

sag rag

34:1 Jan-Feb 2015



Psnow on the Pseudokarst – Medicine Lake Highlands. Winter 2014-15.

INSIDE - January Shasta Area Grotto trip to the Double Hole Lava Flow.

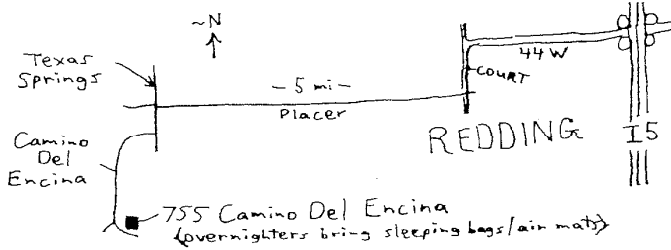
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG. Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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 2015

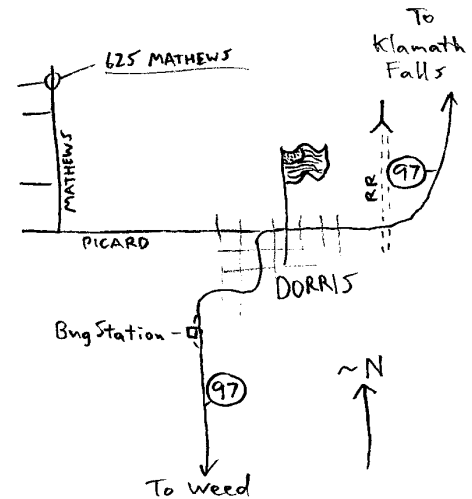
- Mar 27 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Stuffbeams' in Redding (530) 244-1269.
- Apr 24 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Bobrows' in Dorris, 625 Mathews Rd. 96023.

Maps to Meetings

Mar.



Apr.



Take Picard Rd West from Dorris.
 Turn right on Mathews Rd. to #625.
 See neighborhood map on page 4.

SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

The Double Hole Flow continues to amaze us with the extent of its cave resource. This RAG reports on progress from survey trips in January, taking advantage of another mild winter. I have recently applied a "Hat Creek" model scheme for organizing the Double Hole caves, and can thereby say that there are presently 106 surveyed caves with over ten miles of total cave passage in the Double Hole Lava Flow. No scheme is perfect, but this article kind of celebrates passing the 100 cave mark for this project that includes mapping efforts as far back as 1970. Be sure to check out the calendar items in the February Minutes. This is the busiest SAG calendar that I can remember {-}

BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING JANUARY 23, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:49 pm at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka.

Attendance: Russ Yoder, Barbara & Mike Stufflebeam, Sam Baxter, Wayne Cedidla, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Bill & Judy Broeckel, and Ed & Virginia Bobrow.

Minutes: were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: unavailable.

Website/E RAG: is fine and new SAG RAG will be out in a couple of days.

SAG RAG: Dave and Bill both sent 2 copies of the 2014 SAG RAG to the NSS Library and Cave Files.

Correspondence: see New Business.

Calendar: 2015

- January 24 Walking tubes in Double Hole Flow in Medicine Lake Highlands
- Feb 13-16 CRF LABES Bill B. bat count at Steamboat Frank
- February 27 Meeting at Wolffs' in McCloud 7:30 pm
- February 28 Pluto's Cave Cleanup
- March 27 Meeting at Steve Hobson's in Redding 7:30 pm
- March 28 Lake Level cave trip?
- April 24 Meeting at the Bobrows' in Dorris 7:30 pm
- April 25 LABES?
- May 22-25 CRF LABES.
- May 29 at Viners' in Ashland 7:30 pm?
- May 30 caving to be announced
- June 26-28 Annual Hat Creek Camp Out Sat/Sun Garbage Pit more clean up
- July 2-6 Speleocamp Marbles MLG multiday trip, family friendly, wide range of trips
- July 3-6 CRF LABES.
- Sept 3-7 Caving in the Marbles. Pack animals reserved for Thurs 9/3 and Mon 9/7
- Sept Meeting TBA Prep for SAG/SAR Cave Rescue training 7:30pm
- Oct 10 or Oct 10-11 SAG/SAR Rescue Training

Old Business: We have the same SAG Officers for 2015 as we had for 2014. Discussed rescue training planning with the use of vertical basket lifts. SAR only wants to do searching, but they will need basic rappelling and ascending skills for some of that also.

