

Time for Carving

RAC

May - June 1967

It's Great!

I Can't Wait

SAC

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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.

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

- July 3-5 Marble Mtns. trip. Entrance show-about for USFS.
- July 10 Grotto meeting at Reel's. Caving next day in the limestones in the Callahan area, Lover's Leap, Cecilville ... see map below.
- Aug. 14 Grotto meeting at the Nature Conservancy Preserve on the McCloud R. Hosted by Tom Hesselden. Trips could include the limestones of Beetle Bu., Bones Gulch, Trough Cr., Ahdina. See map below.
- Sept. 5-7 SPELEOCAMP, Marble Mtns. Wilderness.
- Sept. 11 Grotto meeting, at Lakelevel Cave. Make your reservation now to have a place on the boat. Call Claude Smith, 246-3942.

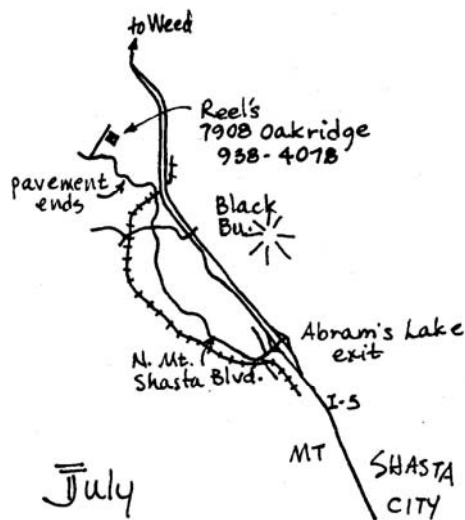
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Welcome to new provisional members:

Rick and Linda Boatwright, 5761 Jubilee St., Redding, CA, 96001, 243-8439.

Try to catch them to see if they want to go caving!

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CHRISTMAS TREE CAVE

Al and Phylis Henderson (from a letter)

..... Did, finally, go explore a cave March 26. Went up to Hat Creek to look for Christmas Tree Cave. We didn't have a topo map – did a lot of driving ... a lot of walking – searching. Took us from about 10 am until nearly 2 pm to find the cave. Then we had only 45 min. to do any looking – had to be back in Red Bluff. Since the Christmas trees are still in the cave we knew we had found the right one. As it turned out, we had been within maybe 150 ft. of the darn place before noon but the area didn't look like cave country.

RED TAPE CAVE Liz Wolff

May 1, 1987 dawned with a fresh layer of snow above 4500'. This didn't stop Ray Miller, Jim and Liz Wolff from baptizing Ray's Subaru in mud on our way to the cave. Red Tape Cave is located in an archeological site, and associated with two other caves and a large sink in the lavas around Harris Mtn. With the exception of a small side passage and sloping lava fall out of two domes, the cave is breakdown or sand floored. Near the back of the cave in a fill of dirt and debris were two cave adapted white insects; one a spring-tail (?) and the other unidentifiable by us. In the same area were some iron-stained calcite formations of good size. About 2/3 of the way into the cave is a ledge with a flow looking like toothpaste squeezed from the wall. There were several pieces broken off that looked like they would fit together neatly. See map on page 4.

PLUTO'S CAVE – EXTENDED?? by Ray Miller

Saturday, May 2, Jim Wolff, Jim Kottinger and myself were privileged to introduce Northern California lava tubes to a group of students from Oregon Institute of Technology at Klamath Falls, Oregon. The young people were escorted to Pluto's Cave Lava Flow. Our first stop was at Barnum Cave for a quick lesson in geology, ecology and trash removal. Most of them had had some experience in caves before.

