

sag rag

31:2 Mar-Apr 2012

(Revised 7-6-12 with updated July meeting information – DS)



More cleanup needed at Fuzzy Bunny Cave.

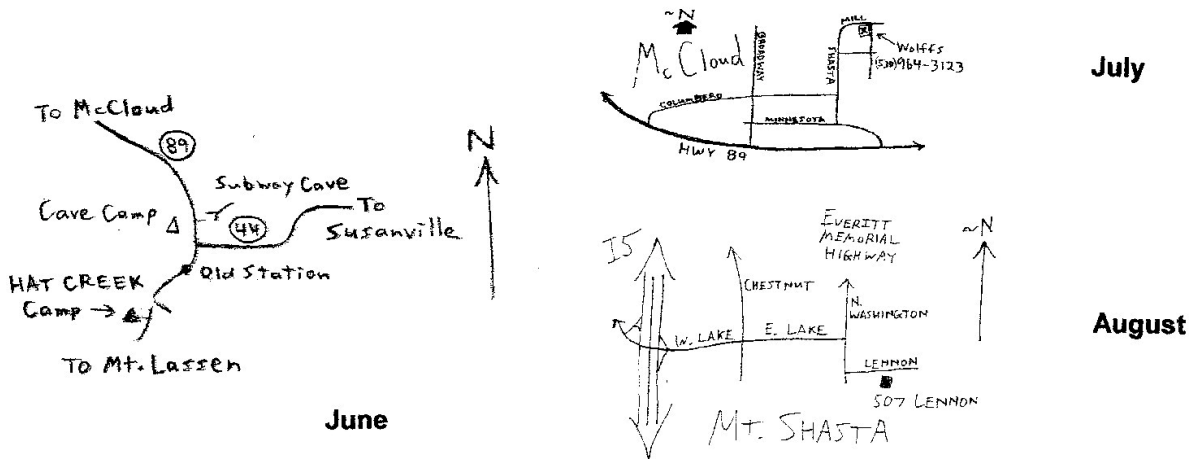
**INSIDE – SAG goes tunneling in a real train tunnel
– Some old lava tube business at Hat Creek**

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>>.

CAVER CALENDER 2012

- June 22-24 SAG Hat Creek campout. Info Wolffs 530-964-3123.
- June 25 * * * NSS Convention in Greenbrier Valley, West Virginia.
- July 27 ~~SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs 530-964-3123.~~
Update: July 27 meeting will be at Cliffs' in Big Bar 530-623-3242
 see Map next page – DS
- Aug 24 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Baxters 530-925-9077.
- Sept ? SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobsons. Then Lake Level!
- Sept 28-30 Western regional – Hosted by the Stanislaus Grotto.

Maps to Meetings



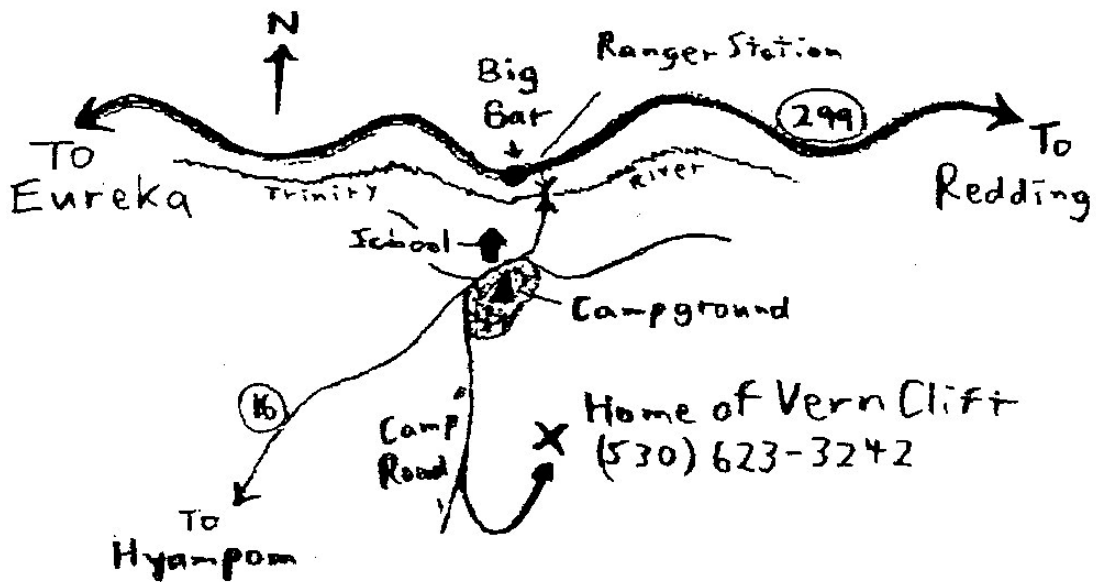
SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Two good opportunities present themselves for the first half of the summer. The June campout at Hat Creek will feature a clean-up of the Fuzzy Bunny entrance sinkhole (see back page photo) and completion of the survey of Sweet Sinkers, your chance to get your name on one of the longer caves. Nothing specific is planned for the weekend after the July meeting at Wolffs except that we need to get out of their house by early Saturday morning. That sounds like a perfect set-up for a great cave day. This RAG looks back to the Tunnel 13 outing led by the Viners of Ashland last December, with a nice rendition of some criminal history at that site. At Hat Creek it has been some years now since Liz and Ray were delineating the cave bearing flows out there, locating Surfs Up and Fuzzy Bunny. Now they are mapped. Bighorn chimes in with some even older business, squeezing back into Cascadia for survey a decade after scooping the little cave. Look for more old business later, coming out of Medicine Lake. Thanks to Ray Miller for the bat blurbs, keeping our friends the bats in mind. **BB**

