



At the March Hare's tea-party, the Mad Hatter performs his rendition of:
"Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Bat!"

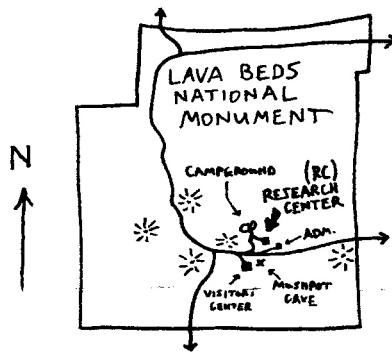
INSIDE: MAD HATTER CAVE.

Yep, ya gotta be at least a little
cave crazy ta get into this one.

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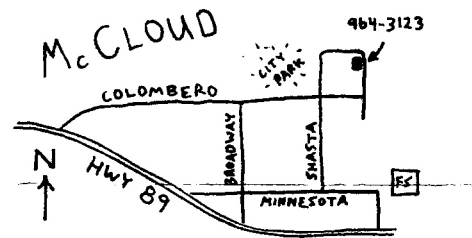
CAVERS CALENDAR 2007

- July 20-22 SAG 25th Anniversary Reunion Weekend at Lava Beds National Monument.
 July 23-27 NSS Convention in Marengo, Indiana.
 Aug 2 Liz Wolff gives slide show at Sisson Museum, 2 pm Thursday.
 Aug 17 SAG meeting at Wolff's in McCloud 7:30 pm (530) 964-3123
 Oct 13-21 Crystal Cave Restoration in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park.
 Oct 26-28 Western Regional at Pinnacles National Monument hosted by SFBC.



July 20-22 Lava Beds

MAPS TO MEETINGS



August 17 McCloud

25th Anniversary Grotto Reunion Weekend at Lava Beds

The June campout was nice and interesting, but if you missed it, don't worry. You have another chance, and this weekend in July is going to be even better. Because we are staying at the Research Center on a service project basis, we have free entry into the National Monument. At the gate, just be friendly and say something about "volunteer project" and some other details about the cavers so you sound like you know what's going on. Our stay at the RC is also free, though we do have to actually do the work project (Saturday from 10-2, graffiti removal) and make sure the RC is cleaned up when we leave on Sunday. Saturday evening dinner is provided by SAG. T-shirts are provided, first one free, but if you want extra T-shirts they will cost \$10 each. Bring food for the other meals. There is a regular nice home-style kitchen in the RC. Trailers, campers, tents, and sleeping on the porch are workable options, and there are even some bunks in the RC if you are early, lucky, or connected. Here is a schedule of sorts; note in-between and around times for cave trips.

- Friday 1500-1900 Registration at RC. Get settled, gab sessions.
 Saturday 1000-1400 Graffiti project. Bring boots, gloves, water, lunch.
 Saturday 1830 Official SAG Reunion dinner at the RC.
 Saturday night Old fashioned SAG slide show in Mushpot Cave.
 Open projector; bring your own slides to share.
 Sunday 1000 July SAG meeting.
 Sunday 1130 Clean-up the RC.

APRIL SAG MEETING Minutes from April 20, 2007 SAG meeting at Steve Hobson's home in Redding, CA. The meeting was called to order at 7:56 pm and adjourned at 9:25 pm by Chairman Liz Wolff. Those attending were members Jim and Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Steve Hobson, Neils Smith and Dave Smith. The March 16th, 2007 minutes were read by Steve Hobson and interpreted by the Wolffs. They were approved with some corrections. Treasurers Report: \$868.99 + \$66.00 petty cash = \$934.99. Paid bill \$12.00 from Caves, \$10.00 to Cal Caver for Clift, deposit of \$55.00, and sent \$10.00 to NSS for the Web site. Paperwork for the new account is all signed. Bill Devereaux paid \$6.00 cash (membership December). Paid Bill B. from petty cash. SAG RAG Report: Bill mailed some Museum SAG RAGs to some people that were interested in it. He gave me a receipt and I paid him from petty cash

Correspondence: Thanks from Turtle Bay for the help with the Day of the Bat. Liz received an article about wallowing in the dirt. Southeast Region sent us an invitation to the Speleofest on Memorial Day Weekend. Mark Scott sent out a web site address on how to sober up drunken bats. Ray Miller sent a photograph of the Sisson Museum web site of the cave exhibit. Two hits on the web site: one from Neal Marchington, possible member, current chairman of Northern Nevada Grotto, another from Allan Johnson who used to cave with SAG in the Marbles. He wanted info on SAG activities. Oregon High Desert Grotto sent out info on caves for sale. It was only \$900,000. Turtle Bay (Megan) thanked us for making "The Day of the Bat" a whooping success. Alex Sprowl sent out a notice that the Planet Earth TV series was having a cave section on Sunday. Request from the NSS for things that need to be addressed with the Board of Governors. Deschutes National Forest has several projects they are looking for volunteers for.

