



“Hello darkness my old friend...” Paul Simon, 1964

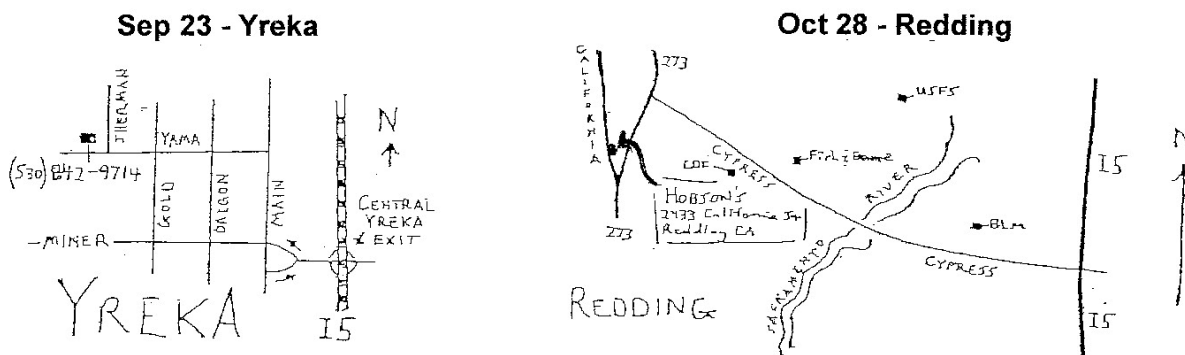
INSIDE – MORE LAVA TUBES FOR SISKIYOU COUNTY

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 2011

- Sept 23 SAG meeting 7:30 at Melanie's in Yreka. 530-842-9714.
 Sept 24 Cave trip.
 Oct 8 SAG/SAR cave rescue training. 530-964-3123.
 Oct 28 SAG meeting at Hobson's in Redding. 530-242-8707.
 Oct 29 Lake Level Cave trip.
 Dec 2 SAG meeting at Viners in Ashland. 541-601-0055 or 0076.
 Dec 3 Grotto outing.

