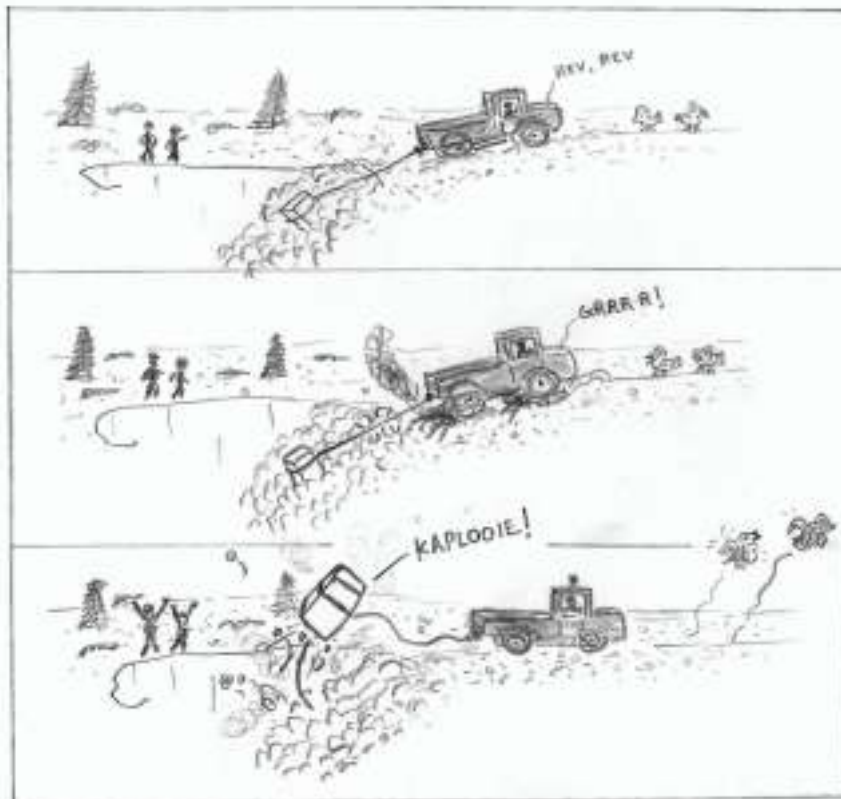


sag rag

33:3 May-June 2014



**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GARBAGE PIT CLEAN-UP:
WHEN MIKE USED HIS TRUCK TO YANK OUT THE REFRIGERATOR!**

You know, many cavers prefer Bluewater Two.



Would you trust your life to that rope?

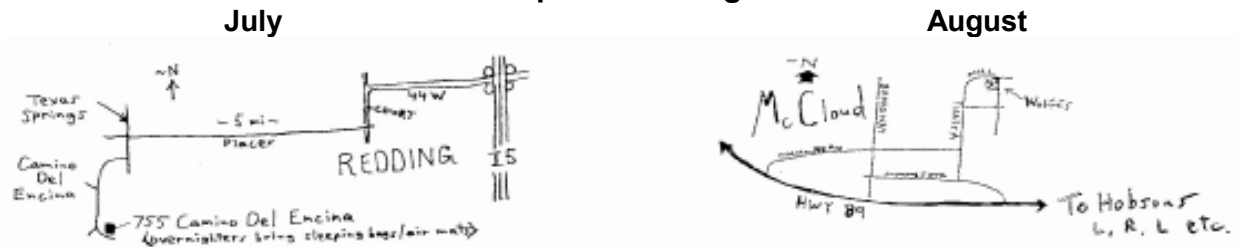
Of course I would. Look how strong it is.

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

- July 25 Meet or call Stufflebeams Friday night for Saturday trip.
- July 26 Cave trip in the Redding area. 530-244-1269.
- Aug 2 Mother Lode grotto trip to Paul Gibson 916-993-1350.
- Aug 20 Barnum Cave public cave and bat day 530-964-3123.
- Aug 22 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobsons' in McCloud.
Meet at Wolffs' 6:45 to carpool/caravan 530-964-3123.
- Sept 20 Mother Lode Grotto to Butter Creek 831-421-0430.
- Sept 26 SAG meeting at Fritzkes' in Arcata 707-822-8566.
- Oct 17 SAG meeting at Melanie's in Yreka 530-842-9714.
Plan for SAR cave rescue training the following day.
- Dec 5 SAG meeting at Broeckels' in Yreka 530-842-3917.

