



OK KIDS, NO MORE CANDY UNTIL YOUR FATHER
LETS ME SPEND MORE MONEY

Kind of makes you wonder
about the two parent system



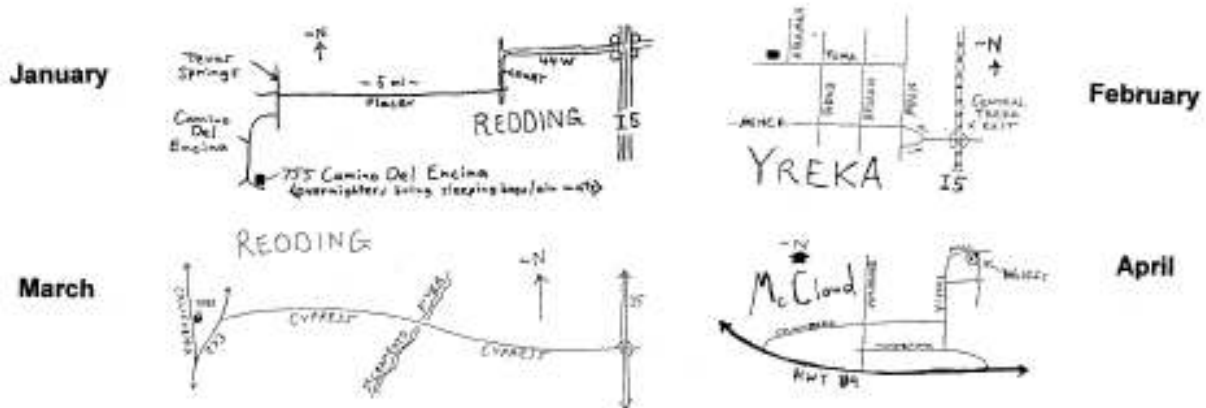
But this candy is
food for the soul

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 2014

Jan 17	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Stufflebeams in Redding 530-244-1269.
Feb 14	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie's in Yreka 530-842-9714.
Feb 15	Pluto's Cave Clean-up: details to be arranged.
Mar 15-22	Vulcanospeleology on the Galapagos Islands.
Mar 28	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobsons in Redding 530-242-8707.
Apr 25	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs in McCloud 530-964-3123.
May 30	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hat Creek cave camp (details later).
June/July	Paul Gibson trip (details later).
July 14-18	NSS Convention in Huntsville Alabama 256-599-2211.

Maps to Meetings



SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Regarding the cover, you may wonder why I'm still harping on this government shut-down business. Well, as you know, due to political squabbles last Fall, the National Park lands and operations were for the most part deemed "non-essential", and we the people found ourselves, quite literally, locked out. The roads were closed, and we were not allowed to walk in, or even look into these areas. Just like that, my freedom to access 84 million acres of public land was very summarily and indefinitely denied. What was revealed here, and what has my dander up, is what our representative government can so easily consider non-essential – our freedom! OK, with that off my chest, I'll let it go now, and move on to the caves. Liz has some more reports and finishes up Caving in the Old Zone with a new, improved map of Sugar Pine Butte Ice Cave. Chris continues on with his trip report from last October, the middle part, where we spontaneously hit on some new caves. If our luck continues, we can anticipate even more good grotto trips after meetings in 2014. Cave Ho!

BB

SAG MEETING MINUTES October 25, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm at Chris Kennedy's house in Weaverville.

Attendance; Chris Kennedy, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Joel Despain, Bill & Judy Broeckel, and Jed Medin.

Minutes: for August & September accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$952.00. Bill Broeckel paid the \$12.00 website dues and needs to be reimbursed by SAG.

E-Rag: no report available.

SAG RAG: Bill has not started yet. Liz gave him a couple of maps/articles.

Correspondence: We received a lot of Thank You letters from the Charter School kids after Liz's cave tour. These were from high school age kids who had writing and spelling that was more like third graders. Some of these kids expressed an interest in coming to the Pluto's Cave clean-up in Feb. 2014.