Maps to Meetings

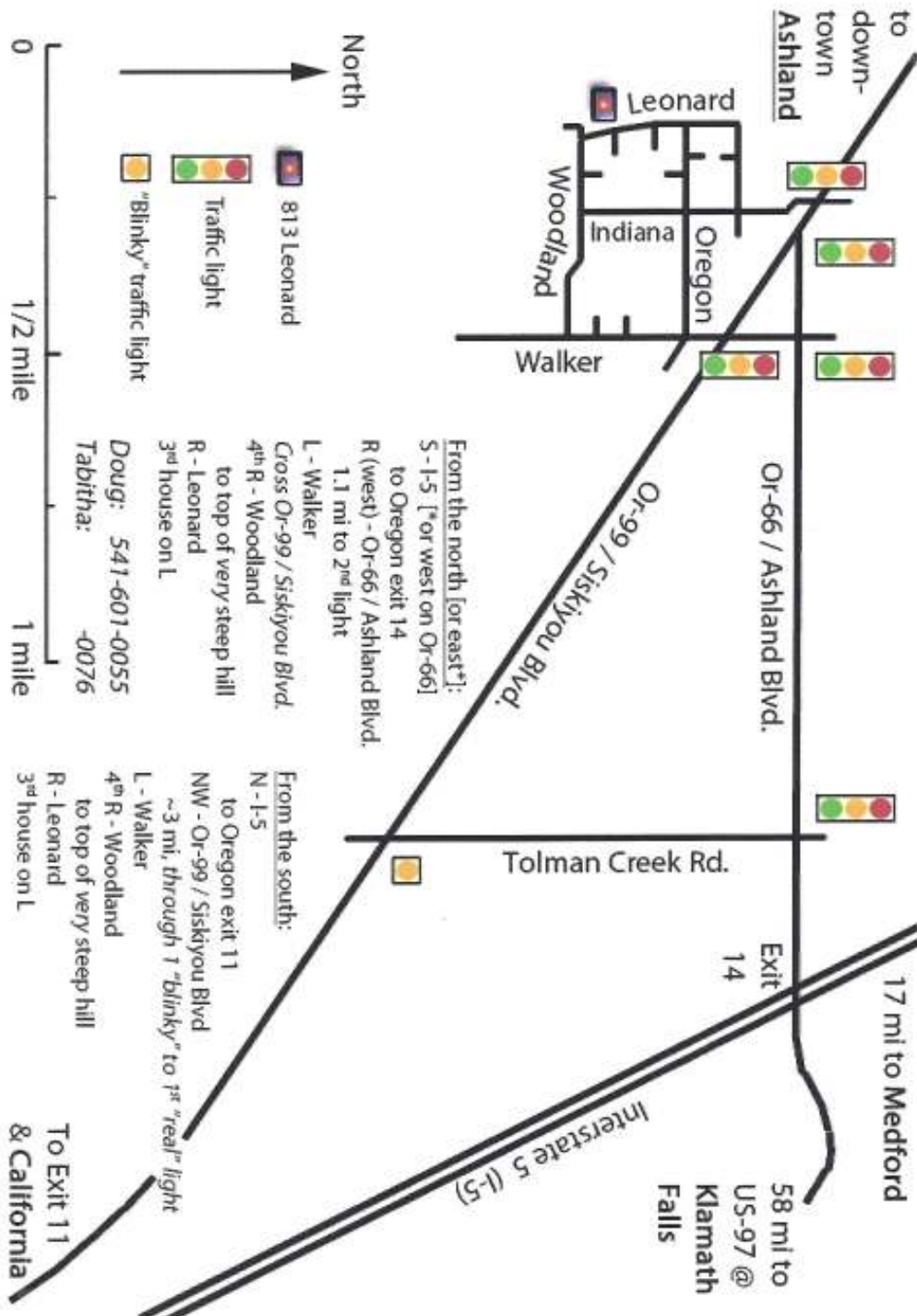


SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

We have material for 2.5 SAG RAGs currently, but in this instance the focus is lava tubes. First of all, there has been a request to rename Big Waitangi Cave in memory of Amber. So henceforth, this recently described cave will be known as "Iya's Big Waitangi Cave". Iya was Amber's affectionate and familiar diminutive. We had a number of lava tube events this summer. The July vertical training was off the ledge in Barnum Cave. Then there were lava tube map trips on June 14, July 3, and July 4. All these maps are somehow done already, so here we go, how about that! I was thinking that Dragons Tongue might be a previously unknown cave, but it was so easy getting in that it makes me wonder. Lots of times when I get in easily, that's because somebody (Russ Yoder, Mark Fritzke) has been there before, preparing the way. Please take note of the switcheroo on the Sept. and Oct. meetings. September is at Mel's in Yreka and October at Hobsons' in Redding. That will allow more time for the lake level to drop so we can go further on the Lake Level Cave trip, hopefully, after the Redding meeting. The grotto cave trip in September is up for grabs and could go anywhere – come to the meeting ready for anything and help decide.

BB

Map to Dec 2 Meeting



SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING MINUTES July 22, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm at Sam Baxter's home in Mt. Shasta.

Members present: Vern Clift, Linda Jennings, Dave Smith, Steve Hobson, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Hans Stein, Wayne Cedidla, Ray Miller, Sam Baxter, Bill Broeckel, and Dallas Carlon.

Minutes: were not available.

Treasurer's Report: \$1990.15 is our bank balance. We have not changed banks yet, but it is hoped that it will happen a week from today. Expenses are \$43.00 for 1000 grotto business cards for members to use.

Website: Lots of pictures and the latest SAG RAG. There are two rags there all the time. There is not enough space for us to archive more than that at one time.

SAG RAG: Bill asked for submissions of Rippled Cave trip pictures as he forgot to put one article with pictures in that Liz had submitted so it will all go into another issue. Steve made a motion that SAG use cave names instead of abbreviations for them (unless they are associated with a specific place) when writing reports or article for the SAG RAG. The motion was carried.

