



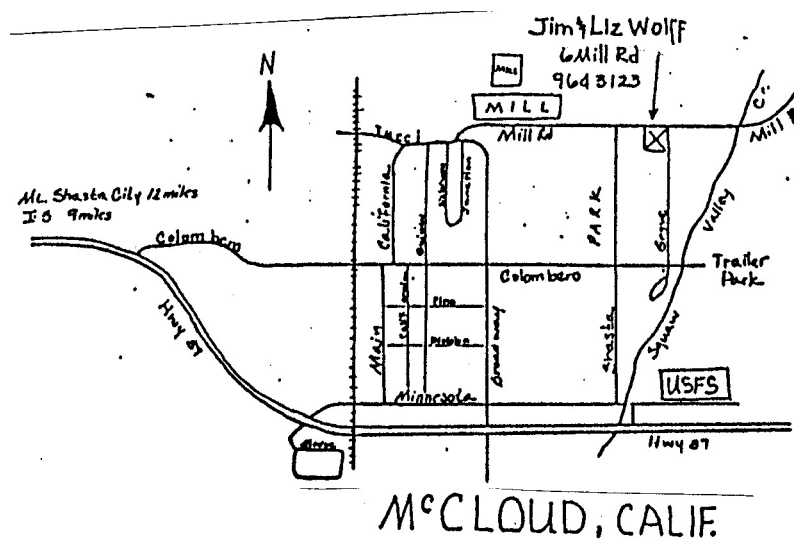
MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT
SEVERAL FEET OF BASALT MAKES
AN EXCELLENT SUNSCREEN

HEY MAN, I
CAN DIG IT.

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.

CAVERS CALENDAR 2000

- June 30-? KMCTF Speleocamp
- July 6-11 OHDG trip to Jordan Valley Area
- July 14 SAG meeting at Wolffs in McCloud at 7:30 p.m.
- July 15-16 OHDG trip to East Fort Rock Area
- July 29-30 J.D. Howard Weekend at Lava Beds (See article)
- Aug 11 SAG meeting at Wolffs in McCloud at 7:30 p.m.
- Aug 11-15 OHDG trip to Medicine Lake Highlands
- Aug 12 Self Rescue Group Training Day (See article)
- Aug 25-28 OHDG trip to Siah Butte
- Aug 26-27 J.D. Howard Weekend at Lava Beds (See article)



SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING REPORTS

By B. Broeckel

Friday May 19, 2000

Shasta Area Grotto met at the home of Dick LaForge near the coast. Jim Wolff reports that "we had dinner first, then the slideshow, since we had guests, and by the time all that was over it was 11 p.m. ...subsequently I had fewer sympathetic ears for the meeting." I was tired, but I recall a good meal, slides from the Borneo expedition, and other really exotic locations, and I had a chance to bounce off some of my thoughts about the Shasta Nation and the Marble Mountains. Gene Rimmer, LaForge, and the Wolffs were there for the discussion. Highlights of the trip for me came the next day, watching Dick ride off to orchestra practice on his motorcycle, with a musical instrument strapped to his back. And then taking my kids to Manila Beach. It was nice there. Thanks to Dick and Kathy LaForge for their hospitality.

Saturday June 17, 2000

Shasta Area Grotto held a weekend cave camp at Hat Creek. Those present were Gene Rimmer, Lane Rau, Ian Canady and his girlfriend Laurel, and myself. Jim Barnhart from Lassen National Forest stopped by for a visit, and to pick up some cave information that we had prepared. Also, I was able to do lunch on Sunday with the ladies at the visitors' center. The names were Carol Forster, Tami Taylor, and Verna Vanderveldt. I mention this because Carol and Tami will be conducting guided tours of Subway Cave this summer, every Saturday and Sunday from June 17 through Labor Day.

Since no officers were present, no formal meeting was attempted. We did a lot of talking about caves. On Saturday, Gene Rimmer, Lane Rau and I took a wrong turn, and found a whole new group of caves. We surveyed two of them, Puppy Cave (141 ft) and Edward Cave over 400 ft long, and on two distinct levels, superimposed. On Sunday, Lane went rock climbing, but Ian Canady, Gene Rimmer and I went out to the cave we were trying to reach in the first place. It may be a little strenuous, but Nine Lives Cave is a fun, interesting cave, and it surveyed out to 627 feet. At Hat Creek, this qualifies as a "long cave." Watch for more on this cave camp in the next issue, and maybe we should have some regular meetings pretty soon.

BB

ANOTHER TRIP TO DEVILS ROCK

By Jim Wolff

(or am I getting old or what?!)

