



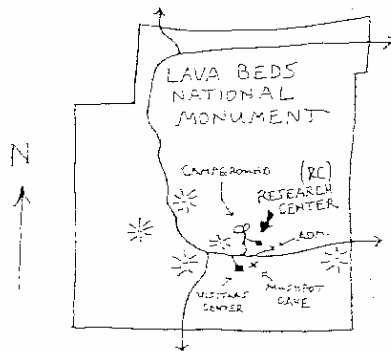
Ceiling detail in small dome near the Changing Room 11-12-06

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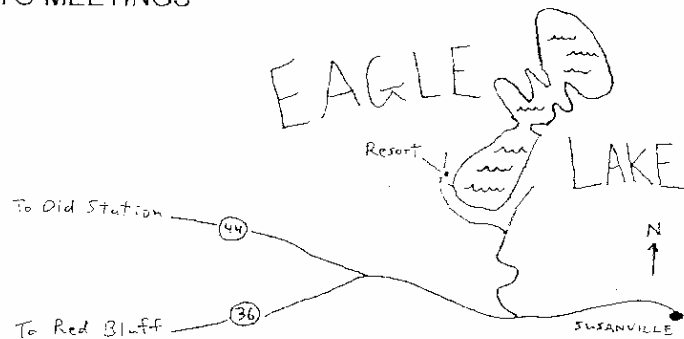
## CAVERS CALENDAR 2010

May 21-23 Rescue weekend at Lava Beds. Wolffs 530-964-3123  
 June 25-27 Cave Camp at Eagle Lake. Call Wolffs 530-964-3123  
 July 2 ? KMCTF speleocamp, call Melanie Jackson for mules  
 Aug 2-6 2010 NSS Convention in Vermont

### MAPS TO MEETINGS



May - Lava Beds



June - Eagle Lake

### SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bill Broeckel

Wayne Cedidla's fine article does a great job of capturing the Ancient Palace Cave experience. Too bad it took over 3.5 years to hit the SAG RAG. Sorry about that Wayne. Better late than never. It has taken even longer to get an APC map out. For one thing, the cave still has multiple leads with problems, such as getting small and muddy down underneath the clean areas in the Big Room. Some major tweaking was needed to try and have the projected profile make some sense. This one 8x11 pager is not exactly right, and certainly doesn't do the cave justice, but it does show the basic idea. A more detailed survey and map are still in progress. The Animal Den map is also old business – we were in there a long time ago. While I was getting that done, the rest of the group was in Ancient Palace Cave. Check the Valley Caver for more on that part of the trip. A new map of Lakelevel will have to wait – the cave is full of water again. Troubles, troubles. Steve Hobson provides an update. **BB**

### MINUTES FROM SAG MEETING – February 26, 2010

**FEBRUARY SAG MEETING** 2-26-10 at Wolffs in McCloud. Present: Steve Hobson, Jim & Liz Wolff, Dave Smith, Melanie Jackson, Wayne Cedidla, Arley Kisling, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Sam Baxter, Ray Miller, Vern & Linda Cliff, and Ed & Virginia Bobrow.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Liz Wolff at 7:43 pm. Minutes of the previous (January) meeting read and approved with minor corrections. Treasurer's report: SAG is in the black.

Committee Reports: Website is current. RAG and e-RAG all 28 years are on disc. SAG RAG: next issue coming along, submissions encouraged. Database: no updates. Conservation: Jim – e-questionnaire from NSS done. WNS – confirmed case in Tennessee.

Correspondence: Marianne Russo re: WCC dinner at regional. Sam Baxter re: SAG membership. Kelly Boyle re: SAG membership. NSS West – Speleo Ed in April. KMCTF plans highly detailed survey of Upper Karst.

Old Business: Western Regional camping: \$240 2 nights flat rate for entire Loop A, parking limited to make sure there is space for emergency vehicles. RC reserved. WCC dinner by pre-registration only, \$20/adult, \$10/child aged 6-12, free aged 5 and under. Work project still under discussion. Post Office trip, led by Arley Kisling, by preregistration only. Trip coordinator: Bill Broeckel. Name badges: Linda or Ray. Goal: registration forms go out to Grottos by July 1. Rescue training: Siskiyou County SAR, April 10, Melanie Jackson, Plutos and Sand Caves. LABE personnel rescue training, May 22-23, RC reserved. July 4th Marbles trip: Melanie Jackson needs money and reservation AT LEAST a week before. Deposit already made, \$125 per animal, a mule may be able to carry gear for two persons. Upcoming SAG meetings: **March** 3-26-10 meeting at Hobson's in Redding, 7:00 pm, bring cameras, survey gear, clean coveralls, bag for gear. **April** 4-23-10 at Dick and Kathy's on the coast, 7:00 pm, change in location. **May** 5-22-10 to 5-23-10 rescue training at Lava Beds. **June** campout in Lassen County, 4th weekend. **July** 4th trip – see above. **Late July** meeting in Chico?, possibly third weekend of the month, Shasta County limestone trip in July. **August** 8-27-10 meeting at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka, 7:00 pm.

