



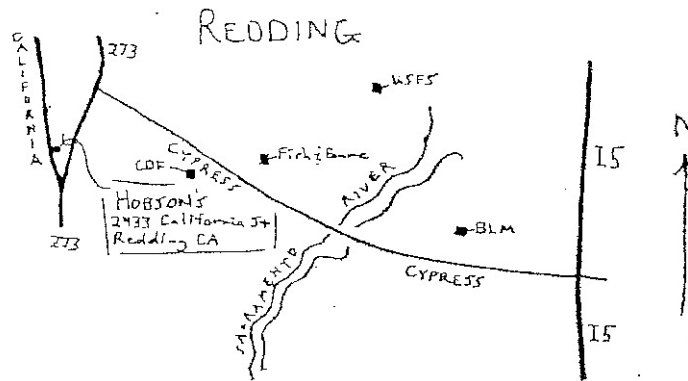
Marble Mountain Quarry Cave – pillar near second boardwalk.

**SPECIAL FEATURE ISSUE – BACK TO MMQC**

The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on 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 <caverbill@live.com>. For more on SAG, check the web site at <<http://www.caves.org/grotto/sag>>.

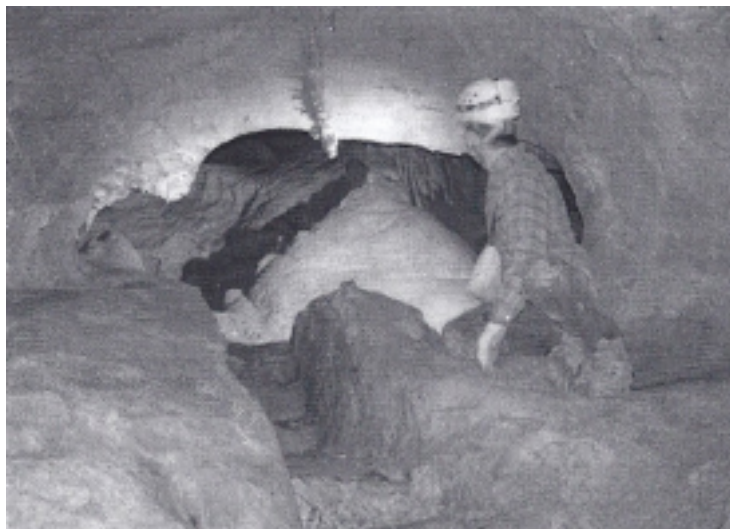
## CAVERS CALENDAR 2010

Dec 10 SAG meets at Hobsons 7:30 pm Redding 530 242-8707  
 July 18-22, 2011 2011 NSS Convention in Glenwood Springs, Colorado



## SAG RAG SUMMARY

It has been mentioned that there is some good grotto newsletter material ready to be distributed. But first here is a special feature stemming from a trip last July 31st. It is only right that this should take over this SAG RAG, because the issue is dated Jul-Aug 2010. There are folks who are actually hoping to see this cave map revision finished, so I hope the rest of the loyal readers can bear with it. In all of the great State of Jefferson, this is one of the larger and more important caves. It deserves some credit, in spite of a few problems and damages suffered. To that end, some written material and photos are added to the map revision to form a whole special edition focused on just this one cave. Next issue we'll get back to a more normal newsletter pattern with items from diverse sources. Cave Ho Ho Ho! **BB**



WCC photo of Marble Mountain Quarry Cave from real estate flyer.

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO  
MEETING MINUTES  
10/22/10**

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 pm. at the Wolff's home in McCloud, CA.

**Present were:** Dave Smith, Bill & Cheryl Kinney, Arley & Brianna Kisling, Bill Broeckel, Jim & Liz Wolff, and Melanie Jackson.

