enough, and for all the inactivity I was cold – teeth-chattering cold! Another layer or a better vapor barrier caving suit would have been more appropriate, but what the hey – I needed warmth and they provided. I didn't really warm up completely until I was on the surface for an hour after this rescue exercise.

As we approached the last vertical climb up to the entrance room, the team started contemplating the idea of hauling me out the other entrance. I quickly talked them out of that, since we were now a very short distance from the surface using the direct route. Although they had to haul me vertically up the climb this way, it would have meant more time and effort getting to the surface going the other way. I'm sorry, but when you are so close to your lunch, warm sunshine and a friendly bush, all play-acting is suddenly of minor importance! Getting the "patient" to the awaiting "ambulance" (and my lunch) as soon as possible should be the highest priority!

As we ate, we had a debriefing. I was asked for my two bits-worth, and hadn't much to add to what Jansen and everyone else said. Later I realized I should have mentioned something. I probably would have been less coherent if I was really injured, in shock and very hypothermic – especially after I was given morphine. If it were a real rescue, I might have been less able to recommend an alternative to their route out of the cave – since I knew the cave and they didn't.

continued on page 8



Rescue team member checks on patient arrangements. Photo by Jansen Cardy.

Speaking of which, back when the team split into two search parties to find me, one group missed the split into the cave and headed right towards me. One or more rescuers went into the other part of the cave like they were supposed to, but found that they weren't being followed and had to go back and find the other half of their team!

It all worked out anyway, as the group that stumbled across me was able to do the assessment, treatment (notional drugs and a splint on the ankle) and packaging. By the time the rest arrived, I was ready to go out! Their 2-way radios worked in some places, but not as good as previous experiences at Lava Beds NM and Barnum Cave.

I think the whole process from beginning to end was a little over three hours, which was good. Everyone learned from this one (even me – never to get hurt in a cave!). All agreed that more practice is necessary if the Siskiyou SAR team is to pull someone out of any cave in this county for real. Yet, they did very good. They worked well as a team, with the assigning of jobs to individuals according to their strength and/or skill. No one got hurt – so it was a successful mock rescue!

Thanks go out to everyone in Siskiyou SAR for this effort, and I hope to see more participation from our grotto members next time we do something like this together – we learn from each other!

**JW**





Team transporting patient through the cave. Photo by Jansen Cardy.

**EASY STREET CAVE**

By Bighorn Broeckel

Cavers are always looking around for more caves. When we pop out of Three Level Ice Cave, Easy Street shows itself as a large opening just a hundred feet or so up the trench. How many of us have checked it out over the years, ridgewalking by the skylight or making the quick through trip?

With three big entrances, Easy Street Cave barely gets dark. It is almost possible to see clear through the total distance of 211 feet. Thus the cave has been easy to dismiss.