Trip reports: WCC Ancient Palace Cave trip 1-31-10. Bill B. went another way, found cave with walk-in entrance.

Respectfully submitted by outgoing SAG Secretary Judy Broeckel.

**JB**



Judy Broeckel enters APC 3-7-10 (Alumni Postgraduate Convention)

## **Ancient Palace Cave Restoration and Protection Project** by Wayne Ceditla

On November 11th and 12th, 2006, a group of cavers representing the SAG, MLG, Stanislaus, and Shascade grottos participated in a survey and restoration trip to Ancient Palace Cave. The project leader Steve Hobson, and his wife Sue, hosted the eccentric group of people that came from as far south as Modesto and as far north as Yreka. The event actually started on Friday night with a SAG meeting at Steve's house. Attending the meeting were Steve Hobson, Liz and Jim Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Dave Bunnell, Dick LaForge, Arley Kisling, Bill Broeckel, Seth LaForge, Ania Mitros, Ron Morehouse, Jon Mulder, Matt Bowers, and myself, Wayne Ceditla.

I drove up from Sacramento on Friday afternoon, and arrived at Steve's house at the same time as Liz, Jim, Arley, and Melanie. When we knocked on the door we were greeted by two huge dogs, Thea and Roscoe, and one little hairless dog, Bruce. A lot of discussions ensued about Bruce's tendency to shake. Some people thought it was the lack of hair causing him to be cold. My theory was that he shook out of fear because the other dogs were at least four times his height and the people were about ten times higher. Imagine a human hanging around with a bunch of animals that were 25 to 60 feet high and you start to get the picture.

After the meeting, Steve discussed safety concerns with the main emphasis being "don't get hurt in the cave." He then discussed the rules for keeping the cave clean and protected and then proceeded with the tasks that he hoped to accomplish that weekend, or at least start on. After that he assigned people to various teams. The first team was responsible for photographing the cave. This group consisted of Dave Bunnell and Dick LaForge as photographers, and Ania Mitros and Ron Morehouse as assistants. The second and third teams were assigned the task of resurveying the cave to correct some discrepancies in

