



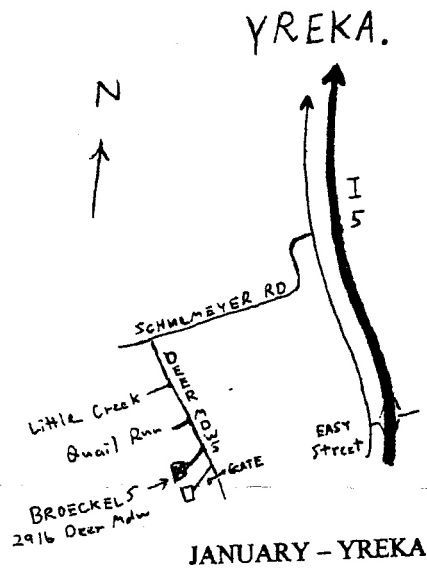
Trash item, or historical artifact, found in Foxhole Cave. Photo: Bill Broeckel 9-9-06.

**INSIDE: Big fat end-of-year bonus lava cave issue**

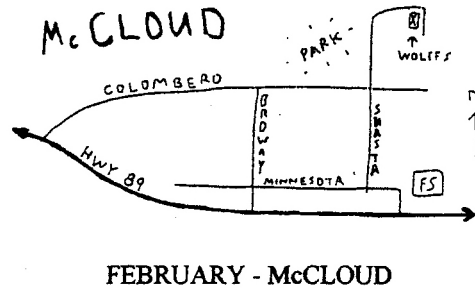
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**CAVERS CALENDAR 2007**

- Jan 19 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Broeckels in Yreka (530) 842-0287.
- Feb 16 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs in McCloud (530) 964-3123.
- May 18-20 Speleo-Ed Seminar at Lava Beds National Monument.



**Maps to Meetings**



**sag rag** 22:5 September 2003

**SAG RAG SUMMARY** By Bighorn Broeckel

Part III finishes up the Grizzly Adams cave story. If there is demand, Grizzly had another ad-venture caving, this time involving mountain lions. . .

The time has come again to renew member-ships and subscriptions. The form is on the back, or pay in person at the next meeting. Also, remember to check off the Cal Caver. The Western Region needs caver support and there are many benefits.

This 2006 finale SAG RAG gives descriptions and maps for ten more Sisco (Siskiyou County) caves: JARBL Cave (352 feet), Ice Ribbon Cave (352 feet), Foxhole Cave (422 feet), Black Hole Cave (341 feet), Jibili Cave (148 feet), Water Bridge (52 feet), Alpenhorn Cave (63 feet), Flea Flicker Cave (59 feet), Three Pines Cave (39 feet), and Triangular Cave (45 feet). Note that the five caves in Liz Wolff's article are close to ten times longer than the five caves in Bighorn's article. Altogether the total passage surveyed adds up to 1873 feet. More 2006 surveys are still waiting to become real maps, and even more caves are still pending surveys in 2007. And so it goes...

**BB**

**SEPTEMBER SAG MEETING** Minutes from September 8, 2006 SAG meeting at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka, CA. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm and adjourned at 9:30 pm. Those attending were members Steve Hobson, Russ Yoder, Jim and Liz Wolff, Bill and Judy Broeckel, Bill and Cheryl Kenney, Melanie Jackson, and Robert Nixon. Minutes were read, corrected, and approved. Treasurer's Report: \$649.22. SAG RAG Report: Bighorn says he has plenty of material for next issue, but more is always welcome too! Website Report: Robert says the site works well now..., until someone piped in and mentioned that there are still problems with using the password, to get to see e-copies of our newsletter. Oh well, Robert will fix it. Again, we congratulate our web master on a job well done!

Correspondence: Liz wrote to Dave Nicholson about the mock cave rescue, tentatively set for next month sometime. E-mail from Gretchen Baker, GBNP (Great Basin National Park), and others concerned about the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) thinking about taking water from the GBNP water table (karst), to send to Las Vegas. Matt Bowers, Western Region Chair, sends items of interest to Grottos. One is the gate lock program terms and conditions, and he (Matt) would like feedback from the Grottos before it is set in stone. Another item: the Speleo-Ed Seminar 2007 will be on May 18-19 at Lava Beds National Monument. Additionally, SFBC (San Francisco Bay Chapter) has offered to help put together another NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) wilderness first aid training session sometime next year. Lastly, the Executive Board of the Western Region has requested copies of all grotto membership lists in California, Nevada, and Oregon. The Region would like to include our members in their promotional plans (like Speleo-Ed and NOLS) and needs to update their contact information. News release from Joel Despain of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park: Ursa Minor, a new cave, was found 8-06 and it is being mapped, and Dave Bunnell is photographing it. The cave is now over 1,000 feet long and quite beautiful! Several photos were sent with the announcement. The MOU between SAG and Klamath National Forest will be signed by the Forest Supervisor on Monday, Sep. 11th. The WCC (Western Cave Conservancy) sent a newsletter to grottos pleading for donation\$ to the cause. Rippled Cave is almost paid for.

Old Business: Liz wrote to Modoc National Forest and received answer that there are no group campsites at the Medicine Lake campgrounds. We would have to physically reserve several adjacent campsites, if we still wanted to use the campground for our 25th anniversary event. I (Jim Wolff) suggested a site we used once years ago to host a regional, but water is scarce there and campers would have to remember to bring lots of water. Museum exhibit: Liz and Ray looked at what we have been assigned to use. It is an enclosed space (8x15') and lockable, with electricity and overhead lighting. We will have some display cases too. Possibly we can do another mural on the wall behind the display. Steve Hobson suggested a Powerpoint slide show on a computer, he can help. A cave lighting display showing the evolution of lights underground was suggested by Ray. We are looking for more ideas as well. The grotto display will open April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, so volunteers please step forward!

New Business: Liz says that at Lava Beds they were wondering why we haven't gotten a MOU with Modoc National Forest as well. There was a motion to change the meeting time each month from the second Friday to the third. The SAG Constitution and Bylaws were consulted and nothing is mentioned about when we must meet, so with unanimous vote of approval, we will start the new cycle in Jan. 2007. As long as we are changing traditions, we decided to have our Nov. 10th meeting at Steve Hobson's place in Redding, where he is enticing us with a particular caving objective that needs some attention. What a guy! Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at Wolffs in McCloud. Jan. 19th at Broeckels in Yreka (note meeting time each month from the second Friday to the third starting on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 2007!). Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at Wolffs in McCloud. The Western Region is asking for more members. Bighorn suggested that he should promote the Region through the newsletter. We agreed!

Trip Reports: Steve Hobson went to the Regional this year. There were some good talks about bats, Belize, etc. But the main thing was there were cave trips to many caves. Mud caves, Midnight Cave (a granite boulder cave with a creek running through it complete with formations), and other trips were enjoyed by all! There were good facilities and good meals. They filled up the group site with cavers and the Regional slopped over into the regular campground attached. There were 84 cavers or attendees. Bighorn reported on KMCTF (Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force) activity in Siskiyou County and the big dive push without enough water! Everyone involved carried huge loads of weights, tanks, etc. to the dive site only to find that the cave had apparently filled in the passage. Now it's a dig site! Dome climbs were thwarted too, this time because of a cave accident One caver broke a bone in his leg and self-rescued out of the cave and down the trail to home, all under his own head of steam; Russ Yoder related the two disasters that he experienced recently. Out camping near some caves, he had a tree fall on his van and his van got high-centered too! He worked and worked on getting free for quite awhile. Yes, folks, he also found a few caves that day too! Dr. Bill says he saw two snakebites in one day, and that they nearly ran out of antivenin at the hospital, so be safe out there guys! Liz Wolff relates going with Ray Miller to find and GPS a few caves. They looked for Jerome Ice and could not find it, but they found Bray Ice Cave and got a fix on it. During Labor Day weekend, Liz & Jim Wolff went to GPS some caves for the National Forest, and went to Lava Beds to do some work for CRF (Cave Research Foundation). Russ Yoder and Dave Smith showed up there too! Labyrinth Cave is being surveyed. Later in the weekend, we met up with the National Forest's best Mr. Jim McKeehan, the law enforcement guy who watches over caves. He loaned us aerial photo stereo pairs of parallel and adjoining flight lines over all the cave areas, several sets, plus infrared flight lines. Jim and Liz then got one more cave GPS location before going home. Robert Nixon talked about a cave or lead outside of the usual areas.

