

sag rag

33:5 Sept-Oct 2014



Black Oak Leaf -- *Quercus kelloggii*

Mariposa County

**A season of work,
Then floating free, come to rest;
Journey of a leaf.**

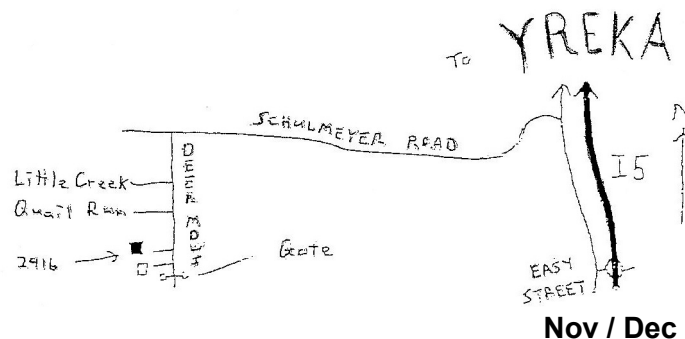
INSIDE - Big Oak Cave and Pooling Vent Cave

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

Dec 5 SAG meeting at Broeckels' in Yreka 530-842-3917.

Map to December Meeting



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

There are some important cave reports coming in soon, but this issue needs to get out there for the next meeting. This is planned at the Broeckels house here in Yreka. We may not be able to go caving, but will be happy to help eat cookies at the meeting. The main chore will be to elect officers for the coming year (2015). We have had the same officers every year for what seems like forever, so bring any ideas you might have for changes and nominations. Its not that I'm unhappy with our officers, it is just that some others might like to have a chance to lead and serve in these capacities, and everyone is open to that possibility, at least once a year

So here goes with some obscure cave reports. Let me tell you, there are a lot more where these came from. Feel free to submit creative and original materials to the newsletter. I try not to mess it up too much. I'm predicting a wetter winter so maybe less caving and more projects around the house, like making cave maps and writing up past adventures.

Send it this way maybe. Happy everything.

BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:13 pm at Hobson's home in McCloud.

Attendance: Wayne Cedidla, Jim & Liz Wolff, Steve & Susan Hobson, Barbara & Mike Stufflebeam, Tiffany (Barbara S. daughter), Ed & Virginia Bobrow, Dave Smith, Mark Fritzke, Misha Rejkovicz (guest and new member), Sam Baxter, Melanie Jackson, Jed Medin, and Joel Despain.

Minutes: were accepted as read (Aug. 23, 2014).

Treasurer's Report: Not available. \$268.00 was spent on food for the weekend SAG/SAR cave rescue training.

Website: E-RAG and all site areas are working. The site has been simplified. Liz Wolff paid the NSS for the grotto website.

SAG RAG: Not available.

Correspondence: Dallas sent emails regarding true cost of Trimble Scanner for obtaining proof of insurance. Real cost of Trimble for scanner and equipment is \$61,354.00. The rental rate from Pacific Survey in Medford is \$1,015 - \$1,200 / day with a two day minimum. Liz will ask Pacific Survey where they get their insurance to rent them. Dallas will not be able to help the grotto for the next two months.

Liz called Juan De La Fuente regarding the graffiti fellows (back in May in Pluto's Cave). He said they will not be prosecuted. Rudy called and said the Sand Cave gates had been breached.

SAG Calendar:

- October 18-19 SAG/SAR cave rescue training in the Medicine Lake area.
- November NO SAG MEETING due to Thanksgiving Holiday.
- December 5, Bill and Judy Broeckels' home in Yreka. Cave rescue training critique and Officer Nominations.

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Northeast entrance to Indian Cave - 5-16-11

Old Business: see correspondence for use of Trimble total station. SAG/SAR rescue training will have a minimum of four missing subjects. Three members not at meeting for further discussion at this time.

New Business: Mike & Barbara S. will be removing their boat from Shasta Lake Oct. 31. Call Mike if interested in going to Lake Level Cave before then.

Trip Reports: Dave Smith went to a sea cave just south of the Presidio at Ocean Beach. Sea entrance twenty feet high and sandy. Mike & Barbara S. went into the Indian Cave with directions Bill B. gave them.

Mike S. and Chris K. dropped the pit at Potter's Creek. They saw a half a dozen bats and they picked up glass at the bottom of the pit. They visited Bat Cave on the way back.

Mark F. and Misha R. were working in the Marbles at a terminal dig today. Mark gave us a history of his work in this area starting back in 1982 with the dye bug in Dry Stream Cave up to Trail Junction Cave. Within an hour the dye showed up at Sinking Stream. In the 90's he hauled out large boulders. From 2010 to 2014 it was extended twenty feet. He has reached a mud floor six feet wide with an echo of a distant waterfall. This area is close to the confluence area of five different streams at different times. Mark has been pushing the Dry Stream area for 38 years. Misha, Tom Kline, Steve Knutson, Dave Hodges, and others went to Windy Cave near Cave Junction.

