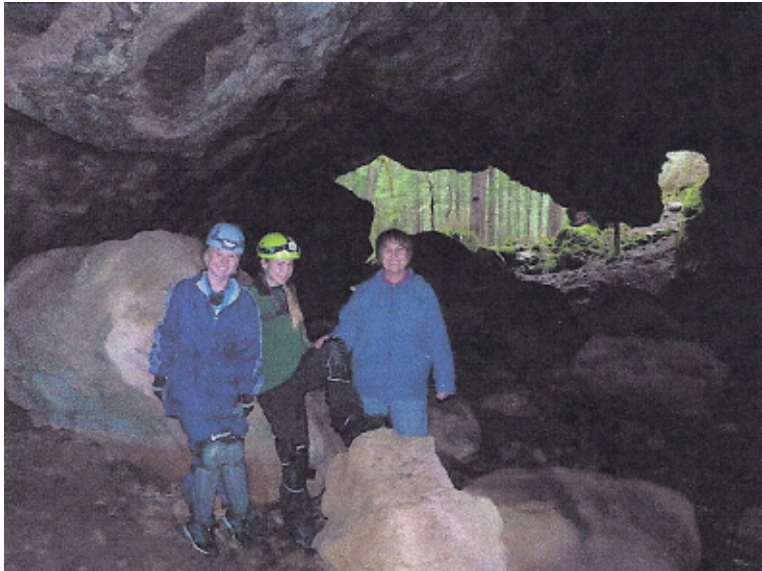


# sag rag

32:2 Mar-Apr 2013



Kaylee, Savanna and Diann in the Natural Bridge



Chris, Savanna and Kaylee getting ready to go in the entrance

**INSIDE: Caving cousins, cave bombing, and maps of (wimpy) caves.**

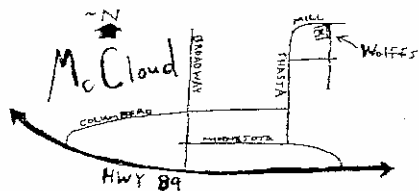
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG. Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription.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

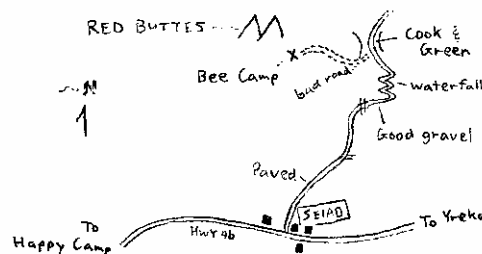
May 31	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud 530-964-3123.
June 21-23	Paul Gibson trip. Contact Steve Hobson 530-242-8707.
June 28-29	Red Buttes trip. Contact Bill Broeckel 530-842-3917.
July 26	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Kennedy's in Weaverville 530-739-0206.
Aug 5-9	NSS Convention at Shippensburg, PA. 703-573-4653.
Aug 23	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud 530-964-3123.
Aug 29	Start of Marbles packtrip (contact Mel soon 530-842-9714).
Aug 30	Combined Regional at Trout Lake, WA. Great lava caving.
Sep 27	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobson's in Redding 530-242-8707.
Oct 25	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Kennedy's in Weaverville 530-739-0206.
Dec 6	SAG meeting 7:30 at Broeckel's in Yreka 530-842-3917.

## Maps to Meetings

May



June



## SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Chris Kennedy saves the day with a good trip report and pictures from April. Other than that, and no offence to the fine authors involved here, we are scraping out the bottom of the SAG RAG file for this issue, with lots of odds and ends from this last year or so. Fortunately we have a great schedule of caving opportunities which might generate some good reports for the next few newsletters. It could happen. Most of these cave opportunities involve solution caves beyond the usual KMCTF seasonal trips. This looks like a dry summer, so we get started out early with Paul Gibson. Fire kept us out of Red Buttes last year, so we'll try for June this time around, hoping for chances to see Sinking Waters and Eight Minute Pit. Chris Kennedy has some new caves to survey in the Coast Ranges in July, and maybe Manzanita in October. With prospects for low water levels, Hobson is thinking about getting back to Lake Level in September. Anything goes after the August meeting in McCloud, with all areas wide open, unless there are fires. For the die-hard lava-tubers, well, not too much right now, except that Trout Lake Regional will be an outstanding chance to see some great lava caves in Southern Washington. So hook up with something, and help put cavers together with caves. **BB**

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm at the Wolffs' home in McCloud.

