

# sag rag

35:4 July-Aug 2016



**NATURAL BRIDGE IN SISKIYOU COUNTY 8-9-16**

**INSIDE – INDIAN CAVE, BROWNS WHOLE, EN ROUTE / ENCORE,  
& SINGULAR ARCH**

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

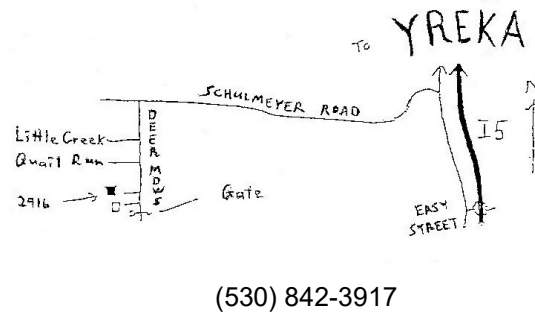
|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Oct 21    | SAG meeting at Melanie's                                      |
| Oct 22    | Cave trip TBD   |
| Nov/Dec 2 | SAG meeting at Broeckel's, nominate officers, cookie exchange |
| Dec 3     | Cave trip TBD   |

## Maps to the Meetings

OCT



NOV



## SAG RAG SUMMARY

By Bighorn Broeckel

Time to wrap up some spring-summer season lowlights, including long lost Indian Cave, as mentioned last time. Also we have Jim Wolff's cautionary tale from Browns wHole etc. Beware of aimlessly wandering cave trips to local caves on your decadent birthdays, you know, the birthdays that pass through decades. Eventually, this all-lava issue of the SAG RAG gets topped off with three more little lava tubes, bringing a total of five new lava tube cave maps for Northern California, with a total combined cave length of 373 feet. It seems like as we get older, the new caves keep getting shorter. So what's up with that? We actually have a couple new Northern California solution cave maps coming soon to a SAG RAG near you. **BB**

## July 8, 2016 Shasta Area Grotto May-June Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. at Wolffs' in McCloud.

Present were: Bill Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, and Jim & Liz Wolff.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April 22 Meeting were accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have a balance of \$832.

**SAG RAG Report:** Bill is back from his family weddings and is working on the next issue.

**Website and E-RAG:** Both working, we are awaiting completion of a WNS statement for the website.

### Correspondence:

No new correspondence apart from KCTMF reports on a rescue on the PCT.

### Calendar

July 25: Bill Broeckel will be on a Steamboat Frank survey trip, requiring vertical gear.

Aug 26: SAG meeting at 7:30 pm at Steve's in McCloud. Saturday: Coyote survey or McCloud Lake caves

Sept. 1-5: Marbles trip.

Sept. 23 there will be a Paul Gibson trip, Contact is Joel Despain.

Sept. 23: SAG meeting at 7:30 pm at Wolffs' in McCloud. Planning for the SAG/SAR training practice in October.

Oct. 8: SAG/SAR training. We will collect at Steve's in McCloud Oct. 7 to be ready to start at 8:00 am on the 8<sup>th</sup>. SAR people will arrive at 9:00 am.

Dec 2: SAG meeting at 7:30 pm at Bill and Judy's in Yreka for officer nominations, setting Jan-July 2017 calendar, and sharing cookies.

### Old Business:

We have 5 people (Bill, Steve, Dave, Mike and Jim) for the Marbles trip. We need 8 people minimum.

### New Business:

Bill will be taking girl scouts to the Marbles July 19, probably taking them into Skunk Hollow. He needs one or two more people to help out. There will be about 14 kids and 4 adults.

### Trip Reports:

Bill and Judy Broeckel surveyed Erratic Attic near Deep Sink May 31.

Memorial Day weekend SAG and OHDG were at Lava Beds. While we were there: Beej Jorgensen, Jim Wolff and Anthony Coleman surveyed in Low Blow Cave; Dave Smith, Rick Magnan and Anthony checked 3 ice caves with Bill Devereaux; and Liz Wolff, Dave, Rick and Geoff MacNaughton finished the Stealth Bridge survey.