UPDATE: MAP TO JULY 27 SAG MEETING AT CLIFTS' IN BIG BAR — DS

(River crossing is near the ranger station, about 25 miles west of Weaverville)

July 27 - Big Bar



SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

January 27, 2012

Present: Bill & Judy Broeckel, Jim & Liz Wolff, David Smith, Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Ed & Virginia Bobrow, Wayne Cedidla, Steve Hobson and Melanie Jackson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm. at the Broeckel's home in Yreka.

Minutes: accepted as read.

Treasurer's report: None. Bob & Bob check has not cleared.

Website: No changes. Bill Broeckel paid the \$24.00 for grotto Internet usage for 2011 & 2012. Steve thinks we were paid up and will check his records for canceled check and proof of payment for 3 years.

SAG RAG: Has a map of J. Wolff's D-Way Cave. Is a little behind and doesn't have any crack caves currently. We as a grotto can go out and survey more crack caves.

Correspondence: A note from Jim Stout about the Barnum and Sand Caves having been breached again. This is the third time. The FS was re-welding the cave Jan. 12th.

The NSS sent request for board members. Shan Fryer says due to budget cuts the LABE will not be able to have a cave rescue class this year. Brad Rust doesn't think that the Samwel Cave restoration trip will happen any time soon if ever, because the Tribes (Indians) don't want anyone in there.

Meetings:

Feb 24 Steve Hobson Redding. Samwel Cave restoration ??????

March 23 Mel's in Yreka and Hat Creek.

April Chris Kennedy Weaverville.

May 1 Sam Baxter's in Mt. Shasta Coyote Cave Maybe.

Old Business: Election results the same as in Dec. 2 minutes. Same officers as 2011.

Pluto's Cave cleanup. Garbage bags will be in the bottom of the trash can. Bring buckets and basic cave gear. Meet at 9:30 am. at the cave.

New Business: Neil Marchington was marking cave entrances with a GPS in Jackson, Josephine and N. Siskiyou counties as of last year. Bill Kenney spent time with him for two days collecting this information. This was done winter of 2010 or 2011. Bill K. has coordinates and keys to Windy Cave.

continued

The FS – Shasta-Trinity is going to be doing a hydrology drainage study. They need to know if there are any caves they need to be aware of. This is the east side of Hwy 97.

Trip Reports: 1/17/12 Bill Broeckel Medicine Lake Highlands near Slither area surveyed Sleeper for about 80 ft. Slinker and Sleeper almost end in the same place. Judy and Becky and Bill surveyed 126 ft. D Way Cave, which has two entrances. (on Bill's Birthday).

Dave Smith Whiskey Town Lake area a small cave only about 12 ft. long. Located in Sandstone.

Steve, Brad, and his sons went to Jacob David Cave. Did some drilling and hammering, but it didn't change anything. Cave just goes around in breakdown. It doesn't go anywhere after six hours of exploring. No creatures except moths.