So folks, this ain't no virgin

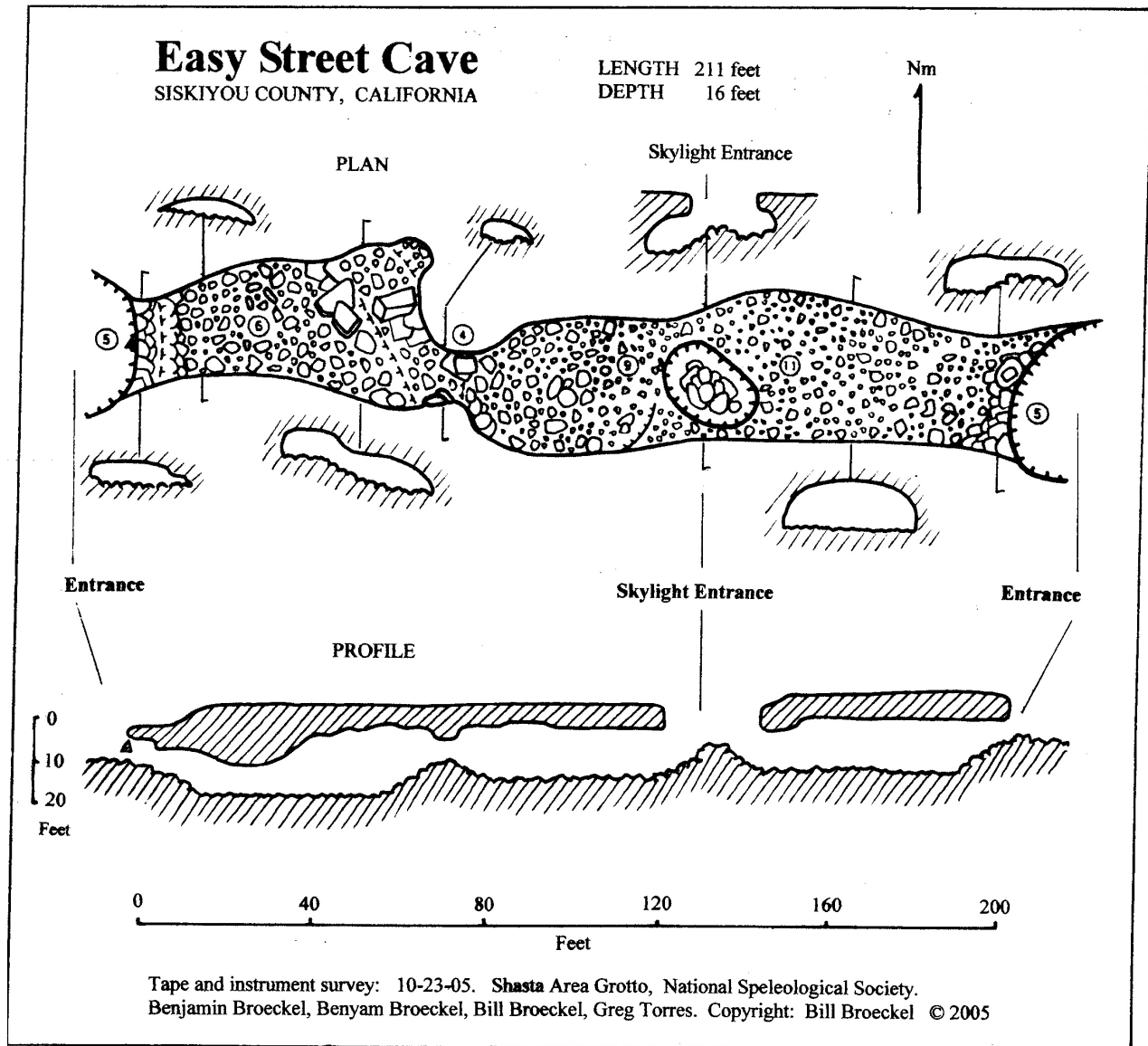
cave. It's just sort of overlooked and, as far as we know, unnamed. My boys and I set out on 10-23-05 to survey this unloved cave. A fourth team member was added - Greg Torres. We had a late start, so it was about dusk when we began stretching tape.

The survey went from the west entrance to the east. It took four shots to get through the cave, and we also measured the segments of trench extending from Easy Street. The distance to Three Level Ice was 114 feet, and it was 243 feet west to the next bit of cave up the flow - Bridge 48. This bridge was named for its passage length in feet.

Easy Street Cave is all single level walking passage on a breakdown covered floor. The entrances are wide open, so outside air tends to whip right through, even with the slightest ambient breeze. No bats were seen but there was some evidence of rodent occupation (rat droppings).

Two days later I stopped by again to check on a couple details, and to take some more photos. If you can't have the caves you love, then love the caves you have. Here then is another episode in the ongoing investigation of the obscure caves of the Shasta Area.

**BB**



Map: Easy Street Cave

## Greetings Cavers!

Registration and program information for Speleo-Ed 2006 is now online. This year's seminar will be held on May 12-14 at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

For complete information, please visit: <http://www.caves.org/region/western/se2006/>

You can download the PDF registration form directly at:  
<http://www.caves.org/region/western/Docs/SE2006-RegForm.pdf>



## About the Seminar

Speleo-Ed seminars are an outstanding way to learn more about cave exploration and science while enjoying a fun and social weekend with friends from across the Western Region. Building on last year's popular seminar, we have arranged an even broader collection of interesting topics for 2006. With the gracious assistance of numerous speakers and organizations, we have worked together to design what should be an outstanding spring weekend! From ghostly campfire tales to current trends in cave research, there is sure to be something for everyone. We hope you can join us!