Correspondence: Regarding the Lava Beds Rescue Training in August. There has been a multitude of emails to and from the LABE personnel and to SAG members.

Old Business: Liz has not yet contacted Bob & Bob to check on ordering more grotto patches. Melanie also reminded us that we still need to know who is definitely going to the Marbles Labor Day weekend that wants to be packed in and out or even one way. We have to have a minimum of eight cavers to cover the packer's expense. If we can manage it she needs to know soon. We have reserved that time. Most of the meeting was discussion of what the schedule will be for the Rescue Training at the Lava Beds. Arrival times and camping arrangements, meals provided by us for the group (SAGITES) or individual responsibilities for personal meals and their storage was talked about. There was also discussion about obstacle course set up and class room talks and training associated with rescue and patient packaging and litter hauling etc., as well as assignments for presentations, practices, and scenarios that will be run.

New Business: There was a Forest Service Cave Management Meeting last week in Redding presented by Melanie Stevens. Several Counties came including Six Rivers and Mendocino. Twenty F.S. people attended. Liz Wolff was also there and gave a WNS presentation. There were lots of questions and answers about cave management. The grotto needs to get a sympathy card for Rudi Hendricks who lost his partner (Amber Keller) recently. Rudi is still out of town with Amber's family at this time. We looked at a couple of cards at the meeting, but our group didn't feel that they were appropriate so hopefully a card will be purchased this weekend that members can sign. The Sequoia – Kings Canyon National Parks Wilderness Stewardship Plan comment period has been extended until the end of August. Bill B. presented a handout to grotto members that told how and whom to contact to make your comments for promoting cave research in the park's wilderness caves and to support responsible caving, recreational, and educational opportunities in the parks wilderness caves.

Meetings and Events:

August 6-7 Lava Beds Rescue Training.

August 12-14 Dr. Geo Graening will be here to look for cave insects etc. Steve plans to take him

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to Shasta Lake Area caves. Where will depend on water levels etc. Several caves were mentioned as possibilities. Steve can also take three grotto members. Contact Steve Hobson if interested.

August 26 The Wolff's in McCloud.

September 2-5 Marble Mountains (Labor Day Weekend) Gear packed in and out available. Contact Melanie Jackson.

September 24 Melanie Jackson's in Yreka. Saturday trip will be to Red Buttes, Kangaroo Karst.

October 8 SAG will provide Cave Rescue training to Siskiyou County Search and Rescue members. It may be more than one day. We need grotto members to help. Steve H. will not be here for this training.

October 28 Steve Hobson's in Redding. Saturday's trip will be to Lake Level Cave to work on survey, water level permitting.

Trip Reports:

It seems to be hard to get these done for Bill for the SAG RAG. So recently we have been doing short synopsis reports via email for the membership to enjoy. Still a more detailed version could be delivered to Bill for SAG RAG so members and subscribers (there are many) could see what the grotto has been doing.

Steve H., Dallas C., Jim W., and Dave S. found the cave entrance to Coyote Cave. Steve descended on a figure eight and used prusiks to ascend. Probably a survey and further exploration needs to be done. They also saw a very small rattlesnake on the way out.

Jim and Liz W. and Steve H. surveyed Olympia Cave, Cold Water Cave, saw two cans soldered shut (dated 1907) and a two and a half foot long gopher snake and some ice in cave.

Liz and Jim W. noted that Sugar Pine Butte Cave has ice in it.

Wayne C. went to Soldiers Cave in Sequoia with a group of MLG cavers. It was his second trip there and it seemed a lot harder this time than last. Could this be an aging issue?

Bill B. and Eric McCormick went to Sunbeam Annex. Sandy Slither Cave was surveyed. It's a small tube and tight and sandy. They found it between Sunbeam Pit Cave and Worthless Cave.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm.

Melanie Jackson SAG Secretary

MJ

TRIP REPORT July 23, 2011 By Melanie Jackson

Cave rescue training and self rescue training were conducted at Mt. Shasta (City) and inside Barnum Cave. Members present were Sam Baxter, Dave Smith, Wayne Cedidla, Hans Stein, Jim Wolff, Steve Hobson, Bill Broeckel, Dallas Carlon, and Melanie Jackson.

