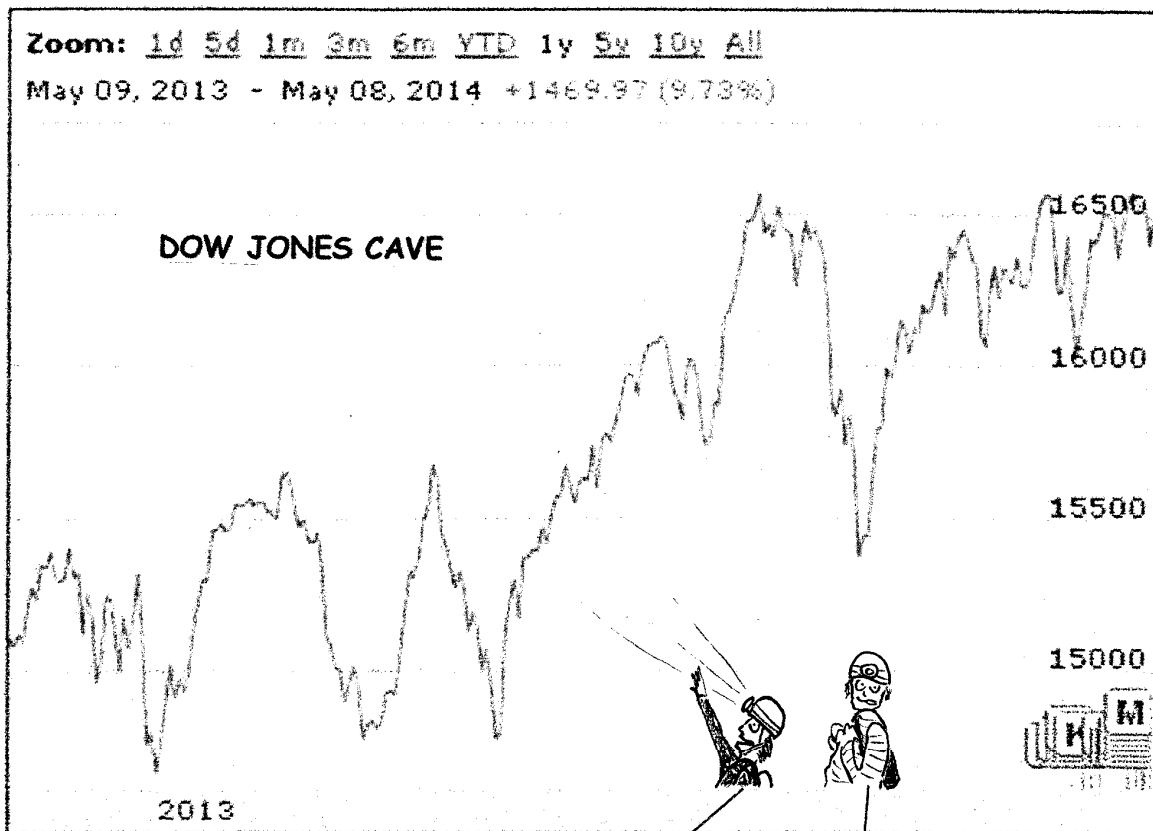


sag rag

33:2 Mar-Apr 2014



Wow! What a beautiful ceiling.
Do you think it might collapse on us?