The 2006 Speleo-Ed Seminar offers 3 distinct tracks of sessions and workshops designed to interest cavers of all skills and experience. On Saturday evening, the Western Cave Conservancy will offer an optional fund-raising dinner followed by a short business meeting of the Western Region. Of course, the entire weekend offers ample opportunities for socializing with cavers from across the region!

### Biology and Geology Track

This year's morning sessions are designed to be of significant interest to cavers of all abilities. From live bats to aerial photographic tours of the sierra foothills, these sessions are sure to be extremely fun and informative. Special equipment will even be on hand to listen to the ultrasonic sounds bats make while hunting for insects.

### Human Sciences Track

Focusing on human interaction with caves, these sessions primarily explore historical and prehistorical cave use across multiple cultures. Rounding out the sessions will be some current exploration reports and caving methods in the Western Region.

### SEKI Invertebrate Monitoring Track

For the hard-core troglodyte, Joel Despain from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will lead two half-day sessions on the park's new invertebrate monitoring project. Following a 3-year study, the park recently announced the discovery of 27 new species of cave animals. To monitor these creatures, the park is seeking volunteers to conduct long-term study projects. Joel will explain the methods and provide examples of this effort.



## Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Three miles north of Arnold off Highway 4, the colossal trees of Calaveras Big Trees State Park stand in quiet testimony to a time when giants ruled the earth. These massive relics, which can reach a height of 325 feet and a diameter of 33 feet, are survivors from the Mesozoic Era, a time when dinosaurs roamed the earth, and birds, mammals and flowering plants began to appear. Some of these trees are thought to be as much as 2,000 years old.

Located at the mid-elevation level of the western Sierra Nevada, Calaveras Big Trees State Park is a prime example of a mixed conifer forest in the yellow pine belt. Giant sequoias dominate ponderosa pines, sugar pines, incense cedars and white fir. The Pacific dogwood displays white blossoms in the spring, and wildflowers along the Lava Bluffs Trail include leopard lily, Hartweg's iris, crimson columbine, monkey-flowers, harvest brodiaea, wild hyacinth and lupine.

<http://www.caves.org/region/western/se2006/>

Please share this information with your grottos!



**NSS MEMBERSHIP ENCOURAGED** From the NSS Membership Committee

Being a grotto member (or newsletter subscriber), we know you are already interested in caves. Why not take the next step and show your commitment to cave and karst study, exploration, and conservation by joining the National Speleological Society? The National Speleological Society (NSS), founded in 1941, is a nationwide organization with a membership of more than 12,000 individuals from all walks of life and age groups. We are cavers just like you bound together by our love of caves and desire to protect the underground wilderness for future generations. Regular membership in the NSS entitles you to receive the monthly caving magazine *The NSS News*; the scientific *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* three times a year; the annual membership directory; and *American Caving Accidents*. Membership also entitles you to audiovisual and printed library privileges and NSS Bookstore discounts.

Regular – 1 year: \$36 2 years: \$70 3 years: \$103 (Over 17 years of age; all privileges of membership)

Associate – 1 year: \$25 2 years: \$49 3 years: \$72 (Under 17 and, optionally, full-time students. Non-Voting)

Sustaining – 1 year: \$108 2 years: \$214 3 years: \$319 (Regular membership, with \$72.00 credited towards Life membership each year)

Conservation – 1 year: \$100 2 years: \$200 3 years: \$300 (The difference between the regular dues and the Conservation dues will be applied specifically to NSS conservation and education programs and activities)

**Life – \$720 (Regular membership privileges for life for a single payment)**

Conservation Life – An additional payment of \$1,000 made by any type of Life Member

Institutional – \$75; Educational and scientific organizations, show caves, libraries, etc.

Limited – 1 year: \$15 2 years: \$29 3 years: \$42 (Over 17 years of age, privileges of Regular membership, but without the NSS News and the Journal)

To join please go to the NSS website at: <https://www.caves.org/newmember.shtml>

Email questions to Eric Weaver at: [WEAVEREM@UCMAIL.UC.EDU](mailto:WEAVEREM@UCMAIL.UC.EDU) or Dawn Ryan at (815) 260-3454

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