**Attendance:** Linda & Vern Clift, Bill & Becky Broeckel, David Smith, Arley Kisling, Wayne Cedidla, Jim & Liz Wolff, Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Han Stein, Ed & Virginia Bobrow.

**Minutes:** accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance is \$893.46 Deposits of \$36.00. An outstanding check to WCC of \$250.00 that they never received was cancelled and another sent.

**SAG RAG:** There are nine pages of photos in the last E-version.

**Correspondence:** David Smith filed our annual report with the NSS. Feb. 11th there was an early morning call for caver assistance at Pluto's Cave. By 4am, it was cancelled as the kids walked out.

**Old Business:** Ed Bobrow will sign us up for Crystal Ice Cave and see if we can take a bigger group in and have a little free reign while possibly working with Bill Devereaux on measuring ice levels. Maybe we can use the CRF building. CORSAR (CA, OR, SAR) will be in Lakeview, OR in June and we may be holding a patient packaging/litter handling class. Melanie to get information on place and dates, number of teams to train, etc. She will call Celeste Fowler, the Siskiyou County SAR Coordinator.

**New Business:** In June or July Brad Rust and Geo Graening possible trip to Paul Gibson Cave that will be an overnight weekend. It's a 7 mile hike in and out in the Hoopa/Happy Camp area. SAG was contacted through our website by a private land owner (Dan Wigginton) who says he has cave(s) on his property. He has been invited to our next meeting in Redding. He has the last private land parcel on the East side of the Pit River. He would like help looking for cave entrances on his property.

Steve was contacted by a female UCLA student studying Ammonites for her thesis. She was talking about the Brock Creek area south of the grey rocks. She will be coming here sometime this spring.

**Trip Reports:** Hans Stein took his nephews to Hat Creek, Subway Cave, and Sweet Sinkers in December. They are 4 and 5 years old. Ed Bobrow, Jim & Liz Wolff worked on survey in Labyrinth Cave obtaining 4 shots in 4 hours and it was just too cold.

President's Day weekend Bill & Judy Broeckel, Bill & Peri Frantz, Liz Wolff, Shane Fryer, Matt Leissring, and Heather McDonald worked on survey in Labyrinth Cave, finishing a big loop that was only off by 8 feet due to a lot of magnetics. Cave and surface survey was 3,648.65 feet. During this effort they found a bat gate that no one knew was there and also found a sign in an obscure side passage that read XXX pink, now known as the X-Rated passage. It also has a small pool.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Melanie Jackson, Shasta Area Grotto Secretary.

**MJ**

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING

March 22, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 pm at Steve Hobson's home in Redding.

**Attendance:** Hans & Leah Stein, Jed Medin, Chris Kennedy, Liz & Jim Wolff, Neils Smith, Dallas Carlon, Steve Hobson, David Smith, Wayne Cedidla, Melanie Jackson, April Pryor, and guest Tara Underwood (moved to Redding from Chattanooga, TN).

**Minutes:** accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance is \$893.46.

**SAG RAG:** N/A

**Website:** All is the same, operating well.

**Correspondence:** Received Forestry Suppliers Catalog. Jim Stout thanks SAG for Pluto's Cave Clean up and asks how we think the trail to the cave could be marked to keep people from getting lost. Juan de la Fuente Pluto's Cave write-up and observations on new sign board and brochures available, sparse trash in cave and major graffiti. Celeste Fowler on CORSAR classes.