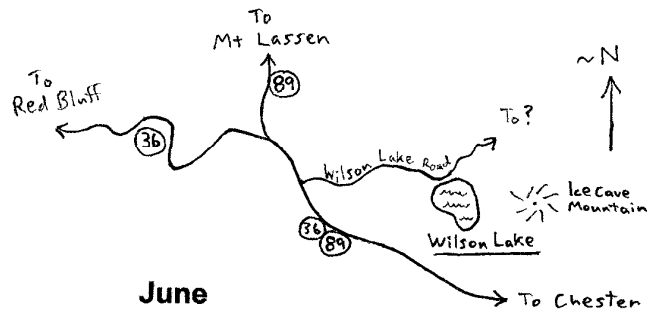
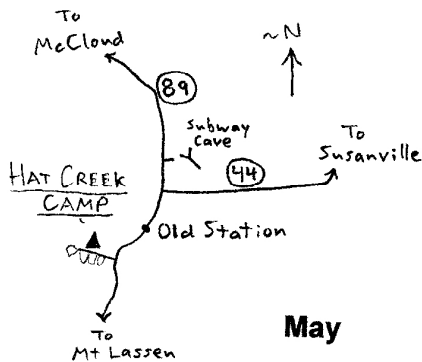
Nah. It took a whole year to form like that.

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

- May 30 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hat Creek Campground. Call Bighorn 530-842-3917.
 June 27 Paul Gibson backpack. Call Joel Despain 530-934-1152.
 June 27 SAG meeting 7:30 pm Wilson Lake. Call Wolffs 530-964-3123.
 July 14 NSS Convention in Huntsville Alabama. Call 256-599-2211.

Maps to Meetings



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

Thanks to Ginger Sanders, making her SAG RAG debut with a good trip report and photography, and also Melanie keeping up with excellent meeting reports, we have the next newsletter all set. All that was left was to add in some humor for the April tradition. For this, we have the cavers on the cover worried about a bear market bringing the roof down, introducing kind of a bear theme. A bear featured in Ginger's submissions as well. So I tossed in a map of newly discovered Comfy Bear Cave. The ad on the back is off-theme, but I felt a sense of editorial responsibility to bring this before the RAG readership. Women from all over are going to be sending in money for the purpose of ending SAG. I think we are doomed, but thought I should at least inform everybody about what is going on. **BB**

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING MARCH 28, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm at Steve Hobson's home in Redding, CA.

Attendance: Steve Hobson, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Wayne Cedidla, David Smith, Bill & Peri Frantz, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Chris Kennedy, Brad Rust, April Pryor, Dallas Carlon, Hans, Leah & Calon Stein, and guest Mike Rock.

Minutes: accepted as corrected.

Treasurers Report: \$1079 current balance. Last month balance \$940 and income for dues with expenditures for Flowers and Card to Neils Smith's Family \$104 donated by Steve Hobson.

Website: Dave has a new computer that had a couple of technical problems that have been overcome and the SAG RAG was sent out.

SAG RAG report: Not available.

Correspondence: Received Cascade Caverns (Texas) brochure for Spelunkers Tour. Ed Frank in Pennsylvania is soliciting donations for his documentary on Black Guides of Mammoth Cave. We received the NSS Convention Video. We received a request about SAG and it's meetings from NSS member Jason Richards of S. CA. SAG sent out two membership applications to Beej and Katrina.

SAG Calendar:

- Saturday 3/29 SAG "play in the rain" in caves day?
- April 16, Wednesday Turtle Bay SAG Presentation at 50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act
- April 25, Friday 7:30 pm SAG Meeting at Wolffs' in McCloud
- April 26, Saturday SAG caving TBA
- May 30-June 1 Hat Creek Camp out
- June 27-29 Possible Paul Gibson Cave Trip
- Oct 18, Saturday SAG/SAR Rescue Training

Old Business: APC Total Station Survey. We may be able to do a share cost with the FS, but we have to put up the money and get reimbursed after the project is done. We need to find out the cost to insure the Trimble Scanner and submit a proposal to the FS. Dallas C. will look into the cost of the Trimble and contact Steve to get an insurance cost estimate. We need this information by the end of April / at the next SAG meeting.

