

sag rag

34:6 Nov-Dec 2015



**Liz Wolff on surface survey over the entrance
to Sidebottom Ice Cave 11-3-98**

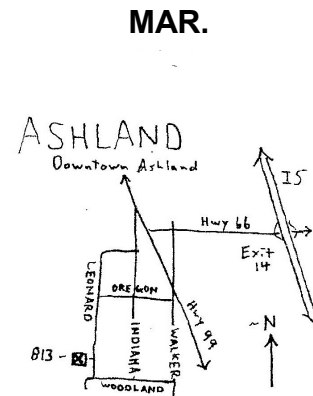
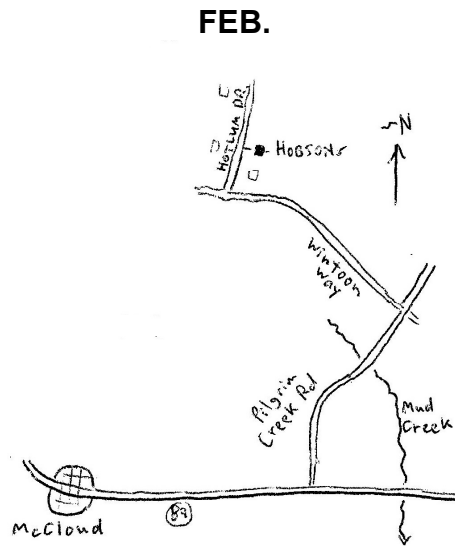
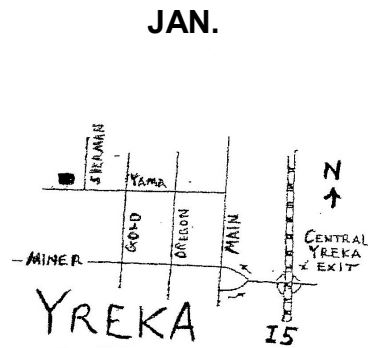
INSIDE - SAG / SAR Training Day and Two New Tube Maps

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 2016

- Jan 22 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Melanie's home in Yreka.
 Feb 26 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobson's home in McCloud.
 Feb 27 Annual Pluto's Cave cleanup
 Mar 25 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Viners' home in Ashland.
 July 17-23 NSS Convention, Ely, NV!!

Maps to Meetings



SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

So good to see Melanie back on her feet. She is also back taking notes at SAG meetings (see the Dec. Minutes) and appears in the SAR award photo as well. A New Jersey man gets pulled into a cave by a bear – hauled and mauled. Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. Meanwhile our Grotto makes a good push into the lower level of Adam's Can Cave, out there by Adam's Homestead. Check out the map drawn up by Liz Wolff. This was done quite promptly along with the written description and report on the SAG/SAR exercise last October, abandoned when the call came in for a real rescue of a climber high on Mt. Shasta. Read all about it right here in the SAG RAG. Bighorn adds a very belated cave report from some other decade – filler material I'm sure.

BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 8:18 pm. at Bill & Judy Broeckel's home in Yreka.

Attendance: Bill & Judy Broeckel, Jim & Liz Wolff, Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Ernie Coffman, Doug Viner, and guests Devon & Sheryl Hansen.

Minutes: No minutes available from coastal meeting in October at Mark Fritzke's.

Treasurer's Report: Previous balance \$984.00. Expenditures \$12.00 NSS Website Fee. Current Balance \$972.00.

Correspondence: Ernie Coffman solicited end of the year contributions to the NSS Building Fund. Tom Rickman a SAG member and FS employee has written a geologic paper with a map containing several caves.

2016 SAG CALENDAR

- January 22 SAG Meeting at 7:30 pm at Melanie Jackson's home in Yreka
- February 2 Lake level Cave Survey trip (Ground Hog Day)
- February 12-15 CRF Survey at Lava Beds
- February 26 SAG Meeting at 7:30pm at Steve Hobson's home in McCloud
- February 27 SAG Annual Pluto's Cave Clean Up
- March 25 SAG Meeting at 7:30pm at the Viners' home in Ashland
- April 22 SAG Meeting at 7:30 pm at **CORRECTION:** Wolffs' home in McCloud
- May 27-30 Memorial Day Weekend at Lava Beds Nat'l Monument
- June 24-26 meeting will be at Eagle Lake.
- July 17-23 75th NSS Convention Ely, Nevada

Old Business: None.

