



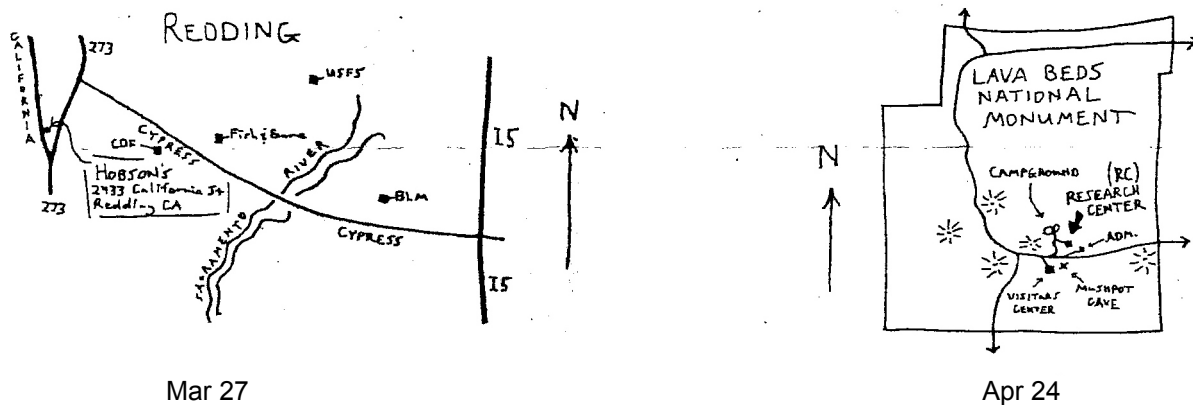
**Another generation at the alternate Speleocamp — July 18-20, 2008. Casey Simonds, Jarvis Jones, Bryce Schroeder, and Dylan Wright prepared for the morning hike out. Bryce has the trekking pole.**

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

Mar 27	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobsons in Redding (530) 242-8707
Apr 24	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Bobrows at Lava Beds (560) 397-2253
May 22-25	Lava Beds CRF Bruce Rogers, Pat Helton (510) 796-2283
May 29	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs in McCloud. (530) 964-3123
June 26	SAG meeting 7:30 pm camp with Neils Smith at Eagle Lake
July 19-26	NSS Convention in Kerrville, Texas

### MAPS TO MEETINGS



Mar 27

Apr 24

### SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bill Broeckel

SAG RAG has been reporting on KMCTF activity virtually every year since the grotto started up in 1982. Here is the installment for the year 2008. Three new maps are inserted covering some of the more recently entered and explored caves or passages. This includes a summary map of Mark Fritzke's dogged pursuit of the Holy Grail Extension going upkarst in Drystream Cave. Fritzke also provides first-hand written accounts of last year's efforts on the Holy Grail, from both inside and outside the cave. Other reports fill out the newsletter, such as John Lane's return to Bigfoot Cave and Steve Knutson's review of the Labor Day Speleocamp. I have a great time planning this issue each year and I hope you enjoy it too. All uncredited photos were taken by the editor. OK, Larry, go find me another aven. Everyone now, we go cave the day after meetings.

**BB**

**MINUTES FROM SAG MEETING — JANUARY 23, 2009**

JAN. SAG MEETING SAG meeting location: Melanie Jackson's home, Yreka, CA — Jan. 23, 2009. Attendees: Members Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Wayne Cedidla, Melanie Jackson, Ray Miller, Jim and Liz Wolff, Bill and Judy Broeckel, Ed and Virginia Bobrow, Frank DeBaugh, and Melody Warner.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Wolff at 8:00 p.m. The old minutes were read by Steve Hobson. Treasurer reports December balance \$452.21 minus get well expenditure \$67.00 for a balance as of 1-23-09 of \$385.21. Website: no updates. Website is not updated. No feedback from Robert Nixon. SAG RAG: 2008 issues have been sent to Cave Files and NSS Library in duplicate. Next issue is KMCTF summary 2008. Dave Smith made digital version of 3 years worth of SAG RAGs. Data Base: Ray Miller brought a list of files that are incomplete. Cave files are not to contain detailed locating information. The SAG RAG editor suggests the SAG RAG as a source of information to help update cave files. SAG RAG editorial policy is to avoid revealing cave location information.

Correspondence From Gretchen Baker — New issue of Midden. New cave biota. From Keith Wheeland — Annual report is due.

Old Business Elections tonight for 2009 officers. Report on elections. Liz Wolff reports the museum exhibit has been taken down on December 29, 2008. It was there for two years. "A lot of people really liked it." NSS Convention: Message from Steve Smith calling for articles. Steve Hobson expects more info on the Cave of the Flying Blue Tubas, any day now. Soon.

New Business Neils is out of the hospital. He enjoyed the teddy bear and balloons. He gave the teddy bear to the children's wing. He donated survey gear to the grotto. Dave Smith is putting more SAG RAGs on disk. Searchable PDF files. E-versions of the SAG RAG.

Trip Reports Bill Broeckel reports on a trip to finish Drop Box Cave on January 13, 2009 with Judy Broeckel and Gladys Ramaekers. Steve Hobson reports on a major Shasta County limestone cave on December 5, 2008. Old rope was removed. Another trip on January 23, 2009 went in. New rope was all mottled with mold in only 1-2 months' time. An air-locking gate has been put in to restrict airflow and return it to more original status. Because of this, the Big Room is getting more humid again. There used to be a maternity colony: He also reports looking for Jacob David Cave and finding a cave that may be Jacob David. He would like to go back tomorrow with others and determine if that was Jacob David. The cave gate was lubricated today.

