



CAVERS CALENDAR

- Aug. 27- Sept. 7 Speleocamp in the Marble Mountains. Lots to be done still. Even the glory of finding new caves!
- Sept. 12 Grotto meeting, Forest Glen Campground. Forest Glen, Hall City, and Natural Bridge Caves. To get to Forest Glen take Hwy. 299 west from Redding to Douglas City, turn left onto Hwy. 36, Heading south to the town of Peanut. Continue west on 36 to the Forest Glen station and campground. About 6 miles to Peanut and 13 miles on to Forest Glen.
- Oct. 10 Grotto meeting in McCloud. Lots of leads to check.

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NOTICE TO ALL CAVERS WHO HAVE GEAR STORED IN THE GRAIN SHED IN MARBLE VALLEY: All cavers who have gear in the grain bin, please claim your things this year. The bin is getting over-full of things that seem not to have owners.

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MARBLE MOUNTAINS – August 1-3

by Jim Wolff

Thursday night saw the Wolffs pack up and head for the Lovers Camp trailhead. We wanted to get a good early start on the trail the next morning because of the heat. Upon awakening in the morning we found we weren't the only cavers assembling for the trek in, Scott Linn (WVG) had brought along a van-full of folks – mostly New Zealanders. Cap'n. Speleo also showed up to round 'em up and herd 'em out!

As at most Speleocamps with large crowds of cavers, there always seems to be a lot of hemming and hawing about what to do. Well, veteran of many speleo-campaigns, Cap'n Speleo (Steve Knutson) orchestrated a few worthy short trips of the productive nature for us trail-weary cavers. There was the remapping of Skunk Hollow Cave and digging into a cave with a spring, and karst checking.

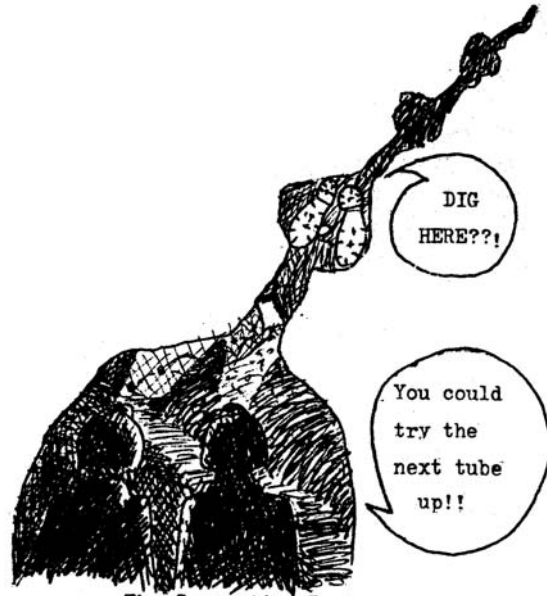
Matt, Sara, and I did some karst walking and came up with a strongly blowing hole in a deep sink. We dug it open and then surveyed from it to a KMCTF surface reference point. We noted it to be about 200 feet from the Hanging Rock Cave entrance.

Friday evening saw Mark Fritzke arrive, and Saturday saw a large crowd head for Upstairs-Downstairs Cave. Mark thought he would try a dig in Missing Link Cave (a part of Corkscrew Cave) near the entrance. Scott, Steve, and I decided to enter Bigfoot Cave and dig past a rocky obstruction in a passage off the Serpent River. On the dig we hoped to connect with Hanging Rock, but if it didn't prove out we had other work to do.

Once down the entrance drop we proceeded upstream through enormous halls with giant hills of rubble on one side and the stream winding below the domes on the other side. We arrived at our destination, a muddy ledge on the wall, 6-8 feet off the floor. There a crawl began that soon led to our dig site. With a much

appreciated boost from Scott, and Steve grabbing my coveralls and yarding me up to the ledge, we proceeded on. Upon arrival, Steve noted the dig to be in sand and gravels and mud, not rock and rubble. So much for the digging tools we had with us, the close quarters dictated that we dig with hands. I sized up the situation early-on and determined it would be near impossible for me, a left-hander, to try and dig in these conditions. Watching Steve and Scott take turns at the "face" wore me out. While in the crawl digging we noticed, all of a sudden, the air change direction. Instead of flowing past us toward the plug, the air reversed and went up the dome behind and around the corner from us. Scott was soaking wet from wallowing in the damper, lower part of the dig, so he was putting a lot of time into trying to keep warm.

