



Larry McTigue near the lowest point in Eon Cave

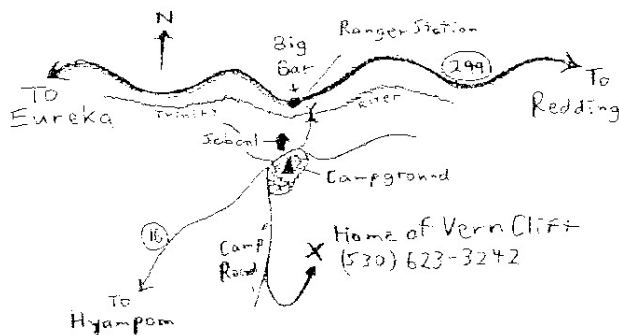
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## CAVERS CALENDAR 2010

Sept 3-6	KMCTF Speleocamp
Sept 24	SAG meets at Cliffs 7:30 pm in Big Bar 530-623-3242
Oct 8-10	Western Regional Lava Beds – <a href="http://www.caves.org/grotto/sag">www.caves.org/grotto/sag</a>
Oct 22	SAG meets at Wolffs 7:30 pm McCloud 530-964-3123
July 18-22, 2011	2011 NSS Convention in Glenwood Springs, Colorado

### MAPS TO MEETINGS

Sep 24 - Big Bar



Oct 22 - McCloud

### SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bill Broeckel

This is the KMCTF issue for 2009, as in last year. The resurvey of Eon Cave was completed in 2008, and it really wanted to make it into the 2008 report, and when it missed that, it just had to be in the 2009 report, so the whole thing was kind of just waiting for the map to get done, but here it is, KMCTF still getting cave maps done, albeit the slower pace notwithstanding. Also notice that this is the May-June issue, coming to you in September. That might be almost LATE, but it means that three more issues are still coming for this go round, and they will all be as wonderful as they can be I'm sure. Remember that Cow Caver nonsense? Well, that was just extra fluff, I promise, it doesn't really count as a real SAG RAG, which is a very serious and respectable publication. Besides Eon Cave, we will fill up these pages with material off the KMCTF list server, which functions as the MORE TIMELY KMCTF newsletter, and includes a great series of Fritzke reports from the last caving season in the Klamath Mountains. We hope to see you at Lava Beds for the Regional, be sure to register and pay ahead SOON to get the discount prices. **BB**

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING 8/27/10

Meeting called to order at 7:32 pm. in Yreka at Melanie Jackson's home.

**Present were:** guests Nick (Rudi) Hendricks, Kevin Citta, Chris Kennedy, and Jed Medin. Regular members: Dave Smith, Russ Yoder, Jim & Liz Wolff, Ed & Virginia Bobrow, Vern & Linda Cliff, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Arley Kisling, Sam Baxter, and Melanie Jackson.

**Committee Reports:** Conservation: Discussion about WNS being a European disease in bats that doesn't kill the bats there. It is unknown how it got to the United States. Was first found in a cave in New York. Apparently it only seems to kill bats (but not all) that hibernate in cold climates. It is unknown what the rate of spread is, but it is spread by bats, not people. Cave closure policies in the US are local not national at this time. Wolffs remarked that there were cleaning stations at the NSS Convention for all cave gear. They took care not to be part of the problem in spreading WNS. One of the best places to keep up on the current WNS updates is at the NSS Website.

**SAG RAG:** The Cow Caver was the last issue. The next issue will have the Marble Mountain Review from 2009.

**Web:** The three page application (in downloadable PDF format) for the Western Regional that SAG is hosting is on the site. Deadline for application at a reduced rate (\$27.00) is due by Sept. 10, 2010. After that time the cost is increased (\$35.00). Tell your caving friends to sign up and send their money in pronto. SAG members contact Dave Smith about your cost, it is less than everyone else.

Dave sent out registration forms in a PDF format to all the Western Region Grottos twice and a CD. We have only rec'd a few applications so far.