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 pm. at Melanie's house in Yreka.

Present were: Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Neils Smith, Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Ray Miller, and Jim Kottinger.

Correspondence: Rippled Cave Cleanup Nov. 18. Liz has been corresponding with Juan de la Feunte regarding the MOU. It still hasn't been signed, because it has been changed by the FS new person. They changed it to a Challenge Cost Share agreement with a lot of clauses that SAG does not want to agree to.

Old Business: There will be a mock rescue in Pluto's Cave on Sat. for the SAR training. Niels Smith has volunteered to be the victim. There will be a 911 call (simulated for training purposes) and Steve Hobson will be the cave angel. The victim will have fallen in a hole in the break down just beyond the last skylight. It's an 8 foot drop and the victim will have a spinal cord injury.

Regarding the MOU. SAG would prefer the MOU form not the Challenge Cost Share Agreement. The new agreements person wants this form and there are too many specifics required with a lot of clarification. SAG will not sign a Cost Share agreement with all this financial stuff in it. Regarding the Caving and gear exhibit at Sisson Museum. Their next meeting is Wed. Nov. 15.

New Business: The November SAG meeting will be November 10 at Steve Hobson's home in Redding. There will be a trip to cave Nov. 11, 12, 13. You will need a change of clothes and vertical equipment for the 50 ft. drop. There will be lots of survey and flagging marker changes in the main room. Monday is Veteran's day and a holiday for some people.

Trip Reports: Liz took two school trips to Barnum Cave, 9/25 with Dunsmuir third graders and 10/12 with Etna fifth graders. There were no signs of vandalism to the cave gate or the cave.

Liz and Russ made two trips to the Dragon Cave and Melanie made one with them. They were survey trips. There is 1900 ft. of cave surveyed and it's still going.

Russ, Liz, Bill & Judy B. did the Foxhole Cave Survey. Bill B. Liz & Jim W. did the Jibili Cave Survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Jackson in the Sec. absence

**MJ**

## GRIZZLY ADAMS JUMPS UP AND GOES CAVING

Excerpt from "The Legend of Grizzly Adams", by Richard Dillon, 1966.

"Adams bound up his wounds and lay down on the grass to rest. After some time, he summoned up his strength and hauled himself to his feet. With drawn bowie knife, he began to creep into the cave. It was pitch-dark in the cavern so Adams, fearing the male (adult bear) might still be within, prudently withdrew. Outside, he collected pine branches, fat with pitch, and using them for torches, he re-entered the lair and explored it by the blazing light of the faggots. Even as gritty a fellow as the Wild Yankee had his weaker moments and this was one of them. Later he confessed, 'My heart panted quite as much with alarm as with interest. I will acknowledge it, I was really full of fear. I was a long distance underground. I had no assistance to expect. I was miles away from the camp and intruding upon the very premises of the enemy.'

"But he had his reloaded rifle and pistol and keen knife. His courage was coming back along with his strength. On and on he crept into the bowels of the mountain on his lacerated knees. The glare of his fuming torch finally showed him a chamber almost five feet high. Its floor was littered with leaves and grass, and in a nest there he found two beautiful little cubs, hardly a week old, their eyes not yet open, and no bigger than wharf rats. Taking them from their leafy beds, he examined them and found them to be healthy, lively males. He looked about for a third cub, since he knew that a grizzly's litter was often three young, but no other babe was to be found. Taking them up by the nape of the neck again, he plopped them inside his buckskin hunting jacket, between that garment and his woolen shirt, where they would be warm and safe. 'Scrambling out of the cave, no king upon his throne could have felt prouder than I did,' I Adams recalled that moment."

(Ed: One of the cubs became Grizzly Adams' famous companion Ben Franklin.)



Headwaters of the Merced River. Photo: Broeckel 10-6-06.

**SOME LATE SUMMER AND FALL TRIPS** By Liz Wolff

JARBL – On a work day 12 or 15 or more years ago, Jim Wolff and Arley Kisling found a large surface lava tube in the Hambone area. They were supposed to be working, but it was their lunch half hour, and they went to look for holes; working in the woods has it's advantages. Jim remembered that small cave, keeping it in his personal cave leads list. Then it got GPS'd.

On July 11, 2006 a crew consisting of Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, and Bill Broeckel went out to relocate and survey whatever we could get into. The first cave we found was a small surface tube with cobwebs, we GPS'd the entrance and went on toward the other lead. Finding the entrance, Jim checked to see that it was the one we wanted as we prepared to survey. Jun went to scout while Bill and Liz began the survey.

The entrance area has long thin slabs of breakdown with a four foot ceiling height and several windows into the deflated sink. The one skylight extends above a breakdown pile that nearly surrounds a pillar. Once we had crawled beyond the pillar the cave was intact, and the ceiling lowered to about a foot in height, although it didn't get any narrower. As Bill and Liz surveyed, Jim crawled through into a standing height room with a lava fall and mushrooms, and told us he was standing, we weren't sure he wasn't trying to sucker us into crawling through for no reason. Beyond this point the cave split at a "T" junction. The way to the right lowered to a near seal with air blowing through. To the left it got lower, and lower, and was finally impassable, but we could see about 35 more feet; it had good air flow.

As the survey progressed, we considered names for the cave and finally JARBL was chosen. It stands for Jim, Arley, Ray, Bill, Liz. The cave is 351.6 feet long and 8 feet deep.

