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The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. Original material not otherwise noted is copyright to the SAG RAG. Such material may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG. For use outside of the caving community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication any time to Bighorn Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadows Road, Yreka, CA 96097. Material intended for the next newsletter is due by the 10th of the even month.

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## **CHAIRMAN'S CAVE CORNER**

By Jim Wolff

Dear Cavers,

On Aug. 13, 1999 the Shasta Area Grotto meeting had three USFS guests from Klamath National Forest. Jim Stout had the lead, so he talked about gating Barnum Cave, with regard to the seasonal use of the cave by bats. Caving master welder Bill Kenney discussed materials and gate design. Jim Nieland will be there to assist with the door, and the anchoring of the frame with fewer uprights. The gating of the cave will be Sep. 14-16. So mark it on your calendar! Enough labor is expected but come anyway and bring coffee and doughnuts! The two other guests, Karen and Juan, discussed a potential CHALLENGE COST/SHARE AGREEMENT, the processing of cave research proposals, the presentation of a local cave classification system, cave identification, and the application of these ideas more regionally.

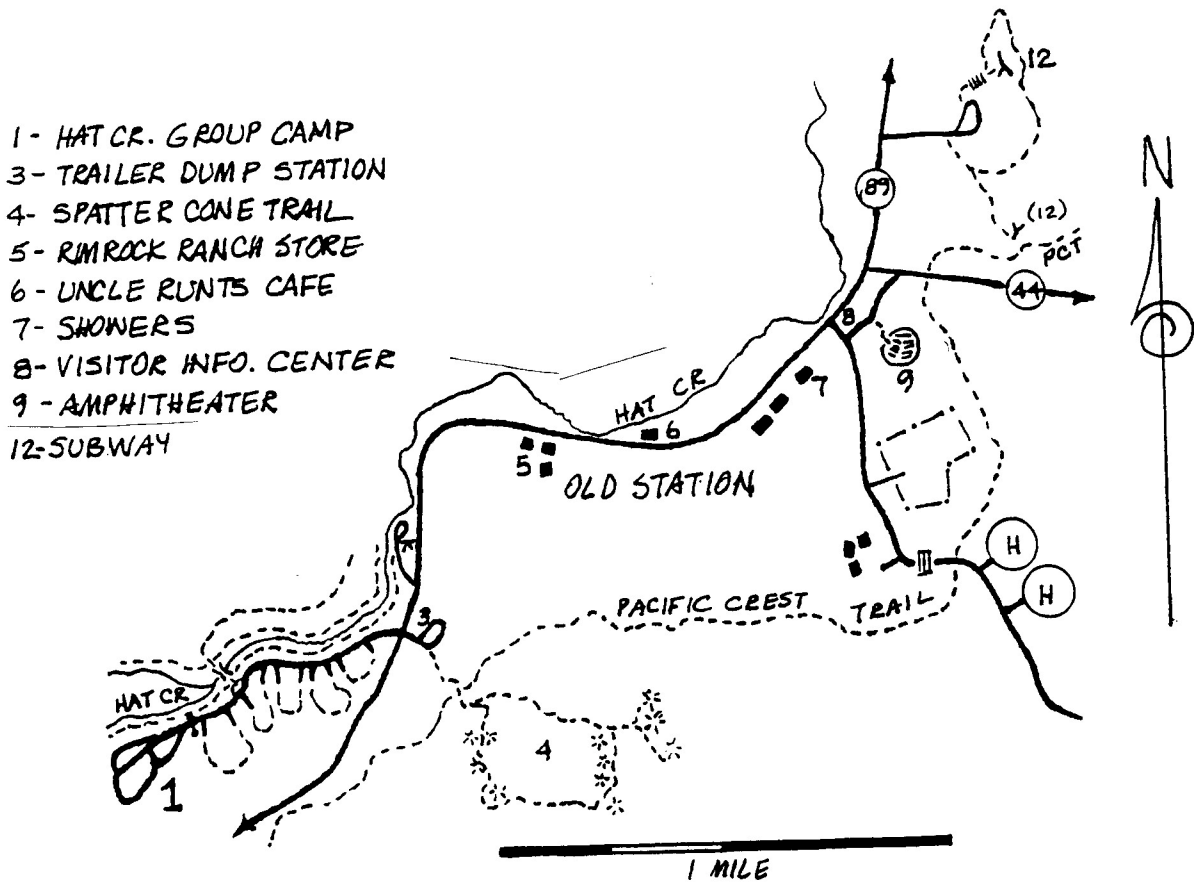
A short break followed, to say our thank-yous and good-byes to our guests, then the meeting restarted, and after the usual stuff, we got down to the old business of the Regional. – MOVIE SCREEN, a huge one will be used (maybe) for the slide show. Bill Frantz has it. – SLIDE SHOW, Ernie Coffman has it under control. – PA SYSTEM, we got a cordless mike system from Ray Miller. – BIG TARP, we will be picking up a tarp from Neils Smith. – TRAILER, Jim Kottinger will let us use it as an office. – FIREWOOD, for bonfire Sat. eve Chuck Frank III will bring apple wood. – SELF-RESCUE DEMO, Cindy Heazlit will be giving demo before supper Sat. – BADGES, logo has been reduced to fit badges. Need to figure a way to differentiate meal plans. – FS HANDOUTS, visitors' center has given us masters to copy. – POWER SWITCH, for amphitheatre, need to find. – SAMWEL CAVE, reserve key. – SHERIFF, need to courtesy call Shasta County Sheriff. – CAVE LOCATIONS, same to post on bulletin board at registration, need bulletin board. – TELEPHONE, locations on area map, and important numbers at registration office. – MEALS, we need 100 registered to break even, number of meal plans uncertain. Deadline Sep. 3 to give time to plan and buy food. Friday night dinner extended hours to feed cavers stragglng in. Good touch! – SCHEDULE of events, still flexible, but full. REMINDERS, sent to Western Region by e-mail and snail mail. – GUIDEBOOK, has 50 cave descriptions and maps. Bighorn thinning down text.