### **Old Business:** Western Regional

SAG Members have a different (reduced) cost than the general caving community. We will need lots of help from the members to set up the three large tents, tables and chairs etc. Be there on Thursday if possible or as soon as you can. Many hands make lighter work. We have six large tables that seat 8-10 people, but could use more. A few members at the meeting will supply some more. We are looking to have at least 3 large coffee pots for hot water (for tea and hot chocolate) and lots of coffee, of course. Members are checking into borrowing or renting some. Lighting was discussed due to the shorter daylight hours. One member said they could bring some fluorescent lights and extension cords. If anyone has more or other lighting let Liz. W. or Dave S. know. Tupperware pitchers (large ½ - 1 gallon size) are needed.

Arley passed around the T-Shirt design. SAG members shirts will be a different color and slightly different design than the rest of the Western Region T-Shirts. So be put on notice you will be visible, ready and able to assist with help and answering or directing people's requests at the weekend at Lava Beds. Rudi H. said he had some quality T's that he was willing to donate for the T's but that may not be necessary. Thanks Rudi.

**New Business:** Sam Baxter attended the Wilderness First Aid (WFA) class at California Caverns. It was put on by Kyle Dwyer and is a 16 hour certification class. Sam collected names and email of interested cavers from the meeting to see if there was interest in Kyle putting on one in SAG country. Kyle's class is more affordable than others out there. This is not a First Aid/CPR or Wilderness Responder class. Contact Sam if you would like to receive emails regarding a class in our area.

Melanie J. asked for a show of interested cavers who would like to have their cave gear both packed in and out of the Marbles next September (Labor Day weekend 9/2-5/2011). There was enough interest that she will contact S and E Outfitters to see about the time, cost, and reserving of the date. By having our gear packed in and out we can just cave like crazy. It will be a hot and dry time of year and we will be able to do more.

**Trip Reports:** The following people went caving in July and August.

Bill (Bighorn) B. went caving in Marble Mountain Quarry where they were able to add about 200 ft. of survey in the ceiling area. He has been to Russ Yoder's Dusty Hole Cave. There is more to that cave. He went to Worthless Cave. He also went to the Rhyolite Caves and found another one that needs exploring.

Rudi and Kevin have been to Pluto's cave three times in the last month. They did the crawl as far as you can go and still want to try and push it more. They have been to the Marbles two times. Once from the Red Rock side. They have found one cave with a drop into what looks like another room. They found another cave with an opening that blows very cold air and looks like a dig. Another small tight cave that they did not pursue. They also went to Marble Gap Cave and checked out the Karst. They found a vertical entrance area that is full of trash and in need of a clean out. They also had some bear experiences.

Ed & Virginia B. went to Rome, OR. and with Ken Siegrist helped photograph and measure some caves for gating. They saw 15-20 ft. lavacicles in the caves.

Chris K and Jed M. went to Del Loma a couple of times and looked for Manzanita Ridge Cave, but didn't find it. They have also been to Samwel Cave.

Liz & Jim W. did not take caving gear to the NSS Convention in Vermont, but did go to Mammoth Cave. Mammoth is 392 miles long. There is only a 300 ft. separation between it and the Flint Ridge Cave System at this time. They went on 2 tours: one 4 1/2 hours for 4 miles at the Carmichael entrance and the shorter historical tour. The historical tour had lots of historical graffiti from the early 1800's found mostly on the ceilings. They went to Pictograph Cave in Montana that consists of three large shelter caves. They also stopped at Lehman Caves in Nevada which now has two tours.

Dave S. went to Pinnacles National Monument which has talus caves. He also went to 18 sea caves in the Santa Cruz Islands while sea kayaking.

Arley K and Bighorn B. went into the No Rope entrance of Big Foot while in the Marbles in July.

Melanie J., Steve H. Wayne C. along with Daniel V. and Betty F. took a trip into Bigfoot in the Marbles in July. They went in at the Discovery Entrance.

