

sag rag

34:4 July-Aug 2015



**Tom Rickman, Dave Smith, Liz Wolff, and Steve Hobson rig a refrigerator haul at
Garbage Pit 6-27-15**

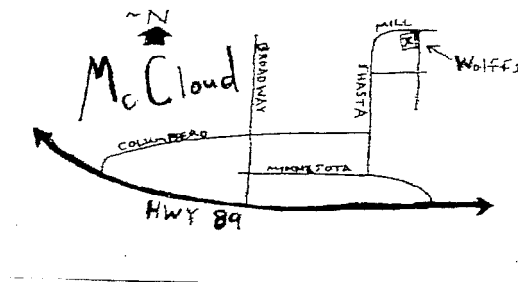
INSIDE : Medicine Lake multi-grotto and Hat Creek work trips.

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

Aug 28	SAG Meeting 7:30 pm. at Wolffs' in McCloud.
Sept 3-7	Labor Day weekend caving in the Marbles.
Sept 3-7	CRF at LABE.
Sept 25	SAG Meeting 7:30 pm. at Steve Hobson's in McCloud: Vert/1 st aid; plan place & objectives/prep for SAG/SAR exercise in Oct.
Oct 3-5	Paul Gibson survey trip.
Oct 10 (-11?)	SAG/SAR exercises (Sat.-Sun.)
Oct. 30-31	SAG Meeting (date change) possibly at Fritzke's on the coast.
Nov 26-29	CRF at LABE.
Dec 4	SAG Meeting 7:30 pm at Broeckels'.
July 17-23, 2016	NSS Convention, Ely NV!!

August



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

Please remember to keep Melanie in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from her recent motorcycle accident, in which she injured her right leg. Thanks to Dave for taking minutes as substitute Grotto Secretary at the July meeting. This SAG RAG gets back on track with meeting reports and grotto caving trips to lava caves in Siskiyou and Shasta Counties. I'll be glad when this fire season is over and we can get back to clean air and clear skies for our caving outings and events.

BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING JUNE 27, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. at the Hat Creek Campground.

Attendance: Dave Smith, Steve Hobson, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel.

Minutes: There was no May meeting. Minutes from April were read and accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Starting Balance was \$876.00 with dues received the current balance is \$918.00.

SAG RAG Report: Bill has a lot of cave maps to share, but there is also the OHDG/SAG & SFBC joint caving trips and the Hat Creek camp out to talk about. They may take priority over the maps or maybe there will be some of both.

Website and E-RAG: All is working well.

Correspondence: Early June IO Update showed that no issues had been submitted for the COG. There was a recent post with an NSS membership survey available to all members. You should have received an email about that. Ernie Coffman sent information about Alternative meeting programs that are available on a flash drive for \$6.95. They show caving all over the world.

Old Business: In January 2015 Joel Despain brought up Mendocino Cave Projects which involved survey etc. for the National Forest. This discussion will be tabled until Joel is available to discuss the project

New Business: We need to set the summer and fall calendar for the rest of 2015. See Calendar/events. Confidentiality about caves, cave names, and cave locations was discussed. We need to make sure that all people on the trips know that this information is not to be discussed with the general public. If posting about a trip on Social Media/ Facebook etc. Make sure that no names or locations are posted. All pictures posted should be scrubbed to remove any GPS location data. Samwel Cave is closed to the public at this time.

Calendar / Events:

- July 3-7 CRF at Lava Beds National Monument.
- July 3-7 KMCTF in the Marbles.
- July 12 Possible railroad tunnel hike in Ashland area with a historian and Doug Viner.
- July 18-20 Paul Gibson Cave Survey. Hike/camp/survey. Contact Joel Despain.
- July 24 SAG Meeting 7:30 pm. Yreka, Melanie's house.
- Sept. 3-7 Marbles Mtns.
- 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.
- November No SAG Meeting Happy Thanksgiving.
- Dec. 4 SAG meeting and nominations for 2016 officers. 7:30pm. Yreka at Broeckels' place.