Old Business: Richard Blenz from the NSS wants info on some stray cave names from California that need to be assigned to counties. He had a list and most of those did not resonate with SAG caves. The SAG/SAR Cave Rescue Training went very well and was very well attended by the SAR folks. We could always use more help from SAG people. Next year Steve wants to incorporate different caves that are further from the Pluto's Cave area we have been using, and to add a vertical component. This year we did not have to spend time teaching patient packaging as SAR is doing that training on a more regular basis. Liz took Geo Graening and his students to four caves: Red Tape Cave, Sugar Pine Butte Ice Cave, Harris Mountain Cave, and Adams Homestead Cave. They may have found a new species in the flat worm category. All 4 caves had grylloblattids. We have no further word on what is happening to The Cave Next Door at this time.

New Business: New Calendar: Oct. 26 – WCC Meeting at Ric Gates' home in Sacramento. Oct. 26 – SAG Saturday trip to Hall City and Forest Glen Caves. SAG Meetings: Dec. 6 – Broeckels' in Yreka (ed: cancelled due to weather). Jan. 17 – Stufflebeams' in Redding (ed: note early date). Feb. 21 – Melanie's in Yreka and President's Day Weekend Annual Pluto's Cave Clean up. Mar 28 – Hobson's in Redding (invite the coastal members). Apr. 25 – Wolffs' in McCloud. May 30 – (the fifth Friday) Hat Creek Camp Out. Possible Paul Gibson Cave Trip in June/July. Oct 11 – SAG/SAR Cave Rescue Workshop.

Trip Reports: Bill Broeckel Oct. 1st CRF expedition. This trip was shortened due to the government shut down at this time and he missed out on the caving anyway because his time was limited. Instead he relocated and surveyed a chimney in the Modoc NF, a well-like shaft 20 feet and a ledge. 10-22-13 – Bloody Hand Cave on Giant Crater Flow, Bill & Judy surveyed 150 ft. Then the cave survey in the upflow branch went – total survey 590 ft. APC trip in Sept. – Steve H., Jed M., Chris K., April, and Hans S. It took a 4lb sledge hammer to get through the second gate. They took a five hour photo tour of the cave. Beautiful! Oct. 15 – Chris K. and Neil Marchington went to Manzanita Cave. They saw shrimp-type critters in the stream water and need to get Geo to come and look. Labor Day weekend was Trout Lake WA. Bill & Judy, Benj, & Becky Broeckel, Chris & Keri, and Savanna Kennedy, Jed Medin, Melanie Jackson & Wayne Cedidla, and Bill & Peri Frantz attended and went to many different caves including Cry Wolff Cave (the Kennedy clan), Techno Nine (Jed), Chubby Bunny (Broeckel clan), Cheese (Wayne & Melanie, Frantzes, and Broeckels – different trips). Wayne and Mel along with Bill and Peri Frantz went to the local Ice Caves. Joel Despain went caving and surveying in Kentucky for five days. They accomplished 750 ft. of survey and looked at a potential dive site that could make a Mammoth Cave connection. He was in Haiti for one week. Extensive limestone is there and he plans a return trip in the spring of 2014. Jed was on the Pluto's Cave Hasty Team SAR/SAG cave rescue training and did the crawl at the end of the cave. He was an instructor and made the SAR gang do litter movement exercises in Windy Cave.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary

MJ



Female
grylloblattids
with
tail-like
(gender-specific)
ovipositors



October 12-13, 2013: Caving with Dr. Geo Graening & Sac State Biology Students

By Liz Wolff

They pulled in late Friday night to Friday's Resort south of McCloud, called Wolffs to let them know they had finally arrived, set up camp and crashed. The next morning they were moving slow with the below freezing morning temps, but were ready for the caves at 9:30. By the time we had gotten out to Red Tape cave parking area, they were almost ready to start the hike out to the cave. Liz led them to the cave where they parked the dogs that were along on the trip, tied to trees. Geo Graening, Sac State prof., distributed collecting bottles and, to the whines and barks of Cowboy (Geo's dog), the five biology students entered the cave for a couple of hours of bug collecting. Two that were along on the trip weren't students at all, but Mother Lode Grotto members Ben and Lee with their dog Lulu, calm and quiet.