We all knew that the trip was happening, but yet there were some who when asked to go, politely refused ... (for good reason!). Saturday the 6th of May at 7 a.m., I met up with Bill Kenney at the Park and Ride. From there we had a long road to haul. There were several hundreds of curves to negotiate and tens of miles to some remote piece of mean country to climb around in, called Devils Rock ... I don't mind writing about this promising area because once you have jeeped your way to the base of the mountain, you have to hike over some of the brushiest, poison oak-filled, steep, sharp and most jagged rocky ridges you'd EVER want to see! Now I know why they call it "Devils Rock"!

Anyway, after lots of too many bumpy road miles, we found the other two companions, Chuck Frank IV and Lane Rau having their coffee at camp. So after finally getting them out of camp we loaded up my pick-up and bumped our way towards our destination. We had to leave the vehicle further away from the rock than last year, it seems three huge (3 ft diam.) oaks had fallen across the jeep road. Never mind, because the road just a little further along had ruts 5 ft deep in it!

Chuck wanted to show Bill and I the Goonies Cave, and Lane, having seen the cave himself, opted to climb up to an obvious opening high above the road, a little further up the canyon. Once at the cave, we rigged Bill's rope and went down the pit that was near the entrance. It was a spiral affair that went down at an angle too steep to free climb on wet smooth flowstone. The tube we descended was about 8 ft in diameter and ended about 40 ft down. There we found a ledge, with the last of the pit dropping through a hole in the floor in one corner, another 6 or 8 ft below that. A small cave by most standards, yet it was pretty, with small cave pearls and other usual stuff. One thing to note, all the caves in this area tend to be real challenges for the unwary ... like ME!

I chose to go up "Texas" style, meaning without chest harness. It stayed in my pack. Knowing that this was a steep incline, I thought that this would be fine enough. I should have put the thing on anyway, as you will soon see. Upon reaching every contact point the rope had, as it wound its way into the cave, it turned into a struggle point for me. There was very little opportunity to push off the slimy wall, just in order to get my ascenders above each of those overhangs. I fought and fought my way up. To make a long story short(er), I managed to strain my back muscles in the process. I could have avoided all that pain and hassle by using the right gear for the situation.

Anyway, after we were finally out of the cave, we pulled the rope out, then went back down the road. We made our way to where Lane was, as he worked his way to the new cave, way, way above us. Lane was using protection, and his rope was fixed at the top of his climb over to the new cave's entrance. After plenty of skill, and our patience, he made it. It went. I guess he saw about 30-50 ft of passage. Apparently, it didn't seem to lead anywhere that promising. Oh well, you gotta check everything out ...!

Well, I was done for the day and it was starting to sprinkle rain. The road is clay and when it gets wet ..., well, it turns to grease, and then it doesn't matter what kind of rig or tires you have, you are going to have the ride of your life! So, we headed back to Chuck and Lane's camp. It would be dark in a couple hours anyway ...

I learned a few things on this trip, that's for sure! And they are obvious to me, and some of them are like, OBVIOUS! Ask yourself, have you ever found yourself lacking strength to do a certain maneuver and/or lacked critical gear? Sure you have! (You just won't admit it!) Always know your limitations. As I get older I find that my body isn't quite as "receptive" to abuse as it once was, and it struggles twice as hard to recover from said abuse. Try to stay in shape all year round, and when caving season finally comes, you are ready. Live and learn.



Jim Wolff at the No Name gate under construction.

INTRODUCTION: NO NAME and LAKE CAVES

By B. Broeckel

The entrances to these two limestone caves are about 200 feet apart. No Name is larger and longer than Lake Cave. In the past, No Name has been considered the 2nd longest limestone cave in the State of Oregon, after Oregon Caves. However, Marble Mountain Quarry Cave and another new cave appear to be longer. So, No Name is currently 4th. A crawlway at the back of the entrance alcove leads into the cave. A bat friendly gate was placed across the front of the entrance alcove on the first weekend of June, 2000. No Name has under 1,000 feet of passage, but features a series of rooms with large formations intact, and smaller passages in the back.

Lake Cave, also called "Mud Cave", is a much smaller cave located down the hill from No Name. Lake Cave has an easy main entrance, and a smaller, upper entrance. The pool of water in the bottom of the cave remains year round, but the water level can fluctuate. This pool is at about the same elevation as a spring of water a little further down the hill. Plans were to gate this cave within a week or so of finishing the gate on No Name Cave.