**Calendar:**

4/26/13 SAG MEETING 7:30 pm Melanie's in Yreka.

4/27/13 A Group of SAGGITES will go to Crystal Cave at LABES (6 people only, maybe more if Bill Devereaux does ice monitoring). Let Liz know if you want to go.

4/27/13 WCC meeting in Chico.

**Old Business:** Cave hunt offer by Dave Wiggington is still open. Liz emailed him, but hasn't gotten a response yet and he did not come to this grotto meeting. Celeste Fowler (Siskiyou SAR Coord.) responded that classes for CORSAR came out and patient packaging and litter handling were not on the list so SAG'S services will not be required this year.

**New Business:** Jim Stout wants to know if SAG would help with a trail marking system for Pluto's Cave and what ideas do we have. Dave Smith made a motion that was seconded for the SAG Grotto to spend up to \$200.00 and time to help mark the cave access and trail to Pluto's Cave and to label both sides of the telephone pole (perhaps spray paint on the pole).

June 21-23, 2013 a three day backpack trip to Paul Gibson Cave to do a fire recovery evaluation. Brad Rust, Steve Hobson, and Geo Graening are going. Let Steve Hobson know if you want to go.

**Trip Reports:** Jed Medin taught a rock climbing friend vertical rope techniques and they dropped the pit in Samwel Cave.

3/16/13 Jim & Liz Wolff, and Bill Devereaux closed the loop on their Labyrinth Cave survey at LABES. They found two more side passages for 3,292 ft. The total traverse is 4,740 ft. This includes several loops and one survey leg with five entrances.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary.