New Business: Dave Smith is doing the Annual Report for the NSS. Since Russ Yoder has rejoined our group we feel that his name should be added to the NCRC Caver Rescue Resource List. SAG should provide some vertical training dates and places. Some possible caves to train in are Barnum Cave, Discovery Caves, Worthless Cave and Adam's Homestead and there are others. Some SAR members have had opportunities to train with CORSAR and John Panches rope group.

April 24 at Bobrows' in Dorris possibly go to Wildhorse Cave part of Mammoth Basalt Flow. Russ would like to check it out. There is some vertical to check also.

OHDG and SAG may get together in May. The May meeting was to be at Viners in Ashland, but that may change. SAG is definitely interested in having a joint caving trip get together for a day or two at the end of May with the OHDG.

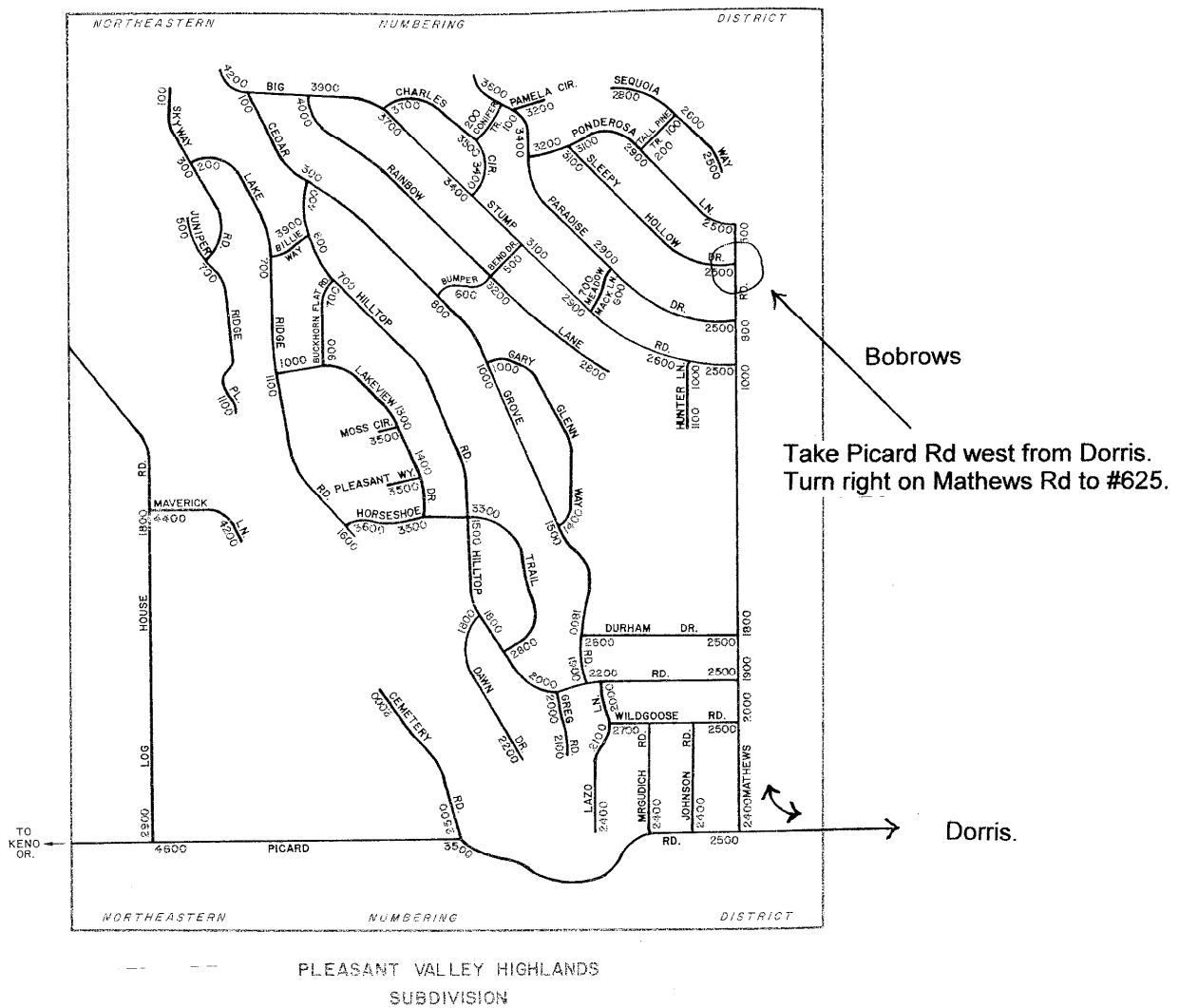
Cave Trips: Jan 20th, Bill and Judy Broeckel were at Double Hole Flow and surveyed a walking tube. It's a hard left on the down flow side and a soft right on the up flow side. They saw bees while surveying.