Jim, Liz, Dave, Doug Smith and Tom Rickman were at Eagle Lake June 25. Tom found a new cave (Bail Cave) that was surveyed, followed by a survey of the two sections of Indian Cave.

Russ Yoder found several new caves near Black Stout Cave and in the Double Hole flow area.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.**

**Dave Smith, SAG Secretary**

**DS**

## August 26, 2016 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm. at Hobson's in McCloud.

Present were: Bill and Judy Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Mike and Barbara Stufflebeam, Dave Smith, and Jim & Liz Wolff.

(continued)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the July Meeting were accepted as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have a balance of \$832.

**SAG RAG Report:** The next issue will have an article by Jim and Liz Wolff on Indian Cave.

**Website and E-RAG:** Meeting schedule for the rest of the year has been updated, and latest Sag Rag is in.

### **Correspondence:**

Ernie Coffman sent information on European caves and karst, and some conferences ahead.

Tom Rickman sent trail cam photos of some locals at Parrish cave.

Dave Riggs sent a news release on vandalism at Tommy Tucker Cave.

### **Calendar**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Aug 26    | SAG meeting at Steve Hobson's outside of McCloud                         |
| Aug 27    | Survey of Coyote Cave, limestone cave below McC Reservoir, contact Steve |
| Sept 1-5  | Mules to & from the Marbles, contact Steve                               |
| Sept 2-4  | Lava Beds survey trips, contact Liz                                      |
| Sept 30   | SAG meeting at Wolffs', prep for SAG/SAR cave rescue exercise            |
| Oct 1     | Work out rescue scenario, renew skills, etc., contact Steve              |
| Oct 7-9   | Paul Gibson survey trip, limestone, backpack, contact Joel Despain       |
| Oct 8     | SAG/SAR cave rescue exercise, contact Steve or Melanie Jackson           |
| Oct 21    | SAG meeting at Melanie's   |
| Oct 22    | Cave trip TBD  |
| Nov/Dec 2 | SAG meeting at Broeckels', nominate officers, cookie exchange            |
| Dec 3     | Cave trip TBD  |

### **Old Business:**

We have federal WNS contacts and need contacts for Modoc National Forest, Oregon Caves, and Rogue River.

October 1 training prep will be at Steve's in McCloud.

The Paul Gibson trip was moved to Columbus Day weekend.

### **New Business:**

Liz has been talking with Russ Yoder, who is looking at cave names and can update us before we name "new" caves he already knows

We need to update our cave files.

The Convention was hot, dusty and windy, with golf course camping. SAG attendees included Liz and Jim, Ernie Coffman, Bill and Peri Frantz, Ginger Sanders, Doug and Tabitha Viner. Liz attended the Congress of Grottos, representing SAG and Shascade Caving Society.

Liz will lead a Barnum Cave Bat Walk Sept. 21, at 7 pm or a little earlier.

### **Trip Reports:**

August 10, Liz, Jim, Josh Hydeman and his girlfriend Jackie went to Bobcat and Rooty Tooty. Josh and Jackie also visited the other ice caves in the area to photograph ice. August 13 Liz, Jim and Steve went to Brown's Whole Cave, keeping Steve away from his house while his surprise birthday party was being set up. At the Convention, Liz and Jim visited Rose Guano Cave and Cave Lake State Park, but skipped the hot hike to the shelter caves there. On August 25 Jim and Liz were at Merrill Ice Cave talking with visitors at the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Park Service. John Tinsley was also there for the event.

August 1-2 Bill and Judy Broeckel visited the Medicine Lake Highlands. They finished the Easter Seal survey on the Water Cave Flow, and surveyed several hundred feet of a new cave (Tucked Away) that connects to a segment of Water Cave. They found a crack cave (Abysmal Bliss) and some others.

