

Entering Bananas



First Rappel, I think he likes it

Photos from Christopher Kennedy

**INSIDE: Trinity reports, bat reminders, and the Medicine Lakes Highlands**

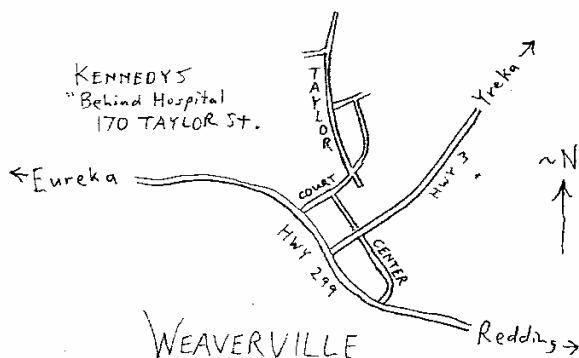
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG. Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription.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

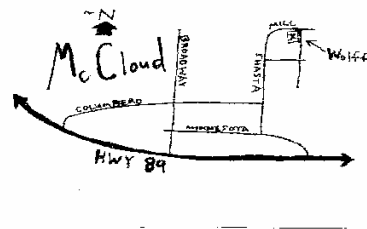
July 26	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Kennedy's in Weaverville 530-739-0206.
Aug 5-9	NSS Convention at Shippensburg, PA. 703-573-4653.
Aug 23	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud 530-964-3123.
Aug 30	Combined Regional at Trout Lake, WA. Great lava caving.
Sep 27	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobson's in Redding 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

July



Aug



### SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Chris Kennedy saves the day again with a good trip report and pictures from June. Roger Jones gets some credit with these caves, as I recall him talking to some SAG people about Bananas Cave many years ago. Bruce Rogers is serious about getting cave/bat reports from us, so let's try to participate with the data base. His blurb went out through e-mails, but it seems timely and important, and bears repeating, so here it is. He has considerations for caver behavior that we all need to be aware of this year and every year. I filled up the rest of the SAG RAG, clearing out a bunch of backlogged caves and surveys from one odd corner of the Medicine Lake Highlands Double Hole Lava Flow. Wow, that felt good. Next issue we already have two Liz Wolff reports on Siskiyou County Grotto trips from early this summer. We'll see what else shows up. Life goes on. Keep cool and be careful in there. **BB**

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING APRIL 26, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm at Melanie's home in Yreka.

**Attendance:** Steve Hobson, Chris Kennedy, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Jim & Liz Wolff, Wayne Cedidla, Arley Kisling, and Melanie Jackson.

**Minutes:** accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance \$893.46 with one outstanding check for \$250 to the WCC.

**SAG RAG:** Odds and ends, bats, trail marking trip, coming soon.

**Correspondence:** Received a request from Erin Walker (currently living in AK) for permission to use the SAG Logo in an article about women in caving. Jim Stout mentioned in his last memo that he is retiring from the Klamath National Forest after 20 plus years. Bill B. got a catalog of classes from Siskiyou Field Institute. There is a three day weekend July 12-14 at LABES. There are a couple of cave related classes by Jon Roth and a LABES bat watch with a hike to watch the Mexican Free tail bats exit. Cost for the weekend is \$150. Chris Kennedy and Jed Medin took a class for the Site Stewardship Programs (meet your local archeologist). On a regular basis Chris and Jed will be meeting and checking on Potter's Cave and Samwel Cave and check on Natural Bridge Cave which needs a cleanup. They say you take the class one time per year and there is some paper work, but not a lot to fill out. Per Steve Hobson via Brad Rust the Samwel Cave issue should be resolved soon. When that happens a cleanup (originally a SFBC project) can be scheduled.

