

The SAG RAG is published bi-monthly by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editors are Jim and Liz Wolff, PO Box 865, McCloud, Ca. 96057. Grotto meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Meeting places are announced in the newsletter. Grotto dues are \$4 individual, \$6 family. Dues are due in January. Subscriptions are \$4/year or 75¢/issue. Deadline for SAG RAG is 24th of the second mo. After printing (i.e., Feb., Apr., etc.)

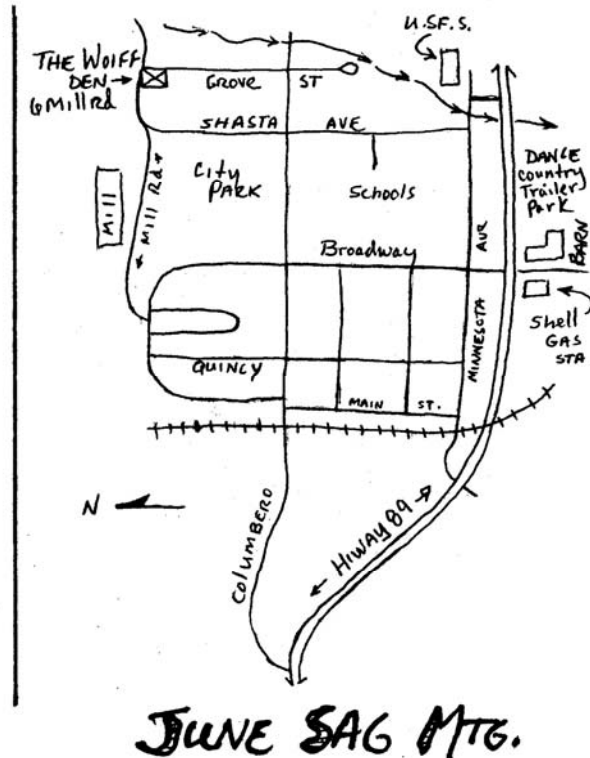
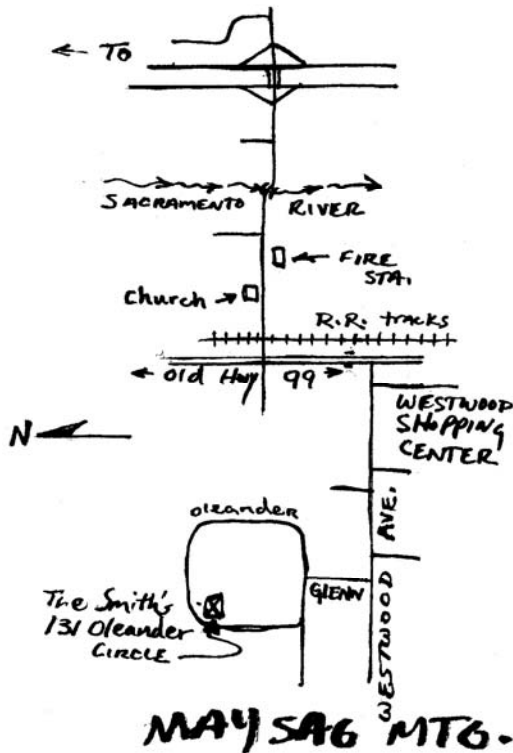
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CALENDAR

- May 2-3 SFBC trip to caves N.E. of McCloud, CA.
- May 8 SAG Gen. Mtg. at Claude Smith's, 131 Oleander Circle, Redding, CA. Ph.# (916) 246-3942. Slides etc. Cave hunting, Shasta Lk. after mtg. (see map below).
- May 21-25 Trip to Eastern Nevada to see: Goshute, Old Man and Whipple caves. Call Neils Smith, Standish, CA., (916) 254-6764 -or- Jim Kottinger, Mt. Shasta City, CA., (916) 926-3975.

Also, trip to the Marbles over Memorial Day wknd. Call Bob Richardson for more details, (408) 427-0638
- June 12 SAG Gen. Mtg. at Jim Wolff's, 6 Mill Rd., McCloud, CA., 96057. Ph# (916) 964-3123. Slides etc. Lots of stuff to do. All road access now The Cave Season has started!! (see map below).

HOW TO GET THERE



Patrick's Point Revisited – 4/11/87 by J. Wolff

Almost exactly four years ago, Dick La Forge and I went down this deep pit. It was quite damp, with things pretty wet, muddy and slippery! Dick went one way, then the other, with me following along, and not climbing down in some places like he, only when it didn't go, but then, ... that was a long time ago, and I wasn't feeling well.

So, a few years later, and a little wiser, John Blum (W.V.G.), Jim Kottinger and myself went up there. Things have changed considerably. For one, there had been a mild winter/spring season. And two, the cave was much drier since my last visit. Oh, and let's not forget the trail to the cave's many entrances, the State Parks folks posted sign warning of "... deep holes"! Why, it was real interesting to be duck-walking thru a 3ft. high tunnel, in the thick eight foot high vegetation, and run across a sign, eye level to a duck, threatening you of impending danger if you proceed on! The State Park Officials apparently are against, but not forbidding, people from going into their cave.

As soon as we got to the cave, John or Jim noticed a movement down in the main entrance. Another person was there with no equipment other than climbing shoes – I guess he was just scouting out the drop – but not on belay?! We briefly exchanged greetings and promptly asked had they planned to do this cave? Yes, they had, but after hearing that we were from as far away as we were, they (he had a buddy) offered that we could go down in their place. I guess because they are locals and we being visitors, well anyway, I was impressed by their hospitality by giving us their cave ..., of course they could have been ill prepared too, and seeing us with our gear (including rope!), could have made them change their minds. How vain for me to think that we swayed their decision by our mere presence of professionalism!

So after John rigged our rope and Jim elected to stay on top and watch the rope, we went down The bottom of the drop was strewn with the same stuff I remember from the last time, only one notable addition, a rotten (and "crushable") felt hat, with a slogan button on headband saying, "QUESTION AUTHORITY!" Certainly no caver would be caught dead with that!

John downclimbed to the water table for the sake of his carbide lamp – since neither of us remembered to bring water. Next we chimneyed 8' down where we could and scrambled up a slope to a point where we then had to climb high up into a slot that forms the junction of two main parallel fissures. I was told by Dick to watch for serpentine-like wall back in this area; and sure enough, there it was. Real pretty too, shiny, soapy-like surface, that looked almost plastic. At passage-end a wall of fill – the gravels, sand and serpentine sparkled back at our lights. Looking up we saw the cave winding up above us in dimensions not-so-easily free-climbed. It would be one place for protection if a climber was to attempt any upwards mobility!

Returning to the rope we noted that in one place any future trips into the lowest levels, where the (fresh) water table is, would require wet suits and floatation devices, as it is much too wide and walls too steep to climb. The water was clear, cold and quite deep Yes, all in all it was a good trip. Thanks guys!

EDITORIAL by J.W.

Here "it" is again. The SAG RAG staff (the "better half") is off to Portland, Mt. Rainier and then Seattle, just to be with relatives – and I sit here at a typewriter, composing as I type

I could have asked for articles from you, but I won't. All I ask is more cards and letters. I (we) like the mail, be it a few cartoons and other good humor, trip plans, potential meeting places, and even trip reports! We are seriously considering a personal computer for this job. How 'bout some suggestions on the best/cheapest, Heck, we aren't perfect ..., but if you see room for improvement, suggest.

We have a deadline date in our newsletter intro and other pertinent stuff, so read it too. Many thanks for your continued support.

DUES DUE ...

All dues will be due January 1st of each year. Those due before June 30th owe 100% now:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Mark Fritzke | Ray Miller | Joe Molter |
| Roger Jones | Steve Knutson | |

Those due after June 30th owe 50% now:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Tom Hesseldenz | Tom and Beverly Tyler |
| Don Quinton | Mark Stoute |

LOST AN' FOUND Sun Glasses (Norm?) Water Bottle (Neils)

* * * * *

Grotto Happenings ...

– A Cave Register project is underway. Bat, Pluto, Three Level Ice Cave and Subway Caves have been suggested as appropriate candidates.

– Recent cave trips have been to: Bat, 3 Level Ice and Kathy’s caves with potential members from Mt. Shasta City.

– April SAG meeting at Big Lagoon County Park brought friends from the Willamette Valley Grotto. Jim Mosser, chairman of that grotto and subscriber to the SAG RAG and John Blum. (Read trip report to Patrick’s Point Cave, page 3 of this issue.)

– Post card from member Steve Knutson gives news that Rio Atima Cave finally was finished. I’ll quote in part: “... Yes, finished the great Rio Atima Cave – 3 re-rig trips, 2 push trips, 2 mapping trips and 1 long, de-rig, pulldown thru trip. 2.5 km. long, needed 1 km. of rope, 53 riggings. There were 6 of us, and everyone worked hard; the weather held; tho it did rain 3 separate times, the river didn’t rise.” For those of you not familiar with this Guatemalan cave, read May ‘86 issue of NSS NEWS and see the true nature of this cave!

Here’s a cave lead for you.

Saw this one winter while at the office. Someone found their great uncle’s notebook in his trunk. He had been a timber cruiser out east of McCloud around the turn of the century. The location of Cold Water Cave is very close to Lava Crack Springs. May be one and the same, maybe not; the area does have good potential for caves tho.
Thanks to A. McCaw, 390 ½ Jefferson St., Portland, OR. (c. 1907).

* * * * *

Orbit



Oregon Caves Tour – 4/12/87 by Jim Wolff

After saying our goodbyes to John and Jim, the Kottingers and the Wolffs took off towards Oregon Caves National Monument, from Orick Calif. It was a long drive through The Redwoods, but it was worth it (we must have made a zillion stops later, when we finally arrived at the monument), and, well you see I'm a F.S. timber cruiser by trade and I have a bad attitude – “you've seen one, you've seen 'em all!”, right?!

At the concession's gift shop, well, we could have spent lots of bucks on the T-shirts alone! Great selection – highly recommended. But the tour? Well, we had seventeen people, with ages ranging from seven year olds to late 60's (we fit into right of middle – somewhere), and with varying degrees of intellect – you could tell by the questions fired at our guide. Jim was his name, couldn't remember his last name

So we kept quiet and silently supported our guide as he went through the most interesting, informative and easy-to-understand “spiel” that I have ever heard from any commercial cave guide, without exception. This fellow knew his material. I could tell that he had done his homework, with some personal interest, I'm sure.

The cave is going through a restorative process, under watchful eye of their new Ranger, Terry Darby. He is concerned with the vegetative growth near the lights and the general wear and tear the cave has received over the past 80 plus years since its discovery. So out comes the old lighting system and in with the new. More fixtures this time, with less light output. This would give a general lighting effect; with shadows to their best use. The trail is largely unnatural, with little bit of cement and a lot of asphalt. The asphalt provides a fertilizer-like byproduct (an oil?) that helps provide nutrients for growth of the algae and stuff under the lights.

Jim the guide said that during the winter '86/'87 season, the cave restoration started by digging out along the River Styx. The early days trail construction crew merely took the trail construction debris and stuffed every available side passage they could. They literally sealed off significant areas of the cave – for decades! It was a great tour.

* * * * *

OTHER BITS OF NEWS and stuff

– Visited with Mark Stoute and family at the Patrick's Pt. parking lot. Funny, that's where I saw him last – good to see you again – keep in touch.

– T-Shirts with SAG Logo for only \$3. You provide t-shirt and postage, I'll do it, but won't guarantee a good centering job

– SAG Library at the Wolffs', McCloud – Members only.
BOOKS OUT: Caves Beyond, Subterranean Climbers

– ARMCHAIR CAVING – A new NSS Section?

– Address Change for Mark Dawson, POB 659, Mt. Shasta, 96067, ph# (916) 926-5682.

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RED TAPE CAVE REVISITED by J.W.

Today, while on-the-job, I had the opportunity to revisit Red Tape Cave. So, all by myself and just a flashlight, but it appears that the cave goes downflow as well. The upper ledge lead is much bigger than I remember. It goes off as duck-walk and then stoop-walking heights – real WALKING PASSAGE! I didn't explore further. Good potential let's go mapping!

National Speleological

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 Shasta Area Grotto. PO 865 McCloud CA

Moles Elect President



Feb. 1987

Information has just reached this reporter that one of our very own has been elected President of the Siskiyou and Shasta County Moles.

Claude Smith of the Shasta Area Grotto has been selected to hold this high office for the year 1987. This is the first time that this office has been held by a human.

Unbeknown to anyone, Claude Smith had been followed for the last six months everytime he went underground by a group of moles to prove the rumors true that he was the fastest, the sand throwingest, up down and sideways digger and could out dig any mole that had ever dug a hole. I am also told that they had to follow in relays just to keep up. If you have ever been on one of his digs then you will understand what this fuss is about. We have to agree with their choice. He will make a good president for 1987. I understand that next year he is being considered for membership in the Gopher Community for the entire state of California. So Claude, don't worry about any strange noise you might hear along side of you as you dig. It is only your loyal following. We are all proud of you.

This is our
APRIL FOOL'S DAY ISSUE

PAGE

Thanks to:

George Reel

and

Ray Miller

Feb. 1, 1987

The trip to A12- the location of New Cave and Sand Cave where Tom, John and Lisa Heilmann, Dorothy and George Reel, Mark and Jake Dawson spent a very pleasant afternoon introducing new

young cavers to the thrill of being underground. I wish to tell all that the young people did a great job and we are looking forward to many more trips with them.



S.A.G. R & D REPORT

The Shasta Area Grotto development group is in the process of testing their newly invented electric climbing rope. Outwardly the rope looks like any other high quality climbing rope. The concept is to hook your ascenders to this rope and be elevated without the climber having to exert himself. Field tests are proceeding smoothly, but currently there are two minor problems: One person has to be at the top of the rope to operate the switch, and the highest rate of climb is now 97 feet per minute with a 175 pound load. We hope to solve this latter problem by adding 2 more "D" cells to the circuit.

UNDERGROUND

GOOD-BY, LEON

January 17th of this year SAG member Leon Snurd of Kinyon did a very foolish thing. Not only did he go caving alone, but he set out to fully explore Endless Cave. The Grotto got a post card from him in late March stating that he was still going, but his carbide was low, and he was getting a bit hungry. SAG is mounting a search and rescue mission that will leave in July or August unless further word is received from Leon. He should be easy to find as he planned to leave a trail of cookie crumbs. Of course by this time he may be eating the cookies he planned to leave as a trail. Those with a few months to kill are welcome to join the search party. And it will be a party. B.Y.O.B., and SAG will supply the popcorn.

THE SAG RAG
SHASTA AREA GROTTOS - NSS
P.O. Box 865
McCloud, CA 96057

FIRST - CLASS - MAIL

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