On Saturday from 9:30 - 12:30 a.m. all except Dallas and Bill B. practiced patient packaging and litter carrying at a park near Sam Baxter's home in Mt. Shasta. We took turns being packaged in the litter. Let me count the ways you can package a patient – well, no, there are too many. We practiced about three variations. There was the chest-

(continued next page)

tie-in part, the diaper sling (do it well, but avoid intimate contact) and foot loops. The last person packaged was our illustrious teacher, Steve. He got the whole deal. We tied him in and packaged him in blanket and tarp. We stood him up on his feet and on his head and we hauled him around the site. He said we all did well and he felt secure and probably too warm. We ate lunch at the park. Sandwiches were ordered by Kris Baxter (Sam's wife) compliments of the Baxters and Steve Hobson.

The afternoon was a vertical self-rescue practice off the ledge in Barnum Cave. Everyone that wanted to, ascended the rope using prusiks. Two to three prusiks, and then there was a practice just using one (we actually used two just for a safety), but that was much harder doing the up like an inchworm thing and quickly exhausting. Various members were bottom belayers for that (via top-rope pulleys).

Next up was descending. All experienced people tried coming down on a Munter hitch with a top belay. Dallas being the new guy got to come down on a figure eight that he brought. He barely got over the edge when his rope slipped over the eight into a girth hitch and he was stopped fast, but learned how to self-rescue with prusiks. He got his weight off the eight and fixed it so he descended without further problems. Just to make sure he got that lesson learned he was asked to descend on the eight one more time. You guessed it, Murphy's Law. He had the exact same thing happen again (another reason cavers don't use figure eights much), but he had the self-rescue fix down pat. It didn't take him long to fix the problem and get down. Good job Dallas!

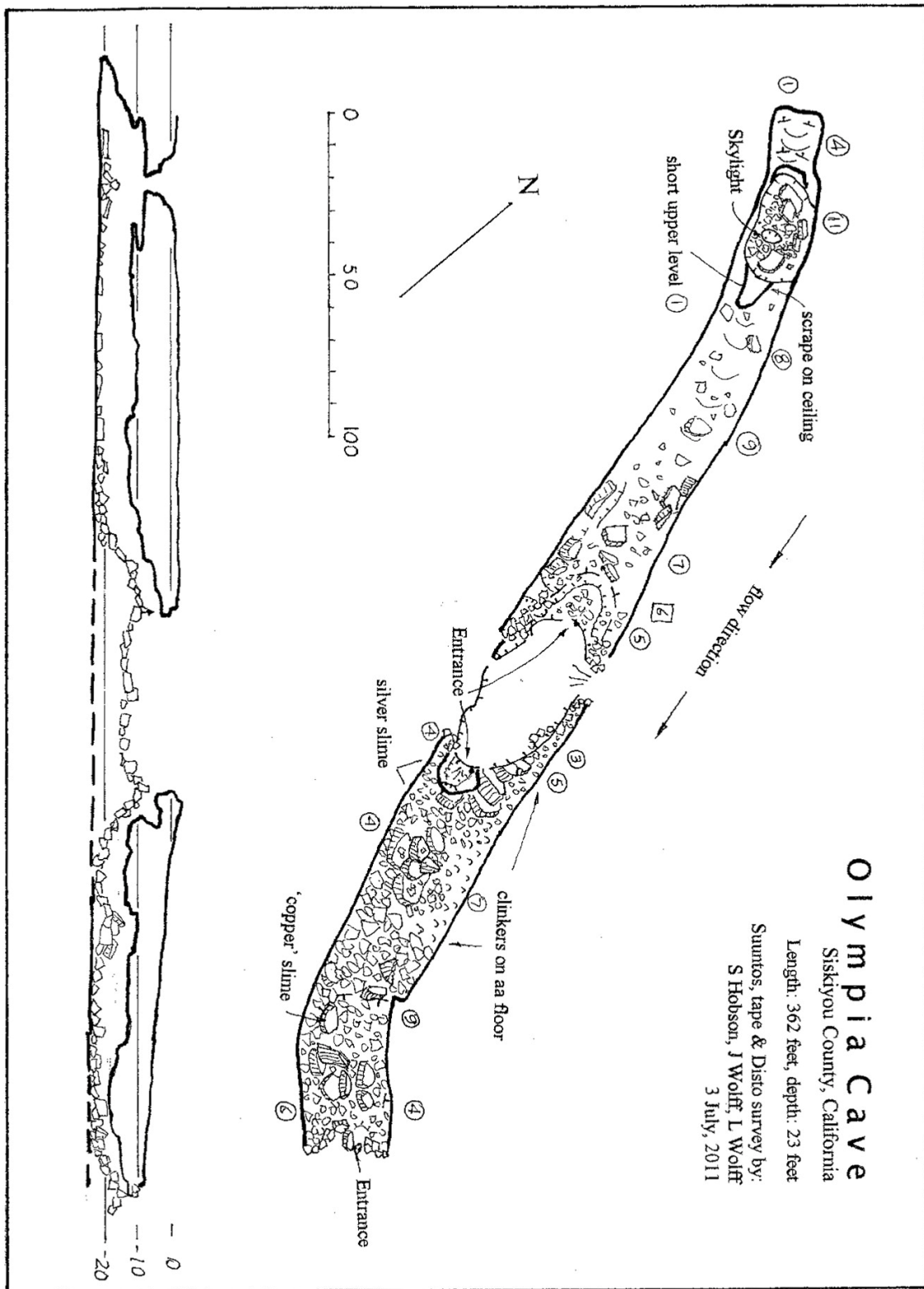
It was a good training day and lots of learning and fun were had by everyone. Remember, some of this training was in preparation for the upcoming rescue training that was taught to the various forest and park service personnel at Lava Beds the first weekend of August. **MJ**

