



Mike Stufflebeam finds Jesus on a clean-up trip to Pluto's Cave 2-28-15

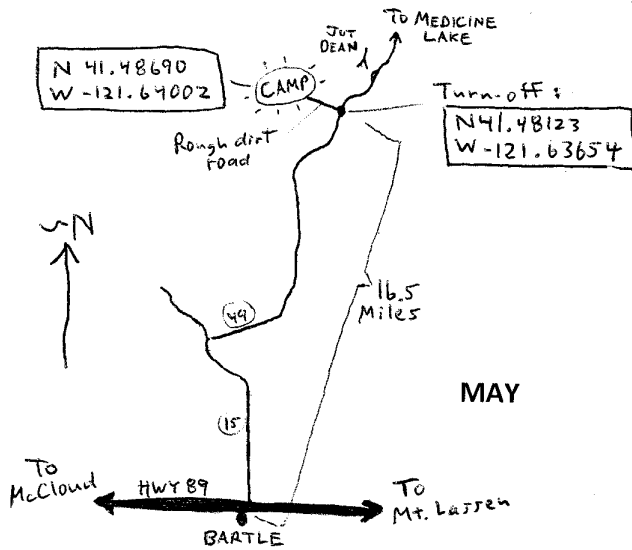
INSIDE - Pluto's Cave Clean-up and Short Stack Cave

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>>.

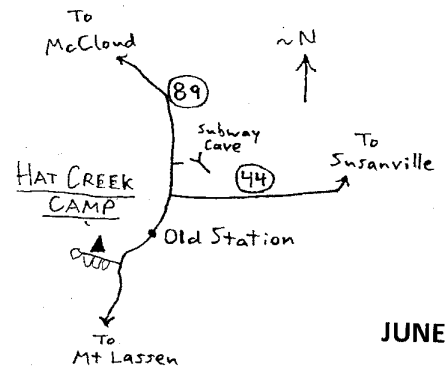
CAVER CALENDAR 2015

- May 29-30 Joint OHDG/SAG cave camp. Liz Wolff 530-964-3123.
Expect dry camp with no amenities.
- June 26-28 Hat Creek work camp. Bill Broeckel 530-842-3917.
- July 2-6 Marble Mountains Speleocamp. Mother Lode Grotto.
- July 13-17 NSS Convention. Waynesville, Missouri.
- July 18-20 Paul Gibson Cave. Joel Despain 530-934-1152.

Maps to Meetings



MAY



JUNE

SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

Here is a report on the February Pluto's Cave clean-up trip. This year we even sent two stalwart cavers (Melanie Jackson and Mike Stufflebeam) down to work through the 200 foot crawl at the end of the main passage. The next scheduled work trip will be near the end of June, at the SAG Hat Creek camp-out. Bring gloves and be ready to haul more old tires from the nether regions of Garbage Pit. There are only a dozen or two left, but they are full of water, and it is hard work rolling them up the loose slope. The Short Stack map and report from last year's Hat Creek trip is meant to promote this year's efforts. I hope that doesn't backfire. There are some more caves of this scale out there, awaiting surveys. Vertical gear will not be required. Happy caves {-) **BB**

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING MARCH 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 pm at Mike and Barbara Stufflebeam's home in Redding.

Attendance: Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Jim & Liz Wolff, Vern & Linda Clift, Joel Despain, Steve Hobson, Hans Stein, Melanie Jackson, Ginger Sanders, Dave Smith, Rudi Bega, Jed Medin, and Scott Linn.

Minutes: were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Feb. Balance \$839 and March Balance \$876 increased from receiving membership dues.

E-RAG/Website: Good, everything is working as it should.

SAG RAG: Not available.

Correspondence: Sam Cuenca of the Forest Service regarding the Barnum Cave breach says the FS will repair the gate. A provisional date has been set for June 15. Vern C. recommends hard surfacing the areas sawed into to make that less likely to happen in the future. Linda Anger a FS biologist reminded us of National Bat Appreciation Day on April 17 and included a bat logo that will be passed on to Bill Broeckel. Steve H. passed around a couple of maps that show the current White Nose Syndrome by occurrence changes since 2006 which he received from Brad Rust and they will also be passed to Bill Broeckel. Lava Beds has a job opening for a physical scientist as relayed to us by Katrina Smith. Bruce Rogers submitted questions about Bear Cave.