Meetings Next meeting is Saturday February 21. Planned activity for cave conservation: cleaning out Pluto's Cave. Come at 9:30 a.m. with buckets and trash bags.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13.p.m. Respectfully submitted, SAG secretary, Judy Broeckel

**JB**

(just in case you haven't done s already it is once again)

**Time to Renew Memberships and Subscriptions**

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IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family (circle one).

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to subscribe to CAL CAVER too for another \$10.

\_\_\_\_\_ SAG RAG subscription only, without grotto membership. \$6.

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

**KMCTF 2008 ACTIVITY****FOURTH OF JULY SPELEOCAMP** By Mark Fritzke

July 4-6 – Friday-Sunday. I arrived in camp Saturday morning to meet Emese Styles and Daryl Greaser. There were easy stream crossings and no downed trees or snow on the trail, not even on the path to the karst above camp. We attempted to push upstream leads in Sunbeam, but the stream levels were too high. I dug the upstream crawl with my chest in 2-3 inches of meltwater, but after 15 feet grinding a trench, my numb chest felt like a surfboard and my hands were becoming claws, so I backed up. We also visited the dig where Rich Sundquist and I broke through last Fall, but now there's a small stream and I didn't feel like soaking for 15 feet in another tight crawl. Emese and Daryl checked leads at the bottom and we left it all for another day.

Sunbeam

In Rainy Cave, I couldn't find the "Good" entrance under snow and the "Bad" entrance was a melted hole under a small snowfield, so we entered the "Ugly" upper entrance. We negotiated the small pit series I last visited in the 90's, and counted 14 leads off the bottom, mostly crawls, but ran out of time.

Rainy

David Kestell, Celeste Yang, and David Haskel arrived Thursday(?), visited Bigfoot and found the Meatgrinder connection but didn't know about the climb-up into the Illusion and didn't find it. They also visited lower Corkscrew Friday and Brokedown Palace Saturday and Sunday, but were stopped by sumps. Over-all it was great to be back, and the dogwoods and wildflowers were awesome. For 32 years I have usually left my food in my tent, but David's group heard about someone camped by the cabin who had their tent shredded by a bear.

Bigfoot

Corkscrew  
Brokedown Palace**MF****ALTERNATIVE JULY SPELEOCAMP** By Bill Broeckel

July 15 – Tuesday. Diablo Grotto cavers Dave Weaver, Robert Darrah, and Lata Darrah packed in and set up camp.

July 16 – Wednesday. The Diablo group visited Trail Junction Cave as far as the pit, and also checked Brokedown Palace.

Trail Junction  
Brokedown Palace

July 17 – Thursday. The Diablo cavers entered Bigfoot Cave via Trapdoor, and checked leads in the lower cave. At one dig site, they found a hammer. The young cavers from Chico/Marysville, led by Bryce Schroeder, hiked on in. Others in this group were Jarvis Jones, Dylan Wright, and Casey Simonds.

Bigfoot

July 18 – Friday. The new cavers had done some vertical training, so they teamed up with the Diablo group to do an introduction-to-alpine caving trip in Wahahshun Cave. This cave managed to keep itself hidden, so the group entered Slipstream Cave instead. This cave was a challenge for Bryce's group, and the Diablo cavers had to draw on their patience and resourcefulness in order for everyone to exit the cave.

Wahahshun  
Slipstream

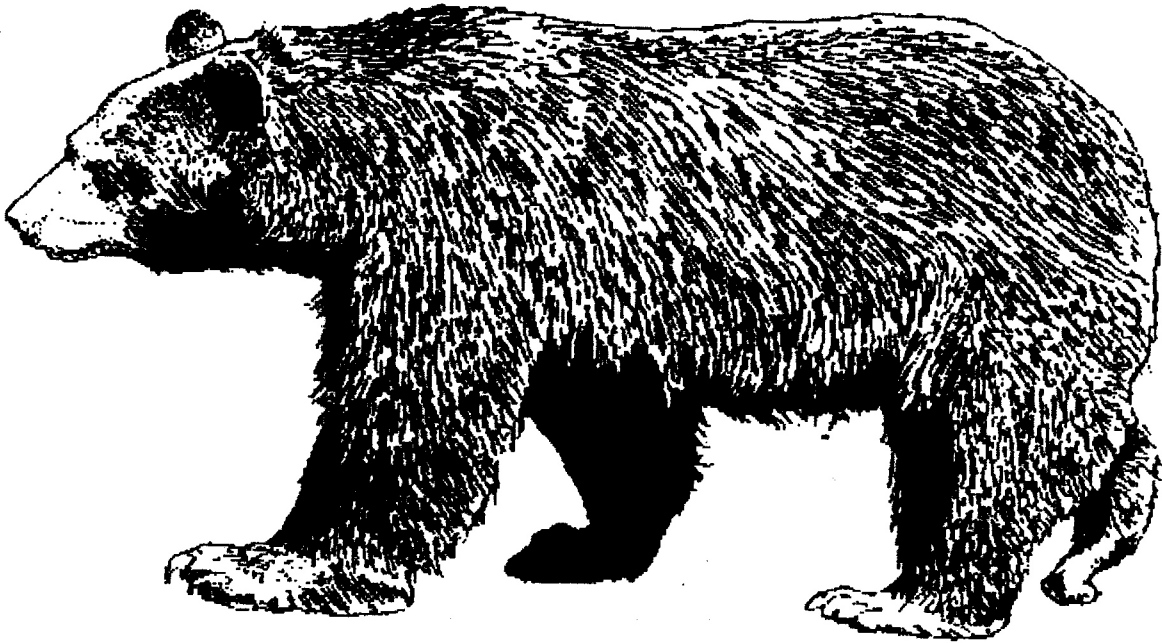
I hiked up that night, forest fire smoke everywhere. I got to see one of those giant toads next to the trail. Later, the moonrise was observed at the waterfall. The smoke made the moon blood red in color.

