



Liz Wolff emerging from a small side entrance on survey at It-ta-Choo-mah Cave.

INSIDE: Two new cave maps for Northern California

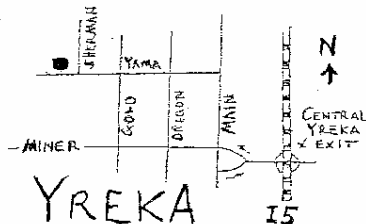
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG. Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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 CALENDAR 2013

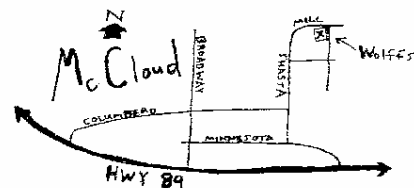
Apr 26	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie's in Yreka. 530-842-9714
Apr 27	WCC meeting 1:00 pm in Chico (see Western Cave Conservancy website)
May 31	Probable SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud
Aug 5	NSS Convention at Shippensburg, PA. 703-573-4653
Aug 29	Start of Marbles packtrip (contact Mel soon 530-842-9714)
Aug 30	Combined Regional at Trout Lake, WA. Great lava caving.

Maps to Meetings

Apr



May



530-964-3123

SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

It looks like Spring outside, but here is the winter issue of the SAG RAG (Jan-Feb) to start off another round of caving newsletters for the Shasta area. Two nice caves mapped last Fall are featured this time, one in Siskiyou County (It-ta-Choo-mah Cave) and the other in Shasta County (Folded). Rudi Bega helped bring It-ta-Choo-mah to our attention, while Jim Wolff came up with Folded Cave, and named it as well. Both caves are over a hundred feet long. Next issue look for some things about bats, maybe a small cave, and a picture of an April cave fool. Can't miss that. In case you forgot to re-subscribe (send money) for another year of SAG RAGs, a handy form is provided on the back of this very issue. It's getting warmer, so get underground soon.

BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:59pm at Steve Hobson's home in Redding.

Attendance: Steve Hobson, Ed & Virginia Bobrow, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Sam Baxter, Dave Smith, Chris Kennedy, Joel Despain & Heather VeerKamp, and Hans & Leah Stein.

Minutes: accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balance is \$1,071.46 with one outstanding check (WCC) our true balance is \$857.46. Dues will not be accepted until the January meeting.

Correspondence: Many – NSS I.O. on WNS Assessment for Region 2. Adaptive Management Plan for WNS has a comment period that ends Dec. 7. Issues for COG, Summary of BOG meeting and requests for monetary support of the new NSS Headquarters building and property. Scott Fee sent a questionnaire for grotto conservation work. Aug. 31 – Sept. 2 (Labor Day Weekend) at Trout Lake will be a combined Regional. Email from Pete Schmidt, Arc site Specialist for FS looking for a volunteer site for a two day training weekend.

Old Business: Reviewed SAG/SAR Rescue clinic and Celeste Fowler Siskiyou County SAR Coordinator request for help teaching patient packaging and litter handling for CORSAR in June 2013 in Oregon. We will need the dates and place to confirm if we can help.

New Business: Nomination of 2013 SAG Officers. A motion was made to keep the current officers to serve again in 2013. A ballot should be in the SAG RAG e-versions that could be mailed or emailed to Dave Smith with the officers and option for write in nominations.

Chair – Liz Wolff, Vice Chair – Dave Smith, Treasurer – Steve Hobson, Secretary – Melanie Jackson

Cave Conservation Activities on Federal Lands for Scott Fee: the grotto came up with the following:

Fuzzy Bunny Cave clean up, Some cave clean up at It-ta-Choo-mah Cave, Reported Vandalism at Samwel Cave, Fire suppression in the Marbles Labor Day Weekend, Trinity County Natural Bridge Cave clean up, Work with bugs with Geo at Hat Creek. Wayne Cedidla and Joel Despain Ursa Minor Cave transmitter to check on cave location in relation to surface, Annual Pluto Cave clean up.

Trip Reports: Ed Bobrow LABES does ice cave tours Crystal Cave. Ed also in charge of setting up a trip April 26.

