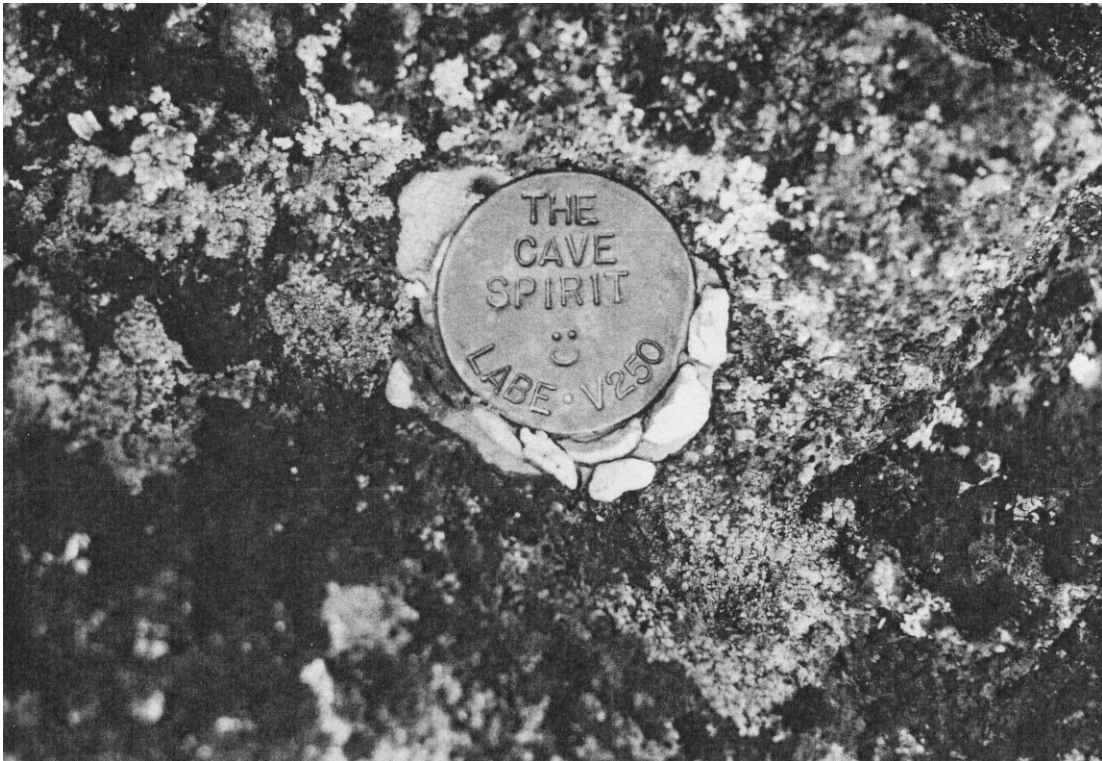


sag rag

24:2

March-April 2005



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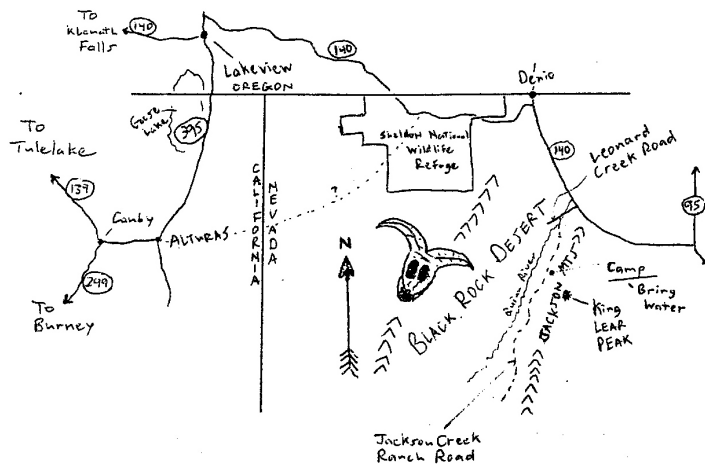
CAVERS CALENDAR 2005

May 13-15	Black Rock Desert campout.
June 10-12	Hat Creek campout.
July 4-8, 2005	NSS Convention, Huntsville, Alabama.
August 21-28, 2005	International Congress of Speleology, Athens, Greece.
August 7-11, 2006	NSS Convention, Bellingham, Washington.

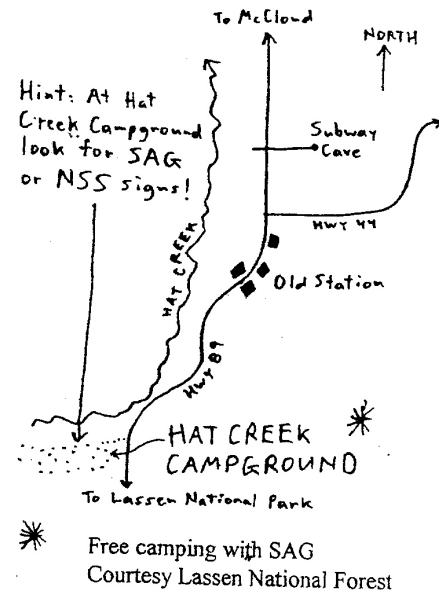
Maps to the Meetings

MAY

Take highway 140 east from Klamath Falls to Lakeview, 140 takes a 5 mile jog north on 395 where 140 leaves 395 east to Denio Junction, Nevada, then 29 miles south of Denio on 140, turn right on Leonard Creek Road (paved), go 7.4 miles to intersection, go left on Jackson Creek Ranch Road (gravel then dirt) for 17.5 miles along mountain range on your left.