July 19 – Saturday. The Diablo group went to Bigfoot Cave by way of the Discovery Entrance. They changed the ropes. I offered to take Schroeder's group through Upstairs-Downstairs, which is 1,000 feet above camp. They declined, thinking quite correctly that the smoky hike would be too much, so we did an introductory tour of Skunk Hollow Cave instead. Some PCT through-hikers arrived, having been diverted

Bigfoot

Skunk Hollow

# !!!!!! Bear Alert !!!!!!!



Please be advised that there is an aggressive bear in the Marble Valley area. This bear has vandalized tents and equipment during daytime hours, when camp was unoccupied. This bear may be slow to shy away from people or pets. Do not approach the bear. Keep pets leashed. It is most likely that this bear has found food in a tent on a previous occasion(s). **NEVER STORE FOOD IN A TENT.** Instead, use a bear-proof canister or hang food from a tree.

(COPY OF SIGN POSTED AT TRAILHEAD)

off some of their route. This was their third diversion due to the fires. Backcountry horsemen also arrived, and we all had a grand pow-wow. Some of the hikers joined us in Skunk Hollow.

After everything settled down, I still had time for a very smoky ridgewalk to the north. The smoke would come in heavily in the afternoons, rolling over the ridges and reducing visibility. I moved slowly and tried to breathe less. My only respite came when I sat by the stream in Spring Cave for awhile, breathing from the blast of cold air that comes out of that cave. I ate supper and watched the sun set at the Gap. This time it was the sun that was blood red. I managed to pick up a GPS location on Lost Swallet Cave on the way back to camp at dusk.

Spring

Lost Swallet

July 20 – Sunday. We all hiked out and went home. This trip was plagued by black flies and the fires, one burning just over the ridge. There were many bears sighted, and they seemed to be nervous and acting strangely. Some of them were no doubt displaced by the burning woodlands, and out of their comfort zone. One had torn up a ranger's tent for no apparent reason, and signs were posted about "bad bears". My personal strategy on this trip was to keep all my food with me at all times. I can see the possible disadvantages of this approach. However, one of the advantages was that I always had my food at mealtimes, and I ate better than usual. My rations were wrapped and cold for the most part, but I didn't skip any meals or snacks.

I checked the entrances to both of the little pits I was interested in. I didn't get a chance to go in them, but at least I got the spots fixed in my mind. Both would be done at the next Speleocamp. On the trail, I saw a racer snake. **BB**

Pot Belly Pit  
Quick Pit Cave

Bryce Schroeder with a custom-made caver flag, a traditional black bat on a yellow field. The trekking pole doubles as a flag stick. July 20, 2008

**AUGUST ACTIVITY** By John Lane

*Here is the story of John Lane's return to Bigfoot Cave. Readers may recall the tale of John's self-rescue after a rockfall accident and broken fibula deep in Bigfoot Cave, in a previously published 2006 KMCTF activity report.*

On Friday, August 15, 2008 Jim Reed, Jeff Sanchez, Mike Lane, and myself hiked into the caver's camp in the valley. It was extremely smoky the whole weekend. Visibility was so bad that you couldn't see across the valley. We arrived at camp at 3:30 after a three hour hike. There were notices at the trailhead and at the PCT about a problem bear in the area. We observed numerous fresh (seemingly) bear scat around camp. Some were as close as 20 feet from the fire pit. However, we did not have any bear encounters as we were careful to take precautions by hanging our food and cooking gear high in the trees with a throw line. Friday afternoon we ridgewalked in the valley. Lurking deer in small numbers were observed in and out of camp but not to the point of being a nuisance.

Saturday August 16, 2008 the four of us at about 12:00 noon entered the Discovery Entrance of Bigfoot Cave. We went into the Big Room via Cave Junction and toured the pretties. We returned to Cave Junction and went up Schist Creek to the Rockfall Entrance. We didn't know if there would be a rope at the Rockfall Entrance and saw that there wasn't so we returned to the Discovery Entrance and left the cave at approximately 9:30 pm. It was thundering with a slight sprinkle when we exited the cave on Saturday night. Sunday morning we packed up our gear and hiked out, also during a sprinkle. All in all it was an enjoyable weekend and very uneventful compared to my last Bigfoot experience. JL

Bigfoot



Portions of the upper karst areas. November 18, 2008.

**SEPTEMBER SPELEOCAMP** By Steve Knutson

Here is my brief report on the Labor Day trip. The weather was great. Hot on Friday and Saturday, with a front coming through giving cold days and nights the rest of it. Folks in attendance: Steve Knutson, Louisa Hooven, Mark Harder, Mark Fritzke, Bill Broeckel, David Weaver, Robert and Lala Darrah, Larry McTigue, Steve Johnson, Ethan and Lindsay Donahue, Shawn Thomas, Abby Tobin, Midori and Walker Sundquist, and Rich and Forrest Sundquist, who almost got there. Caves that got at least visited – Sunbeam, Bigfoot, Drystream, Planetary Dairy, and new caves on the north karst and just south of camp on the upper karst.

Sunbeam  
Bigfoot  
Drystream  
Planetary Dairy

I got a little gps done in the area between the cache cave and the first trend in Bigfoot. We checked a cave that Mark (Harder) had found just into the marble and it leads to a constriction going downkarst with bigger passage beyond. NC10 was found by Mark (Harder), and we worked on this blowing hole for some time, and got through, but it only went 25 feet (walking passage!) to a bad blockage. Louisa Hooven found an entrance and we mapped this, with Steve Johnson and I doing the tape and compass work. 306 ft of total trav., with two small rope drops, and a dig lead at the bottom into a narrow rift, taking air. Louisa gets to name it, and suggests Stiletto Heels Cave, as she was just a little too short to easily do a climbup in the west end. I suggest High Heels would be easier to say and understand. GPS and map to follow.