Old Business: Reunion 20-22 July 2007. No reservations yet. Three trailers are coming. Shane has been contacted. He said if we are interested in doing a project we can use the research center. It has campsites, trailer spots, and bunk beds. If we are going to do a project we have to get it out to the members. Liz will find out more. Jim has a slide show from the early days of SAG. Do we want potluck? The grotto can buy some stuff. Do we want a 25 year Tee shirt? Several people would buy them as long as they were quality. Color Green/Gray. Cups? Ballcaps are a pain. Melanie knows someone with a cap making machine. Badges and pins are a no brainer to do, are easy, and cost about a dollar. Depends on interest. Send out a letter and registration material about a month before. Cave trips to what caves? Jim suggested a CD with old SAG trip pictures. All present voted to do graffiti removal. Guidebook? (ED: no) Auction?

More Old Business: They are still investigating the raising (20 ft) of Shasta Dam. Brad Rust said they have applied for funding (\$50,000) to do cave inventory/surveying this summer. This will be a paid project. Mark Fritzke and Steve Knutson were suggested. Liz does not come down here in the summer. We were supposed to go out on the lake on my brother's patio boat and he cancelled on us.

New Business: May meeting at Lava Beds Speleo-Ed? June meeting will be held at the Hat Creek Campground. July meeting will be held at Lava Beds for our 25th Reunion. May 18-20th, the Western Region of the NSS will join forces with the Northwest Caving Association and the National Cave Rescue Commission to present Speleo-Ed 2007 at Lava Beds Nat. Monument.

Trip Reports: Dave and Liz worked the Dumb Luck resurvey. They put in a station for the side passage and surveyed 102 feet. Still has a tight lead. Jim and Dave worked the Dumb Luck dig a couple of times. They can see past the sand. It continues on. No surface smells. Dave wants to make the passage large enough for a subway train. Bill Broeckel looked for Greeley's Pit. Found a little surface cave and surveyed it on toilet paper cardboard. He called it Paintbrush Cave. Steve Hobson worked a dig in the Blanchet Cave. Hunted for limestone and caves at Brock Creek. Found two small caves and a dig.

Shasta Area Grotto Secretary/Treasurer Steve Hobson.

SH

MAY SAG MEETING Minutes from May 19, 2007 SAG meeting at Lava Beds National Monument. Those attending were members Jim and Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Wayne Cedidla, Steve Hobson, and a new guy. Meeting called to order by Chairman Liz Wolff. The April 20, 2007 minutes were not read by Steve Hobson as they were not available. Treasurer's Report: None available. We bounced a check to the Western Region for \$50.00 during the change of accounts. We also owed for Clift. I paid them \$60.00. SAG ,RAG Report: None. Correspondence: None that I remember. Old Business: Reunion 20-22 ,July 2007. Talked about doing a project so we can use the research center and tee shirts. New Business: June meeting will be held at the Hat Creek Campground. July meeting will be held at Lava Beds for our 25th Reunion. We picked up Ken Seigris as a member – he gave the money. Trip Reports: None reported. Meeting adjourned.

Shasta Area Grotto Secretary/Treasurer Steve Hobson.

SH

Mad Hatter Day ?



The illustration is by John Tenniel, the original artist for Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". It shows the Mad Hatter at tea. Apparently, he looks a lot like one of Carroll's college professors who was affectionately known as "The Bat". The Mad Hatter was in the business of hat making, and it was common for hatters in those days to be afflicted with madness due to mercury used in the industry (no OSHA back then). The tag on his hat reads "In This Style 10/6". This was an order, and the price 10 shillings 6 pence. But some computer dudes in the 1980s decided it meant Mad Hatter Day was October 6, you know, since money is time, or time is money, or whatever. But in England, it wouldn't be October 6, it would be June 10. I got all of this off the internet, but here's the thing. In 2006, Dave Smith and I did a survey trip into Mad Hatter at the June campout, and get this – it was June 10! Whoa! It just makes your spine tingle, doesn't it?