Wayne Cedidla went to Ursa Minor. It's small, but pristine. You do a lot of shoe changing. They took some electronics in there to check to see if the drainage is under the parking lot. It is not under the parking lot. He almost got stuck just before exiting. Tight spot and couldn't get off his Kroll.

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 02 pm.

Melanie Jackson, Shasta Area Grotto Secretary.

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING

February 24, 2012

Present: Mark Fritzke, Dick LaForge, Chris Kennedy, Jed Medin, Steve Hobson, Dallas & Olen Carlon, Jim & Liz Wolff, Vern & Linda Clift, Melanie Jackson, Hans Stein, Bill & Judy Broeckel , Ruben Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 at Steve Hobson's home in Redding, CA.

Minutes: accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Steve has not rec'd a call back from Bob & Bob about patches.

Website: Dave handed out 30 years of SAG RAGs and an index on a CD. The E Rags being sent to NSS File since we started. The Librarian just wants paper SAG RAGs. One to NSS Library and one to National Cave Files.

SAG RAG: Next one will be on the Marbles and has three new maps.

Correspondence: 10 updates from NSS. If you have issues with the NSS for congress of Grottos make them in the form of a motion. The WNS mortality

continued

figures are out. Liz has the website for comments and for asking questions. NSS is on Twitter @NSSCaves. Brad Rust says we may not get to a Samwel Restoration for as long as another year. MOU is going to be re written for this cave.

Western Kentucky Univ. has karst courses study. There is a request for Paleo Study of Non-contaminated Stalactites/Stalagmites. This paleo-climate study will cut study and re-cement the formations, but they need a cave with formations.

Meetings:

March 23 at Melanie's in Yreka. Saturday – Hat Creek

April 27 Chris Kennedy's in Weaverville – Saturday Trinity Limestone?

May 18 Sam Baxter's in Mt. Shasta.

Old Business: Patches they haven't made the order or called us back. Steve hasn't called them back yet for more information.

New Business: Speleo-Ed, May 18-20 in Bend, Oregon. High Desert Grotto putting it on. SAG should consider going there.

Sat. Lake Level partially available boat over and check limestone. Steve, Dick, Mark, Dallas and Olen. May do something different and figure out in the morning. Finish Pluto's clean up on Sat. Liz, Mel, Jim, and Dave Smith.

Trip Reports:

Seth LaForge and his wife went out to Woolly Creek and discovered some new caves in the Marbles. Dick, Mark, Steve went to Deanna Lyn Cave. Lots of large 5 - 6 inch long millipedes grey with side stripes were everywhere. Bill Broeckel at Hat Creek mapped 3 caves and found 3 more. Total so far is 182 caves.

Dick has cave report of caving in Belize, but was unable to show slide show due to memory stick problem. The Bosteds, Jeff Leven and six people went to Chiquibul Cave in Guatemala. Jed and Rudi and Dallas went to Samwel with some other people and did the pit.

Dallas took his nephews to Boy Scout and saw some inch long salamanders. And into Blanchet's Cave.

Chris Kennedy went into some lava tubes in Nicaragua.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary

MJ

Trip Report: The Infamous Tunnel 13

Doug Viner

These days, the rail line is only traveled by occasional maintenance crews but, until September 1926, the Central Pacific route – the main, western-most, north-south rail line in the country – ran through Ashland before climbing to the 4133-foot-high, 3111-foot-long Tunnel 13, the longest & highest of 18 bores required to cross the Siskiyou Mountains. This 1887 railroad line cut the journey between Sacramento and Portland from seven days to 38 hours.

Tunnel 13 is most famous for being the site of “the last great train robbery of the west,” when on 11 October 1923 the D’Autremont twins Ray and Roy, aged 23 years, and their teenaged brother Hugh bungled an attempted train robbery there. Trains were required to stop there to test their brakes before beginning the long descent. The brothers, knowing this, figured this would be a good place to rob a train – one which was rumored to be hauling a shipment of cash and up to half a million dollars in gold from Rogue Valley mines. Unfortunately, the blast they set in the mail car was way too much; it blew apart the car and killed the train’s mail clerk. The smoke from the blast made visibility impossible and, because the mail car was mangled, the brothers couldn’t get the train moved out of the tunnel. Next, the brakeman walked through the thick smoke in the tunnel, startling the brothers, one of whom shot and killed the brakeman. The brothers then shot and killed the train’s engineer and fireman before quitting the scene. A huge manhunt began, but the brothers laid low near Pilot Rock. It wasn’t until 1927 that “Hugh was caught while serving in the Far East in the military. An Army buddy recognized his face on a wanted poster and turned him in for the reward. The twins were arrested a short time later in Ohio.”¹