**MJ**

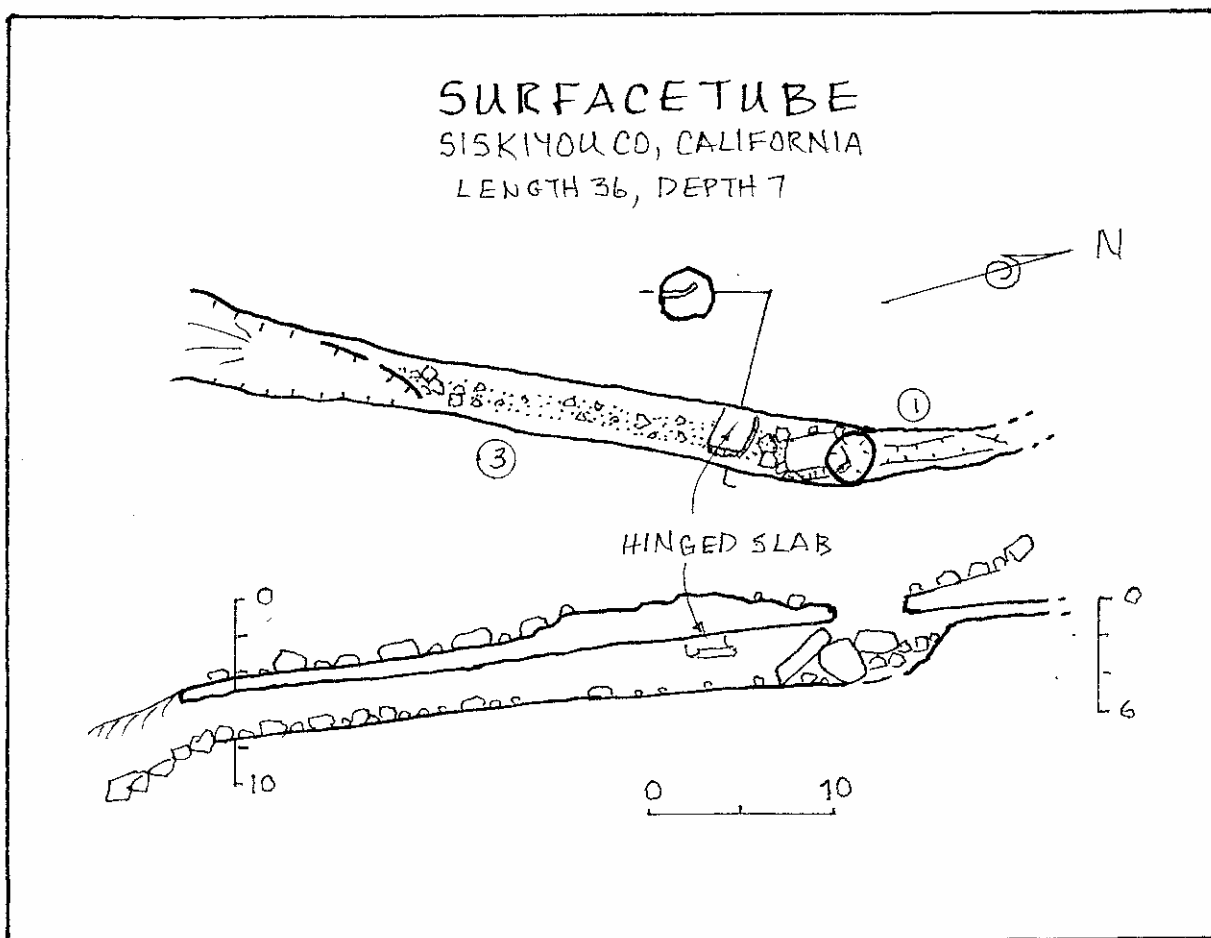
## Surface Tube Cave

By Liz Wolff

Surface Tube is, as its name implies, a surface tube. It comes off of the side of a hill surrounded by the Chimney Crater lava flow. The flow passes between two low hills, and at one point the flow ran over the flank of one of the hills long enough to leave a surface tube on the hillside. The entrance is visible from the road and looks promising.

Surface tubes are typically small and gnarly; this one is pretty spacious, having a three foot diameter, and is mainly intact. The floor is mainly pumice. It is nearly circular in cross section up to a small skylight, where the tube is partially blocked with break-down and then becomes the more-typical small and gnarly tube. An interesting slab is hinged along the left wall and is cantilevered over the passage. Total length is 36 feet and depth is seven feet. (Gotta love a Disto, it makes solo survey so-o-o easy.)

LW



Map: Surface Tube Cave

**Caving Cousins**

April 4, 2013

By Chris Kennedy

Sometimes rain can work out in your favor. Originally Savanna had wanted to take her visiting cousin Kaylee and her Grandma Diann out to one of the local crags for some rock climbing, but the weather forecast called for rain for the entire time that they would be visiting. So I suggested a trip out to Natural Bridge. Everyone jumped on the idea so we packed the caving gear, stopped at the local thrift store and bought clothes and shoes that could get grungy for Kaylee and Diann and headed out to Hayfork. When we arrived at the parking area it was a bit creepy. There was a car that we thought was abandoned, full of junk, but the windows were fogged up so we could not be certain. The vandalism and littering around the parking area has gotten pretty out of control and could definitely use a cave clean up day. Once we left the parking area and headed down the trail and away from the trash we felt better. There was not much water under the bridge so we were able to get a really good look around the travertine pools and posed with the family for some nice pictures at both ends of the bridge.

Our next stop was the crawl entrance to the three entrance cave further up the hill. I let Kaylee know that she was not going to get lost in this one so if she wanted to lead she could. She was really excited and took off crawling towards the first room. Savanna soon followed and I trailed behind her. Being young and lithe they got to the first room much quicker than I did and I listened to the talking while I finished my crawl. When I got there I said for them to talk quietly so they would not disturb the bat. It was then that they both looked up to see that there was a bat about two feet above their heads. Needless to say they were ready to move on. Again Kaylee led and we found the hallway that heads back to the moon milk section which they both enjoyed seeing. From there we went deeper into the crawl tube area where you usually get all wet because you are forced to crawl through several inches of water, but on this day it was completely dry. The girls were a little nervous in the tighter areas so I took the lead and led them down through the tube to the very back where you have to do a little blind down climb of about eight feet to see the last room. I led in order to spot them but they both made it down on their own and managed to get back out without assistance. The girls led the way back through the crawl tube and stopped to take a photo at one of the tighter areas. That was when I noticed another bat only about a foot away from Kaylee. We took a quick picture and quietly crept on. The girls were ready to head out so we made our way to the exit where we found their Grandma Diann well rested after taking a nap at the cool entrance where she had waited for us. The girls had a great day and Kaylee is looking forward to her next visit when she will get to go caving again. **CK**