NC10  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Heels

Bill Broeckel found a new cave on the north karst, I think north of the Roto Rooter complex. Small entrance, large room. It got mapped.

Pot Belly Pit

The lower part of Bigfoot got toured from the Trapdoor entrance. Mark Fritzke has pointed out that there is delicate stuff in that area, on the floor, and hard to get through it with no impact; and so this should NOT be a tour destination/route. I agree. There is nice stuff to see on the Discovery Entrance – Big Room route, with much smaller chance of impact. I am placing that Trapdoor – Insufficient Extension route OFF LIMITS, except to trips with a real work objective. We will pull the rope that gets you up into the Terminal Room bypass. This makes two items that are so designated – that route and Richardson Cave. Please honor this .... there is plenty else to see and do. I intend to post a lot of gps leads. I had a great time! **SK**

Bigfoot



Larry McTigue looks on as David Weaver hauls himself out of Pot Belly Pit. August 31, 2008..





Larry McTigue offers encouragement as David Weaver emerges from Pot Belly Pit. August 31, 2008.

## **POT BELLY PIT**

By Bill Broeckel

On Sunday of Labor Day Speleocamp, I was very happy to have David Weaver and Larry McTigue help out with the first of two small pits, this one up to the north. The diminutive entrance was flush with the smooth karst surface on a ridge between Tag 04 and Crystal Drano. The slot was about 2x3 feet, but immediately narrowed to 9 or 9.5 inches before belling out underneath. We rigged to a toppled tree, dropped in and explored a dome-pit room 20 to 30 feet in diameter, and 20 feet high. The pit part at the bottom was sadly choked with rocks. Dave squirmed an extra body length down there, encouraged by a whisper of air on a strand of spider web. There was also a crawl around a perched boulder on some high ledges. We took some pictures and did a cave survey (three shots).

To exit, I went without a chest box, I positioned my stirrups for a good push to pop my upper body through the constriction. From there it was a struggle of inches until my

Pot Belly Pit

arms gained enough leverage to lift out. Luckily, a narrow extension of the slot allowed one arm to freely move into higher or lower positions as needed. The drop was only 13 feet, and the total cave depth was 31 feet. It was warm inside this cave, warmest I've ever experienced in these caves. That's why we called it Pot Belly, it's like a stove. I first saw the entrance on 9-5-06. Someone had marked it with a duck. On 10-7-07, I tried it on for size, just able to push through my caboose. I knew it would at least be big enough to slide down. Our survey was on 9-1-08. Afterward we still had time to visit Slim Shady Cave. This time, we were able to free climb the domes above the little rooms. The domes are indeed connected to each other up near the ceiling, and there was a little ledge up there. However, no new passages were discovered and the cave was not extended. **BB**

Slim Shady



David Weaver approaching the 9 inch constriction just under the Pot Belly Pit entrance. August 31, 2008.



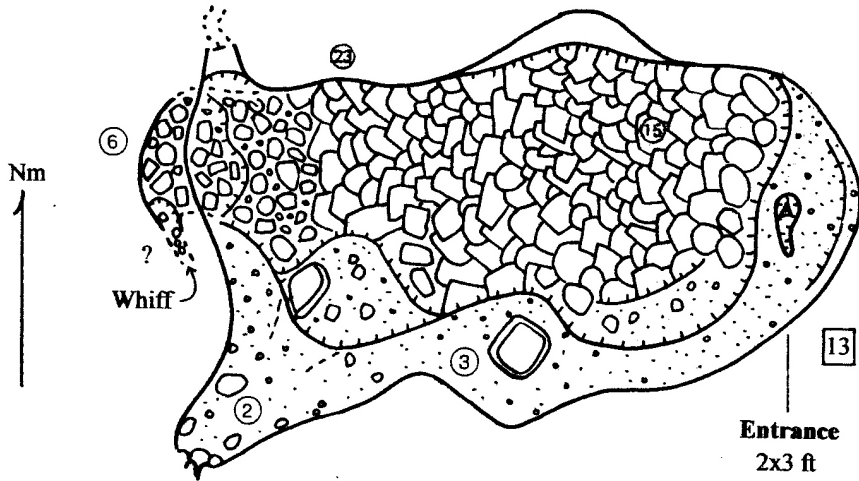
David Weaver expressing relief as he gains leverage needed to exit Pot Belly Pit. August 31, 2008.