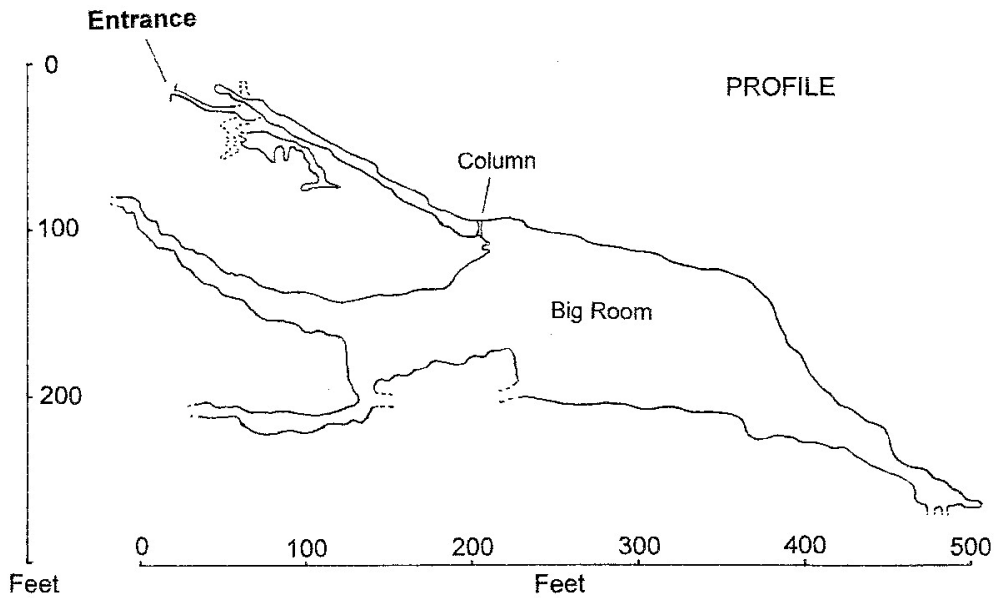
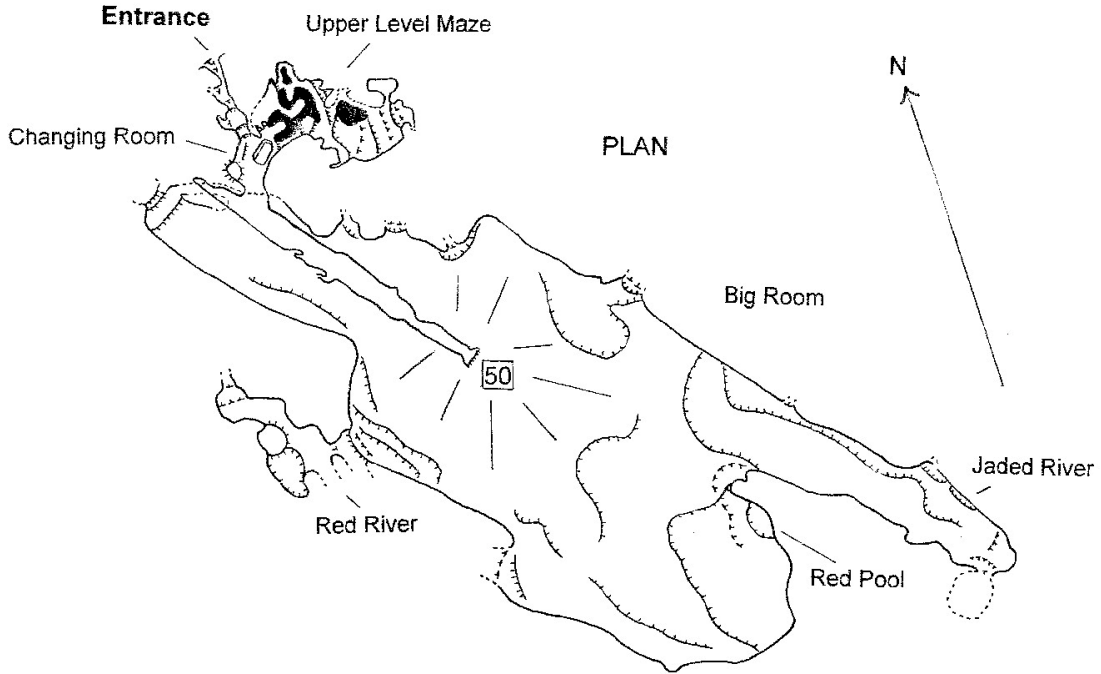


Ron Moorehouse (L), Wayne Ceditla, and Dave Bunnell (camera) 11-11-06

# APC

Shasta County, California

Length 1000 feet +  
Depth 200 feet +



Tape and instruments survey - 1995-1996. Shasta Area Grotto, Southern Oregon Grotto, Shascade Caving Society, NSS. Bill & Judy Broeckel, Steve Dagitz, Melanie Jackson, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Ellen Nielson, Ron Osborne, Dave Pryor, Neils Smith, and Jim & Liz Wolff. Rough schematic loosely based on Liz Wolff's pencil draft from 1995-1996 cave survey data. Cartography/Copyright 2010: Bill Broeckel and Liz Wolff.

Map: Ancient Palace Cave





Tres Amigos, or Three Wise Men, or whatever, Upper level Maze 11-12-06

previous surveys and to redo the previous survey in metric measurements. The first survey group consisted of Liz, Melanie, and Matt who were assigned to survey the upper part of the cave from the entrance down to the main drop, and in the other group were Bill, Seth, and Jon who resurveyed the maze area of the cave. The last team had Steve, Arley, Jim and I in the Big Room replacing aging and brittle trail marking tape.

On Saturday morning, Sue cooked a great breakfast of bacon, eggs, fruit, and breakfast burritos. After eating, everyone organized and packed their cave gear and Steve had a quick meeting to go over assignments and to arrange car pooling. At approximately 10:30 A.M. we were off to the cave. After parking at the designated spot we hiked to the cave entrance. Parts of the route were very steep and slippery but overall it was not too bad. Some of us in the over fifty group took a little longer than the others but managed to get there without any major delays. The scenery was beautiful at this time of the year, including the dormant poison oak that was used like a handline to get along some of the steep spots. Later, that poison oak reminded some people that it wasn't totally dormant.