Steve and Susan Hobson on a Nevada trip went to Indian Arc Sites that were 40' and 25-30' in length, outside of Fallon, NV. Saw three arc sites – Hidden Cave, Petroglyph and one more. Also saw a lava tube 30-40' outside Ichthyosaur Park at the end of October.

Jim and Liz two trips to LABES, Veteran's Day Bill Broeckel, Bill Devereau, Paradise Alley survey, Ovis and Annex and Surprise cave (upper level 200'). Thanksgiving they started Thunderbolt survey (1000 + feet). Joel and Heather Crystal Cave Sequoia Trip. Joel mentioned there will be 10 days of cave survey at the Hamilton Valley Research Facility in Kentucky in late January 19-25th. Will need wetsuit and vertical equipment. Whighistle Cave now has 35.5 miles of survey completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.
Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary.

MJ

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:46pm at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka.

Attendance: Sam Baxter, Rudy Hendricks, Wayne Cedidla, Ernie Coffman, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill, Judy, & Becky Broeckel, Ed & Virginia Bobrow, Melanie Jackson.

Minutes: were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Not available.

SAG RAG: Nov/ Dec. issue will have three caves from Bruce Rogers and two chimney caves from Hat Creek. Jan/ Feb. issue will have It-ta-Choo-mah Cave.

Website & e-RAG: Not available.

Correspondence: The Hoffman Environmental Research Institute through its Center for Cave and Karst Studies along with Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning and the Western Kentucky University listed their summer 2013 Karst Field Studies Program courses. There will be classes on Karst Geology, Karst Geophysics, Cave Photography, Karst Hydrology and Cave Biology & Ecosystems. Courses can be taken for graduate, undergraduate, or continuing education credit or as noncredit workshops. For more information www.karstfieldstudies.com or director Dr. Leslie North at leslie.north@wku.edu. NSS Convention – Registration now open. nss2013.com website .

Calendar:

Feb. 22 – SAG Meeting McCloud/ Sat. Pluto's Cave Clean-up
Mar. 22 – SAG Meeting Steve's in Redding/ Sat. APC? Ellery Creek Cave?
April 26 – SAG Meeting Melanie's in Yreka/ Sat. LABES & Crystal Ice Cave?
Aug. 5-9 – NSS Convention, Shippensburg Pennsylvania
Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 2013 – Combined WR & NCA Regional at Trout Lake, WA
Aug. 29-Sept. 2 – Marbles Speleo camp caving

Old Business: All officers from 2012 were re-elected for 2013. Chris Kennedy about Samwel Cave – Regarding site stewardship, requires a \$25 cost for weekend training. The object is to get to your site once a month and there is

some paperwork recording for the state. Chris is looking into it to see if it is something individuals in the grotto are interested in or if we could do it as a group. SCA Site Stewardship website <http://cassp.org> Ed Bobrow is in charge of Crystal Cave Trip at LAB, he can only call to reserve three weeks in advance. Ed will call on April 5 to see if we can get trip on April 26. Limited to small group (6 people).

New Business: Pluto's Cave Clean up on Sat. 23. Chris and his wife from the Outdoor Shop in McCloud may come and Tom Hesseldenz maybe can come. Aug 29 (Thurs) – Sept. 2 is Marble Mountain Cave trip. We will have S and E Outfitters pack us in and out again as we have done for the last 3 years. We will be leaving a day earlier this year to have more time caving. The cost of horses/mules is still \$125 / day / horse as far as I know at this time. There is a 4 horse minimum. We will be charging a bit more to include tip and to take into account the need for more animals than we anticipate due to weight/packing restrictions. Let Melanie know if you want to reserve space. Sam Baxter wondered if SAG would be interested in putting together a 20 minute program showing 6-8 photos of caves of Siskiyou County that lets people know of the excitement of finding new caves to interest people in caving. This would be done for the Land Trust group for use in February 2014. It could be a power point with music that could be run with or without a narrative. It's basically great pictures/theme/presentation. If we as a grotto or any individual in the grotto is interested please talk with Sam.

Trip Reports: Jan. 1st Bill and Judy Broeckel cross country skied to Hat Creek for cave survey. Coffee Can Cave 73' with a dig at the end. There was mud and a visual of a small room beyond. This is in the Sweet Sinkers area. Tues Jan. 22 same area Bill snow shoed to another new cave called Snowshoe Cave 87' This is cave #207 on survey at Hat Creek.