In November 2003, a devastating fire burned the wood-timbered tunnel so badly that it partially collapsed, and a void 50 feet high was left above it. After extensive repairs, the tunnel was repaired. The few remaining timbers were shotcreted, but the void remains above the tunnel lining, buttressed by a “significant amount of Styrofoam and wood cribbing.” One of the cavities “eventually daylighted to form a large sinkhole at ground surface near the north portal.” The rail line hasn’t been used for freight since 2007, but the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP) has kept it maintained as part of their 330-mile-long line which stretches from Eugene to Weed.²

On Saturday, 03 December of this year, a handful of SAG adventurers made the short drive up the mountain behind our house and toured the tunnel. We found no bats (not that we had expected any) but Steve Hobson did find a few black widow spiders in each of two sump boxes he opened. **DV**



-
1. Source: <http://tunnel13.com/history/robbery.html>
 2. Oregon Rail Study Appendix c, Shannon & Wilson, 2009.



All Tunnel 13 photos provided by Doug Viner.



#89 – Good dogs, happy cavers



From Canada to Mexico, this is the top of the line

All Tunnel 13 photos provided by Doug Viner.



#56 – We walked back through the 0.8-mile-long tunnel a second time to look back across the summit hump, plainly visible here. (Like most tunnels, this one is not level, a deliberate feature which allows it to drain water.)

Hat Creek in March

by Liz Wolff

Shasta Area Grotto members Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Jim and Liz Wolff headed out of McCloud in a snow storm to arrive in the Hat Creek Valley to partly cloudy skies, and an objective of surveying some of the backlog of caves there. Our first survey objective was Surfs Up Cave, a small dimension cave with lots of skylights. It also has a very small, tight and mercifully short lower level. This surface tube complex has mainly dirt floors, little breakdown, and a bit of complexity. It mapped out to 111 feet in length and 21 feet deep. One could almost do the cave without a light, but a couple of the side passages do get dark.

Following the pressure ridge leading from the upper entrance, about 45 feet upflow is a small entrance that accesses one more of the famous "Hat Creek pancake caves" Bill named Flat Rat. Flat Rat Cave is 42 feet in length and 4 feet deep. It too is mainly dirt floored, but with some welded breakdown in the back of the cave, and a four foot ceiling height. Around these two caves is a veritable complex of surface tubes too small to enter, but traceable on the surface, with no seeming destination or direction.

Our next objective was Fuzzy Bunny Cave, where we intended to clean up some trash as well as survey. To our dismay, several large appliances had been added to the pile of mainly shoes and soft toys that Ray Miller and Liz had found on a recon trip in 2006. Prominent among the toys had been a pink fuzzy bunny. Practically everything was solidly iced in the breakdown in the sinkhole entrance. It looked like someone had emptied a house of all the appliances, except a stove, and dumped them into the sink which is right next to a road. Some of the small junk was washed into the western branch of the cave.

We began the survey from a prominent knob on the east end of the sink and proceeded west. The walking sized passage had dirt, ice and rubble floors right up to a complete breakdown blockage. Returning to the sink, while Liz finished up the western sketch and Bill and Jim worked at getting junk out of the ice, Mel and Dave slithered down the ice covered climb on the east end of the sink, to an eastern continuation. It ended blocked with a gorgeous icicle curtain, and breakdown. In warmer times this will most likely be digable. On a surface recon hike, while more work was done on trying to remove trash, Dave and Liz found a tiny, shallow, blowing hole that could be a continuation of the east passage. It would take major work to get into anything through this hole. Trash was cleaned up on the surface in the area.

While fooling around the entrance area trying to pry some of the "stuff" out of the ice, Liz noted what looked like a side passage down an ice fall. Bill and Mel worked their way into it and found the longest passage of the cave, with a little vertical complexity. This side passage contains the only intact tube in the entire cave. A comfortable crawl, with a tube-in-tube structure below the floor, enters a low chamber that broadens out and appears choked with breakdown. A crawl over the breakdown leads into a small diameter, intact passage on an upper level. At one point a false floor tops the lower level breakdown where voice connection can be made with the lower passage. The upper level area tantalizes with barely passable tube continuing south and downwards, getting smaller as it goes... The cave mapped out to 306 feet in length and 14 feet deep.

