

# sag rag

33:1 Jan-Feb 2014



Neils-sized crawl (Put that camera away! Don't take my picture!) with Judy Broeckel

**NEILS SMITH 1943 – 2014**

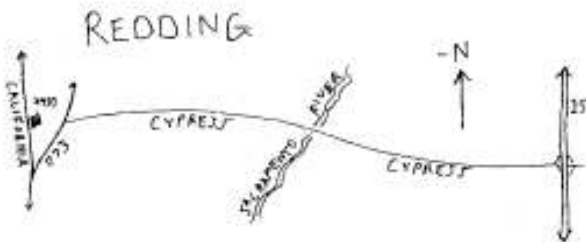
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG. Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription.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

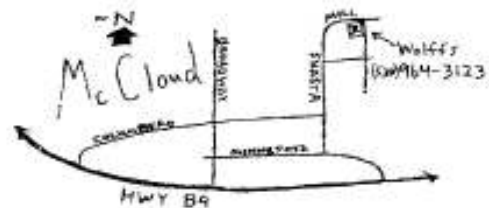
Mar 23	KMCTF turns 40.
Mar 28	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobson's in Redding (2433 Calif.) 530-242-8707.
Apr 16	Go Wild! SAG table at Turtle Bay, Redding. Liz at 964-3123.
Apr 25	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff's in McCloud 530-964-3123.
May 30	SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hat Creek cave camp (details later).
June/July	Paul Gibson trip (details later).
July 14	NSS Convention in Huntsville Alabama 256-599-2211.

## Maps to Meetings

Mar



Apr



## SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Suddenly and unexpectedly we have to say good-bye to our well-loved and long-term grotto member and caver Neils Smith, the big man with the big heart. He brightened up many meetings and underground adventures with his positive happy attitudes and the many stories he loved to tell. He was always ready to help with all the different caving projects, from clean-ups to training to exploring on survey. At Hat Creek, for example, he helped map Arc Cave, and was also involved in Flashlight, Rusty, and others, back before all the caves out there got all small and crawly. Yes, Neils was a big man. He gave me his XC skis. They are really long. Our ranks have been greatly diminished. Thanks to Liz for the nice write-up on Neils. We finally make it to Marble Caves with Chris Kennedy's 3<sup>rd</sup> and final installment on the Trinity County caving report from the grotto trip last Fall. Olen Carlon and his ghost writer make a SAG RAG debut with a 2014 trip report from the January grotto trip to the Discovery Caves. Thanks also to Melanie, doing a great job with the minutes, and keeping us on track. Sprinkle in some photos and we have a start on Volume 33, and another year of caving. **BB**

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MINUTES

February 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka. **Attendance:** Wayne Cedidla, Melanie Jackson, Ernie Coffman, Jim & Liz Wolff, David Smith, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Ed & Virginia Bobrow, and Arley Kisling. **Minutes:** accepted as read. **Treasurers Report:** unavailable. **Web Site:** running well. **SAG RAG report:** next issue will have a map of Discovery Cave 4 and Part 3 of Chris Kennedy's Marble Caves from the grotto cave trip(s) in October 2013. We hope to have Olen Carlson's trip report of his vertical caving experience in January at the Discovery Caves 1 & 3.

**Correspondence:** job opportunity – cave naturalist, and other summer seasonal jobs at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, February 19 in Visalia. Ernie mentioned that the Congress of Grottos (COG) could be contacted if people have issues with the NSS. NSS Outreach Program information and brochures can be obtained, check with Ernie Coffman.

**Calendar:** Saturday Feb. 15 at 9:30 am – Annual Pluto's Cave clean-up. Friday Mar. 28 at 7:30 pm – SAG meeting at Steve Hobson's in Redding. Saturday Mar. 29 – possible finish of Lake Level survey (TBA). Friday Apr. 25 at 7:30 pm – SAG meeting at Wolff's in McCloud. May 30-June 1 – Hat Creek camp-out. June 27 – possible Paul Gibson trip if Joel Despain can arrange it. Saturday Oct, 18 – SAG/SAR Cave Rescue Training.

