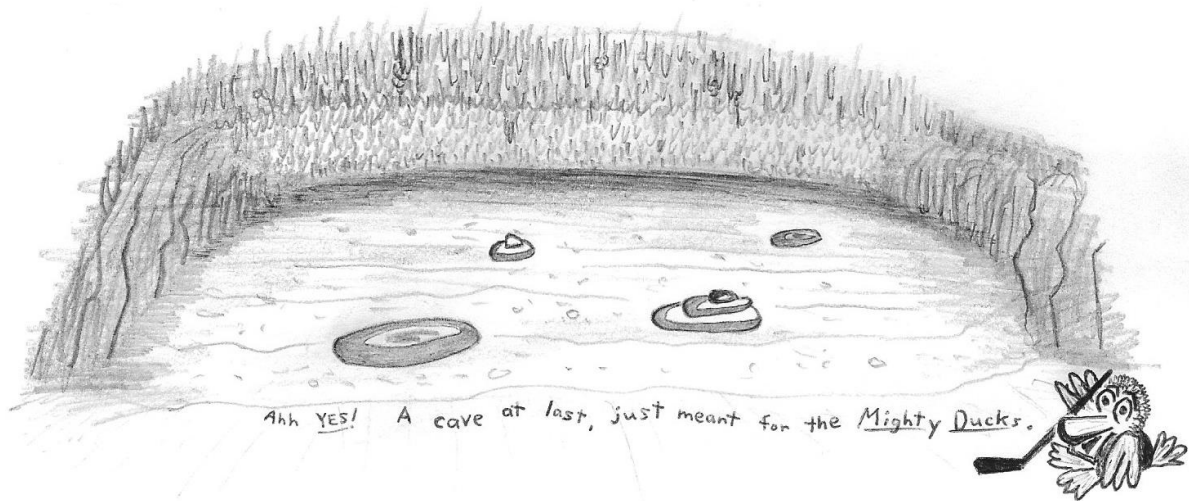


Pele's Hockey Pucks



In Memory of Charlie Larson

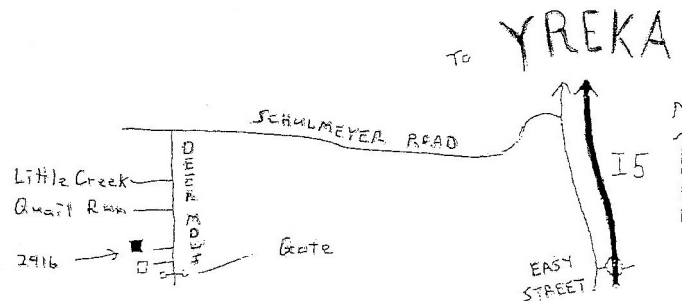
INSIDE - A group of seven more Siskiyou County surface tubes.

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

- July 24 SAG Meeting 7:30 pm. Yreka, Melanie's house.
[Moved to Broeckels' – e-rag ed.]
- Sept 3-7 Marble Mtns. SAG has reserved horses for packing your gear in. Contact Melanie Jackson to reserve a spot, info, payment etc.
- Sept 3-7 CRF Lava Beds National Monument.
- Sept 25 (26-27?) SAG Meeting Steve Hobson's in McCloud. First Aid / Self Rescue and Preparations for SAG/Search and Rescue training Oct.10 (and 11?) We need as many people as we can get to help with this so please put it on your calendar now.
- Oct 10 (11) SAG/SAR cave rescue training.
- Oct. 23 SAG Meeting on the coast at Mark Fritzke's. Arrive on Friday and meeting will actually be Sat. the 24th.
- November No SAG Meeting. Happy Thanksgiving.
- Dec 4 SAG Meeting and nominations for 2016 officers. Place to be announced.

Map to July Meeting (Broeckels')



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

This SAG RAG is dedicated to the memory of Charlie Larson, the great western speleologist and champion of volcano-speleology. He wrote and produced many excellent source materials on western lava caves, including the standard guidebook "Lava Beds Caves" co-authored with Jo, his wife of many years. He edited the guidebook for the NSS Convention in Bend, Oregon. He led the Oregon Grotto for multiple decades, and also served as President of the NSS back in the 1970s. I think he even helped Jim and Liz Wolff get started caving. After doing and giving so much to our underground obsession, we will all miss Charlie Larson as leader, role model, and friend. So this SAG RAG is a little different, just caves and maps. Next time we'll get back to regular grotto stuff and recent trip reports.