**Old Business:** NCRC in June, WCC meeting at Chico State Ag Field Station 4/27/13

- **Calendar:** Crystal Ice Cave Ice Monitoring trip and anything else we can get into will be Saturday April 27.
- May 18-19 Devils Rock Trip – Steve Hobson and student
- May 31 SAG Meeting in McCloud at Wolffs' home
- June 28 camping at Red Buttes
- July 26 Meeting at Chris Kennedy's in Weaverville (Manzanita Cave or others)
- Aug 5-9 NSS Convention Shippensburg, PA
- Aug 23 SAG Meeting Wolff's or Hobson TBA
- Aug 29-Sept 2 Marbles Speleo Labor Day Weekend
- Aug 29-31 Western Regional and NCA in Trout Lake WA
- Sept. 27 SAG Meeting in Redding at Steve Hobson's. Patio boat for Lake Level/APC depends on H<sub>2</sub>O
- Oct. 25 SAG Meeting Chris Kennedy Weaverville. Manzanita Cave ?
- Nov / Dec, 6 Combined SAG Meeting at Broeckel's in Yreka. SAG officer nominations

**New Business:** None.

**Trip Reports:** Bill Broeckel 4/16 surveyed a new cave at Hat Creek, Daisy Maze 200+ feet that branches at the end. The elevated cave is 53' and the depressed cave is 43feet. 4/20 Earth Day hiked up Powder Hill, surveyed an unnamed cave west of Three Level. Small upper level caves at 109' several caves large and small Ice Plug and Crystal Ice Plug Cave. 4/23 Bill & Judy surveyed 60' Lighted Ice Fall Cave.

Chris Kennedy, Dallas Carlon, & Tara Underwood went to Deanna Lynn Cave & Riley's Cave. Dallas' dog got lost and they found a new cave, Determinate Cave. It is small between 30-60'. They had to remove a rock to enter. Dallas' dog was found the next day at the bridge.

Chris took his daughter, mother and niece to Natural Bridge cave. They saw three bats.

SAG Work trip to Pluto's cave to place red cinder bombs to mark the trail, and moved the trail head sign to the trail head.

4/22 Steve and Brad went downhill and uphill, from the road there are several bands of limestone. Stafford Cave 100-110 ft. Also found another cave approx. 150 ft. FS gates closed from time of the fire.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary.

**MJ**

**BRUCE'S BIOLOGICAL BAT BLURB**

By Bruce Rogers

Folks, it is the 2013 summer caving season! While the underground beckons, please think a bit before entering any caves that have bats in them.

The most common bat you will probably encounter is the Townsend's Big-eared bat, *Corynorhinus townsendii* (there are at least two, maybe three subspecies or races depending on geography, but that's not important here). Townsend's Big-eared bats, also known as Corys among bat biologists, tend to roost just inside the cave entrance in ceiling domes where warm air collects (usually expectant females or moms with young) or hang out spaced apart on ceilings or overhanging walls (males). Townsend's are relatively large bats with a foot-long wingspan, medium gray to light brown fur color and are famous for their enormous ears, usually approaching the length of their bodies (about 2 to 2.5 inches long). When sleeping, the ears are usually rolled tightly or folded back against the body. They are also quite curious about cavers and, if in flight, will orbit a caver to see who has come to visit before flying off to a quieter roost.

Most smaller bats – the *Myotis* species (smaller-sized brown-colored bats of several species) – are crack dwellers, squishing themselves into narrow cracks in the wall for protection; most cavers miss them since they are quite hidden. These bats also are notably smaller with shorter wingspans.

While these critters are cute, the bats you see clustered just inside the entrances to caves are most likely part of a maternity colony. Bats, as we all know, only produce one offspring a year, thus their numbers only slowly increase. If pupping Townsend's are disturbed they may abort or if the pups are already born, may abandon their young. Townsend's especially have had a nearly 60% reduction in numbers since the last major census in the late 1950s. Indeed, many roosts have now been abandoned due to accidental or intentional disturbance.

Townsend's are very roost loyal, attempting to use the same roost despite interruption or harassment, be it accidental or intentional. In one cave in the Coast Ranges, Townsend's finally abandoned their major roost after nearly 20 years of harassment by ignorant cave visitors, but each year a few lonely survivors return and attempt to roost until driven out by unknowing visitors.