**Next Meetings:**

Sept. 24 at Vern and Linda's in Big Bar. Last meeting before the Regional. Will be caving that you won't want to miss.

Oct.22 at the Wolffs in McCloud.

Nov-Dec TBA different because of the holidays, possibly early December

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Jackson



**Larry McTigue at Eon Cave entrance on 7-14-10**

## LIMESTONE SCOUTING REPORT By Mark Fritzke

June 19-21, 2009. Tom Kline planned this trip and arrived on Wednesday. We planned to meet at a trail junction on Friday, but I was later than expected and met him on the trail as he was hiking out due to intestinal problems. Too bad. I could have used a rope and survey gear. I searched the south end of the marble and found six caves. The last cave was previously known by USFS crews working on the 1987 fires, with a walk-in entrance vaguely visible from miles away. The cave was pristine, with minor popcorn and moonmilk, although it terminates after 60 feet. I found a pit but declined to solo the mud-slimed pit without a rope and survey. All of the caves looked short, but interesting. I was extremely lucky to have cloudy and foggy weather rather than blazing sun while scrambling brushy talus and scouring cliffs and karst. I hope to return with GPS and survey gear.

**MF**

## July Speleocamp By B. Broeckel

July 3-5, 2009. I hiked up by moonlight and mosquitoes, without bug dope. At the regular camping spot, I scared some non-cavers out of their sleeping bags at midnight. I ended up down by the cabin, and slept OK. I was the only caver on 4th of July eve. Somebody left me a beer, thanks. I stuck my head in White Squirrel Cave during the night. This cave was opened by KMCTF cavers some years ago. I've never seen a finished map. There is cold air right away. The way down is blocked by an elongated, unfortunately positioned rock. A view through a narrow crack gives an encouraging peek into the deeper part of the cave. If a person could wiggle around the rock, then they could slide down an unstable-looking dirt chute that dumps into the top of a more ordinary marble dome-pit. This looks climbable and the landing looks friendly, a sandy floor and a short bit of walking passage, and possibly a continuing crawlway. So there you have yet another of the many small caves of these mountains. I didn't name it, and when I mention it, most other cavers have not heard of it. One of these days I'll map it when I don't have anything else to do up there and maybe I'll have somebody to help.

White Squirrel

In the morning the valley was lush and beautiful as always in midsummer. It dawns on me this morning that I am the lone caver. I apologized to the non-cavers for the previous night's rude intrusion, and then checked the lower camp for cavers. I met Ed Wilson and his son Stewart, who is a geology student at Humboldt. Ed is a former Kings Canyon Ranger and has been in Lilburn. They were not interested in caving now, however, so I set out for a solo day. First I ridgewalked up to Eon Cave, which Larry McTigue had shown me last year. This cave interested me because it was said to be relatively easy and horizontal. I did a GPS and an entrance photo. The small entrance chamber has crawlways taking off in opposite directions. I just stuck my head in for a second, and felt cool cave air washing through.

Eon

I made a lunch stop in a shady clump of trees. There was a small pit cave in the bushes right next to my "outdoor cafe". This time I tentatively went in, and

continued

black-bottomed down a dirt slope maybe 20 ft or so to a rockier part of the cave. There was a decorated area in a dome to the left. There was a narrow crack and a deeper pit could be seen on the other side of a constriction. This cave could also be mapped or pushed someday. Someone had previously marked it with old ribbons.

After lunch, I wandered up higher, eventually ditched my RW pack, and lightfooted it up to the top of the nearest mountain. There was a nice breeze and I rested in the shade of some five-needled Foxtail Pines. Some fire smoke was blowing in from the west, and it was getting quite warm. For caves, I just located some pits and did some notes and GPS readings. There were lots of pits, some known, some unknown, and hard to tell the difference. That is a problem KMCTF has been grappling with. I looked at about ten pits. I ended up over by Snowcone Pit and was getting overheated. So I went into the upper levels and surveyed between two of the three entrances, with nothing better to do. It was cool and shady, and after a couple hours dinking around and mapping about 100 feet, I wasn't overheated any more. The big pit at the far end of the cave, and under the third entrance, was almost entirely plugged up with a giant iceberg or snow cone. Maybe that has something to do with the name of the cave.

