

sag rag

35:5 Sept-Oct 2016



**Hobson gives Judy Broeckel final instructions on the frog.
COYOTE CAVE {8-27-16}**

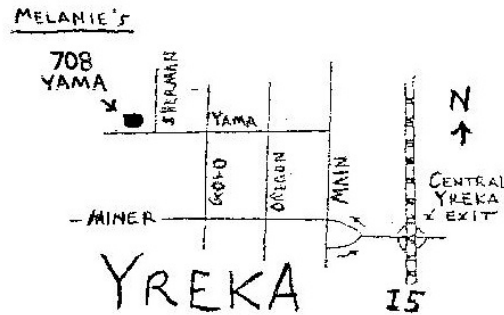
INSIDE – SPECIAL COYOTE CAVE ISSUE

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 \$5 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 2017

Our new calendar of events is here:

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------|--|
| Jan 27 | meeting at Melanie's in Yreka, caving at Lava Beds | | |
| Feb 24 | meeting at Arley Kisling's in Lake Shastina, cave clean ups | | |
| Mar 24 | meeting at Steve's in Redding, caving Shasta Lake | | |
| Apr 28 | meeting at Wolff's in McCloud, caving TBD | | |
| May 13-14 | Western Region Speleo-ed, Sequoia | | |
| May 26 | meeting at Wayne's in Sacramento, caving Sierra's, or TBD | | |
| Jun 9-11 | Paul Gibson trip, conditions permitting, contact Joel | Jul 4 weekend | Marbles or Lava Beds |
| Jun 19-23 | NSS convention, Rio Rancho NM | Labor Day weekend | packers to Marbles, contact Steve for info |
| Jun 23-25 | Hat Creek meeting & campout | Columbus weekend | Paul Gibson, contact Joel |



Dues are due! Send \$5 to
Steve Hobson, 2433 California St, Redding CA 96001

We need to update your data! If you have a new cell number or change to your email address, please let us know so we can update our records.

If you plan to attend the January trip to the Lava Beds and stay in the Research Center, be sure to bring your own food (there is a full service kitchen), bedding (there are 6 bunks & 2 hide-a-bed couches), personal items (2 full bathrooms) and caving gear. **All cave gear (boots, coveralls, gloves, equipment) must be clean and decontaminated when you come to the park.** You will be expected to help with one of the on-going projects. Please RSVP to me if you want to go.

Hope to see you at one event or another!
Liz Wolff, SAG chair

SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

This seems to be more of an "El Nino Winter" than last year was. At least we are getting some drought relief, but it has been harder to reach the caves. I can remember other stormy winters past, such as that time when the big grotto adventure was getting over Snowman's Hill to Wolffs' place in George Reel's vruck (or tran). Yeah, he actually welded the front of a van to the back of a truck. Or maybe it was the front of a truck to the back of a van. Anyway, it had some steering issues, but it smashed through the snow pretty well, and we made it to McCloud in one piece, and back again to where we parked our cars near the interstate. These are the times when the caves get some rest. This issue harkens back to warmer weather last August, when we finally got around to hike in, drop in, and survey Coyote Cave. Enjoy.

BB

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.

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

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hot hike to the shelter caves there. On August 25 Jim and Liz were at Merrill Ice Cave talking with visitors at the 100th 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 a lower terrace.

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



Advance team arrives at the entrance. COYOTE CAVE {8-27-16}

ANOTHER COYOTE CAVE By Bighorn Broeckel

Here is another limestone cave for Shasta County, and another of those SAG specials, this one tracked down by the illustrious Steve Hobson. It goes by the rather pedestrian title of Coyote Cave. The name is not Steve's fault, for the cave was so christened many years ago.

Of course, there are many other Coyote Caves in the lives of men. At least two of them lurk about in Siskiyou County. The first is supposedly a secret cave, although I myself happened upon its name and location clearly shown on a map for sale in a local hardware store. The second is a perfectly fine cave surveyed to 98 feet by J. Wolff and A. Mastel on 8-24-84 (1). Modoc County also has its own Coyote Cave, surveyed to 676 feet by B. Rogers, P. Wong, and F. Reyes in May of 1986 (2). Perhaps we should allow every county to have at least one Coyote.

So, this latest Shasta County nominee actually has its name and history going back before the 1980s, probably pre-NSS, and maybe even from before that secretive Coyote Cave of Siskiyou County, already briefly mentioned above. From what I understand, Steve Hobson became aware of some old ranching letters and documents in reference to a "Coyote Cave" up in the hills behind so-and-so's spread. The people writing this sort of thing, by and large, are honest-to-God, straight shooting direct descendants of original pioneers who may have camped at Valley Forge, and crossed the Delaware on the Mayflower, all tired and poor. You can't just dismiss it lightly. If they said there was a cave, then by golly there must be a cave. It had to be out there somewhere.

Still, Steve had to do some historical sleuthing to figure out exactly which ranch we were talking about here. Deaths, marriages, land deals, and borderline disputes all had to be sorted out. Eventually he had it narrowed down to a relatively small area where this old Coyote Cave just had to be. All that was left was to actually go out there, walk up to the entrance, and go caving.

There is a reference to one of the early search trips in 2009 (3). All it says is "Nice day of caving, searching for Coyote Cave." I believe there were several of these trips, and there was a core group of determined ridge-walkers that included Steve (never-give-up) Hobson, Dave (ever courageous) Smith, and Jim (up for any cave) Wolff. I recall some stories of steep loose slopes, rock slides, clawing through brush infested with ticks and snakes, and swimming through thickets of poison oak, all glistening oily green in the sweltering sun, cavers dripping blood and sweat, with clanging canteens already empty by 10:00 a.m. "Nice day of caving" indeed.

continued



Ceiling and wall features. COYOTE CAVE {8-27-16}

It went this way for some time. The next reference I see is in 2011 (4). "Steve H., Dallas C., Jim W., and Dave S. found the cave entrance to Coyote Cave". I think it was Dallas Carlon who walked right up to it. Just like that, this new/old Coyote Cave went from "historical lead" to "needs to be explored and surveyed", from "out there somewhere" to "its right there". Hobson actually dropped in to recon the pit entrance, and came back out on a single prussic. It was a cave, sure enough. Things were going so well that even the rattlesnake that showed up was described as "very small". (Dude, those are the most dangerous ones).

AUGUST 27, 2016. A large contingent of SAG cavers arrived at the trailhead ready to hike to the cave. At first we were able to follow a trail, crossing streams and traversing slopes through lovely woodlands. This part of the outing was quite pleasant.

After a time, outcrops of schist and limestone began to appear along the way. Soon it was time to leave the trail, and head up a steep elevation. Loose rocks, bushes and poison oak posed some problems. The group became slightly fragmented and lost, but persisted. This part of the day was more difficult, but also challenging in a good way, as we made adjustments and kept it all together.

Landmarks became more clarified, and the group converged on a nice exposed ridgeline of high quality limestone showing numerous phreatic phenomena. A feeling of general excitement rippled through the cavers as, one by one or in pairs, we arrived at the vertical pit entrance. We ate some lunch, sorted gear, and mentally prepared ourselves for caving. The overall vibe was very good. Flat spots, however, were at a premium. I found a nook where I ate my sandwich. If I didn't move around much, I would not contact any of the surrounding poison oak.

The group was soon safely rappelled to the floor of the 31 foot drop. There was a large choke-stone half way down, where a person could stop and stand if they wanted. The landing area was a broader portion of the crevasse-like cave. The southeast wall was steep and solid, sporting curtains of flowstone, while the northwest wall was more variable and broken. So of course, the cave went NE and SW.

The more promising passage was the SW, which was also the down-ridge direction. The trend of the cave was the same as the ridge. Barb and Judy took the lead end of the tape down a scramble over some steps. Barb pushed through a small hole into a small room at the end. Cave air welled up from an even smaller hole in the floor. It was too small, but you could look through and see more vertical cave below.

The NE direction from the entrance landing area involved a tricky chimney climb into another small room with no continuations, and we were done with our day's survey. Returning to the trailhead, we found a new and improved route back down to the trail, and a good time was had by all. There was one safety reminder, however, that bears mention.



Wall surfaces. COYOTE CAVE {8-27-16}

I was down at the bottom of the drop waiting for my turn to go up the rope. There was a real comfortable flat spot on a ledge perfect for sitting, but idly I decided to stand in a slightly safer recess more sheltered from any potential rock fall. Well, sure enough, the call "rock!" came down from above, followed immediately by a fairly large rock that exploded upon impact on that exact spot so perfect for sitting. Lesson: stay alert and cautious, and anticipate falling rocks, especially with a large group in a rarely visited vertical cave. Better to be safely ensconced while waiting, as there won't be time to dive for it when the rock is coming for you.

Participants on this cave survey, in alphabetical order, were: Bill & Judy Broeckel, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Barbara & Mike Stufflebeam, and Jim Wolff. Thank-you to the diligent historians, ridge-walkers, and leaders who tracked down this long lost coyote. This Coyote Cave, by the way, was Judy's first vertical caving experience. **BB**

(1) NSS 1990 Convention Guidebook, p. 77.

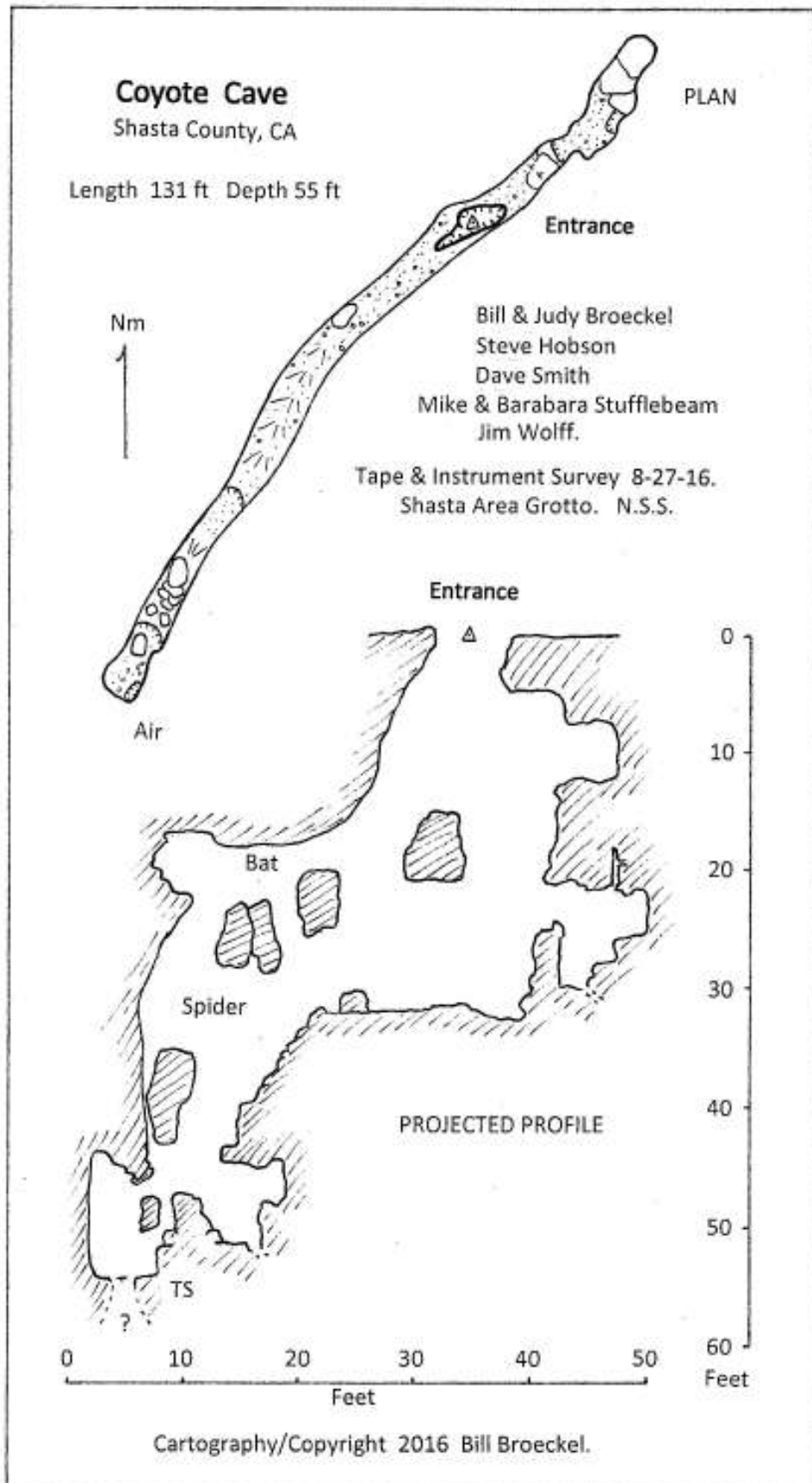
(2) Short Rounds, Jan-Feb 1987, p. 13.

(3) SAG RAG, Jul-Aug 2009, p. 3.

(4) SAG RAG, Jul-Aug 2011, p. 5.



Steve Hobson at the cave entrance. COYOTE CAVE {8-27-16}



Map: Coyote Cave



Descending SW passage. COYOTE CAVE {8-27-16}



Scenic detail. COYOTE CAVE {8-27-16}

SAG RAG
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Yreka CA 96097

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