**Treasurer's Report: 2010 Western Region Expenses**

\$200.00	deposit for T-Shirts – cash reimbursement Dave Smith
\$463.36	check – Alfa Graphics for T-Shirts
\$360.00	check – NPS reserve campground
\$42.33	check – C&A Rubber Stamps – 2 rubber stamps SAG Logo
\$1560.00	check – WCC dinner
	First time ever; they are still waiting for 2 prev. dinner earnings
\$19.47	check – Costco, muffins
\$250.00	breakfast supplies and food – cash reimbursement to Ed & Virginia Bobrow
\$50.00	Guide Book Supplies – cash reimbursement to Bill Broeckel
\$100.00	Badge Supplies – cash reimbursement to Vern & Linda Clift

---

\$3045.16	Total expenditures in cash and checks (Priceless) value of the help and donations from SAG members
-----------	---

\* \* \* \* \*

\$481.22	SAG Checking Balance prior to the Western Regional
\$4033.16	Bank Statement after last deposit
	several checks still out, couldn't verify which ones to complete figures as Chase site being down. Expenditures are exact, SAG checking balance is probably higher
\$1650.00	approximate checking balance
	SAG Treasurer Steve Hobson

**Correspondence:** SAG received its copy of the Lava Beds National Monument Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. If you plan to respond you have until Nov. 30, 2010. See New Business for where and how to respond. If you wish to borrow the plan (it is in book form) contact Liz Wolff, the current keeper of the plan.

**WEB:** Dave Smith is the current webmaster, Prior to [correction: *After* – Web Editor] the WR he completed a flawless upgrade of the site and it appears to be working normally. The email version of the SAG RAG is up on our website.

**SAG RAG:** The next issue is being put together after this meeting. It will include an article by Chris Kennedy about Trinities Caving and an article by his daughter, Savannah who completed The Twelve Labors of the Loop during the WR.

**Western Regional Review:** 90 people registered and there were only 3 no shows giving us a total of 87 cavers in attendance. Everyone seems to have had a good time and feedback on the caving trips, dinner and breakfast were also good.

continued

**Old Business:** WNS: Liz 'Wolff provided the FS with published materials and a website address for more information on WNS. The FS only has federal research information which is severely lacking in actual knowledge. Liz sent information to the FS Supervisors Office for Shasta, Klamath, and Modoc Counties and will do the same for Lassen County. Cave closures on federally owned lands are very probable.

Melanie Jackson still needs to get information and make reservations for packing into and out of the Marbles for Speleocamp on Labor Day Weekend in Sept. 2011. If the caves should happen to be closed there is still plenty of surface polar surveying of cave entrances to be accomplished.

Donations to the Western Region: Will SAG make a donation to the WR from some of the approx, \$1200 + profits as is customary? This action is to be tabled until the December meeting.

**New Business:** Lava Beds National Monument General Draft Plan and Environmental Assessment. Liz gave out a handout from the plan at the meeting. It covered the following areas: Natural, Cultural, Visitors, Facilities, Cave Resources, Geologic, Threatened & Endangered Species, and Cultural/Historic for three different plans:

Plan A – no action, no further monetary outlay, things stay as they are now.

Plan B – the parks preferred option - additions to the lab portion of the research center, additional additions (classrooms) to the visitor center and other facilities etc.

Plan C – the most expensive option.

If you plan to respond or comment on this plan, please do it by Nov. 30, 2010, identifying yourself as a SAG member. Send comments to:

Dave Kruse, Superintendent Lava Bed National Monument Attn: General Management Plan Team  
POB 1240  
Tulelake, CA 96134

(Your personal address/email will be available for public review with your comments, you may request they withhold it at the beginning of your letter or email.)

To email use this address: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/labe>

The question was asked – Where does the money for this project come from? Education and collaboration with other public, private, Federal, City, and State entities.

Melanie asked about SAG members getting a trip to see Windeler Cave and Rippled Cave (Weller Preserve – WCC). There are trips to Windeler each year. The maximum number of people per trip is six counting the Cave Trustee. Dave Bunnell and Dale Hartwig are the trustees. Other grottos have arranged trips this year and MLG is taking one this weekend. Wayne Cedidla is going with MLG this weekend. He said he would talk with Marianne Russo and gather information on how to go about this process.

**Trip Reports:** Neil Marchington wants to get GPS coordinates for all the limestone caves in Josephine County, OR. Bill Kinney, Ernie Coffman and Neil M. put in a long wet day on a Thursday in late September. They left Grants Pass in the morning and went to Marble Mountain Quarry Cave, No Names Cave, and Lake Cave and Lime Rock Cave.