Calendar: 2015

- March 28 APC trip - try to remove airlock door for repairs.
- April 17 vertical training, Baker, NV, \$15, in conjunction with OCR.
- April 18-19 Orientation to Cave Rescue seminar, \$35, Great Basin NP. <http://ocr-nevasda.Eventbrite.com> for registration and requirements info.
- April 24 SAG Meeting at Ed & Virginia Bobrow's in Dorris 7:30 pm directions map in last SAG RAG.
- 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 exact place to be determined, most likely south Medicine Lake Highlands. Family friendly event.
- June 26-28 Annual Hat Creek Camp Out. Meeting, Garbage Pit clean up and more caving.
- July 2-6 Speleocamp Marbles MLG multiday trip, family friendly, wide range of trips
- July 10-12 Siskiyou Field Institute at Lava Beds \$165, contact Bill Broeckel.
- July 18-20 and/ or October 3-5 Paul Gibson Cave survey, back pack trip. If interested contact Joel Despain.
- July 24 SAG Meeting 7:30 pm place to be announced.
- Sept 3-7 Labor Day weekend Caving in the Marbles. Pack animals reserved for Thurs. 9/3 and Mon. 9/7 Pack animals \$150 per person includes round trip and tip. 2 people's gear per horse, 75 lb weight limit/person, sign up by July 24 SAG Meeting. Contact Melanie Jackson for more information or questions.
- Sept. 25 SAG Meeting 7:30pm Steve Hobson's in McCloud. Preparation for SAG/SAR cave rescue training in Oct.
- Sept. 26-27 Cave Self Rescue training in McCloud, first aid, self-rescue training and prep for SAG/SAR training.
- Oct 10 or Oct 10-11 SAG/SAR caver rescue exercise. We will need all the warm bodies we can get for this exercise so set aside time to help now!

continued

Old Business: Joint caving trip with OHDG. Where do we want to take them? Preparing for a dry camp. Medicine Lake by the end of May will probably be OK. LABES south end of the forest (Modoc) camp would have toilets and water. The Freudian Complex, Powder, Bobcat, Water Caves and the Halls of Santana were all mentioned. A base camp area by the Halls of Santana has a big flat open area. Bobcat or the spatter cones are also possible dry camping areas. We are thinking of the Freudian Complex area with camping at the spatter cones and having our SAG meeting on Friday night.

New Business: We need to survey Barnum Cave for damage since the gate was breached. Bruce Rogers found a 2008 fossil collecting locations list for the Mill Creek (Bear Cave) area. Also mentioned were Samwel Cave, Duzel Rock, Lovers Leap and Mallethead Rock. McConaughy Gulch is the Bear Cave area. Scott Linn noted that Google maps had a Big Foot Cave and trail location that was removed from their internet site with the help of the FS.

Trip Reports: Rudi Bega had been to Pilgrim Creek area to what sounded like he and his friends went to Adam's Homestead Cave. He checked on the McCloud Lake Caves last weekend, but is waiting for the water level to drop more. He also went to a vertical crumbly cave area on Sheep Rock, but did not get a GPS coordinate for that entrance.

Ginger Sanders took her friend Donita to the LABES and they also saw pictographs. Ginger and Neil Marchington did sandblasting in Redman Caves. A chiropractor told her about a cave in Bend, OR that blows a lot of cold air, but it may be on private property. Ginger, Neil M. and Neil's son saw 3,000 ft. in Arnold Cave, but did not find any ice. Ginger took some Salem Coven friends to Hidden Forest and Arnold Cave for a Spring Equinox Ostara Ceremony where they used electric candles instead of fire. Ginger went to Bessie Butte Cave and dropped a 25 ft. vertical entrance under Neil Marchington's direction in preparation for going to APC with SAG.

