

sag rag

37:6 Nov-Dec 2018



All time most boring SAG RAG ever

Inside: Special Grotto Business 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>>.

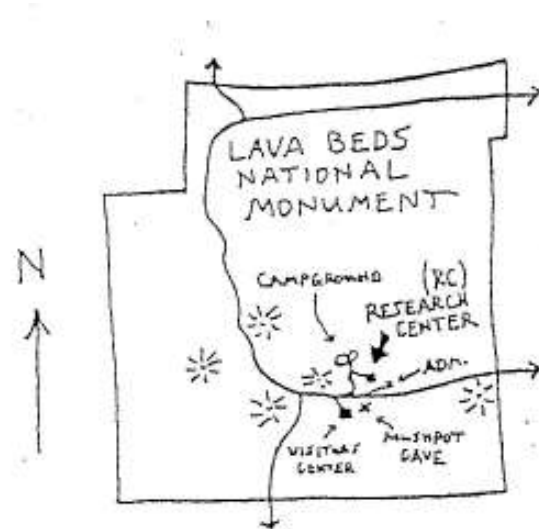
CAVER CALENDAR 2019

January 18-20 SAG Lava Beds cave trip. Contact Liz Wolff, especially re: government shut-down

Map to Meetings

Map to Meeting

January



SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

SAG RAG SUMMARY

Brace yourself for the most boring SAG RAG ever. The October meeting minutes is the high point. Read the draft newly revised grotto constitution and try not to gag. This actually represents hard work at multiple constitutional conventions over the last year or so. One expected change on the draft is to have formal grotto meetings every other month. Keep that in mind as you mark to approve the draft. If you have other changes or comments for consideration, please write them out to the executive committee on the lines provided on the ballot. Please return your completed ballots, voting once for each office. Member couples can share ballots. Vote soon. When ready, snip, fold, tape, and mail to Doug Viner. Thank-you for your attention to this most fascinating special grotto business issue of the RAG. **BB**

Oct 26, 2018 Shasta Area Grotto Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm at Steve's in McCloud.

Present were Steve Hobson, Melanie Jackson, Dave Smith, Jim and Liz Wolff, and guests CJ & Kit McKinley. We were joined by guests from the Siskiyou Land Trust for caving on Saturday.

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

Treasurer's Report: The treasury has a balance of \$ 1,125.

Listserv: No report.

Website and E-RAG: The new SAG RAG is on the webpage.

SAG RAG Report: There is lots of material for the next issue. The Executive Committee documents may go out as a separate mailing.

Correspondence:

We received an email from Bob Hoke at NSS, soliciting ads for the new members manual.

San Cuenca is in the latest Bat Chat newsletter; Liz has the link.

Bill Franz reported that Avalanche Cave is open.

Joe Molter, a charter member of SAG, sent an old picture of a cave near Redding.

Glen Everest, another of the charter members of SAG, lost his home in the Carr Fire.

Kim Luper of OHDG proposed a combined Western and Northwest meeting for Labor Day next year.

Calendar:

Dec 7 SAG meeting 7:30 pm at Smith's in Chico. We will be nominating next year's officers at the meeting, and setting up 2019 meeting dates. Caving Sat.

Old Business:

The proposed revisions to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Conservation Statement will be in the next SAG RAG or in a special edition.

Doug sent a review of the SAG/SAR rescue practice. For this one cavers joined two SAR teams on a patient handling exercise in Pluto's Cave. The practice went well, and SAR members helped us with picking up the small amount of trash the cave accumulated since our last cleanup. We found a 5" tarantula on a ledge about eye level, which spooked a couple of people, but isn't native and had the appearance of being rubber. Both teams succeeded in finding the victim and carrying "her" through some of the difficult parts of the cave at a good pace.

Sam Cuenca reported that new bolts will be installed at Barnum Cave, of a different design than the ones that were removed.

New Business: None.

Trip Reports:

Liz and Jim visited Fuzzy Bunny, which is still clear of new trash.

Dave checked out a large cave in Tehama County and a couple of small ones.

After the Marbles weekend, CJ and Kit visited Lava Beds and later Pluto's Cave.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

David Smith, SAG Secretary

DS

CONSTITUTION
of the
SHASTA AREA GROTTO
of the
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Adopted April 1982,¹
Amended May 2008, [DRAFT 17 – Month] 2018

- I. **NAME** – The name of this organization shall be the Shasta Area Grotto (SAG) of the National Speleological Society (NSS).²
- II. **PURPOSES** – The purposes of this organization shall be the same as those of the National Speleological Society, namely, to promote interest in and advance in any and all means the study and science of speleology; the protection of caves and their natural contents, and to promote fellowship among those interested therein, with the additional purpose of organizing NSS members in the Mount Shasta Area, to better promote the objectives of the NSS.³ SAG also performs and promotes community outreach to achieve these objectives.
- III. **GOVERNING BODY**
- A. Shasta Area Grotto shall follow Robert's Rules of Order unless explicitly stated otherwise in this document.
- B. This grotto shall be governed by an Executive Committee (EC) comprised of the following officers who must be NSS members and shall be elected annually by the Regular SAG Members:
1. **Chairman**
 - a. The Chairman shall be the chief executive officer of SAG and shall supervise and control its affairs.
 - b. The Chairman shall preside at all membership meetings.
 - c. The Chairman shall ensure compliance with NSS conservation policy on grotto trips.
 2. **Vice Chairman**
 - a. The Vice Chairman shall be the training and safety officer for SAG and shall provide for a program of training activities as needed. Training may cover, but not be limited to: vertical and horizontal caving, survey, rescue, surface route-finding, inventory. Safety may include, but is not limited to: solo work, communications, trip waivers, vertical safety, physical training. Training may be delegated to members who are proficient in those skills.
 - b. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman.
 3. **Secretary**
 - a. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual (S/T).
 - b. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording meetings, keeping grotto records up-to-date with the NSS, and for submitting the IO Annual Report.
 - c. In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Secretary or S/T shall chair meetings.
 4. **Treasurer**
 - a. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual (S/T).
 - b. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all grotto funds, shall receive and give receipt for monies due and monies paid to SAG, and shall disburse the funds of SAG in a timely manner as authorized.

¹ "The first Executive Committee consisted of the officers elected at the Grotto Charter Meeting of February 5, 1982." [Constitution and Bylaws of the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, adopted 14 April 1982]

² Required item – This text "must be included in the constitution of... internal organization[s] of the NSS, either as shown or in equivalent language."

³ Required item

c. The Treasurer shall present a monthly treasurer's report at each regular membership meeting, and prepare any financial reports that the NSS may require.

C. The Executive Committee shall have complete power to manage grotto business and to perform other necessary functions, including authorization for spending. Spending motions which originate from the membership shall be debated and decided by the EC. The EC may at its discretion refer spending decisions to a vote by the membership.

D. Decisions or actions of the Executive Committee may be overruled by a two-thirds majority of the Regular Members.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEES

A. The Executive Committee (officers) may create and dissolve subcommittees as it may deem to be desirable. These subcommittees shall perform duties as defined by the Executive Committee. Such duties may include, but are not limited to: webmaster, conservation, government liaison, school/scout/church group liaison, Native American liaison, librarian, equipment, membership, programs, trip leaders, program coordinator, listserv manager, and teller.

B. SAG RAG / EDITOR

1. The Editor shall be responsible for producing and distributing a newsletter, titled the SAG RAG, which shall be an official instrument for communications between and among the officers and membership. The SAG RAG shall include timely notice of all meetings of the membership, schedules of activities, and at least one officially designated point of contact.
2. The Editor shall solicit and publish in the SAG RAG such material as may further the objectives and purposes of SAG and be of general interest to the membership.
3. The Editor may grant permission for material to be reprinted from the SAG RAG, with the provision that credit is given to the authors and the SAG RAG.
4. The SAG RAG shall not publish exact cave locations nor other sensitive information such as protected wildlife habitats or cultural resources.

C. WEBSITE / WEBMASTER

1. The webmaster shall be responsible for creation, updating, and maintaining the SAG website.
2. The webmaster shall distribute, electronically, the eRAG to those desiring to receive it.
3. The web page shall list at least one officially designated point of contact.

D. LISTSERV MANAGER – The listserv manager shall maintain and keep updated the listserv (e.g. Google Group)

V. ELECTION AND RECALL OF OFFICERS

- A. Nominations for officers of the following year are to be presented before the close of the December grotto meeting.
- B. Nominations may be made by two other Regular Members, either at a meeting or by letter or e-mail, to the current Secretary.
- C. Ballots shall be enclosed in the December grotto newsletter, or distributed by a separate mailing or electronic ballot at least four weeks prior to the January meeting.
- D. The deadline for returning ballots shall be the January meeting.
- E. Ballots shall be counted at the January meeting. Ties shall be resolved at the January meeting by vote of members present (including conference calls, etc.).
- F. In the event of cancellation of the December meeting, reasonable effort shall be made to entertain nominations to keep the nomination/voting process on schedule.

G. Recall of officers – For neglect of duty &/or unreasonable absences from grotto meetings, any officer may be removed from the Executive Committee by unanimous recommendation of the other officers and an assenting vote of more than half of the grotto's Regular Members.

H. Filling vacancies – Any vacated office shall quickly be filled by standard election procedure, without regard to the current month but honoring the four-week balloting provision.

VI. MEMBERSHIP

A. FULL MEMBERSHIP

1. Full membership is limited to members of the NSS.⁴
2. Full members shall meet SAG Regular or Affiliate Membership requirements.

B. REGULAR MEMBERS – Requirements:

1. Attendance at one or more SAG meetings;
2. Underground participation in at least two SAG caving trips;
3. Unanimous approval by the Executive Committee;
4. Payment of membership dues; and
5. At least 18 years of age.

C. AFFILIATE MEMBERS

1. Applicants who are at least 18 years old and have paid their dues, but have not yet met the other regular membership requirements shall be Affiliate Members.
2. Applicants who are not yet 18 years old but meet all the other membership requirements shall obtain written consent from their parent or guardian. With this consent they shall be admitted as Affiliate Members.
3. When Affiliate Members reach 18 years of age, they shall become Regular Members and shall be encouraged to join the NSS.

D. EXPULSION

1. Members may be dropped or expelled from the grotto by majority vote of the Executive Committee for any of the following reasons:
 - a. Non-payment of dues;
 - b. Misuse of grotto property;
 - c. Disregard for their own safety or the safety of others on sponsored trips;
 - d. Conduct grossly inconsistent with the NSS ethic to "cave softly" with respect for cave and karst environment;
 - e. Failure to protect cave location information, including continued failure to remove recorded geolocation information from online photos, etc.; or
 - f. Conduct detrimental to the grotto.
2. Any member who has been expelled will upon request be granted a hearing before the full membership at a regular meeting, after which the officers shall in a timely manner determine an appropriate course of action (if any).

VII. MEETINGS

- A. General meetings shall be held at such times and places as are determined by the Executive Committee, and shall be well advertised (printed in the SAG RAG, posted on the website, posted on the listserv, etc.).
- B. Executive Committee meetings shall be held as needed at such times and places as are determined by the EC.
- C. A petition signed by half of the Regular Members shall be mandatory upon the EC to call a special meeting for the purposes stated in the petition.

⁴ Required item

VIII. ELECTRONIC VOTING

- A. To facilitate organizational decisions that require input from regular members, voting may at the discretion of the Executive Committee be conducted in an electronic format with a survey or ballot sent to all grotto members.
- B. The Executive Committee may opt to receive votes via simple e-mail messages to a designated Teller.
- C. Alternatively, voting sent within an electronic, "web-based" system shall ensure the limitation of each member to only one vote and shall, as appropriate, facilitate anonymous voting. In this case, the executive committee shall make reasonable effort to use only voting facilities that do not disclose to third parties any personal information such as e-mail addresses.

IX. NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY – The Constitution and Bylaws of the NSS shall be binding on the Shasta Area Grotto. Any action inconsistent therewith shall be null and void.⁵X. TAX EXEMPT STATUS – The purposes for which this organization is formed are exclusively charitable, educational, recreational, and scientific within the meaning of section 501(c)(7) of the United States Internal Revenue Code or the equivalent section of any future federal tax code.⁶

XI. DISSOLUTION –

- A. Property of the grotto shall revert to the NSS in the event of dissolution of the Shasta Area Grotto.
- B. All assets remaining after meeting outstanding liabilities shall be assigned to the NSS or another suitable nonprofit organization. However, if the named recipient is not then in existence or is no longer a qualified distributee, or is unwilling or unable to accept the distribution, the assets of this organization shall be distributed to a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law).⁷

XII. AMENDMENTS

- A. Proposed amendments to the SAG Constitution may be submitted by the EC or the general membership.
- B. The proposed amendments shall be advertised in the SAG RAG and, at the discretion of the EC, optionally on the listserv.
- C. There shall be a four week period for the EC to receive and consider comments from SAG members.
- D. A final version of the proposed amendments shall then be submitted to the general membership for ratification.
- E. Ratification shall require receipt of votes from at least one-third of all grotto members, and shall require two-thirds approval in the votes received.

⁵ Required item

⁶ Required item

⁷ This item is "from the IRS and is appropriate for grottos seeking tax deductible status." [NSS]

RECORD OF REVISION
(Informal Summary of Changes)

1. 14 Apr 1982 – Adopted constitution and bylaws, including requirements for membership, election of officers.
2. 30 May 2008 – Defined secretary's responsibilities, membership petition.
3. [Month] 2018 – Overhaul. Combined "constitution" and "bylaws" documents; added section titles; moved historical reference from an item to a footnote; clarified text permitting combined position of secretary/treasurer; granted EC the power to authorize spending; expanded officer nomination process; added NSS-required item requiring NSS membership; clarified affiliate membership; clarified reasons for expulsion; clarified petition against expulsion and added clause on NSS ethic; amended balloting process to expressly permit electronic voting; added NSS-required item on NSS' tax exempt status; added NSS-recommended item on assets remaining after dissolution, recommended by NSS and "appropriate for grottos seeking tax deductible status"; expanded and clarified process for making future amendments.

DRAFT

The Chair Creaks . . .

Hello SAG. The Shasta Area Grotto was formed in 1982. In all the years since, there has been only one occasion to make a change to the constitution. But events have moved ahead of those simpler times and require amending the constitution and bylaws to reflect some of those changes.

For the past six months the executive committee has been working on changes to the membership application, our statement of conservation and ethics, and latest, to the constitution and bylaws. These revisions grew out of a need to update membership data and address the electronic transmission (sharing on Facebook) of data, photos and the usually unseen, but still present, electronic locational data. The membership application and Conservation and Ethics statement are finished with one revision suggested and adopted at the coast meeting.

The constitution and bylaws are something that the entire grotto will need to consider and vote on under the existing provisions, although electronic voting will be allowed. A few changes grew into a complete overhaul combining the constitution, bylaws and officers duties into one document. The result is a document sorted into sections, with an historical reference moved from a constitutional provision to a footnote. Clarification was made to the combined office of Secretary/Treasurer if we choose, or need, to combine the two. The nomination process for officers was expanded and electronic voting provisions inserted. Membership requirements and categories were defined. Expulsion of members and the process to petition against expulsion were added and defined.

A clause on the NSS ethic and tax exempt status was added. If and when SAG disbands, the NSS-recommended disposition of any assets remaining after all bills are paid was added. And finally the section on amending the constitution was expanded and clarified.

Everyone on who receives the SAG RAG will be able to review and comment on the proposed constitutional changes, with a four week window to send comments to an appointed Teller. After constructive comments have been reviewed the final document will be sent out to the membership under the standing (current) constitution and bylaws. The new constitution will only be adopted if the vote is in favor of it. We do hope to hear from all of you on these changes. And don't forget to vote when the ballots appear.

LW

sag rag

37:6 Nov-Dec 2018

Inside: Special Grotto Business Issue

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SAG RAG
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STAMP

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