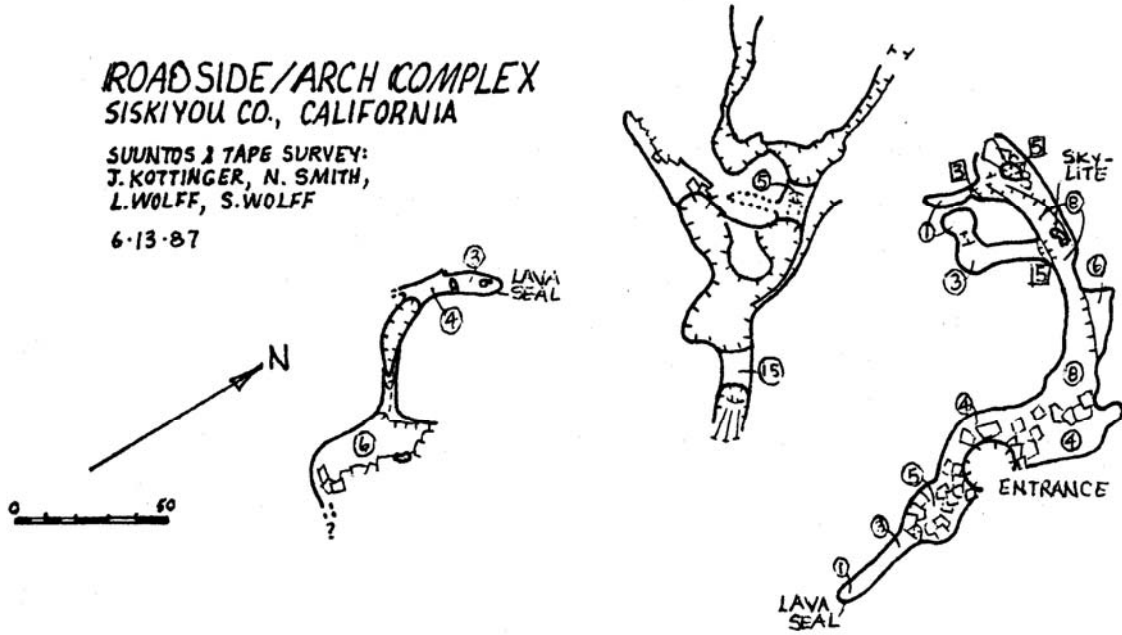
Our next stop was good ol' Pluto's Cave. This cave has been known since 1863. It has been well documented and mapped. Every nook and cranny has been explored, graffitied and trashed. Until OIT arrived. Four of the students made the tight hundred foot crawl to the very end of Pluto's Cave, and then two of them forced another lead into a previously unknown room. Some of us can use the excuse that we are too old and fat to make the last hundred feet, but those veteran cavers who have been down this tight lead will now have egg on their face for leaving a significant room to be found by a bunch of relatively green cavers.

As described to me (too old and fat to make the trip) the room is about 30 feet by 40 feet with unstable 10 foot ceiling. The new room has air movement and lots of evidence of rat habitation. This room ends where the ceiling meets a floor of volcanic ash. The right hand wall is "avalanche". I assume this is breakdown.

Heart stopping moments occurred when the party split up. We had made the end of the walking passage into our "base camp", where we waited. Two of the students returned to the surface without checking out with one of the SAG members. We assumed they had gone down the tight crawl. One of the students who had been down the crawl returned to base prior to the lead being pushed to the new room. We informed him that we needed to leave, and he volunteered to go back in and call the others out. This should have taken a half hour at most. Soon after the volunteer left, Jim W. had to leave to keep an appointment. Jim departed for the surface with a student who felt uncomfortable and had elected not to make the crawl. That left Jim Kottinger and myself at base, and Jim Wolff and three students on the surface, and four students at the end of the crawl. Jim K. and T thought 6 students were at the end of the crawl. The student that went back to get his buddies got interested in this new lead, and it was nearly two hours before the party returned to base. Neither of us left at base could have made it through the crawl, and calling produced no results. Needless to say we were quite relieved when the rest of the party emerged.