JUNE



SAG RAG SUMMARY By Bighorn Broeckel

The cover is a mystery photo taken by B. Broeckel on 12-9-03. Liz Wolff opens with some thoughts from the February grotto meeting which in part calls for education. Some results of this sort of activity are seen in the last few pages showing gratitude for the recent educational efforts of Liz Wolff and Ray Miller. The Lava Beds Visitor Center Dedication weekend is reviewed and includes long lost notes from the SAG June meeting at Lava Beds. The Wolff pack tours Lava Beds caves the next day. Then it took twenty years and a fortune cookie to get Jim to finally tell the whole true story about his discovery of Certainly-A-Cave. Confession is good for the soul. The main body of this super-sized SAG RAG comes in the descriptions and maps of a bunch of little lava tube caves scattered around Siskiyou County: namely, Pink Void (135'), Badger (148'), BLM (151'), Dumb Luck (76'), and Shortstop (51'). Some mystery photos fill out the March-April issue, which is light on the April Fools stuff this year, but there is a dash or two anyway of foolishness for fun.

BB

NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005 MEETINGS By Liz Wolff

At the (February) meeting we discussed something I want the grotto to be aware of – cave conservation plans and management, and ways to implement them. Obviously, we won't have much of an impact on federally owned and "managed" caves in the area of cave management; only in specific instances with specific caves that may have a management issue come up. But I asked what direction SAG members saw us going to have a positive effect. At the February meeting (snow storm, lousy turnout) Ray said we should keep on doing the things we are doing now. Arley said we should document – discover, map, inventory – all the caves we know of and find more, not necessarily telling the Forest Service about them. Which is what the FS guys here want – don't tell them unless there is going to potentially be a problem, and they will come to us. This fits in with Rays "continue". Education came up too.

This weekend at ORCA I asked the same question of a totally different group and got a bunch of facetious answers, and then they got down to being serious about it. Education and documentation were the two main areas. Ways to implement were a bit bizarre and also down-to-earth. Mark wanted to stage a major cave rescue (he wants to be the victim) and invite the media to have a field day, but what would be told them would include a serious safety and conservation message. Education, in one form. Another form would be to continue with the school program and expand to include high school and college science and outdoor clubs, also scouts and church groups. If you have anything you would like to add to these, let me know, I don't plan to talk about it at the next meeting, as there isn't really anything we can do at this time. But if you have anything you would like in the record, feel free to bring it up then

Future meetings: May, Jackson Mts, NV and call Kenney for more info; June, the usual Hat Cr camp. No meetings set beyond June. I'm thinking about including a survey class with the June meeting. Well, I've blathered on long enough. Now we need to find more ways to involve more people in the education program. **LW**

SHASTA AREA GROTTTO MEETING March 13, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Russ Yoder at 7:38 pm in the home of Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Present were Bill & Cheryl Kenney, Russ Yoder, Jim & Liz Wolff, Robert Nixon, and Ray Miller. There were no minutes, treasurers or SAG RAG reports. Robert said everything was fine with the website. Russ will call Robert for calendar events and changes.

Correspondence: We received a catalog for the Cave and Karst Center's courses. Kenney received an Underground Express from Willamette Valley Grotto. Joel Despain wrote with a warning about cave locations on the web, and a change of date for a Crystal Cave trustees meeting. Sharon Faulkner wrote with an NSS Convention update.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Following a recent GPS trip, Liz made a suggestion for SAG to sign up for an official roadside cleanup project, as she and Bighorn noticed huge amounts of trash along the road. Russ is heading out to a great lava area tomorrow, all are invited to go along. Kenney reported that an Oregon State University professor is searching for a 10,000 year old stalagmite for climate studies. He needs one that hasn't been out in the weather or too long dry. He will restore it in condition and placement.

Trip Reports: 3-8-05 – Bill B. and Liz went to a dense cave area to GPS entrances and picked up 19. Ray noted they were all inside one square kilometer. Russ wants to GPS all the entrances he knows and label them.

Next meetings: April 8 in McCloud, May 14-15 in the Black Rock Desert, camping near the south trending canyon found last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Wolff, acting secretary.

LW

LAVA BEDS VISITORS CENTER DEDICATION – June 11-13, 2004 By Bighorn Broeckel

Nearly a year ago now, there was a happening with regional significance out at Lava Beds. Not only was the beautiful new VC (visitors' center) building officially dedicated, but cavers from all over the west showed up for the event.

I tried to write down some names. So in the tradition of last year's Cal Cavers, a roll call of those attending will be attempted here in the pages of the SAG RAG. This list, however, is strictly informal and most likely incomplete, so sorry ahead of time to those left out. Please don't take it personal, we are glad you were there.

I think Amelia and Clara were kids with Janet Sowers. That makes for a total of at least 47 cavers at Lava Beds that weekend. Mother Lode Grotto was certainly well represented, and the Cave Research Foundation (CRF).

As usual, I came in late, but managed to find my way to the designated CRF camp site. This was a short ways off the regular campground. It felt strange to drive right through the gate and up the Bunchgrass Trail. Usually we have to be very careful with cars out at Lava Beds.

Rolf Aalbu met me in camp and reassured me that this was the right place to be. I set up and was happy to be around so many real cavers. Then true to form, I went off walking by myself, but returned in time to enjoy some of the stories and music around the caver campfire.

Denise Aalbu
 Dennique Aalbu
 Rolf Aalbu
 Cindy Bell
 Danny Bell
 Bighorn Broeckel
 Floyd Collins
 Dwight Crow
 Julie Crow
 Bill Devereaux
 Bill Frantz
 Peri Frantz
 Kelly Furmann
 Ric Gates
 Dale Hartwig
 Sherry Hartwig
 Marc Hasbrouck
 Martin Haye
 Cindy Heazlet
 Captain Jack
 Frances Kiriemo
 Arley Kisling
 Sharon Kisling
 Anna Kuhnel
 Dave Kuhnel
 Charlie Larson
 Jo Larson
 Matt Leissring
 Brian Marshall
 Heather McDonald
 Bamma Mellot
 Ray Miller
 Robert Nixon
 Elvis Presley
 Matt Reece
 Christopher Richard
 Chris Roundtree
 Neils Smith
 Dan Snyder
 Amelia Sowers
 Clara Sowers
 Janet Sowers
 Kim Strausburg
 John Tinsley
 Rick Toomey
 Nielia White
 Greg Wilson-Hartwig
 Elizabeth Winkler
 Jim Wolff
 Liz Wolff
 Russ Yoder

Saturday June 12, 2004

SAG actually pulled off a grotto meeting in the a.m. Somehow the minutes were not published before, so here they are, better late than never. For the better never crowd, well, I guess you don't really have to read the meeting notes.