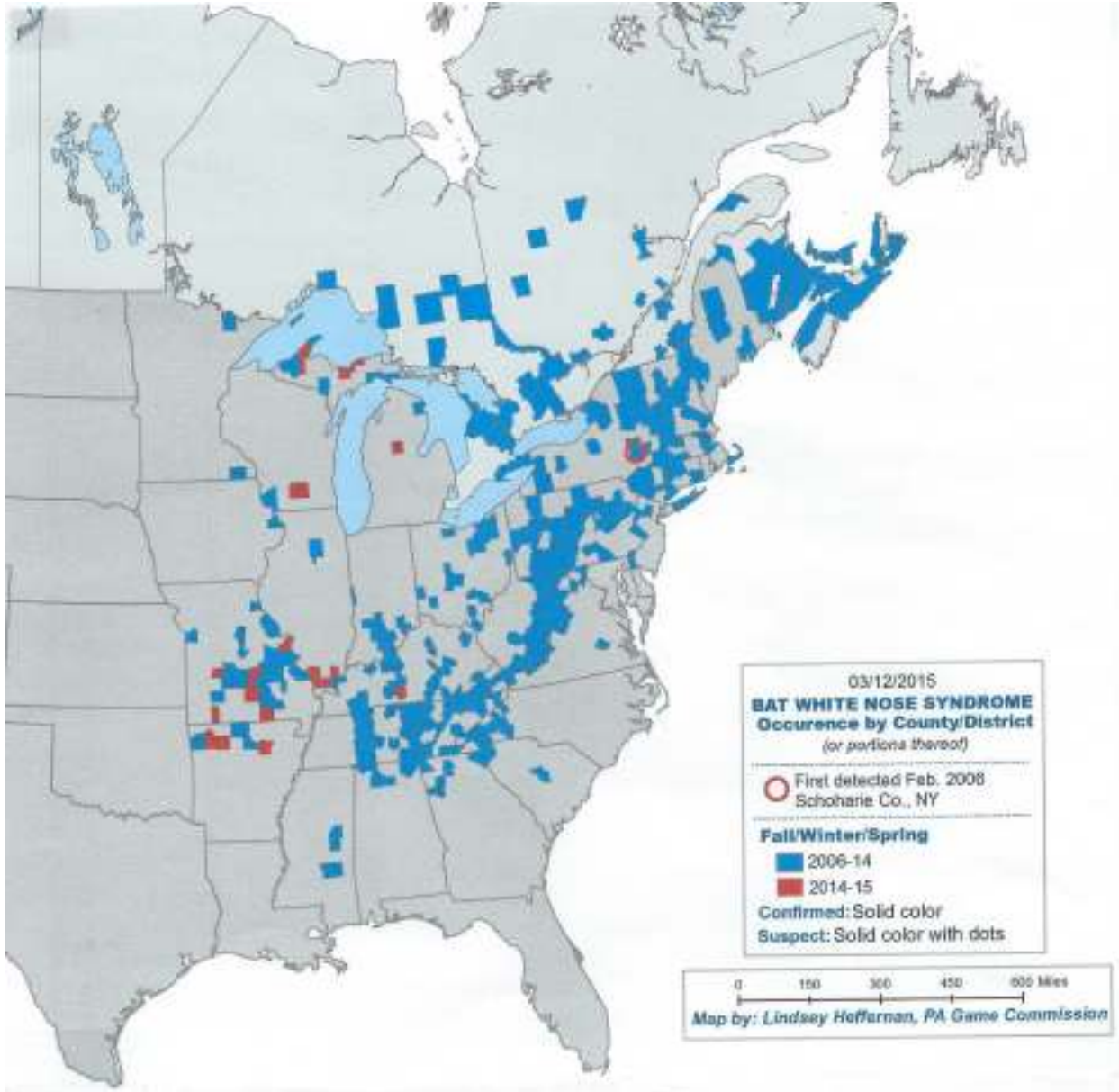
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary **MJ**



NATIONAL BAT APPRECIATION DAY 4-17-15

Submitted by Linda Anger



Recent White-Nose Syndrome Distribution Map
Submitted by Brad Rust

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING APRIL 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:54 pm at the Wolffs' home in McCloud.

Attendance: Ed and Virginia Bobrow, Jim and Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, and Bill Broeckel.

