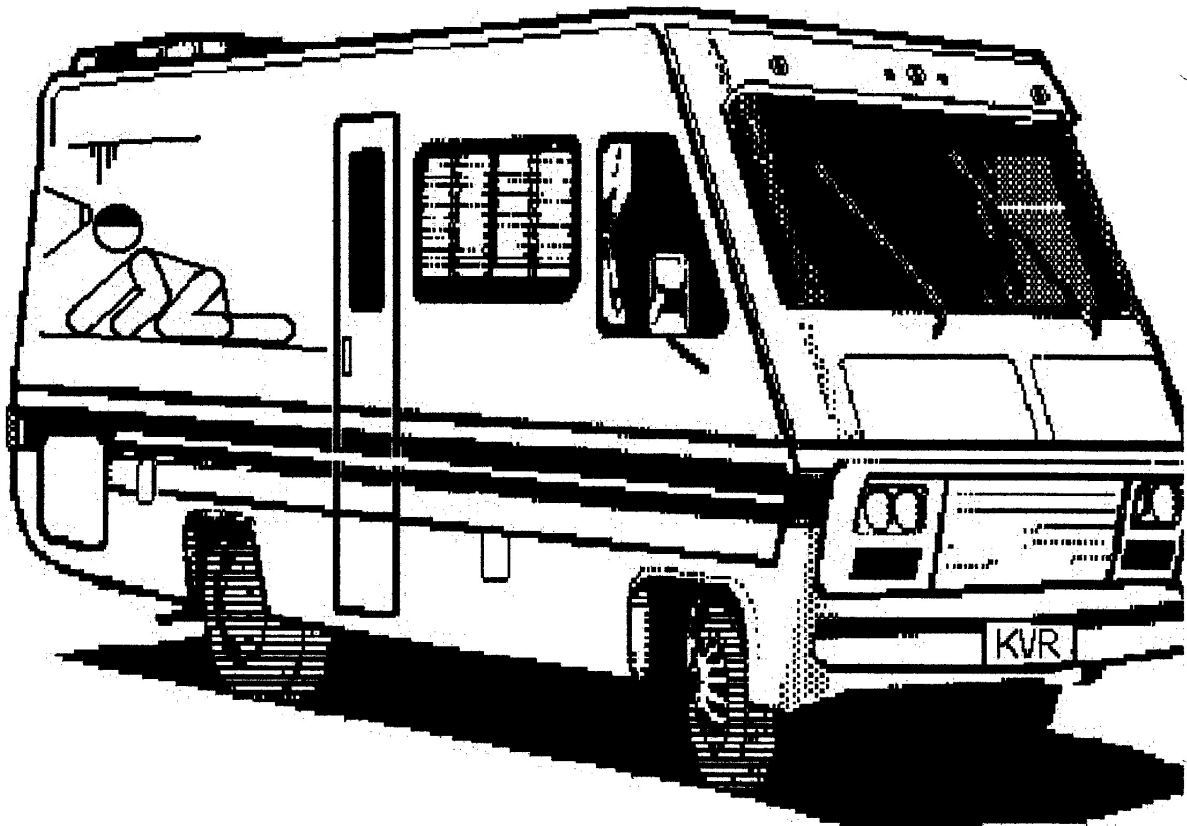


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May-June 1999



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## CHAIRMAN'S CAVE CORNER

By Jim Wolff

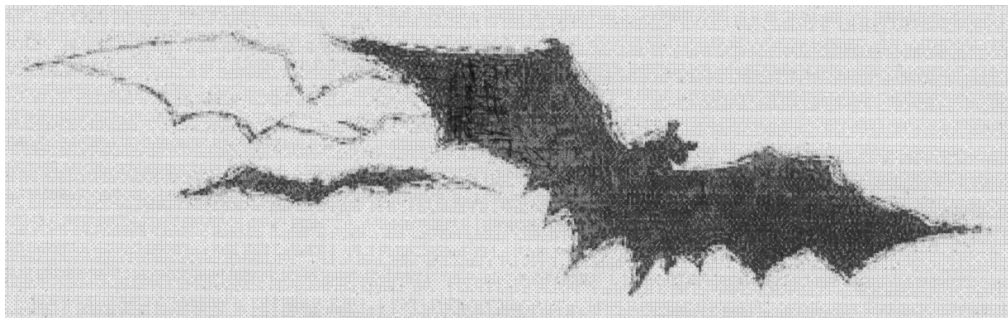
Dear Cavers,

Regarding our plans for the Regional, this update is brought to you by the Self-Rescue Group of the Western Region. We will be getting a half-hour demonstration by Cindy Heazlit, just before dinnertime, the Saturday of the Regional. If anyone out there feels led to give a talk or demonstration at the Regional, just let me know, as the wHole (I couldn't resist!) weekend is free for the taking! All I want to see is that the Region Meeting happen first, THEN the *Cal Caver* Auction, and finally, THE SLIDE SHOW! Everything else is icing on the cake. Let's focus on cave rescue, but other subjects are welcome too.

I still need volunteers for leading Regional cave trips, just tell me what KIND of cave trip you want to lead, and the cave of choice can be decided on later. Of course I'd like you guys to step forward and volunteer (to go caving!) NOW and help fill my concept of the Regional's theme, "Custom Cave Trips", then we should be offering from the menu the widest selection of trip types to choose from. From vertical to horizontal, from photo to survey to inventory, from family trips to biology trips, from lava to limestone caves. How about clean-up trips or FS-guided trips into caves? The possibilities are much more, and since you ARE the trip leader, you call the shots.

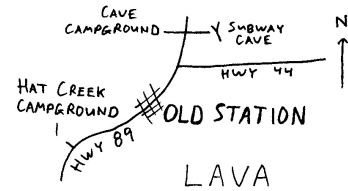
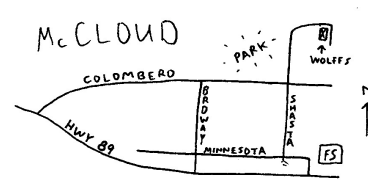