In July Dave Smith visited two lava tube caves in the area of Wilson Ice Cave, after getting location information on the caves from Tom Rickman.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

**Dave Smith, SAG Secretary**

**DS**

**Eagle Lake, June 24-25, 2016****By Liz Wolff**

This trip was attended by Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, Tom Rickman and Doug Smith with Rambo the well-behaved stick chasing dog. Dave & Doug arrived early afternoon at the Pine Bridge dispersed camping area along Pine Creek's mostly dry creek bed. There was only one muddy mosquito farm left from any water flow of the winter and spring snowmelt. They put up signs from the Eagle Lake road to the camp as it was not quite as straightforward as it had appeared to be on the map and on Google Earth.

The next morning Tom Rickman showed up about 8am ready to go caving and show us Indian Cave and another nearby cave that he later named Bail Cave. We drove about a mile and parked, hiked in a looping circle and found Bail Cave. We set up the survey with Tom getting his feet wet reading instruments, Jim and Dave sharing the station setting and exploring. As I drew the cave in the book, Tom was turning over rocks and Jim was looking for any obsidian there might be in the area. Doug bailed to go fishing with Rambo, survey isn't his thing. Tom found white bugs: millipede, springtail, a tiny spider and some porcupine scat. He mentioned that porcupines are getting rarer with the growth of the mountain lion population.

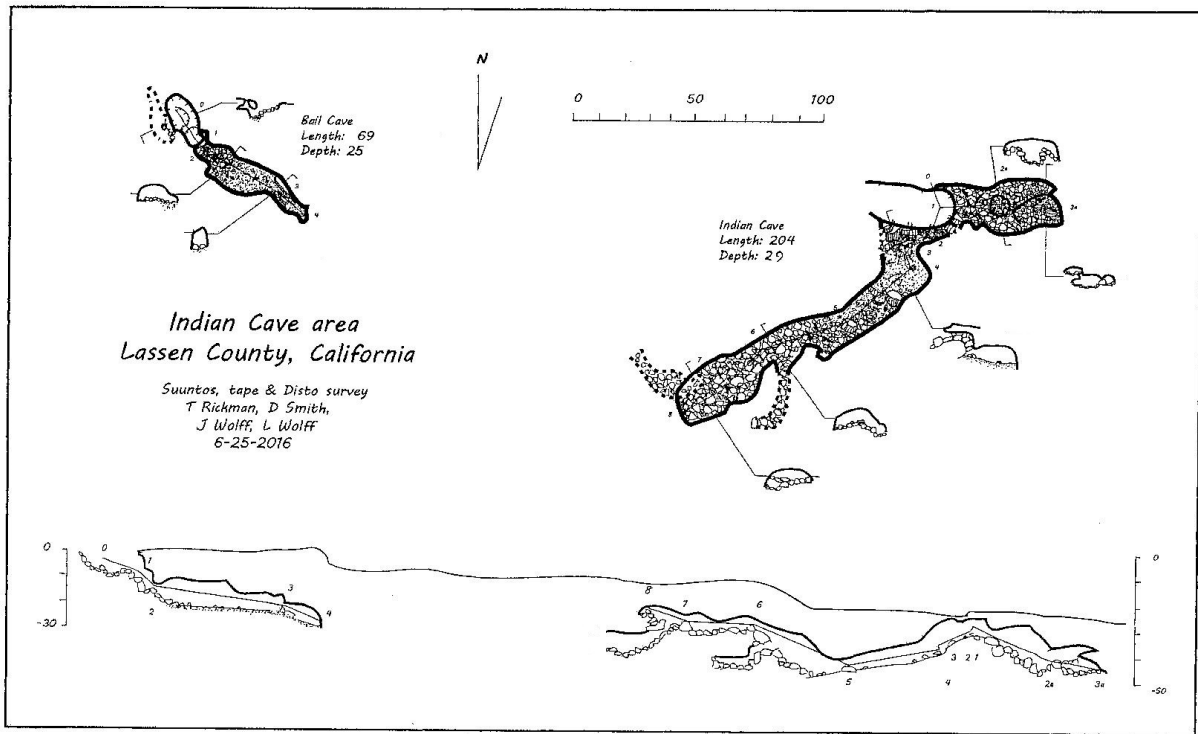
Bail Cave has a tight entrance through breakdown and drops down to a detritus and decomposed guano floor. Most of it is walking sized and, once past the entrance breakdown, there is very little breakdown. It is 69.05 feet long and 25.25 feet deep. Next to the "0" station is an overhang that hides an intact chamber about 20 feet long, one foot high, and perched about 3 feet above the rubble floor of the sink.

