

RUSTY CAVE
 -AN EXTENSION OF SUBWAY CAVE
 SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
 COMPASS & PACE SURVEY

THE
 SAG
 RAG

MAY-JUNE 1989 VOL.8 NO. 3

Map: Rusty Cave

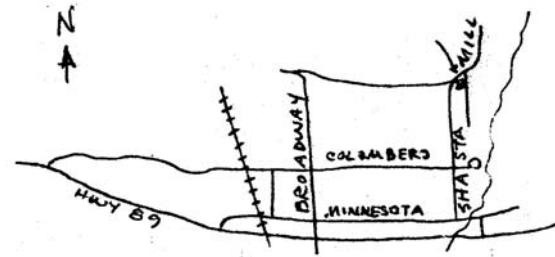
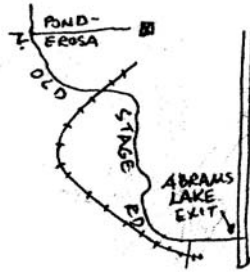
The SAG RAG is published bi-monthly by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editors: Jim and Liz Wolff, PO Box 865, McCloud, Ca. 96057. Printing: Ray Miller. Grotto meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meeting places are announced in the newsletter. Dues are due January 1, prorated by quarter, \$6. Subscriptions are \$6/year.

CAVER'S CALENDAR

July 14 – SAG Meeting, Clarence Horner's,
7944 Ponderosa Rd., Weed, 938-2167.

Aug. 11 – SAG Meeting, Wolffs',
516 Mill Rd., McCloud, 964-3123.

½ mile
up Ponderosa.
Last house,
end of
road



Minutes (Condensed version) May 12, 1989 at Wolffs' in McCloud. Present: Jim Kottinger, John Marschner, Ray Miller, George Reel, Neils Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff. Meeting called to order by Chair. Neils. Minutes approved as corrected.

Treasurer's report: April balance: \$272.71
Income 67.11
Expenditures 64.92
May balance \$274.90

Correspondence:

- From John Wilson on cave registers & NSS program.
- Dues from Hendersons, LaForge, Stoute; subscription from Mosser; membership application from Bruce Rogers.
- Inquiry from Chris Kobe about membership and trips and training. Letter sent.
- Request from Cal Caver for a correspondent.
- Bat Conservation International catalogue.
- From Bob Ehr about Western Region Conservation and Research grants.
- From NSS A/V with the night's video.
- Letter to be sent to USFS was passed around for approval; suggestion was made to add some information on other well known caves, like Roadside Complex.

Old Business:

- Speleo Ed seminar over Memorial Day weekend. Sign up sheets available.

New Business:

- Neils threw out a "food for thought" idea: have a lottery for people to present a program at grotto meetings. Have a jackpot. Maybe we can have some educational programs.
- June 9 campout – if Cave Campground is full, post notice on the back of the bulletin board to tell where we will be. JSFS won't let us put them on the front of the board.

Trip Reports:

- March Neils, Jim & Matt W. to Bobcat Cave for photography. Neils learned 2 important lessons on snow shoes.
 - Trip to the bat census in Barnum (count: 0). Then discovered 'Nother Cave near Teeter Rock. Located Devil's Kitchen of Caves of Cal. George & Dorothy, Liz, Clarence, Jim K.
 - John M., Claude, John Stein did Discovery I. Found a surface crack with columns.
 - Claude, Neils, & Jim W. did Riley's Cave; found another 50' cave with leads; started hike to High Mtn. limestone, but gave up for heat.
 - Ray took tourist trip to Three Level Ice Cave.
- Meeting adjourned to watch videos.

MEDICINE LAKE UPDATE – by Ray Miller

Earthquake swarms at Medicine Lake, 35 miles east of Mount Shasta, were reported in the Nov.-Dec. 1989 issue of the SAG RAG (Vol.7, No.6). USGS people expanded the Mount Shasta seismic array with temporary instruments to get better resolution in the Medicine Lake area. Due to the heavy snow pack, winter visits to the area are limited to an occasional snowmobile, so for the past few months events could be studied without interference from human activity.

As of mid-April seismic activity continues, but both the frequency and magnitude of events are greatly reduced. Earthquakes occur two or three times a week, but they are all micro-quakes which can only be detected with instruments. The activity is north and west of Medicine Lake in the vicinity of little Medicine Lake where ground cracks were reported. These may be secondary cracks due to ground shaking rather than cracks associated with a fault.

There is still no firm answer regarding the cause of this activity. The current theory has magma draining from beneath the Medicine Lake Caldera, and the removal of that support is allowing the caldera floor to deflate. Small earthquakes are generated as the sagging floor cracks.

A leveling line was run through the caldera in 1954. The line was checked just prior to this series of events, and a deflation of 7 inches was found. It will be checked again this summer, and that survey may shed more light on the problem.