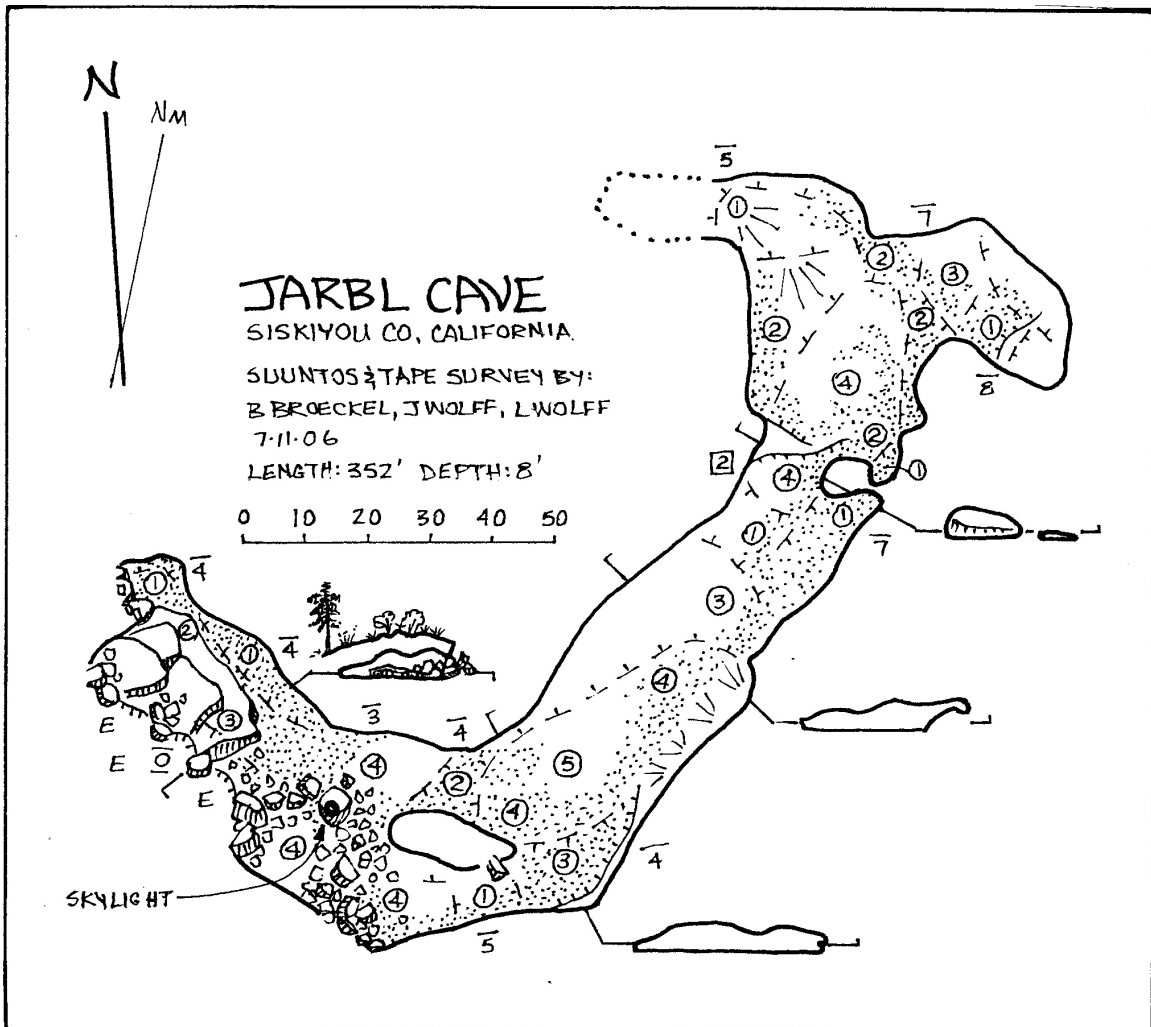
Back on the surface, Ray had wandered off and found a very deep trench with an entrance high up on the side of it. This was another one that Jim had found during his work hours.



Main Entrance to Jarbl Cave. 7-11-06



Ray Miller ridgewalking near Jarbl Cave. 7-11-06



Map: Jarbl Cave

## ICE RIBBON CAVE

Ice Ribbon Cave – this cave was found by Jim Wolff; again while “working” and filed away for future reference. Some years later Russ Yoder found it and took Liz Wolff through it while out GPS’ing other cave entrances in the area. So, looking for something to survey on a hot August afternoon, Bill Broeckel and Jim & Liz Wolff went to ‘do’ Ice Ribbon. The cave was located and the survey started at the northern entrance. This cave is almost entirely breakdown floored, and mostly walking height. The ceiling is very irregular in height so that travel is not done in a straight line. Ice was apparent right at the entrance, nearly absent in the skylight area, but after dropping down to the lower level, was nearly everywhere. At the four foot drop into the lower level, a split is obvious. The larger way leads into the only area in the cave with intact ceilings, walls and floors. About 25 feet of 20 foot wide by 8 feet high passage with a cauliflower floor, ends abruptly at a lava seal.

Going the other way gets one to the ice ribbons, which were somewhat diminished from a few years ago. Just before that is an alcove with an ice floor. Travel over the ice covered breakdown was not too bad, as the breakdown surfaces are irregular enough to have points and edges of bare rock protruding through the ice, giving good, or at least safe, footing. A tight passage led up to the second entrance. Liz managed to shimmy up through the tight spot, a near vertical ‘crawl’ through breakdown blocks, but both guys had to go back the way they’d come. Bill gave it a manly attempt, but just couldn’t make it, while Jim watched for a while and wisely decided to go the other way. The cave totaled 351.8 feet in length and 27 feet in depth. Following Ice Ribbon, Bill had a cave a bit further east he wanted to get GPS’d, so we headed out to his find. While waiting on the GPS finding itself – we knew where we were – he decided it should be called Sandwich Cave.



Jim and Liz Wolff at upper entrance to Ice Ribbon Cave. 8-15-06



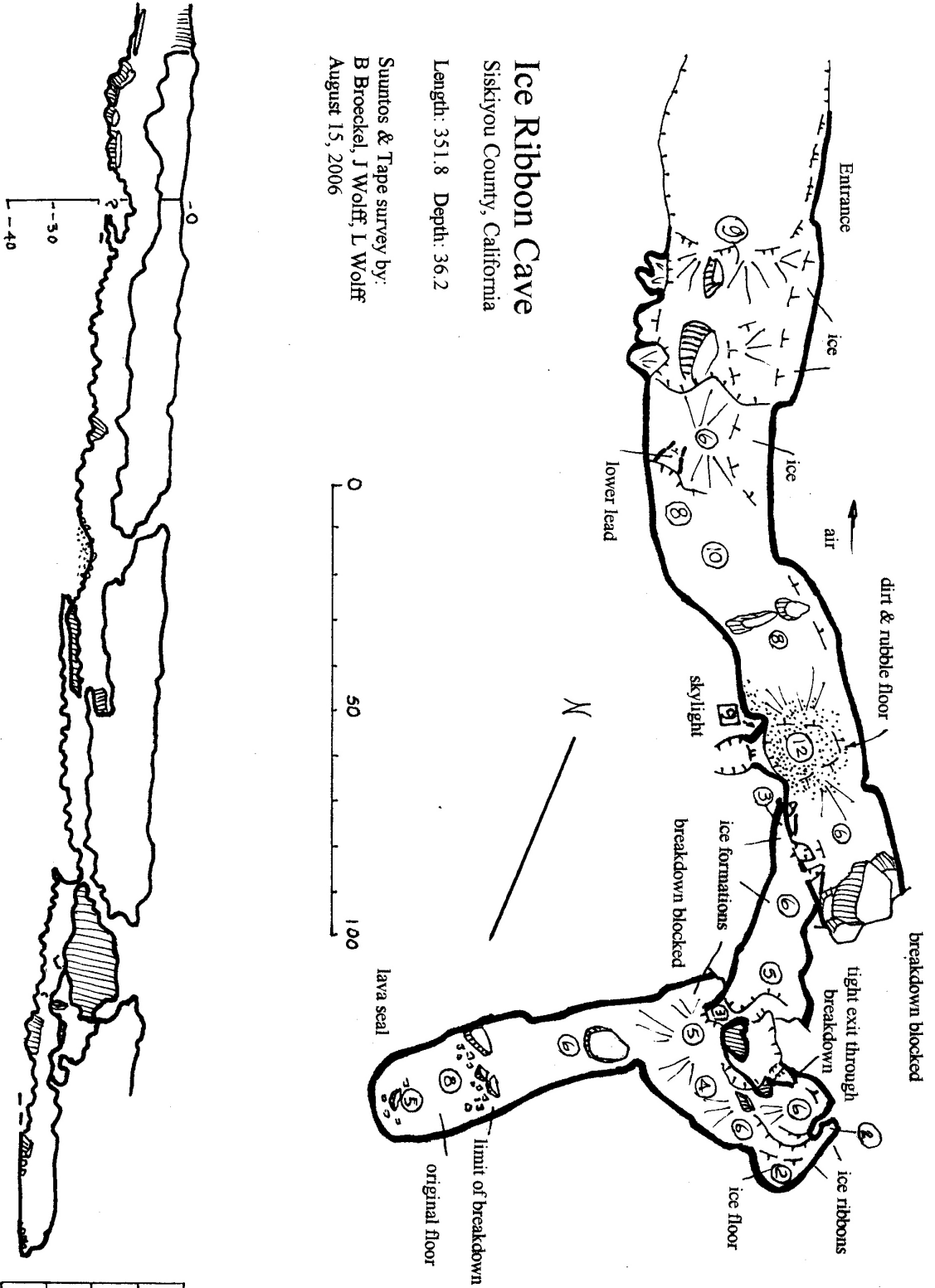
Breakdown floors throughout unless otherwise noted