BB

THE AREA BACK OF BEYOND

By Bill Broeckel

Project Introduction

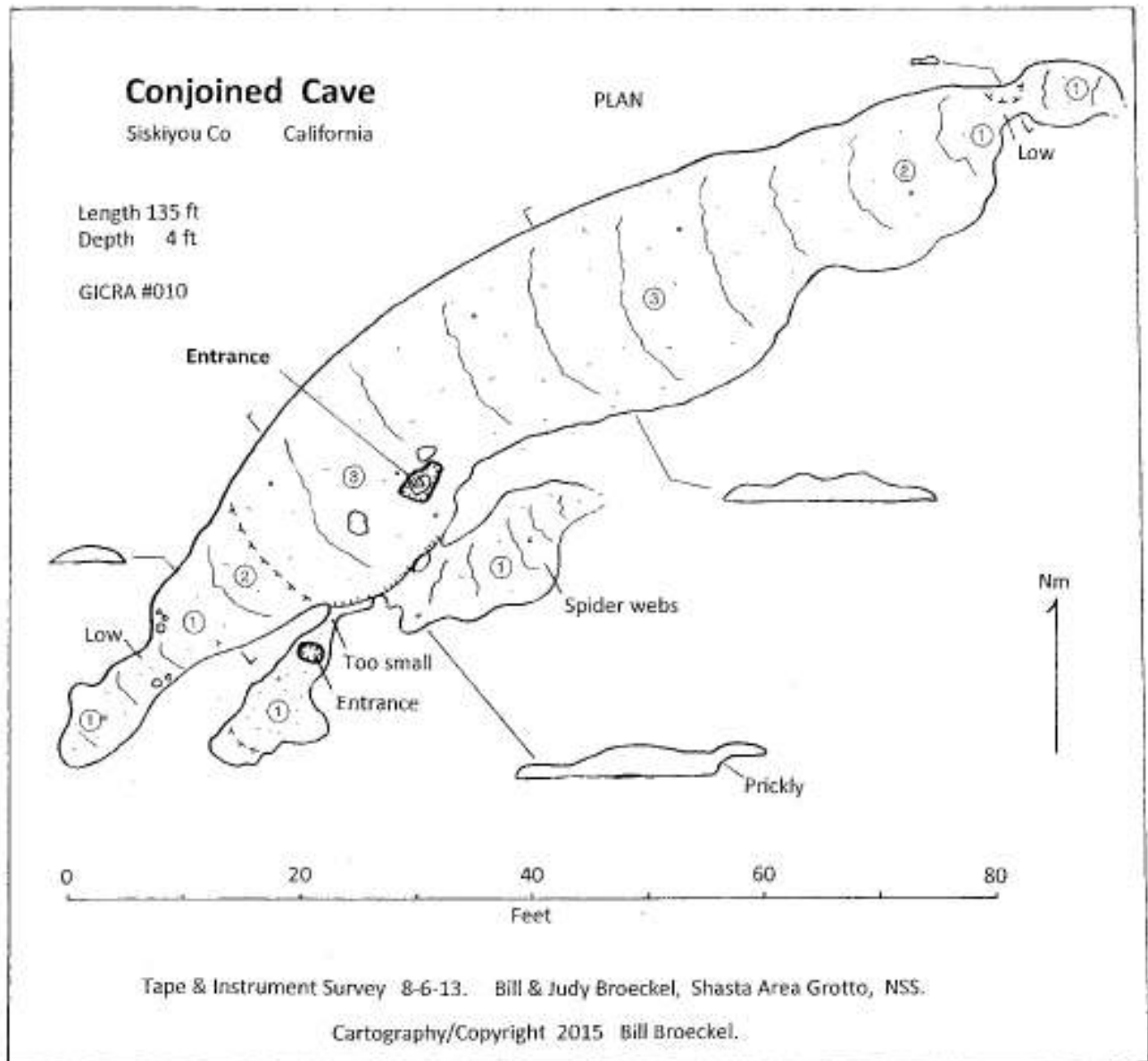
It takes us about two hours driving and one hour of walking to reach this group of seven miserable caves. A vehicle with high clearance could get you closer. This cave cluster is part of a broad area with more caves still awaiting surveys, a mapper's dream. A large saucer-shaped vent broadcast sheet flows of soupy lava all over the place. Others who have looked at it in general would include Jim Wolff running the Giant Crater Flow as a Forest Service archaeologist, Julie Donnelly-Nolan walking down the geology of the entire Medicine Lake Shield, and Russ Yoder doing his independent cave inventory of the Medicine Lake Highlands.

Seven Surface Tubes

Getting this little bunch of crawlers explored and mapped turned into a two year mini-project yielding over 1200 feet of passage, most of it about a foot high. Judy would be spotter while I pushed a dead-end crawl, mini-mag and tape in hand. When the ceiling heights lowered enough, it became increasingly difficult to see what the caves were doing. It was all very glamorous, I'm sure.