So, now you see what I conceive to (potentially) be THE most memorable Regional that the attendees have ever been to. Why not, when the other grottos came up this way in the past, they nearly always go to the same caves. Now, we can show them just what they have been missing AND what we have up here to protect! We might even get some WORK out of 'em in the process! I have decided to lead a PRE-Regional cave trip to some of the limestone down at Shasta Lake, but haven't decided which cave yet – may have to find one first ...! Anyway, ANY amount of help will be appreciated! MANY THANKS, FRIENDS! See you at the meetings

**JW**



### CAVERS CALENDAR

- July 3-9, 1999 NCRC at Lava Beds.
- July 12-26, 1999 NSS Convention, Filer, ID.
- July 30-31, 1999 Possible Marbles trip. Contact Jim Wolff.
- Aug 13, 1999 SAG meeting 7:30 pm. Wolff's in McCloud. Cave trip next day.
- Sept. 10-12, 1999 SAG meeting and dress rehearsal for Regional at Hat Creek.
- Sept. 24-26, 1999 Western Regional at Hat Creek.



### SHASTA VALLEY CAVES UPDATE

By B. Broeckel

Another emergency SOG/SAG cave meeting was held at Melanie Jackson's house in Yreka on the evening of June 24, 1999. This time the object was to give Jim Stout some help in proceeding with the management of Shasta Valley caves. The immediate focus was on the gating of Barnum Cave. Attending the meeting were Jim Stout (Goosenest Ranger District), Jim Wolff, Liz Wolff, Bill Kenney, Bill Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, and Ernie Coffman.

Jim Stout reported that the road work on A12 will be next summer and that Sand Cave projects would be best done after the road work is complete. Now, however, as Mr. Stout explained it, the time was right for the gating of Barnum Cave. He needed measurements and a design, to be approved by Jim Nieland, so that an order for materials could be made, and actual construction could be done this year before the bats hibernate. Extra materials could be stock-piled for repairs or future gating work at Sand Cave.

