

July 26, 2008 SAG vertical practice at Catwalk Cave.

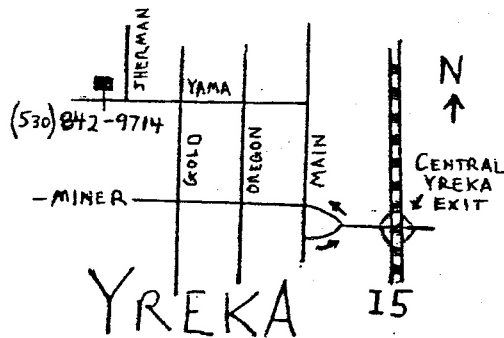
**INSIDE: Grotto Caving Summary 2008 takes you Beyond the Gaping Holes.**

The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription, Original material not otherwise noted is copyright to the SAG RAG, Such material may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG, For use outside of the caving community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication any time to Bighorn Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadows Road, Yreka, CA 96097 or <jbroeckel@snowcrest.net>. For more on SAG, check the web site at <<http://www.caves.org/grotto/sag>>.

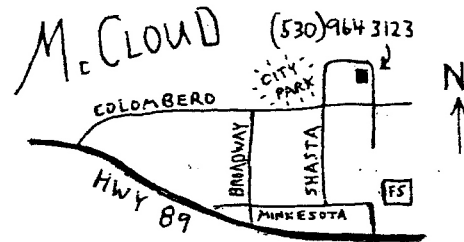
## CAVERS CALENDAR 2009

Jan 23 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie's in Yreka. (530) 842-9714  
 Feb 21 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud. (530) 964-3123  
 July 19-26 NSS Convention in Kerrville, Texas

### MAPS TO MEETINGS



January - Yreka



February - McCloud

### SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bill Broeckel

This regular issue of the newsletter finishes the year and the volume. We have here a nice summary of the mostly official grotto caving trips. You know the drill by now - come to the meeting, go caving the next day. Read on and see how this worked out pretty well in 2008. The issue gets fleshed out with some spotlight features on the August and December trips, and includes a couple new cave maps, Yellow Tuber Cave (138 ft) and Go Worm Cave (309 ft). Both caves are way out there in the lavas of Siskiyou County, ... way out there ... beyond the Gaping Holes ... just a little.

BB

### VOTE FOR GROTTA OFFICERS. e-mail picks to: [SHobson@aol.com](mailto:SHobson@aol.com)

Chairman - Jim Wolff  
 Vice-Chair - Dave Smith  
 Treasurer - Steve Hobson  
 Secretary - Steve Hobson or Judy Broeckel

**MINUTES FROM SAG MEETING – DECEMBER 5, 2008**

DECEMBER SAG MEETING SAG meeting location: Wolff's home, McCloud, CA - Dec 5, 2008. Attendees: Members Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Melanie Jackson, Wayne Cedidla, Ray Miller, Jim and Liz Wolff, Bill and Judy Broeckel, Bill and Cheryl Kenney, Ed and Virginia Bobrow, Vern and Linda Cliff, and Arley and Sharon Kisling.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Wolff at 8:20 pm. The old minutes were read by Steve Hobson. Annual Report due. SAG hosting 2010 Western Regional. Sisson Museum – remove cave display. Ray Miller has 519 caves in Data Base, many with missing data, GMS name – per locations, UTM coordinates, right then up, easterly then northerly, maps on NAD 27 (1927). Liz on cave report form. Web Site Report: No changes. NSS Conservation Network Report: White Nose bat disease – joint research project will involve cavers to help collect soil samples from caves mostly east of the Mississippi. A new fungus was isolated from the noses of the sick bats – Geomyces. The fungus is possibly opportunistically infecting immune-deficient bats.

Real Old Business Sand Cave and the Forest Service. Sand Cave gets lots of trash build-up, especially orange juice bottles. Suggestions: trash container for the juice bottles. Jim would like to consider more frequent clean-ups. Sand Cave needs work on the barrier to keep run-off from the highway from pouring right into the cave. County may need to be involved. NSS Annual Report is due. Bruce Rogers still wants us to find the legendary Cave of the Flying Blue Tubas.