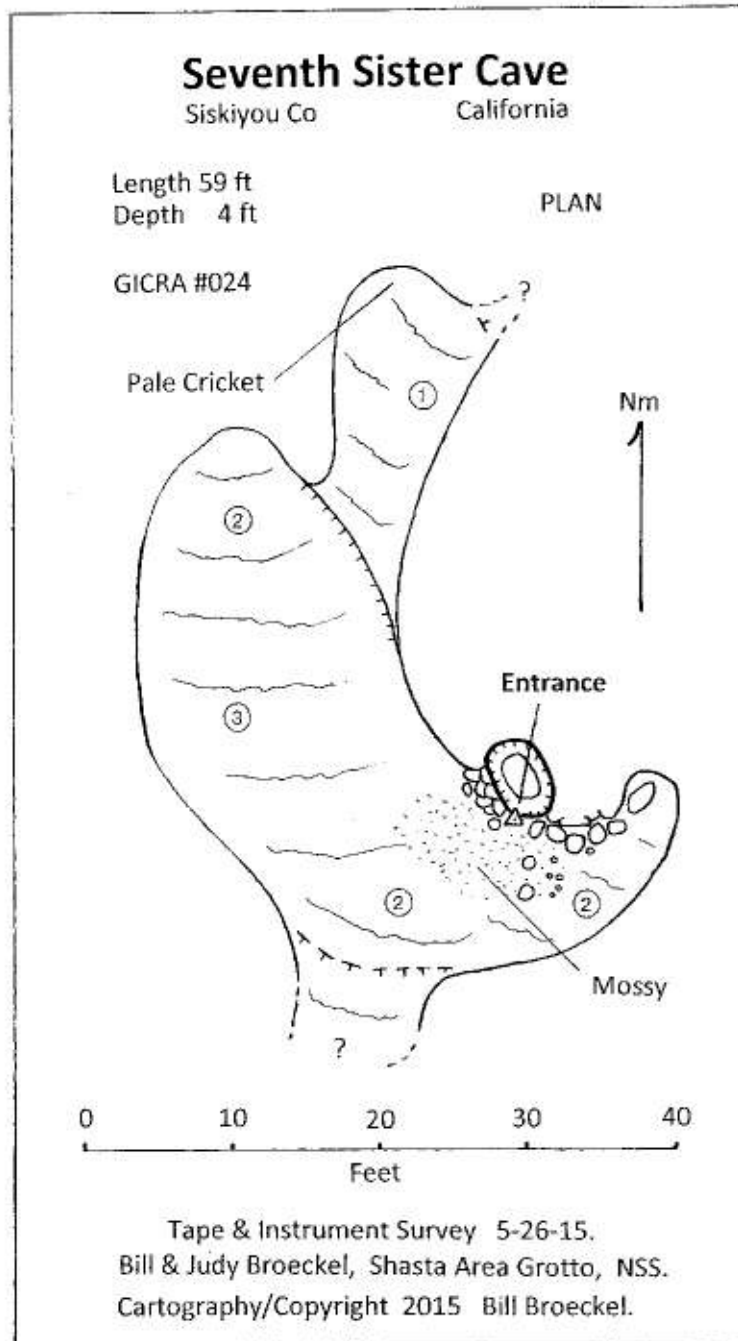
Skylight Entrance to Conjoined Cave 8-6-13.