New Business: SAG Members are encouraged to caravan or carpool to the NSS Convention in Ely, Nevada. We would leave Friday morning 7/15 and return Sunday 7/24. The Geology Pre convention trips are usually the day before and the day the convention begins. 7/16 & 7/17.

SAG Officer Nominations: Chair - Liz Wolff, Vice Chair - Melanie Jackson, Secretary - Dave Smith or Jim Wolff, Treasure - Steve Hobson.

Labor Day Weekend Marbles Caving Sept. 1-5. Leave on Thursday 9/1 having horses pack gear in and return Monday 9/5 having horses pack gear out. Melanie will contact S and E Outfitters to reserve the dates. Steve will be collecting the horse packing money. All money must be paid to Steve in June 2016.

Ernie Coffman proposed the grotto send money to the NSS Building Fund. Steve Hobson made a motion that SAG send \$250.00 to the NSS Building Fund. Ernie seconded the motion. The motion passed. Individuals were encouraged to send donations (tax deductible) to NSS or WCC (Western Cave Conservancy).

There was a discussion on how to interest more young people to become caving enthusiasts. Doug Viner gave an explanation of CAVE BUCKS, its origin and how it works. SAG decided it doesn't work for our grotto.

Trip Reports: Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam, Steve Hobson, & Liz Wolff took 18 Scouts caving. They were given an introduction to Survey and Vertical Tech (at a 10 foot cliff) at Roadside Complex Caves and Jot Dean Cave. In the process of crawling and exploring they found a new pit. It goes, is vertical, and needs surveying. Named it Triple Sticks Cave.

(continued)

On 9/15 and 11/3 there were survey trips to Lake Level Cave. Steve Hobson, Mike Stufflebeam, Bill Broeckel, and Joel Despain completed 1400 feet of survey and more needs to be done. Next trip planned for Feb. 2016. Wilson Lake Ice Cave: Dave Smith took a solo trip there, and pulled some pictures off the internet. Jim and Liz Wolff have been involved in more survey at Lava Beds: Some survey in natural Bridge, mop-up survey from Blue Grotto to S. Labyrinth, surface survey to Golden Dome.

October 31 coast SAG meeting at Mark Fritzke's. They went to sea caves (Moonstone Beach Sea Caves). Steve picked up a tractor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 pm.

Melanie Jackson, SAG Secretary **MJ**

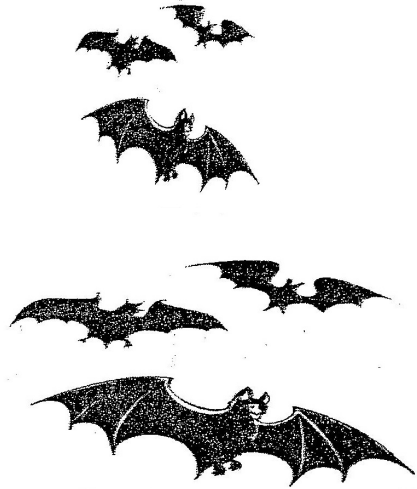
SHASTA AREA GROTTO BALLOT

Chairman Liz Wolff

Vice-Chairman Melanie Jackson

Secretary Dave Smith
 Jim Wolff

Treasurer Steve Hobson



Instructions: Every member votes once for each office. Photocopy ballots for multiple voting members in a family. Mail to SAG RAG address, bring to January meeting, or vote on-line via (theotherdavesmith@gmail.com).

Bear pulls Boy Scout leader into cave by foot; Scouts unhurt

ROCKWAY TOWNSHIP, N.J. – A Boy Scout leader was pulled into a cave by a bear in Northern New Jersey but beat the animal away with a rock hammer while the three scouts with him called for help, authorities said.

Christopher Petronino, 50, and the scouts were hiking at Split Rock Reservoir on Sunday afternoon when he stopped to show the boys a cave, NJ.com reported. He dipped into a small crevasse leading to it, and the bear grabbed him by the foot and yanked him inside. It began biting his legs and shoulders and Petronino fought it off, NJ.com reported.