From there we hiked nearly due east to Indian Cave. Different legends surround this cave, one being that 300 Indians were massacred in the cave; another that only one Indian was killed. You couldn't put 300 people in most of the cave in any one place. The east end has a large entrance dropping quickly down to a deep and damp hole in the floor that appears at times to hold water, so the cave may actually have been a water source for the indigenous peoples. Jim was looking for obsidian and Tom turning over rocks but not finding as many bugs as in Bail Cave. He did find a white millipede near the "pool" area; Jim found no obsidian or other items that could be artifacts.

To get into the main body of the cave, we squeezed through a dirt-floored, breakdown-walled and ceilinged crawl. At one point we could look up and see daylight from a boulder-jammed alcove at the top of the sink. A tight turn and we were walking on a loose guano & dirt floor. The cave sloped steeply down to the low point and the beginning of the breakdown. In the breakdown we found a couple of side passages, crawling through boulders. Near the end we surprised and woke a long-legged Myotis who flew around us for a while as we exited the cave. Just before the breakdown filled end of the cave is a small hole in the breakdown that goes into a lower level that turns into a breakdown floored walking passage. We were out of time so exited without surveying that passage.

Indian Cave is currently 204.0 feet long and 29.1 feet deep. It is entirely breakdown floored after the guano slope, and without much air movement it is damp. We decided to break camp and head home since it was still early in the day and we had no more objectives—other than reducing the mosquito population.

**LW**



Map: Bail Cave, Indian Cave

**Brown's wHole corrected version** by Jim Wolff

A "Cave Trip" That Was Really, a **KIDKNAPPING**...! Aug 13, 2016

Cavers: Steve Hobson, Liz and Jim Wolff

By: J.H.W.

During a "diversionary" cave trip, Liz and I were asked to "take Steve caving" to get him out of his house, while his little wife, Susan, THREW a *surprise* birthday party together, that was to be held in the afternoon sometime. So, it was with reluctance, that he went with us, since he had a load of chores planned to do instead.... Would turn out that these caves would bring fond memories back, at least for me.

Our cave trip started out driving right past **Brown's wHole Cave**, and had to turn around and try to spot it again. It was well-hidden in the chest-deep "White Thorn"—local common name for, BRUSH! A quick two-step-down-in, through a 3' diameter hole, and we were in a small entrance room you could stand up in, with the floor dropping steeply down towards the far wall. And there was a choke point, which was near a historic location for an occupied porcupine nest, that we encountered, (Mr. Brown and I) on our discovery trip into the cave, so many years ago. Now, Steve, Liz and I were met with a (fresh?) pile of breakdown blocking the way into the main parts of the cave.

Steve dug down through the rubble, to reveal the usual choke—we were IN! We poked around in most of the passage in the cave that day. There's a belly-crawl, uphill a short distance into the last room. I only had to scoop out some stones and rocks, to make room for this Seventy-Year-OLD body! Steve and Liz slipped through THAT PART, with no problem. I had a devil of a time, shoving/stuffing myself up there! No respect for their ELDERS, I see...! Anyway, Steve went on even farther, to look at the pit lead Bill Broeckel found a few years ago, to see if it was do-able, and what special equipment that might be needed to do it safely. So, since no one else wanted to venture down in there, and SCOOP Bill's lead, the cave will remain virgin in that section, until....