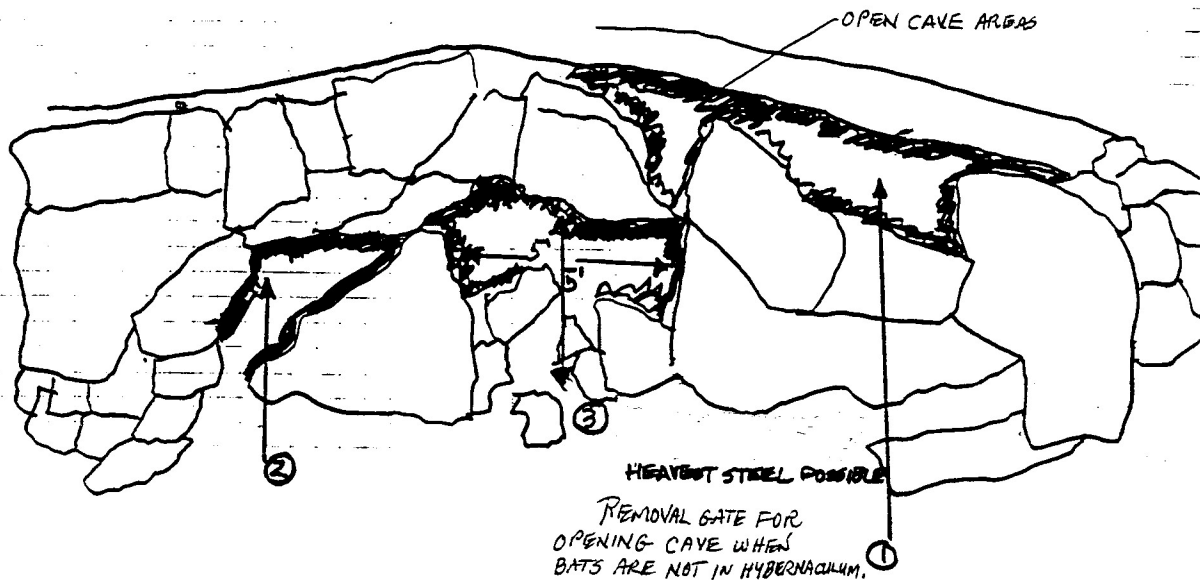
The Cave Gate Manual was reviewed, and Ernie Coffman produced drawings of the entrance, and a gate concept showing mostly horizontal pieces mounted on some vertical supports. Suddenly the participants realized that nothing further could be decided without looking at the cave itself, so the meeting adjourned for a quick, on the spot trip to the entrance of Barnum Cave.

I couldn't go, but I understand that the gate will be placed just behind the breakdown rocks at the entrance. This would be in keeping with the needs of the bats, whose preferences at the entrance are not really known, and also would have less effect on the airflow in and out of the cave. So watch for a gate construction/bat habitat protection project at Barnum Cave soon.

**MORE ON SHASTA VALLEY CAVES**

By J. Wolff

Last night's meeting about the gating of Barnum Cave went smoothly. We adjourned to go to the cave and take measurements where the gate is to be put. A couple hours later, we had a floor to ceiling profile. Jim Stout will then calculate how much of each kind of metal that we will need, in turn we will submit the design to Jim Nieland for approval. We got honest with ourselves and anticipate one and only one cave getting gated this fiscal year which is until Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, then the following year Sand Cave will get its gate(s). We suggested that Sand Cave get two gates (upflow and downflow) at the sky light entrance. The county will be designing the barrier to keep road water and pollution from draining into the cave, and to keep cars out of the sinkhole . . . !



The only entrance to Barnum Cave is shown here. The cave is 783 feet long and has been mapped at least twice. The cave was named for a pioneer family, and has been well known for many years. In modern times it has been a popular party cave. Klamath National Forest acquired the cave in 1997. Winter cave temperatures are near freezing, and bats are known to use the cave for a hibernaculum; hence the winter closure, gate project, and the need for public education.