**Old Business:** Turtle Bay 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wilderness Act on Wednesday Apr. 16 in Redding. We will have one 6-ft table (more available?) and chairs. We will be near the cave. Those working on the event will get free admission. It is from 9 am to 3 pm per our verbal info – Liz brought a copy of the Kid's Kave Coloring Pages and a copy of an old SAG RAG special edition promo. There will also be Bat and NSS hand-outs. Ed Bobrow will also bring Lava Beds flyers. A copy of the newspaper interview with Jim, Liz, and Beej at LABES was passed around. The NSS Annual Report was done by Dave Smith.

**New Business:** The webinar on Feb. 11 on small group rescue was discussed. The main point was getting people out of the cave as soon as possible. The webinar was only 15 minutes long. We in SAG feel we should be practicing small group rescue and training in a cave. Provisionally we think we may be able to do our own training in September and then the training with SAR in October. The Shasta-Trinity and Klamath Forests have packets of maps for road closures available now.

**Trip Reports:** Saturday Feb. 15, ten SAG members went to Discovery Caves 1, 3, and 4. Chris Kennedy and Bill Broeckel surveyed #4 while Steve Hobson and the others worked on a vertical training in the other two caves, It was a first time on rope for two or three people and a first time on another member's new descending device. Bill & Judy Broeckel the next five cave trips: Jan. 21 – Pooling Vent Cave and Annex 50 feet of survey done on Double Hole Flow, and Jot Dean Ice Cave. Jan. 28 – Elsie Cave survey 120 feet at Water Cave Flow. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> – Church trip to Water Cave Flow (Silver Room). 11 hibernating bats were seen with no evidence of WNS. Feb. 4 – Chimney and Giant Crater Flows, three caves surveyed and three more found. Feb. 11 – Hat Creek Flow surveyed 50 new feet in Coal Pipes Cave and a few more caves were noted nearby that were very tiny caliber (baby tubes).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. Melanie Jackson SAG Secretary.

**MJ**

### IN MEMORY OF NEILS SMITH      by Liz Wolff

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of one of our own. Following cataract surgery, Neils Smith, once NSS 23836, passed away from complications due to his diabetes. Neils was born Jan 18, 1943 in the Bay Area, and passed away Friday Mar 1, 2014 in Reno Nevada. He is survived by his sister, two daughters, five grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grands. A memorial service will be held next summer in Susanville CA.

Neils began caving with the Shasta Area Grotto in 1983 with Don Quinton, joining both the grotto and the National Speleological Society. In the 1990's he served a year or two as SAG chair. A somewhat adventurous soul, he learned to go vertical, dropping into Sunbeam Pit, backpacking and caving in the Marble Mtns and other wilderness caving areas. In 1988 on a recon cave trip out to Giant Crater he discovered the Freudian Complex, and would happily lend

a hand at any survey job except note taking or crawling into what he considered tiny holes to see if they 'went'. To most he was larger than life at 6'5" and he appeared even bigger in his bright yellow "banana" (cave) suit which he wore in the Marbles and other wet or muddy caves. Neils was usually one of the first to sign up for winter restoration work at Oregon Caves National Monument. We stayed in the dorms or the Chateau and would spend a couple of days in the cave clearing rubble and old construction debris from side passages, cleaning lint, chipping cement from old wiring, and reconstructing broken formations. He also went on SAG cave trips to the Ely area and to Star Peak limestone caves in Nevada. After his move to Nevada he revisited the Star Peak area and found it changed. The first NSS convention he attended was in 1990 in Yreka CA; Brackettville TX in 1994 was his second. He spent a couple weeks touring airplane museums, Houston Space Center and various national parks and monuments in the southwest, and of course, caving.

His wife, Sharon and daughter Elaine came along on campouts to Humboldt Bay, enjoying fishing and clamming. Later his little 5th wheel trailer would show up at campouts becoming the center of the camp. After he acquired a titanium leg (due to the diabetes) he would only enter easy walking caves where he could use his cane for stability. For a few practice cave rescues with Siskiyou SAR, he with his titanium leg was one of our favorite rescue subjects. A story or two could be told here, but you really had to be there to see the reactions of the SAR people when they discovered his 'broken' leg pulled right off. As his health and eye sight deteriorated, he pretty much quit caving and traveling to meetings. He gave away his vertical gear first, then later his caving gear to some young cavers. He wished for it back occasionally, but for the most part was resigned to his state.