Meanwhile, Steve climbed up the dome that was now taking air but couldn't find where it went. Back at the dig, Scott was furiously clawing away at the rock and mud, with few places left to stow the debris. He said, "I can see beyond now and it looks bigger!" Rocks kept tumbling down to clank on his lamp reflector and bump off his face. A few more rocks "I'm going to under the last of this plug", "looks like it goes!" So off he went. Steve and I waited for him to return with bad news. Five minutes or less and he was back, "It's Hanging Rock! We've connected to Hanging Rock!" Not that Steve doubted him, but he clambered through to verify the connection himself. And sure enough the connection is the same one Steve predicted when the two caves were plotted together. I soon popped through only to immediately want to return, knowing the struggle was worse than going in for me. They earned the glory, but I helped share the joy of connection. Our vertical gear waited for us back at the Discovery Entrance of Bigfoot, and even though a through trip was possible now, Scott and I were not up to it.



The Connection Route

By the time we were back to the Serpent River we were warmed up enough and willing to try a poke at a few more leads, so off upstream a short distance a dome floored with mud "mud castles" was checked out by Steve – nothing of promise. One other lead was checked, but it too yielded very little, only about 100 feet of new cave each. These will have to be surveyed later. Yet, all in all, a very productive and satisfying trip.



Oregon Caves Aug. 16, 1986 by Steve Knutson

On August 16 Mike Sims, John Blum, and I visited Oregon Caves National Monument to see the small section of Oregon Caves rediscovered last winter. Last fall the Park Service began a rehabilitation program that will include redesign of the lighting, removal of algae near the lights and removal of construction rock from the blasting of the "Connecting Tunnel" and "Exit Tunnel" in the 1930's. For some reason the tunnel construction rock was stashed during tunnel construction in any nearby passage or alcove. Its removal will restore the cave to a much closer approximation of original condition. So far they have removed material from around the connecting tunnel but are far from finished. A 13-man crew worked for two weeks last winter – more work is planned and they are looking for volunteer labor; so cavers take note – you can have a hand in restoring this great cave and maybe be in on the rediscovery of a long-blocked passage or room. Contact me or Mike Sims at (503) 665-6609 for details.

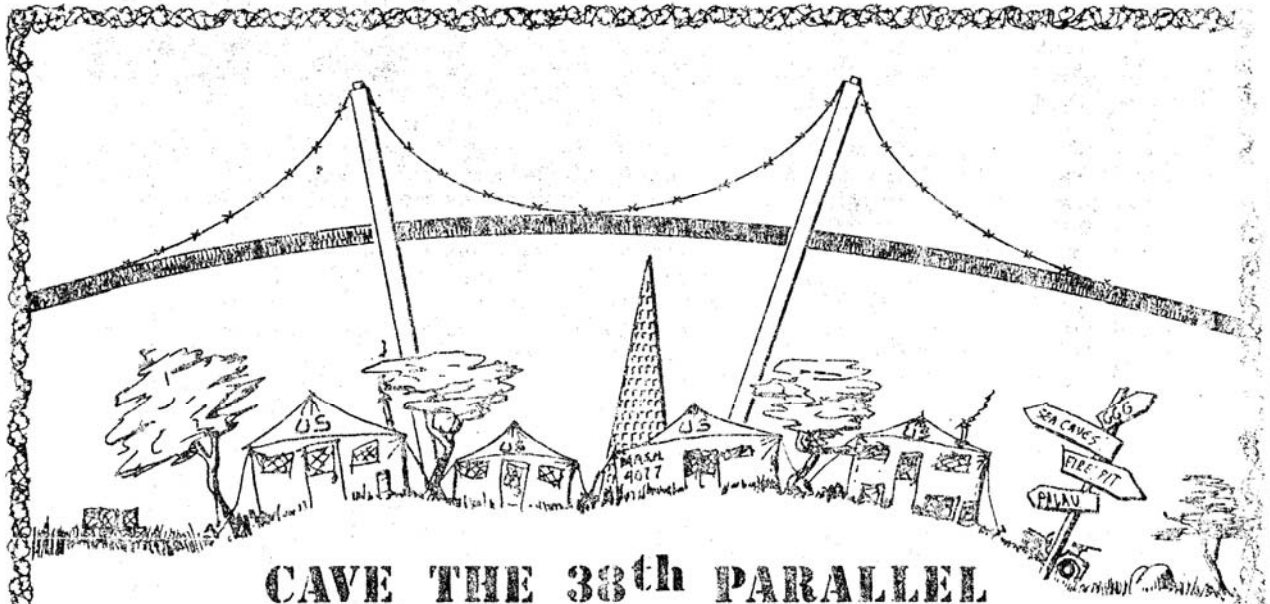
Meanwhile, back to the subject. We entered with Terry Darby, Park Ranger, at about 10:30 a.m., between tours (every 10 minutes!) Near the connecting tunnel, at the head of the River Styx, we hopped up into an alcove, crawled to the end and found a belly crawl blocked with a board and camouflaged with rocks. This was the start of the new-old passage. Past this the belly crawl led to a passage going right and left, 4 – 5' high. Right it led to the River Styx above the connecting tunnel, not seen since the '30's. Unfortunately, upstream the ceiling came down to water level and the mystery of the source of this stream was still not revealed. The summer dry season had brought flow down to about 1/2 cfs. Left the passage looped on itself and did not continue, though there were a couple possible digs. We surveyed the area and did some photography; there were the usual Oregon Caves small displays of pretty flowstone, soda straws and draperies. Then it was back to the tour route; in-between tours Terry showed us a couple of other sites of rock excavation, including a 10' high 50' passage near the Wigwam, now Imagination, Room that had been totally blocked up when I had been there during my survey project in the early 70's. Then out the 110 entrance, back into the afternoon heat.

It was very pleasing to see part of the cave again, but it was even more pleasing to hear of changing attitudes by the Park Service. During my close look at the cave in the early 70's, my opinion became, "they're not doing right by the cave." Tour guides were given "reward" trips into the cave during which they ran wild, seeking recreation. This was obviously inappropriate in a Park Service cave. During a tour it was announced that there were no cave-adapted life forms in the cave, yet such forms were readily apparent if one looked closely. Not only did the Park Service not seem to care what happened to the cave, but didn't even know what was there.

Now it appears that things will be different. Rubble removal is already in progress and other restorations are being considered. Any cave biologists want some work? A biological study is certainly indicated. During survey in the 70's we noted apparently cave adapted millipedes, collembolans, spiders and a pseudo scorpion. It's time for cavers to make input – let's do it.

Subway and Garbage Pit Caves

July 11 saw SAG descend on Hat Cr. Campground for a grotto meeting and cave trip. Subway Cave was the first order of business for us, as Tom and Bev Tyler, new grotto members, had never seen a lava tube. The only change noticeable in the cave was a greater amount of garbage at the end of the non-tourist section of the cave. Tom was encouraged to get the full lava tube experience and push the clinker crawl at the end of the cave. Neils' son-in-law, Tony, on his first cave trip did not try the crawl. After lunch the group headed for some entrance hunting. The lava flow here is very narrow and should hold going cave down from Subway. The only entrance found was full of garbage, and called Garbage Pit.



CAVE THE 38th PARALLEL

1986 Western Regional Convention
 ...to be held at...
 BATTERY ALEXANDER
 Golden Gate National Recreation Area
 Marin County, California

GOLDEN GATE GROTTO will be hosting its first Western Regional on the upcoming Labor Day Weekend, August 30 through September 1. It's gonna be fun alright, with lots of opportunities for catching up with old friends and making some new ones. Although located only a short round (or stone's throw) from the San Francisco urban metropolis, the extensive park lands of GGNRA offer a quiet refuge for Bay Area residents. Previously occupied by the military, this vast wilderness area located just north of the Golden Gate Bridge was set aside in 1972 as a National Recreation Area. The terrain includes wooded areas, vast grasslands, and scenic shoreline, offering the Park visitor a wide variety of activities such as hiking, exploring the rugged coastline, nature photography, and of course... sea caving.

The group campsite at Battery Alexander offers ample parking, power and water, a level area for tents, limited barbeque and picnic table facilities, and the unique opportunity to roll out your sleeping bag inside the Battery itself, which can accommodate about 75 persons. The event organizers encourage folks to utilize the Battery accommodations for sleeping, as the tent space is somewhat limited (about 20 sites). The large gravelled parking area located adjacent to the group campsite can accommodate around 50 vehicles and is connected to the camping area by a gated fire road. Your hosts will hold the magic key to the gate; however, vehicles will only be permitted in the campground for loading and unloading of heavy items. Unfortunately, no one will be permitted to drive their vehicle into the campsite and set up residence in it--level ground is precious and is needed for the tent campers. In the event RV and/or tailgate camping is your style, you will be sleeping in the parking area away from the rest of the group. (Some folks may actually prefer this situation in view of the late partying hours that certain cavers sometimes keep). Due to the layout of the site, its partially indoor nature, the lack of available tree tie-ups, and the fact that our work force/clean-up crew consists of a very small number, your hosts must request that your pets remain in the safety and comfort of your home this Labor Day weekend.

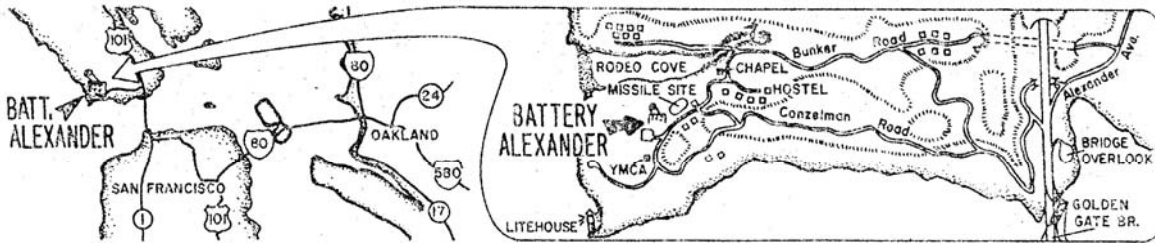
Marin County weather along the coast at this time of year is usually sunny and warm during the day but participants are urged to bring a jacket to ward off the chilly fog that sometimes accompanies the evening sunset. Extremes in temperature are likely to be encountered, somewhat similar to what you would find in the California desert with its warm days and cold evenings. Hiker types will want to pack their boonie stompers, shorts and lug sole boots and are urged to carry a wind-breaker for the trails that cross over the many gusty ridges in the Park. Poison oak and ticks are abundant but can be avoided--your hosts have hiked the Park extensively and have emerged largely unscathed so you can too. The seashore crowd will be delighted with the GGNRA's many secluded beaches and their resident tidepool life. Access to the Park's numerous beaches ranges from a leisurely stroll to some pretty hardy hiking--trail maps and explicit directions will be made available to all interested persons at the registration table. The Park also contains a "clothing optional" beach for those who enjoy flirting with hypothermia. Although such activities are not officially sanctioned by Park authorities and the taxpayer's dollar, they are quietly tolerated and no one gets busted. Your hosts will provide explicit directions to the site so you may join in the fun or steer well clear of it, depending on your tastes.

A large number of sea caves are also available for exploration in the Park and most are located in difficult access areas. This is not a "scare story" fabricated by gutless wimps--many of the areas are extremely hazardous in terms of rockfall, active landslides, and lively surf conditions. The use of wetsuits, handlines, and helmets is strongly encouraged for those who want to try it. This activity is not recommended for children--sea caving in the Marin Headlands requires climbing proficiency, the ability to swim, and knowledge of the tides in order to insure a safe trip. Those interested in visiting the Park's sea caves should contact the event organizers upon arrival for details and assistance.

In addition to self-guided hiking and sea cave excursions, activities planned for the long weekend include NPS guided tours of the SHORT ROUNDS editorial offices (the underground Nike Battery) and the Point Bonita Lighthouse (the one on the cliff). Your hosts are also inviting all attending regional grottos and chapters to present a 20 minute slide show of their members' caving activity over the past year to liven up the evenings, and it is hoped that each organization represented will participate fully and share their stories and experiences with caving friends old and new. The event organizers will also have on hand a color television and video cassette recorder (VHS) for cave humor shorts and a selection of our favorite underground adventure films as well as yours should you dare to bring them. An auction to benefit the CALIFORNIA CAVER will feature a Special Guest Appearance by Billy Post (if the current holder remembers to bring him) as well as master of ceremonies extraordinaire and veteran mud crawler, Mr. S. Ray Beach. Bring lots of stuff to contribute to the auction--nothing will be refused, for your junk may very well be someone else's treasure and all proceeds go to benefit the CAL CAVER.

There will be a Sacred Cow Roast on Sunday evening (bring your own cow). The banquet will be a group barbecue affair, so bring your favorite dead animal, hibachi and soft drinks and your hosts will do the rest. The event organizers will be offering charcoal briquets and disposable plates, cups, and eating utensils. Your hosts will also be offering a No-Host Beer Service at the banquet--tickets will be available at the registration table for tapping into the kegs which your hosts will have on hand. The event organizers plan to see our final evening together go out in one great big blaze of glory with a group campfire on Sunday evening--the Battery features what may very well be the world's largest fire rings (12 ft diameter mortar pits). Your hosts have a line on lots of dead wood (tree-type, not speleo-political) and plan to sacrifice many burnt offerings so that Oztotl may be appeased for another year.

Our grotto looks forward to seeing all of you once again on the upcoming Labor Day weekend. There will be lots of stories to catch up on and people to see, so y'all come now, y'hear!



- \$3.00 per person - for those who pre-register
- \$5.00 per person - for those who storm the door and register on-site

...SORRY, FOLKS...

NO PETS will be permitted (even on leash)
...your cooperation will be greatly appreciated...

tear or cut along dotted line

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
1986 Western Regional Convention

If you plan to attend the 1986 Western Regional at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, kindly fill in the blanks below with names of attendees and their primary grotto/chapter affiliation and enclose \$3.00 for each name on the list.

_____	_____
name	grotto/chapter affiliation
_____	_____
name	grotto/chapter affiliation
_____	_____
name	grotto/chapter affiliation

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

MAIL TO: GOLDEN GATE GROTT
1286 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE \$3.00 PRE-REGISTRATION RATE
YOUR CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY US NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Digging up the Marbles by Cap'n Speleo

Yes, it seems to be the era of the dig in the Marbles. We've always dug here and there, but now it seems to be the exciting (?) thing to do. What? A dig "exciting"?? Could be.

One that Michelle Richardson and I found last year (that Wayne Walent found years ago) looked pretty good. It is only 50' above a perennial spring, mid-way on Black Mtn.; a crawl through 2 very tight places leads to a steeply sloping body (sized) tube nearly filled with sand and cobbles. From the gap at the ceiling issues a blast of air; beyond (not far?) is the sound of rushing water. A big cave on Black Mtn. at last?

So this year (Aug. 1) Scott Linn and I started digging. With a bucket, scoop, trowel, pry bar, and rope we hauled load after load of sand and cobbles up the slope and into the little sit-up room where it was carefully distributed (not much room). I was usually in the tube, Scott above. Occasionally I would call "rock" and clobber Scott with something; followed by curses, moans, etc. – anything to relieve the boredom. We got through the tube, but it flattens out and turns a corner so more needs to come out before we can tell if the stream is accessible. What we need is a short-handled hoe and better bucket. So we called it a day. We thought of a different name to call the cave; at one point Scott was moaning about bruises he had sustained – I was mumbling about how it must be the spring's stream in the passage beyond. Suddenly it came to me – "spring stream?", "bruise?" Bruise SpringStream Cave!

Skunk Hollow and Upstairs-Downstairs Caves by Liz Wolff

Hiking in to the Marbles is enough in one day, usually. But to get there before noon and have the whole afternoon ahead of you means that you Must go caving. So Melissa Boyd (WVG), Brad? and York (??) from Germany, and myself set out to do the remap of Skunk Hollow Cave. A 500' hike from the camp in Marble Valley brought us to the cave entrance. It was York's first cave ever, and Brad's first survey trip. There was plenty of time to scramble around and see the "sights" before we began the survey. Melissa was teaching Brad to use the Suuntos while York and I set stations. It was slow. We taped the widths at every station as the cave is about 100' wide at most points, a little much for guesstimating. We debated all the way thru the cave whether we wanted to survey the 200' water-crawl at the bottom of the cave, or not. At the point where the crawl begins is a short climb leading into, what Scott had called, the "Inverted Devils Tower Room". We put off the wet decision and surveyed up instead. The room is spacious, with a block hanging down from the ceiling looking just like the Devils Tower of Wyoming, hence the name. One wall in the room is black schist with white flowstone cascading down from a small hole high on the wall. Real pretty, but the moment of decision was now here. Wallow in the water or wimp out?

We decided to take a look and see how wet we'd have to get and wimped out, leaving the water crawl to the wetsuited cavers.

By Saturday the New Zealanders had arrived and were eager to go caving. One, Glen, who had been to the Marbles last year, was a caver, the rest climbers. I had the kids today and they all wanted to go bop Upstairs-Downstairs Cave. I was the only one who had been there (once two years ago), so we all set out on the great cave hunt. There's lotsa holes out there, but we finally found the right one. Entering the cave, I checked out some holes to see if they were where they were s'posed to be, according to the map I had just got finished drafting. Then gave the rest of the crew explicit directions how to get to the cliff-face entrance. (They only forgot one, and spent an hour trying to find how to get on from where they were.) The kids and I left the cave to traverse around to Marble Gap and down the trail to camp. Later that evening Brad ran down from the cave (15 min.), Brian and ?? walked the trail around Black Mtn. (30 min), and Melissa and York traversed to Marble Gap and down that trail and took 45 minutes. It took us an hour to hike up, but it's worth it just to see Super Sink.

Meet Tom Tyler, newest SAG member ... by Tom Tyler

I really do not consider myself a seasoned caver; I have been in only eight wild caves, the longest being Church Cave, California; however I am no novice underground. Having been an underground miner for five years now, I have spent many fifty-plus hour weeks working mines in Nevada and Idaho. I have also formed a strong opinion about and friendship with my light source. My first underground job was with a Canadian resources firm that supplied the miners with M.S.A. "Mine Spot" headlamps and M.S.A. Skull Guard hard hats – the old Coeur d'Alene type. I later found out these were pretty much standard issue with the bigger underground hardrock mines. Coal miners seem to prefer the Comfo Cap. I have also used the Koehler Wheat Lamp, but in my opinion, which is also the opinion of most miners, the M.S.A. Mine Spot is "the" light. The battery is a 4.2-16 amp per hour volt, while the Wheat is a standard 4 volt. I have used the Mine Spot for a paced sixteen hours, and it was still going strong.¹ The two-element bulb with wide angle and spot settings is another superior feature.² The balance of the M.S.A. hat and light on your head is just about perfect. The cord on the M.S.A. is a full 3" longer than the Wheat, the exact length needed to prevent pulling while doing overhead work. The M.S.A. cord is also extra heavy-gauge. I got mine caught in a chain hoist and it did not even cut through. The mounting brackets on all M.S.A. hats fit snugly; however, should the lamp fall off, the hard hat has a snap band around the cord and is attached to your belt. I know this is a touchy subject with some cavers, and I would never have brought it up, but in the few wild caves I have visited, the only litter I have seen has been spent carbide; so I cannot help but advocate the use of electric lights underground. So unless you are headed out to "connect" the North with the South, you might consider the M.S.A. Mine Spot, and even if you are, you might as well illuminate the first sixteen to twenty hours.

1. M.S.A. factory specs guarantee ten full hours on single charge.
2. M.S.A. now offers the ML 200 halogen bulb: very intense spot only. In great demand with mushroom growers.

References:

Mine Safety Appliances	<u>Making of a Hardrock Miner</u>
1775 N. Surveyor Ave.	Stephen Voynick
Simi Valley, CA 93063	Howell North Books

THE SAG RAG
 SHASTA AREA GROTTTO / NSS
 c.o. Wolff
 P.O. Box 865
 McCloud, CA 96057

NEWS DATED MATERIAL

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