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SHASTA AREA GROTTO/NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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THE CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

As some of you know the Shasta-Trinity N.F. Supervisor wrote in response to our application for voluntary services to help manage their caves. The letter, and later some phone calls, confirmed the reason for not entering into a voluntary agreement to be liability problems. Apparently, within recent months a volunteer "got hurt", made a claim, and made it stick. It looks as though we can still get the aerial photos and maps we requested, but until the financial cloud stops hanging over the head of the USFS, we will have to put in a greater effort to see "their" cave management job fulfilled.

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HOW TO

Introduce the inexperienced to caving by Ray Miller, NSS25724

One of the more satisfying aspects of being an outdoorsman is introducing others to the marvels of nature and caving. One April Saturday four "old hands" escorted six with little or no experience into publicly well-known lava tubes southwest of Medicine Lake.

The "old hands" were Jim Kottinger, my two stalwart but dumb-enough-to-check-tight-leads nieces, Julie and Tracy Norman, and myself. Nearly new to the concept of caving were Gordon Bond and daughter, of Mt. Shasta. Never before underground were two other Bond children, and Denise Banks and her young son. The kids ranged in age from seven to twelve. We explored Bat and Three Level Ice Caves and a series of short caves along the road near Jot Dean Ice Cave.

Perhaps an insight into how we handled a group this inexperienced will be of interest to others. There are those who have a deep fear of the dark, being underground, and/or in close places. These people have my sympathy and understanding, and I do not try to talk them into entering a cave. A cave is no place for a person to lose self-control, especially if there are others with little experience in the party.

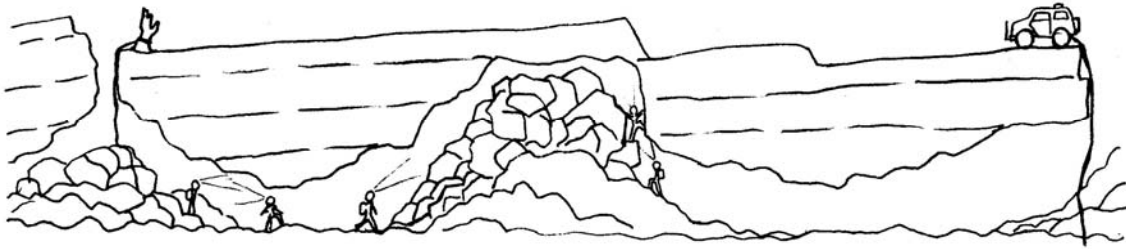
It is calming (and more fun - ed.) for children to have others their age along who are comfortable in caves. It must be understood, however, that caves are not a place to show off or frighten others - with stories or deeds.

Try to pick a "first time" cave that presents few hazards. You can then keep the list of "don'ts" to a minimum and allow a maximum amount of freedom. Bat Cave is ideal. All you need to tell kids is not to run, to stop if they want to look up, and don't disturb the bats. In Bat Cave, with only one entrance, no branches, nothing to climb on, no pits or low ceilings, they are hard put to find a way to get into difficulty.

Before entering the cave for the first time, make sure each person has protective clothing and explain why it is necessary. A four day headache will dull anyone's thrill of caving. Then the group is told that we are going in where the light is dim, and we will sit down until our eyes adjust to the subdued light. I take this opportunity to discuss some of the more common fears, but without using the term fear. The cave has been here for thousands of years and suffered countless earthquakes. The rocks may look freshly broken, but this is due to the lack of weathering in caves. The roof will not fall. Bats can go out in dim starlight and catch mos-

quitoes, and they will fly around in the absolute dark of a cave and go to their sleeping place. They will not blunder into PEOPLE! Bears like a very small place they can keep warm with their body heat. The caves people enter are large, cold, and drafty. We may also discuss how the cave was formed and some of the creatures that do live in the cave we are entering.

The final step is to enter the dark but keep talking. Point out the neat stuff like bat guano and cave formations. Keep their minds occupied, not with where they are, but with what they are seeing. Before long they will be exploring on their own. They will be comfortable enough that you can sit them down, turn off the lights, and give them the experience of total darkness.



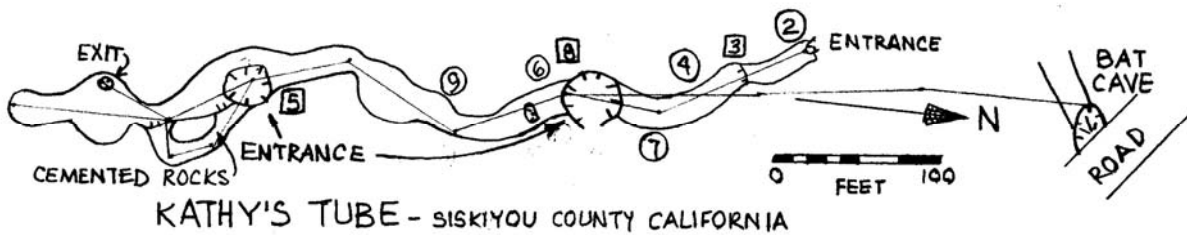
CAVE SITES

April 12 Lovers Leap – cave hunting. Claude Smith, Neils Smith, Ray Miller, Jim Kottinger, Jim Wolff. They found several short caves and well developed karst, but didn't see "it" all.

April 13 Signal Flag cave, a lava tube in a very old lava flow. Neils Smith and Jim Wolff pushed farther into the breakdown plug at the south end of the cave, and it still goes – altho very grim looking! Surveyed short northern extension.

April? Bat Cave, Three Level Ice Cave, unnamed roadside caves. Ray Miller, Jim Kottinger, novices. See HOW TO article this issue.

June 14 Kathy's Tube and Bat Cave. Jim Kottinger, Ray Miller, Neils Smith, Liz Wolff. A newly discovered cave overlying (so we thought) Bat Cave. Found by Kathy (granddaughter? of Jim K.) Surveyed 625 feet.



Map: Kathy's Tube Cave

June 14 Bones Gulch. Tom Hesseldenz, Arley Kisling, Steve Knutson, Jim Wolff, and Nature Conservancy interns. See article this issue.

May 10 Shasta Lake, Point McCloud, Jim Kottinger, Ray Miller, Claude and Riley Smith. Found, surveyed, and photographed a small cave, but a pretty one.

May ? Porcupine Butte Cave, Bat Cave. Al and Phylis Henderson, Ben Rust.

July 3-6 Marble Mtns. Steve Knutson, Mark Fritzke, Roger Jones, and all the Wolvves. Hanging Rock Cave, Apogee Cave, karst walking.

July 12-13 Shasta Lake. French Gulch and McCloud Arm. Cave hunting. Claude Smith and Glen Everest found small blowing holes they didn't manage to dig into. The more they dug the more it blew. Anyone for a dig-your-own-cave trip?

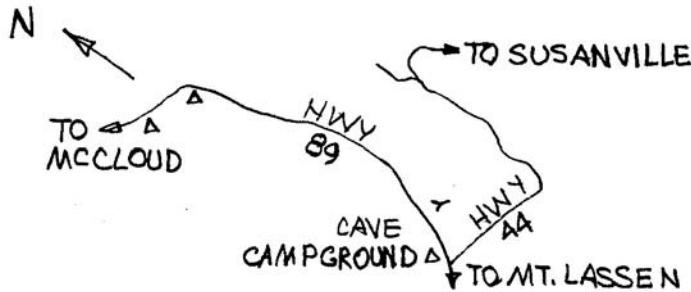
GROTTO CALENDAR

July 18 Grotto meeting at Grizzly Camp in the Trinity Mtns. Dry camp. Paul Gibson Cave. A 5 mile hike from camp. Look for SAG on paper plates for the route up from Hwy. 299, west of Redding.

Aug. 8 Grotto meeting at Cave campground, Hat Creek area. Cave hunting and survey clinic.

Aug. 29- Sept 7 Speleo-camp in the Marble Mtns. Call Jim Wolff for more information. 964-3123.

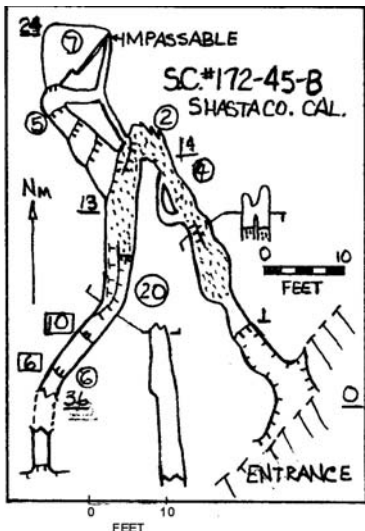
Sept. 11 Grotto meeting, Shasta Lake. Annual houseboat trip. Send your \$10 to reserve a spot to Claude Smith, 131 Oleander Cir. Redding CA 96001.



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Welcome to new members Seth and Evan LaForge, sons of Dick LaForge of Eureka. They are NSS22159 and NSS27121, respectively.

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Map: Wolverine Cave

Secret Cave # 172-45-B By Jim Wolff
(Wolverine Cave – pdf ed.)

Tom found this cave while checking a new FS timber sale, looking for springs and critters that live in them. The cave is in a relatively small outcrop of deceptive-looking fossiliferous limestone, well karstified. Plus a spring (resurgence?) several hundred feet below the cave had plenty of potential. It still has potential because one tight crack has what appears to be a (stream?) gravel bed on its floor with passage going off who knows where. Steve and I both tried stuffing ourselves into it, but found real quick that it would require removing most of our clothing and the use of a handline, which we didn't have. Oh well, maybe next time.

BOOK REVIEW

INSIDE THE CAVES – by Charles L. Arnold 1986
 Published by the author, 116 Hillside Ave., Albany, CA 94706
 6" X 9", 35 p., \$7.50, paper cover.

Inside the Caves is a small non-technical booklet dealing with the lava tubes within the Lava Beds National Monument in California, very near the Oregon border. The first half of this booklet describes, in very easy to understand terms and line drawings, how lava tubes and formations form. The author then describes how air currents, temperature and water supply affect the underground climate.

The latter part of the booklet is devoted to an elementary description of five of the more popular caves within Lava Beds National Monument. Simplified vertical line drawings of these caves are provided, but there are no plan views. Indian Well, Merrill, Sentinel, Skull, and Valentine Caves are featured. Mr. Arnold lists twenty-one different cave features as being present in Sentinel Cave, however he only locates six of these.

This booklet is profusely illustrated with forty color photographs. The color reproduction is excellent, but this publication is handicapped by a small image size (the largest photos are 3 3/8" X 4 3/8") and single flash on the camera photography.

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NEWS DATED MATERIAL

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