# Pot Belly Pit

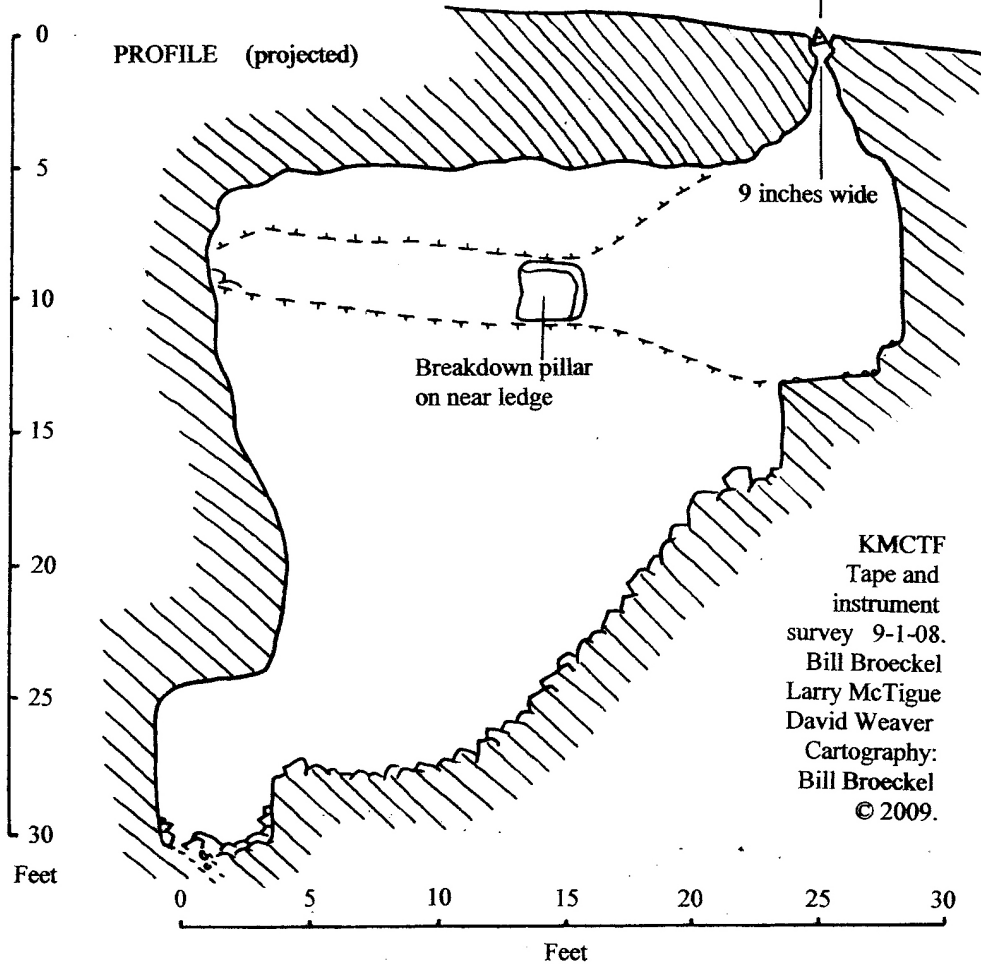
SISKIYOU COUNTY, CA

LENGTH 65 feet  
DEPTH -31 feet

PLAN



PROFILE (projected)



KMCTF  
Tape and  
instrument  
survey 9-1-08.  
Bill Broeckel  
Larry McTigue  
David Weaver  
Cartography:  
Bill Broeckel  
© 2009.

**QUICK PIT CAVE** By Bill Broeckel

On Tuesday morning of Labor Day Speleocamp, Larry McTigue and I were the only stragglers left on site. Somehow I was able to talk Larry into helping me with a push/map trip before we hiked out. In return, Larry could stay at my place that night. You might have guessed that it was the other small pit that I had in mind. (Monday we did a long hike with Mark Fritzke to a project named Atlantis. It is a short resurgence cave with a dusty dig nearby).

Quick Pit Cave

Atlantis



Tape stretched on surface survey to the other (west) entrance to Quick Pit Cave. November 18, 2008.

I was happy again to have some help with small pit #2. I went first down the 20 foot entrance drop into a three foot wide crevice passage. I checked the upside of the sloping floor, and it ended in breakdown with a 10-ft high dome to one side. Meanwhile Larry came down, and we started the survey. Larry does some caving in British Columbia, so when he hauled the end of the tape down to the lead at the bottom of the slope, I told him to find us some more avens, and he did! The lead ended quickly, but Larry was able to duck under the wall, and find going cave. There was another 10-ft dome, a short phreatic crawlway under a crevice, and a pit. We saved the pit for last.

Quick Pit Cave

The near edge of the pit was unstable, so Larry stemmed out over the void, and then free-climbed down. The passage narrowed to a fissure with three stacked widenings. The lowest was way too small, but represented the lowest point in the cave (51 feet deep). The middle widening was just barely big enough, but was fraught with sharp points and thin schist wafers all ready to slice and dice. The top one looked best, with nice elongated ledges perfect for knees and elbows on both sides of a midline crack.



Larry McTigue descends rope into Quick Pit Cave. September 2, 2008.