All-in-all, we had a very successful day of cave survey. We did manage to prize a little of the trash out of the ice at Fuzzy Bunny Cave and complete 3 surveys. All except Dave celebrated with pizza in Burney on our way home. **LW**



Liz Wolff and Melanie Jackson on survey in Surfs Up skylight 3-24-12.



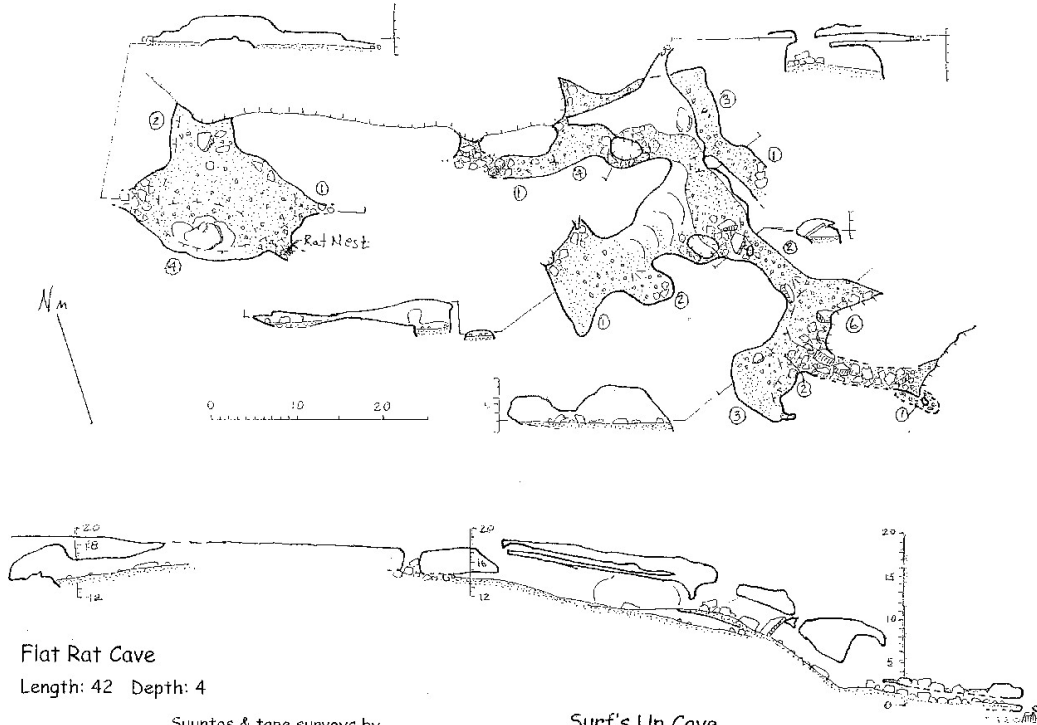
Entrance to Flat Rat is about 1 foot in passage height 3-24-12.



Melanie Jackson illuminates ice curtain in Fuzzy Bunny Cave 3-24-12



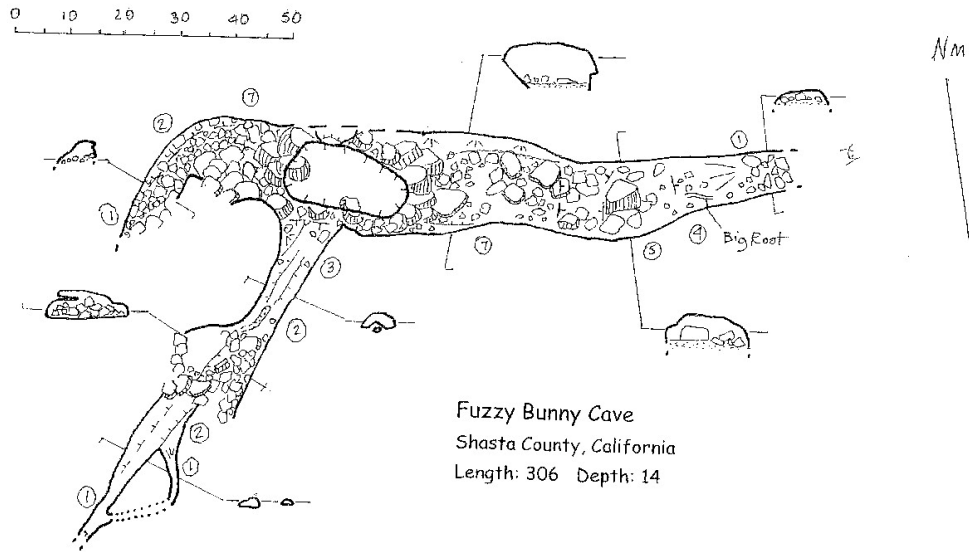
Jim Wolff, Melanie Jackson, and Dave Smith at Surfs Up Cave 3-24-12.