TRIP REPORT – OLYMPIA CAVE By Liz Wolff

Steve Hobson, Jim and Liz Wolff hiked out to Olympia Cave, the hard way – we did the easy way on the way back. No problem finding the cave from the coordinates taken a couple of years ago. Our objective was to survey the cave and maybe another one to the north, Half Moon Cave. Russ Yoder found Olympia Cave several years ago and named it for an Olympia beer can he found in the entrance.

We began the survey on the 3rd of July, 2011 in the north end of the cave. Spacious passage headed to a skylight through breakdown floored passage, then intact passage until the skylight was reached. A breakdown pile covered the passage there and a ripply pahoehoe floor went to the end of the cave at a lava seal. On both the north and south sides of the skylight chamber are short upper levels.

South of the entrance the cave is mainly breakdown floored, with a short stretch along one wall having an aa floor with "clinkers", fist to head sized ball bearing shaped rocks. Here we saw silver slime sparkling in a few places and a strange "copper"-colored slime on one ceiling ledge. The cave ends in breakdown fill with a small entrance that only Liz fit through. The survey netted 362 ft and it plotted out to 23 ft deep. **LW**



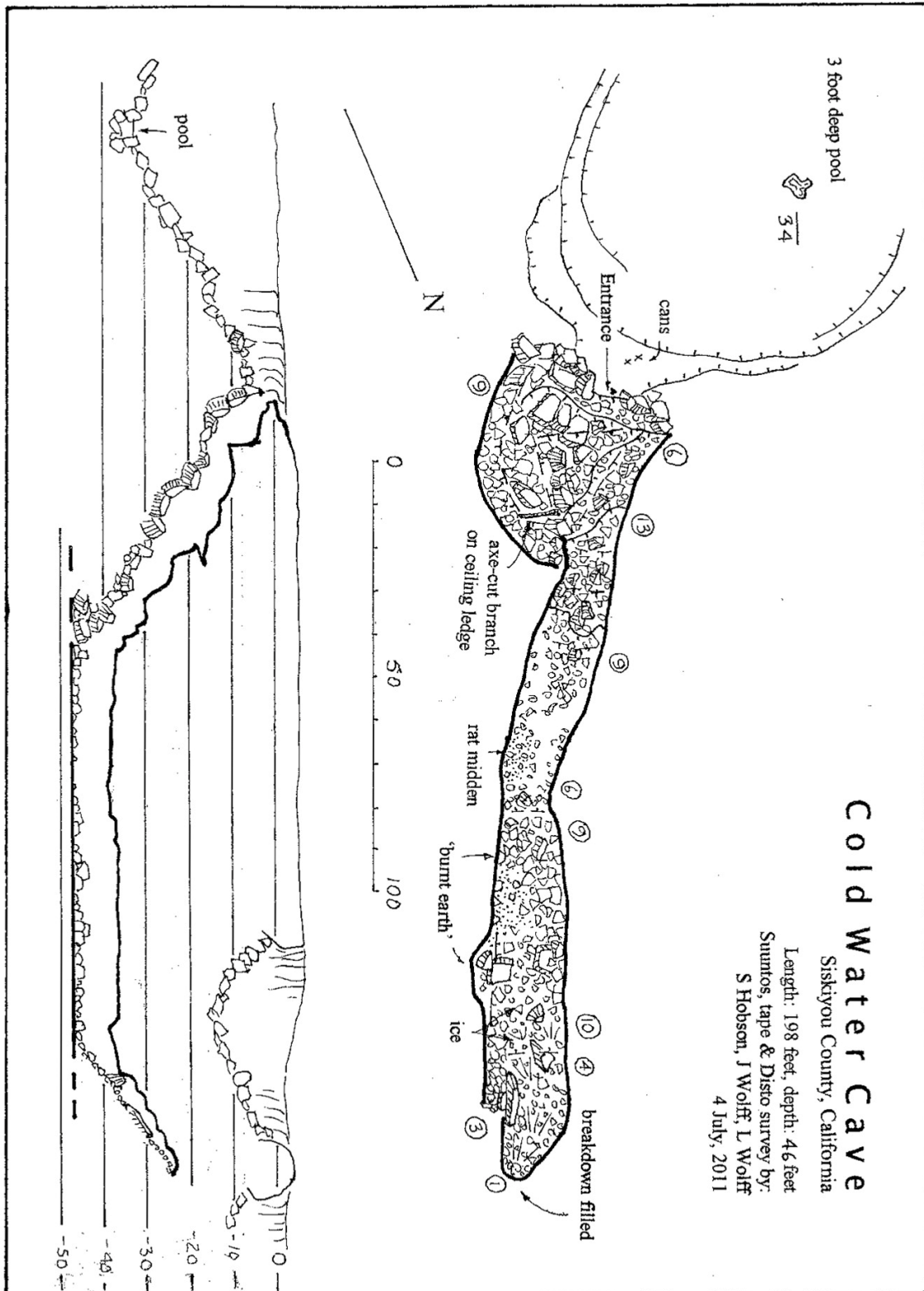
Map: Olympia Cave

TRIP REPORT – COLD WATER CAVE By Liz Wolff

Cold Water Cave was originally discovered in 1907 by a timber cruiser working from the west, down the West Lava Rim and across the lava flow. He left an excellent plot of his travels in the area. A copy of his work was copied by Jim Wolff at the Heritage Junction Museum in McCloud, inserted in a "leads" file, and ignored for many, many years. One Saturday, while Jim was off with a bunch of guys playing in the poison oak with ticks and rattlesnakes, Liz Wolff and Ray Miller went to see if they could find the cave. It was remarkably easy, as the cruiser had plotted it out in its section and we managed to walk almost directly to it. The sink is 10-20 ft deeper than any of the other sinks in the flow in that area, and there are two very old cans in the sink outside the entrance to the cave. After GPS'ing the entrance, we headed back to the car. We had the GPS when we got back to the car, but when we got back to town, we had no GPS. At least Liz could remember the heading to get to the cave, and about how far out it was.