All the people helping with the SAG Presentation that will actually be present sometime on 4/16 need to check in at 8:30 am to get in free or pay the \$7.00 if they decide to come later. Event is from 9 am until 3 or 4 pm. Dave Smith will make a new special edition of the SAG RAG for this event. April Pryor will make 100 copies of the coloring book and 50 copies of the special edition of the SAG RAG. Volunteers working on this event either the day of or helping to put it together before are: Steve Hobson, Liz Wolff, Ed & Virginia Bobrow, April Pryor, Hans Stein, and Bill Broeckel & Dave Smith.

New Business: Jeff and Robin Doust, cavers from Australia will be here sometime in May and want to go caving in lava or limestone. We are looking for cavers to help take them caving, but first we need to know the dates they plan to be here and whether or not they will have their own equipment.

Small Group Self-Rescue Training August 22-23 at Steve Hobson's house in McCloud. Meeting Friday night and Saturday search and rescue practice. Cave possibilities available are BLM Cave, Badger Cave, Green & Red Tape Caves and Adam's Homestead Cave.

September we can practice for the October SAG/SAR cave rescue training. July is NSS Cave Convention in Huntsville, AL.

Caving in the Marbles: we asked Melanie to contact S & E Outfitters for available dates for Marble Mtns Caving. Labor Day Weekend would be packing in on Thurs. 8/28 and coming out on 9/1. This is five days. She will find out about cost etc. and will also ask if there is an opening on July 4th weekend the 7/3 thru 7/6 or 7.

Brad Rust brought us a SKED/Yates Spec Pack that the FS stored. It will now be stored at Steve Hobson's in Redding. Brad also donated a CD & cave map of Hall City Cave. He also passed around a FS publication called "Beneath the Forest" that has APC and Hall City pictures.

The raise Shasta Dam project is still viable and will cover some caves. They have been notified of this, but no mitigation has been given so far. Raising the dam 20 feet will double the lake's capacity. [It will increase capacity by about 1/3 – e-Editor.]

Cave Trips: In Feb. April Pryor and Hans Stein dropped the pit in Samwel Cave. In Feb. Mike Stufflebeam visited Conga Cave. It's a commercial cave in Cape Town, South Africa. He completed a 1000 foot rappel into a huge room. He dropped it in stages going 300 ft. per drop on a figure 8 and that figure 8 got very HOT!

Chris Kennedy and a former student finished surveying in Bananas Cave and Screaming Osprey Cave.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 pm. Melanie Jackson, Secretary.

MJ



Petting the cave whale in Freudian Complex 4-26-14. Photo by Ginger Sanders.

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING APRIL 25, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:43 pm at the Wolff's home in McCloud.

Attendance: Ed & Virginia Bobrow, Steve Hobson, David Smith, Melanie Jackson, Liz & Jim Wolff, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Judy & Bill Broeckel, Dan Morrow (friend of Steve Hobson), and Ginger Sanders from Bend area of Oregon OHDG member.

Minutes: accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: April Balance \$1079.00 Received dues from Ginger so current balance are \$1084.00.

Website & E-RAG: All is running well.

SAG RAG: next edition will be out soon. Bill could use articles. Ginger says will send one on cave photography.

Correspondence: Joel Despain sent information regarding Paul Gibson Cave Trip in June. Includes info on how to get there and project list etc. NSS IO memo received on Karst Field & Study in June in Kentucky. Post Office has a bulk mailing program that can be accomplished on computer, but it's not viable for SAG. MLG will also be having a Paul Gibson Cave Trip August 2nd per the Valley Caver. You can contact Dan Snyder if interested.

SAG Calendar

- April 26, Saturday trip to the Freudian Complex
- May 30-June 1st Hat Creek Camp out
- June 27-29 weekend Paul Gibson Cave Trip
- June 27-29 weekend alternate cave trip to Ice Cave Mtn near Wilson Lake (for poison oak wimps and less strenuous trip)
- Aug. 22 Friday SAG meeting Steve Hobson's in McCloud
- Aug. 23 Saturday Self Rescue Practice McCloud
- Oct. 17 Friday SAG meeting Melanie's in Yreka
- Oct. 18 Saturday SAG/SAR cave rescue training TBA

Old Business: Dallas Carlon has sent numerous emails to Tom Cardinas about renting the Trimble Scanner unit for APC use, but has not had any replies. Redding Instruments rents the scanners for \$800/day and you must get your own insurance. Pacific Survey in Medford, OR has eight scanners to rent. The owner is very interested in our project. Liz & Jim will talk with him next week regarding cost of rental and insurance etc.

