



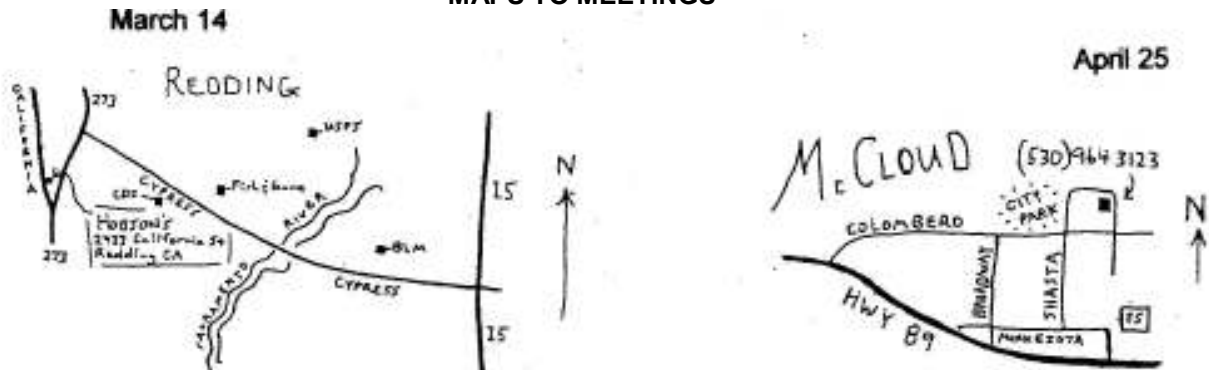
Larry McTigue peers into the west entrance of the
Tag 04 Caves on September 3, 2007

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CAVERS CALENDAR 2008

Mar 14	SAG meeting at Hobsons in Redding 7:30 p.m. (530) 242-8707
Apr 25	SAG meeting at Wolffs in McCloud 7:30 pm (530) 964-3123
May 30	SAG meeting (Lava Beds - more details next time)
Jun 27	SAG meeting (location to be announced)
Jul 25	SAG meeting (location to be announced)
Aug 11-15	NSS Convention in Lake City, Florida (352) 271-3203
Aug 22	SAG meeting (location to be announced)
Sep 13th	International Symposium on Volcano Speleology, Korea
Sep 26	SAG meeting (location to be announced) (Dave Smith's birthday)
Oct 24	SAG meeting (location to be announced) (Nominations)
Nov	No SAG meeting this month (wow! the world might stop turning)
Dec 5	SAG meeting (location to be announced)

MAPS TO MEETINGS



SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bill Broeckel

A full 2007 season of KMCTF activity in the marble caves of Siskiyou County is reviewed in this issue, with a bonus article about Two Hammer Hole by Ben Miller from 2006. I was holding out for a map, but this article is so good, it can wait no longer. Survey length for Two Hammer Hole is 296 feet. Other newly measured caves are Tag 04 Caves (220-ft), another cave I think is near Bigfoot's Discovery Entrance, as yet unnamed (133.3-ft), and Slim Shady Cave (76-ft). The biggest mapping news is Mark Fritzke cashing in on numerous push trips into upstream Drystream Cave, with 602.1 feet of survey added to that major cave in 2007. SFBC cavers pulled off a great late season climbing expedition to Bigfoot adding about 200 feet to the map of the longest cave in California (well, it was for a while). There were other exploratory efforts as well in Bigfoot, Sunbeam, and in "Kips Cave", and you can read all about it right here in the SAG RAG. Uncredited photos are mine.

BS

MINUTES FROM SAG MEETING Dec. 21, 2007

DEC SAG MEETING SAG meeting location: Melanie's house, Yreka, CA - December 21, 2007. Attendees: Members Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Melanie Jackson, Ray Miller, Bill Broeckel; and Bill and Cheryl Kenney. Ray, Dave, Steve, Bill K. and Cheryl met for dinner at the China Dragon. It was dog gone good. (Note: since then there has been an ownership change at the China Dragon and the food is not as good, although the General Chicken recipe is still the same.)

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Melanie Jackson at 7:44 pm. The old minutes: the Nov 2007 minutes were read by Steve Hobson. They were approved as corrected. Treasurer's report: Melanie paid \$16.00, Wayne paid \$6.00, Dave S. paid \$16.00, Bill B. paid \$16.00 (also for Judy B.), Bill and Cheryl K. paid \$16.00, for a total of \$70.00. \$418.64 Bank Statement, \$111.87 petty cash, + \$70.00 deposits for a total grotto worth of \$628.51. SAG RAG Report: Bill B. is going to put in more caves including Francis' Folly. Jan/Feb issue will be on the KMCTF. Bill submitted a bill for \$20.50 (paid from petty cash).

Correspondence NSS has a new conservation network. They are trying to build up an e-mail list. The 2009 NSS Convention is in Kerrville, TX. There will be 30 pre-convention trips. The Convention staff is selling ad space to raise money. We can afford to make a \$20.00 donation, but we don't really need the advertisement. Steve made a motion to send them \$50.00 for a donation/ad, Dave seconded it, members present voted for it. Motion carried. Steve needs to give Melanie \$50.00, so she can send the donation. Ray would like a new TV for the museum. He would like a flat screen. Ray wants to ask the new conservation network about removing paint. Robert was supposed to be here but did not make it. He is working on the website.