BB

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE BAT!

As SAG RAG readers are a curious bunch, here is the full text, as far as we know it, of the Mad Hatter's heartily rendered poem about a bat.

"Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
How I wonder what you're at!
Up above the world you fly,
Like a tea-tray in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle – "

At this point, the Mad Hatter is interrupted by the sleepy Dormouse, and we don't get to hear the rest of the poem. Alice's comment was "I've heard something like it." So now you know.

BB

MAD HATTER CAVE

By Bighorn Broeckel

The eight entrances to Mad Hatter Cave tend to cluster into four "entrance zones": upper (1), middle (3), lower (2), and way upper (2). For practical purposes, then, there are four conveniently placed general access locations to the maze-like network of mostly low crawlways which make up Mad Hatter Cave.

Bob the Boulder Cave comes within a meter or so of connecting to the upflow end of Mad Hatter.



Mad Hatter Cave Discovery Entrance on 6-7-05

Since the two caves are related, Bob the Boulder is included with this report. Bob the Boulder reaches high enough to bring King Solomon's Crater into doubt as the lava source for Mad Hatter Cave. Mad Hatter then, appears to run parallel to the King Solomon Sequence, and arises from a separate vent. Mad Hatter Cave seems to be doing its own thing off to the side.

King Solomons Sequence runs along a deeper trench with shorter and more highly broken cave segments. By way of contrast, Mad Hatter contains small, superficial lava tube crawlways. These are braided and have little or no breakdown. Some delicate areas display lavacicles, lava stalagmites (so called "little people"), and corralloids. Other areas with steeper gradients feature lava cascades and ceiling grooves. About 15 pillars of various sizes add interest and complexity. Mad Hatter is like a miniature Catacombs.

The extent of the cave is only about 700 feet, but because of many loops and side passages, the total surveyed length is 1781 feet. Thus it is the fifth longest lava tube of the 150 caves we have listed so far in these Shasta Co. flows. The longer caves are Subway, Rusty, Elisha, and Christmas Tree. Like Elisha, Mad Hatter Cave is an original Shasta Area Grotto find. As in Rusty Cave, the major junction areas in Mad Hatter function as rooms. Two of the rooms have ceiling heights of 6-7 feet in spots, two places deep in cave where an adult can stand up in comfort. There is also a little walking passage near the upper entrance. Much more of the cave can be explored on hands and knees, and many belly crawls come into play.

Over the course of its length, the cave drops about 44 feet. The cave generates good airflow between its entrances. Some vertical offset between parallel passages is noted, first on the right side, then interestingly on left side, as the caver moves down the cave. Rodent middens and nests do show up here and there, and a handful of bats seem to frequent the cave. It is amazing to encounter them flying along the lowest of passages. Apparently, bats can use crawlways if the cave is long enough, and has enough odd corners and hideouts. If nothing else, Mad Hatter is big on odd corners.

Survey Story

The Discovery Entrance measures 1 x 1.5 feet and is the smallest of the 8 entrances. The other seven are more hidden behind bushes and small trees. It was a cool day on 2-1-04, and I stumbled onto the small skylight entrance out on the open rock. I dropped in about five feet down to the floor, set datum on the mossy green rock that served as a foothold, and immediately started to survey the cave. Some 477 ft later, the central maze was complete between the two "big rooms", and there were going leads at both ends of the cave. Shasta Area Grotto was hot on the discovery of yet another longer lava tube cave. Things were looking good.

Later that year (12-12-04), I returned with my wife Judy. We made our way down to the lower lead and I handed her the end of the tape. She belly-crawled down a long passage and stretched the tape out 65 feet on the first shot. She made it past a low point and eventually reached a low room with a tiny skylight. This turned out to be the important connection route between the upper and lower cave, as most people will find it impossible to

get through the parallel passage. That day we added 141 feet to the survey.

Mad Hatter continued to grow in 2005. I added a stubborn loop detail on 4-5-05 (46 feet). Jim Wolff saw the cave on 6-7-05, in preparation for the grotto campout. We did a GPS on the Discovery Entrance, as well as the main entrance to Bob the Boulder Cave and others. I missed the camp-out, but Jim led the group on 6-11-05 and they started work on the upper lead. Liz Wolff ran the survey, and others on the map team were Russ Yoder, Shakina Drew, and Michael Landrum. They explored and surveyed a very interesting and complex portion above the upper "Big Room". They finished all the passages as far as the big sinkhole which turns out to be the largest entrance to the cave. 584 feet got added bringing the total well over 1,000 ft. This was a great accomplishment for the day and the sides of the big sinkhole were overhung, so there were still going leads both upflow and downflow.

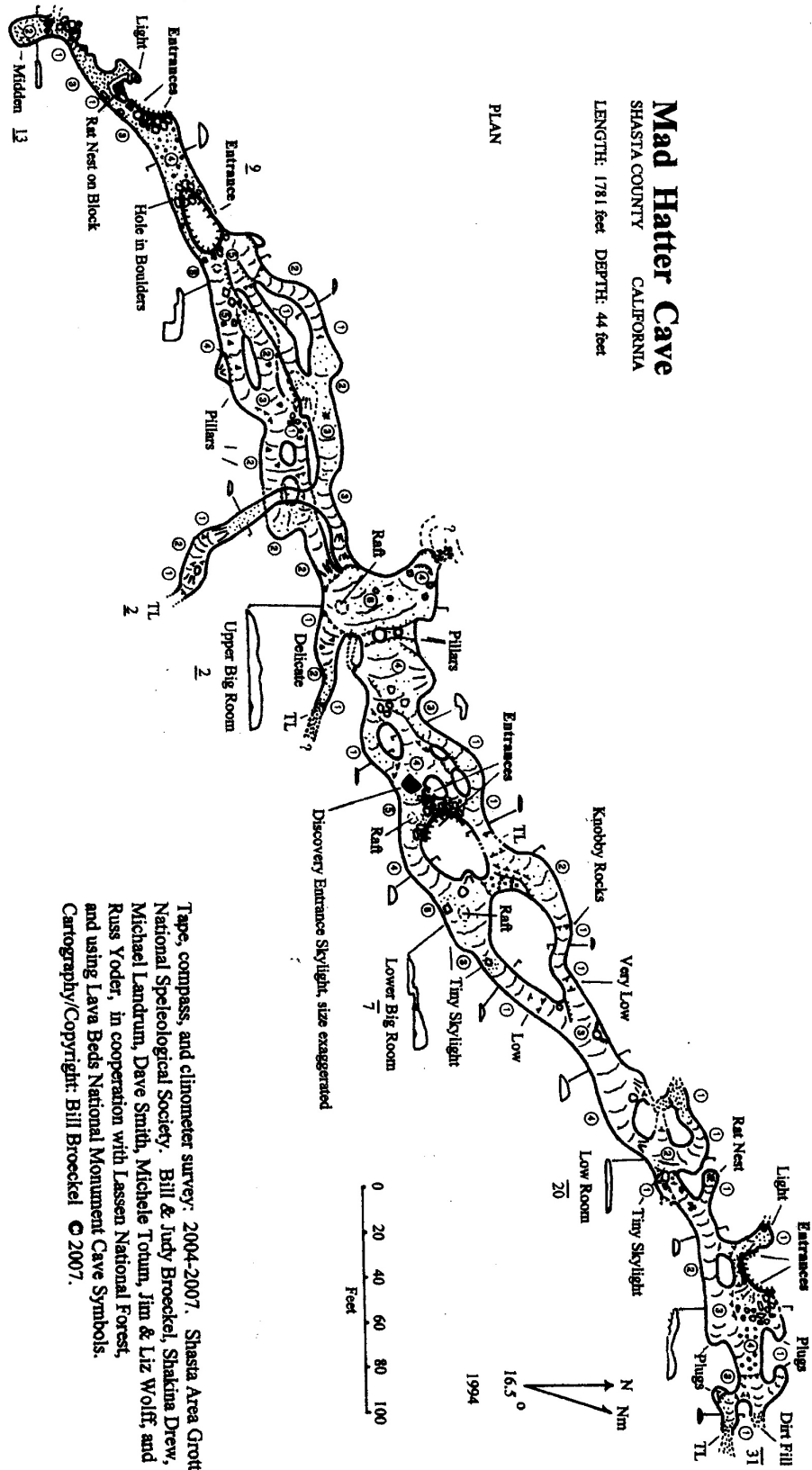
Michele Tatum, an intern with Lassen National Forest, joined me on 7-15-05 to tour the new section, and push further up the cave. With more detail on 9-24-05, 151 ft brought the upper cave to



Dave Smith at Mad Hatter Cave Lower Entrance n 6-10-06.