Maps to Meetings



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

In case you were wondering, Garbage Pit is not just a random dump site. In fact, it is an impressive sinkhole on Forest Service land, and has some cave alcoves. It has not been surveyed yet – it would be a great trip on a storm-less day in winter. There is enough cave that there were still about 20 tires in there that the fires didn't burn, and most of them still need to be hauled out. Liz Wolff gets extra credit for going on with the trip in spite of a freshly broken elbow. No meetings in May or June, but there was a trip to Paul Gibson undertaken by six grotto members. A detailed report may appear at some point. **BB**



SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING APRIL 25, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 pm at the Wolffs' 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.

Treasurers Report: April Balance \$1079.00 Received dues from Ginger so current balance is \$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 1, 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 that has horses for packing, but is not licensed or insured. Sand 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 less 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 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.

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

MJ

SAG'S May Activity or The Great Flying Fridge Caper

By Liz Wolff

I was stunned at how little trash there was in the pit (Garbage Pit out at Hat Creek), as it is possible to drive up to and even into the pit. Years ago, when we had first found it, the pit was full of bags of pine needles and brush to an unknown depth, as well as tires, an old auto body, refrigerators and assorted junk.

Saturday May 31, 2014, SAG's crew of Mike & Barb Stufflebeam, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, and Melanie Jackson & Wayne Cedidla attacked what the last wildfires had left, mainly metal. Amid the burnt remains of Mountain Mahogany the crew pulled out wire from steel-belted tires, car parts, a dishwasher, a clothes washer and dryer, a microwave oven, several bed springs, an ironing board and bag after bag of assorted "stuff". Reels of wire still remain from burnt tires, and twenty or so unburned ones, at least four fridges, part of a culvert, a large sheet of metal partially buried in the rubble, large cement blocks, and that shot-up old car body. With the aid of rope, a tow strap, and Mike's truck we did get one of the fridges out. It was the high point of everyone's day to see that old rusted thing fly out of the pit in a cloud of dust, literally. Could it be the final resting place of ??? The rest of the fridges will take a lot more effort and finessing to get out; we couldn't tell how they got them into the smaller space in the first place! The Forest Service hauled away the bags of junk that day, with the piles of metal to be hauled by the fire crew later.

(continued)



Cave cartoon sequence in real life: 1. Connecting the components.

Note: All Garbage Pit photos credited to Liz Wolff.



2. Haul system set up and Mike's truck ready to rumble.



3. Out pops the rusty fridge in a cloud of dust.



Buried car body. Jimmy Hoffa's final resting place?



Another view of the buried auto body, still there.



Scrap metal and cement blocks in sinkhole's rubble.



