

sag rag

32:4 July-Aug 2013



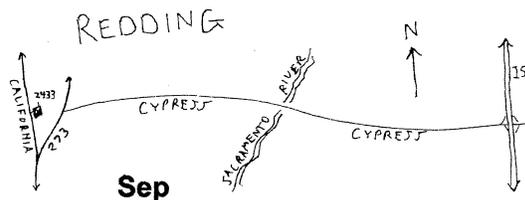
Carolyn Shurley meets the Curly Tree on the Double Hole Flow. 6-1-13

INSIDE: SAG trips to Double Hole, Kangaroo, and Shasta-Trinity

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>>.

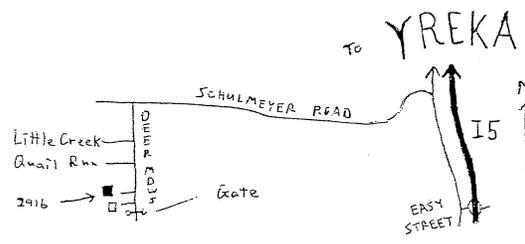
CAVER CALENDAR 2013

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 12-13	Sac State bio-survey AND Siskiyou SAR cave rescue training
Oct 25	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Kennedy's in Weaverville 530-739-0206.
Dec 6	SAG meeting 7:30 at Broeckels' in Yreka 530-842-3917.

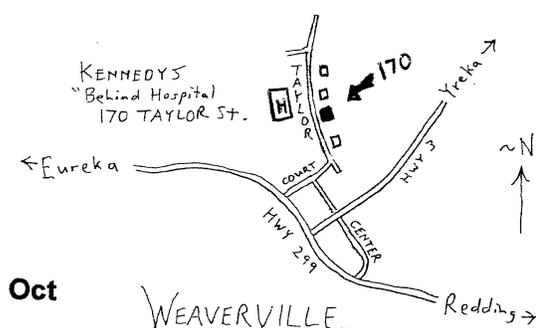


Sep

Maps to Meetings



Nov-Dec



Oct

SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

This SAG RAG reports on the scheduled grotto trips for May, June and July. On the back page we have a bonus report from the younger set, bringing the majority of the issue over to the side of dissolved caves. New cave maps show up for the Kangaroo Karst, along with a new version of an old map. The two new ones represent caves of very limited extent, which is why they are the last maps to get done for the caves of this area. We'll have to find some more caves now. Much of our caving has been of the tourist variety. One high point was reaching the low point of Eight Minute Pit. That's a caving oxymoron for you – sometimes the high points are the low points. We made it down on the strength of Steve Hobson's rigging skills. (The old Jefferson State Grotto used to free climb it.) For those who prefer to see the effects of gravity on molten rock spilled out on the planetary surface, we still have the May-June report. More solution and gravity caves are on tap for this Fall – so get out and get in – so says your oxymoron editor. **BB**

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING June 29, 2013

The meeting was called to order pizza at 11:59 pm way out there somewhere (Bee Camp). Attending were Bill Broeckel and about fifty visiting flies and mosquitoes, actually one of our better turn-outs for a meeting, number-wise. The visitors were very enthusiastic. In fact, some were misbehaving quite badly and had to be executed on the spot without trials, even though the grotto bylaws do not, as a spelled out and specific rule of order, allow for such. Nevertheless, and remarkably, the surviving attendees were still quite excited about getting to know the rest of the grotto on the cave trip tomorrow.

Minutes passed slowly ... Treasurer's Report: rich beyond all measure, in peace and quiet at least. Pizza bill to be submitted to grotto. SAG RAG Report: editor would just like to point out that, you know, some of those attending this meeting that were, uh, executed, well, it was actually for failure to submit material to the grotto newsletter. Just saying.