Neils was active with SAG for ten to twelve years before his wife passed away and he retired from the DoD in Herlong CA, where he drove truck and was part of an Alpha Team, a specially trained hazardous materials team that dealt with radiation leaks and spills. He spent a summer as water master at a reservoir supplying water to farmers in the Susan River Valley; spending his time 'playing' in the water and fishing was just what the doctor ordered. After that he drove commercial trucks out of Sacramento CA until his retirement six or seven years ago. He made it to SAG meetings whenever he could, but being on the road, he didn't make many in those years. After his retirement from trucking and a move to Winnemucca NV, he was a docent for the Humboldt County Historical Museum until a few months ago. He enjoyed the museum and talking with the public, as he was a talker, loved to tell stories and laugh. **LW**



Goshute Cave with (left to right) John Talley, Claude Smith, Jim Kottinger, Neils, Jim Wolff & Don Quinton, 1980s.



Learning the ropes... 1983.



First cave trip with the titanium leg...

**TRINITY COUNTY CAVING – Part 3: Marble Caves At Last    By Chris Kennedy**

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

Our next stop was at the lower cliff band of the Marble Cave Cliffs above Forest Glen. We made the fifteen minute hike through the saddle and to the edge of the cliffs. Jed, Joel, and I went to scout out the cliffs and try and find the cave while the others rested. We found several small leads and saw one entrance about forty feet up the cliff. I believe this was one of the GPS locations but it would involve an exposed chimney climb that would put most people off. I will have to go check it out another time. We hiked out and several of our group headed home because of the long drives involved. The remaining members decided to drive along the road and find the closest spot the GPS indicated from the road and then drop off the hill to see what we could find. It paid off. We found the Forest Glen Caves and realized they were easy to get to if you knew where to look. The caves themselves had few decorations but were a ton of fun to explore. They had a multitude of phreatic passages that involved stemming through high sections, crawling through sticky mud and contorting past tight squeezes. We did not get to explore the whole cave because we did not want to hike out in the dark, but will definitely be getting back there to check out the rest of the cave. **CK**



Looking back at the entrance "pillar" of Marble Caves 10-29-13.



The main entrance to Marble Caves is a duck-under slanting down into  
A very pleasant walking passage 10-29-13.



The smaller alternative way into the main entrance, found immediately  
Up and to the right from the upper photo 10-29-13.



Looking back out the main entrance to Marble Caves 10-29-13.



Along the pleasant walking passage in Marble Caves 10-29-13.





Marble Caves starts out like Injun Joe's Cave on Tom Sawyers Island. Then, as seen here, the passage gets all weird and the next thing you know the floor drops out, and you have to climb down to where the cave becomes very muddy and complicated. Go for the big room!

**OLEN CARLON'S TRIP REPORT: DISCOVERY CAVES REVISITED (by the ghost writer)**

Steve Hobson, Bill "Bighorn" Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Chris Kennedy, Jed Medin, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, David Smith, Dallas and Olen Carlon. Note: Hans Stein and April Pryor were present at the SAG meeting the night before, but had made earlier plans to explore Samwel Cave with other people. Sunny, clear with a few clouds. Lake level way, way down. Looked like you could wade across the McCloud River arm of Shasta Lake.

After a nice walk up the mountain along an old, abandoned road we made our way up to the limestone ridge containing Discovery Caves. We found the entrance to Discovery 1 first on the northerly side of the ridge. Discovery 3 was then located on the south side of the ridge approximately 60 ft away as the crow flies. It also has a smaller entrance about 10 or 15 feet further down the hill.

Jed gave Mike and Dallas a lesson on how to "flake the rope" while Discovery 3 was rigged for rappelling. Steve worked the entrance to the cave getting each person locked onto the rope. Everyone except Steve, Barbara, and Bill descended into the cave. Chris and Mike explored the bottom of the cave while the rest of us got ready to go back to the surface. Jed kept Olen cool, calm, and collected as he made his first ever ascent up a rope from the bottom of a cave. Dave exited Disco 3 by crawling out through the lower entrance.