There have been numerous breaches of the gates at No Names and Lake Caves. On Friday Bill and Neil were unable to find Chapman Creek Cave (also known as Manzanita). They did find South Fork Crooks Cave (and a rattlesnake), and Dung Hole Cave. They already had coordinates for Windy Cave and Not So Windy Cave.

Bill Broeckel noted that there were 30 cavers at the Labor Day Speleocamp. Bill was unable to locate the cave he came looking for, but did dig down 100 feet into Hanging Ledges Cave. He also rediscovered a cave that he called Skunks Tail Cave that is below Skunk Hollow and below the trail crossing. It is small and goes into the cliff face. He went in about 60 feet before being stopped by a large spider on the ceiling. He saw that the cave went on a little further, but crawling through poop and dealing with large spiders was enough.

At the WR Jim and Liz Wolff along with Dave Bunnell and Rick Gates went to Deep Ice (water to the ceiling, did not enter), Pallet Cave, Amazing Pits Cave, and Jot Dean (ice is actually growing in there).



Random cave photo from a cave in Josephine County.

**Next Meetings:**

December 10th at Steve's in Redding. Pre Christmas celebration and SAG Nominations [Meeting location was changed to Wolffs, as Steve's mother was in the hospital – Web Editor.]

December 11th also at Steve's. Vertical Rope Refresher Course, bring your vertical gear. [Postponed – Web Editor.]

January 28th, 2011 at Melanie's in Yreka. Try to find the back entrance to Pluto's Cave.

February 25-26 at Arley Kisling's in Shastina. Conservation Weekend – Pluto's Cave Clean up.

March 25 tentatively Steve's [or Dave's – Web Editor] Dye Creek area out of Los Molinos.

April 22 at Wolff's in McCloud.

May 20-21-22 Lava Beds Cave Rescue Training for the Park personnel.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melanie Jackson, Secretary

**MJ**

**MARBLE MOUNTAIN QUARRY CAVE (MMQC) SURVEY** By B. Broeckel

Herein lies a revised version of the map that appeared in the Sep-Oct 1995 SAG RAG. This revision shows additional passages surveyed on 11-2-96 and 7-31-10, tacking on 457 feet to the total length of the cave. To date, the total surveyed length of MMOC is 1820 feet.

Thanks to a bold free climb up a dome, done by Neil Marchington, a new high point to the cave was reached. This added 24 feet of elevation inside the cave and thus increased the total surveyed depth to 72 feet.

If the older map (1995) is compared to the 2010 version, some differences will be apparent. For one thing, the scaffolding in Dragon Lair is no longer shown. The scaffolding was broken down and physically removed from the cave in the mid-1990s when Bill Fitzpatrick was leading some major clean-up efforts. To replace the previous function of the large structure, three small wooden steps were installed to facilitate travel along the old tour route. This scaled down improvement was generally accepted as beneficial, and the three steps are shown on the new map.

The three additional passages mapped in 1996 were as follows: the way beyond Mirrim Pool (60 ft), the high route above the handline (63 ft), and the crawlway to the north and west of Masterharper Dome (88 ft). Note that the water level in Mirrim Pool is seasonally variable. Three more passages were surveyed in 2010: high looping leads, domes, and dead ends west of the second boardwalk (130 ft), the southern balcony ledges of Dragon Lair, including a pit going down to the top of the ladder (77 ft), and the crawlway approaching the Big Room from the west (39 ft). Put together the 1996 total (211 ft) and the yield from 2010 (246 ft), and you have the 457 feet that help fill out the new map.

It was Fitzpatrick that brought us back to do the additional survey in 1996. He was not satisfied with the extent of the 1995 map, which was incomplete and seemed to short-change the cave at only 1363 feet. A young high school senior project student (Jacob Wilson) was with us that day. His project was to map a cave, and he was getting some on-the-job field training. We came away from our MMQC day with data, but I never did get around to making a new map. That was probably a bad example for my student. The 211 feet did count for something, however, because we started telling people that the cave was 1574 feet long.

Fitzpatrick moved to Colorado, the MMQC property eventually changed ownership, and very soon another decade had gone by. Unfortunately, vandalism returned at some point with further damage. The cave was broken into and generally trashed all over again. Notable untoward events in modern times included the removal of the ornate "footstool" stal from the Masterharper Dome, and the "butterfly wings" from off the ceiling in the Big Room.