New Business Neils Smith is in the hospital in Susanville. Foot not to be amputated. Steve Hobson is thinking about Jan. 12 for a project cave trip in Shasta County. With the Auburn Dam project getting cancelled, that puts more pressure on to raise Shasta Lake 20 feet. The Cave Description Form to include cave name(s), location, directions, geology/setting, description, biology, history, trip reports, management, and source. Meeting dates: Jan. 23 at Melanie's, Feb. 20 at Wolff's, March 27 at Hobson's, and April 27 at Lava Beds. Tomorrow's cave trip to survey Arch Sink caves close to Yellow Tuber, leaves Wolff's place at 9:00 a.m.

Trip Reports Dave Smith reports on Dumb Luck Cave, that he is under natural ceiling now, but the eave is getting tight. They (Jim and Dave) also visited the north end of Adam's Homestead at the north entrance with the broken ladder. They would like to re-map the cave. – CRF Thanksgiving report by Ed Bobrow – 26 people, great weekend. Sentinel Cave – three groups. Merrill Ice – sure warm where ice used to be. Mammoth Cave – Liz led a group of ten over 8,000 feet and 2 entrances. Bill Broeckel worked on Tickner Chimneys – surveyed 3 caves some with vertical entrances. Seven caves now done, all less than 100 feet long, half lava tube half chimney, like the spattercones. Cold air lead. Ed located 7 Glaeser Caves - ice caves, 3 or 4 with ice, 4 or 5 didn't get into. Good food had by all. Bill went to Marbles Nov. 16 and collected some data on Quick Pit. Dave went to Cat Rock Cave – 12 feet long – in a viscous lava flow of Sutter Buttes. Bill and Cheryl Kenney were in travertine caves at Rifle Creek, near Rifle, Colorado (Western Colorado). They had pictures! Also caves southwest of Nashville, Cedars of Lebanon State Park, and also mentioned Prickly Pear cactus, Johnson Cave, and Borrego.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm. Shasta Area Grotto Secretary try-outs, Judy Broeckel

**JB**

**SAG CAVE TRIPS IN 2008** By Bill Broeckel

Caving after the grotto meetings was promoted last year, and it might be interesting to review the results. Most of the trips were done on the day after the mostly monthly meetings. Details of the first 4 trips appeared in the Sag Rag 27:2 (April 2008).

**January:** On the day after the winter meeting at my house, I drove out to Lava Beds and caught up with the group already underway at Mitertite Hall. Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Dave Smith, Dave Kuhnel, Anna Kuhnel, Steve Hobson, Bill Devereaux, and I all showed up for this cold trip. Liz has been making maps of various loop caves as part of CRF contributions to the Monument. These maps are intended to show great detail and vertical control.

**February:** Another impressive turn-out for this annual cave conservation trip included Jim Wolff, Neils Smith, Dave Smith, Robert Nixon, Cheryl and Bill Kenney, Steve Hobson, Shakina Drew and her dogs, Wayne Cedidla, and I. Trash was removed from Sand, Plutos, and Barnum Caves. This time the meeting at the Wolff's home in McCloud followed after the caving.

**March:** Steve Hobson hosted the grotto meeting at his place in Redding. The following day we enjoyed a nice change of pace doing some caving for fun in limestone, and checking the lead at the end of Red Beard Cave. Roll call included Jim Wolff, Dave Smith, Brad Rust, Zack Newell, Randy Newell, James Newell, Arley Kisling, Melanie Jackson, Steve Hobson, a young girl named Dakota who was related to the Newells, Wayne Cedidla, and myself.

**April:** On the day after another grotto meeting at the Wolff's in McCloud, there was a check trip at Bat Cave and visit to James Brothers as well. The participants included Jim Wolff, Pat Siegrist, Dave Siegrist, Melanie Jackson, Wayne Cedidla, and Ed Bobrow.

**May:** The grotto meeting was at Lava Beds this time, and we stayed at the Research Center. In return, we did a different kind of work project for the Monument. It was damage control, or inventory of some popular caves to document impacted areas. We noted areas of dusty, pulverized fill, trash, micro-trash, lint, and graffiti. Once again, we had a nice sized group and split up into teams. The caves I worked on were Sentinel and Catacombs. We learned a whole new way to look at caves, and the various effects of humans on the caves. Some of the participants were Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Neils Smith, Dave Smith, Jason Mateljak, Melanie Jackson, Steve Hobson, Shane Fryer, Bill Devereaux, Wayne Cedidla, Bill Broeckel, and Ed Bobrow.