"Petronino struck the bear twice in the head with a rock hammer. He then pulled his sweatshirt over his head and curled into a fetal position," Bob Considine, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Protection, said in a statement. "He yelled to the scouts, who were outside the cave, to leave and go get help."

The boys used a cellphone to call authorities, who told them to place any food they had outside the cave to lure the bear away from Petronino. When it emerged, a dog that had come along with the group began barking and the bear ran up a nearby hillside.

Considine said the Scout leader spent about 80 minutes inside the cave before escaping. He was airlifted to Morristown Medical Center and treated for his wounds. The Scouts, from a Boonton-based troop, were released to their parents.

Petronino told authorities he'd visited the cave regularly for decades and had never seen a bear.

Considine said state wildlife officials believe the bear was protecting its hibernation location. They have placed traps around the area where the attack occurred and hope to capture the bruin.

Hunters in New Jersey killed 510 bears during the state's extended black bear hunt, which ended Saturday. Fifty-eight were harvested in Morris County, where Split Rock Reservoir is located.

From A.P. Monday 12-21-15

Comment: Wow! I guess I do have one or two questions about this story. Were they all planning to go caving? Why did the Scout Leader stay in the cave so long? I hope this incident makes it into the A.C.A.

Fwd: Trip Report Cave Rescue

Liz Wolff

Sun 10/11/2015 4:44 PM

2015 SAG/SAR cave rescue training or “the best laid plans of mice & men...”

Sept 26 – the preparation

Saturday morning Steve Hobson & his friend Dan Mauro, Dave Smith, Mike & Barbara Stufflebeam and Jim & Liz Wolff met to talk about the upcoming SAG/SAR cave rescue training exercises. We had already decided the broad brush of the lessons required and now it was down to fine tuning, picking our subjects and talking about the different vertical techniques we could use.

Of course on the ground, nothing goes precisely as planned. The first thing we did was to lose Mike on the road, then we found a new cave that we surveyed on the spot. It looked a typical little surface tube that would pinch out quickly, but there was a tight drop, 8-1/2" at the widest, into a much larger lower level. So Mike & I, with Barbara's encouragement went down and surveyed. While the survey was going on Jim, Dave and Dan bushwhacked their way down to Dumb Luck Cave to see if it would be easy to find, scout a route and check the cave for trash etc. Dave was a little disappointed that no one had dug out the crawl/dig in the side passage for him. Steve and Dan worked out the rigging for the drop into the cave.

First obstacle in our training exercise turned out to be the friction factor at the top of the pitch. So resetting, still for a bottom haul, anchors were, or rather became, nonexistent. So a top haul it must be. Setting up with Steve's little plastic 5:1 rig we ran into problems with the knots sticking at the lip of the drop, and the stretcher was too long to fit over the lip without roughing up the patient. So it would have to go vertically and the haul would have to be totally different. Our next attempt was successful with the shifting of the litter to a head first orientation to raise it and get it out of the cave, using a simple Z rigging. Dan got a free ride from the top of the drop, we had had an empty litter until then. Brush was the obstacle crossing the sink, and the rig point took it right through the thickest part. So when we do it for real, it will be the same system but from a different point again. Now the ones attending Oct 10 know what they will be doing for this upcoming exercise with SAR and how to do it.

Oct 10 – the rescue scenario

The day dawned cool and partly cloudy. It was the same SAG crew, less Dan, with the addition of Bill Broeckel, Jed Medin and Sam Baxter. The subjects of the rescue were dispatched to their respective sites in Adam's Homestead Cave, the initial SAR briefing was done, gear was gathered and portioned out to vehicles, a preliminary team of one SAG member and one SAR member was sent to check out the parking available and radioed back that it is very constricted so car pools were set, gear reloaded and heading out when the major snafu of the day began: SAR was radioed to stand by for a rescue from the mountain.

