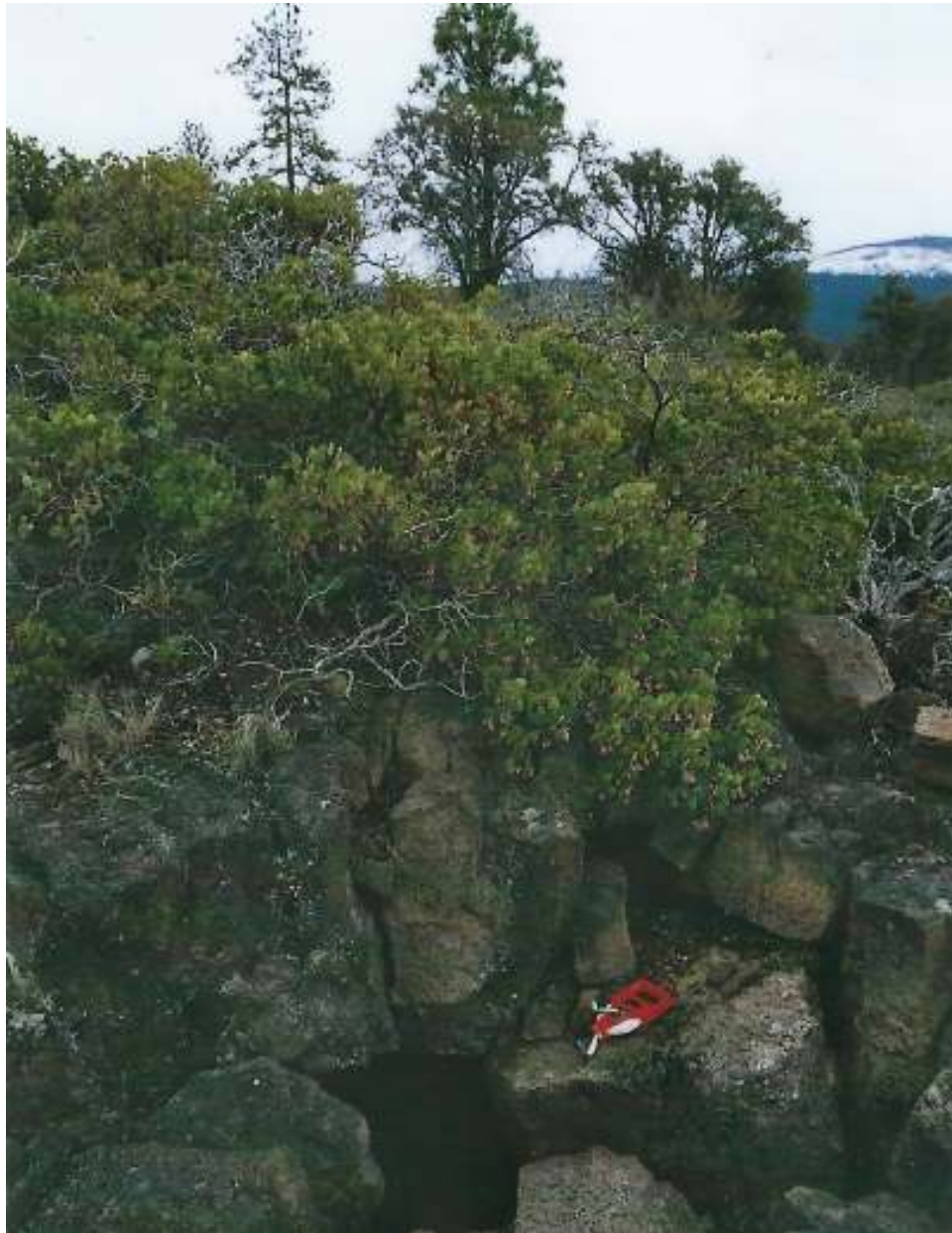


# sag rag

37:3 May-June 2018



**Shatter Box Café Cave Entrance – 4-4-17**

**Inside: Recent Hat Creek Cave Reports**

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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>>.