Bill got to the caves after the rest of the group. He and Chris headed to Disco 4 to perform a cave survey. This cave was discovered by Steve Hobson in the 90's though Chris did find a rope device that appeared to be from the 70's. So we're not sure just exactly who found the cave first. Chris and Bill spotted a possible Canidae skull that was already decaying.

After everyone had made their way to the surface, we then traveled back across to the north side of the ridge to Disco 1 and got the rope rigged for climbing. Steve manned the top of the rappel, while Melanie kept everyone headed in the right direction on the rock bridge 20+ feet below. Jed was the greeter at the bottom of the pit. He is hoping to get a job at Walmart in the near future.

Barbara got geared up to head down into Disco 1. She got to the ledge and was hanging over the edge, but a little bird inside her head said not today, and she was swayed to stay topside for another day. Maybe next time! We enjoyed having her and Mike on this trip.

After getting to the bottom of the cave, numerous salamanders were noted ranging in size from approx. 3/4 in. to 5 in. They had dark upper bodies, grey bellies, and yellow on their legs. Bones of numerous small critters were noted. It appeared that most were from rodents, but Dallas and Chris spotted the vertebrae and ribs of possibly a small 10-in long snake. A 6 in. long brown & black millipede was on the floor. Olen noticed a tail sticking out from under a rock. It ended up being a kind of rat that had recently died at the bottom of the cave.

Other memorable happenings:

– Jed made it to the bottom of Disco 1 but had to bail out on us early. He mentioned that he had lost his marbles and needed to pick up some extra ones at the hardware store in Redding.

– Dallas kept mumbling something about "whiskey, kimchi, and cheese" while taking photos. We're still not sure if he was hungry and thirsty or just seeing things.

(continued)

– While waiting to depart from the bottom of Disco 1, it was mentioned by someone who will go unnamed, that you're not a "real" caver until you have filled a bottle with "lemonade" while caving. Okay.....

– Overcoming one's fears is one of life's greatest accomplishments. Olen made a valiant effort and was rewarded with seeing places few others have seen. It is a bit inspiring to see a young person take little "big" steps.

– Bill "Bighorn" Broeckel was so nicknamed for a rather large shoehorn he packs around while caving. It has helped him get through some rather tight spots on more than one occasion.

– And on a final note, Chris pointed out Venus to us on the way down to the vehicles in the dark. He created a new poem by putting a twist on the old familiar one we've all known since we were kids.

Planet light, planet bright      The first planet I see tonight

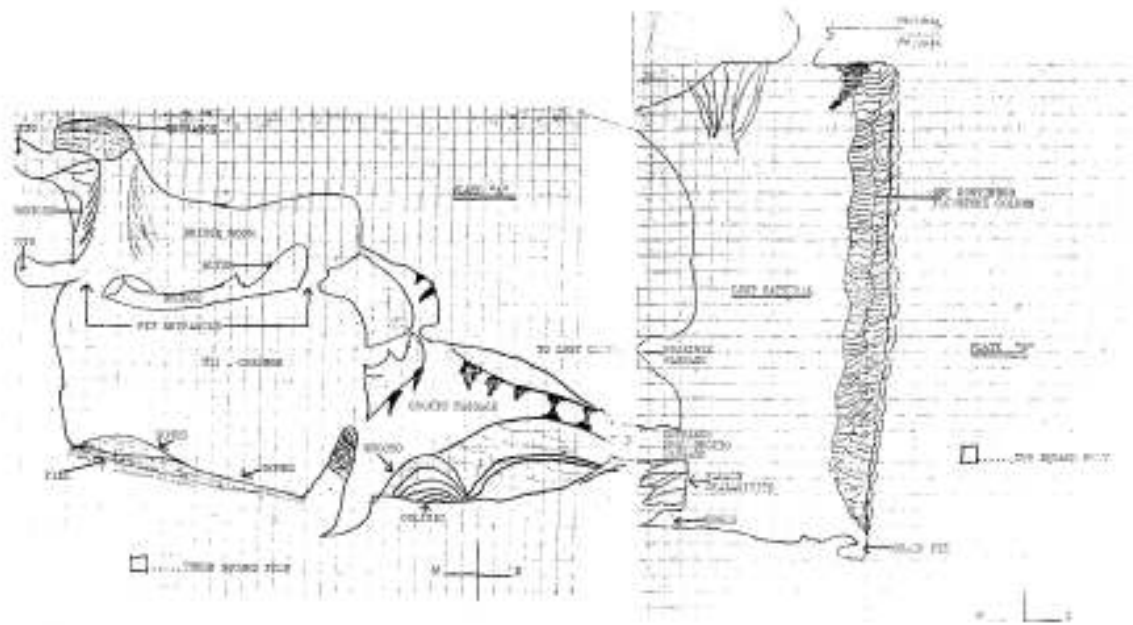
I wish I may, I wish I might      Have the wish I wish tonight

