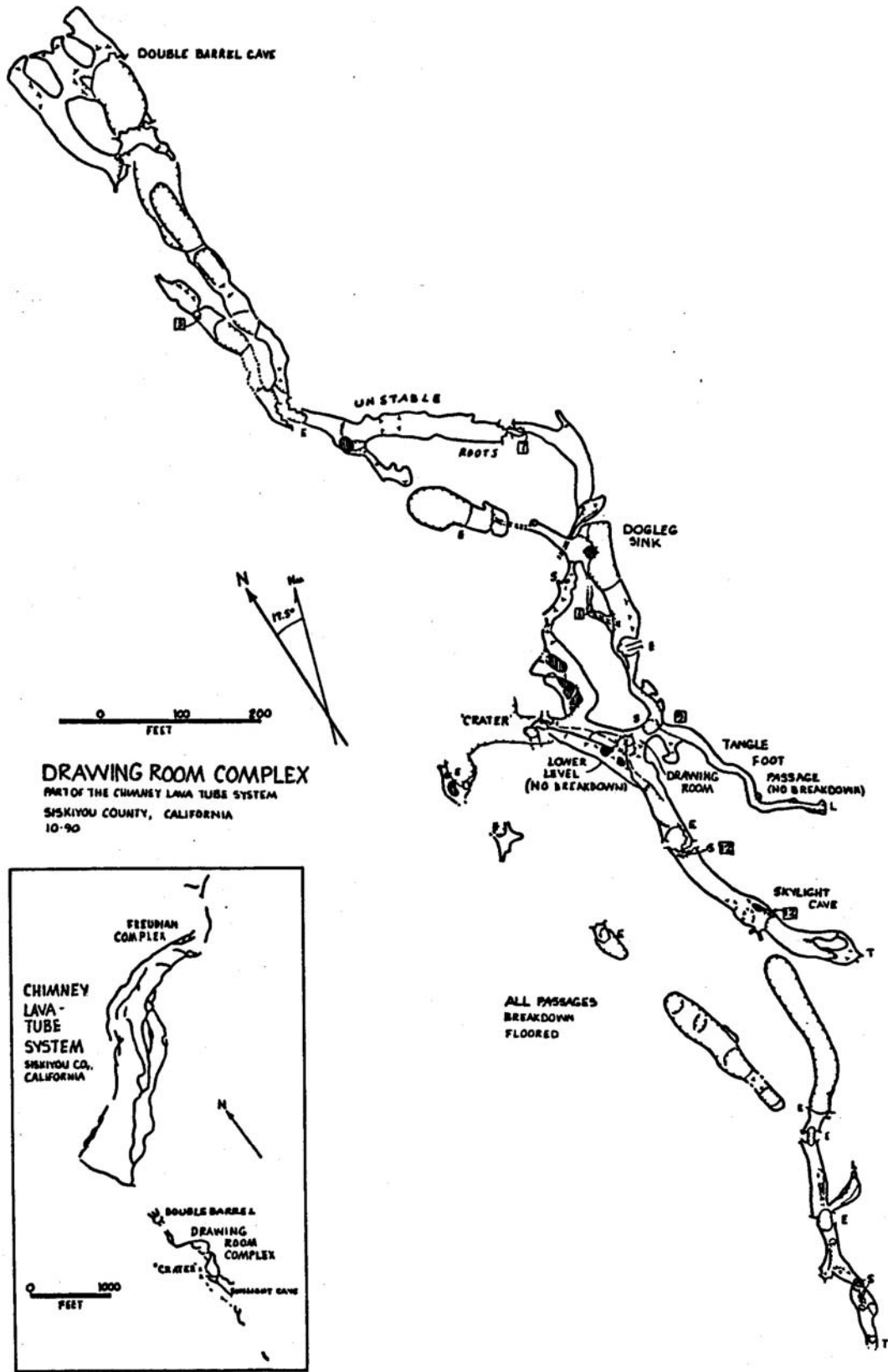




CONVENTION MEMORIES  
by Bill Broeckel



Map: Drawing Room Complex, Double Barrel Cave, Skylight Cave

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**MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Sept 14**, held at Water Caves. Present: Neils Smith, Bill McGahey, Jim & Liz Wolff, Jim & Bea Kottinger, George & Dorothy Reel. Neils called the meeting to order, minutes accepted as read. Treasurers report: \$297.51

The grotto's rope was bleached, we need to get a new one. George moved, Bill seconded the grotto buy 200'. Passed unanimously. Rope costs ~45¢ from Dan Smith, 52¢ from Bob & Bob. George moved to make it 250' of rope, Bill seconded, passed with some dissent. We should cut up or dispose of the old rope since the quality is debatable. Oregon Caves work trip tentatively: Oct 26th.