Back packing into the Marbles this summer. Dallas has a brother-in-law who has horses for packing, but is not licensed or insured. S and E Outfitters can take us, but not July 4th weekend. SAG members have opted not to go to the Marbles this year due to lack of member availability and/or interest.

The Aussie cavers will be in Redding, CA April 27 and be seeing Shasta Caverns among other things. May 1st & 2nd they would like to camp at Lava Beds (Thurs. & Fri) and go caving. They only have basic cave gear.

April 16 Turtle Bay: 50th Anniversary of Wilderness Act. SAG had a couple of tables for the event. There were maybe only 100 people or fewer that came through that day. Liz, Bill, Dave, Hans & Leah and two of her nieces manned our area. Ken Showalter stopped by to visit.

New Business:

SAG Calendar for the rest of 2014

- June 27-29 alternate weekend cave/camp trip for those that can't do poison oak or the 1000 ft. elevation change to the Paul Gibson Cave. Ice Mountain Cave near Lake Wilson south of Lassen Park.
- Sept. 26 SAG meeting possible Coastal meeting either at the LaForges or the Fritzkes. TBA
- November there is no meeting as is too close to Thanksgiving
- Dec. 5 Friday SAG Meeting. The Broeckels' in Yreka. Cookie exchange and Officer Nominations at that meeting.

Hat Creek Camp out May 30 - June 1st Tammy Wilcox at the visitor center says we will be good for a couple of campsites. Our weekend project is to spend at least half a day sacking up trash from the BIG garbage pit and the FS will haul that stuff away. There will be a cave survey (Broken Cave) knee pads required.

Sept. 20-21 MLG is scheduling a trip to Butter Creek and Indian Creek Caves. Contact Dan Snyder soon if interested. There will be crawling passage and poison oak. These caves are seldom visited.

Cave Trips:

March 30 Liz Wolff and Bill Devereaux surveyed Siamese Bridges at LABE CRF weekend. There is an unnamed cave that may join Blue Grotto.

The following caves were visited by Bill and/ or Judy Broeckel

- March 28 Bill found another cave that is toward Elk Village Cave that had a campsite in it. He did a clean-up of that camp site and called it the Dwarf Mines Cave. He needs to finish this cave survey . There is another better cave with a big room and a sandy floor he calls the Hobbit Hole that also needs survey.
- March 31 he found Spider Cave that has a significant dark section that needs surveying.
- April 4 CRF trip. Mark Jones and Bill surveyed 1175 ft. of borehole on the Modoc project. The unofficial name of that cave is Steamboat Frank Cave.
- April 5 finished the Daffy Duck Survey 150 ft.
- April 8 Hat Creek Caved By Faith Cave 35 ft.
- April 13 Water Caves Bill & Judy surveyed over 300 ft. of Easter Seals Cave and it is still going walking passage.
- April 16 Hat Creek Rincon Cave survey early morning 3 shots for 40 ft
- April 22 Hat Creek surveyed Crazy Bear Cave 49 ft. It is the fifth bear den Bill has found.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm. Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary

MJ



SAG in Freudian Complex 4-26-14. Photo by Ginger Sanders.

Caves, Cookies and Cameras
A Day With SAG at the Freudian Complex
By Ginger Sanders

My first caving experience with the Shasta Area Grotto was on a sublime Saturday at the end of April. I came down from Bend, OR the night before to the quaint little town of McCloud, CA for the meeting and to meet everyone. A fine, fun group.