Liz W., Ray M, and Melon Colberg talked about bats to thirty people at Barnum Cave. The program they spoke at was put on by Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife.

Liz W. has been surveying at LABE three or four times since May. The Labyrinth cave survey has been finished to 6,289 feet. Four small caves above the main cave were also finished. Two thirds of the Garden Bridges survey is done with many small caves. Bill & Judy B. were there last weekend doing survey.

Jed M. Chris K. went to the Western Regional and along with Ron Davis went to the TTT Cave (Toppled Table Talus). They were not able to get in on the Windeler Cave Trip. Ron Davis is the caretaker of Windeler and SAG should contact him if they would like to see this cave.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm. Discussion on the weekend cave rescue training for Sat. and Sun. followed.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary **MJ**



Ray Miller, speaker at the Barnum Cave batwalk – 8-20-14



Entrance to Pooling Vent Cave – 1-21-14

16 FEET OF BOOTY - The Story of Pooling Vent Cave By Bighorn Broeckel

If you stuck your head into the loose rocks at the end of the cave, you could look straight up and see a ceiling way up there. That's where Fritzke was deployed. "Way up there" turned out to be 16 feet of booty.

JULY 2013: Judy and I were looking around for something to survey. We spotted some overhangs in the bottom of a crater. It looked like a deflated lava pool surrounded by a periphery of shelter caves. "Why not?" we thought, and down we went to document some more marginal caves for Siskiyou County.

However, we were in for a small surprise - a lava tube passage heading NE and up into the side of the vent. It even blew cold air. I just managed to wiggle through the squeeze up at the top, with roomier breakdown passage ahead. So we went home with over 100 feet of survey, and left behind a going passage.

(continued next page)

JANUARY 2014: During the amazing non-winter, we actually were able to return to the Highlands 1-21-14. The goal was to survey the rest of the shelter caves around the deflated pool. We were unable to connect it all together, so most of it became Pooling Vent Annex, with 87 feet of naturally lighted passage. But there was still that going passage at the top of Pooling Vent Cave, beyond the tight squeeze . . .

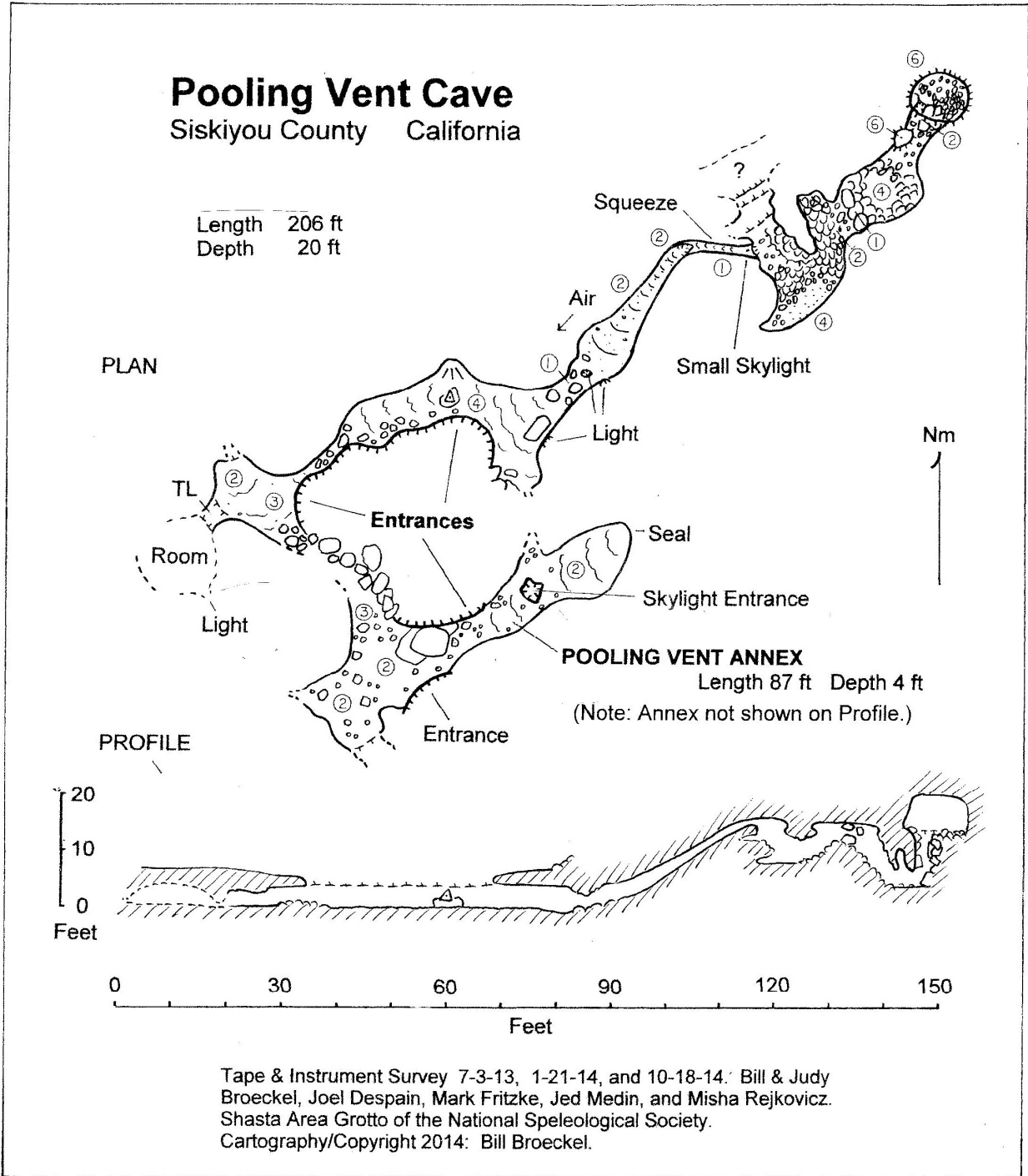
OCTOBER 2014: So that brings us to the SAG/SAR weekend, a two-day exercise in searching for mock casualties in about 19,000 feet of complicated passages and caves known as the Freudian Complex. Hobson asked me to lead a Saturday night caving trip. I knew we could attract a crew of "extremholensteigers". Heck, we could easily clean up the Pooling Vent survey, and still have time for touring the entertaining tangle of passages in aMazing Pits. Right? O.K., so right after supper, away we go, driving off into the dark and chilly October night.