Map: Conjoined Cave

Conjoined Cave

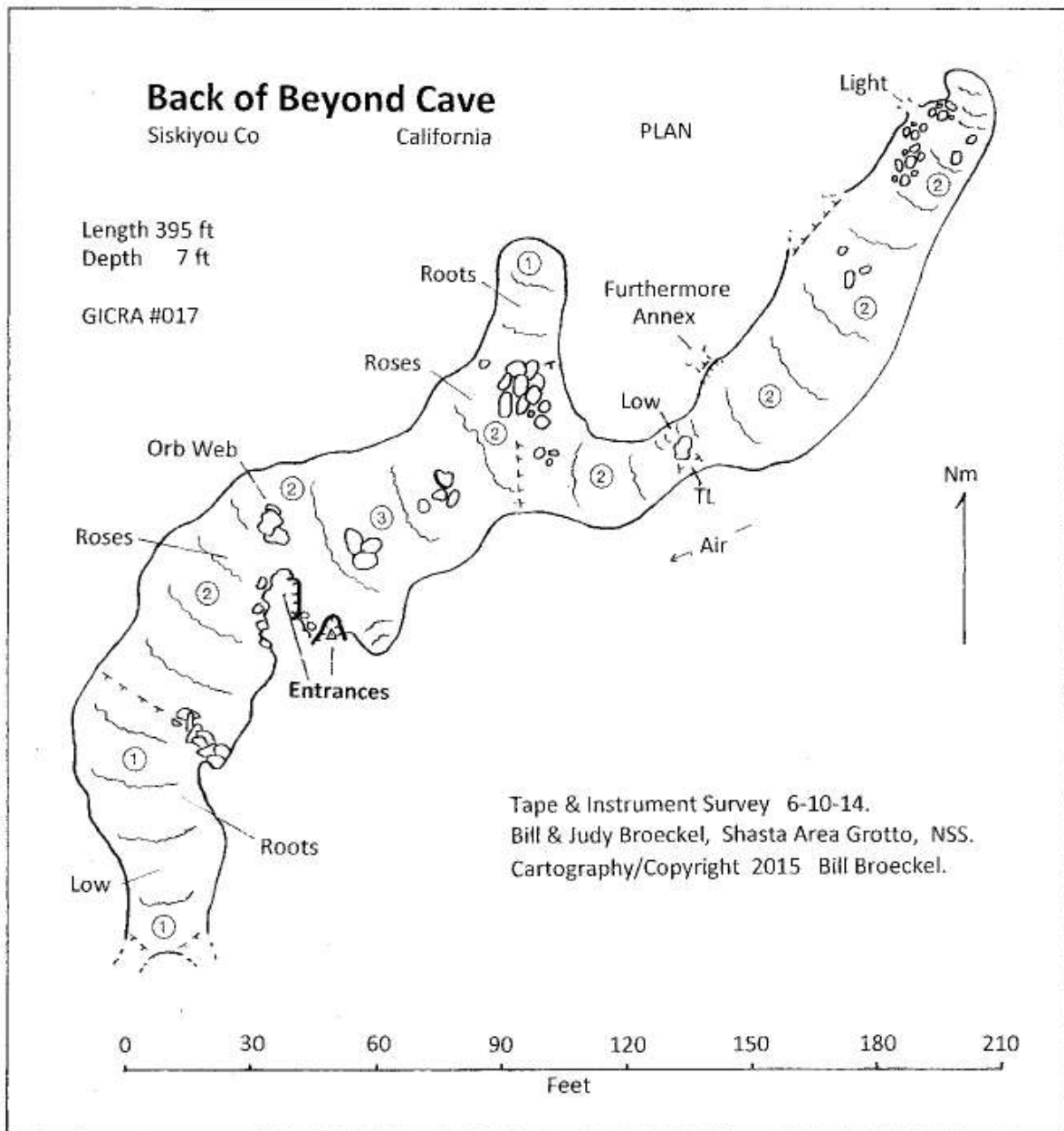
A scenic skylight entrance dropped into a nice wide cave passage at least three feet high. This was the first of the seven to be found and surveyed, and here the system puts its best foot forward, you might say. This was all it took to sucker us in. Up on a ledge near the entrance, it was just possible to slide up over a grabby surface to enter a small upper level. This level was also represented by a neighboring cave-ling connected by a tiny hole. The separate cave-ling had its own entrance, but less than 30 feet of passage. So this little upper terrace stuff was what was "conjoined" about the cave.