Now the cave property has been listed for sale, and the Western Cave Conservancy (WCC) has taken a lead in bringing cavers back into MMQC, within the limitations of the real estate process. Happily, this included a survey day to which I was invited as chief MMQC cartographer, such as I am. This time I showed up by myself, but we were able to assemble a really good cave survey team from cavers already on site. Some of them had their own instruments and others were ready and equipped to push some climbing leads.

continued

I went into the entrance trying to remember things from 14 years ago. The WCC folks had already cleaned out a lot of the more recently accumulated garbage and trash. So by now the cave was looking pretty good. Maybe even some of the soda straws were starting to grow back. First we worked on the passages west of the second boardwalk.



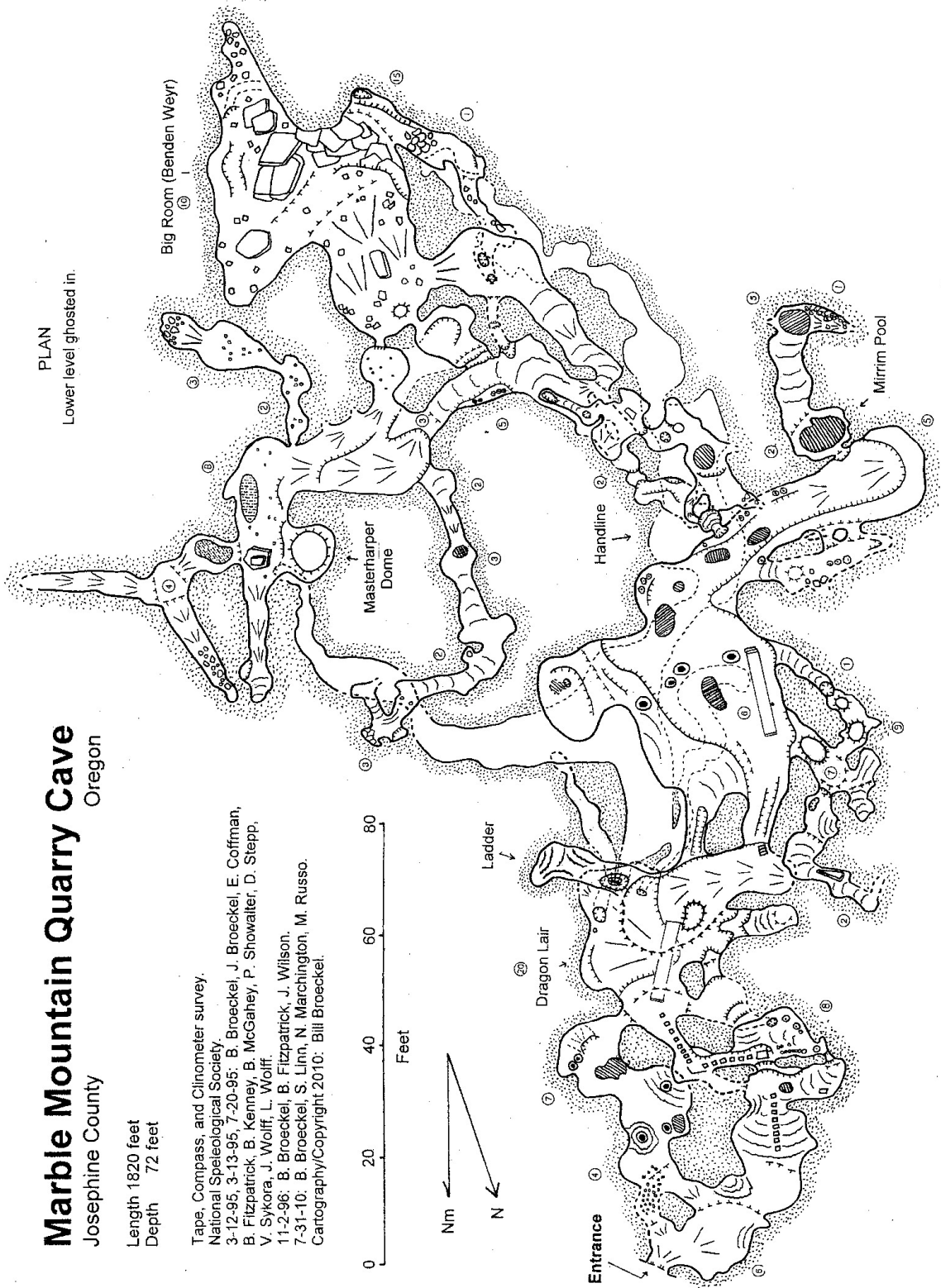
Happy Marianne Russo on the loose in MMQC