About 50 yards from the cave, I became disoriented, and led the crew on a round-about goose chase in and out of a whole bunch of look-alike craters. That was our first set-back. Next, I strategically placed survey gear in the tiny skylight, so we wouldn't have to drag it through the squeeze. However, the crew did not really appreciate this bit of tactical brilliance. Instead, they took it as a bad sign about the squeeze itself.

Well, sometime later we had enough intact bodies past the squeeze and ready to carry on with the survey. Despain took the lead tape and went 54 feet in three shots through reasonable passage. First we went down to the right, then up and over a breakdown pile, then down again to the aforementioned 16 feet of booty. At this point, we called up our ringer (Fritzke), a famous and highly competent expert in virgin passage. He immediately wedged himself in among the loose rocks, and spent the next 20-30 minutes gradually working his way up through about 10 feet of vertical breakdown. Holy moly, just like that, he found himself in a tidy, intact room up there, with 6 feet of ceiling height. There were no leads. Ten plus six gives us the 16 feet of booty. All right then, booty is booty, and we will take what the caves will offer.

SUMMARY: Pooling Vent Cave goes through four character changes in just over 200 feet of passage. First there is the deflated bubble feature on the vent floor, then a lava tube crawl, then a larger breakdown passage, and finally a narrow climb up into a terminal dome room. This blind dome looked like something you might find in the Marbles, except done in basalt.

Needless to say, we never made it to aMazing Pits. The whole evening's entertainment might be considered a classic bait-and-switch sandbag, OR ALTERNATIVELY, an awesome adventurous foray into the unknown underground, including Fritzke's 16 feet of booty. Lastly, I would like to end with an official list of names. These are the poor schmucks that were suckered into this fiasco by night: Joel Despain, Mark Fritzke, Jed Medin, and Misha Rejkovicz. **BB**