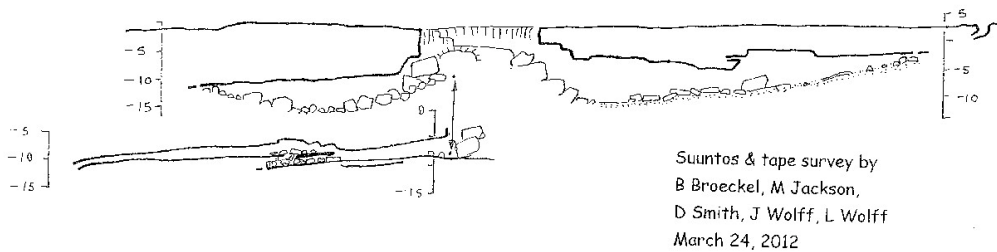
Flat Rat Cave
 Length: 42 Depth: 4

Suuntos & tape surveys by
 B Broeckel, M Jackson,
 D Smith, J Wolff, L Wolff
 March 24, 2012

Surf's Up Cave
 Shasta County, California
 Length: 111 Depth: 21

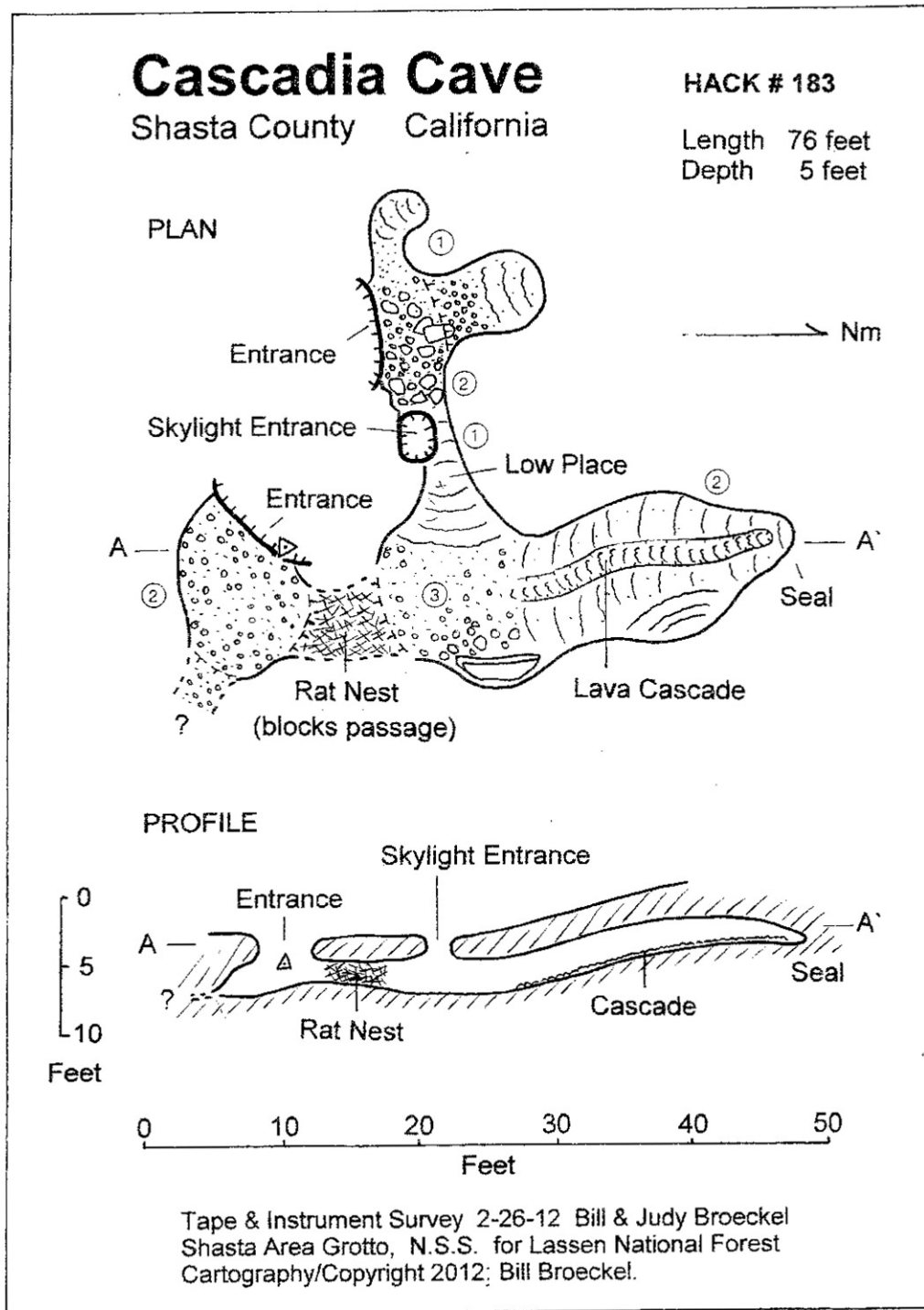


Fuzzy Bunny Cave
 Shasta County, California
 Length: 306 Depth: 14



Suuntos & tape survey by
 B Broeckel, M Jackson,
 D Smith, J Wolff, L Wolff
 March 24, 2012

Map: Flat Rat Cave, Surfs Up Cave, Fuzzy Bunny Cave



Map: Cascadia Cave

CASCADIA CAVE By Bighorn Broeckel

In the old business category. Cascadia Cave comes to mind. I came across this cave on a bat counting trip on May 23, 2000. It represents one of the many pitfalls encountered when we take to the various forms of scooping (exploring without mapping). In this case, I went in to “check for cave” and immediately encountered low passage through which I forced my body, and scratching up my back to the point of bleeding. I found a nice little bit of lava tube with a lovely cascade, and then tore up my back some more bulling my way out.

Needless to say, I wasn't real excited about going back on survey. In fact, over 11 years went by before we returned. We started the survey at the 13-ft detail separated from the rest of the cave by a dense conglomeration of sticks (rat nest). Without all the sticks, it may or may not be possible to get through. We gave the cave the benefit of the doubt and included the 13 feet into the total length. Taking a surface shot to the skylight, now it was time.

With some trepidation, I ran the tape into the low place. I have been putting on some weight lately, and wasn't sure I could make it through at all. Well, a decade of caving can have some effects, and I'm happy to report that I could relax my way in and out without damages. This cave might be disorganized, but on 2-26-12 it became the 183rd surveyed on the project. It was actually named back in 2000 for that fine little lava cascade hidden back in there, but I still can't really designate it as a cute little cave.