Snowcone

When I got back to camp, the non-cavers were gone, and the regular cavers had arrived. The Sundquist family, the Marks (Harder and Fritzke), Marsha Davenport, Louise Hooven, Larry McTigue, Tom Kline, David Weaver, Joke from Belgium, and maybe some others all helped liven up the caver campfire. The last three were plotting a long distance cave scouting trip into the deep heart of the wilderness. Alas, the next day I had to hike out early so my cover could go to an important little league game. I hiked out with the Wilsons, noted forest fire smoke in the air, passed a Sierra Club group, and saw a junior bear moving upslope. The trip was kind of a wash for me, and then it turned out to be my only KMCTF trip of the year.

**BB**

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> KMCTF Report**      By Tom Kline

July 10, 2009. I just got back tonight from the July Fourth weekend. We (Dave Weaver, Joke, and me) went to Apogee Cave on Wednesday, with Mark, Louise, and Larry leaving Wednesday morning, so we were a little nervous about back up "in case", but we had no problem.

**TK**

Apogee

### **KMCTF Trip Report**      By Mark Fritzke

Aug 14-16, 2009. On Friday and Saturday, Matt Titre and I worked on leads in Sky High Falls and Chicken Little Caves. Near the bottom of Sky High Falls, we looked for a sump bypass but abandoned a dig in a tight wet crawl when it appeared to lead upstream.

Sky High

continued

We used the convenient new entrance to Chicken Little, and carefully crawled under the tri-angular "Guillotine Blade" which supports several blocks and a mud/cobble matrix. Beyond, we strenuously bridged over a pool in a low crawl to stay dry, but both of us had wet chests and legs by the end. The low crawl emerges into a spacious chamber over a pit. In 2002-2003, I noticed a fist-size chockstone supporting a one-ton block over the crawl exit. Now the block has collapsed and teeters at a balance point, threatening to crush the next unwary caver. I removed boulders and tried to flop it to a more stable position, but to avoid entrapment I'll have to bring a pry bar on the next trip.

Chicken Little

At the bottom of the exposed 65-foot climb down the pit, Matt stuffed into a bedrock crawl with a trickling stream, before we headed for the bottom. A cobble-lined crawl leads to a mud funnel, then doubles back underneath delicately wedged slabs. In 2003, I solo-surveyed the last 20 feet, and pushed a tight vertical crevasse until I was wedged in a nightmarish combo of falling cobbles and mud. Five winters of falling water has eroded this goo until now I can see a pool 15-feet down the 6" crack.

On Sunday, we intended to search briefly for another water resurgence above Sky High Falls, so we brought only one tiny AAA head lamp. Dressed in T-shirts and shorts, we were perfectly poised for finding a new cave. We scrambled up a steep schist and quartzite-lined ravine, exploring every tiny divot, overhang and shadow under giant boulders, but saw nothing worth a serious probe. I noticed a band of marble high above the east bank, and climbed out of the ravine to a saddle. Beyond was a large open meadow, and I headed for the rim where the valley drops in to the creek. Matt asked if I was going to check out a dry creek bed, but I said "No, first I want to see the far corner of the valley because I've never been there, then I'll go up the creek and find a new cave." As the meadow transitioned into open forest and steep slopes, I doubled back and scoured the drainage. Ahead I heard a small trickle and wondered if it merely sank into the creek bed. Arriving at a small overhang in schist, I peered into the shadows and spied a chamber. As Matt arrived I casually said "There's the cave" to conceal my excitement. We moved a few slabs to reveal a 6-foot wide by 2-foot high opening, and Matt scrambled down a short slope into a 6x6 passage, where his tiny headlamp revealed it continued. Together we used our one feeble light to probe and stumble through 90-feet of mostly walking passage, giddy and laughing at our extreme good luck! Alas, we didn't have time to retrieve cave and survey gear, so we left with vivid visions of the limitless virgin booty that may lurk beyond. **MF**