Pretty dry-ish down there now, but on my last trip, I got real wet and muddy. This time we were dry and the dirt sloughed-off easily soon after.

Drought conditions everywhere...!

Had to have lunch now or never, so we ate.

Next cave was **Coke Bottle Cave**. I hadn't visited the cave in MANY years too, and was surprised, yet pleased with the vertical complexity of the cave. I had forgotten some of the details of the cave. I hunted there in vain, for that bottle fragment that the cave was named for. Couldn't find it, but didn't squeeze myself into every lead possible, either. So the cave being near the surface, it is likely under sand anyway. This cave was pretty dry too; where there was (normally) standing water, in small puddles, each rock had its share of mud to generously give each visitor...! Ah, the MEMORIES...!

Steve and I were on this trip, this time, and yet he seemed to be ready to head for the surface already, spending only a short time in the cave, so here WE are.... it is TOO early to go home now—and we were supposed to be gone from the Hobson's house until MUCH later than this, so we went "Cave Hunting"...! Hunting, rather, "*re-locating*" Tick City Cave!

(continued)

After driving EVERY brush-covered "road" that our GPS provided us to drive, we didn't find that cave, so, we decided to look for J's Fault Cave, which with more DUSTY roads, and nothing familiar, we ate a lot of dust, had fun anyway - so we went home

At the Hobson's, everything was already set into motion...we had a wonderful time, met some nice folks, and ate great food! **JW**

**Steve's SIXTY YEARS OLD! Happy Birthday, OLD man!**



Hobson helps fellow caver on rope 8-27-16



**EN ROUTE and ENCORE CAVES**

by Bighorn Broeckel

Here is a pair of associated caves we found in another lava overflow off to the side from a major trench. We were on the one hour hike out to a remote area with many unmapped caves. We took a short-cut and came across this entrance that looked invitingly wide. We managed a quick single 30 foot shot to where the cave ended on a back ledge. We soon were on our way to the main objective for the day, and named this short diversionary cave "En Route".

Whilst we were inside En Route Cave, we did notice a small side passage to the left about the diameter of an arm. You could look through there and see into another cave, with light visible from another entrance. It looked like something similar to the arrangement of Conjoined Cave, already described in a previous RAG, further down the flow. We were in a hurry, on a mission, so didn't take time to investigate, but did make a mental note of this lead. As it would later turn out, this was actually quite different from Conjoined.

The next year we only had a half day, so we went straight for this lead as the primary objective. The other entrance was right there, though smaller than the En Route entrance. There is one place where you can slide in without trouble, and the passage immediately widened out and offered a generous two feet of ceiling height. The ceiling sported a plethora of longitudinal, parallel grooves about an inch deep. The small arm-sized passage that connects to En Route was located. Sure enough, you could look through and see the other passage lit up with light from the En Route entrance.