Old Business Liz contacted Wanda at the Sisson Museum. The display needs to be updated, but Ray said he was told it needed to be removed. Basically we are waiting to see what the board wants. Officer nominations: no new nominations. Nominations will be selected in the SAG RAG. Chairman: Melanie Jackson, Jim Wolff. Vice Chairman: Dave Smith. Sec/Treas: Steve Hobson. Editor: Bill Broeckel. Everything Else: Bill Broeckel. Advisor to the Board: Liz Wolff. After meetings we will go caving. Dues are due. Ray would like to get photos of the caves for the data base, entrances and inside.

New Business Meetings: Feb 16th (Sat) at the Wolff house in McCloud. Ski party and cave cleanup weekend; Mar 14th at the Hobson house in Redding. Apr 25th; May 30th; Jun 27th; July 25th.

Trip Reports Bill and Cheryl Kenney went to the limestone located east of Summer Lake in Lake County, OR. Bill said the limestone does not appear karstified. It is freshwater limestone and someone has been doing an archeological dig there. They also went to Windy Cave (OR). They have GPS coordinates. Bill B, Judy B, and Liz Wolff surveyed Tin Pail Cave. Total length was 346 feet. It is 60 feet deep, and has three levels. The lowest level has an ice floor. Bill B looked at three new caves.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm. Shasta Area Grotto Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Hobson

SH



KMCTF 2007 ACTIVITY Compiled by Bill Broeckel**JULY SPELEOCAMP**

June 29 - Friday. I hiked up late and found a retired Berkeley Philosophy Professor and his wife ensconced at "Camp Sundquist". One interesting thing about them: they were both backpacking deep into the wilderness on bilateral artificial hips! I plunked down in the usual spot without the company of fellow cavers. July Fourth fell on a Wednesday this year. The main thrust of the Speleocamp happened to come on the weekend following the 4th, so I missed the happy fellowship again.

June 30 - Saturday. The overnight low was 36 F, with snowfields still scattered over the karst. I set out on that most dangerous and beguiling of activities – solo ridgewalking. I headed up to Super Sink, sizing up various digs and holes along the way. What I thought might be Straight Cave was blocked with snow. For the sake of productivity, I surface surveyed between the 3 or 4 entrances to the Tag 04 Caves (see further). Yes, I took it very easy, and with no other cavers in sight, hiked out that same night.

Tag 04

July 1 - July 2. Jim Wolff was up and also did surface activity. "The wildflowers were tremendous, and so was the insect population, including ticks. Yes, I had 2 on me up there! Amazing thing is, I have never heard of or seen such a thing in all the years I've been going up there..." (JW) Comment on e-mail implicated stock animals or lurking deer as possible tick vectors. Jim also met another rarity in these mountains, once thought locally extinct – Wilderness Rangers.

July 3 - Tuesday. "Larry McTigue and I (David Weaver) were the only ones in camp." (DW) Jim Wolff hiked out and they talked.

July 4 - Wednesday. MLG cavers Kip Baumann and Rolf Aalbu arrive in camp at 4:20 am. David Weaver reports: "I did a little ridgewalking up to the south ... we pattered in the cache cave. Then in the afternoon, Kip and Rolf went up to check a cave Kip had found a couple years ago. Larry and I dropped into Bigfoot to check out the ropes. We got back to camp to find the other four Diablo Grotto cavers had arrived: David Kestell, John Moreno, Steven Johnson, and Celeste Yang." (DW) David Weaver himself was the fifth Diablo Grotto caver.

Bigfoot

Kip Baumann writes about his cave trip in the Fall 2007 Valley Caver. He was so anxious to get back into his cave that he and Rolf got up and started out on very little sleep. "Rolf and I headed up to the cave that I had discovered in July 2004. Back then, I was essentially alone, as Mark Scott was much further down the karst, so I had just peeked inside. I returned in September 2005 with Bill Broeckel, and after entering a short way, we realized vertical gear would be needed. Unfortunately, my vertical gear was already being packed out on mules, so I would have to wait again."

"Kip's Cave"

"This time, Rolf and I each had 60-foot ropes and vertical gear. I dropped in on the better-looking 60-foot rope, only to find that it was not long enough to reach the very bottom. We then linked the ropes together and I descended, yelling for joy! What a thrill to finally be inside my cave - currently called Kip's Cave until I think of a better name. Thanks to the much longer rope length, I was able to rappel further down between the snow pile and rock wall until it pinched off. I certainly hope much of the snow melts away later in the season so that I can see and map the cave better." (KB)

July 5 - Thursday. This was a day for Bigfoot trips. David Weaver picks up the story. "The five Diablo cavers went into Bigfoot ... Our goal was to get to the bottom of the cave. We got all the way through and were all out of the cave within twelve hours. In the meanwhile

Bigfoot

Larry, Kip and Rolf went into Bigfoot for a shorter trip to the Big Room.” (OW) David Kestell elaborates on the longer trip. “We entered Bigfoot via the Discovery Entrance. David Weaver kindly carried a 200-ft 11-mm rope up to camp, which was used to rig the first two drops. An uneventful trip to the end of the Little Toe Extension was enjoyed by all. During a rest break by some, David Kestell and Celeste Yang investigated a stream lead in the Lair of the Maggots. Despite the low water conditions, no progress beyond what was shown on the CAD survey was made.” (DK)

Kip Baumann tells more about the shorter trip. “On the way to the Big Room, Rolf collected a bunch of little white centipedes in the sand bar area and I found an incredible bat skeleton in the sand. I put a little flagging tape around it to help prevent other cavers from accidentally disturbing it. After leading them to the Big Room, I worked my way partly up the Lurking Fear to see if we could stay dry and follow the tracks of the Diablo group. They weren’t keen on a wet crawl, but Larry wanted to see the passage towards the Illusion and Banana Room so I found the route from the Big Room and went a short ways before turning back. We then proceeded up to the Echo Domes and headed out.” (KB).

