

Caver Riddle

RIDDLE- What imaginary grotto is this? This is a modest grotto, only 16 members, a small group of colorful cavers, well-rounded individuals, almost all with numbers under 1,000. They only go caving in one cave. There are 6 vertical pit entrances to the cave, all located around the perimeter of a broad, shallow sink. Each of these entrances lead to horizontal passages of variable lengths with gentle slopes, all ending up in a room, the Grand Ball Room. From here the cave may be exited through a seventh entrance located in the side of an overhanging cliff. One of the grotto members, who doesn't have a number, is quite pale yet still serves to get all the other grotto members motivated to go caving. This one has a name that starts with the letter C. This one is supposed to not go caving, but sometimes ends up doing it by accident. Scratch your head on that one! All of the members are rotund, smooth characters, and they are all completely and totally bald, as bald as . . . Well, lets just say this grotto has been around for awhile, and somehow they just keep rolling along.

ANSWER- Billiard balls. (That is the BBC, the Billiard Ball Grotto)

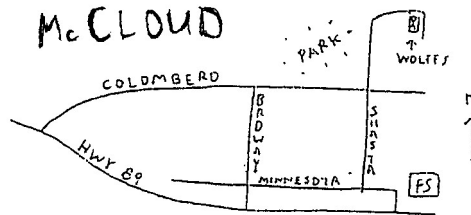
INSIDE – At last, the further exploration and mapping of Pool Parlor Cave.

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 or <jbroeckel@snowcrest.net>. For more on SAG, check the web site at <<http://www.caves.org/grotto/sag>>.

CAVERS CALENDAR 2003

Nov 14

SAG Meeting 7:30 pm at Wolff home in McCloud. (530) 964-3123.
Nomination of officers for 2004. Be there or be elected.



SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING September 12, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:54 pm at the Hungry Moose Cafe in Weed, CA. Present were Jim & Liz Wolff, Ray Miller, Jim Kottinger, Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel, Sharon & Arley Kisling, Robert Nixon, and Neils Smith. Minutes were accepted as read. Treasurer's Report: \$546.92. Cash \$39.40. SAG RAG: At the end of September the October meeting will be announced. There are a lot of good maps and trip reports from Liz Wolff for the next newsletter. Bill needs mailing labels. Web Report: It works. There are still no links to the local Chambers of Commerce and Robert was asked to go ahead and add them.

Correspondence: The registration form for the Western Regional came late to everyone. Received a letter from Oregon Caves National Monument about fire management. An e-mail from Bill Kenney stated Cheryl received her Masters Degree in Special Education and he spent the month of August camping and hiking with Cheryl. Many congratulations to Bill & Cheryl!!! An e-mail came from the NSS regarding youth group liaisons. We already work with local youth and we will send in our response stating this. Peter Van Sustren of the Forest Service ordered new signs for Bat Cave to replace the ones the porcupines ate. A letter was sent to Mike Hupp the District Ranger regarding the cave register removal and mitigation project the grotto planned on September 13, 2003 (ed. Report in last RAG).

Old Business: Regarding SAG officer responsibility ballots, 14 of 23 ballots were returned, all in favor of the new officer job descriptions. Five SAG members will be going to the Western Regional: Russ Yoder, Melanie Jackson, Neils Smith, Jim Wolff, and Liz Wolff.

New Business: October SAG meeting is Saturday October 18 on the coast at LaForge's home (ed. This was changed to November 1). Columbus Day weekend is the speleocamp in the Marbles. September 13 is Cave Resource Enhancement Day, or Fall Cave Conservation Day, when the cave registers will be removed and the holes filled.