Next came dedication formalities conducted on the parking lot in front of the new VC. Fran Manella spoke. She is the first "sitting Director" of National Parks to visit Lava Beds. Janet Sowers spoke on behalf of CRF. The Modoc Tribe provided drummers, a dancer, and a Medicine Man who delivered an invocation, some of which was spoken in the Modoc language.

The weather was sunny and fair, but still retained some of the breeziness of Spring. At one point, a whirlwind came through. There were a number of booths set up by various organizations, and papers and pamphlets went flying high into the air. Some of the cavers had to lay their bodies over the CRF tables to keep the demo cave maps from going air mail. Others held down the colorful tents and shades.

A nice lunch for a small donation was available from the local fire department cook wagon. All in all, this was a major event for an out-of-the-way National Monument like Lava Beds. However, it is famous among cave huggers and I was proud to see such a good turn-out of cavers.



Color guard and flag raising at VC Dedication. Photo 6-12-04 BB

SHASTA AREA GROTTTO MEETING June 12, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am at Lava Beds National Monument Present were Kelly Fuhrmann, Russ Yoder, Jim & Liz Wolff, Robert Nixon, Ray Miller, Bighorn Broeckel, Matt Reece, Arley & Sharon Kisling, Neils Smith, Frances Kiriemo (Neils' daughter), Cindy Bell (Marbles Wilderness Ranger), and Bamma Mellot There were no minutes or treasurers report (Melanie on motorcycle trip to Canadian national parks). The next SAG RAG will feature the Grotto Nevada trip last May.

Correspondence: NCRC Oct. 16-23, 2004 at California caverns. NCRC June 19-26, 2004 Corydon, Indiana, rescue operations and management seminar. NSS sent copy of Cave Conservationist with a membership drive and application form. USFS McCloud District, letter and map for fuels management, and coordinated road management plan with temporary closures. LABE rescue last May, various notes and messages.

Old Business: Final vote on Grotto patches: three-color (5 votes), four-color (1 vote). Western Regional repeat notice.

New Business: Kelly Fuhrmann in the area for two weeks to work on cave inventories for USFS Shasta Lake and McCloud Districts. Newspaper reports about rescue passed around, best one from Klamath Falls. Liz taped interview over the phone with Nevada City, CA (rescuees home town) radio station. Next meetings: July at Melanies in Yreka if OK with Mel, August at Wolffs in McCloud.

Trip Reports: Matt all over Nevada including Baker Creek System, Snake Creek (anthodite), Lehman Caverns, and Indian Burial Cave with 35' pit and folia. Kelly at Carlsbad and Parks Ranch gypsum cave (stinking sulfur water with floating dead rats). Russ has 2000 feet surveyed at Blue Ribbon and Awaiting Caves.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am in time to attend festivities of LABE Visitor Center dedication.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Wolff, acting secretary, and amplified by Liz Wolff

JW

Some Caving Happens

Come to think of it, cavers don't really hug caves much, but sometimes caves hug the cavers. Let's see, about 50 cavers and about 500 caves, that comes out to some 10 caves each, or 20 per pair if you eliminate solo caving.

Many people took a chance to see Mushpot Cave with the new lighting system. Mushpot is the only wired for light tourist cave in Siskiyou County. Dan Snyder took a group into the far reaches of Catacombs. They came out with the lost hood from Kyra Young's coat. She was one of the two kids rescued from Catacombs in May 2004. The hood was mailed back to her.

CRF Secretary Elizabeth Winkler, and CRF President Rick Toomey

went to Skull Ice Cave and Symbol Bridge and did some photography. Some of the results can be seen in the Aug. 2004 CRF quarterly newsletter. The article is called "A New Day at Lava Beds". There were some regular survey work trips as well, CRF taking advantage of all the available cavers.

Other Details

Construction of the new research center (RC) was not yet completed at the time of the VC dedication. However, with the foundation in and a big crowd of people on hand, official dedication of the RC was also conducted. The RC was built by last winter, and CRF cavers inaugurated the use of the facility in February, 2005, further reports pending.

On Sunday, June 13, 2004, I saw Charlie and Jo Larson stretching the survey tape out on the new roads and parking areas associated with the VC. The old VC was leveled, and the new VC was built on a new site. The old site was right on top of a cave passage. The Larsons were collecting data for revisions to a new edition of their popular book "Lava Beds Caves".

So there you have the scoop on the Lava Beds VC dedication weekend. If you would like more information, here are some references:

1. CRF Newsletter, Aug. 2004
2. Valley Caver, Winter 2004
3. CRF Newsletter, May 2005

BB



Modoc dancer at VC Dedication. Photo 6-12-04 BB



Superintendent Craig Dorman speaking at VC Dedication. Janet Sowers in dark glasses.
Photo 6-12-06 BB

LETTER TO BILL KENNEY – FEBRUARY 14, 2005 By John Vargo

Thank-you very much for these monthly newsletters, especially the rescue at Catacomb Cave of Lava Beds National Monument.

Just for your information: the writer of this article told us that he remembered that there were two entrances at Catacomb Cave – one is a huge natural entrance which was enlarged by Judson Dean Howard – the Father of Lava Beds, and the other one was a very small entrance that was opened up by nitwit people. Superintendent Craig Dorman wrote a memo to me (I was Park Ranger – the first and only totally deaf Federal Park Ranger in our country's 455 national monuments and parks with 22,000 Park Rangers) that he wanted me to close and seal the smaller entrance of Catacomb Cave. I did that job which took me all day (about 10 hours) and tried my best to camouflaging the crumbling lava rocks on the outside wall near the larger entrance which still opens to all tourists.

My health has been worsening to a point which my Superintendent urged me to leave my job to protect my body and don't want to create emergency call to pull me out of any lava tube cave at Lava Beds. . . . So I ended my beloved career as deaf caver/Park Ranger/VIP (Volunteer in Park) which I had helped so many different national parks and several state parks which have caves in them from 1969 to 2004.