Oh my a bat



Back crawl passage, Kaylee and Savanna

**Pluto's Cave cleanup**

From: Liz Wolff

3/07/13

It was a small group of Shasta Area Grotto people and one FS employee that turned out to clean up Pluto's Cave. Wayne Cedidla, Melanie Jackson, Arley Kisling, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Hans Stein, Jim & Liz Wolff from SAG, and Juan de la Fuente from Klamath NF were present. Bill Broeckel made a cameo appearance as he was on call at the hospital, and picked up trash along the trail. Weather was mostly cloudy and breezy.

We gathered at the parking area at 9:30 am and by 10 left for the hike to the cave. The usual protocol for systematic cleaning: 1/3 started in the entrance and cleaned past the last skylight; while 2/3 went to the end of the walking passage and cleaned back toward the other group. They met up near "the slide" and all exited the cave. Trash was down this year, we filled one garbage can about 2/3 full, instead of to overflowing. The usual eclectic mix of trash was dominated by broken glass as in most years. After lunch in the Pluto's parking area, we headed out to Barnum and Sand caves. A ladder was used to enter the Sand skylight to pick up the half dozen (or so) items pitched into the sink. Barnum entrance area was cleaned of a small amount of trash. A SAR call-out caused the group to start splitting up about 2:30pm. LW

**Bombing the Trail to Pluto's Cave**

By Bill Broeckel

Joe Hoisington, Recreation Officer at the Goosenest Ranger District, contacted the grotto for help with marking the trail to Pluto's Cave. Apparently, people were getting lost out there and wandering onto surrounding private properties. Accordingly, nine grotto members showed up for a half day on April 20, 2013, with work gloves and ready to improve the trail.

Joe brought the wheelbarrows and 300 red "lava bombs" from a quarry at Horsethief Butte. The bombs were placed about every 10-15 feet along both sides of the trail. The wheelbarrows were used to move the rocks up the trail. We soon discovered that the bombs differed in weight, and learned to load up with the light ones.

While we were at it, we thought of some other things to do. We added quite a few native lava rocks to border the route, in between the red ones. Often we used loose rocks from the trail, thus clearing and delineating the trail at the same time. In one case the main walkway was rerouted. Wrong trails were visually blocked off. One side route to the southernmost entrance was accentuated. Trash was removed. The heaviest red bombs were used to form a nice entry to the trail. Some juniper trees were trimmed, and a trailhead sign was repositioned, all to make the beginning of the trail more visible and obvious. Nice work, everybody.

We had some lunch and cookies in the shade with Joe. Our long-time cave contact in the local Forest, Jim Stout, would be retiring very soon. Hoisington will now be our new contact. Grotto members present were Melanie Jackson, Wayne Cedidla, Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, Arley Kisling, Bill Broeckel, and Judy Broeckel. Steve Hobson and Dave Smith arrived a little later, but at just the right time to inject some fresh legs and energy to get us over the hump and through to project completion. I'm proud to be a SAGGER, you guys are THE BOMB. BB



## **Liz and Ray are Famous**

Submitted by Jim Wolff

*The following is a reprint of a newspaper article that appeared on page A-11 of the Dunsmuir News from last August under the title "Unraveling the mystery of bats in Siskiyou County." Jim Wolff submitted it on 8-22-12. The event took place on 8-15-12.*

Recently, the Klamath National Forest and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yreka Field Office sponsored a Nocturnal Nightlife Guided Nature Walk focusing on the mystery of bats that occur in our area.