Map: Pooling Vent Cave



Glaciated canyons in the Sierra contain many small talus caves – 11-2-14

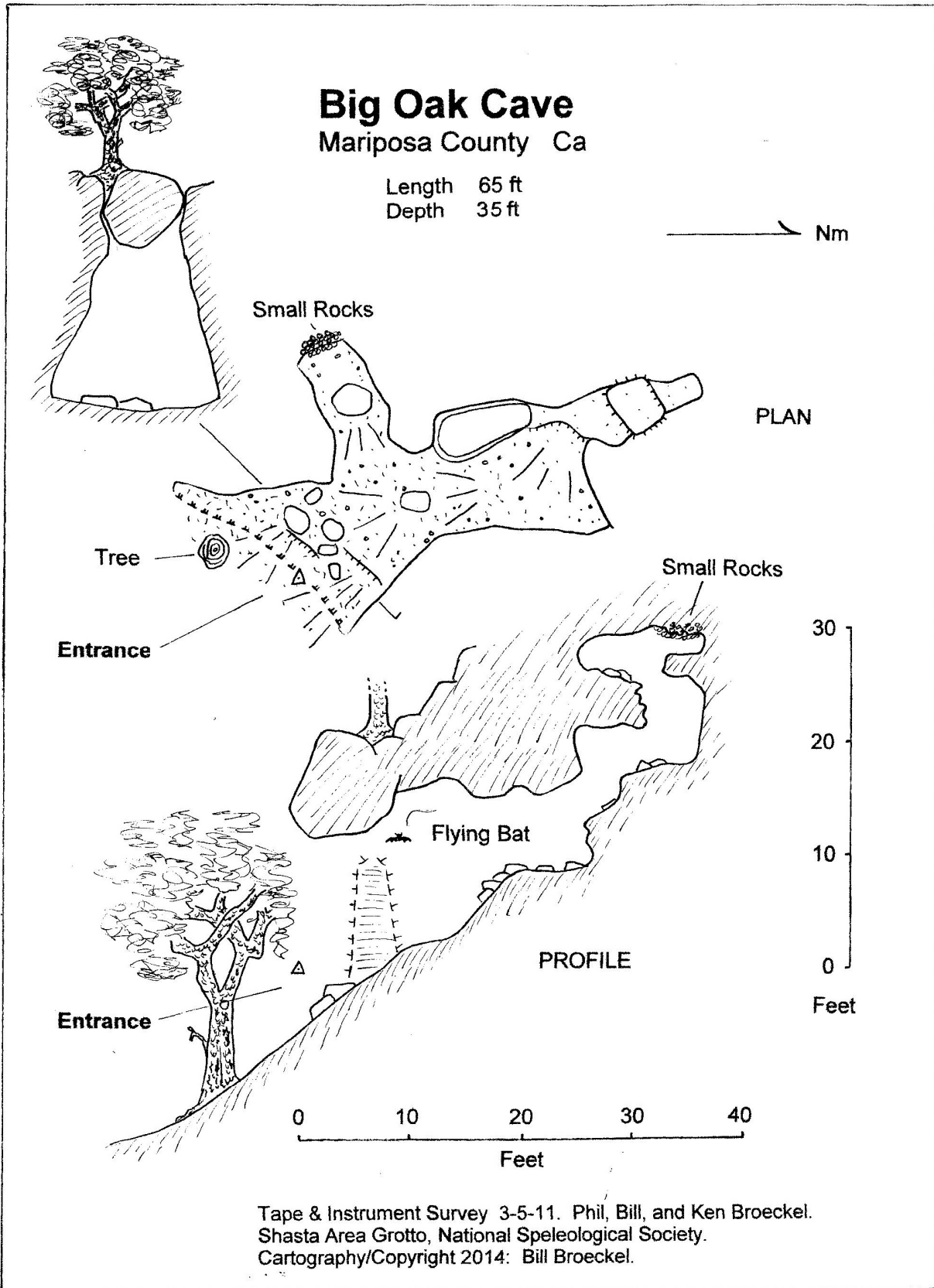
BIG OAK CAVE

By Bill Broeckel (middle brother)

One day I was out walking with my brothers when we came upon a large and impressive opening in the rocks. It was the entrance to a cave. There was a large California Black Oak tree (*Quercus kelloggii*) on the left side of the entrance, and another big oak up on top, so we ended up naming the cavern "Big Oak Cave" because of these trees. Right away my brothers were impressed that we could just up and name something. Here I was so glad we all agreed on it, and that the whole name-that-cave business was over with so quickly and easily.

We already had our lunch, sitting on a nice flat boulder with Indian grinding holes– it was lunch in the outdoor grain-bakery-kitchen area. I knew the brothers were fueled up, so all I had to do was open my pack and pull out stuff. It just so happened that I had three helmets with lights attached, nine spare lights, full cave survey gear, knee pads, gloves, and the like. Be prepared, folks. You never know when a cave survey trip might happen.

We walked into a nice roomy entrance chamber, a real plus when introducing family members to caving and mapping at the same time. We had fun climbing up into the side passage and the back passage. Both ended in loose rock ceilings. We even roused out an evening bat, who obligingly flew about the main cave, so we could all check each other out. We talked about bats. We speculated on the geology of talus caves. We gathered survey data. Nobody got hurt. You know, this went pretty well. Maybe we'll go cave mapping again someday. **BB**



Map: Big Oak Cave



**Mt. Shasta seen from the Grey Butte Trail with Shasta Red Fir – *Abies magnifica var. shastensis*
Photo 9-2-14. Merry Christmas everyone.**

**SAG RAG
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