Map: Seventh Sister Cave

Seventh Sister Cave

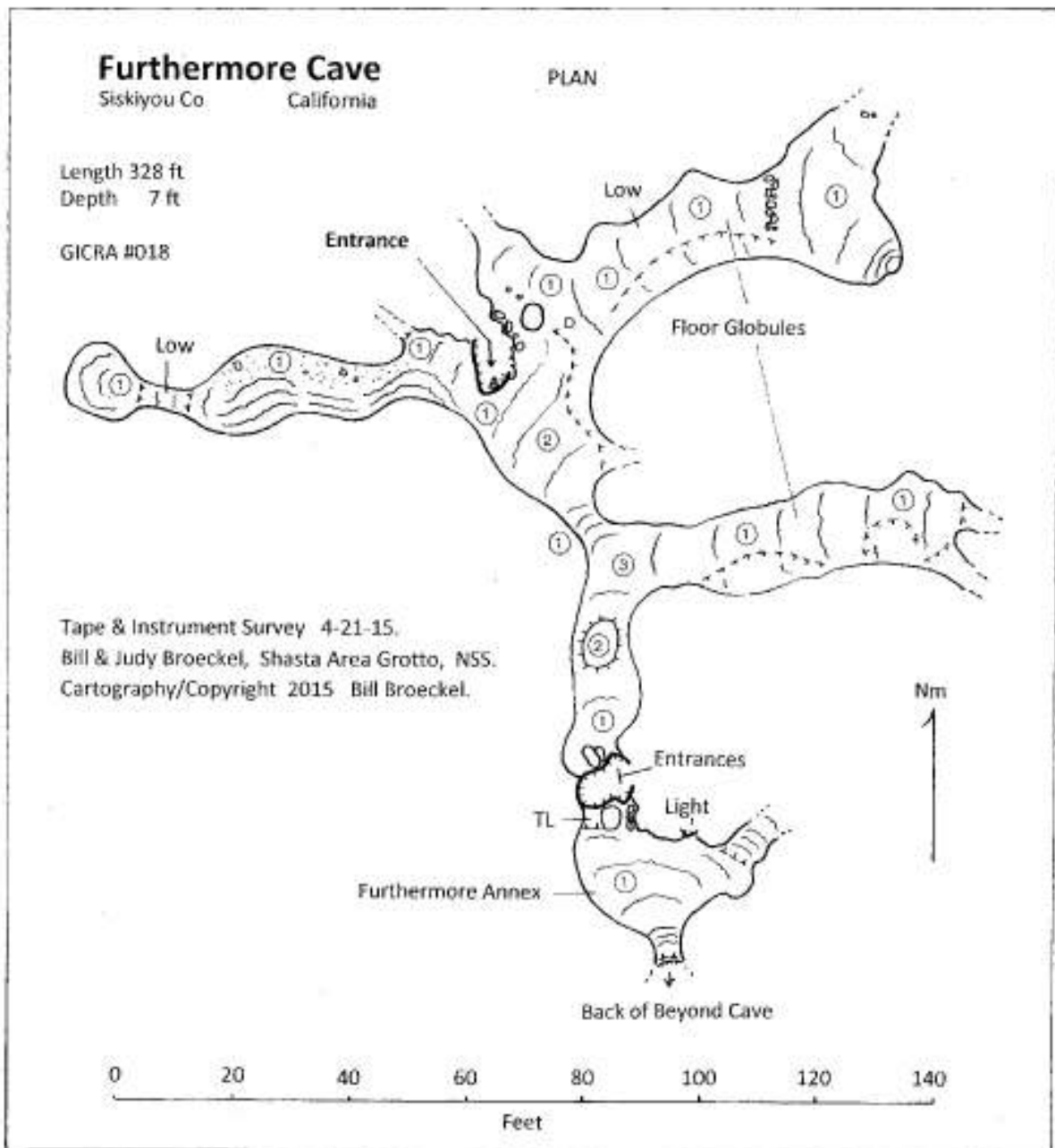
This was the seventh and last one we found in this Pleiades of surface tubes. The single entrance is near Conjoined, but hidden from view. We were lucky to see it one day while heading home from a trip late in the project. Obviously a down-flow extension of Conjoined, it was mercifully short in length. Interesting was the presence of a pale cave-adapted cricket in a cave that mostly only gets dark at night. We decided that it was part of a population of tiny creatures inhabiting a cave environment much more extensive than what we were going to appreciate.



Map: Back of Beyond Cave

Back of Beyond Cave

The second cave in the group turned out to be the longest, and served to really get us hooked into the project mindset. Some of the passage widths were in the 50 foot range and lent a sprawling feel to the experience. Like Conjoined Cave, the entrance was centrally located. Each arm then becomes its own individual adventure into the unknown. This became a pattern for most of these caves, and guided our typical team mapping strategy. The most interesting thing about B of B was this tiny window in the wall. You could look through it into another nearby cave with daylight from its own probable entrance. This observation from within a cave led to a surface search that resulted in finding the rest of the group.