Bats are a very misunderstood group of species and provide an important building block to the foundation of a healthy ecosystem.

The trip was led by local biologists and bat experts. A group of 34 participants were led by local experts in a nearby cave system for an evening of presentations and hiking. Participants learned fascinating aspects of bat ecology and had the opportunity to carefully explore an area that is important to an overwintering population of bats.

This event was part of a NatureWatch / Connecting People with Nature education outreach program coordinated by USFS and USFWS.

Local bat experts Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Mary Ellen Coleburg, and Julie York provided the audience with an informative discussion about bat ecology, White-nose Syndrome, the role of Barnum Cave, and proper bat handling.

The group was led into Barnum Cave for a discussion on cave history, bat use, exploring parts of the cave, and being able to view bats in action.

Approximately 17 diverse species of bats occur in Siskiyou County. While some bats are closely associated with caves and mines in the area, most local species occur in our surrounding forests.

With the use of special adaptations and echolocation, our local bat species are vitally important at controlling insects in our area.

This group of species is very sensitive to human disturbance. Studying and monitoring of these animals allows for better management to allow for bats to persist in our backyard.

Caves, which provide habitat for many bat species, are also sensitive to disturbance and should be entered with care and respect. Some local caves have suffered permanent damage through vandalism.

In order to manage bats and cave resources the USFS has put in place seasonal restrictions to limit human access in sensitive areas.

For example, Barnum Cave is closed to public access during critical times of the year to allow for bat species, including the Townsend's Big-eared bat, to safely overwinter.



**Shasta County Cave Signified**

Submitted by Broeckels

*The following is a reprint of a newspaper article that appeared in the 3-23-12 Siskiyou Daily News under the titles "Natural National Landmark News" and "Shasta Caverns designated as National Landmark". Congratulations to our local commercial cave, keeping things natural.*