These boardwalks probably date back to the original attempt to develop a tourist route through the cave back in the 1930s. I remembered the steeply ascending western leads as the best unsurveyed passages known in MMQC. They really did turn out pretty good, with a completed loop, boardwalk-to-boardwalk, and interesting side passages to boot. Marchington managed to climb a dome. An old piece of polypro rope was hanging down, and was subsequently removed. Neil checked the dome, and we were able to take a disto shot to the ceiling. This whole area added 130 ft, a new highpoint to the cave, and a nice tangle of passages to the map.

Next we went outside for a (MLG) lunch break, and then it was back to Dragon Lair to take on the balconies therein. We ended up reaching the passage off the southeast balcony. Fitzpatrick used to go on and on about the importance of this passage, and how it would add so much to the completeness of the map. Very tantalizing it was, but not so easy to reach. Today was our big chance.

Available were an accomplished rock climber (Marchington) and a skillful vertical person (Scott Linn). Linn rigged a belay, and Marchington did the exposed, slippery traverse up near the ceiling of Dragon Lair. The south-east balcony passage only went about 20 feet, but it was pretty cool and featured a generous cross-section. Best of all, Marchington described a passable pit back in there. The end of the rope was passed down the pit, and both Marchington and Linn dropped it. They ended up at the top of the ladder. The new pit and the pit containing the ladder were both part of the same vertical feature, over 40 feet deep. This combined pit is the deepest pit in the cave. I can't really remember anybody doing a rappel in this cave on previous trips, or even hearing of one.

continued



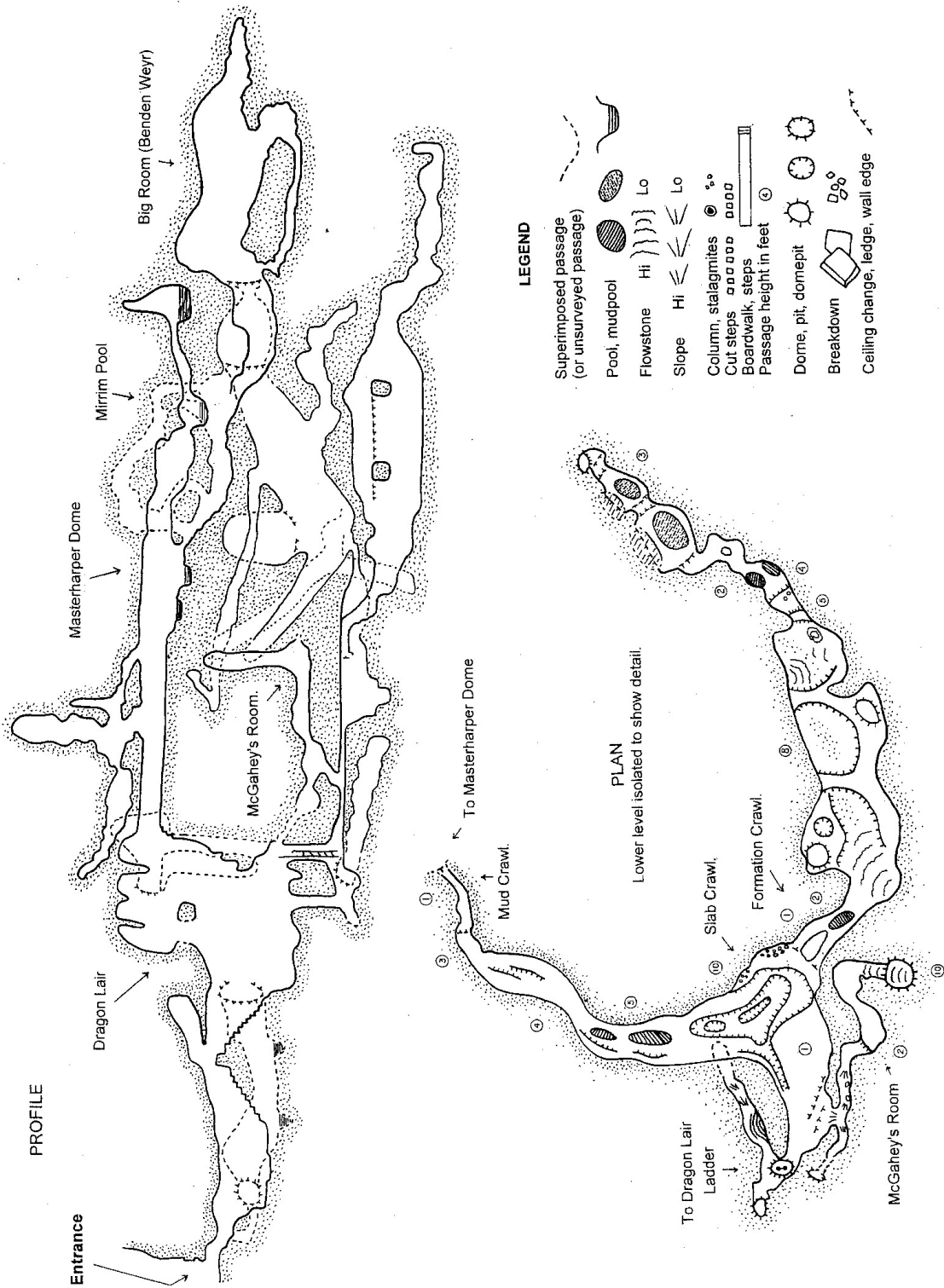
**Marble Mountain Quarry Cave**  
 Oregon  
 Josephine County