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## CAVER CALENDAR 2018

**August 24-26** Medicine Lake multigrotto cave camp and meeting <ringbat1@gmail.com>

**Sept 21** SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Stufflebeams or Wolffs <ringbat1@gmail.com>

## SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Sorry that I didn't have the grotto documents ready for member scrutiny in this issue, as promised. The whole process is a little daunting, but I'm not giving up on it. Just not ready yet. What is ready, sort of, are articles on Grotto activity at Hat Creek. Some pretty good caves have been showing up, thanks to input from Tom Rickman. **BB**

## UNOFFICIAL SHASTA AREA GROTTA MEETING MINUTES

**APRIL 28, 2018:** SAG Meeting called to order at 8:45 pm at Fritzke's place near the coast. Present were Jim & Liz (Chair) Wolff, Dave Smith, Mark Jones, Bill Broeckel, Xeronimo Castaneda, Hans Stein, Dick & Kathy LaForge, Mark & Marsha Fritzke. Introductions. March Minutes approved. No major problems on regular reports, as available. Correspondence: Western Cave Conservancy is open to arranged Grotto trips to Santa Cruz area caves. Business old and new: Katrina gave updates on plans for summer cave monitors at Lava Beds. Siskiyou Land Trust holding fund raiser auction on June 10, hoping to include SAG guided cave trip up for bid. SAG working on revised versions of Grotto documents such as application form, ethics, bylaws and constitution. Marbles mules pending road access to trailhead - check with Hobson. Joel Despain has more dates for Paul Gibson and is also looking into a similar effort in Scorpion Cave. International Volcanospeleological Symposium will be at Lava Beds this summer. Trip Reports: Hans enjoyed some kid-tripping to Pluto's and Subway Caves. Katrina participated in Cave Research Foundation (CRF) expeditionary survey and monitoring at Lava Beds. Bill reported on cave mapping trips in Siskiyou and Shasta Counties. Mark Jones also commented on CRF trips to Lava Beds. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

**MAY 26, 2018:** SAG meeting called to order at 7:48 pm at Lava Beds Research Center. Present were Jim & Liz (Chair) Wolff, Bill & Judy Broeckel, Selena Johnson, Luis Guilin, Katrina Smith, Bill Devereaux (renewed); and Matt, Heather, Neil, and Jacob visiting from Mother Lode Grotto. Introductions. No major problems on regular reports, as available. Business old and new: 18<sup>th</sup>



Jim Wolff and Dave Smith ridgewalking at Clam Beach, CA, when weather cleared Sunday am – 4-29-18.

International Volcanospeleological Symposium on schedule for July. Chances for Marbles mules looking better – contact Hobson. Sam Baxter is our contact person for the Siskiyou Land Trust auction cave trip, to be scheduled and planned. Questions: which if any western caves are accessible to the disabled? Is this the June that we finally locate Jimmy Hoffa's final resting place? August 24 weekend multigrotto campout planned for Siskiyou County, with Shasta Area, High Desert, Mother Lode, and Redwood Grottos expressing interest. Caves discussed. Trip Reports: Bill D. reported on pre-Timeline caving at Lava Beds. Selena Johnson visited Kaumana Cave in the Big Island's 1881 Lava Flow. Congratulations were extended to Katrina Smith, finishing school at Humboldt, and returning to Lava Beds in a new position, Resource Chief. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

### **June 23, 2018 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 8 pm. at Hat Creek Campground.

Present were: Bill Broeckel, Colby Collins, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith and Jim and Liz Wolff

**Minutes:** The minutes of the May meeting were not available.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasury has a balance of \$ 1,060.00 .

**Listserv:** No report.

**Website and E-RAG:** Both are current.

continued

**SAG RAG Report:** The Ernie Coffman issue is out. The next issue will include a Hat Creek report and a report on Executive Committee proposals for changes to the Membership Application, Caver Responsibility Statement and SAG Constitution.

**Correspondence:**

NSS has authorized a Directory of past and current NSS members. Cards are being sent to current members to update their personal information.

Tom Rickman requested a Burnt Elderberry Cave map, which has been sent to him.

The September 21 meeting will be held in McCloud if the Stufflebeams are not back from their PCT trip in time.

**Calendar**

- June 29–Jul 2 CRF weekend at Lava Beds, KMCTF at the Marbles
- July 13 SAG meeting at Viners' in Ashland, possible Oregon Caves trip Sat.
- July 20-25 International Volcano Speleological Conference at LABE
- July 28-Aug 3 NSS Convention in Helena Montana
- Aug 24-26 SAG campout (with OHDG & MLG?) in the Medicine Lake area. SAG meeting Sat.
- Aug 30 or 31 Marbles trip with pack mules, details TBA  
to Sept. 3 or 4
- Sept 21 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Stufflebeams' in Trinity Center. Preparation for SAG/SAR rescue practice
- Oct 13 SAG/SAR cave rescue practice, details TBA
- Oct 26 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Smith's in Chico. Caving Sat.

**Old Business:**

Updates to the membership list will be completed soon.

The updates to the Membership Application, Cave Protection Statement and Constitution need to be included in the next SAG RAG for consideration by the Regular Members of the grotto.

There is a new road to Lovers Camp and Steve will be checking on mules.

The Siskiyou Land Trust auction included bids for a SAG cave trip. The buyer bid \$250 and will plan a trip with her family. The caves on the trip will include the Roadside Complex and Spattercones areas.

**New Business:**

During the International Volcano Speleological Conference at LABE a trip for the conferees to the Medicine Lake Highlands is being planned.

**Trip Reports:**

Steve conducted a rope class with 6 members of the Shasta Forest Service on May 11, and took them to a local cave afterwards. He found the cave in need of new ropes and repairs to trail flagging.

Sat. June 23 – the cavers at the grotto meeting checked several caves using location information from Tom Rickman. One of the caves (Hat Trick, Man) was surveyed. The cave is 633', mostly crawling. On Sunday a second cave was mapped.

Memorial Weekend Jim and Liz Wolff finished the upper level of the Maze map at LABE, with assistance from Selena Johnson and Luis Guilin. Bill Broeckel, Selena and Luis also finished mapping Arkansas Cave, and visited Berthas Cupboard. Bill Devereaux and Katrina Smith led a trip to check ice levels in Crystal, Cox and Skull Caves.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.  
David Smith, SAG Secretary

**DS**

**SAG CAVE CLEANUP** By Anonymous

Someone had a wild hair, and wanted to see us clean up  
Subway Cave,  
mainly because we are tired of cleaning up Pluto's Cave, YEAR  
AFTER YEAR.....!

Besides, it sounded like there was going to be a crowd there  
to help, too...!

And, I was bringing a guest, my good friend from Dunsmuir,  
who wanted to tryout cave exploring,  
to see if it was for him, or not.

Saturday we all met at the cave. And from a recon cleanup in  
the cave by

SAG members, the year before - they knew exactly, just  
where they didn't

go in the cave. So, they had done the south branch, and WE  
got do the north end, this time!

As it turns out, it was just right, for our cleanup crew this  
time.

About every-other caver had small 1 gal. buckets, that when  
filled,

was dumped into a common collection point, which was then  
hauled out, when we left the cave.

Glass was a primary type of trash, little pieces and big – in the  
most inaccessible

nooks and crannies, too...! We spent most time on our  
knees, gathering much as

we could. A few larger things were collected, but I'd say that  
majority was small stuff....

We got done in early afternoon..., but my friend found out  
caving wasn't his thing,

even tho he stuck it out the whole trip! Anyway, he wanted  
to head home, while the others

wanted to stay in the area longer, so everyone went caving at  
Rusty Cave – which will be another trip report,

by someone else...!

...I should mention that I hadn't planned on doing this boring  
Trip Report, and I really don't remember

who showed up and helped...! So, in order to be fair, I won't  
mention anyone's names...!

In fact, MY name shouldn't be listed then, as the author – that  
would make me the HERO, who cleaned it all up by  
himself...! **NO!**

It was the combined force of volunteers from local govt.

agency sympathizers and cavers –  
that got the job Well Done...!

Thanks guys! (YOU know who you were/are...!)

**A**

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO - HAT CREEK CAMPOUT** By Bill Broeckel

JUNE 22, 2018: I rolled in to camp pretty late, as usual. Colby Collins must have been watching for me, because he came running up chomping at the bit for a new cave, like right now. He had already been out to Pecan Cave with Dave Smith and Steve Hobson. I suggested another old stand-by, but Colby wasn't going to have any of that. How about something else nearby, a cave he hadn't seen yet? Well, yeah, there was kind of a crawly one out in the bushes. "All right, let's go!" And so we were off caving.

That was how Colby, Dave and I ended up thrashing the brush looking for a cave after dark, one I hadn't even thought about since an entrance check about 20 years ago. This part of the Hat Creek Lava Flow had somehow escaped burning in recent wildfires, so the bushes were overhead. Plenty of manzanita and mahogany reared up, and we flung ourselves into it, with pressure ridge cliffs to watch out for every 20 to 30 feet. Each moon shadow looked like a cave. Eventually we gave up on finding the cave, and tried to find our way back to the car. We couldn't find the car.

Then the cave showed up unexpected.

Millipede Cave brought back some memories. When my son Benj was just a little guy, this was one of our first cave surveys. We cleaned up somebody's picnic rubbish in the entrance, and later spotted a pale millipede in the back chamber. The map was duly published in the SAG RAG. Now about a quarter century later, the cave was in great shape. No footprints. Nothing. The floor was damp. We tried to stay on the rocks along the initial stoop-walking gallery. We found the wiggle-way through the break down area, then did the sand crawl to the un-dug digs at the end. No millipedes came out this time. But the cave is about 150 feet long, and Colby got his wish – a cave he hadn't seen yet.

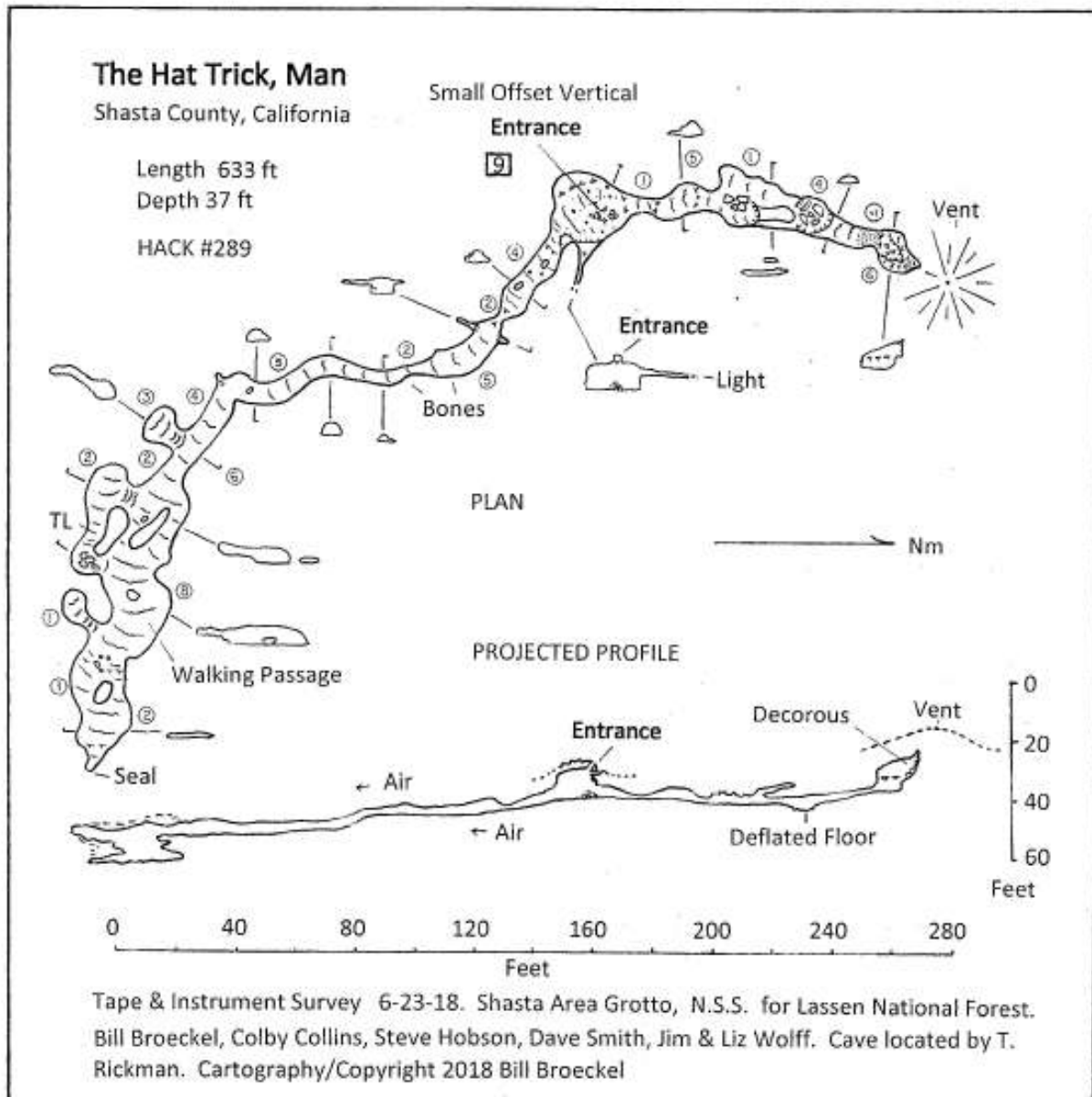
Outside the moon was still up. We picked up some marker trees, then a trail, and soon had the car. The Hat Creek cave camp was on, but I still needed to set up my tent.

JUNE 23, 2018: Thanks to Tom Rickman, we had a new Hat Creek cave area to look at on Saturday. Tom and his crew have been Google-searching and ridge-walking, and are coming up with entrances outside our usual expected areas. Like rebellious children, these caves just popped right up where they are not supposed to be. That's caves for ya, and these Hat Creeks can be tricky. Too bad Tom couldn't make it, but fortunately he sent along a few directives.

Our group was Colby Collins, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, and myself. By the time we got going and reached the starting point, it was already getting pretty hot. But we were excited anyway. The main objective was a tiny cave in a lava bubble that immediately drops into a walking passage. We had vertical ready for the application. We even had an entrance photo. However, the jack rabbits in the group went right by the bubble and didn't see the cave. We did see some other entrances as well as a barren cinder pile that we properly identified as a degraded vent. There was even a cavity near the apex of the vent that could be climbed into, and from which we extracted a couple of old beer cans.

Meanwhile, the more methodical Jim & Liz Wolff had located the main objective, herded up the rabbits, and brought some focus to bear on the day. Soon we had the tricky entrance rigged, and I got to go down first, not without some trepidation. My initial findings were that it was cool down there, the cave was moving air, and there were some rocks piled up at the bottom of the

continued



Tape & Instrument Survey 6-23-18. Shasta Area Grotto, N.S.S. for Lassen National Forest. Bill Broeckel, Colby Collins, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff. Cave located by T. Rickman. Cartography/Copyright 2018 Bill Broeckel

Map: Hat Trick, Man

short drop. Somebody had been in there before, and yes it would be possible to climb out of the cave, if you could do a pull-up.

Of course I was obligated to check around and see if it went anywhere. There were choices. I chose upflow, and after a suitable stretch, I found myself up under that Raggedy Ann vent. The last burp of the vent must have left that fudge-like lava plug up in the ceiling hole. So the plug came from the vent, and I was near the beginning of a run-off channel. My surmised position up there was later confirmed by a single surface survey shot from the entrance to the top of the vent.

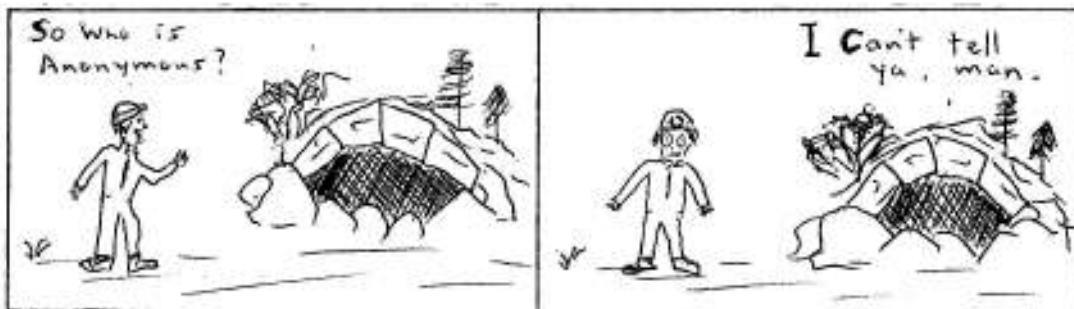
It was time to get back and report some findings. Soon Hobson and Collins came down and the three of us started mapping away. "On station", "Light on Station", "On Tape", and "Up tape" – except now with this disto thing it's "Watch your eyes". First we did upflow to the vent, not that far, but somewhat difficult with several people-filters to negotiate. Next we headed downflow, gallantly surveying where none had surveyed before. The going was easier, but longer.

Did I mention this was a cold cave moving air? Well, Colby was only lightly dressed for survey speed in refrigerator-like passages. By the time we reached the walking passage area down at the bottom, he was feeling seriously cold and needed some global warming ASAP. So Colby and Hobson went that direction. I solo surveyed the last few shots, and we all made it out OK. Hat Trick, Man Cave is 633 feet long, and 37 feet deep, and has just the one (vertical) entrance. Vertical caves are not common at Hat Creek. I think we can count them on one hand. Danger Pit, Monster Pit, and Kiva Cave come to mind.

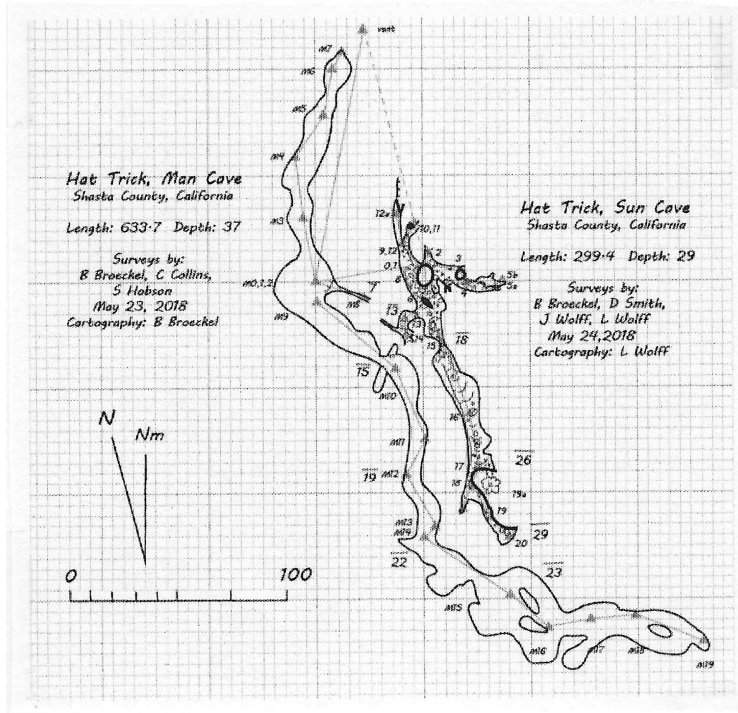
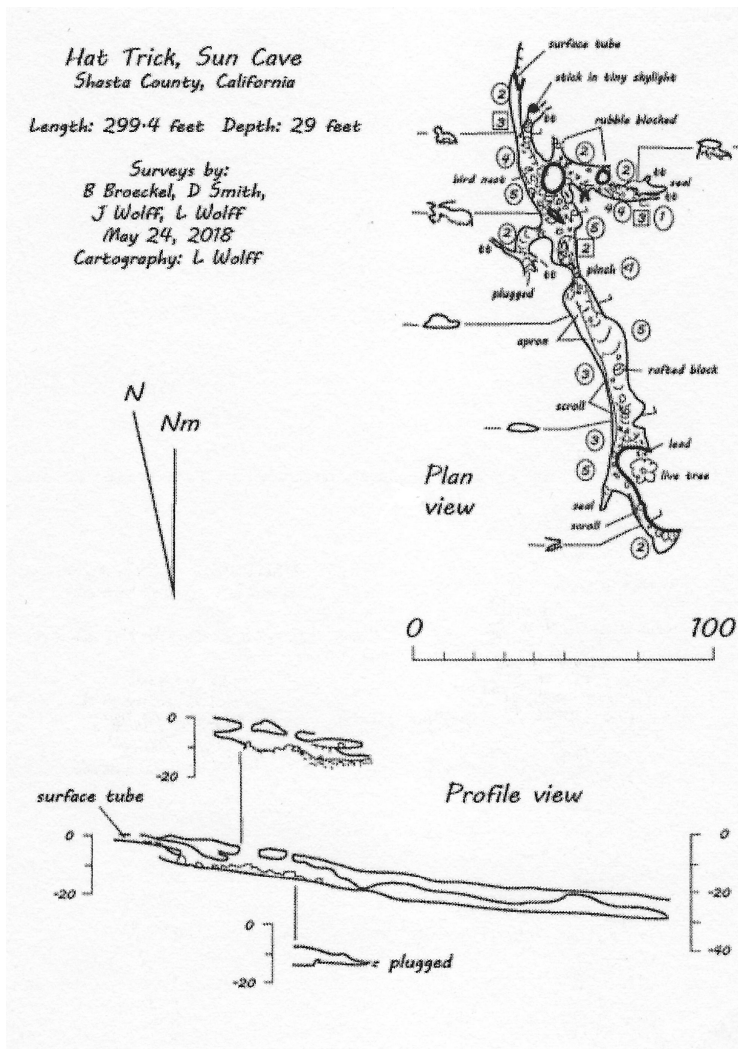
Meanwhile, the others outside (Jim, Liz, and Dave) had scouted the perimeters of the new-to-us vent, and reported many intriguing caves and entrances. However, we were all pretty drained by now, and retreated to lounge around in the shade at camp, making supper, listening to Hat Creek go by, and eventually having a Saturday night Grotto meeting.

JUNE 24, 2018: Four of the cavers had more time for caving on Sunday morning. We divided into two survey teams (Liz/Dave and Bill/Jim). The focus was on the next cave east and very close to Hat Trick, Man. That's how we were able to finish a second cave on this camp-out. Hat Trick, Sun Cave is 299-ft long and 29-ft deep. The two caves are the 14th and the 41<sup>st</sup> longest of the 290 surveyed caves for the Hat Creek project. We also passed 50,000 feet (9.5 miles) of total project surveyed passage on this trip.

This day was also really heating up, so we adjourned to a late lunch at JJs. JJs is a five star gourmet grill kind of place, yet also tolerant of post-cave cavers. Very nice really, but I still sort of miss the fish salad sandwiches at Uncle Runts. **BB**







Map: Hat Trick, Man and Hat Trick, Sun Caves

## SHATTER BOX CAFÉ CAVE

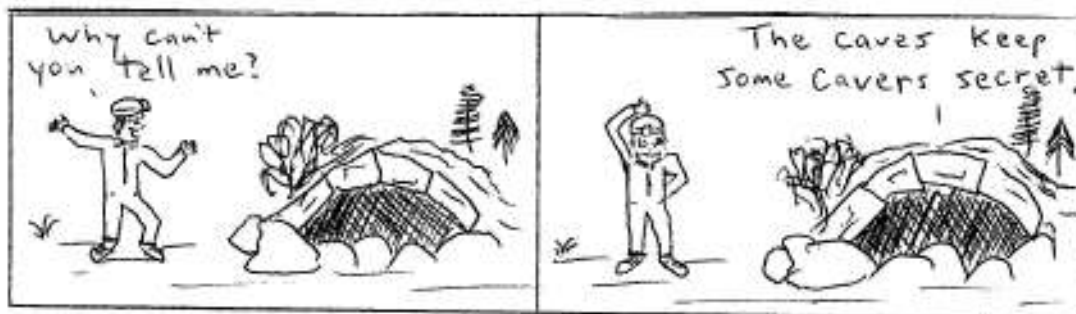
By Bill Broeckel

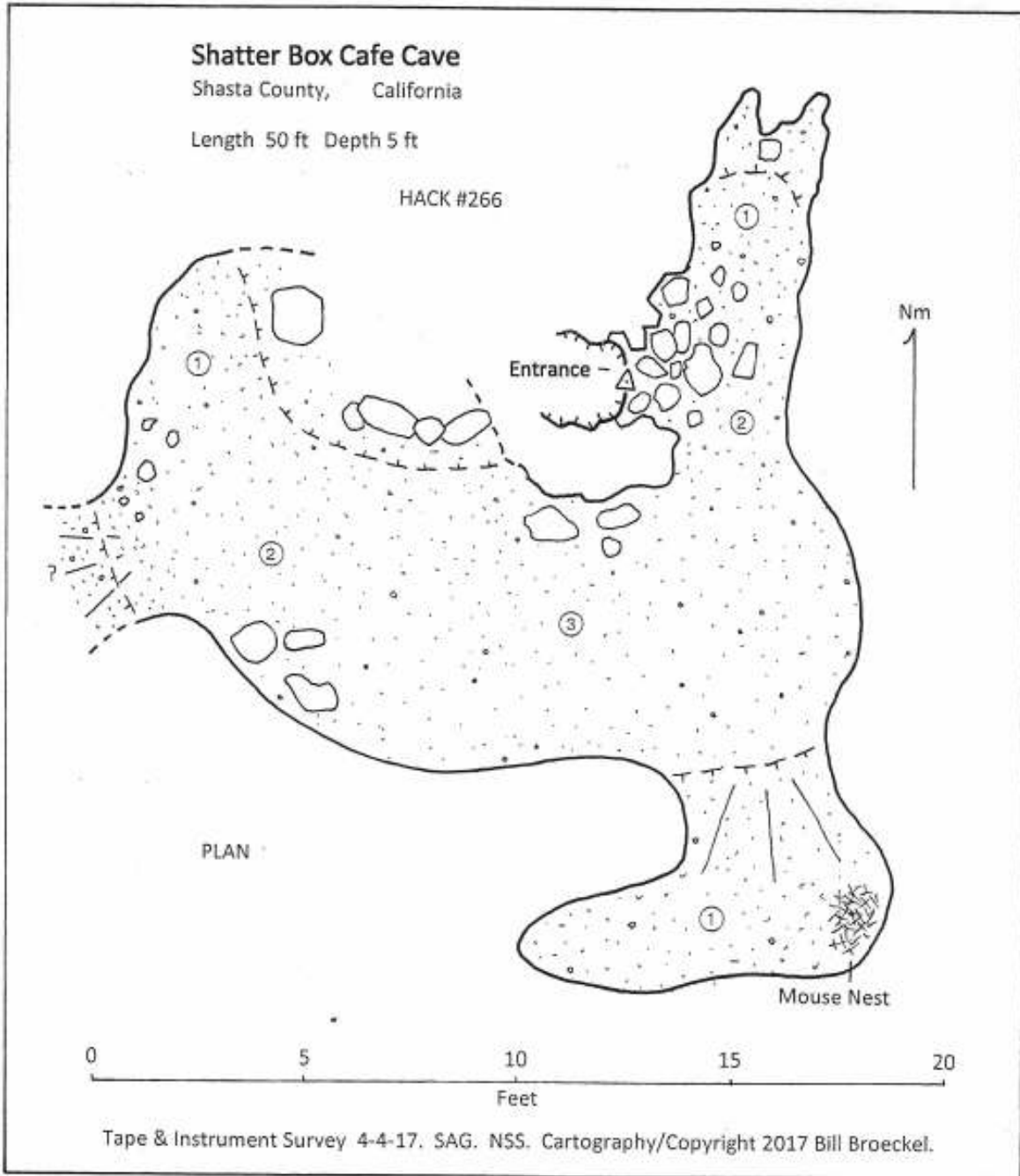
I think we saw this entrance years ago when it was full of rocks. It was a dig. Since the emphasis of the Hat Creek project is to create maps of un-surveyed caves, we have not wasted time on digging very much or very often. A note might be made for future reference. What I see happening is that sometimes five or ten years later, if we just wait for a while, somebody else comes along and digs open the cave. Then if we come by, everything is ready, and we can just go in and do the mapping. If we can get past the virgin cave imperative, then it all gets that much easier.

That was the case for Shatter Box Café Cave. April 2, 2017, we were casting about and came upon this dig site which was now a 2-ft by 2-ft cave entrance with some rocks piled up outside. We spent some time to tidy up the area into a more natural appearance. This is like a work of art, and is one of my favorite activities in caving. Then we went in to find an entrance chamber with another dig inside there.

This might be just a bubble chamber cave, or maybe part of a surface tube. Nearby flow cracking might be related somehow. The cave is quite broken up and has a fractured roof with light leaks here and there. Getting in and out is uncomfortable going over loose rocks, but inside is nice enough with a sand floor and a three foot ceiling height. The busted up look suggested the name Shatter Box Café, with apology to Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion, and especially to the town of Lake Wobegon.

We surveyed the cave two days later, on April 4, 2017. It is fairly typical of many caves on this project, except that it is more shattered and distressed than usual. Shatter Box Café Cave is 50 feet long and 5 feet deep. There were a couple of low side passages that would end after 8 to 10 feet, as well as the next dig site, down sloping into a lower level. The cave contained a small mouse nest with fresh plant materials noted. No bats were seen. It is a lava cave located in a lava flow in Shasta County, California. We should check it again in, let's say 5-10 years, to see if somebody came back to do the next dig. **BB**





Map: Shatter Box Café Cave



**Mark Jones marooned on Log Island at Clam Beach after conservation week-end at LaForges – 4-29-18.**

**THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SHASTA AREA GROTTTO**

**The Shasta Area Grotto is a conservation organization devoted To the protection and study of caves and their contents.**

**Shasta Area Grotto is an Internal Organization of the National Speleological Society.**

**SAG RAG  
2916 Deer Mdws Rd  
Yreka CA 96097**

**STAMP**

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