

# sag rag

37:4 July-Aug 2018



**Almost everyone, in camp with smoky sunset**

**Doug Viner**

**Inside: 2018 SAG Camp/Cave Out**

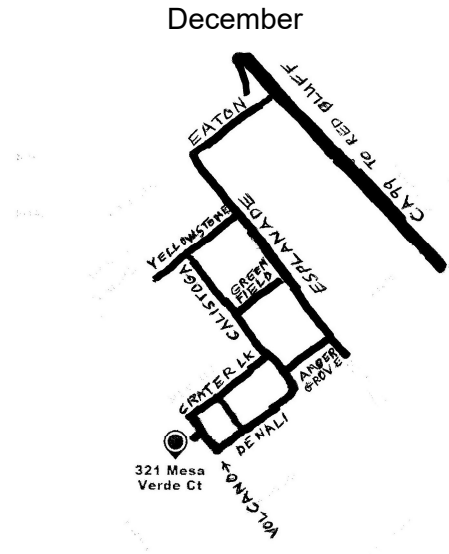
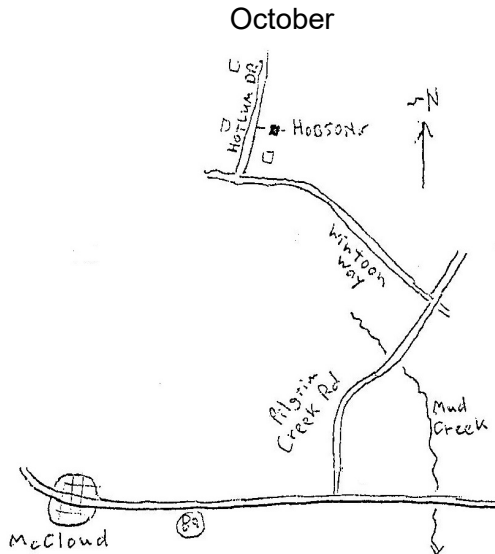
The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Grotto meetings are held at different locations on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG. Membership dues are \$5 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. 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 2018

**October 26** SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Hobsons in McCloud.

**December 7** SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Smiths in Chico.

### Maps to Meetings



DAVE & JOAN SMITH 530 343 0321

## SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

Liz Wolff provides us with a report on the SAG Camp/Cave Out last August. Ginger Sanders, caver and expert artisan glassblower was there, and hid some of her awesome glass marbles around the camp area, sort of like an Easter egg hunt. Photos were taken and have been added to Liz's report. Between the marbles and the snot-tites, I was able to put together a face-like montage on page 5 for everybody's entertainment. Lots of cave trips tapped into some great caves including Freud, Bobcat, aMazeattic, and Rooty Tooty, with its 1,000 ft + extent and single vertical entrance. There was even a rare Rosy Boa photo shoot (page 9). Congratulations to everyone who participated, it sounds like a wonderful time and I wish I had been there too. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "marbles trip".

**BB**

## July 13, 2018 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm at Viners in Ashland.

Present were Dave Smith, Doug and Tabitha Viner, and Jim and Liz Wolff.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as corrected.

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

**Listserv:** No updates.

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

**SAG RAG Report:** The next issue will have the Chairman's Column, new material from Hat Creek, and the Hat Trick cave map.

### Correspondence:

We have not heard back from the person who purchased the cave trip at the Siskiyou Land Trust auction. We received an inquiry about the grotto from Angela Hooker.

Information on the August Medicine Lake campout has been sent to MLG, OHDG and SFBC.

### Calendar

Aug 30 or 31     Marbles trip with pack mules, details TBA.  
to Sept. 3 or 4

Sept 7-9         Paul Gibson trip, contact Joel Despain for information.

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.

### Old Business

The Grotto Constitution and Bylaws, Membership Application and Conservation Statement have been updated and will be sent to Grotto members for comment and suggestions. After those are received, the Executive Committee will review suggestions for changes and then circulate a final version of the documents for voting by Grotto members.

### New Business:

We will revise the maps in the 2015 Medicine Lake campout guide for the August campout. A draft of the guide, without cave or campsite locations, will be prepared for grottos that might have members wanting to come. (The changes are needed because the document will be in pdf format and may circulate without SAG oversight.) There will be additional materials for hand-distribution to persons coming to the campout.

### Trip Reports:

June 23-24 Bill Broeckel, Colby Collins, Steve Hobson, Dave Smith and Jim and Liz Wolff checked out several caves in the Hat Creek area that Tom Rickman had found. They surveyed 2 of the caves, noted that bats were no longer in one, but located them (or different bats) in another cave that didn't have any on Tom's visit. A few other (very small) caves were found. The first of the two caves surveyed (The Hat Trick, Man) is 633 ft., the second, surveyed Sunday, is 299.4 ft.

Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend Liz and Breanna Kisling finished surveying the far north end of Maze Cave, and Bruce Rogers did a mineral survey in the upper part of the cave. Liz and Breanna found slime bubbles in the crawl section of the cave, but avoided getting wet. The surveys showed that the old map was misaligned. The last shot in the old map had a 90 deg. error.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.  
David Smith, SAG Secretary

**DS**

## August SAG Camp/Cave Out by Liz Wolff

There were 20 attendees from four grottos at the 2018 SAG camp / cave out held at a really dry camp somewhere on the southern Medicine Lake Highlands. Due to fire season and dry conditions there were no campfires allowed. Smoke from surrounding fires gave the ambience of a campfire.

### **SAG**

Dave Smith  
Melanie Jackson  
Jim & Liz Wolff  
Doug & Tabitha Viner  
Steve Hobson  
Tom Rickman  
Jeff McFarland

### **OHDG**

Brent McGregor  
Rick Magnan  
Dean Hill  
Logan Sanders (9)  
Scott Linn  
Ginger Sanders

### **Diablo**

David Martin  
Don Raan  
**WVG**  
Louisa Hooven  
Mark harder  
**Unaffiliated**  
Angela Hooker

The caves offered included the Crater Ice Cave Complex, the Papoose Complex, the Freudian Complex, the Powder Complex, the Roadside Complex (got a complex yet?) and a side trip down to Three Level Ice Cave. A bit of excitement was created by Ginger Sanders who created some glass marbles (she's a nationally renowned glass blower) with cave views inside them. She brought five and hid them around the camp area for anyone to find. The finders could keep their marbles. Thank you Ginger for the Great Marble Hunt!

The first trip of Saturday was by Don and David out to Big Glass Mtn, an interesting area of pumice and obsidian (volcanic glass). They were then joined by Doug & Tabitha and Angela for a vertical and rigging practice on a short drop beside the Arch in the Roadside Complex.

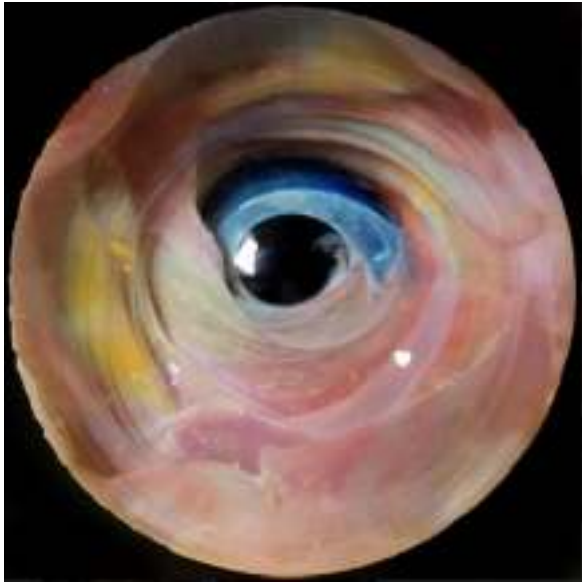
One trip was guided out to the Freudian Complex. Dave led Rick, Jeff, Louisa, Melanie, Jim, and Scott into the cave at shiner 4, out downstream of shiner 6 to the Double Barrel entrance at shiner 11. On the return they re-traversed from shiners 11 to 6 and then up to the Air Passage and crawled or stoop-walked their way back to the surface in the Ant Farm. They saw around 1½ miles of cave on the trip. Several small wildlife were noted, among them a rosy boa on the wall of the cave.

Steve led a trip with Brent, Tom and Ginger & Logan to the Roadside Complex. While they were there Brent got a good shot of a rappeller practicing near the Arch. Roadside was as photogenic as usual, but short. After lunch Steve led his group to Three Level Ice Cave. Later in the afternoon they hiked all over the lava searching for the main entrance to Bobcat Cave. They found lots of holes, led astray by Steve's GPS unit, but didn't find the sought-after main entrance. They finally gave up and entered the Hunter's entrance to the cave, not realizing where they were: walking, climbing, then crawling and slithering their way to the main cave near the main entrance. They then spent some time searching for the tiny entrance to Rooty-Tooty Cave, and retreated to camp to drown their failure in liquid refreshments. And to start looking for their marbles ...

An evening trek out to Papoose was made by Mark, Jeff, Don, David, Doug, Tabitha, and Angela who all returned in time to be buzzed by Brent's drone taking aerial pictures of the camp area. After watching the short life of drone batteries another impromptu vertical class was held. Dean wanted to learn to climb so one of Steve's ropes was strung up in a large cedar. Angela and committee got him climbing and down-climbing. Scott demonstrated a neat little gizmo that can be used as a climbing device and also used as a point capture if used in rescue work. Small and light-weight, we marveled at the size to weight ratio and how easy it was to manipulate.

Sunday dawned to a slow moving camp. A few had to leave early, but most of the rest chose to hike out to Rooty-Tooty Cave in the Powder Complex while a small group broke down the His'n & Her'n and policed the campsite.

**LW**



marble – Brent McGregor

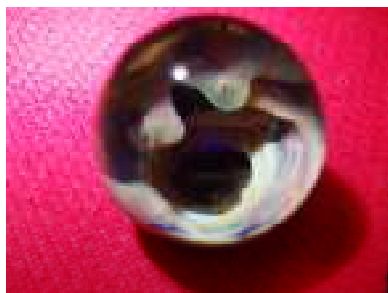


marble – Jim Wolff

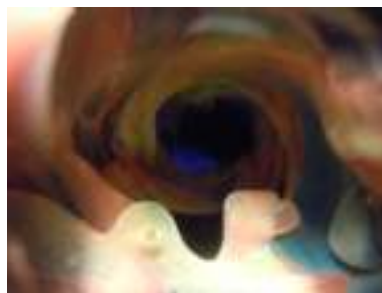


“Snot-tite” detail, Rooty Tooty

Brent McGregor



marble – Scott Linn



(detail)



marble – Steve Hobson



After the camp/cave out a questionnaire was sent around. Here are comments on the overall experience:

### 1) How was the overall experience?

Very enjoyable. A fun, congenial group and leaders were patient, well-organized. – Tom

Yes, thank you very much for putting this on. It was wonderful. I really like the format of the whole event and the camp location was great. – Jeff

Thanks everyone for a great couple days of caving. I enjoyed meeting new cavers and seeing new caves, and a few old ones. Objective met. More caves than hours to see them all. Reason to return. I enjoyed the variety and beauty of the caves I visited and the company of fellow undergrounders. Thanks everyone for a great weekend. – Brent

Thanks to you all for an enjoyable weekend! Tabitha & I both had a hoot. Excellent – Doug

Overall, it was great. I got to explore some new caves, long and horizontal. – Rick

Very good. Had a blast! Wish it was another day (so did Rick, who thought it was!). – Scott

Dear SAG. I had a really good time. I loved caving with everyone. Steve was very helpful to me. He taught me a lot. I thought Jim was cool. Actually and Shaggy and Brent and Dave and Melanie and Liz, Okay. Everyone was cool. – Logan (& Ginger)

Thanks SAG for putting on the great trip. The camp site was great, large and free and close to the caves. – Don

### 2) Were you able to find the camp easily?

Yes, your maps are very well done. I used the map you drew from the 2015 trip to go by Yellowjacket and never had a mishap. Better than most maps I follow. – Brent

Yes, longer drive than I expected. On the way back I took road 56 then 43N12 per Brent and it was quite a bit faster. That was the route my phone told me to take from Merrill but I went through the park. – Scott

We found the camp perfectly. – Logan

### 3) Were the signs and flagging helpful?

Yes, once on the dirt road the signs did help. Good directions w the mileage intervals were very helpful in finding that dirt road. – Tom

Yep. – Brent

Yes, very. I'd go a step farther: The 1<sup>st</sup> sign, the one at the micro-crossroads was nearly essential. After dark they were likely *all* essential. – Doug

I just saw the two NSS signs and they were nice. – Scott

What is NZZ? – Logan

Signs were great. Flagging at the road could easily be confused with any other flagging. Perhaps a discrete sign at the road? Bat sticker? NSS sign? – David

### 4) What did you like about the camp area?

Was roomy with trees for shade. – Tom

Room for everyone, far from the pavement, shade. – Brent

It was close to a lot of caves and having the papoose complex right outside of camp was perfect for afternoon caving. – Jeff

continued



Don learning the ropes at the Arch in Roadside

Brent McGregor



Little people (lava stalagmites), Freudian Complex

Rick Magnan

In order of decreasing priority:

1. Shade
2. Weather, not too hot
3. "Worthwhile" caves within a short drive
4. We had the place to ourselves
5. 'Twas nice (not essential) to stroll to a super cave and stroll right back to camp. – Doug

Camp area is fine. – Rick

Lots of places to camp in a car, more difficult in a tent. But hey, it's a lava flow. Toilet was nice although my system didn't cooperate. – Scott

It was easy to set up our tent and the caves were very close. I loved the caves. There was a toilet. Trees are okay unless you need to "take the Browns to the Superbowl." Bees and wasps and ants. Except I liked the bald faced hornet. Especially when it ate the wasps. – Logan

It worked well. Having the latrines was great. – David

### **5) What didn't you like about it?**

No complaints. – Tom

The ground is a little rough compared to other camps with more dirt. But that's a minor pick since you asked! – Brent

Nothing we could do much about:

My only annoyance was the smoke.

The insects were sometimes challenging but at least there were no (or nearly no) mosquitoes nor other "dietary biteys." – Doug

The yellowjackets aren't much fun but that's summer in the forest. – Rick

### **6) Were the cave maps adequate for the caves you visited?**

I never really looked at them since went with groups and leaders who had visited them before. – Tom

Since the list of waypoints weren't accurate, we used the maps to try and figure out where the entrances were. The large scale of the Bobcat Cave area made seeing detail difficult. We couldn't seem to line up the trench systems with the map. I don't know how you would improve that since there are so many caves out there that cover large expanses of land. You would need a book full of maps to show detail and that isn't practical. I would have liked to have had the tree skylight in Bobcat Cave named on the map as that was the only feature I was sure of at the time Steve and I were trying to figure out where we were. – Brent

I had no trouble finding the camp and I didn't have any problem finding the caves either. – Jeff

Yes, absolutely. Wonderful! Kudos. – Doug

Kind of. I like that I have them to put on my wall. My mom will frame Bobcat for me because I did almost the whole thing. – Logan

### **7) Were you able to find the caves on self-guided trips?**

Did not go to any by myself. – Tom

When we had a trip leader that had been there before, yes. – Brent

I did use the GPS cord's to find Santana Cave but found it too daunting. Want someone to guide me to the correct entrance. – Rick

The maps were great and the GPS points that I used worked perfectly. – Jeff

continued





Angela in the aMazeattic Don Raan



Brent and Scott at Rooty-Tooty's tiny entrance  
Angela Hooker



Rosy boa, Freudian Complex Rick Magnan



Brent helping Louisa on the down-climb into Rooty-Tooty;  
while Jeff, David, Tom, Don, & Scott look on  
Angela Hooker

I only went with folks who knew or got us close. It sounds like the gps coords were off, and Brent experienced that, so perhaps some verification across multiple people's databases. – Scott

We found Roadside and 3 levels ice cave. Octopus was harder. Well, impossible. But we found Bobcat, I think. Anyway, it was a very good cave and a bat flew right by us. But we had a good time anyway and we saw GREAT BIG bear tracks and BEAR POOP. – Logan

### **8) What could we do to improve the whole thing if we decide to do this again?**

I hope you do decide to do it again. But no thoughts for improvement, I thought it came off very well. – Tom

I think it would be better to have half a dozen or so trips available chosen ahead of time with leaders prearranged and with signup sheets and a brief description and or photo of the cave. If some of the trips don't generate interest, go with the ones that had sign ups. Part of the problem I saw here and other joint cave trips I have been to, is that folks that are new to the area have that confused look on their faces and don't know enough about the different caves to make a good choice. I like that fact there were so many different systems and directions you offered. – Brent

I can't think of anything to improve on. I really appreciate everyone taking the time to make this event happen. – Jeff

Do it more. – Logan

### **9) Did you find one of the marbles? Send a pic please so everyone can see what they look like**

There were marbles?? – Tom

YES! – Brent, Steve, Jim, Doug/Tabitha, Scott

I helped hide the marbles, so I didn't get to hunt them but I got my own and also Steve gave me the best piece of pahoe-hoe and I got some HUGE pinecones and I won a rock from Steve the first night. Pluto Cave was really great too. I will do a trip report. – Logan

**LW**



Free-standing wall & ledge at shiner 4, Freudian Complex Rick Magnan





Roots, Rooty-Tooty

Angela Hooker



marble – Doug Viner



“Snot-tites” in Rooty-Tooty

Brent McGregor



A drone's eye view of camp

Brent McGregor

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

**STAMP**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**TO:**

Page 1	COVER PHOTO: SAG Camp
Page 2	Calendar and Summary
Page 3	July 2018 Meeting Minutes – D Smith
Page 4	August SAG Camp/Cave Out – L. Wolff