Cave Hunting: Is it a real sport? by Jim Wolff

After the May 12th SAG meeting three cavers set out to mop up some surface surveying between recently mapped 'Nother Cave and a previous survey. Little did Ray Miller, Liz and Jim Wolff know they would find a cave with lots of air blowing from a crack that would stop a skinny ten year old! It will take more than conventional "enlarging equipment" to get into, but that's where the air comes from. Several blowing holes found seem to be related. At least one of these we had walked by many times, but hadn't quite looked at the right time, or the right angle.

While Liz and Ray did their surface traverse, I soloed 'Nother Cave. The little cave will always be remembered for the porcupine poop and quills that you have to crawl through. I had to ask Liz to remove three quills from my coat sleeve, as I didn't dare remove my arm first!

Ray found most of the cave-like stuff that day. We traveled up to the area over the north end of Pluto's Cave to see what could be found. A huge sink captured our attention immediately, but proved to be blind. Hiking up the ridge, Ray found a cold sink with a moist, deep green carpet of moss. The area felt like there ought to be a cave just underneath a few rocks. There is evidence that Indians camped next to this sink, I found two obsidian scatter concentrations in the area.

Hat Creek Campout/Meeting, June 9, 1989 by Liz Wolff

Friday began with Neils finding Jim and Liz at Cave Campground putting up a note for cavers to go to Hat Cr. Campground. It ended with 9 people going caving within walking distance of the campsite. Clarence Horner and his neighbor Jim Bodie?, and two boys Mike and James, arrived for the weekend. Neils and I went for a walk to settle dinner. We crossed Hat Cr. and climbed up to what appeared to be a spatter cone on the side of a cinder core. There are two caves associated with the spatter cone. The larger cave is a chamber encircling the sinkhole entrance with a small tube leading steeply down; hill. It is a crawlway with damp sand floor and ends in a pile of sticks. The smaller cave was completely explored by Matt Wolff and Mike. It is a dusty crawlway not over 50' in length. John and Luke Marschner arrived after the cave expedition.

Saturday dawned clear and a very leisurely start was made while waiting for possible latecomers. We headed for a cave downflow from Subway Cave, hopefully to connect the two. At the entrance the kids took the lead. It was the first real cave for the senior Jim ? and he had many questions about lava tubes and sand, roots, cracks, breakdown, ledges, lava layers, and other things, that we all tried to answer. They were undaunted by the crawl that had stopped Neils on an earlier trip to the cave. Beyond the crawl the cave forked, one fork had been explored before, but the other was new to all of us. We took the unexplored fork several hundred feet to a "T" which forked again in about 50 feet. The upflow end leads toward Subway Cave so that crawl was pushed. Something blue gleamed dully in the crawlway ahead, and Jim W. tried to get to it, but even removing his hardhat he couldn't reach it. It turned out to be a jacket. Was it left from this side of the tight(!) crawl or the other? Was the person so stuck that he had to take it off and not take it with him, or was it

left as a marker of how far he'd gone? Whatever it was, we took it out of the cave. All the other forks pinched out except one that had a klinkery floor, and no one wanted to push it right then. A compass and pace survey was done on the way out of the cave, leaving the previously explored fork to survey later, as the rest of the natives were getting restless.

CAVES – In the Newspaper and on T.V.

CAVE GROUP TO MEET IN COUNTY. --- Mt. Shasta Herald (May 17, 1989)

“Siskiyou County’s first national convention will be coming to the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds in July of 1990. After several months of negotiations, the National Speleological Society’s Board of Governors has elected to hold their 1990 convention in Yreka, California. From July 7th through the 14th of the month the entire county will be under siege by a true underground organization! The convention committee members that were interviewed said that they expected an attendance of 600 to 800 cavers....”

Chan. 10 News – Medford, Or. (5:45 PM)

A paleontologist by the name of Lyn Murray of Northern Arizona University was shown descending a cable ladder, into a small skylight entrance of a lava tube near Mountain Home Idaho. His study is in its 3rd year and is nearing its conclusion. This small cave is only 200 ft. long and 5000 years old, and has an abundance of information on its floor. There are several animal mummies, such as sheep, snakes and mice, but no sign of man. The excavation in the floor indicated a much older deposit of bat guano, indicating that bats once used the cave, but not in recent decades. Lyn Murray showed a sediment-filled passage that may yield more of the cave’s history.

The SAG RAG
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1	Rusty Cave map
Page 2	Calendar; Meeting minutes
Page 3	Medicine Lake earthquake swarm – by Ray Miller
Page 3	Cave hunting: is it a <u>real</u> sport? – by Jim Wolff
Page 3	Hat Creek campout and meeting – by Liz Wolff
Page 4	Local newspaper and TV coverage on caving