Townsend's are very susceptible to people or anything moving directly below them (where potential predators may lurk) or to humans wearing nylon or other synthetic clothing (apparently the noise made by rubbing synthetic fabric upsets their hearing). They also are upset by electronic flash units used by cavers. The high-pitched whine as the unit powers up is disturbing to their hearing and the flashes of light frighten them as well. The Townsend's tend to have a delayed reaction to people or animals moving under them, often minutes, hours, or even a day later. Thus crossing under them and seeing no immediate movement does not always mean all is well.

So, please, if you see a cluster of bats as you enter a cave this summer, think about retreating and visiting another cave. If you "must" pass a bat colony, do so quietly and slowly, not under the colony, but to the side; and with your light pointing toward the floor. Better yet cover your downward shining light with a red transparent filter; this color upsets the bats less. Still, the best course of action is to leave the cave and visit another cave entirely.

Most of the bat colonies in Central California begin to cluster as a function of seasonal surface temperature. Most Mother Lode colonies assemble in late May to early June, pup in later June,

(continued)





"#138 Venture Across America – Language of Bats Revealed – Onondaga Cave State Park. Did you know – Bats use complex sounds to greet, direct, warn, and play with one another. What are we discovering about bat communication and how does it affect human lives? Learn about echolocation at [uhaul.com](http://uhaul.com)." Who would've thunk? These bats are traveling on the side of a U-Haul truck, Summer 2013.



These signs currently greet motorists entering Lava Beds National Monument 7-7-12.

and raise their young until about early to mid-September. Bats at higher elevations or in the Northern part of the State will cluster later in the Spring and raise their young later in the Summer and early Fall.

In the Mother Lode, we know that major bat caves to avoid during this time include Wool Hollow, Heater, and Crystal Stanislaus Caves (which apparently also has other colonies of different bats using the main chamber as well). Other caves with known colonies include Masonic, Santa Claus (Pearl), and Bower Cave. Wool Hollow and Heater are especially important as they have one of the last remaining relatively large colonies of Townsend's. These caves are used as alternative sites during the summer season for reasons unknown – it may be that different requirements for temperatures make a move to one or the other desirable as the season progresses. Alternatively, human disturbance may make a change in location desirable. This can happen on a weekly basis so please check before entering.

From middling September through the Fall and Winter months to middle May, the Mother Lode caves are usually free of bat clusters. Where they go is still not known. During this off season for bats, if you see a solitary bat hanging on the ceiling, it is probably a male since most females cluster together. So if you are going caving in the Mother Lode – or anywhere else – during the summer or any time during the year, take a moment to look first. This is the best you can do for our fellow cavers (☺).

And, please, if you do go caving, drop me a quick post of when you went, where you went, and if you saw any bats (single, few, whole bunch), if they were snoozing or flying ... or if you saw no bats at all. Don't worry about what species of bats you saw. Most cavers are not trained mammologists so bat researchers don't expect them to know if the single bat they saw was a Fringe-footed Myotis or a Liebman's Myotis. For those of you who regularly post me, thanks again. This data is being collected by the California Bat Steering Committee for use in trying to establish where our bats still exist and possibly where any future efforts to control White Nose Syndrome might be aimed should this terrible disease ever reach California. Cheers, Bruce Rogers, Earth Scientist (& bat observer) on a good day (or night). Please use [bwrogers@dslextre.me](mailto:bwrogers@dslextre.me) for any reports or comments. **BR**

## SCREAMING OSPREY AND BANANAS CAVES By Chris Kennedy

Cordell Dilly, one of my students from years ago, approached me inquiring about some caves in Trinity County. I explained to him that it was not common practice to just give out locations of caves to people who are not established members of the caving community. So we talked some more and he seemed to be really interested in getting started caving so I told him about a mapping project that I was working on and told him if he wanted to pull tape and learn how to set stations I would be glad to take him. He was really excited to get out so on Monday June 3rd we headed out to Bananas and Screaming Osprey. Cordell had only been on rope once before during a training exercise with a search and rescue team he was on so we started at Bananas and I gave him some lessons outside of the cave and we safetied each other before heading in. Even though it is a small cave, the formations were impressive and he enjoyed it and became instantly hooked on vertical caving.