July 6 - Friday. David Weaver went up to Super Sink with Larry, Kip, and Rolf, and writes: “Kip looked around for Buzzard (Cave) and a few other pits while (we) sat under the RP2 tree, watching a thunderstorm develop across the valley. We then did a quick trip through Upstairs Downstairs to the cliff entrance. The sky was blue and clear on the cliff entrance side. But when we returned, we could hear thunder from the regular entrance while still in the cave. We got out and scurried down the mountain. We got a-few sprinkles, but not enough to get us wet. In the meanwhile David K., Celeste and John looked for leads in the bottom of Corkscrew.” (DW).

Upstairs
Downstairs

David Kestell tells more about the Corkscrew trip. John Moreno went back to camp for supplies, and ended up not getting back to the cave. “DK and CY entered via the Backdoor Entrance ... with the intention of taking advantage of the low water conditions to investigate leads in the lower sections of the cave. Despite the low water, neither of us was sufficiently prepared for the crux of the passage – a 30 cm high section of cave, with 20 cm of water and barely sufficient physical space above the water to keep your nose and mouth out. A return is planned with wetsuits later in the year. Kudos to whoever pushed this originally.”

Corkscrew

“We poked around in the remainder of the cave, but no progress was made. The fixed rope up from the waterfall passage is belayed to a single bolt. The rope is attached to the hanger with a metal clip. Both the bolt and clip need replacing and it would be good to have a back-up anchor. Unfortunately we did not come prepared to replace this equipment.” (DK)

July 7 - Saturday. Kip, Rolf, and David Weaver hiked out, and Mark Fritzke and his friend Glen hiked in. Meanwhile, the other cavers did another Bigfoot trip, and David Kestell takes up the tale. “DK, CY, and John Moreno descended the Trapdoor Entrance (which they had noticed the previous day) to Bigfoot to investigate some leads in the Last Tributary and the Kentucky Passage sections of the cave. The entrance was different than described by Mark Fritzke, with the top of the pitch now being much larger than in previous years. The entrance and top of the pitch are relatively stable, but the passage below the pitch into the Last Tributary is relatively unstable.”

Bigfoot

We looked at two leads in the Last Tributary, but both were too low to continue. An area marked with a question mark off the Hall of the Ancients was investigated and found to be a large ... chamber that closed down in all directions. Various leads were looked at in the Kentucky Passage area with little success. Most closed down and were too tight to

follow any further. One lead would repay a revisit with a crowbar to prize out a couple of rocks. Kentucky Passage was traversed to its intersection with the Lair of the Maggots and the Hall of the Ancients where it was noted that the passages relative to one another on the survey differ to their actual positions. A dig (in hard mud) from the end of the Kentucky Passage may intersect the end of the ... chamber noted above." (DK)

Mark Fritzke pioneered the Trapdoor Entrance in July, 1988, twenty years almost to the day prior to the 2008 trip. He had some comments to make about the ongoing use of this entrance to Bigfoot. "When I opened this entrance and surveyed it to connect to Bigfoot, I noted it was very unstable, but also disliked the multiple unavoidable transitions from mud to flowstone and back, so I abandoned it. Now, a precedent is being set for using this entrance to access the lower parts of Bigfoot, and I think it is worthwhile to ask, 'Should we permanently muck up this passage to pursue our exploration goals?' OR 'Should we use other, less convenient entrances (Hanging Rock or Discovery) to pursue our explorations, and abandon the Trapdoor Entrance?' My vote is for the latter." (MF)

July 8 - Sunday. Diablo caver Steve Johnson was hobbled with a bad blister. Arley Kisling was mentioned, but not his caving activity. Mark Fritzke speleocamped the weekend looking for entrances, bopping around, and "enjoying the wildflowers ... before we were the last to hike out. It appears everyone had a great time." (MF)

AUGUST TRIPS

August 21 - Tuesday. Becky and Bill Broeckel found a nice marble outcrop at about 6600 feet elevation on a mountain 12 miles north of the usual area, but no caves.

August 26 - Sunday. "I (Mark Fritzke) recruited Matt Titre to help me survey Drystream. We surveyed 303 feet in the upstream extension, but some of this overlaps passage surveyed by Steve Knutson and Mike Sims in 1977. We are now past the 2001-2004 dig and near the end of the 20' dig Ethan Donahue and I completed in two weekends last Fall." (MF) Some more survey was left for the next weekend.

Drystream

SEPTEMBER SPELEOCAMP

September 1 - Saturday. Becky, Judy, and Bill Broeckel hiked up and found the following people attending Speleocamp. Toby Lloyd, Kaitlyn Donahue, Lindsay and Ethan Donahue (newlyweds), the Sundquist family (Rich, Midori, Forrest, and Walker), Steve Knutson, Mark Harder, Dominic Botta, Louise Hooven, Mark Fritzke, and Larry McTigue.