Trip Reports: Jim Wolff & Arley Kisling had pack animals haul in their backpacks during the September Speleocamp in the Marbles. Bill Broeckel had a Bigfoot Cave experience! Saturday Steve Knutson led 7 people to the leads at the end of Another Illusion. The survey crew, of which Bill was a member, were lost for approximately three hours before getting back on route to exit the cave. 63 feet were added to the cave survey. Broeckel also toured Skunk Hollow Cave to see the Inverted Devils Tower Room. Jim Wolff, Arley Kisling, and Steve Knutson did a lot of karst walking on Black Mountain ridges. Lots of pits and other caves were seen while looking for a certain old cave, but alas no one had a GPS unit with them! Russ Yoder and Liz Wolff added substantially to the original Pool Parlor Cave survey and there is still more to do! Bill Hirt took a COS (College of the Siskiyous) class on a geology field trip to Barnum Cave. Liz Wolff will be taking some school children from Dunsmuir and Etna to Barnum in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson

MJ

SAG RAG SUMMARY (for convenience of CAL CAVER)

The SAG RAG has somehow become a monthly, but the editor would like to reassure the readers that this is only temporary. The regular publication every other month will resume as soon as we can get back on track. So this October issue is dedicated to a single cave named Pool Parlor, thanks to the excellent exploration and trip reporting provided by Russ Yoder and complimented by Liz Wolff's timely cartography. Soon we will see a SAG RAG about NSS Convention 2003. We have a few bits and pieces about that great event. If any of you have more to say about the convention, send it into the SAG RAG pretty soon. **BB**

Pool Parlor Discovery By Bill Broeckel

Ben Sutton was with me on October 30, 1993, when we first went through Pool Parlor Cave. Ray Miller and Liz Wolff had been working serial surveys down both sides of the flow. What was happening here was that Ben and I were jumping ahead and scooping caves. It seems like yesterday, but it has been ten years since we did that. Late in the day we saw one bat flying in Pool Parlor. We saw more entrances but had to go home. On the way back to the cars we had our first look down S Canyon.

The following weekend we were back on November 6, 1993. Ben Sutton, Melanie Jackson and I found Ray Miller, Liz Wolff and Jim Kottinger at the second spatter cone, extending the survey down the west side of the flow to the beginning of Pool Parlor Cave. They went home at a reasonable hour, but the late comers stayed up until 1:00 a.m. to survey S Canyon and Escapade. Intruded Cave didn't get surveyed until November 11, 1995, when the Wolffs joined in on a perfect day in the late fall, on the Medicine Lake Highlands.

It wasn't until July 4, 1998 that we finally got back to survey Pool Parlor. Melanie Jackson, the Wolffs, and I hiked down the flow, intending to find the cave and map it. I didn't recognize the cave until we reached the sinkhole at the midpoint. This is a nice walk-in entrance, so we surveyed upflow through the main passage to the triple bridge, connecting to the previous surface survey. Then we went back to pick up the side passage. We had to cross over a pool of water to enter the side passage. It was because of this pool, found at a junction point deep in the cave, that we named the cave "Pool Parlor." I was pleased to see that on later surveys, more pools were found in Pool Parlor.

The side passage continues through the Square Root Room, roughly square in shape, and featuring curtains of roots. A low, but smooth belly crawl leads on to a very scenic passage with pillars and many lavacicles. Eventually the side passage seals, but it is possible to pop up back to the outside world through a tiny entrance. It is the size of a manhole and opens flush with the flat lava surface. I don't remember seeing any bats.

A map of this half of the cave was actually published in a Medicine Lake Highlands article in the Cal Caver (Issue 211, Spring 1999). Melanie Jackson took some good photos of the survey trip and some of these were also published in that issue of the Cal Caver. The lead going down flow was left as a walking passage for when Russ and Liz recently got back to finish the survey. I am now very happy to see the other half of the cave added for a much more complete picture of Pool Parlor, about a kilometer now, and a very fine lava cave for sure. **BB**

A Pool Parlor Adventure By Russ Yoder

The whole thing started with Ray Miller. Around the middle of 2002 the SAG gang was showing caves around the S Canyon area, when Ray decided to head back to the cars in a rather scenic sorta way. He headed out across this aa and then back on this pahoehoe and then down from the Pool Parlor area he found what he said was a skylight with a 20 foot drop. Then an entrance down from that.