Correspondence: visitors are reporting lots of buzz lately. A request is made to the visitors to please reduce the backbiting and stinging rebuttals. Old Business: OK, let's think about it for a second. That old archeological shoe and sandal store they found in Fort Rock Cave? Now that's some kind of old business. New Business: visitors request that the grotto rethink our car sticker logo, and maybe consider toning down, as a general policy, our ongoing and excessively high regard for bats. Request denied. Trip Reports: Broeckel reports an awesome cave – in his dreams. The meeting was already adjourned by 00:01 am. Note: the pizza place sent a message that the pizza was left at Cook and Green Pass – that's as close as they could get to Bee Camp.

Minutes submitted without any respect to anything at all by stand-in secretary Slappy McFly.

SM

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING July 26, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm at the home of Chris and Kerrie Kennedy in Weaverville by newsletter Editor Bill Broeckel, the highest ranking grotto official attending. Others attending were Chris, Kerrie, and Savanna Kennedy, some former track students of Chris' named Zach, Katrina, and Jacob, Judy Broeckel, and Mike Stufflebeam and his wife Barbara, from Redding. Jed Medin made a late appearance as he was getting called out on a steep canyon high angle rescue at Pit River.

Treasurers Report: unavailable. No bills were presented. A motion was entertained to reduce the yearly dues from \$6 to \$5. Judy made the motion and Chris seconded. All those present at the meeting were in favor, and the motion was passed. SAG RAG report: there are already enough new articles for the next issue to be produced anytime soon. Correspondence: info and registration for the upcoming Western Regional in Trout Lake WA is available online. Time was taken to promote the event.

Trip Reports: Chris recounted a recent trip to Paul Gibson Cave, on a bio-survey with Geo Graening. The trail has not been maintained, and it took 4 hours to travel 5 miles. Cave spiders and isopods were found. The cave was complex with canyon passages and phreatic networks. Evidence of flooding appeared, and water pooled at the bottom. An up-and-over passage led back to the water, a breakdown room, high leads, and a stream crawl lead. Cave was explored that didn't match the map. Joel Despain is hoping to get back for more exploration, resurgences, ridgewalking, and trail work. Lots of limestone. August? Savanna reported on a trip to Samwel Cave the last weekend in June. Present were Savanna, Dara, Audrey, Lauren, Jed, and Chris. They explored around the pit and dropped the pit. They found new vandalism, and did some clean-up. They saw some neat sights and had a great time. Chris told of an Archeological oversight visit to Potter Creek Cave two weeks ago. Pete (the Arch. Project supervisor on site) suggested going ahead with the pothole digging restoration in the entrance. Mike and Barbara told of their own visit to Potter Creek Cave last Spring, after a long search over several years. They followed clues from the original cave exploration documents from over 100 years ago. They did not do the pit. Chris gave a quick rundown on a Tahoe area cave, a so-so grotto near another talus cave. Mike related a trip one week ago taking in a moonrise over Mt. Shasta from the large entrance to Pythian Cave at an Odd Fellows cave initiation. Bill chanced upon a new Double Hole cave over 100-ft long with a squeeze with cool air flow that needs more exploration and survey.

Chris reviewed instructions for tomorrow's cave trip, meeting at 8:00 am and bringing lots of water and knee pads, and to be ready to cave softly. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by stand-in meeting guy Bill B.

BB

MAY-JUNE SHASTA AREA GROTTO TRIP REPORT By Liz Wolff

MEDICINE LAKE HIGHLANDS: Saturday June 1 Bill Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, and guest Carolyn Shurley met to go tourist a bunch of caves. Our first stop was the Roadside Complex of caves, where we introduced Carolyn to lava tube features: flow ledges, upper levels, skylights and formations. Our next stop was Jot Dean Ice Cave for a further introduction to some features of higher elevation caves. The ice appears to be increasing into the lower chamber, reaching all the way across the room. After that we checked on ice and water levels in the upper Double Hole flow: Pallet Ice, Deep Ice, Amazing Pits, and explored the crater area itself. The "back entrance" to the lower level of Pallet was open again, but we didn't take the time to cover it again. Steve, Jim and Mel did Amazing Pits, finding an elbow pad Jim had lost a few years before. In the ice caves the ice levels seem much lower than in years past. The water on top of the ice in Deep Ice was several inches deep and a stick stuck down to check poked through into a lower water level. It seems that there are skins of ice and water, kind of like an onion. We could see back into the hole above the ice slide into the lower cave. Then late in the day we headed down to Bat Cave, going in as far as the gate. We found the lock hasp cut but the little door that gets to the inner lock seems to be rusted shut, so entry won't be easy without some WD40 or something of the sort. One bat was seen sleeping behind the gate. **LW**