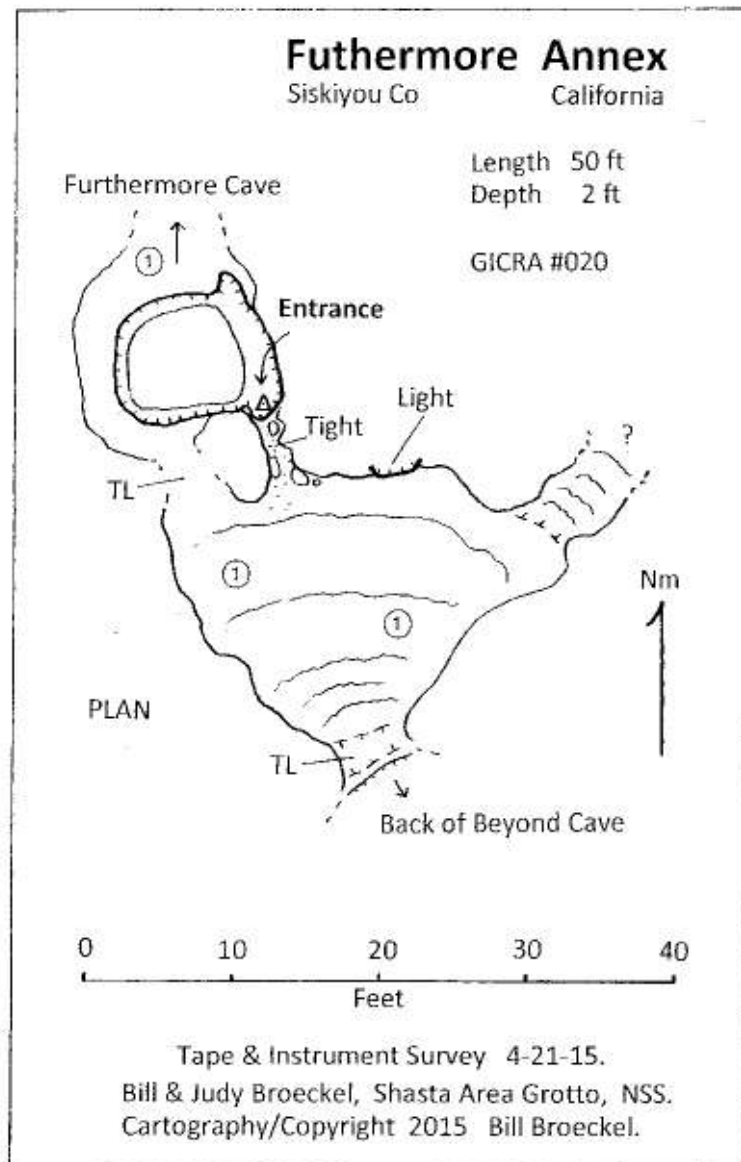


Map: Furthermore Cave

Furthermore Cave

We went out to pick up the "little detail" off the side of B of B, you know, before moving on to greater things. We spotted a likely entrance and dove in to finish it off. It turned out to be something else completely unexpected and unlikely. It also was complicated and interesting, and the second longest in the group. It had two entrances, but no windows to other caves. The most interesting thing was the presence of Pele's Hockey Pucks. These are labeled as "floor globules" on the maps. These look like cobbles, but sport central indentations or accretions. Some are stuck to the floor like ordinary lava stalagmites, but others are not attached. You can pick them up, look at them, and move them around, just a little something to entertain you while

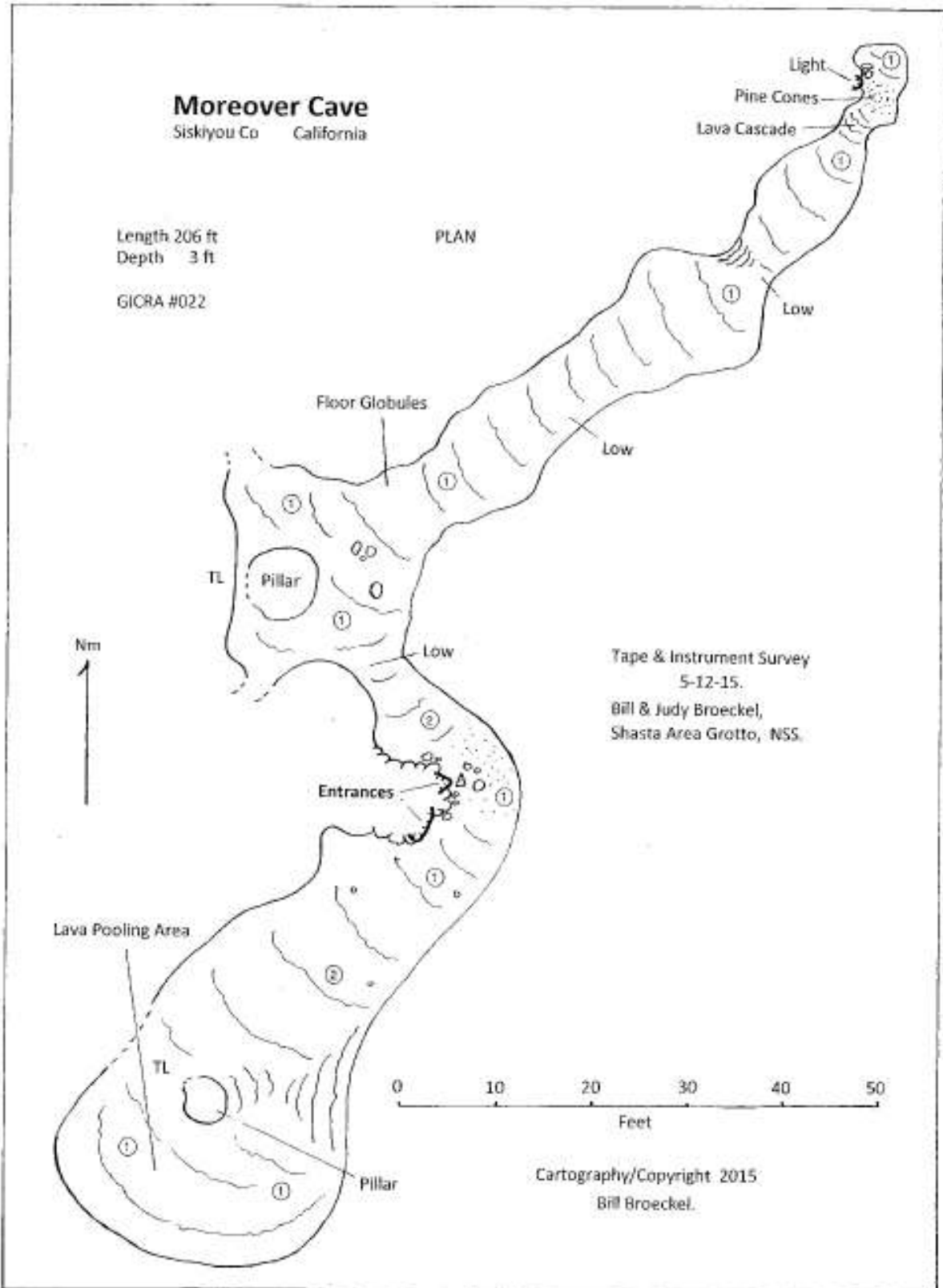
surveying a tedious crawlway. It was like finding toys underneath your house. Which reminds me, you know way back when, when I was a kid, if an adult used the word "furthermore" it meant I was in really bad trouble.