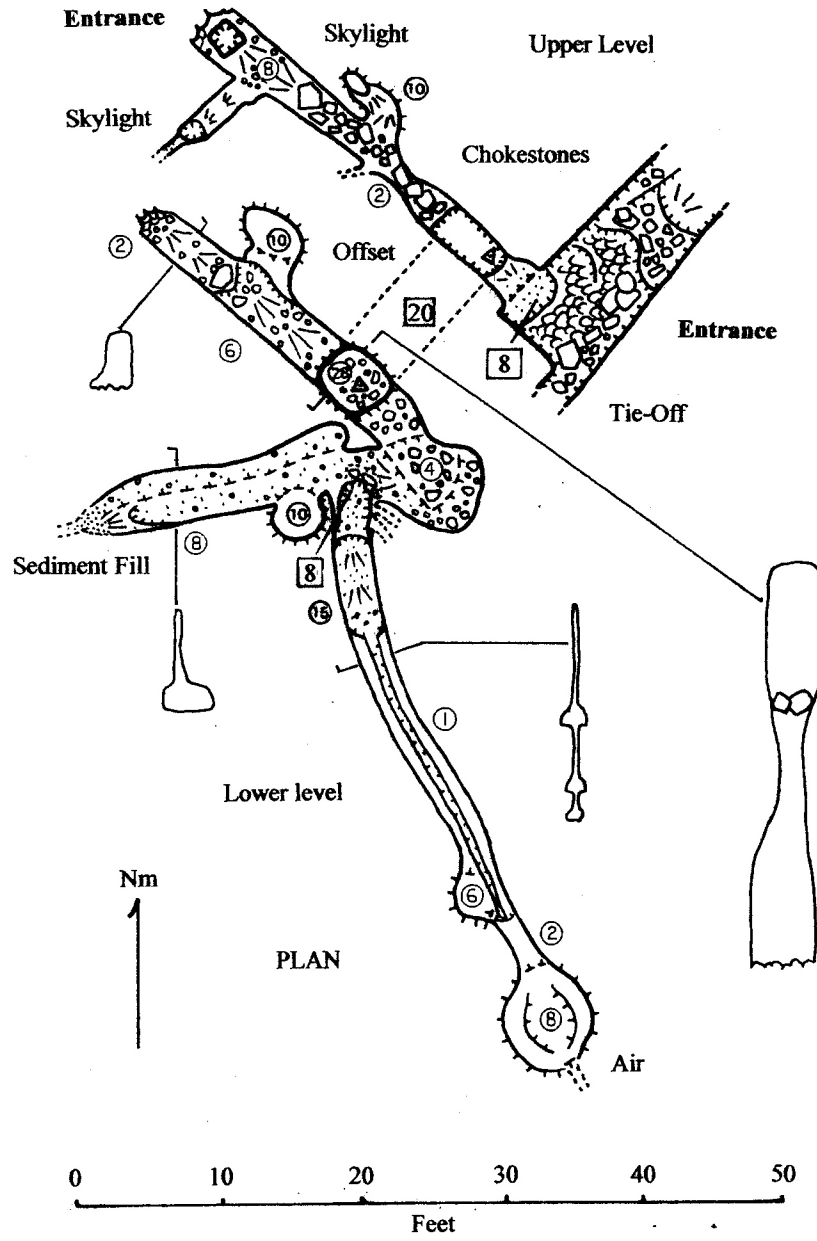
We pushed this passage about 30 feet to a small, but pretty marble echo chamber, all washed clean and with little drip pools. Cold air comes through here and wells up into the entrances. This little room is the current sweet end of the 220 foot cave. We named it Quick Pit Cave because it is easy to rig off a secure rock, and can be done in a short amount of time, even on the day you might be hiking out. Very convenient. Larry did stay at my digs that night, and even did stuff to fix up my computer. Larry has helped me with small cave surveys three years in a row now. I first noticed Quick Pit's main entrance on 9-4-07, took a close look on 7-20-08, helped on the 9-2-08 survey, and came back for some entrance and surface details on 11-18-08. This last trip was a dayhike. All the leaves were down, the snow was gone, ferns were done, but grasses and mushrooms were coming up. All sunny and warm, it felt like a nice day in Spring, and I had a wonderful time. **BB**

Quick Pit Cave

# Quick Pit Cave

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

LENGTH 220 feet  
DEPTH -51 feet



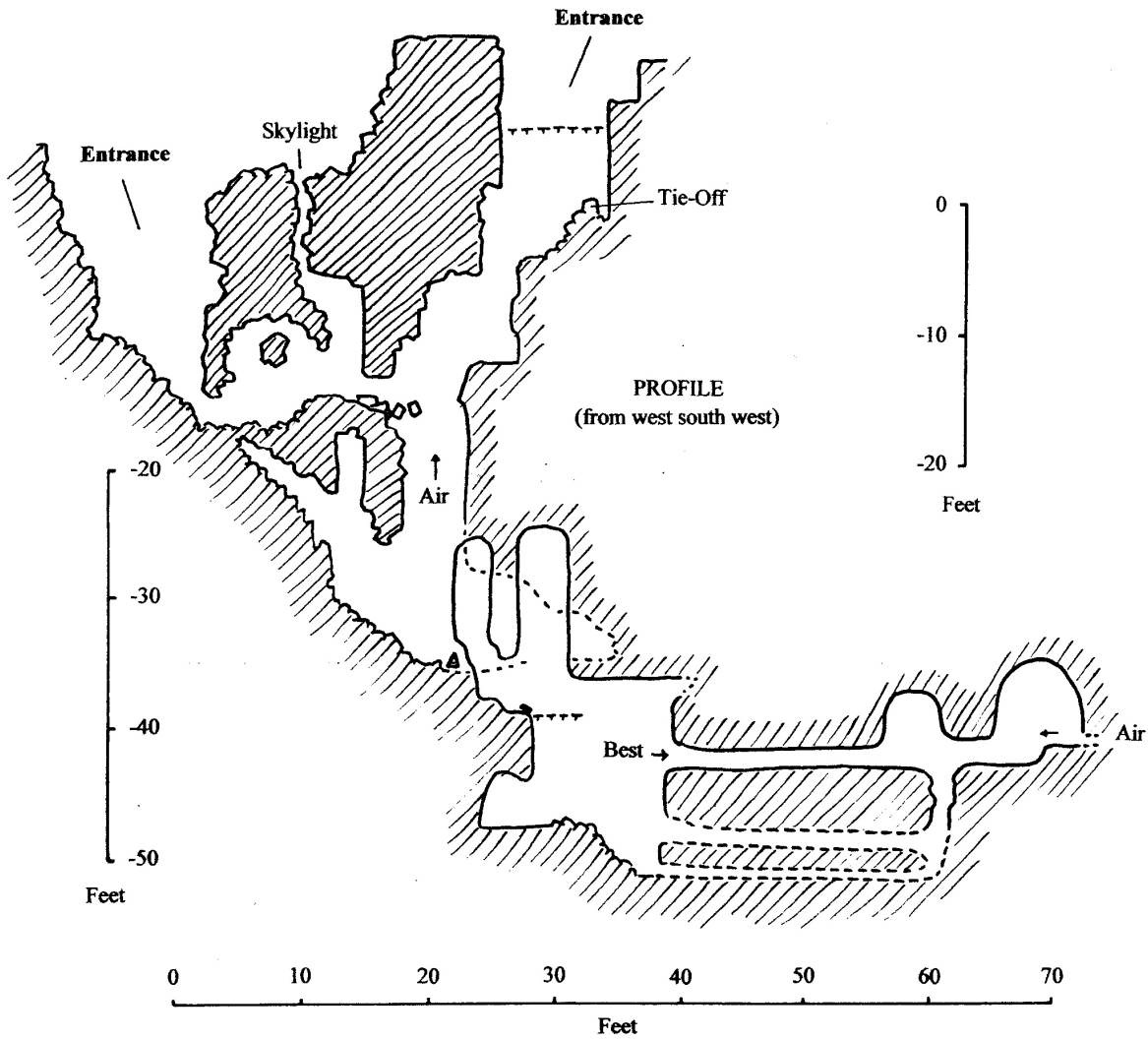
Tape and instruments survey: 9-2-08 & 11-18-08. National Speleological Society.  
Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force: Bill Broeckel and Larry McTigue.  
Cartography: Bill Broeckel © 2009.