Jan 13 Bill B went ridge walking in the same area and there are large walking passage tubes.

Mike and Barbara S. went to lava tubes (commercial tour) while on the big island of Hawaii. They saw Nahuku Cave. While at the volcanic park they were not allowed to look in the crater.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary **MJ**



SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING FEBRUARY 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 pm at the Wolffs' home in McCloud.

Attendance: Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Steve Hobson, Bill Broeckel, Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, Joel Despain & Heather VeerKamp, Ginger Sanders, and guest Danita Elbert.

Minutes: were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance \$839.00 Jan balance \$914.00 income of \$25.00 (Dues from 5 members) expenditures \$100.00 (with a matching \$100.00 from Dave Smith) a donation by SAG made to Peru Cavers (Federacion Madrilenia de Espeleologia) Cecilio Lopez. It is time to pay your SAG dues. They are \$5.00.

Website/E RAG: all is well.

SAG RAG: Bill has enough info for the next RAG.

Correspondence: Ernie Coffman reminds us that there are three logins on Facebook for info about the 2016 NSS Convention in Ely, Nevada. Jed Medin was contacted by Ed Min of Simpson University in Redding. He has rock climbing experience and no caving experience. He wants to head an Outdoor Leadership program. He wants to see caves and get cave locations. Liz provided him with the information he needs to cave safely. No cave locations will be given to him unless they are already public (as in Pluto's Cave, Lava Beds, and Shasta Caverns, etc.). He was invited to attend our meeting.

Sign up now available for Nevada Orientation to Cave Rescue (OCR) April 18 & 19 and a vertical training on April 17, sponsored by the NCRC.

Calendar:

- February 28 Pluto's Cave Cleanup 9:30 am.
- March 27 Meeting at SAG meeting at Stufflebeams' home in Redding 7:30pm (this is a change)
- March 28 SAG caving trip to APC, removal of airlock door for repair; vertical caving, but lots of cave available above the drop to crawl around in. Change of clothes/shoes required between entrance crawl and white flow stone areas. (Jed, Steve really wants you there!)
- April 17 vertical training, Baker, NV, \$15, in conjunction with OCR
- April 18-19 Orientation to Cave Rescue seminar, \$35, Great Basin NP. Camping, no meal plan available, intense training: <http://ocr-nevada.Eventbrite.com> for registration info & requirements.
- April 24 SAG Meeting at Bobrows' in Dorris CA 7:30 pm.
- April 25 Lava Beds Monument TBA .
- May 22-25 CRF Lava Beds, contact Liz Wolff or Bill Broeckel
- May 29-30 OHDG & SAG joint meeting and cave trips, place to be determined most likely some-where in the south Medicine Lake highlands. Family friendly, new faces, new caves, photo trips
- June 26-28 Annual Hat Creek Camp-out Meeting and Sat/Sun Garbage Pit more clean-up & other caving
- July 2-6 Speleocamp Marbles MLG multiday trip, family friendly, wide range of trips
- July 3-6 CRF Lava Beds contact Liz Wolff or Bill Broeckel.
- July 10-12 Siskiyou Field Institute at Lava Beds \$165, contact Bill Broeckel for more info
- July 18-20 Sat-Mon Paul Gibson survey, back pack trip, contact Joel Despain
- July 24 SAG meeting TBA 7:30 pm
- Sept 3-7 Caving in the Marbles. Pack animals reserved for Thurs 9/3 and Mon 9/7. Pack animals at \$150 per person includes round trip and tip. 2 people/horse, 75 lb weight limit/person, sign up by July 24 SAG meeting. Contact Melanie Jackson for more information or questions.

continued

- Sept 25 SAG meeting Hobson's in McCloud and preparation for SAG/SAR cave rescue training (Oct)
- Sept 26-27 Cave Self Rescue training McCloud, first aid, self-rescue training; prep for SAG/SAR training
- Oct 3-5 Sat-Mon. Paul Gibson survey, back pack trip. Contact Joel Despain
- Oct 10 or Oct 10-11 SAG/SAR cave rescue exercise. We need all the warm bodies we can get for this so set aside time to help now!