While they were groveling in the cave Liz took off to look for a pair of caves located on an area map that had been made by an FS employee years ago. She located the first one some distance closer than expected and the second one a bit further than expected; the old map showed them within a few feet of each other. The first cave has a small drop-down entrance perched on the side of the sink and it got small and slither sized almost immediately. The second sink has a larger walk-in entrance deeper than the first sink. Dropping down off the boulders in the direction of the first sink, the cave extended into darkness stoop-walking sized. Dropping off the same entrance area boulder, but to the left, a stoop walk sized passage led off beside the sink. With naught but one mini-mag (that's carrying too much light when cave hunting according to Murphy's Law) she didn't push the leads although she looked as far as her small light would reach. At least 30 feet of cave here for another trip. After GPS'ing the sinks she headed back to Red Tape to meet up with the bio students and silence Cowboy's yipping. Several birds, Oregon Juncos and a Pacific Sparrow, were zipping into and out of the cave, presumably drinking water from the many drips and puddles in the cave.

After lunch, getting rained and hailed on and preserving the many specimens collected in the cave it was off to Harris Mtn Cave for more of the same. They found much of the same biota in the cave plus a beetle and a toad. Liz left the cave, listening to a thunderstorm off to the east, after making sure they knew how to get back to McCloud.

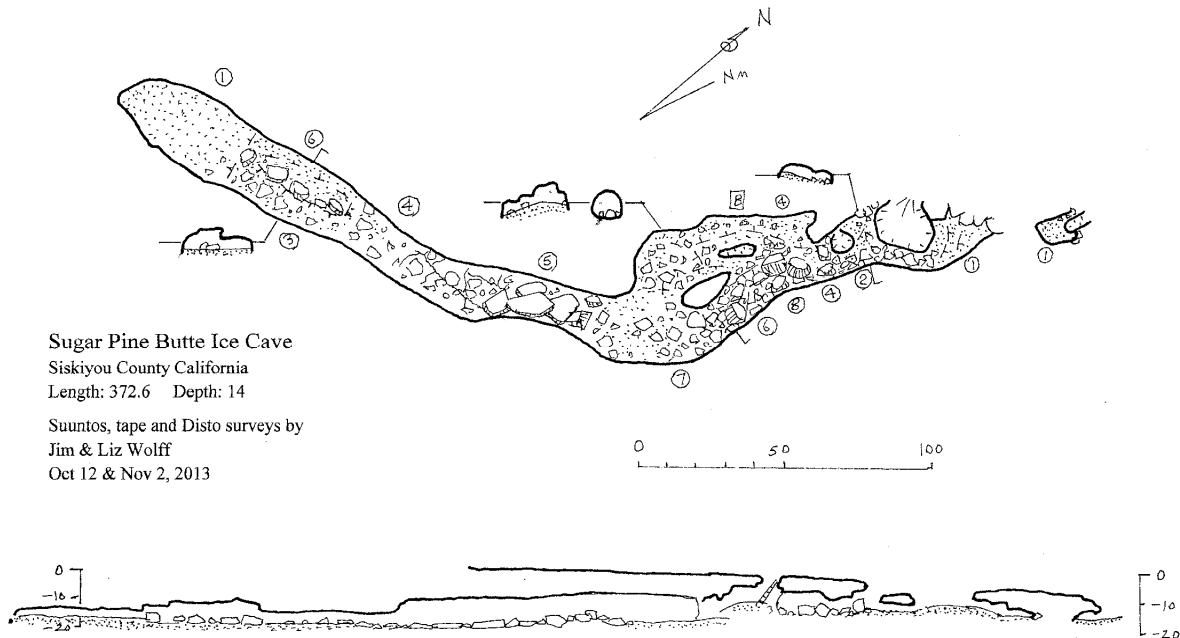
Sunday morning dawned just as cold, but without the clouds. Again Liz met them at the gas station and led them out to Sugar Pine Butte Ice Cave. While Geo and students turned over rocks and pieces of wood Liz began a solo survey of the cave since the old map didn't seem to fit reality too well; a Disto makes solo survey so easy. It was disappointing that there was so little ice in the cave but they did find several specimens and were happy with that. Next on the agenda was Adam's Homestead Cave. After some road confusion, Liz led them to the cave and left them there, making sure they would be able to find their way back to civilization. In all, they found several species of bugs, one of which may be new to science, Geo wasn't sure. **LW**