I hate to tell you that I have turned down your generous offer to pick me up to your grotto meeting or caving surveyings, etc. in near future.

Cave softly and wisely,
John George Vargo Jr.
Lava Beds Elite Speleorestor

JV

Ed. John Vargo NSS #27872 writes from Klamath Falls with this tidbit on the nitwit history at Catacombs, and his excellent restoration work. I have looked at this and must say that John did a great job packing in the rocks – very natural – I couldn't really say for sure where that entrance was. For more on John Vargo, see his write-up by Norm Rogers in the Spelean Spotlight of the December 2001 NSS News.

Be cautious while walking in darkness alone

FORTUNE COOKIE SEZ By Liz Wolff

A couple of weeks ago Jim and I went to a Chinese restaurant and this was my fortune (but it should be yours?): "Be cautious while walking in darkness alone"...A truly caverly fortune? :<)

A brief trip report from Sunday, June 13, 2004: Jim and I were joined by the junior Wolff pack: Matt & Jenn, Timothy, 6, Joshua, 4, and Joy, 1, to take the boys caving. We all went to the visitor center to get a bump cap for Joshua and then visited Mushpot Cave. The new lighting is much easier on the eyes than the old system. From there we crossed the road and visited Indian Well Cave. The boys were bravely following grandma up the breakdown beyond the path and toward daylight, when they decided they had enough boulders. From Indian Well, we went to Valentine where we did all the walking portions (Jenn isn't into crawling).

Then it was on to Sunshine Cave. This was a new one for me, and it was a good one. It starts walking sized and stays that way, although you have to duck a bit in a couple of places. The path crosses a wooden bridge over a shallow (10' or so) pit in the floor and under a couple of skylights, divides around a low pillar and ends in a lava seal. Or so close to one it might as well be a seal. Nuffor now. **LW**



This trail to Mushpot Cave used to be the driveway to the old VC.
Photo 6-12-04 BB



Wolff pack in Mushpot.
Photo 6-13-04 JW



Joshua (L) ant Timothy (R) at
Indian Well. Photo 6-13-04 JW



Timothy (L) and Joshua (R) in
Mushpot. Photo 6-13-04 JW



Grandma Wolff and Joshua in
Indian Well. Photo 6-13-04 JW

Be cautious while walking in darkness alone

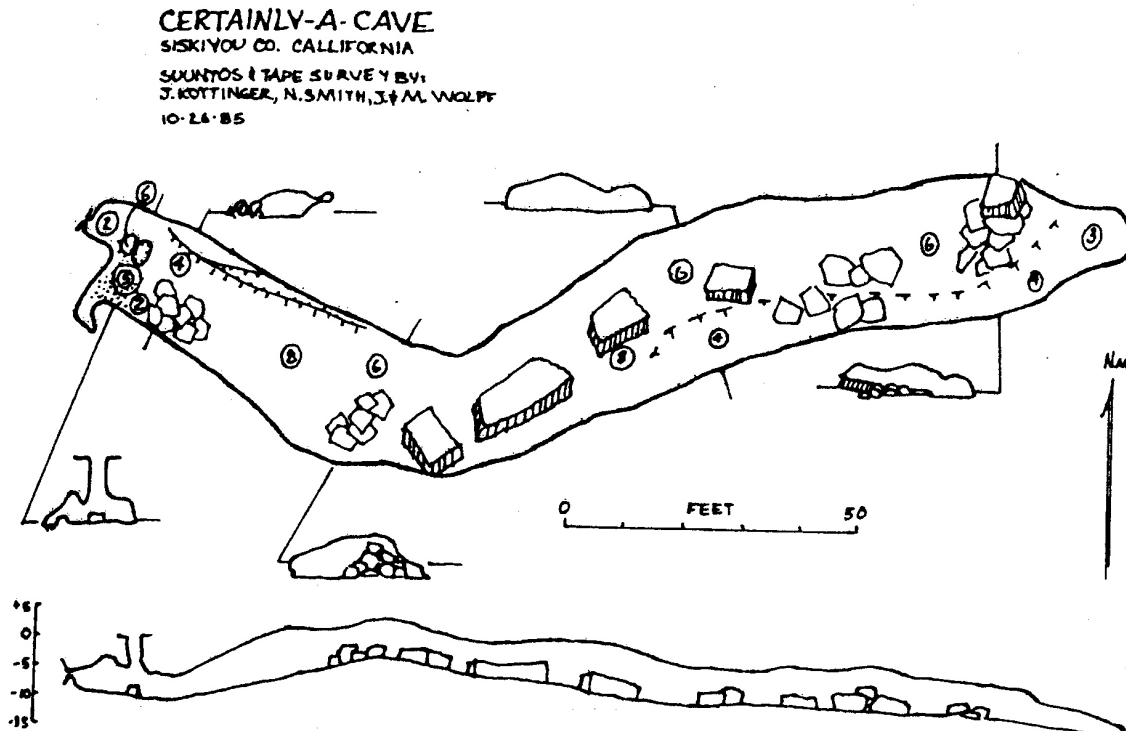
FORTUNE COOKIE SEZ By Jim Wolff

Fortune cookie sez: "Be cautious while walking in darkness alone" ... Honorable Bighorn! That cookie's fortune didn't fit Liz, but it DOES fit a LOT of us, doesn't it? We ALL have soloed a little over time, haven't we? Well, it is time to come out of the closet and admit that I'm a non-conformist too, and write about my true solo cave trip. Anyway, here goes...!

Years ago I discovered and largely explored Certainly-A-Cave, all in the same day. I was working by myself, as it was my FS job at the time, to look for archeological stuff – old stuff! Well, part of my project area was a lava flow – so I naturally looked for caves there too. But, not having any light that day, I tried the grope method, beyond the limit where my compass mirror could bounce reflected light down the passageway's downflow trend.

You see, it was afternoon in the fall of the year, and the bright sun broke through between the trees and poured its light down a tight, body-sized, blowing skylight entrance. After I had downclimbed maybe 8'-10' through a small amount of breakdown, I stuck to the downflow, left hand wall, groping in the darkness with my feet, crouching low, awaiting a blow to the head from the ceiling at any minute – it never happened, but at least I was close to the ground, if I fell!