# Ice Ribbon Cave

Siskiyou County, California

Length: 351.8 Depth: 36.2

Soundings & Tape survey by:  
B Broeckel, J Wolff, L Wolff  
August 15, 2006



Map: Ice Ribbon Cave

## FOXHOLE CAVE

Foxhole was a cave without a name until Russ Yoder decided that the potholes in the sand floor were reminiscent of foxholes, or small bomb craters. Before that though, he had been trying to interest someone, anyone, into going out to his new area to see the caves he hadn't even scooped yet. Wow. With an inducement like that he finally talked Liz Wolff into coming out following the September 8 SAG meeting. Bill & Judy Broeckel would come too, but had a commitment in the morning. Liz drove out to meet Russ and they went to the cave to GPS and scoop. It appeared to be only a large chamber, but weaseling a way down through the breakdown, a small tubular passage was reached, and it went; through two small breakdown-floored chambers and into a large walking passage that went two ways. A note of interest: most of the breakdown blocks in the entire crawl had been polished some time in the past. We were intrigued by this, as these were the only polished rocks we found anywhere in the cave. We later surmised that it was whatever animals had denned in the cave, probably several years ago.

Here, they began to survey. To the left the cave ended in a near lava seal with airflow. Underneath a large breakdown block was an abandoned animal den dug into a patch of sand on the floor. This area has mainly cauliflower aa floors with scattered breakdown, the walls are remelt and well decorated.

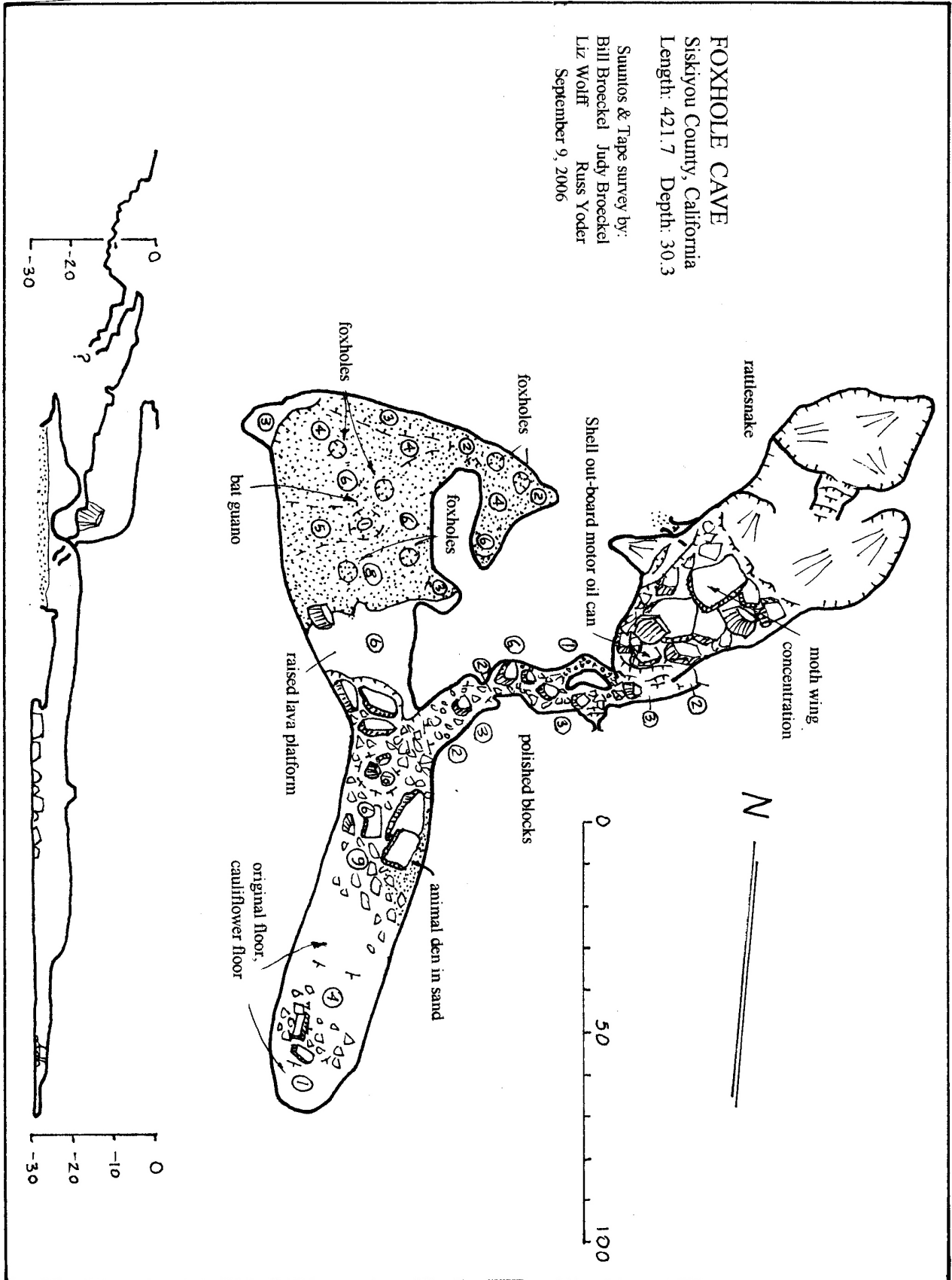
To the right, and over a raised platform, the cave entered a totally sand-floored area with several shallow circular holes that became known as the foxholes. The sand is of unknown depth. A ceiling bulge near the center of the room stopped a foot short of the sand floor, and a crawl off one corner of the room led around a sharp bend into a room completely sealed by the sand. Moth wings were noted behind the bulge. This entire part of the cave is damp, with drips, while the entrance chamber and crawl are dusty and dry.

At this point it was time to go meet Bill & Judy, so we left the instruments and all at the junction station and exited the cave. We arrived back at the rendezvous point just minutes before the Broeckels arrived. We ate lunch with lots of yellow jackets, and headed out to the cave once more. While Bill & Judy took a look at the bigger part of the cave, Russ and Liz continued the survey toward the entrance. Once joined by the Broeckels the survey went a bit faster, weaseling up through the breakdown into the entrance chamber. A concentration of moth wings was found near the center of the chamber. Here was noted an upper level side passage above a lava fall that went only a short distance before pinching closed. Underneath it though, was a way down through the breakdown, and a hole through which a wet sand floor could be seen, but no entry made. Hmm... dig needed.

A shot across the sink and over a bridge, disturbed a two foot long rattlesnake from its hiding place. Under the bridge is a passage descending steeply, but no one wanted to see if 'it' had friends hiding out around there. Foxhole Cave is 421.7 feet long and 30.4 feet deep.