Well, a twenty foot drop sounds big and exciting. I also knew of entrances in that area but nothing of that size. Then Liz Wolff sent me a printed quad map of the area showing all the GPS'ing we'd done that day. She had put a question mark near Ray's cave entrance wondering if I had known anything about it. The location seemed to be near the end of a sink where I had stopped a survey of the flow, this feature being a control point for my unfinished mapping of this area. This had the effect of making me want to finish my mapping. As is usually the case my calendar for that September was filled with the exception of one weekend which was free until Jim Wolff called.

He was thinking about going out to the Saddle Butte Lavas with the OHDG (Oregon High Desert Grotto) gang. His decision would be affirmed if I would go and be there also. Well yes of course I would go. We had a great time with Ric Carlson, Geoff and Brian MacNoughton and friends, seeing caves like Kitty Pooh Extension, Double Pit and Thunder among others. As well as having such fine evenings together with a full moon rising above it all, it was just a good time.

The back roads during that time of year though are notoriously dusty. Our car air filters clogged up and when you actually do get back to the main road the people that are driving behind you can't see a thing as the dust billows off your vehicle for miles. My alternator also burned out on the way back home from that dust.

In October I was coming back from a SAG thing at Hat Creek Since I still had some extra time I decided to drop on over to the Medicine Lake Highlands and finish up on those surface maps around Pool Parlor. So I began on the Bobcat Cave System line starting from Irish Catwalk and working my way around an old logging road and out across the aa towards the Pool Parlor area. Surveying out many entrances along the way I proceeded down that line until I reached that old control point at that sink above where that cave of Ray's should be located. As it was getting late by that time I shot back across the aa to finish looping back to the truck and camp for the night.

The next morning I shot some more Bobcat area then returned home in order to do some errands before work the next day. Alas as time passed other projects were completed and many other caves uncovered and explored. Then when finally on the first weekend of August 2003 Liz Wolff and I were bouncing around ideas on what to do next. There are a lot of crawly caves yet to be surveyed so as to complete certain areas. We just did not feel all that enthused about those when it dawned on us to look for Ray's cave together with Ray Miller himself. Since the GPS location UTM's had been lost this seemed a good approach. All I had to say to Ray to get him to go out there again was to ask him if he had really found a cave.

We decided I would arrive that Friday evening with several Taco Bell tacos and a big gulp of Mountain Dew and begin a little gardening along the old logging road to the aa at a point across from our objective. Really. I then made camp under a cloudy damp night sky. This being quite a change from the previous weeks of 100 plus degree weather. The radio talk show Coast to Coast Latenight had a geologist as guest and he talked about future volcanic eruptions along the West Coast. He had a very interesting way of predicting this. All in all a very interesting evening as I listened to the radio and the distant thunder.

The next morning Ray drove up with Liz as copilot and we all got ready to walk out across the aa to find the elusive Elderberry Cave as Ray had named it. When we finally got to my control point at the down flow end of that last surveyed-to sink, we began by heading down a little to the east and then back up, and not too far from where we began, we had found it.

An 8 foot deep sink that had a log you could shimmy down on with an elderberry bush growing in it and passage going both north and south. The skylight was just upflow of this and was actually 11 feet in depth. As Ray put it, a good walking cave. The cave has original intact passage throughout and supports a varied biota. The upper end has a squeeze through to more passage but for a small clump of solidified rock blocking a through connection. Since no one brought a hammer with them we began to survey the down flow side. This came to a crawl then a larger passage again to a seal. The final room had a small passage going up half way up the right wall. This surveyed out to a surface structure and tube then back out to the surface.

