

Published bi-monthly beginning in February by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Editor is Claude A. Smith, at 131 Oleander Circle, Redding, CA. 96001. Subscription Rate is \$3.00 per year.

Shasta Area Grotto meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Meeting places are announced in this newsletter.

**COMING EVENTS**

- December 9 Grotto meeting.  
At Jim and Liz Wolff's, 6 Mill Rd, McCloud 964-3123.
  
- December 10 Possibly check out new limestone leads at McCloud Reservoir, if not snowed in. Bring cross-country skis, Jim reported 12/4/83 that they had just received 4 inches of snow in McCloud.
  
- January 13 Grotto meeting.  
At Claude and Mary Belle Smith's, 131 Oleander Circle, Redding 246-3942. Grotto elections.
  
- February 10 Grotto meeting.  
At Jim and Liz Wolff's, 6 Mill Rd, McCloud 964-3123. Bring cross-country skis.

**PAUL GIBSON TRIP REPORT** by Claude Smith

October 8, 1983, Joe Molter, Jim Wolff, and I participated in a trip to Paul Gibson Cave in Trinity County. We were invited to join this Diablo Grotto trip, which consisted of ten members of Diablo and S.F.B.C. led by John DeBoer.

After waking up the Diablo Grotto at a campground, driving up a wrong road, hiking up a road that we could have driven up for another mile, and following John 5 miles (?) to a cave that it had been a few years since he'd been to, we finally arrived at the cave at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. We got to the cave before the rest of the group and since we were pressed for time we went in without John, the only one who knew his way around the cave. Unfortunately, we had told our wives we would be back that night, so we spent only an hour in the cave without a guide. We met John coming into the cave on our way out. They were prepared to spend more time in the cave.

It started to rain when we got out of the cave, but luckily we found the trail before it got too dark. We got back to Redding about 2 a.m. and Jim still had to drive on to McCloud.

We now know where the cave is, but on any future trips we need to plan on camping, and to find out how to get to the decorated areas of the cave. Another trip will have to wait for next summer, because of the inaccessibility of the area in the winter. (A Diablo report of this trip said that "The cave was beautiful and the getting there and back was very arduous.")

### **LAKE SHASTA TRIP** by Claude Smith

Earlier this summer we obtained a map showing two pits on the shore of Lake Shasta from Tim Anderson, of the Lake Shasta Caverns, who had obtained the lead two years ago from Trudy Vaughn, of the Forest Service. The Forest Service was interested in finding out more about these pits, so they volunteered their patio boat for us to use.

We were set to go Friday, October 14th. At 4:30 on the 13th, the Forest Service called to inform me that we couldn't use their boat, because they couldn't find out which liability release forms to use! Meanwhile, Norm Jenkins, Don Quinton, and Neils Smith were already on their way from Herlong to my house, and Jim Wolff was taking Friday off from work to join us.

Friday we managed to rent a patio boat for \$16 apiece. We got to the area shown on the map about 11:00 and started looking. We found lots of limestone, but no pits as shown on the map. We decided to look in a more likely location and sure enough found the pits in a different location than shown on the map.

The first pit we found was climbable and led to a small room that looked like it floods when the lake level is up. The room was about 5' high, 6' wide and 20' long. The floor was muddy and covered with several dozen beer cans. So much for lead number one.

The second pit [afterwards named Lakelevel Cave by Don Quinton – pdf ed.] was supposed to have a fence around it, which we proceeded to find. This pit was also climbable, but didn't go. Near the pit was an overhung crevice which did go. Norm managed to find his way into an obscure passage into which Neils couldn't fit. Later the rest of us explored passages down to a pool which probably corresponds to the lake level outside. The cave had a few neat large helictite formations and was not vandalized. The cave also contained some small animal's skeleton. As yet the cave is unnamed, but deserves a closer examination and mapping.

### **MELVIN CAVE TRIP** by Claude Smith

Saturday the 15th, after the October grotto meeting, found Norm Jenkins, Don Quinton and myself wanting to go do something. I was getting tired of listening to persisting rumors of going leads in Melvin, and wanting to take out some shoring we had left, we decided to visit Melvin.

Don coaxed Norm into a little crevice, which naturally didn't go. I spent my time trying to move rocks in a choked pit, without much success. We did manage to haul out the timbers that were used for shoring up a breakdown block. Although the wind blowing through this small cave is intriguing, I vowed that this would be my last trip to Melvin.

### **LIBRARY DONATIONS FROM DICK LAFORGE**

Fall 1983 newsletter of the Underground Lighting section of the N.S.S.  
Carbide Lamp Repair by David Huntington Thorpe.  
1983 Elkins, W.Va. N.S.S. annual convention booklet.

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