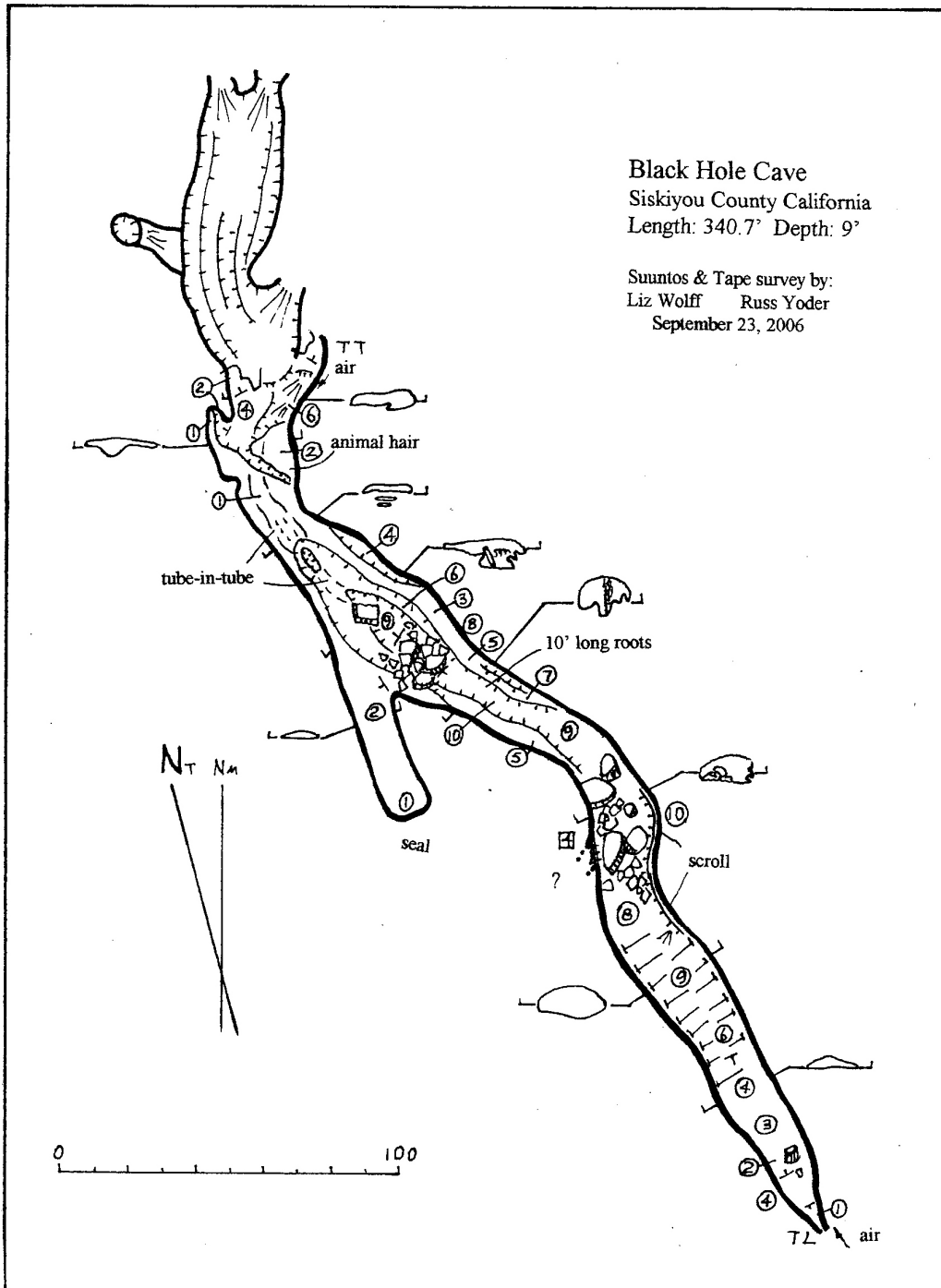
Judy Broeckel ponders chiaroscuro surface deep in Foxhole Cave. 9-9-06



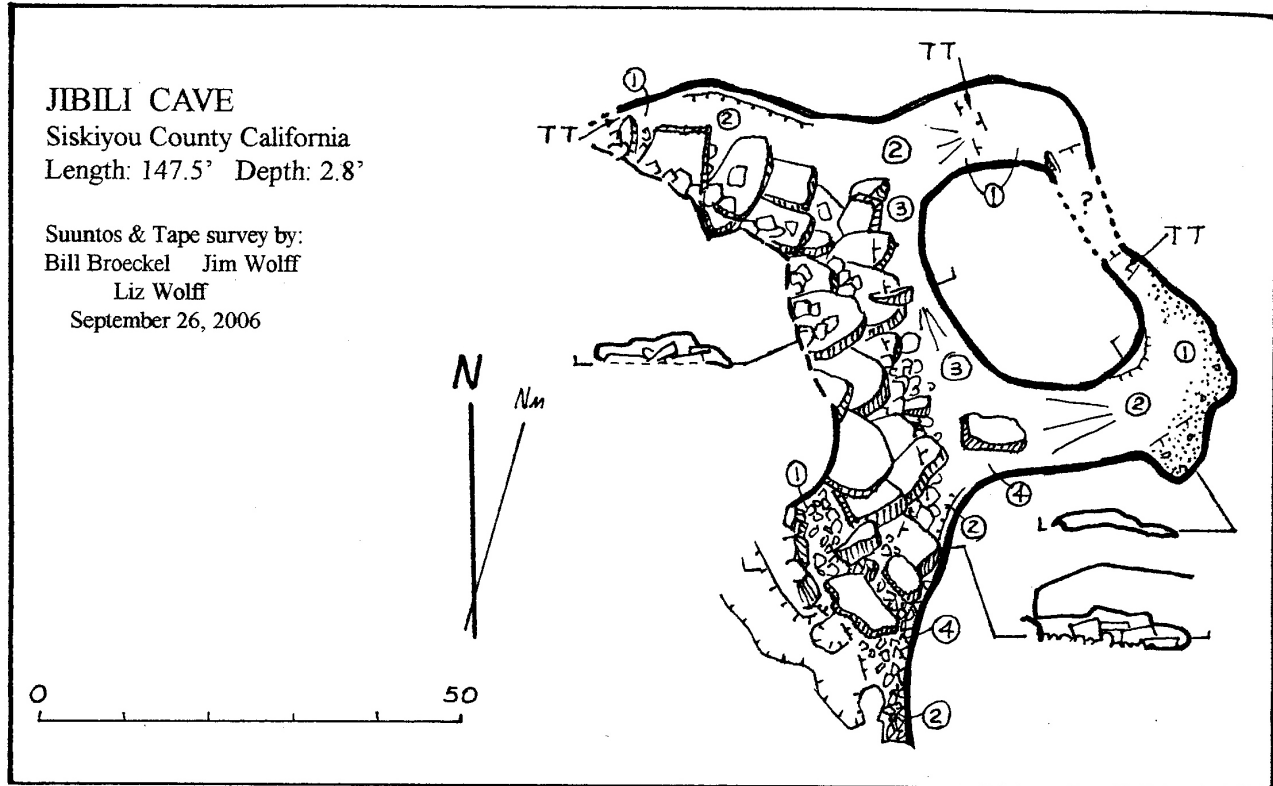
Map: Foxhole Cave

### BLACK HOLE CAVE

Black Hole Cave was visited and mapped by Russ Yoder and Liz Wolff on Sept 23. Black Hole is mainly walking sized cave with a lava dam, and two tube-in-tube formations. The tube in tubes are stacked and pass under the lava dam, then continue as a wide trench down the cave. It flattens out to sloping floors, then is flat at the end of the cave. The ledges on the side of the trench are sometimes stepped. Part of the time there is a scroll lining the east wall of the cave. At one point the ceiling is ten feet high and a long root cascades to the floor. Breakdown is nearly absent in this cave, but the gnarly cauliflower aa makes up for that lack with a rough, ankle twisting surface. Survey of this cave totaled 340.7 feet.