Old Business: We have reserved pack animals for SAG's use to get into the Marbles to cave 9/3 – 9/7. Need your reservation and money to reserve whole or half an animal by the July 24 SAG meeting. Horses are \$125.00 per day [plus \$25 tip - web ed.] and can carry 150 lbs or 75lbs per caver. Melanie is handling reservations and money.

New Business: An idea was presented for SAG cavers to consider possibility of making it an outing or caravanning to Ely, Nevada to the NSS Convention in 2016. There will be more discussion later.

Joe Szewczak a professor of Biological Sciences from the Humboldt State University was doing a bat count at LABES, but couldn't find the CRF building. Bruce Rogers, Pat Helton, and Liz Wolff spoke with him at his hotel. Liz took him to Insanity Culvert, but no bats were found. He would like to go caving with anyone who would take him. He was doing a hibernation cave study that ends 2/28, but will probably want to do maternity colonies in the spring/summer.

Joel Despain would like to survey Paul Gibson Cave. Weekends mentioned for possible survey are July 18-20 and Oct.3-5. There will be more info, later so mark your calendars if you are interested.

Joel also says there are some very interesting Mendocino Talus caves to be surveyed in Lake County: Split Rock and Pinnacle Rock. This would be a fall trip to avoid the bats. These caves are fairly extensive and have never been mapped. There are pits, multiple rooms, and water??? The MNF is interested in knowing the extent of their caves. Let Liz Wolff or Joel Despain know if you are interested in a trip like this

There is a Nevada project mapping caves for the NSS 2016 convention. There are a couple of caves near Ely to be mapped (Go Chute and Whipple). This project will take place in June of 2015. Contact NSS or grotto persons in charge of 2016 NSS Convention in Ely, Nevada.

Joel and Heather have cave(s) near their property that need to be located. Drill Hole Cave is also in this area and needs to be found. Let Liz Wolff or Joel Despain know if you are interested.

Trough Creek limestone along the PCT: about a 6 mile hike gets you to the limestone which is near the trail. Lots of cave potential; this is a continuation of the McCloud formation which contains Samwel Cave and others. Contact Liz Wolff or Joel Despain if you are interested.

July 10-12 LABES \$165 per person. Bat Cave – watch bat emergence and birds of prey. Mist netting; see bats up close and lectures, natural resources talk and more. This is by the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) in Grants Pass. Contact Bill Broeckel for more info.

Cave Trips:

Jan. 24, Bill Broeckel survey of Double Skylight Cave, ~500 ft. Bill, Russ Yoder, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam toured Hard Left/Soft Right and Double Tube. Jan. 27 after his eye exam appointment Bill surveyed Panda Express to about 150 ft. Bill reports that the dark is great when your eyes are dilated! Feb 15 Bill and John Tinsley went to Steamboat Frank to conduct a bat count, but John forgot his vertical gear and had to wait for 3 hours for Bill to complete the round trip. No bats were found. The next day found Bill and John ridge walking to chimneys above Tickner Chimneys. They surveyed ~150 ft. of No Rope Chimney. There were four more chimneys with vertical drops of 30-50 ft. with cold air. These need surveying.

Joel and Heather were in Haiti for two weeks of caving with seven other cavers. It was a tough trip because many caves did not go, but some did. It was very remote and uncomfortable,

continued

because the group was not necessarily welcome there. Many of the caves were choked with fractured rock and sediment run off. There were lots of big sinks and springs and lots of pits. Saw about 600 meters of cave. Joel felt that nine people was too large a group for this trip.