The survey trip on the 4th of July, 2011 included Steve Hobson, and Jim and Liz Wolff. At the entrance, we reGPS'ed the cave, examined the cans and checked out the large and loose breakdown in the entrance chamber. Looking into the entrance, a large curtain rock hangs about five feet from the ceiling. The breakdown slopes nearly vertically for about 10ft and then levels out. A drop, floored with large boulders is on the left side of the entrance room. At the back of the room a stick about six feet long spanned a gap between ceiling ledges about five ft off the floor. Jim found the large breakdown to be somewhat unstable, which was a little disconcerting. But the survey must proceed.... Down the three sloping drops, we came finally to a flat passage, mostly breakdown floored. Along the right wall we found burnt earth issuing from a horizontal crack about 15 ft long. We found ice in the breakdown just before a rubble slope headed up steeply. This breakdown was so-o-o loose it was scary. Everything moved, except one large boulder wedged against the ceiling and another part way up that was wedged against the right wall. And most disappointing of all, the cave ended in rubble fill, with air blowing out of it. The survey totaled 188 ft in length and 46 ft depth. A quick line was run to the pool in the bottom of the sink, which was very cold on a hot day. It is 34 ft to the water, which Steve measured to three feet deep.

On the return hike Steve harassed and photographed a gopher snake which did its rattlesnake mimicry, entertaining all of us. **LW**



Map: Cold Water Cave

RUN DOWN ON DRAGONS TONGUE CAVE By Bill Broeckel

Once upon a time (Sep. 26, 2006), we hiked downflow a ways to reach Jibili Cave, which was surveyed that day (Wolff, Liz, 2006*). Nearby, the main line of the lava flow resumed its trench-like ways after an interlude of intact surface, underneath which lurked the dark & extensive depths of Four Balcony Pit Cave. The reappearance of the trench certainly seemed like a natural location for another cave entrance, but no such entrance was readily visible.

Some years later (May 10, 2011), I was dinking around the area from below, and came upon this same, apparently cave-less beginning of a long trench segment. It looked so obvious, there just had to be a cave. I decided to devote an hour to search it out, rock by rock, looking for an edge, a hidden void, or the faint breath of cave air, anything that might offer the slightest clue to a possible way in. Well, after a while, I pulled back branches from a Mountain Misery plant (*Chamaebatia foliolosa*), and uncovered exactly what I was looking for. I was staring at a small, hidden cave entrance.

Very excited, I donned my helmet, and slipped in feet first. The low passage was rocky, but big enough, and turned right. The floor dropped out, and the breakdown blocks began to enlarge. There were some lavacicle surfaces, ice pockets, and very cold temperatures, all good signs. Eventually I made my way down a rock slope and sat for a moment, gazing ahead into a going and sizable lava tube. We were in, and I was alone, so I backed out and left the cave for a future day with a survey team.

That day came rather quickly (June 14, 2011). Judy Broeckel, Jim Wolff and Liz Wolff joined me to survey the new cave. The survey started at the exact apex of the trench segment. Jim did lead tape, Judy back tape, and Liz read instruments. I went in last with the book. Jim led us all the way to the back of the cave, which was a large and interesting room. A flow of lava seemed to well up from the back of the room, partially flooding it, down a slope. One distinct, narrow ribbon of lava snaked down the middle of the flow and dove into a couple holes in the floor. This became the namesake of the cave, the Dragons Tongue. The 1st hole appears to seal off. The 2nd hole, however, was just big enough to force through the hips of a largish human male (me), but I went no further as the walls were smooth and the depth of the pit was about 14 ft. A safe return was in question.

On the way out, we added the northern side passages. This brought the total cave length to over 200 ft. The terminal particulars make me curious to take another look at the ends of Four Balcony Pit. For now, we have added yet another cool lava tube to the 1,000+ already known and increasingly mapped caves of these Northern California Highlands (which includes Lava Beds). **BB**

* Wolff, Liz, 2006. Jibili Cave, SAG RAG 25:6, p. 13.