Map: Black Hole Cave



Map: Jibili Cave

### JIBILI CAVE

Jibili Cave was discovered by Jim Wolff and Arley Kising around the same time that JARBL was found, and not entered again until following the JARBL trip when Bill Broeckel returned to survey Spiderweb Cave and scooped Jibili. Sept 26 Bill returned with Jim & Liz Wolff to survey. This complex little cave totaled 147.5 feet. The total vertical extent of the cave is less than three feet. This cave is, or was once, heavily used by porcupine, rat, bat and pica; as evidenced by the variety of droppings found in the cave.

The entrance of Jibili is located in a slump crack near the edge of a trench. The entrance chamber is about four feet high and very broad. A narrower passage leads off through the breakdown into a chamber with leads two ways. The most obvious is a broad, intact, upward sloping passage with a hook to the left at the top of the slope. It appears to end, but a very low continuation goes a short way and then appears to end again.

At the divide, another passage goes to the left, passing a wall of very large slabs of breakdown and coming to another divide. To the right the floor slopes up intact, to nearly meet the ceiling and then the ceiling rises again to about a foot, and the passage can be seen turning to the right again. We presume that it meets the other very low passage to surround a pillar, but it is too tight to get through. Toward the left the breakdown wall continues to encroach on the passage until it becomes impassable. **LW**

## LESSER CAVES NOT FAR FROM ICE RIBBON

By Bighorn Broeckel

So nice to see Ice Ribbon Cave getting some love this year. With that little ice floor down in there, Ice Ribbon surely qualifies as an "ice cave". Over the years SAG members have discovered it a couple times, and it was mentioned in the SAG RAG 22:5 Sep 2003. Liz Wolff produced a real nice drawing of Russ Yoder among the ice ribbons and it appeared on the cover of that issue. Now in 2006, the cave survey is complete and the map is ready in this issue.

When the Wolffs took me out to help with the mapping last August, I only had vague notions about the Ice Ribbon location. I was surprised to find that it is close to an area where I have been working over some small caves lately. Ice Ribbon is way better than any of these little caves. Ice Ribbon has longer walking passages, ice, and enough cold air to be quite refreshing on a warm August afternoon. It even has that small year-round ice floor, global warming notwithstanding. (Note: many local ice caves are currently melting out).

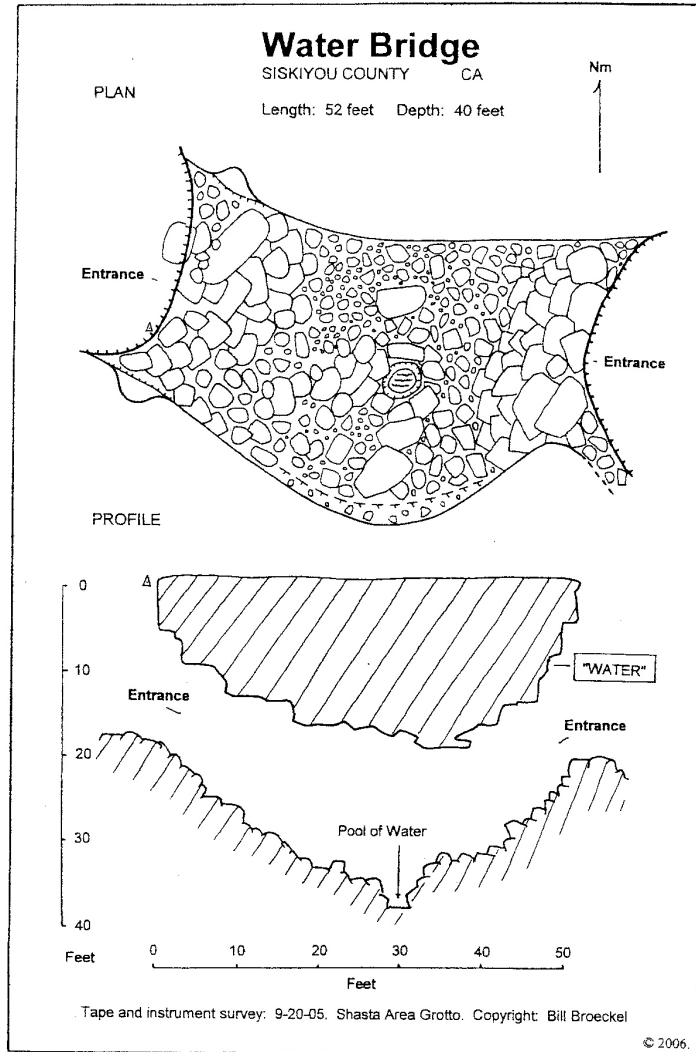
As for the lesser caves, here are five that happen to be ready. What they lack in extent, they make up for in variety: a short segment of master tube (Water Bridge), a meander reentry (Alpenhorn), and three surface tubes. Of the three, one pierces a narrow span across the main trench (Flea Flicker), another is an inflated surface tube (Triangular), and the third has a very small entrance (Three Pines). Lengths range from 39 to 63 feet, and depths from 5 to 40 feet. In this vicinity, there are some more caves of this caliber waiting to be likewise appreciated in 2007

**WATER BRIDGE** The main trend makes a little jiggle, and that is exactly where Water Bridge appears, right in the zig zag. Thus, even though the main bearing is north-south, the two big entrances under Water Bridge are east and west. The blocks of breakdown in the cave are large, and passage is spacious. A single survey shot through the cave, entrance to entrance, measures 52 feet. The tiny pool of water down at the bottom is 40 feet below the surface. This body of water inspired the cave name, further bolstered by the word "WATER" neatly printed across the east entrance. The associated initials and date are quite faint, but the year looks like 1966, getting close to historical. Birds are attracted to the pool of water, and use it for a natural bird bath, making this a bridge over troubled waters. . .

Speaking again of bridges, we came across Charlie Larson's definition of a lava bridge which is in his authoritative 1994 glossary of lava tube features (Bulletin 87, Western Speleological Survey, pp. 5 and 40). "A remnant of a lava tube **roof** no wider, measured parallel to the tube axis, than the width of the tube it spans."

The definition is very specific and objective. Fat bridges and skinny caves need not apply. You know what, if we stick to this definition, a lot of these bridges we have been calling bridges are not really bridges. But we are such lazy speleologists! Instead of measuring, we just call things bridges if they look and feel like bridges. Anytime you can look in one entrance and light from the next entrance is visible, it might look and feel like a bridge to somebody. . . However, in light of the strict definition, I call for some more restraint in this regard, and that we should actually be doing the two required measurements.

In the case of Water Bridge, I would like to let the name stand. It comes pretty close to actually meeting the criteria, and we already know that this is a cave that just happens to have the name Water Bridge. There are some other reasons too, so indulge me one more time, and then I'll do better after this. Also, there is that little bird bath pool down there. But then, that is just water under the bridge. . .



