

# HAPPY HOLIDAY CAVE

NO COUNTY, ANYWHERE

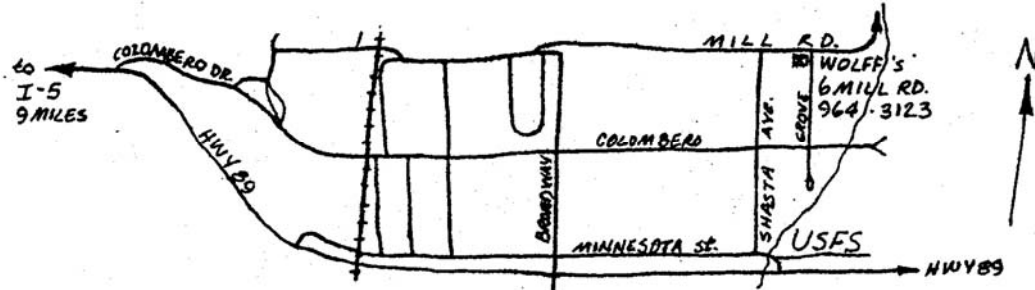


Published bi-monthly by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Edited by Jim and Liz Wolff, PO Box 865, McCloud, Ca. 96057, (916) 964-3123.

Shasta Area Grotto meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Meeting places are announced in this newsletter. Subscriptions are \$4/year or \$.75 per single issue. Grotto dues are \$4/person and \$6/family.

**WHAT'S HAPP'NIN'?**

Jan 10, 1986 SAG meeting at the Wolff's in McCloud. Bring slides, caving gear and/or skis.



Feb 14, 1986 SAG meeting. Place to be announced in next RAG.

**NSS DOINGS**

- June 16-20, 1986 Preconvention train excursion, Mexico.
- June 17-20, 1986 NSS/CRF Restoration Field Camp, Carlsbad Caverns.
- June 22-28, 1986 NSS Convention Tularosa, NM.
- June 29, 1986 NSS News Open House, Albuquerque, NM.
- June 29 - July 5, 1986 National Cave Rescue Seminar, Carlsbad Caverns, NM.
- August 1987 NSS Convention Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.
- June 1988 NSS Convention Hot Springs, SD.

Hello you out there in Readerland! Do you do anything? Like going caving? Do you get tired of seeing the same names in the RAG? Would you like to see YOUR name in PRINT? Send in your articles for the SAG RAG! Or better yet, bring them to the January meeting and turn them in IN Person! Hello? Hello??

*The Continuing Adventures of Cap'n. Speleo & Boy Blunder  
"The Lurking Deer"*

Gee Captin Speleo, those friendly deer seem to be closing in on our supper dishes!

- click  
click -  
- clack

yes Boy Blunder Just remember to keep your head down and protect the left-over macaroni & tunafish.

**CONFESSIONS OF A CARBIDE CAVER ....** by J. Wolff

It all started one day when I all of a sudden realized that I had nearly run out of my carbide supply! HORRORS! What shall I do!? Well, for one, I had recently gotten a dandy electric system that I've been meaning to try, on a full-time-basis ..., well, at least for the remainder of the caving season, anyway. And besides, I needed a main light for the cave trip I had planned for the next day, so I packed up somewhat apprehensively about my having to rely entirely on an untested head light this time – for my batteries, tho they were Duracells, sat in my garage, in temperatures below freezing ..., and I expect them to perform to their “max”, I ask myself?!

Sure didn't take long to pack up really. Just tossed in a few extra batteries for the head light, couple of flashlights and that was it! ... or was it? Why, the pack was hardly bulging at all, and a little heavy for its size – certainly small without the bulk of the bulk of repair kit, carbide and water bottles, plus dump bags to boot!! Aw, what the heck, I'll throw the stuff in anyway, just in case, and my trusty rusty lamp as a “back-up”, just to be sure ..., then I thought better. It would be good for me to do this “cold turkey” (no pun intended, sorry), just to learn about being “one of those”, those, ~~ear~~ e-electric cavers!! Boy, it sure is hard to adjust, after x-number of years as a CARBIDE caver ...

Well, as it turned out I learned a lot about my new lighting system. The silly battery pack kept getting in the way as I tried stuffing myself down thru a breakdown plug. And the cord. That goofy thing, why it seemed to be always in the way ..., but you know it sure was neat to be able to focus the light. And it is lite-weight for sure, compared to a charged carbide lamp sitting on your hat! I'm sure the Neanderthal Forehead Look is no longer in vogue, and that slow process to attain that physical deformity ..., but I digress. Yup, there certain advantages and disadvantages to both sources of light. Now I'm not quite sure which type of caver I am, electric or carbide .... Hmm??