Dec. 8 Steve Hobson, Chris Kennedy, & Melanie Jackson went to APC. We couldn't get past the air lock so Chris and Melanie played in the Maze and Steve practiced tying knots in the dark.

In October Rudi, Heather and Marco went all the way to the back of Pluto's Cave and picked up some trash.

Ed Bobrow attended a Park Service Seminar in the Bay Area. It was a joint park service / city system meeting on Astronomy. Ed gave a 5 minute talk on what Berkeley looked like a million years ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.
Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary.

MJ



SALAMANDER FROM ONE OF OUR LONGER CAVES

FOLDED CAVE

By Bighorn Broeckel

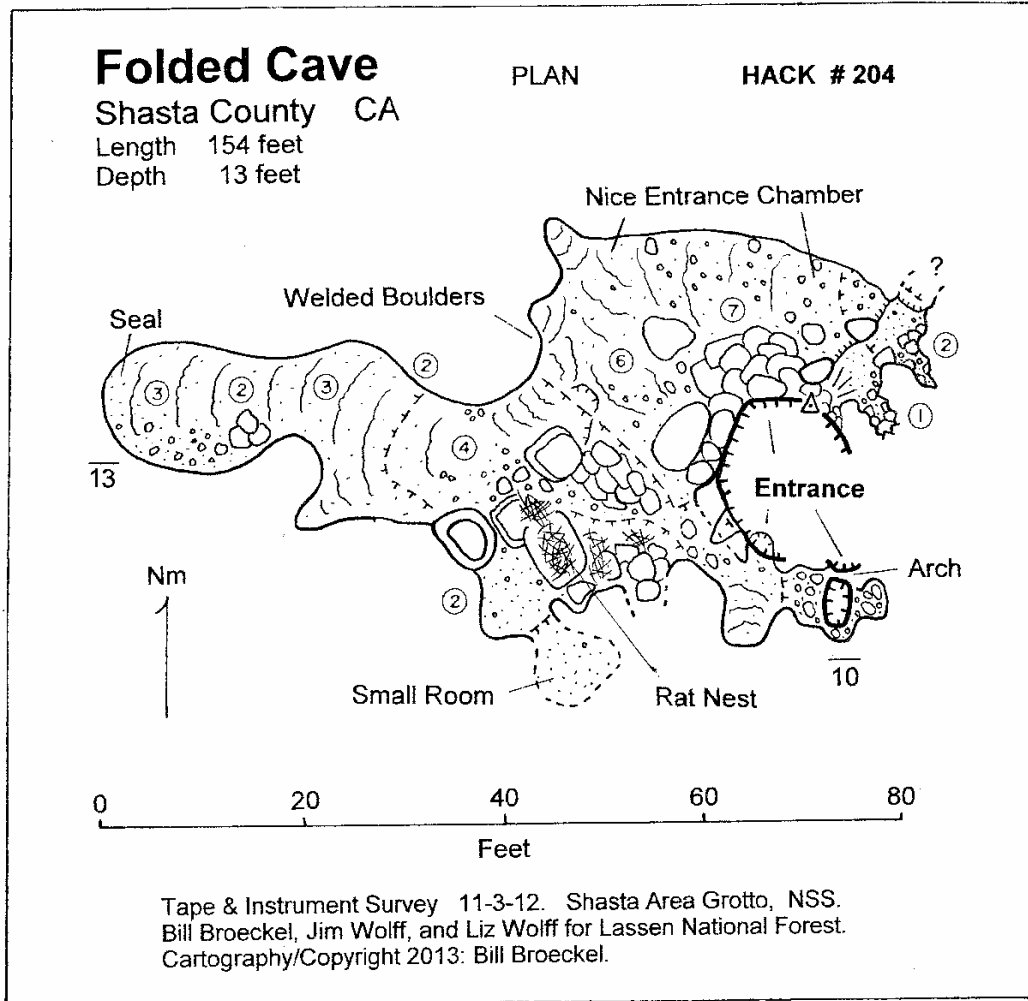
There is a fold in the roof over the main entrance, so Jim Wolff named it Folded Cave. This is the cave that Jim found off in the thickets, after we were done with Kiva Cave on 11-3-12. Jim, Liz Wolff, and I went back and surveyed Folded Cave later that same day, while Geo Graening and the Sac State Biology Field Group students were busy doing bio-surveys and collections in some of the larger Shasta County lava tubes.