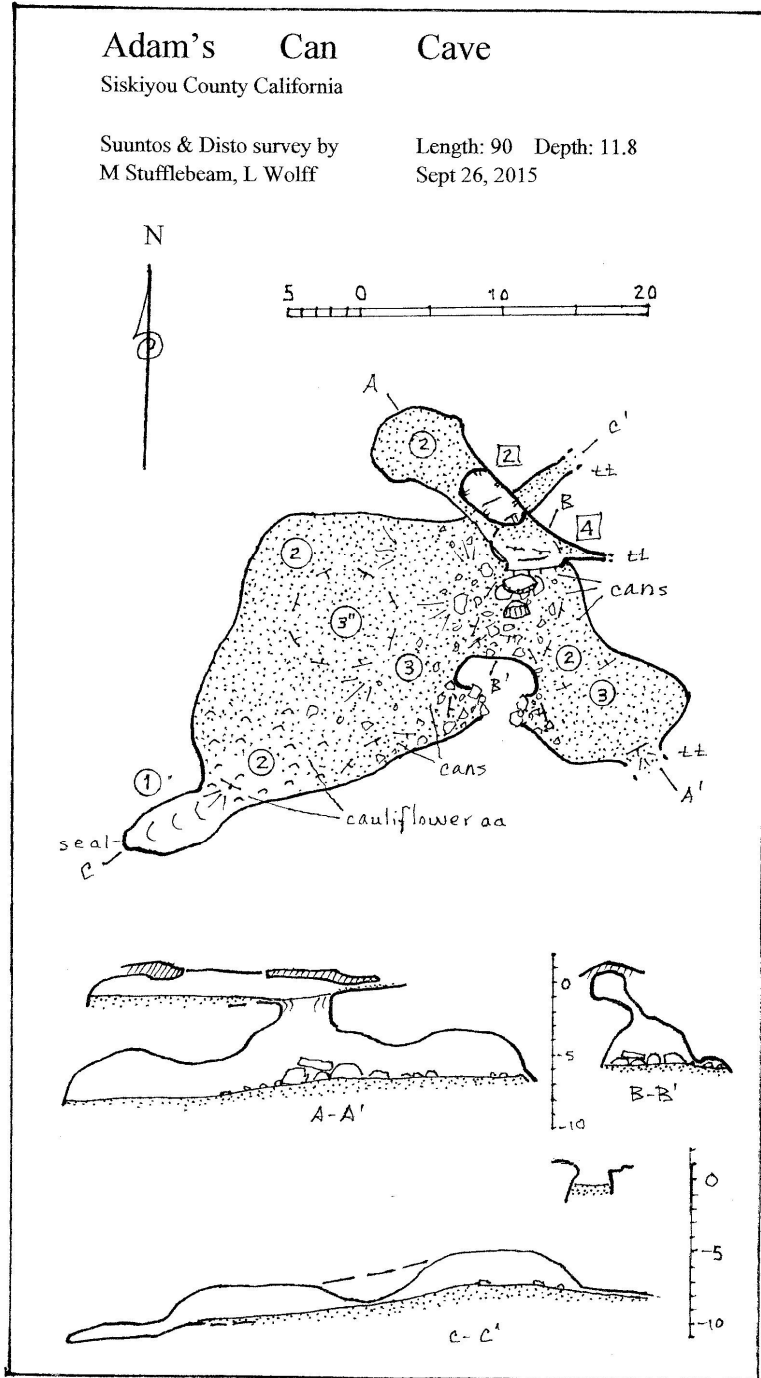
So we all hung out to find out if a helicopter could land and lift from around 11,000 feet, the supposed elevation of the climbers. The winds were too high so the cave rescue training was officially called off while the SAR folks looked through their gear to decide if they were equipped for a high elevation rescue. They were, they left via the Military Pass road (the shortest way from McCloud to the rescue site) about 1 pm, and Bill was invited to go too, which set up the need for a "rescue" from the North gate trailhead later in the evening. The second snafu then was noted, a fire had started in Military Pass, closing the road. Two hours of circumnavigating and driving up the mountain got Jim & Liz to the Northgate trailhead to retrieve Bill and admire the retardant bombers and helicopters with their water buckets lumbering through the clouds of smoke well below the Northgate. Wish I'd had a camera along for that! The SAR people had been ordered by the fire fighters to evacuate their position, but as the winds were blowing away from them sending the smoke and fire NE, they stayed. The search team finally reached their subject and his friends at 12,500 feet just below the Hotlum Glacier around 6pm. Winds were still high at 7000 feet at the trailhead and were really strong above the tree line, around 8500 feet.