How High

### **Labor Day Speleocamp Report**

By Mark Fritzke

Sept. 4-7,2009. Rich Sundquist, Jim Hildebrand, Marsha Davenport, and I ventured to the Klamath Mountains last weekend after the forest fire abated

continued

and the road/trail closures were lifted, and despite drizzling rain on Saturday with unusually cold weather and gusty, invigorating winds. On the hike in Friday evening we smelled smoke, but apparently the fire was entirely extinguished by Monday. On Saturday, we scouted for caves near the ¼ mile Yellowjacket Sink. In 1985, I probed a drain at the bottom of the sink blowing cold air, and was so alarmed by the precarious state of imminent collapse that I didn't return for 24 years. In a cramped pocket under the entrance, cavers confront a tight squeeze guarded by a crumbling pillar supporting a 500-lb slab. In the early 80's, Bob Richardson and Dan Clardy hauled up a bag of cement to stabilize the slab but never completed the project, and everyone who has looked at it since has wisely backed away.

Yellowjacket

This time I again rationalized away the risk and wedged a block under the slab. Then I squeezed past loose blocks into a horror chamber where every crumbling block shifts and a one-ton block tilts ominously over a rubble funnel clogging a short pit. Scared yet? – me too!

Meanwhile Rich and Jim searched the perimeter of the sink for other entrances. Jim found a new cave entrance on a marble bluff face on the northeast rim of the sink, obscure enough to be overlooked by a generation of cavers, and we opted to return the next day to survey. As we hung out in the trees waiting for the drizzle to stop, Rich found a large bear skull, adding to the abundance of bear trails and scat in this area. We climbed over the ridge to visit "Soft Water Spring" on a rim above a valley, but saw no marble there. We angled down fog-shrouded slopes to visit the Atlantis resurgence, and estimated the flow at one gallon/second.

Moth

On Sunday we surface traversed between the sink and Jim's new cave. None of us had a GPS unit, so we did it the old fashioned way. I nearly stepped on a great-horned owl, probably injured, since it didn't flyaway but huddled near the ground all puffed up with spread wings and hissing at me. Jim's cave dropped a tight slot to a terminus blocked by thin slabs after only 30 feet, and we named it Moth Cave. Rich followed the band of marble west and discovered another new cave with a classic "shelter" entrance 10-feet wide by 2-feet tall. We surface traversed to this and surveyed the sloping crawl to a terminus after 40 feet and named it Yellowbelly Cave. We finished the surface traverse to tie into the trail junction at the pass, where we had a fine view of the sunset and fire torched slopes above Drystream Cave.

Yellowbelly

On Monday we met fire crews on the last two miles near the trailhead, hauling out hoses and pumps from the fire. Apparently they used the main karst spring to fight the fire. After 35 years of KMCTF caving, I am always amazed to discover open entrances to new caves in previously overlooked parts of the valley. There is still a lot of booty. Keep looking.

**MF**



### **Captain Speleo Comments**      By Steve Knutson

Sept. 12, 2009. Good work folks. Yes there are still holes unknown. When I did GPS on the upper karst, there were holes in locations where I know there were none in the early days. Like between the north edge of the marble and Little Neffs Cave. So I surmise the hole I see now had to be filled with snow and ice until recent years. The plus/minus 15-20 ft accuracy that we are getting with hiker GPS units is proving to be of insufficient accuracy to be the perfect solution to hole location in the complex upper karst. So we are thinking of getting one of the one meter units, and going to work with that, next season. **SK**