Folded Cave has an attractive entrance, and a roomy, pleasant entrance chamber. An orb-weaver spider had spun a beautiful web on the right side. Nice lava surfaces and welded boulders appeared on the left side. The main passage went down and low around some bends, ending at a lava seal. Some small passage complexity was included along the sides of the shallow entrance collapse.

Total survey length was 154 feet, more passage compared to many shorter caves in the vicinity. Leave it to Jim Wolff to come up with a good one that even qualifies as a cute little cave. The other two new caves that we spotted were Something Borrowed Cave (for the record only), and Jeffrey Pine Cave, with going passage still waiting to be explored and mapped. The Folded Cave map and report given here were expedited by special request from Grotto leadership.

BB

Folded arch over the entrance to Folded Cave, visible toward left side of photo.



Map: Folded Cave



Jim Wolff at Folded Cave, with the fold itself obscured by a shadow (11-3-12).

It ta Choo-mah Cave

By Liz Wolff

The Pit River People called the river It ta Choo-mah. It was rich with fish and the area had many plants and animals that enhanced their lives. It is still an excellent fishing river with good hunting, and very scenic. A cave has long been known in the cliffs along the McCloud River canyon. One Friday in mid-October Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff went out to the river to explore it. We found far more cave passage than anticipated. While there, cans, fishing lures and burnt boards were removed. A geocache was found that had been installed in the cave in 2008. Only one visitor had signed in since then. Steve signed in as 'SAG' and added one of the shiny new fishing lures to the cache.

During the reconnaissance and the later survey, quite a bit of cave life was obvious: one sleepy bat, millipedes, snail shells, hundreds of frantically disturbed daddy-long-leg spiders doing 'push ups' in preparation to flee the light monsters, one somnolent black widow spider, several shiny-eyed moths that like to hang out in caves, small crickets and the granddaddy of all crickets with a black body about two inches in length and antenna between four and five inches in length. It was a suspicious looking shadow right next to a squeeze between the wall and a boulder.