Trip Reports:

Steve Hobson led a trip to "a nice cave in northern California" in May. Steve, Jed Medin, Rudy Bega, Ginger Sanders, Joel Despain, Scott Linn, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, and Hans Stein attended. The air lock gate was removed and transported out for servicing by Jed & Rudy. THANK YOU VERY MUCH Jed and Rudy! Joel, Scott, and Rudy were able to see a section of the cave that is rarely visited and required a harness now where before only a hand line was needed. THANKS to Dave Smith for having a diving backplate he loaned for the gate removal. It was designed to allow the gate to be carried out safely. The gate was safely returned by Forest Service personnel on July 25th using Dave Smith's diving backplate. Steve H. took the following Forest people on a trip through the cave: Lesley Yen, the District Ranger, Peter Schmidt, archaeologist, and Ashley Stabenow.

OHDG and SAG joint cave trip in May had great weather and was well attended. The Halls and Crawls of Santana Cave were very near where we camped. The kids had a blast in Amaze Attic. Saturday's choice of caving by the group took people to Deep Ice Cave, Pallet Ice Cave, and Amazing Pits Cave. Brent Mac-

continued

Gregor spent a few hours in Deep Ice and got thawed out enough for more time in Pallet doing photography. The kids really like Amazing Pits. Sunday the group hit Rooty Tooty Cave where Brent spent all his time doing macrophotography. The others later went to part of Bobcat Cave. From OHDG we had Neil Marchington, his wife, son & daughter; Doug & Tabitha Viner who are members of both grottos; Brent MacGregor, Jason Holmes and Katrina Smith (both work at LABES) and Rick Magnuson. From SAG we had Jim & Liz Wolff, Dave Smith, Melanie Jackson, Doug and Tabitha, Joel Despain and Heather VeerKamp and their two boys.

June 13-14 SFBC and SAG also went to the same area as the May OHDG/SAG, but elected to spend a day seeing the Freudian Complex. The next day they all went to Adam's Homestead.

CRF Memorial Day Trip Liz Wolff ran a cave survey school. It started at Natural Bridge Cave. Doug Viner and his nephew Rowan attended. Survey was also started on Hmmm Bridges. Nancy Nordensten (LABE Resource management), Liz W. and Bruce Rogers completed mop up surveys around Blue Grotto. Nancy works for the park service and had never seen the survey process before. Liz & Pat Helton did mop up survey at the Blue Grotto entrance. Bruce, Pat, Jim & Liz went to the northernmost entrance to detail the survey.

Broeckel took Mark Scott to the end of Steamboat Frank where over 2000 more feet was surveyed. That makes this cave approximately 4000 ft. long. There are some more side passages and lower levels left to survey which could bring the final survey to close to 5000 ft. when finished! Bill and his brother found pictographs in a cave in a National Park. At Giant Crater Bill and Judy Broeckel have finished surveying seven surface tubes that cover a total of 1200 ft. of mostly belly crawling cave. Bill has surveyed his 246th cave in Hat Creek.

Wayne Cedidla & Melanie Jackson went through Thurston Lava Tube (actually less than a quarter long and lighted) while visiting the Volcanos National Park on the Island of Hawaii in May. There is another 1120 ft. to the Thurston Lava Tube, but it is closed to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary

MJ



Melanie Jackson and Jim Wolff attend to a Garbage Pit tire haul 6-27-15.

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING JULY 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 8:30pm. at Broeckels' home in Yreka.

Attendance: Bill Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith and Nelson Nieves (visitor from Yreka who may join the grotto).

Minutes: none, Melanie is in Redding recovering from a motorcycle accident.

Treasurer's Report: June Balance \$911, July \$936. The increase is from receiving membership dues.

E-RAG/Website: Everything is working fine

SAG RAG: Next issue will have more grotto content.

Correspondence: Jonathan Timmons of FS (Hat Creek) emailed for location of Garbage Pit so the trash can be hauled away. He has the information now.

Calendar: 2015

- Aug 19 FS/F&W bats and caves at Barnum Cave 7pm.
- Aug 28 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Wolffs' in McCloud
- Sept 3-7 Labor Day weekend Caving in the Marbles.
- Sept 3-7 CRF at LABE.
- Sept 25 SAG Meeting 7:30pm Steve Hobson's in McCloud; vert/1st aid; plan place & objectives/prep for SAG/SAR exercise in Oct.
- Oct 3-5 Paul Gibson survey trip.
- Oct 10 (-11 ?) SAG/SAR exercises (Sat-Sun).
- Oct. 30-31 SAG meeting (date change) possibly at Fritzke's on the coast.
- Nov 26-29 CRF at LABE.
- Dec 4 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Broeckels'.