**June:** Unfortunately, grotto caving events in June were cancelled due to forest fires. We were still at Lava Beds doing the damage inventory in Catacombs on June 1, so I guess that counts as something for the month. On the 17th I found a remote lava tube called Fantasia that would be a good future grotto survey trip when we are up for a tough hike. The cave has two levels and a Fanta soda can.

**July:** The meeting was at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka. The next day I showed up quite late at the grotto vertical practice at Gaping Holes. Steve Hobson was in charge, and it looked like everybody was busy doing things and enjoying the day. I believe the spot was at the Walk-In Entrance to Catwalk Cave. I managed to take a few pictures, some to follow here. Cavers were Jim Wolff, Dave Smith, Brianna Kisling, Arley Kisling, Melanie Jackson, Steve Hobson, Wayne Cedidla, and cameo appearance by me.

**August:** The day after the meeting, again at the Wolff's, Liz Wolff led 7 cavers on a field cave survey training trip to Yellow Tuber Cave. Besides Liz Wolff, the cavers were Jim Wolff, Neils Smith, Dave Smith, Linda Jennings, Steve Hobson, Vern Clift, and Ed Bobrow. For this trip we have a detailed report and cave map to follow later in this issue of the Sag Rag.

**September:** Steve Hobson hosted another meeting at his place. Fires were still burning in the woods, but I understand that a group was in fact able to go caving the next day at a limestone cave called Deanna Lynn.

**October:** The grotto meeting was at Dick LaForge's home near the coast. I didn't hear of an actual cave trip this time around, but with these coast trips there is no telling what actually goes on over there.



July 26, 2008: Chairman Jim Wolff pulls himself over the edge. I suspect Jim had a perfect record of attendance on all grotto events through the whole year.



July 26, 2008. Steve Hobson and the vertical practice set-up at Catwalk Cave.





July 26, 2008 at Catwalk Cave  
Wayne Cedidla looks on as  
Melanie Jackson negotiates the lip

...

... and descends into the Gaping  
Hole. She also did a changeover  
on this drop, never mind the pesky  
yellowjackets.



**November:** No grotto meeting this month. However, there was a bit of a grotto cave trip when Liz Wolff, Judy Broeckel, and I went over to map the caves of the Flushing Bush sinkhole. I probably shouldn't mention it here as other grotto members didn't have a good chance to join up, but I threw it in because it was something of the month, and I missed some of the others. There should eventually be a report in a later issue of the Rag

**December:** We ended the caving year with a flourish. After meeting yet again at the Wolff's, we fielded a hearty group of cavers to survey more caves above and beyond the Gaping Holes (Catwalk). Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Vern Clift, and Linda Clift mapped Arch Sunk Cave while Jim Wolff, Dave Smith, and I did the same in nearby associated Go Worm Cave. Look for the Go Worm article further in this issue for details.

**Summary:** Well, that was quite a year, and there was lots of activity and variety, without major mishaps or conflicts. About 30 different people were involved in the official grotto trips, and I was proud to see the way the grotto worked around the really awful fire season we suffered last summer. In addition to the above, many grotto members also participated in other CRF expeditions to Lava Beds, with the KMCTF in marble caves, and on many other caving adventures, both affiliated and unaffiliated. Look for more of the same in 2009, and let's always remember to be careful with ourselves and our environment. **BB**

#### ABOUT BATS POPULATIONS

By Ray Miller

I am sometimes asked if local bat species are endangered. The answer is no one knows. Even in areas where bats are intensively studied no one has ever found all the roosts, or been able to count all the animals. Historical records are far too short to draw any conclusions from the data. A species captured abundantly in a mist net may be quite uncommon. The net may have been placed in the only area that species frequents, and that particular species may be very inept at avoiding nets. A bat rarely encountered may be common, but it forages where it cannot be netted, and its roosts have never been located.

Locally we probably have somewhere between 15 and 20 species, but the differences between most species is not apparent to the casual observer. For this reason placing a species label on bats is less meaningful to the general public than species identification of other animals.