Jim Wolff and the remains of the wooden pallet at the skylight entrance to Pallet Ice Cave. 6-1-13

JUNE SHASTA AREA GROTTO TRIP REPORT 2013**By Liz Wolff**

SISKIYOU MOUNTAINS: There was no SAG meeting, only an executive committee wilderness extravaganza. Chair Liz Wolff, vice chair Dave Smith, secretary Melanie Jackson, treasurer Steve Hobson, editor Bill Broeckel and Jim Wolff met up at Bee Camp for a weekend of caving and camaraderie. The Kangaroo Mtn. karst is a narrow band of marble about 1~ miles long. Most of the caves are located at or near the contacts with the red peridotite which makes up the bulk of the Red Buttes. The marble extends from the southern side of Kangaroo Mtn. around 6100 feet elevation to a low point of 5200 feet or so and back up and across the face of Red Butte to 6600 feet elevation where it is ended at a fault. It is mainly a nice bright pale to medium grey with a grainy texture. There are many inclusions of schist and other minerals. The road into the cave area was from a mining operation, defunct by 1969, taking chromium ore out. Old mining equipment can still be seen around the area.

Historically, cavers have visited this area since August 1969, when Eric Binker first decided to check out reports by FS Ranger Larry Ballew of Klamath River, CA. He reported "two small holes with vertical drops occurring next to a small creek on the left hand side walking down the creek from the road crossing." Eric didn't expect much as such reports generally don't pan out, so was pleasantly surprised to find a deposit of limestone "at least 1,000' long, 200' wide, with an exposed thickness of 75-100 feet." He located the holes and investigated the disappearing stream. This was later named Sinking Waters Cave. Inside are deposits of mountain leather, naturally occurring asbestos. Eric continued to visit the area finding small caves higher on the karst and in the cirque to the southwest. Steve Knutson helped him map Sinking Waters Cave



Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Liz & Jim Wolff at the Kangaroo Karst. 6-30-13

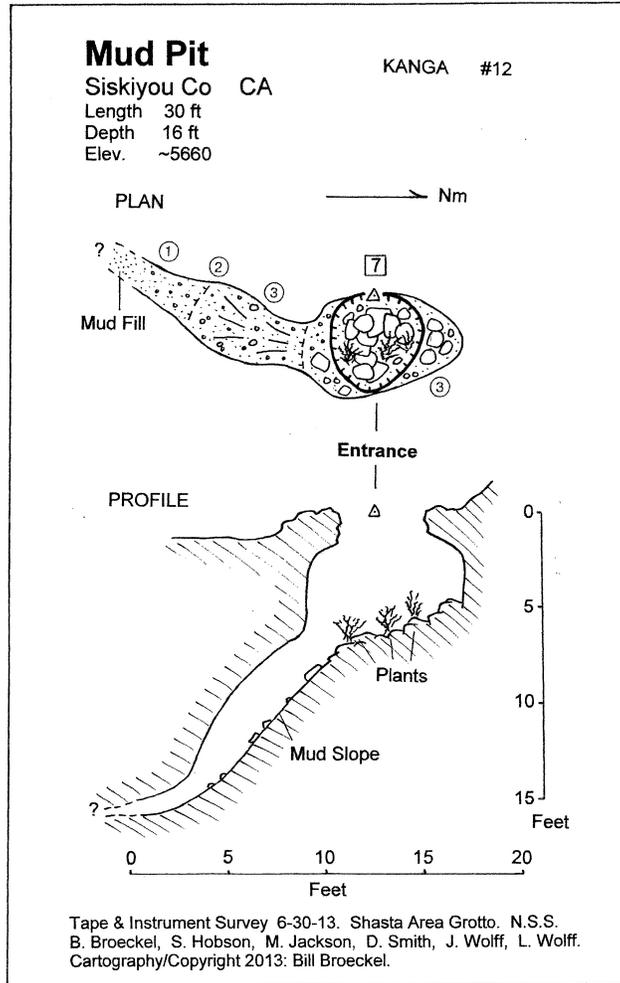
which was stopped at around 300' due to high water. They searched the karst finding blowing holes choked with boulders and mud, and dreamed of connecting a cave completely through Kangaroo Mtn. Jim Nieland recounts a trip by four cavers who found Eight Minute Pit shortly after stepping out of their cars. That trip saw a survey from Surprise Pit at around 6,000 feet, to Ledge Cave at 5670 feet elevation, picking up ten caves and numerous blind or blowing sinks. Following the surface survey they checked out other small caves (Oregon Grotto Speleograph, Vol. V #9 and Vol. VI #2).