The sketch is by Ernie Coffman. The gate will be placed just behind the breakdown shown.

## SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING May 14, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm at the Wolff's home in McCloud. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Present were Ray Miller, Melanie Jackson, Russ Yoder, Bill Kenney, Niels Smith, Jim & Liz Wolff, Jim Kottinger, and Bill Broeckel. Minutes accepted as read. Treasurer's report: current bal. \$518.81.

Correspondence: Received a letter from Leon Nelson, a dentist in Redding who is interested in the Marbles. Received a new Cave Gating Manual from Nieland.

Old Business: The museum will let us use the badge equipment whenever we want. We should do the badges just as soon as the logo is ready.

New Business: The hole in Jot Dean where the cave register was needs to be fixed. The register in the back of Bat Cave needs to be removed and placed in Three Level Ice Cave. Jim Wolff will show Stacie Smith of Mt. Shasta, the person in charge of special use permits, where the register will be placed.

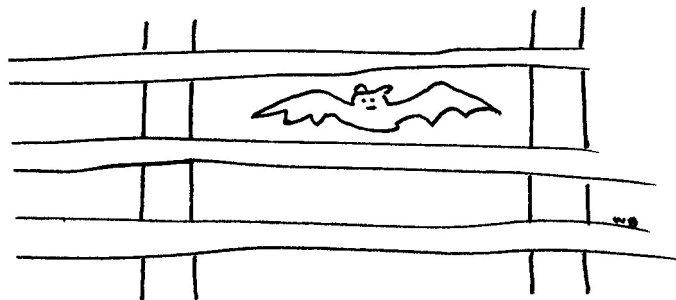
Jim Wolff found a copy of the Shascade Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of 1994. Cindy Heazlit wants to do a self rescue demo at the Western Regional in September. Broeckel is working on a compilation of Hat Creek caves. At the June Hat Creek campout, we can camp for free and details were explained. Ken Ferris hopes to be there on Sunday. Regarding the Regional, Ernie Coffman provided some suggestions regarding times, places, maps, etc., and the need for a P.A. system and a wireless mike. Ray has the wireless mike, but no P.A.

A new luminous cave moss called *Schistostega pennata* (goblin gold) has been identified just north of our area. We should watch for it. Lassen National Forest has related that the Southern Corner Trintips Fiber Optic Cable rep. would like cavers to check the area for possible caves. Barnum Cave entrance needs to be sketched for the proposed gate. An estimate needs to be made regarding materials, and the \$ value of the labor involved. Pluto Cave Road gate is locked with a combination lock. Ray Miller has the combination. Jim Wolff has the key to Bat Cave.

Trip Reports: Bray Ice Cave was mapped to 140' by Broeckel and his son Benj.

Next Meetings: June meeting at Hat Creek Campout June 11-13, 1999. Broeckel knows a nice cave that needs to be mapped. July – no meeting due to people at NSS Convention in Idaho. August meeting – Aug. 13, 1999 at Wolff's in McCloud.

MJ



EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article by Bruce Rogers is reprinted from the San Francisco Bay Chapter (SFBC) web edition of their newsletter, Vol 42 Num 2 February 1999. Bruce Rogers directs his comments toward a specific question about Connie Cave. In his reply, he includes some information which I think is valuable to the SAG RAG readership to encourage us in our ongoing local projects at Bat Cave (Shasta-Trinity National Forest) and Barnum Cave (Klamath National Forest). As cavers we need to remember that these bat protection projects have good potential for success, and that Bat Cave is closed all seasons, and Barnum Cave will have a winter closure.