Map: Water Bridge

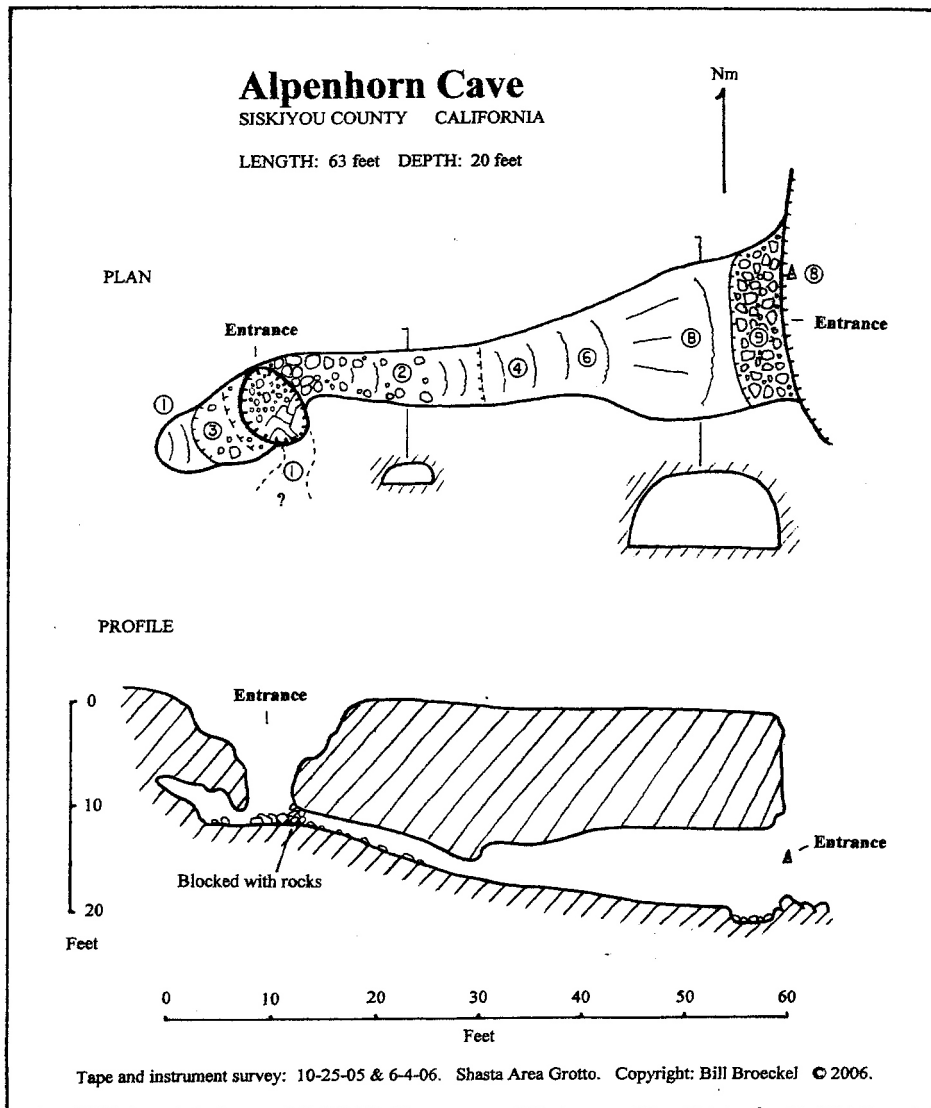


East entrance to Water Bridge. 10-25-05

**ALPENHORN** Something was pushing the lava flow east here. The Alpenhorn Cave meander can be traced for some distance on the surface. It just happens to re-enter the main trench just above the Water Bridge zig zag. The large entrance in the side of the big trench looks perfect, like it might go 1,000 feet, maybe 2,000. But instead of that, it slopes right up and rapidly diminishes until you are crammed into an unstable crawlway looking at daylight through the loose rocks blocking the way to the upper sinkhole entrance.

There are some survey problems at Alpenhorn. The sinkhole divides the cave, but is deep enough to claim connection. However, in order to complete a through trip, all those rocks would have to be cleared out. This would alter the natural condition of the cave quite a bit, and for no exploratory gain. So in the name of cave conservation, indulge me once again, and let this stand as one cave with an undug connection. Wow, that is one big slippery slope right there! But I promise I'll keep my balance, I promise.

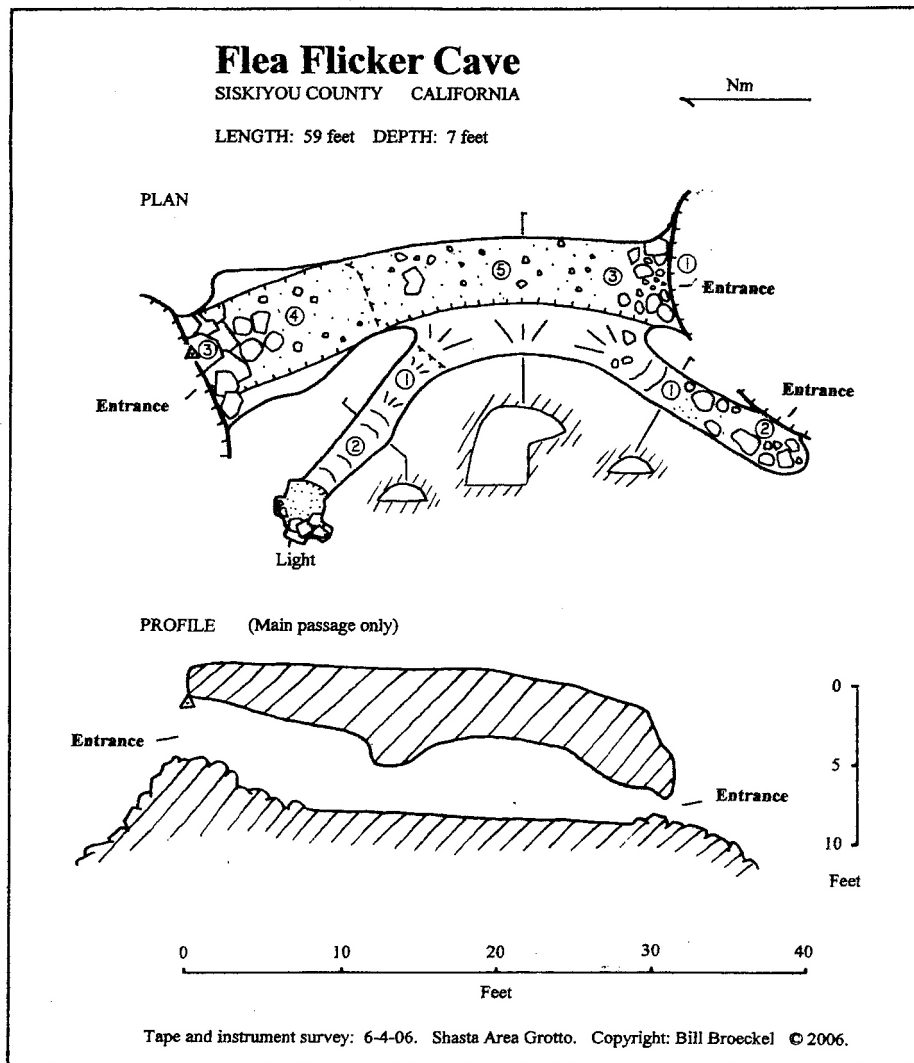
The third problem is that just under the edge of the sinkhole, a low surface tube passage heads south. I didn't feel like going in there, so that is just a hanging lead sketched on to the survey that still waits to be explored. The total distance of surveyed passage at Alpenhorn is 63 feet. The name comes from the profile view on the map which vaguely resembles an alpenhorn.



Map: Alpenhorn Cave



**FLEA FLICKER** A small surface tube goes through the next narrow land bridge across the main trench, up the flow from Water Bridge. The north entrance is nice and easy, but the south entrances are crawlers. One day I had a few spare minutes, and thought I could quickly survey this little cave with just a shot or two. Then half-way through the main passage, the cave had a small surprise. There was a ledge up on the west wall which actually represents a braiding upper level side passage. Downflow, the side passage went a short ways over projections and loose rock to reach the third entrance. The projections were real rippers, like upside down lavacicles. Upflow, the side passage was even harder. It was just possible for me to drag myself up and into the continuation. It got slightly bigger, and went a couple body lengths as a perfect flat-floored surface tube, very near the surface. It ends at a silver-dollar-sized "entrance" admitting just a beam of daylight. This cave will flick your fleas right off. The Flea Flicker is also an exciting play in football. OK, I admit it. I have trouble thinking up cave names, but you know, for these little caves, it doesn't really matter that much, does it. But even little caves can have surprises. You never really know a cave until you survey it, and even then you don't really know the cave. The total measured passage in Flea Flicker is 59 feet.