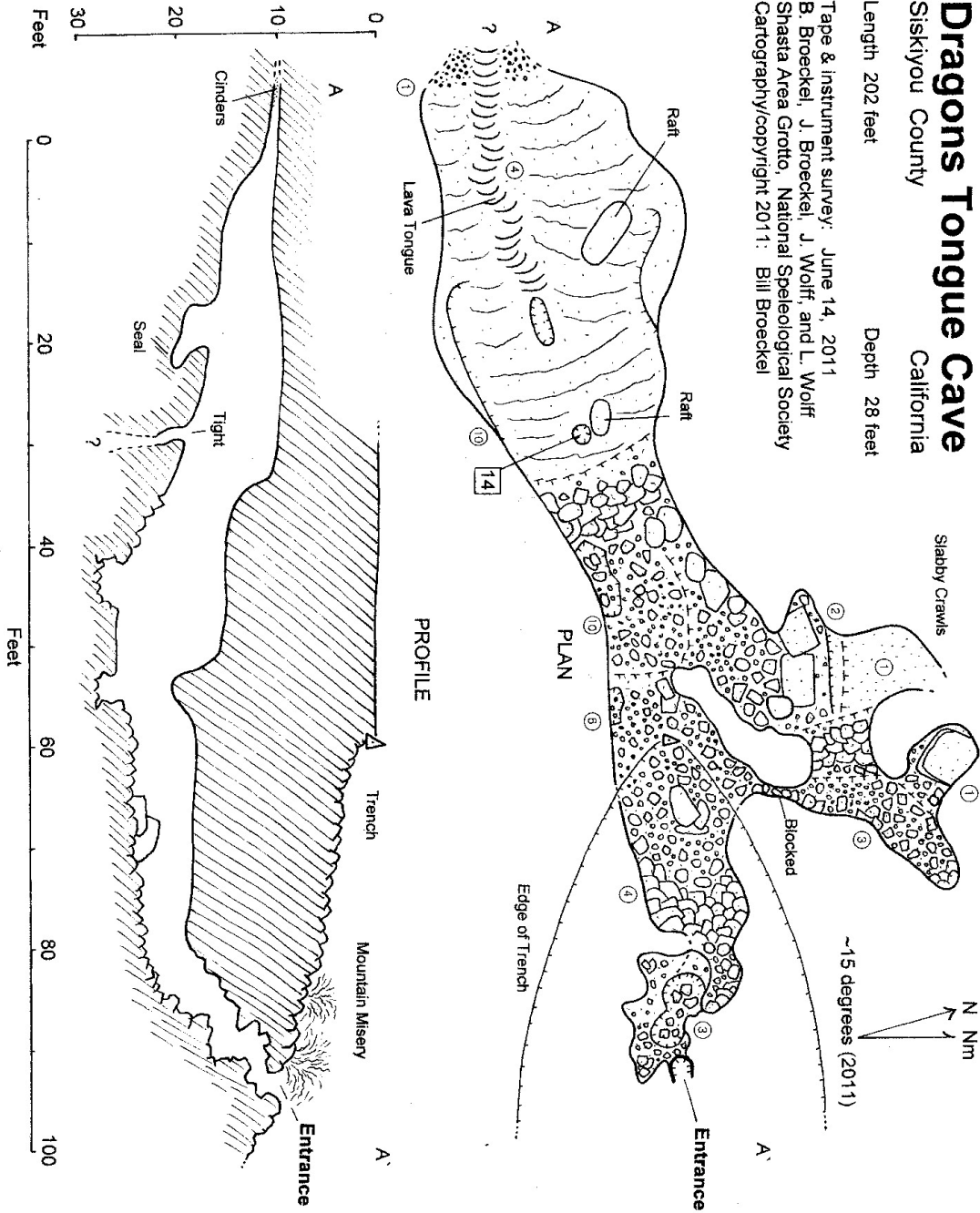
Dragons Tongue Cave

Siskiyou County California

Length 202 feet

Depth 28 feet

Tape & instrument survey: June 14, 2011
 B. Broeckel, J. Broeckel, J. Wolff, and L. Wolff
 Shasta Area Grotto, National Speleological Society
 Cartography/copyright 2011: Bill Broeckel



Map: Dragons Tongue Cave



Entrance to Dragons Tongue Cave 5-10-11 BB

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws. Rd.
Yreka CA 96097:

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