REPRINT from SFBC NEWS Volume 42 Number 2 Spring 1999

### **Bat Usage of Connie Cave The Best Time to Visit and Avoid Connie Cave**

*By Bruce Rogers*

*Mark Scott was considering the option of holding a vertical practice in Connie Cave. But Connie Cave is used by the rare Townsend's bat (Corys) and disturbance is not a good thing. This is a reply from Bruce Rogers regarding the best time to use Connie Cave for vertical practice, and should also be of interest to anyone thinking of visiting the cave in the future. – Robert.*

I talked to Dixie Pierson and Bill Rainey and we reviewed the data we have on the cave and its use by *Corynorhinus townsendii* – Corys for short.

There seems to be no good long-term data for bat use of this cave. However, there are consistent, reliable reports of large groups of Corys using the cave in the spring and summer – probably as a nursery site. The Mother Lode population of Corys seems to have a somewhat later breeding cycle than those in the Coast Ranges at, say Cave Gulch, pitiful few that they are. Thus they usually take up residence in early April and settle in for the summer – or until some terrible, horrible, mucky thing descends from the ceiling. The young are raised and are usually ready to fly at end of August or so.

This year is a La Nina year, which means early and light precipitation which translates to a dry winter and early spring. This means that the Corys may (if they feel like it) take up residence in Connies Cave somewhat earlier than “normal”. Corys are very sensitive to close-up disturbance during birth and growth of the young. The Corys will abandon the roost if disturbed during these times; in a worse case scenario leading to loss of young.

Our collective suggestion is to consider not using Connies Cave as a vertical practice site from late April to very late August when the young fledge and seek fall/winter quarters elsewhere. If anyone does bop into the cave and sees bats flying, then they should immediately leave so the colony will not abandon the place.

We've seen the beneficial effect of cave closure for Corys in Lava Beds: the colony in Cave Loop has grown from several dozen to nearly 200 in the several years selected caves were closed during summer months; ditto at Pinnacles National Monument where the 80 or so Corys grew to nearly 200-300 since the summer closure of the Bear Gulch caves over the last 3 years gave the Corys a little breathing room. It's been most heartening. I think giving the Corys a little break in spring and summer in Connies Cave would be the best thing since sliced bologna...

The balance of the year Connies Cave could be used for vertical practice – assuming there's not a mass of fluttering wings inside the main room, of course. That does give a window of nearly 7 months to enjoy the delights of cursing the rope after it slips into the entrance crack as you thrash back up a springy piece of Goldline!

~ ~ ~

**LAVA BEDS CAVE TRIP**

Jim and Liz Wolff

On Friday, May 28, 1999, Liz and Jim Wolff led eleven 5th-8th grade students from the Siskiyou Christian School, where Liz teaches art, into three caves in the Lava Beds. The trip began with a stop at Captain Jacks Stronghold and a tour of the area. After a brief historical lecture by Jim it was off around the short loop, with some of the kids trying to fit themselves into the tiniest of crannies. They couldn't wait for the time to get into the "real caves".

Valentine Cave

After a tour of the visitor center and lunch, it was time for a quick tour of Mushpot Cave. That got their adrenaline going and they were ready for Valentine Cave. A brief stop behind the entrance pillar gave them a chance to adjust their eyes to the dark and gave them some things to look for in the cave. They got off to a quick start and left the adults behind. The tallest boy tried to push the crawl at the end of the cave, but the other kids talked him out of it, telling him they wouldn't rescue him if he got stuck. And he conceded that if he had knee pads it might make the crawl a little easier.

At the breakdown side passage, we sat and tried to experience total dark, but kept getting interrupted by unsteady pilgrims seeking the end of the cave. One decided he'd had enough and sat with us while we talked of echolocation, scent trails, and when did these rocks fall. That little tidbit had some of the kids going thinking that more might come down, but they were reassured to find that the rocks probably all came down as part of the cooling process.

On the trip back out of the cave their teacher, who admitted to being a bit squeamish in tight places, gamely went through every side crawl with the kids. Many of the kids were disoriented, having come down the left-hand passages coming into the cave, and taking the left-hand passages going out. They saw one bat that flew away before anyone got a good look at him.