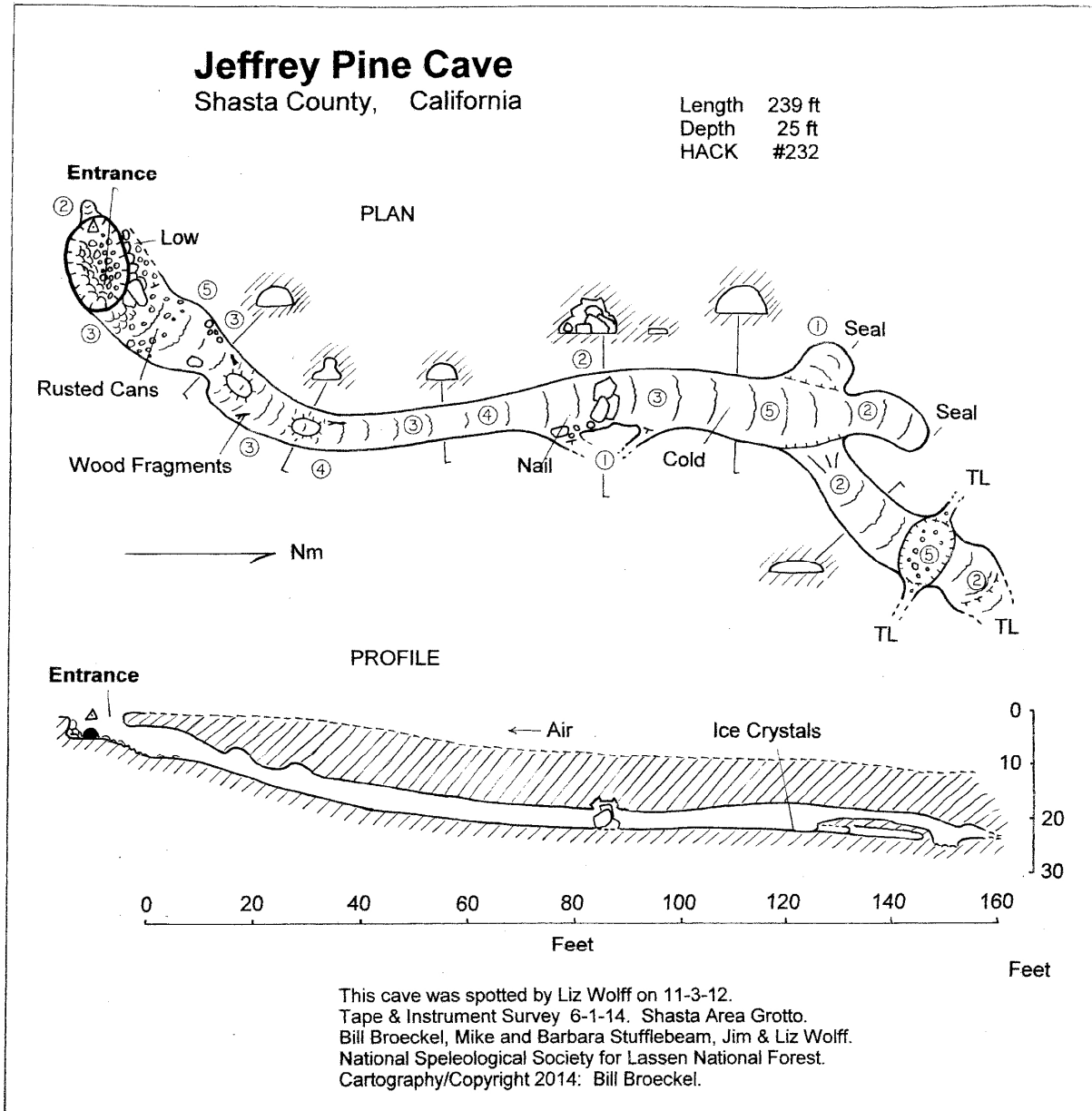
Scouting around for a new fridge, several to choose from.



Fruits of our labor: 1. Forest service trailer loaded up with garbage bags.



2. Two piles of scrap metal awaiting the fire crew for pick-up later.



Map: Jeffrey Pine Cave

The next day was fun instead of work. We went out to Jeffrey Pine Cave to survey. Bill, Jim, and Mike did the survey while Liz and Barb scooped the cave. Nice cave. The passage drops steeply down the slope for about 60 or 70 feet before leveling out. There was unexpected ice down there, then the cave pinched down to too small to continue. Total footage is 239 ft. **LW**

Elsie Cave

By Bighorn Broeckel

The Highlands never really did completely snow-in last winter, so we were able to cave out there the year round. It was just like summer, only colder. January 28, 2014 saw Judy and me needing a "nice" cave to map. When scouting on 12-13-13, we stuck our heads into an entrance 12.5 ft wide and 4 ft high. Walking passage wandered away. That seemed pretty nice, so, come Jan. 28 we went there and set up the survey.