After exiting Bananas, we did the small poison oak-infested hike over to Screaming Osprey for our true mission of the day. Cordell took the lead at the main entrance and I followed him to the back of the cave so that he would get a view of what we were going to survey. We then came back to where Liz and I had left off on our last visit. The cairn was still there so there was no problem getting started with the map. Cordell set great stations and we moved quickly to the back of the cave and reconnected to the main passage above the starting station for the day. It took about four shots for each of the passages and took some weird contorting for each of us as we moved through them but it was a success. We decided to leave the last two exiting passages to map another day as we were getting pretty tired and still had the hike out. We did go crawl through them as I was curious to see how Cordell would do when we started to get in some tight passages. He did awesome, in fact I suspect that SAG will soon have a new member to push those intimidating leads for us. We had a great day and I look forward to introducing Cordell to the group at our July meeting. I will send some pictures later. **CK**



Screaming Osprey: Top – the tight alternate entrance;  
Bottom: Almost out



Bananas: Ascending next to the banana tree

Photos from cordell caves – Christopher Kennedy

**DOUBLE HOLE DETAIL – GO WITH THE FLOW**

By Bill Broeckel

Here are four new cave maps for the Double Hole Lava Flow. According to the USGS, the Double Hole is part of the Giant Crater Basalt (bgc). This basalt is characterized by large extent, chemical variability, and multiple vents. It covers 198 square kilometers with a volume of 4.35 cubic kilometers, and is dated at Late Pleistocene. It plays in the same league with the mighty Mammoth Crater Basalt (bmc) out at Lava Beds, which covers 250 square kilometers with a volume of 5 cubic kilometers, and is also Late Pleistocene. Both basalts bear many caves, and the flows are roughly mirror images of each other.

When Judy and I knocked down The Original Porcupine Butte Lava Tube survey last June, it just seemed natural to pick up on some old surveys in a small cluster of tubes just down the flow, and draft the long overdue maps for those three additional caves. All of these caves are lined up in between Deviled Ham (upflow) and Sign Cave (downflow). All of them are part of the same meander of a section of the Double Hole Flow which mirrors the famous Cave Loop at Lava Beds. This meander would correspond with Hercules Leg/Juniper. Deviled Ham and Sign are two of nine caves over 1,000 feet long in this “Cave Loop analog”. To date, there are about 118 named caves in the Double Hole Flow. So now let’s look closer at these four new little cave maps, starting first with:

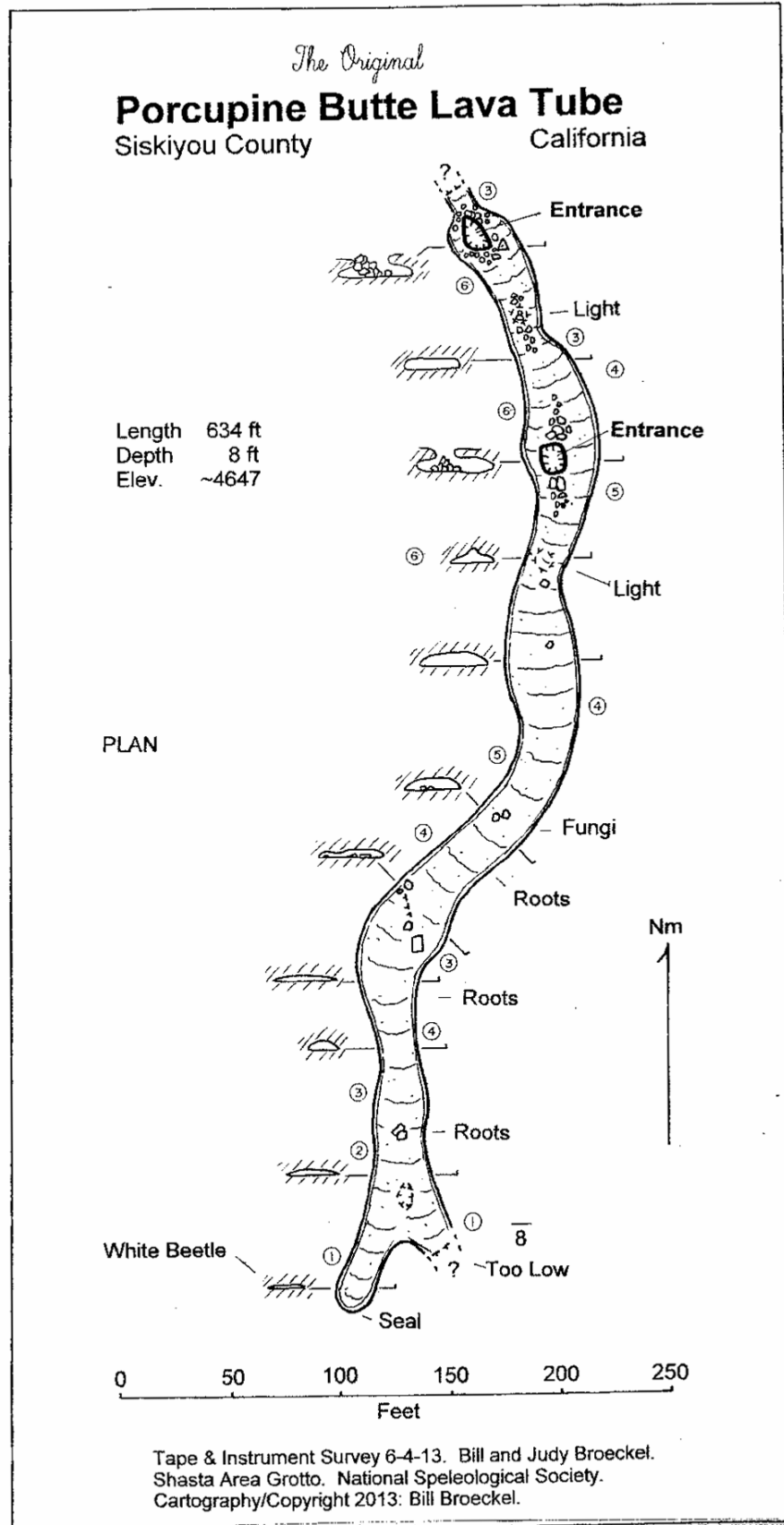
**The Original Porcupine Butte Lava Tube**, not to be confused with the regular Porcupine Butte Lava Tube, the big important multi-level 3,000+ ft cave surveyed by Liz Wolff and Roger Jones in 1983. I have it on good authority that this new one, only 634 feet long, is a better match for a location shown and named on a map from the 1930s, hence “The Original”. I even asked my informant what to name it, and the answer was “you have to go with the original, historical and correct name for the cave.” So there you are.

I first saw the obvious entrances in 2002, figured the cave was probably already known, and didn’t think too much of it. Then later on Liz and I were out GPS-ing the little caves (Poor Georges, Porky Bobs, and Lalos), and we continued on out to get these other entrances, and decided that they represented something “new” that needed to be surveyed. It turned out to be something old, but it still needed to be mapped. A year later, Judy was a big help on the survey trip, which we did in one big day. It gets rather crawly towards the end, but that’s just what you do. We saw a great branching floor fungus growing out of a chewed-up pine cone (see photo). We saw a small beetle lacking pigment, but no bats were seen. The next cave downflow is:

**Lalos Cave**, kind of a shorter version of The Original (PBLT). The similarities include the two entrances at the north end, the south-trending azimuth, the little bonus skylights, the passage style and textures, and the ending in a diminishing crawlway. I recall about 15 feet of additional progress into the “too low” section made possible by a longitudinal crack in the ceiling. We surveyed this one in 2002, with 120 feet of cave length. It only took a decade to get the map finished. This cave can also be followed on the surface as an elongated domed-up structure with a central crack, like a small pressure ridge, in good pahoehoe. Beyond Lalos, the flow reaches a large, flat pooling area, where the next surveyed lava tube is:

(continued)





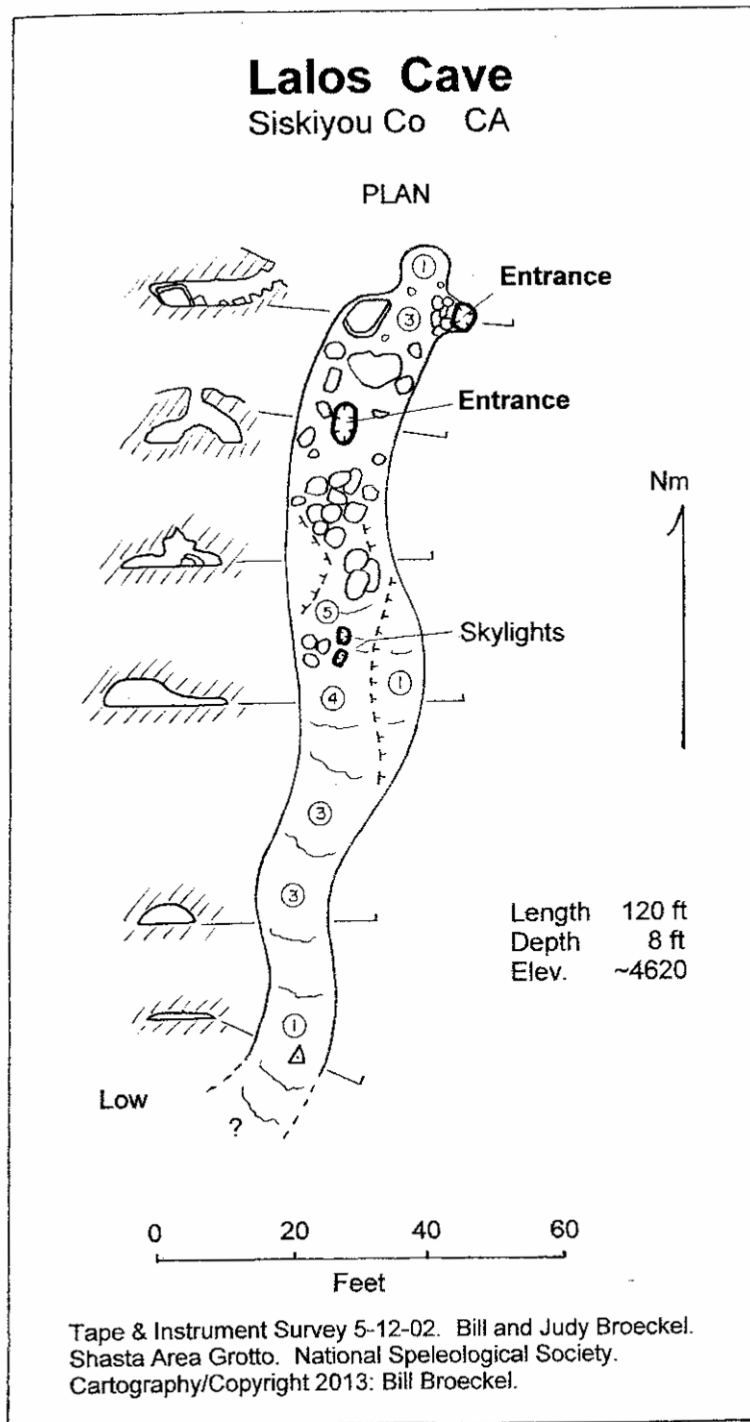
Map: The Original Porcupine Butte Lava Tube



Bill Broeckel at 1<sup>st</sup> entrance to The Original Porcupine Butte Lava Tube 6-4-13