Old Business: Garbage Pit cleanup done, FS will haul out trash (skeletons of 3 refrigerators, a dishwasher, and 2 dozen tires). We will have a future trip to clean up the small stuff and check out the new lead in the cave.

New Business: WCC may be selling caving caps soon.

The SAG/SAR exercise will be 1 or two days at Adam's Homestead and possibly (Steve) Dumb Luck. We will be part of SAR team(s) for lost person search and cave rescue, with some vertical at the entrance to Adam's Homestead. [Not discussed: we will need to check that FS roads are open.]

Trip Reports: At the Hat Creek meeting SAG members cleaned up Garbage Pit, then went to Subway to relax. Sunday morning Bill Broeckel, Liz and Jim Wolff and Dave Smith mapped 2 small caves in the bunny hill area.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Dave Smith, acting SAG Secretary

DS



SAG / SFBC Joint Cave Trip

Liz Wolff Wed 7/1/2015

SAG: Jim & Liz Wolff, Joel & Forest Despain, Heather & Liam Veerkamp and guests Barkley & Kate Coggins, new to the Mt Shasta area.

SFBC: Bob Martin, Steve & Barbara Ruble, Mike & Jake Davies, Merrilee & Karydis Proffitt.

This cave trip was set up and all the details worked out by Bruce Rogers, who ended up stuck on the freeway getting out of the Bay Area with car trouble. He would have had a great time with all the new-to-them caves. The main objective of this trip was to get the SFBC people to go somewhere that wasn't in the Gaping Holes system of caves. We did that in spades with the Freudian Complex, Pallet Ice and Adam's Homestead caves. It was hard to believe that Bob, whom we have known for decades, had never been to Adam's Homestead Cave.

On the way out to the Freudian Complex, we stopped to take a look at Three Level Ice Cave's entrance area for their future reference, and then had to rein in all the kids to head on to the real objective. Then on to the Complex and the hike out to shiner 4. Finding it with no trouble, we immediately went the wrong way to get to the Air Passage, although we did have a good time playing loop-de-loop around the side passages and pillars. Realizing we were at the wrong place we turned around and arrived at the right passage, passing under several scenic skylights, past the Beached Whale and nearly missing the Air Passage because we took the cut-around that is opposite it. The Air Passage begins as a crawl but quickly attains stoop-walk status, and occasionally walking size. The forest of "little people" formations were photographed and it was on through part of the maze of the Ant Farm and back to the cars.

Then the confab for which cave to go to next took place while eating chilled watermelon in the shade. Barkley & Kate opted to head home at this point. The idea was to take a look at the lava flow, point out the entrances that can be seen from the road and head back to camp. But those entrances are so enticingly close that they had to be looked into. Mike ran (HA!) back to get a rope for a hand line down the ice fall near the back of the cave and then sensibly walked back up. It was HOT on the barren lava flow. The colorful shirts and hard hats of the group on the lava was a sight to behold, and several passing motorists sitting comfortably in their air-conditioned cars paused to watch the crazy people out on the lava disappear from view or pop out of the ground. Joel, Heather and the boys headed home after this cave.

That evening over burgers at Floyd's Frosty in McCloud it was decided to go to Adam's Homestead Cave in the morning. Sunday morning the group gathered at the junction of hwy 89 and the Pilgrim Creek Road to caravan out to the cave. A short side trip down the wrong road got the cars dusty and then the right road the cave area was reached. Preparing for the short climbable drop and the cool, damp cave we were all shortly waiting for the drop to be rigged with a hand line. Everyone but Jim descended and toured the cave finding it mostly clean. The mud slope claimed no victims, although it was a near thing a time or two. The group divided into the faster and the slower which helped the conversations along. About halfway through the cave at a standing boulder we found cat's eye marbles, coins and assorted junk of a technological nature left (as offerings to the cave gods?) in a small area. White bugs were noted in a couple of the pools and the 1911 mud glyphs are still in good shape. The breakdown blockage was reached and the groups exited the cave. The faster group chose to clamber their way through the huge boulders of the northern breakdown section of the cave as a final fillip of the day. **LW**

June Campout

Liz Wolff Mon 6/29/2015

SAG's June campout was attended by Bill Broeckel, Steve & Susan Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff and guests Dan Mauro and Celeste Fowler, and Lassen NF's Tom Rickman.