Length 1820 feet  
 Depth 72 feet

Tape, Compass, and Clinometer survey.  
 National Speleological Society.  
 3-12-95, 3-13-95, 7-20-95: B. Broeckel, J. Broeckel, E. Coffman,  
 B. Fitzpatrick, B. Kenney, B. McGahey, P. Showalter, D. Stepp,  
 V. Sykora, J. Wolff, L. Wolff.  
 11-2-96: B. Broeckel, B. Fitzpatrick, J. Wilson.  
 7-31-10: B. Broeckel, S. Linn, N. Marchington, M. Russo.  
 Cartography/Copyright 2010: Bill Broeckel.

Map: Marble Mountain Quarry Cave (1)





Map: Marble Mountain Quarry Cave (2)



Scott Linn belays Neil Marchington's traverse in Dragon Lair

Finally, the tired team indulged me and agreed to survey one more little detail. It was a nasty small crawlway over by the Big Room. It had been bugging me for 15 years as something that needed to be done toward making a more complete map of the cave. After we dispatched with that onerous task, we went all the way around the big looping cavers' route through some of the lower level as a fun reward. It was muddy, and that was the spelunking end of our day at Marble Mountain Quarry Cave.

There are still some mapping details that need to be clarified, extended, or otherwise improved upon. There are some short bits of unsurveyed passages here and there. In particular, some of the cavers were pushing leads out beyond Masterharper Dome. The balcony on the north side of Dragon Lair could also be done, but this might get mud on clean flowstone. It also has an unsurveyed pit. Altogether, enough future survey could be done to bring the total cave length just over 2,000 feet, estimated from what we presently know about the cave. Barring a major new breakthrough, however, MMQC will not come anywhere close to approaching the length of Oregon Caves, the longest cave in the state. Oregon Caves is ten times longer than Marble Mountain Quarry Cave. **BB**