Ginger Sanders with her husband (who was in street clothes) went to Ape Cave in WA in a pouring rain and it was super wet inside. She lives in the Bend, OR area and went to Crack in the Ground (5 or 6 fissures that go into a cave). She went to No Name Cave in Cave Junction. Also went to Derrick Cave (snowing through the skylights) and Parking Lot Cave that has a ledge that opens into Derrick Cave. These caves are above Fort Rock Oregon High Desert. Also in Colorado went to Glenwood Springs / Rifle Falls limestone caves with frozen water falls. She was not able to get into the Fairy Caves.

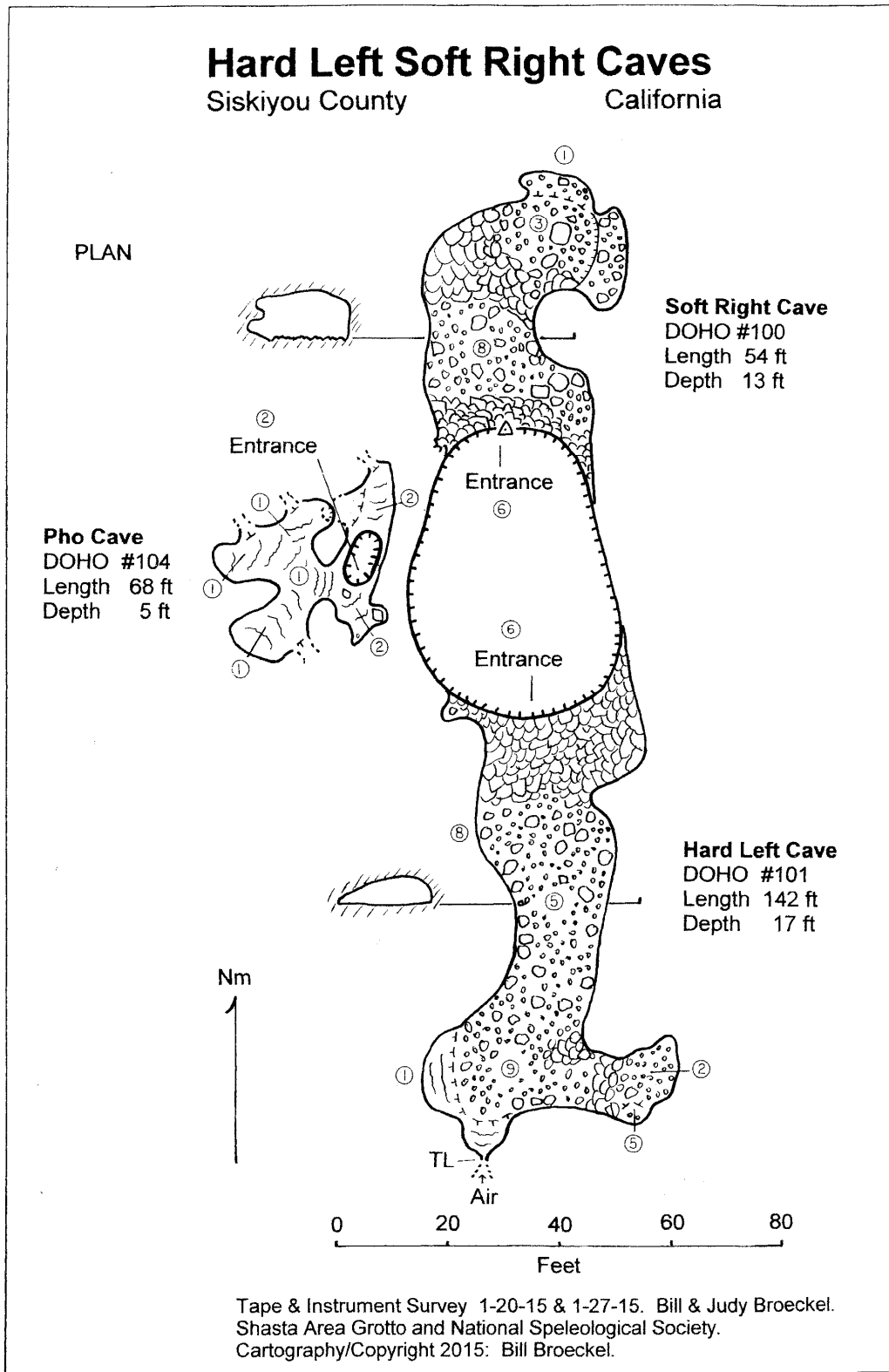
Liz Wolff at Lava Beds Garden Bridges connected to Hidden and to Z Cave and to Labyrinth Cave which brings the survey length close to 18,000 ft. Natural Bridge is her next survey project so she toured it to check it out. Also went to Gale Cave and Stealth Bridge Cave where eleven entrances were GPS'ed. In the Valentine flow Liz, Matt & Heather and Beej found five marked caves that need surveying. All together in the Valentine Flow they GPS'ed 18-20 caves