Chris is an aspiring, young songwriter and hopes to make it big someday. He has a number of songs he has written – "Caves were always on my mind", "To all the caves I've loved before", and "Help me make it through the cave". We want to encourage Chris to keep his day job for now.

Over-all it was an awesome day of caving. Life is short. Kids grow up fast. Sometimes life's responsibilities need to be put on the "back burner" so one can stop and smell the limestone. **OC**



Olen Carlon on the way to the Lost Cathedral in Discovery 1 1-18-14.



Poor duplication of the Shasta Speleological Society Discovery 1 profile circa 1974.



Chris Kennedy shows good climbing form along the "Fallen Stalactite".

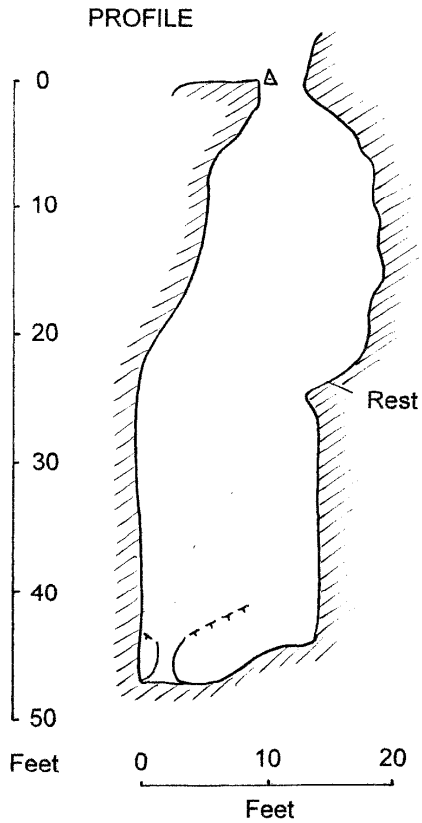
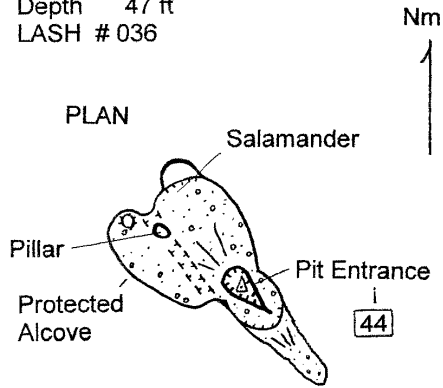


Dallas Carlon admires flowstone in the Lost Cathedral 1-18-14.