After a night on the comfy couch at the Wolff home we met up with David, Barbara and Mike in the morning and set out to the Freudian Cave Complex.

We were almost to the last road there when we came across a big tree down in the road! Oh no! What? Not to worry, the guys have it all covered. They strapped the tree to the truck and pulled it right out of the way. Totally prepared.

Once we got to the caves I realized that the SAG has a much different view of “Easy walking sections” than I do. Here it is meant as “Big high ceilings and sandy floors”. SAG meaning is “Mostly you can stand up, but not always” along with “Get out alive”. That’s pretty much it. Hard core!

We caved along really amazing sections each with its own interesting geology. Some had tubes in tubes, some had fantastic colorful rock and algae and some had diversionary tubes that had to be crawled up to and checked out. I, of course, was in photographer heaven. Everyone was super accommodating in that regard. Very enthusiastic models!



SAG at Freudian Complex 4-26-14. Photo by Ginger Sanders.

Our group came up for air and lunch in one of the sinks where we had sack lunches and exquisite cookies from Barbara. It was snowing just a tiny bit.

After lunch we tackled the next section and ended with a nice long crawl (I heard 500 ft but I'm not sure if that was accurate or teasing and it's hard to tell with your head down dragging the camera equipment backpack. If you asked me I would say it was a half mile!)

On the crawl we found some wonderful formations coming up from the floor and a Grylloblattid which was a first for me! (Since I did not know what it was I was just yelling "BUG! BUG! BIG BUG! I found A BUG!") Jim Wolff came and identified it. Sadly at that point my camera was packed for hauling at a crawl.

Being the least experienced caver of the group and tied for the youngest (at 52) I was out caved by everyone and had a wonderful time. Everyone was very kind to me and great sports for my camera.

After we left there we dropped in on the Jot Dean Ice Cave. There was a lot of ice. It was wonderful and treacherous.

On the way home we found a BEAR! A black bear doing...well answering that age old question. Then it took off while I took pictures.

We wrapped it up with some burgers and shakes at Floyd's Frosty.

Great friends, great caves, great cookies and a BEAR.



SAG in Freudian Complex 4-26-14. Photo by Ginger Sanders.



Black Bear!



Freudian Complex 4-26-14. Photos by Ginger Sanders.