CAVING IN THE “OLD ZONE” – Part 2: Sugar Pine Butte Ice Cave

By Liz Wolff

Saturday Nov. 2, Jim and I had determined to go out to the Red Tape Cave area and look for a couple of “lost” caves and survey the one I had relocated when Geo and gang were looking for bugs in the middle of October. But... it was rainy and gloomy and we decided to finish off the Sugar Pine Butte Ice Cave resurvey instead, as we could park right near the cave entrance. We found very little ice anywhere in the cave. We picked up the survey near the ladder skylight entrance and went to the back of the cave. Previously we had had to contend with ice and not wanting to slither to the dead end so really didn't know what it did. That day, we found it ended at a sand fill. The cave is almost entirely sand and breakdown floored. One section has tilted and heaved slabs of original floor. Most of the cave is walking sized, sort of.

Returning to the junction at the ladder entrance we closed the loop and then surveyed the northern arm of the cave. Everything ends in sand fill or breakdown, or a combination. SPBIC taped out to a grand total of 372.6 feet and is 14 feet deep. Returning to the surface we found sun, so explored to the north not finding anything cave-ish. **LW**



Map: Sugar Pine Butte Ice Cave

TRINITY COUNTY CAVING – Part 2: Micro Marble Cave System

By Chris Kennedy

October 26, 2013, the day after the SAG meeting in Weaverville, a grotto group keeps going after visiting Hall City Cave. The seven cavers were Chris Kennedy, Jed Medin, Joel Despain, Mike and Barbara Stufflebeam, and Bill and Judy Broeckel.

From Hall City, we started heading out to the Forest Glen Caves. Liz had given us three different GPS coordinates for the caves, so we knew there might be a little search involved. We were only semi-lost out in the back roads, when Joel spotted some caves from the car and we made our first stop. While I was talking to the driver of a truck full of firewood, Joel managed to find several caves in the world's smallest karst. We crawled through the two tubes passing through the limestone rock pillar on the side of the road, and then searched up the stream to see if there were any more leads. The stream was dry, but upstream had a fair bit of water flowing, so obviously there is something going on there, but we did not find any more leads at the creek level. We did find a couple of small caves higher on the hill and the one I explored had some nice moon milk and several small stalactites even though it only went thirty feet or less up into the mountain. **CK**

Next issue: Part 3 – Marble Caves at last!



Chris Kennedy at upper Through Trips (east end). 10-26-13



Looking further into upper Through Trips, with Jed Medin happily crawling over jagged rocks. 10-26-13