Thank-you card from Mother Lode cavers for guiding them to new (to them) caves.

SAG is to host the Western Regional meet in 1991. Places were discussed, and time. No decisions. Speleo-Ed seminar Memorial Day weekend 1991, Berkeley Tuolumne Camp. Bill McGahey applied for membership 9/90.

**Oct 12**, held at Kottingers. Present: Bill Broeckel, Ray Miller, Jim & Bea Kottinger, Jim & Liz Wolff. Meeting was called to order by vice-chair Jim K. Minutes were accepted as added to. Treasurers report: \$297.51.

**Correspondence:** Note from Dixie Pierson thanking us for our help with bat counting. Letter to Richard Leet from Jim W about the caves Richard found during the convention. Letter from NSS Save the Caves Fund with a matching grant proposal. Copy of a letter from the NSS to Dick Laughlin about forming a new grotto in Redding.

**Old Business:** Jim W called Dan Smith about rope. SAG getting 250, Bill McGahey 150, Jim W will get 200' to get 41¢/ft. price. Regional: Liz reports Dance Country in McCloud wants \$14 for full hookups, \$8 for tent sites/2 adults, \$3 for each extra adult. No other reports. Registers: another one nearly ready to go, this one in Roadside. Nov meeting: Reels; Dec. meeting: Wolffs. Nominations in November.

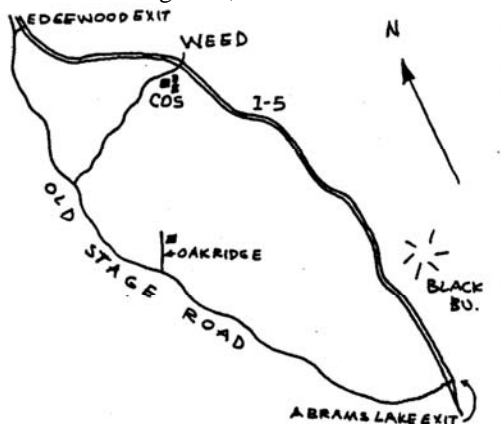
**CALENDAR**

**October 26-28** – Oregon Caves Restoration Project: call 916-964-3123 for reservations by Oct 23. Room and board will be provided, rocks to move, off-tour-route exploration & mapping.

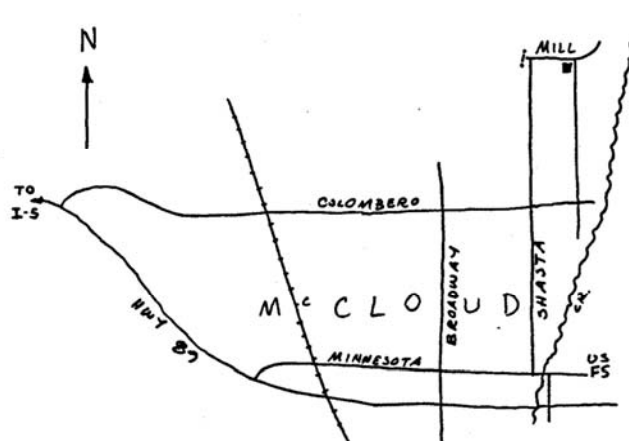
**November 9** – SAG Nominations – be there or be nominated!! All SAG members with current NSS membership are eligible to run for SAG office. Any repressed politicians out there?

**May 25 - 27** – Speleo-Ed Seminar, Berkeley Tuolumne Camp in the Sierras.

Nov 9 1990 meeting at George & Dorothy Reel's. Oakridge Rd., Weed. 938-4078



Dec 14 meeting at Jim & Liz Wolffs. Mill Rd., McCloud. 964-3123



## Oregon Caves Restoration Project: Do You Want to Help??

Jay Swofford reports that much rock has been moved, exposing many previously buried passages. During the October trip we will be hauling rock out the "110" Entrance to the cabin site, a short haul. New passages will be surveyed. Room & board will be provided, bring cave foods and snacks, cave gear. Also provided, rocks to move and the means to do it. **For reservations call Wolffs at 916-964-3123 by Oct 23.**

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### Convention Memories                      by Bill Broeckel

The big convention in Yreka came and went like a dream. Many different people from far and near convened to produce a week long gathering of cavers that was both spontaneous and enjoyable. Lots of folks deserve thanks. For the uninitiated, this event became a wonderland of spelean revelation. Here I'll relate some rather obscure stories of the convention.