Trying to beat some of the worst of the heat Mel, Bill, Dave, Steve, Jim, Liz, Dan and Tom met at the cave early to give Steve's new winch a workout hauling tires out of Hat Creek valley's Garbage Pit. Tow straps and cables made quick work of the 25 tires pulled from their hideout, plus two refrigerators, one dishwasher, one refrigerator door, two bags of junk, and one straw stuffed hassock which was a new addition to the Pit: it would not have survived the fires two years ago. The winch made the haul go so quickly that we were done by noon. On arriving at the Pit we were a bit dismayed to find that the bulk of the metal previously hauled out was still where it had been deposited when we finished last year. It has been augmented with this year's haul of tires and dead appliances.

While Tom and Dave (who was working on getting a matching set of scraped shins) were jockeying the fridges out of their tomb, Bill went exploring to see what could be found. One shredded shirt and scraped torso later he returned to report that there is a small hole that opens into large walking passage going both ways at the bottom of the pit.

To beat the heat in the afternoon we toured Subway Cave with the entire group, minus Tom who had to get back home. We found the cave in need of some clean up, but it really wasn't too bad. There were many people touring the cave as well and we talked with people from all over the country. Some had minimal light, but most had one light per person. No one was opting to hike overland on the trail from the lower entrance back to the parking area: it was >HOT<. Then we headed out to Fuzzy Bunny to see if it had attracted any new garbage and were pleasantly surprised to find it clean still. Dave did hop down to retrieve more of the glass that had been embedded in ice during the previous clean up. Next was a stop at the Visitor Center to talk to the FS about getting the tires and all the metal hauled away. A new face there, the young man is interested in caving wanted to know if we could give him a map showing all the cave locations on it. We invited him to join the grotto and he may.

Back in camp dinner preparations got under way for an impromptu pot luck. As with all such meals there was more than everyone could eat. We did find out that the ground squirrels like corn on the cob and are big enough to haul the cobs away. The SAG meeting was held after dinner.

Sunday morning leisurely Mel, Steve & Susan, Dan and Celeste set out to clean up their camps and head for home. Bill, Dave, Jim & Liz headed out to the southern-most spatter cone to survey something. Our objective was up in the brush around Folded Cave, but Liz found a cave about 200 feet from the cars and we were off. The first cave was Silvercone, about 30 feet long; all crawl sized and dirt floored, the passage was blocked by a lava tongue before getting to an exit. The next was actually the back entrance to Silvercone but was too tight to get in to. While Bill was finishing up the survey notes Jim was looking into another hole. This one had an old 1920's tire and rim near the entrance so became Old Metal Cave. This one surveyed out to 32 feet in length. While Bill was finishing the notes again, Jim found another entrance and Liz wandered further around the hill and found six more entrances. One of them was Flat Rat Cave that had been surveyed a few years ago along with Surf's Up Cave, also relocated on this trip. Bill conjectured that the quarry operation had filled in a final small spatter cone as several caves radiate down from it: Jeffery Pine, Something Borrowed, Flat Rat, Surf's Up, Old Metal, Silvercone, and a couple of other unsurveyed or named caves that had just been located. **LW**



Dave Smith monitors another friggig haul out of Garbage Pit 6-27-15.