Stone crushers along the main road to Marble Mountain Quarry

### **HISTORY NOTES: MARBLE MOUNTAIN QUARRY CAVE** By B. Broeckel

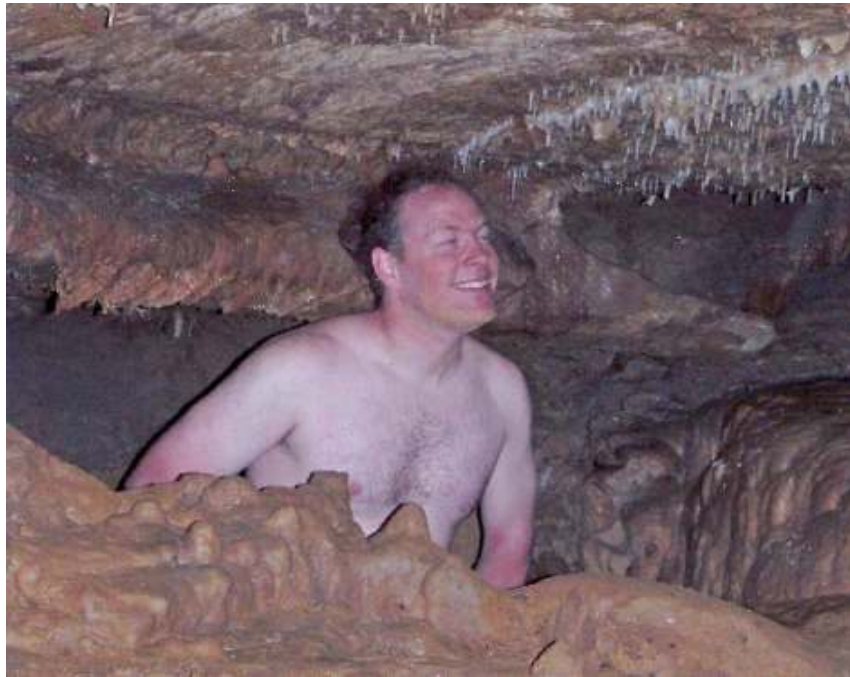
One of the cavers at MMQC last July (Dan Snyder) brought up copies of the local newspaper clippings from when the cave was first discovered. These were really interesting. The first one was dated 3-11-37 and read something like this. "Discovery of a new cave which rivals the Oregon Caves for the limited extent it has been explored has been announced, but officials of the Beaver Portland Cement Company said they had no formal statement to make. The cave is located at the Marble Mountain Quarry south of Grants Pass. Preliminary development work is being done and electric lights installed."

The other news clip was dated 3-12-37, the very next day, and it ran somewhat this way. "Cave discovery reported near cement quarry. Marble Mountain cavern closed to public until development finished. Several small caves whose formations rival in beauty those of the famous Oregon Caves have been found at Marble Mountain 3 miles from Wilderville by crews operating the quarry there." Improvements mentioned were "boardwalks, ladders, and other protective measures", and also "electric lights are being installed." The article went on to say "The quarry provides rock for use in manufacturing cement at the Gold Hill plant. Preservation of the caves may interfere with planned operation at the quarry." Also mentioned were "7 foot long soda straws."

Now skip ahead up to last July, and we have the cave property for sale for \$2,350,000. The 642 acres are listed by United Country Real Estate, 20 acres of quarry and 622 acres of young conifer forest (read that the big more immediately valuable trees have been logged). Also featured is "one of the largest limestone deposits in Oregon" and a "natural limestone cave system over a quarter mile of total lineal feet of cave length based on a 1995 survey – map attached." The listing is still currently posted on the internet for anybody that might be interested.

continued

David Cyphers (real estate agent at 541-821-2494) and the property owners opened the cave late last July, and the Western Cave Conservancy was involved with the activities. July 30, a park service group from Oregon Caves toured the cave, and cavers on site included Dan Snyder, Scott Linn, and Neil Marchington. July 31 was the cave survey day as described in the preceding article. Other cavers were Marianne Russo, Geo Graening, and Ron Davis. Some exploring and pushing was done, and Geo and Cheryl led a bio team looking for troglodytes. A millipede and a dipluran were found and considered cave-adapted. No bats were seen. Jeff and Austin Nelson (father and son), friends of the real estate agent also had a chance to see the cave. **BB**



Ron Davis is determined to not spread White Nose Syndrome in MMQC.  
by Marianne Russo

### SAG RAG

2916 Deer Mdws. Rd.  
Yreka CA 90967

### STAMP

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

### TO:

Page 1	Column in MMQC
Page 2	Calendar, Summary
Page 3	Oct. Minutes – M. Jackson
Page 6	MMQC Survey – B. Broeckel
Page 8	Revised MMQC map – Broeckel
Page 11	MMQC History Notes – Broeckel
Page 12	Photo by Marianne Russo

**SPECIAL ISSUE: MARBLE MOUNTAIN QUARRY CAVE**