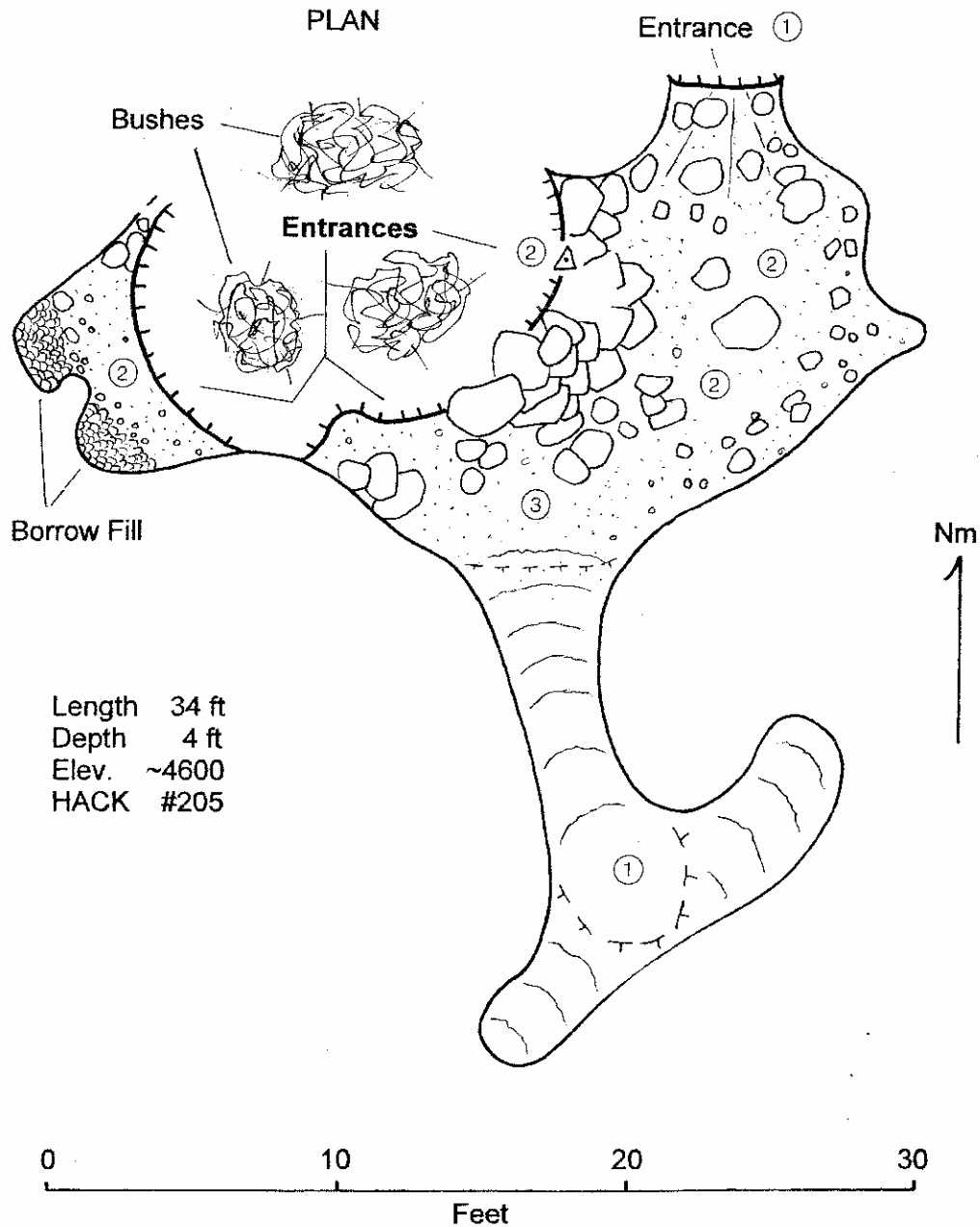
LAKEHEAD, Calif. – Lake Shasta Caverns was recently awarded the Natural National Landmark (NNL) designation, a recent press release from Lake Shasta Caverns announced. This designation is issued within the criteria of the condition and quality of the caves rarity and value to science and education.

Matthew Doyle, caverns general manager said, "We have worked hard in stewardship and conservation of the cave to receive this designation and we are ecstatic. We expect an increase in guest attendance from out of the area due to this recognition."

Lake Shasta Caverns are a network of caves located near the McCloud arm of Shasta Lake and scientists believe that the system dates back at least 200 million years, formed by flowing water. Made entirely of limestone, these caves feature every type of possible formation, including stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, columns, and flowstone, the release stated. With a total of 35 Natural National Landmark sites in California, Lake Shasta Caverns now becomes number 36. For more information, visit [www.lakeshastacaverns.com](http://www.lakeshastacaverns.com), or call (800) 795-2283 or 238-2341.

# Something Borrowed Cave

Shasta County California



Tape & Instrument Survey 11-4-12. Shasta Area Grotto.  
National Speleological Society, for Lassen National Forest.  
Cartography/Copyright 2013: Bill Broeckel.

Map: Something Borrowed Cave

## Something Borrowed

By Bill Broeckel

That day last November, when we surveyed Kiva Cave and Jim Wolff found Folded Cave, Liz Wolff also found a going lava tube she named Jeffrey Pine Cave. Wanting very badly to find a cave too, I casted about and came up with Something Borrowed, right next to an old borrow pit. The cinder quarry actually breeches the SW alcove of the entrance sink. Many pitiful caves have some semi-redeeming quality or feature. In this case, it is the unexpected side passage where you can crawl up a small lava cascade to reach a plateau or shelf which, unfortunately, lacks enough headroom for full appreciation. OK, so Liz and I sometimes engage in dueling cave maps in these SAG RAGs, and this is one of those rare occasions when I win. Mine is the more pitiful cave. It is from Hat Creek after all, so I had some advantage to begin with. No wonder there are quite a few caves out there, just look at this stuff that counts! **BB**



This shows a cloud of smoke from the Ponderosa Fire looming over Sugarloaf out by Hat Creek, when the caving area was closed due to fires last Summer and Fall.