September 2 - Sunday. Visiting students from Pacific Union College (near Napa) were led on trips in Skunk Hollow and Upstairs/Downstairs Caves. They had been camping in the next valley and arrived at a pre-arranged time in the morning ready to go caving. However, they brought a giant poodle dyed pink so as not to show the dust, and wearing booties to protect the paws from the sharpness of the karst. Someone had to stay out with Charlie (the poodle) so there were two trips through the mountain at Upstairs/Downstairs. We had the route absolutely wired by the second time through.

Skunk
Hollow

Upstairs
Downstairs

Eathan and Fritzke returned to Drystream Cave to pick up from the previous Sunday. Mark Fritzke updates the effort as follows: "(We) continued surveying the upstream crawl in Drystream Cave I've been digging since 2001. After another 140.1' of survey, we dug past the Oct. 2006 push and were relieved when the 500' of continuous crawl emerged

Drystream



Marble outcrop noted 12 miles north of the speleocamp site on August 21, 2007.



South entrance to the Tag 04 Caves on June 30, 2007.



Main entrance to the Tag 04 Caves on June 30, 2007.

in a 10' by 15' room with an infeasible. We also encountered a very strange phenomenon, the ultimate booty scooper, a dead trout! Apparently, this poor guy flushed over (the) Falls and into the cave system and downstream to a low point in our crawl. When the water dried up, he was out of luck!" (MF)

September 3 - Monday. Larry McTigue and Bill Broeckel went up to survey Tag 04 Cave (see further). Louise, Domonic, and Mark Fritzke went to the lower karst on surface survey and looking for entrances. Rich Sundquist and Steve Knutson were looking for new caves in the upper karst.

Tag 04

September 4 - Tuesday. This was the morning it rained. Everybody in camp hiked out as the storm broke up and the damp world steam-dried. Everybody except Rich Sundquist and Mark Fritzke, who stayed on and did some more caving. "Later Tuesday, Rich and I surveyed 133.3' in a pit he had been short-roped on with Steve Knutson the previous day. Nearby, we also succeeded in removing a pernicious 150 lb. boulder wedged in a vertical crevice that Steve and Rich had worked on, and we were close to removing the final chokestone when we ran out of energy (and) time." (MF)

September 5 - Wednesday. Mark Fritzke and Rich Sundquist went in Sunbeam Cave pushing leads and loops. "We found ... a bizarre formation that looks like 'pool fingers' we have only seen in Lechuguilla. These are orange and actively growing, and look like very closely spaced short soda straws studded with chenille spar crystals." (MF)

Sunbeam

PUSHING UPSTREAM IN DRYSTREAM CAVE

September 8 - Saturday. "Ethan Donahue and I (Mark Fritzke) continued the upstream survey in Drystream for my 3rd 11-hour trip in 3 weeks, and my 21st trip to push this passage in 31 years. The freshly dead trout we encountered the previous weekend was beginning to rot, which gave us an interesting clue to when the pool he was in dried up, probably mid-August. We surveyed 69.5' to a 10 x15 chamber 'Room to Move', and spent the rest of the trip digging a tight crawl for another 40 feet. The entire crawl beyond the Post Collapse Room is 500 feet long, the most unrelenting and flat crawl I know of (in these mtns ... Currently, the passage is heading back North toward the rest of Drystream Cave, whereas the water sources come from SE and SW, so I am baffled. Appropriately, the passage looks like an inverted and reversed question mark. If it looped, it would be like an M.C. Esher drawing with the water flowing downhill in a circle ... can't do that but it's weird!" (MF)

Drystream

September 15 - Saturday. "Mike Egan and I (Mark Fritzke) surveyed another 89.7 feet on a 13.5 hour push trip, for a total of 602.1 feet of Drystream survey in 2007. We began the trip with a visit to Arrow River, the lower stream passage that has been dye-traced from (two different valleys) ... At a shallow pourover we estimated the flow at 0.6 cfs, the lowest flow I've seen there. We then crawled into the upstream extension. At the 2004 dig, I noticed winter flooding is undermining a key slab supporting the breakdown ceiling, which will require monitoring each season. We proceeded to the current terminus, and noted the rotting trout could be smelled from 50' down cave. At the Room to Move, we enlarged the dig Ethan and I worked on the previous week and then surveyed it. At the end, the passage heads north and splits into 2 sub-human leads heading north and west. At the top of the Room to Move, a very tight vertical slot heads SW, and we used the rest of the trip to open this up and squeeze up to a small pocket, then dug open a lower level under a very narrow upper level canyon." (MF)

Drystream



Narrow spot in Skunk Hollow Cave on September 2, 2007.



Slab crawl in Upstairs Downstairs Cave on September 2, 2007.

OCTOBER SPELEOCAMP

October 7 - Sunday. I was able to day hike up for the Slim Shady survey (see further) and found four SFBC cavers attending October Speleocamp. Matt Covington reports on the speleocamp as follows: "There wasn't much of a crowd ... this weekend, but we did get a few things done. There were 4 cavers from the SFBC: myself, Will Heltsley, Sam Chang, and Elaine Garvey. On Saturday we hiked in, set up camp, and went caving getting into the cave (Bigfoot) around 5pm. We finished the Chthulu Room climb. Unfortunately, the big black lead only went about 20 more feet. In total we did about 120 feet worth of aid climbing and surveyed about 200 feet of new passage. We didn't get out of the cave until 3 am and had a slow start the next day, again not getting into the cave until 5 pm. We set our sights on an easier trip and worked a climbing lead just upstream from the bottom of the entrance pit. This went up a ~25 foot pitch and lead of in two directions. We did a short traverse to a canyon above the canyon above the main stream passage (confusing isn't it). The main climb also continues up a tall narrow canyon to a breakdown blockage which looks like it can be bypassed with another climb. You can see passage on the far side. This area of the cave is very vertically complex and we noted a number of leads which Steve had not mentioned on his list. There is a lot of void up high there. Now I think we have something to shoot for next summer." (MC)