Now, I know what it must be like to be blind! It is a scary feeling, knowing that because you are by yourself now, you HAVE TO remember the way out is that wall, the one you have been following in I eventually turned around when I lost my nerve! As it turns out, I had traversed about 200' in the dark, VERY alone, and without light! I don't recommend doing that at all. What I learned from this was: "Don't go caving alone. Carry light, helmet, gloves, etc. Be SURE that someone knows where you are going to be." **JW**



Map: Certainly-A-Cave

This map is REPRINTED here to help readers follow along with Jim Wolff's discovery story.

PINK VOID CAVE

By Bighorn Broeckel

The other day I was surprised to find that I had about forty caves surveyed, but still without finished maps. Even more are the caves we have looked at, but have yet to survey. These may be destined to be lost forever in the sands of time. Last Fall, however, my wife helped me capture one of them: Pink Void Cave.

My son Benj and I found this cave on April 27, 1990. I was 34 years old and just beginning to cave. Benj was 14

months. We were doing a baby hike along a lava tube trench and came upon a nice cave entrance. We looked inside and saw that much of the rock was colored pink.

Not much interest was generated by this find. At the time, I didn't know that bits and pieces of lava tube segments were a dime a dozen around here.

Time passed. Then last November Judy and I were looking for something easy to survey, and we thought of this pink cave. Recently a logging road was bladed out and it is now possible to drive and park

very near to the cave. The entrance is easy to see and is about 100 feet from some land survey markers.

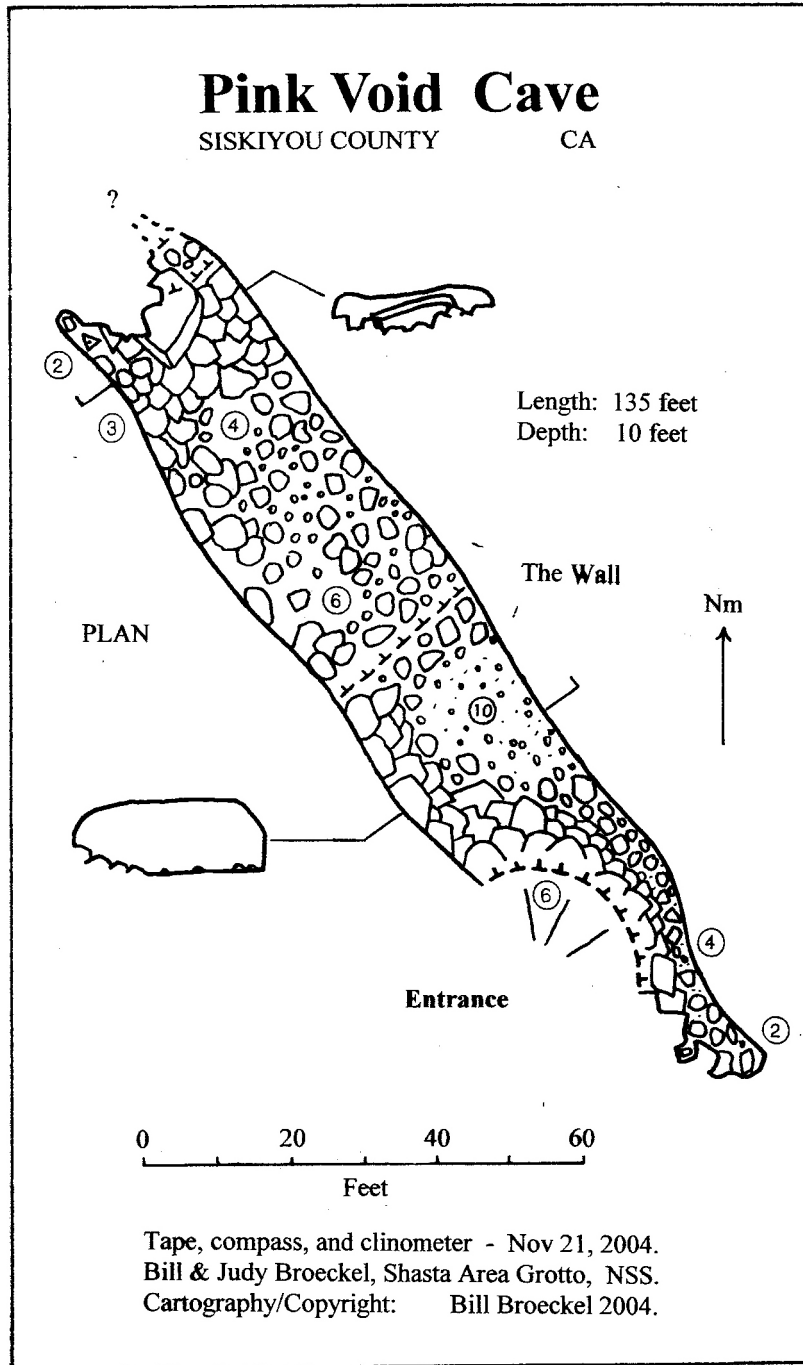
The classic, arched entrance to Pink Void measures 26 feet wide and 6 feet high. A short slope of breakdown drops to a walking passage 10 feet high. The cave soon ends in breakdown that includes at least one big slab. It is possible to probe into the rock pile, particularly over the top of the slab. Total passage length is 135 feet.

The cave is named for the pink color of the rocks inside. Besides, Benj likes rock and roll.

BB



Judy Broeckel at Pink Void Cave entrance. Photo 11-21-04 BB



Map: Pink Void Cave

BADGER CAVE

By Liz Wolff

Badger Cave is located near BLM Cave, which is just a mile or so to the south. Private land, open for development, is to the east; a new house is taking shape not 50' away. The entrance is located under a large pine tree, which forms one side of the small entrance sink. The entrance is 2' high by 1 ½' wide. It is almost entirely sand floored, and like BLM Cave, contains a couple of animal-dug pits in the floor. There is an old, now unused, badger burrow in the main room of the cave. Jim and I went out to survey it De-

ember 3, 2004. The cave is 148 feet long and 8 feet deep.