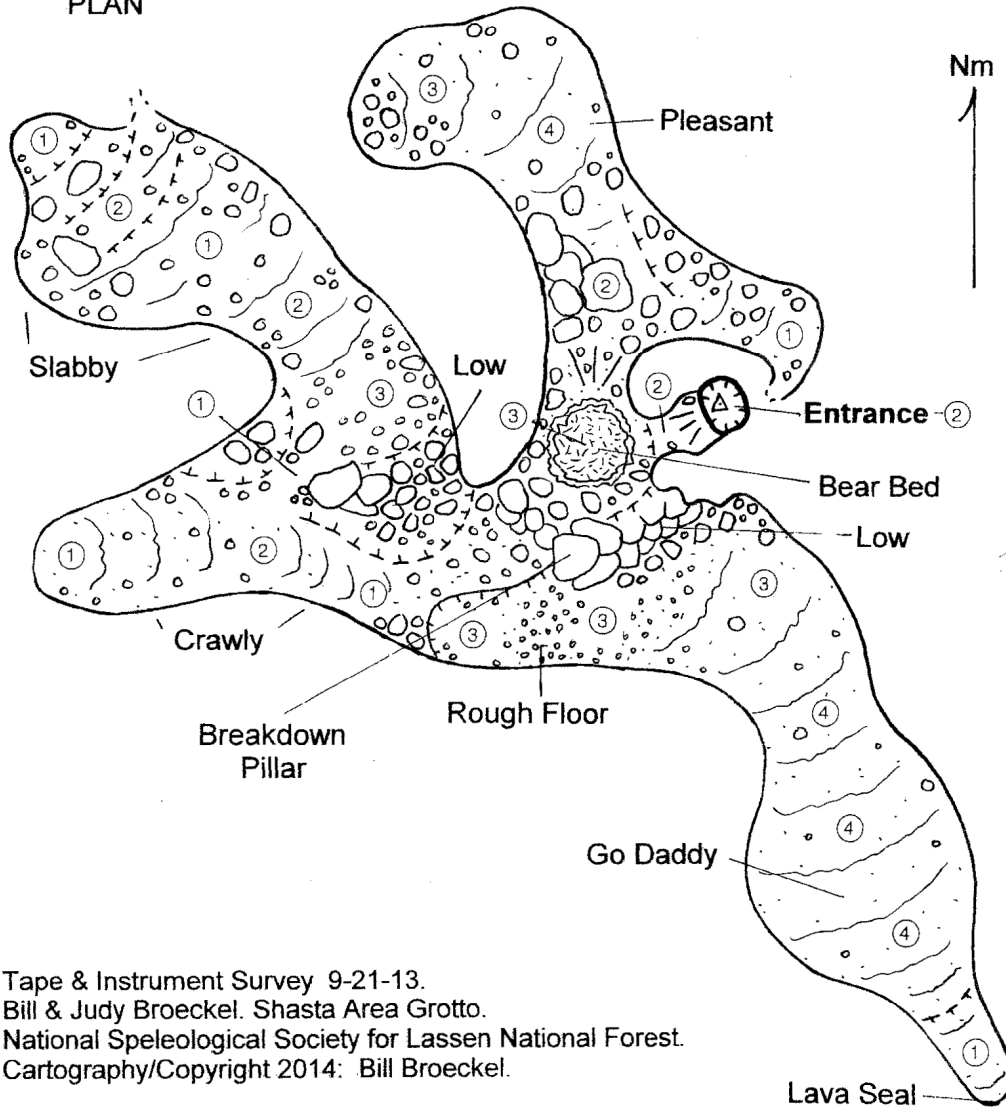
SAG in Freudian Complex 4-26-14. Photo by Ginger Sanders.

Comfy Bear Cave

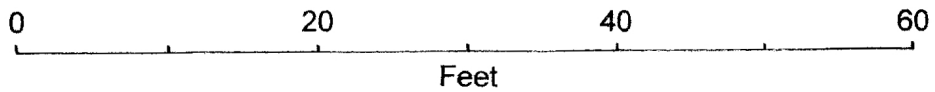
Shasta County, California

HACK #221
Length 196 ft
Depth 16 ft

PLAN



Tape & Instrument Survey 9-21-13.
Bill & Judy Broeckel. Shasta Area Grotto.
National Speleological Society for Lassen National Forest.
Cartography/Copyright 2014: Bill Broeckel.



Map: Comfy Bear Cave

COMFY BEAR CAVE **By Bighorn Broeckel**

This obvious bear den cave led to the discovery of several other bear caves, such that altogether they represent a whole bear neighborhood in this section of the lava flow. Comfy Bear is the best example, and also the best cave in the bunch, so far.

The entrance is fairly small for bears, but just big enough for a shelter-seeking bruin to squirm a way in. Over the years, the beasts have gone to some trouble to clear rocks and lay in a large bed of Manzanita leaves which naturally fall down into the entrance, season by season. The bed is amazingly clean, fresh, and comfortable, so that it is quite possible to lay down there and take a nap, spend the night, or perhaps stay in for the entire winter.

The bed is just far enough inside the cave to be protected from the direct effects of winter storms. Passages continue beyond the entrance in three different directions, all ending in seals. Thus the cave has but one entrance, and is not excessively drafty. Luckily, on 9-21-13, the bears did not come by while we were in there on survey or taking naps in the bed, like Goldilocks. Total passage length is 196 feet. **BB**



We were lucky to find this one and only entrance to Comfy Bear Cave on a rainy day. 9-21-13