Due to the snug nature of the cave entrance and approach, people had to line up in a pre-staging area in somewhat of the proper order depending on their assignment. This prevented a traffic jam in the changing area further inside the cave. The entrance itself was not difficult, however it was tight enough that I had to push my pack ahead of me. Normally this wouldn't be a problem but my pack was heavy on this trip and getting through the small gate was awkward this first time through. Thankfully Steve stayed at the gate and pulled it through for me. Shortly after the entrance gate the cave opens up into the larger changing area where everyone was required to change into clean clothes.

After the changing area, the cave heads in two different directions. One passage leads down to the maze area and one leads down to a comfortable passage to the Big Room. Since my assignment was in the Big Room that was the direction I took. Although this passage is roomy, it is fairly steep and the pre-rigged handline was a welcome addition. After following this passage downward for several hundred feet we arrived at the edge of a fifty foot vertical drop into the Big Room. Since the rope was already rigged, all I had to do was wait my turn. The rappel was thrilling as they always are and since it was a free drop, it was fairly easy.

My first impression of the Big Room was that it was very dark. So dark in fact that I could not get a good idea of how large it was, only that it was probably the largest underground chamber that I had been in outside of Carlsbad Caverns. Later I learned that it was approximately 200 feet by 600 feet and had a ceiling height of approximately 65 feet. Once down the rope we each cleaned any dirt on our boots with water from a pump sprayer, being careful to not spoil the cleaning area. The photography team, being led by Dick, headed off around the perimeter of the room. My team, led by Steve, grabbed the flagging tape and headed off after them.

After finishing the replacement of the trail flagging, Steve took Jim, Arley, and me on an unforgettable tour of the cave. Some of the cave features were the best I have seen in a wild cave. In addition to great examples of flowstone, helictites, soda straws, draperies and bacon, crystals were everywhere. Every direction we looked greeted us with sparkles of light. Closer examination revealed that calcite crystal faces were reflecting the light back from headlamps. Some of these crystal faces appeared to be as large as 1/2 inch wide and 1 inch long. The effect in this dark room was marvelous, reminding me of something you might see at Disneyland on the Peter Pan ride. A red flowstone river, frozen in place for eternity, was also an amazing sight and is something I will not soon forget. The Jaded River was another feature that was remarkable. Although this lake was up to twenty feet deep the bottom was so clear that it appeared to be only a few feet at most.



Jon Mulder at top of the long sloping handline passage in Ancient Palace Cave 11-12-06

After the tour it was time for us to leave. Jim, Liz, Arley, and Melanie had car pooled with me Saturday morning. Since Jim, Liz, and Arley had to leave for prior commitments the five of us headed out before the others. Ascending out of the Big Room was not too difficult but the bottom belay that Steve gave us did help. Most people needed a couple of tries to get their ascender up and over the lip but other than that it was pretty straightforward.

It was dark when we exited the cave and the air was very cold after sweating through the pack pushing cave exit. After everyone in our group was out of the cave we headed back to the parking area. It was very dark and the slippery spots on the way in turned out to be very, very slippery on the way out. Several of us ended up falling down at one time or other. We managed to follow the way to the cars but a couple of times it wasn't real clear that we were really on the route. After the hike out that seemed longer than the hike in we finally found the car. I think everyone was glad to be out of the woods and in a warm car with the heater blasting. After retrieving their cars, Liz, Jim, and Arley headed home and Melanie and I went to Steve's house for a wonderful dinner by Sue.

After another great breakfast we again headed for the cave. This time Seth, Ania, and Melanie rode in my car. After a hike that seemed even more difficult than the day before we all crawled in. Matt, Bill, and I finished the upper cave survey down to the bottom of the drop into the Big Room. The others rappelled into the Big Room to finish the photography, tour the cave, and do some general cleanup and maintenance.

