

sag rag

26:1.5 March 2007



Russ Among the Ice Ribbons

Liz Wolf 6-03

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PLUTO'S CAVE CLEAN UP By Liz Wolff

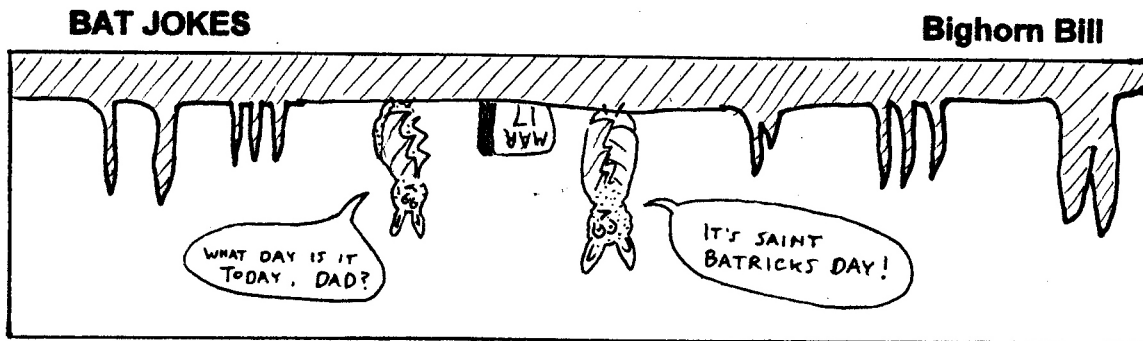
Saturday February 19, 2007, eighteen cavers met at Pluto's Cave to clean it up. Two full trash cans, three bed springs, one car seat and one tire were collected. As usual, the most abundant commodity was the broken glass. There is at least one place with new graffiti. Sand Cave entrance was cleaned with one bucket load taken from the sink and one from the surrounding area. The Barnum gate looked like someone has been working at it and the weld above the gateway is broken. No bat count was done, as the bats are still active with the unseasonably warm weather.

Demographics of personnel (all but two are SAG members): 1 from Sacramento (Wayne Cedidla), 1 from Redding (Steve Hobson), 2 from Big Bar (Vern and Linda Clift), 2 from Eureka (Dick and Kathy LaForge), 1 from Arcata (Mark Fritzke), 1 from Mt. Shasta (Rick), 2 from McCloud (Jim and Liz Wolff), 1 from Yreka (Melanie Jackson), 2 from Ashland (Shakina and Reba), 2 from Medford (George Huston and Jennifer), and 3 from Klamath Falls (Robert Nixon and Bill and Cheryl Kenney). **LW**

THE DAY OF THE BAT By Bill Broeckel

On St. Patty's Day, March 17, 2007, Shasta Area Grotto members Liz Wolff and Ray Miller volunteered some time at the Turtle Bay Bat Day. Apparently, the various presentations and events were a great success, being well-attended and well-received by the crowds at Turtle Bay. Turtle Bay is some kind of life science theme park down in Redding.

The Grotto job was to man a table out in front of the cave entrance. Ray was the bat expert, and Liz represented organized caving. They visited with lots of folks. The cave looks like part of Shasta Caverns, and has some stuffed bats for the kids to spot up above. Joanne Gimble (volunteer coordinator) mentioned us in her thank-yous as "Ray Miller and Liz Wolff, and others from a local caving group." I guess the others were Judy Broeckel and myself. We showed up so late that Ray and Liz were packed up and leaving. We didn't get to show the slide show, but we did meet a few more people in the short time at the end of "The Day Of The Bat". See you at Turtle Bay next year maybe? **BB**



ICE RIBBON CAVE By Liz Wolff

This cave was found by Jim Wolff, again while "working", & filed away for future reference. Some years later Russ Yoder found it & 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, Jim & Liz Wolff and Bill Broeckel 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