**SAND CAVE 11/9/85** by Liz Wolff

One howlingly cold and snowy Saturday, Ray Miller, Julie Norman (Ray's niece), and I left Mt. Shasta City for the equally howling, but sunny, Pluto Cave flow to survey Sand Cave (a.k.a. New Cave), since it was broken open by road crews during construction. After running a quick overland survey to the entrance of Barnum's Cave, Ray and I returned to Sand Cave entrance to find two guys parked and waiting for us. They'd wanted to climb Mt. Shasta, but it was snowing up there. One of the men was an ex-area resident and an ex-NSS member and both were Outdoor Leadership school teachers. We sent them off to Barnum's and gave directions to find Pluto Cave, since he hadn't been there since the Subdivision was put in!

Exiting the frigid out-of-doors we entered the balmy cave interior and immediately steamed up my glasses. The caves in this area tend to end in blown-in ash fills and the S.E. end of the cave didn't disappoint us, 217 feet from the entrance the sand floor rose up to the ceiling.

Going West from the entrance the cave descends rapidly for about 125 feet to a short upper level and a climbable 16 foot drop. Below the drop we began seeing small groups and individual bats hanging around. One of our objectives that day was to do some “degraffitizing”, so we were on the lookout for some of the more objectionable language while we surveyed down cave.

The cave continued to descend rapidly until we came to the usual sand floor that rose nearly to the ceiling, with strong air flow. Julie volunteered to crawl back with the end of the tape as far as she could go. The passage got smaller and smaller, but the wind still blew through. The “real” floor is only a few inches under the sand, and a dig is still possible.

Upon leaving the cave we had blacked out one nasty inscription and counted 34 bats, most of which were more than 20 feet from the floor.

**FOR SALE: CAVING GEAR!** At half of cost! Rope 11mm. red, unused; Hardhats, Joe Brown and Ultimat; Carabiners; Harnesses. All this stuff was used as props in a movie, otherwise it's not been out of the box. Call Mike Zanger in Mt. Shasta, 926-3117 and say Jim sent you!

## For sale: Sizable cave in heart of the Ozarks

A development that has taken years to create is up for sale in Arkansas.

Castle Cave, a huge cavern located in the depths of a mountain in the Ozarks, has been under development since the time when what is now the United States was a great sea, and the shells of countless generations of sea creatures were deposited on the floor of that sea.

Geologic ages later, they became the limestone strata of the Ozark Mountains. Over time, several large caves formed.

"This cave includes great vaulted rooms decorated with fantastic calcite deposits where mineral-laden water dripped from ceilings or flowed from one level to another, creating stalactites and stalagmites and other exciting displays of nature," said Robert Reilly, senior vice president and manager of the Chicago office of Previews Inc., the real estate company marketing the cave.

The four-level cave also includes a number of streams and a large lake, called Keno's Lake. Only 2½ miles of its passageways have been explored and mapped.

The current "main entrance" is near the top of the mountain and leads into the Great Room on the first level. The room, large enough to hold a seven-story building on a site the size of a football field, features decorative formations on all four walls, Reilly said.

"The entire cave is alive and growing. Its temperature is a constant 56 degrees."

The property that includes Castle Cave consists of 40 acres of mountain and offers a view of the Ozark countryside.

The cave is well-known to members of the National Speleological Society. The first cave to be listed by the Arkansas National Heritage Commission, it is considered to be one of the largest and most beautiful in the United States, Reilly said.

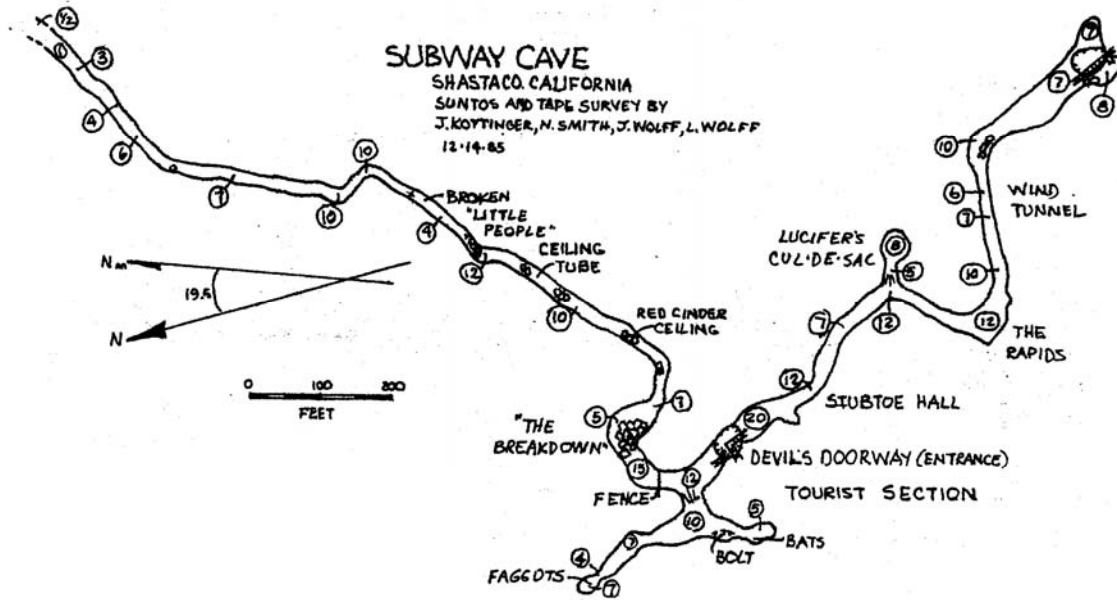
The cave property, listed for \$1.25 million, is located 14 miles from Mountain View, Ark. Little Rock, Ark., and Memphis, Tenn., are 100 and 140 miles, respectively, from the site.

For information and an illustrated brochure of Castle Cave, telephone Previews Inc.'s Chicago office at (312) 648-0313.

### The Far Side



**"C'mon, Arlene, Just a few feet in and then we can stand."**



Map: Subway Cave

### SUBWAY CAVE ... by Liz Wolff

Subway Cave is a semi-commercialized cave managed by the U.S.F.S. on the Lassen N.F. The improvements consist of entrance and exit stairs, return trail, and interpretive signs. After an early start, and an uneventful drive on a beautiful Saturday AM, Jim Kottinger, Jim and myself met Neils Smith at the entrance to Cave Campground across Hwy 89 from Subway. The road is inundated with snow/ice and Neils didn't want to drive it in his car. We waited 'til 10:15 for the mine rescue from Susanville that was to meet us there at 10. So, leaving a note on Neils' windshield, we hiked off thru the snow to the cave. It was a sweltering 20 degrees F. or -7 degrees C.!

The cave was exhaling warm air and we found stairs covered with the beginnings of ice stalagmites going into the north end. Immediately upon arriving on the floor of the cave a large passage took off to the left and divided again. The north passage went about 200' (212' to be exact) ending in a small room with branches and half-burned faggot-torches littering the floor. Returning to the divide, the south end went exactly 100' to the back wall. There were 2 hibernating bats there so we began the survey out of this passage. Leaving a cairn at the junction with the main cave, we headed NORTH into the unknown.

Jim W. noticed that there was walking passage past "the breakdown". Right after skinning through the fence there was "the breakdown". At first look it appeared impassable, but we might be able to squeeze around the left side. Sure enough a roomy passage went by on the left, and there is walking passage beyond "the breakdown". The 1700 feet of cave beyond "the breakdown" is mostly intact and, at first, has a raised lava tongue that gradually broadens and flattens itself to oblivion. The passage also broadened and flattened to 6" high with a breeze blowing through. A strong light shone up the passage revealed spray paint, buttons in the cracks on the floor and a higher ceiling beyond. But none of the crew wanted to brave the 6" crawlspace, especially with that clinker floor!

Surveying out we found a spot where several "little people" (lava stalagmites) had been broken. Some of their remains littered the floor, but most were missing. We also noted an upper level tube segment about 20 feet long, rusty stains on the walls and a breakdown that exposed a red ceiling.

Continued on next page

Surveying out the entrance of the cave, we hiked back to the cars to eat lunch. Neils found he had the ignition key to his car, but no way to get in, and his lunch sitting on the back seat in plain sight. Forty-five minutes, one wire coat hanger, two Jims, and one tourist later Neils managed to eat lunch. With Neils pocketing the right keys this time, we headed back to survey the “tourist” section of Subway Cave.

Upon returning to the cave we met an inquisitive couple who asked about our carbide lamps. We told them how rocks + water = fire. They asked quite intelligent questions and were very interested in the cave and caving. (Rats! We forgot to get their names!)

Entering the “Devil’s Doorway”, we surveyed through “Stubtoe Hall” and into “Lucifer’s Cul-de-Sac”. Making a right-angle turn at the “Rapids” we whistled through the “Wind Tunnel”, past another breakdown and into the final cul-de-sacs. With lava seals to the right and left, we had no choice but to exit the cave via the stairs or return through the cave. The “tourist section” of Subway Cave is 1009 feet long.

In Caves of California, Halliday calls the cave 1500 feet approximately. The portion of Subway Cave from the “breakdown” to the other end of the tourist section, including the side passage, is about 1500 feet long. Total length of the cave is 2848 feet.

THE SAG RAG  
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NEWS DATED MATERIAL

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