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary **MJ**



Judy Broeckel at a small Medicine Lake ice cave, still has some old ice in it.



Map: Hard Left and Soft Right Caves, Pho Cave

NEW CAVE SURVEYS ON THE DOUBLE HOLE By Bill Broeckel

Winter on the Double Hole

Again this Winter, the lower slopes of the Medicine Lake Highlands remained open and free of snow. January 2015 turned out to be an auspicious month for mapping the caves of the Double Hole Lava Flow. Cave surveys numbers 100 through 104 were done, nearly 5% of the total completed, at least according to one caver's reckoning.

Far Out!

1-20-15 Bill and Judy Broeckel independently hiked out to a remote site to survey two short walking tubes which were separated by a common sinkhole. No old Stanislaus Grotto markers were found. However, on the 1-24-15 SAG tour visit, Russ Yoder told us this was his "Far Out Cave". Apparently, it was a long ways from his campsite. Russ also said that he liked our new names better, so we stayed with "Hard Left Cave" (142 feet long) and "Soft Right Cave" (54 feet in length). We did notice also a third small cave perched up near the western edge of the sinkhole.

Friend or Pho?

1-27-15 we got back to survey the third cave. Pho is a creepy crawly cave with its own little collapse entrance quite close to the sinkhole. With 68 feet of belly crawls to no-where, it is actually longer than Soft Right. My guess is that lava once welled up out of the sinkhole, partly solidified, then drained back into the sink, leaving our little Pho as a hanging surface tube. By the way, Pho is a Vietnamese noodle soup, said to be a cure for hangovers and suitable for an early lunch.