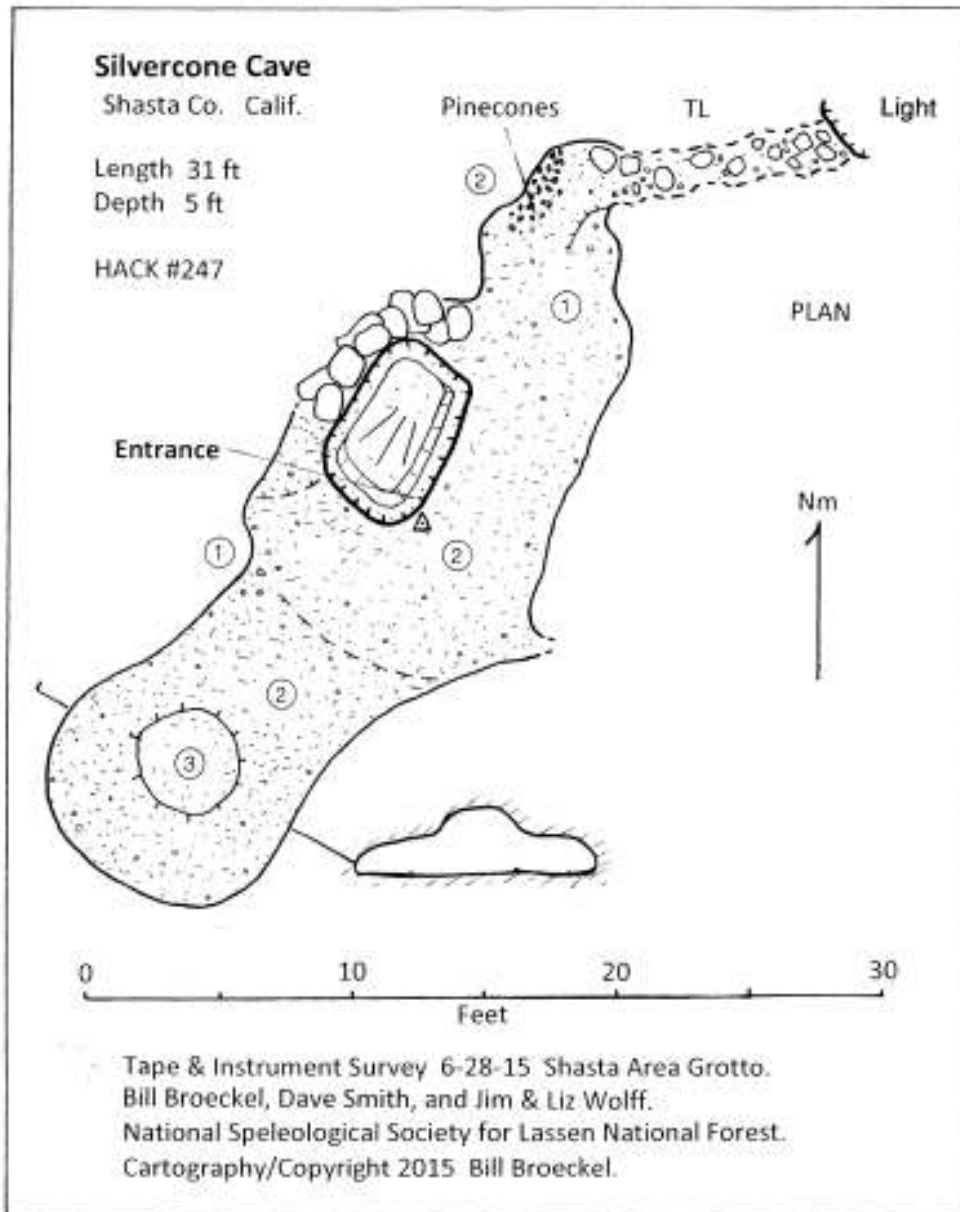


Booty piles at Garbage Pit include some two dozen old tires 6-29-15.

Hat Creek Update by Bill Broeckel

At the grotto cave camp last June, we were happy for the shade trees at the usual Hat Creek Campground. We did the Garbage Pit clean-up one day, and had a little time and energy left the second day to do some short cave surveys. In this way, the popular work trips continue to bolster the Hat Creek Cave Survey Project. This year the heat was a big factor.

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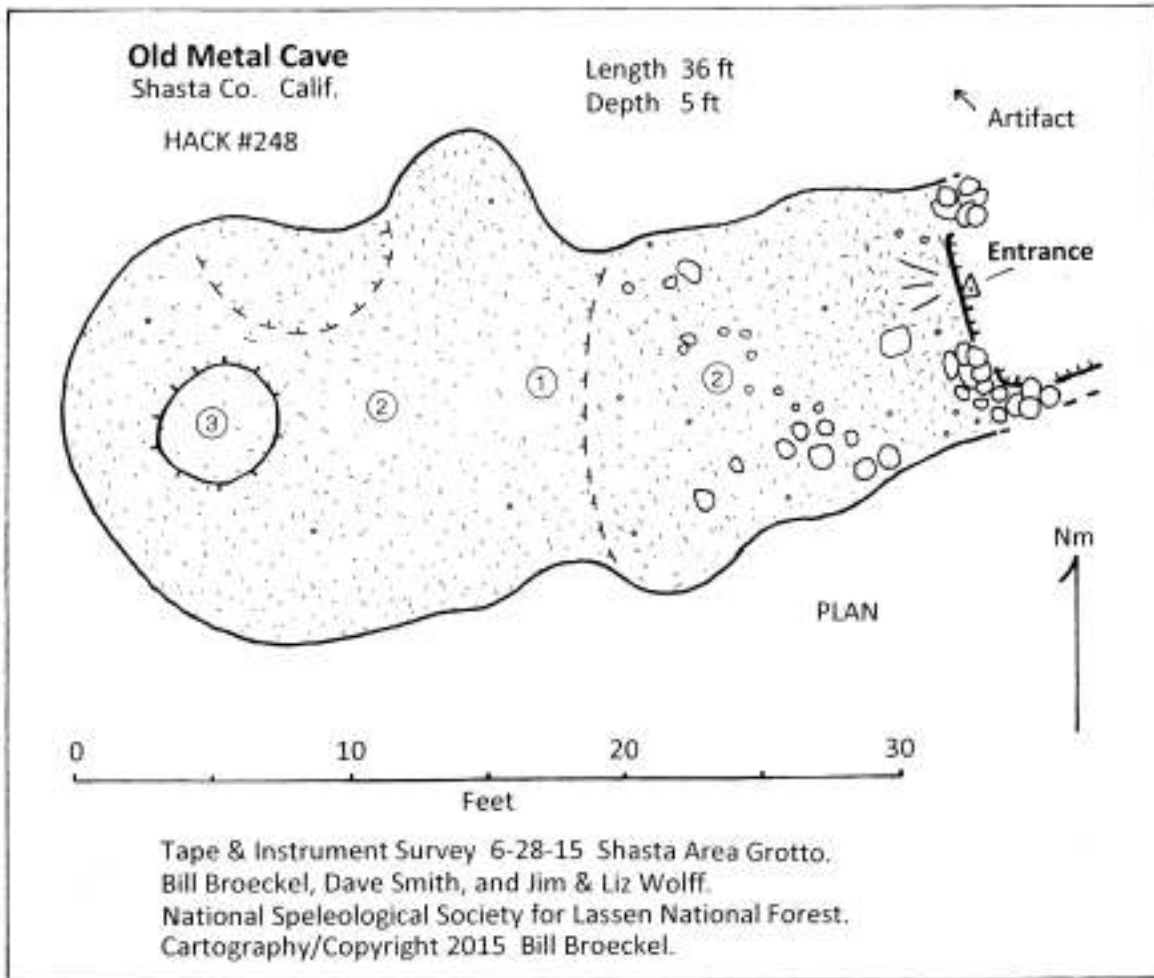


Map: Silvercone Cave

Silvercone Cave

The longer un-surveyed caves involved longer hikes, so we settled on a more modest objective just beyond Folded Cave. However, Liz Wolff improved on that thought, and came up with an entrance so close to our parking area, we could still see the cars. By the end of June, it really was too hot out on the lava flow. It's amazing what people can come up with under adversity. Liz got right into the cooler cave and started pulling tape. She came upon a pile of silvery pine cones, and the cave was thus named.

continued



Map: Old Metal Cave

Old Metal Cave

Meanwhile, that wiley wolf Jim was out there finding the next nearby cave. This one had a rusty chunk of metal by it. It turned out to be a piece broken off the rim of a skinny truck tire, perhaps left over from a logging or quarry operation many years ago. Jim is like a human metal detector, and named the cave for this rusty fragment of time that was left where we found it near the cave. It's a good thing those tires and refrigerators we hauled out of Garbage Pit were not quite so old.

Project Summary

Hot as it was, we couldn't help but notice even more entrances thereabout. These were left for another hot day. Since then, two more Hat Creek surface tubes have been mapped, bringing the total number of surveyed Hat Creek caves to a nice even 250. Total passage length for the project to date is 46,127 feet or 8.7 miles. Just recently, the 14 kilometer mark was passed. Stay tuned for updates.

BB



L to R: Liz Wolff, Jim Wolff, & Dave Smith at Old Metal Cave entrance 6-28-15.



Old metal artifact found near Old Metal Cave 6-28-15.



Metal scrap piles waiting for pick-up at Garbage Pit 6-29-15.

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TO:

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