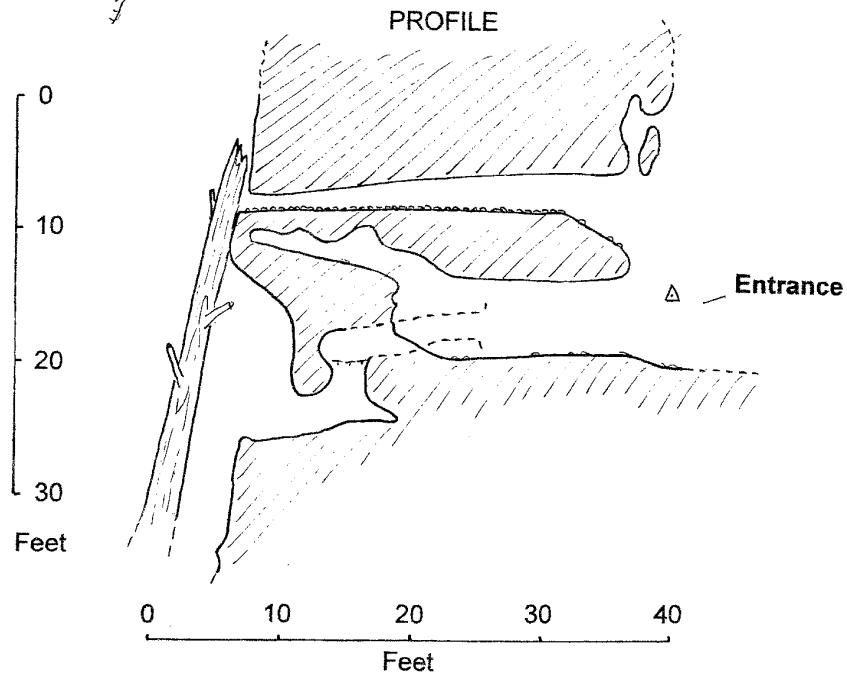
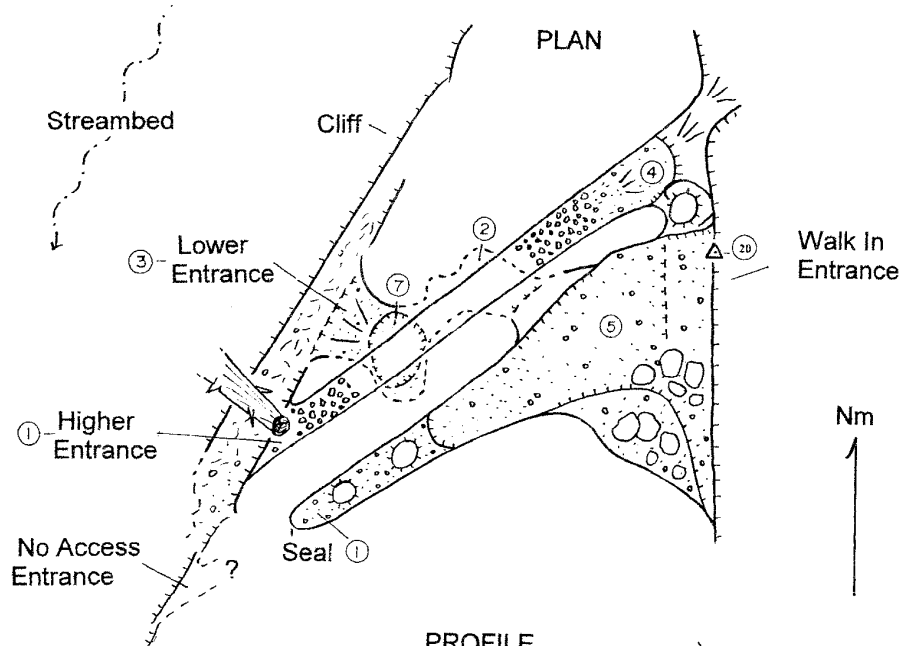


Jed Medin in lower Through Trips. 10-26-13

Through Trips Cave

Trinity County California

Length 119 ft
Depth 25 ft
TRINITY #010



Cave runs clear through a tall limestone pinnacle.
Tape and Instrument Survey 10-26-13 and 10-28-13.
Shasta Area Grotto. National Speleological Society.
Cartography/Copyright 2013: Bill Broeckel.