We then headed overland and up flow to the next group of entrances that had appeared shallow before but now held renewed interest. The inside was much roomier than expected and surveyed down to the blocked squeeze to make a connection. This just happens to be just under that control point of mine on the surface at the end of the previously 'last' sink. The upflow passage went under two other entrances and finally sealed just under the aa flow that is to the west of Intruded Cave. Thus solving the mystery of Elderberry Cave with a total length of 840 feet and a depth of 40.7 feet (ed. See last issue of SAG RAG for map etc. on Elderberry Cave).

Ray decided to go on back to camp under a light rain as Liz and I went up to scoop part of the up flow leads and go see Pool Parlor Cave. The first lead started out big going up flow towards Pool Parlor, but then became a little tight. So we exited out a hole and proceeded to Pool Parlor in a light rain.

Once inside we encountered one bat doing territorial circles in front of us. We decided to proceed cautiously just in case there was a maternity colony ahead of us. The bat deserted us somewhere and we were getting a little less concerned. When, just past a larger chamber, I looked past a duck under and saw a swirl of activity along with an audible high pitched squeal. I then turned to Liz and said "I think we have something here and that we need to head back out the way we came in." Just when Liz went down to look and said "I think you're right", the cave suddenly exploded in bats! There were bats everywhere! We then pointed our lights down and hurried out.

We had two-way radios and called Ray, who was back at camp by then. He seemed pleased that we had found out where such a large maternity colony of Townsend bats were hiding out at.

The bats certainly were not expecting any intrusion. So I suspect that this cave is normally a very quiet place for them. This cave is a good environment for them considering the climate and the pools of water to drink from year round. This upper section should be avoided from April to late September. Also in the winter months be on the lookout for hibernating bats so as to not disturb this very sensitive species.

Further study will need to be done on this obviously very important cave.

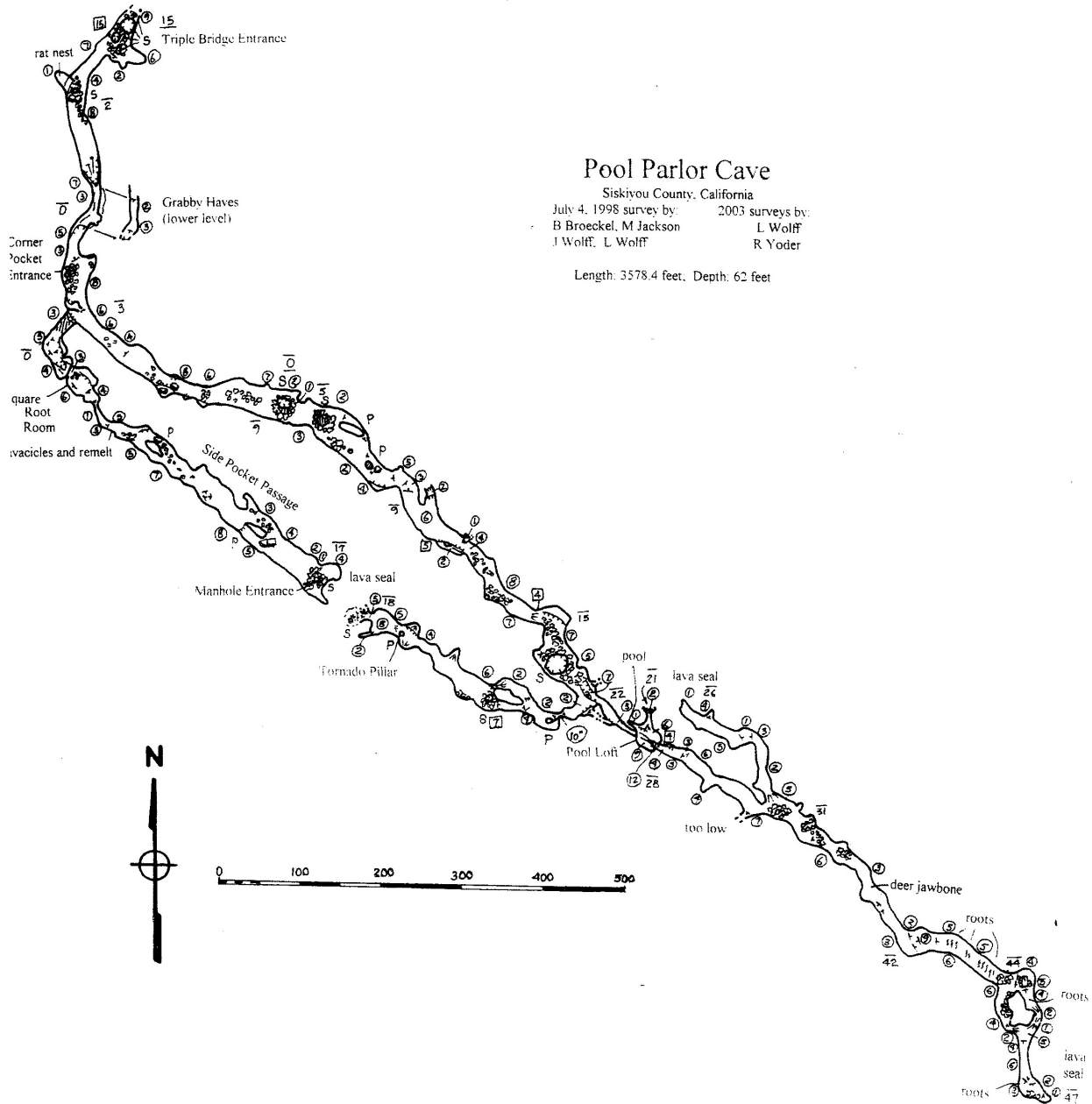
The following weekend Liz said that she would like to survey the leads below Pool Parlor. The weather was a pleasant 70's with the nights in the 40's almost a late summer/fall climate. We went into the small sink just below Pool Parlor and surveyed in to make a rather tight connection to it. We then proceeded down survey past our exit hole of the weekend before and down through walking passage to the larger entrance sink below. We had lunch there. Then began a rather pleasant surprise. This sink appears to be the only entrance into what became a very long complex and a rather good looking cave: This one's definitely on the winner list for the area.