# Discovery 4

Shasta County CA

Length 59 ft  
Depth 47 ft  
LASH # 036

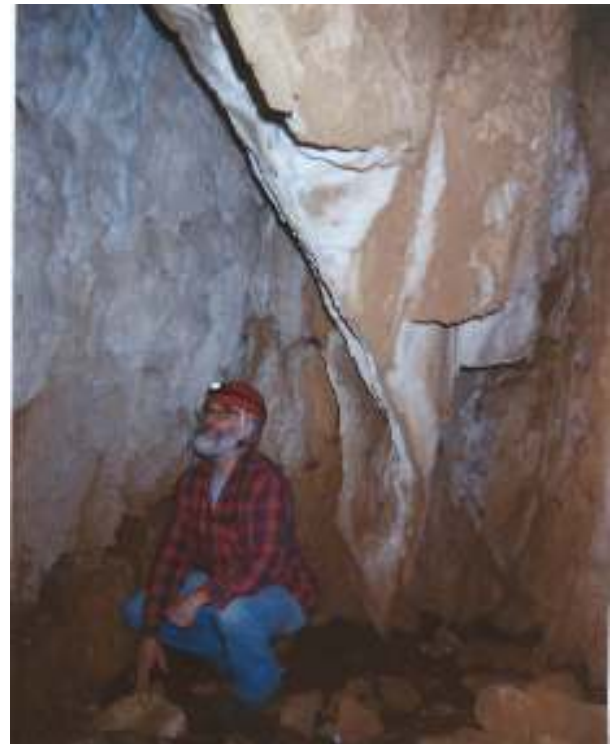


Tape & Instrument Survey 1-18-14.  
B. Broeckel, S. Hobson, C. Kennedy, & D. Smith.  
Shasta Area Grotto, National Speleological Society.  
Cartography/Copyright 2014: Bill Broeckel.

Map: Discovery 4 Cave



Disco 4 north wall 1-18-14.



Broeckel in floor alcove 1-18-14



Chris prepares to free solo Discovery 4 1-18-14.



Can you spot the "sally" near the floor of Discovery 4? 1-18-14.



Olen Carlon safely back to the Discovery 1 entrance. Steve Hobson on control 1-18-14.



Mike Stufflebeam on rope in Discovery 1 1-18-14



Pretty scene in the Lost Cathedral, Discovery 1.



Passage along the way to Lost Cathedral in Discovery 1 1-18-14.



Popcorn covered portion of Lost Cathedral in Discovery 1 1-18-14.





More pretty scenes in the Lost Cathedral, Discovery 1 1-18-14.

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MINUTES

**January 17, 2014**

Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm at Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam's home in Redding.

**Attendance:** Ed & Virginia Bobrow, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Melanie Jackson, Hans Stein, Dallas Carlton, and April Pryor.

**Minutes:** accepted as published in the SAG RAG

**Treasurers Report:** Balance is \$940.00 Expenditures \$19.00 to Bill Broeckel for postage and Web Site Fee. Apparently our website fees were paid twice, once by Bill and once by Steve. Last year they were paid three times by three different members and the NSS never acknowledged that.

**SAG RAG:** Required 2 copies of SAG RAG were sent to the NSS files. We received address returns on Russ Yoder, Tara Underwood, and Charmaine Legge, The next SAG RAG is due out the end of Feb.

**Website:** Dave also sent two copies of each SAG RAG to the NSS files. All is working well.

**Correspondence:** A request for bat information by Debra Freeling the Gooseneast wildlife biologist. Mark Fritzke emailed that while he is rarely able to attend grotto meetings that he enjoys the SAG RAG cave trip reports and cave surveys. He also said that there is now a connection between Urine Hell and Broke Down Palace. The NSS is requesting cave photos from the members to put on the cover of 2014 Membership Manual. Photos need to be submitted by Jan. 31, 2014.

**Calendar:** Sat. Jan. 18, SAG trip to the Discovery Caves. Steve Hobson will do a vertical training & Bill will be doing a cave floor survey also.

- Fri. Feb. 14, SAG Grotto meeting at Melanie's in Yreka
- Sat. Feb. 15, Annual Pluto's Cave Clean Up
- Fri. March 28 SAG Grotto meeting at Steve Hobson's in Redding. Sat Cave Trip may finish survey of Lake Level if the water is low enough
- Fri. April 25, SAG Grotto meeting at the Wolffs' in McCloud
- Fri. May 30 – June 1<sup>st</sup> Hat Creek Campout
- June 27, Possible Paul Gibson Cave trip if Joel Despain can arrange it
- Oct. 18, SAG /SAR Cave Rescue Training