### **KMCTF Trip Report**      By Mark Fritzke

Sep 26 to Oct 2, 2009. I met Claude Koch at the trailhead for his first trip to the Klamath Mountains, and we hiked in to my campsite along the dry stream bed near Sisyphus. In late August, the big fire toasted the forest on the east side of the streambed and the effects were amazing to explore. All the ground vegetation was reduced to a layer of dusty grey ash and root holes in the ground, but many trees survived. Smoked marble spalled off flakes and some rocks I kicked crumbled into coarse white sugar sand. Firefighters chainsaw-felled and extinguished dozens of burning snags into the streambed, so I rolled some rounds into camp for cooking tables. An intense holocaust incinerated everything at Chicken Little Cave, cracked boulders in the streambed and stuffed a burning log into the cave entrance. Here the fire jumped the creek bed but firefighters stopped it 150-ft to the west, only 80-ft below my favorite 6-foot diameter Douglas Fir. Firefighters enlarged and entered the new entrance in the streambed I found in August, but I covered it with rock slabs to keep it from swallowing too much wood and cobbles during the annual snow-melt, which would clog the cave. The fire burned brush and revealed another new entrance pit to the cave, but it is still too tight and precarious to enter.

Chicken Little

At Sky High Falls Cave (reopened in August by Frank DeBaugh and I after 20+ years of debris burial beside the waterfall plunge pool), Claude and I investigated 8 leads. Just below the entrance chute we pushed a pair of tight leads. To the left, I squeezed 20-feet up a passage that appears to drain from the surface. To the right, I pushed a body-tight squeeze that merges with a parallel tube and turns sharply right into an insurgence stream. I dug and slogged up a 2 by 1-foot tube for 9-feet to a plunge pool, bridged the pool, and continued 20-feet up a schist-contact crawl to emerge into a 20-foot diameter waterfall chamber of white marble. After a survey and careful flow observations I concluded the water is not connected to the surface stream at the entrance, so it will be interesting to climb the chamber and explore further.

Sky High

Down-cave, the insurgence flows from under a wall and plunges down two waterfalls. The first is an easy 8-foot climb-down, but the second is a toilet-bowl

continued

shaped 12-foot falls, where I spanned over the pit to traverse to the backside and a climb-down. Claude didn't like the look of this, but I wanted to explore a side passage between the two pits. This leads to a complex area with three small holes; going up, back-left and down-left into a tight canyon. The end of the side passage is a small alcove shelf with a hole leading up to a wide slab crawl. Apparently, the cave's airflow slips into a pancake at the top of the slab, too flat for all except skinny children (Hey Sundquists, any volunteers?). We dug the back-left lead and emerged into a tall crack lead below the pit, bypassing the scary climb. I plunged head-first into the tight canyon to hammer-dig a constriction leading downward, and dumpster-dove to a hand stand in a tiny space with a small waterfall and a bedrock pillar splitting the passage into sub-human tubes. Claude crawled down the new pit bypass to the bottom of the cave and shined his light up to the other end of the tube and we made a light connection. Finally, at the sump terminus of the cave I probed a long stick underwater, where the 5-foot wide tube continued a steep plunge beyond reach.

On Tuesday morning, we awoke to light snow showers that dampened our spirits, and Claude left on Wednesday, thankful for the KMCTF intro. The remainder of my time I searched for new entrances and pushed leads in Creature Feature and Ur-In-Heaven Caves, as they are familiar and relatively safe, with no unstable rock zones that could entrap me. I hope to return for Columbus Day weekend, as I still have many leads to push!

Creature Feature  
Ur-In-Heaven

**MF**

### **Columbus Day Speleocamp Trip Reports**

By Mark Fritzke, Steve Knutson, and Mark Harder

Saturday, Oct 10, 2009. Worked on a new entrance in the fire zone I'm calling "Burnt Dug" near Sisyphus. I dug for 8 hours until this sink opened and dropped 13 feet down through a very tight squeeze into a clogged canyon. I am hoping it is a backdoor to Drystream.