1991 saw a joint outing of SAG, Jefferson State Grotto, and one Willamette Grotto member, who saw Scar, Hungry, and Sinking Waters Caves. In 1993 Bill Broeckel wrote the FS about grazing cows' impact on sediment increase in Sinking Waters, and listed several options to keep the cattle out of the wilderness and away from the caves. 1995 Bill nominated Sinking Waters as a significant cave on the Rogue River National Forest.

Back to the future: Last summer's fires actually improved the road into the Kangaroo Karst; it had been bladed and most of the rubble obstacle course was cleared somewhat; that doesn't mean the road is really good. High clearance and backcountry driving skills are still needed. Bill had gone up Friday evening arriving at dusk. He had spent his morning waiting for us well, hiking the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile out to the karst, carrying rope for Eight Minute Pit. Saturday the rest arrived at noon, set up camp, and went caving. The first objective was Gossards Cave. Unfortunately, the only ones that were willing to fit through the entrance and were able for the tight spot had seen all the cave, so on to the rope at Eight Minute Pit. The pit steps down in three drops 30 feet to a room with a wall that must be climbed to get to a keyhole. Once through the keyhole the last pit is reached, a 30' drop into a room with a streambed crossing the floor. Not everyone had brought vertical gear so the cave was quickly done. Dusk saw the hungry bunch back in camp, dinner and bed.

The next morning we headed out to the karst and Sinking Waters Cave. This was much as I remembered it from 1969. The stream crosses the old road down to the cave entrance where it sinks at the base of a 40 foot cliff. Climbing around the entrance chamber, without too many bugs, we descended to the stream level. Not everyone opted to cross under the waterfall to the Shower Passage leading down to the Roaring Canyon. (Later in the day we would all have done it.) The terminus was reached where the passage pinched out.