Mad Hatter Cave
 SHASTA COUNTY CALIFORNIA
 LENGTH: 1781 feet DEPTH: 44 feet

PLAN



Tape, compass, and clinometer survey: 2004-2007. Shasta Area Grotto, National Speleological Society. Bill & Judy Broeckel, Shakina Drew, Michael Landrum, Dave Smith, Michele Tohum, Jim & Liz Wolf, and Russ Yoder, in cooperation with Lassen National Forest, and using Lava Beds National Monument Cave Symbols. Cartography/Copyright: Bill Broeckel © 2007.

Map: Mad Hatter Cave

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Looking out from the Lower Entrance to Mad Hatter Cave on 4-21-07.

an end. We tried, but were unable to find a connection to Bob the Boulder Cave. Also on 9-24-05, the downflow lead was pushed through a rough area as far as the lower entrance. The cave was thus extended another 81 feet, and the total at the end of 2005 was 1480 feet.

2006 was a quieter year at Mad Hatter. However, at the June grotto camp-out, Dave Smith and I pushed the lower cave to its end, another 116 feet of crawlway. We were unable to determine what happens to the airflow, but it might just dissipate out through Mountain Mahogany trees around the lower entrance.

Well, that left only a half dozen or so miserable side leads for 2007. By now I was pretty familiar with the cave. With efficient approach plans I was able to knock them off solo with a desire to finish up the Mad Hatter survey. The lower cave leads were done on 4-21-07 (78 feet) and the middle cave leads on 6-16-07 (107 ft). The leads either looped back in, or reached some sort of end point. That last push was part of the June grotto camp-out and I couldn't get anyone to go with me. I don't blame them, either. They were smart not to go.

So it took 3 1/2 years and ten trips to survey Mad Hatter Cave. Three of these trips were fun, the rest was rough stuff, but we spread it out

enough so that each individual trip was like doing one short crawlway cave at a time. Business as usual in Shasta County lava tubes, but this time they were connected into a more lengthy and impressive cave. BB

BOB THE BOULDER CAVE

By Bighorn Broeckel

Description

This cave has a nice main entrance measuring 4-ft high and 7.5-ft wide. It is hidden in a grove of Mountain Mahogany trees. The entrance chamber is also nice, with walking dimensions and a big welded boulder (Bob) attached to the far wall. Upflow a low passage goes a short distance and features a fine example of a tube-in-tube. Downflow the cave soon gets difficult and choked up with breakdown. There are two more entrances through the rocks down there. The cave ends just prior to a connection with Mad Hatter Cave. The total survey length for Bob the Boulder Cave is 131 feet, and it officially qualifies as a cute little cave.