Just inside the entrance, the cave appears to be a wide low room with a channel dug out to the east, and a crawl to the north. On one side of the body-width channel, Liz found a piece of metal molding, possibly from a car door, as we surveyed our way into the eastern terminus. One of the shallow animal pits is located near the end; it isn't as regular in shape as the ones in BLM Cave. The sand floor slopes down before the ceiling rises slightly and the cave takes a sharp left turn to a lava seal. The sand floor slopes down sharply, ending a few feet short of the seal.

From the entrance, proceeding north, the main room is entered through a low sand-floored crawl. Here is the main room of the cave, mostly sand-floored and with the highest ceiling, 3 ½ ft., with a raised lava tongue above the sand. The end of the cave is through a low spot in the passage, at a lava seal.

Proceeding west from the entrance and then south, a lava seal is reached on the far side of a three foot deep, oval animal pit composed of sticks, cones, sand, and pine needles. There were many small animal tracks visible in the sand of the entrance area and into most parts of the cave, none of them fresh.

LW

BLM CAVE REPORT

By Jim Wolff

This story really starts back in 1982, when I was working for the Forest Service. I was told of a cave near a small patch of ex-BLM land. You see, this small parcel was up to change hands again. The Resource Officer, Jim Russum, asked me to look at the cave. Then he pointed to a place on the map where he thought he saw the cave some time before. . .

Next thing I know, I'm hiking across a brush field, through an established plantation of Ponderosa Pine. Up on a very slight rise there was the cave entrance, just like the guy said! Honestly, I didn't explore very far from the entrance, because I only had one source of light. So the differences from my memory sketch map and the map so accurately and carefully surveyed and reported on here, would be expected.

Many years later I tried to find the cave again, but without

success! After a few more years, this time up to my crotch in snow, my search was again unsuccessful. But now I knew where it wasn't! Besides, I managed to get a track on my new GPS that showed where NOT to go next time – especially in the deep snow!!

The third try was this year. This time I found the cave with no problem, except for having to crawl and drag myself through the 7 foot high Manzanita brush! I found a better way back to the truck though, so returning to the cave again would be a breeze.

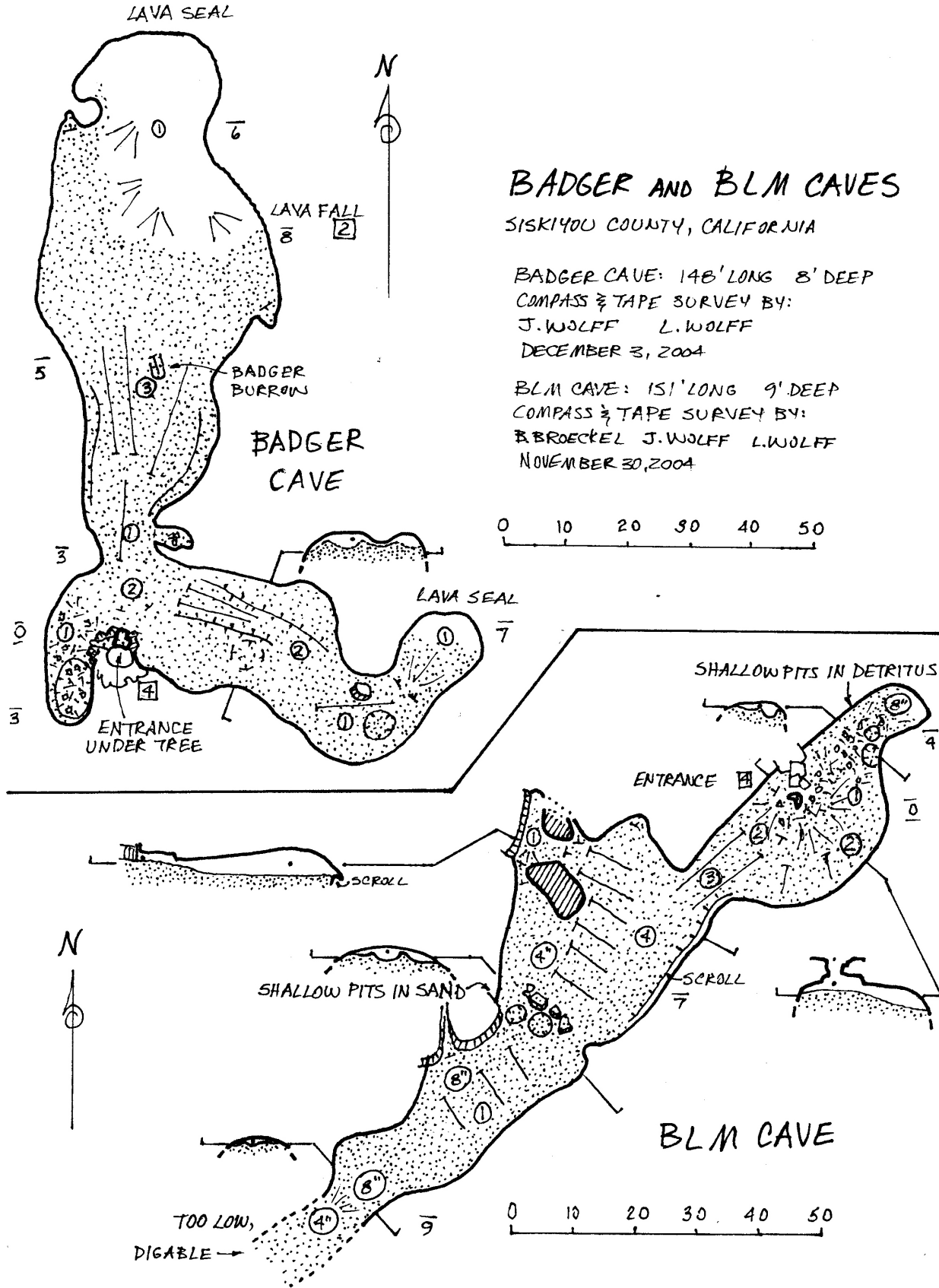
The survey of BLM Cave was done on Nov. 30, 2004. Bill Broeckel said he'd join Liz and I on that Tuesday, however, he could only cave a few hours – he had to pick his son Benj up from school.