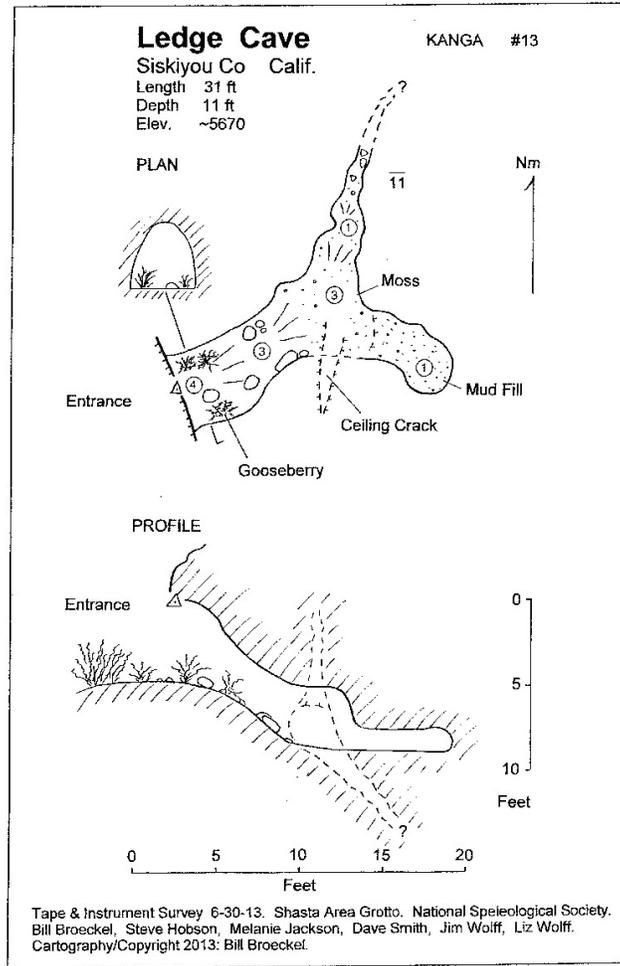
After Sinking Waters we went to Mud Pit, which appears to have opened up a bit of passage. Bill wanted to survey the cave, so we did. Steve was head tape and got to where he could go no further, neither could Bill, but they could see down past the tight spot to where the floor leveled out. Next objective was Ledge Cave, described as a shelter cave with two small passages at the back. Easily located, the cave proved to have more than 30' of passage with cave visible beyond a constriction. We then headed down to check the possibilities in the lowest known cave, the House of the Rising Sump. This cave has a pool which sometimes overflows into the streambed outside the cave. Green moss festoons the rocks in the shady dell with the cave entrance, but not much more passage can be entered inside the cave. The cave is at about 5400 feet. It is not the resurgence of the stream from Sinking Waters Cave. The heat and humidity were tremendous that afternoon as we hiked out of the canyon. Steve and Bill opted to stay high on the karst, coming across the old miners' cabin near a spring (described by Eric Binker) and catching up the crew who opted to come up the horse trail at the rock wall between Kangaroo and Red Butte. Camp was packed up and we departed following a great trip. **LW**



Map: Mud Pit Cave



Jim & Liz Wolff at Mud Pit 44 years after their courting trip here with Binker and Nieland in 1969. 6-30-13



Map: Ledge Cave

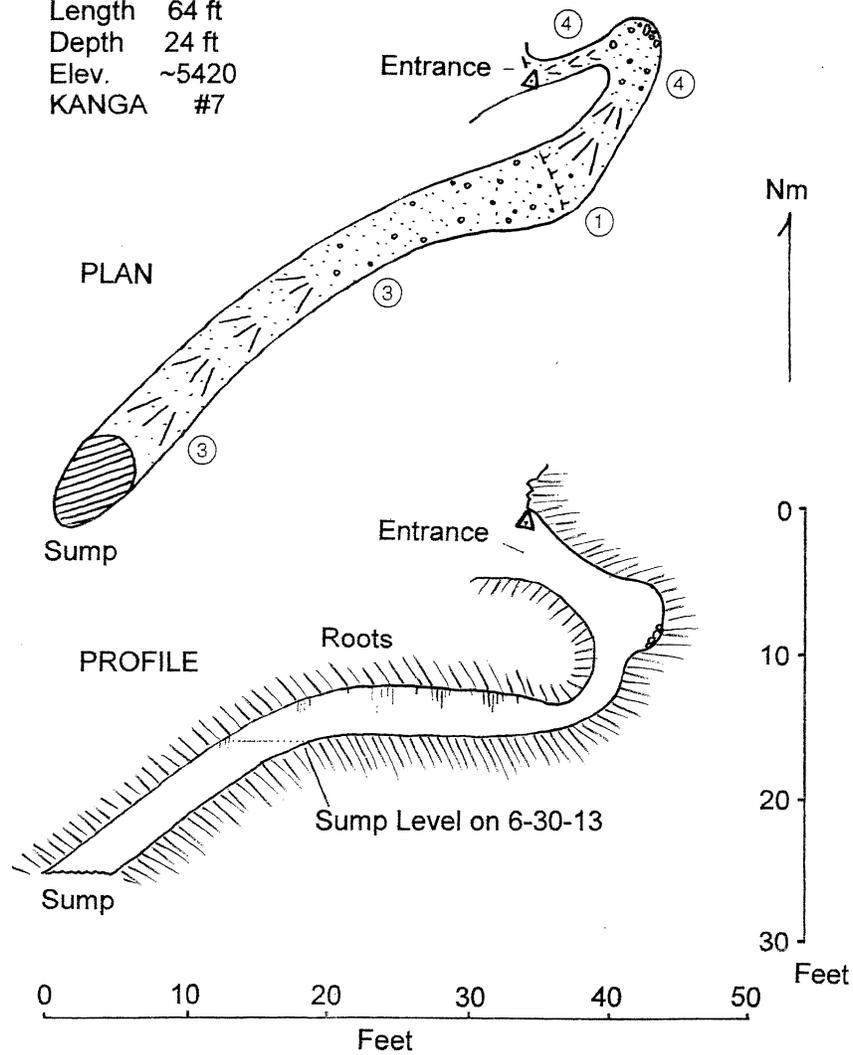


Dave Smith and Melanie Jackson at Ledge Cave. 6-30-13
Both Ledge Cave and Mud Pit were named in 1969.

House of the Rising Sump

Siskiyou County California

Length 64 ft
Depth 24 ft
Elev. ~5420
KANGA #7



Tape & Instrument Survey 8-11-96. National Speleological Society.
Bill Broeckel, Bill Kenney, Robert Nixon. Shasta Area Grotto.
Cartography/Copyright 2013: Bill Broeckel.

Map: House of the Rising Sump Cave



Asbestos peeling off the ceiling in Sinking Waters Cave. 6-30-13

If you or a loved one have been caving with Shasta Area Grotto and are diagnosed with mesothelioma, please contact the law offices of Binker, Knutson, and Nieland, as you may be due a large monetary sum.



Dave Smith climbing in Sinking Waters Cave. 6-30-13



Horsetail Falls, seen along the road to Cook and Green. 6-30-13



Melanie Jackson makes her way out of a crawly cave that proved too small for most of the group. 6-29-13

JULY SHASTA AREA GROTTO TRIP REPORT 2013**by Bill Broeckel**

SHASTA-TRINITY: The day after the grotto meeting at the Kennedys, a group met early and set out for an all day cave trip. Chris Kennedy led the way, and there were six of us ready to follow him into the dark and secretive depths of the earth. These were Chris' former track team students (Jacob, Katrina, and Zach) now out of San Luis Obispo, Bill & Judy Broeckel, and Mike Stufflebeam from Redding. We drove and hiked a ways dealing with increasingly difficult conditions, and when the poison oak thickened up, we knew we were getting closer. In the cave we could relax, but soon we found ourselves strung out along an extended and delicate crawlway. I'm used to banging around in broke down lava caves, so this was some adjustment for me. I'm sorry to say that I dinked the cave more than once, and I feel pretty bad about it. For this reason I don't plan to return to this particular cave very frequently. I was like an elephant in a wine cellar. I was like triceratops in Ms. Lynn's tea room. OK all right – I was like a bull in a china shop.

It was really something being the "older caver" covering some rough country and trying to keep up with track stars. Chris was a good leader, however, and did lots of things to help out his senior citizen trip members. We only got lost just a little, you know, temporarily, and only just a few times. We all made it back to the cars by nightfall with minimal bodily damages and lots of pictures – hallmark signs of a successful cave trip.