Slim Shady

Bigfoot

Notes regarding campfires: Like most summers, there were a number of forest fires, and restrictions on campfires. These vary from year to year, but the tendency seems to be toward increasing restrictions. Getting ready for September Speleocamp, I was pleased to hear on the radio that restrictions had been lifted. I like to cook on an open fire, and prepared accordingly. I even had my campfire permit. At the trailhead, I noticed a "No campfires" sign, but the fine print said there were exemptions inside the wilderness boundary. Once in camp, I happily utilized campfires, as did other non-cavers camped in the area. Sept. 3, I was very unhappy to learn that a caver left in camp was cited for an illegal campfire. We had some long talks with the wilderness patrollers, pleading our case, but they could only say that it would be up to law enforcement. The one who was actually cited had been scrupulously avoiding campfires, and got in trouble for what some of us, thinking it was now all okay, had been doing. Oh the injustice! Offers were made to help pay the fine. Apparently, nothing has come of it, law enforcement deciding to drop the case? But still there is the mental anguish and anxiety that comes with such tribulation. The next morning it rained and we were told, with an air of apology, we could have fires. Take what lessons you can from this tale ... such as perhaps don't believe what I say. Remember, I'm the guy who said it was all right to have fires.

Mark Fritzke has an additional reminder about campfires that we need to attend to. I myself am not free from guilt in this regard, but believe that Mark is correct. We should be very careful about this: "Should other cavers have to tolerate and inhale carcinogenic fumes from burning plastic and foil? I think empty plastic packaging is light enough to haul out, and we should avoid throwing anything but uncoated paper in the fire. In the 90's, one of Jerry Davis' students worked on a Masters Thesis in geochemistry, and found plastic compounds in the water at the main resurgence three miles below camp that could only have come from runoff from (the karst valleys) ..., quite possibly from residue in our firepits. Can we all agree to avoid polluting the wilderness and cave streams in the future?" (MF)

TAG 04 CAVES By Bill Broeckel

The plural (“Caves”) is used here because this is really a closely related group of three short caves. We were able to survey through the connections and present the whole bunch with a total survey length of 220 ft, all caves combined. It might be possible to bull or claw your way through the connection points, but it didn’t seem necessary and such efforts would not gain any new passages. So here they are – the Tag 04 Caves

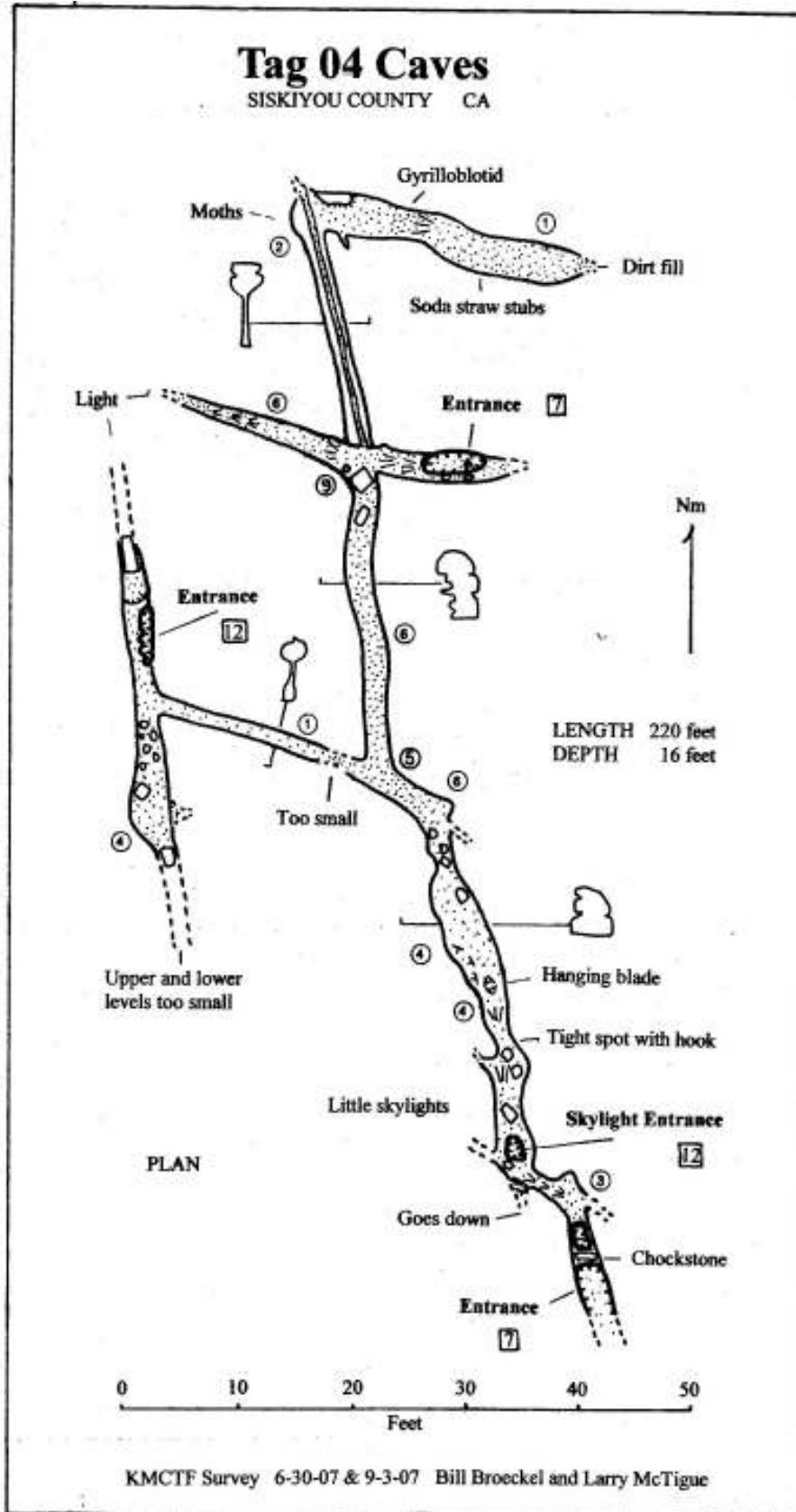
Steve Knutson, veteran caver and perennial chair of the KMCTF, wrote about these caves in the ‘Leads and Projects’ summary of 2005. “TAG 04 CAVES – These are apparently small caves that were found to have a KMCTF tag 04 at the entrance, but there was no record of them and they should be remapped and checked for possible digs. They are a shallow, joint-oriented cave that appears to be sitting on a schist interbed, and so it doesn’t get deep at all. You will know this cave from the shallow, straight passages with intersections.”