Many species weigh less than a U.S. quarter, and one, the Western Pipistrelle often seen flying very high at sunset, weighs about the same as a penny. Small size does not necessarily mean short lives. They live for 20, and sometimes 30 years.

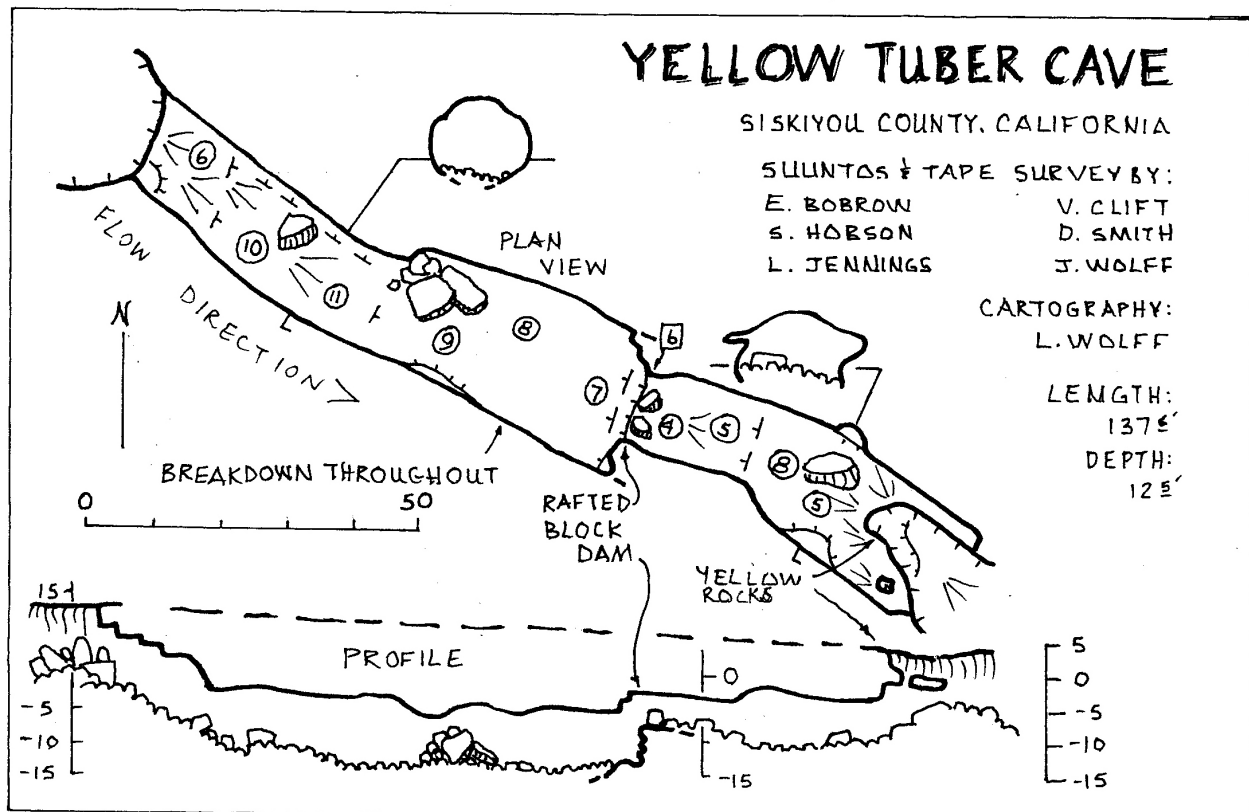
### Survey Sketching School, August 23, 2008 by Liz Wolff

It was a hot day on the Giant Crater lava flow where Yellow Tuber Cave was the objective of the day's survey. (Ya know, ya gotta survey something; it's, like, a compulsion, and the backlog is so-o-o long...) It turned into an impromptu survey sketching school with students Ed Bobrow, Linda Jennings, and Steve Hobson keeping their individual books with data and sketches, and Liz providing tech support. The rest of the survey was ably carried out by Jim Wolff, Vern Cliff and Dave Smith. It was a bit slow for them, so a lot of napping got done between calls for measuring something on the side. Quite the crew for this little cave. Neils Smith supplied cartage with his ATY. The cooler he hauled was a Godsend with ice cold watermelon, water and sandwiches. Of course the yellowjackets wanted whatever we had, so nobody sat still very long.