Map: Through Trips Cave



This limestone pinnacle contains Through Trips Cave. 10-29-13

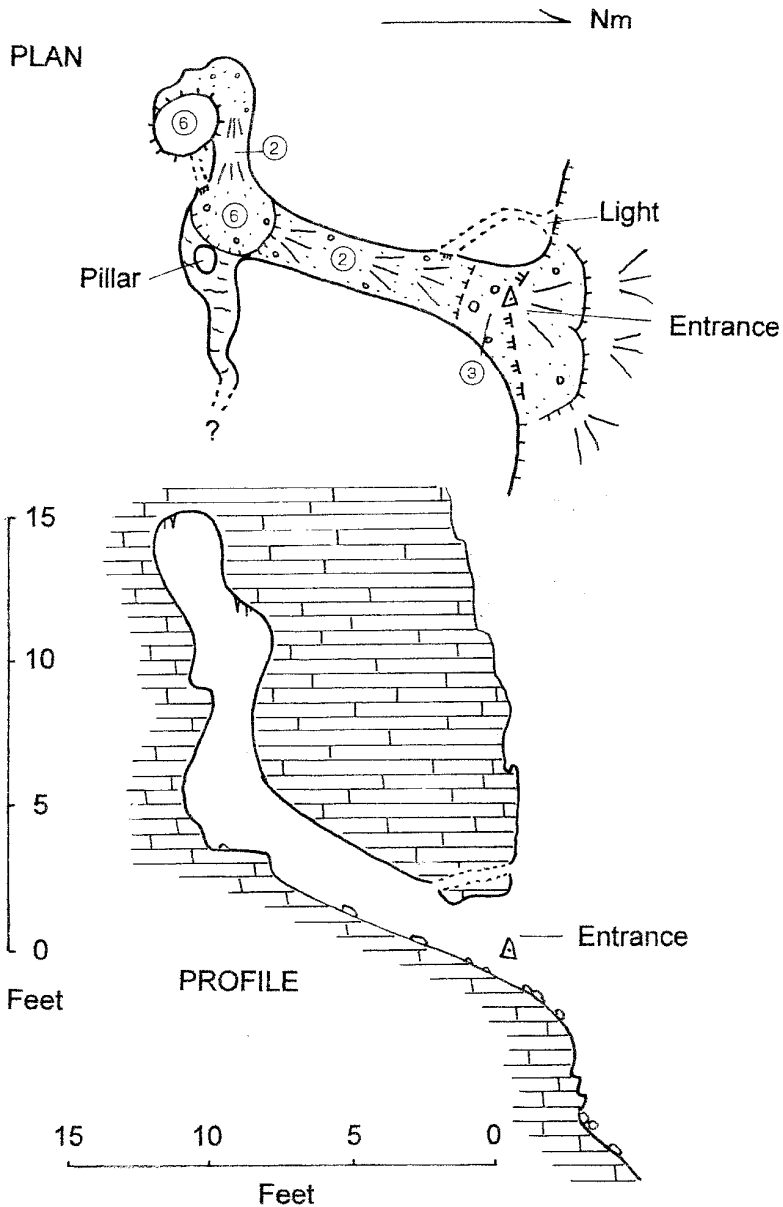


The eastern entrance area of Through Trips Cave. 10-29-13

Moon Milk 45

Trinity County California

Length 30 ft
Depth 16 ft
TRINITY #011



Tape and Instrument Survey 10-26-13 and 10-29-13.
Shasta Area Grotto. National Speleological Society.
Cartography/Copyright 2013: Bill Broeckel.