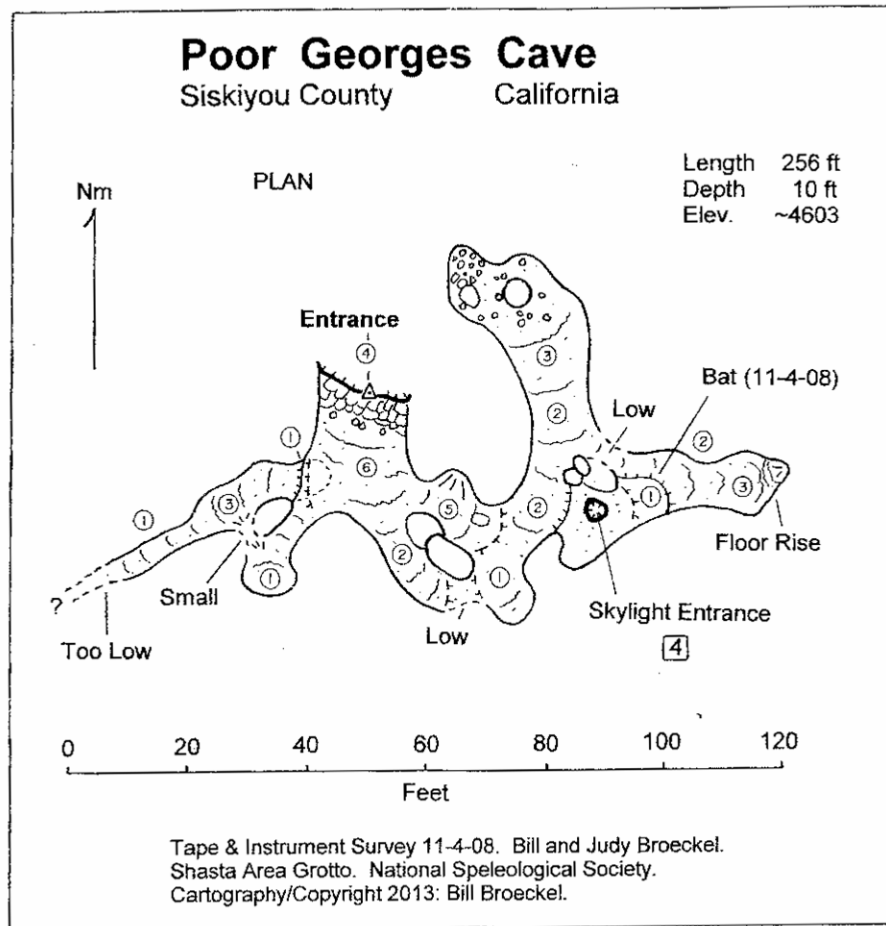


Judy Broeckel at 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance to The Original Porcupine Butte Lava Tube 6-4-13