### About Bats

#### SHOULD WE BLAME MICE OR BATS?

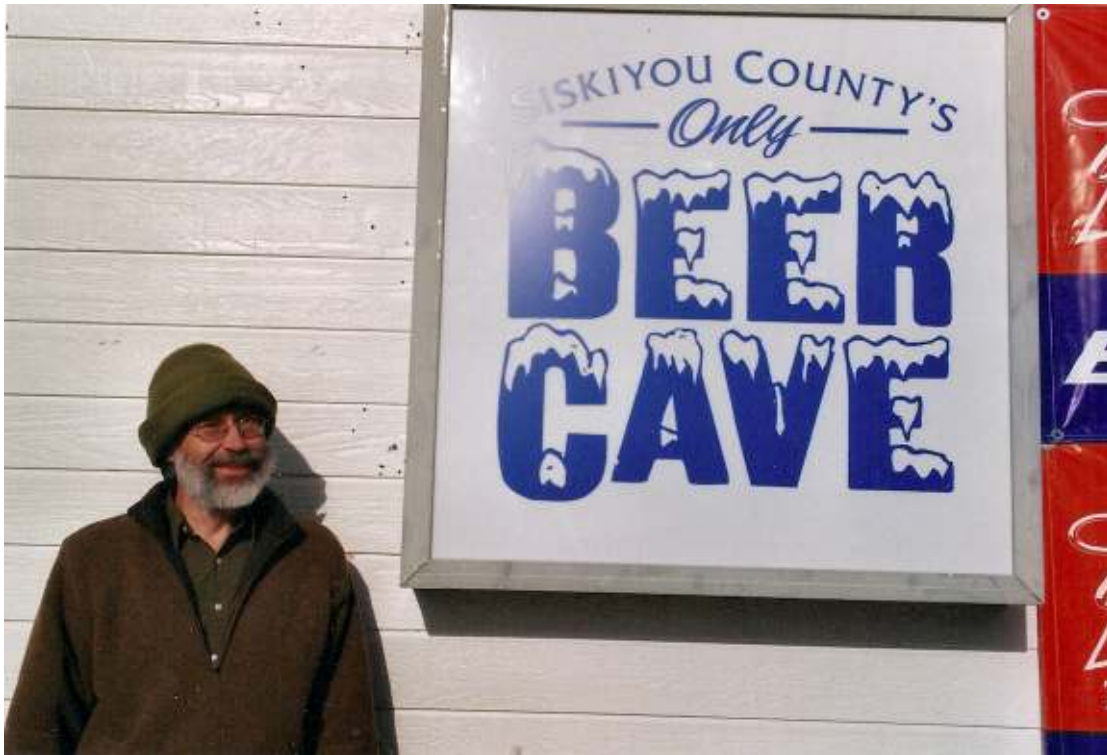
Guano – the official name for bat droppings – is often difficult to distinguish from mouse feces. After a false identification home owners have carpeted their attic floors with mouse traps to catch the little dudes doing the dirty work.

Guano is sickle shaped and pointed on the

ends. Our bats eat no fibrous material, so their feces will easily crumble. Rodent pellets have rounded ends, and the fibers in their diet hold the pellets together.

Now don't let anyone tell you that you can't learn guano reading The SAGRAG.

**Ray Miller**



Bighorn discovers a new cave in Siskiyou County. Multiple trips will be needed before this one is fully explored and surveyed. Photo by Judy Broeckel. This photo of an April fool represents a deep scrape into the absolute bottom of the SAG RAG barrel. At this time, new material would be welcome, so submit stuff and we'll try not to hurt it too bad.

**SAG RAG**  
**2916 Deer Mdws Rd**  
**Yreka CA 96097**

**STAMP**

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