Map: Moon Milk 45 Cave



Moon Milk 45: looking back down the cave towards the entrance. 10-29-13



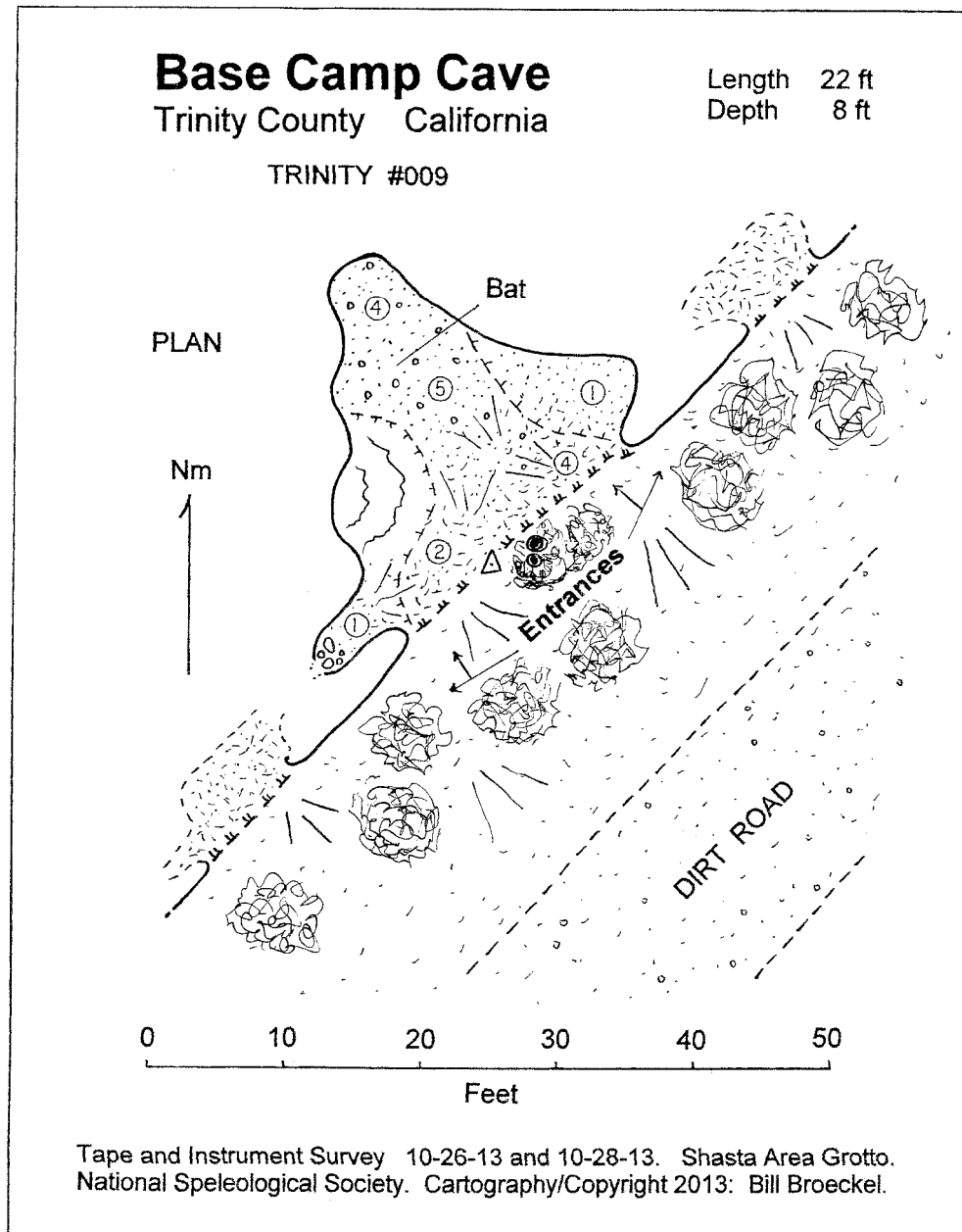
Moon Milk 45: looking up further into the middle section. 10-29-13