This karst surface contains Tag 04 Caves. October 7, 2007

After a couple scout visits, I felt ready to pluck this cartographic plum. A caver from the Pacific Northwest, Larry McTigue, was drawn in by the usual line about how this would be “a relaxing survey trip to an easy, horizontal cave.” Well, it actually turned out to be true this time. The hike up to the cave was a little on the long side, but we were going light with basic cave stuff, survey gear, and sack lunches. We had time to stop for water. We arrived at a relatively flat area where a glacier had scraped the schist off the top of a thin bed of marble.

We never did find the old aluminum tag. These go back to the 1970s. Other than that, these caves fit the description pretty well. Larry showed me how to use my fragile bargain-basement green plastic GPS. The surface survey between three or four entrances had been done already. So we dove right into the “main” entrance of the biggest cave (see datum) and started collecting survey numbers. After one shot and about 10 feet in, we reached the grand central junction of the whole works.



Map: Tag 04 Caves

Larry hung a right, and entered an area I hadn't really checked very well. It was a crawlway with a crack down the middle of the floor, the kind that easily swallows dropped pencils and mini-mags. At the far end, Larry hung another right into our big discovery of the day. It was a surprise passage that went as a perched crawl that ended all too soon in a dirt fill. However, there were a couple stubs of soda straws up in there, so we called it the "decorated area" of the caves

Straight from the grand junction, the cave quickly ended at a narrowing with dirt coming in from another potential entrance. Left, however, took off along the best passage of them all. The ceiling height of six feet makes this a "walking passage". However, the scallops, ledges, and irregular walls so impinge the caver that one must move along slowly, often turning sideways to ease on through.

Another joint passage took off to the right. Looking through a small soft-floored porthole, light from the entrance to the west cave could be seen. We set a station in the porthole that we were able to pick up later when we went into the west cave. Moving on up the main passage, we went around some corners and reached a problem area.



Main passage in Tag 04 Caves on September 3, 2007.



Larry McTigue on tape in Tag 04 Caves on September 3, 2007.

The sharp, pointed slab of rock that hangs down from the ceiling could be carefully circumvented. However, immediately beyond that, the cave shrinks up into a small hole that looks barely big enough to get through. To make matters worse, a wicked looking hook of rock curves right up into the small hole. So we just set a station on the tip of the hanging slab, and went back outside to warm up in the sun and eat some of the food from our sacks.

There were no surprises in the other two caves. Some spots appeared where the caves could be expanded with hard work for probably small rewards. The marble layer is only about 12 feet thick, and dips slightly to the north. The caves are formed in solution-enlarged joints in a grid pattern. That in itself is not so unusual, but the truly horizontal nature of Tag 04 sets it apart from the surrounding caves typified by their vertical entrance pits. Larry and I had time to scout around on the marble before the early evening amble back to the supper stoves at camp. **BB**

SLIM SHADY CAVE By Bill Broeckel

On one of those Tag 04 scout trips (9-5-06), I stumbled across Slim Shady Cave. This crack in the ridge is not far from Tag 04 and shares the same azimuth with the main passage inside Tag 04. However, it is not in the same exact joint; rather it is in a parallel. Also, the Slim Shady marble is much thicker, about 30 feet or more. We returned on another dayhike (10-7-07) to survey the slender cave.

The cave slopes down a walking passage to the brink of a pit. This is easily down-climbed to floor level. The cave then continues through a narrow spot elevated a few feet above the floor. The best way to deal with this is simply to dive on through. This lands you on the floor of a domed chamber, the "big room" if you will, of the cave. The crack keeps going on the far side of the room to reach another much smaller dome chamber. After that, the crack gets seriously small. I crammed my body in as far as I could for the sake of the survey. This point was 76 feet from the entrance and I could squirm no further. The cave was just too narrow, but continued as far as I could see, no end in sight, with cold air moving out on a warm Autumn afternoon.