Skull Cave

And they were ready for more caves. So it was on to Skull Cave, to see a really big cave. The daylight followed them a long way into the cave this time and everything seemed much lighter, until they reached the ladders to the lower levels. Then the cave got darker and colder as we descended the stairs. And colder, and more stairs, and colder. Finally the bottom was reached and the way ahead was gated. There was ice down there, but not much, just a little bit on the rocks near the gate. Then it was back up all those stairs – they learned the cavers' adage: what goes down, must come up. And they thought it was a long way up, although it wasn't any further than they had come down.

There was still a little time before they absolutely had to head back to their anxiously awaiting parents, so we took a hike out to see another cave whose name escapes me. On the hike out, the turn around time was reached and the cave was still further, so they didn't see it. Back at the cars, we checked the guide book, only to find that the cave was 3/4 miles away. A good time was had by all, and the daintiest of girls asked if they couldn't go with us some time when we were going caving? They were the only ones to bring hard hats and kneepads.

**JW & LW**

### HISTORICAL GROTTO LIST FOR CALIFORNIA AND OREGON

The following list was drawn from the more comprehensive Grotto List maintained on the internet by the NSS, as of last winter. The list includes the Grotto name, assigned number, location of origin, and the dates for the life span of the Grotto. Yes, each Grotto has a number, just like each member has a number. It's more of this weird numbering thing that is part of the NSS. Grotto #1 is the New England Grotto, laid to rest in 1984. Grotto #2 is the D.C. Grotto, still kicking after nearly 60 years. The odd thing here is that apparently the D.C. Grotto started in 1940, a year before the New England Grotto. So why isn't the D.C. Grotto #1? Somebody explain that one for me.

Anyway, here is the list for two of our more western states, for your curiosity and information. Maybe like me, you will find some surprises in here. For example, did you know that the very first Grotto in California was called the "Northern California Grotto". There were some grottos I had never heard of, such as the "Thai-Am Caving Grotto" with an APO address in San Francisco in the 1970s. So with that, here goes the list.

**BB**

#9	Northern California Grotto	San Francisco, CA	1947-1949
#13	Stanford Grotto	Stanford, CA	1948-1955
#16	Southern California Grotto	Arcadia, CA	1948-present
#43	Sierra Grotto	San Francisco, CA	? -1953
#62	San Joaquin Valley Grotto	Hanford, CA	1955-1986
#65	Sierra Mojave Grotto	Ridgecrest, CA	1956-1986
#79	San Francisco Bay Chapter	Menlo Park, CA	1957-present
#114	Mother Lode Grotto	Sacramento, CA	1963-present
#123	Oregon Grotto	Portland, OR	1964-present
#148	Diablo Grotto	Concord, CA	1967-present
#149	Stanislaus Grotto	Modesto, CA	1967-present
#171	Merced Cavers Grotto	Merced, CA	1969-1981
#205	San Diego Grotto	La Jolla, CA	1973-present
#206	Thai-Am Caving Grotto	APO, San Francisco	1973-1975
#216	Willamette Valley Grotto	Oregon City, OR	1974-present
#238	Noana Grotto	Tusin, CA	1976-1979
#255	Columbia Grotto	Columbia, CA	1978-present
#278	Waldo Brothers Grotto	Pomona, CA	1981-present
#289	Shasta Area Grotto	Redding, CA	1982-present
#302	Golden Gate Grotto	San Francisco, CA	1984-1987
#311	Santa Barbara Underground	Santa Barbara, CA	1985-1989
#313	Nehkawneh County Cavers	Barstow, CA	1985-1986
#346	Oregon High Desert Grotto	Bend, OR	1990-present
#347	Jefferson State Grotto (now SOG)	Ashland, OR	1990-present
#386	Shascade Caving Society	Redding, CA	1993-present
#407	Cochise County Cavers	Sierra Vista, CA	1996-present
#409	Desert Dog Troglodytes	Long Beach, CA	1997-present



**THE GREAT PETERS SINK ADVENTURE (PETERS BUTTE CAVES)**

By Russ Yoder

*Part 1 Of dust masks, bumpy roads, and Charlie Larson Cave leads . . .*

I headed out in the appropriate direction. From looking at the topo maps and after seeing the area first hand, I was immediately attracted to two main vents. The upper main vent I looked at first, since it was the least likely of the two choices for finding the lead, and because I drove by it first. Stopping by the road near a small tumulus with exposed plate around it, I decided to see more.

So I set off in a generally southerly or down-slope cross sectional track to this flow. After about a mile I was thinking about heading back to the truck. Then I thought about all those times when I later realized that had I just gone a little bit farther ... So I went just 300 feet farther and what do you know, there really were caves out here.

A small sink hole to a first entrance level with a hole at the end of it led down to blowing satisfaction!

So I put my pen light into my mouth as any decent caver would do, and down I went, sliding 4 feet on a steeply sloping boulder and dropping another 4 feet as well. After picking myself up from off the ground, a greatly audible sucking sound was heard. HmMMM ... I thought, what could that be?

Thinking it might be moving water, I proceeded into the darkness. The sound was air that was rushing into vertical cracks half way through the cave. This lower level section of the cave is 12 feet high, 30 feet wide, and about 100 feet long, and ending (sadly) in a very deep and muddy dirt fill. The total depth of the cave was about 40 feet where the original ceiling lining meets the mud and dirt.

Getting out through that little hole back up to the first level was a technical wonder that made me think again about caving alone, especially when I'm out looking for lost or unknown caves.

The entrance sink looks like a double dip. A sink collapse with a short lava bridge in the middle acts as a dam with the breakdown, making two separate entrances out of one area of collapse. The up-slope passage looks like it would go a ways since its vent source is 1 ½ miles up a fairly steeply sloping lava flow. However, the upper entrance part of the sink happens to be in line with a significant amount of drainage feeding into it, so that this has filled it to the brim with dirt and loose rock. Considering the depth of the other down-slope entrance, I would try to open it only with either heavy equipment or a lot of strongly motivated people.

The rest of the day was spent checking the associated flow area down to its end and back up towards its source, then admiring a beautiful sunset on top of the shield. I set out back down to the truck occasionally looking up at the stars and the thin clouds that were glowing in the moonlight.

(part 2 on next page)

## THE GREAT PETERS SINK ADVENTURE (PETERS BUTTE CAVES)

By Russ Yoder

*Part 2: Once again of dust masks, bumpy roads, and Charlie Larson Cave leads . . .*

After having to work for an abysmal twenty days straight, I was very anxious to once again look for the cave that I had intended to find my first time out. So after getting side tracked on another flow early that morning, I finally arrived in a position to work my way up-flow in the direction of the low shield that I thought looked very likely to have produced the cave.

I figured that the entrance depression/sink would be on the highest areas of the flow coming towards me. So with this in mind, off I went. At about 1:30 pm I found it!: a classic collapse sink some 70 feet long and 40 feet wide. The 2x2 foot hole at the end nearest to me was blowing out a strong current of cold air. And, I might say, on such a hot day, it felt very cold indeed. This seemed to be the right description.

At the other end of the sink, another entrance led into a small cave with a dirt sump at the end of it. This I could see with the help of my trusty pen light. But wait, there's more! Somebody had put up a small cairn in between this and another smaller entrance sink.

After a climbable 20 feet down past frogs and moss I passed through an entrance that led into a big passage! Going back to the other end of the sink again, I went into that strongly blowing down-flow entrance and that took off into a booming big passage too! Two big caves in a system? This was much more than I had originally hoped for. I looked a little more above ground and then headed back down to the truck, where I spent a lovely evening and had a good night's sleep sheltered in the van. Of course, dreaming about caves.

The next day I packed up my caving gear in hopes of making a basic map of the caves in order to get some idea of what is actually there. These maps are included with this report. So as not to be terribly long winded, I'll just say that I did map them. After I did that I walked up to the top of the shield volcano, took in the view, and noticed that the cave flow seemed to angle down the SW slope, turning east, and then turning towards the caves I had just mapped. I decided to follow up on this discovery and behold, a third cave!, which I also mapped. I then surface plotted over the system as well.