Map: Futherford Annex

Futherford Annex

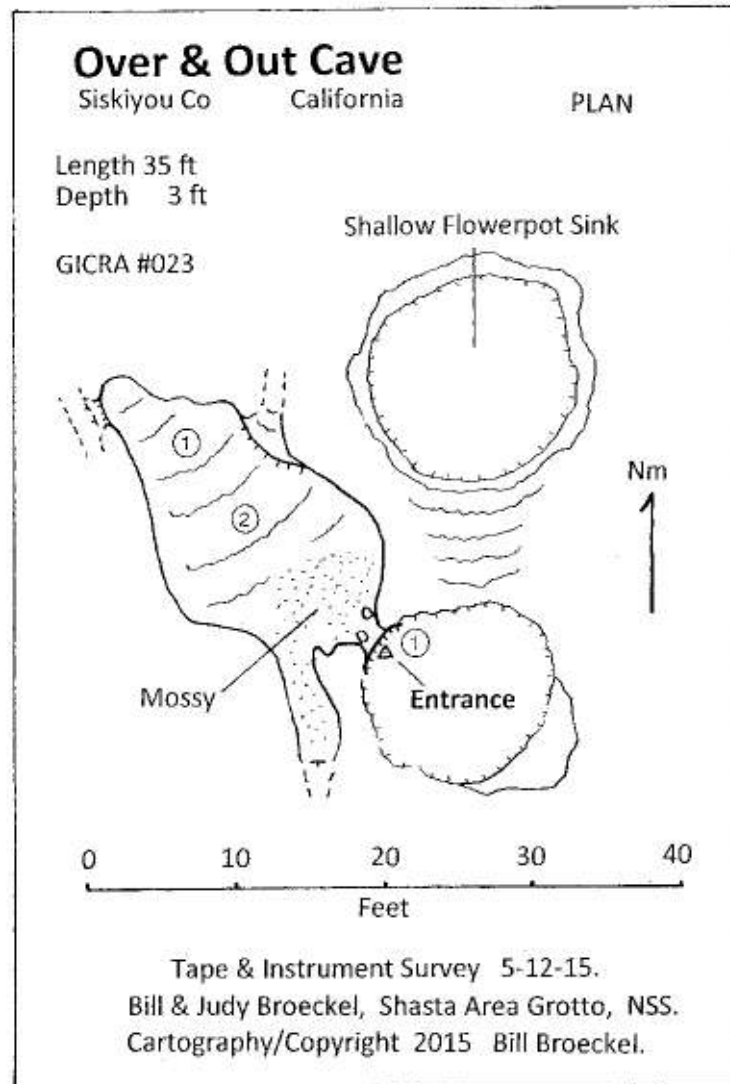
Obviously related to Furthermore, the Annex has to be handled as a separate item. It has its own entrance, and cannot be directly accessed from either Furthermore, or B of B. It took us a while to figure out what was going on, but it turns out that the cave you can see from B of B is this Annex. The Annex entrance is the most difficult of the seven caves. With big rocks and edges in the way, you have to lay on your side, mess with your arms, control your breathing, and get your clothes all ripped up just for one small room one foot high. Yes, a whole foot, and quite a relief actually, after the struggle to get in there. However, it was a survey key to tie in that B of B window. (See the area map for the strange and unusual configuration of caves.)