**Old Business:** We received eight ballots with voting for existing officers to continue and no write ins. 2014 SAG Grotto officers are Liz Wolff Chair, Dave Smith Vice Chair, Melanie Jackson Secretary, and Steve Hobson Treasurer. Total station survey for APC with a Trimble TX5 Scanner from California Surveying and Drafting Supply. Dallas could get the use of this instrument if we could provide insurance. So far the approximate cost of insurance is about \$2730.00 for 6 mos. That is the least amount of time they will insure the instrument for (based on the cost of \$100,000.00) and that is definitely out of reach for the SAG budget. We only want to use it for three days. We are looking in to different avenues to affording the use of this instrument including getting an estimate based on the exact cost of the instrument (which maybe more like \$55,000.00) and how much liability insurance we have to have, to getting the owner of the business that owns the instrument to go with us on the survey. We are also looking at getting the use of this instrument from a different survey company. Ed Bobrow said he would check with Pacific Survey in Medford, OR. We thought that maybe a collaboration project with a college might be a possibility.

**New Business:** The NSS Outreach Program for gaining new members was discussed from the info they sent. Turtle Bay is celebrating the Passing of the Wilderness Act 1964 signed by Lyndon Baines Johnson. This will happen Wed. April 16. SAG has been asked if we would participate. Grotto members discussed who would be able to man a table for that day and do the necessary display set up and take down. Hans Stein, April Pryor, Liz Wolff, Ed and Virginia Bobrow volunteered to help. We would plan to have a projector with cave pictures (Steve says he will put a cave picture slideshow together) and a display of equipment or a "caver and gear." We also would have kids Cave Coloring Book. Bill Broeckel was asked to find out the exact hours, place (indoors or outdoors), if they provide the table and what size it is, where it would be located and if we would have access to electricity. A motion was made, seconded, discussed, and passed to provide up to \$100 budget for this project if needed.

### Cave Trip Reports:

- Nov. 17: Hans Stein and his son (then 3 ½ weeks old) had a surprise trip for his father to Shasta Caverns.

- Dec. 30: Dallas Carlon took his son and his nephews to Boy Scout Cave and they pushed a lot of holes.
- Nov 26: Dave Smith and his brother-in-law went to Subway Cave (before Thanksgiving).
- Nov 8: Jim & Liz surveyed Charcoal Cave to 115 ft. and relocated Green Tape Cave.
- Nov. 23 they along with Bill Devereaux surveyed the bottom end of Labyrinth Cave. This portion of the cave is closed to the public.
- Nov 29/30 at the LABES: Jim, Liz, and Beej surveyed Channel Z Cave, That Bridge Cave, and Tube in Tube Cave and they were interviewed about cave surveying by a newspaper columnist that was there to interview Park Service personnel. Jim and some others also surveyed in Spider Cave, No Guts No Glory Cave. A 14 inch stalagmite was found in a new cave (no name given yet) while looking for Low Blow Cave.

Bill and Judy Broeckel have been caving 11 times since the last SAG meeting in Oct.:

- Oct. 26: Grotto caving trip to Hall City Cave, Through Trips, and Base Camp Cave.
- Oct. 28: Follow up Survey trip to Hall City, Through Trips, and Base Camp.
- Oct. 29: Follow up Survey trip to Moon milk 45 Cave and toured Marble Cave.
- Nov. 12 Medicine Lake: Dark Chocolate Cave Survey (~200 ft.).
- Nov. 19 Medicine Lake: Aqua Velva Cave Survey – short cave and a rainy day.
- Dec. 2 Medicine Lake: Hot Diggity Dog Cave Survey (~100 ft. and dig three times).
- Dec. 30 Medicine Lake: Greeley's Annex Survey (~300 ft.) Has an undropped pit.
- Jan. 7 Medicine Lake: Trace of Grace Cave Survey ~30 ft.
- (Scooped lower half of Grander Meander).
- Jan. 14 Medicine Lake: Double Check Cave Survey ~ 72 ft. (GPS on other known caves).

Since the December meeting was cancelled due to weather we had to wait until this meeting to sample some really delicious big Bat sugar cookies with black butter crème frosting and red hot eyes made by the Stufflebeams. So good I bet you can't eat just one!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary

**MJ**



**STAMP**

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

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**TO:**