1) I was eager to lead a cave trip from the convention. I'm afraid I fell far short of the standards for cave leaders as reviewed in the last newsletter. Luckily, some experienced cavers cave along on my trip. This was advertised as a day of horizontal lava tubing. Some people misunderstood this and thought we were going to sleep in some caves.

We were the first ones out to Three Level Ice Cave that day. One of the cavers was an inventive engineer from the South East. While resting at the terminal lava pool, the engineer demonstrated the helmet lamp he had been working on. It adjusted from a soft reading light to a bright long distance spotlight that could isolate individual icicles at the far end of the tube. It runs for 100 years on a single AAAA battery. It can also be used for a strobe flash, surgical field illumination, and sweeping the skies at grand openings of new cave equipment stores. He said he wasn't going to market the light though, until he had it completely perfected.

The engineer came in real handy later on. We were done caving, tired out, and ready to return to Yreka. But I couldn't get my car out of park. In spite of a number of creative maneuvers the shift handle refused to move. We contemplated a long walk. The engineer, however, was able to reach deep into the engine area and pull the car into drive by hand. It turned out that the shift box was jammed with coins. There probably is a lesson here.

2) Speaking of riches, the Mother Lode Grotto made some fine contributions to the convention. The many panels used for various displays and dividing space were trucked up here by the thrifty Mother Loders. They picked up hundreds of these things at some sort of military auction. After the convention we started ripping the aluminum siding off the panels. The remainders were condemned to the dump. I'm not sure who schemed up this salvage operation, but it was obvious that a large amount of aluminum was involved.

Then the National Guard came by, saying they wanted the discards to use for target practice. Mother Lode said they could have them for free if they agreed to tear off the aluminum first. Soon a large group of uniformed men came out double time and quickly completed the task at hand. Meanwhile, the grotto sat in the shade, sipping Gatorade and congratulating each other. Just how much did they score on that aluminum anyway?

3) After the convention Brug Dadford helped take down the first aid station. Here is a man of no small notoriety who was featured in the dress code section of the convention guidebook. He was wearing a tie in a cave. Well, it seems he was a little worried about the tie getting caught up in the ropes while he was getting up and down the cave. "Why tempt fate?" he was thinking. So he cut the tie as a precaution, leaving only a few strands of the fabric behind his neck. Now he went through the cave just fine, with no problems at all, looking quite dapper as a matter of fact. Only later did he discover that those strands were unbreakable. The tie was made of some kind of synthetic, super polyester steel substitute fiber. One hundred wild horses couldn't have pulled that tie apart. Moral of the Story – be sure and test your equipment first.

**NEWSFLASH** – here is a neat caving hint from the North East Regional District caving newsletter (the NERD WERD). Horatio Nerdlinger reports that his Eastcoast grotto has had good luck using those ties that just clip on to the shirt collar in front. After several unfortunate incidents his entire grotto switched to clip on ties, and they haven't had any problems with them since.

4) Post-convention trips penetrated different Northern California caves, including some in the Marble Mtns. Close to fifty cavers were camping in Marble Valley. This was my first Marbles trip, and I had high hopes to try out one of the easier cave. But even an easy one turned out to be a tough one for me.

We started out after lunch. There's some local bias against caving before noon in the Marbles. After a long uphill hike, we entered a cave. It was gnarly, cold, wet, and dangerous in there, and terribly exciting. The leaders were not shy about pointing out various deficiencies in my equipment, conduct, and other considerations related to safety and conservation.

Being an overly sensitive sort, I began to cast about looking for one of those pits into which I hoped to hurl myself, and end it all. Lo and behold, I presently found one! A dark void to the netherworld opened at my feet, the whole thing lined with dripping, scalloped, flesh-ripping wafers of living marble. The effect was dramatic. After only a short moment of consideration, I changed my mind, and decided to file away the whole experience into the education department.

Those are some great testing caves up there in the Marble Mtns, sure to challenge your body and mind. Just keep on living, that's what I say; and by the way, when is the next convention coming by?

**Beyond the Freudian Complex: Curoiuser and Curiouser** by Liz Wolff

The Freudian Complex essentially ends just north of the Double Barrel Cave (DBC) and another complex begins to the south, we called the Drawing Room Complex. The Drawing Room Complex has produced 3204 feet of cave passage so far.

Lava tubes are essentially linear features formed by flowing lava. In volcanic areas, land surfaces are a direct result of the lava flows. The slope of the land becomes steeper south of the DBC so that the tubes are smaller in diameter and much steeper in gradient. We have found more complexity in smaller spaces than up in Freud. We knew that the complexity continued in parallel and stacked tubes, but had no idea of the tangle we were to get into. The Ant Farm of the Freudian Complex was only a hint of what was to come. Passages that had seemed to join together into a single tube were seen to spread out into a curious complex upon drafting the map.

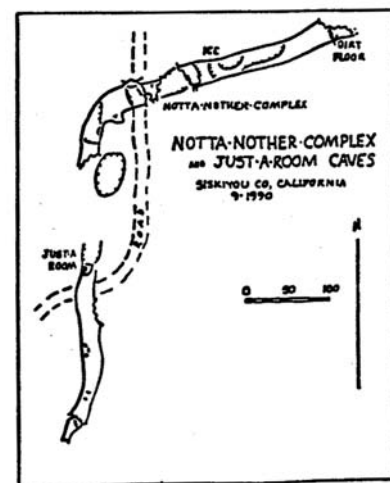
We have found parallel passage which has no apparent source, and a "crater" of unknown origin. Three passages are associated with the "crater". They are on two levels. The upper level comes from the Drawing Room Complex, and one of the lower levels also. The third passage at this time is anybody's guess, it may be the source for the parallel trench west of the Skylight cave. Where did the lava for the "crater" come from? How did the "crater" form? It isn't a lava source itself, but a feature in midflow.

**Not ANOTHER Complex (It's Just a Room) ?????** by Liz Wolff

Following the grotto meeting at Water Caves, Bill McGahey, Ray Miller and I went to pioneer a route in to the Drawing Room Complex from the south. After searching this logging road and that logging road we found one that looked promising. In fact, so promising that there were two caves right beside the road! Bill's comment, "oh no! not another complex" gave one cave its name. A brief look was all we took since they weren't the objective of the day. The caves are located in the Old Railroad Lava Flow, as named on geological maps.

We set off on a predetermined azimuth to reach the complex. It was up aa lava and down, through the brush and trees. See the tree cast and a new cave. It goes, but we purposely came away without lights (or lunch) to be sure to find the caves. Our predetermined azimuth was exactly right, we came to the last entrance we had explored to. This way at least the hike will get shorter the further we go., Hiking back to the truck we sorely missed our lunch, and determined to map the two short caves beside the road.

We began surveying with the most easterly cave, containing ice. The east end contains a dirt fill with air movement through a small (tiny) horizontal crack. The west facing entrance should prevent ice retention in the summer, but a tiny entrance and immediately dropping through an entrance room and another tiny hole into the main cave



Map: Just A Room Cave, Notta Nother Complex

insulates it well enough for good ice retention. The cave is completely floored with breakdown and no original floor or walls can be seen. The ice cave is 212 feet long.

Across the entrance sink is another portion of the same cave. This cave is also breakdown floored and very cold, but contains no ice. It ends in a loose breakdown jumble that none of us wanted to push. The breakdown cave is 164 feet long.

Up on the surface is a sinkhole that doesn't connect with the cave or even overlay it. Just south of the sink is an entrance that on first look was just a room. Closer examination showed a little hole in the floor leading to a lower level and the longest of the three caves. This cave has large breakdown on the floor and a short upper level at the south end that we all hoped would lead to another entrance, or exit. Air flow indicated this might be the case, but it's only passable to mice and squirrels, as evidenced by a packrat's nest. Roots festooned the ceiling in the upper room. Loose rocks on the 14 foot climb to the upper room forced those on the lower level to seek bomb-proof shelter when anyone was climbing.

Exiting the cave we had to rib Bill a bit, for the longest cave of the day was entered with the comment "it's just a room." The "room" turned out to be 291 feet long.

**SIMPLE BEASTS**



**The SAG RAG**  
 c/o Jim and Liz Wolff  
 P.O. Box 865  
 McCloud, CA 96057

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