ROADSIDE/ARCH COMPLEX SISKIYOU CO., CALIFORNIA

SUUNTOS & TAPE SURVEY:
J. KOTTINGER, N. SMITH,
L. WOLFF, S. WOLFF
6-13-87

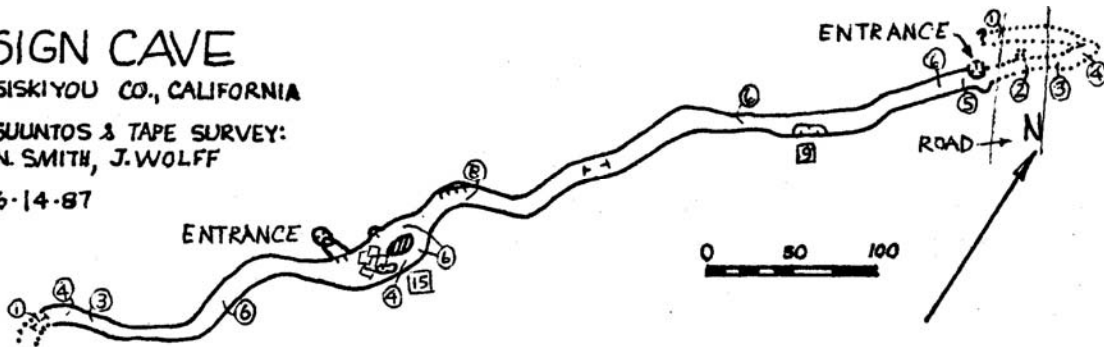


Map: Roadside Complex

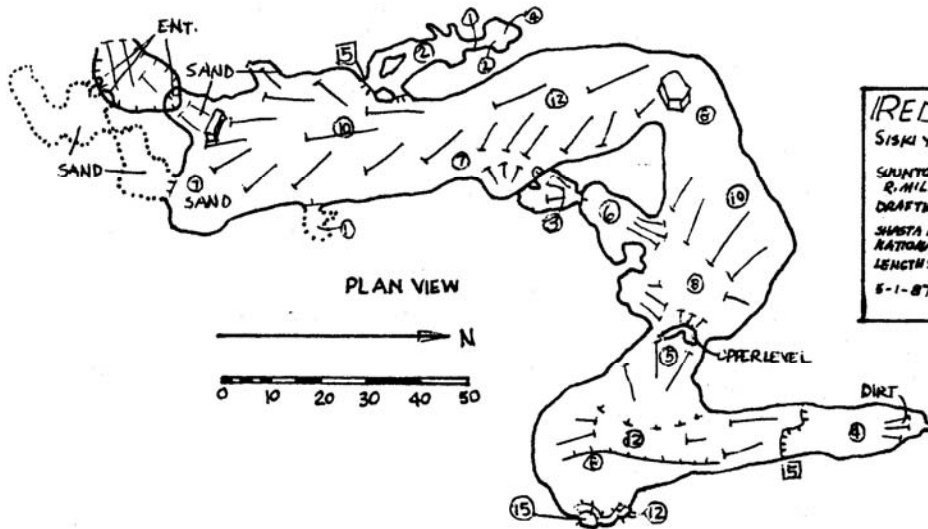
SIGN CAVE

SISKIYOU CO., CALIFORNIA

SUUNTOS & TAPE SURVEY:
N. SMITH, J. WOLFF
6-14-87



Map: Sign Cave

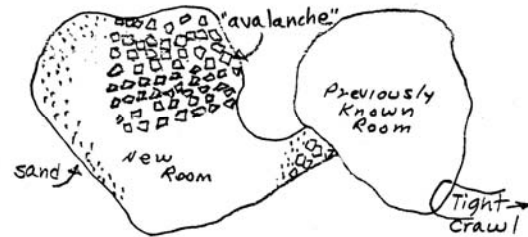


RED TAPE CAVE
SISKIYOU CO., CALIFORNIA
SUUNTOS & TAPE SURVEY:
R. MILLER, J. WOLFF, L. WOLFF
DRAFTING: L. WOLFF
SHASTA AREA CROTTO-
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
LENGTH: 350.5' DEPTH: 44.1'
5-1-87 © L. WOLFF

Map: Red Tape Cave

Lessons learned? This is a tough one. As the cave is so well known, none of us felt allowing the students to proceed without an experienced leader was out of line. We had a member of the party at base who could make the crawl, but we elected to send him back in to relay our message to return. The possibility that they were pushing a new lead was so remote that it never entered our minds. Jim K. and I would have been somewhat relieved to know there were only four people beyond our reach, and that we had potential help at the surface. Regardless of the nature of a cave, never let all members of a party get beyond the capabilities of those members who remain behind.

I hope that in the near future skinny veteran cavers will map this new discovery. This could supply data that will help solve the puzzle of the Pluto's Cave Lava Flow System. The sketch was drawn by one of the OTI students. It has been enlarged for clarity.



Map: Pluto's Cave terminus

Trip Report by John Marschner

Mark Dawson and I couldn't make the cave gathering (5/9/87), so we had our own meeting over the phone, making plans for a Callahan expedition.

The next morning I awoke, barely able to take in the brightness of the new day. Then, remembering our plans, I eagerly leaned over to kiss my mate goodbye. I nearly flew out of bed against the chamber wall without touching the floor, as she had a snake coiled around her neck. Then, gathering my senses, I realized it was only her long braided hair.

The day started out quick with lots of wild energy that didn't get burned off at Callahan. We wound up, literally I say, in Mark's back yard, practicing rope work out of his oak tree. We were using prusik knots and harnesses along with the figure eight. The techniques were shown to us by ex-pres Jim Wolff and present pres Jim Kottinger. The main rope was new, and hanging from it we were wound up like an eight-day clock, coming undone like a twined up yoyo. All in all, it was a great day for achievements.

DEEP ICE CAVE May 10, 1987 by Jim Wolff

Springtime usually brings very dedicated cavers to brave the frigid ice-water crawl that leads to the main ice chamber of Deep Ice Cave.

This year Jake and Alexis Turin and Jim and Liz Wolff found themselves packing all sorts of heavy wool clothing, crampons, rope, and caving gear across the lavas, only for Jim to find he had left his dry clothing at the car.

The entrance area has gone through many changes over the years – the main being the creation of a new sink, with a rubble slope down to and mostly covering the entrance passage. I went in first, noticing that this year only one inch of water was on the ice floor, rather than the 6-8" that I remember from my last visit last year.

After tying off the rope to a ceiling bulge that is partially in the ice floor (2' ceiling height), I called for Jake to make his way on in, knowing that it would be best to continue on down the rope and keep moving for warmth. Next came Alexis, then Liz. Crampons are nice to have for footing in this cave, where the slope is deceptive.

Upon entering the area where most of the ice formations are, we found a false floor of ice. What looked like a solid floor shattered underfoot, sending cracks and resounding echoes across the room! A thin sheet of ice covered 3-4" of water on what appears to be solid ice floor, of unknown depth. In past years I've stepped on this section of the floor and found it sagged underfoot.

We didn't stay long before we were freezing. Two of us did manage to make it to the back of the cave, clinging to one wall. Towards the back the "solid" subfloor gave signs of breaking, so we didn't quite go all the way.

The cave is definitely accumulating ice – I compare it with my first visit in 1973. Most noticeable is at the end, where there was a fox hole like opening that you could put most of yourself into – if you were so inclined! So, after a few photos were taken we left the cave to it's own cold reality.

ROADSIDE COMPLEX, Giant Crater Flow by Liz Wolff

Saturday, June 13, found SAG members scattering to go caving. One group of Jim K., Neils, Liz and Sara Wolff headed out to the Roadside caves near Snag Hill. Our objective was to map this long-known complex of arches and caves beside the road. In Roadside Cave itself, a crawl space crosses under the road, ending in a lava seal. The arch complex is filled in by road debris and no trace of it shows on the other side of the road. The small cave had a good lead remaining with a cool breeze issuing from it. The lead heads under the road We left to get Sara home in time for a dance recital.

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FIRST – CLASS – MAIL

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