Map: Flea Flicker Cave

**THREE PINES** Water Bridge, Alpenhorn, and Flea Flicker were all associated with the main master tube trench. Now we turn to a small eastern outwash of overflow lava well above Ice Ribbon, where the Ice Ribbon parallel diverged from the main flow. The outwash contains some really small surface tubes. Three Pines Cave is difficult to enter due to the tiny entrance which is partially blocked with a testicle-crushing knob of rock.

Inside, the cave gets a little bigger, instantly dividing into two passages. They both end right away. The surprise is a small dome, or upper level bubble chamber. It is possible to stick your head up into the dome and rotate around to admire the lavacicles. It continues to amaze me how these very superficial caves can somehow manage to have upper levels.

The cave measures 39 feet. There are three *Pinus ponderosa* nearby standing in a row, albeit in a whole forest of similar trees. I lost this cave for awhile right after I found it. I couldn't see the trees for the forest. . .

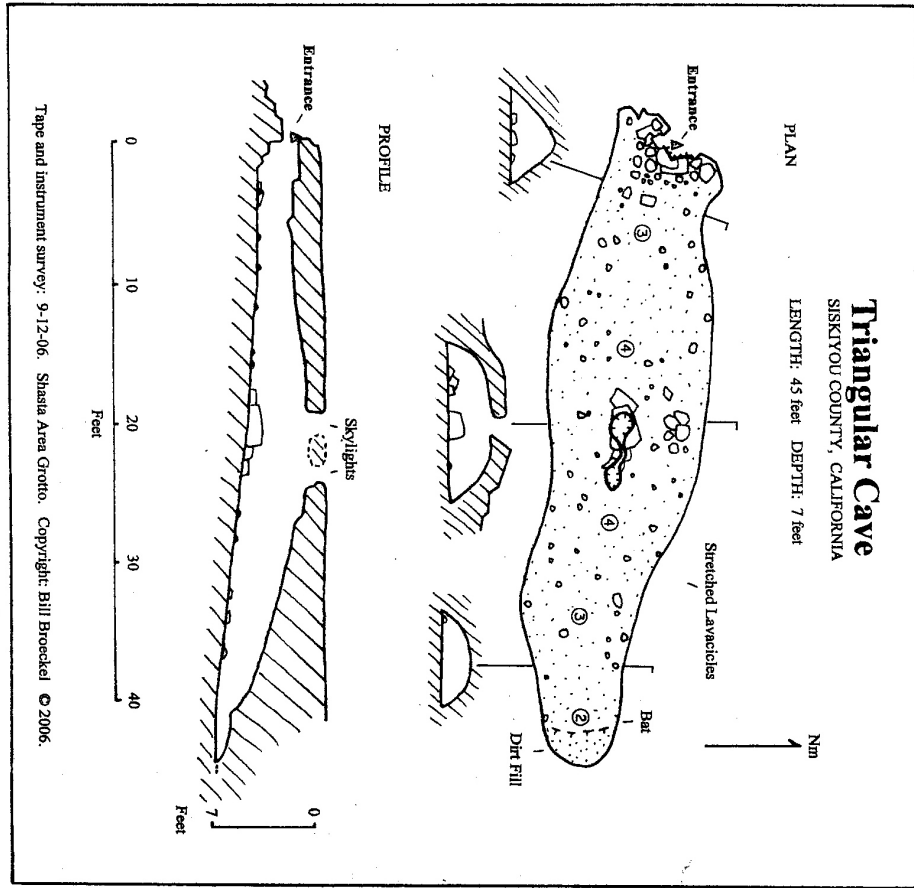


Entrance to Three Pines Cave. 10-25-05

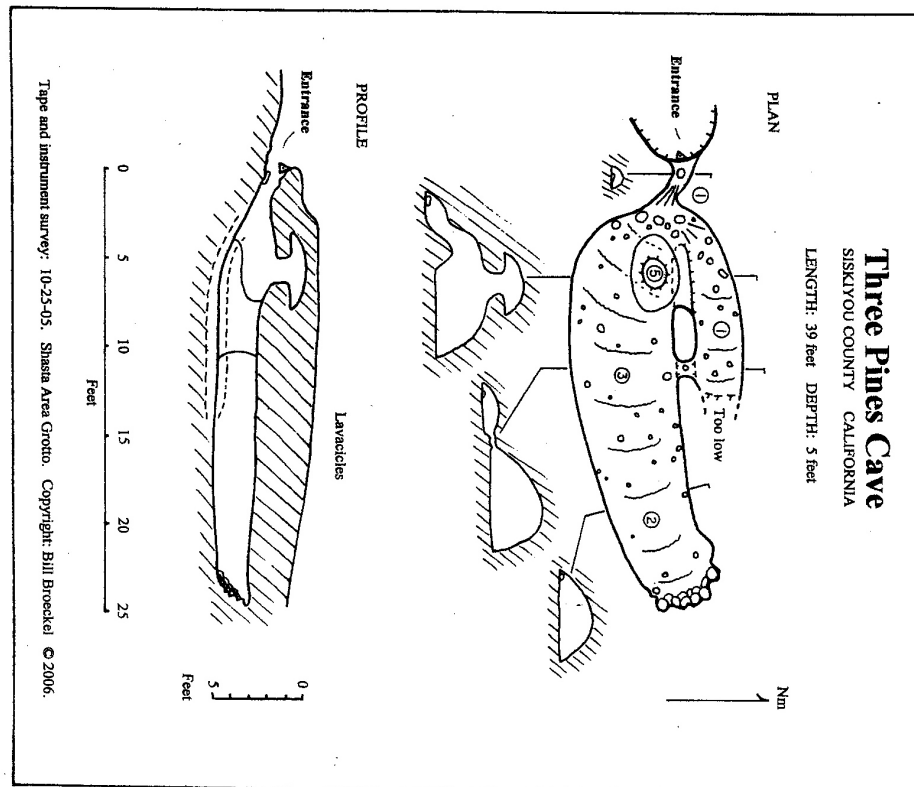
**TRIANGULAR** Here is another surface tube close to Three Pines. It has a triangle-shaped entrance with natural steps down to the floor. The passage is roomy for a cave of this type, and it has nice skylights in the middle which could be used as entrances. One summer day, I surveyed the cave with a single 45 foot shot. An odd thing happened. I was getting down to the low and dirty part at the end of the passage when suddenly a bat shot out of there, darted around the cave, and then flew directly out to the afternoon light. The bat used the triangular entrance, not the skylights.

I imagined the poor bat getting more and more nervous, as I noisily approached with glaring light, until he couldn't stand it, and bugged out. Why would a bat use such a low spot? Any weasel could easily sniff a sleeping bat right off the ceiling down there. But maybe the bat heard me from the get go, and moved on back to hide as I was entering the cave.

Triangular Cave is one of those surface tubes with a roof elevated above the general surface, and thus easily visible from outside. Other caves can be found by watching for these curvilinear elevated roofs, and searching them for entrances. Initially I thought to name this cave Triangle Cave, but heard that Siskiyou County already had one, so switched to Triangular. **BB**



Map: Triangular Cave



Map: Three Pines Cave

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**Jibili Cave** Jim Wolff September 26, 2006

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