Lesson: When scooping, if the experience is too awful, you might not want to go back and do the survey. **BS**

**ABOUT BATS
FLIGHT SCHOOL****By Ray Miller**

Just as our teenagers are often reluctant to give up having their laundry done and meals prepared by Mom, bat pups would prefer to have their mothers care for them into old age. The female bats need to get their young independent as soon as possible so both may get on with preparations for winter. Conflict!!

When mother bat deems her young ready to fly she will not let her pup nurse. She will fly up to her young and then move away as the poor baby wails until the pup can stand it no longer and launches himself toward his mother. There is a period of floundering much

as a drowning person might do, but soon the baby is sorta flying. Then comes a period of bouncing off the wall during attempts to land. Learning to fly is easy compared to learning to land.

After the fundamentals of start and stop are learned mother bat will call to her pup to follow, and she will lead him around rocks and through trees and other obstacles as he learns aerobatics. When mother forages the pup trails behind to learn what bugs to eat and how to catch them.

RM



More cleanup needed at Fuzzy Bunny Cave.

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws. Rd.
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO:

Page 1	Cover: Fuzzy Bunny's slipper friend
Page 2	Calendar and Summary
Page 3	Jan Meeting Minutes by M. Jackson
Page 4	Feb Meeting Minutes by M. Jackson
Page 6	Tunnel 13 by Doug Viner
Page 8	Fuzzy Bunny, Surfs Up, Flat Rat by L. Wolff
Page 10	Cascadia Cave by B. Broeckel
Page 11	Flight School (bats) by Ray Miller
Page 12	Table of Contents – confused? look here!