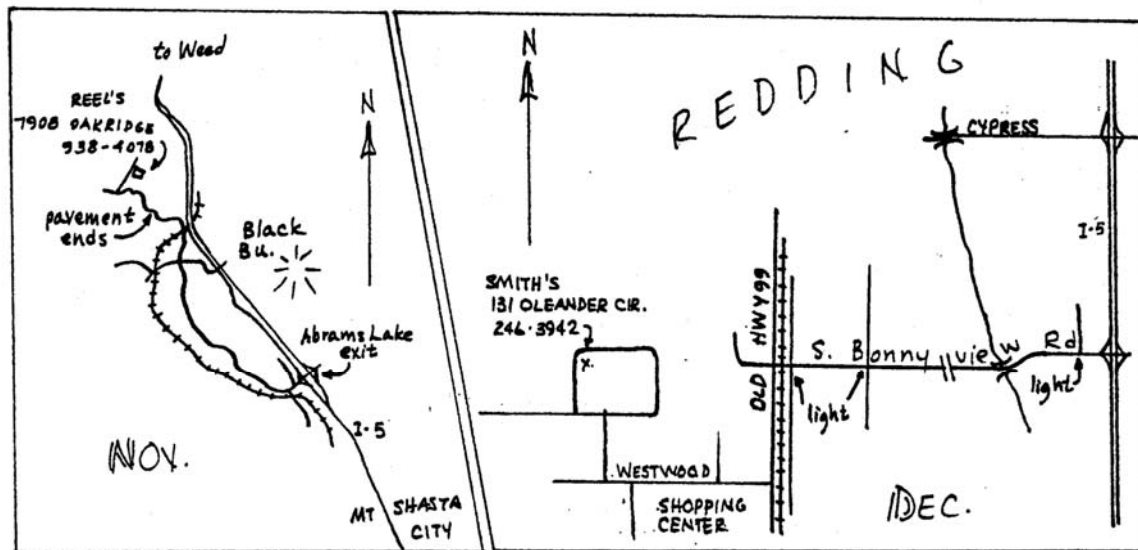


The SAG RAG is published bi-monthly by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editors are Jim and Liz Wolff, PO Box 865, McCloud, Ca. 96057. Grotto meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Meeting places are announced in the newsletter. Dues are due in January. Subscriptions are \$4/year or 75¢/issue.

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

- Nov 13 Grotto meeting at Reel's (see map). Nominations of officers – be there or be nominated! Cave trips on Saturday.
- Dec 11 Grotto meeting at Smith's in Redding. Potluck for Christmas. Cave trips Saturday.



\* \* \* \* \*

BARNUM CAVE MAY HAVE LOWER LEVEL by Ray Miller

Barnum Cave, a well known and often visited lava tube in the Pluto's Cave Lava Flow, may have unsuspected passages. A freak storm dumped an unusual amount of rain on the area in mid-July this year, and a subsequent visit to the cave revealed some rather startling facts. A great deal of the runoff from the storm was channeled into the mouth of the cave. Much of the lava ash in the cave entrance has been washed into the cave. This, and much of the ash already in the cave was carried back as far as the balcony – 240', and then it went into a sink. It appears that as the flow diminished the sink became choked as there is now only an ash filled depression, but ample evidence exists that the sink has accepted a tremendous amount of material.

Has anyone access to a fire truck we can use to flush out the plug? Our alternative is to get Claude Smith and his shovel in there.

**Trade Limestone for Kidney Stone!?! NEVER! – Speleocamp 87** by Jim Wolff

But I did – tho I really didn't want to. Fifteen people or so, representing five grottos showed up, most staying the weekend. Work was done setting reference points and surveying from resurgence below the trail on Black Mtn. Some folks bopped Hissing Stream and Crystal Drains caves, while others went into Skunk Hollow. Not too productive a weekend. Later on in the week the handful of people remaining made several trips into Rainy Cave, netting nearly 700' of survey, making over 1000', and still going – and still taking air ....

Sunday morning I was suddenly awakened by tremendous pain in my side! I thought immediately it was a flu bug or the water ... but after a hurried trip to the outhouse, I began to realize this was not the case – and getting back to the tent was not fun either. With some difficulty I tried to get someone's attention in this sleepy-headed camp. Soon I had all the attention I needed with all kinds of questions fired at me and home remedies offered. Cap'n Speleo (Steve Knutson) decided the best option was to evacuate the pathetic, writhing form, and soon!

Since most of the camp was leaving that day, eight people would be enough to pack me out. Luckily there was a Stokes Litter in the wilderness guard cabin, so they plopped me and my sleeping bag on it and took off. I don't remember much of the trip down that 5½ mile trail, but they, God bless them, got me out in under 2 hours! Steve drove me to the hospital in Yreka and the rest is kinda anti-climactic. I passed the kidney stone about 5 hours later, and spent the night in the hospital, going home the next day.

I would like to thank all those who helped me out. If it weren't for their efforts I would have had to crawl out.

\* \* \* \* \*

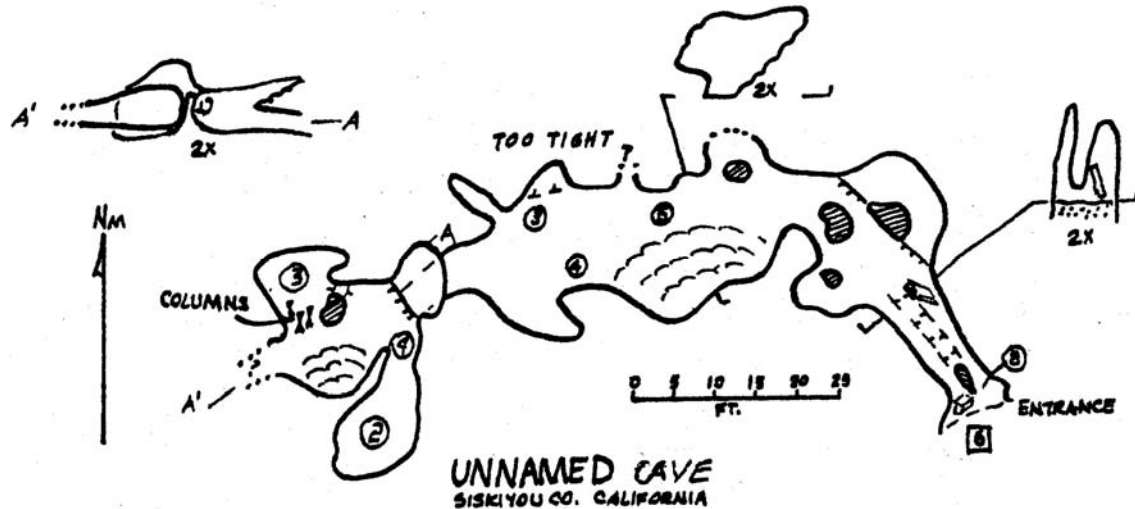
**NEW LEADS NEAR GIANT CRATER** by Ray Miller

Peter and Ann Bosted, current editors of the Cal Caver, visited the Mt. Shasta area in late August. After a midnight meeting at the Wolffs' in McCloud it was decided to visit the Giant Crater area of the Medicine Lake Highlands the next day. The Bosteds, Jim Kottinger and myself made the trip. The Wolf's got to stay up late and play host.

I had found a promising lead while exploring the area earlier. As I was alone at the time I did not enter the cave. We located the lead from my bearings and flagging (and pure luck) finding the tube to be about 300' long with big openings at each end and a tight spot in the middle. The tube remains unnamed and unmapped.

After a photo session at Giant Crater we wandered around until we relocated Looping Roote Cave. This 173' cave was mapped by Peter and others when it was discovered in 1981. We made only a token entry due to lack of time and energy. Further exploration in the Giant Crater area revealed some very promising leads and an ice cave.

The next day Jim had to return to work, but I took the Bosteds to the caves in the Pluto's Cave Lava Flow. Peter and Ann were interested in photographing the caves for a planned feature article in the Cal Caver.



CAVING ..... September 1987 by Jim Wolff

After the September grotto meeting, the only ones willing to go beat the brush (poison oak) and endure the heat just to look for caves, were Claude Smith and Patrick, Rick Boatwright, and myself. The limestone we would be looking at has real good potential for caves, like Snake Pit (see SAG RAG, vol 4 no 5) found on our first visit. We had seen plenty of entrances from the road in the outcrops above us, and heavy karstification ....

Stopping at the landowners' house and gaining permission to be on their property, we set off to finish searching the same valley that Snake Pit is in. We checked many entrances on that particular ridge. We found several interesting cave remnants, one 70 or 80' that went right through the ridge as a 3' high, 15-20' wide passage. The cave's ceiling was black (manganese?) with a contrasting array of white and clear soda straws. The floor was covered with guano, etc. A real tantalizing taste of caves yet to be found, somewhere over the next ridge ....

After searching most of the day, Rick found a significant cave and wanted all of us to see it. And what a cool welcome this discovery was for us, nearly wilted with the heat! Once rested and cooled off we geared up, going to the back of the cave to survey out. The cave is rather small and not entirely dry, with the back room having moist-wet mud floor. There are some nice soda straws and columns too. We noticed that some earlier explorer had dug a 1' X 1½' rectangular hole in the floor, and covered it up with a stone. The only other evidence of humans was a beer bottle.

Some day this winter or coming spring we will go back again and have a look at the much bigger outcrops to see what we can see. Wanna go too?

\* \* \* \* \*

**WELCOME TO NEW PROVISIONAL MEMBERS:**

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**THE FAR SIDE**

**BY GARY LARSON**



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