Quick Pit Cave

# Quick Pit Cave

SISKIYOU COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

LENGTH 220 feet  
DEPTH -51 feet



Tape and instruments survey: 9-2-08 & 11-18-08. National Speleological Society.  
Klamath Mountains Conservation Task Force: Bill Broeckel and Larry McTigue.  
Cartography: Bill Broeckel © 2009.

Quick Pit Cave

**MORE DRYSTREAM CAVE**

By Mark Fritzke

On a 13.5 hour trip on Sept. 27-28, Mike Egan and I broke through another dig and extended Drystream Cave about 40 feet. After Ethan Donahue and I were thwarted by a sumped passage on August 31, Mike and I found the beginning of the 500-foot crawl to Room To Move was dry, with a cool breeze indicating an open passage. 300 feet along the crawl at the '2006 dig' I slid feet first down a steep funnel into a horizontal 'worm tube' by hyper-extending my knees to make the bend. In a muddy tube nearly blocked by gravel and mud, I couldn't probe and find the passage with my feet, so we had to re-emerge up the funnel and 'dumpster dive' head first into the tube. For the 3rd year we scooped mud-glued cobbles down the tube until it drops abruptly into a tight canyon on the other end, requiring another knee hyperextension to plop into a wide bedrock crawl. The last 200 feet of sand and gravel floored tube were scoured by Spring flooding, so the remaining squeezes were noticeably easier than last year.

Drystream

At Room To Move, we climbed a tight diagonal chute through two bedrock squeezes to a pocket we enlarged just enough to turn around. Beyond is a small keyhole passage below a contorted crevice, so we trenched the bottom of the keyhole, using a short hoe to scoop the spoils back down the chute into the room. When we had a 10-ft long crawl, the dig rejoined the ceiling crevice. I pushed hard through an 8.5" slot and broke through flowstone welded cobbles to extrude into a 15-ft tall canyon, and 'strolled' for 5 steps! A spider web, tree roots, moonmilk, and the smell of rat piss indicate that we are getting close to a surface entrance. Ahead was a messy stack of marble blades in the ceiling but I was too exhausted to properly assess the stability.

There are now 11 sub-9-inch squeezes to exit the current terminus of the cave; at 5:00 am, between squeezes #4 and #5 I fell asleep. We exited at 7:20 am, napped and made strong coffee before going for a look at Sisyphus, a surface dig in the 'dry stream' bed about 130 feet from the terminus of the cave. We finally hiked out about 5:00 pm, drove home and in bed by 100 am, just enough for 4 hours of sleep before a 5:00 am alarm .... tired all week! **MF**