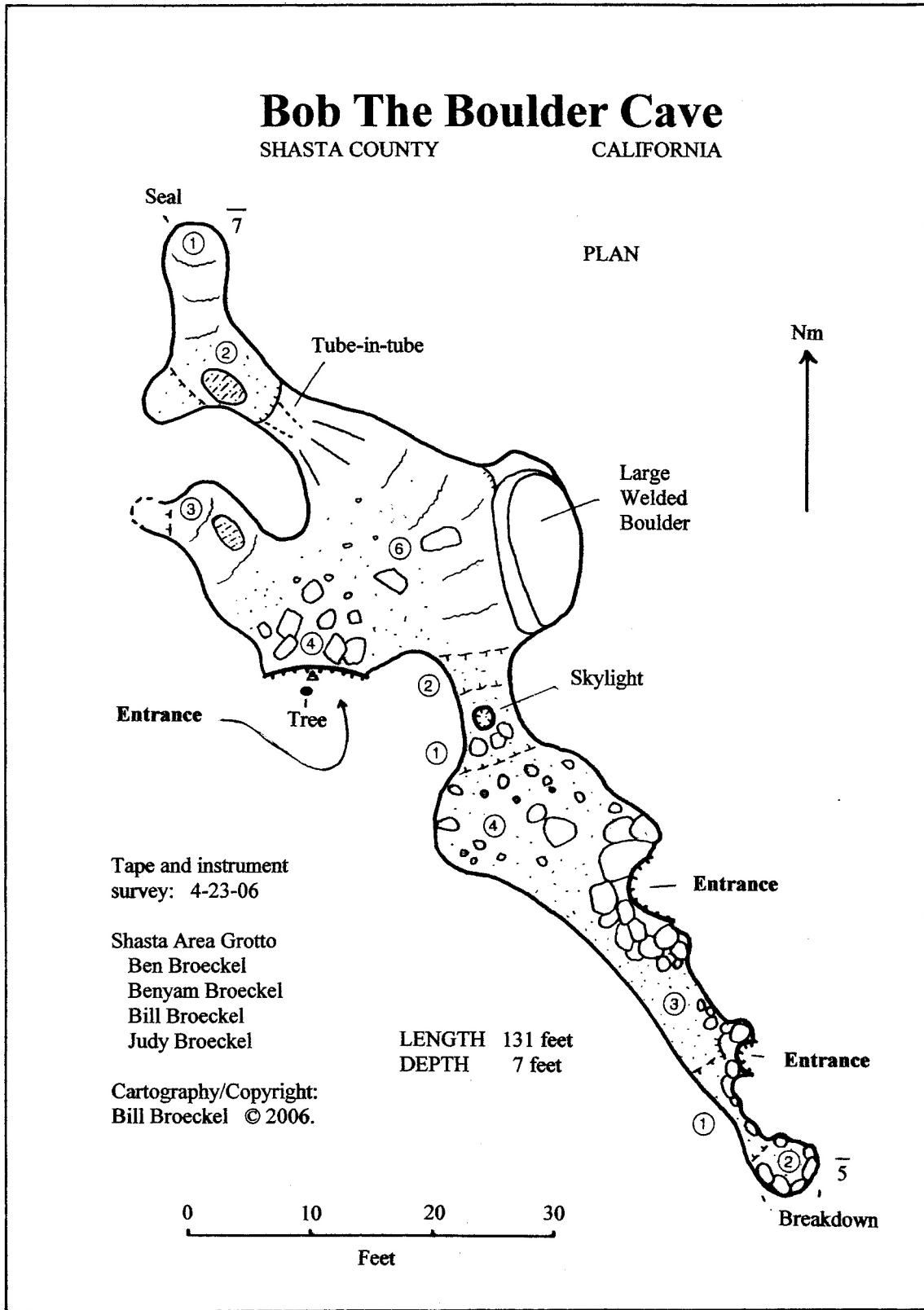
History

This cave was located on 4-5-05. What a treat to find a cave with some walking passage! I showed it to Jim Wolff on 6-7-05 and he ran a GPS fix on the main entrance. Later that year we tried to connect Bob the Boulder to mighty Mad Hatter Cave. The two caves actually share a collapse sink and they come within a few feet of connecting, but the breakdown pile is just a little too dense.

We finally got around to mapping the cave the following Spring, 2006. This was a family effort, and Benyam did the lead tape. In true western style, the hike to the cave was harder than the cave itself. The higher you go on these flows, the denser the brush. The name Bob the Boulder is simply a play on the words of Bob the Builder, a cartoon character who has nothing to do with caves or caving. **BB**



Jim Wolff records GPS data at the main entrance to Bob the Boulder Cave on 6-7-05.



Map: Bob the Boulder Cave



Discovery Entrance to Mad Hatter Cave on discovery day 2-1-04

SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Finishing Mad Hatter Cave was only one of the cool things that happened at the June grotto camp-out this year. I won't say more, as we are still holding out for an article regarding that eventful weekend. The July reunion weekend at Lava Beds should prove interesting as well. So consider stopping by on your way to Indiana (Dare I say "instead of" Indiana?). For once we are a little short on newsletter writings. I will thus seize this opportunity to get Mad Hatter Cave done with once and for all (1781 feet), and Bob the Boulder thrown in for good measure (131 feet). Happy rabbit holes to you this summer. **BB**

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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TO: