

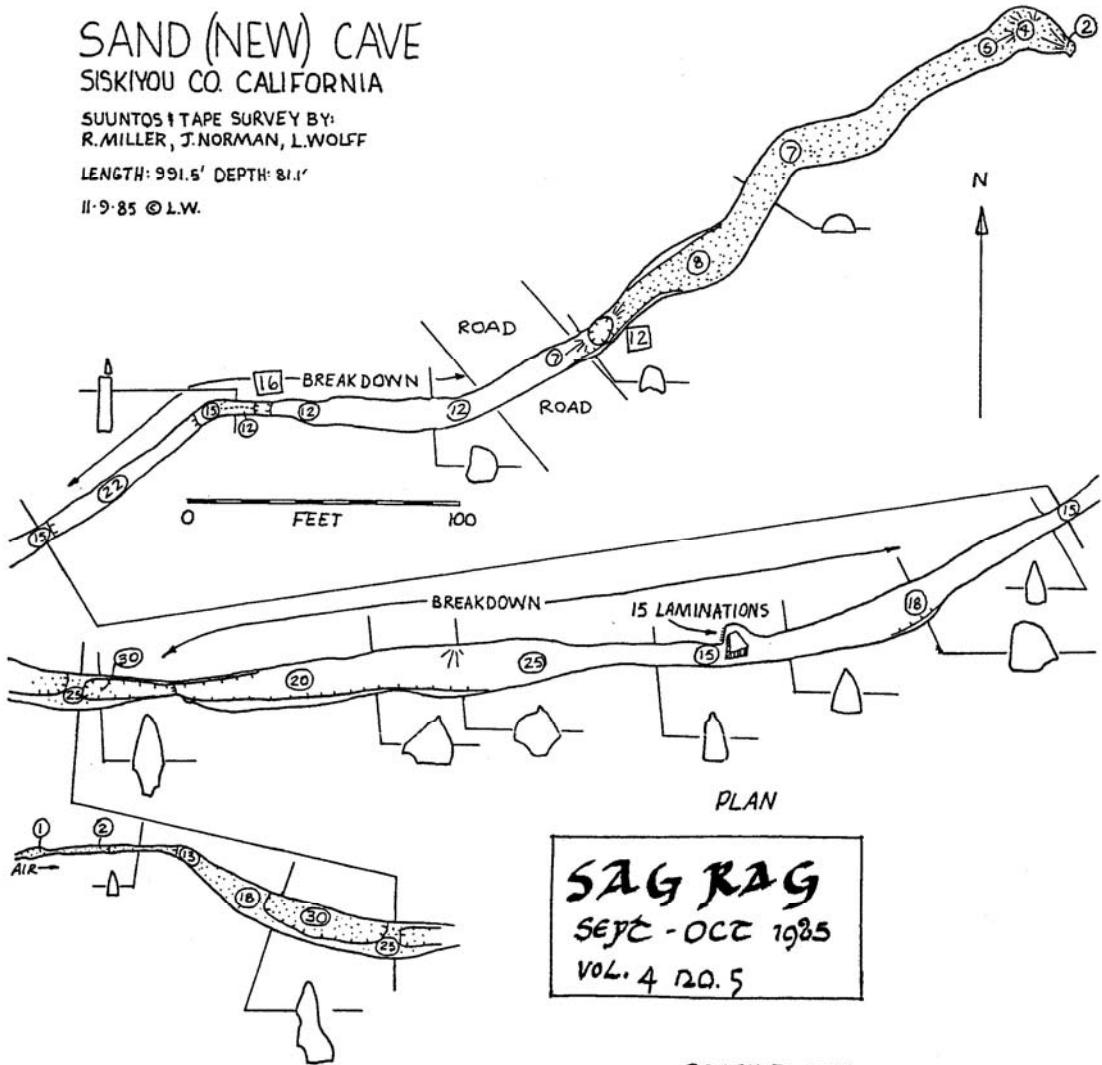
SAND (NEW) CAVE

SISKIYOU CO. CALIFORNIA

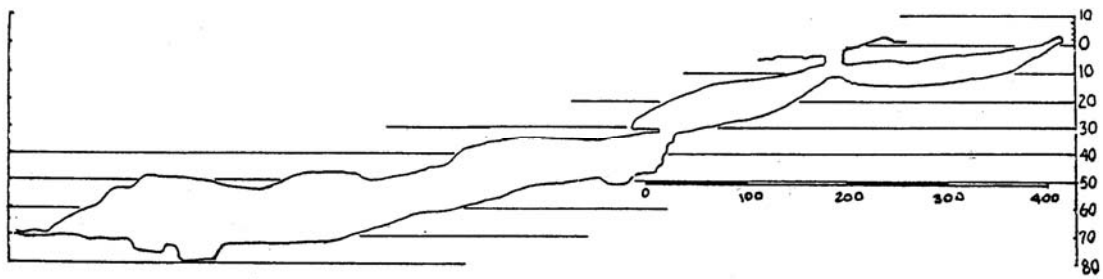
SUUNTO STAPE SURVEY BY:
R. MILLER, J. NORMAN, L. WOLFF

LENGTH: 991.5' DEPTH: 81.1'

11-9-85 © L.W.



PROFILE 145°



Map: Sand Cave

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WHAT'S HAPP'NIN'?

NO DECEMBER SAG MEETING Cave trip and camp out (burr!!) in the Subway Caves area, 35 miles
 (Dec. 13, 14th) NW of Susanville, next to Hiway jct. 44/89.... (See you there Neils!)

JANUARY SAG MEETING At the Wolffs in McCloud. Bring slides, and your skis!
 (Jan. 10, 1986)

1986 NSS CONVENTION Tularosa, NM. Is anyone going?
 (June 24-30, 1986)

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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING by J. W.

Sorry for the late issue of the RAG. We've been pretty busy here getting ready for winter – mostly wood gathering, painting the house and caving every chance I could get! Again, my dear readers, I must beg for trip reports, any bit of caving news, any scrap of speleo-gossip, will be warmly received and printed in the RAG with very little editing..., I promise! For instance the articles contained herein are from letters written to us, but are shared with you for reasons you will soon see. So, send off a blurb on your latest trip (caving, that is) and expect your name in print!

* * * * *

NAME CHANGE (to protect the innocent?); Jack (John) Jones Cave, featured in the last SAG RAG as its favorite alias, "John". In other words folks, we goofed! Wasn't until Ray Miller showed a slide of the cave entrance and then enlarged it with his zoom lens, and sure enough, there on a rock, neat as a pro did it, "JACK JONES CAVE". A special thanks to Ray for his initiative and drive to protect the same caves he visits! He has developed good communication between the Goosenest R.D. of the U.S.F.S., Klamath N.F. Keep up the good work, Ray! [Correction noted in issue 4(4) – pdf ed.]

* * * * *

NEW DISCOVERIES

#1 A skylight-like entrance to large dimensioned room. Would require at least a 30 ft. rappel. Blowing air, looks good! This good lead is down flow from Hourglass Cave, which in itself is 2953 ft. long..., so there's good possibilities there....

#2 Speaking of the Hourglass area; on a caving trip earlier this year, Jim Kottinger's niece found at least 400 ft. and more of new cave that looks to overlay Bat Cave. So, you S.F.B.C.ers, come on up this coming May and have a look with us! – J.W.

#3 Ray sent me a SAG TRIP REPORT FORM describing “Jerome Ice Caves”. He suggests that when one uses the form, number the item title head for ease of reference when using the back of the form. Sounds reasonable to me anyway....

#4 Not really a “new” find, but a recent mapping trip on 10/26/85 through Man Eatin’ Cave, a lower portion of the Water Caves System, yielded 877 ft. of huge passage. The crew on that trip were Jim Kottinger, Neils Smith, Matt and Jim Wolff. The cave appears to trend towards and end near the beginning of a radical change in the flow gradient. The Water Caves Flow there descends about 100 ft. vertically in 1/8th of a mile, to a ponding area. In the cave, at that point the ceiling dips to the floor of breakdown where a blowing, but EXTREMELY UNSTABLE hole beckons. A near-fatal incident occurred there on the day of the cave’s discovery, May 26, 1984 – but that is another story, to be told in American Caving Accidents. So watch for it.

* * * * * * * * *

SNAKE PIT by J.W.

After the Sept. SAG mtg. at Kottingers, there was a large and excited group up for cave hunting on a ranch near Gazelle, Calif. There was limestone, hundreds of acres of it too! So, after gaining permission from the land owner’s son, Glenn, we all split up into small groups of two or three, chose up sides of the canyon, and attacked!

The limestone is very karstified, with many remnant cave passages, mostly being phreatic, typically. And short, sadly.... We were told by Glenn that he had found some caves on his property that went through a ridge. And one that had a pit in it. There was plenty of potential, for sure!

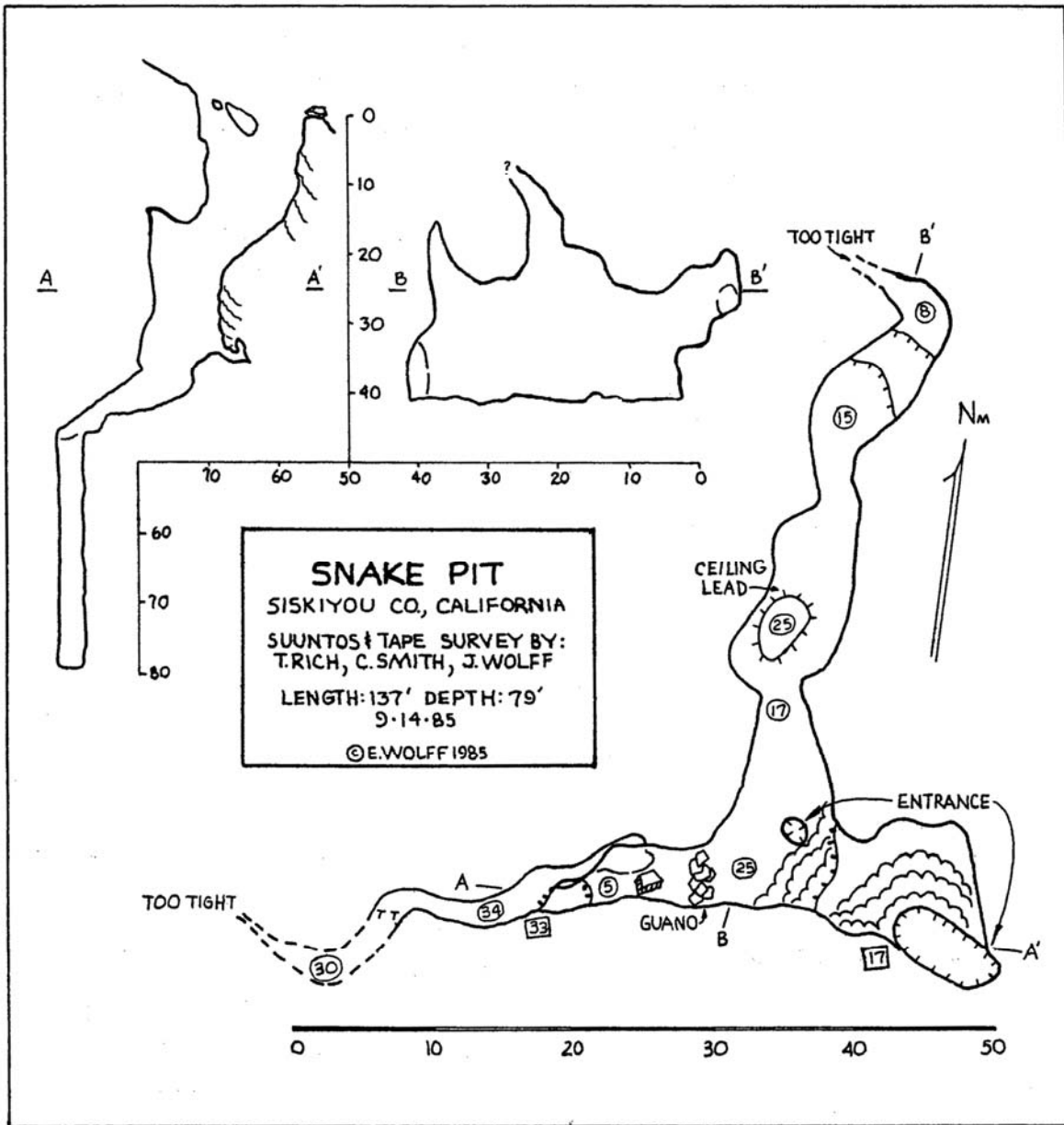
After many hours of beating the brush (and the poison oak!), Claude Smith and Tim Rich wanted to continue on up “at least up to that contact zone yonder,” I had suggested. So we split up. I had plans on following the base of the limestone for awhile and then dropping down the draw, through the brush and search for any springs, but basically back towards the trucks where we first found much better possibilities. I didn’t want to get skunked!

About the time I got half way back I heard a very faint call from someone which sounded like “Jim”, but it could have been Claude calling, “Tim!”, so I let it slide. A few minutes later I heard a definite “Jim!” So I yelled back in answer, waving my shirt in hand over my head. I could see Claude now, standing in an open meadow/scree slope below an impressive cleft in the cliff above. “Rope!” he yelled – I was already on my way up...!

Claude and Tim had clambered over all of that rock up to a point of contact and found a pit! And it looked real good – passage seemed to continue across the top of the pit even. The rope was rigged to a convenient oak tree and Claude was “volunteered” to go down first, since he discovered it. Partway down we heard him say, “SNAKE!” “There’s a snake on a ledge below me!” At that point it was only 1/2 way down the drop, and he didn’t continue on down until the snake had slithered out of the way under a rock. Sure enough, upon closer inspection, the snake did have rattles! We all hesitated at that point, and then would slip by as fast as we could, and yet still maintain control on rappel.

The cave is quite dry with much guano on the floor of the main passages, with a mummified rabbit and other assorted bone lying amongst another snake! Looks like a coral snake, but probably wasn’t. The cave appears to have some passage above the main, but would require a belay rope, which we didn’t have. There doesn’t appear to be any other way further on down...., but, it was a good trip anyway.

* * * * * * * * *



Map: Snake Pit Cave

At the November SAG meeting nominations were made for: chairman; Niels Smith, Jim Kottinger, and Jim Wolff. Vice-chairman; Ray Miller. Secretary; Jim Wolff, Mary Belle Smith. Treasurer; Claude Smith. Ballots will be mailed with the December RAG to those eligible to vote.

NEWS FROM DON AND AUDRA QUINTON.... Don has been involved with a lot of neat stuff like mine search and rescue practices. He is being trained in all kinds of rigging situations – Tyrolean ascent, “how to rescue a person in a cave who is jammed on the rope with the single rescuer technique,” various pulley systems. Apparently, there’s a good chance Don will participate in a cave rescue class at Winding Stair Cave. He says that they miss everyone, and to say HI!! to everyone.... WE MISS YOU TOO!!

* * * * * * * * *

Here’s a short review of the rest of SPELEOCAMP week... by Dick LaForge

Mitzi Reed and I drove up on Thursday, arriving at Lover’s Camp about dark. A fast blast up the hill got us to the campfire in time to hear the last stories before bedding down on the hill above the cabin. Although the night started clear, it started drizzling during the night and by morning our bags were wet on the outside, in spite of being under trees. Great!

Morning was drippy and foggy. Nobody wanted to go caving, except Mark and Cynthia, (Fritzke) (Mosser), who decided to check out the last leads in Trail Jct. Cave. They entered about 3-4 PM. Roger Jones headed out, pulling his one-wheel pack. Reportedly he got down in about 2 1/2 hours with it. Better than going up (isn’t it always?). He kindly left us his dome tent because the weather was not improving. In the afternoon Capt. and Jerry Zimmer went off for a short photo trip in the entrance passages of Bigfoot. Mitzi, Dave Walker, and I decided to brave the weather and go on a karst walk, from above the cabin to the Bigfoot entrances. We climbed down pits, eventually coming across the new Hanging Rock (Cave) entrance. We threw rocks into the entrance for awhile, sure that nobody would be below on this day. After a rest from that, we started hearing noises from below. Shortly, Dan Clardy made his way up, fortunately missing the rock-dropping. He had been soloing to the bottom. Since he had a lamp, we borrowed it and got a look at the entrance pit area. It’s a cute cave entrance. After that, we threw rocks down the Immaculate Shaft, as certainly nobody was down there. The weather continued grim the next day, too. At 8 AM Mark and Cynthia were not yet back from Trail Junction, and there was talk of a “rescue” trip. They were not in extra long for a Bigfoot trip, but Trail Junction is not that big. They did show up before 9, however, relieving us from the effort of having to go caving that day.

More people left, leaving only Mitzi, Mark, Jim, Cynthia, and myself. We spent most of the day in bed reading and sleeping, helping Mark and Cynthia recover. In the evening there were patches of sun and sunset color. Jim, Mitzi, and I took a hike to Marble Gap, with spectacular clouds and subtly beautiful colors in the vegetation, which seemed to be glowing in the subdued light.

The next day was cloudy with occasional showers. We all helped Mark survey the lower entrances together – Trail Jct., Sinking Stream, Upstream, Dry Stream, and found some leads of dubious potential, including a deep pit that Mark had heard about but not located before now. Jim and Cynthia hiked out.

In the evening it hailed a bit, and then snowed the next day. Not much. Two sets of hikers took shelter in the cabin for short times while it rained. One couple had just gotten married and were on Honeymoon. The remaining three took another Karst walk between snows, to photograph and show Mark the Hanging Rock entrance. By now it was visibly snow-plastered up on the ridge. Mitzi and I hiked out, the snow turning to light rain at lower elevations. A Speleocamp notable for spectacular weather, not always comfortable, but beautiful, especially the richly falling snowflakes. I set a record for myself of going on no caving trips, excepting short leads, and still having a great time.

THE SAG RAG
SHASTA AREA GROTTO – NSS
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NEWS DATED MATERIAL

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