Minutes: were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Not available. Steve did take care of our account so it would not be inactivated. See correspondence.

Website/E RAG: It's working well and Robert set it up so that the pictures keep changing.

SAG RAG: Bill has enough for another issue.

Correspondence: Bruce Rogers has a quarry site that lists all quarries by township and range. There are many in the Lake Shasta area and one in Ingot. The Scott Valley Bank had called Melanie about our bank account saying that if they didn't see any activity it would be inactivated. She was called as well as everyone listed on the account, but she was the only one that responded. Steve Hobson our treasurer has contacted the bank and dealt with the issue. Ernie Coffman sent information about a Boy Scout group in Fortuna that wants to go caving. Some of their boys are too short to meet the height requirement at Oregon Caves. Mark Fritzke and Joel Despain may help with that group. Bruce Rogers wants help locating a cave "with plenty of spiders near Gazelle" that would be suitable for school cave trips. The only ones that our grotto members could think of are located on private land and none are school kid friendly. This particular cave was a possible consideration for caving for the 1990 NSS Convention for a biology trip.

Old Business: This Saturday the grotto will be checking out some possible camping areas and caves for the May OHDG/SAG cave trip. At least three different sites were mentioned as possible dry camps, but some were thought to be too public because they are too close to a main road. There are a lot of caves within a two mile radius in just about any direction you would choose to go near the Medicine Lake Highlands. Some of these areas have caves that very few SAG members have yet visited.

New Business: The July through December meeting places have yet to be determined to finish our calendar. This business will be postponed until the next meeting due to low attendance.

Cave Trips:

Bill Broeckel responded to the spontaneous cave trip that Joel Despain sent out via email. Joel and Heather, Bill Broeckel, and his friend Kelvin Clark went on the trip. They parked at Cabin Creek, hiking Squaw Creek to Trough Creek. It was good weather and they ridge walked, but found no caves. Bill attended a CRF expedition for a few days surveying caves in LABES. Bill has made a lot of visits to the Double Hole Flow. He went from the Medicine Lake Highlands to the Giant Crater. There is perfect lava cave, but no walking passage, mostly crawly stuff. He did find one walking passage that he followed for approximately 200 ft and it goes and would be easy to survey. The problem is that it is a long hike out to it.

Dave Smith took a two day wilderness medicine course in Paso Robles

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary **MJ**

PLUTO'S CAVE CLEAN-UP 2015

By Bill Broeckel and part by Liz Wolff

Saturday 2-28-15: It was a little cold that day. I can't find my list of participants, but there was a good turn-out. This grotto work trip was done in cooperation with Debra Freeling, U.S. Forest Service Biologist with the Gooseneck Ranger District. Thinking hard, I can remember Jim & Liz Wolff, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Melanie Jackson, Arley Kisling, Dave Smith, Bill Broeckel, and two representatives from the Forest Service, all there helping tidy up at Pluto's Cave. There might have been a dog too. Off we went down the approach trail, armed with buckets, grabbers, garbage bags, and warm, protective outfits.

There were two teams - one deep and one superficial. I took the deep team down to the end of the cave. We have been doing this trip every winter for many years now. Each year, the take seems to get lighter, as we gradually remove the older detritus, as well as whatever obvious recent litter has been added. At this point, mostly we are detailing the cave, and get excited with the occasional can or bottle. Mike had the find of the day, a card showing an image of Jesus, left propped up on a high and tiny ledge. Mike had to climb up and reach for it with his long arm. After we were done with Pluto's, we ate sack lunches at the trailhead picnic table. Then we went over to check the Sand/Barnum entrances. The Barnum gate was jacked again.

Liz Wolff writes: "Sadly, during the February cave clean-ups, we discovered the Barnum Cave gate had been badly vandalized. The FS will be repairing the gate, and at this point, are not asking SAG for any help. If you are a welder, and have a rig to take out, think about helping out if the grotto is asked for help. It would be a good thing if we did a damage/vandalism assessment in the near future to let them know what else may be needed to be done inside the cave. The bats are out of hibernation, if they were ever in it this winter, so there should be no problem with disturbance". **LW** **BB**



Pluto's Cave clean-up crew on site 2-28-15

SHORT STACK CAVE By Bill Broeckel

This was another cave surveyed at the Hat Creek grotto camp-out last year. Not only is it ten to twenty times more extensive than the usual Hat Creek cave, but it has the distinction of being the first in the area with three levels. Yes, I know that Millertime Cave has two levels, and that Elisha Cave runs underneath it, forming a three level arrangement. However, the two caves are not connected, and neither alone can claim three levels.