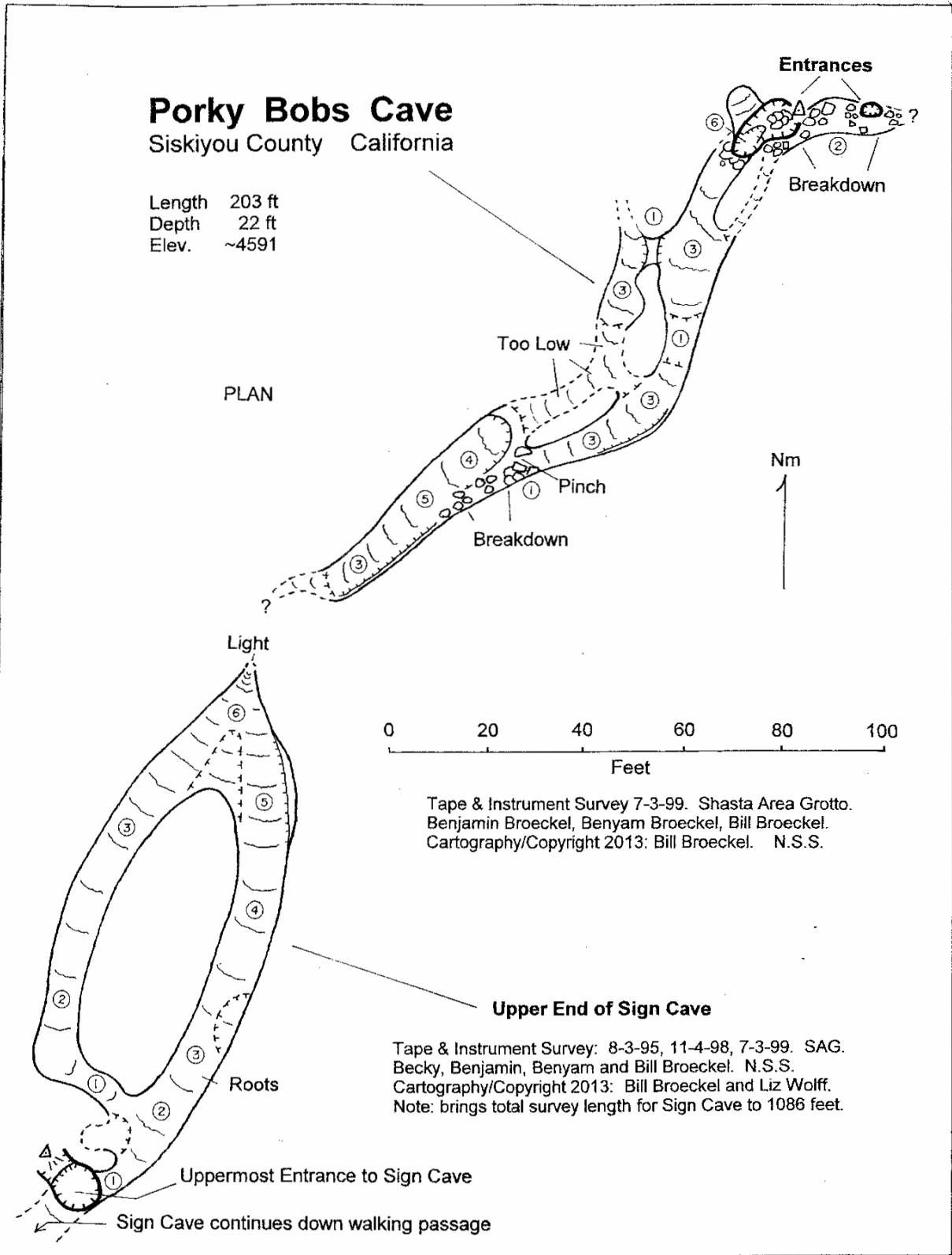
Map: Lalos Cave

**Poor Georges Cave.** This one sort of sprawls around in unexpected ways, and lacks a sense of purpose or direction. It has two entrances, and while finishing up near the skylight entrance on 11-4-08, we noticed a solitary hibernating bat. That was only 4.5 years ago, so this map is showing up almost promptly, with all of its convoluted 256 feet of passage. All three of these little caves, by the way, were named for some of Siskiyou County's finest dining establishments, and that just leaves us with one last cave, very close by, named:



Map: Poor Georges Cave

**Porky Bobs Cave.** Porky Bobs just barely has enough room to get squeezed in there before lengthy Sign Cave takes over. Sign was also surveyed by Liz and Roger in 1983. Sign and Porky Bobs nearly connect, as this new map here was intended to illustrate. Porky Bobs was 203 feet long and was family-team surveyed on 7-3-99. OK, I realize that was 14 years ago, and I was lucky to even find the survey notes. Let's just say "better late than never" and be happy that old field notes really can become drafted cave maps; sometimes it actually happens. Porky Bobs has, as you might be able to guess by now, two entrances. It is prettily dolled up with lavacicles and glitter, and it is fun to squeeze through the pinch to reach the last room, where you can nearly stand up. So there you have it, four new cave maps for the Double Hole Flow, heart and soul of the Medicine Lake Highlands – well at least one of the heart and souls. **BB**



Map: Porky Bobs Cave, Sign Cave (part)





Benjamin Broeckel in the Porky Bobs Bridging passage 7-3-99



Main entrance to Poor Georges Cave 7-3-99



Branching floor fungus deep in The Original Porcupine Butte Lava Tube 6-4-13

**SAG RAG**  
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**STAMP**

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