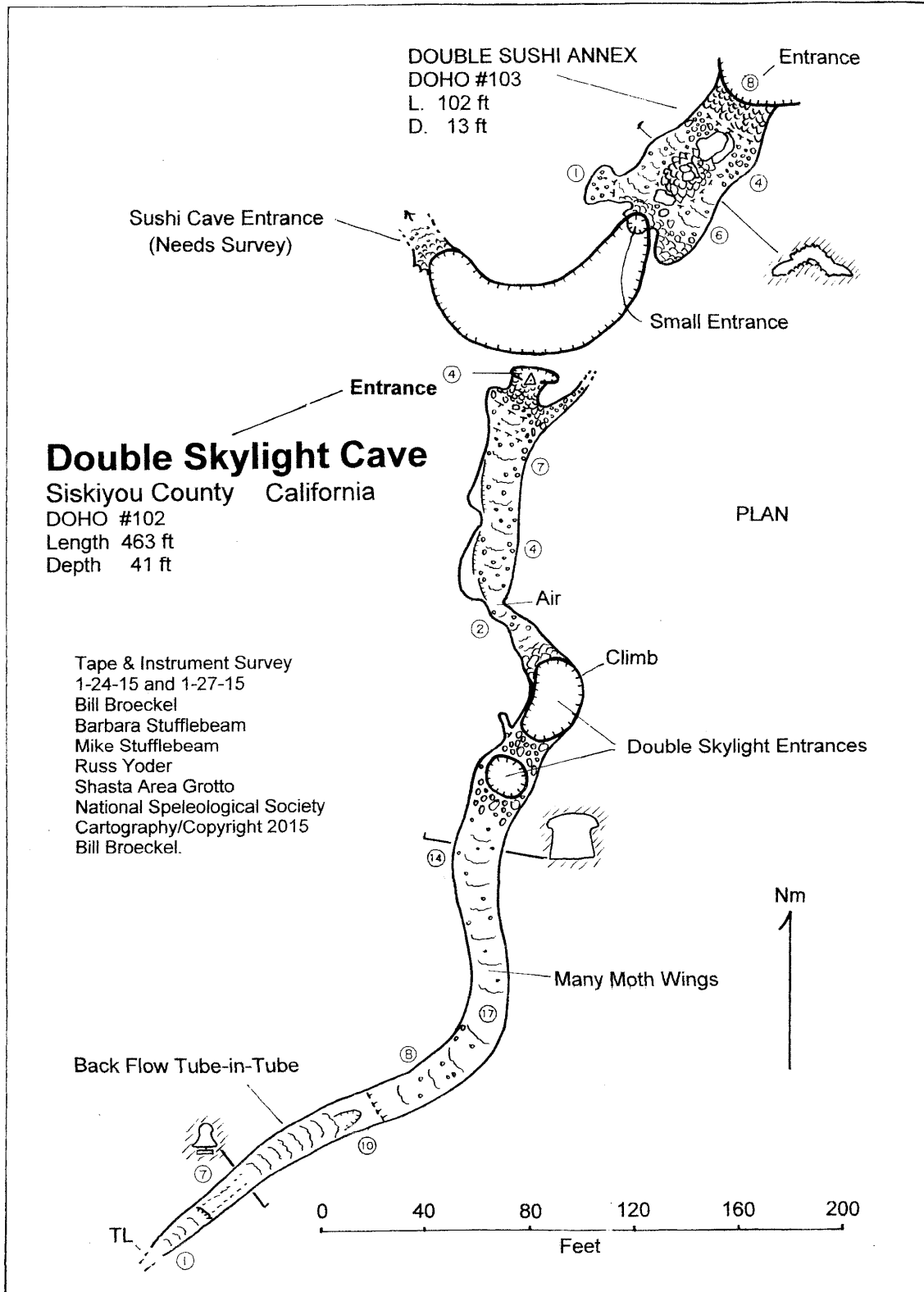
Double Skylight

This cave was the survey objective of the 1-24-15 SAG trip with Bill Broeckel, the Stuffbeams (Mike and Barbara), and Russ Yoder. This one did have an old Stanislaus marker, so we knew right away it was a good cave. The Stanislaus folks only tagged the great ones, such as James Brothers, for example. We obsessively went straight to it, and started in on our own 2015 cave survey. This went smoothly enough with long shots for 462 feet, almost all of it walking passage. We came back out in time for luncheon. The cave name was provided by Russ from his work in the 1990s, when he pretty much scoped out the entire lava flow, producing very detailed compass and pace maps, which he still has. Double Skylight was named for its twin skylight feature. The cave ends abruptly with an interesting lava back flow.

Double Tube

In the afternoon (1-24-15), after touring "Deep Sink" and "Far Out", we also checked in at Double Tube Cave. Yes, my friends, "double your pleasure, double your fun, its two caves, two caves, two caves in one". This is, after all, the Double Hole Flow. Double Tube starts as a scramble down into a large tube passage. This goes through a glitter area, a root area, and then comes to reach the namesake feature, which you have to experience to fully understand. Let me just say it is like a tube-in-tube on steroids. Double Tube has over a thousand feet of passage.

continued



Map: Double Skylight Cave, Double Sushi Annex, Sushi Cave Entrance

What about the Annex?

Oops. Yeah, well we had to go back and pick up this detail on 1-27-15. No Stanislaus marker found on this sucker, it's just a short segment of "big tube", with 102 feet of surveyed passage. It just made it past the 100 foot mark thanks to a low, blind side passage. It was called Double Sushi Annex due to its proximity to Double Skylight and Sushi Caves.

Sushi Cave?

OK, a few words about Sushi. It doesn't look like much from the entrance, but it really takes off and goes. Russ Yoder applied the name Sushi, maybe because of what the first 200 feet does to your knees. After that it breaks out into 500 feet of walking passage. This cave could easily go over 1,000 feet. It is another Double Hole classic and needs to be surveyed. It does have a Stanislaus marker and could even be their fabled Colorful Crawl Cave, though I'm not certain that it is. **BB**



Snow-free landscape near Double Skylight – January 2015.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTION ALREADY, THIS THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT TIME TO DO SO. ed.

NAME(S): _____

NSS# _____ NSS# is current? _____

IS SAG YOUR PRIMARY GROTTO: _____

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- _____ 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")
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