Beginning the survey at the southern entrance, the one with yellow rocks outlining the opening, we gradually got underground and out of the hot sun. The new sketchers looked for details to fill their pages and lots of good stuff was found. Rat middens, a concentration of moth wings and bat droppings, a garter snake trying to stare us down (it won, they don't blink), ledges and ceiling height changes, prominent breakdown blocks; a yellowjacket nest and a dam composed of large rafted blocks that faced up-flow. The dam hides a lower level that no one will be able to enter without some serious solvents to open the dam up.

Everyone but Neils traversed the cave, either measuring or sketching and learning how to fit the cave passage around the traverse line. Tips and pointers were supplied the students by Liz Wolff. It took all day to get a good drawing of the 137.6 feet of cave on paper, and it was too late to start on another near-by cave. So a retreat was made to the vehicles a half mile or so away, showers and dinner (payback) at Michael's Restaurant in Mt Shasta where a bit of fun was had with Neils' detachable leg. I can't wait to see the maps produced by the students.

LW



Map: Yellow Tuber Cave



**GO WORM GO** By Bill Broeckel

On the day after the grotto meeting and cookie feast over at Wolff's, we took advantage of the mild late Autumn and made it out to Gaping Holes (Catwalk) on Dec. 6, 2008. Liz Wolff led a survey team into a cave near Arch Sink. Ray Miller, and Vern & Linda Clift were in that team. That left three others to go map another cave we knew about in this area.

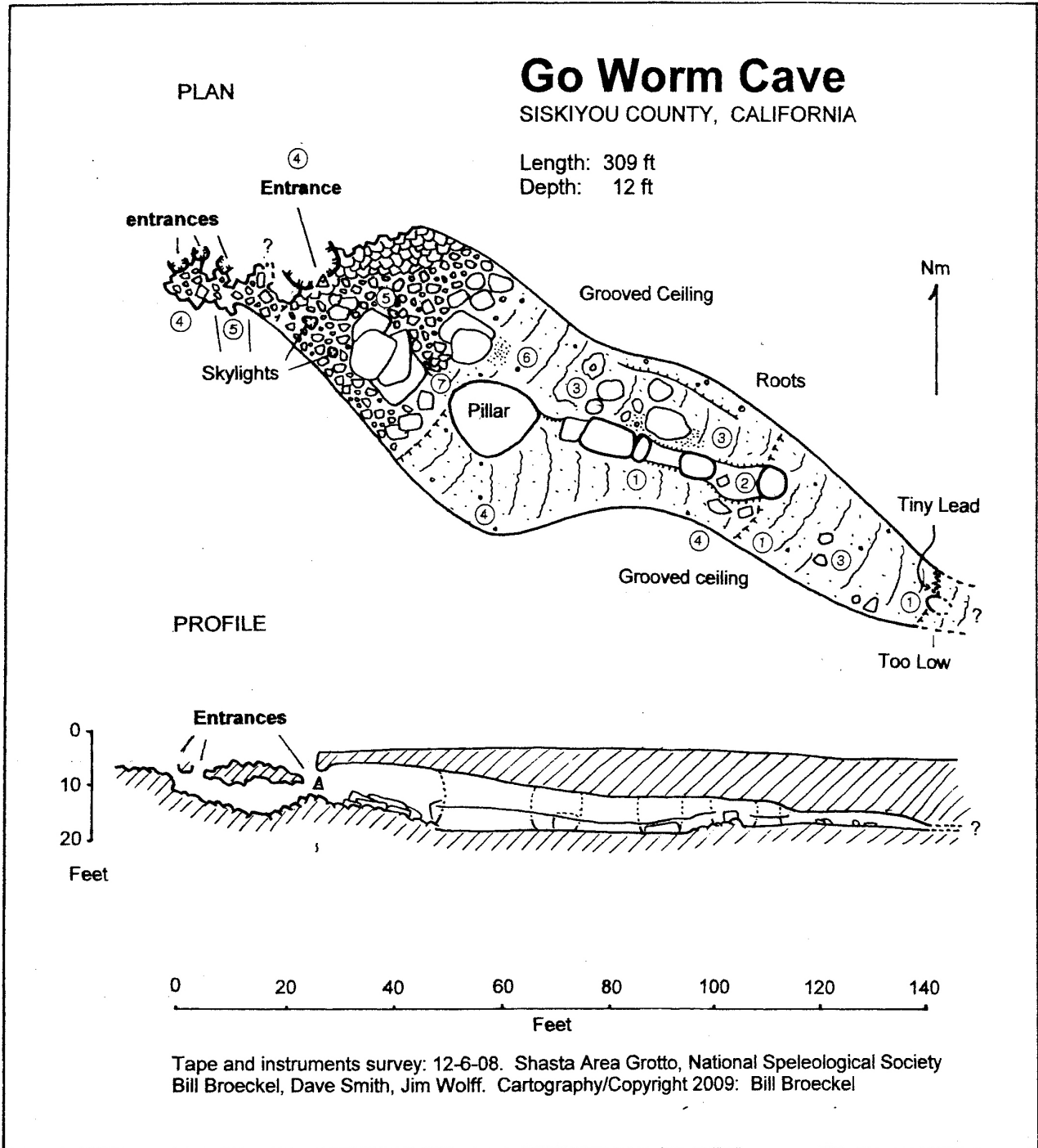
The first good cave entrance we saw turned out to be the main entrance to Go Worm Cave. Jim Wolff came up with this name on this very day. He saw something on the ceiling that reminded him of those glow worms that they have in the caves down there in Kiwi Land. But this really wasn't New Zealand, and it really wasn't a glow worm, just a bit of wet root perhaps, so he thought "Go Worm". That was it, seriously; the cave was thus named.