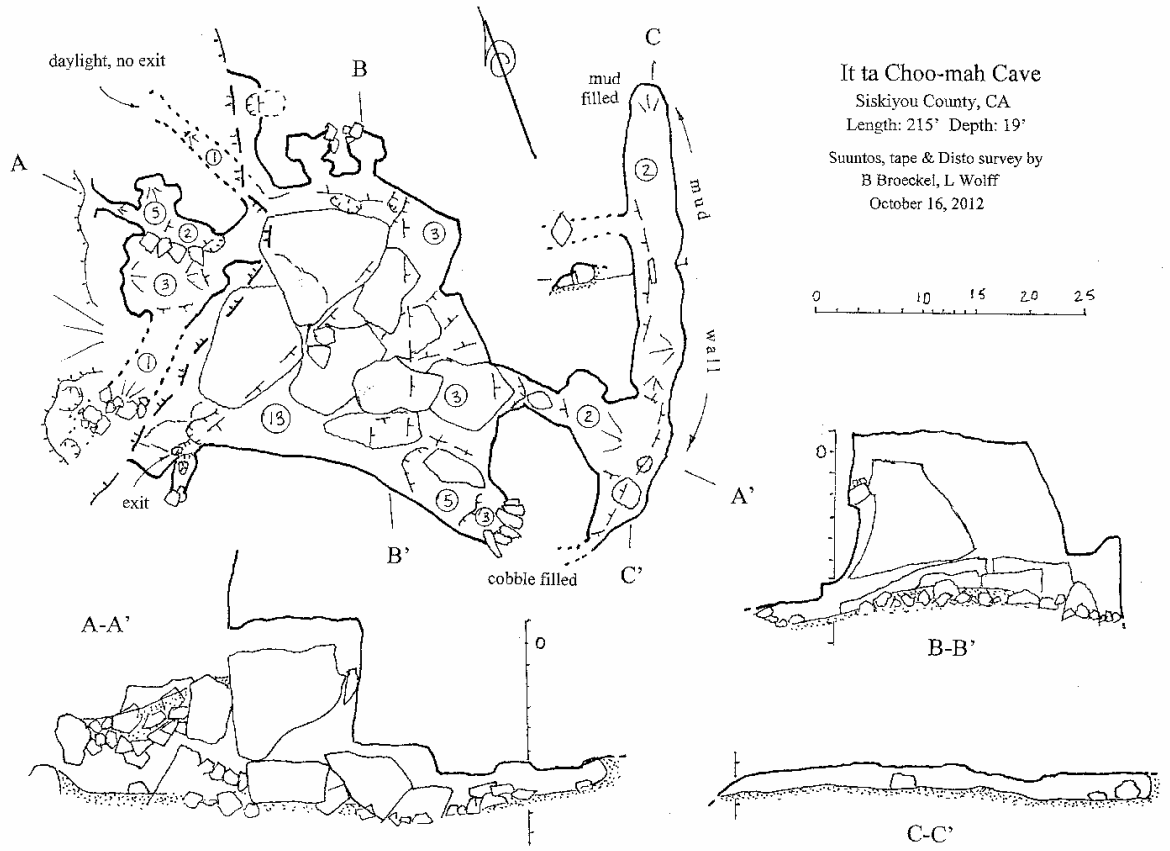
Tuesday, October 16, 2012 Bill Broeckel and Liz Wolff were looking for something to survey that was close to home due to ridiculously high gas prices. We chose the cave in the cliffs along the McCloud River. The trail to the cave is nearly vertical, and if muddy could precipitate one directly onto the rocks below; only about 40 feet down, but the effect on the bod would not be salubrious. The cave is formed in lava, but is not a lava tube. It is formed in, under and around car- and bus-sized boulders under a deep overhang. Two very large boulders form the floor of the overhang and the front wall of the lower cave, blocking the "big room" from the boulder pile leading to the river. The entrance chamber is 38 feet wide and 12 feet deep, with an eleven foot drop to the "big room." In general, all the passages from the overhang to the back of the cave have solid rock ceilings, but the crawls and climbs to the smaller entrances have wedged rock and boulder ceilings.

From the "big room" a climb-up exits to the south end of the entrance overhang. Opposite the climb-up, a passage drops into a dirt and detritus floored chamber, the lowest point in the cave, with a solid rock ceiling. Many holes lead down into the breakdown a dozen feet or more, but are too small to be entered. Crossing to the north of the "big room" and under the entrance boulder leads into a mazy area, with one passage showing a daylight glow (but major passage modification would be needed to get through it), another going back under the entrance to the south, and the least obvious, going to a tiny third entrance.

An enticing dark space between boulders leads from the "big room" deeper under the cliff and into the only truly dark part of the cave. Here a crawl passage with a mud floor and mud back wall roughly parallels the cliff-face. The stony ceiling and one wall are reminiscent of a lava tube ceiling and wall, but aren't; neither does it look the same as the rest of the cave ceiling. It ta Choo-mah Cave is 215 long and 19 feet deep.

LW





Map: It ta Choo-mah Cave



Liz Wolff emerging from the other side entrance on survey at It-ta-Choo-mah Cave.



Patch of 16 Daddy-long-legs spiders, and spider webs (up high) in It-ta-Choo-mah.



Six moths and two spiders in It-ta-Choo-mah Cave (10-16-12).



Liz Wolff on survey in the main entrance to It-ta-Choo-mah Cave (10-16-12).



Wall and ceiling detail in It-ta-Choo-mah Cave (note Daddy-long-legs spiders).



Bill Broeckel obstructing the deep bowels of It-ta-Choo-mah Cave (Liz Wolff photo).



Very large cricket or roach found in It-ta-Choo-mah Cave (10-16-12).

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION ALREADY,
THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT TIME TO DO SO. – ed.

NAME(S): _____

NSS#: _____ NSS# is current? _____

IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? _____

ADDRESS: _____

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_____ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$6 per person or family (circle one).

_____ I want to subscribe to CAL CAVER too for another \$10.

_____ SAG RAG subscription only, without grotto membership. \$6.

_____ TOTAL. Make checks payable to "Shasta Area Grotto", (not "SAG")
and send to Steve Hobson 2433 California St. Redding CA 96001

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STAMP

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