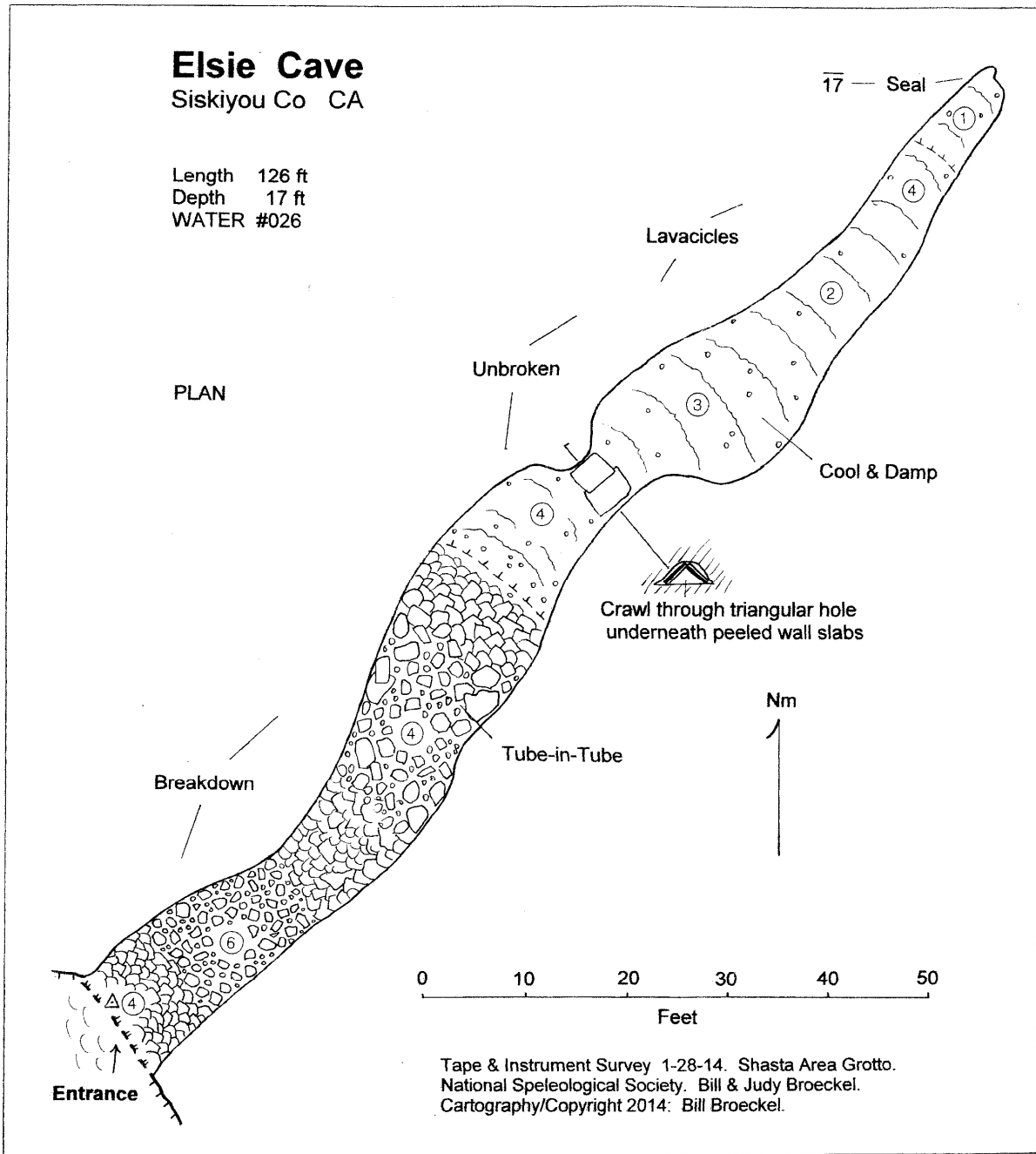
Judy did lead tape while I was the drag-along anchor. She dragged me along to the bitter end, she did. Some data was recorded. I have long held that a good lead tape actually runs the survey, kind of just makes it happen.

Elsie is a linear, single-entrance affair extending a remarkably straight 126 ft, ending cleanly in a lava seal. Depth is 17 ft. Light from the entrance can be seen a long ways down the descending passage. At about the half-way point, the tube suddenly changes character, going from breakdown city to completely unbroken, except for those peeling slabs at the narrows. The inner portion is cool, damp, quiet and rather endearing. Quite charmed, we on-the-spot declared Elsie a "cute little cave" (CLC). Judy went so far as to go with that "LC" and make it the cave name. Remembering my Grandma Elsie, I had no argument this time.

No bats were seen sleeping or fluttering about. For Geology, the highly visible entrance occurs in the wall of a segment of master trench. The cave goes downhill. Thus, here occurs a distributary off the major conduit, and a perfect example of such. Previous students of these lavas probably noticed all this, so we can't really claim a cave discovery in this case. However, prior maps of the little cave may not exist elsewhere. Similar situations continue to await, so be ready to survey, my friends, be ready to survey at all times. **BB**



Judy Broeckel comes through the triangular narrows of Elsie Cave.



Map: Elsie Cave



This was the most snow we had on Shasta last winter.

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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