You can survey a lot and all caves are interesting, but sometimes you enter what turns out to be a really nice surprise.

We surveyed fairly late and to within 300 or so feet to the end. Also a blowing side lead near the entrance may be a way to the large parallel passage just west of this section. We had surveyed 1425 feet of passage, adding to the 1450 feet or so to the Pool Parlor map, for a total surveyed length of 2875 feet, nearly double of what was previously known.

A very neat, complex and biologically important cave indeed.

RY



Pool Parlor Cave

Siskiyou County, California

July 4, 1998 survey by: 2003 surveys by:
B Broeckel, M Jackson L Wolff
J Wolff, L Wolff R Yoder

Length: 3578.4 feet, Depth: 62 feet

Map: Pool Parlor Cave

KOTTINGER DONATES BOX OF CAVE PUBLICATIONS TO GROTTO

Long time caver Jim Kottinger (NSS #26621) brought a very large and heavy cardboard box full of cave magazines to the September grotto meeting. I latched on to this right away. This is to be added to the grotto archive. The contents will help fill some of the items previously not contained in the (modest) Grotto collection. Thanks Jim! Here is a catalog of the sets donated by Jim, and he says there might be more to come.

- * NSS News pretty much complete 1986 through 1996.
- * NSS Bulletin complete from Oct 84 through Dec 95.
- * Journal of Cave and Karst Studies 1996.
- * Cal Caver 1985, 1989 through 1994.
- * Compass & Tape 6:4 Spring 1989.
- * Wilderness Response 1:1 Fall 1992.
- * American Caves 4:1 Summer 1991.
- * Pholeos (three issues) 1990-1991.
- * Bob & Bob Catalog May 1989.
- * Shasta-Trinity National Forest L&RMP 1986

BB

SAG RAG

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TO: