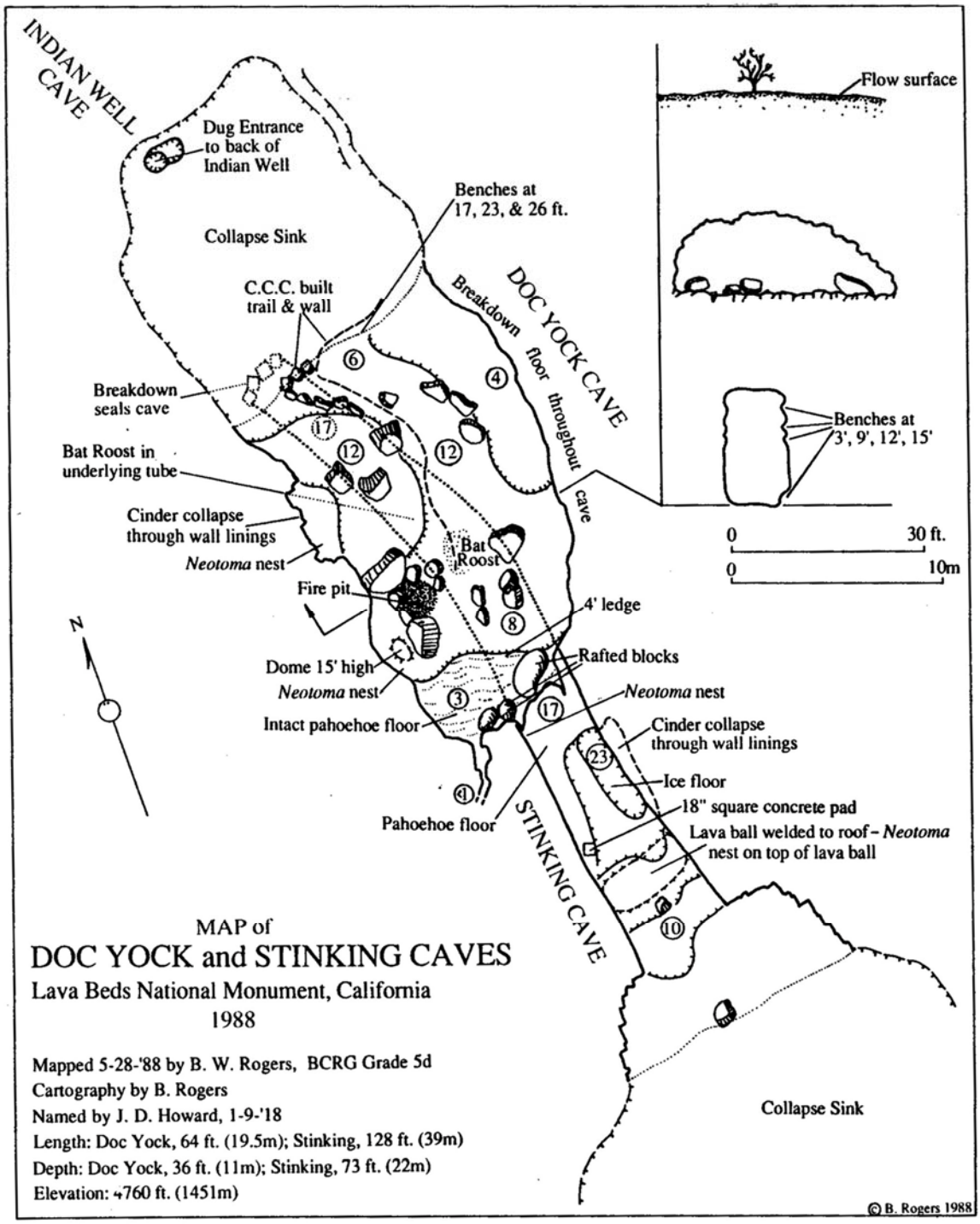
THE SAG RAG

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER **VOL. 7 NO. 5**



Map: Doc Yock Cave, Stinking Cave

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CAVING CALENDAR

Thanksgiving weekend	**Lava Beds National Monument Field Camp**. Orientation Friday eve. on the use of the new LBNM Cave Inventory Form. Housing provided. Contact Janet Sowers (415) 528-6515 or Mike Sims (503) 655-6909 for more info.
November 11	**SAG Gen. Meeting** at Kottinger' s (see map page 12). Nominations for grotto executive committee, plus plans for cave register program and installation in selected caves in the spring of 1989.
December 9	**SAG General Meeting** at Wolff's (see map page 12)...
Memorial Day weekend	1989 Speleoeducational Seminar, hosted by Diablo Grotto. Berkeley Tuolomne Camp. Plan on this one!

Sometime in 1991 will be SAG's turn to host the annual **Western Regional Meeting**.

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WHERE ARE ALL THE VIRGINS? – A Guest Editorial by Ray Miller

I received a letter from Carol Vesely who edits the Cal Caver. She made the statement "…there seems to be far too little virgin passage found in California." Until she brought the point up I hadn't realized how fortunate those of us are who do our caving in this area centered on Mt. Shasta. With the exception of a few "sacrificial" caves those we return to time after time are clear of trash and spray paint.

As for truly virgin passage – WOW! Mile after mile of limestone north of Shasta Lake that has never been inventoried. More limestone near the McCloud River, Shasta Valley and the Marble Mtns. plus a band of limestone running for many miles north and south of the Marbles. All of this is known to contain caves, but it has never been fully explored.

I doubt if anyone could walk for an hour through the pahoehoe lava flows of the Medicine Lake Highlands without discovering lava tubes. Additional tubes are found north of Mt. Lassen and north and east of Mt. Shasta. And then there are all these vast areas of mountains and forest that we don't know about....

If you aren't finding virgin passage, you aren't looking!

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The Sky Burned, The Earth Shook, And All The Bunny Rabbits Ran Away; Part 7; Doc Yock and Stinking Caves By Bruce Rogers, Regular Fellow

The opening days of 1918 in Europe saw the whole of Russia celebrating the success of the Great Revolution while the rest of the world cast apprehensive glances. In the muddy mire of World War I trench warfare, German General Georg Bruchmuller assembled his artillery for the forthcoming Kaiserschlacht. Further to the west another onslaught in the trenches was about to begin.

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January ninth saw a trio of men laboring their way UP the pumice-carpeted lower slopes of medicine Lake Volcano. It was a short and chilly day as J. D. Howard and Charlie and Henry Cox crunched their way up the slopes below what is now the Headquarters area of Lava Beds National Monument. After an exploratory stop at a large, breakdown-floored hole Howard later named Indian Well, the trio filled their water bottles and returned to the trenches to look for more caves. Heading east, they quickly discovered what are now known as Doc Yock and Stinking Caves and began exploration.

A close look at Julie Donnelly's geologic map of Lava Beds reveals that, like the rest of the main tube system underlying Cave Loop, the main feeder tube from Sentinel Cave to Post Office-Silver Cave trends to the Northeast. Under the road intersection in front of Monument Headquarters, however, a branch from this tube abruptly turns and meanders off to the east. This distributary quickly degrades into a series of short caves and collapse pits. Indian Well, Doc Yock, and Stinking Caves all lie along this channel. The importance of these short caves is not in their size like those in Cave Loop but, rather, what they hint at. They point to the existence of another series of now buried cave passages which fed the lava fields between Monument Headquarters and the overlying basalts of Valentine Cave. In this mini-tome we shall look at these caves and speculate a bit about their significance.

Doc Yock Cave

After crawling out of the back of Indian Well via the entrance dug open in the mid 1980's, the explorer can cross a 40 foot diameter collapse pit to Doc Yock Cave. This cave is a continuation of the upper level of Indian Well Cave. In the wall above the entrance to Doc Yock are three benches. These are "bath tub rings" of a small lava lake that rose and fell in a standpipe chamber. A CCC constructed trail leads in under the low wide arch past a low rock wall of indeterminate origin.

The 65 foot length of the Doc Yock is carpeted with the remnants of the original tube walls and ceiling. As in Indian Well, the cave has undergone massive collapse with most of the resulting breakdown falling into a lower tube level. Toward the back of the chamber is a large fire pit. Its age and origin evidently post-date Howard's 1918 exploration for he makes no mention of it in his exploration diary. A short intact segment of tube complete with three desk-sized rafted blocks and a pahoehoe floor is present at the upper southern end of the cave. Judging from this original portion of Doc Yock Cave, the tube was probably 21 feet in width and in excess of 17 feet high. At the very back of the cave is a tiny crawlway too small to enter that snakes off into darkness.

Plant life is prolific at the entrance. A carpet of mosses and lichens cover most of the rock while mountain mahogany and other shrubs partially obscure the entrance. A pair of Neotoma nests are present along the south wall; small cascades of jet black spill from their bases. A small colony of bats roost next to the fire ring while a long-used bird nest can be found on a ledge above at the highest point of the chamber.

The cave was named by Howard for Doc Yock, the chief of the local band of Modoc Indians.

Stinking Cave

One-hundred forty feet further east is the collapse pit containing Stinking Cave, a further extension of the Indian Wells – Doc Yock Cave tube. The northern half of the cave underlies Doc Yock Cave and represents a still lower level in the tube system. A short lower segment of passage just inside the entrance may represent a window to the lowest level of the tube. In cross section the 128 foot long cave is shaped like a tall rectangular canyon. The cave has a ropy pahoehoe floor and smooth walls with benches at 3, 9, 12, and 15 feet above the floor.

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Except at either end, the cave has undergone little collapse. The western end of Stinking Cave is closed by the deep collapse of the tube at the eastern end of Indian Well. The east-facing entrance of Stinking Cave indicates how much the nearby cave passages have laterally collapsed. The original Stinking tube is a fairly uniform 9 feet wide until it approaches the Stinking collapse where it flares to a width of 39 feet. Many lining shells can be seen in the alcoves just inside the entrance arch; progressive collapse of these shells has resulted in the very wide entrance arch.

There are several other interesting features in this short cave. Just inside the entrance a lava ball has been wedged up against the ceiling. At some time in the past, a collapsed block was tumbled and lava coated as it was rafted down the lava stream. The tube was nearly filled with molten rock at the time as the lava ball was buoyed up against the ceiling and wedged into place. In the bottom of the lowest tube segment is an ice floor. This ice pool is significant for two reasons. First, it is one of the few permanent ice deposits in the area to survive, so far, the gradual drying and warming of the last several hundred years; and, secondly, it owes its existence to a lava seal on the tube floor. This lava seal, 78 feet below the surface, may be the filling of the lowest passage, nearly to the roof, of the stacked series of tubes in the Indian Well – Doc Yock – Stinking distributary. Lastly there is the name-sake for the cave... the skunk-like odor which permeates the cave.

The cave lacks the luxuriant growth around its entrance that is present in Doc Yock Cave. It does, however, have a small colony of bats and a secretive group of resident skunks. In addition, two Neotoma nests are located near the ceiling on lava benches.

While neither of these caves is large, they do hint of a series of large lava tubes located to the east of the more well-known Cave Loop to Post Office series of caves. Larger caves in the monument may yet be found by the diligent cave hunter. Remember, Madam Pele always sides with the wild card.

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WELCOME NEW REGULAR MEMBERS: Wayne Smith and Tom Currie. Wayne lives in Mt. Shasta area and Tom in Korbel, Ca. Call them up or go caving with them sometime.

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HISTO – A MEDICAL DECEIVER by Ray Miller

Histoplasmosis was once thought to be a fatal disease of cavers. Today it is known to be common – some 50 million Americans have been infected, and it isn't as bad as once thought.

The stuff that causes this disease is *Histoplasma capulstum*, a fungus spore that is light enough to float in the air when stirred up with dust. When the spores are breathed in they thrive in the lungs, so the fungus develops in the chests of infected people. Most of those infected live in the Midwest.

The Histo spores require warmth, moisture and some darkness. These conditions are found in our lungs and in the accumulated droppings of chickens, pigeons, starlings and other birds as well as bats. Infection can occur in chicken houses, barns belfries, pigeon lofts and under trees where birds may have roosted. Oh yes, and in caves.

Very young children and old men are most susceptible to the disease. How severe the infection will be dependent on the number of spores inhaled and the general health of the inhaler. The body's defenses rally to fight the disease, but the greater the number of spores in the lung the more likely Histoplasmosis will develop.

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Histo can take four forms:

– Mild Infection. No symptoms. Will last 1 to 3 days.
– Acute Lung Infection. Same indications as flu (fever, chills, cough, pain and labored breathing). Clears up in 2 to 3 months without treatment.
– Chronic Lung Infection. Looks like TB on X-ray. Illness hangs on.
– Disseminated Form. Fungus spores spread through the body. Symptoms are weight loss, extreme tiredness and anemia. Without treatment many will die in 4 to 10 months. This is a rare form.

Do you have Histo? It will be revealed with both skin and blood tests. Chest X-rays will show indications of Tuberculosis. If Histo is diagnosed most patients will recover on their own. A drug called Amphotericin B can be used, but hospitalization is required. In some cases removal of portions of a lung may be necessary.

Prevention means avoidance. Stay away from caves and chicken houses and such. (Those of us who love caves and chickens say BOO!) In truth there are so many places of suspected infection that avoidance is mostly a matter of luck. But a few rules:

– If you have farm buildings keep them as clean and dry as possible.
– Wet down floors and chicken droppings before cleaning to hold down dust.
– Take care of minor illnesses.
– Stay in good general health.

The above is from a pamphlet distributed by the American Lung Association, 562 Mission St., San Francisco, CA. 94185. **Free** "Histo" pamphlets are available from the grotto library....

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More (significant) Complex [Freudian Complex – pdf ed.] **– A trip diary**
by Liz Wolff and Ray Miller

June 11…

We began surveying the Center section of caves out in (under, among, on???) the aptly un-named "significant complex". John and Luke Marschner, Jim and Liz Wolff began at shiner 2 heading north 250 ft. to a small entrance. A 4 ft. drop put us into virgin cave... even more complex cave than anything we had seen so far. To the east, it is shaped something like a ladder; west it drops under breakdown into a small muddy room ending in a lava seal. The southern leg of the ladder is connected by several "rungs". It's between one and two ft. tall with a clinkery floor. We didn't survey it, but did take a look to see that it went over to a tiny entrance we had passed.

This second leg continued low and full of "gotchas" to another entrance. This continued, in and out, through two more entrances. We finally got to big cave 25' wide, 10' high. This tube has high side ledges and two side passages, one of which ends in 60'. The other side passage has a complex in the back of it, crawly and full of gotchas.

June 18…

Ray and Liz tried to get to the complex from the west. There's a lot of aa lava between here and there.

July 5 – Another Field Trip to the Significant Complex…

Debbie Anderson and Ray surveyed a hitherto unexplored section of the (un-named, but) Significant Complex. We really didn't answer any questions about the area, just pushed past the

Continued on next page

question mark at shiner 6 by some 750 feet. Previously we had designated the main tube as Left. Now it looks like we will have to name this tube Far Left.

Our survey ended at a 3 foot by 6 foot skylight, climbable, but too remote to see any recognizable landmark. Now I know how a chick feels who hatches while the hen is gone.

July 9…

Ray, Jim Kottinger, and Clarence Horner finished the survey in the Far Left passage. They tied into shiner 4 to close a loop.

July 16…

Ray, Liz, and Matt Wolff continued the 'C' survey from the point that it was dropped in big cave. We were faced with breakdown to the roof, with holes you could look into for quite a distance. We pushed into the breakdown and could see daylight on the left and darkness straight ahead, but finally it was so choked that we couldn't force a way through. We had been told that it continued 'about 300 feet to a T-junction.'

On the surface we surveyed overland, tying in 3 tiny entrances. Eighty feet further there is a big sink with 5 entrances. Three lead to the south, one ends just out of sight, and the last goes down flow, floored with breakdown. The cave takes a sharp dog-leg to the south just beyond here and ends in a lava seal after 130'. At the next sink a short tube section heads back up and ends in a lava seal.

The nature of the "Center" changes at this point from high (10') and wide (20') to low (4') and wider (40-60'). This section of cave has the broadest cross-section of any we have seen, 68'. We found a tiny, white mushroom, and a "clear" worm in a puddle. The cave went on getting lower and lower. We gave up pushing where the ceiling height was less than 1 foot, but the cave kept going. The air movement was slight toward the entrance. A road is near the next sink! The walk in to the survey point will soon be shortened. On the surface again, we surveyed to the next sink, set shiner 9, and surveyed to shiner 4 to close another loop.

August 6…

The skid road that had been discovered the weekend before cut off much of the hike to shiner 9. Ray and Liz surveyed, Jim W. and Jake Turin explored from shiner 9 on down the Center Passage. The survey was taken into another complex, via the Button Blvd. (Jake was loosing them in the crawlways).

The next section of cave had the elusive T-junction and climbdown. We used a sling as a ladder to negotiate the over-hung 7' drop. A lava tongue, 2 – 4 feet high covers the floor, both up and down cave. Before the next entrance the tongue inverts to a trench.

Back on the, surface, we survey through one sink, and over a skylight 19' deep, into another complex. A choice of 4 ways faced us: 2 right, 1 left, and 1 center. We opt to walk, so the choice is down to 2. Center goes to another entrance, and left goes into the dark. To the left after 75 ft. the cave divides again. Right to the same entrance, or left into the darkness. Left again, and another choice faces us. Left a low passage heads back toward the entrance we used, center goes to that 19' tall skylight, and right goes to hollow-floored passage that turns back under itself. We survey up big passage to find that it ends in breakdown to the ceiling, 15' beyond the skylight. But other black holes beckon us, and we give up surveying to explore all these tantalizing holes in the "26" complex.

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August 13…

Ray, and Wayne Smith pick up the survey in the "26" complex, going through the next two sections of cave. Both end in lava seals about 50' from each other. In the second cave, called Colombono's, a cardboard tag was found that read 'Colombono, 1962'.

August 20…

Ray, Liz, Jim K., and Wayne continue the survey in the "26" complex and survey overland to a sink with only one blowing hole, too small to enter. We survey to shiner 6, closing a loop. Then down the next cave segment to a lava seal. Again our hike to the working point is nearly a mile of rough going, and we head on down the flow to the Double-Barreled Entrance. Here we were rejoined by Jim K. who had been photographing in various places. He got some action shots of the survey in progress. The problems of levitation (levity?) were solved at least in the picture. This entrance should be the triple-barreled entrance, but the third entrance is around the corner out of sight. It goes in to the west and divides right and left. Right goes upflow about 80'. Left goes down to a room with a blowing lead (for a very small person) on the floor to the right, and a crawlway near the ceiling to the left. Ray and Wayne climbed up to the crawl through breakdown and exited the room, and ultimately the cave. Through the crawl, one turns straight up a chimney to the surface beside shiner 11. Another sink and cave segment can be seen below this point.

August 27 – Complex Report…

Roy Norman joined Wayne and Ray in a visit to the (un-named, but) significant complex. The objective was to open an old logging skid road to 4WD vehicles and to do a little surveying. The skid road parallels the cave system, so every foot gained means two feet we do not have to hike when working the lower end of the system.

With Ray doing the hard part (working the steering wheel and the peddles) Roy and Wayne ranged out in front with a crow bar removing large rocks and downed tree limbs. We opened an additional 1/8 mile of road and then hiked on down flow to begin our survey. Unfortunately our road building succeeded better than we had expected and we overshot our survey starting point.

Rather than back track we continued on to look at previously unexplored areas. We found lots of in-and-out type tube, some quite deep. Continuing on, the system became very braided with sections having two levels. Still no sign of previous visits other than the cardboard tag dated 1962 that was found earlier this year – and left in place. As much of what we looked at was rather crawly we had left our packs with lunches where we had started exploring, so we had to backtrack before we could eat.

Lunch over, we turned toward the car to find the beginning point of the planned survey. After a morning of tight leads we found ourselves having to remind each other how much fun this was. We knocked off after a hundred feet or so of hands and knees surveying in the Palm Room. While we added very little to the map of this area, the down stream extent of the system has been extended another very interesting half mile or so.

Labor Day weekend…

Ray and Liz had arranged to meet Paul and Suzy Lukshin (Stanislaus Grotto) and take them to the "complex". While Suzy fixed lunch to take with them, Paul outfitted their kids, and Ray and I decided where to begin today. We decided to go to the Palm Room and continue with the Left of Center survey, where it had been dropped the week before. We finished this small complex and ate lunch before going up the line of sinks, through small cave segments to a divide. Do we go up flow, in and out of caves, or down into slightly larger cave? This section was as new to Ray and I as it was

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to the Lukshins. We went down through two short segments before getting into another divided passage. We took the larger of the two which got smaller, and wet. At one point an upper level crossed the passage, with a wad of roots hanging nearly to the floor in the center of the crossing.

When the passage was finally pronounced too tight, we headed back to the divide, where it was all "walking" passage, according to Paul, who had been exploring down this side lead and had come to a Junction with a big cave.... we surveyed down it. One of our question marks was eliminated, but another one had taken its place. We had surveyed the Air Passage. Finding the air issuing from a hole behind a large breakdown block, we left it for another day.

September 14…

Ray and Liz went to the end of survey, to map down flow to a hole suspected of being a crater, or lava source. It's not a crater, but it is an impressive hole, both deep, sheer walled and wide. It has an unexplored crawlway leading out from the bottom. We surveyed to another junction, and stopped for the day.

September 17…

Ray, Liz, Jim K., and Wayne were joined by Anita Christ to survey side passages between shiners 5 and 3, in the "Left" passage. Jim photographed and led Anita on a tourist-type trip.

October 11…

Ray, Wayne, and Liz went caving on the first day of rain in months, finishing up the survey of the "Left" side leads. Also they picked up an intriguing little hole west of Neil's discovery entrance, heading slightly north of west. A day of crawlway surveying, in passages with solid lava or mud floors and curtains of roots hanging down.

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James Brothers' Cave – 9/5/88 by Jim Wolff

It all started when Paul Lukshin of the SFBC called and asked if we would like to see the cave they had been working on, the one downflow from Porcupine Butte Lava Tube, you know, below the fault line...?

The cave is so named because of a note found in the cave, in an old Prince Albert tobacco tin. The date on the note was in the late 20's, and is believed to be authentic, because other dates and names written on the "cave slime" (that the cave walls seem to be coated with) are during that same time period. These signatures appear to be "growing over", as opposed to the fresher vandalism of the same kind.

Paul and his other caving friends had to do some surface checking over the cave and couldn't be with us then, but told us what to expect, just before they left. And my, what a cave it is! With a couple thousand feet of passage, resembling its up-flow "brother" in passage dimensions. I am quite proud to have seen this fine cave and I thank Paul and Dave (?) for giving us the opportunity to see it. I believe this is a healthy sign that cavers can care to share "their" caves with others. You are friends indeed! Love yaZ!!

You know..., I've always said that there ought to be a continuation of Porcupine, but never really looked hard.... So, the next cave to be found down flow, could very well be the one to fit between Astro Tuff Cave [Bear Tooth Cave – pdf ed] and James Brothers' Cave. There's gotta be at least ten more miles of lava flow there to check out yet, sigh...!

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BASIC CAVE PHOTOGRAPHY by Dick LaForge
(Second of a three-part series)

Carrying Your Gear

Far more people have trouble from inadequately protecting their gear than from having the "wrong" gear. As I said, a person can decide how much effort to put into protection of the equipment. But the time-honored method of "wrap it in a sweater and stuff it into the cave pack" is definitely not good enough. If you must do it, put it into a plastic bag first to keep the dust out. The best carry case at the moment is the "Pelicase" from Pelican Products. It is about 12" x 9" x 5" and is strong, lightweight, and waterproof. There is a smaller one which is 7 1/2" x 5"x 2 3/4". A cheaper, but still good method is to use plastic "Tupperware" type boxes, used by other people to keep their leftovers in the fridge. You line them with foam and keep them closed with large rubber bands. They protect your gear from bangs and moisture, and are even somewhat waterproof.

Nearly all good photographers use a "system" approach – they carry enough gear (as described in the previous section) to flexibly handle a wide variety of situations. Also, much photography has to be done rather quickly – before the crew deserts or freezes. To aid in this, pack your box(es) the same way every time. Then you will know exactly where to reach for something, and you will be less likely to leave something behind as you hastily pack up and try to catch up with your friends.

Of course you must wear gloves so your hands will be clean when using the camera. And be sure to unpack your equipment right away after a trip and lay it out in a warm, dry place as soon as possible. (Mark it so it won't get confused with someone else's.) If you have to change film in a cave, be very calm and slow as to not get dust into the air. Don't wave your crusty old coverall sleeve over your open camera. Don't let your friends flap their arms to keep warm right next to you. Brush out your camera with a blower-brush whenever possible. When you finally do get those long blue scratches across your film, it is probably time for a professional cleaning job.

Flash Equipment

The most obvious thing about cave photography is that you have to provide your own light. Caver photographers are experts at flash equipment and flashing.

The two choices are strobes and bulbs. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages, as summarized below:

STROBES – Advantages:
- Cheap to run.
- Since they recharge fast they encourage experimentation – different angles, distances, etc.
- You get many flashes from a set of batteries.
- Give whiter light – better for white formations.
- Work well with slaves.
- Small ones are great for close-ups.
- You can use color filters.

– Disadvantages:
- Bulky – size indicates power. The largest you can easily carry is the largest "rectangular" type. This may not be adequate for distant shots or for a large enough f-stop for good depth of field.
- Give a narrow beam.
- Won't take abuse.

FLASHBULBS – Advantages:
- Power can be stronger than any strobe you can conveniently carry.
- Compact.
- Give a wide beam.
- Give a more yellow light – this may be an advantage or disadvantage.

– Disadvantages:
– They are getting expensive and hard to find.
– They require obsolete, hard to find shooters.

MAGICUBE (these are a type of flashbulb)
– Advantages:
– Not expensive.
– Commonly available.
– Will stand abuse.
– Will fire underwater.
– Cubes and shooters are small and don't require batteries. You can easily make your own shooter.
– Disadvantages:
– Don't work with slaves.
– You have to make your own shooter.

Until recently, flashbulbs were the main source of light for cave photography. Now most types (the most useful ones) are no longer in production. When the M3-B (B stands for the blue coating necessary for use with daylight film) became unavailable it was the end of an era. Many experienced photographers still use them, because they have a stash of bulbs and shooters, and they still find them in the back rooms of photo shops, at flea markets, etc. Their advantages of high power and wide beam cannot at present be matched by strobes, and it is hard to imagine photographing some common situations, such a big room shots and passage silhouette shots, without them. Never-the-less, beginners will either have to work hard at scrounging or learn to do without. One adaptation would be to use faster film than the usual Kodachrome 64, at the cost of some loss of quality. The exception to this obsolescence is the Magicube, which has its own unique qualities, so I have given it its own heading in the chart. From this point on I will consider flashbulbs an "Advanced Topic" and will not emphasize them further except to include the most common in the guide number chart. That is so you can see just how their powers compare with strobes. Needless to say, beginners should practice with strobes and save bulbs for really important cave shots.

There are many kinds and models of strobes. You want one that has a manual setting, whatever kind of fancy electronics are on it. In fact the fancy electronics (eg., dedication, LED readouts) add extra bulk and cost that you don't need. With strobes, the greater the power the larger the size. You want as much power as you can get without ridiculous bulk. This means get the largest of the "rectangular" types. Next up are the ones with long handles full of D cells and the flash tube on top – these are too large and heavy. As an example, the Vivitar 283 has been a popular cave strobe for a long time. It has a manual setting and a thyristor automatic feature, which could be useful but I never use it. It shuts the strobe off when the right amount of light has come back to it. This gives correct exposure only if the strobe and camera are both at the same distance from the subject. The Vivitar 285 is similar but has some beam focus ability (you can spread the beam out some) and has manual settings for 1/2, 1/4, and 1/16 power. This, and/or a small strobe, are very useful for close-ups.

(To be continued…. "guide numbers".)

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"Research submarines, space vehicles, electron microscopes and caves seem to have nothing in common. Such is not the case. Each affords a chance to look into the unknown. To most, scientific equipment is remote, and we can only read about discoveries and view the hardware in pictures or behind barricades. But caves are HERE. We can touch them, be a part of them and illuminate the shadows to discover for ourselves the hidden secrets."

from: Ray Miller's brain!

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Visiting Swiss Caver Comes to McCloud – Bali Ballmann from Adetswil, Switzerland, was on a five month (!) vacation (from his job), and decided that it was time to see a lava tube, his first. So, he visited the Wolffs..., and sure enough, he got his wish and saw several. For starters, Liz took him through Bat Cave and Three Level Ice Cave and "the new cave complex that everyone hears about". Bali chose to stay at Bat Cave area that night, then to meet Ray out there somewhere, from which they went to look at Giant Crater and other cave features.

Bali wanted to meet the famous "Captain Speleo", so we arranged for a dinner get-together later in the week. What ensued was a fascinating exchange of talk on a variety of subjects, from the Rebelay Theory and Use, to the Frog vs. Mitchell/Texas System debate, which there is really no debate..., am I right folks??

And finally, Jim W. took him to see Sunbeam Pit and the mid-part of Catwalk Cave. And boy, does that fellow take pictures!! Bali's photos even show up once in awhile on those international cavers' SPELEO PROJECTS calendars....

Many thanks to the Bosteds for sending him our way, it was great to meet him!

Bruce Rogers is looking for a few good slides of descriptive (diagnostic?) lava cave features, specifically from the Lava Beds N.M. He and two others from the U.S.G.S. are planning on publishing a bulletin on selected caves from the LBNM, hopefully before the '90 NSS Convention. Write for more info.

Bruce Rogers
USGS
Branch of Western Regional Geology
345 Middlefield Rd., MS 975
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Lakelevel Cave – EXPOSED! by Jim Wolff

Yes! With Shasta Lake 135 ft. down, a whole (sorry for the pun!) **bunch** of passage are now high and dry in Lakelevel. In fact, when a small group of "intrepid explorers" spent the weekend checking out the little known corners of this cave, they soon began to realize just how complex and confusing this cave is. So, dear reader, to fully understand the situation around this scheduled event, "the grotto meeting weekend", you will have to join us as we were getting the boats launched at the dam....

Those assembled at the waters edge were Tim Rich and his boat, George Reel, John Marschner, his boat and me.... And it was good thing that we had those two boats too, with all the camping and caving gear we had along! So, once on the other side of the lake, about the time I decided to put my wetsuit booties on, Tim and George were chomping at the bit to go caving, so I told them that they could go ahead and rig the entrance climb with the cable ladder, while I continued to get ready. Once John and I were finally in the cave, George and Tim were nowhere to be found. We set off towards where we thought they would be working, in the "Big Room".

Now, since there is no map to show for all of the trips into the cave over the years, I will refer to areas or rooms by their descriptive feature or "historical significance". So, once in the Big Room we found that our friends weren't at the dig site, where we were sure that Claude would go first. Oh well, we just started poking around, apprehensively at times, for there had been some very recent breakdown created since our last trip in the cave.... We had a lunch there before moving on to the other areas of the cave.

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Sometime later we reached a place in the lower “pancake rooms” were we heard Claude and Jake below us, somewhere! The three of us spent the next half an hour looking for a way down to them. Although we did find several interesting leads that just kept winding up, down and around, and then back to the place we started, we were unable to help our friends find an easier way out. We kept in voice contact, sure, but felt helpless otherwise. Finally, they chose to return by retracing their own previous and devious route. Once all together we exchanged stories of what we had been doing during the last two hours that we were separated from each other. Then, after two or three more hours of poking around, we all left the cave.

Late that evening, after Claude, Jake and George had left, our camp was visited by a lost hunter. A young man, in his teens had somehow wandered down to our camp without a light, over all that highly karstified limestone, and poison oak! We gave him food and offered him warmer clothing. He had to stay where he was until daylight, because we didn’t have lights on the boats. So, at the first crack of dawn Tim took the young man back to his grandpa and uncles.

The next day the three of us went back into the cave for another shot at the (always) confusing “pancake rooms” (named after the often-thought-of-possibility of one of those **huge rocks** coming off and smashing ya, flatter than a pancake!)

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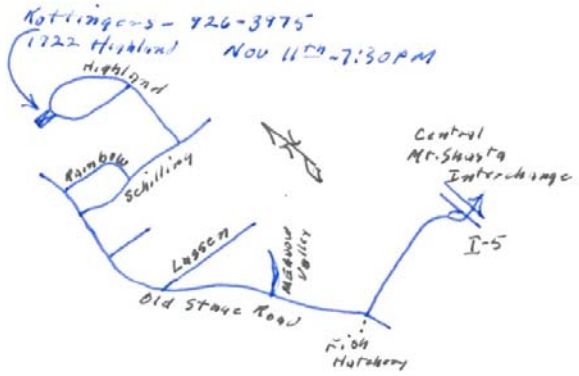

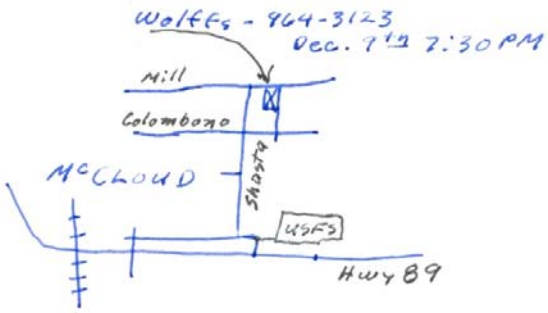

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