Sisyphus



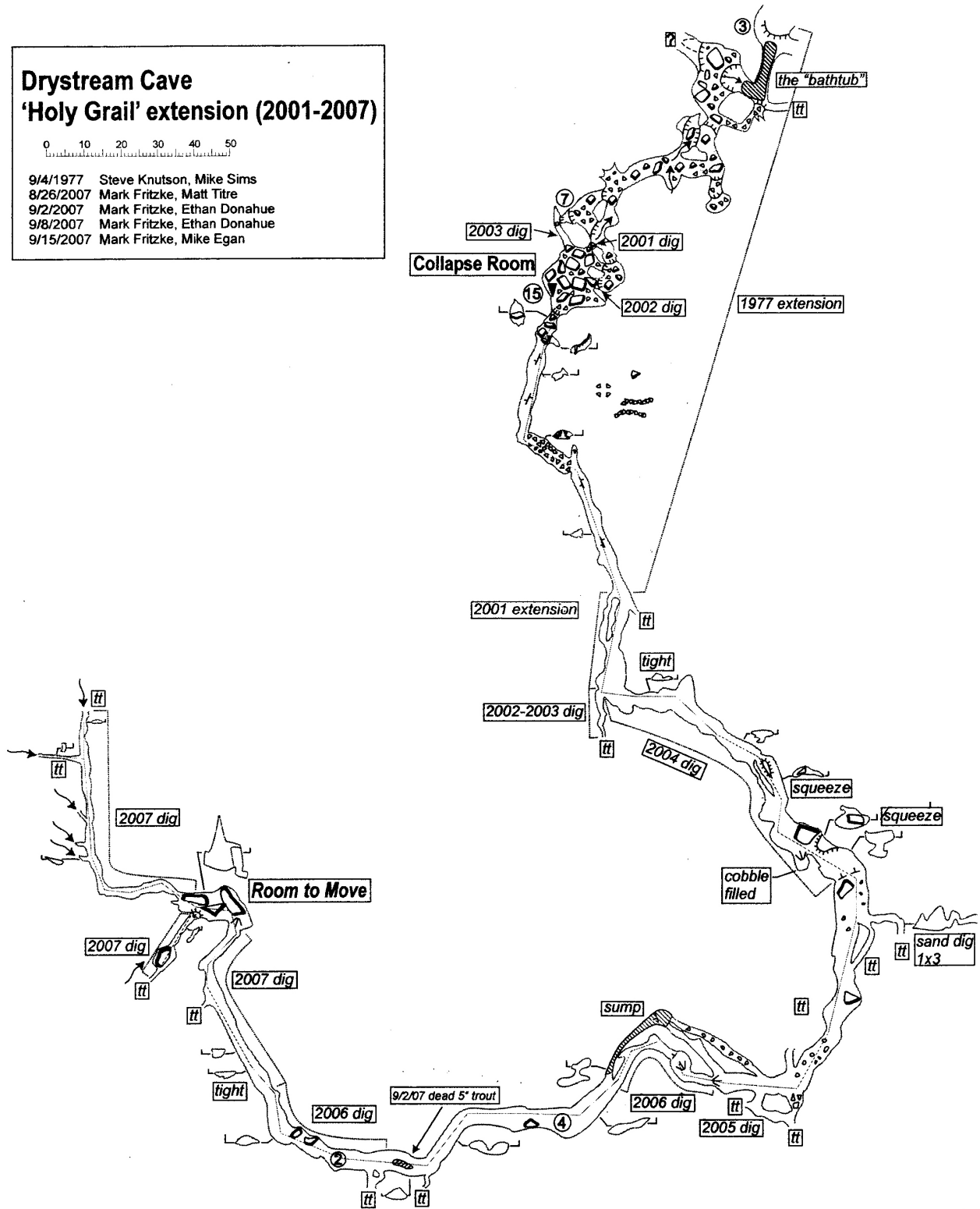
Mark Fritzke at the Atlantis Cave dig site. September 1, 2008.



### Drystream Cave 'Holy Grail' extension (2001-2007)



- 9/4/1977 Steve Knutson, Mike Sims
- 8/26/2007 Mark Fritzke, Matt Titre
- 9/2/2007 Mark Fritzke, Ethan Donahue
- 9/8/2007 Mark Fritzke, Ethan Donahue
- 9/15/2007 Mark Fritzke, Mike Egan



Drystream Cave 'Holy Grail' Extension

**FALL: A SAGA OF SISYPHUS** By Mark Fritzke

I was probably the only caver in the area on Columbus Day weekend, so I worked on an entrance dig near the terminus of Drystream Cave I call Sisyphus Cave, in the dry stream bed between Upstream and Drystream. After excavating about 2 cubic yards of dirt, I now have a dirt-filled marble canyon 5 feet deep and 10 feet long. At the end I can hear a distant 'boombox' rumble, probably from a cascading stream .... could be some good booty ahead!

Sisyphus Cave

Matt Titre and I visited Drystream Cave and the Sisyphus dig on Nov. 1-2. In Drystream, we found the upper stream flowing about 2 gpm and managed the strenuous bridge over the 'bathtub'. Just past the Collapse Room, the beginning of the 500' crawl had no air flow, so I assume this passage is now sumped for the next 11 months. I probed the left 'wall' of the collapse zone and found the 2002 route into the Collapse Room had again collapsed and renewed a route up to the Collapse Room, the 6th configuration of this collapse since 1985. I traced the stream to some tenuously wedged blocks between giant slabs and created a new route upstream, but when I entered a boulder pocket roofed by a 4-ft diameter potato rock supporting a wall of loose rubble, it became too dangerous to continue.

Drystream



False Spring on the karst in late Fall. November 18. 2008.



Upper karst areas on a perfect Autumn day.

At Sisyphus, we dug until we could get a good look at 4-feet of a 6"x12" passage that appears to abruptly descend into an echo chamber a few feet out of view. It rained and drizzled all weekend; Sunday morning we awoke to snow about 500 feet uphill from camp at lower Drystream Cave.

Sisyphus

I made another Sisyphus Cave dig trip on Nov. 22-23. Saturday morning showers and clouds receded to a blue sky and star-filled nights, with just a wisp of snow on logs at 5,000 feet. I dug to a 6" wide 3-foot tall passage now 3 feet away from a descending tube, where I hooted to listen to the echo of a small chamber .... getting close!

**MF**

### **WHO WAS THIS SISYPHUS?**

*In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was a man who tricked the gods a few too many times. So when his time was up, and he went to Hades, he was condemned to an eternity of frustration, pushing a large boulder up a steep slope only to watch it roll back to the bottom again, over and over, time after time.*



“Back sight” in Quick Pit Cave. Larry McTigue arrives safely to the bottom of the roped drop. September 2, 2008.

#### **BIBLE PASSAGES FOR CAVERS**

*Here the-psalmist portrays God as the creator of nature, including the hydrology, and one would presume, the caves, such as Drystream.*

“Thou didst cleave open springs and brooks;  
 Thou didst dry up ever-flowing streams.  
 Thine is the day, thine also the night;  
 Thou hast established the luminaries and the sun.  
 Thou hast fixed all the bounds of the earth;  
 Thou hast made summer and winter.”

#### **SAG RAG**

2916 Deer Mdws. Rd.  
 Yreka CA 90967

#### **STAMP**

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#### **TO:**