All three levels of Short Stack are connected, one way or another, and are piled up on each other like a sloppy plate of pancakes. The entire vertical extent of the cave is only 14 feet. All three levels are contained within those 14 feet, so these pancakes are more like crepes.

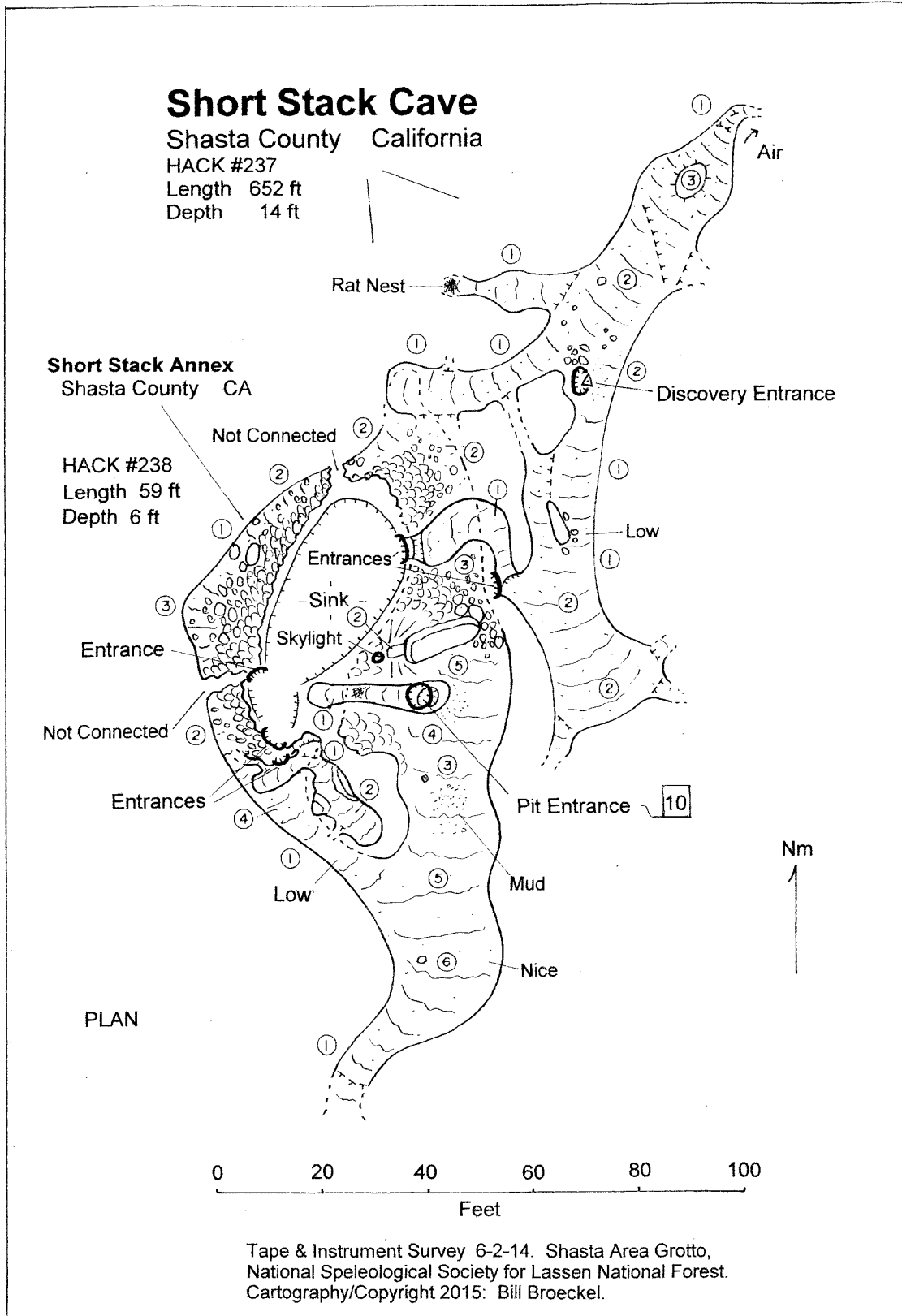
Creeping the Crepe-y Crawlers: Beginning the survey at the Discovery Entrance, this looked to be just another typical Hat Creek miniature. However, it sprawled around more than usual, all crawly. Down-flow we barely got through to reach another area with another entrance. Looking closely, there was also a place to climb up into short surface tube. That was interesting. I thought we were already in a surface tube.