Burnt Dug

Sunday, Oct 11, 2009. Surface traversed from Sky High Falls Cave to "How High (is Sky High) Cave", the entrance discovered by Matt Titre and I in August. In two weeks I'm returning to work on extending/surveying both of these caves.

How High

**MF**

Oct 10-11, 2009. Same weekend, Tom Kline, Steve Knutson, Louisa Hooven and Mark Harder were in the regular campsite. Louisa was working on her bio survey. Tom and I went around the upper karst trying to verify the results of his GPS interpolation program. Holes were where they should be. A forest fire started up on Sunday, from over in the next watershed to the south. Smoke got fairly obvious in the valley. The weather was good.

**SK**

continued

Oct 10-11, 2009. And Mark Harder confirmed the locations of two entrances (Roto-Rooter and another cave) as predicted by Tom's GIS analysis. Coordinates of October Pit were also determined (by Mark Harder). **MH**

Roto-Rooter  
October Pit

**KMCTF Trip Report** By Mark Fritzke

Oct 24-25, 2009. I made progress on the entrance dig near Sisyphus, now down 20 feet, digging loose dirt between large, stable breakdown blocks. Weather was clear, calm and relatively warm. **MF**

Burnt Dug

**KMCTF Trip Report** By Mark Fritzke

Nov 11-15, 2009. Luke Walker and I made a late attempt to open an upper entrance to Drystream Cave. After driving through mixed rain and fog, we arrived at the trailhead to find no snow and star-filled skies. We decided to hike in at night, and arrived at Drystream Camp near midnight with our headlamps lighting a fresh dusting of snow. We kicked the white powder off the piles of branches and logs we collected to keep the fire blazing for 4 days.

I discovered this new dig on Oct 2 while searching for a place to stash a food canister. 100-ft from camp I dug a hole in a small sink, and was surprised to hear pebbles rolling down holes in the floor. Now I have devoted three weekends to digging and tracing the paths of rolling pebbles.

Burnt Dug

On Thursday Luke and I dropped 20-feet down squeezes and gaps between giant boulders. I was surprised to see him adapt to the "both-arms-up-squeeze" and the "chest compressor squeeze" without the panic that stops most novice cavers. We traded off digging head first down a crack between two huge boulders until it was a 6-foot deep tapering crevice with an awkward squeeze at the bottom. For two days we stood on our heads, shoulders, and one arm handstands while enlarging a small void past the squeeze. As the outside temperatures plunged for four days, a cold breeze dehydrated the mud into a fine dust that dribbled into our eyes, noses and helmets.

On Saturday we succeeded at foot digging a horizontal space big enough for me to slide feet-first down the crack, stuff my legs into a cramped pocket, cram my right arm down a crack and jam my helmet under a ledge. I could just barely dig and peer past the next few boulders. We ended with a one-eyed view 5-feet down a rift with pebbles rolling out of sight.

On Sunday we surveyed How High Is Sky High Cave, discovered in August, 2009 by Matt Titre and me. The entrance is a quarter-mile southwest of Sky High Falls Cave, in a sub-drainage at the far NE corner of the upper valley. The cave trends east through two bends and ends at a 6" wide crevice dropping out of sight.

How High

continued

Only a week after this trip, Jon Jones stuffed himself into a horribly tight vertical crevice in Nutty Putty Cave (Utah) and died despite a 20-hr effort to free him. It appears he impulsively decided to push forward to find a place to turn around instead of backing up. I have faced this quandary a few times, and had solo dug this sink for two weekends while my friend Marsha was in camp. At one point she peered down the hole and asked "Are you stuck?" and for several minutes I refused to answer while I jammed my shoulders past the first squeeze. For this late season dig I brought a companion who could assist if I became stuck. Sometimes it took me five minutes of upside down struggle with desperate heel and toe hooking to overcome friction and gravity and execute a handstand past the third squeeze, but I never felt stuck. I have been extremely lucky to push the limits of KMCTF caves for 34-years, but I trust myself to push my limits without exceeding them. Let us all use the fatality at Nutty Putty to remind ourselves to be responsible and heed the consequences of failure to honestly assess our capabilities. This was my 9th KMCTF trip this year. I want to thank everyone who helped me this year, as I am now on the verge of a breakout discovery I have been working on since 1976. **MF**