Moon Milk 45: dome up in the end of the cave. 10-29-13



Moon Milk 45: entrance photo. 10-29-13



Map: Base Camp Cave

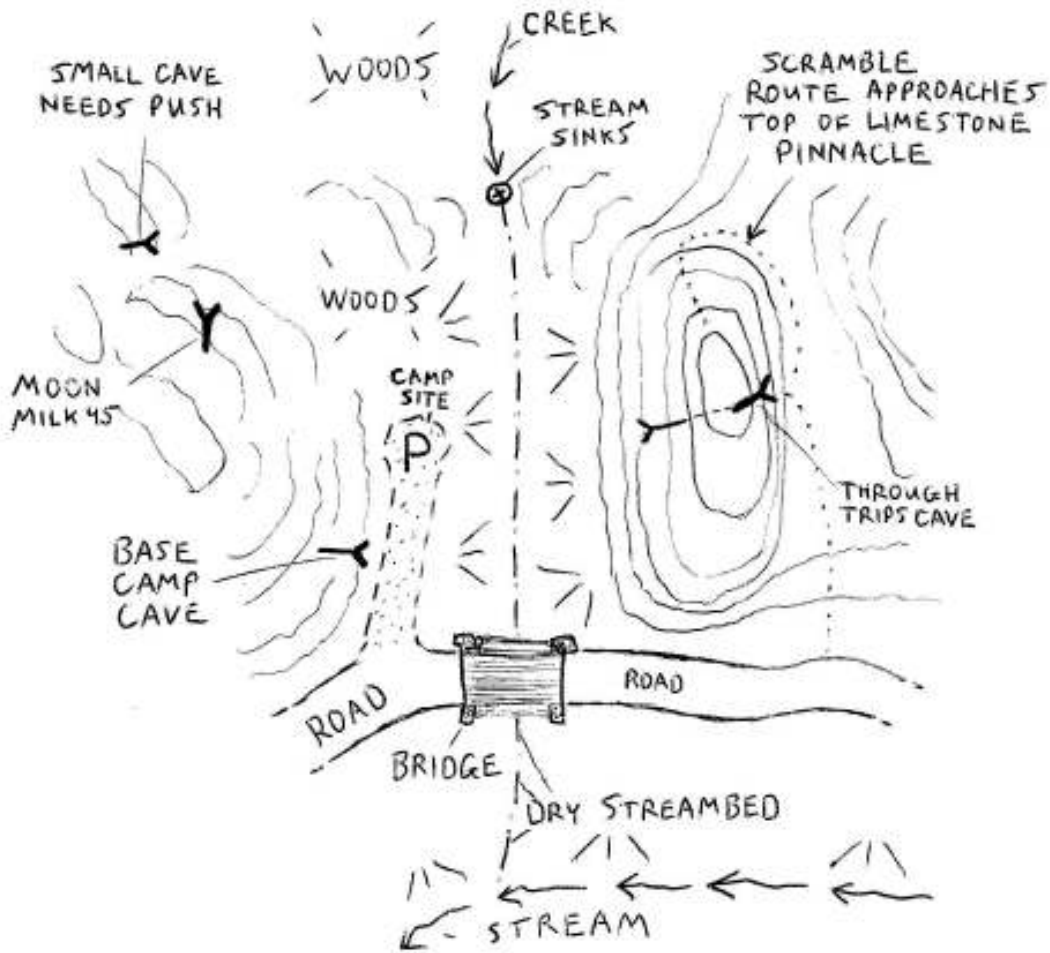
Base Camp Cave, with its duck-walking main passage, was found hiding behind some bushes right next to the cars. We chanced upon it 10-26-13, while others were out swarming the mini-karst. It was named for its proximity to a handy camp site. Wall scallops, and a small amount of trash, were found inside. A lone night roosting bat was encountered 10-28-13, somewhat curtailing the cave survey.



Base Camp Cave: entrance photo. 10-29-13



Indian Rhubarb (*Darmara peltata*) at sinking stream. This plant keeps its feet (stems) in water. This particular stand of rhubarb abruptly ends where the stream sinks into the karst. 10-29-13



Sketch map of the Trinity County mini-karst area from October 2013.



Bridge near the mini-karst. 10-29-13

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Name(s): _____

NSS#: _____ NSS# is current? _____

IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO? _____

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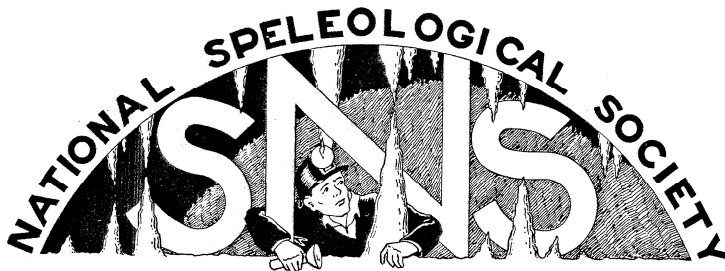
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_____ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$5 per *person* or *family* (circle one).

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

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



SAG RAG
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STAMP

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