Our underground rescue exercise turned into a mountain rescue, and the potluck dinner (with food brought for around 20 SAG & SAR members) was enjoyed by the few lingering SAG people and a couple SAR and past SAR folks who wandered in during the rest of the evening.

LW

Adam's Can Cave

In a recently de-brushed roadside on the way to Adam's Homestead Cave we found a surface tube cave in an area that had been very brushy with no view to the side of the road. The little tube turned out to be much more than a simple surface tube. One end has a tight drop to a larger lower level with a dirt floor. Mike Stufflebeam went down first and found a can opened with a "church key" so we knew we weren't the first to be in this small cave. We found several rusty oil-can-sized cans shot full of holes also. Almost the entire cave is dirt floored, dusty, and crawl height. The lowest point in the cave is an intact tube, with a lava seal. Two very small, possibly dig-able leads are in the lower level. We even scared a bat away from his roost, twice, in the upper level. A spider was the only other biota noted. We decided to name it Adam's Can Cave as it is located over the breakdown section of Adam's Homestead Cave and has those rusty cans, which were left in place. Total length is 90 feet and depth is 11.8 feet. **LW**



Map: Adam's Can Cave

Hiker with injured leg rescued on Mt. Shasta

MT. SHASTA – On Saturday, Oct. 10, at 10:29 a.m., the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office received a report of a hiker with a possible injured leg in the area of North Gate Trail Head on Mt. Shasta at an elevation of 11,000 feet. Members of the SCSO's Search and Rescue team responded to the site after a California Highway Patrol helicopter aborted a rescue attempt due to high winds and dangerous conditions at the location.

At 2 p.m., two SAR teams deployed with the assistance of United States Forest Service climbing rangers to initiate a ground rescue of the injured climber. The victim, identified as Robert Ohmke, was located by the SCSO, SAR, and USFS Rangers at about 5:25 p.m. After an arduous cross-country rescue trek, the victim and rescuers arrived at the emergency command post on Oct. 11 at about 4 a.m. The victim was later evacuated by an ambulance to a medical facility staged at Military Pass Road and Highway 97.

According to the hiker, he and three companions began their hike on Mt. Shasta on Friday, Oct. 9, in the early evening. After ascending to Base Camp and resting, the hikers eventually began their descent on Oct. 10 at about 7:30 a.m. After traversing ice and snow covered terrain, the hikers took a break but Mr. Ohmke slipped and slid down a steep, ice-covered embankment, eventually hitting a rock formation, where he injured his leg. His companions reached his location, splinted his leg and set up a tent so that he could stay warm until evacuated from the mountain.

According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, "This was a dangerous but successful rescue mission orchestrated by the Sheriff's Office SAR team, USFS climbing rangers and CHP. It is fortunate that the rescued hiker in this case was accompanied by other climbers and all were properly equipped for their excursion and extended time on the mountain under difficult environmental conditions. His companions were instrumental in assisting him during the ordeal and the SAR, USFS, and CHP personnel risked danger to rescue the injured hiker. We are grateful that reports indicate that Mr. Ohmke is doing well and no rescuers were injured during the ordeal which is very good news."

Reprinted from Siskiyou Daily News in October 2015, soon after the rescue.

2015

www.siskiyoudaily.com

Siskiyou Search and Rescue honored by Air Force



Members of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team receive a commendation for their efforts to rescue an off duty United States Air Force officer and pilot on Oct. 10.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

YREKA – Recently, the elite members of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Team received a distinctive honor from United States Air Force representatives in recognition of their successful efforts to rescue an off-duty USAR officer and pilot on Oct. 10 on Mt. Shasta.

On Oct. 10, the rescued pilot, Robert Ohmke, was with companions when he fell and was injured at the 11,000 foot level on Mt. Shasta while conducting a mountain climbing expedition. Ohmke had to be carried off the mountain by the SCSO SAR

team and U.S. Forest Service Rescue climbers. The SCSO SAR team was presented with a lithograph of the F15C USAF fighter jet and the SAR team was surprised by a donation of \$1,000.