Burnt Dug

**Captain's Comments** By Steve Knutson

Great work, Mark. Over the years I have watched you go from what I considered foolish to someone I now trust to not get in trouble. As I like to say, push cavers have to have some luck, but I think we develop the ability to spot the imminent, real danger.

In worrying about the overall project of developing our knowledge of these caves, I realized that the lack of any management restrictions at least gave us a free hand. In broad terms, if we wanted to do it, we did it. I have the notion that as long as there is no trouble – no cave vandalism or cave fatalities or protracted, high profile rescue, we will get no management effort from the Forest Service.

Everyone keep this in mind. I doubt there is any cave project this large, in the whole country, in terms of cave miles mapped, with NO RESTRICTIONS. An interesting phenomena, actually. But come the first fatality, and it might change. With that in mind, I suggest that we not be closed to inquiries, when they come, and try to steer folks to something relatively easy. Horizontal – Skunk Hollow, Upstairs/Downstairs. Vertical – Wahahshun. **SK**

**END OF FIELD SEASON – 2009****KLAMATH MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION TASK FORCE (KMCTF)**



## Eon Cave Revisited By Bill Broeckel

*"Let not ... the pit close its mouth over me." Psalm 69:5*

Original survey work was done in Eon Cave by Bill Kenney, Roger Jones, and Tim Studebaker. Tim is a nephew to Roger Jones. The date was July 1, 1995. The team was very close to finishing the survey when a rock shifted and trapped Bill Kenney by pinning his lower leg to the wall. An hour or two later, a bold rescuer was able to free the leg using a rock hammer on the wall, and a Floyd Collins scenario was thus avoided. Kenney was able to crawl out to the entrance where he was then hauled back to camp. He was airlifted to the hospital the next morning, and later recovered well. Notably, Kenney actually wanted to finish the survey as he was being rescued. I don't recall a published map of Eon Cave.

Time passed, and the cave was kind of avoided for awhile. Sometimes it was remembered as "that cave where the guy scrunched his leg." Louise Hooven rediscovered it on Aug. 30, 2008, and showed it to her fellow ridgewalkers. The entrance at the base of a small cliff measured 4ft wide and 2ft high. This ducked into a small domed entrance chamber with crawlways taking off both left and right. The left passage goes under more domes which connect to a sinkhole up on the surface. The discovery entrance, however, is much more practical and fortuitous. The cave contains a few short climbs and passage segments. While they were checking around, Louise was having a little trouble with a 6ft climb up, and was wishing she was a bit taller, maybe with stiletto heels. So the cave was temporarily named Stiletto until the first name was reapplied when Roger Jones saw the Aug. 31, 2008 survey and recognized it as Eon Cave.

Larry McTigue and I did some familiarization trips to this cave in 2008, 09, and 10. We were able to chimney climb the 9ft drop, even without high heels. We collected some possibly cave-adapted invertebrates as we had an enthusiastic speleobiologist in camp, and the cave seemed enjoyable and friendly. It might have seemed different if we had known it was the notorious Eon Cave. History can have effects on perceptions. Eon Cave is 306 feet long and 55 feet deep. Thanks to Louise Hooven for bringing this cave back to light. **BB**



Interior of Eon Cave



Eon Cave entrance 7-4-09 (early onset summer with very few snow banks)



Eon Cave entrance 7-16-10 (late onset summer with heavy lingering snow)



← lingering snowpack

Weird solution face on cliff near Eon Cave 7-4-10

**SAG RAG**  
 2916 Deer Mdws. Rd.  
 Yreka CA 90967

**STAMP**

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