Map: Moreover Cave

Moreover Cave

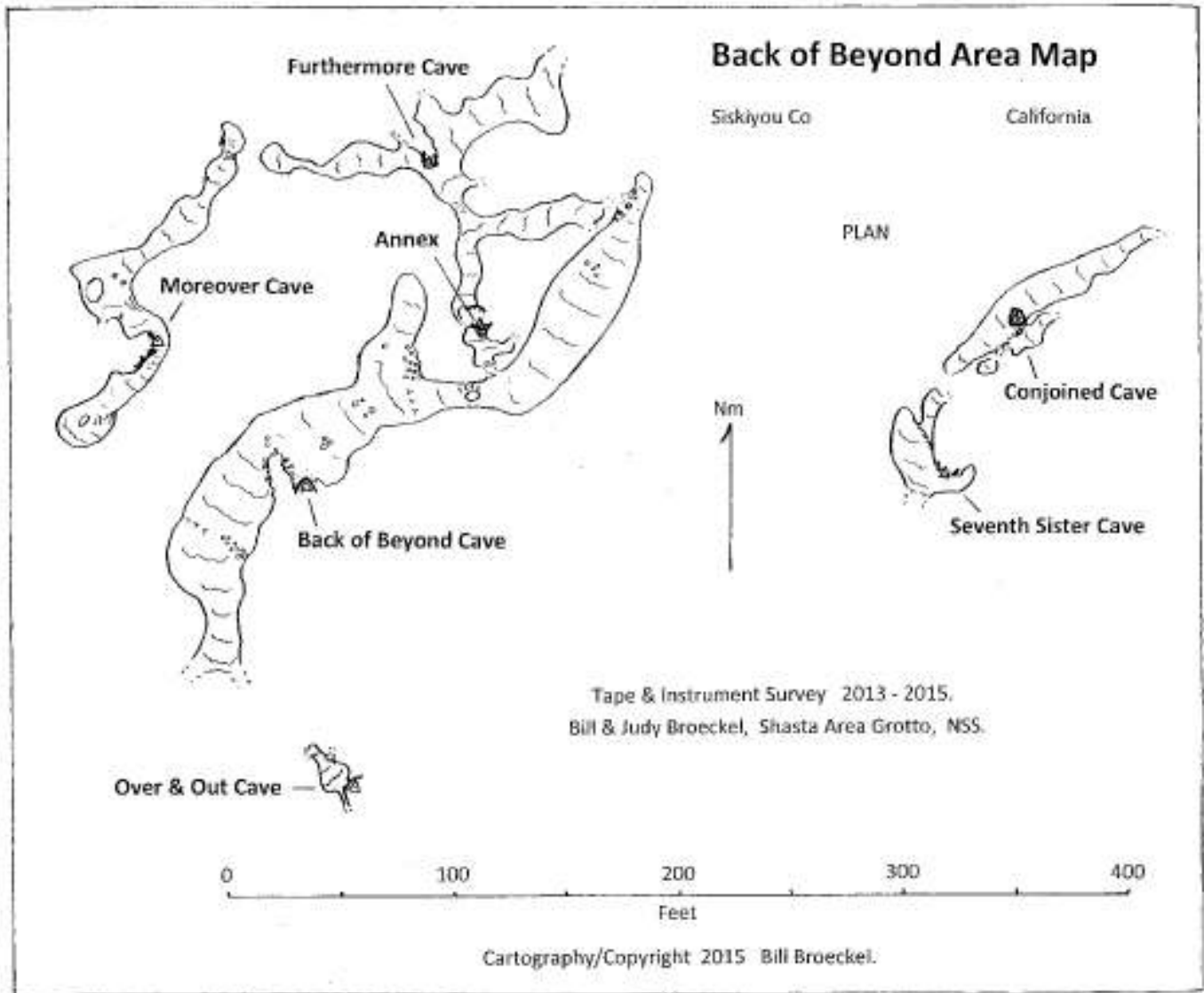
"Hey, there's more over here!" This was the fifth one we found. Moreover is the down-flow extension of Furthermore. It fit the pattern of the other caves perfectly and was a great addition. It had the central entrance and the wide crawlways. I think it even had some of those Hockey Pucks.



Map: Over & Out Cave

Over & Out Cave

We had to move a couple rocks to get into this little add-on detail to the project. There were some more small caves even further down, but they were quite away away. That will be another project, the "always away" project.



Map: Back of Beyond Area

Postscript

So calling all recreational cave crawlers, way out there you can crawl all day. Enjoy the maps, if not the caves. Also, note that the individual cave maps are all on the same scale, except for two. Furthermore Cave has a smaller scale, and Back of Beyond has a smaller scale still. Use the area map to make cave- to-cave comparisons, and use the individual maps for more details.

BB



Entrance to Seventh Sister Cave 5-26-15.

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP



Pele's Hockey Pucks

TO:

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