After getting back to the truck, I felt tired but also very exhilarated. What a major find to share with the caving world. A few people have been in these caves, as there is evidence of this. But now it is known to cavers. Now the caves can be monitored and cared for. I have already put rocks around some of the more delicate formations that had been nearly trampled by those who would not normally see them, unless they were pointed out like that.

Cavers need to know where caves like this are so they can be looked after, especially in an increasingly accessible world. And so ends another exciting caving day in the life of Russell D. Yoder.

**RY**



**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEMBERSHIP LIST + 1999**

Broeckel, Bill	31702	916-842-3917	524 Annie Street, Yreka, CA 96097
Broeckel, Judy	31703	916-842-3917	524 Annie Street, Yreka, CA 96097
Everest, Glen	17903	916-243-3873	16327 North Street, Redding, CA 96001
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Frank, Chuck III	45411	530-436-2743	13741 Old Westside Road, Grenada, CA 96038
Frank, Chuck IV	45412	530-436-2743	13741 Old Westside Road, Grenada, CA 96038
Frank, Scott	45413	530-436-2743	1552 Giuntoli Lane, Arcata, CA 95521
Fritzke, Mark	16064	707-822-8566	565 Upper Creek Road, Bayside, CA 95521
Haines, Kyle		541-482-0675	POB 695, Yreka, CA 96097
Helton, Pat	36880	510-796-CAVE	37899 Los Arboles Drive, Fremont, CA 94536
Henry, Jim & Janet		530-223-1842	1310 Nighthawk Lane, Redding, CA 96003
Jackson, Mel.	36899	916-842-9714	POB 1603, Yreka, CA 96097
Kenney, Bill	33394	541-883-2781	2425 Hope Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Kenney, Cheryl	36868	541-883-2781	2425 Hope Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Kenney, Zane	36867	541-883-2781	2425 Hope Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
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LaForge, Dick	16560	707-443-2626	450 Redmond Road, Eureka, CA 95501-9526
LaForge, Evan	27121	707-443-2626	450 Redmond Road, Eureka, CA 95501-9526
LaForge, Kathy	32171	707-443-2626	450 Redmond Road, Eureka, CA 95501-9526
LaForge, Seth	22159	707-443-2626	450 Redmond Road, Eureka, CA 95501-9526
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Reed, Jim			6200 Lamphere Road, Arcata, CA 95521
Rogers, Bruce	6732	510-796-CAVE	37899 Los Arboles Drive, Fremont, CA 94536
Smith, Niels	23836	916-878-7068	3750 Otto Way, Auburn, CA 95602
Teets, Troy	28021		541 Mad River Road, Arcata, CA 95521
Willey, Denise	39573	916-926-1535	1222 Ramona Drive, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067
Wolff, Jim	7572	916-964-3123	POB 865, McCloud, CA 96057
Wolff, Liz	11701	916-964-3123	POB 865, McCloud, CA 96057
Yoder, Russ	42807	541-312-2948	1930 NE Lotus Dr. Apt. D-45, Bend, OR 97701

**SAG RAG**

524 Annie Street  
Yreka CA 96097

**STAMP****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Page 1	Cover: Caver camper
Page 2	Chairman's Cave Corner – Jim Wolff
Page 3	Cave Calendar
Page 3	Shasta Valley Caves – B. Broeckel
Page 4	Shasta Valley Caves – J. Wolff
Page 4	Barnum Cave Sketch – E. Coffman
Page 5	May meeting notes – M. Jackson
Page 6	Connie Cave Reprint – B. Rogers
Page 7	Lava Beds Kids Trip – J. & L. Wolff
Page 8	CA & OR Grotto List – B. Broeckel
Page 9	Peters Butte Caves – R. Yoder
Page 11	Upper Cave map – R. Yoder
Page 12	SAG membership list

**TO:**

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