Such a lead makes the cave seem longer than 76 feet. Also, the domes were not measured or explored. There were some possible prospects that could be seen up there near the ceiling. I can imagine some rock climbing cavers entering Slim Shady and scaling the walls without hesitation, and finding higher level passages extending deeper into the ridge.



Slim Shady Cave entrance on October 7, 2007.



Slim Shady Cave entrance on October 7, 2007.

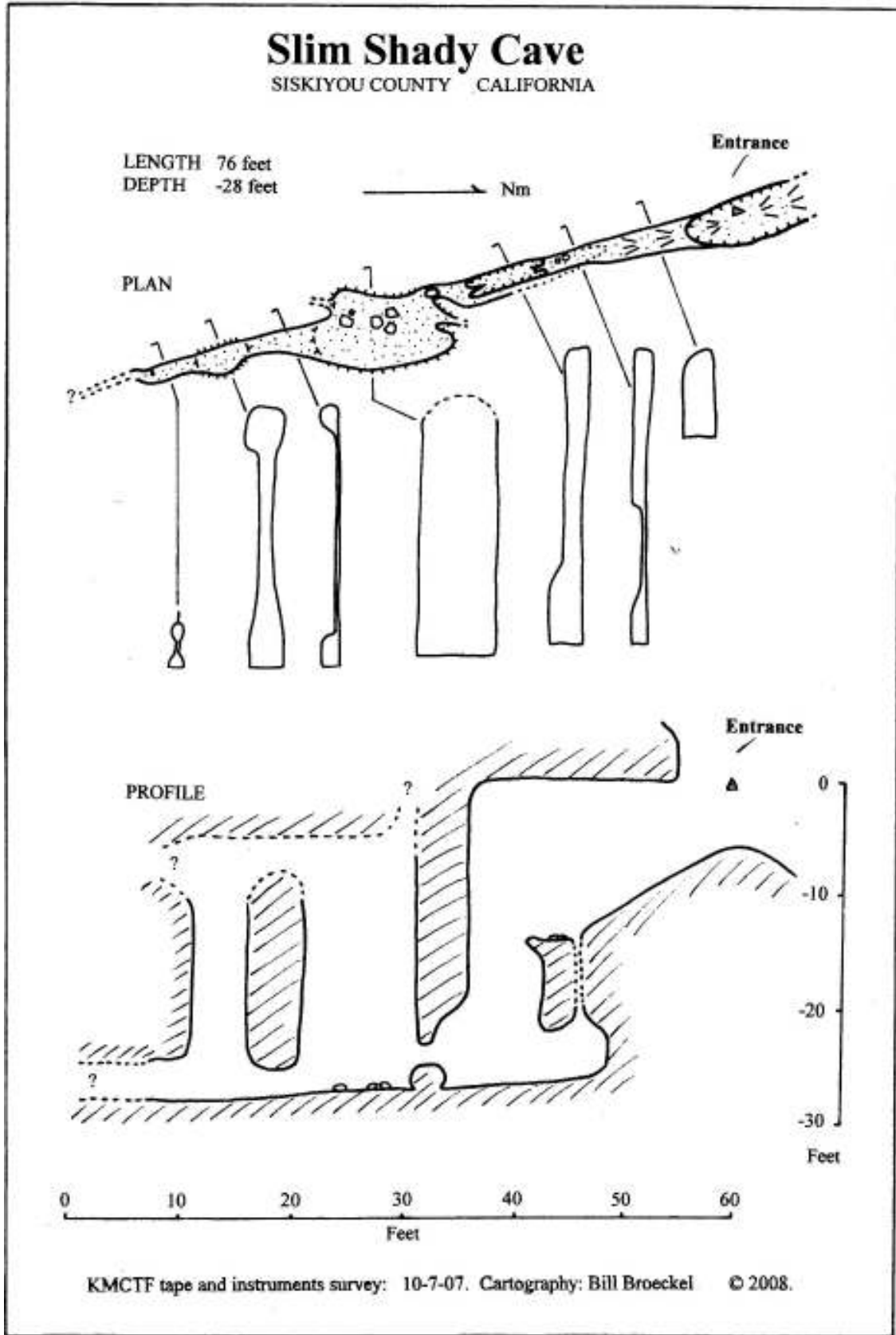
Tag 04 seems to dip north. I would think Slim Shady should have the same dip, but instead the floor slopes down into the cave. This may be due to glacial fill washing in from the entrance. The "big room" is formed at the junction of the main joint and another small joint that comes through at a sharp angle. A small hole with a 13' drop was found on the top of the ridge. I have not been in there yet, but this may be an upper entrance or air source for Slim Shady. About the name, well, I live with teenagers so what can I say? There is a music theme in the area with Nicked Jagged and the Rolling Stones and Bruise Springstream Caves. **BB**



Entrance Pit to Slim Shady Cave on October 7, 2007.



Dive through hole in Slim Shady Cave on October 7, 2007.