According to the two lieutenants and fellow pilots of Ohmke, he was removed from the mountain in a timely fashion by the SCSO SAR team and USFS rescue climber and his medical treatment was successful and he anticipates a full recovery, partially due to the efforts of the rescuers. Ohmke will soon be in a cockpit again, flying fighter jets thanks in part by

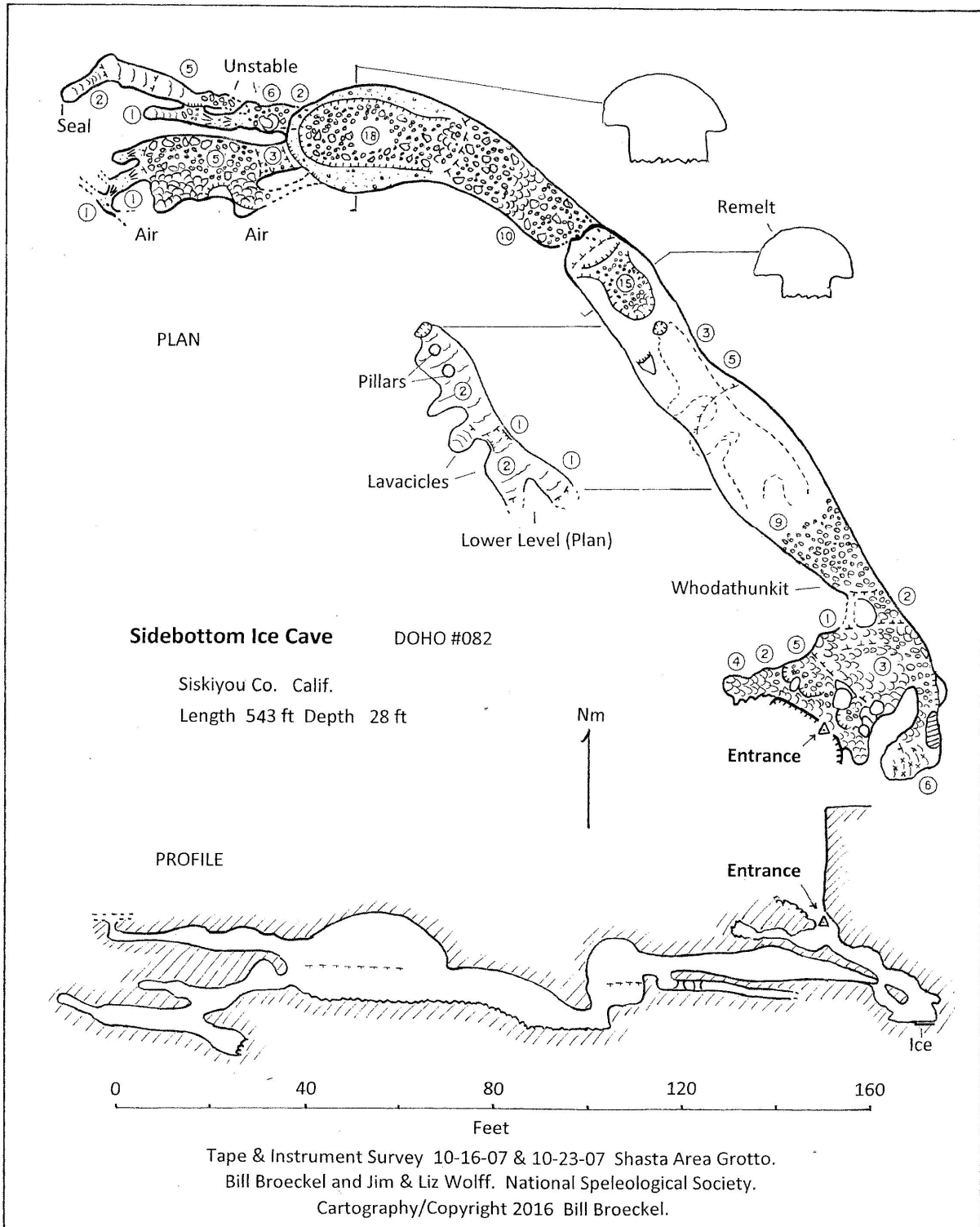
the SAR and USFS team.