The caves were surveyed on October 11, 1972 by Jim Nieland and D. Vansinderin. The following year, Jim Nieland drafted the map, and it was published in *Caves of Oregon*, Bulletin #4 of the Oregon Speleological Survey, 1975, by Charlie and Jo Larson. The map was more recently published in *Oregon Geology* 56:5, September, 1994, p. 109.

In the 1994 article, Kathleen Murphy writes that the BLM "traded 41 acres of timberland to Brazier Forest Industries in exchange for 758 acres of Brazier property in southwestern Oregon, thus acquiring several caves." In the mid 90's, Bill Fitzpatrick developed contacts with the Medford office of the BLM, and a Cooperative Management Agreement between the BLM and Southern Oregon Grotto (SOG) was signed on September 13, 1994. Work was actually done to prepare the site at No Name Cave for gating. A gate was planned to prevent more vandalism of the cave and to protect bat habitat.

The project was delayed until recently when Leslie Welch of the BLM began contacting cavers, and communicated the desire of the BLM to finish this gate. Amid a flurry of e-mail messages, the project survived a number of rain delays, and details were worked out. Then on June 3-4, 2000, cavers from SAG and SOG joined up with BLM personnel and a work party from the National Guard. Leslie Welch deserves credit for leadership in pushing through this project to the point of a completed gate.

Jim Wolff writes that "John (BLM) was at the site a few days before the gating, preparing the corridor below the end of the road, to transport the steel of the gates by tramway. The National Guard was there, moving the steel below. The tools were at the cave already, and some Guard and BLM people were scraping down at the site, for the threshold of the gate. Since the cave was on a steep slope all work was done in the entrance chamber, where it was flat. John did all the welding the first day, but Kenney did the rest of the gate to the main cave the second day. They got done about 6 p.m. that second day – the main cave."

Leslie Welch provided the photographs shown here as well as the Project Fact Sheet, also included in this report. Leslie would like to add "a huge special thank you to Jim Wolff, Ernie Coffman and Bill Kenney! Representing SAG and SOG, they helped out on both June 3-4, 2000. Their assistance and input were greatly appreciated!" Way to go, guys, pats on the backs all around.



Part of the No Name gate crew, includes National Guardsmen.



Cavers compare notes at entrance to No Name Cave.

No Name Cave and Mud/Lake Cave Gating Project Grants Pass Resource Area, Medford District BLM

Project Description: Construct gates at the entrances of No Name Cave and Mud/Lake Cave to allow for managed human access while still permitting unimpeded bat use of the caves.

Project Objective: Protect cave resources from vandalism and protect bat populations from human disturbance.

Why: Past visits indicate that Townsend's big-eared bats utilize the caves during portions of the year. There have not been adequate surveys to conclusively determine during which months the caves are utilized as a roost. Recreation patterns at the caves have likely influenced use patterns for roosting bats by excluding or reducing use during portions of the year. However, anecdotal information indicates that anywhere from several to dozens of bats may occupy the caves.

Townsend's big-eared bats typically roost in mines, caves and cave analogs. They are extremely sensitive to disturbance from humans. The disturbance created by human visitors is enough to result in temporary or permanent abandonment of a roost. During the summer months, this can lead to the abandonment of young bats unable to fly or feed themselves. During the winter months, this can lead to the starvation and death of adults who have limited reserves of body fat to ensure their survival during the hibernation period.

It is anticipated that once the gates are constructed and human visitation can be regulated, the bats will respond positively and there will be an increase in both the number of roosting bats and the periods of use. Post-project monitoring will be done to confirm the species, number and seasons of use.

When: June 3-13, 2000

How: The proposed gate design includes on site construction utilizing angle iron and flat bar. Because the gates will be constructed on site, all equipment and materials must be brought to the cave opening. Although existing roads allow access within 750 feet of the cave entrances, the remaining distance that must be covered is forested terrain on a hillside with a >35% slope. Some of the items that must be transported to the work site include a portable welder, 20 foot lengths of angle iron and flat bar, oxygen and acetylene tanks, sheets of expanded metal mesh and assorted hand tools.

Partners: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Oregon Grotto, National Guard

History: Spelunkers have been visiting No Name Cave and Mud/Lake Cave for many years. However, these caves did not come under BLM management until 1994 when they were acquired as part of a land exchange. By that time, the caves had already been heavily vandalized. Many of the stalactites and stalagmites had been damaged or removed, garbage was prevalent and graffiti had been sprayed on the cave walls.

The Southern Oregon Grotto and other groups and individuals have made many efforts to clean garbage from the caves and remove graffiti from the cave walls. Thanks to these efforts, the caves are relatively free of garbage today and the amount of graffiti has been reduced.

Future Cave Management: It is anticipated that post-project monitoring will require a minimum of two years to indicate which seasons are the most critical for roosting bats.

Access to the caves will only be allowed if the suitability of bat roosting habitat will not be compromised. A management plan will be written for the caves to outline acceptable

activities and seasons of use. At this time, individuals who wish to access the caves will be required to obtain a key from the BLM.

Sensitive Issues: Limiting access to the caves will be an issue for some user groups. Vandalism to the gates will be an on-going management concern.

Leslie Welch

Wildlife Biologist, Grants Pass Resource Area



Bill Kenney



Ernie Coffman

SELF RESCUE TRAINING AUGUST 12

By Cindy Heazlit

The Self Rescue Group will be hosting two self rescue training sessions on August 12 of this year. The training will take place in the Mother Lode Area. We will be teaching our Medical Assessment module and our Horizontal Movement module. This will encompass approximately 10 hours of training, ending with an in-cave exercise.

“Self Rescue” is the process of performing simple rescues among cave trip members. A major portion of SRG training is teaching students the thinking process needed to evaluate a situation, and come up with an appropriate response. The students will also learn how to improvise rescue equipment using only the gear that they carry in their cave pack.

For further information on these classes, please contact course coordinator Eric Johnson at: ejohnson7@aol.com or Robert Boyd at: rboyd27607@aol.com. You may also check out our class web site at: http://www.netcom.com/~cheazlit/self_rescue/class.html. A description of the classes can be found below. Hope to see you there. Safe caving! CH

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT DESCRIPTION:

This course teaches cavers to avoid accidents, medically assess an accident, and take the appropriate response. Students will learn about the most common mechanisms of accidents and injuries in caving. They will learn about the major dangers an injured caver must face, and, more importantly, how to mitigate them. The students will learn about medical assessment aids such as the ABCs, SAMPLE, and SOAP. They will learn how to perform an overall patient evaluation, and execute hands-on exercises. In addition, students will learn how to deal with simple injuries using the gear that they have in their cave packs. There will be an in cave practice rescue at the end of the class.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION:

This course teaches cavers how to transport an injured caver in a horizontal environment. Cavers will be taught how to move a patient through a cave using a butt scoot, a drag sheet, single rescuer webbing carry, single rescuer rope carry, double rescuer rope carry, and double rescuer arm carry. The student will also be taught how to make a stretcher out of caving rope. Since most caves are not truly horizontal, the student will also be taught how to create a simple harness, and belay a patient across rough terrain using a Munter hitch and rope. There will be an in-cave practice rescue at the end of the class.

LIVING HISTORY WEEKENDS AT LAVA BEDS MONUMENT
REPRINTED FROM SISKIYOU DAILY NEWS Wednesday, June 21, 2000

MEDICINE LAKE – Lava Beds National Monument will present the first of three “Weekends With J.D. Howard” beginning Saturday and Sunday.

“These weekend programs will help explain the life and explorations of one of the more important figures in the history of the monument,” said lead interpreter Jeff LaRock.

“Weekends With J.D. Howard” will also be offered July 29 and 30 and August 26 and 27.

George Freeland, a member of the monument staff will portray J.D. Howard, a local resident who mapped and named dozens of caves and geological features in Lava Beds between 1918 and 1938. On Saturday and Sunday morning, Freeland will travel to various places in the monument as Howard, greeting visitors and talking about JD’s life.

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, he will also lead a tour of Catacombs Cave. Howard discovered Catacombs Cave in 1918, remaining one of his favorite caves the rest of his life.

President Calvin Coolidge established Lava Beds National Monument on Nov. 21, 1925, in no small part a result of Howard’s efforts.

Not only did J.D. Howard name dozens of the caves at Lava Beds, he also led tours and worked to popularize the area,” LaRock said. “He led the effort to have the area set aside as a National Monument. We consider him the Father of Lava Beds National Monument.

The “Weekend with J.D. Howard” activities are open to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis. The J.D. Howard weekends are part of the celebration of Lava Beds National Monument’s 75th anniversary, which runs through November.

For additional information on upcoming anniversary events, call the monument visitor center at (530) 667-2282, then press “1.” The visitor center is open daily from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.



George Freeland portrays J.D. Howard, “father of the Lava Beds.”

The time has come to renew your yearly SAG membership dues and newsletter subscriptions. The prices still remain the same as before! (A powerful antiinflationary trend!)

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- _____ SAG RAG subscription only, without SAG membership. \$6.

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