We were able to see the front rooms and some of the back rooms, and we did a good deed when we removed an actual large ball of string from deep in the cave. No kidding. Chris stuffed the whole ball down into the bottom of his cave pack. Right here I'd like to take a second to thank Chris for leading a fun and exciting grotto trip to a great cave, for putting up with us, and allowing us a chance to experience and enjoy a pretty special underground environment. **BB**



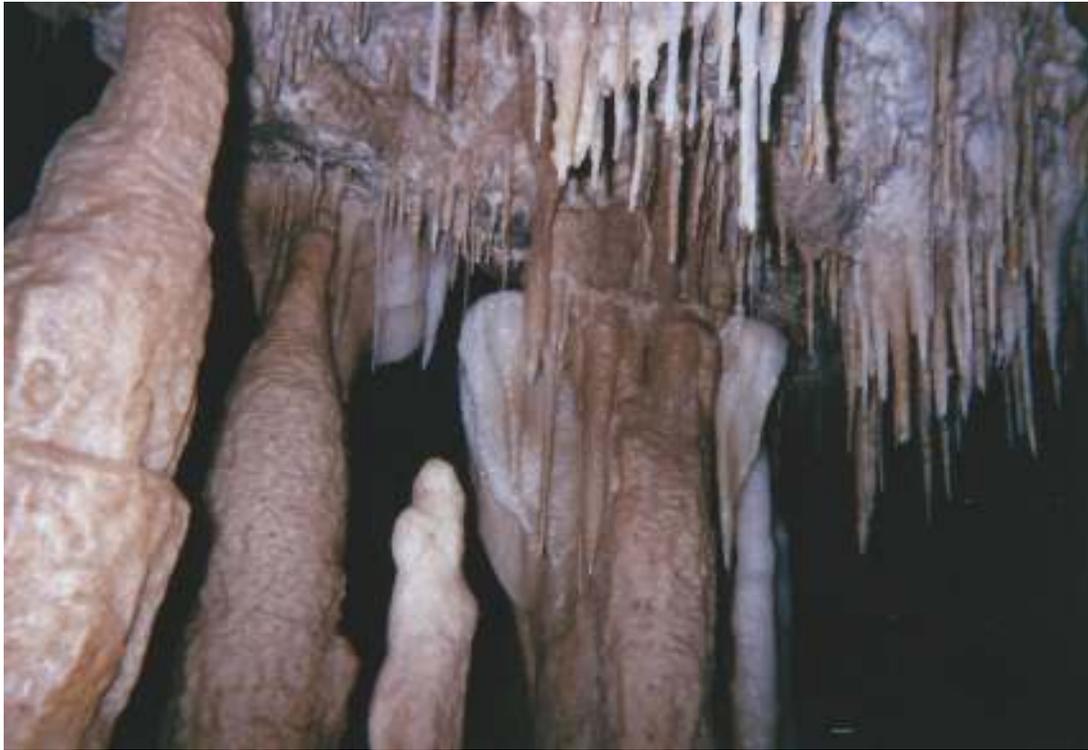
Note the cave gnome over to the left. 7-27-13



Wet ceiling along the streambed crawl. 7-27-13



Judy Broeckel dealing with the streambed crawl. 7-27-13



Bouquets of speleothems. 7-27-13



Leader Chris Kennedy illuminates a stal. 7-27-13



Chris Kennedy and Judy Broeckel at a python stalagmite rising taller than us cavers. 7-27-13

CAVING By Lauren Harper

I have been caving twice this year. Both times I have had a really great time. The first place we caved was Natural Bridge. It was amazing. I think my favorite part was the moon milk. It was interesting to hear about the caves and what kinds of things are in them.

The second place we went was Samwel Cave. I think I liked this cave even better. It was such a great experience going down into the big acoustic room. I loved the sound when you tapped the rocks. It reminds me of the congas. I also loved seeing the cave coral and the cave pearls. Going down into the pit I was really nervous. Then once I started to go down I started to enjoy it more and more. There are so many more caves to explore. I can't wait until my next caving adventure. **LH**



Savanna, Dara and Lauren at Natural Bridges.



Lauren getting ready to enter a small crawl.

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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TO: