

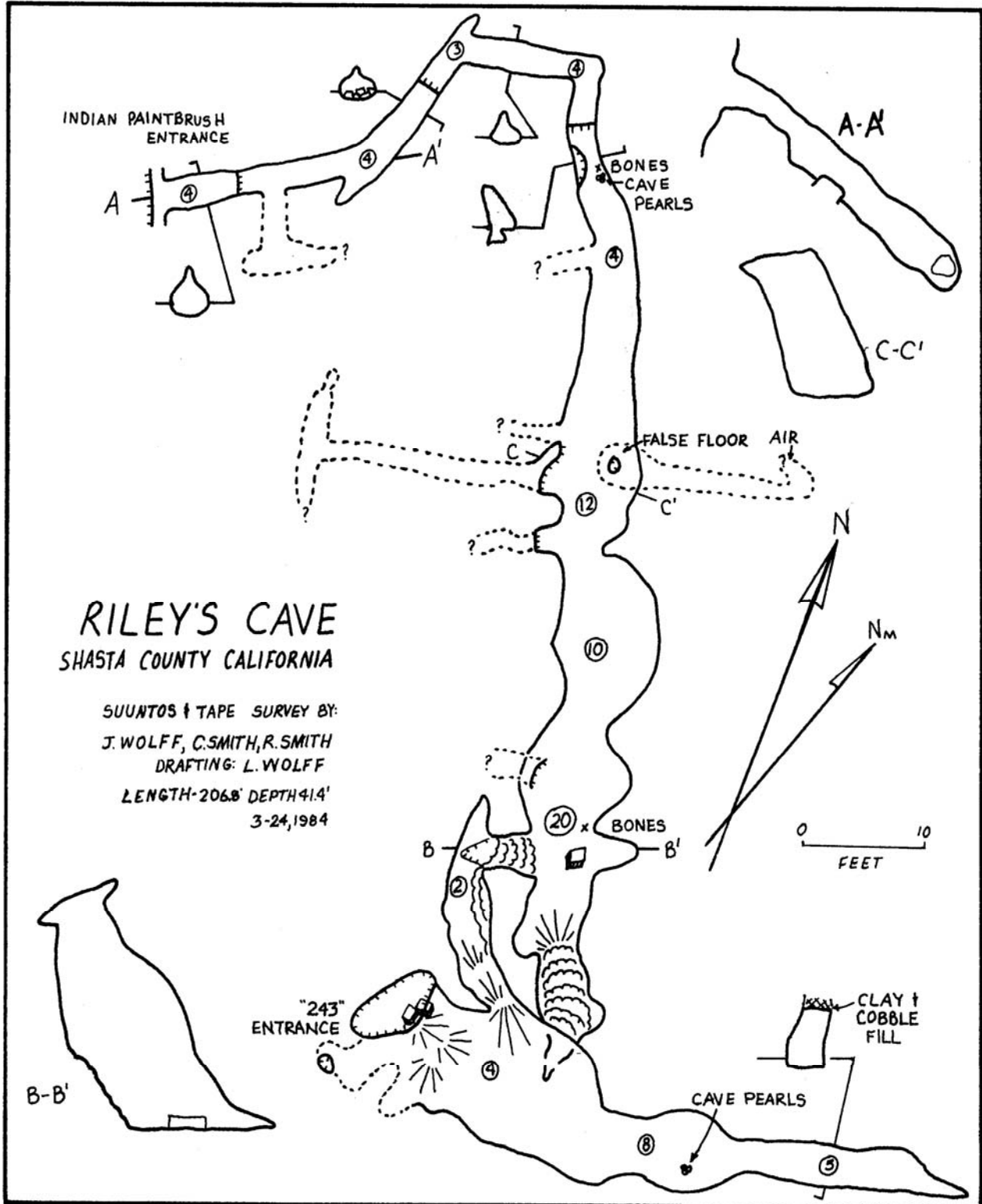


SAG RAG

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Map: Riley's Cave

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Shasta Area Grotto meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Grotto annual dues, subscription included, are \$4.00 per individual or \$6.00 per family. Meeting places are announced in this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

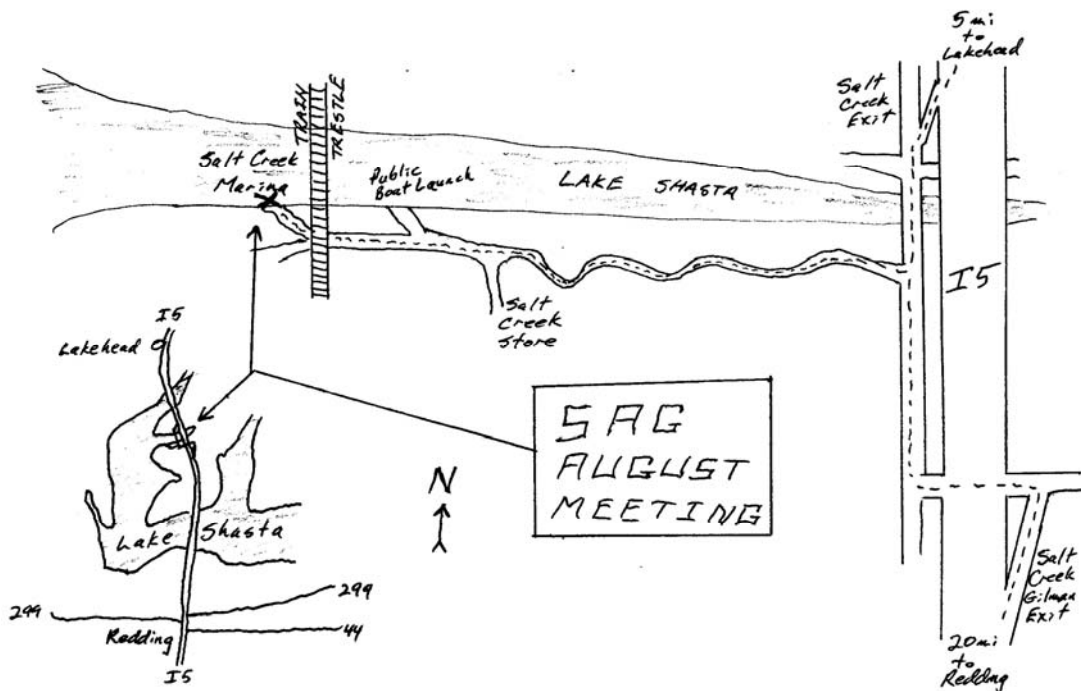
August 10-12 Grotto meeting and campout on boats and trips to caves on Lake Shasta shoreline. We have reserved a 30 foot patio boat and a power boat for the meeting Friday night and all weekend. Patio boat has a bathroom and barbeque. Bring your own food, ice chests and stuff to sleep on the shoreline. Don't forget fishing gear, swimming suits, inner tubes, caving gear, etc. Shared expenses will be less than \$40/family for the whole weekend. We will meet at the Salt Creek marina at 7:00 pm Friday. To reserve room for you and family, send \$20 to Claude, now! If you don't pay in advance, we will not wait for you, and you may not have room in the boats!! The trip will be cancelled, if not enough people pay in advance.

September 1-3 Western Region Labor Day Regional at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument.

September 4-9 Speleo-camp and grotto meeting in Marble Mountains.

October 12 Grotto meeting at Don and Audra Quinton's in Herlong.

October 13-14 Grotto trip to Star Peak, Nevada.



RILEY'S CAVE 3/24/84 by Jim Wolff

I met up with Claude and his six-year-old son, Riley, at the Gilman/Salt Creek exit early Saturday. They had just gotten their new S-10 Blazer 4X4, so I somehow ended up hopping aboard for a ride. Since it was looking to be a low-key cave hunting trip, we opted to go back to a limestone ridge above Lake Shasta that some of us had looked at two weeks before. Besides, Claude was all set to show me his new finds he had run across that previous trip. As it turned out, before we could relocate his two caves, I found a couple on my own, so we regrouped at the nearest one.

I wanted Claude to have first whack at pushing this one, since when I had first found it, I had poked my head into a crawlway only to find that my grunting and struggling was returned by hissing and growling!! His reaction to this seemingly innocent crawl was the same, RETREAT! We wrote this one off as "dead-end" cave, to be, in the future, referred to as "Guardian Cave."

The next cave was the first one I had found that morning, which I felt had the most potential, and it had good air flow out of it. From what I could see everything looked and felt like cave; flowstone exposed to the daylight and a rimstone dam across the floor – walking passage! I had also saved this one – to be shared with my friends. So, while we ate just inside the sinkhole entrance area, we conjured up wild thoughts of what lay ahead

After eating, we started surveying in (really quite hopeful, eh?). Right after the first station, the next took us, straight as an arrow, back to the end of the passage. How disappointing! But where did that air come from?? There was a little hole in the back end that didn't seem to account for it. At the entrance area, though there was some stuff going off, it didn't turn out to be much

But then, there was another eight-inch-diameter hole, right behind where we sat to eat, that had some wind coming out of it – and it looked diggable! Claude dug in a fury, enlarging the hole faster than I can write this sentence! I volunteered to go in and down a two-foot-wide passage with a flowstone covered wall. It led steeply down and around a corner to a twenty foot pit!! It was climbable, so I quickly climbed down into a large room And what a discovery! The place wasn't terribly decorated, but what was there, was real clean, clear and white. Claude and Riley were able to hear all of my goings-on and exclamations, so I soon asked for their company. Claude instructed his son to sit tight at the entrance while he and I checked things out.

After joining me, we started systematically checking all that we could, leaving many leads unchecked, to be looked at during our survey. We quickly traversed this 100 foot long room, to a crawl leading off above a nice pocket of cave pearls and some bones. Following the wind and after a few doglegs in the passage, the fairly roomy crawl led upwards to sunlight! Walking overland, we joined up with Riley at the sink entrance, where we grabbed our survey gear and returned to this new way in. Riley joined us this time, since we felt that he could handle most of the travel through the cave. Besides, he did help with the survey, by unsnagging the survey tape a couple of times.

The main passage of that room had many ledges with leads going off, and some crawls at floor level with room enough to push, but looked too muddy and wet for the time being. One lead I pushed started off as a crawl below a false floor. It led steeply downwards and had some airflow. This clay-lined tube took me to a sharp hairpin turn that looked impossible without digging some. A good possibility, as it continued bigger, and went out

of reach of my lamp. We sketched a few more passages into the map, because of time constraints, but estimate we saw at least 150-200 feet of additional passage beyond what we mapped. Not bad for a day's work.

PATRICK'S POINT CAVE 4/14/84 by Jim Wolff

The day after the grotto meeting at the south jetty of Humboldt Bay (next to Eureka, Ca.), Dick LaForge, Claude Smith, Neils Smith and I met up with Mark Stoute and Roger Jones at Patrick's Point State Park. We had to pay two dollars for day use! I wonder what it would have cost us if we had mentioned to the park ranger that we were going into their pit? According to Dick, they wouldn't think kindly of us and probably would try to discourage us.

Patrick's Point Cave is fault-type or block-creep in origin, with a series of fissures and pits, all interconnected with most of the passages in a total dark zone. Dick and friends mapped the cave many years ago, but has yet to explore all the potential of this deep cave.

The main entrance is a near 160 foot drop to the floor below! It is a free rappel, with only two places where the rope just briefly touches rock. A 200 foot rope is handy to rig this one. At about 70 feet down from the beginning, there is a wide ledge that you can swing over to, and from there it is possible to continue in both directions. Aid climbing is needed in some upper reaches of the northern end of the cave. Unexplored areas beckon in this area as well.

When Dick and I were both on what appeared to be the bottom, it turned out to be the top of a very steep and loose rubble slope with leads in two directions. One way is to the "big cliff entrance." The other way goes down past another nasty 20 foot pit, that leads to the true bottom of the cave. At the bottom is a fresh water table, then a tight (and still unchecked) canyon with air movement. Above the virgin lead, a climb leads to some serpentine rock interbedded with the parent rock of Franciscan formation. The cave continues in many areas as high and inaccessible canyons. In many places the cave is much too wide to chimney and few handholds are available.

On the way out of the cave, Dick noticed a rope hanging off one corner of the entrance pit. A knotted rope and well abraded. Goldline rope it was, now stiff and heavy with mud – handled something like wire cable. I wonder what brave (?) soul went down on that! After a couple of gentle tugs it came down! Other interesting debris of note were: beer cans and bottles, broken flashlights, and a climber's large chock, minus its sling. We carried out the rope and some trash.

All in all, it was well worth the trip over there. Thanks go out to Dick for showing us this fine cave.

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