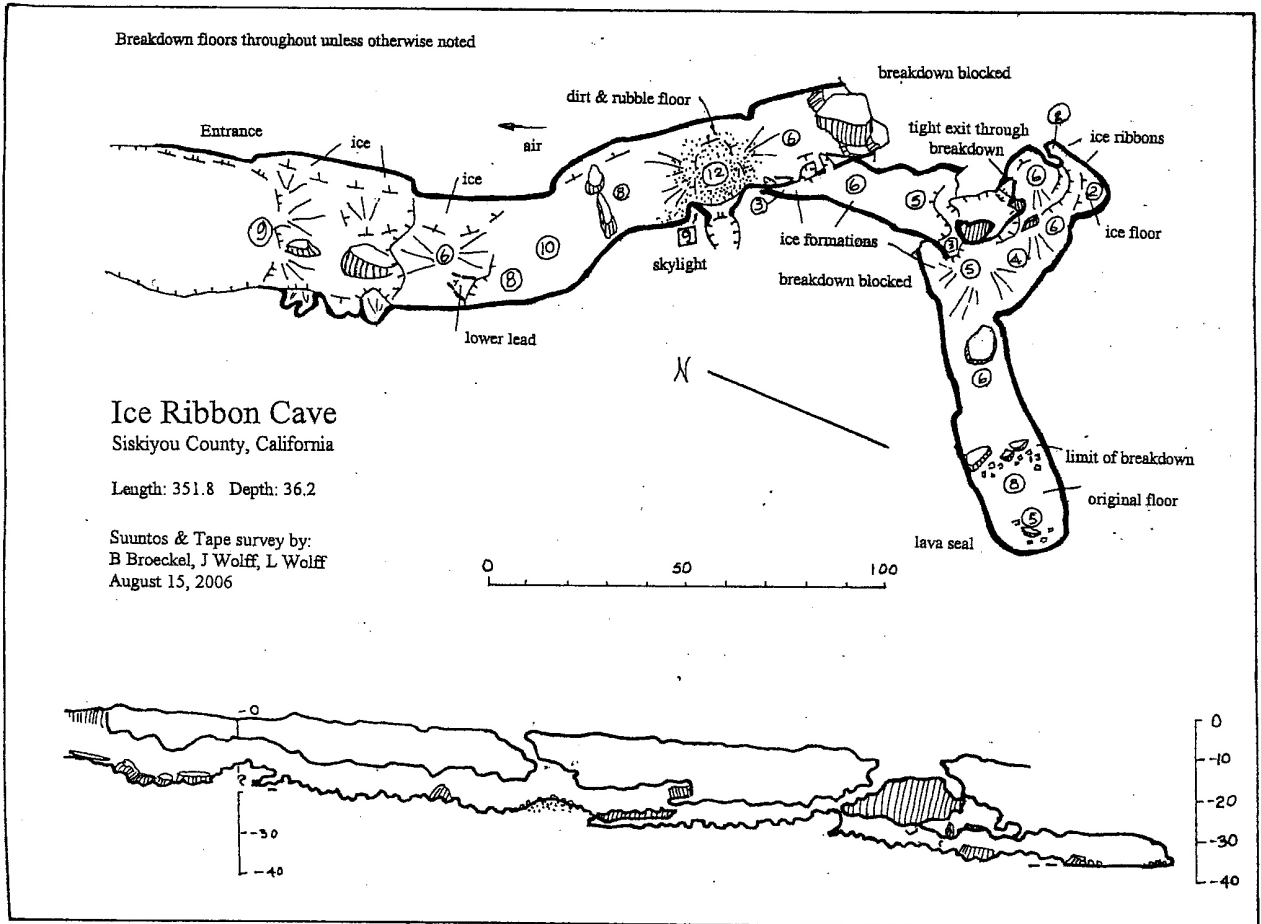
the skylight area, but after dropping down to the lower level, was nearly everywhere. At the four foot drop into the lower level, a split is obvious. The larger way leads into the only area in the cave with intact ceiling, walls and floors. About 25 feet of 20-foot wide by 8-foot high passage with a 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 nearly 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 awhile 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. LW



Map: Ice Ribbon Cave

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.

Memberships and Subscriptions

NAME(S) _____

NSS#: _____ NSS# is current? _____

IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

- _____ Sag dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family (circle one).
 _____ I want to subscribe to CAL CAVER too for another \$10.
 _____ SAG RAG subscriptions only, without grotto membership. \$6.
 _____ TOTAL. Make checks payable to "Shasta Area Grotto", (not "SAG")
 And send to Melanie Jackson, 708 Yama Street, Yreka, CA 96097.

JOIN THE CAVERS by Bill Broeckel

If you find you have an interest in caves, consider joining a local caving group. Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) is a local unit of the National Speleological Society. Look us up on the website and fill out the application form above. Six dollars gets you six issues of the grotto newsletter (SAG RAG). To become a member, subscribe, attend a grotto meeting, and participate in two grotto cave trips.

Some of the west coast grottos have banded together to form the Western Region of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Ten more dollars extends your membership to the Western Region, which sponsors regional cave-related events and publishes an excellent quarterly called the California Caver.

Membership in the national organization is strongly encouraged and recommended. A regular membership will cost you \$36. The NSS sponsors a yearly week-long national convention and publishes a monthly cave magazine that routinely includes incredible color photography. Both the Western Region and the NSS do many other programs and projects that are of great benefit to caves and cavers. Join through the NSS website <WWW.caves.org>

All of the costs mentioned are yearly-rates. Join all three tiers of organized caving and receive 24 publication mailings/year putting you in touch with cavers from local to international. Only 22 you say? I forgot to mention the NSS Bulletin which presents cave science articles about twice a year. So let's go caving! **BB**

SAG RAG
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