The cave starts out as a 2x3 ft skylight, where the top of a dirt slope almost meets the rocky overburden of this relatively intact lava tube. The cave heads south, low and narrow at first, but then opening up to 4 ft high and mighty wide. It was almost

all dirt-floored – that made for easy crawling.

At the point where the cave continued as a belly crawl, Bighorn offered to take the tape as far as he could. After a false start, backing out to remove some clothes, he re-entered the crawl and wormed his way onward – whatta guy! The cave continues as a very low passage with a digable dirt floor.

A fun little cave, it has three nearly perfect circular pits or holes dug in the dirt floor, one in needles/cones/sticks, assumed dug by animals. There are moth wings and bat guano found in a few places too, so the cave is home to a couple types of animals anyway. **JW**



Map: Badger Cave, BLM Cave

BLM CAVE

By Bighorn Broeckel

It seems like as time goes on, I have fewer chances to cave with fellow Grotto members, so I now appreciate the opportunities even more. One opportunity showed up on a Tuesday morning late last Fall. SAG ran a flurry of pre-winter survey trips to small lava tubes. I got in on the trip to BLM Cave with Jim & Liz Wolff.

Some November snow was on the ground. We were able to tramp around on snow patches just two or three inches thick. I followed Jim hither and thither amongst the bushes while he narrowed down on the entrance using GPS. Soon enough, there it was, a small skylight in the exposure of lava rock, typical of surface tubes large enough to be caves.

The little, narrow surface tubes can wind around just under the epidermis of the lava,

and it might be a struggle just to go a body length or two. The medium sized ones are wider, and low, and might go over 100 feet before they flatten down or seal off. The big surface tubes have long walking passages extending up to 1,000 feet or more. Altogether, the surface tubes of Siskiyou County make up the majority of our local caves.

Jim and I dropped straight down a few feet and saw the cave getting wide and taking off down flow. We figured it was a medium sized crawler. Liz started with the survey, and was the last one in. After a shot or two down easy hands and knees passage, the cave flattened out. All this time I was keeping nicely warm and cozy in a down coat. Off came the coat, and we were able to stretch the tape one more time to where the cave became seriously low over a dirt floor.

Later I was dragging out the down coat, and the cell phone fell out of the pocket. Man, that

just shows it, I have not been caving enough these days. We did a final detail shot upflow over the scooped out animal nesting sites. I got past that only to burrow into some weird organic fill area. Why is it that places look bigger until you actually stuff your body in? Perhaps it has something to do with presbyopia, or Physics, such as, observing subatomic particles destroys them, and approaching small cave passages shrinks them.

Outside, we brushed off the dirt, and I put the down coat back on, cell phone safely back in the pocket. My allotted time was up, but I was able to help survey BLM Cave to a length of 151 feet. This cave was actually featured in the 1990 NSS Convention Guidebook. Now it has a Liz Wolff map, and Jim Wolff's persistence in relocating the cave kept this one from getting lost. **BB**



Jim Wolff in BLM Cave Entrance. Photo 11-30-04 BB

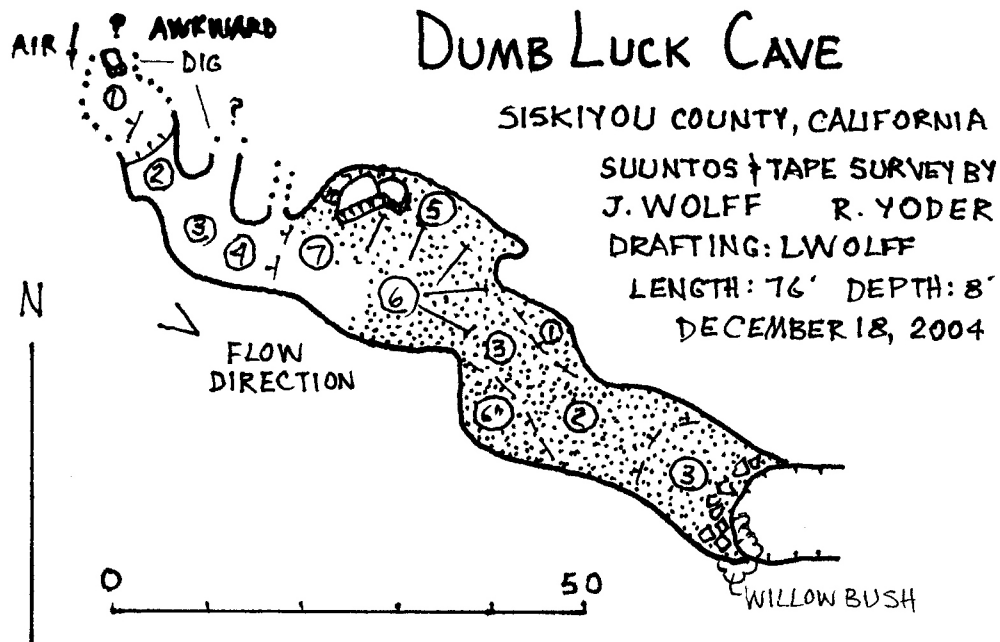
Dumb Luck Cave Trip Report by Jim Wolff

Dumb Luck Cave is located in a Forest Service plantation and was discovered by Arley Kisling during the years he worked in the FS timber machine. There were bear and bobcat prints that weren't but a day old in the snow leading down to the cave entrance. So there is plenty of wildlife use.

The character of the cave is low, with the floor meeting the ceiling in many places. The passage is typically wide and varies from six to 22 ft wide, but you find yourself looking for the way on in passage high enough to belly crawl with not too much effort. About half the cave has a sand floor, making the crawling easy. There was one place in the cave that you could stand up and walk five feet! We saw white centipede thingies and pine cone bracts.

Russ and I mapped 76 feet in the cave, leaving behind a pulsing, blowing lead. The lead is digable, but awkward to dig in: twisted, cramped, downside-up digging, mostly stand-on-head-stuff, you know. Russ took the tape in there and described it as a place you'd put any small person, one that you didn't care about. A crowbar and a small trenching shovel wielded by a small person, mentioned above, are needed to dig it open.

The cave ends for now, but there is great potential in the general area, with a big known cave (Adam's Homestead) just north of Dumb Luck. There just has to be a cave with large caliber passage nearby! The cave needs protection from further disturbance. JW



Map: Dumb Luck Cave

SHORTSTOP CAVE

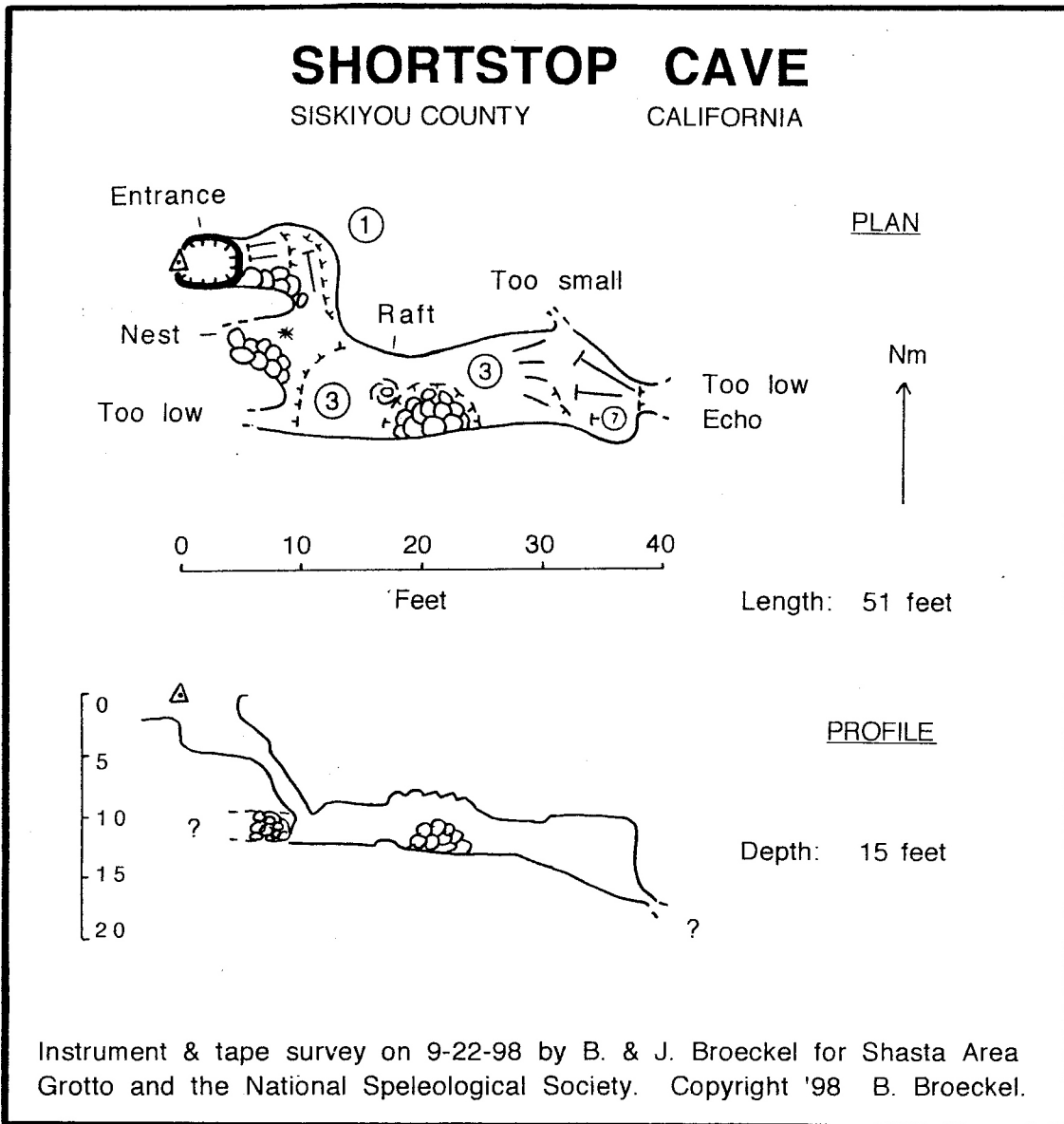
By Bighorn Broeckel

Since we are featuring small lava tubes, maybe this is a good time to get this one out there too. Only 51 feet long, it feels

like a cave because you have to belly around a corner to get in. Then the cave goes past the entrance breakdown and gets bigger, only to suddenly end at a near seal. The hole under the far wall is too small, but the next chamber can be

seen down through there.

I found this humble cave on June 8, 1997 and Judy helped survey it the following year. It is called Shortstop because the near seal stopped us short in a cave that obviously has more to offer. **BB**



Map: Shortstop Cave

Nov. 19, 2004

Dear Ray and Liz,

Thank you both for introducing us to the exciting world of bats and other creatures and where they live. I know ~~it~~ was magical for my students to step down the ladder and into the unknown. For most of them, it was their first experience in a cave. We appreciate you sharing your expertise with us. I plan on seeing again next year.

Thanks again,
Ellen Fasenfest

Liz,
Thank You



ms. Fosenfest Dillon

Michaela Hoff
Casey

Zack

Chelsea

Eric &

Kriston

Janna

AIY

Cindy J.

Matthew

Janna

BRITTANY
ponovan

John

Alex

Emma Harris

Holly

Kyrra

Carlson

Ray,
Thank You



Michaela Hoff
 Casey Dillon
 Ponovan
 Kristan
 Rhyann
 Eric
 awesome
 Strip
 thanks
 Alex K.
 Mrs. Fassenfest
 Janner
 Michael Z.
 Thanks!
 John
 Alex K.
 Cindy
 Kyrra K.
 Thanks
 Carson
 Brittany D.



No explanation is offered on this one. Photo 6-13-04 BB

SAG RAG
2916 Deer Mdws Rd
Yreka CA 96097

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