That's all for now, be sure to pre-register. Thanks!

**JW**

**CAVERS CALENDAR**

- Sept. 3, 1999 Pre-registration deadline for Western Regional.
- Sept. 3-?, 1999 KMCTF Marble Mountains Labor Day Speleocamp.
- Sept. 11, 1999 Saturday night SAG meeting at Hat Creek Campground. Weekend of field prep for the Regional.
- Sept. 14-16, 1999 Barnum Cave gate installation work project.
- Sept. 24-26, 1999 Western Regional at Hat Creek. Please pre-register.





# WESTERN REGIONAL - 1999 -

Hosted by the SHASTA AREA GROTTO and the SOUTHERN OREGON GROTTO

WHERE: Hat Creek Group Camp, Lassen

WHEN: September 24, 25, 26, 1999

Registrant Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 NSS# \_\_\_\_\_ Grotto \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanier (s) \_\_\_\_\_ NSS Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMT \_\_\_\_\_ MD \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of participants _____	x \$10	total registration fee	\$ _____
Children (12 years and under) _____	x \$ 3.50	total registration fee	\$ _____
Late registration fee (number) _____	x \$15		
<b>Total Registration Fee</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-registrations should be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 3, 1999. Because of limited space, we encourage car-pooling! RV parking will be first come, first served. Also, any pets must be kept on leash in camp. Maps and logo will be following by snail mail for the regional .

**FOOD PLAN:**

6-meal plan for \$30 (2 dinners, 2 breakfasts, 2 sack lunches) for each registrant \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 2-meal plan for \$15(2 dinners) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual meal tickets**

\$3.50 breakfast	# _____	\$ _____
\$4.00 lunch	# _____	\$ _____
\$7.50 dinner	# _____	\$ _____
<b>Total enclosed:</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

NOTE: fruit, snacks and bottled water or soft drinks will be available for sale to registrants.  
**Vegetarian meals can be provided - please indicate on form**

"Custom Cave Trips" will be available during the regional.

Please sign up now for trips you are interested in going on.

TYPE of trip: survey \_\_\_\_\_; clean-up \_\_\_\_\_; family \_\_\_\_\_; photographic \_\_\_\_\_;  
 inventory \_\_\_\_\_; vertical trips \_\_\_\_\_; cave hunting \_\_\_\_\_;  
 limestone pre-regional \_\_\_\_\_; post-regional trips \_\_\_\_\_

Made checks payable to: *Shasta Area Grotto*

Mail Registration Materials to:



**Liz Wolff**  
**POB 865**  
**McCloud, CA 96057**

**SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING**  
**June 11, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 pm at the Hat Creek Campground. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm. Present were Melanie Jackson, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, Chuck Frank IV, guests Carlie Peters, Kiowa, Raven, and Addison Wolworth.

Minutes: accepted as read.

Treasurer's report: current bal. \$546.95. Grotto owes 217.30 for Regional campground reservation.

Correspondence: Mark Fritzke offered to lead a limestone trip on Fri/Sat of the Regional. Dick LaForge offered to lead a Photo trip. Ernie Coffman will contact California cave photographers for slide show presentations. Bi II B. reports that work on Regional Guidebook is well underway. Carlie Peters and Colleen Frank offered to help cook at the Regional. Bill B. and Jim W. both responded to the Porcupine Watershed Analysis. A bat researcher from BCI wanted to know about cave loving bats. She is working out in the Pyramid Lake area of Nevada. She was given names and addresses of some people in the Great Basin area. Klamath National Forest is scoping for a Happy Camp Watershed Analysis. An address for replies was given.

Old Business: Regarding cave registers: Jim W. and Stacie Smith went to Jot Dean and 3 Level Ice Cave 6-10-99. We need to check out Loops 1 & 2 of the group sites to know where to set up things for the Regional. We also need to ask about power to the amphitheater and have EMT contact numbers. We did talk to Carol Forester and Verna Vandervelt at the visitor center for local info.

New Business: Working with Jim Villega, the ranger in the Modoc area, has resulted in 4 trips to that area for cave mapping. Jim V. will be leaving and Jim McKeenan (law enforcement) will be our contact. So far 7 caves have been mapped. Yellow Jacket is the largest with approx. 3300 ft. and 6 smaller I caves with the largest being 205 ft. approx. 1/2 mi le from Yellow Jacket. Lyn Fielding and Roger Mortimer from the SFBC also worked with us 6-4-99. Bill B. took some people from the Regional Office of the Forest Service through Pluto's Cave. We have received word from Jim Stout that money is available for the gating of Barnum and Sand Caves. In order to accomplish this, a design is needed to know what materials to purchase. Bill K. and Ernie Coffman have design plans.

Next Meetings: Sep. 9-10 at Hat Creek campground before the Western Regional to finalize things, sort of a dress rehearsal. No meeting in July, due to NSS Convention in Idaho.



Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Jackson

## THE CATHEDRAL WITHIN

By Russ Yoder

*And as it was as if I were drifting, or be it I floated loftily down through the passage. And all the glory of God and this holy hidden creation was revealed unto me. From within the Earth as well as above in the Heavens ... Oh! so filled with love and joy. Oh what a wondrous and mighty God he truly is.*

RY

### On The Naming Of Caves And What Lurks In The Sunken Heart Of PETER THE SINK

I first heard of Peters Butte Cave from Charlie Larson during the LTB Memorial Trip of 1998. At which time he described (based on a local person's report) of a depression with a hole at the end of it blowing cold air and upon entering was a very large cave. Its location being somewhere between Peters Butte and Frederick Butte.

Well at the time I was very much involved with projects of mine as well as that of SAG's mostly involving the Medicine Lake Highlands. I however thought that there needed to be a time that I should go out to the Peters Sink area and find that cave and in time hopefully many more as well.

In April of 1999 I decided that Bend would be a perfect place to move to. Medford being so hot both day and night during the summer and secluded from any significant caving. A mountain pass or three were always necessary to circumvent. When the weather was bad in the passes it was a drag.

Bend is on the other side of the mountains already. It's more centralized to the caving areas that I love to go to in N.E. Cal., S.C. Wash., Central and S. E. Oregon and even Idaho are within easy reach. Besides that the climate is great and the OHDG had a cry for help (so to speak) in needing NSS members. And there was that cave lead to follow up on. Bend just seemed like the place to be.

About this time, during my moving preparations and going on an outing with the OHDG to the Green Mountain area, I had received the WVGs UE Vol. 19, No.1, Winter from Bill Kenney. The name Peters Sink Caves caught my eye. Bill Holmes was describing a report about last years discovery by Jerry Zimmer.

I wondered if this could have been the Peters Butte Cave that I was going to search for just as soon as I got settled into my new home in Bend. It sounded like there was more cave than was supposed to be for the Peters Butte Cave I was to look for.

When I did go up and found the caves I was pretty sure that these were indeed the caves that Zimmer had found. Though technically the middle cave is all one cave and not three and there is no mention of the upper cave in Bill Holmes's article.

I felt that the name 'Peters Sink Caves' was their way of protecting the caves by not giving them the more locality descriptive name of 'Peters Butte Cave' or even the earlier name 'Peters Creek Cave'. But as a second report came out by Bill Holmes and Bighorn's re-editing of my report, I realized that Holmes and Zimmer had just not known of the more historically correct name of the caves.

Oops! I guess that I should have called Mr. Holmes. and/or Mr. Zimmer before I gave out my report, my fault.



In getting to the point, a cave name should not be a locality name and to this end I tried to follow suit, but oh well.

Charlie Larson said that these caves, when discovered back in '29, were referred to as being located on the Perry holdings (or lands). Therefore I would like to suggest that these caves be referred to in the future as the Perry Caves or the Perry Cave System.

If the name 'Peters Butte Caves' were to continue to be used I would think of these caves as being sacrificial. Four wheel drive vehicles could easily drive right up to the cave entrances creating roads leading to the "new party caves".

We must remember while we discover and explore that we as cavers should always think in terms of conservation.

As far as working together with the WUG and the OHDG and myself in the future, I would love to.

My telephone number and address are available through Bill Kenney of the SOG, Jim and Liz Wolff or Bill Broeckel of the SAG, Charlie Larson of the OG or Ric Carlson of the OHDG.

Until then may our paths continue to cross onto better times ahead.

Sincerely: Russ Yoder





**CONVENTION CAVIN REPORT**

By Jim Wolff

Liz and I went into Gypsum Cave, in Idaho, which ranks as the third longest lava tube in the states. After entering the tiny gate, we had some pit traversing to do on narrow ledges, free-climbs to upper levels, and a 600' side lead in .... well, what they call the "Chocolate Factory", and it just does set your mind thinking of things sweet and creamy, with blocks of mud, cracked into regular shapes and sizes with the exact consistency and color of rich milk chocolate. The rest of the cave had gypsum dust on the floor in places and crusts of gypsum on the walls. One marked off spot had tiny gypsum needles. A seasonal stream entered the cave at the entrance and flowed about 1/3 the length of the cave. A path traversed the breakdown areas of the cave, showing there is lots of traffic in the cave.

The other cave I saw was on a post-convention trip in the Bighorn Mountains to a limestone cave, Bighorn Caverns. With neighboring Horsethief Cave, there are 18,000 feet of passage – all one cave. Bighorn has an 80 foot pit entrance, while Horsethief has a horizontal entrance. Both caves are gated. The crawl connection between the two caves was buried and cemented shut, soon after the connection was found. So now, "two" caves exist where there was one!

The cave I went in was Bighorn, the same I visited with Liz back in 1969. This trip we had the whole cave to poke around in. The trip I went on was supposed to be the low-key trip, where we could go where we wanted, and stay in as long as we wanted. The six cavers I went with included the leader's 12 year old daughter – who, by the way, won this year's 30 meter mechanical climb division for her age group in the vertical competition at the convention. Yet in Bighorn, she was using a new SRT system to her, and was having a devil of a time going up the rope. Her system didn't fit, but she slowly learned the "frog system" anyway. Now, that's weird, she was a champ with a ROPEWALKER system, but went up her second and deepest cave pit with an unfamiliar system. Before that, all she had done was rope sprinting in her garage or at school. She was a good sport about it though, and has a great interest in caves, like her father.

We saw gypsum flowers sprouting nearly everywhere, and gypsum crusts and rafts a-plenty. But more unusual for caves up there are the standard dripstones; there was a bit, and really colorful. The passages of the cave can be described as beautiful borehole, warm and friendly ... miles of it!

Of course, the Radon gas concentration in the cave is considered high, but I didn't stay underground a whole 139 hours of annual (safe) exposure time, and I tried to stay out of dusty areas. Also, the camp (Armpit, Wyo.) was a Uranium mining area, but we didn't stay there long either .... Just had to be aware of total exposure. A good time was had by all!

JW



**MARBLE MOUNTAIN BAT REPORT**

By Bighorn Broeckel

Bill Kenney and I responded to the Klamath National Forest invitation from Jay Power of the Scott River Ranger District, to join the Forest Service on a trip to check for the emergence of bats from some of the cave entrances. On a Monday afternoon I hurried up to camp to find everybody else already there. Some of the Biologists were sprawled over logs, resting up for the evening activities. The Forest personnel were Jay Power, Mary Gausen, Angie Roumasset, and Caroline Menke. Mary had her son Tyler along also.

With camp all set in order, we divided up. Some went out to scout the bat observation posts, while others stayed in camp and started supper. There was a bag of chopped, frozen, seasoned tri-tip steak pieces. These were shishkabobbed with mushrooms and vegetables over the open fire. Good idea. The cave entrances still held snow from the heavy winter, which also partially collapsed the roof of the grain shed.

After supper, we took up positions at three caves, with at least two people watching each entrance. We observed for bats from opposite sides of each opening. August 16, about 8:30 pm, the bats started getting active. At the discovery Entrance to Bigfoot, cold air was blasting out and there was a snow drift in the sinkhole. Three bats were seen emerging from the cave, and they were joined by some others from other locations. Immaculate Shaft was blocked with snow about 50 feet below the edge of the pit. We watched this cave anyway, and 1 bat was seen emerging. RP6 cave was the third cave we checked, and one little bat came out. A big bat came by just prior to this emergence, as if picking up the little bat for a date.

Then it got too dark to see much, so that was it. The next day we had some chances to present some caver perspectives before we all went our ways. No caving on this trip, but it was a good chance to plead our case with some of the local district people. Newsflash: we have some new leadership within Klamath National Forest at a time when the Forest is taking a greater interest in cave resources. The new Scott River District Ranger is Ray Haupt, and the new Klamath Forest Supervisor is Margaret Boland. She likes to be called Peg.

**SAG RAG**  
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**STAMP**

TO;