According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, "Receiving a prestigious lithograph signed by the pilots of Lieutenant Ohmke's squadron is indeed a distinct honor for our Search and Rescue team members and their counterparts with the USFS rescue climber program. The donation was also truly generous and an incredible gift to the SAR program. It is always a privilege to support members of the Armed Forces and our SAR team truly did an exceptional job under challenging circumstances on Oct. 10, which earned them some well-de-

served accolades from the Air Force. This was definitely a good ending to this story."

During the SAR operation, had weather precluded an evacuation from the original site of the injury and SAR and USFS team members had to transport the injured climber off of the mountain to a point on Military Pass Road and US 97 for his medical evacuation. Conducting mountain rescues on Mt. Shasta is always hazardous and the SCSO SAR and USFS members were cited for doing an exceptional job under challenging circumstances, stated Lopey.

Reprinted from Siskiyou Daily News in 2015, after the rescue. Look for Melanie in the photo!



Map: Sidebottom Ice Cave

Sidebottom Ice Cave By Bighorn Broeckel

It's confession time again, my darlings. I haven't been finding very many new caves lately. Some of the easy-chairs at home have been getting more comfortable it seems. So once again I find myself dredging up something from the distant past. Here then is a pretty cool cave that hasn't been coming up very often in our conversations.

On 5-29-93, SAG was out cave hunting the Double Hole Flow, and went right by this one unbeknownst. This is understandable, as the entrance is located at a random spot, under the side of an extended collapse trench. Somewhat later (11-3-98), in a snowstorm, Liz Wolff and I were out doing some mop-up surface survey. We were very dedicated back then, and didn't rely on GPS. We wrapped extra shirts around our heads, trying to stay warm, stringing shots across the sub-Canadian Highlands.

I took a moment to check holes under the edge of a trench. One hole was going down pretty far. I made a mental note, and hurried back to get on station. Liz was patiently standing there in the falling snow. Over the years the Wolffs have been very tolerant of these sorts of shenanigans.

About nine years later (7-22-07) I went back looking for my mental note, but couldn't find it. That Fall (10-9-07) I went looking again, found it, and scooped it down to a base-level ice floor. That was interesting. I theorized a tributary passage coming down from Ice Palace. I was excited. Somehow I talked the Wolffs into a survey trip to this "awesome" new cave. Not only do they tolerate my wanderings astray, they also indulge my impulses to work-up marginal wannabe caves. This one was certainly a stretch, by most cave definitions, but I promised "over 100-ft of passage". We all knew, however, the over-all situation and location were not especially promising.

On 10-16-07 we were warily mapping down a loose slope under a low ceiling (overhanging trench wall) and soon reached the frozen pool. The icy continuation ended around the first bend, but did manage to achieve darkness. On our way back out, I lagged behind sketching. Yep, they put up with that too. They passed the time checking something up along the far side. It was at this point that Liz suddenly disappeared into thin air. I think us menfolk, Jim and I, might have moved a rock or two in order to initiate search and rescue on Liz.

Next thing I knew, we were all in a lava tube going up-flow, parallel to the collapse trench. Whodathunkit. We surveyed a bunch of growing virgin passage, got cold, gave up, and came back the next week (10-23-07). This time we dressed better, like for a "real" cave, and cleaned up the leads, mostly in the lower levels and terminal complexities. The 'upper end passage' had good air-flow and awaits thinner or more determined cavers.

Well, another nine years goes by, and viola, the cave map is ready for the SAG RAG. My thoughts are: 1. You never know when a nice cave might show up, 2. Sometimes little caves become bigger caves, 3. This sort of thing happens more if you go caving a lot, 4. I better go back and GPS the entrance before I forget where it is again, and 5. Don't just check the ends of the trenches.

BB

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 GROTTTO: _____

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- _____ SAG dues (includes RAG) \$5 per person or family (circle one).
- _____ I want to subscribe to CAL CAVER too for another \$10.
- _____ SAG RAG subscription only, without grotto membership \$5.
- _____ TOTAL. Make checks payable to "Shasta Area Grotto", not ("SAG")
and send to Steve Hobson, 2433 California St., Redding CA 96001.

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