By the time the survey was finished in early afternoon it was time for some of us to start heading home. Ania, Seth, Melanie, and I crawled out of the cave into a slight drizzle that threatened to get worse but fortunately didn't. We made it out and were back to the car by mid afternoon. Since I had to drive back to Sacramento for work the next day I dropped off Seth and Ania at their car and took Melanie back to her truck at Steve's house and headed home just before dark. Even though it is a long drive from Redding to Sacramento it gave me lots of time to reflect on Ancient Palace Cave. I decided that I enjoyed that cave more than any other wild cave I have visited in California. Hopefully I get a chance to go back. **WC**



Ania Mitros (L) and Seth LaForge ready to enter Ancient Palace Cave 11-11-06





Matt Leissring (front), Steve Hobson, Heather MacDonald, Melanie Jackson, and Rolf Aalbu lined up and meditating prior to entering APC 1-31-10

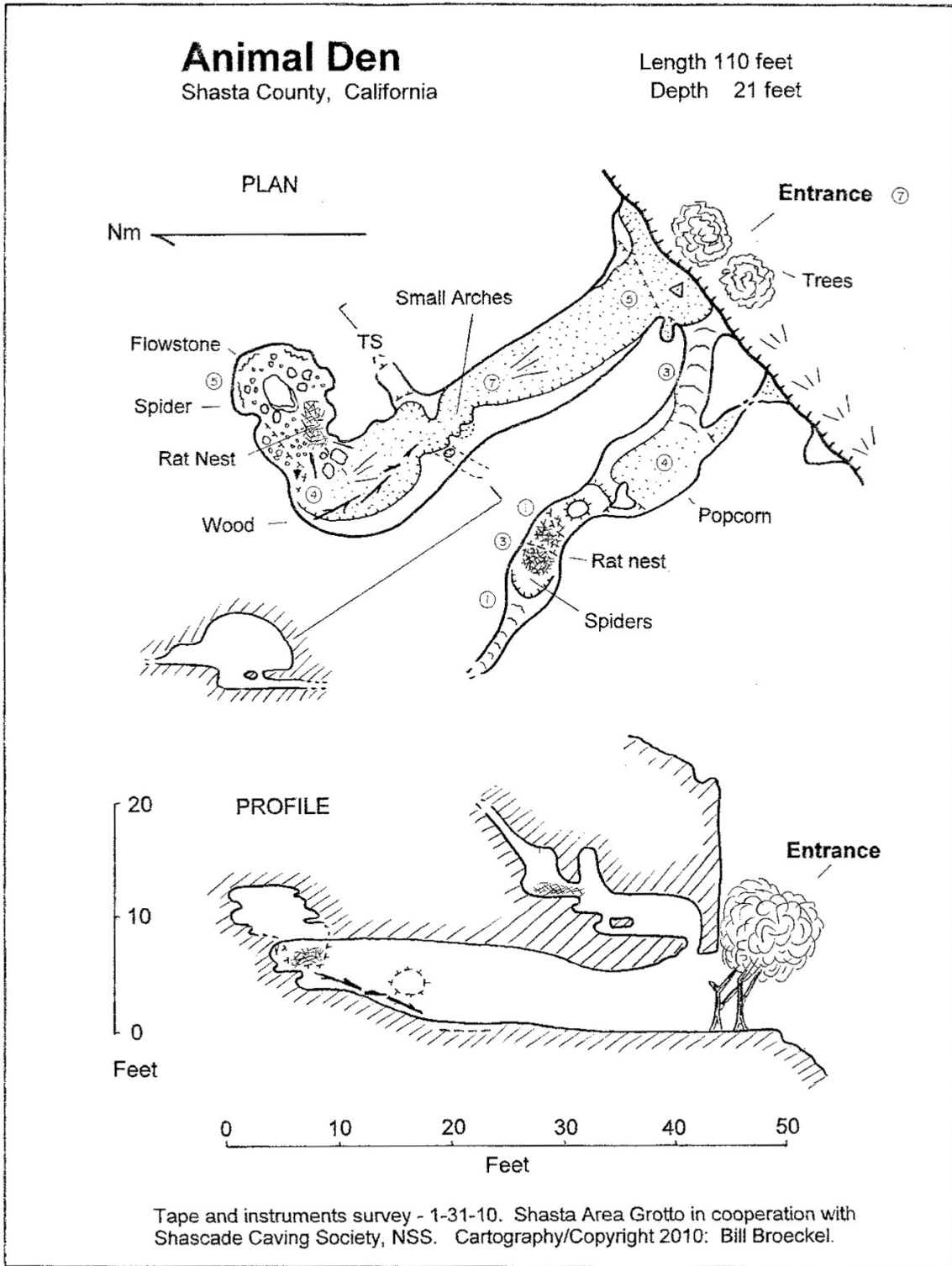


Looking down the right hand side of the Upper Level Maze 11-12-06

### **Animal Den** by Bill "Bighorn" Broeckel

Looking back, 12-9-95 was an auspicious day in terms of collaboration between Shascade Caving Society (SCS) and SAG. We still had Dave Pryor, and his fund of knowledge on Shasta County caves. On that day, Dave and Ellen Pryor, Luc Blanchet, Doug Burch, Liz Wolff, and Melanie Jackson went to work in Ancient Palace Cave, while Jim Wolff, Bill Kenney, Steve Dagitz, and I mapped Klaydo Cave. Klaydo is a fairly short, horizontal cave so we got in and out pretty quick. With a little extra time, we looked around and found another cave with a beautiful walk-in entrance. It didn't go very far at all, and featured an exceedingly strong animal odor, cause undetermined.

Later we all got together over pizza, and compared notes. It turned out that Dave Pryor was aware of the odiferous cave and it was part of the SCS cave data base. The extent of the documentation was unknown to me. Dave was pretty careful and close-to-the-vest about certain things. I do know that SCS was just beginning to survey caves, and at this time they were tapping into the SAG cave mappers (such as they are) for help with cartography. So I don't think the smelly cave had been previously mapped. However, between bites of pizza, I distinctly remember Dave Pryor telling us that the cave had a name – Animal Den – and that it did stink pretty bad.



Map: Animal Den Cave

Some time passed, and Dave passed away unexpectedly in July, 1997. More years went by. Almost ten years later, on 3-6-05, I went out to relocate Animal Den, and couldn't find it. I found some poison oak, and some other places that didn't have caves. Last December I chopped wood too hard and hurt my back. Then after the WCC meeting in Redding, we had a field trip to Ancient Palace Cave. I hiked to the entrance with Matt Leissring, Heather McDonald, Rolf Aalbu, Melanie Jackson, and Steve Hobson. I watched the group enter the entrance crawlway, and told Rolf to watch for the fabled glowing beetles of Ancient Palace Cave. I didn't go in, but told Melanie I was going to look for Animal Den – that was my bad back back-up. I'll take Melanie and Steve as spotters any day. Heck, they both represent entire search and rescue teams.