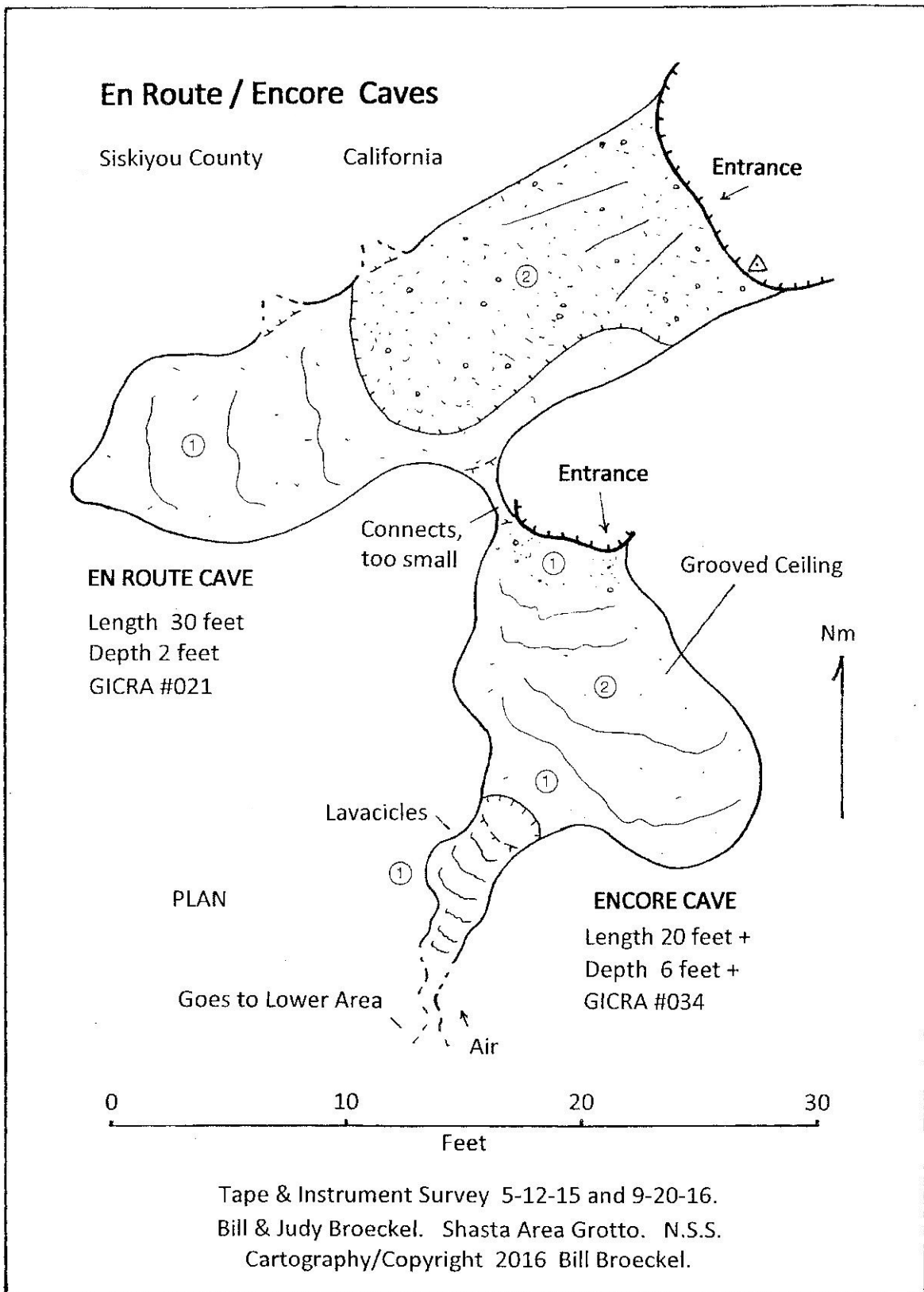
At the back of the new cave, a hole in the floor dropped down steeply to a very snug constriction so tight we decided not to push it. Going head first, you could see that the cave was bigger on the other side of the narrows, and air was moving out of the hole. I believe that smaller cavers could get through here as is, so this remains as a doable lead worth pursuing at some future time. Both Judy and I checked the surface. There was a lava pool or depression in the area of interest, but we found no obvious entrance. We named our second cave Encore, length only 20+ ft., but with more waiting, another one for the somebody-else-do-it list! **BB**