I liked this Go Worm. It is rather out-of-the-way, and seemed quite undisturbed. We had Dave Smith on lead tape, Wolfie on instruments, and I with nothing to do except bookkeeping. What luxury! The work went on well, and the entire job was done at once to satisfaction. For a small crawl cave, this one was pretty nice. There were places you could sit up in comfort at every station, and a couple spots where you could even get up and stand. A big central pillar was interesting, and beyond that, a, midline breakdown kept the cave divided until the final intact convergence room at the end of the cave.

The linear extent was only about 140 feet, but with the parallel passages and several connectors, we compiled 309 feet of survey. Go worm go! No bats were seen, but we did see observe some rodent feeding stations. The rats had built one of those tiny walls of pebbles that you sometimes see, across the left hand passage at the low end of the cave. I dug a small hole in the wall and looked through into more cave. Some air flow was present, but getting through here would take some real effort. In theory, this cave should connect to the cave the other group was in, but no human sounds were detected. The two caves make an interesting pair.

We later regrouped with the other team on the surface. Since we have been putting datum points on GPS, we rarely do surface survey anymore. The evening cool was settling in, and we felt lucky to be out beyond Gaping Holes this late in the year. We went back to the Wolff's house for more of those cookies, just a bunch of happy cavers after a good day in the lava.

I would like to think that I found these caves, but I suppose between the Gaping Holes Gang and the Bay Area cavers of the last century, they just maybe might have been checked before. Indeed, Bruce Rogers himself only recently wrote, "I see I noted two more trenches/caves(?) along that extension; none of these were mapped or named." OK, so now we know a little more about what's out there ... beyond the Gaping Holes. **BB**



Map: Go Worm Cave



Dec 6, 2008. Sink Arch at Arch Sink. Ray Miller and others on the surface for scale.



Dec 6, 2008. Jim Wolff and Dave Smith, Go Worm survey crew ready to map.

**Time to Renew Memberships and Subscriptions**

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- \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL. Make checks payable to "Shasta Area Grotto", (not "SAG") and send to Steve Hobson 2433 California St. Redding CA 96001

**ELECTION BALLOT – Vote for Grotto officers one of three ways**

1. Mail ballot in with your subscription, or
2. Bring you picks to the January meeting, or
3. E-mail your picks to: SHobson@aol.com

**VOTER A**

Chairman – Jim Wolff  
 Vice-Chair – Dave Smith  
 Treasurer – Steve Hobson  
 Secretary – Steve Hobson or Judy Broeckel

**VOTER B**

Jim Wolff  
 Dave Smith  
 Steve Hobson  
 Steve Hobson or Judy Broeckel

SAG RAG  
 2916 Deer Mdws. Rd.  
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STAMP

... beyond the Gaping Holes ...

TO:

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