So on 1-31-10, I found Animal Den again, without any trouble. Thankfully, the strong smell was gone, and there were no hibernating or day roosting bats. Animal Den is 110 ft long. It is like two separate caves, connected by a wide, overhanging entrance in the face of a small cliff. The right side is a walking passage that turns one corner and abruptly ends in a seal of flowstone.

On the other side, a short scramble leads up and into the left passage with popcorn walls. Hands and knees bring you to a belly crawl over a rat nest. There is a little room at the end with multiple spiders. So on this day, the animals of Animal Den were rats, spiders, and a cave mapper. Both of the passages were about 50 ft long. I was moving slow, but was able to finish the survey, even with a sore back. This time around, I zapped the cave with a GPS reading. I left a note under Steve Hobson's windshield wiper about a half hour before the group emerged from APC. Whataday, and here we are, SCS and SAG, still collaborating. **BB**



Animal Den entrance, daypack for scale 1-31-10





#### **LAKELEVEL REPORT 4-17-10** By Steve Hobson

Liz Wolff and I went to Lakelevel Cave. We surveyed from the lake water level to the cave water level. Liz says that the lake is -31 ft from our survey "0" point and the cave water level is -33 ft. So, the cave water level is directly correlated to the lake water level. I would point out that while we were in the cave, the water level in the lake came up about 6 inches. We could not go past The Keyhole, because that part of the cave was full of water.

We also surveyed the two little/not so little pits by the lake. The first little pit (closest to the lake) has gotten deeper by about 5 ft. It was 6 ft deep; it is now 11 ft. It has a hole in the bottom, Liz could not see where it went.

The second pit is also larger than it appears. It was about 14-18 ft deep with a 16x16 ft + room at the bottom with a sloping/level floor. It also fills with water. There are a few little formations and lots of earthquake damage. The cave was mostly large limestone boulders and dirt, but there was some bedrock. The crystal formations outside on the shoreline are also found in the seams here. The bottom of the first little pit ends in here. There was a little water at the lowest level. One other interesting note: there appears to be a new pit forming from the bottom up. It is like a dome pit, but in dirt and rocks. It has a flat ceiling and is about 30 inches round. Before exiting, we removed some trash from the bottom, including a full Keystone Premium.

Trip members: Liz Wolff, Steve Hobson, and Roscoe.

**SH**

#### **SAG RAG**

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#### **STAMP**

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