

THE S A G E R A G

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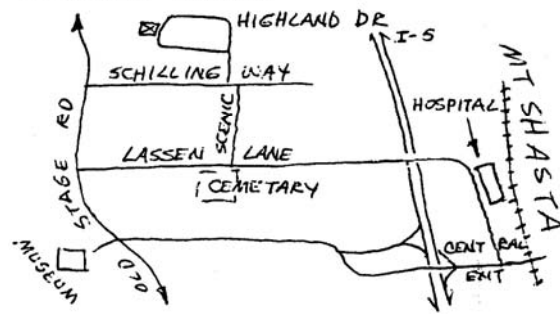
The SAG RAG is published bi-monthly by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editors: Jim and Liz Wolff, PO Box 865, McCloud, Ca. 96057. Printing: Ray Miller. Grotto meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meeting places are announced in the newsletter. Dues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

CAVER'S CALENDAR

January Meeting Site - January 12, 1990
 at Jim & Liz Wolff's, 6 Mill Rd, McCloud.
 964-3123.



February Meeting Site - February 9, 1990
 at Jim & Bea Kottingers, 1922 Highland Dr,
 Mt. Shasta. 926-3975



November Meeting Minutes – Nov. 11, 1989
 Present: SAG: J Swafford, J & B Kottinger, J & L Wolff, N Smith, W Smith, S Knutson. WVG: M & L Sims; the new OR High Desert Grotto: D & K Best, A. Palozzi, K Yackley, P Hodges; Miami V. Grotto: J E Dodge; local miner D Hodges & son.

The meeting called to order by chairman Neils. Introductions made; minutes accepted as read. Treasurers report: expenses of \$11.34, balance of \$244.45.

Old Business: J Wolff talked to the USFS about the register program, no response. The 3-Level Cave register has been signed in Japanese by several exchange students.

New Business: The Bend Cave Mgmt Workshop manual was passed around; visitor J Dodge gave a trip report on a Crater Lk. caldera ice cave; nominations to be in December.

Correspondence: letter from S Schmitz of SoCal Grotto with proposal for Western Region dues & subscription structure; letter from W R Halliday on 1991 Volcano-speleology symposium in Hawaii.

Chair Neils invited the visitors to speak on their projects: KMCTF, Knutson spoke on Marble Mtns; CRF's M Sims spoke on the Lava Beds project; OCNM's Swofford spoke on the restoration project; OHDG's D. Best spoke of planned projects in C. OR.

Chair Neils thanked the OCNM staff for dinner and lodging. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm to watch videos and talk.

December Meeting Minutes – Dec. 8, 1989
 Present: Jim & Bea Kottinger, Jim & Liz Wolff, George & Dorothy Reel, Wayne Smith, Bill McCoy.

The meeting was called to order by vice chairman Jim Kottinger. The minutes were read. No treasurers report.

Old Business:

Jim K has materials for 8 registers ready to be assembled.

New Business:

Jim W received letters from 10 kids and 1 adult, most from an outdoor club in Yreka, wanting information on caving. Letters had been forwarded from the NSS. Jim W will follow up.

Jim K asked if anyone had been called as a result of the Mt Shasta Herald article.

Nominations:

Chair	Vicechair	Secretary	Treasurer
Neils	Jim K	Liz W	Ray Miller

Convention jobs:

Road logs, cave location maps, trip leaders, Samwel permits. George will join the NSS, voluntarily.

Visitor:

Shasta (tribe) Indian Roy Hall visited briefly, requested information on caves with artifacts, which may be burial caves. Does anyone know the editor of the Ft Jones Pioneer Press, who has been asking where the caves are, and claims to be a caver.

DUES DUE JANUARY 1, 1990 DUES DUE JANUARY 1, 1990 DUES DUE JANUARY 1, 1990

USFS HAS EARS! by Ray Miller

In 1985 there was quite a bit of correspondence from SAG to the Goosenest Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest. One of the subjects was removing Jack Jones Ice Cave from the Forest map and closing the access road. This was recommended because technical caving practices were required for safe entry. The cave also shelters a nursery colony of [*Plecotus Townsendii* – ed.] bats. Several letters were written, but we never received a response from the USFS. We felt if they didn't like our suggestions they could have the decency to tell us about it.

We now learn the cave has indeed been removed from the map at our request, and closing the road is in the administrative process. Evidently the Klamath N.F. has ears, but lacks postage stamps. Good shot – far better to have action with no response than to have them respond with no.

New Grotto Member Hosts November Meeting at Oregon Caves National Monument by J. Wolff

It sounded too good to be true! Free room and board at the Chalet of Oregon Caves Ntl. Monument. Although it was too far for some people to drive, we had a great turnout. Cavers from the newly formed Oregon High Desert Grotto, the Willamette Valley Grotto, a fellow from Miami Valley (KY) Grotto, and a local miner showed up to a fine turkey dinner. Then we had the meeting, which is reported elsewhere in this issue.

After the meeting we saw some videos, including Steve K.'s copy of Bob Richardson and Derek Hayles' Marble Mtn. video. This video hasn't been edited (or viewer rated!) but was very entertaining none-the-less. We all hit the sack early in order to be ready for our cave trip at 7am, before the first tours of the day.

In order to go off the trail, one has to have a Monument representative along, and a good excuse to be there. So we went in under the auspices of a cave clean-up. Once inside, John Roth and Jay Swofford took us quickly through the first half of the cave, where the most significant changes have occurred in the last few years. All we took with us was three 5 gallon buckets and a few small hand tools. Where we put them to good use was in "Paradise Alley." We could have used a "Dust Buster" vacuum on the carbide dumps.

John showed us a test trench dug across the passage near the Ghost Room, with a cross-section of man made and natural cave fill. They have dug down into the fill in order to project how much time in manpower and money it will take to bring the cave back to the near-new conditions of a century ago, before commercialization. They're also attempting to control the air flow through the cave according to the original volume of the cave. Since tunnels have been dug connecting passages and the exit tunnel it has created a drying (and freezing!) effect to some formation areas, and bat habitation areas. Now they are looking at creating the right size openings above and below the gates to allow the free movement of bats and other critters, with the exception of unofficial visitors. The 1990 NSS-sponsored Cave Clean-up at Oregon Caves will have their hands full! I am told it will be over the July 4th weekend, so they will get plenty of public attention.

As far as I'm concerned the cave and the quality of the tour were tops. Jay is in the process of updating the cave guide's information handbook, in order to better reflect recent research on all subjects. Jay does at least five "spiels", each with a different theme. Management encourages him to go caving, in order to learn more about caves – lucky, eh? Getting paid to go caving?!?

Many thanks for the hospitality shown by the staff at the Oregon Caves! And many thanks to Jay!

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Do you get the California Caver? Do you want to receive the California Caver (a magazine for California cavers full of caving articles by California cavers about caving around the world) next year??? Just include \$5 with your dues if you are an NSS member, or \$6 if you are not, and we will do the rest. Those of you who already get the California Caver may renew your subscription this ,way too – the Cal Caver staff encourages it.

1989 Cave Management Seminar, Bend Oregon by Liz Wolff

The Cave Management Seminar was hosted by the USFS and the American Cave Conservation Association at the Riverhouse Motel in Bend. The setting was plush and the coffee, tea, and muffins were plentiful. The meetings were informative, covering subjects from archaeology to law, gates to biology. Most of the people there were with the USFS, BLM, Park Service, and some were cavers. The purpose of the seminar was to acquaint the land managers with caves; their geology, biology, archaeology, law, and the new Federal Cave Resources Protection Act.

The first topic explored was the role of federal agencies in cave management. The Federal Government owns many caves and now is required to manage them in some way. Many agencies don't know what to do with their caves, where they are, or how to manage them. The geology of caves, specifically lava tubes, was explored. Then archaeology was uncovered for the attendees. After lunch the legal aspects of cave management were covered, including liability and risk management. Horror stories were told, and ways the victims could have avoided the lawsuits in the first place were discussed. Then bats and their needs were discussed. After a short break some management success stories were related, and how management plans grew from recreational use into true management.

Wednesday morning hydrology and other biota were scrutinized by Tom Aley of the Ozark Underground Laboratory. Cave gates, their construction, purpose and function, was the topic of a biologist. Air circulation, movement of water and the biotic community, and restriction of human passage were all parts of the talk. Wednesday afternoon was taken up with the new cave protection law itself, the reasons for it, and how to implement it into the land use planning process. After that was a skull session on strategies for developing cave management plans. The whole group divided into smaller groups and discussed specific problems on their districts or parks, and how to solve them. A question and answer roundtable followed, with the writers of the Cave Resources Protection Act.

Thursday we went to Lava River Cave, a semi-commercial cave off Hwy 97. Before entering the cave the ranger on duty gave a brief history of the management, mistakes, ways that problems were handled, and successes; while we all stood in the falling snow.

The SAG RAG
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