The short upper level surface tube debauched into a shallow sinkhole, one of those collapse features that are found to have cave passages all around it, such as Sandman Cave. Just before the debauching point, there was a way to scramble down into the lowest level. This was the key point of connection for the two main parts of the cave. The third and lowest level of the

continued



Short Stack Cave - Discovery Entrance 6-2-14
The actual discovery was 5-27-14, looking pretty crawly.



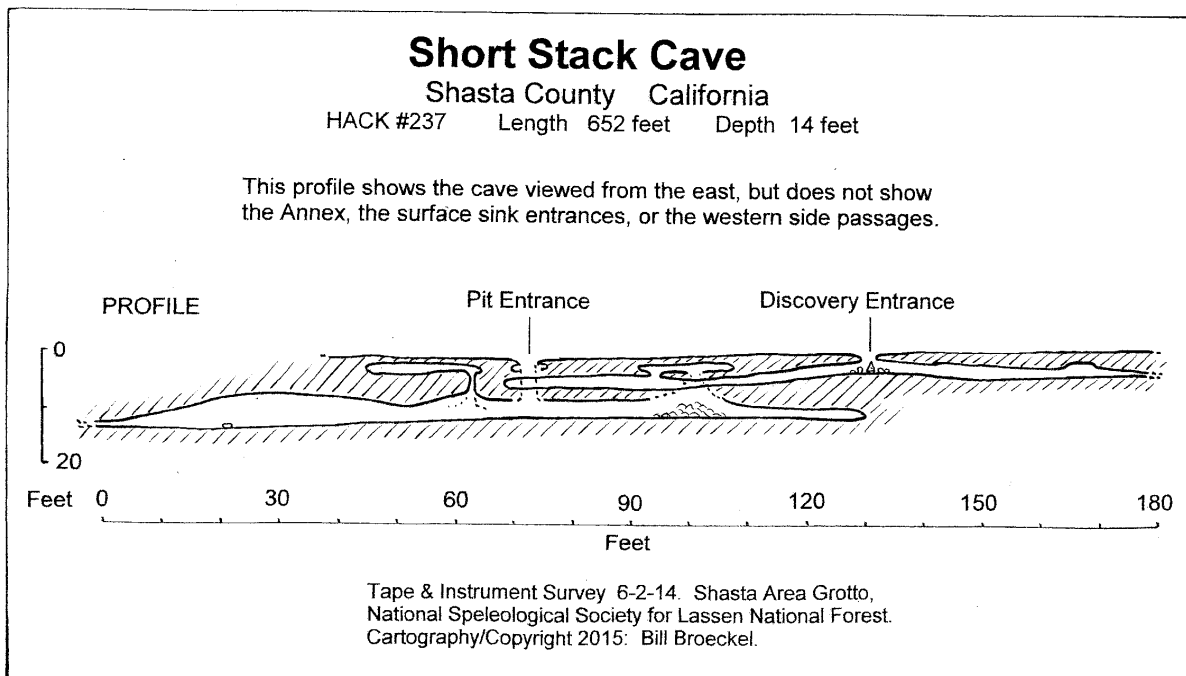
Map: Short Stack Cave

cave was a cooler and larger part of the cave. It even turns into a walking passage, and we though we hit the big time. But then it went around a corner and shrunk down to nothing, except for a "too low" you could look through and see the cave continuing on beyond...

Go West Young Man: It was barely possible to inch through a side passage to reach more entrances near the Annex. The annex is not bodily connected to Short Stack, but luckily it had its own entrance. Short Stack turned out to have six small entrances, one being a vertical pit entrance that penetrates through a short segment of upper level to reach the lowest level, while bypassing the middle level, offset at this point. The pit depth is 10 feet. Vertical gear is optional, for as we have already noted, there is a work-around.

So the upper level is represented by three short segments of surface tube. The southernmost segment has an awesome connection to the rest of the cave, passing by a scenic spatter column. However, it has its own entrance, and it is easiest to just come in from the surface to check out the column.

There you have it - Short Stack plus its Annex - all together over 700 feet of cave, most of it crawling. Every once in a while, Hat Creek surprises us with something like this. **BB**



Map: Short Stack Cave (profile)



**NSS
CONVENTION**
Hitchhiker's Guide to
MISSOURI

Shasta Area Grotto
c/o Bill Broeckel
2916 Deer Meadows Rd
Yreka, CA 96097

Hello Bill,

Enclosed is a DVD promotional video for the upcoming 2015 NSS Convention. Please feel free to play it at your next grotto meetings and share with all the cavers you know.

This year's convention theme is *A Hitchhiker's Guide to Missouri Caving*. Whether you're from nearby St. Louis, flying in from Australia, or transporting from a far off galaxy, this year's NSS Convention promises to be one cavers will remember long after the mud is toweled away.

The convention will take place **July 13-17** in Waynesville, located in picturesque Pulaski County, Missouri, about a two-hour drive southwest of St. Louis. Cavers from across the country will take advantage of the convenient, centralized location and come enjoy caving, camaraderie, and the natural beauty to be found in the Missouri Ozarks.

If you're looking to get underground, this year's onvention will not disappoint. With hundreds of caves located within a one hour drive, there will be plenty of guided as well as self-led cave trips to choose from. They don't call Missouri *The Cave State* for nothing!

Special features unique to the 2015 NSS Convention will include cave diving trips, float trips on local rivers and creeks, historic Route 66 and much more!

If you're more interested in the social aspect of Convention week, **DON'T PANIC** – we've got more fun and activities than one person can fit in the time you'll be here. This includes contests, salons, lectures, scientific workshops, guided and self-guided driving tours, time-travel demonstrations, and live entertainment (...we're just kidding about the time-travel – or *ARE WE?*).

Whether you're parachuting to the site from an airplane, driving here in your car, transporting from your spaceship, or hitchhiking via the back roads, the 2015 NSS Convention, a *Hitchhiker's Guide to Missouri Caving*, promises to be one of the best ever!

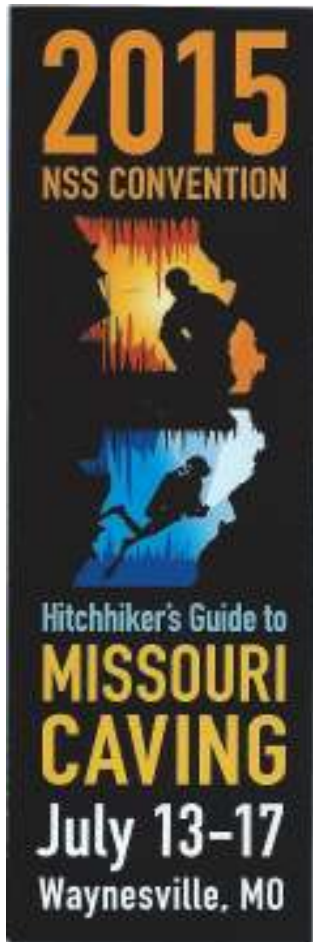
For convention registration information, go to: <http://nss2015.caves.org/registration.shtml>

The staff of the 2015 NSS Convention is excited and we welcome you to our part of the galaxy!

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P.S. - Please pass out the enclosed bookmarks to your fellow cavers!



Short Stack Cave - Shallow Sinkhole Entrance 6-2-14.
 Left side shows egress of upper level passage and crucial connection point.

SAG RAG
 2916 Deer Mdws Rd
 Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

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