**SINGULAR ARCH CAVE**

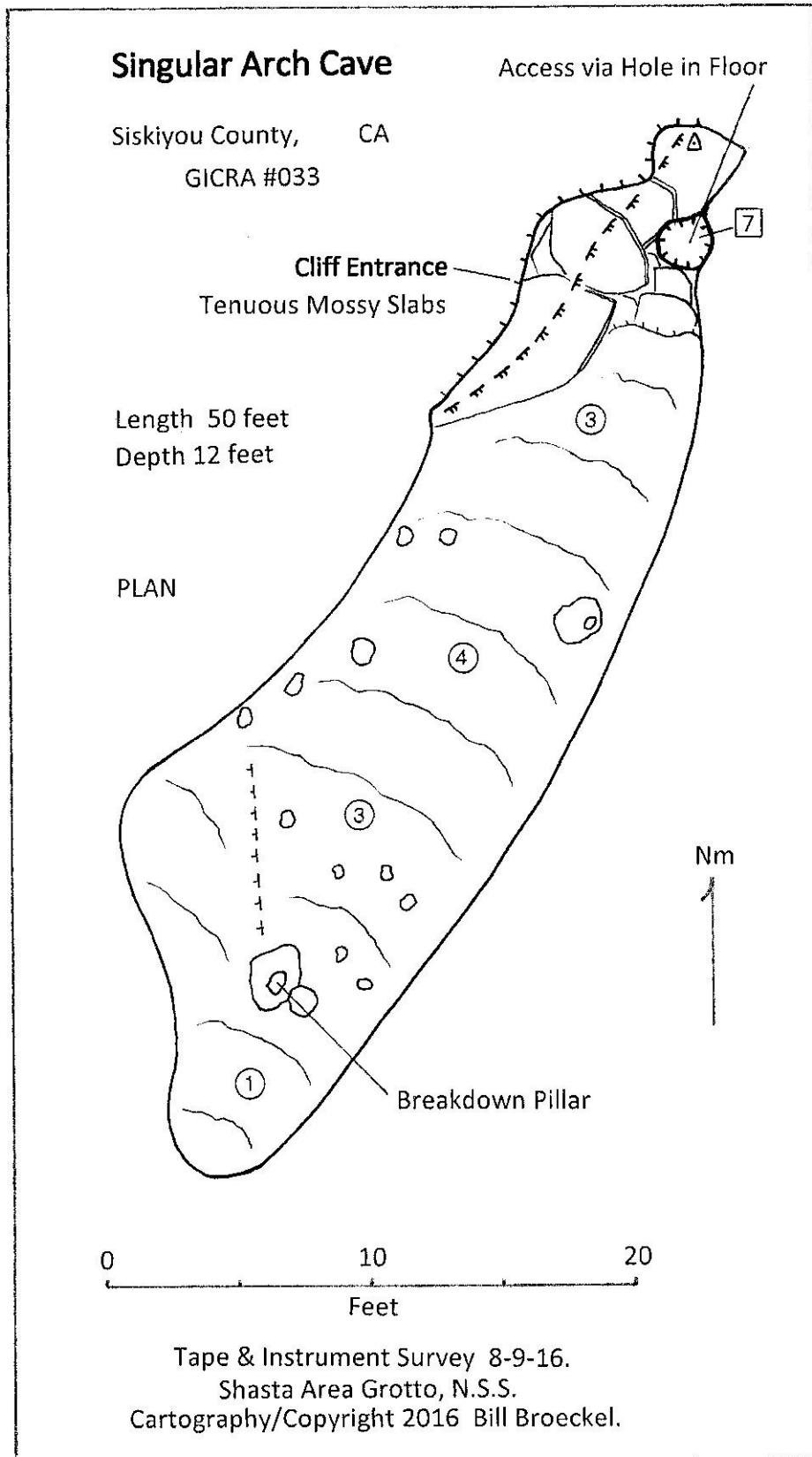
by Bighorn Broeckel

This bonus cave is not far from En Route/Encore, and is found in the far wall of the main trench. Access is tricky. One route is to do a boulder move to a ledge upflow on the far wall, pass through the singular arch pictured on the RAG cover, and locate the perched entrance from below. The easiest way to get in from here is to climb up through a hole in the overhanging floor. The cave is angled downflow, yet the floor slopes up. This probably represents backflow from a plugged upper level meander. All this makes for an interesting cave, but only 50-ft long.

**BB**



Map: En Route Cave, Encore Cave



Map: Singular Arch Cave



**Entrance to En Route Cave 5-12-15**

**SAG RAG 35:4 July-Aug 2016**  
2916 Deer Mdws Rd  
Yreka CA 96097

**STAMP**

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