Map: Slim Shady Cave

TWO HAMMER HOLE By Ben Miller

This is the trip report for Ben Miller and Joe Berg's trip just after Labor Day, 9/5 to 9/8, 2006. Having flown into and then driving up from Reno we arrived in the mountains of Siskiyou County fairly late on Tuesday night and started packing the packs for the next three days of camping and caving. As we were packing Bill Broeckel came hiking out of the woods having just done a nice day hike up to Tag 04 and back. We talked for a bit and then Bill left to pick up his wife and we left to start our hike up to the camp. We were surprised to see the amount of smoke from the nearby fires. The smoke on Tuesday evening was so thick we could not even see the other side of the canyon. Being from Missouri I, of course, had heard nothing about the wildfires as our local news doesn't really report western fire news. But the bulletin board in Ft. Jones had shown us the fire maps and the major boundaries that were thus far containing the fire. Anyways the hike up was strenuous with the large packs and we made it into camp in about two to two and a half-hours time, the lurking deer greeting and welcoming us. We crashed out that night and planned to survey the next day.

On Wednesday, the 6th, we had a very casual morning, as our approach hike was extremely short. After breakfast and packing up the cave/survey gear we headed over to 2 Hammer Hole. I was quite excited to be back in Siskiyou after four years and especially to be surveying this cave. I had found the cave previously when I worked in Siskiyou County (Lava Beds) and had actually taken 6 different people up to the cave in the hopes that they might be able to fit into the cave and help me survey it. Unfortunately the double set of entrance squeezes had turned back everyone but myself. But my friend, Joe Berg, who had come this time had the right build and tight squeeze experience to hopefully be able to get through successfully.

When we arrived at the entrance a strange sight greeted us first, which was a thoroughly chewed up pink and teal flannel shirt down in the entrance sink. Climbing down into the sink to investigate I looked into the entrance and a most disheartening feeling came over me. Someone had decided to use the small space between the entrance and the 2nd squeeze as a gear cache. The amount of ropes, webbing, carabiners, and general crap was completely blocking our entrance into the cave.

Now, having spent some time in the area I knew that there was a gear cache cave in which ropes and various gear was kept. This cache was not nearly as well organized or stashed. The person had left everything either out in the open passage or in thin garbage bags. To make matters that much worse pack rats had chewed through the garbage bags and had found the food this person had decided to leave as well so that a large amount of trash was spread throughout the first 75 feet of cave or so. This person had also left a can of Coleman fuel, batteries (corroded), and a tent in the extremely small passage. This all had to be removed by Joe and I to even start the survey. I'm from the Ozarks, where there is a high density of caves and had definitely seen my share of trashed caves but it was very disappointing to find this in what was a virgin wilderness cave, especially after it had been pristine only 4 years earlier.

After hauling out of the cave all this trash we were finally able to start surveying. Joe slid on into the cave and got through the squeezes with no problem whatsoever except for the buried Coleman fuel can that wedged under his hip making the second squeeze harder than it should have been. The survey continued into the cave without much incidence though Joe and I had to be extremely careful not to upset the unstable breakdown that abounds in the cave. Several times we had to push or move large loose pieces of breakdown that would be above us later in the cave. The cave itself consists of a series of smallish to medium-sized walking height breakdown rooms separated by crawls or squeezes. In the cave there are three tough squeezes all of which are much tougher coming out than going in. After the first few rooms eventually a lower large walking-height room is reached. This room is about 120 feet long 40 feet wide and 7-12 feet high with extremely large pieces of breakdown. The room slopes down and at the end is a short blind 15-foot drop and a bellycrawl which quickly becomes too tight to continue. The cave in total length is 294 feet and 85 feet deep. The cave did not connect to Skunk Hollow and nowhere did I see any place that looked as if it could have been a potential connection. After our survey was finished Joe and I called it a day, headed out of the cave back to the company of the lurking deer for some dinner and a bit of the Crown Royal we'd brought as well.

The next day consisted of a karst hike starting at the main trail heading up past the Bigfoot entrances and Immaculate Shaft up karst to the peak south of the Gap. The view was, as always, spectacular and afforded

us a view of where and how intense the fires were burning. Then we traversed down and around over to Gap Cave, ate lunch, and then over the Gap towards Super Sink. Along the way we were getting GPS locations of whatever caves and reference trees we passed. I'll send these to Steve Knutson though I'm sure some of what we gathered had already been located. At Super Sink we checked out several gaping holes and climbed down a few pits before finally heading back down to camp, an extremely nice above ground day all in all.

The final and third day Friday we started early as it was to be a long day. We headed over to the Discovery Entrance for a little tourist trip into Bigfoot. I'd only been in Bigfoot once, had been blown away, and really wanted to see a little more of the cave to sort of get my bearings and get a .feel for the cave system. With map in hand we made our way upstream along Discovery Creek to several large domes past the Hanging Rocks connection. After that we headed to the Big Room admiring formations and taking lots of photos along the way. Then turning around at the Big Room made our way up North Schist Creek to Fleetwood Dome and then over to Swedish Domes (Wow!). Then taking the connection route over to Schist Creek we made our way back downstream to Cave Junction and back over to the Discovery Entrance. Total we spent about 6 hours underground.

After exiting the cave we headed back to camp, packed up, and started back down the trail to the parking lot. This was pretty much without incidence except that we did get to meet Mark Fritzke along the way. I had never been able to hook up with Mark when I was out in Cali before and it was great to talk with someone who I knew has done so much in these mountains. Of course he tried to get us to help in Drystream and had we not been on such a schedule we would definitely have turned around and gone back up. Maybe next time. But it was another great time in this great area and I hope to get back sooner than 4 years from now. If anyone wants to help haul out more of the crap we hauled out of 2 Hammer Hole (we brought a bunch of trash out with us) it is in the entrance sink and I'm sure Steve Knutson can get you a location. Thanks! **BM**

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